

# LANDMARKS' PRÉSERVATION



THE JOURNAL OF THE LOUISIANA LANDMARKS SOCIETY  
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## President's Remarks

The constant rains of 2021 remind us of the importance of the environment to our sense of well-being. Our faithful docents, leading the long-awaited reopening of the Pitot House Museum the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>, will be emphasizing the reason for the existence of the Pitot House as a breezy retreat from heat and humidity that offered its owners cooling breezes and interesting views. The genius of its Creole architectural forms fits perfectly with the theme of environmental reflection.

We would like to recognize and thank our docents Karen Snyder, Jamie Barker, Rhett Ortego, Linda Walker, and Jenny Dyer for their loyalty and expertise in offering tours of the House. Their descriptions of its design and construction, of its evolution over time, and of its harrowing moments just before the Landmarks Society rescued it from imminent demolition, continue to fascinate visitors.

Our recent Landmarks Society annual meeting took place in the historic environment of the Pitot House once again. There, we were pleased to welcome nine gifted new—and new last year—members of the board. Please take note of their short biographies elsewhere in this newsletter.

In addition to the meeting's annual reports and elections we were happy to offer Michael Duplantier some well-deserved recognition for the years he has served as board member and president, which was not possible in the absence of an annual meeting last year. Michael continues ably as Land-  
*Continued on page 2*



## Pitot House Reopens July 2021!

The Pitot House Museum is opening to the public for tours and community events beginning July 16, 2021. After almost a year of closure as a result of the pandemic and for much-needed maintenance, our faithful docents are returning and throwing open the doors of the gift shop to welcome visitors again.

The house will continue to undergo exciting updates and changes as the board and staff implement a plan to reinvigorate the house, collection and narrative. We believe this will enhance everyone's experience throughout the process and following.

Tour appointments are available on our website at [www.pitohouse.org](http://www.pitohouse.org), and will be offered Wednesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Please come by and visit. We have missed you all!



*Our work and grand reopening are being made possible through a generous Louisiana Culture Care Fund grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and National Endowment for the Humanities*



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES



## S. FREDERICK STARR ANNOUNCED AS 2021 HARNETT KANE AWARD WINNER



Since the 1960s, Louisiana Landmarks Society has annually given the Harnett T. Kane Award, named for a founding member of the Society and its fourth president. This award, the most important and prestigious historic preservation recognition given in the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana, salutes those individuals or organizations who have demonstrated significant lifetime achievements and contributions to historic preservation, locally or regionally.

For 2021 the Harnett Kane award winner is **S. Frederick Starr**. "Fred", to his legion of friends and colleagues, joins such luminaries as Sam Wilson, Martha Robinson, Leonard Huber, Bernard Lemann, Mary Lou Christovich, Louise Martin, Bill Borah, and many others who labored tirelessly for so much of their adult lives in the cause of historic preservation in our city and state. All of us have been immensely enriched by the hard work that they undertook to save and preserve our history and the built environment, so its most fitting and proper that such an outstanding

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## Notes from the Garden

### MYSTERY TREE SURVIVES MYSTERIOUS EVENT



The Pitot House's *jardin sauvage* contains an odd collection of trees in its leafy meadow along Moss Street, trees planted in different periods by different people with different ideas about what to plant there. This assortment includes Magnolia, Pine, Oak, Cypress, Sycamore, Crape Myrtle and Bamboo, among many others, often competing for root and limb space. However, one tree among this motley crew became something of a mystery tree. Despite examination by several lawn and garden experts, this one tree remained unidentified as to species.

The tree was bothering no one with no real need to be identified but for a second mystery eighteen months ago. During a holiday season storm, the top half of the tree trunk suddenly and unexpectedly broke and fell, awkwardly folding back down upon itself. The cause was not a lightning strike, as first suspected, nor was it termites, improper pruning, aging, herbicides or any other of the myriad threats that can damage or kill a tree. It just fell, and left quite a mess.

