

PA Update

Spring 2002

Only Three Bids Made for Old County Jail

On April 18, 2002, Daviess Fiscal Court opened only three sealed bids for the purchase of the old Daviess County Jail. Bids were made under two options, one requiring preservation of the historic 1886 portion of the complex under a restrictive covenant, the other option with no stipulations of any kind – meaning the Old Jail could be demolished, if the purchase desired.

John Bays, owner of the Executive Inn, bid \$75,000 with no preservation required. Harrold Barrentine of Keller, Texas, bid \$5,000 with preservation required and \$30,000 without. Daviess Fiscal Court will consider the bids at a later date, and may reject them all, if it chooses.

The original 1886 portion of the Old Jail was built in the Second Empire style of architecture. Since the 1950s, several additions have been made to the original building, which do not exhibit any significant architectural features.

The Kentucky Heritage Council (State Historic Preservation Office) has found that the Old Jail meets established criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, although it has not been listed formally.

Since the 1980s, Preservation Alliance has promoted preservation of the Old Jail as a very important piece of the architectural and cultural history of Downtown.

The public also endorsed preservation of the historic building during preparation of the City of Owensboro's Waterfront Master Plan, which incorporated the Old Jail as a key design element. A parking garage would replace the newer parts of the complex and new street-front commercial space would be built next to the Old Jail that would face east onto an expanded waterfront park and face south onto West 2nd Street.

The city wants to implement the Waterfront Plan, and has asked the county to donate the jail to the city rather than sell it to a private individual.



Second Empire cupola of Old County Jail

PA Funded Study of Old Jail

Last fall, PA and Downtown Owensboro Inc. commissioned an architectural and structural review of the Old Jail complex. PA provided \$1500 for the study and a Southern Intervention Grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation provided an additional \$1000. Stewart Sebree, the regional preservation coordinator arranged the NTHP grant and John Froehlich of DOI arranged for the study consultants.

The study report was published on February 18, 2002, and can be viewed online at www.iompc.org/OldJail.

Pat Strehl of PDR Engineers and Architect Michael Wells -- PA's Vice-President -- conducted the study. Pat and Mike toured the building to observe its condition.

The first level of the original 1866 section appears to be in fairly good to marginal condition. Windows at this level are in fair condition. The second level appears not to have been occupied for many years and is in very bad condition. Debris from the ceiling has fallen, wallpaper is deteriorating, and ceiling and plaster areas have come loose from the substrate.

The existing mansard roof shingles appear to be in fairly good condition. Some water damage was noted on the second floor, indicating moisture is entering the building through the roof or through the brick. A flat roof section could be leaking and should be repaired. Existing cornice and dormer windows are deteriorating and should be repaired immediately to stop further damage. The exterior brick appears to be in good condition; however, various areas require tuck-pointing and sealing.

Continued on page 2

PA Annual Meeting

Friday • May 17, 2002 • 12:00 Noon

Yellow Creek Park • Pioneer Village



5710 KY 144 in Thruston

Lunch will be served • \$10.00 per person

Please Make Reservations with Payment by May 10

Or Call Treasurer Joyce Edwards at 270-926-8882

(See form on page 3)

Short Business Meeting to Elect Board Members & Officers
Talk & tour of **Rosenwald School** and rebuilt **log cabin & barn**

Continued from page 1

Study of Old Jail

No structural deficiencies were observed; however, floor capacities are not known at this time. The original section is not ADA accessible, there are no restrooms, and the condition of the HVAC system is not known.

NEW SECTION (1985)

The new section housed the majority of the detention facilities. It is divided into many small functional areas. All the interior walls appear to be heavily reinforced with steel. This section is handicap accessible via an elevator with multiple levels.

Many door openings are not wide enough for wheelchairs. Existing toilets are not handicap accessible. Interior walls are heavily reinforced concrete and will be difficult and expensive to remove.

There is no natural light at the interior of the new section, with very few windows. The new section appears to be designed for seismic and tornado resistance.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

There is central air conditioning and heating throughout with existing 600-amp electrical service. The entire complex, both old and new, is fire suppressed with a sprinkler system. The new building structure is in excellent condition. Demolition of newest section would be difficult due to heavy steel reinforcement.

The existing building and parking lot are in an excellent location with good access and proximity to the Executive Inn Rivermont.

POSSIBLE USES

- Bar/Restaurant
- Gift shop
- Tourist information center
- Secured and climatically controlled storage
- Emergency operation center
- Homeless shelter
- Incubation center for small businesses
- Antique Mall – “flea market” style/multi-tenant

Floor plans in TIF & AutoCad formats are online at www.iompc.org/OldJail.

