



PRESERVATION MATTERS

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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(PACA's newsletter, under production at the time of the hurricane, has been modified to focus on this disaster. Local preservation issues will resume in the next newsletter.)

Hurricane Katrina and Preserving Historic Buildings

REPORT FROM NEW ORLEANS

Patricia Gay, Executive Director
Preservation Resource Center

While the tragedy of lost lives and displaced citizens will continue to be paramount in these horrific weeks, months, perhaps, years ahead of us, New Orleans will come back. Once again, it will be a wonderful community to live and work in and to visit. Cities and towns throughout history have survived severe flooding, ravishing fires, earthquakes, and tornadoes and have been rebuilt.

This is not to minimize the absolute loss of homes washed away by Katrina or the severity of damage that our city faces, made worse every day because people cannot return to their homes and workplaces to start rebuilding their lives. But much remains. We are irrepresibly in love with New Orleans and we will work hard to restore and rebuild our city.

The Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, which has been working for more than three decades to revitalize the city's historic neighborhoods, is pleased that the oldest areas of New Orleans, downriver from the French Quarter and all the way uptown along St. Charles Avenue are intact. Historic areas north of the French Quarter are also on higher ground and have not incurred the severe and tragic flooding. The Preservation Resource Center has been buying, renovating, selling and even building modest homes in the historic Lower Ninth Ward neighborhood of Holy Cross; sadly, we are not getting good news from this part of the city.



Images of New Orleans buildings before Hurricane Katrina. Although some areas escaped devastation, many neighborhoods will need massive rebuilding. There is concern about the loss of character in the rebuilding efforts. photos from the internet.

As the water recedes across New Orleans, much will be salvageable in even the badly flooded areas. Where we have lost buildings we will rebuild; and it must be with structures built high off the ground and with stronger building codes. These new buildings will reflect the New Orleans that is known and loved around the world. The simplicity of our shotgun houses and Creole cottages can provide the inspiration for building design that can accommodate the simplest needs. This is a time to learn from the buildings that have survived natural disasters.

There are solutions. One of the most important guiding principles should be actions that will attract private sector investment. Already in place is the highly successful federal tax credit for historic rehabilitation. This tax credit, which attracts so much investment to inner cities and historic areas, should be a part of emergency measures and made available to homeowners returning to their homes. Currently, the credit is allowed only for income-producing properties. The city depends on homeowners coming back, and they will need assistance to restore their homes. The State of Louisiana can also utilize the state tax credit for homeowner renovations as an effective tool in stimulating recovery by making available all of the state funding for the credit in the first year rather than over four years, as

the law now reads. These are just two examples of measures that will generate immediate and effective recovery activity and attract more private investment.

The Preservation Resource Center for many years has been organizing groups of visiting students, churches, and clubs to repair homes and community centers. Since 1988, with the help of thousands of local volunteers, we've repaired and painted more than 900 homes of elderly and disabled homeowners. This can happen many times over with more support. The Preservation Resource Center -- with its headquarters in a building that, like so much in the city, is relatively untouched by the storm -- has developed a network with our 20 staff members and the president of our board. We are making plans to continue our partnership with neighborhoods across the city. As soon as we can go back to New Orleans we will once again train first time homebuyers, teach renovation techniques, help our citizens find financing and become property owners, and follow through with our own renovation projects, such as restoring blighted homes that once belonged to the city's great musical legends. Many organizations are already assisting us in these efforts, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Action, and the Historic Charleston Foundation.

Much remains in our city. Much can and must be done to take advantage of the human, material, and cultural resources in this city in order to generate recovery and economic activity as soon as possible. It has started, and the city will be better than ever.

Bulldozing might be expedient, but we're talking about people's homes and communities, corner stores, diners, and churches. We're talking in many cases about houses that have stood over 100 years and neighborhoods that have been home to five or six generations. And we're talking about what makes our city different from every place else and what makes visitors want to come here: in other words, our liveli-hood.

Donating to the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, an organization that has been on the ground for 30 years revitalizing, rebuilding, and restoring New Orleans' historic neighborhoods, is the best way to help preserve the history and flavor of New Orleans. It is the mission of the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans to maintain and augment the city's unique character that is known and loved around the world. Our staff is hard at work in exile and we need your help.

How to help: visit www.preserveneworleans.com to donate online or mail donations to the Historic Charleston Foundation, made out to the Preservation Resource Center (PRC), Preservation Disaster Relief Fund. The address is 40 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC 29401.

