



# PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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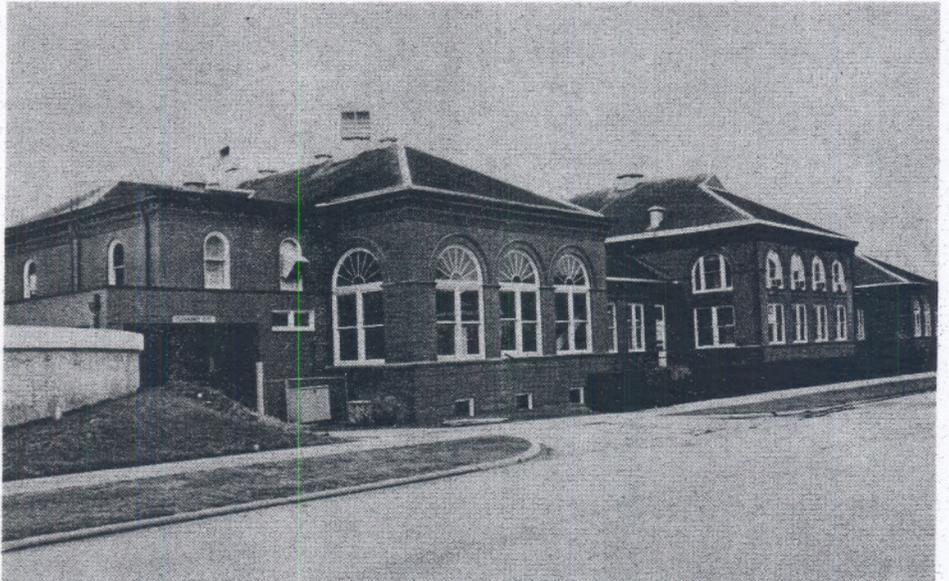
Number 5

## Endangered Buildings

The University of Illinois recently announced plans for a new Engineering Library to be located on the site of the historic Woodshop and Aeronautical Laboratory "B" buildings. Since last Spring, PACA has been monitoring these plans and has notified the Board of Trustees of PACA's concerns about the Trustee's apparent lack of stewardship for the university's historic buildings. PACA has also been in contact with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) about the situation. Since state funds are involved in the project, the IHPA must review and approve the demolition of these historic structures; to date this approval has not been given.

PACA has taken the position that these buildings are important to both the heritage of the university and the heritage of the state. They should be maintained in their present location, and if adaptive reuse of these buildings for library facilities is impossible, then the new library building should be sited in a different location. In making the decision to locate the library on the site of the Woodshop, it is interesting to note that the university is ignoring both the 1989 revised North Campus Plan and the findings of their first Historic Sites Committee, both of which recommend retaining and reusing the Woodshop.

*PACA urges all individuals to call or write the Board of Trustees with their support for the preservation of these two significant buildings. PACA members are asked to mail the enclosed postcard, so the Trustees will understand how their decision affects not only the university environment, but the entire community.*



The following excerpts on the history of these two buildings are taken from a graduate thesis by architecture student Michael Cunningham.

### UI Woodshop

The Woodshop Building was designed for the Department of Mechanical Engineering by Champaign architect Nelson Strong Spencer in 1901. A former student of Nathan C. Ricker's, Spencer was an 1883 graduate of architecture at the University of Illinois. He was Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds for the university from 1898 to 1902.

The Woodshop Building was built by general contractors Kelly and O'Brien of Chicago, with plumbing and electrical work by Field, Schorb and Co. of Decatur. Construction began in June of 1901, and was substantially completed by February of 1902. Both

contractors submitted bids and were awarded contracts to build two other Spencer-designed buildings at the same time—a gymnasium and a testing laboratory. Kelly and O'Brien's contract price for all three was \$74,097, while Field, Schorb and Co.'s contract price for all three was \$11,375. The Woodshop itself was built, according to an article by a mechanical engineering professor at the time, "for about \$18,000."

A Foundry Laboratory addition to the Woodshop was designed by University of Illinois Supervising Architect James McClaren White, with associate architect Seth J. Temple of Champaign, in 1904. English Brothers, contractors in Champaign, built the addition that same year for \$10,770, and the addition was occupied by February of 1905.

