



PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61820

"The Past Has A Future"

Volume 8

July-August, 1988

Number 4

COTTAGE WINS GOVERNOR'S HOME TOWN AWARD

The Preservation Association and the Champaign County Public Service Program were honored for their efforts in restoring the Greek Revival Cottage with a third place award in the Governor's Home Town Competition. The Home Town Awards recognize exemplary volunteer efforts in communities throughout Illinois. Specifically, this award salutes the 3300 volunteer hours of labor, the more than \$42,000 in materials and the \$16,000 in funds that were donated by the C-U community to the Cottage project.

This year 77 community projects in 10 general population categories were selected for awards from over 200 applications. Awards for community projects were divided into 10 groups based on population. PACA was placed in Category IX (popula-

tion 71,700 to 139,999) by submitting a joint Urbana-Champaign entry that signified the wide community support that the Greek Revival Cottage project generated. Competing communities were Decatur, Rockford, Evanston, and Springfield. Entries were judged by an impartial outside review body based on local need and community participation, as well as the project's results and continuity.

PACA and the Public Service Program were given a commemorative plaque and a road sign proclaiming the community's selection as a winner in the competition. The plaque will be hung in the Cottage's entry hallway and the road sign will be incorporated into the landscape plan now under development by the Urbana Park District.

SALVAGE CENTER

PACA has recently been salvaging from a number of sites in Champaign County and we would like to take this opportunity to thank those individuals and businesses that have made contributions to our salvage center. In fact the center is filled to the brim with architectural items such as doors, woodwork, staircases, cast-iron bath tubs and other items too numerous to mention. If you haven't stopped by, please do any Saturday morning at 9:30 AM.

The tip of our hat to: Berns, Clancy & Associates, Mahomet-Seymour School District #3, Roger Miller, Holy Cross Parish, Mr. & Mrs. Chester Frederick, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Blatz, Mr. George Smith, Century 21 - Heartland Real Estate, James O'Malley, Nancy Endress, Rich Piccioli, Mrs. Dean Moore, Mrs. Barbara Fella, Mrs. Georgia Morgan, Ms. Sharon Rapp.



PACA GARAGE SALE

A fund raising garage sale has been scheduled for Sunday, September 11 from 12:00-5:00 PM. Non-architectural items from the PACA Salvage Center, primarily furniture and small household items, will be offered for sale. A large number of antique-type items have been offered on consignment from an old house in Vermillion County. Items from PACA members will also be gladly accepted, call 328-PACA to arrange for pick-up.

Governor's Home Town Award Presentation
Bill May, Karen Kummer, Lt. Gov. Ryan,
Marylee MacDonald

FOCUS ON: THE NATURAL HISTORY BUILDING

In the Natural History Building Nathan Clifford Ricker gave the campus a new building style while continuing his development of techniques in building ventilation and lighting. When it was erected *The Illini* praised it as "one of the most prominent and noticable ones in the group of University buildings". By the use of repetitive elements and economical construction Ricker was able to give this building nicely crafted details while staying within the usual tight construction budget.

The previous buildings on the University were an eclectic mix dominated by the French Second Empire style of University Hall and Ricker's Chemical Laboratory. In the Natural History Building Ricker introduced the American High Victorian Gothic style to the campus. His use of polychromatic elements in the stone trim and ornamental brick demonstrated that Ricker had a clear understanding of the elements of the style, while the rusticated stone base recalls his earlier Drill Hall and Chemical Laboratory. The steep pitched roof supported by wood trusses allowed the full use of the attic story.

Ricker's floor plan is symmetrical about the building's north-south axis and was described as resembling a double-bladed jack-knife. He integrated engineering systems that were "the most approved methods of natural lighting and ventilation" being used in construction at the time. The light wells which stretched vertically through the building's wide central corridor, ventilating flues in each room along with steam heat supplied from the main boiler at the University Hall allowed students and faculty to study and learn in comfort.



