



f PRESERVATION focus

Newsletter of the
Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation

New Life for Historic Gasoline Stations

Historic Gas Stations are coming back to life in Roanoke. A recent survey sponsored by the City of Roanoke and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources identified 25 historic stations in the City and developed a historic context to understand their significance and eligibility for listing on the National Register.

As a result, the former Carlin's Amoco Station at 1721 Williamson Road NE has been listed on the state and national registers. Carlin's as well as the former Esso Station at Mountain Ave. and 5th

Street SW have been recently renovated for adaptive re-use as offices and a beauty salon. This follows the recent renovation by Anstey-Hodge Advertising of the Sunoco Station on Gilmer Avenue NE.

These historic stations are located throughout our city and represent a fascinating blend of innovations in industrial design, building materials, transportation and the petroleum industry as well as corporate branding from the 1920s through the 1960s.

The Foundation is pleased to



Pure Cottage Station
Photograph Courtesy of Wayne Henderson

partner with the Virginia Museum of Transportation (VMT) in celebrating the history of the gas station in Virginia as we look towards the 100th anniversary

See Gasoline, Page 3

Downton Abbey and the Power of Place

National Trust for Historic Preservation Blogger, Priya Chhaya, said it well.

'What I love about Downton Abbey is that the story centers around the estate, a magnificent house full of both grand and humble, public and private spaces that serves as the mechanism for how a family and their employees lived in the early 20th century. The home is a crucial character in itself, and plays a crucial role for how each of the characters defines themselves.'

While most of us don't live on a 1,000 acre English estate or need separate spaces for our servants (because we are usually one and the same), the power of place resonates with us all. Special buildings invariably become a part of our identity and call on us to preserve and protect them.

Join us as we celebrate the return of Downton Abbey with a Premiere Party on January 6, 2013 at the Patrick Henry Ballroom! A screening of the season premiere will follow presented by

Blue Ridge PBS. Tickets will be available for sale on our website beginning November 30th!



Highclere Castle

Seven Endangered Sites Identified for 2012

In May, the RVPF identified seven sites within the Roanoke Valley in eminent danger of being lost due to deferred maintenance, demolition, or incompatible development.

- Boones Mill Norfolk Southern Railway Depot/Franklin County: Built in the early 1900s, this passenger and freight station is in danger of being demolished by Norfolk Southern unless funds can be raised to relocate the building to another site.

- St. John's AME Church/Roanoke County: This classic 1924 one room, gothic revival church has been boarded up since 2002. The roof has begun to fail exposing the interior to the elements and a broken window at ground level provides uncontrolled access to the building.

- Barn at Waskey's Mill/Botetourt County: This barn represents rural barns throughout the Roanoke Valley quickly being lost due to neglect.

- Oak Ridge Road (Virginia 641)/Botetourt County: Oak Ridge Road is representative of numerous rural routes in our region threatened by sprawling development which dominates viewsheds, removes prime agricultural land from productive service, threatens the context of historic resources, and places fur-

ther strain on infrastructure and services paid for by the County.

- Bent Mountain Road (U.S. 221)/Roanoke County: This historic connection between the Roanoke Valley and Floyd County is currently being widened to address traffic delays. As this area becomes more accessible additional development can be expected, further threatening scenic, historic, and agricultural resources.

- Read Mountain/Roanoke County: The only mountain in the Roanoke area not encumbered by utility towers, much of Read Mountain is still unprotected and vulnerable to insensitive development.

- Joseph Goodwin Cabin/Roanoke County: Also known as the John Tate House, this early structure is suffering from neglect due to a lengthy estate settlement.

Visit us on the web for complete information on each of this year's endangered sites.



St. John's AME Church in the Delaney Court neighborhood of Roanoke County.

OSW Parlor Tours



The first weekend in December marks the 33rd Annual Old Southwest Parlor Tour of Homes and will showcase 10 historic properties, in addition to a silent auction at the Alexander-Gish house. All money raised goes directly back into the neighborhood towards the maintenance of the Alexander-Gish House as well as "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" where volunteers paint and landscape the home of an Old Southwest resident who is physically or financially unable to perform the work themselves.

