



City of Harrisonburg  
 Public Information Office  
 409 South Main Street  
 Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801  
 540-432-8931 (office)

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Contact: Mary-Hope Vass, Public Information Officer  
 540.432.8931  
[MaryHope.Vass@HarrisonburgVA.gov](mailto:MaryHope.Vass@HarrisonburgVA.gov)

## Public Invited to Learn How Harrisonburg’s History is Being Discovered

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg, along with its project partners, invite members of the community to an open house to learn more about the preliminary findings of the Thomas Harrison House restoration project.

A presentation by the partner agencies and open house will be held on **Thursday, August 9** starting at 6:00 p.m. This will be held in the Massanutten Regional Library, 174 S. Main Street, and members of the public are invited.

The city purchased the Thomas Harrison House in 2014 with plans to research and restore this piece of history.

In early 2017, a project began to uncover a piece of Harrisonburg’s history. Multiple studies have been conducted on the Thomas Harrison House, which is located west of the intersection of Main and Bruce streets. The partners for these studies include the city, Margaret Grattan Weaver Foundation, Asbury United Methodist Church, Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, Frazier Associates, and James Madison University (JMU).

Dr. Carole Nash, with JMU, and her students conducted an archaeological survey of the cellar kitchen and site to uncover artifacts and to collect additional information about the time in which this structure was built. These artifacts were put on display in June 2017 for the public to see the progress of this project.

Samples of the wood hearth were sent for a dendrochronology study, in addition to dating the pottery, and identifying animal bones that were found.

The restoration project has been funded by the city and the Margaret Grattan Weaver Foundation. Ultimately, it is envisioned that the Thomas Harrison House will be restored to a period reflective of its time and serve as a showcase for a piece of Harrisonburg and the region’s history.

Following the presentation members of the public are invited to tour the Thomas Harrison House and what remains of the Hall House.

Additional information can be found at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/thomas-harrison-house](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/thomas-harrison-house).



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