



New rear facade and portico at 400 Washington Street



New pool and pool house at 400 Washington Street

Many renovations underway

Although sales of Diamond Hill properties have been slow during the past year or two, there are many renovation projects underway on the hill—particularly at the Lucado House, 400 Washington Street, owned by Carolyn and Don Banker (Banker Steel). As the photographs show, Proctor Harvey has designed a fantastic garden, rear terrace and pool for the house. Carolyn and Don have been pressing the contractor to finish enough of the work so that they can use the garden for an engagement party on Sept. 15. Their next big event will be their eldest son's wedding on May 17, 2008.

The HPC also approved several other changes at 401 Washington: replacing the front porch floor with pressure-treated tongue-and-groove wood, replacing 13 round columns that have rotted out (not original), replacing the flagstone path behind the house with brick, rebuilding the rear steps and enclosing the area beneath the steps, installing a concrete pad beneath the back porch, and finishing the parking area with pea gravel. The commissioners asked them to consider using fir lumber for the porch floors.

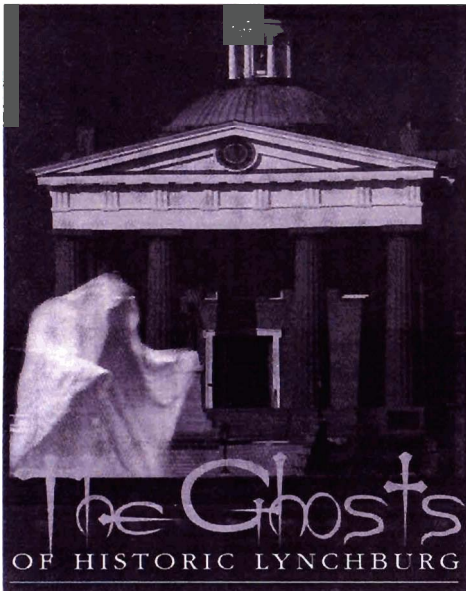
At the Morrison House, 1411 Madison Street, the terne metal roof on the kitchen wing and rear porch is being replaced with copper. The new copper roof will have the same standing-seam construction and panel widths as the original terne roof that lasted over 100 years. The hidden gutters and other porch roofs on the house were replaced with copper many years ago and have performed extremely well—once the work of a jackleg installer was repaired.

Jeffrey Fried renovated the house at 1311 Madison Street several years ago. Now he has returned—to make improvements for the new owners. The area under the rear porch will be enclosed with plywood to provide secure storage. The HPC suggested that he paint the plywood a dark color and apply lattice over it. Commissioners also suggested that the new concrete driveway be surfaced with pebbles. The deteriorated front porch floor will be replaced with pressure-treated tongue-and-groove wood and painted. The owners were asked to provide a drawing showing the exact location for the stockade fence they wish to install to enclose the back yard.



It is extremely encouraging to see the derelict duplex at 707-709 Fourteenth St. undergoing a *complete* renovation. The new owner, James E. Hemphill, seems determined to do a thorough job. The interior suffered extensive damage on Christmas Eve many years ago and it was never completely restored. The rear wing is being completely rebuilt and the old foundation has been replaced with parged concrete block.

707-709 Fourteenth Street under renovation. Note the new foundation.



Ghost Walk on historic Diamond Hill

On the evenings of October 25, 26 and 27 the Lynchburg Historical Foundation's Ghost Walk event returns to Diamond Hill. Guests will enjoy an evening walking through our neighborhood with a guide who will delight them with stories of the ghosts who have haunted Diamond Hill mansions. These stories were collected from our members several years ago for LHF's first Ghost Walk.

Groups will assemble at the Lewis-Clark Duplex, 416-418 Washington, starting at 6:30 p.m. and running every 15 to 20 minutes. The last walk leaves at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children and will be sold each night on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 6:00 p.m.. No rain dates. Group reservations for 15 or more can be made in advance by calling LHF headquarters at 528-5353.

Our members are encouraged to enter into the "spirit" of the event. One way to participate is to decorate the front of your home with jack-o-lanterns, spooky lights, an autumn wreath or a ghostly apparition in the window. You might dress up as some kind of "haint" and wave at passing visitors. Be careful not to suddenly surprise any of our patrons. After all, they might not be used to having ghostly guests around—like we are. Just keep it light.

