



Diamond Hill News

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Old Lynchburg Stadium, located at Court and Twelfth Streets, shown here during the early 1900s. This stadium was used for sporting events until the current city stadium opened in October of 1939.

Old Lynchburg Stadium

By George W. Dooley

Some of you may have seen the above photograph that appeared in the Real Estate section of *The News & Advance* on August 10, 2001. The front page had this old photograph of Lynchburg Stadium in the early 1900s and smaller pictures of the old fair grounds during early construction of the current city stadium, along with a picture of the stadium as it appeared in the 1980s. During the early 1900s, Lynchburg Stadium was located where Babcock's Auto Service now stands. The new stadium on Fort Avenue officially opened in October of 1939.

In the fall of 1935 my parents and I were living in the Langhorne-

Guggenheimer House at 313 Washington Street. At that time it was an apartment house with six apartments: one in the basement, two on the first and second floors and one in the attic where we lived.

My Dad, along with two of our neighbors, decided to take advantage of the strategic location of the house—which looked down on the stadium—to watch a college football game. I was invited to join them. I was only seven years old at the time and was a little leery of getting out on the roof of the building to watch the two teams play a game I really didn't understand. The roof was tin and had a slight pitch for drainage, but it did not have any railings and I was uncomfortable. Fortunately, my Mother rescued me after awhile; so I

didn't spend the afternoon on the roof.

The photograph above appears to have been taken at about ground level but, as I remember it, there was a tall wooden fence surrounding the stadium and it was unpainted from our viewpoint. The old stadium continued in use for minor athletic events for a few years and I played baseball there several times with neighborhood boys. Later on, the Ford Motor Company built a dealership there. The building which now stands diagonally across Twelfth Street from Bragassa's was an A&P grocery store where many Diamond Hill families shopped—particularly after the Piggly Wiggly grocery on Main Street closed.

Certificates of Appropriateness

Question: What is a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)?

Answer: A COA is a form issued by the city which indicates that the city has reviewed the exterior work planned for a historically designated building's rehabilitation or new construction and finds that the intended work meets the criteria of the city's historic district design guidelines.

Question: When do you need a Certificate of Appropriateness?

Answer: If a building is in a designated district or is a local landmark and a property owner wants to make changes to the exterior of the property, the owner must obtain a COA. More specifically, a COA is required for any exterior alterations as follows:

- ◆ Construction, alteration, demolition, or removal of buildings that requires a building or demolition permit.
- ◆ Construction, alteration, demolition, or removal of exterior features, any of which affect the exterior architectural appearance but does not require a building permit.
- ◆ Maintenance, such as painting, porch repair, window/door repair, masonry repair of building components such as walls, chimneys, foundations, etc.
- ◆ The construction, reconstruction, restoration, or alteration of signs, fences, or walls.
- ◆ A COA is NOT required for interior work.

2009 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Diamond Hill Historical Society will be held Tuesday, Jan. 6 at the home of George and Jane Dooley, 508 Washington Street at 7:30 p.m. In addition to the usual business, the Annual Meeting provides for the election of officers and directors and the presentation of annual reports by the President, Treasurer and other officers or committees.

We would like to remind members that DHHS Bylaws state: "To qualify to vote at the Annual Meeting, an Active Member's dues must be paid on or before January 1 of that year. After January 1, dues will not be accepted until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting."

Dues can be mailed or delivered to our Treasurer, Jeff Schneider, 307 Washington Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504.

Hosts needed for 2009

At our Annual Meeting in January, members will be asked to sign up to host one of our membership meetings during 2009. A huge **THANK YOU** to those families who hosted our meetings during 2008! If you're able to host a meeting, please volunteer. A list of meeting dates and sites will appear in our February issue.

D'Eustachios are moving

Kevin and Mariam d'Eustachio are moving to Maryland in the middle of January 2009. We have enjoyed having them in the neighborhood. We wish them well!

Election of Officers & Directors

Our nominating committee will present the following slate of officers and directors at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 6:

- ◆ President: Patrick H. Gatti
- ◆ Vice-President: Katheryn M Brown
- ◆ Recording Sec: Mari White Smallshaw
- ◆ Membership Sec: Mary Kathryn McIntosh
- ◆ Treasurer: Jeffery Schneider
- ◆ Historian: Fran D Briley
- ◆ Director 2008-09: Julianna K. Neighbors
- ◆ Director 2008-09: L. Robert Halpin
- ◆ Director 2009-10: James J Carrington
- ◆ Director 2009-10: Josiani S. Alvarenga

Congratulations!

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Halpin's daughter **Heather Lynn Halpin** married **José Fredy Pérez Cano** on September 6, 2008. An open house at the Halpin's residence was held on November 29, 2008, in honor of their marriage.

Another addition to the Halpin's family: new granddaughter was born on October 2008. We wish baby Carrington and her parents all the best!

