LOOK UP MAIN STREET

The NEH Youth Grant project, "Look Up Main Street," was developed to test a program that exposes area young people to the processes of historic preservation. Johanna Denzin, Rachael Denzin and Ed Scharlau participated in the three-week research project involving West Main Street, Urbana. They worked under the direction of Robert Begolka, a University of Illinois historic preservation and urban planning major. Each student chose a building: the Cinema Theater (E. Scharlau), 508 W. Main (R. Denzin), 510 W. Main and 803 Indiana (J. Denzin), and learned to use the informational sources available to them. Those included the Champaign County Historical Archives, the Champaign County Recorder of Deeds and Tax Assessor's Offices, the University of Illinois Libraries, and the Champaign County Historical Museum.

This research process taught the participants how to do title searches, review historic newspapers and use old city directories as well as searching through archival records. They were expected to exhaust all these resources, analyze the material gathered and compile the information into a final report. In addition, each student gave a videotaped report in front of their building. These reports plus additional footage will form a video summary of the entire project which will be available for public and school usage. Terry Schwartz, Director of Recreation for the Champaign Park District, did all of the videotaping.

The goal of this project was to expose young people to the enjoyment and value of historical research and preservation. The project was successful and all of the students are interested in participating again. A great deal of information was accumulated through the project and copies of this information have been given to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

URBANA SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Urbana has a number of activities planned to celebrate its 150th anniversary as both a town and the county seat. On Friday, August 26, "Urbana by Starlight" will be held at the Champaign County Bank Plaza. The Has Beens Orchestra will play their big band sound from 8-11. The annual Sweet Corn Festival is scheduled for Saturday, August 27, from 11:30 to 4:30.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
In May 1982, the Champaign City Council adopted an ordinance that will encourage the use of older buildings in Champaign. Council Bill 82-86 updated City building and fire safety codes and includes Article 26 “Repair, Alteration, Addition, and Change of Use of Existing Buildings.” The purpose of Article 26 is to provide guidance to users of the BOCA Basic Building Code, as amended by the City of Champaign, to allow repair, alteration, addition and change of use of existing buildings without requiring the entire building to be brought up to new construction requirements, while still providing for the public health, safety and general welfare.

Article 26 recognizes that the provisions of the BOCA code for new construction reflects the latest improvement in materials, construction techniques, standards of living and safety; and therefore, may preclude the repair, alteration, addition, or change of use of existing buildings that have demonstrated their usefulness and safety. These provisions apply to existing buildings and structures which have been occupied and/or used for a period of at least two years.

When using the provisions of Article 26, it should be noted that this is an alternative to certain sections of the building code, but does not replace all sections. Certain sections must be adhered to for new as well as existing construction. To determine what alternatives are allowed, existing buildings are categorized by a hazard index number for the type of building use. If the proposed use of a structure is of an equal or lesser hazard, further compliance with the code for new construction is not required except as specified in Article 26. When the proposed change in use results in a use group one hazard index number higher than its present use group as defined, the entire building must meet the requirements of the code for new construction with specific exceptions as defined in Article 26. However, when the proposed change in use results in a use group two or more hazard index numbers higher than its present use group as defined, the entire building must meet the requirements of the code for new construction.

Also included in Article 26 is an appendix containing data on construction systems no longer in general use but which may be encountered in older existing buildings. It is a means to be used for assessing existing conditions when evaluating how proposed changes will impact upon the performance of a building.

Further information on aspects of Champaign’s new building and fire codes and further inquiries can be made to the Code Enforcement Office. Copies of the ordinance can be obtained from the Champaign City Clerk. Also, a copy of the ordinance is on file at the Champaign Public Library and Information Center.

**Preservation-Related Courses, Fall 1983**

**University of Illinois**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<td>AFRO 161</td>
<td>Black Folk Culture</td>
<td>Stewart</td>
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<td>AFRO 253</td>
<td>Afro-American History to 1877</td>
<td>Walker</td>
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<td>ANTH 220</td>
<td>Introduction to Prehistory</td>
<td>Lewis</td>
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<td>ARCH 210</td>
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<td>ARCH 318</td>
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<td>ARCH 418</td>
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<td>GEOG 325</td>
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<td>GEOG 463</td>
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<td>HIST 365</td>
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<td>HIST 367</td>
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<td>UP 320</td>
<td>Planning For Historic Preservation</td>
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**Parkland College**

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>GSD 904</td>
<td>Reading the Landscape</td>
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ROUND BARN

At the request of PACA, an architectural and structural engineering team examined the structural condition of the County’s round barn located on the grounds of the Champaign County Nursing Home. Their report stated that the barn was apparently unchanged in its basic design and that the brick drum was in sound condition. However, extensive structural damage had occurred to the wood roofing system.

