



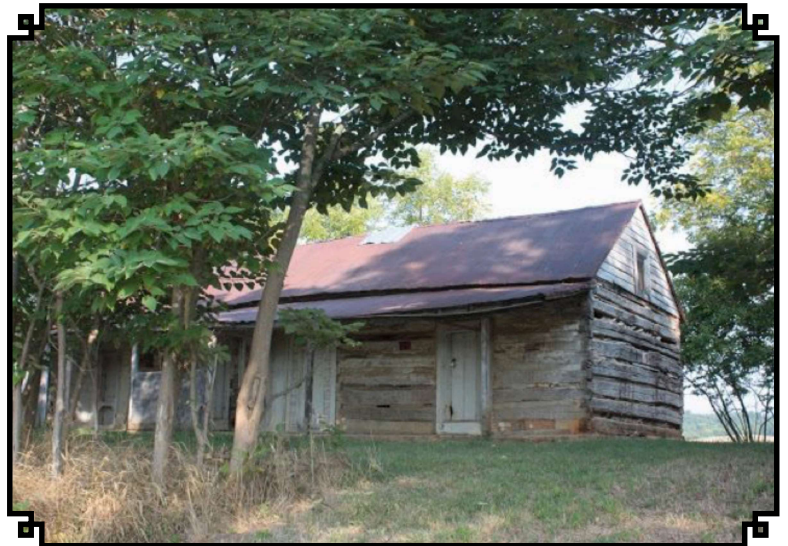
Preservation focus

Newsletter of the
Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation

Inaugural Preservation Pub Talk

The Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation (RVPF) held its inaugural Preservation Pub Talk on September 15, at the Town Center Tap House in Daleville. Thirty preservation-minded folks participated in a discussion of the recent events and archaeological work conducted at the Historic Greenfield Plantation. Tom Klatka, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Western District Archaeologist, presented general findings from the emergency excavations conducted at the site during the relocation of the slave cabin and kitchen. Participations were also given an account from the Friends of the Greenfield Preston Plantation, of what led up to the relocation of the historic buildings. The area beneath the structures, which is typically richest in artifacts, was destroyed during the relocation process, due to the placement of machinery. RVPF was interested to learn that an area of Greenfield shows archaeological evidence of formal gardens – these gardens could be the remains of an early design that was unusual for the time period in Botetourt County.

Most importantly, several representatives from preservations groups in and outside of Botetourt came together to share a common interest, and form relationships for future efforts to preserve the our cultural heritage. The Friends of Greenfield are actively raising funds to provide for more archaeological research; some of their members will also serve on an advisory task force to guide county leaders as they continue to develop not only Greenfield, but other areas of the county as well. The Friends of Greenfield will host a special fundraiser on Saturday, November 5, which will include a display of artifacts. More information about that event can be found on page 3 of this newsletter, on the RVPF website and on the Facebook page for the Friends of the Greenfield Preston Plantation.



Courtesy of the Friends of the Greenfield Preston Plantation

RVPF's Preservation Talks are free and open to the public - check out the list of upcoming events on the next page for more information on dates and speakers!

Visit us on the web at www.roanokepreservation.org
Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/roanokepreservation
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Joel Richert May Be Gone, but Thanks to Her, Our History is Still Here

Joel Richert, who passed away this past July at the age of 77, fought for the preservation of Roanoke’s historic resources for nearly 50 years. She was well-known for her pioneering and tenacious advocacy for the Old Southwest neighborhood, and was equally passionate about all historic buildings throughout Roanoke. Her interest in history and historic buildings was rooted in research. Perhaps it was her experience working for the Historical Society of Western Virginia that gave her such an appreciation for historic documents and conducting research in a way to make it useful for others. The information she gathered and organized for the houses in Old Southwest and elsewhere has served as a valuable resource for homeowners as well as the Architectural Review Board. Fortunately, Joel recognized the importance of making these files available to others in the future and she added them to the Virginia Room collection at Roanoke’s Main Library.

More importantly, she used her research to educate others about the history of Roanoke, its buildings, its people, and its neighborhoods. Whether she was showing the Architectural Review Board an old Sanborn map to prove that the missing porch on a house was a wraparound, writing books, or leading Highland Park school children on walking tours – Joel shared what she knew with others in hopes of helping them appreciate historic houses as much as she did. As a tireless advocate, Joel kept a watchful eye on everything and everyone that might impact the historic buildings in Roanoke that she cared about so much. Whether it was helping to establish the Roanoke Neighborhood Alliance, serving on the board of the RVPF, correcting inappropriate repairs to houses, calling the City Manager’s Office, or tediously reviewing every zoning decision, Joel never let up.

