

Historic Natchez Foundation
P. O. Box 1761
Natchez, Mississippi 39121

2022 Calendar of Events

Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 18

The Historic Natchez Foundation
and
David and Marjorie Feltus Hawkins

invite you to attend a

Reception and Cocktail Buffet
(followed by a short annual meeting)

introducing new staff member

Sarah Owen
Architectural Historian

Wednesday, May 18 Linden
5:30 - 7:30 p.m. 1 Conner Circle

Natchez Balloon Festival, October 14-15

Historic Natchez Foundation Awards

Mimi and Ron Miller Visionary Award Helen and Randy Smith

Donation of 209 Washington Street

George and Ethel Kelly Restoration Award Mark Diamond and Kevin Stone

Restoration of The Banker's House

Robb Gray and Brian Rutledge

Restoration of Propinquity

Mary Postlethwaite History Award Bill Lee

Enslavement in Adams County Probate Records

Special Merit Awards

Eleanor and Ron Fry, 707 North Union Street

Mike Blattner, Dunleith, 84 Homochitto Street

Dan Gibson, 715 State Street

Mac Hazlip, 403 Main Street

Joe Jaeger, Dunleith, 84 Homochitto Street

Betsy and Sim Mosby, 208 South Union Street

St. Mary Basilica, restoration of pews and floors

Historic Natchez Foundation Officers & Directors

2022 Officers

President Pat Biglane
President Elect Andy Sartin
Past President Mac Hazlip
Secretary Elise Rushing
Treasurer Scott Adams

2022 New Directors

Leah Davis
Lucien "Sonny" Gwin
Brooks Harrington
Devin Heath
Lynette Tanner
Katie Watson

2022 Returning Directors

David Bramlette
Philip Carby
Tony DeAngelis
Neifa Hardy
Larry Holder
L. D. Lang
Brittney Patten
Cheryl Rinehart

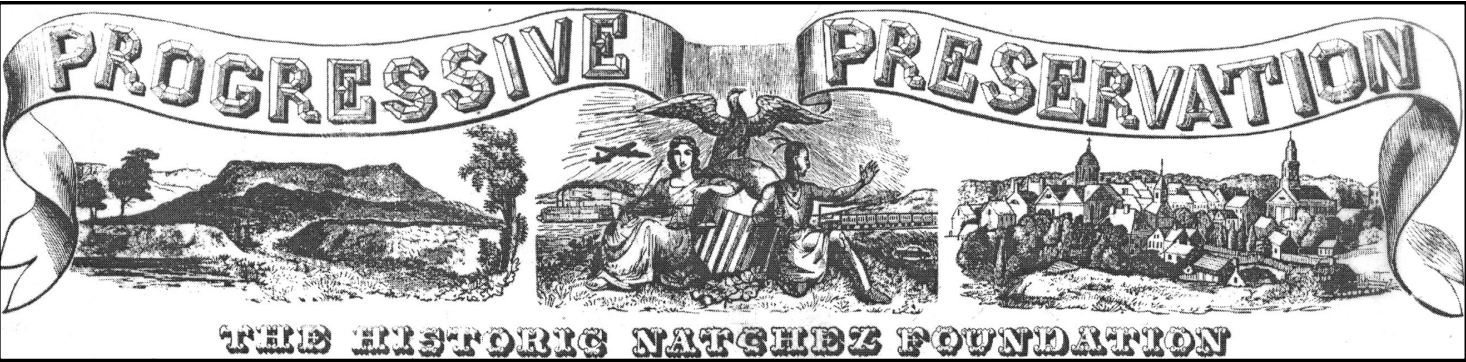
2021 Retiring Directors

Stratton Bull
Chuck Caldwell
Scott Christian
Debbie Cosey
Kate Feltus
Becky Jex



Historic Natchez Foundation Staff

Executive Director: Carter Burns
Curator: Nicole Harris
Architectural Historian: Sarah Owen
Executive Director Emerita: Mimi Miller
Bookkeeper: Rendy Foster



Volume I

May 2022

HNF hosts annual meeting at Linden on Wednesday, May 18

At long last, on Wednesday, May 18, from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m., the Historic Natchez Foundation will hold its 2022 annual meeting, which usually takes place in January. Everyone in the community is welcome to come, and HNF encourages people who are new to Natchez to attend this annual celebration of historic preservation.

