

Old House Society



Issue — September 2009

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Old House Society
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In This Issue:

*Our Tour of the Behr Home
The Barnes & Noble Bookfair
Resurrect the Elms in El Paso
Introducing "Treasure Hunt"
And Much, Much More!!!
"Revitalizing Traditional Neighborhoods Since 1979"*



The Behr Home Located at 611 North Lee Street

The Behr Home will be open on October 3 2009 from 5 to 7PM for a social. Wine and hors d' oeuvres will be served. Email or call Mike Ryburn to make your reservation now. Tickets are \$10.00 each to benefit the Old House Society. The tour is limited to only 50 people and is on a first come first serve basis.

Welcome to the Behr Home, built for German immigrant Henry Behr and his wife, Minnie Price in 1884-1885. The Behr family owned a successful grocery and dry goods store on West Chestnut Street, just west of Bloomington's C&A Shops. At that time, Chestnut Street supported burgeoning business districts both east and west of the rail yards, similar to the small business district still standing on West Washington Street, where West Side Clothing is located. Some of what remains of West Chestnut's business district can be seen in the 600 block, where Van Hook Upholstery and Benningo's are located.

Henry and Minnie gave birth to their first child, Carl, the year they moved in to their new home at 611 North Lee Street. They had three other children, Walter, Charlotte, and Lincoln. Business at the family grocery must have been brisk, for just after the turn of the century, the house was added on to and modernized. A fashionable turret was added to the southwest corner, another fireplace, and a new foyer and grand staircase. Most of the rest of the house remained the same, however, which is why the front two rooms are much different in appearance.

Although these upgrades might have seemed extravagant, frugality in the remodel is evident. A set of pocket doors were relocated and faux finished to resemble quarter sawn oak, oak flooring was laid in only two rooms, and faux walnut and burl wood finishing was applied in the gentleman's parlor and library. The relative simplicity and lack of frivolous ornament also indicate the family's conservative taste. They did, however, splurge on the fireplace surround, the six leaded glass windows, and the double entry doors with full panes of leaded glass (since removed). Your faithful homeowners are tirelessly searching the country for suitable replacements.

The house changed hands several times after it passed out of the Behr family and was even sectioned off into a duplex (one up, one down). Evidence of the wall that separated the two units can still be seen in the foyer on the floor and woodwork. The second floor kitchen was probably in the north bedroom. No permanent changes were made, however, that couldn't be undone to make the house single-family again, although the exterior doors had been reversed to swing out, for fire code compliance.

The property hit rock bottom in the late 1990s. Empty, with the water and power shut off and clad in a shaggy coat of white aluminum siding, David Beich noticed that something had to be done to save this west side gem. In 2000, he bought the house and partnered with Gary Calhoon. Together, they restored the property to its former glory, and better. New wiring, plumbing, furnaces, and air conditioners were installed, along with the complete top-to-bottom period interior and exterior restoration. The original carriage house was too rotted and termite eaten to save, so a modern two-car garage was built to replace it.

The period look of the house is due to three major factors. First, the house was never "remodeled," as old-house lovers call period-inappropriate remodeling. Second, David Beich and his restoration team made sure as many original features were retained and restored as were financially possible. Finally, the paint scheme and decorating are period sensitive. We have collected a decent amount of antiques to fill the house and give it that Victorian feel without sacrificing comfort or function.

The Behr home is an unusual amalgam of frugality and elegance. When combined with its working class neighborhood locale, it makes for an unforgettably eclectic experience.

One of our Old House Society Newsletter fan wrote:

I enjoyed the “Great Tips on how to Research Your Older Home: article in the last newsletter. The Sanborn insurance maps were described as a useful but hard to find resource. I am a librarian at ISU’s Milner Library and we subscribe to the “Sanborn Insurance Maps—Illinois on line database. It has detailed historical maps of Illinois from the Sanborn Company. Images can be enlarged online to view detail and provide full image content. It covers 1867 to 1967. Any member of the public is welcome to use Milner Library. They will need a guest login to access the database. They can request a guest login at the reference desk with a photo ID. More info about the Milner Library can be found at <http://www.library.ilstu.edu>. For more information about the data base, please visit <http://sanborn.umi.com/HelpFiles/about.html>.

