



# PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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## In Remembrance

PACA lost a friend and ardent preservation advocate when Lachlan Blair passed away on August 5. Lock helped found PACA in 1981, served as its first vice-president and as its second president. After six years on the Board, Lock continued to offer his advice and council on preservation issues and shared his extensive preservation library with PACA, including hundreds of local slides taken over the past thirty years. In addition, he continuously worked for the passage of preservation ordinances in both cities, beginning in the 1970s. His work was finally rewarded with the recent establishment of preservation commissions in Champaign and Urbana, and he was appointed to serve on Urbana's first Historic Preservation Commission.

As a professor of Urban and Regional Planning, Lock inspired countless young graduates to embrace historic preservation planning and "Lock's Flock" is now dispersed around the country putting his preservation message into action. He was instrumental in the appointment of the University of Illinois' Historic Preservation Committee and served as its first chair. Nationally known for his College Hill (Rhode Island) Report, one of the first urban plans that included historic preservation as an important component, Lock was also known for his work with the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council and the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois, on whose boards he served.

PACA is establishing a memorial to Lachlan F. Blair and contributions in his name can be made to PACA.

## Focus On: Lindley House

Located on the corner of Birch and Green streets in Urbana, the Lindley House is an exquisite example of the Queen Anne architectural style. Through its imposing gables, irregular massing, window variety, full-width porch, and other decorative elements, it epitomizes the style. In addition, Lindley House maintains a high degree of integrity with its original location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and setting.

### Description

Built in 1895, the 2 1/2 story Lindley House is highly representative of the Queen Anne architectural style. The front (south) facade of Lindley House exemplifies the irregular massing, window variety, and unique architectural elements of this style. Visible from the front are steep gable roofs, and along the roof, lining the top, is iron cresting. The upper half story features wood shingles and a large Palladian window with stained glass and decorative moldings with dentils. There are also two smaller windows—one square and one with a segmental arch—on the upper half story, also featuring stained glass. Separating the uppermost story from the second story is a wide band of vertical wood trim. The second story of the facade features an oriel window and narrow double-hung (1/1) windows and is clapboard sided. The primary feature on the first story is the prominent full-width porch with carved wood turned posts and radial brackets. A large picture window with stained glass and flanking double-hung windows allows substantial natural light to flow into the first floor. The porch is raised with six stairs leading up to it and the left entrance. The home is built upon a brick foundation and lattice aprons cover the open area beneath the porch.

Along the west side facade, which borders Birch Street, is an original wrought iron fence and old streetlight. On the upper story is a semicircular window

with stained glass set in the vertical wood exterior; in addition, there is decorative "half-timbered" treatment. The rest of the side facade is irregular with some recessed portions and other portions projecting. Window variety is again a central feature with double-hung windows and windows that are paired and graduated in size.

On the other side (east), the upper story has vertical wood wall trim and each story has molded trim and dentils. There is also an oriel window on the first story with the remaining windows being double-hung.

The rear (north) facade of Lindley House is relatively plain with a rear entrance aligned with the northeast corner of the home and various sized double-hung windows. There is also a back porch and brick sidewalk in the backyard.

The interior of Lindley House is as exquisite as the exterior. There are inlaid parquet floors, an oak gingerbread staircase, many original brass lighting fixtures, beveled and stained glass windows, butternut pocket doors, and decorative woodwork. On the second story, there are three bedrooms. The attic has been converted to a large suite which is filled with light from the Palladian window and is uniquely shaped as a result of the irregular roof massing.

In the rear of Lindley House is a carriage house which has a jerkin head gable roof and a board-and-batten clapboard exterior. Windows include a large picture window on the west facade and double-hung windows.

### History

Located at 312 West Green Street, Lindley House was part of Urbana's early neighborhood development. Dr. Austin Lindley, a prominent Urbana surgeon and physician, and his wife, Minnie Hubbard Lindley, whose relatives were among the first settlers in Urbana, built the home in 1895 and lived there until 1935. An article in the *Urbana Weekly*

*Courier* on 25 October 1895 states "the mansion is a subject of envy and speaks well for Dr. Lindley's business success." In addition, Lindley House was described as "a modern residence in every particular and is certainly the greatest architectural feat R Z Gill has done since his residence in our city." An article in the *Champaign Daily Gazette* on 21 September 1895 describes the \$6,000 home, "Dr. Lindley has overlooked nothing to make this a home of convenience, and comfort. The house is provided with gas, electric lights, steam heat, bathroom, speaking tubes, and in fact everything that tends to complete a first class up-to-date, modern home." The first floor of the house was used as Dr. Lindley's office and the second floor was the family's residence.

