



Membership Application/Renewal Form

Preservation Piedmont is a non-profit corporation that is dedicated to protecting historic structures, sites, landscapes, and neighborhoods, as well as rural areas and open spaces. We do this in order to create an appreciation for the historic resources of the Central Virginia Piedmont region. Based in Charlottesville, we also serve Albemarle and bordering counties.

- Student \$10 Basic \$35
 Sponsor \$150 Patron \$35
 I would like to receive my newsletter by *email only*

If you would like to initiate or renew a membership, please enclose payment and make checks payable to:

Preservation Piedmont
P.O. Box 2803
Charlottesville VA 22902

Preservation Piedmont also has an email list to serve our members and quickly update preservationists throughout the region about important preservation issues. If you are interested in signing up, please include an email address below.

- I want to volunteer!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Preservation Piedmont
P.O. Box 2803
Charlottesville VA 22902
www.preservation-piedmont.org

Newsletter
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Thomas Jefferson Branch of Preservation Virginia Merges with Preservation Piedmont

On January 31, 2013, the Thomas Jefferson Branch of Preservation Virginia officially merged with Preservation Piedmont through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. Preservation Virginia was founded in 1889 as the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) and was the first statewide historic preservation organization in the nation. The Thomas Jefferson Branch was formed in 1986 to help promote preservation of historic assets, to provide educational programming and tours, and to raise awareness of historic preservation projects and associated efforts in the Charlottesville and Albemarle County region. It supported the mission of Preservation Virginia, that is, to preserve, protect and serve as an advocate for Virginia's cultural, architectural, and historic heritage.

The Thomas Jefferson Branch was initiated by Dr. Anne Worrell, a dedicated historic preservationist who recognized the need for a group devoted to local historic preservation, education, and outreach. The founding Board of Directors included historical society and historic house museum administrators, landscape architects, preservation architects, historians, and realtors who specialized in historic properties. Architect, Doug Gilpin, was the branch's first Director. From the first branch meeting, held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Greenwood, to lectures and annual preservation awards for building restoration projects and individual preservationists, the educational emphasis of the Thomas Jefferson Branch will continue in spirit and practice as a part of Preservation Piedmont. The former branch also brings to Preservation Piedmont its expertise with educational tours that will help bolster initiatives such as Preservation Week, Preservation Piedmont's annual spring educational event. The merger of the Thomas Jefferson Branch with Preservation Piedmont will help ensure the effectiveness of preservation efforts in the region.

--Justin Sarafin, Mary Howard, Peg DeMallie, and Judy Rasmussen

Update: Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

First the bad news: Preservation Piedmont was unable to find a new owner for the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church building and it was demolished this past February. As reported in the Fall 2012 newsletter, the historic building was in the flight path of one of the Charlottesville Albemarle Airport's runways; its site was deemed unsuitable for occupancy by the FAA. Members of the congregation of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church were able to salvage the two pointed arch windows, memorializing plaque, and church bell from the structure as tangible reminders of their old building and important history.

Now for the good news: Documentation of the rich history of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church insures that the building will not be soon forgotten. Reverend Tinsley Woodfolk, Sr., a Baptist minister very active in the



Church demolition, February 25, 2013. Photo by Steve Trumbull.

decades of Reconstruction, founded Pleasant Grove Baptist Church before 1874. Reverend Woodfolk, an important religious and educational leader for African Americans in the Earlysville and Hydraulic Mills communities, established the church, among several others, as a center of support and education for many residents of Albemarle County. Reverend Woodfolk passed away in 1907 and is buried in a family cemetery behind Agnor Hurt Elementary School, a few miles away from one of the earliest churches he founded.

Buildings like Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and family cemeteries like the Woodfolk and Sammons burial places are often the most visible remains of African American communities that developed in Albemarle County in the decades after the Civil War. Inscribed gravestones and church records document the men and women who established themselves as landowners, artisans, teachers, doctors, and preachers in the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-centuries. Names and dates can be a foundation for research into the lives they lead. As road construction and development threaten sites, Preservation Piedmont would like to continue its engagement with under-told histories through programs of identification and documentation.

As preservationists, we, as members and supporters of Preservation Piedmont, must continue the work of identifying, documenting, researching, and, when possible, preserving features of daily life that exist in our landscape. As local historians and advocates for place, we have a duty to insure that history and preservation includes all residents of the county. If you know of a site, building, or cemetery associated with post-Emancipation African-American life in Albemarle County, or other noteworthy, yet threatened places in our area, please do not hesitate to contact us at preservationpiedmont@gmail.com.
--Emilie Johnson, Preservation Piedmont



Stony Point Schoolhouse in Albemarle County, 2012. Photo by Preservation Piedmont Board.



Kellytown house on Barbour Drive, 2012, just prior to demolition. Photo by Laura Knott.

