



Preservation focus

Newsletter of the
Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation

What is a Preservation Easement?

Preservation easements are the most effective long-term means of ensuring the survival of significant historic sites. Preservation easements are very similar to conservation easements, except that they protect historic or prehistoric sites instead of open spaces. A preservation easement may be donated to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) for properties that are individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or listed as part of a historic district. Although the terms of an easement are somewhat negotiable, they are designed to protect historic structures and sites from demolition or major modification, and from extensive new construction or development. Easements are legally binding and perpetual; therefore all future owners of an easement property are bound by the terms agreed upon by the donor and the DHR. The DHR routinely monitors the conditions of easement properties across Virginia.

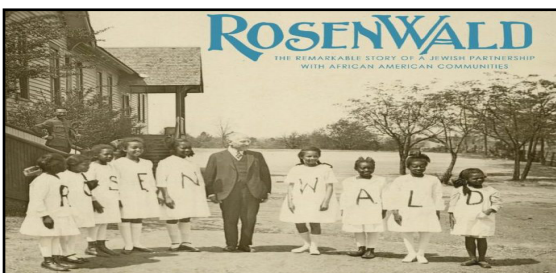
The RVPF advocates the donation of preservation easements for significant historic properties owned by municipal governments such as the City of Roanoke, especially those properties that are slated for transfer into private hands, in order to protect the city's heritage from potentially undesirable actions that would impact or destroy its historic landmarks. Because the process of donating an easement takes time, it is essential that a forward-looking, proactive approach is taken. To learn more about preservation easements, visit:

<http://dhr.virginia.gov/easement/easement.htm>.



These three significant buildings at 118-124 Campbell Avenue SW, in Roanoke's Downtown Historic District were placed under preservation easements in the 1990s.

Rosenwald Schools Documentary



Join the RVPF and Preservation Virginia on January 13 at 4:00pm at the Dumas Center for a screening of the documentary, *Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities*, by Aviva Kempner. More details can be found at www.roanokepreservation.org/rosenwald. This event is sponsored by Brian Wishneff and Associates.

Visit us on the web at www.roanokepreservation.org
Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/roanokepreservation
Follow us on Twitter at [@PreserveRoanoke](https://twitter.com/PreserveRoanoke)
Follow us on Instagram at [@roanokepreservation](https://www.instagram.com/roanokepreservation)

Tweed Ride

The 3rd Annual Tweed Ride will be held from 12:00pm to 3:00pm on Saturday, November 11, 2017. Bike riders should meet at Downshift Bicycles (416 Campbell Ave. SW) dressed in their "tweeds" and ready to enjoy an easy ride through historic Roanoke on their new or vintage bikes. Once again, the RVPF will provide historic background at several stops along the ride.

For more information, visit www.ridesolutions.org.



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Paint for Preservation

RVPF concluded another successful Paint for Preservation fundraiser on September 14. This year the art focus was on Salem, VA, and the 175th anniversaries of Roanoke College and Hollins University. Artists were asked to present artwork depicting buildings on either campus, Preston House (Salem), Crystal Spring Firehouse (Roanoke), or Life in Grandin Village (Roanoke). The Salem Museum graciously hosted the event in their space, and patrons enjoyed touring the museum, munching on hors d'oeuvres, and drinking wine and beer – all while buying great artwork celebrating local history. In addition to artwork sold at silent auction, several submissions were judged and sold at live auction. Contest winners were: Mary Hill, Kathy Highsmith, Dan Chitwood, and Chris Overstreet.

All funds raised at Paint for Preservation will be allocated for the historical marker fund. The RVPF researches and installs markers on historic buildings and in public areas where significant historic buildings previously existed. This year's event raised \$1,500 for markers! The RVPF would like to thank the generosity and support of the following Paint for Preservation sponsors – The Salem Museum, Glenn Feldmann Darby & Goodlatte, Mr. Bill's Wine Cellar, Thornfield Farm, and Robbins & Via Estate Auctions.



Taking it to the Streets - Keeping History Relevant

The Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation hosted another great Preservation Pub Talk in June. Stephen Warren, president of the Board of Trustees of the History Museum of Western Virginia, led a thought-provoking conversation on how to make history relevant in today's digital society. About a dozen people interested in history and preservation gathered in the courtyard of Billy's downtown to discuss a wide range of ideas on how to merge technology and history and connect young people to the past.

Stay tuned for future Preservation Pub Talks by checking out the RVPF Facebook page. These events are intended as casual conversations about a topic of common interest associated with preservation in the Roanoke Valley. If you have an idea for a future pub talk, please email us at info@roanokepreservation.org.

