

## The Preservation Magazine of Greensboro

September 2022

### Help Us Unlock Our September Challenge Gift!

Thanks to a generous challenge gift of \$15,000 by the Schenck Family, Preservation Greensboro donors have the opportunity to double the size of their gift! Mary Lyon Caine was the founding president of Preservation Greensboro (1966-1970) and her daughter, Anita Schenck, was a lifelong supporter and president (1979-1981). This challenge grant from the children of Anita and Jim Schenck is testimony to their continued support of historic preservation in Greensboro.

All donations received for this challenge until October 1 will be matched to a total of \$15,000.

Help  
Us



### *Wednesday September 14* **Join Us at Our Annual Meeting**

Though we held our most recent Annual Meeting last February, this meeting serves as Preservation Greensboro's abridged annual General Membership Meeting that will align with the organization's new bylaws and fiscal year. In addition to the election of members to the Board of Directors and a community update, attendees will hear of exciting preservation initiatives from around the state by Dr. Darin Waters, our North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer. Seating is limited for this ticketed event. Tickets are \$20 per person.

**Annual  
Meeting**

Click the above link to purchase your ticket

**Sponsorship Information**

Email [Kathryn](#) if you are interested in sponsoring the Annual Meeting



## **Warnersville Study Underway**

As a Preservation Greensboro intern and the University of North Carolina Greensboro Archaeology Major, Anna-Kristina Hoffman is completing groundbreaking research on the effect urban renewal had on the social composition of Greensboro's first planned Black community, known as [Warnersville](#). The community was founded by freedmen in the 1860s and was destroyed by urban renewal in the 1960s. Her research began by using city directories to identify family names of residents during the years 1949, 1959, and 1974. Preliminary research reveals that many family names and lineages persevered despite destruction between 1959 and 1974. The goal of her project is to better understand the sociological impact urban renewal had on Warnersville. Preservation Greensboro is promoting the study of this important community as a step for future recognition. Do you have stories to share of Warnersville? [Email Us!](#)

# **Insider's Guide to Thomas Day**

**Only 30 Days Left! Open Through September 30**  
**New Perspectives on Thomas Day at Blandwood**

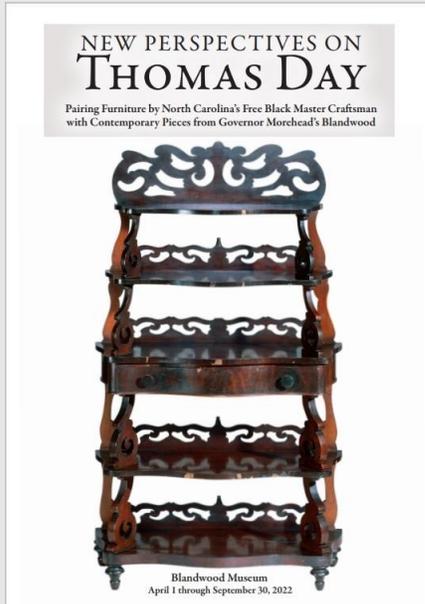
Thomas Day (1801-c.1861) was a North Carolinian and free man of color who designed and produced furniture and woodwork for wealthy clients in the mid-nineteenth century. This was a challenging time for people of color in the South, but Day excelled in attracting influential and high-powered patrons. His cabinet shop in the riverside town of Milton, NC was the largest in the state at its peak, and his work has graced the homes of influential residents and collectors for generations.

Learn  
More

Guided tours of the exhibit at Blandwood end on September 30. Regular museum hours are Tuesdays – Saturdays 11am – 4pm & Sundays 2pm – 5pm with the exception of major national holidays. The last tour begins one hour prior to closing. Tickets are \$8 at the door for individuals.

**Come as a group!** Group tickets for 10 attendees or more are available for \$7 per person. Call us in advance for group reservations.

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### Tour Admission Includes Catalog

A catalog of Thomas Day pieces and Morehead Collection pieces have been created for the current temporary exhibit. The exhibition pairs furniture of like-uses and forms, allowing visitors to observe what would have been the most stylish and influential designs in North Carolina in the middle nineteenth century. As a craftsman, Thomas Day was inspired by pieces from Philadelphia and New York, both of which are well represented in the Morehead Collection of furniture. The catalog is a useful keepsake of this important exhibition.

