HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK

"Preservation is Housing America" is this year's theme of Historic Preservation Week. PACA has a number of activities planned to highlight the national observance.

On Sunday, May 8 from 1-5 p.m., the Champaign County Historical Museum and PACA will hold the Piety Hill Promenade. This is a walking tour of six homes located along University and Church Avenues and will include a lawn party on the grounds of Cheshire Estates. Tickets are $7.50, $6.00 for PACA and CCHM members, and are available from PACA, CCHM and Robesons.

A photographic exhibit, "Lost Champaign-Urbana," will open at the Champaign County Historical Museum May 8. This display depicts some of the buildings which have been lost over the years — mansions, churches, hotels, railroad stations, commercial buildings, schools. The exhibit is included on the walking tour. It will run until mid-July.

On Monday, May 9 at 10 a.m., Neil Strack and Karen Kummer will be featured on WILL's "Focus 580" radio call-in show. On Friday, May 13 at 10 a.m., Bob Swisher, Salvage Chairman, will be featured on the WDWS radio program "Penny For Your Thoughts." The topics for both shows will be historic preservation in general and PACA's activities in Champaign County.

PRESERVATION IS HOUSING AMERICA

A Preservation Film Night will be held at the Champaign Public Library on Thursday, May 12. Featured films include The Victorian House: Identification and Conservation; A Place to be Human; Working Places; A Place in Time; Ohio Preservation: Reflections for the Future, and The Cattle Bank Restoration. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

A Historic Preservation Display will be set up in the lobbies of the Champaign Public and the Urbana Free Libraries. The displays highlight Historic Preservation Week and PACA's activities.

Please plan to participate in all of these activities.

PACA ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Membership Meeting was held January 31, 1983 at the Cattle Bank. Approximately fifty people attended the business portion of the meeting conducted by President Lachlan Blair. Events of 1982 were reviewed, such as the Urbana Community Development Workshops (Feb.-June); Preservation Week (May); Rantoul's Little House move (August); the Urbana Walking Tour (Oct.); the Preservation Tax Incentive Conference (Oct.); and the NEH Youth Planning Grant (Oct.). 1982's fiscal report was discussed and the 1983 budget proposed.

After the business meeting, a short slide show was presented by Gregory Hargus, Chairman of the Cattle Bank Committee. This preliminary presentation detailed the restoration of the Cattle Bank undertaken by the developers, Leon Jeske and Edward Haas.

The membership also elected three Board members to terms expiring in 1985: Hermenia Kruidenier, Dan Eaton and James Mathien. Currently serving on the Board are William Schmidt (83), Mark Replogle (83), Robert Swisher (83), Lachlan Blair (84), Neil Strack (84), and Gregory Hargus (84).

Please feel free to call on any Board member with questions or comments. PACA would like to thank Pattsi Petrie and Michael Lambert for their past service to the Board of Directors.
PACA'S SALVAGE COMMITTEE: An Update

One of the most active areas of PACA this year has been in salvage. The salvage program was initially started with the acquisition of items from the Neil Street buildings demolished to make way for the Bank of Illinois development.

The inventory now consists of tin ceilings, wooden doors, and smaller miscellaneous items, which are presently stored in various basements around town. Mr. Ballard of Centerline has donated storage space on State Street in Champaign so all present and future acquisitions will be stored in one place.

The Salvage Committee has contacted officials of both cities and the University of Illinois about PACA’s program. The response has been very favorable and hopefully this will ensure that PACA will be able to take the appropriate steps well in advance of demolition so that every effort can be made to salvage items of value.

PACA wishes to thank the following people: Mr. Cousins of the Physical Plant: Dan Wack, Bill Stallman, Ann Swearingen of Space Utilization; Gene Pitcher, Fred Green, Don Winterbottom of Capital Programs; Jack Smith of Housing. Through their combined efforts, we received a sounding from the Chancellor’s Office that gives PACA some latitude to deal with the successful building contractors who get the bid to demolish state or university property. The restrictions and red tape which must be followed with state property are awesome, but not insurmountable. University officials seem to be particularly sympathetic to our cause as they have short of storage space and the cost of salvage labor is often too high to be practical.