Tickets are \$20 and available at the Jefferson Center box office, on-line at www.jeffcenter.org, or on the day of the event at the entrance to Highland Park.

Gasoline, from Page 1

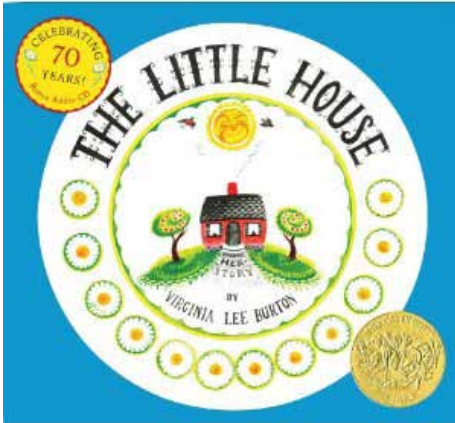
of the first gas station built in the United States. To kick-off this celebration, Wayne Henderson, a noted collector of historic gas station photographs and artifacts along the East Coast, will give a

presentation on historic stations in Roanoke at our annual meeting on November 29 at the VMT. The Foundation and VMT will begin working on a larger exhibit documenting the development and role of the gas station throughout Virginia to open in December 2013.



Carlin's Amoco Station

A Classic Turns 70!



The Caldecott Award winner *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton turned 70 this year! This 1942 classic tells the story of a home's changing environment as development from a distant city extends to the country over a number of years. While we don't usually endorse moving structures from their original context, it serves as a great teaching tool for children to understand how and why communities evolve over time.

The RVPF's Education Committee is currently in the planning and fundraising phase of a program to donate a copy of *The Little House* along with associated lessons and activities to 2nd grade classes within the RVPF service area. In a preliminary inquiry, approximately 60 teachers expressed interest in this program which has the potential to reach over 1,000 children!

Now Accepting PayPal!

The RVPF is now accepting donations on-line through PayPal. Visit us on the web to make your tax deductible donation today!

The Past & Future of the Virginian Railway

In celebration of Historic Preservation Month, the RVPF hosted a talk by Skip Salmon on the Virginian Railway Station. Skip is the President of the Friends of the Virginian Railway, Secretary of the National Railway Historical Society, Roanoke Chapter, and former railway employee who retired as Foreman of the Roanoke Electric Shops with 38 years of service.

It was standing room only in the O. Winston Link's Trackside Gallery and Theater as Skip shared stories of the Station's history, people, and future. Skip made the station and its people come alive as he shared original artifacts, historic photographs and video, music, and his 'Takin' Twenty' interview sessions with former Virginian Railway employees.

The station's story could have easily been over when it was severely damaged by fire in 2001. But thanks to the dedication of



Speaker, Skip Salmon



Wreck of Virginian #3 at Ingleside.



Landon Gregory, retired Chief Dispatcher

Skip and his fellow compatriots, the Virginian will be preserved and celebrated for future generations to come!

A Fresh Start

Over the past year, the Board of Trustees has undertaken a strategic planning process to determine the most valuable ways the Foundation can serve the community.