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### Thomas Day All Around Greensboro!

Blandwood Museum is not the only showcase of Thomas Day's work in the Gate City! Explore these sites to learn more!

The **Historic Magnolia House** features some notable examples of Day's work. The Magnolia House serves as an events venue, restaurant, and bed and breakfast. It is one of perhaps four Green Book sites in North Carolina still in operation and housed some of our nation's most well-known African Americans during segregation. Check the website for viewing opportunities.

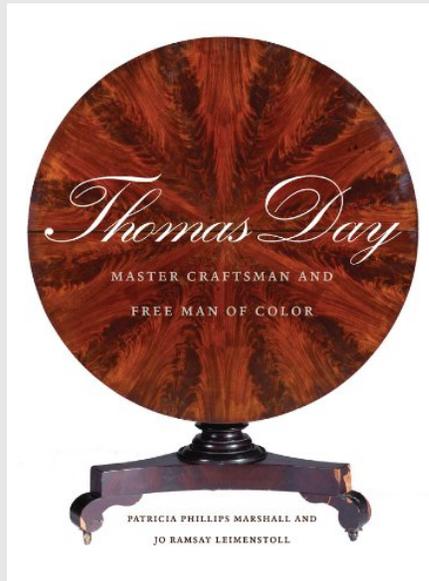
The **Greensboro History Museum** has opened **NC Democracy: Eleven Elections**, their latest exhibition opening on April 23, to highlight Thomas Day's legal rights and standing as a free man of color and features two stylistically different side chairs by the master craftsman. Visitors can also see a matching side chair displayed in the museum's Tate-Walsh bedroom.

Looking for more Thomas Day? More information can be found on display at **MESDA** in Winston-Salem and the **NC Museum of History** in Raleigh.

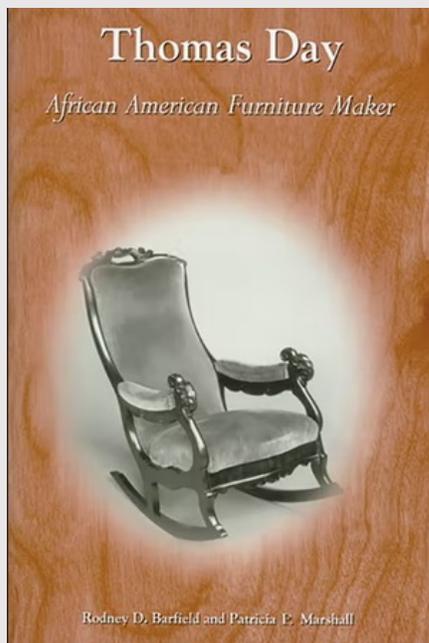
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## Thomas Day Items in Our Museum Shop

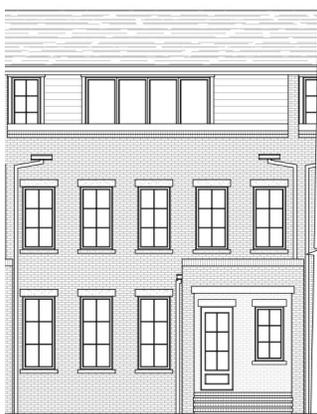
Our Blandwood Museum Shop is stocked with more information on Thomas Day! Other items for sale in our shop include books on themes of area architecture, Preservation Greensboro and Blandwood apparel, and collectible items handmade made right here in North Carolina!



**Thomas Day | Master Craftsman and Free Man of Color.** This seminal book on Thomas Day was published in 2010 by Patricia Marshall and Greensboro's own Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll. The book documents his early history, influences, and struggles as a person of color living in the highly restricted American South in the decades before the Civil War. *320 pp., 8x11, 20 color and 243 b&w illus., \$35.00 Personally signed by Leimenstoll!*



**Thomas Day | African American Furniture Maker.** This paperback publication written by Rodney D. Barfield and Patricia J. Marshall was first printed in 2005. The book was reprinted in 2010 as part of the North Carolina Museum of History's exhibit on Thomas Day's "Behind the Veneer" through the Historical Publications Section of the North Carolina Office of Archives and History. *67 pp., 7x10, b&w illus., \$10.00*



## Missing Middle Housing Looms Over Districts

Greensboro's Planning Commission recently approved the development of eight townhouses on North Greene Street in the Fisher Park Historic District. This action will likely result in the removal or demolition of two historic structures that contribute to the special character of the community.

