



preservationpiedmont newsletter

Fall 2019

Working for a Better Day: The Drewary Brown Story

Vinegar Hill Theater seats were packed on July 25 for a Unity Day event featuring a 2001 documentary film about Drewary Brown. The film also featured persons later honored as Bridge Builders on the Drewary Brown Bridge on West Main Street. All, like Drewary, worked across racial, economic, and other barriers to create a more just and equitable Charlottesville, and included Paul Gaston, Alicia Lugo, Grace Tinsley, and Mary Ann and Bill Elwood.

In addition to the film, four of the 36 Bridge Builders – Teresa Walker Price, Elizabeth “Betz” Gleason, Eugene Williams, and John Conover – participated in a panel discussion of the film moderated by Coy Barefoot, Executive Director, Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society (ACHS). Kay Slaughter, editor of Bridge Builders, 2001-2016, a book of biographies, also participated.

Sponsored by Preservation Piedmont, ACHS, and Lighthouse Studios, this event was part of a larger project that Preservation Piedmont and ACHS have been engaged in since last fall when they co-sponsored a showing of the film at the Virginia Film Festival. Preservation

Piedmont helped fund the design and production of the Bridge Builder book, written by Jean Hiatt, Kay Slaughter, and Virginia Germino, and edited by Kay. A grant from Virginia Humanities supported the July 25 event and provides funds to create a Bridge Builder website. Preservation Piedmont has called on the City to make the Drewary Brown Bridge on West Main Street a more monumental site recognizing Brown and the 36 other Bridge Builders, which was also a recommendation of the 2016 Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Monuments.



Photo by Andrew Shurtleff of the Daily Progress

Sponsored Event

In August, the Preservers of the Daughters of Zion Cemetery featured “Gone But Not Forgotten” at City Space Art Gallery, sharing information with the community about the lives of some of the individuals buried at the historic Daughters of Zion

Cemetery and their contributions to Charlottesville during the late 19th - early 20th century.

The exhibit opening also featured photos from the [Holsinger Portrait Project](#).

Community Partners

LOUISA: Preservation Piedmont awarded the Louisa County Historical Society a small grant for exterior painting of the [Sargeant Museum](#), a 1914 Sears Roebuck house that has been rehabilitated into a museum. Featuring exhibit rooms and a research

library on the first floor and the Historical Society’s offices, archive, and artifact collection storage areas on the second floor, the Sargeant Museum of Louisa County History is located at 214 Fredericksburg Avenue, Louisa, VA.



ESMONT: In partnership with Albemarle County and others, including Preservation Piedmont, the B. F. Yancey Heritage & History Project celebrated the opening of the Yancey School Community Center with a ribbon cutting and Heritage & History Awareness Day on March 9.

Yancey and other Esmontonians. Stay tuned for more information about this project!



Enlisting the services of a curator, the project team plans to develop an exhibit within the community center, build a website, and build school curriculum to tell the stories of Benjamin Franklin

Upcoming Events...

275th Anniversary of Albemarle County

September 28 | 10am - 2pm at Lane Field.

Featuring a photo exhibit of Lost, Endangered, and Preserved County Buildings from the extensive collection of K. Edward Lay



Preservation Piedmont invites you to join us for three events to celebrate **Preserving Communities Week:**

October 14 | noon - 1pm
*Mandy Burbage and Rush Otis from Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville will discuss **Southwood Park** in addition to other past and current projects*

October 15 | noon - 1pm
*Jim Boyd of Grimm + Parker Architects representing Piedmont Housing Alliance (PHA) will discuss **Friendship Court Redevelopment***

*both events are located at City Space 100 5th Street NE - parking in Market Street Garage
Bring your own lunch - cold drinks provided*

October 16 | TBA
A special tour with **AHIP Home Repair Nonprofit** - time and location TBA

