



preservationpiedmont

Spring 2020 Members Newsletter

SOME RESULTS FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

64.3%

of respondents live in Charlottesville

28.6%

of members live in Albemarle County

7.1%

of respondents live in Fluvanna County

3 most requested programs:

+ Pop Up tours (100%)

+ Trips to historic sites (88.5%)

+ Neighborhood tours (61.5%)

96.2%

of respondents say the value we give matches our dues

Dear members,

Last week I participated in a conference call organized by Preservation Virginia to learn about how other Virginia preservation groups and non-profits are dealing with disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic – closures of museums and sites, office closures, and local governments' responses. One common theme emerged from this call – **we are all in this together**. And we will get through this crisis by staying connected and sharing ideas, even though we cannot physically meet. At this moment, the need for community is greater than ever. Our history, our stories, and our communities bind and unite us. Preservation Piedmont will continue to share these stories and track issues important to our members.

While Preservation Piedmont has suspended any in-person events or tours (at least until the governor's stay-at-home order is lifted), we want to continue to serve as a resource to find ways to stay connected, stay informed, and learn about historic sites... even if that means not leaving the house or only venturing out for exercise. The spring newsletter features ideas for teaching and learning about local history through the Bridge Builder's website (cvilebridgebuilders.com) as well as other resources.

Preservation Piedmont is currently exploring ways to reconfigure our normal programming (pop up tours and other events) to adapt to these unforeseen conditions. In the meantime, you can tour historic sites, virtually, through [Encyclopedia Virginia](#). Check out Dede Smith's [Virginia Audio Adventures](#) for Charlottesville-area audio tours. [C-Span](#) features lectures from a conference titled, "John Marshall, the Supreme Court, and the Trail of Tears" that was co-hosted by the Virginia Museum of History and Culture and Preservation Virginia. For those that want to venture outside the Commonwealth, [Google Arts & Culture](#) teamed up with over 2,500 museums and galleries to provide virtual tours and online exhibits of some of the most famous museums around the world.

We don't know yet when this crisis will lift, but we do know that historic preservation is going to play an important part in economic recovery and revitalization across the state. On April 3rd, Preservation Piedmont joined Preservation Virginia's open letter to Governor asking to maintain funding to the Department of Historic Resources (DHR), and to continue to fund the robust Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (HRTC) program.

To all our members and friends, take care of yourselves and each other. We will get through this unprecedented time together!

Sincerely,

Liz Russell, President

PRESERVATION DURING SOCIAL DISTANCING

While we practice social distance, we can continue to support local businesses, particularly those that operate in historic buildings, preserving the fabric of our communities. There are still ways to patronize these shops and restaurants by ordering takeout, purchasing a gift card, or other ways of showing appreciation until they are open again.

VIRTUAL PRESERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

04/10 - 10:00 AM - NOON

Niya Bates, of Monticello | [Historic Preservation as an avenue for reparations](#) and the role that Historic Preservation can play in revitalizing historically Black communities ([more info about the talk here](#))

RECOMMENDED READING

[Spend Local Safely: Five Ways You Can Support Your Main Street Businesses During the Coronavirus](#) from the National Trust for Historic Preservation

04/18 - 2:00 PM

Dr. Drew Lanham & Dr. Matthew Reeves of Montpelier | [Virtual Plantation and Habitat Walk](#)

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Form-Based Code in Charlottesville Strategic Investment Area Phase 1

City Council voted on February 3, 2020 to table a proposed rezoning of this area south of Garrett Street. The Planning Commission had sent comments to Council in advance of PC's deadline but chose not to make a recommendation. Preservation Piedmont, via the Advocacy Committee, expressed concerns to the Planning Commission that the code did not protect or address existing Ridge Street and Downtown Architectural

Design Control Districts, making it unclear whether BAR would have any reviewing authority. Preservation Piedmont also identified areas where adjacent neighborhood fabric would be adversely affected by the scale of new buildings allowed in the code. Future action is likely to take place as part of the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Map review that is being undertaken for the City by Rhodeside & Harwell.

City Initiative on Affordable Dwelling Units

City Council voted 3-2 on March 2, 2020 to send the Planning Commission a staff proposal aimed at creating affordable housing within areas zoned R-1 (single-family) and R-2 (detached duplex). The proposal seeks to incentivize a new Accessory Dwelling program that would allow up to three accessory units on a lot if at least one is "affordable" (as defined, financed, and administered by the program). Much of R-1 currently allows a single Accessory Dwelling Unit on a lot—whether a separate structure or internal apartment

unit—provided the Owner lives on the premises. Charlottesville also has many "grandfathered" houses with multi-unit rentals held over from 1999, when R-1 was created out of R-3 zoning in many areas. The proposal under review would effectively reverse that 1999 change for qualifying properties. Preservation Piedmont's Advocacy Committee will monitor the development of this proposal and advocate for the preservation of existing housing stock as one of the most affordable alternatives available to our community.



