



# RIPS NEWS

Advocates for Historic Architecture

[www.RockIslandPreservation.org](http://www.RockIslandPreservation.org)

## Membership Meetings

- May 15, 2017**  
Monday  
6:45 PM  
**Rock Island City Hall Council Chambers, 1528 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue**  
Award Presentation and Reception during City Council Meeting. Please be prompt as the RIPS Awards will be first on the agenda and join us at the reception immediately following the presentation. *See related articles*
- June 20, 2017**  
Tuesday  
7:00 PM  
**Rock Island Police Department, Conference Room**  
1212 5th Avenue  
General Business Meeting, with focus on advocacy of the Court House and planning for upcoming Chalet Birthday Celebration
- July 18, 2017**  
Tuesday  
7:00 PM  
**Home of Clayton Peterson 1202 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Rock Island**  
General business meeting

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

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Our membership renewal rate has been excellent this year, with many of you choosing to send an amount in addition to the basic dues. Many of you have also opted to receive your newsletter via an email notification rather than a mailed hard copy. All is appreciated as we try to keep within a tight budget. If you know someone who should be a member of RIPS, please tell them about us.

Please check the mailing label to see if you are a current member of RIPS. If you are, your label should read "Membership Expires 2/1/2018." If you're not current, please send your check - \$15 per person or \$25 per household, to RIPS, P.O. Box 3261, Rock Island IL 61204-3261. Include your email address if you wish to receive emailed agendas and/or minutes every month. If your personal info hasn't changed, simply send is a check.

Occasionally we make a mistake in bookkeeping – if you think you've paid but it doesn't show on your label, just contact us.

If you have any questions, call Diane Oestreich at 309-788-1845 or email [blueskies78900@yahoo.com](mailto:blueskies78900@yahoo.com)

### LONGVIEW CHALET

RIPS is working with the Rock Island Parks Department for a city-wide  
**100th Birthday Celebration**  
**October 1, 2017 1:00-4:00 PM**  
**for the 1917 Longview Park Chalet,**  
the Swiss-style building  
located in the center of the park.

Please join us on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Chalet to take a quick look around the area. Park in front of the greenhouse. Wear suitable shoes for walking on the hillside. Afterwards we will meet at Linda Anderson's house to continue our planning for the event.



*Photo from RIgov.org*

# 2016 PRESERVATION AWARDS

In celebration of National Historic Preservation Month in May, the Rock Island Preservation Society is presenting its annual Historic Preservation Awards for work completed during 2016 or earlier. Public presentation of the awards will take place at the Rock Island City Council meeting on

Monday, May 15, 2015,  
at 6:45 PM in the Council Chambers  
on the third floor of  
Rock Island City Hall,  
15 Third Avenue.

Each year RIPS honors 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.

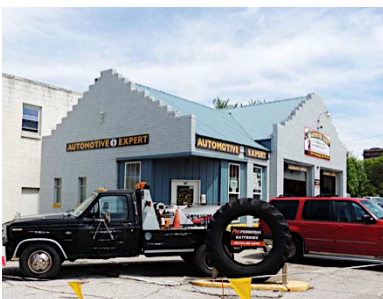
A Reception will be held immediately after the presentation in the lobby of City Hall. All members, award recipients, mayor, and aldermen are invited to attend.

*Preservation Award Photos by Daryl Empen*



**House at 736 17<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Honoree: John Brown**

Major repair, restoration, and landscaping have transformed this historic home into a beautiful addition to its Broadway Historic District neighborhood. Removal of overgrowth and excessive shrubbery make it visible once again.



**Automotive Expert Garage at 547 20<sup>th</sup> Street,**  
**Honoree: John Gottilla**

From eyesore to asset is an amazing transformation. This small building, originally a gas station, was vacant and appeared abandoned for many years. When Mr. Gottilla took it over, he immediately began cleaning, repair, and beautification. He maintained most of the structure, including the unusual stairstep gable. A new roof, doors, painting and ongoing maintenance have adapted the building to his business needs. Weeds and broken concrete are gone, and there's even a comfortable outdoor waiting area.

