



Monterey House & Quarters,
Roanoke College

FOCUS ON PRESERVATION

LATEST NEWS FROM ROANOKE
VALLEY PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

FALL 2019

IN THIS ISSUE:

ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS.....	1
PRESERVATION AROUND TOWN.....	2
ENDANGERED SITES.....	3 - 4
PLAQUE PROGRAM.....	5
EVENTS: TWEED RIDE.....	6

You're Invited!

RVPF Annual Meeting and Preservation Awards

Attend the ceremony at Monterey,
Clay & High Streets, Roanoke College
on November 19, 2019, 5:30 PM

Reception with Awards to follow at 6:15pm

The Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation is excited to host our annual awards where we will announce 2019 Preservation Awards in the categories of Stewardship, Adaptive Reuse, Restoration, Education, and Advocacy.

All are welcome at this free event to find out more about RVPF's preservation advocacy in 2019 and upcoming activities in 2020!

George Kegley, Alison Blanton & guest, Kate Kronau



Preservation Around Town: Hotel Roanoke Documentary, PreServe Luncheon, Jane's Walk



*Jane's Walk,
downtown Roanoke*

Each year RVPF participates in a variety of preservation events through partnership or sponsorship. This year we were delighted to provide background and research for Blue Ridge PBS' documentary about Hotel Roanoke; sponsor a table for Restoration Housing's PreServe Luncheon; and guide a historic walking tour of downtown Roanoke for the Jane's Walk Series.

- **"Grand Old Lady on the Hill", Blue Ridge PBS** brought the history of the Hotel Roanoke to the small screen in August with an hour-long documentary full of memories and memorabilia from the iconic Roanoke landmark. Written and produced by Lisa Fenderson, the documentary is based on the 1994 book by Donlan Piedmont, "Peanut Soup & Spoonbread: An Informal History of Hotel Roanoke." RVPF members assisted Fenderson with research and contacts to help tell this fascinating story. Blue Ridge PBS plans to rebroadcast the documentary in early December and DVDs are currently for sale on their website.
- In September RVPF board members attended the **PreServe Luncheon**. This fundraiser for Restoration Housing supports the non-profit's focus on the historic preservation of architectural resources for the social benefit of low-income communities. Their next and fourth project will be the rehabilitation of 326 Dale Avenue, a circa 1890 home that was once owned by an early Roanoke mayor. The project will create three rental units and office space for counseling services. The luncheon's keynote speaker was Donovan Rypkema, a principal of PlaceEconomics, a real estate and economic development-consulting firm specializing in revitalization, reuse of historic buildings, and analysis of historic preservation's economic impacts.
- In May, RVPF helped host **Jane's Walk with the City of Roanoke**. These walks in cities around the world honor and activate the ideas of Jane Jacobs (1916-2006), a writer, urbanist, and activist who championed the voices of everyday people in neighborhood planning and city-building. This is a community-based approach to city building that uses citizen-led walking tours to make space for people to observe, reflect, share, question and re-imagine the places in which they live, work and play.



Caretaker's House
Booker T Washington Park, Roanoke

2019 Endangered Sites

In addition to annual preservation awards, RVPF announces an Endangered Sites list every year in May to mark Preservation Month. These historic places are important to the social and cultural fabric of the Roanoke Valley. There have been some success stories and many times the awards recipients feature places that were previously endangered. The goal of the annual list is to bring greater public attention to places that matter and encourage the public to get involved in advocating for historic preservation.

Campbell Court Facades (100 block Campbell Avenue, downtown Roanoke): Although the buildings themselves were demolished in 1987 with the construction of the new Campbell Court bus facility, the City recognized the significance of the 1890s buildings and went to great effort and expense to save the facades at that time.

Foutz House (4528 Layman Road, Bonsack): This ca. 1900 frame house is a good example of an I-House form with all original material intact. This long-term vacant house is threatened with demolition by neglect.

Huntingdon (320 Huntington Blvd, Roanoke): One of the earliest, and finest houses in the Roanoke Valley, this 1819 Federal-style house stands in the middle of a subdivision off Williamson Road. Listed on the National Register in 1991, this substantially built house is owned by an investor, but has been vacant since 2011. It is in need of serious repair and will quickly deteriorate to the point of demolition.

525 Loudon Avenue (Roanoke): This ca. 1907, gable-front and wing house is an early example of a rare brick house in the northwest neighborhood of Roanoke and retains most of its original historic fabric. The neighborhood organization, Northwest Neighborhood Environmental Organization owns the house, but it has been vacant for decades and is threatened with neglect and vacancy.



Endangered Sites cont -

Meadowview Farm (Fralin Farm) (15049-15057 Lee Highway Route 11 Botetourt County): The ca. 1845 farmhouse is built in the Greek Revival style. The home and about 15 acres are for sale and the property would make a good commercial enterprise. Although the house has been determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, it stands vacant and continues to deteriorate.

Rural Churches (Craig and Roanoke counties): Churches have served as a second home for generations of Americans and were the cornerstones of rural communities. Across the nation declining church memberships, vacancy, and lack of funding add to their disrepair and perhaps eventual demolition. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources has identified six abandoned churches that are good examples of early 20th century vernacular architectural styles that not only retain their historic materials but remain in their isolated natural settings.

