

Gallery of art—new name, broader focus

The Fredericksburg Gallery of Art has a new name. From now on it will be known as the Fredericksburg Center for Creative Arts.

The center's board of directors changed the name to reflect a broader focus on the arts taken by the 15-year-old organization.

Marcia Chaves, center director, said the center has evolved into "an educational and cultural facility serving the community of Fredericksburg and surrounding counties, and which is supportive not only of the visual arts, but also of such fields as crafts, music, dance and theater."

Since its affiliation with the Virginia Museum in 1976, the center has expanded its programs to include art lectures, film programs, craft classes and trips to cultural events.

Aiding the expansion is a salary assistance grant that Rita Brown, center crafts director, received from the Virginia Commission of the Arts and Humanities to enable her to teach weaving in schools, to community groups and at the center.

Mrs. Chaves herself is now paid through a Comprehensive Employment and Training Act grant. "This is especially important," she explained, "because it is the first time that the center has ever had a paid director."

Future plans for the center call for a craft show and musical programs during member preview parties for center exhibits. The board of directors has also developed tentative long-range plans to renovate the 194-year-old building where the center is located.

The center's safari program for next month, part of the center's broader focus on the arts, will include:

Sept. 7—"The Last of Mrs. Cheyne," a comedy starring Deborah Kerr, Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theatre in Washington, a bus will leave the parking lot next to the center at noon, cost will be \$15.

Sept. 14—"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," Hayloft Dinner Theatre at Manassas, a bus will leave the parking lot next to the center at 5:30 p.m., cost of \$15 will include bus, dinner and show.

Sept. 14—One-day symposium on The Gilbert Collection: Monumental Silver and the Art of Mosaics at the Virginia Museum in Richmond. The mosaic collection contains about 200 examples of this vanishing art form made between the 17th and early 20th centuries, and is rivaled only by the Hermitage in Leningrad. The Georgian silver collection features 50 Rocco and Neo-classical style silver and silver gilt pieces made in the 18th and 19th centuries by two of the most famous silversmiths, Paul de Lamerie and Paul Storr.

The symposium will include a lecture, tour of the exhibition and galleries, lunch in the members' restaurant and a demonstration on mosaics. A bus will leave the parking lot next to the center at 8:30 a.m., and the trip will be limited to 38 participants. Cost will be \$4, and lunch will be extra.

The safaris, with the exception of the symposium trip, are open to the public. The symposium is open to center members and their guests. Reservations may be made by calling the center at 373-5646 or by stopping by.

Art Gallery buys HFFI building

By HEILAINE PATTERSON
Staff Reporter

The Silversmith's House, which contains the Fredericksburg Gallery of Modern Art, has a new owner but the change won't be too obvious.

Gallery directors today purchased the late 18th century frame building from Historic Fredericksburg Foundation Inc. (HFFI) from whom it has been rented for 10 years. The purchase price was \$8,000.

A. Enos Richardson Jr., gallery president, has said that the gallery will continue its present activities, but indicated that some interior improvements will be made.

Eventually, he said, gallery officials would like to open a sub-basement which has a natural rock foundation.

The sale of the property is the first one made by HFFI and fulfills the organization's original idea of saving it and passing it along to someone else.

according to Ronald E. Shibley, HFFI executive director.

However, the HFFI sale does carry a number of restrictions spelled out by HFFI and agreed to by gallery directors, Shibley said. These requirements for the building, which is located in the city's 40-block historic area, are patterned after those used by Historic Annapolis Md. and Savannah, Ga., organizations.

Gallery officials are required to keep the building in good condition. If it is painted, then a color must be selected from an HFFI chart of at least six colors.

No major exterior alterations, other than routine maintenance, may be made without the consent and approval of HFFI, according to the deed which was signed today.

The house was in danger of being razed for a parking lot by City Council in 1962 when Historic Fredericksburg Inc. leaders ended a long controversy about its fate by acquiring it for restoration. A short time later the gallery opened in the 813 Sophia St. building, formerly the "Cole House."

Records show that the house was the home of James Brown, an early Fredericksburg silversmith. He had a store on Caroline Street and with a partner opened a second one. It is thought that he later had his shop in this house.

Funds from the sale of the Silversmith's House will go toward special HFFI projects that will be announced at the group's annual meeting set for Jan. 21, Shibley said.

The 70s The 80s The 90s

The Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc.

