

# FREDERICK NEWEL POST

HISTORIC PRESERVATION NEWS FOR THE CITY OF FREDERICK

## HPC ACTION: January-June 2012

Total completed cases: 100 (100%)  
 Total cases approved: 95 (95%)  
 • HPC: 24 (24%)  
 • Administrative (staff): 71 (71%)  
 Cases denied: 5\* (5%)

To see if your application may be reviewed administratively, consult the Historic Preservation Division section of the Planning Department website or contact a Historic Preservation Planner.

\* Includes one Code Violation case and one application that was denied in part.

## CONTACT STAFF

You can schedule a meeting with Preservation Planning Staff to discuss your proposal even before the application deadline. Getting any questions answered about the Guidelines or HPC process and making sure your application is technically complete will help to facilitate the application process in the long run. Call the Planning Department at 301-600-1499 and ask to speak with a Historic Preservation Planner.

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## LOST

The first half of 2012 has already seen some significant losses of the City's historic resources. In March, Benvenue, a c. 1810 Federal-style stone house, was demolished. Located at 8518 East Patrick Street (MD Route 144) along the historic National Road, this landmark property was annexed into the City in 2009. The property is located within the boundaries of the northeast tract of the Monocacy Battlefield. The battlefield was designated National Historic Landmark in 1973.



Benvenue in 2011

During the Civil War, Philip Reich, a wealthy farmer, owned the property which served as a staging ground for Confederate forces and was the site of skirmishes that occurred during the Battle. In addition for its association with the Civil War, this property was significant for its association with the agricultural heritage of Frederick County and for its architecture which reflected the Federal styles popular nationally and locally from about 1780 to 1820.

In March, Park Hall, a c. 1840 brick manor house and barn at 1100 East Patrick Street, also along the historic National Road, was demolished. The dwelling, which exhibits Greek Revival and Gothic Revival influences, was built under the ownership of John L. Harding. Harding was a very wealthy Frederick resident who had acquired 222 acres of farmland by 1843.



Park Hall in 2008



Barn at Park Hall in 2012

The property also contained a unique c. 1820 stone and brick ground barn with decorative brick vent designs, a stone springhouse, brick smokehouse, carriage house, and

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## LOST

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

tenant house. Park Hall was significant architecturally and for its association with the City's agricultural heritage.

**THREATENED.** In June 2012 a demolition permit was issued for the Schley House located at 8018 Gas House Pike. This Italianate manor house was built in the 1850s by Edward Schley and Eve Margaret Schley on land willed John Brengle, Eve Margaret's father, whose own home still stands at 7926 Gas House Pike. Along with Park Hall, this property was identified as potentially eligible for Historic Preservation Overlay (HPO) designation in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan.



Schley House, 1979

### Notes:

- Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. *Benvenue*. MIHP Inventory No. F-3-252. 2011.
- Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. *Park Hall*. MIHP Inventory No. F-3-223. 2003.
- Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. *Schley House*. MIHP Inventory No. F-3-12. 1979.

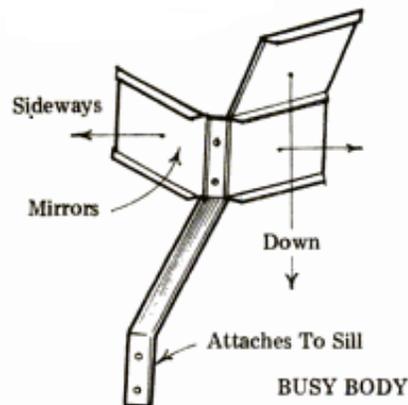
## FRANKLIN'S BUSY BODY

Over the past year, the Planning Department has been working on a grant project that includes digitizing all the 35mm slides that were taken of building's in the historic district in the 1960s and 1970s. One of the slides for 38 East 2nd Street from 1976 stood out for the unusual device that was featured—a "busy body."



Busy Body at 38 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 1976

A busy body contains three adjustable mirrors fastened to a bent steel arm mounted to the sill outside a second-story window that permitted views left, right and down at the door stoop.



Busy Body Diagram from "Busy Bodies" *Old House Journal* August-September 1984: 156.

