

The Preservation Magazine of Greensboro

March 2023



NR Designations Move Forward

Two National Register designations in Guilford County moved forward in the February meeting of the NC National Register Advisory Committee in Raleigh. The Downtown Greensboro National Register Historic District boundaries were adjusted to reflect the loss of buildings, such as those along Davie Street, and to include Arts Deco and Mid-Century Modern buildings built before 1975, such as the Southern Bell Building (1929) by architects Marye Alger & Vinour of Atlanta. The initiative grew from a Preservation Greensboro request to re-examine the district boundaries in 2016. The second action was the inclusion of the Edward and S. Frances Loewenstein House to the National Register Study List. The residence is one of North Carolina's most progressive Mid-Century Modern houses.

Preservation Greensboro is actively working with the City and community partners to advance other National Register designations, including South Benbow Road.

Untold Stories by Eric Woodard **The Power of Our Natural Environment**

I moderated a panel discussion in November 2022 centered around Preservation North Carolina's "We Built This" Exhibit that was on display at the Historic Dudley Building on the



campus of North Carolina A&T State University. In the audience was landscape architect and NC A&T alumnus, Ronald Harris. Toward the end of the event, Mr. Harris shared his experiences at NCA&T with us...and part of what Harris shared were his fond memories of J.W.R. Grandy and Dr. Charles A. Fountain, two instructors in the School of Agriculture.

[Learn More](#)

Museum's New Docent Manual

As Blandwood Museum Manager Samantha Smith finalized last year's Thomas Day Exhibit nearly a year ago, the focus of her work turned to updating the museum's docent manual. "Our docent manual deserved a complete rethink," says Smith, "because as our collections expanded and a recent study revealed more story-lines associated with free people of color, enslaved workers, women, and other underrepresented groups, we realized we had so much more content and opportunity that needed to be incorporated into our docent-led tours."

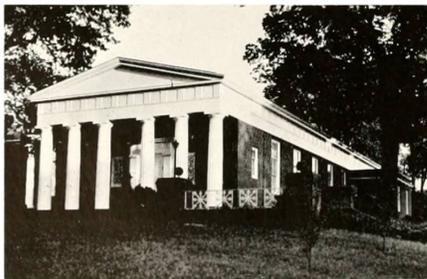
Docents begin working with the new manual in March, but the resource will be a living document, accessed by a tablet, that will continue to be expanded by collaborative research from outside institutions, scholars, students, and PGI staff. "The new manual will be a working resource for our docents," says Benjamin Briggs, Executive Director of Preservation Greensboro. "This resource will provide a more consistent and accurate tour for visitors that reflects the true history of this historic place." The manual is a publicly-accessible digital guide that will serve as a reference for docents and visitors to catalog themes of social history, the decorative arts, and architecture. Smith adds, "We are dedicated to reassessing our historic interpretation to reflect a more accurate representation of the people who lived and worked at Blandwood and the massive impact they had on North Carolina history."

Documenting Blandwood

The Historic Structure Report is underway! As a first step, Peter Aaslestad of Staunton, VA has completed photogrammetry of Blandwood



that will be used to create measured drawings of exterior and interior elevations. How does he do it? Using a camera, Peter takes multiple photographic images of every surface, which is later downloaded and processed into a three-dimensional format. This format will be used to document the museum structure for architectural analysis and planning. Peter has been involved with many notable projects, including homes to U.S. Presidents - Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Lincoln; State Capitol Buildings in Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, New Jersey, Michigan, and Kentucky, the Georgia O'Keeffe House - Abiquiú, New Mexico, the United States Supreme Court - Washington, DC, the Alamo - San Antonio, Texas, and now...Blandwood!



The Architectural Legacy of Greensboro College

Chartered in 1838, Greensboro College is credited as the first college to open its doors within the city of Greensboro and the oldest college for women in North Carolina.

The nascent institution was somewhat unusual for its commitment to educate women and was part of a flurry of institutions dedicated to women's higher education that were established in the 1830s and 1840s. The cornerstone of the first Main Building was laid in August 1843, and in 1846 the institution opened its doors to students.

The college holds early roots as the Methodist-chartered Greensborough Female Academy that was established in 1830 by Reverend Peter Doub.

[Read More](#)

Grimsley-Fry House a City Landmark

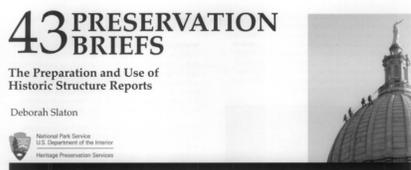
Constructed in 1907, this house is named for previous owners Cynthia and George Grimsley and Fanny and Fielding Fry. Located



at 408 Fisher Park Circle, it was designed by French-born architect Richard Gambier in a blend of Neoclassical and Colonial Revival architecture. The stonework is attributed to stonemason Andrew Leopold Schlosser.

