

CURRENTS

QUARTERLY NEWSMAGAZINE OF HISTORIC COLUMBUS / SPRING 2023



DEAR HCF MEMBERS,

Hello everyone! I hope you all have had a good start to 2023! Your staff and board have been hard at work, and I would like to share with you the latest on several great projects and programs that are only possible because of your support.

Janice P. Biggers Revolving - Redevelopment Fund Update

2807 Bradley Circle, also known as "The Shotgun Shuffle," went under contract in less than one week on the market. The one bedroom/one bathroom house was the result of moving a threatened shotgun on 35th Street, activating a vacant lot, and helping show how saving a house can be a catalyst for economic development. Proceeds from the sale will go back into the Biggers Fund to be used for





future projects.

Historic Columbus is extremely thankful to Mary Bradley for her donation of the vacant lot, architect Jack Jenkins for his vision to design appropriate infill for Bradley Circle, contractor Tim Gregory for making it happen, and Claire Berry for helping us to find a new owner and donating her services!



Historic Columbus' other property located within Bradley Circle, 2937 Bradley Circle (originally donated to HCF several years ago by Mike and Elizabeth Ogie), is receiving a needed bathroom repair and refresh. It will also soon hit the market for sale in the next couple of weeks. This home, unlike the shuffle house, is move-in ready. The property is a great primary residence or investment property as a two bedroom/two-bathroom house that overlooks the river. Proceeds from the sale of this home will also be returned to the Biggers Fund for future projects.

Heritage Education Update

A little over ten years ago, Historic Columbus began the transition of returning three house museums (700 Broadway, the Pemberton House, and the Woodruff Farmhouse) to become single family homes once again. The Pemberton House became the home of local historian Dr. John Lupold and, as a result, we needed to find a new location to continue to tell the story of Dr. Pemberton and Coca-Cola.

Since 2012, the Dr. John S. Pemberton and Coca-Cola Exhibit was a part of the Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau Welcome Center on 9th Street and Front Avenue. When the CCVB relocated to the 11th Street YMCA, the exhibit needed to find a new home. We looked at a few options, but when the W.C. Bradley Co. offered a space on the first floor of the newly renovated 11th Street YMCA – it felt like the right fit. We are excited for this new opportunity to share this important Columbus story with our community and visitors alike. We hope you will stop by!



2937 Bradley Circle



Dr. John S. Pemberton and Coca-Cola Exhibit

Historic Columbus has also officially opened a new exhibit at RiverCenter! Celebrate Columbus takes you through the history of our community's cultural arts past highlighting early music and travelling artists, theaters, and cultural arts icons like Blind Tom, Nunnally Johnson, Ma Rainey, Alma Thomas, and Carson McCullers. It is located on the Mezzanine Level of the Lobby and will be



2022 Howard Scholarship Recipient Eli Hardegree

up until July. We are extremely grateful to have been given this opportunity to once again partner with RiverCenter and to have this exhibit be funded through a grant from the Cultural Arts Alliance. I hope you will check it out!

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Patricia Jackson Howard Scholarship. The scholarship was created to honor the memory of HCF's second executive director, Patricia Jackson Howard. Mrs. Howard promoted the mission of Historic Columbus for many years as a volunteer and employee of the organization. It was her wish that the scholarship be awarded based on merit and need. All graduating seniors from Muscogee County public schools are eligible to apply. Applications for the \$5,000 scholarship are available on our website.

Financial Update and Research Assistant

Financially, Historic Columbus continues to remain on sound footing. Our Membership's Donor Retention Rate is 82% (compared to 45% for non-profits nationwide) and Revenue Retention Rate is 92%; the 2022 Annual Fund exceeded budget by 13% and raised almost \$53,000; and A Night In London was also a great success with a little more than \$52,000 (17% over budget) raised for preservation projects and education programs. We have also recently completed the audit process for FY 2021 – 2022 thanks to Treasurer Cal Evans and Finance Committee member Jay Pease.

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Maintenance Supervisor Walker Watkins I would also like to report that Historic Columbus has a new addition – Hallie Tanner! She is a History Major at CSU and has been a long-time volunteer at our summer Box City camps. She is also the younger sister of Carson, who worked with us for several years while she was in college as well. I am very grateful to have Hallie's help – her main focuses will be to help me complete the Carver Heights National Register Nomination and assist in research for the new Clifford and Bobsie Swift History Trail at the Chattahoochee Promenade.

