



PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

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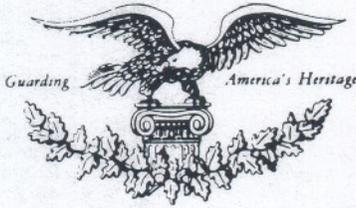
“The Past Has A Future”

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NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



The National Trust for Historic Preservation was chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1949 to facilitate public participation in the preservation of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history and culture. Support for this private, nonprofit organization is provided by membership dues, endowment funds, and contributions. Under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Trust is also entitled to matching grants from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

Located in Washington, D.C., the National Trust is involved in a wide range of preservation activities across the country. In addition to regional seminars and workshops, the Trust sponsors the National Preservation Conference held each October. Preservation Week, an annual May event, is also sponsored by the National Trust.

The Trust maintains thirteen historic properties including Lyndhurst in Tarrytown, New York, Drayton Hall in Charleston, South Carolina, and Filoli in Woodside, California. In Illinois, the Trust owns the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio which is operated by the Wright Home and Studio Foundation in Oak Park.

Materials on numerous preservation topics are collected in the National Trust's library. Some of these materials are available through interlibrary loan. Also available is a catalog of preservation films which may be rented through either the Trust or private distribution.

The National Trust offers two funding programs for which nonprofit or public member organizations are eligible. The Consultant Service Grant Program has matching funds available for the hiring of qualified professional consultants. The National Historic Preservation Fund provides low interest loans to assist nonprofit member organizations in establishing revolving funds. In addition to these funding programs, the Trust works with organizations through its Cosponsored Conference Grants Program. Other funds include the Preservation Education Fund and the Critical Issues Fund.

The Preservation Press, devoted exclusively to the topics of preservation and historic architecture, is an educational program of the Trust. The nonprofit Press is designed to increase understanding of preservation through publications. *Historic Preservation* and *Preservation News* are published by the Press, as well as books and other publications for the Trust. Catalogs on publications are available through PACA.

Other National Trust departments include landmarks and preservation law, plans and development, and education. The education department provides honors to students for achievement in the field of preservation and gives student writing and film awards.

In an effort to serve regional preservation needs more directly, the National Trust established six regional offices. The Midwest Office, which includes a region of ten states from Ohio to the Dakotas, was opened in Chicago in 1973. Located in the Old Colony Building, one of Chicago's landmark structures, the regional office functions primarily to serve as a clearing house for preservation information. The staff provides advice and technical assistance to organizations and on a more limited basis, to individuals. The office

maintains a Resource Center which holds a collection of publications on a variety of preservation issues, techniques, and technical aspects. The Preservation Resource Center is open to the public weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by appointment.

Membership to the Trust includes subscriptions to *Preservation News*, the monthly newspaper, and *Historic Preservation*, the bimonthly magazine. *Preservation News* contains information on the latest developments in the field of preservation, as well as regional news, historic properties, people, and possibilities in preservation. Other membership benefits include free admission to Trust properties, discounts on Preservation Press and Preservation Shops materials, study tour opportunities, and other benefits. PACA is a member organization.



Preservation
is taking care
of America.

Preservation Week May 13-19, 1984
National Trust for Historic Preservation

One final note: Matching grants for the National Trust are once again in serious jeopardy. For the third consecutive year, the Reagan administration's budget proposals offer zero funding for the Trust, which received a \$5 million matching grant (about one third of its budget) for fiscal 1984. In hopes of Congress again restoring federal preservation funding, the Trust urges writing Senators and Representatives about this important issue.

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THE PROBLEM SOLVER

I recently restored my house to its original Victorian style. Now I would like to restore the lawn. How would a typical midwestern Victorian lawn have looked?

If you have restored your house, presumably you have some sort of pictorial documentation that might assist you with the lawn. However, you may not be able to distinguish details. Also, you may not have as much land as the property originally encompassed, or the land may have drastically changed.

