



Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation, Inc.

February 2008

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President's Message - Chris Wenzel



Many of us had been discussing the implications of the proposed tax amendment initiative – Amendment One Tax Reform. Save Our Homes produced a tremendous effort to explain how individual property owners would be impacted by the proposed legislation. The debate went on for months. Tuesday, January 29th, the amendment became a reality. I have been thinking about how this will affect the historic preservation community.

The Sarasota County Department of Community Services has set up a “transition team” to study and discuss the implications of how this will affect the Sarasota County History Center. This team is made up of County employees, community leaders in business, preservation professionals, and individuals from various preservation organizations across the county. At the center of tax reform’s impact on the historic preservation discussion is the impact it will have on the Sarasota County History Center; its collection of historic and archeological artifacts, as well as the role historic preservation plays in the development review process. The team is developing business model concepts for Sarasota County to meet the requirements of Amendment One within the next five years. This plan will address County services, expenditures and costs in an effort to rethink how business is conducted by Sarasota County Government. Part of the conversation addresses public and private partnership business models. Considering that Sarasota County departments offer public services to the public as the customer base, the thoughts and discussions revolve around accurate cost recovery in an effort to have County services operate more efficiently. Doug Driscoll, Chair of the Sarasota County Historic Preservation Board tells me; “The team is pursuing a business model that reflects today’s economy after passage of the tax reform amendment”.

In the future, we may expect to see a restructuring of departments within County government. Departments may be combined and sharing space requirements may be utilized, such as a combination of the History Center activities with the County Library System. Key to the issue is the vast collection of archeological artifacts, and historic pieces. Not just the library of information and printed material, the History Center houses a great collection of furniture, art, and other items peculiar to the history of Sarasota. All of this needs to be considered when we approach the thoughts of how the services offered by the History Center will be affected by a new business model. I encourage the conversation to begin with your public officials. Attend meetings and recognize the importance of historic preservation in the planning process for our future growth. Personally, I am amazed with the collection housed in the History Center. I encourage all our friends of historic preservation to express the importance of work; both in respecting the past and influencing the future.

Chris

**18TH ANNUAL SARASOTA HISTORIC HOMES TOUR
 "PIONEERS IN THE PARK"**

The Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation is proud to present the 18th Annual Historic Homes Tour on Sunday, March 2nd from 10 AM to 4 PM.

This year's tour will feature six enchanting residences within the urban neighborhood context of Gillespie Park. According to Alliance President Christopher Wenzel "Neighborhoods are an important part of Sarasota's historical setting and help to define our city's character, beauty and unique identity".

Gillespie Park honors John Hamilton Gillespie, the first mayor of the town of Sarasota. It will be the location of the 2nd annual Gillespie Park Founder's Day Celebration held in conjunction with this year's Alliance Homes Tour. This year, the Sarasota Trolley will be available to ride through the neighborhood between the featured houses. It will also stop at the Park so that tour goers can enjoy food, beverages, and various activities there. Visit the Alliance booth at Gillespie Park which will have information on upcoming events as well as Jeff LaHurd books for sale. A live auction will be held at the end of the day to benefit the Alliance. Auction items will include historic valuables and contemporary items as well as gift certificates to local businesses.

\$20 homes tour tickets will be available for advance purchase starting February 20th at all Davidson Drug Stores; The Main Bookshop, 1962 Main Street; The Sarasota County History Center, 6062 Porter Way; Sarasota Architectural Salvage, 1093 N. Central Avenue; and Historic Spanish Point, 337 N. Tamiami Trail, Osprey. Tickets may also be purchased the day of the tour at any of the tour homes for \$25.

Homes featured are from the Gillespie Park Subdivision and James Hall subdivisions.



433 North Osprey Avenue –
 Captain Arthur C. Rowe Home



1881 6th Street –
 Mediterranean Revival Style Bungalow



1628 7th Street –
 Wood Frame Bungalow



1637 7th Street –
 Wood Frame Bungalow



1660 7th Street –
 The Brazil / Clark Home



1674 7th Street –
 Craftsman Style Bungalow

All photos courtesy of Edward Lederman

For more information contact the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation at 953-8727.

Riverview High School Update

The proposal to Save Riverview and convert it into a music quadrangle will go before the school board for a final vote in the middle of March. It is imperative that you voice your opinion on this proposal to the school board members.

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 Caroline_Zucker@sarasota.k12.fl.us

The **Riverview Music Quadrangle** is a plan for the reinvigoration and preservation of the Paul Rudolph building at Riverview High School. The design creates a space for Sarasota musical arts groups to study and perform. It presents the Sarasota community with a creative, practical use for this exceptional building.



