



HFFI Happenings | Summer 2023

Annual Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting was held on Sunday March 19, 2023, in the historic Renwick Courthouse. In case you missed this highly informative meeting, here's a brief recap:

Review of 2022

Accomplishments of 2022 were also reviewed, including tours, outreach events, publications, and the completion of eight marker reports, with eleven more in progress and ten on the waiting list. The Marker Program Online includes more than 315 summaries of the 400+ properties that have been researched. It can be accessed through the HFFI website.



In financial matters, income for last year was \$73,892 and expenses totaled \$78,838 for a total income of -\$4,946. HFFI saved \$1,764 in storage fees, finding a new location for books. All endowments had a loss of \$391,067



Annual Membership Meeting, cont.

The Preservation Awards

The annual awards were given as follows:

Presented to

Dr. Gary Stanton — The Dr. Edward Alvey Jr. Education Award, for significant and lasting contributions to the research of Fredericksburg-area history and its built environment

Vintage Building LLC — The Award for Excellence in Craftsmanship , for their conservation and restoration of the Sanford-Burgess slave dwelling rehabilitation project .



Lucille Anderson — The Lillian D. Reed Volunteer Award, for exceptional service and dedication to HFFI, especially for her vision, research, and recreation of the Lewis Store Project.

Roberta Ann Corter “Bobby” Kerr — The President's Exceptional Service Award , for her work in area historic preservation pursuits and long-time volunteer support of the Fredericksburg Circuit Court archives.

Matt Haney — Preservation Spark Award, for the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the old ‘Step Down’ building at 2619-2621 Princess Anne Street.

VDOT, Fredericksburg District — Preservation Spark Award, for sensitive design and construction work to carefully rehabilitate the Chatham Bridge and minimize impacts to adjacent historic resources.

Washington Heritage Museums 'Mary Washington Monument and Lodge Task Force' — Special Recognition Award, for their leadership and dedication to securing the future preservation of this important Fredericksburg historic site.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our long time volunteer and friend Greg Caruth. Greg was such an amazing man with such a giving heart. Greg gave his time and many items of historical significance to HFFI over the years. His love for history will live on through his work on the Lewis Store recreation with Lucille Anderson. He will be missed by all of us here at HFFI.



We would like to welcome Kelley Monahan as our new Director of Operations at HFFI. She shares our passion for history and preservation and looks forward to interacting more with our members and community.

Upcoming Events

Historic Happy Hour — August 2023 Location TBD

\$25 members/\$30 public

Join members of Historic Fredericksburg Foundation for conversation and light appetizers. Learn about the bar and the neighborhood. First drink is on us!

Jewish Fredericksburg Walking Tour — Sunday, September 10 11am

\$10 members/\$12 public

Tour the locations of the many Jewish shops and businesses that dominated Fredericksburg in the 20th century. Learn about their overwhelming contributions to civic life and philanthropy.

Warehouse District Walking Tour — Sunday Oct 1, 1pm

\$20 members/\$25 public

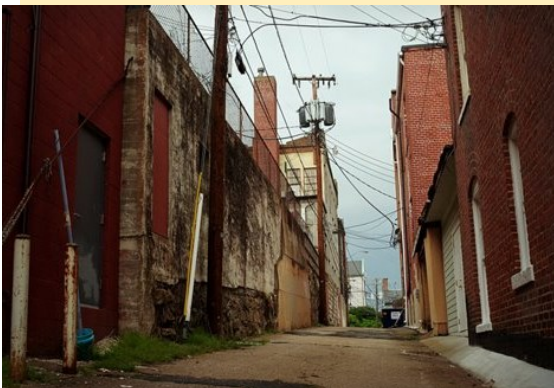
Learn about the early industrial age of Fredericksburg in the area around the train station. The owners of some of the warehouses will take you on a tour inside their buildings and explain how they have been re-adapted for their businesses.

53rd Annual Candlelight Tour—December 9– 10, 2023

Mark your calendars for this annual tradition!