Contact: Patricia Gay - 337-784-9893, prcnola@yahoo.com or mfitznola@aol.com

This information was taken from www.preserveneworleans.com.



Historic house on Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, Mississippi after Katrina. photo: Mississippi Heritage.



Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis' Home, after Katrina hit Biloxi. photo: Mississippi Heritage.

HURRICANE KATRINA'S IMPACT ON HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN MISSISSIPPI

The destruction Katrina has caused to historic structures on the coast and in other areas of the state is immeasurable. It will take months to determine the exact extent of damage our historic buildings have suffered. On Friday, September 2nd, David Preziosi, Executive Director of Mississippi Heritage Trust, went to Biloxi to survey some of the damage with a reporter from the *New York Times* who was doing a story about the damage Katrina caused to historic structures on the coast.

The destruction Preziosi witnessed was unimaginable and it was heartbreaking to see so many of the historic gems of the coast in ruins. Even though many historic properties were damaged or destroyed, there are many that survive relatively unscathed or with minor damage. On Friday, September 9th, Preziosi headed back to the coast with a team of people from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to survey the damage in Bay St. Louis. This wonderful small coastal community was devastated by the storm with blocks of historic cottages destroyed and nothing left but their foundations and rubble. Pictures from the trips are posted on www.mississippiheritage.com/HurricaneKatrina.html. New photos are posted as they are taken.

This information was taken from mississippiheritage.com.

Websites of Interest:

mississippiheritage.com
nthp.org
www.preserveneworleans.com
preservationaction.org



Biloxi, Beach Boulevard house after Katrina hit. photo: Mississippi Heritage.

THE NATIONAL TRUST ANNOUNCES GULF COAST RELIEF EFFORTS

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, our immediate thoughts and efforts must be directed toward those whose lives are still at risk. But it is not too early to begin planning the massive effort that will be required to restore the hard-hit communities of the Gulf Coast. This effort will necessarily involve billions of private and public dollars, both from the United States and abroad.

Plans underway include participation in preservation assessment teams, assistance to small businesses through the National Trust Main Street Center and dispersement of critical grant monies to organizations on the ground in affected communities. In addition to supporting rescue and relief efforts, preservationists can also invest in the recovery of affected historic areas by donating to the 2005 Hurricane Relief Fund.

Once the immediate human crisis is over, communities will be faced with assessing damage, repairing infrastructure, and planning for the future. The National Trust is in need of volunteers skilled in preservation, architecture, engineering, and small business development who are willing to serve on assessment teams. Volunteer by filling out an Assessment Team Skills Survey.

Richard Moe, president, National Trust for Historic Preservation (nthp.org)

PACA will donate all proceeds from the "Promenade on Park Avenue" house tour to historic preservation efforts in Mississippi and Louisiana. Additional donations are welcome.

Metal Window Restoration Workshop

PACA was pleased to have Jim Turner, the owner of Turner Restorations in Detroit Michigan, visit in June. I first met Jim in 2004 at Wayne State University, where I gave a talk on "How Architectural Salvage Can Save Detroit." The talk was sponsored by the new Architectural Salvage Warehouse of Detroit. That group, I am glad to report, is now up and running.

Jim has been a member of Detroit's Historic District Commission since 1998 and was the former president of the Arden Park-East Boston Historic District, where he has resided since 1985. He is also the former president of Preservation Wayne and serves on the board of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. Jim changed careers, as he put it, "from wearing a suit for IBM" to working on his true passion - historic restoration. He attended classes on restoration techniques in North Carolina and formed his company, that employs a small crew, five years ago.

The metal window workshop was held on June 18 and eighteen people attended. Jim's enthusiasm and practical knowledge kept the group interested well into the late afternoon. I think everyone got the opportunity for "hands-on experience" in grinding, glazing, and cutting of glass. When the weekend was over, most of the windows on the east side of the warehouse were completed. While here, Jim also included a consultation visit to the University of Illinois Ice Arena and the Georgian Apartments. If one of these jobs comes through, Jim offered to teach a PACA workshop on wood windows.

Jim Turner explains metal casement window repair to PACA members during a hands-on workshop held in June. photo by Kummer.



Rich Cahill, PACA Board Member

Conference on Illinois History

The 2005 Conference on Illinois History is scheduled for October 27-28 in Springfield, Illinois. More than thirty paper sessions and workshops are planned with sessions on the Mormons in Illinois, Historic Preservation, Teacher workshops, and Genealogy. The conference will be at the Prairie Capital Convention Center and is sponsored by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Contact Donna Lawrence at 217-785-7933 or donna_lawrence@ihpa.state.il.us for more information.