History by Bike and 2017 Endangered Sites

On Sunday, May 14 the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation partnered with RideSolutions to create History by Bike. The four-mile bike route began at the Compton-Bateman House in Villa Heights and then wound through the Melrose Neighborhood to other historic homes. For the inaugural ride, volunteers from the RVPF were stationed at each site to give a brief history for the riders. In the future, RideSolutions will promote this route, called the "Melrose Historic and Endangered Sites," as a self-guided tour. During the ride, the RVPF announced the list of 2017 Endangered Sites. Roanoke's firehouses, the Shenandoah Life Insurance woods, the long-vacant Christian Science building, and original wood windows topped the annual list. The continuing visual and safety threat of the Mountain Valley Pipeline also remains a major concern for preservationists.

For more than 20 years, the RVPF has worked to preserve the historic, natural, and cultural resources of the region. To raise public awareness of these threats, a list of endangered sites is recognized in May, which is National Preservation Month. The organization tries to make owners of endangered properties aware of the value of preserving these resources and the potential incentives, tools, opportunities and people that may be available to assist them.

Roanoke City Historic Firehouses

Of Roanoke's nine original firehouses, the Memorial Avenue building is scheduled to be razed next year; the future use of the Crystal Spring Firehouse has not been determined; No. 1 Station downtown is for sale; the Villa Heights/Melrose location has been sold to a non-profit; Rorer Hall burned in the early 1900s; East 4th Street, Wise Avenue, and 12th Street locations were razed; and the Jamison Avenue Firehouse is owned by the neighborhood.

Shenandoah Life Woods

The RVPF has supported an individual's proposal to buy the wooded area adjacent to the former Shenandoah Life Insurance home office to save it for walkways and other environmental uses. Carilion Clinic bought the building and announced plans to develop the wooded area for residential use, but strong neighborhood opposition arose. Since the area is located next to a greenway and Fishburn Park, its natural setting provides clean air, natural habitat for wildlife and recreational opportunities for nearby residents. Recently, a move was reported to encourage the developer to either make it a community-friendly project or to pull out of the project all together.



Crystal Spring Firehouse
Painted by Brett LaGue



Christian Science Church pre-renovation

Christian Science Church

The Greek Revival brick building at 5th St. and Church Ave. SW, built in 1919, was a Christian Science Church until 1968. Since then, it has been used for catering and a coffee house, and it has been vacant until June 2017. Now renovations are being done to turn it into a music venue.

Original Wood Windows

In many older homes built in the first half of the last century, original double-hung wood sash windows are endangered. Old hardwood windows with an upper sash that slides down in the frame and a lower sash that slides up often have been replaced with vinyl windows. Restoring original windows costs less than replacing. Studies show that it can take 40 years or more for a replacement window to pay for itself in energy savings.

Mountain Valley Pipeline

The land for the pipeline, first listed as endangered two years ago, would have an impact on an estimated 1,500 land owners in Virginia and West Virginia. If approved by federal authorities, it would run from Giles County through Catawba to McAfee Knob, across the edge of Roanoke and Montgomery counties to Franklin County. It is strongly opposed by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy because of the visual impact from the trail for more than 90 miles. Also, it threatens water quality in wells and in sediment runoff in streams.

Annual Meeting and 2017 Preservation Awards

Join the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation on **Tuesday, November 14**, in the auditorium of the Roland E. Cook School for the presentation of the 2017 Preservation Awards. A reception with light refreshments will start at 5:30pm, and the presentation and annual meeting at 6:00pm. Admission is free, and we hope to see you all there!

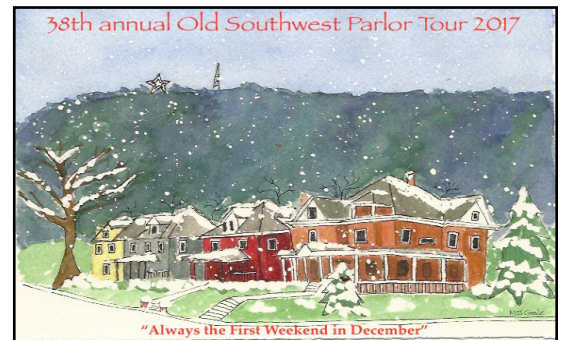
412 S. Poplar St.
Vinton, VA
5:30pm Reception
6:00pm Annual Meeting and Awards

Old Southwest Parlor Tour 2017

Saturday, December 2 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm
Sunday, December 3 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Tickets are \$20 (12 and under free)

<http://oldsouthwest.org/about/parlor-tour-of-homes/>



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