



RIPS NEWS

Advocates for Historic Architecture

www.RockIslandPreservation.org

Membership Meetings

- May 16, 2016
Monday
6:45 PM
City Council Chambers, Rock Island City Hall
Presentation of Historic Preservation Awards, followed by a reception in the basement conference room. *See related article on pages 2 & 3*
- June 21, 2016
Tuesday
7:00 PM
Home of Martin Bush, 1225 37th Avenue, Rock Island
General business meeting
- July 19, 2016
Tuesday
6:30 PM
Hauberg Civic Center, 1400 24th Street
Annual Summer Indoor Potluck. Bring a dish to share and enjoy the company. Note the early start! A few helpers are needed at 6:00 to help set up.

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

HARD HAT TOUR – THE STAR BLOCK

The Star Block at 1821 – 1829 2nd Avenue in downtown Rock Island is currently being renovated by Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation. Construction Director, Andrew Fisher will lead a hard hat tour for RIPS **members only** through the building on May 10th at 5:30PM. The building is a construction site with uneven floors, drywall dust and long dark staircases that need to be navigated, so please dress accordingly and possibly bring a flashlight.

Space is limited so you will need to RSVP
to Linda Anderson at LWickerRPh@aol.com or 309-786-7917.



The Star Block, designed by architect Isaac Holmes, was built in downtown Rock Island in 1874. The block is actually 3 separate buildings, designed to appear as a single entity tied together by a common cornice featuring large brackets. Decorative surrounds embellish the windows. The three-dimensional star in the peak and the painted “BLOCK” are original.

Street level storefronts were cast iron with recessed entrances. Two styles of leaded prism glass are featured in the transoms. Early businesses located in the Star Block include Walker and Dodge clothing firm, Schmidt & Son Barbers, City Meat Market, and a showroom for Fred Haas who crafted and sold stoves, steam brewing kettles, the Baudelot Beer Cooler, and all kinds of copper and sheet metal work. The upper floors were home to professional offices and residences. A full block of matching facades stretching west to 18th Street was never realized. The Star Block was designated a Rock Island local landmark in 1991. First floor and exterior restoration work was completed soon after. The current renovation efforts include work on the exterior, first level storefronts updating and transforming the upper stories into living spaces. *Photo by Daryl Empen*

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

In our annual tradition, RIPS will present the Historic Preservation Awards for work completed during 2015 or earlier at the beginning of the Rock Island City Council meeting on **Monday, May 16, at 6:45 PM** in the Council Chambers on the third floor of Rock Island City Hall.

RIPS members are encouraged to attend, to show our support for these awards and for preservation in general.

After this part of the Council meeting, we leave - quietly! – and adjourn to the basement conference room, where we have a reception for our winners.

RIPS members are asked to bring a treat, either savory or sweet, for the reception.

This year we are presenting two Historic Preservation Awards, one Certificate of Recognition, and four Special Stewardship Awards.

AWARDS

Knox Chapel, 2106 7th Avenue Honoree: Steven and Cynthia Pressly (Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Home)

The former Larson Funeral Home was vacant and vandalized, when Steve and Cindy Pressly purchased it and began an extensive restoration, both inside and out. The original 1860 era home was converted to a funeral home in 1935, when a beautiful chapel and an east wing were added. Through the years, it was mostly impeccably maintained, until the past decade, when ownership transitioned a few times and deterioration quickly set in. The Presslys have restored both the interior and the extensive grounds to make this once again an asset to its nearby residential neighborhood and to Rock Island.



Rock Island Public Library, 401 19th Street Honorees: Angela Campbell, Library Director

The project started with repairing the chimney of the century old Rock Island Library. Stoneworker Otto Baum's intent was to disassemble and rebuild the top part of the chimney using the original sandstone facing from North Amherst, Ohio. But most of it was too deteriorated to reuse so a search was made for a stone that would match the current appearance of the original stone (gray weathered to gold) and a replacement was found in Ashford, Ohio, quarries. More recently the exterior stone throughout the library was cleaned and restored as other exterior restoration was undertaken. The wide front steps were removed and rebuilt because the underpinnings and foundation were crumbling. This work was done over a period of 9 months



by Northwest Restoration and was paid for by general city funds. It is noteworthy that the building is now on a maintenance plan so that a project of this magnitude will not need to be repeated in future years.

