

RENEW MOLINE ACQUIRES WASHINGTON SQUARE APARTMENTS

The Board of Directors of Renew Moline is pleased to announce the acquisition of the **Washington Square Apartments** in downtown Moline, a ten-unit building located at 316-17th Street. Renew Moline purchased the building from out-of-town investors through a private sale.



The late-19th century structure is remarkable because the exterior has not been altered significantly since it was built. Originally five, three-story townhome-style units, the building was constructed at the direction of Charles Deere, and designed by Merton Yale Cady, Mr. Deere's brother-in-law, and an important architect/builder in the Midwest during that time.

The building's fate narrowly missed the wrecking ball on at least two occasions—once in the 1940s, once in the 1970s, and was heading for it again in the early 2000s when the City of Moline stepped in. After a complete interior renovation in 2012, today the building features five one-bedroom one bath units, and five two-bedroom, 1.5 bath units. The units are all income-restricted to 50% of Area Median Income (AMI) and 120% AMI.

“Renew Moline had a chance to acquire Washington Square and the Board determined that it was an important and strategic purchase. Not only does the property provide much-needed affordable housing, but it is important to keep such assets in local ownership” said Renew Moline Board Chairman Carrie O’Neill. “We did not want to miss this opportunity.”

Alexandra Elias, President and CEO of Renew Moline said “Renew Moline has not acquired property in many years, but this property is so special. We are grateful for the support of the City of Moline and GROWTH Corporation, who have trusted us to be excellent stewards of the property for our resident tenants and downtown. We look forward to learning more about Washington Square’s history and celebrating it with the community.”

For questions or information about leasing, please call Crystal Crayne at the Renew Moline office (309.762.9190), or ccrayne@renewmoline.com.

Victim of Age SEP 24 1943
Once Elite Moline Apartment House
To Be Razed; War Prevents Repairs

—Dispatch photo.

Deere Row, the “flats” building at 316 to 324 Seventeenth street, pictured above, which about three-quarters of a century ago was known in some circles as the “elite apartments of Moline,” has become a victim of age and will soon be no more. John Deere, founder of Deere & Co., built the building.

The Deere estate, which owns the property, has considered for some years razing the building because of its decrepit and rundown condition but has hesitated to do so because of the housing situation, said Lloyd E. Kennedy, manager.

However, the structure, which consists of five large apartments, to survive another winter would need almost entirely new heating and plumbing and the material is almost impossible to get, even though the expense would be worth-while, declared Kennedy. Various other extensive improvements also would be needed to make the building safe. Occupants of the building were notified some time ago of the owner's plans to raze the structure and have gradually found other quarters. The remaining two tenants are expected to find new housing soon.

In a day or two some of the job of razing the structure will be under way and it will be completed soon after the building is vacated. The Deere estate has no immediate plans for use of the ground on which the building stands.

To a number of people here the passing of Deere Row will recall happy childhood memories, among them Gail Porter Pope, wife of Jean A. Pope, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Porter, lived there; and J. L. Oakleaf, Moline lawyer whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Oakleaf, also occupied an apartment.

“So the Deere Row is going,” said Oakleaf. “I remember a lot of good times we had there. I was 4 years old when we moved in and I’m 63 now. When I think back I seem to remember that it was pretty old then, and I guess it no longer was so ‘elite.’”

In those days Fifth avenue was Moline’s principal residence street. South of Deere Row, at the northeast corner of Fifth avenue and Seventeenth street, stood the First Congregational church. Across the street was Perry Merriman’s laundry. North was the Deere memorial building.

Cureall.

DALLAS, TEX.—County Judge Al Templeton’s remedy for juvenile delinquency: “Apply a bed slat, or something even heavier.”

Save your waste kitchen

Historical Articles and Photos



1975



1987



2009



2011 (Before renovation)