



## Preservation Alliance



205 West 4th Street

Owensboro, Kentucky

42301

May 1989

### COUNTRY CHURCHES TO BE TOURED

A tour of country churches will be held on Sunday, June 11 by special request from the many members of Preservation Alliance who enjoyed our tour of country homes last year.

Invitations will be mailed in May with more information but the committee promises more of the unique Daviess County architecture, good food, and fun that we had last year. Watch your mail for an invitation.

The tour will not be limited to members, so invite a small group of friends to join you for the evening or come alone and meet new people.

Tickets will cost \$12.50 for members or \$17.50 for non-members, and will cover the tour and dinner. Reservations are necessary and can be made by mail by returning the reservation card in your invitation or by calling 683-2060.

### WENDELL FORD BACKS PRESERVATION TAX LAWS

Owensboro's Wendell Ford is co-sponsoring a significant piece of legislation to benefit preservation tax laws. Last year's effort to amend the federal Tax Reform Act of 1986 and modify provisions that have had a negative impact on historic rehabilitation projects nationwide died when Congress adjourned without passing the bill in either the House or the Senate.

The bill was reintroduced in Congress in early February. The Community Revitalization Tax Act of 1989 received co-sponsor support from Wendell Ford.

The main provision of the Act calls for removal of the rehabilitation tax credit from the passive activity rules which limit annual use of the rehab and low income tax credits, for many taxpayers, to \$7,000 per year. These rules

con't.

*Proposed Main Street Restoration  
(Adjacent to Bluegrass Music Museum)*



account for a sharp reduction in the availability of equity capital for rehabilitation and local income housing projects. Since tax reform, use of the rehab credit has dropped by two thirds nationally. Kentucky witnessed a drop of 31% in the number of projects between 1987 and 1988, and a 97% decrease in investment between 1986 and 1988.

Let Wendell know how much we appreciate his support on this bill.

#### STATE GROUP LOBBIES

The organization which works at the state level to promote preservation of historic buildings and sites is called Commonwealth Preservation Advocacy, Inc. ("CPA")

CPA has been successful in lobbying for the continued funding of the KY Main Street program which has provided \$66,000 in matching grants to Owensboro's Main Street program, administered by Downtown Owensboro, Inc.

Public forums are being held throughout KY during Preservation Week to allow preservationists all over the state to determine which preservation issues will be the priorities of our next state lobbying efforts.

Anyone interested in joining should contact Glenda Thacker, board member of CPA, or send their dues to Commonwealth Preservation Advocates, Inc., P.O. Box 396, Shelbyville, KY 40065. Individual/Family dues are \$25, Organizational dues are \$35, Patron dues are \$100.

The Annual Meeting of CPA will be June 15, 1989 at 12:00 in Bowling Green at Hobson House.

#### KENTUCKY RANKS 4TH IN US HISTORICAL SITES

A summary of the National Register nomination process has just been released by the National Register Information System giving Kentucky high marks in its efforts to list historic buildings on the Register. Some of the highlights are as follows:

\* Kentucky ranks fourth among the States in total listing after Ohio, Massachusetts, and New York.

\* Kentucky ranks fourth among the States in archaeological site listings after Ohio, California and New Mexico.

\* Kentucky ranks seventh among the States in contributing resources listed in the National Register after New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Louisiana and Massachusetts.

\* Jefferson Co., KY has the second most listings of any county in the United States after Essex Co., MA.

\* One hundred of Kentucky's 120 counties have at least one listing.

\* Daviess County, with 153 buildings on the National Register, is 23rd in Kentucky.

\* Western Kentucky counties with major listings are:

McCracken Co. - 775 buildings  
Warren Co. - 270 buildings  
Breckenridge Co. - 159 buildings  
Logan Co. - 156 buildings  
Daviess Co. - 154 buildings  
Christian Co. - 131 buildings



#### BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Lanhan	President
Shelia Heflin	Vice-President
Gary Adams	Second Vice President
Frank Wagner	Treasurer
Helen Coomes	Secretary
Glenda Thacker	Ex Officio Board Member

Aloma Dew  
Joyce Edwards  
Katie Shively  
Lee Stearman  
Jan Evans

## MAGAZINE FEATURES OWENSBORO

Owensboro's barbeque and iron-front commercial architecture were featured in "American Heritage" magazine's May edition. The eight page special section was on Kentucky's Main Streets and included special points of interest to tourist in 23 towns.

The portion of the article dealing with Owensboro's architecture said, "Take a look at some of those 'stone' storefronts on Main Street in Owensboro, the third-largest city in Kentucky. They are pressed-metal that looks just like stone and was the architectural rage in the years following the Civil War, when cast-iron buildings (topped by the second-floor pressed metal fronts) were constructed. Says one resident: 'People used to buy sheet metal out of a catalog, just like curtains.' Take a long walk through the downtown and residential areas, and you can see houses from as early as the 1830's and unusual blends of architecture, including Victorian, Queen Anne, and Spanish Colonial Revival."

