HCJ’s 2015 Annual Homes Tour to Feature Prominent Local Architect

The Historic City of Jefferson is offering a dramatic change of pace following the very successful 2014 Civil War Tour: a chance to see homes designed by prominent local architect Hurst John, founder of Hurst John and Associates in Columbia, MO. The Tour will be on Sunday, September 20 from 1 to 5 p.m. This will be HCJ’s 10th Annual Homes Tour.

Hurst John was a prolific mid-Missouri architect whose career spanned almost three decades. His client list in Jefferson City and throughout the area included many prominent local families, all of whom sought John’s expertise in form, landscape, and especially his architectural details.

One of the most significant cornerstones of Hurst John’s practice was home design, which he practiced prolifically from the 1950s through the 1970s for clients in Columbia, Jefferson City, and across the state. John’s home designs featured a scrupulous attention to siting; he would often visit the proposed construction location at dawn and dusk, determining the future home’s most advantageous use of natural lighting.

This attention to detail continued in each home’s design; notable features included large, room-defining fireplaces, logical room flow, stylized chimneys, and rooms set off at angles, creating polygonal forms that relieved the standard box shapes found in many homes at the time. The view from each window was carefully considered with the goal of achieving a vista from every room. Like many architects of the mid-20th century, John sought a harmonious integration of the home’s interior with the world of nature beyond.

After extensive background work under the direction of Mary Ann Hall, this year’s Homes Tour Committee is presently co-chaired by HCJ President Tammy Boeschen and Vice President Kevin McHugh. Many Hurst John homes located throughout the west side of Jefferson City will be featured. The 2015 Tour will include several extras, starting the afternoon with a presentation by Hurst John’s daughter, architect Martha John of Columbia, in the Capital Mall Meeting Room at 1 pm. Displays of certain Hurst John homes not open for viewing will be on virtual display – with photographs, information, and even floor plans – in the Capital Mall Meeting Room until 4 pm. In addition, trolleys will take visitors from the Capital Mall to three of the homes open for touring: two

The Vignola Phegley home at 2611 E. Schellridge is one of five homes that will be open for tours.

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along Country Club Drive and one on Hobbs Lane (see below). The additional two homes, one on Schellridge and one on West Main Street, will be accessible by private vehicle only.

Ticket prices are $15 in advance, and $17 the day of the tour. Advance tickets will be available from The Art Bazaar, Schulte’s Fresh Foods, HyVee and Samuel’s Tuxedos and Gifts starting August 10th. This is the main yearly fundraiser for HCJ activities and programs, which includes the Golden Hammer awards, educational sessions, the full-color newsletter, Oral History project, and other events.

If you can volunteer to help with home tours, ticket sales, or in other capacities, contact Connie Hubble, Volunteer Coordinator, at 573-690-9869 or connie@whaleyrx.com. It typically takes about 100 volunteers to staff the tour, so your help makes the Annual Home Tours possible! Call Tammy Boeschen at 893-4121 or Kevin McHugh at 634-3191 if you have questions.

Oral histories involve gathering, preserving, and interpreting the voices and memories of people, to preserve a record of the past. It’s the first-hand accounts of a community that weave the stories of neighbors, of family members, and organizations, of the economic and social fabrics, not necessarily of the leaders, but more often of the “common folk” that make up our folklife.

HCJ Creates its own Eye-Witness Accounts

In the fall of 2007, long-time HCJ volunteers Janet Maurer and the late Dorothy (D.J.) Nash proposed to the HCJ board their vision of an Oral History program where volunteers would record digital audio and video interviews with older residents, church members, and business owners of the city. Their stories would reflect histories of the community to be recorded and stored on the newer media of that time, CD-ROMs and DVDs.

Janet commented that the pair worked so well together in that Nash enjoyed the contacts with volunteers and those being interviewed, as well as conducting the interviews herself. Janet became more excited about the technical recording and storage aspects, feeling that a more permanent media of gold CDs was important so recordings would be easily retrievable and preserved for future generations. In addition, the audio recordings would be transcribed in print format so historians, educators, and researchers could more easily access the material.

Fast forward to 2009 when the HCJ Oral History Committee (OHC) was formed to build a list of potential storytellers, to enlist volunteer members as interviewers, and to create a library of these audio histories. D. J. invited the HCJ members to participate in the interview project itself and to suggest older residents of the city who may have unique personal, business or civic histories that should be recorded.

Training of OHC Volunteers

Two training sessions for volunteers, provided through grants from the Missouri State Historical Society, were held in spring 2009 so members could learn about tools and techniques to conduct successful and engaging interviews helpful to future historians.

