



The News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HISTORIC WILMINGTON FOUNDATION

WINTER 2010

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 1

Tar Heels Go Walking!

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PRESERVATIONISTS

“Tar Heels and Historic Preservation go walking” is not a lead-in to a joke but the beginning of an exciting new partnership between HWF and the New Hanover County Schools. For almost 20 years the school system has offered a program for its third graders to help them get to know their downtown and its services and institutions. This program is called Tar Heels Go Walking, and beginning last September Historic Wilmington began collaborating with the schools to bring more history, historic preservation, architecture and cultural awareness into the lives of third graders.

The Foundation worked with Travis Mathews, Lead Teacher for Social Studies and Foreign Languages, for more than a year to prepare for the program. The Foundation employed Julia Yannetti, a graduate student in UNCW’s Public History program, to research and create the background material for the Tar Heel guided tour. The research also located historic photographs in the files of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society’s archives and NHC Library’s North Carolina Room collection to augment the tour. At 9:00am on September 8th, after countless revisions of the tour script and long hours of tour guide training, the partnership began at Wilmington Fire Department’s headquarters at Market and 9th Street.

The *Tar Heels* four hour field trip includes visits and presentations at the Fire Department, the historic County Courthouse, and Thalian Hall. Also, the students tour the downtown public library and get a presentation from the children’s librarian, and walk through the lobby of the US Post Office. As the strolling Tar Heels weave their way from the Fire Department to the riverfront HWF’s trained and excited guides fill in the blanks with talks about historic buildings, the growth of the city, architectural details, public art and the diverse history and character of our fascinating river city.

HWF Executive Director George Edwards first approached the school’s instructional services staff two years ago with the idea of collaborating with the school system to introduce elementary age students to historic preservation and the built environment. Edwards



Above: Tar Heel students examining the architecture of First Baptist Church on Market.

Left: Young Preservationists studying the WPA mural in the downtown Post Office.

was very pleased with their openness to the idea of introducing preservation into the curriculum and their willingness to work with the Foundation. Travis Mathews has generously worked to make our tour even better and he has been supportive all through the process. Glenn Tetterton, a retired New Hanover County teacher, led the inaugural tour, and hoped to stir the imaginations of young scholars through the tour. Frances Harrison, a volunteer who works for Progress Energy, was excited by the opportunity to share her love of the city and its history with the third graders. “This was fun for the children and the guides.” Through the work of all the guides Edwards stated that “we believe we expanded the children’s awareness of downtown and history HWF was excited by the response from children, teachers, school administrators and parents who took the tour. More than 2500 enthusiastic third graders participated in Tar Heels last fall. The Foundation is working to offer the tour to private school and home schooled students in the future.

If you would like to become a volunteer guide for Tar Heels Go Walking, call us at 910-762-2511.

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

As we begin a new year and a new decade, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to live in our three hundred year old historic Port City. We spend our summers walking under a canopy of downtown oaks which stand like sentinels guarding our 200 year old river-front mansions. On weekends we can escape to the breezes and white sands of our beaches and may even find the time for some extra reading. This summer a friend recommended Wallace Stegner's *Angle of Repose* and I was struck by the main character's emphasis on the importance of the past to the present. Stegner writes, "I believe in Time ... and in the life chronological rather than in the life existential. We live in time and through it, we build our huts in its ruins, or used to, and we cannot afford all these abandonings." Stegner is pointing to the relationship between history and the present and to the discovery of our own personal stories in the midst of what came before us. In other words, Preservation Matters.

Stegner's words speak to the core mission of the Historic Wilmington Foundation. We save our old and abandoned buildings not only because they are irreplaceable, but also because they tell us who we are.

In 2009 the Historic Wilmington Foundation facilitated an ad hoc committee that developed a proposed preservation ordinance which would bring Stegner's words to life. The committee was ably chaired by former Board of Trustees President, architect Bruce Bowman. The proposed preservation ordinance would create a commission that scores the importance and condition of historic buildings. The commission would also require and review redevelopment plans concerning historic buildings before any demolition begins. No more teardowns of our history without something of beauty and value to replace it. Likewise, the proposed ordinance incentivizes preservation by granting height bonuses for developers who have the foresight to save historic structures.

