



# Heritage News

A quarterly newsletter of Glendale Heritage Preservation, Summer 2024

## A National Historic Landmark District

### *A Brief History*

The National Historic Landmark program accompanied numerous waves of public projects, federal regulations and financial reforms put forth by the federal government to withstand the widespread devastation caused by the Great Depression. Throughout this fragile rebuilding period, national sentiment slowly transitioned from despair to optimism, which brought about a movement to protect essential elements of our national heritage. The resultant Historic Sites Act of 1935 authorized the interior secretary to formally record and organize, and to designate properties as having “national historic significance.”

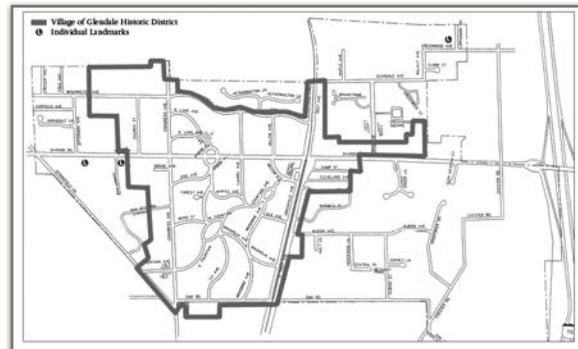
In the years following this groundbreaking act, post-war patriotism fostered additional legislation that would prove to be the most comprehensive and sweeping historic preservation measures ever passed by Congress. Chartered anew, the National Park Service embraced a more holistic approach to national heritage. This led to increased recognition of areas and resources such as historic districts, rural landscapes and thousands of local landmarks. Within this framework, the National Park Service established the pivotal National Historic Landmark program.

### *A Local Advance*

In the early 1970s Glendale supporters embarked on the arduous quest to achieve the coveted National Historic Landmark designation. Mrs. Doreen Gove, together with fellow community members commensurately devoted to the Village, were instrumental in leading the charge. Though fully aware of improbable success, Mrs. Gove was

resolutely determined to achieve the Landmark designation.

October 15, 1977, marked the pinnacle of preservation efforts with the official designation of Glendale’s Historic District as a National Historic Landmark. Prominently depicted in photographs captured throughout the sunny day, Mrs. Gove vividly recalls the collective excitement and thrilling atmosphere of the event. Treasured purveyors of hometown pomp and circumstance, Princeton High pep band brass trumpeted in succession with the thundering locomotive horn as they vied for audience attention.



Mrs. Gove prepared a speech for the occasion - print copy in-hand to assist with any niggling public speaking nerves. Upon conclusion of the official proceedings, the local Grand Finale restaurant prepared

their quintessentially celebratory luncheon for Mrs. Gove and her esteemed visiting dignitaries.

### *The Landmark Legacy*

Achieving the National Historic Landmark designation memorializes our strong commitment to preserving and promoting the treasured knowledge of Glendale. Throughout the decades, the designation has been instrumental in balancing the preservation of Glendale’s original character with the warm welcoming of strategic growth within its cherished scenes. Today, the Landmark legacy thrives through the sense of confidence it confers on our community. Its simple yet steadfast presence truly inspires our active and continuous commemoration of the many timeless treasures of Glendale.

*Submitted by Carrie Thomas*

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Doreen D. Gove

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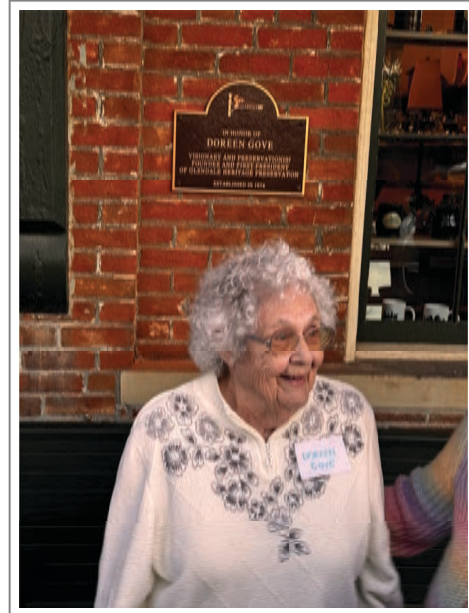
### **Newsletter Editor**

Martin Sinnott

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## **New Plaque Recognizes Doreen Gove**

As part of Glendale Heritage Preservation's celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, founder Doreen Gove was honored with a plaque recognizing her contribution to Glendale village life as a visionary and a preservationist. The plaque was unveiled at the opening of the new museum exhibit celebrating



50 years of Glendale Heritage Preservation accomplishments. At the same occasion, Mayor Mike Besl proclaimed March 15, 2024, as Glendale Heritage Preservation Day. The proclamation hangs in the depot for all to appreciate.

