



Preservation Matters

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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Number 1

2008 Salvage Synopsis

This article was written by Bob Swisher, salvage co-chair emeritus, and PACA salvager since 1983.

Salvage last year - I, of course, remember the projects that I worked on and those were few as I spent most of my time with bricks, I'm sorry, I mean pavers. We sold over 25,000 pavers at 25 cents each and 5,000 large pavers at 50 cents each. We have 7,000 large pavers already on pallets ready to deliver and numerous small pavers on both pallets and in the dirt ready for spring.

I did, however, go to Charleston, IL with other volunteers where we salvaged three houses. Our bounty was a great looking fireplace, oak doors, and trim. We also acquired a staircase, registers, claw foot tub and some hardware. I spent two weekends with a great group of volunteers on John Street salvaging from the 1903 Presby House, which is now the site of steel beams going up and up. We took so much oak out of this building it was unbelievable. We also took door and window trim, rafters and beams, doors, registers, some light fixtures and one double-sized freezer and a two-door refrigerator plus a whole room full of oak paneling.

I only went to Decatur one time but Darrel Foste and Dan Leisure made a couple of trips to the middle of the city where they brought back some really different items. Over the summer, our volunteers also spent a lot of time cleaning the basement of the Solon House from where we took numerous truck loads of decayed wood to two burn piles, one in Mahomet and one in northeast Urbana. Here we accidentally set fire to the grass and the fire department had to come and put out the fire!!

I know there are many other salvage operations and volunteers in 2007 that I can't



remember. At our most recent salvage operation, the Vegetable Crops Building, Suzanne Ashley-Wannamueller was in charge and she organized over two dozen volunteers. Altogether they harvested thousands of feet of stained birch trim, doors, transoms, a newel post, windows and hardware to the warehouse, in addition to scrap copper, lightning rods and downspouts. Earlier in the year, about a dozen volunteers spent most of a weekend at the main U of I Library taking apart and loading two dozen heavy and large cast iron bookcases (about 250 lbs. each). Suzanne was again in charge of this project; it is ongoing salvage project and we will have more shelving units in the near future.

2008 salvage operations are, as usual, unknown at this time. There is a possibility that we will acquire another 30,000 street pavers from a different source this spring. If this comes about we will need a great number of weekend volunteers to stack them. Get on board now. This means \$15,000 for PACA and local preservation projects.

Salvage is like finding money; but we need lots of help. See you at the brick pile!

Bob Swisher



Local School Architecture

The Early American Museum is hosting an exhibit on historic schools beginning March 1 and running through December. Developed by historic preservation intern, Kali Morgan, this exhibit explores the meanings of local school buildings from both an architectural and community view point. Photographs of school buildings, historic and current, are included in the exhibit. Contact the Early American Museum, Champaign County Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve at 586-2612.

Historic Preservation: Conserving Heritage through Preservation, Restoration, and Salvage

Rebecca Hunter, an architectural historian, will present a lecture about the history of the historic preservation movement and suggest ways people can become involved in local, state, or nationwide preservation efforts. She will explain why architectural salvage is crucial to restoration and heritage - a passion dear to PACA members. Hunter's lecture is sponsored in part by the Illinois Humanities Council; it is free and open to the public. It will begin at 2pm, March 1, at the Early American Museum (see above).

2008 Salvage Vignettes

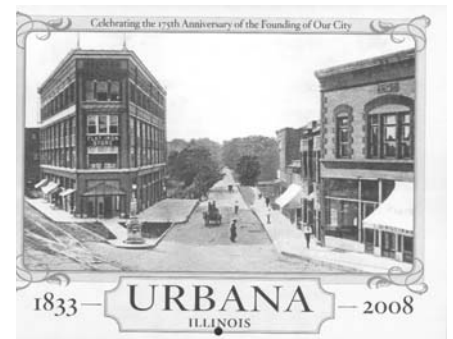


Commemorative Calendars on Sale Now!

Celebrate Urbana's 175th Birthday and support the arts and historic preservation by purchasing a commemorative calendar. Calendars feature never before published historic photographs and vignettes of historic Urbana arranged thematically through February 2009.

Calendars are available for purchase at the Urbana City Hall, Urbana Free Library, downtown galleries, PDQ Printing, the PACA architectural salvage warehouse, and other locations. A collectible numbered edition is \$12.00, while a special numbered commemorative edition, signed by Mayor Laurel Prussing, is \$20.00. However, supplies are limited.

