



NOMINEE

GEORGE WORTHINGTON

The Historic Landmark Preservation and Architectural Review Board is proud to nominate George Worthington for recognition of his historic preservation work including his renovation of the Central Building, 220-226 North Main and his important work in design and construction supervision throughout the Main Street Historic District.

George and his wife, Sharlotte, purchased the Central Building in 1983 and began renovation of one of the largest buildings on Main Street. This classic victorian 'store block commercial' was built in 1906 after the original flour mill and adjacent church had burned. Traditional cast iron columns and wood framed windows identify the street level and the full brick two story exterior is uniquely decorated above the windows and at the cornice top with pressed metal italianate ornamentation. The interior has completely modern services, but throughout, the original ceiling heights, windows and ornamental work have been maintained. While the second floor had been 'condemned' and vacated in the late 60's, installation of a complete building sprinkler system and rear exits have permitted the entire 7,000 sq ft on each level to be renovated and fully occupied. The most recent work included hvac systems updates and renovation of the original 1906 tongue and groove fir flooring.

George's personal signature project is Albert F. Kister Park which he conceived, designed and supervised as a public improvement project. Kister Park is an infill public park space with public restrooms constructed in 1975 in the Main Street National Register Historic District. The now landmark gazebo is classic victorian in design and fully utilizes construction techniques of pre 1900's craftsmen. It is frequently selected as



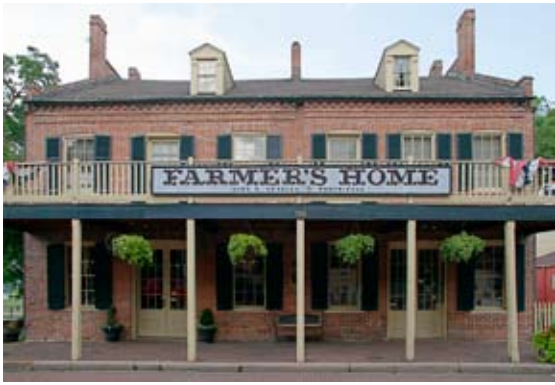
Kister Park



220-226 North Main

Bridge - Blanchette Creek





700 South Main



1001 South Main



318 South Main



Berthold Square

the memorable site for photographs, both personal snapshots and professional wedding images. George's design objective of harmony is reflected in the stone walkways, MKT salvaged red brick stairs, virtually hidden but fully accessible restrooms, the authentic period furnishings, and plantings of types available in the 1800's results in a fully integrated public space harmonizing with the historic structures and enhancing the total environment of our National Register District. He also conceived, designed and supervised construction of Berthold Square, a public mini park directly across from the Missouri First State Capitol.

Stone Row, Farmer's Home and the Western House properties full exterior and structural renovations were completed during the late 1970's under George's design and construction supervision as Historic Demonstration projects funded with Federal Redevelopment Title I grants. These buildings were then sold to private individuals who completed the interior reconstruction, each still occupying the structures for private residences and for personal business establishments, and who continually maintain and improve the properties. The combined public/private restorations of these three large significant buildings, 'not economically feasible of repair' privately and each having life threatening structural deterioration, has had a decisive impact on the total historic preservation and restoration momentum.

George's personal conviction that utilities, roadways, parking areas and sidewalks must contribute to and facilitate the preservation of an historic neighborhood guided his designs and decisions. He developed the design of an arched wood beam and wood covered handrails to conceal a necessary modern steel bridge structure crossing historic Blanchette Creek; he conceived the design for retaining walls to stabilize the roadbed and enable restoration of the Grist Mill at the corner of Main and Boone's Lick; he sought out original bricks for Main Street paving replacement; and contributed to early written restoration guidelines for Architectural Review and guidelines for compatible private infill construction - all to maximize the contribution of public projects to the preservation of the overall site and subtle ambiance of an historic district; and he attentively motivated the "low bidder" to make the extra effort required for quality construction. In recognizing that public improvements in historic spaces, when done without sensitive design and quality, will for generations leave a 'scar' on their surroundings, George also recognized that the details of correctly executed public improvements may likely go unnoticed, blending into and complementing the total aesthetic and contributing to a raising of the standard for quality throughout the entire Historic Main Street District.

Albert F. Kister Park

is a part of the
First State Capitol
Urban Renewal Project of
the City of
St. Charles, Missouri



The primary design objective of the Albert F. Kister Park was harmony... harmony with its historic setting, harmony with the needs of people.

The gazebo, the restrooms, the benches, the lights, the fence, and the plantings were designed, selected and built with very sensitive attention to every detail to insure maximum authenticity. The wood, the stone, the brick, the paint met this criteria.

All the plantings are of types available in the 1800s and include no less than twelve different species of trees. The Euonymus and Periwinkle ground cover and the Barberry, Burning Bush, and Yew hedges add to the variety and the beauty of the landscaping.

Although the park area is relatively small, only about one quarter of a city block, it is surprisingly spacious while projecting the intimacy of a private yard.

It provides an ever changing, slow motion kaleidoscope effect of people, plants and animals against several constant elements... the surrounding historic buildings, the cobblestone street, the Riverside Drive, the Frontier Park, and the Missouri River.

Albert F. Kister Park is a memorial tribute; it is a historical statement in design; it is a visual experience; it is an invitation and encouragement to maximum use.

It is a model of conservation and preservation, the broad objectives of the urban renewal program when the community committed itself to it in 1967.

And while many separate projects within the program have been completed, offering dramatic evidence of the rebirth of this historic central area of the city, the Albert F. Kister Park is a particularly proud achievement of the LCRA staff.

It was conceived, designed and supervised as a staff project and reflects a high degree of concern and professionalism.

PARK DESIGN: George R. Worthington. General Contractor: Schmell Const. Co., Inc., Hazelwood, Mo.
Source of suppliers of authentic furnishings: The Old-House Journal, 199 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217.
Suppliers: The Salt Box, Lexington, Ky., Light Fixtures — Spring City Electrical Mfg. Co., Spring City, Pa.; Light Posts — Ball & Ball, Exton, Pa., Door Hardware — Santa Cruz Foundry, Santa Cruz, Calif., Benches — Murdock, Inc., Cincinnati, O., Fountains — Usona Mfg. Co., St. Louis, Mo., Plaques — Dan Satterfield, St. Charles, Mo., Signs.