PRESERVATION WEEK

NATIONAL TRUST for Historic Preservation

Celebrate Preservation Week

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

Ninth Annual Kids Building Fair
Our award winning fair will be held Saturday, May 20, 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. Volunteers to help stage this event are very much in need! Please call PACA to volunteer.

2000 Heritage Grants
PACA will also announce the recipients of the 2000 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 $2500, went to three projects: Rantoul Historical Society for archival supplies and storage materials ($1,000), Edison Middle School to replace/replicate an auditorium chandelier globe ($500-$1,000), and the Orpheum Children's Science Museum for a National Register plaque and exhibit on black vaudevillians ($500).

ArchITreasures Contest
The News-Gazette and PACA are again sponsoring the popular ArchITreasures Contest. This year's theme will feature Religious Buildings in Champaign-Urbana. Look for the "clues" in the May 19 Weekend Section of the News-Gazette.

Banners
PACA's colorful blue and green Celebrate Your Heritage banners will once again fly proudly in downtown Urbana. Look for them during the month of May.

Annual Membership Meeting
The Watseka Lounge at the Wesley Foundation and Church in Urbana provided an elegant historic setting for PACA's 2000 Membership Meeting which was held March 12. After a short business meeting in which 1999 preservation activities were reviewed, three members were elected to the Board of Directors to serve through 2002: Raymond Lytle (reelected), Kristin Solberg (reelected), and Trevor Jones. Currently serving on the Board are Kathy Reeves (01), Anthony Bamert (01), Dan Leasure (01), Jeff Gordon (00), and Bruce Creamer (00). President Dan Wurl (00) submitted his resignation to the Board shortly after the Annual Meeting due to family responsibilities; the Board will miss his humor and advice. The Board is currently searching for a replacement to fulfill Wurl's unexpired term. Also presented at the meeting were the 2000 Heritage Awards and a very enjoyable tour of the Foundation and Church was conducted by Walt Lewis.
Ten Most Endangered Historic Places

For the past seven years, the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois’ designation of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Places in the state is the keystone of statewide advocacy. A select jury chose these ten structures and sites based on their relevance to statewide historic preservation issues and with the hope that recognition will lead to intervention on the state and/or local level. The list represents a diverse group of properties that are neglected or decaying, or under the threat of urban sprawl and developmental encroachment.

- **Central School**, Lincoln, a 40,000 square foot elementary school building, is a classic example of early twentieth-century (1915) school architecture. The brick building has tall clerestory windows, monumental double-hung windows and arched door openings. Currently, the Lincoln Elementary District 27 Board of Education is considering constructing a new school rather than renovating this property.

- **The Congregational Church**, Pittsfield, is an 1881 two-story brick structure with stone lintels and sills, a steeply pitched roof, a dominant four-story bell tower, and second-story stained glass windows capped with blue and white tiles. The structure is the anchor for historic preservation in Pittsfield. It has been unoccupied for a decade. Surviving members of the church are elderly and unable to support a preservation effort. There is an immediate need to stabilize and rehabilitate the structure.

- **Culver House**, Decatur, is located in the Decatur Historic District. The 1901 brick and limestone Queen Anne house is one of only four remaining Queen Anne-style homes in Decatur and is the only house with two turrets. Over the past year, several private citizens and community groups have made repeated attempts to purchase the property to save it from demolition. The Historic Properties Preservation Foundation has been working to raise sufficient funds for a receivership but has been stymied in its efforts.

- **The DuPage Theatre and The DuPage Shoppes**, Lombard, were designed by architect R.G. Wolff, of the famous theater-design firm of C.W. and George Rapp. Opened in 1928, the DuPage is a premier example of a “Spanish Patio” atmospheric theater with twinkling star lights in the ceiling. The buildings have been donated to the Village of Lombard, which has initiated no steps to restore them. An Ad-Hoc Committee reviewing the property is considering demolition.

