

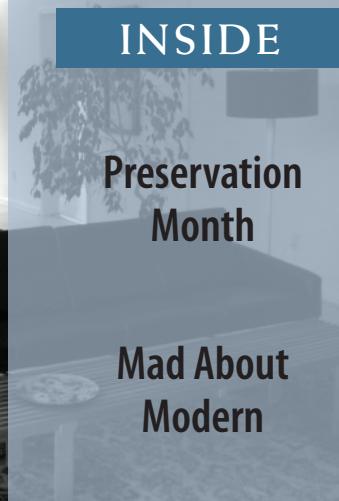
# the COLUMN magazine

A PUBLICATION OF



HISTORIC CHARLOTTE, INC.

Summer/Fall 2009



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Month

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Modern

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**THE COLUMN** is the membership magazine published by **Historic Charlotte, Inc.**

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Julie Walton	<b>Events &amp; Publications Coordinator</b>

*On the cover: Highlights from the May Mid-Century Modern Home Tour. Chair photo courtesy Brownstoner.com*



## MISSION:

*The mission of Historic Charlotte, Inc. is to actively promote historic preservation and to encourage, support and coordinate the activities of history and heritage groups throughout the greater Charlotte region.*

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### ADVERTISING RATES

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Business Card (3.625 x 2):	\$60

HCI offers a 10% discount for an annual contract.

## PRESERVATION RESOURCES

### CHARLOTTE'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS:

Dilworth (DCDA):	<a href="http://www.dilworthonline.org">www.dilworthonline.org</a>
Elizabeth	<a href="http://www.elizabethcommunity.com">www.elizabethcommunity.com</a>
Fourth Ward (FoFW)	<a href="http://www.fow.intranets.com">www.fow.intranets.com</a>
Hermitage Court	No website
Myers Park	<a href="http://www.mpha.com">www.mpha.com</a>
North Davidson	<a href="http://www.noda.org/index.cfm">www.noda.org/index.cfm</a>
Plaza Midwood	<a href="http://www.plazamidwood.org">www.plazamidwood.org</a>
Wesley Heights	<a href="http://www.wesleyheightshistoric.com">www.wesleyheightshistoric.com</a>

### LOCAL PRESERVATION RESOURCES:

Charlotte Historic District Commission  
[www.charmeck.org/Departments/Planning/Historic+Districts/Home.htm](http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/Planning/Historic+Districts/Home.htm)

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission  
[www.cmhp.org](http://www.cmhp.org)

### STATE PRESERVATION RESOURCES:

North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC SHPO)  
[www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us](http://www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us)  
Preservation North Carolina  
[www.presnc.org](http://www.presnc.org)

### NATIONAL PRESERVATION RESOURCES:

National Park Service (NPS)  
[www.cr.nps.gov](http://www.cr.nps.gov)  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
[www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org)  
Preservation Action  
[www.preservationaction.org](http://www.preservationaction.org)

### NATIONAL PRESERVATION RESOURCES:

US International Council on Monuments and Sites  
[www.icomos.org/usicomos](http://www.icomos.org/usicomos)



This project was made possible, in part, with funding by the Arts & Science Council and the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art

## SPECIFICATIONS

Ads for submission must be minimum 300 dpi resolution in grayscale or B&W, in one of the following graphics formats: .pdf, .eps, .jpg, .tif

Please contact Julie Walton, Events and Publications Coordinator, with any questions or to place an advertisement in *The Column*. [Julie@HistoricCharlotte.org](mailto:Julie@HistoricCharlotte.org).

## WITHOUT YOU, WE'RE HISTORY GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

By David Pitser



**W**OW! Did you attend the Mid-Century Modern Home Tour in May? Were you at Artevation or any of the other activities during Preservation Month? Could you have imagined that the homes and buildings of the middle-1900s would become architectural treasures? And what about the History Learning Series events at the Duke Mansion this spring? Did you catch the talk on Charlotte's historic Brooklyn neighborhood by Dr. Robert Smith of UNCC? Or Brandon Lunsford's presentation on his book *Charlotte Then and Now*? Did you make the walking tour of Elmwood/Pinewood Cemetery with Lynn Weis and Bill Hart?

**DID THEY REALLY DO THAT?** The Banks family has placed a preservation easement on their c. 1832 home in Huntersville known as Cedar Grove plantation. Are you aware of the many other projects underway to preserve special buildings or places from our past?

**YOU GOTTA BE THERE...** Ever been to the *Blast for the Past*? If so, you know it truly is a blast — great food and music, wonderful historic location, a terrific silent auction, and a chance to celebrate outstanding preservation projects. This year's Blast is October 15th at the Duke Mansion — DO NOT MISS IT! And while you're at it, make plans to attend the fall History Learning Series too!

**PAY ATTENTION...** Charlotte is known for being a modern city that is quick to replace old buildings with new ones, but there are many great vestiges of our past still around and in use today. Learn about the work that is being done to protect and restore them, and make note of the ones that are at risk of vanishing forever. There are many helpful resources — such as this magazine, our website, several walking tour brochures, books, and local contacts — available through Historic Charlotte that provide information on what is at risk and what can be done to ensure that the best of our past survive to become part of our future.

**GET INVOLVED...** History happens, but preservation is intentional. Historic Charlotte is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization that depends on its members for support and action. Please help by joining, serving on committees, attending our events, and giving of your time and money. We depend on concerned and interested folks like you to make a difference.

**THANK YOU!** All of the great things that you will read about in **The Column** are the result of great generosity of time and resources by many people. From the staff at Historic Charlotte to our presenters at the History Learning Series to the Home Tour hosts, there are more people than you can imagine who keep history alive in Charlotte, and I am grateful for what each of them has done.

SO, READ ON AND ENJOY!

David

WELCOME

## New Board Members:



**Jenifer Daniels**  
Jenifer Daniels, a newcomer to Charlotte by way of Detroit, MI is a Southerner at heart as her family tree traces back to South Carolina.