"Busy bodies" fueled the gossip of the busy body residents of a neighborhood for which they were named. A 1901 account of Philadelphia described "Fifty thousand women spending their afternoons in fifty thousand rocking chairs, observing the callers at their neighbors' doors, the passers-by on the sidewalk, and even happenings in their neighbors' second stories..."<sup>1</sup>

They also served as a "source of never ending interest for invalids and ideal for elderly persons, temporarily ill, busy workers and shut-ins."<sup>2</sup> Busy bodies also let residents know who was at the front door without going downstairs and gave them the option of answering it—whether the rent collector or a suspicious person.

Some sources credit Benjamin Franklin with inventing the busy body and they are widespread in Philadelphia but their exact origin is unknown. The Frederick example, although not in existence today, was unusual and no other known busy bodies exist in Frederick.

### Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> "The Ills of Pennsylvania," *Atlantic Monthly*, Vol. 88, Boston & New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, The Riverside Press, Cambridge, 1901: 558-566.
- <sup>2</sup> "Busy Bodies," *Old House Journal* August-September 1984: 156.

## ALDI CONSERVES HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

A 14<sup>th</sup> century archaeological site adjacent to an ALDI facility on Gas House Pike in Frederick will now be preserved for future generations to study and research. ALDI announced today it is transferring the property that contains the historic Rosenstock village to The Archaeological Conservancy to ensure its permanent conservation. The organization will now own and manage the property as a permanent open-space archaeological research preserve.

“We are pleased to donate the land adjoining to our Frederick distribution center, which includes part of the Rosenstock site, to The Archaeological Conservancy, an organization known for acquiring and preserving the best of our nation’s remaining archaeological sites,” said Jeff Baehr, ALDI Frederick division vice president. “ALDI recognizes the importance of preserving archaeological artifacts that can be used toward scientific research and education, and we hope that scholars and students will continue to learn more about this important historic site.”

Rosenstock is part of a cultural complex that archaeologists refer to as the Montgomery Complex, which includes a series of Late Woodland village sites that stretch along the Potomac River and its major tributaries. The remains of a Late Woodland period village on the Rosenstock site were inhabited between A.D. 1300-1450, according to radio-carbon dating.

The well-preserved Rosenstock site was first documented in 1907 and past excavations revealed a variety of domestic structures; as well as “keyhole” structures, which, based on their shape and the presence of fire cracked rock within them, are presumed to have functioned as sweat lodges. Artifacts found at the site consisted of Shepard ceramics, a local ware, and a variety of

stone and bone tools. Subsistence at the site included horticulture, hunting, fishing and gathering.

“The Conservancy’s acquisition of this historic site serves a case study example of how corporations, municipalities and national non-profits can partner to preserve America’s rich archaeological heritage,” said Andy Stout, eastern regional director, The Archaeological Conservancy. “We applaud ALDI demonstrating its national leadership on conservation issues.”

The property transfer of the Rosenstock site is significant as important archaeological sites on private property in the United States have no protection from destruction, even when listed on the National Register, according to The Archaeological Conservancy. The City of Frederick partnered with The Archaeological Conservancy and ALDI on the property transaction approval process to help make this project possible.

“The City of Frederick is dedicated to the conservation of our significant historical and archaeological resources,” said Kelly Russell, Alderman for The City of Frederick. “Thanks to these efforts, the wealth of information contained at the Rosenstock site will be available to future generations of Americans to learn about the Montgomery Complex and the people who once inhabited this land.”

### Contacts:

- ALDI, Amy Nadler, (312) 988-2031
- The Archaeological Conservancy, Andy Stout, (240) 285-2617

<http://www.americanarchaeology.com>

## OTHER NEWS

- **New Historic Preservation Property Tax Credit.** On July 19, 2012, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen approved a new property tax credit for designated historic properties. The credit is equal to 10% of expenditures related to the exterior preservation or restoration of a structure. Check back with the Planning Department soon to find out more program details and application forms.
- **Historic Preservation Email List.** You can now sign up online for the [City of Frederick Historic Preservation email distribution list](#) where you can receive news, updates, and facts of about the activities of the Historic Preservation Commission and historic preservation in general.
- **The Historic Preservation Commission is now on Facebook.** You can also join the [City of Frederick Historic Preservation Commission](#) on Facebook to get news, updates and facts about the HPC and historic preservation in general.



- **Nominate for Endangered Maryland.** Preservation Maryland, in conjunction with Maryland Life Magazine, are seeking nominations for the 2013 Endangered Maryland List. The goal of the listing is to raise awareness of some of the state’s most threatened historic and cultural sites. Go to [www.preservationmaryland.org](http://www.preservationmaryland.org) for more information. The deadline to submit nominations is September 21, 2012.

