



# The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette

Preserving Our Neighborhoods

May '99

## May Meeting to Feature Preservation Week and Litter Clean-up

The next meeting of the Hampton-Pinckney Historic District will take place on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Central Baptist Church (activities room - Lloyd Street entrance). Preservation Week and County Council's Litter Clean-Up will be the topics of discussion. Also come meet our new Neighborhood Services Coordinator.

The April meeting consisted of a presentation by local historian Dr. Judith Bainbridge. Business discussed included the success of the Easter Egg Hunt, update on the grant application, the acceptance of the by-laws by a majority vote, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration to be held on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the speed hump on Lloyd, and the fate of the triangle building at the corner of Rutherford and Buncombe (which is scheduled to be demolished). Any questions concerning the above should be directed to Robert Benedict.

Thank you for attending the Meeting: Dr. Judith Bainbridge, Rick Owens, Robert and Judy Benedict, Kathleen Crispin, Claudia Price, George Bell, Margie Montgomery, Eric and Max Englehardt and Beth Burris, Diane Smock, Becky Boyd, Kristen and Emma Catherine Duvall, Sharon Wells, Mary Beth and Erik Rolfe, Bob Lloyd, Rev. Simpson, Lisa and Jim Hartnett, Michael Hoffman, and Colleen and Ron Whitworth.

Visitors are always welcome. -jb

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## Neighborhood Originated with McBees

Dr. Judith Bainbridge, local historian, gave an interesting presentation at the April meeting. Her talk focused on the origination of the Hampton-Pinckney neighborhood. Vardry McBee purchased the land upon which our homes reside in the year 1815 - 11,200 acres for only \$26,000. He set up a trading post, donated land for churches of various denominations, and helped establish both the Greenville Male and Female Academies which were located where our Heritage Green is now situated. In 1835, he moved to Greenville into a home he built on Prospect Hill (the current Greenville Water System site).



Prospect Hill

In 1847, with a natural love and \$500, his son William McBee acquired 12 acres from his father, which includes our current neighborhood. By the 1870's, Washington Avenue was the most desirable neighborhood in which to live and in 1875, West Street was created, which runs from Academy to the railroad depot, parallel to Washington Avenue. West is changed to Highland Avenue in 1890, then to Hampton in 1902. The Sanborn Fire Insurance company created maps of proper-

ties it covered and in 1902, the map did not show a Pinckney Street or a Lloyd Street. After this time, several lots were conveyed to members of the McBee family and large homes were built. In 1925, the City renumbered all the homes but a city directory was not done that year and a lot of moving around occurred between 1924 and 1926. (See accompanying History Corner for a 1910 city directory.) Between the renumbering and moving, it has become quite difficult to track where homes were actually located and the people who lived in them prior to 1926. It is believed that several homes in the neighborhood were moved, which prior to having telephone and electrical wires, was accomplished easier than today.

After several decades of decline, the neighborhood redeemed itself with people moving in to renovate the homes. Today the Hampton-Pinckney area is an asset to the City of Greenville and once again a destination for people to live or just simply drive or walk through to enjoy its beauty. -jb

## Mayor Calls for Joint City/County Litter Campaign



Greenville County has declared May 15<sup>th</sup> a county-wide litter clean-up day and Mayor Knox White wants the City to also participate. The residents of Hampton-Pinckney have been personally invited to do their share. We are urging all residents of the neighborhood to participate in this. We will discuss at the neighborhood meeting Tuesday night what our focus area will be for the clean-up. Weather permitting, we also plan to have a cookout at the Benedict's house immediately following the clean-up. -jb

## The Building Doctor

The Building Doctor Program will visit Greenville on May 11, 1999 at Greenville Technical College from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. This program is conducted by the South Carolina Historic Preservation Office and consists of a free clinic to help you identify problems with old structures and will present remedies. You are encouraged to bring any of your maintenance or design questions and there will be a sign-up to have a "house call" the day following the clinic. "House calls" cost only \$35.00. You may register by phone at 467-4552, by fax at 467-5715 or mail a registration form that will be available at the Hampton-Pinckney neighborhood meeting Tuesday night. -jb

## Join the Association

All residents of the Hampton-Pinckney Historic District are urged to join the Association by signing the membership roster. All residents 18 years of age and older are encouraged to join. -jb