Dr. Lindley was the son of Dr. Mahlon and Salome Lindley. The elder Dr. Lindley's office was at 119 West Main Street, and their family home was at 401 S. Race Street. Minnie Hubbard Lindley's father, Thomas, was honored as an Urbana pioneer and recognized for his role as an Urbana businessman and alderman, and for his early attempt at banking. Minnie Hubbard Lindley left Lindley House to her niece, Ida Hubbard Fisher and her husband Guy, in 1935.

The Fishers, among others, lived in the house during the 1930s, 40s, and 50s. From 1961 until 1983, Walter and Eleanor Bennett and Roger Hunt used the house for their real estate office, Crossroads Realty Company. Occasionally the Country Store Stationers Shop, run by Eleanor Bennett, was also in the house.

Another important Lindley House occupant was the Conservatory of Central Illinois. Lindley House was filled with musical sounds from more than 600 students.

Currently the house is occupied by Lindley House Bed and Breakfast. In 1996, the current owners, Norman and Carolyn Baxley, began extensive renovations to the home, including converting the attic to a bedroom suite.

#### **Queen Anne Architectural Style**

Lindley House epitomizes the Queen Anne architectural style. This style was named and popularized by a group of nineteenth century English architects led by Richard Norman Shaw and is described as "coquettish, eclectic, and inventive." Queen Anne was the dominant style for domestic buildings from 1880 to 1900 with the first American example in 1874 in Newport, Rhode Island, the Watts-Sherman House.

Different types of decorative detailing distinguish Queen Anne buildings. First, spindlework and/or delicate turned



*The 1895 Lindley House, 312 West Green Street, is one of five designated Urbana landmarks. Changes to its exterior are reviewed by the Urbana Preservation Commission. Photo by Rich Cahill.*

porch supports ornamentation; these can also be found in gables and under overhangs. There can be lacy, decorative spandrels or knob-like beads which are sometimes referred to as Eastlake detailing after Charles Eastlake, an English furniture designer.

Distinguished by a variety of wall materials and contrasting colors, the Queen Anne architectural style has a variety of defining elements. It is characterized by irregular massing; irregular floor plans; a variety of exterior finishes, such as wood shingles and clapboard siding; a variety of window types, such as bay, oriel, Palladian; a gable roof; full-width or wrap-around porches with decorative elements; round, square, or polygonal towers or turrets; leaded or stained glass windows; pressed brick with narrow mortar joints; steeply pitched, imbricated slate roofs; and prominent chimneys, often with decoration. Wood shingles and clapboard are commonly used for wall materials with different materials on different stories of Queen Anne buildings. Furthermore, the mixed materials can also be found in decoration, "wooden decoration carved in scroll shapes, or lattice work in basket-weave, spindle, reel, or other patterns" is common. Queen Anne uses wall surfaces as "primary decorative elements by avoiding plain walls through bays, towers, overhangs, and projections and by using several wall materials of different textures where plain expanses of wall do occur."

Many of the aforementioned elements can be seen in Lindley House. Varied window types are present on each facade of

the house. A full-width porch with decorative elements, such as the carved wood turned posts and radial brackets, also depict the Queen Anne style as does the gable roof and irregular massing. Different materials on different stories are used on the house with clapboard siding the dominant material and wood shingles on the upper half story.

#### **Architect Rudolph Zerses Gill**

Rudolph Zerses "Doll" Gill, an Urbana native and an 1887 graduate of the University of Illinois in architecture, designed Lindley House in addition to several other area buildings after returning to Urbana from Knoxville, Tennessee in 1893. Most notably, Gill made plans for the Urbana High School (Thornburn), the city hall in Monticello, the city hall in Danville, the Hotel Douglas in Tuscola, and many other of the "finest" Urbana residences. Gill also served as Urbana City Engineer and City Treasurer from 1896 to 1898, during which many considerable grading and paving improvements were made in Urbana.

After graduating from the University of Illinois, Gill went to Chicago and worked for Holabird and Roche, who were among the finest Chicago architects. Leaving Chicago, he moved to Knoxville, Tennessee and had his own firm, RZ Gill and Company, Architects and Engineers, until 1893. He also worked for the American Association of London, England which built several towns and developed iron and coal interests in Kentucky, Southern Tennessee, and Virginia.

