



f PRESERVATION FOCUS

Newsletter of the
Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation

In Memoriam ~ Riverdale

This summer RVPF attended the Riverdale Farms Neighborhood Association's annual Block Party on a beautiful evening June 30 standing next to the remains of the 1874 Greek Revival-style brick house, Riverdale, also known as the Huff-Rutrough House. VP Anne Beckett, previously prepared a Historic Structures Report for the City of Roanoke, which was required prior to demolishing the vacant house. She presented a talk about the history of Riverdale at the block party. The city pursued demolition due to an implosion of the first and second floors of the house's main section. Riverdale had been vacant for ten years before being used as rental property by the Robert Gilmer family who bought it in 1998.

RVPF added Riverdale to our 2013 annual Endangered Sites list and worked hard with the neighborhood association and its president Cindy Pasternack to find a preservation-minded buyer for the house in conjunction with the city's code enforcement efforts. Unfortunately, the owner would neither repair the house nor sell it. On April 25, 2018, the house was brought to the ground, and the neighborhood mourned. RVPF wanted to show our support and camaraderie with the neighborhood association by attending the event and providing some food for our friends in preservation.



Judy Harrison, Anne Beckett, and Alison Blanton

Crystal Spring Presentation at Colonial Dames Roanoke Chapter

Anne Beckett and Alison Blanton prepared a talk for the Colonial Dames Roanoke Chapter about the history of Crystal Spring. The talk was given on October 18 at the Crystal Spring Pump Station where the Colonial Dames voted to approve the manufacturing of a sign about the history of Crystal Spring and the Pump House. The 24 x 36 sign will be installed on the property of the Western Virginia Water Authority at the intersection of Jefferson Avenue and McClanahan Street. Gropen sign company in Charlottesville has been chosen for its production and installation, and this collaborative effort between the RVPF, the Water Authority, and the Colonial Dames will result in a spring ground-breaking ceremony. Stay tuned for more details!



Exterior of Crystal Spring Pumping Station

The Monterey Quarters at Roanoke College

The Monterey Quarters, a two-story brick building on the Roanoke College campus, was once home to slaves. Situated behind the Monterey House, which was built in 1853 for Powell Huff by the Deyerle Brothers, the house's tie to slavery is strikingly clear. Huff is listed as owning 10 slaves in the 1850 census, and Henry Chapman, the second owner of Monterey, claimed 13. Kathleen Ouyang, Dr. Mark Miller's undergraduate research assistant discovered the names of 14 people who may have once lived in the quarters: Ellen, Jim, John, Josephine, Judy, Lewis, Mahaly, Martha, Mary, Morris, Ned, Sarah, Taylor, and Tucker. It is likely these people were tasked mainly with domestic work such as spinning, weaving, and sewing, which they accomplished in the work rooms on the first floor while living in dwelling spaces above on the second floor. Monterey Quarters stand in sharp contrast to other reconstructed slave quarters typically portrayed in documentaries and historical films. It was a brick, four-room, two-floor structure with four fireplaces—one in each room. Even though the Monterey Quarters appears lavish in comparison to wooden, dirt-floored structures often depicted on Deep South plantations, students in Whitney Leeson's Historic Preservation class made note of other brick slave quarters in close proximity to Salem's Monterey dependency. A similar slave dwelling exists at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest in Bedford and a nearly identical structure is situated behind "Newcastle" (ca. 1855) on Union

Street in Salem. According to Michael J. Pulice in his book *Discovering the True Legacies of the Deyerle Builders* (2011), both Monterey and Newcastle were Greek Revival homes most likely built by J.C. Deyerle, son of Joseph Deyerle and nephew of Benjamin Deyerle. Both the Monterey and Newcastle dependences were laid out at the same time as their respective main houses as indicated by the closely matching brickwork and site topography. Monterey has gone through numerous different uses throughout the years - everything from private residence to serving as the office of a construction business. However, following Roanoke College's acquisition of Monterey (and its detached brick quarters) in 2002, Monterey now has yet another purpose. The quarters can be a fantastic way for students to explore the past, said Dr. Mark Miller, Roanoke's David F. Bittle College Historian and Professor of History.



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Pints for Preservation

In September, RVPF invited the community to join us for another Pints for Preservation pub crawl following a trail of clues and tasty nibbles through our historic downtown and raising money for community preservation efforts. Delicious food and drink specials were offered by Blue 5, Bernard's Gastropub, Deschutes Brewery, Fork in the Market, and Billy's. Thanks to the partnership between participants and our host venues, we were able to raise \$5,346. We look forward to another great event next year!