D. J. Nash was really sold on the concept of Oral Histories to preserve a community and culture. She commented in her own HCJ interview that “the Oral History program was her favorite part of HCJ since she loved doing the interviews and hearing the stories people have to share.” To encourage the growth of the Oral History Project in the fall of 2011, the OHC set up a training session for HCJ volunteers with Alex Primm, a trained and practicing Oral Historian from Central Missouri.

Digital Storytellers Join the OHC

Over the next several years, D. J. and Janet added a number of interview recordings, enlisting volunteers to meet with and interview older citizens for their stories. Janet commented that the committee members “are very excited about this project and what it could mean for the preservation of the history of Jefferson City. There are so many stories out there that we just don’t even know about and we are in a race against time to get as many of them recorded as we possibly can.”

Unfortunately, time ran out for D. J. Nash; she died in 2014 still actively involved in many community efforts. The oral storytelling interview project that she initiated has so far been used for neighborhood histories and Homes Tours published in the HCJ newsletter, such as the Hayselton Drive history. Future plans call for compiling the historical transcripts in notebooks and later published volumes for public research in the HCJ office library. An index to completed transcripts, as well as lists of CDs needing to be transcribed, will be posted on the HCJ website.

The OHC is requesting the public and HCJ members to nominate community members to be interviewed, preferably older citizens, or next generations, who have so much to tell in stories about the past Jefferson City.

Once nominations are made, the OHC needs more volunteers to conduct interviews. The OHC will offer workshops on the skills of interviewing, on using various recording equipment, and on necessary record-keeping and legality of consent forms. Recording equipment and forms will be provided by HCJ.

HCJ needs to build on the existing collection of our community’s oral traditions, as reflected in the mission statement: “To proactively preserve our historic resources and create an environment that makes preservation a viable focus for the future of Jefferson City.”

To suggest the name of a person who should be interviewed or to volunteer to assist in the project, contact Janet Maurer at 573-291-4320 or email jmmaurer@socket.net.
A revised draft of the new historic preservation ordinance has been written in response to input from stakeholder groups. A bill is expected to be presented to city officials this fall.

About a year ago, HCJ hired attorney Paul Graham to help fight the county’s effort at that time to demolish the old Cole County Jail and Sheriff’s Residence. In the process, it was determined that an update to the city’s historic preservation ordinance was sorely needed. A bill was drafted to meet that need and presented to stakeholder groups in early 2015. These groups included the city’s Historic Preservation Commission, Old Town Revitalization Co., and the local board of realtors. A number of concerns were raised about provisions in the new bill, so HCJ decided to go back to the drawing board.

The new and improved version of the ordinance is a much simplified version that primarily does two things. First, it gives the city’s Historic Preservation Commission some actual authority in regard to demolition applications, rather than just a review capability. Under the proposed revision, the HPC could deny a demolition application, but the property owner could appeal that decision to the City Council. It also extends the review period from 60 days to 90 days for applications that come before the HPC.

Most demolition applications are expected to be approved, just as they are now. And, if a building is less than fifty years old, the HPC would have no authority at all in regard to a demolition application. But, if the new bill is passed, for the first time the HPC would have some actual authority in this area rather than just the ability to review and comment.

Lt. Col. Austin Standish, an Irish immigrant trained as a civil engineer and employed with the Pacific Railroad, built his family’s home at 103 Jackson in 1850, next door to his wife Mildred Parsons’s family home. Gen. Gustavus Parsons, living at 105 Jackson, and Standish were confederate sympathizers and like so many other Missouri citizens, both families had lost loved ones in the Civil War.

Unfortunately, both families suffered loss again when, shortly after the Civil War, Standish joined Mildred’s brother Mosby Parsons into the new country of Mexico where, according to Mosby, they could live “free” of post-war animosities. But both men were killed in ambush. Legend surrounding the Standish House tells that Mildred, refusing to believe reports of the deaths of her husband and brother in 1865, kept a burning candle for them in the front window.

What makes a historical structure significant, worthy of our respect and upkeep, worthy of renewed life? The invaluable stories and legends, beyond the brick and beams, create our capital’s historical memories. Mildred Parsons Standish penned accounts of her war-period travels behind enemy lines, with three sons in tow, to unsuccessfully convince her husband to seek less dangerous service to the Confederacy. She failed in her attempt. But we cannot fail in keeping the candle lit for the Standish family home’s history for future generations.

