BACK TO THE FUTURE

A fund raising campaign is under- way to restore the historic clock and bell tower on Champaign County’s remodeled and enlarged Courthouse. A citizens’ committee, cooperating with county officials, plan to raise about one million dollars to rebuild the current stubby 100-year-old tower which was lowered to its present height by numerous lightening strikes. Originally, the 1901 tower, as designed by architect Joseph Royer, was a 135-foot structure ornamented with gargoyles and finials. It housed an 1877 Seth Thomas clock with faces at each cardinal direction and a 1,000-pound bell, which struck the hour.

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of some dedicated clock hobbyists, the clock is now back in working order and temporarily on display in the lobby of the new courthouse. Meanwhile, the citizens’ committee is seeking a million dollars in private funds to rebuild the tower and restore the building’s elegance and architectural integrity. Finials and gargoyles will again surround the tower; its height will approximate the original; and a modern lightening protection system will be installed to protect this landmark structure from future damage.

The citizens’ committee is offering you a rare opportunity to invest in the architectural future of Champaign County by helping to reconstruct the courthouse clock and bell tower. How can you be part of this exciting effort?

- Make a contribution to the Clock & Bell Tower Restoration Project. Donations can be a one-time gift or paid over time.
- Educate yourself about the historic courthouse and clock tower. Tours of the tower for small groups can be arranged by contacting those named above. Spectacular views of Urbana-Champaign are visible from the tower.
- Contribute ideas or time to the fund raising effort. Contact Janet Floyd (359-3280 or 326-5234) to offer suggestions or services.
- Tell others about this historic project. Members of the citizens’ committee are willing to speak to groups or interested individual donors. A short powerpoint presentation has been developed and can be easily shown. Contact Bruce Hannon (352-3646), Denny Inman (364-3776), or Steve Beckett (328-0263) to arrange for presentations.

From the beginning, PACA has been a very strong supporter of the Clock Tower Restoration Project. The citizens’ committee appreciates PACA’s efforts in helping to launch the initial studies that brought the tower reconstruction project to this point. Now is the time for PACA members to continue the momentum by making their own contribution to the future of Champaign County’s architectural heritage.

This article was written by County Board and Citizens’ Committee member, Barbara Wysocki.

All contributions are tax deductible. Checks should be sent to:
Clock Tower Restoration Project
1776 E. Washington Street
Urbana, IL 61802
2004 Heritage Awards

Once again, outstanding work was done in the fields of preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation by individuals and companies in Champaign County. We know that there are other equally deserving projects being done. Please let PACA know of preservation projects being undertaken in Champaign County, so we can recognize the efforts of these caring people.

PACA would like to thank this year’s Heritage Award Committee for all of their hard work: Sarah Nemeth, Anthony Bamert, and Dan Leasure; and also Kim Wurl for her calligraphy artistry.

Residential Heritage Award
Steve & Chris Mechling,
Victor Treat, Sr.
Tony & Michelle Nickrent
112 S. Main Street
Seymour, IL 61875

James & Cecelia Sasser
211 Avondale
Champaign, IL 61820

James & Cecelia Sasser
319 N. Vorcey
Tolono, IL 61880

Commercial Heritage Award
Cole Building
Ray & Christine Cunningham
118 S. Main Street
Homer, IL 61849
John Morrissette, contractor

Bentley’s Pub
Jon Buerkett, Tom Fiedler, Eric Meyer,
Stacey Whitmer, and Dave Whimpey
419 N. Neil Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Phil’s Woodworking
Jody Ponder
Fred’s Plumbing and Heating

C-U Train Station
Dr. William Youngerman
116 N. Chestnut Street
Champaign, IL 61820
William Wiese, engineer
Benchmark Company, Iowa
Renaissance Roofing, Rockford

Landscape Heritage Award
Brick Sidewalk Restoration Program
City of Urbana, Public Works Department
East Urbana Neighborhood Association

Non-Profit Commercial Heritage Award
WEFT
113 N. Market Street
Champaign, IL 61820
Peter Maass, architect
Barber & DeAtley, contractors

Homesworks/Habitat for Humanity
40 E. University Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820
Marco Steel
American Dowell Sign Company
Remco Electrical Company/
IBEW Local 601

Historically Respectful Addition Award
John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders
112 W. Hill Street
Champaign, IL 61820
Russell Dankert & Associates, architect
RDI/Michael Markstahler, contractor

Karen Edwards
712 S. Elm Boulevard
Champaign, IL 61820
Darcy Bean, Custom Construction

