

www.preservation-piedmont.org
 Charlottesville, VA 22902
 P.O. Box 2803
preservation piedmont



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Preservation Piedmont is a non-profit corporation dedicated to protecting historic structures, sites, landscapes and neighborhoods, as well as rural areas and open spaces. We do this in order to create an appreciation for the historic resources of the Central Virginia Piedmont region. Based in Charlottesville, we also serve Albemarle and surrounding counties.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Basic | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$300 |

I would like to receive my newsletter **by email only**.

I want to volunteer!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/Email: _____

To initiate or renew your membership, visit us online at preservation-piedmont.org, or mail a completed Membership Application and check payable to:

Preservation Piedmont
P.O. Box 2803
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Membership dues received after September 1 will apply to the remainder of 2012 and a full 2013 membership. Preservation Piedmont also has an email list to serve our members and quickly update preservationists throughout the region about important preservation issues. If you are interested in signing up, please include an email address below.

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Newsletter
Fall 2012

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PRESERVATION PIEDMONT FALL TOUR & ANNUAL MEETING

By Laura Knott

Preservation Piedmont's 2012 Fall Tour and Open House weekend will focus on the Belmont neighborhood and the story it tells about working communities in Charlottesville. The event begins on Saturday, October 13, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM, with a guided walking tour of western Belmont, led by historians Kristin Rourke and Laura Knott. The tour will start at the Ix Mill and will end at Belmont Park.

Highlights of the walking tour include a discussion of the history of the Frank Ix & Sons textile factory and the houses located throughout Belmont that the company built for its employees. The interior of one of these houses may be open for viewing.



Housing for Ix Mill Workers

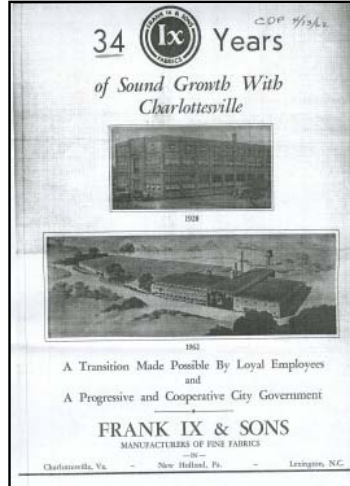
We will continue south several blocks to visit Early Street, the location of one of the earliest speculative housing developments in Charlottesville related to industry. At least one of the Early Street houses will be open for an inside tour where we will examine how standard house patterns evolve over time. The tour will end at Belmont Park, where there will be a brief description of how it has evolved in response to the needs of the neighborhood since its original development.

On Sunday, October 14, from 2-5, the Open House Tour will feature a variety

of homes, structures, and sites in and around Downtown Belmont. This tour is self-guided; tickets, maps, and parking will be available at the Hinton Avenue United Methodist Church. The recommended route begins on the grounds of the Ficklin/Belmont Mansion at 759 Belmont Avenue; the complete listing of sites open for viewing will be available on the Preservation Piedmont website.

After the conclusion of Sunday's Open House Tour, Preservation Piedmont's 2012 Annual Meeting will be held at The Local, in the heart of Belmont, at 5:30 PM. Light fare and refreshments will be served, with a cash bar available.

Tickets for the Fall Tour and Open House are \$20/day for general admission or \$15/day for members. A special discount is available for both days at \$35 for general admission or \$25 for members. Tickets can be purchased online through Paypal on the membership page of our website at <http://www.preservation-piedmont.org/join-donate/> (simply indicate 2012 Fall Tour and tickets requested in the subject line), on-site on the day of the event (cash and check only), and at select establishments around town.



A 1962 Daily Progress ad for the Ix Mill

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH SEEKS A NEW HOME

By Justin Sarafin

Preservation Piedmont's Buildings, Sites, and Documentation Committee recently completed a full documentation of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, located in Earlysville at the southern end of Charlottesville Albemarle Airport. This church has been the subject of heated discussion over the years as the airport has continued to expand. Preservation Piedmont is working with the congregation and airport officials to locate a suitable new owner for Pleasant Grove Baptist. Located in the flight path of one of the airport's major runways, the building must be moved from the site or it will be demolished. The airport owns the building, having purchased it from the congregation, now relocated to a nearby location with the airport's assistance.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, built in 1875, is a wood-frame church building, entered from two doors on the west elevation, which are separated by a pointed-arch window. The entry portico supports a steeple with a pointed cap, which rises above the gable-roofed nave of the church, lit by five six-over-six wooden windows on the north and south elevations. The fabric of the building is largely original and much of it is in good condition, including original beadboard beneath modern plaster on the walls of the nave. The original beadboard is exposed elsewhere throughout the interior.



