HISTORIC PRESERVATION NEWS FOR THE CITY OF FREDERICK

HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS NOW AVAILABLE

On July 19, 2012, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen approved a new property tax credit for designated historic properties. The credit is equal to 10% of expenditures related to the exterior preservation or restoration of a structure. In order to be eligible, the project must have prior HPC approval and a permit unless the project is only for eligible work on the Minor Rehabilitation List and minimum eligible expenditures must total at least $1,000. Some examples of eligible expenditures include repointing, repairing windows, repairing or replacing roofs, and exterior painting. Application forms are available online or in the Planning Department. Applications are due on April 1st.

AWARD-WINNING HISTORIC PROPERTIES WEBSITE

The City of Frederick was awarded a grant from the Maryland Historical Trust in 2011 to assist in the creation of a historic properties website for the National Register-listed Frederick Historic District. As part of this project the City was able to contract with an architectural historian consultant to re-evaluate the resources in the Frederick Historic District to determine if they were contributing or non-contributing based on the National Register nomination documents. The district was last evaluated in 1988. This comprehensive update was greatly needed after over twenty years of alterations, new construction and demolitions.

The City was also able to send its collection of over 1,000 35mm slides to be digitized. This collection contains slides that were taken in the 1960s and 1970s when the Frederick Historic District was first surveyed and may show a building’s earlier appearance and how it has changed over time. These images, along with the contributing and non-contributing determinations, were incorporated into a database and linked with information for the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP). This historic properties website is now available to the public. Information and images for properties can be accessed by using the map or searching by address, tax ID, or MIHP number.

As time and funding allow, more information will be added to the website. Comments, suggestions and questions about the content on this site can be directed to the Planning Department at 301-600-1499.
FREDERICK’S ARMORY TURNS 100

The Frederick Armory stands at the southwest corner of Bentz Street and Second Street on the edge of Baker Park and was built in 1913 for Company A, First Regiment of the Maryland National Guard as part of the reorganization and expansion of the National Guard system around the First World War. The armory also served other medical, maintenance and infantry companies.

Between 1913 and 1938, nine armories of a similar design were built across the state. The Frederick Armory was designed by John B. Hamme, an architect from York, PA, and built by Lloyd C. Culler, a local contractor. The building is T-shaped in plan with a two story “head house” fronting on Bentz Street and a one story drill hall or gymnasium extending to the rear. The armory evokes a medieval fortification through its masonry construction, crenellated roof line, towers flanking the central entrance, and strip buttresses.

Although the primary function of the armory was to maintain a “stable and proper” militia, they served a social function as well. Armories across the state became a space for public gatherings, recreation, dances, and office space for community organizations.

In the 1980s, Company A began its move from the Frederick Armory to a new armory in Hagerstown. The armory remained a community and recreational center. The property was transferred to the City in 2001. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

References:
National Register of Historic Places, Frederick Armory, Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland, National Register # 85002672.
National Register of Historic Places, Maryland National Guard Armories TR, Thematic Group, Maryland, National Register # 64000310.

WHAT BUILDING IS THIS?

Photo # 1

Elongated arched windows and an elaborate bracketed cornice, seen here, are hallmarks of the Italianate style. Italianate architecture was popular in Frederick from the mid-1850s to 1890. This example is from a very prominent building; however, the style and its influence can be found on more modest residential and commercial buildings in the historic district.

Photo # 2

The capital of this Ionic fluted column is one of many featured on the front of this prominent Greek Revival style building. Interest in Greece grew in the early nineteenth century and became popular for first for public buildings and then residential buildings. Greek Revival was popular in Frederick from 1820 to 1860.
MAY IS PRESERVATION MONTH

This year, citizens in Frederick will join thousands of individuals around the country as part of a month-long celebration. Since the National Trust created Preservation Week in 1971 to spotlight grassroots preservation efforts in America, it has grown into an annual celebration observed by small towns and big cities. Due to its overwhelming popularity, the celebration has been extended to the entire month of May. Now there is even more of an opportunity to celebrate the diverse and unique heritage of our country’s cities and states and enable more Americans to become involved in the growing preservation movement. For more information about National Preservation Month visit the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The City will be celebrating Preservation Month with a proclamation and the Historic Preservation Awards ceremony on May 16 at the beginning of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen hearing at City Hall, 101 North Court Street, starting at 7:00 pm. This Place Matters photographs (see below) will also be featured at this ceremony.

The City’s Historic Preservation Planners will also be presenting at the Historical Society of Frederick County’s Learning Lunch on May 2 from 12:00-1:00 pm about the City’s historic preservation program and give advice on how you can maintain, improve, and restore your old house or property. See the Historical Society of Frederick County’s webpage for more information.

The City’s Historic Preservation Commission will hold an open house on Thursday, May 30 from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Municipal Office Annex, 140 West Patrick Street. All are invited to meet with HPC members and Planning staff. Bring your questions and concerns and pick up information about historic preservation in the City.

