Area Buildings Named to State’s Ten Most Endangered List

Three area buildings, one in Urbana and two in Danville, were listed in March on the Landmark Preservation Council of Illinois’ (LPCI) ‘Ten Most Endangered Historic Places’ list. Each building is threatened with demolition and this designation focuses considerable public attention, both statewide and nationally, upon the plight of these threatened historic resources. It also serves as a focal point for local and statewide action.

Each year since 1994, LPCI has selected the ten most endangered historic places in Illinois, focusing attention on sites threatened by negligence, deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy. The sites have architectural, historical or archaeological significance and each enjoys community or statewide support for its preservation, which means there are options for each to be preserved.

“When a historic property is lost, the damage is permanent,” said LPCI Executive Director, David Bahlman. “Although many historic properties in Illinois are in danger, these are the ten we feel are most threatened right now. We hope that by announcing the ‘top ten’ list, preservation solutions can be found for these threatened sites.”

Warm Air Research Residence
1108 West Stoughton Street, Urbana

The Warm Air Research Residence was built in 1924 for the National Warm-Air Heating and Ventilating Association, a professional trade organization, to be used for research purposes by the Mechanical Engineering Department of the University of Illinois. For the next 22 years, the house was used as a testing facility for different methods of heating and cooling homes. More than 36 research papers and five books were printed based on research conducted at the residence. Continued expansion of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign into the neighborhood could threaten the historic residence.

Baum & Temple Buildings
41& 102 N. Vermilion Street, Danville

Jenney, Mundie and Jensen designed the first of three “skyscraper” style buildings in Danville, the Baum Building in 1908. The facade is constructed of granite and Bedford limestone and reflects the Classical Revival style with a lobby lined with Italian white marble. For the past five years the building has been abandoned and allowed to fall into disrepair.

The 1901 Temple Building is remarkable as an excellent example of the Classical Revival style and for its massive presence at six stories high, five bays wide and eight bays deep, located on a downtown corner. In 1987, the Temple building was damaged by fire and has remained empty since. Interestingly, the City of Danville used a Certified Local Government grant to have a National Register nomination prepared for the building, which was subsequently listed in December of 2000. Now the City has decided to demolish both buildings despite public outcry and potential rehabilitation solutions. In order to finance the demolitions the City will borrow $1.5 million against a property tax increase.

See related article for the remaining Ten Most Endangered Sites.
NATIONAL TRUST for Historic Preservation

May 13-19, 2001

Join PACA and the local preservation community in the following activities scheduled in honor of Preservation Week. This year’s theme is “Restore, Renew, Rediscover Your Historic Neighborhood Schools!”

Tenth Annual Kids Building Fair

Our award winning fair will be held Saturday, May 19, 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. This Tenth Anniversary Fair will be even more exciting with new trades, including blacksmithing. Also 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.

2001 Heritage Awards

PACA will also announce the recipients of the 2001 Heritage Awards. 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 $8,555 went to three projects: Leal School for relocation of the 1935 kindergarten fountain and restoration of historic wall linoleum ($7,000), and Channing Murray Foundation for a structural engineering study ($510).

Architreasures Contest

The News-Gazette and PACA are again sponsoring the popular Architreasures Contest. This year’s theme will feature People and Animals as depicted on buildings in Champaign-Urbana. Look for the “clues” in the May 18 Ect! Section of the News-Gazette.
Ten Most Endangered Historic Illinois Places

Historic properties from throughout Illinois have been placed on this year’s “Ten Most Endangered Historic Places” list by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois (LPCI). LPCI announced the list in conjunction with “Preservation Day,” a legislative lobbying event.

