



**CITY OF LA CROSSE
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Historic Landmark Nomination Form

1. What is the historic name of the Landmark or Landmark District?

VINCENT TALSCHER HOUSE

2. What is the current name of the Landmark or Landmark District?(If applicable)

3. Property Address: 1202 MADISON ST., LA CROSSE, WI

4. OWNERSHIP

- a. Owner(s): STARLAND & Nancy Annunzio
- b. Street: 1202 MADISON STREET
- c. City, State, Zip Code: LA CROSSE, WI 54601 Phone: (608) 799-1211
- d. Email: NANNUNZIO@YAHOO.COM Parcel ID#: 17-30178-10

5. NOMINATED BY (If different):

- a. Name: _____
- b. Street: _____
- c. City, State, Zip Code: _____ Phone: () _____
- d. Email: _____

6. CLASSIFICATION AND USE (Check all that apply):

Proposed Designation (choose one)

- Landmark District
- Landmark

If it is a Landmark, choose a category (definitions can be found on the instructions page)

- Historic Structure
- Historic Site
- Historic Object

Present Use

- Agriculture
- Industrial
- Religious
- Commercial
- Military
- Scientific
- Educational
- Museum
- Transportation
- Entertainment
- Park
- Government
- Private Residence(s)
- Other _____

Condition:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Has the property been nominated previously? Yes No

When? _____

What was the outcome? _____

Is the proposed Landmark or District on the National Register? Yes No

When? _____

7. SIGNIFICANCE:

Section 20.90 of the *Municipal Code of Ordinances* lists 4 criteria that a district, site, structure or object may be designated under.

Please check one or more of the listed criteria that apply to this Property:

- Associated with events or person(s) who have made a significant contribution to the history, heritage, or culture of the City of La Crosse, the County of La Crosse, the State of Wisconsin, or the United States.
- It embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period, style or method of construction or of indigenous material or craftsmanship.
- It is representative of the notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual work is significant in the development of the City of La Crosse, the County of La Crosse, the State of Wisconsin, or the United States.
- It exemplifies or reflects the broad cultural, political, economic or social history of the nation, state, or community.

8. HISTORIC OVERVIEW/ANALYSIS (See attached instructions for analysis outline):

Please attach the analysis as a separate document containing the following sections:

A. Existing Physical Description

- a. Write a physical description of the nominated property or district in its current state.
- b. If it has been altered over time, indicate the date(s) and nature of the alterations.
- c. Include additional information as applicable.

A. Existing Physical Appearance

This property at 1202 Madison Street, (previously known as 503 West Avenue South) is an excellent example of the Prairie Style architecture in the La Crosse area in the early 1900s. It is basically unchanged, except for updated kitchen, baths and mechanicals. Otherwise the interior is original with leaded windows, solid ceiling beams, in-built bookcases, mahogany buffet with inlay detail, quarter sawn oak flooring and an attached greenhouse.

The Ludowici-Celadon terra cotta tile was replaced in 1979 with asphalt shingles. In 2017 the roof was replaced with shingles that represent the color, texture and shape of the Ludowici terra cotta tile.

The lot includes a detached two car garage which also includes an attached space.

Local historian, Les Crocker stated, "It is like living in a museum."

B. Narrative History

The property was owned by Vincent Tausche, a La Crosse merchant and community leader. The architect for the property was Percy D. Bentley who studied in Chicago with other notable architects of the time such as Frank Lloyd Wright and George Maher. Construction began in 1914 and concluded in 1915.

The primary contractor was a local business, Peter Nelson and Sons, along with many local vendors including Odin Oyen, decorator, Ori Sorenson, carpenter, Segelke and Kohlhaus, manufacturer of fine interior hardwoods, and La Crosse Trane Company, in-house vacuum system.

Mr. Tausche kept meticulous records of the construction and the original documentation has been donated to the UW-Madison historical collection. Examples of documentation include prevailing wage rates, working conditions, rail freight and delivery costs, communications between vendors and the architect and Mr. Tausche, and an itemized list of materials. The total cost of the the project was approximately \$17,000 in 1915.

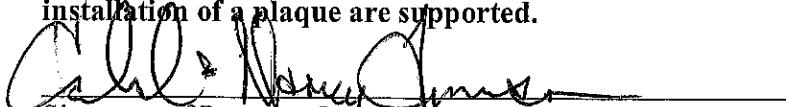
C. Additional Information

Further documentation can be available at your request.

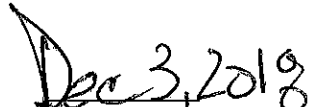
D. Bibliography

1. As previously stated, we have copies of all construction documentation.
2. We relied on historians Les Crocker, Eric Wheeler, Laura Godden and Donald Aucutt.
3. The Wisconsin Historical Society deemed the property historic on October 2, 2017
4. Prairie Magazine Oct-Dec 2015; Jan-Mar 2016; April-Jun 2016

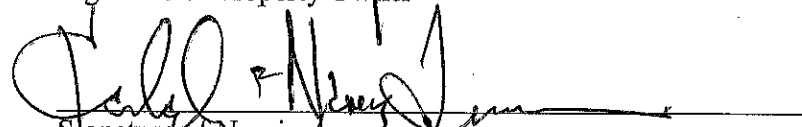
Designation of property will require affixing a plaque to said property and that the plaque will be the sole property of the City of La Crosse. While not required, the signature of the property owner assures the Heritage Preservation Commission that designation and installation of a plaque are supported.



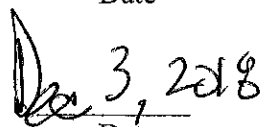
Signature of Property Owner



Date



Signature of Nominator



Date

When completed, submit application to the City of La Crosse Planning Department, 400 La Crosse Street, La Crosse WI.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the responsibility of the nominator to provide the Heritage Preservation Commission and its Staff with information sufficient to fairly evaluate the nomination. Incomplete nomination forms will not be accepted. A fee, in the amount stated in the Schedule of Fees and Licenses table in Section 25.01 of the Municipal Code, must be included.

No permit to demolish all or part of the structure will be issued while the nomination is pending review by the Heritage Preservation Commission. A nomination is considered pending once a completed nomination has been submitted to the Planning and Development Department.



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

3

September 7, 2016

Garland & Nancy Amumsum
1202 Madison Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Re: Historic Preservation Certification Application
Project Number WI160026
Reviewed: **Determined Eligible**

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Amumsum,

On 2016-08-22, the Division of Historic Preservation received a Historic Preservation Certification Application for your property at 1202 Madison Street in La Crosse. Enclosed is a copy of the signed Part 1 application indicating your house has been determined to be a historic property for purposes of this program.

The next step is to submit the Part 2 application which describes the proposed work. This application can be found on our website www.wisconsinhistory.org/taxcredits

If you have any questions I can be reached by mail at the Wisconsin Historical Society, by telephone at 608/264-6490, by fax at 608/264-6504, or by e-mail at jen.davel@wisconsinhistory.org.

Please take our 3 minute customer service survey. Your feedback is important to us -- <http://bit.ly/SHPOsurvey>.

Sincerely,

Jen Davel
Senior Preservation Architect

PRAIRIE

Popular and Progressive American and World Architecture, 1880-1940



Volume 14, No. 1 October-December 2015

Art. "In Black and Wright," Marilyn Monroe and Wright's Barnsdall House
Karen L. Robb, artist. More: inside front & back covers, page 23.

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Contact. Through April 30, 2016, PO Box 662, Arizona City, AZ 85123. Tel 906 221 4018. donjohn@norwaymi.com

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Prairie cover artist

Karen L. Robb (shown above) is a Canadian visual artist based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She studied at the University of Manitoba School of Fine Arts over twenty years ago intending to forge a career as an artist, but life had other plans. Twenty-two years later, following a career in floral design and a stint of running a home daycare, Karen finally found the confidence to devote all of her creative energy to her art.

Since 2009, her career as a visual artist has taken root and she has created over 100 original works of art. Private collectors have acquired nearly half of these works, and her limited reproductions have been in great demand. In Winnipeg, Karen's work is regularly on display at the Birchwood Art Gallery.

Karen's solo shows include: Frankly Speaking, Wright on the Park, with "In Black and Wright," Mason City, Iowa (May-Sept 19, 2015); Winnipeg Centennial Concert Hall's Piano Nobile Gallery (March 2- June 1, 2014); Frankly Speaking, The Birchwood Art Gallery, (2014); Poetree and Other Delta Stories, Portage & District Art Centre (August 2013). Boxed'N / The Red River Exhibition, (June 2013).

She has also co-produced in two duo shows at the Cre8ery Gallery in Winnipeg; Surface Wounds/Fractured Thought (2011) and The Same Path (2013.)

Her work has also been displayed in several group shows at the Cre8ery Gallery and Piano Nobile Gallery.

In 2012, Karen and two other Winnipeg

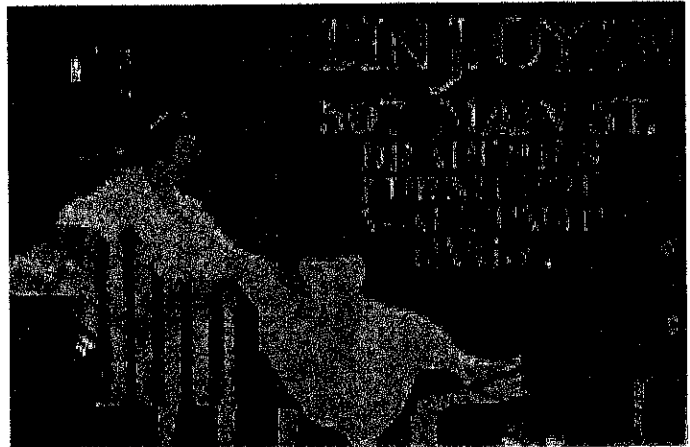
Continued on inside back cover...

Building the house story in Bentley with Tausche

Left image below, Odin Oyen.
 Right above, Odin Oyen painting themed content light and colorful for the early 20th century.
 Below, Ori Sorensen.

The story of the Tausche House in La Crosse, Wisconsin, can be told several ways.

It is a family story, beginning in November 1885 when the merchant Vincent Tausche bought land on a corner in La Crosse, and extending into our time when Vincent's widow Bertha sold that land in 1943 to one Carl J.



Gruetzmacher who, one day later, along with his wife Ruth, passed the ownership to William Roden, a grandfather of the woman who, with her husband, owns the land and the house on it in 2015.

It is an artistic story, of architect Percy Dwight Bentley, born at the end of January 1885 in La Crosse, who would in the early 1900s study architecture in Chicago, where architect Frank Lloyd Wright and others, George W. Maher among them, were planning houses in new ways. Odin Oyen and Ori Sorensen, two more La Crosse artists, joined Bentley in presenting a house to Vincent and Bertha Tausche in 1915.



in 1920. In the photo from 1923 on page 3, Miss Tausche—called Louise rather than Mary—was head of the department of women's physical education at the Kansas State Agricultural College (now Kansas State University) at Manhattan. In the center of page 3 is a receipt for a \$250 credit dated June 14, 1915, from architect Bentley to his client Mr. Tausche for "professional services rendered." Note Bentley's choice of a modern sans serif typeface. Note, too, Bentley's logo next to his name, a rectangle colored black with sufficient white space and a rule around for emphasis. This rather severe rectangle seems to have something to do with designs by Frank Lloyd Wright. At the bottom of page 3 is a fine photo of the finished house and its garage. The photographer goes anonymous.