Historic preservation only flourishes because of your passion for the history of this town, its stories, and its people. If you have any questions or concerns, never hesitate to contact the HCF Office – 706-322-0756 or hcfinc@historiccolumbus.com.

Thank you for all you do for preservation in Columbus!

Sincerely,

11-12

Elizabeth B. Walden Executive Director

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Heritage Park and the Chattahoochee Promenade Revitalization Project



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

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HISTORIC COLUMBUS'

56TH ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS AND SARAH TURNER BUTLER HERITAGE AWARD

On Thursday, October 20th, Historic Columbus celebrated the 56th Annual Preservation Awards at the National Infantry Museum's World War II Company Street. It was a great evening to celebrate the preservation work of the NIM at the World War II Company Street, the significant private investment by our 2022 Preservation Award recipients, and the incredible contributions of this year's Sarah Turner Butler Heritage Award Recipient - Mary B. Bradley.



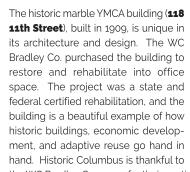
Stephanie and Bruce McPherson are no strangers to historic properties, as they live in a home Historic Columbus moved to its present location in the 1993 Parade of Homes. Just a couple houses down at **636 Second Avenue**, the McPhersons purchased another home as an investment and Stephanie performed an extensive renovation, taking on much of the physical labor herself. Updated top to bottom, inside and out, this house demonstrates

how historic properties can remain relevant and income producing.

518 First Avenue recently underwent extensive restoration to include a new kitchen, laundry room, and interior finishing. The exterior also received some much-needed repair and repainting. Owner, Melissa Redding, performed much of the work herself and now uses the home as her primary residence. She has done an outstanding job making this property once again a gift to the street.



520 First Avenue is the second home Lucia and Jeff Reed have taken on to fully renovate in the Columbus Historic District. Built in 1885, the home is a great example of a Victorian cottage with a beautiful front porch and unique gingerbread trim work giving it some great detailing. Historic Columbus commends the Reeds, along with Etemadi Construction, on their hard work on this home and for making the

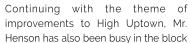




the WC Bradley Company for their continued commitment to the preservation of some of our community's most significant structures.



Ken Henson performed an extensive renovation of the John P. Illges house at 1419 3rd Avenue to include five residential apartments, along with a few small office areas. The renovation was a certified state and federal historic renovation that included a new replacement slate roof, significant front porch stabilization, window repair, and major system replacements.





Beyond the High Uptown district, Ken Henson's preservation efforts have continued throughout Uptown as well. Most notably, he has successfully nominated two buildings to the National Register of Historic Places and completed certified rehabilitations on each. 1147 6th Avenue was originally the primary Columbus Coca Cola bottling plant, it now serves as the corporate headquarters for Salt Life. 1238 2nd Avenue is a mid-century two-story office



building that now has residential apartments throughout the building.

To many, the building at the corner of 13th

Street and 2nd Avenue (201 13th Street) is

remembered as Regions Bank, a relatively

nondescript two-story structure. Owner

Chris Woodruff and The Cotton Companies

had a vision for the property well beyond its

footprint to include the entire southern end

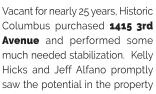
of the block that is still under development.

But this building was the first of three to be

completed and has resulted in a beautiful

adaptive reuse of the structure and a prime

location for new commercial investment.





district a great place to live.



and sought out Historic Columbus in hopes of purchasing and renovating the property as their primary residence after a relocation from New York state. Kelly and Jeff directed a wholesale renovation of the home and are now permanent residents of the High Uptown Historic District.



Peeling back the layers of a building facade is both exciting and terrifying not knowing what you will uncover. Thankfully, much of the original facade of the building at **1110 Broadway** was still intact and just needed to be uncovered. Now, a vibrant restaurant addition to Uptown, this building will continue to provide a

place for years to come adding character to the streetscape. Although Ernie Smallman is no stranger to historic rehabilitation, no project is ever the same. Historic Columbus is grateful for his ongoing efforts to rehabilitate historic buildings in our community.

Martha Paull purchased the home at **2818 1st Avenue** and immediately jumped into action. The house was constructed in the early-1900's and served as housing for the mills located in the immediate area. Martha extensively renovated the property inside and out, with impeccable attention to detail. Historic Columbus is grateful for



owners like Martha who understand the importance of preserving historic buildings and take on the hard work of historic renovation. She has truly helped to move the neighborhood in a positive direction.



