

# PA Update

Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County, Inc.

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SPRING 1999

## Annual Meeting

You are cordially invited to attend  
the Annual Meeting of  
Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County

Friday, April 16, 1999  
12:00 Noon

Home of Forrest Roberts & Allen Holbrook  
(Former Hager Home)  
1844 Griffith Avenue

Lunch will be served  
\$10.00 per person

Please call Sally Anderson at 233-9230  
for Reservations by April 9



### Meet Anne Gryczon

Anne Gryczon (pronounced "Gritchen") is the Preservation Services Coordinator for our region, under a joint funding agreement between the Kentucky Heritage Council, the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, and the National Trust for Historic Places.

Ms. Gryczon plans to attend the annual meeting of Preservation Alliance, April 16 (see invitation at left), where she will tell us about the types of services her Evansville office can provide.

With a Masters from Clemson University emphasizing historic preservation and environmental protection, Gryczon believes any building erected before 1945 should be saved and adapted.

Older buildings contain design features we cannot afford to duplicate today. Also, it takes energy to demolish a building, and wastes the energy that was originally expended when the building was first erected. Finally, the demolition debris takes up valuable space in a landfill. ■

### Former Hager Residence may be 125 Years Old

On April 16, attendees at the annual meeting of Preservation Alliance will have an opportunity to visit one of Owensboro's older homes. See the invitation above.



The late Lawrence Hager, Sr., former publisher of the Messenger-Inquirer, bought the home in 1924, where he and his wife, the late Augusta Hager, reared their children.

The house displays features of the somewhat academic Renaissance Revival style, which competed with more elaborate Italianate styles from the 1860s on.

With masonry walls 18 inches thick, this may be the same house plotted at the current site in the 1876 *Atlas of Daviess County*. Forrest Roberts has found a deed from 1876 by Edward and Mary Bosley conveying a 22-acre property to their daughter Betsy and her husband B. McVey. ■

By Beverly M. Mills

# History of the Gillim House for Children

*Historian for Safe Children Foundation  
February 1999*

The Gillim House for Children is the result of a renovation project by the Safe Children Foundation. Local businesses, civic organizations, clubs, student organizations, church groups and community volunteers helped revitalize the building that was built in 1911.

This two-story building first began as "a certain parcel of land ...containing 1470 square feet..." which is shown of record in deed book 86, page 483 in the Daviess County Clerk's office of Owensboro, Kentucky. The record goes on to explain that Effie L. Parrish and her husband, J. Otis Parrish, conveyed the land to W. H. Strother and wife Elizabeth Strother, both of Owensboro, on September 1, 1909.

September 19, 1910 was the date the Strothers sold the lot to Mrs. Marion Hamilton Reid Gillim of Owensboro. Mrs. Gillim and her husband, Dr. Parvin Douglas Gillim, Sr., were living at 1319 Frederica Street. Dr. Gillim's office was at 324 1/2 St. Ann Street, Owensboro. Plans were designed, building began and the two-story brick building was completed in 1911. Dr. Gillim and his family moved into the new building with their residence on the second floor and his medical practice on the first floor.

Dr. Gillim, Sr. was born in Livermore, Kentucky in 1882, and was the middle of seven children. His parents were Dr. William Francis Gillim, who was perhaps the best known physician of Owensboro and Daviess County at that time, and Alice Rowan Douglas. They moved to Owensboro in 1886 and lived in the house on Frederica Street that is now occupied by the Campbell Club.

It was in 1908 that Dr. Gillim, Sr. married Marion Hamilton Reid. He received his M.D.

degree from the University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, and later studied in Chicago, Illinois where he acquired his radiology specialty. He was more than locally famed as a radiologist and was one of the founders of the Daviess County Medical Society. He was a pioneer and a leader in the field of X-ray technology, writing and lecturing around the world. Tragically, Dr. Gillim died at the early age of 55 in 1937 of what some say was radiation poisoning, others say was cancer, and even others say was arterial sclerosis of the brain.

Dr. Gillim, Sr. and wife Marion had three children: Dr. Marion Hamilton Gillim, Mary Douglas Gillim who died at age 6, and Dr. Parvin Douglas Gillim, Jr. In 1933, the Gillim family built and moved into their final residence at 1505 Griffith Avenue, Owensboro. They retained the St. Ann property, however, and rented the second floor of the building as apartments and the first floor as offices. The Miles & Irene Beauty Shop occupied the building from September 1988 to June 1995. It was the last business to locate in the St. Ann Street building.

