

NEW BREMEN NEWS

OF THE TINLEY PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Working On The Future Of Our Past

Volume 27, Number 1

March 2012

Mary Ann Marino and Brad L. Bettenhausen, Editors
Editorial Staff: Jeanne Condon

Teddy Roosevelt Slept Here.....



He didn't really, but many others who were important in the development of Tinley Park did. Through the efforts of the Tinley Park Historic Preservation Commission, several of the early homes and buildings in Tinley Park have received historic recognition. The "Carl Vogt Building" has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Sit back and enjoy as we take a look at the history of a few of these deserving jewels.

Briefly starting chronologically, we begin with what may possibly be the oldest house in Tinley Park. Early historical accounts make reference to a home built by Alfred Swan in 1842 as the first home in the Village of Bremen (the original name of what is now Tinley Park). The home at 17437 67th Court may be the SWAN HOUSE. Local folklore has long said that this house was the oldest in town, however its location does not match to where earlier records have indicated the Swan House was located.

Early records indicate that Carl Vogt owned the Swan House in 1884, but it was indicated to have been on the property where Citibank is today. Buildings were often moved from one location to another in days gone by, so it is possible that the Swan House was moved from the "Citibank" location to here after 1884.

The house is a modest one and a half story clapboard dwelling. Examining old maps and the structure itself, reveals that the original house was about half its present size and was later expanded by a couple of early (pre 1920) additions. Some of the floor joists appear to have been roughly shaped from logs and some of the visible boards are over 18 inches wide, both of which support early construction materials and techniques.

There is a small brick building to the east of the house which is believed to have been an ice house. The brick and limestone in this small building are similar to the materials used in the "Carl Vogt Building." At one time, there was a spring fed pond across the street from the "ice house" (Now part of the AT&T switch office property) that was likely a convenient source for cutting ice in the winter for summer use. Interestingly, this property is not only connected to Carl Vogt, but also the early owners of what is called the CARL VOGT BUILDING, and is the next stop on our "tour".

The **CARL VOGT BUILDING** is located at the southwest corner of Oak Park Avenue and Hickory Street and is the only building in Tinley Park to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Long attributed to local businessman Carl Vogt, it is now believed that it was actually constructed much earlier for John or Allen C. Lewis, brothers who owned the property prior to Mr. Vogt. The Lewis brothers owned large tracts of land in the area and are believed to have had the house built circa 1865. Because of its large double decker "wrap around" porches, local folklore long speculated that the building was built as a hotel. Renovations done in 1992 revealed no evidence to suggest the dwelling had been built as anything other than a private residence. The structural layout, with its large eight foot wide central hallway, reminiscent of a plantation home, reflected the owner's prosperity. The large wrap around porches on the front facade of both the first and second stories were obviously built to impress. Separate hallway and rear porch entrances exist to the basement and first floor, presumably to be used by domestic help and hired hands. The property continued to be occupied by the Vogt family long after Carl's death in 1888. The "Widow Vogt's Place" was acquired by Martha Bettenhausen at a court ordered sale in 1899. Descendants of Martha Bettenhausen (James Fulton Family) continued to own the building until 1987. The building was converted to office uses in 1992.



Teddy Roosevelt Slept Here (Continued).....



Located at 17420 South 67th Court, the **HENRY VOGT RESIDENCE** today houses the Vogt Visual Arts Center. In 1882, Henry Vogt, Sr., the Village's first Mayor and brother of Carl, built this home adjacent to his Bremen Cash Store. This fine Victorian home is a well-appointed two-story dwelling often described as one of the finest in the area. A large decorative stained glass window marked "H.Vogt - 1882" hung over the front entrance of the home which remains in the family's possession. A faithful reproduction of that window still welcomes visitors today. At the immediate west end of the house is a unique brick water tower, constructed in 1888. A large wooden vat once occupied the top level of the tower. Water was pumped from a ground well into the barrel by a windmill, and gravity provided natural water pressure to the kitchen below. The Henry Vogt, Sr. house became the first house in Tinley Park to have running water, long before the community's well and water systems in 1899. The Henry Vogt House and the adjacent Bremen Cash Store remained in the Vogt family for more than 100 years.



A few blocks to the north, and across the tracks, lies the **HENRY BRUEGGEMANN HOME**. After taking ownership of the grain elevator in 1910, Henry built this home for his family at 17247 67th Avenue in 1913. Constructed on a foundation two feet thick, the house was built to last. The five bedroom home holds much history, and many tales can be told. Family folklore tell that a small sliding panel in the wall next to the kitchen door was used by Henry to shoot blackbirds in the backyard; a square wooden post in the basement bears the bullet holes of Henry's shooting practice. On the main floor, an archway with oak columns and hand-carved etchings leads into the living room.

