PRESERVATION RACINE, INC.

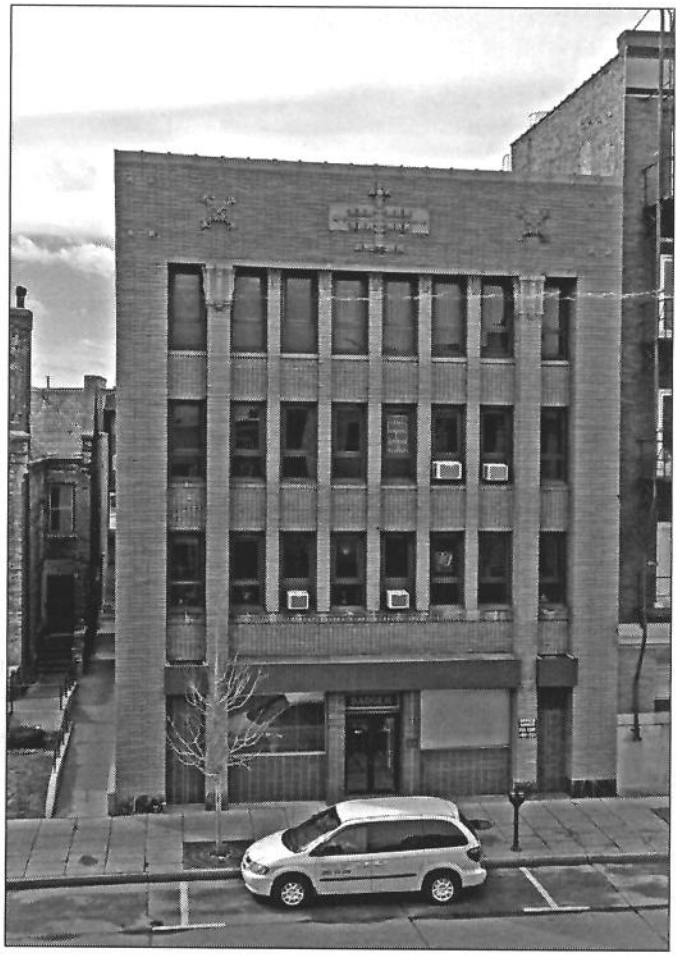
NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2015

CENTURY BUILDINGS FOR 2015

In recognition of National Preservation Month, Preservation Racine will host its twenty-eighth annual presentation of Century Building Certificates on Monday evening, May 4, 2015, in the Great Hall at the DeKoven Center, 600 21st Street, Racine, WI. A reception to honor the building owners will be held at 6:00 p.m. followed by the program at 7:00 p.m. All members and friends of Preservation Racine are invited to attend.

610 Main Street, Racine

On April 3, 1915 a headline in the *Racine Journal-News* announced the "First Big Real Estate Deal of the Spring!" The brief article reported that a frame house, owned by H.J. Smith at 610 Main Street had been purchased by Mr. Melvin Tidyman, the "well known confectioner who will at once build a modern building on the property." By April 15, the paper noted that the four-story building, to be designed by accomplished Racine architect Edmund B. Funston, would be completely fireproof, "up-to-date in every way" and one of the finest office buildings in southern Wisconsin. By the end of June architectural plans for the Tidyman Building were approved, prominent builder Henry Brauer was hired as general contractor and construction commenced that summer. Labor and supplies were all provided by well-known local companies including DP Wigley Concrete, Mohr-Jones, Driver & Sons Millwork and Racine Iron and Wire Co.



Built in the Prairie Style, a relatively rare form for commercial buildings in Wisconsin at that time, the building was considered one of Funston's most accomplished designs. It bears a striking resemblance to the Edison Shop in Chicago designed in 1912 by George Elmslie—noted Prairie School architect and chief draftsman of Louis H. Sullivan, lead architect of the "Chicago School." Later that year Mr. Tidyman, owner of a successful candy manufacturing and retail business, partnered with Edward Cahoon to incorporate the Badger Wisconsin Realty Company giving his new building an official

name. The Badger Building is modern looking even today. Rectangular and symmetrical in its layout, the building emphasizes horizontal and vertical lines through the use of tall pilasters and piers, narrow buff-colored Roman brick outlined with now faded Cherokee red mortar, and rows of tall, recessed windows. Green marble, limestone and intricate, stylized terracotta trim contribute to its distinctive Prairie Style. "The lines of the structure are heroic and the general proportion is such as to give the pleasing impression of graceful strength," the *Journal News* reported at the Badger Building's grand opening celebration in May, 1916.

Built of reinforced concrete at a reported cost of $55,000, the building offered the most modern, elegant office space in the city. Electric lights, a four-story elevator, marble wall panels and baseboards, colored terrazzo floors and abundant light and ventilation compelled the city's leading doctors, dentists, attorneys, insurance and real estate agents to lease space as soon as it was offered. During WWI, Mr. Tidyman volunteered the Badger Building for service as Racine's headquarters for the Hospital Garment Department of the American Red Cross. Under the direction of Miss Bertha C. Kelley, hundreds of women cut and assembled over 75,000 garments in the basement for inspection and shipment to the Red Cross's central division in Chicago, giving Racine a pivotal role in the war effort.

