



RVPF 2021 Kegley Preservation Awards

Kegley Preservation Award for Heritage Education & Advocacy

Joe Cobb, Honoring Their Breaths Project



As part of his doctoral program, Joe Cobb chose a topic for his dissertation relating to three or more cemeteries in the Roanoke area that were disrupted in the sixties and seventies to make way for such projects as the Roanoke Civic Center (Berglund Center) and Virginia Western Community College. Many graves were individually moved to a city-owned cemetery at Coyner Springs. But the individual graves were never marked. In fact, the names of the descendants were often not known. Joe is

developing a community-based effort to document the gravesites, to eventually include a virtual map of the gravesites that can be updated by its viewers... friends and families of the decedents. He also plans to write and publish a book on this very worthwhile project.

Kegley Preservation Award for Neighborhood Preservation

Isabel Thornton, Restoration Housing, LLC



Isabel Thornton created Restoration Housing in 2014 because of her passion for historic preservation and affordable housing. The mission of Restoration Housing is to develop affordable rental properties for the social benefit of low-income communities through the preservation of historic architectural resources. Restoration Housing believes that all people, regardless of circumstance, deserve to live in strong, healthy communities and dignified housing. In 2019 Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation and Preservation Virginia recognized Restoration Housing with awards for their

renovation of the ca. 1820 Villa Heights located in NW Roanoke to provide affordable office space to local nonprofits. Since then, they have continued with other projects that define their passion for historic preservation and affordable housing. Restoration Housing's year-long Architectural Minutes series produced 12 different videos focusing on the organizations' preservation projects that included the history of each neighborhood to help promote an appreciation for the community. Their on-going Affordable Housing Development Projects utilizes historic tax credits to renovate formerly vacant historic houses to provide affordable housing units while preserving the home's historic character. Three houses on Day and Patterson Avenues in SW and Dale Avenue in SE have been completed to date and two more vacant houses in SE's Belmont neighborhood await a new life. Finally, their Community Impact Development projects, including the annual fund-raising event—Preserve Campaign and Community Volunteer Day, demonstrate how we can all be part of the solution to build stronger, healthier communities with dignified housing. This year's Pre-Serve Campaign focused on the hashtag ##StrengthInNeighbors with a 12-part video series featuring families, neighbors, and communities who have benefitted from their Restoration Housing programs.



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Kegley Preservation Award for Historic Restoration

St. Andrew's Catholic Church



St. Andrew's Catholic Church stands high on a hill as an iconic landmark overlooking downtown Roanoke. The church, built in 1902 to serve the first Catholic congregation in the new city, is a fine example of ecclesiastical Gothic Revival architecture. The tall twin steeples that flank the front of the church have endured as prominent features of the Roanoke skyline for over a century and the impressive sanctuary has housed worshippers

from many ethnic backgrounds dating back to Roanoke's origin as an industrial railroad center.

In 2014, the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation recognized St. Andrew's Catholic Church with an award for reconstruction of the iconic steeples in a \$2.5 million project. The church continued their efforts to preserve this important landmark for the next generation by replacing the slate roof with its copper detailing, repairing the exterior masonry walls, and restoring the interior of the sanctuary with its decorative paintings and marble flooring. As a historic tax credit project, all work meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The more than \$4.8 million of work associated with Phases 2 and 3 bring the total project cost to more than \$7 million and represents a huge investment by the parish as its members recognize their responsibility to be good stewards of this iconic local landmark.

Kegley Preservation Award for Lifetime Achievement in Heritage Education

Margaret and Alice Roberts



Margaret Roberts and her sister, the late Alice Roberts, have been the pillars of Roanoke's Gainsboro community and leading advocates in many historical heritage projects over the years. They have made a tremendous impact on the cultural awareness and preservation of Roanoke's history.

Major projects they have worked on include: Gainsboro History Wall interpretive panels on Wells Avenue Plaza; Burrell Memorial Hospital interior interpretive panels; Restoration and reuse of the Oliver White Hill Home at 401 Gilmer Avenue; Contributions to National Register Historic District nominations—Gainsboro Historic District, Burrell Memorial Hospital, and Henry Street Historic District; Contributions to Historic Virginia highway markers for Oscar Micheaux and the Oliver White Hill Home; and contributions to the Henry Street interpretive panels at Roanoke Higher Education Center. Their persistent advocacy and involvement ensured that the history of Gainsboro and the African American community of Roanoke would be accurately interpreted in these projects and inform the direction for both public and private investments in the Gainsboro community.

For most of a century, the Roberts lived in their home on Gilmer Avenue built in 1905 and purchased ca. 1915 by their father, Dr. J. H. Roberts, a co-founder of Burrell Memorial Hospital. They both have been involved in the Historical Society of Western Virginia, the Harrison Museum of African American History, and the Oliver White Hill Foundation.



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Kegley Preservation Award for Environmental Stewardship

Renee Powers, Mill Mountain Trails Plan



Renee Powers, Trails & Greenway Coordinator for Roanoke City Department of Parks and Recreation, is credited with successfully completing and adopting the Mill Mountain Trails Plan Amendment. This is an amendment to the 2005 Mill Mountain Trails Plan; The Roanoke City Parks & Recreation Department completed the 2005 recommendations and needed to create a plan to meet today's needs. According to the Amendment summary, sound conservation and stewardship are essential elements in Roanoke's philosophy regarding access to its natural landscapes, as evidenced in the conservation easement on Mill Mountain Park and reiterated in this Amendment to the Trails Plan. The

137-page Mill Mountain Trails Plan Amendment was approved unanimously by City Council on May 17, 2021. Michael Clark, Director of Roanoke City Parks and Recreation, credits Renee Powers, Trails and Greenways Coordinator, as deserving individual recognition for the award. She worked tirelessly to research and implement this plan. In her own words, "It is exciting to complete this process and start on a new chapter on Mill Mountain focusing on neighborhood connections to the park and improving loops for all trail users."

