

Annual Membership Meeting

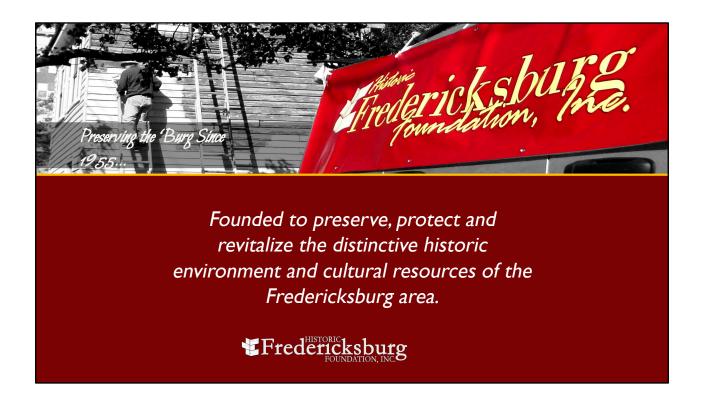
March 28, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Thank you to our Gold Level 2020 Candlelight Tour Sponsors



Rene & Jarrett Rodriguez





Thank you for attending this, HFFI's Annual Membership Meeting.



Welcome I would like to introduce our recommendation for our HFFI Board Members.

HFFI Board Nominations

Barbra Anderson

David James - President

Terrie James - Treasurer

Nancy Moore

Danae Peckler - Secretary

Leslie Pugh

Ed Sandtner

Helen Ross

Scott Walker - Vice President

These are the current Board members.

Are there any nominations from the floor for additional nominees? If so, please raise your hand or speak out. I would like a motion from the floor, to accept the Board members as read. May I have All those in favor, signify by saying I. Are there any second? opposed? Hearing none the motion stands.



PRESERVATION AWARDS

The E. Boyd Graves Preservation Award of Excellence

Presented to Lauren Tepaske

For the restoration of her home and related social media outreach celebrating the preservation of Sligo - 1100 Dixon Street

<u>bringingbacksligo.com</u>

Presented by Barbra Anderson



Presented by Barbra Anderson



Presented by Barbra Anderson



Presented by Barbra Anderson

The E. Boyd Graves Preservation Award of Excellence

Presented to **Patrick Chesnut & Family Manuel Nicolas Perez**

For the restoration and rehabilitation of their historic home at 620 Lewis Street

Presented by Helen Ross

I'd like to turn your attention to another of the city's historic areas. North and west of Shiloh, just north of William Street lies the Washington Avenue Historic District, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Located at the avenue's southern end at 620 Lewis Street is the Emmett and Grace Curtis House. Constructed in 1928, it was designed by local architect, Frank P. Stearns.

For the past five years or so many of you may have noticed a top to bottom restoration project carried out by the current owners, the Chesnuts. By consulting with and adhering to DHR's Rehabilitation Tax Credit program, Patrick and Jill Chesnut meticulously restored both the exterior and interior of the original, historic core and erected a new sympathetically designed rear addition.



Presented by Helen Ross

On the next slide, the work which included a rebuilding of the roof, restoration of the stucco foundations, and nearly 40 window units (21 double hung and 18 casements) were restored. Seen here the rebuilt modern front porch that included the trim, columns, and fascia.



Presented by Helen Ross

Turning inside to the last slide, a smaller but equally important component of the project was the rehabilitation of the electrical system. The original knob and tube was replaced with all new wiring that now meets code. Another highlight was the removal and replacement of the HVAC and boiler systems with high efficiency units. The original radiators have been retained, but first were removed, sandblasted, powder coated and reinstalled.

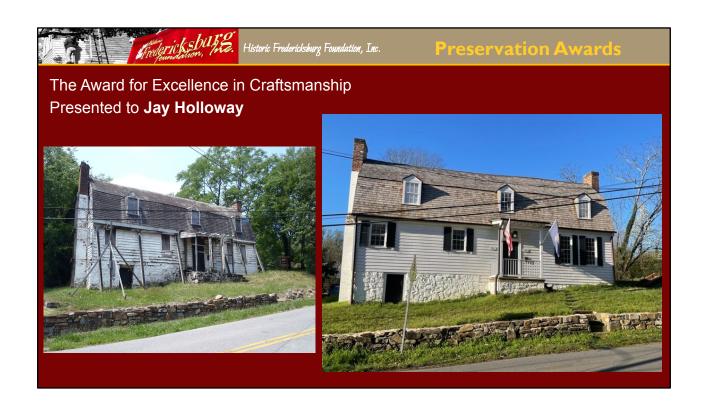
For all of their efforts and way more than I can describe here it is my distinct pleasure to present to Patrick and Jill Chesnut and Manual Nicholas Perez, the E. Boyd Graves Award for Preservation Excellence.

The Award for Excellence in Craftsmanship

Presented to Jay Holloway

For his many contributions to the historic trades, including recent restoration of the Barnes House in Falmouth

Presented by Danae Peckler



Presented by Danae Peckler



Presented by Danae Peckler



Presented by Danae Peckler

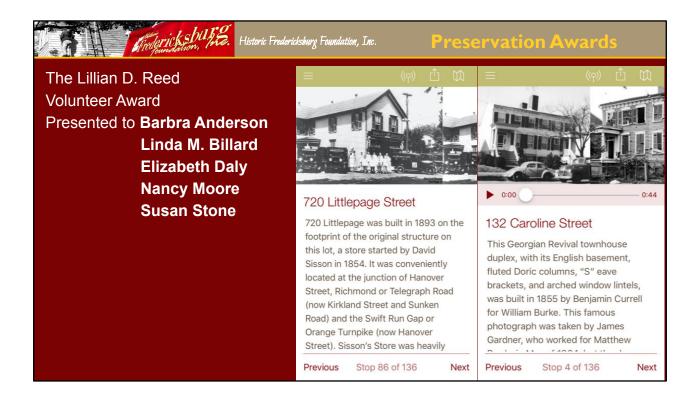
The Lillian D. Reed Volunteer Award

Presented to 2020 Candlelight Tour Writing Team

Linda M. Billard Barbra Anderson **Nancy Moore** Elizabeth Daly **Susan Stone**

For exceptional work on the tour narratives

Presented by Gretchen Pendleton



Presented by Gretchen Pendleton

HFFI is so fortunate to have such a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers who really care about the organization and its mission. The 2020 Candlelight Tour Writing Team deserves special recognition this year because it was really a year beyond measure -- they were called upon to research and write property summaries, record audio components, and copy edit it all for over 130 stops! I'm sure there were sleepless nights and lost weekends and we are so grateful to them all. Barbra, Linda, Elizabeth, Nancy, and Sue -- Thank you, a thousand times over for your amazing work on the tour narratives for the 50th Annual Candlelight Tour!