After graduating from Owensboro High School, Dr. Marion Hamilton Gillim attended Science Hill Academy for two years. She graduated from Mount Holyoke University of South Hadley, Massachusetts and received her Master Degree and Ph.D. from Columbia University of New York, New York. She taught at Owensboro High School, Brescia College, studied economies in South America for the United States Government, conducted research and traveled abroad. Upon retiring from teaching, Marion studied law and served as a law clerk for Robert M. Kirtley of Owensboro. She and her brother, Dr. Parvin D. Gillim, Jr., became the owners of the St. Ann Street building upon their mother's death in 1975.

Dr. Gillim, Jr., was born in Owensboro on April 12, 1929. While attending Dartmouth College of Hanover, New Hampshire in 1950, he met and married Mary Dickson Varian. He graduated from Dartmouth in 1951 and received his M.D. degree from George Washington University of Washington, D.C. in 1955. In 1957, he completed his surgical internship and residency at Edward J. Meyer Memorial Hospital in Buffalo, New York. He



accepted a position in the United States Army as a Captain and served his country for two years. He and Mary then moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, where as an ophthalmologist, Dr. Gillim specialized in retina eye laser surgery. He and Mary have six children: Mary Sefranka, Dr. Sara Gillim, Parvin Douglas Gillim, III (known as "young Parvin"), Alice Luker, and twins Anna Markus and Claire Gale. Currently, the Gillim's have three grandchildren.

Family members come to Owensboro often to visit family such as the Reid's and Cousin Margaret Hudson Ross, and to visit friends such as Jane Stevenson and Bob and Pam Kirtley. The Gillim grandchildren have fond memories of their visits to Owensboro and summers at grandmas.

Parvin D. Gillim, III and his wife Susan, live in the Indianapolis area where he is a licensed architect. After Dr. Marion Hamilton Gillim's death, Parvin and Susan began managing the family-owned properties in Owensboro and tending to the Gillim Farm in Philpot, Kentucky. While visiting with the Kirtleys several years ago, Parvin spoke with Mr. Kirtley about the St. Ann Street building. He said the Gillim family was interested in having the building given to a special organization that would renovate the building. Mr. Kirtley, a Safe Children Foundation board member, immediately mentioned the foundation's programs, concerns for abused children and the need for a permanent office location. The details were finalized and the building was officially donated to the Safe Children Foundation in 1996.

The Safe Children Foundation sincerely appreciates and thanks the Gillim family for donating the two-story building and for contributing special information to share with the community. Visitors will see interesting artifacts that were found in the house and are being used for displays. This history will always be a special part of the building. ■



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

Please make any necessary corrections.

Please return this form, along with your check made payable to:

**Preservation Alliance  
Treasurer Joyce Edwards  
1125 Griffith Avenue  
Owensboro, KY 42301**

## 1999 Preservation Alliance Dues Renewal

If "1999" is not shown on your mailing label, please renew your Preservation Alliance dues.

☐ \$19.99 per household

We appreciate your membership dues. They...

- Support the printing and mailing of this newsletter, PA Update
- Make possible small grants to local preservation projects
- Show you care about our community's historic resources



## Federal Legislation

Commonwealth Preservation Advocates provided this summary (*Communique*, 2/99) adapted from the National Trust's *Preservation Advocate News*. Preservationists across the country are expecting several pieces of preservation-related legislation to be reintroduced during the 106th Congress.

### Historic Homeownership Assistance Act

The Historic Homeownership Tax Credit proposal was not included in the small tax bill passed by the 105th Congress. However, it is anticipated that a very large tax package will be introduced in the 106th Congress, which could provide a legislative vehicle for passage of the homeownership credit.

### Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Reauthorization

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) provides funding for the national preservation program, including the state historic preservation offices. HPF authorization expired on September 30, 1997 and no deposits have been made into the Fund since that time.

### Executive Order 13006

...was signed by President Clinton in 1996 and calls on the General Services Administration and other federal agencies to first consider historic districts and historic buildings in downtown areas when selecting sites for new federal facilities. Codifying the Clinton executive order will improve federal land managing agencies' responsibilities under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act by holding them accountable to law in the stewardship of historic resources.

