PRESERVATION
RACINE NEWS

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CENTURY BUILDINGS FOR 2017

In recognition of National Preservation Month, Preservation Racine will host its thirtieth annual presentation of Century Building Certificates on Monday evening, May 1, 2017, 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 6:30 p.m. All members and friends of Preservation Racine are invited to attend.

A Thirty Year Anniversary

When we celebrate milestones in our lives, it is often an opportunity to reflect on where we have been. This year's Century Building Awards Celebration represents thirty years of honoring buildings in Racine County that have been carefully preserved or restored. The theme this year for National Preservation Month is again "A Place That Matters." The National Trust for Historic Preservation works to save America's historic places. "They are the cause that inspires America to save the places where history happened, the cause that connects us to our diverse pasts weaving a multi-cultural nation together, the cause that transforms communities from places where we live to places we love."

Preservation Racine's first celebration of Century Buildings Awards was held in 1988 in the Green Room of Festival Hall to recognize the importance of buildings to the architectural heritage of the city and county of Racine. The following buildings were honored that first year: 416 DeKoven Avenue, 1337 Erie Street, 827 Lake Avenue, 246 Main Street, 1221 North Main Street, 2048 Shoop Street, 415 Sixth Street, 1247 South Main Street, 1311 South Main Street, 214 State Street, 4310 Washington Avenue, 2310 Westwood Drive, 234 Wisconsin Avenue, 700 Sixth Street, 415 Sixth Street all in Racine and 232 North Perkins Boulevard in Burlington. Some of the buildings were houses, some were commercial buildings and the Burlington honoree was the Burlington Historical Society's building.

(continued on back page)

2609 Washington Avenue, Racine

The house at 2609 Washington Avenue is a beautifully maintained Craftsman-style house with a side-gabled roof and a full-width porch supported by double columns set on brick piers. Decorative braces adorn the main roof-wall junction and the roof peak. The front dormer is gabled with a shingled balcony front. This house is a Sears kit home called the Westly, but it has a modification to the standard plan. The west side of the house has a bump-out which allows the dining room to have a built-in window seat. The back upper level dormer was expanded to a full dormer later, possibly in the 1940s.

Sears began selling “Honor Bilt Modern Home” kits in their catalog in 1908. There were 22 different styles of houses in that first catalog. Entire houses, arriving by railroad, would include precut lumber, nails, plumbing, hardware, flooring, paint and varnish. Sears provided the materials, the instructions and for many years, the financing for the buyers to build their own houses. It is reported that more than 100,000 houses were sold between 1908 and 1940 through Sears’ Modern Homes program. Sears was neither

the first nor the only company to sell mail-order houses, but it was the largest company. The sales of Sears' kit homes were doomed due to Sears' liberal loan policies when the Depression hit. In 1934, $11 million in mortgages were liquidated. The Modern Homes program sold its last house in 1940.

A 1901 newspaper advertisement offered lots in Oakwood Grove subdivision (which included 2609 Washington Avenue) for $250 to $375, where you could get sewer, water and gas. In October 1914, George and Louise “Lulu” Hanson purchased the lot at 2609 Washington Avenue from Fred and Mattie Jorgensen. In 1915, their Sears kit home was built. George was a meat cutter doing business as Hanson & Schweitzer at 417 6th Street. The Hansons had three sons, George, Charles and Richard. George Sr. died in February 1930, but Lulu lived in the house through 1938.

Starting in 1939, there was a series of renters in the house, including Thorvald Christensen, a concrete contractor, who rented the house for his place of business. In 1947, Lulu Hanson sold the house to Raymond and Laura Stasieluk. In 1958, Laura DeBlaise purchased the house. In 1963, Leo Gallagher, a social worker, and his wife, Janis, purchased the house. In 1970, Larry Johnson, a teacher at William Horlick High School, and his wife, Marilyn, purchased the house. There were several more owners until December 2002, when the present owners, Jerry & Madeline Frankenberger purchased the house. Since then, the Frankenbergers have been working on restoring the house to its original condition.

Marcia Pfost

224 North Kane Street, Burlington

Gracing the southeast corner of North Kane and Jefferson Streets in the Kane Street Historic District of Burlington is the Anna Mary (Brehm) and Anton Zwiebel, Jr. house.

In 1902, Anton “Tony” Zwiebel, Jr. (Zwiebel meaning onion or onion keeper) bought the lot on the corner of then Dyer (later Kane) and Jefferson Streets from Mrs. Florence Cooper Hall for $950.

Anton, Jr.’s father was a well-known Burlington inventor and machine shop owner who emigrated from France to Pottsville, Pennsylvania and then to Wisconsin. In the 1880s he had five patents including for the folding wooden ironing board and the horizontal windmill. He is believed to have invented the Ferris wheel: in 1901, it was reported in the Burlington Free Press that a 32-foot-tall ride had been invented by Anton Zwiebel, Sr. and used at picnics in the Burlington area 16 to 18 years earlier, thus pre-dating the large Ferris wheel at the Colombian Exposition.

Anton, Jr. also owned a machine shop on Chestnut Street. He and his brother would later own the Automobile Supply Company.