And, the story is told with hundreds of construction details on more than 100 sheets of billings. These many pages, one of them coming in March 1915 from Carson Pirie Scott & Co., resplendent in a building on State Street in Chicago, a commercial place (an American palace?) designed by architect Louis Sullivan, were saved by Vincent and Bertha Tausche, diligent document savers that they likely were, and passed on to a new owner in 1943, and are now in the historical collection of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

3-part approach: No. 1 Family from German Bohemia

The images on this page and the next serve as introductions to the Tausche House. This page: the young artist Odin Oyen, with one of the paintings from his studio next to him, and just below Oyen is the young Ori Sorensen whose contributions to the Tausche House were two flower boxes. Next: Mary Louise Tausche, one of three daughters of Vincent and Bertha Tausche; after a few years living in her family's new house, she went east to Boston to study at the Sargent School of Physical Education and received a diploma there

A first source is a Tausche family history written by Vincent Tausche (1853-1936) and given to the La Crosse County Historical Society on March 25, 1933. Mr. Tausche wrote none too soon because less than three years later he was dead "after a lingering illness," as described on page 1 of the La Crosse Tribune for January 4, 1936. He begins: "The following is intended to give a brief description of the more important happenings in the immediate Tausche family as a whole, and separately of each member in routine according to their age. If any descendants wish such genealogy (sic) carried on further they can best do that themselves." His father, Joseph

Continued on next page...

Tausche, Sr., was born in 1913 "on a farm at Niederliebich, Boemisch-Leipa, Austria." Josef, his wife Maria Theresia (Knobloch) and their eight children immigrated to the United States and the La Crosse area in 1855. Josef bought 400 acres "which was then a timber and underbrush wilderness" partly in Mormon Coulee and partly on the ridge above.

Vincent was two years old when the Tausche family immigrated. In 1868, at age 15, he moved to La Crosse and began a three-year apprenticeship in tinsmithing. In 1881, he bought a half interest in the Scharf & Ring hardware business. Bertha Ewe married him in 1883. In 1888, C.F. Scharf retired and Vincent bought the rest of the hardware business. Prosperity, the births of four children—one son, three daughters—attendance at the Episcopal church and homes on 520 South 5th Street and 523 South 6th Street followed.

His and Bertha's choice to plan a new house was architect Bentley, who was born in 1885 in La Crosse, where his father was prominent in banking. Between 1910 and early 1914 Bentley had planned 13 houses, six of these in La Crosse for clients named Bartl, Salzer, Chase, Wohlhuter, Felber and Sexauer, and a downtown building for Odin Oyen.* His first few buildings were collaborations with William Bajari (1884-1940);



Top image, Louise Tausche. Kansas yearbook. Center, Bentley business document. House collection. Bottom, Tausche House, with garage at left. Source unknown.

both young men studied at the Armour Institute in Chicago. Armour's design program included classes at the Art Institute of Chicago. Armour was a forerunner of the modern Illinois Institute of Technology. Before Armour, Bentley studied at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio, which his father and his sister attended earlier. Being prone to spending some terms at home, he graduated from neither. When he was home and not at college or Armour between 1907-10, Bentley was sometimes employed as a

draftsman for architect Wells E. (Eugene) Bennett (1870-1943) in La Crosse.

By employing 29-year-old Bentley, Tausche aligned himself with other men and women, other Bentley clients interested in someone and something new. He associated himself with a significant

financial person in Bentley's father. At 60, Vincent Tausche was aware and ready for a change. The same seems true for Bertha.

To be continued in Prairie...

Sources. La Crosse County, Wisconsin, Abstract of Title No. 10,625. *The Tausche Family*, Vincent Tausche, c. 1936, copy

Continued on next page...

PERCY DWIGHT BENTLEY,
ARCHITECT
LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN

JUNE fourteenth.
Nineteen fifteen.

Mr. Vincent Tausche.
City.

To professional services rendered.

Credit \$ 250.00



The story beginning here was in the Sarasota (FL) Herald-Tribune on July 1, 1984, page 13H. Esther McCoy was born in Horatio, Arkansas, on November 18, 1904, and died in Santa Monica, California, December 30, 1989, five-plus years after this...



Vincent Tausche, 1900
Phillipps La Crosse directory.

at La Crosse Public Library, Archives and Local History. Vincent Tausche photo, Phillipps Souvenir Directory of the City of La Crosse, L.P. Phillipps Co., La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1900. Yearbooks, *The Royal Purple*, 1923, Kansas State Agriculture College (now Kansas State University), Manhattan, Kansas, Louise Tausche, page 81. Also, research by Joan Rausch, historians at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and a one-page document titled "Percy Dwight Bentley, 1885-1968."

Thank you to Nancy Amunson and Garland Amunson.

* Bentley's works elsewhere into 1914 were a city hall for Richland Center, Wisconsin, and two houses there; a bank in Trempeleau, Wisconsin; a house in Tomah, Wisconsin; a house in West Salem, Wisconsin; and a house for his father and his father's third wife in rural Klickitat County near White Salmon, Washington. Another house, the Hogan House in La Crosse, has been attributed to Bentley and Bajari. One more, the Dousman House in Billings, Montana, has been attributed to Bentley.

"Famed Architectural Historian Very Much Her Own Person"

By Joseph Giovannini

With her white, severely cut hair, direct gaze and the ever-present cigarette she holds like a pencil, the Los Angeles writer and architectural historian Esther McCoy looks—to people who see her for the first time—like a personality. They are not quite sure, however, who. At a recent lunch in Venice, Calif., a waiter serving Miss McCoy mistakenly asked her to autograph two books by Lillian Hellman. Several weeks ago, at a Fifth Avenue bookstore—where her new book on Southern California architects, "The Second Generation" (Peregrine Smith Books, \$27.50), had just been placed on the shelves—Miss McCoy was asked if she was not Georgia O'Keeffe.

Esther McCoy might have the presence of Lillian Hellman and Georgia O'Keeffe, but she is in fact very much her own figure, "the preeminent writer of California architecture," according to Cesar Pelli, dean of the Yale School of Architecture. "Our knowledge of Southern California architecture has been primarily formed by her research, her first-hand knowledge and her writing, which is so precise and passionate."

A researcher and assistant for Theodore Dreiser in the late 20s and the 30s and an associate of the eminent Los Angeles architect R.M. Schindler in the 40s, Miss McCoy first pursued a career in writing, then in architecture, and finally in writing on architecture. Since the late 1940s, she has written "Five California Architects," "Richard Neutra" and "Vienna to Los Angeles: Two Journals," among other books, and hundreds of articles on architecture for publications including *Domus*, *Arts and Architecture* and *Progressive Architecture*. Her latest work is based on the careers of J.R. Davidson, Harwell Harris, Gregory Ain and Raphael Soriano, modernist architects in Southern California during the second quarter of the century.

Interviewed recently in her Santa Monica, Calif., home, furnished with paintings, drawings and chairs made by many of the artists, architects and designers she has known, Miss McCoy, now in her 70s, retraced her careers and spoke of her new book.

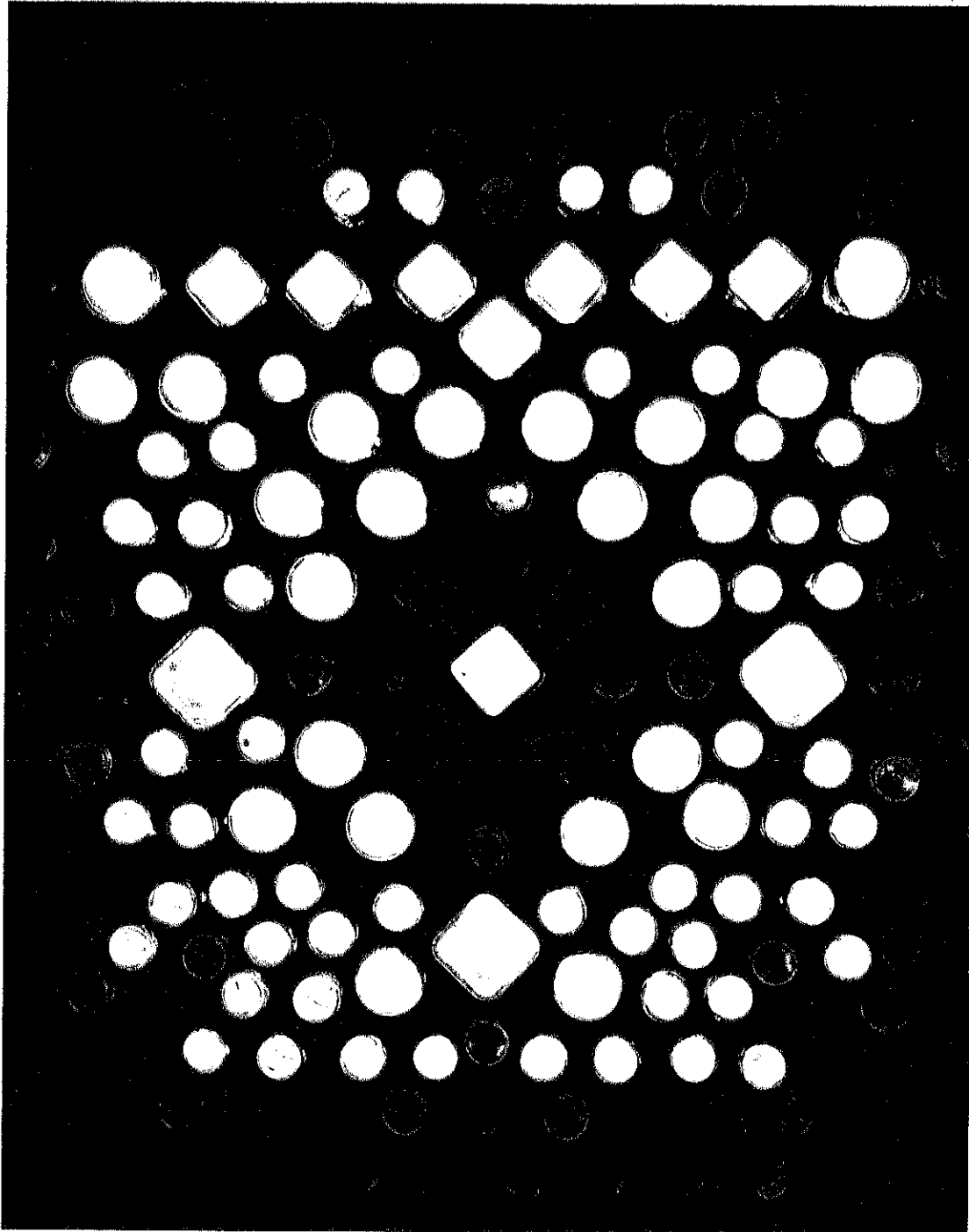
She recalls that as a young woman "I knew exactly what I wanted to do." She said: "I was going to work in publishing in New York, save up enough money, go to Paris, sit there and write." On her 21st birthday, she set out for New York from Ann Arbor, Mich., after her undergraduate studies. In New York, she freelanced for many publishers, including Vanguard Press and Horace Liveright. "I did reviews, I did editing, I was the youngest of the young," she said. "I was all eyes and ears. My life was down in the Village with the strivers, on Patchin Place—among many people who write or be written about, like Katharine Anne Porter, Joseph Herbst, E.E. Cummings and John Cowper Powys."

Miss McCoy did save up and move to Paris, but the Depression

Continued on next page...

PRAIRIE

Popular and Progressive American and World Architecture, 1880-1950



Volume 14, No. 2 January-March 2016

Art. Created by architect Michael Reynolds, made by an unidentified person.
A window of several kinds of bottle glass at a southern Arizona house site.

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IBC Correspondence

Photo captions have been grouped for each page or every two pages. Wright and Cecil Corwin are shown above. They're together inside.

Numbered notes are at the end of articles.

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Stirton view continues at 245 Sheridan

The large later Maher house—for the Stirtons, set back from 245 Sheridan Road, in 1920--continues to offer its views of Lake Michigan in Kenilworth, Illinois. Our Wilmette contributor sent this email on February 5, 2016: "Subject: 245 STILL THERE..." Those were all the words. His image of the house is here. The large house sold recently, and there was concern in some places, in some minds, that a new owner might be more interested in the lake frontage.

