

Old House Society



404 E Washington

January — 2011

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Old House Society
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In This Issue:

*Pillsbury Homes
Saved Artifacts from Old Homes
& Much More!!!*

"Revitalizing Traditional Neighborhoods Since 1979"

Going Places

Museum of American Glass in West Virginia (MAGWV)

230 Main Avenue
Weston, WV 26452

(304) 269-5006 www.magwv.com

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat Noon-4:00 p.m. Summer: Daily

Free Admission

Driving east to see family or maybe on vacation? A hidden gem lies just off the interstate (I79) in a small town in the foothills of the Appalachians. The Museum of American Glass in West Virginia (MAMWV) is a relatively new museum that focuses on the culture of glass and glass-making, particularly the tri-state area of West Virginia, eastern Ohio, and western Pennsylvania.

The collections and archives here are especially relevant to OHS members because of our interest in old houses and the materials that went into them. Examples of glass salvaged from the 1911 grade school (Chenoa, IL) and from the Ensenberger building (Bloomington, IL) found a home here as did a glass façade tile.

While having the feeling of a casual place, the museum has a surprising depth for such a young institution. Now located in its own building in the center of downtown, the museum offers nearly 10,000 square feet of exhibit space, examples of work tools and machinery, library space, and, room for special interest conferences. Interactive displays appeal to older children as well as to adults.

MAGWV grew out of a local glass-study group in the early 1990s; was incorporated as a non-profit in 1993; and, since then has expanded exponentially at a time when many museums have been affected by the economic climate and by a national downturn in volunteerism. You will find much to look at.

Why is the museum located here? The glass making industry in this region developed in large part because of the natural gas boom on the late 19c which provided a cheap and necessary natural resource. Manufacturers produced a wide range of products, both functional (think headlight glass or a movie projector lens) and decorative (think perfume bottles and tableware). At one time Lewis County, location of MAGWV, boasted it was the largest producer of hand-blown stemware in the world. While glass manufacturers are now out of business, a few glass studios or individual workers have shops in the area.

Interested in historic buildings? A few blocks away stands the largest hand-cut limestone masonry building in North America. Quite a sight, especially on a rainy day! This HUGE mid-19c landmark, a blend of Gothic Revival style and Tudor Revival, is on the National Registry of Historic Places. See it at <http://transalleghenylunaticasylum.com/> or <http://www.kirkbridebuildings.com/buildings/weston/>

Built before the Civil War, the hospital operated more than 100 years as a health care facility. Officially closed in 1994, the building recently has been the cinematic setting for a variety of TV and film productions. Building tours

Old House Society Warehouse



Please visit the OHS Warehouse when you are looking for something that you need for your renovations, finding original additions to your home's architecture, or just a completion piece for your home. You can also use the website to email the Coordinator if there is something you have been searching for but have been unable to find. The folks at OHS will be glad to try and assist you with your search.

Visit www.oldhousesociety.org today!!!





The Recipe Corner

COCONUT CAKE

1 yellow cake mix
1 small instant vanilla pudding
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ c water
4 eggs
 $\frac{1}{2}$ c oil
2 c coconut
1 t vanilla
 $\frac{1}{2}$ t black walnut flavor

Combine all ingredients. Beat 4 minutes at medium speed. Pour into 2 9" greased and floured pans. Bake 25-30 minutes at 350°. Cool and frost with coconut frosting.

COCONUT FROSTING

2 c coconut
4 T butter
16 oz. cream cheese
2 T butter
2 T lemon juice
 $3\frac{1}{2}$ c powdered sugar
1 t vanilla

Brown coconut in 4 T butter on low heat. Cool on paper towels. Mix cream cheese, 2 T butter and lemon juice. Add powdered sugar, vanilla and $1\frac{1}{2}$ c coconut. Frost cake. Sprinkle $\frac{1}{2}$ c coconut on frosting.

