

PRESERVATION MATTERS

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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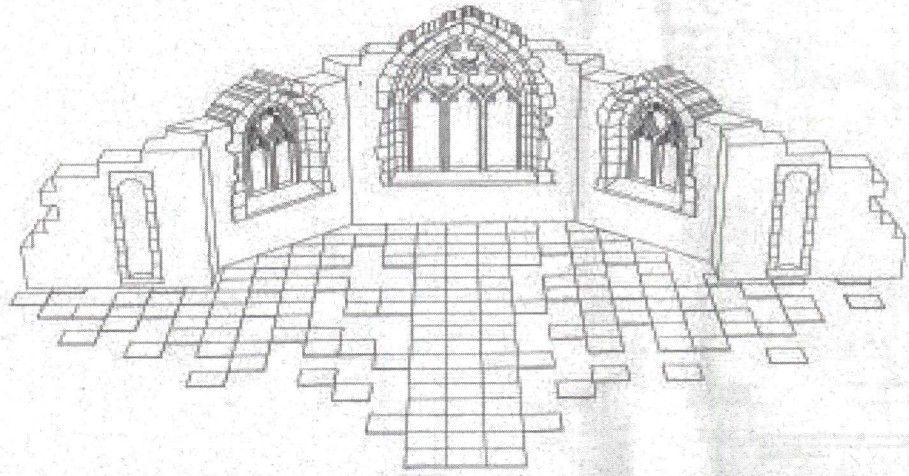
"Gothic Folly"

In the fall of 2004, PACA acquired about 200 pieces of limestone from the University of Illinois. These pieces comprise parts of three Gothic windows, two doorways, two niches, and a column from a fifteenth-century castle or chateau near Poitiers, along the Clain River in west central France. The limestone initially belonged to the Art Institute of Chicago, which acquired them in 1922 and incorporated the pieces into the Buckingham Room (old Buckingham Medieval Gallery), a one-story building that was demolished to build a new three-story modern addition.

In 1985, the pieces were transferred to the University of Illinois' World Heritage Museum and were stored in the basement of Lincoln Hall. Spurlock Museum, successor to the World Heritage Museum, deaccessioned the pieces and transferred ownership to PACA in 2004. Since that time, PACA has struggled with finding a use for the stone.

A University of Illinois architecture graduate student, Rodney Howlett, II, undertook a study of the stone and its reuse as an independent project under the direction of Jeffrey Gordon. His idea, supported by PACA, is to erect the stone as a "Gothic Folly."

Under this plan, the three Gothic windows would be placed in a slight semi-octagonal shape with the two niches flanking them at right angles. Permeable paving stones would create a small plaza in front of the structure. The site could be used as a quiet meditation spot and/or as the location for weddings and other ceremonies. The cost of such a project is estimated to be in the \$300,000 range. However, the location of such a folly is still to be determined. Suggested locations include Allerton Park, the University of Illinois Arboretum, or a local park district.



A possible reconstruction of the fifteenth-century limestone pieces recently acquired by PACA as a "Gothic Folly."

The stone is currently being stored in the basement of Lincoln Hall. PACA needs to move the stone this summer so that the long-awaited Lincoln Hall rehabilitation project can proceed. Due to the location and weight of the stone, the move will be difficult and a new storage site for the stone still needs to be found along with a permanent "home."

PACA is soliciting ideas for both the location of this "Gothic Folly" and for financing the project. In addition, volunteers to move the stone are needed. The move is planned for August 22-23. Please contact PACA to help (359-7222 or pacaexdir@com.cast.net).

2009 Ten Most Endangered Historic Places

This year's list of threatened sites was announced on April 28th at a press conference at the State Capitol in Springfield. The annual **Ten Most Endangered Historic Places list** is designed to focus attention on sites throughout Illinois threatened by deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funds, or inappropriate develop-

ment. Since the program's inception in 1995, 40 sites have been saved, 34 have been demolished or substantially altered, and 81 remain threatened. For a detailed list of all 155 sites, see the "Ten Most" Archives on the Landmarks Illinois website landmarks.org.

Arcade Building Riverside Rd., Riverside (Cook Co.)

Designed by architect Frederick C. Withers, a former business partner of landscape architect Calvert Vaux, this is one of the village's oldest buildings and an early example of a multi-tenant commercial structure in the U.S. In 2007, the village approved restoration of the 136-year-old building. However, midway through the project, the property owner was faced with foreclosure proceedings. The building was vacated in January and ownership has been transferred to the mortgage holder. The fear is that the unstable real estate market could further delay the restoration, leaving the empty building vulnerable to neglect. The building is a local landmark and part of the larger Riverside National Historic Landmark District.

Archer House
717 Archer Ave., Marshall (Clark Co.)

Situated on Historic U.S. Route 40 — the “National Road” — the 1841 Archer House is one of the oldest hotels in Illinois. Built by the town’s founder, Col. William B. Archer, it served as a stage-coach stop for travelers and remains a gateway to downtown Marshall. Col. Archer served in the Illinois Legislature for 16 years and was both a colleague and friend of attorney Abraham Lincoln, who stayed in the hotel after presenting cases at the nearby Clark County Courthouse. After 164 years of continuous operation, the National Register-listed hotel closed in 2005 when the last owner took ill. Unless a suitable buyer can be found and repairs are made, the future of the historic inn remains uncertain.

Aurora Masonic Temple
104 S. Lincoln Ave., Aurora (Kane Co.)

Designed by architect William Q. Bendus in 1922, this Neoclassical building—with over 50,000 square feet of assembly space—occupies a prominent place in the cityscape. It was constructed by the Aurora Masonic Alliance and served as the home of numerous organizations over the years. The structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and falls within the Near Eastside Aurora Historic District. When the Masons sold the temple in the mid-1980s, it was converted to a banquet facility and offices. Since its closure in 2006, the building has suffered from deferred maintenance, resulting in water infiltration and damage to architectural features. Spalling concrete, a condition that could become hazardous if not repaired, has prompted the City to take the matter to building court.

Chautauqua Auditorium
Forest Park, Shelbyville (Shelby Co.)

Built by H.B. Trout in 1903, this 20-sided wood-frame auditorium is 150 feet in diameter. It has a patented radial roof truss system, which was invented by Morrison H. Vail in 1902. The structure can hold 6,000 patrons, making it the largest surviving “Chautauqua” auditorium of its kind in the nation. The auditorium was built as part of the Chautauqua Movement, which promoted education and entertainment through communal events. In the 1910s and 1920s, vaudevillians Gallagher & Shean and local band-

leader George Goforth were regular performers. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978, but a century of deterioration and the need for a complete roof replacement pose serious structural challenges. An initial restoration bid was estimated at \$1.75 million. The City Council has indicated that the building will be razed if repairs are not addressed in two years.

Davenport, Rock Island & Northwestern Depot
2021 River Dr., Moline (Rock Island Co.)

Located in the Quad Cities along the Illinois side of the Mississippi River, this turn-of-the-century train depot was designed by architect Olaf Z. Cervin of Rock Island, completed in 1900, and was in active use for over 30 years. In 1934, the decommissioned depot was converted into offices for the Frank Foundry Company. The City of Moline purchased the building in 1994, designated it a local landmark, and renovated it as a Visitor Center. That facility closed in May 2008 and the building is now vacant. A new federal highway bridge is scheduled for construction at this location, and the depot stands in the way of an off-ramp.

Lewis Pharmacy Interior
8 S. Main St., Canton (Fulton Co.)

The interior of the historic pharmacy remains virtually unchanged from its opening in 1915, when it was termed the finest drug store in Illinois. The shop retains its original cabinetry, booths, soda fountain, checkerboard floor and decorative art glass. The pharmacy was operated by the Gustine family until 1937, when it was sold to the Lewis family who operated it for an additional 72 years. Edward Lewis, Jr. retired and closed the pharmacy in February. The hope is to find a new owner that would like to preserve this historic institution, but if an appropriate buyer can not be found, the furniture and fixtures will soon be sold at auction. While Canton is an Illinois Main Street community, it does not currently have a local landmark program to protect historic buildings from demolition.

Michael Reese Hospital Campus
29th St. and Ellis Ave., Chicago (Cook Co.)

