PRESERVATION
RACINE NEWS

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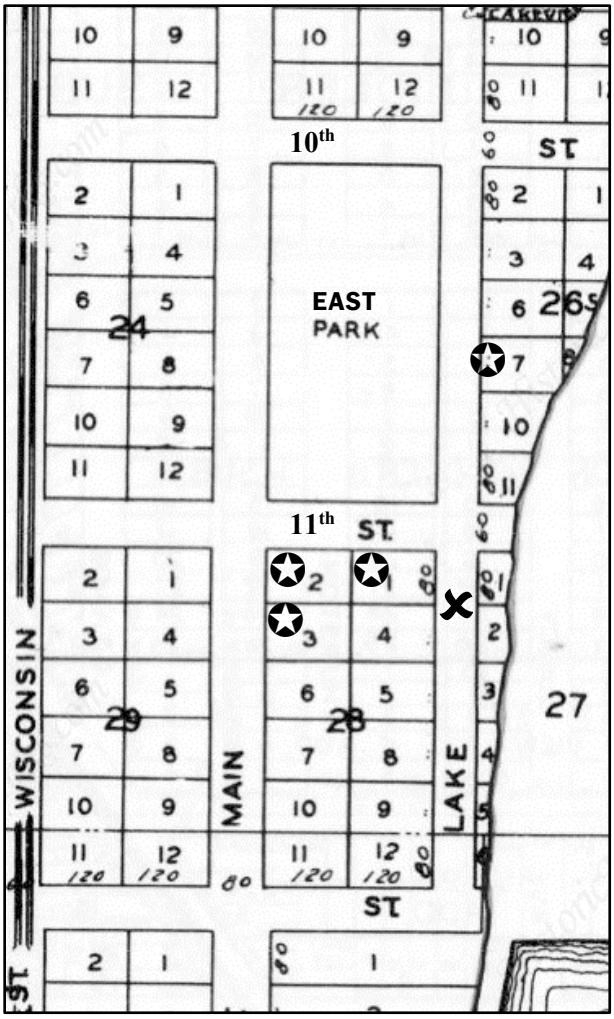
Volume 36

PRIVATE ELECTRICITY IN RACINE

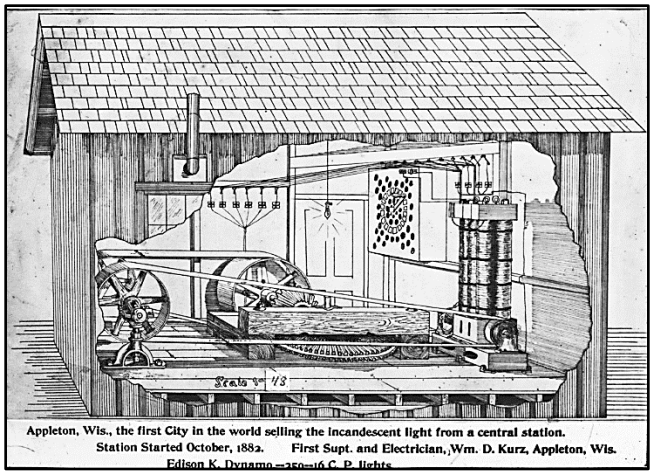
An article from the *Racine Journal News*, December 22, 1897, p8, caught my eye recently. In it, Stephen Bull, then president of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, announced that he was about to start up the private generator he had built to supply four of his family's houses. The context was simple at the time, but complex for us to disentangle. Taking the location first, the people involved all lived on the southern or eastern sides of East Park (11th Street and Lake Avenue). The patriarch Stephen Bull had four adult children who lived closely around him. His own 22-room house at 119 11th Street (corner of 11th Street and Main Street, on block 28) included Stephen Bull himself and his wife Ellen (nee Kellog), along with his widowed sister Jeanette Gage, and his eldest daughter Jeanette and her husband Richard T. Robinson. Immediately behind him, at 1121 Main Street, lived his son Frank Bull with his wife Belle (nee Jones) and father-in-law Emory Jones. On the other side of the patriarchal mansion, his youngest daughter Bessie and her husband, the architect A. Arthur Guilbert lived at 107 11th Street. Then, just across the corner of East Park, at 1033 Lake Avenue, on block 26, lived his second daughter Lillian and her husband Frederick Robinson (about where Gateway College's "glass cube" now is). On the east side of block 28 were the family stables and employee housing. Facing these, in block 27, were more servants' quarters. Thus, at this date (1897) the Bull family owned the entire northern half of block 28 and most of block 27. Stephen Bull put his generator at the corner of block 27 in 1897.



Stars mark the electrified houses: In Block 28, in lot 3 Frank Bull, in lot 2 Stephen Bull, in lot 1 Bessie (Bull) Guilbert, in Block 26 lot 7, Lillian (Bull) Frederick Robinson
The generator was in Block 27,on the property line between lots 1 and 2.

Taking the technological context next, Stephen Bull was closely involved with the developing electrical industry. Between 1800 and 1862 the components had come together, with the invention of batteries in 1800, electrically powered incandescent light in 1802, electrically powered arc lights in 1845, and the installation of the first electrically powered arc light in a lighthouse at Dungeness in Kent, UK, in 1862. Unfortunately, it proved too unwieldy and expensive and was soon replaced with an oil lamp, but the components had all come together. Back in America the Western Electric Manufacturing Company was incorporated in Chicago just in time for Professor William Wallace and several colleagues to establish commercialized electric arc lighting with the clever new "flame arc light" in 1877-8. The one drawback was the amount of power needed to light them, and the way their carbon electrodes wore away in a matter of hours. Four years later, in 1882, Thomas Alva Edison invented a new kind of incandescent lamp which needed vastly less power. At the same time, he developed a steady direct current power supply for the lamps, and started building the first commercial steam-powered plant, known as the "Pearl Street plant" in New York. It served about a mile square.