HNF wanted this delayed annual meeting to be special, and David and Marjorie Feltus Hawkins are co-hosting the annual meeting and cocktail buffet at their home, Linden, one of the city's premier examples of Federal style architecture.

Linden offers indoor and outdoor party spaces due to its spacious front and rear galleries. Many of the newly renovated guest rooms will also be open for touring. Chairs will be placed on the front lawn, which will also provide seating for the short business meeting, which will be primarily limited to preservation and service awards. Plenty of parking is available and attendants will be on hand to provide directions.



Linden, Historic American Building Survey, Library of Congress, 1934-1936

Due to COVID-19, HNF did not hold its annual meeting in 2021. And in 2022, HNF scheduled the annual January meeting but canceled it due to the Omicron variant. This decision proved wise, as HNF immediately afterward learned that the caterer had contracted COVID-19 and that a delay in the Natchez Institute roofing project would prevent entry into the parking lot and handicap accessible side entrance. For two years in a row, HNF has had to

elect new board members by mailed ballots.

This year's annual meeting will also serve as a public reception for new HNF employee, Sarah Owen, who will begin work as an architectural historian and historic preservation professional in June. A native of Meridian and a graduate of Millsaps College, Sarah has just finished her studies for a master's degree in historic preservation at the University of Georgia.

JOIN TODAY TO PRESERVE THE PAST FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Membership expiration dates are printed above your address on every mail-out from the foundation. Each membership and donation is very important to us.

		Suggested Membership	
Name	_____	Student	20.00
Address	_____	Senior Citizen	35.00
	_____	Individual	50.00
	_____	Family	100.00
		Special Donor Levels Pillars of Support	
Phones	_____	Tuscan Order	500.00
E-mail	_____	Doric Order	1,000.00
	_____	Ionic Order	2,500.00
	_____	Corinthian Order	5,000.00
		Portico	10,000.00

The Historic Natchez Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Return this form with your donation to:

Historic Natchez Foundation, P. O. Box 1761, Natchez, MS 39121 601-442-2500 and hnf@natchez.org

Board and Pillars of Support tour historic Richmond

On Thursday, April 14, Historic Natchez Foundation board members and Pillars of Support donors enjoyed a special and intimate tour of the great historic house Richmond with cocktails and a light supper. The event was hosted by HNF and owners Lela Jeanne Nall and Anna Mary Rowell, whose family has owned Richmond for 190 years.

Richmond was built in three distinct stages to create one of the largest and most unusual of the grand Natchez mansions. In 1832, Levin R. Marshall acquired an early frame house which became the center section of a mansion when he added massive Greek Revival wings at each gabled end.

Levin R. Marshall (1800-1870) arrived in Natchez at the age of 17. He was married first to Maria Chotard and, after her death, to Sarah Elliott. He began his banking career in Woodville and, in 1831, was appointed cashier of the Natchez branch of the Bank of the United States. He would later become president of the Commercial Bank, whose marble-fronted bank building still fronts Main Street with its attached



banker’s residence facing South Canal. Marshall’s most lasting contribution to Natchez may well be architectural since Richmond and the Commercial Bank and Banker’s House are the most academic and architecturally sophisticated of the city’s many Greek Revival buildings.

Richmond is also noted among scholars and museum professionals for its original interior which has been carefully preserved by multiple generations of the Marshall family. Houses like Richmond, Lansdowne (built for Levin Marshall’s son George), Green Leaves, and Melrose have all been preserved on the interior as well as

the exterior and offer the most accurate interpretations of the city’s architectural and decorative arts past.

