



FHA Tour of Homes celebrates the power of preservation

The Fairfield Heritage Association's 48th Tour of Homes, June 25 & 26, opens the doors to 11 remarkable buildings in the heart of Lancaster.

The structures range in age from 80 to more than 200 years old, and they all show the value of the restoration and rehabilitation of historic structures.

"Our tour demonstrates the power of preservation," said Andrea Brookover, FHA's executive director. "These buildings represent different eras in Lancaster's development. Some have had better care through the years than others. But they all have owners who appreciate the 'good bones' within these homes and businesses and their amazing potential."

The tour runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, rain or shine. It is one of the largest fundraisers of the year for FHA, a nonprofit that serves as the county's historical society. It owns and operates the Sherman House Museum and the Georgian Museum, champions preservation, publishes a quarterly history magazine and provides historical programming for the community.

Scheduled to be on tour are:

The Sturgeon-Schroer home, 1139 N. Columbus St.

The Bauman Building, 217 S. Columbus St.

The Mithoff Building, 162 W. Main St.

Ale House 1890, 149 W. Main St.

The Columbian Building, 136 W. Main St.

The Sherman House Museum, 137 E. Main St.

The Georgian Museum, 105 E. Wheeling St.

The Smith Home, 515 N. Broad St.

The Kauffman-Tobias-Hall Home, 302 E. Mulberry St.

The Phillips-Szymanski Home, 635 N. High St.

And the Wendel-Brown Home, 245 Lake St.

The Columbian only opened for business in April as the new home of the Fairfield County Municipal Courts. And two of the buildings are in the early stages of the preservation process. Brad Hutchinson is in the second year of his ambitious project to remake the 19th century Mithoff Hotel into office, retail and restaurant space. Brad Grywalski and Bryan Everitt have just begun renovating the long vacant Bauman Building, which started as a meat market but has had many lives since it was built in the 1920s.

A special exhibit at the Bauman Building, "Lost Treasures of Lancaster," showcases the community's landmark buildings that have been demolished.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 the day of the tour, \$6 for students 5 to 18 years old. They will be available at the Fairfield National Bank Main Office and at Fairfield National branch offices at Kroger East and at Meijer. Tickets also may be purchased at the FHA office, located at the Georgian Museum, 105 E. Wheeling St.; by calling the office at 740-654-9923; or by clicking on the Events tab at www.fairfieldheritage.org.

The Heritage Café will be stationed at the Georgian Museum. This year's café features hot shredded chicken sandwiches, sweets and treats as well as hot and cold beverages - all served in the Georgian's parlors. Whole pies, cakes and cookies will be sold to-go, as well. No tour ticket is necessary to visit the café.