



SARASOTA ALLIANCE FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC.

**February
2011**

President's Message

**Debra
Flynt-Garrett**
President

Joan Bowers
1st Vice President

Martha Horton
2nd Vice President

Ginger Sutton
Secretary

Joyce Waterbury
Treasurer

Directors:

Laura Burnside
Dorothea Calvert
Helena Dean
Chris Fitzgibbons
Larry Kelleher
Aviva LaGasse
Rebecca Morgan
Beverly Scott
Dr. Clifford Smith
Jill Thomas
Wes Snyder

Ex Officio Director

Lorrie Muldowney
Don Smally
Jesse White

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. I am hoping that our remaining winter weather is mild, and spring comes early! Most of you know by now that spring in Sarasota also means that it is time for the annual Alliance Historic Homes Tour, a much anticipated event by long time residents and visitors alike. This year the McClellan Park neighborhood will play host for our 21st annual tour. We have an eclectic array of homes as well as the original McClellan Park School on the tour. This year's tour will be on Sunday, March 6th. Please check out the article about the tour in this newsletter.



Get your calendars out and start making plans for other events that will be coming up in the next few months. On Friday, February 18th the Friends of the Sarasota County History Center will be hosting a reception for the opening of the Jack West Exhibit at the Chidsey Library. This exhibit prepared by architect Joe King chronicles the architectural legacy of this well known Sarasota School architect. On Friday, April 8th the Alliance annual meeting will also take place at the Chidsey Library with a program presented by Joe King. May always brings us to Historic Preservation Week celebrations and the FloridaTrust for Historic Preservation Conference. This year's conference will be held in the Orlando area. Dig deeper into this issue to find out more information about all of these events!

Based on information shared by Dr. Cliff Smith with the Alliance Board of Directors at our January meeting it appears that the Belle Haven Building may be getting some much needed attention in the form of repairs. We are all in agreement that the Belle Haven is one of the few remaining treasures of the golden age of Sarasota, and we don't want anything to happen to it. At our January meeting the board also voted unanimously to create the Under Our Watchful Eye section on our website. The section will be dedicated to keeping everyone informed about buildings such as the Belle Haven that we feel should be "under our watchful eyes."

I hope to see you at all of our upcoming events. Be safe, and as always, please get out and explore the historic beauty that Sarasota has to offer, and engage in conversations about historic preservation.

"The past reminds us of timeless human truths and allows for the perpetuation of cultural traditions that can be nourishing; it contains examples of mistakes to avoid, preserves the memory of alternatives ways of doing things, and is the basis for self-understanding..."

Bettina Drew

Debra

Sarasota Alliance For Historic Preservation, Inc.
P. O. Box 1754 Sarasota, FL 34230
941-953-8727
sarasotaalliance@gmail.com

Historic C. B. Wilson House

If you've wondered about the house that was moved to Urfer Park about 6 years ago and then sat there unfinished, now is the time to come see the wonderful job that was done to rehabilitate it. It was rebuilt to historic standards and also met LEEDS (green building) standards. This was quite a feat to combine.

The Wilson House was originally built in 1906 at 235 South Orange Avenue downtown (just south of present day Regions Bank). It was a one story frame home with a cast-stone façade. The cast-stone, also known as rusticated block, was created by pouring concrete into molds. This technique was used by St. Petersburg architect Edgar Ferdon. He built several buildings in Sarasota during this time period.

Dr. Cullen Bryant (C.B.) Wilson bought the house in 1907. The house was enlarged in 1913 with a wood frame addition that created a full second story. This addition had three bedrooms and a bathroom, freeing the downstairs space for Dr. Wilson's waiting room and examining room/office. A small room now located in the southwest corner of the house served as the waiting room for African-Americans.

When Dr. Wilson opened his practice, the streets were not paved. A wire fence kept wandering cows out of the yard. Dr. Wilson had one of the first cars in Sarasota. Pictures of the car are on display in the house.

Dr. C.B. Wilson was born in Old Miakka, the son of state senator Augustus Wilson. Mr. A. Wilson introduced the bill into the Florida senate to create Sarasota County in 1921. The Old Miakka Post Office was in A. Wilson's home.

In 1983 Fuller, Breslau and Stinnett, attorneys bought the building and used it as their law offices. William Fuller had the house historically designated. It was later used as a midwife clinic. During the recent boom times, the property was purchased by Ringling LLC. They arranged to move the house rather than tear it down. Funding for the move was provided by the developer as well as The Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation and Friends of Sarasota County Parks.

