

PRESERVATION MATTERS

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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Simply Monumental

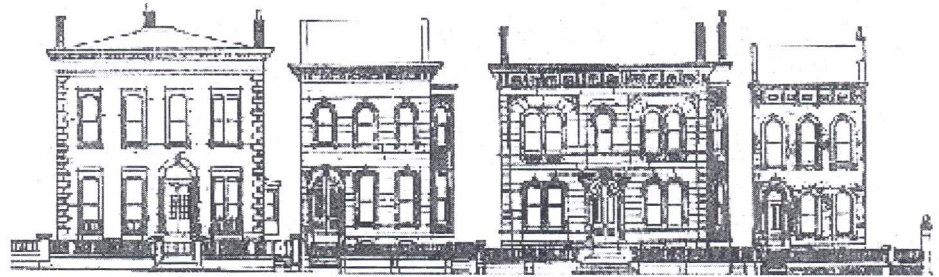
Commonplace places can be the most meaningful of all.

When I was working in the National Trust's [for Historic Preservation] southern office, I spent lots of time on the road, telling people about Trust programs and services. In town after town, my hosts often introduced themselves and their community with a statement similar to this: "Oh my, you come from Charleston! Well, we're not like Charleston. Our poor little town doesn't have anything really historic to save. We're pretty ordinary." I got used to hearing it—but I never got comfortable with the fact that it was an apology.

We preservationists have long recognized that Valhalla sort of place where venerable buildings grace every street, the thrilling spirit of days gone by hovers over every rooftop, and local residents imbibe a reverence for the past with their mother's milk. We think of these charmed spots—Charleston, Boston's Beacon Hill, New Orleans' Garden District, and a few others—as truly, gloriously historic and therefore very special. Our own communities, on the other hand, often seem newer, less grand, less special. We're fond of them, sure, but it's easier to daydream about the wonders of Natchez and Nantucket than to get worked up over the occasional loss of a familiar landmark in the "ordinary" towns we see daily.

That's wrong. Even though they don't merit long and dramatic entries in the history books, the places where most of us live are hugely important and eminently worth saving. They say a lot about who we are and how we got here.

Each is a kind of monument. Maybe no great battles were fought there—except for the ceaseless struggle to make a living out



of dirt or rock or water. Maybe no deathless oratory was uttered—just the everyday jokes and curses and threats and endearments spoken by people building lives for themselves. Maybe no great empires were won or lost—apart from putting down of roots, the pushing back of the frontier, the flexing of industrial muscle that heralded a nation's coming of age. Monuments come in many forms, not all of them involving heroes on horseback. Once you realize that, "monument" doesn't seem too far-fetched a label for an ordinary town.

A wonderful quote from English art critic and reformer John Ruskin hints at another fitting label:

Great nations write their autobiographies in three manuscripts, the book of their deeds, the book of their words and the book of their art. Not one of these books can be understood unless we read the two others, but of the three the only trustworthy one is the last.

An ordinary community is an important entry in the book of art that Ruskin describes, at least in the vernacular sense. It's largely "unconscious" art (of the sort that American sculptor Horatio Greenough had in mind when he said that the most beautiful things our nation every produced were the clipper ship and the trotting wagon), and that makes it all the

more engaging. An ordinary town—an assemblage of yards and storefronts, signboards and bungalows, a low-rise skyline of steeples and treetops and smokestacks—can be a splendid sight. Its bricks and planks and flowerbeds can convey a powerful sense of the people who put them there. You see evidence of the human touch, the human eye, in the stonework of a courthouse wall, the carefully matched wood grain in a paneled parlor, the arrangement of windows and porches on an old house or mill—and you realize that "art gallery" is another good label for such a community.

Places like these are good to have around. They deserve to be appreciated and cherished, fought for and preserved. They certainly don't need to be apologized for.

Here's the bottom line: We sometimes think of history as a physical attribute, like naturally curly hair; some have it, and some don't. Those who don't often wish they did, and those who do don't always know what to do with it. But history isn't like this; it's more like a heart. Everybody has one—and every community does, too. Even the ones that seem utterly ordinary.

This article was written by Dwight Young it is reprinted with permission of PRESERVATION magazine, March/April, 2005 issue.



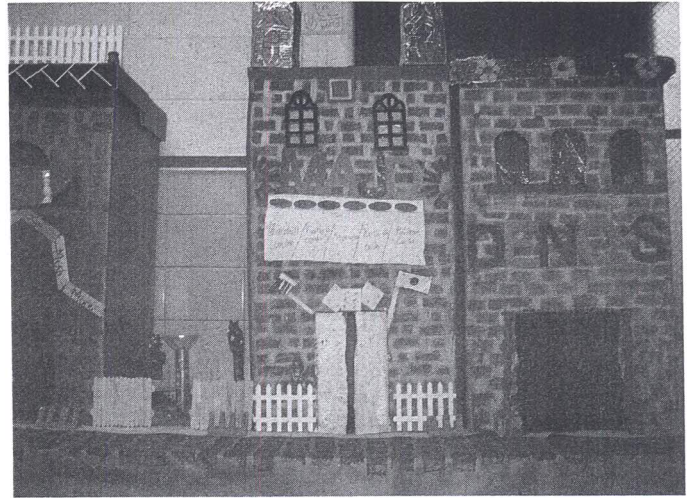
City planner, Rob Kowalski discusses plans for downtown Champaign with Bottenfield School fourth graders, who were studying historic Market Street.