Certificate of Recognition

Presented to **Sandra Erickson**

For her creative approach to the 50th Annual Candlelight Tour

Presented by David James

The President's Exceptional Service Award

Presented to **Bill Freehling**

Director, Economic Development and Tourism, City of Fredericksburg

For his efforts promoting the vitality of Fredericksburg's historic commercial center

Presented by David James



Presented by David James





2020 HIGHLIGHTS AND PLANS FOR 2021

Ed Sandtner



Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc.

March 7 at 1:30 PM

The Fredericksburg City Architectural Review Board (ARB) next meets on Monday March 8, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

Up for discussion or vote are projects at the following properties:

Public Hearing

- -103 Caroline Street
- -101 Pitt Street

Consent Agenda

-907 Caroline Street

Public comments are due before 4:00 P.M. on the day of the meeting. Check out the agenda here:

https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/.../ViewFile/Agenda/1409...

The Architectural Review Board meeting can be viewed live, including via Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/FXBGgov). More details here: https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/.../Architectural-Review...

#lovefxbg #preservefxbg #architecture #historicarchitecture #historicpreservation #historicdistrict











Marker Committee

Marker Reports Completed in 2020

806 Charlotte Street—Greg and Dawn Murphy [researcher: Susan Fennell] Marker reads: 1925 Built for railroad baggage master Preston Leacock & wife Sarah Leacock

904 Hanover Street—Mark and Mary Bertsch [researcher: Donna Stanton] Marker reads: 1937 Built for Businessman George Cephas Freeman & wife Kathryn Freeman





The Marker Committee has been working hard this year, but has been slightly derailed in completing reports as archives and research centers were closed for much of 2020 due to the pandemic. Despite these hurdles, the Committee completed 5 reports and has many others in the work. Here you see the 4 properties with new reports and markers.



Marker Reports Completed in 2020

606 Hawke Street—Brian and Bethany Dines

[researcher: Meredith Beckett]

Marker reads: 1896

Built for George F. Timberlake

Dry goods merchant

510 Spottswood—Roger P. Clark and Keelin Haw

[researcher: Roger Engels] Marker reads: 1879

Built for James P. Wooddy

Timberman and Steamboat Captain





Marker Committee

Markers Installed in 2020 from Reports Dated Before 2020

206 George Street—Roger and Mary Carson [researcher: Cynthia Helton; marker report completed Aug 2006]

Marker reads: 1825

Built for John S. Wellford, upper floors joined to 826 Caroline Street & 1st floor as office

1405 Washington Avenue—David Michael Gibson and Rozanne M. Kaufman [researcher: William J. Shorter; marker report completed Aug 2019]

Marker reads: 1896

Built by C.G. Heflin for Major James Horace and Betty Churchill Lacy

720 William Street—Heather and Jason Cohen [researcher: Tony Stevenson; marker report completed Aug 2018]

Marker reads: 1893

Family home of Frank P. Stearns, builder

Marker Reports Completed in 2020—Awaiting Marker Wording Approval

205 Princess Elizabeth Street—Sarah Forbush-Southworth [researcher: Cherie Davis and Mike Galu]

As I mentioned, the Committee continues to actively install markers and is working to finalize at least one marker -- for a report completed on 205 Princess Elizabeth Street for Sarah Forbush-Southworth, researched by Cherie Davis and Mike Galu.



Marker Reports Being Researched in 2020

103 Caroline—Jordan and Christopher Hinkebein [researcher: Cherie Davis and Mike Galu]

804 Charles—John A. Nere Jr for Charles Street Property LLC [researcher: Bill Shorter]

524 Charlotte—Dale Scott [researcher: Meredith Beckett]

923 Hanover—Donna Stanton [researcher: Susan Fennell]

614 Prince Edward—Robert S. Lowry Jr [researcher: Roger Engels]

1107 Princess Anne—Brian and Lori McDermott [researcher: Jan Waltonen]

1314 Sophia—Walter Sheffield [researcher: Sue Stone—report done in July 1990; homeowner requested a marker in Jan 2021 so report is under review before submitting marker wording suggestion]

807 William Street—Debby Girvan [researcher: Donna Stanton]

Marker Reports Wait List

- 1. 1401 Brent Street—Jon and Meredith Beckett
- 2. 1200 William Street—Ginny and Dan Clendenin
- 3. 1213 Winchester Street—Grace Clark
- 4. 1106 Prince Edward Street—Michael and Robin Barrett
- 5. 1408 Washington Avenue—Jill Cochran Miller
- 6. 1503 Stafford Avenue—Patricia Paquette for BLC Rentals LLC
- 7. 604 Hawke Street—Lewis Vinci
- 8. 1400 Caroline Street—Tom Conway and Donellen Schlosser
- 9. 306 Hawke Street—Laura Fazzaro
- 10. 305 Prince Edward Street—Erin Capshaw-Taylor
- 11. 110 Caroline Street—Anneli and Todd Smith
- 12. 1320 Caroline Street—Maggie Burke-Miller and Duffie Miller

The Marker Committee, chaired by Sue Stone, certainly stays busy -- with numerous marker reports in the research phase and a dozen more waiting to be started. Thank you to this steadfast group of volunteer researchers and writers!

