PRESERVATION ALERT

PACA was recently informed that the well-known and admired Sim's house (803 W. Green, Urbana) is threatened with demolition. The land on which this house sits was recently sold to a developer. However, the building's owner, Mrs. Roy Ekstam, has donated the house to PACA on the condition that it be moved before July 1.

PACA is looking for a person or a group of investors who would be willing to undertake the moving and restoration project in exchange for ownership. The building is structurally sound and capable of being moved. It does require painting, a new roof, insulation, mechanical and electrical systems.

Built between 1860 and 1870, the house is the only known frame Italianate structure in Urbana. Notable features include its ornate porch and brackets, bay and floor length windows, limestone foundation, curved staircase, original doors (including pocket doors), shutters, and plaster ceiling medallions.

Persons interested in undertaking this project should contact PACA as soon as possible.

AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION

Due to a number of circumstances, the annual spring walking tour has been cancelled. However, the first PACA sponsored fund-raising auction has been scheduled in its place. Local non-profit groups, such as the Vintage Champaign Council, the Champaign County Historical Museum and the Educational Resources in Environmental Science (ERES), along with PACA, will auction various items on Saturday May 18. The bidding will start at 9 a.m. at 335 Freemont street where items from the old Maxwell's Grill will be sold. In the afternoon, the action will move to the old Kaufman Building, 16-18 Main Street, where the non-profit items will be auctioned.

Among the items to be sold are cash registers, shelving, mirrors and display cases from the old Karoll's store, silk-screens, doors, trim and windows from PACA salvage, restaurant furniture and equipment from Maxwell's and ERES salvage. PACA encourages everyone to donate items to the auction. It's a great way to do spring cleaning and help a good cause at the same time.

For further information watch for handbills and advertisements. To donate items or to volunteer to help call PACA or auction chairman, Bob Swisher, 359-1100.

OLD HOUSE SCHOOL

The next three Old House School sessions have been scheduled. April 25 will focus on Exterior Painting with particular emphasis on Victorian and early 20th century houses. On May 23 building code officials from both Champaign and Urbana will discuss how and which building codes effect homeowner renovations. The pros and cons of being your own general contractor, how to talk to contractors and what an architect can do for you will be the topics discussed on June 27. Please take note: these next three sessions will be held at the Champaign City Council Chambers (second floor, 102 North Neil St.) beginning at 7:00 p.m.

PRESEVATION WEEK 1985
HIGHLIGHTS MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION

"The Action's Back on Main Street" has been proclaimed as the theme for the 14th annual Preservation Week, May 12-18. Locally, Mayors Markland and Dodd have jointly issued a proclamation in honor of this week.

Approximately 5,000 preservation and neighborhood groups will hold events across the United States in honor of Preservation Week 1985. Their purpose is to make the public aware of efforts to revitalize America's Main Streets by attracting new businesses, preserving historic structures and developing special events.

Champaign-Urbana will observe Preservation Week 1985 in a number of ways. The Urbana Downtown Promotion Committee will show videotapes on different aspects of downtown revitalization (promotion, economic restructuring, design, organization) at various times throughout the week; call 384-6304 for more information. In addition, there will be a display of designs for facade improvement projects in the lobby of the Busey Bank; these improvements are funded, in part, by Urbana's low interest revitalization loan program. Vintage Champaign is sponsoring a "Downtown Open House" on Sunday, May 19 from 12-6 p.m. in conjunction with the News Gazette's Open House. Many of the downtown businesses will have tours of their interiors, some of which have been recently renovated, and various demonstrations will be offered. PACA will also be sponsoring a preservation display at Market Square Mall, May 13-19. A fund-raising auction for various non-profit groups will take place May 18. See related article for more information.

The Champaign County Historical Museum and PACA will be hosting a Forum on Local Preservation Issues on May 17 from 1:30-4:00 p.m. at the Champaign City Council chambers. Area businessmen and preservationists will discuss the pros and cons of historic preservation as it relates to local issues. William Kuhne, James Strong, Edwin Scharlau, Dannel McCullum, Gary Olsen and Karen Kummer will comprise the panel. Since audience participation will be encouraged, a lively discussion is ensured! Cablevision is participating in Preservation Week by airing the first program in the National Main Street Center's videocassette series Main Street at Work. The "Four Point Approach" will be shown on Channel 10 on Tuesday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m. (a rebroadcast of the program will be shown at a later date). PACA will be the guest topic of "Focus 500", the WILL-AM program on May 13 and of "Penny for Your Thoughts", the WDWS program on May 14. Be sure to call in with your questions and comments and help make these programs a successful advertisement for local preservation activities. Let's all show that the "Action is Back on Main Street!"