Victorian lawns usually were cut only four or five times during the growing season. The lawn texture was rather coarse and rough because of the type of seed used (often chaff from a haymow floor). The lawn mower came into common use in the 1860s; before then, lawns were grazed by sheep or cut with a scythe. To achieve a scythed look, try using a sickle bar mower after the grass has almost come to seed. You may be pleased to know that only wealthy Victorians weeded their lawns.

We need to repaint the exterior of our clapboard house, which already has several coats of paint. A local contractor has recommended sandblasting to remove all the paint, leaving only the bare wood. What are the pros and cons of this procedure?

There are no pros. Sandblasting erodes the soft, porous fibers (spring wood) faster than the hard, dense fibers (summer wood), leaving a pitted surface with ridges and valleys. It also erodes projecting areas of carvings and moldings before it removes paint from concave areas, so that paint residue often has to be removed by hand.

Besides its obvious detrimental effect on any architectural detailing, sandblasting causes the wood to become so porous—much like bare, naturally weathered wood—that considerably more paint is required to cover the surface, thus creating an economic problem as well. In short, you would be much better off exploring other methods of paint removal, particularly use of an electric heat plate. If parts of the painted surface of your house have not cracked or peeled to the bare wood, they probably can be scraped and sanded down to the next sound paint layer and then repainted.

A contractor has assured me that waterblasting can get rid of layers of old, cracked paint on my exterior wood siding. Do you recommend this pro-

cedure, and, if not, what other method can I consider?

Waterblasting is not recommended because it can force water into the wood rather than—or in addition to—removing paint. In high-pressure waterblasting the pressure can sometimes reach as high as 2,000 pounds per square inch and can cause the water to penetrate exterior sheathing and damage interior finishes. For the gentlest abrasive method using water, use a detergent solution, scrub with a medium-soft bristle brush and use a garden hose for rinsing. This method is recommended when cleaning intact exterior surfaces before repainting, for removing chalking paint or just as an annual preservation practice to remove dirt and organic debris.

In the case of your old, cracked paint, you may be successful in removing damaged paint layers down to a sound layer with a putty knife or paint scraper. This process should be followed by sanding (either by hand or with an orbital sander) to feather or smooth the remaining paint so that all layers are uniformly attached before repainting. Because your house most likely has oil paint on it now, you should use a high-quality exterior oil paint again.

If, on the other hand, the paint on your siding has cracked down to bare wood and failure is extensive, you will probably need to use an electric heat plate and wide-bladed scraper for total paint removal. After scraping, sand lightly, coat the bare wood with an oil primer within 48 hours and then repaint with a compatible oil or latex finish paint.

The sawn-wood ornamentation on the porch and along the cornice of our small Victorian cottage has missing pieces and is broken in places. What is the best approach to restoring this important feature of the house?

Each section and piece of the sawn-wood ornamentation should be examined to determine what can be repaired and what must be replaced. In many cases, only the small or more delicate edge portions of the ornamentation may be broken, and they can be reconstructed by gluing into place new wood and repairing with epoxy resin and fillers, as needed. If a section is completely beyond repair, it can be "cannibalized"—that is, used to piece another section. When entire pieces or sections are missing, it is usually a relatively simple process to shape new

PRESERVATION WEEK 1984

"Preservation is Taking Care of America" has been proclaimed as the theme for National Historic Preservation Week, May 13-19, by PACA and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Approximately 5,000 preservation and neighborhood groups will hold events in honor of Preservation Week. Their purpose is to make the public aware of the important contribution historic buildings are making to the prosperity of America's cities and towns, and particularly how quality rehabilitation and maintenance are the keys to preserving historic buildings.

Here in Champaign County, Preservation Week 1984 will be observed by a walking tour of Davidson Park and West Church Street on May 20.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

At the March meeting, the Board of Directors approved a change in the By-laws to allow for a new membership category, senior citizen. This category will apply to all persons over 65 who wish a reduced membership rate of \$5.00 per year.

