



PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61820

"The Past Has A Future"

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Celebrate Historic Places ♦♦ Our Past for Our Future

PRESERVATION WEEK ♦♦ MAY 11-17, 1986
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



"CELEBRATE HISTORIC PLACES — OUR PAST FOR OUR FUTURE" has been proclaimed the theme for the 14th annual National Historic Preservation Week, May 11-17, by the Preservation and Conservation Association and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Mayors Dodd and Markland have issued a joint proclamation in honor of Preservation Week.

In a special message from the White House, President Ronald Reagan urged "all Americans to join in celebrating and working to preserve and enhance our historic places the week of May 11."

Approximately 5,000 preservation and neighborhood groups will hold events across the United States in honor of Preservation Week 1986. Their purpose is to make the public aware of the enormous contribution historic places make to the quality of life in every American community.

Here in Champaign-Urbana, Preservation Week 1986 will begin with a half hour WICD program, "Assignment 15" devoted to PACA and preservation in Champaign County on Channel 15 at 1:00 on Sunday, May 11. Preservation exhibits will be on display at the Champaign Public Library (PACA and preservation in general), Center Court in Market Place Mall (the nine sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places), and Lincoln Square (the popular exhibit, "Lost Champaign-Urbana").

"We want to make the public aware of the major contributions historic places make to the prosperity of America's cities, towns and rural areas and the

quality of America's social and cultural life," said Gregory Hargus, PACA president. Champaign County and the surrounding region is beginning a new era of growth as witnessed by the Beckman Center, the Diamond Star plant and various auxiliary businesses. One mission of PACA is to insure that the historic factor is given equal consideration in future planning decisions. A sense of history is essential to our psyche, because it provides a continuum instead of a vacuum. We mustn't lose where we are coming from. We must "celebrate our historic places, our past for our future."

THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT OF 1966

by Michael Leccese

They called 1966 the year of the "Preservation Congress." Even President Lyndon B. Johnson took time on February 23 to address the national threat to our heritage, which had been eloquently brought to light by the book *With Heritage So Rich*, the published conclusions of the Special Committee on Historic Preservation formed in 1965.

Other factors were at work that would boost the preservation cause. Lady Bird Johnson's efforts drew public attention to threats from urban blight. The government's guardian of historic sites, the National Park Service, was preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary. As part of a growing environmental movement, citizens were objecting to the broad-scale

demolition required by urban renewal and highway-building programs.

Congress responded by passing the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The act expanded the National Register of Historic Places (then comprising only about 800 entries), created a system of matching grants to states and the National Trust for Historic Preservation and authorized a new federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to screen federal projects for threats to historic resources.

To underwrite these programs, Congress later provided that monies from federal offshore oil leases could be channeled into a new Historic Preservation Fund.

The results have been myriad and impressive.

The National Register has grown to more than 40,000 listings of sites, buildings and objects and 1,200 historic districts. Since 1976, income-producing buildings such as stores, apartments, offices and hotels have been eligible for tax incentives for rehabilitation. More than 7,000 such projects have resulted — worth more than \$5 billion in rehabilitation expenditures. The federal-state partnership now spurs private investment of more than \$2 billion a year in historic buildings.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, a 19-member board including presidential appointees, federal agency representatives and the president of the National Trust, with a staff of 35 and an annual budget of \$1.5 million, has reviewed 24,444 cases, effecting such changes as the rerouting of highways to spare historic districts and redesigning new federal buildings to fit in with their older neighbors.

Encouraged by federal matching grants, the 50 states, six territories, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia have each developed their own state historic preservation office (SHPO).

With total budgets of \$75 million and more than 800 employees, these state offices nominate properties to the National Register (3,099 in 1984), review projects that could harm historic properties (179,000 in 1984), and scrutinize rehabilitation projects to ensure they meet federal preservation standards to qualify for tax incentives. Nancy Miller of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers estimates that every federal dollar invested in states returns \$60 worth of bricks-and-mortar preservation effort.

Another aspect of private-sector preservation has been the growth of the National Trust. The Congress created the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1949 as the only private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the preservation and continued use of America's architectural, cultural and maritime heritage. The Trust's congressional charter gives a clear purpose: to encourage "public participation in the preservation of sites, buildings and objects of national significance or interest." The Trust has become an influential organization of more than 250 employees with the public support of 175,000 individual members and 2,500 organizational members whose constituency extends to over 2 million Americans. J. Jackson Walter, president of the National Trust since late 1984, sees continued future growth for the Trust through assisting the partnership between the private and public sectors that fuels so much rehabilitation today. "The historic preservation movement, aided by historic rehabilitation tax incentives at the federal and state levels, is entering a new phase in its long development," Walter says. "Where economic development decision makers once saw preservationists as standing in the path of progress, today developers find preservation and rehabilitation to be profitable centerpieces for both revitalization and new construction projects. At the National Trust, we are working hard to create the public/private partnership of preservation groups, developers and government officials that most effectively will protect our nation's historic resources."

