



RIPS NEWS

Advocates for Historic Architecture

www.RockIslandPreservation.org

Membership Meetings

- May 12, 2014**
Monday
6:45 PM
Rock Island City Hall Council Chambers, 1503 2nd Avenue
Award Presentation and Reception during City Council Meeting. Please be prompt as the RIPS Awards will be first on the agenda
See related articles
- June 17, 2014**
Tuesday
7:00 PM
Butterworth Center, 1105 8th Street, Moline
Regular business meeting
- July 15, 2014**
Tuesday
6:15 PM
Hauberg Civic Center, 1400 24th Street
Annual Summer Indoor Potluck featuring Special Guest Bill Nelson, Rock Island Parks and Recreation Director, with a presentation on Park History and Rock Island Parks. Bring a dish to share and enjoy the company.

Remember to keep the third Tuesday of each month marked on your calendar for monthly RIPS meetings and activities

MEMBERSHIP

Is your membership up to date?

Check the mailing label on this newsletter. If you're current, it should say "Membership Expires Feb 2015" (or later). We do try to keep folks on our mailing list as long as possible (and we do have a few complimentary memberships), but mailings are expensive and our dues are very low. We will be cutting this mail list after this newsletter, so if your membership is not current, please send your \$10 per person annual dues to RIPS, PO Box 3261, Rock Island, IL 61204-3261. If you think you've sent your dues and they're not reflected on the label, please call 788-1845 or email blueskies78900@yahoo.com

PRESERVATION AWARDS RECEPTION

Each year after our awards are presented, we have a short informal reception for our winners. This year, we have also invited the new owners of the GROWTH projects as well as several owners who have projects underway that will be candidates for recognition next year.

However we need our RIPS members to come and bring a treat – dessert or hors d'oeuvres – to share with our guests. Linda will bring a beverage and necessary tableware, but we hope you'll come, too, and bring a treat.

You can bring your food contribution to the basement conference room in city hall – right at the foot of the stairs and the elevator – before the council meeting. If the room is occupied, one of our RIPS members will be there to take your food.



*919 19th Street.
Photo by Daryl Empen*

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Every May, RIPS celebrates National Historic Preservation Month by presenting annual Awards and Certificates of Recognition. We honor individuals, groups, or businesses who have made special efforts to preserve or restore historic structures in our community or whose actions have served to support the historic qualities of Rock Island. Our awards are given primarily for exterior details that can be enjoyed from public right of way and are generally for work completed the previous year.

This year, the awards will be presented at the beginning of the Monday, May 12, City Council meeting.

We urge you to show your support for preservation and come to both the presentation and the reception that immediately follows.

The presentation begins at 6:45 pm in the Council Chambers on the third floor of Rock Island City Hall, 1528 Third Avenue. Afterwards, we will convene in the basement conference room for a reception for our award winners and others. (see *related article*)

This year we are presenting two Preservation Awards, both to the Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation (Growth), headed by Brian Hollenback, and two Certificates of Recognition.

**K.T. & Netta Anderson House,
917 19th Street
Award Honoree: GROWTH**

One of Rock Island's most outstanding Colonial Revival homes was given a complete interior and exterior restoration and renovation by Rock Island Economic Growth. The home had been vacant and fallen into disrepair. The extensive exterior repairs involved significant restoration of an ornate curved front porch with a balcony as well as repairs to the unique two-layered clapboard siding. Original windows, including those with spiderweb and other tracery, were kept and repaired. This home was the site of a special RIPS program last spring featuring Netta Anderson. Subsequently it was listed as an official Rock Island Landmark this year, based on research submitted by Linda Anderson. It is one of Rock Island's most significant residential properties

*Upper photo: 1042 17th Street
Middle photo: 1208 19th Street
Lower photo: 600 block of 10th Street
Photos by Daryl Empen*

**Infill Housing: Broadway Historic District
(1042 17th Street & 1208 19th Street) and
New Old Chicago Neighborhood (600
block of 10th Street)
Award Honoree: GROWTH**

A brand new traditional neighborhood in the Old Chicago area of Rock Island was carefully designed to complement that historic part of our city. This group of eight houses covers both sides of 10th Street just south of Second Baptist Church and north of 7th Avenue. They are 1 ½ and 2 story homes, with usable front porches, windows on all sides, and, very important in a historic neighborhood, garages accessed from the alley. Each home is designed to have a unique architectural character. These elements combine to create a new livable neighborhood in a part of the city that has seen much demolition. Five of the homes are completed, most are sold, and the remaining three are nearly completed. Because the overall impact of this block is so important, the normal RIPS requirement that work be completed before an award is given was waived.

Two new infill homes in the Broadway Historic District are also included in this award. Located at 1042 17th Street and 1208 19th Street, the homes are well suited in size, scale, and detail to complement their century-old neighbors. Both homes feature double front gables, a common architectural feature in Broadway, a wrap-around front porch, and bay windows. Windows appear on all sides, which is a feature not always found in newer homes.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

House at 1923 10th Avenue Certificate of Recognition Honoree: Ray & Jenny Salisbury

Inappropriate siding was removed in an unveiling that revealed the original clapboard and some hidden decorative windows. The clapboard was restored and the home was painted in period-appropriate colors. Several decades ago, the front porch had been removed and replaced with a smaller concrete one. The Salisburys retained this newer porch, but replaced the awkward-looking iron supports and railings with more appropriate wood.

