

MEMORANDUM
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TO: **City Manager Thomas Thomas**

SUBJECT: Haverstick House Landmark Presentation

Date: Oct. 3, 2012

Brian Hollenback, representing Rock Island Economic GROWTH Corporation, owners of the Levi Haverstick House, will be present at the October 8th City Council meeting to receive a plaque recognizing landmark designation of the Levi Haverstick House at 544 23rd Street.

The structure was designated the city's 41st local landmark by the Rock Island Preservation Commission on September 26, 2012 for its connection to one of the earliest newspaper publishers and editors in Rock Island and its outstanding Italianate architecture. This structure was built in 1869 and was a featured home in the 2012 Broadway Mother's Day Tour of Homes. After falling into profound disrepair, the home was restored 143 years later by GROWTH utilizing Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds, which is a federal stimulus package that is pumping \$3 million investment into the Broadway Historic District. The house is currently for sale by the non-profit housing agency. Details are located at www.LiveRI.com.

The early date of this home marks it firmly within the Italianate period of architecture. However, in Rock Island, Italianate homes tend to be the front gabled subtype or much larger with kneehole windows or other features. The side hall cube was much less common in Rock Island and 544 23rd Street is an excellent example. The elaborate double brackets and brick construction are not often combined, and few have the high level of integrity possessed by the Haverstick House.

Haverstick was in the Civil War and came to Rock Island shortly afterward. Research indicates he built this home in anticipation of his wedding to Mary Emma Frantz on January 4, 1870. They had four children between 1871 and 1879. Haverstick was a Dickinson College-educated Civil War veteran who was wounded permanently in his leg so that he always used crutches or a cane. He moved to Rock Island County in 1866, when he purchased the *Rock Island Daily Union* and was later president of the Union Printing Company. He left newspaper work temporarily due to ill health, with a foray into the pottery-making business with the purchase of the Rock Island Pottery Company. He died from tuberculosis in 1881, about five weeks before his 40th birthday.

The landmark nomination was submitted by the Broadway Historic District Association and was written by Diane Oestreich. The nomination can be found in its entirety in the Rock Island Historic Structures Inventory database on the City of Rock Island's website. To peruse details on this building or the rest of the Inventory, go to "Community & Recreation," then click on "Historic Preservation," then "Historic Structures."

Submitted by: **Jill Doak, Urban Planner II**
Alan M. Carmen, Planning and Redevelopment Administrator
Jeff Eder, Community & Economic Development Director

APPROVED: