

With Respect to

Architecture

MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

*August
2006*



The oldest dwelling in Old Frontenac, Locust Lodge, built in 1854.

MNSAH Fall Tour 2006

Old Frontenac, Minnesota

**Saturday, September 30, 2006
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

Fall Tour

Old Frontenac, Minnesota

The Lake Pepin village of Old Frontenac, a National Register historic district, is our destination for MNSAH's fall tour. The day will feature morning and afternoon tours of the mid-19th century village and resort community established by the Garrard family of Ohio. We'll be viewing exteriors and some interiors of a variety of building types, including a rare Minnesota example of the French Galleried style, St. Hubert's Lodge. We'll have lunch overlooking beautiful Lake Pepin, followed by a talk by Ivan Kubista, the author of *This Quiet Dust: A Chronicle of Old Frontenac*.

The creation of a bucolic village

When Israel Garrard and his brother, Lewis, started a leisurely trip up the Mississippi River in the summer of 1854, their intention was to hunt and to enjoy the outdoor life and scenery of the Minnesota Territory. The Garrards, members of a prominent Cincinnati family, had both traveled extensively along the edges of the frontier. Israel, especially, was searching for opportunities in the upper Mississippi area.

As the river widened suddenly into Lake Pepin, the two brothers were struck by the area's beauty. They asked the captain of the steamboat to drop them off at a particularly inviting spot. There the brothers discovered a trading post called "Waconia," operated by Evert Westervelt, a Dutch immigrant and cabinet-maker. Westervelt's recently completed home, a large Greek Revival structure, was opened to the visitors.

Israel Garrard returned the following year, acquired land from Westervelt, and built his own residence adjacent to Westervelt's. There he set up house-keeping with his new wife, Kate Wood Garrard. In 1857, Israel and Westervelt acquired 4,000 acres, platted a town and changed the name to "Westervelt." In 1858, Westervelt sold half of his land holdings to Lewis Garrard and Israel sold half of his to another brother, Kenner. In 1858, the town was renamed "Frontenac," and Westervelt sold his remaining interests in the town to a fourth Garrard brother, Jephtha.

By the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, a small, thriving village was established on the banks of Lake Pepin. Of the four Garrard brothers, three went off to serve in the Union forces. Lewis stayed behind in Frontenac to oversee the family's holdings. Upon their return from the war, three of the brothers would maintain some sort of seasonal residence at Frontenac, but Israel and his family were year-round residents. It was Israel who would eventually control the form and destiny of the small village as it became his ideal of a gracious resort where summer visitors from the east could enjoy the experience of the outdoors without sacrificing comfort or amenities. A number of fine residences would be built along the low bluff fronting on Lake Pepin, and the old granary on the point jutting into the lake was remodeled to become a hotel, the Frontenac Inn.



Christ Episcopal Church

In 1870, the railroad was constructed along the west bank of the Mississippi River. Israel felt that the introduction of this modern influence would disturb the bucolic serenity of his creation, the village of Frontenac. Accordingly, he provided land to the railroad two miles inland and donated a town site there, which became known as Frontenac Station. This allowed Old Frontenac to become the wonderful time capsule it remains to this day, complete with unpaved streets and many buildings dating from the mid-19th century.

The registration form for the fall tour can be found on page 10.

Four buildings of particular significance

The village was designated a National Register Historic District in 1973. In 2003, a second survey was completed. It described 46 historic structures extant in the historic district. While all of these buildings are important to architectural historians, four of them are particularly worthy of note.

Israel Garrard's home, **St. Hubert's Lodge**, was built in 1855. It is an example of the American-French Galleried style, which followed the river north from New Orleans. Originally intended as a two-room hunting lodge, it was eventually expanded to 14 rooms. Israel Garrard resided here until his death in 1901.

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St. Hubert's Lodge

The home of Evert Westervelt, **Locust Lodge**, was built in 1854 and is the oldest home remaining in the village. Erected on the stone foundations of the first trading post, it is built in the shape of a cross, in the Greek Revival style.