The 1876 Star Block is actually three buildings with five storefronts and was once owned by three separate entities. As a result, coordination of exterior improvements and even maintenance was difficult. RIEGC purchased all three buildings and developed a plan to restore the exteriors and adaptively reuse interiors as housing. This award recognizes the work that completed the exterior, including extensive repairs to cornices and windows as well as restoration of the remaining historic storefronts. A coordinated color scheme ties it all together.

**Star Block (1821-29 Second Avenue)**  
**Honoree: Rock Island Economic Growth,**  
**Brian Hollenback**



## Historic Preservation Awards

**Karpeles Manuscript Museum**  
**700 22<sup>nd</sup> Street**

**Honoree: Director John Snow**

In April 2012, a 1 AM windstorm lifted the dome of the century old former First Church of Christ Scientist and spun it across the street. The stained glass inner dome was largely undamaged, but needed immediate protection. Workmen installed wood reinforcing and plastic to protect the glass at least temporarily. Last year, a new dome was constructed on the ground and lifted to its permanent position atop the building. Skylights permit natural illumination of the stained glass inner dome, and the overall silhouette has remained the same.



**House at 1320 20<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Honoree: Eric Mathis**

Years of effort were involved in removing peeling paint down to the bare wood, replacing rotted boards, so the clapboard could be repainted in appropriate colors. All of the many windows were rebuilt, including unusual pocket windows on the sunporch, with the owner doing the work.



**House at 851 21<sup>st</sup> Street**  
**Honoree: Dennis Harker**

Located on a prominent corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, this home was covered with pink and gray shingles for decades. Over a period of a few years, the owner removed those shingles to reveal the original 1890s clapboard, removing and painting as he progressed. The home is now completely unveiled and restored in an amazing transformation.





# 2016 PRESERVATION AWARDS

## CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

House at 740 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Honorees: Josh & Dr. Annie Wren

When Josh and Ann realized that the porch on their 1914 bungalow was developing serious structural issues, Josh decided to restore it himself. Careful removal of brittle shingles and deteriorated wood permitted the structure to be reinforced. While the shingles were salvaged and reused, the original beadboard ceiling was lost in the process. When he found a garage that was going to be demolished had an interior finished with beadboard, he volunteered to demolish it if he could keep the antique panels. He ended up with enough to finish his porch ceiling and he shared the unneeded remainder with neighbors who are also restoring buildings.



## SPECIAL AWARD

RIPS occasionally acknowledges projects, people, or organizations that have contributed to preservation of our city's history. This year, a Special Award recognizes the group that emerged from the efforts to save Hauberg Civic Center as a publicly owned building.

FRIENDS of HAUBERG CIVIC CENTER FOUNDATION  
Honoree: President Deb Kuntzi and the Board of the FOHCCF

In January 2016, the community was surprised by a request to the Rock Island City Council to sell Hauberg Civic Center property, which had been given to the city by Hauberg heirs in 1956. The Council Chambers were full, even on short notice, and the mayor deferred the agenda item. A month later, when action was once again on the agenda, the mayor deferred it permanently, noting there were not enough council votes to sell. Friends of Hauberg was immediately organized and began work with the city and the parks to promote and maintain the Denkmann-Hauberg estate. A 501c3 designation was approved in May, 2017, and the fledgling organization began to solicit donations and grants. Since that time, a movement to formalize a working agreement with the parks department is underway (and perhaps approved by the time of the award presentation). Major renovation, restoration, and maintenance of the buildings and the overgrown landscape have been accomplished in little more than a year.



# ROCK ISLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Rock Island County Public Building Commission recently held a ground breaking ceremony for the beginning of construction of the Justice Center Annex which will house courtrooms and offices that are currently in the Rock Island Courthouse. Construction is expected to be completed in 2018.

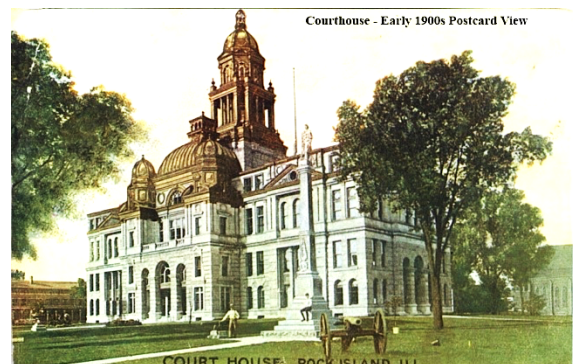
The historic courthouse, built in 1896, is now endangered. While many community leaders are excited about the opportunities of adaptive reuse of this gateway building, others have declared it unsalvageable and obsolete. There are many factors that will determine its fate, not least among them is the cost and source of funds for either restoration or demolition.