Marker Summaries Online

Status report for Bringing Four Centuries of History into the 21st Century: Putting HFFI's Marker Program On-Line

To date, 123 summaries have been added to the mapping site

the community foundation

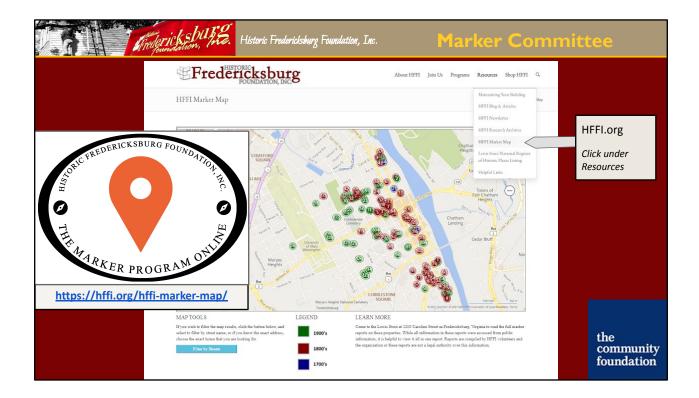
The HFFI Marker Map project is made possible by a grant from The Virginia Heritage Fund of The Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region.



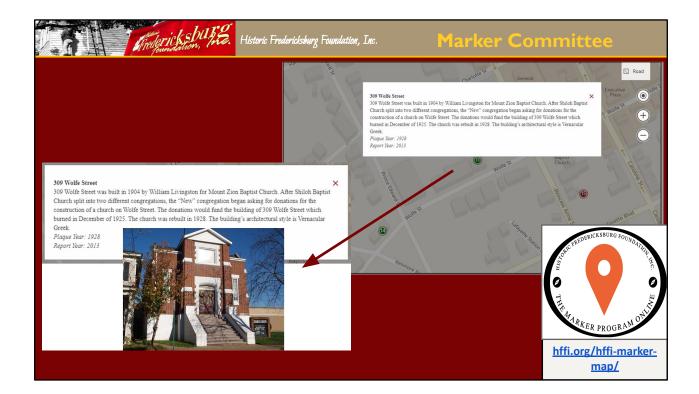
In keeping with Historic Fredericksburg Foundation's mission "to preserve, protect and revitalize the distinctive historic environment and cultural resources of the Fredericksburg area," the Marker Program On-Line was conceived. Since 1989, volunteers for HFFI's "Marker Program" have researched more than 400 properties in Fredericksburg.

Bringing Four Centuries of History into the 21st Century: Putting HFFI's Marker Program On-Line has made this research available to a wider audience. Each summary gets its own, unique, page within the web application. Research done for the Candlelight Tour 2020 has been invaluable in moving the mapping project along.

To date, 123 summaries have been added to the mapping site.



If you joined us at the Annual Meeting last year, you would have seen a sneak peek of the new Marker Program Online, or the HFFI Marker Map project. The goal behind this mapping project is to make accessible the over 400 marker reports researched by the HFFI Marker Committee, but in a digital format. The Marker Committee is making 100 word summaries of the houses and putting them on an online map. This will be accessible to anyone going to the HFFI website.



The idea is that you will click on a property icon on the map and a written summary will pop up. Eventually, we will have a current and historic photos uploaded as well.



In the grand tradition of the Candlelight Tour, the HFFI Candlelight Tour and Working Group volunteers worked with Sandra Erickson to conceive a new way to approach this annual tour -- an app-based outdoor tour. They had hoped to include 50 houses to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the tour, but due to overwhelming support, we ended up having more than 130 properties participating! Property owners and residents were asked to decorate their homes for all to enjoy.



The Candlelight Tour took place December 1-31, 2020, and was be a self-paced tour around our historic neighborhoods. Instead of guests touring the interiors of a handful of properties, we invited guests to use their mobile device to immerse themselves in the history of the properties from the outside only. Audio recordings were interspersed with written summaries and historic photographs and documents highlighting each of the stops. Neighborhoods were also highlighted, with neighborhood histories and audio components. The map also included some local coffee shop stops along the way -- the businesses agreeing to offer Candlelight Tour specials for tour-goers to enjoy.



CANDLELIGHT TOUR 2020 DONORS

James Armond

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Jim Beavers

Jessica and Chuck Beringer

Jan Bieneck

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Susie Bower, Spilt Tea LLC

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David and Anne Scott

Lou Silvey

John & Becky Sperlazza

John and Barbara Suval

Richard and Kiki Wicker

Frank and Maureen Widic

Jan Williams

Mike and Pat Worsham

This event is HFFI's largest fundraiser of the year and is a wonderful opportunity to educate the community about the historic architecture and neighborhood histories of Fredericksburg. We were blown away by the level of participation and support -- including an incredible group of donors.



CANDLELIGHT TOUR 2020 SPONSORS

Gold Level Sponsors Lewis Insurance Associates Rene & Jarrett Rodriguez Huber Motor Cars

Bronze Level Sponsors
Community Bank of the
Chesapeake
Quarles Petroleum, Inc.
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50th Annual Holiday Candlelight Tour

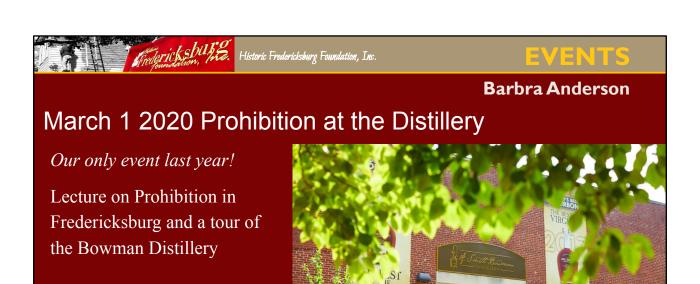
Golden Anniversary Tour
All month long -- December 1-31, 2020

Pewter Level Sponsors

Robert B. Payne, Inc.
Beck's Antiques
Classic Car Center
Civil War Round Table of
Fredericksburg
Agora Downtown

Historic Fredericksburg Region,
Antique Automobile Club of
America
Residential Design Group, Inc.
The Hunt Team, Samson
Properties

...and a set of amazing sponsors, who helped to this the financial success it was, as well as helping to promote the event. A special thank you to Lewis Insurance Associates; they not only served as a Gold Level Sponsor, but also supported the event as its Media Sponsor this year -- with logo and other designs by June Padgett of Bright Eye Designs.





EVENTS

2021 Events in the Spring

Virtual Lectures: "Greatest Hits"

Grub in the Burg

Prohibition

Route One: Cars

What day and what time do you think would be ideal for lectures?