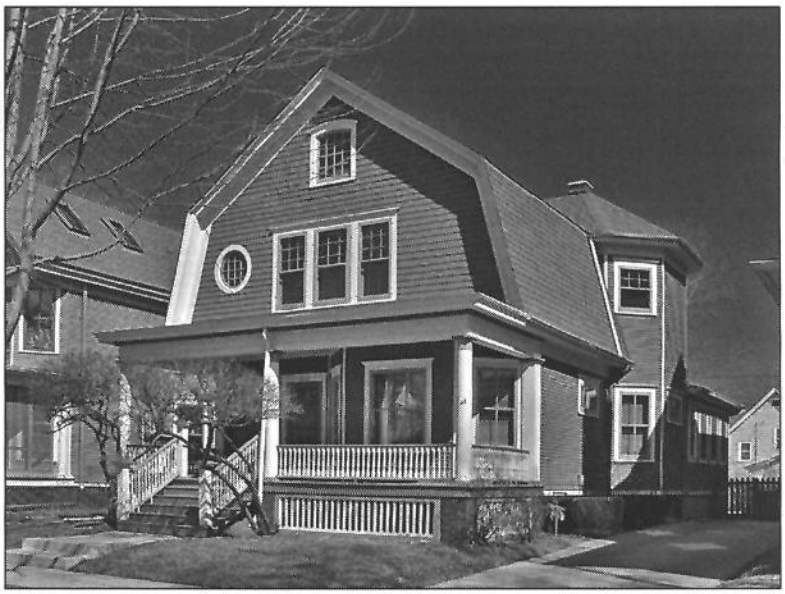
Melvin Tidyman passed away in 1942 and in 1956, ownership of the Badger Building passed to his partner Edward Cahoon and Cahoon's two sisters Elizabeth Cahoon and Mrs. Ann Mathy. When Mr. Cahoon died in 1962, his sisters retained ownership until 1964 when they sold it to Attorney Joseph Muratore, Sr. who recognized the value in preserving such a well-constructed, architecturally significant building. Joseph Muratore Jr., continues his father's legacy as an attorney, practicing in the spacious suite of offices they shared as partners on the building's 4th floor, and as enthusiastic owner, caretaker and number one fan of the Badger Building. Over the years, the Muratores have maintained and updated the building while carefully conserving its original façade and overall historic integrity. Improvements have included a new elevator (in 1964), replacement windows, a new boiler, refinished terrazzo floors, tuck pointing and restoration of the limestone and terra cotta trim. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and the State Register of Historic Places in 1989.

Walking into the Badger Building today one feels as if they have stepped back in time. It looks and feels just as solid and elegant and modern as it must have 100 years ago when visionary construction, careful craftsmanship and attention to detail created the finest office building in Racine.

Carrie Bergs

1413 College Avenue, Racine

Built in 1911, this house is a reflection of a nationalistic design movement that manifested the romantic nostalgia Americans were feeling for their colonial roots. Built in what is called the Dutch Colonial Revival Style, the house contains several key elements found initially in the homes built by Dutch colonists between 1625 and 1800 in what are now western Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The distinguishing feature of the Dutch Colonial Style is the gambrel roof, which is actually a gable roof with two distinct pitches. It is often referred to as "barn-shaped"



as the roofing style is very common on American barns. A great advantage of this design is that these houses were often classified as a single story house for tax purposes. The unique roofline allowed the second story to be considered attic space and therefore subject to lower taxes than two-story houses. Like many Dutch Colonial Revivals, the house maintains a balanced asymmetry with an off-center front door and a large two-story dormer on the south side. Distinctive windows are often showcased in the main gable of Dutch Colonials and this one includes a decorative round window just above the roof line of the porch. The front porch runs the full width of the house, a rare feature nationally but one that is more common in our area. Previously the property was the site of a home owned by Mr. and Mrs. John and Anna (nee Schroeder) Neumann. Mr. Neumann ran a grocery business in Racine and Anna's family owned a dry goods business on Main Street. The house was demolished in 1902. Stella Sears, who lived across the street at 1405 College Avenue, bought the empty lot and built this house in 1911, but most likely never moved in. In December 1910, she married attorney John Gittings who practiced in both Burlington and Union Grove.

John Henley, a foreman at J.I. Case Threshing Machine Company, lived in the house until about 1917. In 1921, Percy and Bess Schroeder, relatives and heirs to the family's dry goods company purchased the house. Their daughter, Jeanette, remained in the home until 1993 and has the distinction of owning the house for the longest time. Jeanette earned a Master's degree in art and landscape architecture from the University of Michigan and was involved in the design of some of Racine's most well-known county parks. The house was purchased in 1993 by Squires and Wendy Sorenson and was sold to its present owners, Peter and Lita Smith in 2005. They have renovated much of the house, restoring its architectural integrity in the process.

Colleen P. Wilkinson

1654 College Avenue, Racine

The house at 1654 College Avenue was built in 1892 by William Augustus Crane and his wife Laura after their retirement from a successful career in dairy farming. It was built in the Queen Anne Style during the late period of that design movement.

