As president of HKCF, it is my pleasure to serve an organization supported by concerned citizens who love Kansas City and share a passion for preserving the historic neighborhoods, architecture and cultural landmarks that define it. Together we are making a difference and with your help, we will continue to aggressively promote the preservation and protection of the fabric of our great City.

Important work lies ahead and we need your help! The Foundation’s success is member and volunteer driven. Each year hundreds of volunteer hours are donated towards the Foundation’s efforts. Advocacy, Communication, Fundraising, Public Policy, Membership, Special Events, Speakers Bureau and Tours are just a few of the many committees available to interested members.

Consider helping us by volunteering your time and talent. Please contact myself or Lisa Rockley and let us know where your interests lie.

Your annual investment in HKCF provides the Foundation with the resources needed to sustain and build the educational, public policy and neighborhood resources and programs that are helping us to create a Culture of Preservation Awareness in Kansas City and fight for the preservation of our threatened structures and neighborhoods across the Metro.

Please check our web site regularly and watch your mail for upcoming membership events, special events and educational programming including our Preservation Awards program this May.

Yours in Preservation,

Michael A. Schaad, AIA
President
highlight the phenomenon, in 1958, 22% of homes were split level homes, an emerging competitor. By 1975, 15% of the houses featured were ranches and 63% were split level houses as they became the “merchant builders’” houses of choice due to their versatility and adaptability to various sites which helped control costs. The Ranch house style permeated our culture in the 1950’s, food, cars, shopping centers and subdivisions often had “ranch” in their names.

The car was a key element in ranch house design. It allowed residents to live in the suburbs and was integrated into the house by attached garages.

It was a meteoric rise and as they fell out of favor, there grew a negative connotation for ranches that in some areas has evolved into the desire to tear them down or build 2-story additions, I call “Ranchions”, often out of alignment with the layout and feel of the neighborhood. Some vintage ranches sit in the shadows of “McMansions”.

City, local government and homes associations have recently recognized the importance of some ranches and ranch subdivisions, nevertheless a lot of work and education needs to take place. I have an acquaintance that has a wonderful mid-century ranch. Wanting to expand, he was told he could only add a second story addition, which would have ruined the feel of the house. Not until he invited the “authorities” to meet in the house did all agree they should approve a single story addition to maintain the integrity of the house.

The National Register of Historic Places recognizes the significant cultural impact of Ranch House subdivisions as reflections of the ideals, lifestyles, architecture and economy of one of the most important eras of American History. It is true that not all Ranches or Ranch subdivisions should or could be considered important, indeed, there are fewer each year that would be considered eligible. Perhaps the first step is to recognize and embrace the Ranch House as a true American house type.
2009 PRESERVATION AWARDS
The Historic Kansas City Foundation biennially recognizes outstanding preservation projects, programs, and achievements by individuals and groups who exemplify sound preservation practices.

Nominations are now being accepted for the Historic Kansas City Foundation 2009 Preservation Awards. These awards will be presented at the Foundation’s Preservation awards event to be held on May 26th, 2009. The purpose of these awards is to recognize special accomplishments, projects and efforts in the greater metropolitan area that have furthered the restoration and preservation of Kansas City’s historic buildings and early neighborhoods. A nomination form has been included in this newsletter.

JOIN OR RENEW TODAY:

• Subscription to The Gazette
• Discount on selected tours & events
• Invitation to HKCF annual mtg.
• Notification of HKCF events
• Use of HKCF library facilities
• Listing HKCF website
• Enrollment HKCF email updates

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Mail to: Historic Kansas City Foundation
201 Westport Road
Kansas City, MO 64111

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the Executive Director for the Historic Kansas City Foundation, I can tell you the year offers endless opportunities: enhanced committee involvement, increased historic preservation visibility and a renewed spirit of historic preservation in Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri.

Historic structures leave us with examples of artwork, industry, and livelihood. Only one organization in our community exists solely to protect them—The Historic Kansas City Foundation.

The last eight months have been exciting as I am finding my home in Kansas City. I’ve met hundreds of dedicated community volunteers the last few months, researched the legacy of HKCF and evaluated the current structure and strength of the organization.

The Coates House event in August was my first opportunity to meet with members and volunteers. The event was held in the former Coates House Hotel and invited members to celebrate in the cultural history of Historic Kansas City and HKCF.

I’ve had the pleasure to meet with Mr. Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and discuss the future of HKCF and the sustainability of historic structures as the “green alternative” across the nation.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the William T. Kemper Foundation have awarded The Historic Kansas City Foundation with a $225,000.00 challenge grant. This grant requires the Foundation to raise an additional $150,000.00 by the end of 2010. The grant will provide HKCF the opportunity to move forward with the set mission, objectives and committee goals for years to come, demanding focus and fund raising.

HKCF volunteers and committee members are meeting monthly and working towards common goals set at the 2008 board retreat.

The Historic Kansas City Foundation is a volunteer organization and we need your assistance in many ways:

Talent:
As a member, we ask that you consider joining a committee. Committee members should expect to meet for one hour monthly and be able to give approximately 3-5 hours/month in volunteer time. Opportunities in several committees exist today: Membership, Communication, Advocacy, Outreach/Education, Homes Tour, and Speaker’s Bureau.