So far this year we have been contacted about nine pieces of property scheduled for demolition and have advance knowledge of four or five more. The mayors of both cities have asked the appropriate officials to contact PACA about any major remodeling projects or demolition pending. We have also been asked to advise property owners as to the architectural or historical value of certain edifices in the country.

Typical items that are considered salvageable are: wooden doors, window frames, floors, mantles, moldings, railings, marble countertops, cornerstones, statuary, tile, stone or metal ornamentation, metal ceilings, leaded and stained glass, light and plumbing fixtures, benches and church pews. We are particularly interested in unusual examples of the above. Items salvaged will be offered for resale to the public, with the stipulation that they are used similarly to the originally intended usage.

In the near future the Salvage Committee intends to contact all the garbage and trash collectors in the twin cities and surrounding areas to make them aware of our efforts. We also plan to notify companies that specialize in destruction and demolition of our interest.

Hermenia Krudener and Bob Swisher are presently heading the Salvage Committee of PACA; anyone interested in volunteering or having any questions should contact them.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

PACA has appointed a new Membership Chairman, Greg Hargus, and has set a goal of increasing membership by 50%. A number of methods for attaining this goal have been devised and will be tested over the next few months. Current members are being asked at this time to submit names of people they think would be interested in joining PACA to either Greg (1-469-2534) or Karen Kummer (359-7404).

PACA appreciates the many and prompt membership renewals that have come in so far this year. For those of you who have not yet renewed, a form is included in this newsletter. A red dot on your mailing label will remind you that we have not yet received your membership renewal. A green dot signifies that you have been receiving a complimentary copy and we hope that you will consider joining. Remember, PACA needs community support!

NEH YOUTH GRANT

The Planning Committee’s work on the NEH Youth Grant project is progressing quite well. It has been decided to run a small pilot program this year in order to test the idea and the procedures involved before beginning a large scale program.

The pilot project will involve 12-15 junior high students who will select a building located along W. Main Street, Urbana, and do historical and architectural research on the building. By doing this research, the students will learn how to use the resources available at the Champaign County Historical Archives, the Illinois Historical Survey, the Champaign County Historical Museum and the Recorder of Deeds office. In addition, the entire program will be videotaped by junior high students enrolled in the Champaign Park District’s video class and will be available for public use. Essentially, the entire project is being conducted by the students.

The program, entitled “Look Up Main Street,” will be held from 9 to 12, Monday through Thursday, from June 13 to 30 and will operate out of the Urbana Free Library Auditorium. It is open to any junior high age student, but the program is limited to 15. A fee of $12.00 covers the cost of materials. Students interested in the program should contact Karen Kummer (359-7404) for further information and registration.

The planning committee has set a goal of increasing membership by 50%. A number of methods for attaining this goal have been devised and will be tested over the next few months. Current members are being asked at this time to submit names of people they think would be interested in joining PACA to either Greg (1-469-2534) or Karen Kummer (359-7404).

PACA appreciates the many and prompt membership renewals that have come in so far this year. For those of you who have not yet renewed, a form is included in this newsletter. A red dot on your mailing label will remind you that we have not yet received your membership renewal. A green dot signifies that you have been receiving a complimentary copy and we hope that you will consider joining. Remember, PACA needs community support!
Notes

PACA has approached the Champaign County Board and offered its help and resources in the search for a solution to the problem of the County's round barn located on the grounds of the Champaign County Nursing Home, 1701 E. Main, Urbana. The barn is considered a health hazard due to the failure of a section of the roof; this has allowed pigeons to roost inside resulting in a potentially serious histoplasmosis situation. The County Board has considered demolishing the structure which is a rare building form and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Christie Building Inc. has also been approached by PACA with regards to the planned expansion of Christie Clinic. This expansion would entail the demolition of the buildings located on University and Neil streets. It is hoped that some of the buildings might be able to be incorporated into the expansion plans in which case the ERTA tax incentives for historic preservation could be used.

