

HTI 2007 Annual Report

Activities and Accomplishments - Highlights

Improvements and Progress on HTI Building

HTI now owns a historic commercial building at 7328 Carroll Avenue that is being renovated and restored to serve as archives, community meeting space, exhibition space, and headquarters for HTI. However, substantial work must be completed before the space can be occupied, archival material can be moved in and exhibits and office space set up and opened. HTI made a significant start towards these goals during 2007. Work this year included washing and repointing the façade, doing initial repairs on the crumbling bay windows and installing new and restoring historic metal cornice, skirt flashings, window frame, and downspout. A rear fire door was also installed to meet Montgomery County building code requirements. The work on the façade, bay window, and the rear door was accomplished with a Façade Improvement Program matching grant through MainStreet Takoma. Discussions with contractors continue regarding installation of new HVAC and electrical systems to occur early in the new year. The work for these projects is being made possible by matching grants from the State of Maryland and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, as well as donations from community sponsors of the House and Garden Tour and ticket proceeds from the Tour.

House and Garden Tour

HTI held the 34th annual Takoma Park House and Garden Tour on May 6, 2007. The Tour had 19 stops featured, most of them along Carroll and Sherman Avenues. The theme this year was "Carroll Connections." It was on Manor Circle, just off Carroll Avenue, where several houses on the Tour were located, that civil-war hero General Samuel Sprigg Carroll built his home, prior to the establishment of Takoma Park as a community. The location of the Tour also allowed HTI to show off its new building at the Junction to tour-goers. As in previous years, the Tour this year was HTI's major fundraising event, bringing in revenue from ticket sales and sponsorships.

Fall Festival

HTI introduced a new event this year, to enhance visibility of the organization, increase interaction with the community, promote more widespread exposure of the Thomas-Seigler Carriage House (an historical property now owned by the City of Takoma Park, but managed by HTI), and to provide a good time to all on a beautiful autumn day. The Fall Festival was held on October 21, 2007. An antique carriage was on display as were vintage cars. There was live music, refreshments, vendors and activities for children. HTI literature and historic displays abounded.

Stewardship and Advocacy for Takoma Park DC and MD Historic Districts

Shaping change to preserve the historic character of our community is one of Historic Takoma's most important functions. HTI reviews applications for historic area work permits and advises the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and DC Historic Preservation Review Board on proposals having a major impact on the historic districts. HTI also testifies in Commission and Review Board hearings, submits written testimony and policy advice, and works with developers to encourage positive change that contributes to the economic vitality of the community while preserving its unique historic character. HTI also holds a seat on the Takoma Park Façade Advisory Board and Montgomery Preservation, Inc., and the president of HTI sits on the Board of Directors of the Old Takoma Business Association and volunteers on the MainStreet Design and Economic Restructuring Committees and also sits on the Board of the Takoma Theatre Conservancy and chairs the Design Committee of that Board. HTI Board members also work with the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Committee and the DC Coalition of Historic Districts. During 2007, HTI was active in a number of areas, including: 1) preservation of historic windows in four houses on Piney Branch Road, NW; 2) preservation of the Takoma Theatre, located in historic Takoma, DC (HTI served as the 501(c) 3 umbrella for the Takoma Theatre Conservancy until their own non-profit status was granted); 3) continuing to work to with WMATA Board and DC/MD officials regarding community concerns about inappropriate development at the Takoma Metro Station; and 4) following up on a number of proposed development projects in the community, including the Douglas Development Corp. project behind CVS, the Urciolo project on Laurel Avenue, and the renovation of the Takoma Park fire station.

(continued on page 6)

HTI 2007 Annual Report

(continued from page 5)

Community Outreach

HTI is an active presence at public meetings, community association meetings, and government sessions that have implications for the historic districts. Board members spend numerous hours every week on these kinds of activities.

HTI is also present as a community group at many events, such as the Takoma Park Folk Festival, the Takoma Park Street Festival, Magical Montgomery, and Happy Birthday Montgomery!.

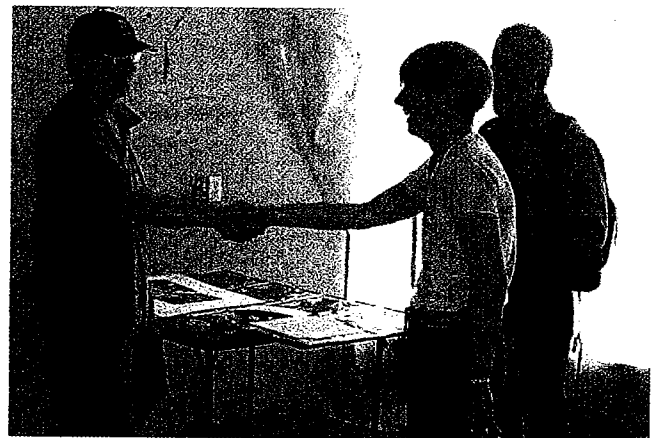
We continue to offer guided walking tours to the public, often in conjunction with DC Cultural Tourism, as well as guided tours for the fourth grade classes in the Takoma Park public schools.

HTI works with the City of Takoma Park and other entities, such as the Takoma Park Adventist Church and the Takoma Park Folk Festival, and local artists, in search of historical information about the community and events in the community, to provide information, support, and exhibits for their use.

Photos of Recent Events



Takoma Park citizens staged a protest at the Fourth of July Parade against the bulldozing tactics of WMATA in trying to force development on the community. Photograph thanks to Franca Brilliant.



Peter Kurtz (left) of the Maryland Historic Trust met with HTI President Sabrina Baron, Vice President Lorraine Pearsall, and Board member John Hume, at 7328 Carroll Avenue to see the building and tour the Takoma Park Historic District.



Tickets for the House and Garden Tour were sold in front of the community's Carnegie library at Fifth and Cedar Streets, NW.



Local potter Maija Hay in her garden with a Tour goer.