Richmond is open during the Natchez Pilgrimage in the spring and fall.



HNF board members and Pillars of Support donors tour the double parlors at Richmond, which are richly decorated with Ionic pilasters and elaborate moldings and rosettes.

Donations—HNF Pillars of Support

Portico \$10,000 up and Life Members

- Ned Diefenthal
- Judy and Bob Flurry
- Julie Ferry Hale
- Rebecca and Bill McGehee
- Louise Peabody and Elizabeth Miles
- Helen and Randy Smith
- David Waldrop and Peggy Wise

Corinthian Order \$5,000-\$9,999

- Ethel Truly
- Ionic Order \$2,500-\$4,999**
- Mason Ferry
- Jeanie and Bazile Lanneau
- Jan and Dan Shiells

Doric Order \$1,000-\$2,499

- Karen and Pat Biglane
- Sharon and Mike Blattner
- Marcy and Joseph Brown
- Stratton Bull
- Lettie Burgett and Benjamin Cowan
- Julie and Chuck Caldwell
- Stella and Philip Carby
- Ruthie and Jim Coy
- Bill and Cammie Dale
- Charlene Favre
- Joan Gandy
- Marilynne and Fred Gorman
- Bridget and Glenn Green
- Meg and Mac Hazlip

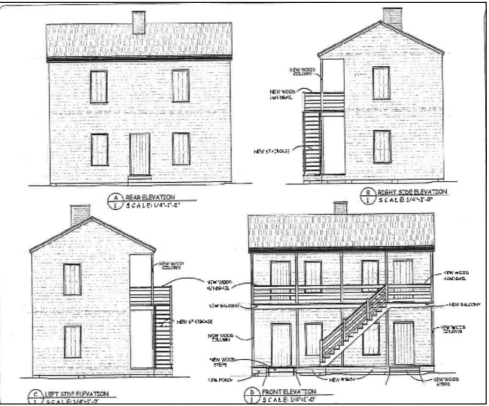
- Mimi and Ron Mimi Miller
- Cody Neathery
- Stephanie and Robin Punches
- Robb Gray and Brian Rutledge
- Carolyn and Marion Smith
- Ann and Randy Tillman

Tuscan Order \$500-\$9,999

- Martha and Scott Adams
- David Bramlette
- Shields and Butch Brown
- Connie and Pat Burns
- Kimberly and Tyler Burns
- Liz Dantone
- Nora and Tam Etheridge
- Carolyn and Sonny Gwin
- Marjorie and David Hawkins
- Robert Henkle and Burl Salmon
- Brooks Harrington
- Karen and Charlie Hill
- Betsy and John Holleman
- Sherry and Lee Jones
- Anne MacNeil
- Thomas McNeely
- Elizabeth Miles
- Mark Diamond and Kevin Stone
- Lynette Tanner
- Teri and Barry Tillman
- Marian (Ferry) and Gray Williams
- Melinda and Ben Yarbrough



Helen and Randy Smith donated the house above to HNF in 2021. Historic research and architectural evidence indicates that it originally housed the enslaved workers at Texada and may be the oldest slave dwelling in the state. Below are preliminary drawings for the restoration which is being funded by the 1772 Foundation, Inc.



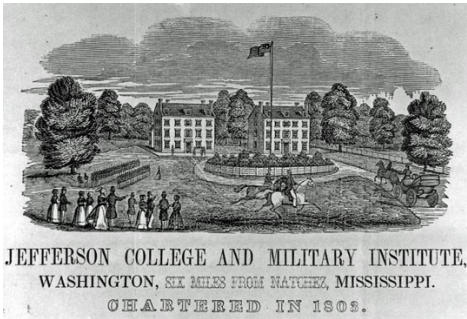
Archives and History supports Natchez preservation

For over fifty years, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) has played a major role in the preservation, interpretation, and marketing of Natchez history.

