



Landmarks, Inc.

Established 1965

SUMMER 2007

Landmark News

The official newsletter of Landmarks, Inc.

Preserving and Protecting Omaha's Built Environment

Omaha loses two more Landmarks

by Paul Nelson, President

Our mission to preserve Omaha's built history has recently taken a blow. Efforts made by Landmarks, Inc. and other local architects to save UNO's Historic Baxter residence were ignored by University Officials. Razed earlier in June, the Thomas Kimball designed building will be replaced with a new parking garage and student housing complex. Meanwhile, the original Union Pacific Building downtown is slowly being dismantled and will be demolished for the shiny new 32-story Wall Street Tower.

The threats against preserving these two structures were of the highest ranking. These buildings didn't stand much of a chance against our culture's addiction to automobiles, the promise of a gleaming new skyscraper, or our city's mission to shake off its dusty image for something more progressive.

Many of our city's politicians, leaders and property owners do not understand how every historic landmark contributes a unique quality to our sense of community. That is why education and awareness is such a high priority for Landmarks, Inc.

Sadly, in the case of the Baxter & Union Pacific Buildings, historical significance was not enough to save them.

This is a wake-up call to local preservationists.

Our urban landscape is rapidly changing. If you care about Omaha's built history, then you can make a difference. Landmarks, Inc. is a perfect place for preservationists to have a voice in our community. Your involvement provides an opportunity for historically relevant structures to be understood and heard. Your involvement, combined with the efforts of others, is needed to preserve our beloved Landmarks.



The University's Board of Regents stated in a letter to Landmarks, Inc., "While University administration did explore the potential of retaining the structure as a part of the housing project, it was ultimately determined that other factors (desired number of beds, placement of buildings to address neighborhood concerns, traffic flow) rendered reuse unworkable." A local architecture firm was hired to perform an Historical American Buildings Survey and it will be filed at the Nebraska State Historical Society.



Opportunities to become active in Landmarks, Inc.

1. **Sign up. Become a member!**
2. **Help plan, host or guide historical tours.**
3. **Join our Board of Directors.**
4. **Contact local politicians and community leaders.**
5. **Submit nominations to our Omaha's Endangered Landmarks list.**

Spring Tour Recap

Landmarks, Inc. was out in full storm this Spring, touring the South Gold Coast neighborhood on Saturday May 12th. The beautiful spring weather, great architecture, story telling and Orsi's garlic bread made for the perfect ingredients. Thanks go out to our enthusiastic tour guide, Nancy Callinger and our hosts; Deitz United Methodist Church and St. Francis Cabrini Church. The tour was an excellent way for people to walk the neighborhood streets and become more familiar with this part of town.



View of Dietz United Methodist Church from 10th street. Designed by architect H.H.W Hawkins and completed in 1889, the Church is currently raising funds for a complete pipe organ restoration.

Fall Events

Participate with us in St. Cecilia's 100th year anniversary! The Cathedral Arts Project is hosting a parade to celebrate.

Date: October 6th
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Meet at: Mutual of Omaha parking lot 33rd & Dodge Street

Visit: www.cathedralartsproject.org

See our website for more details about events coming this fall!

2007 Endangered List – Update

<u>Landmark</u>	<u>Status</u>
Omaha's Women's Club	Saved, Removed From List
Hupmobile Building	For Sale
4524 Farnam	Pending Saddle Creek Rd. relocation
St. Cecilia's Convent	Slated for Demolition
Baxter Residence	Lost

Nomination forms for 2008 will soon be available on our webpage.

Heard any new rumors about Rosenblatt Stadium, The Omaha World Herald Building, or Dundee Theater? Give us your opinion. **Contact us through our website at www.omahalandmarks.org**