



www.preservationpiedmont.org
 Charlottesville, VA 22902
 P.O. Box 2803

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.

Student \$10 Basic \$35
 Sponsor \$150 Patron \$300

Please check the box if you would like to receive your newsletter by email **ONLY!**

Please check the box if you want to volunteer!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/Email: _____

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

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.

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 Newsletter
 Spring 2010

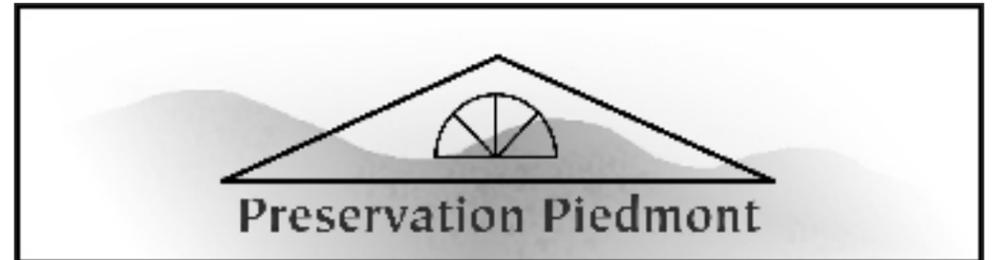
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PRESERVATION WEEK, APRIL 9 - 17, 2010

The second annual Preservation Week in Charlottesville promises to be a worthy follow-up to last year's successful event. The scheduled events will attract everyone interested in the history of downtown Charlottesville, the adaptive use of buildings and landscapes, the preservation of modernist design, or just strolling along the Downtown Mall. Preservation Piedmont, with assistance from allied groups in the region, has organized the week around one of Charlottesville's most significant historical landscapes, the Downtown Mall, designed by Lawrence Halprin Associates between 1973 and 1976.

Lawrence Halprin (1916- 2009) is arguably the most important American landscape architect of the 20th century. The work done by Halprin Associates transformed Charlottesville; it was one of his firm's last major projects. After closing his office in 1976, Halprin worked until his death, realizing several important designs across the country and receiving numerous awards, including the National Medal of the Arts (2002), the nation's highest honor for an artist.

Halprin's scope of work in Charlottesville was broad and ambitious. Building on the City's desire to pedestrianize a downtown street to compete with Barracks Road Shopping Center, Halprin Associates undertook an extensive urban design analysis that resulted in a plan for a large area of Downtown, several alternatives for locating and configuring the Mall, and construction drawings for a pedestrian mall on Main Street. The designs envisioned rebuilding the "urban renewal"

sites of Vinegar Hill and Garrett Street, the establishment of a permanent site for a farmer's market at the east end of the Mall, and an exuberant participatory fountain at the west end of the Mall.

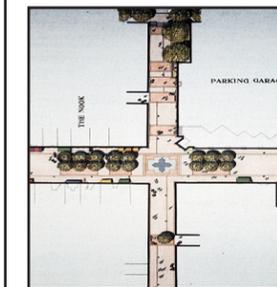
Preservation Piedmont members and UVA students have collaborated with staff at the Charlottesville Community Design Center on an exhibition about the Mall since the summer of 2009, using a National Endowment for the Arts Design



Aerial View of the Mall

Excellence: Stewardship Grant to fund research. "More than Just Bricks. A Social and Design History of the Charlottesville Mall" will be the center of attention during Preservation Week, but it will be on display from April 2nd-May 31st. The exhibit will feature a series of panels illustrating the design principles of the Mall. It will also explain the innovative community engagement process that preceded the design phase—a "Take Part" workshop that Halprin's firm invented in the late '60s.

A second exhibit of Halprin Associates' drawings will be displayed from April 2-31 in UVA's School of Architecture Elmaleh Gallery. Gallery talks, workshops, walking tours, panel discussions, and lectures geared to a broad audience of various ages, design and planning professionals, and city officials will round out the week. The Preservation Week brochure enclosed in this newsletter is your guide to the schedule of events. Regularly check www.preservationpiedmont.org for schedule updates and for more in-depth information on Halprin and the week's events. Halprin's proposals are sure to spark discussion and debate. Don't miss Preservation Week 2010!



Original Plans for Downtown

PRESERVING PLACE = SUSTAINING COMMUNITY AT NEWCOMB HALL

The exhibition, *Preserving Place = Sustaining Community*, developed by Preservation Piedmont as a focal point for last year's successful Preservation Week, was recently featured in the Newcomb Hall Art Gallery at the University of Virginia. Installed in late 2009, the show concluded with an evening reception on February 3, 2010, hosted by the Artspace committee of the University Programs Council.

The exhibit highlights the widening vision of preservation by exploring projects and issues relevant to UVA's presence in the greater Charlottesville community. It documents the growing interest in neighborhood history, vernacular architecture, sustainability, and buildings and landscapes that help define a distinct sense of place. The exhibit also shows that preservation efforts have expanded beyond appeals to

private support, and are moving toward preservation as a public priority.

Preserving Place = Sustaining Community will continue to travel to different venues and will soon be available via



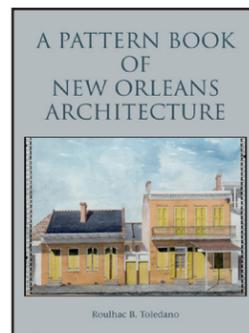
Exhibition at Newcomb Hall

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Preservation Piedmont has launched a new and improved website – www.preservationpiedmont.org. The new website features an elegant page design, an upgraded events calendar, a search function, new content and improved navigability. Anita Anderson, the website committee chair, spearheaded the update to advance Preservation Piedmont's mission. By providing this information on-line and making it more user-friendly, we can better promote public awareness, advocacy, education, and public participation in preservation and foster appreciation of the historic and cultural resources of our region. Our goal is to keep the events and information current, so you should check the website often. You can send comments or suggestions to preservationpiedmont@gmail.com.