CERTIFICATE

House at 730 19th Street Honoree: Dan Cleaveland

The original front porch was removed from this circa 1865 home decades ago and a small rickety replacement served for many years, until it too was removed, leaving an outline of the original porch on the brick wall. Once a blurred historic photo was discovered, owner Dan Cleaveland who has been restoring this home for some time, was able to restore the original appearance. With his contractor, Earl Hofer, the new porch was designed and constructed. This detailed porch restoration has earned a Certificate of Recognition.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

SPECIAL STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

RIPS awards are frequently given for projects which have done extensive repair and restoration on buildings. Yet it is important to recognize those owners who continue to do appropriate maintenance and upkeep so that their buildings do not need repair and restoration. The following four Special Stewardship Awards recognize public and semi-public buildings whose owners have made special efforts to maintain their building(s).

Royal Neighbors of America Headquarters 230 16th Street

Honorees: Cynthia Tidwell, President/CEO

If we didn't know the Royal Neighbors headquarters building was constructed in 1928, it could easily be mistaken for brand new, so carefully is it maintained. Its smooth Bedford stone walls support a colorful slate roof, while the magnificent filigree bronze doors and transom glow like new. The stone walls hold carvings, including one over the entrance arch by sculptress Nellie V. Walker, a nationally known affiliate of Lorado Taft's Midway Studio in Chicago. All in all, this building is a testament to the quality of the original materials as well as loving maintenance over the past 90 years.



Coventry Apartments (Rosenfield Mansion) 1900 6th Avenue

Honoree: Manager Linda Work

When Harris Webber Ltd. constructed the Coventry Apartments in 1977, the historically significant 1893 Rosenfield Mansion was incorporated into the design to be used as public spaces for the residents of the apartments. Updated at the time, the mansion has continued to be well maintained. The home was in use as a private residence until it was sold in 1920 to St. Joseph's church for use as a convent residence. That use continued until 1957 when it was sold to the Tri-City Jewish Center for use as an educational center. Both of these religious entities were also careful caretakers of the residence.

Word of Life Church 1808 7th Avenue

Honoree: Pastor Tanner Payton

The church occupies one of the oldest and most magnificent homes in the Quad Cities. Built in 1854-55 as the home of Charles Buford and his family, it remained a private residence until 1936, when it was sold to the Tri-City Jewish Center. That congregation built the large addition at the rear, but left the historic home, then only 84 years old, undisturbed, both inside and out. After the Jewish Center constructed a new home on 30th Street, this building was sold to the Word of Life Church in 1982. Both groups have shown meticulous stewardship of this unique home with its religious facility in the rear addition.



Rock Island Public Schools

Honoree: Supt. Mike Oberhaus

Brick buildings are sometimes considered to be maintenance-free, but they are not. Although frequent exterior maintenance, except for trim paint, is not needed, brick must be occasionally tuckpointed. This amounts to removing old deteriorated mortar between the bricks and then replacing it with new. This is a tedious project that is both necessary and expensive. The Rock Island School district is recognized for the tuckpointing projects that have recently been completed at four school buildings: Denkmann, Thurgood Marshall (former Grant School), Rock Island High School, and Horace Mann.

All photos in this article by Daryl Empen

Your annual dues help support RIPS activities such as the annual Historic Preservation Awards. Check the mailing label on this newsletter for your membership expiration date. Please continue your membership and send your \$10 per person annual dues to RIPS, PO Box 3261, Rock Island, IL 61204-3261. If you have sent your dues and they're not reflected on the label, please call 788-1845 or email blueskies78900@yahoo.com

HAUBERG ESTATE LANDMARK DESIGNATION

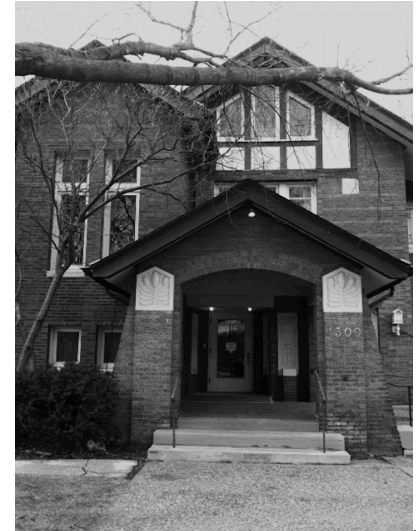
The Denkmann - Hauberg Estate at 1300, 1301 and 1326 24th Street received local landmark designation from the Rock Island Preservation Commission on April 20, 2016.