It is appropriate that the house is now on property previously owned by C.B. Wilson's descendants. The county had recently purchased the land at the intersection of Bee Ridge Road and Honore Avenue for a park. This property had cows on it for years, which were a popular sight for drivers going by. A shopping center was considered for the site, but fortunately for county residents, this failed to happen. It is now called the Urfer Family Park due to a generous donation by Jack and Thelma Urfer. In addition to the playground areas, the park also has a boardwalk into a wooded swamp, and trails through native habitats and along the edge of a smaller cow pasture. Cracker cows are now in the pasture.

The Wilson house was moved to this location in May 2004 and rehabilitation of the structure was completed in Fall 2010. The Sarasota County Parks and Recreation Department under John McCarthy and Rob LaDue did an amazing job in leading the restoration. Lorrie Muldowney, Sarasota County Preservation Specialist at the History Center, consulted on all the historic elements. Sam Holladay of Siebert Architects, P.A. led the design team selecting appropriate materials. Howell Construction Group, under the lead of Jack Clark, did beautiful work.

The original cast stone on the exterior was so badly deteriorated that it was entirely replaced with new stones cast on-site using molds created from the originals. (See a wall made of the original block at the rear of the house.)

Portions of the original construction were strengthened to offer greater protection from the threat of storms. These enhancements were carefully integrated into the existing design to maintain the historic appearance. As part of the rehabilitation, windows and woodwork were restored to their original stained wood finish. Care was taken to investigate the original colors to replicate them as closely as possible. Additionally, the rear porch was reconstructed to its earlier configuration. While striving to sensitively rehabilitate the structure, the need for energy efficiency and new mechanical systems was also acknowledged. The Wilson house rehabilitation features low energy consumption light fixtures and air conditioning systems. The plumbing fixtures use minimum water flow. The house is insulated and low volatile organic compound (VOC) products were used in the interior for better air quality.

Martha Horton, Landscape Architect, researched the landscape plants available locally during the early 20th century. Her design visually references the earlier location in downtown Sarasota. The concrete walk parallel to the house represents the 50' width of the original city lot. The entry walk is lined with two cabbage palms originally planted at the house around 1910. They were saved when the house was moved and replanted in their original locations. The sweet gum tree replicates one on the original site. The landscaping was installed by Elm Environmental.

Urfer Park and the Wilson House were recently granted 2010 Civic Beautification awards by the Sarasota Garden Club.

The county will use the upstairs for offices. Roland Abraham donated money to establish a trail head office downstairs. Information about the Legacy Trail and other Sarasota biking and hiking trails are available to the public. Friends of Sarasota County Parks volunteers staff the house and give tours during the week. Call 861-5000 for information. Volunteers are needed at the house.



Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation, Inc.

P. O. Box 1754
Sarasota, FL 34230
941-953-8727
SarasotaAlliance@gmail.com

Dear Alliance Member:

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 our newsletter and you have an email address, please forward the email address to Kim Noyes at the email above and you'll then receive all of your newsletters and special event notices at top speed.

Name _____

Amount paid: \$_____

- \$20 Individual
- \$30 Family
- \$50 Non-Profit or Donor
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$200 Corporate

Address change: _____

_____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

21st Annual Historic Homes Tour

On Sunday, March 6, 2011, the SAHP will host our 21st Annual Historic Homes Tour. This year, our homes are located in the Hillview Art Colony and Historic McClellan Park Neighborhood.

The McClellan Park development is one of the oldest in Sarasota. It formally opened on March 7, 1916, almost 95 years ago to the day of our tour this year. It was created as a "high end" neighborhood, with minimum construction values, and was primarily built up during the 1920s land boom. It remains a highly valued neighborhood, and retains its historic character, including many of its original historic homes.

Homes on the Tour range in age from 1925 to 1960, and represent a range of styles that include a Craftsman Style Bungalow and a Contemporary gem. One of the houses has a mysterious beginning, as reportedly it was moved to its current location in the 1930s by barge from Venice. A narrated trolley tour of the area will pickup and drop off at each of the homes, and give information on other homes located nearby but not officially on the Tour. The SAHP strives to introduce the community to historic homes, with the understanding that we preserve what we love. The Homes Tour is also the Alliance's major fundraising event. We hope you can join us on March 6, for a Tour of Homes that is sure to inspire.

ADVANCE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

Davidson Drugs (two outlets), Historic Spanish Point, Main Street Traders, Sarasota Architectural Salvage, Sarasota Co. History Center, and Sarasota Visitor Information Center.