Simmons Store (Roanoke County): The land that the store stands on was given to the Simmons family of freed slaves in the 1860s. The store was built by the family around 1900 and was patronized by both blacks and whites alike. The store recently suffered a partial roof collapse due to a heavy snow and is close to demolition.

Spickard House (423 Colonial Road, Blue Ridge): Built in the 1840s for the Spickard family of German descent, this antebellum farmhouse is a strong example of vernacular frame construction and is one of the earliest houses in the Blue Ridge area. This house has been vacant for decades, and is threatened with demolition by neglect.

Wheatland Manor (Botetourt County): Listed on the National Register in 1992, this 1820s Federal style brick house is among the most substantial antebellum residences in Botetourt County. Although the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and Blue Ridge Land Conservancy hold conservation easements on the property, there is no protection for the house, which has been vacant for nearly a decade.

Have You Heard About Our Plaque Program?

Historic homes and buildings in the Roanoke Valley can now be recognized under a Historic Plaque Program being administered by RVPF. The program not only brings 'history to the street' for those passing by your home or building, but also brands them as desirable locations for potential home buyers, tenants, and business owners to live, work and/or invest in. Installing a plaque on your home or building helps others understand its historical significance in our community. Plaques are 10" x 7" cast bronze ovals with brown pebbled backgrounds forged by Paul W. Zimmerman Foundries (responsible for casting most National Register of Historic Places plaques across the country). Several sites already have plaques including Fire Station No. 1, the Virginia Museum of Transportation (Norfolk & Western Freight Station), the Municipal Building, owners of historic homes, and most recently, Restoration Housing LLC - to commemorate their recent restoration of historic Villa Heights located in NW Roanoke. The cost per plaque is \$350 and includes research for the text to be used on the plaque that includes the building's historic name, brief description and construction date, the plaque's production, shipping, regulatory approvals from the city, installation instructions, and hardware.

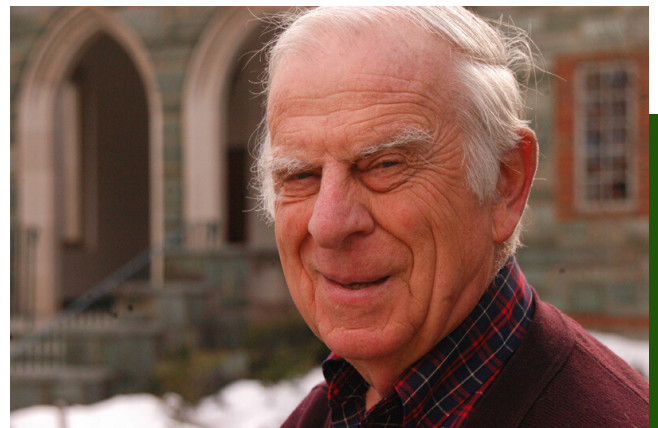
For additional information,

visit <http://www.roanokepreservation.org/historic-plaque-program/> or email plaques@roanokepreservation.org



George recently received a Legacy Award from Total Action for Progress (TAP). He spent 44 years as a journalist for The Roanoke Times and has been a fixture of the community, George has been a "full-time volunteer" since his retirement in 1993, but really his community support goes back to 1950, after he wrote an article about the opening of the local Red Cross center, That article inspired him to become a blood donor and he has now donated 60 gallons. He and his wife Louise helped found the Historical Society of Western Virginia (1957), and in 1988, George helped to establish the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation. George's dedication to preservation includes land - he and Louise donated a large easement on their 116-acre farm to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation & Department of Historic Resources, the first conservation easement within Roanoke City limits. Other community volunteer activities include organizing summer camps and camping trips for inner-city children, teaching Sunday school, editing the monthly Virginia Lutheran and quarterly insert for a national Lutheran magazine, delivering Meals on Wheels, volunteering at RAM House, and working to improve the lives of refugees in the Roanoke Valley. George believes "volunteerism is like quicksand—the more you do, the more involved you get with the people you are working with, and the more interested you are."

Congratulations to founding board member George Kegley



George Kegley



PROTECT • PROMOTE • PROSPER

PO Box 1366, Roanoke, VA, 24007
www.roanokepreservation.org



Tweed Ride 2018 Salem

Join us for the annual **Tweed Ride on November 9**, a genteel bike tour meandering from Downtown Vinton, along the Wolf Creek Greenway, through the countryside and back, exploring some of Vinton's historical sites and scenic views. Along the way we'll stop at locations of significance and learn their history. **Registration is from 10:30 to 11:00 at the Vinton History Museum.** Tour starts at 11am, and ends at Twin Creeks Brewing Company for social time and fellowship. Refreshments will be served at the Vinton History Museum and again at the halfway point at the beautiful Barfield House and Gross Farm on Mountain View Rd. Show up in your finest tweed, mount your vintage bikes, and join your fellow lads and lassies for a fine Fall ride.

Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation Board of Directors:

Officers:

Whitney Leeson, President
Bob Clement, Vice President
Frederick Gusler, Treasurer
Katherine Gutshall, Secretary

Members: Anne Beckett, Alison Blanton, Lynsey Crantz-Allie, Whitney Feldmann, Judith Harrison, Deedie Kagey, George Kegley, Kate Kronau, Molly Meredith, David Parr, Michael Pulice, Rachel Ruhlen, Evelyn Slone, Lauren Woodson

Coordinator: Jeanne Bollendorf