

# Prospect Hill Prospectus



Autumn 2000

edited by Chris Sturbaum

## Annual Fall Neighborhood Party



*Bring a favorite dish,  
flatware & a lawnchair*

*Come One, Come All!*

### Jackson Street

...between 3<sup>rd</sup> and Prospect

### Saturday, September 16

### 5:00 PM

Rain date: Sep. 17

#### **Around the Neighborhood**

The Prospect Hill Neighborhood Pitch-in is going to take place very soon on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. The brief neighborhood meeting will start at 5PM and the eating will be very soon after. Bring a favorite dish, table service and a lawn chair if you have one. If you haven't attended one of these before, you are especially welcome! Rain date is Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>.

If you are new to the Prospect Hill Neighborhood, we wish you to feel welcome. There is really only one rule to being a good neighbor: Simply be

considerate. That about covers it. If you have an unhappy neighbor, ask yourself if you have failed at the simple neighbor rule.

There have been theft problems in the Howe Street area lately. Items have been taken from cars and on a more serious side, many treasured belongings were stolen in broad daylight from a house in the Howe and Euclid Street area. If you have seen any suspicious person or persons or vehicles parking during the day in the Pentecostal Church parking lot, please call the police with your information.

The other message is to lock your doors and secure your accessible windows while you are away. If you wish to leave the windows open a little, one simple technique is to open the window a safe amount, drill horizontally through the side of the bottom sash into the bottom rail of the upper sash and simply slide a nail into the hole. This “locks” the upper and lower sashes together in an opened position and doesn’t allow access.

Let’s be cautious and also watch out for our neighbors by noticing suspicious behavior and reporting it when appropriate.

### **Sidewalks Around The Neighborhood**

The WPA sidewalk program is fixing more walks in the neighborhood again and will probably apply for more money in the next round of neighborhood grants from the HAND Department of the City of Bloomington.



**Repair in progress, Jackson St.**

There has been some discussion about adding brick walks to the project as well. It is pleasing to see more and more repaired WPA sidewalks as the ongoing program continues.

Speaking of sidewalks, a subcommittee of neighbors met with city

HAND Department members and city engineer Jonathan Heald recently. There is a project in the works to repair the badly damaged WPA sidewalk in front



**Completed walk, Jackson St.**

of the Paris Dunning House and the deteriorated WPA sidewalks on down the hill on Jackson Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> streets as well. The project is complicated by serious drainage issues, an underground creek and storm drainage sewer, a potentially hazardous gas line running through same, and historic sidewalks which can’t simply be raised and remade higher for a better curb height without negatively affecting the houses on the east side of the street.

These houses are so close to the street and the road has been paved and re-paved so many times that without the removal of asphalt, the sidewalks will be

considerably higher than the yards and driveways of the adjoining houses. This condition changes the original relation of the properties to the street, causing a negative impact to the historic appearance of the existing street and houses. (A possible change in street and sidewalk width and changing the street to one-way use was dropped from the plan at the neighborhood's request.)

It is an engineering challenge to solve the drainage problems without harming the appearance of the street and having negative impacts on the houses involved. However, the asphalt removal is not a difficult engineering feat. It is simply more costly. But our historic street-scape is a valuable asset and harming it forever due to a budget concern is short-sighted from our point of view.

We hope and would like to believe that the city can accomplish both goals. This can be a learning experience about how to deal with historic sidewalks and WPA structures in future projects. Part of the problem of built up asphalt is solved in other communities by purchasing an expensive machine which grinds off the old asphalt so the road doesn't continually grow higher than historic sidewalks causing drainage and other problems as it has here. The use of this machine city wide could avoid having to make some of these difficult decisions in the future.

### **Rose Hill Storm Damage / Stone Repair**

Have you ever been concerned about the broken gravestones in Rose Hill Cemetery? The recent storm, which took down many majestic old trees in the cemetery, added to the stone damage. A small but dedicated group spent a

Saturday in Rose Hill doing something about it. I joined several men for a few hours in their efforts at monument repair and I learned how simple it is to make a difference.



**Fallen Tree at Rose Hill Cemetery**

The leaning and fallen domino shaped gravestones needed various repairs. The easiest of all is to simply drag one out, straighten it in a bed of gravel and fill the hole back in. I helped with several of these simple but effective repairs. Other stones are broken off at ground level, often from mower error. One of the guys had learned a good solution for these too. In his garage he forms and pours concrete in the shape of a 3 foot long loaf of bread. These are made with a slot down the middle which looks like the hole of a toaster. This base is then set in newly dug ground in a bed of gravel so that only the slot shows. When the stone is placed, just like toast starting to go in a toaster, it fits snugly in the 6 inch deep slot and sits straight, hopefully for another hundred years.

The hardest to repair are the domino shaped stones which are broken in several pieces. These pieces are carefully drilled so that fiberglass pins match the holes to align and strengthen the repair. After dry fitting, the pieces are carefully glued together with an epoxy, which is tinted a similar color to

the limestone or sandstone. The stones I watched getting repaired were glued together after the bottom portion of the stone was set in the slot of another pre-made base. The other pieces were then glued together in place and left to harden with occasional clamps or splints as needed to keep the alignment.



