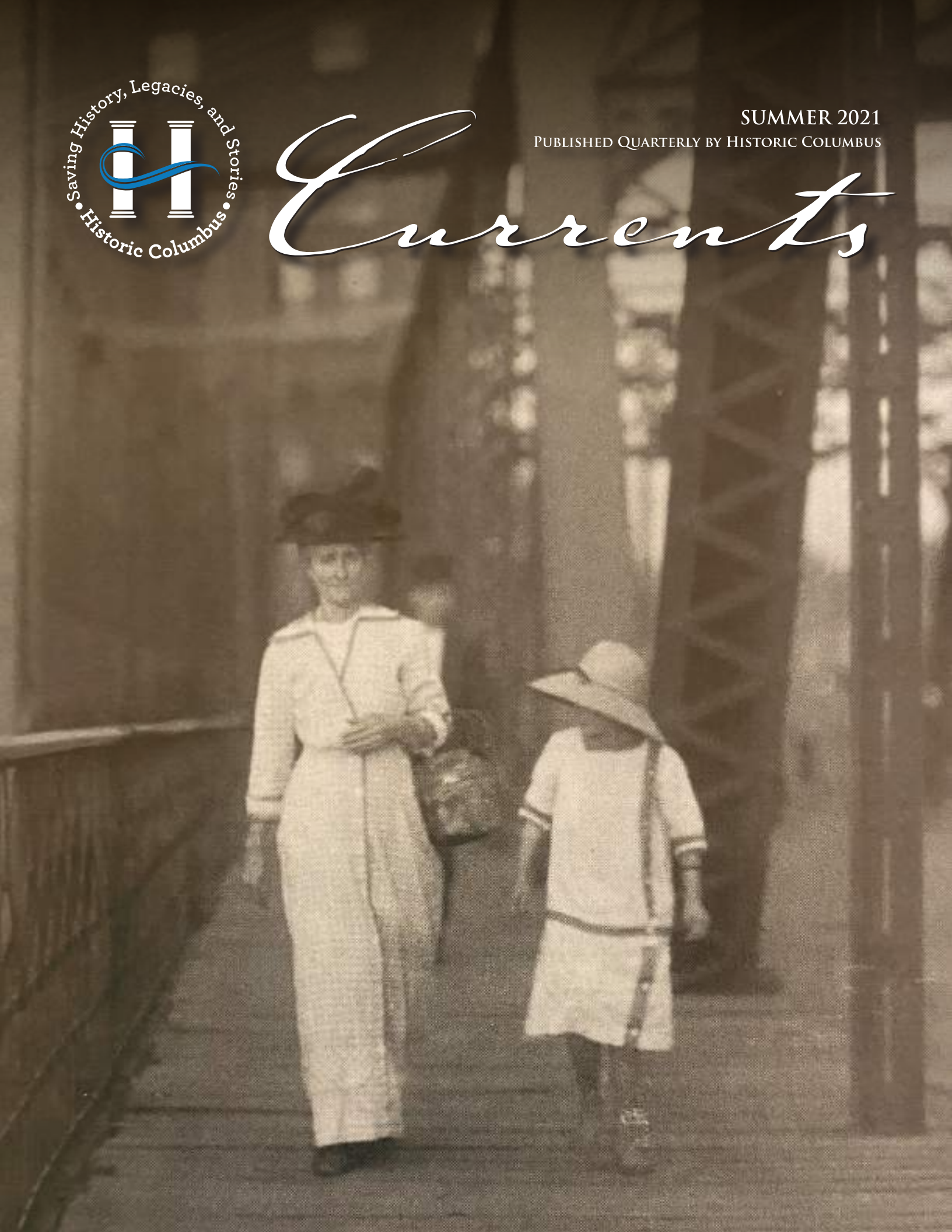




SUMMER 2021
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY HISTORIC COLUMBUS

Currents



DEAR HCF MEMBERS,

I hope you and your families are staying safe and well!

First and foremost, we need you to know – Historic Columbus remains on sound financial footing to brace the continued challenges 2021 and 2022 may bring. Our fiscal year will end on September 30, 2021, and Historic Columbus is projected to end with income over expenses. This is only because of your support and confidence in this organization.

