



*Federalist*

## Historical groups want to save mansion

Peoria's oldest buildings in Peoria should be saved, according to local preservationists. The Peoria Heritage Inc. said Peoria would lose an important part of its past if the building crumbles. "We're concerned that the way it's been maintained, or not at all, is a real part of the city's history," said the group's president. When the two-story brick structure was finished, it set up what was then the entrance northward end of the street. The Peoria Heritage Inc. is a non-profit organization that has been working to preserve the building. The group is currently raising money to purchase the house. The Peoria Heritage Inc. is a non-profit organization that has been working to preserve the building. The group is currently raising money to purchase the house.

Back in 1840, Peoria was a small community of about 1500 people, among whom Judge Gale was one of the most prominent. Judge Gale built this home in the mid 19th century and today it still stands visible from I-74. Architecturally significant, its simple neo-classical form is beautifully executed in solid masonry. Through the years though, time took its toll on the home. Slated for demolition in 1987, Kert Huber and Thom Leiter purchased the home to save a piece of Peoria's history.

Placed on the National Register of Historic Sites in March of 1982, this home stands as a reminder of our roots. Through the efforts of entrepreneurs and companies like Jack Daniels, who donated a portion of sales, the Judge Gale house was restored to its original grace.

Today, the Judge Gale House is home to *USetal, Inc.*, a company dedicated to corporate training, employee certification and event planning. We're proud to be a part of Peoria's history and future, and invite you to see our facilities and a piece of Peoria's history.

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