RVPF is partnering with Old Southwest Neighborhood Association for this year's Parlor Tour! The tour takes place December 1 & 2, RVPF will help with the silent auction at the Gish House. Join us for this awesome event!

Fire Station No. 7 Update

After RVPF led a campaign to raise awareness and questions about the feasibility of preserving Fire Station No. 7, Roanoke City Council voted on August 6 to accept the architect's recommendation to demolish the historic station and build a new station on the site. While RVPF was disappointed in this decision and believes preservation is still a feasible option, we hope that this exercise

has impressed upon the City the importance of taking the significance of its historic resources into account when planning for civic improvements. As we move forward, RVPF encourages the City to mitigate the demolition of Fire Station No. 7 with the following measures: 1) documenting the building before demolition;

2) telling its history through interpretive signage; and 3) salvaging architectural features of the historic building for incorporation into the new design. RVPF has offered its support and assistance with this proposed mitigation and we hope to continue to work with the City to better incorporate historic preservation into its planning process.

Kudos to our Board Members!

On November 9 Roanoke hosted their Annual Neighborhoods Award Celebration recognizing outstanding contributions by neighborhood organizations and individuals. The Neighborhood Outstanding Volunteer Leadership Award was presented to James Settle of the Wasena neighborhood. And as “a pillar” of the Wasena neighborhood and president of the Wasena Neighborhood Forum for the past ten years, James was awarded the coveted All-Star Award! Way to go, James!

After an award-winning career with the City of Roanoke as their Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Bob Clement left some big shoes to fill when he retired in October. A man known for the trusted bonds that he forged with neighborhood leaders and for developing and steering the city’s Leadership College with over 500 graduates, Roanoke City Council honored him upon his retirement this fall. At last year’s Annual Neighborhood Awards Celebration, Bob was bestowed the first and only Ambassador Award for Outstanding Contributions in Civic Leadership. We are so proud of you, and Happy Retirement!

The Monterey Quarters cont ~

“This is an amazing opportunity to use these buildings [Monterey and the smaller Clay Street house that sits at the bottom of the hill] as a laboratory for students in our new Public History program. Working to preserve and interpret these structures will provide valuable hands-on experience for students.” Mark Clark and Ariel Clark, a father-daughter team from Southwest Restoration, are overseeing the work. The college plans on modernizing the first floor of the Quarters for possible classroom and lecture space as very little original material remains in place due to a fire that happened relatively soon after the building’s completion. The second floor, which contains predominantly original building material, will be turned into exhibit space for interpreting the life of enslaved peoples living in southwestern Virginia in the 1850s and 1860s. The Monterey House has served multiple purposes in its over 150-year life—

private residence, resort, boarding house, a fraternity house, and most recently, a Roanoke College faculty house. Acquired in 2002, the college originally did minimal renovations to the property. The five upstairs rooms were used to host guests of the college (speakers, faculty applicants, etc.), while the dining room became a meeting area, and the den became a board room. Completed in the summer of 2004, the original renovations done by the college included the installation of air conditioning and minor upgrades to the kitchen and baths. The college is now currently in the midst of a significant remodel of Monterey focusing on maintaining a traditional appearance while enhancing the property’s functionality as a meeting and entertaining space.



For more information about the history of Monterey, see Tom Carter’s article “Matriarchal Monterey” in the August 2018 issue devoted to Southwest Virginia Landmarks in Discover: History and Heritage published by the Roanoke Times.

Renovation projects include removing old radiators to expose the original woodwork, upgrading heating and cooling systems, hanging period-appropriate wallcoverings and window treatments, painting all rooms, finishing all floors, adding crown molding in several rooms, and enhancing fireplace surrounds. Master carpenter, Isaac Brunk, raised the kitchen ceiling back to its original height and created a coffered ceiling in both the kitchen and the former den, which also gained additional floor space when he closed off an elevator shaft and removed bookcases dating to the 1970s. On the second floor, extensive remodels of two bathrooms and the addition of a third bathroom are still in progress as the shipment of Italian marble tile took longer to arrive in Salem than predicted. Mike Vaught, head of Buildings and Grounds at Roanoke College, is responsible for the coordination of the contractors, carpenters, and other restoration specialists that made this project possible.

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P.O. Box 1366
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You're invited to the RVPF

Annual Meeting & Preservation Awards Announcement

**Tuesday, November 27 at 6pm at the former
Lincoln Theatre at the Claude Moore
Education Complex (109 Henry Street NW).**

The Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation is excited to host our annual awards where we will announce our 2018 Preservation Awards in the categories of Stewardship, Adaptive Reuse, Restoration, Education, and Advocacy. Come to this free event to find out more! We will be making a Big Announcement about what RVPF will do next year to support even greater preservation in the Roanoke Valley.