The Queen Anne Style derives its inspiration from the aesthetic designs of architecture found, not during the reign of Queen Anne (1702-1714), but during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901) and is known for elaborate, decorative details such as bold and unconventional color schemes, ornate spindle work and round towers and turrets. It also encompasses broader eclectic design features including asymmetry, multiple gables, dormers, and chimney and window panels. Although the exterior of the house is a modest reflection of the Queen Anne Style, often referred to as "austere," the cross gabled roof with major gables on three sides, the two-story front and side bay windows, Tuscan columns and asymmetrical location of the front door reveal its Queen Anne roots. The original carriage barn stills stands behind the house and faces Seventeenth Street.

After William's death in 1918, the house changed hands several times and was bank-owned in the late 1930s. At that time Benjamin J. Bleakley moved to Racine from Chicago to head the First National Bank, bringing his wife Betty and family with him. They lived in the house for many years and sold it to Jerome and Marie Pederson in 1952. Jerome Pederson also served as president of the First National Bank. In 1971, the house was sold to Emmett and Frances Bedford, both professors at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Bedford Concert Hall is named in honor of Frances. In 2006, Genevieve Sesto, a lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside purchased this historic home.

Colleen P. Wilkinson

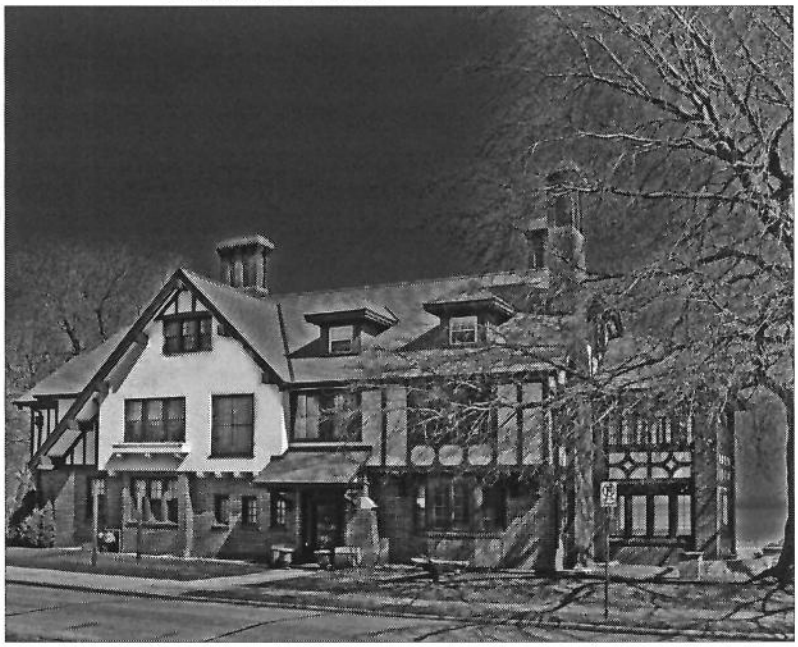
1121 Lake Avenue, Racine

John Reid, Jr., succeeded his father-in-law, Frank K. Bull, into the presidency of the Belle City Manufacturing Company in 1914. He and his wife, Jeanette, engaged the local architectural firm of Guilbert and Funston to design their house in 1915. Half timbering and stucco were used to simulate the wattle and daub exposed timber structures of the late Medieval Period. The pattern of stucco and timbering is variegated: "tree and limb" within the north gable and a diamond pattern on the south side. The prominent asymmetrical front gable, irregular rooflines, elaborate chimneys, multi-paned windows, and the upper stories overhanging the first-level brick walls were combined to present a fine example of English Tudor Revival Style. The interior plans and materials were also exceptional. There are six fireplaces in the house and it retains the original quarter sawed oak floors. The top floor of this four-story house was given over to an apartment for the staff. With the exception of porches having been enclosed, the exterior has remained quite true to the original plans.

Until plans for the formation of Meyers Park were instituted in 1969, the back line of the property ended at the top of a steep cliff below which lapped the waters of Lake Michigan. The lowest, lakeside level of the house opens onto the rear terrace. At the end of Eleventh Street a steep set of stairs, painted green, provided access to the beach at the base of the cliff. Reid, seemingly inspired by this location, had the word Lochnaiar, which has been attributed to Gaelic words meaning near the lake, inscribed in the leaded glass within the front door window. The large anchor that rests on the front lawn is said to have come from the Lake Michigan coal steamer, Rudolph.

John Reid died in 1925. From1927 until 1965 this was the residence of Leon and Agnes Clausen. Clausen served as president of the J.I. Case Company until 1948. The garage was most likely added by the Clausens. Pewabic tile, used in flooring in the interior of the house, was incorporated into the basin and fountain on the exterior west wall of the garage. In 1969 the law firm of Brown, Black and Rigelman (later adding Kreul) purchased the property and remained there for nearly two decades. In 1989 Dawn and Ed Weisbrod turned the building into a bed and breakfast inn called The Lochnaiar Inn. Subsequent owners/operators of the inn were Craig and Alice Geisler followed by Shea and Rickey W. Leech. Concern for the demolition of the building and questionable redevelopment of the site followed. Since 2007 the property has been in the guardianship of Sandra H. Young.

