



Preserve

LAWSON LANDMARKS

GREEN LAKE, WISCONSIN

Winter 2024 Newsletter

This past year was the most eventful and successful in Preserve Lawson Landmark's short three-year history. We have just about completed the restoration of the five small towers within the Green Lake Conference Center and have started to research how best to approach the "big two"—Judson Tower and the Boathouse. Please enjoy this summary of the wonderful year behind us as we continue to focus on the great work ahead.

The "New" Kimen-Pearsall Tower

Preserve Lawson Landmarks would not exist were it not for Gail Kimen and Henry Pearsall. Gail and Henry brought together a group of friends and community members in 2021 with the goal of saving just the roof on Prospect Tower. Through their vision, Preserve Lawson Landmarks was formed. To honor their commitment and leadership, the former Hillside Tower, overlooking Norwegian Bay, has been formally renamed Kimen-Pearsall Tower. Conference center president Ben Mott made the dedication and unveiled the new plaque at a ceremony in October, noting that Gail's and Henry's legacies will go far beyond the stewardship of the towers.

Project Update

In 2024, we put the finishing touches on Prospect Tower and Guild Tower. This included additional tree trimming to open the view to and from Prospect Tower, and landscaping, lighting, and a new bronze plaque at Guild Tower, which sits just inside the conference center's main gates.

Because of your generosity, we have also been able to start and nearly finish preserving the three other small towers, namely Heifer Tower near Beebe Court, Builders Tower adjacent to the prairie, and the newly renamed Kimen-Pearsall Tower on Norwegian Bay. Each tower was cleaned and had its failing concrete patched, got new doors and window



David Cullen, Henry Pearsall, Gail Kimen, and Ben Mott at the tower dedication.

Mission

Preserve Lawson Landmarks (PLL) is committed to restoring the original structures built by Jessie and Victor Lawson for their farm and estate, which is now the Green Lake Conference Center. Efforts focus on preserving the property's original water towers, repairing the stone walls and bridges, and restoring the boathouse, all built between 1888 and 1925.

Steering Committee

David Cullen (chair)
Kathy Cullen
Amy Kimen
Gail Kimen
Amber Klein
Bob Kleinpaste
Ann Mijatovich
Karen Mittelstadt
Henry Pearsall

Learn More

For more information and to donate:
www.preservelawsonlandmarks.org
Or send an email to:
info@preservelawsonlandmarks.org
Checks can be mailed to PLL, PO Box 335, Green Lake, WI 54941, payable to GLCC with *Preserve Lawson Landmarks* in the memo. (Please note the new PO Box.) All donations are tax-deductible.



inserts, and the overhanging trees were trimmed. Heifer and Builders Towers both received new asphalt roofs, and the clay tile roof on Kimen-Pearsall Tower is slated to be replaced before spring. Kimen-Pearsall Tower also had a new drainage system installed, compliments of Pinnacle Plumbing, to solve the water pooling problem.

In addition, restoration work continues on the many miles of stone walls and bridges inside the conference center, with Preserve Lawson Landmarks and the conference center jointly funding this ongoing project.

Lone Tree Farm Exhibit

Victor and Jessie Lawson named their private estate “Lone Tree Farm.” This past year, Preserve Lawson Landmarks partnered with the Dartford Historical Society and the conference center to create a new exhibit called “Lone Tree Farm: From Initial Development to Current Preservation Efforts.” The exhibit tells the backstory of the Lawson’s property and details the current preservation work. There are photographs, maps, and samples of the original building materials. The exhibit will run through Summer 2025. It is showcased within the Dartford Historical Society gallery at 501 Mill Street in Green Lake. The Society is open Wednesdays 9am to 3pm and Saturdays 10am to 12noon.

Community Events and Donations

From June’s Party with a Purpose to the Kimen-Pearsall Tower open house in October, we were pleased to see so many of you at our 2024 events. We have also been excited to share our story and promote our efforts through various community events, for example co-hosting an artists’ reception with local artist Pat Dobrinska that featured various paintings of the conference center’s landmarks.

In addition, several local entities generously gave to Preserve Lawson Landmarks in 2024. In September, David Cullen, chair of Preserve Lawson Landmarks, accepted a \$500 donation from the Green Lake Rotary Club. Crossroads Market supported Preserve Lawson Landmarks with a Brat Barn in July and its Rooster Round Up program in October, garnering a \$1,357 donation to the organization. And the Green Lake Conservancy made a \$500 donation to Preserve Lawson Landmarks in October to recognize the preservation work taking place at Kimen-Pearsall Tower, which sits adjacent to the Winnebago Trail Conservancy.



Holiday cheer at the preserved Guild Tower.

Judson Tower and the Boathouse

We know many of you are interested in seeing Judson Tower and the Boathouse saved and we spent the latter half of 2024 working to understand what this would entail. We held meetings with the Green Lake Conference Center and hosted a joint meeting involving the conference center, the Dartford Historical Society, and the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office. Coming out of this meeting, and to inform future decision-making specifically around potential state or national historic designation, we created an inventory of the 120-plus structures still standing on the grounds, including the year built, purpose, location, and photographs. We have also consulted with a Madison-based real estate services firm that specializes in historic preservation. Our goal is to develop a realistic and strategic path forward and share it with you in 2025.

Party with a Purpose – Save the Date

The 2025 Party with a Purpose is scheduled for Friday, June 20, hosted by David and Kathy Cullen. Please watch your mail for your invitation and put a hold on your calendar.

Thank You for Your Generous Support

Since our founding, Preserve Lawson Landmarks has raised more than \$185,000. Our success is thanks to friends, supporters, donors, volunteers, and our community—people like you. Together we can accomplish our 2025 goals, continuing the work to save what Jessie and Victor Lawson built and left for us all. It is in this spirit that we encourage you to make a gift to Preserve Lawson Landmarks today.