

PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN

Newsletter of the Preservation Association of Lincoln ♦ Lincoln ♦ Nebraska ♦ Spring 2005
Volume XIII Issue 1

A JEWEL WORTH KEEPING

A special Thank You to Mark Griep for providing the history of the building.

The Mission Arts building at 124 South Ninth Street is a jewel worth keeping. Just talk to Judith Andre for five minutes and you will feel the passion with which she has lovingly restored this building with such a rich and wonderful history in Downtown Lincoln.

124 South Ninth Street Through the Decades: Pleasure for Profit, Souls for Saving and Art for Everyone.....

This is the story of a Lincoln address which many thousands of people have visited and continue to visit. The reasons for the visits have changed through the decades. Lydia Stewart was notorious in early Lincoln history and she was successful enough in her enterprise that she was able to assemble the real estate upon which the present building stands. Rose Dillon was also notorious and she appears to be the one who built the front part of the present building. The People's City Mission Home owned the land and building for over 90 years. They built the rear part of the present building and renovated several times. Judith Andre gave the building an extensive make over after she bought it in 1993. Today, the building houses ten artist studios, two of which are businesses (Cottage Gallery and 5 Z's Star City Bead Shop and Studio), two apartments, and Gallery 9. Together, they continue to draw thousands to this address every year.



Mission Arts Building Today

Photo Courtesy of Jo Gutsell



Lydia

Photo Courtesy of Nebraska State Historical Society

The 1860's.... Lincoln was selected to be Nebraska's capital on August 14, 1867. February 9, 1868, lot 13 was purchased from the State by Henry F. And Emily Davis. This property was sold two times before it was purchased by Lenuiel A. Scoggin on July 31, 1868. Scoggin was the first person to build a structure on the lot.

The 1870's.... The property was sold two more times before it was purchased by Mary Elizabeth Wallace on January 29, 1873. Wallace used her real name on legal documents. Her alias, Lydia Stewart, was used when conducting her business, for her entry in the city directory, and when responding to the federal census taker.

In the year after the town was chosen to be the state capital, the population rose from 30 residents to 800 residents. Lydia was among these newcomers. Like any frontier town, there was a very lop-sided ratio of men to women. In fact, this hallmark of the American Westward Movement resulted in bringing prostitution into the public eye. The time during which prostitution was very public was short-lived, however. Soon after towns were started, respectable women arrived with their families. Even though prostitution was not actually illegal across America until the late 1910's, it wasn't socially acceptable either.

After arriving in Lincoln, Lydia moved several times before purchasing the building at 124 South Ninth Street in 1873. The building became known as "Lydia's House." Lydia Stewart ran Lincoln's most successful sporting house or, as we now call them, parlor house or bordello. One hundred years ago, 'sporting' meant lovemaking. The 1876 and 1883 Lincoln City Directories euphemistically lists the building as a Ladies' Boarding House with Lydia as its proprietress. Lincoln had several Ladies' Boarding Houses during the 1870's. Proof that Lydia's was indeed a parlor house is that Lydia and her six "girls" listed their occupations as prostitute in the 1880 Federal Census. In

towns across the West, the proprietresses of the “ladies’ boarding houses” were very successful money makers who paid taxes and bought expensive goods at the local markets.

The 1880's.... In 1880, Lydia had six young women ages 16-23 working for her. Their first names were Alice, Ettie, Laura, Lillie, Maddie, and Nellie. The 1880 Federal Census listed their occupations as “Prostitute”. By the time of the 1885 Nebraska Census, these young women were replaced by five different ones aged 18-22. South Ninth Street was Lincoln’s red light district from the 1870's until 1907. Having a definable red light district meant that there was some degree of public acceptance for these types of businesses. By 1900, there were over 20 saloons bounded by 8th, 12th, M and Q Streets, as well as several gambling rooms and opium dens. About 1885, Lincoln passed ordinances that were supposed to have outlawed prostitution. Many American towns passed local ordinances against prostitution but they were seldom enforced – except when election time drew near. By the close of the 1880's Lydia’s popular business had generated so much money that she was able to purchase the rest of lot 14 of block 54.

The 1890's.... In the early 1890's, Lydia developed stomach cancer. She died August 9, 1893. Her property was inherited by her adopted daughter, Maggie Klotz. Klotz sold it to Rose Dillon in August of 1898. Dillon was such a shadowy character that she was never listed in the Lincoln City Directory, nor was she counted in the 1900 Federal Census. In fact, there is no listing in the 1900 Census for 124 South Ninth Street – as though it wasn't there.