Barbara S. Walter



1741 Park Avenue, Racine

This Craftsman-influenced Foursquare house was built circa 1912 for Mrs. Louise H. Mohr, widow of Jacob Mohr. Mr. Mohr had been President of Mohr-Jones Hardware Company at 315 6th Street, dealing in stoves, furnaces and hardware, until his death in January 1909. A few years later, in May 1912, Mr. Andrew Pierce of the Pierce Engine Company sold this 40-ft lot to Louise Mohr for $1 and "other good and valuable consideration." Pierce had owned several lots on the block, including property to the east on College Avenue, where he had built his own house. In the sale, he also promised to remove an existing building on the premises, perhaps his barn or garage, within two months.

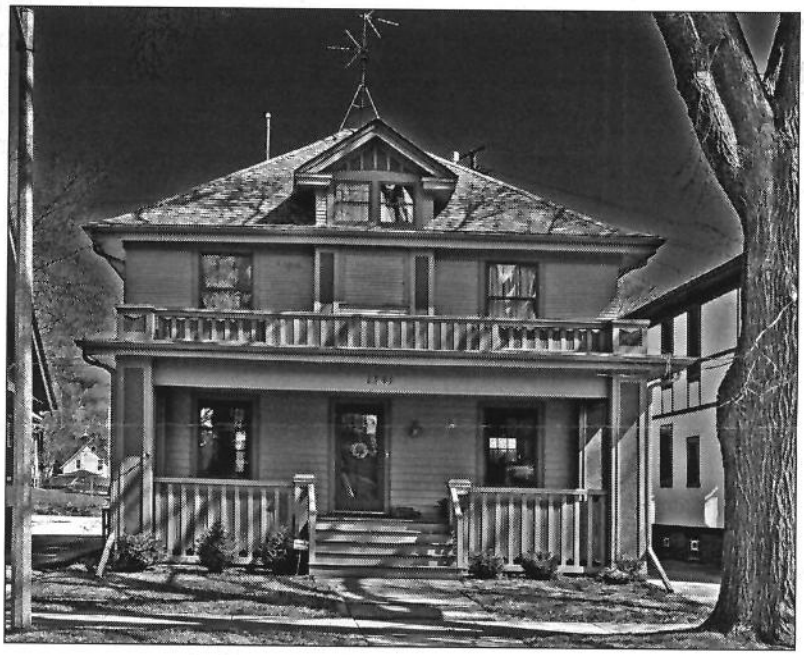
The house was built in a Foursquare Style, with symmetrical façade, attic gable and hipped roof. It is notable, however, for the Craftsman details which embellish it. On both the first and second stories and the front door, the windows all have three vertical panes in the top sash and a single pane in the bottom. The gable continues the vertical motif with board and batten siding. An unusually wide beam, with no center support pillars, spans the width of the porch, owing its integrity to a hidden bridge truss above.

The substantial porch pillars are decorated with raised molding which frames a rectangular inset of rough stucco, and a chevron design crowns each pillar above the porch roof. In addition, an intricate molded design subtly enhances the outer corners of the porch just below the eaves.

Mrs. Mohr lived in the house until her death in 1929 at age 75. Her oldest daughter, Nellie, a teacher at Washington Park High School, continued to live there alone, although in 1946 she advertised for a housekeeper for one person, to do light work offering a small heated apartment for $15 weekly. Nellie died at home in 1954.

The next owners, although only briefly, were Robert Sorensen, an accountant at Wisconsin Electric Power, and his wife Joan. In 1957, the house was for sale again, with the ad saying, "you must see what the owner has done to this home." It was soon purchased by Richard and Patricia Murphy for their growing family. Dick became an owner at Miller Brothers Insurance agency, while Pat, a teacher at Park High School before her marriage, became (and still is) a local realtor. They made various interior changes and had the yard professionally landscaped by Coryell Nurseries.

About 10 years later, Keith Mack, Principal of West Ridge School, Howell School, and then St. Rose Special Education Annex purchased the house with his wife Doris, a secretary at the Area Vo-Tech Adult Education Center. In 1969-71 the house was



again for sale as a "beautiful new listing for beautiful people" with a "charming colonial kitchen" and a "back yard like a picnic grove." It was bought by Gene Cook, a college student who went on to hold various sales positions at Wisco Batteries and ESB Wisco, a manufacturer of storage batteries. Gene and his wife Colleen steamed off wallpaper, paneled the kitchen with barn wood, painted every room, and carpeted the house in early 1970s style.

In July 1979 the current owners, John and Jeanne Costabile, became the sixth family to love and care for this house. Over the past 35+ years, they have made many changes and restored numerous original features inside and out.

Jan Carter

1346 Park Avenue, Racine

This Italianate Style house has a low-pitched hipped roof with a projecting central gable. Decorative brackets support the widely overhanging eaves, and there is decorative detail above the tall narrow windows.

