TAX CHECKOFF SUPPORTS ILLINOIS PRESERVATION EFFORTS

LESSONS FROM THE PAST - FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE.

CHECK 11D FOR HISTORY. HERITAGE PRESERVATION FUND.

The historic preservation community in Illinois, and that includes every one of us with a commitment to the preservation of the past for the benefit of the future, has been given a unique opportunity and responsibility with the creation of the Heritage Preservation Fund and Tax Checkoff.

Illinois has the opportunity to establish a prototype for preservation efforts nationwide. The Heritage Preservation Fund and Tax Checkoff can supplement a sagging budget for statewide preservation efforts by providing a funding source for worthy historic preservation projects which would otherwise go unfunded.

During the 85th General Assembly, lawmakers gave Illinoisans the means, through the legislative institution of the Heritage Preservation Fund, to provide for the reservation and continued interpretation of our heritage.

The chief vehicle for donating to the Fund was created with the addition of the Heritage Preservation Tax Checkoff to the Illinois income tax form. 11d for history! Anyone receiving a refund may donate up to $10-$20 if filing jointly — to the Fund by checking 11d (for history!) on your IL-1040. Remember — your donation can be reported as tax-deductible on next year's federal tax form.

Additional tax-deductible donations may also be made by writing a check and mailing it directly to the Heritage Preservation Fund, Old State Capitol, Springfield, IL 62701.

But...in order for the "historic" checkoff provision to remain on the state income tax form, the Heritage Preservation Fund must raise $100,000 each year.

It is important to note that the checkoff for preserving our precious heritage is not the only choice on the tax form. We have been given this wonderful opportunity alongside such worthy causes as child abuse prevention, Alzheimer's disease research and nongame wildlife.

It's not going to be easy to raise the necessary $100,000 but it is possible. It's an opportunity we can't afford to let slip through our fingers. And we certainly can't do it without you!

Your contribution to the Heritage Preservation Fund can make the difference between the rescue or ruin of Illinois' historical and cultural resources. These irreplaceable resources include ancient Indian land, Lincoln's letters and documents, landmark buildings, historic books, photographs and works of art. Together they are Illinois — her heritage and her future. Without these resources, the story cannot be told.

Proposals for use of the dollars generated include the continuation of Brick and Mortar grant funding; conservation of historic books, newspapers, photographs and works of art; expanded educational programming at historic sites statewide; scholarships and internships; and the creation of new educational material to aid in the teaching of Illinois history and culture. The possibilities are limitless.

If those of us who believe in the power of the past to influence the future donate just $10 to the Heritage Preservation Fund we can accomplish our goal and make Illinois a leader in nationwide preservation efforts.

NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM

The National Building Museum, mandated by Congress in 1980 to commemorate and encourage the American building arts, is a privately funded organization. The federal government generously supports NBM's mission by providing free of charge the historic and architecturally significant Pension Building for its base in Washington, DC.

NBM's national program of exhibitions, films, publications and television presentations celebrates the nation's historic building accomplishments and brings news to the general public about what is being designed and constructed all over America. A national information center helps building and design professionals, students and critics locate the historical data they need to interpret America's building heritage as well as provide them with current and historical technological data. NBM's documentation center collects and makes available both written and visual archives — correspondence, drawings, photographs, models and artifacts — concerning buildings of national significance.

BLUEPRINTS, the quarterly publication of the National Building Museum, informs its readers about both the museum's programs and what is being designed and constructed all across the country.
In fulfilling its goals, NBM works jointly with the other groups in the country concerned with the building arts, many of which helped identify the need for this national institution and aided in its birth.

An ultimate goal of NBM's program is to encourage the public to take part in the ongoing debate over what relationship our society should establish between the built and the natural environments. By creating and endorsing the National Building Museum, Congress has shown that it believes an informed and alert citizenry is the best way to ensure a proper balance between our nation's natural splendors and its man-made achievements.

The Old Pension Building

The home of the National Building Museum was designed in 1881 to be a modern office building that would house the rapidly expanding Pension Bureau whose 1,500 clerks were spread out across the city in four rented buildings.

Its architect, Montgomery C. Meigs (1816-1892), graduated from West Point in 1836 to begin a long career in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. One of his early achievements was the design and execution of the Cabin John Bridge in Maryland — then the longest masonry span in the world. Shortly thereafter, he collaborated with Thomas U. Walter as architect and engineer on the design and construction of the Senate and House Chambers as well as on the cast iron dome of the U.S. Capitol Building.

During the Civil War Meigs served as Quartermaster in charge of provisions for the Union Army. One of his sons was killed during the war and this personal sorrow, as well as the suffering the war caused the entire nation, may be responsible for the poignant character of the professional frieze of soldiers and sailors he commissioned to encircle the exterior of the Pension Building.

Basicly the arrangement of the Pension Building was adapted by Meigs from the standard Italian Renaissance palace plan of a series of interconnected rooms — each also entered from an arcaded loggia — arranged around an open central space. After restoration to its original form, this sequence of large, open spaces will make a natural and grand series of display areas for NBM.

In addition to its plan, the Italian origin of the Pension Building is best seen in the division of the exterior walls into three clearly marked stories crowned by a heavily projected cornice and in the alternating rhythm of the window treatment. Such features are common to many Italian palaces, but in this instance Meigs specifically claimed to have been inspired by the sixteenth century Palazzo Farnese in Rome.

However, conspicuous features of the Pension Building are not found in that Roman model. There are differences in the choice of building materials, the window groupings and other architectural details, but the most distinctive element of the Pension Building is the visually dominating terra cotta frieze that encircles the entire building.

