



## PRESERVATION MATTERS

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 26

MARCH-APRIL, 2006

NUMBER 2

### Focus On: University of Illinois Beef Barn

The College of Agriculture was an important part of the university from its beginning; in fact many people involved with founding the university felt that the "practical" education of the farmer and mechanic should be the school's only responsibility. However, this feeling did not translate into funding or faculty. The first forty years of the college were years of struggle. It was only after the turn-of-the-twentieth-century that the college began to receive adequate funding and resources, and the College of Agriculture became one of the leading institutions of its kind in the United States. Enrollment increased from seventeen students in 1877 to 729 in 1911 and to 1,271 in 1920; the staff expanded to 153 people; and state biennial appropriations totaled over \$3.5 million between 1913 and 1921. More than a dozen agricultural buildings were built and over 1,200 acres of farmland were added to the university's holdings.

The Animal Husbandry Department (renamed the Department of Animal Science in 1947) was organized within the College of Agriculture in 1901 under the direction of Prof. Herbert W. Mumford, who was appointed professor of animal husbandry and head of the department. Mumford succeeded Eugene Davenport, who was actually the first professor of animal husbandry, having been appointed such in 1895; he held that position until the arrival of Mumford. Davenport was also dean of the College of Agriculture from 1895 to 1922; Mumford followed Davenport as dean, serving from 1922 until his death in 1938. Under both men's leadership, the department grew from a staff of three (in 1901) to thirty in 1916; course registration also grew from 418 to 2,241 during that same time period.



*On the left is a rendering by university architect James White of the proposed Experimental Feeding Plant, circa 1914. Only the Beef Barn (left) and the six round concrete silos (right), minus roof, were built. On the right is the historic Beef Barn with the Feed Mill in the distance. Both structures are planned for removal for the extension of Fourth Street and new South Farm development. (University of Illinois Archives)*

The department was organized into divisions by Mumford. First to be established were the divisions of horse, swine, and meats in 1903; sheep was added in 1906, beef cattle in 1910, poultry and animal nutrition in 1911, animal genetics in 1912, and lastly, in 1915, livestock extension.

With the completion of the Agriculture Building (Davenport Hall) in 1901, the College of Agriculture was firmly established at the south end of the university quadrangle. A resolution was adopted in 1903 with regard to the development of the south campus that sited any new agricultural buildings "south of the road [Lorado Taft Drive] in front of the Dean's house [Mumford House] and not less than 200 feet therefrom."

By June of 1904, money was appropriated for new buildings and a contract was awarded to English Brothers, Champaign, for \$50,500. The Beef Cattle Barn, the Agronomy Building (Forest Science Lab), and the Horticulture Building (Survey Building) were built with this money. These three buildings were handsome structures of brick with stone trim and slate roofs with picturesque Flemish gables. The swine, sheep, dairy, horse, and farm mechanics divisions were to receive

equally handsome buildings in the future, but only the Farm Mechanics Building (Agricultural Engineering) was built in 1907.

The Beef Cattle Barn was the first building of the group to be constructed at a cost of \$28,000 from designs of university architect James White and Seth Temple. It was a "U"-shaped building located to the northwest of the Stock Pavilion, in a direct line with Wright Street extended (east of Education Building). The building accommodated about one hundred head of cattle as well as scales, machinery for processing feed, and storage for hay and grain. A 150-ton silo was adjacent and provided additional feed storage space.

Beef Cattle was made a separate division within the Department of Animal Husbandry in 1910 with Henry P. Rusk as its head. Rusk rose quickly through the academic ranks, being made a professor and chief of cattle husbandry by 1918, and acting department head in 1921. In 1922, he succeeded Mumford as head of the department, subsequently succeeding him as dean of the College in 1939. Later department heads were Roscoe R. Snapp, Alvin L. Neumann, and Upson Garrigus.

The university building budget for 1913 included \$10,000 for an Experimental Feeding Plant and the Board of Trustees authorized the university architect to proceed with plans. However the location for the new plant was not decided upon. James White, university architect, suggested siting the feeding plant on the South Farm at the northwest corner of the golf course, which was south of Mount Hope Cemetery. He also envisioned extending Sixth Street through the cemetery and constructing an east-west road (St. Mary's Road).

Consideration was also being given to the Roland tract [an area between First and Fourth streets, south of Peabody Drive where Memorial Stadium was later built], but Mumford preferred a South Farm site just to the east of the 1912 Sheep Barn on land then being used by the swine division. This was the location recommended by White, "...that it be located on the back farm on a line east and west from the front of the sheep barn and about two-thirds of the way from the sheep barn to the farm house located on the top of the hill."