DAUGHTERS OF ZION CEMETERY UPDATE

Stokes of England (from Keswick, Virginia) recently completed restoration of the ironwork surrounding the gravesite of Rev. M. T. Lewis at the Daughters of Zion Cemetery. The Preservers of the Daughters of Zion Cemetery received funding from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for this project.

Images taken before (left) and after (right) of the restoration work

Preservation Piedmont 2019 Awards

Outstanding Restoration Award

801 Park Street, Charlottesville, Virginia

Presented to Kristin H Jensen and Daniel G Krasnegor

In recognition of their distinguished restoration of the 1893 Trevillian-Tennyson house at 801 Park Street.

Martha Gleason Award for Outstanding Service to Historic Preservation

Roulhac Toledano

In recognition of her many contributions to Preservation Piedmont and her gift of a lifetime of knowledge of preservation that she brought to the Charlottesville Community. We also honor her vision for adapting the Pink Warehouse so that it became one of the first modern mixed use buildings in Downtown with offices, commercial, and residential spaces.

Preservation Awards

Gayle Schulman

In recognition of her extensive and significant research and writing on local history since the 1980s, especially of Charlottesville's African American community.

Margaret Martin O'Bryant

In recognition of her years of her knowledgeable, generous, and excellent service to the community since 1988, as librarian of the Albemarle-Charlottesville Historical Society.

Burley School, Charlottesville, Virginia

*Presented to Burley Varsity Club
& Jimmy Hollins*

In recognition of their outstanding efforts to commemorate the 1951 Burley School, and to honor its place in local history, by seeking a nomination to individually designate Burley School on the National Register of Historic Places and Virginia Landmarks Register.

St. John's School, Albemarle County, Virginia

Presented to St. John Family Life and Fitness Center, Inc. & Rebecca Kinney and Kevin Hawkins

In recognition of their efforts to rehabilitate the 1922 Rosenwald School, to honor its place in local history, and to repurpose St. John's School as a community center.

Yancey School Community Center, Esmont, Virginia

Presented to B. F. Yancey Heritage and History Project & Charlotte Brody and Peggy Scott

In recognition of their outstanding efforts to commemorate the 1961 B.F. Yancey Elementary School, to honor its place in local history, and to repurpose Yancey School as a community center.



801 Park Street, Burley School, St. John's School, Margaret O'Bryant; images courtesy of billemory.com

BRIDGE BUILDERS UPDATE

Social Distancing? Teaching Students at Home? Read about Local History

Charlottesville Bridge Builders has launched a website cvillebridgebuilders.org to connect the community to the Bridge Builder book and other resources telling stories of community history. Preservation Piedmont was a sponsor of this project funded by a generous grant from Virginia Humanities. The website and book tell the stories of Charlottesville leaders recognized by the City for their efforts to cross class, racial, and economic barriers to create a diverse and just community.

The book *Charlottesville Bridge Builders 2001-2016* was launched by Preservation Piedmont last summer at a Unity Day event featuring a documentary about Drewary Brown, a local civil rights hero for whom the West Main Street Bridge was named. The Bridge, displaying plaques naming Bridge Builders, is the only memorial to local citizens. The website allows viewers to download or order the book, read short bios of the Bridge Builders, see how you can promote the Bridge as a memorial, download a film about massive resistance in Virginia, with Charlottesville footage, and learn about the community fight over desegregation of Charlottesville's schools.

Read about local history heroes like Drewary Brown, a founder of MACAA; Sarah Patton Boyle, who had a cross burned in her yard for her interracial efforts; Benjamin and Imogene Bunn, who started the local chapter of the NAACP; Frances Brand, who painted portraits of many of Charlottesville's "firsts," and many others.

FEATURES OF WEBSITE INCLUDE

- + You can read about each Bridge Builder individually by clicking on their brief bios under the Biographies tab.
- + Download a free, full PDF of the book, *Charlottesville Bridge Builders, 2001-2016*. AND/OR you can order a hard copy of the full book online.
- + Watch a film about massive resistance in Virginia. Under the Resources link on the About tab, click on *The Ground Beneath Our Feet* to see a film that includes some information about massive resistance in Charlottesville.

