

THE HERITAGE

From the first major renovation project to the current work in progress... The Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund's Contribution

"The City had bought the Mansion for the Walters Art Gallery, but the Museum was not able to use it. The City was debating the Mansion's fate. Bernie Werner, ESB member and Director of Public Works offered it to the Club 'until we could find permanent quarters.' The Club readily accepted and President Arthur Gompf signed the lease on January 18, 1961. We soon realized that we occupied a diamond in the rough and offered to buy it. The City sold it for its investment in the building--\$262,000 in 1962 when Rip Hewitt was president."

Jack Gillett, ESB member
The Heritage Summer 2004

Douglas H. Gordon, a lawyer and founder of the Mt. Vernon Improvement Association in 1938, (though he never lived on the square surrounding the Monument) is credited with saving the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion and almost the entire southern section of buildings on the West square from urban renewal. After Dr. Jacobs' death, it was sold at public auction to a funeral home, later sold to the Masons, then finally to the City of Baltimore where it sat abandoned and unheated for three years. According to the late John Dorsey, "Mr.

Gordon went to court 300 times continuing a series of zoning battles that Dr. Henry Barton Jacobs himself had helped to launch. It was the only time a Walters Bond Bill was denied." (*The Heritage News* Fall 2000).



The Engineering Society of Baltimore's purchasing the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion in 1962 marked the beginning of a stewardship that is unparalleled in our city. While improvements and renovations were made from the beginning of its purchase including the work of the Women's Auxiliary whose members brought furniture from their own homes along with dishes and other necessities, it was not enough. By 1971, the Mansion was recognized by the Maryland Historic Trust.

A Big Thank you

A heartfelt thank you to **State Senator Verna Jones** and **Delegate Keith Haynes** for sponsoring the **\$200,000** bond bill in the State Legislature. The funds are being used for the ballroom restoration.



November's Crush

Last November's Crush at the Mansion netted **\$23,000** with approximately **140 people** attending it.



Robert Leach, GJMEF Trustee



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THE
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"Heritage" is distributed to members and friends of The Garrett-Jacob Mansion Endowment on a quarterly basis.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund is to preserve and restore the Mansion as a National Historic Landmark and to share the history, architectural and civic legacy of the Mansion for the benefit and education of the public.

The Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund's Contribution from page 1

Former President of the ESB and GJMEF, Bill Boland stated in the Summer 2003 issue of *The Heritage News*, "It was early in 1995 that Don Blum, ESB Executive Director and I decided to activate the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund (GJMEF). The legal work had been done earlier, but little fundraising had been accomplished. The Engineers Club over its 90-year life had never had a 501(c)(3) entity to which supporters could make a tax-deductible contribution." In his words, "The timing to start a campaign was actually too late as we had a building in real trouble. The façade was literally falling off and causing a serious safety problem. The boiler plant and piping was over 50 years old and some wiring was still in wooden conduit. There were fire and egress issues to deal with also. Almost everywhere you looked there was work to be done."

The initial campaign was directed to business and individuals who were ESB members. In addition to direct appeals, they held Fire Balls, Boiler Blasts, Fall Fests and launched a program called "Friends of the Mansion." Other sources for revenue are State bond funding, tax credits, and gifts from charitable contributors.

Because of the advanced stage of deterioration, restoration of the **façade** was selected for the first construction. Designed initially

by Stanford White in 1884 and extended by John Russell Pope in 1902, the addition was suffering from decades of visible erosion and awkward attempts at repair. The project included removing previous patching and coating compounds, the repair of broken and flaking details, and the repair and painting of windows. Large stone elements of the façade, such as the roof and porch balustrades were included.



Front Lower Entry

The first phase of the **Boiler Room** replacement project followed with new boilers, pumps, controls, and heating system mains by 1999. Along the way, a new **kitchen** was designed and completed in 2001. If needed, the kitchen was designed so it could be dismantled and returned to a gallery. **The Requardt Room** with its rich red wall conducive to meeting and dining was redesigned in 2002. During the project, the designer Evelyn Gorman

The Tours Are Back...

Tuesdays through Fridays
from 1:00 to 4:00 on an ad hoc basis.

The charge remains \$5.00.
Reservations are encouraged for groups.



The Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund's Contribution *from page 2*

discovered there were three windows hidden for years that now let in natural light. Also on the lower level, the **Card** and **Pool Rooms** were renovated. On the top of the Mansion was the **Roof Deck Restoration** Project. Although you cannot see the work up there, we all benefit from it. This restoration was made possible by a matching-funds grant from the Maryland Historic Trust.



Courtyard Atrium

Building the **Courtyard Skylight Enclosure**, an engineering phenomenon allowed for the expansion of events and catering services. The Building Congress and Exchange of Metropolitan Baltimore recognized the craftsmen who skillfully applied their talents. Also in 2006, the **first floor** got more air-conditioning and the **ASHRAE Room** was remodeled.

