

PA Update

Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc.

SPRING 1998

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

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

You are cordially invited to attend
the **Annual Meeting** of
Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County

Thursday, April 9, 1998
11:30 AM

The Gallery
107 East Second Street

Lunch will be served
\$10.00 per person

Please call 233-9230 for Reservations by April 2

Short business meeting to elect board and officers
Mr. Bob Puckett will speak about The Gallery
Tour the new Tourist Commission offices

Historic Sites Survey

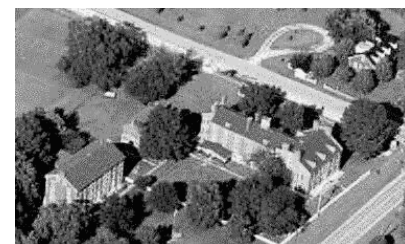
At several meetings, the PA Board has discussed the status of historic sites in Owensboro and Daviess County. The board is considering updating the 1977 Daviess County Historic Sites Survey, with assistance from the Kentucky Heritage Council. This would be a big undertaking.

Last Year's PA Meeting

The 1997 Annual Meeting of Preservation Alliance members was held May 15 at the home of Cecilia Medley, 320 Maple Avenue. The gracious Mrs. Medley enchanted PA members with stories of her family and home's history. In business matters, the membership elected the current board members and officers, whose names are listed above in the masthead of this newsletter.

22 Trekked to Madison

Twenty-two attendees enjoyed the Spring Trip to Madison, Indiana last May. Despite rain and a closed bridge that required a little path finding, reports were that the group relished the sights and sites of the rich Historic District of the Ohio River town.



Shaker Museum at South Union

Bus Trip Planned
to South Union &
Russellville, Kentucky
See page 3

Preservation Sites of Interest during the Past Year

◆ Pleasant Grove School



In November, PA Board Member Sue Haycraft reported she had attended a meeting called by Carrie

Kuegel, head of the group restoring the Pleasant Grove School. The school, which Mrs. Kuegel and Joe Ford attended, closed in 1938. About 20 interested people toured the building, now located in Panther Creek Park.

Norma Smith with the DAR said their focus in 1997 was education, and they were considering donating a large amount for restoration. Bill Kuegel did siding and foundation work.

In August, PA President Neal Tong read a letter received from Carrie Kuegel acknowledging a \$250 donation made by PA for the renovation effort. Sue Haycraft read a letter from Debbie Zelinski, County Parks Director, regarding estimates for roofing work. The overall restoration cost was estimated at \$40,000.

◆ Gillim House

The Safe Children Foundation is coming along with the renovation of the Gillim House on St. Ann Street next to the downtown Post Office. According to Christy Kramer, director, the roof has been repaired, and replacement windows have been donated. They are currently repairing interior walls and ceilings.

Ms. Kramer's group plans to use the house as shared offices for nonprofit organizations with missions that are related to children and families. Recently, the PA Board voted to donate \$375 to the renovation effort.

◆ J. Z. Moore District

Last fall the J. Z. Moore Neighborhood National Register Historic District was recognized by the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission, which cited the unique character of the neighborhood and the hard work over the years by numerous residents in restoring the large early 20th century homes.

See **SITES** on Page 2

SITES from Page 1

The district received the commission's award for Residential Rehabilitation. Accepting were Dot and Bob Howell, of the J. Z. Moore Neighborhood Association.

◆ McAtee Building

In May, Mike Wells reported that he was architect, and Lanham Bros. contractors, for the Career Center rehabilitation of the McAtee Building, located on the northwest corner of 2nd and Daviess streets. Originally a department store, for the last several years, it had been the site of Mrs. Frank's Bath Boutique.

The state has leased the building from Linda Hayden. It will include offices for Skills, Inc., job training, state social service agencies, OCC and other colleges, etc. The renovation includes new double-hung wood windows among other improvements.

◆ Old Trophy House



The old Trophy House at 1302 Allen Street was purchased by a young couple, Jason and Margaret Higdon. One is an architect and the other an engineer, and they have been working in Evansville and Henderson. The Higdons currently are renovating the structure. The PA Board had noticed that the bird statue was gone from the front yard. This reminds us of the Gabe Fiorella statue that now sits in front of Burlew Boulevard Mini-Storage. "Gabe" now waves at passersby in a blue coat instead of his trademark red.

