PACA Hits the Road

PACA's innovative new exhibit panels, created by Dan Leasure and Trevor Jones, have hit the road at two large community events: the 2001 WCIA Home and Garden Show and the Champaign Park District's Taste of Champaign. The three current display boards highlight "lost" landmarks, "saved" landmarks, and PACA's mission. New boards being developed include PACA's Heritage Awards and the Salvage Warehouse.

Thanks to all of our PACA volunteers who set up, broke down, and staffed the booths at both events. They provided an invaluable service to PACA by promoting the organization and answering questions about our mission and programs. Events such as these help PACA to reach a new and much larger audience.

Home & Garden Show Volunteers
Karen Kummer Trevor Jones
Catherine Barbercheck John Leasure

Taste of Champaign
Lou Simpson (x2) Neil Strack
Tony Bamert Grace Tsay (x2)
Kathy Reeves Fran Tourquette
"Sam" McCall Ray Lytle
Rich Cahill Susanne Ashley-Wannemuehler

Lead Paint Seminar

PACA is planning to sponsor a seminar on the proper removal and disposal techniques for lead paint. The seminars will be conducted by Jeff Gordon, PACA member and state-wide expert on lead paint removal. This is an important topic for old house owners as any paint manufactured before 1972 contains lead and its dust, produced during rehabilitation projects, can have health effects. To sign up for this two-hour seminar, to be held this fall, stop by the salvage warehouse.

Sale of the Ricker House

On May 31, almost five years to the day of purchase, PACA closed on the sale of the historic Nathan C. Ricker House. The new owners, Adrianna and Matthew Taylor, come from Columbia, Missouri, and the University of Missouri. Adrianna holds a faculty position in the College of Agriculture, while Matthew is working on an advanced degree. Both are very excited about living in the Ricker House and have great plans for landscaping the yard.

With the proceeds from the sale, PACA was able to repay the anonymous donor who graciously lent the $113,000 needed to purchase the property in 1996. All interest payments were donated back to PACA by the donor and the loan was extended twice due to slow renovation progress. PACA extends a grateful and heartfelt thank you to the donor whose faith, patience, and steadfastness kept PACA on track to finish this huge renovation project. PACA would also like to thank Art Zangerl and Dan Leasure for all of their hard work on the project; Paul Hendren, PACA's closing attorney; and Susan Frosh, PACA's real estate agent. A special thanks goes to Boy Scout troop 13 who spent a long Saturday cleaning up the jam-packed basement and cluttered yard so that PACA could meet a sale requirement. Bill Bogner, scout leader, brought scouts Timm Bogner, Pat Bogner, Kai Kears, Eric Kirk, and Mikael Brackett.

In addition to the loan repayment, sale proceeds covered PACA's material and labor expenses on the project. With a rejuvenated bank account, the Board of Directors decided at their last board meeting to begin reducing the mortgage on the salvage warehouse building with a goal of complete payment by 2003. The initial payment of $20,000 will reduce the mortgage to around $43,000.
Focus on: Gothic Revival Cottage

An Urbana Landmark since February 2000, the Gothic Revival Cottage at 108 North Webber, is Champaign-Urbana’s best example (and one of only two known) of the Gothic Revival architectural style. The house probably dates to the mid-1850s and is quite similar to Gothic houses depicted on the 1863 map of Urbana by Alexander Bowman.

Gothic Revival Style

This house exemplifies the Gothic Revival architectural style. The style appeared in the United States in the mid-nineteenth century when picturesque architecture gained popularity. Most Gothic Revival residences were constructed between 1840 and 1870 and are considered to be part of the Romantic House movement which ran from 1820 to 1880. Other architectural styles within the Romantic movement are Greek Revival, Italianate, and Exotic Revivals, such as Octagon. Most Gothic Revival houses are found in the northeast with some representation in the south.