Jenifer joined HCI's board after completing the 2008 ASC Cultural Leadership program. A lover of sustainability, Jenifer's passion for history and preservation began with her work as a Special Events Manager at the Detroit Historical Museum. Jenifer has a Masters in Communication, Certification in Nonprofit Management and over 10 years of experience in 'fundraising' and is an adjunct faculty member at Central Piedmont Community College. Jenifer lives with her husband, Richard and their daughter Jordan in Charlotte.



**Seth Hudson**  
joined HCI's Board after completing the 2008 ASC Cultural Leadership Training program. Seth earned his undergraduate degrees in

Mechanical Engineering and Chemistry from North Carolina State University and received his law degree from the University of Richmond. He is currently an attorney with the law firm of Clements Bernard and concentrates his practice on construction law, intellectual property, and architect/engineer malpractice defense. He lives in Charlotte with his wife, Cecily, and their young son, Jack.



**Candice Williams**, a Charlotte native, joined HCI's Board in June 2009. Candice earned her undergraduate degree in English from the University

of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received her law degree from Wake Forest University School of Law. One of her ancestors signed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence (aka the Meck Decl!) She is currently Vice-President and Counsel for The Title Company of North Carolina and works in the areas of commercial and residential real estate. She is a member of Historic Charlotte and recently volunteered for the Mid-Century Modern Home Tour during Preservation Month.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH IN MAY 2009,

HISTORIC CHARLOTTE CELEBRATED

## Mid-Century Modern Architecture & Style

By Terri Arrowood, Preservation Month Chair



Ovens Auditorium/Charlotte Coliseum. Photograph courtesy of Kugler's Studio.

In May, Historic Charlotte launched an ambitious month of preservation activities to celebrate National Historic Preservation Month in Charlotte. The program, focusing on a somewhat untraditional preservation era — Mid-Century Modern, met with a rousing success — from the industry, media and public. Overall, Historic Charlotte netted more than \$5,000 during the month of events and activities, with all proceeds supporting future Historic Charlotte education and advocacy projects.

The month kicked off on May 7 with two events. First, an uptown Walking Tour beginning at The Levine Museum of the New South, guided by historian Tom Hanchett and two UNC-Charlotte School of Architecture students, which focused on the progression of architectural styles in Charlotte's center city. It was an opportunity to learn about Charlotte's history through architecture spanning more than 100 years.

The tour ended at Latta Arcade and Kugler's Studio where owner Ken Bebee and Historic Charlotte volunteers had curated a unique vintage photography exhibition. Some of the great photos that captured the essence of Charlotte's Mid-Century history and lifestyle featured a Piedmont Airlines plane and stewardesses, iconic buildings including the Coliseum/Ovens Auditorium complex,

street scenes along Tryon and Trade Streets, homes from the era and more. The reception, bringing out both history and photography enthusiasts, was a superb way to begin the month of preservation activities.

The Uptown Walking Tour was reprised on Saturday, May 9 by UNC-Charlotte students Nathan Minnett and Devki Gharpure who acted as research interns on the project. They, along with fellow students Ashley SG Keane and Sarah Kraeger, hosted a panel discussion at the monthly Civic by Design meeting the following Tuesday evening. Sarah and Ashley served as research interns for the Home Tour portion of Preservation Month.

The centerpiece of the month's activities was an over-

whelmingly well-received Mid-Century Modern Home Tour which featured 18 of Charlotte's most iconic residences — from a delightful Atomic Ranch to stunning examples of the best of the architect-designed homes of the time. Several well-known architects' works were viewed, including Murray Whisnant, Alan Ingram, Jack Orr Boyte and others in the Odell School. Over 400 tickets to the tour were sold during the two-day event. Even a little rain couldn't dampen the enthusiasm and energy of all those involved, from the homeowners themselves, to the volunteers, to those who had the opportunity to tour these excellent examples of the best of Charlotte's Mid-Century Modern design.

### HISTORIC CEDAR GROVE BECOMES A PRESERVATION EASEMENT PROPERTY HELD BY THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE AND HISTORIC CHARLOTTE

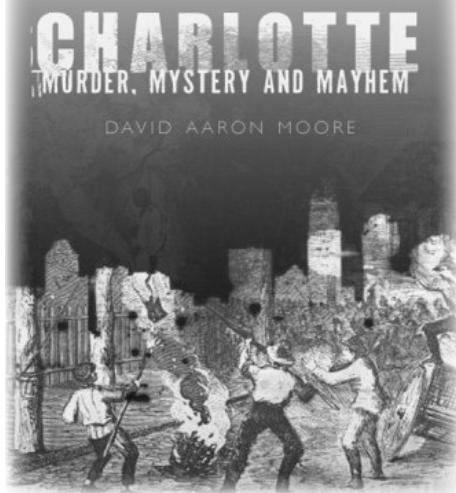


WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AT CEDAR GROVE

# @HISTORIC

# 2009 HISTORY LEARNING SERIES

The History Learning Series is in its 9th year of history and preservation programming. Join Historic Charlotte again this fall for informative presentations by local historians and authors on topics related to the unique history and heritage of the greater Charlotte region. Members and students are free, non-members are \$10 and the public is always welcome.



Cover of *Murder, Mystery and Mayhem* by David Aaron Moore.

## 2009 HISTORY LEARNING SERIES FALL DATES

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION	PRESENTER
Sept. 22	<b>The Importance of Charlotte's Mid-Century Modern Architecture</b> The lecture will focus on the important role that modern architecture played in making Charlotte a "New South city."	The Duke Mansion*	Dr. Lee Gray, Director of School of Architecture, UNC-Charlotte
Nov. 10	<b>Murder, Mystery and Mayhem</b> Today's Charlotte is a fast-growing and well-respected city. But the Charlotte of yesteryear is rife with tales of the macabre, tragic and simply unexplainable.	The Duke Mansion*	David Aaron Moore, Author

Social starts at 5:30 p.m. / Program begins at 6:00 p.m. Light refreshments and cash bar provided.

