Preservation Week, 2003
May 5-12

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 2003, “Cities, Suburbs, and Countryside,” 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 revalorization 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 2003 an occasion for celebrating what’s special about your community. Preserve cities, suburbs, and countrysides—and pass them on as our gift to future generations.

Richard Roe, President
National Trust for Historic Preservation

Annual Membership Meeting

The historic Canaan Missionary Baptist Church was the setting for PACA’s 2003 Membership Meeting, which was held March 9. After a business meeting, in which Year 2002 preservation activities were reviewed by PACA Board members, three members were elected to the Board of Directors to serve through 2005: Trevor Jones (relected), Catherine Barbercheck, and Arthur Thoma. Currently serving on the Board are Kathy Reeves (04), Suzanne Ashley-Wannamuehler (04), Dan Leasure (04), Robert Nemeth (03), Louis Simpson (03), and Richard Cahill (03).

Sorely to be missed are retiring directors, Kristin Solberg and Raymond Lytle, both of whom served two terms on the Board. Also presented at the meeting were the 2003 Heritage Awards. A special thanks to the Heritage Award Committee: Dan Leasure, Tony Bamert, and Sarah Nemeth, and to calligrapher, Kim Wurl.

It’s not too soon to think about next year’s awards as the rehabilitation/restoration season is now in full swing! Let PACA know of any possible award-worthy projects in progress.

PACA fully supports the mission and programs of the Early American Museum. Its mission, “to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of east central Illinois, specifically Champaign County, for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations,” enhances and strengthens PACA’s mission to help preserve the built environment of Champaign County.

Exhibits and programs at the EAM have grown exponentially over the last decade. Program highlights include exhibits on East Prussian settlers in Champaign County (We’re Americans First); A Railroad Runs Through It; Champaign County Neighborhoods; Pastimes: The History of Leisure; Blacksmithing on the Prairie; Kids as Collectors; This Legacy is Yours; Extra! Extra! Read all about It! and currently, Prairie Stories, among other exciting interactive exhibits. Programing too has increased with hands-on activities for children and adults. In addition the museum has extensively collaborated with the African-American community on historical research, exhibits, and on the publishing of the Through the Years newsletter. All of these activities have been undertaken by a small dedicated staff with the help of countless volunteers.

Due to the success of the EAM programs, its collection has also grown over the years. But the museum has risen to the challenge and has improved the en-
Volunteers in Action

Because of PACA volunteers, we were once once again able to have a presence at the 2003 WCIA Home and Garden Show held at the Assembly Hall in late March. Volunteers worked both Saturday and Sunday and introduced PACA to 1,000s of potential members. A special thanks to those who gave their time: Suzanne Ashley-Wannamuehler, Ray Lytle, Kim Wurl, Dan Wurl, Elizabeth Janick, Catherine Barbercheck, Sandy Burgener, Steve Burgener, and Kathy Reeves.

Mark your calendars for the next special event: Taste of Champaign, West Side Park, June 21 and 22, and consider volunteering for that fun event.

Historic District Forum

The City of Urbana Community Development Services Department, in cooperation with the Urbana Historic Preservation Commission, successfully sponsored a historic preservation forum entitled "Historic Districts: Preserving Community Identity." The event was held at the Urbana Senior High School and was partially supported by federal funds administered through the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

The purpose of hosting an educational event for the community was to provide an opportunity to learn about historic preservation in general, but to specifically address the impacts of historic district designations in local communities - what that means to a community's identity. The Urbana Preservation Commission

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Postcard History of Illinois Parks

Greetings from Illinois Parks: A Postcard History of Park Districts and Forest Preserves has just been published. Written by William A. Smith, this is 116 page book is a collection of postcards from c. 1906 to 1950 that tells the early history of Illinois park districts and forest preserves. It is published by the Illinois Association of Park Districts. The cost is $15.95. To order call 877-523-4558 or www.illparks.org.

PACA is updating its membership e-mail list and requests that members send changes in their computer addresses to pacaexdir@insightbb.com. For ease in sending timely and directed messages, the list has been divided into five membership sections: Champaign, Urbana, County, Illinois, and National members. Only messages pertaining to PACA activities and programs, with occasional statewide and national preservation alerts, will be sent. A separate salvage volunteer notice list is also being developed.
From the President’s Desk

After a long winter and a spring that we hope is now here, it is time to start those house projects that often include cleaning out the garage or starting that home remodeling project. Before you take that old trim, door, light fixture, claw foot tub, etc., out to the trash, call PACA first (359-7222). We may be able to accept those items or know who might. Each weekend I am amazed by how many fine items are donated by folks that just can’t stand seeing things go to waste. In fact, some weeks I am convinced that more comes in the warehouse than goes out. If you have not been by the PACA warehouse for awhile, you should stop by; the inventory does indeed change every week.

PACA receives award from CDBA

On February 25, PACA received an award from the Champaign Downtown Business Association honoring our efforts to encourage historic preservation. I was honored to accept the award for PACA. I was also honored to present awards for the association to three well-deserving downtown businesses: the Champaign County Historic Museum - Cattle Bank; Bacaro Wine Bar, and Lifeline Divorce and Mediation Services in the former Dan’s Hat Shop. Each of these projects has made a major commitment to improve the fabric of downtown Champaign. PACA recently joined the CDBA and will continue to support its efforts.