On National Public Lands Day on Sept. 18, 2021, supervised volunteers began work on implementing improved Mill Mountain trail access to the Garden City neighborhood.

Evelyn Bethel Award for Heritage Education

Jordan Bell, Gainsboro History Tours



Jordan Bell is a historian and community activist. He takes pride in his involvement with organizations that support the Gainsboro Neighborhood. Jordan gives his Gainsboro Revisited walking tours throughout the year honoring the rich history of the Gainsboro Neighborhood. On these tours he shares with participants the triumphs of Gainsboro's residents along with the destruction inflicted on the

neighborhood through federal urban renewal policies. One of Jordan's most successful tours took place on Juneteenth in 2020 which had over 100 participants.

In addition to serving on the Board of Trustee for the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation, Jordan is a member of several organizations including Gainsborough Southwest Community Organization, Points of Diversity, and the Dumas Legacy Foundation. Jordan has also written numerous articles for Colors Magazine regarding the history of Roanoke's African American community, and he has a passion for collecting the written and oral histories of elders within the Gainsboro community. In his free time, Jordan is working on a documentary and book regarding the history of Gainsboro, in addition to restoring the Barlow House located on Gilmer Avenue. Jordan is an educator with Roanoke City Schools and is the summer camp director for Apple Ridge Farms.



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Kegley Preservation Award for Historic Preservation

George Kegley, Historic Monterey Smokehouse



George A. Kegley, for whom these awards are named, continues his lifetime commitment to preserving the Roanoke Valley's built landscape in his latest preservation project—the Monterey Smokehouse. Over many decades, the Smokehouse at Monterey had fallen into serious disrepair. The loss of roof material and its protection allowed for water

penetration which led to rot and subsequent failure of the framing and cladding materials. Additionally, years of ground erosion and swell caused the failure of the original stone foundation, which in combination with the loss of material integrity left the smokehouse structure in a precarious state of decay from the ground up. The restoration of the smokehouse at Monterey was a preservation project to save both the structure of the smokehouse and a smaller attached structure believed to have been a chicken coop, with a facade that dated back to at least the 1880's. Care was taken in the disassembly of the smokehouse and coop to save and retain as much original material as possible while returning the structures to their original dimensions. After recreating more appropriate footers and rebuilding its foundation using the original stone, Southwest Restoration filled in the timber framing's material voids using local, similarly dressed timbers, mainly pine and cedar posts, as well as poplar roof sheathing and cedar siding. For historic integrity, the original rotten wood members were spliced together with scarf joints to recreate the correct and "original" ceiling joists where possible. To this same end, a storage building of similar age and composition was dismantled from a nearby farm and its boards were repurposed to match the lost cladding on the coop. The smokehouse construction matches the original in design, including the use of hand-made mortising and tenons, and the reassembly of complex units like the hip joints of the roof. The entrance was amended in height by 6" for clearance of the owner's tractor, but the eyelash roof which had failed was also recreated. Though it has been refreshed with new cedar, much of the historic details remain like the original meat hooks installed on the joists, and the original door that now hangs on the coop.

Kegley Preservation Award for Heritage Education & Stewardship

Michael C. Maxey



As the 11th President of Roanoke College, Michael C. Maxey spearheaded the renovation and restoration of multiple historic properties on campus, supported the creation of a Public History Program at Roanoke College, and welcomed the Western Regional Office of the Department of Historic Resources to Elizabeth Campus in 2010. Notable preservation projects include the former Farmers National Bank building on Main Street, home to Roanoke's History Department and Public History Program; Clay Street House, a mid-19th century, two-room structure known as one of the oldest homes in Salem; Lucas Hall, the college's first LEED-certified building; Monterey, a large, Greek-Revival style house built in 1853 turned college guest house; and a former slave quarters behind Monterey that now houses the college's Center for Studying Structures of Race founded in 2020. The center, which serves as a venue for teaching, research, and community engagement about issues of

race and forms of institutional racism at local, national, and international levels, is an outgrowth of President Maxey's forward-thinking commitment to investigating the historical relationship between institutions of higher learning and slavery.



RVPF 2021 Kegley Preservation Awards

In 2014, Roanoke College partnered with other colleges and universities to fund the Universities Studying Slavery (USS) consortium, hosted a site visit during a USS conference in 2018, and in 2021 unveiled two bronze plaques on the Administration Building to honor the lives of the enslaved skilled laborers who directly built the College, or who generated wealth invested in the College.

As a result of these endeavors, the Council of Independent Colleges named Roanoke College as an Institutional Affiliate in a multiyear project called “Legacies of American Slavery: Reckoning with the Past” funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. President Maxey recently announced Roanoke College’s community-centered plan to construct a campus monument to honor enslaved persons. It will be the sixth in the nation erected on a college campus.

President Maxey’s decades-long commitment to heritage education in the greater Roanoke Valley also includes his service as a multi-term board member and past president of the Salem Museum and Historical Society.