The archway was crafted by German immigrants who stayed with the Brueggemann family and worked at the grain elevator which Henry owned. The sitting room in the front of the house boasted massive wooden doors which would be locked during the holiday season, and opened on Christmas Day to display the family's Christmas tree. It remains in the Brueggemann family today.



Back across and just to the west of Oak Park Avenue, we find the **ANDRES/RICE/FUNK RESIDENCE**, located at 6832 West 173rd Place. This well preserved, two-story Victorian frame home was built circa 1896 by Christian Andres, Sr., a prominent businessman, developer and banker. A leader in the incorporation of the Village, he later served as a Trustee and the Village's first Treasurer. This house is included in the 1972 Illinois Historic Structures Survey by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and was the recipient of the Society's Historical Preservation Award in 1985.



The IRONITE HOUSE at 7112 West 173rd Place derives its name from its distinctive exterior stucco like coating. Invented by John Rauhoff, Ironite was iron ore ground into a very fine powder, and applied as an additive to concrete. When combined with water, Ironite's tiny iron filaments oxidized and expanded, filling any air pockets, making the concrete waterproof. In 1906, John Rauhoff opened a plant in Tinley Park to manufacture Ironite. It is said that Ironite was used in the construction of Hoover Dam. The home remains a single family residence. In addition to inventing Ironite, John Rauhoff also invented the Diamond Spiral Washing Machine.

Teddy Roosevelt Slept Here (Continued).....



North on Oak Park Avenue to 168th Street is the **JOHN FULTON, JR. HOUSE**. This home, located at 16800 S. Oak Park Avenue is said to have been built in 1852. John Fulton's son, Bertrand "Bert" Harrison Fulton, for whom Fulton School is named, was born in the home and a long time resident of the house. The original home consisted of a living room, dining area, and two upstairs bedrooms. Throughout the decades, many changes have been made. Entire walls, rooms and stairways have been added or removed. An entryway has been created at the north side of the structure. The house had served as a private residence, and as commercial office space. Now occupied by Mack Companies, the dwelling has much of its original charm.

This article has highlighted only some of the buildings that have been designated as historic. Several others of historic significance still exist today. Perhaps with a little more effort, someone might actually be able to say.....Teddy Roosevelt Slept Here!

My Day at the Landmark Museum...

By Ellie Marino

My first visit to the Landmark Museum was fun! I went to the museum with my grandmother, sister and cousin. When we went there, we were warmly welcomed and given a tour. There is a table in the museum where you can try a few of the artifacts, and we all had so much fun trying out the milking stool and trying to card wool. There is a lot to see in the museum. My favorite things were the old-fashioned wedding dresses and the old post office sorting desk.

After our visit, we all signed up to be volunteers. We all work and help out. Any child who likes history would love it there! My first visit to the Landmark Museum was a lot of fun and I couldn't wait to come back.

Spotlight on Our Volunteers.....



Ray Gustafson

I live in LaGrange, but volunteer at the Tinley Park Historical Society. My connection to Tinley Park is through my wife, Sandra, who was born in Tinley.

In March 2010, my wife and I were visiting a friend of hers. I was able to wander off and saw this interesting old church building, and I've been coming back ever since. Here are several things in the Historical Society which I enjoy:

Photographs: I love looking at photographs of how life was in the past. American cities, towns, farms, the Civil War period, the Tinley Park area. It is fun to try and imagine how life was lived in those days. The Historical Society has a rather large photo album showing the town and people over time.

Newspaper Clippings: The late John Crumback took on the project of making photocopies of microfilm articles about Tinley Park from the Mokena News-Bulletin. The articles cover the period from March 1922 through October 1957. It was quite an effort on his part and it gives the Historical Society easier access to early information on the Village.

Family Histories: The Historical Society has a wonderful collection of family histories. These histories have information on Tinley Park families. Who they were, from where they came, what they did, who they married, what they did for fun, and when they died. It provides an interesting glimpse into the past.

Oral Histories: The Historical Society has more than 50 oral interviews (audio tape). The interviews were conducted between 1976 and 1982 of older residents of Tinley Park. It is interesting to hear their voices as they tell of life in Tinley Park and on the surrounding farms.

All in all, there is a lot of very interesting things to see and read at the Historical Society.

Hope to see to see you in the near future
Ray Gustafson