

The Building Doctor – A Great Success

The Building Doctors present Solutions for Old House Woes

If your wood windows are not energy efficient and the sashes do not work, do you 1) install all new “energy efficient” windows or 2) repair the sashes and install triple track storm windows? If your home’s outside walls constantly need painting do you 1) cover them up with vinyl siding or 2) correct the cause of the peeling paint and then learn how to do a proper paint job? If your basement is constantly wet do you 1) use a waterproof barrier on the inside walls or 2) eliminate the source of the moisture and allow the walls to breathe? Do you know the best way to take on home repairs without ruining the historic and architectural integrity of the building? These are just a few of the questions addressed by The Ohio History Connection Building Doctors during their visit to Tiffin on July 21 and 22.

During the Thursday seminar at the Tiffin Seneca Public Library, Building Doctors, Richard Jarvis and Justin Cook reviewed the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and then went on to address appropriate solutions for maintaining older buildings. Understanding the difference between “restoration” and “rehabilitation” is helpful in knowing what to do when working on a building. Restoration is the return to the original historic look, while rehabilitation keeps the architectural features

but modifies the building to make it usable. In both cases, the Building Doctors encouraged keeping the old materials and fixing the problems rather than covering them up.

The attendees received a program booklet that included a set of Ohio History Connection FastFacts addressing many common home maintenance issues including carpenter ants, exterior painting, ice and snow dams, wood floors, wood windows, wood rot, and passive energy-saving features in older buildings. The FastFacts are online at www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/state-historic-preservation-office/buildingdoctor. The Department of the Interior Preservation Briefs and Tech Notes pamphlets provide greater detail. They are available online at www.nps.gov/tps/education/free-pubs.htm.

On Friday, Justin and Richard each met with five building owners for an onsite building review. Representatives of the sponsoring agencies, The Tiffin Historic Trust, SIEDC, Seneca Industrial and Economic Development Corporation, and the Seneca Regional Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Services, used a rating system to select the ten projects for evaluation.

Based on the success of program, The Tiffin Historic Trust does not intend to wait another twenty-five years before hosting a future Building Doctor Clinic!

The Building Doctor



Did You Know?

Many Tiffin Historic Trust members are unaware that we have an Endowment Fund.

An initial \$10,000 contribution to Tiffin Historic Trust many years ago was put in an Edward Jones account. The board members decided the monies would be used for an Endowment Fund. Over

the years that \$10,000 has grown to more than \$21,000.

Last year the THT board decided to move the Endowment Fund to Tiffin Community Foundation to provide for historical and

architectural preservation of local landmarks in Tiffin.

We added \$1,800 to the fund last year, and our budget this year also includes adding \$1,800.

Please consider making a contribution. We believe

having the Endowment Fund with Tiffin Community Foundation will provide more visibility to the general public to help us achieve our goals.

Kenneth E. Davison Preservation Leadership Award 2016 **Presented to Nancy Cook** *at Annual Dinner May 26, 2016*



This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to tell a very special person thank you for decades

of service to the Tiffin Historic Trust and to our whole community.

When there was a job to be done it seems there was no way it was not going to get done. No matter what. In a very persistent, kindly, caring fashion, reminders keep coming. Still.

When the Trust acquired the Grammes-Brown House in the late 1980's, this was a tailor-made task. Choosing colors, curtains and wallpapers, decorating, cleaning, recruiting help to get projects done. Everything had to be up to high standards.

No detail is left unnoticed. For example, there was a floor board in the dining room that, even though it was under the rug, it needed repair. Just this year Ed Goshe finally went down into the basement and he figured out how to fix it. So, after more than 25 years of nudges, all those reminders paid off. It's fixed!

Nancy is a star when it comes to raising funds for the Trust. One project that preceded the Holiday House Tour, focused on the historic architecture of our community. The Annual Historic Home Tour was featured during the early Heritage Festivals. Nancy chaired and served on this committee for many years. No assignment was too big.

Also, there was the Heritage Series Replicas. This was a great project to not only commemorate buildings and homes in our

community, but have volunteers help make them. I understand this was an endeavor that would drive a saint to drink. Nancy stepped up to take on the job of coordinating this project through the 1990s. No task too hard or time consuming.

The Grammes-Browne House has been the focus since the 1990's for events hosted by the Tiffin Historic Trust. There were Children's Breakfasts and Storytelling in the Garden, Teas, Lunches, Chili Suppers and much more. Nancy was always there with inventive, ingenious, and creative ideas, organizing, coordinating, and working hard.

Someone—Nancy, was always there to keep us on the right track, to get things done, attend to details. We will forever be grateful to Nancy Cook

THT Hosts Student Intern

The Tiffin Historic Trust was privileged to host a college intern this summer. Victoria Pisarsky, a junior majoring in history at Heidelberg University, helped the Trust by updating information on Seneca County homes and commercial buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. The records for many of these properties have not been updated since they were originally added to the register in the 1970s.

