

Landmarks, Inc.  
Established 1965

# Landmark News

The Official Newsletter of Landmarks, Inc.

*Preserving and Protecting Omaha's Built Environment*

## 2008 Coming Events

- Sat. May 3<sup>rd</sup>**      **National Trust  
Regional Conference  
Landmarks Tour**  
(details on next page)
  
- Mon. May 5<sup>th</sup>**      **Board of Directors Meeting**  
At Joslyn Castle
  
- Mon. May 19<sup>th</sup>**      **Education Committee Meeting**  
3:30pm      At RDG Planning & Design  
900 Farnam on the Mall - Suite 100
  
- Sat. June 14<sup>th</sup>**  
2:00 – 3:00pm      **Annual Meeting**  
3:00 – 4:00pm      **Building Tour**  
(details coming)

## South O' Tour Featured Revitalized Homes and Businesses

In partnership with RestoreOmaha, Landmarks drew over 100 people into South Omaha's homes and businesses on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Despite the rainy weather, tour goers made the trek through five sites that have undergone restoration projects.

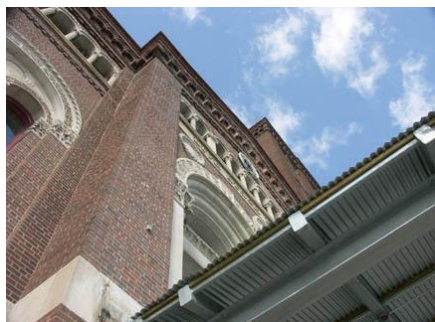
One of the favorites was 1315 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street where homeowner Karyn Spencer exemplified historically appropriate do-it-yourself techniques with a sustainable twist. On a tight budget, she creatively restored and recycled many items including doorknobs, woodwork, and heating grates. Even old wallpaper was framed and turned into artwork to play up the home's historic character, which has just sold for above market value. You can visit her website blog at [littleitalygem.blogspot.com](http://littleitalygem.blogspot.com) for more details and photos of her project.

In planning the tour, Landmarks was pushing to bring attention to home remodeling projects that were "within reach" for most do-it-yourselfers. A good example was the stair restoration project at James Smejkal's home at 3609 South 20<sup>th</sup> Street. "The stair project was completed with inexpensive materials, readily available at local stores which involved mostly time and labor," quoted Smejkal. Sometimes uncovering what your home already has is all that is needed to make it unique!

Catching a great view from the top of the Livestock Exchange Building was everyone's highlight. "You can never get tired of the incredible panorama offered through those beautiful windows," said Shawn Colby. "It is unbelievable that at one time people thought this building should have been torn down."

The South Omaha tour reinforced what Landmarks, Inc. does to bring awareness and excitement to our City's historical places, big and small. We are already planning another tour coming this fall, which will be an opportune chance to experience what is behind the front doors of more great Landmarks. Stay posted for more details, soon to come.

*Paul Nelson, President  
Landmarks, Inc.*



# Landmarks will Host Tour for the National Trust Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Landmarks is hosting a building tour for the National Trust's Mountains/Plains & Southwest Region Preservation Partners Meeting. If you are a Landmarks member, and are interested in attending, you can pre-register for the event prior to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Since the National Trust will have up to 20-30 people, the tour will be limited to the first **20** Landmarks members that register. Space is limited, and transportation to each site is not provided. This is a free event.

Site	Location	Time
Livestock Exchange Building:	2900 O Plaza	Sign-in at 12:30pm (off street parking is available)
The Durham Western Heritage Museum:	10 <sup>th</sup> & Marcy	Sign-in at 1:30pm (off street parking is limited)
The Omaha Building:	17 <sup>th</sup> & Farnam	Sign-in at 2:30pm (on street parking is limited)

- If you would like to register or volunteer to help with this event, please contact Paul Nelson at **345-3060** or by e-mail at [pnelson@bvh.com](mailto:pnelson@bvh.com).



## Youth Awards Program: The Kimball Prize!

In re-activating the Education Committee, Landmarks has taken the first steps in organizing an annual awards program for area high school students. The Kimball Prize will be similar to the art awards program that Landmarks has organized in the past. The Education Committee works to engender appreciation in youth for historical places while raising awareness of Omaha's Landmarks. This mission is based on the belief that historical buildings and places are an engaging tool for teaching critical thinking skills in the arts, history, social studies, and science. Contact Stuart Shell at 216-1235 if you are interested in learning more about the program or serving on this new committee.

## Exciting News from the Joslyn Castle!

The Board of Directors of the *Joslyn Castle Trust*, formerly the Friends of Joslyn Castle, is thrilled to announce its new name and role as property managers of the Joslyn Castle property. Management of the Castle has been a goal of the organization for many years and, as of April 1, 2008, that dream has become a reality.

The mission of the Trust is the same as that adopted by the Friends many years ago. We will continue to preserve and restore the property as well as to serve as an advocate by generating awareness, appreciation and financial support for the Castle. As stated in our business plan, we will strive to create an educational and cultural center at the Castle for the benefit of our community – just as Sarah wished.

The Board and staff of the Joslyn Castle Trust have been working alongside the Joslyn Castle Institute to make this a seamless transition. This historic change is the starting point for a new era in the life of the Joslyn Castle.

Thank you so very much for your ongoing interest in and support of the Joslyn Castle. As always, your ideas and input are most welcome.

*The Joslyn Castle Trust*