Preservation and Conservation Association

Volume 22

Preserving the Spirit of Place
Preservation Week
May 12-18

A message from Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Every community has a spirit of place that identifies it as special and unique. It may be a building or a monument or a street, a public square or a stretch of lakeshore or a view of distant mountains. It sets the community apart from every other. It attracts tourists, contributes to the area’s stability and livability, and gives residents a sense of connection with their shared heritage.

Sadly, despite its importance in the social, cultural and economic life of the community, the spirit of place is easily destroyed. Older neighborhoods, rich in texture and character, start to decline. Familiar landmarks are allowed to deteriorate or are replaced by new buildings that fail to respect their historic setting. Scenic vistas are spoiled by insensitive development, and precious open space is devoured by sprawl. Uniqueness fades into anonymity. Every place starts looking like Anyplace, and eventually they all look like Noplace.

The theme of Preservation Week 2002, “Preserving the Spirit of Place,” calls on us to do all we can to recognize, save and enhance the irreplaceable features that give each community its distinctive character.

Organizing tours and special events that spotlight local treasures, fostering revitalization in commercial and residential neighborhoods, conserving open space, providing tax credits and other incentives for the rehabilitation of historic buildings, launching initiatives to manage sprawl and promote smart growth—all of these are effective tools for preserving the spirit of place.

Make Preservation Week 2002 an occasion for celebrating what’s special about your community. Preserve the spirit of place—and pass it on as our gift to future generations.

Babbitt's Facade Sold

Babbitt’s Bookstore was located at 612 East Green Street, Champaign since 1995; prior to that time, Acres of Books occupied the space for a number of years. Art Coop was located there also. An advertisement in the 1926 Illini yearbook listed Rider's Pen Shop at this address, and Duncan Photography at 614 East Green Street. JSM Development recently replaced the Co-Ed Theater and the adjacent buildings from 610 to 624 East Green in Champaign’s campus town with an eight story retail/office/residential complex. Steve Kunkel and Jeff Hartman of JSM granted PACA the right to salvage architectural items from these properties.

Interior items that were saved from Babbitt’s included a second floor limestone fireplace and large built-in bookcase. The exterior terra cotta facade was more of a challenge, and beyond the skills of PACA’s legion of volunteers. Pankau Masonry was hired in late January 2000 to remove the facade; except for three blocks near the base on the west side, it was recovered intact. The facade was subsequently for sale at the PACA Salvage Warehouse as a single unit for $4,000. It measured approximately 18.5-feet wide and 30-feet tall; the eagles, near the top, were about 39-inches square and weighed nearly 200 pounds each. In April of 2002, the PACA Board of Directors decided to sell the facade on E-bay before breaking up the unit and selling it piece by piece. After the auction ended with no bids, PACA was contacted by several interested parties. Eventually, the facade was purchased by Architectural Salvage by RJ-O of Mena, Arkansas. It was picked up on April 10, 2002. The new owners, Richard and Joan Davis, hope to keep it intact and place it on a building in the Hot Springs Arkansas area.

Volunteers Needed

Kid’s Building Fair
Saturday, May 18
Two shifts: 10-1 or 1-4
Call: 359-7222
2002 Ten Most Endangered Historic Places

A wide array of Illinois’ history and architecture is highlighted in this year’s list of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Places, which was announced at the State Capitol in Springfield on March 21.

This list of threatened places has been compiled annually by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois (LPCI) since 1994. Its purpose is to focus attention on sites threatened by negligence, deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funds, inappropiate development, or insensitive public policy.

- **Nathan W. Huntley House, Chicago, Cook County.** One of the city’s oldest houses, having been constructed prior to the Civil War, this 1859 two-story Italianate retains many of its original features, including arched fretwork, rope-edge door moldings, and decorative cast-iron brackets. The owner/developer intends to tear the property down in order to construct a condominium building. There is strong community support for preservation of the house, either on site or by moving it to a more secure location.

- **Illinois State Penitentiary, Joliet, Will County.** Constructed of Joliet-Lemont limestone and built in 1858, it is the oldest prison in Illinois and one of the oldest in the United States. It was designed by W.W. Boyington, the architect of the Chicago Water Tower and Pumping Station, and its crenellated towers and rough-faced stone give it a castle-like appearance. Built during a period of prison reform, it was known for its design innovations. However, the penitentiary has witnessed many changes in prison management since then. It was closed in January 2002 due to budget constraints and prison consolidations.

