



## PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61820

"The Past Has A Future"

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Number 5

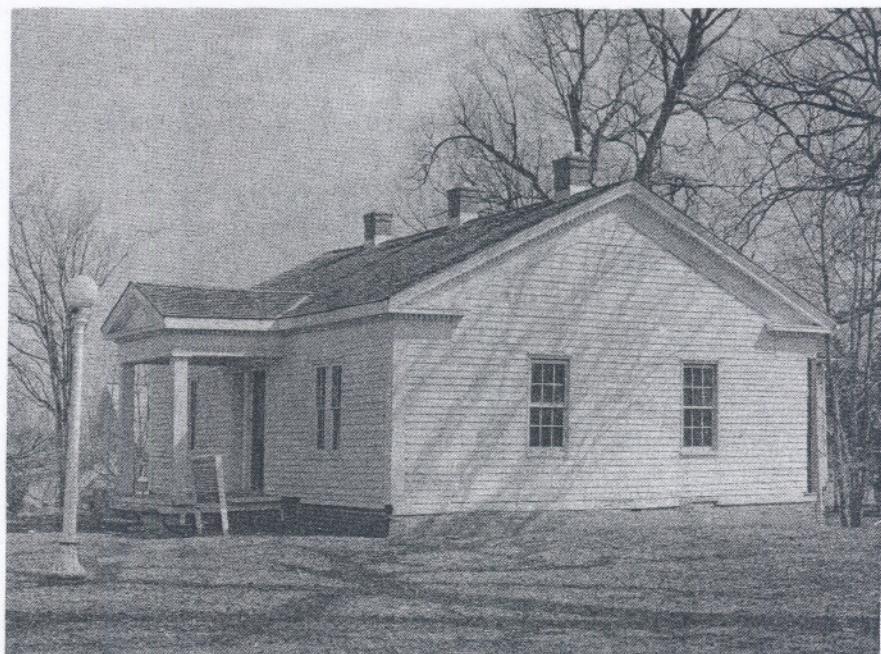
### THE GREEK REVIVAL COTTAGE

PACA is about to embark on its most ambitious project to date — the renovation of the Greek Revival Cottage in Leal Park. For the past few years, the Board of Directors has been struggling with the question of how best to preserve the Cottage, owned by the Champaign County Historical Museum but located in a public park.

The Cottage was moved to its present site in 1977 by the Museum to save it from demolition. At that time the building was stabilized and reroofed, new chimneys were built and a full-height basement was added. Since 1981, the Museum has not been able financially to continue the project. The Urbana Park District, on whose land the building sits, is concerned about the continued deterioration of the structure and the apparent lack of interest in completing the project; they have been considering having the structure removed either by relocation or demolition. Although a number of people expressed an interest in moving the structure, its small size, the lack of suitable lots and the amount of renovation work needed make the project uneconomical for a private individual.

PACA feels, however, that the building's size, location and the work already invested in the site make the Cottage a good candidate for a nonprofit office center. PACA and other local groups could share office space and the basement would make an ideal meeting room; there is 1500 square feet on both floors.

At the moment the Board is considering a major fundraising campaign on behalf of the Cottage. Initially, \$20,000 is targeted to begin Phase I of the renovation program. Phase I involves the basic repair and weatherization of the exterior and the restoration of the main (north) facade. On the interior, the north



*Greek Revival Cottage  
Leal Park, Urbana*

two rooms and hallway would be completely renovated and made useable. Thus, the building could be occupied early and the community would be able to appreciate the successful completion of Phase I. Phase II would complete the renovation of the first floor and Phase III would convert the basement into a suitable meeting space.

The fundraising campaign, however, will not focus totally on cash contributions. Important to the project are donations of materials and volunteer labor. PACA will be looking for donations of paint, electrical and mechanical supplies, wall board, insulation, etc. In addition, it is hoped that licensed craftsmen such as electricians, plumbers and heating contractors, will donate their time to the project. And most importantly, we will need the volunteer labor of our members and the community at large — people who are willing to install in-

sulation, hang dry wall, refinish wood-work, scrape old paint and apply new paint. People who are willing to invest a little "sweat equity" in preserving the past for the future.