Adoption of this preservation ordinance would be a significant step forward in insuring that our historic buildings are not lost to development pressure. It is also a step forward for Wilmington's tax base. When developers save and restore our old, priceless buildings, they promote economic development and raise property values by keeping Wilmington's history alive for the tens of thousands of visitors who come to our city and for the residents who treasure our past.

When it appears on the Council agenda Bruce, executive director George Edwards and other supporters will make a presentation to the City Council explaining the need for and the benefits of this ordinance. I encourage all of our members to find out more about the proposed ordinance by contacting the Foundation and to request that the City Council adopt the ordinance as quickly as possible. Adoption of the ordinance would be a tremendous step forward to ensure that we do not abandon our past. As Wallace Stegner has pointed out, we must preserve Wilmington's past and allow history to teach us about ourselves.

Thank you very much,



HISTORIC WILMINGTON FOUNDATION

516 North Fourth Street
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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Historic Wilmington Foundation is to protect and preserve the irreplaceable historic resources of Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear Region.

The opinions expressed in The News do not necessarily reflect the views of the Foundation and Board of Trustees



The Director's View

SUSTAINING PRESERVATION FOR OUR FUTURE

The lose of the historic Atlantic Coast Line Building last fall and the threatened demolition of the former Taste of Country building on South Front Street demonstrates all too well how our architectural heritage remains imperiled. The City has as strong a set of protections as allowed by North Carolina law, but this protection is only extended to two districts (Carolina Heights and the Wilmington Historic District) and it can only halt destruction of a building for 365 days.

Several North Carolina cities have examined these standards and found them lacking. They sought additional protection for their historic buildings through individual enabling legislation and standards approved by the North Carolina General Assembly. Wilmington is taking the first steps toward strengthening its protection for historic buildings. A task force originally initiated by the Foundation and now jointly facilitated by the Foundation and Wilmington Downtown, Inc. and now capably chaired by Bruce Bowman has worked for more than a year to create new language for the City's zoning standards. These standards, while not as strong as the ordinances passed in places like New Bern or Salisbury, are a long needed upgrade for the protection of our wonderful architectural heritage.

The proposed standards will be accomplished through text amendments to our zoning ordinance. The policy will put in place a clear four point evaluation of requests for demolition based on architectural style, integrity, significance and structural worthiness. The proposed standards will also define the mass and height of

building constructed after an historic building is demolished. These standards and others will be incorporated into the zoning standards. New regulations will further call for all development permits to be in place before demolition of an historic building is sanctioned. The new provisions will also facilitate an innovative transfer of unused height from saved historic buildings to other building sites thus permitting greater height for some structures.



The task force held a well attended public information session in mid-October and gave a report to Council on our work in late October. Now we are resolving the details and addressing the questions that came out of the information session. Our task force was expanded to include some development interests so we can build the broadest coalition of support for this major effort to strengthen our standards and protect our architectural inventory. We will expect to be back before the Planning Committee in February and then with their approval the next

stop would be a public hearing before City Council hopefully leading to a vote of approval. Please let our Mayor and Council members know that you endorse these strengthened preservation standards and you want them enacted. They will listen to you and I believe that they will respond with their support. There seems to be a window of opportunity here for Wilmington to do the right thing for historic preservation.

George W. Edwards

WILMINGTON 2009

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Historic Preservation Leadership Since 1966

May 2009 National Preservation Month

This Place Matters

Westbrook-Ardmore National Register Historic District

Mayor Bill Saffo and residents of the Westbrook-Ardmore Neighborhood join to celebrate the City's newest addition to the National Register of Historic Places. The Westbrook-Ardmore Neighborhood was listed on the register last spring bringing Wilmington's list of districts to eight. This neighborhood is an estimated 26 blocks with 479 contributing buildings and 581 total properties. HWF provided a grant in support of the effort to designate this district and is pleased to see another area of the City benefitting from the recognition and tax incentives that the National Register designation brings. National Register Districts destination also affords some oversight of initiatives by state and federal government such as road projects and the purchase of the houses by the New Hanover ABC.



2009 Preservation Awards

2009 Preservation Award recipients joined by Foundation executive director George Edwards proudly display their awards last spring. Front row left to right, Linda Smith and Toronya Ezell, Roman and Darcy Zeller with their daughter and Edwards. Middle row, Emily and Stan Hollingsworth, Francisco Castillo, Tim O'Callaghan, and John Sawyer for the USO. Back row, David Spetrino, Boni Hall, Doug Ausbon, and Carlton Yedinak. See the list of all the winners on the facing page.



