



PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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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 revaluation 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 Moe, President
National Trust for Historic Preservation*



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 (reelected), 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.

KIDS' BUILDING FAIR

MAY 17
346 NORTH NEIL ST., C
11-4 PM

Early American Museum

One of only two nationally accredited museums in Champaign County, the Early American Museum (EAM) of the Champaign County Forest Preserve, is at a crossroads. Like most government bodies, the Forest Preserve is facing increasing annual deficits and is looking at ways to reduce those deficits. One cost reduction proposal involves the reorganization of the Museum, reducing the collection, and eliminating exhibits. The Museum's budget would be reduced by almost 50% and only one full and one part-time position would be funded.

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 Frisian 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-

vironmental condition and documentary control of the collection. Staff and volunteers have 99% of the collection computerized and 50% has been digitized. It is this type of dedication that has ensured that the EAM maintains accredited status; a true achievement for a small down-state museum!

However, the future of our County's heritage is in jeopardy. To reduce the budget deficit, it has been proposed to deaccession parts of the collection and to forfeit accreditation status. Permanent and semi-permanent exhibits will be eliminated. The museum's focus will only be on limited educational programs.

It has also been proposed to demolish the Museum Annex building and Environmental Education building at the Salt Fork Preserve due perceived structural deficiencies. Staffs of the Museum, Environmental Education and Botanical Education would be moved to the current museum building in part of the space now used for exhibits. The buildings' problems, however, appear to be easily correctable and the buildings could continue in service. Also threatened with demolition is the historic Hensley Township building, which is used as an active one-room school house.

If you have concerns about the proposed new direction for the Early American Museum and the loss of a valuable asset to our County's history, please let the Forest Preserve Commissioners know. Over the course of the summer, a new Executive Director will be hired and decisions about the future of the museum will be made. To comment, contact any Commissioner: James Capel, Edwin Herricks, Robert Toalson, Jonathan Schroeder, or Jacquie White, or write the Board at Champaign County Forest Preserve, P.O. Box 1040, Mahomet, IL 61853. Letters to the Editor will also have a community-wide impact. Limited to 250 words, they can be sent to P.O. Box 677, Champaign, IL 61824 or letters@news-gazette.com.

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.ilparks.org.

Volunteers in Action

Because of PACA volunteers, we were 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 Janicek, 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 on April 12 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 wanted to have a panel of speakers whose background included a historic district property owner, a historic preservation commissioner, a staff member from a preservation commission that is recognized as an Illinois Certified Local Government, and a practitioner in the field of historic preservation.

During the event, easels were set-up in the lobby area of the high school with large posters depicting designated Urbana Landmarks and historical information about each buildings' significance. There were information tables that held a local application kit, walking tour brochures, informational brochures, and additional information about state and federal financial incentive programs.

The diverse panel of speakers presented personal experiences with living in or working with historic districts. Rebecca Smith-Hoffman, principal of Past-Perfect Inc. of Grand Rapids, Michigan, started the morning with a dynamic presentation entitled, "Preserva-

tion Works." She shared her 20-year experience with preservation which included personal stories of triumph and defeat. Diane Oestreich, preservation advocate from Rock Island, presented, "Promoting Preservation and Reaping its Rewards: Practical Tips from Rock Island." In her talk, she addressed grassroots strategies that were integral in saving some of Rock Island's most endangered districts. She spoke of the Broadway Historic District National Register designation and the success of their "Great Unveiling" program, which has volunteers removing inappropriate siding from historic buildings in their district. Oestreich also reflected on being a home owner and landlord within the district and the advantages and disadvantages that brought.

Ginny Gregory, Planner, City of Rockford, gave a presentation entitled, "Rockford's Historic Preservation Commission: Who We are and What We do." She presented an in-depth report on Rockford's historical places and provided a realistic view of how a preservation commission works with the public. Gregory cited many community benefits and successes but also touched on some challenging incidences that commissions sometimes encounter. Lastly, Gary Anderson, an architect from Gary Anderson and Associates, Rockford, concluded the individual presentations with, "A 25-year Case Study of the Haight Village Historic District and How Preservation has played a Key Role in its Revitalization." He included a dynamic slide show that illustrated the metamorphosis of the Haight District since its designation. Following these presentations, the forum ended with an interactive question and answer session with the four speakers.

The event was taped for future broadcast on Urbana's Community television station, UPTV, Channel 6. For information about the forum or historic preservation in Urbana contact, Michaela Bell, Planner, City of Urbana, 384-2440.

Members' Message Board

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 member 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



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

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.

See you at the PACA Warehouse,

*Richard Cahill
President*

Membership Application P.A.C.A.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- Adult\$15.00
- Student (1/2 time or more)\$10.00
- Senior Citizen\$10.00
- Family\$20.00
- Corporate.....\$75.00

- 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.



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.

Topics to be covered include: History of Lead, Why Lead Paint is a Concern, Lead Poisoning, State & Federal Regulations, Testing Methods, Living with Lead Paint: Maintenance & Cleaning, Lead Safe Renovation's Guiding Principles, The "Don'ts," Protecting Workers & Sites from Lead Dust, and Waste Disposal.

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.

Save the Date!

KIDS' BUILDING FAIR

Saturday
May 17
11-4 pm

346 North Neil Street
Champaign

Volunteers Needed!!

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 Delcomyn
 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

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 Steve Leonberger & 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 Jenicek
 Matt & Adriana Taylor
 Lou & Trina Simpson
 Jerry & Ann Schmidt
 Dan Rutherford
 Pete Resnick
 Betsy Burkybile
 Anna Barnes & David Riecks
 Wayne, Mary & Rachel Robinson
 Jeff Harshbarger & Grace Giorgio
 Christine S. Fucciolo
 Kathy Frye
 Bill & Barb Childers
 Peter Lin
 Billie McNeill

New Members

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

PACA Newsletter

P.O. Box 2575, Station A, Champaign, IL 61825

Richard Cahill, President
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