Although the heavy timber mill construction of the building's structure was not innovative, Ricker raised the system to an art form by turning the exposed beams into a decorative coffered ceiling. Along the same lines, the exquisite millwork in the stairwell recalls Ricker's early training in shop practice, which gave him an appreciation of fine materials and craftsmanship.

The entrances to the building are indicative of the phases that planning has gone through at the University. In 1893, the major campus buildings faced Green Street, and the main entrance of the original Natural History Building followed suit. The later additions to the building open toward the Quadrangle, which was introduced to the campus plan in 1905.

The additions to Ricker's original Natural History Building are very comple-

mentary to the style of his building and create an overall consistency of exterior appearance. The 1909 and 1910 additions by State Architect William Carbys Zimmerman gave the growing Natural History Department much needed lecture and classroom space, as well as the spectacular museum. This large "L"-shaped addition is attached to the southwest corner of the original building and gives the edifice its present west and south facades. In its design, Zimmerman chose to make the west facade symmetrical about the new center entrance pavilion, with the south end of the facade essentially a duplicate of the original building's west facade. Although Zimmerman was not educated by Ricker, he admired Ricker's design enough to use similar materials in a sympathetic design. The final addition in 1923 by University Architect James M. White connects the east side of the first addition with the southeast corner of the original building, complementing Zimmerman's design for the center pavilion of the west facade and giving the Natural History Building the consistent appearance it has today.

The Natural History Building is an American High Victorian Gothic style structure constructed of red brick laid in a running bond with a rough faced coursed ashlar foundation and stone water table. The building is rectangular in plan with two interior lightwells and stands 2½ stories tall. It is capped with a mansard roof clad in slate shingles. The original building was 50 feet by 90 feet. The additions have enlarged it to 90 feet by 180 feet.

The north end of the building was constructed in 1893 and as originally constructed it was rectangular in plan. In 1909, a large "L"-shaped addition was added to the southwest corner giving the



building its current west and south facades. The lecture hall and museum wing was added in 1910, although it had been planned as a part of the 1909 addition. This is located in the center of the current building, separating the interior lightwells. The last addition to the building was in 1923 at which time the east side was closed. Although the building we see today was constructed over a period of thirty years, it has a consistency of style giving it a unified appearance.

(Excerpted from the Nathan C. Ricker Thematic National Register Nomination by Amy Cassens, Bret Johnson, David Garner, and Janice Stein. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.)

Natural History Building
1301 West Green Street, Urbana

INDIANS OF ILLINOIS BUS TOUR

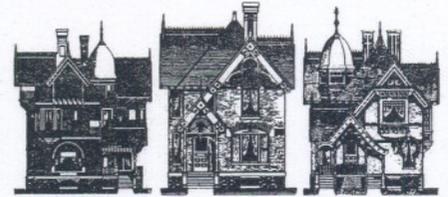
October 15 and 16 are the dates scheduled by the Illinois Heritage Association for their "Indians of Illinois" bus tour. The tour will leave from Champaign and visit four museums which interpret prehistoric and historic Indian life. The museums are Dickson Mounds, Kampsville Archaeological Museum, Cahokia Mounds, and the Illinois State Museum. Historian Ray Hauser will lead the group and will be the speaker on Saturday night. Overnight accommodations will be at the recently renovated Pere Marquette Lodge. The cost is \$167 which includes transportation, lodging, meals and a membership in the IHA; for further information contact the IHA at 359-5600.

SECOND CENTRAL ILLINOIS PRAIRIE CONFERENCE

The Second Central Illinois Prairie Conference is scheduled for September 24-25 at Wildlife Prairie Park outside of Peoria. Topics include An Introduction to the North American Prairie, Medicinal Uses of Prairie Plants by Native Americans, Wet Prairies and Wetlands, Abandoned Railroads, Prairie Restorations, Land Acquisition and Brush Control and Herbicide Use in Prairies. There will also be field trips to a diverse assortment of sites. For further information about the conference contact Grand Prairie Friends, 1988 Prairie Conference, P.O. Box 9059, Peoria, IL 61614.