Neighborhood Heritage Award
Susan & Mark Froshis
710-712 W. Nevada Street
Urbana, IL 61801
Stephanie Crofts, helper

Special Heritage Award
Champaign County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee and John & Mike Schmale, website developers -- Barn Documentation Program

Louis Simpson -- PACA Board Member & Treasurer

Jeffrey Gordon -- PACA Volunteer

SAVE THE DATE
13th Annual
KIDS’ BUILDING FAIR
MAY 15, 2004
Orpheum Children’s Science Museum
346 N. Neil Street
Champaign
11-4 pm

Volunteers Needed
call 359-7222

Preservation Week 2004

Historic preservation in America has made enormous strides in the 55 years since the National Trust was founded. From coast to coast, preservation has made a difference in the appearance and livability of cities and towns of all sizes. You can see it in historic buildings restored, older neighborhoods made more attractive, Main Streets given new economic vitality. Instead of being ignored or smashed to rubble, historic places are now recognized as valuable, irreplaceable assets that can instill pride in residents, attract tourists and stimulate new investment.

But despite the great progress we’ve made and the impressive victories we’ve won, our job is by no means done. Older business districts and residential neighborhoods are still marred by disinvestment and deterioration. Landmarks of the recent past still don’t receive the attention from preservationists that they deserve. Sprawl is still devouring precious open space and destroying the character that makes each community unique. Laws that protect historic places are frequently under attack. And many people are still uninvolved, still unconvinced that preservation is relevant to their daily lives.

The theme of Preservation Week 2004, “New Frontiers in Preservation,” calls on us to identify and tackle the new and ongoing challenges we face and to redouble our efforts to ensure that our movement accurately reflects the vision, energy and diversity of America itself.

Organizing tours and special events that spotlight lesser-known local treasures, finding ways to expand preservation efforts to address the needs of all parts of your community, launching a drive to broaden and diversify the membership of your local organization, fostering revitalization in commercial and residential neighborhoods that may have been overlooked up to now - all of these are effective tools for moving preservation forward into new areas of activity.

Make Preservation Week 2004 an occasion for celebrating what’s special about the place where you live - and for finding innovative ways to ensure that future generations will be able to celebrate it too.

Richard Moe, President, National Trust for Historic Preservation
From the Now Former President’s Desk

At our last board meeting, I officially became a former president after serving two terms. The new PACA president is Catherine Barbercheck. Catherine has been an active PACA member for over ten years and has served on the PACA Board of Directors for two years. She has been involved with a number of other community groups and will continue to keep our organization strong. Dan Leasure has assumed the duties of vice-president. However, most of the duties of the treasurer’s position will continue to be conducted by PACA’s accountant, Lou Simpson, our former treasurer. At the Annual Meeting, three directors were elected: Robert Nemeth, Jerry Schmidt, and myself.

Calls for Help

There is a need for someone to take over the development of the PACA Web site. Dan Leasure and Nicole Swiss have started the process, but the site needs “jazzing up” with additional features and graphics. Some ideas include posting the PACA Newsletter, showcasing the Heritage Awards and other events of interest, adding information on National Register and local landmark sites, and providing educational information regarding preservation issues and resources around the county. This year the Taste of Champaign will be June 25-27 in West Side Park. PACA will be co-hosting an informational booth with Habitat for Humanity. We need volunteers to take shifts on Friday (5-9), Saturday (11-9), and Sunday (12-5). This is an opportunity to meet people and raise the awareness of PACA’s activities.

Salvage Update

Salvage opportunities have been limited in the last few months to a few houses. This situation may be about to change.

Mike Richards and I have met twice with the Monticello City Council concerning salvage of the historic Pepsin Factory, just west of the downtown. Parts of the 119,000 square foot building date back to 1903. The pharmaceutical operation ended in 1985, and the building had been used for storage until April when the city finalized purchase of the building. Building conditions are terrible. The roofs have leaked and collapsed in several areas. There are environmental hazards throughout the building, making many areas unsafe for volunteers. PACA has agreed to work with the Piatt County Museum to remove some items that have sentimental/historic ties to the county for the museum’s collection. Additional salvage items will come to the PACA warehouse after local residences have a chance to purchase them from PACA. We will need skilled volunteers for this operation. Contact Mike or I for further details about this salvage operation.

Bob Swisher, Chris Hill, and I have been working with the City of Tuscola to gain permission to salvage a historic school. There is a lot of potential salvage material in the building and, in contrast to Monticello, this will be a safe and secure site where volunteers of all levels of skills can help. Again call the PACA warehouse for details. We anticipate that work could start in early May.

