

## Preservationists: Main Street's best buildings

### *The good, the bad and the ugly*

In light of the recent announcement by Daviess Fiscal Court that it is negotiating to acquire five buildings within the Main Street Historic District, Preservation Alliance has made public its position on the value of individual buildings within that area. Public officials have shown their willingness to save identified buildings of architectural and community importance, if feasible within the scope of project plans: witness the art museum, the Trinity Centre, and recently, rehabilitation/expansion of the Daviess County Detention Center and reuse of the Harreld Building by the Owensboro Transit System and Police Department.

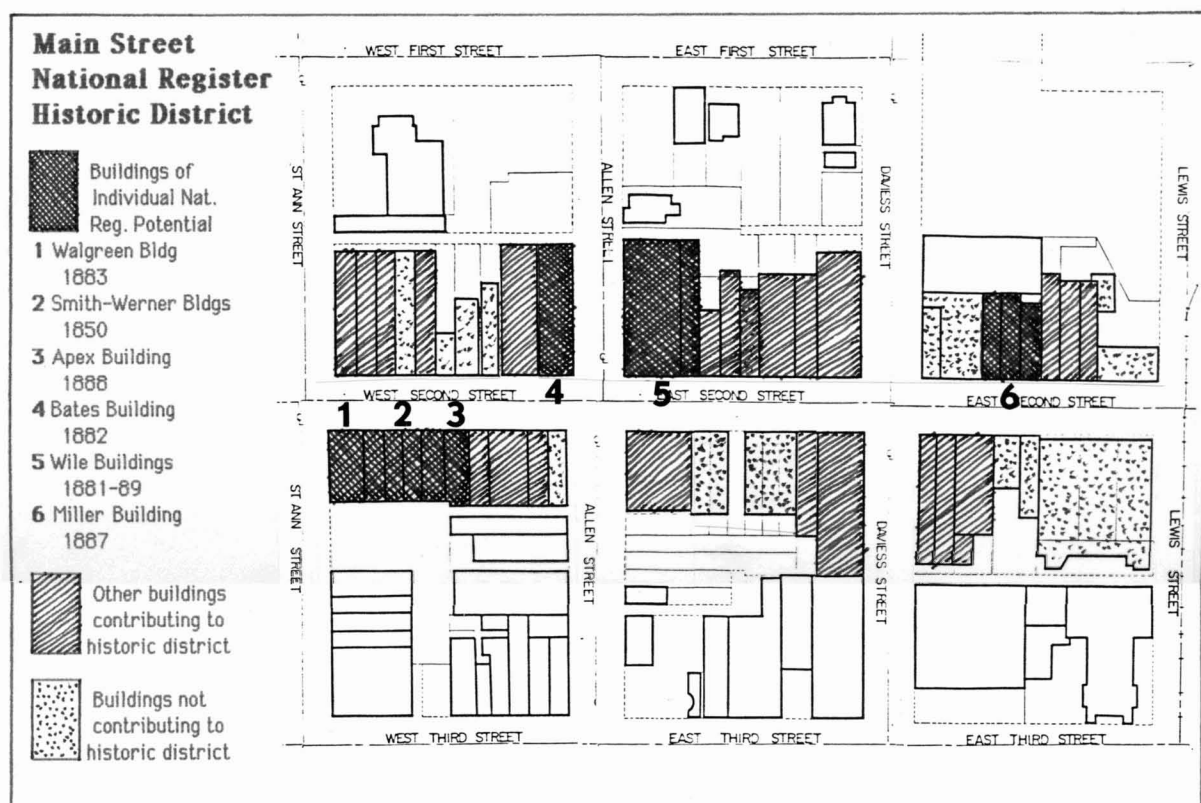
**The Main Street Historic District**, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, includes structures on both sides of Second Street between St. Ann and Lewis streets. Particular buildings within this three-block area contribute to the character of the district, while others do not. Official determination of whether a building indeed contributes can be achieved only by submitting an application to the Kentucky Heritage Council in Frankfort.

Information from various sources has been used to determine specific buildings within the district PA deems should be retained. In 1977 all buildings in

Daviess County were evaluated when a survey of historic property was done by the Heritage Council. A few Main Street buildings were identified in that survey. In 1982 Main Street buildings were studied more carefully by an architecture historian who contracted to complete the application for nominating the district to the National Register. Also, Heritage Council staff have visited Owensboro from time to time in regard to downtown redevelopment plans and have expressed their opinions of the importance of various buildings.

