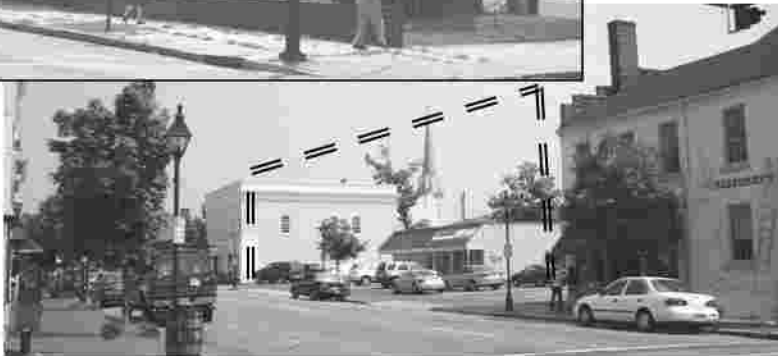


Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc.



The unsuccessful appellants protested demolition of a building on the Baptist parking lot (above) and building a large new office building at 410 William St. (below).

CITY WINS CASE ON “STANDING” OF HISTORIC DISTRICT RESIDENTS

On August 23, Circuit Court Judge John W. Scott ruled in favor of the City of Fredericksburg in a case concerning the right of Historic District residents to appeal rulings of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) that governs construction in the District. The ruling is considered a setback by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The court ruled that two sets of historic district residents did not have the right to appeal ARB rulings to the City Council since they were not ‘aggrieved’, the standard for appeal stated in the Historic District Ordinance.

The appellants had argued that any Historic District resident could be ‘aggrieved’ by an ARB decision, even about a non-adjoining property, because they share the benefits and restrictions of the District in a way the general public does not.

The court agreed with the City Council that ‘aggrieved’ under Virginia law means having an ‘immediate, substantial, and pecuniary interest’ in the case.

HFFI had written and spoken to Council for a liberal interpretation of ‘aggrieved’ in support of the appellants, but was not a participant in the court case. Neither had HFFI taken a formal position on the two properties in question.

HFFI is on record in support of the Historic District Task Force’s recommendation to City Council that the term ‘aggrieved’ be replaced by a more precise definition of who may appeal ARB decisions. The Task Force suggests a formula to include a ‘double ring’ of property owners around a site, or a group of 25.

HFFI Supports Historic District Survey

HFFI has offered financial support to the City of Fredericksburg to participate in a re-survey of the existing downtown Historic District.

The first ‘inventory’ of the buildings in the District was conducted in 1972; a second survey dates from 1984. By contemporary standards, both are considered inadequate by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Little attention was paid, for example, to 20th century structures or sites of African American significance.

In the recent discussion of the proposed Sophia Street hotel site, for example, data on three buildings proposed for demolition was inadequate and conflicting in the ‘72 and ‘84 surveys.

The proposal of support, in a letter from HFFI Executive Director Tom Hart to City Manager Phil Rodenberg, notes that the State will match local funds from the city and HFFI under the recently replenished Survey Cost Share Program.

The program’s administrator, Susan Smead, notes that a resurvey normally included reconsideration of a district’s boundaries.

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HFFI EVENTS



OCT. 8: TOUR THE VA. CAPITOL RESTORATION PROJECT!



Thomas Jefferson designed the original central building of the Virginia State Capitol (left) after the "Maison Carre," a Roman temple he had seen in Nîmes, France (right).

On October 8 HFFI will lead a members bus tour to see the Virginia State Capitol restoration and extension project in Richmond.

Designed by Thomas Jefferson and first used in 1788, the Capitol building was enlarged with two wings in 1906.

The current project will replace mechanical systems, restore historic architectural and decorative detail,



The Project underway

renovate the exterior surfaces, and construct a massive underground extension for a visitor center and other uses.

The HFFI tour will be led by the project's director, Rich Sliwoski of the Va. General Services Administration. The visit will include an audio-visual presentation and a look at the recently renovated Old State Library.

What: Va. State Capitol tour

When: Saturday, Oct. 8, at 8:30 am (return about 1-2pm)

Where: Bus will leave from 604 William Street.

Cost: \$10. To sign up:

Call Mary Kay at 371-4504

"Fredericksburg and the Great War" on Nov. 7

Local historian and World War I specialist Glenn Hyatt will deliver a public lecture organized by HFFI on November 7, in honor of Veteran's Day - formerly the Armistice Day of WW I.

The lecture will take place at the Rappahannock Regional Library at 7:30 p.m.



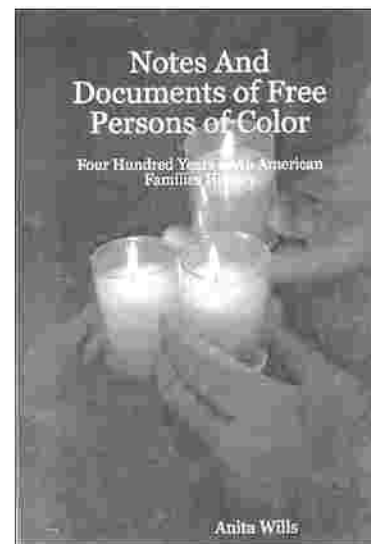
Ollie O. Olive of Fredericksburg was killed on the Meuse October 18, 1918

"Free Persons of Color" Lecture Garner C-Span Coverage

HFFI members were treated to the unusual sight of TV cameras rolling at the August 10 lecture by African-American genealogist Anita Wills at the Rappahannock Regional Library. The event was recorded by C-Span for their 'Bookworld' feature.

Ms. Wills' very personal presentation was well received by the audience of 40, and full of interesting details. Giving much credit to other Fredericksburg historians and documentalists who guided her, she recounted how her ancestors of mixed race were automatically indentured to the age of 31 in the colonial period. One such was Sally Bowden, born on Augustine Washington's plantation, now celebrated as George Washington's birthplace.

