

Old House Society



22 White Place

May — 2011

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Old House Society
P.O. Box 581
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BLOOMINGTON, IL

In This Issue:

*Old House Tour
1302 Fell Avenue House
#22 White Place House*

"Revitalizing Traditional Neighborhoods Since 1979"



The Old House Society has joined Facebook!!!!

Be sure to look us up and become a friend. It's the greatest way to share in the news and updates on inventory as well as find other old house enthusiasts to share stories and information with.

The Family Recipe Corner

CONGRESSIONAL BEAN SOUP

- 1 lb. dried small white beans
- 8 c water
- 1 hambone, meaty, or 2 c ham, diced
- 1 c celery; finely ch.
- 1 onion, finely ch.
- 2 T parsley, finely ch.
- 1 t salt
- * t pepper
- 1 bay leaf

Wash. Soak beans in water overnight Add remaining ingredients. Simmer 2-3 hours. Remove bay leaf and bone. Cut meat off bone and return to beans.

Or boil gently 2 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand 1 hour.



Another recipe from the past to share. My mother told me my grandmother served this often on cold winter evenings along with biscuits and a gelatin desert. If you have a favorite family recipe, please send it to us to share with our newsletter friends.



GOOD FOR YOU AND GOOD FOR OUR PLANET

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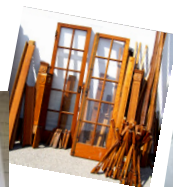
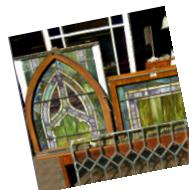
\$10.00 OFF Any purchase of \$75.00 or more.
or \$15.00 OFF Any purchase of \$100.00 or more.

Offer good thru 12-30-11. Coupon required, not valid on sale items or any other offers. Limit one coupon per customer.



Old House Society Warehouse

Through the end of June all up-to-date members get 25% off of all salvaged merchandise purchases at the warehouse. You can join or renew on the spot and take advantage of this members-only sale! The OHS Warehouse is full to the ratters of great old house parts, and more is being added every week! From doors to windows, to sinks to tubs, to trim and hardware, chances are we've got the things you need for your old house, and now's the time to make that purchase! We currently have several beautiful stained glass windows in several different styles, as well as some other one-of-a-kind finds, so stop in soon! If there is something in particular you want, just call or email us, and we'll do what we can to find it for you



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CONTACT INFO

(Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

OLD HOUSE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

• Warehouse Discounts • Newsletters • New Friends • Promoting Tradition •

*** Your Member Dues Create Opportunities To Build Communities you want!***

DECIDE YOUR MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

_____ \$25 Student / Retiree

_____ \$35 Individual

_____ \$100 Arthur Pillsbury

_____ \$250 Paul Moratz

_____ \$500 George Miller

_____ \$1000 Rudolph Richter

_____ \$10,000 Life Time Member

_____ \$50 Family

* Keep in mind, your contribution is eligible for a tax deduction.

* All Memberships Expire December 31

Thank you for your donation to the Old House Society !

JOIN NOW OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Fill out the form above and mail it with your check to:
Old House Society, PO Box 581, Bloomington, IL 61702

You need to pay your dues in time for the February Meeting.
Just complete the above form, cut out, and mail with your check
to the address listed above. See you at the meeting!

Have you thought about talking to a friend or relative about the Old House Society? Many times our best advertisers for new members are our current members. Perhaps there is an article that you found particularly interesting. There is a good chance that your neighbor, friend, or relative would also find this article just as interesting. Sometimes just exposing a person to our fantastic society turns them into a happy member. Below is our membership form. If you know of someone whom you think might be interested in the Old House Society, please share our newsletter with them. The introduction could reward both of you with wonderful experiences to share. The Old House Society thanks you in advance for helping to keep the flame of our heritage burning brightly.



Events

Old House Society Annual House Tour June 2011

Mark your calendars!!! This year's OHS Annual House Tour is June 11th. This year we will be doing the Houses of White Place. If you have a house or know of someone who owns a house in this neighborhood and they would be willing to have a tour, please contact Mike at the warehouse. If you would like to volunteer to help with the tour, please contact Mike Ryburn at coordinator@oldhousesociety.org or phone 309-820-0548.