- **LoYola University’s Mallinckrodt Campus, Wilmette, Cook County.** The property includes 17 acres, a main four-story building and two smaller outbuildings. The 180,000-square-foot main building (1916) features an elaborate stone entry with cupola and a 300-seat chapel renowned for its acoustics, stained glass windows, marble and ebony details, and custom oak doors. It was designed in the Italian Renaissance style by Herman J. Gau, the architect of St. Michael’s Church in Chicago. Built as a college for nuns, it later became a campus of Loyola University, which recently announced plans to sell the property to a developer who wants to subdivide the lot, demolish the buildings, and construct single-family houses. Loyola has agreed to delay its plans until Wilmette residents decide what the village should purchase the property.

- **Henry Middaugh Mansion, Clarendon Hills, DuPage County.** This Queen Anne style residence, built 1889-92, is the only property in this village of 10,000 to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The 20-room brick mansion was built by banker and developer Henry C. Middaugh. It is threatened with demolition by its longtime owner, an adjacent church, which plans to construct a new facility on the site. Although a nonprofit foundation has waged an impressive campaign to save the structure, it lacks village financial support to relocate the building.

- **Moses King Brick and Tile Works, Colchester, McDonough County.** This site includes rare buildings (some dating to 1883) relating to the area’s brick and tile making industry. Four beehive kilns survive, lined with firebrick, stabilized by steel bands (not mortar), and crowned with an arched brick roof. Last fall the metal bands holding one of the 250,000-brick kilns together rusted through and snapped. The remaining kilns are in severe need of attention. The site is part of a National Register District.

- **Pinckneyville Community High School, Pinckneyville, Perry County.** This well-maintained building has served as the community’s high school since 1930. However, the school board has applied for a state grant and bonds totaling $15 million to construct a new high school on this site. A large portion of the community has called for finding ways to preserve the existing school, but the board opposes this alternative. The historic structure was built with local labor.

- **Prairie Dell Church, Watska, Iroquois County.** Local farmers built this picturesque Quaker-style frame church in 1870. It has original hand-hewn walnut pews, walnut-faced windows, two privies, pressed-tin ceilings and walls, and the original pulpit. While never remodeled, the roof was repaired in 1974 after a tree fell onto the building. The community supports preservation, but lacks the funds to make the necessary repairs for this deteriorating building.

- **Rosenwald Garden Apartments, Chicago, Cook County.** Five-story cream brick walls are accented with red brick banding on this early low-income housing project (1929). Storefronts line 47th Street and Art Moderne-style terra-cotta doorways lead into a spacious inner court of gardens and playgrounds. Philanthropist Julius Rosenwald planned the 421-unit project to provide sound housing for the city’s South Side African-American community. It was designed by Ernest A. Grunsfeld, the architect of the Adler Planetarium, who was involved in numerous early low-income housing projects. The last tenants moved out several years ago and the buildings are in poor condition.

- **Soldier Field, Chicago, Cook County.** This famed sports stadium, a National Historic Landmark, was added to the list as an honorary “11th” selection. This issue has occupied LPCI over the past year, including legal challenges to stop construction of a new glass-and-steel football stadium inside the existing stadium’s Classical Revival-style colonnades. The Chicago Bears began demolition work in January.

This article was taken from the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois’ April, 2002 newsletter, THE CORNERSTONE.
Annual Membership Meeting

The newly renovated and expanded Leal Elementary School provided an award-winning historic setting for PACA's 2002 Membership Meeting, which was held March 24. After a short business meeting in which Year 2001 preservation activities were reviewed, three members were elected to the Board of Directors to serve through 2004: Kathy Reeves, Suzanne Ashley-Wannamuehler, and Dan Leasure. Currently serving on the Board are Raymond Lytle (02), Kristin Solberg (02), Trevor Jones (02), Robert Nemeth (03), Louis Simpson (03), and Richard Cahill (03). Also presented at the meeting were the 2002 Heritage Awards, of which Leal School was awarded an Institutional Heritage Award. The school was then open for tours. A special thanks to the Heritage Award Committee: Ray Lytle, Dan Leasure, Kathy Reeves, and Tony Bamert and to calligrapher, Linda Rameriz. It's not too soon to think about next year's award as the rehabilitation/restoration season is now in full swing! Let PACA know of any possible award-worthy projects in progress.

