Historic Log House Available for Relocation

The University of Illinois, through PACA, is offering a rare, two-story log house for relocation. Located northeast of Urbana, the house is near the last remnants of the “Big Grove,” the area first settled in Champaign County.

The Phillips’ Farmhouse was erected, by most accounts, around 1852. Its construction is squared-off logs, three or four inches wide, some with the bark still attached. The main house has four rooms, two per floor; later additions include a porch, kitchen, and clapboard siding.

PACA has been working with the University to find ways of preserving the building, but no “creative” solutions have appeared. Now the University is offering the building to the public for relocation in the hopes that it can be preserved for future generations. If you are interested in finding out more about the Phillips’ Farmhouse, contact PACA.

National Register News

Three more buildings in Champaign County join the 14 currently on the National Register of Historic Places. The latest entries are two fraternities and one sorority: Kappa Sigma (212 E. Daniel, C), Beta Theta Pi (202 E. Daniel, C), and Alpha Xi Delta (715 W. Michigan, U). These buildings are part of a larger project to list all of the eligible Greek Letter Society houses under a Multiple Resource Nomination, “Fraternities and Sororities on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Campus.” This “umbrella” documentation and the subsequent individual listings are being done by The URBANA Group, a local planning consultant firm that specializes in historic preservation. Its staff are all PACA members.

At the September meeting of the Illinois Advisory Council the Inman Hotel nomination, highlighted in the last Newsletter, was passed and sent to the National Park Service for final review and listing on the National Register. At the same meeting, the Mumford House, the oldest structure on the UI campus, was also successfully nominated to the National Register. Lisa Lipinski, a UI graduate student in art history, authored the Mumford House nomination.

At the History Areas Committee of the Secretary of the Interior’s National Park System Advisory Board meeting in September, the UI Astronomical Observatory received preliminary designation as a National Historic Landmark. Historic Landmark status is the highest honor that can be bestowed on a building, structure, or site. Further review is pending with final designation scheduled for December. The UI Observatory was second in the number of letters of support the Committee received and we would like to thank those PACA members who took the time to write. In addition, many astronomers who were at the session on behalf of other observatories spoke in favor of Urbana’s building. Its national significance is clearly recognized.
1990 Heritage Awards — Call for Nominations

PACA is seeking nominations for the Sixth 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 public and everyone is encouraged to participate. Deadline: November 27, 1989.

Last year’s Award winners were the following:

Outstanding Heritage Award —
none

Landmark Heritage Award —
1 Champaign City Building
   102 North Neil, Champaign

Landscape Heritage Award —
2 “Save the Trees” - Springfield Ave.
   Kyra Shair & Mary Ann Bassett

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

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

Commercial Heritage Award —
7 Sholem Building
   8 Main Street, Champaign
8 Schooners Restaurant
   207 West Clark, Champaign
9 Norman Baxley & Associates
   110 West Main, Urbana

Institutional Heritage Award —
10 Urbana High School
   1002 South Race, Urbana

Environmental Heritage Award —
Heartland Pathways
   Champaign & Piatt Counties

Special Heritage Award —
Robert Swisher
   Salvage Chair
The Steering Committee has been very active in the past few months. An informational booth was set up at the Cultural Arts Festival/Taste of Champaign in West Side Park. A pictorial display of the interior of the theater and the building's original facade helped explain the significance of the Orpheum to area residents unfamiliar with the theater. "Orpheum Preservation Project" T-shirts were sold ($8.00, still available from PACA) to subsidize the activities of the Steering Committee, and petitions were circulated which gathered over 3400 signatures of citizens who support the preservation of this fine building.

Since late August the Committee has been busy contacting other cities where theaters of this size have been successfully renovated. The overwhelming response from these groups has been positive: their theater renovations were the catalyst for further downtown renovation and have been well supported by their communities. One note of caution has been prevalent, however, the community must need and want the theater. To that end, the Orpheum Preservation Committee has been soliciting letters of support from area groups and organizations. Particularly important are letters from groups that might have a need for such a space, such as theater, musical, or community organizations who could use auditorium space — on a regular or even once a year basis. If you know of such a group, please let PACA know, it is very important for us to have their support.

Access to the theater to assess its physical condition in detail has been hampered by the Kerasotes Corporation. The Committee is still trying to arrange entry to the building to conduct a thorough structural condition report. Without such a report, accurate renovation cost projections are impossible.

Committee members have been working hard on this project and ask for your help to keep the momentum going. If you are interested in volunteering a few hours of time toward this project, call PACA and leave your name and number. And, if you haven’t written your letter to the Champaign City Council, please do so today. The future of the Orpheum Theater deserves at least five minutes of your time.

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 ................................................................. $ 50.00

RENEWAL ...........................................................................
NEW MEMBERSHIP ...........................................................

Additional Contribution ......................................................

NAME ..........................................................................
ADDRESS ................................................................. Street
City ............................................................................ State
Zip ..............................................................................

Make checks payable to: PACA, Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61825

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
Christmas Gifts

What to buy that special someone for Christmas is always a perplexing question. This year PACA has the answer! How about a one-of-a-kind PACA T-shirt? Or, for the culturally inclined, an Orpheum Preservation Project T-shirt.

For that truly unique gift, what about an architectural salvage item? Buy that special person the clawfoot bathtub they've always wanted, or the columns the front porch needs. An architectural element also makes for a good conversation piece in the living room. All old house lovers need information, so a gift membership to PACA is always welcome.

All of the above are available at the Salvage Warehouse, 65 E. University Ave., Champaign (open Saturday mornings at 9:30 only.)

Salvage Specials

Currently PACA has a large selection of clawfoot and apron-pedestal bathtubs. A few have had their exteriors sandblasted and repainted, and are thus in ready-to-install condition. Prices range from $25.00 to $70.00, depending on size and condition.

Also available is a bank tellers counter. Approximately 15 feet long, in an “L” configuration, the counter is oak with marble mop boards and teller counters. $300.00.

Remember, the salvage warehouse is open Saturday morning at 9:30!

Volunteers in Preservation

Kristen Jensen
Mark Replogle
Bob Swisher
Hank Kaczmarski
Rex Kummer

New & Renewing Members

Marylee MacDonald
Hank & Jo Kaczmarski

Linda Mills
Chris Anderson
Perry C. Morris
Nancy & Thomas Anderson
John & Virginia Garth
Alice Wisegarver
Peggy F. Henderson
Rex & Karen Kummer
Rachel Foster
John & Joan Severs
Mrs. John J. Dwyer
Raeann Dossett
Mrs. Frances Kruidenier
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Robinson
Judy Douglas & Thomas Cadwallader
Mr. & Mrs. L. E. Doyle
Mary B. Altenbernd
Laird Thompson
James Russell Vaky
Sharon Priest
Mrs. Norris L. Brookens
Julie Yoder
Frances Roehm
Dennis & Jan Lewis
Sarah Barnett
Robin Hall
Michael Svec
Mr. & Mrs. Lachlan Blair
K. Dane Wittrup

Salvage Donations

University of Illinois
Mr. & Mrs. William Watson
Fred Preisel

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61825

PACA Newsletter
Published by the Preservation and Conservation Association
President: Kennedy Hutson
Vice President: James Dobrovolny
Secretary/Treasurer: Patricia Jensen

328-PACA

Please submit material for publication in the next newsletter before 15th of month.