Greg Clark has resigned his position on the PACA board. Greg left his job in Mattoon and has moved to Quincy. Greg’s experience as an environmental health and safety officer will be missed. Currently, I am the lone Urbana board member. If you would like to serve on the board, contact PACA.

A special thanks to Mike Richards, not only for all of his hard work on the Pepsin Building, but also for the new stained glass transom over the east warehouse door. It has added an elegant touch to the warehouse.

Best Wishes

Rich Cahill, former president and Salvage Co-Chair

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**P.A.C.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY**

○ Adult $15
○ Student $10
○ Senior Citizen $10
○ Family $20
○ Corporate $75
○ Additional Contribution __________

**TYPE**

○ New __________
○ Renewal __________

**INFORMATION:**

NAME: __________
ADDRESS: __________
PACA BOX 2575, STATION A
CHAMPAIGN, IL. 61825
WWW.PACACC.ORG
217 359 7222
PHONE: __________
E-MAIL: __________

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
Illinois Statewide Preservation Conference -- June 17-19

Hosted each year by Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois, and co-sponsored with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions, the preservation conference attracts the participation of preservation professionals, advocates and interested citizens from across the state. The three-day series of workshops, seminars, tours and special events focus on the preservation issues, challenges and successes facing communities across the state. The conference will be held at Pere Marquette State Park. For information contact LPCI at 312.922.1742 or landmarks.org.

A HISTORIC CELEBRATION

Thursday, May 20, 2004
5:30 - 9:30 pm

Celebrate the Virginia Theatre's listing on the National Register of Historic Places with backstage tours, a post-war architecture lecture, and a musical review.
Free & Everyone is Invited!

Salvage Donations
James Fallon
JJ's Luggage & Shoe Repair
Seth Mendelowitz
Barb & Bill Childers
Scott Cochran
Mary Blair
Maggie Liu
Brandenburg Industrial Services, Chicago
Dave Kruger
St. Joseph Fire Department
Jim Burch
Ben Moye

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

Over Ten Year Members
Joe Donahue
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Hutchings
Elizabeth Rogers
Janine & Roger Prillaman
Norma Jean & John Gremer
Fred & Nancy Coombs
Dan Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. John Replinger
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Myers
Joseph Marriott
Fred & Nancy Delcomyn
Shirley Stillinger
Ernie Martin & William Capel
Steve Leonberger & Cheryl Koranda
Mr. & Mrs. George T. Clayton
Richard Cahill
Isotech Laboratories, Inc; Dennis Coleman (Corporate member)
Jeffrey J. Mellander
Sharon Irish & Reed Larson
Michael Markstahler

Five to Ten Year Members
Wayne, Mary & Rachel Robinson
Esther Patt
Randy & Bette Hughes
Bill & Barb Childers
Perry Morris
Mark Sills
Ruth Wyman
Marilyn Morris
Dipesh Navsaria
Rick Piester
Jeff Harshbarger & Grace Giorgio
Lisa Foster & Larry Keller
Christine Fucillo

One to Four Year Members
Arthur & Diann Thoma
Louis & Trina Simpson
Randy Cox Family

Paul Armstrong
Greg Clark
Craig Flowers
Pete Resnick
Deirdre McGlone & Stig Lanesson
Rick & Gisele Atterberry
Laura Huth
Douglas Kistler
Kathy Frye
Peter Lin
Scott Schaub & Amanda McWilliams
Ari Babakhani
Brian Duffield
Jan Kalmar; Adrienne & Maya Bauer
Karen Ferneding
James & Jody Coffin
Richard & Carol Betts
Brett & Holly Barnhart
Lewis & Susan Hopkins
Fred Gleavo
Earl & Betsy Burkybile
Dan Rutherford

New Members
Mike & Karen Tindale
Bob Ballsrud
Lee Galaway
Jodie & Brent Leasure
Lindley House, Sylvia & Ernie Sullivan (Corporate member)
Mary Tangora & Larry Steinbauer
Joe Malpelj
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Maddox
Sue Cramer
Jo Ella Cook
John & Khristine McMahon
Kara S. McKinn
Randy & Jeanine Hinshaw
Jared Bronski & Susan Tolman
Karen Pollard
Sid Duke

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
Catherine Barbercheck, President
Daniel Leasure, Vice-President
Richard Cahill, Secretary/Treasurer
Karen Lang Kummer, Exec. Director
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Give Champaign County's Past A Great Future!