◆ Tourist Offices

The new Tourist Commission offices at the RiverPark Center have been open for a few months. During this year's PA Annual Meeting on April 9 we plan to tour the new facilities located at 215 E. 2nd St. *See the invitation on Page 1.*

PA President Neal Tong said he had been by the old offices on Saint Elizabeth Street downtown, but couldn't see anything happening. We hope to see new occupants for the quaint buildings.

◆ Trinity Centre

Theatre Workshop of Owensboro still resides in the Trinity Centre, and they are staying there for now. There had been talk that TWO might eventually move to the RiverPark Center. The roof on the old church building has been patched, painting has been done, and windows repaired.

◆ Rosenwald School

The commemorative plaque installed on the Rosenwald School includes credits for several agencies and groups that participated in its renovation and relocation to Yellow Creek Park. The PA Board wishes to note, however, that the "City of Owensboro" is not specifically credited, even though they were one of the larger contributors.

A note about former attendees of the school: Mrs. Theodosia Smith, who died last fall, was a teacher at the Rosenwald School. Mrs. Lucille Mason recalled that Hettie Jackson was both a student and a teacher at the school!

Historic Properties: Treatments Defined

Many times we use terms in general ways that actually have distinct meanings to professionals who are involved in historic preservation. The Secretary of the Interior defines four differing treatments of historic properties that may be undertaken:

Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Restoration is defined as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

Reconstruction is defined as the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

Downtown Design Guidelines: Working or Irking?

Differences of opinion have arisen over the last year about the effectiveness of the Downtown Design Guidelines. Originally adopted by the City a decade ago, the guidelines apply to changes in the appearance of property in the Downtown Core. Administered by Downtown Owensboro, Inc., the guidelines are a set of urban design standards for rehabilitation of old buildings, construction of new buildings, arrangement of parking lots, and characteristics of signs that seek to build upon the unique, historic fabric of Downtown.

Proposals to change the appearance of property -- from paint to building demolition -- must be presented for consideration by the Downtown Design Review Commission. After review, the owner decides whether or not to comply with any of the commission's recommendations. Ted Lolley, a member of the design commission, considers this process of "mandatory review - voluntary compliance" to be ineffective. PA President Neal Tong has noted that Madison, IN, mandates compliance with its Old Town design guidelines.

On the other hand, Glenda Thacker, who ushered in Owensboro's guidelines when she was DOI Director, believes it would be difficult politically to require mandatory compliance in Owensboro. She believes we are lucky to have the current rules. As it is, some people object to the submission process even though they can ignore the commission's opinions.

Thacker believes, as do others, that it would take a strong expression of support from the general community to adopt stricter procedures.

BUS TRIP RESERVATIONS

DEADLINE: Fri. May 15

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

**Preservation Alliance
c/o Mike Wells
319 Booth Avenue
Owensboro, KY 42301**



If you are disabled, or need assistance in any way, please make arrangements to be accompanied on the trip.

Bus Trip to South Union - May 23, 1998

\$37.50 per person, includes transportation, lunch, and admissions

_____ Number of persons \$ _____

1998 Dues (if you've recently paid, the mailing label will show "1998" on it) Even if you cannot join us on the trip, please renew your PA Dues.

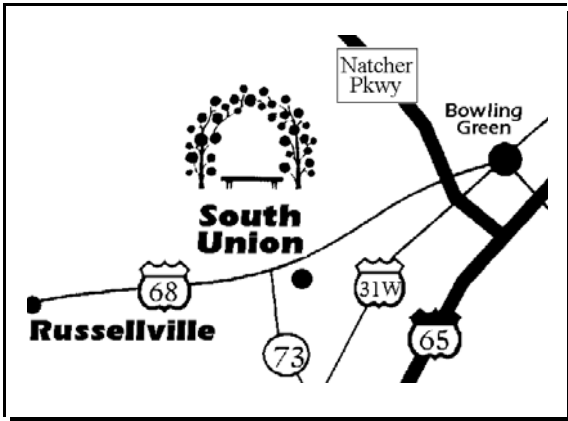
\$19.98 per household \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Your name and address are already on the back of this form.

Please make corrections to the label if necessary.

