

**FAUQUIER COUNTY  
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD**

**Meeting Minutes**

February 6, 2019

4:00 p.m.

Warren Green Building, 2nd Floor Meeting Room

10 Hotel Street, Warrenton

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**Attendance:**

Mary Root, Chair (Citizen-at-Large)

John Toler (Scott District Representative)

Jack LaMonica (Marshall District Representative)

Bryan Jacobs (Lee District Representative)

Bob Lee (Planning Commission Representative)

Virginia Gerrish (Center District Representative)

Kristie Kendall (Cedar Run District Representative)

**Staff:**

Wendy Wheatcraft, Staff

Maureen Williamson, Staff

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1. Chair Mary Root called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. The January 2, 2018 meeting minutes were reviewed.  
Ms. Root made a motion to approve the minutes with no changes. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion carried 7 – 0.

**Ongoing Business**

- 2019 Enslaved Craftsmen Project Research

Ms. Root told the ARB about her visit to the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville to view the 1814-1822 account books belonging to William Skinker, thought to be an owner of the enslaved craftsman, Hannibal. Ms. Root reported that the account books are simply a listing of day-to-day accounting records without details of the slaves' work. She added that although the records showed when Mr. Skinker loaned his slaves for building projects, the account in the record book was written as if Mr. Skinker himself performed the work, thus taking credit for the building project. Therefore, she said she found no record in the account books of the enslaved craftsman, Hannibal.

Ms. Root noted researching the history of the stone house located at 127 Culpeper Street in Warrenton, which is known as the Keith House, hoping it would provide a connection to Hannibal. She reported that the house was built in 1816 by Thomas L. Moore. Although the Keiths later occupied the house, its construction was not connected to the family. Therefore, Hannibal was not connected to the construction of the house. If the ARB wishes to visit the Keith House, Ms. Root said that the current owners would be agreeable.

Ms. Wheatcraft reported that Thomas Keith is thought to have owned Hannibal in the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. She said she found evidence of this as Hannibal is listed in Thomas Keith's 1791 tithables record. She shared that she believes William Skinker married Nancy Keith, tying the two families together. She reported finding a Hannibal

Keith in the 1870 Fauquier County census records, but surmised this Hannibal to be too young to be the man we're searching for, but perhaps Hannibal's son.

Ms. Kendall asked what age the ARB thought Hannibal to be. Ms. Wheatcraft reported that in 1810, Hannibal was valued at \$100.00 and therefore, estimated him to be a man in his prime at that time with a corresponding age around 30. However, no historic evidence has been found that indicates his date of birth.

Ms. Kendall inquired as to the focus of the research project. Ms. Wheatcraft said the focus is on highlighting enslaved craftsmen and the structures they built during their period of their enslavement. Ms. Kendall noted Robert Gaskins, as another enslaved person to highlight. She told the ARB that Robert Gaskins was a well-known stone mason and stone fencer who built many of the stone walls in the Sage area, which is southeast of Markham. She told the ARB that Robert Gaskins was born to an enslaved mother and a free father who purchased the freedom of the mother and children in 1854.

Ms. Wheatcraft said that she would like to schedule site visits to study the building methods at a few of the highlighted properties in order to compare the construction approaches. She added that she would like to focus on different construction materials including stone, brick and perhaps carpentry in order to represent at least three building trades. Ms. Root mentioned the possible need for a subject matter expert in masonry to go on the site visit(s). Ms. Wheatcraft said that Ashby Masonry who has provided expertise to ARB programs in the past, may be able to provide assistance. Ms. Wheatcraft shared that she felt Waveland would be an excellent property to highlight and would serve as an example of a brick structure. In her research of Waveland, she has confirmed that at least one enslaved man created and fired the brick on site. Clover Hill and Westin were also named as excellent candidates.

The ARB discussed locations for the one-day May Historic Preservation Month program. Ms. Wheatcraft mentioned the Grove Baptist Church fellowship hall as a possible location for the event. She said it may be beneficial to host the event in one of the highlighted structures, like the church. Mr. Jacobs offered to contact the church and advised about the potential need for an insurance waiver from the County to book the facility. Ms. Root mentioned the Remington Community Partnership as another suitable location for the program.

Saturday dates in May were discussed as well as the first Saturday in June to host the program. Ms. Wheatcraft noted that since is a busy month, it may not be possible to be in attendance on the day of the program and that is okay. The decision on a definitive date was deferred until the next meeting.

### 3. New Business

- FY 2020 State Survey & Planning Grant Application – Possible Grant Application Topics  
Ms. Wheatcraft presented the idea of applying for a state survey and a multi-property nomination for the African-American schools and/or churches. She added that this could be a two-year project with survey and a brief historic context the first year and a multiple property NR nomination the second year. She noted that many of the African-American schools and churches have already been surveyed, but with re-survey recommended every seven to ten years, many properties are overdue for additional survey. She reported hearing from Karen White of the Afro-American Historical Association (AAHA) that many people who attend the historic African-American churches have expressed an interest in National Register designation.

Ms. Kendall said a survey may not stop the loss of a community, but if it is indeed lost, at least there will be a record of what was lost. She commented that churches are not necessarily threatened in the same way schools are due to the continual use of churches. The application due date is March 29, 2019.

4. Announcements

- CLG Training, Town of Warrenton on March 28 (waiting list) or Town of Leesburg on March 29  
Ms. Wheatcraft asked the ARB if everyone who wanted to attend the training has reserved a spot. Mr. LaMonica said he would like to attend and Ms. Wheatcraft said she would contact DHR to inquire if another spot is available. Ms. Gerrish announced that the training will be held at the Warrenton Visitor's Center starting at 9:00 a.m.
- Rosenwald film showing at AAHA on February 5, 12, 19, or 26  
The film *Rosenwald* will be shown at the AAHA each Tuesday in February at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- Section 106 Review for Route 29/15  
Ms. Wheatcraft told the ARB that DHR provided official comment on February 1. She noted being disappointed in DHR's letter, as she feels they did not conduct a careful review of the project before submitting comments. She does not believe that ABPP has had sufficient opportunity to review the project.
- The Planning Commission will hold a general work session to discuss a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to Section 4-300, Historic Area Districts on February 21.

5. The next ARB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 2019.

6. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.