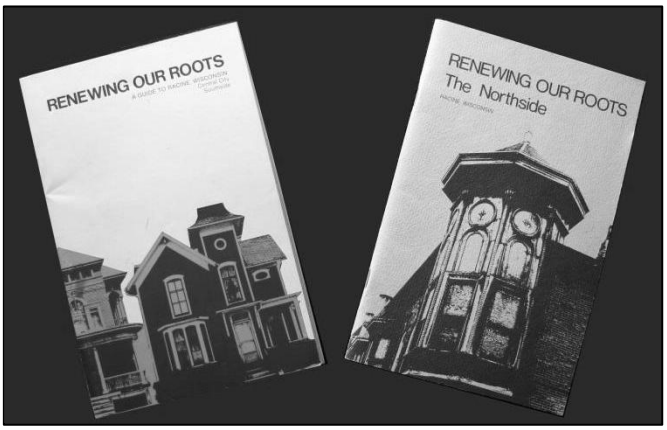
PRESERVATION
RACINE NEWS

FALL 2016
Volume 6

Historv of Southside Historic District

This year's Tour of Historic Places finds itself within the Southside Historic District, Racine's first historic district and one that is closely tied in with the stimulus for and organization of Preservation Racine itself.

The approach of the 1976 American Bicentennial had spurred country-wide interest in historic preservation. Federal and State funds were made available for research, listings and preservation projects, just in time to benefit Racine. In 1970, the Bull and Wadewitz mansions on Main Street and East Park were razed to make way for East Park Towers. Their loss was mourned by a local teacher, Margo Drummond, who was living across the street in the Bull Manor apartments. In a paper published in the *Journal Times* in 1973, she proposed a landmarks preservation commission. This closely paralleled a contemporary proposal by the Junior League as part of its Urban Aesthetics initiative. Margo Drummond was invited to join and help form the Landmarks Committee for Racine Urban Aesthetics.



In 1974, the Landmarks Committee took its first initiative by sponsoring an architectural survey by Johnson Johnson & Roy. It covered 140 blocks and nearly 3,000 buildings, grading them A-D as potential landmarks. This led directly to establishing the City Landmarks Preservation Commission, thus providing a basis on which to start protecting the buildings.

Together with Mary Schuchman, Margo Drummond obtained a $500 grant from the Bicentennial Commission in Wisconsin, to research and publish 27 buildings in the central city Southside. Their booklet, *Renewing Our Roots,* was published the following year, 1975. Under the leadership of Suzanne Foreman, the original Landmarks Committee became **Preservation Racine** with its mission *to identify and actively encourage the preservation of buildings, sites and districts in the Racine County area, Wisconsin, which have historical, architectural and cultural value*. Immediately, they began work with the new City Landmarks Commission to make an ordinance recognizing Racine landmarks and affording some protection. The same year, 1976, they initiated the application for the Southside Historic District, which was recognized by the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. It was Racine's first historic district. The city now has some seven historic districts and is proposing more. All these later initiatives have come from the City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Preservation Racine's *Newsletter* containing Racine County news and research, its Tour of Historic Places, and the long-term project to save and restore the Blake House (which is on this year's tour, looking, now, very much as it did in its early years), were all launched that same year, 1977. It must have been the most exciting time – to have launched such far-reaching initiatives and to have seen results so quickly! Almost exactly forty years later, this year's tour largely focuses on the area around Main Street and East Park, the very area that once held the mansions whose loss stimulated the creation of Preservation Racine, the City Landmarks Commission, and the Southside Historic District. What an excellent opportunity to think again about the urban and social value of historic buildings, and the continuing need to fight for their preservation.

Pippin Michelli

How *Wright and Like* was named

A few years after Rita Tomkiewicz and I had been invited to serve on the FLLW Wisconsin board it was suggested that the June 1998 tour be located in Racine. We were the logical choice to be the tour planners - we lived in Racine and had experience with the Preservation Racine annual tours. Fortunately, there was also liaison with SC Johnson through Teresa Venegas. The tour theme was "A Century of Archi-tecture." The tour title *Wright and Like* evolved from the process of evaluating buildings to be considered for the event. The phrases that recurred in our heads were "how does the building relate to Wright, and how is it like or unlike Wright?" I was on an unrelated errand in my car when apropos of nothing the gestalt occurred and out popped "Wright and Like." We conferred late that day and decided to go with it.