Following the conference, on October 29, a special day devoted to historic preservation is scheduled. "Historic Preservation Knowledge Day" will be at the Abraham-Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum Complex. The daylong event will begin at 10 am with a brunch and tour of the museum. A technical forum on *Common Historic Building Maintenance/Care Myths that Can Beguile Landmarks Commissions*

will follow. A session on the *Do's and Don't's of the Property Tax Freeze Incentive Program* will also be held. Registration is \$30. Contact Catherine O'Connor at 217-785-5730 or catherine_o'connor@ihpa.state.il.us for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

PACA Membership & Volunteer Recognition Party

Sunday
October 9
4-7 pm

PACA Architectural Salvage
Warehouse
44 East Washington, Champaign

food and beverages
provided

P.A.C.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

- Adult \$15
- Student \$10
- Senior Citizen \$10
- Family \$20
- Corporate \$75

Additional Contribution _____

TYPE

- New _____
- Renewal _____

PACA

Box 2575, STATION A
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61825

WWW.PACACC.ORG
217 359 7222

INFORMATION:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PACA

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

SAVE THE DATE

Promenade on Park Avenue

A tour of historic homes on West
Park, Church, & University
avenues

**Sunday
October 9**

1-5 pm

tickets available the day of the
tour at Dr. Howard School
1117 West Park Ave., C

General public: \$10.00
PACA members, seniors,
children: \$5.00

*Proceeds to benefit historic
preservation resources in
Mississippi and Louisiana
affected by Hurricane Katrina*

Volunteers Needed

Society of Architectural Historians (SAH), University of Illinois Student Chapter -- PACA Salvage Volunteers

Thomas Allen	Amanda Skinner
Kalyca Bell	Jennifer Traut
Emma Colon	Crystal Whithers
Katie Couch	Jon Wright
Molly Cundari	Lily Wu
Aries Chei-Wei Liang	Joe Drapa

Salvage Donations

Bill Rose
Judy Warmbier
Jennifer Burnhard
Chris Hanson
Twin City Bible Church
Randy Kangas
University of Illinois
Barr Real Estate

Salvage VIP's

Rich Cahill	Darrel Foste
Bob Swisher	Kathy Reeves
Mike Richards	Mike Miller
Dan Leasure	Brian Duffield
Bette Swisher	Neil Lasater
Mike Ford	Mark Bush
Amanda Skinner	Bill Bogner
Darlene Service	Pat Bogner
Art Zangerl	Mike Tinsdale
Dan Zangerl	Lee Stoops
Maria Velazquez	David Speers
Rachel Pirkle	Drew Bunyan
Suzanne Ashley-	
Wannemuehler	
Tedra Ashley	

New & Renewing Memberships

(received since the last newsletter)

Charter Members (1981-1983)

Louisette Zuidema

Over Ten Year Members

Pius Weibel and Sue Feldman
Mark Netter
Lianne Anderson
James Fallon
Glenna Bartell
Joe & Phyllis Williams
Nina Rubel
Irma R. Lore
Kathy & Steve Roemmel
Andrew White
Sally Foote & Thomas Wold
Cheryl Kennedy

Five to Ten Year Members

Robert I. Selby
Ronald & Charlotte Hampton
Alan & Kristine Chalifoux
Steve & Rollanda Szambaris
Susanne Massell
Tod Satterthwaite
John & Carol Leasure
Christine Jenkins & Susan Searing
Katie Davidson & Rick Harton
Ginny Sims & Janice Lines
Dorothea Blue
Kristin Solberg & David Seyler

One to Four Year Members

Lewis & Susan Hopkins
Wes Jarrell & Leslie Cooperband
Radio Maria (Corporate)
Nanette Koerner
Marsha Gates
Mary Ann Bunyan
Tom & Katherine Auble
Craig Flowers
Bill & Joan Price
Chris Knight
Chris Hanson
Lois Wacholtz

New Members

David Monk
Alix Lazarevich
Russ Arnold
Stephen Campbell
Maureen Reagan
Jack Moore
Donna & P.T. Cultra

*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.*

Preservation Matters: newsletter of the
Preservation and Conservation Association
P.O. Box 2575, Station A, Champaign, IL 61825

Catherine Barbercheck, President
Robert Nemeth, Vice-President
Anthony Thomas, Secretary
Richard Cahill, Treasurer
Karen Lang Kummer, Exec. Director



359-PACA: Telephone & Answering Service
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e-mail: pacaxdir@insightbb.com

**Preservation Bridges the
Past into the Future**

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