In May of 1903 Anton, Jr. and Mary had plans prepared by Charles Diener to build their new 13-room residence on Dyer Street. The house is Queen Anne style and is one of the types of building that the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) stated “reflect Wisconsin’s distinct cultural landscape.”

The Queen Anne style actually is not relevant to the reign of Queen Anne (1702-1714) but to a style borrowed from the preceding Tudor and Stuart eras. The style became popular in England and its popularity spread to the United States by 1876. The British government built several Queen Anne style houses for display at the Philadelphia Centennial in 1875 and spurred the interest of Americans.

The house at 224 North Kane Street embodies the Queen Anne design with the use of the asymmetrical location of the front door and spindled wrap-around porch supported by Tuscan columns. There is a bay window on the north side of the first floor. A small porch on the south side of the second floor is also supported with Tuscan columns. Fish scale shingles embellish the smaller front dormer. The roof is steeply pitched and complex and though the house is primarily wood there is a variety of surface textures.

Upon Anton Zwiebel, Sr.'s death in 1919, the house was auctioned to John T. Prasch. In October of that year, Anton, Jr. and his family moved to California where three of Anton’s five sons changed their name to Bell. Herb Bell formed a partnership with a Mr. Jackson to form Jackson-Bell Radios. Son, Elmer, was a cabinet maker for the company and all five brothers and the father, Anton, were employed there. In 1933 Herb Bell formed a partnership to establish Packard-Bell also making radios. It was a family

business with all the brothers holding positions. Herb ran the company and was president until 1956 and then became Chairman of the Board of Directors.

In August of 1920 the Zwiebel, Jr. house was sold to Eldon Noble for $10,000. The residence was converted into a “duplex flat building” by Cora Noble in 1932. For many years the duplex was rented. In 1941 Eldon (Alvin) Noble died and his son, Edward A. Noble became the owner.

In the 1940s the flats were occupied by the Fred Wood and Harry Campbell families. Mr. Wood owned Motor Parts Co. and Mr. Campbell owned Harry’s Shoe Repair. In the 1950s and 60s occupants of the flats were brothers, Harry and Maynard Campbell. In 1979 Edward A. and Cathrine Noble sold 224 North Kane Street to Patrick Lloyd and R. William Phenicie. Larry Dawley, the owner and president of Dawley Aviation in Burlington bought the house in 1984. It is believed that during this time the house was returned to a single family dwelling.

The Zwiebel House has a prominent Burlington history. In 2014 Mike Dawson, a Racine County Supervisor, sold the house to Kevin Rook and Kimberly McGuinness-Rook. The Rooks take great pride in this house and we are grateful to them as they continue the long tradition of tender care and attention.

Heather Egan

1732-1734 Park Avenue, Racine

This cross-gabled house was built in the Queen Anne style, which was popular from 1880-1910, and features a mixture of asymmetry and embellishments, such as Classical columns and varying size porches. The house includes two porches and Classical, deep cornice returns. Other elements are large windows with cross head style mullions, and front and side cutaway windows.

This section of Park Avenue is part of Holborn's Partition Plat. Francis Holborn owned 100 acres in the 1860s, bounded by DeKoven Avenue to the south, Holborn Street to the west, one half of a block of Seventeenth Street to the north and Main Street to the east. He and his wife came to Racine in 1845 from England and had eight children. He was a jeweler and eventually had his own jewelry store on Monument Square. He later sold the store to pursue real estate, which was more profitable. The Holborn Partition was divided into hundreds of lots and in 1873 he still owned 55 of the original 100 acres, with a value of $6,875. He died in Grandview, Washington, in January of 1912, at age 97 and is buried in Racine.

In 1905, Charles Smith owned this lot with a value of $1,000. In 1907 he still owned it, but the value had increased to $2,000, which may indicate the house was built c.1907. By 1915, Mrs. Charles Smith was the owner and the property was valued at $5,300. She never lived there, but rented the house to tenants. By 1920 David E. Jenkins was the owner, living in 1732, where he and different members of his family continued to live for about 55 years, through 1975. Alan B. Wallace, and his wife, Carol, have been the owners since 1988. The house has been occupied primarily by renters and has been well maintained throughout its life span.

Mary Ann Carrier

613-619 Wisconsin Avenue, Racine

The original property consisted of four parcels at 613, 615, 617 and 619 Wisconsin Avenue and in 1892 the site was occupied by blacksmiths Burkert and Roberts. In 1901, Frank Lintner, owner of a bakery at 313 Sixth Street, paid taxes on a 30 foot parcel of Lot 7 of Wisconsin Avenue, which excluded the brick driveway to the north. Being a great visionary, Mr. Lintner purchased the air rights over the driveway in order to build the second and third stories above it. After purchasing an additional 20 foot parcel Lintner fashioned an attractive commercial structure, renovating and combining older buildings and creating a 60 foot Queen Anne style front with many classical details. The space between the bay windows was ornately decorated by pressed sheet metal embossed with garlands, torches and a shell motif, while the upper stories are faced with pressed brick. By 1903 the basement became his bakery, the first floor served sales, offices and shipping functions, and the upstairs was designed for apartments.

