

Columbus Landmarks & The Bicentennial

Columbus Landmarks is offering a full slate of events and activities in celebration of Columbus's Bicentennial and our organization's 35th Anniversary. Beginning this month, there's something for everyone in 2012 and we hope you will make plans to join us.

Archi-Journeys in February and March 2012 are bus tours that explore the history of the city from a seldom-seen perspective with an emphasis on different decades. On Sunday, March 4 from 1-4 p.m. we will journey back through Columbus history and get in touch with the human side of the Great Depression and World War II. Explore what our city was like in the 1930s and 1940s as we make selected stops at iconic downtown buildings, popular restaurants and historic neighborhoods. On Sunday, March 18 from 1-4 p.m. we will journey through the Emergence of the Modern City and focus on the development in the 1950s.

Westin Parlor Talks - coffee and dessert lecture/receptions at the Westin Great Southern Hotel, 310 S. High St., from 2-4 p.m. On Sunday, February 26, we will learn about **Lustron Homes** with Nathalie Wright; on Sunday, March 11, Kathy Mast Kane will lead a discussion on **Mid-Century Modern Architecture**; and on Sunday, March 25, Doreen Uhas Sauer will discuss the history of **Shopping Centers of Columbus**.

Shadowbox Live Event - Monday, March 26 - Columbus Landmarks Foundation is partnering with Shadowbox Live, one of Columbus' premier theater companies to bring you a behind-the-scenes tour and show. Last fall, after extensive renovations, the Shadowbox Live troupe moved to its beautiful new space in the Worly building within the Brewery District. We will nosh on hors d'oeuvres, imbibe a little, and see a fabulous Shadowbox Live performance tailored just for us! More details to come - please mark your calendars now.

PLUS, more tours & events to look forward to in spring & summer, including: **Lit, Lives & Landmarks: Columbus Architecture & Authors** with Ohioana Library • **City Hop ... at Night!** this year's event will be a progressive party winding through exclusive downtown venues with spectacular views of our city's skyline • **It Takes a Village (or Two) to Make a City 200 Years Old--Neighborhood Walking Tours** • **Illuminated Spaces: Sacred Places** stained glass tour • **Everybody's Story in Stone and Word** with Green Lawn Cemetery • and, of course, **Historic Tavern Tours!**



From the private historic postcard collection of Doreen Uhas Sauer

COMING UP

Archi-Journey Bus Tours

Sunday, Feb. 19 **SOLD OUT**
Sunday, Mar. 4 1930s & 1940s
Sunday, Mar. 18 1950s
1-4 p.m.

Westin Parlor Talks

Sunday, Feb. 26 - Lustron Homes
Sunday, Mar. 11 - Mid-Century Modern
Sunday, Mar. 25 - Shopping Centers
2-4 p.m.

Old House DIY Workshops

Masonry Repair
Saturday, Mar. 3
Wood Repair
Saturday, Mar. 31
Troubleshooting & Investigating
Saturday, Mar. 10
Saturday, Mar. 24
Thursday, Mar. 29
Thursday, Apr. 26
Thursday, May 31

Shadowbox Live Event

Monday, Mar. 26

Green Lawn Abbey Workday

Saturday, May 19
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

INFO & TICKETS:

columbuslandmarks.org
or call 614-221-4508

What Architectural Treasures Still Exist in Columbus?

by Doreen Uhas Sauer, President

People interested in old structures may have already found their way to a few key books and pamphlets in the Columbus Metropolitan Library Genealogy, History and Travel Room: Bill Arter's four volumes of *Columbus Vignettes*; fellow artist Leland McClelland's *Early Homes of Columbus*; or columnist Ben Hayes's work on homes of famous people in Columbus. What is still there of these structures? Some may still exist-at least in part (a foundation, standing walls, stable, or, in the case of log cabins, perhaps siding over an earlier structure.

Oldest buildings still standing today would include the Beers/Baker log cabin in the University District or the Deardurff log cabin, the Harrison House, and Sullivant's office in Franklinton. However, questions arise about buildings that were never included in these books. Homes on City Park near Livingston? A home on West Moler? Another on Jackson which contains part of an earlier school moved from Fulton? A sizeable stable behind Town Street apartments? Or the stable located between South High and South Front Streets? People who have remodeled a kitchen or bathroom sometimes discover their old house has an even older home within it - a log cabin- perhaps. Downtown buildings are sometimes older buildings disguised by later facades.

Columbus Landmarks Foundation, in researching its Historic Tavern Tours, turned up evidence to prove that the Jury Room tavern was from the 1830s not the 1850s as had been previously assumed. Courthouse records may be lost from 19th century fires and city auditor's records may simply say "old." Sometimes a good driving tour, followed by work in city directories, helps to reveal new information.

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Be forewarned though, the 1911-1912 city directory is the first one that cross-referenced names of citizens of Columbus and street locations. Before 1911, there is no convenient way to look up just an address to see if a building exists. But a name and address in 1911 might be a way to work backwards to get more information on the person or site.

