

**Preservation Piedmont**

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

**Newsletter  
Fall 2014**



**preservation** piedmont

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**"Members-Only" Fall Tour Highlights Guthrie Hall  
and Twenty Columns**

In October, thanks to the generosity of Steve McLean and Jim Faulconer of McLean Faulconer, Inc., a number of Preservation Piedmont members were able to attend our free "Members-Only" Fall Tour, viewing two important historic properties: Guthrie Hall and Twenty Columns, both located in Esmont. Guthrie Hall is a magnificent, circa 1901, Georgian Revival-style residence, designed by the renowned New York firm of McKim, Mead & White. Guthrie Hall is listed on both the National Historic Register and Virginia Landmarks Register. Twenty Columns was originally built as a summer house for display at the Jamestown Exposition of 1907. It was later dismantled and relocated to its present location in Esmont. Only current members can attend our "members-only" tours, but you can sign up to be a member or update your membership at the tour sites.

*--Judy Rasmussen*

**Board Members**

**2014 Board**

- Laura Knott, *President*
- Emma Earnst, *Vice President*
- Susan Spengler, *Secretary*
- Ellen Wagner, *Treasurer*
- Amanda Burbage
- Emilie Johnson
- Laurie Matson Fear
- Martin Quarles
- Judy Rasmussen
- Genevieve Keller
- Michael Demonaco
- Tom Raney

**2014 Board of Advisors**

- Helena Devereux
- Bill Emory
- Ben Ford
- Genevieve Keller
- Margaret Maliszewski
- Scott Meacham
- Justin Sarafin
- Ross Stevens
- Christophe Vorlet



*Guthrie Hall. Photograph courtesy of McLean Faulconer.*



*Twenty Columns. Photograph courtesy of McLean Faulconer.*

## ***Document Before Demolish:*** **Massies Mill Elementary**

In March 2014, Preservation Piedmont received permission from Nelson County Administrator, Steve Carter, to document the historic Massies Mill Elementary School prior to its demolition. Nelson County staff member, Billy Hart, led Preservation Piedmont on a tour of the building and loaned the original blueprint set of plans for the school to be scanned and added to documentation files in UVA's Special Collections Library.

Massies Mill Elementary was constructed in 1952 on seven acres located along Tan Yard Road near the village of Massies Mill. It began operations in 1953 as an elementary school for African American students. Constructed to reflect Nelson County's "separate but equal" policy of the 1950s, the school brought together students who had been attending one- and two-room elementary schools in the area. Massies Mill Elementary coexisted for many years with Fleetwood Elementary, which served white students.

In 1965, a few African American students were sent to Fleetwood Elementary in response to desegregation orders, and by 1966 the Virginia Department of Education called for the school's closure. In 1969, Massies Mill Elementary School became Massies Mill Primary School, serving the district's younger elementary students, while Fleetwood Elementary served the older elementary students. Because of its location on a hill, Massies Mill Elementary was spared the devastation of Hurricane Camille in 1969.

Massies Mill Elementary continued to operate as a school until 1995, when Tye River Elementary opened and both the Massies Mill and Fleetwood schools were turned into recreation centers. From 1996 to 1999, Massies Mill Recreation Center, Inc. ran programs at the center, but was eventually unable to afford to keep it open. The property was conveyed back to the county in 2012. Following up on a 2013 decision by the Nelson County Board of Supervisors, the school was demolished in mid-July 2014 for safety and liability reasons. The county plans to retain the property for other uses.

*-Laura Knott*



*View of Massies Mill Elementary prior to its demolition in July 2014.  
Photograph by Steve Trumbull.*



*Playground at Massies Mill Elementary prior to demolition in July 2014.  
Photograph by Steve Trumbull.*

## **Carrsbrook "Members-Only" Tour**

In Spring 2014, Preservation Piedmont hosted a "members-only" tour of Carrsbrook, which is an unusual regional adaptation of Palladio's five-part house. The estate was named "Carrsbrook" after John Carr, cousin and friend of Thomas Jefferson and other noteworthy early county residents. Built between 1780 and 1790, Carrsbrook today maintains its original five-part configuration with additions, such as an indoor kitchen, sensitively incorporated into the overall composition.