Barbra Anderson









EVENTS

2021 Events in the Summer

Walking Tours

Black History

Women's Suffrage

Hanover Neighborhoods

Barbra Anderson









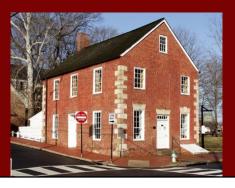
2021 Events in the Fall

Barbra Anderson

Historic Pub Tour: Oldest to Newest

Grand Opening of the Recreated Lewis Store













Terrie James

Accomplishments and Goals

- Hired new tax account, saved \$1683 from previous year
- Switched to PayPal for all purchases, shut down CC transactor usage fees during Covid. Saved \$400
- In the process of switching Payroll servicing company to save approximately \$900 per year.
- Stepped in during transition between Directors, did administrative duties to ensure smooth transition.

I want to thank our community for stepping up during Covid restrictions and continuing to support us with your generous donations. So many of you, 136 to be exact agreed to decorate and allow their homes to be on our Walking Candlelight Tour. All of you made our year a financial success!





Danae Peckler

- · Easement inspections as needed, recording conditions at many of HFFI's 42 properties
- Supported 5 easement property owners to assess building conditions & ensure SOI-compatible improvements
- Supported HFFI members' ARB applications in keeping with local guidelines and national (SOI) standards
- Coordinated with Department of Historic Resources to ensure compatibility of Lewis Store **improvements**





Danae Peckler

- Consulting party for 2 federally funded/ permitted projects for Section 106 of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)
- Communicated with City Preservation Planner to clarify changes to the permit process and local district guidelines
- Collaborated with Preservation tradespeople and policy experts re: challenges facing our community's historic fabric
- Attended ARB meetings, Preservation Working Group meetings, and related Advisory meetings

https://heritagecoalition.org/update-from-washington-examining-how-the-proposed-nepa-changes-would-impact-preservation/



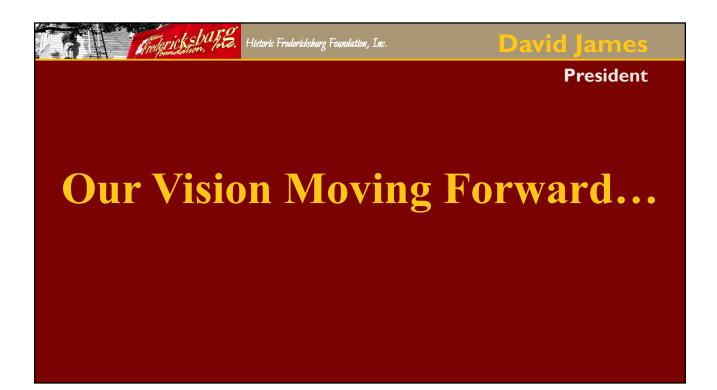


Danae Peckler

Ongoing maintenance of the Lewis Store:

Assess, Plan, Evaluate (repeat as needed)

- 1) Summer beam replacement
- 2) Monitoring moisture & radon
- 3) Plaster repairs
- 4) Planning for mortar repointing
- 5) Planning for chimney cover/ cap



Our vision moving forward is based on our goals.

OUR GOALS

- To increase preservation awareness through <u>education</u>.
- <u>Financially</u> grow the organization so it can support programming and more staff.
- Recognize threats to the historic district and be respected and effective <u>advocates</u> of preservation.
- To stabilize the <u>Lewis Store</u> building and establish it as a resource to the community.
- Protect and preserve historic Fredericksburg

We've made significant progress on the first four goals. Preservation education, financially growing our organization and advocating for preservation is our business. It is our reason for being, its what we do. We have also come a long way with the Lewis Store. So what is our biggest goal? How do we preserve and protect historic Fredericksburg. How can we stop demolition by neglect? That is our biggest goal.



OUR GOALS

• To stabilize the Lewis Store building and establish it as a resource to the community.

This is what you would have seen in the Lewis Store, had you come into the store last year.



The sales room with its new summer beam, after this portion of the original beam failed.



The new beam in place. We had been quoted a cost of between 40 - 65K. We did it for just over 17,500.



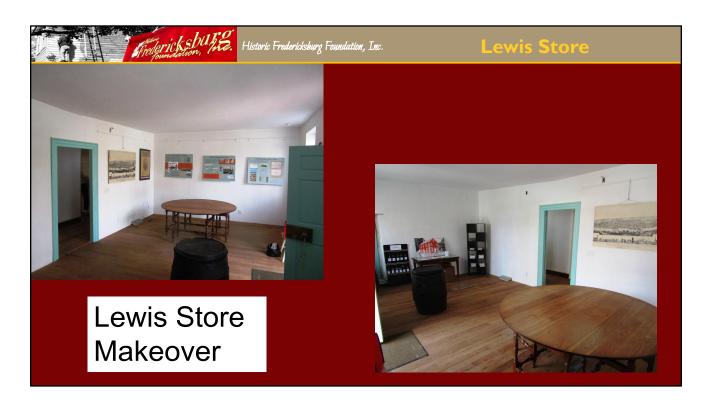
The condition of the plaster on the walls.



The stairs



Ready for plaster and paint! We had been quoted a cost of over \$22K just for this phase. We did it for less than \$6K. Of course, I had to talk my wife into helping me paint! So, Thank you, Terrie!



Now this is what it looks like today! The sales room has certainly had a makeover!



So has the Counting Room...



And the stairs!



OUR GOALS

 To stabilize the <u>Lewis Store</u> building and establish it as a resource to the community.

Currently our dedicated L.S. Committee is planning just how we can build a tourist and visitor friendly, Preservation Education Facility centered on an interpretation of the Lewis Store in the 1700s.

Currently our dedicated L.S. Committee is planning just how we can build a tourist and visitor friendly, Preservation Education Facility centered on an interpretation of the Lewis Store in the 1700s. We expect great things from them moving forward!



