

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

<http://avenue.org/pp>

Newsletter  
Fall/Winter 2008



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## PRESERVATION PIEDMONT'S ANNUAL MEETING, DECEMBER 7

Please join us on December 7, 2008 from 3-5 pm for Preservation Piedmont's Annual Meeting at Kenwood, home of the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies near Monticello. Built between 1939 and 1941 for Major General and Mrs. Edwin M. Watson on 78.5 acres of land (once owned by Jefferson), Kenwood initially served as a weekend retreat and later became a permanent residence.

The house and grounds will be open for guests to visit, and light fare and beverages will be provided. We hope you will join us in December, as this is Preservation Piedmont's opportunity to thank our members and donors for all of their support, without which our board could not successfully advocate on historic preservation issues. Please join us!



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## PRESERVATION WEEK 2009, APRIL 3 - 10

Preservation Week is an opportunity for local and regional organizations and citizens interested in historic preservation, history, sustainable community development, and green design to come together to encourage public dialogue about local preservation and to promote our region's historic resources as defining elements integral to our community's current well-being and future development.

Preservation Week 2009 will commence with a lecture, an exhibition, and an opening reception at the Charlottesville Community Design Center (CCDC) on Friday, April 3, 2009. Following the opening reception, historic house tours, a bus tour of work by renown local architect Milton Grigg, and neighborhood walking tours will be offered over the weekend. The keynote speaker will speak on Monday, April 6th, and the remainder of the week will be dedicated to educational sessions including: how to make your historic house more energy efficient, how to research your historic house, and how to preserve your house using tax credits.

We are pleased to announce that the keynote speaker for Preservation Week 2009 will be Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation! Mr. Moe will speak at the University of Virginia School of Architecture on Monday, April 6th at 5pm about the convergence of historic preservation and sustainability.

A Preservation Week Committee composed of Preservation Piedmont

(PP) board members working with the Piedmont Area Preservation Alliance (PAPA) has been meeting regularly to manage and organize Preservation Week. We encourage any PP or PAPA members to join us for our monthly meetings if they are interested in assisting with the process.

The PWC has applied for several grants to assist with the funding of Preservation Week, and we would like to thank those organizations that have contributed to the Preservation Week Fund by paying their PAPA dues. The PWC is also currently in the process of commissioning an artist to design a Preservation Week 2009 poster that will be available for sale during Preservation Week. A tentative schedule is being designed for those sessions confirmed for the week, and the exhibition, "Preserving Places = Sustaining Community" is being developed. The exhibition will examine successful intersections of sustainability and historic preservation, underscoring the notion that the greenest building is one that is already built. The exhibition will also look at the loss of community, embodied energy, and sense of place and history when buildings are torn down rather than recycled. The exhibition will be open to the general public at the CCDC for a period of one month.

We look forward to keeping you abreast of Preservation Week 2009 as it unfolds, and please email us at [preservationpiedmont@gmail.com](mailto:preservationpiedmont@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to get involved.

### UNITED STATES RATIFIES TREATY TO PROTECT CULTURAL PROPERTY IN TIME OF WAR

The Senate finally approved the convention on the protection of cultural property. After letting the Hague Convention languish in its Armed Services Committee since early 1999, the U.S. Senate finally consented to the treaty's ratification on September 25, 2008. The 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict is now a part of the law of the United States, obligating the country to designate for protection its significant artifacts, buildings, and other properties, as well as to train the military to respect designated sites abroad.

Preservation Piedmont can claim some small role in the recent ratification, having written Senator James Webb in August of 2007 to recommend that his Committee take up the treaty. Although part of a national movement, Preservation Piedmont's support had a local basis: the Charlottesville area is home to Monticello and the University of Virginia, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites qualified for designation

as protected properties under the Convention. Monticello, in fact, is the only privately-owned building in the U.S. on the World Heritage List.