Pine Forest Cemetery- *This Place Matters*

Friends of historic Pine Forest Cemetery and members of Historic Wilmington gathered to celebrate the award of the James and Rosalie Carr Memorial Plaque to the cemetery last May. Everyone's presence at the ceremony confirmed that *This Place Matters*, the theme for Preservation Month 2009. After the presentation ceremony everyone enjoyed a guided tour of the cemetery.



Preservation Award Winners 2009

The list of all the honorees follows

1. John Monteith for LEED certified design and rehabilitation at 32 N Front St.
2. Francisco Castillo for the restoration of Dannenbaum House at 221 N 5th St.
3. Tim O'Callaghan for the restoration of Curtis-Foster House at 114 N 6th St.
4. Roman & Darcy Zeller for the construction of a new compatible infill at 1904 Chestnut St.
5. Gary Anderson for the rehabilitation of 507 N 5th St.
6. Tony Ward for the construction of a new compatible infill at 414 Nun St.
7. Doug Ausbon for the rehabilitation of 406 N 6th St.
8. Matt Scharf for the adaptive reuse and restoration of 411 Chestnut St.
9. David Spretino for construction of a new compatible infill at Tanyard Parish on Front St.
10. Stan and Emily Hollingsworth for the rehabilitation of 319 S 6th St.
11. Carlton Yedinak for the rehabilitation of Wessell-Harper House at 508 S Front St.
12. Boni Hall and the New Hanover County School Board for the rehabilitation of Wrightsboro School.
13. Michael Cobb and the New Hanover County School Board for the rehabilitation of the Forest Hills School.
14. Merit- Mark Evans for a preservation sale & initiative for 620-622 N 4th and 411 Chestnut St. properties.
15. Merit- Henry Johnson for restoration of St. James Episcopal Church tower.
16. Linda Smith and Toronya Ezell of the AMEZ Housing Community Development Corporation
17. City of Wilmington for the David Brinkley Preservationist of the Year for the USO Building restoration and rehabilitation.

Thank you to the following businesses and friends that made these events possible

National Preservation Month

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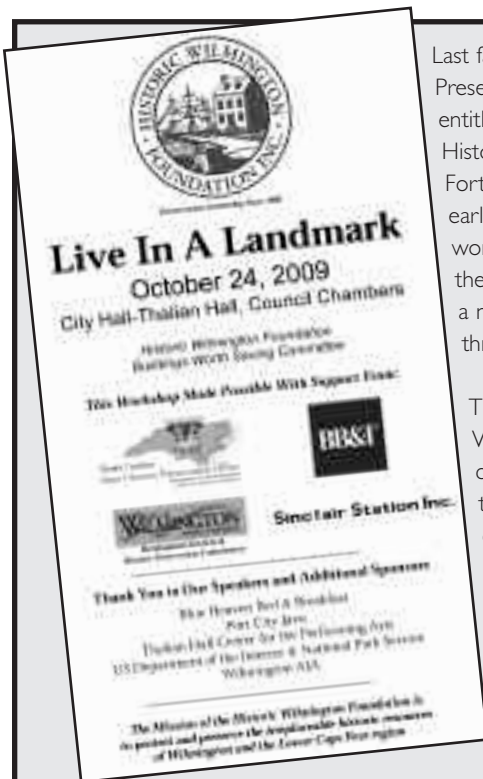
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New Years Eve Party

The VIEW on Water Street
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 MegaCorp Logistics
 Gardens by Design
 A.L. Hart & Company



Last fall HWF offered its third workshop in the Preservation for Profit series. This seminar was entitled Live in a Landmark and it took place at Historic Thalian Hall City Council Chambers. Forty eight people including speakers got up early on Saturday October 24th to join this workshop which was also broadcast live over the City's GTV system and has been replayed a number of times since. It is also available through the City's website.

The workshop is a product of the Buildings Worth Saving Committee which works continually to create informative and thoughtful workshops on the use of tax credits and incentives to save and rehabilitate historic buildings. The focus of this presentation was on purchasing and rehabilitating historic homes using preservation tax credits. Presenters for this workshop included speakers on conventional loans and lending, insurance, construction planning and

design, home inspections, historic districts and the all important North Carolina State preservation tax credits. Site visits followed the workshop giving the registrants a chance to see how tax credits have been used by two home owners Kyle and Laura Trivett and Joe and Jessica McAlear in the Carolina Heights neighborhood.