**SAVE THE DATE! PRESERVATION WEEK MAY 3-11, 2013:
Threatened Sites and Communities**

This year, Preservation Week will spotlight threatened sites and communities located in Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Most of these resources are associated with African American communities established after the Civil War, but generally unrecognized for their importance in our region's history. Our keynote speaker will be Everett Fly, San Antonio architect, landscape architect, preservationist, and one-time advisor to President Bill Clinton. Mr. Fly is the creator of the "Black Settlements in America" study, which he initiated in 1975 to document the roles of African Americans in the development of the built American landscape. He was subsequently funded by the National Endowment for the Arts to study the "Black settlement" as a dynamic phenomenon. So far, he has identified and documented more than 800 settlements in 40 states throughout the U.S. His recent work includes a historic preservation ordinance and cultural tourism program for the traditionally African American community of Eatonville, Florida.

Other events include a panel discussion about identifying, preserving, and commemorating cemetery resources; a presentation and walking tour about adaptive reuse of the Jefferson School City Center; a DIY genealogy workshop; a brown-bag lunch highlighting the recent work of our award-winning Documentation Committee; a book talk by Kirsten Sparenborg, author of *Lost Communities of Virginia*; and a presentation about the Block-by-Block program at 10th and Page. A bus tour will include stops at Bleak House in the Hydraulic area; the Link Evans house and cemetery; the Union Ridge Baptist Church in Hydraulic; and the Greer house, farm, and family cemetery at Ivy Creek Natural Area, followed by a closing reception for Preservation Week 2013. Visit preservation-piedmont.org for more info and updates.

Chronicling Community "Block by Block" in 10th and Page

The Block by Block project is being led by the local home repair and affordable housing non-profit Albemarle Housing Improvement Program (AHIP) in collaboration with the City of Charlottesville, the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP), UVA's eco-REMOD program, and other partners, including Preservation Piedmont. Typically, AHIP works with families in need on a case-by-case basis, but Block by Block will focus on several blocks in a neighborhood at a time. AHIP has identified a concentrated area in need – around 140 structures both renter and owner occupied – in the 10th and Page neighborhood. This traditionally working-class African American community has never been comprehensively documented by historic architectural survey, but contains examples of homes dating back to the early 1900s once inhabited by well-known citizens of Charlottesville. Today, the area continues to be the home of many of the descendants of original property owners who provide valuable links to the social history of the community.

Preservation Piedmont is currently working on a two-part project within the Block by Block area to ensure that both the history of the buildings and the people of this unique place are known and considered during the rehabilitation project. The first part of the project has been archival and site documentation of the area, using city directories, building permits, and deed records to construct a building and ownership history of each house. After completion, the documentation will be available to all members of the Block by Block team and residents of the neighborhood. The second part of the project will involve collecting oral histories of the neighborhood and incorporating them, along with the document and field research, into a resource available in a form chosen by the community. The first part of the project is already near completion, and residents were surveyed at the Block by Block kick off meeting to determine initial interest in sharing stories and determining a form for the final project (which will likely be a book). Preservation Piedmont plans to host an event to promote the community's history during Preservation Week 2013 in May.

Through the course of research, scholars learned that the small house built at the rear of 502 11th Street NW as a "granny flat" was created in 1958 for landowner Arthoudious Haden by notable architect and UVA professor Stanislaw Makielski, who also designed Preston Court Apartments on Grady Avenue. They also discovered that Tom Bell, of the J.F. Bell Funeral Home, and his family owned and lived in the house at 354 11th Street NW during the 1920s and 1930s. In addition, a number of homes in the neighborhood were found to be constructed on property once owned by John West, a prominent African American land-owner in the city and one of the wealthiest men in the county at the time of his death in 1927. West Street is named after him. Many of the original home-owners purchased land through West on which to construct the houses still standing on the streets of the neighborhood today.

As Preservation Piedmont continues to work with Block by Block and document the 10th and Page community, a better understanding of both the social and architectural history of this place can become a resource for the rehabilitation team and the residents who call it home.
--Kristin Rourke, Preservation Piedmont



American foursquare house on 10-1/2 Street. This house is adjacent to an active community garden. Photo by Madeleine Hawks.



"Granny flat" at 502 11th Street, NW, designed by Stanislaw Makielski. Photo by Madeleine Hawks.

**Jefferson School
CITY CENTER**

Now Open!

Congratulations to the Jefferson School Foundation and Restoration Partners for the successful completion of the Jefferson School City Center project! Charlottesville's premier intergenerational community center opened in December and has been going strong throughout the winter and early spring. This restored city landmark, the heart of the city's African American community for generations, is anchored by a new Jefferson School African American Heritage Center and an expanded Carver Recreation Center.

Within its walls, several nonprofit service partners are offering educational, health and recreation programs as well as a child-care and senior center. In addition, JABA's Vinegar Hill Cafe now offers a new dining choice to downtown residents and workers, with an emphasis on fresh local foods at affordable prices.