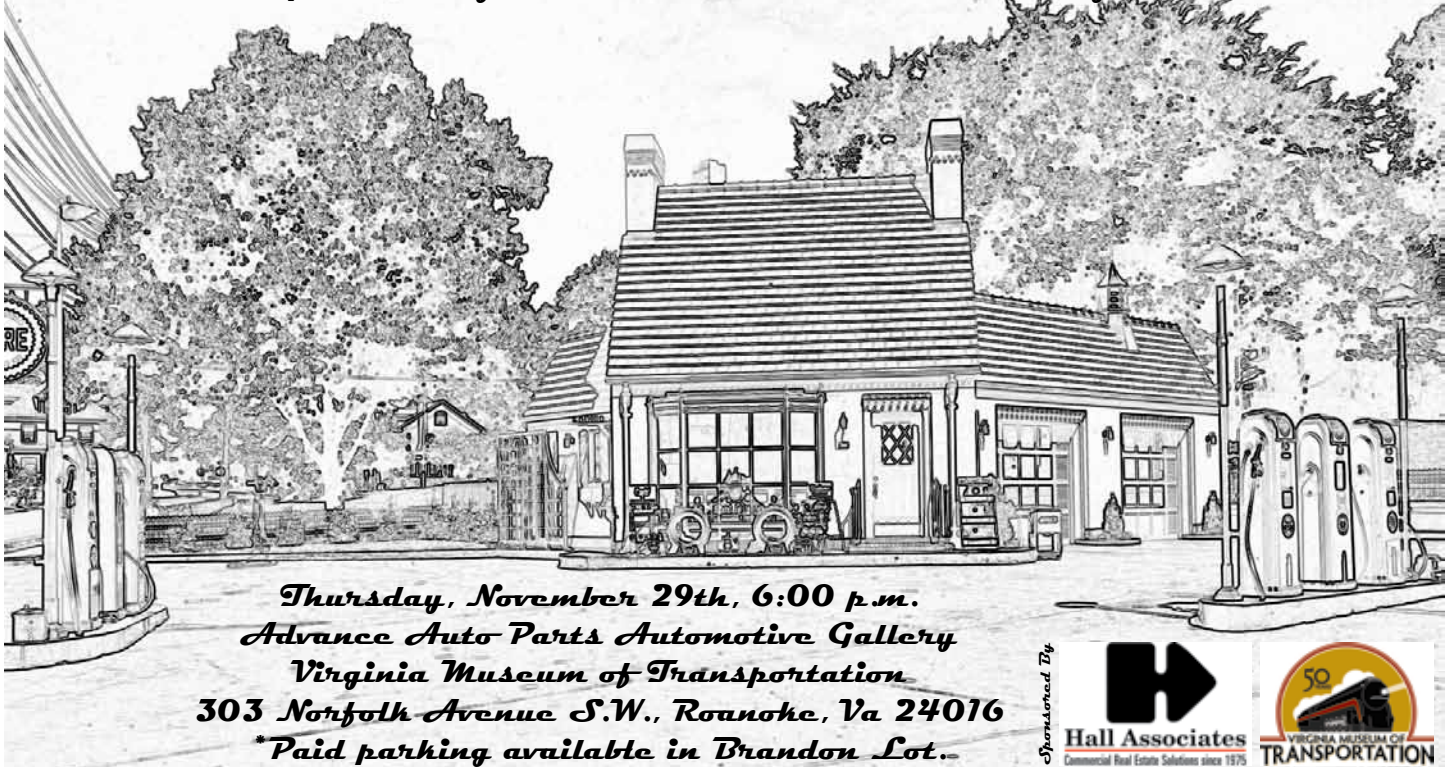
Planning efforts include a Five Year Plan of the RVPF's mission, values, goals, and objectives; a Work Plan to guide committee actions; and a Marketing Plan to ensure comprehensive notification of all RVPF activities and events.

These plans and more can be

readily accessed on the RVPF's newly updated website. There you will find information about the planning and people behind the RVPF; our work on special projects, educational programs, legislation, endangered sites, preservation awards, and the revolving loan fund; upcoming events; and ways you can help support the RVPF's efforts.

You may also connect to the RVPF through Facebook and Twitter for up to the minute preservation news.

Please join us at the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation's
2012 ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS CEREMONY!
Guest Speaker Wayne Henderson, Petroleum Industry Historian



Thursday, November 29th, 6:00 p.m.
Advance Auto Parts Automotive Gallery
Virginia Museum of Transportation
303 Norfolk Avenue S.W., Roanoke, Va 24016
**Paid parking available in Brandon Lot.*

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