## 1989 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please use the form below to renew your 1989 membership to Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County. The membership structure has been changed this year to \$10 per household in an attempt to increase revenues. Mail dues to 205 W. 4th St., Owensboro, KY 42301.

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Name  
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Address  
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## PARTS OF ART

Pieces of the old Gunther Building which was demolished to make way for First Baptist's Christian Life Center have been in storage since the building was razed. Preservation Alliance purchased approximately 12 architectural pieces of the Gunther Building from the demolition company. Some of these were transported by the city to the riverport and others were moved to vacant downtown buildings.

The salvaged pieces included twenty small arched wooden windows and about twelve carved stone sections from the cornice, including the date stone.

It is the hope of P.A. that these stone pieces can eventually be used as focal pieces in a river-front garden between the RiverPark Center and Smothers' Park. The windows are in poor condition but can be purchased by a P.A. member for \$20 each.

## REHAB SEMINAR PLANNED

A seminar on preservation techniques for the owners of old houses (not owners who grew old renovating their houses) is scheduled for fall.

The seminar on preservation techniques is being planned by Preservation Alliance, Downtown Owensboro, Inc., and the Owensboro-Daviess Co. Planning Office.

Topics which may be included are window repair, tuck-pointing and cleaning old brick, color selections, and clever installation of central heat and A.C. If there is a topic you would like to be included, please contact Len Matheny at 685-8329 or Glenda Thacker at 683-2060.

More information on this workshop will be in the next P.A. newsletter.

## PRESERVATION WEEK CELEBRATED

National Preservation Week will be observed May 14-20, 1989, marking a time of celebration, advocacy and public education about historic preservation. This year's theme will celebrate historic preservation and places to live.

Local television station Channel 2 will be running short spots daily during Preservation Week featuring historic buildings on Main Street.



### ST. JOE TO GO

Historic St. Joseph Church will be razed but the stained glass windows will be placed in a new facility or wing of the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art.

Preservation Alliance formed a task force several years ago to persuade the Catholic diocese to keep the church intact until a user could be found. A committee of fifteen community leaders, headed by Dr. Lee Dew, made proposals to several arts related groups but failed to find a user that could finance the renovation.

A Lexington architect specializing in adaptive reuse of historic properties did a feasibility study and projected that renovation costs could run around \$200,000. Texas Gas and Preservation Alliance each provided \$500 toward her fee.

The art museum has photographed each of the windows in their original setting in order to document them. They have been placed in storage until the new art facility is completed.