George Adonijah Grimsley (1862-1935), a native of Greene County, is remembered for his service as superintendent of public schools in Greensboro and his advocacy of public libraries. In 1890 he secured a position with public schools in Greensboro and married Cynthia Tull (1858-1947). In 1902 he began a new career in the insurance industry and in 1907 he helped organize Jefferson Standard Life Insurance. He served in the capacity of president from 1913 to 1919. The house was purchased by Fanny and Fielding Fry in 1937. Fry was the 30th mayor of Greensboro and founder of Guilford National Bank – later North Carolina National Bank. Take a peek at the architecture of this National Register and Locally Designated Landmark by following the link.

Grimsley-Fry House



Did You Know?

Those among us who have a special historic place in our lives know that you can't always rely on modern solutions to address maintenance and rehabilitation questions. Where does one turn to learn information on preserving, rehabilitating, and restoring historic buildings?

For nearly 50 years, the US National Park Service has published "Preservation Briefs" for best practices in preservation. These publications help historic building owners recognize and resolve common problems prior to work. The briefs are especially useful to Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program applicants because they recommend methods and approaches for rehabilitating historic buildings that are consistent with their historic character. This treasure trove of information addresses issues ranging from the care of historic wood windows to the maintenance of

handmade brick walls. Bookmark the website below to make smart preservation decisions!

Preservation
Briefs

Preservation Events & Activities

Join us on one of our interesting programs that reveal the architecture and history of our city. Enjoy a tour of Blandwood Museum, explore our **Blog**, or shop **old house parts** at our Architectural Salvage Showroom.



September 2-11 **The Architecture of England**

A few seats remain to see monumental museums, captivating cathedrals, and magnificent manors of England!

Our tour partner, Studio Traveler, has a few positions open for the tour of England planned for September 2nd through 11th, 2023. Join us as we seek out intriguing examples of English architecture from London to Oxford and the Cotswolds. Follow the link below to learn more.

Explore
England!



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



Save-The-Date May 21-22 **Tour of Historic Homes & Gardens**

Westerwood will be the focus of Preservation Greensboro's Thirteenth Annual Tour of Historic Homes & Gardens! The event will be held in May during National Historic Preservation Month.

"This is a neighborhood that blends history with rejuvenation. The neighborhood is defined by Black history, Lake Daniel Park, a wonderful array of kit homes, and the new Westwoods Park on the Downtown Greenway featuring sculpture by artist Thomas Sayre," says Benjamin Briggs, executive director of Preservation Greensboro. "This community is home to professionals, professors, and creative entrepreneurs who enjoy the convenience of its location as well as its cozy Craftsman bungalows and tree-lined streets."

The tour is planned to be a classic pre-pandemic in-person tour, held on the weekend of May 20-21, 2023. The tour will highlight the architecture and charms of this central neighborhood. Watch this website and our social media outlets for more updates on our exciting Tour of Historic Homes & Gardens in Westerwood!

[Visit our website](#)

[We need volunteers! Click here to volunteer!](#)



Save-The-Date April 20 **Musical Performance in Blandwood**

A unique musical performance at Blandwood Museum will feature sculpture by Stephen Skorski (www.sskorski.com) and musical compositions by Steven Landis (www.slandismusic.com). The site-specific sculpture and composition is inspired by a modern interpretation of the many juxtapositions experienced as historical and

contemporary conversations within the 225-year-old house. More information will be provided in April Landmarks*Online*.

Connect With Us!



Volunteer Your Time

Consider making a donation of time to Preservation Greensboro! Are you a great gardener? A savvy salvager? An endearing docent? If so, we need you!

Preservation Greensboro has many volunteer opportunities in a variety of roles and skill levels. Please look through our volunteer survey and check the volunteer role that makes the preservationist in your soul -- sing!

A NEW volunteer position is needed! Click the link below.

[Take Our Volunteer Survey](#)

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](#)

Garden Volunteers Tend To History

447 West Washington Street in Downtown

Do you want a little fresh air with your volunteer work? Come help us tend the historic gardens at Blandwood! Helpers of all



ages and skill range at all levels are welcome, and gentle direction will be provided as needed. Gardeners meet once weekly in the morning, but work times may vary depending on the weather. Click below to add your name to the email notification list of garden volunteers!

[Add Me!](#)



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!

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](#)

Gold
Transparency
2022

Candid.

We Take Your Trust Seriously

Preservation Greensboro Incorporated is committed to transparency through the *Candid* information service. *Candid* is committed to increasing transparency of nonprofit organizations by providing access to data with a goal of providing insights and analysis as well.

See Our
Profile



PRESERVATION
GREENSBORO

Saving Greensboro's Treasured Places

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