

PA Update

Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc.

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Mike Wells, Vice-Pres.
Joyce Edwards, Treas.
Gary Adams, Secretary
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FALL 1998

August 27, 1998

Mr. Bruce Peters
Peters Contracting, Inc.
2960 Fairview Drive
Owensboro, KY 42303

Dear Mr. Peters:

PA Board Defends Bates Building

At its August meeting, the Board of Directors of Preservation Alliance voted to send this letter to Mr. Bruce Peters. Rumors had been spread around town about plans for a downtown Marriott Hotel that could potentially threaten the demolition of the historic Bates Building.

Recently, the Board of Preservation Alliance has heard that a Marriott Hotel may be proposed for downtown Owensboro. It is our understanding that you are involved in this project, and that the location under consideration lies between 1st and 2nd streets adjoining the west side of Allen Street. We also understand that the current proposal could result in the demolition of the Bates Building (northwest corner of 2nd and Allen) and the adjoining building to its west, now occupied by Peachtree Gallery.

These two buildings are architecturally significant to the character of the National Register Main Street Historic District. The Bates Building is of such merit that it was deemed eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places, even before the Historic District was registered in the early 1980s. The Peachtree Gallery is designated as contributing to the character of the District. The city's adopted Downtown Design Guidelines strongly recommend that contributing buildings within the District be preserved. For the foregoing reasons, Preservation Alliance is opposed to **any** development proposal that would destroy these buildings.

You have been a good friend of preservation. We especially appreciate your restorations of the Newberry-Wile and Salm's buildings. Those projects, along with the RiverPark Center and the Career Center have shown that older historic buildings can be economically vital again, while preserving the downtown's historic character. Only a few significant buildings -- that have not already been renovated -- remain in the Main Street Historic District. Every one of these is vital to the character of the District, with the Bates Building representing a core feature.

We would love to see a new downtown hotel. And, we would support integrating the Bates and Peachtree buildings into such a project, subject to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation. This was done successfully at the RiverPark Center. However, if incorporating the Bates Building into this project, under the Secretary's Standards, is not considered feasible, we suggest that alternative locations be sought -- sites which would not destroy important historic buildings such as the Bates. We believe there are many people in the community who share our sentiments.

We will wholeheartedly support appropriate development projects that build upon and enhance the recent successes of our historic downtown. Good luck in this challenging endeavor.

Your friends in preservation,

Board of Directors
Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc.

cc: Mayor of Owensboro, City Commissioners, City Manager
Daviess County Judge/Executive, County Commissioners, Deputy Judge/Executive



Bates Building at NW corner 2nd & Allen sts.



Peachtree & Bates are important to pattern of historic façades along 2nd St. district



RiverPark Center shows old and new buildings can work together

◆ FALL DAY TRIP to
French Lick Springs &
West Baden Springs
Resorts in Indiana



See
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A brief history of French Lick

First the Indians, then French and American explorers - including George Rogers Clark - followed ancient buffalo trails through this valley of bubbling mineral springs. In the late 1660's French settlers were attracted by the abundant water supply and their livestock benefited by licking the mineral deposits found at the springs. That feature led American settlers to give the name "French Lick," as they migrated to this part of the Indiana territory in the late 1700's when this was still the "Far West." By 1812, a government fort was already on the site of today's Hotel.

In 1834, renowned physician Dr. William Bowles, purchased the site and three mineral springs from the State of Indiana. Sensing both the draw of the natural beauty and the commercial potential of the country's growing thirst for mineral waters, he opened the first hotel within a few years. Both the French Lick Hotel and the water from it's most famous well, sold nationally as Pluto Water, became favorites of Eastern and Midwestern societies.

The original wooden structure burned in 1897, and the site was purchased in 1901 by Tom Taggart, former mayor of Indianapolis and leader in the National Democratic Party. The present Hotel opened in the early 1900's and quickly became synonymous with luxury and relaxation, a continuing draw for the country's rich, famous and politically influential. French Lick was also a gambling mecca, the site of many opulent casinos and private clubs.

For many years French Lick was the unofficial summer retreat of the Democratic Party. It was here at the 1931 National Governor's Conference that Franklin Roosevelt gained support for the presidential nomination. After World War II, the Hotel passed through numerous hands.

In August of 1991 the grand old hotel was once again offered for sale. The Luther James family, of Louisville, Kentucky, purchased the Hotel - bringing new spirit and adding vitality to this beautiful and historic property.



