

THE NEHHPA NEWSLETTER

The Growth of a Neighborhood



West Avenue, Early Twentieth Century

Whether you have been in the neighborhood for a while or have just recently moved here, you might be curious as to the origins of our neighborhood and why we are blest with such a variety of architectural styles within such a compact area. While I do not know who the original author is, the following short article is a good starting point.

The North End Huntington Heights Historic District developed during a period of local and national history that saw many changes in the way people lived. The industrial revolution, in general, and the depression of 1893 in particular, caused a shift in population from rural areas to the cities. In 1880, Collis P. Huntington and his Old Dominion Land Company acquired thousands of acres of farmland on the Peninsula in anticipation of the construction of the terminus of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. The City of Newport News was incorporated in 1896 and by the first decade of the twentieth century was already getting crowded.

see Neighborhood, page 3

Calendar

May 3, 2008

Annual Yard Sale

May 5, 2008

NEHHPA Board Meeting

June 10, 2008

NEHHPA Board Meeting

July 8, 2008

NEHHPA Board Meeting

August 5, 2008

National Night Out

August 12, 2008

NEHHPA Board Meeting

North End Huntington Heights Preservation Association

Officers

President: Kathy Whittaker

Vice President: Ed Matz

Treasurer: David Galinski

Historian: Michelle Carpenter

Secretary: Cathy Luckadoo

Directors

Newsletter: Karen Hammond

Block Captain Coordinator:
Sheila Kerr-Jones

Codes: Billie Leggette

Neighborhood Crime Watch:
Debra Ritger

Merchandising, Yard Sale:
John Runner

Membership: Dan Toland

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

My name is Kathy Whittaker and I am pleased to tell you I am the newly elected President of NEHHPA. My husband and I have lived in the North End-Huntington Heights for fifteen years and feel NEHHPA has become dysfunctional. In the past we had a stronger Association that offered more to our members.

I am excited about our strong Board of Directors and our goal to improve membership, keep information flowing, and regenerate some of NEHHPA's past projects, and with your help, get back to the basics and have some fun doing it.

"With your help" means only one thing: MEMBERSHIP. Over the next few months you'll be seeing me, Sheila Kerr-Jones (our Block Captain Coordinator), or your Block Captain trying to recruit either you or your neighbors into NEHHPA. The dues are only \$10.00 per household per year. This helps keep the neighborhood a single family neighborhood, preserve our historic area through educational forums and prevent environmental and criminal influences adverse to the character of the community. And, yes, social functions where neighbor meets neighbor for fellowship and a meal.

With increased membership we can get much accomplished and show the City of Newport News that we are a serious and interested community. So, please help us, with your \$10.00 membership and start the journey to revitalize NEHHPA and give our beautiful North End-Huntington Heights the attention it deserves. After all this is the original neighborhood of the city.

Kathy Whittaker 247-1540

fgwhittaker@cox.net

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.

Neighborhood

Cont. from page 1

Technology advances influenced the style of homes built during this period. Electricity and gas were now standard features in new homes. Indoor plumbing made life more pleasant and reduced the spread of disease in the cities. Central heating systems allowed for more open floor plans by eliminating the need to shut off rooms to conserve heat from fireplaces. The Fresh Air Movement of the early 20th century taught that it was healthy to spend time outdoors, so people built homes with large front porches. As cities became more crowded, technology helped build suburbs. The automobile and the street car made it possible for people to leave the overcrowded neighborhoods downtown and move to the spacious suburb of North End. Detached garages were built in the far corners of the lots because automobiles were considered to be fire hazards.

The North End Huntington Heights Historic District is a 22 block early twentieth century neighborhood northwest of downtown Newport News. Developed primarily between 1900 and 1935, it is the largest and most architecturally cohesive residential neighborhood of the inner city. Typical of most early 20th century neighborhoods, the North end features a wealth of architectural styles and eclectic vernacular building designs including excellent examples of Queen Anne, Beaux arts, Colonial Revival, Bungalow, American Foursquare, and Tudor revival styles.