- Historical Society of Frederick County Learning Lunch, Thursday, May 2, 24 E. Church St., 12:00-1:00 pm
- Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony and proclamation, Thursday, May 16, 101 N. Court St., 7:00 pm
- HPC Open House, Thursday, May 30, Municipal Office Annex, 140 West Patrick Street, 6:00-8:00 pm

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

2013 CITY OF FREDERICK HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

All nominations must be for properties located within the City of Frederick. Properties do not have to be within the Frederick Town Historic District or have historic preservation overlay designation to be eligible for these awards but the property must be at least 50 years old or older. Projects must have been completed within the last three years and will be evaluated according to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, as applicable. Award categories include:

- Bricks and Mortar Rehabilitation Awarded for superlative work in the restoration or rehabilitation of a historic property.
- New Construction Awarded for the sensitive design and construction of a new structure, whether an infill project or addition to an existing building.
- Stewardship Awarded for exemplary maintenance of an historic property or impeccable workmanship on an historic property.
- Community Leadership Awarded to an individual or organization for extraordinary service to the City of Frederick in the field of historic preservation.

Completed nominations are due March 15, 2013 and will be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Awards Committee. Presentation of the awards will take place in May 2012 with the final date, time and location TBA.

Questions? Call 301-600-1499 or visit www.cityoffrederick.com/preservation and click on “Resources.”

THIS PLACE MATTERS

As part of National Preservation Month, the City of Frederick is joining the National Trust Historic Preservation in the This Place Matters initiative. This Place Matters is a photo-sharing campaign in which people take photos of themselves in whatever places matter to them. By sharing these photos, you can help spread the word about the places that matter to you with the rest of the City and the nation.

To participate, download a This Place Matters sign from the historic preservation website or pick one of from the Planning Department at 140 West Patrick Street. Take a digital photograph of yourself holding the sign in whatever place matters most to you in the City of Frederick. Then email the photograph to LMroszczyk@cityoffrederick.com. The photographs will be compiled and displayed on the City’s website and Channel 99. The Historic Preservation Awards Committee will select three photographs to be featured at the awards ceremony on May 16. The deadline for submitting photographs is April 5, 2013. Email photos and questions to LMroszczyk@cityoffrederick.com or call 301-600-6278.

Visit us at http://cityoffrederick.com/preservation
The Lower Depot neighborhood is a noncontiguous portion of the Frederick Town Historic District, designated by the City of Frederick, and within the Frederick Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The neighborhood consists of residential properties along Water Street and B&O Avenue south of the train depot.

The development of the Lower Depot neighborhood was influenced by the expansion of the railroads. First, the Frederick branch of the B&O Railroad was opened in 1831. Shortly thereafter, the first homes at 144-152 B&O Avenue were built along and oriented towards the line. Residential development continued in the decades that followed and then expanded after the Frederick & Pennsylvania Line Railroad was constructed and connected to the B&O line in 1872.

The convergence of these two railroad lines spurred a bevy of industrial development in the vicinity. Within a blocks of the Lower Depot neighborhood there were several canneries or packing companies, a flour mill, a knitting mile, a step ladder factory, a spoke factory, a bridge works, two ice companies, coal yards, a fertilizer warehouse, a tannery, and a brick works. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, residential development expanded to fill Water Street.

The Lower Depot neighborhood provided housing for the employees of the nearby industries. The second phase of residential development was largely speculative and conducted by four individuals or families. James Whitehill, a Frederick businessman, built a row of six three-story tenement houses at 155-165 B&O Avenue on the north side of the railroad in 1858.

The row of four two-story brick dwellings known as Michael Fogle Row was built around 1898. Fogle, a
carpenter, and his family occupied the largest house and lot at #131 and rented the remaining units to families whose members worked in nearby industries. Occupants of Michael Fogle Row worked as laborers, as a mill turner at the hosiery factory, a car inspector for the B&O railroad, a stable manager at the brick works, and a watchman at the Francis Scott Key Hotel.

Andrew Renner Row consists of four two-story dwellings built in 1894. Renner, a machinist and first generation German, purchased two lots in 1891 for $93 and then sold the four houses by 1897 for a total amount of $2,100.

The Ford family was responsible for the construction of several duplexes on Water Street in the late 1890s. Annie and John Benjamin Ford, a carpenter, built both 114-116 and 118-120 Water Street in the late 1890s. The former was a combined dwelling and store which they occupied. They later acquired #115-117, built by John Lewis Ford in 1893, which they maintained as rental housing. John Lewis Ford also built 108-100 Water Street in 1902.

References:

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Whitehill's Row (155, 157, 159, 161, 163, and 165 B&O Avenue), Frederick, Frederick County, MD, FHD-1286.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Michael Fogle Row (125, 127, 129, and 131 Water Street), Frederick, Frederick County, MD, FHD-1291.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Andrew Renner Row (107, 109, 111, 113 Water Street), Frederick, Frederick County, MD, FHD-1287.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Annie & John Benjamin Ford House and Store (114-116 Water Street), Frederick, Frederick County, MD, FHD-1294.

1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing Whitehill's Row, labeled “Tenements,” and surroundings (below)
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2013 SCHEDULE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Application deadline Public hearing
March 7 March 28
March 21 April 11
April 4 April 25
April 18 May 9
May 2 May 23
May 16 June 13
June 6 June 27
June 20 July 11
July 3 July 25
July 18 August 8
August 1 August 22
August 15 September 12
September 5 September 26
September 19 October 10
October 3 October 24
October 17 November 14
November 7 December 12
December 5 January 9, 2014