Calls to two local tree companies produced two pricey quotes to haul away the downed trunk and limbs, and to cut down and remove the rest of the tree, with assurances being provided that the tree would not survive losing the top half of its trunk. Both companies were willing to remove it, but could not identify the crippled tree. There was no wish to have the tree go to the afterlife unidentified, so in recognition of what had been its broad shade canopy and its contribution to the needed dense foliage along the back fence of the meadow, it was decided that a reprieve of the recommended death sentence was a more appropriate response. There was no prescience involved in this decision. It just seemed like the right thing to do.

The spring growing season of 2020 came and went, with no identifying tree bloom. By the spring of 2021, the mystery tree that suffered an equally mysterious halving was quite green and healthy, albeit with somewhat strangely malproportioned lateral limbs clearly benefiting from the new pecking order in the limb competition of this determined tree. It almost appeared to be growing sideways, if such a thing is possible

In late April of 2021 the Pitot House hosted a tour by members of *Le Petit Salon*. This was fortuitous timing, as the mystery tree then provided its own identifying clue. The abundant seasonal bloom by then in full display, *Salon* members had no problem identifying it as *Diospyros Virginiana*, or Common Persimmon. The mystery was solved, and now all was right with the world. Forming the verdant perimeter of the Pitot House meadow, the contorted Common Persimmon and its companions among the tree and plant life of the *jardin sauvage* were oblivious to the world of mysteries and mysterious events.

*President's Message Continued from Page 1*

Society treasurer for one more year before he cycles off for a needed rest.

We are looking forward, at a date in the fall, to bestowing the Harnett Kane award to its 2021 recipient S. Frederick Starr. Dr. Starr was unable to join us in person at the annual meeting in May, which then offers an opportunity for host him at a future event and to hear his insightful comments on the current state of historic preservation. His remarks are usually not for the timid.

Finally, we want to remind you that the organization has converted to a digital reminder scheme for membership. We hope you will respond to your notice when it goes out in a rolling renewal system. If you are like me, you may not be sure as to whether you have paid your dues. The system will be available by email to the office to answer any questions in this regard.

We hope you will plan to visit and tour the Pitot House Museum in the near future. You can schedule a tour online. See you there!

Sally Reeves

*Harnett Kane Award Continued from Page 1*

community leader be publicly recognized and honored for their service.

Because of longstanding travel commitments, 2021 honoree Fred Starr was unable to be present to receive the award at the Louisiana Landmarks Society's annual meeting. Instead, Fred Starr was announced at the annual meeting as the recipient of the annual award. The recitation of Fred's many notable accomplishments, and the formal presentation of the award itself will be set for a later date during the fall of this year so that Fred and his family and friends can be present. Further announcements will be forthcoming as to the date for the presentation, so we encourage all members to join us at that time and to provide proper recognition to 2021 Harnett Kane Award winner, Fred Starr.

## Louisiana Landmarks Society welcomes the 2021-22 Board of Trustees



The Board of Trustees and members of the Louisiana Landmarks Society met Sunday, May 30, 2021 At Pitot House for the annual meeting where the new Executive Officers and Board of Trustees were announced.

The meeting was well-attended as outgoing board members were thanked and new board members welcomed. Refreshments followed and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to meet once again at the Pitot House.

**President, Sally Reeves**

**1st Vice President, James Rolf, III**

**2nd Vice President, Betsy Stout**

**Treasurer, Michael Duplantier**

**Assistant Treasurer, John (Jeff) Bernard**

**Corresponding Secretary, Rene Fransen**

**Recording Secretary, Nathan Lott**

### **Board of Trustees**

**Harry Barkerding**

**William G. Barry, Jr.**

**Brittney Gros Belanger**

**Margot Hammond**

**Keith Hardie**

**Michael Mancuso**

**Tony Marino**

**Teddy Pierre**

**Peter Wolf**



## New Board Member Biographies

### **HARRY BARKERDING**

Harry Barkerding's career has followed an array of technological and financial paths. He worked for a local CPA firm as a consultant advising clients on business information systems. He later started his own firm implementing accounting and information systems for a wide variety of businesses. In 1997, following a consulting engagement with Ruth's Chris Steak House, Harry was hired full time as the company's first IT director and became a member of the executive management team. While there, Harry and his team developed the first electronic gift card system used by a national restaurant chain.