Angel Ceiling Tin

Photo Courtesy of Mark Griep

The 1900's.... Between 1899 and 1903, the old frame building was torn down and a two-story brick building constructed in its place. This brick building is the front half of the current building. One artifact that remains from this time is an ornate angel tin ceiling segment that surrounded the light fixture above the entryway. After the People’s City Mission purchased the building, they covered over this ceiling tin segment but left it intact. The ceiling tin segment was rediscovered when Judith Andre renovated the building in the 1990's. The tin ceiling panel was left with a big hole in the middle, but Judith hopes to restore it and return it to its place of honor. During 1903 and 1904, the old “tax” was being assessed by the city on sporting houses again. W. B. Howard came to Lincoln as a traveling salesman and member of the Gideon organization. He convinced several pastors and church lay members to try again to bring the Lord’s message directly to those who most needed it, the prostitutes, gamblers and frequenters of the 9th Street wickedness. The informal organization known as the “People’s City Mission” occurred in 1905 and they worked out of an old store front. In 1907, “The People’s City Mission Home”

incorporated itself and made Rev. Howard its director. The Mission’s purpose was to bring the Gospel message to the lost and to meet the basic needs of the impoverished. According to some accounts of Lincoln history, all of Lincoln’s prostitution houses were closed in May 1907.

The 1910's.... Howard E. Arthur purchased the property in 1910 and sold them five days later to The People’s City Mission Home. Many people contributed the money for the purchase of the building. The Mission renovated the building so that it could accommodate about 52 men. Once they were established, the Mission targeted their services toward the needy Russian German immigrants that were settling in Lincoln. The English classes for these immigrants were very well attended. The German Sunday School was attended by children from North and South Bottoms and were offered until the 1950's.

The 1920's.... The 1920's were a time of heavy demand on the Mission. It was during this time that one room was created solely for use by women and children. In 1929, the size of the building was doubled with a two-story addition at the back. The second floor of the building became the men’s dormitory. The kitchen was moved from the basement to the first floor as were the dining, reading, registration, and social rooms.

The 1930's.... The building expansion was just in time. The Great Depression caused the greatest burden to the Mission in its history. With 75 beds for men and an average stay of three nights, it was possible for the Mission to care for almost 10,000 men per year.

The 1940's.... In 1942, George and Margaret Chenot became co-directors of the Mission and served for 25 years.

The 1950's.... In 1956, half of the bequest of Mrs. Lila E. Sharp’s estate was used to completely renovate the older part of the building. A Chapel with seating for 125 was added on the first floor along with a new Superintendent’s office. On the second floor, the women’s dormitory was expanded to three apartments while the men’s dormitory was reduced to 60 beds.



Mission Arts Building in 1923

Photo Courtesy of Nebraska State Historical Society

The 1960's.... The Chenots began a ministry to the Native American population. This activity eventually led to the MultiCultural Awareness Center. In 1968, Pastor Jerry G. Dunn became director of the Mission and served for 12 years.

The 1970's.... To meet the needs of increasing numbers of homeless families, Dunn began the Family Shelter at 82nd and Adams. Financial constraints, however, led to the Family Shelter being relocated to the old Mission Building in 1980. By the 1970's, many of the buildings on the block were showing their age.

The 1980's.... The Recession placed such a burden on low income families that the Mission's ministry grew to its second largest size since the Great Depression. However, the building at 124 South Ninth was in such great need of repair after almost 80 years of heavy use that the Mission decided to build elsewhere. In 1981, Steve Janovec became the director and he led a major fund raising drive to finance a larger building at a new location. They closed the old building on January 29, 1987.

The 1990's.... In October 1993, Judith Andre purchased the building with the intent of turning it into Mission Arts. During the renovation, the walls, ceilings, and windows of the building were removed and replaced. With the help of her son and a small army of workers, she rebuilt it to its current state. The building now houses ten artists studios (two of which are businesses, Cottage Gallery and 5 Z's Star City Bead Shop and studio), two apartments, and a co-operative art gallery called Gallery 9.

This is just one of many jewels in the path of the Downtown Master Plan (see map on page 4) that could be destroyed by the wrecking ball. Many are on the Historic Register, and many more are eligible. Each has its own history that becomes a part of all of us who live, work, and/or love Downtown Lincoln. For more detailed information on the Downtown Master Plan, go to http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/dt_plan/index.htm.