The Standish House is historically, but also architecturally significant. Its stately three-story presence, topped by an attic bay, is first noted for its decorative scalloped wood shingles above a painted brick base. More striking is its unique circular entry centered between double porch pillars, as well as sun-ray cornices framing floor to ceiling windows. It is indeed sad as well as a deep concern that this Local Landmark is on the City’s Registry of Abandoned Buildings.

THIS PLACE MATTERS!
The Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland (Council) decided in 2013 that Green Berry Acres, also known as “the Girl Scout Camp” was a property that they could no longer financially maintain. This camp and nature setting, on a knoll overlooking the Moreau River and now nestled in a residential area, lives in the memories of thousands of Girl Scouts who camped there and others who have used the facility over the last 83 years.

Over the years, the Host Lions Club had contributed financially and physically with upkeep. But despite these efforts, a “for sale” sign was finally displayed on the property in May. This aroused great interest from neighbors, the Jefferson City Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department (Parks and Rec), and other organizations, including the Historic City of Jefferson (HCJ). It was originally called “The Frontier,” and sits on property purchased from Mrs. Nannie Berry D’Oench, daughter of Dr. Green Clay Berry. In the late 1930s, the name was changed to “Green Berry Acres” in honor of Dr. Berry, a Jefferson City physician who owned the land on which Green Berry Road was built.

Civil War enthusiasts long suspected there was a Confederate encampment on this site of Gen. Sterling Price’s troops in Oct 1864. This was confirmed recently using metal detectors and finding some Confederate artillery paraphernalia. For the 2014 Civil War Tour, hosted by HCJ, Green Berry Acres was one of the sites populated by Civil War re-enactors and displaying additional Civil War history.

Once the property was formally listed, Jeff City Parks and Rec decided to place a bid, hoping to maintain the history of the park and secure its future as a public park area. On June 30, the sale of the property to the Jefferson City Parks and Rec became official. Now that the property is in the hands of our Parks and Recreation system, we look forward to its continuing history and availability for the public use by future generations.

If you loved the set of HCJ landmark Playing Cards first released in 2012, there will soon be more to love! Due to the popularity of these cards, we will have another deck of cards soon available with an entirely new set of Jefferson City landmarks. They make nice stocking stuffers and gifts so we plan to have them ready for you before Christmas. Stay tuned.

HCJ hosted its second annual Civic Dinner in May honoring our local civic leaders. Cole County Commissioners, City Councilmen, Mayor, and City Manager joined HCJ Board members for Lutz’s Barbeque at the HCJ office.
If These Walls Could Talk
Uncovering Your Old House’s History

By Jenny Smith

Part of owning an old house for nearly a lifetime is the familiar and homey feel that radiates from its walls and windows. I love the craftsmanship: the solid wood doors, plank floors edged with wide trim, high ceilings, stone fireplace, transoms, French doors. But I can’t claim this dwelling as my own with its old nooks and crannies; others before me have called this house their home.

Our old houses take on a personality and, like an old friend, we are naturally curious about its history. I try to imagine former owners walking through the rooms when the house was new. I want to uncover its history, solve its mysteries, answer its queries: Who lived here? When was it built? Who built it? How was it altered over the years? Talk to me walls!

I recently began researching an old house we are renovating at 612 E. McCarty. Hitting dead ends in the maze of resources, I quickly realized I needed to call in the experts. I contacted fellow HCJ member Debbie Goldemmer who has sharpened her house-research skills on several Golden Hammer awardees. Calling her was a good move!

My goal was modest: to discover the former owners, the year it was built, and the builder. Even with what seemed like a simple undertaking, Debbie warns with sage advice: “Don’t expect to find all your information in just one place, but utilize many resources.”

1. CITY DIRECTORIES – “I start with the city directories,” Debbie says, found in the reference section of the Missouri River Regional Library. “The directories list the residents of houses in the years available. You can search by street and house number.” By looking up the owner or renter’s name in the alphabetical cross reference, one can find the resident’s occupation, spouses’ name, and number of children under age sixteen.

   This may sound straightforward, but it is not! Debbie explains that not every year is available, only back to 1913. However, Jefferson City directories for 1904 and 1908, plus additional years, can be found on ancestry.com, available on local library computers. A quick check of the State Historical Society’s catalog may include needed directories (http://shs.umsystem.edu/index.shtml). Debbie cautions that one obstacle is the renumbering of many houses in the 1960s; so, you can’t assume the house number nor even the street name has stayed the same. With some sleuthing into my 612 E. McCarty occupants, I determined the house number had remained the same over the past century.