The Woodshop Building was built on the site of the earlier Mechanical Engineering and Military Building,

which had contained a gymnasium, and laboratories for the testing of materials, steam, and hydraulics, until it was destroyed by fire in June of 1900.

The original Woodshop stretched 70 feet along Burrill Avenue, and 198 feet along Springfield Avenue. The Foundry addition extended its total length to 247 feet. An additional remodeling in 1955 widened and lengthened the Foundry's porte-cochere at its ground level, and expanded the enclosed space above it with a flat roof addition.

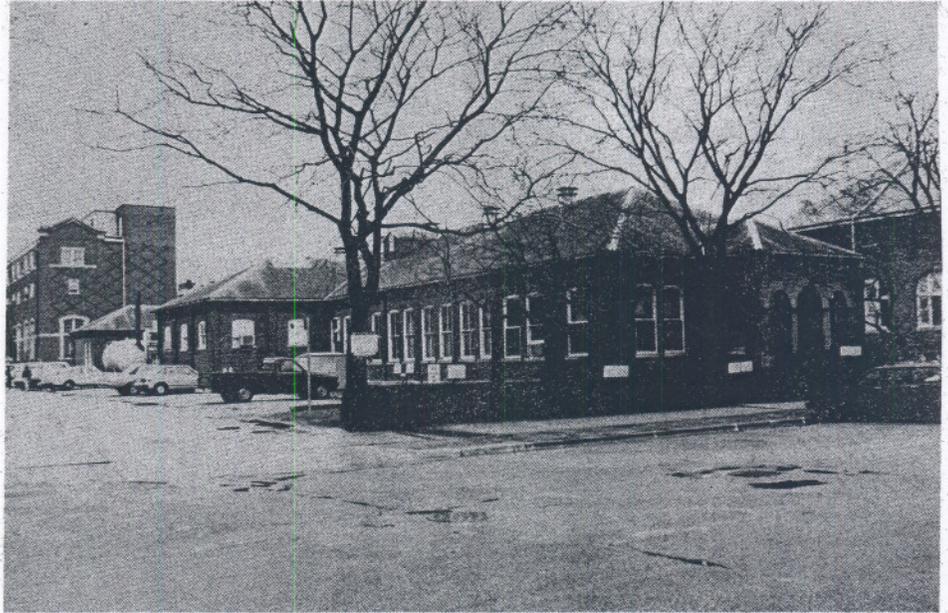
Though largely unchanged since this last addition, the Woodshop has undergone periodic minor remodelings. In 1963, air conditioning was added in the central pavilion, and in 1968 the grounds were improved. The interior has been partitioned off numerous times, and ceilings have been dropped below the once open trussed spaces.

#### Description

Rectangular in plan, and 1 1/2 stories tall, the Woodshop and Foundry Laboratory consists of three hipped roof pavilions connected by two gable roofed links. The east pavilion has a small hipped and flat roofed section on its east side, with an enclosed space on its second level over an open, porte-cochere on its first level.

The original construction of the Woodshop consisted of the first two pavilions and the link between them, as well as a portion of the link to the west. The Foundry addition consisted of the remainder of the second link, the last pavilion, and its porte-cochere. Brick bearing walls, with slate shingles over iron roof truss construction is used throughout both the Woodshop and Foundry portions. Basement floors are concrete slab on grade in both sections, but construction of the first floor is of wood joists in the Woodshop, and of reinforced concrete in the Foundry.

The main entry is on the west facade of the west pavilion, off of Burrill Avenue. A set of wood and glass



double doors flanked by single doors, beneath a large three-light transom, are all recessed behind a large round arch of gauged brick in an abutment of rock-faced brick. The floor of the entryway has a pattern in mosaic tile, above three sandstone steps.

The entire building is wrapped with a decorative cornice of corbelled brick, with dentils, molded brick modillions, and copper gutters.

#### Aeronautical Laboratory "B"

Aeronautical Laboratory "B," originally known as the Metal Shop Building, was designed for the Department of Mechanical Engineering by Nathan C. Ricker in 1895. Ricker, who in 1872 was the first graduate of a school of architecture in the United States, was head of the Department of Architecture, Dean of the College of Engineering, and architect in charge of campus planning and design until the early 1900s.

The Metal Shop was built in 1895, primarily by general contractors Bevis and Company of Urbana, with the exception of the construction of the roof trusses and sheathing, which was by C.L. Strobel of Chicago.

