



Established 1966

[ABOUT](#) [ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE](#) [BLANDWOOD MUSEUM](#) [CARRIAGE HOUSE](#)

[GOV. MOREHEAD FORUM](#) [SAVING PLACES](#) [EVENTS](#) [DONATE](#)

Junior League's Historic Headquarters Open for Tours



If you want a chance to peek into one of High Point's classical homes, you will have a special opportunity on Saturday.

The Junior League of High Point has just completed renovations to the Briles House on North Main Street in time for its 100th birthday. The neoclassical-style house is now the home of the local chapter of the Junior League. Crafts and snacks will be available for kids, and adults will (hopefully) enjoy tours of the main public rooms of the Briles House conducted by yours truly. The house will be open from 10:00am to 2:00pm, but my tours will only be given between 11:00am to 1:00pm (a guys voice can only go so far).



The Briles House was one of the earliest houses built along North Main Street, erected in 1907. Though High Pointers initially teased the Brileses that their home was located halfway to Winston-Salem, the Briles House inspired the construction of a parade of magnificent houses along upper Main Street, many of which remain today along with their prototype.

The house was built by Bertie Wallace and Lee Briles, who returned to the area from Florida in order for Lee to be head cashier at the North Carolina Savings Bank and Trust Company. Lee Briles passed away early in life, but his family remained in the house for nearly one hundred years until the death of Ruth Briles in 2002.

Ruth Briles recalled that her parents retained a French-born Greensboro architect, later identified as Richard Gambier, to design their large Southern Colonial mansion. The resulting residence stands today as an excellent example of Neoclassical Revival architecture, demonstrated by its monumental Ionic entrance portico, the full modillion cornice and tripartite windows on the main façade. The city once contained more than twenty houses constructed before 1920 with monumental porticoes, but the Briles House remains today the sole survivor of this group of early grand High Point houses.

The house also is notable for its foundation of Mount Airy granite and its cypress siding. The main entrance features hand-crafted lead glass windows that were cut and formed to fill the front hall transom and sidelights. Above the front door, the beveled glass forms the face of a lion. The interior features a center-hall plan, quarter-sawn oak floors and trim, pocket doors, wainscoting and anaglypta wallpaper.

The Junior League purchased the home from the Briles estate in 2004, and commenced on renovating the house for the organization's needs. A similar effort might be starting here in Greensboro with the historic Albright House on West Friendly Avenue, constructed around 1870.

[Updated 12/2022 to include new information related to [Richard Gambier](#)]

Written by Benjamin Briggs

Preservation Greensboro contributes a key role in the growth of Greensboro's economy and vitality through tourism, reinvestment, and place-making. With diverse initiatives that help you to restore, explore, and connect with your community, Preservation Greensboro provides a voice for revitalization, improved quality of life, and conservation of historic resources for future generations. Are you a member yet? Learn more about Greensboro's

only member-supported preservation organization by exploring our [website](#) or joining our [Facebook](#) page. Please join us today!

Categories: Architecture, High Point Preservation News By Benjamin Briggs November 1, 2007 3 Comments

Tags: [architecture](#) [High Point](#) [Neoclassical Revival](#) [restoration](#) [Richard Gambier](#)



Author: Benjamin Briggs

PREVIOUS

Irving Park Looks to its Future

NEXT

My Two Cents: Perspectives of Greensboro from Chicago

Related posts

Long Ago Destroyed
Greensboro House
Rediscovered

June 21, 2023

Mystery House Open for
Tour Ahead of
Restoration

May 16, 2023

The Secrets of
Westerwood, Revisited

May 17, 2023

Westerwood House
Features Distinctive
Dutch Design

May 15, 2023

3 Comments



Holy Land tours

July 24, 2010 at 11:49 am (Edit)

It is always nice while traveling inside the country or abroad, to visit some historic buildings and houses. Go go figure what you'll see and learn and what you will be exposed to, it's worth the investment of time and money!



Israel Guide

April 19, 2011 at 10:06 am (Edit)

Thank you so much for this information. It's so nice to have all this sharing, so useful and inspiring. I really appreciate the time and your effort you put to it. Great work, well done indeed!



Tom Kirkman

September 28, 2011 at 10:53 pm (Edit)

The most aesthetically pleasing and stately home ever erected in High Point, save perhaps for the Wren mansion.

Comments are closed.

Please Join Us!

Did you know? As Greensboro's only not-for-profit advocate for historic preservation, we receive no funding from city, state, nor federal sources. Our success is based on your support. Members receive two free passes to Blandwood, and much more. Preservation Greensboro is among North Carolina's oldest city-based organizations dedicated to saving our community's architectural treasures!

Join Us!

Preservation Greensboro Blog

Mysteries of City Hall Remain Unsolved
July 7, 2023

Beginning a New Chapter at PGI
June 29, 2023

Long Ago Destroyed Greensboro House Rediscovered
June 21, 2023

The Secrets of Westerwood, Revisited
May 17, 2023

Mystery House Open for Tour Ahead of Restoration
May 16, 2023

Contact Us

Preservation Greensboro

PO Box 13136
Greensboro NC 27415
336-272-5003
Offices Located in Blandwood Mansion

Blandwood Mansion

447 West Washington Street
Greensboro NC 27401
336-272-5003

Architectural Salvage of Greensboro

1028-B Huffman Street
In East Greensboro
336-389-9118