In 1986, the North End and Huntington Heights neighborhood was officially recognized as a Virginia Historic Landmark. It is now also listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was declared and zoned as a Historic District by the City of Newport News in October, 1999.

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.

Historic Preservation

While it is interesting to know something about the origins of our neighborhood, it is also important to understand why the City of Newport News declared our neighborhood a Historic District. The primary purpose of establishing the designation of a local historic district is to provide to the area the protection of a zoning amendment that establishes guidelines for managing architectural changes to its historic structures.

While North End Huntington Heights received official recognition as a Virginia Landmark in 1986 and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986, such designation provides no protection for the district's historic structures. Only a local historic designation, with its associated design guidelines, can give this protection. Local historic district designation is a court tested tool established by the state for preserving the architectural integrity of structures in a qualifying area.

Our neighborhood is perhaps the best preserved example of what Newport News was like during its first decades of existence. The Victorian homes that once graced West Avenue have been demolished. Many significantly historic Downtown Newport News structures have also been destroyed. These cornerstones of our City's past are lost forever and can never be recovered. Which is why it is all the more important to take steps to maintain and encourage the preservation efforts taking place in our neighborhood. Each of our homes have features that are not found elsewhere in the City which, once destroyed would be difficult if not impossible to recreate. Each home, while

unique, is but one building block from which the entire neighborhood is created.

As stated elsewhere, North End Huntington Heights was developed by the Old Dominion Land Company as a suburban residential area just after the turn of the 19th century. With structures dating from 1899 to the 1950s no other residential area in this city can boast the diverse architecture and rich history of North End Huntington Heights.

The designation of our neighborhood as a local historic district is an essential element in making sure our neighborhood does not suffer the same fate as the West Avenue and Downtown areas.



West Avenue, Early Twenty-first century. Note the boarded up houses and other structures, and empty lots where homes were torn down.

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NEHHPA

The designation of our neighborhood as a State and Local Historic District did not happen by chance. It took the efforts of many people who put in countless hours to make it happen. Just as the historic neighborhood is made up of unique and interesting homes, NEHHPA is made up of unique and interesting people. The common thread which ties them together is their interest in preserving older homes.

Over the years, interest in preserving older buildings in the United States has increased dramatically. Preservation efforts now emphasize the rehabilitation of great numbers of structures that may not be significant either architecturally or historically, rather than stressing the preservation of single monumental properties. This is because these sites reflect the local, ordinary life of Americans which is worth preserving. This is also a reflection of an increased awareness of the aesthetic and cultural value of older buildings throughout the United States which has its roots in a rising national interest in local history.

Recognizing the importance of preserving tangible remains of the past is the main reason that NEHHPA was created. In fact, one could say that 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. While there is no obligation to join NEHHPA, by becoming a member, you would be helping NEHHPA to carry out its mission.

Mark Your Calenders

North End
Huntington Heights
Annual Yard Sale
Saturday, May 3, 2008
(Rain Date May 10)

All Participants must be NEHHPA members. Application for membership is on the back of this newsletter. This event is one of NEHHPA's fundraisers and we appreciate your membership and participation in the yard sale



Café Portugese



7005 Huntington Ave
Newport News VA 23607
344.7002 or 316.8878

Open 6 Days a Week
M-W-F 4:30am - 5:00pm
T-TH-SAT 4:30am - 8:00pm

SOUPS-SANDWICHES-BURGERS-CHICKEN-STEAK



Historic Corner - Preserving the Value of Your Home Through Period Lighting

One of several features of my previous home that made me fall in love with it the moment I saw it were the period wall sconces that hung in each room. The wall sconces themselves were fairly simple and standard - antique brass accents beginning with the hallway as you entered the house and throughout the downstairs including the living room, dining room and breakfast room and then throughout the upstairs as well.



What I particularly love about wall sconces is the ability to customize them with a variety of styles of globes - whether those globes are glass or in

the form of small period lampshades. For example, when we changed the color scheme of our living room to a soft creamy tan and coffee brown, I found iridescent glass globes that complemented those colors, but in the dining room we went with an ivory lace lampshade to match the more formal look of the room. Upstairs, we found period frosted white glass globe lampshades to complete my young daughter's room and in the master bedroom we opted for simple tan lampshades to

provide a stark contrast to the soft blue and yellow color scheme.