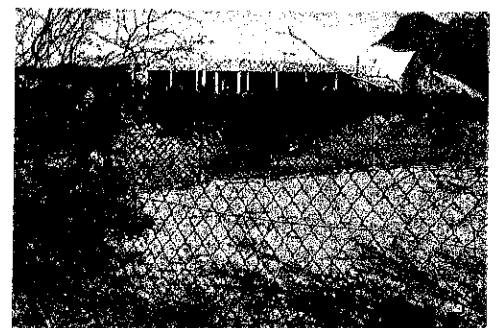
Below, a piece in wood from the front of the Stirton House. First in Prairie 14.1.



Front cover

Northwest of Tucson

Heading east in Arizona's part of the Sonoran Desert, in the Silverbell Estates, we saw an unfinished house (bottom photo) and stopped to look around it and inside it. One result was the photo of the window on the cover of this issue. Made from bottles and concrete, the window comes from architect Michael Reynolds (1945-), Taos, New Mexico, whose design approach is called "earthship biotecture." Others have used bottle glass in their



Continued to IBC, inside back cover...

in New Mexico and single-handedly built a one room dwelling from adobe bricks (she made the bricks)...” In an interview in 1995, Martin said, “I built five buildings, with a big studio made out of logs. As soon as I built a studio up on the mesa I started painting.”

Martin was born in Saskatchewan and died in Taos, New Mexico.

Sources. “*Artists homes and art studios series-Agnes Martin*,” Caroline Juskus, om pom happy website, July 27, 2015. *The House that Agnes Martin Built*, Joanna Weber, Image Journal, Issue 63. *Agnes Martin: Her Life and Art*, Nancy Princenthal, Thomas & Hudson, London, 2015. “*Perfection Is in the Mind*,” interview by Joan Simon, 1995.



Image.
Agnes
Martin's
house in
Galisteo,
New Mexico.

Even older news about Bentley and partner Hausler

In a 1915 history of Minnesota, Henry C. Castle wrote about the relationship of architects Percy Bentley and Charles Hausler. After the dissolution of a Hausler partnership with architect William Alban on January 1, 1914, Hausler next “became associated with Percy Dwight Bentley, and among the numerous buildings which have since grown into forms of grandeur and beauty under his watchful eye, and which originated in his fertile brain, are the Masonic Temple at Watertown, South Dakota, costing \$55,000; the Orpheum Theater, La Crosse, costing \$80,000; the fireproof plant of the Salzers Seed Company, at La Crosse, Wisconsin, costing \$50,000, and the factory of the Midway Harness Company... The firm of Bentley & Hausler occupies offices at Nos. 1011-12 Pioneer Building, St. Paul, and also maintains a branch office at La Crosse, Wisconsin.”

Source: Minnesota, Its Story and Biography, Vol. 2, Bentley and Hausler, page 1084; Henry C. Castle, Lewis Publishing, Chicago and New York, 1915. Note: There is no Bentley-designed movie theater in La Crosse. We're checking with the La Crosse Public Library Archives & Local History Department.

Here, Bentley, the architect, and the Tausches, the clients, continue.

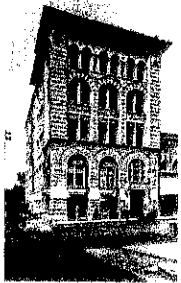
This issue, about them building a house in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The year was 1914, and architect Percy D. (Dwight) Bentley (1885-1968), an architect in La Crosse, Wisconsin, was 29, The La Crosse Tribune published a list of “the new dwelling houses to be built, plans of which were produced by Percy D. Bentley...” In the list was this: “Vincent Tausche has let a commission contract to Contractor Peter Nelson for the erection of a brick house on the southeast corner of West Avenue and Madison streets, to cost in the neighborhood of \$10,000.” *1 Notes are at the end of the article.*)

Another announcement followed in The American Contractor magazine, May 16, 1914: “**Residence:** 2 sty. & bas. 28x32. Archts. Bentley & Hausler, Batavian Bank bldg. Owner Vincent Tausche, 523 S. Sixth st. General contract let to Peter Nelson, 1522 Kane st., LaCrosse. Brick, tile. General contractor desires bids on painting & electric work.” The American Contractor was published in Chicago by the F.W. Dodge Corp.

In choosing Bentley as architect, the Tausches selected the architect of choice for many influential La Crosse residents. In his book *The Prairie School*, architectural historian H. Allen Brooks ((1925-2010) explained how young Bentley got to where he was in 1914: “...Percy Dwight Bentley (1885-1968), whose contact with Chicago was brief and who never personally knew or studied with any of the prairie group... represents, therefore, a fascinating example... of how a man could be inspired by the work and assimilate enough knowledge and feeling for it to successfully adapt it into his practice. Yet equally significant was his ability to introduce these ideas into a new locale, develop an appreciative clientele, and within a few short years, virtually to transform the architectural image of a region. This occurred in La Crosse, Wisconsin...”

New in the second announcement was a business relationship between Bentley & Hausler, the latter being Bentley's new architectural partner Charles A. (Alford) Hausler. When Bentley opened his own architectural office in the Batavian Bank building (Solon



Beman, [1853-1914] Chicago, architect, 1888) in La Crosse in 1910, he had a partner, William A. Bajari (1884-1940), whom Bentley met when both were students at the Armour Institute and the Art Institute

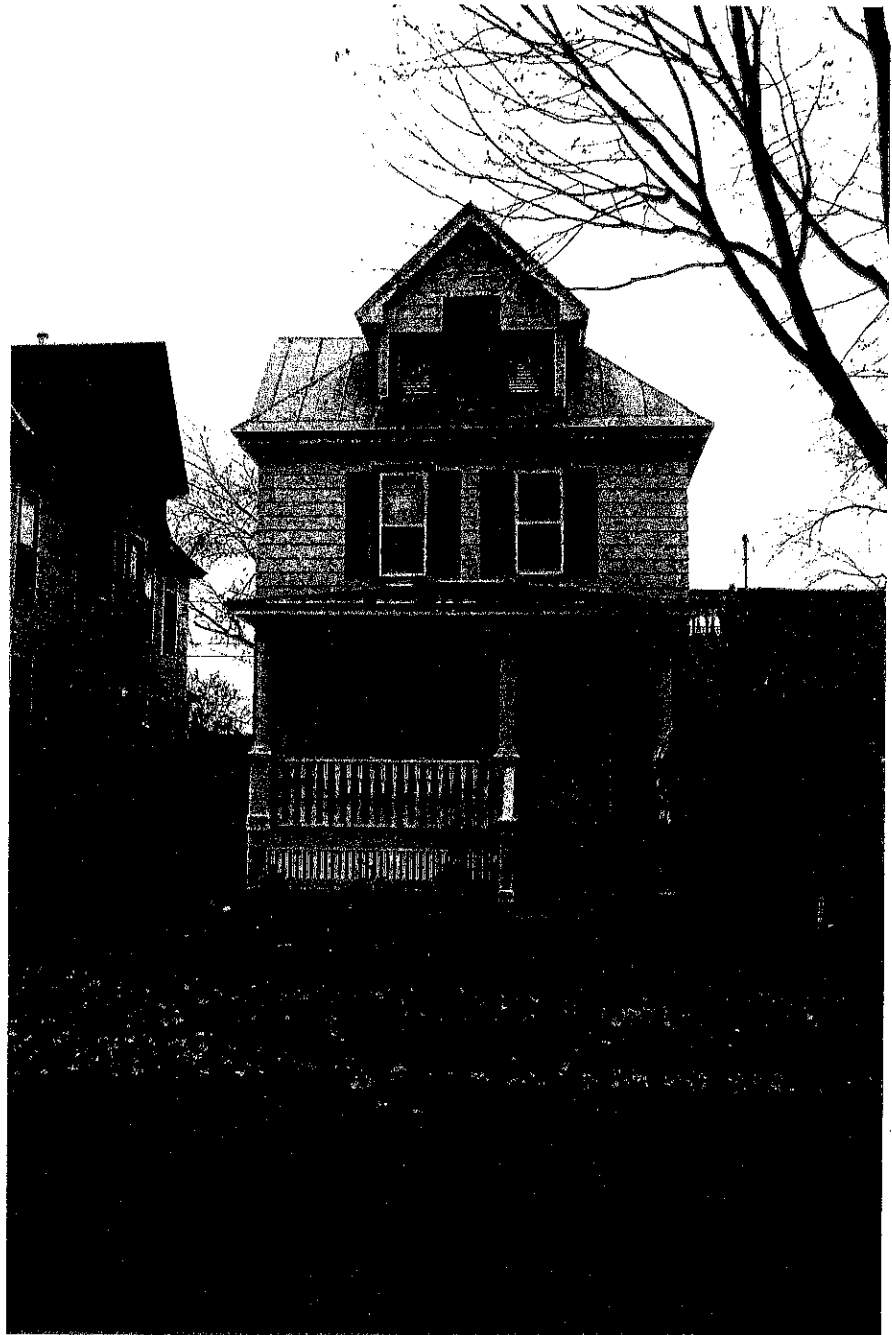
in Chicago. Their work together included a city auditorium for Richland Center, Wisconsin, houses in Richland Center and a small bank building in Bangor, Wisconsin—more on page 8—and other unannounced and partly attributed designs, among them the J.C. Hogan House (1910) which was either the first or second Prairie-style house in La Crosse. The partnership ended when Bajari left La Crosse and returned to Chicago in 1910 or early in 1911.

Charles Hausler (1889-1971) was an architect and citizen of considerable accomplishment. He was born in St. Paul in the West Seventh Street neighborhood. After attending the Mechanic Arts School in St. Paul for a few years, Hausler dropped out before graduating. For his remaining teen-aged years, he was employed by architects Clarence Johnston (1859-1936) in St. Paul and Harry Jones (1859-1935) in Minneapolis, and then in Chicago by Solon Beman, and Louis Sullivan (1856-1924). In 1914, Hausler, at 25, was appointed St. Paul city architect. While in that position, he was in private practice with William Alban in 1913, Bentley in 1914 and Ernest Hartford in 1915.

In their book *St. Paul's Architecture: A History*, Jeffrey Hess and Paul Clifford Larson, write: "Between 1913 and 1918, Charles A. Hausler... succeeded in drawing around him all of the various intertwining and clashing tendencies of American architecture in the first two decades of the twentieth century." Hess-Larson described his second partner, who was Bentley, as "a devotee of the Prairie School, in fact one of the

Images. Top, left, Batavian Bank building in La Crosse, Wisconsin. First architectural home of his own for architect Percy D. Bentley. Left, historic view of the Batavian. Solon Beman, Chicago, was the Batavian architect in 1883.

Right corner, Vincent and Bertha Tausche's skinny house at 523 6th Street South in La Crosse, theirs before their Bentley-Hausler house. Just left, Charles Hausler.

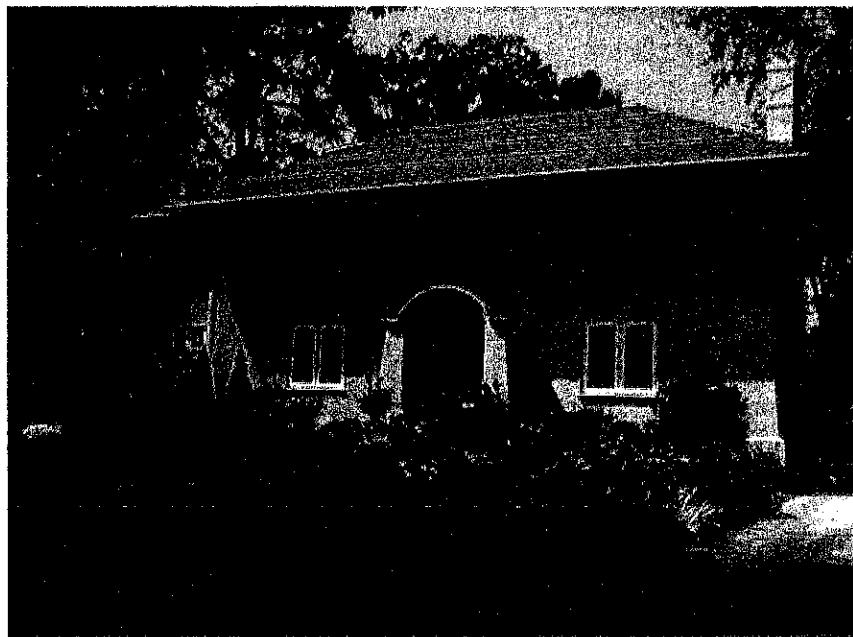


images.