   Keep in mind also that city directories identify house residents over 16 years of age, but not necessarily who owned the house; residents could have been renters or boarders. In addition, checking the directory abbreviations yields specific details about each resident. From the 1913 city directory, I discovered the first resident of 612 E. McCarty was Asa Hutson, correspondent for the Globe Democrat and homeowner with spouse Edna and one child under sixteen years (Asa Hutson (h) (Edna) 1 cor Globe Dem).

   At this point, the easiest part of my detective work is done.

2. MIDMOGIS – Mid-Missouri Geological Information Systems. It is useful to go online to http://www.midmogis.org/InteractiveMapIndex.html for a legal description—subdivision, lot, and block—of property on the Interactive Map. You need this information because parcels are not recorded officially by their street address. Street addresses can change, but the legal description does not.

3. RECORDER OF DEEDS – With my list of residents at the McCarty house and its legal description, Debbie directed me to the County Recorder of Deeds office at the courthouse. Here, she showed me which computers to use to enter the legal description to obtain the last three transactions recorded by book and page for my parcel. All searches work backward from the present.

   Again there are limits to this initial computer search because the deeds are stored digitally only back to 1985. For

Architectural features offered many clues as to the approximate year of construction of this house at 612 E. McCarty.

By Jenny Smith

Your detective work into researching your house’s history will require, in part, a trip to the County Recorder’s Office.
my old property, I had 30 years down and 80 to go! After exhausting the digital information on deeds back to 1985, it is time to go to the big books or INDEXES where transactions are recorded by book and page.

Get comfortable for this is the tedious and time-consuming part of the search. The indexes are organized into DIRECT (Grantor or Seller) and INDIRECT (Grantee or Buyer) and recorded in alphabetical order. Since I did not know how many years the house was in a person's ownership, I needed to work backwards by year in the indirect indexes, looking for the last owner's name to identify the seller. Once I found the book and page, I could view the actual transaction in the record book, noting the seller's name, then return to the indexes to find earlier volumes that record previous sellers. And on and on. At the point of division, I needed to ensure that I was following the correct legal description. Even going back as far as possible, it may still not be easy to determine the year the house was built on the lot. It is the land parcel transactions that are recorded, not the house builder's contract or permit.

Another caution offered by Debbie in determining the year a house was built is that a structure may have been torn down and a new one erected. Checking to see if the City issued building permits for a particular lot could answer this dilemma. Building permits can be searched at City Hall, but they are hit and miss prior to 1960. Also, she adds that not all changes in ownership are recorded in Court-house record books, such as when a property has been inherited, in which case the family's wills and probate records need to be searched. For Sheriff’s Sales, a separate set of books exists in the Recorder’s office. In addition, the State Archives has old Cole County records not found in the courthouse, including circuit court cases, wills, land and probate records.

I found the staff at the Recorder’s Office to be friendly and helpful, but they are prohibited from conducting searches for the public. Just so you know!

4. LOCAL HISTORIES AND CENSUS RECORDS

Other places to check for more history of the house’s residents are census records and genealogy sites. With a name to work with and approximate dates of residence, several early histories of notable Jefferson City residents may be viewed to see if the resident’s name pops up anywhere. The Illustrated Sketch Book and Directory of Cole, edited by J. W. Johnson in 1900, and The History of Jefferson City and Cole County by James Ford, published in 1938, are very good references available at the local library. The Sketch Book is also available online with full search capabilities: https://archive.org/details/illustratedsketc00john

My search of residents of 612 E. McCarty showed it was occupied by mostly working class people; state employees, salesmen and carpenters. But I found the very first resident, Asa Hutson, by googling his name. His death was a news item in a 1933 Cape Girardeau paper that indicated he was a widely-known political correspondent for the St. Louis Globe Democrat.

Census records provide invaluable personal data as well; however, the snapshot is only for every ten years. The mystery of my house owner thickens as the 1920 Federal Census lists Asa Hutson, age 42, reporter for the Globe Democrat, as head of household at 124 East McCarty Street with wife Edna and son Jack. The house number has changed, but also the primary owner of this property is John R. Pleus, age 45, priest at Immaculate Conception Church [sic]. Using the 1920 census keys (Jefferson Township, Ward 1, ED Dist 46, Cole County), I can now search earlier and later census records for owners. Be wary, as Debbie noted, of changing house numbers; it is important to correlate census record locations with city directories. Census records are online through the public library’s Heritage Quest site.

