

PRESERVATION MATTERS

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 27

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2007

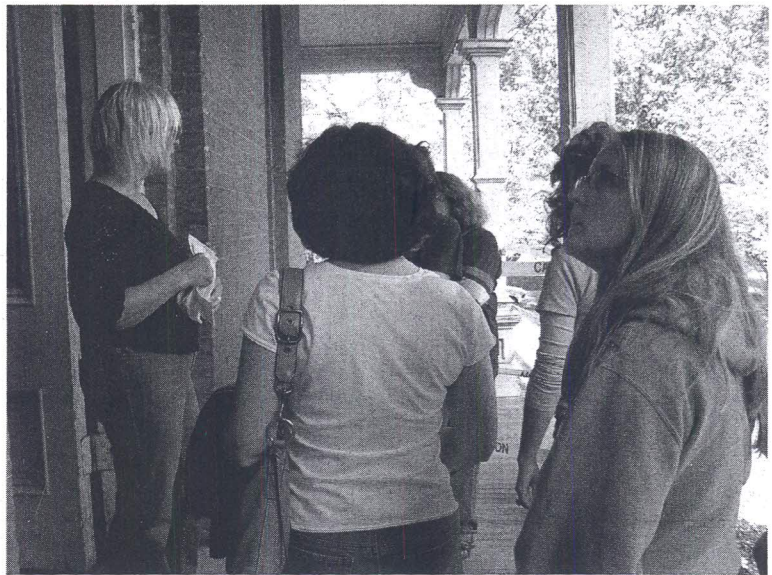
NUMBER 5

Francis & Abbie Solon House Open House

On October 20 and 21, almost 600 people toured the historic Solon House, which was open to the public for the first time. The Open House marked the beginning of marketing the house to a preservation-minded buyer. (See related article). PACA has spent the last two years stabilizing the house and preparing it for sale. The work has included sorting and properly distributing items that remained in the house, painting the cupola, repairing roof damage caused by a chimney collapse and removing two unstable chimneys, rebuilding the service wing's eaves and built-in gutters, rebuilding or repairing the main roof's four-foot overhanging eaves and built-in gutters, and other roof repairs. This fall, a new silver colored standing-seam metal roof will be installed along with new downspouts. In addition, the finial will be reinstalled atop the cupola roof with a new weathervane and lightening protection. Other work on the property included removing massive amounts of overgrown volunteer trees and bushes, battling invasive weeds, and spreading wood chips.

Many PACA members have volunteered their time and sweat in this major preservation project. At the risk of leaving someone out, PACA wishes to thank the following for their time and efforts in helping us with the Solon House Preservation Project: Bob Swisher, Betty Swisher, Dan Leasure, Darrel Foste, Suzanne Ashley-Wannemuehler, Ann Schmidt, Jerry Schmidt, Hank Kaczmarski, Jedd Swisher, Jeff Gordon, Bill Rose, Greg Hargus, Chris Enck, Michael Markstahler, Carol Knepp, Kent Snodgrass, Rex Knepp, Elisabeth Jenicek, Susan Frobish, Judy Gratkins, Catherine Barbercheck, Karen Kummer, Kathleen Jones, Trent Shepard, Ed Willhite, Diane Willhite, Kathy Nicholas, Robert Nemeth, Vicki Burkhalter, Brian Duffield,

PACA Board Member, Carol Knepp, leads a tour of the Francis and Abbie Solon House. The open house was the prelude to marketing the house for sale.



Sarah Nemeth, Tom Garza, Mike Richards, City of Champaign Public Works Department, Champaign County Public Service Workers, Bill May, Campus Sportswear, Inc., UI Architecture Class 419, UI Architecture Class 519, Illinois Department of Conservation, Suzanne Bissonnette, Rex Kummer, Champaign Unit 4, Champaign Fire Department, Susan Salzman, Anthony Bamert and Associates, and Bob Craft.

Open House Volunteers: Felice Kaufmann, Ann Schmidt, Joe Marriott, Jane Marriott, Susan Frobish, Mary Ann Bunyan, Kathy Nicholas, Sarah Nemeth, Robert Nemeth, Melissa Chambers, Greg Stock, Diane Willhite, Ed Willhite, Jack Waaler, Ginnie Waaler, Wendy Harris, Catherine Barbercheck, Vicki Burkhalter, Elisabeth Jenicek, Tom Garza, Katherine Jones, Tod Satterthwaite, Carol Knepp, Rex Knepp, Robert Selby, Perry Morris, Kathy Reeves, Neil Lasater, Antje Kolodziej, and Jerry Schmidt.

