

Home Tour Set for December 5

The Apex Historical Society is in the midst of making preparations for the 18th Annual Homes Tour. On Sunday, December 5, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM, we will feature three private homes, the Historic Depot in downtown Apex, and the Maynard-Pearson House. Tour goers will have an opportunity to visit the Cash House at 112 South Salem Street, the Seymour House at 107 South Salem Street and the Penny-Yeaman House at 400 Center Street. Tour day is always a special day at the Maynard-Pearson House, and we are especially excited to share it this year. **Teresa Stern** has been planning and gathering materials for her special vintage decorations since early summer.

Along with the homemade candies, the Sweet Shoppe will feature bags of mulling spices for your mulled cider or wine. The bags of candy and mulling spices will make nice gifts for the holidays.

Tickets purchased before the day of the tour are \$7. Purchases on the day of the tour will be \$10. Tickets will be on sale at the following Apex sites: Apex Chamber of Commerce, Antiques on Salem Street, Victorian Seasons, and The Pineapple Tea Room. On tour day tickets will be for sale at each of the tour sites.

If you have questions concerning ticket sales, please call **Shirley Fiorentino** at 303-2939. Those wishing to help with the tour, please call **Judy Miles** at 363-3268.

MPH Work Day

On Saturday, September 11, society members gathered at the Maynard-Pearson House for a late summer work day. The house was swept and dusted and the sun porch painted. Garden beds in the yard were weeded and cultivated and plants divided and moved. A dent was made in the large pile of donated topsoil as soil was added to planting beds and utilized to correct drainage problem areas.

A special thank you to **Shirley and Harry Beasley; Judy Miles; Shirley Fiorentino; Jackie Burgess; Betty Williams; Diane Long; Brian McCullough; John Messler; Buddy Holland; Marion Smith; Allen Lawrence; Laura Morey; and Teresa and Beth Stern.**

Soup & Pie Supper

Preparations are in full swing for the next Apex Historical Society event. The January General Membership Meeting will take place at the Maynard-Pearson House, 1101 Olive Chapel Road. on Tuesday, January 20, 2005. Our soup makers and pie bakers are preparing for our Soup and Pie Supper that will start at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will follow where we will have reports from the Maynard Pearson Trust and the Apex Historical Society. Everything will be furnished, so plan to come and enjoy the evening.

MPH Trust Report

Many exciting things are happening at the Maynard Pearson House, starting with a new and smaller sign made and installed in front of the houses. Thanks to the generosity of two members and Apex Community Auxiliary, Inc, we had the funds to make extensive repairs.

Last fall, plans were made to scrape, repair, and paint the roof. Harry Beasley arranged for a man to do this work. When it got too cold to paint, we postponed that job until spring, at which time power washing, more scraping, and priming got the roof ready to paint. The crew did a good job and it looks great. Next, the outside was prepared for painting. The windows needed a lot of work. Then more scraping and priming before a good coat of paint made the house look even better.

An upstairs window needed to be replaced because a leak had caused rotted wood. Again, Harry knew a man who could do the work. Jacque Burgess donated the window plus two more to be used later.



All dressed up with new paint and repairs, the MPH is ready for the Holiday Home Tour!

Our insurance inspector advised that our next big job should be tree trimming. Again, Harry knew a man with the knowledge and equipment. The Town of Apex arranged to remove the limbs, saving us a nice sum of money.

As anyone who has ever owned an old home knows, there is a continuous job list for the MPH. Buddy Holland spends lots of hours painting. He and Harry and Shirley Beasley painted the sun room. Harry and Shirley have mowed the yard most of the summer; however, there will be a change next year. This fall, leaves will need to be raked or blown and removed. Shirley and many others have spent many hours working to make the place look good and something to be proud of.

The last week of September, John Pearson and Ron Ragland painted the porches. A small group volunteered for the September workday, but it would be nice if more people volunteered.

Thanks to the donations and a grant from Wal-Mart (p. 6), we have small funds for an emergency. A full financial statement was available to the membership at the ice cream social and is still posted at the MPH.

Remember, if you need to make any last-minute charitable donations, the MPH Fund is ready to receive your contributions. Thank you for your continued support.

Allen Lee Lawrence

The Dispatch...

...is a publication of the Apex Historical Society.
Distribution is to all members of the Society.
Editor Shirley Fiorentino

Articles may be submitted to the editor via e-mail to mysteryheel@mac.com.