Many thanks to Chad Kahl for his informative email on the Sanborn Maps.

We welcome submissions on other topics related to old houses and neighborhoods.
For details, email coordinator@oldhousesociety.org.



From our Coordinator — Mike Ryburn



We are always busy at the warehouse, but NEVER too busy for our members. There is a good deal of building materials around including flooring and 8 floor joists a full 2 x 9 1/2 in pine. I also want to mention that we have many hard to find items including a transom window lock patented in 1871 in an Eastlake design. These locks came from a house in Lincoln.

We have also moved our warehouse around so that we could establish a new library. Along with the new books we have great coffee from our new sponsor, The Coffee Hound. So stop in at the Warehouse located at 215 Douglas and share a cup of coffee with us as you get to know our great newly organized space.



I also want to introduce you to a new face helping out on our open days of Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 8am to 5pm. His name is Jeremy Teeple and he is a student at ISU. Please stop by to say “hello” and introduce yourself.



We want to offer a special thanks to this year's sponsors:

**David Beich
Tim and Vicki Tilton**

**Carol & Don Owen
Steve Parker**

Jon Ropp

We also want to extend a thank you to the Coffee Hound.

The Coffee Hound is providing the warehouse library with specialty roasted coffee on Friday and Saturday. So stop in for a cup, say "hello". We always enjoy seeing our members and would like to share a cup of delicious coffee from The Coffee Hound with them.

205 W North Street
Uptown
Normal



407 North Main Street
Downtown
Bloomington

The Old House Society Warehouse also wishes to thank Laura Walden for all of her hard work at the warehouse. She will be missed. We wish her well in her future endeavors.



The historic home pictured above was located at 1008 North Main Street on the block bordered by Main, Graham, Center and Scott streets. It was built ca. 1869 for Benjamin Franklin Funk and his wife Sarah Hamilton Funk. Ben and Sarah lived in it until Ben's death in 1909. The home stayed with the family until 1940. In August of 1940, Dr. Watson W. Gailey bought the the house then known as the Frank Funk home. The Gailey Eye Clinic was built on this site and opened in the Fall of 1941. The Old House Society and the McLean County Museum of History seek donations of photos of older homes in McLean County.

Please check your old albums for pictures of family homes. Pictures may be donated or loaned for scanning and would be returned with a high quality print of the scan. Leave a message for Bill LaBounty at 309-827-0428 (Museum), 309-820-0548 (Old House Society) or arrange for donations by e-mail at: yokota5456@verizon.net.
Bill LaBounty

The holidays are FAST approaching so you might want to consider ordering some of the great items that the Old House Society has available.

- Our short sleeved T-shirts are just \$12.00.
- The long sleeve T-shirts are \$15.00.
- Our warm sweatshirts are \$20.00.
- Our hoodies are a steal at \$25.00.



Please fill out the order form below and your order will be processed so that you are sure to have it in time for the holidays.

We also have available our fine book titled ‘Picturesque Bloomington 1907’ which sells for \$20.95 or \$15.95 to our members. This limited edition is a must for anyone who appreciates historical architecture and would surely be thoroughly enjoyed by your special someone.

Indicate Type and how many of each Shirt on the line below.:

Short Sleeve T-Shirt _____ Long Sleeve T-Shirt _____
Sweatshirt _____ Hoodie _____

Color (Please check one):

Light Blue _____ Pink _____ Daisy (Yellow) _____
Ash (Gray) _____ Sand (Tan) _____ Red _____

Size (Please check one):

Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large _____

There will be a \$2.00 additional charge for “X” bigger than XL.

