

Restore or Rehabilitate?

Here are ten things to keep in mind to determine which approach will work best for you:

1. **Identify the factors that will shape your decision.** Deciding whether to restore or rehabilitate your house, involves understanding its history, architecture, and present condition of its materials, finishes, and systems. More broadly, local historic district designations, local building codes, property insurance and other regulatory or financial considerations will impact the path you take.
2. **Review the house's history.** Who lived in the house and when? Did important events occur there? Did either (or both) scenarios have historical significance? If so, you could consider restoring the house to that period to help interpret its history.
3. **Know what "restore" means.** To restore a house means to return its interior and exterior appearance to a particular date or time period. Strict restorations—ones that eliminate everything not present during the period chosen—are rare, with most owners opting to maintain modern systems (plumbing, anyone?) and sympathetically designed changes, such as later additions, that add to the house's history.

continued inside



Discovery at 1301 Madison Street!



Everybody loves a new discovery, especially when it comes to finding an unexpected "diamond in the rough" while working on an old house. We all know, some of us too well, that not all surprises in these old homes are good ones. More often than not, they involve discovering things that need to be fixed: like bad wiring or plumbing, rotten subfloors or beams, or the dreaded termites and the only thing that runs through our brains is ka-ching, ka-ching!" Mark Seamster, owner of 1301 Madison, has reason to be excited about his recent discovery. In the basement of the oldest section of the house (c. 1820) built by chair maker Chesley Hardy, he uncovered an old hearth-style cooking fireplace. It, of course, had been bricked up and plastered over many years ago. Accordingly to Len Beasley who restored the house in the early to mid-1980s, there was no indication to him that the fireplace was there. Len did extensive work in the basement area. He dug out the dirt floor of the basement to lower the floor so that the ceiling "height" was increased to make the space functional, creating a more standard room height. In as much as this resulted in exposing the dirt below the original stone foundation, Len had to build a concrete reinforced wall around the inside perimeter of the room to ensure the dirt and stone foundation was stabilized (visible in the lower photo).

Diamond Hill on Facebook

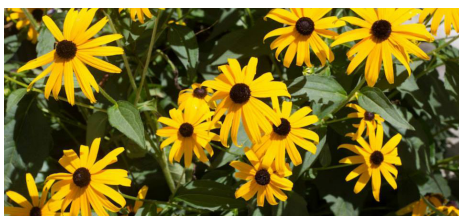
The Diamond Hill Historic District has a facebook page dedicated to things going on both in the District and around town. We invite you to "Like" the page, www.facebook.com/pages/Diamond-Hill-Historic-District/114701518570039 (or search for "Diamond Hill Historic District").





September Social

Mark your calendars for 5 p.m. on September 15 for the neighborhood open house and happy hour. This year the Open House will be held at 1307 Clay Street. Invitations will be mailed in early September to all residents of Diamond Hill Historic District. If you'd like to bring something or help out, there will be a sign up sheet at the September meeting, or you can send an email to kat.bckr@gmail.com.



The Mouse at the Miller – Claytor House

Sally Schneider, Executive Director of the Lynchburg Historical Foundation (LHF) and resident of Diamond Hill, along with two of her former board members, Diane Kizer and Jane Henderson Massie, have authored and LHF has published a children's book that explores the history of the Historic Miller-Claytor House through the eyes of a tiny former resident, the Miller – Claytor Mouse, whose name just happens to be "MC." Through the beautiful artwork and illustrations by Dana Cohen, MC is brought to life as an adorable little mouse that observed the early history of the Miller – Claytor House. Children of all ages will enjoy learning about this sole remaining 18th century townhouse and what was happening in Lynchburg in 1791. Sally and the LHF board are excited about this project and hope that it is only the first of several stories to be shared by MC.

The book is available through LHF, but you can also purchase a signed copy during a special book-signing event at Givens Book Store on September 7 at 1:00 pm. The book cost, including tax is \$7.30 and all of the proceeds go directly to support LHF projects.

Dodie Kirkpatrick Snidow (1924 – 2013)

Former resident and active member of DHHS Dora "Dodie" Kirkpatrick Snidow, 89, of Lynchburg died Tuesday July 2, 2013. Dodie was married and widowed twice, first to the late Clyde L. Finch, Jr. and subsequently to the late Clifton Leonard Snidow, Jr.

Dodie honorably served her country in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and worked for many years as the church secretary at First Baptist Church. She is survived by her daughter Marguerite Patricia (Pat) Finch Forrest of Lynchburg.

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<i>Endowment Fund:</i>	Jim Carrington
<i>Remembrance Committee:</i>	Ray Pulliam
<i>Parliamentarian:</i>	Pat Gatti

Any updates to the above committee's chairpersons will be published in further releases.

Meetings

Business meetings are usually held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of January, March, May, September and November. Owners of properties in the Diamond Hill Historic District and others interested in supporting historic preservation are welcome to attend.

Membership

Annual dues for Active Members are \$10.00 per person and the initiation fee is \$5.00 (first year). Active Membership is limited to adult members of households owning Diamond Hill property. Annual dues for Associate Members are \$10 per person (no initiation fee). All members receive this newsletter at no charge. Newsletter subscriptions for non-members are \$5.00 per year.

