

PA Update

Mike Wells, President
Neal Tong, Vice-Pres.
Joyce Edwards, Treas.
Gary Adams, Secretary
Sally Anderson
Mary Bryan Booth

Sue Haycraft
Dot Howell
Ted Lolley
Lucy Neal
Glenda Thacker
Frank Wagner

Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc.

FALL 1996

Rosenwald's great nephew visits renovated school

A reception was held at the Rosenwald School in Yellow Creek Park on July 11, to welcome Mr. Thomas Rosenwald, a great-great nephew of Julius Rosenwald.

Mr. Rosenwald knew of our restoration project from a friend, Lois Murray, an Owensboro resident who was formerly his neighbor in California. He and his wife now live in Arkansas. As he had never seen a Rosenwald school, he decided to combine a visit to Mrs. Murray with a tour of the schoolhouse.

We were able to contact two former students, Lucille Mason, 84, Morman French, 65, and former teacher Theodosia Smith, 91. They had not seen the schoolhouse since our opening celebration in 1992. Interior Restoration Committee members, several Preservation Alliance Board members, Commissioner Marksberry, and other guests attended.

Judge Norris spoke briefly about the history of the project and introduced Mr. Rosenwald. Joe Ford then talked of his own experiences in the one-room Sorgho school.

PA records have been moved, books go to public library

In August, records and preservation books belonging to Preservation Alliance were moved from the offices of Downtown Owensboro, Inc. PA's books are now on loan to the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library. Our filing cabinet is temporarily located at the offices of Richard Edwards and Associates, who have graciously provided free space.

The teacher's desk, pot-bellied stove, oiled floors, coat hooks, textbooks, wall lanterns, chalkboard, and other artifacts collected by the committee were enthusiastically approved by Mrs. Mason, Mr. French, and Mrs. Smith.

Century Cable 8 sent a photographer and reporter to prepare a segment to be presented on the local evening news.

The Daviess County Parks and Recreation Department has been granted a 90 day extension from the African-American Heritage Commission. Wooden steps will be built across the front, two privies constructed, double wooden desks are still to be found or built, and an outside plaque will be erected.

Debbie Zelinski [of the county parks department] was given very little advance notice. Mr. Rosenwald's plans changed, several key people were not in town, but [Debbie] arranged a nice get-together that was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by the Rosenwalds. -skh-

The board regrets the loss of PA's close association with DOI, which goes back many years. In fact, PA was founded by DOI officials and others who were active in the Downtown revitalization effort during the 1980s. During that period, DOI was focused on preservation, gaining National Register status for Owensboro's Main Street historic district, and initiating a local Main Street program under National Trust guidelines.

For several years since then, DOI had provided secretarial services to PA under contract, which gave both agencies the same mailing address.

Last year, DOI stopped secretarial services to PA. Since then, PA board members have been managing the group's paperwork. Regrettably, as a result, we have produced fewer newsletters to the membership.

Several months ago, we changed our mailing address to President Mike Well's office at 319 Booth Avenue. Since then, Wells' office has graciously provided services to PA.

The PA board is considering establishing an affiliation with another agency, also sympathetic with preservation, in the near future. -ga-

PRESERVATION BITS

□ **J. Z. Moore Neighborhood erects historic marker:** Its located at northeast corner of Parrish Avenue & Allen Street.

□ **Phillips Court house under renovation:** A house in the Phillips Court historic district on Frederica Street near Griffith Avenue is undergoing renovation by newcomer Mr. Thompson. Neal Tong reported that Mr. Thompson plans on converting the house from 4 apartments to at least 2.

□ **Rosenwald Schoolhouse spends grant:** PA board member Sue Haycraft recently reported that Daviess County officials have completely spent the \$10,000 KHC grant which had been awarded for renovation of the Rosenwald Schoolhouse. The County has found an old "double-desk," built two privies, a sand box, and set up a water pump. They are currently working on wooden steps, and are looking for a traveling library.