Many of the homes in the Huntington Heights area still have the wall sconces intact. If you are one of the lucky ones, there is a local shop in Phoebus called

Cody's Light & Repair that has a unique display of period lighting that includes chandeliers, antique lamps, shades and globes. Not only can they outfit your wall sconces with the perfect shade but they can also re-wire your old sconces as well at a reasonable price.

If your home is not outfitted with wall sconces, consider adding them if you might be embarking on a remodeling project. They make great additions to hallways, stairways, dining rooms, living rooms, bathrooms and bedrooms. A standard rule of thumb is to install them at a height of 5-1/2 to 6 feet above floor level. If installing them in a hallway, they can be placed 8 to 10 feet apart. In rooms with a fireplace, they look particularly stunning to the left or right of the fireplace.

For additional information on this subject, Old House Web has compiled a suppliers guide containing 274 companies that can assist you with wall sconces. This guide is available at:

http://www.oldhouseweb.com/suppliers_of/11631_Wall_Sconces_.shtml

The local retailer mentioned in the article above, Cody's Light & Repair, is located at 201 E. Mellen Street in Hampton.

Article submitted by Michelle Carpenter, NEHHPA Historian.



Block Captain Revitalization Program

What an impressive turnout at the first Block Captain (BC) Revitalization Program (BCRP) meeting! Thank you to all the attendees. Thank you also to Debra Ritger, Crime Watch (CW) Coordinator, Detective Espinoza and Officer Callaway for their input on Prevention and Awareness, and what it takes to be a vigilant, good neighbor.

This revitalization includes an organized structure for the BC, a detailed job description, etc., all to assist perform duties to help our residents, and ultimately, our community.

We then hashed through what it means to be a BC, filling vacant BC positions on various streets, (see BC list). We discussed getting involved in NEHHPA events, listening to concerns and issues a neighbor may have, collecting phone numbers for our neighborhood 'phone tree'. The goal is to have a network whereby residents can send and receive information in a timely manner. The ability to share such information is relevant to sustaining a safe environment for all.

To assist with the vacancy on your street, calling me, Sheila Kerr-Jones, Block Captain Coordinator, at 380-8155. Also I sent an invitation to each BC to attend the next Board meeting held at the Noland Church, Monday, May 5 at 7p.m, should you have any issue you wish to share.

Block Captains

47th - 52nd Vacant
 53rd - Lynn Ritger 349 53rd
 West Hunt 51-54 Linda Bordeaux 226 52nd
 54th - Vacant
 55th - Phil Shook 310 55th
 56th - Betty Zattiero 5601 Huntington
 57th - Virginia Gall 338 57th
 58th - Winnie Price 335 58th
 59th - Pat Ward 315 59th
 60th - Vacant
 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 - Vacant
 69th, 70th, Warwick
 - Edward Wright 321 69th
 71st, 72nd, 73rd, Belvedere and River Rd
 -Steve Hudak 319 71st

Over the Back Fence:

Planting to Attract Hummingbirds and Butterflies

Yes, the hummers are back, they arrived after their long migration on March 24. This is a crucial time to supply nectar for these little birds, so placing a feeder outside will assist until your plants are in bloom. I have even seen a Tiger Swallowtail, our state insect.

Consider the following to attract both: Asters "Wild Romance", White Dragonflowers (native to Virginia), Butterfly bushes "Black Knight", Red Penstemon, Keys of Heaven, and Bee Balm, just to name a few. By planting parsley, yes, that old staple, or try dill, the

black butterfly caterpillar will have a constant supply of food. The Monarch butterfly, however, survives on milkweed.

Keep in mind hummingbirds are more attracted to red blooms with a trumpet shape, and need a constant source of food due to their high metabolism. (Keep the feeders full.)

By no means am I an expert on the above, rather love seeing nature at her best. See you around the neighborhood.

Article submitted by Sheila Kerr-Jones.

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

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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