CALL FOR 2010 PRESERVATION

Award Nominations

Preservation Month is a nationally recognized event, sponsored annually with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, honoring and promoting historic preservation. The Historic Wilmington Foundation, local co-sponsor with the National Trust, will hold events promoting Wilmington's historical resources for the purpose of instilling community pride, promoting

Wilmington's heritage tourism, honoring Wilmington's preservation successes and showing the social and economic benefits of historic preservation.

Each year as part of National Preservation Month, the Historic Wilmington Foundation recognizes outstanding preservation projects by presenting Preservation Awards to individuals whose contributions demonstrate outstanding excellence in historic preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and compatible new infill construction. By identifying these projects, the Foundation strives to educate the community on the importance of preservation and the role historic structures play in building community identity. The Foundation is also accepting nominations for David Brinkley Preservationist of the Year and for the Thomas H. Wright Lifetime Achievement in Preservation Award. This year's Preservation Awards Ceremony will be held in May at the historic New Hanover County Courthouse in downtown Wilmington. The event is co-hosted by New Hanover County, Wilmington Downtown and the Residents of Old Wilmington.

HISTORIC WILMINGTON FOUNDATION'S 2010 PRESERVATION AWARDS

NOMINATION FORM (MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 28, 2010)

Suggested Award Category: _____

Building or Project Name: _____ Building Style: _____

Date of Construction: _____ Project Completion Date: _____

Nominee's Name: _____ Project Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Owner's Name & Contact info (if different from nominee): _____

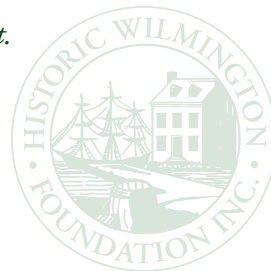
Nominated By (optional): _____ Phone: _____

We also require a brief history of the structure/site and a description of the preservation project.

Please include before & after photos of the project. Digital pictures preferred.

Mail this form to: **Historic Wilmington Foundation, Inc.**

516 North Fourth Street, Wilmington, NC 28401 or fax to: 910.762.1551



Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear Region's Most Threatened Historic Places

The Historic Wilmington Foundation initiated its Most Threatened Historic Places program in 2006 to call attention to threatened historic places. The initiative helps the Foundation and the community spotlight irreplaceable historic, architectural, cultural, and archaeological resources in Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear region that are in imminent danger of being lost. A listing as a threatened place will generate public attention, spark debate about cultural and architectural heritage preservation, and hopefully attract new perspectives and ideas to an endangered site in need of creative new solutions. The Foundation's **Most Threatened Historic Places** program is an open public process, bringing more attention to these sites, and utilizing the public attention to save more historic resources. The media attention and public discussion also helps people evaluate the importance of our heritage and begin to understand that historic preservation is more than just saving landmarks. It is about the renewal and restoration of old commercial districts, neighborhoods, cemeteries and our public spaces. It is about recognizing and preserving the history of all of our citizens. The Historic Wilmington Foundation uses its newsletter and its website, as well as media coverage, to provide publicity on the annual list. The Foundation also provides updates on the status of the sites selected for the list. Please share this nomination form with others and call the Foundation if you wish to alert us to a threatened site. The nomination process is open to everyone in Wilmington, and the counties of New Hanover, Brunswick and Pender.



Topsail High School

ENDANGERED PLACES



Atlantic Coast Line/CFCC building



Wilmington's Humble Homes



Moore's Chapel AME Zion Church



Preservation Leadership Since 1966

Call for Nominations • 2010 Official Nomination Form

Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear's Most Threatened Historic Places

Historic Wilmington Foundation's Most Threatened Historic Places Program recognizes Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear region's irreplaceable, architectural, historic, natural and archaeological sites that face imminent threat by demolition, alteration, inappropriate development, insufficient funding, or neglect. These special places play an important role in our community's heritage and should be recognized and saved before it is too late.