In 1857, the city (already 45 years old) enacted an ordinance that said a general system of street numbers should be on all buildings, but there was little order. Before 1888, odd and even numbers might be on the same side of a street with empty lots between. In 1888-1889, the city directory reflects a new municipal ordinance to clear up confusion, putting odd numbers on one side of a street and even on the other. The Great Building Number Revolution was on, and virtually all numbers in the city changed.

Because many Columbus residents remember the loss of Union Station; the Deshler/Fort Hayes/Neil House/Chittenden Hotels, the commercial blocks that became City Center; Central Market and Market Mohawk urban renewal (not counting losses in neighborhoods), there may be an assumption that nothing of architectural note or historic interest still exists.

However, to illustrate how even parts of buildings were saved, existed, and forgotten about is the example of the Chase home that stood at the northeast corner of Sixth and State Streets (across from the still existing venerable Spiritualist Church). Originally Dr. Carter's home (associated with St. Francis Hospital-now the site of Grant Hospital), the house was a large Victorian gingerbread cottage which came into the possession of Salmon Chase on President Lincoln's cabinet. Though the house came down, one single room, the library, was salvaged and incorporated into an auditorium-later the Knights of Columbus auditorium. This, in turn, became the Byer and Bowman advertising agency which stood on lots now occupied by the Salesian Boys and Girls Club building (closed in 2008). Down the street, the Starling Loving house exists as part of the Schoedinger Funeral Chapel.

Buildings change functions (and sometimes addresses)-but remember, even the African mountain gorilla, long thought to be a fantasy, was discovered only 100 years ago-surely there are structures out there which need to be recorded. Columbus Landmarks Foundation's hope is that you can help - see p.3 to learn how.

Cornerstone

Winter 2012

Columbus Landmarks Foundation advocates for, promotes and preserves Columbus landmarks and neighborhoods.

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Members & Friends,

Happy New Year - but not just any year - Happy Bicentennial Year!

For those of us who keep the history of the city front and center as part of our purpose, the Bicentennial, at first glance, may seem anticlimactic. Why such emphasis placed on a single year - was 2011 not important? Are we to ignore 2013? But in truth, like any milestone, it gives us an important opportunity to pause and reflect on "how far we have come and how much we have learned." I am excited about the heightened awareness the Bicentennial creates due to increased exposure to the city's historical development, the potential new audiences turned on to history and preservation, the attention to buildings and streetscapes that might otherwise have gone unnoticed, the additional layers of stories and interpretation inspired by the birthday, and a renewed sense of pride and spirit of camaraderie in the community. I encourage you to get engaged in the extensive programming we have planned throughout the year.

Looking to the past, help us expand our archives about what remains within city limits from Columbus' first fifty years. (See "From Abstracts to Family Lore" on next page.)

Of present concern, we are exploring what role we can play regarding the complex issue of thousands of vacant and abandoned houses that plague the city's neighborhoods. I want to underscore that we recognize many of these properties are serious safety hazards and should be demolished. However, we also believe wholesale demolition is not the only solution. The loss of a house in a neighborhood is about so much more than the house itself. It is about the broader and more abstract issues of dismantling neighborhood solidarity, threatening a community's heritage and losing a sense of hope. We are looking for partners interested in exploring creative solutions to tackling this monumental challenge, even if only one building at a time.

Take action today for the future - make it a priority to support us as we seek viable solutions for those buildings within our downtown and in our neighborhoods that merit preservation, whether they are

a most notable early 19th c. landmark or a more modest and vulnerable single family house.

So hop on the Bicentennial train with us - sip coffee in the parlor at The Westin, go behind-the-scenes at Shadowbox, stop by Green Lawn Cemetery to visit some of Columbus' most distinguished citizens and architecturally distinctive markers, write a letter for the time capsule, join us and Ohioana as we tour literary landmarks, tell us the story of your favorite old house, and yes, even eat cake - in celebration of this anniversary. Don't forget to collect mementos along the way - starting with this and upcoming 2012 bicentennial issues of Cornerstone.

Happy Birthday, Columbus!

Kathy Mast Kane

Opportunities to support us...

Donate

We depend on generous donations from people like you to continue being the primary advocate for Columbus's rich architectural heritage. Donate online at columbuslandmarks.org, by phone at 614.221.0227 or by mail with checks made payable to Columbus Landmarks Foundation.

Join us

Thank you for your support through annual membership. You can join/renew your membership/give a gift membership online at columbuslandmarks.org or by calling the office: 614-221-0227.

Then & Now books

Signed copies of *Columbus and The Ohio State University Then & Now* by Kathy Mast Kane, Executive Director, and Doreen Uhas Sauer, President, are available for \$20 online at columbuslandmarks.org or by calling 614.221.0227.

Volunteer

We welcome your time & talent on our various committees, at events, and in the office. Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering: bwest@columbuslandmarks.org or 614.221.0227.

