

Florence Township Heritage Preservation Commission

HPC Meeting Minutes from Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Attendees: Bill Bruce, Cathy Kouchich, Jan Bruce

The regular meeting of the HPC was called to order at 6 PM. A quorum was present. The November HPC minutes were read and approved. No building permits were presented.

2019

Attached to these minutes is the 2019 Annual Report that was sent to Michael Koop at the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office. Section F of that report documents the activities of the HPC last year. It was a very successful and productive year.

2020

There will likely be money from the Frontenac 160th Anniversary fund that will remain unspent. Members discussed what projects would benefit from donations from this fund. The Frontenac Cemetery Board has made a formal request to the various Florence Township sub-commissions and the Town Board for a donation to enable them to refurbish monuments. This is one possible project that should be considered. Other Frontenac projects should be identified. We will wait until all celebration bills have been paid before pursuing this further.

Members discussed revision of the boundaries and ordinances that define the Frontenac Historic District. This project has been on and off the agenda for several years. The members consensus was that Bill Flies should take the lead on this project.

Members discussed Locust Lodge. The HPC has written two letters to Peggy Anteblian, the owner, encouraging her to take some action to prevent further deterioration of the house. No response was received to either letter. If no action is taken, Locust Lodge will become a victim of demolition by neglect. Bill Bruce will pursue this.

Members discussed the Frontenac Historic District Parks. All members were in agreement that the HPC should remain involved in the discussion regarding how the parks are managed.

The HPC sponsored a Lilac give-away last spring for Frontenac residents. Members were in agreement that the HPC should plan to do this again in 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM.

Submitted to HPC members by Bill Bruce, 1 January 2019.

Florence Township Heritage Preservation Commission

2019 Annual Certified Local Government (CLG) Report

The following information is being submitted to satisfy the reporting requirements set forth in the Minnesota Certified Local Government Procedures Manual, dated September 2002.

A. National Register of Historic Places, Florence Township Assets

The National Register of Historic Places lists these items located in Florence Township:

- 1) Old Frontenac Historic District
- 2) Florence Town Hall

Old Frontenac Historic District

Information on file with the National Park Service regarding the Old Frontenac Historic District is available at this Internet location as of the date of this report:

<https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/AssetDetail?assetID=585ba81b-1536-414b-a495-f66d6511d9eb>

The following significant Florence Township properties are within the boundaries of the Old Frontenac Historic District and are listed in the National Register text:

- 1) Locust Lodge – 29133 Garrard Avenue (1854)
- 2) St. Hubert's Lodge – 29055 Garrard Avenue (1855)
- 3) Greystone – 29277 Garrard Avenue (1860)
- 4) Frontenac Inn – 28796 Lake Avenue Way (1859)
- 5) Dacotah Cottage – 28743 Garrard Avenue (1862)
- 6) Joseph Wiech House – 34805 Sumner Street (1867)
- 7) Christ Episcopal Church – 29036 Westervelt Avenue (1868)
- 8) Engelbert Haller House – 28960 Wood Avenue (1860)
- 9) Winona Cottage – 28895 Garrard Avenue (1889)
- 10) Old Frontenac Cemetery – Green Street

11) Old Frontenac Parks – Wakondiota and Valhalla

Florence Town Hall

Information on file with the National Park Service regarding the Florence Town Hall is available at this Internet location as of the date of this report:

<https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/AssetDetail?assetID=ee3aa591-dcbd-4cdf-9d53-6c722216dc38>

The Florence Town Hall continues to be the designated meeting place for the Florence Town Board.

B. Local Designation of Preservation Sites

The following properties in Frontenac, Minnesota are designated Florence Township Heritage Landmarks:

- 1) Villa Maria – 29847 County 2 Blvd (Villa Maria Ventures, LLC)
- 2) Locust Lodge – 29133 Garrard Avenue (Anteblian)
- 3) St. Hubert's Lodge – 29055 Garrard Avenue (Flynn)
- 4) Greystone – 29277 Garrard Avenue (Webster)
- 5) Winona Cottage – 28895 Garrard Avenue (Eustis)
- 6) Dacotah Cottage – 28743 Garrard Avenue (Hodgson)
- 7) Morton Carriage House – 29219 Garrard Avenue (Johnson)
- 8) Frontenac Hotel – 28971 Wood Avenue (Beckman)
- 9) Post Office – 29039 Wood Avenue (Augustine)
- 10) Brunner House – 29065 Wood Avenue (Lorenz)
- 11) Ackerman House – 28929 Wood Avenue (Urbach)
- 12) Engelbert Haller House – 28960 Wood Avenue (Carlson)
- 13) Possehl Store – 28964 Van Blarcum Avenue (Johnson)
- 14) Parsonage (aka Moccasin Inn) – 28927 Manypenny Avenue
- 15) Frontenac Inn (aka Lakeside Hotel) – 28796 Lake Avenue Way
- 16) Chapelwood – 28776 Lake Avenue Way
- 17) Pepin Hall – 28822 Lake Avenue Way (Amundson)
- 18) Grapevine Cottage – 28775 Lake Avenue Way (Coulter)
- 19) Fern Cottage – 28725 Lake Avenue Way (Flies)
- 20) Boxrud Cottage – 28650 Lake Avenue Way (Anderson)
- 21) Bender Cottage – 28384 Lake Avenue Way (Schroeder)
- 22) Wakondiota Park – Van Blarcum Avenue (east), vacated Cathcart (west)
Vacated Waconia (north), Winona Street (south)
- 23) Valhalla Park – Lake Avenue (east), Garrard Avenue (west)

Vacated Waconia (north), Wood Street (south)

