



# South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172  
NEWSLETTER JANUARY, 1992

OFFICERS 1991-92

President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Secretary	Anne Monson	762-1091
Treasurer	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
Past President	Richard Thinnes	762-6214
Curator/Historian	Gertrude Endthoff	762-8852

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (term expires)

Dr. Harold Hein	1994	483-4826
Mary Magnuson	1994	762-9428
Steve Czerwicznik	1993	762-2089
Arline Barsamian	1992	762-3624
Jewell Heise	1992	762-4650



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**FEBRUARY 15** ANNUAL DINNER AT BUCYRUS CLUB 5:30 social,  
6:30 dinner, 8:00 entertainment  
Jewell Heise - for reservations - see last page  
The Exceptional Chorus from Hamilton High will  
Entertain

**MAY 11 Monday** - Pot Luck will be at the First Congregational Church  
5:30 pm

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Richard Thinnes resigned Januray 1, 1992 as President of the Historical Society and I again have the honor of being your new President. We thank Richard for seven months of leadership and we are sorry he can no longer serve as president.

Now that the holidays have come and gone and everyone is getting back to their normal routines, we at the Historical Society are in the process of making plans for the upcoming Hertiage Days. More information will follow in up coming newsletters, and as always the more help we get the easier the task. So what I am saying VOLUNTEERS appreciated and needed.

Our Craft and Bake Sale was a great sucess. I would like to thank all of our members for your generous donations of craft items, bakery items, and money. I would also like to say special thanks to all members who so diligently worked this event, for without them we could not have accomplished this success. (continued next page)

FOUNDED MARCH 1972 BY MR. AND MRS. DENNIS RANKIN

INITIAL DIRECTORS — DENNIS RANKIN • PENNY RANKIN • GEORGE HOOK • MARY McCARRIER • BRUCE RAYESKE  
DORA LEE SZEWCZUGA • WILLIAM DOMOE • LILLIAN DISHONG • CHESTER GROBSCHMIDT

February 15, 1992 is our annual dinner which is held at the Bucyrus Erie Club. Social hour at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm. Come and join us and listen to the spectacular program that is planned. I look forward to seeing you there.

Addie Becker,  
President

TREASURERS CORNER

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Dues are due for the new year for many members. If you will look at your address label, the number next to your name, is the month and the year you last paid your dues to support your society. This year our income was \$10,676.00, a FABULOUS amount for 123 households. With each newsletter we see we are losing good members. Our expenses this year were \$11666.00. These expenses were largely for rewiring, outdoor lighting, basement floor and waterproofing. We did receive a no interest \$2000.00 loan from the city of South Milwaukee. That is included in the income amount. We wish to thank Kenneth and Jewell Heise for donations of \$310.00 and a matching grant from the Bucyrus Erie Foundation for the same amount. Some companies do this for their employees and retirees. It's a great way to help.

This coming year we hope you all will:

1. find one more member.
2. pay your dues.
3. if you shop at Piggly Wiggly put your cash receipt in the historical society slot for 1% return to the society.
4. support the society's functions whenever possible.
5. remember the society in your will.
6. talk to your friends about the historical society.
7. purchase items for sale -- books, note cards, tie tacs cards, pewter spoons.
8. help at society events with donations of time.
9. know that we love and thank you.



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TWO LOTS in Forest Hill Cemetery FOR SALE Offers accepted for section 4, block 6, lot 2, spaces 1 & 2. This is an \$800.00 value. Talk to Gertrude Endthoff or write to the society address.

We extend our sympathy to the families of members who died in December and January, Ronald Schlueter, South Milwaukee, Mrs. Frances Crane, Madison, WI and Mrs. Caroline Baker, South Milwaukee.

WORK AT THE MUSEUM: THIRD SATURDAY of each month-- 10 AM TO 12 AM  
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If you know of any members that are ill, please call Mary Magnuson, 762-9428 with the information, so she can send them a get-well wish.

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THE 2ND MONDAYS at Historical Society.  
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Editor's apology for missed mailings of July, '91 newsletter. Some addresses were lost when a solder joint failed in my computer. It is repaired and all addresses were reentered. Thanks Steve Schreiter



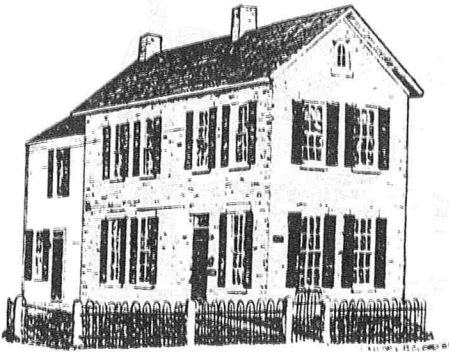
# What Is The Style Of My House?

