

THE NEHHPA NEWSLETTER

Benefits of an Architectural Review Board



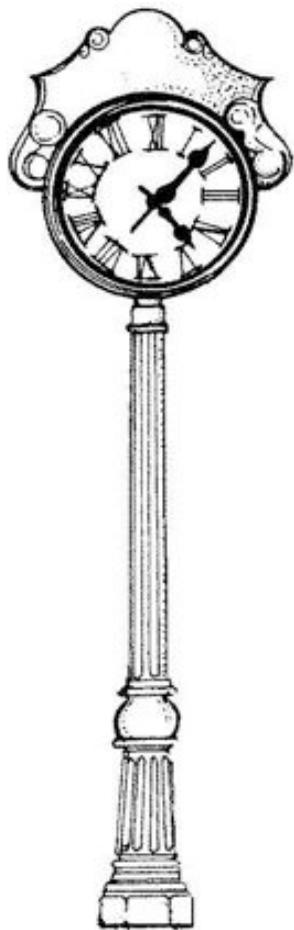
Huntington Avenue at 60th Street, between 1919 and 1926

Next year the North End Huntington Heights Architectural Review Board will be ten years old. During this time many changes have occurred; people come, people go, but the neighborhood remains. Thus it is good time to reflect on why it is important to have an ARB if we are to maintain a viable historic district. Residents often ask how creating a local historic district benefits their community.

According to an issue of *Small Towns Institute*, there are several good reasons why historic districts are a necessary and viable force in communities across the United States:

A. To preserve architecture

Historic buildings reveal a great deal about the evolution of a community. By preserving these buildings a sense of history can be saved and a strong foundation is maintained upon which future development can occur. If we don't have something to regulate the preservation of these treasures, they will go by the wayside and once the historical architecture is gone, it's gone. *see ARB, page 3*



Calendar

December 2, 2008

NEHHPA Board Meeting

December 11, 2008

NEHHPA

Holiday Covered Dish Party

January 12, 2009

NEHHPA Board Meeting

February 10, 2009

NEHHPA Board Meeting

February 24, 2008

Annual NEHHPA Membership Meeting

**North
End
Huntington
Heights
Preservation
Association**

Officers

President: Kathy Whittaker

Vice President: Ed Matz

Treasurer: TBD

Historian: Michelle Carpenter

Secretary: Cathy Luckadoo

Directors

Block Captain Coordinator:
Sheila Kerr-Jones

Codes: Billie Leggette

Neighborhood Crime Watch:
Debra Ritger

Merchandising, Yard Sale:
John Runner

Membership:
Karen Hammond

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As I sit writing this piece for the newsletter, it feels like winter is right around the corner. We all know what that means - holidays! And there will be a million and one things to take care of before they get here. So before you get too involved with all of these plans, stop and jot down this date, December 11th. This is the date on which we are having the NEHHPA Holiday Covered Dish Party. Enclosed is an invitation to this event. Please put it on your refrigerator as a reminder. To those of you who remember this party I'm sure you remember it fondly. It was an evening enjoyed by everyone at which you could have a great meal and catch up with neighbors on the goings on in the neighborhood. We sang carols and the children had a great time with Santa.

In the spirit of the holidays, come have dinner with family and friends and meet new neighbors. We would also like to have a 50's party so let's make the pot lock a catalyst for the future.

Wishing you all a very happy Thanksgiving.

Kathy Whittaker 247-1540

fgwhittaker@cox.net

P.S. Our NEHHPA website is back up! Hooray! If you have any suggestions or comments on the website, please contact the webmaster at info@NEHHPA.org.

THE NORTH END HUNTINGTON HEIGHTS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

The mission statement for the North End Huntington Heights Preservation Association is to preserve the historic residential character of North End Huntington Heights through advocacy, communication, and education.

ARB

Cont. from page 1

B. To retain community character

People who own property within a historic district can learn the proper methods to maintain their buildings (which are often inexpensive, contrary to popular belief); therefore, buildings remain compatible with the existing environment. If historic buildings are maintained according to particular standards, property value also increases.

C. To channel progress

Deteriorated buildings occasionally must be demolished and new buildings constructed in their place. How successful this progress is depends upon the compatibility of the new buildings. A historic district can establish standards for new construction in order to maintain visual compatibility, which has been known to generate or increase commercial opportunities.

D. To foster community pride

Community pride evolves from a group effort toward historic preservation. This contribution from many property owners is vital in developing an appreciation for the heritage of a community.

E. To preserve environmental beauty

A sense of beauty is created from appropriate repair and renovation. Historic district regulations can help to maintain a consistency in the treatment of such buildings, thus creating a sense of aesthetic satisfaction for all those who live in and visit the community.

F. To increase real estate value

Preservation of buildings can bring financial benefits to a community by making individual

structures and the surrounding landscape more valuable by subsequently increasing the tax base.

