**Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions**

# WAHPC

June 2011

Membership & Newsletter *Communique*

Delivery of this **WAHPC** Newsletter marks the end of an era. Don Aucott, first and only **WAHPC** Communicator/Editor has written his final newsletter. He will be relocating from his home up north to a place in the southwest (USA). As a founding member of **WAHPC** he educated us through the newsletter, informed us of outstanding restoration projects, welcomed new commissioners to conferences, and kindled our interest in architectural styles. We wish Don, and his partner, John, a warm reception in their new destination.

Wisconsin communities support historic preservation through their landmarks and historic preservation commissions. **WAHPC** will continue its mission through the Newsletter, annual meeting, and historic preservation award programs.

On behalf of **WAHPC** Board Directors, thank you for your membership. The dues for WAHPC remain at $40.00 for Commissions and $25.00 for individual members, payable annually to treasurer, Linda Muldoon, 514 W. College Ave, Appleton, 54911. When starting or renewing your membership, please list the number of newsletters needed for your commission members and staff.

Copies of the newsletter will be sent to the City/Village/Town Hall in a packet to insure that all members receive a Newsletter. If you need a different method of delivery, please contact Kathy Grace. Kathy will be the future contact person regarding WAHPC membership matters.

If you have questions and comments, please contact any of our **WAHPC** Board.

Sincerely,

Shirley B Mattox

Shirley Brabender Mattox

**WAHPC** Board Directors:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bill Weinshrott<br>President<br>Fond du Lac<br>Wein57@hotmail.com | Shirley Brabender Mattox<br>Vice president<br>Oshkosh<br>smattox@ameritech.net | Linda Muldoon<br>Treasurer<br>Appleton<br>coventryglass@usa.net | John Decker<br>Secretary<br>Evansville<br>deckercorp@charter.net |
| **Kathy Grace**<br>**Winneconne**<br>gendiva@charter.net | Peter Sorenson<br>Fond du Lac | Rick Bernstein<br>Advisor<br>Wisconsin Historical Society<br>Rick.Bernstein@wisconsinhistory.org | Don Aucott<br>Editor (1985-2011) |

# WISC. Landmarks Newsletter

Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions

## This year in Columbus

We have this report from Bill Weinshrott, Fond du Lac, the president of the Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions--WAHPC:

The April 9, 2011 WAHPC Spring Conference was held in Columbus at the Columbus Senior Center. According to the surveys, all in attendance felt it was a great conference. High marks were given not only for its presentations, but also for its site and tours. Seventeen commissions were in attendance: Appleton, Columbus, Eau Claire, Evansville, Fond du Lac, Janesville, La Crosse County, Madison, Marshfield (committee), Oregon, Oshkosh, Portage, Reedsburg, Sauk City, Stoughton, Thiensville, Winneconne, also a representation from Kewaunee although they are not a commission.

Alice Schmidt, a retired teacher from Columbus, told us the story of how Columbus came to be. She let the audience decide who the good guy and who the bad guy was in the city's history. Alice, who is affectionately known as the soup lady, also did the planning and food preparation. Other commission members helped as well.

Our guest speakers were:

*Frank Butterfield*, director, Wisconsin Field Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation. Frank educated us about replacement windows versus original windows and how an industry's national marketing campaign can sway the consumer.

*Jen Davel*, preservation architect, Wisconsin Historical Society. Jen gave us a history of storefronts and how they changed over time with the invention of new technology and materials. She also showed the value of preserving windows and storefronts to keep the building all in the same period, whether it was a building of the 1920s and 1930s or of the 1950s and 1960s.

*Todd Frey*, Columbus, shared with us his renovation process of a commercial building and its reuse as a showroom for his Carriage Co. Following, we joined him for a tour. We were taken back in time as we viewed many restored carriages. Many people commented on their beauty and how small people were back in that time.

*Mark Ernst, Anne Biebel, Chuck Williams* from the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation, each spoke to us briefly about the Trust.