***Stay up to date on upcoming events through
Facebook or through the HFFI Events Page (hffi.org/events)
Visit the Lewis Store at 1200 Caroline Street | Phone 540-371-4504***

In Case You Missed It



Right up Your Alley Walking Tour in June

Walking back through history we explored the city's hidden alleyways and back streets. Guests heard fascinating stories about Jail Alley, G&H Manufacturing Co, (commonly called the pants factory), the Kelly Syndicate, Freeman's Corner, and Free Alley.

In Case You Missed It (continued)

Black History Walking Tours: Black Businesses & Entrepreneurship in Fredericksburg, 1787 – Present

Partnering with the Fredericksburg Area Museum (FAM), this walking tour featured stories of African American business owners and entrepreneurs throughout our town's history. Led by Dr. Gaila Sims, FAM Curator of African American History and Special Projects. Grounded in historical documentation, archival research, and individual stories, this walking tour explored Fredericksburg's unique contributions to the history of Black enterprise.

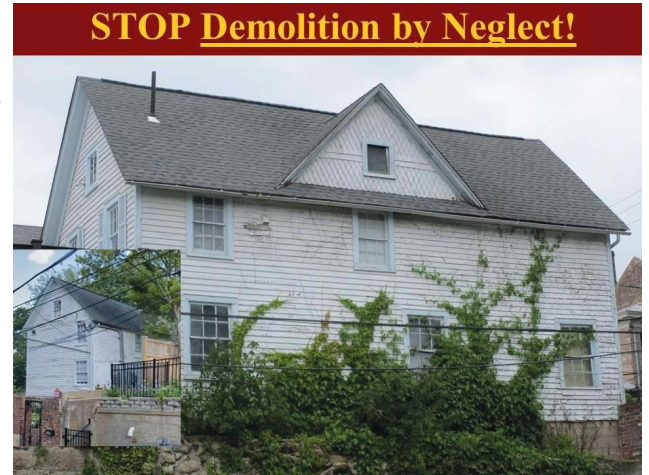
You can see what you missed [HERE](#)



A Letter from the Board President

STOP THE DEMOLITION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

I have lived in Fredericksburg my entire life; every few years we lose another historic building. The most recent and most important of which, 1407 Caroline and 401 Sophia street's demolitions were not with Architectural Review Board (ARB) approval or even their knowledge!! How does this happen in "America's Most Historic City"? More importantly, how can it be stopped?



HFFI recently challenged a city-approved demolition of a historic structure at 204 Lewis Street. Luckily, this time it did go through the ARB. Because it did, we were able to appeal to City Council. That is where things got a little strange... The City Attorney protects City Council, (which of course, perfectly understandable). And City Council would be foolish not to follow its own attorney's advice. However, the advice was to not hear HFFI's appeal of the demolition because of 'lack of standing'. So HFFI never had a chance to argue to City Council why this historic structure should not be destroyed. The fact of the matter is that we strongly believe (as do our attorneys) that we most certainly have standing. That is in part the reason we, as a Board, decided to take on this legal battle and appeal to the courts. Think of it this way: If HFFI, an incorporated not-for-profit, owning property less than 50 feet from the proposed demolition, does not have standing, then who the hell does?