As you may have suspected, one of my focus points over the past year has been improving communication and education. I have surrounded myself in the office with every history book I can get my hands on to produce informative and entertaining posts and emails. We have celebrated Wynnton, Northern Liberties, the Fire Department, the hospitals, Black History Month, Women's History Month, local industries, Preservation Month, and most recently, the history of Phenix City and Russell County in June. I

also want to thank those of you who have commented on the different Spotlight emails. Your words of encouragement are greatly appreciated!

Social Media, along with the weekly Thursday History Spotlights, has continued to be Historic Columbus' primary approach to promoting local history education for adults. We consistently reach 30,000 Facebook and 2,400 Instagram accounts each month. We have also gained over 70 new members since our fiscal year began.

Preservation isn't slowing down either. We are about to close on 1415 3rd Avenue in High Uptown to a wonderful couple with Columbus ties. They will be returning this long-time vacant property into a residential showplace once again. More families and individuals are returning to High Uptown and calling it home. There is also incredible progress on the Highside Market on 13th Street and Second Avenue/Third Avenue – soon, these new residents will have restaurants and shops within two blocks.



A huge thank you to Clason Kyle for his recent donation of over 100 books to Historic Columbus! This incredible contribution will expand our research library and provide new resources. Thank you, Clason!

You will also see in this issue the progress in Bradley Circle and a great announcement for the Mill District! I also hope to have some news in the next issue for you with regards to Heritage Park. As most of you know, the park was originally a project of Historic Columbus and was deeded over to the city in 2000. It has been “dry” for several years and is in need of a new pump system. We are continuing to work with the City of Columbus to find a solution that is beneficial to the original donors, the Columbus Historic District, and the community.

Through your “likes” on our social media, reading our weekly emails, your generous contributions, and renewing your memberships, YOU have made it possible for Historic Columbus to not only be standing but flourishing. If you have any questions, thoughts, or concerns, please email or call anytime (706-322-0756 or elizabeth@historiccolumbus.com). Thank you all again for everything you do to make our community a better place.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Walden
Executive Director



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ON THE COVER...

HELPER CROSSING THE BRIDGE



Willie McPherson, a 10-year-old helper, carried dinners and helped her mother in the Muscogee Mill. Willie and her mother were featured in the Photography Collection of the Library of Congress and Phenix City by John Lyles. This image was also featured on Historic Columbus' Facebook Page during the month of June to celebrate the history of Phenix City and Russell County.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Historic Columbus Staff

EDITOR: Elizabeth B. Walden • **LAYOUT:** Betsy Bishop

Currents is a quarterly publication of the Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 5312, Columbus, Georgia 31906 • www.historiccolumbus.com • 706.322.0756

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NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION: BRADLEY CIRCLE

As Historic Columbus' involvement with the renovation of City Mills begins to taper off as owners Ken Henson and the Pezold Companies finish out the project, the organization continues to set its focus on finding ways to positively impact the surrounding neighborhoods. A few months ago, we

invested in our third property near the Bradley Circle area at 2901 First Avenue.

This historic duplex, c.1922, was built as housing to support workers who were employed by the neighboring grist mill and textile mill industries. 2901 First Avenue lies right at the entry point to Bradley Circle. We felt it was a strategic purchase given its condition and ability to set the tone for further work and investment in the area.



HCF did receive a grant to assist in the stabilization of the property, which has to date included a thorough clean out of the interior and exterior, a new roof, removal of a front porch enclosure, reestablishing the two front porches and two rear porches, as well as prepping the exterior for paint. Remaining work to be done at the property will include a full repainting and a refresh of the landscaping. Once this work is complete, the property will be listed for sale in hopes of finding a new owner who will be sympathetic to the long-term preservation of the house.

Historic Columbus' investments in and around Bradley Circle and 1st Avenue have helped to stabilize numerous other private rehabilitation investments in the area. At least eight non-Historic Columbus owned properties have either been



renovated or are in a current state of renovation since our initial investment in Bradley Circle.

Historic Columbus is excited to complete this stabilization effort and continue the momentum of putting funds from the Janice P. Biggers Revolving Redevelopment Fund to work.

2901 First Avenue

2021 PATRICIA JACKSON HOWARD SCHOLARSHIP



We are thrilled to announce the 28th recipient of the Patricia Jackson Howard Scholarship - Raga Yarlagadda!

