Historic Preservation Week

Every American city, town and rural community has a heritage. Each of us has a fond memory or a special affection for a landmark that has played a role, however small, in creating the character of the places where we live.

The evidence of our heritage may be found in a small-town Main Street, an Art Deco skyscraper, a rustic log cabin, a weathered barn or an adobe mission. Or it might not be a building at all that tugs the heartstrings of our memory, rather the fine craftsmanship of a tall ship, the sturdy force of a steam locomotive, or the silent presence of a Civil War battlefield or the unspoiled landscape of a pristine meadow.

By drawing public attention to this nation's remarkable built and natural environment, we are generating interest in historic preservation and demonstrating its importance in everyday life. Preservation Week is not only a symbolic celebration, but a call to action. It is an opportunity for each of us, joining together, to declare our commitment to keeping America's heritage alive.

J. Jackson Walter
President
National Trust for Historic Preservation

Salvage Shindig

Salvage Chair, Bob Swisher, has set Saturday, May 19 as the date for the annual spring “Warehouse Party.” Beginning at 9:00 a.m., volunteers will be asked to help organize and inventory the warehouse. Newly donated items will be catalogued with their “vital statistics” (item, size, wood type, etc.). This will help PACA to efficiently serve its customers who are searching for a specific item. As time and energy permit, nail pulling will also be done on miscellaneous woodwork accumulated over the winter.

Mark your calendars for May 19. All help is gratefully and cheerfully appreciated and those working for four or more hours will receive a free “PACA RAT” T-shirt! Celebrate Historic Preservation Week and help PACA at the same time.

1990 Illinois Preservation Conference

The annual statewide preservation conference will be held this year in Decatur from May 31 to June 3. This year’s theme is Preserving Illinois: The State of the Future. The 1990s will offer a number of challenges and opportunities to those involved in efforts to preserve the architectural, historical, and cultural heritage of Illinois. The Tenth Annual Illinois Preservation Conference provides an opportunity for individuals in a variety of fields and professions to strengthen the role of preservation in the State. The conference offers information on a variety of topics and issues that are facing preservation today and is geared for varying levels of knowledge and expertise.

PACA members are cordially invited to attend this informative conference and to meet fellow preservationists from around the state. Remember, Decatur is only 45 minutes away!

New Officers Elected

At the March Board of Directors meeting, the following officers were elected:
President: Kennedy Hutson, Vice-President: Steven Roemmelt, Secretary-Treasurer: Nancy Delcomyn. Board meetings are held on the second Monday of the month, beginning at 7:30 p.m. PACA members are invited to attend, please call the office for the meeting place.
Focus On: Leal School Architectural Project

Third and fourth graders in option 3/4C at Leal School received a Mini Grant entitled “Children, Architecture and History: A Child’s Walking Tour Guide of Urbana” from state funds through the Champaign and Ford County Regional Office of Education. The class of third and fourth graders are using that grant to study architecture. The main purpose was to make a children’s walking guide to buildings and sites in Urbana.

To prepare for writing the book, the class took architectural walks in the area of Leal School, had architects come to speak with us, studied vocabulary, and took many trips to the Urbana Free Library Archives to do research on the buildings. We also used the grant funds to buy books and supplies to help us understand the study of architecture.

Some of the money was used for printing of the book, and for slide film to give a presentation to our parents and other classes at Leal.

(The above article was written by Liza Watson, 3/4-C Leal School. Illustrations are by some of her classmates.)
Orpheum Preservation Project

After months of waiting, the Orpheum Theater was finally opened for viewing on March 30. The City of Champaign allowed the Orpheum Preservation Committee and the press to tour and photograph the theater. Structurally, the Committee found the building in very good condition, although the lack of heat for the last five years has taken its toll. Much of the paint has flaked off and a few pieces of plaster have fallen. However, the roof was found to be in good shape and no "surprises" were discovered.