More details about the Cottage project will be forthcoming, but as you plan your year-end charitable giving and re-align your finances in light of the new tax code, remember the Cottage Capital Campaign. Be assured that every penny raised will be matched in sweat!

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

PACA is seeking volunteers to help in the Cottage Capital Campaign to renovate the Greek Revival Cottage. If you are interested in helping in any of the following areas, or know of someone who might be, please do not be shy, but call PACA (359-0114) and

volunteer. The amount of time involved is flexible.

Fundraising Manager — to help organize and run the fundraising campaign. This is a key position and we need help filling it.

Contact People — to help contact contractors, craftsmen, labor unions, etc. for labor and material donations and to help contact local companies for material and cash donations.

Office Volunteers — to help with mass mailings; type labels, stuff envelopes, send thank yous, etc.

Volunteer Laborers — to help with the actual physical work; demolition, initial cleanup, painting, refinishing, insulation, etc.

Financial Organizer — to keep track of the financial aspects of the Cottage project separate from other PACA activities.

## HERITAGE AWARDS — CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

PACA is seeking nominations for the Third Annual Heritage Awards. The purpose of the Awards is to increase awareness of the important buildings in the community and to promote the interests of preservation and conservation. Any building or site in Champaign or surrounding counties which has architectural or historical significance for the community and/or which has undergone recent restoration or renovation is eligible. Nominations are open to the general public and everyone is encouraged to participate. The 1986 winners are herein described.



**Outstanding Heritage Contribution Award — Foellinger Auditorium (University of Illinois).** In 1905 the University Board of Trustees approved plans to construct a multipurpose facility for concerts, lectures and other events. Clarence H. Blackall, an 1877 U of I graduate, was chosen to design the building and help create a campus plan. Blackall chose the only commanding site on the grounds, at the crest of a slight rise towards the south from Green Street. He envisioned the building as the southern boundary of the Quad-

rangle and as a focal point around which future growth could be established.

The State Legislature, however, only appropriated half of the \$200,000 requested which resulted in major design changes. Chief among these was the construction of a "temporary" wall where the backstage area was to have been. On November 4 & 5, 1907, the Beaux Arts Classical building was dedicated during a two-day series of concerts. At that time, a major acoustical problem was discovered; remodelling efforts in 1915 and 1937 corrected the problem somewhat.

In 1984, Miss Helene R. Foellinger donated the funds necessary to restore the exterior of the building, complete the backstage area and renovate the interior. The work included a new copper roof, tuckpointing, new exterior dome lighting, a new semi-circular forecourt, acoustical refinement, a new projection booth and interior furnishings.

The rehabilitation of Foellinger Auditorium has become a link between the past and present and has become a successful preservation project for the University of Illinois.



**Honorable Mention — Huston-Dighton House (915 North State, Monticello).** Mr. & Mrs. E. Lindell Huisenga spent four years completely restoring their c.1879 Gothic Revival house while at the same time adapting it to contemporary living standards. Working with architect Gary Olsen, the Huisenga's remodelled the attic as a master bedroom suite, modernized the kitchen, added a Victorian-style conservatory, and built a sympathetically designed garage. In addition, the major spaces of the house — entry hall, parlors, dining room, library and bedrooms were restored. An appropriate landscaping plan is now being developed.

The Huston-Dighton House is a rare example of the Gothic Revival style which was popular in the east from about 1830-1860. Characteristics include steeply pitched roofs, wall dormers, polygonal chimney pots, hood molds over the windows and gingerbread trim along the eaves and gable edges.