PAPA Annual Gathering

November 7 | 5:30 - 7:30pm at City Space

Preservation Piedmont Annual Meeting

December 8 | 2 - 4pm at the Pink Warehouse

Advocacy Update

Monacan Rassawek Village >>> The Center of the Monacan Millennium

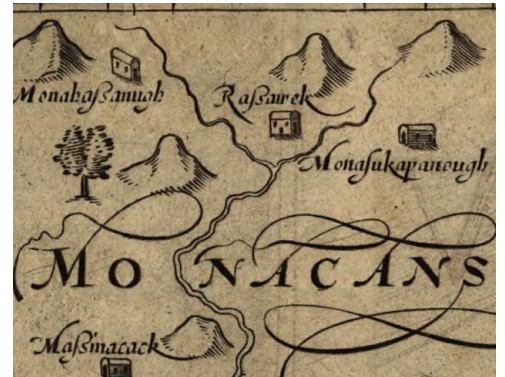
“The chiefest village of Rassawek, a king’s house,” was reported in Captain John Smith’s writings in the early 1600s. The James River Water Authority has selected this site, important to the Monacan Nation for 1000 years, as a water pump station to supply Fluvanna and Louisa. In support of the Monacans, Preservation Piedmont, along with other historic and environmental groups opposes the destruction of this village, also the site of ancestral remains. Because Rassawek has been identified for centuries, the Authority’s selection prior to governmental review appears insensitive to Monacan history and culture.

Fortunately, such a project must undergo environmental and historic scrutiny under federal law. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that a permitting agency – in this case the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – consider all alternatives and all environmental impacts, including historic resources, for each alternative. Moreover, Corps regulations require that it select the least damaging alternative. Currently, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources is also reviewing the proposal under the National Historic Preservation Act.

Since the Authority decided to purchase the site in advance of receiving the permit, its study is unlikely to be impartial. While there is much river

frontage in Fluvanna County, the Authority purchased the Rassawek site. Assuming the Corps decides to permit the Rassawek site, the only way to negate the decision would be to challenge the permit in court.

In addition to the Monacans and other citizens who may have “legal standing” to bring a court challenge, the Governor, under federal re-



John Smith Map of 1612 | Library of Congress

Want to help? Write a letter!

...to the **US Army Corps of Engineers** in Norfolk
Steven.A.Vanderploeg@usace.army.mil | *even though the Corps comment period ended, the representative has stated that comments will be added to the record.*

...to the **Virginia Department of Historic Resources**
gregorylabudde@dhr.virginia.gov | *DHR is still reviewing the application*

...to write the **Governor** at: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/constituent-services/communicating-with-the-governors-office/> | *Ask that he use his authority under federal regulations to oppose any Corps project.*

...and sign onto a letter sponsored by the **Sierra Club** [here](#).

gulations is provided the authority to demand a second look. In this case, Governor Northam could object to any permit issuance for a pump station located in Rassawek, where native artifacts, including human remains, are buried. This would require the Corps to reexamine alternatives and the environmental impacts, including impacts on archeology, historic resources and human communities. No one appears to be questioning the need for the project, only the intake pump location at Rassawek; Fluvanna

County has much Rivanna waterfront within its boundaries.

The Monacan Nation has reached out to the public on this issue, and Preservation Piedmont has joined Preservation Virginia in opposition to this project. This historic site could be reserved for future generations as a natural area where the Monacans with the help of the state could conduct appropriate archeological study to help us learn more about our history.

Other Issues We're Following >>>

Crozet Master Planning - Community visioning (Phase 1) for the future of Crozet is currently underway; this will inform the design process (Phase 2) in winter & spring 2020. For more information about opportunities to engage in the conversation, please review the [Community Visioning schedule](#).

Form-Based Code - Charlottesville has been finalizing a "Form-Based Code" (FBC) for Phase 1 of the Strategic Investment Area (roughly the area from the IX complex to Friendship Court, and from Ridge St. to North Belmont) Form-based codes were developed as a way to regulate building form in areas where sprawling development has been a concern. FBC replaces conventional zoning with a

focus on the form of the buildings, streets and parks in a neighborhood. FBC sets standards for community scale and character. How well FBC functions within an existing city fabric remains to be seen, but transition zones to existing neighborhoods can be regulated through building form requirements. Preservation Piedmont will continue to monitor the impact of the proposed FBC on the City's historic and cultural resources.



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Generous Gift Received

In May, Preservation Piedmont received an unexpected and generous gift from the Watha J. Eddins Fund at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation (CACF). CACF said that the recently closed fund had goals that aligned with Preservation Piedmont's, including the protection of historic resources and advancement of cultural heritage.

Watha J. "Jim" Eddins, who passed away in 2013, was a longtime friend of Preservation Piedmont, helping the fledgling organization in the early 1990s, and serving as its President. The funds will be applied toward Preservation Piedmont's programs in honor of this kind, positive, and untiring advocate for community preservation.

Grant Program

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:

<https://www.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 to visit and tour historic sites.*

Preservation Piedmont | P.O. Box 2803 | Charlottesville VA 22902
<https://www.preservation-piedmont.org/membership>