At the same time in Appleton, Wisconsin, one of the founders of the paper industry on the Fox River was taking an active interest in the idea of commercially produced electric power. This was Henry J. Rogers, president of the Appleton Paper and Pulp Company, and also president of the Appleton Gas Light Company. Hearing about Edison's Pearl Street Plant project while it was still under construction, Rogers persuaded three local businessmen to collaborate with him to produce a hydro-electric plant on the Fox River. It became known as the "Vulcan Street plant".



The Vulcan Street Plant, Appleton, Wisconsin, started up 1882

It was completed and put into operation, according to A. C. Langstadt, one of the men who helped set it up and brother-in-law of its first superintendent, two weeks before Edison's Pearl Street plant. The Vulcan Street plant also served about a mile square and very few patrons. These included Rogers' own Paper and Pulp Company (which hosted the electric plant) and his own house, designed as a modern electrical showcase – which survives in original condition as a museum in Appleton (the Hearthstone Historic House Museum). Rogers charged his residential patrons $7 per 16 candlepower lamp per year. His own house had fifty lamps, which would have been charged at $350 per year. That is $2,139.49 in today's dollars.

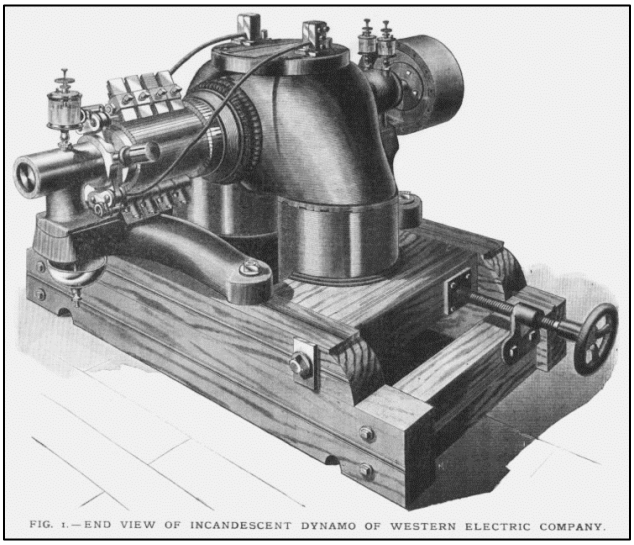
At this point, there was such a rush to patent electrical equipment and generating systems that progress was brought to a halt until the two major players, Thomson-Houston, makers of arc lights, and Thomas Edison, who controlled the direct current distribution and generating systems, merged to form the General Electric Company in 1892.

Now things could progress again, and the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, with Stephen Bull at its head, started making "[natural] gas or gasoline engines" under license to the Raymond Company. The Raymond Company was considered one of the foremost engine makers in the country. The engines appear in the J. I. Case 1896 catalog. One of these was used in Stephen Bull's generator in 1897. Bull also employed two locally prominent specialists. Harry L. Wills was his foreman, and he organized and supervised the engines for the Bull generator. William H. Perry was his electrician with years of experience working for the Badger Electric Light Company, and then in business for himself. Perry installed the dynamo for 100 incandescent lights in the Alschuler overall factory, but by 1897 he had been with J. I. Case for three years, and he was the one who organized and supervised the wiring between the generator and the four houses.

So the new private generator was built for one of Racine's most prominent manufacturing families, at a time when the commercial generation and distribution of electricity was just hitting its historical stride. It is no wonder that Bull planned to inaugurate it on Christmas Day evening, and described it in glowing terms in the *Journal News*:

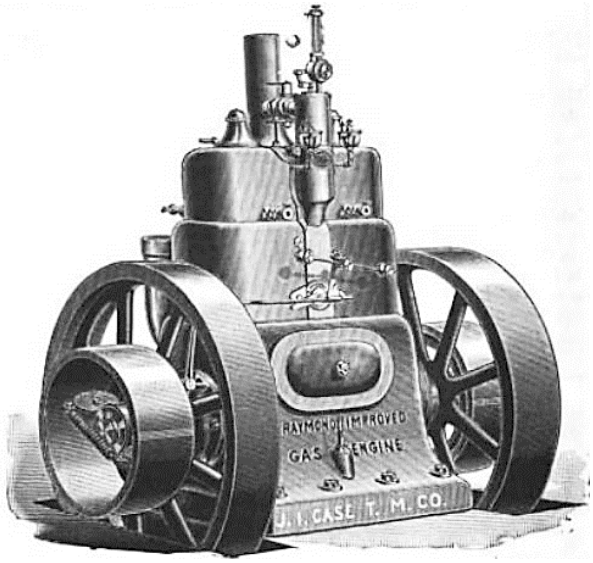
BEST IN THE WORLD
A Private Electric Light Plant to
Illuminate Four Residences
WILL BE STARTED SATURDAY
Capacity of 300 incandescent light of
Sixteen candle power

He went on to explain that, "the building is a very neat brick structure and to look at it from the street a person would never dream that it contained the greatest plant of its kind in the country".



The Western Electric Company dynamo used in the electric plant. This was patented in 1896.

"The dynamo is from the Western Electric Company and is a direct connected unit with a Raymond gas or gasoline engine of thirty horse power." That engine would have been the "duplex" published in his 1896 catalogue, made at the J. I. Case manufacturing premises. He went on, "The plant has a capacity of 300 sixteen candle power incandescent lights and also a number of arc lights." The sixteen candle power lamp was standard at the time, and the more brilliant arc lights were generally used in the parlor. Bull continued, "It is about the only direct unit plant in the United States and there is nothing in New York or Chicago that can in any way compare with it."