The Saturday Farmer's Market—Has started it's season with lots of fresh produce, plants, and entertainment. Be sure to try to make the next Saturday Market for a variety of shopping and entertainment.

Third Sunday Market at the Interstate Center in Downtown Bloomington at the McLain County Historical Center— This is a great way to find not only antiques but also architectural items as well. Fun way to spend a Sunday as well as more wonderful shopping for the unique and out of the ordinary item.

The Old House Society is are having an ice-cream social at Franklin Park on July 28th The social starts at 6pm and the band concert start's at 7pm. Lots of treats and music for you to enjoy. If you would like to donate Brownies or a Fruit Pie, please call Mike Ryburn at 309-820-0548.

Glorious Garden Festival—Garden Walk at the David Davis Mansion—June 17 & 18, 2011 — This year's garden walk offers self-guided tours through eight incredibly diverse, high-quality private gardens in the Bloomington-Normal community, along with guided tours of Sarah Davis's heirloom garden. Hosted each year on the third weekend in June, the Festival is a fundraising event benefiting the David Davis Mansion Foundation, which provides private support for the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site.

The community garden walk will be held Friday, June 17 from 1 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, June 18 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The walk begins on the grounds of the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site—at 1000 Monroe Dr., Bloomington—and walkers must pick up maps and programs at the mansion. The Garden Walk will be held rain or shine. For more information, call 309-828-1084 or visit www.daviddavismansion.org.



Ad Space

Would you like to reach more of your customers and support OHS? Simply pick your ad space size, send us your already designed ad, or send us your information and we will design it for you.

Ad spaces are as follows:

2" X 3 1/2" - \$35.00

3 1/2" X 4 1/2" - \$45.00

4 1/2" X 7 1/2" - \$85.00.

7 1/2" X 10" \$150.00.

Your advertisement can be featured in all of our literature, including the newsletter, house tour book, and house fair. You can reach out to customers while helping our organization produce the best, most informative newsletter ever!!!



Our Featured Home this month is:

**22 White Place
Bloomington, Illinois**

**Owned by:
David Gronemier**



This house is a late version of a Queen Anne style. Its asymmetrical shape and decorative shingles on the gables are pure features of that style, but the Palladian windows in the gables and the Free Classic porch with Greek Ionic columns are more related to the Colonial Revival. The rough-hewn window headers suggest a nod to Richardsonian Romanesque. This mixture of design influences is common on late Queen Anne homes.

The development of White's Place was begun in 1898 by S.R. White. White was a manufacturer and dealer in lumber, coal, porch work, and interior finishings. The new addition was quite progressive. The houses were heated by steam from a central plant. Utilities were laid in the alleys to avoid tearing up lawns, and all heavy deliveries had to be made from the alleys.

This house was built in late 1902 for White's daughter Elizabeth and her husband Emile E. Lewis, at a cost of \$10,000. After a few years, it was converted to a duplex, and White and his wife moved in. Evidence of this is seen in the window etched "S.R. White" over the side door instead of the front door... that was his door. The house was later occupied by an Illinois Wesleyan sorority. The present owners, David and Cathy Gronemier, are in the process of restoring the home to its original grandeur.



Interesting Victorian Facts



To control insects, many people kept a HEDGEHOG in the basement. It curled up and slept in the day, but roamed around the dark kitchen at night eating cockroaches and other insects.

When a woman entered a room, it was considered rude for a man to offer his seat to her because the cushion might still be warm.

HOT TIPS



Morris Tick Company is now recycling electrical items like, LCD TV (only), DVD, CD, or VCR players, boom boxes, video games and player, vacuum sweeper (No Dirt), Etc.

You can add these Items to your metal drop off and get paid more. Even better.....you can tell the folks at Ticks you want to donate the money to Old House Society and they will put your donation on our ticket.



