



**Dimmitt's Grove
Walking Tour**
606 E Grove Street
Sept. 22, 5:00-7:00 pm



**William Dimmitt Home
OHS Social**
611 E. Taylor St.
Sept. 28, 5:30-7:30 pm



**Architectural Salvage
Member Sale to Shop**
OHS Warehouse
Oct. 13, 8:00 am-5 pm



HOLIDAY PARTY
VROOMAN MANSION
701 E. Taylor St.
Dec. 6, 6-7:30 pm



OLD HOUSE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Architectural Salvage: Saving Stories and History

"A dream doesn't become reality though magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work." Colin Powell



This quote rings true for all old house owners. It also applies to our dedicated architectural salvage crew: Laura, Israel and Scott. They put in long, hard days to rescue parts and pieces from old homes in order to provide them to customers.

I recently had the opportunity to ride along with our architectural salvage crew. We all arrived before the designated 8 am start time, and piled ladders, tools, lunches, lots of water and toilet paper (yes, toilet paper,

because you never know when heading out to an empty home) into the van and salvage ambulance. Our destination was a farmhouse in Elliott, Illinois.

Not sure what to expect, I was pleasantly surprised to see a nice, family farmhouse located in a beautiful country setting. We were greeted by Tom, a family member who showed us around and kindly offered water and snacks throughout the day. Walking through the home, I could almost feel the love that had radiated through the home for the over one hundred years. Tom shared a story of seeing his beautiful bride standing on the side porch steps to greet him as he returned from serving our country (photo right). He still thinks of her standing



there when he sees those stairs. If you happen to be lucky enough to purchase those wrought-iron railings from our warehouse store, you'll have a great story to go along with them.

The home was full of beautiful molding, doors, hardware and a great built-in cabinet. Laura taught me the tricks to carefully pull off molding to keep it intact. I put on my mask, gloves and got to work pulling off corner pieces. It's a lot harder than it looks and gave me a good arm workout. Laura skillfully pulled out several molding strips while I worked on my few corner pieces.

In the meantime, the guys were busy popping nails out of woodwork to pull doors and radiators. If you need radiators, these have beautiful acorn designs on them. They are in great condition and solid. I helped carry some of those radiators to the ambulance later in the day. It took four of us to carry each radiator and was quite a workout.



Laura and Israel tackled the biggest job of the day — taking out the built-in cabinet. Watching the process was like watching history slowly reveal itself. Peeling back wallpaper showed three layers from different time periods in some spots, but not in others. Arched doorway had been added much later to the farmhouse. Likewise, the wall had its own secret. We found old hardware for a sliding door similar to today's popular barn door hardware. The cabinet itself was a

tough one to get out as it was so solidly built in. It took a lot of deconstruction to remove it. If you purchase this one, we've got some before and after pics we can share with you.

The day was hot and long. It was after 6:30 pm before we got loaded up and out of there. Every part of me hurt and was tired even though I didn't work as hard as the crew. With the exception of stopping to eat lunch on a blanket under the shade of an old tree, the crew worked endlessly harvesting and carrying items. Regardless, they were laughing, smiling and helping one another. It felt like a fellowship of people dedicated to each other and preserving history. Next time you are in the warehouse store, look around. The items have stories and history. They are there because someone cared enough to make sure these valuable pieces of history will continue on in other homes. We are caretakers of history. - *By Deanna Stockweather*

OHS Member Salvage Sale and Swap Sat., Oct 13 8 am - 5 pm

Old House Society would like to offer all current members the opportunity to set up a "Salvage Sale and Swap" table.

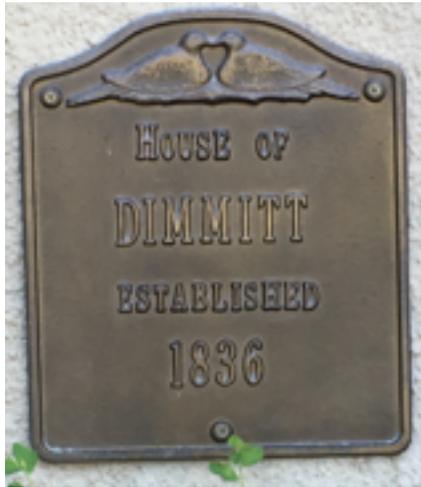
We will have twenty 10' by 10' spots available on the concrete lot west of our warehouse during warehouse hours (8 am-5 pm).

Bring your own table/pop-up tent, and old house wares or repurposed/upcycled items made from old materials (no baby clothes, etc. please!), set up, and market your goods yard-sale style.

It's free for OHS members to reserve a spot, but we must limit the number to the first 20 people who RSVP. Email ohs.mcleancounty@gmail.com to make your reservation.

If you aren't a member of OHS but would like to join, please visit our website or stop in the Salvage Warehouse during business hours.

Dimmitt's Grove Social at William Dimmitt House



Join OHS for a social event in a historic house in Dimmitt's Grove on Friday, September 28th from 5:30-7:30 pm.

This home at 611 E. Taylor was built in 1836 by William Dimmitt. Beverages, light appetizers, and a short history about the home and its original owner will be provided.

Beverages and appetizers provided by sponsors Brett Stevens of ReMax Rising and Matt Erickson of PNC Bank.

Free for OHS members, \$10 suggested donation at the door for non-members. Attendees can sign up for membership at the event if they choose.



William Dimmitt House, 611 E. Taylor

Dimmitt's Grove Walking Tour Begins at 606 East Grove Street, Sept. 22, 5 pm

Explore Dimmitt's Grove with resident Terri Clemens who will give additional information about the historical marker signs recently installed by the Dimmitt's Grove Neighborhood Association. We will wrap up the tour at the Epiphany Farms restaurant on Front Street with a social hour (drinks and eatables not included in the fee). Admission for non-members is \$5; members may attend for free. The walk is limited to 20 people. Advance registration is required on Memberplanet.



KEEP UP WITH NEWS & WAREHOUSE FINDS:
[FACEBOOK.COM/OLDHOUSESOCIETY](https://www.facebook.com/oldhousesociety)

Gift to the Street Award

The Gift to the Street Award is given by the Old House Society (OHS) to buildings whose owners have maintained or restored its original architectural characteristics. This award was first given in 1989 and to date over 70 buildings have received the award. Awarded buildings are identified by a commemorative plaque identifying the year the structure was built. The plaque is affixed to the structure's facade.



Chambers, 1004 Broadway Avenue in Normal. Both homes were in disrepair when purchased by the current owners and underwent extensive restoration.

OHS is proud to have the Gift to the Street award displayed on these homes to recognize the time, money and effort that has been given to preserving these properties.

OHS presented Gift to the Street awards in partnership with the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal preservation awards in the courtroom of the McLean County Museum of History.

May was National Preservation Month and the perfect time to recognize this year's award recipients - Linda Henry, 304 N Broadway in Hudson and Jason and Jessica



OHS Holiday Party

Join OHS for our annual holiday party at historic Vrooman Mansion at 701 E. Taylor on Thursday, December 6th from 6:00 pm-7:30pm. Complimentary beverages and light appetizers will be available.