**DO YOU KNOW THESE BUILDINGS?**



Photo # 1: Dormer

This dormer with a stepped parapet is locally referred to as a “top hat dormer” due to its characteristic shape. Top hat dormers are found on Federal style buildings in Frederick from the late eighteenth century to mid-nineteenth century. This dormer features a semi-circular window with delicate muntins, other hallmarks of the style.



Photo # 2: Transom

This commercial building features a transom composed of prismatic glass joined together with lead in a manner similar to stained glass windows. Prismatic glass transoms were introduced in the 1890s to increase natural light on the interior of the building by directing sunlight towards the back of the building. Prismatic glass fell out of favor by the 1930s with the widespread use of electricity.

**Answers**

Photo #1:  
Ross House,  
105 Council  
Street

Photo #2:  
48 East  
Patrick Street

# CONGRATULATIONS!!

## 2012 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS



**Rehabilitation: 734 N. Market St.**  
*Murphy Properties II, LLC*



**New Construction (Addition): 5 W. 5th St.**  
*Jayson and Jennifer Swafford*



**Community Leadership: 151 S. East St.**  
*Tourism Council of Frederick County, Inc.*



**Rehabilitation: 117 Record St.**  
*Jeff Jones*



**Stewardship: Winchester Hall**  
*Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County*

**FREE STATE'S  
FINEST**

Frederick's Historic District was listed as 2012 Free State's Finest by [Maryland Life Magazine](http://www.marylandlifemagazine.com).

## TRAINING

### Preservation Maryland Restoration and Renovation Fair, Baltimore, MD

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Commission members and staff had the opportunity to attend Preservation Maryland's first Restoration and Renovation Fair where they learned from exhibitors and speakers on a variety of home-related topics, such as paint, windows, tax credits, energy efficiency, plaster, masonry, and waterproofing.



HPC Vice Chairman Robert Jones attends a presentation at the PM Restoration fair.



HPC members and elected officials listen to workshop presenter Fred Stachura.

### Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions (MAHDC) Law & Procedures Workshop, Frederick, MD

The City HPC partnered with the Frederick County HPC to bring a new workshop run by the MAHDC to Frederick. On May 31, approximately 30 Commission members, staff, elected officials and interested members of the community gathered at the Municipal Office Annex to learn from Fred Stachura, a preservation attorney and staff to Prince George's County HPC, speak about the legal basis for

preservation in Maryland, economic hardship, demolition-by-neglect and other legal issues facing Commissions.

### National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) FORUM, Norfolk, VA

In July, Commission members Robert Jones and Stephen Parnes and Historic Preservation Planner Christina Martinkosky had the opportunity to attend the National Alliance of Preservation Commission's Forum in Norfolk, VA thanks to scholarships from the Maryland Historical Trust for Certified Local Governments. Forum is the only national conference specifically dedicated to the work of Historic Preservation Commissions and was an excellent training event.



NAPC Forum Session of building codes and historic preservation



HPC Vice Chairman Robert Jones (L), Historic Preservation Planner Christina Martinkosky, and HPC member Stephen Parnes (R) in Norfolk, VA.

## FORMSTONE



Formstone, also commonly known as Parma-stone, was a popular 20<sup>th</sup>-century veneer made up of a cement-type material that was applied to exterior walls in a manner similar to stucco. The material was scored to simulate mortar joints and suggest individual stones. Adding to the illusion were artful color variations or mica chips to make the wall sparkle on a sunny day.

This technique was first developed in 1929 in Columbus, Ohio but became popular in the 1930s through 1950s in urban centers along the eastern coast, particularly in Baltimore City. Formstone was often applied to existing buildings to cover poorly constructed walls or to unify the appearance of buildings with multiple additions.

There are several examples of Formstone in the City of Frederick, including this building (below) on West Patrick Street.



## LOCAL PARK SERVES AS LINK TO AFRICAN AMERICAN & CIVIL WAR HERITAGE

Quietly nestled along Chapel Alley between East 5th and East 6th Streets is Laboring Sons Memorial Garden. The site is one of the few remaining historic cemeteries in downtown Frederick. It is also the only known 19th century burial ground for African Americans. Today, the memorial ground is flanked by late 19th and early 20th-century townhouses and row homes.