Gill was born 17 May 1866 in Urbana and died 5 November 1951 in Murphys-

boro, Illinois. He is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery. His former wife, Nellie Martha Maxwell of Knoxville, Tennessee survived him as well as his two sons, Rudolph Zereses Gill Jr., born 29 June 1894, and Frederick Maxwell Gill, born 23 March 1899. He married Nellie Martha Maxwell on 10 October 1889 and was given a divorce decree in February of 1919 after Nellie Gill left Rudolph and went to California.

*This article was adapted from the Urbana Landmark nomination prepared by Christa J. Meyer. The house was designated in 2000.*

## National Preservation Conference

The theme of this year's 2001 National Preservation Conference sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation is "Preserving the Spirit of Place." The meeting is slated for October 16-21 in Providence, Rhode Island. There will be over fifty educational sessions on a wide variety of topics, all led by experts in their respective fields. Thirty more field sessions will offer the chance of on-site exploration of preservation projects. Social events will provide opportunities to make new friends with shared preservation interests. The opening plenary session will feature keynote addresses by Vincent Scully, the renowned architectural historian, and Rowena Steward, executive director of the American Jazz Museum and the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. The advance registration deadline is September 15. To learn more about the program and fees, visit the Trust's Web site at <<http://www.nationaltrust.org>>; or call 800-944 6847.

## Preservation Illinois: From Small Towns to Urban Corners.

The Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois is holding its 21st Annual Statewide Preservation Conference from September 13-15. As LPCI embarks upon its new initiative to better serve the entire state of Illinois, it is only fitting that they meet this year in Springfield. Located in the center of the state, LPCI hopes to draw preservationists, architects, developers, planners, community leaders, public officials and legislators from towns big and small, and from all corners of Illinois. Springfield, as the capital of Illinois, is home to the state's historic preservation office, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois is grateful to have the support and sponsorship of IHPA in developing a stronger statewide preservation ethic. This conference will give all those interested in protecting the unique historic resources of Illinois the opportunity to meet and join together to better promote preservation in all communities. LPCI is also celebrating the history and architecture of Springfield through tours and special events during the three-day conference. Along with the well-known Abraham Lincoln sites, LPCI hopes to open eyes to other architectural treasures of this capital city. Contact PACA for registration materials.

**PACA e-mail address:**

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## Preservation Expos

Two Illinois communities are sponsoring preservation seminars and workshops this fall. The **Quincy Preservation Expo** will be held on September 22 and 23 on the grounds of Quincy Museum at 16th and Maine streets. Bob Yapp will be the keynote speaker along with eleven other preservation experts. Topics to be covered include use of correct materials—historic mortar, stucco and plaster; researching garden architecture; saving outbuildings, barns, carriage houses and cabins; metal items in use in the communal Amana colonies pre-1930; restoring original double-hung windows and selecting appropriate paint finishes; restoration of the Golden windmill; roofing, gutters, downspouts and water management; how to do historical research and design landscapes for 19th century architecture; history of native gardening; historic stained glass repair; and how to research the history of your old house. Other attractions will be entertainment, food vendors and children's activities. There is a one day price of \$5.00 or both days for \$8.

Bloomington's second annual **Old House Fair** will be held October 20 and 21 at the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site. Featured speakers at the Fair will be Norm Abram of "This Old House," and Bob Yapp will make an encore appearance. Last year over 1600 people from the midwest attended. This year PACA's salvage warehouse will again be featured and a presentation by our Salvage Chairs will be given.

## Membership Application P.A.C.A.

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- Adult ..... \$15.00  
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Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## Old House Society Warehouse

The salvage warehouse of the Old House Society of Bloomington-Normal has moved to 214 E. Douglas Street, one-half block east of Route 51 in downtown Bloomington. New hours are:

Tuesday - Friday 12-6  
Saturday 10-3

### Save the Date Dedication of Hazen Bridge Sign

Come celebrate the installation of a sign honoring the history of the Hazen Bridge and its donation to PACA by the Richmond Family.  
Sunday  
September 25, 2001  
2 PM



## Salvage Donations

University of Illinois  
Carolyn Sullivan  
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Jim Peters  
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## PACA Newsletter

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## New & Renewing Memberships (received since the last newsletter)

### Charter Members (1981-1983)

Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Avner  
Samuel Gove  
Mark & Kirstin Repogle  
Louissette Zuidema

### Over Ten Year Members

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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.*

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