



Cornerstones June 2022

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Photo courtesy of La Crosse Public Library Archives ca. 1940.

May was a busy Historic Preservation Month. The catastrophic fire and destruction of the Mueller Building on Fourth Street made clear the tragedy that was averted last February when the John Walter Building caught fire. PAL would like to thank the La Crosse Fire Department and all those who supported them to prevent loss of life and avert further destruction to neighboring buildings on Fourth Street.

On a happy note, it appears a building permit was recently issued and efforts are being made to repair The John Walter Building, home to The Casino since 1933. We will keep you updated as we learn more information!

PAL – Preservation Alliance of La Crosse
119 King Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601
(608) 784-1976
www.preservation-alliance.org
preservationalliance@gmail.com



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PAL Awards Banquet Finally Returns!



After two long years, PAL is happy to announce we plan to hold our Annual Awards Banquet and Member Meeting at The Freighthouse Restaurant. Please join us:

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

5:30pm - Drinks

6:00pm - Dinner

7:00pm – Awards/Annual Meeting

Also, please consider nominating a community member you feel demonstrated exceptional efforts in historic preservation. You can find the award nomination form inside the last page.

Save The Date, More Information To Come!

Improving The Energy Efficiency Of Windows In Your Historic Building

[Part of a series by the Wisconsin Historical Society]

One way to enjoy the warm weather is with some home improvement projects!

You do not need to replace the original windows in your historic house or building to make your structure more energy efficient. You can improve the energy efficiency of your historic windows by adding storm windows, weatherizing your original windows and preventing condensation.



Do Three Simple Weatherizing Tasks

You can stop over 98% of outside air infiltration into your windows by doing these three simple weatherizing tasks:

1. **Caulk and paint.** Make sure the exterior casing trim around your windows is caulked and painted well. The exterior casing trim is an area of massive air infiltration. Testing by the [Window Preservation Standards Collaborative](#) in 2011 demonstrated that when the casings on the exterior of the window are caulked and painted well, air infiltration around the window opening and from the sash weight pocket is greatly reduced.
2. **Add a storm window.** Reduce heat loss from your historic windows by adding a well-fitted, exterior storm window to each of your windows. A storm will also stop air infiltration and protect your primary window sashes from the weather.
3. **Repair the glazing compound.** Repair glazing compound that has failed or is missing. [Glazing compound](#) seals the glass to the window sash. If it is loose or missing, air can infiltrate your window and reduce its energy efficiency.

Prevent Window Condensation

If you see condensation on your windows, it is a sign that warm interior air is entering the cavity between your window sashes and storm windows. When the warm air hits the cold storm window, it causes condensation. The effect is the same in the summer when the cooled interior air hits the warm storm window. Condensation can damage your window sills and sashes. To prevent condensation and the resulting damage to your windows, make sure you replace cracked or broken glass and apply weatherstripping at the perimeter of your windows.

Preservation Spotlight

A Colorful Tribute To A Stained Glass Artisan

Submitted by PAL Board Member David Riel

The La Crosse region recently lost a significant member of the local preservation movement.

Philip Varnum, an Onalaska-based glass artisan, passed away peacefully on February 3, 2022, at age 72. Phil was born in La Crosse April 29, 1949. He attended West Salem High School and in 1968 enlisted in the US Army, serving two tours in Chu Lai, Vietnam.

Philip was a Crew Chief on Gunships in the 176th A.H.C. "Muskets" and awarded two purple hearts after being shot down. After his discharge in 1970, he worked for the BNSF railroad for 40 years retiring in 2010. He also worked for Toyota of La Crosse part-time for five years.



Philip Varnum.

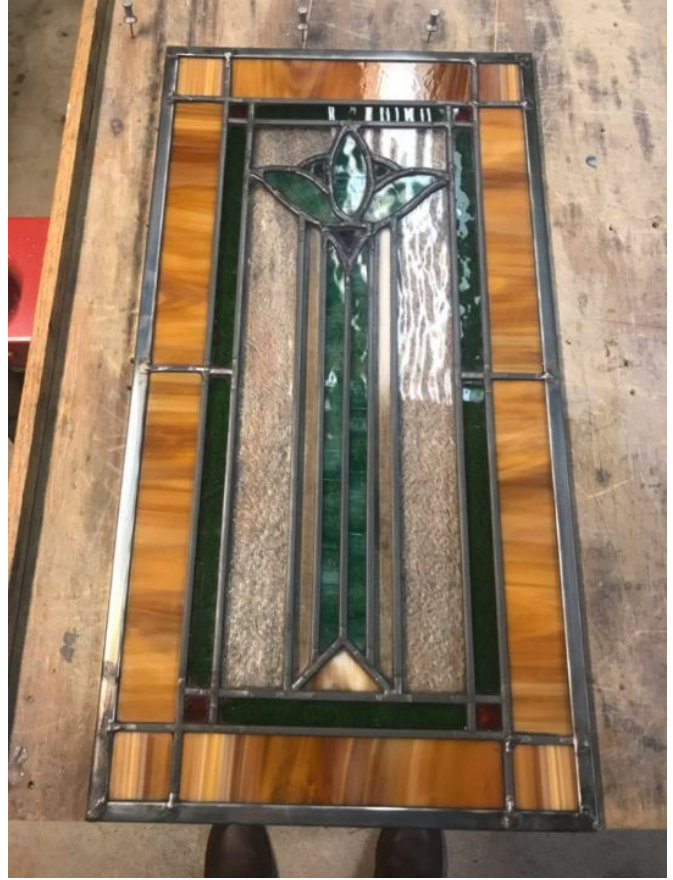
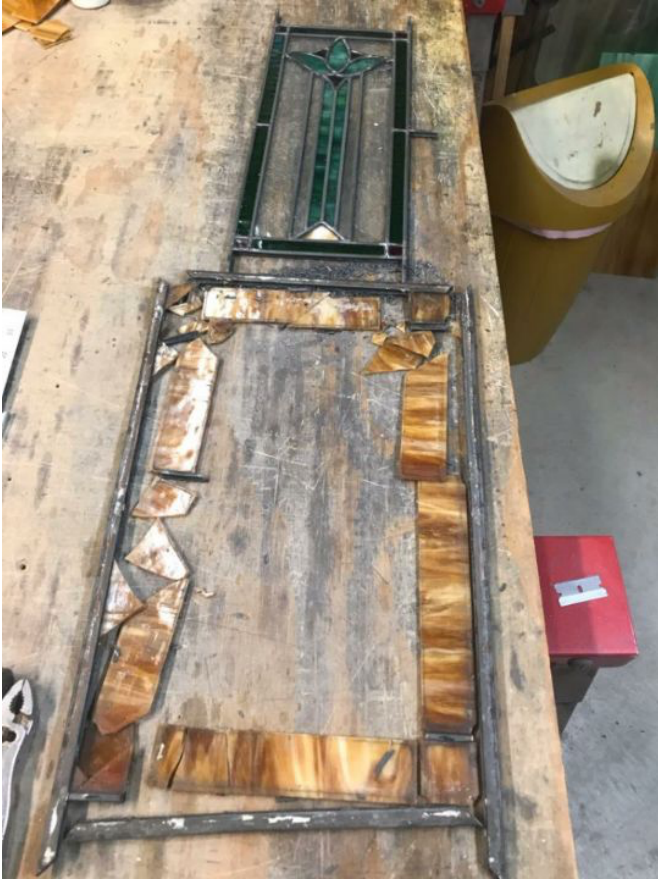


