



“House Unveiling Workshop”



The City of Urbana and the Urbana Historic Preservation Commission hosted a “House Unveiling Workshop” on June 13, 2009. In the tradition of a barn raising, volunteers removed (unveiled) the aluminum siding from a circa 1902 Queen Anne house at 303 W. High Street in Urbana. The day-long event included two seminars by Bob Yapp, a nationally renowned preservationist, author, and host of the former PBS series *“About Your House with Bob Yapp”*:

- **Removing Non-Original Siding**, including “why” and “how to” removal non-original exterior siding
- **Paint It Right**, a house painting workshop to teach you how to get a 15-year paint job for your historic house at an affordable price

The Unveiling house is a rental home owned by local preservationists Betsey and John Cronan. The Cronans nominated their own home, next door to the Unveiling home, for landmark designation last year.

Several calls went out to volunteers, through local media, neighborhood association email lists, and the Champaign County Preservation and Conservation Association email list. Over 35 people responded to the call. The seminars were advertised separately, but using the same means. All 35 volunteers arrived promptly at 8:30am to participate in the day-long event. It began with a short safety presentation at 8:30am and then the volunteers dove right in and began stripping the aluminum off of the house. Robert Yapp, a preservation expert, supervised all of the work.

There was a break in the morning for the first seminar and then most of the work was done by the time we broke for lunch at noon. The afternoon went slower as the aluminum that remained on the house was the most difficult to reach. By 3:00pm, the house was unveiled and the site clean! We ended the day with the second seminar.

PHOTO GALLERY



8:30AM Bob Yapp gave a short presentation on safety.



Following the safety presentation, the volunteers got right to work. Historic Preservation Commissioner Scott Dossett is carrying a ladder to the far side of the house to begin the siding removal.



The volunteers get to work.



Rebecca Hunter, architectural historian and author of "Putting Sears Homes on the Map."



Champaign Historic Preservation Commissioner Paul Kapp



Stacey Harwood, Professor of Urban & Regional Planning, and son



The ground crew loaded the aluminum into a truck to take to a local recycling center. The aluminum was worth nearly \$400!



Historic Preservation Commissioner Art Zangerl masters the lift.



One of five loads of aluminum siding off to be recycled.



The house unveiled!



'Paint It Right' Seminar