



Landmarks, Inc.
Established 1965

Landmark News

FALL 2008

The Official Newsletter of Landmarks, Inc.

Preserving and Protecting Omaha's Built Environment

2008 Preservation Events

- Sat. Sept. 27th** **Home for the Holidays**
10-5pm
Joslyn Castle. Holiday table settings created by members of the Omaha Garden Clubs. \$ 8
- Mon. Oct. 6th** **Board of Directors Meeting**
4:30 pm
Joslyn Castle Annex
- Fri. & Sat. Oct. 10-11th** **Nebraska State Historical Society Conference - Preservation at Work: Building Nebraska Communities Through Historic Preservation.** See details at: www.nebraskahistory.org
- Oct. 11th** **Joslyn Castle Neighborhood**
4-9 pm
Block Party, 39th & Davenport
- Oct. 12th** **Main Street Awards**
1pm
Nebraska's Main Street Communities
Minden Opera House
322 East 5th Street, Minden NE
- Oct. 16th** **Ken Burns at the Rococo Theater**
7 pm
in Lincoln. \$35 & \$50 tickets available through the Nebraska State History Foundation at 402.435.3535
- Sun. Oct. 19th** **Fall Tour with Restore Omaha**
-5 pm
Minne Lusa Neighborhood & North Omaha sites. \$10 (\$15 for 2)
- Oct. 21-25th** **National Preservation Conference**
Preservation in Progress
National Trust for Historic Preservation – Tulsa, Oklahoma
www.PreservationNation.org
- Sun. Nov. 2nd** **Laureate's Feast 2008**
5-9 pm
Honoring Ted Kooser, Nebraska's U.S. Poet Laureate.
MCC - Fort Omaha Campus
Call: 556.7644 for details



A view from atop the old City Hall, razed in 1966, looking southeast from 18th & Farnam (c.a. 1907). To the right is the dome of the old County Courthouse, razed in 1912. From the Bostwick-Frohardt Collection owned by KM3TV and on permanent loan to The Durham Museum, Omaha, NE.

2008 / 2009 Board of Directors

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Date is Set for Fall Tour with Restore Omaha

Join Landmarks and Restore Omaha on Sunday, October 19th from 1:00-5:00 pm for a historic home tour. Five unique homes in the Minne Lusa neighborhood will be showcased on the tour. In addition, the Florence Mill and the Prospect Hill caretaker residence will also be open. **Jennifer Honebrink** who led the Landmarks planning team explains...

"Home restoration tours such as this are a great way to learn the difference between remodeling, restoration and preservation. Many people still believe that newer is better. We aim to show people how older can be better yet. This year Landmarks, Inc. chose to focus on North Omaha because of its rich history. It has been the site of Fort Omaha,



the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, some of Omaha's earliest homes and apartments and was in the path of the 1913 tornado. Over time, it developed a wide variety of housing styles from Queen Anne and Spanish Colonial Revival to bungalows and 1950s ranch homes. Today it is a wonderful

architectural treasure. This tour will be uniquely guided by the homeowners themselves. Most of them are not in the construction industry, but are simply people with a passion for explain how they learned about restoration and preservation, what worked and what didn't, and you can see their fabulous results."

We continue to enjoy our partnership with Restore Omaha which is also affiliated with the Metropolitan Community College Foundation. Integrating our mission in North Omaha is full of rewards for the community. This tour will be an excellent way for people to experience great examples of period architecture in North Omaha.

Tickets are \$10 each or two for \$15. Tickets and Tour maps may be purchased prior to the Tour at www.restoreomaha.com, or on the day of the tour. Purchase your tickets or pick up pre-purchased tickets at Mount Olive Church, 7301 N 28th Ave. Restrooms and refreshments will be available at the church. For questions about the tour, contact 402.457.2241 or e-mail hkruse@mcneb.edu



www.omahalandmarks.org

Renew your membership online!



HISTORIC Restoration TOUR

Sunday, Oct. 19, 2008
(Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 26)

SAVE THE Date

Restore Omaha Conference
Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009
Metropolitan Community College
South Omaha Campus

For more information visit www.restoreomaha.com or call 420.457.2241
Sponsored by Metropolitan Community College Foundation
Media sponsor: *The Reader*

OPS Students will Study Reuse of Corby Theater

Landmarks, Inc. has launched an excellence in historic architecture awards program open to area OPS high school students. In August the organization announced the topic for the annual award: The Corby Theater.

