

The History Keeper is meant to keep residents and land-owners of historic properties within the City of Belvidere informed about the assistance available to them and to keep them informed about the latest happenings.

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

The Dunton 2
Property

2019 Property 3
Maintenance
Grant

New Down- 3
town Façade
Grant

Resource 3
Corner

How To Best 3
Connect

Upcoming 4
Events

The History Keeper

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

APRIL 2019

2019 Awards Program

On May 9, 2019, the Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission will be hosting its eighth awards program. The Commission began the awards program as a way to acknowledge those property owners that have made improvements to their older properties. We know that maintaining these properties can be costly but these projects can have a great impact on the community. This year's winners are:



The awards booklet plus sponsorship ads will be posted on the Commission's Facebook page (Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission) after the event. Please visit the page to see before and after pictures!

US Route 20 Selfie Challenge



- Visit our website to get the 20 Tour locations
- Take a selfie/group photo (person must be in the photo) at the 20 tour location.
- Post to your Instagram with the #The20Tour and tag us @historicroute20
- Random Prizes drawn weekly

www.historicUS20.com/the20tour

Participants participating in the Historic Route 20 Scavenger Hunt, 2019 are not eligible to receive prizes or awards. The 20 Tour locations for taking a selfie or photo are publicly accessible. The locations listed do not require participation in this contest. This is not an Instagram sponsored event. Other social media platforms will not be considered.

The Dunton Property



When George Boomer Dunton bought the house at 807 McKinley Ave. in 1863, it was a sprawling farm outside of Belvidere's city limits.

"BOOMER"

George B. Dunton was born Aug. 7, 1824, in Dorset, Vt. He married Elizabeth Fuller in Dorset in 1847 and they came to Belvidere in 1853. Two years later, their 2-year-old daughter Mary died of the croup.

The Dunton's lived in a house on East Lincoln Avenue for 10 years before buying the McKinley Avenue estate in '63. He spent the next 10 years farming the property around the Greek Revival House.

In October 1865, Elizabeth died at age 38 after a bout with Typhoid fever. Dunton then married Margaret Hudson in 1867, and she died in 1870.

Dunton eventually moved out of the house named after him and bought a place on East Hurlbut Avenue, which was his home when he died on Dec. 5, 1903 in Elgin. His brother William S. Dunton, who was president of First National Bank, had died five months earlier.

George was survived by his daughter, Fannie Dunton, who'd taken care of him in the last years of his life. He also had a daughter, Ada, and a son, William.

George B. Dunton sold the property to his nephew, Sycamore attorney George W. Dunton, in 1898. But according to the abstract, the courts declared the younger Dunton insane in 1902, and ordered a conservatorship to look after his properties. Fannie Dunton sold the house and land to George M. Marshall in 1920.

THE MARSHALL BROTHERS

George M. Marshall was born Oct. 18, 1861, on a farm in Sycamore. After attending Chicago Business College, George worked for a year as city collector for Marshall Field & Co. He moved to Belvidere in 1892.

George bought half-interest in M.G. Leonard's grain elevator and coal business on Locust Street. In 1894 his brother Taylor Z. Marshall, bought the other half of Leonard's operation, and the Marshall Brothers were in business.

The brothers were best known for their sheep feeding business. They established a sheep yard "on the north edge of town"—possibly on the McKinley Avenue property—in conjunction with Chicago & North Western Railroad in 1929. The deal was trumpeted in the Daily Republican, saying C&NW chose the Marshall business "because of its record for successful handling of livestock."

Under the 10-year contract, the Marshalls agreed to oversee C&NW's sheep-feeding business in a "mammoth new plant" in West Chicago. C&NW's consolidation of its extensive sheep-feeding and stock yards meant the closing of seven plants between the Mississippi River and Chicago, including Marshall sheep yards in Belvidere and Lafox, Ill. The new yard's cost was estimated at \$375,000.

Sheep were shipped to the Marshalls' Belvidere hard by train from the west, unloaded and kept there until the shipper made arrangements for their sale in Chicago. A shearing shed also was kept in Belvidere.

George M. Marshall had a stroke during a birthday party given for him at his son's house on Oct. 15, 1939. He died the next day. His wife, Susan Cottrell Marshall, died Nov. 29, 1941. They had three children: Florence, Gilbert, and Thomas, named for George and Taylor's Father. Florence died in 1909.

If Walls Could Talk
By: Kathy Sterbenc
BDR News Editor
(Originally appeared
in June 1, 1991 issue
of BDR)

Address:
807 McKinley Ave.
Belvidere, IL 61008
Style:
Greek Revival
Year Built:
1850s

The Dunton Property Continued...

