



RIPS NEWS

Advocates for Historic Architecture

www.RockIslandPreservation.org

Membership Meetings

August 15, 2017
Tuesday
7:00 PM

Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th St, Rock Island, IL
General business meeting. Members are encouraged to bring a dessert or finger food to share. Come and see all the improvements the FOHCC have made at Hauberg.

September 19, 2017
Tuesday
7:00 PM

**Rock Island Police Department, Conference Room
1212 5th Avenue**
General Business Meeting, with focus on planning for upcoming Chalet Birthday Celebration and advocacy of the Court House.

October 15, 2017
Tuesday
7:00 PM

Home of Marty Bush 1225 37th Avenue, Rock Island
General business meeting

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

100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF THE LONG VIEW PARK CHALET



Nestled among the trees, near the conservatory in Long View Park, stands a long forgotten and overlooked building...The Long View Chalet. In its heyday, 100 years ago, it was recognized as the most 'beautiful spot' in Rock Island, and regarded as the 'beauty spot of the Tri-Cities.' Credit for the outside design of the Chalet is given to Swiss-born architect Frederich Ehrson and architect George Stauduhar is thought to have designed the interior of the building. In its prime, the Chalet was used for society gatherings and dinner parties, as well as serving

concessions to patrons of the park. The exterior and interior of the building has distinctive features allowing it to adapt to the changing needs of the community. While the use of the building has changed over the years, it has retained its unique historical character, shaped by stories about the people, events and happenings contributing to the heritage of Long View Park and the city of Rock Island. In keeping with the National Historic Trust Campaign, *This Place Matters*, the question now is: What stories will the Chalet continue to tell?

As we look to the past and plan for the future of the Chalet, the Rock Island Preservation Society, together with the Friends of Longview Park and the Rock Island Park and Recreation Department, invite you to join us for the

100th Birthday Celebration of the Legacy of the Chalet
Long View Park
Rock Island, Illinois
Sunday, October 8th, 2017
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**LONGVIEW
PARK CHALET**
Beauty Spot of the
Tri-Cities.
Dinners served for parties, clubs or dancing parties.
Order in advance.
Phone R. I. 3073.

*Advertisement
from 1922 The
Rock Island Argus*

Please join us for an afternoon of storytelling, story-sharing, food, fun and entertainment as we celebrate the Chalet's legacy and shed light on why *This Place Matters*.

Your memories, thoughts, and ideas on what you believe the Chalet should become are needed!

For more information on the Long View Chalet, please visit <http://www.rigov.org/1021/Longview-Chalet>

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The current Rock Island County Courthouse's fate is undetermined. The County has already started construction on a new building directly behind the courthouse. Alas, no consideration was given to the current courthouse which has served the citizens of Rock Island County for 120 years. Because of this, the Rock Island Preservation Society has sponsored a landmark nomination to encourage the preservation of this great building. The landmark nomination for the courthouse was presented to the City of Rock Island Preservation Commission. It currently is being reviewed by the Predetermination Subcommittee prior to a public hearing and vote by the Commission. If landmark status is affirmed by the Commission but a protest is filed, it will be presented to the City Council for a final decision.

Our 1897 Courthouse

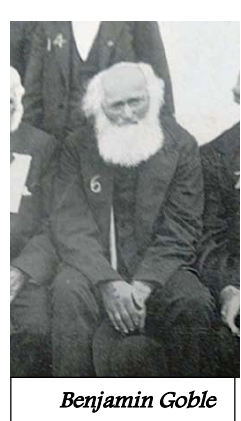
The corner where the courthouse stands between Second and Third Avenues and 15th Street has long been the area where justice has been enforced in Rock Island County. The first courthouse was erected there with court held in the Spring session of 1838. That building, a simple 50 x 50 brick building, cost \$12,100 and served the county well for nearly 60 years.

However, in 1893 Supervisor Joseph Fitzgerald of Black Hawk Township called for a committee to be formed to build a new courthouse at the cost of about \$125,000. Subsequently, in 1894 the people of Rock Island County needed to vote on it. While

the measure was thought of favorably in Rock Island proper, citizens in the outlying areas were concerned about increased taxes, a concern that folks still have today. Because of some concern that the measure would not pass, in October 1894 a committee headed by T. J. Robinson with attorney C. J. Searle as secretary raised the equivalent of about \$18,000 to ensure passage of the referendum. Their efforts caused the measure to pass by a 1,739 vote majority.