National Trust for Historic Preservation

Help Us Protect Our Nation's Heritage

Preservation Week  
May 14th-20th



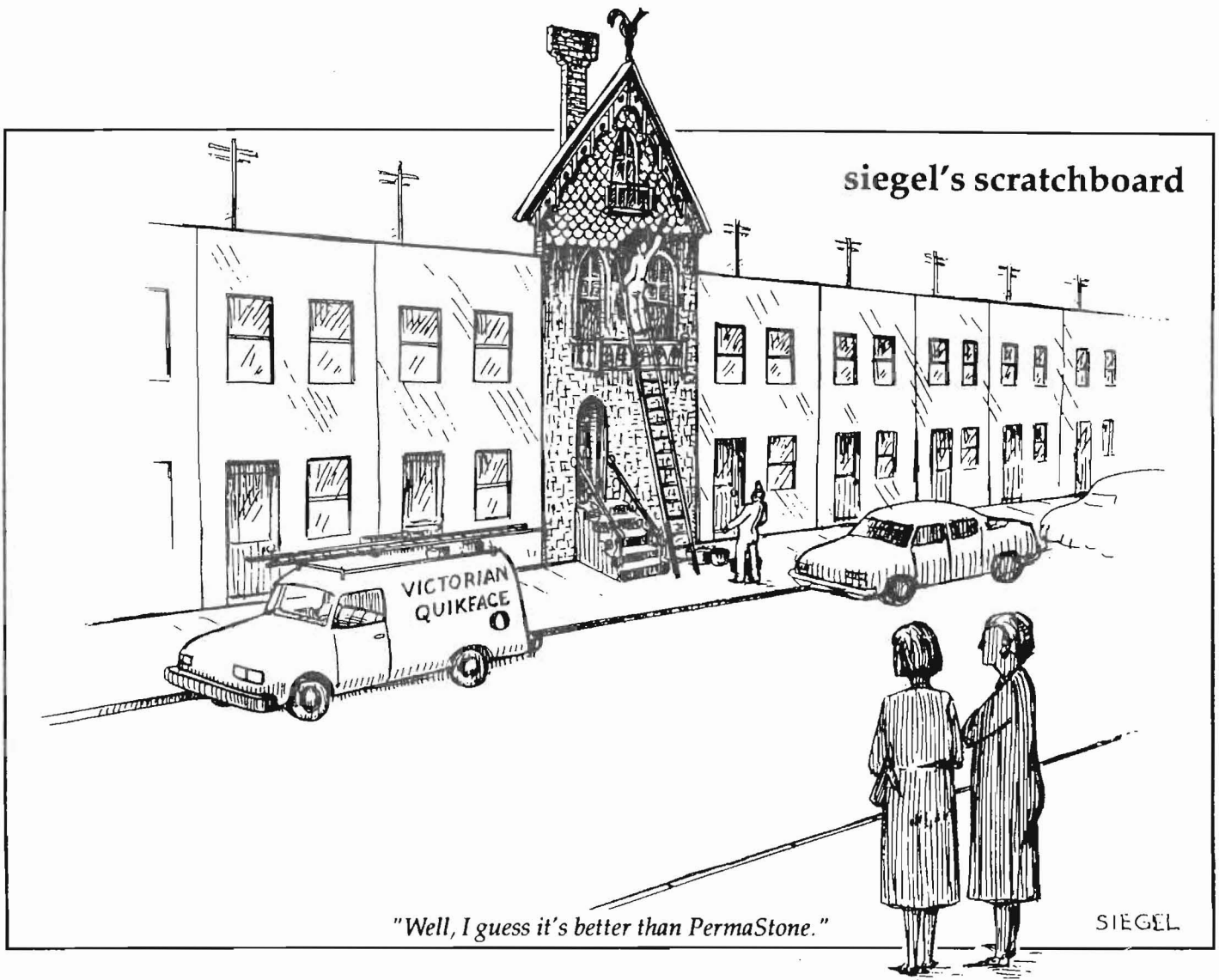
*Look Homeward  
America*

### FEDERAL BUILDING RECOGNIZED

The Federal Building/Post Office has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places as of April, 1989.

The building was among 100 nominated in 1986 but final approval was held up. Ninety-eight of the hundred buildings were approved soon after their nomination.

Inclusion on the National Register gives recognition that the building has architectural or historical significance within the context of the community. Benefits include limited protection against adverse action by Federal agencies and eligibility for Federal tax benefits (for privately owned property) as specified in the Economic Recovery Act of 1981.



## DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS REUSED

### RIVERPARK CENTER

The RiverPark Center project will make use of several historic buildings on Main Street for the bluegrass museum, International Bluegrass Music Association office, and other arts related agencies.

The Owensboro Symphony, Tourist Commission, Theater Workshop, Concert Association, and Art Guild are all considering a move to the complex.

The six buildings which are being renovated are all contributing buildings within the Main Street Historic District. Because of the use of federal funds to acquire property for the RiverPark Center, the renovation of the historic buildings is subject to review by the Council of Historic Properties. Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess Co. has been asked to comment on the restoration

plans and will be actively involved in the project in an advisory capacity.

Over 37,000 square feet of property will be rehabilitated for arts related use. Rehabilitation cost estimates range from \$20 per foot to \$43 per foot. It is uncertain at this time how the ownership and construction will be structured.

Preservation Alliance applauds the City and the RiverPark Committee for their interest in saving these historic buildings.

### PROGRESS PRINTING BUILDING

The former Progress Printing building at 319 E. 2nd St. has been completely renovated following a major fire several years ago. The reconstruction was completed in December by Lanham Bros. Construction Co.

Building owner Terry Woodward is letting the RiverPark Center and and IBMA groups use the building until the new Center is completed.

#### NEWBERRY-WILE BUILDING

The fate of the historic Newberry-Wile building is still of concern to local preservationists. The building was purchased by Daviess County Fiscal Court from Martin Barbour along with parcels needed for the Judicial Center.

County officials say the building may need to be demolished to make way for a surface park lot for the Judicial Center unless adequate parking can be developed in other places. Several developers have inquired about buying the building to renovate it into offices but have been told that it is not for sale at this time.

The Sol-Wile building was identified as being among the most significant commercial ironfront architecture in the Commonwealth by professionals who placed Main Street buildings on the National Register in 1982.

The preservation of these buildings has been a concern of Preservation Alliance for a number of years, not only for their architectural value, but because they contribute to the economic potential of the entire downtown.

#### OWENSBORO HOTEL

The Owensboro Hotel at 4th and Frederica St. has been optioned to developer Malcolm Bryant who wants to renovate it into offices.

The 50,000 square foot hotel was constructed in the 1920's and was covered with pale green aluminum in the 1960's in an attempt to update its appearance. Bryant proposes to remove the aluminum and clean the the yellow paint from the brick.

#### RAINES BUILDING

Clarence Raines has renovated the front half of his building at 4th and Frederica St. for the expansion of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber will use part of the space for a center for newcomers to Owensboro and will sublease the remainder to a business compatible with the rest of the building. Contact Jane Kirkpatrick for rental information on the three rooms.

Raines used the Design Assistance services of Downtown Owensboro, Inc. for his exterior plans and will receive a \$1000 facade grant at the completion of the project.

#### TROLLY DEDICATION

Owensboro's trolley will be dedicated on June 1, 1989 at 11:00 at the RiverWalk Plaza.

### Preservation Alliance

of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc.

205 West Fourth Street  
Owensboro, KY 42301

The tour of Country Churches will be Saturday, June 24 at 4:00. Invitations will be mailed in June.

Non Profit Org.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
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Owensboro, Ky.  
42301