



Buckhead Heritage Society

Protecting and Promoting Buckhead's Historic Resources

Newsletter, Fall, 2009

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MISSION

Buckhead Heritage strives to sustain the quality of life in Buckhead by identifying, preserving, restoring, and promoting its historic resources.

Dear Friends,

Buckhead Heritage has made great strides since our first Board meeting around a dining room table in 2006. For starters, we actually have an office now on Mathison Drive where we can conduct our meetings thanks to the generosity of Ken Bazzle, the husband of our tireless Vice Chairman, Tamara Bazzle. We also have a wonderful Executive Director, Christine McCauley, who has taken our organization to a level that we could not have achieved solely through the efforts of our Officers and Board Members. Since her first day of work, Christine has implemented a membership program that has grown our membership to approximately 400 people in less than a year. Christine has been assisted by several interns including Travis Kirspele, Courtney Lankford, Rachel Brochstein, and Caroline Johnson, all of whom have demonstrated an incredible dedication to Buckhead Heritage and historic preservation in general and to whom we are very thankful.

In addition to creating our organizational structure and membership base, we have also managed to do some actual preservation work. In 2009, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation awarded Buckhead Heritage an Excellence in Rehabilitation Award for the restoration of historic Harmony Grove Cemetery at the corner of West Paces Ferry and Chatham Roads. We also launched our Oral History Initiative in August by interviewing three longtime Buckhead residents regarding their recollections of growing up, living and working in Buckhead. Led by Board Member Chad Wright, the Oral History Initiative will capture the stories and remembrances of Buckhead's wonderful cast of characters on videotape and audiotape for future generations.

In addition to these more enjoyable aspects of our work, we have recently been involved in fighting to protect one of Buckhead's most neglected historic resources, Mt. Olive Cemetery. Located at the entrance of Frankie Allen Park, Mt. Olive Cemetery is the last vestige of the African American community of Macedonia Park. A developer filed an Application with the Atlanta Urban Design Commission seeking permission to remove the graves from the cemetery. Buckhead Heritage has been leading the charge in opposing this Application.

Buckhead Heritage also held several educational forums including a wildly successful Civil War lecture in July given by author Robert Jenkins on the 145th Anniversary of the Battle of Peachtree Creek. We are also excited to co-host with the Cherokee Garden Library an "Interlude with Edward Daugherty" on October 7, at 5:30 p.m. at the Atlanta History Center's McElreath Hall. Mr. Daugherty's remarks will focus on Buckhead as an evolving landscape and will be followed by a tour of his exhibition "Edward L. Daugherty, A Southern Landscape Architect: Exploring New Forms" and a tour of the Cherokee Garden Library.

In sum, we have been working very hard this year to raise awareness of Buckhead's significant historic resources. And we greatly appreciate your support in this effort. We look forward to continuing to carry out our mission in 2010 and beyond with your help. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Christine or me directly.

Sincerely, Wright Mitchell, President

Events



Founding Members during the Phoenix Flies event.



Attendees at Lumiere Gallery listening to remarks by architect Merrill Elam.



Rev. Chisholm leads the re-consecration ceremony at Harmony Grove Cemetery



Bob Jenkins discusses the Battle of Peachtree Creek in Tanyard Creek Park. Photo courtesy of Phil Mosier.

As a Member of Buckhead Heritage, you receive invitations to our events and the opportunity to register early.

If you are not a member, please join us today.

Phoenix Flies Tours of Harmony Grove | March 7, 2009

Buckhead Heritage co-sponsored three tours of Harmony Grove Cemetery with the Atlanta Preservation Society during their annual Phoenix Flies event. Tour guide Wright Mitchell, BHS Board President, discussed the history of the cemetery and church that once stood on the property and described the importance of those interred therein in the shaping of Atlanta's history. Attendees were able to see the award-winning restoration of the cemetery in all its spring glory.

Good Design Transcends Time: A look at modern architecture's place in historic preservation | April 28, 2009

Approximately 40 people joined us for a cocktail tour of Richard Pare's exhibit, "The Last Vanguard: Soviet Modernist Architecture, 1922-1932." Merrill Elam, of Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects and designer of the Buckhead Library, discussed modern architecture and Richard Pare's photographs during what turned out to be a fascinating evening of conversations ranging from architecture to politics to materials conservation.

Reconsecration of Harmony Grove and New Hope A.M.E. Cemeteries | May 3, 2009

Approximately 50 people gathered for two reconsecration ceremonies led by Reverend Philip Chisholm of New Hope A.M.E. Church. James H. "Whispering" Smith deeded three acres to New Hope A.M.E. Church upon his death in 1872. "Whispering" Smith is buried at Harmony Grove Cemetery, second only to his infant son in 1870.

Buckhead Heritage Celebrates the 145th Anniversary of the Battle of Peach Tree Creek | July 17 & 18, 2009

Over 125 people joined us for celebratory cocktails and a lecture by Author Robert Jenkins, Sr. who astounded us by a detailed account of the Battle of Peachtree Creek, one of the Atlanta Campaign's most fateful battles. The following day he led a driving and walking tour of the battlefield from Bobby Jones Golf Course to Ansley Park with a stop at Tanyard Creek Park.

