



RIPS NEWS

Advocates for Historic Architecture

www.RockIslandPreservation.org

Membership Meetings

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| <p>August 16, 2016
Tuesday
7:00 PM</p> | <p>Rock Island Police Department, Conference Room
1212 5th Avenue
General Business meeting. Parking is in lot in front of the building (entrance from 5th Ave or from 13th Street) or street parking.</p> |
| <p>September 20, 2016
Tuesday
7:00 PM</p> | <p>Rock Island Police Department, Conference Room
1212 5th Avenue
Program to be announced.</p> |
| <p>October 18, 2016
Tuesday
7:00 PM</p> | <p>Home of Linda Anderson & Bruce Ohrlund
1718 21st Street, Rock Island
Business meeting</p> |

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 9th, Tuesday - **Friends of Hauberg Brainstorming Session**, 6:30 pm at Hauberg Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island, IL. The public is welcome.

August 10th, Wed; August 31st, Wed.: , September 7th, Wed. - **Rock Island Parks & Recreation, Community Meetings to Discuss Parks** - see related article

August 21st, Sunday - **Broadway Historic District's Great Unveiling** at 817 22nd Street, Rock Island, IL. Visit Broadway District Rock Island on Facebook or BroadwayDistrict.org for more information.

September 15th - 17th - **Preserve Iowa Summit Conference** - see related article (Aug. 15 deadline for discounted registration)

October 8th, Sat. - **Jens Jensen Day at Hauberg Center**, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. Tours of the grounds and home will be offered along with presentations on Hauberg's nationally renowned landscape architect Jens Jensen. For updated information, check Friends of Hauberg on Facebook.

PARKS DISCUSSION

There are three upcoming meetings hosted by Rock Island Parks Executive Director, John Gripp that will share with citizens the current state of Rock Island Parks and Recreation. Future plans, infrastructure needs and budget concerns will be discussed along with new ideas for tiered park maintenance, staff reorganization and the role of Friends and Park Foundation groups. Rock Island is fortunate to have both modern and historic parks. For preservationists it is important to participate in these conversations looking for innovative ways for historic structures and landscapes to coexist with modern recreational amenities.

The meetings will be held from 6:00 to 7:30 pm on Wednesday August 10th at Rock Island Fitness & Activity Center, Wednesday August 31st at Hauberg Center, and Wednesday September 7th at the Southwest Library. Community input and questions are welcomed. For additional information call (309) 732-7275.

PRESERVE IOWA SUMMIT



Every year across the state of Iowa one lucky city is selected to host the Preserve Iowa Summit, Iowa's statewide preservation conference. This year the Preserve Iowa Summit is coming to Davenport on September 14th, 15th and 16th. A few of the old-timers in RIPS might

remember when Rock Island hosted Illinois' statewide conference in the mid-90s. This will be the closest preservation conference we have had in many years and will allow all attendees to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. To encourage local participation, the conference registration fee is only \$50 to Quad City residents, Illinois included, registering by August 15th. You may do so online at <https://iowaculture.gov/history/preservation/education-and-outreach/preserve-iowa-summit/> where additional information and a conference schedule is provided.

The keynote speakers are Greg Werkheiser of Preservation 50, an organization dedicated to celebrating preservation's successes in the last 50 years, and Megan Brown of the National Park Service. Mr. Werkheiser is a noted lawyer in the fields of cultural heritage preservation, economic development, and civil rights. He is a founding member of the law firm Cultural Heritage Partners, PLLC and its advisory firm The Heritas Group. Together, these two firms form the management team for Preservation 50, America's four year effort to celebrate, learn from, and leverage the National Historic Preservation Act's first 50 years to ensure that preservation continues long into the future. Ms. Brown has been with the National Park Service for 13 years and is the CLG (certified local government) coordinator, working through state historic preservation offices to support local governments that have enacted preservation ordinances.

If you have an interest in a preservation topic, it may well be covered in one of the various workshops being offered on Thursday and Friday. Topics range from Sears houses and its local competitor, the Gordon VanTine Company to the preservation of mid-century commercial structures. Local preservation couple, Marion Meginnis and Jack Haberman, will discuss some of their work in the Gold Coast area of Davenport. If you want to see some of the area, tours are scheduled for Credit Island, Arsenal Island, Palmer Chiropractic College, and Oakdale Cemetery. On Friday morning, local historic wallpaper maker Duane Timm will discuss that process. For preservation advocates there are workshops on successful strategies to spread the message of historic preservation and engage the next generation.