Top, architect George W. Maher's Schultz House, as seen in the *Western Architect*, November 1909; Pittsburg Architectural Club, Fifth Exhibition catalog, 1910; number 11 of 16 in a Maher portfolio, Ryerson and Burnham libraries, Art Institute of Chicago;

Center, Schultz House, more recently, with roof striation and landscaping which relates to the original planting shown at top. TRKnapp Architects, Lombard, Illinois.

Bottom, Tausche House. Note the elegant planting in boxes outside the second-floor windows.



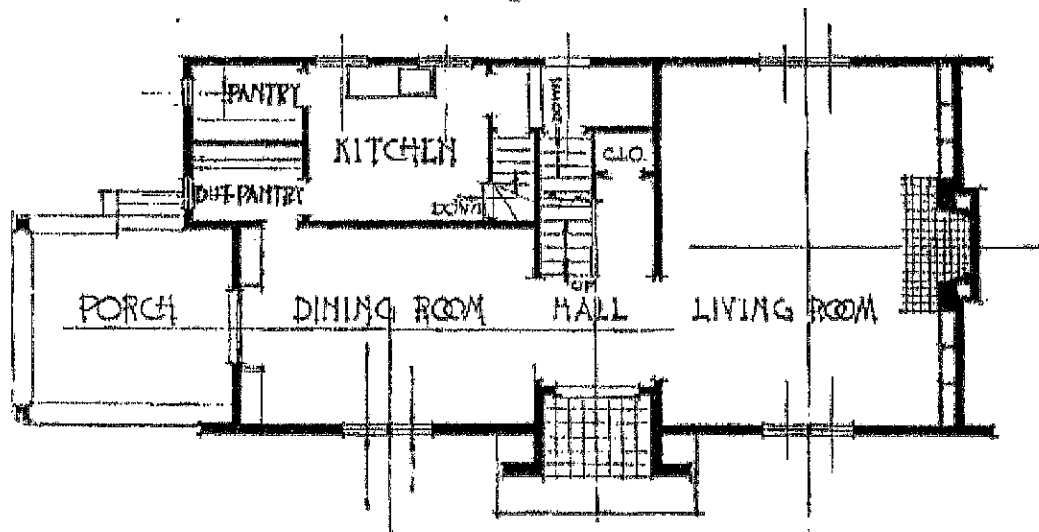
finest designers in that idiom outside of Wright's office." Hess-Larson summarized: "The two began a partnership that served them both, and the cities of La Crosse and St. Paul, very well." 2

Bentley and Bajari seemed to have been close observers of new residential architecture in Chicago and nearby suburbs.

One house available for their viewing was George W. Maher's Schultz House (1907) at 19 Warwick Avenue in suburban Winnetka.

Maher's design is a rectangle with a single-story porch on the west side. The entrance with a segmentally arched hood is at the center. The front exterior windows are positioned symmetrically. All the windows are single panels of art

Images. Schultz House, first floor plan, as drawn by or for George W. Maher.



glass. Although now enlarged, the backside of the house was typical for Maher. Placed as needed in the kitchen, pantry and butler's pantry, as well as the living room, and upstairs in a bedroom, bathroom and closet, the windows

were in no way symmetrical. At the west end was an extension for two closets, and to the north another extension for two bedrooms. The roof is hipped and was first covered with shingles set in striations; the idea behind the striation was to suggest a somewhat rustic thatching. Maher did variations on this house for years after. Other architects throughout the Midwest copied the design.

Patterning, if he or they did—and neither Bentley nor Hausler wrote anywhere that they did—after the Schultz House, Bentley used basic parts: rectangular shape, hipped roof, symmetrical windows on the exterior front. As Frank Lloyd Wright did, Bentley combined brick below with some stucco above. He added a shed dormer. He used a Ludowici clay tile roof from the Ludowici-Celadon Company of Chicago. He used clear glass windows.

Both houses have battered—somewhat buttressed—corners. As with the striated roofs, the battered wall, slanting inward as it goes up, was supposed to suggest earlier construction methods.

We can't know exactly what Bentley's original floor plans were. Though some early Bentley plans survive—Bartl House, Fugina House—most do not. After he moved to Oregon in the mid-1930s, Bentley wrote that he had left his

papers, his documents, his plans, in St. Paul. We had Maher's images of first and second floor plans for the Schultz House in hand during a visit to 503 West Avenue South. The first floors of Schultz and Tausche are nearly matched. One big difference is the position of the living room fireplace. In the Tausche House, the fireplace is turned 360 degrees and located next to the wall near the entrance hall. The second floor is a match in one way. Each house has four second-floor bedrooms.

Here are two Tausche measurements the Prairie staff made during a visit to the house November 14, 2013. Exterior face brick: 8 inches by 2 inches looked at straight-on. The brick on the living room fireplace: 11 ¾ inches by 1 ¾ inches, definitely within typical size for a Roman brick, a favorite for early 20th century architects and their new designs. A typical measurement was 4 inches by inches by 12 inches.

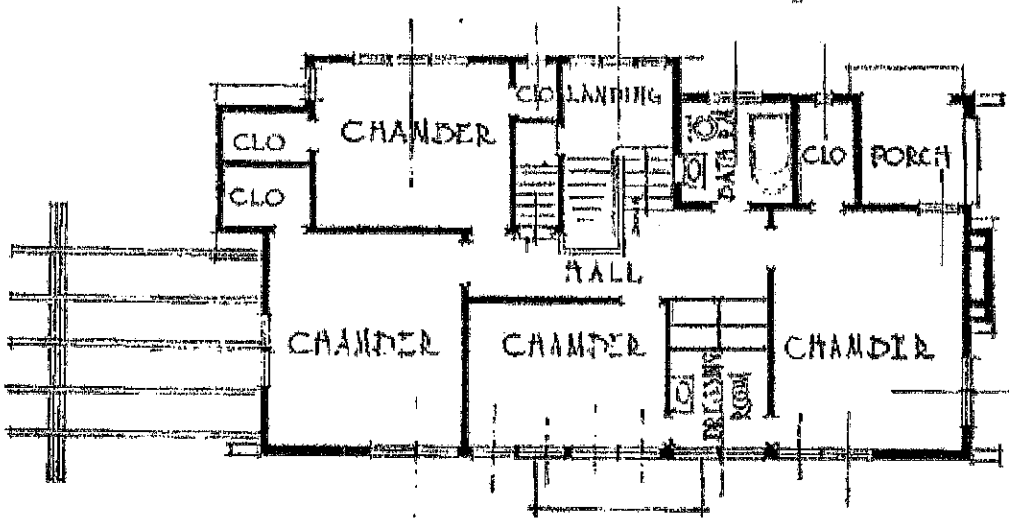
In 1915, the house at 503 West Avenue South was finished, at a cost of some \$10,000, or, \$236,525 in current 2016 dollars.

Hausler surely visited La Crosse. We have, however, found no evidence of such visits, or even one visit. The preferred transport

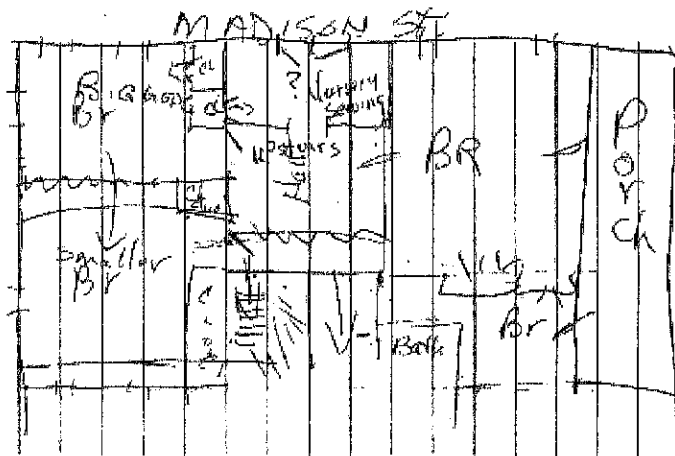
in 1914 would have been the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul passenger train. Bentley and his favored draftsman Otto Merman (1890-1835) must have ridden the train northwest numerous times. Eventually, they both moved to the Twin Cities to be near the Bentley & Hausler St. Paul office.

What about the various Tausches during 1914 or thereabouts and until 1943 when Bertha Tausche sold the house at 503 West Avenue South? Parents Vincent and Mamie, as Bertha preferred to be called, and, in order of birth, their children Arthur, Gertrude, Margaret, (Mary) Louise; what were they doing? Vincent was busy with his hardware store in downtown La Crosse. Bertha/Mamie was a wife and after Vincent's death in 1936, a widow. In summer 1912, Vincent took daughters Gertrude and Margaret with him to Europe; departing from Naples, Italy, they returned to their home at 523 6th Street South in La Crosse in mid-September. Daughters Gertrude and Margaret married and moved to Michigan, and Madison, Wisconsin, California—elsewhere. The more complicated children seem to have been Arthur and Louise.

First, the lone one son Arthur Louis, born on April 29, 1886, in La Crosse. His two-paragraph



Images. Top, second floor plan for Schultz House, for or by Maher. Quickly hand-drawn second floor plan for Tausche house, Prairie staff.



obituary was in the La Crosse Tribune somewhat deep into the newspaper on page 10 on January 23, 1940. The obituarist wrote that Arthur had died "at his home in San Diego, Calif., according to information received here Tuesday morning." Then: "He was 52 years of age and spent the greater part of his life in the west." Simple subtraction shows that Arthur Tausche was 53 rather than 52. By 1904, Arthur, 18, was gone from La Crosse for the first time; he went to Portland, Oregon, where he was a clerk at the Barr Hotel, a \$1-a-day hotel. In 1914, Arthur, 28, was in U.S. Army uniform for World War I. After the war he returned to La Crosse and lived with his parents in their five-year-old Bentley house on West Avenue, and in 1924, he, at 40, was still living with his parents, also in 1928 when he was listed in

the city directory as a salesman for Tausche Hardware. That same year, 1928, the West lured him again and he was in El Paso, Texas, as a clerk. In 1930, the U.S. Census enumerator found Arthur living in San Diego at 111 West F Street, 10 blocks from the Pacific Ocean, and employed as a "clerk" at a "hotel" and divorced. Who was the wife, gone? Detail in the city directory for the same year described him as a clerk at the Hotel Yale. By 1934, he was living in Sacramento, California. By 1936, in Reno, Nevada. By 1938, San Diego again as a clerk at the Holland Hotel. Then he died in San Diego. His survivors were his mother in the 503 West Avenue South house, and his three sisters, the third being Louise in San Francisco.

For a larger La Crosse populace,

the major Tausche event between 1914 and 1943 must have been the death of Vincent on Saturday, January 4, 1936. His obituary was published on the front page of the La Crosse Tribune. As reported, Mr. Tausche, "hardware dealer, philanthropic and civic-minded citizen, and former alderman and county board supervisor," died at home, at 503 West Ave. S., "at 1:30 Saturday morning after a lingering illness." His survivors were his wife Bertha, son Arthur in Reno, daughter Gertrude Gorman in Muskegon, Michigan; daughter Margaret Sletteland, Madison, Wisconsin; and daughter Louise Tausche, San Francisco; seven grandchildren. The funeral arrangements were announced later in the Tribune on January 6. The private funeral services were in the house at 503 West Ave. S., followed by more services at the Christ Episcopal church and interment in the Oak Grove Mausoleum. The active pallbearers were employees of Tausche's hardware business, and the honorary pallbearers were named Gund, Gatterdam, Pamperin, Kurtenacker, Funk, Hussa, Easton and Strauss, making the ethnic emphasis definitely German.