Racine is graced with Frank Lloyd Wright buildings, so there was a ready-made basis of inspiration. Mr. Wright's SC Johnson Administration Building and Wingspread agreed to be on the tour. The "like" buildings on the tour were the Mitchell House, designed by Wright's contemporary Cecil S. Corwin; three diverse structures by former apprentices - St. Patrick Church by Francis Barry Byrne, the Silver House by Edgar Tafel, and the Prairie School by Charles Montooth of Taliesin Associates - the two residences designed by architects who had been inspired by Wright: the Postorino House by John Randal McDonald; and the Gasper House by John Eifler. By that time John Eifler had become involved in the restoration of Wright buildings and was therefore included in the tour on two planes - both as the featured speaker for the opening program on Thursday evening at the Golden Rondelle, and as an architect.

On display during store hours, Porters Furniture of Racine presented an exhibit of Thomas A. Heinz photos of Wright buildings as well as reproductions of Wright furniture. To further fill the weekend, activities were planned for Friday. A windshield tour of Wright and like buildings in Racine was scheduled for the afternoon. It originated on the grounds of the Wustum Art Museum, where the museum director had prepared a related exhibit, "Wisconsin Artists View of Frank Lloyd Wright in Racine." A Wine reception was held in the museum following the bus tour. On Friday evening a special event open to a limited number of participants was held at the home of William and Karen Johnson Boyd. The refreshments were courtesy of the Boyds. Mr. Wright designed the Johnson-Keland House for Karen in 1954.

In addition to those mentioned above, the tour committee was blessed with additional cooperation from Wright in Wisconsin board members and the staff, nine generous sponsors, the Caledonia Chief of Police (traffic control at the Gasperi House) and one hundred tour guides. Visitors came from sixteen states, Norway, and Sweden.

In looking back after eighteen years we still treasure the memories of our efforts in 1998 and are pleased that "Wright and Like" continues to identify the Wright in Wisconsin tours.

By Barbara Walter, former Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin board member. Barbara wrote this article for *Wright in Wisconsin*, Volume 21, Issue 1, February 2016

Barbara recently moved to Oak Creek to be near family. We wish her every happiness in her future and are grateful for her many contributions to Preservation Racine and the many other organizations she has supported.

God Speed.

A Memorial to Isaac and Emerline Taylor

On December 15, 1922 the *Kewaunee Press* wrote an article “Taylor Home at Racine - Founder Was Pioneer Resident of Kewaunee - Laid Foundation of Fortune Here.” The article repeated a piece published by the *Milwaukee Journal*. “More than 50 years ago there

resided in Racine a devout old couple who, not having any children of their own, saw the need and heard the call of little voices in their helplessness and decided that upon their death a home should be erected as a memorial more valuable than the most costly mausoleum and more enduring than the highest marble shaft." The extraordinary orphanage was erected in 1868 and served the Racine community until the early 1970s, when it was razed. All that is left is the huge marble marker that was once affixed to the building.

A group of volunteers are working diligently to raise the funds to repair and reinstall the marker near where the orphanage once stood along Taylor Avenue. What an opportunity for the people of Racine to honor this couple, whose nineteenth century bequest ($65,000 for Taylor Hall and $180,000 to establish the orphan asylum) was given so charitably. If you would like to contribute to this project, please mail a check to Racine Heritage Museum, 701 Main Street, Racine, Wisconsin 53403. Indicate on the memo line: Taylor Monument. If you would like to purchase a commemorative brick, please stop by the Racine Heritage Museum to pick up a form.