With two Lewis ancestors who were Revolutionary War veterans 'of color', Wills was asked if there was a relation to the Lewis family of Kenmore. Indeed, a DNA test had shown this was so, and Wills explained how tests that connect 'DNA cousins' by e-mail are now available.



Anita Wills' book is available at the Wounded Bookshop

New Faces at HFFI

University of Mary Washington senior Meghan Hesse has been selected from among six candidates as an HFFI intern for this academic year.

Meghan will be responsible for the important task of inspecting and reporting on HFFI's easement properties. HFFI has 40 easements promising upkeep of historic buildings.

The Historic Preservation major worked this summer at the Va. Dept. of Historic Resources and at Lee Hall in Newport News.



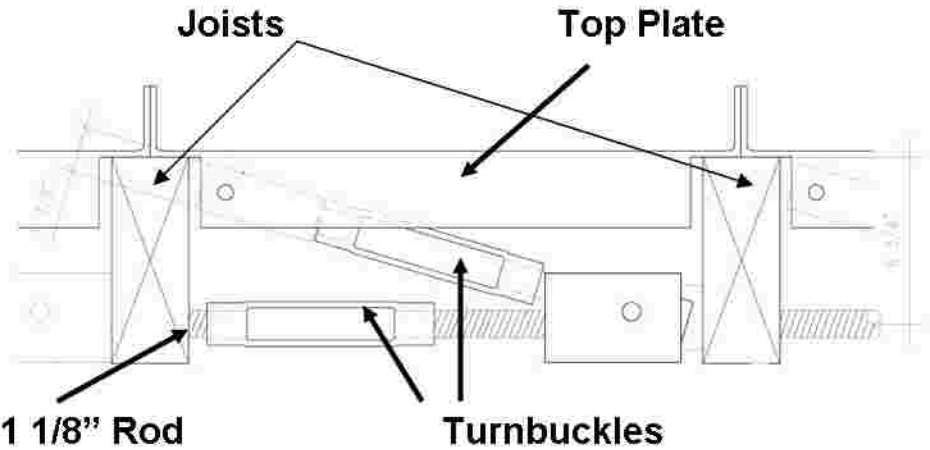
Meaghan Hesse

HFFI Office Manager Mary K. Aldridge will have welcome part-time help during the busy Candlelight Tour sales season from another UMW Historic Preservation student, junior Carol Roth.

Carol has a wide variety of office experience acquired during her years accompanying her navy spouse before settling here and continuing her studies at UMW.



Carol Roth



The truss becomes rigid due to the continuous series of triangles created by tightening steel top plates, rods, and turnbuckles around the old wooden joists.

LEWIS STORE GETS INNOVATIVE TRUSS SYSTEM

The Philadelphia historic architectural and engineering firm S. Harris & Co. has proposed to strengthen the upper floor of HFFI's 1749 Lewis Store by placing a steel truss in the floor.

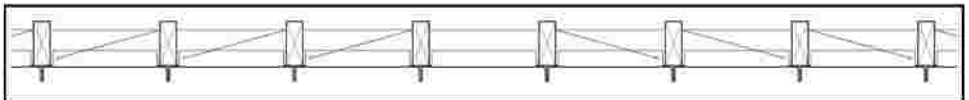
The firm is responding to the HFFI Board's instruction to raise the supporting strength of the floor to allow its use for offices and small meetings. HFFI plans to move into the Lewis Store when the project is complete.

This solution will avoid removing the historic beams and joists, and will fit between the ground-floor ceiling and the boards of the upper floor. Trusses, familiar to most of us from their use on railroad bridges, are structures based on assembling rigid triangular parts.

In addition to the beneath-floor truss, Harris will insert load-bearing members into the non-loadbearing wall on the ground floor, and will reconfigure the attic supports to permit limited storage there.

The already-complete ground floor spaces, which are ultimately planned for public display as an historic store, will not be affected by the project.

HFFI President Carter Hudgins, himself a former head of the University of Mary Washington Department of Historic Preservation, says "I am excited that that HFFI is involved in this cutting edge project. Trusses are not new, but their use to permit less invasive or destructive support for an historic structure is really novel. In this case, for example, none of the expensive hand-laid horsehair plasterwork on the ground floor ceilings will be disturbed."



The full length of the two stiff trusses will run alongside the old 'summer beam.'

National Trust Appeal for Katrina

While our first thoughts go to the suffering people, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has reminded us that a "cultural treasure of international significance" was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Help is needed to evaluate, stabilize, and restore the historic neighborhoods, plantation homes, shotgun houses, battlefields, and other sites.

Contributions can be made directly at www.nationaltrust.org, or by calling 1-800-944-NTHP.



Jefferson Davis' home 'Belvoir' in Biloxi after Hurricane Katrina..

Mark Your Calendars...

September 17 - John Wilkes Booth Escape Tour - SOLD OUT!

September 30 - Pawsitively Auction - Roxbury farms, 6:30 pm.

October 8 - Bus tour to Va. State Capitol Restoration, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. Tickets \$10. Limited to 35. Call 371-4504.

November 7 - "Fredericksburg and the Great War", lecture by Glenn Hyatt, Rappahannock Regional Library, 7:30 pm (free).

December 10-11 - 2005 Candlelight Tour of historic homes.

**PAWSITIVELY
AUCTION
SEPTEMBER 30!!**

Please come eat, drink, and bid on the 41 colorful cats and dogs that graced our streets this summer!

When? Friday 9/30 at 6:30 pm at Roxbury Farms. Tickets are \$45. We have more catalogs at the office!

Give Doguerrotype a home!!



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www.hffi.org

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