The Raymond engine was illustrated in the J.I. Case Threshing Machine Company catalog in 1896.

The plant could be run by the Raymond engine, or from the storage battery, or from the Badger Electric Light Company, so it was unlikely ever to need closing down. The whole plant would cost $7,000 (about $34,000 in today's dollars). That sounds like a stupendous amount, but Stephen Bull anticipated running the plant at $5 to $7 dollars a day. Thus he confidently predicted he would save so much in operating costs that the unit would pay for itself within two years. If so, the actual cost, which works out to $638 per year per household, implies that he expected to save $1112 per household for two years. That in turn suggests he would expect to pay $1750 per household per year at the standard rate. It is not clear what the standard rate would have been in 1897. If he had been paying $7 per lamp per year, his cost for 300 lamps would have come to $525 per year each household – but that was the rate in 1882. On the other hand, if he had been paying $0.145 per kilowatt hour, and he needed 18 kilowatt hours to run all 300 lamps, his cost would have come to $5716 per year for each household, although that price comes from the UK and dates to 1908. So, in 1897, approximately half way between these two price marks, $1750 per household might not be far from the reality. At any rate, it was safer and more reliable than the service provided by the Wisconsin Gas and Electric Light Company.

We don't know how long the Bull family continued to use their generator. Wisconsin Gas and Electric Light Company went through several problematic years, so there would be little incentive to turn to them for a while. Stephen Bull died in 1913, and the new generations started moving away from Racine soon afterwards. The two Bull mansions were extensively remodeled and modernized in 1915; but one stood empty and the other had passed to new owners by 1918. The Guilbert house had also been sold, and Frederick Robinson died in 1919. It seems unlikely that the little generator continued in use after this, but it may well have continued to exist: in 2016 the house of one of the former Bull servants was on Preservation Racine's Tour of Historic Places, and the current owner mentioned the electric plant house and showed us the spot where it had been. So there was even a living memory of Stephen Bull's electric plant – although by 2016 it was long gone!

Pippin Michelli

Made in Racine - Incubators

Racine can be proud of its many diverse farm-related products that were produced here in the Belle City throughout the years. Fanning mills, tractors, silos, wagons, silage cutters, cider presses, corn shellers and a host of other products used on our nation's farms were all made here at one time or another. However, did you know that egg incubators were also manufactured here many years ago? Surprised? Well, read on ...

For people living on a farm, profits from selling baby chicks were used to purchase flour, sugar, coffee and other staples. Therefore, it was imperative that as many eggs as possible actually hatched. Of course, incubator manufacturers all claimed to have the highest rate of hatching baby chicks, as compared to their competitors. Racine had at least five incubator firms that I am aware of: The Belle City Incubator Company, the Racine Hatcher Company, the National Incubator Company (which was located at 1220 Washington Avenue, just south of the tracks), the Wisconsin Incubator Company (located at 1331 18th Street) and the Progressive

Incubator Company, located inside the Racine Business Center (formerly, Racine Industrial Plant) on 16th Street. The Belle City Incubator Company was once located in what is now the S.C. Johnson complex on 15th Street, just east of Racine Street. I'm sorry to report that those buildings were recently demolished. It's interesting to note that the Racine Industrial Plant itself was the first "business incubator" in the United States, after the Racine Wagon & Carriage Company closed.

