

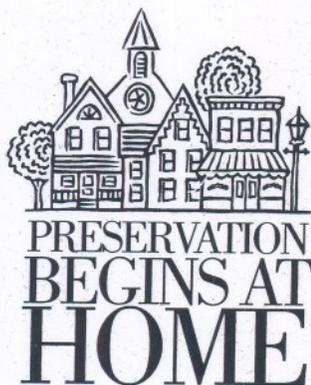


PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Volume 18

March-April, 1998

Number 2



Preservation Week - May 10-16

Home.

It can be a big-city apartment, a suburban bungalow or a secluded farmhouse. It can function as a quiet refuge or a dynamic launching-pad. It is the place where we can truly be ourselves, where we can create a supportive environment for ourselves and our families, where we can celebrate our heritage while making some history of our own.

The importance of saving and enhancing the places where we live—not just the buildings but also the communities that surround them—is the focus of this year's observance of Preservation Week. The theme, *Preservation Begins at Home*, encourages us to recognize the beauty, variety and significance of the older residential buildings and neighborhoods that shape and enrich our lives. It reminds us that historic preservation is a powerful tool for stimulating new investment in economically depressed areas, providing affordable housing and building community pride. Perhaps most important, it calls on us to realize that responsibility for preserving the character and livability of our communities rests with us. As members of organized preservation groups and as responsible citizens, all of us must take an active role in the decisions that shape the future of the places we call by that richly evocative name: Home.

Richard Moe, President, National Trust

Celebrate Preservation Week

Join PACA and the local preservation community in the following activities scheduled in honor of Preservation Week.

Seventh Annual Kids Building Fair

Our award winning fair will be held Saturday, May 16 from 11-4 pm. Sponsored jointly by PACA and the Orpheum Children's Science Museum, the Fair celebrates the building trades with hands-on exhibits and demonstrations. Learn carpentry, painting, masonry, landscaping, and plastering from a master craftsman or from a well-tutored seven-year-old! The Fair is free, open to kids of all ages and is held in the parking lot in front of the historic landmark Orpheum Theater, 346 N. Neil Street, Champaign.

1998 Heritage Grants

PACA will also announce the recipients of the 1998 Heritage Grants. The PACA Heritage Grant Program was established to share the proceeds from the PACA Architectural Salvage Warehouse with the community. A large part of PACA's annual budget is derived from proceeds from historic building materials and furnishings that are salvaged by dedicated volunteers throughout the year and sold at the warehouse on Saturday mornings. Last year's awards, totalling \$1800 went to the Channing-Murray Foundation for Phase II of their stained-glass window restoration (\$1,000), the Baptist Student Foundation, for tuckpointing of the historic Stratford House residence (\$500), and the Celebration Company at the Station Theater for window repair and minor tuckpointing (\$300).

Double-Decker Bus Tour

PACA is co-sponsoring, along with the Greater Champaign-Urbana Economic Partnership, a bus tour on May 9 that will highlight the historic and civic attractions of the community. The tour will depart from the public parking lot between Neil, Main, and Fremont streets (just west of

the *News-Gazette* building) at 11:00 and 1:00 and for added fun, Jumer's red double-decker "London" bus will provide the transportation. The "Champaign-Urbana Hidden Treasures" bus tour is in honor of Preservation Week, National Tourism Week (May 3-9), and downtown Champaign's "Hit the Streets Festival."

ArchiTreasures Contest

Once again, the *News-Gazette* and PACA are sponsoring the popular ArchiTreasures Contest. This year's theme is *Civic Art and Monuments* and for the first time towns and villages throughout Champaign County will be included. Look for the "clues" in the May 8 Weekend Section of the *News-Gazette*.

Banners

Look for PACA's colorful blue and green *Celebrate Your Heritage* Banners in downtown Urbana throughout the month of May.

New Officers Elected

Following the Annual Membership Meeting, the Board of Directors elected new officers at the March Board meeting:

President: Jeffrey Gordon
Vice-President: Anthony Bamert
Secretary: Kristin Solberg
Treasurer: Richard Cahill

Board meetings are held in the board room of the Orpheum Children's Science Museum on the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm. PACA members are invited to attend all Board meetings; call 328-7222 for the exact date.

Kids Building Fair
346 N. Neil Street, C
May 16
11 - 4 pm
Volunteers Needed!

Annual Membership Meeting

The Station Theater in downtown Urbana provided an appropriate historic venue for PACA's 1998 Membership Meeting which was held March 8. After a short business meeting in which 1997 preservation activities were reviewed, three members were reelected to the Board of Directors to serve through 2000: Daniel Wurl, Bruce Creamer and Jeffrey Gordon. Currently serving on the Board are Perry Morris (98), Richard Cahill (98), Anthony Bamert (98), Kristin Solberg (99), Pamela Todd (99), and Raymond Lytle (99).