Mr. and Mrs. George Wilmer Dooley's daughter **Jennifer Jane Dooley** married **Steven Lee Tilley** on December 6, 2008 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. A reception for the happy couple followed at the Dooley's home.

Happy New Year

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Diamond Hill Historical Society, Inc.
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 Website: www.diamondhill.org
 Email: dhhscontact@yahoo.com

Officers & Directors

President: Patrick H. Gatti
Vice-President: Leonard R. Briley
Recording Sec: Nancy J. Zehmer
Membership Sec: Marla E. Potter
Treasurer: Jeffery Schneider
Historian: Jean L. Hannon
Director 07-08: Jon I. Alvarenga
Director 07-08: James J. Carrington
Director 08-09: Julianna K. Neighbors
Director 08-09: Robert Halpin

Committee Chairpersons

Neighborhood Beautification: Dennis Newton
Hospitality: Fran D. Briley
Tours: Julianna K. Neighbors
Website: Mari White Smallshaw
Newsletter: Josie Alvarenga
Neighborhood Watch: L. Robert Halpin
Children's Activities: Mari Smallshaw
Street Restoration: Larry A. Wollan, Jr
Auditor: Charles Bedat
Endowment Fund: Jeffery Schneider
Parliamentarian: Charles K. Bradner

Meetings

Business meetings are usually held at 7:30 p.m. on first Tuesdays of each month except June, July and August. 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.

A new type of historic district

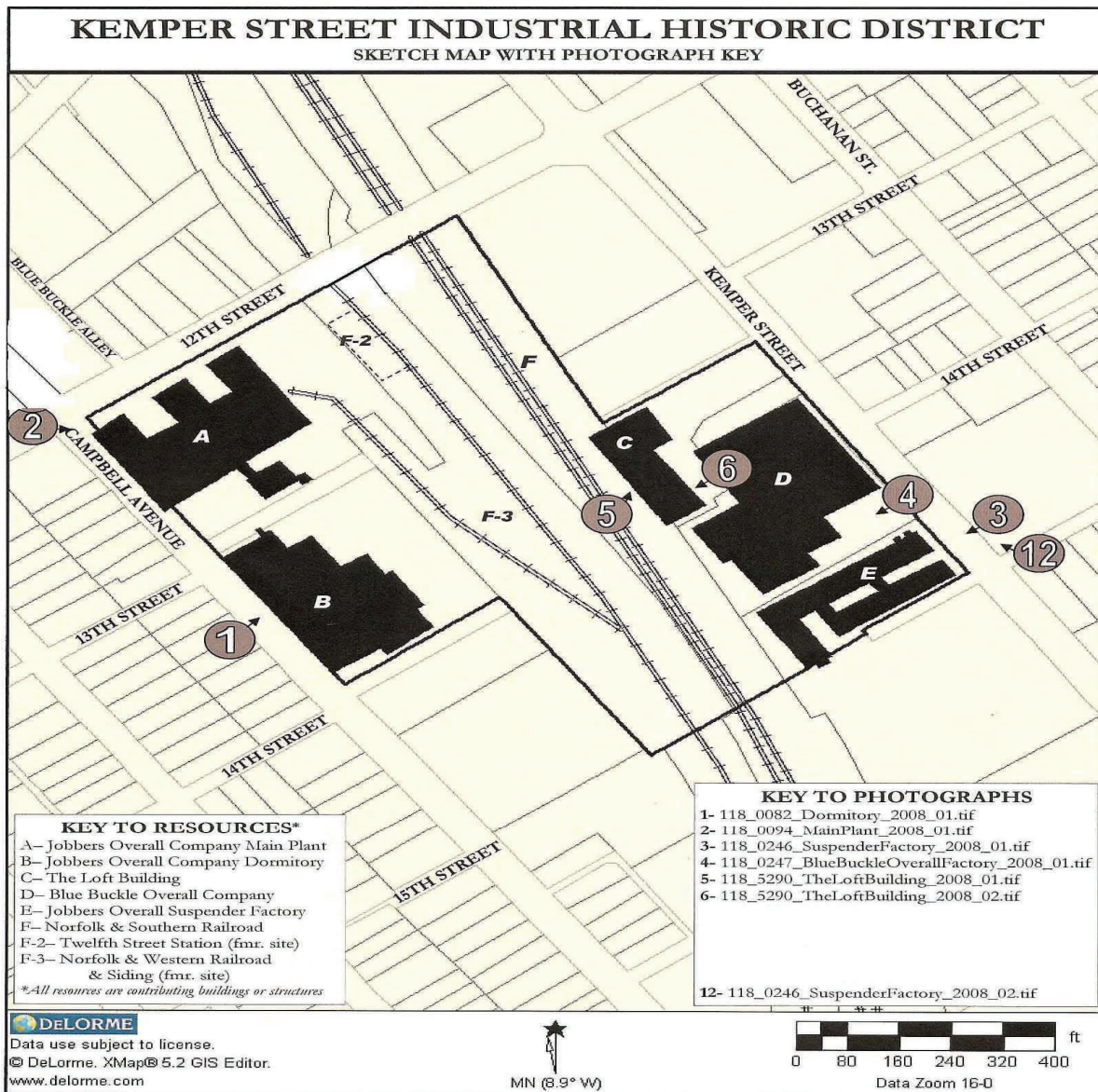
The Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources held a Public Information Hearing Aug. 19th to solicit comment on the Kemper Street Industrial Historic District proposed for the area between Kemper Street, Campbell Avenue, 12th Street and 15th Street (see map). This 17-acre site contains “two primary clusters of light industrial buildings, which are bisected by a Norfolk Southern rail line. . . . Development of industrial infrastructure in the area took place in two primary phases. The first spanned from 1916 through 1925, and most of the buildings in the area were constructed during this time ... The second major building phase occurred during the 1930s and 1950s, when the bulk of the Blue Buckle Overall Company facility at 1415 Kemper St. was constructed.” [Source: Nat. Register application for Kemper St. District]

