

Preservation Warrenton honors 'Partners'

By LUCI WELDON
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Preservation Warrenton, Inc. continued its annual tradition of honoring its "Partners in Preservation" with a reception and program Saturday evening at Shady Grove Plantation, the Inez home of Noel and Donna Robertson.

The evening began with music by the Vance-Granville Community College Ensemble and a time of refreshments.

During the program that followed, Preservation Warrenton Vice President Harriet Banzet welcomed the 90 persons who attended.

"We are extremely pleased to have you as Partners in Preservation for 2011," she said.

Banzet expressed appreciation to the Partners for their dedication and also thanked the Robertsons for hosting this year's event, providing a brief history of the couple's restoration work at Shady Grove.

Banzet expressed appreciation to Vance-Granville Community College for their support of Preservation Warrenton before George Henderson, dean of Vance-Granville's Warren County Campus, outlined the community college's music program.

Preservation Warrenton President Noel Robertson

expressed appreciation for the Partners' dedication and described the organization's efforts to increase young people's awareness about preserving local historical resources.

"Let me thank you as a group of great supporters," he said. "We have to make our mission fit with working to develop an interest in preservation, especially among young people."

Efforts to spark an interest in preservation among youth have included working with Warren Early College High School students to teach them about architectural styles found in the county.

"When you affect a mind, it is really something," Robertson said.

Using what was taught to the youth as inspiration, he presented a slide show of homes of various architectural styles beginning with the Georgian style of pre-Revolutionary War times and moving through history.

Through slides, Robertson showed that other areas in the country may have produced homes that provided examples of the "pure" form of each style, but Warren County builders used their know-how to create their own interpretations of each form.

Robertson used slides to compare the more "pure"



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With the grounds of his Inez home, Shady Grove Plantation, in the background, Preservation Warrenton, Inc. President Noel Robertson highlights architectural styles found in the local area during the annual Partners in Preservation event Saturday.

version of the architectural style with the local interpretation, or "vernacular" form, showing a number of homes from throughout Warren County, including his own Shady Grove.

He said that Preservation Warrenton's Spring Homes Tour, which will be held in April 2012, is expected to focus on the local examples of these varied architectural styles.

The Early College students who devoted time

and effort to learning about these various forms will be among the docents helping tour attendees learn more about the featured homes.

Robertson said that educational efforts are an important part of Preservation Warrenton's role in the community.

"If we can make our mission touch as many young lives as we can, and people our age, it will be worthwhile," he said.