Vivian Merlo

Starving Artist Fair

Preservation Racine once again had the pleasure of exhibiting at the Starving Artist Fair in East Park on Sunday, August 7. What a great way to bring on going awareness of Preservation Racine to attendees, as well as, to promote the Tour of Historic Places We were able to announce which buildings would be featured on this year's tour and answer questions concerning building locations, date, ticket sale sites and directions for outfox town guests. Guides were also recruited for the 2016 Tour of Historic Places. A big thank you goes to Jim Wardrip for the donation of a photograph of the old breakwater harbor light, which was used as a raffle prize during the fair. He was also responsible for preparing a pocket handout featuring the Green Bay Packer and Wisconsin Badger football schedules, as well as, tour information. Many cards were distributed. An additional thank you to the following volunteers, who assisted with setting up, tearing down and manning the booth: Jim and Cherry Wardrip, Jerry and Nancy Ritter, Bruce and Kate Lingsweiller, Don and Bev Schumacher, Alice Thompson, Bill Mahnke, Katy Strande, Beth Shelton and Nat Cycenas.

Heather Egan

Coming Up

Preservation Racine Tour of Historic Places
Sunday, September 25, 2016, noon to 5:30 p.m.

Preservation Racine Membership Meeting
Monday, November 7, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
Gateway Technical College - Great Lakes Room
1001 Main Street
Who built the first log cabin in Racine?

Preservation Racine Membership Meeting
Monday, December 5, 2016
Student nurse reminiscences of life at Henrietta Benstead Hall

College Avenue Bricks

Earlier this year, it seemed that the City was planning to replace the College Avenue brick pavers with concrete when the sewage system was serviced, and this was coming due soon. The brick pavers survive on five contiguous blocks of College Avenue, the last surviving lengthy stretch of brick-paved street in Racine. The only other brick-paving can be found on one and a half blocks at the western end of Yout Street. Interestingly, those bricks have been laid in a different pattern from College Street. Both areas are therefore significant.

Why Do the Pavers Matter?

Historically, the pavers are testimony to a time when Racine was a forward-looking, self-confident city. The paving was not undertaken lightly. At the time there were few options. The streets could be left unpaved, which was clearly undesirable. State Street was already paved with cedar block, and was clearly unsatisfactory. The wood rotted within a few years and detritus caught between the blocks creating such an unsanitary situation that the city confidently expected this kind of paving to become illegal within a few years. That left asphalt, which was guaranteed then, as now, for five years only, or brick, which was five or more times costlier but guaranteed for twenty-five years.

Racine sent an investigative committee to Milwaukee, Chicago and Kenosha in 1896 and it decided that the best option would be vitrified paving bricks on an asphalt base. The anticipated choice of brick was four-inch-thick Galesburg brand, or similar. A small test patch was tried on Main Street that year, and in 1897 the whole of College Avenue was paved at a cost to

College Avenue Bricks (continued)

residents of $50.20 each. It was the first brick-paved street in Racine, followed shortly afterwards by Main Street itself. One hundred and twenty years later, the bricks still grace the street

Visually, the bricks contribute much to the appearance of the street, which is a tourist magnate because of them. Although the houses are diverse and highly attractive, they would lose much of their impact with-out the brick street. Residents from all parts of Racine have voiced their support for saving the bricks, both because they personally like to visit and bring out-of-town visitors to the street and because they understand their potential tourist value. Financially, the bricks have long outlasted their guaranteed life-span and have required little maintenance over time, although there are now uneven patches that need attention.

What Happened

After a contentious meeting in May, Mayor John Dickert and his staff reconsidered their original proposal to replace the bricks with concrete if and when the need arose. At a street-side meeting in June, Mayor Dickert and his team presented a new plan to inject liners into existing pipes instead of replacing them, thus removing the need to dig up the road. He confirmed that the city is collecting bricks as found on other road maintenance projects to use at need. In fact, the city has been collecting bricks for several years.

Preservation Racine member Paul Zens showed the mayor that the bricks at the intersections are still intact under the asphalt (which was laid directly on them without scarring, owing to his intervention about ten years ago). The mayor informally agreed to look into the possibility of uncovering them to restore the street to an unbroken stretch of brick pavers. In July, the lateral pipes of the College Avenue sewage system were refurbished with injected liners, and the street has not been otherwise disturbed.