Located on the corner of N. 16th and Corby Streets, the theater is currently in disuse. Working towards the Kimball Prize will give students the opportunity to imagine how the building could be reused today, as well as research the surrounding community to understand the building's history. Skills in art and math will also be highlighted by student work.

The Kimball Prize is sponsored by Landmarks, Inc. to promote awareness of historic buildings in Omaha. The prize, named for one of Omaha's most accomplished architects, is designed to recognize high school students who demonstrate an understanding of historical Omaha architecture.

Teachers and students interested in participating should visit www.omahalandmarks.org/library for more program information.



The Corby Theatre. From the Bostwick-Frohardt Collection, owned by KM3TV on permanent loan to the Durham Museum, Omaha, NE.

Landmarks, Inc. Hosts National Trust Tour

During preservation week last May, representatives from the National Trust for Historic Preservation toured four historic sites with Landmarks members. It was a great opportunity to show off our best buildings to the many first time visitors to Omaha. The Regional Conference was held in Nebraska City where National Trust Leadership convened for the three-day workshop.

The half-day tour was structured using sites that represent Omaha as it developed in the early 1900's. Starting with the Livestock Exchange Building, views of the former stockyards reflected what was once our largest industry and birth to Omaha's economy and industry boom. As the Union Pacific Railroad also supported that commerce, we next visited the Durham Museum, Union Station. Executive Director, Leo W. Smith II led the group on a detailed tour of the building and Described ongoing restoration work that is being completed throughout. Our tour led the group to the 11-story Omaha Building where the Kutak Rock law firm completed their second major rehabilitation of the prized McKim Mead and White design. Architect, Michael Alley, gave a comprehensive presentation of the building's history, and highlights of the restoration process. The tour concluded in the Old Market District for a self-guided tour and informal gathering at the Upstream Brewery.



The valuable interaction with the National Trust for this event was appreciated by all. A special thanks goes out to Michael Alley and Martin Kluck of Alley Poyner Macchietto Architects for their presentation work, and to Paul Nelson who planned the event.

New Goals Set at Annual Meeting

On June 14th, the annual meeting was held at the Joslyn Castle Carriage House. President, Paul Nelson presented a long range plan that set new goals for the organization.



“Our direction in the next year will be to strengthen and build our advocacy teams. Much of our work has been done at the Board level, which limits our ability to grow and quickly respond to preservation issues. Having a larger more agile committee structure will enable Landmarks to break the work into specialized focus teams.”

This fall, we will be contacting those of you who have expressed interest in one of the committees. The following committee teams have been formed:

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Education | 5. Preservation Advocacy |
| 2. Membership Development & PR | 6. Fundraising |
| 3. Special Events | 7. Real Estate |
| 4. Restore Omaha | |

Our mission to preserve and protect Omaha's built environment is always increasing in scope. Each year we see more and more historic structures in need of attention and community awareness. Doubling our membership and bank of volunteers over the next three years will give Landmarks more horsepower to effectively meet this need. If you are interested in joining one of our advocacy teams, please contact Paul Nelson at pnelson@bvh.com or at 345-3060.

Landmarks, Inc. Interviewed on KFAB Radio

Representing Landmarks, Inc., Paul Nelson explained the economic impact of preservation to thousands of listeners on the popular local radio program called “Grow Omaha”. Talk show hosts Jeff Beals and Trenton Magid posed questions about the economic viability of saving historic structures. Paul's points stressed the importance of sustainability, heritage tourism and urban renewal. “In Nebraska, we don't have the lakes of Minnesota or the mountains of Colorado. But we do have a great crop of historical sites that draw over \$68 million from out of state tourism dollars per year.” Paul noted that conserving our historic sites and urban fabric is an investment, “the financial returns related to tourism support how important preservation is to our economy, quality of life and public identity.”

If you would like to listen to an online webcast of the interview, go to show #220 at

<http://www.growomaha.com/archive.htm>