At that time it was common practice to construct over and around existing buildings while the exteriors might be fashionably updated. The current owner, Robert Venn, has pointed out older cast iron posts in the basement supporting the newer steel beams on top on them. He found on the

premises grooved support posts used to form horse stalls for the earlier blacksmith shop. The coffee shop space at 619 Wisconsin gathers light from a transom connecting to a hay mow space. The apartments of the second and third floors show evidence of two buildings combined, with traditional round arch openings at street level.

Frank Lintner lived an extraordinary life. Born in 1873 in Vienna of parents who were farmers, he became a baker. At age 20 he came to America intrigued by the Chicago World's Fair; by 1896 he arrived in Racine to begin a bakery business. After establishing his first shop on Sixth Street, he invested in this larger site at 613-619 Wisconsin Avenue where he maintained a residence for the next 65 years. His bakery business often proved challenging; in 1904 his eight bakers went on strike, protesting the 11 hour days and insufficient holiday time. Although Lintner held that the bakery business demanded these hours, after three days he agreed to 10 hour days and three holidays per year. He traveled extensively to Europe, Mexico and to the south of the United States, spending many months away each year traveling for business and pleasure. One episode in 1938 involved a trip to the Arizona border to take photos when he "narrowly escaped being killed" in a battle between Mexican federal forces and rebels. In 1938 he was one of the founders of the Texas Wisconsin Oil Company. Always remaining single, when he died in 1966 he left a trust of $500,000, which then helped fund St. Monica Senior Citizens Home on North Green Bay Road.

After Lintner closed the bakery in 1922, the first floor shops housed many well-known Racine businesses, including flower shops, tailors, cleaners, milliners and beauty shops, while the two upper floors became known as Lintner Apartments. The first floor bakery housed a household appliance company, then The Flower Shop, and Truesdell Fur Company occupied that space from 1945 to 1981. In 1986 the Avenue Frame Shop moved in and in 1997 the smaller shop became The Daily Grind coffee shop. Currently the 615 address serves the larger first floor space; the 617 door leads to the apartments above; and 619 is a coffee shop.

Robert Venn bought the property in 2005 and has had the building repainted and restored, maintaining its use and integrity. We appreciate and thank him for his dedication to protect and promote this historic building.

Karen Urben

1303 Main Street, Racine

The house at 1303 Main Street is a two-story frame house and is a Classic Queen Anne style. When this house was built in 1880, a hipped roof with lower cross-gable(s) was the most common structure in all the styles of that period. Italianate influence is apparent in the hooded molding on the first floor windows as well as in the window in the upstairs front gable. This feature is carried through in the entrance unit doorway. The windows are divided into four tall rectangles and the windows, as well as the shutters, also can be described as Italianate.

In 1880, Henry William Hurlbut built this house at 1303 Main Street. Interestingly enough, the earliest resident recorded is Mrs. Abbie F. Jones, the widow of Charles R. Jones, in 1897. The house was purchased by Christopher C. Gittings of the Gold Medal Camp Furniture Company in 1902. In 1908, Mr. Gittings is listed as a postmaster. In 1910, the house was owned by William C. Hare, a foreman at Racine Manufacturing Company. William died in 1917 at 56 years of age and is buried in Mound Cemetery. His widow, Olive V. Hare, inherited the house.

Records show that Mrs. Ollie B. Hare was the owner of the house from 1917 until 1930. She had several renters: in

1918 nurses Grace Peace and Edna Fierk lived there, and in 1920 Circuit Court Judge Elsworth B. Belden resided there.

Three generations of the Sawyer family owned the house for eighty years. The 1931 the city directory lists Mrs. Elsie J. Sawyer as the owner. She was the widow of Charles E. Sawyer, assistant secretary of the J I Case Transmission Company. Elsie's daughter, Helen, came to live with her in 1937. They lived together until 1953 when Helen Sawyer became the owner. Helen was an art teacher at Washington Park High School for almost 40 years. Helen's artwork has been nationally acclaimed. In 2001 she was inducted into the Washington Park High School Outstanding Staff Hall of Fame.

Helen retired in 1969, and Mrs. Estelle Sawyer Grobben, Helen's sister, became the owner. Estelle's daughter, Winifred Sawyer Grobben, lived with her until 1979. Winifred, who went by the name of Winifred Sawyer, was an accountant at the Hammel Company and also an accomplished artist. She acquired the house in 1980 and remained the owner until 2013 when the current owners, Matthew D. and Kelsey L. Stegner, bought the property. Preservation Racine is pleased to present this award to the Stegners in appreciation of their attentive guardianship of this residence.

Nat Cycenas

1736 Park Avenue, Racine

This two-story frame house is a Dutch Colonial Revival style, easily identified by its gambrel roof. Variations of this house are found locally, especially in West Racine's neighborhoods. It features three floor-to-ceiling Ionic porch columns, a bullet-shaped newel post, an off-center front door, and double-hung bay windows on the first and second floors. In the front gable, in one of the four gambrel roofs, there is a small inset window with typical multi-pane glass, in this case eight panes over one. On the first floor are two beveled and leaded-glass windows—rather high, horizontal rectangular windows. These are usually located above a piano or near a stairwell to let in diffuse light while maintaining privacy. The dining room has three rectangular stained-glass windows featuring tall yellow and green tulips.