The **Drawing Room** restoration, complete with gold leaf, a custom-woven Stark rug, and portraits of the Garretts, was completed in 2007.



Drawing Room Gas-flame logs

It is a celebrated venue for events for decades to come. Also, this room was modernized with fire protection sprinklers, concealed emergency lighting, an updated fire alarm system, and increased power for events. No more extension cords. This restoration was granted a **Project Award** by Baltimore Heritage, Inc. The first floor **Ladies Room** was renewed in 2007. The **Tiffany Glass** restoration involved two matching windows in the spiral staircase. The scope of this work included strengthening the protective metal cages outside the windows, replacing the frames and hardware, and the complete cleaning of all the surfaces. This project's funding was made possible in part by the 2006 Heritage Dinner.



Tiffany Spiral Dome

In May 2009, The Baltimore Architecture Foundation presented its **Golden Griffin Award** to the Engineers Club and the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund for their tireless efforts to restore and maintain one of Baltimore's greatest architectures.

Finally, the **Ballroom/Theatre** is a blend of French Classical Baroque and Rococo architecture from the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. This 30' x 70' room has never received any serious attention since 1939 when it ceased to be a private home. If you have not taken a close



The Ballroom

look at it lately, then politely do so. You'll see the detailed craftsmanship and artistry in the Ballroom that sorely needs restoration along with the floors, walls, plaster, ceiling, and skylight—bottom to top. When the Ballroom/Theatre restoration is complete, it will be the center of much of the Mansion's activity—dinners, weddings, concerts, and meetings, a people friendly place like no other in Baltimore. It will be more than a museum-like renovation. The Ballroom/Theatre will bring back the ambience when Dr. & Mrs. Jacobs entertained in it during the "Gilded Age." This final restoration will bring the cost of the combined projects over the years to \$6 million. Each year 40,000 members and visitors assemble at the Mansion ensuring the Mansion's rightful place in Baltimore and in Maryland.

The Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund wishes to thank the charitable foundations, major contributors, state and local government agencies, Engineering Club members, and Friends of the Mansion for restoring this Baltimore "grande dame." ■

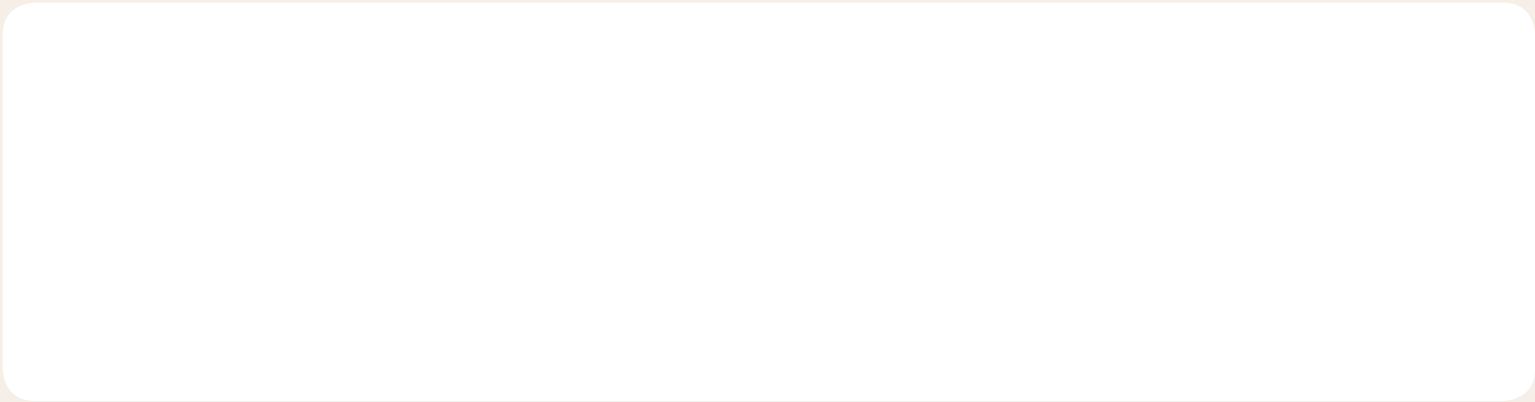
Coming up in the Spring

The **Heritage Dinner** on **Friday April 16** at a cost of **\$75** per person. Contact **J** at **410-539-6914** for details and reservations. Guests, who make a \$500 or greater donation to the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund that evening, will enjoy their meal compliments of the Engineers Club.



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Become a "Friend" and Make a Contribution Your Help is Needed to Help Preserve the Mansion

Your support can help the trustees in their on-going effort to restore and preserve this landmark property, listed in the National Register as part of the Mount Vernon Place Historic District and documented in the Library of Congress as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey.

Benefits include a subscription to Heritage News, advance notice of public events at the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion.

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\$100 - \$249 **Jacobs Friend**
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Up to \$100 **Garret Friend**
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Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

The Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund, Inc.
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