From Abstracts to Family Lore: Creating an Oldest Buildings Archive of Columbus' First Fifty Years

Calling all would-be Architectural Detectives! In the spirit of the Bicentennial, we ask your help in identifying existing buildings (or parts of buildings) from the early settlement period of the city, 1812-1862. Though officially the first 50 years, structures dating before 1812 or just after the Civil War (1870s) are also important and can be included.

Buildings should be within the city limits and may be houses, commercial structures, religious institutions, stables, spring houses, carriage houses, schools, or parts of buildings that exist behind or even within other structures.

We are asking you to help us answer:

- *What and where are these early structures?*
- *How old is the building and how do you know the age?*

Any additional information relating to the building's use or to families or personal stories is also encouraged. Contemporary or historic images are also welcome. Information can be sent to kmastkane@columbuslandmarks.org through March 16, 2012. All information collected will be shared with *The Columbus Dispatch*.

March Maintenance Madness

Our 2012 Old House DIY Workshop season will kick off with March Maintenance Madness ~ five workshops will be conducted in March, including two Technical Hands-On Workshops and three Investigating & Troubleshooting Workshops. Register for the workshops in advance by emailing nwright@columbuslandmarks.org or by calling 614-221-4508. For the complete workshop schedule, go to www.columbuslandmarks.org.

Masonry Repair Workshop Sat., Mar. 3 9am-1pm 231 N. 21st St. \$10
Have missing mortar on your old house? The Masonry Repair Workshop, hosted by Homeport and taught by **Centennial Preservation Group**, will cover the technique of re-pointing, as well as instruct homeowners about the use of appropriate materials for new mortar joints. Historic mortar materials are different than mortar mixes produced today— use of the wrong mortar composition can damage your brick or create moisture problems in your house. Learn how to choose the appropriate mortar materials, prep joints to be re-pointed, mix, install, and cure mortar to properly re-point your historic brick, stone, ceramic block, or concrete block.

Wood Repair Workshop Sat., Mar. 31 9am to 1 pm 435 W. State St. \$10
At the Wood Repair Workshop, taught by Mariangela Pfister of the **Ohio Historic Preservation Office**, learn the basics of repairing damaged wood to prevent the removal of historic material from your old building. This hands-on training workshop will include instruction on how to stabilize wood with moderate to severe rot using wood consolidants and epoxies. The preparation of repaired wood for repainting will also be covered. Participants will work in teams and be provided with all the tools and materials needed to complete the steps involved in wood repair. Techniques learned can be used for most wood repairs including windows, siding, and trim.

Investigating & Troubleshooting Workshops Various Time/Locations \$5
Sat., Mar. 10; Sat., Mar. 24; Thurs., Mar. 29; Thurs., Apr. 26 & Thurs., May 31
A healthy house is a cost effective house. Columbus Landmarks' Old House DIY: Investigating and Troubleshooting workshop is designed to help homeowners identify and resolve common maintenance issues. From the roof top to the foundation, learn to identify the warning signs before they become a more serious and more expensive problem. The session will cover tips for examining the roof, the drainage system, masonry components, and wood components. Important safety issues, such as lead paint, will also be discussed. Whether you plan to make repairs yourself or hire a contractor, you'll gain knowledge of old house materials and be better prepared to care for your home for years to come.

AmeriCorps Member Documents Mid-Century Buildings

by Nathalie Wright, Field Representative

In October 2011, Columbus Landmarks began its second year of hosting an AmeriCorps member and welcomed its new intern, Andrew Neutzling. Known as Ohio History Corps, the Ohio Historical Society sponsors multiple AmeriCorps interns throughout the state and partners with a variety of history-related organizations to host members. The work of Columbus Landmarks' intern is focused on the recordation of 150 mid-twentieth century properties on Ohio Historic Inventory (OHI) forms.

For Columbus Landmarks, the AmeriCorps mission is to survey historic properties, identifying and recording historic themes and buildings dating from 1940-1970, as well as additional local survey priorities. These surveys will provide new information about housing, subdivisions, public and commercial buildings and the work of area builders, developers and architects from the recent past. The historic resource surveys, and the resulting documentation, help preserve our heritage which, in turn, can help stabilize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, stimulate private investments, attract tourists and strengthen community pride.

Andrew's survey work will center on downtown Columbus and the United Way of Central Ohio's five priority neighborhoods. To date, 21 downtown buildings were identified for OHI recordation, ranging from small little-noticed office buildings to Grant Hospital to the iconic Beacon Building. Only a few scattered institutional and commercial buildings from this time period were identified for Weinland Park and the Near Southside. King-Lincoln and Franklinton, on the other hand, have numerous mid-twentieth century properties, including clusters of commercial development. However, the Northland Area is predominantly post WWII development and is the primary hub for 2011-2012 AmeriCorps survey work. For a broader knowledge of this part of the city, representative properties were chosen from the United Way's defined boundaries (including the Beaumont and Northern Lights neighborhoods) and from neighborhoods adjacent to it, all south of Morse Road. Once the survey is completed, Columbus Landmarks and neighborhood leaders and residents will have a fuller understanding of this chapter of their respective history.