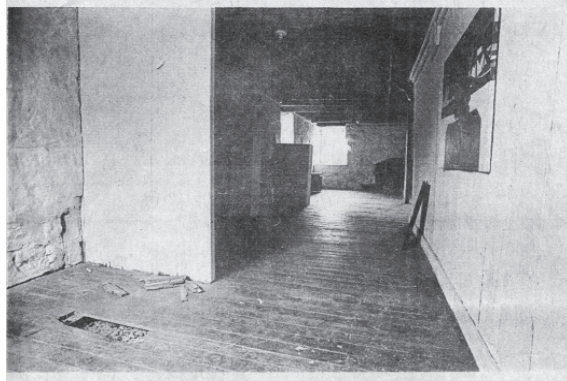
proudly supports

"Uniquely Fredericksburg"

The Historic Fredericksburg Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and revitalizing the distinctive historic environment and cultural resources of the Fredericksburg area. Since 1995, the Foundation has accomplished its mission through education, advocacy and financial support.



In 1995, the Foundation awarded a Bricks and Mortar Grant to the Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts for stabilization of the "Silversmith House."



Staff photo by Mark von Whitten

Basement floor of the Fredericksburg Gallery of Art has been weakened by flooding.

Plans are in works for renovating 194-year-old art gallery building

By CATY JETT
Staff Reporter

The Fredericksburg Gallery of Art's basement floor is weakened by the muddy waters of four floods, its 18th century stairs are narrow and twisting, and exhibition and classroom space is limited, but gallery members hope to change all that.

"We are thinking of improvements, not necessarily that we'll do them tomorrow, but to have a long-range planning concept to go by," said Marcia Chaves, gallery director. "We are still exploring all possibilities."

Tentative plans for renovating the 194-year-old building are on display at the gallery. One of the most needed improvements is repair of the unstable basement floor.

In 1972, "The basement was our best exhibit area," lamented Mrs. Chaves.

Plans for the basement also call for relocation and renovation of a small kitchen used during member previews of exhibits, and relocation and widening of the stairway. "The winding staircases in the house are very difficult for older people and tall people," Mrs. Chaves noted.

She is also excited about plans for the building's sub-basement, which is thought to have been used as a rot cellar by the original owner, a silversmith. Part of the sub-basement was hand-carved from bedrock, and the floor is now covered with several layers of silt from four floods. Roy Butler of the Bottle Basement has begun excavating the room, and has discovered several artifacts such as a gold plated button, several clay marbles, pieces of glass and an old clay pipe. Once restored, the room

may be used for a pottery classroom or lectures.

The most drastic change planned involves using a side door that opens onto the parking lot as the main entrance, and building a chimney in front of the present entrance. The first floor would eventually include a lobby and two exhibition rooms complete with fireplaces. A fireplace in the present front exhibition room would be closed off. "It never worked anyway," Mrs. Chaves said.

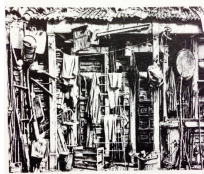
The two rooms upstairs would be used as office and classroom space, and mechanical storage. "We want to have the furnace and fuse box upstairs in case of flooding," Mrs. Chaves explained.

Other plans call for making the building more energy efficient. "In the wintertime, heat goes right up the chimneys and through the cracks," Mrs. Chaves said. Since the fireplace was the original source of heat, they were built without dampers. Several broken

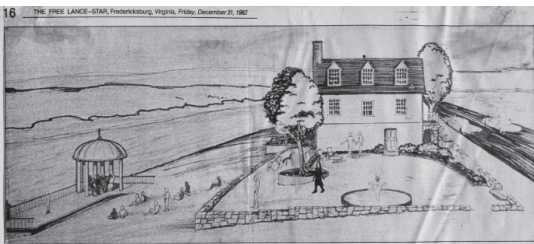
windows upstairs also need to be replaced. "The frame in one window was so rotten that it fell out when I tried to open it one day," Mrs. Chaves recalled.

Gallery members are now organizing a campaign to raise funds for renovation. "It's really worth the effort to fix this building and not move somewhere else," Mrs. Chaves said. Part of our job is architectural preservation... and most people are thoroughly enchanted with the house. We also help to bring business downtown, since the tourists stop here."

According to Mrs. Chaves, the gallery's programs have been strengthened in one way by the building's weaknesses. "Since we can't depend on the building, we've had to go outside into the community." The gallery has held a number of arts and crafts programs in the schools, nursing homes and for several area organizations. The museum has also held lectures and shown films at Belmont, and sponsors two area high school art students yearly to the Three Days in May program at the Virginia Museum in Richmond. The gallery has also begun holding "safaris" to the Virginia Museum, museums in Washington and to Wolf Trap Farm Park in Vienna. Future safaris will include trips to active archeological sites at Kings Mill Plantation in Williamsburg and an underwater dig for sunken Navy vessels near Norfolk.