This Near South Side lakefront complex has been identified as the site of the proposed Olympic Village. One of the exist-

ing 29 buildings is the historic Michael Reese Hospital Building designed by Schmidt, Garden & Martin in 1907. It is one of the city’s most significant early hospital designs, combining modern design concepts with rich architectural details. The building—listed previously on Landmarks Illinois’s Chicagoland Watch List—and 28 other buildings on the campus have been identified for potential demolition this summer by the City of Chicago. New research has revealed the influence of architect and Bauhaus School founder Walter Gropius on the post-WWII expansion of the hospital campus. Although city officials say the historic building will be retained, it was included in an April 2009 Request for Qualifications for demolition.

Porthole Barns of Greene County
(Greene Co.)

This grouping of 30 barns can be seen dotting the countryside north of St. Louis. Joe Minch, a shipbuilder who migrated to the Rockbridge area in 1874, offered to build a barn for a local farmer in exchange for a set of tools. Included in his design was a round, porthole window that was a carry-over from his shipbuilding days and became a signature of his work. Because agricultural practices have changed in the last century, these barns are often too small to accommodate modern farming equipment. Lack of use and deferred maintenance has led to the deterioration of Minch’s barns. Four of the barns attributed to Minch have been lost in recent years and it is feared that much of the collection will disappear if not stabilized.

Prentice Women’s Hospital
251 E. Huron St., Chicago (Cook Co.)

Designed by Bertrand Goldberg—architect of Chicago’s Marina City—this 1975 hospital building is one of his most iconic works. When constructed, the hospital was intended to handle 3,000 newborn deliveries a year. By 2000, it was taking on more than twice the intended number of births and, when a new facility opened in 2007, the cloverleaf concrete tower was vacated. The base of the building remains occupied by a psychiatric center that will move in two years, at which time ownership will transfer to Northwestern University. The university has discussed constructing a new research facility on the site, rather than exploring adaptive use of the existing Goldberg-designed structure.

*Shawneetown Bank
Old Shawneetown (Gallatin Co.)*

This three-story building, which is considered one of Illinois's best examples of Greek Revival architecture, was constructed in 1839 for the Bank of Illinois at Shawneetown. It is the oldest bank building in the state. Although the original bank suspended operations in 1843, it housed numerous financial institutions over the years.

After the Flood of 1937, Shawneetown residents were forced to relocate the entire city. When the last bank occupant left in 1942, the property was deeded to the State of Illinois. The building was restored as a state historic site in the 1970s, but it has been closed to the public much of that time. Budgetary concerns place this property, and numerous other shuttered state historic sites, in continued danger of neglect.

*Chicago Landmark Ordinance
Chicago (Cook Co.)
"A Special 11th Designation"*

Due to a January 30, 2009, Appellate Court ruling, the city's 41-year-old ordinance is operating under a cloud. The court said the ordinance's criteria for landmark designation were "vague" and sent the case back to the trial court for review. A new decision is expected by the trial court in late-summer 2009. The final results of the case could have a huge impact on not only the 277 Chicago landmark buildings and 51 districts, but on local landmark ordinances across Illinois and the nation.



**Volunteer Spotlight --
Betty Swisher**

Betty Harper Swisher grew up on a farm near Syracuse, Kansas. She attended college in Wichita, Kansas and then moved to Denver, Colorado. After living in Colorado for several years, she moved to Illinois where she raised her two children while living in the country outside of Urbana. Her children, Kris and Darin, are now both married and living in Denver and Wichita respectively and together have given Betty four wonderful grandchildren. Professionally, Betty worked as an Administrative Assistant in Special Education for the Urbana School District

for twenty-five years, retiring in 2003. She now works part time driving a van for Clark-Lindsey Village in Urbana where she takes residents to appointments and on fun van trips in town and out of town. Recreationally, Betty enjoys watching for good buys of Depression glass on the many trips that she and husband Bob take around the country; these are then resold at their Victorian House (Main Street, Mahomet) antique booth. In her spare time, Betty enjoys reading and working in the flower garden. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the C-U One-to-One mentoring program after years of service as a mentor - befriending her student from middle school through high school graduation!