From the Desk of Mike Ryburn

The neighborhood that I grew up in was like having a large family. Not only was there a school just a block away with a playground where we could play, but enough kids to fill both sides of a football, baseball or basketball team with extras for umpire or referee. When you're 10 years old, the whole world is your neighborhood, friends and family. I look back now and know that the most important thing about my parents owning their own house was not the feeling of satisfaction it gave me to have my own room, but the feeling of self-worth they received from home ownership. The pride one takes in ownership is something that can't be taught or learned, it is felt from the inside. The feeling you get when you take a house and work on it to make it your own is something that all families should have a chance to experience. Neighborhoods are the backbone of this country. Neighborhoods are the extended family, and when families fail, our country fails, too. Right now more than ever we are losing the battle to maintain our historic neighborhoods. With each and every year that passes, the wrecking ball or redevelopment are being seen in more areas. When either of these two things happens, then the family neighborhood dies just a little more until there is nothing left but trouble.

If only we could step in and build up these neighborhoods—like lost children in need of a loving family. It is my hope and life-long dream to see the historic houses restored to their original splendor so they can represent new and revitalized neighborhoods. The concept is very basic. All you need is a driving force like the Old House Society to give guidance in the restoration and preservation of a house. We have seen some great older homes successfully restored and reintroduced to the community.

A poorly kept house with really good design features that needs restoration does take vision and dedication to bring out the old time feeling. Such restoration projects can be used to teach the public with hands-on classes in techniques like tuck pointing, maintaining historic windows, floor restoration, plaster patching, electrical rewiring, and plumbing problems. By sharing this knowledge, we can pass on valuable skills that a homeowner needs to maintain his or her own property. Such classes can be great for individual homeowners, as well as neighborhood residents. If we all join in a house restoration project, it can bring people together, the same way it was done in days gone by.

Houses may fall into disrepair when owners get older and suffer health problems, or there is a lack of money. There is another issue that we can do something about, and that's lack of skills. The building trades are not being taught as a general subject in our schools very often anymore. When people buy a home of their own, too often they have no knowledge about how to do the repairs. By offering classes in basic home repairs, maybe we can prevent more houses from deteriorating and homeowners from getting discouraged about owning older houses.

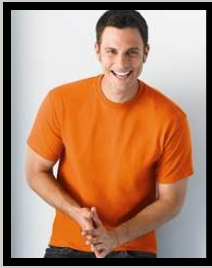
The older homes are built out of much superior products, and should hold up far into the future if maintained properly. While the wood, mortar, brick, and plaster are not the only things that make up a home, these things *are* making up a lot of our landfills. By maintaining and restoring our houses, we pave the way for the future, and save a part of the local history by not sending it to the landfill.

It excites me to be a part of something that restores community values and a meaningful way of life to our citizens. May is Preservation Month. Please join us in this venture to make our city the finest example of community cooperation for restoration of local history.

If you have skills in the restoration fields and would be willing to help teach a class, please get in touch with us at the Old House Society and we can start scheduling the march to a bright and worthwhile future. When you teach what you know, you can live forever.

A Quick “Thank You” to one of our Old House Society Supporters

We would like to thank Gene Lynch who is the maintenance man for the East Douglas Apartments next door to us. Mr. Lynch donated parking passes to us so that we could use their parking lot.



#1 T-Shirt



#2 Long Sleeve Shirt

The Old House Society Logo is on the front of the shirt as pictured to the left and on the back it reads
“Saving America One Piece at a Time, One Home at Time”

#1: Men’s T-Shirt: Pre-shrunk 100% Cotton, Double Needle Stitched. Price: \$12.00 _____
Sizes: Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ Extra Large _____
(If the Men’s T Shirt is your choice, please indicate size and initial the line by the price. Mark your color choice at the bottom of this page.)

#2: Long Sleeve Shirt: Pre-shrunk 100% Cotton, Double Needle Stitched. Price: \$15.00 _____
Sizes: Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ Extra Large _____
(If the Long Sleeve T Shirt is your choice, please indicate size and initial the line by the price. Mark your color choice at the bottom of this page.)

These are the colors for the long sleeved shirts. Please circle your color choice.

