

**HISTORIC RESOURCE TASK FORCE**  
*August 14, 2002 - 3:30 P.M.*  
***BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM***

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Charlottesville Tour Book Status
3. Downtown Cultural Map
4. Discussion of Local Markers
5. Discussion of State Markers
6. Report on the Heritage Venture Project – Mark Shore
7. Historic Court Square Status Report
8. Other Business

**NOTE:** You can park in the Market Street Parking Garage. Bring your ticket into the office with you to be stamped for two hours free.

*Historic Resource Task Force*  
*Minutes*  
*July 10, 2002*  
3:30

**Present:**

Mark Beliles  
Winston Churchill Gooding  
Rick Britton  
Ingrid Smyer-Kelley  
Frances Fife  
Garrett Smith

**Others Present:**

Satyendra Singh Huja  
Douglas Day

**Minutes:**

Mr. Garrett Smith introduced Mr. Douglas Day, the new Executive Director of the Albemarle County Historical Society.

It was moved by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Rick Britton to adopt the minutes of June 12<sup>th</sup> with corrections. (Page 3 of June 12<sup>th</sup> minutes spelling of Faulknier to "Faulkner" and Rugby Avenue to "Rugby Road")

Mr. Britton gave a report of the tour book, indicating that Lexus Nexus has agreed to print 10,000 copies. The booklets will be sold for \$6.95. Mr. Smith indicated that the Historical Society would handle the sales and collection of funds in a separate account, for reprinting of the book in the future. He mentioned that he had some concerns about the storage capacity of the Historical Society. Mr. Huja said that he would talk to Mr. John Halliday. It was also agreed that the city would get 500 free copies and that the task force members would get a small number of free copies each and one copy each will be given to people whose buildings show up in the tours.

There was a discussion of the culture map of the downtown area. Mr. Huja stated that he has worked with Mr. Britton to develop this new map. He will also check the list with Piedmont Council for the Arts. Mr. Britton indicated that the map will focus on art, historic and cultural sites in the downtown area and he hopes to have this project completed by the fall. He also requested suggestions for improvements and corrections.

Mr. Beliles distributed a list of sites and their descriptions around Court Square. He requested suggestions for corrections and improvements. In a brief discussion it was indicated that it would be good to list the addresses on the current name of the property (e.g., Monticello Hotel, Levy Opera House), there was also a suggestion for adding a diagram of the McKee block.

In the discussion of the state historic markers, Mr. Churchill gave the bibliography for the Edgar Allen Poe marker. It was agreed that the 4 markers for the coming year would be Edgar Allen Poe, Faulkner, Jefferson School, and a single marker for 2 university cemeteries. Mr. Beliles also handed out wording for a possible future state marker for Penn Park.

Mr. Huja reported that Mr. Mark Shore could not be at the meeting, but has indicated that the RFP's are being prepared for the heritage sites. This is to prepare for the web-based maps where the general public can get information about different historical sites. Mr. Shore also inquired about the possibility of an African American heritage tour. Mr. Beliles stated that we might be able to get information from the tour book on African American heritage sites.

Mr. Beliles stated that the year 2003 is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original courthouse and it would be nice to have some sort of celebration. Mr. Huja commented that construction of the Court Square project will begin by the end of 2002 and hopefully will be finished by spring 2004.

Mr. Beliles handed out a proposal for the "Olde Town History and Cultural Center for Charlottesville". He hopes to locate this in the old Michie building where it could help the tour groups as well as provide meeting spaces for up to 150 people. This could also be for the exhibit space. It will focus on the oldest part of the town. Mr. Huja raised a question as to how it would relate to the historical society. Mr. Smith wanted to avoid duplication; he was concerned about splitting the public attention to two places. Mr. Frances Fife wondered if it could be done jointly with the Historical Society.

Mr. Day stated that the Library of Congress has a veterans history project, which will collect oral histories from living veterans. The Historical Society is trying to work with this project.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00pm. The next meeting will be August 14, 2002.

Proposal for the:

# Olde Town History and Cultural Center of Charlottesville

**Purpose:**

To have a place in the downtown area for ongoing meetings, exhibits, lectures, artistic performances, films, and research that relates to the early history of Charlottesville.