GREEK REVIVAL

The house was built in the early 1850s by Asa Baldwin, who bought the property from Belvidere merchant Alexander Neely. Neely bought the land in 1839 from the government.

The two-story house's front gable is dominated by three round, fluted columns. The side gable's porch is accented with smaller, octagonal columns. Narrow windows extend from floor to ceiling on the front gables first story.

Current owners Kenneth and Deloris Freeman took over in 1953. The wooden floor of the front gable's porch was rotting, Freeman said, so he removed the columns, poured a new cement porch and reset the columns.

2019 Property Maintenance Grants

Congratulations to this year's grant recipients! The following grants were awarded::

333 W. Hurlbut Avenue for window replacement

325 W. Hurlbut Avenue for exterior painting.

Properties that are individually landmarked or part of a historic district (both local and national) are eligible for a 50/50 grant funded by the Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission. The grant work is for exterior projects only such as tuck point, painting, windows, etc. and must be approved by the Commission. Due to the success of recent fundraisers and Images of America book sales, the Commission was able to increase the grant amount from \$1,000 to \$2,5000 per project.

Downtown Façade Grant

The City of Belvidere approved funding for a downtown façade renovation program in the FY20 budget which begins on May 1, 2019. The program will provide 50/50 grant funds not to exceed \$5,000 per fiscal year to assist property owners within the approved boundaries with exterior renovations. The renovations must be approved by the City Council. Currently, funding for this program is from the City's video gaming revenue.

Information and application forms will be mailed to all eligible property owners once they are available. If you would like more information on the program, please contact Gina DelRose at 815-547-7177 or gdelrose@ci.belvidere.il.us.

Resource Corner!

Did you know that there are great resources tools right here in Belvidere?

Both, the Boone County Museum of History and the Ida Public Library have large archive collections with friendly staff to help you research your property or latest project. Call the Museum at 815-544-8391 and the Library at 815-544-3838 today!

How To Best Connect

The Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission will continue to create and distribute The History Keeper newsletter in 2019, but the mailing list has now reached over 200 households. In order to most effectively and efficiently reach you, we need to know the best way to get into contact with you. That is why we would like to offer you the option of receiving a digital version of this document in the future.

If you'd like to subscribe to The History Keeper newsletter via email, please contact Gina DelRose at gdelrose@ci.belvidere.il.us.

If you'd like to keep receiving the newsletter via regular mail, no additional action is required.

Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission

401 Whitney Boulevard
Suite 300
Belvidere, IL 61008

Phone: 815-547-7177

Fax: 815-547-0789

E-mail: gdelrose@ci.belvidere.il.us

The Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission (the Commission) has been a part of the community for decades. The Commission is comprised of seven members who live in Boone County, work for or own property within the City of Belvidere as well as a staff liaison. The Commission's goal is to promote the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of improvements of special character or historical interest or value for the health, prosperity, safety and welfare of the people of the City. Since its inception, the Commission has landmarked 26 local properties, five national registry properties, the 2004 West Hurlbut Local Historic District, the 2012 North State Street National Historic District and the 2012 South State Street National Historic District.

For More Information Visit:

www.ci.belvidere.il.us/departments/community-development/historic-preservation

Or find us on Facebook: **Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission**

<http://www.ci.belvidere.il.us/departments/>

Upcoming Fundraisers

2020 Murder Mystery

The Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission will be hosting another Murder Mystery in February 2020 at the Boone County Community Building Complex. The murder mystery will only be one day this time so make sure you get your tickets once they go on sale!

If you would like to be a sponsor for this event, please call Gina DelRose at 815-547-7177.

2019 Ghost Tour

The Commission is teaming up with historian, Kathi Kresol to host a tour of haunted places in Belvidere on October 12, 2019. This fundraiser will take the place of the annual Progressive Dinner fundraiser.

Is your home or commercial property haunted? Would you like to participate in the tour? Please contact Gina DelRose at 815-547-7177 or gdelrose@ci.belvidere.il.us.



Upcoming Projects

Hometown Christmas in Downtown Belvidere

December 6, 2019 kicks off this year's Hometown Christmas festivities! Please stop by the Boone County Historical Museum to say hi to the Belvidere Historical Preservation Commission members and ask questions or share stories. We love to hear them!

Courthouse Square Area Phase III Survey

The Belvidere Planning Department has applied for a CLG grant to continue surveying the courthouse square area. This grant will be the third survey conducted. To see the results of the first surveys as well as other grant projects the City has completed, visit the Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission's website at: <http://www.ci.belvidere.il.us/departments/community-development/historic-preservation>

Historic US Route 20

The Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission continues to work with the Historic US Route 20 on projects to increase tourism and awareness of our wonderful city. Be on the lookout for new Route 20 signage to be installed this summer!