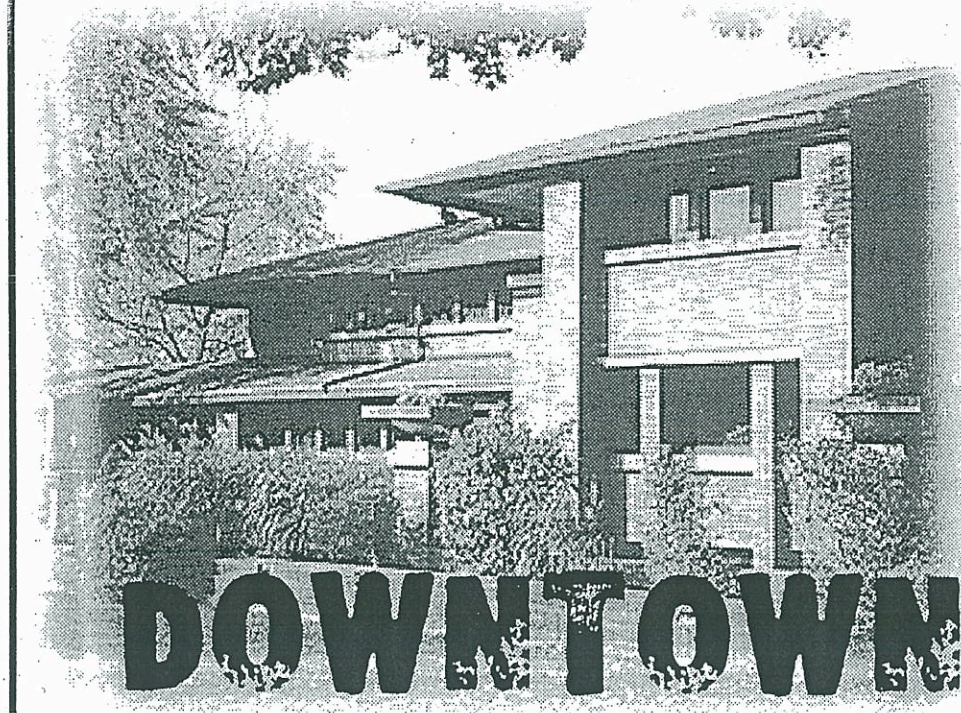


Summer 2001

BEYOND

BY ROOPA GONA



DOWNTOWN

Focus on Buffalo's architecture

HOW often do you walk? Not just to the kitchen to get a beer, or to the store because your car is in the shop. I'm talking about walking for walking's sake...you know, *strolling*.

It's been a while, you say? So, during this much deserved summer, why not walk? We're talking about a beautiful day of leisurely walking combined with an introduction to some breathtaking structures; we're talking about a walking architectural tour of Buffalo. Bring the kids out, drag your friends away from their TVs, and enjoy a stroll through our city as you rediscover Buffalo through its buildings.

Included in this year's Summer Guide is a self-guided walking tour of downtown Buffalo. Here are just a few places beyond downtown that should not be missed.

WORRIED
you'll miss
something?
Fret not; there
are people who
care. Several
groups conduct
great tours of
Buffalo, and
can fill you in
on what doesn't
meet the eye.

Trust me, there is more than enough to see. Back in the day when it ranked among the top cities in the country, Buffalo (like any other great city) strove to show its success through its structures. Delaware Avenue alone could keep you busy the entire day with elabo-

rate mansions and exquisite cemetery (yes, cemetery). But reach further into the city, and you've got entire neighborhoods such as Historic Allentown, and the theater district in all her terracotta glory.

So, pull out your walking shoes, and prepare to be surprised as you view Buffalo from a new perspective: the buildings that make her special, designed by some of the masters in the business.

WILLIAMS-BUTLER HOUSE AND WILLIAMS PRATT HOUSE

(on Delaware, between North and Bryant): Designed by New York City's McKim, Mead and White, these houses, part of "Millionaires' Row," were built in the late 1800s. The goal was ambitious and innovative: a villa amidst an urban, garden setting. Noted for their huge columns and the great iron gates that enclose the grounds, that motivation is apparent. The Butler mansion has recently been converted to a University-owned reception hall, well kept garden attached; the Pratt Mansion was converted into a Civil war museum during the Depression. Stroll past and admire the grounds, and daydream about how nice it would be if you had the money to live somewhere like that.

WILCOX MANSION (641 Delaware Avenue): The site of Theodore Roosevelt's inauguration after the death of President McKinley, this mansion is better

known for the history that transpired within than for the architecture, without. The mansion is now known as the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, and as the prime example of Buffalo's Greek Revival period, holds great importance in the city's architectural history. Enjoy a tour of the house, which has been fully restored. Pay close attention to the front parlor/library, where the actual inauguration took place, take in the great columns and elaborate Palladian windows, and enjoy a blast from the past.

DARWIN D. MARTIN HOUSE

(125 Jewett Parkway): Yes, we Buffalonians are very proud of our Frank Lloyd Wright, and for good reason. I mention one Frank Lloyd Wright house, although all of them are noteworthy. There are four houses total: The William R. Heath House, The Walter V. Davidson House and Graycliff are the other three; there's also a gardener's cottage. Distinguished from Wright's other houses by its large size and

openness, the Martin house typifies Wright's organic style.

FOREST LAWN CEMETERY

(main entrance on Delaware Avenue at Delavan): Skeptical about a summer-day stroll through a cemetery? Don't be; the cemetery is like a well kept park, sprinkled with artful graves, tombstones, mausoleums and memorials dating back to the early 19th century. Many have been designed by the renowned architects who also contributed to the city's architecture, including Upjohn (of St. Paul's Cathedral) and White (of the McKim, Mead and White Delaware Mansions). And, of course, if you're a celebrity hound, look for the famous tombstones of President McKinley, Red Jacket, and William D. Fargo.

BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(25 Nottingham Court): Originally built as the New York State Pavilion for the Pan-American Exposition of 1901, this structure by George Cary

now houses the Historical Society within its beautiful Vermont marble. Come on a nice day, sit in the Japanese gardens along the water after a museum tour, and enjoy a rare space in the city.

There is so much more—the lovely buildings of the theater district detailed elsewhere in this issue, stately Millionaires' Row, and Delaware Park's brothers and sisters, all part of the famous Olmstead Park and Park systems. For an often missed sight, go out to the Buffalo River, and admire the behemoth grain elevators.

Worried you'll miss something? Fret not; there are people who care. Several groups conduct great tours of Buffalo, and can fill you in on what doesn't meet the eye.

If you're still not sold on the walking tour idea, we forgive you: many of these organizations offer driving and bike tours as well.

TOUR GROUPS

Roam Buffalo, part of the Friends of the School of Architecture and Planning at Buffalo. Downtown District and Theater District walking tours offered. Call 829-3543 or 854-5907 for more info.

Destinations Plus/Buffalo Guide Service. Call 934-9522 for more info.

Preservation Coalition of Erie County. Walking, bicycle and boat tours available. Special tours available on the Pan-Am Exposition site. Call 885-3897 for info. See the Summer Guide calendar for schedule.

Discover the Architectural Treasures of Buffalo, at the Burchfield-Penney Art Center. Tours set up upon request, special exhibit on Pan-Am Exposition available for touring. Call 878-3510 for info.

ONLINE

Here are some websites you can check for more information on the architecture of Buffalo and how to enjoy it best:

www.buffalocvb.org/architecture

www.bfn.org/sigs/links/preserve/archsites.

Lastly, check out our Summer Guide calendar for related upcoming events and tours. Happy exploring.