In 1905, an addition consisting of a single room three bays long by two bays wide with a full basement below was built on the north facade, to the

designs of James M. White, Supervising Architect to the University of Illinois.

In 1986, the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Nathan Clifford Ricker Thematic Nomination.

#### Description

Double "T"-shaped in plan, and one story tall, the Aero Lab "B" building consists of a long block, hip roofed on its west end and gable roofed on its east end, with two hip roofed blocks attached to its north facade, and a hip roofed entry porch on its west facade. The north and south facades are divided by one foot wide pilasters into 23 bays, the first 16 of which from the west end are typically nine feet wide, while the remaining seven from the east end are typically eleven feet wide.

Brick bearing walls, with slate shingles over wood decking and purlins over iron truss roof construction is used throughout. The floor is of wood joists bearing on brick piers forming a crawlspace in the west 15 bays, while the remaining east eight bays have a slab on grade.

The main entry on the west facade provides the only elaborate architectural treatment for this industrial building. An entry porch consists of a loggia of three intersecting brick

rowlock arches that share a corbelled brick springer course. Recessed behind the loggia is a double door with semicircular transom.

A corbelled brick cornice and copper gutters wrap the entire building, while skylights and conical sheet metal ventilators dot the roof's north side and ridge, respectively.

Please call or write the Board of Trustees with your concerns about the Woodshop and Aero Lab B.

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708\835-2172  
Governor Jim Edgar  
Illinois State Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62706  
217\782-6830

### Fall House Tour a Success

A beautiful, brisk fall day created an excellent backdrop for our "Come Home to Main Street" house tour which featured eight historic houses and two historic churches in the 400-800 blocks of West Main Street in Urbana. Over 600 people participated in the tour, held from 1:00 to 5:00 Sunday, October 6. The tour was a great opportunity to showcase the fine preservation work which has occurred over the past few years, making West Main Street one of the finest sections of historic architecture in the community. In addition to providing great inspiration, the tour allowed more people to learn about PACA. We have gained several new members and several renewed memberships as a result of the tour, as well

as netting over \$3,000. While numerous people made this event possible, our special thanks goes to the home owners who graciously shared their homes: Debbie Nelson and Paul Joffe, Ruth Brookens, Carolyn and Norman Baxley, Rev. and Mrs. Timothy Hallet, Naomi and Eric Jakobsson, Dan Folk, Marylee MacDonald and Bruce Rittmann, and Joe and Phyllis Williams. We also extend our thanks to the congregations of the Canaan Missionary Baptist Church and St. Patrick's Catholic Church who shared their buildings with us as well. For the full-page coverage of the house tour in the *News-Gazette*, we are particularly appreciative of Rebecca Mabry. Many thanks to Kent Snodgrass for the outstanding house tour poster. House tour volunteers included:

Susan Appel  
Gisele Atterberry  
Sandra Batzli  
Lachlan Blair  
Mary Blair  
Bette Boarman  
Clare Brown  
Craig Burgess  
Richard Cahill  
Anne Carlson  
Kim Casiero  
Jean Eichmann  
Nancy Delcomyn  
James Dobrovolny  
Delores Dwyer  
Alice Edwards  
Joe Gallagher  
Ellen Green

Julie Greenway  
Hermie Kruidenier  
Jill Madsen  
Carol Marlin  
Perry Morris  
Mark Replogle  
Sheila Rhodes  
Kathy Roemmel  
Steve Roemmel  
Jeff Rogers  
Joan Severns  
Ann Silvis  
Sherry Slade  
Joan Sozen  
Sharon Straus  
Beth Woodside  
Art Zangerl  
Emaley Zuback

## Membership Application P.A.C.A.

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

#### INDIVIDUAL

- Adult.....\$10.00  
 Student (1/2 time or more) .....\$ 5.00  
 Senior Citizen.....\$ 5.00  
 Family (includes all members of a household with no more than two members being over age 21).....\$15.00

Additional Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

#### CIVIC

- Over 100 members.....\$100.00  
 50-100 members .....\$ 75.00  
 Up to 50 members .....\$ 50.00

