

# PRESERVATION MATTERS

Fall, 2015  
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PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

## The Champaign County Historical Museum is Making a Comeback!

by Perry Morris and TJ Blakeman

*As many of you may have read recently in the news, the Champaign County Historical Museum is at a crossroads. In fact, many of you may be under the impression that the museum is closing. Never fear, the museum is planning its great comeback. At a special September membership meeting the museum leadership led a frank discussion of the status of the Museum. At that meeting a new 14 member board was elected and since that time the board has made the decision to remain open and begin anew. The new Board has been meeting weekly and making plans to pump new vitality into the Museum and fulfill its mission:*

*The mission of the Champaign County Historical Museum is to discover, collect, preserve, exhibit, study, and interpret objects relating to the history of the County, and to provide educational programs about the County's heritage and the Museum's collections.*

*Committees have been formed and charged with planning for the care and exhibition of the collection, public relations, memberships, and fundraising. Four new galleries are envisioned on the ground level. The current general store, that many are familiar with, will remain and be enhanced with additional history of the Cattle Bank building as well as a smaller gift shop emphasizing our bookshop. The old gift shop room will become a gallery on the history of Champaign County, its towns, and the people who built them. The remaining two galleries will house rotating exhibits. The first exhibits will take advantage of the museum's vast quilt collection while the other will talk of County men and women in the*



Champaign County Historical Museum

*armed forces. These exhibits will rotate every 6-12 months.*

*The Research Room will remain upstairs as a resource for local historians and genealogists while the museum office will be converted to a work room to process and care for the nearly 20,000 artifacts in the museum's collection. The former military room will be converted to a meeting room that is made available for public meetings and events.*

*At present, the Board and volunteers are holding weekly work days and are busy packing away former exhibits, cleaning and painting the new exhibit rooms and preparing for a grand reopening that is anticipated in early 2016.*

*A new website, [champaigncountyhistory.org](http://champaigncountyhistory.org).*

*org is up and running with great photos of the current collection and information about the museum and its operations. Please visit the site to purchase a membership, make a donation, and sign-up to get involved. You can visit the online book store featuring Dan McCollum's Essays on the Geographic History of Champaign County and Remembering Champaign County. The Beginnings: Champaign County in the 1850s and 1860s as well as many others. If you have any questions about the museum, please don't hesitate to contact us at [president@champaign-countyhistory.org](mailto:president@champaign-countyhistory.org).*



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## Salvage Report - July 2014 to November 2015

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by Rich Cahill

It has been over ten years since I last wrote a report on PACA salvage activities. When I look back on what I said in my 10th salvage report in 2004, the conclusions I made then hold even truer today. The keys to PACA's success are: first our loyal customers who often drive considerable distances to shop at the warehouse; second, local governments, institutions, businesses and individuals who donate material or provide salvage opportunities; and third and most important are our volunteers who have helped with salvage operations, often at a considerable distance from CU using their personal vehicles.

One thing that has changed in ten years is that PACA's warehouse hours have expanded. We are now open 5 days a week, and so the amount of drop-off donations has increased dramatically. This fall we have also been fortunate to have over 30 university of Illinois student volunteers working on weekends at the warehouse in order to help us clean up and organize our inventory.

The largest salvage operation by far was on 2 weekends in July 2014 where we salvaged the Natural History Building on the University of Illinois campus prior to the start of its 2 year renovation. It took considerable effort to gain permission to save items from this amazing building and it would not have been possible without the support of Matt Richards of Barton & Marow, and Mike Wise at the Office of Planning of F&S at the Uni-



Natural History Building Crew

versity of Illinois. Nineteen volunteers moved 7 box trucks and 15 pickup loads of material and spent approximately 165 hours on site. Thanks to Dennis Coleman, we were given permission to store most the materials in a 3,200 square foot warehouse that is part to the CU Woodshop training center. This has now become know as PACA West. A conservative estimate of the sales value of the material saved was \$38,000.

### Highlights

September 2014: Urbana Landmark Hotel: Five truckloads of stained glass, doors, windows, wood columns, and other item from previous renovations that had to be removed because of fire code issues.

October 2014: 314 East White. We only had a few hours to save three sets of pocket doors and other items. Items were saved from six houses between 5th and 6th streets, University Ave, and Park Street. The historic Mahomet (Middleton) School designed by Joseph Royer was built in 1920's. It had been the high school and most recently an elementary school and administrative office. Ten volunteers saved fourteen sheets of slate that had been hidden for years behind cork board, a walk-in safe, old stage lights that had also been hidden for years, and miscellaneous architectural elements. In addition a large quantity of surplus school equipment the district could no longer use was saved. Due to space limitation at the warehouse most of this material was stored at PACA west.

December 2014: Farmhouse in Hume, house outside of Tuscola and a house in Mattoon. Two complete staircases were saved along with a lot of nice doors and trim. January 2015: A house at 505 South 1st Street. May 2015: Large house at 403 West University

June 2015: Seven houses in the Bristol Park area of Champaign, and a farm-



House in Sidell

house west of Sidell. The farmhouse provided a major haul of unpainted trim and doors, lighting rods, old flooring, and even an old farm wagon.