House at 1612 22nd Street Certificate of Recognition Honoree: Karen Young

A porte cochere is a secondary porch-like entrance, specifically designed to permit someone to disembark from a carriage (or auto) and go directly into a house. Although they are uncommon in Rock Island, this home in the Highland Park Historic District still boasts its original carriage-sized porte cochere. A century after it was built, the cantilevered roof of the porte cochere was leaning dangerously. After a complete restoration, it is now structurally sound and looks as it did when the house was first built.

WHY PRESERVE OLD BUILDINGS?

It's good for the NEIGHBORHOOD!

- ✓ *Preservation promotes neighborhood stability and revitalization.*
- ✓ *Preservation attaches people to their neighborhood and encourages public participation in their community and their government.*
- ✓ *Preservation reduces vacancy. Vacant housing and vacant lots reduce property values.*
- ✓ *Preservation spurs further rehabilitation.*
- ✓ *"Preservation is making opportunities for contact with our shared heritage, and that is the glue that holds us together." – Richard Moe, President of the National Trust*

It's good for the ENVIRONMENT!

- ✓ *Preserving a building is the ultimate in recycling. It keeps construction materials out of the landfill.*
- ✓ *Preservation saves the embodied energy of a building. Much energy was required to excavate, manufacture and transport the bricks, glass, steel and wood used to build an existing building.*
- ✓ *Preservation uses existing infrastructure, promotes walkable and bikeable communities and decreases urban sprawl.*

It's good for the ECONOMY!

- ✓ *Preservation brings jobs and dollars to the local economy. Restoration of a building employs skilled local tradesmen and their wages recirculate through the local economy.*
- ✓ *Preservation and designation of historic districts maintains or increases property values.*
- ✓ *Preservation supports cultural and heritage tourism bringing outside dollars to the community*
- ✓ *Preservation adds to a community's quality of life, an important element in attracting new residents and new businesses.*
- ✓ *Preservation of Rock Island's historic buildings tells our unique story and differentiates us from all other communities.*



Restored porte cochere at 1612 22nd Street

WHY I LIKE OLD BUILDINGS

At a recent business meeting, Leslie O’Ryan suggested that there were many stories our members could tell – starting with why each of us was interested in preservation and why we love our old buildings. In this section of the newsletter, and at future RIPS meetings, members are invited to share their stories about their affection for old homes. We invite you to share your own story. This newsletter features Leslie’s own comments as well as that of new RIPS member, Dylan Parker.

From Leslie:

Some say that there are two types of people, ‘old house’ people and ‘new house’ people. I suspect most people fall somewhere along the continuum. However, one thing is for certain - most people, one way or another, are drawn to old homes.

Scott Austin Sidler, in his Preservation Nation blog shares his understanding of the importance of old homes. He says, *“Old houses tell a story. They have a history. There is something about running your hand down a banister that generations of people have held in their hands for centuries. It gives you a sense of place and time, and a perspective on where you fit in this huge, sometimes impersonal world. You are a part -- a small but important part -- of a much greater story.”*

“A history book contains pictures and stories of what life was like in years gone by -- but those stories are locked within the boundaries of the binding. A museum displays actual artifacts from these times, but they’re roped off and safely guarded behind glass.”

“But walking into a historic house is like stepping back in time and being wrapped up in the pages of that history book, being a part of the history. As tactile beings, the ability to touch and interact with pieces of history is the most profound way to connect to the times and places they came from. Each historic home I work on has its own story -- and though I may make my living as a carpenter or tile layer or glazier, I’m really just a reader of homes. Stepping into each old house is like opening a new book. And as I read, I learn more and more until I feel comfortable enough writing my own chapter: leaving my mark along with the artists and craftsman of the past whose work I respect so greatly, and hoping that my own meager contribution will be of a quality they deem worthy of inclusion in their book from so long ago.”

From Dylan:

As my girlfriend and I begin the exciting and complicated first time home-buying experience, there is one thing we know already: We want to purchase an older home in a historic neighborhood. We can debate the number of bedrooms or the stalls in the garage, but we both knew from the beginning, it was going to be an old home. There are a variety of reasons I have distanced myself from new developments, ranging from personal aesthetics to political and environmental concerns about urban sprawl. But there’s something beyond that, which is present in a historic home.

I don’t mean some sappy cliché about “priceless” historic homes. No, I mean that historic homes represent something deeper. Old homes, like old trees, have roots. They don’t simply exist, but they have an identity. New homes ‘exist;’ they provide the necessary parts of a home to be quantified as a residential structure, but they fail to provide much more than that. For example, Rock Island was once a huge lumber producer, evident in every historic home’s wood siding. These homes successfully weave a narrative of not only the actual buildings, but of the time and place where they stood. Perhaps our newer homes will tell future residents of a time when America was bolstering China’s economy and creating the golden age of vinyl siding....but that’s not a history in which I want to participate.

No, I’d much rather buy an older home--even a neglected historic home--to plant my own set of roots into the rich Rock Island soil. Buying a home for the first time is much more than meeting with lenders or collecting pay stubs; it’s joining yourself with a geographical and physical location. I think our architects and families from earlier times were much keener on this idea than we are today. It’s apparent in all facets of American life, from landfills and environmentally irresponsible agricultural practices to even our childhood mythos of cowboys and the ever westward “fresh starts.” I want to really live somewhere--with a hard “L.” I want to sweat while stripping over-painted wood accents and experience awkwardness while getting to know my neighbors. I want to commit to a community, not just a mortgage payment. Life is to be lived, not simply performed--and I believe it is lived best in an older historic home.

***We invite you to tell us
your story!***

Go to RockIslandPreservation.org
and “Contact Us”