



Oak Leaves

VOLUME XXXIII, Number 2

Spring 2010

DRAFT DEMOLITION ORDINANCE READY

In the last issue, we told you about our petition drive to collect signatures for a DEMOLITION ORDINANCE. Since that time, we have collected almost 900 signatures. On May 11, I presented a draft ordinance to the Historic Preservation Commission for their review. The title is *An Ordinance to Encourage the Preservation of Architecturally and Historically Significant Buildings by Delay of Demolition*.

The goal of the ordinance is to 1) preserve and protect significant buildings and structures within the City which constitute or reflect distinctive features of the architectural, cultural, economic, political or social history of the City, and 2) to limit the detrimental effect on community character and heritage that may result from the demolition of such buildings and structures.

Because this ordinance will cover buildings everywhere in the City, it needs to be fair and not burdensome. There will be a maximum waiting period of ninety days before granting a permit for the demolition of any significant building or structure. City residents will be alerted

to the anticipated demolition of significant buildings or structures and the owners of such buildings or structures are encouraged to consider preservation, restoration, rehabilitation or relocation as alternatives to demolition. This ordinance will not preserve every old building, nor should it. What it will do is give those who care about the historic resources of this community the opportunity to preserve them.



Read the full draft ordinance on our website (search "demolition") and give us your feedback. Also, attend the Historic Preservation Commission meeting on June 14, 10 a.m., where they will discuss the proposed ordinance and, hopefully, make a recommendation to the City Council.

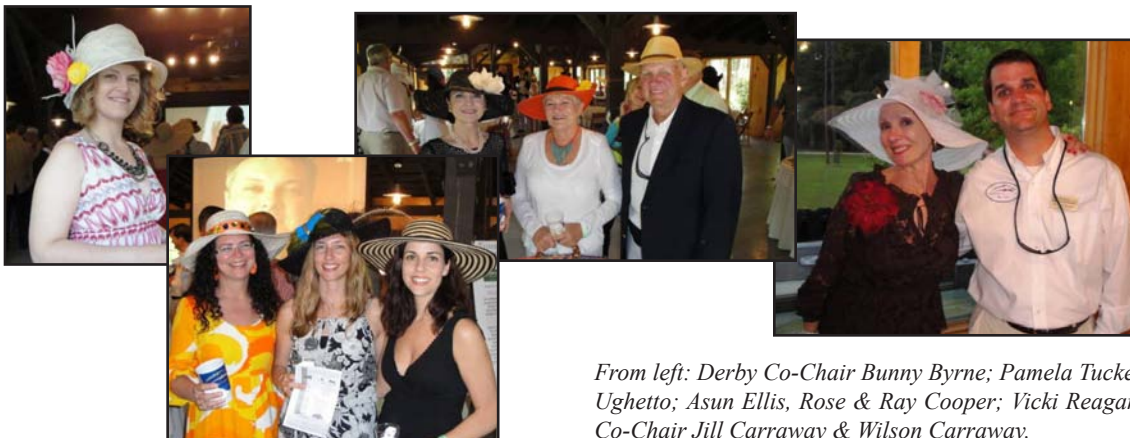
mission meeting on June 14, 10 a.m., where they will discuss the proposed ordinance and, hopefully, make a recommendation to the City Council.

DERBY PARTY A WINNER FOR LANDMARKS

Over 180 members and friends were entertained with everything from bluegrass music to current hit songs during the 136th Run for the Roses. The Kentucky Derby Party has become the party to officially cap the Thomasville social season. And this year, the events leading up to the Derby provided something for everyone. These included a Hat Party hosted by Joolz and Stanley F. Smith, Architect, a wine tasting class hosted by Robyn Enright, and a Trifecta blind tasting at Uno Hill Barn. Speaking of which, no venue could be more perfect. Its design is welcoming, it has fantastic audio/visual equipment, and – most important – excellent air conditioning!