Gold White Navy Forest Green Black Red Royal

Purple Ash Gray Sport Gray Carolina Blue Irish Green Garnet

These are the colors for the short sleeved shirts. Please circle your color choice.

White Black Ash Azalea Cardinal Carolina Blue Charcoal

Daisy Forest Green Gold Indio Blue Irish Green Kiwi Light Blue

Light Pink Lime Maroon Military Green Natural Navy Orange

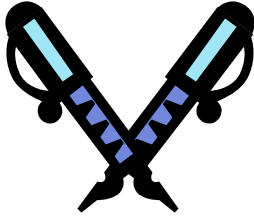
Purple Red Royal Sand Sapphire Sport Grey Tangerine

Violet Yellow Haze

Please include \$2.00 extra for each additional “X” over XL. Also if you wish to have your shirt mailed, include \$5.00 for your shipping and handling.

Note: Dark colors will be lettered in white ink.

<hr/> Name <hr/> Address <hr/> City, State, Zip	<hr/> Telephone Number <hr/> Order Total <hr/> <u>Please send this completed form and payment to:</u> Old House Society PO Box 581 Bloomington, IL 61702
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**From the Pen of
Our President
Julian Westerhout**

Spring is here, and in my neighborhood that means open windows and the occasional sounds of hammers and saws as folks work on their houses. It is a great time to refresh or restore your old house, and we're ready to help you. Our warehouse is full of great things, and this spring and summer we will be salvaging a number of properties, so new old house parts will come in frequently – so be sure to stop by often to check out the inventory, and perhaps to get a how-to tip from Mike or Bob. From now until the end of June members will get a special 25% members-only discount on all warehouse purchases – if your membership is not up-to-date, just renew at the warehouse and you'll be eligible for the discount!

We have some exciting things planned for this year, and we hope to see you at some of them. Our annual house tour is on June 11, and is shaping up to be a really good one, we will be participating in an ice cream social at Franklin Park this summer, we will be inaugurating a small grant program to help homeowners restore their old houses, and we will be bringing back the Gift to the Street Award, which recognizes exemplary restoration and maintenance of old buildings in our community. If you know of a home or business that you think should be considered for the award, we welcome nominations – just call or email us with your suggestion.

The Old House Society exists to help preserve our old neighborhoods, and you, our members, are vital to the success of that mission. Please let us know how we can improve our services, and how we might better partner with you and others to make sure that the neighborhoods of wonderful old homes and buildings that we enjoy today will thrive many years from now.

Julian Westerhout
OHS President
westerhout@gmail.com

Hot Tip About Another OHS Business Friend

The Fuller Center for Housing of Central Illinois
is a housing ministry, looking to help our neighbors in need with home Repairs. Contact for volunteering or an application 309-530-8032 or www.fullercentercentralillinois.com

Please Support This Business Friend of OHS

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Memories From Mike Whelan

These Gates are
at the Entrance
to White Place

By way of background, after I was born on December 29, 1947, my parents brought me home from the hospital to my first home at 1415 N. Fell Avenue. We lived there until 1953 when we moved to 41 White Place. Thus I spent the first fourteen or so years of my life in the best neighborhoods a kid could have ever dreamed of. Incidentally, that house at 1415 Fell Avenue is to this day owned and occupied by the family we sold it to, some fifty eight years later!

In these early years of my life, if an adult would ask me where I lived, when I told them they would always reply, “Oh, you live in fertile valley”. It was not until I was much older that I realized what was meant by that. It seems that the adults in the community all knew what we kids did not, namely that from Fell Avenue to Clinton Boulevard to White Place, from Empire Street on the south to Emerson Street on the north, in any given year in those days there were no less than a hundred or so kids!

And why not? Not only were we the first wave of the baby boom, but almost all of the homes on these streets were easily large enough to accommodate growing families. And what wonderful homes they were, both ours and those of my friends. Many of them, even the least ornate, had stained glass windows in the bathroom (for privacy of course), French doors in the dining rooms, brick fireplaces, and wonderful woodwork and staircases.