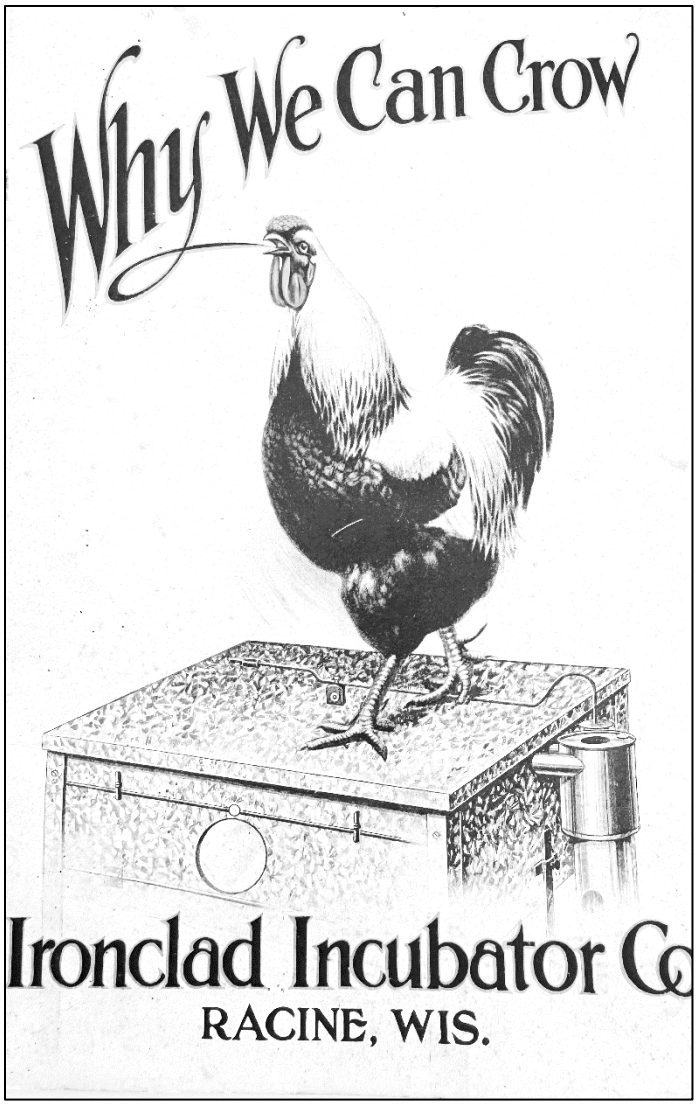


Photo credit: Jim Mercier

Most incubators were made of genuine California redwood for long-lasting service and were advertised as "being one-inch thick for the sidewalls" (try buying redwood now-a-days!). The ideal internal temperature was 103 degrees (considered to be the proper temperature for incubation), which was maintained by using oil or kerosene to heat water, thus supplying a continuous flow of steady, even heat. The heated water was then circulated throughout the interior through copper tubing. Prices were determined based on the actual size or capacity of the incubator. For example, a 150-egg "Ironclad" incubator, made by the Wisconsin Incubator Company, could be purchased for only $11.75, while their "top of the line" 2,100-egg hatcher would run $140. Prices even included free shipping! Of course, glowing testimonials appeared in all of their catalogs. Here is one example: "I am a girl 15 years of age and as father had a great deal of work in the garden this spring, I took on the work of tending the incubator myself. It was a pleasure to attend to! Your National incubators are so easy to operate that a child of 9 could do the work. This was my first experience with an incubator, and had the very best of luck with it. It is so easy to operate. We had a 96% hatch rate!"

Photo credit: Jim Mercier

With today's "factory farms" and commercial hatcheries (which specialize in raising chickens in very large quantities), demand for the smaller incubators (such as those once made here), plummeted, causing our factories to close. However, some of the buildings remain as a silent reminder of a once-thriving industry. I'll leave you with these words of wisdom, which appeared on the back of a Belle City Incubator Company catalog: "Don't keep chickens! Let chickens keep you!"

Jim Mercier

The Missing Stories

I was recently contacted by the new owners of the house at 3310 Northwestern Avenue, Rachel and Steve Schiele. They knew their house had received a Century Building award from Preservation Racine in 2005 and wanted to learn about its history, especially who built it. After checking the files in the archives at Blake House, I found very little on their house. In addition, there were no copies of the 2005 Summer Newsletter in our archival

files either. As you know the Summer Newsletter is typically full of photos, history and stories of the newly minted Century Building awardees. What had happened? I read the minutes of the PR board in 2005 and learned that summer the board was in the process of selling Jordan Hall, purchasing Blake House and helping to save the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Station! Something had to give and it was apparently the newsletter! I will try to make amends to the Century Building honorees of 2005 and do a series of articles on them.

Photo credit: Debbie Yale

The cream brick Italianate at 3310 Northwestern Avenue is probably one of the nicest houses you have never seen in Racine. For many years it has been hidden by overgrown trees and brush on its street side. By checking plat maps and searching the Tract Index of Deeds I discovered it was built by German immigrant Conrad Fox on his farm in Mount Pleasant which today is bordered by Rapids Drive, Northwestern Avenue (formerly called the Racine Rapids, later the Raymond Road and then Racine and Raymond Plank Road) and Golf Avenue. The Century Building committee in 2005 believed the house had been built c1867, but there was no corroborating evidence. Hopefully that can be verified by checking the Mount Pleasant tax rolls (the house is now within the Racine city limits).

The house is currently being rehabilitated although the exterior looks remarkably good. It sits on an expansive yard that has been cleared of overgrown shrubs, flowers and weeds. The original two-story house presents the typical Italianate features of a low-pitched, hipped roof, with wide eaves, and a symmetrical façade with three ranked openings per story. The windows are moderately tall and narrow and the entrance, topped with a transom window, is on the right; all are arched with a three-brick course crown. The porch looks original, except for the pillars which have been rebuilt using modern brick. Amazing care was taken to match the cream brick. The garage is built with the same brick. A one and one half-story addition with a gabled roof was built on the rear of the house.

Conrad Fox settled in Mount Pleasant in 1857, purchasing five acres from William Beswick for whom he also worked. Census records for 1860 indicate he was a laborer. After more land purchases in 1862 and 1867 Conrad's real estate value was $6,000 in 1870. Conrad Fox and his wife Bridget had married in 1856. Their four children were John J., William, Conrad Jr., and a daughter who was recorded through the years as Mary, M. Hellen, Ella M., and Ellen Mary. John J. and Conrad Jr. went into business with their father in the C. Fox and Sons Company, which became Fox Lime and Stone Company and eventually Fox Ice Company. William moved to Minnesota and farmed. Ellen/Ella married a cousin, Charles J. Fox, on May 24, 1895. He also worked in the Fox family businesses and became president of Fox Ice Company by 1916. Charles J. and Ellen/Ella lived in her childhood home, Conrad Sr.'s house, their entire marriage.

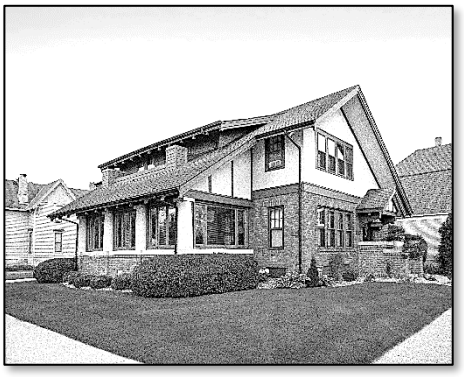
The Mount Pleasant plat map of 1873 shows one building on the Fox land. The 1887 plat map labels that building as the "C. Fox residence." Immediately northwest was a building labeled "J. Fox residence" and past that are three lime kilns. William Beswick and James Horlick, across the road from Conrad Fox's land, had the only listing for manufacturers of lime and providers of stone in the 1885 Racine city directory. Beside farming, Fox began quarrying limestone and manufacturing lime on his land; he started his lime and stone business in 1878. The 1887 city directory is the first time the Fox family members and C. Fox & Sons (although they were still Mount Pleasant) are listed. A few years later the company's name was changed to Fox Lime and Stone Company. Beswick and Horlick were excavating what we know now as the Quarry Lake County Park. In 1893 Conrad Sr. acquired the remainder of William Beswick land from his estate; that increased his land holdings to about 100 acres. The 1899 city directory lists John J. Fox's residence as "Northwestern Avenue, 1st house south of the kilns," and Conrad Fox Sr.'s as the "2nd house south of the kilns." By 1902 the two Fox houses on Northwestern Avenue are listed as "1 mile n. w. of the (city) limits."