\* The Duke Mansion is located in the Historic Myers Park Neighborhood at 400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, NC 28207. (704) 714-4400



Solomon-Levine House



Trust for Public Land members enjoy the celebration.



Musicians entertained on the terrace of Cedar Grove



L to R: From HCI, Julie Walton, David Pitser, Nancy Brown, and Diane Althouse.

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND and Historic Charlotte hosted a members-only Preservation Celebration at Historic Cedar Grove Plantation in May. A Preservation Easement protecting the interior and exterior of the home was finalized after a lengthy process that lasted several years. Cedar Grove is a combination of late Federal and early Greek revival styles and is a fabulous example of a grand plantation home.

Bell Banks along with her son Torrance and daughter Margaret graciously opened their home to HCI, Trust for Public Land and The State Historic Preservation Office members and honored guests. Thanks to everyone who helped preserve this historic treasure for future generations.



HCI Executive Director Diane Althouse poses on the gracefully curved stairway of Cedar Grove.

# CHARLOTTE



Photographers Becky Bernier and Ken Beebe. Ken Beebe is the owner of Kugler's Studio.



Julie Walton and Nancy Swan

# ARTEVATION: A Celebration of



HCI Board Member Mundise Mortimer and *Artevation* guests



MCM Home Tour Chair Gail Jodon and HCI's Diane Althouse



Chris Patterson with Preservation Month Chair Terri Arrowood

## Mad About MODERN

**HISTORIC CHARLOTTE** would like to recognize the outstanding contributions of its Preservation Month Planning Committee, Interns and Volunteers. Without their dedication, Mid-Century Modern Preservation Month would not have been such a great success! Historic Charlotte had nearly 150 people assist with the planning and organization of five events. Historic Charlotte would like to give special thanks to the interns from UNC-Charlotte School of Architecture for their excellent work — (shown left to right in the photograph) Sarah Kraeger, Ashley SG Keane, Devki Gharpure, and Nathan Minett. They were responsible for creating the Mid-Century Modern Center City Walking Tour and the Mid-Century Modern Home Tour Brochure, as well as leading the panel discussion held in conjunction with Civic-by-Design at the Levine Museum of the New South.



UNC-Charlotte interns on the Mid-Century Modern Center City walking tour

# History through ART



The Cutter Building. Photograph courtesy of Kugler's Studio.



Gerard Tire. Photograph courtesy of Kugler's Studio.



Charlotte Automobile Show. Photograph courtesy of Kugler's Studio.

# MID-CENTURY MODERN

## Historic Charlotte's Mid-Century Modern Uptown Tour

Displayed are the buildings on North Tryon Street. The self-guided tour along Tryon Street starts at the Levine Museum of the New South in North Tryon and ending at the Latta Arcade on South Tryon.



1. Tryon House  
205 N. Tryon St.  
Architect: Unknown  
Style/Tum of the century  
Year: 1920's  
Automobile

Mayfair Manor/Dandill Hotel  
237 N. Tryon St.  
Architect: Louis Arbury Sr.  
Style: Neoclassical  
Year: 1929

Levine Museum / Montaldo's Department Store  
220 N. Tryon St.

# Center City Walking Tour

Spread from the Mid-Century Modern Center City Walking Tour Brochure, which is available to download at [www.HistoricCharlotte.org](http://www.HistoricCharlotte.org).

[www.HistoricCharlotte.org](http://www.HistoricCharlotte.org)

# THANKS to our *2009 Preservation Month Sponsors:*

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PolkaDot Bake Shop  
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Savvy & Co. Real Estate  
The Wine Shop at Foxcroft  
Wachovia Corporation

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Absolute Remodeling  
Camas Associates  
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Gantt Huberman Architects  
Levine Museum of The New South  
Lindsay Daniel Architecture  
ModernCharlotte.com  
Neighboring Concepts  
Peter Tart Architect  
Q Fine Cabinetry Inc.  
Sterling Builders LLC  
Studio Cleary Landscape Architecture  
UNC-Charlotte School of  
Architecture

# SO ... WHAT IS *Mid-Century Modern?*



By Sarah Kraeger, UNC-Charlotte School of Architecture



**M**ID-CENTURY MODERN is an architectural, interior and product design that generally describes mid-20th century developments in modern design, architecture, and urban development from roughly 1933 to 1965. Mid-Century architecture was a further development of Frank Lloyd Wright's principles of organic architecture combined with many elements reflected in the International and Bauhaus movements. Mid-Century Modernism, however, was much more organic in form and less formal than the International Style. This style emphasized creating structures with ample windows and open floor-plans with the intention of opening interior spaces and bringing the outdoors in. Many Mid-Century homes utilized then ground-breaking post and beam architectural design that eliminated bulky support walls in favor of walls seemingly made of glass. Function was as important as form in Mid-Century designs with an emphasis placed specifically on targeting the needs of the average American family. Mid-Century Modernism was a reaction to the traditional home, a way for people to reject the colonial style and opt for a casual, less formal, more artistic, and colorful lifestyle.

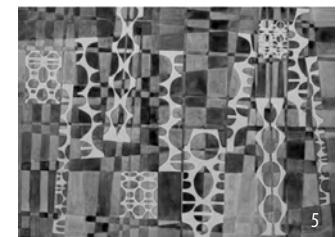


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## A MID-CENTURY MODERN Home Tour

HISTORIC CHARLOTTE'S first ever Mid-Century Modern Home Tour was held on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17. Despite a bit of rain, the 18-home self guided tour was an absolute success! Over the two-day event, nearly 500 people visited the homes and over 100 volunteers were on hand to assist visitors. Each home was a unique expression of Mid-Century Modern style. While the tour primarily highlighted Mid-Century Modern architecture, the furniture and art within each residence were equally evocative of the era.

