

Cornerstones

Preservation Alliance of La Crosse

Spring 2005



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From the President...

Spring has arrived in full force in the Coulee Region, and with it comes plans for annual Preservation Week activities in May.... However, this year May has been designated as Preservation Month!! We have many interesting events planned, including our annual Preservation Awards event on May 3rd, and the Architectural Treasure Hunt in the La Crosse Tribune.

This year we will be giving a new award, essentially a "lifetime achievement" award to La Crosse's own John Satory. John has been active in the preservation movement in this city long before many of us realized there was a movement. He has been a dedicated local historian, collecting artifacts and information from La Crosse's past, he had his commercial building on Pearl Street listed on the National Register of Historic Places years before the Downtown Commercial District was listed, he has been a political advocate for historic preservation time and again as a long-time City Council representative for his downtown district, and he has been a past board member and president of PAL. We can't think of an individual more fitting the title of Lifetime Achievement in Historic Preservation. Congratulations, John!

*Barbara Kooiman, President,
Preservation Alliance of La Crosse*

Details on Upcoming Events inside!

COMING EVENTS

April 28: Lecture and slide show—Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin.

May 1: Architectural Treasure Hunt in La Crosse Tribune.

May 3: Annual Heritage Awards event.

September 11: Heritage Home Tour

"Preservation Presents....."

Taliesin: "Frank Lloyd Wright's Autobiography in Wood and Stone"

Craig Jacobsen, Public Access Manager for Taliesin Preservation, Inc. and former Taliesin resident will present a lecture and slide show on the history of Frank Lloyd Wright's Wisconsin home Taliesin on Thursday, April 28, at the Pump House.

In the valley settled by his Welsh ancestors, Frank Lloyd Wright would construct his home Taliesin in 1911 and continue to refine and expand its definition through out his life. Architecture critic Robert Campbell described Taliesin as "the greatest single building in America", and architecture historian Martin Fuller stated that "Taliesin is Wright's autobiography in masonry and wood, and as such it has more to tell us about the master as a man than any other of his buildings." In examining the history behind FLW and Taliesin, we will also look at the home's relationship with the other buildings, landscaped grounds, roads, dam, and pond that are all part of Wright's 600 acre architectural composition and the current challenge in preserving it for future generations.



Taliesin roofs

Join us on Thursday, April 28, 7:00 pm, at the Pump House, 119 King Street, La Crosse.

The event is free and open to the public.

Architectural Treasure Hunt 2005

The treasure hunt takes a bit of a right turn this year; that is if you are looking at a map of La Crosse with north at the top. Moving away from the historic residential and commercial districts, the hunt will take architectural treasure hunters to the eastern fringe of pre-WWII development in the city. Several revival styles are featured and a couple of non-sequiturs as well. We heard a few comments last year that the hunt was “too easy”; so forewarned is forearmed.

Prizes this year for the first time will feature two house histories and two walking tours to be drawn at random from entries that have the most correct answers. The 10th Annual Architectural Treasure Hunt will be featured in the Sunday May 1 edition of the La Crosse Tribune with answers in the Tribune sometime mid-month. Since this year Preservation Week is the entire month of May, you will have two full weekends to find the answers to this year’s architectural challenge. Have fun!

—*Eric Wheeler*

Third Annual Heritage Home Tour

The home tour committee has gotten a bit of a jump on the planning for this year’s tour with most of the homes now selected and confirmed. This year we will stay along the historic Cass Street corridor but move west into the Cass and 10th Street National Register Historic District. Again we will highlight some well know late 19th century landmarks as well as a couple of early modern homes.

The tour is scheduled for Sunday afternoon September 11. We will need the usual cadre of volunteers so put the date on your calendar and contact Micah at the PAL office (784-1976) if you are able to help out. The Heritage Home Tour has netted a nice chunk of our operating costs in past years. If you can’t help out, please encourage your friends, neighbors and fellow preservationists to join us for this once a year opportunity to experience the interior as well as the exterior of several of the most architecturally and historically significant homes in the city of La Crosse.