To make the above reasons become a reality, there needs to be a mechanism and that mechanism is an Architectural Review Board. This need was recognized by an overwhelming majority of the residents in our historic district which is why when our local historic district was created in 1999, the North End Huntington Heights Architectural Review Board (ARB) was established by the Newport News City Council. The ARB includes seven individuals who have interest in historic preservation and experience with rehabilitating or restoring historic buildings. The ARB's chief duty is to oversee the preservation and management of the City-designated historic overlay district (HODs). This is clearly established by City Ordinance under the Zoning Ordinance **Article XXXI Division 6 Sec. 45-3142**. The ARB accomplishes its tasks by ruling on Certificates of Appropriateness.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

If you own property within the North End Huntington Heights Historic overlay district and you wish to alter the exterior of your building(s), a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required. You must complete a Certificate of Appropriateness Application and submit the application, along with architectural plans and other descriptive project details to the Department of Planning. Building alterations or additions must comply with the North End Huntington Heights Historic District Guidelines and zoning ordinance regulations. There are some real rewards for following this process. Some of those rewards include tax incentives.

See ARB, Page 4

ARB

Cont. from Page 3

TAX INCENTIVES FOR REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation is the act or process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those features of the property that are significant to its historical or architectural value. There are state & federal tax incentives for rehabilitating historic properties. A local tax incentive program has also been created whereby property owners may restore historic properties without increasing assessments for seven years. For more information about historic tax credits, contact the [Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Financial Incentives](#). Further information as well as the complete set of Guidelines can be found at

<http://www.nngov.com/planning/resources/ARB>

HOUSE PLAQUES

Give your historic home the recognition it deserves. Through NEHHPA, you can purchase a bronze plaque featuring the year your home was built and the original homeowner's name. The plaque will include the inscription "Historic North End Huntington Heights".

The cost is \$195, due when you place your order. In your order, include the original homeowner's name and year of construction to:

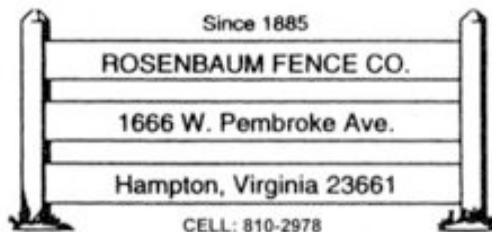
NEHHPA, P. O. Box 75
Newport News, VA 23607

If you don't know when your house was built or who the original owner was, NEHHPA can assist you in researching this information at the Newport News Clerk of the Courts, Deed Office.

Attention!

In order to reduce printing costs, after the January NEHHPA Newsletter, printed copies will be limited to NEHHPA members only.

If you wish to receive an electronic copy of the NEHHPA Newsletter, contact us at info@NEHHPA.org



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11 AM to 9 PM Monday - Saturday
1 PM to 8 PM Sunday

Historic Corner - Researching Your House at Main Street Public Library

You may not know it, but there is a very useful and under utilized tool available to assist you in doing research on you historic home --- Sanborn Fire Maps.

Sanborn Fire Maps were created by the Sanborn Map Company assist insurance companies with determining cost of fire insurance for many cities and towns. They were acquired by Environmental Data Resources, Inc. in 1996.

What appears on a typical Sanborn map? The maps provide a wealth of information, such as building outline, size and shape, construction materials, height, building use, windows and doors, street and sidewalk widths, boundaries, house numbers, and more. The plans often include information and shading for steel beams or reinforced walls, plus symbols for stables, garages, warehouses, etc. The maps also show lot lines and other features

such as city water mains and gas lines. Since the maps were updated on a regular basis, it is possible to determine when lots were subdivided and what was built on them, or when house additions were built.

For the homeowner doing research, the Sanborn maps combined with your other reference sources—city directories, photographs, small-scale maps, census records, genealogies, and statistical data— can provide an unparalleled picture of life in American towns and cities.

After looking at the maps, I discovered that the house at

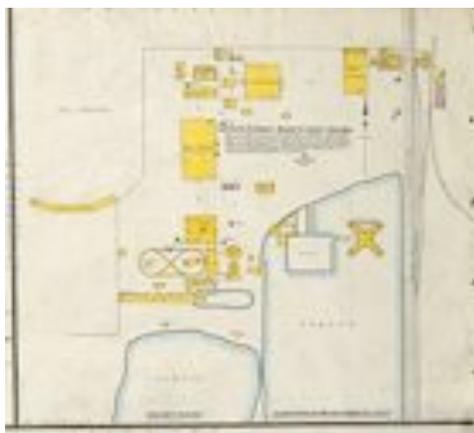
5311 Huntington Avenue was the only one on the block built of brick masonry (not brick veneer). All of the roofing materials were of noncombustible (slate and probably metal). I also found out that the house remains as it was built; there was been no additions or demolitions made to the structure. By looking at maps from later years, I found when the houses on either side were built.

The Sanborn maps as well as other research items mentioned earlier can be found in the Virginiana Room at the Main Street Library

110 Main Street
Newport News, VA 23601
(757) 591-4858

Monday-Thursday:
9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday:
9 a.m. - 6 p. m.
Sunday: 1 - 5 p.m.