Originally built in 1857 for Alexander Faribault, **Greystone** was also known as the “Grout House” by early settlers, due to its poured concrete construction. In 1861, Faribault sold the house to Lewis Garrard, who a year later sold it to his step-brother, Nathaniel McLean.



Greystone, or “Grout House”

Christ Episcopal Church, dating from 1868, is the only church remaining in the village. It was built in the English Gothic style by Nathaniel McLean and still has an active congregation. A second church, built by Mrs. Sarah McLean, mother of the Garrards, was destroyed by fire, but its parsonage remains.

In addition to these buildings, there are many others in the village. They range from fine residences of the extended Garrard family to more modest cottages occupied by laborers and artisans, primarily of German origin, brought to the village by Israel Garrard.

Logistics

The motor coach will depart from Southtown Office Park (directions next column) at 8:00 a.m., proceed directly to Old Frontenac, and return to the parking lot around 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$45 per person for members and \$55 for nonmembers and includes lunch. To register, complete the registration form on page 10 and send it, along with a check made out to MNSAH, to Linda Bounds, 2072 Iglehart Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104. Deadline is September 22.

Fall Tour

Saturday, September 30 — 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Rain or shine and please wear comfortable shoes

Program

- 8 a.m.Meet the bus at Southtown Office Park (directions below).
8:15 a.m.Depart for Frontenac.
10 a.m.Arrive in Frontenac.
10-12 p.m.Tour of Old Frontenac, conducted by members of the Historic Preservation Committee of Florence Township.
12-1 p.m.Lunch overlooking Lake Pepin, followed by a talk by Ivan Kubista, author of *This Quiet Dust: A Chronicle of Old Frontenac*.
1-4:30 p.m.Tour lakeside structures
4:30 p.m.Depart for the Twin Cities
6 p.m.Arrive in Twin Cities

Cost

\$45 for MNSAH members and \$55 for non-members Includes transportation and lunch.

Deadline

Please mail your check (payable to MNSAH) and reservation form by September 22 to: Linda Bounds, 2072 Iglehart Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact Ken Allsen, 507-288-2171 or Allsen@aol.com.

Meeting Point

Southtown Office Park, 8120 Penn Ave S., Bloomington, MN (494 and 35W). From 494, exit on Penn Ave, proceed south to 81st Street, turn right on 81st, and left into the parking lot. From 35W, exit on 82nd Street, proceed west to Penn Avenue, turn right on Penn, left on 81st Street, and left into the parking lot. The bus will depart from the parking lot on the north side of the building.

**The registration form for the fall tour
can be found on page 10.**

The first MNSAH Student Symposium will be held on Saturday, September 16, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in 54 Ralph Rapson Hall on the University of Minnesota's Minneapolis campus.

The symposium is an opportunity for students to present their high-quality work in the history of the built environment before a larger audience. MNSAH board members Victoria Young, Emily Koller, and Robert Ferguson have organized the symposium with hope that it will become an annual event. A call for papers went out to Minnesota departments of art history, architecture, and landscape architecture, and also nationally on the SAH Listserv. Current students and recent graduates were eligible. The symposium will consist of brief (15- to 20-minute) slide presentations. The papers will be deposited in the MNSAH archive for scholarly use.

The organizers are encouraged by the quality and diversity of the proposals received. Though no restrictions were placed on topics, the nine papers selected fell naturally into three topical sessions.

Session 1: Aspects of the Domestic

1. Kathryn A.B. McCreight (M.A. candidate, University of St. Thomas): "Tennis in the Parlor and Ice Skating on the Lawn: Children's Space at the Alexander Ramsey House, 1881-1900."
2. Lara Hellmich (B.A., University of Minnesota, Twin Cities): "From Pattern Books to Sears Homes: The Ideological and Typological Development of Middle-class Residential Architecture in the United States."
3. Jennifer Curry (M.A., University of St. Thomas): "Building the American Dream: The Role of the Architects' Small House and Service Bureau in Twentieth Century Domestic Architecture."

Session 2: Rethinking Historicism

1. Lynsi Spaulding (Ph.D. candidate, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities): "Problematic Spaces: Re-Contextualizing the French Rococo."
2. Maria C. Weiring (B.A., University of St. Thomas): "St. Michael's Church: Explorations of Tradition and Modernity."
3. Susan Johnson-Roehr (Ph.D. candidate, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign): "V STU VIDY: Vedic Architectural Theory in Postmodern India."