**Workers at Rose Hill**

Rose Hill is such an important piece of our town's history, it is important to preserve the stones. Some communities have historically designated their cemeteries for added protection.

Rose Hill is also a beautiful place to walk, enjoy the day and discover our city's varied and interesting carved artwork and history. The neighborhood may host a future repair workshop in the cemetery.

### **Famous People of Rose Hill Cemetery**

Indiana was admitted to the union in 1816 and that same year, in Corydon, the capitol of Indiana, Seminary Township of Monroe County was officially established with the proceeds of land sales to fund a state college for our young state. Indiana Seminary was opened in 1819. It consisted of one frame building, one part-time professor (he preached to the

Presbyterian congregation as well for his first 2 ½ years). He went to full-time after the number of students had climbed to 21. In 1826, a second professor was added to handle the climbing enrollment of 26 students. In 1827, the seminary became Indiana College. The college in 1828 had grown to 36 students. In 1829, Andrew Wylie came to Bloomington to serve as the first president of Indiana College.

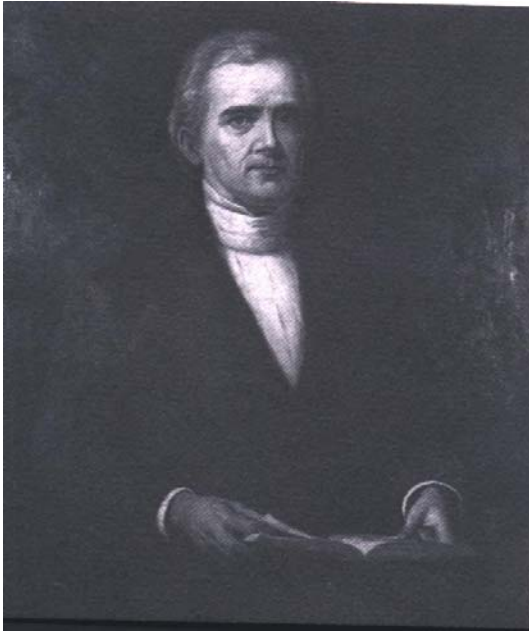


**Stone repair, Rose Hill**

The large majority of the local population were farmers, and young men weren't sent to college to alter their faith or change political loyalties. Andrew Wylie's first speech contained this philosophy, "Purity of morals shall be made the primary object. Whenever any student shall show symptoms of sloth, or of other vices commencing upon him, he shall be addressed on the subjects and if



admonition proves ineffectual, he shall be sent away.”



**Andrew Wylie**

It would be another 50 years before Bloomington even achieved a population of 3,000. When Andrew Wylie built his farm on seminary land, the town of about 1,000 was a mud road settlement with chickens and livestock frequenting the streets. The farmhouse he built is the current Wylie Museum located at the West Second Street and South Lincoln intersection. The college was about a block away at Seminary Square (now Krogers). Mrs. Wylie had been horrified at the prospect of leaving Pennsylvania for the frontier western farmer’s town of Bloomington, Indiana. An early professor’s wife called the city “Doomington” and described a dilapidated, dirty courthouse with slothful males sitting around it who seemed to move only to spit their tobacco.

Andrew Wylie was 40 years old when he arrived and had previously been the president of two colleges back in

Pennsylvania. He stood 6 ft. tall and weighed over 200 pounds. He had blonde hair and was the son of Scotch-Irish immigrants. He grew up on the family farm in western Pennsylvania. He was said to be stern, and some said detached and haughty. (Others said devious). His regimented lifestyle was as follows: 1) He arose every morning at 4 a.m. dressing and getting ready for the day. 2) 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. was spent in prayer and seclusion. 3) He would then eat and arrive at the campus at 9 a.m. 4) He would visit classes, listen to student recitations and handle administrative duties until 5 p.m. 6) He would come home for supper and he went to bed at exactly 10 p.m. each night. It is said this schedule varied but little as far as anyone knew.



**Wylie gravestone, Rose Hill**

In 1932, Wylie lost both his faculty members, when one quit and the

other was released due to bitter conflicts and disagreements with Wylie. The problems were known as the “faculty wars”. The town took sides in the issue to the point of people not being on speaking terms with members of the opposing side and the newly hired replacement faculty was caught in the middle. One of the new professors from a tiny classical school in Rising Sun, decided to do something about this. He and his wife invited members of both factions and the College Board to a dinner party, without letting either faction suspect that the other was also invited. The awkward groups stayed in opposite sides of the room at first but the new professor’s diplomacy brought about a healing of the serious rift that had threatened the future of the young college and the peace of the little town.

Later that same year, another crisis arrived in the form of cholera. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1832 the outbreak took the first lives in Chicago. It spread along the Ohio river. People waited in Bloomington, hoping to be missed but it reached Bloomington on August 10<sup>th</sup> with the first local fatalities. Classes were dismissed for two weeks. Fortunately the epidemic soon ran its course and classes eventually started up as before.