OUR GOALS

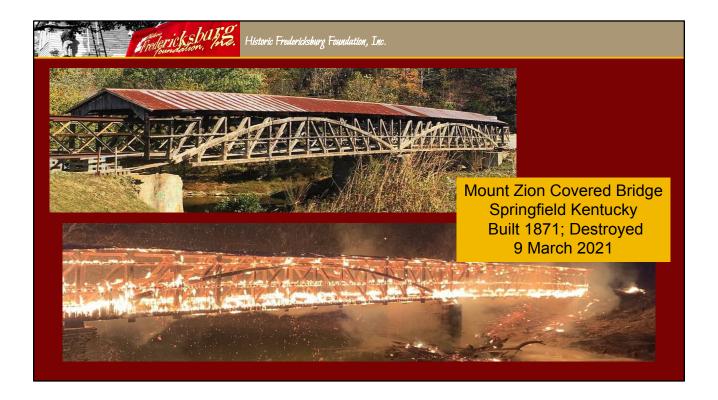
 Protect and preserve historic **Fredericksburg**

> We are a "watchdog organization". Why?

Our last goal is to Protect and preserve historic Fredericksburg. Why do I call us a "watchdog organization"? We must remain ever vigilant.



This historic property was destroyed within the Dunleath Historic District of Greensboro N.C. less than 10 days ago.



Mount Zion covered bridge built 1871 in Springfield Kentucky was destroyed about 20 days ago.

In the Past...

- •In general, one property has been saved by HFFI's direct intervention every Ten Years.
- •The <u>Historic Fredericksburg Foundation</u>, Inc. has fought to protect and preserve our historic city by saving significantly endangered properties for nearly 65 years.

In the past, we have saved one significantly important building every ten years. It's a laudable accomplishment but at the same time we continue to lose the historic fabric of our community. You have probably seen this before but...

Lost 100 year old properties of Fredericksburg, by demolition (Since - 1953)

- 306-308 Charlotte Street (1830s Mathew Fontaine-Maury House) Demo 1953
- 1001 Caroline Street (1884 Opera House) Demo 1950s
- 203 Charlotte Street (Governor Hill) 1955
- 320 William Street (Early 1800s, Chancellor House & Store) Demolished 1957
- 607-609 Sophia Street Demo 1958
- 714 Princess Anne Street (1790, Forbes House) Demo 1960
- 601 Caroline (Master's Lumber Store) Demo 1960s
- 300 Hanover Street (1786) Demo 1961
- William Street (C. 1800) Demo 1970
- 607 Sophia Street (Old Long House) Demo 1973

These are some of the significant old buildings that we've lost since 1953... It is sad but it should not be forgotten. (12) 100 year old or older structures demolished up through 1973.

Flashback-

The day the Opera House went out of bees-ness

By DARYL LEASE
Staff Reporter
Everything seemed out of place
one morning in May, 29 years ago,
but the bees were taking it worst of
all.

but the bees were taking it worst of all.

When a wrecking crew arrived on this particular day to tear down the old Opera House on the corner of Caroline and william streets, the bees who lived there clearly wanted the workers to buzz off.

Behind the story of that day's honey of an insurrection, it should be noted, lies the tale of a five-and-dime store that wasn't and the most unusual sporting event since Rome.

But back to the bees. The queen flew out of the building—a landmark with a quickly fading future—and promptly parked herself on the berger of a pickup truck. He rest of the berger of a pickup truck. The rest of a crowd of spectators gathered to gawk.

The presence of a crowd at the Operation of the property of a property of a crowd of the property of a property of a crowd at the Operation. gawk.

The presence of a crowd at the Op-

All the buzzing finally ended when Hassan Slyman, a local apiarist who once operated a grocery store on the Hirst floor of the Opera House build-sessed bees to the country. The old building was torn down as planned and up went the five-and-dime.

Maybe what was needed most that day was a little horse sense-which brings us to the most unusual sporting event since Rome.

In the Opera House's heyday, visitors included Presidents William McKinley and Grover Clevelend, who



d William t moved on to speak, odern store pping mall farm. have been thday this

e corner of ets, people ium of an-ke home a

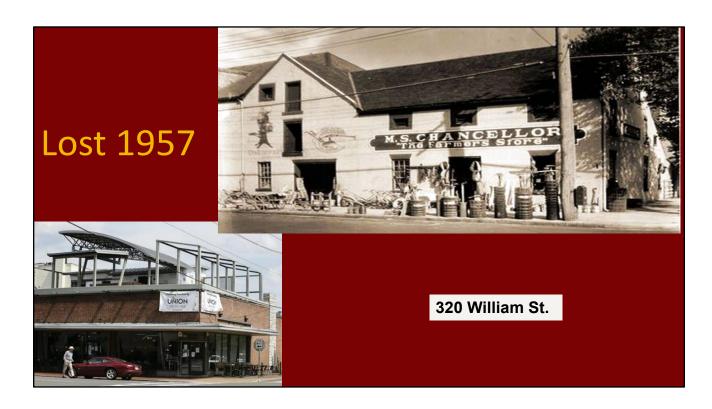
e sting.



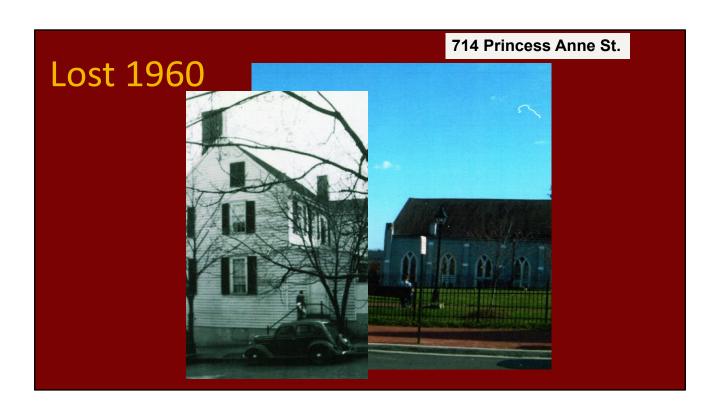
1001 Caroline St.

