

**Preservation Piedmont**  
P.O. Box 2803  
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[www.preservation-piedmont.org](http://www.preservation-piedmont.org)

**Newsletter**  
**Fall 2017**



# preservationpiedmont

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## Board Members

### 2017 Board

Emma Earnst, *President*  
Edwina St. Rose, *Vice President*  
Katherine Slaughter, *Secretary*  
Ellen Wagner, *Treasurer*  
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Niya Bates  
Jim Boyd  
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Genevieve Keller  
Peter Krebs  
Elizabeth Lawson  
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Helena Devereux  
Bill Emory  
Andrew Johnston  
K. Edward Lay  
Margaret Maliszewski  
Justin Sarafin  
Ross Stevens  
Roulhac Toledano  
Peggy Van Yahres  
Richard Guy Wilson

## Upcoming Events!

**Preservation Piedmont's Fall Tour, Sunday, October 1, 1:30 to 5pm** In keeping with this year's river theme, we will feature some of the historic sites near the Rivanna River. We will begin the tour at the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center at Darden Towe Park for an overview of the river's history, and travel to some historic river sites including the Locust Grove Tavern in Milton (a former pop-up tour location) and the Woolen Mills neighborhood (which was recently designated a Historic Conservation District by the City). RSVP to [preservationpiedmont@gmail.com](mailto:preservationpiedmont@gmail.com) to save a spot!

The **2017 Preservation Piedmont Annual Meeting** will be **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** at The Farm. More details to come...

Other events of interest...

Richard Guy Wilson will give a talk about Marshall Wells house at Farmington on **September 21<sup>st</sup>**.

PresVA Annual Conference in Petersburg, **October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017**, 8am to 6pm

The cost is \$145. For more information, see

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-virginia-preservation-conference-registration-35981053299?aff=es2>

The Southeastern Society of Architectural Historians conference is **October 11-14** in Lynchburg.

### **The Rivanna: A National Treasure**

The second Rivanna River Renaissance Conference will take place on **Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>** at the Albemarle County Office Building. Come learn about the river and all the great things that are happening in our community. This day-long conference will include fascinating presentations by community groups and guest presenters. Breaks and lunch cost are included in the registration fee. \$40 Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rivanna-river-renaissance-conference-tickets-36043533178?aff=es2>

The following day, **Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>** it's Rocking at the River, a day of FREE community events, including fun on the river, art and music starting with a parade of decorated kayaks and canoes from Darden Towe Park to Riverview Park. The day includes *FLOW: A celebration of the river* by several artists who will create art inspired by the river, and musicians who will perform at venues all along the river.

For a detailed schedule see:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rockin-the-rivanna-tickets-36043181125>

## Charlottesville establishes the Woolen Mills Historic Conservation District



*Image courtesy of Bill Emory*

The Charlottesville City Council unanimously approved the creation of the Woolen Mills Historic Conservation District, thus adding a third neighborhood to conservation districts that include Rugby Road (between University Circle and Preston Ave.) and Martha Jefferson neighborhoods. Preservation Piedmont (PP) supported this ordinance, and members testified at the hearing along with Woolen Mills activist and PP Advisory Board member Bill Emory.

Thanks to the many members of Preservation Piedmont as well as the Martha Jefferson and Venable Neighborhood Associations who wrote to City Council in support of the overlay zoning that will prevent tear-downs and new construction of out-of-scale buildings without a review by the Board of Architectural Review (BAR). Unlike the Architectural Design Control (ADC) Districts, the Historic Conservation District does not require review of paint color, siding, roofing and other materials. And due to recent changes in the ordinance, fees are reduced, and some reviews may occur administratively.

The 60-acre district comprised of homes, the Woolen Mills Chapel, and Riverview Cemetery was a community of piece-and-wage workers at the Mill, which existed in the shadow of Monticello between 1847-1962. The district received its honorary listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register December 2009 and the National Register of Historic Places April 2010. The new Woolen Mills Historic Conservation District provides local zoning protection.

Preservation Piedmont supported the designation to protect the historic architecture, character, and charm of the neighborhood, to maintain affordability of many modest homes, and to discourage construction of very large out-of-scale structures not in harmony with the neighborhood.