Pisarsky took high-resolution photographs of the exterior of the buildings, noted changes and im-

provements made over the years, and drafted letters to the current owners of the structures requesting additional information about interior changes and other history. She is entering this information into a searchable database of her own design, which will eventually be hosted on the Trust's own servers and made available for use by Trust members.

As part of her internship, Pisarsky, whose career goal is to be a history professor, learned about different architectural styles, how major events in Tiffin's his-

tory impacted its structures, and the challenges--and rewards--of archival research. "My favorite part of the internship was learning about the people [who] used to live in Tiffin and what Tiffin used to be like," Pisarsky said. "This experience has helped me figure out what aspects of history I like and would be interested in pursuing."

Trust board member and Assistant Dean at Tiffin University, David Selnick, served as her site supervisor. Her faculty supervisor was Dr. Courtney DeMayo, Associate Professor of His-

tory at Heidelberg University.

Pisarsky will finish her internship this summer, but has laid the groundwork for future interns and volunteers to build upon what she has done. The Trust has additional opportunities for archival research, documentation and cataloging of artifacts, and other work. If you are interested in an internship or volunteering with the Trust, please contact the Internship Committee Chair, Nancy Rubenstein, at tiffinhistoric@att.net.

TIFFIN HISTORIC TRUST PRESENTS

BEHIND THE FAÇADE REVEL AROUND THE RITZ!

“Behind the Facade: Revel Around the Ritz!” during Heritage Festival Tiffin Historic Trust will stage the third edition of its “Behind the Facade” walking tours on the final day of Heritage Weekend, Sunday, September 18, 2016, between 2:00 and 5:00 pm. In conjunction with the German Heritage Blockfest on South Washington Street. While the German Heritage celebration will feature German food in the street and live music on the corner of South Washington Street and Riverside Drive, “Behind the Facade: Revel Around the Ritz!” will allow citizens a glimpse inside properties in that area. The Ritz Theatre and other recently renovated sites in that block of South Washington Street and nearby will open their doors for the afternoon. There is no fee for admittance to the German Heritage block, where food and drink will be sold and music programming is free. “Behind the Facade: Revel Around the Ritz!” will allow patrons to tour the designated properties at their own pace. The \$5 fee will cover dessert and a drink (coffee and wine) from PhatCakes. Tickets and other details will be available at PhatCakes in late August.

Tea Time!

The Tiffin Historic Trust “Victorian Tea” committee has been busy preparing for their summer tea slated for Saturday, August 13th at 12:30 PM at the Grammes-Brown House located on Jefferson Street. Our event will have an interesting, historical undertone with Tiffin Historian Lisa Swickard presenting the program: “Drinkers and Winkers – Ghostly Tales of Tiffin.” Swickard spent years researching Tiffin’s history and is the author of several books. One such book, “Drinkers and Winkers” touches on a dark, hush-hush and controversial time in United States and Tiffin’s history.

During the tea, we might even greet one or two ghosts from the past.

The women of the Tiffin Historic Trust created food complementing the theme and we are sure our guests will enjoy the food and program. “Mattie’s girls”, “ladies of the night”, “bootleg boys”, “guilty pleasures”, and “Gracie’s surprise” are a few of the delectable examples from the menu.

Experience the Grammes-Brown House as it takes on the appearance of one of our town’s past “house of pleasure.” Be ready for a spine-tingling surprise!

A twenty dollar donation (discount of 10% for Historic Trust members) will include delicious food, program by Lisa Swickard, and self-guided tour of the historic Grammes-Brown House and gardens.

Unfortunately, due to limited seating, this event is sold out. However, the next scheduled “Victorian tea” will be held October 8th and will be equally exciting. Ron Hill will regale us with a Halloween theme. For reservations to this event, contact Phyllis Watts @ 419.448.8312



40 Years Anniversary Celebration In The Works

The board members are in the planning stages of celebrating the Tiffin Historic Trusts forty years of the organization. Be on the lookout for more information to come. Let’s hope you can help celebrate our 40th Birthday! Check our website soon for specific details.

Congratulations Award Winners!

The following recipients received preservation awards at our Annual Meeting which was held on May 26th.



Joyce & Dale Gibson
81 Main St.



Brent & Kaleigh Krupp
292 Sycamore St.



Ben & Shirley Williams
186 S. Monroe St.



Susie Payne
468 S. Washington St.



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Tiffin, OH 44883-0333

The Tiffin Historic Trust Welcomes You To Become A New Member!

I want to help preserve our architectural heritage. Please enroll me as a member in the following categories:

Annual Memberships:

- Individual \$10
- Family \$20
- Sponsor \$35
- Patron \$50
- Business \$75
- Corporate \$250

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY AND RECEIVE A 25% DISCOUNT ON TEA EVENTS, AND RECEIVE OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PLUS ATTEND OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION DINNER.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____



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Our Mission

"To promote historic preservation in Tiffin by meetings, publications, tours, or other means. To act as a non-profit organization to apply for and accept any grants that may be appropriate to further the cause of historic preservation. To promote and develop any plan for the preservation and restoration of Tiffin and to work with all interested groups and individuals to put this plan into effect."

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