Strengthening Beloit: Historic Preservation and Building Community

John Glennan ’16
Beloit College Sustainability Fellows Program, Summer 2015

The Process
What is an Historic Survey?
- **Purpose:** To incorporate historic preservation in a community’s planning and development by surveying historic properties
- **Three Steps:** Preliminary Research, Reconnaissance Survey, Intensive Survey
  - **Preliminary Research:** Identifying the relevant history of the survey site
  - **Reconnaissance Survey:** Preliminary survey of historic properties
    - Visual, with minor research aspects
    - Provides overview of historic properties
    - Identifies areas of further interest
  - **Intensive Survey:** In depth research on historic properties
    - Research potentially important properties
    - Recommend historic districts
    - Create report with providing context for site
    - Offer recommendations for future preservation

Preservation at Beloit College
Middle College
- Completed in 1847
- Oldest building on campus
- Originally classroom, chapel, and dorm – all in one!
- Renovated in 1938 to reflect original building
- Significant to campus culture – home of Admissions, the President’s office, and where Commencement takes place

Pearsons Hall
- Built in 1892
- Originally Pearsons Hall for the Sciences
- Fell into disuse after construction of Chamberlin Hall
- Renovated for use as student union instead of being torn down in 1982, with additions such as an elevator
- Currently acts as a hub for student government, campus activities
- Now a great example of an historic property seeing modern use while maintaining its historic character

Sustainability: The Benefits
**Economic**
- **Heritage Tourism:** Activity of 78% of tourists in US
- **Tax Credits:** Properties can qualify for state and federal tax credits
- **Reuse:** Reusing a space can be cheaper than building a new building

**Environmental**
- **Transportation:** Reusing material results in fewer supplies needing to be moved
- **Material:** “Embodied energy” results in less energy used to build space
- **Footprint:** Total energy cost of operating historic properties is smaller than buildings of similar size

**Social**
- **Significance:** Provide intangible value to community
- **Beauty:** Visually enhance communities
- **Memory:** Physical marker of collective memory that builds culture and community

Acknowledgments
Thank you to Ellen Joyce, Alex Morganroth, and Fred Burwell for their assistance and guidance with my project.

References:
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.