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

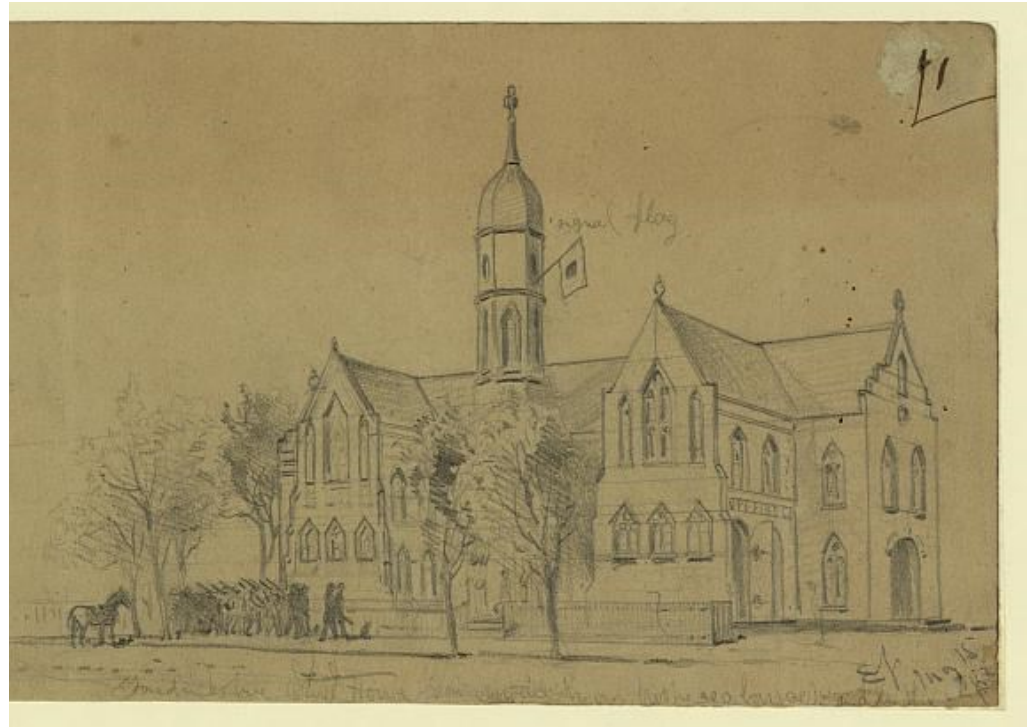
David Kelly James

President, Historic Fredericksburg Foundation Inc.

P.S. If you want to help with these efforts, please make a contribution to our 'HFFI Legal Fund', as this is getting expensive!

The Latest on The Renwick

At its June 13, 2023, meeting, Fredericksburg's City Council voted to establish a new Renwick Working Group (RWG) based on the recommendations of hired consultants from the Commonwealth Preservation Group (CPG). The City has invited HFFI to participate in the RWG along with two Council members, five City staff, Paige Pollard of CPG, and representatives of several area organizations and



businesses with an interest and/or experience in local history, preservation, architecture, art, education, finance, and economic development. You can read the document [here](#).

HFFI's Board has selected Real Estate Committee chair and architectural historian Danae Peckler to represent the organization on the RWG, which will be meeting for the first time on July 13. The Board believes that Danae's professional background and volunteer experience leading HFFI's 2019 Renwick Lecture Series and preparation of a Preliminary Information Form --the first step in listing a property in the National Register of Historic Places--will make her a great asset to the RWG's work.

As part of HFFI's mission to preserve, protect, and revitalize the distinctive historic environment and cultural resources of the Fredericksburg area (along with the rich diversity of stories these places have to tell!), we are committed to keeping our membership informed about all things Renwick. Last month, we launched the Renwick Courthouse Fan Page (add hyperlink to main RCFP webpage) where you can access a variety of educational resources, including information about the past, present, and future of Fredericksburg's courthouse complex. We'll also provide regular updates about the RWG's progress to share important news and insights about the process with our community.

The Latest on the Renwick continued...

If you haven't seen our [fan page](#) yet, here are a few items that might be of interest:

[The Historical Significance of The Renwick](#)

[Renwick for Kids](#)

[All at Once: The Renwick Complex Feasibility Study](#)

We'd love to hear your thoughts about the past, present, and future of the Renwick complex and what kind of information you'd like to see HFFI cover on this most treasured gem! Send us an email at office@hffi.org!

Want to show support for HFFI's efforts? Help us spread the word about Fredericksburg's one-of-a-kind Courthouse and become an advocate for the high-quality preservation treatment this quintessential historic asset deserves! Or make a donation to HFFI in the name of your favorite Renwick fan!



