

Please help restore the Octagon House. Your donation will contribute greatly to the renovation and preservation of this historic Smyth County home. The Octagon House Foundation is a federally registered 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax-deductible.

Although large grants are being sought from different sources, the likelihood of receiving them is enhanced by a good showing of local support. Please help the foundation achieve its goals.

Charter Membership

- Individual..... \$50
- Family..... \$80
- Business..... \$100
- Preservationist Circle..... \$250
- Abijah-Priscilla Circle..... \$500
- Silver Circle \$1000
- Octagon House Gold Society. \$5000
- Other monetary donation \$ _____
 - In memory of _____
 - In honor of _____

Annual Membership

- Individual \$15
- Family \$25
- Business \$50

your name _____

address _____

town, state, zip code _____

phone _____

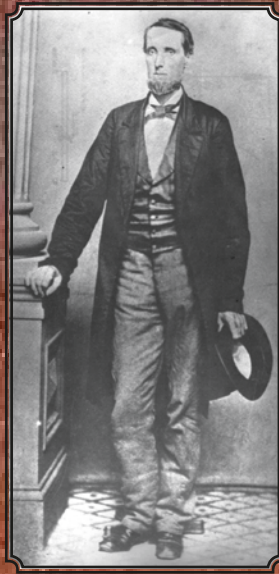
email _____

Please enclose check or money order and send to:

The Octagon House Foundation
P.O. Box 1701
Marion, VA 24354



Phone: (276) 783-3723
 Email: daorr15955@earthlink.net
 Website: www.smythoctagonhouse.org



Abijah Thomas was born in 1814 and married Priscilla Scott in 1838. Thomas' land holdings included more than 10,000 acres and laid the foundation of an iron industry—developing mines, furnaces, and foundries. He built a saw mill, a burr mill, and finally, a

woolen mill for which he bought excellent equipment and brought in expert labor. On the eve of the Civil War Thomas was a wealthy man. If the Civil War had not destroyed his properties and involved him heavily, he would in all probability have amassed one of the great fortunes of the state and have set his county 50 years ahead in industrial development.



A staircase in its current condition in the Octagon House

The Octagon House Foundation

Preserving History, Reinvesting In Our Community



Just before the American Civil War, the wealthy industrialist, Abijah Thomas, built the octagonally shaped house that still stands near the center of Smyth County, Virginia. Although most of the walls are structurally sound, everything else is currently in great need of restoration.



The Octagon House Foundation, a non-profit corporation, has been formed to coordinate the help of volunteers to restore this historical treasure and return it to use by the surrounding communities.

Assistance is needed, sought and greatly appreciated.



WHO WE ARE

The Octagon House Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation formed to save and restore the Octagon House that was built in Smyth County, Virginia by Abijah Thomas in 1856-57. We are supported by membership dues and by the work of volunteers who contribute their time and skills to achieve the foundation's goals.

The Thomas house as described in Mack Howard Sturgill's 1980 National Register application:

Commanding a panoramic view of the South Fork country of the Holston River in Smyth County, the Abijah Thomas House is a rare expression in Virginia of the concept of octagonal domestic architecture that caught the imagination of Americans in the great reform ferment of the 1850s. The originator of the concept, Orson S. Fowler, introduced readers to the functional, stylistic, and humanitarian advantages of an eight-sided dwelling through successive editions of his book, A Home for All. More than a thousand buildings were constructed in the United States emulating Fowler's ideas. The Thomas House is Virginia's most sophisticated example. Built in 1856-57 by Smyth County's foremost antebellum industrialist, Abijah Thomas, the distinctive brick structure retains a notable variety of grained and marbled baseboards, as well as a rare marbled plaster wall. With its unusual design, once-beautiful interior decoration, and mountain view, the residence is symbolic of the rise to prominence of a pioneer family of southwestern Virginia in the years just prior to the Civil War. — **Goodrich Wilson**

OUR GOALS

The goals of The Octagon House Foundation are to preserve what remains of the original Thomas house and restore it as it was when Abijah Thomas' family lived there in the late 1800's. The home may then be used by the community for educational and cultural purposes.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

As a membership-based, non-profit organization, we are dependent upon membership fees, other financial donations and the time of volunteers. We encourage you to get involved any way you can.

Make a Donation

All you donate goes solely to save this historic landmark. Your donations are tax deductible.

Volunteer

Contact the foundation to see what kind of volunteer work is currently needed and to tell us your special skills so you can be called upon when needed. Current needs include help with promotions, events, preservation work and fund raising.

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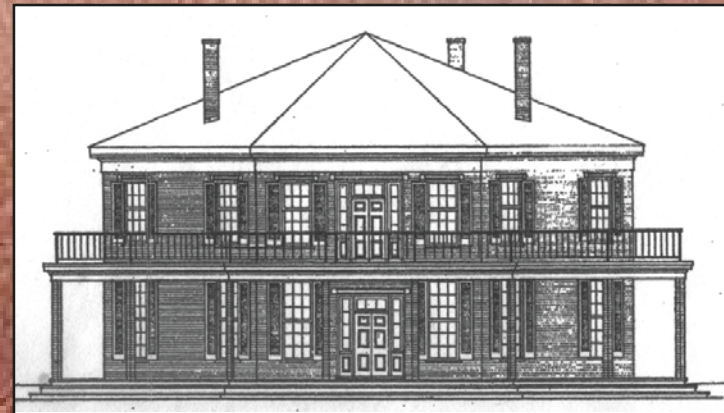


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VIEW FROM THE PAST



VISION FOR THE FUTURE



Virginia Landmark Register • National Register of Historic Places • Listed in 1980