A superior menu catered by Capers, Inc., bartending by Andy Jones, and decorations by Oso Artworks completed what was a wonderful evening. Guests danced well into the night (thinking of how much they love historic architecture). Sponsorships soared this year, supporting both our mission and allowing us to throw a great party for our supporters.

More pictures on-line and on page 6.



From left: Derby Co-Chair Bunny Byrne; Pamela Tucker; Michele Ughetto; Claire Ughetto; Asun Ellis; Rose & Ray Cooper; Vicki Reagan & Corey Hooper; Derby Co-Chair Jill Carraway & Wilson Carraway.

MISSION

To Preserve, Protect and Promote the Architecture, History and Heritage of Thomasville and the Thomas County area.

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Email: tli@rose.net

You can view *Oak Leaves* in color and join or learn more about Thomasville Landmarks at www.ThomasvilleLandmarks.org

LOCAL PARTNER

**NATIONAL TRUST FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION®**

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

[The following article was written by Ola Jones.]

While I was going through all of the past years' board and committee minutes for research on an upcoming event, I had the impression of an organization that was operating from a more glamorous viewpoint than we see ourselves in at present. The Board was not only involved with preservation, but building Thomasville into what it is today. This not only improved the city, but also built their personal businesses. History, preserving the past, and expending a great amount of personal time and energy held lots of meaning for them as a group and individually.

They seemed to believe that invested personal volunteer time would build the organization and the city. Galas, balls, tours of outside organizations, as well as tours of other cities, by the local citizens, and bringing outside experts in to share knowledge, were all a part of the glamour. Doing diligent research and pushing their agenda by establishing historic districts to preserve their past enhanced our own past and future.

From my perspective, a tremendous amount of work done, with self-sacrifice, and love given from Landmarks members played a strategic part in building our Thomasville of today. I see a lot of work yet to come with the current goals of the Board, from demolition ordinances, to property revitalization, to encouraging and helping communities around Thomas County. All of this hard work, intended to keep Thomasville strong and build its future, can only benefit the citizens of tomorrow.

Do we still see ourselves involved with a glamorous undertaking, paying our dues, and holding our city together with history, mortar and love? What do you think?

Ola Jones is a 5th generation resident of Brooks County, primarily from the Grooverville area. She is involved in the preservation of that area and the Liberty Baptist Church in the Grooverville community. She was also involved in the production of 5 books published by the Brooks County Genealogical Society. She is currently working as an administrative assistant for Landmarks, living in Thomasville and working to put Liberty Baptist Church on the National Register of Historic Places.

LANDMARKS MEMORIAL FORM

I would like to make a donation

In Honor Of / In Memory Of (circle one)

Name: _____

Additional Information: _____

Donor's Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Donation Amount: _____

Please mail to TLI Memorial, PO Box 1285, Thomasville, GA 31799.

In Memorium

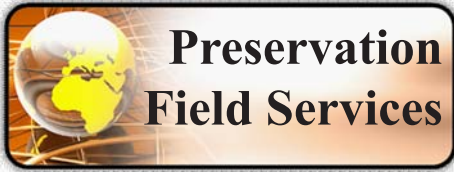
Mrs. Rick (Carol) Thomas
Mrs. Bette Graham
Mr. Klaus Bindhardt
Mrs. Jamie (Del) Oglesby
Mr. Samuel Boykins

Donations have been made
In Honor Of
Roy M. Lilly, Sr.
for his contributions to his
family, church & community
by Will Krech

In Memory Of

Anne M. Searcy
by Will Krech

If you would like to make a donation in honor or memory of a friend, family member or loved one, please fill out and return the Landmarks Memorial Form



Preservation Field Services

Preservation Field Services are funded by a matching grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation with a goal of providing vastly improved preservation services to Thomasville and the Thomas County area.

Meigs

Since the election of Mayor Andrew Wurst, Meigs has been given a much-needed shot in the arm. In addition to his focus on cleaning up the finances, water system and law enforcement, he brings a vision of preservation and revitalization of his hometown. He secured emergency funds for maintenance of the Meigs Train Depot, which is today used as the City Hall and Police Station, immediately upon becoming mayor.

