

Newsletter

EXCITING NEWS

Despite the current situation, our work continues. Since our last newsletter, William Huber, of Marion, Virginia, was hired by the Foundation to initiate the Historic Tax Credit Application process and architectural services. Bill's expertise of the application process, his knowledge of historic building systems, and his reputation for producing quality architectural services was of paramount importance and funded by your support and contributions

As of this mailing, Mr. Huber has produced and presented to the Foundation, Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the application documentation and architectural drawings detailing the home's current structural condition, selected demolition, and restoration are detailed below and will be available for you to view at the next fundraising dinner.

Phase 1

- Eliminate settlement of house interior by jacking load-bearing partitions and re-setting/replacing first floor beams and their supporting masonry piers.
- Repair roof structure and replace agricultural metal roofing with painted metal standing seam roofing; repair chimneys.
- Repair roof overhang, including associated trim, to eliminate bird intrusion.
- Replace 18' long two-story wall section of 8" CMU with salvaged historic face brick and wood frame backing.

Phase 2

- Restore/recreate exterior windows and doors, including shutters.
- Repair/re-point brick as needed.
- Restore interior finishes and trim, including door and window trim and fireplace mantels.
- Restore interior stairs.
- Restore brick hearths and provide central HVAC, with ductwork in crawlspace and attic.

We have received our first estimate of costs for restoration of the house. While this process continues to evolve, we will continue to seek cost estimates from additional sources for cross comparison.

Additionally, this estimate of cost will now allow the foundation to finalize our business plan and begin applying for grants. We hope to be included in the fall circuit of grant applications.

Phase three will be presented to the Board after this mailing. This phase will detail reconstruction of the front veranda and promenade deck and grounds planning. While landscaping is not covered under the Historic Tax Credits application, planning and development of the grounds will continue separately. Plans are underway to develop and recreate formal landscaping that was representative for estates and refined homes of the time period. The plan includes native trees, boxwood, heirloom plants and shrubs which were known to be used in such settings.



UNCERTAIN TIMES

Within a short period of time our Country has been besieged by a global pandemic of unprecedented scale. Many of you have been directly or indirectly affected. We pray that you are and remain safe!

As with all other organizations, we have taken precautions as well to protect our members and volunteers. All committee meetings and the Board meetings for the months of March and April have been cancelled until further notice by the President and Executive Committee. As always, you are welcome to contact us by telephone, email, or postal mail.

However, the foundation will continue to forge ahead in our restoration efforts.

CHALLENGE CONTINUES....

New memberships and renewal memberships in the foundation have continued to **slow**. Due to the pandemic, fundraising events have been halted, leaving the only sources of income restricted to memberships and donations. Your presence through your membership fees and donations continue to help this project move forward. As the project moves forward, so does our need for increased memberships and support.

We continue to issue a **challenge to you** by having a family member, friend, or coworker join the foundation. As our base membership grows, so does the scope of how much we can do and when!

Bring a friend to the Kiosk and let them see for themselves how their help can impact and increase the speed of which this project can progress. You could purchase them a membership for Christmas, birthday, or just something to say thank you. Or, you may pass along our contact information.

We appreciate your continued support of this project. Watch for continued progress throughout the year. Any suggestions are greatly appreciated and we can't wait to see you once fundraising events resume.

For information, visit our Facebook page, The Octagon House Foundation, visit our website at www.smythoctagonhouse.org, or write to P.O. Box 1701, Marion, VA 24354

WHAT ARE THEY DOING

New memberships and renewal memberships in the foundation have continued to **slow**. Due to the pandemic, fundraising events have been halted, leaving the only sources of income restricted to memberships and donations. Your presence through your membership fees and donations continue to help this project move forward. As the project moves forward, so does our need for increased memberships and support.

We continue to issue a **challenge to you** by having a family member, friend, or coworker join the foundation. As our base membership grows, so does the scope of how much we can do and when!

Bring a friend to the Kiosk and let them see for themselves how their

help can impact and increase the speed of which this project can progress. You could purchase them a membership for Christmas, birthday, or just something to say thank you. Or, you may pass along our contact information.

We appreciate your continued support of this project. Watch for continued progress throughout the year. Any suggestions are greatly appreciated and we can't wait to see you once fundraising events resume.

For information, visit our Facebook page, The Octagon House Foundation, visit our website at www.smythoctagonhouse.org, or write to P.O. Box 1701, Marion, VA 24354

UPCOMING EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

As with all other such fundraisers, ours are also on hold due to the current pandemic situation. Public safety is our number one concern. The fundraising committee had developed an excellent array of fundraisers scheduled throughout the remainder of the year. Resumption of fundraising events and activities will be determined by the Board of Directors in accordance with State and local guidelines.

Once we are able to return to normal operating procedures, we will resume our ever popular spaghetti dinners. As requested by many, a resumption of the Open Window Tour is being planned for the fall. Several paranormal fundraisers and publicity events are being planned. These along with many, many more events will help raise funds throughout the remainder of the year.

We continue to have Octagon House merchandise for sale including t-shirts, coffee mugs, and Christmas ornaments among other items. By Facebook, you may send a message for a purchase. Rita Blevins has been so gracious to coordinate and deliver purchased shirts and items locally, though this service has been suspended due to safety reasons. If you do not use Facebook, you may contact Nancy Smith at 276-783-3723 to place an order.

In addition to future fundraising events, we will begin a capital campaign to raise funds for construction costs. This will require extensive efforts through mailings, contacts and presentation to individuals and business who may support this effort. Additionally, the foundation will vigorously pursue grant funding and investors that may apply or have interest in this type of project.



This newsletter is dedicated to
all of our fantastic volunteers
Thank you for all you do!



NEWS from page 1

Little is known of the grounds surrounding the Octagon House. There is no known documentation of a garden layout or inventory of shrubs, trees, and other plantings. We do understand Dogwood and Red Bud trees were included in the landscaping and will be integrated as part of these restoration efforts.

Board members have continued to be active in attending to the grounds, directing the move of large shrubbery and ornamental shrubs on site, planting grass, and overall upkeep.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING

Many interested people often travel and visit the house throughout the year. Unfortunately, there is usually no one there to discuss the home's history and restoration plans. In order to expand our project footprint, visitors to the house will soon be able to have detailed information of its history, restoration plans, and future usage as a kiosk will soon be erected in front of the house. The front of the kiosk will detail Abijah and his family's history, the erection of the house, and its fall into neglect. The reverse side will feature the restoration plans and future usage.

Contact information will be included for those interested in helping with donating, joining the foundation, or volunteering. This will increase exposure about the project and increase participation from those outside the local area. We hope to have the kiosk in place by June 1st or soon thereafter so come on by and take a look!



Octagon House Foundation, Inc.

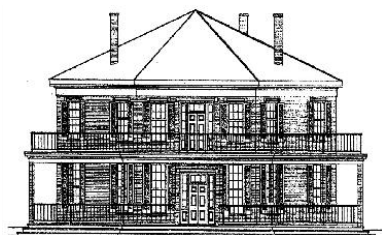
615 Octagon House Road
P.O. Box 1701
Marion, VA 24354

Visit us on our webpage
smythoctagonhouse.org

And FaceBook
The Octagon House
Foundation

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5



circa 1858