Laura Knott led the tour of this property, which also included a formal boxwood garden, a family cemetery, and views to the Rivanna. Thanks to arrangements made by board member, Tom Raney, and the owner's generosity, we were able to welcome twenty of our members to experience this fascinating house!



*Board member, Tom Raney, arranged the tour. Photo by Justin Sarafin.*

## Block by Block Program Rehabilitates Twelve Charlottesville Homes

In 2013, Preservation Piedmont partnered with the Albemarle Housing Improvement Project (AHIP) for a Preservation Week walking tour that explored the history of Charlottesville's 10<sup>th</sup> & Page neighborhood (see our Spring 2013 Newsletter). Since 2013, AHIP's Block by Block program has focused on rehabilitation of the neighborhood's aging housing stock, completing twelve rehabs in the past year. Each job included an energy assessment and energy-related improvements made to Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) standards. Through a partnership with UVA's EcoReMod program, students provided design and build work on several jobs, including decks, shade devices, and two kitchen renovations. The students also designed and completed interior installations for one client who wanted to be certified for a child day care business. She now has an in home day care service and a beautiful room for the kids to play.

To complete the rehabilitations, AHIP engaged volunteers from the Charlottesville Area Association of Realtors, the Blue Ridge Home Builders Association, Wells Fargo, Madison House, the UVA Law School, the Batten School, Darden, Jefferson Scholars, the Indian Social Center, the Jewish Social Justice Council, Engineers Without Borders, Cavalier Care, Building Goodness Foundation, Laurel Hill Baptist Church, University Baptist Church, and the Bike & Build Program. Costs per job ranged from about \$16,000 to \$95,000. AHIP invested an average of \$40,000 of City funds per unit. Other funders included private foundations, Wells Fargo, the JE Berkley Foundation, Dominion Power, and private donations.

AHIP has twelve new projects lined up for this year and is always taking new applications for homes in need of repair. If you know of anyone in the 10<sup>th</sup> & Page neighborhood in need of housing rehabilitation or emergency home repair, they can contact AHIP at [info@ahipva.org](mailto:info@ahipva.org).

*-Mandy Burbage, adapted from an email interview with Joyce Dudek, AHIP's Associate Director.*



10th and Page home rehabilitated since 2013. Photo by Kristin Roarke.



## It's That Time of Year!

When the leaves start dropping, it's time to kick off our membership drive. **Starting in 2015**, your Preservation Piedmont membership will follow the calendar year, January-December.

By joining each year, you are advocating for the preservation of Central Virginia's historic buildings and landscapes and supporting the work of Preservation Piedmont. Keep it up. Membership benefits also include:

- free admission to special, members-only tours
- printed, mailed copy of our newsletter

Please use the membership form on the back of this newsletter to sign up for 2015.

*-Judy Rasmussen, Membership Chair*



The Faulkner House, 1982. Image: VDHR, National Register Nomination.

## Annual Meeting & Party

*What Date?* **Saturday, November 15, 2014**

*What Time?* **3:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

*Where?* **The Faulkner House  
Miller Center of Public Affairs**

This year, Preservation Piedmont is partnering with the Piedmont Area Preservation Alliance (PAPA) to host the Annual Gathering of the Historic Preservation Community! The event includes keynote speech by Governor Baliles, "Why Landscapes Matter," by Gennie Keller, and Preservation Piedmont's Annual Meeting, including awards for out-standing historic preservation projects. See our web site for more information.



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## 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 \$15 x \_\_\_\_  Individual \$35 x \_\_\_\_

Sponsor \$100  Patron \$300

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: \_\_\_\_\_