Raga recently graduated from Columbus High and will be attending UGA in the fall. Historic Columbus' Scholarship Committee awarded Raga with \$4,000 to help with her college expenses. The Howard Scholarship, in memory of HCF's second Executive Director, Patti Howard, is awarded to a graduating senior based on merit and need. Over \$40,000 has been awarded in Patti's name.

Congratulations, Raga and we know you are going to do well at Georgia!

Exiting News for The Mill District



The Mill District is thrilled to announce they have hired a full-time CEO, beginning July 5th. Mrs. Lauren Chambers of Columbus will help to lead the organization down a path of success. Lauren was previously employed by Amerigroup where she was a Marketing Account Manager of the Central Region

of Georgia. Her work was highly community-involvement driven and places her perfectly for this next work developing a strategy and plan for making positive change within The Mill District neighborhoods.

To date, Historic Columbus has staffed The Mill District project and will continue to host The Mill District office until Lauren gets her feet under her. Lauren is a graduate of Pacelli Catholic High School, Alabama State University, and Troy University. Her community involvement outside of work includes Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, The Bridge Church, Greater Columbus, Georgia Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals, Alabama State University Alumni Association, and the Springer Opera House.

Congratulations, Lauren!

NEW AND RENEWAL MEMBERSHIPS

February 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021

In order to conserve publication costs, we are only printing new and renewal memberships made between February 1, 2021 and May 31, 2021.

If you see an error or omission, please contact the office (706) 322-0756.

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February 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021

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**EDWARD WARNER NEAL (1927 - 2021)
1987 SARAH TURNER BUTLER AWARD RECIPIENT**



Ed was born at his grandmother's beloved home place, the historic Wells-Bagley House in the Columbus Historic District. He was the son of the late Warner Gillespie Neal and Marion Bagley Neal. His education began at Wynnton Elementary School and Columbus High School before graduating from Auburn

University in 1950 with a Bachelor of Architecture. In 1953, Edward married Mary Ann Flowers and together they raised a wonderful family.

Ed combined his love for "old things" with his knowledge of architecture to design many homes and structures in Columbus and across the South. He was also the architect for the Columbus Government Center.

As part of the "Stay and See Georgia" program in 1963, Ed, along with Clason Kyle, Mary Margaret Byrne,

Janice P. Biggers, and William C. Buck gave a four-and-a-half hour, multi-bus tour of the significant sites in the city and county. The next year, Columbus hosted the first statewide preservation conference. Ed chaired the event with support from the West Georgia chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

His passion for architecture and antiques led to many of his community endeavors. Every project Ed took on he did with the intent to foster preservation. He was a founding member of Historic Columbus and instrumental in the development of Westville. His architectural expertise is apparent in several important historic properties including The Springer Opera House, The Rankin House, The Walker-Peters-Langdon House, Pemberton House, Goetchius House, and 700 Broadway. He also served as chairman for the Board of Historic and Architectural Review, as well as two terms as president of The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

Ed Neal is one of the reasons historic preservation exists here in Columbus. He will be deeply missed.

IN MEMORIAM

FEBRUARY 1, 2021 – MAY 31, 2021

Sharon Kay Jenkins
January 7, 2021

Michael H. Edmondson
February 10, 2021

Nancy Wetherbee Callaway
April 13, 2021

Edward Warner Neal
April 17, 2021

Carter Berry
May 7, 2021

Historic Columbus extends its deepest sympathies to the families of our members. If a member was not included, please contact the Historic Columbus office (706)322-0756 and the correction will be made in the following newsletter.



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2021 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GRANT

Applications available now!

APPLICATIONS DUE:
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021
WWW.HISTORICCOLUMBUS.COM



The third round of Historic Columbus' Public Participation Grant is happening this year! A total of \$250,000 was awarded to four historic properties with the Springer Opera House (2017) and Zion Church (2019) receiving \$100,000 each for desperately needed restoration work through this incredible program.

If you know of a non-profit with an historic structure in need of renovation, please encourage them to apply! There will also be

a public component to the grant in October where you can vote on your favorite project - and the project with the most votes will be awarded \$100,000!

The guidelines and application are available on our website. The deadline for applying is Friday, September 17th. Call Elizabeth Walden or Justin Krieg if you have any questions about the grant process or application - 706-322-0756.