The Experimental Feeding Plant was to be a very large complex with numerous silos, a feed mill, and two large barns with attached feeding sheds to either side of the feed mill. A rendering by White shows a large beef barn with its attached cattle shed to the east and a large two-story gambrel roof hyphen on the west, between the barn and a four-story rectangular feed mill. In front of the feed mill are two very tall brick silos with conical caps, while in front of the silos is a circular cluster of six shorter concrete silos with a center conical roof; a second cattle shed is connected on the west. If it had been built as planned, it would have been "the largest plant of its kind connected with any agricultural school in the United States." However, only a portion of the plan was built over the next fifteen years. Completed sections included the east Beef Barn and cattle shed, the Feed Mill with two concrete silos, the six concrete circle silos, and the west cattle shed.

In 1916, White requested that \$15,000 be released for the construction of the Cattle Feeding Plant (Beef Barn). Planned to be of masonry construction on the first floor with only the roof and walls above the hay loft floor being of frame construction, this building, plus the proposed fireproof feed mill, were estimated to cost \$40,000. With the construction of this new com-

plex, it was anticipated that the old barns on the south campus would be removed. However, the 1905 Beef Cattle Barn was reassigned in 1919 to the Division of Animal Pathology and Hygiene; the old Beef Cattle Barn was not demolished until the 1970s.

The Animal Husbandry Feeding Plant was fifth on the list for use of funds appropriated by the General Assembly in July, 1917. White was apparently given the discretion of bidding the project as he solicited a proposal from the English Brothers, Champaign to supervise construction and get bids on the work. Their fee was ten percent of the cost of labor and material on the brick, concrete, and frame barn and silos. For that they furnished a superintendent and all necessary equipment, made out the lumber and material bills, and contracted and settled for all materials. The project was apparently being rushed to completion. They were paid \$20,502.64 in December 1917 for the project. The rest of the appropriated funds were used for the construction of the six concrete circle silos to the northwest of the barn.

President James described the Cattle Feeding Plant in his 1920 book, *Sixteen Years at the University of Illinois*, as costing \$29,625.36. He reported it as follows:

*The lower part is a fireproof structure, 300 feet long, open to the south. The feeding lots are paved with brick and extend out some 30 feet from the building line. The plant is used as a storage place for feed for the animal husbandry department, and the upper stories are constructed as an elevator with large grain bins, where several tons of grain can be elevated, preparatory to grinding, shipping, or feeding.*

However, the description is not quite accurate as the Beef Barn is only 157-feet long (east/west) with the main barn being 60-feet wide (east/west) and 87-feet long (north/south). Its capacity was about 120 cattle. In 1925, the cattle feeding shed was built to the west of the Beef Barn as the third unit of the proposed large scale cattle feeding complex.

The original tile roof on the Beef Barn was replaced in 1947. Apparently, the roof was in a bad state of repair due partly to the fact that air pressure from within the large barn and wind continually moved the tile shingles, thus wearing out the nails from the constant motion. Based on that, the decision was made to re-roof with wood

shingles. At the same time, the skylights on the cupolas were replaced.

In 1970, the metal-sheathed open-front pole-frame addition was added to the east end of the Beef Barn and was used primarily to house bulls. Huskee Bilt, Monmouth, Illinois, furnished the labor and material for the 36 by 72 by 10-foot building; they were paid \$4,476.70. Trumbull Concrete, Inc., Urbana was the concrete contractor for the addition at a cost of \$1,184.40.

Until recently, the Beef Barn and cattle shed were used primarily for teaching purposes. Instruction in genetic selection and the development of pure bred lines was used to demonstrate increased meat quality. In addition, cow and calf development was monitored in the barn and the university's judging teams used the facility. A new Beef and Sheep Unit was built on thirty acres on South Race Street, just north of Old Church Road in Urbana. The historic Beef Barn will be moved this summer by the Piatt County Museum to serve as their new building. It will be sited at 1 Heritage Lane, just off of I-72 in Monticello. In place of the barn, Fourth Street will be extended to Hazelwood Drive and the area opened for research park related development.

*This article was taken from the Illinois Historic American Buildings Survey, University of Illinois Animal Husbandry Cattle Feeding Plant (UIUC #820), IL HABS No. CH-2002-5-D.*

The Urbana Historic Preservation Commission Presents:

## The Stucco Home Workshop

A WORKSHOP ON THE HISTORY AND MAINTENANCE OF STUCCO HOMES



**Sunday May 21**  
Presentations begin at 1pm  
Repair demonstrations begin at 2pm

FREE ADMISSION  
MEET AT PHILLIPS RECREATION CENTER  
505 W. STOUGHTON, URBANA

For more information: Call Robert Myers at the City of Urbana, 384-2440  
www.city.urbana.il.us



## PACA's 25th Anniversary Celebration

On March 19, over 80 members and friends celebrated PACA's twenty-five years of historic preservation efforts in Champaign County. This Annual Meeting of the membership was held in Latzer Hall at the historic YMCA of the University of Illinois; delicious catering was provided by Classic Events. A short business meeting, with the election of three board members, preceded an entertaining and informative talk on historic preservation and green buildings presented by the State Historic Preservation Architect, Michael Jackson. Throughout the evening, slide shows about PACA's varied activities and projects over the past twenty-five years were shown and scrap books of past events were available for perusal. Guests were also presented with "PACA Preserves" as a memento of the evening. PACA would like to thank all those involved with the event: Dan Leasure, Kathy Reeves, Marsha Lasater, Kathleen Jones, and Hank Kaczmariski.