In July 1860, Jane Lugg, wife of Reverend Samuel Lugg, bought at public auction, lot #12 in Ward 3, block 38 west, for $2.81 in back taxes, the current location of 1346 Park Avenue. The Reverend Samuel Lugg was the nephew of Yorkville's pioneer, Hannibal Lugg. Samuel and Jane Lugg and their four children lived on Chippewa (Park) Avenue until 1867 when the family moved to Edgerton, Wisconsin.

In 1868 Emilius Enos and his wife, Martha, moved to the property. On September 8, 1871, Reverend Samuel and Jane Lugg sold 1346 Park Avenue to Emilius and Martha Enos for $1,200. Emilius was a Civil War veteran and a member of the Governor Harvey Post.

The real estate taxes jumped significantly in 1878 and 1881. That appears to be the time period when the present house at 1346 Park Avenue was built. The 1872-73 city directory shows an ad for E. Enos, Practical House Painter. Mr. Enos was also the agent for Torrey's weather strips "for keeping out the cold winds and snow of winter, and the driving rain of summer." Emilius's business was located in the back portion of the building with an entrance on Fourteenth Street.

On August 6, 1901, Emilius Enos received a patent for his invention of improvements to a folding portable scaffold. Emilius wrote, "The object of my invention is to produce a scaffold which may be folded into a small package, may be carried from place to place, and which may be put in operative position easily and quickly."

Emilius and Martha had one son, Walter, born in 1869. Walter continued to reside with his parents after he married his wife, Mabel. After 1900, rooms in the back portion of the house were rented to boarders. Walter and Mabel remained in the house after the deaths of both Emilius and Martha in 1908 and 1924 respectively.

In 1939, the house was sold to Dr. Grace Shenkenburg. It was then called Park Avenue Apartments. Like Emilius Enos, she had her office in the back of the building. From 1982 to 2010, there were various owners of the building.

Deborah and Charles Yale purchased the house in April 2010 from the estate of Thomas Baltusis. The inside of the house was repaired and renovated. The roof and the windows were replaced and an attached garage was added. The brick on the garage was carefully matched to the original brick on the house. Unfortunately, Charles passed away before the renovations were completed. Deborah finished the work and moved into the house in April 2014.

Marcia Pfost

217 West Jefferson Street, Burlington

This Queen Anne Style house, located at 217 West Jefferson Street in Burlington, Wisconsin was built by Joseph A. Rueter, known as the "dean of Burlington contractors," although it should be noted that Joseph came from a family of builders, including his father and two brothers, who all left their mark on many area Burlington buildings. The central of the three stone houses across the street from this house was the home of Joseph's parents. Queen Anne Style houses were popular in America between 1880 and 1910, featuring asymmetrical porches, decorative detailing, often built of wood for ease of construction by a competent contractor. This two-story, cross gabled house features fish scale siding in the gables, a spindled partial front and side porch, turned decorative elements on the porch corners and hood work above the doors and windows.

On June 1, 1885 (s/b 1886), Joseph and Mary Kipp were married in Burlington at the Church of the Immaculate Conception (now known as St. Mary's Church). In May 1887, they purchased this lot and began construction of the house, moving in on July 1888. Joseph and Mary's family included five daughters and one son. In 1896 Joseph purchased "the old Sheldon warehouse," which had been used as a rendezvous for the Ninth Wisconsin Battery during the Civil War. He intended to use it as a carpenter shop and moved it to Conkey Street. Four years later he moved the workshop next to his house on Jefferson Street and leased part of it to the City of Burlington to be used by Hose Company No. 2 of the Burlington Volunteer Fire Department. The Hose Company continued using the shop building until 1930, and it remained on the property until it was razed in 1948. The house remained in the family for three generations. Joseph and Mary lived here for the rest of their married years. They both passed away in 1943, Mrs. Rueter in May and Mr. Rueter in December. Joseph played an important part in the development of the Burlington area. According to his obituary, "he planned, built or remodeled more than 600 of the homes, business blocks, public buildings and farm buildings in this area." The year he died, he supervised the remodeling of the Jones Building on Chestnut Street, which he had built more than fifty years before. He served as a Racine County Board Supervisor and as a supervisor of the Saint Mary's School Society. Their daughter, Nora, and her husband, Dr. J. G. Weiler purchased the house from the Rueter estate and extensively remodeled it to accommodate offices for his veterinary practice. They owned this house until their deaths - his in 1961 and hers in 1970. Their daughter, Mary E. Weiler Huckstorf, was the next owner. After Mary, several families have made this house their home. It is currently owned by Michael and Lori Whited. They purchased this historic house in 2014 and will continue the story of the house as their family grows and lives here.

Vivian Merlo

5334 Lathrop Avenue, Mount Pleasant

Thomas Piper purchased this land in 1899, known as the Blodgett Farm, from George Blodgett. Tax records indicate that this late Queen AnneSstyle frame house was built in 1907. As reported in the *Racine Daily Journal* on Friday March 15, 1907, "Architect Wm. F. Burfeind is making plans and specifications for a new $4,000 residence to be erected by Mr. Thomas Piper of Mount Pleasant." On April 15, 1907 the same paper reported "Contracts were today let for $4,500 residence to be built by Thomas Piper near the south county line. Charles Knutson for the carpenter work and Otto Beecher the plumbing." The Queen Anne Style became popular in America beginning in the 1880s. The steeply pitched cross-gabled roof with a dominant front facing gable features a Palladian window with keystone. The one-story-high porch extends along two sides including most of front façade and entrance. Classical porch supports and spindles are distinctive characteristics of this house.

