

PRESERVATION MATTERS

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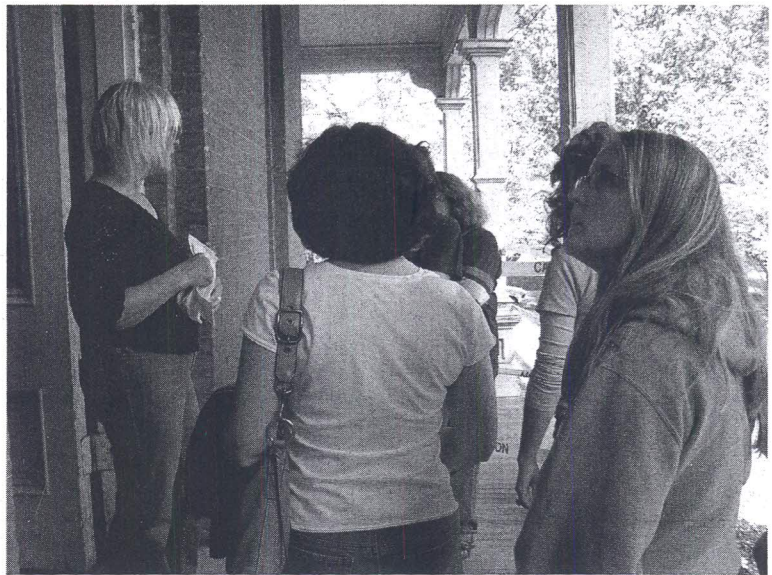
NUMBER 5

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 Kaczmariski, 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