Antique Tile Collection



Many thanks to David Beich, who recently donated a large quantity of beautiful old tiles now available for sale at the warehouse. There is not a large quantity of any one tile, but if you have a restoration project that only needs a few tiles, these would be perfect. Some of the companies whose tiles are in the collection are American Encaustic Tile, Trent Title Co., and Roberson and Providential Tile Works. Many of the larger 6 x 6 tiles would also make great art pieces on their own.



Events

OHS Annual Meeting

Old House Society Annual meeting will be February 17, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:00 at the Vrooman Mansion located at 701 E. Taylor Street, Bloomington, IL. Cocktails from 6:30 to 7:00 PM, meeting will start at 7:00PM.

Heartland College Courses Related to OHS

This is the information for registration for the Heartland College courses related to the Old House Society (Building Material Salvage and Reuse). Those interested in this class, can register via the Community Education website at www.heartland.edu/greeninstitute. They can also register by calling 309-268-8160. Class size is limited. Register as soon as possible to reserve your space.

Old House Society Annual House Tour June 2011

Mark your calendars!!! This year's OHS Annual House Tour is June 11th. This year we will be doing the Houses of White Place. If you have a house or know of someone who owns a house in this neighborhood and they would be willing to have a tour, please contact Mike at the warehouse. If you would like to volunteer to help with the tour, please contact Mike Ryburn at coordinator@oldhousesociety.org or phone 309-820-0548.

Lafayette Square House Tour June 2011

Save the dates of June 4th and 5th. The Old House Society hopes there will be enough interest to offer our members a bus trip to St. Louis for the Lafayette Square House Tour. This is a fantastic tour with fantastic houses. For more information, visit our website and click on the link. You can also check the website and future newsletters for more information. Or simply call the warehouse.



Ad Space

Would you like to reach more of your customers and support OHS? Simply pick your ad space size, send us your already designed ad, or send us your information and we will design it for you.

Ad spaces are as follows:

2" X 3 1/2" - \$35.00

3 1/2" X 4 1/2" - \$45.00

4 1/2" X 7 1/2" - \$85.00.

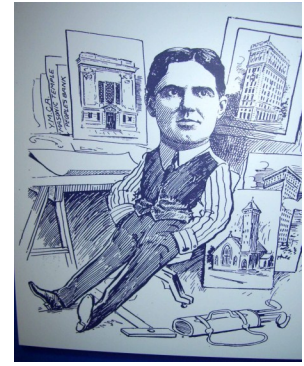
7 1/2" X 10" \$150.00.

Your advertisement can be featured in all of our literature, including the newsletter, house tour book, and house fair. You can reach out to customers while helping our organization produce the best, most informative newsletter ever!!!



Wolf Gargoyle

From the Desk of OHS Co-Coordinator Michael D Ryburn



Caricature of Mr. Pillsbury

If you haven't been to the McLean County Museum of History lately, go now! Not only do they have a great exhibit on the perspective of the Vietnam War, but the "Come and Get It!" display, which has several items in it that are on loan from the Old House Society, is an eye-opener. Go check out this exhibit and try to guess which items are from OHS.

Then, as soon as you have done this, step right next door and into one of the finest learning experiences you will receive on the architect Arthur L. Pillsbury. The McLean County Museum of History is presenting an exhibit entitled "A Passion for Detail: The Architectural Legacy of A.L. Pillsbury" through August 30. The exhibit focuses on the legacy of late 19th and early 20th century Bloomington architect Arthur L. Pillsbury, who designed more than 700 buildings during his career. Many of the homes he designed are still part of the streetscape of Bloomington-Normal.

I may be partial to our local architects like George Miller, Paul Moratz, and even Rudolph Richter, but once you have looked into The architectural legacy of A.L. Pillsbury, you'll have a good understanding of the impact this architect has had on our city. I can't imagine what our town would have been like without this man's input.

The exhibit also explains the purpose behind all those blue flags in front of local houses. I got a true sense of just how much this community has lost, looking through the eyes of a preservationist. Of the 239 houses listed in the display I viewed, we have lost more than 49 of them. The Museum also had an additional 28 houses that could not be added to the "Lost" column because their location could not be confirmed.