*Article submitted by
Melissa Tiffany*



Holiday Happenings

In addition to our own Holiday Dinner event on Thursday, December 11. There are many other local events which may be of interest to you as well.

Christmas in the Field Civil War Reenactment

Newport News, VA 23602 Ph. 757-887-1862

See how soldiers celebrated the holidays during the Civil War during this two day holiday event that takes place in December and includes scenarios with troops in camp, battles both days, drills, and vendors selling period gear.

A Lee Family Christmas

Newport News, VA 23602 Ph. 757-888-3371

The elegance of Christmas past is presented by a variety of historical characters from the 1860s during this holiday event which takes place each December and explores the lives of the Richard Decauter Lee family during the holiday season. Stories, refreshments, and period music are a part of this festive occasion.

Williamsburg Christmas

Thanksgiving Day marks the beginning of special holiday programs at Colonial Williamsburg that continue through New Year's Day. Highlights include Grand Illumination, community Christmas tree lighting, holiday music concerts, and walking tours of decorations. Open daily. Admission required for most events. www.hamptonroadsvisitor.com/williamsburg-christmas.html November 22 - December 31

Celebration in Lights

A two-mile drive-through of spectacular animated scenes set in Newport News Park. New display area commemorates Captain Christopher Newport's Landing. Virginia's longest running drive-through light event. Newport News. www.nnparks.com/festivals.php

November 23 - December 31

Block Captains

47th - 50th Vacant

51st - Thom Matheson - 346 51st

52nd - Vacant

53rd - Lynn Ritger 349 53rd

West Hunt 51-54 Linda Bordeaux 226 52nd

54th - Bonnie Snead - 342 54th

55th - Phil Shook 310 55th

56th - Betty Zattiero 5601 Huntington

57th - Virginia Gall 338 57th

58th - Pat Ward 315 58th

59th - Karen Velkey 6702 Huntington

60th - John Hughes 335 60th

61st - Glenn Norcutt 319 61st

62nd - Brenda Robbins 330 62nd

63rd - Matt Gardner 6300 Huntington

64th - Bea Dahlen 6306 Huntington

65th - Billie Leggette 6408 Huntington

66th - George Silk 6512 Huntington

67th - Agnes Kump 314 67th

68th - James Wells - 6702 Huntington

69th, Warwick - Vacant

70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, Belvedere and River Rd - Steve Hudak 319 71st

Over the Back Fence:

Past NEHHPA President Moving Away

Earlier this summer, the NEHHPA Board decided to acknowledge the work done by Anita Garner for the neighborhood. We had an autumn photograph of our park enlarged, framed, and at a lunch gave Anita the photograph. She was very pleased and we hope she will remember the North End for many years.

Anita, a past president of NEHHPA, has been instrumental in many projects and events in the neighborhood. Most recently, she worked with the shipyard on getting the Christmas lights along Huntington Avenue.

The Garners will be moving to Florida. We wish them well.

Article submitted by Kathy Whittaker.

The Over the Back Fence section is reserved for news and submissions from the neighborhood.

*You're Invited To a
North End-Huntington Heights
Holiday Covered Dish Party*



Date: December 11, 2008

Time 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Place: Noland Memorial United Methodist Church

Note -

This pot luck is open to adults and children of the North End - Huntington Heights neighborhood. We ask everyone attending to bring a covered dish; the meat dish and beverage will be provided.

NEHHPA members attend free of charge, non-members pay \$2 per adult, \$1 per child. Please call Kathleen Tierney at 247-3844 by December 5th to let us know if you plan to attend. That way we will be sure to have enough main course and beverage.

There will be door prizes and a Santa for the children. Our special guest will be Councilwoman Tina Vick. Please join us for dinner with your friends and neighbors and continue this North End tradition.

Also put this invitation on your refrigerator so you do not forget.

Kathy Whittaker - President, NEHHPA

North End-Huntington Heights Preservation Association

NEHHPA, P.O. Box 75, Newport News, VA 23607

Application for membership

Please complete this form and mail with your check (payable to NEHHPA) to the address listed above.

Please circle the category of membership below for which you are applying.

Resident Member: To be eligible, you must reside in the area from 46th Street to 70th, bounded by Huntington and Warwick, and 70th to 73rd, from Warwick to the James River.

Associate Member: This category applies to all who live outside the area described above. Associates have all rights of membership excluding the right to vote and hold office.

The cost is **\$10 per year** per household and is good February of the current year until February of the following year. Lifetime membership is also available for \$100 per household.

Number of years ____ X \$10 = Total \$_____ or purchase a Lifetime Membership for \$100

Member #1: _____ Date: _____

Member #2: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ Apt. # _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address _____

Emergency contact _____ (in case something happens while you're out of town)

Please circle below any committees with which you might be willing to assist.

Block Captain	Membership	Homes Tour	Newsletter
Preservation Forum	Web Site	Beautification	City/Shipyard Liaison
Codes & Zoning	Welcoming	Advertising Sales	Merchandise Sales
Yard Sale	Special Events	Safety	Historical

Website Address: www.nehpa.org



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