Lost 1950s





Chancellor Store, 1800s

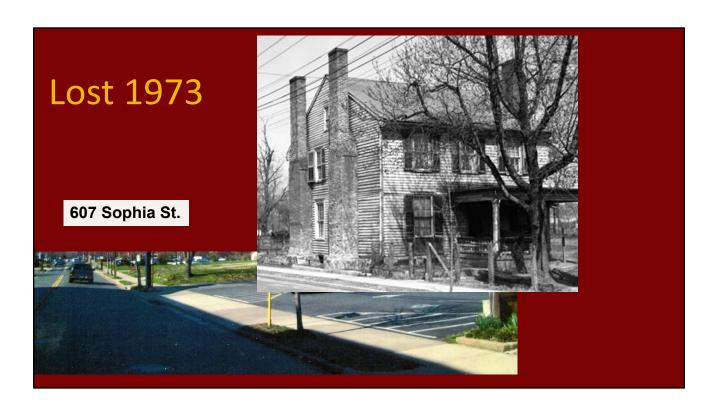


1790, Forbes House

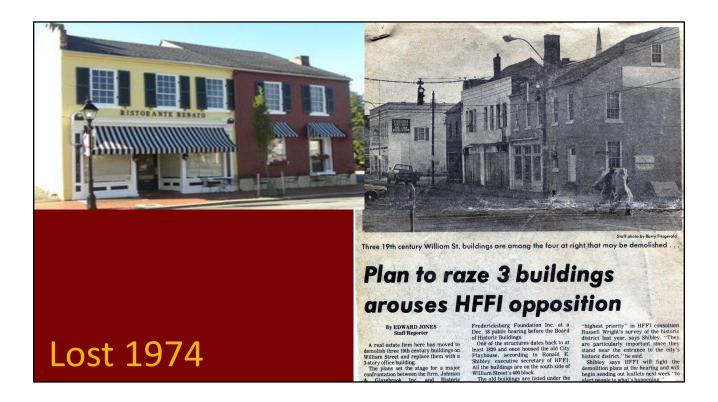
Lost 100 year old properties of Fredericksburg, by demolition (Since - 1953)

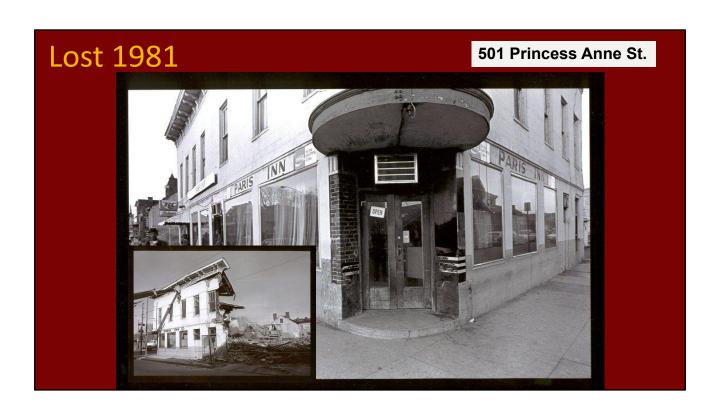
- 610 Princess Anne Street Demo 1973
- 606 Princess Anne Street 1973
- 420-422 William Street (1800s, Willis Feed Store, Virginia Shoe Company) Demo 1974
- 414 William (C. 1800s, Caple's Building) Demo 1974
- 415 Princess Anne Street (1890) Demo 1976
- 413 Princess Anne Street (1850 -m 1870) Demo 1976
- 520 Princess Anne Street (1890s) Demo 1981
- 1408-1410 Princess Anne street (Late 1800s) Demo 1989
- 510- 516, 536 Willis Street Demo 1996
- 1314 Charles Street Demo 2004
- 306, 308, 310, 314 Wolfe Street (1890s) Demolished 2004, 2006

Another 17 historic properties lost up to 2006.

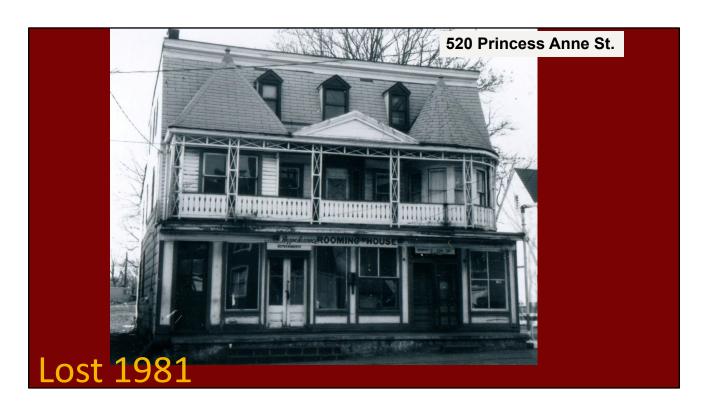


The Old Long House





Paris Inn



Circa 1890

Lost 100 year old properties of Fredericksburg, by demolition (Since - 1953)

- 519 Princess Anne Street (1846 or 1870-75 Fed Style Townhouse) Demo 2006
- Sophia Street (Frame next to Shiloh-Old Site) Demo 2006
- 813 Sophia Street Demo 2006
- 308-310 Charles Street, (1830 1860?) Demo 2006
- 519 Princess Anne Street (Brick Townhouse) Demo 2006
- 105 Lafayette Blvd (1910) Demo 2007
- 1108 Winchester Street (1889) Demolished 2008
- 601 Amelia Street (1909) Demo 2008
- 1317 Charles Street (1890s) Demo 2009
- 209-211, 213-215 Forbes (1910) Demo 2010
- 203 Forbes Street (Pre 1860) Demo 2010

Another 15 historic buildings gone up until 2010.

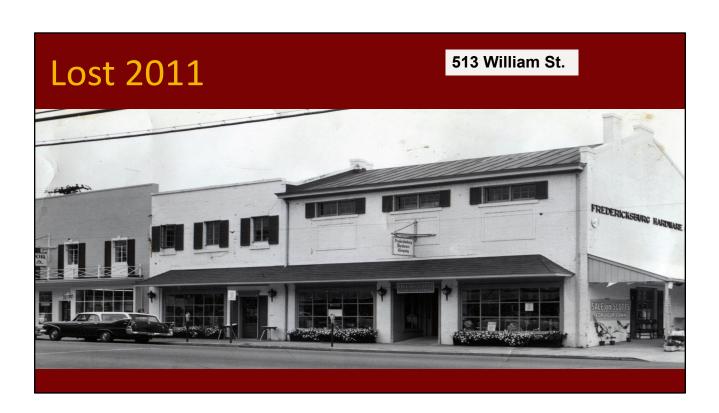




Lost 100 year old properties of Fredericksburg, by demolition (Since - 1953)

- 1900 Caroline Street (1780s) Demo 2010
- 1104 Douglas Street (1909) Demo 2011
- 513 William (1849, Fredericksburg Hardware) Demo 2011
- 1305 Charles Street (C. 1880) Demo 2011
- 901 Barton Street (1889) Demo 2011
- 1407 Caroline Street (1780s Danny Mitchell House) Demo 2012
- 308 Pitt Street (1910) Demo 2012
- 612 George Street Demo 2012
- 609 Sophia (Prince Hall Masonic) Demo 2014
- 401-403 Sophia Street (1843) Demo 2015
- 718 Sophia Street (Barn) Demo 2017
- 1210 Sophia (Next Wallace Library, 1890s) Demo 2018
- 1616 College Ave (Alms, 1877) Demo 2018

Another 14 historic structures destroyed through 2018.



