

Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

Newsletter

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Sandy Jackson, editor

Shipwreck Exhibit at Carolina Beach Being Considered

At the November meeting of the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society, Mr. Richard Lawrence, head of the North Carolina Underwater Archaeology Unit, discussed how his department and the town of Nags Head created a shoreline exhibit for the USS *Huron* - North Carolina's only Underwater Shipwreck Preserve. With the assistance of the Underwater Archaeology Unit and the town of Carolina Beach, a similar exhibit is now being considered by the Society for placement at the foot of Spartanburg Avenue near the wreck site of the Civil War blockade runner *General Beauregard*. On the night of December 11, 1863, the Union fleet chased the sidewheel steamer ashore one mile south of Gatlin's Battery near what is today Carolina Beach. The *General Beauregard* was headed for Wilmington with a cargo of brown sugar, coffee, bacon, and candles when it sank.

The proposed exhibit, to be modeled after the one at Nags Head, is an octagonal wooden gazebo. Display panels containing photographs and informative text would be placed within the gazebo to depict the history of the *General Beauregard* and the circumstances surrounding its sinking at Carolina Beach. The wreck of the blockade runner is visible from shore suggesting the possibility that buoy markers could be placed on the shipwreck and be visible from the exhibit. Present at the meeting was Carolina Beach mayor Tony Loreti who expressed interest in the project. A report on the proposed project will be presented at our next meeting.

Final Request for Logo Designs

Other news from last month's meeting included the renewed discussion on selecting a logo for the Society. Anyone who wishes to have their design considered for the Society logo should have it ready by the January meeting. Local artist Martin Peebles submitted a design of the early Federal Point lighthouse surrounded by the Society's name. Members will vote next month on their choice of design. The Society would also like to express its gratitude to Cheri McNeill, our Social Committee, for providing refreshments last month.

Society Meeting for December Canceled

At the meeting last month the members of the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society voted to not meet in December due to the holidays. The time and location of the January meeting will be included in the next issue of the *Newsletter*. To all the members and friends of the Society, have a pleasant holiday season and a happy new year. Anyone interested in membership in the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society can write to FPHPS, P.O. Box 623, Carolina Beach, NC 28428.

Sedgeley Abbey Plantation threatened by Development

Land being developed just north of Snows Cut called Telfair Forest includes the historic site of Sedgeley Abbey plantation. Built in the 1700s, possibly by William Lord, Sedgeley Abbey was described "as one of the grandest colonial residence of the Cape Fear." In January 1790 Peter Maxwell obtained the plantation through marriage to Rebecca Guerrard, widow of John Guerrard. The plantation was located on Lord's Creek, presently called Telfairs Creek. The county has notified the owners and an archaeological survey is currently underway to determine the extent of the site which includes the cellar foundation of the plantation house. This is a very important Federal Point colonial site and deserves a special effort by our Society to help preserve it.