As a boy, Mayor Wurst grew a small produce stand into a large one that catered to travelers along the old Dixie Highway (Georgia 3), the nation's original north-south highway, which went through downtown Meigs on its way to Florida. In that spirit, one of his first initiatives will be to re-establish a local farmer's market in downtown Meigs. He has also asked Landmarks to assist the Meigs Planning & Zoning Committee in establishing an historic preservation ordinance and a Dixie Highway Corridor Historic District. A map of the proposed area is available on our website. Shown in the picture are Mayor Wurst and Ernest Barfield. Mr. Barfield is a designer of commercial & residential interiors and chair of the Planning & Zoning Committee.

Landmarks' Properties Committee is also working to assist the owner of the 1901 Otto Carter House, which is one of the most significant in Thomas County, both for its architecture and association with its builder, a man who helped build Meigs to a thriving town in the early twentieth century. The porte cochere is failing due to leaky gutters, but the house remains in remarkably fine condition. The Big Oak Park gazebo originally stood on this property.



Mayor Andrew Wurst and Planning & Zoning Committee Chair Ernest Barfield.

A view of the 1901 Carter House's failing porte cochere.



Metcalfe

The images below show an artist's rendition of downtown Metcalfe with some improvements suggested during a public input session held in November 2009. Landmarks and jB+a Community Advantage consulting helped the community envision changes they wanted for Metcalfe. One of the priorities everyone agreed on was the revitalization of the

downtown. Included in this revitalization were new businesses with services for local and tourists, shade trees, nearby parking, slower traffic, and restored buildings. We will continue to support the Metcalfe Community Association as they work to improve the community.

Another group that is dedicated to supporting the Metcalfe community is the Metcalfe Heritage Society (MHS). This group is recently formed and is accepting memberships (\$30/year) and donations. It is primarily designed to allow non-residents who have ties to the community to support projects by current residents. The MHS is planning a landmark recognition program similar to the Landmarks' Historic House Plaque program and downtown Thomasville's marker program. The first markers are intended for downtown buildings, churches and other significant structures.



Metcalfe Community, Existing 2010



Metcalfe Community - Concept Rendering

PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE REHAB

In 2008, we began planning what ultimately became a city initiative to revitalize an in-town neighborhood, namely the Victoria Place Urban Redevelopment Area (VPURA). We partnered with the City of Thomasville and Habitat for Humanity to define the future of this area, which lies behind Flowers Bakery and includes parts of the Fletcherville National Register Historic District. To show faith in, and support for, the future of this neighborhood, we purchased 207 Lester Street through the Diane W. Parker Revolving Fund, with funds donated by the Williams H. Flowers Foundation.

This year, the Landmarks Properties Committee decided to pursue both Georgia historic rehab tax credits AND a green building certification. We are currently studying whether it is possible to combine the tax credit program with the LEED for Homes program of the U.S. Green Building Council (www.usgbc.org). According to their website, "LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts."

The historic tax credit program allows homeowners who rehabilitate a historic house to the appropriate standards to take a Georgia income tax credit for 25% of their qualified rehab expenses. By combining these two programs, we will address some of the up-front costs of renovating a historic home and some of the long-term costs of living in one. We also hope to set a standard for renovation for other communities in Georgia by determining potential areas for cost savings and alternative methods of waste disposal and recycling. Coincidentally, we will also be embracing what is known as the small house movement.

According to Wikipedia, the small house movement is an architectural and social movement that advocates living in small homes. Sarah Susanka has been credited with starting the countermovement toward smaller houses when she published *The Not So Big House* in 1997. In 2007, the average size of new single family homes in the U.S. was 2,479 square feet. Large homes are relatively more costly in terms of building, taxes, heating, maintenance and repair. Small houses represent not just a reduction in size but emphasize design over size, utilize dual-purpose features and incorporate technological advances of space-saving equipment and appliances.