The Pipers were prominent crop farmers in the area. Thomas served as supervisor of the highway and bridge committee and was chairman of the Mount Pleasant town board. He and his wife Emma had two sons, Sylvester and Russell. Sylvester, his wife Edna, and their son Gilbert would eventually move into the house after Thomas and Emma's death less than a month apart in 1929. In 1955 the *Racine Journal-Times* reported Sylvester's untimely death, the result of seeing a squad car crash into two trees near his property that caused him to collapse and die from a heart attack. Sylvester was the organist and choir director at the First Baptist Church in Racine for 37 years. His music career began at the age of 11 as an organist for the Berryville Church. Edna was also very active in the community and was a life member of The Racine Woman's Club. She sang in the choir at the First Baptist Church in Racine, where at the time of her death she was the oldest church member in terms of length of membership. She remained in this house until her death in June of 1974.

The property remained in the Piper family until 1977 when Fred and Clare Cross purchased it. The Crosses are responsible for redoing all the woodwork and adding the attached garage. In 1980 they removed the circular drive that connected the property from Lathrop Avenue to County Line Road.

The current owners are Thomas and Sharon Tenuta who purchased the home in 1991 and continue to maintain and care for this rural historic property.

Jacki Mekemson

17460 Old Yorkville Road, Yorkville

"Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged."

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 established a temporary government for the Northwest Territory laying the legal and cultural groundwork for Midwestern settlement and development. The Ordinance included the above statement providing the ideological foundation for education in the new territories. Subsequently it also provided the basis for the first school law passed by the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature in 1839. The law called for the creation of a school district when there were at least ten families in an area.

Yorkville Township, created by the state legislature in 1842, was a growing and prosperous farming community home to many settlers from Cornwall, England, who began arriving in 1840. Faith and education were high priorities, so after constructing a mud chapel in 1844 (now the site of the Yorkville United Methodist church), they built the first township school in 1845. These structures, the town's first community buildings, were the heart of Yorkville Settlement on what is now Old Yorkville Road. In May, 1885, the school burned to the ground. A new school of cream brick was quickly built on land donated by John Moyle, just a short distance west of the original school. Moyle, a talented Yorkville carpenter, is thought to be the architect of the late Victorian Style school house. His elaborate Italian Villa Style home is located close by on the same road. The eaves of Yorkville #4 School are supported by paired Italianate brackets, and ample light pours in from the tall arched windows topped with brick window hoods. An ornate oversized bell cupola is anchored to the front of the schoolhouse, providing architectural interest and a whimsical home for the old school bell. A photo from 1888 shows 31 students, although attendance would have varied with the seasons. In those days, boys only attended school in the winter months as they were needed on family farms the rest of the year. In 1938 the school was modernized and enlarged as a WPA project. A basement addition provided indoor plumbing and furnace space. The front porch was replaced with an enclosed vestibule. The building remained in use as a school until 1959 when it was closed due to district consolidation. The Yorkville 4-H Club purchased the building in 1966 to use as a meeting house. Renamed the "Clover Center," the club house was formally dedicated at an open house on June 11, 1967. Today, the Clover Center holds both County 4-H and Yorkville 4-H meetings and activities. In 2010, Yorkville 4-H Committee members and club members initiated a major renovation of the old school. Volunteers of all ages donated their time and talent to restore the building. They refinished the original maple floor, painted inside and out using original colors and gave the building a thorough cleaning. Their efforts were recognized when Yorkville #4 School was placed on both the Wisconsin State Register of Historical Places and the National Register of Historic Places in 2011.

In September 2012, the old schoolhouse was the site of the celebration launch and book-signing of *Plank Road Winter*, a historical novel for young readers, set in Yorkville after the Civil War. Authors Hilda and Emily Demuth grew up in Yorkville and have fond memories of attending 4-H meetings in the building. Last summer another chapter was added to the school's history book when a community garden was planted on the grounds. Club members, parent volunteers and veterans worked together to cultivate vegetables which are then used for meals served at the Wisconsin Veterans' Home in Yorkville.

Carrie Bergs.

508 De Koven Avenue, Racine

This house – one of the first ever built on De Koven Avenue – was the home of Bernard Foster George, who may well have built it himself. A contracting mason, he built several houses locally

during the 1890s but by the 1900s he was a prominent businessman in Racine who had been involved in building the first Post Office (1896–98) and thereafter held the superintendence of several significant buildings, including the Fifth and Sixth Ward schools (1899), Lincoln school (1908), Gilbert Knapp school (1911–12), the first Carnegie library (1903, now the Racine Heritage Museum), and Fire Station #5 (1908), where he found an interesting fossil showing what was thought to be the vertebrae and spinal cord of a prehistoric animal or parts of a prehistoric plant.