These were only the houses. When you go and look at the wonderful architectural renderings that are on display, you see that a lot of historical buildings have been lost to us as well. One part of the display brought back some fond, and not-so-fond, memories of the downtown area, namely of the grand Grieshelm building, located on the southeast corner of Main and Jefferson.

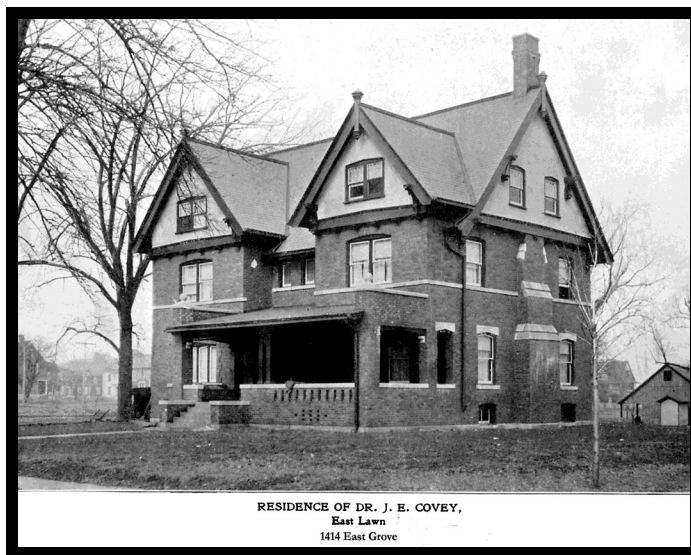
A part of this building is featured in another display at the museum (the picture at left above). This gargoyle resembles a wolf. I'm sure this was intentional, because Mr. Grieshelm's first name was Wolf. This guardian looked down from his lofty position on the corner, keeping vigilance on our town for around 80 years. This Grieshelm building was one of the first that was built after the Bloomington fire of 1900. The Grieshelm Building was a marvel in architecture that our children will never get to enjoy due to an arson fire in the 1980's that destroyed it. I can think of no sadder way to lose a historical structure then by this means.

404 E Washington



The AL Pillsbury designed house located at 404 E. Washington is one that can be saved. It's a fine example of what Mr. Pillsbury was creating in the early 1900's. I have been driving by it for the last couple of years hoping someone would take it under their wing and restore it to its previous glory. It's now for sale. Here is an opportunity to keep another local treasure from being lost forever, and to preserve its future for the children of the future. I'm hoping we don't lose another Pillsbury house or building. There are fewer every year and they are impossible to replicate!

Residence of Dr. J. E. Covey — 1414 East Grove



The Homes of Bloomington Architect A.L. Pillsbury

With the opening of the exhibit on Bloomington Architect Arthur Pillsbury at the McLean County Museum of History on November 13, 2010 and the appearance of eighty-four yard banners* identifying Pillsbury Homes in Bloomington-Normal, there is a renewed interest in his work. Pillsbury was a client's architect — one who designed to the clients wants, not his own vision. As a result, his homes were designed in a wide variety of styles — from Queen Anne Victorian, to Prairie style. But this does not imply that he did not have artistic vision. In fact Pillsbury was extremely talented. When you examine his work closely, it becomes apparent that he carefully and artistically balanced a variety of stylistic elements into a harmonious and beautiful design. It was his attention to these details that makes his work stand out. This attention holds true to all his homes, whether a large Tudor style mansion or a small Arts & Crafts cottage.

At one time Bloomington-Normal had about 140 beautifully designed Pillsbury homes. A database recently compiled by the McLean County Museum of History of all known Pillsbury projects shows that 105 of these homes are still standing. But that number in all likelihood is not accurate. The database was created from business records passed down through succeeding architects of the original Pillsbury firm, so undoubtedly data is missing. It includes project numbers for some, but not all of his designs. It also reveals that project numbers go as high as 1291, while the number of entries in the data base only goes to 896. The entries and project numbers include designs for new constructions as well as designs for alterations and remodels. So what happened to the project numbers not on the list? Some were more than likely assigned, but the projects not completed. Others may have not been recorded in the records the Museum reviewed.

