

Preservation Alliance NEWS

Spring 1987

Adopted downtown plan recommends preservation of Main Street District

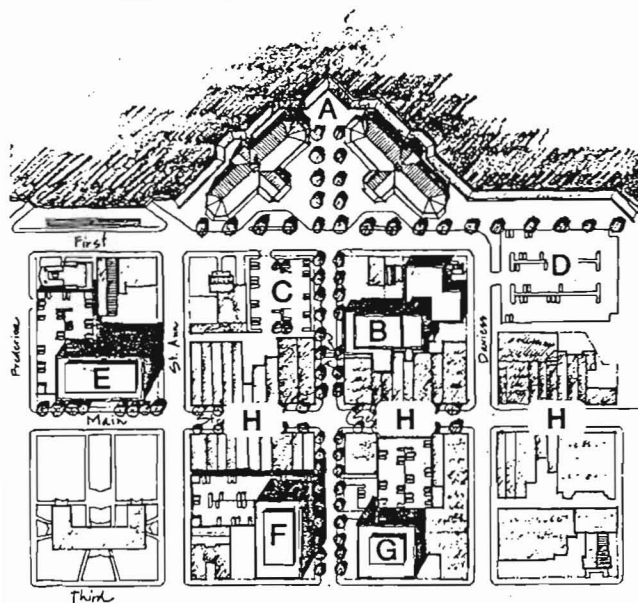
Renaissance of special character

Preservation Alliance has long promoted the value of the Main Street Historic District to the overall revitalization goals of downtown Owensboro. And now the Owensboro City Commission has formally endorsed preservation of the district by adopting the **Downtown Owensboro Action Plan** prepared by Zuchelli, Hunter & Associates of Annapolis, Maryland.

After the decision was made to locate the new community college campus in the suburbs, Zuchelli was faced with recommending viable alternatives for downtown's future. There are several encouraging plan elements as evidenced by the illustrative sketch shown, as well as down-to-earth realism in the analysis of potential downtown markets for retail shops, offices, and housing. But the most welcome aspect of the plan is its endorsement of Main Street preservation as a major focus for that part of downtown.

Anticipating a new round of urban regeneration for downtown, the plan recommends continued vigilance in protecting district buildings and renewed efforts to reintegrate them into the economic life and emerging use patterns of the area. Zuchelli cites experiences from successful downtown renaissance efforts in other cities: Historic buildings can offer an environmental attraction which is virtually impossible to duplicate by contemporary development techniques, and the buildings are adaptable to a variety of uses.

The plan recognizes that some of the district's buildings may be beyond saving. And in these cases recommends that replacement, "infill" buildings be sensitively designed to maintain the scale and character of the street facade, with particular attention given to materials, window openings, building height, cornice treatment and storefront design.



- A RIVERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS WITH FESTIVAL HALLS
- B CULTURAL CENTER WITH ADAPTIVE REUSE OF MAIN ST BLDGS
- C SURFACE PARKING / FUTURE DEVELOPMENT SITE
- D SURFACE PARKING / FUTURE DEVELOPMENT SITE
- E PRIVATE OFFICE WITH PARKING STRUCTURE
- F PRIVATE OFFICE WITH PARKING STRUCTURE
- G JUDICIAL CENTER WITH MAIN ST PARKING STRUCTURE
- H MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT STOREFRONTS

PA membership meeting scheduled

Tour of Hampden Smith House

A meeting of the general membership of Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc. will begin **Wednesday, May 20, 6:30 pm, at the Hampden Smith House, 909 Frederica Street (next door to the art museum)**. All current and prospective members are encouraged to attend. A special treat will be a tour of the Hampden Smith House, a Greek Revival residence which has been owned by the Smith family since its erection in 1860. This is a rare opportunity to gain a close-up view of a local architectural treasure.

MEETING AGENDA/PROGRAM

- TOUR OF HAMPDEN SMITH HOUSE
 - INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS
 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS
 - REPORT ON ST. JOSEPH CENTER PROJECT
 - DISCUSSION OF ONE-ROOM SCHOOL PROJECT
 - REFRESHMENTS
-

LANDMARKS OF DEMOCRACY

Preservation Week, May 10-16, 1987

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



In this Bicentennial Year of the United States Constitution, Historic Preservation Week's theme "**LANDMARKS OF DEMOCRACY**" is most fitting. Historic homes, schools, churches, and other buildings give us special insights into the people and ideas that shaped our Constitution and our society. From the historic State Capitols where the Constitution and its amendments were debated and ratified, to the schools where its principles have been taught, to the homes and workshops where families and businesses have flourished under its freedoms, physical reminders of our Constitution's history surround us.

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

What downtown can learn from suburbia

The City Commission has adopted a downtown action plan that includes a preservation element, sending an encouraging message to local preservationists. But paper plans will not bring about revitalized bricks and mortar without special attention to implementation.

Those interested in downtown must recognize that suburban shopping, office and residential complexes have a competitive advantage in that they are typically new developments under a unified management plan, which promises participants a defined part of an attractive whole.

Downtown must create similarly attractive environments to compete with the suburbs. But because there are many different property owners with divided interests, there is no shared management concept to address the suburban challenge.

Other cities have resolved this dilemma by use of zoning regulations that establish design guidelines and qualified review boards. Direction is provided for quality rehabilitation of old buildings and compatible design of new ones. Thereby a unified sense of place can result that would otherwise be impossible to achieve.

Serious consideration should be given to such a specially regulated district for Owensboro's Main Street.

- Gary Adams

Thousands of preservation groups in neighborhoods across the United States will join the celebration and pay tribute to the enormous contribution landmarks of democracy make in shaping our national identity. Historic places of national, as well as state and local, significance will form the backdrop for celebrating the beginnings of our democratic form of government.

Here in Owensboro, Preservation Week 1987 will be observed by holding a PA membership meeting (see announcement in this issue) with a tour of the Hampden Smith House. Our meeting as well as media coverage should spread the word about important preservation issues in the community.

Preservation Alliance NEWS

of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc.
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Time for 1987 membership dues

Preservation needs your support

The local preservation effort needs your continued support. Please fill out the form at right and return it with \$5 to Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc., 224 Allen St., Owensboro, KY 42301.

I wish to ____join ____renew as a 1987 member of
Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc.

Name

Address

City/State/ZIP

Please return with \$5 to Preservation Alliance of
Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc., 224 Allen Street,
Owensboro, KY 42301