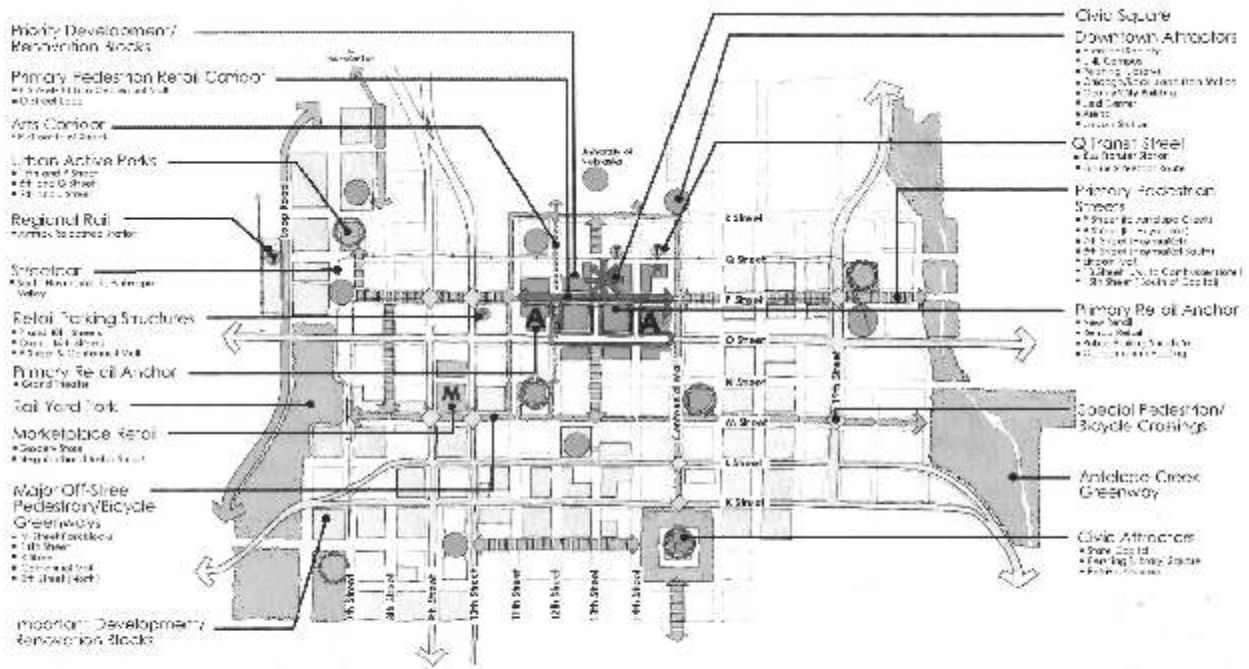
Progress is not to destroy history, but to make it a prominent part of our future....

OTHER JEWELS TO PROTECT

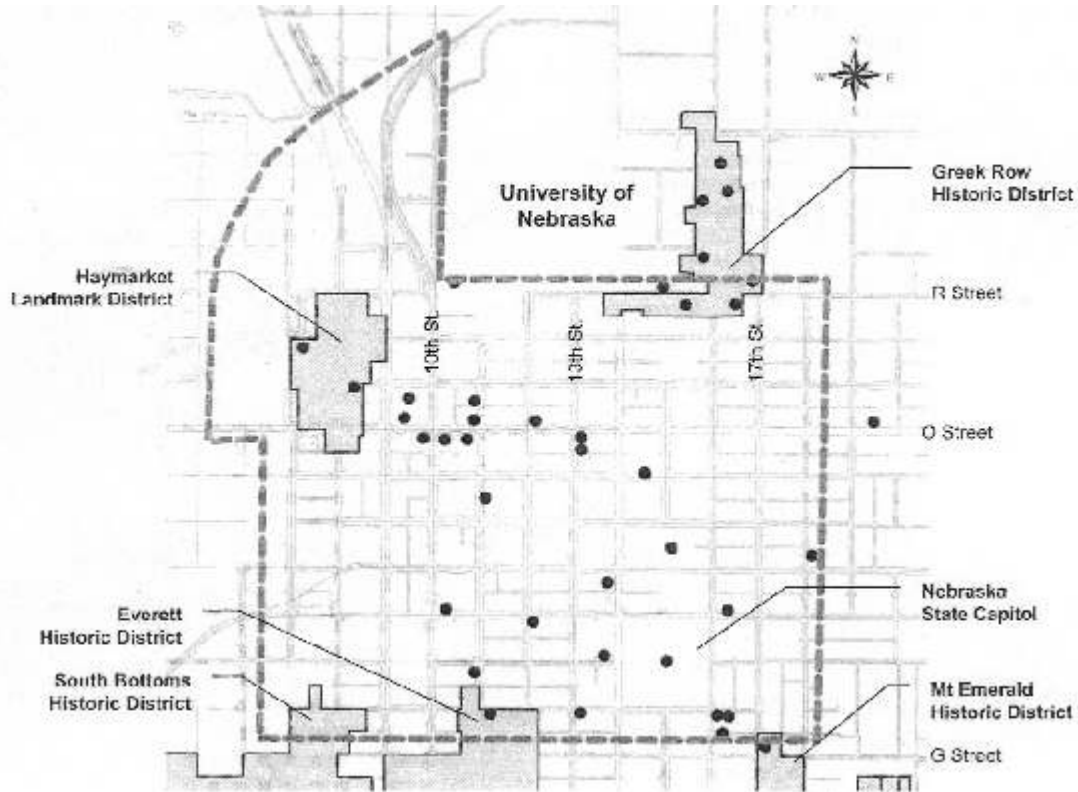
The Mission Arts Building at 124 South Ninth Street, is an important piece of Downtown Lincoln's history. It's owner has invested time, money and talent, as well as love in preserving this property.