Francis Holborn, an English jeweler, had come to Racine in 1845 and later entered the real estate business. He bought 100 acres near Racine College and sold off lots, changing the area from a wilderness to an important part of Racine. In 1910, Mr. and Mrs. George Walter Olley bought a lot in Holborn's Partition from Alice Smith for $1,000 and built this house in 1911. George Olley and John Osborne were partners in Olley and Osborne, a firm selling flour, seeds, garden and building materials.

In 1918, the Olleys sold their home to Albert and Kathryn Brehm; he was a purchasing agent for the Racine Horseshoe and Tire Company. Seven years later, the Brehms sold their property to Edna and Donald Evans; Donald was an Electrical Engineer and later General Manager of Wisconsin Electric and Gas Co. From 1937-1955, Mrs. Doris Goodland Roethke, a teacher at Henry Mitchell Jr. High School, lived here with her daughter, Mary, and widowed mother, Della. Next, William and Dolores West occupied the home; he was a teacher at William Horlick High School. In 1958, Idabelle Schinkowitz, a widow and a First National Bank & Trust clerk, bought the property and lived there with her daughter Marcia and son-in-law, Louis Glodowski, who worked for J I Case. In 1966, they sold to Judith and John Amann. John was a mechanic at Kovach Motors and later owned Amann's Citgo, while Judith, as a graduate of St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing, was a Nurse and Quality Control Director there. The couple later separated and Judith married Terry Exner, a service parts coordinator, and in 1991, they sold to William and Phyllis Mount. The current owners, Reverend Glen and Beverly Halbe, moved into their house in 1996 and have lovingly maintained many of the original features.

Mary Newbold

216 Seventeenth Street, Racine

Although city records indicate this house in Holborn's Partition was built about 1900, the first owners listed in the City Directory were Bernard and Augusta La Marche in 1912. Bernard owned the popular La Marche photography studio next door on the corner at 1647 Wisconsin Avenue.

The Mediterranean style, popular at the turn of the last century, shows its influence on this building in the exotic

Spanish clay tile roof. Such pantiles were molded by hand until about 1870, when machine manufacture made them more affordable. In addition, the house displays various Federal Revival features—particularly the use of brick. This style also relies heavily on its windows. The weighty front door is simple but the ornamentation around it gives it flair: a fan-shaped leaded glass window sits atop the door, long rectangular windows frame its sides, and the balcony windows above are all typical of this style. Palladian second floor windows distinguish the house from most of its more sedate neighbors. The property also has a brick-fenced courtyard facing east towards Lake Michigan.

In 1920, the house was owned by Olga and Henry Anderson (or Andersen). Henry was a bookkeeper for the Peter C. Beck Company. From 1932–1943, Harry H. Biggert, Vice-President in charge of production for the J I Case Company, and his wife, Blanche, lived here. In 1945, John O. Jones, President and General Manager for Western Improvement Company, and his wife, Zella D., were the new owners. By 1950, John alone owned the house, but in 1952, his new wife, Hazel, joined him, and after his death in 1955 she remained there through 1967. George and Cath (sic) Cunningham and their eight sons resided here through 1979. George was the General Superintendent for Jacobson Manufacturing Company. From 1980 to 1988, James Drummond, a lawyer and Commissioner for Racine County, and his wife, Margo, a teacher for Racine Unified Schools, enjoyed this wonderful lake-view property. Jack and Mary Miller then lived here for about 10 years.

Dan and Sylvia Cunegin bought the house in c.2001 and have, as Dan says, “put a lot of work and a lot of love into this home.” Since the dwelling is over one hundred years old, there was indeed much work to be done: the couple had the property landscaped and most of the exterior was tuck pointed. Inside, the wooden floors were sanded and restained. Perhaps most notable about the restoration is the amount of paint that was needed to update this lake home: *120 gallons!* The Cunegins finished the house by decorating throughout in Sylvia's beloved traditional African style. We thank Dan and his late wife for all they have done to keep this historic building one of Racine’s finest.

Ellie Smith

301 North Kane Street, Burlington

This cross-gabled, Craftsman style American bungalow, located at 301 North Kane Street (formerly Dyer Street) in Burlington, was built in 1916 for Charles Wagner, Jr. and his wife, Rose. Several newspaper accounts report on the progress of its construction. The foundation walls were laid June 28, 1916; the brick work began July 26, 1916, and the family moved into their new house December 27, 1916. The bungalow house style had its origins in California at the turn of the twentieth century and remained very popular throughout the United States into the mid-1920s. Because of its popularity, pattern books were published with plans and specifications for a contractor or carpenter to use as a guide. This North Kane Street house features common Craftsman style and bungalow elements: a low pitched, gabled roof with wide unenclosed eave overhangs that have decorative supports, a partial width front porch, natural materials (brick) and a partially exposed basement.

