MEMBERS GET A BUS TOUR OF HISTORIC SANDUSKY PROPERTIES

Old House Guild members gather to board Sandusky Transit

Summer Tour of Historic Sites Enjoyed by All

Events Committee

Linda Howell & Mary Truka

The Old House Guild Events Committee partnered with the City of Sandusky Transportation Department to provide a 45-minute narrated tour of Sandusky on June 26th. The tour featured historic structures around our city, highlighting preservation accomplishments, ownership history, and important facts that made these properties memorable Sandusky treasures.

Two individual bus runs were made with our driver, Christian Dendinger behind the wheel and our own Ed Stout giving a very informative narration for passengers. Perfect weather made for a very pleasant outing.
If you missed the tour, you could still conduct your own using Ed Stout’s narrative of the 14 properties he covered. Ed’s descriptions are located at the end of the newsletter.

Looking Ahead . . .

In the next couple of months, you will be receiving information on our Annual Dinner/Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 13th.

Finally, if you have any ideas for future events you would like to see our Guild sponsor, we ask that you share your requests with any of our board members.

Message from OHG President

Dr. Richard Keller

Progress best occurs as a result of that perfect combination, talent, and dedication. Our mission of historic preservation is fostered by substantial efforts that include maintaining and displaying our museum, promotional activities via the “Candlelight Tour”, and by facilitating renovation of Sandusky’s historic homes and commercial buildings. Speaking for the Old House Guild board, we thank you for your interest and support.

Mission of the Old House Guild

To promote historic preservation and the restoration of significant buildings, houses, sites, and objects in Sandusky, Ohio area. To encourage the rehabilitation and/or adaptive reuse of such properties. To accomplish these purposes by means of meetings, publications, surveys, and tours. To act as a non-profit organization and to apply for any grants that may be appropriate to further the cause of historic preservation.
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Each year the Preservation Committee selects homes and businesses for special recognition for their efforts to preserve/restore buildings, structures, and homes in the Sandusky community. It is our great pleasure to resume this special recognition post covid. The following properties are the cumulation of the past two years when we temporarily paused this program. We extend our appreciation and thank you to these following property owners and look forward to the continuance of this program on a yearly basis.

514 Wayne Street  603 Wayne Street  922 Wayne Street  1133 Wayne Street
1427 Wayne Street  426 Franklin Street  510 Franklin Street  1018 Franklin Street
612 West Jefferson  914 Vine Street  1011 Carr Street  1028 Columbus
1416 Ognotz  1213 Buckingham  914 West Washington  1321 Hollyrood
1407 Hollyrood  417 Columbus

Property owners will receive a letter of appreciation and a Certificate of Special Recognition for their efforts and investment in preserving these valued structures of Sandusky history. Should you wish to submit a property for future consideration please contact the Preservation Committee through Linda Smith or William Schram.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED/INVENTORY OF HISTORIC HOMES

As we continue to prepare and position ourselves to update the extensive 1979 Inventory of Historic Sandusky Properties, we will need many volunteers to assist with data entry, data gathering, photography of structures, copying, mailing, property owner research, and more. As our organization is fast approaching its own Fiftieth Anniversary, we felt it vital to also update this survey of properties from forty-three years ago. While the work isn’t hard but time consuming, it will require a lot of volunteer effort. The original survey was conducted by 43 volunteers who helped survey the 42 districts of the city and record information on forms provided by the State of Ohio. We have embarked on the first phase already in copying the original inventory forms prepared in 1979. Copies from this inventory will be mailed out to the owners of these properties in October to provide property owners with an opportunity to update the history and information.

A copy of the inventory form for 1305 Columbus Ave. is shown on the following page. At the time of the inventory, the property owner was Thomas Gallagher. Tim and Betsy Berkey now own the property and will be updating the form with corrected information they have obtained, such as the correct date of the house (1880) and the inclusion of the first property owner’s name, (Captain John Zollinger) and historic information.

Should you have an interest in helping with this update, please contact Linda Smith or William Schram at the OHG email or phone listed in this newsletter.
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Present Name(s)</th>
<th>Other Name(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gallagher, Thos. C., House</td>
<td>Alford, Fred House</td>
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**Ohio Historic Inventory**

**City or Town:** Sandusky

**Specific Location:** 1305 Columbus Ave.

**Coordinates:**

**U.T.M. Reference:**

**Further Description of Important Features:**

1. Mansard roof-attic gable with roof returns-roof cornice brackets & frieze panels-double windows with hoods, brackets, & sawed wood ornamentation-double door entry

2. Front porch addition-front door storm enclosure

3. History and Significance:


**Prepared by:**

Old House Guild

**Revision Date(s):** 11/2023
Cooke-Dorn Museum

Site Manager  Ed Stout

**Happenings at the Cooke-Dorn House**

Early this spring, over 1100 tulip and daffodil bulbs were planted to help restore some of the many flowers that the Dorns had during their tenancy. Recently, 60 additional Asiatic lilies and dianthus perennials were purchased to further this effort. It will also reduce the expense of purchasing so many annuals each year.