The style began in 1749 with Sir Horace Walpole, a wealthy dilettante who remodeled his English country home in the style. Alexander J. Davis designed the first documented Gothic Revival house in the United States in 1832 in Baltimore, Maryland. Davis championed the Gothic style in his 1837 book Rural Residences. Other design and site plan publications which popularized the Gothic Revival style included A.J. Downing’s Rural Residences (1842), Richard Upjohn’s Rural Architecture (1852), and the Horticulturist (1846-1875). The style was seldom applied to urban residences as both Davis and Downing promoted it as a rural style due to its compatibility with the natural landscape. In addition, the Gothic Revival emphasis on high, multiple gables and wide porches did not conform easily to narrow, urban lots.

The Gothic Revival style is characterized by a variety of elements: vertical emphasis; narrow pointed arch windows; decorative bargeboards; molded labels over windows and doors; battlement parapets; tall clustered chimney stacks, often paired in the center of a gable roof; steeply pitched gable roofs, often cross gabled; and stained glass. Often, the homes are constructed of board-and-batten materials or horizontal cladding, with chunky cast iron occasionally used for door hinges. Gothic Revival residences typically have one main window with Gothic detailing and most often this window is located in the most prominent gable. Furthermore, the window may have a pointed arch and a characteristic window crown, also called a label mold. Such a window is clearly seen on the front facade under the bargeboard on the home at 108 North Webber Street. This window, combined with the bargeboard and the wood trim reminiscent of Gothic tracery, are the house’s most distinctive stylistic features. Approximately eighty percent of Gothic Revival houses have one-story porches as this one does.

The only other Gothic Revival house in the community is just outside the Urbana city limits at the corner of High Cross Road and Washington Street. This house has bargeboard trim and finials on all its gables and a pointed arch blind transom above the upper story center gable window. A label mold decorates this window and label molds are used on all of the other double-hung windows as well.

This article was adapted from the nomination prepared by Urban Planning student Christa Meyer on behalf of the owners, Norman and Carolyn Baxley.

Urbana Preservation

Urbana’s Historic Preservation Commission and PACA were the feature article in the latest issue of The Commissioner, the newsletter of the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions. PACA’s early preservation efforts, its ongoing preservation activities, and the Ricker House renovation were mentioned. Urbana’s historic preservation plan and ordinance were also highlighted as were the five currently designated landmarks. For a copy of the article contact PACA.

2001 Heritage Grants Awarded

PACA awarded its eighth round of annual Heritage Grants as part of Historic Preservation Week, celebrated nationally May 13-19. Grants, totalling $7,470, were awarded to a school, four churches, a radio station, and a museum to assist in preservation-related projects.

- Robeson School, 2501 Southmore, Champaign has used their grant of $100 to tour Champaign Landmarks and develop a book that enrichment students will produce about the buildings; both historic research and art work will be undertaken by the students in preparation of the book.
- The Channing-Murray Foundation, 1209 West Oregon, Urbana, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. However, the building has suffered uneven settlement over the years, and the historic first floor fireplace will be structurally stabilized and restored with PACA’s grant of $1500.
- WEFT radio station, 113 North Market, Champaign, has been slowly restoring the exterior of its building and making the studio handicapped accessible. A major fund raising campaign to rehabilitate the storefront and also make it accessible is underway. PACA’s grant of $2,000 toward the project starts the campaign and hopefully will bring this worthwhile project to the public’s attention.
- The Illinois Disciples Foundation’s, 403 South Wright, Champaign, historic building is in need of repairs and maintenance. In order to continue...
their campus ministry, the Foundation’s building needs must be addressed starting with the repair of the historic metal casement windows. PACA’s grant of $820 supports this important restoration project.

- St. Patrick’s Parish, 708 West Main, Urbana, has been compiling their parish history over the last ten years. This year, PACA is providing a grant of $500 for materials and supplies to archivally preserve historic parish photographs that are in the process of being catalogued.