FOREST HILL DONATION UPDATE

WRITTEN BY G. SCOTT WALKER

Last year, HFFI acknowledged the generous donation of Mrs. Rebecca Light which expanded our endowment significantly. Part of the donation agreement was to continue the care of two sites on the land that we sold: a cemetery and a basement ruin. In addition, we became custodians of two "Witness Trees". As part of her donation, Mrs. Light included specific funds to preserve those sites and the trees.

Preservation comes in many forms. Normally, HFFI deals with preserving older buildings but in this case, we have two historic, silent sentinels. One is a 160-year old holly tree within the cemetery. In cooperation with Bartlett Tree Co., that tree's upper spaces have been cleared of excessive branches, a non-essential but adjacent, invasive hickory tree removed, and lightning protection installed. Even more spacious, is a 260-year old white oak tree just beyond the basement ruins just within the edge of a forested area. Similar work was done there, especially the lightning protection. Part of the work includes pest control and monitoring of the two sentinels of time.



Though certainly not HFFI's ordinary branch of preservation, we are pleased that this phase of our property custody has proceeded so well.

In addition, there are three other witness trees on property immediately adjacent to ours that a "sister" preservation group, the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, has undertaken to preserve and protect. We worked in concert with them to protect all the trees. Our sites and the donated (now sold) property are immediately adjacent to the lower end of the Fredericksburg Battlefield unit of the local National Park.

These photos only begin to show how massive these are. In the not too distant future, the Board will hold an open house on the site for members and the public.

Advocacy



LEND YOUR VOICE! The National Trust for Historic Preservation has set up an advocacy campaign for citizens to reach out to their Congressional representatives to support the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act that is currently being considered in the House and Senate.

This legislation includes provisions to add value to the Historic Tax Credit (HTC), improve access to the credit, and increase investment in smaller rehabilitation projects. "These important changes to the Historic Tax Credit would encourage more building reuse and redevelopment nationwide and would be particularly impactful for small, midsize, and rural communities."

Your help is necessary to bolster Congressional support! Easily reach out to your representatives today through this link : [HERE](#)

Did you know there are four different treatments or methodologies outlined by the Secretary of Interior that can be applied to preserving historic properties? Can you name them all? Do you know the difference between "restoration" and "rehabilitation" or "preservation" and "reconstruction"? If such questions appeal to your inner preservationist, consider sharing your thoughts by providing comments to the Department of the Secretary of the Interior!

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and associated guidelines set out four treatments for historic properties: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. Each of the four Standards differs slightly in its articulation and in the expected results. The importance of these Standards (36C.F.R. Part 68) is hugely significant in informing historic property owners on current and acceptable techniques and approaches in regards to preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. Many states and localities also adhere to these standards and guidance for historic properties in their own historic and cultural resource district and area overlays, including the City of Fredericksburg. This is spelled out in the [City's Historic District Design Guidelines](#)

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is inviting public feedback regarding application and interpretation of the Secretary's Standards. Comments must be submitted in writing by 5 p.m. on July 20, 2023, by emailing dnull@achp.gov. Major themes and issues that emerge from the comments received will be shared with the Department of the Interior, which is a member of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Park Service, which is the bureau of the Department of the Interior tasked with promulgating regulations and issuing guidance related to the Secretary's Standards.

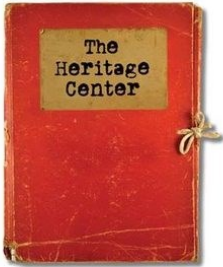


It may only be July but here at HFFI we are already gearing up for our 53rd Annual Candlelight Tour. The Candlelight Tour is a long running tradition in Fredericksburg and we are excited to bring it to you again. This years tour will feature three houses from Prince Edward Street and Fauquier Street and a one night only special ticketed tour of the St. James house.

Help bring our vision to light by volunteering with HFFI. The Candlelight Tour takes more than 200 volunteers to operate each year and we could not do it without the help of our past, current, and future volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering reach out to us at office@hffi.org



THANK YOU to our non-profit and corporate members!



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