On August 2, 1898, Mr. George paid $250 for the land for 508 De Koven Avenue but did not immediately build on it. He was living with his wife and several sons one block away at 1740 Park Avenue. In 1901 they relocated to the house at 512 De Koven Avenue, one door away from what would become 508. The land appears to have remained unbuilt until 1910, when Bernard and his wife, Ada, and son, Edwin, are recorded in the census as living at 508 De Koven Avenue. We find them there in the city directories until 1918, but in 1920 the house appears under new ownership.

At that time, the house was an asymmetrical cross-gabled rectangular block with sun porch to the south. The half timbering properly belongs to the Tudor Style, although it is also found on Queen Anne buildings and in association with the Arts and Crafts Style. Here, however, it is less usually, but appropriately, complemented with a Shingle Style roof whose typical long sweep continues far below the main gable and dormer window at the front of the house. Inside, the chimney breast makes distinctive use of smoothly rounded lake stones lovingly brought from the shore by Mr. George and used both here and in the neighboring house (which he also built) at 1842 Park Avenue.

After the Georges, the house had a number of owners. From 1959 to 1962, it was owned by Dr. William J. and Charlotte A. Smollen, who remember local journalist Tex Reynolds living next door at 512 (now 510). They sold it to John L. and Therese Matthews, who lived in it until 1972. The present owners, Rev.Travis and Mabel Dupriest acquired the house in 1981. They made some additions in a matching style, and there is now a garage with apartment connected to the house, a new main entrance on the east side, and the screen-windows of the sun porch have been glazed. But not the least attraction of this lovely house is the fenced-in flower garden also added by the Dupriests on the east side of the property. The house is an ornament to the neighborhood and well deserves its Century Building award.

Pippin Michelli

1824 Wisconsin Avenue, Racine

Anne and Henry Wiegand built this house in 1915 as an investment they held for the next 27 years. The first family to actually live in the house, however was the Percy Batten family. Percy Batten founded Twin Disc Clutch Company. Henry Wiegand, proprietor and his brother Charles, sold jewelry, record albums, Victrola machines, musical instruments, pianos and eyeglasses. The Wiegand Brothers sign still remains over the storefront at 420 Main Street.

The house is an eclectic Prairie Foursquare with brick and stucco exterior. This post-Victorian style remained popular throughout the 1920s, and was considered the modern design of the era and is sometimes called the "true American style" of architecture. The hipped roof, twin gabeled dormer windows and square brick piers supporting the roof are all typical of Prairie Style but not always paired together in design. The Craftsman Style brackets under the eaves lend detail to the house. Leaded glass sunroom doors and windows in the music room, built-in bookcases and large stained glass windows bring the Prairie Style inside. The living room features original coffered ceilings and Craftsman detail gives period style to the oak stairway banisters.

The living room with its large fireplace, was the setting for the wedding of the Wiegands' daughter, Sophia Ann, to Dr. Arthur Hansen. The house remained in the family until 1943.

Over the years, while subsequent owners have made changes inside the house, the outside remains structurally the same. The cistern that was once in the backyard is now gone, the original glass doors on the detached garage have been replaced with wood and the north end of the front porch is no longer screened in. Previous owners Doug and Amy Killebrew updated the kitchen and full bathroom, including restoring the original cast iron bathtub.

This house has been owned by Keith and Karri Hemmig for the last ten years.

Karri Hemmig

Thank You Century Buildings Committee

As co-chairs of the Preservation Racine Century Building committee we would like to thank our committee members who have spent countless hours selecting, researching, writing, photographing, and preparing a memorable celebration to recognize these historic properties and the individuals that continue to proudly maintain them. We are grateful for their dedication and commitment that makes this event possible.

Researchers and writers: Jan Carter, Colleen P. Wilkinson, Karri Hemmig, Vivian Merlo, Pippin Michelli, Pat Murphy, Marcia Pfost, Barbara Walter
Hospitality, set-up and décor: Steve Gancarz, Janet Kuhl, Donna Newgord, Sherry Pecarelli, and Maria Zumach
Photography and framing: Charles Vallone
Publicity: Jim Wardrip

Carrie Bergs & Jacki Mekemson

Our appreciation also goes to:

Don Vande Sand, Burlington Historical Society
Anna M. Stadick, Head Archivist, Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Parkside
Mary Nelson, Archivist, Racine Heritage Museum

Preservation Racine, Inc.
P.O. Box 383
Racine, WI 53401

Return Service Requested

NonProfit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Racine, Wisconsin
Permit No. 242

5340533553 C048

PRESERVATION RACINE, INC.

Published quarterly by
Preservation Racine, Inc.
P.O. Box 383
Racine, WI 53401

President	Don Schumacher
Vice President	Jim Wardrip
Secretary	Nat Cycenas
Treasurer	Charles Rice
Historian	Sharon Baldukas

NEWSLETTER

Editors	Carrie Bergs, Jacki Mekemson
	Vivian Merlo, Pippin Michelli
	Barbara Walter

Office: Blake House, 936 South Main Street,
Racine, WI 53403 (262) 634-5748
www.preservationracine.org

We are proud to be a partner for the Century Buildings Recognition Night. We look forward to being a part of this event in the future and to work together to promote & highlight the treasures of Racine County.