Most houses in the VPURA are less than 1,300 SF, so this philosophy will be important for attracting new families to the area. The house Landmarks owns will be approximately 800 SF, with one or two bedrooms and one bath. Go to our website to learn more about the VPURA Concept Plan.



207 Lester Street

Upcoming Events

May 27, 5-7pm

Renovator's Happy Hour
314 North Dawson Street

June 21-25, 2010

Heritage Education Teachers Workshop
Spaces Still Available!

October 7, 2010

Annual Membership Picnic
Location TBA

October 27-31, 2010

National Preservation Conference
Austin, Texas

SUMMER SUPPERS!

Are you interested in hosting a wine tasting or dinner party at your home to support Landmarks? If so, please contact Angela Kiminas at 226-6016 to find out how.

ARE YOU NETWORKED?

Thanks to John Kiminas, Landmarks has a new website where the latest updates to issues and events are posted almost daily. The website is at www.thomasvillelandmarks.org. Mr. Kiminas, a web developer (and husband of Angela Kiminas, our Development Director), has developed a site that is easily searchable by Google and other web browsers. It is also linked to other social networking sites, such as Facebook, Twitter and Del.icio.us. If you use Google Reader, bookmark our site to stay up-to-date. It is also easy to subscribe via other sociable sites and to read the newsletter on-line.



Sign up for email updates on the website to be sure you get the latest preservation news and events.

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP-TO-DATE?

Please check your newsletter label to see your renewal date and your current membership level. **If your renewal date is 12/31/2009 or earlier, please renew now** to ensure you continue to receive your membership benefits like the *Oak Leaves* newsletter, invitations to events and email updates.

When you renew, please consider raising your monetary donation – even an additional \$10 beyond your usual donation can go a long way. Or, if you are able, please consider upgrading to the next membership level. **As a member-supported organization, we rely on your support!**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: JANUARY - MAY

* New Member

Personal

Heritage

Mrs. Frank E. Williams

Restoration

*Mr. & Mrs. W. Clyde Shepherd, III
Mr. Philip M. Wertz

Preservation

Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Webster, Jr.
Kay Attaway
Clay & Frances Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Harvard
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Lanigan, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. McCollum
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Mercer
Mr. & Mrs. J. Mark Parker
Mr. & Mrs. Russell and Betty Rouse
Gerald & Victoria Wolsfelt

Conservation

Paul and Lisa Bryan
Phillip H. Davis
Joanne Hardy
Mr. Harry T. Jones, III
Dr. & Mrs. Luther R. Mills
Wilson and Jill Carraway
Wayne and Barbara Lawson
Mr. & Mrs. L.A. Harmon
Bobby & Karen Maxwell
Charlotte Kanning

Did you know that the Annual Membership Picnic is for current 2010 members only? If your newsletter label has a renewal date of 12/31/2009 or before on it, chances are that you won't be receiving a Picnic invitation.

Renew now to ensure that you are on the list and to continue supporting Landmarks mission in the community.

Sustainer

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Alexander
Mr. & Mrs. Franklin B. Beverly
Ms. Carol M. Biggs
Allan & Sandi Bridwell
Mr. & Mrs. York Carter
Tom & Amy Cook
Mrs. Leroy B. Edwards
Irene & John Gleason
*Mr. Brandon Godwin
*Roger & Sherry Harrell
Danny & Jennifer Hatchell
Joan Holmes
Bill and Judy Hoskin
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald N. Kadis
Anthony Kavanaugh
Mrs. Bryan Leedy
Mr. & Mrs. A. Heywood Mason
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Ponder
Jerry & Vicki Reagan
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Simmons
Mrs. Robert B. Singletary
Ms. Nancy Tillinghast
Margaret Titus
Gale N. Whitehurst
Eugene Witherspoon

Member

*Mr. & Mrs. Copeland
*Dr. & Mrs. Richard & Susan Groves
*Roy Pace
*Dr. & Mrs. Potyondy
*Hans Roes
*Debbie Russell
*Mr. & Mrs. Scheib
*Mr. John Turrentine, Jr.
Kate Weisenborn