In Vol. 14, No. 3: Tausche part 3—putting it together, and the youngest child Louise Tausche.

1 These were the clients for the other Bentley house projects in the April 28, 1914, newspaper story: Emil Mueller, D.G. MacMillan, Frank Sisson, Gus Sexauer and Dr. R.M. Kinnear. The last client in the story was Bert Van

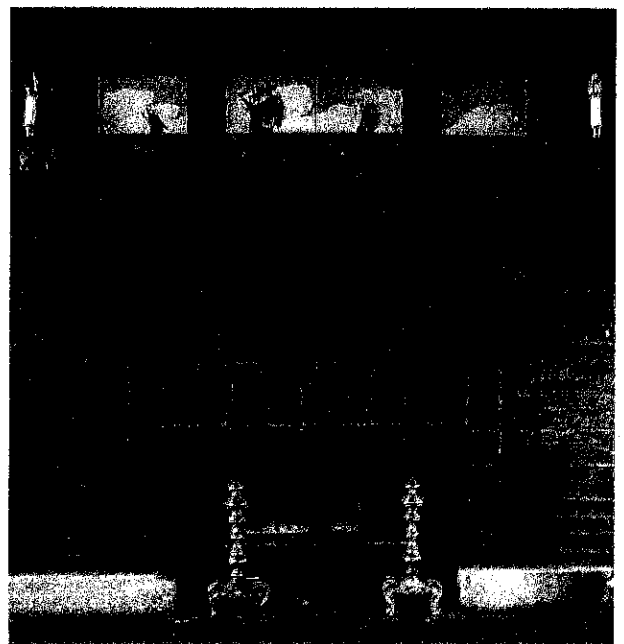
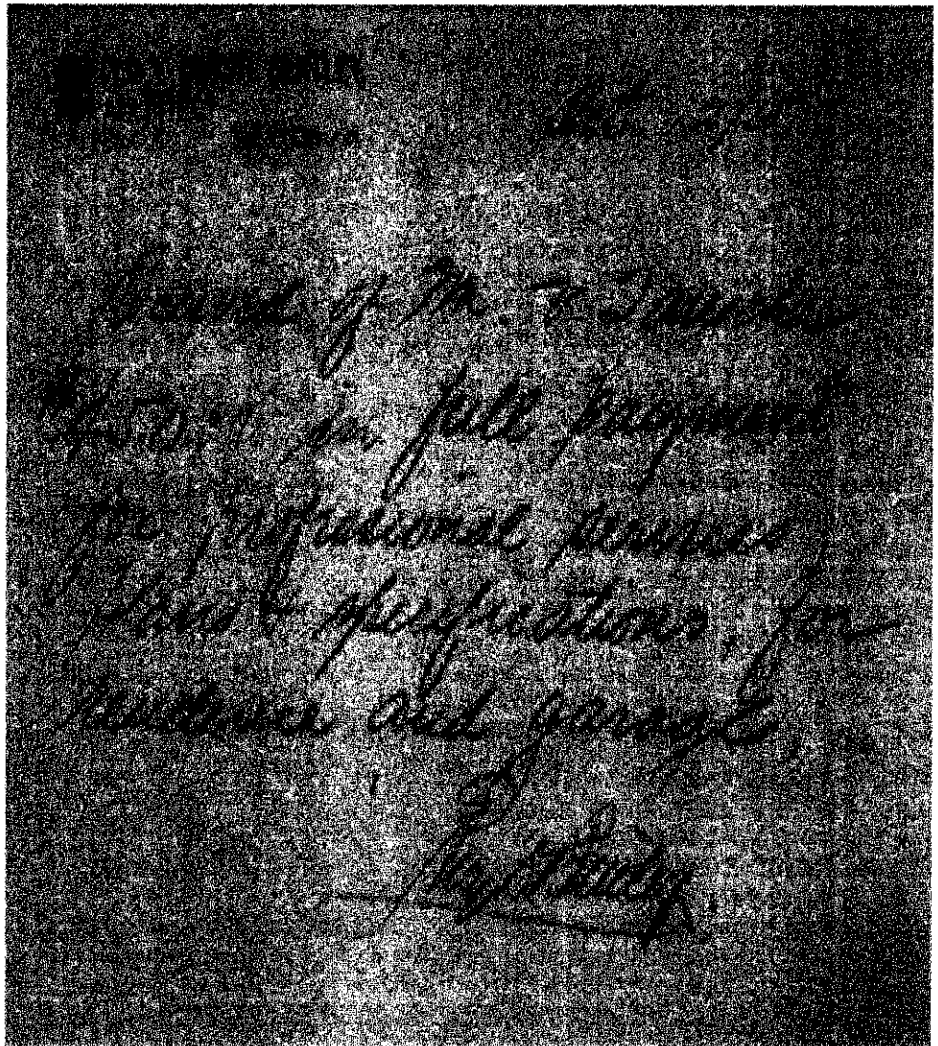
Images. Top, Bentley's receipt for Vincent Tausche's payment for architectural services. Lower right, Tausche Houses's living room fireplace, with tile mural possibly showing Columbus's three ships.

Steenwyck, and he required a garage design rather than a house. The description for the Mueller House promised more than a typical design: "This will be hollow tile and stucco and will introduce new designs in architecture which have not heretofore been used in La Crosse." All these houses and the garage were built.

2 The Bentley-Hausler Prairie style houses in St. Paul are the Seifert (1914), Wunderlich (1915) and Thompson (c. 1915) houses. An announcement in *The American Contractor*, April 24, 1915, page 73, involves Hartford & Hausler with the Wunderlich House. As reported in *Construction News*, October 3, 1914, page 6 Ernest Hartford (1881-?) succeeded Bentley as Hausler's partner.

Sources. William R. Bajari, birth-death dates, Find a Grave for Lakeview Cemetery, Calumet, Michigan. Bajari and Bentley studies in Chicago, *The Art Institute of Chicago, Circular of Instruction of The School of Drawing, Painting, Modeling, Decorative Designing, Normal Instruction, Illustration and Architecture with A Catalogue of Students for 1909-1910*, cover, page 121. Bangor bank, Bajari & Bentley, *The American Contractor*, June 25, 1910, pages 1 and 55. *The Prairie School*, H. Allen Brooks, W.W. Norton & Company, New York, 1976. *St. Paul's Architecture: A History*, Jeffrey A. Hess, Paul Clifford Larson, University of Minnesota Press, 2006; for Hausler and Bentley, pages 96-100. "Vincent Tausche, Pioneer Hardware Merchant, Dies," *La Crosse Tribune*, January 4, 1936, page 1; funeral arrangements, *Tribune*, January 6, 1936, page 6. "Quarter Million for 1914 Building," *La Crosse Tribune*, April 28, 1914, page 6, story continued from page 1.

More sources for Arthur Tausche. Arthur Tausche, died January 21, 1940, California Death Index, 1940-97. "Arthur L. Tausche," *La Crosse Tribune*, January 23, 1940, page 10. City directories: Portland, Oregon, 1904, page 898; La Crosse, 1919, p. 519; La Crosse, 1924, p. 599; La Crosse, 1928, p. 552; El Paso, Texas, 1928, p. 702; San Diego, California, 1930, p. 680; San Diego, 1933, p. 564; Sacramento, California, 1934, p. 498; Reno, Nevada, father's obituary; San Diego, 1938, p. 643. 1910.



PRAIRIE

Popular and Progressive American and World Architecture, 1880-1950



Volume 14, No. 3 April-June 2016

Photo. Abrom Dombar at Fallingwater in 1995. Abe, hired by Edgar Kaufmann, Sr., was the first foreman for FLIW's famous residential design.

Story inside, p. 3.

Architects in this issue: Bentley, Blandin, Dombar, Hadid, Hartford, Hausler, Maher, Roberts, Ryan, Thorpe, Wright and early Wright staff

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- 22 Recent news: Detroit. Washington. Oak Park. Osage, Iowa. Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
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Photo captions have been grouped for each page or every two pages.

Numbered or asterisked notes are at the end of articles.

Prairie, Vol. 14 No. 3, April-June 2016. Copyright Water Street Words. Articles welcome. SASE. Donald Michael Aucutt, editor-publisher & researcher. John W. Henley, associate, photography, preparation, proofreading.

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Thank you...

To Dora Schield for her cover article about Abrom Dombar. Dora has written for us for many years, first in our Wisconsin River Valley Journal. She lives in Cincinnati.

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Bricks for Bentley...

Above, an advertisement for tapestry bricks. More in the Bentley-Tausche house story starting on page 10.

Below, in wood from the front of the Stirton House (1920) a later design by architect George W. Maher. First in Prairie Volume 14, Number 1.



Errata. Page 2 3rd column, should be "Dakota Home." Page 16 bottom caption should end "...in the view of the house to the northeast." Page 22 paragraph at top of 3rd column should be "his amazing life and contributions to Pleasant Home."

calligraphy for nonprofits and charities. For his 90th birthday his family went to synagogue, then to Frisch's for lunch, one of Abrom's favorite eateries. Following, the family visited the (then) owners of the Benjamin House. From there the family took him to French Park, where he'd taken them as children. His grandsons had planted a tree there near the creek and had erected a plaque which read: "Popi, be alert," advice he often gave to his family. The plaque is signed by his four grandsons with love.

References.

Home & Garden supplement, Cincinnati Magazine, Ahead of its Time, September 2008. Ryan Kurtz photo from the same. Pages 160-163.

50 from the 50s: Modern Architecture and Interiors in Cincinnati. Urban Currents, 2008. Letters to Apprentices, selected with commentary by Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer. The Press at California State University, Fresno, California, 1982.

Obituary of Abrom Dombar written by the family and published online by Nicholas M. Cristofaro of YAIF (Young Architects and Interns Forum) Cincinnati. August 3,

Author's note. I wish to thank April Davidow for allowing me to interview her, providing me with photos and illustrations and giving me permission to photograph several of her outstanding sculptures. April is also known for her 50 years of volunteer service to the community, and was voted one of the women of the year in 2013 by the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.