A Home Tour Brochure, written and designed by our UNC-Charlotte School of Architecture student interns, was given to visitors once they had purchased a ticket. The brochure contained information on each home, including the year of construction, architect (if known) and notable interior and exterior features. In case you missed the tour, the brochure will be available to download from Historic Charlotte's website this fall. Please visit [www.HistoricCharlotte.org](http://www.HistoricCharlotte.org) for your Mid-Century Modern Home Tour Brochure and to see pictures of all 18 homes on the tour.



Ross Residence



Interior of Goldstein Residence



Rear exterior of Goldstein Residence



Plaster Residence



Galindo Residence



Interior of Bruns Residence

# Current HCI PRESERVATION PROJECTS

## THE LEAKY ROOF FUND —

### *Lower Providence Community Center*

The Lower Providence Community House (also referred to as the Providence Women's Club) was built for the women of this once rural area, known as Lower Providence. The ladies of the community entered the Mecklenburg County Fair in 1934, and with the proceeds from their prizes, they began a building fund. Club membership grew quickly, and most homes were too small to accommodate all the members. The solution was to construct a central meeting house.

The ladies were supported in their efforts by their husbands and the other men of the community, and construction began in 1938. Farmers donated the logs and provided the carpentry skills necessary for the building of the meeting house. When construction was complete in 1939, the building was debt free. Since original construction of the building, all maintenance has been conducted by local families. The "club house" as it is referred to by the locals, was built in the rustic style, made popular by the federal relief projects during the 1930s. The heavy, simple doors and massive stone chimney illustrate the



Exterior and Interior of Lower Providence Community Center. Photograph courtesy of Historic Charlotte, Inc.

influence that the W. P. A. construction projects had on community construction during this time.

Now a local historic landmark, the year 2009 sees the Club House celebrating its 70th birthday. In an area that has lost most of its rural character, the little log building remains an icon of Lower Providence and the once flourishing farming community it served. Through The Leaky Roof Fund, Historic Charlotte acts as the fiscal agent to the

Community House and advises on maintenance and repair projects, including a recent bathroom update to help the rental potential of the building. In addition, a monthly lecture series is held on-site, with topics ranging from gardening to antique appraisal. The Lower Providence Community Center can be rented for \$150 per day. Please call (704) 844-8569 or visit [www.HistoricCharlotte.org](http://www.HistoricCharlotte.org). for more information.

# Summer Intern PROJECTS

## Historic Houses of Worship



Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in the Cherry Neighborhood. Photograph courtesy of Hannah Howard.



Myers Park United Methodist. Photograph courtesy of Hannah Howard.

WITH THE ASSISTANCE of undergraduate and graduate students in the Charlotte area, Historic Charlotte is able to accomplish numerous studies that benefit the public and preservation efforts in Charlotte.

This summer, we are fortunate enough to have two graduate interns from UNC-Charlotte School of Public History — Hannah Howard and Matthew Chisolm. Hannah will be working towards the completion of the *Historic Houses of Worship Driving Tour* in order to create a downloadable brochure available on Historic Charlotte's website. Matthew will be surveying the proposed North and Northeast light rail corridors for potential historic resources that may be affected by future development. The goal is to identify structures that may be in danger of demolition and for HCI to potentially serve as a consulting party to any Section 106 reviews.

In addition, the interns and the staff at Historic Charlotte will be surveying and documenting significant mid-century *Roadside Wonders* in the Charlotte area. Please look for the results of our summer intern projects on our website, [www.HistoricCharlotte.org](http://www.HistoricCharlotte.org), after October 1, and in the winter issue of *The Column*.

## CHARLOTTE HISTORY FACTS

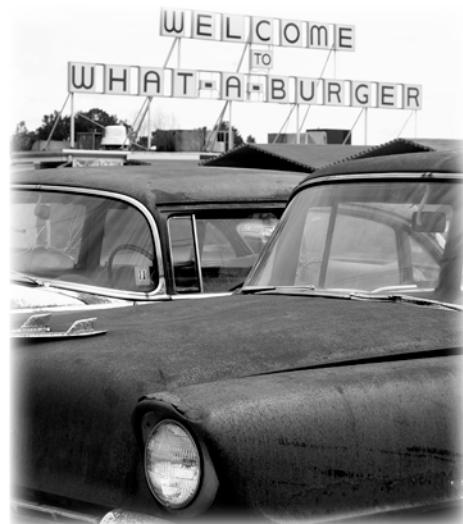
### Did you know?

Did you know that Charlotte is home to more than 700 places of worship, giving it the nickname "City of Churches"?

Did you know the state of North Carolina led the nation in gold production until the California Gold Rush of 1848?

Did you know Charlotte was named for the German Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg? She married England's King George III the year prior to the city's establishment in 1762.

## Roadside Wonders



What-A-Burger, Morrisville, NC. Photograph courtesy of Matthew Chisolm.

# PRESERVATION101

## Planned Giving

PEOPLE are always surprised to learn how much preservation activity there really is in Charlotte. Here we highlight some of the preservation tools available to help HCI achieve its mission. We hope you find this information both informative and even inspiring. By using these tools, significant preservation can take place.



Interior of Latta Arcade, on which HCI holds a preservation easement. Photograph courtesy of the Charlotte Historic Landmarks Commission.



Burial place of W.W. Smith, Elmwood/Pinewood Cemetery. Photograph courtesy of the Charlotte Historic Landmarks Commission.

### THE LEAKY ROOF FUND

Established in 2003 to support local preservation projects, *The Leaky Roof Fund* pursues donations and partnerships to preserve and rehabilitate our community's historic and architectural treasures.

It was inspired by the story of a local historic building with a leaking tin roof. The owner wanted to preserve the site, but was unable to afford the repairs, unwilling to sell the property because he feared it would be torn down, and was unable to donate his primary home and remaining asset.