5. HOUSE FEATURES

- Several standard library and archive book sources exist for sorting out the architectural history of the house itself. The easiest method is comparing house features to details in period design books. 612 E. McCarty has a limestone foundation, circular front porch (late Victorian), a Gothic style attic window, horsehair in the plastered walls, pocket doors, craftsmen style interior wood trim, and ten foot ceilings. Found artifacts and vintage photos offer clues to the house history: an old newspaper was found in the attic dated 1908; the back of the fireplace mantle mirror was hand dated 1906. Another bonus find were the labels on the inside of some wood trim boards indicating they were sold to a builder named “J.C. Engelbrecht, 307 Cherry, Jefferson City, MO.”

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Getting to Know You

Kay Martellaro has become a familiar face among HCJ members over the last several years. You have probably seen her greeting guests at the Annual Dinner meetings or Home Tours. She is the newest member of the HCJ Board of Directors having been appointed by HCJ President Tammy Boeschen to fill a recent vacancy.

Why did you join HCJ? I joined HCJ because I enjoyed the home tours and could see the importance of preserving Jefferson City’s architectural heritage.

What do you like best about being a member of HCJ? On a personal level, I have made new friends through membership and volunteering with HCJ, but just as important, I like HCJ’s dedication to preservation.

Do you have a favorite HCJ program or activity? HCJ has a number of important and interesting programs and activities, but my favorite is the annual home tour.

Do you think we have made progress in Jefferson City on historic preservation? Yes, I think that HCJ has made progress by raising the community’s awareness of the beauty and character of the historic neighborhoods and the importance of preserving them.

If someone asked you the benefits of HCJ membership, what would you say? One of the benefits of HCJ membership is meeting and networking with people with mutual interests and goals.

Kay Martellaro

How long have you been a member of HCJ? I joined HCJ about 4 years ago. However, I attended the annual home tours for several years prior to joining.

What one thing might HCJ members be surprised to learn about you? I once was part owner of a river ferry.

6. SANBORN MAPS - Our McCarty house appears in the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. It indicates it has always been a ½ story brick but that there was a wood porch where now a brick addition in the back. This addition is obvious because the brick looks different in that corner than the rest of the house; often such visual clues can tell stories. These very interesting Sanborn Maps, initially used to identify paid customers for the fire department, are available online at the Secretary of State Archives (http://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/sanbornmaps/searchterm/jefferson%20city%2C%20mo/ order/nosort).

Other resources to check include building permits at City Hall, probate records, or utility records for date of initial hookup. This is by no means a complete guide to researching one’s house; additional resources are available at area libraries, archives, and on-line sites, as the Missouri History Museum (http://www.mohistory.org/lrc-home) and the Preservation Research Office in St. Louis (http://preservationresearch.com/resources-2/research-your-home/).

All this detective work concludes that our East McCarty house was built between 1900 and 1907 by J.C Engelbrecht. I know much more about 612 E. McCarty than I did before my search, but research always brings more questions. More than an owner of my old house, I feel like a care-taker of a structure that is much more than walls and floors. It embodies a history, the spirits of people from long ago that were part of the fabric of this early growing community. Old House Research can require time, leg work, and patience. But the effort is well worth it. Not everyone has the time or patience for this challenge, in which case the people at the Title Companies would be happy to help (for a fee, of course). But where is the fun in that?!
Jewell Patek, President of Patek and Associates, accepts Golden Hammer Award from Committee Chair Laura Ward.

The former home of Mortimer Kegley’s Bar, recently purchased and renovated, has been transformed into an attractive office space as well as storefront in the downtown business district. Office space on second floor is shown above.

Owners Ryan and Stacie Gilmore are recognized by HCJ Vice President Kevin McHugh for their renovation of an abandoned house. A before picture is shown above. Saving Old Towne District one house at a time. Thank you, Gilmores!

West Main Pizza Owners Charlie and Jessica Christiansen did a great job restoring and renovating this historic commercial building using old historic salvage pieces. Great asset to the West Main Neighborhood!
SAVE THE DATE!

HURST JOHN HOMES TOUR

Sunday, September 20, 1pm to 5pm
Advance tickets will be available from The Art Bazaar, Schulte's Fresh Foods, HyVee and Samuel's Tuxedos and Gifts starting August 10th

Looking back . . . . Moving forward

Golden Hammer and Web Master - Laura Ward
Newsletter Editor - Jenny Smith
Education and Programs - Donna Deetz
Oral History - Janet Maurer
Publicity - Vicki Schildmeyer

Membership and Social Media - Terri Rademan
Special Events - Kevin McHugh
HCJ Foundation - Nicholas M. Monaco
History and Documentation - Katherine Owens
Finance - Tim Morrow

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
To proactively preserve our historic resources and create an environment that makes preservation a central focus for the future development in the City of Jefferson.

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