Session 3: Minnesota Institutions

1. Nicole Watson (M.A. candidate, University of St. Thomas): "A Home Fit for a Hamburger: White Castle Building No. 8 and the Early Architectural History of America's First Fast-Food Restaurant Chain."
2. Eleanor Harper (B.A. candidate, Minnesota State University, Mankato): "Athenian Revival in Midwestern America: Defining Culture within a Minnesota Library."
3. Emily Koller (M.A. candidate, University of St. Thomas): "Capturing Extremes in Middle America: Art Deco Architecture in Minneapolis and St. Paul."

The sessions will run sequentially, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 1 p.m., with time for questions after the three presentations in each session. Coffee will be provided before the sessions begin, and light refreshments will follow.

MNSAH members should RSVP to Emily Koller at ekoller@stthomas.edu or 651-696-6832.

Travelogue

“Roughing It” in Style: The Adirondack Great Camps

The opportunity in September 2005 to tour several of the great camps in upstate New York’s Adirondack State Park prompted me and my husband, Lock, to delay our usual summer visit to family and friends. Organized by the Landmark Society of Western New York, based in Rochester (our former home), our tour featured four camps, only one of which is regularly open to the public.

The Adirondack (or “great camp”) style of architecture was made famous by industrialists and financiers, from the 1870s to the beginning of the Great Depression. The significant elements of the style are log construction, native stonework, decorative rustic work in twigs and branches, and self-sufficient multi-building complexes. The separation of units affords fire protection as well as privacy, while still creating a sense of community. The style originated in Raquette Lake with William West Durant’s Camp Pine Knot, our first stop.

Pine Knot was built over a 13-year period beginning in 1877. I was impressed by the white birch bark veneers on the doors of the main lodge and the various railing designs crafted from branches. Durant’s own cabin featured cedar siding rather than log construction, a box bay window with diamond-shaped leaded panes, and two stairways at right angles leading to the porch. There were also sleeping cabins, a dining hall, and service buildings.



Pine Knot, built over 13 years beginning in 1877

Heavily in debt from living lavishly and from spending more than he could afford building the camp, Durant sold Pine Knot to Collis P. Huntington of the Southern Pacific Railway. Huntington enjoyed the property for only a few years. Pine Knot then stood empty for 50 years. In 1949 Huntington’s heirs gave the camp to the State University of New York at Cortland, which now uses it as an outdoor education center. Camp Pine Knot was named a National Historic Landmark in 2004.



Sagamore Lodge, begun in 1896

Financial difficulties and the forced sale of Pine Knot did not deter Durant from embarking on another camp. Sagamore Lodge, begun in 1896, was built on the site of an earlier hunting camp on Lake Sagamore, a private lake. Like Durant’s earlier camps, Sagamore Lodge was designed on the compound plan, with a main lodge, a separate dining hall, a playhouse, sleeping cabins, and service buildings. Faced with imminent bankruptcy, Durant sold the camp in 1901 to Alfred G. Vanderbilt, who added flush toilets, a sewer system, hot and cold running water, and, in 1914, electricity. Hunting on the 1500-acre estate and fishing in the private lake were popular pastimes for the Vanderbilts and their guests. Sagamore’s two-lane open-air bowling alley, dating from 1914, is still in use today.

The three-story main lodge faces the lake. The lodge and several other buildings are set in an open, sunny area unlike the heavily wooded sites of other camps. Bright red trim enlivens the natural wood tones of the buildings, which bring to mind Swiss chalets. Camp Sagamore is a national historic site open to the public for tours and overnight stays. (See www.sagamore.org.)

I was most impressed by the main structure at Eagle Island Camp, which is on Saranac Lake and now operated by a Girl Scout council based in New Jersey. The lodge, dining hall, and sleeping cabins are all connected by covered walkways and extensive porches that form an imposing 200-foot facade overlooking the lake. Decorative screens made of branches partially fill the spaces between the build-

ings. The smaller cabins tend to be dimly lit, as are those at other camps. A common element of the camps' main buildings are mounted heads of elk, moose, long-horned sheep, and other animals native to the area.