## New Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Leslie Fletcher has joined the team at City Hall as a replacement for the vacancy left by Hartley Cooper. Leslie moved to Greenville over two years ago from Charleston where she worked with Hartley. Please welcome her. Should you need to contact her call 467-4435. -jb

## Where is Traffic Calming?



We are still waiting to hear what the response was from the SCDOT and for our other issues to come before City Council. Come to the meeting to receive up-to-date information concerning Traffic Calming. -jb

## Resident Notary Offers Services

Ms. Alice White of 22 Pinckney Street would like all of us to know she is a Notary Public and is offering her services to the residents of Hampton-Pinckney for free. Please call her at 242-4359 should you require her services. -jb

## The Secret Garden

The Greenville Council of Garden Clubs featured one of our residents' gardens in its 1999 Spring Garden Tour, held April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The home of Mrs. J.D. Isbell, 321 Hampton Avenue, was one of eight gardens highlighted by the club. Dubbed "The Secret Garden", it displays boxwoods which originated from her ancestor's plantation in Fairfield County and brick trim totally in character with an English garden. It is always nice when a special event like this draws visitors to our neighborhood. -jb

## Easter Egg Hunt Big Hit

Many thanks go to Becky and Larry Boyd for our first annual Easter Egg Hunt. We had about 14 children participating, from ages 1 to 7. A grand prize egg was found by Hayley Benedict, who won a tin of



Children and friends of the neighborhood at our 1st Easter Egg Hunt

popcorn, and others won chocolate bunnies and Beanie Babies for finding eggs with different color tops. The hunt began at 10:30 and all of the eggs were found by 10:45. To quote Austin Rodgers, "It was fast and FUN!" -jb



### The History Corner

The History Corner for May is a listing from the Greenville City Directory in 1910 for the neighborhood. Last month Highland Avenue (now Hampton Avenue) was featured from the 1899-1900 directory. Pinckney was not complete from Lloyd to Butler at that time. Therefore, a listing from the 1910 directory for Pinckney is listed below. Unfortunately, the directory no longer listed occupations. (Also note the spelling "APinkney" which the residents of Hampton-Pinckney had changed to "APinckney" in the 1970's.) -rb

Current Address	1910 City Directory
Pinckney Street	Pinckney Street
N/A	2 - Andrew Wallace
6 - Price	4 - L.D. Spall
7 - Ware/Landreth	5 - Mrs. V.B. Keys
10 - Adair	6 - W.M. James
9 - Southerland	7 - W.T. Asbury
12 - Duvall	8 - M.M. Trotter
11 - Whitworth	9 - Avery Patton
14 - Lloyd	10 - E.L. Little
17 - Hoffman	11 - Mrs. Valara Rickman
18 - Faulkner	12 - O.P. Earle
20 - Nield	14 - Walker T A
21 - Wyche/Smock	15 - Utsey J C
22 - White	16 - Vacant
23 - Taylor	17 - Hobbs C O
24 - Crispin	18 - Houston P H
27 - Kirkman	19 - Gunn M L
29 - Hartman	21 - Steele G R
	- Slade T B
28 - Rutherford	22 - Scales R R
/Parks	

- |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 31 - Anderson        | 23 - Lipscomb J E        |
| 30 - Kafka           | 24 - Morganroth H G      |
| Demolished - Part of | 25 - Vacant              |
| Central Baptist      |                          |
| 34 -King             | 26 - Booker M V Mrs      |
| 36 -Morrison         | 28 - Glover H P          |
|                      | - Central Baptist Church |



Sacred Heart Academy, 1908

The Sacred Heart Academy, founded in 1900 by the Ursuline Sisters, was located behind St. Mary's Church at 207 Hampton Avenue. It closed in 1931. (Source: *The Golden Age of Post Cards 1900-1930* by Richard D. Sawyer, 1995.)

### Aerobics in The Neighborhood

One of the many excuses you've used for not getting fit is no longer valid. Exercise classes are now being offered within walking distance.