2021 was the 50th anniversary of MDAH’s acquisition of two important historic sites in the Natchez area. In 1971, philanthropist Grace MacNeil donated 34 acres of the site of the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians to MDAH. This donation was the impetus for the department’s acquisition of adjoining lands that were essential in preserving and interpreting this threatened and significant historic site. The Grand Village is one of 13 National



Historic Landmark buildings and sites in Adams County.



Also in 1971, MDAH assumed control of Jefferson College, which closed in 1964 and was sold to the state to settle its debts in 1965. College buildings, already suffering from deferred maintenance, deteriorated further between 1964 and 1971 and were plundered of their furnishings.

MDAH opened the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians to the public in 1976 and Historic Jefferson College in 1977. Today, the Grand Village is a 128-acre park and historic site open daily to the public. Historic Jefferson College is an 80-acre site with multiple

historic buildings and is temporarily closed as MDAH begins restoration and plans for an expanded vision for the site.

MDAH announced in April that the Mississippi Legislature has provided \$8 million in funding to complete exciting upgrades at the Grand Village and to fund planning costs and building rehabilitation work at Historic Jefferson College. This initial funding, which is a major investment in preserving and interpreting the area’s history, will also create new jobs and increase tourism.

At the Grand Village, MDAH plans to build a new and larger interpretive center, a large outdoor pavilion, and exciting new outside interpretation that will better engage the public and more fully represent the history of the site.

At Historic Jefferson College, rehabilitation of the historic buildings is already underway. MDAH envisions an expanded role for the historic site as a museum that will serve as a gateway to Natchez as well as a new educational mission as a historic preservation field school in cooperation with Mississippi State University and Tulane University.

HNF dreams and Pillar Donors make dreams come true

HNF had a very busy year in 2021 and the trend continues in 2022, a time period made more difficult by the loss of an employee in early 2021. HNF looks forward to the June arrival of our fourth staff member, Sarah Owen.

Although most of Natchez likely perceives HNF as a historic preservation organization, it also operates an archival and research facility. Its constantly expanding archives and library of Natchez history includes publications, photographs, family papers, site files, subject files, and biographical files.

HNF also houses city and county historic records, which include court records dating back to the 18th century. This important archival material is housed in the museum and archival storage facility in the basement of the Natchez Institute, which is climate-controlled. A newly installed fire-suppression system protects the entire building.

Also stored in the basement are HNF’s fledgling museum collections of artifacts for exhibition. HNF plans to dedicate

the 11,000 sq. ft. of the 1st story to museum exhibits and relocate the offices, research library, meeting rooms, and work rooms to the second story.

On any given day, one or more scholars arrive to do research, and HNF receives visits, calls, and emails from people all across the country seeking genealogical and other information about Natchez.

In HNF’s role as a non-profit preservation organization, it works everyday with historic buildings and their owners, as well as prospective owners, realtors, and builders. One of its most important roles is securing and administrating grant funds for the preservation of historic buildings owned by governmental entities or 501 (c)(3) organizations. In recent years, HNF has been involved in obtaining and administering about \$1.5 million grant dollars for Holy Family Church Magnolia Hall, Temple B’nai Israel, House on Ellicott Hill, Auburn (City of Natchez), and HNF’s own Natchez Institute and the slave quarters at 209

Washington St. HNF is now assisting the Dumas Drug Store non-profit in applying for a National Trust grant.

HNF receives no public funding for operations and its services are free, except for time-consuming preservation tax credit applications which offer direct financial benefit to property owners. Membership levels in the form on the first page are noted as only “suggested,” because HNF wants to make sure that anyone who wants to join can do so.

This issue of *Progressive Preservation* highlights HNF’s Pillars of Support donors, whose contributions of money and property are responsible for our ability to provide free services to the public. Pillar donors also allow us to dream great dreams, some of which are now a reality. HNF looks to its Pillars of Support to make more dreams come true and encourages those who can to become donors at the Pillar level as we dream of a museum of Natchez history, reconstruction of the Institute’s tower, and the restoration of more historic commercial and residential buildings.