To compound the problem of confirming the existence of Pillsbury designed homes, the records for projects done for customers living in the smaller communities outside of Bloomington-Normal and extending as far away as Evanston, Illinois did not include street or rural address. Some attempts have been made to track down this information for towns in McLean County, but with limited success. A resident from Minonk recently contacted the museum about his Pillsbury home. As a result we were able to add data about his home to the database and he has promised to see what data he can track down on the five other Pillsbury homes in Minonk. It would be very helpful if Pillsbury homeowners in the areas smaller communities would contact the Museum to supply information about the location of their home. The museum has also received calls from individuals within the community who have solid evidence that their homes were designed by Pillsbury, but did not have the home in the database. If you are a Bloomington-Normal resident that was not contacted for a Pillsbury yard sign, and have evidence that your home was designed by Pillsbury, the Museum would very much like to add your home to the database. We would also be interested in both modern and historic photos of the exterior and interior of any Pillsbury home.

In all likelihood, we will never know the exact extent of his work. But with the help of Pillsbury lovers and homeowners we can gather up as much information as possible. If you have additional information to add to the Museum's Pillsbury database, email the curator (Susan Hartzold) at skhartzold@mchistory.org.

**First Owner: Dr. John E. Covey
1414 East Grove Street
Bloomington, Illinois
Built in 1905**

**A Grove Street Pillsbury
Photo Source
Picturesque Bloomington
1907, Page 38**

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CONTACT INFO

(Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

OLD HOUSE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

•Warehouse Discounts • Newsletters • New Friends • Promoting Tradition •

*** Your Member Dues Create Opportunities To Build Communities you want!***

DECIDE YOUR MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

_____ \$25 Student / Retiree

_____ \$35 Individual

_____ \$100 Arthur Pillsbury

_____ \$250 Paul Moratz

_____ \$500 George Miller

_____ \$1000 Rudolph Richter

_____ \$10,000 Life Time Member

_____ \$50 Family

* Keep in mind, your contribution is eligible for a tax deduction.

* All Memberships Expire December 31

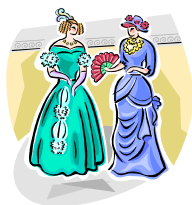
Thank you for your donation to the Old House Society !

JOIN NOW OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Fill out the form above and mail it with your check to:
Old House Society, PO Box 581, Bloomington, IL 61702

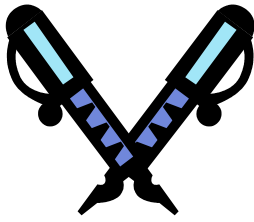
**You need to pay your dues in time for the February Meeting.
Just complete the above form, cut out, and mail with your check
to the address listed above. See you at the meeting!**

Lafayette Square House Tour June 2011



House-touring provides the ultimate in snooping. But taking part in the annual Lafayette Square Spring House & Garden Tour is far more satisfying than merely peering into strangers' medicine cabinets. In addition to the main tour attraction, this two-day event offers a variety of activities (which this year included a concert, vintage "base ball" and an antiques fair). More important, the weekend provides a glimpse into the city's revival. The late-nineteenth-century homes on display have been beautifully restored and maintained, showcasing St. Louis' former grandeur and the hope and splendor of today.

Save the dates of June 4th and 5th. The Old House Society hopes there will be enough interest to offer our members a bus trip to St. Louis for the Lafayette Square House Tour. This is a fantastic tour with fantastic houses. For more information, visit our website and click on the link. You can also check the website and future newsletters for more information. Or simply call the warehouse.



**From the Pen of
Our President
Patrick O’ Sullivan**

The falling leaves drift by my window ... and I know my favorite season is arriving. The wistful melancholy of the famous tune “Autumn Leaves” captures the sad but sweet feeling that fall’s first brisk days bring each year. My favorite version is Eva Cassidy’s, with Diana Krall’s a very close second (if I must rank them). Fall is a wonderful time to reflect on the summer now past, and to look forward to the cozy glow of evening fires and the snuggly warmth of comforters.