**Who it will serve:**

Local individuals and historical organizations, tourists that wish to learn more about local history, and local artists and cultural groups that need a place for occasional special performances.

**Location:**

609 East Market Street, across from the Charlottesville Police Department and the Market Street Parking Garage. Its entrance doors are right next to Live Arts in the old Michie Building.

In this building about 6000 square feet have been leased by multiple organizations and is being called the Olde Town Pavilion. A sign will be erected soon on Market Street that will identify the Olde Town Pavilion. Within this space approximately 1000 square feet will be designated for the permanent use of the Olde Town History Center but other meeting rooms in the overall Olde Town Pavilion complex will also be available (including a large meeting room that can seat up to about 150 people).

**Parking:**

The Market Street Parking garage is right across the street and the new bus transfer station will eventually open just two blocks away.

**Opening Dates:**

Limited use will begin this fall 2002 when it is used by the Jeffersonian Thanksgiving Festival for performances in November. Then exhibits and films on the Lewis and Clark expedition will begin to be shown in February 2003 and last throughout the Bicentennial period (2006). It is also anticipated that by 2004 costumed tour guides will be available all summer to provide groups guided walking tours around the newly-renovated Court Square area, etc.

**Leadership:**

A Board of Directors is being formed to develop this project. The part-time director of the Olde Town History Center is Mark Beliles, co-chairman of the Charlottesville Historic Resources Task Force and the annual Jeffersonian Thanksgiving Festival.

**Funding:**

The Budget for the center must still be determined, but initial funds and inkind assistance are being provided at first by Townsquare Associates, Providence Foundation, and Grace Covenant Church. The Providence Foundation is making its extensive research library available. It and the church are providing voluntary staffing for the center at the beginning.

**Phone Number:**

(434) 249-4032

# Edgar Allan Poe

1809-1849

## Bibliography:

- Mabbott, Thomas Ollive, *Collected Works of Edgar Allan, Volume I, Poems*, Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1969.
- Ostrom, John Ward, ed., *The Letters of Edgar Allan Poe*, 2 vols, New York: Gordian Press Inc., 1966.
- Phillips, Mary Elizabeth, *Edgar Allan Poe, the Man*, 2 vols, Chicago: John C. Winston, 1926.
- Quinn, Arthur Hobson, *Edgar Allan Poe: A Critical Biography*, New York: D. Appleton-Century, 1941.
- Thomas, Dwight and David K. Jackson, *The Poe Log: A Documentary Life of Edgar Allan Poe 1809-1849*, Boston: G. K. Hall and Co., 1987

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## **Penn Park**

The tract of land known as Penn Park was settled by the Lynch family in the 1740s and named after William Penn - the Quaker clergyman that founded Pennsylvania. This Quaker family eventually moved to what is today Lynchburg, and the property was acquired by Dr. George Gilmer during the era of the American Revolution. Gilmer was a prominent political leader who organized the local minutemen and also led the local committee of correspondence. He also represented the county in the state legislature. Penn Park was then purchased by Col. John Harvie who represented the area in the Continental Congress and in that capacity became one of America's Founding Fathers when he signed the Articles of Confederation in 1777. He also let barracks be built on his land west of Charlottesville for the British and Hessian prisoners of war brought here after their surrender at Saratoga. William Wirt – an attorney who eventually gained fame as U. S. Attorney General, a presidential candidate, and an author. The Harvie and Gilmer family cemeteries are on the property today.

## **Number Nothing**

This building was erected as a mercantile store in 1820 by John R. Jones and Samuel Leitch, Jr. Other numbered buildings around it prevented it from receiving a number in proper sequence. Auctions were held here. A stone was at the southern corner known as the slave auction block. A British prisoner of war recorded in his journal in 1779 that he saw a mother with three small children separated from the father and sold, and of another young woman who "had to strip completely (for) a detailed examination." Francis Bowman, the minister of Charlottesville's first Presbyterian Church, lived one block from here on Park Street and helped start a local anti-slavery society in 1824.