All who shared concern about the possible loss of the brick pavers extend their thanks to Mayor Dickert and his team for listening to their constituents' concerns and for taking such prompt and constructive action. We await news about the possible restoration of the intersections with interest.

Pippin Michelli

From the President

It always amazes me the different issues that come up on preservation. In the last few months there were issues concerning the 6th Street Bridge and the bricks on College Avenue, see the updates elsewhere in this newsletter. We had another great Century Building Awards night, as you can see in the picture and report included in this newsletter.

Information on the 2016 Tour of Historic Buildings, which focuses on the Southside Historic District, is detailed in this newsletter.

Drive by the Blake House and check out the progress being made as the porch renovation continues. This important feature of the Blake House brings the building back to an early state which included a porch. Be certain to stop by during the 2016 Tour of Historic Places and take a close look at the porch.

Preservation Racine, like all organizations, is experiencing change. We need to continue to make Preservation Racine relevant for the next generation of preservationists by using Facebook, our website and e-mail. There is a need to grow our membership and expand on the number of active members. Currently over half of the Preservation Racine Board has been on the board over 6 years, some over 10 years. We are in need of volunteers for the tour as well as several other projects we are working on. Talk with me or another board member to see how you can become actively involved in Preservation Racine. I get suggestions often from people for projects they would like us to work on. What I need are people willing to work on these projects. It reminds me of the old story; somebody should do this, anybody could do it, which usually means nobody will do it. Every project needs a passionate leader who is willing to devote time to lead and complete it.

The Tour is our only fundraiser of the year; the success of the day depends on our member's support as volunteers and as tour guests. I will be at the Blake House the day of the tour; I hope to see you all there.

Don Schumacher

PRESERVATION RACINE, INC.

Sunday
September 25
2016
11:30 AM
TO
5:30 PM

41st
Annual

TOUR OF HISTORIC *Places*

SOUTHSIDE
HISTORIC
DISTRICT

Preservation Racine's 2016 Tour of Historic Places is featuring sites that are just around the corner from each other.

The concentration of 12 sites in the Southside Historic District will allow you to park and comfortably walk to each of the sites. If you prefer shorter walking distances, there are plenty of parking spaces available along the tour route.

The Southside Historic District, just blocks south of Racine's downtown area, was registered in 1977 on the National Register of Historic Places. Early leaders, successful industrialists and professional workers built their homes in this neighborhood that contains a rich variety of architectural styles.

You will enjoy visiting the houses and community buildings that are located...

JUST
AROUND THE
Corner
SOUTHSIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Thank you!

We appreciate the site owners for opening their doors for this event. We thank our members, community organizations and businesses who come together to make this day a success.

Visit Our
Website
www.preservationracine.org
for
Tour Information

The Wheeler-Bull House - 1869, 1881, Merged 1903

This Shingle style house was once two separate residences, now merged into one lovely home. The uniqueness of its history reminds us of the modifications that are so prevalent in older homes. With its great lake view and abundant gardens you'll see the loving care of its current owners.

The George & Margaret Judd House - 1850, 1887

You have to explore this house to fully comprehend it. Behind a Queen Anne addition to the front of this house, you will find Greek Revival traits. Since World War I, this residence has been home to more than one family at a time.

The Lucius & Caroline Blake House - c1868

Porches provide an ideal place to relax and entertain! Historically and architecturally, they have been common to older homes. Come see this just-completed project that replicates a former porch of this grand residence. Learn how this building was spared from demolition and lives on today.

The Simon & Minnie Grant House - 1928

Every home has a story. This one begins with immigrants from Russia coming to Racine. The hard-working, close-knit family lived the American dream as they developed a successful business and built a home. Enjoy this property and discover something unique about their garage.

The Richard & Sarah Miner House - 1870

The history of this 144 year-old house is shared by 15 families who have called this address home. Despite that number of residents there has been very few structural changes in its history. Exceptional woodwork, lovely porches and extensive gardens will delight you as you tour this home.