The **3200 Block of 2nd Avenue** had been long written off as a place with no development potential. Phil and Stuart Webb of Webb Construction saw the high traffic location as an opportunity to become more visible in the Columbus market and set off on a major

transformation of the brick building located on the south end of the block. The location serves as the corporate headquarters of Webb Construction. Historic Columbus applauds the Webb brothers for their vision and investment in the future of this important corridor for Columbus.

The Columbus Museum recently featured two exhibits highlighting the life and artwork of Columbus-born artist Alma Thomas. An internationally recognized African American contemporary artist, she has works in the White House, the Smithsonian, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The



Columbus Museum, among others. Ms. Thomas and her family spent much of her early life in Columbus and the exhibit highlighted many family artifacts, stories, and family members.

2022 Sarah Turner Butler Heritage Award

The Sarah Turner Butler Heritage Award is the Historic Columbus Foundation's highest honor, awarded annually since 1984 to an individual or organization for outstanding contributions to historic preservation in our city and region through demonstrated leadership and commitment to the mission of Historic Columbus.

Mary Bradley has been involved with Historic Columbus for more than 35 years. She has made outstanding contributions within our community to protect and preserve some of our most treasured places in Columbus.



Front Row: Mary Bradley, Sally Bradley, and Bo Bradley. Back Row: Fray McCormick, Margaret McCormick, and Mary McCormick.

Whether behind the scenes or actively working hands-on for a project, her spirit of service is not only strong, but also ingrained from a long family tradition of giving back to our city.

She began her involvement under the leadership of founding HCF Executive Director, Janice Biggers. Together, they helped to shape and form Historic Columbus into one of the top preservation organizations in the country at the time. She would serve as president from 1987 – 1989 helping Historic Columbus effectively expand and establish our heritage tourism and heritage education programs through the development of what would be the cornerstone of Historic Columbus' tourism efforts, Heritage Corner.

Heritage Corner was comprised of a six-structure grouping of historic house museum buildings that helped tell the story of Columbus' early history, as well as the story of one of our most famous residents, Dr. John S. Pemberton, the inventor of Coca-Cola. In 1989, the ribbon was cut at Heritage Corner with Board Chairman Ed Sprouse, Mayor Jim Jernigan, Board Member Jimmy Yancey, and HCF President Mary Bradley.

Heritage Corner would help to educate thousands of adults and children about how our beloved city came to be. And thankfully, her involvement with Historic Columbus did not end there. Her service on Historic Columbus' 40th Anniversary Committee proved essential to pulling off the organization's largest fundraising event at the time raising a significant amount of donations in 2006 that would help Historic Columbus weather the storm of the recession looming on the horizon just two years later.

Today, Mary still serves the organization as a Director Emeritus and fortunately for us, her hands on approach to preservation has not stopped. In



Nell Scrantom, Bobsie Swift, Sally Bradley, and Mary Bradley

2020, she invested in a vacant and abandoned property at 2807 Bradley Circle located in the heart of The Mill District community. She cleaned up the property and set the stage for HCF to move a shotgun house onto the lot to help rebuild a lost portion of the streetscape. In fact, earlier this month she donated the property to Historic Columbus' Revolving

Fund allowing the organization to complete the rehabilitation of the house with an end goal to sell it to a long-term sympathetic buyer.

Thankfully for Columbus, her love has not been singularly focused. Our recipient has been involved in several organizations that have benefited our community in a variety of ways, including her beloved First Presbyterian Church and the Springer Opera House.

This year's Sarah Turner Butler Award winner is a person who exhibits great passion for preservation, for her family, and for her community. We are also extremely grateful she has shared her love of preservation with her daughter, Margaret, who will begin her term as president next year. Mary is an inspiration to us all and undoubtedly, this organization would not be nearly as strong today without her commitment and dedication. Thank you, Mary!

HISTORIC COLUMBUS PRESENTS

A Night in London

Historic Columbus held its major fundraiser, A Night in London, on Friday, February 3rd at the Country Club of Columbus. It was an incredible success thanks to our volunteer committee, corporate sponsors, patrons, and all who attended. Thank you for your support of this fun evening!





Winner of the Bruno Zupan painting was Jack Jenkins! Bruno and Jane Zupan graciously donated the beautiful piece in memory of their friends and HCF supporters Dexter and Pat Jordan. Historic Columbus is extremely grateful for their support and love for preservation in our community!

