



RIPS NEWS

Advocates for Historic Architecture

Membership Meetings

- November 19, 2024 Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island
Tuesday 7:00 PM Regular business meeting
- December 17, 2024 Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island
Tuesday 6:30 PM Annual Holiday Gathering. *Please note the earlier than usual start time.*
- January 21, 2025, Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island
Tuesday 7:00 PM Regular business meeting

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 for monthly RIPS meetings and activities

LOCAL LANDMARKS

Although we have lost many historic buildings, our goal is to protect the historic buildings that help distinguish our city. During the past several months, SIX homes have been designated as Local Landmarks by the Preservation Commission.



The Rock Island Preservation Commission was created in 1984 for the purpose of identifying such property, structures, or areas within the City of Rock Island that are historically significant. It is the duty of the Preservation Commission to protect the distinctive visual characteristics of landmarks and historic districts by reviewing, giving advice, and passing upon changes to their exterior architectural appearance.

In 2009, the Rock Island Preservation Commission unveiled an updated list of Rock Island's 100 Most Significant Unprotected Structures. The Most Significant Unprotected Structures, (or MoSUS), are representative of the full history of Rock Island, from the 1850s to the 1960s. The list contains a complete range of architecture, from Greek Revival to Modernist. These buildings are currently not designated as a Rock Island Landmark or local historic district or protected by state historic site or national historic landmark designations

All six of these new landmarks are in the National Register Broadway Historic District. While the National Register does not provide restrictions on property when private money is used, recognition as a Local Landmark does provide review and some aesthetic restrictions.

HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Tuesday, December 17th
6:30 PM at
Hauberg Mansion

Members and friends are invited to our annual holiday gathering at the beautifully decorated Hauberg Mansion. If you know of someone who is interested in the history and architecture of Rock Island, bring them as your guest.

Please bring a sweet or savory "small bite" to share. Beverages and table service is provided.

VIRGIL MAYBERRY

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of long time member Virgil Mayberry. He was a supporter of preservation. Since no obituary has been published, many people don't know he's gone.

We wish his wife and daughter condolences.

RECENT LOCAL LANDMARKS



729 22nd Street Quincy-Weiss House, circa 1875

Although title history says the house was built by Richard & Carrie Quincy, family lore says the actual builder was Gottlieb Weiss. Weiss, a master carpenter, was a brother-in-law of prominent builder, John Volk and worked for him. Weiss lived here from 1888 to 1920. After being sold in 1971, the home became a rental and occasional party house. However it retained its original historic appearance. It is a rare Second Empire style home, sometimes called Mansard style because of the distinctive roofline. It is most often seen in more pretentious brick homes, not modest wood ones like this. Nonetheless, the ornate exterior has a multiplicity of details, from paired brackets to unusual window trim. It is easy to believe that Weiss was the lead carpenter.

741 22nd Street – Roderick & Ida Sammis Dart House, circa 1891

This is an intact Queen Anne influenced home, with all original details including an intricate roofline. Wide clapboard and decorative shingles clad the exterior. Despite the small front stoop, the rear of the house has an uncommon full-width porch. Roderick was a relative of the Henry Dart family, and was employed at that firm. His wife was from a prominent Moline family. One of her sisters married a Dart cousin and another wed William Jackson (see 824 20th Street.)



839 23rd Street – Reeves House 1897

Built for Robert Emmet Reeves, who was unmarried but lived there with his father, John. He remained until 1903, when the house had a series of relatively short term owners. Among them was Fred Kahlke of the riverboat building company. Later owners duplexed it for family and continued to maintain the house, but put new siding. After 1993, new owners unveiled it and began a comprehensive restoration inside and out. Missing modillions under the eaves were even replaced and a compatible garage was added. Current owners sought Landmark designation because of their strong belief that the appearance should remain unchanged

To learn more about the Rock Island's landmarks and preservation efforts, go to the Community & Recreation tab on RIGov.org. The drop down menu offers links to landmarks, MoSUS, and the Preservation Ordinance, among other choices.

RECENT LOCAL LANDMARKS

810 22nd Street

William & Elizabeth Hartz House, circa 1900

Prominent builder John Volk built this for his daughter “Lizzie” when she wed German pharmacist William Hartz. It is an elaborate Queen Anne, with interior mantels that may be from an earlier date. They added a small front apartment around 1942 but left the home mostly original. After Mrs. Hartz died in 1968, the home was sold to an investor who made inappropriate changes to the interior as he converted it to a triplex. However the outside was thankfully left alone for the most part. It is a Queen Anne style, with bay windows, modillions under the roof edges, and unusual massive chimneys that serve the four fireplaces. The front porch is relatively small, but the rear porch is much larger. At one time it was enclosed with lattice work, but the investor removed that. A historic garage, probably from the 1920s, uses Dutch lap clapboard, rather than the narrow lap clapboard that covers the house.



816 22nd Street

Frederick & Rose Titterington House, 1904

The Titteringtons both came from Edgington, with three children from Fred’s first marriage. They would soon have two more. He came to Rock Island in 1894 as the county treasurer, but spent most of his career as part owner and general manager of the Argillo Works in Carbon Cliff. The house was built by John Volk, with few decorative elements but many hidden details – such as double exterior walls. It is a Colonial Revival influenced American Foursquare, with a less common true center hall plan. A historic photo, ca 1912, shows no changes to the exterior. Since it has always been single-family, there are relatively few interior changes, most of which have been undone.