Our afternoon tours included the City Hall where we saw how modern energy-efficient office facilities can be

*Continues on page 2...*

## 2011 Membership fees

____ $40 commission.
____ $25 individuals, groups

Membership makes you eligible for reduced conference fees and this newsletter.

To receive this newsletter, printed or electronic, commissions should send a list of commissioners with postal and email addresses. ***We hope to have email newsletters available again soon.***

Payable to WAHPC.
**Send to**
**Treasurer Linda Muldoon.**
514 West College Avenue,
Appleton 54911

**Membership Benefits.**
Networking,
WHS contact.
Newsletter

## Members for 2011

**Commissions**: Columbus, Eau Claire, Evansville, Fond du Lac, Hales Corners, County of La Crosse, Marshfield, Milwaukee, Monroe, Neenah, New Berlin, Oregon, Reedsburg, Richland Center, Sauk City, Stoughton, Thiensville, Waukesha, Town of Westport, Winneconne, Whitewater.
**Individuals**: Kathy Grace, Winneconne; Carol Krug, Madison; Mary Poser, Columbus; Bill and Lynn Weinshrott, Fond du Lac.

*You can join WAHPC for 2011 with the membership form on this page.*

*Weinshrott, continues from page 1*

constructed within century-old buildings. The auditorium was also open for touring. Three private homes, two of them on the National Register of Historic Places, were open for touring by those in attendance.

Thank you to Alice Schmidt and the Columbus Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission, the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation for its $200 contribution, and all our presenters.

## Columbus: online news view

This report on the Columbus conference is by Paul Scharf in the Columbus Journal Online for April 28, 2011:

The Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions held its annual spring district conference at the Columbus Area Senior Center on Saturday, April 9.

The event was hosted locally by the Columbus Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission.

The conference theme was "Preserving Windows and Storefronts."
The president of the WAHPC, Bill Weinshrott, presented the CHLPC with a $100 donation from himself and his wife Lynn in appreciation of Columbus' hospitality and warm welcome.

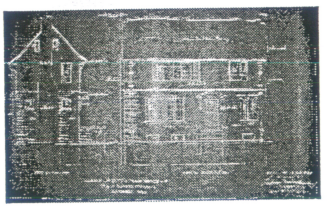
"To me that is just a fabulous thing," said Alice Schmidt, CHLPC member. The food for the event was donated by Alice Schmidt and Kris Schirmacher and the HLPC received more than $840 in donations from the participants.

The event consisted of several presentations and a roundtable discussion in the morning and early afternoon. Following those presentations, director of economic development and energy sustainability Steve Sobiek led tours of the first floor of city hall, showing off its recent reconstruction.

The homes of John and Carla Salzwedel, Dale and Kris Schirmacher and Phillip and Sheila Worthen were opened for tours, as were the auditorium in the second and third floors of city hall and the Frey Carriage Company on Dickason Boulevard.

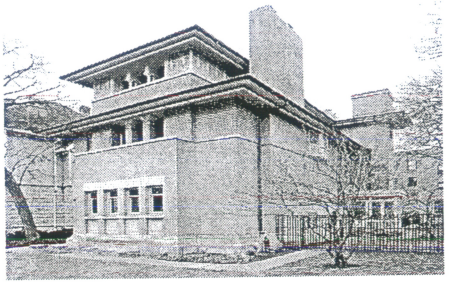
Education Architectural Style

## Bajari/Bentley house explored in La Crosse



*Top, early photo of the Hogan House. Just above, the unused plan from Parkinson and Dockendorff.*

Some 50, perhaps even 75 persons gathered in the Pumphouse arts center near the Mississippi River for an April 27th 6 p.m. program sponsored by the Preservation Alliance of La Crosse. The subject was the architect for the James C. and Grace Hogan House, built in 1910 at the corner of South 17th and Main streets, and one of the earliest Prairie-style houses in the city. National Register consultant Eric Wheeler and Teri Talpe of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse research center, with help from Anita Doering of the La Crosse Public Library Archives and me, your editor... As told by Eric, the architects were partners William J. Bajari (1884-1940) and Percy Dwight Bentley (1885-1965), the first from Red Jacket (Calumet to be), Michigan, and the second from La Crosse, both of them young new architects and "graduates" of the Chicago School of Architecture. Bajari lived about five blocks from the Heller House (shown) and Bentley was infatuated with Wright, as he explained in a letter in 1965. So, perhaps Mr. Hogan, a socially rising grocery distributor, asked Bajari and Bentley to do more with his house plan--shown, collection of the La Crosse Public Library--from the