- The Orpheum Children’s Science Museum, 346 N. Neil, Champaign, has received a grant of $1750 to help fund the restoration of the two prominent stone pilaster capitals flanking the newly reopened theater entrance. These capitals were destroyed when blue aluminum sheathing was installed over the historic facade in the 1960s. Restoring the exterior of this National Register building is an ongoing goal of the museum.

- The last Heritage Grant is given to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2401 County Road 400N, Broadlands, in honor of the 125th anniversary of their founding. A plaque will be placed at the site of the first church, about 1 mile south and 2 miles west of the present church. Their grant of $800 will help pay for the marker and installation.

The Heritage Grant Program is made possible through revenues from the Architectural Salvage Warehouse. Historic building materials are rescued from demolition by an active volunteer salvage crew throughout the year. The volunteers also staff the warehouse, which provides the largest portion of PACA’s operating budget. The architectural materials are donated by individuals, businesses, and other organizations throughout the community. Overall, the salvage operation prevents unique historic building materials from becoming landfill, and provides numerous home owners and businesses with the opportunity to reuse these valuable materials.

Cudos to PACA

PACA has a long-standing policy to help other local non-profit organizations whenever it can by lending our expertise, salvage items, and/or historic information. Over the years, PACA has “networked” with such groups as the Early American Museum, the Station Theatre, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, the Monticello Railroad Museum, Arts Against Aids, and the Junior League. So far this year PACA salvage volunteers have helped three groups who, along with the PACA Board, applaud our volunteers.

- Dear Rich [Cahill]
  I wanted to specially thank you for all your help during our move to our new home. It means a lot to us to have this kind of community support. It also meant a lot to have assistance of this kind for all the extremely physical work that you and Dan [Leasure] provided. We sure couldn’t have managed without your help.
  Warmly,
  Ginny Dewar,
  Crisis Nursery

- To Whom It May Concern:
  Thank you for allowing the City of Urbana Transitional Housing Program Coordinator the opportunity to select and collect furniture from the vacant properties that will be demolished.
  Without PACA as a viable resource, we would be in a somewhat desperate situation attempting to locate many of the items that we have found in the properties. All of the useable furniture that is selected is used to furnish the properties in the Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Families scattered throughout the city.
  Again, we thank you for the many times that we have been called to walk through properties and select the pieces that are most needed to furnish a home for a homeless family.
  Sincerely,
  Ella M. Coleman, Coordinator
  Transitional Housing for Homeless Families
  City of Urbana

- Dear Richard [Cahill]
  On behalf of the O.T.P.A. I want to thank you so much for selling some of our salvage materials at your PACA store. Unfortunately, we still haven’t been able to locate a place so we could “salvage” again. We always refer anyone interested in restoration of their property to your Great business. We wish you continued success!
  Thank you again,
  Gratefully,
  Jane Starbody
  Corresponding Secretary
  Old Town Preservation Association,
  Danville

Membership Application P.A.C.A.

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| □ NEW | □ RENEWAL |

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION ____________

NAME _____________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________________________

e mail address: ____________________________ Phone: ______________________________

Make checks payable to: PACA, Box 2575, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61825

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
New Officers Elected

At the April Board of Directors meeting, four officers were elected. Dan Leasure was reelected to a second term as president; Trevor Jones and Kathy Reeves were reelected as vice-president and secretary, respectively; and Richard Cahill was elected treasurer, a post he has held previously.

At the June Board meeting, it was decided to establish an internal audit committee. Increased salvage sales, along with the sale of the Ricker House, has thrust PAC A into a higher non-profit bracket with regards to IRS and Illinois Attorney General (AG990) accounting provisions. The Board is seeking one or two members to serve on the audit committee which will meet once or twice a year to review the "books" and recommend changes to procedures, if necessary. Call PACA if you are interested in serving on this committee.

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!

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.

PACA Newsletter
P.O. Box 2575, Station A, Champaign, IL 61825
Dan Leasure, President
Trevor Jones, Vice-President
Kathy Reeves, Secretary
Richard Cahill, Treasurer
Karen Lang Kummer, Exec. Director

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