The answer isn't always obvious. Many homes are an "architectural mix", borrowing features of different styles that were popular for 5-10 years before or after the house was built. Preferences vary in different regions across the United States. What was popular in New Orleans in 1880 was a bit different from the styles characteristic of the same era in San Francisco.

Determining the style of your house is the first step in any restoration or rehabilitation project. Identifying significant style elements

of your home is essential in planning the rehabilitation. Exterior colors, porch columns and other details can only be chosen after this has been done.

Most of us are not attempting a "museum-quality" restoration, but our goal should be *sensitive* rehabilitation. "To thine own style be true", is one of the Golden Rules of Restoration cited by Clem Labine, editor of the *Old House Journal*. Every house has a unique identity. Sensitive rehabilitation enhances that inherent character.



## FEDERAL

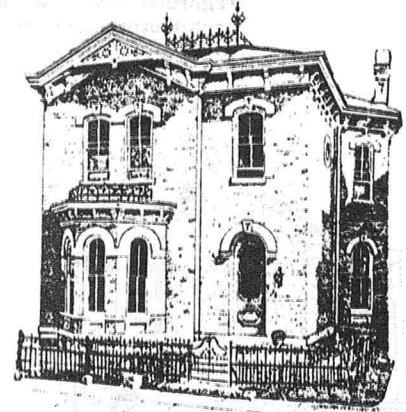
After the American Revolution, the Colonial Georgian style fell into disfavor with the young Americans because it was "too English". They wanted something less elaborate than the Palatial Georgians. The result was the simple yet elegant Federal style.

The Federal period is considered to be from 1780-1820. However, the style spread to the Midwest later. Windows have six-over-six panes, because at that time, glass could only be made in small panes. When an architectural style has a regional interpretation, it is called vernacular.

## HIGH VICTORIAN ITALIENATE

The Victorian period is 1837-1901, the years of Queen Victoria's reign. "High Victorian" is used to describe the 1860's-1880's. The qualities most admired in architecture by the high Victorians were "truth", "reality" and "character".

High Victorian Italianates are elegant symmetrical and restrained. The window treatments are one of the distinctive features. Decorative hoods of cut stone or cast metal topped each window. Often each story was varied by using a slightly different shape: arched, flat-topped, or straight-sided arch. Two-over-two sash were common (2 panes of glass over 2 panes). Corbels were often used to decorate the overhang between the roof and the side walls.



Federal and Victorian Italianate sketches by William Pettiford, III.



## QUEEN ANNE

The Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876 features this unique style, and for most Americans, it was love at first site. This style was a startling reaction against High Victorian 'reality'. Irregularity of plan and massing and a variety of colors and textures are typical of the Queen Anne style. Towers, gables, verandas, decorative shingles, leaded, bevelled or stained glass windows and all manner of decoration were combined with abandon. The effect is straight out of a fairy tale.



### STICK

This is a purely American style. It's name refers to the vertical and diagonal "stickwork" which decorates the gables. Henry W. Cleveland in *Village and Farm Cottages* in 1856 declared, "The strength and character of a building depend almost wholly upon the shadows which are thrown upon its projecting members." You can see the effect of this interesting form of decoration in the illustration.

### EASTLAKE

Most Eastlake homes would be named Victorian Italianate or Queen Anne if not for the abundance of a particular style of exterior ornament. With the use of a chisel, gouge and lathe, it was possible in the 1880's-1890's to produce a 3 dimensional scrollwork rather than the 2 dimensional sawn gingerbread. Spindles, openwork friezes, knobs, turnings and circular perforations were used to decorate the porches and gables. Curved brackets were placed wherever possible at eaves and cornices.

The style is named after English architect, Charles Locke Eastlake, His book, *Hints of Household Taste*, published in 1872, was a great success in America. Yet, the style had little to do with his influence. The architect, himself, regarded the "specimens of 'Eastlake-style' architecture...extravagant and bizarre."



### VICTORIAN VERNACULAR COTTAGE

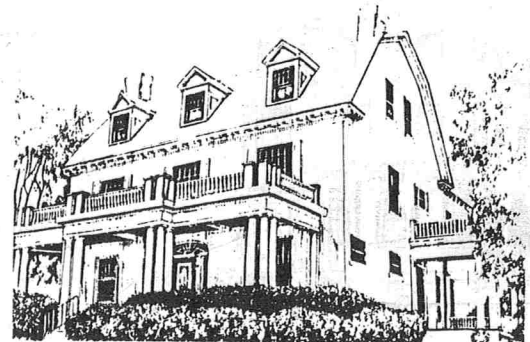
This home could easily have been in any house of the working man. Elements from any of the preceding Victorian styles were often borrowed to decorate these single story homes. Porches were often more elaborate than any other feature of the house. This particular cottage has a lancet-shaped window in the gable. Round "bull's eye" or oculus windows were also used.