+ Read *Desegregation of Charlottesville Public Schools 1954-69* by Dallas Crowe. Download this fascinating research of the story of local desegregation (based on newspapers, school board minutes, and other public records). Also located under About tab: Resources link.

TEACHERS & PARENTS

- + Consider writing and art projects for children of all ages.
- Note: You can find more research resources on cvillebridgebuilders.org, in Wikipedia, interviews and other sources.
- + Draw or paint a portrait of one of the Bridge Builders or make a collage about them.
 - + Draw a picture of how to make the bridge a memorial.
 - + Write a poem or essay about one or more Bridge Builder you would like to have known.

OTHER WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

- + Learn about the possibility of an improved local memorial to these Bridge Builders. Click on the About tab and choose The Bridge Reimagined, describing how the West Main Street Bridge could be a more fitting memorial to these local heroes.
- + Sign the Petition to City Council to expand the Bridge Builders memorial and make this history visible!

PLEASE SHARE WITH OTHER PARENTS & TEACHERS!



Documentation Before Demolition program

Alarmed at the rapidly increasing loss of Charlottesville's architectural fabric, Preservation Piedmont initiated a City-wide program called 'Document Before Demolish'. The program aims to record jeopardized historic structures through photography, field notes, and, under special circumstances, measured drawings. Preservation Piedmont receives notifications of demolition applications from the City. Once notified, members of Preservation Piedmont go out with camera and documentation forms in hand to record each property slated for demolition. All field records and data generated by the program are temporarily stored in Preservation Piedmont archives and are available upon request.

In the last two years, there have been many iconic changes to the Charlottesville landscape. Here are a few familiar buildings that we have been able to document before they were demolished.



Top Row: Charlottesville Ice Rink, Peyton Pontiac Dealership, Brandon Avenue apartments; Bottom Row: The Tavern, ALC Copies, Carriage Food House

RASSAWEK UPDATE

Preservation Piedmont has signed onto the [open letter to the Governor and the Army Corps](#) asking that they not allow the James River Water Authority (JRWA) to proceed with constructing a pump station and pipeline project at Point of Fork. This letter asks that the leadership of Virginia and the Army

Corps conduct a systematic review to identify other options for the water intake and pump station project that do not destroy this irreplaceable history.

You can find the latest news on efforts to save the historic capital of the Monacan Indian Nation on Cultural Heritage Partner's [Save Rassawek webpage](#).



Captain John Smith's map of Virginia, 1612

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PRESERVING COMMUNITIES

In October 2019, Preservation Piedmont hosted a series of events centered around the *Preserving Communities* theme. On October 14, Mandy Burbage and Rush Otis from Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville discussed Southwood Park in addition to past and current projects. The next day, Jim Boyd of Grimm + Parker Architects, representing Piedmont Housing Alliance (PHA), discussed Friendship Court redevelopment. We also heard from PHA CEO, Sunshine Mathon. The following week, Preservation Piedmont members enjoyed a walking tour led by Cory Demchek, Director of Programs at Albemarle Housing Improvement Program (AHIP), of their organizations rehabilitation and emergency repairs of homes in the historic Ridge Street neighborhood.



Grant Program

Preservation Piedmont made one grant last year to the Louisa County Historical Society (LCHS). The \$1,000 grant to the LCHS assisted with improvements to historic structure that houses their office.

The Preservation Piedmont Board continued its ongoing support for Bridge Builders through a grant from Virginia Humanities. This \$1000 grant paid defrayed printing setup costs for an updated edition of The Bridge Builders book, which helps keep alive the stories and legacy of Charlottesville leaders that led civil rights initiatives in the 1950's and 1960's.

Piedmont Preservation continues to support collateral organizations who mission and goals align with ours. In 2019 we donated \$200 to McIntire Botanical Garden, \$500 to AHIP, and \$300 to the Preservers of the Daughters of Zion.

Preservation Piedmont provides modest grants to support projects that promote the protection of historic resources, including significant cultural landscapes. Learn more and apply through our website: [**preservation-piedmont.org/grants-awards**](https://preservation-piedmont.org/grants-awards)

Join or Renew

By becoming a member of Preservation Piedmont, your support will enable us to continue educating the public, monitoring local governments, and undertaking projects that encourage responsible actions toward our historic resources. You will be updated on regional preservation issues and accomplishments through our newsletter, and offered special opportunities throughout the year to visit and tour historic sites.