Buncombe Street United Methodist Church, in cooperation with Cleveland Street YMCA, has begun to sponsor a variety of aerobic exercise classes. The classes include step, low impact, and kick box (tae bo). The sessions are co-ed and are taught by certified instructors. The current schedule is offered on Monday through Thursday mornings (9:30 - 10:30) and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (5:45-6:45). For information, call Kathy Lloyd (235-2432).-bl

### Grant Application Not Recommended for Funding

The Hampton-Pinckney neighborhood's grant application seeking a portion of the City of Greenville's share of state accommodations tax revenue for neighborhood sign improvements is not among those being recommended to the City Council for funding. Staff for the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee, the City Council appointed group that reviews applications for funding, notified us of the action on April 21. While City Council is not obligated to follow the recommendations of the Committee, it seems likely to do so. The neighborhood has an opportunity to raise questions about the pri-

oritization at the City Council meeting scheduled for May 10. However, doing so would probably be interpreted as "sour grapes" even though there are some valid criticisms that could be raised about the fairness and transparency of the application process.

Since the project plan is still a valid one, the next course of action is to determine what other sources of city funding can be pursued. Neighbors should be aware that a similar situation arose several years ago with a project seeking signs for the East Park Historic Preservation Area. That neighborhood sought subgrant funding initially from the City's annual Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The City turned the neighborhood project down because of its contention that the project did not sufficiently benefit low and moderate income persons. However, subsequently, neighborhood property owners met with the City Manager and other key staff and worked out a plan in which the City and the neighborhood would share in the installation of the signs on an 80 percent/20 percent matching basis, respectively. The signs have been up for five years now, so the persistence paid off.

In the meantime, thanks to those who helped put the application together and appeared before the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee. We may be asking for your assistance again to keep pursuing the project.-bl



## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration

Mark your calendars! Once again we are planning our neighborhood 4<sup>th</sup> of July party to be held Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Residents, family and friends are invited. If you would like to help

with the band, awards, food, or anything else please call Beth Burris at 370-0085. -jb

## Downtown on the Web

Want to check out downtown before heading off to the mall? You will not think twice about the mall when you log onto [www.downtowngreenville.com](http://www.downtowngreenville.com). Panoramic views of shops and restaurants, as well as natural attractions will lure you to our downtown for food, fun and leisurely strolling. -jb

## Of Personal Interest

C We are very sad to hear that our neighbor, Helen Ragsdale, passed away on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Ragsdale was a resident of Hampton-Pinckney for over 90 years. Memorials may be made to the Thornwell Home and School for Children, P.O. Box 60, Clinton, S.C. 29325 or any charity you choose.

C Welcome to the neighborhood to Diane Smock and Brad Wyche at 21 Pinckney St. The Wyche-s have a 12 year-old daughter Jessica and a 14 year-old son Charlie.

C Congratulations to:

C Mrs. Isbell of 321 Hampton who turned 100 in April.

C Billie Rutherford and Bobbie Parks (28 Pinckney) celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> birthdays in April.

C Zack Southerland, 9 Pinckney Street, on his marriage to Stephanie Ingram on April 17<sup>th</sup>, in Greenville. The couple will reside off of North Main Street.

## Important Reminders

C The next neighborhood meeting will be held Tuesday, June 1st, at 7 p.m. at Central Baptist Church. Jim Townsend will speak about the DRN and the Greenville Neighborhood Alliance. Jim is also running for a seat on the Water Commission and any help (financially or otherwise) would be greatly appreciated.

C Important phone numbers - Eric Lewis, Community Police Officer. Pager: 217-3188; Work 271-5333; Mobile: 616-2275.

C June will be our last organized meeting of the neighborhood association until September. If you have any issues you would like to bring before your neighbors before summer, please plan to attend the June meeting. -jb

## Letter From the Editor

Over the past few years I have heard people express a disinterest in following design guidelines that were established to help keep our neighborhood (and other historic districts) in character with its historical influences. Some view this as too much governmental control. What I can't understand is why anyone would buy an historic home in an historic neighborhood if they are not going to try to at least preserve the historic character of the property. Sometimes it can be a very expensive process but that is what gives our neighborhood its unique value. Lets all try to get into the spirit of Preservation Week by visiting the House Doctor Clinic, sub-

scribing to *Preservation Magazine*, *This Old House* or *Old House Journal*. As my 93 year-old grandmother always tells me about herself, **A**I am an historic preservation!@



**A**The great potential contribution of preservation of American life is not in the saving of structures per se, but in the transformation of the values by which we live.@- Roderick S. French, in *Preservation: Toward an Ethic in the 1980's*, 1980

## Thanks To Our Sponsor

This issue of *The Hampton-Pinckney Gazette* is sponsored by Billie Rutherford. - jb

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