*Frank Lloyd Wright's Heller House of 1897 in Chicago. The Hogan House seems much influenced by Heller.*

*Continues just below...*

stolid Parkinson and Dockendorff firm, also of La Crosse, and B&B moved the fireplace and added windows in a way like those of the Heller House, and placed a flat hood over the entrance door. The result was a certain surprise and yearning.

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This is my last issue as editor, after being the first and only one. So long. Keep the WAHPC logo. It's my design.

*Donald Michael Aucutt*

# WAHPC notes

## New director

Kathy Grace, Winneconne, has been appointed a WAHPC director. Kathy has seven years' experience as a member of the Winneconne Historic Preservation Commission.

She has been employed at the Oshkosh Public Library since

*Kathy Grace displays the plaque for St. Paul's Lutheran Church recognizing the building for being listed on the local Register of Historic Places – the first in the village of Winneconne. Photo, Winneconne News.*

1972, and has been head of technical services since 1986. Kathy has a B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and a master's degree in information and library sciences from UW-Madison.

Her interests include the history of Winneconne and the surrounding area, preservation of historically significant cemeteries, genealogy, gardening and books.

She has been a member of the Winneconne commission for seven years.

## Remember Joan Gefke

*Joan Gefke. madison.com.*

Mary Joan Gefke, 81, of Oregon, died at her home on Dec. 23, 2010, surrounded by her family. The WAHPC Board and members knew Joan for her short time with us as a director and as the skilled organizer of our 2010 conference in Oregon. She started the Oregon Historic Preservation Commission.

Joan was born on December 22, 1929, in Oregon, the daughter of Raphael Martin and Florence Killerlain Martin. She attended Oregon High School, and graduated in 1947. During high school Joan was the drum majorette for the band, head cheerleader, and participated in forensics where she received state recognition. In 1947, Joan married her high school sweetheart Stanford Lowel Gefke. They remained in union for 63 wonderful years.

Joan's first job after high school was at Reitan-Lerdahl in Madison. After a short stay, she began work at the United States Armed Forces Institute in Madison. In 1962, Joan moved onto work at the UW-Madison, Environmental Awareness Center. Joan's time working on the UW campus during the Vietnam Era was one of the most exciting times of her life, and she would often tell the stories from this time of her life to anyone who would listen to her.

In her capacity as a UW project specialist from 1962 until 1974, Joan worked closely on these projects: Blueprint for Bayfield, A Design Study for Preserving and Enhancing the Scenic Quality of a Great Lakes Community, Bayfield; Old World Wisconsin, A Study by the Department of Landscape Architecture; A Historic Structure Inventory for Wisconsin, including the Old World Wisconsin Project, Statewide inventory; Madison E-Way System, 21-Mile Environmental Corridor, National Endowment for the Arts Funding; An Interstate Corridor Selection Process: The Application of Computer Technology to Highway Location Dynamics; and the Inland Lakes Renewal and Management Demonstration.

After spending 28 years working for others, Joan decided to start a new adventure. She enrolled in Madison Business College, where in 1975 she received an associate degree in court reporting. She struck up a friendship with a fellow student, Faye Gehrke, and Gefke and Gehrke Reporters, LLC was formed. During their nine years of working together, the team covered most of the high profile court cases in Dane County, including the Barbara Hoffman case.

After Gefke and Gehrke, Joan did several stints with the U.S. Government. First, in 1984, she joined the U.S. Marshal's Office in Madison, as a legal technician. For this job, Joan had to go through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center where she learned hand to hand combat and handgun proficiency - at the age of 55. She stayed with the high profile Marshal's Office until 1987, when she moved to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Madison, where she worked as a paralegal for the Federal Grand Jury system. This was an extremely dramatic time for Joan, as she worked on many thrilling John Doe cases.

