The owner plans to renovate the exterior and reveal the original color which included a bright red continuous band along the base of the building. The exterior pancellate stucco and embossed metal panels have been painted a lighter color than the original, as still seen on the smooth interior panels. It was designed with a flat roof and simple clean lines which reflect the popularity of the Modern and International styles of architecture.

Aloha Residence - 2320 North 56th Street

History: This two and a half story residence was originally built for Catherine M. J. Dickey as a summer home. He modeled the home after residential architecture from the Southwest. In 1903, it was purchased by Abraham Lincoln Reed, son of Omaha real estate developer Byron Reed, as a summer home. It was enlarged and remodelled into the Reed’s permanent residence. This Shingle Style residence has an elevated wrap-around porch with paired Classical columns. The unique cornice is similar on each building, the bracket and the frieze patterns are not.

History: This two-story brick masonry building was constructed around 1904 for James Alexander Howard who was born in Byng, Illinois. His family moved to Omaha and he left home at the age of 14 and went to live with his older brothers who worked as a farmhand for a number of landowners until earning enough money to attend school at the Evergreen City Business College in Bloomington, Illinois. At the age of 18, he traveled to Fort Meade in the Dakota Territory (near the Black Hills of South Dakota) to work in a Post Office. Four years later he and his wife Zena settled in Benson and opened a shoe store on the northwest corner of 61st and Maple. Active in the political community, he served as mayor from 1906 through 1907 and was treasurer for the city in 1910. Howard became involved in the real estate, insurance, and the banking business, serving as president of the Bank of Benson. He later sold the Bank, but continued to work in real estate and insurance until he passed away in 1930. One of his three daughters, Mildred Howard, carried on his business after his death.

The vermeil commercial building exhibits Italian Renaissance symmetrical fenestration on the façade and a recessed entrance. This two part Commercial Block Vernacular building was constructed around 1900. First floor occupants were J.L. Freda and Sons Men’s Furnishing Store and Samuel Kemmler’s General Merchandise.

A 2009 historic preservation efforts included the restored exterior of the building, the installation of the window and door trim of the historic period, the exterior finishes of the building were original, and a new window trim and door trim were cut to match the original.

This residence - 2943 North 56th Street

History: In 1923, that two and a half story Craftsmen house was built for John Lewis Cornwell and his family. The home is a mixture of Arts and Crafts and Prairie styles with the initial "C" cut and masonry to the exterior of the south side on the brick chimney. He started off as a dry goods merchant, but then became shoe salesman and repaired one of his shoes. The house’s main sleeping area and a possible carriage house area is in the street behind the garage.

History: This mixed-use building was constructed in the Folk Victorian style as shown by the T-shaped bays. One of the tallest in Benson with an upper frame section serving as a residence and the ground floor serving as a store, the Fair Store, which sold clothing and dry goods. At some point, the second story was removed. Existing remnants include the building and the walls on one side, the building housed various businesses over the years including an auditorium and a billiard hall. Dentists and physicians occupied the second story. City directory records in 1907 indicate that the building was completely vacant during 1929. By the following year, the second floor of the building was being used for residential purposes.

The same year, the first floor was occupied by the first of a series of bars and taverns that would occupy the building throughout the rest of its history including the Cornet Bar and Cafe, Vic’s Well Tavern and the R-Bar.

The first floor storefront of this two-story building has been modified over time, but the door opening into a stair hall that leads up to the second floor has always remained along the western party wall. Three arched windows at the second floor level allow natural light to filter through the interior. The building also features a tin cornice, complete with brackets and a decorative frieze. It is interesting to note that the color and band pattern of the brick masonry and windows demonstrate the distinctive architectural quality of the building.

In addition to the architectural restoration efforts, the building also features a new window trim and door trim that complement the historic cornice. The exterior finishes of the building were original.

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on both the north and south facades of the home which also exhibit shingled story Craftsman style wood shingle and clapboard building with a front-facing immigrants, constructed this home in 1913. The home is a one-and-one-half-story residence - 2728 North 60th Avenue building serving as the sill for some of the windows. There is an arched home is the curved parapet with stone coping above the front door. This same features a rectangular footprint, hipped asphalt roof and asymmetrical primary History:

Exterior Tours

Residence - 3108 North 58th Street and 3112 North 58th Street (PorcH tour and information at 3108)

History: This area was once part of the Charles H. Creighton Farm. In 1904 the land was platted and given the name Bensoumers. At the entry to the block are the old pillars that marked the subdivision. No openings for side streets were laid out along this half-mile stretch between Maple and Pine Streets, creating the longest block in Douglas County. Between 1905 and 1915, Creighton built two almost identical Queen Anne style homes at 3108 and 3112 North 58th Street for his daughters. The house at 3112 North 58th Street was built first and has a smaller floor plan and slightly less ornamentation. Both homes are asymmetrical and feature restrained free classical porch columns and refined ornamentation rather than the more common Queen Anne spindles and decorative half-timbering applied to the sides. The front lawn of 3108 North 58th Street has taken great measures to preserve the ornate woodwork inside the home while exhibiting their own tastes in design. The building features two entrances, one facing Maple Street and the other facing 65th Street. The windows are set in a horizontal arrangement and a large skylight provides for natural daylight on the interior of the building.