- C.B. & Q. Depot, 175 S. Broadway, Aurora (Kane County) The 1923 Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Depot served Aurora as the gateway to rail service for more than 60 years. It was a “division point” station, where crew and equipment changes occurred, and it is a unique structure within a one-hundred-mile radius. The property is located in the midst of the proposed new River City development, and there are currently no plans to reuse the depot.
- Cook County Hospital Main Building, 1835 W. Harrison, Chicago (Cook County) The 1913 Main Building at Cook County Hospital has a magnificent facade and a long history of service to the Chicago area. The building was designed by architect Paul Gerhardt in the Classical Revival style with French Renaissance features. It is slated for demolition as the new Cook County Hospital prepares to open in 2002. Preservation could allow the Illinois Medical District and the City of Chicago to enjoy the beauty of this building for generations.
- Goodman Memorial Theater, 200 S. Columbus Drive, Chicago (Cook County) This underground, Howard Van Doren Shaw-designed structure is adjacent to the Art Institute of Chicago and offers an elegant setting for 700 people to enjoy theatre or musical performances. It holds a nostalgic place in the hearts of many Chicagoans, but expansion plans by the Art Institute make its future uncertain. The theater could be used for programming at the Art Institute, and rented to theater or musical groups for performances.
- Main Brothers Box & Lumber Company Office Building, Karnak (Pulaski County) The Main Brothers came to southern Illinois in the 1890s and established one of the largest timber and farming operations that existed south of St. Louis. The Office Building was constructed of timber from the nearby Cache River area, and each of its eight rooms are finished in a different hardwood paneling using red oak, white oak, cypress, poplar and other native woods. The building has been vacant since the 1970s and has suffered deterioration, but a group of local citizens is pushing for its restoration so it can be used as a museum, interpretation and information center.
- Manske-Niemann Farm, Litchfield (Montgomery County) This farmstead with 21 original buildings, including an 1850s house, is acknowledged to be one of the most complete and intact examples of a 19th and early 20th century working farm in the state. The Manske-Niemann Farm is an encyclopedia of farm building styles, construction techniques, and uses. It has remained in the same family for nearly 150 years. The current owner is the last surviving member of her family to live on the farm, and its future beyond her tenancy is uncertain.
- Mound City Marine Ways and U.S. Naval Station/Yard, Southern edge of Mound City (Pulaski County) The Mound City Marine Ways is an industrial structure built between 1857-1859 that acted as a ramp for river crafts to be winched up to the riverbank for repair. In August of 1861 the U.S. Navy leased the Marine Ways for ship construction and repair purposes. The famous Civil War ironclad river gunboats U.S.S. Cairo, U.S.S. Cincinnati and U.S.S. Mound City were built there, and it was a busy naval repair station during the war. The Ohio River site has been used recently as an offload area for barges, which has endangered this Civil War era resource.
- Uptown Theatre, 4814-4816 N. Broadway, Chicago (Cook County) The Uptown Theatre, designed by renowned theater architects, Rapp and Rapp, is a 46,000-square-foot, 1925 landmark adorned with terra cotta on the outside and lavished with ornate plaster castings and Italian marble on the inside. It is believed to be the largest and grandest surviving freestanding theatre building in the country. The 12-story building was abandoned in the early 1980s and has suffered from neglect, vandalism, and theft, and could continue a rapid deterioration unless emergency stabilization measures are implemented.
- Burton, Peck, & Couch Buildings, 123-141 N. Wabash Avenue, Chicago (Cook County) These 1870s commercial buildings are among the last

Membership Application P.A.C.A.

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Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
remaining group of contiguous post-Chicago fire buildings still standing. The John Van Osdel designed buildings are contributing properties to the National Register of Historic Places' Loop Historic Retail District. Current property plans are to demolish the buildings or retain the facades and build a residential and commercial tower. They could be redeveloped for commercial purposes as they are.

- The Vanishing Urban Corner - A Special Thematic Designation This special designation, the eleventh on the "Ten Most Endangered" list, recognizes corner buildings as vibrant additions to urban retail districts. Urban commercial districts provide a sense of intimacy and interaction with local residents, and these corners make living in a dense urban setting desirable. The rise of the automobile and "big box" retail stores have led to the replacement of many historic urban corners with chain stores and parking lots. These urban corners could once again foster the sense of neighborhood that once existed in many cities throughout Illinois.

**Salvage V.I.P.'s**

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- Barbara Childers
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- Zane Ziegler
- James Fallon
- Jim Liautaud
- City of Champaign
- Jon Stevens
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Dodds

**New & Renewing Memberships**

- (received since last newsletter)

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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.

**New Warehouse Hours:**

**Wednesday Evenings, 4-7 pm**

Thanks to all of our new volunteers who have made the new hours possible and to the Columbia Street Roastery for great Saturday morning coffee!