Historic Preservation Education

Since 1994, PACA has been distributing Heritage Grants to area non-profits for projects that promote historic preservation. Many of these grants are used for "bricks-and-mortar" projects such as masonry repointing, window repair, and roof work. However, a number of grants have been given to schools and teachers for preservation education. Four grants have been awarded to the Center for the Study of Art and Architecture, under the direction of Michele Olsen. These grants have been used at Yankee Ridge and Bottenfield schools, as well as for the enhancement of the Archteacher website (www.archteacher.org/) and curriculum development. Requests for proposals for 2008 Heritage Grants will be issued in late February.

In 2006-2007, fourth grade students at Bottenfield Elementary School combined their Illinois history and economics requirement with the study architecture with the help of Olsen and teachers Andrew Peralta (classroom teacher) and Nancy Blanford (instructor). Students in the class studied the architecture of Champaign, both current and historic, through slide shows and a field trip to downtown where they saw historic buildings under redevelopment for new uses. There they met with city planner Rob Kowalski, who explained the architecture of downtown and how the city was planning for its future. Special emphasis was given to Market Street, their project study area. Students were divided into six teams, each team sketching and researching a specific Market Street building. Since most of the downtown seems to be developing as an adult entertainment area, the

Two Market Street redevelopment projects for downtown Champaign: MAJD's Collectibles and DENO's, by Bottenfield School fourth grade students.



goal for the Bottenfield students was to develop a new "family friendly" use for their building and a facade design that kept the historic architecture. Each group then "built" their project building, complete with bricks and architectural details.

Spa Palace (Alahna, Danielle, Cameron, Savva)

My group refurbished a building on Market Street. The store's name is Spa Palace. We named it Spa Palace because in a palace you get treated like royalty. We wanted our customers to feel like royalty. We sell mousse and nail polish. We offer massages, do you hair. And give manicures. Then you can go to [the] roof and tan. Last, you can go to the Jacuzzi.

Our building should be on Market Street because if someone from work was tired or had a hard day they can come to relax in our relaxing Jacuzzis or at our spa. Last we are making Spa Palace to attract families. The kids can enjoy the warm Jacuzzis. The adults can relax and get a massage. Families come and relax!

ZERE'z (Ben, Justin, Sarah, Devin)

After the field trip to downtown Champaign, we started brainstorming ideas for the revitalization of Market Street. Our group decided to make a turn of the century soda shop names ZERE'z. We got the name from the original name ERES. Our facade has three arch windows on the second story, red dentals [sic] and below a small coronus [sic], and a runner stretcher style of reddish brown brick.

Our plan is to totally rip off the front of the hideous building. Then we will rebuild with the early 1900s architecture. Obviously, with the revitalized building,

our financial gains will increase. Who could say no to that?

M.A.J.D.'s Collectibles (Michael, Allison, Joey, Danesha)

M.A.J.D. is a card and magazine collectible store. We came up with the name from the first letter in all the designer's names. We want to keep the look of downtown Champaign from a long time ago, but still make a new and fresh look at the same time.

We hope to bring more children downtown for kid's activities, not to make more adult things. Right now, Market Street has no excitement or stores that most people would like to go to. We may not be able to change the real Market Street, but we can try!

Market Street Arcade (Jiyeon, Peter, Ryan, Raniyah)

My group decided to refurbish Market Street for Champaign citizens. We chose a building and put a new cover but we kept the old style from the turn of the century. The long plants are making the building look like the orphanage where the Bowler Hat Guy grew up.

We want it to be an arcade because it would probably bring kids downtown. Also because there are no arcades downtown. We think it could be fun for parties and just to play at.

"Dogs Galore & So Much More"

Humane Society (Erin, Matthew, Vaishali)

My class is picking out buildings on Market Street in Downtown Champaign to refurbish and put more life into their buildings. This business is called "Dogs Galore and So Much More." It is a

Board Nominations Sought

Three Board positions will be up for election at the next annual meeting, scheduled for later this winter. If you would like to help develop PACA policies and programs, please contact PACA for more information about serving on the Board of Directors. New terms will start after the annual meeting and run for three years. Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month starting at 7pm.

Preservation Action

Connecting Preservation to Capitol Hill

Preservation Action (PA) is a national lobbying group for historic preservation. Their mission advocates federal legislation to further the impact of historic preservation at the local, state and national levels. PA coordinates a growing network of community activists, preservation professionals, historians, commercial investors, and civic leaders working together to advocate for our architectural heritage. It was founded in 1974 and is the only national 501 (c) 4 preservation lobby. Preservation Action takes its lead from local activists and represents their interests on Capitol Hill. PACA is a Preservation Action member.