The rezoning was approved based on the project meeting criteria for *new development*, but no consideration was given to prioritizing the retention of existing historic structures.

Planners across the state are applying the "Missing Middle Housing" planning concept to promote diverse housing options in center cities. The concept is well-applied to undeveloped land, but for historic districts, it sets a dangerous precedent for it is an approach that can be leveraged to justify destruction and redevelopment within historic districts, as has occurred in [Durham](#) and [Raleigh](#). Preservationists and neighborhood residents have grown justifiably concerned and are uniting to address this threat to historic neighborhoods, beginning with a presentation to the Greensboro Historic Preservation Commission on August 31. Historic buildings are important to our city and to ignore their value is a step in the wrong direction.

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### **Vacant Fisher Park House Purchased**

The Dutch Colonial House at 216 Florence Street has been purchased for restoration! The house was built speculatively around by Brooks Lumber Company. Plans were purchased from architect Raleigh James Hughes. Its first occupant was likely Benjamin Tatum, who acquired the newly built house in March 1916 for \$5,500. It was most recently the home of Joanne Wyrick, but it has been vacant for a number of years and used for storage. It will soon be restored and occupied by Catherine and Jed Birch.

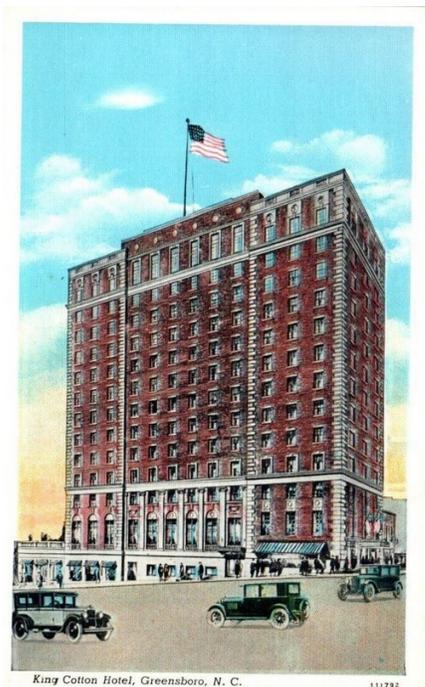
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### **Our Newest National Register Site!**

The Pilot Life Insurance Company Home Office, the grand structure that overlooks High Point Road in Sedgefield, was listed to the National Register of Historic Places in July. The National Register has been called "a roll call of the tangible reminders of the history of the United States." Preservation Greensboro considers the designation part of a broader strategy to restore and adaptively reuse the



nearly 100-year-old building. The property has been vacant since 1990, but could be restored to the highest preservation standards and adaptively reused by leveraging federal and state Historic Tax Credits. The complex was completed in 1928 to designs provided by noted Philadelphia architectural firm Zantzinger, Borie, & Medary with Greensboro architect Harry Barton as a local representative. Concurrently, the firm also designed the Department of Justice Building in Washington, DC.



King Cotton Hotel, Greensboro, N. C.

111792

### *Untold Stories by Eric Woodard* **The King Cotton Hotel**

The 13-story Renaissance Revival King Cotton Hotel was built in 1926 on the corner of South Davie and East Market streets in downtown Greensboro. During its heyday, the King Cotton Hotel with its 225 rooms, was one of only a handful of major hotels in Greensboro and it was rivaled only by the O.Henry Hotel with 325 rooms.

Eric researched and learned more about this history and its ties to East Greensboro and the neighborhoods along South Benbow Road.

[Learn More!](#)

## Preservation Events & Activities

Join us on one of our interesting programs that reveal the architecture and history of our city. Plan to join our work day in the Blandwood garden, circle the date of our *We Built This* exhibit, or shop "old house parts" at our Architectural Salvage Showroom.