The Hague Convention does have some limits. The Senate clarified its interpretation of the treaty by adding four formal Understandings and one Declaration to its consent, and it declined to ratify the Convention's First Protocol, a separate 1954 agreement meant to prevent the exportation of cultural property from occupied territories. Nevertheless, such symbolism is important, and the Senate's action finally brings the U.S. into company with the 121 other countries that have promised to abide by the Convention's terms.

Virginia's cultural resources might soon see further accolades added to those they already possess.

*Scott Meacham*

### GRANTS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Preservation Piedmont Grants and Development Committee has recently reviewed applications to our Community Preservation Grants Program for our fall deadline, and we are pleased to announce that Albemarle County's Historic Preservation Committee will be awarded \$1,050 to assist with the African-American Rosenwald Schools Project, discussed in more detail on the next page. The grant will be used by the Committee to locate, research, and disseminate information about the historic African-American Rosenwald Schools located in Albemarle County, an important and much overlooked component of local and regional African-American history. The project will be directed by Dr. Lynn Rainville, and Preservation Piedmont looks forward to keeping our members abreast of the project as it unfolds over the next year. Please contact Preservation Piedmont at our new gmail account if you have any questions or information related to this project.

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Membership Committee has recently established a gmail account for Preservation Piedmont, which will help centralize communication in order for board members to field questions and concerns from members and the general public in a more efficient and effective manner. The organization's new email is preservationpiedmont@gmail.com, so please contact us with any questions or requests you may have in the future.

### DOCUMENTING ROSENWALD SCHOOLS IN VIRGINIA

The Rosenwald schools were financed jointly by Julius Rosenwald (co-owner of Sears and Roebuck) and local communities between 1917 and 1932. Even earlier, Julius Rosenwald was approached by Booker T. Washington to use funds donated to the Tuskegee Institute to construct six schools in Alabama. Impressed with the results, Rosenwald set up the Julius Rosenwald Fund to build schools for African American children. During the 15 years of the fund's existence, the Rosenwald fund helped finance 4,977 new schools, 217 teachers' homes, and 163 shop buildings.

In some communities these schools were the first formal school house, in others they replaced dilapidated and unsafe structures. In each case, this program encouraged communities to contribute to the construction of their school and provided one of over a dozen architectural models. These models, similar to house kits sold by Sears, were clean, affordable, and carefully designed to produce a healthy learning environment. This included adequate light, ventilation, separate outhouses, coatrooms, and quality blackboards and desks. This attention to detail significantly increased the quality of African-American schoolhouses during segregation when white school boards often siphoned off public monies, leaving little or nothing for black schools. Another remarkable

impact of this philanthropic project was its widespread impact, almost 5,000 schools, distributed throughout 883 counties in 15 states.

In Virginia, 371 Rosenwald Schools were built in every region except the four counties in the Appalachian region in the far southwest. They range from small, one-teacher schools, to larger industrial education schools found in cities. Over the last decade several communities have researched their Rosenwald buildings. It is my goal with the African-American Rosenwald Schools Project to build on this work by designing a two-tiered research and dissemination project consisting of a statewide database and more, in-depth research into a handful of exemplars within the five of the eight counties that make up the service region for Preservation Piedmont. By partnering with the Virginia Center for Digital History (VCDH), the goal is to create digital templates for posting Rosenwald data and community interviews on-line. Several of the communities working on current projects have a great deal of information to share, but lack the web resources to create accessible websites. By using VCDH programs, such as The History Player, other Virginian communities can borrow this template and post their own research into interactive and searchable websites.

*Lynn Rainville*

### 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 bordering counties.

If you would like to initiate or renew a membership, please enclose payment and make checks payable to:

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

- Individual \$20
- Family \$35
- Patron \$100
- Life \$300
- Student \$10
- Non-Profit Organization \$50
- Business \$100
- Business Patron \$300

Preservation Piedmont is also establishing an email network in order to better serve our members and quickly update preservationists throughout the region about important preservation issues. Please include an email address.

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

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

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

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