The Rock Island County Courthouse as it would have appeared in 1897



Benjamin Goble

Clearing of trees and excavation began in June of 1895. On October 1, 1895 the honor of laying the cornerstone was given to Benjamin Goble, the oldest settler in Rock Island County. Goble was born in Wabash County, Illinois in 1809 and came to the county in 1829. Speakers included J. M. Gould, Edward Sweeney, and C. J. Searle. Bands and a parade celebrated the day, with families lined up as far west as 12th Street and as far east as 20th Street and along Second and Third Avenues. The Argus reported that the business houses were gaily decorated, as there was much to celebrate.

Mr. Sweeney gave the keynote address, noting that Rock Island County had grown from 350 people in 1838 to 45,000 in 1895 with six incorporated villages and towns. Capital punishment was considered the law of the county as seen in the murder trials of George Davenport and three other murders. He further discussed the “modern” conveniences of mail service, telephones, electricity, and telegraph. He stipulated that C. J. Larkin was awarded the contract for construction and S. J. Collins named as superintendent with the understanding local labor would be used. He concluded with “standing in the presence of a glorious past, inspired by the enthusiasm of our present day, we look out upon the future, spanned by the bow of promise, in which generations unborn will rise up to bless the men who built the new courthouse.”

The statistical address, a common speech for the time, was given by C. J. Searle. He discussed how America had grown since 1789 from 3,929,214 to 62,662,250 a hundred years later. In fact, Illinois itself was as big as all of the United States 100 years before. The towns of Farnhamsburg and Stephenson became the city of Rock Island in 1841 and in 1843 Rock Island Mills became the city of Moline. The cultural entities of the area were developed as well. The first church, Methodist Episcopal, was built in 1844. The first library was built in 1855. The first newspapers, The Rock Island Banner and Stephenson Gazette, were established in 1839.

The courthouse was dedicated on March 31, 1897. Like the laying of the cornerstone, there was much hoopla. Addresses were given by C. M. Osborne, Judge G. W. Pleasants, W. R. Carey (Chairman of the Board of Supervisors), and William Jackson. Jackson discussed the progression of the houses of justice from the simple log cabin where John Barrell lived and court was conducted in the 1830's to the brick court house which served the people for nearly 60 years. Although taxes were raised for the new courthouse, people “demanded a temple of justice that would truly represent the progress, culture, and improved artistic taste of the present.” Additionally, Jackson spoke to the judges encouraging them to provide inspiration and assistance to the bar. To the lawyers, Jackson reminded them to be dutiful and honest. That evening found an address by the Honorable H. A. Ainsworth with music by the Beethoven Club and the Ogden Orchestra of

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE

(Continued from previous page) Moline. The building was illuminated with nine arc lights on the outside and red, white, and blue globes on the uppermost part of the dome.



Top, View from atrium looking up to domed ceiling
Lower Left, organic iron balustrades
Lower right, Corinthian capital

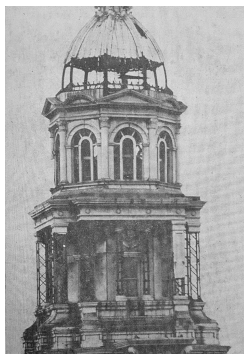
The courthouse serves as a “temple of justice” with materials that reflect the importance of the building. The materials used in the construction of the courthouse were opulent. They included 2,250,000 pieces of marble for the floor, black from Belgium, red from France, white from Italy and pink from Tennessee. Two thousand perch (.7 cubic meters/ 1,400 cubic meters total) of LeClaire stone was used for the foundation and 18,000 cubic feet of Bedford stone was used above the foundation. Additionally, 30,000 square feet of maple flooring was utilized and 11,000 square feet of mosaic. More practical materials were used in abundance as well. These include 360 tons of iron. It took 120 tons of steel for the tower and 90 tons for ornamental purposes. There were 1,600,000 bricks used and 80 tons of copper for the cornices and roofing. Additionally, 15,000 square feet of plaster was used.

In January of 1897, the Argus reported that the courthouse was a “beautifully lighted, handsomely finished building of which the county should be proud – substantial and safe – to be ready March 1st.” The new courthouse is evidence of the enterprise of the people and “as a testimonial to the untiring zeal of the citizens of Rock Island County” who made its erection possible. “It is a beautiful building, massive yet graceful, simple yet grand” and shall be a place of beauty and inspiration. At that point, the frescoers were at work and the wall decoration color was terra cotta. The style of the main courtroom was very rich and pleasing, and the interior of the dome replicates the blue of heaven. The wainscoting was to be marble

and the heating system had been installed. The furniture was awaiting delivery from a factory in Moline. The big building is commodious yet graceful and is fireproof with vaults for the circuit clerk, county clerk, and sheriff.