It's not certain yet whether DHHS will award a prize for the most outstanding pumpkin carving. Josie and Jon Alvarenga won the prize during our first Ghost Walk. Tharp Funeral Home and Cremation Center is supporting this event; all proceeds will go to LHF and DHHS.

Our Apology

Our apology to the 20 members whose September newsletters were delivered very late. The US Postal Service returned those newsletter as undeliverable, although all of them were correctly addressed. The supervisor at the Downtown Post Office placed them back in the mailing system, but was unable to explain why the problem occurred.

Pumpkins for sale

Sally Schneider will be taking orders for pumpkins again this year at our October meeting. All sales benefit Kid's Haven. The pumpkins are \$10.00 each and they will be available October 13th.

"Ghosts, Specters, Phantoms and Hauntings"

To prepare yourself for the Ghost Walk, you might enjoy hearing L.B. Taylor, author of *The Ghosts of Virginia* books, speak on the topic at Lynchburg Public Library the evening of Wednesday, October 24th, at 7:00 p.m. The talk is sponsored by Friends of the Lynchburg Public Library.

HPC commissioners appointed

During their August 14 meeting, City Council re-appointed Lisa Harris and Gary Harvey for 3-year terms on the Historic Preservation Commission. Travis McDonald, director of architectural restoration at Jefferson's Poplar Forest will take the place of retiring commissioner Louis C. Fischer, III. Lisa will continue to serve as the advocate for Diamond Hill property owners.

Diamond Hill News

Published Sept. through May by
Diamond Hill Historical Society, Inc.
 P.O. Box 803, Lynchburg, VA 24505
 Website: www.diamondhill.org

Officers & Directors

President: Patrick H. Gatti
Vice-President: Leonard R. Briley
Recording Sec: Carolyn T. Banker
Membership Sec: Marla E. Potter
Treasurer: George W. Dooley
Historian: Jean L. Hannon
Director 06-07: Mari W. Smallshaw
Director 2007: Julianna K. Neighbors
Director 07-08: Jon I. Alvarenga
Director 07-08: James J. Carrington

Committee Chairpersons

Newsletter Editors: Josie Alvarenga and Jim Carrington
Neighborhood Watch: L. Robert Halpin
Neighborhood Beautification: Dennis Newton
Tours: Julianna K. Neighbors
Hospitality: Tina Secord
Children's Activities: Mari Smallshaw
Fund-Raising: Kaye Chandler
Endowment Fund: George W. Dooley

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.



View of 401 Washington Street as it appeared about 1903. Note the original balustrade over the front portico of this new house.



By 1969 the house had lost its balustrade. [photo by Jim Carrington]

At the Long House, 401 Washington Street, Jeff and Marla Potter have received permission from the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to restore the balustrade over their front portico. The photograph on the left, which appeared in *Art Work of Lynchburg and Danville, Virginia*, published in 1903, shows what the original looked like and will be used to determine the dimensions of the replacement.

Design guidelines ready for adoption

City Council held a public hearing September 11th on the revised guidelines used by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to evaluate requests from citizens for Certificates of Appropriateness (COAs) to make changes to their historic properties. The HPC and the Planning Commission have already approved the new guidelines; City Council will take final action October 9th. The existing guidelines have not been undated since 1986!

The city received a state grant for consultant Thomason & Associates of Nashville, TN, to work with the HPS in revising both the Residential Design-Review Guidelines and the Commercial Design-Review Guidelines. Their effort makes the guidelines much more user-friendly, adds more illustrations and local examples, covers new building materials, and provides more specific guidance on COA requests that have sometimes provoked divided opinions within the HPC.

The revised guidelines will not be printed, except for the commissioners and city personnel. The old guidelines and the proposed new guidelines are posted on the city's website, where they can be readily accessed as follows: On city website www.lyncburgva.gov select (1) City Departments, (2) Community Development, (3) Planning, (4) Historic Preservation and then select the guideline you wish to see from the left column.