The Woolen Mills ordinance had previously received the unanimous endorsement of the BAR and the Planning Commission. Controversy arose when the overwhelming support by residents reflected in a May 2016 neighborhood poll was challenged by a group of property owners. A second poll occurring earlier this year showed more

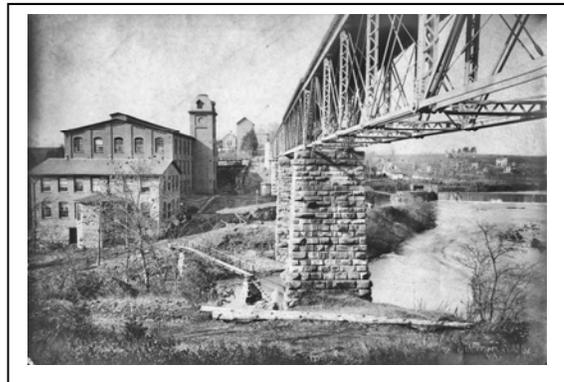
opposition than support for the ordinance. Supporters believe that this was due at least in part to the opponents' campaign of misinformation.

For example, opponents in public statements frequently conflated the requirements of the ADC District with those of the more lenient Conservation District. Throughout the City, individual properties have been designated as Individually Protected Properties (IPP) under ADC guidelines. The Woolen Mills Chapel and some homes had individual designations years before the Conservation Ordinance was proposed. These structures will continue to be governed by the stricter guidelines. In order to ensure that the neighborhood maintains its character, structures contributing to the history of the district will require review if they are proposed to be torn down or if new buildings or additions visible from the street are proposed.

None of the requirements of Conservation District or the ADC prohibit the building of modern structures within a district as long as they are within the scale of the neighborhood. Both Martha Jefferson and Venable Neighborhood Associations report no complaints with the ordinance and good results.

At the same meeting that the ordinance was enacted, the Rose Hill Neighborhood also received an allocation of funding from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the City to complete an historic survey of the neighborhood. This is the first step toward recognition of the historic nature of a community; the second would be the listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places. Once accomplished, this information can be used potentially to designate the neighborhood as a Historic Conservation District.

In addition to the three Historic Conservation Districts, Charlottesville currently has eight Architectural Design Control Districts: North Downtown, Downtown, Ridge Street, West Main Street, Wertland Street, The Corner, Oakhurst-Gildersleeve, and Rugby Rd-University Circle-Venable (which adjoins the Rugby Road Historic Conservation District).



*Image courtesy of Special Collections, University of Virginia*

## Tree Conservation

Do you have a beloved specimen tree in your yard? If you live in Charlottesville, you can protect it even after you are no longer the owner. Here's how: In 1989 Virginia passed "enabling legislation" allowing localities to author "Tree Conservation" ordinances (TCOs). Twenty-four years later, in 2013, Charlottesville City Council approved a Tree Conservation Ordinance.

*There is hereby established a tree conservation ordinance to secure protection for a portion of the city's urban forest and the ecosystem services that this forest provides by regulating the designation, preservation and removal of heritage, memorial, specimen and street trees located within the city. ... Any person may submit a written request to the administrator seeking designation ordinance of a tree located on private property as a heritage, memorial, specimen or street tree. The request must describe the tree in question, its location, and the factors which support its designation as a heritage, memorial, specimen or street tree. Any submission for designation of a tree by a person who is not the property owner must include written consent of the property owner for the submission. The administrator, upon receipt of such a request, shall forward a copy to the tree commission for review and recommendation to the city arborist.—[Municode 18-6, 18-9]*

The tree conservation designation is like an architectural design control district for trees and can provide a modicum of protection for the beloved tree in your or your neighbor's yard. Candidates for protection under the Tree Conservation Ordinance are selected by Council quarterly.

Mail your nomination to Urban Forester Mike Ronayne (ronaynem@charlottesville.org),  
Copy Tree Commission Chair  
Paul Josey (pauljosey@gmail.com).  
Help protect our urban forest!



