



RIPS NEWS

Advocates for Historic Architecture

www.RockIslandPreservation.org

Membership Meetings

- May 19, 2008**
Monday
6:45 PM
City of Rock Island Council Chambers
1528 3rd Avenue, Rock Island
RIPS will make the annual presentation of the Historic Preservation Awards during the City Council meeting. After the presentation, all members and recipients of the awards are welcome to join us at the Blue Cat Brew Pub (113 18th Avenue) for "on-your-own" refreshments. *Note: The awards ceremony and social time will replace our usual third Tuesday of the month meeting.*
- June 17, 2008**
Tuesday
7:00 PM
Home of Peter & Terri Cone, *The Wilmerton House*
1604 22nd Street, Rock Island
The Cone's are being honored at this year's Preservation Awards for their work on their Highland Park home.
- July 15, 2008**
Tuesday
7:00 PM
Home of Martha & Jeff Dismer
3401 South Shore Drive, Moline
From 27th Street in Moline (on the east side of South Park Mall), go east on South Shore Drive located between the Rock River Bridge and the interstate overpass. Continue East until 3401.

Comments and suggestions for Society activities are always welcome, now and in the future!
Remember to keep the third Tuesday of each month marked on your calendar for monthly RIPS meetings and activities.

Preservation & Rehab Incentives

Historic homeowners are always on the lookout for incentives for restoration of private homes but there's really not much out there, except for deferred real estate tax increases in Rock Island County. But that's not the case everywhere. And when you hear about Iowa's program, you may wonder why our Illinois legislators don't push for something similar. The impact on the Illinois Quad Cities and similar Illinois regions could be tremendous. Other states, too, have programs that encourage homeowners to restore historic houses.

Here are some of the details of Iowa's Historic Property Income Tax Credit, which was signed into law in 2000. It provides a state income tax credit of up to 25% of approved qualified rehabilitation costs for homes which are individually listed on the National Register or which are "Contributing" in a National Register Historic District.

There is some fine print. For residential properties to qualify, the value of the work must equal at least \$25,000 or 25% of the fair market value of the property, excluding the land, prior to rehabilitation, whichever is lower. Of course, the work must meet accepted rehabilitation standards and guidelines (i.e. you can't claim the credit for adding vinyl siding or removing your porch), and state approval of the project is needed.

In case you are in doubt, an income tax CREDIT comes right off the top of what you owe the state; it's not just a line deduction! If you have occasion to speak with your state senator and representative, ask them to sponsor a similar program for Illinois. Remind them that restoration is labor intensive and creates JOBS. Money spent for materials flows mostly out of the community; money spent on labor is recycled here.

For the past several years, federal legislation has been proposed which would have a significant impact and result in many more restoration projects, but it has yet to pass. At this time, all of the federal incentives apply only to income-producing properties.

Longview Park Centennial Celebration

Friday, July 18,
5:00 - 8:00 PM

Festivities celebrating 100 years of the beautiful Longview Park include birthday cake, the dedication of the new lions, narrative vignettes of historic personalities, and music. Additional food will be available for purchase.

Membership Renewal

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter and verify that your membership date is correct. If you have renewed, the label should indicate an expiration of February, 2009.

If you have not yet renewed, please send your \$10.00 (per person) membership fee to

RIPS
P.O. Box 3261
Rock Island, IL 61204-3261

2007 Preservation Awards

In celebration of National Historic Preservation Month in May, the Rock Island Preservation Society is presenting its annual Historic Preservation Awards and Certificates of Recognition. Public presentation of the awards will take place at the Rock Island City Council meeting on Monday, May 19, 2008, at 6:45 in the Council Chambers on the third floor of Rock Island City Hall, 1528 Third Avenue.

Each year the Rock Island Preservation Society honors individuals, groups, or businesses who have made special efforts to preserve or restore historic structures in our community or whose actions have served to support historic preservation in Rock Island.

This year, eight projects, including six homes, each bearing the historic name of an early owner, and two special projects will be recognized. There are four Awards for extensive restoration and renovation, two Certificates of Recognition for completion of smaller projects, and two Special Honors, one for group advo-

AWARDS

All four of the awards are given to the owners of homes which have been completely restored and renovated, both inside and out as a single family home. Without exception, these homes were in deteriorated condition or had been reconfigured for other than their historic single-family use.

Cozad House, 1607 20th Street Honoree: Mike Hammer

Although occupied for most of its life, this historic home, a significant structure in the Highland Park Historic District had suffered a great deal of deferred maintenance when it was purchased by Mike Hammer. The home was completely restored, both inside and out, retaining all the period architecture, yet ensuring it will be stable and sturdy for decades to come.

Sweeney House, 816 20th Street Honorees: Bryan Pattschull & David Cordes

This brick home was built and owned by the members of the family of Edward D. Sweeney for nearly a century. From the 1970s until a few years ago, the house was used as offices for Catholic Social Services. The current owners have completely restored the home as a single family residence.

Welch House, 817 23rd Street Honorees: Jeff & Martha Dismar

Originally built as a single family home, this was converted to eight units in the 1940s and into the 1970s. When the Dismars purchased the home, the aftermath of years of rentals were removed and the home restored.

Knox House, 736 22nd Street Honorees: Al & Margaret Melody

Vacant intermittently for the past few decades, this home was in critical condition when purchased by the Melodys. Working to preserve the original architectural style and original architectural elements, both inside and out, the home has been restored to better than new condition.

CERTIFICATES of RECOGNITION

Van Galder House, 1010 20th Street Honoree: Enyo Dewith Porch Reconstruction

Porches are an area of necessary high maintenance, yet they are one of the most important elements of a house.

Wilmerton House, 1604 22nd Street,

Honorees: Peter & Terri Cone Window & Screen replacement

An open sun porch with original wood frame screens in very poor condition was retrofitted with custom wood windows and screens in the same configuration as the screens. This improvement now permits its use as a three-season room.

SPECIAL HONORS

Friends of Longfellow School & Keystone Neighborhood Association for Advocacy to save Longfellow School

City of Rock Island for retaining historic structural elements in an industrial site converted to the Sylvan Slough Natural Area

Broadway Historic District Annual Tour of Homes

Give Your Regards To Broadway
"Celebrating 20 Years 1988-2008"
Sat. & Sun., May 17 & 18
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM both days

Tickets are available at each house on the days of the tour for \$15.00 (children under 12 free) or available in advance at Quad City HyVee stores for \$13.00. More info at www.BroadwayDistrict.org

Rock Island Preservation Society

**P.O. Box 3261
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-3261**