PACA thanks the following people for their support of preservation:

Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Replogle
Mr. & Mrs. W. Williams
Mr. Lloyd Phipps
David Ewanowski

ones with a saber or jigsaw and a portable drill with a hole-cutter attachment. You may need to have the wood milled to match exactly the width and thickness of the original wood, or perhaps the local mill could make all the sawn-wood ornamentation for you. Another alternative would be to check with various national suppliers of new wood ornamentation for old houses to see if your missing pieces are carried in stock.

From a PACA member:

I have a silver chandelier that needs replating. Is there some place locally that can do the work?

Decatur Plating and Manufacturing, 1147 E. Garfield, can replate silver, gold, and brass. Their prices seem reasonable and they will even give you a tour of the plant. Call 442-8514 for information or an estimate.

Does a renovation problem have you stymied? Let PACA know and our team of experts will try to find an answer for you.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO PRESERVE ILLINOIS' RURAL HERITAGE

Shortly before the close of the 1983 Spring legislative session, State Representative John W. Hallock, Jr. (R-Rockford) introduced HB 2296 which will enable Illinois counties to enact preservation ordinances to protect landmark structures. The bill, drafted for the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois by Chicago attorney Richard Roddewig, allows county governments to establish landmarks commissions and designate landmark structures and historic districts, utilizing powers now available to municipal governments. The proposed legislation would be applicable for the designation of sites in unincorporated areas and will also allow small communities to elect to utilize a county ordinance and landmark commission.

Carolyn Johnson, Program director of the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois, stated that the need for this type of legislation was clearly demonstrated at the recent statewide preservation conference in Jacksonville. "Virtually every rural county in Illinois has buildings of architectural and historical significance," she said. "The variety of these structures reflects the diversity of rural life and its development. This ordinance will provide a tool for residents of rural areas to protect the structures which give each county its unique character and represent its heritage." Historic homes as well as barns, silos, corncribs and other farm buildings, bridges, canals, mills, garages, meeting halls, schools and stores are among the buildings which, if qualified, would benefit under preservation ordinances made possible by the proposed bill.

This is enabling legislation only. No ordinance implementing it can be enacted without authorization, review and approval by a county board. The legislation simply extends the same opportunity to counties now held by municipalities to recognize and protect landmarks.

This is the second piece of major preservation legislation sponsored by Representative Hallock. He was honored with Representative Barbara Flynn Currie (D-Chicago) and State Senator Timothy Degnan (D-Chicago) for his sponsorship of PA 82-1023 at a reception for legislators hosted by Governor Thompson, Senator Philip S. Rock (D-Oak Park), Representative Michael J. Madigan (D-Chicago) and the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois

(LPCI) on June 2. This law, which went into effect January 1, provides a property tax assessment freeze for owners who substantially rehabilitate their historic homes.

Under the proposed county enabling legislation, HB 2296, counties could designate rural structures, making them eligible for federal and state tax incentives. Designated owner occupied homes would qualify for the property tax assessment freeze under PA 82-1023. Federal legislation enacted in 1981 allows owners of historic income producing properties to receive an Investment Tax Credit (ITC) equal to 25% of certified rehabilitation expenditures. For example, the ITC could be used to rehabilitate barns and other farm buildings or for conversion of unused schools into rental apartments.

Information on the proposed state legislation and on preservation tax incentives can be obtained from Carolyn Johnson at the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois, a not-for-profit statewide citizens organization at 407 S. Dearborn, Suite 970, Chicago, IL 60605. (312-922-1942)

PLANS FINALIZED FOR THE STATE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

Plans have been finalized for the 1984 Illinois Preservation Conference to be held June 1 and 2 in Peoria co-sponsored by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois and the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions. The Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation, as coordinating sponsor of the conference, has involved over thirty Peoria agencies and neighborhood and preservation organizations in the event.

Tours and receptions will showcase Peoria's architectural monuments and restored homes. Special events will include an evening on the paddlewheel Julia Belle Swain, a neighborhood tour by antique auto, and a bus tour of rural towns. Sixteen individual buildings and two historic districts in Peoria have been listed on the National Register.