2002 Heritage Awards

Residential Heritage Award
• 1005 West Park Avenue, C
  Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bryan, owners
  Darcy Bean Construction, contractor
• 512 West Washington Street, C
  Carrie Petracca, owner
  Russell Dankert, architect
  RDI - Michael Markstahler, contractor
• 1018 West Church Street, C
  Dr. Dianne Dunning &
  Dr. Steven Marks, owners
  TKO Painting (Kevin Olson)
  Pat Richardson Carpentry

Commercial Heritage Award
• National Museum of Shipmodels
  201 East Market, Sadorus
  Charles & Virginia Lozar, owner
  Owen Tucker Construction, contractor
• Station 211
  211 East Green Street, C
  Tom Gillespie & Associates, owner
  John Holbert, architect

Adaptive Re-Use
• Old Town Lofts
  301 South Water St, C
  James Fallon, owner
  Johnny Fallon, project manager
  Andrew Fell, architect
  Kevin Humesing, contractor
• Pro Ambulance Building
  408 South Neil Street, C
  GT & T Ltd, owner
  Architectural Spectrum, architects
  Devonshire Realty, Ltd, contractors

Institutional Heritage Award
• Leal Elementary School
  312 West Oregon, U
  Urbana School District #116
  Isaksen-Glerum, architects
  Skillman Corporation, construction manager

Landscape Heritage Award
• Prairie Pond Landscape
  Arbour Meadows Homeowners Association

Memorial 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

LOCATION

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

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
Save the Date!

11th Annual
Kids' Building Fair

May 18, 2002
Orpheum Children's Science Museum
346 N. Neil Street, Champaign
11-4 pm

Volunteer Needed
call 359-7222

Salvage V.I.P.'s
Bob Swisher    Kathy Reeves
Rich Cahill    Robert Nemeth
Mike Miller    David Godwin
Darrel Foste    Phyllis Godwin
Dan Leasure    Brian Duffield
Mike Richards    Dave Seyler
Adriana Taylor    Jennifer McCarty

Salvage Donations
Urbana School District
Jim Corley
Trent Shepard
Jim & Cecilia Sasser
Christie Clinic Foundation
Kristine Chalifoux

New & Renewing Memberships
(received since the last newsletter)

Charter Members (1981-1983)
Dr. & Mrs. Victor Wojnar
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Ailenbernd
Hormenia Kruidenier

Over Ten Year Members
Richard Cannon
Ruth Fliegel
Mr. James C. Bradbury
Mr. George T. Clayton
William & Jamie Kruidenier
Dan McCollum
Caroline Hibbard
Keddy Hutson & Ann Boswell
Mr. & Mrs. John Replinger
Shirley Stillinger
Elizabeth Rogers
Fred & Nancy Deconyn
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Myers
Perry C. Morris
Joe Marriott Family
Chris Anderson
Isotech Laboratories, Inc. (corporate)
Laird Thompson
Fred & Nancy Coombs
Sally Foote & Tom Wold

Five to Ten Year Members
Richard Cahill
Rick Piester
Lisa Foster & Larry Keller
Norma Jean & John Gremer
Sharon Irish & Reed Larson
Bette & Bob Leach
Dan Sullivan
Steve Leonberger & Cheryl Koranda
Fleckham Family
Esther Pult
Joe Donahue
Ernie Martin & Bill Capel
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Sills
Bill & Blaney Bogner
Gerald & Sandra Pijanowski
Alan & Kristine Chalifoux

One to Four Year Members
Greg Williams
Dan Rutherford
Bill & Barb Childers
Beavers Enterprises (corporate)
B.B. McNeill
Paul Armstrong
W. John Nelson
Peter Lin
Pete Reesnick
Randy & Bette Hughes
Robinson Family
Jeff Harshbarger & Grace Giorgio
Margaret & Harold Balbach
Bill Roberts
John & Susan Brown
John Tanner

New Members
Ralph J. Page
Dale Ross
Jerry & Ann Schmidt
Kathy Frye
William C. Baker
Keller Family
Matt & Adriana Taylor
James Sasser
Stephen & Janet Hawes-Davis
Eric & Amy Plankell

PACA Newsletter
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Richard Cahill, Treasurer
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