Please submit your completed Most Threatened Historic Places nomination to:

Historic Wilmington Foundation
Attn: Most Threatened Historic Places
516 North 4th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

Nominations may be hand delivered to our offices at 516 North 4th Street

Forms must be post marked by March 31, 2010

In addition to your completed nomination form, please include the following:

- A State map clearly indicating the location of your site
- 4 8x10 color photographs of your site or a CD with a minimum of four images of the site (digital images preferred)

Please keep in mind that the materials submitted will become the property of the Historic Wilmington Foundation. If a selection is made, all material and images will be the property of Historic Wilmington Foundation and may be used in future publications, presentations, and on our website.

I. Nomination

Name and location of the Site

II. Name, Title and Contact Information of Nominator

Name and Title of Nominator

Nominating Organization or Affiliation, if applicable

Address

Telephone

III. Your Endangered Historic Site

Current Name of Site:

Historic and Popular Names for Site, if any

Address of the Site

Name of Site Owner, if different from Nominator

Is Ownership of the Site Public? Private?

Does the Owner Support this nomination? Yes No

IV. Site Information

Please provide site information as a separate document. All the following questions must be answered. Attach any supporting materials, including photographs, news articles, correspondence, etc.

1. Please describe your site, including its current use and condition and existing zoning or other protective regulations, if any _____

2. What is the historical significance of your site?
(Has it been honored with a national, state or local historic designation?)

3. What is the site's history?
(Has its role in your community changed over time?)

4. Why do you want to save it? (What is special about it and why does it continue to be important to you and your community?)

5. Describe the impending threat to your site: How imminent is it?

6. Describe the setting and context. Does the site retain its original character?

7. Who is involved in the effort to save your site? (i.e. an organization, local government, a historical society, neighborhood association, etc.) Have these organizations made a financial commitment to the effort? Are there any groups that oppose the preservation of your site? _____

8. What specific action would protect this site? (i.e. Purchase and appropriate rehabilitation? A feasibility study? Adaptive reuse? Better Zoning? Heritage tourism?) _____

Don't forget the final due date is March 31, 2010
The 2010 List will be announced in May of 2010 during National Preservation Month.

Submit your form to:

Historic Wilmington Foundation
ATTN: Most Threatened Historic Places
516 North 4th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401

If you have questions please contact us at 910.762.2511






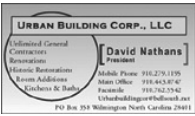
Fax number 910-762-1551 or email Edwards@historicwilmington.org

Preservation Resources Network

The Preservation Resources Network is a special membership group of Historic Wilmington Foundation for professionals who work, consult or invest in the field of historic preservation.

If you have a preservation service to include on the list and would like to join PRN, or you have amendments to your current entry, please call the Foundation office at 910.762.2511 or email us.

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<p>DP Thomas Construction www.dptconstruction.com</p>		<p>Historic restoration, Renovation, Additions, Consulting, Unlimited Building license.</p>	<p>Dave Thomas. 910-520-058 dave@dptconstruction.com PO Box 521 Wrightsville Bch., NC 28480</p>
<p>Uhl, Inc.</p>		<p>Historic restoration and general contractor</p>	<p>Greg Uhl 910-231-1806 uci@ec.rr.com P.O. Box 4441, Wilmington, NC 28406</p>
<p>Urban Building Corp.</p>		<p>Historic restoration and unlimited general contractor</p>	<p>David Nathans 910-443-0747 urbanbuildingcorp@bellsouth.net 516 North Fourth St., Wilmington, NC 28401</p>
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Wilmington, NC 28403

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Debby's background in interior design extends to her experience in urban design. Debby has participated and helped lead several design charrettes, including the 9th Street Charrette, the Downtown Durham Master Plan, and the Old Durham Bulls Athletic Park. In addition she has completed the Placemaker's Educational Series 2006 in Charlottesville, VA.

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Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear Region's 2009 Most Threatened Historic Places

Atlantic Coast Line/CFCC Building

Location: Red Cross Street, Wilmington, NC

This structure which was built by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad was spared when Urban Renewal demolished much of the architecture associated with the city's transportation heritage. It was recently demolished by Cape Fear Community College plans to demolish this historic building to make room for a new campus center which administrators claim will better fit the institution's needs.



North End of the Central Business District

Location: Downtown Wilmington, NC

As PPD, the convention center, and the Cape Fear Community College expand on the north side of Wilmington's historic downtown, the community must be vigilant to ensure that the valuable historic identity of the city is not sacrificed. With proper planning and oversight, economic revitalization does not have to mean the demolition of the structures which give our city character and contribute to Wilmington's quality of life.



