

October 24, 2023

7:00-8:45 PM

Meeting of COMO Preservation

www.comopreservation.org

Columbia Public Library, Friends Room

I. Call to order and welcome by Dianna O'Brien

The sign-in sheet was passed around and the following were present: Janice DeRosier, Ellen Runge, Veronica Runge, Meg Ross, Matt Fetterley, Maizie Brown, Jeff Ferguson, Lucy Kirby, Sarah Davis Seat, Nina Sappington, Chris Cady, Julie Plax, Chris Creasy, Luann C., Debby Cook, Michelle Seat, Melissa Bernhardt, Patrick Earney, Jami Clevenger, Melissa Hagan, Elena Vega and Dianna O'Brien.

Event Reminders:

-In 2024, meetings will start at 6:00 PM in the Columbia Public Library Friends Room.

-Future Meeting dates: November 28 and December 19 in the Friends Room of the Columbia Public Library from 7:00-8:45.

-November 4 – Tour - Wells, Springs and Industry of Early Columbia. We'll meet at Flat Branch Park near the playground. Stephen Bybee will present information about tanneries, mills and blacksmith shops of early Columbia. Sign up at: www.comopreservation.org.

-November 28 - Speaker will be Bruce Alspaugh. His family donated 201 acres on Mexico Gravel Road that is restricted for use as a greenspace and nature area to preserve wildlife and the natural landscape.

Reminder: Volunteers are needed on all teams and tasks range from taking photos to checking websites for events/updates.

-Most Notable Properties brochures and forms are available on the table in the back of the room and on our website at: <https://www.comopreservation.org/most-notable-property-program>.

Other Information:

-Matt Fetterly has joined the COMO Preservation Board.

-Dee keeps the website going. All blogs will be on Facebook and our website. Please share information about COMO Preservation, we need word of mouth to encourage more members.

II. Speakers: Meg Ross and Melissa Hagan

Most Notable Properties – Increase public awareness that places can be preserved. It does not cost anything to nominate a property. Places should be at least 50 years old and contribute to the architectural history of Columbia.

Melissa Hagan – Served on the Columbia Historic Preservation Commission since 2018. Melissa's home was added to the Most Notable Properties list in 2023. The home was built in 1914 and designed by St. Louis architect James Jamieson for a professor at the University. Some original features include: the stairway, pocket door, fireplace (now has a gas insert), and sconce lights. There was a little door on the right side of the house for ice delivery. An addition on that side now has the door inside the house. The home has an interior archway with arched door and a front door with sidelights and glass on the top of the door. The original plans from Jamieson were found in a storage room and are now framed and in the house. Original built-in mahogany cabinets with glass doors are in the dining room. The Butler's pantry was torn out during some earlier renovation. In 1947 the address changed from 307 Thilly Avenue to 701 Thilly Avenue. In the 1970's a banister was added to the front of the house by Hurst John. The school board president lived in the house previously and added an addition and garage. At that time the 3rd floor was made into a studio apartment. Meg hired Old Time Windows from Kansas City to restore all the windows. The Historic Preservation Commission sent a photographer to take photographs of the home. Most Notable Properties can apply for the National Register of Historic Places. There are no restrictions as to what you may do with the property.

Meg Ross- Secretary of Columbia Historic Preservation Commission.

COMO Preservation has the Most Notable Properties on a map, but the last couple of years are not on the map yet. Meg's house was built in 1925 and was added to the Most Notable Properties list in 2020. She has owned the property on South Garth for 7 years. Over 27 years of marriage she and her husband have rehabbed 15 homes. The front porch had to be taken off and rebuilt, because the columns were damaged. The house had been rented for years and almost nothing original was left in the home. The hardwood floors are original. There was a narrow galley kitchen and narrow doorway to the dining room. They widened the doorway to give the kitchen and dining area more space. Jordan Perkins helped with the remodeling. Her husband is very handy at remodeling. He has bought a claw foot tub and they plan a big addition to the back of the house that will include a porch.

Fred Shane, an artist friend of Thomas Hart Benton, lived in the house for 30 years. Meg and her husband have the abstract. The original windows had to be replaced, because the men they hired to restore the old ones damaged them. They were hoping to hire more work done, but it is hard to find skilled labor. They were able to find someone to do tuck pointing.

III. Things to keep in mind when tackling home renovations.

You must bring the property up to code. Demolition because of neglect happens, but it doesn't have to. It is preferable to restore an old home with old fixtures. It looks like it belongs.

IV. Comments

The Columbia Historic Preservation Commission is restricted by law as to what to do with architectural salvage. They can gather architectural materials but can't sell or even give away the salvage. If you volunteer to take salvage out of a building, you can see what is in the HPC salvage barn. COMO Preservation wants to be able to organize and sell the salvage to people who need old fixtures for their remodeling projects. Pat Fowler is on the Commission and wants to work with us, so people can use the salvage that has just been sitting in a warehouse for years.

Jefferson City has a salvage store with hundreds of doors, windows, doorknobs and hinges. We want to be able to help homeowners in the same way by selling older fixtures in Columbia.

Elena would like to find people to teach classes to homeowners who want to learn how to maintain their historic homes. This Old House on PBS is helpful for folks wanting to learn home maintenance tips for their old house.

V. There was no business meeting.