The design takes full advantage of fundamental features of sustainable design present in the original

structure – such as natural ventilation, shading, and the use of natural light – that are finding renewed popularity in sustainable architecture today.

The Sarasota Architectural Foundation (SAF) is leading the drive to develop support for the Riverview Music Quadrangle adaptive use and financing plan. The plan was submitted in an international design and financial plan competition, funded in part by a matching grant from the World Monuments Fund “Modernism at Risk” program, founding sponsor, Knoll.

The original Riverview High School, designed in 1957 and constructed in 1958, was Paul Rudolph’s largest commission in Florida and his first public project. Rudolph, who later served as dean of the Yale School of Architecture, became known as the father of the Sarasota School of Architecture.

The Sarasota County School Board postponed their plans to demolish the Rudolph building, after an international outcry from the architecture and design community. Following a charette sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the board set a March 16, 2008, deadline to develop a plan that meets their criteria.

To succeed in their efforts to revive this icon of mid-century Modern architecture, the Sarasota Architectural Foundation needs additional financial support. The World Monuments Fund has another \$25,000 matching grant available, if SAF receives donations to qualify for those funds.

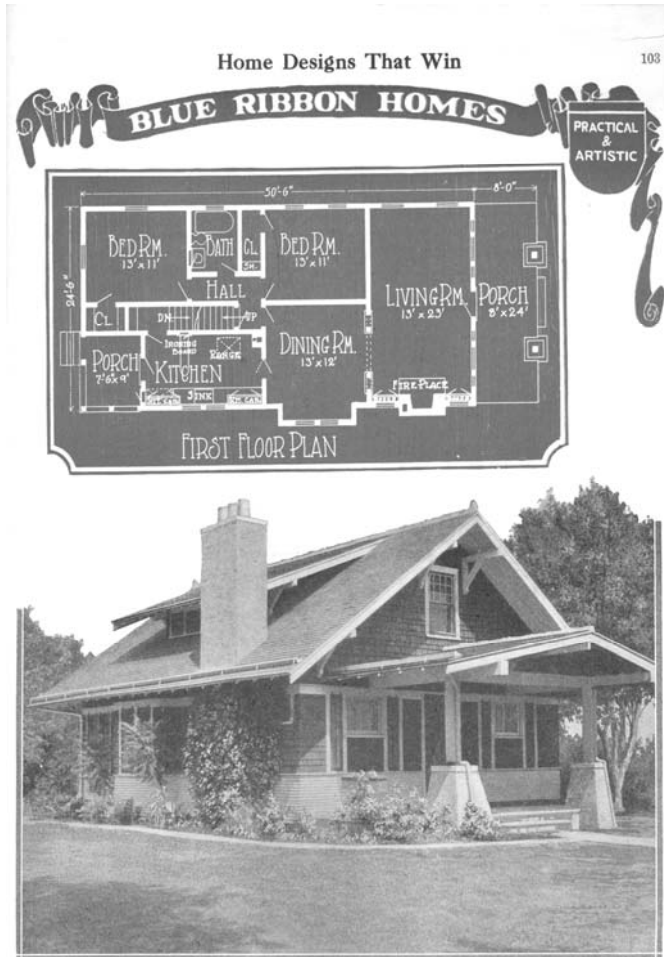
Please make a tax deductible donation now, to the Sarasota Architectural Foundation (SAF), to support this important effort. You can help make the Riverview Music Quadrangle become a vital resource for the Sarasota musical arts community.

Visit www.sarasotaarchitecturalfoundation.org or call 941.365.4723.

What Exactly is a Bungalow?

Ellen McKeefe

During the early 1900's, for as little as \$3,500 a family could have an inexpensive, well-designed home offering privacy and independence. Today, historic home restorers spend \$3,500 re-wiring those very bungalows.



A BUNGALOW WHICH RADIATES HOSPITALITY. From its front porch with wide-spreading roof to the extending ends, this bungalow breathes hospitality. It suggests itself as being ideal for localities where the sun is strong and hot over long intervals in summer. It should make an ideal small residence for the farm. We enter the living room from the front porch. We have a fireplace at the end of this room, flanked by bookcases. The room is 13 feet by 23 feet, with fine light from three sides, and its spacious effect is increased by the open colonnaded doorway which leads to the dining room. The

wall juts out a bit in the dining room, gaining a few extra feet of space for the double windows, and making the room seem larger than the 13 feet by 12 feet it really is. The kitchen has the sink right by the window, and has many comfort-making, built-in conveniences. There is a back porch, too, which will serve nicely for meals in hot weather. The two bedrooms are each 13 feet by 11 feet and connect with the bathroom thru the hall. It will be noted that there is provision made for a stairway to the second floor, which might be finished and extra bedroom space secured. Dimensions over all are 24 feet 6 inches by 58 feet 6 inches.