From the President

I would like to thank PACA's Executive Director Karen Kummer, the PACA Board of Directors, the Solon House Project Committee, the Salvage Warehouse volunteers, and all the other volunteers who made the open house a grand success. Without all of the help it could not have happened.

Close to 600 people went through the house, and PACA raised \$5,400 toward the cost of the new roof, plus adding new more members! Just about everyone who toured the house had a story about the Solons or the house. It is a shame that we did not have a tape recorder to save the stories. Their wonderful memories made the tour even more worth while.

Thanks again,
Jerry Schmidt
PACA President

Francis and Abbie Solon House Buyer Information

The house will be auctioned to pre-qualified buyers with a minimum starting bid of \$325,000.

All bidders must be pre-qualified financially (through a letter from a financial institution).

All bidders must be approved through a prequalification application submitted to PACA by December 1, 2007.

An auction will be held in December 2007 at a time agreed upon by all pre-qualified and approved bidders.

Prequalification bid packets are available from PACA at a cost of \$15.00.

For further information or to obtain a pre-qualification bid packet, contact PACA at 217-359-7222; pacaexdir@insightbb.com; P.O. Box 2575, Champaign, IL 61825.

Heritage Grants Awarded

At their June meeting, the PACA Board of Directors awarded the following Heritage Grants:

Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, Historic window repair workshop supplies (\$1,000)

Sesquicentennial Neighborhood Association, On-going sign project (\$2000)

University YMCA, On-going repointing project (\$1,500)

Channing-Murray Foundation, Paint ceilings and walls (\$378)

Edison Middle School, Purchase video camcorder and digital cameras for history and architecture class project

Ilona Matkovszki, Urbana plat map documentation project (\$360)

Historic Building Art Contest

The City of Urbana's Historic Preservation Commission hosted an art show and contest about historic preservation for local high school students during Preservation Month. Original student artwork and essays were displayed in May at National Register-listed Lincoln Square Village. First and second place winning submissions were highlighted in the June-July newsletter.

This project was made possible by the following sponsors: Art Coop, Busey Bank, Cinema Gallery, International Galleries, the Preservation and Conservation Association, the Urbana Business Association, the Urbana Historic Preservation Commission, Lincoln Square Village, and the City of Urbana.

The Fairy House Zach Korol, third place

Along Busey Avenue in Urbana, Illinois lies a house better fit for forest gnomes than Urbana residents. This cottage is known as the Fairy House, a charming little home built by Joseph Royer, a famous architect who lived in Urbana. Royer was hired by the Trustees of the Hubbard Estate to develop the area for T.S. Hubbard's Elmwood addition to Urbana.

Royer fulfilled the terms of this Elmwood agreement by building and designing a [his own] large stucco building in 1905 next door to the Fairy House, which he built in 1923. This small house has gone by many names. Some of them include the Gingerbread House, the Hansel and Grete Cottage, and perhaps most commonly the Fairy House. Making this small cottage seem even more like it was something out of a fairy tale was the first occupant, Mrs. Ella Danely, who was Royer's mother-in-law. Mrs. Danely was also called "Grandma Danely." She would bake cookies for the neighborhood kids while Adelaide, Royer's wife, told the children stories about magical creatures that "inhabited the Fairy House."

Royer built this house for Mrs. Danely. She lived in the Fairy House while Royer and his wife lived in the large stucco house next door. A later owner of the Fairy House was Ms. St. Claire who, until 1994, was the owner of the house.

Data Sheet for 503 S. State Street

Region 07, Area #01, Grid #54; Subdivision: Thomas Near: Healey Street
PIN#: 43-20-13-204-002 Legal Description: North 190' of Block 4 in Thomas Subdivision

Grade School: SOC; Jr. High: SOC; Senior HS: Central
Zoning: In-Town Single Family District, IT-SF1; Lot size: 190' x 210'

Built 1867; 2½ story Italianate, single-family; 10 rooms, 5 bedrooms, 1 full bath, 1 half-bath, no garage

Formal Parlor: 18'1 x 14'9	first floor	Upper Level SF:1870
Dining Room: 17'1 x 16'5	first floor	Main Level SF 1870
Kitchen: 18'9 x 15'6	first floor	Basement SF:1870
Library: 17'2 x 14'11	first floor	Approx. SF:3740
Back Parlor: 12'8 x 14'11	first floor	