Publisher's Statement

The Diamond Hill Historical Society (DHHS) is a nonprofit historic preservation organization approved under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Its purpose is to preserve and encourage—through the fostering of education, research and restoration—the historical and architectural integrity of the Diamond Hill Historic District. DHHS was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia February 22, 1979. Views expressed in the Diamond Hill News do not necessarily reflect the position of DHHS or its officers and directors.

4. **Know what “rehabilitate” means.** To rehabilitate a house means to make it useful and functional for contemporary living while preserving important historic and architectural features. For example, a rehabilitated old house would always include modern electrical, mechanical, and plumbing systems, a modern kitchen, and other attributes typical of present-day homes.
5. **Choose your approach.** The major difference between restoring and rehabilitating is to either exactly duplicate a particular period or concentrate on preserving a sense of the changes that have occurred over time.
6. **Evaluate existing alterations.** Consider the quality, design, materials, and craftsmanship of the original house as well as the changes that have occurred over time. Compatible interior and exterior changes of the same or better quality than the original house, even if done in different styles or materials, should probably be kept and restored. Conversely, you should probably remove any poorly executed changes.
7. **Design new additions and alterations with attention to detail.** When adding to or altering your home, consider its scale, actual dimension, and massing (proportion/balance). Use materials, textures, and colors similar to those of the original building.
8. **Integrate modern touches with care and caution.** The key to a quality rehabilitation is how well it accommodates modern technologies and living styles. Keep changes non-intrusive and compatible with the house’s design and style, and don’t let alterations destroy or cover historically or architecturally significant features or materials.
9. **Take care not to falsify the history of the house.** This might seem counter-intuitive, but you actually do want to be able to tell additions apart from the original. That way, the house’s history is visible and transparent.
10. **Look to the experts and obtain approval.** There’s no right or wrong answer when it comes to determining whether you should restore or rehabilitate your historic home. For a more detailed list of recommendations, check out the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. However, if you live in a historic district or designated structure in Lynchburg, it is essential that you review the city’s guidelines regarding exterior modifications of any building designated historic or in a historic district. Such modifications must be submitted for review and approval through the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). Check the city website or contact Kevin Henry at 434.455.3915 for more information.

Jim Carrington Retires from St. Paul’s Choir



In January of this year, after 53 years as a member of the St. Paul’s Choir, Jim Carrington “quietly” retired as a choir member. Jim joined the choir in 1959, shortly after moving to Lynchburg to work in GE’s Telecommunications Department. On his first visit to a service at St. Paul’s, Jim says he received a warm welcome from The Reverend Alex Robertson, Rector; and Roger Cole, organist/choirmaster, and soon thereafter he joined the choir. He first learned to love church music when he attended church as a young elementary student and was fascinated by both choir and organ. After singing in church choirs as a teenager, he sang as an adult with the GE Chorus in Syracuse, the Grace Episcopal Church Choir at Syracuse University, and the Syracuse Chorale and the Gilbert and

Sullivan Society, and he toured Europe with the Chorale and the SUNY Potsdam Choir. In Lynchburg, he enjoyed continuing his vocal studies with Professor Florence Vickland of RMWC and her husband, Crane Calder. For many years he served as baritone soloist at St. Paul’s, where he also shared the playing of his recorders in various services over the years. Rumor has it that Jim rarely missed a choir rehearsal, and most years was only absent two Sundays when on vacation! Such dedication and service is commendable and the St. Paul’s Choir expressed its deepest gratitude for Jim’s exemplary service and thanked him not only for his lovely and expert singing but also for his gracious personality and his kindness to all of us. Well done Jim!

Events Around Town

Lynchburg Historical Foundation

Book Sale and Signing

Givens Bookshop

September 7, 1:00 p.m.

“The Mouse at the Miller Claytor House”

By Sally Schneider, Diane Kizer and Jane Henderson Massie
Illustrated by Dana Cohen.

Tour of Historic Homes and Patrons’ Party

Garland Hill Historic District

September 22

1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Tour Tickets \$20.00

Patrons’ Party: 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Tour and Party Tickets: \$75.00

Reservations Required

Contact LHF @ (434) 528-5353

Ghosts of Historic Lynchburg

Daniels Hill Historic District

October 24, 25 and 26, 6:00 p.m.

Tickets at Point of Honor

\$10 for adults, \$5 for children

Group reservations accepted for 10 or more.

Contact LHF @ (434) 528-5353

City Cemetery

Blessing of the Animals

October 6, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Old City Cemetery’s Chapel

Candlelight Tours

October 17-19, 24-26

Six tours each night: 6:10, 6:30, 6:50, 7:10, 7:30, and 7:50 p.m.

Tickets must be purchased in advance.

www.gravegarden.org

Downtown Events

First Fridays

First Fridays continues with even more downtown Galleries open on the First Friday of the month

Hours: 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Admission: FREE

(434) 528-3950

www.downtownlynchburg.com

5th Annual Street Festival

Get!Downtown

September 13, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Main Street, Downtown

www.lynchslanding.com/events/getdowntown.html

Lynchburg Night Out

Against Crime

September 17, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Tresca on 8th, 8th & Commerce

Lynchburg Beer & Wine Festival

September 21, 11:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Riverfront Park, Jefferson Street
lynchburgbeerandwinefestival.com

Harvest Market

October 26

Lynchburg Community Market,
1219 Main Street

lynchburgcommunitymarket.com

Next Meeting

**Tue., September 3rd
7:30 pm.**

at the
Evans-Bass Wood House
(c.1905)
608 Washington St.

Host: Pat Gatti