CATTLE BANK DEDICATION

Over 500 people attended dedication and open house festivities at the Cattle Bank on April 9. Mayor Joan Severns, who had been instrumental in saving the building, officiated at the ceremony where a brass plaque denoting the building's construction (1858), listing on the National Register of Historic Places (1975) and its restoration (1983) was placed on the building. A short summary of the history of the project was presented by Lachlan Blair, past-president of PACA; and throughout the day PACA volunteers gave guided tours of the building.

The day was also marked by many “period pieces.” “Abraham Lincoln” accompanied the Mayor on a horse and carriage ride from city hall to the Bank. Mr. Lincoln knew B. F. Harris, who was a later owner of the bank. Jean Geils & performers, in period costumes, sang music that had been played at a concert in West Urbana in 1858.

The 1860 vintage “Steinway” piano was noted by the piano tuner to be in excellent condition.

PACA salutes the perseverance and determination of Leon Jeske and Edward Haas, the project's developers. A special note of appreciation is given to PACA's Cattle Bank Committee: Gregory Hargus, Chairman; William Schmidt and Bruce Hannon. These volunteers spent many long hours doing detailed research and helping the developers to see that the restoration was as accurate as possible.

The 3000 square foot space is available for rent or lease.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to staff the rooms of the homes which will be opened on May 8 for the "Piety Hill Promenade." The main responsibilities will be safeguarding the owners' possessions and crowd control. Help is also needed for serving lemonade and cookies at the lawn party. The volunteers will work in two shifts: 1-3 p.m. or 3-5 p.m. and will receive a complimentary tour ticket. For further information or to volunteer call 356-1010.

Preservation Week

May 8-14, 1983

Don't forget the "Piety Hill Promenade"
Sunday
May 8,
1-5 p.m.
PRESERVATION CALENDAR

April
30 Champaign County Arts & Humanities Council - Beaux Arts Gala, 1 Main Street, Champaign, 8pm-1am

May
1 Chicago - Tour of N.W. side churches (Pulaski, Park Fieldhouse), 1-5pm
8-15 Historic Preservation Week - see article for planned events.
7-8 Early American Museum, Mahomet - Civil War Days, 12-5pm
14 District, 11am & 2pm
14-15 Bishop Hill - Open House Tour, 10am-5pm
15 Chicago - Beverly Hills/ Morgan Park Historical & Architectural Home Tour, 12-4pm

June
3-4 Jacksonville - Illinois Preservation Conference
11-12 Galena - June Open House, 9am to 5pm
17-19 Vandalia - Grand Levee at Statehouse
25-26 Peoria Vicinity - Old English Faire at Jubilee College State Historic Site

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

At its February meeting, the Board of Directors elected the following new officers: President, Neil Strack; Vice president, William Schmidt; Secretary-Treasurer, Mark Replogle, Lachlan Blair and James Mathien were appointed to the Executive Committee. The Board also accepted the resignation of Dan Eaton who resigned due to unexpected, additional professional responsibilities. The Nominating Committee is seeking names of people who would be interested in serving on the Board, particularly if they reside outside the C-U area. This would help strengthen PACA’s countywide commitment. Nominations may be given to any Committee member (Bob Swisher, Hermie Kruidenier, Greg Hargus).

PACA Newsletter
Published by the Preservation and Conservation Association of Champaign County.
President: Neil Strack
Vice President: William Schmidt
Sec.-Treas.: Mark Replogle
Exec. Director: Karen Lang Kummer

Please submit material for publication in the next newsletter before 15th of month.

Membership Application P.A.C.A

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

INDIVIDUAL

□ Adult ........................................ $10.00
□ Student (1/2 time or more) ............ $ 5.00
□ Family (includes all members of a household with no more than two members being over age 21) ............... $15.00
□ Additional Contribution

CIVIC

□ Over 100 members ........................ $100.00
□ 50-100 members ......................... $ 75.00
□ Up to 50 members ....................... $50.00

CORPORATE

□ ............................................ $ 50.00

□ RENEWAL  □ NEW MEMBERSHIP

NAME

ADDRESS  Street  State  Zip

Make check payable to: PACA, Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61820.