Custom Art Glass Ceiling Light and Cabinet Panels - Ranum-Nelson House.

In retirement, Phil initially learned art glass creation more as a hobby. However, his natural skill with traditional, leaded-channel techniques earned him a lot of restoration work over the years.

Known to some as "Dr. Phil" for his ability to bring any piece back to health, he developed a reputation and generated clients largely through word-of-mouth.

Dr. Phil worked on many historic properties in La Crosse and throughout the region, including significant art glass restoration work for Le Chateau on Cass Street, the Ranum-Nelson House on Rose Street, as well as 314 19th Street S.



Before & After: Art Glass Panel Reconstruction For Cabinet Doors - 314 19th Street S.

Dr. Phil was a family man, a war hero, a tremendously talented glass artisan, as well as a generous and kind human being.

Dr. Phil loved preserving these pieces of La Crosse's history and working in a medium that is hundreds of years old. He was an asset to the preservation movement and will be missed by those who knew him.



Fully Restored Porch Casement Windows - 314 19th Street S.



<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ornament Mail Order Form</u></p> <p>2021 Charmant Hotel _____ @ \$25.00 2020 Gundersen Cottage _____ @ \$25.00 2019 Magill Bank _____ @ \$25.00 2018 Cargill Pettibone _____ @ \$25.00 2017 Public Library _____ @ \$25.00 2016 Pearl Street West _____ @ \$25.00 2015 Band Shell _____ @ \$20.00 2014 #4000 at Grand Crossing _____ @ \$20.00 2013 Mississippi River _____ @ \$20.00 2011 Grandad Bluff _____ @ \$20.00 2009 The Martindale House _____ @ \$20.00 2008 Holy Trinity Church _____ @ \$20.00 2007 The Pump House _____ @ \$20.00 2006 King Gambinus _____ @ \$20.00 2002 Pettibone Beach House _____ @ \$20.00 2001 The Ott House _____ @ \$15.00 <u>Shipping and Handling for 1</u> @ <u>\$5.00</u> <u>\$1.00 for each additional</u> @ <u>\$1.00</u> <u>Total</u> \$ _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Checks Payable to PAL</u> <u>Or</u> <u>For Credit Card Users:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Visa, Mastercard, Discover, Am. Express</p> <p>Card Number _____</p> <p>Expiration Date _____ / _____</p> <p>3 Digit Security Code _____</p> <p>Name as on Card _____</p>
<p><u>Mail form to</u> PAL 119 King St. La Crosse, WI 54601</p>	<p><u>Email form to</u> preservationalliance@gmail.com</p>

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Preservation Alliance of La Crosse, Inc. - Heritage Award Nomination

Date: _____

Nominee:

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

(_____) _____ email _____
Phone

Nomination Submitted By:

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

(_____) _____ email _____
Phone

Category: (check one)

Eligibility may be for interior only, exterior only, entire structure, building complex, site, or remnants.

- Residential restoration or rehabilitation
 Non-residential restoration or rehabilitation
 Historic landscape or archaeology
 Individual Distinguished Service Award

Description:

*Briefly describe the project, program, or activity. Please include pictures, clippings, booklets, and/or a biography of the individual you are nominating. **Note:** Send copies only. Materials you send will not be returned to you. Attach additional pages as needed.*

Please send this form along with copies of any supporting documents to:

Preservation Alliance of La Crosse
119 King Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

608-784-1976
preservationalliance@gmail.com

NOTE: Nominations must be received by August 1 to be considered for the current year's awards



Preservation Alliance of La Crosse
119 King St.
La Crosse, WI 54601

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Yes! I will support historic preservation through membership in the
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Please check your mailing label for current membership status.

Check here if you wish your membership to remain
anonymous.

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Phone Number

E-mail

- \$250 (Business/Supporting)
- \$100 (Patron)
- \$30 (Household)
- \$20 (Individual)
- \$15 (Senior/Student)

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