Membership:
Renew your membership -- Has your membership lapsed? Please review your records or call the HKCF office to confirm your membership is current. Consider enhancing your level of membership.

Involvement:
Attend a Spring bus tour, ongoing Heritage Hikes, the May Preservation Awards banquet, Spring Annual meeting, quarterly membership meetings, socials and the Fall Homes Tour.

Together with membership and community support, HKCF will exceed our campaign goals and will continue to be Kansas City’s resource for Historic Preservation.

Yours in Preservation,
Lisa Rockley
Executive Director

NOMINATION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES

• Individuals, organizations, and corporations are eligible.
• The individual, organization, or project must be located within the greater metropolitan Kansas City area.
• Projects must have been completed within the period beginning April 1, 2007 and ending February 28, 2009.
• Properties must be at least 50 years old.
• Nominations may be made without the knowledge of the nominee. (Please note on the Nomination Form.)
• Self-nominations will be accepted.
• Completed nomination forms must include 5-10 photographs of the project or a photograph of the individual. Please identify each photograph and include date, if known.
• A written narrative must accompany the nomination form. One page or less is acceptable. Explain its historical significance and indicate any historical designations.
• Awards may not be given in all categories and, in special cases, more than one award per category may be made.
• A panel of judges selected by Historic Kansas City Foundation will determine the award winners.
• The awards will be presented at an Awards Reception during National Preservation Week in May.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR
HERITAGE HIKES—SPRING 2009

The Historic Kansas City Foundation will present Heritage Hikes in Kansas City’s first suburbs: Scarritt Point Historic District, Central Hyde Park and Kansas City’s emerging Crossroads District, on April 28, May 5, and May 12—from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. through UMKC’s Communiversity program.

April 28 Return to the River Front

The Town of Kansas

A walking tour of Kansas City’s Old Town Historic District, originally established by Chez lez Canses and Francois Chouteau as a fur trading post in 1826. Men had traversed this area before Lewis and Clark’s Voyage of Discovery due to the fur trade. The Missouri River is responsible for the growth of this settlement which became the Town of Kansas in 1850.

May 5 The Village of West Port

The Gateway West

By 1836 the village had a population of 50 and its fame grew as the settlement served as the last place to obtain supplies for immigrants heading west on the Oregon, Santa Fe and California trails. By 1860, the settlement had a population of 5000 with 500 wagons leaving daily in the spring.

May 12 Quality Hill

Kansas City’s Silk Stocking Ridge

This area rests on the highest elevation in Kansas City, the extreme northwest point of which is the area where Lewis and Clark camped on Sept. 15th, 1806. The neighborhood reached its zenith during the 1880s real estate boom. Leading citizens were attracted to the area where mansions were built. Its location offered scenic views of the Missouri and Kansas rivers with easy access to the developing business district to the east.

Participants receive brochures with maps featuring historical and architectural dialogue. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of each hike. To participate in the three hike series, bring a check for $25 payable to Historic Kansas City Foundation to the first hike. If you do not wish to take all of the hikes, sign up for each hike separately for $10.

To register for the hikes, contact Communiversity at 816.235.1448.

For questions or more information contact Lucinda at lrpmudg@aol.com or 816.931.8448.

The Historic Kansas City Foundation would like to extend a special thank you to the Armour Fields Home Association for welcoming us into their neighborhood and for their enthusiastic assistance in making the 2009 tour a success.

Armour Fields/Romanelli Gardens History

In 1899, Charles W. Armour bought 80 acres lying between Wornall Road and State Line Road from about 65th Street to 67th Street. Later, Kirk and Charles Armour bought the rest of the tract from 67th Street to 71st Street. In 1923, the area west of Wornall, in which the original Armour Farm House sits, was purchased by J.C. Nichols and would become Armour Fields and Romanelli Gardens.

Nichols developed the idea of the Country Club District in 1905, when he successfully found investors for the first ten-acre tract at 51st and Grand Streets. His neighborhoods focused on quality construction, beautiful landscaping and consistent planning—principles that were duplicated in many cities. To accomplish his goals, he hired local talents such as Hare & Hare, who designed Armour Fields and Romanelli Gardens, and Edward Tanner, who designed many of the homes in the neighborhood.

Armour Fields and Romanelli Gardens have some of the best examples of early twentieth century architectural revival styles, including Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Spanish Revival and Mission Revival. Revival styles drew from previous architectural influences, but converted them to modern needs. In this neighborhood that included the integration of garages into many of the homes as the automobile became the dominate mode of transportation in the country, but also modern kitchens with no servant quarters. These details are still retained in many of the homes today, which is a tribute to the quality of the original design, the homeowners and the neighborhood associations that have maintained this great example of a J.C. Nichols subdivision since its inception.

Names of Homes Tour committee members and sponsors can be found on page 5 in addition to photos from the event.

To volunteer for the 2009 Homes Tour please contact the HKCF office at 816.931.8448 or email lisarockley@historickansascity.org for more information.