Fredericksburg Hardware

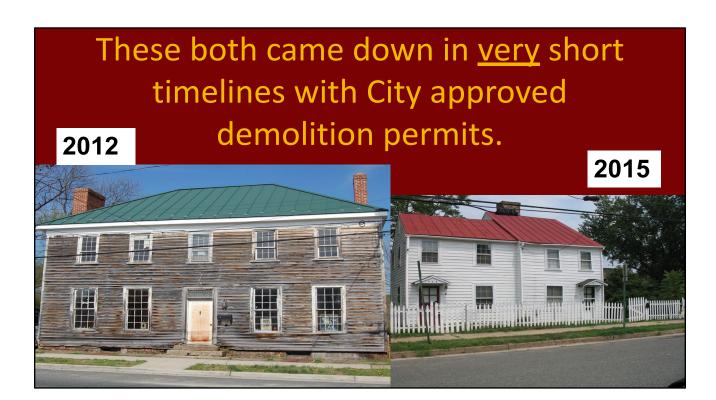


Not all old buildings can be saved, we must pick and choose our battles. These buildings all have one thing in common. Their owners tried to give them the time needed for a protection plan.

§ 15.2-2306. Preservation of historical sites and architectural areas.

2. ... no historic landmark, building or structure within any district shall be razed, demolished or moved until the razing, demolition or moving thereof is approved by the review board or, on appeal, by the governing body after consultation with the review board.

The legal code of Virginia says: ... no historic landmark, building or structure within any district shall be razed, demolished or moved until the razing, demolition or moving thereof is approved by the review board (ARB) or, on appeal, by the governing body after consulting with the review board.



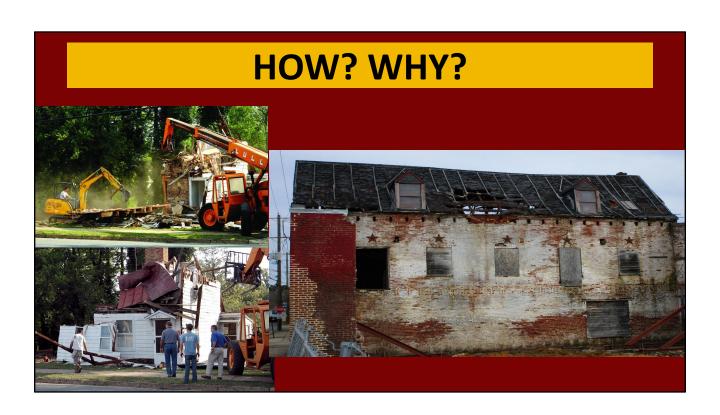
So how did both of these historic structures get torn down with City approved demolition permits? The roof looks intact, so does the brick work. They do not look like they are a threat to the public. So how did this happen? Incidentally, the demolition of the house on the left is the reason I agreed to be HFFI's president. I stopped the excavator in the middle of a Saturday demolition and would not leave until the owner presented me with the City approved demolition permit.



How did this property not get demolished? The roof was badly holed and many, many of the bricks had fallen out. I can say this now; it was a threat to the public. Hamilton Palmer and I tried to get ARB approval to replace the roof and do some basic maintenance in order to save the structure. All to no avail. The first step to stopping Demolition by neglect is simply maintenance. If you search the City's web site for Property Maintenance, you will find that the City has adopted Part III of the Virginia Maintenance Code. It has minimum standards that they have enforced since 1987. The code stipulates the building be structurally sound, roof, drains and flashing shall be sound, tight, with no defectives that admit rain. Now I'm railing against the City but we are all to blame, anyone of us can complain to the City. So we are all responsible. What a shame. I want to find a way to keep this from happening again.



Except now it looks like this! Thank you Mike Adams for developing this property and saving this historic building. In my humble opinion, the Beanery now looks great!



How could this possibly happen in "America's Most Historic City"?

LOST!!!



The chair of Fredericksburg's Architectural Review Board, resigned in protest following the demolition of this Caroline Street house, which dated to the 1790's. She submitted a scathing letter of resignation saying: "I officially resign as the chair of the [Architectural] Review Board for the City of Fredericksburg after being told that the historically significant house at 1407 Caroline Street was torn down because one city official made the call on a Friday and over the weekend it disappeared – forever," According to records on file with the Fredericksburg Department of Building and Development Services, a demolition permit for the structure was issued on June 10 to the landowner. By June 11, demolition had fully commenced. The demolition permit was not subject to ARB approval because the structure had been deemed unsafe by a Fredericksburg Building Maintenance Code Official.



This antebellum duplex on Sophia Street next to the river was lost too, but it did go in front of the ARB. A Certificate Of Appropriateness was made and approved by the ARB to allow the removal of the 1940s era addition on the North side of the property. After it was removed, the landowner had an engineer survey the older portion of the property. The report indicated to the City Building Code Official that the building was a hazard to public safety. He then issued a Notice of an Unsafe Structure. This again bypassed the ARB review process and the rest of the building was torn down without ARB oversight. This is the dirty little secret. If you can convince the building code official that the building is a threat to the public then you can bypass the ARB's review of the demolition plan. So how do we get the ARB to be able to weigh in on these types of situations? Glad you asked!

STATE CODE: 13VAC5-63-490. Section 105 Unsafe Structures or Structures Unfit for Human Occupancy.