Among the camps we visited, White Pine Camp is unique both in design and in material. Built in 1910 by Archibald White, the camp has an asymmetrical, pre-modern style, soaring rooflines, and rough-milled siding that came to be known as "brainstorm siding." The wood is stained dark green; white and black trim makes a handsome contrast. The camp features a charming teahouse on a tiny island reached by a Japanese bridge. White Pine was neglected for 45 years, but is currently being restored and is available for cabin rentals, historic tours, and special events.



Eagle Island Camp

The Adirondack Great Camps

There were approximately 40 great camps in their heyday, around the turn of the last century. Many of the camps still exist today, often in private hands, such as J.P. Morgan's Camp Uncas and Marjorie Merriweather Post's Topside. The Point, one of the last camps to be built, in 1930-33 for William Avery Rockefeller, is today among the world's leading hotels, so exclusive they won't give directions to the resort until you have a confirmed reservation.

Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) conducts numerous summer tours of camps, both large and small, in various areas of the park. (See www.aarch.org.) Adirondack Park, whose 6 million acres make up one-fifth of New York State, is the nation's largest state park. By contrast, Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area is 1.1 million acres.

To learn more about the camps and enjoy numerous color photographs, read Harvey Kaiser's *Great Camps of the Adirondacks*, published in 1982.

Bungalow Club will discuss Chicago Bungalow Initiative

Emily Ramsey, Historic Chicago Bungalow Initiative project director, will discuss Chicago's preservation success story for its beloved craftsman homes at the next event of the Twin Cities Bungalow Club, 7 to 9 p.m., Thursday, September 7, at Bethlehem Covenant Lutheran Church, 3141 43rd Avenue South, Minneapolis. Ramsey will give overviews of Chicago's historic districts and the development of the much-admired Chicago bungalows as well as tell the story of the Historic Chicago Bungalow Initiative. There is a nominal fee for non-Bungalow Club members. For more information, visit www.bungalowclub.org.

Patricia Gebhard to speak on *Purcell and Elmslie: Prairie Progressive Architects*

Patricia Gebhard, wife of the late architectural historian David Gebhard, will present a lecture on the work of Purcell and Elmslie at 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 13, in the Lecture Room of the new Target Wing at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The lecture is based on the newly released book, *Purcell and Elmslie: Prairie Progressive Architects*, a work begun by David, as part of his dissertation research, and completed by Patricia. The book contains details from the extensive office records of the firm, as well as from letters, unpublished writings, and conversations with Purcell and Elmslie. Gebhard will focus on Purcell and Elmslie's biographies, design philosophy, and achievements, both before and after Elmslie entered the firm. A book signing will follow. The event is free and open to the public.

"Tiles of the Northern Plains: Building on Tradition"

This conference, copresented by the local Handmade Tile Association and the Tile Heritage Foundation (www.tileheritage.org), will be held in Duluth and Minneapolis September 13-17. The program includes a series of glass, mosaic, and tile making workshops in Minneapolis and a tour of historic sites in Duluth and in Superior, Wisconsin. The tour features a visit to the 42-room Victorian Fairlawn Mansion and

dinner at Glensheen. Also included are presentations at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and a keynote address by Eric Astrachan, executive director of the Tile Council of North America. On Saturday, September 16, conference attendees will participate in the fifth annual Minnesota Tile Festival, at the American Swedish Institute. For more information, call Josh Blanc at 612-781-6409 or visit www.handmadetileassociation.org.

Historic Royal Palaces conservation and collection care

Patricia Ewer, treatment conservation manager at the Historic Royal Palaces of Britain, will discuss conservation and care of the palace buildings and collections, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Thursday, September 14, at the Pillsbury Auditorium at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Ewer is former senior textile conservator for the Midwest Art Conservation Center and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The event is free and open to the public.