Corporate

Partner

Henderson Food Service
Stanley F. Smith, Architect

Member

Georgia-Florida Burglar Alarm Co
Sampson's Paint & Decorating Center
A Big Slice/Vini Code
Boston Tractor
First Presbyterian Church
Habitat For Humanity
Harveys Supermarkets
Hicks Clothing
Senior Life Insurance
Studio Viohl
Thomasville YMCA

Foundation Gifts

Seda Vale Foundation
Williams Family Foundation of Georgia

Membership Anniversaries for the 2nd quarter of 2010

Celebrating 10 years

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph B. Gunter, Jean M. Sprague, Mr. & Mrs. George W. Herndon
15 years – Crystal Anniversary
Mr. & Mrs. Garland Basford
25 years – Silver Anniversary
Mr. & Mrs. Larry May

Did you know that by renewing on-line, you get the National Trust's *Preservation* magazine as an additional benefit? Visit www.ThomasvilleLandmarks.org and click the Membership link.

PRESERVATION HAPPENS...THANKS TO YOU!

Derby 2010 Sponsors

Gold Cup Level

Joe & Melody Gunter
Shields & Company
Lanigan & Associates
Boston Tractor
Astro Pest Control

Silver Cup Level

Wells Fargo Advisors
Jamie & Keane West
John & Connie Wood
Olson Design
Commercial Bank
Debbie Russell
Dr. Rick & Mary Grace Murphy

Winner's Circle Level

Diane W. Parker
Anonymous



Triple Crown Level



Farmers & Merchants Bank



Twin Spires Level

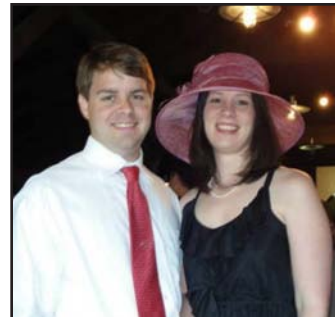
Chastain Design
Alan & Pamela Tucker
Mimi Morris
Senior Life Insurance
Hicks Clothing
Ed & Sandra Hall
The Wright Group
The Plaza Restaurant
Culpepper Construction
Dr. Ben Grace
Kathy Folsom
Rudolph & Elizabeth Elzy
Merrill & Deborah Hicks
Thomasville National Bank
Chris & Amber Rodd
Fred & Sandra Jones
Roy Pace
Dr. Rick & Susan Groves
Margaret Titus
Hans Roes

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make Derby 2010 a success!

Co-Chairs: Bunny Byrne and Jill Carraway; Decorations: Jackie Ellis; Catering: Tonia Streets; Volunteers: Suzanne Boyd, Bill & Liz Drake, Sanford Giemza, Emily Glaccum, Erin Grace, Tom Harrison, Corey Hooper, Darlone Kaley, Janet Liles, Linda Malcolm, Karen Maxwell, Linda Moore, Mimi Morris, Jerry & Vicki Reagan, Pam Rosenbury, Carey Sewell, Twitty Titus, Alan & Pamela Tucker, John & Connie Wood, Pam Wright, Spencer Young, Thomasville National Bank, Commercial Bank, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Linda Lawson.

Raffle & Hat Contest Prizes Donated By:

Thomasville YMCA, Thomasville Cultural Center, Friends of the Library, Pebble Hill, Birdsong Nature Center, Wild Adventures, Alan & Pamela Tucker, Integrative Medicine, Studio Viohl Photography, Dr. Potyondy, Plastic Surgery Associates of Georgia, Melissa Bullington Thomas, Astro Pest Control, Nancy McPherson, Sarah's Salon, Dr. Thomas Oppenheim



Clockwise from upper left: Holly Harrison; Keith Wortman; Chris & Amber Rodd; Board President Ben McCollum; Hats for Sale; Rose Cooper; Hat Party Crowd in Stanley F. Smith's office.