In 1992, after giving the U.S. Government almost 10 years of service, Joan began a teaching career in court reporting and various continuing education classes. She taught at MATC from 1992 until 1995, Edgewood College from 1995 until 1997, and UW-Whitewater from 1997 until 1999. She loved teaching, and was truly a compassionate mentor to many young minds.

Finally at the age of 70, Joan decided to fully dedicate her time to the service of her community. In 2001, Joan started the Historic Preservation Commission for the village of Oregon. Since the incep-

*Joan Gefke concludes on page 6*

### WAHPC Treasury...

has $3,316.50, Treasurer Linda Muldoon reports.

# Remember Alice Krueger

*Alice Krueger. WDH.*

Longtime activist Alice F. Krueger, 82, Merrill, died February 22, 2011, in Wausau. Alice attended WAHPC meetings, was president of the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation, and supported the Wausau/Northwoods Wisconsin Grass Roots for Historic Preservation.

She was born January 23, 1929, in Merrill, daughter of the late Arthur and Ellen (Norman) Zoellner. She married Herman R. Krueger in 1957 in Pine City, Minnesota.

During her career, Alice was director of the Foster Grandparent Program at Lincoln Hills School, retiring in 1994. She was also managing editor of the Foto News, manager of Quality Print Inc., and the Merrill Hatchery.

Alice was active in the community and state serving on numerous state and national boards and committees. She served as state president of the Wisconsin Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc. Alice served as president of the Merrill Historical Society for 15 years. Alice served on the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, and the national board of National Federation of Business and Professional Women. She served on the Merrill Area Public School Board and was editor of Wisconsin Gardening and Wisconsin Business Woman.

Alice's favorite pastimes were gardening, writing, historic preservation and history. She received numerous state and local recognitions.

Her services were February. 26, 2011, at the Waid Funeral Home Chapel, Merrill.

Source: Wausau Daily Herald (WDH) February 24, 2011.

# Around Wisconsin

## Madison

*Plain Talk: Preservation group is all about art of the possible*

**by Dave Zweifel**

The often maligned Madison Trust for Historic Preservation has hired a full-time executive director, and he's on a mission to let the community know that historic preservation and development don't have to be enemies.

Jason Tish has been on the job for a little more than a year thanks to a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, of which the Madison organization is a local partner organization.

*Jason Tish. madison.com*

Tish stopped by the office recently to introduce himself and explain the organization's role in advocating for historic places and how it gets involved in planning and development decisions.

Because it has been involved in some high-profile development squabbles over the years, there are some who view MTHP as just another of Madison's impediments to progress.

"But what we're really about is finding ways that Madison's historic environment can support economic progress," Tish said. "The core of our mission is the art of the possible."

Madison citizens interested in the city's historic legacy founded the trust with the goal of demonstrating to the city and developers that old and historic buildings are important cultural resources and contribute to the city's sense of place and sense of identity.

The stately William Vilas mansion atop Mansion Hill on Wisconsin Avenue was torn down to make room for a new National Guardian Life Insurance building. Soon after, a mid-19th century sandstone farmhouse along University Avenue was demolished for a Burger King fast food restaurant. And more were being eyed by developers.

One of the Trust's most popular activities is the hosting of walking architectural tours downtown and on the isthmus during the summer. Tours include State Street, the Mansion Hill District, King Street, the University Heights Historic District, Bascom Hill, Backstage at the Orpheum and the East Isthmus Bicycle Tour.

In the winter the Trust holds workshops where owners of older and historic buildings can get tips on everything from asbestos removal to upgrades on plumbing and electricity plus help with securing historic homeowner tax credits.

Source: Madison Cap Times editor emeritus, dzweifel@madison.com, madison.com, posted January 17, 2011. Some corrections were provided by Mr. Tish via email January 23, 2011.