CORRECTION

In the last newsletter it was reported that the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency was responsible for administering the Illinois State Museum. This is not true as the State Museum is an independent agency. The check-off provision to create the Heritage Preservation Fund was enacted for this year, although at least \$100,000 must be contributed in order to renew the provision for subsequent years.



DOWNTOWN CHAMPAIGN WALKING TOURS

In conjunction with the rededication of the Champaign City Building on Sunday, September 11, PACA will be conducting walking tours of downtown Champaign. These will be given on the half-hour between 12:30 and 4:00. Tours of the renovated City Building will also be available that day and the PACA slide show on the renovation of the Cattle Bank will be continually shown in the City Building basement. Many other festivities are planned for this day, so be sure to attend.



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

Additional Contribution _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CIVIC

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

CORPORATE

..... \$ 50.00

RENEWAL

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Street

City

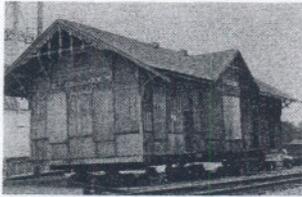
State

Zip

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

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.





MONTICELLO DEPOT ASSOCIATION RECEIVES GRANT

The Monticello Depot Association is proud to announce that they are the recipient of a grant from the Twentieth Century Railroad Club of Chicago. After moving the depot to save it from demolition, the Depot Association has begun restoration work on Monticello's 1899 Wabash Depot. The grant is a 2:1 matching grant, so, for every dollar raised between now and Oct. 1, the Depot Association will receive \$2 from the Twentieth Century Railroad Club (up to \$1800). To help raise this money, the Depot Association offers prints for sale. One print is of a water color painting of the Depot by local water color artist Larry Zeimer, the other is of a rendering of the Depot by Jack Swing, local architect and professor at the University of Illinois. Both prints cost \$30. For more information, call Jim Gortner at 762-2924 (days and Sat) or Donna Milner at 762-9221, or visit the Depot in downtown Monticello Sat and Sun afternoon or Tues and Thurs evenings.

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ASSOCIATION

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PACA Newsletter

Published by the Preservation and
Conservation Association

President: Joan Severns

Vice President: Kennedy Hutson

Secretary/Treasurer: Patricia Jensen

Exec. Director: Karen Lang Kummer
328-PACA

OLD HOUSE NETWORK

The fall meetings of the Old House Network have been established as follows:

September 21-All About Windows: weatherstripping, replacement sash, simple repairs, storm windows, etc.

To be held at the home of Jeff and Barb Rogowski-Kent, 604 East Elm, Urbana.

October 19- Low-Interest Loan Programs in Champaign-Urbana

To be held at the home of Barbara Culbertson, 509 W. Washington, Champaign.

November 16-Basic Exterior Repairs: clapboards, tuckpointing, caulking, removing asphalt shingles

To be held at the home of Norman & Carolyn Baxley, 510 W. Main, Urbana

All meetings will begin at 7:30. Please bring a folding chair or be prepared to sit on the floor.

The purpose of these meetings is twofold: to provide an informational service to our members and to establish an "old house network" of individuals who are renovating area homes. This network will only be as successful as the people involved so if you are interested, please participate whether you have an old house or not.

V.I.P.'s

Hank Kaczmariski	Eric Mees
Bob Swisher	Steve Roemmel
Rex Kummer	Kathy Roemmel
Karen Kummer	Susan Gunason
Greg Sekula	Richard Cahill
Janet Sekula	Gene Jacobs
David Gamer	

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Anderson
Sharon Gunason & Richard Cahill
Mr. & Mrs. Judd Peck
Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Avner
Lisa R. Smith
Mary Ann Topa & Robert R. Wise