There are other historic properties within the Downtown Master Plan boundaries. Some are on the National Register and some are Lincoln Landmarks (see map on page 4), some are eligible for the National Register and still others hold significant history that should be preserved. Following is a brief list of these properties:

Haymarket Landmark District	Mission Arts Building (124 S 9 th)
Vieth Building (816 P)	Temple Building/Howell Theater (12 th & R)
Locomotive 710	Campus Episcopal Church (13 th & R)
Government Square (including Old Fed, Comfort Station and Old City Hall)	Campus Lutheran Church (15 th & Q)
Terminal Building (941 O)	Campus Catholic Church (16 th & Q)
Lincoln Building/Old First National Bank (10 th & O)	Anderson Hall/College of Journalism (15 th & P)
Gold's Building (1033 O)	Lincoln Children's Museum (1420 P)
Lincoln Liberty Life Building/LES (113 N 11 th)	Museum of Nebraska History (15 th & P)
Capitol Hotel/YMCA (12 th & P)	Farmers Mutual/Swanson Russell (1222 P)
Helmer-Winnett-White Flats/Cada Law Office (1020-1028 K)	Eagle Building (228 N 12 th)
Bahr Terrace	Walt Building/Marz Bar (1140 O)
Lyman Terrace	Wells Fargo Center (13 th & O)
Everett Landmark District	Automotive Building (16 th & O)
Noble-Dawes House/Billy's Restaurant	Lord Auto Dealership (17 th & O)
Nebraska State Capitol	Miller & Paine/Lincoln Square (13 th & O)
Lincoln Women's Club (407 S 14 th)	Bennett Martin City Library (14 th & N)
Federal Trust Building (134 S 13 th)	Foundation Garden (N Street)
Woods Brothers Building (132 S 13 th)	Sharp Building (13 th & N)
Nebraska Telephone Building (130 S 13 th)	St. Paul's United Methodist Church (12 th & M)
Stuart Building/University Towers (13 th & P)	Palace Stables (1125 M St.)
Greek Row Historic District	Star Building (301 S 12)
YWCA (1432 N)	Towne Park Garage (13 th & M)
Scottish Rite Temple (332 Centennial Mall South)	Masonic Temple (17 th & L)
Harris House (1630 K)	First Christian Church (16 th & K)
Kennard House	St. Mary's Catholic School (15 th & K)
Ferguson House	St. Mary's Catholic Church (14 th & K)
Hurlbut-Yates House	First Baptist Church (14 th & K)
President & Ambassador Apartments (1330 & 1340 Lincoln Mall)	Former K Street Power Plant (9 th & K)
Magees Building	Walgreens/Watering Hole/Avant Card N 14 th (Parrish Project/Sup Buildings)
Chapin Building/Securities Bank/State Theater	Dietze Music House
P Street (Commercial Club, Coffee House, Kep Hardings, Cornerstone)	Continental Bank Bldg (11 th & O)
Knickerbocker/Gorlay Piano (9 th & O)	P Street (from Swanson Russell east)
Case, Case & Case Bldg. (1421 P)	



Draft Fundamental Concept Diagram
Lincoln Downtown Master Plan
 Lincoln, Nebraska
 November 20, 2004
 Consultant: American PAC



Downtown Lincoln Historic Properties - Map Courtesy of Doug Beals



NOTES FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

It is time that the people of Lincoln focused on what we have rather than what we lack.

