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401 Morgan Avenue, Harriman



Newsletter

May 2023

Custodians of the Past. Stewards for the Future

CHCO IS OPEN TO ALL INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN PRESERVING AND PROTECTING HISTORIC HARRIMAN. MEMBERS NEED NOT BE A RESIDENT IN A HISTORIC DISTRICT TO BE ACTIVE.



**Living in a
Historic
District
Means living
in a legacy**

Historic Harriman Special Events in June



Cornstalk Heights Historical Community Organization (CHCO) is collaborating with Harriman's Temperance Building Committee for a Renovation Fundraiser 6-9 pm on Friday, June 23rd, at Gates Hall. Information on the Temperance Building vision and renovations will be presented as well as exclusive tours for those in attendance.

Entertainment for the evening includes the big band sounds by The Cumberland Swing Experience, silent auction of local business products & services, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, desserts by "Stand By Your Pan," and 2 very non-Temperance drinks (your choice of beer or wine). Dress Code is whatever you like

– Sunday Best, Swing Dance Era, Victorian, or as-you-are.

Fundraising tickets are \$50 per person, and may be purchased at the Harriman City Office by cash or check, or by credit card on the Eventbrite website.



CHCO is creating a taste of "Americana" by sponsoring a free Ice Cream Social to all in attendance at a Babahatchie Community Band summer concert in Killeffer Park at 3:00 pm on Sunday, June 11th.

"Babahatchie" is the original name of the Emory River, and is credited as an Indian name meaning "babbling waters."

Harriman has a long history of music dating all the way back to Harriman's founding. The photo above was taken in 1942, when the Harriman Community Band wore uniforms for the first time.





Be sure to bring your lawn chair or blanket, and enjoy a Sunday Sundae with your friends and neighbors!

Community Yard June 2nd & 3rd

Residents in the Cornstalk Heights Historic District in invited to participate in a Community Yard Sale Friday & Saturday, June 2nd & 3rd. The City of Harriman is also inviting residents at-large to bring their yard sale items that Saturday to the Riverfront Park, which will make Harriman a bargain-hunter's destination that weekend! Participating residents need only set out their own items for sale, and perhaps set out a directional sign or two focused on your location.

Second Friday on Roane June 9th

The merchants in Harriman's Historic Downtown Commercial District are again holding extended business hours with food trucks and other activities on the 2nd Friday of the summer months. Come join your neighbors to visit the merchants, patronize the food truck, and enjoy the music in The Mayor's Alley.

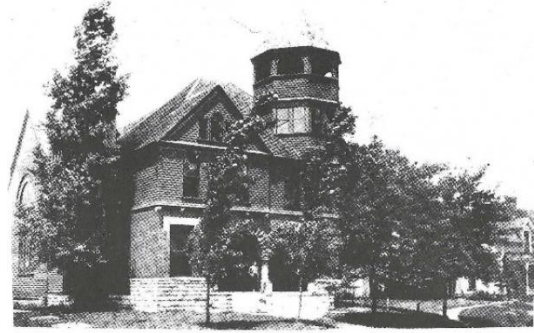
THE GRACE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH CORNERSTONE



Authored by
Bob
Harnden,
Based on
Cornerstone
found on the
Harnden's
Property

In 2010, shortly after moving into our folk Victorian home built in 1892 and purchased soon after by Walter H. Julian, Secretary and Treasurer of Iron Belt Building and Loan Association, we noticed a large engraved stone along the east property line in the backyard. After cleaning off the dirt, we found the inscription "YPCU Grace Universalist Church 1891".

Researching the term "YCPU" in Wikipedia, we learned YCPU stands for Young Peoples Christian Union which was founded in 1889 in Rochester, NY as a youth organization of the Universalist Church. Its focus was on missionary work. The first missionary action of the YCPU was to build a new church in Harriman in association with the very favorable economic conditions and growth opportunity brought by the East Tennessee Land Company.



The Universalist Church at 615 Cumberland St Prior to Demolition

The church, copied above from "Harriman: The Town That Temperance Built", Walter T. Pulliam, was built in 1891 next door to the soon (1892)–to-be built Julian home. The cornerstone was laid on December 2, 1891.

With this knowledge we realized the stone, seemingly cast aside in our backyard, was the

cornerstone for the Grace Universalist Church. The church was dedicated in 1892 and operated until about 1903 when the church was declared “dead” due to falling membership and poor economic conditions in Harriman. In 1923 the church was abandoned. It was sold in 1927. A school for children K-3rd grade was operated by Miss Adeline Williams in the church in the 1920s (Jean Billings, private communication) until the sale.