- **The Platt Luggage Building/Ginn & Company, Chicago**, was threatened once before and “saved.” But this Howard Van Doren Shaw building is under attack again by The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority which wants to replace it with a parking garage. The building is a classic Beaux Arts style, originally built for the Ginn & Company publishers, and is made of Puritan paver brick and Bedford (Indiana) limestone.

- **Sarah Atwater Denman Row Houses**, in Quincy, are five Italianate structures, constructed in 1878 as rental properties. They are rectangular houses, with brick-on-stone foundations and hip roofs. The Denman Row Houses are the only remaining historically intact personal structures associated with one of Quincy’s earlier prominent residents, Mrs. Sarah Atwater Denman, responsible for, among other activities, the first women’s literary club in the area and establishing Blessing Hospital in 1882. Ironically, the rowhouse structures are being threatened by the continued expansion of Blessing Hospital.

- **Spring Valley City Hall**, Spring Valley, is a two-story 1894 structure with a barn-like shape, possibly because it once housed horses for the fire department. The building is a brick structure with a slate roof and sits in a park of one square block that could be considered the Town Square. The building cannot serve as the seat of government due to twenty years of neglect and a lack of handicapped accessibility. At the time of a 1999 referendum to build a new city hall, the mayor promised citizens that the old building would be preserved as a museum. After the referendum, the mayor and city council voted to demolish the building.

- **Unity Temple, Oak Park**, Frank Lloyd Wright’s 1907 masterpiece, is rapidly deteriorating. The building is one of the first poured-in-place concrete buildings completed. It was placed on the National Register in 1972. The building has a series of 17 different roof layers and there has been significant leaking, producing profound water damage to both the interior and exterior facade so severe that pieces of the building have been falling and separating. The damage has penetrated the basement, causing rusting of the electrical wiring. Funding to restore the building is in excess of $1.5 million. If restoration does not occur soon, all systems will fail, the building will become unusable and will be destroyed.

- **Upper Kaskaskia Trace Corridor**, Waterloo, is the remains of a trail and transportation corridor dating from 1707 that has contributed to the regional settlement and development of both historic and modern cultures. These last pristine remnants of the Upland Kaskaskia Trace are threatened by a lack of public protection policy, the absence of any public education on the matter, regional settlement, and the intrusion of urban sprawl.

- **Waltmire Bridge**, Tazewell County, Hopedale Twp./Trenton, is a 1910 bridge that crosses the Mackinaw River about five miles south of Trenton, at a point previously called Waltmire’s Ford. It is a single span, eight Pratt through truss structure, with an overall length of almost 188 feet. The Waltmire Bridge is a good example of a Pratt through truss metal bridge, and is exceptionally long for such a bridge. The Illinois Department of Transportation is proposing to replace the bridge because the agency maintains it is too deteriorated to be repaired economically and too narrow for use in its present location.

**PACA Plans New Exhibit**

PACA is working on a new traveling exhibit that will debut this summer. The exhibit is intended to inform the general public about PACA’s mission, activities, and past accomplishments. It will include information about the salvage warehouse, grant and award programs, and the history of the organization. Other sections will use pictures to explore PACA’s successes and failures in saving the county’s historic structures. The exhibit is being developed in conjunction with PACA’s new website which can be viewed at pacacc.org. Visit the website to watch our progress!

Visit our new and evolving website at:

pacacc.org
2000 Heritage Awards

Residential Heritage Award:
- 207 West Vine, C
  Barbara Home
  Wayne Bonnell, contractor
- 307 West Washington, C
  James & Kim Nevins
- 1502 West Springfield, C
  Gary & Jan Peters
- 501 North Neil, C
  Leon Jeske
  Gaylord Swisher, architect

Landmark Heritage Award:
- Mount Vernon United Methodist Church
  Rev. Nancy Wofford
  2201 County Road 900E, C
  (125th Anniversary)
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
  Rev. Jim Lehmann
  2498 County Road 2100E, Thomasboro
  (125th Anniversary)
- Prayer for Rain Statue
  West Side Park
  Champaign Park District
  (award presented at the June, 1999 rededication ceremony)