Procedures are in the works to accomplish many needed repairs at the museum. One is to complete the final phase of the storm window project by getting those done for the enclosed back porch. When completed, they will also have UV protection on them to reduce sunlight deterioration of the interior contents. Second, we are working to replace the 1953 peeling kitchen wallpaper with new period appropriate wallpaper. Third, the driveway and parking area will be seal coated and re-stripped for parking. Fourth, the plant trays in the greenhouse will be rebuilt and made sturdier for continued use during the cold winter months.
Fifth and most importantly, we are striving to secure funding to replace the stucco wall on the north side of the home. The original stucco applied in 1879, when the home was relocated to its present site, was a breathable one and lasted very well for 112 years. In 1991, preparing the home to be bequeathed as a museum, Estelle Dorn had the ivy removed from the walls and a new layer of stucco applied over top of the old layer. This new stucco did not breathe and moisture behind it caused the rapid deterioration in only 30 years. When replacement is done, the exterior wall will be cleaned down to the stone base wall and a breathable stucco like the original will be applied.

Corrections to Cooke Bust Donation Story

A bust of Eleutheros Cooke was commissioned sometime between 1855 and 1860 when he was in Philadelphia visiting his son Jay. Made of marble, it was carved by Paris born sculptor Joseph Bailly, who spent most of his career in Philadelphia. He is best known for his statue of George Washington which stands in front of Independence Hall. The bust remained with the Cooke family until 1976. In that year, Eleutheros's great grandchildren, Charles and Laura Harding, donated the bust to the Firelands Historical Society and Museum in Norwalk. The museum is the second oldest in Ohio and was started in 1857 by Eleutheros and Norwalk's Platt Benedict to preserve the early history of the area. Last year, it came to my attention by way of Louie Schultz of the Erie County Historical Society, that the Firelands Museum wanted to donate the bust to a location in Sandusky where it would be more historically relevant. The bust is now proudly displayed in the home’s library.
Funding Our Work

Dr. Timothy Berkey
Treasurer

Capital Campaign Begins

As stated in our last newsletter, the OHG board approved the establishment of a special capital campaign to assist in the funding of restoration work to be conducted at the Cooke-Dorn Museum. In phase one of our campaign, we are reaching out to community foundations for help. Grant applications were prepared and sent to the following:

**Sidney Frohman Foundation:** A request was made for funds to complete the storm window replacement project at the museum. The foundation awarded our grant for the full amount requested. Work will begin in the coming weeks.

**Randolph J. & Estelle M. Dorn Foundation:** A request was made for funds to cover the entire cost of the stucco and masonry repair work to the exterior of the museum. The foundation made a generous donation of a portion of the request. Our next step will include a request to the Ohio History Connection (OHC) for the balance of the estimated costs. OHC owns the museum and receives a sizeable portion of their operating budget from the state legislature. Once all the funds have been secured, we will award a contract for the work to begin.

**Funding for Phase One of the 2nd Historic Inventory**

**The Mylander Foundation:** A request was made for funds to cover the cost of conducting the first phase of the 2nd inventory of historic buildings, structures, and artifacts this fall. We are pleased to announce that the Mylander Foundation awarded the full amount requested.

**Future Grant Applications**

We have additional grant applications that are being considered by the OHG board, including the funding of the development of a self-guided video/audio program for the museum, phase two funding for the spring 2023 citywide historic inventory, along with other projects to be determined.

**End of Year Report of Grant Funding**

If you have ever been involved in grant writing, acceptance, and implementation, you know that things can change. Therefore, we are not releasing specific dollar amounts until each of the grant processes have closed and been reported to each foundation. In the last edition of the 2022 newsletter, we will share those figures with our membership and report the outcomes of each initiative.
From the Editor

Betsy Berkey

I want to begin by thanking our contributors to our quarterly newsletter. I bug them with requests, and they generously give time to helping me inform you about all that the Old House Guild is doing to fulfill the organization’s mission. Thank you! Editing always requires someone to take several writing styles and blend them into a unified document that makes it easy for the reader. That’s my job and know that every so often, I will undoubtedly make a mistake or not completely reflect the author’s conveyance. My bad.