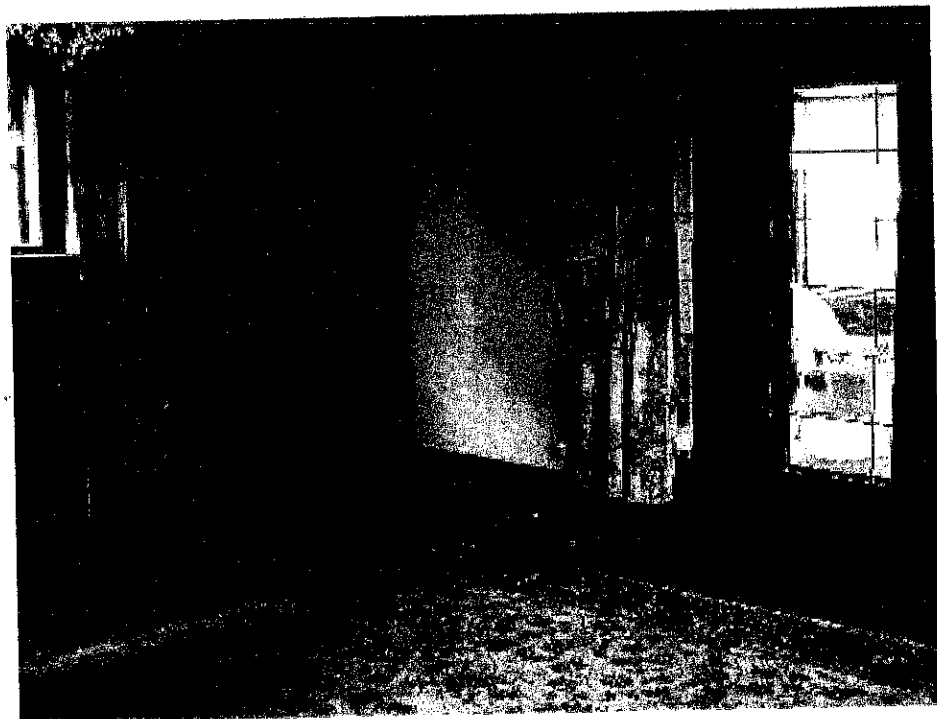
Part 3

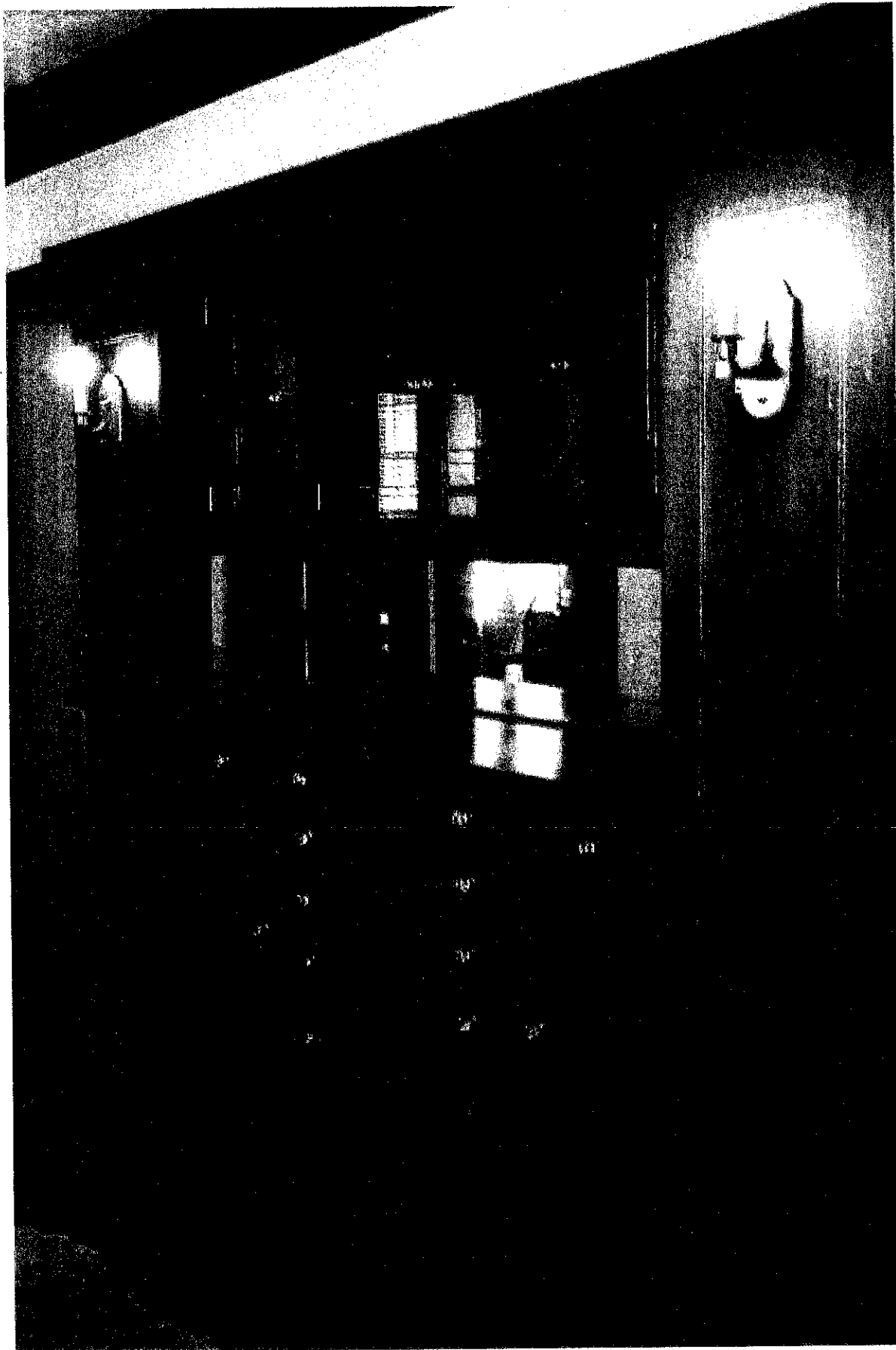
Making the Tausche House

Receipts, tally sheets, orders, more than 100 such items have survived for the Vincent and Bertha Tausche House designed by architect Percy Dwight Bentley (1885-1968). The house is at 503 West Avenue (South) on the southeast corner of West Avenue and Madison Street. The project began as a design from the partnership of Bentley & Hausler, Mr. Hausler being the St. Paul, Minnesota-based architect Charles Hausler.

The earliest of the 100-plus business papers is a "statement of account" from the primary contractor and builder, **Peter Nelson** (contractor name boldfaced for clarity) of La Crosse. He provided a document of costs brought forward to "Mr. V. Tausche" starting on April 13, 1914. This one is mostly about

House images on this page. Top, finished front exterior. Bottom, southwest corner of the living room, with bookcases by Bentley, double-glassed doors to side porch.



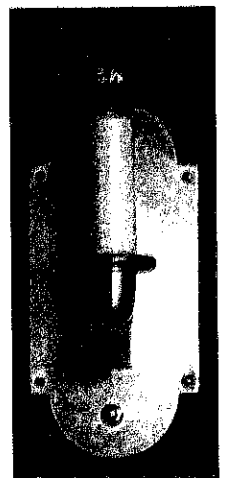


Images. Top to bottom.

Built-in hardwood sideboard.

Inlay detail.

A sconce.



cement and related materials and likely relates to foundations and the basement. The total is \$691.54. Of great interest in this Nelson document is the delivery of 5,000 tapestry bricks on September 21. These decorative bricks were for the exterior. One maker, Fiske & Co. Inc., New York, described tapestry bricks as "The Most Artistic and Permanent Building Material in the World," in an advertisement in *Country Life in America* magazine in March 1919. In an undated version of Old House Journal online, writer Demetra Aposporas describes tapestry bricks as made "in assorted colors, from purples, olive greens, and blues to deep russet and chamois with a rough finish, designed to catch the light and create a warm glow." Other bricks were listed: 650 "Common brick," 6,000 "Face brick and 11,100 more common brick on July 1, 1914; 10,000 common brick on July 10, 1914; and 500 "Beaver Roman brick" on August 3, 1914. The Roman brick must have been for the living room fireplace. Measurements show the exterior tapestry bricks to be 8x2 inches. The Roman brick for the fireplace inside is 11½x1¾.

The second contractor to contact the Tausches was the **Ludowici-Celadon Company, Chicago**, on April 21, 1914, with a proposal for

Images. Page 12, one section of the ceramic mural on the fireplace. Below this page, Roman brick facing the fireplace. On page 13, the fireplace, with its mural showing the Christopher Columbus ship trio—perhaps symbolic to Vincent Tausche, an immigrant from central Europe.

terra cotta roof tiles colored red and dull green, "in accordance with plans of architect Percy Dwight Bentley." These would come from the company's Coffeyville, Kansas factory. The cost would be \$433.

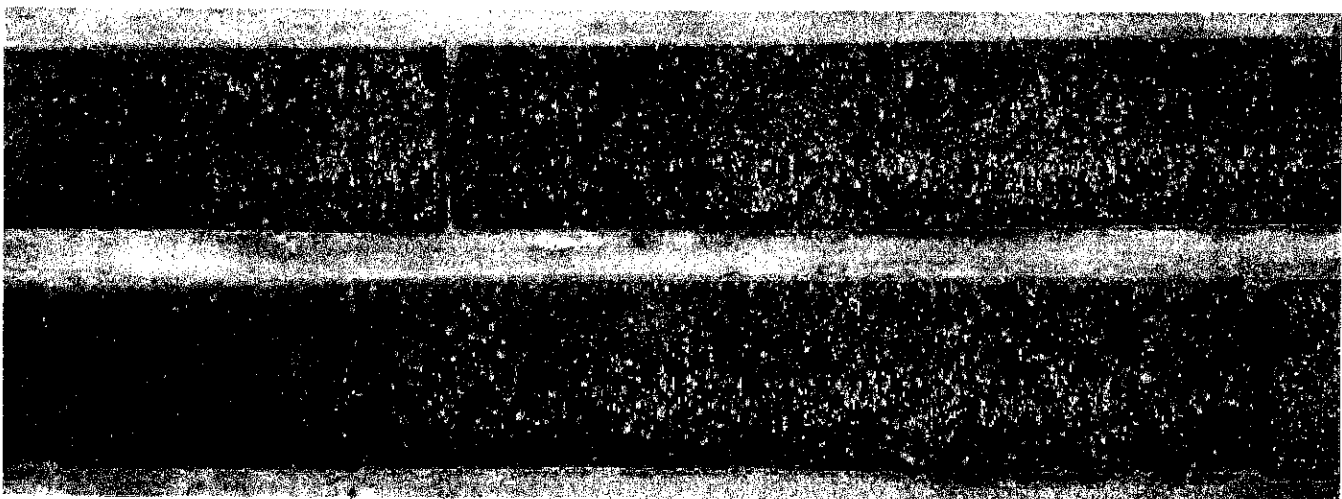
More contractors...

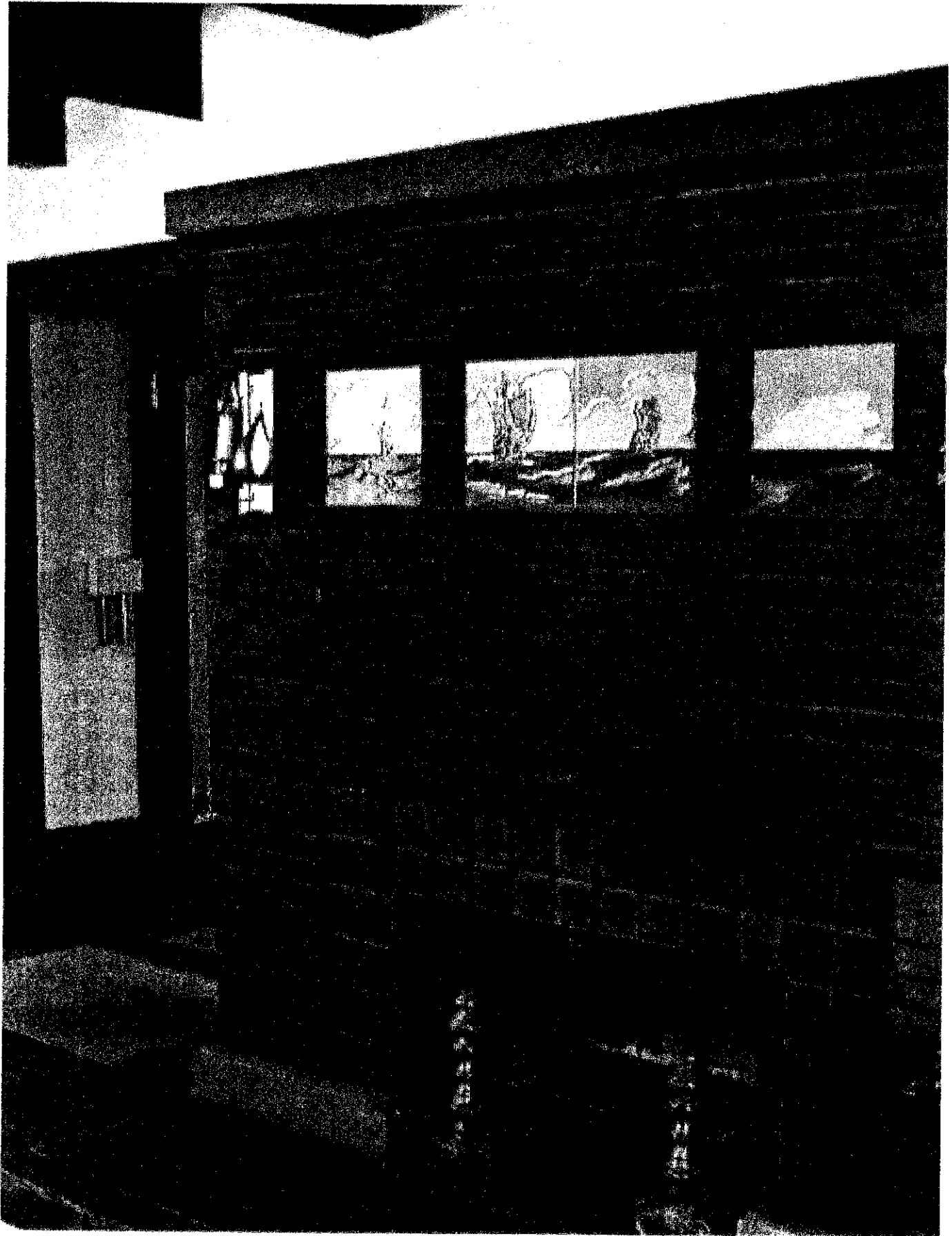
Sent on June 8, 1914, an invoice from designer **Ori J. Sorensen**, La Crosse, for two "Flower Boxes for house." On June 22, 1914, from the **Bostwick Steel Lath Company**, Niles, Ohio, an invoice for 158 square yards of Bostwick "Truss-loop" metal lath, galvanized, for \$35.55. On July 2, 1914, a proposal from **Henry A. Trepte, Ornamental Iron and Wire Works**, La Crosse, for railings "painted with Graphite oil paint" and "set in position" for \$39.25; a drawing was enclosed (and is shown 14). On July 31, 1914, an invoice from **Benton Electric Company**, La Crosse, for wire, galvanized conduit, single switch covers, hack saw blades and two quarts of lard oil and more, also