The organization monitors federal legislation and keeps members informed of its consequences for preservation through weekly legislative updates, a bi-annual newsletter, committee conference calls, quarterly national meetings, and in-depth policy reports. Check out PA's website at www.preservationaction.org/ for more information or to join.

Salvage VIP's

Rich Cahill
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Brian Duffield
Neil Lasater
Jerry Schmidt
Suzanne Ashley-Wannemuehler
Mike Richards
Dan Leasure
Lee Stoops
Betty Swisher
Darrel Foste
Mike Miller

Salvage Donations

Carl Webber
Art Kaha
Barbara Badger

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(received since the last newsletter)

Charter Members (1981-1983)

Mary Blair
Mark & Kirston Replogle
Rex & Karen Kummer

Fantastic Supporters (Over Twenty Year Members)

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Kim & Marylee McGee
Katherine Couch Lipes
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New Members

Harold Williamson
Emily & Kit Condill
Chelsy Hopper

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.

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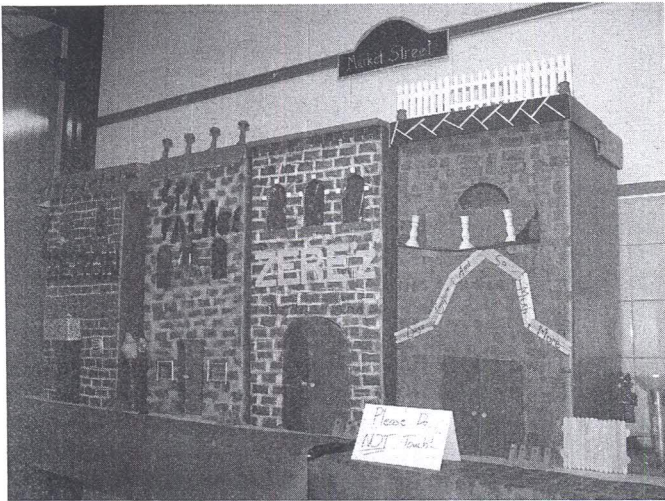
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Preservation makes history live in the present.



Four redevelopment projects for Market Street in downtown Champaign by Bottenfield School fourth grade students: Zeron Arcade, Spa Palace, ZERE'z, and Dogs Galore & So Much More.

Humane Society for pets so people can adopt and what not. Right now, downtown is sort of rundown, so we believe that we should put more life into this rusty dusty street. Our main purpose of our building in downtown Champaign is to bring more families and children to Downtown Champaign's businesses.

In conclusion, we believe Market Street really needs to be refurbished. We think that if the buildings have more atmosphere plus some of its old fashion style, more people will be walking the streets of downtown Champaign.

DENO's (Noah, Olivia, Eden Dominic)

This is the name for our apparel building. The D, then E, then N, and the O stands for the first letters in our names: Dominic, Eden, Noah, and Olivia. We took a run-down building and turned it into something new. The apparel store sells clothes for boys and girls.

The building was in downtown Champaign and we fixed the boring building to

make Champaign's downtown look better. We fixed the glass, a put big sign on it, put fencing on the roof and put pot holders and flowers on the second floor windows.

Heritage Award Nominations Needed

The Heritage Award Committee is seeking nominations for the 2007-2008 Heritage Awards. Award categories include residential, commercial, institutional, landscape, and landmark projects. Special Heritage Awards are also given to individuals/groups who have worked to preserve a special aspect of our heritage or who have advanced the cause of historic preservation in our community. The nomination process is easy; a form is enclosed with this newsletter or can be picked up at the salvage warehouse. Self nominations are encouraged.

2007 Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards

In October, Landmarks Illinois, the statewide preservation advocacy group, presented awards for outstanding preservation projects. The awards are assisted by a generous grant from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation to honor excellence in historic preservation. By honoring these individuals, organizations, projects and programs, Landmarks Illinois and the Driehaus Foundation hope to inspire others to take action to preserve, protect and promote historic resources throughout the state. PACA has been fortunate to be a three-time recipient of a Driehaus award in 1994 (Kids' Building Fair), 1997 (salvage program), and 2001 (Ricker House Restoration Project). This year's winners are:

- Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Powerhouse, Chicago (*Adaptive Use*)
- Avery Coonley House, Riverside (*Restoration*)
- Gifford Park Assoc., Elgin (*Leadership*)
- Krause Music Store, Chicago (*Restoration*)
- Muirhead Farmhouse, Plato Center (*Rehabilitation*)
- Water Tower and Pump House Preservation Campaign, Paxton (*Advocacy*)
- Wigell-Carlson Residence, Rockford (*Rehabilitation*)
- Medinah Temple/ Tree Studios Block, Chicago (*President's Award*)
- Illinois State Capitol, Legislative Chambers Restoration, Springfield (*Preservation Project of the Year*)

P.A.C.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

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

Additional Contribution _____

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