The designation includes the home, garage, tool house and land forms. RIPS nominated the estate based on three criteria in the Rock Island Preservation Ordinance: representing an architectural style which retains a high degree of integrity; associated with an important person or event in national, state or local history; and notable work of a master builder, designer, architect or artist.

The Denkmann-Hauberg house is arguably the most outstanding example of a high style Prairie mansion in Rock Island. Representative of the gabled roof subtype, horizontal banding of art glass windows that work their way around the geometric non-historical shaped house combine with traditional medieval half-timbering elements into a Prairie Style masterpiece. The original garage and stable building and the tool house complement the size and architecture of the home. All retain a high degree of integrity.

The contributions of both Susanne (Denkmann) and John H. Hauberg are legendary and lasting. Susanne's civic activities focused on children and the poor including establishment of West End Settlement and Rock Island YWCA. John was instrumental in the designation of Black Hawk State Park and donated his personal collection to create Hauberg Indian Museum. His contributions include recorded oral histories of early pioneers, hundreds of glass negatives of local buildings and people, and the founding of Black Hawk Hiking Club in Rock Island.

Susanne commissioned Robert C. Spencer, a friend and office mate of Frank Lloyd Wright, to design her home. Spencer was known for combining the modern Prairie style with historic elements, especially half-timbering, and including a wide variety of design elements based on stylized floral form. Jens Jensen, nationally renowned as the father of the prairie landscape, was hired to design and oversee the installation of the gardens on the 17 acre property to include a terraced garden, open meadow and native woodland. Signed original copies of Jens Jensen's planting plans are hanging on walls in the Denkmann - Hauberg



home. A Jens Jensen landscape is intended to mature and change over time, and this landscape certainly has. But the land forms, entry drive, bridge, and terrace garden steps are intact as is the essence of a living, evolving natural landscape.

FRIENDS OF HAUBERG

In late January, everyone was taken by surprise when a proposal was made to City Council to sell Rock Island's historic Denkmann-Hauberg home, now known as Hauberg Civic Center. Public outcry caused the council to decline the potential sale. However financial issues facing the RI Parks Department were noted as a continuing problem.

To help support Hauberg, Friends of Hauberg Civic Center (FOHCC) was organized and began to work with the City. Currently, FOHCC has initiated the process to become a 501c3 non-profit group. In the meantime, evaluation of the needs, both physical as well as marketing and use, of the facility has begun. Your membership is encouraged and dues of only \$20 may be sent to FOHCC, P.O. Box 3174, Rock Island IL 61204-3174. Please include your email address for updates.

Larger donations may be sent to the same address, but with checks payable to Friends of Long View (FOLV) with the notation that the donation is for Hauberg. FOLV is a non-profit and those donations will be tax deductible. Once FOHCC acquires the 501c3 designation, funds collected by FOLV will be transferred

The Denkmann - Hauberg Estate joins a varied list of local landmark properties including private homes, businesses, public buildings and the local historic district, Highland Park. Local designation does not restrict the use of the property, however exterior changes and alternations, as well as proposed demolition, would require review by the Preservation Commission. The Denkmann - Hauberg mansion is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places as are 14 other individual Rock Island properties and the Broadway Historic District. This designation is honorary and poses neither restrictions nor protections on the property.

For information on all of Rock Island's local landmarks, national register properties and 100 most significant unprotected structures, visit <http://www.rigov.org/BusinessDirectoryii.aspx> The full Denkmann - Hauberg nomination document will soon be attached to the Denkmann - Hauberg page on the city's website at <http://www.rigov.org/index.aspx?NID=978>