### DIRECT PRESERVATION SUPPORT

*The Leaky Roof Fund* can provide direct preservation support by any of the following processes:

- Accept project-directed donations
- Place protective covenants to assure the long-term preservation of a site
- Advise the owner in arranging appropriate repairs and then disbursing the funds for them
- Monitor the repairs and long-term condition of the site in accordance with the covenants

Donors may direct funds to a particular project or may allow contributions to be directed by Historic Charlotte. Current participants include The Lower Providence Community Center and Elmwood/Pinewood Cemetery.

### EASEMENTS

*The Leaky Roof Fund* will consider accepting preservation easements for buildings of historic or architectural significance. This includes buildings listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or sites that have been certified as historic by the Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission. All easements must be approved by the Historic Charlotte

# to Historic Charlotte, Inc.

Board of Directors. The exact terms of the preservation easement, as well as the extent to which those terms limit alteration of an historic building or protected land will be negotiated with the owner on a case by case basis.

## COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT

Historic Charlotte has presented seminars and lectures to numerous community groups on the use of preservation as a catalyst for community redevelopment. Partners include Steele Creek Neighborhood association, Historic Rock Hill (SC), Grier Heights Community Development Corporation, and Wesley Heights Neighborhood.

## PLANNED GIVING

When property owners donate historic properties or sites to *The Leaky Roof Fund*, they can claim a charitable deduction on Federal income tax. Historic Charlotte will place an in-perpetuity preservation easement on all donated properties before future resale or repurposing of the property, based on the wishes of the owner. In most cases a property donation or an easement donor may deduct the value of the property, for up to thirty percent of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income, from Federal taxes. Excess value may be carried forward up to five years. The value of the property is based on the fair market value. For further guidance on determining the value of a property a professional appraiser should be consulted.

*The Leaky Roof Fund* is pleased to consider additional partnerships and encourages new funding sources. If you would like to be involved, please contact Historic Charlotte at (704) 375-6145 or email Diane Althouse, Executive Director of Historic Charlotte, Inc. at [D.Althouse@HistoricCharlotte.org](mailto:D.Althouse@HistoricCharlotte.org).



Gibbon Farm House circa 1883. An example of property donation via Planned Giving to Historic Charlotte.



Dairy Barn built 1927.

## ACTIVE PROJECTS:

- **Barringer Hotel/Hall House** — Consulting party to Section 106 Review and National Historic Preservation Survey and Research Report.
- **Gibbon Farm House** — planned giving of the Gibbon property (c. 1883 farm house and various farm buildings and adjacent land) to HCI.
- **Lower Providence Community Center** — fiscal agent and preservation advisor.
- **Elmwood/Pinewood Cemetery** — fiscal agent
- **Wilmore Neighborhood** — advisor on Local Historic District Designation and management of interns working on Local Historic District documentation

# LOCAL PRESERVATION EFFORTS



Charlotte Coliseum. Photograph courtesy of Kugler's Studio.

## Mid-Century Modern Local Historic Designations:

### The Charlotte Coliseum

On Monday June 20, 2009, the Charlotte City Council voted unanimously to designate the Charlotte Coliseum a local historic landmark. The Coliseum was designed by the architectural firm Odell and Associates and was completed in 1955. Built with the intention of attracting entertainers and business to the region, the facility had a capacity of more than 10,000 people. It was the largest free-span dome in the world when it was completed.

Charlotte did not have a coliseum or municipal auditorium prior to this, although the need for such facilities was recognized in the early 1930s.

The Odell firm was selected to design and supervise the construction of the Coliseum in 1950. In order to keep costs down and to reduce the number of undesirable seats, Odell and Associates decided on a circular design for the Coliseum. Such a circular structure was reminiscent of classical designs. This construction method allowed for the use of a bold but economical dome roof, a feature the Coliseum came to be much recognized for.

The Coliseum building has historical significance for Charlotte on several different levels. It is important for its pioneering architectural design; it has had both direct and indirect influence on the city's growth; and the huge variety of activities that took place in the facility were, in one way or another, important events in the lives of the people of the city and region.



Fishbowl Bus, exterior and interior. Photographs courtesy of the Charlotte Historic Landmarks Commission.

### The "Fishbowl" Bus

Also approved by the Charlotte City Council was the designation of General Motors Bus No. 1074 for local landmark status, proving that not all landmarks are buildings! The significance of the Charlotte "New Look" General Motors Bus No. 1074 must be considered within the context of the overall history of public transportation in Charlotte. Charlotte would never have emerged as a major industrial, commercial, and banking center in the late nineteenth and twentieth century without the availability of public transit. Trolleys and buses provided an essential service. They carried workers conveniently from home to factory, warehouse, or financial center and back.

In 1959, General Motors introduced its "New Look" transit bus, nicknamed the "Fishbowl" because of its expansive, projecting front windshield. Cities throughout the United States and Canada, including Charlotte, greeted "Fishbowl" buses with enthusiasm. Their riveted, aluminum bodies, large windows, and overall streamlined appearance produced an aura of optimism that was characteristic of the era and suggested that the future would be ever brighter.

## Charlotte Regional History Consortium

The Charlotte Regional History Consortium is composed of more than 30 North Carolina and South Carolina museums and history organizations dedicated to preserving, promoting and interpreting the history and culture of the greater Mecklenburg region. The Consortium was founded in 1994 as a way to facilitate cooperation among the area's history and heritage groups. The Consortium holds quarterly meetings, which allow members to exchange ideas, tour each other's sites, arrange cooperative events and coordinate program scheduling. Historic Charlotte is the fiscal custodian for the Charlotte Regional History Consortium.

Most recently, the Consortium hosted two experts in the field of disaster recovery at the Charlotte Museum of History. The



workshop was held on June 1 and lecturers Martha Battle Jackson, curator for the North Carolina State Historic Sites, and K. Sharon Bennet, consultant for the College of Charleston Special Collections, taught attendees through discussion and hands-on training how to prepare for and recover from disasters such as flood, fire and tornado.

In the fall, the Consortium will begin efforts to redesign and expand its Cultural Tourism Brochure. The brochure will feature all participating members of the Consortium. For more information on the Charlotte Regional History Consortium, please visit the website at [www.CharlotteRegionalHistory.org](http://www.CharlotteRegionalHistory.org) or email Leah@HistoricCharlotte.org.