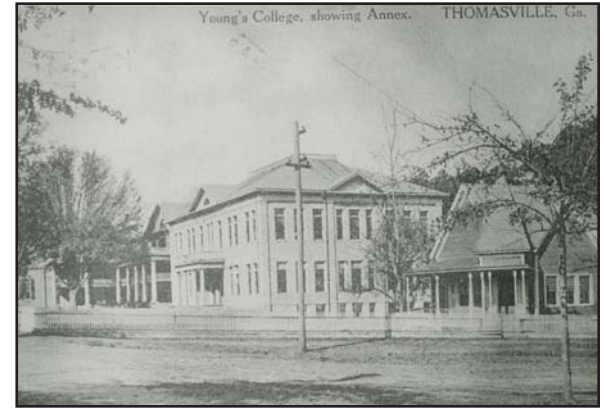
MAY 27 EVENT AT THE OLD ROSEMARY INN

On May 27, 5-7 p.m., you are invited to join us for another fun and educational **Renovator's Happy Hour** at the historic Rosemary Inn, located at 314 North Dawson Street. As with all RHH events, there will be a self-guided tour and delicious refreshments. Work isn't quite finished, so get a good look at the 'bones' of this building before it's too late. This event is FREE and open to Members and guests. It is sponsored by The Wright Group, the real estate brokerage of Board President Ben McCollum.

The Rosemary Inn was established in the early twentieth century in what was the Administration Building of Young's Female College. The school operated from the 1860s until the early 1900s. The college also

included the 1854 Ephraim Ponder House, on the corner of Dawson Street and Monroe Street, which was the president's house. The Inn operated until the 1950s. It was used as offices for doctors and a drug rehabilitation center until recently.

The building is faced with cast block that is rusticated to give it the appearance of stonework. Built ca. 1906, it has characteristic Colonial Revival style details. The interior features original cast iron columns and a curved ceiling on the second floor, originally a single auditorium room. The current owner is developing the property as condominiums.



A vintage postcard of the College. Courtesy of the Thomas County Historical Society.

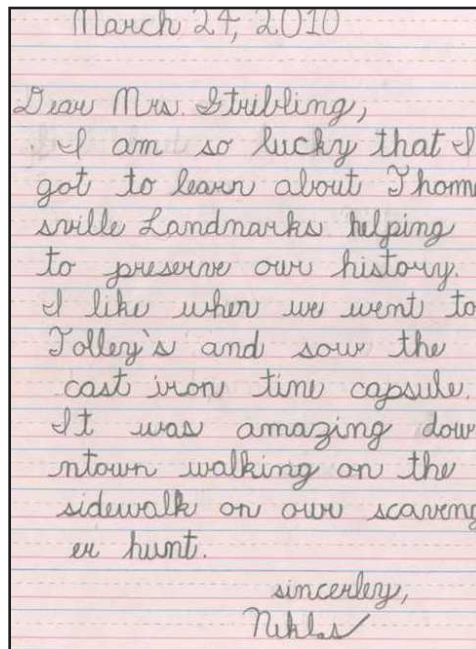
HOW WE TEACH HERITAGE EDUCATION

Our goal is not only to preserve our community's architectural heritage, it is to help create a local culture that values it. We do this through several Heritage Education programs, led by Education Coordinator Sara Beth Stribling. We use our built environment to educate people about their past.