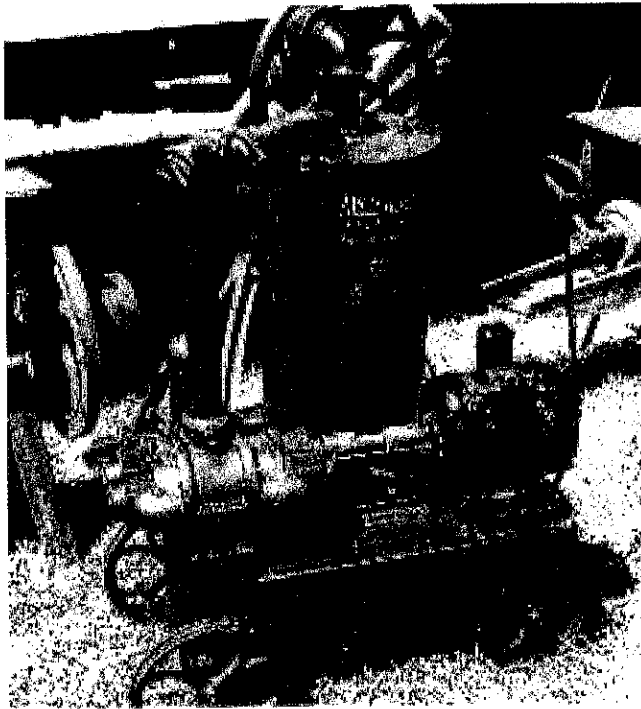


fees for "drayage," or conveyance to the house site. On September 5, 1914, \$3 billed by the **C.L. Colman Lumber Company**, La Crosse, for Atlas Portland Cement.

While the Tausche House was being built, the formal relationship of Bentley and Charles Hausler ended. From *Construction News*, October 3, 1914, page 6: "Bentley & Hausler, architects, of 1610 Pioneer building, St. Paul, have dissolved partnership, and Ernest Hartford, formerly of Hartford & Jacobson, has succeeded Mr. Bentley. The firm name now is Hartford & Hausler, 1610 Pioneer building, St. Paul. Mr. Bentley will







Images, top to bottom. Top, an example, not the one owned by the Tausches, of a pricey Arco Wand deluxe house vacuum; the Tausches paid \$200 or so for theirs. Center, Trepte drawing for railings for exterior. Bottom, a railing completed, and a section of tapestry brick.

operate in Lacrosse (sic), Wis., where he is now located.” For the rest of 1914 and 1915, Bentley continued without a partner. He continued to design for Hausler.

Contractors, more of them...

F.M. Branson & Sons, Sanitary Plumbing—Gas Fitting, Hot Water and Steam Heating, Ventilation, La Crosse sent their first bill for \$18.56 on October 31, 1914, for hose and pipes and labor.

Odin J. Oyen, Decorator, La Crosse, sent an invoice on December 5, 1914, for \$657.58 for many hours of labor, and such materials as Cabots Stain, white Japan dyer,

raw umber paint, raw sienna paint, dark mahogany stain, golden oak stain, eggshell enamel, steel wool, bronzing liquid, paste. The **Trane Company, Heating, Ventilating and Sanitary Engineering,** La Crosse, sent an invoice for \$201.10 on December 18, 1914, for pipe, nipples and, at \$150, a #341 Arco Wand Vacuum Cleaner. **Baker-Niebuhr Co., Sanitary Plumbing, Hot Water, Steam, and Vapor Heating,** La Crosse sent an account report on December 19, 1914, for \$1,034.09, for a sewer permit, “work on sewer” and plumbing. The **Wire Novelty Mfg. Co., Dr.,** La Crosse billed \$1 on December 24, 1914, for some sort of bath item. On the very last day of 1914, **Segelke and Kohlhaus Mfg. Co., Manufacturers**

of Sash, Doors, Blinds, Hardwood Flooring, Fine Interior Hardwood Finish and Commercial Fixtures, La Crosse, sent a lengthy and detailed invoice to lead contractor Peter Nelson, advising of wood changes from birch to “quarter cut white oak” in the living room, hall and vestibule, and mahogany in the dining room, and changing the vestibule door from solid veneer to a glass door. Other details in the same December 31, 1914, invoice from Segelke and Kohlhaus were about a birch

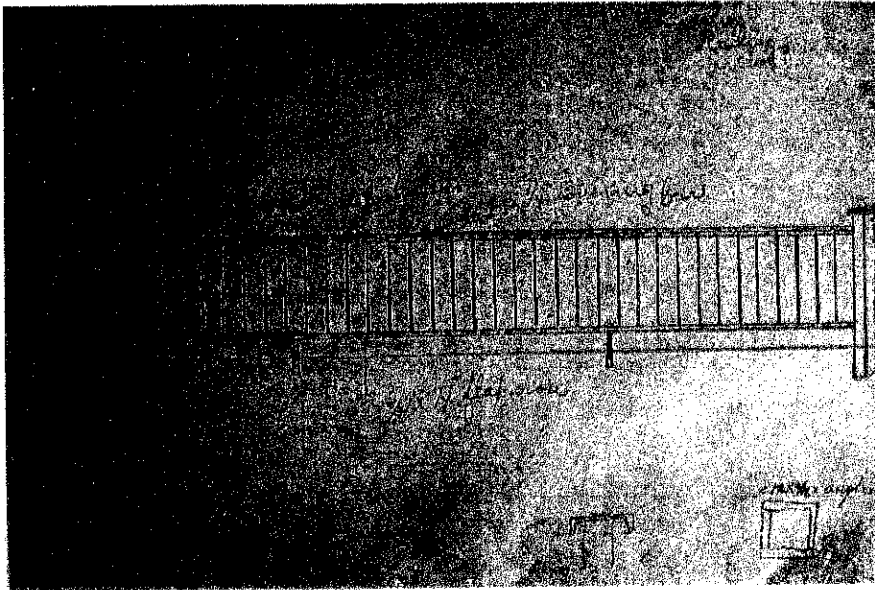


Image. Quaint and backward-looking Trepte logo.

telephone cabinet, "grilles for the hall in ¼ cut White oak per Det." Also, a "Locker in sewing room, Birch per detail."

Sent, into 1915...

On January 4, 2015, **Geo. Engelberg, Maker of Upholstered Furniture**, La Crosse, sent an invoice for \$40 for a "seat upholstered." **Gas Saving Station, House Piping, Fixtures, Gas Ranges, Old and New**, La Crosse, sent an invoice on April 24, 2015, for a heater and valves. **Tillman Bros., Wholesale Furniture and Undertaker Supplies**, La Crosse sent a receipt for \$3.68 for an unnamed item on April 25, 2015. **Superior Calking Company**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, sent an invoice \$32 for "Calking Residence windows" on May 12, 1915. On September 18, 1951, Segelke and Kohlhaus sent an invoice for \$4 with this note: "Removing 3 O.S. Doors at residence, taking same to factory & putting in kiln to dry, & rehang same," plus this: "Lft Chipped Glass 23 x 30 set in one of above doors." In March 1915, **Carson Pirie Scott & Co.**, a Chicago department store located inside a building designed by Louis Sullivan in 1899 and 1903, and more building from D.H. Burnham & Co., in 1906, sent a statement showing \$9.06 owed for an unspecified item.

Other than the Segelke and Kohlhaus reports about fine wood cuts, and others about bricks, another document of great interest is the "Proposed Planting Plan for V. Tausche Residence Grounds," a study of early 20th century gardening in a northern climate. The planner is not named. The sophisticated plan suggests a collaboration between architect



Bentley or the Tausches with the La Crosse state teacher's college (now the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse) or the Salzer Seed Company, incorporated in La Crosse in 1868 and an important source of flower and vegetable seeds for gardeners. Bentley designed a large house for the Salzer family in La Crosse.

For the Tausches, 62 plants and trees were listed by botanical and popular names, according to a key number, quantity, name, size, individual cost and total cost. The "key number" might have related to a drawing. The sequence goes from yard area plantings to boulevard plantings.

The selection was topical. *Countryside Magazine* for June 1915, page 316, mentioned two climbing roses in the plan, the Lady Gay and the W.C. Eagan in J. Horace McFarland's article titled "My Growing Garden VI: The Feast of Flowers." Developed by Michael Walsh of the M.H. Walsh and Co., rose growers near Woods Hole, Massachusetts, the Lady Gay is still grown today. Its flowers are deep rose pink in large clusters. The phlox Coquelicot, another plant listed, was considered by Grace Tabor in her article "The Flame of the Garden" in *House & Garden*, September 1916, page 16. Phlox is Greek for flame.

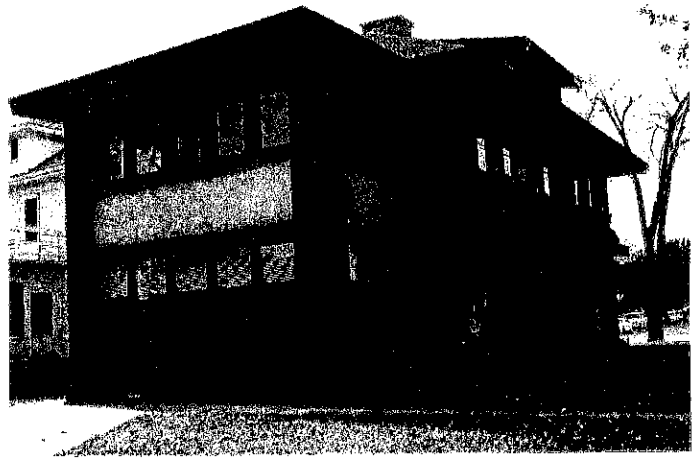
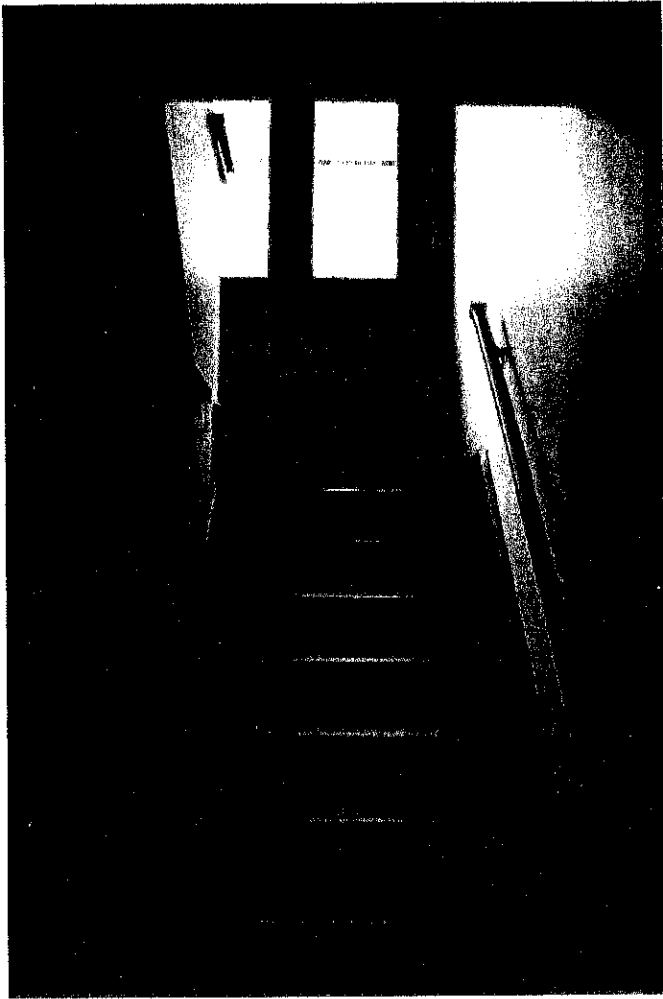
If all the plants were purchased, the cost would have been \$334.70. Other costs would have been \$8 for 40 pounds of "Special Lawn Mixture" at 20 cents per pound, \$9 for 300 pounds of "Pulverized Sheep Manure," \$62.30 for the cost

of laboring people for "planting, mulching and care until planted stock shows establishment," \$64.50 for labor making the lawn, \$10 for five loads of "well rotted manure for mulching." Another \$58.27 would pay for the plans and supervision. Total cost: \$446.77.