Saturday offers two very special treats and if you can only attend that day, the conference is free; however, registration is required. For those wanting a "hands on" workshop, you can learn more about historic window repair. The other special workshop is about African Americans in Iowa and their involvement (albeit sometimes unknown) in historic preservation. Rock Island Alderman Virgil Mayberry will be a presenter on Saturday. There is also time set aside for receptions, preservation award presentation, and the ever favorite three-minute success stories.

Hopefully, this has whetted your appetite to come to the conference and decide which of the 35 sessions you'll be attending. We look forward to seeing you there!

Article contributed by Jaan Sturgis



2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act which has helped foster the strong preservation movement we enjoy today. Sign up today to learn, celebrate, and network! Reduced early bird registration by August 15, 2016

MYSTERY PAINT LINES

Among the fun things associated with old buildings is the use of little clues to figure out how the building has changed over the years, and what elements are missing. In doing restoration work on the circa 1866 David Hawes house in Rock Island, I have run into numerous shadow lines and other hints of things that used to be; some I understand, and some I don't – at least not yet.



Remnants of Lined Mortar Joints, detail of David Hawes House

One particularly intriguing discovery started when I noticed what I thought were white paint drippings on the bricks of the front of the house. But they looked peculiar, as they were very straight and even drippings. I didn't give it much thought though, as there were lots of other peculiar things to figure out.

When I was removing the hopeless remains of the front porch roof, I exposed some bricks that had been more

protected from the weather by being enclosed between the porch roof and ceiling. What I saw for the first time were a few remnants of horizontal paint lines on the mortar joints. (See the exciting picture of the bricks and lines of this protected area.) All of a sudden the “Aha!” light turned on. Now I knew what I was seeing. I had read about this years earlier on a sign at the Seurasaari Open-Air Museum outside of Helsinki Finland. (This place is roughly similar to Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts.) The sign described the practice of painting brickwork a solid color and then painting fine lines on the mortar joints to give the impression that the masonry work was finer than it actually was.

The red herring in this case was that nearly all of the “drips” that I had seen were on the bricks, rather than on the mortar joints. That's why I hadn't made the connection before. Now that I had a better view of things, I could see why I was fooled. These days, masons are very precise in laying bricks; the mortar joints from one row to the next are all carefully aligned. Well, if you look at local brickwork from the mid to late 1800's, you'll most likely see that that's not the way that they used to do it. It appears that since the relatively handmade bricks varied in size, they seemed to focus more on even joint sizes so that the overall appearance was very consistent, even though the rows were not evenly aligned. Well, what the line painter had done was to “fix” that by painting the lines where they “should” be, rather than where the mortar joints actually were. And, to compound the confusion, the mortar joints were all soft lime mortar, so for the exposed brickwork, none of the lines on the mortar joints survived when the mortar wore away.

Until recently I didn't even know what this practice of painting lines was called. But I found this link to an Australian article:

http://www.npsp.sa.gov.au/files/batch1413266501_masonry_walls_external_render_fact_sheet.pdf

They call it “lining mortar joints.” And they describe the lines as being “ruled with a lining tool, then painted with a lining brush.” Now, I'm a sucker for unusual details that we don't see anymore, so I'd like to be able to recreate the lined mortar joints on this house. But I can't imagine painting all those lines by hand with a tiny brush. For that matter, the existing line fragments are so straight and even that I don't think they were done by hand in the first place. So the next step in the detective work is to find a more practical way to achieve that result.

Article and photos contributed by Walter Lilius

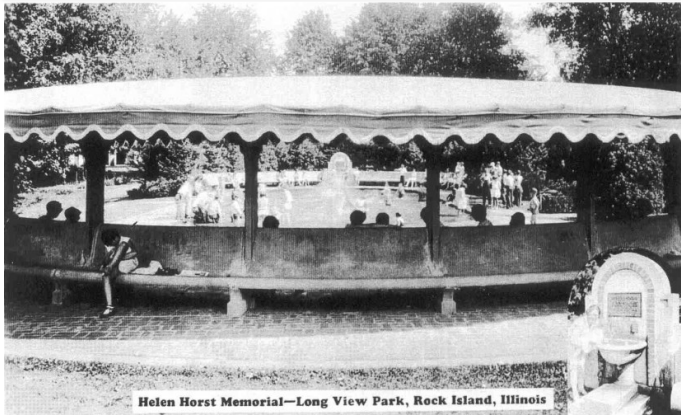
*Photo right, David Hawes House
When built, located at southeast corner of Orleans and Swan,
now known as 1102 3rd Avenue, Rock Island*



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HELEN HORST MEMORIAL – LONG VIEW PARK



Rock Island's location at the junction of two major rivers is enviable. But rivers are a mixed blessing, especially where children are concerned. Playing or swimming in the river currents can be treacherous, as it was for 6-year old Helen Margaret Horst. On the morning of August 24, 1912, no one noticed as she wandered away from her family's summer cottage on Vandruff's Island on the Rock River. At the river's edge she launched a small boat and stepped in, but the unsteady craft tipped her into the river where her short life ended.