## Historic Charlotte's ***BLAST for the PAST*** 2009 Preservation Awards

### Date:

Thursday, October 15,  
2009

### Location:

The Duke Mansion  
400 Hermitage Road  
Charlotte, NC 28207

### Event Schedule:

6:30pm – 9:30pm  
Cocktails and heavy hors  
d'oeuvres, Preservation Awards  
Presentation and Silent Auction

### Benefit Ticket Prices:

\$50 individual, \$90 per couple

Tickets available online at [www.HistoricCharlotte.org](http://www.HistoricCharlotte.org) or by check.  
Send payment to Historic Charlotte,  
P.O.Box 33113, Charlotte, NC 28233



**October 15**  
Mark your calendar for this year's  
*Blast for the Past* awards event!

**H**ISTORIC CHARLOTTE, taking a lead from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has decided to create a list of Mecklenburg County's most at risk historic places. We hope that this list will serve as an alarm to raise awareness of the serious threats facing our architectural and historic assets. In addition, we aim to use this list as an effective tool to increase the appreciation for the wide variety of historic places on hand, as well as achieving the result of actual restoration and reuse of these buildings. We would love to see any and all of these buildings restored so that one day they would be eligible for a Historic Charlotte Preservation Award!

*This list is by no means complete; please help us. Nominations can be sent to Leah@HistoricCharlotte.org. Please include the name, address, historic significance and age of the building or site.*

# Preservation WatchList

**Dilworth Fire Station No. 2** The preservation of the old Dilworth Fire Station No. 2 provides future generations a unique vision of the past. Completed in 1909, the structure is characterized by its original design for horse-drawn firefighting apparatus. It stands today a monument to that forgotten era. The City of Charlotte operated several other stations at that time, but they have all been demolished. The old Dilworth Fire Station No. 2 is now the oldest extant station in the city!

The growing population of the Dilworth suburb in the early 1900's, both residential and industrial, began to show concern over the lack of a conveniently located fire station. The great desire of Dilworth residents for local fire protection was their main concern when a committee from the suburb appeared before the Board of Aldermen on May 7, 1907 asking that a fire station be constructed in the southern section of the city and that Dilworth be admitted as a borough of Charlotte.

Chosen as architect for project was the Charlotte firm of Wheeler, Galliher and Stern. The building contract was awarded to J. A. Jones at a cost of \$3,000. The construction of the station began on January 7, 1909 and was completed that year. Equipment consisted of a combination hose and chemical wagon with two ladders attached and a steamer. Two horses were also purchased, as this was the most common means of transporting the firemen and their equipment.

In 1912 the City of Charlotte purchased its first motorized firefighting apparatus. By 1917 the era of horse-drawn apparatus ended in Charlotte. By the late 1940s the Dilworth



Dilworth Fire Station No. 2 on South Blvd.

Station No. 2 could no longer accommodate the larger, more sophisticated motorized equipment. The city purchased a lot across South Boulevard from the old station and built a new one. The new Station No. 2 still serves the Dilworth section today.

In May, a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) was requested to demolish Fire Station No. 2. The Historic Landmarks Commission voted on a 365-day stay of demolition in the hope that the fire station can be repurposed and not demolished.

Dilworth Fire Station No. 2 was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and is designated a local historic landmark by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission. The importance of Dilworth Fire Station No. 2 cannot be diminished; it offers a rare glimpse of Charlotte at the turn of the century and the practices of fire stations that have now become lost to new technologies. — Charlotte Historic Landmarks Commission, [www.cmhpf.org](http://www.cmhpf.org).

## Roadside "WONDERS"

All over Charlotte and surrounding Mecklenburg County, drive-ins, movie theaters, diners, motels, gas stations and billboards jump out and remind us of what life was like in the middle of the 20th century. Many of these roadside mid-century attractions have become eligible as designated historic sites and the public is beginning to see the significance and beauty in these resources. And yet they are frequently the victims of demolition and redevelopment.

By increasing public appreciation of these often-overlooked buildings and artifacts, we can prevent future loss and incompatible changes. Please visit the Charlotte Historic Landmarks Commission's website to learn more about Post WWII and mid-century architecture in Charlotte: [www.cmhp.org/about.html](http://www.cmhp.org/about.html).

Here are some examples in Charlotte of mid-century roadside wonders:



Dairy Queen on Wilkinson Blvd.



Herrin Brothers Coal & Ice on North Davidson St.



Fuel Pizza on Central Ave, originally a Pure Oil station.



Zack's Hamburgers on Scaleybark Rd.



Park-n-Shop on Wilkinson Blvd.

### definition: *Roadside Wonder*

"Taking their inspiration less from professional architects and more from the business owners who knew the value of catching the attention of someone in a moving car, these structures combine whimsy, practicality, and visual appeal".

— Jim Heimann, California Crazy and Beyond: Roadside Vernacular Architecture



Bar-B-Q King, Wilkinson Blvd.

# LOCAL LANDMARKS

*we'd like to see. . . .*

The following historical properties are currently on our "Wish List" for landmark designations. If you know any historically valuable unprotected properties you'd like to see added, please submit them to [Leah@HistoricCharlotte.org](mailto:Leah@HistoricCharlotte.org).



Manor Theatre



## MANOR THEATRE

In Brandon Lunsford's new book *"Charlotte Then and Now"*, he discusses the impact the Manor Theatre had on the developing suburbs of Eastover and Myers Park.

"The Manor Theatre opened in 1947 as an element of one of Charlotte's first automobile-oriented shopping centers on Providence Road. The tradition of grand movie palaces with glittering marquees located in the center of downtown was being eroded across the nation as Americans moved out into the suburbs and television captured their audiences. To adjust, many theaters moved to the suburbs to find their patrons, and built smaller screens located next to other stores with ample parking. The Manor complex was one of the first of its kind and was situated in Eastover, Charlotte's elite "automobile suburb." The site was originally occupied by a prominent example of the kind of grand mansions that once lined this part of Providence Road, which was moved and replaced with the Green Gables Restaurant before the single-screen Manor was built there.

