



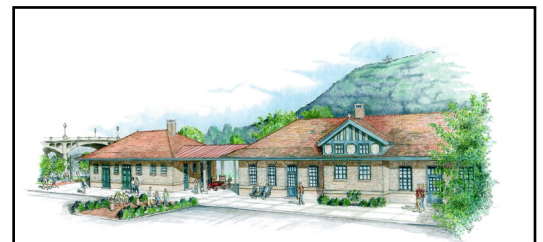
Preservation focus

Newsletter of the
Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation

Virginian Railway Station Restoration to Be Completed in 2016

The Roanoke Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society (RCNRHS) has received full funding for the \$2.3 million restoration of the Virginian Railway Station, and the final phase of work is now underway. The RCNRHS awarded the construction contract for Phase II to G&H Contracting, Inc., of Salem in July, and work was approved to proceed in September. This final phase of work, which will include site improvements and the restoration of the interior, should be completed by the end of April 2016. Phase I, which included a new roof and stabilization of the exterior shell, was completed by G&H Contracting, Inc. in 2012.

The RVPF has supported the restoration of the Virginian Station since a fire nearly destroyed the building in 2001. After bringing together a consortium of concerned organizations, the RVPF has continued to partner with the RCNRHS to acquire the station and fund its restoration. In 2005, Norfolk Southern Corporation agreed to donate the building to the RCNRHS. Since that time, the RVPF has assisted the RCNRHS in obtaining over \$1 million in VDOT Enhancement Funds, \$200,000 in Federal Highway Funds, and \$200,000 in a City of Roanoke Brownfield grant. The balance of funding for the project comes from private donations and historic tax credits. Members of the RVPF board serve on the Virginian Station Restoration Committee with the RCNRHS to oversee the building's restoration.



Virginian Railway Station
(rendering)



Virginian Railway Station
(current state)

The restored Virginian Railway Station will be used for offices and collection/exhibit space for the RCNRHS in the former Baggage Express building while the Passenger Station will be leased to a commercial tenant. Income from the leased space will be used to maintain the building. A memorial wall will be incorporated into the site to honor the former employees of the Virginian Railway. The building will also provide amenities for the nearby greenway.

Visit us on the web at www.roanokepreservation.org
Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/roanokepreservation
Follow us on Twitter at @PreserveRoanoke

2015 Endangered Sites Announced

On May 30 2015, RVPF called attention to threats against old, potentially useful buildings and natural resources. The Foundation encourages owners to find ways to use these older properties and to care for natural resources.

BULLDOZER AWARD WINNER

The Roanoke County School Board

2015's Bulldozer Award goes to the Roanoke County School Board for the demolition of Wood's End, the historic home of the acclaimed artist Allen Palmer. It was torn down, despite offers from prospective buyers, a public outcry for preservation, and a positive assessment from the State Department of Historic Resources. The Foundation offered alternatives to demolition, but they were not accepted. If owners of historic properties were aware of the significant resources available for restoration or rehabilitation, structures might continue to be useful. The school system used the building for occasional functions until it became unaffordable, according to retiring School Superintendent Lorraine Lange.



Wood's End House
(Prior to 2015 demolition)



Holdren's Country Store



19th Century Stones

Also on the 2015 Endangered Sites List:

Billy's Cabin

Spickard House

Mountain Valley Pipeline

19th Century Stones - Mill, Bridge Abutment

Holdren's Country Store

Ole Monterey Golf Course Cabin

Paint for Preservation Planned for Spring 2016

RVPF will bring back the popular Paint for Preservation event next spring. We will be inviting local artists to participate by depicting historic buildings and landscapes that have either been listed on our Endangered Sites List or received a Preservation Award. These works of art will be auctioned at an event in the spring to benefit RVPF. This will be a great event to celebrate local artists as well as historic and natural resources of the Roanoke Valley. Watch for further details on our website and Facebook page!