When their quarry began filling with water in 1893, the family got into the ice business. Fox Ice Company was formed in 1909; ice was harvested in the winter and ice houses were built to store it. Ponds were flooded around

(continued on page 9)

Preservation Racine, Inc. Tour of Historic Places: *New Treasures, Old Classics*

Sunday, September 29, 2024 12:00–5:30 pm

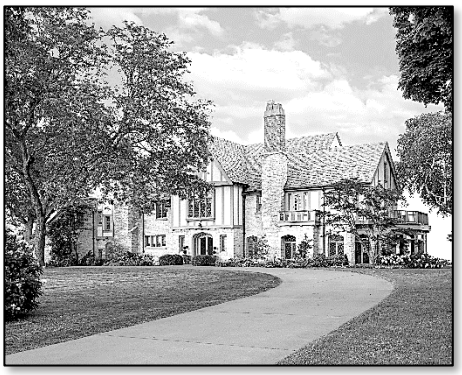


Bartholomew and Ellen Thronson House (1913
900 Lake Avenue

The Bartholomew (Bart) and Ellen Thronson House was featured on Preservation Racine's Tour of Historic Places over 20 years ago, and we are proud to feature it again this year. The Thronsons commissioned this Arts and Crafts Era Bungalow on the southwest corner of Lake and Ninth Streets in 1913. Bart was a local Racine businessman starting off his career selling furniture but began practicing the mortuary arts and eventually established the Thronson Undertaking Company. You don't want to miss seeing this beautiful example of an Arts and Crafts Era house and its breathtaking views of Lake Michigan.

Lewis and Susanna Peil House (1858)
1433 College Avenue

This neat Italianate house was one of the first built in the 1400 block, likely by Lewis Peil himself, since he was a mason and bricklayer. We find him living here in the 1858 city directory, and the style is typical for the period. Its front porch was at some point made to look "renaissance" but its current owners have restored it to its original design and colors. They have also restored the inside and we are very lucky to have such an old Racine classic on this year's tour! Be sure to make time for this treasure.

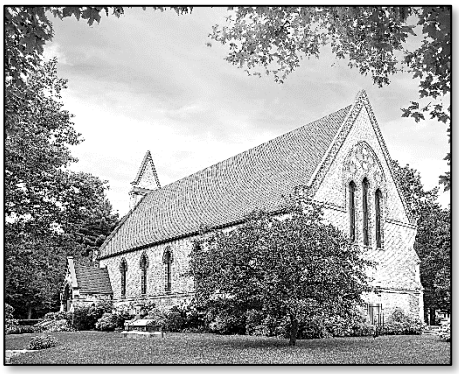


Roy and Mabel Spencer House (1929)
3333 Michigan Boulevard

One of Racine's finest homes is situated on an expansive, well-manicured front lawn on the far north side of Racine with a spectacular view of Lake Michigan to the east. Construction began in 1929 on this house, built in a variation of the Tudor Revival style. It has an asymmetrical shape, with stone and half-timbered stucco exterior walls, a massive chimney, tall multi-paned windows and a steeply pitched slate-shingled roof, along with an arched front entry. It was first occupied in 1932 by Roy and Mabel Spencer, who lived here until 1962. Roy Spencer was president of Western Printing for many years and also served as the mayor of Racine from 1937-39. As you plan your tour route, do not miss this exquisite residence.

Harold D. and Athaleen B. Mann House (1926)
1823 College Avenue

Built in 1926 for Harold and Athaleen Mann this brick Tudor style house is charming inside and out. Beautiful woodwork highlights the interior while the exterior is a model of playfulness and whimsy. The steep roof has multiple gables and gabled dormers; tiny windows offer a quick peek outside. Keystones are above the windows and doors. Learn about the shared history that is represented in the shared driveway.

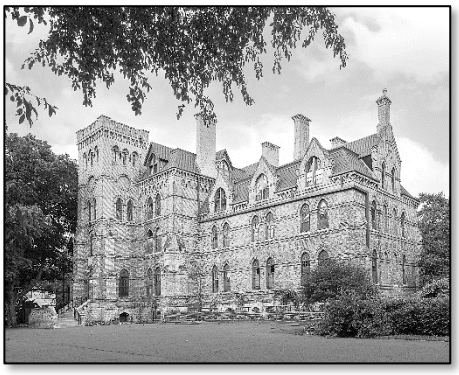


Saint John's Chapel (1864)
600 Caron Butler Drive

Built in 1864, St. John's Chapel was positioned in the center of the school quadrangle. The Gothic Revival buildings are patterned after the medieval quadrangle of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The chapel is reminiscent of English Gothic parish churches in its compact form, steep roof and lancet windows. Decorative red bricks accent the arches of the windows and the dramatic parapet on the west end of the building, as well as cross motifs on its panels.