The feature article of this newsletter focuses on the Mission Arts Building. This building has served many purposes through the years and it is a great example of old downtown Lincoln. The downtown redevelopment plan, encompassing more than 20 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places (plus eligible buildings), once again puts our history and the fabric of our downtown in jeopardy. We have already lost too much of our heritage. Please read the article we have presented for your perusal but additionally carefully study this issue in its entirety. The plan leaves a great deal to be desired concerning historic preservation.

Please watch for the detailed announcement of PAL's celebration of Preservation Month. Although PAL's celebration may not last the entire month of May there will be several fun, educational functions for you to enjoy.

It is time that the people of Lincoln focused on what we have rather than what we lack. We have much and it is up to those of us who appreciate our past, live in the present and can envision a future built upon what we already have, to save Lincoln's history for future generations. As a PAL member, you have already made a commitment to historic preservation. Please let us know if there is a project in which you are particularly interested. Your ideas and help are needed!

NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH 2005 ANNOUNCED

The National Trust has formally designated the month of May as Preservation Month. Due to its overwhelming popularity, the Trust has expanded Preservation Week into Preservation Month to provide an extended opportunity for local communities to honor and celebrate the diverse and unique heritage of the country's cities and states. This change will enable more Americans to become involved in the growing preservation movement by participating in events ranging from architectural and historic tours and award ceremonies, to fund raising events, educational programs and heritage travel opportunities.

Mark your calendar now for the week of May 2-8 for special Preservation week activities with details to follow.

PAL BROWN BAG SERIES

March 8 – History of the University of Nebraska Medical College – By John Schleicher



*University of Nebraska
Medical College*

The Omaha Medical College affiliated with the University of Nebraska in 1902. This presentation will look at the history and growth of the College of Medicine and the medical center over the course of the twentieth century, through its buildings and other campus developments.

April 12 – Preservation Association of Lincoln 2005 Award Winners – By Ed Zimmer

May 10 – tba

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BROWN BAG SERIES

March 17 – Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center staff, Topics in Conservation. Join staff members from the Nebraska State Historical Society's Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center for topical information about conservation projects in the state.

April 21 – Larry Walklin, Nebraska Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame. Professor Larry Walklin of the College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will provide a perspective on the history of broadcasting in Nebraska through information about important on air personalities and decision-makers who have been recognized with membership in the Nebraska Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame.

May 19 – Greg Miller, Old Baldy (a.k.a., The Tower). In May 1804, Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and the Corps of Discovery set out from their camp near St. Louis, Missouri to explore the recently acquired Louisiana Territory continuing westward to the Pacific Ocean. By September 1804, the Corps reached the confluence of the Niobrara and Missouri rivers in present-day northeastern Nebraska. On September 7, 1804, they discovered a unique geologic feature and a scientifically new animal species. This program will discuss events leading up to their discovery, what they found, and place its significance in the context of the entire journey.

Preservation Association of Lincoln Financial Summary for January 2005

Checking Account:

Beginning Balance (1/1/05)		\$566.57
Income:		
Memberships	\$150.00	
Royalties (J&L Lee)	6.60	
Donation	1,000.00	
Brown Bag/AIA	<u>1,400.00</u>	2,556.60
Expenses:		
Videotaping/BB - Nov	255.00	
Videotaping/BB - Dec	420.00	
Heartland Press/newsletter	211.45	
Photocopying	41.15	
Sales tax	<u>.04</u>	<u>927.64</u>

Ending Balance (1/31/05) \$2,195.53

St. Francis Chapel Foundation Educational Fund:

Savings account		\$192.70
6 mo. CD		502.62
12 mo. CD		504.27
12 mo. CD		1,015.77
12 mo. CD		<u>1,015.77</u>

Ending Balance \$3,231.13

NEWS OF NOTE

The Nebraska Humanities Council has added the 2004 PAL Cushman Brown Bag Presentation to its 2005 Speakers Bureau list.