And please, help us reduce our newsletter costs by allowing us to send it to you via an email address! Just email us at info@oldhouseguild.org.

Also, please know that we would enjoy hearing from our members if you have something interesting about the history of the city or the Guild that you would like to share. If you want to submit an article, please let me know. And even if you are uncomfortable writing, you can jot down some notes or call and story-tell. I’ll take it from there and work with you on a piece that shares your story!

Having said that, I have asked my husband Tim to write a series of articles, reviewing a book he has read, Jay Cooke’s Gamble, The Northern Pacific Railroad, The Sioux, and the Panic of 1873, by M. John Lubetkin. He shares his first piece below. Enjoy.

Dr. Timothy Berkey

I love history and when presented with this book, I dove into learning more about Jay Cooke. First, I would point out that this is not a book of stories or tales that often get twisted as they are passed on. Lubetkin presents a well-researched accounting of events as evidenced by 35 pages of documented notes, 23 pages listing his primary and secondary sources, newspaper and periodical references, and acknowledgments of museums, university collections, relatives of the Cooke family, and numerous libraries including our own Sandusky Public Library. Second, while we take pride in Cooke’s historic connections to Sandusky, we must also accept both the good and the bad of any figure that helped to shape our city and our country. Jay Cooke was a person of national significance. Lubetkin provides multiple views of Cooke’s historic and complex involvement in the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad, the treatment of the Sioux Nation, and the Panic of 1873.

M. John Lubetkin is a retired cable television executive and author of four books with the University of Oklahoma Press. His book, Jay Cooke’s Gamble received a Spur Award for the best historical nonfiction by the Western Writers of America.
Book Review: Jay Cooke’s Gamble – Chapters 1-8

While there is no question as to the historical importance and influence of Eleutheros Cooke to our city’s beginnings, the scope of his son Jay’s life and work carries a more profound impact on American history. The author opens his book with the eve of the 1873 Wall Street Panic, preceded by a visit from President Grant to Jay Cooke’s 53 room mansion outside Philadelphia named, “Ogontz” for the Wyandot chief he befriended as a young boy in Sandusky. Lubetkin suggests that Grant was likely conferring with Cooke on the condition of the nation’s financial institutions including Jay Cooke & Company, the largest and most powerful banking house of that time.

Cooke had gained national acclaim as the “financier of the Civil War,” through his successful sale of the $1.6 billion in war bonds. After Lincoln’s death and the close of the war, Cooke was a hopeful candidate for Secretary of the Treasury. But when Grant did not give him the call, he turned his site on steering the construction of a less than popular plan to build a northern railroad path across America. The author emphasizes that Grant’s decision set the course of history for what was to become Cooke’s big gamble, that being the Northern Pacific Railroad.

Jay Cooke was a deeply religious man who believed that God had chosen him, “Like Moses, and Washington and Lincoln and Grant I have been—I firmly believe—God’s chosen instrument, especially in the financial work of saving the union . . .and this condition of things was of God’s arrangement,” words from his memoir.

In chapter three, “Free from Fatigue,” the author explains that travel across America involved multiple changes from horse and carriage to boats and steamers presenting a tiresome and uncomfortable challenge for travelers. With the growing railway system and improved tracks and steam driven engineering, trains provided a more comfortable experience, one free from the tiresome alternatives. Cooke saw an opportunity to use his financial skills to advance a faltering northern railway plan passed by Congress prior to the war, but with limited funds and proper planning.

In the following chapters the author goes into exceptional detail of Cooke’s work to assemble a team of surveyors, engineers, and power brokers to take on the overwhelming task of building the North Pacific Railroad. While retaining the management of his banking house, Cooke delegated much of the railroad construction only to run into multiple hurdles. Chapter five, “Knee Deep in Mud,” describes the efforts to build over the wetlands of Minnesota and the cold winters that hindered progress. Much of the construction had to be supported by troops that accompanied workers through territory occupied by native tribes. Civil War veterans in charge of the troops resented civilian leadership and made multiple mistakes following maps, leading to resentment within the worker camps. In chapter seven the author shares an incident whereby a drunken veteran in charge of troops took shots above the head of Cooke’s lead project manager as an implied message of who was in charge.