The 1998 Heritage Awards were also presented at the meeting.

Residential Heritage Award:

1102 West Church, C
Dan Leasure

713 West Oregon, U
Bette Anderson & Randy Rossett

McCurty Apartments
501 North Randolph, C
Larry Johnson
Gary Olsen, architect
Randall Elliot, contractor

Commercial Heritage Award:

Bailey-Rugg Building
223 North Neil, C
Robert Tilden
Russell Dankert, architect
RDI Inc., contractor

Jupiters
39 Main Street, C
Carlos & Marco Nieto and
Tifani Moot

Landmark Heritage Award:

Wilber Mansion
709 West University, C
Marianne Winslett & Eric J. Bina
New Prairie Construction,
general contractor

Adaptive Use Heritage Award:

Big Four Freight Station
C-U Public Health District Satellite
Office
815 North Randolph, C
Kip Pope (C & U Poster Advertising)
Russell Dankert, architect
Sunbilt Homes, contractor

Institutional Heritage Award:

Kappa Sigma Fraternity House
212 East Daniel, C
Gary Olsen, architect

Canaan Missionary Baptist Church
402 West Main, U
Rev. B.J. Tatum & Congregation

Landscape Heritage Award:

UI 1909 Senior Memorial
Springfield Avenue, U
UI O&M Division
Sally McMahan
Irene Cohen & Robert Score

Neighborhood Heritage Award:

510 West University, C
James Webster & Mark Miller

Historically Respectful Additions:

Garage
513 S. Prospect Ave., C
Karen & Jan Novakofski
Ralf Mendez, designer
Randy Cekander, contractor

Garage
702 West Pennsylvania, U
John Peterson & Joanne Chester
Kim Smith, architect
Ron Meister, contractor

Special Heritage Award:

Andy Speer, Castle Painting &
Building Fair contractor volunteer

Bruce Creamer, Orpheum Theatre
Volunteer Building Superintendent

Charles Tharp, Volunteer Tombstone
Repairer, Farmer City

Oomph! Award:

Masonic Temple
115 W. Main, U
Carolyn & Norman Baxley

Cultural Resources Management Seminar

To assist federal, state and local agency program administrators in their responsibility for protection of historic resources, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, in cooperation with the University of Illinois, will be conducting a Cultural Resources Management Seminar in Urbana on May 14 and 15. The goals of the workshop will be to familiarize participants with the various state and federal laws which pertain to cultural resource protection and to give detailed guidance on identifying, evaluating and treatment of historic properties. Specific topics to be covered include: various types of historic resources in Illinois, legal mechanisms for resource protection, ap-

propriate treatments for the preservation of historic properties, and special roundtable discussions.

The seminar is particularly timely as new regulations for the administration of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act have been promulgated by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. These changes will significantly impact administration of this process on the state level.

In addition to learning the new process for administration of Section 106, participants will learn the nature of various other state and federal acts and how they affect projects funded, assisted or licensed by the federal and/or state government. This knowledge is not only important for federal and state officials responsible for implementing these acts but for local officials and private consultants who administer grants and environmental review programs.

The registration fee is \$35.00 and the seminar will be held at the Levis Center, 919 West Illinois, Urbana. For further information contact Anne E. Haaker, IHPA, 217/785-4512.

Champaign Designates First Historic Landmark

History was made on March 18 when the Champaign City Council unanimously approved the Orpheum Theatre as the City's first landmark building. After twenty years of work by various groups and individuals, Champaign adopted a historic preservation ordinance in 1996 and appointed the Historic Preservation Commission in 1997. Commission members spent their first few months learning about the work of the new commission and historic preservation issues in general. The Orpheum Theatre nomination was submitted to the commission in December for preliminary review at the January meeting. Formal consideration was completed by the Preservation Commission in February when the nomination was forwarded, with a positive recommendation for landmarking, to the Plan Commission, which held a formal public hearing on the designation. The nomination also passed the Plan Commission with a positive recommendation and was sent to the City Council for official designation. As a designated city landmark, the Orpheum Theatre has protection from demolition and inappropriate changes since all major physical changes to the building's exterior must now be approved by the Historic Preservation Commission, which must issue a Certificate of Appropriateness before a

building permit can be obtained.