The roof was composed of three sections, each held together by a compression ring. Due to a lack of maintenance and subsequent water penetration, the entire roofing system had shifted or rotated at least 20 degrees. This resulted in an unstable (and unknown) load situation. In this condition, the roof was a safety hazard. Cost estimates for either rebuilding or stabilizing the roof were put at over $100,000.

No viable use for the building could be found by either the County or PACA. Its location, size, question of ownership and the type of structure did not easily suggest an adaptive use. Any cost of renovation would be in addition to the repair of the roof. Due to these economic factors, the Board of Directors voted not to stand in the way of the barn’s demolition. Subsequently, the barn was demolished the week of July 25.

It is hoped that this incident will show the need for a county-wide survey of historic buildings and sites and for the nomination of those eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.

If the barn had been listed earlier, it would have qualified for federal matching grants that could have been used to correct the roofing system before it had reached such a critical state.

Notes

The “Piety Hill Promenade,” held last May during Historic Preservation Week, was a complete success. Not only were expenses met, but both PACA and the Historical Museum added $360.00 to their general operating funds. Over 225 people toured the six homes, had refreshments and listened to the Peppermill String Band under a tent set up on the grounds of Cheshire Estates. A round of thanks is due all the homeowners and volunteers who made the day a success. Look for the 2nd annual promenade next May.

For Sale - late 19th-century house in Newman, IL. Brick, 2-story, 13 rooms, 12 foot ceilings, painted woodwork, barn and carport. Owners would like to sell to someone who would restore it. Contact PACA (359-7404).

Wanted - Old commercial building or house in Champaign-Urbana area suitable for use as a tea room. Contact PACA (359-7404).

The Urbana Sesquicentennial logo shown on page one of this issue was designed by Teri Blackmore of Abana Press’s art department.

THANKS TO BURNHAM HOSPITAL

A special thanks to Mr. Harry Querry and the administration of Burnham Hospital for requesting PACA to comment on their plans for the disposition of two houses, 313 E. Springfield and 206 E. Stoughton. Mr. Querry contacted PACA last spring about the proposed demolition of the two structures because the hospital was concerned about the possible historical or architectural significance of the buildings. PACA researched both properties and found that, while they were late 19th and early 20th century buildings, both had lost most of their architectural integrity. Moreover, other examples of these two vernacular styles (Queen Anne and “four-square”) exist in Champaign and Urbana which are of higher quality, in better condition and located within stable residential areas.

The hospital was informed of these facts and decided to proceed with demolition. PACA was given the salvage rights to both properties, however.

The community support shown by the hospital is commendable and hopefully will help insure that those structures that do prove to be significant will be preserved for the future.

PACA EVALUATING BARNs

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District has asked PACA to evaluate the historical value and structural condition of two area barns, one of which will be moved to the Early American Museum in Mahomet for display and storage purposes. PACA sent a structural engineer and an architect to the sites where they examined a large, c. 1850 dairy barn and a smaller, c. 1940 barn. The 19th century barn has mortise and tenon construction of a type common to northern Illinois and Wisconsin, but it is in poor condition and would have to be dismantled in order to be moved. The 20th century barn is probably of equal historical value as representative of a period in farm history and would be much easier to move. PACA is now in the process of contacting barn historians who should be able to give a clearer picture of the historical and architectural value of these two barns to Champaign County. The Forest Preserve District will delay any action until receiving PACA’s final report.

Remember, membership contributions to PACA are tax deductible!
CALENDAR

August
21  Peoria - Ice Cream Social & Art Fair at John C. Flanagan House (942 N.E. Glen Oak) 2-6 p.m.
26-27 Urbana - Urbana Sesquicentennial Celebration

September
3-4  Decatur - Annual Yesteryear Fair at North Fork Folk Art Center, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
10  Springfield - Brinkerhoff Home Fair (1500 N. Fifth) 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October
17-18 Utica - Turn-of-the-century Fair at Starved Rock State Park
17-18 Mahomet - Colonial Muster at Early American Museum

NEW BOARD MEMBER
Mrs. Judith Huisinga of Deland in Piatt County has been asked by the Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of Dan Eaton (1985). Mrs. Huisinga is a long-time resident of Piatt County and has an avid interest in preservation. She and her husband are currently restoring a Gothic Revival house in Monticello.

BE HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT!
Join PACA and support historic preservation in your community.

Membership Application P.A.C.A

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

INDIVIDUAL
☐ Adult ................................................. $10.00
☐ Student (¾ 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

NAME

ADDRESS

☐ RENEWAL  ☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP

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