The courthouse is very closely aligned with the Spanish Renaissance or Roman architecture. Given that the roots of Spanish Renaissance come from Roman architecture, these two styles are closely related. Of course, both of these styles are very classical and the courthouse displays a strong sense of classicism. The development of this style originally came from Italy in the late 1400s when humanism was spreading across Europe. Remember, just after this Martin Luther nailed his theses on the church at Worms due in part to the practice of selling indulgences by the Roman Catholic Church, people questioned the authority of the Church. The style is extremely classical and is noted for having domes and steeples.

Originally, the courthouse had six domes. On September 27, 1958, the Argus reported that workmen were dismantling the main dome of the courthouse, along with two smaller domes on the front of the building. The domes were leaking from their copper sheeting which was covering a framework of steel. It is unknown when the two large domes at either end of the courthouse were dismantled. Standing in the multi-level interior atrium, visitors can still look down at the mosaic floor and up toward the domed ceiling. Many of the original Baroque architectural details, both interior and exterior, remain intact.



Left, A picture of the courthouse as it appeared from the southeast in the 1950s before the central dome was removed
Center, Picture printed in Sep 27, 1958, Argus showing removal of the main dome at the courthouse
Right, The courthouse as it appeared after removal of the domes

All photos are from the Landmark Application submitted by RIPS, authored by Charles Tyler Pannell and Jaan Sturgis

DAY OF CARING

Day of Caring 2016 Conservatory Transformation

What a difference a year can make.

Last year at this time, the Longview Park Conservatory was in a state of major disrepair. There was peeling paint, rotting wood, several windows were broken, and weeds were growing inside the structure. That's when RIPS decided to see what we could do about it. We started by talking to the Parks Department and found out that the city did in fact have a vision to rejuvenate the conservatory, their plan just needed a jump start. So RIPS coordinated with United Way and the Parks Department and organized a work day as part of the 2016 Day of Caring to get the project going. It was very successful and about 20 people spent the day cleaning, repairing, and repainting the conservatory. This prepared the site for the city to install new hardscaping, along with several plants and flowers that could now grow in the open-air section of the conservatory with minimal maintenance and recurring expense required.

As you can see in the pictures, this has transformed the site back into the treasure that it had been once been and something that Rock Island can be proud of again.

Last year, after Day of Caring:



This year:



Photos by Marty Bush

*Thanks to all
who made a difference!*

Day of Caring 2017

September 21st
Thursday
9am to 3pm



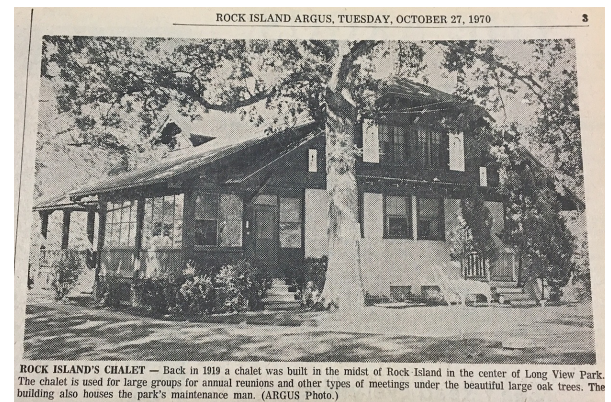
This year we have chosen to work with the city again in Long View Park to rejuvenate the exterior and landscaping around the

Long View Park Chalet
in preparation for its 100th
birthday celebration.

The project will involve removing overgrown shrubs and brush, planting new landscaping, mulching, and repairing and painting the exterior of the building and steps.

All material and equipment will be provided by the city.

If you would like to be part of this project, please contact RIPS and we will let you know the details.



ROCK ISLAND ARGUS, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1970 3
ROCK ISLAND'S CHALET — Back in 1919 a chalet was built in the midst of Rock Island in the center of Long View Park. The chalet is used for large groups for annual reunions and other types of meetings under the beautiful large oak trees. The building also houses the park's maintenance man. (ARGUS Photo.)

The caption for this Oct. 27, 1970 photo from the Rock Island Argus reads "Back in 1919 a chalet was built in the midst of Rock Island in the center of Long View Park. The chalet is used for large groups for annual reunions and other types of meetings under the beautiful oak trees. The building also houses the park's maintenance man."