#### CORPORATE

.....\$ 50.00

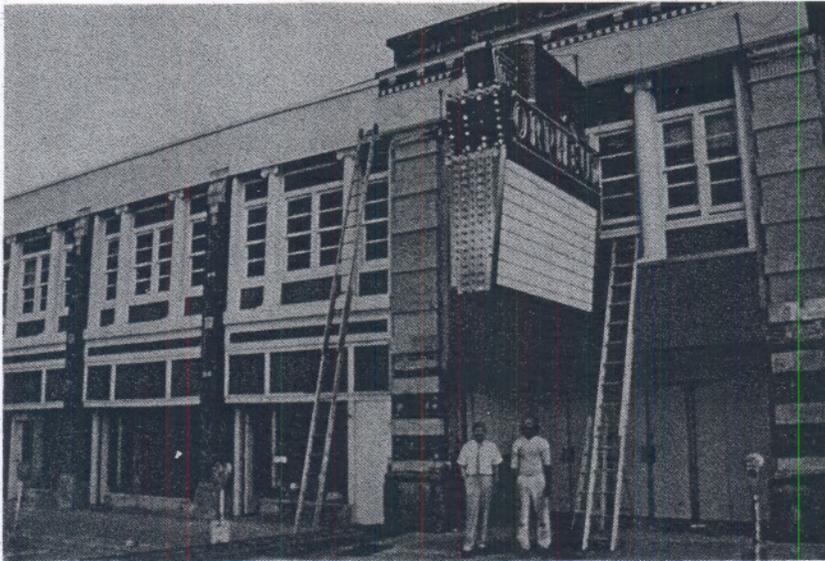
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RENEWAL

NEW MEMBERSHIP

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Make checks payable to: PACA, Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61825  
Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



### Orpheum Facade Rehabed!

PACA invites all members to drive by the newly rehabilitated facade of the Orpheum Theatre. In late August, volunteers cleaned out the storefronts while Markstahler, Inc. removed the remainder of the framework from the 1960s aluminum facade remodeling. In September, John Little of Rantoul (893-1934) painted the exterior in a three-part color scheme and installed a *trompe l'oeil* cornice designed and executed by PACA member Perry Morris. Bill Kite, Sign Man, repaired the marquee. With each project PACA accomplishes, the potential of the theater is revealed to the community. We can't wait to start on the inside!

#### New and Renewing Members

Kim Casiero  
 Shirley Stillinger  
 Mary Bruce  
 Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Seibold  
 Bob and Karen Townsend  
 Marion A. Koester  
 Robert Rogers  
 Christine Breen  
 John Beccue  
 Bob Finch  
 Howard & Kathy Robinson  
 Laird Thompson & Marianna Murphy  
 Mary Lee Sargent  
 Joe & Jane Marriott  
 Sara Chilton & Ron Szoke  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Longacre  
 Susan Taylor Martens  
 Joseph J. Gallagher  
 Dana Swann  
 Sarah & Robert Nemeth  
 David Finet  
 Chris Anderson  
 Marsha L. Stephens  
 Perry Morris  
 Keddy Hutson & Ann Boswell  
 Jack & Virginia Waaler  
 Henry Merkelo  
 Linda & Doug Mills  
 Wanda Bengoechea Family  
 Dennis & Jan Lewis  
 Rex & Karen Kummer

#### Charter Members

Mrs. Norris L. Brookins  
 Mr. & Mrs. Lachlan Blair  
 Mrs. Francis J. Kruidenier  
 Joan & John Severns

#### Garage Sale V.I.P.'s

Karen Krusa  
 Sharon Gunason  
 Kathy Robinson  
 Alice Edwards  
 Karen Kummer  
 Carolyn Baxley  
 Lewis Adkisson  
 Lachlan Blair  
 Richard Cahill  
 Norman Baxley & Assoc.  
 Diane Stephens  
 Rebecca Adams

#### Salvage V.I.P.'s

Sharon Gunason  
 Richard Cahill  
 Susan Appel  
 Steve Roemmel  
 Karen Kummer  
 Rex Kummer  
 Bob Swisher  
 Al Friederick  
 Peggy Shaw  
 Rebecca Adams  
 Tim Latourette  
 Art Zangerl  
 Pius Weibel  
 Jeff Bruninga

Preservation & Conservation Association  
 Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61825

#### PACA Newsletter

Steven Roemmel, President  
 Alice Edwards, Vice-President  
 Susan Appel, Secretary  
 Pat Jensen, Treasurer

328-PACA: Telephone & Answering Service