Maids Room 11'9 x 9'7	second floor	Ceiling Height:
Bedroom 1: 18'3 x 14'10	second floor	First Floor: 11'0'
Bedroom 2: 18'3 x 14'10	second floor	Second Floor: 10'6"
Bedroom 3: 10'3 x 16'3	second floor	
Bedroom 4: 12'8 x 14'2	second floor	
Bedroom 5: 15'10 x 8'4	second floor	

Fireplace - Not functioning; Full basement, Family Room, Dining Room, Maid/Office

Tax Yr: 2006 Owner: Preservation & Conservation Association - 217-359-7222

Italianate Style, Brick Exterior, Limestone Foundation - Full unfinished basement, Sewer, Non-working Fireplace and numerous non-working stove chimneys, Municipal water; Hot Water heat, Electric/Natural Gas, Drywall/Plaster/Brick walls, Bay Window, Built-in Bookcase, Eat-in Kitchen, Pantry, Alarm System, 100 Amp, Two Porches, Deed Restrictions, Lead paint, Seller Disclosure, Tax Bill

She once said, "When I first moved into the Fairy House, my husband jokingly told me that there was only room for one person." Later, in 1972, Ms. St. Claire's husband died. "I didn't know that the one person would be me," Ms. St. Claire recalls. The current resident of the Fairy house is Alethea Taylor.

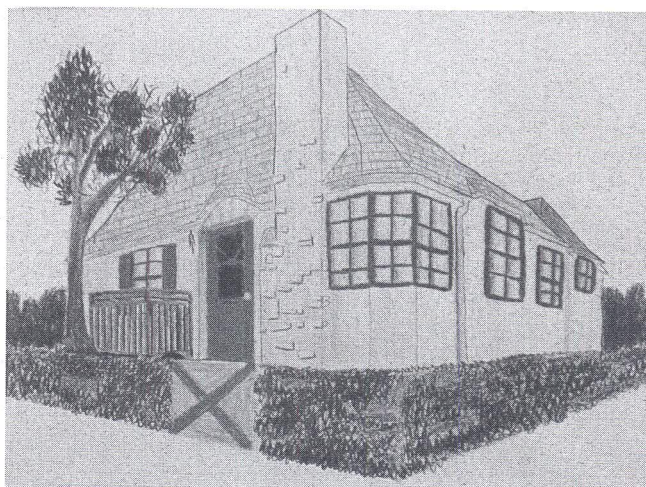
The "romantic quality" of the Fairy house has been kept alive all these years by Adelaide Royer. She wrote a book called "The Fairy House" containing a collection of short children's stories about the house. This was one book in a series of books by Adelaide called "The Round Window Series" (one of the windows in the fairy house is round) about houses in the Urbana-Champaign area.

Seeming very simple, this cottage is actually made and designed with many different materials. The Fairy House is made from stucco walls and reddish-brown wood for the shingles on the roof, the wood lining the windows, and for the thick, sturdy front door. One of most striking features of the Fairy House that also adds to its magic is the raw fieldstone that projects out of the stone chimney that is not set in line with the other brick. Another captivating feature is the stone arch above the door, also made with raw fieldstone. Completing the picture of this woodland house is the roof of the house which is extremely tall and has a curved lip at the bottom.

The flora growing in the house's small yard is actually in abundance. The yard is filled with hundreds of tulips, a crab tree, and a tall pine tree. This breathtaking yard is surrounded by a low brick fence covered in ivy and a red gate opening to

The Fairy House

Urbana Historic Building Art Contest - Third Place composition by Zach Korol.



a meandering path which leads to the front door.

This small house is full of style, but the name that was given to the style of this cottage is English Revival Style. English revival style means that the house has a sloping, uneven roof and is made of stucco, brick or stone walls. The house has a large stone chimney near the front door, and has small, paned windows. The cottage is asymmetrical with low arched doors, and has steep gables (the places where a roof comes to a point). All of these characteristics fit Royer's Fairy House, making it a perfect example of an English Revival home. Royer even added some of his own details to the house to make it look more like an English shepherd's cottage from the 1700's.

The contrast between the Mission Style house where Royer resided and the Fairy House shows how skilled he was with a variety of distinctive styles. This is likely why he was asked by T.S. Hubbard to build the estate in the first place and why

he was called upon to design many other Urbana buildings such as Urbana High School. Royer was a success as an architect and added to the diversity of Urbana through architectural eyes.

Thanks to Anna Hochhalter, Public Arts Coordinator, City of Urbana, for the information in this article.