2 XX _____ 3 XXX _____

Picturesque Bloomington 1907 _____

I will pick up my shirt at the Old House Society Warehouse. _____

Please send my shirt to me for an additional cost of \$5.00 for mailing. _____

Contact Info:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Total amount (check or money order) enclosed with this order: _____

Become an Old House Society Member to save \$2.00 on your shirt order!!!



THE TREASURE HUNT



In an effort to keep our newsletter fresh and interesting, we are introducing a fun new feature. It is simply called “The Treasure Hunt”.

In each new newsletter, we will introduce you to a business for you to visit in the hopes of discovering new and exciting treasures. And in the process you might just find that long sought after item that you have been searching for and just can’t live without.

The participating business we are featuring in this issue of our newsletter is Krotz & Sons at 1010 North Kickapoo Street in Lincoln, IL. Krotz & Sons feature a wide variety of collectables, antiques, and just plain treasures.



If you wish to be a part of our new Treasure Hunt feature, please Mike at:

coordinator@oldhousesociety.org.

Would you like to reach more of your customers?

Pick your size of add, send us the clip art and wait for the results.

Add spaces are as follows:

Business Card (2” x 3 1/2”) IS \$35.00

A 3 1/2” x 4 1/2” will cost just \$45.00

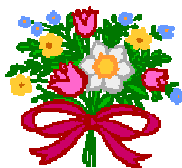
If you choose our 4 1/2” X 7 1/2” add it will give you the space to say all that is needed at a mere \$85.00.

A full page add is the very best. The space is 7 1/2” x 10”. This add is good in our newsletter for only \$150.00.

All of your adds can be placed in our newsletter, tour book, or fair. If you would like to place multiple ads, ads just contact us and receive a discount. You can reach out to clients and insure that your advertising dollar goes farther, while helping our organization produce the best, most informative newsletter ever!!!

TIDBITS FROM LIVING IN THE VICTORIAN ERA

Did you know that advances in Victorian plumbing in the home were somewhat slow? However, American designers encouraged the public to invest in these conveniences. Readers of the American Woman's Home in 1869 were told "water-closets cost no more than an out door building and saves from partaking of a most disagreeable house labor".



Have you thought about talking to a friend or relative about the Old House Society? Many times our best advertisers for new members are our current members. Perhaps there is an article that you found particularly interesting. There is a good chance that your neighbor, friend, or relative would also find this article just as interesting. Sometimes just exposing a person to our fantastic society turns them into a happy member. Below is our membership form. If you know of someone whom you think might be interested in the Old House Society, please share our newsletter with them. The introduction could reward both of you with wonderful experiences to share. The Old House Society thanks you in advance for helping to keep the flame of our heritage burning brightly.

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 _____ \$50 FAMILY
_____ \$100 ARTHUR PILLSBURY _____ \$250 PAUL MORATZ
_____ \$500 GEORGE MILLIER _____ \$1000 RUDOLPH RICHTER
_____ \$10,000 LIFETIME MEMBER

*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 61702-0581

. Barnes & Noble Bookfair

The Barnes & Noble Bookfair is on 10-10-2009 from 10am to 6pm. Barnes & Noble will donate a portion of the sales from anyone who cuts out and uses the Bookfair coupon on this page. You can also stop in at the Old House Society Warehouse for a list of books that we are looking to add to our warehouse library. Your generosity in purchasing and then donating any of the books on our Wish

**Barnes & Noble
BOOKFAIR
Supporting
Old House
Society**

Sat, 10/10/09 10am – 6pm


Barnes & Noble

1701 E. Empire Blm IL.

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase.
A percentage of the net sale will be donated to your school/organization.*

10002095

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, text books and magazine subscriptions are not included in bookfair totals. Our discount purchasing program may not be applied to bookfair purchases.



List benefits not only the Old House Society library, it also a tax deduction for the purchaser. Please open up your hearts and wallets to help us make this Bookfair a sensational success.