The Wagner family can trace their Burlington family and business history to 1856. Hubert Wagner was born in France, November 3, 1824; he moved to Pottsville, Pennsylvania in 1844, where he married a French girl, Salome Zwiebel. They would eventually have eight children. Hubert brought his family to Burlington in 1856 and opened a machine shop with A. Zwiebel as his partner until 1863. Hubert himself would continue to operate a machine and foundry in Burlington. His son, Charles Sr., owned the C. B. Wagner Hardware Company along with his only son,

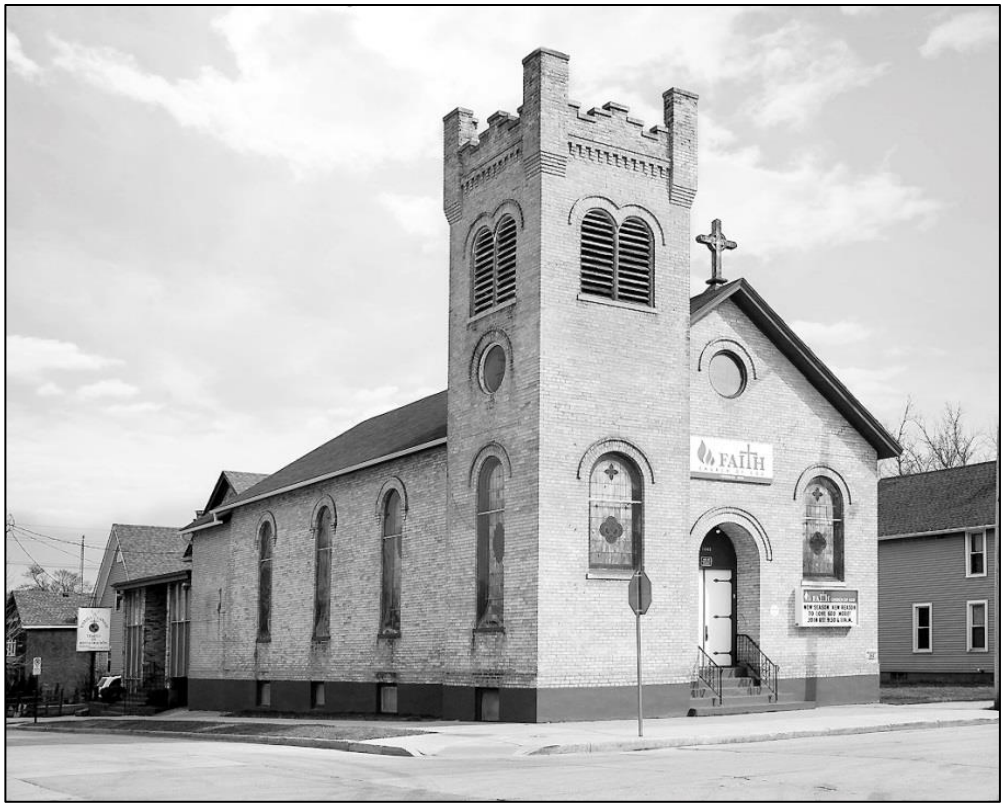
Charles B. Wagner Jr., who became a partner. While Charles, Jr. was associated with the Hardware Company, he began developing inventions and products to be used in the dairy industry along with various novelties. After the retirement of Charles Sr. in 1927, the retail business was closed to allow Charles Jr. time to devote his energies toward manufacturing and selling his inventions through the Wagner Specialty Company. It is not clear when the Wagner Specialty Company began, but judging from some of the patent dates, the company probably began in the early part of the Twentieth Century. The Wagner Specialty Company manufactured calf weaners (patented October 20, 1903 and August 16, 1910), bull nose rings (Patented June 2, 1906), anti-kick hobbles, patio and marine bells, line tighteners, barrel faucets for caustic liquids, and ear notching punches for pig litters (the Burlington Historical Museum currently has an exhibit featuring some of these products). Charles Jr's son, Paul W., became president of the Wagner Specialty Company. His five sisters married and moved out of the house but brothers Paul and Charles did not marry and continued to live in the house on Kane Street for the rest of their lives. Paul passed away on July 29, 1992 and Charles on October 9, 1996.

Georgiane and Peter Liesch then purchased this house, where they raised their children. The current owner of this handsome, well cared for house with its rich history is Susan Guttschow, who purchased it in 2014.

Vivian Merlo

1449 Geneva Street, Racine, Wisconsin

The first church listed at this address was St. Paul's German Evangelical Lutheran Church. The congregation had separated from the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Racine in 1873 and was subsequently chartered as the German Evangelical St. Paul's Congregation. The next year its white frame house of worship was built on the south side of Liberty Street between Huron and Superior Streets. Ten years later the city directory listed the congregation at Geneva and Kewaunee Streets. The move was made for two reasons: dissatisfaction with the city's assessment for the construction of a dock on land adjacent to the church property line and the decision to relocate closer to where the congregation had settled. Two sources state that the church was moved to the 1449 Geneva Street location. That is open to interpretation as to whether the building was physically moved or whether it was the congregation that moved to the new location. Hopefully someday that enigma will be solved.



