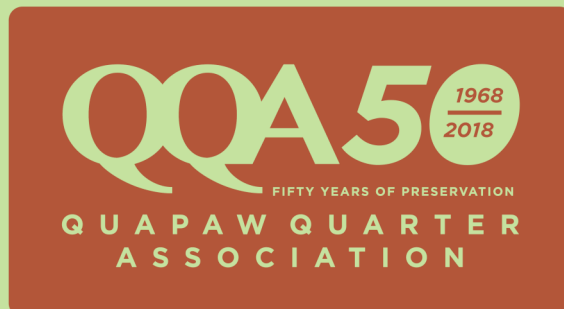


A Half Century of Preservation

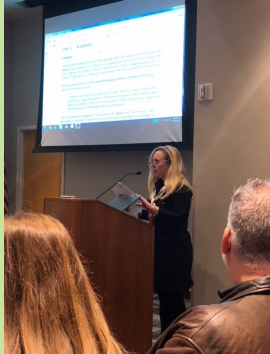


2017 Annual Report



Advocacy, Education & Events

30 Crossing



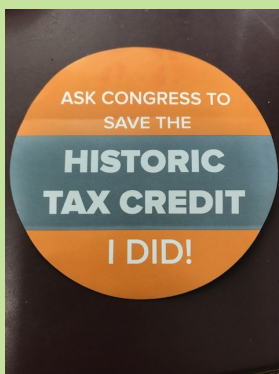
The Quapaw Quarter Association (QQA)'s Advocacy Committee, with the support of the entire QQA board, continues to closely follow progress on planning for 30 Crossing. It is the largest project undertaken by the Arkansas Department of Transportation. As outlined in our correspondence to the Federal Highway Administration, Arkansas Department of Transportation, and testimony at Metroplan's public meetings, we advocate for the consideration and protection of historic properties. The QQA is a consulting party on the undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Save Hillcrest!



The QQA's mission is to preserve historic resources throughout greater Little Rock. This includes historic Hillcrest. In the spring of 2017, desperately concerned Hillcrest residents reached out to us to try to save the property at 1020 N. Palm Street, the historic Branch House, a contributing resource of the Hillcrest National Register listed historic district. Unfortunately, the building was demolished to make way for two new houses. Loss of the significant property has galvanized support for a reexamination of Hillcrest's Design Overlay District, which many feel does not protect the unique nature of the historic area. The QQA has supported and will continue to support Save Hillcrest! in their efforts.

Tax Credits



2017 was a big year for both state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits. At the state level the QQA reached out to key legislators to share our support for the amendment to the state's *Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Act*. This amendment raised the per-project cap for income producing projects from \$500,000 to \$1.6 million. There are many large commercial rehabilitation projects in greater Little Rock that will be able to take advantage of the higher project level.

At the federal level, with the introduction of the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*, the federal rehabilitation tax credit was in jeopardy of elimination. The QQA and our partners reached out to our representatives in Washington, D.C. to reinforce the need to keep the program.

We had a guest editorial in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, coordinated a conference call with Senator Boozman, our partners, and local developers, and provided materials for our partners at the federal level for Congressional staff briefings. The efforts were successful. Even though it was modified, the program was retained.

2017 Spring Tour of Homes



The 53rd Spring Tour of Homes was a resounding success. In addition to securing six historic homes in the Governor's Mansion Historic District for the tour, the perfect weather brought out large enthusiastic crowds. The Candlelight tour with dinner at the Governor's Mansion and the Mother's Day Brunch at Curran Hall were sold out.

Even before the end of 2017, the plans for the 54th Spring Tour of Homes were well underway with three dedicated tour chairs, Denise Ennett, Whitney Patterson, and Vanessa McKuin, and six remarkable houses in the Central High School Neighborhood Historic District.

2017 Summer Suppers



Supporters of the Quapaw Quarter Association underwrote three Summer Suppers: The Root Café, The Edgemeont House, and the William E. Woodruff House. The goal of the Summer Suppers is to introduce folks to historic properties they may not be able to visit and enjoy a meal with fellow preservationists. The Suppers did not disappoint, we had over 100 folks participate at the three historic sites with gourmet food, beverage, and even entertainment at the Woodruff House! Plans for 2018 Summer Suppers are in the works.

2017 Preservation Conversations



The William E. Woodruff House was the focus of Preservation Conversations in 2017. The first conversation was presented by preservation architect John Greer of WER Architects Planners. John has prepared a feasibility study for the Woodruff House in anticipation of the QQA marketing the property for sale and rehabilitation. After the house was stabilized and cleaned out, a more thorough investigation was possible. Greer shared these results with a full house at Curran Hall.

Our second Preservation Conversation was a hands-on masonry repair demonstration on site at the Woodruff House. The program was presented by Western Specialty Contractors, who have extensive experience working on historic properties throughout Arkansas and the United States and began the conversation explaining unique characteristics of historic masonry and mortar. They prepared a section of the north wall and demonstrated how a historic wall is re-pointed. All of the visitors took the opportunity to explore the house.

2017 Annual Membership Meeting and Preservation Awards



The year wrapped up with our meeting at the National Historic Landmark, MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History. The QQA Board of Directors welcomed new members and reappointed returning members. Executive Director Patricia Blick presented the year in review and the year ahead.

In anticipation of the 54th Spring Tour of Homes in the Central High School Neighborhood Historic District, we invited National Park Service Ranger Jodi Morris to set the context for the tour. She presented, an illustrated program, "If these buildings could talk: Places that mattered in the Central High Crisis." The culmination of the evening was the presentation of several Awards of Merit, the Peg Smith Awards for volunteers to Danielle Butler and Callie Williams, and the Jimmy Strawn Award to Mary Bray Kelley.

Woodruff House



Woodruff House, photo by Ginger Beck.

2017 saw continued stabilization of the Woodruff House. At the beginning of the year a new roof and was installed. In addition to the roof replacement, the investigations for the feasibility study by WER continued. Both Preservation Conversations focused on the Woodruff house and the final Summer Supper of the season was held on the grounds of the property. The QQA Board has established a committee to direct the marketing of the property and work with interested parties who are dedicated to its preservation.



Woodruff House, fireplace detail, photo by Ginger Beck.

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QQA Board members at work.

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Quapaw Quarter Association initiates discussions with Little Rock's Metropolitan Housing Alliance.

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QQA Members at the 2017 Membership Meeting & Greater Little Rock Preservation Awards.

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Greater Little Rock Preservation Awards Award of Merit, Mosaic State Temple Building Friends of Mosaic Templar; Mosaic Templar Cultural Center Advisory Board; Mosaic Templars Building Preservation Society; and the Department of Arkansas Heritage for outstanding advocacy efforts and purchase of the Mosaic State Temple Building.

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Bill Worthen playing
William Woodruff.
Woodruff House
Summer Supper, 2017.