

Heart of stone

ROCK HOUSE MAKES STATE LANDMARKS REGISTER

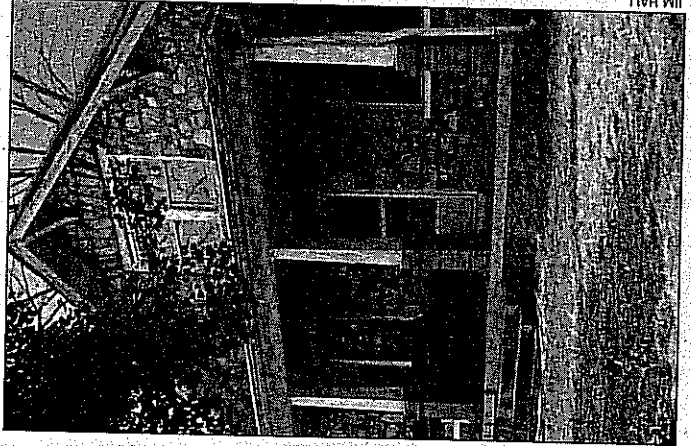
*From rubble to rehab in
less than two years*

The C.B. Holt Rock House, an 80-year-old Preston Avenue property owned by the Legal Aid Justice Center that only two years ago was facing possible demolition, was approved by the State Department of Historic Resources Board for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register last week.

The Arts and Crafts bungalow, a rare example in this area, was hand-built by Charles Holt, an African-American furniture repairman. It has been the subject of intense research and a \$230,000 fundraising drive to restore it since researchers first uncovered its significance in 2004. In short, Holt constructed his home against the considerable odds of the Jim Crow era.

Legal Aid Executive Director Alex Gulotta says the State awarded the designation both for "its historic value from an architectural point of view and its social history." With \$130,000 left to raise by December, Gulotta says the State nod could mean Legal Aid will get "some of the momentum we need" to reach that goal before deadline. The National Park Service will consider the Rock House for a place on the National Register by the end of April.

On Tuesday, April 18, Legal Aid will dedicate the house formally and NAACP Chairman and UVA history professor Julian Bond will be the guest speaker.—
Cathy Harding



The C.B. Holt Rock House was about to fall over two years ago. Now designated as a Virginia historical resource, the house is a bona-fide landmark.

JIM HALL