—*Eric Wheeler*

Annual Preservation Awards Reception

The 28th Annual Preservation Alliance Awards reception will be held at the Pump House on Tuesday May 3rd at 5:30 pm. Please join us as we recognize local preservation efforts in four categories:

- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Outstanding Individual Service
- Downtown/Commercial Preservation or Restoration
- Residential Preservation or Restoration

Heavy hors d’oeuvres will be served, along with soft drinks. A cash bar will also be available. Following the reception, the awards presentation will be held in the Pump House Theater. The price for members will be \$15 (\$20 for non-members).

R.S.V.P. by April 28 by contacting the PAL office at 784-1976 or preservationalliance@gmail.com

Cobbler Shop Restoration—Volunteers Needed!

This summer the floors will be stripped of their old linoleum and restored. Some outside painting is still required. And with the help of Eric Wheeler and the La Crosse County Historical Society we hope to identify the types of displays that will be appropriate for the building. Please contact the PAL office (784-1976) if you're interested in helping with this project!

—*Dave Morrison*



Updates...

La Crosse Heritage Preservation Commission

The City's HPC, which meets once a month on the third Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in the south conference room of City Hall, has not had a lot of business lately. Nonetheless, the City Planning Department did offer a Historic Building Code Workshop on March 16, which had a good turn-out of local architects, contractors and historic preservation enthusiasts. The HPC will be looking working with both the downtown and the 10th and Cass Street historic district group to help implement their recently adopted historic preservation plans. Additionally, the HPC is keeping an eye on the UW-La Crosse public history class which is working on two National Register residential district nominations this spring.

For more information on the La Crosse HPC, please go to http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/Planning/HPC/hpc_home.html

—*Barbara Kooiman*

La Crosse County Historic Sites Preservation Commission

The La Crosse County HSPC has been active reviewing a recently submitted nomination in the town of Shelby. Additionally, the commission is preparing to take a field trip in May to view some of the historic sites in the county, including a rural school in Bangor Township which may be repainted by a local 4-H group this summer. The Commission is planning on having a booth at the La Crosse County Tri-State Fair in West Salem this July.

—*Barbara Kooiman*

PAL Commemorative Medallions Still Available!

PAL ornaments aren't just for the holidays! If you don't yet have 2004 War Eagle Grand Excursion Commemorative Medallion, or you'd like to fill in gaps in your collection with medallions from past years, stop by the PAL office at the Pump House. A limited number of complete sets are also available.

May is Preservation Month!



Since the National Trust created Preservation Week in 1971 to spotlight grassroots preservation efforts around the country, it has grown into an annual celebration observed by small towns and big cities with events ranging from tours, reenactments and rallies to black-tie balls and state and local competitions.

Preservation Week has served as a showcase for local communities to honor their past and help build their future for more than three decades. Due to its overwhelming popularity, the National Trust has decided to extend Preservation Week into Preservation Month to provide an even larger opportunity to celebrate the diverse and unique heritage of our country's cities and states. We expect that Preservation Month, in May, will help bring historic preservation to the forefront of Americans' daily lives by emphasizing the vital importance of protecting our nation's history.

The theme for Preservation Month 2005 corresponds with the theme of the 2004 National Preservation Conference – "Restore America: Communities at a Crossroads."

—*National Trust for Historic Preservation*

Join PAL!

Yes! I will support historic preservation thru membership in the Preservation Alliance of La Crosse.

Name

Address

City/State

Zip Code

(____)____
Phone Number



- \$500 and above (Presidents Circle/Corporate)
- \$250-\$499 (Heritage/Business)
- \$100-\$249 (Patron/Business)
- \$50-\$99 (Supporting/Small Business)
- \$30 (Household)
- \$20 (Individual)
- \$15 (Senior/Student)

Please return to:

Preservation Alliance of La Crosse
119 King Street
La Crosse, WI 54601