PRESERVATION PIEDMONT SPONSORS LOCAL AUTHOR

Please be sure to join us on Sunday, March 21 at 3pm at the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library for a discussion by locally renowned author, Roulhac Toledano, on the history of architecture in New Orleans. Her latest book, *A Pattern Book of New Orleans Architecture*, explores the surveyors, architects, planners, and engineers who built New Orleans, and provides an in-depth analysis of the various housing types that define this historic city. Drawing from the New Orleans Notarial Archives, Toledano provides plats and floor plans of historic homes to create an abbreviated archive of her own from which planners, architects, and engineers can draw as they set about reconstructing the city post-Hurricane Katrina. Toledano demonstrates that using history to construct new buildings and reconstruct neighborhoods ensures authenticity and the continuation of New Orleans' particular esprit, and thereby, preserves the City's rich cultural heritage.



PRESERVATION PIEDMONT MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AND MONTHLY EMAIL NOTICE

Thank you to those who renewed their membership in 2009 and welcome to all our new members! We greatly appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you this year during Preservation Week 2010 and at our Fall Tour. In February, Preservation Piedmont began a new initiative to keep our membership up to date on historic preservation issues coming before boards and commissions including the Planning Commissions, Boards of Architectural Review, City Council, and Board of Supervisors. Available agendas are reviewed for items that involve discussions and decisions about preservation matters, and an email notice is sent to our members at the beginning of each month. By providing links to this information, we hope to facilitate our members' participation in the public process. We encourage you to attend these meetings and voice your questions, comments, concerns, support and/or disapproval. We hope you find this helpful and interesting. If you would like to receive the monthly notification, you may download a membership form from our website at – www.preservationpiedmont.org – and send it to us and we will add you to our membership list. Be sure to include your email address!

DOCUMENTING THE CHARLOTTESVILLE LUMBER COMPANY/BETTER LIVING BUILDING SUPPLY WAREHOUSE

On a very cold, blustery morning in early December (before our region was blanketed in the first of many snowstorms), members of Preservation Piedmont gathered to document the old Charlottesville Lumber Company/Better Living Building Supply warehouse structure on the corner of Avon and Garrett Streets in Downtown Charlottesville.

The Charlottesville Lumber Company began in 1893 and became Better Living in 1969. This business remained at 310 Avon Street until the Better Living Building Supply and Furniture stores moved out to sites on Route 29 in the early 1980s. Until the spring of 2009, the building housed a Rent-A-Center in the showroom space of the structure and the Better Living Mill Shop in the working areas of the warehouse. Remarkably complete, the 40,000 square foot warehouse showed evidence of many changes and expansions over its century-long lifespan. Its most prominent feature was its corrugated iron monitor roof, pierced by clerestory windows, which probably helped ventilate the building's workspaces in pre-air conditioned days. The concrete block façade featured a decorative quoin treatment of rough cast concrete blocks at the northeast corner of the structure, as well as asymmetrically placed doors and windows. Many of the window openings were filled with pressed glass blocks, which allowed light into the space and referenced art-deco architecture of the early twentieth century.

Steven Meeks, of the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society, saw the announcement about the building's impending demolition in *The Hook* and called it to the attention of Charlottesville preservationists. Within two days, a team of five volunteers assembled to photograph the building and take measured drawings of the available facades. Steven Meeks sketched the building, while Anita Anderson and her daughter Zoe ran the tape measure to determine

the placement of doors and windows. Emilie Johnson made field notes and recorded the numbers and Eryn Brennan took photographs of the structure. The volunteers worked in accordance with Preservation Piedmont's Document Before Demolish program, established in 2004, which outlines the types of information that should be described in field notes and the necessary measurements to fully record a building. Concerns about the structural integrity of the warehouse prevented the volunteers from documenting the interiors, but looking through the windows showed a vast interior space spanned by a heavy wooden truss system.

A Master's of Architecture student at UVA took the volunteers' field notes, measurements, and drawings and translated them into computerized design software. The rendering of field notes and measurements into a digital format provides a more professional-looking record of the demolished building and becomes much easier to store and share. The drawings will be made available on Preservation Piedmont's new website. This type of easily accessible, permanent record helps keep the lost elements of our built environment alive.

We will be scheduling two documentation projects for the spring of 2010 – both residential structures in Charlottesville. Don't let a lack of experience keep you from getting involved with Preservation Piedmont's documentation efforts. Documentation is easy and we are happy to teach you what we know! If you are interested in joining our volunteer corps, please send your name and contact information to preservationpiedmont@gmail.com. We will be in touch with you about scheduling as the upcoming documentation projects become better defined.

WOOLEN MILLS BECOMES HISTORIC DISTRICT

On December 17, 2009, The Woolen Mills Historic District was approved by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register. VDHR provided this summary of the district's significance: "Woolen Mills developed into one of the city's and the region's most noteworthy industries, producing cloth for military uniforms from the late 19th century through the 1950s. The company's brick mill buildings of the late 19th and early 20th centuries remain, as do brick and frame houses in a range of styles built during the mid-19th through the early 20th centuries for or by mill employees. The historic district's period of significance begins with 1847, the date of the earliest company-built housing, and ends in 1962, the year the mills closed. Today's historic district still evokes a late 19th-century industrial village. Randy Jones, spokesman for VDHR, said the area is historically important because it represents the textile industry, which was a potent economic force in Virginia's past." The district has been forwarded to the National Park Service for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.



Historic Mill Building