New Board Member Needed

Unfortunately, I must announce an opening on our Board of Directors. Trevor Jones has left the area to take a job at the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay, Wisconsin as curator of History. Trevor has been a very loyal member and a valuable member of our board. When I first met him, he was working at the Early American Museum in Mahomet as the curator. He came to the warehouse to borrow architectural elements that were later incorporated into a display of Main Street. Trevor then became a regular customer at the warehouse and joined the PACA Board in 1999. While on the Board, he was instrumental in revitalizing the Hazen Bridge project. He spearheaded the effort to have a sign placed on the bridge and organized the dedication ceremony attended by land/bridge donors, Jack and Marjorie Richmond. He took the lead in organizing our Board retreat that discussed the goals of PACA and also took on the major task of researching and producing the 20th Anniversary Booklet. Recently, he helped archive PACA office records as they were moved from the Greek Revival Cottage to the new resource room at the warehouse. PACA will miss Trevor’s dedication to the preservation of the history of our county.

Homeworks Store

In May, Habitat for Humanity of Champaign and Piatt Counties will open Homeworks. Their 10,000 square foot warehouse is located at 40 East University in downtown Champaign. They will offer new and good used building materials, furniture, cabinets, and more. Homeworks is accepting donations of appliances, bath fixtures, electrical supplies, electronics, furniture, and other items. Proceeds from sales will help provide the funds needed to build five to seven houses for local families of low income in the area. For more information or to volunteer, call 355-6460.

PACA looks forward to working with Habitat and wishes them the best of luck. The more materials we can save for reuse, the less that will be needlessly sent to landfills.

Volunteer Kathy Reeves discusses PACA activities at the March Home Show.

Richard Cahill
President

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

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.
Lead Paint Safety Workshop
June 2, 2003
7-9 PM

An encore presentation of PACA’s free workshop on Lead Safety for Old House Living & Renovation will take place on Monday, June 2 at the Salvage Warehouse, 44 East Washington St., Champaign, from 7-9 pm. Jeff Gordon of the UI Building Research Council and the state’s specialist in lead paint safety for historic buildings will lead the discussion.


The workshop is free and open to the general public. Seating is limited, however, so registration is advised. To register, call 359-7222 and leave your name and phone number. One free lead paint test kit, supplied by PACA, will be given to each participant.

Salvage Donations
University of Illinois
Mrs. Ball
Michael Markstahler
Chris Jones
Habitat for Humanity
CLR Boutique Lofts

Salvage V.I.P.’s
Bob Swisher
Rich Cahill
Mike Miller
Darrel Foste
Dan Leasure
Mike Richards
Brian Duffield

New & Renewing Memberships (received since the last newsletter)
Charter Members (1981-1983)
Dr. & Mrs. Victor Wojnar
Joe Marriott

Over Ten Year Members
Jeff Mellander
Shirley Stillinger
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Myers
Fred & Nancy Coombs
Richard Cahill
Michael Markstahler
Fred & Nancy Deconoy
Joe Donahue
Sally Foote & Tom Wold
Ernie Martin & William Capel
Dot & John Replinger
Marian & George Clayton
Elizabeth Rogers
Perry C. Morris
Keddy Hutson & Ann Boswell

Five to Ten Year Members
John & Susan Brown
Rick Piester
Steve Leenberger & Cheryl Koranda
Isotech Laboratories, Inc. - Dennis Coleman (Corporate)
Randy & Bette Hughes
Peckham Family
Esther Patt
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Sills
Lisa Foster & Larry Keller
Bruce Hutchings

One to Four Year Members
Margaret & Harold Balbach
Elisabeth Jenick
Matt & Adriana Taylor
Lou & Trina Simpson
Jerry & Ann Schmidt
Dan Rutherford
Ernie Burkybile
Anna Barnes & David Riecks
Wayne, Mary & Rachel Robinson
Jeff Harshbarger & Grace Giorgio
Christine S. Fucito
Kathy Frye
Bill & Barb Childers
Peter Lin
Billie McNeill

New Members
Carol Schultz
Art & Diann Thoma
Clint Popetz
Forrest Bean
Kerry Helms & Nohra Mateus - P. Helms
Fred Gleavo
Stephen & Janet Hiwes-Davis
Ladd W. Faulkner
Ted & Donna Odenweller
Craig Huff
Chris Kaler
John & Sandra Haney
Deirdre McGlone & Stig Lanesskog
Alan & Glennie Weith

Save the Date!
KIDS’ BUILDING FAIR
Saturday
May 17
11-4 pm
346 North Neil Street
Champaign
Volunteers Needed!!

PACA Newsletter
P.O. Box 2575, Station A, Champaign, IL. 61825
Richard Cahill, President
Kathy Reeves, Vice-President
Robert Nemeth, Secretary
Lou Simpson, Treasurer
Karen Lang Kummer, Exec. Director
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