



FRIENDS OF THE HOLLOW

News



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April 2006

Major Foundation Restoration Completed

Last year was a great year for The Hollow. Early in 2005, Dr. David Collins (the current owner of The Hollow) leased the house to the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) to permit the APVA to begin a stabilization and restoration project on the building. Dr. and Mrs. Collins have generously provided the funding for the finest labor, materials and craftsmanship that can be obtained. The Friends of the Hollow have also made small contributions to this effort.

The effort began with a plan for work to be completed during the warm weather with a target date of October 1 for the completion of the 2005 efforts. After finding a few areas that required more restoration than originally planned in the “stabilization” phase, the work was completed at the highest level of quality imaginable. A brief description of the work completed in 2005 is as follows:

- Dismantle standing (leaning) chimney; set aside stones for future rebuild.
- Jack up house, remove/rebuild 75% of original foundation with original period lime putty mortar.
- Replace/restore floor joists and upright timbers using similar materials.
- Straighten house to original square condition and cover with plywood for winter.

For a more detailed description of the work completed in 2005, please see architectural historian Cheryl Shepherd’s blow-by-blow “Summer 2005 Stabilization Reports” of the process on our website.

Key individuals in the 2005 process were Dr. and Mrs. David Collins, owners and benefactors of The Hollow’s amazing restoration; Louis Malon, Director of Preservation Services at APVA, who is budget director and “general contractor” for this extensive effort; Cheryl Shepherd, Architectural Historian and on-site director of the project; Ed Ashby, historic stonemason who worked tirelessly with his

staff *under* a precariously jacked up Hollow house to rebuild the foundation using original mix mortar; Mike Adams, APVA carpenter, who performs the most delicate surgery, reconstruction and restoration on old rotted timbers, while somehow keeping the house off the foundation all summer without causing it to collapse or fall apart. While only a first hand viewing of the work done on the house can bring a true appreciation of the level of quality, a careful reading of Cheryl's stabilization reports comes close.



The Hollow on June 20, 2005. Note the foundation stones stacked up on the north side and the hole underneath the house.



The Hollow in October 2005. Note the perfectly restored foundation. The chimney is a temporary wood and paper replica for the JM house tour.

2006 Restoration Plan Being Finalized

The 2006 restoration plan includes a new white oak shingle roof and tulip poplar

siding. In addition, we hope to rebuild the original western chimney.

Marshall 250th Birthday Celebration Included Tour of Marshall Homes Including The Hollow

It was a another beautiful day on October 1, 2005 when the 2005 Marshall House Tour bus stopped at The Hollow to see the restoration work underway and take in a special lecture by Cheryl Shepherd about the project. The tour was an extension of the 250th Birthday celebration that took place in Richmond the previous weekend. For the exhibit, local art students had created a life-size replica of the original chimney out of wood and paper, which was a wonderful addition to the scene (see picture at left).



Mike Adams is hammering a peg into the a perfectly scarfed sill joint in southeast corner of the house.

The Friends of the Hollow, Inc. is a Virginia non-stock, non-profit charitable corporation formed in 1981 with the express purpose of preservation and restoration of the boyhood home of Chief Justice John Marshall known as The Hollow. Basic membership dues are \$10.00 per year and sustaining membership is \$25.00 per year. Additional donations are welcome. Dues and contributions are fully tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Friends of the Hollow, Inc. and mail to Friends of the Hollow, 4283 N. 38th Street, Arlington, VA 22207.

Friends of the Hollow News is published by the Friends of the Hollow, Inc., 4283 N. 38th St., Arlington, VA 22207. Editor: T.M. deButts