The Charles & Imogene Carpenter House - 1896

Maintenance on an older house is a challenge, but, when a valve breaks on the 3rd floor and you are not home, things can go from "not good" to "very bad" quickly. There is a good ending…come see the attention given to saving this grand estate.

Advance Sales

ADVANCE TICKET PRICE: $15 Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.preservationracine.org via PayPal or you can visit any of the ticket outlets listed on the back of this brochure between September 1st - 23rd. (cash or check sales only).

Tickets are non-refundable. The tour includes private homes that are not handicapped accessible. Anyone with mobility concerns should make personal choices in accordance, as some locations include stairs.

The John & Jeanette Reid House/Lochnaiar Inn - 1915

This stunning 100 year-old property, overlooking the lake has been creatively restored, maintaining its grandeur and charm both inside and out. It currently serves as a Bed and Breakfast. This is your chance for a real treat as you get to tour the entire inn and view the future backyard amphitheater.

The Emily Baker House - 1893

This lovely property, which currently serves as a Bed and Breakfast, has been shown in the past. Get ready to view it with many improvements that upholds its heritage. The tour includes all three floors, as well as the colorful grounds surrounding it.

Abraham & Mary Todd Lincoln Monument - 1943

The statue of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln in East Park was carved by well-known Chicago sculptor Frederick C. Hibbard, who also designed monuments and fountains in 14 states. It was the first monument in the country to memorialize this American president and his wife. Come and learn more about this landmark.

St. Luke's St. Barnabas Chapel and Library - 1932

Graduates of St. Luke's Nursing Program will be our guides sharing the history of the library and St. Barnabas Chapel. We owe our appreciation to Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare-All Saints for allowing us to view this space.

Racine Carnegie Library/Racine Heritage Museum - 1904

History is right at our doorstep. This prominent building is an original Carnegie Library, built with support from the Carnegie Foundation, intended for public and free access to learning and knowledge for all citizens. Hear the story of its transformation from a library to a museum.

Memorial Hall - 1924

Just around the corner from the museum is the largest monument in the city. Learn about the significance of this building and go on a behind-the-scenes tour. Come and meet Don Vander Leest, who creates the sketches of all our tour sites.

Thanks to Photographic Design (Carol Hansen and Brad Jaeck) for photographing the tour sites.

Day of the Tour

TOUR DAY TICKET PRICE: $18 Ticket stations open at 11:00 AM on tour day.

Ticket Stations are located at: **Racine Heritage Museum - 701 Main Street, Racine**
The Blake House - 936 Main Street, Racine
St. Luke's Chapel and Library - 1328 College Avenue, Racine

Advance Ticket holders must visit a tour ticket location on tour day. Your ticket will be exchanged for a wristband and tour booklet which will give you access to all of the tour sites.

ADDITIONAL POINTS OF INTEREST

* Collector of all things Racine, Jim Mercier generously brings, for our tour guests, relics of the past. Learn a bit more about Racine's historic role in the early automotive industry. Look for the display of **Racine's Automobile Manufacturers** in the St. Luke's Chapel and Library, 1328 College Avenue.

* The **Durand Mansion** staff will be providing FREE tours. Tours will be at 12:00, 2:00 and 4:00; information available at Tour Ticket Stations.

ADVANCED TICKET SALES LOCATIONS

BURLINGTON

Gooseberries Fresh Food Market
690 West State Street

KENOSHA

Andrea's
2401 60th Street

RACINE

Larsen's Bakery
3311 Washington Avenue
Milaeger's
4838 Douglas Avenue
Miller's Flowers
219 6th Street
O & H Bakery
1841 Douglas Avenue
4006 Durand Avenue
5910 Washington Avenue
Personal Touch Flowers by Julie
5445 Spring Street
4060 North Main Street
Racine Heritage Museum
701 Main Street
Uncorkt - 240 Main Street

SALEM

Hill Country Market
Corner of Hwy. 50 & Hwy. B

STURTEVANT

Borzynski's Farm & Floral Market
11600 Washington Avenue
Milaeger's
8717 Highway 11
Real Racine
14015 Washington Avenue

(cash or check sales only)