And what a play land we had, between the boulevards of White Place and Clinton Boulevard, to the most heaven sent of all, Fell Avenue playground, with its baseball diamond, merry go round, teeter totters, slides, sandbox, and a roofed pavilion to play paddle ball on, even if it was raining. In the summers the city parks department brought in coaches and crafts instructors, and we were there from early morning until late afternoon on most days.

The Fell Avenue ice cream social marked the end of summer, and it was not at all uncommon for a couple of hundred kids and parents to be there for the grand event. We even had a reunion and revival of that social in 1983, some twenty plus years after we were all grown and gone from the area, and people came back in droves for the occasion. It even made news in The Pantagraph.

If we kids weren't at Fell Avenue playground, our folks could always find us down at Sugar Creek between White Place and Linden Street, wading in the knee deep water to catch crawdads in Folger's coffee cans. And if we weren't in the creek, we were racing hell bent up and down the streets on our Schwinn bicycles, riding no-handed if we got up a good head of steam. Car traffic was never a problem, because it seemed that every motorist knew they were entering fertile valley, where the kids ruled.

In the winter, we would sled down the side of the railroad trestle spanning Sugar Creek, and wouldn't think of coming home until our pant legs were frozen solid. The railroad is gone now, replaced by Constitution Trail, but I can still see in my mind's eye an honest to God steam engine and train of coal cars and box cars whistling and chugging its way north way back then.



Memories of Mike Whelan

These Gates are
at the Entrance
to White Place

Continued from Page 6

We would run out of our back yards when we heard its whistle, so we could wave at the engineer, who would always wave back.

On summer evenings, after Fell Avenue playground closed for the day, we kids would play ball on the boulevards, sometimes with our Dads, but sometimes the Dads and Moms would just sit up on the porch, which virtually every house had, and watch us play until dark. On other evenings the grownups would walk up and down the sidewalks, visiting with their neighbors, who inevitably were also their close friends and perhaps even co-workers.

A couple of my little pals and I even found a way to make some money for the ice cream truck which constantly prowled the neighborhood, much to the chagrin of our parents. We would go sit on the stone entrance gates into White Place off of Empire Street, and charge a five cent toll to the adults who were driving in and out. Since the grownups were also our neighbors, and knew all of us, they usually found it amusing and would pay the toll with a chuckle. And then we would chase after the ice cream truck! Easy come, easy go.

The fun didn't end in winter, because all three of the streets were tree lined, and after a good snowfall it was like walking through a cathedral, only one created of snow and ice. We kids would spend endless hours having snowball fights and sliding up and down the sidewalks.

I could go on forever, but space limitations require me to stop now. To all those families who currently live in these grand neighborhoods, I salute you for preserving them. I only hope you are having as much fun living there as I did.

Mike Whelan,
Member of The Old House Society Board of Directors.

Lafayette Square House Tour Update

The tour is scheduled for June 4th and 5th. From 10AM to 5 PM and will feature some of the most beautiful architecture in the St. Louis area. The 19th century homes on display have been beautifully restored and maintained showcasing the glamour and beauty of a by gone area in St. Louis history. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$15.00 or on the day of the tour for \$20.00. For more information visit the Tour web-site at www.lafayettesquare.org.





Old House Society plans Annual House Tour on 6-11-2011 from 10AM to 4PM



(Bloomington, IL) The Old House Society has organized and sponsored House Tours for more than 25 years to help people visit, understand, and develop an understanding and appreciation for local historic homes. The 2011 event will be held Saturday, June 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year's tour focuses on the White Place Historic District in Bloomington. Originally developed by Samuel R. White in the late 1800s and early 1900s, this neighborhood of stately homes is centered on the two tree-lined boulevards of White Place and Clinton Boulevard, and is distinguished by the stone entry gate at Empire Street and White Place designed by Paul O. Moratz. The tour includes several of the neighborhood's grandest homes, including the home White built for his daughter and her family, and in which he also lived. The homes on this year's tour are an excellent cross-section of the diverse architectural styles present in the neighborhood. Visitors will get an idea of what it was like to live in one of Bloomington's finest neighborhoods 100 years ago, and appreciate the care current owners have taken in preserving the beauty of these houses.