The purpose behind this new type of historic district, according to a representative from the state’s Dept. of Historic Resources, is to provide “a themed district to make tax credits available for the renovation of the Loft Building at 1401

Kemper St.” (building “C” on the map). Landmark Assett Services plans to convert the building into apartments similar to the City Market Lofts recently completed on Main Street. The company hopes to take advantage of historic tax credits, which could provide up to 45% of the project’s cost. Calloway Johnson Moore & West are providing architectural services for the project.

Unlike Lynchburg’s other historic districts, this industrial district will only be designated as a state and national district. For this reason, Lynchburg’s Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will have no authority over the Kemper Street District. Of the several property owners within the district, only Landmark plans to apply for tax credits, which will be used for the Loft Building. To receive these credits, the project will have to meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Properties.

Liberty University recently purchased the former Craddock-Terry plant (building “A”) at the corner of 12th St. and Campbell Ave. for use as a warehouse. It was announced during the public hearing that LU does not plan to apply for tax credits.



Ronald David Lee Tinsley

Ronald Tinsley, who was living just off Grace Street on Vine Street died Wednesday, December 3, 2008, in a VA hospital in Baltimore. Ron was head of Neighborhood Watch for the Grace Street neighborhood (above the Diamond Hill Historic District) for many years. He brought a strong preservation influence to the upper Grace Street neighborhood. He organized the neighborhood and kept it functioning for many years. He worked hard to make it a safer and more attractive neighborhood for its residents.

A funeral service was conducted 1p.m. Wednesday, December 10 2008, at Community Funeral Home Chapel. Interment was in the Fort Hill Memorial Park with military honors by the American Legion Post 16.

Newsletter articles and mailing list corrections

If you have some news you think our members would find interesting, please send it to:

diamondhill_news@yahoo.com

Mailing list corrections should also be sent to the same e-mail address.

APVA Conference, Richmond Virginia

Jeff and Sally Schneider attended the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) Annual Conference held in Richmond September 5 – 7. The conference included presentations on long-term vision for preservation initiatives in Virginia as well as basic workshops on recurring technical issues for homeowners. There were several familiar speakers and presenters including Rachael Flynn, former Lynchburg City Planner and now Director of Community Development in Richmond who spoke on “Planning for Community Growth;” and Annette Chenault, Lynchburg City Planner and HPC Administrator, and Gary Harvey, Architect and HPC Commissioner who gave a terrific presentation on “Funding Historic Preservation,” using as examples completed and existing preservation/restoration projects in Lynchburg and the funding streams (tax credits, etc.) and local funding opportunities that were the underpinnings for such projects. The closing luncheon featured Governor Tim Kaine who spoke about the shortfalls in the state budget and the difficult task of determining where to trim the budget – reassuring the audience that he did not intend to trim from preservation oriented programs. Both Jeff and Sally thought the time was well spent and came away with new ideas and approaches to help them in their current positions.

LHF annual meeting

The Lynchburg Historical Foundation’s annual meeting will be held Jan. 8 at First Presbyterian Church on VES Road. The evening’s events begin with a reception at 7:00 pm, followed by the business meeting and speaker at 7:30 pm. Kirt von Daacke, *PhD* will be the featured speaker. Daacke is an Assistant Professor of History at Lynchburg College. Parking can be found by driving around the left side of the church to the rear parking lot. Enter via the parking lot entrance.



Jan. Meeting

**Tues., Jan.6
7:30 p.m.**

at the

**Carrington House
(1909)
508 Washington St**

Hosts: Jane and George Dooley