MAP OF TICKET STATIONS

Heritage Museum
701 Main Street

Blake House
936 Main Street

St. Luke's Chapel and Library
1328 College Avenue

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?
Contact: **preservationracine@gmail.com**
or call: **262-634-5748**

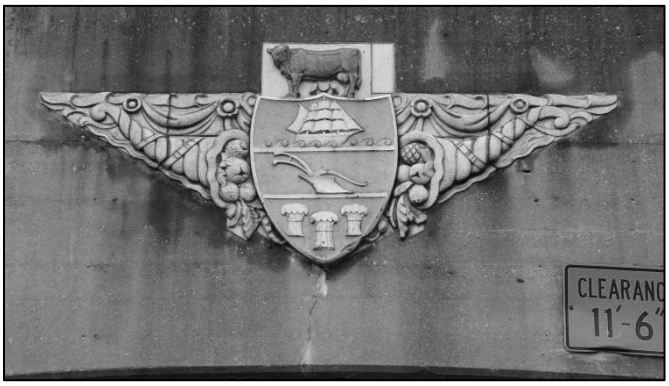
realracine

Preservation Racine Gets Another Boost for Tour Marketing Outside the Racine Area

For the second consecutive year, Real Racine has presented a grant to the Tour of Historic Places event for 2016. The focus of the grant is to target markets beyond Racine County that include Milwaukee suburbs to the north, as well as Northern Illinois and the Southern Lakes. Preservation Racine is most grateful for the tour support and for Real Racine's major sponsorship of the Century Building Awards Dinner which is held each spring.

West Sixth Street Bridge
Charrette Meeting

A charrette is a meeting in which all stakeholders in a project attempt to resolve conflicts and map solutions. On Tuesday June 28, the city of Racine invited several members of Preservation Racine to a charrette about the proposed replacement for the West Sixth Street bridge.



The new bridge is being designed by Ayres Associates, which has carried out other environ-mental projects for the city, including Seventh Street and the roundabout at City Hall. Taking a standard I-beam bridge as a starting point, the designers had suggested masking the starkness with pre-cast curtain spandrels, in which the current piercings would be referenced by stained recesses. The design was not felt to be a strong one.

Several marked improvements arose from the meeting, and these have been taken as a desired brief for a stronger design. Suggestions came from most of the participants. Architect John Monefeldt proposed wider piers on each side of the river span and a shallower road deck above it, thus generating a visually satisfying composition around a taller, more striking arch between clearly defined abutments. City Engineer John Rooney suggested evoking the colors of the old bridge by creating suitably scaled-up versions of the tiled mosaics currently flanking the road deck. Preservation Racine's Pippin Michelli suggested using the shorter Horlick Drive span as a setting for some reproductions of the terracottas, and there was much discussion from Tom Molbeck and Robert Rafel of the Parks and Recreation Department, and from the new City Development Director, Amy Connelly, about developing that area to include interpretations (such as displays, timelines, historic marker notices, and/or a small portal for a tourist app) to draw attention to the surrounding parks by Jens Jensen and the bridge's designer, Charles S. Whitney. Ayres Associates' landscape architect Jacob Blue picked up on the strong feeling in favor of both the arch and transparency to suggest curved spans under alternate girders for a tunnel of arches. Preservation Racine's Vivian Merlo emphasized the desirability of good lighting, and this was endorsed by John Rooney and John Monefeldt who urged the design strength of pedestrian-scaled lights at each end of the bridge. Although metal railing designs could complement the transparency of the bridge, they would necessitate extra crash-walls between the road and pedestrian sidewalks, which was considered undesirable both aesthetically and for the safety of cyclists. Pierced concrete barriers (with arched or oblong piercings) were preferred.

The general consensus was that under-lighting, plazas and additional interpretational displays would be undesirable, and that the parks should be left as intact as possible. The attention of the meeting focused almost exclusively on the structural and pragmatic aspects of the design in its historic setting. The resulting brief is now being worked up by Ayres Associates and it seems likely to be a visually satisfactory one that will function well as a core to the city's park system and will allow it, whenever the time may come, to be promoted or developed for the benefit of the city.

