

## **Landmarks Commission and Partners Reach Wide Audiences with Events**

*From field trips to workshops, historic preservation draws large crowds*

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Contact: Rob Aitcheson, Preservation Specialist, JCHLC

e: [raitcheson@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:raitcheson@jeffersoncountywv.org)

o: (304) 728-3228

c: (540) 333-7184

Tim Johnson, President, Middleway Conservancy

p: (304) 725-3072

e: [cherokee.builderwv@gmail.com](mailto:cherokee.builderwv@gmail.com)

Charles Town, WV – Starting on October 26<sup>th</sup> and ending on October 28<sup>th</sup>, the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission (JCHLC) and partners presented a series of programs highlighting a historic site along with workshops for the general public and realtors on utilization of State tax credit incentives and how to market historic homes. The series of events were hosted at the Peter Burr Farm Historic Site, Middleway's historic White Church and the Inn at Charles Town.

For two days last week, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students from Berkeley County schools traveled to the Peter Burr Farm Historic Site for special programs. In all, nearly 200 students took part in five educational stations situated around the site. Reliving History Inc. and JCHLC hosted the event which was designed to give kids an idea of 18<sup>th</sup> Century life in what would become Jefferson County, West Virginia.

Additionally, JCHLC and the Middleway Conservancy hosted a Tax Credit workshop for the general public on October 26<sup>th</sup> at Middleway's historic White Church located on East Street. Over 30 people attended the seminar, which was presented by Jennifer Brennan who serves as Tax Credit Coordinator and Development Grant Monitor for the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office. "Middleway was the perfect place for this seminar" said Tim Johnson, President of the Middleway Conservancy. "The Conservancy was very happy to host and I think that all of the people who attended received good information on how to utilize State Historic Preservation Tax Credits to the benefit of historic homes and structures."

Finally, on October 27<sup>th</sup>, the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission and fellow landmarks commissions for Charles Town, Shepherdstown and Harpers Ferry provided a workshop for realtors in West Virginia entitled "Historic Preservation 101." The event was aimed at educating realty professionals about tax credits, Secretary of the Interior Standards for Historic Rehabilitation and tips for marketing historic homes. For Jefferson County, this was the first time any workshop of this kind has been held which resulted in nearly 50 attendees partaking in the 4 hour class. Robin Ziegler, historic zoning administrator for the Metro Nashville Historic Zoning Commission and Jennifer Brennan from the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office presented a series of lectures for the event.

All of the events that took place came at little to no cost to JCHLC and its partners through a grant that was received in April from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. That, in addition to countless volunteer hours and the generosity of partnering organizations, made the area's history and the importance of its preservation a hot topic in Jefferson County.