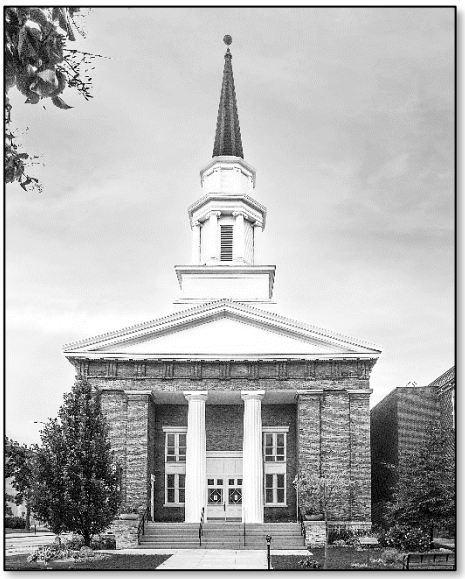
St. John's Chapel served the students and faculty of Racine College for more than fifty years. The interior features a vaulted ceiling and rows of original carved wooden pews facing the center aisle. Belgian stained-glass windows adorn the walls of the chapel.

Taylor Hall (1867)
600 Caron Butler Drive



Through a bequest from Isaac and Emerline Taylor this Collegiate Gothic style, massive four-story building was begun in 1867 on the west side of the campus of Racine College. The building was designed to provide dormitory space for fifty boys, a library, five classrooms and apartments for the warden and sub-warden.

In 1933 Racine College closed. In 1935 the Community of Saint Mary, the oldest women's religious Community of the Episcopal Church, acquired the DeKoven property. This was the catalyst for the formation of the DeKoven Foundation for Church Work. In 1938 a gift from St. Luke's Episcopal Church allowed the sisters to create St. Mary's Chapel inside of Taylor Hall and year-round use of the building began. The Community of St. Mary – Western Province used the Racine property for fifty years. They hosted retreats, conferences, summer camps and church activities.



First Presbyterian Church (1851)
716 College Avenue

First Presbyterian Church is celebrating the congregation's 185th anniversary this year. Their history reveals a church with a conscience, as seen in their involvement in the Underground Railroad, and a commitment to community. Their commitment to the preservation of their historic building is seen in their thoughtful remodel of the sanctuary in 2008, the replacement of the front stone staircase and repair and painting of the columns and doors this year.

Special Exhibit by Jim Mercier

Do not miss the display of beautiful turn-of-the-century advertising trays, tip trays, tin signs and advertising plates. These once graced the many fine establishments in Racine. The collection will be displayed in the lower-level dining room of the First Presbyterian Church. Enjoy these beautiful artifacts with a few light refreshments.

Advance Ticket Price: $15
Advance Ticket Sales Locations:
Borzynski's Farm and Floral Markt, 11600 Washington Avenue, Sturtevant
Mileager's, 4838 Douglas Avenue – and – 8717 Highway 11, Sturtevant
Miller's Flowers, 219 Sixth Street
O & H Bakeries, 1841 Douglas Avenue – and – 4006 Durand Avenue – and – 5910 Washington Avenue
Personal Touch Flowers by Julie, 5445 Spring Street
Racine Heritage Museum, 701 Main Street
Uncorkt, 240 Main Street
Wilson's Coffee & Tea, 3306 Washington Avenue

Tickets may be purchased from September 1 through September 25 with cash or check only, from any of the above outlets. Tickets are non-refundable.

Day of Tour Ticket Price: $20
Ticket Station: DeKoven Center

Thank you! We appreciate the site owners for opening their doors for this event. We thank our members, Brad Jaeck and Carol Hansen of Photographic Design, and the community organizations and businesses who come together to make this day a success.
Visit our website www.preservationracine.org for tour information.

Spring Street and later land on a lake in Dousman was purchased for ice harvesting. As the ice business prospered, the lime and stone business declined and was closed by 1922. A building at 724 Racine Street was built for ice manufacturing. By the 1960s Conrad Jr.'s son Stephen was running the ice business. When he died in 1965 the business closed.

Conrad Fox Sr. died on February 2, 1916. His estate was split by the four children, Ellen/Ella received the house; the other land and company stock went to the brothers. The city directory in 1931 lists Charles J. and Ella M. Fox's house being the "1st n. (city) limits" which was Golf Avenue then. Their two remaining children (they had lost five—three one-year olds, and a son and daughter in their twenties), Ethel and Elmer, begin to be listed as adults in their parents' home. Ethel was a teacher first at Garfield School and then at Washington Junior High School where she remained the rest of her career. Elmer was listed as a farm hand. Charles J. died in an automobile accident in October 1941 and Ellen/Ella died on November 29, 1954. From 1950 to 1961 the house has an address of 3200 Northwestern Avenue. In 1962 the street numbers were changed to 3310 Northwestern Avenue; Ethel M. and Elmer still resided there and were listed as retired from 1963 on. Elmer died on February 11, 1987 at age 85. Ethel M., the first born, who outlived all her siblings, died on October 17, 1989 at 94 years old. There is one more unique feature of the house—it was moved! I have heard reports that the house was moved a short distance east when Northwestern Avenue was widened. The cement block foundation it rests on proves it, because it is too modern for the house. The neighboring John J. Fox house is long gone, but his three daughters (Ella F., Mabel and Grace) who still lived there were awarded $12,585 in damages from the Wisconsin Highway Department on September 18, 1957. A little more digging may determine if the road work of the mid 1950s forced the house to be moved and if the street number change was due to recalibration or the move.

Debbie Yale

From the President

Greetings everyone! It seems impossible that four years have already passed and my term is up. It has been a great pleasure and privilege to be your president, through COVID and the recovery period. I feel we've done very well. We came out the other side of COVID and successfully re-established the Tour of Historic Buildings and the Century Buildings Awards. These were spearheaded by our Treasurer Beth Roeseler, Archivist Debbie Yale, and Projects Committee head Kim Eschmann, with strong support from longtime board member Vivian Merlo.