Kremer Funeral Home - 6302 Maple Street

History: The brick building that houses Kremer Funeral Home was constructed 1910 and 1911, on the site of a previous 1892 church and was dedicated on May 29, 1911, as the Benson Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1950, the Benson Methodist Episcopal Church, Walnut Hill Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church merged to form St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church and moved to their present location at 54th and Corby in 1931. The Kremer's purchased the building in 1935 and made some alterations. Originally, the church sanctuary on the second floor at the southeast corner. The Kremer's made the ground floor the main chapel by making some alterations. Originally, the church sanctuary on the second floor at the southeast corner. The Kremer's made the ground floor the main chapel by removing the exterior stairway and adding a ground floor entrance. The Kremer Funeral Home formally opened on June 7, 1936, as advertised in the Omaha Bee News. The building is a combination of brick types and features such as decorative pediments applied to the brick overgroupings of windows which suggest a Neo-Classical temple front. The stained glass windows will give the building the appearance of a church.

REFERENCE NOTES FOR TOUR:

As you visit the sites on this year’s tour, note that we have included a variety of project types including preservation, rehabilitation, restoration projects and construction. In the world of preservation, each has a slightly different meaning. The National Park Service Technical Preservation Services provides the following definitions:

• Preservation focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property’s form as it has evolved over time.

• Rehabilitation acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property’s historic character.

• Restoration depicts a property at a particular period of time in its history while removing evidence of other periods.

• Reconstruction re-creates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes.

For more information on these definitions, visit the National Park Service website at www.nps.gov/history/lpsh/preservation_standards_guidelines.htm

RULES AND GUIDELINES

• Do not block driveways.

• Booties may be required to be worn into the residence locations.

In consideration of the permission granted the tour participant to enter the buildings and premises on the tour, the tour participant hereby agrees to indemnify the tour buildings and premises at his or her own risk and hereby releases the respective property owner and Landmark, Inc. from any and all claims and causes of action due to injury to person or property that may arise out of the tour participant’s presence on the tour buildings and premises. The tour participant further agrees to indemnify and hold harmless each property owner from and against the payment of any injuries sustained or accidents occurring in the buildings or on premises.

4 AIA CEUs for those that sign in at a minimum of 7 interior sites.

INTERIOR TOURS CONTINUED

Benson Lumber Mill - 2725 North 62nd Street (Open House)

History: The old mill including three buildings are still intact. The mill once had its own livery to care for the delivery horses. Today portions of the mill are used as a glass studios and stores. Representatives from BioGlass and RePower Nebraska will be on site the day of the tour inside STUDIO ILLUMINATA. BioGlass is dedicated to the research, development and use of sustainable fuel sources for angiography. RePower Nebraska advocates for more efficient energy use in America.

Saint Bernard Church - 36th Street North 65th Street

History: St. Bernard was designed by local architect Leo A. Daly in a Spanish Renaissance Revival style. The cornerstone was set on August 20, 1939. The original exterior materials including the Spanish clay tile roof and brick and stone are all extant. Exterior renovations over the past five years included masonry pointing, window and a roof restoration. All salvaged roof tiles were reinstalled over a new roofing underlayment in combination with matching replacement tiles supplied by Ludowici Roof tile in Ohio. In the Early 1970’s, Vatican II initiated many alterations to the Nave and Sanctuary History:

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RULES AND GUIDELINES

• Admissions is by ticket only, no exceptions.

• Infants and all children under seven are not permitted.

• Be aware that the homes are private homes and therefore generally not accessible. Needs of those with mobility impairments will be accommodated within the physical limits of the buildings and the availability of tour volunteers to provide assistance.

• Do not block driveways.

• Respect the owner’s property. If a door is shut, do not open it. If a drawer is closed, do not open it.

• Do not use stairs or railings in private homes.

• No pets.

If a drawer is closed, do not open it. (Restrooms for patrons are available at locations 8 and 11.)