The federal government stays in the background of programs created under the 1966 act. The state preservation of offices are the citizens' first line of contact, for example, when nominating a historic place to the National Register. At the same time it exerts the influence that holds the partnership together. The National Park Service cultural resource programs include the National Register,

the tax act certification program, the Historic American Buildings Survey, the Historic American Engineering Record and archeology programs.

National Park Service Associate Director for Cultural Resources Jerry L. Rogers says the program owes its effectiveness to "the wisdom of the federal and state partnership. If the program were centralized at the federal level, we'd have to employ the equivalent of all the people working at the SHPOs — and you'd have one giant bureaucracy that wouldn't accomplish much."

Rogers says this efficient setup has resulted in "federally sponsored rehabilitation on the scale of federally sponsored demolition in the 1950s and 1960s."

These advances have been made in the face of cutbacks in federal appropriations to the preservation program. These allocations peaked in 1979 at \$60 million and have since been pared back to \$25 million. Federal grants to states to assist individual restoration projects, originally conceived as a major component under the 1966 act, ended altogether in the late 1970s.

But Rogers remains optimistic: "Getting federal grants is going to get harder. But the program is more decentralized, and the tax incentives are likely to survive and probably will produce even more investment. I think we're good for another 20 years of excitement and innovation."

The passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 gave preservationists the mechanisms that today work to save and revitalize countless historic properties and districts. "The true significance of the 1966 act," Walter says, "lies in the framework it created for the growth of preservation. With passage of the act, preservation gained a blueprint of future goals and activities and a yardstick against which to measure progress."

As the Congress declared in the act: "... the historical and cultural foundations of the nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people."

Michael Leccese is coeditor of Preservation News, the monthly newspaper of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT — A RETROSPECTIVE

by Jerry L. Rogers

Looking back 20 years, it is hard to believe that federally sponsored destruction of our nation's cultural heritage was once the order of the day. Interstate highways plowed through where land could be bought for less, usually older neighborhoods and parklands. Urban renewal helped cities level buildings and districts that distinguished them from all other cities. River and harbor improvements and water impoundments destroyed or inundated countless archeological sites, rescuing data from a haphazardly selected few. Even the tax code of the United States encouraged the destruction of historic buildings by rewarding the construction of new ones on their sites. There were no state historic preservation officers, only a few feeble state historic site surveys and a handful of local historic district commissions. The strongest state and local entities were powerless before the federal juggernaut . . . And not because the government opposed cultural resources; it simply did not recognize them, beyond the historical units of the National Park System and the National Historic Landmarks. America was on a publicly funded development binge.

October 15, 1966, was the turning point, when the National Historic Preservation Act became law. Significant parts of the act were conceived in the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which itself had been conceived in the National Park Service. The new law provided for a National Register, to include properties significant on a national, state or local scale, and authorized an Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to comment on undertakings that affected registered properties.

To expand the National Register beyond the 800 or so nationally significant entities that already had been identified, the National Park Service chose a decentralized approach. It relied on citizens who knew and loved historic properties. With this as a foundation, it developed a network of state historic preservation programs to educate, guide and serve the citizen movement.

As the concept of this unique federal/state partnership grew, it became clear that evolution was its hallmark. As preservation strength and professionalism grew in states, local governments and the private sector, the National Park Service modified its own role to perform the essential functions the rest of the

partnership could not perform for itself.

The concept has stood the test of time. Today, there are 45,000 entries in the National Register, encompassing a far greater number of individual properties. There are state historic preservation offices in 57 states and similar jurisdictions. Under a system of tax incentives, the federal government has approved over 14,000 rehabilitation proposals encompassing work valued at more than \$9.3 billion. In 1968, Dr. Ernest Allen Connally, then chief of the Park Service's Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, mused that the program had the potential to become a humane form of urban renewal. It has done that, and more, without building a huge bureaucracy.