Our Projects Committee (new in 2020) has renovated one of the downstairs rooms at the Blake House as a memorial to founding member Pat Murphy, and it is now in the state it might have been when the Blakes lived there. The authentic décor and furnishings were curated with the expert help of George Mangold, who is descended from the Blakes. They look tremendous and have already been paid for thanks to the Project Committee's enterprise and dedication. The room behind the Pat Murphy room and the hallway have also been refreshed by the same committee.

Meanwhile, Paul Zens, in charge of the Blake House, and Beth Roeseler have spruced up one of the apartments, which is now being let out to visiting nurses and doctors for a few months at a time. Interest is strong and the apartment is booked well into next year.

And what did I do? Well, I scurried around signing things, researching buildings, captaining houses, writing, proofing, sometimes typesetting, and facilitating board meetings, ably assisted by my much-missed vice president, Mark Sommer.

So now it's over and a new president will take over. In fact, my term was up in April but our new president Bob Anderson was unable to take up the position until August. It now turns out that he cannot do it at all, and we must find a new one. At the same time, Larry Dickerson needs to step down as vice president. So, in accordance with our bylaws, we have tapped our new board member at large Scott Leonard to take the vice president's position and Larry will return to director at large. This reshuffle does not require votes from the membership, and Scott will fill the president's duties either until we find a new one or until he is elected himself. I hope he will be elected! I am so impressed with his good sense and diplomacy, and his understanding of the president's role, and he is also a very likeable person! As an added symbolic bonus, he lives in Pat Murphy's former house, which is the one whose cupola forms our logo. What could be better?

With thanks to everyone for a productive and healing four years. I will remain on the board as immediate past president, but will also be glad to rest from duty for a while. Preservation Racine now has new and energetic board members and I am more confident about its future now than I was four years ago.

With best wishes
Pippin Michelli, pro-tem and future Past President

Preservation Racine
Membership Meeting
Monday, August 26, 2024
Tour Begins 5:30 pm
Membership Meeting Begins 7:00 pm
7330 Five Mile Road
Caledonia, Wisconsin

As you may already know our August membership meeting is held on the fourth Monday of this month each year. Since Preservation Racine has many of the same goals as the Caledonia Historical Society (CHS), we thought it might be fun this summer to join forces for August to enjoy an outing to its Historic Village. At 7330 5 Mile Road Caledonia, Wisconsin just east of Hwy 38 lies this charming village of buildings and artifacts saved, renovated and moved here by CHS. This includes the original Caledonia Town Hall built in 1877, the 1902 Sturtevant Milwaukee Road Depot, the 1840 Ruud Log Cabin, the 1927 Caboose and the 1900 Botting Machine Shed. The Myers Museum was constructed on site in 2012 using repurposed materials. All this history has been gathered in one place complete with docents at each location who are eager to answer all your questions.

The Caledonia Historical Society formed in 2003 when the 1877 Village Hall was showing signs of losing the battle with time and weather. According to their website: "Dennis Kornwolf, the Caledonia Town Chairman at the time, recognized the historic value of the deteriorating building and in 2001 gathered a small group of like-minded citizens in an effort to save the structure." This group grew to be about 90 people today who have worked to fund and care for the growth of the Historical Village. According to Vice President Linda Graeper, "Generally the Grounds/Maintenance crew, who work every Monday and Thursday morning at the Village, keep the Village looking lovely and do all of the building maintenance upkeep. For example, they are currently painting the Caboose in its original yellow and green colors after repairing a lot of the siding."

We can start touring the village at 5:30 pm, and you will have the luxury and convenience of being able to drive your car to each of the facilities if you need to do this. Parking is allowed on the grounds at each of the sites. Thus, there are no mobility problems if you have difficulty walking the grounds. Everyone can move about at his/her leisure in any order that they desire.
Our member meeting at the usual time of 7:00 pm will take place in the Botting Shed where chairs will be set up. Light refreshments will be served.

Coming Up

- Monday, August 26, 2024, 5:30 PM Tour of Caledonia Historical Village with General Meeting at 7:00 pm
- Saturday, September 7, Wright & Like Tour 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Sunday, September 30, 2024 12:00 PM to 5:30 PM Annual Tour of Historic Places
- October (No meeting in October)
- Monday, November 4, 2024 7:00 PM Matt Sadowski will speak about the cream city brick buildings in Racine

Linda Schubert
Preservation Racine Upcoming Events

Wright And Like Tour 2024

On Saturday, September 7, 2024, the Wright and Like Tour will once again be held in Racine by the nonprofit organization Wright in Wisconsin, Inc. Such tours have brought awareness of the architecture, vision, legacy and genius of Frank Lloyd Wright, his apprentices, and contemporary architects for over three decades. The tour is held from 9 am to 5 pm rain or shine, no refunds.

Three buildings on the SC Johnson campus will be on the tour along with eight private residences designed by architects Frank Lloyd Wright, Hans Geyer, John Randal McDonald, Edgar Tafel and William Kaeser.

- S. C. Johnson Campus (Wright's **Administration Building** and the **Research Tower Building** and Norman Foster's **Fortaleza Hall** (Ticket holders will be contacted after purchasing tickets to reserve a specific campus tour time of 9:00 am, 11:00 a.m., or 1:00 pm)
- 1904-5 Wright's **Thomas P. Hardy House**
- Edgar Tafel's 1941 **Robert and Rita Albert House**
- Hans Geyer's 1962 **Hans and Estelle Geyer House**, his 1952 **Lester and Sophie Cohen House** and his 1957 **Michael and Connie Salvano House**
- John Randal McDonald's 1952 **Robert and Louise Erickson House** and **Dr. Joseph and Jeanne Postorino House**
- William V. Kaeser's 1949 **Dr. George and Alyce Gillett House**

Photo credit: Janet Carter

Tickets are available online for $65 for members of Wright in Wisconsin or Frank Lloyd Wright Reciprocal Sites Membership Program and $80 for non-members or by calling their office at 608-287-0339. Non-members may join Wright in Wisconsin before purchasing tickets. Tickets may also be purchased on the tour day at Tour Headquarters, First Presbyterian Church (at 7th Street and College Avenue) at $75 for members and $90 for non-members. No physical tickets will be provided; your name will be added to their tour guest list.