The middle section of the church at 1449 Geneva Street is the oldest part of the building. It measures 30 by 50 feet, which is said to have been the dimension of the Liberty Street church. That section is clad with cream city brick veneer, possibly covering the original white frame. The two additions are constructed of double thickness brick. In 1913 a vestibule, balcony and crenelated bell tower were added to the front-gabled Italianate main section. The rear addition was constructed in 1923 to accommodate the chancel, organ room and small sacristy. The full arched window crowns of the additions are a less elaborate version of those above the windows of the main section. Through the years families donated the stained glass in the windows.

In 1966 St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church dedicated its new church building at Erie Street and Melvin Avenue. The membership had moved to the northeast section of Racine. The 1971 city directory lists today's honored church as the home of Faith Church of God. We salute both congregations for their caring stewardship of this historic building.

Barbara S. Walter

125 North Kane Street, Burlington

When this pleasingly sturdy Italianate house was built, its address was “two doors north of Liberty Street on the west side of Dyer Street.” Since then, Liberty Street has become State Street, and Dyer Street has become Kane Street. It was built before 1869 by, almost certainly, a master mason in the Wackerman family, and given a six-foot deep bay window by Joseph Wackerman, Jr. in 1888. It was remodeled by its next owner Fred MacKenzie in 1928, and then again on the inside by later owners John and Diana Lux in 1969, who commented on how structurally sound it was.

The soundness can be seen in the large stone hood moldings over the front windows and in the solid porch canopy with massive brackets decorated with drop spindles and quatrefoils in pierced wheels. Along the roofline is an equally sturdy wood cornice with heavy dentils. Both canopy and cornice were added by Joseph Jr. in 1873.

The house is connected with some of Burlington’s earliest settlers. It has been dated to c.1875 and attributed to Elliott C. Benson, who came to Burlington in 1854 and ran a livery stable for fourteen years. However, this seems to be an error as the first known residents were Joseph Wackerman, Jr. and his wife Mary, who were living there in December 1869 when they adopted six-year-old Alice Wright from the Orphan Train. Joseph was the son of Joseph Wackerman, Sr., a mason who came with his older brother Francis and settled in Burlington in 1841. They and their families were the first Germans in Burlington, and Joseph was one of the charter members of the Teutonia Society for “the cultivation of the art of music; an art which offers to the human race the most refining and the purest of the pleasures of sense.” He was considered the finest mason in Racine County and had built the Burlington Union School in 1859 (later called the Lincoln School) with his contractor William Johnson. It was just across the road from this house, and Alice received her education there. Meanwhile, in partnership with the carpentry firm of Burhans and Rueter, Joseph Sr. was also building the Gothic Revival style Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, where his daughter Caroline was married and later buried. His wife Catherine, son Peter, and he himself were all buried there in the Catholic cemetery but Joseph Jr. appears to have become a Plymouth Congregationalist, and he and his wife Mary were buried in Burlington’s public cemetery. In 1889, Alice was married from this house and went with her husband to live in South Dakota.

Just before the wedding, Joseph added a six-foot deep bay window. The *Standard Press* of April 14, 1888 states that it was on the east side. The northeast side overlooking the street has no bay window. However, the southeast side has a separately-added six-foot deep bay window, enlarging what is now the dining room.

The last Wackerman to live here was Joseph Jr.’s widow Mary, who died in 1928. The house was then acquired by Fred and Mae MacKenzie who announced “extensive remodeling”. The additions at the back of the house may well have been added then. Thereafter, the house remained unchanged, passing to Diana and John Lux in 1968, a year before Fred MacKenzie’s widow Mae died. Their remodeling was done with great respect for the original structure, which remained unchanged on the exterior. Current owner Justin Widiker has kept the house in lovely condition, and it is a pleasure to see such a beautiful and storied house bidding fair to survive another hundred years.

Pippin Michelli

346 South Newman Road, Mount Pleasant

According to the 1858 tax rolls, the house located at 346 South Newman Road sits on land first registered as Holmes and Norton Property – part of Racine Nursery; in 1864–1867, C. J. True owned this land, with a listed value of $32.00. Hiram Newman is listed as the owner in 1868 with a registered value of $74.00. Hiram was born in Greene County, New York on September 9, 1831, reared on his father's farm and educated in local schools and Greene Academy. He taught school in New York for four years, one year in Ohio and two winters in Wisconsin, having arrived in Wisconsin in 1855. He then changed careers and began farming on 40 acres of land he purchased in western Mount Pleasant Township. He sold that original parcel of land and purchased 160 acres along what is now Newman Road, where it is reported that he built a fine home. Mr. Newman married twice, first in March of 1857 to Miss Elizabeth Gordon, daughter of Roswell and Katie (Stuart) Gordon. They had three children, Herbert Newman, Mary Perkins and Ella Jones. Mrs. Elizabeth Gordon Newman passed

away at the age of 36 in 1863. In 1864, Hiram married Miss Mattie Quackenbush, a teacher and the daughter of Yankee pioneers, who settled in Southport, now Kenosha. Hiram and Mattie had a daughter, Marie. *The Commemorative Biographical Record of Prominent Men of Racine and Kenosha Counties (1906)* states that Hiram "farmed here for 45 years, owning one of the fine farms in the township, being well improved with substantial modern farm buildings and well supplied with modern machinery." The tax rolls show substantial increases in property value in 1868 and again in 1901, which could indicate the initial building and the addition of a barn or other supporting buildings, respectively. In addition to farming, Hiram raised Guernsey cows. He served for two years as chairman of the town of Mount Pleasant; he also served a number of years as a supervisor and (in his early years) as a superintendent. Hiram died January 12, 1906 and is buried in Mound Cemetery.