Architects Robert Selby, Robert Nemeth, and guest speaker, Michael Jackson, IHPA

Three board members were elected at the meeting and will serve through 2008: Susan Frobish, Catherine Barbercheck, and Kathleen Jones. At the subsequent April Board of Director's meeting, new officers were elected: Jerry Schmidt, President; Catherine Barbercheck, Vice-President; Richard Cahill, Treasurer; and Kathleen Jones, Secretary. The Board meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Members are welcome to attend, call for location.



Lois Wacholtz, Champaign Historic Preservation Commission Chair, and PACA President Catherine Barbercheck.



PACA Salvage Co-Chair Bob Swisher and Judge Harold Jensen

## 25th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference: June 8-10 Bloomington-Normal

For 25 years, the Statewide Historic Preservation Conference has brought together Illinois preservationists to renew friendships, learn useful techniques, and discuss how best to preserve the state's historic buildings and landscapes.

This year's conference marks the 35th anniversary of the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois (LPCI). Conference venues are varied and include the David Davis Mansion, Castle Theater, McLean County Museum of History, Central Station Cafe, and the Normal Theater. The keynote speaker is Terri Ryburn-LaMonte, an authority on historic Route 66. Among the topics of discussion are Recent Past 101, Building Pathology: Storefronts, Route 66, Disaster Planning, Lead Paint Abatement, Saving Energy, and Rural Preservation. Tours will also be offered. Plan to attend this educational, informative, and nearby event. Call PACA or LPCI (312.922.1742; [www.landmarks.org](http://www.landmarks.org)), for more information.

### Call for Volunteers

PACA would like to update our volunteer list. If you are interested in helping with PACA activities as a warehouse worker, salvage volunteer, tour developer, website reviewer, researcher, newsletter writer, wallpaper hanger, slide archivist, or any other activity, please call PACA (359-7222 or e-mail [pacaexdir@insightbb.com](mailto:pacaexdir@insightbb.com)) and let us know your interest. The Salvage Committee is especially interested in volunteers to help with large salvage projects, like the recent Douglas School.

## P.A.C.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

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

Additional Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

### TYPE

- New \_\_\_\_\_
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[www.pacacc.org](http://www.pacacc.org)

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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PACA

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

### Salvage VIP's

Rich Cahill	Darrel Foste
Bob Swisher	Kathy Reeves
Mike Richards	Mike Miller
Dan Leasure	Brian Duffield
Betty Swisher	Neil Lasater
Maria Velazquez	Jerry Schmidt

### Douglas School, Danville Volunteers

Bob Swisher	
Betty Swisher	Darrel Foste
Dan Leasure	David Spears
Mike Miller	Chris Foste
Mike Richards	Brian Duffield
Mark Bush	Lee Stoops

### Salvage Donations

Stig Lanesskog & Deirdre McGlone  
Anonymous  
Jason Finfrock  
Debbie Smith  
Cindy Wachter  
Raymond Johnson  
Derk Hundertmark  
City of Urbana  
Danville School District

## Save the Date

### 15th Annual Kids' Building Fair

Saturday, May 20  
11-4

Orpheum Children's  
Science Museum  
346 N. Neil, C

Volunteers Needed

### New & Renewing Memberships

(received since the last newsletter)

#### Charter Members (1981-1983)

Hermenia Kruidenier  
Marilyn Wojnar

#### Fantastic Supporters (Over Twenty Year Members)

Joseph & Jane Marriott

#### Eleven to Twenty Year Members

Rick Orr  
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Mark & Amy Sills  
Marianne Winslett & Eric Bina

#### One to Four Year Members

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Brian & Carolyn Knox  
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Kathleen Zanotti  
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Rebecca Bird & Jeffrey Hickman  
Ellen Swain  
David Meyer & Amy Gajda  
Nancy Orndorff  
Robert Frost  
Katie Kenney & Michael Vogel  
Sonya Darter & Terrin Krantz  
Karen Edwards  
Christopher Prom

*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

Jerry Schmidt, President  
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**Celebrating 25 Years of Preserving the History  
and Architecture of Champaign County**