A public forum is scheduled at July's county board meeting on **July 18th at 5:30 p.m. at the Rock Island County Office Building at 1504 3rd Avenue**, Rock Island. As an asset of the county, not "just" a historic building, its fate and future is of concern to all county residents.

County Administrator Dave Ross is encouraging residents to attend this meeting or contact their representatives or him with their opinions and ideas. A full list of board members and their contact information, including email, address, and phone number, is available on the county website [RockIslandCounty.org](http://RockIslandCounty.org), go to CountyBoard/Members. Mr. Ross can be reached at [dross@co.rock-island.il.us](mailto:dross@co.rock-island.il.us) and 309/ 558-3615.

Rock Island County Historical Society (RICHS) has invited members of RIPS and Moline Preservation Society to join them at their next meeting to talk about the future of the Courthouse. Board member Drue Mielke and perhaps other board members will be there to listen to our concerns, questions, and ideas. This meeting will be **May 25<sup>th</sup>, at the RICHS Library located at 822 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue**. While the meeting will start at 6:00 with an unrelated speaker, the Courthouse discussion will start at about 6:30. We will wait in the lobby until the first speaker finishes. RICHS has asked that we RSVP the number of our members who will attend so that adequate seating is provided. Please contact Linda Anderson at 309/786-7917 or [lwickerrph@aol.com](mailto:lwickerrph@aol.com) if you plan to attend.

RIPS will notify members as other public forums are scheduled.



Got to [www.RockIslandPreservation.org](http://www.RockIslandPreservation.org) for the  
*Postcards From Home, RICO Courthouse*

## REST STOP AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Many Quad Cities residents coming from Iowa City may miss the rest stop at mile marker 270 near Wilton just because it is so close to the Quad Cities. It was opened December 2002 and was designed by Des Moines artist David B. Dahlquist and RDG Dahlquist Art Studio.

This rest stop is a unique expression of a fascinating aspect of American History, the Underground Railroad. Both the grounds and the buildings incorporate the quilt patterns and the use of quilts believed to have been used to secretly communicate with passengers (slaves) escaping via the Underground Railroad.

Approaching the building, the lampposts sport symbolic railroad lanterns and the sidewalk is patterned to resemble railroad tracks. The front façade of the main building is wrapped with 12 common patterns of quilt blocks. These blocks and patterns are associated with the folklore of the Underground Railroad.

Inside the building, the flooring also contains wonderful ceramic tile quilt patterns. The floor contains 12 epoxy terrazzo quilt block patterns, a virtual treasure map prompting travelers to visit several nearby Underground Railroad sites located in Cedar County, Iowa. These blocks contain names of those conductors (abolitionists) who were associated with the stations (safe havens) where tools, supplies, and information could be found to assist the passengers (slaves) on their journeys. Additional detail is located in the “needle and thread” ceramic detail. It is believed that certain stitching and knotting patterns were an integral part of the coding systems, with the stitching and spacing of the knots creating a grid with clues to the distances to travel. There is even a huge ceramic patchwork quilt called the message code sampler which includes

- The Drunkard’s Path: Don’t move in a straight line. In African culture, evil travels in a straight line.
- Jacob’s Ladder: Follow the road north to freedom.
- North Star: Let the north star and other constellations be your compass.
- Shoofly: In African culture, shoofly means to scatter and meet again at a predetermined destination.

Each of the rest area’s individual picnic shelters also contains a ceramic quilt block pattern and information about the significant role Iowans played in the Underground Railroad.

We may never unravel the whole truth about the Underground Railroad quilt code. This folklore should remind us to connect to our own family stories while the threads of memory are still available. The oral history of our elders can be captured in our written histories.

Much of this information was found in the magazine *Fons and Porter’s Love of Quilting*, July 2006 by Tom Moore.

*Submitted by Clayton Peterson*



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