

# HC Currents

Spring 2014 Published Quarterly by Historic Columbus

Save the Date

## River Raffle

Thursday, September 11, 2014, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.



## Preservation for Profit

Historic Columbus hosted its 6th Annual Preservation for Profit event this year at the end of March. The event featured keynote speaker Donovan Rypkema of PlaceEconomics, Washington, DC. He spoke to over 150 Greater Columbus, Georgia Chamber of Commerce members at their March Eye Opener Breakfast. He focused on how historic preservation is a viable economic development tool. The event then continued to the lunch hour with speakers Clay Chapman and Josh Rogers. Many participants stated the program this year was the “best yet.”

Thanks to the Coalition for Sound Growth for their continued support and sponsorship to make this event a success.



## 2014 Day Trips

Atlanta – May 8, 2014

Historic Columbus had a great time at the Decorators’ Show House & Gardens. We went pink at Palazzo Rosa, historically known as the Pink Palace on West Paces

Ferry Road in Buckhead.

We had lunch at the Show House and then cocktails at the home of Columbus native Katie Hung Newsom and her husband Sedgie. Their home is absolutely



beautiful and there’s no doubt why it was featured in the April 2014 issue of *Traditional Home*.

Thank you, Katie and Sedgie!

## Athens – August 14, 2014

Join Historic Columbus and the Columbus Museum as we travel to Athens, GA to visit the Georgia Museum of Art, the official state museum of art, and experience Athens’ Museum Mile tour!

Don’t miss this exclusive private tour of GMA’s exhibition *Picturing America: Signature Works from the Westmoreland Museum of American Art* with Museum Director William U. Eiland. Fifty-six works from the Westmoreland’s permanent collection make up this exhibition that spans 200 years of American art, from colonial times to the mid-20th century, as the United States came into its own as the cultural capital of the world. Seen through the subject areas of portraiture,



still-life, landscape and narrative painting, the artists represented in this exhibition serve as a survey of American art. The exhibition features

oil and tempera paintings and bronze sculptures by artists ranging from Charles Willson Peale to Mary Cassatt to Robert Henri to Harriet Frishmuth. Guests will also be treated to a “Behind the Scenes” tour with Head Registrar, Tricia Miller.

Following the morning’s tours, guests will enjoy a delectable lunch at the Georgia Museum of Art catered by Five and Ten restaurant, owned by award-winning chef and restaurateur Hugh Acheson.

In the afternoon, step back in time and experience Athens’ Museum Mile with its two distinctive antebellum house museums and gardens that will come to life through a guided driving tour and docent-led



tours of the interiors. First we will get a glimpse inside the Church-Waddel-Brumby House (ca. 1820), a Federal-style house that is believed to be Athens’ oldest surviving residence. Then we’ll explore the T.R.R. Cobb House (ca. 1852), Athens’ newest house museum. T.R.R. Cobb was a UGA Graduate, co-founder of its school of law, Confederate General, and principal author of the Confederate Constitution.

\$70 for current Museum or Historic Columbus members/\$80 Future members: includes charter bus transportation, catered lunch by Five and Ten Restaurant, and all fees.

**Please register by Thursday, July 31, by contacting Laura Narr at 706.748.2562 ext. 544 or [lnarr@columbusmuseum.com](mailto:lnarr@columbusmuseum.com). Payment required upon making reservation. No cancellations accepted after July 31.**

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[www.historiccolumbus.com](http://www.historiccolumbus.com)

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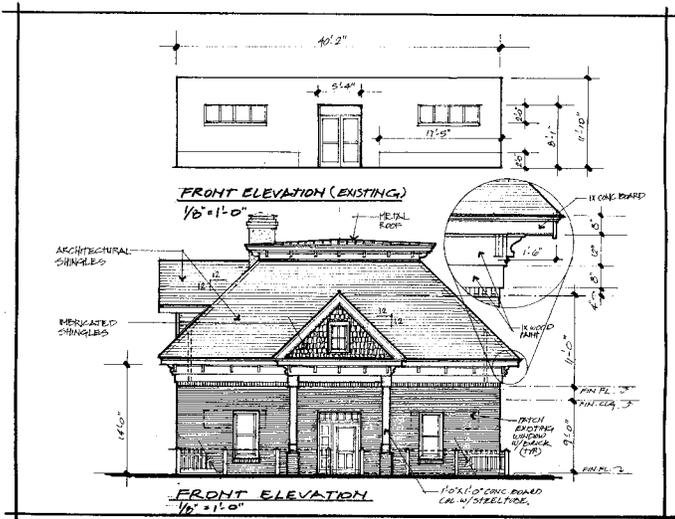
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## Historic Columbus Warehouse To Be Sold