824 20th Street

Smythe-Jackson House, 1868

This is one of the oldest homes on 20th Street. The original Smythe (pronounced Smith) sold it to William Jackson and wife Jennie Sammis in 1873. The Jackson family would remain until William’s death in 1925. The house began a slow decline, ultimately ending up as multiple apartments with a missing tower and fake siding. Finally, after years of vacancy, in 2007 the home was purchased by adjacent neighbors in the Landmark Sweeney House. Sweeney was Jackson’s law partner. They began a long arduous restoration, culminated by replacement of the original tower. Jackson was one of the most civic-minded leaders our city ever had. He was known as the Father of Rock Island Parks yet maintained an active legal career, which included both civil and criminal law.



LUSTRON HOMES

THE LUSTRON HOME

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Read these details about the Lustron Home — a new standard for living.

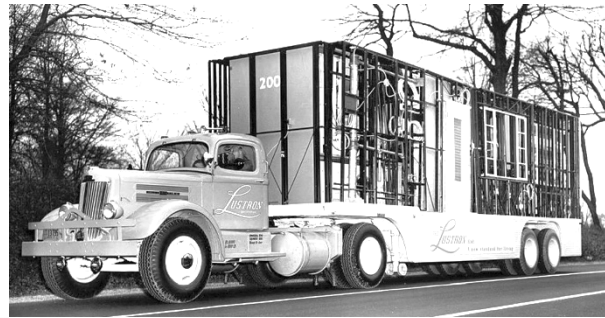
Five spacious rooms — more than 1,000 square feet. Contemporary porcelain tile floors. Radiant heat. Can be kept clean with simple cleaning. Built-in refrigerator, automatic roof, built-in sink, built-in stove, built-in water, built-in sewer. You have your choice of colors, inside and out, in panel shades providing an endless variety of color schemes in your own home.

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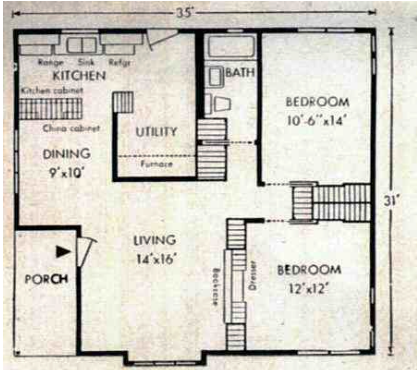
At the end of World War II returning soldiers faced a severe housing shortage. During the war and the twelve-year recession before it, very few homes had been built in America. A Moline native named Carl Strandlund thought he had the answer...a prefabricated house constructed entirely of steel.

Using a \$12.5 million dollar federal recovery loan, Strandlund began manufacturing the homes in Columbus, Ohio. The ready-to assemble houses were shipped in 3,000 pieces on a specially designed truck. Scheuerman & Kemp Lumber Yard sold and erected the houses locally. The buyer needed only to purchase a lot and have a concrete slab in place.



The prototype was a two-bedroom, 1,000 square foot home with steel framing, walls, roof trusses and roof tiles. The exposed interior

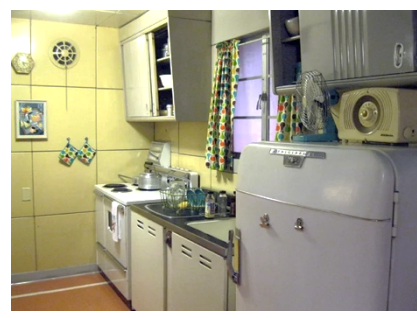
and exterior walls would be covered with 2-foot square steel panels with a hard enamel baked on finish. Inside, the home was designed for space efficiency. Bedrooms had sliding doors to save space. The master bedroom had a built-in vanity with drawers and cabinets for storage. In the kitchen, here was a built-in Thor brand washing machine \ with a special rack insert, did double duty as a dish washer. The utility room housed a furnace and hot water heater. Advertisements proclaimed the houses were fireproof, rustproof, and vermin-proof. They would never need repainting, reroofing or redecorating.



The first home to be completed in Rock Island is located at 2113 22 1/2 Avenue. As reported in the Rock Island Argus a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on December 1, 1948 attended by Mayor McKay, a civilian drum and bugle corps, and 3,000 people. Attendees were asked to donate 25 cents with all proceeds going to the Rock Island posts of the American Legion, Amvets, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars to support their rehabilitation fund.



Three more homes were erected in Rock Island located at 3316 7th Avenue, 2920 9th Street, and 2507 28th Avenue. But the company had financial problems. In 1950 the government foreclosed on its loan and the company closed. Nearly 3,000 homes had been built, mostly in the Midwest, but only a small number remain.



We are fortunate to still have all four of ours here in Rock Island.

Did You Know?

Carl Strandlund was born in Sweden and came to America with his family when he was 3 years old. His father worked at John Deere Plow. As a young man Carl took correspondence classes in engineering. He held over 150 patents as a production engineer for the Minneapolis Moline Tractor Company including rubber tires for tractors. He was hired by Chicago Vitreous Enamel Company in Chicago where he invented manufacturing techniques to build non-warping metal plates for tanks during WWI. Carl Strandlund died in Edina, Minnesota in 1974.