July 2015: Three more house in the Bristol Park area of Champaign, 412 West Springfield Urbana, and 57 East Armory Champaign. The house on East Armory was the subject of a number of articles in the News Gazette and the fall 2013 issue of the PACA newsletter. In the end Robe Construction allowed us to save some very nice items although they were only able to give us a very limited amount of time. Roland and Gillespie Reality donated a 25' box truck of 38 unpainted oak doors complete with jams and trim (and nails). This was also stored at PACA west.

August 2015: TKE Fraternity, 1008 South 4th Street, and houses at 1403 West Eads Urbana, 904 N Hickory Champaign, and 906-910 South 1st street Champaign. A large fireplace, doors, and a large quan-



TKE Fraternity

tity of crown molding was saved from the Frat house. A large number of doors, trim, a corner cabinet and registers were saved from these houses as well. September 2015: House at 402 West Springfield and one in rural Savoy. The trim in the farmhouse was very ornate complete with square nails. October 2015: A house south of Mansfield and houses at 1114 West Church and 1310 West Hill in Urbana. Some old windows, floor registers, and some cast iron railing were among the items saved.

November 2015: Apartment building at 808 South 1st, houses at 512, 514 East Chalmers, and 909 South 6th Street. Two old style kitchen cabinets were saved as well as two apartments full of unpainted oak trim from the building. Numerous doors and nice oak trim were saved from the three houses on campus again thanks to the cooperation of Robe Construction of Chicago.

The following is a list of volunteers who helped with salvage operations; I apologize if I left anyone out. Al Friederich, Lee Stoops, Darrell and Linda Foste, Meg and Rob Dickenson Bill, Pat and Blaine Bogner, Robert and Sarah Nemeth, Todd Satterwaite, Susan and Lew Hopkins, Ann Johnson, Wally Hafermann, Mark Halan, Bill Morgan, Laurence Matte, Gary Peters, Gail Taylor, Jonathan Treffkorn, Mick Woolf, Brian Duffield, Benny Dow, Dan Leasure, Marty Savoie and Family, Jolen-Anya Minetz, Tom

Napier and Jane McClintock

The following property owners and business granted permission for salvage operations: Roland and Gillespie Realty, Habitat for Humanity, City of Urbana, Mahomet-Seymour School District, JPS Property, Mattoon YMCA, Urbana Landmark Hotel, Investment Property, Association, Barton & Marow, Robe Construction, City of Champaign, Franzen Construction, Green Street Realty, Jim Cunningham, Darrell & Linda Foste, Meg Miner, Malcolm McIntyre and Ed Thompson.



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## Heritage Award Nominations Needed

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The Heritage Award Committee is seeking nominations for the 2015 Heritage Awards. We're seeking information about residential, commercial and institutional buildings that have undergone historically appropriate or complimentary renovation in the last year, as well

as landscape and landmark projects. Special Heritage Awards are also given to individuals and groups who have worked to preserve a special aspect of our heritage, or who have advanced the cause of historic preservation in our community. The nomination process is easy, a form

is enclosed below, or can be picked up at the salvage warehouse during regular business hours.

Self nominations are encouraged and all nominations are due by February 29th, 2016.



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## Heritage Award Nomination Form

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To assist in the review and selection, please complete as much as you can of the following. Additional pages may be used. Attached photos -- digital images of work (before, after, and during) - are very useful.

Name of building, site, or person \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for nomination \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address/location \_\_\_\_\_

City/township/county \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of owner \_\_\_\_\_

Has the owner been notified of the nomination? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Historical Data

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Date of construction \_\_\_\_\_

Date of renovation/restoration \_\_\_\_\_

Original owner \_\_\_\_\_

Important residents, owners, events \_\_\_\_\_

Significance to the community \_\_\_\_\_

Architectural data \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/builder \_\_\_\_\_

Style \_\_\_\_\_

Interesting/unusual features (interior or exterior) \_\_\_\_\_

Nomnator's name, phone,, and email \_\_\_\_\_

Return to PACA, P.O. Box 2575, Champaign, IL 61825-2575

Send questions to: [pacaexdir@gmail.com](mailto:pacaexdir@gmail.com)



Daredevil Dan Leasure single-handedly removes a cast-iron railing from the second floor of the TKE fraternity house.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	PACA BOX 2575, Champaign, IL 61825
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MEMBERSHIP STATUS

New       Renewal

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

- Adult                 \$25
- Student                \$15
- Senior Citizen        \$15
- Family                 \$40

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

- Corporate
- Bronze                 \$250
- Silver                 \$500
- Gold                    \$1000
- Platinum              \$2000

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Please make your check payable to PACA. Your contribution is tax-deductable to the extent allowed by law.*

I wish to make an additional contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PACA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of our natural and built environment. Offices are located at our salvage warehouse:  
 44 E. Washington St, Champaign, IL 61825  
 217-359-7222 \* [www.pacacc.org](http://www.pacacc.org)

## PRESERVATION MATTERS

*The newsletter of the*



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*If you would like to contribute  
to the PACA newsletter, email  
pacaexdir@gmail.com*

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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