Betty became a PACA volunteer by marriage. She married Bob Swisher sixteen years ago and the rest is history. She has helped on many salvage sites - uncovering some great finds that the guys missed. Betty volunteers at the warehouse where she has spent hours washing light fixtures and pricing items. She is especially skilled at rearranging items and shaking up displays to keep things moving. Seems that as soon as she changes a display or prices something it goes right out the door. That is the plan right?

Volunteer Positions

PACA is run by volunteers and we can always use more help! Whether it is for a few hours or a longer-term involvement, there is a place for your help. Below are just a few ideas of how you can be a PACA VIP (volunteer in preservation).

Website Manager

Gothic Folly project help

PACA library cataloger

Brick Yard gang

Possible Lincoln Hall salvager

Salvage Warehouse organizer

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.

Heritage Grants Awarded

This year, PACA awarded Heritage Grants to three area non-profit organizations.

Channing-Murray Foundation, 1209 West Oregon St., U for the restoration of entry doors, repair and painting of stucco exterior, repair of Chapel flooring, \$1950

Champaign County Historical Museum, 102 East University Ave., C for Phase I repair of exterior wood window trim, \$600

Center for Women in Transition, 508 East Church St., C for the repair of the Evans House porch, \$2,000

Since 1994, PACA has returned over \$81,000 to the Champaign County community in the form of grants to area non-profit organizations. These grants have

paid for bricks-and-mortar projects, such as repointing, roof repairs, and stain-glass window restoration. Other grants have paid for elementary school field trips to study historic architecture and sites, or to purchase equipment for history projects. Historic structure reports for historic buildings are another way the funds have been used. A complete list of projects is on the PACA website, pacacc.org. Request for proposals for 2010 grants will be issued next February.

New & Renewing Memberships (received since the last newsletter)

Charter Members (1981-1983)
Susan K. Appel

Fantastic Supporters (Over Twenty Year Members)
Glenna M. Bartell

Eleven to Twenty Year Members

Lisa Foster & Larry Keller
Joe Donahue
Ann Lowry
John & Carol Leasure
Jody & Fred Seibold
Ray Lytle
Louisette Zuidema
Sharen Slade
Al Friederich & Peggy Shaw
Roger & Dolores Yarbrough
Jennifer Hines & Robert Krumm
Jeffrey J. Mellander
Ernie Martin & William Capel
Isotech Laboratories, Inc. (Corporate)

Five to Ten Year Members

Sid Duke
Elisabeth Jenicek
Ed & Alice Vernon
Dan McCulley Family
Jan & Karen Miller
Ralph Langenheim
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Jakobsson
Zarina Hock
Gary & Jan Peters

One to Four Year Members

Jessica Howen & Stann Starr
Kathy McGee
Maureen Tan
Medford Johnson
A. Mark Neuman

New Members

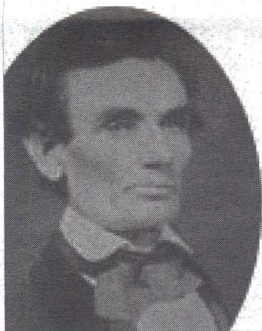
Claire & Brian Deal

*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.*

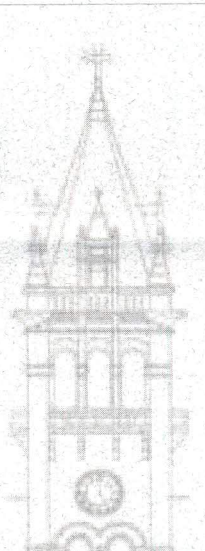
The public is invited
to attend the dedication and opening of the
Champaign County Courthouse Clock and Bell Tower
and the Lincoln Exhibit
Abraham Lincoln: Large Presence in a Small Town

Saturday, August 29, 9:00 a.m.
Champaign County Courthouse

Dedication Ceremony begins at 9 a.m.
Tours from 10 a.m. - 12 noon

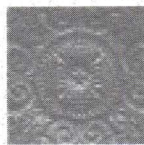


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**Preservation Matters: newsletter of the
Preservation and Conservation Association**
P.O. Box 2575, Station A, Champaign, IL 61825

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359-PACA: Telephone & Answering Service
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e-mail: pacaexdir@comcast.net

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

membership runs 1 yr from: 04/10/06

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Historic Preservation - The Original
Green!

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