Expansion of Fed. Hill District

The Federal Hill Historic District Residents Association asked the Historic Preservation Commission to add 809 and 1120 Harrison Street and 1114 and 1115 Jackson Street to the Federal Hill District. The HPC approved their request June 25th, the Planning Commission approved it on July 11, and City Council gave their final approval during a public hearing held August 14th.



Diamond Hill Christmas Candlelight Tour

Our next Christmas Candlelight Tour will be held the afternoon and early evening of Sunday, December 2nd. We are pleased to announce that the following families have offered to open their homes for this year's tour:

- ◆ Don and Carolyn Banker, 400 Washington St.
- ◆ Bob and Shirley Eugeni, 1416 Harrison St.
- ◆ Ceasor and Rosie Johnson, 1302 Madison St.
- ◆ Erick and Cassie Petersen, 1407 Harrison St.
- ◆ Steve and Mari Smallshaw, 409 Washington St.

Refreshments will be provided for our guests at George and Jane Dooley's home, 508 Washington Street. After the tour, dinner will be served for our workers at the home of Leonard and Fran Briley. We deeply appreciate the support of those who have offered to assist with this extremely important project.

Newsletter distribution via website

The following members notified the newsletter staff that they would like to be notified when new issues of the *Diamond Hill News* are posted at our website www.diamondhill.org:

Banker, Don & CarolynCbanker@bankersteel.com
 Bradner, Charles K.bradner708@lynchburg.net
 Carstens, Sarahsarah91477@mac.com
 Carstens, Scottscarstens@telephia.com
 Chandler, C. KayeKaye.Chandler@Areva.com
 Fitz, Pamelapmfitz49@msn.com
 Fitz, Raymondrfitz42@msn.com
 Hague, Dan M.dan@climbingwallmanagement.com
 Halpin, L. Robertlrhalpin@hotmail.com
 Halpin, Sandra O.Sandy_halpin51@hotmail.com
 Johnson, R. BruceOscarlilly@verizon.net
 Neighbors, Julie & Vernonjneigh9623@aol.com
 Newton, DennisDennis.Newton@Areva.com
 Riehl, Leslieleslie@leslieriehl.com
 Schneider, Jeffery & Sallyjeffandsally.schneider@att.net
 Secord, Tinalovehounds2@verizon.net
 Whittemore, Genevievegenevieve_whittemore@hotmail.com

Former DHHS member dies

Thomas Massie of Norwood died Tuesday, June 5, 2007, at age 73. He was born Nov. 7, 1933 in Lynchburg, a son of the late Robert Withers Massie Jr. and Ella Wyatt McKinnon Massie. Tom and his wife lived in the Armistead R. Long House at 401 Washington Street for a few years during the late 1970s or early 1980s.

Tom attended Lynchburg Public Schools and graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1956 with a degree in civil engineering. He served in the U.S. Army and eventually went into the quarry business at Eagle Rock. For seven years he taught at Montgomery Community College, before establishing the Blue Ridge Arts Company and devoting the rest of his life to sculpturing.

Tom was preceded in death by his wife, Helen Patricia DeJarnette Massie; a brother, James Darroch Massie; and a niece, Renee Darroch Massie.

He is survived by sons Murdock DeJarnette Massie of Nelson County and Thomas Wright Massie of Arlington; daughters Martha Camden Massie and husband John Hieman of Juliene, NC, and Christine Rebecca Massie and husband Michael Herzog of NY City; stepson Brock DeJarnette Davidson and wife Anjanette of Virginia Beach; and his granddaughter Kristina Wright Massie. He is also survived by brothers Robert Withers Massie III and William McKinnon Massie, both of Lynchburg; and his sister, Ella Graham Massie Marks of Guilford, CT.

E-mail Notification

If you requested e-mail notification, please check your e-mail address and notify the newsletter staff of any corrections. If you would like to be added to this list please notify the staff and include your e-mail address.



Copyright © 2007 Stephanie Baker - Thomas

Building permits

♦ 707-709 Fourteenth Street: James Hemphill, renovation, \$35,000.

Oct. Meeting

**Tues., Oct 2nd
7:30 p.m.**

at the

**Lee House
(1897)**

**501 Washington St.
Hosts: Scott and Sarah Carstens**

Diamond Hill Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 803, Lynchburg, VA 24505

www.diamondhill.org