Tickets for the tour are \$10 in advance and \$15 on the day of tour. Children 12 and under are free. Advance tickets are available at: Old House Society Warehouse in Bloomington, Casey's Garden Shop in Bloomington, The Garlic Press in Normal, Schnuck's stores in Bloomington and Normal, Country Gingham in Bloomington, Bill's Key & Lock Shop in Bloomington, and the David Davis Mansion Gift Shop in Bloomington. On the day of the tour, tickets will be available at the information tent at Fell Avenue Park in Bloomington.

Advance ticket holders may start at any site on this self-guided tour. Those purchasing tickets on the day of the tour must start at the information tent located at Fell Avenue Park, corner of Fell and University Avenues in Bloomington. For more information call (309) 820-0548 or visit the OHS website at www.oldhousesociety.org.

The Old House Society is a not-for-profit, 501 (c) (3) organization incorporated in 1979. Its mission is to promote and preserve buildings, landscapes, and neighborhoods more than 50 years old, and the communities and heritage they foster.

House Tour Addresses and Participant Names

Clinton Blvd

1212 N. Clinton Blvd.
1314 N. Clinton Blvd.
1404 N. Clinton Blvd.
1501 N. Clinton Blvd.

Fell Avenue

1302 Fell Ave.

Whites Place

2 Whites Place
18 Whites Place
20 Whites Place
22 Whites Place

Home Owners

Chad Sanders
Steve Parker
Jason Smith & Jennifer Booker-Smith
Judy Stearns

David and Michelle Brown

Joe Strano and Janine Toth
Dan Terkla
Lane Ann O'Malley
David Gronemier

We still need a few volunteers to fill the houses on this tour as well as the booth. If interested, please contact Mike Ryburn at the Old House Society either by phone: 309-820-0548 or email coordinator@oldhousesociety.org.





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INFORMATION YOU CAN USE:

YESTERMORROW www.yestermorrow.org/
(888) 496-5541

Controlling energy efficiency in an old house is different from the same goal in a new structure. Most information available to a homeowner covers new construction. An exception is an 2-day class (both winter and summer schedules) at Yestermorrow, the Warren, Vermont design/build school that teaches a wide variety of students, professional to first-home buyer, through their 100+ hands-on workshop/classes. The school began 29 years ago.

Faculty is excellent: knowledgeable and engaging. The class instructor for the old house-energy efficiency class, Peter Yost, is a teacher with 25 years' professional experience along the practical work of 8+ years retrofitting his own 100-year-old house. Whatever your question(s). he knows the answer or knows a colleague to ask!

If you cannot attend, check the school's extensive listings that likely cover one of your other interests.

Class description. www.yestermorrow.org/courses/detail/green-remodeling?StartDate=2011-01-13&SortColumn=StartDate&SortDir=ASC&CategorySlug=energy-efficiency-and-renewables

General Facts About the First Decade in the 20th Century

- 76,000,000 Americans in 46 states (by the end of the decade.)
- Policeman arrests woman for smoking in public
- \$46,000,000+ in the U.S. treasury
- 8,000 cars - 10 miles of paved roads
- 1900 - Auto deaths 96; lynchings 115
- [San Francisco Earthquake](#) took 700 lives and cost over \$4,000,000 in damage.
- Average worker made \$12.98/week for 59 hours
- Life expectancy: 47.3 female, 46.3 male - 33.0 blacks

Architectural Facts about the First Decade in the 20th Century (1900—1910)

In this decade [Frank Lloyd Wright](#) started designing his beautiful low and straight lined homes. [Pennsylvania Station](#), the [Biltmore Estate](#), and [Vanderbilt 50-room dwelling](#) were designed by [Charles Follen McKim of McKim, Mead, and White](#) in New York. Americans began to recognize the value of their past. [The Antiquities Act of 1906](#) authorized the president to declare national monuments to be historic landmarks. The new and popular [Arts and Crafts Movement](#) was created and gained enormous success during the early 1900's. Later people could even buy homes from [Sears Catalog of Modern Homes](#).