Daytime phone number for trip departure info _____



You are invited to join
Preservation Alliance on a
BUS TRIP to the
**Shaker Museum at South Union
& Russellville, Kentucky**
Saturday, May 23, 1998

For Reservations, see form above

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

8:30 AM - Leave Owensboro for South Union - Refreshments on route provided by PA Board

10:00 AM - Tour the Shaker Museum at South Union - Buildings, artifacts, and small archaeological site



The Shakers were a communal religious organization that flourished in America during the 19th century. Their ideals of simplicity and perfection produced a legacy of unparalleled craftsmanship and created for them a reputation of honesty, humility, and dedication to God. South Union, established in 1807, was one of 24 Shaker villages.

During the village's 100 year history, the Shakers acquired and worked 6,000 acres of farmland, constructed over 200 buildings, and maintained industries that developed for them a national reputation. South Union garden seed, fruit preserves, brooms, hats, bonnets, baskets, rugs, linen, and silk were marketed to customers in the south from Nashville to New Orleans. The Shakers at South Union created a unique material culture, combining the simplicity in design mandated by Shaker leaders with the regional characteristics brought into the community by converts steeped in southern tradition.

The Shaker Museum was established as an independent, nonprofit, educational institution, its purpose being to preserve and maintain the site of the Shaker Society which once existed at South Union.

Noon - Lunch at South Union - included in cost of trip

Afternoon - Head to Russellville - Bibb House Museum, Saddle Factory, antique shopping

The Bibb House was built in 1820 and restored in 1883. It was owned by an abolitionist who freed his slaves in the front yard. **The Saddle Factory**, built in 1817, was converted to a residence in 1840. It is currently being restored to its original look to serve as a local history museum.

Evening - Return to Owensboro



Preservation Alliance
of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc.
319 Booth Avenue, Owensboro, KY 42301

502 / 926-5058

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit No. 487
Owensboro, KY
42301

Annual Meeting at The Gallery

April 9, 1998

Invitation on Page 1

Bus Trip to Shaker Museum at South Union, Kentucky

May 23, 1998

Invitation on Page 3

Please renew your PA Membership Dues for 1998

If your mailing label does not show "1998" after your name
Return form at top of Page 3

Thank You, Preservation Alliance Members

Early 1998 Members

Gary Adams
David & Bonnie Adkisson
Mr & Mrs Richard Anderson
Joanne & Bernard Alvey
Frankie G Barron
Mr & Mrs Homer Barton
Mr & Mrs Ed Bell
Dr & Mrs William D Bushong
Dr & Mrs Robert Byrd
Nelda Callis
John & Vicki Combs
William & Geneva Cottrell
Mr & Mrs Richard Edwards
Gay R Gipe
Harold & Christy Hall
Mary Michael Hayden
Mr & Mrs Robert Howell
Mr & Mrs Forrest Lewis

Hon Waymond Morris
Dr & Mrs Neil Padgett
Henry & Eudora Payne
Elisabeth F Roszel
Judge & Mrs Robert Short
George & Glenda Thacker
Mr & Mrs Neal Tong
Mr & Mrs Michael Wells
Father Henry Willett
Nancy F Wilson
Mr & Mrs John Yager

1997 Members

Gary Adams
Mr & Mrs Richard Anderson
Charles Ballard
Mary Rose Barr
Mr & Mrs Wendell Booth

Mrs John Brizendine
Mr & Mrs Maurice Burton
Ruth Layson Campbell
Mary W Craig
Mr & Mrs George Crowder
Ms Claire Eaton
Mr & Mrs Richard Edwards
Mr & Mrs George Greer
Netta & Robert Harris
Dr & Mrs Robert Hast
Mr & Mrs Larry Hastings
Lora Hawes
Joe & Sue Haycraft
John & Riley Hess
Mr & Mrs Robert Howell
Dr & Mrs William McManus
Dr & Mrs Wathen Medley
Mr & Mrs John Medley
Mr & Mrs Robert Merriam

Sara Ghee Miller
Paul Morsey
Lucy G Neal
Mrs Sidney Neal
Tom & Lucy Neal
Mr & Mrs Dennis Newberry
Nina O'Hearn
Dr & Mrs David Orrahood
Mr & Mrs Charles Ralph
Dr & Mrs Leslie Riherd
Mr & Mrs Calvin Robinson
Mr & Mrs James D Ryan
Rachel Taylor
George & Glenda Thacker
Mr & Mrs Neal Tong
Mr & Mrs Frank Wagner
Mr & Mrs Ed Wathen
William R West
Mrs Marilyn Young