Finally, in 1932 the church was torn down and replaced by a brick Tudor built by Mr & Mrs Millard Walker. Nevertheless, the cornerstone survived and was likely salvaged by the owners (Julians?) of the Julian-built home next door and placed on the east property side opposite that of the church, only to be re-discovered ca. 78 years later.

The cornerstone has been relocated to its rightful place at the front property corner (SW) shared by the former church (615 Cumberland St.) and the Julian home (621 Cumberland St.) and may be viewed from the sidewalk.

Does Your House Have a Story You Can Share?

Thanks to Bob Harnden for preparing the article on the Universalist Church Cornerstone. This is exactly the type of history that CHHCO needs to preserve through contributions by individuals. Please consider what you can contribute – you’ll enjoy the experience!

Any writing or photographic contributions need to relate to the stated purpose of the organization to enhance the physical, economic and social enrichment of the City of Harriman, to promote the restoration, preservation, protection and use of the Cornstalk Heights Historical Community, and to encourage the understanding and appreciation of Harriman’s history, culture and architecture.

If interested, please contact Bruce Knobloch, Newsletter editor, at 865-621-1274 or baknob@gmail.com to discuss your entry. Please respect that all entries are subject to editorial review before inclusion, and alteration

of the article may be discussed with the author before inclusion.

**Senior Moments Support
Harriman Hall Workdays**

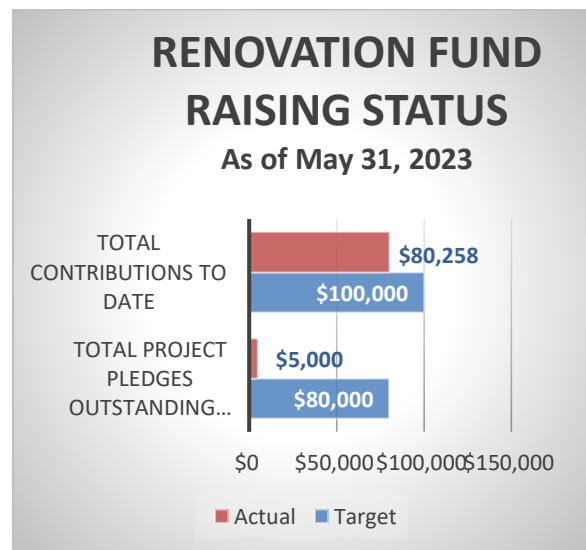
Progress on Harriman Hall in May resulted as much from Senior Moments as the May 20th workday. The initial “sistering” across rotted joists and replacement of rotted sill plates on exterior walls were completed by weekday retirees to allow floorboard, cleanup and preparation to proceed on the Saturday workday. As close as we are to completing the front meeting rooms, the next step is to have contracted craft to install electrical wiring, plumbing and HVAC as applicable. Nevertheless, monthly workdays are important and provides an opportunity for all residents to feel a sense of participation in completing the project. After all, we are the **Volunteer State!**

Historic Harriman Hall Fundraising

All donations go directly to the renovation of Harriman Hall, and are not used for any of the organization’s operating expenses.

Cornstalk Heights Historical Community Organization is a 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are therefore eligible as a tax-deductible charitable contribution to the full extent of the law. Donations can be sent to:

CHHCO
401 Morgan Ave
Harriman, TN 37748



CHHCO Community Calendar

June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Community Yard Sale Riverfront Park & Neighborhoods	3 Community Yard Sale Riverfront Park & Neighborhoods
4	5	6	7 11-2 Food Truck next to City Offices (Walden Ave)	8	9 5-8 FRIDAY NIGHTS ON ROANE	10 7:00 RCCT Summer Intensive presents 6 x 10 Princess Theatre
11 3:00 Sundae Concert In the Park Killeffer Park	12	13	14 11-2 Food Truck next to City Offices (Walden Ave)	15 7:00 CHHCO Board Meeting 408 Roane, Visitors Welcome	16	17
18 FATHER'S DAY	19	20	21 11-2 Food Truck next to City Offices (Walden Ave)	22	23 6-9pm Temperance Preview Party & Tour Gates Hall	24 9-noon Harriman Hall Workday
25	26	27	28 11-2 Food Truck next to City Offices (Walden Ave)	29	30	