

News & Views

SUMMER 2014



Historic
Lexington
Foundation
Incorporated

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2014 ANNUAL MEETING

Historic Lexington Foundation is grateful to the Sigma Nu fraternity for generously allowing use of its national headquarters for HLF's 2014 annual meeting this April. Founded in 1869 at the Virginia Military Institute, the fraternity purchased the c. 1910 residence at 9 Lewis Street in the 1950s. In addition to touring the headquarters, participants were also able to tour the 1867 James Gardiner Paxton house next door. Following a review of the foundation's past year's activities, HLF presented Founders' Awards to Rebecca Wilson and Charles Hallock for the meticulous restoration of their homes, Grace House and the J.T. McCrum House respectively, efforts that contributed significantly to the revitalization of S. Main Street.



NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH

During the month of May, HLF undertook a series of activities in celebration of National Preservation Month entitled "Sacred Places: The Historic Churches of Rockbridge County." This year's keynote speaker, Dan Pezzoni, opened the series with a lecture and slide presentation on the county's historic churches and their evolution. The following Saturday, Dr. Taylor Sanders entertained the audience with a discussion of "Churches, Congregations and Community in Antebellum Lexington." Following the presentation, participants had the opportunity to tour seven historic churches in Lexington. HLF was also grateful to six historic churches in the county that opened their doors to visitors: Neriah Baptist, Timber Ridge Presbyterian, Bethesda Presbyterian, Ebenezer United Methodist, Bethany Lutheran, and Maury River Friends Meeting House.



HLF FACADE GRANT PROGRAM

Lexington has witnessed a great deal of facade preservation activity in 2014, in part through the support and encouragement of HLF facade improvement grants through the Robert S. Johnson Fund, established in partnership with the City of Lexington. In July, the latest facade improvement was completed on the steeple of the First Baptist Church in Lexington. In addition to repainting around the church's windows and wooden base of the steeple, workmen applied coats of paint to the galvanized metal shingles that top the 110-foot steeple. Other recent facade grants have gone for restoration work on the Alexander-Withrow building and the McCampbell Inn, as well as repainting of woodwork on the Books & Co. building and the Rockbridge Historic Society headquarters, the Campbell House.