One track of conference workshops is designed to address the concerns of people serving on local landmark commissions. Other sessions will be held on theater revitalization, neighborhood historic districts, revolving funds, and preservation education for youth. A developers' roundtable will discuss tax incentives for rehabilitation. The keynote address for the event will

be made by Robert Riley, chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Illinois, Urbana, on "Farmsteads Factories and Freight Trains: Reading the Cultural Landscape of Illinois."

Accommodations will be available at Bradley University, headquarters for the conference. A list of conference topics and speakers as well as registration materials can be obtained from Carolyn Johnson, Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois, 407 S. Dearborn, Room 970, Chicago, Illinois 60605. 312/922-1742. PACA will be sending representatives to the conference.

ANNUAL SPRING WALKING TOUR

The second annual Spring Walking Tour will be held Sunday, May 20 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. The tour is sponsored by the Champaign County Historical Museum and PACA. Houses featured on this year's walk will be in the Davidson Park/West Church Street area. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided under a tent in Davidson Park. Tickets are \$7.50, \$6.00 for PACA & CCHM members and will be available the day of the tour at Davidson Park.

Volunteers are needed to staff the rooms of the homes which will be open. The main responsibilities will be safeguarding the owners' possessions and crowd control. Help is also needed for serving lemonade & cookies. 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 359-7404 or 356-1010.

HISTORIC HOME FURNISHINGS

The Preservation Press, the publisher for the National Trust, has just published two new books that are indispensable to everyone who is rehabilitating an old house or simply wants to recreate a period look in his home furnishings: *Fabrics for Historic Buildings* and *Wallpapers for Historic Buildings*.

Fabrics for Historic Buildings, by Jane C. Nylander, curator of textiles and ceramics at Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts, is the third completely updated edition of this long-popular title. It tells where to find more than 550 authentic reproductions of fabrics originally manufactured in the 18th, 19th and

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20th centuries. The patterns have been expertly selected for their appropriateness in restorations and redecorations of historic buildings.

Wallpapers for Historic Buildings, by Richard C. Nylander, curator of collections for the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities in Boston, presents more than 350 documented wallpapers suitable for restorations and redecorations.

The books are available for \$9.95 each, plus \$2.50 postage and handling, from Preservation Shops, 1600 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. Trust members receive a 10 percent discount. (PACA is a Trust member and can order them for you at the discount rate.)



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ASSOCIATION OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
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PACA Newsletter

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

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This article was written by Alice Edwards, a graduate student in Urban & Regional Planning with an emphasis in historic preservation.

ARTS COUNCIL OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

17 E. University Avenue
Champaign, Illinois 61820

CALENDAR

April

28 - Champaign; Beaux Arts Gala #4

May

18, 19, 20 - Rockford, Illinois State Historical Society Spring Tour

19 - Oak Park, "Wright Plus" walking tour

20 - Champaign; CCHM & PACA annual spring tour

June

1, 2 - Peoria, 1984 Illinois Preservation Conference

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FOURTH ANNUAL BEAUX-ARTS GALA

The fourth annual Beaux-Arts Gala is scheduled for Saturday, April 28 at the Student Center of Parkland College. This event is the major fund-raising event for the Arts Council of Champaign County. Tickets are \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 for a patron and are tax deductible. Proceeds are used to maintain the council offices and to supplement the monies given them by the

Illinois Arts Council known as the Grassroots Regrant Fund. A successful party means more money will be available for grants. PACA has received two grassroot regrants in the past for partial funding of the Cattle Bank restoration slide show and the "Victorian House" lecture series.

The Beaux-Arts Gala is a large undertaking handled entirely by volunteers. They are asking for help in any number of ways:

Attend the function yourself and bring some friends.

Sell tickets

Serve on a committee.

Work for one hour the night of the event

Assist with the clean-up chores

Become a member of the council and encourage your friends to do likewise

If you can help, call the Arts Council (352-8979) or the party chairwoman, Judy Kaufman (344-7283).