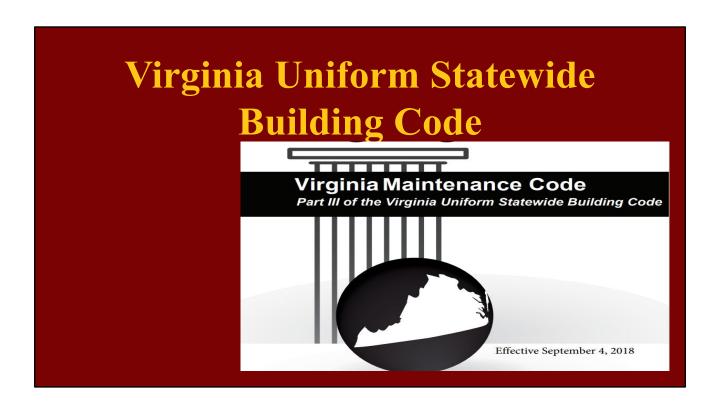
Note: ... historic building demolition may be prevented by authority granted to local historic review boards in accordance with § 15.2-2306 of the Code of Virginia, unless determined necessary by the code official.

Even the State Building Code has a note within the Unsafe structures section which outlines the authority of the ARB. However, it also notes unless determined necessary by a code official.



Historic Preservation Working Group and the **Historic District** Handbook (Draft)

Here is the good news! The City' Historic Resources Planner (Kate Schwartz), the Building Code Official (not the same earlier official) and the Historic Preservation Working Group (myself included) are all working together on a change to the Historic District Handbook to support our Building Official's ability to protect the public's safety but also allow the ARB to review any requests for demolitions of historic property. The draft has made considerable progress and I expect good things. As I have told Kate, if we can fix this one thing, then I will consider my tenure as HFFI's President a success. Here are the mechanics of what I am requesting.



The State Building Code, Part III on Maintenance, gives us a strategy for dealing with what I believe, is a past abuse of power.

Virginia Maintenance Code: 106.4 Notice of unsafe structure or structure unfit for human occupancy.

When a structure is determined to be unsafe or unfit for human occupancy by the code official, a written notice of unsafe structure or structure unfit for human occupancy shall be issued... the notice shall specify the time period within which the demolition must occur.

When a structure is determined to be unsafe by the code official, a written notice shall be issued... the notice shall specify the time period within which the demolition must occur. I think that was the green light that was used to destroy these two properties.

Listen to what the building code official, actually was quoted as having said: "The building, in my opinion, met the definition of an unsafe structure," "Once that happens, according to the statewide unified building code, an owner is allowed to do three things; repair it completely, do an exterior renovation, or they can demolish - what the code calls raze-and-remove - the structure." "We have no control over which option they choose," Quote, unquote...

We the members of Fredericksburg MUST change this thought pattern. I think the <u>Historic Preservation Working Group</u> can do just that, provided we work together.

Virginia Maintenance Code: 106.4 Notice of unsafe structure or structure unfit for human occupancy.

106.10 Closing of streets. When necessary for public safety, the code official shall be permitted to order the temporary closing of sidewalks, streets, public ways or premises adjacent to unsafe or unfit structures and prohibit the use of such spaces.

I want a new requirement for a risk assessment being made, listing the potential mitigation measures taken and this code language about 'temporarily closing adjacent property if necessary, for public safety', be included and referenced in our Historic District Handbook. Then the ARB Chairperson and our City Historic Resources Planner can review the Building Officials work and halt a demolition, if the official is not actually following the Historic District Handbook and the public is not truly in danger. Hey can you blame me; Burn me once shame on you, but burn me twice?

It is the easiest way to stop this from happening again and again...

2012



Look at these two structures. If the City had blocked off the sidewalk and posted the property and allowed the ARB to review these demolition requests, do you think we would still have both of these historic properties? This is where I need your help. If you do not see a reference about "temporarily closing adjacent property if necessary, for public safety", during the public review process of the Historic District Handbook. I want you to ask that it be included in any future revisions. That is how you can help me, by giving me the clout needed to make these commonsense changes. I will send updates to you on this subject in our newsletter. As we work with the City and do our best to protect and preserve historic Fredericksburg.

That being said, we are supporting the City's efforts to review the Comprehensive Plan and the Historic District Handbook. In order to do so effectively, we have hired an outside consultant to give us an arm's length review of the City plan.



HERITAGE ARTS OF NC LLC



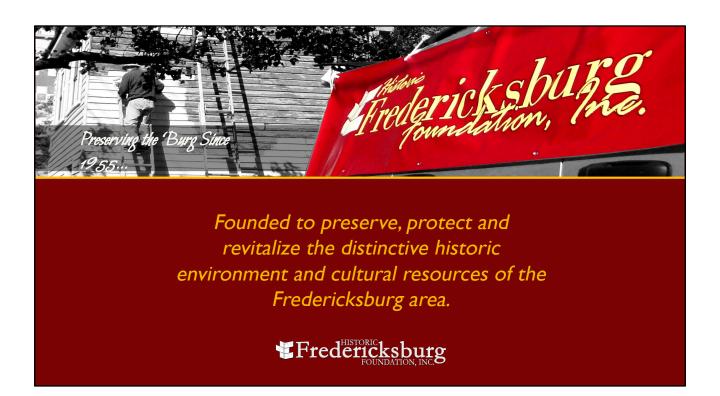
Dan Becker, Owner and Managing Principal

My goal is to assist communities and property owners manage their historic resources into the future for both community and personal benefit.

Heritage Arts was established in 2011 as I transitioned from my role as Executive Director of the Raleigh, Historic Districts Commission, Inc., concluding a four-year succession planning effort. The business was incorporated in 2015 when I retired from the City of Raleigh as Planning Manager of the Long Range Planning Division, drawing to a close twenty-nine and a half years of public service in the Raleigh Department of City Planning

His name is Dan Becker and he has lectured at the University of Mary Washington. He is the owner and managing principle of Heritage Arts of N.C. He retired after almost 30 years as the City of Raleigh Planning Manager of their Planning Division and he was the Executive Director of the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission, Inc. Which I think was a similar organization to HFFI. So, we look forward to his support.

Thank you for watching this presentation and I would like to now turn this over to our Director, Gretchen Pendleton. Gretchen?





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Questions, Comments or Concerns?