French Lick Wine & Coffee Company

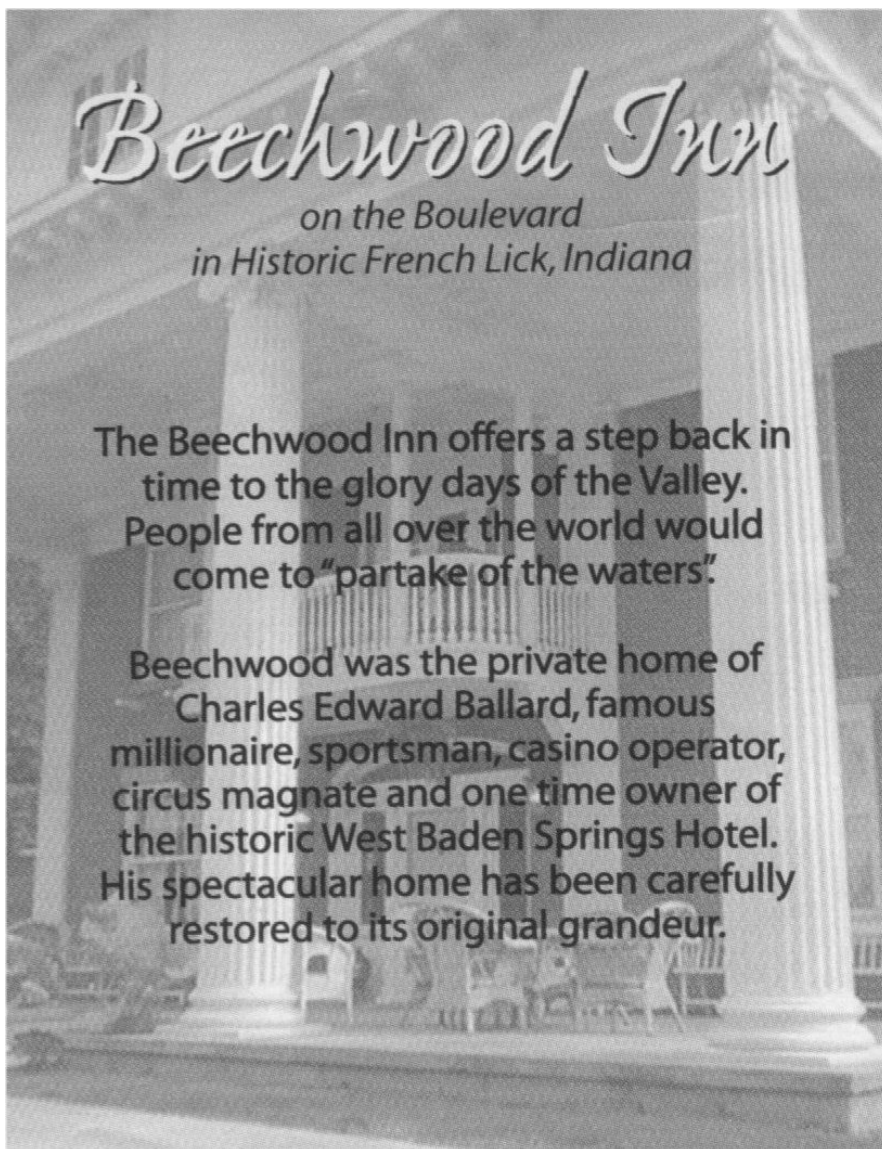
Nestled in the heart of Springs Valley, the award-winning French Lick Winery & Coffee Company is sure to be an enjoyable and educational stop. While visiting, enjoy a tour of our wine cellar and tasting of Old World, French American, American Classic, and Premium Fruit wines in the West Solarium tasting room. Gourmet coffees and teas, gift baskets and unique gift items are available for your gift giving needs too. In-state shipping and case discounts are available on all our award-winning wines.

Located in the historic Beechwood Mansion, the wine cellar, tasting room and gift shop are open Tuesday through Thursday and Sunday Noon to 5pm; Friday & Saturday 11am to 8pm. Call for Winter business hours.

Beechwood Inn *on the Boulevard* *in Historic French Lick, Indiana*

The Beechwood Inn offers a step back in time to the glory days of the Valley. People from all over the world would come to "partake of the waters".

Beechwood was the private home of Charles Edward Ballard, famous millionaire, sportsman, casino operator, circus magnate and one time owner of the historic West Baden Springs Hotel. His spectacular home has been carefully restored to its original grandeur.



BUS TRIP RESERVATIONS**DEADLINE: Fri. Oct. 23**

Please fill out the form at right.