Joel was a great steward of our history and historic buildings. She never asked someone to do something that she would not do herself when it came to taking good care of an old house. She set high standards for all of us and she offered her help in maintaining them. She was a wonderful resource for where to find the right people and materials to make the right repairs to our houses. Hopefully, her little black book of skilled and knowledgeable craftsmen will make its way to the Virginia Room! As a researcher, an educator, an advocate, and a steward of Roanoke’s history, Joel Richert embodied the mission of the RVPF. Roanoke was very fortunate to have Joel and Bob Richert move to our city in 1971, as much of what we value about the historic neighborhoods that make Roanoke an unique and livable city survives and thrives today because of their efforts.

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Upcoming Events!

Friends of Greenfield Fundraiser - Saturday, Nov. 5 from 6-9pm. See next page for more details!

Virginian Station Grand Opening! - Saturday, Nov. 12 from 11am-4pm, at 1402 South Jefferson St.

Tweed Ride - Saturday, Nov. 12, starting at noon at Sweet Donkey Coffee House (2108 Broadway Ave SW). Run by Ride Solutions, with historic guides provided by the RVPF.

RVPF Annual Meeting and Preservation Awards - Tuesday, Nov. 15. See back page for more details!

Preservation Pub Talk - February 2017, “Preserving Authenticity” with Isabel Thornton of Restoration Housing.

Preservation Pub Talk - June 2017, “Keeping History Relevant” with Stephen Warren, President of the Historical Society of Western Virginia, Board of Trustees.



Courtesy of Ride Solutions

Greenfield Plantation Archeological Study Reveal



Courtesy of the Friends of the Greenfield Preston Plantation

The Friends of Greenfield Preston Plantation will hold a special fundraiser on November 5 at the Central Academy Middle School in Fincastle, from 6-9pm. A \$10 donation will cover admission, as well as finger food and drinks; children under 12 are discouraged from attending because of the nature of the presentation. Randy Lichtenberg, head archaeologist on the survey, will present a power point on the artifacts, which will also be displayed. Keith Adams will be on hand for a question and answer time. A silent auction will be ongoing throughout the event to raise funds needed to pay off the last archaeological dig. More information on how to get tickets can be found on the Friends of Greenfield Facebook page and on the RVPF website.

We hope you will join the RVPF in supporting the Friends of the Greenfield Preston Plantation!

RVPF Selects 2016 Endangered Sites

Last spring, the RVPF gave its annual, 2016 Bulldozer Award to the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors, for their actions in moving two historic slave structures. The supervisors stood by a plan to take the early 19th century Preston family slave cabin and kitchen to an industrial park, in order to construct a speculative shell building at the historic location. RVPF also selected the First National Exchange Bank, constructed in 1913, as an endangered site. The ornate bank building in downtown Roanoke was placed on the market when Wells Fargo moved operations elsewhere.

In 20 years of endangered sites selections, the RVPF has had a hand in saving 22 Roanoke area structures, while 118 were lost, and at least 56 remain endangered. Many of these still at risk are vacant, have been neglected, or are deteriorating and face eventual demolition. One of the ultimate goals of the RVPF's endangered sites list is to be able to move these structures to our annual preservation awards list.

Some of the most significant sites still endangered are the Claytor Memorial Clinic, the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, the Washington Park House, the former Villa Heights Recreation Center, the caretaker's house in Fishburn Park, and the vacant Norwich school building. The RVPF hopes that these sites will be able to move to the list of sites saved for continued use, including the Patrick Henry Hotel, the Burke Cabin at Roanoke College, Buena Vista, the former Shenandoah Hotel downtown, the H&C Coffee sign, and the Ebony Club. Historic losses in the past 20 years include Nestlebrooke on 24th St. NW, the livery stables on South Jefferson St, the Lonesome Dove Bar and Grill, and Loeb Cleaners on Salem Turnpike.



Claytor Memorial Clinic, courtesy of RVPF

The RVPF works to promote awareness and appreciation of significant historic, natural, and cultural resources, and facilitates their preservation whenever possible. The 21st selection of endangered sites will be made in the spring; awards for restoration and rehabilitation will be announced at the annual meeting on Nov. 15. For more information on endangered sites, including a full list of successes, losses, and continued projects, please visit the RVPF website.

Virginia Association of Museums Top 10 Endangered Artifacts

When the Virginia Association of Museums announced its annual Top 10 Endangered Artifacts, in late September, five were located in Western Virginia, including two in Roanoke. A link to that list of artifacts can be found on the RVPF website.

Join us for RVPF's 2016 Annual Meeting and Preservation Awards

Join the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation for our Annual Meeting! The night will include the presentation of the winners of our 2016 Preservation Awards, a recap of the year, and an introduction to our new Board Members. Admission is free, and light hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served. We hope that everyone will join us to celebrate!

Tuesday, November 15, 2016
6:00pm to 8:00pm

The Virginian Station
1402 South Jefferson St.
Roanoke, VA 24016

P.O. Box 1366
Roanoke, VA 24007