"Electric Tiffany" continues at the Paine Art Center and Gardens

"Electric Tiffany" is the largest museum exhibition ever presented outside of New York City of lamps by artist and designer Louis Comfort Tiffany. The once-in-a-lifetime exhibit is organized by and shown solely at the Paine Art Center and Gardens in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Featuring 50 original lamps, the exhibit displays the full spectrum of Tiffany's inspired use of then recently invented electric light. The exhibit opened in June and continues through October 8. For more information, visit the center's Web site at www.thepaine.org or call 920-235-6903.

Mark your calendars for Cass Gilbert in Texas

The Cass Gilbert Society will travel to San Antonio and Austin, Texas, November 10-12. The Austin portion of the tour will be led by Lawrence W. Speck, dean of the school of architecture at the University of Texas, Austin. Speck is the author of "The University of Texas: Vision and Ambition," in *Cass Gilbert: Life and Work* (W. W. Norton, 2001). Visit www.cassgilbertsociety.org/ for more information as it becomes available.

Membership List

Listed below are all current members of the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians. We publish this list for the use of our members and colleagues, as well as to encourage those who have let their membership lapse to renew them.

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Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians Fall 2006 Tour

Old Frontenac

When: Saturday, September 30, 2006, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tour is rain or shine, so be sure to bring an umbrella and wear comfortable shoes

Registration deadlines: Friday, September 22

Name(s)

1. _____

2. _____

Address(es) _____

Phone number(s) _____

E-mail _____

Each person listed on this registration form must sign the following statement:

I understand that the participation of the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (MNSAH) and cooperating organizations and individuals in the MNSAH-sponsored tour, "Old Frontenac" on September 30, 2006, are limited to providing educational background and guidance, and that MNSAH and cooperating organizations and individuals, have no liability or responsibility whatsoever therefore, or for any acts or omissions of others in connection therewith, and shall in no event be under any liability or responsibility whatsoever for the death of any person or any loss, expense, delay injury or other damage to any person or property, however occurring, on, during, or in relation to the tour.

Signature(s) _____

The tour includes lunch. There will be an assortment of deli sandwiches, fruit and beverages.

Amount enclosed: _____ (\$45 member; \$55 nonmember)

Send this form and your check, payable to MNSAH and arriving by the deadline stated above, to:
Linda Bounds, 2072 Iglehart Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104

To become a MNSAH member...

All are welcome to join the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (MNSAH)! Although many of our members are professionals in architectural history and related disciplines, an interest in architectural history is the only requirement for membership.

- Corporate \$100
- Sponsor \$50
- Household \$35
- Individual \$25
- Student \$20

Fill in this form and mail it with your check, payable to MNSAH, to:

Jennifer Carlquist, membership chair
MNSAH
c/o AIA Minnesota
275 Market Street, Suite 54
Minneapolis, MN 55405

Name(s)

Address

City/State/ZIP code

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Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (MNSAH)

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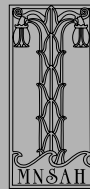
Aaron Rubenstein

Please direct comments or concerns about the newsletter to *With Respect to Architecture* at the MNSAH address above, or 612-724-3578; l-webe@umn.edu.

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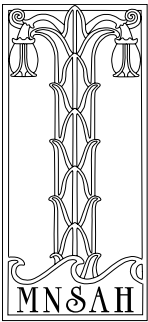
For general comments or program and tour suggestions, contact Lock Bounds, 651-659-9932; lock.bounds@thomson.com.



MNSAH membership includes a subscription to *With Respect to Architecture*, which is published four times a year. MNSAH membership does not include membership in the national Society of Architectural Historians (SAH). For national information, write to SAH at 1365 North Astor Street, Chicago, IL 60610, or go to www.sah.org.

The purpose of the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (MNSAH) is:

To broaden awareness and appreciation of our architectural heritage; to promote research and provide a forum for the exchange of ideas related to architectural history; to offer opportunities to personally experience significant architectural sites, structures, and landscapes; to promote the preservation and recording of important architecture; to cooperate with learned and professional societies in the pursuit of common objectives; to seek financial support from individuals, philanthropic organizations, and foundations in the furtherance of chapter objectives; and to act as an agent for the safekeeping and distribution of funds given to it for these purposes.



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