In mid-June, Historic Columbus will be selling its storage facility on Second Avenue. Purchased fifteen years ago, the 1950s brick box has served its purpose for housing donated furnishings, mantels, and architectural elements. It has never been a contributing structure within the Columbus Historic District, but its future brings a big change.

Now, it will have a new life as a two-story residence! As you can see from the architect's drawing, there will be many alterations and additions to the exterior of this very plain brick building. The plans recently passed design review from the Board of Historic and Architectural Review and Historic Columbus will also carry a façade easement on the property to continue to protect the character of the District.

We will keep you posted on the construction progress!



## The Claflin School

(Excerpts of this article were taken from the Claflin School National Register Nomination Form as prepared by Edward Howard.)

The Claflin School, located on 5th Avenue in Columbus, has recently made headlines concerning its future. Last utilized as a school in the 1970's, the property then served as administrative offices for the Muscogee County School District until 2005. The site was later deemed as "surplus" by the MCSDD and ownership was then required by deed to be transferred to the City of Columbus in 2013.

The school site is comprised of two structures. The back building facing Linwood Cemetery was built in 1921 and the main building facing 5th Avenue was constructed later in 1948. The structures are not only historic, as they are more than 50 years old, but also their presence tells the story of education in Georgia at a time when



schools were racially segregated. The two buildings are significant as rare examples of African American schools, prior to 1950.

Columbus supported Black education more than many other cities of its size. This progressive attitude resulted in the building of the 1921 Claflin School as a facility that equaled the white schools in town. The 1921 school was declared by the Rosenwald Field Secretary for Georgia to be the most modern African American elementary school in Georgia for its time. The 1948 building is a fine example of a school building built in the International Style.

Today the school sits with several feet of water in the basement, a deteriorating roof, and ransacked rooms. Historic Columbus is working with local historian and preservation advocate Ed Howard to nominate the property to the National Register of Historic Places.



Although this listing will not prevent a demolition of either structure, it will preserve the history and significance of the site.

City officials are faced with the requirement of turning the property over to the Federal Government if a new use or owner willing to meet the educational restrictions is not found within the next six months. Historic Columbus is assisting in that process and doing its best to determine the best option for the building and property. We will keep you posted.

## Box City Summer Art Camp



- Learn about architecture
- Sketching blue prints
- Designing buildings
- Creating your own community
- Building an appreciation for "your town!"



Sessions are June 9-12, June 23-26, and July 7-10  
Ages 7-12 • 9am-3pm • Wynnton Arts Academy Gym  
\$100 • Includes lunches, snacks & t-shirt



For more info, please contact Callie Hecht at 706-322-0756 or callie@historiccolumbus.com



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### **Historic Columbus invites you to attend the Pemberton Exhibit Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!**

Historic Columbus and the Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau have been working hard over the past year to create a new exhibit for our residents and visitors to learn more about Columbus' Coca-Cola Connection. With help from Dr. John Lupold, this exhibit is an incredible showcase of our community's unique history.

Please join us at the Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau's Uptown Welcome Center (900 Front Avenue) on **Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 11:30AM for the official opening of the exhibit.**

### **New Collaborative Tour**

The Columbus Museum, Historic Columbus, and the Columbus Botanical Garden are introducing a new collaborative tour focusing on grades 6-12th called *Gardens of Learning: Looking Through the Lens of History, Science, and Art*. The three groups will be hosting a luncheon for the teachers and administration on May 29th to discuss the new tour.

In addition to learning about the new tour, each organization will also speak about their ongoing programmatic offerings. Historic Columbus will be discussing the "Our Town" series and is looking for feedback from the teachers. The book *Our Town: An Introduction to the History of Columbus, Georgia* by Roger Harris is now over 20 years old and is in need of an update. We look forward to the needed feedback from our incredible educators on how we can improve.

