



RIPS NEWS

Advocates for Historic Architecture

Membership Meetings

May 22, 2023 City Council Chambers, City Hall, 1528 3rd Avenue
Monday 6:30 PM Preservation Awards will be presented at the City Council meeting and will be early in the agenda. We will then adjourn to a nearby establishment for refreshments. This will be instead of the usual 3rd Tuesday meeting. Please plan to attend and celebrate the award recipients.

June 20, 2023 Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island
Tuesday 7:00 PM Sweet treats will be provided

July 18, 2023 Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island
Tuesday 7:00 PM Our annual Indoor Picnic! Please bring a snack or dish to share while socializing with RIPS friends. Bring a friend, too, if you like.

If you have requested, an email reminder with the Meeting Agenda will be sent prior to each meeting with confirmation of time and location of each meeting. Remember to keep the third Tuesday of each month marked on your calendar

MEMBERSHIP

It's time to renew your RIPS membership.

Many of you have renewed, but some have not. Please check your mailing label and renew if you haven't. If you send more than the \$15 individual/\$25 family dues, we will assume the rest is a donation unless you specify that it's for multi-year membership.

For those who receive the online version, please check and see if you should renew. Thank you!

Membership dues and donations can be sent to Rock Island Preservation Society
P.O. Box 3261 Rock Island, IL 61204-3621

REMEMBERING THE VILLA

Hauberg Civic Center
Sunday, May 7th 2-4 PM

In celebration of Preservation Month (May), the Rock Island and Moline Preservation Societies will be giving a joint presentation titled, "Remembering the Villa". The Villa de Chantal was a former Catholic boarding school for girls located in Rock Island. Unfortunately, the nationally recognized historic property suffered a devastating fire in 2005 and was demolished.

Presenters Linda Anderson (RIPS) and Brandon Tidwell (MPS) will discuss the history of the building, highlight its architectural features, and share stories from its past as a convent, school, and restaurant. The presentation will take place on Sunday, May 7, from 2-4 PM in the newly renovated carriage house at the Hauberg Center. This new event space can hold approximately 100 people and has a bar that will be open throughout the event. If need be, the large carriage doors can be opened to allow people to overflow outside. The presentation itself will be about an hour long with additional time for attendees to socialize and share information after. This is free to Friends of Hauberg, Moline Preservation Society and Rock Island Preservation Society members, and only \$5 for non-members

Attendees will also have the opportunity to go into the basement of the carriage house and view the pieces of the arch which have been in storage for over 15 years. A fundraiser is currently underway to resurrect the arch on the grounds of the Hauberg estate and to be used for future events.



PRESERVATION AWARDS

Our Preservation Awards will be presented
at the beginning of the
City Council meeting
City Hall, 1528 3rd Avenue, RI
May 22nd 6:30 pm
Please join us to celebrate these projects

While we only have three Awards and one Certificate this year, the quality of the four projects is truly amazing. The effort undertaken and the amazing results show how preservation can make a difference in our lives because everyone can see and enjoy the results.



Street view of 824 20th St

David Cordes and Bryan Pattschull 824 20th Street

This keystone of historic 20th Street is also known as the Smythe-Jackson house. For decades it had sat as a dilapidated and truncated version of the original, when next-door neighbors David Cordes and Bryan Pattschull decided to purchase and restore it. That was the start of a long term project. In 2008, they invited Broadway neighbors to help with a Great Unveiling. Then extensive repair and restoration of the original clapboard began. In addition to addition of siding, the porches and, most significantly, the tower had been removed. Other rear porches were enclosed. One of the most dramatic parts of the restoration was recreation of the tower, based on a scaled up 1888 line drawings. The tower was built on the ground and lifted to its meticulously calculated perch by a crane in 2009. After finishing the outside details, the owners began an extensive interior restoration (the house had been multiple apartments). Although our awards are only based on the exterior we do recognize the outstanding efforts of David and Bryan. More recently, the home has been sold.

The Award might be summarized in Bryan and David's word when the house was unveiled: *"We really have our hands full with the project on (our house next door), but the Smythe – Jackson house is just too important and so we decided to take it on! It is one of the older houses in the district, built when 20th Street ended at 9th Avenue. It originally had a great deal of style with its mansard-roofed tower. We think it once again can be a focal point on the rebounding 20th Street corridor."* We agree!



David and Karen Evans 2613 13th Avenue

An exquisite exterior restoration (with interior ongoing) was recently called to our attention. It illustrates the importance of passers-by letting us know about such projects. While many of us travel the major arterial streets and observe exterior preservation work, the low traffic streets like 13th Avenue don't always get noticed by us. We are happy that this was found.



Owners David and Karen Evans live in Bettendorf, but when their son moved out of this house, they decided to take it on as a project. After removing overgrown shrubbery that effectively hid the home from street view, they began by tearing off wide aluminum siding. Underneath, they found the original narrow clapboard and began restoring it. However it was found to be in such poor condition that they decided to remove it and replace with a cement-fiber siding that replicates the original. Such siding has been used effectively in recent years, when new wood does not have the quality and durability of the historic siding. It is both durable and replicates the original well. New window frames and ornamental hoods had to be installed as well. The hoods were missing, but their shadow outline under the aluminum provided a guide to the appearance. Because Mr. Evans operates Glass Blast, a stained glass creation and restoration business, he decided to add beautiful leaded glass transoms to some of the openings as well. They continue to work on interior rehab and restoration.