Pippin Michelli

Thanks to the Century Buildings Committee

As co-chairs of the 2016 Preservation Racine Century Buildings 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 Racine County properties and the individuals that continue to proudly maintain them. We are grateful

for their dedication and commitment that made this year's event so successful. We would also like to thank The DeKoven Center for their continued support and Real Racine for sponsoring the event this year.

Researchers and writers: Carrie Bergs, Jan Carter, Nat Cycenas, Jacki Mekemson, Vivian Merlo, Pippin Michelli, Marcia Pfost, Karen Urben, Barbara Walter
Hospitality, set-up and decor: Heather Egan, Steve Gancarz, Pat Murphy, Donna Newgord, Sherry Peccarelli, Bev Schumacher and Maria Zumach
Photography: Brad Jaeck and Carol Hansen
Publicity: Jim Wardrip

Our appreciation also goes to the helpful staff and wonderful resources at the University Wisconsin-Parkside, the Racine Heritage Museum, and the Burlington Historical Society and to Real Racine our partner in bringing you 2016 Century Buildings.

Carrie Bergs & Jacki Mekemson

A Possible Collaboration

In a rather exciting development, Preservation Racine has been approached for a possible collaboration with NeighborWorks Badgerland, which has received a small grant to work on relatively modest historic houses or buildings in the city of Racine.

NeighborWorks Badgerland owns a beautifully restored and maintained brick and stone Flemish Revival property at 1700 Mead Street, which earned a Century Building award this year.

The company is a non-profit developer with thirty years' experience. With a view to revitalizing neighborhoods physically and socially, it refurbishes buildings and often supports this by creating neighborhood associations to promote cohesive community. Supplemental programs include house maintenance and financial fitness.

NeighborWorks Badgerland targets areas amenable to families with 80% average earnings. It buys existing properties, makes very good (with adequate bathrooms, kitchens, garages etc.), and finances the new owners at low or zero percent interest to let them build equity quickly. There is also help to fix any credit issues, so that the new owners can move to a normal mortgage in five or more years' time, thus releasing the original investment to be used for another building.

The organization would like to emphasize historic and/or architectural interest as a point of attraction. It now has a small grant to purchase, make good and improve and find new owners for relatively modest houses in historic parts of Racine, one or two at a time. The organization has a good relationship with the city, with which it has worked in the past. Some funding support may be available and the city has expressed interest in the project.

While NeighborWorks Badgerland has a strong record of sound improvement and is sympathetic to historic preservation, it is seeking our expertise for this aspect. The organization is proposing a partnership in which Preservation Racine would provide research, help identify suitable properties and would make the projects known through (for example) news items in the local press and our own *Newsletter*. This will both expand awareness of our two groups and help to find buyers for the refurbished houses.

We have invited NeighborWorks Badgerland to make a full presentation at the September Board meeting, in hope of moving towards a decision by early next year.

Pippin Michelli

100 Years New: Wright on Time

Celebrate Frank Lloyd Wright's Burnham Block, 1916–2016

Throughout Frank Lloyd Wright's seventy-year career as an architect, his life-long passion had been to build beautiful and affordable housing for every American. Come and explore with us this little-known and short-lived project known as American System-Built Homes. Wright produced 966 drawings for this project, with wood being cut in the factory and construction materials being assembled and shipped by rail to the building site as a means of cutting costs. With only fifteen houses of this system known today, we are celebrating the six houses built on the Burnham Block in Milwaukee – two bungalows and four duplexes.

Lectures

Thursday, September 22, 6:30–8:00 p.m., Golden Rondelle Theatre
Burnham Block: Frank Lloyd Wright American System-Built Homes
Lecturer Michael Lilek
RSVP: 262-260-2154
Thursday, September 29, 7:00 p.m. Monona Terrace Convention Center
American Home by Frank Lloyd Wright
Lecturer Michael Lilek

Events

2016 Doors Open MKE
Sponsored by Historic Milwaukee, Inc.
Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18, 10:00–5:00 p.m.
Burnham Block 100th Anniversary

- B1 Bungalow Museum House, 2714 W. Burnham Street – **FREE** tours
- C3 Bungalow – Fundraising tours, $10.00 per person, $5.00 students over 16
- Model Two-Flat C – displays, scale models of Wright's work
- Kenosha LEGO Club – Wright's designs, video of the last trolley ride throughout the Burnham neighborhood and a silent/secret auction of Wright items
- Original Music Performance – Access Contemporary Music
- Book Sale – Frank Lloyd Wright Books and Gift Shop
- Displays of time period items and more

Sponsored by Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin, Inc.