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Shirley Fiorentino
Buddy Holland
Diane Long
Brian McCullough
John Messler
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Marion Smith
Molly Weston
Larry Williams



We're always glad to welcome new members to our Society! These folks have joined or re-joined. Please let them know how glad you are to have them!

- Karin Boosman
- Henry & Nancy Brown
- Annette Cox
- Don and Laura Grimes
- Helene Lindenauer
- Barbara Mills
- Carol Nance
- John & June Pearson
- Helen Richmond
- Carla & James Torrance

AHS Calendar of Events

- November 18**7:00 PM
Board of Trustees Meeting, MPH
- December 3** 5:00–9:00 PM
Christmas on Salem Street
- December 4**5:00 PM
Christmas Parade
- December 5** 1:00–5:00 PM
Home Tour
- December 16**7:00 PM
Board of Trustees Meeting, MPH
- January 18**7:00 PM
Soup & Pie Supper, MPH
- January 20**7:00 PM
Board of Trustees Meeting, MPH
- February 17**7:00 PM
Board of Trustees Meeting, MPH

Yes, I want to be part of Apex's History!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Class of Membership

Senior \$10 _____ Individual \$15 _____ Family \$25 _____

Contributing \$35 _____ Sustaining \$50 and up _____



A Word, or Two, from the President

South Salem Street Rezoning

Early this summer I was invited to attend a meeting at the depot to discuss a proposal for re-zoning South Salem Street. I learned that the intent of the proposal was to re-zone a portion of the street from O & I (office and institutional) to MORR, which is mixed office, residential and retail. Under the present O & I zoning, residential is not a conforming use for these buildings. This means that if a building is sold it cannot be used as a residence, even if has been one historically. Also, if for any reason, a building ceases to be used as a residence for a period of time, it cannot go back to being used as a residence.

It was apparent from the first meeting that there were strong feelings on both sides of this issue. Everyone seemed to agree that it would be good to have residential as a conforming use. The disagreements arose over the question of allowing retail into the area. The proposed change was very restrictive regarding what type of retail establishments would be permitted and any proposed retail use would require individual approval. There were restrictions on signage, parking, and outdoor displays. The proposal also agreed to follow the *Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines* for any work done on structures that were considered contributing to the Historical District.

Over the course of the summer there followed two public meetings with the Apex Planning Board and two meetings before the Board of Commissioners and the mayor. At each of these, a large number of residents have spoken their minds for or against the proposed zoning change.

By the second meeting with the Board of Commissioners in early October, the re-zoning proposal had been amended to exclude retail. It does, however, continue to make residential a conforming use on South Salem Street. This has still not been formally approved by the Commissioners but is likely to be at the next meeting.

This has been quite a lengthy process for what seemed like a relatively straight forward question at the outset. I found the experience educational as I had no idea that the zoning on South Salem Street excluded residential. I have also not previously spent a lot of time at Planning Board and Board of Commissioners meetings.

I found a number of things to be encouraged about throughout the process. It was good to see the number of people who care about Apex and the future of this town to the point that they were willing to give up their time to come out and voice their opinions. I have respect for the members of our town's Planning Board and Board of Commissioners. The decisions they must make are often not simple, and in many cases they are forced to make choices which make many people unhappy. In watching these people work on this question, I think they have tried to make good decisions with what they view as the best interest of Apex at heart. I was also encouraged to see that the disagreements were not over whether to protect the historical properties downtown that protection had already been included in the proposal.

John Messler

Landmark Plaque Unveiling

On Sunday, September 26, the Society hosted the unveiling of the Wake County Historical Landmark plaque for the Maynard-Pearson House. The house was designated a landmark in 2001 by the Town of Apex upon recommendation of the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission. A county historic landmark is an individual building, structure, site, or object, which has historical, architectural, archeological, or cultural significance and integrity and has been recognized by official designation for its importance.

Pat Shankle, a charter member and past president of the Apex Historical Society who now lives outside Siler City, shared her recollections of how the Maynard-Pearson House was saved from demolition and the early struggles to stabilize the house and property and raise money for its restoration.