THE ARTIST AS COLLECTOR



A bandstand and sculpture garden are in the plans at the Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts.

Arts center seeks expansion—outdoors

By CATY JETT
Staff Reporter

The Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts is looking to its own backyard as a way of promoting the arts in the area. On the drawing board are plans to landscape the grassy hill behind the building at 813 Sophia St. and add a sculpture garden, terrace with permanent benches, and a bandstand that will overlook Scott's Island.

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cent meeting and will be submitted to the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation Inc. for its consideration. The bandstand would be the center of the terrace, located in the area, he said. "This is just another way of doing that."

Hovon envisions people taking a stroll through the sculpture garden on the hill. "We're looking for a place to exhibit large works that can't be shown in the gallery," he said. "The terrace would be a place to exhibit small sculpture and a place to exhibit large sculpture."

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THE FREDERICKSBURG GALLERY OF ART
SILVERSMITH'S HOUSE
813 SOPHIA STREET, FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA 22401

September 1974

The Fredericksburg Gallery of Art is pleased to invite you to join its membership.

This is our 10th year at the Silversmith's House. Our 18th century structure serves as the backdrop for the art of the present. Shows are scheduled on a regular basis throughout the year. Admission is free.

Over the years a variety of exhibits have been held. Prospective shows for this year include work by Mary Washington College Art-in-residence, Gus Komodore and Palomac painter, Geri Melchers. Particularly exciting is an upcoming collection of photographs of Fredericksburg and Palomac taken in 1924 by Frances Johnston, a noted woman photographer. Gallery members are invited to previews of each show to meet the artist.

Art courses are offered to the public by the Gallery each year. Well qualified local artists conduct classes in such areas as painting, ballet, weaving, needlepoint, and photography. Watch the Free Lance Star for this year's schedule of topics and teachers. We hope there will be one to interest you or someone you know.

Our Handcraft Room may already be a familiar haunt. A great number of artists and craftsmen display and sell their work here. All Gallery members receive a 10% discount on purchases made.

The Gallery is a non-profit organization designed to serve the community and to promote an appreciation of the work of talented living artists. Its existence is largely dependent on its tax-deductible membership dues. Enclosed is a membership form. We trust that you will join with us in supporting and enjoying this most useful project.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Gallery,

Mrs. Joan O. Chaves
Mrs. Robert C. Wheeler

Membership Committee



1991

ANNUAL REPORT
September 1974

If for no other reason, the year was noteworthy for the completion of ten years of our existence. During those years we increased our membership to 219, expanded our education program, purchased the Gallery from Historic Fredericksburg Foundation Inc., and survived a damaging flood.

Among the accomplishments of the past year could be included the painting of the entire outside of the Gallery, and the addition of shutters on the front, all of which have greatly improved our appearance. Most of the work was done with volunteer help, many members of the Board of Directors, high school students, and interested people in the community. The garden around the Gallery has been enlarged, rocks and shrubbery were moved, ground cover and plantings were added; the vegetable jungle behind us has been cleared and planted with a ground cover. We owe a great deal of thanks to the members of the Town and Country Garden Club who have done most of this work under the supervision of one of our Board Members.

Our financial picture is good in one respect, the current bank balance is in the black. We still carry a mortgage for the purchase of the Gallery which amounts to nearly \$800.00 yearly. A contributing factor to the balance in the bank is the fact that the Gallery was the recipient of four gifts: three air conditioners were donated by two Board Members, and we received a matching grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia Arts and Humanities Commission. This grant is to be used "to assist in creating a physical atmosphere suitable for all types of exhibitions."

We mounted seven shows this past year. They ran the gamut from painting, pottery, and mosaics to ballet, play, and many beautiful kinds of sculpture. For a small gallery our shows manage to include a great deal of variety in art forms. Approximately sixty people enrolled themselves in our various art classes this past year. The courses ran from the usual painting classes to one on needlepoint. This year we plan to continue classes which proved most successful last year and add some new ones besides. We hope you will find something of interest to you.

One suggestion I would like to make to the Membership is this: We are in need of more volunteer workers to help with operating the Gallery, and we would like to solicit your help. Another enclosure is a sheet on which you can indicate where you can lend a hand. Please fill it out and return it with your dues.

As you know, we are a non-profit organization. The bulk of our income is from membership dues. This is 70% of the Gallery, so please help to support it and keep it going. It costs approximately \$150 just to keep the Gallery open and operating. We thank you for your continued interest, and we hope we shall see you often at the Gallery.

Respectfully submitted,

Clayton S. Arnold
Mary C. Arnold, President

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CENTER FOR THE CREATIVE
ARTS

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