Pleasant Grove Baptist Church photographed during Preservation Piedmont's June 2012 documentation

In its present location at the end of a runway, the building has been deemed unsafe for occupancy. We're looking to you, Preservation Piedmont's network of historic preservation-minded citizens, professionals, and advocates to help locate a new owner who will assume the responsibility and expense of removing it to a new site. As much as we prefer that the structure not be removed from its original site (with amazing views of the Blue Ridge, no less), adapting the very solid and serviceable structure to a new use is preferable to demolition. As the parishioners of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church have recently moved to their new facility, the new owner of the historic church would be free to repurpose the structure.

The historic Pleasant Grove Baptist Church is a fine example of a rural church type that is fast disappearing from the county's landscape. The opportunity to preserve this structure is running out. If you are interested in helping to save it, or if you have suggestions, you are invited to contact us anytime at preservationpiedmont@gmail.com.



Members of the Documentation Committee talk with Reverend Shirley Chapman of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church while measuring and photographing the church's interior.

VICTORY SHOE STORE FAÇADE DEMOLITION

By Melissa Thackston

Early in the morning on Saturday, October 31, 2009, the circa 1947 storefront façade of the former Victory Shoe Store located at 219 West Main Street in Charlottesville was removed without the required Certificate of Appropriateness approval from the City's Board of Architecture Review (BAR). The building's owners, the Joe H. Gieck Trust, now acknowledge that they should have been cognizant that the 1947 façade should not have been removed without prior BAR approval. The most notable feature of the 1947 storefront façade were two large display windows with rounded corners that flanked a deeply recessed entrance. In all, the owner had removed the black glass bulkhead, the curved glass display windows with metal trim, and the display window floor and rear walls.

The owner submitted an application to the BAR for demolition after the fact; the BAR denied that application in December 2009, 8-0. This action confirmed that the

demolition occurred illegally. The City filed a suit in Circuit Court seeking damages based upon the unauthorized demolition of a historic structure. Unfortunately, in such cases, what has been lost in demolition can never simply just be replaced because once the historic fabric is gone, it is gone forever. Gieck then submitted a plan to the BAR for approval to rebuild the façade to a 1920's design intended to look like the original building façade may have looked.



Original Victory Shoe Store façade at 219 West Main Street

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT: PRESERVATION PIEDMONT INVITES YOUR SUPPORT!

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support of our organization. As you know, Preservation Piedmont depends solely on membership renewals and proceeds from our Annual Fall Tour for our operating revenue and to support free public educational programs like Preservation Week. As such, your membership dues form an invaluable component of our organization.

During the past year, your membership enabled us to accomplish a great deal, including:

- Our **Annual Meeting**, featuring a presentation by Piedmont Environmental Council about Buy Fresh Buy Local
- Presentation of our **Preservation Award** to Preston Coiner for his work saving and restoring the Moon-Henderson House, a circa-1883 structure at 10 1/2 Street NW
- Our **4th Annual Preservation Week**, which ran May 4-12 and featured free programming for interested community members and professionals
- **Completed documentations** of multiple properties, including the late 18th c. Merrie Mill, a rural early 20th c. schoolhouse near Stony Point, the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, and a threatened late 19th c. Kellytown house

We look forward to accomplishing more in the remainder of 2012, including:

- Our upcoming **Fall Tour and Open House Weekend**,

October 13-14, focusing on the central and western areas of the Belmont neighborhood.

- Continuing to offer **professional advice** to community members
- Advocating for the **restoration and re-use of threatened historic resources**, and only when necessary, mobilizing to document properties faced with impending demolition.
- Enhancing the **Preservation Piedmont website**
- Our **2013 Annual Meeting**

In order to maintain momentum achieving these goals, Preservation Piedmont needs your support. By renewing before October 10, you will not only contribute to the success of these projects and programs, but you will receive membership benefits for the remainder of 2012 and all of 2013 (essentially 3 months free), as well as discounted ticket prices for the Fall Tour and Open House Weekend. You will also be entered to win a copy of our signed and numbered Preservation Week 2009 art print, created by Albemarle-based editorial illustrator, Christophe Vorlet. The winner of the art print will be announced at our Annual Meeting at the conclusion of the Fall Tour and Open House Weekend on October 14.

Thank you for supporting Preservation Piedmont!

- Justin Sarafin, President