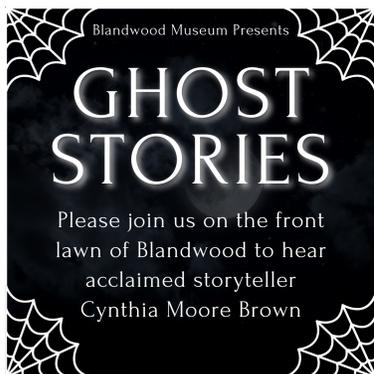
***Saturday, September 24***  
**Join Us on Garden Day**

With the arrival of Fall, our Blandwood garden



always need some special attention. Consider donating your time to gardening in Greensboro's oldest garden. Helpers of all ages and skill range at all levels are welcome, and gentle direction will be provided as needed. We could use some help, we hope you will join us!

[Add Me!](#)



*Friday October 7*  
*Friday October 14*  
**Ghost Stories at Blandwood**

A Halloween tradition of Ghost Stories continues this October at Blandwood. Our special friend and storyteller Cynthia Moore Brown will weave her 18th season of magic with spine-tingling stories, historic legends, and fanciful tales about North Carolina.

[Learn More](#)



*Friday October 21*  
*Sunday October 23*  
**Victorian Halloween at Blandwood**

The Victorians were always open for a ghostly guest or a spiritual sensation...and Blandwood is Greensboro's grandest Victorian house! You will be guided from room to room by a ghoul as you listen to literary readings of supernatural stories. Victorian authors including Edgar Allen Poe, Dora Sigerson Shorter, Bram Stoker, H. G. Wells, and an anonymous Greensboro writer of 1873 will be showcased in this celebration of literature and theatrical arts!

[Learn More](#)



**Save-the-Date October 21**

**WE BUILT THIS Exhibit @ NC A&T**

Preservation North Carolina's groundbreaking exhibit entitled **WE BUILT THIS** will come to Greensboro this fall! It will be displayed in the University Galleries located on the campus of NC A&T State University from October 21 to December 9, 2022. Admission will be free.

The exhibit was created to acknowledge and inform the public of the history and legacy of Black builders and craftspeople in North Carolina by highlighting the stories of those who constructed and designed many of our state's most treasured historic sites. Watch our website and social media for more announcements related to this exhibit.

**WE BUILT  
THIS**



## Architectural Salvage

1028-B Huffman Street in East Greensboro

Our showroom is open Fridays 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. New vintage materials are added with each salvage. Perhaps you could use some old house parts for your own old house...or maybe you have a special project that needs some vintage flair. Come take a look and explore!

**Visit Our  
Website**

**Connect With Us!**

## Sustainer Membership

Hit the Easy Button! Make charitable giving as easy as possible by becoming a

PGI Sustainer! Membership with Preservation Greensboro is easier than ever, thanks to our new monthly giving option. PGI Sustainers sign up to make monthly contributions to PGI through an automatic monthly charge to a credit card or draft from a bank account. Consider joining with this convenient membership tool. Sustainers spread their contributions throughout the year and provide PGI with a reliable source of funding. Simply click on the secure link below and enroll as a Sustainer Member to get the ball rolling.

Sustainer

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## Amazon Smile

Shop on Amazon? Did you know that if you name Preservation Greensboro as your selected charity on your [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) start page, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase to Preservation Greensboro? You can bookmark the link and support us every time you shop! Type "Preservation Greensboro Incorporated" in the search box and scroll to find us on the alphabetic list.



## Planned Giving for Preservation

Help make Preservation Greensboro and Blandwood Museum more stable organizations by considering a legacy gift. Many assume that our organization - with a 50-year timeline and an affiliation with the Morehead name - must be well-financed by a deep endowment or government support, but this is not accurate. A commitment to support preservation work in Greensboro is an investment that will remain here in the Gate City. A gift from your estate may bequeath a specific dollar amount or a percentage of value. Please contact us to make an investment in Greensboro's future through historic preservation!

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## Why Your Membership Is So Important

As a non-profit, our membership provides our most reliable revenue stream. We are constantly working to grow our membership base at all levels, and we depend on support from citizens and preservationists like you to accomplish our mission of saving our community's historic and architectural treasures. We do this by serving Greensboro as a key resource for community reinvestment strategies to leverage historic preservation. Your membership gift allows us to provide strategic planning and increased awareness of historic places.

Contributions and  
Memberships



# PRESERVATION GREENSBORO

*Saving Greensboro's Treasured Places*

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