In some cities, only shotgun cottages were built (one room leading into the next in a single row).

Eastlake and Vernacular Cottage sketches by Mike Swank

### COLONIAL REVIVAL

As the Philadelphia Exposition introduced Americans to Queen Anne, the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 promoted the Colonial Revival style. There was a patriotic conviction that the U.S. had been too long influenced by the English and Europeans and that it was high time we proseletyze a truly "American" style. Paradoxically, the architects looked to the Georgian style (a style regarded as too English the century before) because many of our early landmarks were of that style. So the columns, porticos and Palladian windows (one arched window with a plain window on each side) returned. The rambling spaciousness of the Victorian was combined with the desirable Classic Look.





# Catch the Spirit

HERITAGE DAYS JULY '92

The board of directors is trying to obtain a float for the July 25, 1992 Heritage Days parade. Anyone with ideas or information for hay wagons etc. call the editor, 762-5214. The museum site will again host an open house on July 19 and on July 26. A guided trolley tour will be featured on July 26. Items for sale will include ice cream, history books, tie tacs, spoons, cards and rummage.

July 18-19 Revolutionary War group in Area 5 and 6 in Grant Park.

July 23 Fire works in the park.

July 25 Parade

July 26 Open house, trolley rides, sales

## LINCOLN COLLECTION

Our Lincoln collection now numbers over 919 books.

## NEW ACQUISTIONS

Hair jewelry, a craft of the 1890's has been framed and is now located in the museum.

A early Singer sewing machine has been donated .

## PIGGLY WIGGLY

People who shop at PIGGLY WIGGLY please deposit your cash register receipts in the slot marked for the South Milwaukee Historical Society. The society will benefit 1 % of the total of the receipts. If you forget to leave the receipt put it in the slot the next time you are in the store.

THE ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF  
COSTUME & FASHION 1550 - 1920  
Jack Cassen-Scott, Blandford Press, 1986

# Response

In response to our article in the Nov. issue about the SOUTH MILWAUKEE JOURNAL, published by T.J.Russell & L.A.Miner and NOTES FROM 1893, we received a note from Ariel Wallace Kimble.

"L.A. Miner was my mother's uncle who started the paper with T.J.Russell, a relative. Both are buried in the Congregational Cemetary in S.M. My mother's maiden name was Catherine Miner Beidleman. She came to S.M. to visit her uncle. She was engaged to W.P. Wallace who came to S.M. to visit her, they married in S.M. in or about 1904. W.P. Wallace (my dad) settled in S.M. and was one of the first plumbers and had his own business. The Miners, Russells and my parents all came from Pennsylvania. I'm the middle one of three children. I'm going on 85."



139 Ladies in winter costume, c. 1897

Illustrated here is the long double breasted overcoat fastened with sixteen large buttons. The sleeves are cut in a new way, with a plain piece off the shoulders. The collar and neck-tie of satin sets off the coat nicely.

The lady in the background on the right is dressed in a cloth costume with the bodice cut away in front. The little velvet coat is finished with a *basque* at the back. The skirt is long and decorated at the hem. The boat-shaped hat is made of panama straw.

The lady on the left has on a gown of cloth with large sleeves to just above the elbows. Her hat is fairly flat with a small crown.

The man wears the still popular silk topper and three-quarter-length Chesterfield coat.

News letter is published in Jan., Apr., Aug., Nov. each year.  
Newspaper editor: Lois Schreiter, 762-5214

DUES ARE DUE EACH JANUARY (unless you just paid them). If dues are not received by March the members name will be removed from the mailing list. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT WITH TIME, MONEY AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S PROGRAMS. THANK US-----  
---BY BECOMING A MEMBER. YOU ARE NEEDED.

Dues:

Seniors	\$4.00	Professional	\$10.00
Single	\$5.00	Life Membership	\$100.00
Family	\$6.00	HELP PRESERVE YOUR HERITAGE. YOU LIVE HERE.	

Send to Lois Schreiter  
104 Brookdale Dr.  
South Milwaukee, WI. 53172

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ I can help with \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Dues \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner reservations to Jewell Heise, 1822 Manitoba Ave, S.M, 762-4650

Feb 15 Dinner- Chicken breast, baked potato, asparagus, carrots, salad, rolls, black forest torte, entertainment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

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