□ **Salm's Building tenant?** Still looking forward to an occupant for this downtown jewel, rehabilitated by Bruce Peters.

□ **Still watching Old Trinity Centre:** PA continues to monitor the status of the Old Trinity Centre, and Theatre Workshop of Owensboro's continued occupancy. Past newspaper reports have suggested the City would like TWO to vacate so the building could be occupied by a more viable use - one which could afford the serious rehabilitation work that is sorely needed. But where else could TWO find comparable space that is as affordable?

□ **Pleasant Grove Schoolhouse is now in Panther Creek Park:** The old schoolhouse was moved from Sorgho.

□ **KHC African-American Committee seeks funds:** A few months ago, PA board member Glenda Thacker said the KHC African American Committee is seeking \$300,000 towards preservation projects related to black heritage. But it was unclear if this money would reduce potential funds for other KHC supported projects.

□ **PA April trip to Cincinnati was a success:** Thirty adventurous people attended the PA-sponsored trip to Cincinnati this past April. The two-day event included a marvelous Saturday night dinner at "The Precinct," a converted police station, informative exhibits at the historic Union Terminal Museum Center, and an antique and curio crawl in quaint Lebanon, Ohio.

GET ON
THE BUS!



PA plans Fall Trip
to Madison, IN
for Saturday,
October 26

SEE PAGE 3 for Details

Lea Flats building at 3rd & Saint Elizabeth demolished

Recently, the Lea Flats complex at the downtown corner of 3rd & Saint Elizabeth streets was demolished. Owner Jack Simpson had long been seeking to provide off-street parking for his adjoining "Continental Trust" building at 4th & Frederica, which was last occupied by Jack's at 3rd Restaurant.

The most recognized part of the complex was the corner building's "New Orleans-style" covered front balcony that projected over the 3rd Street sidewalk. The building had been the offices of the James C. Ellis Estate for many years.

The complex was not listed as having any historic status on the Kentucky Heritage Council's 1977 survey of historic sites in Owensboro-Daviess County.

Prior to demolition in mid-June, PA board member Gary Adams contacted Simpson about rumors of his plans. Simpson offered to let local preservationists inspect the buildings

and offer suggestions. He was then studying possible alternatives to retain some of the complex.

However, Simpson noted he would be making a decision soon. Ultimately, he decided to retain only the former Owensboro National Bank drive-through section, which is structurally sound.

PA President Mike Wells, had done architectural work for previous occupants, and reported that the "New Orleans-style" building was in very poor structural condition.

The PA board debated the merits of the buildings. Some believed them not worth saving, others expressed regret that Owensboro would lose what was probably the last example of the covered sidewalks typical of downtown's past.

In the end, the board took no further action regarding Simpson's plans. -ga-

Annual meeting held in J. Z. Moore neighborhood

Our annual luncheon meeting was held on Friday, June 21, 1996, at the home of Janis Brizendine, 1204 Daviess Street.

President Michael Wells reported our past year's projects and introduced the slate of officers for the coming year. Mrs. Brizendine, gave a talk on the history of her home and Dot Howell spoke about the J. Z. Moore Historic District.

After eating box lunches catered by the Moonlite, we toured houses at 1215, 1309, 1311, and 1316 Allen Street.

There were 33 members and guests present.

Only about 60 invitations were mailed or hand delivered one week before June 21. We did not have the bulk mailing stamp. We had absolutely no publicity. In spite of these and other complications, the meeting was as well attended as usual and was successful. -skh-

KHC representatives discuss state preservation plan at Colby's, PA members attend

Area preservationists filled the meeting room at Colby's Restaurant the night of September 5 to discuss a draft plan for Kentucky's historic preservation efforts. Several members of the local Preservation Alliance participated, offering comments on the successes and travails of our local preservation effort.