The flat, grassy lawn features a simple network of gravel walkways anchored by an imposing monument that reflects the historic importance of the site. Memorialized in bronze and stone are the names of 160 individuals; however the monument only reflects a portion of the 1,500 people suspected to have been interred here.

Reaching back to the City's early history, African Americans had few options for gainful employment or housing. Even in death, there were few places available for burial. In 1837 a group of enslaved and freed

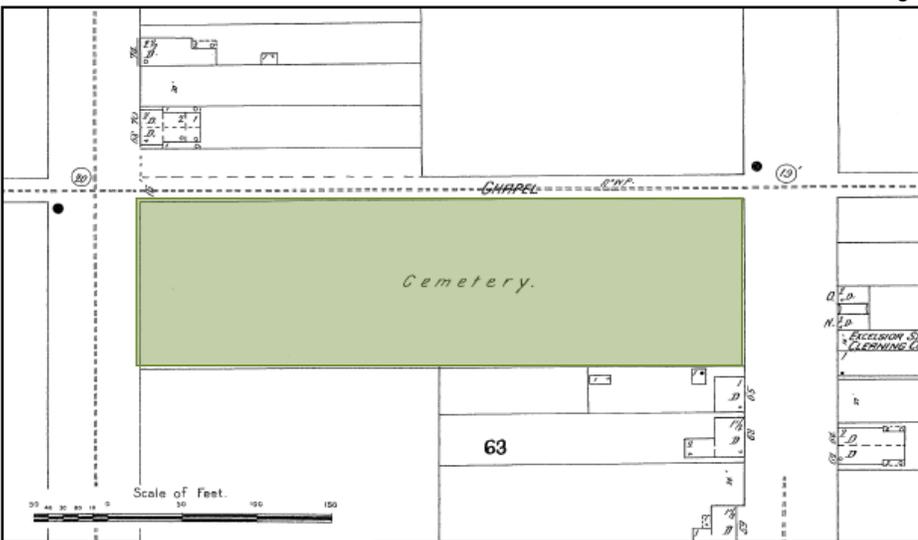


individuals organized the Laboring Sons Beneficial Society with the goal of establishing a cemetery of their own. By 1851 the organization purchased a 1.17 acre lot from Ezra Houck for \$265. At that time, the area along Chapel Alley between East 5th and East 6th Streets was a community in transition. Previously used as farmland, the larger

properties were being subdivided into smaller estates and urban streets.

Very little is known about the cemetery or who is buried there, as few records exist. However, one local organization, The African American Resources, Cultural Heritage Society (AARCH) of Frederick County is dedicated to learning more. This group, which is committed to preserving and sharing the history and heritage of African American culture, believes they have identified seven African American veterans who served in colored regiments during the American Civil War that are buried at the site:

- W.H. Brown, Co K, 28th USCT
- George W. Johnson, 54th Mass
- Thomas Lanzell, Co. F, 8th USCT
- Henry Lee, Co. I, 28th USCT
- Nickolas Nicholas, Co. B, 19th USCT
- William Powell, Co. D, 2nd USCT
- George W. Williams, 29th Conn.