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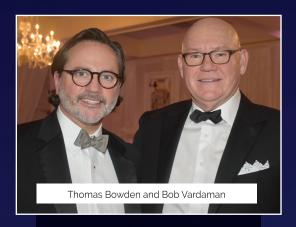
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August 16, 2022 - February 28, 2023

To conserve publication costs, we are only printing new and renewal memberships made between August 16, 2022 and February 28, 2023. If you see an error or omission, please contact the office (706) 322-0756.

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J. Barnett Woodruff CLAT

IN MEMORIAM

(August 16, 2022 - February 28, 2023)

David Walker Barfield August 18, 2022

Gary Mason Stickles August 21, 2022

Emma Jo Jones Ploeger August 26, 2022

George Emmett "Tripp" Wade III

August 31, 2022

Robert Samuel Anderson October 9, 2022

Michael Neil Herndon December 22, 2022

Alfred Lawrence Barker
January 1, 2023

Molly Morgan Scarbrough January 16, 2023

> Judith G. Adams January 18, 2023

James Taylor Coppage

January 19, 2023

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

HERITAGE PARK AND CHATTAHOOCHEE PROMENADE REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Since early 2021, Historic Columbus has been working to develop a plan for the revitalization of Heritage Park and the Chattahoochee Promenade within the original city historic district. The overall concept of the project is to revitalize the Chattahoochee Promenade and expand the history of our city told by moving the industrial history elements from Heritage Park to the Promenade and creating the new Clifford and Bobsie Swift History Trail, return the Heritage Park property to residential use, and save five endangered historic structures (including three houses from Lumpkin, Georgia; one from Juniper, Georgia, and the historic house currently located on the Promenade).

Once moved, Historic Columbus' commitment for the five houses would then be to stabilize them with new foundations, new roofs, and restored exteriors. The houses will then be transferred to the W.C. Bradley Co. to complete the renovations and sell them as single-family homes in a profit – sharing arrangement with Historic Columbus. The anticipated completion of the houses will likely be late 2023 or early 2024.

We wanted to share with you a little history of the three houses that are currently located in Lumpkin, Georgia on the original Historic Westville that will be moved to the Heritage Park site. We will highlight the histories of the remaining two houses – the Lummus House and the Promenade House in the next issue.







THE BRYAN HOUSE

Loverd Bryan was born in 1804 in North Carolina but moved at the age of one to Georgia. In 1826, he married Elizabeth Wyche and they had seven children. In 1830, he moved to Stewart County, Georgia which he called an "uninhabited wilderness with very few settlers and fewer neighbors." That year, Loverd and Elizabeth built a Federal style home and sealed a coin in the wall. The exterior is weatherboard planks, and the interior has random width tongue and groove wide pine hand planed boards. The two main rooms downstairs have wainscoting. The two-story home has a relatively modest front porch with a larger porch located on the rear of the home.

Bryan moved the home in 1850 to a plantation where he earned his living as a cotton planter and cotton gin operator. According to the US Population Census, he was 46 and owned \$20,000 in real estate. Later in life, he was the County School Commissioner, Justice in Superior Court, and served two terms as a State Senator. Bryan was a founder and Director in the Lumpkin Independent Academy, formerly the Stewart Academy.

THE MOYE HOUSE

This Classical Revival home was built as a weekend retreat for the Moye family. The Moye summer home was built in 1840 by Allen Moye, one of West Georgia's early settlers. The house was built in an H shape, which featured an open hallway going straight down the middle. This style allowed each room

to have access to air from both sides of each room, very important in the hot Georgia summer. Originally, the home had six rooms, all the same size. The rooms included two front parlors, two bedrooms in the middle, and the kitchen and dining rooms were in the back. The last two rooms were built away from the house due to a fear of catching fire. In order to emphasize the classical romantic style architecture, the Moyes plastered the walls, ceilings, and even the porch roof. The chimneys were plastered and carved to look like stone. The building was painted white. Inside the home they used faux (imitation) painted wood grain.

THE RAWSON HOUSE

Edward Rawson and his brother William came to Lumpkin from Connecticut in the early 1840s. They were merchants and started a clothing store and a general store. The Rawson home was built in 1845 and painted in bright colors. All the ceilings, except for the hallway, were bright blue. The hallway ceiling was bright green. The walls were painted cream with mulberry woodwork wainscoting.

Julia Collier Harris, Edward's granddaughter and daughter of Atlanta Mayor Charles Augustus Collier, recorded their story in her publication "Rawson Memoirs." She said the Rawson house was a white clapboard home with green shutters on large grounds. Julia's husband, Julian Harris, was the Pulitzer Prizewinning editor of the Columbus Ledger. His father was Joel Chandler Harris.



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