In May of 2000, Harry started a software development company to provide accounting and information systems exclusively to the restaurant industry. The growing company had a national customer base and moved to Austin, Texas following Hurricane Katrina. There, the company continued to grow. Harry ultimately sold the company to private equity in March 2015. He returned to New Orleans in the summer of that year.

Married for nearly 26 years, Harry lives with his wife Mary Ann in Old Metairie. They have a son, who is 20. Harry is an avid sailor and a 46-year member of Southern Yacht Club and a current board member. He also has a hobby restoring old British cars and nearly finished a 3-year restoration of a 1962 MGB. Harry is a public member of the Louisiana Office of Disciplinary Council. He also provides occasional advisory assistance to established and startup ventures.

### **MARGOT HAMMOND**

Margot Hammond, a lifelong resident of New Orleans, served as an Attorney Supervisor with the Mental Health Advocacy Service until she retired in June of 2011. She graduated from Southeastern La. University with a B.A. She received a M.S. in Recreation Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 1984, she received her J.D. from Loyola University School of Law. She has served on La. State Bar Association committees and a Louisiana Law Institute committee. Margot has been a volunteer docent for the Historic New Orleans Collection since 2012. She has worked with the Landmarks Society on multiple committees and events including the Fete du Jardin, Vino on the Bayou and the Education Committee. Margot has been a Pitot House docent for many events especially for school tours.

### **ANTHONY "TONY" MARINO**

Anthony Marino is a long-time resident of the French Quarter. In 1993, he began restoration on his 1850s-era American townhouse in the French Quarter. Once complete, the restoration earned many preservation awards from groups such as Vieux Carre Commission and the Preservation Resource Center. He has since remained committed to historic preservation in the French Quarter.

He is a shareholder in the firm Slattery, Marino & Roberts. His work involves a wide range of energy related transactions. He concentrates his practice generally in mineral title examination, the acquisition and divestiture of mineral properties, regulatory matters relating to onshore leases and offshore leases, including state waters and federal waters on the Outer Continental Shelf, and energy related financing transactions involving the negotiation and performance of exploration, development, operating and joint venture agreements.

### **TEDDY PIERRE**

Teddy is an Architectural Master Mason and Historic Brick & Mortar Specialist, and holds a master's degree in Architecture from Tulane University. Inspired by the exceptional craftsmanship of his father, he has continued his rare family tradition of practicing & preserving the lost art of the mason. For over 37 years, his experience, passion and excellence in architectural masonry have brought much local & national recognition to his work, and his desire to build community & educate the next generation is an inspiration to many. He is committed to restoring cemeteries, especially Lafayette No. 2, where he plans to train students in material conservation of historic tombs.

### **PETER WOLF**

Peter is a graduate of Yale (BA), Tulane (MA), and New York University's Institute of Fine Art (PhD), and a New Orleans native. He is a professional planner, urbanist, preservationist, and urban policy authority. Peter is founder and first chairman of The Thomas Moran Trust, Chairman of the Godchaux Reserve House Fund, and a trustee of the Village Preservation Society in East Hampton, New York. He has authored award-winning books on land use, planning and preservation and has served as a consultant to towns and cities as well as corporations and private owners of sensitive lands.