**Landmark Heritage Award — Hoopes-Cunningham Mansion (424 East Penn, Hoopes). The house was originally built as a two story Italianate in 1879-80 by the founder of Hoopes, Thomas Hoopes. After his death in 1893, the house was purchased by Hoopes' niece/adopted daughter and her husband, Mr. & Mrs. James Cunningham. It was the Cunninghams who remodelled the home to its present Queen Anne style. The Cunningham's granddaughter and her husband, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dyer purchased the home in 1925 and altered the home's appearance by removing the veranda and coating the brick with a white epoxy cement.**

The home remains the only one of its kind, historically and architecturally, in Hoopes and the surrounding area. It is the only remaining structure that can be directly associated with Thomas Hoopes and his descendants. Cunningham was also well known as an economical and political force in Hoopes. He helped found and was president of the Hamilton and Cunningham Bank; was an organizer of the Illinois Canning Company; and was mayor of the town from 1903-05 among other things. The Mansion was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Landscape Heritage Award — Crystal Lake Park (Broadway and Park Streets, Urbana).** In the late 1800's Crystal Lake Park was a private park. It contained a dance hall for general use and served as a point of departure for scenic boat trips to Homer, Illinois. From the 1890's until 1910, Chautauquas were held in Crystal Lake each summer. At these events approximately 100 small tents were erected for area residents to live in for the week. Ministers, politicians and other similar speakers would provide the entertainment. One noted speaker was William Jennings Bryan.

In 1905 the lake was dredged into the configuration of today following a design of Joseph Blair. The Urbana Park District was created in 1907 and Crystal Lake was one of its first parks. In the same year, the park was enlarged by a 15 acre

donation from Judge Cunningham.

Over the years, the Park has grown to 90 acres. It boasts many mature oak trees and has been the favorite park of Urbana for years. In 1985, the Park District undertook the renovation of the lake. Sediment was removed, storm water sewer lines were relocated, bank and shore stabilization was done, public access areas were installed and new features were added to the lake area. The work was done in a manner that would preserve and enhance the character of Crystal Lake Park.



**Honorable Mention — Jones House** (712 West University, Champaign). One of the most impressive Colonial Revival houses in the area was built in 1906 by the Crabb family as a wedding present to their daughter, Lulu and her husband, Henry L. Jones. The Crabb's were owners of a lumber yard in Delavan, Illinois; Henry Jones was a prominent local attorney.

The exterior of this 2½ story house is highlighted by an elaborate projecting portico with paired fluted 25 foot Ionic columns which support a classically correct pediment. Two-story corner pilasters and an encircling cornice also add to the house's monumental quality.

The fourth and current owners, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lipton, are restoring the elaborate interior.



**Residential Heritage Award — Matthew Busey House** (804 West Main, Urbana). Matthew Busey was the son of the first Busey who settled in Urbana (Matthew E. Busey) and was primarily a farmer. Both Matthew's father and his wife's father had died a few years before the house was built in 1869, so it may have been inherited money that paid for this elaborate house.

Of Italianate design, the three-story house features a freehanging curved staircase, two cast iron fireplace mantels, 11½ foot ceilings on the main floor, and a belvedere from which the twin cities can be observed. Rescued from a developer and city condemnation by Marylee MacDonald and Bruce Rittman in 1980, the house has been meticulously restored — the belvedere and front porch were reconstructed, new shutters were made and the interior was completely redone, even the exterior paint was analyzed for the correct colors. The trials and tribulations of this restoration were featured in the *Old House Journal*, Aug-Sept, 1985.

Since finishing this monumental project, the couple has gone on to restore the Princess Anne house next door. Appropriately, it was built for Matthew's son, David Busey.