Today the Manor survives as the oldest continuously operated theater in the city that still shows movies. The entire shopping center looks almost exactly as it did in the 1940s. The Manor survived the fate of so many old theaters in Charlotte by becoming the city's central location for independent, foreign, and art-house cinema. Today it is operated by Regal Cinemas, and it still shows independent films."

## MORRISON-SMITH JEWELERS

The Morrison-Smith Jewelers building on Providence Road (built in 1927) was once occupied by Reid's Fine Foods, a Charlotte-based meat and dry goods grocer. The building, which was the second location for Reid's in 1931 (the original location was on Morehead Street), was designed in the Colonial-revival style to attract commerce to the developing Myers Park neighborhood.

Reid's Fine Foods was started by J. Arthur Reid, and operated along Providence Road for over 70 years. Since 2002, the building has been the home of locally-owned Morrison-Smith Jewelers. The eponymous sign above the



Morrison-Smith Jewelers. Photograph courtesy of Morrison-Smith Jewelers.



Inset – Original Reid's sign. Photograph courtesy of [www.groceria.com](http://www.groceria.com).

building, "Visit Reid's Daily" was put in storage and has been placed on the Charlotte Historic Landmarks Commission study list of historic landmarks. The 5,000 square foot brick structure stands as an example of commercial development along Providence Road in the 1930s as automobiles became an increasingly significant mode of transportation. Businesses moved away from the center of the city and into the surrounding neighborhoods to accommodate middle and upper class residents in areas like Myers Park.



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## HISTORIC PROPERTIES for sale in our area

# A PIECE of HISTORY *for your "Own"*

### GRIER-REA HOUSE



6701 Providence Road, Charlotte, N.C.

Built c. 1804

2.91 acres/3325 square feet

Please call the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission at (704) 557-0375 for more information.

### HENNIGAN PLACE



3503 Tilley Morris Road, Charlotte, NC

Built c. 1840

5.44 acres / 2204 sf

Zoning: R-3, zoned for 2 horses

\$1,750,000

Contact Nicholas and Miriam Peters at [www.hennigan-place.com](http://www.hennigan-place.com) for more information.

This exquisite antebellum plantation is located near I-485 and Providence Road in South Charlotte, convenient to upscale shopping, restaurants, and the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport. This Upcountry Transitional Federal/Greek Revival home with 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths has been painstakingly restored to its former glory and is ready for you to move in! It is ideal as an equestrian estate, or to showcase your collection of fine antiques of any period or style, or to entertain in grandeur of the Old South preserved here! Highly original with beautiful heart pine floors, real plaster and high ceilings. The Carriage house provides an additional 1,120 sq ft of finished, climate-controlled space.

### YOUNTS GENERAL STORE



316 Main Street, Pineville, N.C.

Built c. 1910

2650 square feet

Zoning: DC

\$440,000

Contact Lexie Longstreet at (704) 560-4606 or Charles Major at (704) 617-8777 for more information.

Located in the center of the Pineville Commercial Block, at 316 Main, the former Younts General Store represents the distinctive type of small-town architecture that was once prevalent throughout Mecklenburg County, and serves as a physical reminder of the county's historic development patterns. This space would be an ideal location for a cafe or restaurant. The building has original cabinetry, high ceilings and an impressive store front. The property is currently owned by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission and available for sale.