Send it, along with your check made payable to *Preservation Alliance*, to:

Preservation Alliance
c/o Joyce Edwards
1125 Griffith 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 French Lick & W. Baden - Oct. 31, 1998

\$75.00 per person, includes transportation, lunch, and admissions

_____ Number of persons \$ _____

☐ 1998 Dues

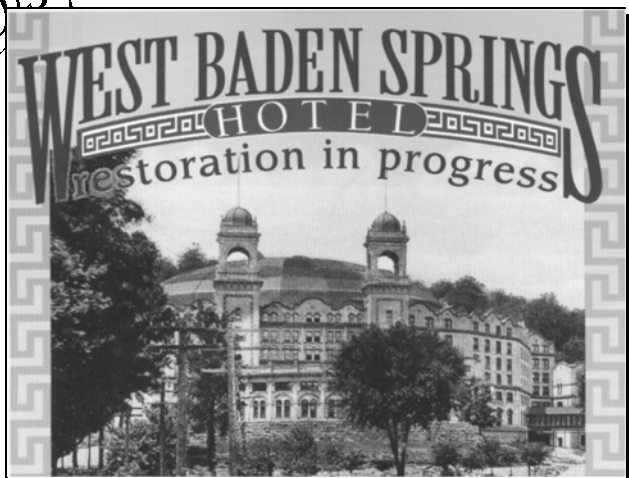
Please renew your PA Dues, if "1998" not shown on label (reverse side).

\$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.

Your daytime telephone number _____**TENTATIVE ITINERARY****7:00AM CT** **Leave** from Downtown Owensboro, National City Bank parking lot**time change** to Eastern Standard Time (ahead one hour)**10:00AM ET** **West Baden Springs Hotel** - Tour renovation of historic resort building**11:30AM** **Lunch** - Beechwood Country Inn**1:00PM** **French Lick Wine & Coffee Company** - Tour facility and sample wines & coffees**2:00PM** **French Lick Springs Resort** - Tour hotel and grounds**3:30PM** **Indiana Railway Museum****4:00PM** **Train Ride** -**6:00PM** **Leave** for Owensboro**time change** to Central Standard Time (back one hour)**7:00PM CT** **Arrive** in Owensboro

You are invited to join
 Preservation Alliance on a

BUS TRIP
 to French Lick &
 West Baden, Indiana
 Saturday, Oct. 31, 1998

For Reservations, see form above

Costume Optional

HALLOWEEN



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

502 / 926-5058

Address Service Requested

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



Bus Trip to French Lick & West Baden, Indiana

October 31, 1998

Invitation on Page 3

Thank You, 1998 Preservation Alliance Members

Gary Adams
David & Bonnie Adkisson
Joanne & Bernard Alvey
Richard & Sally Anderson
Charles Ballard
Frankie G Barron
Mr & Mrs Homer Barton
Mr & Mrs Ed Bell
Wendell & Mary Booth
Lowell D and Gail L Branham
Mrs John Brizendine
Mr & Mrs Maurice Burton
Dr & Mrs William D Bushong
Dr & Mrs Robert Byrd
Nelda Callis
Ruth Layson Campbell
John & Vicki Combs
Martha Condon

William & Geneva Cottrell
Mary W Craig
Mary & George Crowder
Mr & Mrs Richard Edwards
Joe & Nancy Ford
Gay R Gipe
Mr & Mrs George Greer
John & Marjorie Hager
Harold & Christy Hall
Netta & Robert Harris
Dr & Mrs Robert Hast
Lora Hawes
Joe & Sue Haycraft
Mary Michael Hayden
John & Riley Hess
Mr & Mrs Robert Howell
Mr & Mrs Forrest Lewis
Mr & Mrs Len Matheny

Mr & Mrs Myron McLain
Dr & Mrs William McManus
Dr & Mrs Wathen Medley
Mr & Mrs John Medley, Jr
Robert & Shirley Merriam
Sara Ghee Miller
Mr & Mrs W S Moreland
Hon Waymond Morris
Paul Morsey
Lucy G Neal
Tom & Lucy Neal
Mr & Mrs Dennis Newberry
Mr & Mrs Henry O'Bryan
Nina O'Hearn
Dr & Mrs Neil Padgett
Henry & Eudora Payne
Charles & Mary Gray Ralph
Dr & Mrs Leslie Riherd

Mr & Mrs Calvin Robinson
Elisabeth F Roszel
Mr & Mrs James D Ryan
Dr & Mrs Charles Schertzinger
Judge & Mrs Robert Short
Rachel Taylor
George & Glenda Thacker
Mr & Mrs Neal Tong
Mr & Mrs Frank Wagner
Mr & Mrs Michael Wells
William R West
Father Henry Willett
Nancy F Wilson
Mr & Mrs John Yager
Mrs Marilyn Young