

Historic Kansas City Foundation
201 Westport Road
Kansas City, MO 64111

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Spring 2009 GAZETTE

www.historickansascity.org/

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION-SIGN UP TODAY

In an effort to enhance membership benefits and improve communication, HKCF would like your email to add to an electronic newsletter update. Your email will not be shared or sold and you can unsubscribe at anytime.

Electronic newsletters have proven to be very beneficial to non-profit organizations across the nation and HKCF would like to offer this benefit to our membership. Please email lisarockley@historickansascity.org and request to be added to the update list. Continue to keep abreast of HKCF opportunities at www.historickansascity.org.

May is National Preservation Month!!

This year's national theme, chosen by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is

"This Place Matters."

Mark your calendars for the HKCF Preservation Awards, May 26th, 2009



HISTORIC KANSAS CITY FOUNDATION BOARD

Michael Schaadt - President, Kimberlee Ried - Vice President, John Hoffman - Treasurer, Steve Noll - Secretary, Lucinda Rice-Petrie - Past President, Pete B. Browne, Joe L. Mattox, Jacob (Jake) Wagner, Richard P. Nadeau, Marion Wheeler, Scott Lane and Sylvia Rose Augustus

Spring 2009 GAZETTE



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Founded in 1974, Historic Kansas City Foundation is a Missouri Not-for-Profit Corporation and is a federal 501-C3 tax-exempt educational organization. The Foundation is dedicated to the preservation of Kansas City's architecturally and historically significant built environment. The Gazette is the official publication of the Foundation and subscription to the Gazette is included with membership.

For more information or to notify of a change in address, contact:

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GAZETTE

Volume 34 Number 1

SPRING 2009

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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 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

the Foundation's Executive Director 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. Schaadt, AIA
President

MEMBERSHIP LECTURE SERIES - APRIL 13TH 2009

Dr. Jacob Wagner, an Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and Design at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, presents a talk titled Rebuilding the Crescent City: Disaster, Demolition, and Preservation since Hurricane Katrina on Monday, April 13, 2009 at 6:30 PM at the Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street.

Wagner will discuss the progress of disaster recovery and the role of historic preservation in the battle to rebuild New Orleans, with a special emphasis on the current struggle to preserve the historic Mid-City neighborhood.

Since December 2005, Wagner has worked on several recovery projects with his colleagues at UMKC. The partnership has involved the Urban Conservancy, a New

Orleans nonprofit organization focused on the stewardship of the city's urban environment and local economy, Wagner's work also includes advocacy planning for the Lafitte Greenway, a 3-mile rail corridor conversion project in the Mid-City neighborhood of New Orleans.

Wagner's work has been funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He is the author of several articles on New Orleans, including "Understanding New Orleans: Creole Urbanism" published in the book What Is a City? Rethinking the Urban after Hurricane Katrina.

Admission is free. Call 816.931.8448 to RSVP. Free parking is available in the Library District Parking Garage.

The Historic Kansas City Foundation
cordially invites you to join us for our

2009 Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 26th

5:30 pm Reception

6:00pm Meeting

Hotel Phillips

Crystal Ballroom-106 W. 12th Street

The Historic Kansas City Foundation Annual Membership Meeting is a benefit of membership.

Guest may attend this special event for \$20.00

REFLECTIONS ON THE RANCH HOUSE - SCOTT LANE

It is important to note, the first survey of a 1950's Ranch house subdivision in the state of Kansas occurred last year. The survey was executed by Sally Schwenk and Associates. The area selected was a neighborhood of 34 houses built from 1951-59 near 68th and Metcalf in Overland Park, Kansas. All the houses were custom designed and built. They reflect a lifestyle statement of the times. The various floor plans and facades show the versatility of the house type and were "tailored" to the home buyers needs.

Beginning in the 1930's, the Ranch house style evolved and gained popularity. Following World War II and after Federal legislation that stimulated home loans, it was the dominate housing type. Popularized by Womens' house and decorating magazines such as House Beautiful, Sunset, and Better Homes and Gardens, the Ranch house style had an enormous impact on the American public. The Kansas City Home Builders Association 1958 Parade of Homes guide show 73% the offerings were ranches. To

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.

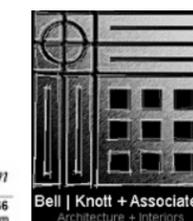
2008 Homes Tour-Thank you

Homes Tour Committee members included: **Patricia Glynn - Chairperson, Kimberlee Ried - Board Liaison, Scott Lane, Paula Walters, Marcia Downs, Anne Lacey, Jan Bentley, Janae Schaeffer, and Bradley Wolf.** HKCF would like to recognize the businesses below for their sponsorship of the Homes Tour and continued support of the Historic Kansas City Foundation.



1100 Valentine – Kitchen & Remodeling Design

816-444-5466
www.deatheragedesign.com



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.

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

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:

BENEFITS OF HKCF

MEMBERSHIP

- 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

CREDIT CARD RENEWING AVAILABLE NOW

renew online at:

<http://historickansascity.org/commerce/membership.html>

Mail to:
Historic Kansas City Foundation

201 Westport Road
Kansas City, MO 64111

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 man-

sions 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.

2008 HOMES TOUR A SUCCESS

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 2008 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 example 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.

Historic Kansas City Foundation 2009 Preservation Awards

NOMINATION FORM

Please type or print clearly.

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Contact Name/Title: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please complete the following information and include an additional sheet briefly describing the project and/or individual and why you are making the nomination. Please include in your narrative the historic significance of the property, if applicable. Please check the category of the nomination.

I. Property—Buildings, Sites, Structures, Objects & Districts

- Preservation Reconstruction
 Restoration Rehabilitation

Is the property listed on the following?

- National Register of Historic Places Kansas City Register of Historic Places
 Kansas Register of Historic Places Other: _____

Project Information:

Date of Construction: _____ Original Architect/Builder: _____

II. Difference Makers—Individuals, Organizations, & Corporations

- Preservation Activist Commercial Pioneer
 Preservation Author Unsung Hero
 Proactive Preservationist

Date: _____ Submitted by: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Mail nominations by **March 27, 2009: Preservation Awards**
 Historic Kansas City Foundation
 201 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO 64111