- 24) Frontenac Cemetery – Green Street (north), vacated Ludlow Street (south)
Wood Avenue (east), Van Blarcum (west)
- 25) Christ Episcopal Church – 29036 Westervelt Avenue
- 26) Peterson Farm – 34661 McLean Street (Knudsen)
- 27) Joseph Wiech House – 34805 Sumner Street (Roth)
- 28) Virginia Cottage – 34810 Graham Street (Koplin)
- 29) Little Dacotah – 34921 Dacotah Street (Loftus)
- 30) Honey Bee Cottage – 34921 Dacotah Street (Walter Huneke)
- 31) Henry Huneke House – 34921 Faribault Street
- 32) Baxter House – 34953 Burr Oak (Stone)
- 33) Wild Wings Museum – 34894 Johnston Street (Cox)

The following 100+ year old homes were added to this list based on information compiled for the Frontenac 160th Anniversary Celebration, September 2019:

- 34) 34921 Faribault Street (Henry Huneke)
- 35) 34850 Graham Street (Hans Olson)
- 36) 34962 Johnston Street (T. S. Huntington)
- 37) 28793 Lake Avenue Way (Schaller)
- 38) 29050 LeRoy Avenue (Christian Friedericks)
- 39) 28891 Manypenny Avenue (Israel Garrard)
- 40) 34661 McLean Street (Israel Garrard)
- 41) 34783 McLean Street (Henry Bartels)
- 42) 34808 McLean Street (George Bartels, Jr.)
- 43) 34832 McLean Street (Emmanuel Schenach)
- 44) 34844 McLean Street (Gottfried Schenach)
- 45) 34778 Sumner Street (Joseph Bremer)
- 46) 34805 Sumner Street (Joseph Weich)
- 47) 28957 Sumner Street – The Parsonage (Sara B. McLean)
- 48) 34911 Sumner Street (Engelbert Haller)
- 49) 29255 Wood Avenue (Fritz Friedericks)
- 50) 29750 County Road 2 – Waconia Farm (George Bullard)

The following property in Frontenac Station, Minnesota is designated a Florence Township Heritage Landmark:

- 51) Florence Township Town Hall – Highway 61

C. Local Inventories & Studies

Old Frontenac Historic District Properties Survey Report Prepared by Daniel J. Hoisington, Hoisington Preservation Consultants September 2003

D. Heritage Preservation Commission Membership

- 1) Bill Bruce, Chairman
- 2) Cathy Kouchich
- 3) Bill Flies

E. Assurances

The Florence Township Heritage Preservation Commission held monthly meetings, all of which were open to the public. The time and location of those meetings were published on the Florence Township web site as are the minutes of those meetings. Please see:

<http://www.florencetwp.org>

F. 2019 HPC Activities

The principal activity of the Florence Township HPC in 2019 was planning and accomplishing the Frontenac 160th Anniversary Celebration. This celebration was held on September 21st, 2019 in Wakondiota Park, Frontenac, Minnesota. In 1860, the Mississippi river community previously known as Westervelt, was renamed Frontenac by the Garrard brothers. In 2019 the community celebrated the history of Frontenac.

The Frontenac 160th Anniversary Celebration was conceived by Lorry Wendland, a Frontenac resident and the author of two books that chronicle the history of the people of the village. She was joined by Linda Buysee, also a Frontenac resident. In the fall of 2017, they approached the various Florence Township sub-commissions and the Florence Town Board to present their idea and explain their vision. The Town Board agreed to sponsor the event, and in the summer of 2018, the Heritage Preservation Commission agreed to integrate planning for the event into their monthly meeting. Lorry and Linda became temporary members of the HPC while the event was being planned.

From the summer of 2018 through September of 2019, the HPC and many community volunteers were devoted to planning this event. A web site was created early in the process as a means to advertise the event and the participants. A Frontenac Historic District Tour Guide was written that contained a description of homes and historic sites in the district. This guide was published in a small booklet. Tour guide booklets were distributed free of charge to the first

450 attendees. Before the event, owners of 100+ year old homes were presented with a small plaque identifying the original owner and date.

The original event web site contents are no longer available, but the scope of the event can still be seen by accessing the after-event pictures. Please see:

<http://frontenac160.com>

Another Frontenac resident, Bill Flies, created and continues to maintain the web site. He also produced the Frontenac Historic District Tour Guide booklet and made the contents of the booklet available on a separate web site. Please see:

<http://frontenactour.com>

Because the celebration was targeted for a specific time period on a specific day, weather was always a concern. The target day was cloudy, and it rained in surrounding areas, but Frontenac remained dry. Our planning was based on having 1000 visitors. After event estimates, based on cars parked were 2000 to 3000 visitors.

Other 2019 Activities

- Reviewed two building permits for home improvement projects within the Frontenac Historic District. Both were approved as presented.
- Hired a painter to paint the exterior trim and stairways on the Florence Town Hall.
- Sponsored a spring Lilac give-away for residents of Frontenac.
- Commented on the Florence Township Parks Commission Park Plan with regards to parkland within the Frontenac Historic District.

G. Anticipated 2020 HPC Activities

These activities are on the agenda for 2020:

- Consider revising the boundaries and ordinances of the Frontenac Historic District to encompass the Villa Maria property and simplify district boundaries.
- Create a plan to prevent the 'demolition by neglect' of Locust Lodge. This building can no longer be classified as in 'good' condition, as stated in the Old Frontenac Historic District National Register of Historic Places registration form.

- Continue to be involved with Frontenac Historic District parkland planning.
- Sponsor a spring Lilac give-away for residents of Frontenac.

Submitted by:

Robert W. (Bill) Bruce,

Florence Township Heritage Preservation Chairperson

rwmbruce@icloud.com