## New Marker Unveiled at DOZC

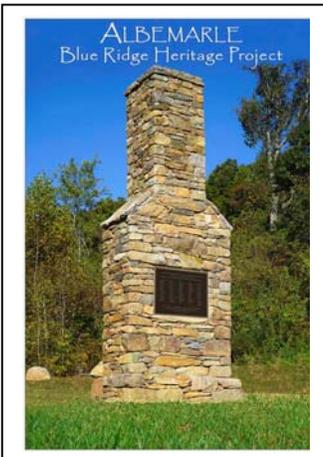


On September 10, 2017, the Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church unveiled a new marker that it erected for its third pastor, Rev. Jesse Herndon (1850-1889), at the Daughters of Zion Cemetery. The original marker (pictured above) was shattered. Rev. Herndon served as pastor of the congregation for 15 years and was instrumental in fundraising for the building of the church's former Ridge St. edifice. The August 2, 1882 Jeffersonian newspaper reported that the "Mt. Zion Colored Baptist Church have decided to build a new house of worship, the present building being too small for the large and increasing congregation, besides being unsafe. The building will be of brick, and the contract has been awarded to Messrs. Vandergrift & Walters. Mr. G. Sinclair will do the brickwork".

Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church which now worships in its new location on Charlottesville's Lankford Ave. will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in October 2017.

## Grant Recipient: Albemarle Blue Ridge Heritage Project

Preservation Piedmont was pleased to award a grant of \$1000 to the Albemarle Blue Ridge Heritage Project for the creation and installation of display and interpretive panels as part of their efforts to create a monument in Albemarle County to honor families displaced from the Blue Ridge Mountains when Shenandoah National Park was created in 1936. The ABRHP is under the guidance and assistance of the Blue Ridge Heritage Project, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves as an umbrella group to assist similar memorial efforts in the eight counties surrounding the Park.



The panels are key educational components to the overall project which will provide interpretive information such as the history of the Shenandoah National Park, background on the Blue Ridge Heritage Project, information on displaced families and their properties, and cultural history. The panels will be installed in the newly built multiple-use shelter in the Patricia Ann Byrom Forest Preserve Park.

Formed in 2013, the Blue Ridge Heritage Project is led by individuals interested in local history, people who use and support Shenandoah National Park, and descendants of the displaced families. The Albemarle Blue Ridge Heritage Project is one of the eight county-level steering committees and projects affiliated under the Blue Ridge Heritage Project umbrella.

The Patricia Ann Byrom Forest Preserve Park is located in Crozet at 6610 Blackwells Hollow Road. It is one of Albemarle County's newer parks, opened in 2011 and named in honor of a longtime area teacher whose family donated the land.

For more information please see: <http://www.blueridgeheritageproject.com/albemarle/>

## Preservation Piedmont Grant Program Submission Deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup>

Earlier this year we were pleased to announce the revival of our grant program which provides modest grants to support projects that promote the protection of historic resources including significant cultural landscapes. Categories of support include: support for preservation-related publications and other media; and preservation education and interpretation initiatives, documentation initiatives including surveys; basic stabilization of all types of historic fabric, including landscapes, public art and engineered structures as well as buildings.

The next deadline is Oct. 1, and we expect to award grants approximately 8 to 10 weeks after that.

Proposals from the following areas will be considered: City of Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, and Orange.

For more information see <http://www.preservation-piedmont.org/grants-program/>

### Upcoming University of Virginia Bicentennial Kickoff Events

#### October 5<sup>th</sup>

7pm, Backstory Live at the Paramount, free but tickets are required

#### October 6<sup>th</sup>

1-2pm, Historical Perspective on the laying of the cornerstone, Monroe Hill, free and open to the public

3-3:45pm, Tribute to Laying of the Cornerstone, free and open to public

4-5pm, History of UVA in 100 Objects, Exhibit Talk, Special Collections Auditorium

7pm, Bicentennial Launch Celebration, The Lawn, tickets are required

#### October 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>

The Universities, Slavery, Public Memory, and the Built Landscape Symposium that the university is co-hosting with the Slave Dwelling Project. For the schedule of specific events and registration information, please see

<http://slavery.virginia.edu/october-18-21-2017-symposium-schedule/>

For more information, please see <https://bicentennial.virginia.edu/bicentennial-launch-weekend-0>

### Membership Application/Renewal Form

Preservation Piedmont is a non-profit corporation that is 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 bordering counties.

All new memberships will begin immediately and also cover all of 2018. To join, please enclose payment and make checks payable to:

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

Or join online at:

<http://www.preservation-piedmont.org/join-donate/>

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.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$15 x ____    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$100        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35 x ____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$300         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$60         | <input type="checkbox"/> I want to volunteer! |

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_