The Italianate style became the most popular architectural style in America during the 19th Century. On this house it is seen in the low pitched roof, projecting eaves supported by decorative brackets, the balanced symmetrical shape, tall first floor windows, curved brick hoods over the windows and two-plus stories on the main building. Telescoping from the rear of the house are two cream brick, period one-story structures.

In 1925, the 160 acres were divided: J. E. Rowland owned 125 acres, Victor Jensen owned 20 acres, John Unegus owned 10 acres and Chester Anderson owned 5 acres. Rowland's 125 acres were the beginning of Avondale Addition, a subdivision consisting of fourteen lots. By 1930, J. E. Rowland, a real-estate developer, was joined by Dora

Kosterman as owner of these parcels. Ten years later, Dora Kosterman, Stewart and Robert Rowland are listed as the owners. In 1950, Dr. Karl Albright and his wife, Mildred, became the owners of fourteen lots, including lot 3 where 346 Newman Road is situated. Dr. Albright, a dentist, operated out of his office located at 259 Lafayette Avenue (now Memorial Drive). Tom and Nancy Nicholson purchased the house in 1968 and ultimately purchased three additional lots. Tom and Nancy have sensitively enlarged the house, building additions to its north and south sides that honor the architectural style of the original house. In addition to making this pleasing house their home; this is where they operate their photography business, Nicholson's of Racine, Photography and Framing.

Vivian Merlo

Save the date - 2017 Tour of Historic Places

Please consider volunteering for the 2017 Tour of Historic Places, which will occur on Sunday, September 24. This year the focus will be on the greater Manree Park Neighbor-hood in West Racine. We encourage you to make plans to attend this annual event and share information about it with family, friends and co-workers.

Important preliminary work has been completed. Ten sites have already been secured and research will soon begin on the buildings and places that have been selected for this year's tour. However, much work remains to be done and there is a need for numerous volunteers to ensure a successful event. Please consider being a member of the team that presents the history and architecture of Racine sites to the general public.

Positions are available for researchers, house captains and tour guides, as well as marketing, publicity, volunteer coordinators and more.

Please contact me to discuss how you would like to share your time, talents, gifts and services. Help us make this year's tour a great event!

Thank you,

Steven Rogstad
2017 Tour Chair
(262) 412-2511
stevenrogstad@yahoo.com`

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From the President:

As I come to the end of the third year as President of Preservation Racine, I have a chance to look back at what has happened and what I hope to complete in my next and last year as president.

Some highlights of what has happened:

- Last year we built the porch on the Blake House. After years of talking about building the porch we made the decision to move forward. The porch was completed in time to be part of the 2016 Tour of Historic Places in September. That gave us a perfect opportunity to showcase the porch as well as our office space in the Blake House.
- Our tours are well attended and have tremendous community support. We have for over 40 years showcased our architectural heritage and educated the community. This fundraiser produces the revenue that supports our organization and we should be proud of recent record years of earnings.
- The Century Building Awards Program has evolved into a more formal program, plan on attending this year's program in May.
- We have restarted making presentations to civic and school groups.
- We have updated our accounting program allowing us to get better reports to better understand our income and expenses
- Our programs continue to entertain and inform us, and attendance is growing.
- The newsletter is filled with good articles that help keep the membership informed and up to date on news about Preservation Racine.
- We have created a new revenue committee whose efforts are capitalizing on community support, encouraging corporate membership and securing grants.
- We continue to enjoy the support of community partners. Our meetings and tours are generously hosted throughout the community; their cooperation is essential.

Some goals for the next year:

- Become an affiliate member of the Wisconsin Historical Society.
- Revise our bylaws – we have made some minor changes to the bylaws over the last few years, however as we reviewed the bylaws there are a number of improvements I feel we can and should make.
- Increase membership involvement in the work of Preservation Racine.