And as the work moved closer to Yellowstone, Sitting Bull kept a close eye on the expansion into native hunting grounds that were supposed to be protected for his Sioux Nation. Cooke’s troubles were just beginning, and newspapers kept close tabs. The review will continue in the next edition of the OHG newsletter.
Volunteer with the Old House Guild

Opportunities

Museum Tour Guide    Fundraising    Event Helper
Grounds Helper       Historic Research  Sign Painter
Historic Inventory   Holiday Decorating Mailings
Candlelight Tour Helper   Annual Dinner Helper  Membership

And if you have any other talent to share in our organization, please let us know by calling or emailing us at the contacts listed below.

How to Contact Us

Board Members

President – Richard Keller    Vice President – Jack Mineo
Secretary – Linda Howell    Treasurer – Timothy Berkey
Site Manager – Ed Stout    Member – Paulette Grahl
Member – Will Schram    Member – Linda Smith
Member – Mary Truka

Address: Old House Guild of Sandusky  1415 Columbus Ave.  Sandusky, OH 44087
Phone: 419-627-0640    Email: info@oldhouseguild.org
Website: www.oldhouseguild.org    Facebook: Old House Guild of Sandusky
Ed’s Tour Guide Remarks:

119 Hancock St. - - Jacob Engels started the Engels Winery (later known as the E & K Winery). He died in 1875 and having no children, his nephew Herman Engels came to Sandusky to take over the winery. In 1885, Herman built this home which is a Queen Anne red brick with stick influences and slight second empire influences. Of particular interest are the ornately carved window lintels, the detailed cornice work and elaborate dormer windows. The side yard originally ran all the way to Water Street with a fountain in the center. The double decked porch was added in the late 1920s severely altering the beautiful appearance of the home, covering many of the ornate window lintels. As seen in the leaflet, it had a typical Victorian porch with sandstone steps and newel posts and a side Juliette extension.

222 East Washington St. - - This home is a modified red brick Tudor style built for George Matthes of the Matthes Coal & Supply Company in 1918. It had a whole house electronic servant bell system and all the modern conveniences of the day. It still has its original slate roof, 104-year-old, and the west wing's upper wall displays the typical half-timber exterior. Knowing Prohibition was coming and not wanting to forfeit his enjoyment of alcohol, as the home was being built, he had a concrete vault constructed under the front porch, stocked wall to wall, back to front, floor to ceiling with booze and sealed shut and walled over. Additional concealed liquor storage was done at the coal company. The sealed vault was not discovered until the mid 1970s still completely stocked and untouched from 1918.

230 East Washington St. - - This home is an Italianate clapboard built by William Simpson in 1844. He came to Sandusky in 1834 and dealt in the grocery and dry goods business. He bought the corner lot in 1843 and the lot this home sits upon in 1844. A log cabin sat on this home's lot, and he incorporated it into this home during its construction. The home features very sculptural corbels, window ornamentation and distinctive front porch ironwork. William and his wife Mary lived here until his death in 1887, and Mary lived here until 1890. In that year, Mary decided to build a new home on the corner lot but needed to remove approximately 14 feet of the eastern wing of the home to allow space enough for the new home to be constructed.

234 East Washington St. - - This home Mary built is a fine example of Queen Anne style done in light blue clapboard. The home displays ornate woodwork that typifies this style. Noteworthy is the multi-story turret with its high protruding tin finial and its original slate roof, some 132 years old and still in excellent shape. The ridge of the roof is also capped by decorative scalloped tin work. A third story recessed balcony with encircling lattice and a chimney with decorative brickwork and sandstone features are beautiful. Mary lived in this home until her death in 1911.

332 & 334 Hancock St. - - These two homes were built by William DeWitt in 1840 who was a mason by trade. The left home was built first which he used as his home, then immediately following, the larger right home was constructed, and he moved into it. Both homes were red brick reflecting a vernacular town home style which is characterized by simplicity and devoid of ornamentation. Today the left home is larger due to two
additions that were added. On the north side, a ground level porch was enclosed and made two story when the first addition was added. This home was rented until 1890 when William's youngest son Chester moved in. The DeWitt family sold it in 1925. The right home the DeWitt family lived in till it was sold in 1915. The new owner covered the old red brick with yellow brick which has since been painted white. The home has had an addition and been converted to a dental office and upper apartment.

317 East Adams St. - - This home built in 1884 by William DeWitt's oldest son George is a Victorian Eastlake style town home. It exemplifies cleaner, less frilly machine-made ornamentation. Note the lintels, roof corbels and chimney details. Becoming common in the late 1800s were screened back side porches, later often being glassed in to extend usage, located off dining rooms or kitchens. This home had the first telephone and first upright grand piano in Sandusky which is still in the home today. George had left Sandusky to work in the dry goods business but returned in 1884 and operated a brick yard in Perkins Township with his father. He later became interested in the horse-car street railway which led to the Sandusky Electric Railway and finally the Sandusky, Milan & Norwalk Interurban which was the pioneer electric interurban line in Ohio.

