

BIOGRAPHY

Bob Yapp

Bob Yapp planted the seed that began his involvement in historic preservation when he was a youngster working side by side with his dad in his woodworking shop. Then, as a teenager, progressed to helping his Dad with the renovation of their family's Craftsman Era home in Des Moines, Iowa.

From the beginning, Bob has dedicated his career to community planning, historic preservation, central city revitalization and woodworking. In the mid-1970s he spent several years as an apprentice to a German furniture and cabinetmaker. Soon afterward, he opened a business designing and building custom furniture and also bought his first house--a craftsman bungalow--to renovate. Since that time Bob has been involved in the restoration and rehabilitation of over 150 historic properties, many of them award winning. He usually has multiple ground-up restorations/renovations going on at any given time.

In the 1980s he continued to restore homes and build furniture for clients from California to Chicago. His efforts in neighborhood revitalization of historic areas in the Midwest are renowned. Bob has been a historic property Realtor, owned a home inspection business and in 1991 was appointed the *Housing Director for The Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation* in Rock Island, Illinois. At *Rock Island High School* he started and taught a new voc-tech program to give students hands-on-experience in renovating historic homes. Bob, his wife Pat and their dog Betty live in Hannibal, Missouri. Their 1859 home is a brick Italianate located in the Central Park, National Historic District and is the headquarters for Bob's new school, *The Belvedere School for Hands-On Preservation*.

Bob's media career began in 1980s with a weekly column in the *Des Moines Register* as *The House Doctor*. He has written and co-written many woodworking and preservation articles in national magazines including; *Meredith Publishing's Wood Magazine and Renovation Style Magazine*. Currently Bob writes and self-syndicates a monthly feature story on historic house restoration.

Soon after the *Register* column premiered he began a syndicated radio show also called *The House Doctor*. In 1996 Bob began production of the national weekly PBS program, *About Your House with Bob Yapp*. Bob was executive producer, writer and host for this National Trust for Historic Preservation sponsored, 52 show series. Currently, Bob and his wife Pat produce and host an NPR affiliate, weekly radio program on WQUB in Quincy, Illinois called, *About Your House with Bob & Pat Yapp*. Bob also has a blog at his website, www.bobyapp.com.

Since leaving PBS Bob has dedicated himself to preservation education. In September 2002 Bob partnered with the Kentucky Heritage Council and the Pine Mountain Settlement School to found a hands-on training school to teach practical, cost effective restoration methodology. He has helped establish and taught at numerous preservation trades programs around the country in high schools and colleges. In addition to teaching at *The Belvedere School in Hannibal*, he teaches and helped found *the Preservation Trades Program* for at-risk students at Hannibal High School.

Bob is the president of Preservation Resources, Inc. and travels America as a historic preservation and planning consultant. He gives keynote speeches, conducts seminars and hands-on workshops on just about any subject having to do with preservation, housing and community. In 2006 & 2009 Bob was a member of the Design Panel for the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington D.C.

Bob's first book, *About Your House*, was published by Bay Books in December 1997. He is finishing up his second book and hopes it will be in the bookstores by the end of 2011.