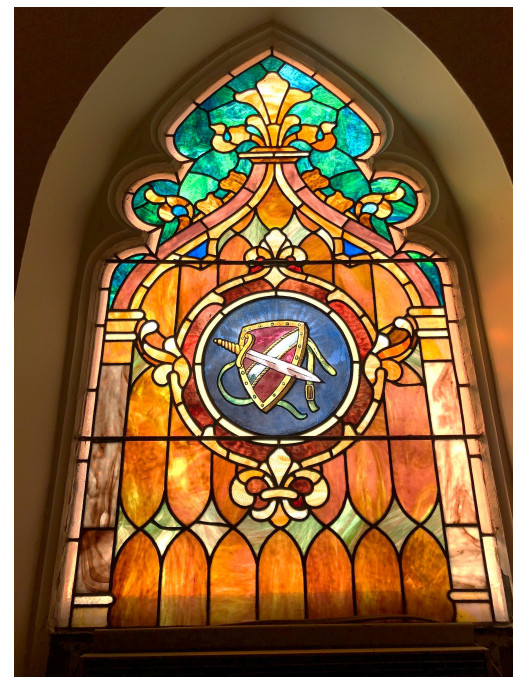
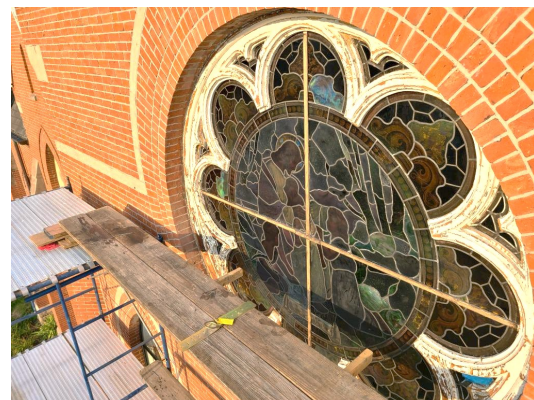
Left, Before & After Photos of 2613 13th Ave

PRESERVATION AWARDS

Sacred Heart Catholic Church 2810 5th Avenue, Rock Island Restoration of Historic Stained Glass Windows

In preparation for its 125th anniversary this year, the members of Sacred Heart parish undertook the restoration and protection of their historic stained glass windows. In the late 1970s protecting art glass windows by apply plexiglass to the exterior was considered a state of the art practice. However, now we know this treatment led to rotting wood, corrosion of the lead coming, and sagging and bowing of the windows. And as restoration committee members joked, it made the windows look like they had cataracts. All of Sacred Heart's windows needed attention. Over the course of several years, the congregation worked with Glass Heritage in Davenport to complete the restoration/protection project. The windows are beautiful. Job well done!

*Right top, Scaffolding on the exterior as window is set back in place.
Right lower, Window detail after meticulous restoration*



Rock Island Parks and Recreation Department Restoration of the Horst Bench Lingview Park



The long, gently curving bench located to the west of the working greenhouse, not too far from the south entrance to Long View Park has been in place since 1921. It was part of a very special wading pool for children donated by Henry and Mollie Horst in memory of their daughter, Helen, who drowned in the Rock River nine years earlier at the age of six years old. Henry Horst, a well-respected Rock Island contractor, supervised the construction of a wading pool, a sand play area, two double sided semi-circular benches, each shaded by a long canopy.

Today a small plaque and this one bench remain, and the bench was badly in need of repair. A concrete company was hired to repair and reface the bench. Local citizens who live in the neighborhood to the south of park joined together to paint the repaired bench. We would like to applaud this joint effort between Rock Island Parks & Recreation and neighbors who love the park. Job well done!

*Upper left, Helen Horst Memorial c.1921
Lower left, Remaining bench after recent restoration.*

Please plan on attending the presentation of our Preservation Awards at the May 22nd City Council meeting. We will be early on the agenda and will then adjourn to a nearby establishment for refreshments and a very brief business meeting. Note that our regular monthly meeting on the 3rd Tuesday will not be take place.

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE 1895-2023

In Memoriam

The wrecking ball started hitting the historic courthouse about two weeks ago, and it has steadily been turned into a pile of rubble. Even salvage of interior artifacts before the demo took place was impossible because of the extensive hazardous mold, which resulted from the holes chopped into the roof and no ventilation.

We owe the County officials for this destruction. It is important to know that preservationists clearly fought a good battle – even Landmarks Illinois and the National Trust for Historic Preservation recognized the importance of this historic building. Folks from afar donated money and time to help the effort to save the courthouse. We even won an appellate court case, but ultimately the state acceded to the county wishes. And when the County Board wouldn't even listen to Joe Lemon's last ditch proposal to bid on a Federal Courthouse reuse, the writing was on the wall. There were countless opportunities to even consider reuse of the courthouse, but the county (NOT city) officials declined to even consider them.

Preservationists and the citizens of Rock Island County clearly lost this battle, but that doesn't mean we give up. We still will fight for historic buildings and are so very grateful for all who share this belief.



Rock Island Preservation Society
P.O. Box 3261
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-3261