The plaque, recognizing the designation of the Maynard-Pearson House was provided by the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission. The Commission was represented at the unveiling by Ann Suggs, vice-chairman of the Commission. Kevin Allen, representing Capital Area Preservation, who provided loans to finance restoration efforts at the MPH, was also in attendance. Bill Jensen, Apex Commissioner was also present.

Many society members provided refreshments of punch and cookies. Visitors enjoyed tours of the MPH as well as the refreshments.

The plaque is mounted to the left of the front door. Please stop by the house to see it if you have not yet done so.

The MPH was spruced and shining for the plaque dedication, thanks to the hard work of many members!



Pat Shankle, standing at right, recalls how the Society acquired the historic Maynard-Pearson House.



Today & Yesteryear Festival

September 25th was a beautiful day in Apex, a bit cool in the morning, but things warmed up nicely by the afternoon. The Historical Society opened the caboose to guests, and set up our table of goodies nearby. While the coolness of the morning discouraged sales of cold drinks, sales of various items picked up by mid-afternoon.



Shirley Beasley presents Buddy Holland with a plaque recognizing him as Preservationist of the Year.

Ice Cream Social Honors Preservationist of the Year

The Apex Historical Society held its annual ice cream social at the Maynard-Pearson House on Sunday, August 8. A part of the festivities was the presentation of the *Billie Duncan Preservationist of the Year Award* to **Buddy Holland**. Buddy seemed genuinely surprised as the award was presented by **Shirley Beasley**.

Buddy has been a member of the Apex Historical Society since the early days and has been a tireless worker for the organization. You can find him at the Maynard-Pearson house almost every week cleaning, fixing or painting. Buddy was one of the people who worked on the Maynard-Pearson House when it was first obtained. He can tell you how a small group of individuals cleared brush, repaired and stabilized the house with no guarantee that they would be able to meet the requirements for keeping it.

As many of you know, Buddy took the photograph of the Norris house which hangs over the mantle in the Norris parlor. Buddy has a wealth of knowledge about the Norris family and his reminiscences of them are always a hit during tours of the Maynard-Pearson House. Buddy is currently a member of the Board of Trustees and he unselfishly gives his time to all Historical Society activities

Delicious homemade ice cream, brownies and cookies were enjoyed by the members who attended. The Maynard-Pearson house was decorated for the event by **Teresa Stern** and **Shirley Beasley**.



Harvest Fest

On October 2, the Historical Society enjoyed a fun-filled time at a pig pickin' at the home of Diane and Allen Long. There was lots of delicious food—everybody brought a covered dish to supplement the pig, and everyone enjoyed visiting with each other and getting acquainted with new members. Those of you who missed the occasion really missed a treat. We extend our sincere appreciation to Diane and Allen for hosting the event.

Holiday Shopping?

Just in time for Christmas, the AHS Board announces the availability of a wonderful new item for sale to both members and friends. We have some great new high quality denim blue sweatshirts screen printed with a historic train and "Apex Historical Society" on the front, available in three sizes. Medium, Large and Extra Large are all available for only \$25 each. Contact any Board member to speed your Christmas shopping. Sweatshirts will also be available at the Home Tour.

MPH Trust

Financial Report

Debbie Douglass, Treasurer of the Maynard-Pearson House Trust, has provided the report below on the Trust's finances for the period September 2003 through July 2004.

INCOME

Donations	\$6005.00
Fund raising (Glider Raffle)	\$573.00
Transfers (From AHS.)	\$1127.57
Total Income	\$7705.57

EXPENSES

MPH Maintenance	\$4897.96
Other	\$78.75
Total Expenses	\$4976.71

Generous donations by individuals and local organizations have allowed us to repair and paint the roof, paint the exterior of the house, replace a rotted window, and complete several other projects this year.

Apex Historical Society
PO Box 506
Apex NC 27502

Wal-Mart Grant

Wal-Mart Corporation believes that each company facility has a responsibility to contribute to the well being of the community in which that facility is located. One way Wal-Mart does this is through community grants to causes and organizations that are important to the community.

Wal-Mart recently opened a new Wal-Mart Super Center (store 5292) on New Bern Avenue in Raleigh. As part of their opening celebration for that store, grant applications were solicited from area non-profits. The Wal-Mart Foundation then reviewed the applications and determined what grants would be awarded.

The Apex Historical Society was among those non-profits whose grant applications were accepted and we have received a check for \$500 from the Wal-Mart Foundation.