Tickets are also available on the day of the tour, and can be purchased at the Tour homes:
2027 McClellan Pkwy; 1677 Hyde Park St.; 1666 Hillview St.; 1715 S. Oval Dr.; 1700 Seminole Dr



ALLIANCE ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, April 8, 2011 6:30 p.m.
Sarasota County Visitor Information Center
and History Center Museum
701 North Tamiami Trail

Immediately following the business meeting architect and author Joe King, AIA will present a program on the exhibit J West Architect: 60 Years of Sarasota Design. The exhibit, curated by Joe King, examines more than seventy architectural and urban planning projects conceived by West and various partners from 1949 to 2009.

Start the New Year right by volunteering in a 1906 Historic House

Recently Sarasota County completed the rehabilitation of the historic Wilson House located at Urfer Family Park. In order to open the house on a regular basis, we need your assistance as a Wilson House volunteer. As a volunteer you will open and close the house, greet visitors, and answer questions related to the exhibits on display there. The exhibits at Wilson were developed to relay the interesting history of the house, the impact of Dr. C.B. Wilson and his family on life in early Sarasota, as well as the agricultural and natural history of the area. The Wilson House also serves as the Roland Abraham Trail Center and has exhibits on Sarasota County's vast system of trails.

Volunteer opportunities...

Your commitment is needed for a two-hour shift twice per month.

Days/times are noted below. There will be two volunteers per shift.

- Tuesday from 9:30 – 11:30
- Thursday from 2:30 – 4:30
- Saturday from 9:30 – 11:30

Ready to Volunteer...

Go to scgov.net, scroll to "volunteers" in the left column.

Follow the on-line direction and indicate "Urfer Family Park" as the site.

Want to know more... Contact Lynda Eppinger at 650-2487

Sarasota County History Museum to showcase work of Jack West

The work of renowned architect Jack West will be on display at the Visitor Information Center and History Museum located at the Historic Chidsey Library Building, 701 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. The show will kick off with a grand opening from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18.

West was a prominent member of the Sarasota School of Architecture, which adapted modern architectural ideas to the climate and culture of Florida's west coast. For half a decade, he helped change the look of Sarasota and the region, blending his designs with the natural beauty of the area. Among his prominent works are the Sarasota City Hall, the addition to Englewood Elementary School, the Lido Beach Resort Hotel, and the Charlotte County Administration Center.

The exhibit features key examples of West's buildings and urban spaces, illustrating the variety of his designs and the consistent qualities of discipline, geometry, and spatial innovation. Sponsors include the Sarasota County Convention and Visitors Bureau; the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation; Friends of the Sarasota County History Center; Gulf Coast Chapter, American Institute of Architects; and the Estate of Jack West.

The Sarasota County Visitor Information Center and History Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information, call the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

URGENT....CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS TODAY!!!!

FY 2011 Historic Preservation Funding is at Stake! The funding levels for the federal government are currently being provided through a Continuing Resolution (CR) that expires on March 4, 2011. This CR, as result of Congress being unable to agree on a budget, extended funding for FY 2011 at FY 2010 levels.

What happens in February and March is anyone's guess. Many believe that there will be a serious attempt to cut funding for the rest of FY 2011 to FY 2008 levels, or much worse. Here is what a rollback to FY 2008 would mean:

	NPS Budget Line Item	FY 2008	FY 2010	Impact
State Historic Preservation Officers	Historic Preservation Fund	\$ 39,376,000	\$ 46,500,000	-15.3%
Tribal Historic Preservation Officers	Historic Preservation Fund	\$ 6,399,000	\$ 8,000,000	-20%
Save America's Treasures	Historic Preservation Fund	\$25,000,000	\$ 25,000,000	0
Preserve America	Preservation & Recreation Acc.	\$7,500,000	\$ 4,600,000	63%
Heritage Areas	Preservation & Recreation Acc.	\$15,500,000	\$ 18,000,000	-13.8%

With so many disparate voices on the Hill, bills specifically calling for the elimination of Save America's Treasures, Preserve America and Heritage Areas, and a focus on reduced spending and deficit reduction, it is important that we let our legislators know how important historic preservation is - not only for the protection of our American heritage, but for their ability to stimulate economic development and to create jobs.

Preservation Action is calling for you to CONTACT YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES AND ASK THAT HE OR SHE:

1. Provide at least level funding for the rest of FY 2011 (at FY 2010 levels) for our nation's historic preservation programs.
2. If necessary, defend our nation's historic preservation programs from elimination or substantial cuts.
3. Support the heritage preservation and job creation effects of our federal historic preservation programs.

If you have a legislator on an Appropriations Committee (House or Senate), it is even more important that you make contact!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Preservation Action at 202.637.7873 or mail@preservationaction.org.

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 SarasotaAlliance@gmail.com

**Sarasota Alliance
For Historic Preservation, Inc.
P. O. Box 1754
Sarasota, FL 34230**