Preservation Bits

**Out with the Old!
In with the Older!**

Everyone in town is talking about the removal of the blue aluminum screen that, since the 1950s, has obscured the upper floors of the old Stacy Chrysler buildings on the southwest corner of 5th & Frederica streets.



Eureka! The early 1900s buildings sport wire-cut brick with inlaid patterns of brick and stone. The M-I has reported that owner Terry Dukes plans to power-wash the exterior and renovate the buildings for use as a “master pawn shop.”

PA congratulates Terry Dukes and wishes him luck as he brings back the character that was built into these buildings. Little appears to have been disturbed when the blue screen was originally installed.



Neon tube lettering still spells out “Messenger Job Printing Company” near the cornice of the middle building on Frederica, built in 1924.

Another treasure is discovered!

Regional Preservation Coordinator

Stewart Sebree can help answer your preservation questions. Sebree’s Evansville office is jointly funded by Historic Landmarks of Indiana, the Kentucky Heritage Council, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Stewart Sebree
Southwestern Preservation Coordinator
PO Box 20215
Evansville, IN 47708
Phone: 812-423-2988
Fax: 812-423-2342
Email: swpc@prodigy.net

Endangered Buildings List Revised

Preservation Alliance maintains a list of the five historic buildings we believe to be under threat of demolition. Since the demolition of the Harreld and old OMU buildings in the fall of 2000, PA has revised the list. Here’s an update.



OLD JAIL • 1886 • 110 St Elizabeth St
By the time you read this newsletter, the fate of the Old Jail may already be known. If Daviess County Fiscal Court accepts a bid that does not stipulate to its preservation, the 1886 historic jail may well be slated for the wrecking ball.



BATES BUILDING • 1880s • 101 W 2nd St
Club 101 night club occupies the first floor on 2nd St. The upper floors have been considered for conversion to residential use. The impressive façades on 2nd and Allen streets make this building a cornerstone of downtown’s Historic Main Street corridor.



SMITH-WERNER • 1880s (Structure, 1860s?) • 118-124 W 2nd St
Daviess County Fiscal Court has owned this building since October 2000. The county should make certain the historic and distinctive Italianate façade is preserved -- one of downtown’s last remaining and most extensive example of 19th-century pressed-metal technology.



SUTHERLAND SCHOOL • 1930 • 7625 US 431
Terry Dukes, owner of the former Stacy Chrysler buildings, also owns this historic building, which formerly was a public elementary school. Currently, the drive entrances are chained off and the building appears to be used only for storage.



BARRET-FISHER • 1900 (PVA) • 409-411 E 2nd St
Overlooked by most folks, this building features an iron and pressed-metal storefront by City Foundry and Machine Works of Owensboro. Although in need of repair, it has survived intact for over a century, representing Main Street’s heyday of commerce.

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

Please make any necessary corrections. Then, return this form, along with your check made payable to:

**Preservation Alliance
Treasurer Joyce Edwards
1125 Griffith Avenue
Owensboro, KY 42301
270-926-8882**

2002 Preservation Alliance Dues Renewal

If "2002" is NOT on your mailing label, please renew your PA dues.

- Annual PA Dues @ \$20.00 per household
- ____ Persons for Annual Meeting @ \$10.00 per person

Total enclosed \$ _____

Please let PA know if you have interest in any of the following:

- Serve on the Board of Directors of Preservation Alliance
- Serve on a standing or ad-hoc committee
- Receive updates by email at address: _____
- Other interest: _____

Preservation Kentucky Busy with Recent and Upcoming Activities

ANNUAL BOARD & MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Preservation Kentucky held its annual Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, April 18 at the Old State Capitol Annex in Frankfort. At this meeting, the Board approved new leadership for the 2002-2003 year. The new officers are as follows:

Janis Scott, Chair (Danville)
Robert Yoder, Vice Chair (Newport)
Gail Melvin, Secretary (Ashland)
Frank Fitzpatrick, Treas. (Prestonsburg)
Janet Johnston, Past Chair (Deatsville)

Preservation Kentucky also conducted its annual membership meeting on Thursday evening at Buffalo Trace Distillery. Approximately 100 attended the annual meeting. The meeting included remarks from David Morgan (SHPO/Executive Director of Kentucky Heritage Council), Dr. Marlene Helm (Secretary of the Education, Arts & Humanities Cabinet), and Secretary Crit Luallen (Secretary of the Governor's Executive Cabinet).

PK also conducted elections of its Board of Directors, including the re-election of Edith Bingham and Janis Scott for their second 3-year terms and election of Bill Cunningham and Rev. Jerry Gray for first 3-year terms. The meeting concluded with a presentation by Dr. Dennis Domer, Bryan Orthel, and Natalie Gray on the Master's Degree program in Historic Preservation at the University of Kentucky. Attendees also enjoyed a reception and distillery tours following the meeting.