318 East Adams St. - - This home was built in 1907 by August Kuebeler Jr. for his wife Helen who was George DeWitt's daughter. It is a Midwest clapboard Dutch Cottage with colonial influences painted in a two-color scheme. August's father, August Sr., and his uncle Jacob, owned and ran the Kuebeler Brewery. As Prohibition approached, a back pantry room was added to the house with secret storage below and a small dumb waiter to bring bottles of beer up from their hiding place. After August Jr.'s death, Helen moved back across the street to 317, her childhood home where she live for the rest of her life. An additional historical note, Jacob Kuebeler's daughter Minnie who was August Jr.'s cousin, married John G. Dorn and was Randolph Dorn's mother.

715 West Adams St. - - This home was built in 1936 for Karl Klemmt and his wife Clara and is a Midwest brick colonial. It displays the brick details as base and roof beltlines, patterned brick between upper and lower windows and on the chimney. The replaced porch columns were originally square which is traditional and a second floor sleeping porch can be seen. Karl born in Germany in 1885 immigrated to the United States as a young adult whereas his parents and siblings remained in Germany their entire lives. He married in 1913 and worked in his wife's family business, the Schaefer Jewelry Store in downtown Sandusky. He often was called upon to translate in the local courts for Sanduskians of German descent who did not speak English. He sang solo and, in many choirs, and groups including one renown men's quartet called the Song Land Serenaders.

429 Lawrence St. - - This home built in 1849 is a simple brick vernacular with no ornamentation and was the home of Ellie Damm who was the founder of the Old House Guild of Sandusky and its first president.

805 West Jefferson - - This home was built in 1920 and is a Queen Anne taupe gray clapboard, a carry over into the twentieth century from the Victorian era. Although the
porch columns and railing have been replaced; the home retains the rest of its period
details. The chimney is especially ornate with a leaded stain glass porthole window in it.
The home has many other windows with stained glass, fish scale cedar shakes, highly
decorated gables, and a glassed enclosed rear porch, true to the style. The original owner
is not known for this tour.

503 Fulton St. - - This home was built by Ruggiero Riccelli and his wife Minnie in 1918
and is a craftsman style sage clapboard Philadelphia Street house. It is so called because
when you came down the steps and turned forward, you stepped immediately into the
street. This allowed for more space behind the home for a garden in the city. The home
has the hallmarks of a craftsman with its squarish triangular corbels that extend beyond the
roof line, many stained-glass windows, mullioned upper sashes with single pane glass
lowsers, and straight angular lines. Ruggiero started with a vegetable cart on Columbus
Avenue and eventually had on East Market Street a delicatessen, fruit and vegetable store
in the red brick front building immediately east of the Cooke building on the corner of
Columbus Avenue and East Market Street.

Behind 431 Fulton St. - - Formerly the homestead and office of Dr. Lester Mylander,
father of the late George Mylander, this 1887 built Queen Anne has its original red brick
smokehouse behind. It had an extension added on the front to make it a garage, but it is
still too small for today's automobiles. Most out buildings such as smokehouses, barns or
carriage houses, outhouses and even blacksmith shops behind homes from the 1800s have
all been torn down.

Note the limestone Italianate Lester Hubbard house on East Adams Street and across the
street on Wayne Street, the limestone Greek Revival Oran Follett house in reference to
our last home.

318 Huron Ave. - - This simplified limestone Italianate home was built in 1853 by Dr.
Ebenezer Scott Lane. He married Pallas Anderson, daughter of Dr. George Anderson,
Sandusky's first doctor, and in whose home Eleutheros Cooke's son, Jay was born. In
wanting to build his home, Ebenezer requested of Oran Follett, that home built in 1834-
1837, and of Lester Hubbard, that home built in 1852, if he could copy parts of their
homes. Mr. Follett agreed but Mr. Hubbard declined. Thus Dr. Lane's home shows the
Follett house influence in the raised ground floor and curving double staircase to the front
door. The ornate bay window on the north side of the home was added later and reflects a
stronger Italianate style. Behind the home, the original carriage house can be seen. Eight
years later in 1861 when Peter Gilcher, one of Sandusky's leading lumber merchants,
requested to copy Hubbard's home closely, he was granted permission. The Gilcher
home was near exact except the front porch reflected a German colonial influence rather
than an Italianate. It sat at the southwest corner of Columbus Avenue and Madison Street
since razed in 1955. Compare the two homes.