Help Needed

Membership Coordinator

Would you like to volunteer a half a day per week to help us manage our ever-growing membership program? Please call Christine McCauley, 404-467-9447, to inquire.

2009 State Preservation Award

Buckhead Heritage Receives 2009 State Preservation Award for Excellence in Restoration of Harmony Grove Cemetery

In 2006, recognizing the historic significance of Harmony Grove Cemetery, Buckhead Heritage undertook an extensive restoration of the cemetery. Buckhead Heritage enlisted the services of mortuary archaeologists, landscape architects, and headstone repair experts during the restoration, which lasted approximately three years and eventually received the 2009 State Preservation Award from the GA Trust for Historic Preservation. Harmony Grove Cemetery now exists as a functional green space in Buckhead and as a tangible link to Buckhead's rural past. We thank all those involved throughout the years for their in-kind and financial contributions toward this restoration.

Oral History Program

Oral History Program Launched August, 2009

Buckhead Heritage has conducted its first three oral history interviews in our initiative to identify, document, and maintain the oral histories of our rich and diverse community. We want to record the stories of Buckhead as they are told by those who lived them. If you have stories worth telling or know someone who might, please contact us at info@buckheadheritage.com. We especially thank Chad Wright, Caroline Johnson, and Dr. David Lowance for their work in setting up this program and recruiting interviewees.

Landowner Technical Assistance Program

Landowner Technical Assistance Program to launch in November

What are your preservation goals? Would you like to honor your property's historic integrity by listing it on the National Register of Historic Places (see back page)? Do you want to protect your property in perpetuity and realize significant income tax savings? We can help you accomplish those goals by assisting you in listing your historic property on the National Register of Historic Places or by helping you design conservation/façade easements that fit your unique property and your individual preservation goals.

Mount Olive Cemetery

Macedonia's Mt. Olive Cemetery

The area, known as Macedonia, was first settled by freed slaves after the Civil War. In 1921 developer John Owens created an African-American subdivision named Macedonia Park—a thriving community which included 400 residents, three churches, two grocery stores, barbers, a blacksmith, and restaurants. In the 1940s, Fulton County began to systematically acquire properties in Macedonia Park through coercive negotiation or eminent domain in order to build Bagley Park, now known as Frankie Allen Park. Buckhead Heritage has been working to raise awareness of the importance of Mt. Olive Cemetery and the role Macedonia played in the development of Buckhead. You may have seen reports in the Wall Street Journal, AJC, Buckhead Reporter, Northside Neighbor, Fulton County Daily Report, NHTP Preservation Magazine, or on any of the local news channels. Buckhead Heritage Board Members and staff have attended three Urban Design Commission meetings advocating for Mt. Olive's retention in situ. Recently a lawsuit was filed on behalf of Elon Osby, granddaughter of William Bagley, seeking an injunction against the landowner to prohibit him from proceeding with the grave removal application. Constangy, Brooks, & Smith, LLC, led by our own Wright Mitchell, is representing Mrs. Osby.

*Founding Members and Irbyville Society, \$1,500—\$5,000

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- Standing Peachtree Member.....\$50
- Montgomery's Ferry Member.....\$100
- Moore's Mill Contributor.....\$250
- Howell's Battery Contributor.....\$500
- Woodhaven Patron\$1000
- Irbyville Society\$1500—\$5000

- My company has a matching gift program.
- I am interested in corporate sponsorship.
- I would like to volunteer.

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES: the semi-annual newsletter; invitations and early registration to educational programs, children's events, and other special events; and recognition in our publications.

Name as it is to appear on the Members' List:

Mailing Address:

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Email:

Please send this form and your check payable to Buckhead Heritage to:
 Buckhead Heritage, 3180 Mathieson Drive, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30305
 or contact us at 404-467-9447, or info@buckheadheritage.com

National Register for Historic Places

FAQs

In order to list a property on the National Register, the property must be old enough to be considered historic (generally at least 50 years old) and must retain its historic integrity. Additionally, the property must 1) be associated with events, activities, or developments that were important in the past; or 2) be associated with the lives of people who were important in the past; or 3) be significant in the areas of architectural history, landscape history, or engineering; or 4) have the potential to yield information through archaeological investigation that would answer questions about our past.

Myth v. Fact:

The National Register does not restrict the property owner in any way. Paint color is NOT regulated, nor are additions. The listing is simply an honorary designation of importance.

The honorary listing does, however, provide protection from state and federally funded projects that may negatively impact the individual's property. It also makes landowners of listed properties eligible for grants and certain tax credits.

Thank You

Mark Adams
Atlanta Preservation Center
Atlanta History Center
Ken Bazzle/Mathieson Lofts
Bobby Jones Golf Course
Rachel Brochstein
Ginny Bush
Tony Cassadonte
Cherokee Garden Library
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for your generous and continued support.



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