1985 ILLINOIS PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

At recent meetings in Charleston, planning for the 1985 Illinois Preservation Conference to be held June 7th and 8th neared completion. The conference is sponsored by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois, the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions and the Preservation Services Section of the Illinois Department of Conservation.
OLD HOUSE JOURNAL HONORS PACA

For the second straight year, THE OLD HOUSE JOURNAL, a national rehabilitation publication, has recognized the work conducted by PACA with the awarding of a $1,000 grant.

PACA is proud of the national recognition which this award bestows and will use the money to support various local preservation programs such as the Old House School and the Heritage Awards. "The grant will be used for special programs and to coordinate better communication, awareness and technical information on preservation throughout Champaign County," according to Gregory Hargus, PACA president.

The OLD HOUSE JOURNAL is the only national magazine exclusively devoted to the sensitive rehabilitation, maintenance, and decoration of old houses and is strongly recommended to all old house owners by PACA. As a fund raising project, PACA is currently offering subscriptions to the JOURNAL at a reduced price, $14/year instead of $18, with PACA retaining $7 of each subscription renewed. (A change in policy now allows unlimited renewals at the reduced rate.) To reserve your subscription, call 359-0114. Help us make it three years in a row!

SPRINGFIELD AVENUE WIDENING PROJECT

The proposed widening of Springfield Avenue is of concern to PACA. Not only would the environment be adversely affected through increased traffic pollution and the loss of numerous old specimen trees, but the scale of this older neighborhood would be destroyed. PACA has written the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) expressing these concerns and asking that the project be carefully evaluated and all alternatives explored.

The Committee to Save Springfield Avenue submitted the following information.

IDOT has proposed a plan to widen Springfield Avenue to five lanes from Mattis to Wright streets. The following are reasons why we feel that this is not wise:

1. Little justification—IDOT's traffic studies indicate that traffic volume has not increased over the last twelve years.
2. The higher than average accident rate which they cite is in part attributable to the widening by IDOT of certain intersections which cross Springfield.
3. While "fender bender" accidents may decrease, the incidence of more severe, possibly fatal accidents may increase due to the faster speed at which traffic will move, and because of the lack of a safety margin between the street and sidewalk. In the winter, snow removal from the street will leave no place for pedestrians, many of them school children, to walk.
4. Approximately 120 trees will be destroyed for this project. This is not only an aesthetic, but also an environmental loss to the City.
5. One of the City's National Register properties, the Stone Arch Bridge, will be much closer to the street than it is presently, which may cause stress damage.
6. Scott Park will lose some of its land.
7. Burnham Hospital will be affected by this project.
8. A lowered tax base due to the devaluation of Springfield Avenue residential property will place a greater burden on the rest of the City taxpayers.

Surely there must be less drastic measures to be considered, before spending over $5 million on a project which really does not meet the needs of the City. The Committee urges all Champaign citizens to consider these things, and then write letters immediately to the Mayor and the City Council asking them to reject this plan. For further information contact the Committee at 356-1265.

JOIN THE NATIONAL TRUST

The Preservation and Conservation Association of Champaign County and THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION invite you to receive a full year of National Trust membership while making an important contribution to PACA.

When you join the National Trust using the coupon below, the Association will receive a donation equal to 20% of your membership dues in your name.

As a National Trust member, you will receive:

- Historic Preservation Magazine, six times/year
- Preservation News newspaper, twelve times/year
- Free Admission to National Trust properties, discounts at the Preservation Shops, and more!

Join now! One full year of Trust membership is just $15.

[ ] YES! I would like to join the National Trust. Please send a contribution in my name to the Preservation and Conservation Association of Champaign County.

[ ] $15 enclosed [ ] Please Bill Me

NAME ____________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________

Mail to: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.
Creek Delta Boys, the official old time string band of Illinois, will be highlights of the evening.

The Illinois Heritage Association and the Congress of Illinois Historical Societies and Museums will coordinate a workshop for the many museums in the state that are responsible for maintenance of an historic building. Museum and historical society members will also gather for a Saturday morning breakfast meeting, sponsored by the two groups. Conference registrants who are just beginning to get involved in a preservation organization or commission will find a workshop on the Basics of Preservation suited to their needs.

Information, membership and registration materials can be obtained from Carolyn Johnson at Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois, (312) 922-1742, or PACA. PACA will also coordinate carpools to and from the conference. LPCI is a statewide membership organization devoted to maintaining the character and vitality given to Illinois communities by their historic architecture.

ARTS COUNCIL OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
709 West University Avenue
Champaign, Illinois 61820

PACA Newsletter
Published by the Preservation and Conservation Association of Champaign County.
President: Gregory Hargus
Vice President: Hermenia Kruidenier
Treas.: Norman Baxley
Exec. Director: Karen Lang Kummer
359-0114

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 (½ time or more) ................ $ 5.00
☐ Senior Citizen ............................... $ 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 ...........................

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