The impression of massive horizontality on the exterior is contrasted dramatically by the verticality of the great interior hall. The soaring central space of the Great Hall — high enough to contain, according to today's building code, a fifteen story building — is separated from two slightly lower side courts by the eight colossal Corinthian columns that establish the monumental scale of the entire interior space.

The central fountain enlivens this vast space by refracting the light and inducing waves of sound. Far above, the airy trestle work of the roof (planned by the architect to be painted sky blue) harks back to the open courts of Roman palaces, often crisscrossed by wires supporting awnings for protection against the summer sun.

A truly astonishing interior space, The Great Hall continues to provide a dramatic setting for numerous events. Transformed ten times during its one hundred year history into a gala setting for presidential inaugerals, the Great Hall was used first, two years before the building was totally completed, for President Grover Cleveland's Inaugural Ball of 1885, beginning a tradition followed by other presidents to this day. Today, it also is used for other gala events as well as for temporary exhibits mounted by NBM.

Although the undeniably grandiose qualities of The Great Hall make it a fit and appropriate location for the gala festivities accompanying a Presidential Inauguration and for a display space, this was not the principal purpose of its design. Instead, the vast covered interior space and its monumental architectural framework were designed by the architect to achieve a practical goal.

Familiar with the dark and stuffy offices then occupied by most government agencies General Meigs wanted to provide the clerks of the Pension Bureau with an efficient office building filled with fresh air and natural light. He wanted, he said, "no dark corners in the building and no ill ventilated rooms."

The south elevation has 23 bays. The first bay from the west has one over one double-hung window. The second bay from the...
Aeronautical Lab “B” was constructed as the Metal Shop in 1895 and was designed by Nathan C. Ricker. The structure is significant for its associations with Nathan Ricker as an architect and educator, his role as Dean of the College of Engineering, and the building’s design as a modern industrial structure.

Shop practice for students in the College of Engineering was not limited to the architecture department. Mechanical engineering students were required to design and fabricate machine parts and whole machines. Originally, this work was done in the Mechanical Building. As the school grew, the shop facilities became inadequate for the number of students. As Dean of the College, Ricker requested an appropriation for a new shop facility. His request was granted, and Ricker drew up plans for the metal shop.

His design reflects a need for a utilitarian structure and is his only structure on the campus without historical references. If anything, the building’s brick walls, with a minimum of ornamentation and large windows, recall factory buildings of the period. The only artistic feature to the building is the entrance loggia on Burrill Avenue. For maximum flexibility in placing machinery within the building, Ricker employed steel trusses which span the entire width of the building.

The Metal Shop represents the functional and practical aspects of Ricker’s teaching in built form.

Significance:

Excerpted from N.C. Ricker Nomination by Amy L. Cassens, David J. Garner, Janice A. Stein, Graduate Students in Architecture University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

PACA ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Membership Meeting was held February 19 at the Champaign City Building. Over fifty members and guests attended and heard the preservation highlights of 1988.

The membership elected three directors to serve on the Board through 1991: Steve Roemmel, Nancy Delcomyn, and Joan Severns (re-elected). Currently serving are Keddy Hutson (89), Wanda Bengoechea (90), Jim Dobrovolny (90), Hank Kaczmarkski (89), and Pat Jensen (89). Retiring Board members are Hermenia Kruidenier and Marylee MacDonald. Earlier, at the February Board meeting, Nina Rubel was appointed to fulfill the unexpired term of retiring director, Barbara Rogowski-Kent (90).

The Fifth Annual Heritage Awards were presented and a very entertaining slide show on the history of the Champaign City Building was presented by Ed Bains. Mayor McCullom served as “host” for the event and provided a short tour of the recently renovated City Building.
FIFTH ANNUAL HERITAGE AWARDS PRESENTED

Presentation of the fifth annual Heritage Awards was made at the Annual Membership Meeting. The purpose of the Awards is to increase awareness of the important buildings and sites in the community, to promote the interests of preservation and conservation, and to acknowledge all of the special efforts and hard work that the owners expended in the renovation of their buildings.

This year's recipients are:

**Landmark Heritage Award**
Champaign City Building
102 North Neil, Champaign

**Landscape Heritage Award**
"Save the Trees" - Springfield Ave.
Kyria Shair & Mary Ann Bassett

**Residential Heritage Award**
Tyner-Wilson Residence
607 West Washington, Champaign
Robenson-Straka Residence
Rural Savoy

**Honorable Mention**
Sekula Residence
813 West University, Champaign
McKinley-O’Byrne-Haley Residence
916 West Church, Champaign

**Commercial Heritage Award**
Sholem Building
8 Main Street, Champaign

Schooners Restaurant
207 West Clark, Champaign
Norman Baxley & Associates
110 West Main, Urbana

**Institutional Heritage Award**
Urbana High School
1002 South Race, Urbana

**Special Heritage Award**
Robert Swisher, Salvage Chair

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The response to the end-of-the-year membership drive was great. PACA enlisted many new members and renewed many past members. Our thanks to everyone for your support.

SALVAGE DONATIONS

Ann Dennis
Robert O’Daniell
Ennis Excavation Company
Rey & Sons
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Gonda

V.I.P.’s

Mark Replogle
Keddy Hutson
Cliff Carey
Margaret DeCardy
Dan McCullom
Ed Bain

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Mark Sieja
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Tuchman
William Krudener
Robert & Helen Heins
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Bradbury
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Baxley
George T. Claydon
Sharon Isham
Mrs. Helen Levin
Robert McClintock Family
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Dee Rubenacker
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Please submit material for publication in the next newsletter before 15th of month.