It is also a good time to take stock of how things have been going. That’s why you will find an OHS membership survey this newsletter, which is intended to help the OHS board be more responsive to members’ interests and needs.

Questions include a set about membership renewals and rates, a set about Architectural Warehouse materials and operations, and a question gauging interest in various “how-to” workshops designed to help patrons with their restoration knowledge and skills. Please take a few minutes to share your views and interests and put the survey into the mail. Once we have collected your responses, we will share what we have learned with all of you even as we use the findings to made decisions about current and future initiatives in support of OHS’s mission.

Of course, we welcome your comments and suggestions at any time. You can write to us via standard mail (P.O. Box 581, Bloomington, Illinois 61702-0581) or via email (coordinator@oldhousesociety.org) We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your support of OHS!

Warmly,

Patrick O’Sullivan, President



**Arthur L. Pillsbury Historic Houses
Bicycle Tour**

The McClean County Wheelers bicycle club and the Old House Society will be jointly offering a bicycle tour this spring that will provide an opportunity to enjoy a bike ride through several of Bloomington-Normal’s historic neighborhoods to view a number of Pillsbury homes.

The exact date for the ride is not yet set, but it will likely be in the late spring, probably in May. The ride will be open to all, and more details will be posted on the OHS and Wheelers’ websites as the ride approaches. Check them for more information or



If you plan to remodel your bath room here is your chance to get an authentic claw foot tub at an incredible price. These tubs have been salvaged from area homes that were scheduled for demolition and are now ready to become part of your home’s useful as well as architecturally correct Victorian

Old House Society Membership Survey Fall 2010

OHS Mission: *"To promote and preserve buildings, landscapes, and neighborhoods more than 50 years old, and the communities and heritage they foster."*

In our ongoing efforts to improve the organization's effectiveness in pursuing its mission, OHS board members are seeking feedback from members about what is working and what is not, as well as ideas for programs and services that they would like to see OHS offer. Please take a few moments to complete the survey questions as we will use your feedback to develop programs and policies that meet your needs. **PLEASE CHECK OR CIRCLE YOUR RESPONSES.**

OHS membership

1. If offered as an option, would you renew online through the OHS website (e.g., using PayPal)?
 - yes
 - no
2. If OHS raised basic membership dues 10-20% to fund community grant programs and improvements to the warehouse, would you be willing to pay the higher dues?
 - yes
 - no

Architectural Salvage Warehouse Materials

1. Please rate the quality of the materials carried in the Warehouse for your renovation needs:
 - high
 - moderate
 - low (if "low," please explain why here)
2. Currently materials are sold in the original salvaged condition. Are you interested in items that are minimally restored (e.g., lamps rewired, doors/windows with lead paint removed, broken glass replaced, sinks/tubs resurfaced, etc.)?
 - not interested at all
 - slightly interested
 - very interested
3. Please indicate your perception of prices for Warehouse salvaged materials:
 - a. low
 - b. about right
 - c. high

4. What salvage materials are you likely to purchase in the next 12 months? (check or circle all that apply)
 - interior doors
 - exterior doors
 - storm doors
 - sash windows
 - storm windows
 - interior trim
 - exterior trim
 - wood flooring
 - heating grates
 - sinks
 - tubs
 - interior hardware
 - lighting
 - other: _____
5. If OHS offered a materials alerting service, where you would receive an email alerting you when new materials arrive at the Warehouse, would you be interested in subscribing?
 - not at all interested
 - mildly interested
 - very interested
6. If OHS provided detailed information on its website about materials at the Warehouse, would you use it to shop for your needs?
 - not at all interested
 - mildly interested
 - very interested
7. Please share any recommendations for improving Warehouse materials to meet your restoration needs:

Architectural Salvage Warehouse Operations

Current open hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8am-5pm and Sundays 10am-4pm. If we were to consider changing that schedule:

1. Which days that would be most convenient for daytime hours (e.g., 8am-5pm):
 - Mondays
 - Tuesdays
 - Wednesdays
 - Thursdays
 - Fridays
 - Saturdays
 - Sundays
2. Which days would be most convenient for possible evening hours (e.g., 5 – 9 pm):
 - Mondays
 - Tuesdays
 - Wednesdays
 - Thursdays
 - Fridays
 - Saturdays
 - Sundays
3. Please indicate your perception of the quality of help finding what you need at the Warehouse:
 - low
 - about right
 - high
4. Please indicate your overall perception of the quality of the advice for restoration/installation that you experience at the Warehouse:
 - low
 - about right
 - high
5. Please indicate your overall perception of the quality of the shopping experience at the Warehouse:
 - low
 - about right
 - high
6. Please explain any recommendations that you have for improving Warehouse operations:

Membership Services

1. What “how-to” workshop topics would you want to participate in over the next 12 months? Check (or circle) all that apply:
 - window restoration (glazing, painting, sash cord repair, etc.)
 - interior plaster repair
 - weatherizing/insulation materials and techniques
 - exterior surface maintenance and repair (e.g., shingles, siding, stucco)
 - interior painting techniques
 - exterior painting techniques
 - exterior dry rot repair
 - wood floor restoration/repair
 - minor electrical upgrades (plugs, light switches, minor rewiring)
 - lead paint abatement techniques
 - historically appropriate landscaping
 - historically appropriate hardscaping (walkways, stairs, etc.)
 - plumbing upgrade projects
 - other: _____

American Preservation Foundation

The American Preservation Foundation is a new not for profit corporation in our area whose purpose is to preserve our neighborhoods and communities through restoration, redevelopment, and rehabilitation of existing structures and to educate the public on the importance of this mission through a variety of mediums.

By bringing troubled properties back from the brink and putting them in the hands of qualified owner-occupants, the Foundation seeks to strengthen our existing communities so that they continue to flourish for the next 100 years.

The foundation will soon be holding a get-to-know-you function to introduce itself and its mission to the community. Keep your ears and eyes open for more information about this exciting new organization!



The Treasure Hunt



The Illinois Antique Center is located at 311 SW Water Street, Peoria, IL right off of the Peoria river front. Take a moment to stop by and browse and we are sure that you will find something that you cannot do without. The shop features furniture, lots of glassware, collector plates, tools, books, and many other antiques and collectables. Dan and Kim Phillips are the Owner/Managers and would love to help you find that special item you have been searching for. They also have a flea market every 4th Saturday of the month so be sure to check that out. They can be reached at 309-673-3354 or 309-655-1196. They have a website page under construction so be sure to check back periodically for updates.



Notes From The Operations Coordinator



It's been a busy time here at the warehouse, with lots of projects of varying interest. Sometimes going through the different houses that come up for razing can make a person feel sorry for the way our disposable oriented society has chosen to address the issue of saving homes from a by-gone era. Although we have made some progress in this field here in Bloomington, we have a long way to go before our goal to change the way our society thinks is accomplished. Here are some of the fine examples of history lost just out side the Bloomington area.

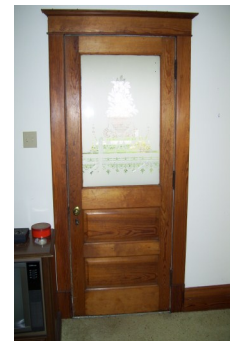
In Toulon, IL I was called to see if there were any items that would be of interest to our group from this wonderful old house. As you can see from the pictures of her below, at one time she must have been a great beauty and the pride of the family that owned her. Needless to say, we found quite a lot to rescue and reuse.



Pontiac, IL another great old home is coming down. The people who acquired this house lost the stained glass windows to scavengers. That is always a problem with an empty house. We were able to salvage a few chosen items. See pictures below.



We are currently working on this Chatsworth, IL home that is going to be razed. It is a great Queen Anne from the 1880's. It also holds treasures that we will rescue and reuse.



It is our hope that we can stop the needless destruction of our architectural heritage by encouraging the restoration of homes in local neighborhoods. Until then, we continue to recue as much as we can from these homes. Please stop by the OHS Warehouse to see some of the beautiful items that we have added from some of the homes pictured above. Many of these lovely pieces can find a new life in adding beauty to your home.