## LOWER PROVIDENCE HISTORIC HOME TOUR

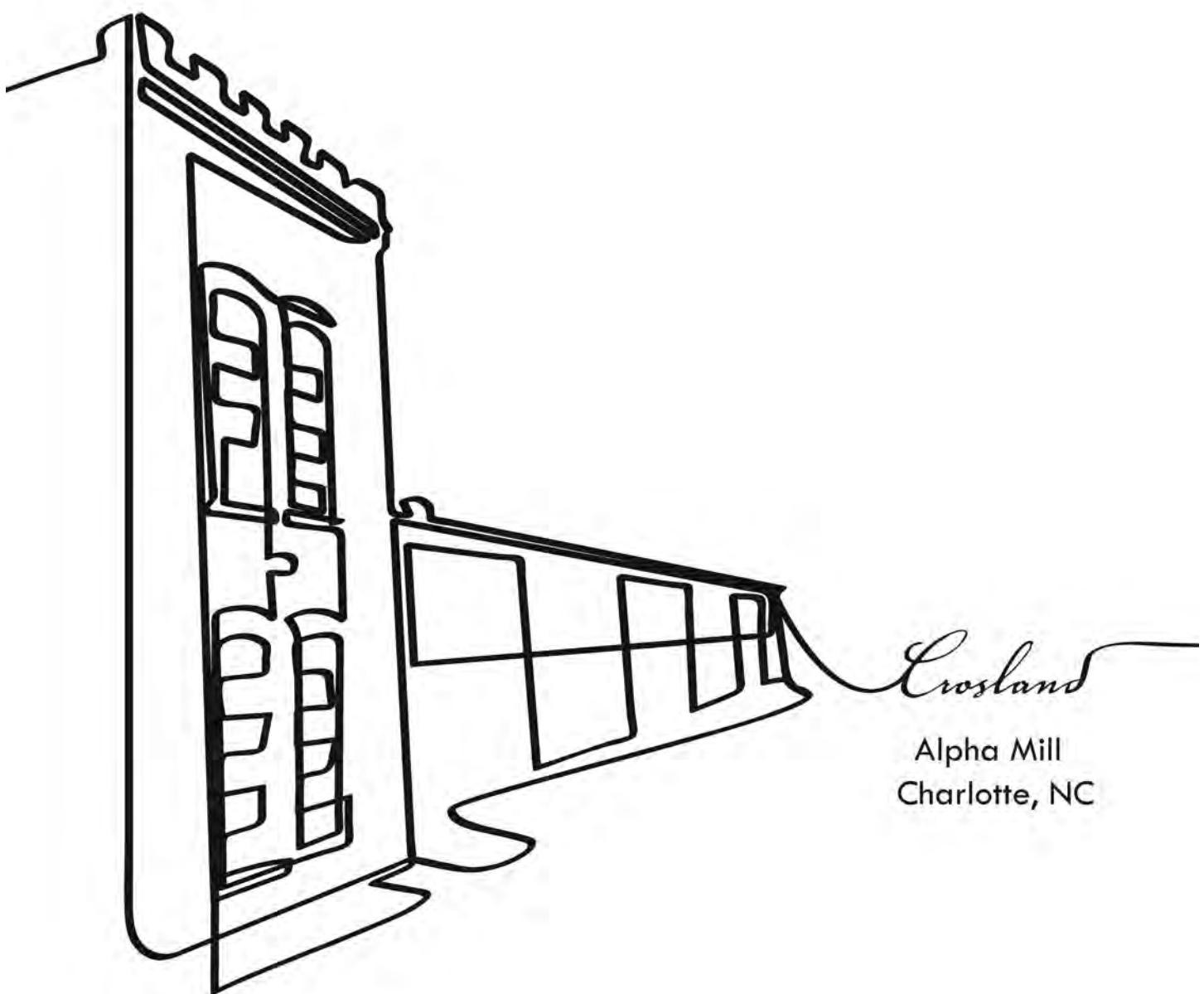


SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2009  
10:00AM 'TIL 4:00PM

TICKETS \$15.00

Available at any of the tour locations.

for more information e-mail us at:  
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Diane Althouse,  
Executive Director

# News & Notes

## FROM OUR DIRECTOR

**D**ESPITE the serious financial issues facing everyone in the non-profit world (including HCI), Historic Charlotte has had one of its best six months ever in terms of event attendance, membership growth and volunteer participation. Gee, are we on to something? It seems that more people than ever are ready to work to protect and celebrate Charlotte's history and the architectural fabric of our city — this helps us all preserve the very things that make Charlotte uniquely Charlotte.

Frankly, the entire region now has an opportunity, because of the economy, to protect even more endangered properties. Teardowns and the building of McMansions are down significantly — we can only hope that some lessons have been learned from the over-building and teardown craze of the last 4-6 years. The new trend is toward "downsizing", "rightsizing" and in the words of Susan Susanka, AIA Fellow, "building better, not bigger". This bodes well for the preservation of our historic and soon to be historic (especially the mid-century modern) neighborhoods as they are already "right-sized" for today's renewed values of sustainability and economy.

Please, don't be a stranger; we want to see even more of our members, volunteers and supporters at our fall events. These events are fun, informative and very inexpensive — especially for members! Our first fall History Learning Series presentation will be held on September 15th — *The Importance of Charlotte's Mid-Century Modern Architecture* by Dr. Lee Gray. And, mark your calendars now for the October 15th *Blast for the Past* — our 9th annual silent auction and Historic Preservation Awards event — both events will be held at the beautiful Duke Mansion.

We are truly grateful and excited to have so many new volunteers, members and supporters this year. To quote David — "History happens, but preservation is intentional". If you would like to volunteer, become a member, or donate stock or property please don't hesitate to call us. We have a number of exciting projects planned for 2010 and we need your help.

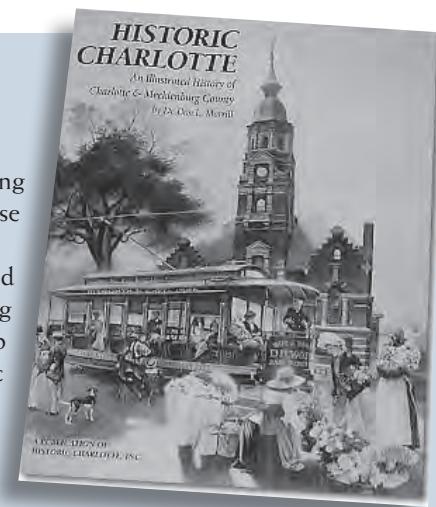
Thank you all again for helping us *preserve the past for the future*.

— Diane

## Historic Charlotte: An Illustrated History

**T**he publication of *Historic Charlotte: An Illustrated History of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County* written by Dr. Dan Morrill, longtime UNC-Charlotte history professor and Consulting Director of the Historic Landmarks Commission continues to be available for purchase through Historic Charlotte.

*Historic Charlotte: An Illustrated History of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County* can be ordered directly from Historic Charlotte at a cost of \$45.00 per copy including tax and shipping for the hard cover edition or \$20.00 for the soft cover edition. Simply go to the web site at [www.HistoricCharlotte.org/merchandise.html](http://www.HistoricCharlotte.org/merchandise.html). Or you can mail a check to Historic Charlotte, Inc., PO Box 33113, Charlotte, NC 28233 or call 704.375.6145. These books are also for sale at Paper Skyscraper, the Charlotte History Museum and Park Road Books.



## HOW to Become a Volunteer for HISTORIC CHARLOTTE

 Are you interested in becoming a volunteer for Historic Charlotte? Perhaps you don't have the means to make a monetary contribution or become a member this year. Volunteering is a wonderful way to show your support and make a difference. We offer a number of opportunities- including research for upcoming publications, guided tours, and assisting at events like the History Learning Series, *Blast for the Past* and Preservation Month. To learn more about becoming a volunteer for Historic Charlotte, please contact Leah Burch at [Leah@HistoricCharlotte.org](mailto:Leah@HistoricCharlotte.org).



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Laura Y. Magee

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- Gift copy of *Historic Charlotte: An Illustrated History*, by Dr. Dan Morrill. . . . . VICTORIAN and above
- Two tickets to *Blast for the Past* . . . . . PALLADIAN



Historic Charlotte, Inc.  
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