PK DAY AT THE RACES:

Eighty PK members and their guests enjoyed the "PK Day at the Races" on Friday, April 19 at Keeneland, one of Kentucky's National Historic Landmarks. It was a wonderful day in the Bluegrass and there were even a few big winners!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 28
Ida Lee Willis & Photo-Essay Competition Awards Ceremony, 2:00 p.m. Governor's Mansion, Frankfort

June 3
Reception benefiting PK & honoring National Trust President, Richard Moe, Lexington (invitations will be mailed)

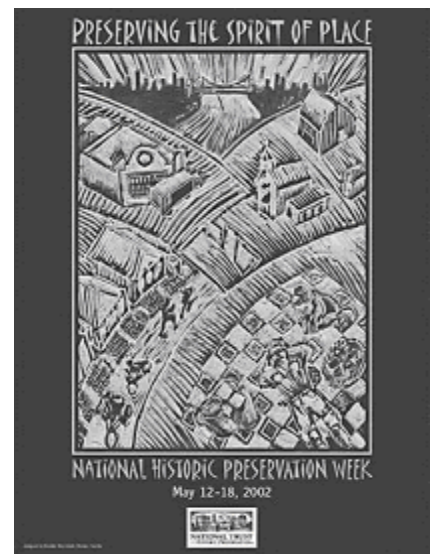
Late June (date to be determined)
PK Board meeting & Membership Picnic, Shaker Museum at South Union

August 1-3
2002 Statewide Preservation Conference, Centre College, Danville

PK will hold a silent/live auction, advocacy breakfast, and fundraising event! Mark your calendars.



Old Daviess County Jail



Preserving the Spirit of Place National Historic Preservation Week May 12-18, 2002

In 1971 the National Trust created Preservation Week to spotlight grassroots preservation efforts around the country. It's grown into an annual celebration observed from small towns to big cities. This year's theme is "Preserving the Spirit of Place," a celebration of America's diverse history and how historic preservation helps save that heritage.

PA will join the national celebration with our Annual Meeting, Friday, May 17 at 12 Noon at Yellow Creek Park's Pioneer Village. We will revisit the Rosenwald School building, which PA helped move to the park in 1992. Now there are a log house and barn to see in the village, which is located over the creek bridge near the park's Nature Center. **Please join us!** Make reservations on the form above.

Address Service Requested

Preservation Alliance Annual Meeting

Friday – May 17, 2002 – 12:00 Noon
Yellow Creek Park • Pioneer Village

Invitation on Page 1, Reservation Form on Page 3



Please Join or Renew Membership in PA for 2002

If your mailing label does not show “2002” after your name

Dues Form on Page 3

Thank You, Faithful Members of Preservation Alliance

Early 2002 Members

Harold R & Linda G Barrentine
Robert & Carolyn Hast

2001 Members

Gary Adams
Joe & Sally Anderson
Richard & Sally Anderson
Mr & Mrs H D Bartlett
Homer & Eleanor Barton
Lois Boeckman
Wendell & Mary Bryan Booth
Jackie & Rebecca Braden
Darrell & Anita Bruner
Maurice & Clara Burton
Dr & Mrs Robert Byrd
William & Geneva Cottrell

Mary W Craig
Mary & George Crowder
Dr & Mrs Brett Davis
Dr & Mrs Royce Dawson
Ms Claire Eaton
Richard & Joyce Edwards
Lisa & David Epling
Roger Gardner
& Nancy Harper-Gardner
Gay R Gipe
Mr & Mrs George Greer
John & Marjorie Hager
Sonny & Christy Hall
Mr & Mrs Robert Harris
Robert & Carolyn Hast
Lora H Hawes
Joe & Sue Haycraft

Mary Michael Hayden
John & Riley Hess
Dorothy & Robert Howell
Mary Lewis Kurre
Mr & Mrs Forrest Lewis
Dr & Mrs Noel Maddox
Steve & Pat McFarling
Dr & Mrs William McManus
Cecilia Medley
Dr & Mrs Wathen Medley
Mr & Mrs John Medley
Mr & Mrs Robert Merriam
W S & Marie Moreland
Paul Morsey
Joyce Nall
Lucy Gip Neal
Tom & Lucy H Neal

Mr & Mrs Dennis Newberry
Mr & Mrs Henry O'Bryan
Mrs David Owens
Henry & Eudora Payne
Dr & Mrs Leslie Riherd
Joan Robertson
Mrs James D Ryan
Dr & Mrs Charles Schertzinger
Connie Schrecker
George & Glenda Thacker
Mr & Mrs Neal Tong
Joel Utley
Michael & Anjanette Volk
Mr & Mrs Frank Wagner
Mr & Mrs Edward Wathen
Mr & Mrs Michael Wells
William R West