**PA ranked buildings** in the Main Street District. The highest category includes buildings which by their own merit are of adequate architectural or historical significance to warrant inclusion on the National Register. These are the "prima donnas" of the district: the **Smith-Werner, Apex, Bates, Newberry-Wile, Sol Wile, and Miller Buildings**. The Smith-Werner building is actually four separate buildings. The Newberry-Wile was once two buildings but were joined in the 1950s. This list also includes the **Walgreen Building**, which was elevated to the highest category because of its prime corner location at Second and St. Ann.

*See Main Street Page 2*



Other buildings which PA deems contribute to the character of the district are noted (see map on Page 1). Although individually not National Register material, these buildings are important because they contribute to the district's form and sense of place and time.

The lowest category of structures do not contribute to the character of the district because of severe alteration or lack of age. These are called intrusions. These buildings are prime candidates for replacement by new, sensitively-designed infill buildings that will maintain the continuous zero-setback building fronts that create the unique urban character of the Main Street Historic District. ☒

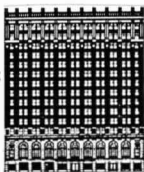
## Brown Hotel site of preservation conference

**Preservation in Perspective**, Kentucky's first statewide preservation conference, is scheduled for May 9-10. This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the creation of the Kentucky Heritage Commission and the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Edward T. Breathitt, governor of Kentucky in 1966, and Nellie L. Longworth, the current president of Preservation Action, will be the keynote speakers addressing the accomplishments of historic preservation in the past as well as present and future trends.

**Registration** for this two-day event is \$40. The conference will be held at the Brown Hotel in Louisville. During the conference a variety of workshops and presentations will be offered to participants:

**Friday afternoon:**

The Section 106 Review Process  
Architecture in the Classroom  
Architectural Review Boards



**Saturday:**

The Preservation of Old Houses  
The Preservation of the Neighborhood  
The Preservation of the Community  
Kentucky Images: Gateways & Thresholds



For more information contact Glenda Thacker at 683-2060. ☒

## Preservation Week 1986

### *Celebrate Historic Places*

"CELEBRATE HISTORIC PLACES---OUR PAST FOR OUR FUTURE" has been proclaimed the theme for the 14th annual National Historic Preservation Week, May 11-17, by Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc. and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In a special message from the White House, President Ronald Reagan urged "all Americans to join in celebrating and working to preserve and enhance our historic places the week of May 11."

Approximately 5,000 preservation and neighborhood groups will hold events across the United States in honor of Preservation Week 1986. Their purpose is to make the public aware of the enormous contribution historic places make to the quality of life in every American community.

Here in Owensboro, Preservation Week 1986 will be observed by holding a PA membership meeting (see Page 3) with a slide show on recent, local nominations to the National Register, and perhaps by media coverage of important preservation issues in the community.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the sponsor of Preservation Week, is the only private, nonprofit membership organization chartered by Congress and dedicated to the preservation and continued use of America's architectural, cultural and maritime heritage. The National Trust has regional offices in Philadelphia, Boston, Charleston, SC, Chicago, Denver and San Francisco, and a field office in Fort Worth, which provide financial, legal, and technical advisory services to member organizations to carry out programs such as Preservation Week. ☒

## Congrats, Kirtleys!

*LaVega Clements mansion to get the once over and over and over...*

Bob and Pam Kirtley have a labor of love planned for the 93-year-old LaVega Clements house on North Highland Avenue, which they recently purchased at auction and plan to renovate as their family home. Preservation Alliance congratulates the couple on their daring do, and wishes regretfully to inform the Kirtleys that the entire PA Board will be unavoidably out-of-pocket for the entire summer. ☒

# Celebrate Historic Places♦♦ Our Past for Our Future

PRESERVATION WEEK ♦♦ MAY 11-17, 1986  
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



# Time for 1986 membership dues

*Chip in for preservation*

It's that time again. Preservation Alliance membership dues are due. Be a part of the effort and keep the presses rolling. Please fill out the form at right and return it with \$5.00 to Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc., 224 Allen St., Owensboro, KY 42301.



## PA Committee seeks adaptive reuse of historic church

In October 1985 Preservation Alliance learned of the possible demolition of Saint Joseph Church, located at Fourth & Clay streets. The PA Board requested and received from Bishop McRaith a two-year period in which to find a use and a tenant for this historic building.

PA asked several persons to serve on the Saint Joseph Center Committee. Kentucky Wesleyan professor Dr. Lee Dew was appointed chairman.

The building is structurally sound but, of course, some repairs are needed, especially to the steeple. Any public use would call for the installation of restrooms.