## **Swan Tavern**

This is the site of the Swan Tavern - a hotel and restaurant that was owned by John Jouett, Sr. and operated during the War for Independence. In 1781 members of the Virginia General Assembly lodged here while meeting temporarily across the street in the Courthouse because of the threat of the British army in Richmond. John's son, Jack Jouett, a Captain in the militia, rode from Louisa County overnight to warn Governor Jefferson and the legislators that the British were coming to capture them here. Patrick Henry, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Richard Henry Lee and John Tyler were among those who escaped, but Daniel Boone and six others were captured briefly. Jack lived in the tavern which was later torn down before this structure was built sometime after 1832 by Samuel Leitch, jr.

## **Eagle Tavern (and later Farish Hotel)**

This is the site of the Eagle Tavern - a hotel and restaurant that opened sometime prior to 1791 and which became the primary place for public dances and political celebrations with its large public hall. Many pedlars sold products on its long porch. It later became a stopping place for stage coaches and became the Farish Hotel just after the Civil War when it was bought by William P. Farish. Farish had already developed a stage coach line in 1845 and helped create the famous Pony Express in 1860. He was a Baptist minister. The present structure was built in the mid 1800s.

## **Post Office, Barclay's Drug Store and Masonic Lodge**

As early as the 1820s this site was used as a Post Office, a shoe and book shop, and as Dr. James Barclay's drug store. One room was used by the Widow's Son Lodge of Masons. Dr. Barclay purchased Monticello after Jefferson's death, but sold it soon thereafter and moved to Scottsville where he became a Disciples of Christ minister and built the First Christian Church in 1846 (now the Scottsville Museum). Edmunds, an African-American, later had a grocery here.

## **Storehouse, library, watch and liquor shops**

These buildings date from the 1830s. James Leitch built a storehouse here and the library was begun south of it in 1823 with a donation of books by Congregational clergyman Andrew Eliot of Boston. Jefferson and Presbyterian minister Francis Bowman were on the Library Committee. Next to it was a watchmaker's shop run by Lewis Leschot from Switzerland and a liquor shop by Johnny Yergain (who was a miser who supposedly hoarded gold in his basement). Near it was once a home built as early as 1773 by Joel Terrell.

## **The McKee block**

In the 1820s there was a street that ran through this park that created a small city block facing the Courthouse. At the end of the block near Jefferson street was the shop and home of Thomas Wayt (it also housed an academy), and next to it was Andrew McKee's hat shop and home. There was a dry goods shop and grocery owned by Nimrod Bramham and at the other end was Ebenezer Watt's print and bookbinding shop which published the Central Gazette - the city's first newspaper in 1820 - and the writings of Jefferson.

## **First Baptist church**

This is the site of the first Baptist church in the city erected in 1831. An earlier Baptist church had a meeting house near where the University is today as early as 1773, but it relocated to Earlysville in 1802. A new congregation in the city began informally around 1820 and in 1831 Reuben Coleman and James Goss, students at the University formally started the new church and served as its first ministers. Thomas Jefferson donated money for it and earlier worked closely with area Baptist ministers such as John Leland in the cause of religious freedom.

## **Butler-Norris House**

This townhouse, built in 1785 by the Butler family, is the oldest home still standing in Charlottesville. Edward Butler was a signer of the Albemarle Declaration during the American Revolution. The home was later the residence of Opie Norris in 1816. Next door to the East was a Mercantile store in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century owned by John Kelly. Kelly, a Presbyterian, was also the founder of the first Sunday School in the city located where First Presbyterian Church is now on Park Street.

## **Town Hall - Levi Opera House**

This building was erected in 1851 as Town Hall for the purpose of travelling plays and musical events, as well as for churches and other organizations. During the Civil War it became a hospital for the wounded soldiers that were brought here from around the state. Confederate uniforms were also made here. In 1888 it became the Levy Opera House owned by Jefferson Monroe Levy, a Jewish man who also owned Monticello. The first Catholic Church began here.

## HISTORIC RESOURCES TASK FORCE

### CHARGE

- The development of heritage walking tours by private entrepreneurs and/or other organizations.
- Cultural events such as the Jefferson Thanksgiving, Colonial Christmas.
- Educational programs for adults and/or children, through the schools and other organizations, including community archaeology to learn the history of Native American, colonial and civil war periods in Charlottesville.
- Historical plaques, sculptures or other public exhibits in public places and private businesses.
- Development of signs to identify historic buildings and sites related to individuals who contributed to local, regional or national history.
- Promotion or creation of museums or permanent exhibits of cultural history.

### Members

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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