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For more detailed information on all of our 2015 Endangered Sites, please visit us at <http://www.roanokepreservation.org/2015-endangered-sites/>



Billy's Cabin



Ole Monterey Golf Course Cabin



Spickard House

This year's list reminds us how important it is that we continue to work to identify significant historic, cultural and natural resources, make the public (including owners) aware of their importance and inform them of the tools and incentives available to maintain and preserve them. We cannot take care of our resources when we do not know they exist. We also cannot wait too long to preserve them. Years of neglect - whether by the current owners or previous owners - can often leave no option except for demolition when deferred maintenance makes it either structurally or financially unfeasible to preserve.

- Alison Blanton, Roanoke Valley Preservation Board President

American Planning Association Award

The Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation - in conjunction with the Gainsborough Southwest Community Organization and Hill Studio - received the American Planning Association Virginia Chapter's 2015 Grassroots Planning Award for their combined work on the Gainsboro History Walk Interpretive Panels. The award was presented at the APA Virginia Chapter's annual luncheon on July 21, in Norfolk and then recognized by the Roanoke City Council on September 8. Previous winners of the APA Grassroots Awards have shown an ability to utilize the planning process to address specific needs or issues within their communities. The award is given out every year to a neighborhood community group or other local non-governmental entity that shows innovation, quality, transferability to other areas or projects, and effective implementation.

The Gainsboro History Walk Committee, a volunteer subcommittee of the Gainsboro Southwest Community Organization, worked for over two years to permanently tell the story of historic Gainsboro and its contributions to the City of Roanoke. The panels honor the heritage of early Northeast and Northwest Roanoke, and inform citizens and visitors of the significant contributions of residents to the history of Gainsboro and the City of Roanoke. Adjacent to downtown Roanoke, the neighborhood is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, and has a story worth telling.

The neighborhood used privately donated funds, a Roanoke City Neighborhood Development Grant (2012-2013) and an Arts and Culture Mini-Grant to design and produce eight interpretive history panels celebrating the history of the historic Gainsboro Neighborhood in a public plaza on Wells Avenue, located across from the Hotel Roanoke. They mark the completion of the first phase of work by the Committee to establish a walking tour in the neighborhood identifying key historic, architectural and cultural sites.

Pints for Preservation

On May 30, some seventy people came to show off their trivia skills in the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation's first annual **Pints for Preservation** pub crawl. Beneath the summer sun, twenty-five teams competed against each other, answering downtown-Roanoke-based trivia questions and scavenger hunt pictures, while sampling drinks and foods from five local bars. Our winning teams walked away with tickets to Microfestivus, a show at the Harvester, and a movie at Hull's Drive-In, as well as gift certificates to all our bars and more. They answered questions on everything from the exact date the City of Roanoke was chartered, to which bar crawl location occupied the oldest building.

RVPF would like to extend our thanks to all of those who helped make this first attempt a success. Thank you to all of our sponsors - Brown Edwards, Hill Studio, Hist:Re, and Gentry Locke. Thank you to all who donated prizes - The Square Society, The Harvester, and Firefly Fare. And finally, a huge thank you to all of our participating bars - Billy's, The Quarter, Cornerstone, Blue 5, and Martin's Downtown - who not only donated prizes, but were wonderful hosts to our contestants.

Look out for the next **Pints for Preservation** - coming in the fall of 2016!

Congratulations to all our 2015 winning teams!
We hope to see all of you and more back in the fall of 2016!



RVPF 2015 Annual Meeting and Preservation Awards Reception

Join us for the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation's Annual Meeting and Awards Reception this fall. The event will be held in the newly renovated Roanoke College Bank Building on Thursday, November 19, at 6:00pm. There will be a short program, "50 Years of Historic Preservation: Reflections from Leaders in the Movement," prepared by Preservation Virginia, before our 2015 Preservation Awards ceremony. Admission is free, and drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
6:00PM - 8:00PM

ROANOKE COLLEGE BANK BUILDING
223 E. MAIN ST.
SALEM, VA 24153



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