1897 Sanborn Map depicting the Laboring Son's Cemetery and the surrounding neighborhood

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## LINK TO AFRICAN AMERICAN & CIVIL WAR HERITAGE

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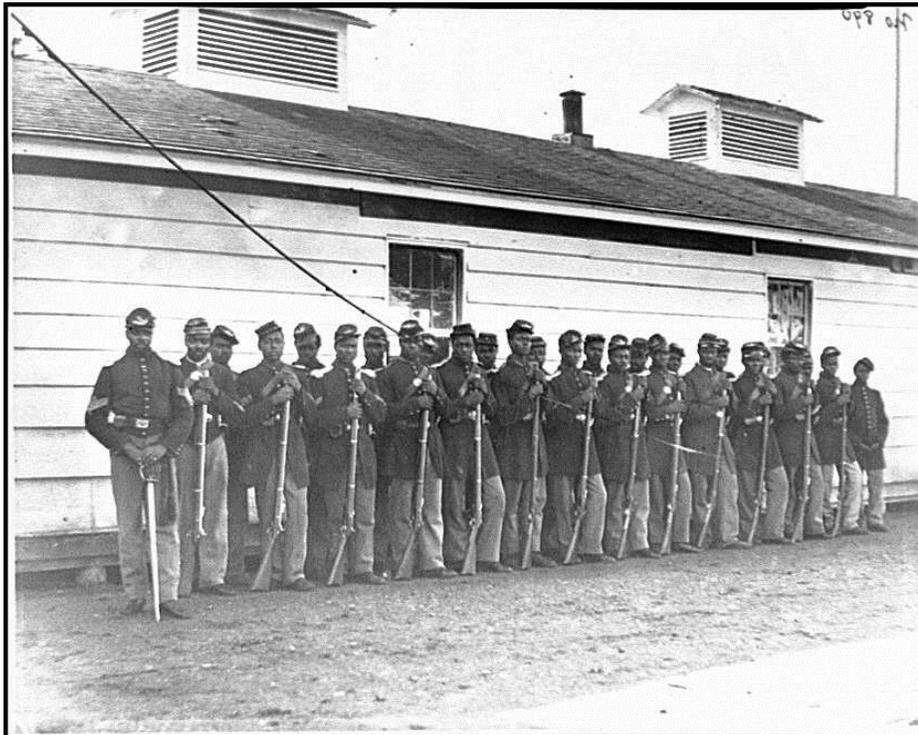
Approximately 180,000 African Americans comprising 163 units served in the Union Army with many more serving in the Union Navy. These soldiers participated in every major campaign of 1864-1865 except Sherman's invasion of Georgia. The most widely known battle fought by African Americans was the assault on Fort Wagner, in South Carolina by the 54th Massachusetts on July 18, 1863. African American companies were also raised for the Confederate Army, but the war ended before being called to duty.

As our country celebrates the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, it is fitting that the City's African American veterans are identified and recognized. At least one third of Maryland's formerly enslaved black men fought for the Union, so it is likely that other soldiers

are buried at this historic memorial ground.

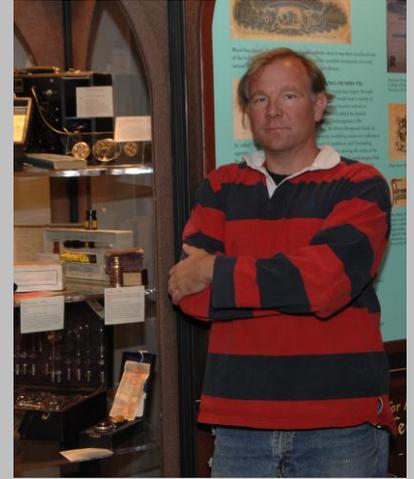
The City of Frederick, which has owned and operated the site since 1950, has recognized the historic and cultural significance of this site and has recently obtained an African American Heritage Preservation Grant. The grant program is administered by the Maryland Historic Trust and the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC). The grant is intended to help fund walkway and lighting improvements for the memorial ground.

A special thanks to Rev. Dr. Joseph R. Foster Treasurer of the African American Resources, Cultural Heritage Society (AARCH) of Frederick County for providing research and information.



Company E, 4th US Colored Infantry at Fort Lincoln; Washington, DC

## Welcome Michael Simons to the HPC



Michael Simons has spent his entire career in preservation. After receiving a MA in Anthropology from Southern Illinois, he spent a year with Case Western Reserve University doing fieldwork in India. In 1993 Simons was offered a position with the preservation firm of R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, where he served as Project Manager on projects in the Mid-Atlantic, Caribbean and Micronesia.

After a decade, Simons switched career paths slightly and accepted the position of Registrar at The National Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington DC. He is currently the Director of the National Electronics Museum in Linthicum, Maryland home to the country's largest collection of defense electronics.

Simons has had a lifelong interest in historic buildings and landscapes. As a 20 year resident and a homeowner, he has seen the downtown area change and grow. He is mindful of the role of historic preservation in the economic vitality of the city while understanding the needs of its citizens.

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**Mayor** Randy McClement

**Aldermen**

Karen Lewis Young, President Pro Tem  
Michael C. O'Connor  
Shelley M. Aloï  
Carol L. Krimm  
Kelly M. Russell

**Historic Preservation Commission**

Scott Winnette, DMin, Chairman  
Robert Jones, Vice Chairman  
Gary Baker, RA  
Shawn Burns  
Stephen Parnes  
Michael Simons  
Brian Dylus, Alternate  
Michael C. O'Connor, Aldermanic Liaison

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2012 SCHEDULE	
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION	
<u>Application deadline</u>	<u>Public hearing</u>
September 6	September 27
September 20	October 11
October 4	October 25
October 18	November 8
November 15	December 13
December 20	Jan. 10, 2013