Recently, the Preservation Commission received a number of nominations as a result of a class project in Urban Planning '20. Nine nominations have passed the preliminary review stage and the first five are scheduled for formal consideration by the Commission at their May 7 meeting. These include: 503 S. State (Harwood-Solon House), 212 E. University (Wojnar House), Villard Court Historic District, 126-128 W. Church (Park Theatre), and "A Prayer for Rain" Statue in West Side Park. If approved, the nominations are passed to the Plan Commission for review and public hearings; the public hearings have tentatively been scheduled for June 3.

A special Preservation Commission meeting in late May (to be held possibly on May 28) will consider four additional nominations that have passed the review stage: 112 W. Hill (Women's Town Club Building), 804 N. Neil (Sagamore Building), Illinois Central Railroad Historic District, and 500 E. Park (Salem Baptist Church).

Preservation Commission meetings are normally held the first Thursday of each month at 4:00 pm in the City Council Chambers; owners and the public are encouraged to attend and to speak for or against the nominations. Approved nominations are sent to the Plan Commission for a formal public hearing, where again owners and the public are invited to comment on the designation. Final approval and designation is legislated by the City Council through an official ordinance; the public can comment a final time at the council meeting.

Urbana Preservation Ordinance Update

Like Champaign, Urbana citizens have been lobbying for a historic preservation ordinance since the 1970s. A major step forward occurred in 1987 when the City Council passed a resolution regarding planning priorities and historic preservation was second in priority behind a "Downtown to Campus Study." The Downtown to Campus Plan was completed in 1990 and many of the rezonings and recommendations of the study have been completed. In 1994 the City Council met with the Plan Commission to set initial policy for drafting a preservation plan; Mayor Satterthwaite then appointed a Historic Preservation Steering Committee to draft a plan.

The Steering Committee worked on the plan for parts of 1995 and 1996 and resumed regular meetings in 1997; by August the plan was completed in draft form and ready for public review. The Committee continued working on a draft historic preservation ordinance that was completed in December. Since that time, the plan has been reviewed by a number of focus groups and public hearings on the plan and ordinance were held by the Plan Commission in February and March. At the April 23 meeting of the Commission, the plan and ordinance were recommended and forwarded to City Council; the Council should begin consideration of these two measures on May 4. PACA urges its members to support the plan and ordinance by contacting Urbana City Council members and/or attending the May 4 Council meeting.

As with ordinances throughout Illinois, Urbana's ordinance creates a seven-member Historic Preservation Commission that is appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council; members would have expertise in various preservation related fields. Nominations could be made by individuals or groups, but not by members of the Commission itself. However, historic district nominations must be accompanied by affirmative signatures representing at least 25% of the historic parcel owners. Nominations must also meet one or more of specified criteria that are generally based on National Register criteria. As in Champaign, owner consent is not necessary for nomination or designation.

The Preservation Commission holds a public hearing on the proposed nomination, before which time the owners are notified by mail, notice is published in the newspaper, and a sign is posted on the property. However, a proposed historic district is not considered for designation if the Commission receives written votes opposing the designation from at least 51% of historic parcel owners on or before the public hearing. Testimony is taken at the public hearing, which is open to the public. Five affirmative Commission votes are needed to designate a landmark or district. Designation of a landmark or a historic district can be appealed to the City Council where a two-thirds majority vote is needed to overturn a designation.

Once a landmark or historic district is approved, a Certificate of Appropriateness is required for alterations, relocation, construction, removal or demolition that

Membership Application P.A.C.A.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- Adult\$15.00
- Student (1/2 time or more)\$10.00
- Senior Citizen\$10.00
- Family\$20.00
- Corporate\$75.00

- NEW
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ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION _____

NAME _____

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

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affects the exterior architectural appearance of any landmark or building within a historic district. Exterior paint colors, regular maintenance, interior changes and landscaping are not regulated. If a Certificate of Appropriateness is denied, an economic hardship waiver can be granted under certain circumstances; denial of the waiver can also be appealed to the City Council.

Urbana's ordinance is quite similar to many other ordinances already in place in over 50 Illinois communities, including Champaign. In fact, Urbana is unique for a city of its size in not having a preservation ordinance. The proposed ordinance should meet the requirements for Certified Local Government status, a federal program, and thus Urbana will be eligible to apply for preservation grants and to comment on local National Register applications. For further information about the preservation plan or ordinance contact PACA or the Department of Community Development Services.

Preservation Calendar

May 4: Urbana City Council, Preservation Plan and Ordinance

May 7: Champaign Preservation Commission, landmark nominations

May 9: Double-Decker Bus Tour

May 14: Cultural Resource Management Seminar

May 16: Kids Building Fair

May 28 (tentative): Champaign Preservation Commission, landmark nominations

June 3: Champaign Plan Commission, landmark public hearings

PACA Newsletter

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 Anthony Bamert, Vice-President
 Kristin Solberg, Secretary
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