We want to thank The Home Depot store located at 795 North Veterans Parkway, Normal, IL. , Don Smith Paint located at 1208 N. Towanda Ave, Bloomington, IL, Franmar Chemicals located at Route 9, Bloomington, IL 452-7526 for donating the paint and varnish remover for our demonstration class on removing paint. We also wish to thank Mary Mcquire of Farm House Antiques for giving the class.



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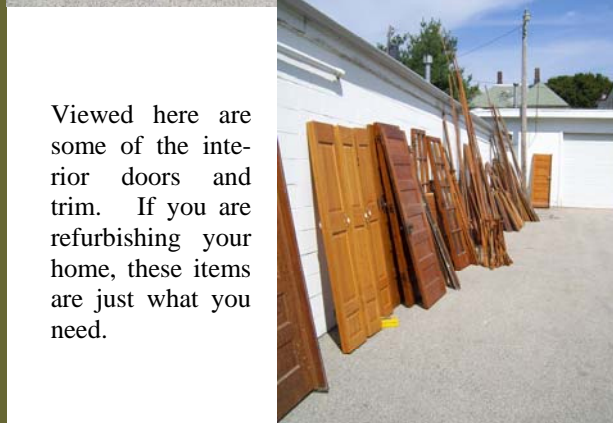
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OHS NEWS FLASH



Viewed here are the French Doors and some of the balusters. All items have never been painted and are in wonderful condition.



Viewed here are some of the interior doors and trim. If you are refurbishing your home, these items are just what you need.

JUST RECEIVED UNPAINTED OAK

The warehouse has just received all the unpainted oak from a house in Lincoln, IL. This oak includes doors, baseboards, trim, moldings, a set of French Doors, and an entire stairwell including 3 newel posts and 55 balusters. These incredible interior items won't last and are on a first come first served basis.



The
Bronze Giraffe
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PRIMITIVE
VINTAGE
RETRO

*Furniture, decorative, collectibles
& so much more!*

Tuesday - Saturday 10 - 6
Sunday 12 - 5

Located in Crossroads Center
310 Wylie Drive, Suite 119
(exit 160 from I-55)
Bloomington, Illinois

Be sure to stop at Danvers Warehouse on 201 E. Exchange St. We will be there on Saturday Oct. 17th from 10 am to 2 pm just trying to clear out the building for the next Preservationist that moves in,

Visit and take one last look around and be sure to take a door or window with you when you leave.

From the desk of Mike Ryburn:

Our country was more or less decided on by its sheer beauty and friendliness of environment. Or perhaps Mr. Henderson and Mr. Dawson were just plain tired of riding. Just think about it, you have been traveling for weeks looking for just the right land to make your own. Then there it was, just what you needed. A place with groves of trees for not only house building but plenty for game to hunt. What is even better is the meadow for plowing and planting. Of course, the best and most important item of all was water and it is right near where the cabin will be built.

Do you ever wonder what those early settlers might think about the road that our community has taken? McLean county has gone through a lot of ups and downs as the years have passed by. Just the other day, one more house seemed to vanish into the night. It wasn't much to look at but there was a story hiding within in its walls. I happened to be at this house receiving a few choice items from the city when I noticed an entrance to the street that came out of the basement of this house. The entrance was located in the front of the house. It made me wonder what this house would have to say before it was destroyed. The house was built back when the street was named West Street, for its western position of town. I thought perhaps at one time the house might have had a small shop under it.

Every house has a story even those of little or no noticeable significance. Do any of our members out there know the story of 406 N Roosevelt?

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- Day and evening appointments available
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Dedicated to improving the health and well-being of mind, body and spirit!

Special occasions require that you be pampered and taken care of.

The staff of the Fox and Hounds can handle any special occasion and make you feel like the richest, most pampered person in existence.

And for those occasions that aren't special, but pampering is still a requirement?

The staff at the Fox and Hounds can handle those occasions also.

From Decatur, IL

The Historic Decatur Foundation is hosting an Architectural Salvage and Yard Sale on Saturday September 26, 2009 at Culver House at 412 W Prairie.