1838 saw Indiana College become Indiana University. The step was an attempt to diffuse the bitter argument the Methodists were making that the college was too uniformly Presbyterian. The state governor, a Presbyterian, made the following inflammatory statement, “There is not one Methodist in America with sufficient learning to fill a professor’s chair if it were tendered him at the school.” He lost the next election and IU moved to become a more secular

institution. Wylie became an Episcopalian priest in 1842.

Andrew Wylie met many unusual challenges peculiar to his time and the small town atmosphere of both Bloomington, the young institution and a fledgling state government as well.

He died November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1851, from an injury sustained from an ax while he was chopping wood, an activity he had pursued from his early years. He is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery. Dr. Wylie was 62.

### **Pedestrian Pathways Of Prospect Hill**

Some of the alleys and the abandoned alleys of Prospect Hill have been delightful sights this summer.



**Welcoming path**

Flowering plantings and arching tree branches have transformed the

utilitarian alleys into beautiful pedestrian passageways. Neighbors bordering on grass covered alleys generally keep the walking pathways mowed for the benefit and enjoyment of their fellow Prospect Hill walkers.

In a traditional neighborhood like ours, the alleys serve many functions. In days past, coal, ice, coal oil, food and wood deliveries used the little roads for access. Today, aside from a convenient way to get cars to the parking behind the house, alleys are recognized as pedestrian trails. In today's suburbs, even if they have sidewalks, a pedestrian has to follow a serpentine drive and has no direct way to get from one point to another. In Prospect Hill, the walker has numerous choices to get from one part of the neighborhood to another. When the day-lilies, rose-of-sharon, peonies, black-eyed susans, and hollyhocks are in bloom, why would anyone even want to walk along the street?



**Shady lane**

The Prospect Hill Neighborhood Association has discussed promoting alley beautification. Perhaps simply celebrating the best of the alleys may give other neighbors the idea to keep up the good work! My vote for the two best alleyways are the east-west alley from Rogers to Jackson Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> and Prospect and the abandoned alley from 3<sup>rd</sup> to Smith between Jackson and

Fairview. Thanks for the plantings and the effort!

## **McDoel Neighborhood To Become Historic Conservation District**

The McDoel neighborhood association has approached the Historic Commission with the request to become a Historic Conservation District. The McDoel neighborhood is made up of workers cottages, mostly bungalows built primarily by and for the workers of the Showers Brother's Factory expansion plant which became RCA in the late 50's. Built in the same period and predominantly in the same style, the neighborhood presents a pleasing uniformity of style and is without question, the best collection of bungalows in the city of Bloomington and would make an excellent historic district of worker's cottages.

Many of these homes from the mid-teens to the late 20's were actually pre-cut kit homes which were available from Sears and Montgomery Ward at that time. There were hundreds of designs and the companies would even arrange for a contractor to build your catalogue home. The materials all came in on the train with doors, woodwork, windows and all, packaged and numbered and ready to build. This was an affordable way to have a modest but fashionable house. The bungalows were small but had the design signature of the Arts and Craft Movement and were commonly called Craftsman Bungalows. The design was developed in California and was very popular and modern compared to the "old hat" Victorians. This was the Roaring 20's remember and

being old fashioned was the worst possible thing to be.

Two brothers, Greene and Greene, developed the design in Pasadena California, between 1903 and 1909. Inspired by the English Arts and Crafts movement, oriental wooden architecture, and their own early training in manual arts, the designs were picked up and popularized in magazines like Good Housekeeping and Ladies Home Journal. The Craftsman Bungalow quickly spread though-out the country in pattern books as well. From that time until the depression it was the most popular and fashionable smaller house in America.

The identifying features of the Craftsman Style are low pitched, gabled roofs with wide overhangs which show exposed rafters. In McDoel, nearly all are front gabled houses though there are other variations in the style. Brackets and beams apparently support the overhang but are sometimes only decorative or false. Distinctive porches on half or most of the front are supported by tapered square columns or pedestals which frequently extend clear to the ground without a break at the porch floor level. The windows are usually double-hung with three vertical panes in the upper sash over one single pane below.

Inside one often finds built-in room dividers, cabinets and sometimes window seats and china hutches. Being a more recent style (1905 -1930) than Prospect Hill's primary development (roughly 1895-1910), only a few of these exist in our neighborhood, though West 4<sup>th</sup> and some of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street do have examples of the style. A Conservation District is on step below Local Historic Designation. Demolitions, moving a structure or new construction of a building or accessory building or structure visible from the public view will require a special permit or Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Commission. This interim step could be used by Prospect Hill in the future to protect our neighborhood's 2<sup>nd</sup> Street boundary.



Prospect Hill Neighborhood Association Voluntary Membership Dues	
Name _____	
Address _____	
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Household - \$5.00	Please mail to:
Individual - \$2.50	Teresa Miller (Treasurer)
	511 W. 3rd St.
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