David Morgan, the State Historic Preservation Officer, went through a series of goals and strategies, asking for comments from the group. Plan topics include education, identification, evaluation, partnerships, protection, and planning. Morgan noted that this is KHC's first effort to develop a comprehensive preservation plan for the state. -ga-

J. Z. MOORE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Submitted by Dot Howell

Deeded to J. Z. (a prominent local attorney) and Francis Moore by Mrs. H. T. Johnson in 1873, this neighborhood was known as Moore's Addition. The homes were built around the turn of the century by mostly upper middle class and prominent citizens. During the depression, many of the houses became multi-family. About 20 years ago there started a movement back into the neighborhood by a number of professional and white-collar families dedicated to restoring the homes back to single family dwellings. Today the district contains 4 blocks of late Victorian and Classic Revival residences.

The Neighborhood was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. The significance of the neighborhood is that it is one of the few neighborhoods from the turn of the century that is basically intact. Many of the homes have retained their interior features such as oak, maple, and walnut parquet flooring; cherry and oak mantels with detailed carving; extensive oak staircases and woodwork. The varied workmanship is evident in the interiors with no two houses

having like mantels or staircases. Each house is unique.

1204 Daviess - John and Janis Brizendine moved into their "old Home" in 1982. A German immigrant, a master carpenter, built the house in 1895. The Queen Ann boasts four fireplaces, a lover's bench and graceful rounded stairs in the foyer. The charm and character evident to old houses is still intact. It is a comfortable, comforting home and the memories are good.

1215 Allen - Built in 1905 by D. C.



Stimson, who lived there until 1934, this Queen Anne with Colonial Revival preserves many of the original features. It contained 5 occupied apartments when purchased in 1980 by Bob and Dot Howell. The owners have performed most of the restoration themselves.

1309 Allen - This Queen Anne style home was built in 1908. The new owners, Steve & Cathy Rusher, are restoring it to its original beauty. The long entry hall and staircase are the showcase of this home. It boasts 3100 square feet of living space plus a full basement and large attic.

1311 Allen - "New houses are nice but old houses are better:" - Steve Thomas. 1311 Allen Street, built in 1905 by Jeweler James Arnold, was purchased by the Bradens in December, 1995. The house was rental property for 17 years. Most of the renovation has been completed by the Bradens. The home, named Isabella, is receiving lots of TLC from the family and both are loving their journey to its restoration.

1316 Allen - The Hastings' House was built in 1905. This French-Empire home was designed by Clarence W. Kimberlin, one of the first architects in the area. Mr. Kimberlin was only 26 years old when he designed and built the home for his bride to be, Miss Eunice Taylor, of Hopkinsville. We are presently doing restoration on the outside of the house. We've just completed new box gutters. It has taken hours of hard work but we think it's worth it. We love our old home.

RESERVATIONS OCT. 18 DEADLINE

Please fill out the form at right.
Send, along with your check,
payable to Preservation Alliance, to:

**Day-Trip to Madison
c/o Joyce Edwards
1125 Griffith Avenue
Owensboro, KY 42301**



*If you are disabled, or need assistance
in any way, it is suggested that you
make arrangements to be
accompanied.*

Day-Trip to Madison, Indiana - Sat., October 26, 1996

I want to join the fun. Enclosed is my check for:

_____ \$70.00 per person, for 1996 PA member households
 _____ \$19.96 per household, to join as a 1996 PA member
 _____ \$95.00 per person, for nonmember households

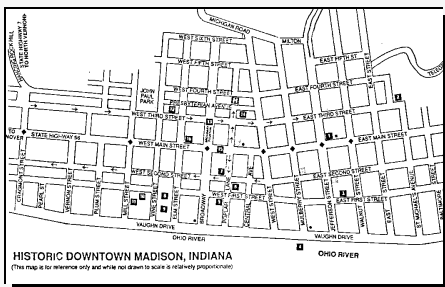
_____ **TOTAL** NAME/ADDRESS if different than on reverse label:

 _____ **Daytime phone:** _____

DAY-TRIP to



Saturday,
October 26,
1996



You are invited to enjoy a fall day-trip to Madison, Indiana, which established one of the first "Main Street" historic preservation programs in the country.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY- Saturday, October 26, 1996

7:30 AM (8:30 Eastern) . . Leave Owensboro for Madison, Indiana
 Drive to Madison Visitors Center. View 30 minute movie at Visitors Center.