Commercial Heritage Award:
- High Dive
  51-53 East Main, C
  Tiffani Moot, Carlos Nieto,
  Marco Nieto
  Master Builders, contractor
- WEFT
  113 North Market, C
  Mick Wolf, general manager
  Peter Maas, architect
- 600 East Green, C
  JSM Development
  Mike Tankersley & Scott Kunkel,
  architects
  Carter Construction, contractor
  Roach Masonry, mason
- 101 East Washington, Philo
  Mike & Lynn Cain
- 611 East Green, C
  Bankier Apartments
  Leon Bankier, contractor
  G.T. Hardwick, architect

Institutional Heritage Award:
- Manager's House
  UI Experimental Dairy Barn Historic
  District
  St. Mary's Road, C
  Project Planning & Facility
  Management Operations & Maintenance Division
- UI Irwin Academic Services Center
  402 East Armory, C
  Project Planning & Facility
  Management Division of Intercollegiate Athletics

Landscape Heritage Award:
- Pergola & Garden
  709 West University, C
  Marianne Winslett & Eric Bina
  New Prairie Construction, contractor

Neighborhood Heritage Award:
- Sesquicentennial Neighborhood
  Association
  Barbara Horne, President

Historically Respectful Design:
- 712 West Green, UI
  Kevin Hunsinger,
  Hunsinger Enterprises
  Isaksen/Glerum, architect

Traditional Construction:
- Pickle Tree
  305 South Prairie View Road
  Mahomet
  Dale & Maggie Foster
  Bill Mueller, Mid-Am Builders,
  contractor

Special Heritage Award:
- Thomas Whiteside, cemetery recorder

West Urbana Association
A new grassroots historic neighborhood
association was recently established to
discuss issues affecting the West Urbana
area and to press for action on key con-
cerns. Issues include enforcement of local
zoning ordinances, illegal density
occupation, parking issues, code viola-
tions, and repeat offenders. The bound-
daries of the association are roughly Main
to Washington, Lincoln to Race. For more
information contact Liz Cardman at 337-4752 or check out the home page at
www.prairienet.org/wua.

Volunteer!!
Kids Building Fair!
Two shifts: 10 to 1 or 1 to 4 pm
Have fun and learn a new skill!

Membership Application P.A.C.A.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

☐ New
☐ Renewal

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

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION

NAME ____________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________

email address: ____________________________

Make checks payable to: P.A.C.A., Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61825

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
Salvage Donations
City of Champaign - John Schneider
Champaign Public Library
Mr. & Mrs. Parkhill
Villa Grove Methodist Church
Mr. & Mrs. Finley
Mr. & Mrs. Marzke
Paul Kane
Tom Schuh
Doug Tedrow
Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints
Jerry O'Bryan
Tony Bamert

Salvage V.I.P.'s
Bob Swisher
Gary Perkins
Rich Cahill
Mike Miller
Darrel Foste
Dan Leseure
David Speers
Robert Nemeth
Al Friederick
Kathy Reeves

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Mrs. Helen Levin
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Linda & Doug Mills

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Christine Jenkins & Susan Searing
Monica Willson
Harold & Margaret Balbach
Tim Wilson & Siri Engstrom
Brenda Beck
Ellen Forcier
Tony Fabri

Remember to check your mailing label for your membership renewal date. The date shown indicates when you last renewed; membership runs for one year from that date.

The entire terra-cotta facade of Babbitt's Books was recently salvage for PACA by Pankau Masonry. The 18.5 x 30 foot elevation will be sold only as a complete unit; the price is $4,000. Donated by JSM Properties.

Save the Date
Ninth Annual Kids Building Fair
Saturday, May 20
11-4 PM
346 N. Neil, Champaign
Volunteers Needed!

PACA Newsletter
P.O. Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, IL 61825
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