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ROANOKE VALLEY PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

# focus

## Looking back at preservation wins, losses

### 6 newly named endangered sites will be on latest list

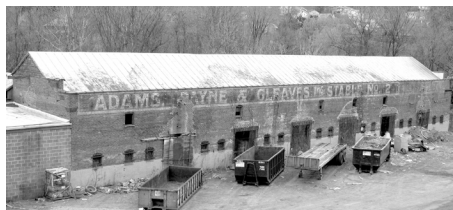
Six endangered structures in the Roanoke Valley and neighboring counties will be announced at the annual meeting of the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation.

The meeting will be 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29 at the Green Drawing Room at Hollins University.

In a practice started in 1996 by the late Robert France, the foundation will identify sites and resources that are under threat. The selection is designed to raise public awareness of the dangers faced by many significant old sites. The Foundation strongly supports preservation and reuse of old structures with value.

For this selection, a site must be under immediate threat, have historic, cultural or environmental value, must have value or potential value and there must be a clear way to avert the threat.

For the 10th anniversary of the start of the recognition,



**LOST, SAVED, STILL ENDANGERED:** Clockwise from top left are, the Brubaker Farm, the Grandin Theatre, the Adams, Payne and Gleaves Livery Stable and the old Virginian Station. The Brubaker Farm, in Hanging Rock, has been bulldozed. The Grandin, in Roanoke's Raleigh Court neighborhood, has been restored. The livery stable and railway station, on opposite sides of the bridge where Jefferson Street crosses the railroad tracks near Virginia Scrap Iron and Metal, are still endangered.

the foundation's Endangered Sites and Awards Committee has searched past selections to compile a listing of lost sites,

those that have been saved and a long list of those sites still endangered.

The committee also makes

awards in the spring for outstanding restoration and preservation work.

— George Kegley



Malon

### APVA official to speak at RVPF annual meeting

Louis Malon, operations manager for the 34 properties of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, will speak at the RVPF's annual meeting.

Malon, a workhorse for the APVA for more than 24 years, also chairs its Awards/Endangered

Sites Committee. He has served as director of administration, business manager and associate treasurer of APVA.

For APVA's historic houses and sites — including Smithfield in Blacksburg — he supervises the restoration crews, site super-

visors and other support staff to ensure an appropriate presentation of historic properties.

A reception will precede the Nov. 29 meeting, at which officers will be elected.

— George Kegley

# RVPF criticizes new building for Henry St.

## Social Security office plan called out of character with historic district

The RVPF and two Roanoke neighborhood organizations are calling in reinforcements in their opposition to a Social Security Administration building proposed for the Gainsboro neighborhood.

The local groups are enlisting the help of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities to fight what they see as a development inconsistent with the historic Henry Street area.

The RVPF has been working with the Gainsboro Southwest Neighborhood Community Organization and the Gainsboro Historic Preservation District Inc. for the past six months.

Neighborhood organizations are opposed to the proposed building and its location on Henry Street because the proposed land use, building design and site development are not consistent with the publicly approved revitalization plans for the area. These adopted plans call for neighborhood-oriented businesses and entertainment/cultural venues that would reflect the historic development of the area, once the primary African-American business and entertainment district of Roanoke.

The property is in the Henry Street Historic District and adjacent to the Gainsboro Historic District, both of which are on the National Register of Historic Places.

In May plans were made public for a



**Looking north on Henry Street: The three-story, 70,000 square-foot Social Security building would go in the next block, behind the building on the left. Henry Street would be closed to traffic at that block.**

70,000-square-foot federal building to go at the intersection of Henry Street, Wells Avenue and Second Street. The project calls for closing Henry Street to provide a 50-foot security buffer around the building. The street closing requires formal action by the City of Roanoke.

Investigation of the project and the required public procedures found that Section 106 requirements set forth in the National Historic Preservation Act had not been properly followed. This federal regulation is intended to minimize harm to historic properties when federal funds are involved in a project.

It requires early public involvement in the evaluation of alternatives and the determination of negative effects prior

to any formal decisions by the federal agency (in this case, the General Services Administration).