The calendars were produced by the Urbana Birthday Celebration Committee with sponsorship and support by PDQ Printing, Preservation and Conservation Association of Champaign County, Cinema Gallery, Urbana Park District, West Urbana Neighborhood Association, Historic East Urbana Neighborhood Association, City of Urbana Market at the Square, Busey Bank, Champaign County Historical Society, Sousa Archives and Center for American Music at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Kennedy's at Stone Creek, Carle Foundation Hospital, Lincoln Square Village, and Urbana Business Association. The calendar was designed and researched by Dennis Roberts and Ilona Matkovszki.



Captions from upper left: Brick volunteer T-shirt; Cast-iron bookcases installed in PACA warehouse; Vegetable Crops Building; S. Third St. chapter house; E. Daniel St. Page one captions: Vegetable Crops building trim; Volunteers working in Vegetable Crops Building. Photos by Betty Swisher, Dan Leasure, Karen Kummer

Preservation in Progress National Preservation Conference 2008

The National Trust is sponsoring their annual preservation conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma from October 21-25. This conference provides all-important know-how, innovative ideas, and inspiration for people saving America's historic places and revitalizing communities. The conference is the premier educational and networking event for community leaders, volunteers, and staff of the historic preservation movement.

Take advantage of the opportunity to explore and compare the urban preservation challenges and successes in Tulsa and the context of the rural communities that surround it. Their stories highlight the region's Native American resources, Art Deco treasures, the legendary Route 66 Corridor and its changing environment and diversity.

Topics include strategies for neighborhood action in the face of tear-downs and inappropriate infill construction; trends and challenges of attracting support for the preservation of buildings of the recent past and the Modernist movement; and contributions of adaptive use of historic structures to urban revitalization.

Registration information is available from the National Trust at 800-944-6847; www.nthpconference.org, or conference@nthp.org. PACA has Lachlan Blair Educational Scholarships available to cover conference registration fees (Forum level) for area members interested in attending the conference. Contact PACA for more information.



Inside Historic Urbana

Join the Urbana Historic Preservation Commission as we take you inside six of our finest historic buildings in a series of programs to be aired on UPTV (local Channel 6) at 4:00 P.M. on Saturdays through March.

We begin the series with tours of two Queen Anne style houses built in the 1890s. The first, currently a bed and breakfast, was described by newspapers of the day as a modern residence in every particular and a preeminent example of "modern design." The second house was built by architect Nathan Ricker, who designed many local gems including Harker Hall, the Natural History Building, and Altgeld Hall. Two members of the Preservation and Conservation Association, who restored the house in the 1990s, will lead

us on this tour with detailed descriptions of the restoration project. Our third house is an architectural rarity with strong political connections. It was built for a state senator and is now home to a state representative. Built in 1904, it is a two-story Arts and Crafts style house with unusual half-timbering. Next we explore one of the oldest houses in Urbana, a two-story Italianate house built around the late 1860s for Matthew Busey. A most striking feature in this house are the long arched windows with operable wood shutters.

The next stop is a courtyard nestled between two rows of Spanish Colonial Revival bungalows built in 1926. No two bungalows are alike, but each one complements the others as they incorporate different elements and characteristics of the architectural style. And we finish our series in The Princess Theatre, where Roger Ebert spent the Saturday afternoons of his childhood. This downtown building dates back to 1870, with an Art Deco façade added in 1934.

Schedule: Saturdays at 4:00 P.M., UPTV

- March 1:** *Lindley House, 312 W. Green St.*
- March 8:** *Ricker House, 612 W. Green St.*
- March 15:** *Sheldon House, 803 W. Main St.*
- March 22:** *Busey House, 804 W. Main St.*
- March 29:** *Buena Vista Court, Elm St.*
- April 5:** *Busey's Hall/Princess Theatre, 120-124 W. Main St.*

For more information, contact Rebecca Bird at the City of Urbana, 384-2440, or by email at rlbird@city.urbana.il.us.

P.A.C.A. Membership Application

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

- Adult \$15
- Student \$10
- Senior Citizen \$10
- Family \$20
- Corporate \$75
- Additional Contribution _____

TYPE

- New _____
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Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Lee Stoops
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plus all the
helpers at Veg
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Stanley Bemshteyn
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English Brothers/Charleston Public Library
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(received since the last newsletter)

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Preservation Matters: newsletter of the Preservation and Conservation Association

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*Remember to check your mailing label for
your membership renewal date. The date
shown indicates when you last renewed;
membership runs for one year from that date.*

Annual Membership Meeting

April 20, 2008

2-4 pm

Lincoln Hall Auditorium



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