Although the City will be disconnecting the building's electrical service for fire safety reasons, the Committee has been assured that continued access to the theater will be allowed. The Committee plans to begin preparing detailed blueprints in the near future.

The Committee is also in the midst of choosing a needs assessment consultant for the project. The Illinois Arts Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation have granted PACA funds to hire a consultant to determine the scope of uses possible for the theater. Inkind donations of labor and time from Committee and PACA members are needed as matching "funds." Please call PACA if you can volunteer to help.

Champaign Comprehensive Plan

The Planning Department of the City of Champaign conducted 17 neighborhood meetings in April in an effort to solicit public participation in the development of a new Comprehensive Plan. The City is gathering input on neighborhood issues and on likes and dislikes about the community in general, in order to identify the issues which the Comprehensive Plan should address.

Comments from the meetings, as well as comments from questionnaires and phone conversations, will serve a significant role in establishing issues and priorities which will guide the city's growth and development. These comments will be compiled by the Planning Department and presented to the City Council.

PACA is asking our Champaign members to please take a few minutes to give your input to this important city effort. As a PACA member, we hope you will give consideration to historic preservation issues: historic neighborhoods, brick streets, historic street lighting, the Orpheum Theater, the train station, a historic preservation ordinance to provide protection to historic landmarks and districts, and others.

Call the Planning Department at 351-4486 as soon as possible to ensure consideration of your comments. We appreciate your input.

Membership Application P.A.C.A.

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Make checks payable to: PACA, Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61825

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

PACA Receives Two Grants

The Community Foundation of Champaign County recently awarded PACA a grant to document the historic theaters of Champaign County. This is a very timely grant since the future of the Orpheum Theater is being debated now, the future of the Virginia Theater is in doubt, and the Rialto Theater has been moth-balled for years. Other historic theaters are rapidly fading from memory and need to be documented before they disappear entirely. PACA plans to videotape and photograph the interiors and exteriors of the theaters and copies of the documentation will be given to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

PACA was also awarded a Preservation Services Fund grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This grant will be used in conjunction with the Illinois Arts Council's grant to fund a consultant to study the feasibility of reusing the Orpheum Theater. The Preservation Services Fund helps non-profit organizations gain technical expertise to plan historic preservation and design projects.
New & Renewing Members

Sharon Irish
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Sutton
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Porter
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Krimbel
Dr. Norah McClintock-Grady
David Garner
Norman & Carolyn Baxley
Norman Baxley Associates
Ellen Brin
George & Sandra Batzli
Scott & Annabelle Anderson
Jeff Mellander
Jerry O'Bryan
Architectural Spectrum
Mary B. Altenbernd
Peggy Shaw & Al Friederich
Bill Kruidenier
Mark Replogle
Mrs. F. F. Wienard
Marian & George Clayton
Harry & Pat Jensen
Steve & Melanie Tyner-Wilson
Michael Lacy Family
Stephen P. Dickerson
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Atterberry
Mrs. Ralph W. Barrymore
Gary Olsen

Linda Jensen
Gene Stokvis
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Bartell
Champaign-Urbana Visitors & Convention Bureau
Ramona T. Bryant
Mrs. Irene Slottow
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Seibold
Jack S. Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Louis B. Wetmore
Dannel McCollum
Michele Augusti
Richard Cannon
Ella C. Leppert
Bernadine Evans Stake
Charles W. Casad
Bruce Stoffel
Mr. & Mrs. Allen S. Weller
Gary Perkins
Thomas Guback & Sylvia Linde-Guback
Mrs. Helen Levin
Patricia Miller
Patience Kirby
John Huston
Walter Allen
Kevin Cullen
Laura Kovarik

Sharon Rapp
James Fallon
Dorothy Remack
Art Zangerl

Volunteers in Preservation
Mark Replogle
Bob Swisher
Rex Kummer
Hank Kaczmarski

Salvage Donations
University of Illinois
Manssour Moeinzadeh
Sullivan Plumbing