Also with the business papers were communications from Percy Bentley on his business letterhead with its red bar logo. The first was from December 1914, for professional services, \$150; "Paid Dec. 16th 1914" is handwritten on this invoice. A second invoice dated June 14, 1915, its message: "professional services rendered. Credit \$ 250.00." A third Bentley document is on his letterhead, dated October 12, 1915, and says: "Received of Mr. V. Tausche \$450.000 in full payment for professional services, plans & specifications, for residence and garage, Percy D. Bentley."

Leaving 503 West Avenue...

By 1920, Tausche daughter Louise was gone to Massachusetts for advanced physical education studies. The next to go was son Arthur (1886-1940), whose legal residence was the 503 West house in 1919 and various places in the far West after. The other two older daughters, Gertrude and Margaret, were also gone soon, to marriage and places far enough away, Gertrude with her husband, David Gorman, to Muskegon, Michigan, and Margaret and her husband Perry Sletteland to Carmel, California. Vincent died in the 503 West Avenue house "after a lingering illness" on January 4, 1936. His funeral was private and in the house, followed by more services at Christ Episcopal church and then ever after in the Oak Grove Cemetery mausoleum. The Widow Tausche and heirs sold the house in autumn 1943.



Images.

Top left, stairway to the second floor, made private by a door in the vestibule. Note the squared railings, similar to some by architect George W. Maher.

Top right, view to the southwest, showing the porches on the east side.

Bottom, the original skylighted indoor greenhouse in the basement.

Center right, the greenhouse is under the angled glass in the view of the house to the



Images on this page. Top, Mary Louise Tausche in the La Crosse Central High School yearbook, *The Booster Annual* for 1917. Below, Louise—back, second from the left—teachers and students in the women's Life Savings Corp in *The Royal Purple*, 1922, page 161, Kansas State Agricultural College.



Vincent and Bertha Tausche. She was Mary Louise—called Louise—born on July 23, 1898, in La Crosse. After graduating from La Crosse Central High School in 1917, Miss Tausche went to Boston, Massachusetts, to study at the Sargent School of Physical Education (later the Sargent College, and a department of Boston University), begun by Dudley Allen Sargent (1849-1924). Tausche completed her physical education teacher training course in 1920. That same year she was employed by Kansas State Agricultural College

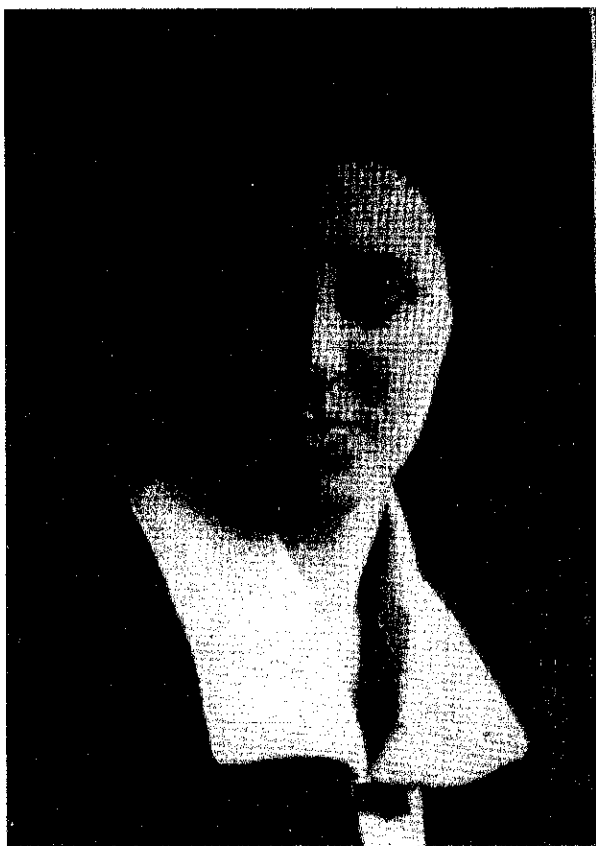
Carl Gruetzmacher owned it briefly, and the next owner was William Roden. Bertha Tausche died at 82 in a La Crosse hospital in October 1945. Her services were Christian Science in a Sletten-McKee funeral room, and then to the Oak Grove mausoleum.

in our Bentley book—we'll follow one of the three daughters. In *Tausche Part 2*, in our January-March 2016 issue, we tracked the lone Tausche son, Arthur Louis, born in 1886 in La Crosse, died in San Diego, California, in January 1940. Here, the subject is the youngest of the trio of daughters of

(later Kansas State University) in Manhattan, and by 1922 was head of the department of physical education for women. In the 1930s, Tausche was living and teaching in San Francisco. In 1937, the Santa Cruz (CA) *Sentinel* newspaper, reported on December 21, 1937, page 9, that Tausche and Irene

Tausche No. 2:
Youngest daughter...
 To end our Tausche House story—until the house reappears





Sink, born in 1899 in Cloverdale, California, both San Francisco teachers, would be staying at their cottage on Lomita Drive. In the 1939 San Francisco city directory, Tausche and Miss Sink were living at 1200 Fulton. In 1940, Tausche was head of girls' physical education at Polytechnic High School in San Francisco.

Louise died at 2:57 p.m. on August 9, 1965. Her death certificate reported her death at Franklin Hospital, San Francisco, from liver failure and that she had liver cancer and cancer in her left breast. She was described as a "retired S.F. school teacher & a member of Artists' Cooperative. Miss Tausche was 67; she had lived in San Francisco for 39 years.

Tausche's body was cremated and returned to La Crosse. Her five-paragraph obituary was in the La Crosse Tribune on August 12, 1965, page 3. In the "DEATHS" column, she was named "MARY TAUSCHE." Her long absence

from La Crosse was explained: "Miss Tausche was a San Francisco resident for 39 years where she taught physical education. She was a graduate of Boston University." The last paragraph: "Services were Wednesday in San Francisco. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society."

Louise's longtime friend Irene Sink died June 23, 1979, in San Mateo County, California.

Note. Ancestry.com shows pictures of Louise Tausche. A few from 1917, one from 1918, five from 1922, more from 1923.

Sources. "Vincent Tausche, Pioneer

Hardware Merchant, Dies," La Crosse Tribune, October 4, 1936, page 1. "Vincent Tausche," La Crosse Tribune, January 6, 1936, page 6. Obituary: "Mrs. Bertha M. Tausche," La Crosse Tribune, October 15, 1945, page 6.

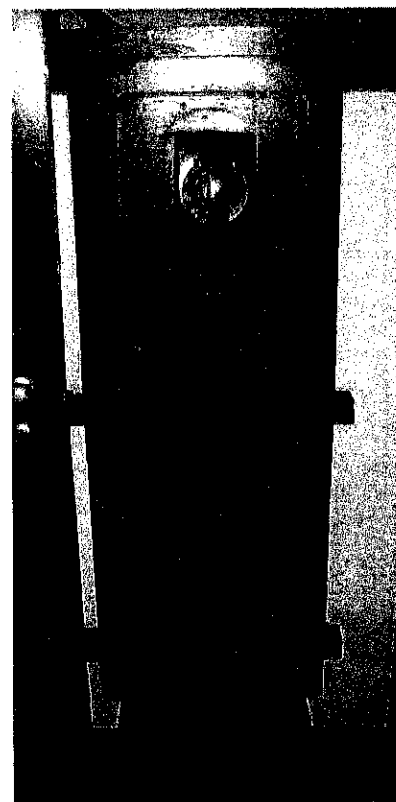
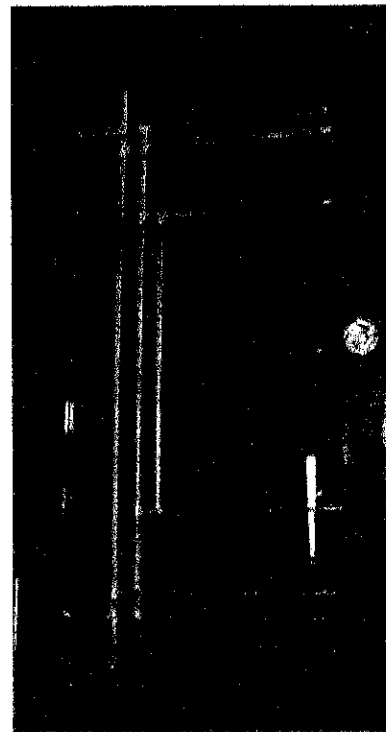
Bricks. Advertisement: Fiske & Co., Inc., New York, *Country Life in America*, March 1910, page 595. "Tapestry bricks came in assorted colors..." Demetra Aposporas, *Old House Journal* online, undated.

Garden. "Hometown History: La Crosse's Salzer Seed Co. was once known worldwide," La Crosse Tribune, March 2010; La Crosse Public Library Archives.

Tausche, Louise. Death certificate, completed with information from her brother-in-law Peder J. Sletteland, signed by Dr. Ray C. Combs. Kansas State Agriculture College information, *The Royal Purple* yearbook, 1922. San Francisco City Directory, 1939; Irene Sink, page 1223;

Images at right, more from the house. Leaded door glass for the dining room sideboard. Bottom, built-in "telephone cabinet" with a bench.

Image on this page. Top, Mary Louise Tausche in *The Royal Purple*, 1922, page 161, Kansas State Agricultural College.





Dec. 10th 1935 - 1. Mr. Withers 2. Mr. [unclear] 3. Mr. [unclear] 4. Mr. [unclear] 5. Mr. [unclear] 6. Vincent Tausche 7. Mr. [unclear] 8. Mr. [unclear] 9. Mr. [unclear] 10. Mr. [unclear] 11. Mr. [unclear] 12. Mr. [unclear] 13. Mr. [unclear] 14. Mr. [unclear] 15. Mr. [unclear]

Vincent Tausche and others. Here, sixth from the left among those standing is Mr. Tausche, a client of architect Percy Dwight Bentley. He and the others are members of the Men's Sketch Club of La Crosse, Wisconsin. Third standing from the left is Leighton Oyen, son of Odin Oyen, the artist who completed house interiors for Bentley and whose downtown La Crosse store building was designed by Bentley. Photo courtesy of the La Crosse Public Library Archives.

More inside about Bentley's Tausche House starting on page 10.