# LOST LANDMARKS

## STATEMENT ON THE LOSS OF MCDONOGH 11 SCHOOL

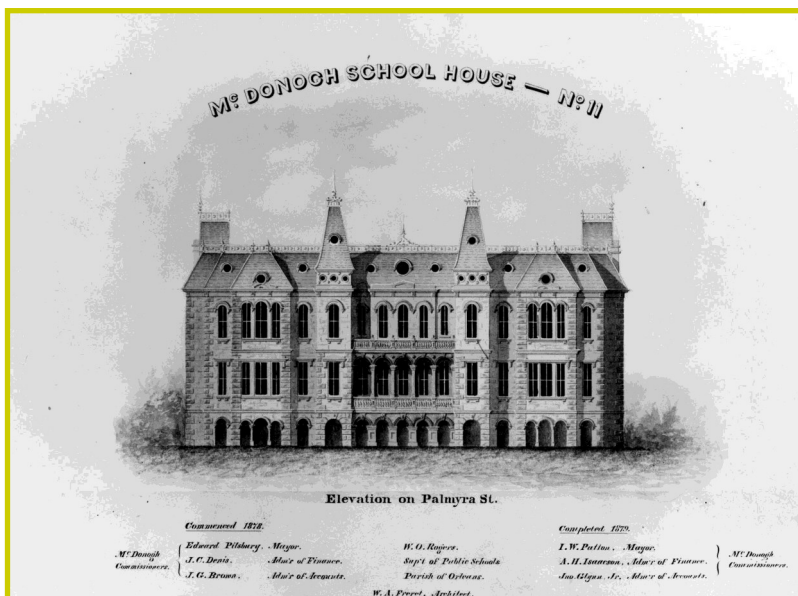


Photo from New Orleans Public Library

The c. 1879 William Freret-designed McDonogh 11 school building faithfully served New Orleans for almost 150 years as an architecturally distinguished landmark of teaching and learning. Generations of students studied within its walls, witnesses to the many decades of an ever-changing and often difficult history unfolding around them. Despite such challenges, the school persevered through the ages and the panoply of social, racial and economic changes that have both marked and defined eras and transitions in its neighborhood and in the community at large.

That this building successfully endured was a testament to its majestic architecture, its imposing and impressive façade and to the bold and self-assured statement that it made as to the value of both its form and its function. Such public buildings are rare, even for a community that appreciates and seeks to protect its historic properties. No such building whose original public function has now passed should have to justify its continued existence. The burden of protection rests with the leaders of our

community who are charged with finding ways to preserve that irreplaceable historic legacy.

McDonogh 11 is now gone, not just demolished but destroyed in a disgraceful and wholly undignified manner. The responsible officials at LSU had years to better prepare for an assured future of this building and ample time and opportunity to work with the preservation community to seek an alternate use and location for the building. Instead, the failure to provide properly for the future led down a path to wanton destruction, a loss that has left New Orleans poorer as a result.

Sandra Stokes, chair of the Advocacy Committee of Louisiana Landmarks Society, a long-time champion for the preservation of the building, was dejected at this shocking turn of events and provided these comments:

*Louisiana Landmarks Society was in the vanguard seeking to protect this building, with years of impassioned advocacy on its behalf, including helping to defeat the initial plan for demolition because of its significance. Louisiana Landmarks Society twice named it to its list of New Orleans Nine Most Endangered Sites and worked tirelessly to call attention to its condition and to urge timely action by LSU to save the building. We are both sickened and heartbroken over the loss and this act of civic irresponsibility. We thought we were well beyond the time when our magnificent architecture would be callously discarded. It is a treasure and a limited resource - a significant part of what helps to define our unique city.*

While it is complex and expensive to save large historic landmarks like McDonogh 11, not only can it be done but also has been done in New Orleans a countless number of times. Doing so calls for building owners to have steadfast dedication and commitment both to the building and to broader values of the community, as well as the requisite degree of leadership and integrity to embrace and serve those values, despite complications and adversities. That degree of dedication and leadership was conspicuously lacking in this instance. LSU had ample financial resources provided by tax payers to restore and reuse the building. The lack of expressed concern for the complete loss of millions of dollars of public funds invested in the building to put it back in use after Hurricane Katrina and to move the building several times shocks the conscience of the tax-paying public and adds an abominable level of fiscal waste to the painful and pointless loss of the historic property itself. The funds spent to demolish it could have instead been spent as a lure and incentive for a promising new life for the historic building.

Louisiana Landmarks Society calls for a prompt and searching reconsideration of all laws that give public agencies near carte blanche discretion with regard to treatment of the inventory of publicly owned properties, with the goal of legislatively requiring those agencies to exercise the same standard of care, attention and responsibility for the protection of public properties as are imposed on the owners of privately held historic properties. Only then can our community have some assurance that our beloved historic public buildings have the protection they need and deserve. Shame on LSU.

The graphic features a dark blue background with an orange header and footer. In the center, a white box contains the text "New Orleans' most endangered sites 2021" with a large orange "NO9" logo. Below this, a wide orange banner reads "CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!" in bold yellow letters.

Modeled on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's listing of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, the New Orleans' Nine was inaugurated by Louisiana Landmarks Society in 2005. The list aims to save historic sites through an annual announcement to gain publicity for endangered places, to advocate for sound preservation policies, and to educate the public. The list draws attention to historic places that may be threatened by demolition, neglect, or bureaucracy. Once these resources are lost, our community is diminished historically and culturally forever.

If you have a site to nominate visit our website [www.louisianalandmarks.org](http://www.louisianalandmarks.org) where you can download a nomination form and submit via email [info@louisianalandmarks.org](mailto:info@louisianalandmarks.org) or mail to 1440 Moss Street, New Orleans, LA 70119

**The deadline for submission is September 1, 2021.**

Previous New Orleans Nine sites include McDonogh 11, Carrollton Courthouse and Holy Cross High School Administration Building.



**BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW**

**STUDENT - \$20**

Free admission and tour for one  
10% discount in gift shop  
Advance notice of events

**35 and UNDER - \$35**

Free admission and tour for one  
10% discount in gift shop  
Advance notice of events

**INDIVIDUAL - \$50**

Free admission and tour for one  
10% discount in gift shop  
Invited to member events and advance notice of events

**HOUSEHOLD - \$75**

Free admission and tours for four  
10% discount in gift shop  
Invited to member events and advance notice of events

**ADVOCATE - \$100**

Free admission and tours for four  
10% discount in gift shop  
Invited to member events and advance notice of events

**BUSINESS - \$200**

Free admission and tours for six  
10% discount in gift shop  
Invited to member events and advance notice of events

**GUARDIAN - \$250**

Free admission and tours for eight  
10% discount in gift shop  
Invited to member events and advance notice of events

**PROTECTOR - \$500**

Free admission and tours for eight  
10% discount in gift shop  
Invited to member events and advance notice of events

**PRESERVER - \$1000**

Free admission and tour for eight  
10% discount in gift shop  
20% discount on event rentals  
Invited to members events and advance notice of events

Louisiana Landmarks Society

**Mission Statement**

*The Louisiana Landmarks Society promotes historic preservation through education, advocacy, and operation of the Pitot House*

**Board of Trustees and Staff**

Sally K. Reeves - *President*

James Rolf, III - *1st Vice President*

Betsy Stout - *2nd Vice President*

Michael Duplantier - *Treasurer*

John "Jeff" Bernard - *Assistant Treasurer*

Nathan Lott - *Recording Secretary*

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Harry Barkerding

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Margot Hammond

Keith Hardie

Michael Mancuso

Tony Marino

Teddy Pierre

Peter Wolf

Jenny Dyer - *Historic House Manager*



1-Year Membership (For a renewal, the year's membership will begin when the current membership expires.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (as you would like it to appear in acknowledgments)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

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Check Membership Level:  Student \$20  35 and Under \$35  Individual \$50  Household \$75  Advocate \$100  Business \$200  Guardian \$250  Protector \$500  Preserver \$1000

I would like to make an additional donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ I prefer to charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to type of card \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ CVV number \_\_\_\_\_

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Make check payable to: Louisiana Landmarks Society  
Mail to: Louisiana Landmarks Society  
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