To date, four organizations are exploring the possibility of adapting the church for their uses. **Theatre Workshop of Owensboro** will soon need a larger hall; Saint Joseph is a possible candidate. **Owensboro Symphony Orchestra** is considering the building as a performance hall for chamber music, use by the youth orchestra and for symphony rehearsals. Mary Bryan Hood, director of the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art, has suggested a **museum for Kentucky's wealth of religious art and artifacts**. In such a museum collection, Saint Joseph's important stained glass windows would certainly be a major feature. The **Junior League of Owensboro** is thinking of the church as a potential community reception center.

Meanwhile, Saints Joseph & Paul Neighborhood advocates Helen and Fred Coomes have been kept busy unlocking the church doors so these various groups may tour and explore and admire the building. ❧

I wish to \_\_\_\_\_join \_\_\_\_\_renew as a 1986 member of  
Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please return with \$5.00 to Preservation Alliance of  
Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc., 224 Allen Street,  
Owensboro, KY 42301

## PA membership meeting called

*Election of officers slated*

A meeting of the general membership of Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc. will take place **Thursday, May 15, 7:30pm, at the Campbell Club, 517 Frederica Street**. All current and prospective members are encouraged to attend. Glenda Thacker will give a slide show on the recent nomination of several historic districts and buildings to the National Register of Historic Places. Dessert will be provided.

**This is an important meeting** because election of officers is scheduled as well as the appointment of several new board members. The following slate has been proposed by the nominating committee:

**Kassie Simond, President\***

**Katie Shively, Vice President**

**Anne Padgett, Secretary**

**Shelia Heflin, Treasurer**

**Gary Adams, News Editor**

**Aloma Dew, Board member, 3-year term**

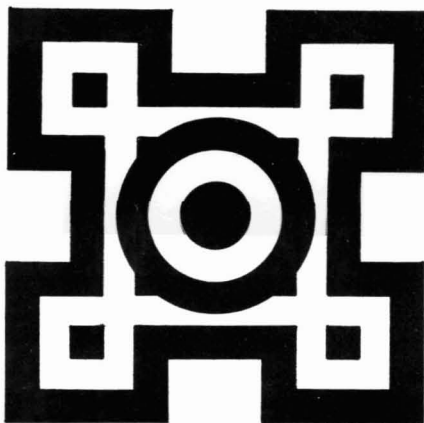
**Joyce Edwards, Board member, 1-year term**

**Dot Howell, Board member, 3-year term**

**Frank Wagner, Board member, 1-year term**

Continuing PA Board members are **Terry Blake, Helen Coomes and Gerald Poynter**.

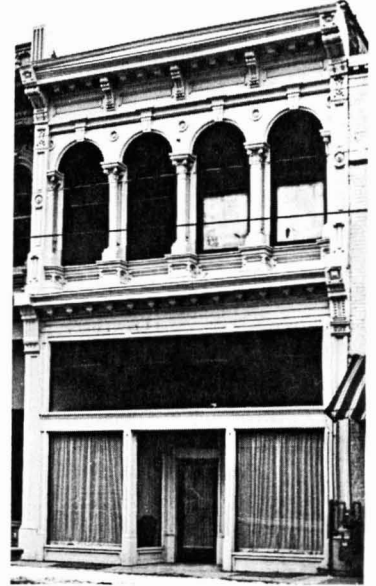
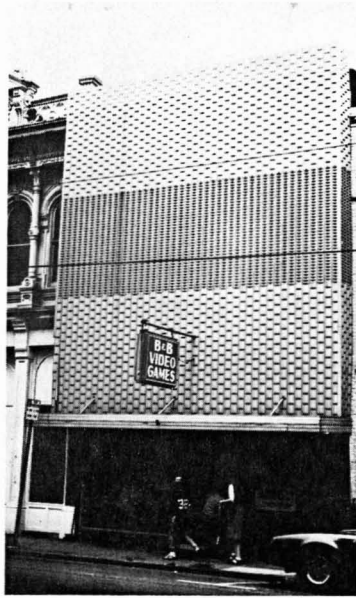
\*Nominations will be accepted from the floor for President because of the recent resignation of Kassie Simond from the PA Board.



Preservation Alliance  
of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc.  
224 Allen Street, Owensboro, KY 42301  
(502) 683-2060



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(photos of Solomon Wile & Sons Building)

These three photographs of a commercial building in Owensboro demonstrate the evolution of a historic building. The first (left) is a historic photograph taken soon after construction; the center photo shows a 20th century alteration; and the photo on the right shows the results of a recent restoration effort. The restoration of this building was assisted with funds administered by the Kentucky Heritage Council. A conference on May 9-10 at the Brown Hotel in Louisville will address the many aspects of the preservation and restoration of Kentucky's historic buildings. 