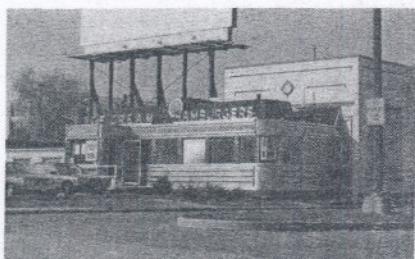


**Institutional/Commercial Heritage Award — Architectural Spectrum** (11 Main Street, Champaign). An exciting commercial rehabilitation was recently completed in downtown Champaign by Architectural Spectrum which chose 11 Main Street as the location for their new office. In recent memory this building housed a bookstore, but historically, the first floor was usually a dry goods store, the second floor was attorneys' offices and the third floor was a photography studio where the original skylight remains.

In order to gain sufficient space in this long narrow building, the architects cut large holes in the first floor, thus

opening light wells for the basement level and allowing that space to be used. The interior brick walls were exposed and the original pressed metal ceiling was restored. Interior partitions were placed on angle or curved to create interest in the rectangular space. A new storefront was designed in keeping with the Victorian style of the building while the upper stories and cornice were restored. The interior of the upper floors await rehabilitation.

Hopefully, the success of this project will encourage other downtown store-owners to rehabilitate their buildings.



**Honorable Mention — Elite Diner** (210 East Elm Street, Urbana). Roadside architecture is gaining popularity across the United States and Urbana has a great example of this genre. The Elite Diner was shipped by truck in two sections, kitchen and dining, to Champaign in 1953 by Fodero of Massachusetts, one of the largest diner manufacturers. Mr. Roy "Mel" Root was the first owner and it was located at Springfield and Neil streets.

In 1962 the diner became the Chuck-wagon and took on a western appearance with old saddles and Norman Rockwell paintings. The exterior had a large billboard attached to it and a log fence around the roof. By 1976, the restaurant was so popular that it could not hold enough people. So the diner was sold in two sections — the kitchen went to Mattoon for scrap and the dining half went to Villa Grove — and a 180 seat Taffies was built on the site.

In 1983, a partnership brought the Elite to Urbana where it was restored. It currently sits at the corner of Elm and Vine streets where it is attached to an old 1940's blue and white tile gas station/garage.

**Environmental Heritage Award — Champaign County Courthouse Clock** (Main Street, Urbana). One of the best kept secrets in Champaign County is the story of the courthouse clock. Prior to 1883 the railroads were the main source of time, but each railroad company had their own time; standardization did not exist. In November, 1883, a standard time was set and courthouses across the land installed clocks to help



Champaign County Clock, Urbana

their citizens keep accurate time.

The Champaign County clock works were manufactured in 1883 in the Hotchkiss design by Seth Thomas (#302). Ozias Riley of Urbana installed the works in the 1859 courthouse; when the present building was constructed in 1901 the works were moved and reinstalled in the clock tower. Restoration of the original weight driven clock works by the Parkland College clock specialists and Bill Smith was part of the 1976 Bicentennial celebration. The weight driven mechanism has 650 pounds of pressure for the strikes and is manually wound each week by the official "Keeper of the Clock," Jack Apolka and is maintained by Apolka and Bruce Hannon.

**Special Heritage Award — Barbara Roberts.** A special award was presented to Mrs. Barbara Roberts, recently retired director of the Champaign County Historical Archives of the Urbana Free Library. Mrs. Roberts and her staff have developed a massive historical collection that is invaluable to researchers and have always been extremely helpful and willing to "go that extra mile" for an elusive fact or clue.

## VOLUNTEERS IN PRESERVATION

Angela Graham  
Chuck & Betty Casad  
Mark Replogle  
Rose Gier-Wilson  
Janice Stein  
Dana Pratt



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### PACA Newsletter

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**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

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult .....  | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (1/2 time or more) .....   | \$ 5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen .....   | \$ 5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (includes all members of a household with no more than two members being over age 21) ..... | \$15.00 |

Additional Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

#### CIVIC

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Over 100 members ..... | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50-100 members .....   | \$ 75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Up to 50 members ..... | \$ 50.00 |

#### CORPORATE

..... \$ 50.00

RENEWAL

NEW MEMBERSHIP

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