### Postal Relocation Bill

The postal relocation legislative proposal, introduced in the last Congress, would help to preserve local control over downtowns and prevent sprawl by giving communities a voice in Postal Service decisions to close, relocate, or consolidate their local post offices. It is anticipated that this bill will be reintroduced in the House during the 106th Congress.

### Religious Liberty Protection Act

The "Religious Liberty Protection Act of 1998" (H.R. 4019/S. 2149) (RLPA) may be reintroduced in the 106th Congress and poses a threat to historic preservation and local land use regulation.

RLPA would limit the ability of local governments to implement land use regulations that affect religious institutions, including local landmarks and zoning laws, by establishing a "least restrictive means" test.

■

## Economic Impact of Historic Preservation

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 provided for a 20 percent investment tax credit for certified historic rehabilitation projects. Since then, over 1,370 of Kentucky's historic buildings have been made productive through an investment of almost \$432 million of private capital. As reported in CPA's *Communique* (2/99), the economic impact of those preservation projects:

- **8,500 jobs** in the construction industry
- **10,500 jobs** elsewhere in Kentucky
- **\$354 million** in household income for those workers
- **\$913 million** in total impact on the Kentucky economy ■

## Preservation Links

[www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

[www.preservenet.cornell.edu/aahpf](http://www.preservenet.cornell.edu/aahpf)  
African-American Heritage Preservation Foundation, Inc.

[www2.cr.nps.gov/abpp](http://www2.cr.nps.gov/abpp)  
American Battlefield Protection Program

[www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org)  
The Civil War Trust

[www2.cr.nps.gov](http://www2.cr.nps.gov)  
Heritage Preservation Services (National Park Service)

[www.state.ky.us/agencies/khc/khchome.htm](http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/khc/khchome.htm)  
Kentucky Heritage Council

[www.ncl.org/anr/partners/naaahp.htm](http://www.ncl.org/anr/partners/naaahp.htm)  
National Association for African-American Heritage Preservation

[www.sso.org/ncshp](http://www.sso.org/ncshp)  
National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

[www.mainst.org](http://www.mainst.org)  
National Main Street Center

[www.cr.nps.gov](http://www.cr.nps.gov)  
National Park Service

[www.cr.nps.nr/nrhome.html](http://www.cr.nps.nr/nrhome.html)  
National Register of Historic Places

[www.nthp.org](http://www.nthp.org)  
National Trust for Historic Places

[www.sacredplaces.org](http://www.sacredplaces.org)  
Partners for Sacred Places

[www.preservenet.cornell.edu/pa.htm](http://www.preservenet.cornell.edu/pa.htm)  
Preservation Action

[www.preservenet.cornell.edu](http://www.preservenet.cornell.edu)  
Preserve/Net

[www.sah.org](http://www.sah.org)  
Society of Architectural Historians



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

502-926-5058

Address Service Requested

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42301  
Permit No. 487

# Annual Meeting at former "Hager Home"

April 16, 1999

Invitation on Page 1

## Please renew your PA Membership Dues for 1999

If your mailing label does not show "1999" after your name  
Return form at top of Page 3

## Thank You, Preservation Alliance Members

### Early 1999 Members

Gary Adams  
Richard & Sally Anderson  
Homer & Eleanor Barton  
Wendell & Mary Bryan Booth  
Pat Borjesson  
Maurice & Clara Burton  
Mary W Craig  
Mr & Mrs Richard Edwards  
Dr & Mrs Robert Hast  
Sue & Larry Hastings  
Mary Michael Hayden  
Jim & Marsha Hicks  
Steve & Pat McFarling  
Lucy G Neal  
Joan Robertson  
George & Glenda Thacker  
Mr & Mrs Neal Tong

### 1998 Members

Gary Adams  
David & Bonnie Adkisson  
Joanne & Bernard Alvey  
Richard & Sally Anderson  
Charles Ballard  
Frankie G Barron  
Homer & Eleanor 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 Ed Wathen  
Mr & Mrs Michael Wells  
William R West  
Father Henry Willett  
Nancy F Wilson  
Mr & Mrs John Yager  
Mrs Marilyn Young