Be sure to visit our location at I-94 on Highway 20 or you can visit us regularly on the web at ***www.realracine.com***.

realracine
America's Kringle Capital

14015 Washington Ave. 884-6400

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015
SUPPLEMENT

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have been president for a year already. We just elected new Board members who are in place and ready to go. Welcome to new Board members Mark Sommer, Victor Schubert, Norm Seeger and Bev Schumacher.

This past year we have talked about ways to update and improve Preservation Racine. One of the things we are doing is updating our bookkeeping system. Another item on the agenda is to review what Preservation Racine is and what it should be. To this end, Board members will be holding a meeting to put together a five-year plan and do a full self-examination. If you have any suggestions for what you think we should be doing, or something we should not be doing, please let us know so we can include this in our review.

We are celebrating Century Buildings in this issue. These are buildings that have survived for 100 years or more. Owners have cared for them and preserved them for us all to enjoy. I would like us to encourage this and to acknowledge people that make positive changes to their buildings. One building that comes to mind is the Women's Resource Center on 16th Street. They have just finished an extensive improvement to the two enclosed porches that were on the building. If you see a building that is being cared for, let the owners know and let Preservation Racine know, as well, so we can also thank them for their work.

Enjoy this issue and consider joining us at our potluck celebration on Monday, May 4th, honoring these buildings and their owners. Our deepest appreciation for the services of the dedicated committee members who have searched the community to identify these sites, those who diligently researched the properties, and those who are organizing the event, which promises to be a very enjoyable program honoring Racine history. Special thanks to Jacki Mekemson and Carrie Bergs who have stepped forward to chair the event this year.

Don Schumacher,
President

CALEDONIA CONSERVANCY PLANS PROPERTY TOURS

The Caledonia Conservancy Land Trust will hold two free tours of all its properties to acquaint the public with features and trails on its land. They are Saturday, April 18 and Saturday May 16. Each tour will meet at 8:00 a.m. for an orientation, then go by van to each trail opening; then along the trails – weather permitting. There will be coffee at the beginning and a light lunch at the end. Wear shoes and clothes appropriate for the outdoors. Contact Wendy McCalvy at (262) 639 5749, or wendymccalvy@gmail.com, for info and to register. There is a fourteen-person limit. The trails are open to both hikers and horseback riders. Parking areas at access points will be shown and maps of trail courses handed out.

COMING UP

National Preservation Month, May 2015

Century Buildings Awards, Monday, May 4, 6:00 p.m., Great Hall, DeKoven Center

The Farm at Dover, Monday, June 1, 6:30 p.m., 26060 Washington Avenue (Highway 20), Dover

Racine Yacht Club, July 20, 7:00 p.m., 1 Barker Street, Racine

Racing Pigeons in Racine, Monday, August 31, 7:00 p.m. (location to be announced)

Preservation Racine Tour of Historic Places, Sunday, September 27, noon to 5:30 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

217 WEST JEFFERSON STREET, BURLINGTON

It is a welcome bonus when we can include contextual photos with the historic information about a building. We are fortunate that the Burlington Historical Society holds material about the Rueter family and kindly provided these historic photos of the Rueter family and of the old Sheldon warehouse that Joseph Rueter purchased and set up as a workshop beside his house. This second photo shows the City of Burlington Hose Company No. 2, who leased part of the building from Joseph Rueter.

HOSE CO. NO. 2 IN FRONT OF HILLSIDE FIREHOUSE. APRIL 19, 1914. L TO R" JOHN LOCKMETT, HENRY VOS, BEN RUETER, BILL KEOUGH, JOE RUETER, LEONARD BRENM, BIRCH RUETER, CLARENCE COLBURN, HOWARD COLBURN, JOHN PRASCH, HENRY RUETER, A.J. "DUTCH" VOS, HENRY HABEKOST, JOHN McCARTHY, FRANK RUETER AND J. McCOURT.

DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR OUR ARCHIVE

Preservation Racine welcomes donations of historic material for our archive. Recently we were delighted to receive the following gifts:

Barbara Walter donated a book of all the streets in Racine, not only listing all the streets in Racine, but also when they were named, and any name changes.

Jim Mercier donated seven books, and a drawing of the Racine Harbor dated 1853. The books are:

1. *Rooted in Hope, the Story of the Dominican Sisters in Racine*, dated 1962

2. *My First Century, The Memoirs of Flora Hoffmeister Ellinger (1858-1958)* The book includes her family's years in Racine

3. *Badger Mfg. Co.*

4. *A Country Romance* (sponsored by J.I. Case Threshing Machine Co., dated 1896)

5. *Only Glimpses* by M.L. McMurphy, dated 1887, Racine, WI

6. *Windle's Word Pictures*, dated 1918, inside cover:

   A Token of Our Remembrance and appreciation of the part you have taken in the Great War for Freedom of a World. From your friends in Racine, WI

7. A German Gospel hymn book, Racine, dated 1894

WELCOME REAL RACINE

We are excited to have Real Racine become a partner with Preservation Racine for the Real Racine Presents Preservation Racine, Inc. Century Buildings Recognition Night. This partnership will be a very special opportunity to reach news areas and enable us to tell our story to more people.
Don Schumacher