From before 1900, until the early 1930's, bungalows were built everywhere in the United States. In 1906, Fred T. Hodgson sold bungalow house plans for five bucks, promoting the design as "the best type of cheap frame house." Hodgson continued, "There is nothing either affected or insincere about these little houses. They are neither consciously artistic nor consciously rustic. They are the simple and unconscious expression of the needs of their owners."

Most of Sarasota's bungalows were built during Florida's earliest growth spurt, the 1920's Land Boom; others appear on property records in the 1930's. Simple construction and readily available materials like Southern white pine met the needs of homebuyers eager to claim their bit of paradise. The American bungalow style originated in California during the late 1800's and moved eastward, thriving in warm climates where the origins of the design seem particularly well suited. But the true origin is early 1800's British Colonial India, the birthplace of the bungalow style and the name itself. A "bangala," was a one-story house built for colonials in Bengal, mimicking the practical native dwellings. These simple, one story homes were encircled by porches and had many windows to catch every breeze. The Bengalis were onto something. People who live in restored Florida bungalows have learned that these airy little homes stay comfortable well into early summer with ceiling fans and open windows

What exactly is a bungalow? Well, that depends on the whether you seek the broad or narrow definition. The broad sweep of bungalow design includes many styles: Arts & Crafts, Tudor, Queen Anne, Prairie,

Mediterranean Revival, New England Colonial, Pueblo and California versions that have strong Japanese elements. Take a closer look in historic Sarasota neighborhoods; you'll find examples of all of the above.

All bungalows share certain design elements. One to one-and-one-half stories. Wide eaves with exposed roof rafters. Low profile. Rectangular floor plan. Double hung or casement windows or both. Front or side porch or both. Street facing front doors that open directly into the living room. Hardwood floors, plaster walls and ceilings. Living room fireplace. Arched or woodwork openings between living and dining rooms and kitchen. Built in cabinets, shelves and seating. These simple features represent the original bungalow concept, a reaction to the excesses of the Victorian age.

Arts & Crafts or Craftsman style is what most of us visualize when we think bungalow. This narrow definition introduces Gustav Stickley, the patron saint of the American bungalow. A designer of simple, angular well-proportioned wood furniture, Stickley began publishing *The Craftsman* in 1901, a magazine of design and philosophy. Until 1916, he preached the Arts & Crafts gospel of simplicity as the key to happiness for the middle class. The unpretentious houses named after Stickley's publication, are the models for many Sarasota homes.



**Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation
2008 Annual Meeting**



Join members of the Sarasota Alliance on Thursday April 10, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. for our annual meeting and a fascinating presentation by Dr. Clifford Smith, City of Sarasota Historic Preservation Planner entitled

“A Mystery immersed in a Myth”

the true story of smuggling, slavery, shipwrecks, hidden caverns, and intentional misinformation on the island of Bermuda.



The meeting will be held at The Community Foundation of Sarasota County 2635 Fruitville Road and is free to current or renewing Alliance Members. Light Refreshments will be served.

RSVP by April 5 - 953-8727 OR MGG476@aol.com



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P. O. Box 1754 Sarasota, FL 34230

Dear Alliance Member:

We have a great list of upcoming events listed in this newsletter, and we know that you'll want to be a part of each and every one of them.

If you haven't already mailed in your dues payment, please take this opportunity to drop your membership check in the mail today! If you've already paid your dues, we thank you.

If you are receiving printed copies of your newsletter, and you have an email address, please forward the email address to Kim Noyes at kimberlynoyes@comcast.net (Subject: ALLIANCE) and you'll begin receiving your newsletters and notices of special events at top speed!

**Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation, Inc.
2008-2009 Membership Dues**

Name: _____

Amount Paid: _____

New Member?

- \$20.00 Individual
- \$30.00 Family
- \$50.00 Non-Profit or Donor
- \$100.00 Sustaining
- \$200.00 Corporate

Address _____

City: _____

State/Zip _____

Email Address: _____

If you would like to volunteer for tours, membership drives or mailings, please let us know – we'd love to have you! Thank you

Do you have an email address? If you are
receiving a printed copy of this newsletter and
have an email address, we'd like to put you
on our advance notice list! Please send your
email address to Kim Noyes at
kimberlynoyes@comcast.net
(Subject: ALLIANCE)

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