At present, the RVPF and the neighborhood organizations are included as "consulting parties" in review of the project and its effects. However, to date the City of Roanoke has only held one formal meeting of the consulting parties.

The RVPF has provided formal comments on the project to the city, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the National Advisory Council for Historic Preservation and other consulting parties.

Noted objections to the project include: (1) the project is not consistent with adopted public plans for the area, (2) the design and site development of the project do not reflect the character and architecture of the historic district, (3) the closing of Henry Street will preclude appropriate future development of this historic business district and (4) the public process of evaluating alternatives and minimizing impacts is flawed and does not meet legislative requirements.

To date there has been no feedback from the city, the GSA or the developer regarding comments and input received.

— Evie Slone

## Getting a solid footing

Virginia Vinyard and Mike Pulice mortar stones in place in an effort to restore the foundation of the meat-house at Buena Vista in Southeast Roanoke during a Meathouse Workday, Oct. 21.





# This & That

## APVA seeks nominees for preservation awards

The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities is seeking nominations through Dec. 8 for its 2007 historic preservation awards.

The 2007 awards will be presented during the annual Virginia Preservation Day Reception Jan. 30 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond.

Nomination forms can be found on the APVA website. The APVA prefers that nominations be made online and all nominations must be accompanied by no fewer than two digital photographs.

Two preservation projects in our area won awards in 2006: The O. Winston Link

Museum/Roanoke Valley Visitor Center, an adaptive reuse of Roanoke's old Norfolk & Western passenger rail station, originally built in 1905 and modernized in 1948 by famed industrial designer Raymond Loewy, and the Lynchburg Court House Museum, a restoration/adaptation of that 1855 structure.

In addition to its awards each February, the APVA announces its list of most endangered properties each May.

The Booker T. Washington National Monument, threatened by development planned nearby, the Town of Fincastle, whose historic context is threatened by unchecked development in surrounding Botetourt County, and the Interstate 81 corridor through the Shenandoah Valley, threatened by plans to widen the highway, were area sites on the 2006 list.

## Much responsibility rests with board's committees

The Board of Trustees has six committees where much of the real work of the Foundation is done.

The Community Activities Committee coordinates all special events and community activities for the foundation.

The Finance Committee's job is to establish and promote sound fiscal policies and procedures for the Foundation.

The Fund Raising Committee provides necessary funding to meet program requirements and ensures that all fund-raising efforts are performed in a professional manner.

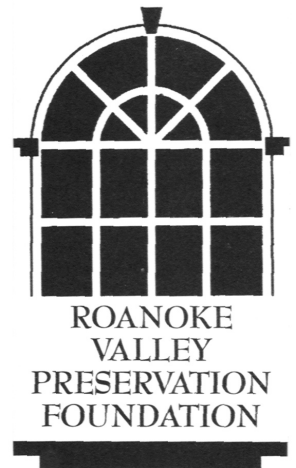
The Heritage Education Committee's purpose is to plan programs relating to heritage education for the Foundation. Among its responsibilities is developing Standards of Learning lesson plans and materials to assist teachers in educating students using local historic and cultural resources.

The Membership Committee solicits new members and coordinates all membership activities.

The Public Relations Committee oversees and manages the production of all general publications, press releases, etc. of the Foundation.

**YES!** I want to help preserve and protect the Valley's historic, natural and cultural heritage by joining the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation.

|      |                       |         |                        |
|------|-----------------------|---------|------------------------|
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| \$10 | Teacher               | \$250   | Foundation Sponsor     |
| \$25 | Individual            | \$500   | Landmark Donor         |
| \$40 | Family                | \$1,000 | Cornerstone Club       |
| \$75 | Business/Organization | Other   | \$ _____               |



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

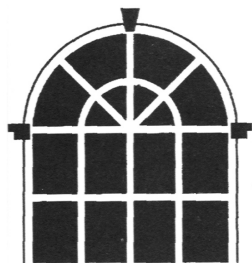
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Please make your check payable to the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation and return to:  
Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation  
P.O. Box 1366  
Roanoke VA 24007

*The Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation  
cordially invites you to its  
2006 Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, November 29,  
Green Drawing Room,  
Main Building,  
Hollins University.*



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