## Milwaukee

Milwaukee's highly successful historic preservation ordinances are now under review by Mayor Tom Barrett and the Common Council following the debate over preserving or demolishing historically designated buildings for a proposed hotel on East Wisconsin Avenue. The decision was to demolish the buildings for a $50 million Marriott hotel.

The Historic Water Tower Neighborhood recently signed a letter with an impressive list of civic leaders to Mayor Barrett outlining the benefits of maintaining Milwaukee's current ordinance. The signers included several HWTN members--James T. Barry III, Kristin Bergstrom, Robert and Barbara Elsner, Sally R. Peltz, Julie Penman, Jim Shields and Charlie Trainer. Other prominent civil leaders who signed were John Gurda, Michael W. Hatch, Tom Kubala, Greg Marcus and Bill Orenstein.

Alder Terry Witkowski is proposing that the Common Council look at the rules and procedures that the Historic Preservation Commission uses, and he says such a review "could even lead to the abolishment and recreation of the body."

Preservation magazine put the Marriott dilemma on its "worst of 2010" list. Preservation is a publication of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

## Stevens Point

Piles of broken concrete, brick and steel lay in the lot at 1000 Third St. — the site of the former Eagle Plumbing building. The city is did most of

*Site of 102-year-old building in Stevens Point.*

the demolition work itself, only bringing in an outside group to start the work because the city didn't have equipment tall enough to reach the top of the building. Public Works Director Joel Lemke said the city will pay Stuczynski Trucking and Excavating Inc., Stevens Point, less than $2,000 for starting the demolition. Lemke said much of the material—stone, concrete, brick—could be crushed and reused by the city as road material.
"I understand people are disappointed that it's coming down," Lemke said. "We get our marching orders, and when it comes down to it, that's what we got to do."
The rest of the material will be disposed of at Veolia ES Cranberry Creek in Wisconsin Rapids.

The building had been mired in controversy.

*Continues on page 6*

# New National Register

Here are Wisconsin buildings and places recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places since our last issue. The National Park Service administers the register. Most nominations are made through the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) in Madison. The list is sorted by location:

Paramount Knitting Company Mill, 222 Madison Street, Beaver Dam. Listed 2/04/11.

Center Valley Grade School, W5532 Center Valley Road, Center. Listed 4/08/11.

"Gallinipper" Shipwreck (Schooner), Lake Michigan, 9.5 miles east of Hika Bay Park, Centerville vicinity. Listed 12/28/10. (Great Lakes Shipwreck Sites of Wisconsin MPS.)

"Home" Shipwreck (Schooner), Lake Michigan, 9 miles Northeast of Hika Park, Centerville vicinity. Listed 12/28/10. (Great Lakes Shipwreck Sites of Wisconsin MPS.)

St. Mary's Rectory, 1575 Second Avenue, Cumberland. Listed 4/04/11.

Owen Oliver and Margaret Oliver House, W 314 S 3986 State Highway 83, Genesee. Listed 1/31/11.

"Northerner" Shipwreck (Schooner), Lake Michigan, five miles southeast of Port Washington Harbor, Town of Grafton vicinity. Listed 12/10/10. (Great Lakes Shipwreck Sites of Wisconsin MPS.)

Frank Whiting Boathouse, 98 Fifth Street, Neenah. Listed 4/20/11.

Tygert Street Historic District, Tygert Street and Spaulding Avenue, generally bounded by Scott Street and East Lane Street, Ripon. Listed 2/18/11.

Juneau Highlands Residential Historic District, 6600-6734 West Grant Street, 2109-2180 South Livingston Terrace, 6608-6656 West Revere Place, and 6627-29 West Revere Place, West Allis. Listed 3/21/11.

George P. Mayer Boathouse, 7708 Braeger Road, Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County. Listed 3/21/11.

Also, these actions:
- Harry W. Bolens House, 842 West Grand Avenue, Port Washington. Additional documentation approved 5/04/11.
- Bradley Knitting Company, 902 Wisconsin Street, Delavan. Removed 4/06/11.
- Massachusetts Block, 1525-1531 Tower Avenue, Superior. Removed 4/06/11. (Speculative Commercial Blocks of Superior's Boom Period 1888—1892 TR.)
- Whitefish Bay National Guard Armory, 1225 E. Henry Clay Street, Whitefish Bay. Removed 4/06/11.