## **Glendale Heritage Preservation's Officers for 2024**



*(Left to Right) Helene Sedwick (Treasurer), Carl Stritzel (Vice President), Martin Sinnott (President), Elizabeth Oldiges (Secretary), Carolyn Beaugrand (Vice President)*

## Glendale Resident's Song Discovered

The song sheet for "I'm Going Home to Jesus to Take My Rest" was recently discovered in the family bible by Andrea Ricketts. The song was written by Andrea's great-grandmother and Glendale resident, Catherine Phelps, in 1946, and had remained undiscovered in the bible for nearly 80 years.

The song has now taken on a whole new life! Andrea's daughter Safiya Ricketts felt a strong desire, as well as a calling, to share her great-great-grandmother's song and story. She had the song arranged for a gospel choir and recently led a performance by the First Baptist Church of Toronto. A video recording of the performance will become the centerpiece of a documentary Safiya plans to create. This film will pay tribute to the remarkable life of Catherine Phelps in relation to the historic time and the place where she lived.

Born on July 4, 1885, Catherine Phelps was a descendent of enslaved people. Living through the social, economic and racial struggles of her era, she was the head of her matriarchal home in Glendale. She managed to raise her son, granddaughter and great-granddaughter while also taking in foster children. Her faith, strength and constitution were virtues necessary to face the many tragedies she lived through, including the death of her only son. Being a woman of God and a



Andrea Ricketts holding portrait of Catherine Phelps and her song behind Safiya Ricketts



Quinn Chapel

respected member of her faith community, she also served as the first associate female pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal Quinn Chapel at 313 East Willow Avenue.

Quinn Chapel was the fifth church built in Glendale. The church lot was acquired in 1889. The following year, the new church was completed and formally opened. It was named after Bishop William Paul Quinn (1788-1873) who opened many African Methodist Episcopal Churches in Ohio and elsewhere.

Catherine Phelps' influence and desire to see her only great-granddaughter Andrea receive a proper education started at the Eckstein School for Black children. With funds coming from a scholarship that Andrea received from Quinn Chapel as well as extra funding from Catherine's aunt, Sally Snowden, Andrea went on to earn a Master's Degree in Elementary Education.

These generational influences carried on with the next generation, as well. Andrea enrolled Safiya and her sister in the Mount Zion Baptist Church children's choir from the age of six until they graduated from high school at age 17. For their participation in the community at Mount Zion Baptist Church, they were awarded academic scholarships to the University of Washington.

Safiya went on to have a successful career in show business. This led her to perform in several shows in Canada, where she sought permanent residency in 2010 and went on to become a Canadian citizen in 2016. With her background in show business, Safiya was inspired to embark on the project to tell the story of Catherine Phelps's life and songwriting.

Catherine Phelps - "I'm Going Home to Jesus to Take My Rest" - died in 1976, at the age of 90. She is buried in Oak Hill cemetery. A life worth telling.

*Submitted by Martin Sinnott*





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## New Home for Glendale's Old Fire Truck

Glendale's Ahrens-Fox fire truck was purchased in August 1929, for \$9,950 according to the Village ledger for that year. In July 2023, it was sold at auction for \$10,000 to the Fire Department Training Network in Indianapolis. Today, a new fire truck would cost the Village \$840,000.



Ahrens-Fox Fire Engine Company was founded in 1910 in Cincinnati. Its factory was on East 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Over-the-Rhine. It ceased building fire trucks in 1977.

Glendale's fire truck operated as the primary or back-up fire truck protecting the Village of Glendale until its retirement in 1981. After that it could frequently be seen at the Memorial Day parades and other village events.

On one occasion in 2009, while driving back to the Glendale Fire Station on Route 4 near Glendale Milford Road, the truck's engine caught fire. With the assistance of Glendale and Woodlawn Fire Departments, the fire was extinguished, but the engine was damaged beyond repair. Fortunately, it just so happened there was a spare engine in the basement of the firehouse! It had been purchased by the fire department in the event that the current one should fail.



Thus, one catastrophe had been avoided. However, it was the cost of maintaining the fire truck's engine, which required parts to be fabricated, and having someone capable of driving it, that was the fire truck's ultimate demise.

Submitted by Martin Sinnott