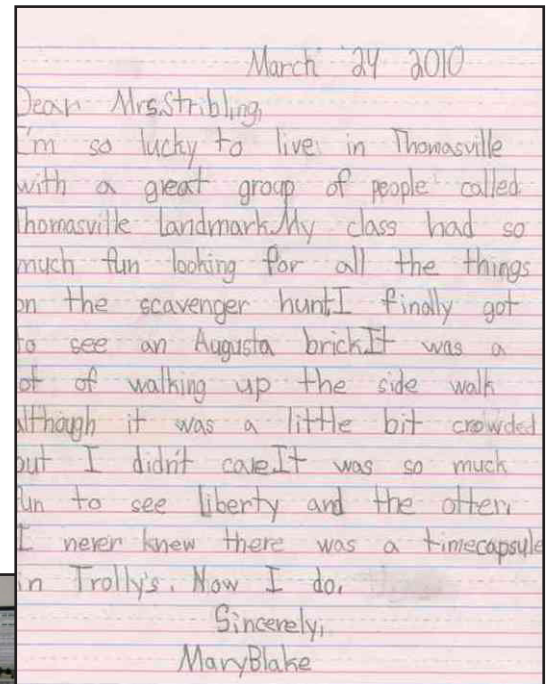
According to the New Georgia Encyclopedia (www.georgiaencyclopedia.org), "educators ... have come to realize not only the importance of teaching students about their past but also the ways in which local and community history helps students better to understand state and national history, mathematical and scientific concepts, art, music, and the humanities. From a very early age children are interested in their immediate surroundings. By channeling such natural curiosity and interest in tangible surroundings, educators can help students understand theories and ideas of a more general or far-reaching nature and at the same time teach them to appreciate and understand the past."

Programs such as Box City and the Downtown Architectural Scavenger Hunt allow students of all ages to discover features that create our unique environment and incorporate those into model cities of their own.

The summer Teacher's Workshop will be held June 21-25, 2010, and will give twenty educators the tools needed to incorporate heritage education into their classroom curricula.



Left & Below: A sampling of letters from students at Jerger Elementary after a Downtown Scavenger Hunt. They are soaking up history!



Left: E.D. Brent Runyon examines a Box City model made by Jerger 2nd grader students.

All of our programs are free-of-charge, thanks to the support of individual donors, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation and the Thomasville Antiques Show Foundation.

Nonprofit Organization
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Return Service Requested

A TRULY REMARKABLE HOUSE FOR SALE

Thomasville Landmarks has reached an agreement with Commercial Bank, the current owner of the historic 1885 Hopkins House, to offer the house and adjacent lot for sale to buyers interested in restoring it with historic preservation easements. Watch the virtual tour on our website (search "hopkins").

Constructed by H.W. Hopkins, local judge, mayor, state senator and real estate broker during the area's gilded age, the grand Victorian style house represents the most architecturally and historically significant, un-restored structure in Thomasville. Judge Hopkins was pivotal in shaping the history of Thomas County by successfully promoting the area to wealthy Northerners who built elegant winter "cottages" and ultimately went on to become treasured citizens and friends of the community. His extended family once owned the block on which the Commercial Bank now sits and had several grand houses, all but one of which has been lost.



The house was designed and built by Tudor Rommerdall, who also designed the Lapham-Patterson House. It exemplifies exceptional craftsmanship and detailing including largely intact original architectural elements such as heart pine trim, mantles, crown moldings, finials, transoms, doors, bay

windows, and intricate decorative plasterwork. The original house included a great tower which was a playroom for his 10 children. Its location at the highly visible intersection of Remington Avenue and Dawson Street makes it well suited for adaptive reuse as a professional office, bed and breakfast, or in-town residence. Included in the sale is an adjacent grassy lot conveniently accessible from Dawson Street. If Landmarks fails to sell the house by September 12, 2010, when its option expires, a subsequent sale without protections will place this significant structure at very high risk for demolition.

The Diane W. Parker Revolving Fund, a component fund of Landmarks is offering the house and additional lot for \$189,500. Proceeds will be used to purchase and protect other endangered properties within Thomasville and Thomas County.



Under Construction, circa 1884
The Diane W. Parker Revolving Fund, a component fund of Landmarks is offering the house and additional lot for \$189,500. Proceeds will be used to purchase and protect other endangered properties within Thomasville and Thomas County.

Ben McCollum, President of the Landmarks Board and broker at The Wright Group, is the listing agent. He may be contacted at 229-226-2564.

Benefactor & Above Levels

Firman Fund
The Gift Shop
Lanigan & Associates
Olson Design



Logos for our Benefactor and above Corporate members are shown when provided.

Patron Level

Taco Bell



Corporate members at the Patron Level and above are listed here.