We are very fortunate to have a great contractor who has been collecting salvage from old and new homes. Included will be doorway arches, windows, woodwork, antique glass, ornate old radiators, fire-place mantles etc.

We hope you all will come, look, and purchase all the wonderful items that we will have on hand.

Claudia Williams

In this frightening economy, everyone is looking for ways to increase revenue. The Old House Society is no exception. Our organization desperately needs sponsors if we are to continue our mission to promote and preserve buildings, landscapes and neighborhoods more than 50 years old, and the communities and heritage they foster. Our accomplishments to that end are many.

By choosing one of several tiers of sponsorship, your business receives the opportunity to market to over 425 home and business owners interested in historic preservation. Sponsorship also allows you to support neighborhoods that you care about through tours, educational workshops, building recycling or moving, restoration or irreplaceable building parts archaeology, and research. Please call or email Mike Ryburn for details.



Paint Stripper Recipe from Jeremy at the OHS Warehouse:

Mix one part Red Devil Lye with one part wallpaper paste. Mix to the consistency of stew. Wash off the paste and then use straight vinegar to neutralize then wash stripped item thoroughly. This mixture is especially helpful when removing milk paint.

Steve Spiecker
Service Center Manager



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 Fax: 309-829-2669
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Bud Sullivan

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Office: # 309-808-1300
 Cell #: 309-242-3805
 Fax #: 309-808-1324

**GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS
BEING ACCEPTED BY
THE OLD HOUSE SOCIETY
FOR THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT
201 East Exchange
Danvers, Illinois**

Sadly to say after much consideration it has been determined that The Old House Society is not in a financial position to restore the Danvers property. Consequently we have decided that the building should be owned by someone who is willing and able to do the extensive restoration work that the building needs and deserves. To that end, the Board of Directors wishes to make a decision on the transfer of this historical building based on the mission statement of the Old House Society, which is to: **Promote and preserve buildings, landscapes, and neighborhoods that are greater than 50 years old, and the communities and heritage they foster.**

Interested parties may pick up information packets from Old House Society, 214 E Douglas, Bloomington, IL 61701. Packets will include: engineer's report and dates and times of building inspection availability, historical information, statement of acceptance of building in an as is condition.

Interested parties will have the opportunity to complete building inspections with contractors or inspectors at the set times and dates included in the packet. Inspections must be completed at the dates and times specified.

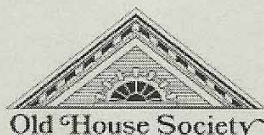
PROPOSALS MUST INCLUDE:

- Intended use of the building
- Plans and specifications for any exterior changes made to building
- Demonstrate financial ability to see project through to completion based on plans and specifications submitted with proposal
- Cashier's Check for earnest money (all rejected proposals will have funds returned without delay).

The Old House Society Board of Directors reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals submitted. A decision as to the disposition of the property will be made the by the Board of Directors of the Old House Society on October 22, 2009. The closing on the real estate will take place within 30 days of acceptance of a proposal.

All proposals must be sealed and delivered to Diane Sullivan, President Old House Society, and a realtor for Coldwell Banker, at the Old House Society building located at 214 E. Douglas, Bloomington, IL 61701 by 4:00PM October 21, 2009. Questions can be directed to Diane Sullivan at dsullivan@cbhoa.com or call 309-242-3806

DAY TOURS



Resurrect the Elms in El Paso!

301 W. Main Street, El Paso, IL 61738

Saturday, October 24th, 2009 - 10am-4pm

\$10

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the restoration of the Elms
Originally the Wathen House Italianate Home dating back to 1856

The Elms Restaurant was opened in 1937 by Zilpha Morgan

50% of the proceeds go to benefit the Elms

For more information visit our website at:

www.oldhousesociety.org

Or The Old House Society Warehouse

214 E Douglas St. Bloomington, IL 61701

Please join us on 10-24-09 at the tour of the Elms. Thank you.