Here is the title and summary of the presentation:

**THE PEOPLE WHO MADE IT WORK
A CENTENNIAL ORAL HISTORY OF THE CUSHMAN
MOTOR WORKS NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL
SPEAKERS' BUREAU PROGRAM**

Presenters:

Barbara W. Sommer, oral historian - Cushman history summary
Mary Kay Quinlan, oral historian - Cushman oral history excerpts
Douglas R. Beals, Preservation Association of Lincoln - Power Point Presentation

The Cushman Motor Works Oral History Project began when a long-time Cushman employee and member of the company union heard a talk about local history in the fall of 1999. Realizing the company's centennial was coming in 2001, she began to look for ways to commemorate the "people who made the company work". With the help of the Nebraska State Historical Society, she put together a successful grant proposal to the Nebraska Humanities Council for a two-step plan. The first was to collect information about the history of the company through oral history interviews; the second was to use the information collected through the interviews to write a

centennial history. The history was published in June 2001 as part of the company's centennial celebrations.

This talk is based on the centennial project. The first part summarizes Cushman history in Lincoln, Nebraska - from its beginnings when the Cushman cousins perfected a modification of a two-cycle engine to its end after a little more than a century when the Cushman production line was moved out of state in 2002. The second part uses quotes from the oral history interviews to tell us about the company and the "people who made it work".

The program is one hour long, including time for questions. It is illustrated by photographs collected for the centennial project.

Calendar

Dates in the upcoming months for events sponsored by PAL and other related organizations are listed as follows:

PAL Brown Bag Lecture Series: Free programs open to the public are held on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning at noon, at the Museum of Nebraska History, 15th & P Streets. Bring your lunch. PAL Brown Bag Lectures are aired on Time Warner Cable's Government Channel 5 during the month following the live presentation on the following days: Monday 10pm; Tuesday 8pm & 12am; Wednesday 10am & 9:30pm; Thursday 5pm & 2am; Friday 11:30pm; Saturday 11pm; and Sunday 9pm and 11:30pm.. (See *PAL* below.)

Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) Brown Bag Lectures: Free programs open to the public are held at noon on the third Thursday of each month at the Museum of Nebraska History, 15th & P Streets. NSHS Brown Bags are aired on Channel 5 Wednesday at noon and 8:30pm, Friday at 5pm and Saturday at 6pm. (See NSHS below).

March 8 - PAL: John Schleicher, History of University of Nebraska Medical Center
March 17 - NSHS: Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center staff, Topics in Conservation
April 12 - PAL: Ed Zimmer, 2005 PAL Award Winners
April 21 - NSHS: Larry Walklin, Nebraska Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame
May 2005 - Historic Preservation Month
May 2-8, 2005 - Historic Preservation Week
"Restore America: Communities at a Crossroads"
May 10 - PAL: tba
May 19 - NSHS: Greg Miller, Old Baldy

Matt's Postcard from Lincoln

by Matt Hansen

Type: Divided Back (ca. 1907-1915)

Manufacturer: The Simplicity Company, Chicago, Illinois

Subject: Grainger Brothers wholesale grocery warehouse complex on the southwest corner of 8th and P Streets



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The *Newsletter of the Preservation Association of Lincoln* is published quarterly by the Preservation Association of Lincoln, % Rogers House, 2145 B Street, Lincoln, NE 68502. For further information contact Kay Davis at 477-5712 or by email (see Board list).

In Memory

Ruth Folley Greene was a recipient of The Great Commoner Award from the Preservation Association of Lincoln last year. Mrs. Folley passed on February 23, 2005. Mrs. Folley's contribution significantly impacted the community's knowledge of Lincoln throughout the 20th century, especially in the area of race relations. Her work with Abigail Posie Davis was a key foundation for the award-winning "Recovered Views" exhibition of African-American portraits from early Lincoln, which was produced by the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Preservation Association of Lincoln Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

email address: _____

Clip this form and mail it to:

Preservation Association of Lincoln
c/o Rogers House
2145 B Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

Membership Categories (Please Check One)

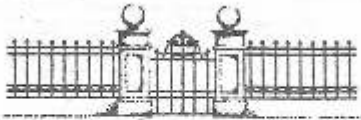
- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$1,000 | Spire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$500 | Keystone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$200 | Pediment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100 | Pillar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$50 | Pedestal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$25 | Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$20 | Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$5 | Student or
Senior Citizen |

Please check you volunteer interests:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Bag Speaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance/Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Building & Site Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Recruitment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Contributor | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Do You Have Questions

Any questions on membership, activities or general questions on preservation in Lincoln and Lancaster County? Please contact us at preservationassociationoflincoln@msn.com



PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN

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