Helen was the daughter of Henry W. and Mollie Horst. Henry was born in Germany in 1882 and moved to a Davenport uncle's home at 17. For a time he traveled – to Memphis, St. Louis, even homesteading a farm in Kansas – before returning to build his home in Rock

Island, "one room at a time." That home still stands at 1049 17th Street, and was "unveiled" several years ago. That means the Broadway Historic District Association removed newer siding before the exterior was restored by Rock Island Economic Growth,

Henry was also building a reputation as a contractor in the early 1900s. Over the years he would, according to the *Town Crier*, "build highways, sewers, dams and factories." In 1918, he was awarded a contract to build 200 homes in Rock Island to house workers who had come for arsenal employment during World War I. His work also includes the Argus building at 4th Avenue & 18th Street in downtown Rock Island in 1922.

Although the Horst family had seven other children, they never forgot little Helen. In 1921, the now prosperous parents announced that they would build a wading pool in Longview Park. No longer would children have to play in potentially dangerous rivers. The pool opened in the summer of 1921 and was formally dedicated "to the children of Rock Island" on October 1, 1921, although the dressing rooms were not completed until 1922.

The Helen Horst Memorial Wading Pool is shown on today's postcard from the Special Collections at the Augustana College library. Built at the edge of the Longview hill, it afforded a wonderful view of the park and provided a "splendid vision to Iowa" as well.

Mr. Horst himself actively supervised the high quality construction of the pool and its surroundings. It was oval, 30 x 80 feet at the waterline, with the main axis extending northwest to southeast. The sides were at ground level with a water depth gradually tapering from 6 inches at the edges to 25 inches at the center. The bottom was a single slab of reinforced concrete varying from 6 to 10 inches thick that was poured on a thick bed of sand. Two fountains in the pool offered both cooling spray and beauty.

The 7 foot wide surrounding sidewalk, of mottled "English" brick laid in a basket weave pattern on a bed of sand over 4 inches of concrete, was tilted slightly away from the pool for proper drainage. Beyond the northwest end of the pool was a 20 x 30 foot concrete-bottomed sandpit with 18 inches of sand. Edging the sandpit were curved double concrete seats, cast in sections, that faced inward to the pool and outward to the view. These seats were topped by a canvas canopy on steel supports. To the southeast, more curved concrete seats, these without a canopy, faced the pool. In the center of these seats an ornamental two-sided drinking fountain bubbled constantly. Above the fountain was a bronze memorial plaque. The brick dressing room building was to the southeast of the pool.

The postcard view is from the northwest end of the pool, looking toward the southeast. The double curved seats, the canopy, the fountain sprays, even the fountain in the distance can be seen. A cut-out close-up of the fountain has been added to the far right of the postcard. The sandpit is not apparent, but would have been just on the far side of the double concrete seats.

The Helen Horst Memorial pool closed in the 1940s, when fears of polio swept the nation, and it never reopened. Its site is now a flower garden. But parts of the pool at the crest of Longview are easily recognized. The borders of the wading pool and the sandpit are still there as is the row of double seats, now canopy-less. The drinking fountain is gone and its bronze plaque has been mounted on a new base, right next to the dressing room building, which remains. Even the brick sidewalk is there, mostly covered with asphalt, with a few basket-weave bricks peeping through.

Although Helen's memorial was built for children, it must have been a delightful place for the entire family. Despite the high-tech swimming facilities now available, such a simple wading pool would be appealing today.

This article, by Diane Oestreich, is slightly modified from the original, which appeared in the Rock Island Argus and Moline Dispatch on April 17, 2005. This postcard and all the postcards from the Postcards From Home series can be found at www.RockIslandPreervation.org

This step back in time, from the 1920s to the 1940s to the publication of this postcard in 2005, serves as a reminder that individuals and community groups can have a strong impact on our city. Plan on attending one of the discussion meetings detailed on the first page of this newsletter. Your questions and ideas can make a difference in our parks.