The opportunity of this 20th anniversary must be used to the fullest. We need to take stock of our achievements and to celebrate our champions. But even more, we need to keep the evolution going. This is a time to reexamine precepts and practices. During this year, we will review the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, our division of labor, responsibility and authority with the states and our funding mechanisms, just to name a few. We will try to improve archeological program coordination first within the Department of the Interior and then throughout the executive branch of government. We will attempt to forge firmer, friendlier, more effective and symbiotic relationships between parks and state historic preservation offices. We will seek out forums in which achievements can be recounted, and in which ideas for improvement can be heard with the same spirit they were two decades ago.

Jerry L. Rogers is associate director for cultural resources at the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

SEND A PHOTO TO CONGRESS

To emphasize support for the national preservation program, preservationists throughout the country are being asked to send a photo of a favorite historic place to their congressional representatives. By sending a snapshot, postcard or any photo of a town hall, war monument, historic house museum or other historic place in your community, with the message below, you can help make

Congress take notice of the program's support.

Please include the following points with your photo:

- the historic place in your community benefits from the national historic preservation program
- the National Trust and your state historic preservation program should receive *all* the 1986 funding that Congress has already approved
- you support continued level funding for the National Trust and state historic preservation offices next year, fiscal year 1987.

Send your photo and note to:

The Honorable Terry Bruce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

and

The Honorable Alan Dixon/
Paul Simon
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Please act promptly. All photos should be in your legislators' hands no later than May 11, 1986, the first day of Preservation Week.

SIX/SIX/EIGHTY-SIX IS DATE SET FOR SIXTH ANNUAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

The historic architecture of the SIX county area of Northeastern Illinois will be on display for the SIXTH annual statewide preservation conference to be held on June SIXTH of eighty-SIX. The meeting of more than 200 volunteers and professionals is sponsored each year by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois (LPCI). The eighty-six conference will be hosted by the Aurora Preservation Commission and co-sponsored by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions.

The usual two-day conference has been extended to three days this year to highlight the historic Fox River Valley. The magnificently restored Paramount Arts Center, designed by Rapp and Rapp, will be the site of the opening night gala with Victorian music hall entertainment. Aurora University will serve as conference headquarters with additional workshops in several downtown buildings designed by George Grant Elmslie. The Elmslie buildings, along with other Stolp Island historic structures, will be toured on Saturday afternoon. A final full-day bus tour of the Fox River Valley, presented by Res-

tations of Kane County, and the Sixth Annual Paramount Celebration of the Arts will conclude the conference on Sunday.

Conference attendees can choose from a wide range of preservation topics at two days of workshops. Local preservation commission members and staff will benefit from a workshop track designed to address educational programs which can be used to generate community awareness. Techniques for evaluating buildings and historic districts for landmark eligibility will also be presented as part of the same track, along with a workshop featuring case studies of how some of the state's oldest preservation commissions have been established. Preservationists from communities without a local landmarks commission should find this workshop particularly useful.

Downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts planning revitalization projects will be enlightened by a three session introductory course produced by the Illinois Downtown Development Association and the Upper Illinois Valley Association. Market analysis, design standards for image building and tips for organizing will be presented by experts with "hands on" experience.

On Saturday LPCI will repeat its surprise hit from the 1985 Conference — an all-day workshop on rural preservation with consultants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Land and Community Associates, nationally known experts on the use of National Register criteria to assess the significance of cultural resources in rural areas. Training in rural survey techniques will be provided for county officials and preservationists, and an afternoon bus tour will examine the relationship between architecture, archaeology and landscapes in applying these survey techniques.

Preservation novices will find that the conference offers a quick education in preservation law and regulations, how to decipher the "alphabet soup" of government programs, and how to locate necessary resources on the national preservation scene. A workshop entitled *Know Your SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office)* will begin this introductory track of workshops. A workshop planned by the Congress of Illinois Historical Societies and Museums will be of interest to participants from historic house museums and a tour of several area museums will be included in the Sunday bus tour. All conference participants are encouraged to present a "four minute success story" during a lively exchange-

of-ideas session that has become an annual conference event.

Information, membership and registration materials can be obtained from PACA or LPCI, 407 South Dearborn, #970, Chicago, IL 60605, 312/922-1742. LPCI is a statewide membership organization devoted to maintain the character and vitality given to Illinois communities by their historic architecture.

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

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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
- Senior Citizen \$ 5.00
- Family,(includes all members of a household with no more than two members being over age 21) \$15.00

CIVIC

- Over 100 members \$100.00
- 50-100 members \$ 75.00
- Up to 50 members \$ 50.00

CORPORATE

- Additional Contribution _____ \$ 50.00

NAME _____ RENEWAL NEW MEMBERSHIP

ADDRESS _____
Street State Zip

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