Preservation and Conservation Association

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In Memorium

The preservation community is mourning the loss of two historic residences, both of which were lost needlessly.

Carrie Busey House

The Carrie Busey House, 601 East Park, Champaign, was demolished by Provena Covenant Medical Center last April. No reuse of the land has been announced and it sits a full block away from their medical campus. "Land banking" seems to be the only motive for acquiring the site and "risk management" the only reason for razing the house without a use for the land. PACA advertised the house for relocation and numerous people expressed an interest. However, the winter time frame, the lack of nearby suitable and available lots, and utility line drop charges made the relocation unfeasible. Provena Medical Center was very gracious in allowing PACA to salvage from the site and it was a very successful operation. Interior doors, woodwork, and hardware were obtained and, on the exterior, both porches and two ornate window hoods were saved. One brave volunteer even cut a hole in the roof and retrieved the copper finial from the tower!

Built around 1892, the Busey House was one of the best examples of residential Queen Anne architecture in the twin cities. Although small in scale for a Queen Anne house, it exhibited many of the features typical of the style: irregular plan, corner tower, clapboards and decorative cut shingles, stain glass, ornate window hoods, and two ornate scroll-sawn porches. It was the life-long home of Carrie Busey, a long-time employee of the Champaign School District, in whose honor Carrie Busey School is named. The residence was clearly a Champaign Landmark.

Ater-Jacques House

The National Register-listed 1857 Ater-Jacques House met its demise on June 20 when a section of the east wall suddenly collapsed. The city ordered the house immediately demolished because of perceived safety conditions; repair of the structure was also deemed too expensive. The house was undergoing preparations for its move to a new site on West Main Street so that the Urbana Free Library could use the historic site for a future addition planned for sometime in the next century. Two c. 1870 additions had been removed as well as the original 1857 service wing; the walls had been repointed on the exterior and the interior. The new owner was in the process of shoring up various openings prior to the move. Although the building was structurally stable on site, various alterations made to the building when it was converted to commercial use in the 1960s seriously undermined the stability of the building for moving. The collapsed section was the
Volunteer Opportunities

PACA has many volunteer opportunities for people with different interests and skill levels. Please consider volunteering for one of the following activities. Call PACA (359-7222) for more information or to volunteer.

- **PACA Board of Directors**: Fulfill the unexpired term (through 1999) of a resigning Board Member. Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month.
- **Salvage Warehouse Worker**: Get a first look at salvage items by working the “sales floor” one Saturday morning a month. Helpers are needed and coffee is provided. Hours: 9-noon.
- **Ricker House**: Help with minor repairs, scrap paint, and prime the exterior of this wonderful Queen Anne. If enough people volunteer, an appropriate Victorian color scheme will also be attempted.
- **Web Site Designer**: Help PACA move into the next century with our own Web page. Help is needed designing the content of the page.
- **Sweet Corn Festival**: PACA needs people to help staff our booth at this year’s Festival, August 28. Shifts last 2-3 hours during the day. Corn provided.
- **Fall Tour Volunteers**: PACA is sponsoring a fall tour of fraternity and sorority houses, September 19. Tour shifts are 1-3 or 3-5. Free tour ticket.
- **Events Display**: PACA would like to participate in more community events by having a portable display. Design and copy help is needed.
- **Orpheum Children's Science Museum**: One PACA position on the OCSM Board of Directors is open. A hard-working, child-oriented person interested in preserving this historic theater is needed.
- **Orpheum Children’s Science Museum**: OCSM is embarking on renovation of the foyer and lobby spaces. Help is needed for demolition of non-historic materials. A patient, precise person is desperately needed to strip the original wood and plaster staircase banister. Call 352-5895 to volunteer for these two opportunities.
- **Champaign and Urbana Plan Commissions**: Positions on both Commissions are apparently open. Civic-minded individuals who care about the look and development of their city need apply to the mayors’ offices.

19th Annual Illinois Historic Preservation Conference

This year’s state conference, sponsored by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois, will be held Sept. 23-25 in Quincy. The theme is *Preserving Place, Maintaining Community*. Sessions include: Preservation Primer, Survey, Preservation Professionals, Preservation Partners, Underground Railroad Sites, Keeping the Farm, Preservation Forum for 2000, Economic Benefits, and Main Street. The Driehaus Awards will also be announced. The September meeting of the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Committee, the state body that reviews National Register nominations, is being held Thursday in conjunction with the conference.
Silent Salvage Auction

Salvage items from the Carrie Busey House are being sold by silent auction. This is PACA's first attempt at a silent auction, but it was felt that all PACA members needed to have an equal chance to purchase these rare and wonderful salvage pieces, not just those members who regularly visit the warehouse. The items can be viewed at the warehouse on Saturday mornings. Bids will be taken by phone (359-7222) or at the salvage warehouse. Closing date is August 31. PACA reserves the right to reject all bids.

Porch: sold as a single unit only. There are five full columns, three half columns, all of the upper decorative frieze, and some of the railing. (starting bid, $1,000)

Two Window Hoods: sold only as individual sets. Includes hood, large interior windows, exterior trim, and brackets. (starting bid, $750)

For Rent

Spacious two-room office suite with shared kitchen and conference room. Rent is $625 per month and includes all utilities. Contact the Orpheum Children's Science Museum, Bruce Creamer, at 356-1774.

National Preservation Conference

The National Trust for Historic Preservation celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, and the 1999 National Preservation Conference, October 19-24, will be at the heart of this celebration. With nearly 3,000 participants, the 1999 conference is anticipated to be one of the largest gatherings of preservationists ever.

The conference will take place in Washington, D.C., the home of the National Trust. Sessions offer the opportunity for behind-the-scenes exploration of the city’s evolution, historic sites, neighborhood and downtown revitalization, and current preservation and development issues, as well as a chance to explore sprawl and rural preservation.

The conference theme, Saving America's Treasures, focuses on successful strategies and models to preserve America's diverse historic places and revitalize communities. The conference will give special attention to saving America's treasures owned or operated by federal agencies across the nation. To this end, the U.S. General Services Administration has joined with the National Trust as a sponsor of the conference. Conference sessions will review efforts by GSA and other agencies to preserve and appropriately use historic buildings and sites, as well as exploring effective strategies and public-private partnerships for the future.

Educational sessions and related field sessions will highlight, in addition to Federal Stewardship of Historic Sites and Properties, a wide range of topics and interests: Downtown Revitalization, Cultural Diversity, Heritage Tourism, Historic Preservation Commissions, Organizational Development, Public Policy/Legal Issues, Revolving Funds/Real Estate, Residential Neighborhoods, Rural Preservation/Historic Landscapes, Historic Sites, and New Trends and Hot Issues.

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
- RENEWAL

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION

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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.
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