New Urbana Landmarks

In June, the Urbana City Council designated two historic homes as landmarks. The Sutton House (1889), 502 W. Elm, was built by Mrs. Elizabeth Sutton, the widow of Royal .A. Sutton, former mayor and the "brick king of Urbana." Next door at 504 W. Elm is the Freeman House (1902), built by Gus and Alice Freeman. Gus was a railroad engineer and later owner of an early movie theater (the Princess). Alice was the daughter of banker Simeon Busey. The architect of their house was Joseph Royer. In November, the 800 block of W. Main was designated the city's third, and largest (14 houses), historic district.

P.A.C.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

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

Additional Contribution _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PACA

TYPE

- New _____
- Renewal _____

PACA

BOX 2575, STATION A
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61825
WWW.PACACC.ORG
217 359 7222

INFORMATION:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



CUTC actors Kelly Warner and Phil Strang portray John and Augusta Mengel. They owned a saloon and billard's parlor on Market Street in Champaign during the 1890s.

Mount Hope Cemetery Tour

The Champaign-Urbana Theatre Company (CUTC), and the Preservation and Conservation Association sponsored a second walking tour of historic Mount Hope Cemetery on October 7. Over seventy-five people braved unusually HOT weather to take tours, led by PACA and CUTC volunteers, which delved into the history of the cemetery and grave stone architecture. CUTC actors also portrayed prominent "residents" and explained their role in the history of Champaign, Urbana, and the University of Illinois. Our thanks go to the CUTC, the actors, and tour guides.

Thanks to: Neil Lasater, Perry Morris, Susan Appel, Allen Avner, Rich Cahill, Wendy Harris, Kathy Murphy, Mary Claire Smith, Allyson Dunlap, Sally Denhart, David Ruzic, Kevin Collins, Frank Thomas, Pat Thomas, Kelly Warner, Phil Strang, Diane Pritchard, Doug Rokke, Kent Snodgrass, Mount Hope Cemetery and Jim Hudson.

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

Gerald Schmidt, President
Catherine Barbercheck, Vice-President
Sarah Nemeth, Treasurer
Elisabeth Jenicek, Secretary
Karen Lang Kummer, Exec. Director

359-PACA: Telephone & Answering Service
website: pacacc.org
e-mail: pacaexdir@insightbb.com
Printed on recycled paper

Salvage VIP's

Rich Cahill	Betty Swisher
Bob Swisher	Darrel Foste
Brian Duffield	Mike Miller
Neil Lasater	Samantha Malloy
Jerry Schmidt	Elisabeth Foste
Mike Richards	Al Friederick
Dan Leasure	Lee Stoops
Suzanne Ashley-Wannemuehler	

Salvage Donations

Champaign County Public Works
Walter Ezell
Scott Nelson
Ken Miller
Dave Rear
Bill DeJarnette
Urbana Park District

New & Renewing Memberships

(received since the last newsletter)

Charter Members (1981-1983)

James & Mare Payne

Fantastic Supporters (Over Twenty Year Members)

Steve & Kathy Roemmel
Bruce Hutchings

Eleven to Twenty Year Members

Monica J. Cox
Rita Gentry
Kevin Fahey & Ann Bergeron
Community Development Department,
City of Urbana (Corporate)
Joan Zagorski

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.



membership runs 1 yr from: 04/10/06

Richard Cahill
307 South Orchard
Urbana, IL 61801

Five to Ten Year Members

Caren & Jesse Spencer-Smith
Harold & Margaret Balbach
Kathy & Jonathan Sweedler
Tod & Beth Satterthwaite
Bill Roberts
Merle Stauffer
Katie Davidson & Rick Harton
Ann Zahner
Ruth Miller
Kay McCool

One to Four Year Members

Josh & Ashley Pollet
Dianna Visek
Mary Ann Bunyan
Tod & Stephanie Fisher
Jay Diffendorfer & Amy King
Ed & Diane Wilhite
Kay Bock & David Irwin
Ellen Beattie
Melvyn Skvarla
Susan & Dave Warner
Gordon Cohen

New Members

Nancy Yeagle & Harold Allston
Sandra Talbott & Sheri Stinson
Erik Paulson
Robert & Cathy Inman
Mary Auth
Mary Sue Amin
Anne Faber
Walter E. Hoffmann
Cara Day
Bill & Lisa Trimble
Barbara J. Payne
Michael Meadows & Jean Ascoli
Bill, Diana & Cori Williams
Jack Brown
Dorothy Baker
Suzanne Skaggs
Barbara Wysocki
Leonard E. Wilson
Christopher Lubienski
Vicky D. Smith

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHAMPAIGN, IL
PERMIT NO. 133

Preservation makes history live in the present.

6180133999 0034