Some details about my goals for the next year:

- We can <u>become an affiliate member of the Wisconsin Historical Society</u> (WHS), at no cost and take advantage of services that they have to offer. Benefits would include: better access to the state library and archives, workshops about preservation, and state conference. There is misinformation being passed around: we do not have to give the Blake House to the State, which is an alternate fact and was made clear in the paper work given to board members before the November board meeting. The only concession we need to make to become an affiliate is to promise that if Preservation Racine were to dissolve, our files and artifacts would go to preservation groups in the area. Joining the WHS was talked about several years ago, before my time and quite honestly I do not know why we are not already part of this state wide group that currently has over 390 affiliate members including the Burlington Historic Society, Caledonia Historic Society, and Racine Heritage Museum.
- <u>Revise our bylaws</u>:
  - Some of the changes involve adding language to allow us to become an affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society.
  - Other changes are to correct something that we have been doing that does not agree with current guidelines for nonprofit groups.
  - Another possible change is to restructure the Board of Preservation Racine to reduce the size of the board. This would allow us to become more efficient and run in a more businesslike manner. This is in no way an attempt to remove people from active involvement in Preservation Racine. What I am proposing is that we increase both the number of committees we have and the number of volunteers serving. Any committee chairperson or member can attend board meetings by requesting to be on the agenda. I expect the result from these changes will be to allow Preservation Racine to get more done by better utilizing the existing committees and the new committees that may be created as a result of the revised bylaws.
- <u>Increase membership involvement in</u> the work of Preservation Racine by inviting people to serve on committees and on projects that they are interested in. I expect as we start doing more projects that we will find people that want to publish booklets, or help develop walking tours. We should find the members that want to help educate others about the history of Racine, to share their love of Racine with friends and visitors.
- Do you know that the current bylaws are on our website? You can locate them by visiting <u>www.preservationracine.org</u>, click on the word “ABOUT” (not the dropdown menu) the bylaws are just below the mission statement. If you do not have internet access call Preservation Racine, at (262) 634-5748 and leave a message. We will mail you a copy.

I encourage any member to call me with questions or concerns; together we can keep Preservation Racine going forward.

Don Schumacher

Century Buildings: Thanks and Appreciation

Preservation Racine is once again inspired to celebrate century-old buildings in Racine County that have been well kept and maintained. We honor the owners who with pride and love have been stewards of these properties. This devotion is a gift of history presented to their communities. It will be valued now and for years to come. We are grateful to the volunteers who, so inspired, have worked many hours to make this celebration a meaningful and special event for all.

This year our appreciation goes to our astute COMMITTEE MEMBERS Janet Carter, Vivian Merlo, Pat Murphy and Sherry Peccarelli. They are skilled multi-taskers.

Kudos to the RESEARCHERS AND WRITERS who spent hours in dark rooms with dusty tomes and even more hours writing with cramped fingers; Mary Ann Carrier, Janet Carter, Nat Cycenas, Brenda Kenth, Vivian Merlo, Mary Newbold, Marcia Pfost, Ellie Smith, Karen Urben, Barbara Walter.

Gratitude to the creative, professional PHOTOGRAPHERS, Carol Hansen and Brad Jaeck.

Applause for Jan Kuhl for her expertise to beautify with FLOWERS AND DÉCOR.

A cheer for HOSPITALITY EXPERTS, Maria Zumach, Nancy Iversen, Tony Merlo and Pat Murphy.

Hurrahs to Steve Gancarz for SET-UP.

Appreciation to Jim Wardrip for PUBLICITY and RealRacine for THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS EVENT.

We are indebted to Don VandeSand and The Burlington Historical Society, Mary Nelson and The Racine Heritage Museum, and the staff at the Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

Heather Egan and Pippin Michelli
Co-Chairs of the Preservation Racine Century Buildings Co

From our first celebration, 1988: President Mary Whitman, center, with Arnie Froode and Mary Jo Kellogg, whose buildings were honored with Century Certificates

A Special Thank You

Preservation Racine extends a special thank you to Dan and Nan Bloch for their gift to our archive of a 1924 map of Caledonia, Wisconsin. This map shows what Caledonia looked like before Wind Point was developed into a separate entity.

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President	Don Schumacher
Vice President	John Mintier
Secretary	Alice Thomson
Treasurer	Norm Seeger
Historian	Sharon Baldukas

NEWSLETTER

Editors	Heather Egan
	Vivian Merlo
	Pippin Michelli
	John Mintier
	Barbara Walter

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

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

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Coming Up: Membership Meetings

Monday, May 1, 2017, 6:00 p.m.
We will meet in the Great Hall at DeKoven Center to honor this year's buildings and their owners with a Century Building Certificate.

Monday, June 5, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
We will hear about the history of Snap-On Tool, Inc. and enjoy a tour of the facilities in Kenosha

National Preservation Month, May 2017

Sunday, September 24, 2017
Preservation Racine's Tour of Historic Places
12:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Others:

Wright and Like 2017
Saturday, June 3, 2017, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin Guided tours of private homes and public buildings by Frank Lloyd Wright and contemporaries

A Thirty Year Anniversary (continued)

At that event, Roberta Fiene was given a certificate as Preservation Racine's first honored volunteer for her contributions of time and energy to our organization and its projects. Also, the Historic Sixth Street Business District was recognized for having been approved by the National Park Service to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places - the third district in Racine receiving such a listing at that time.

Since that first event, 378 Century Building Certificates have been awarded in Racine County, with 88 of them going to communities outside of the City of Racine. This has been a rewarding thirty year run. The people responsible for maintaining and caring for these historic buildings help to make our home a place to love.

As a post-script, I urge you to find and read some of Preservation Racine's early newsletters. Preservation Racine's first newsletter was issued in 1976. You can find them by going to Preservation Racine Digital Library - Milwaukee Public Library.

Vivian Merlo