12:00 LUNCH Broadway Tavern & Hotel
 Indiana's oldest tavern offers a variety of items such as gumbo, quiche, hot browns, burgers, wings, etc. LUNCH NOT INCLUDED IN TRIP COST.

1:00 Guided bus tour of historic district
 Madison has 133 blocks listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1:30 Lanier Mansion State Historic Site
 This Greek revival home was built in 1844 for a financier who financially saved Indiana during the Civil War. It overlooks the Ohio River and features period furnishings and magnificent columns.

2:00 Shrewsbury House
 This Greek revival home is known for its famous free-standing spiral staircase and decorative ironwork. The garden overlooks the majestic Ohio River. (Decorative Art Museum on 2nd floor)

2:30 Jeremiah Sullivan House
 This home, built in 1818, is an excellent example of Federal architecture. This home is considered to be the first mansion in Madison and features detailed window panes and reeded columns.

3:00 Dr. Hutchings Office
 This 19th Century "horse and buggy" doctor's office is one of the most complete restorations in the country. The building and contents were preserved intact from Dr. Hutchings' death in 1903.

3:30 Francis Costigan House
 Francis Costigan, the architect of the Lanier and Shrewsbury homes, built this house in 1850 for himself. The home displays Greek inspired columns and moldings as well as ornate woodwork and plaster work.

4:00 - 5:00 Return Options
 Depending on group's desire: Leave for Owensboro (dinner in Louisville?), or remain in Madison and visit Thomas Family Winery or browse antique shops.



Preservation Alliance

of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc.
319 Booth Avenue, Owensboro, KY 42301 502-926-5058

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Owensboro, KY
42301

Thank You, \$19.96 Preservation Alliance of O-DC Member Households

Gary Adams	Mr & Mrs George Crowder	Mr & Mrs John Medley	Steve & Cathy Rusher
Mr & Mrs David Adkisson	Mr & Mrs Richard Edwards	Mr & Mrs Robert Merriam	Mr & Mrs James D Ryan
Mr & Mrs Richard Anderson	Frances Wells Evans	Deborah Mesplay & Monty Helm	Dr & Mrs Charles Schertzinger
Mary Rose Barr	Gay R Gipe	Sara Ghee Miller	Connie Schrecker
Frankie G Barron	Susan Guilfoil	Mr & Mrs W S Moreland	Judge & Mrs Robert Short
Mr & Mrs Homer Barton	Netta & Robert Harris	Waymond Morris	Rachel Taylor
Mr & Mrs Ed Bell	Dr & Mrs Robert Hast	Paul Morsey	George & Glenda Thacker
Mr & Mrs Wendell Booth	Mr & Mrs Larry Hastings	Lucy G Neal	Mr & Mrs Neal Tong
Lowell D and Gail L Branham	Lora Hawes	Mr & Mrs Dennis Newberry	Mr & Mrs Frank Wagner
Mrs John Brizendine	Joe & Sue Haycraft	Nina O'Hearn	Mr & Mrs Ed Wathen
Mr & Mrs Maurice Burton	Mary Michael Hayden	Mr & Mrs Richard Oexmann	Mr & Mrs Michael Wells
Dr & Mrs Robert Byrd	Mr & Mrs Scott Holder	Dr & Mrs David Orrahood	William R West
Nelda Callis	Mr & Mrs Robert Howell	Henry & Eudora Payne	Father Henry Willett
Mr & Mrs John Combs	Mr & Mrs Forrest Lewis	Susie Reno	Nancy F Wilson
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William & Geneva Cottrell	Dr & Mrs William McManus	Mr & Mrs Calvin Robinson	Mrs Marilyn Young
Mary W Craig	Dr & Mrs Wathen Medley	Elisabeth F Roszel	