Celebration Reception, October or early November, TBA

Fundraising Event, Bogk Residence, October or early November, TBA

For additional information: www.wrightinwisconsin.org , or call Sherri Shokler 608-216-8683

Donna Newgord, Burnham Block Museum Operations 262-634-8683, donna_newgord@yahoo.com

Let's Go Shopping! Remembering Racine's Downtown of the 1950s and 60s

Mark your calendars! Join two Racine natives, Carol Burrow Gianforte and Jim Mercier, on Tuesday, September 13 at the Golden Rondelle Theater for a presentation to remember Racine's Downtown in its heyday of the 1950s and 1960s. The audience will be taken back in time when Racine's downtown was THE place to shop with over 150 stores. Those attending will enjoy a PowerPoint presentation featuring photos of the bustling Downtown, the stores, as well as old ads from the bygone shops. Of special interest will be remembering Zahn's Department Store. Descendants of the store owners will share their memories.

(*continued on back page*)

PRESERVATION RACINE, INC.

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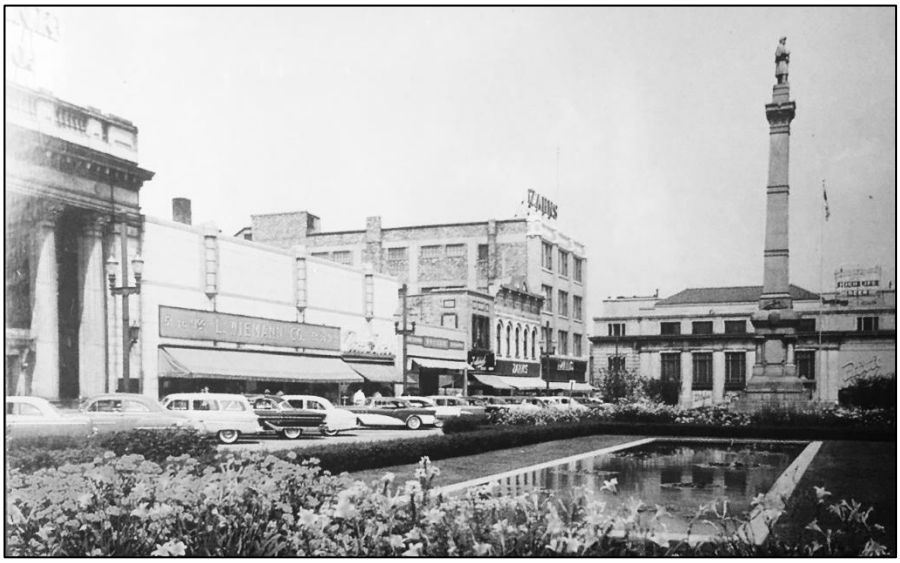
Let's Go Shopping! (continued)



Carol Gianforte is a frequent contributor to the *Racine Journal Times* "Lifestyles" issues. She is the author of *My Heart Leads Me Home - A Daughter's Memoir*, a description of her life growing up in Racine fifty and sixty years ago. Mercier is an area historian and noted collector of Racine memorabilia. Carol and Jim recently presented a popular program to remember Racine's neighborhood grocery stores.

The Golden Rondelle program is offered free of charge to the public and will be presented two times on September 13, 2016. The program will take place from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with voluntary audience sharing of memories to follow. The repeat program begins at 6:00 p.m. with audience sharing of memories beginning at 8:00 p.m. Located at 1525 Howe Street in Racine, Reservations are recommended by going to www.scjohnson.com/CIPreservations, or by calling 262-260-2154.

Jim Mercier