Rosenwald Schools

Location: Pender County, NC

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Julius Rosenwald, a Chicago philanthropist who had made a fortune with Sears and Roebuck, supported the education of African-Americans by helping to establish more than five thousand schools in fifteen states. Pender County retains a number of these structures as important reminders of the difficulties our region's residents have overcome. Threatened by neglect, deterioration, and expanding development, our local Rosenwald schools must be protected and reused if future generations are to be able to understand the American legacies of inequitable public facilities and private philanthropy.



Wilmington's Humble Historic Homes

Location: Wilmington, NC

The destruction of Wilmington's cottages, bungalows, shotgun houses, and other modest domestic structures, has slowed because of current economic conditions. However, once the economy rebounds these buildings will once again be threatened by development. The actions of the ABC Board, which razed most of a block of homes within one of the city's historic neighborhoods, indicate that government officials and the general public may still not recognize that these structures provide the



bedrock of the city's historic identity. Preserving Wilmington's humble historic homes provides an efficient alternative to the construction of new low-cost housing.

Threatened Historic Places Watch List

Former Topsail High School

Location: Rte. 17, Hampstead, NC Located in an important commercial corridor, it is currently unused by the County. Although there are not any current plans to demolish the school, the changing character of the area in which it is located may make its future tenuous.



Sts. Peter & Paul Russian Orthodox Church

Location: St. Helena, Pender County, NC First identified as worthy of attention by the 2006 HWF watch list, Sts. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church continues to be troubled by a shrinking membership. If the congregation becomes moribund, the church building, with its characteristic golden onion dome, will be in danger of being lost.



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Colby Munson is from Williamsburg, VA and is a senior at UNCW double majoring in Art History and Business Administration. After graduation she plans to enroll in graduate school with hopes of earning a masters degree in Art History. Colby worked for the Foundation in the summer and fall.

Kristen Belk is from Charlotte, NC and graduated from UNCW in May of 2009 with a degree in Marketing and a minor in Spanish. She interned last summer and landed a job with Bankers Life and Casualty in August.

Trehearn McClain is from Wilmington and is finishing his studies at Cape Fear Community College. Trehearn photo documented all of the properties that the Foundation helps protect with preservation easements and covenants. The work was completed during the spring, summer and fall of last year. Trehearn will be continuing his studies after graduation from Cape Fear CC.

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Thanks to **Elise Rocks and Phil Prete** for completing site visits for the Foundation's easement properties in the fall.

Many thanks to Pat Beyle for help with the fall Gala.

Thank you to the over 100 people that volunteered as Home Tour Captains and Docents during the 2009 Historic Wilmington Foundation Home Tour. With record-breaking attendance they made attendees feel very welcome.

Good luck Gareth!

Gareth Evans, the Foundation's Associate Director, has swapped his desk at HWF for the Director's chair at the Bellamy Mansion Museum.

Gareth joined the Foundation in 2001 as the Program Coordinator and was promoted to associate director in 2004. Gareth managed the plaque program and the Foundation's education programs, such as National Preservation Month. Among other tasks he also oversaw the production of the newsletter and coordinated the annual 5K Run for Preservation. George Edwards, Executive Director for the Foundation said that "Gareth performed so many tasks for the organization that we will probably be lost for a few months until we can get our hands around everything". While Gareth was at HWF he completed his MA in history at UNCW on preservation in Wilmington. Edwards added that the move was a great career step and while the Foundation will miss Gareth's Welsh spirit and good works, the community will benefit because he will still be working to protect and preserve Wilmington's heritage.

A final note from Gareth: I would like to add my thanks to all those volunteers, Board members and staff at HWF who made the job such a pleasure for eight years. Non-profits can only continue because people are extraordinarily generous with their time, money, ideas and service to a cause. Thanks to all of you for making such community nonprofits successful - for being on committees, for coming to events and for supporting what we do in so many different ways. HWF is a superb organization and I have been, and will continue to be, proud to be associated with it. While it was a wrench to leave I'm thrilled to remain at the heart of Wilmington's preservation efforts by joining the Bellamy Mansion and I hope to see many of my friends from HWF there.

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Preservation Leadership Since 1966