Provide your own transportation and plan your own itinerary. No interior photography is permitted and children 12 or under are strongly discouraged. Most tour sites are private homes and most are not ADA compliant. Allow the entire day for the tour and wear comfortable walking shoes.

A pre-tour event is planned for Friday evening, September 6 at the Racine Heritage Museum where Tim Samuelson, emeritus Chicago cultural historian, will speak on the museum's "Wright Before the Lloyd" exhibit. Check online for more details and tickets.

Please see the website www.wrightinwisconsin.org for complete information on membership and ticketing.

Janet Carter

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President	Pippin Michelli
Vice President	Larry Dickerson
Treasurer	Beth Roeseler
Secretary	Karen Verbeten
Historian	Debbie Yale

NEWSLETTER

Editors

Janet Carter	Heather Egan
Vivian Merlo	Pippin Michelli
Linda Schubert	Barbara Walter
Debbie Yale	

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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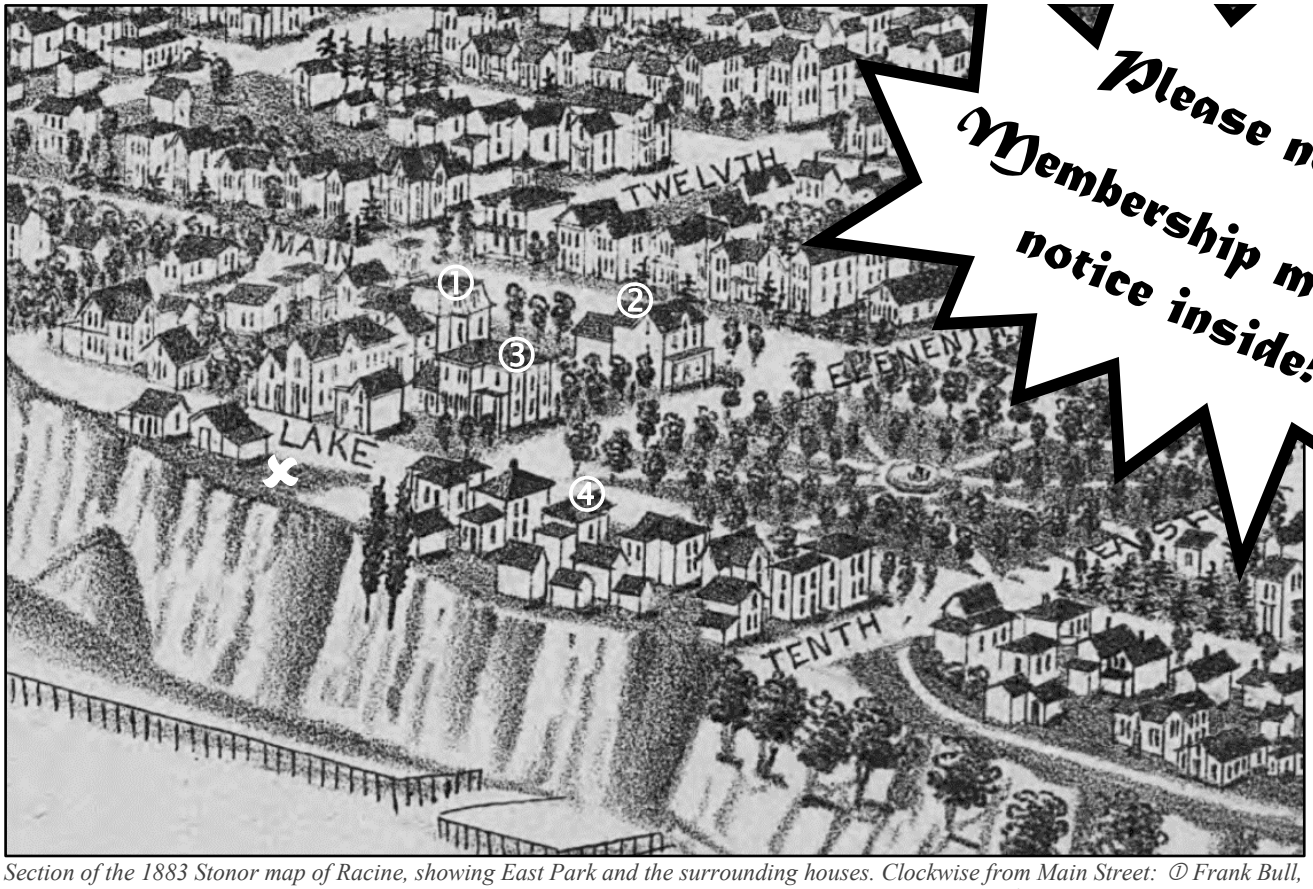

Please note!
Membership meeting
notice inside!

Section of the 1883 Stonor map of Racine, showing East Park and the surrounding houses. Clockwise from Main Street: ① Frank Bull, ② Stephen Bull, ③ Bessie (Bull) Guilbert, ④ Lillian (Bull) Robinson. The corner of Lake Avenue and 11th street is vacant at this date but the larger house is the one that was next to the Bull electricity generator plant, ✕, (a neat brick building).