Weekly updates are at the National Register and the Wisconsin Historical Society websites.

*Joan Gefke continues from page 3*

tion of the commission, Joan had worked untiringly on various local activities: she was instrumental in founding the Oregon Historical Society; she was chairperson for a book on the history of the Holy Mother of Consolation Church; she conducted a survey of all plots in St. Mary's Cemetery in Oregon; she worked on preserving the historic buildings in downtown Oregon, including the Old Red Brick School; and worked on developing the use of court reporters in the closed captioning TV industry. She was always available to write grants for whoever requested her expertise, and always refused compensation.

Source: madison.com.

*Stevens Point continues from page 5*

The building twice escaped razing, and recently developer Arc Central had plans for an eco-friendly apartment complex for the site. The Community Development Authority voted to raze the building after the developers failed to come up with the security deposit necessary to secure the project.

The order to demolish went through several committees, and despite efforts of the Eagle Community Cooperative Initiative and a lengthy debate by the Historic Preservation/Design Review Commission, the building was scheduled for demolition.

Local architect Tom Brown, who fought to save the building and spoke out against its demolition, said he felt a great deal of sadness when he saw the building go down. "Maybe when there are no buildings of any historical significance left, someone will finally say, 'Oh, it's too bad we tore down all those buildings.' For me, it's a sad day for Stevens Point."

Source: B.C. Kowalski, Journal staff. December 30, 2010.

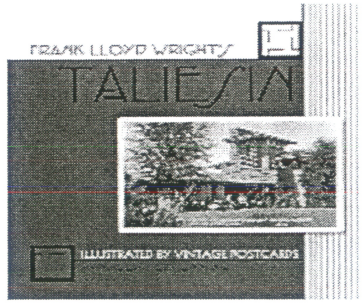
## Words.

"The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen."

Frank Lloyd Wright

# Calendar

September 23-24, 2011. Local History and Historic Preservation Conference, Stevens Point.




***New from UW-Press**. Check online for details. Go to the University of Wisconsin Press website.*

## *More Around Wisc.*

### Wauwatosa

The Wauwatosa Woman's Club and resident Emily McNulty have been announced as the first recipients of the Wauwatosa Historic Commission's new Preservation of Properties award.

The award is meant to distinguish people who, when renovating their historical properties, make sure that the original style is preserved. "We recognize people who enhance when they renovate," commission chairman Brian Faltinson said, "changing (the properties) yet doing it in a sensitive way."

*To next column...*

The Wauwatosa Woman's Club was honored for renovations which added handicap accessibility to their building, and McNulty for the addition of a much-lauded stone veranda to her house at 6178 Washington Circle.

# WAHPC Board information

- **President Bill Weinshrott**, 412 Willow Drive, Fond du Lac 54935, 920-923-2373, wein57@hotmail.com
- **Vice President Shirley Brabender Mattox**, 1313 Jackson Street, Oshkosh 54901, 920-233-2833, smattox@ameritech.net
- **Treasurer Linda Muldoon**, 514 West College Avenue, Appleton 54911, 800-892-4610, coventryglass@usa.net
- **Secretary John Decker**, 143 West Main Street, Evansville 53536, 608-882-5528, deckercorp@charter.net
- **Director Kathy Grace**, 914 Maple Street, Winneconne 54986, 920-582-3256, gendiva@charter.net
- **Director Peter Sorensen,** 281 East Merrill Avenue Fond du Lac 54935, 920-923-0657

- **Adviser Rick Bernstein**, Wisconsin Historical Society, 608-264-6583, Rick.Bernstein@wisconsinhistory.org

*Wisc. Landmarks Newsletter* to inform for WAHPC *2011* ***Our 27th year***

**WAHPC**
President Bill Weinshrott
412 Willow Drive
Fond du Lac WI 54935