

preservation issues

NEWS FOR THE PRESERVATION COMMUNITY

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

★ Vol. 4, No. 2 ★

Sedalia's Founding Mothers: A Tribute

When outdoor artist Will Nettleship came to Sedalia as an artist-in-residence in the spring of 1991, he invited a group of citizens to help him find a focus for his project, to interpret what it was that made Sedalia different from other communities, individual and unique. What came out of those discussions of Sedalia's past and present was a surprise even to the participants, for one thing became clear; it was women - generations of strong, energetic, committed women - who formed Sedalia's character.

That women have had a large influence in building and shaping communities all over the country (and perhaps especially in the Midwest) has long been realized. But the role of women in Sedalia's history has been particularly prominent. Sedalia is, in fact, named for a woman - Sarah Smith Cotton. As a small child, Sarah was among the first settlers of Pettis County, arriving in 1831 in a party of 88 family members and slaves headed by her maternal grandfather, Major David Thomson. The Kentuckians established a community in Georgetown, five miles north of present-day Sedalia.

As the county seat, the town grew rapidly through the next two decades and boasted hotels, churches, a newspaper, and even a "female academy," where Sarah and her older sister, Martha Elizabeth, along with the other young ladies of the area, were educated by a teacher imported from Boston. The population grew to more than 3,000.

By the late 1850s, however, it became evident that the railroad snaking



PHOTO ROGER MASEKANG

The Heard Club House, 1906, former home of Lillian Heard. Enjoy a tour, reception, and period fashion show at the Heard House when you attend "A Missouri Classic" in Sedalia April 24-26.







westward from St. Louis would bypass Georgetown. Sarah's father, General George Smith, realizing the economic impact rail transportation would have, purchased almost 500 acres south of Georgetown, moved his family from their comfortable home to the open prairie where the rail lines would pass, and platted a town. He called it Sedville after Sarah, whose nickname was "Sed." He mollified his older daughter's jealousy at this honor by reportedly saying, "I once named a flatboat for you, Bet, so now we'll name a town for your sister." Soon thereafter, one of Smith's friends suggested replacing "-ville" with "-alia" (it was more melodic, he opined), and the young town became "Sedalia."

Sed remained a vital force in the community that bore her name. She and

her sister gave land for Dunbar (later Hubbard) Park and for the George R. Smith College for Negroes, which op-

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March/April 1994

Public Comments Requested

Deputy
State
Historic
Preservation
Officer

Each year our federal partner, the National Park Service, requires that we prepare an annual work program.

Preparation of the fiscal year 1995 work program is currently under way. To assist us in ensuring that your preservation needs are met, we encourage your comments, on (1) Missouri's statewide preservation needs and (2) priorities for the selection and funding of Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) subgrants.

In Missouri, decisions regarding preservation needs and priorities are based on review and evaluation of Missouri's comprehensive historic preservation and planning process, a continually evolving approach based on analysis of the cultural resource database and consideration of input from the public and private sectors. Guided by the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation," the planning process is based on a methodical, sequential approach to preservation: identification, evaluation, registration, and protection.

The first step, identification, concerns documentation of Missouri's cultural resources and incorporation of that data into the statewide inventory. This information forms the foundation of our preservation effort, the cultural resource database. Compiled primarily through our ongoing state survey, this data assists state and local governments and private organizations and individuals in decision-making by providing sufficient information for evaluating resources and developing strategies for long-term preservation.

The second step, evaluation, is a logical outgrowth of the identification phase. Identified resources are evaluated in terms of their local, state, or national historic context, and recommendations are made as to which resources merit nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The registration phase involves the preparation of nominations of evaluated resources to the National Register.

The final phase in the preservation sequence is protection. The extent, location, and significance of identified resources are analyzed and plans are developed for their long-term protection.

For fiscal year 1995, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has identified projects that conform to the above planning sequence, with specific priorities as follows:

Survey Priorities

This includes architectural or archaeological survey and survey plans.

- Surveys in areas representing data gaps in Missouri's cultural resources database (i.e., areas or properties not previously surveyed or surveyed at an inadequate level).
- Surveys of unidentified resources threatened by rapid development, destruction, neglect, or age.
- Subsequent phases of successful surveys begun under a previous grant cycle.
- Surveys contributing to the development of historic contexts.

Nomination Priorities

- Nominations of significant properties identified in previously completed surveys or properties that have been determined eligible through the eligibility assessment process.

- Nominations of eligible properties endangered by rapid development, destruction, neglect, or age.
- Nominations of properties filling data gaps in Missouri's National Register listings (e.g., counties, themes, or property types not adequately represented).

Protection Priorities

- Protective activities (development of historic district design guidelines, preservation workshops, newsletters, etc.) that are the final phase of successfully completed identification, evaluation and registration phases (i.e., survey and National Register nominations).
- Preservation education and awareness activities (brochures, newsletters, workshops, etc.) of a broad-based nature that have statewide or regional applicability.

Certified Local Government Priorities

- Projects to develop a preservation plan for integration into a city master plan and planning activities.
- Projects to assist in the implementation of a local historic preservation program within city government procedures.
- Projects that encourage networking and provide an opportunity for commissions to exchange pertinent information.
- Innovative projects that will serve as a statewide model or that will address a specific common preservation problem or topic.

SHPO Priorities

- Projects that provide maximum benefit in terms of federal appropriation.

- Reasonable distribution of funds between urban and rural areas.
- Distribution of available funds to the maximum number of applicants possible.

The SHPO is also considering earmarking a pool of grant monies for "pre-development" or "acquisition and development" activities. Such grants could be used for developing

plans and specifications for a preservation project, or for carrying out critical work to stabilize or restore an endangered property.

The SHPO is interested in funding quality projects that meet the priorities outlined above. However, projects that address the following priority themes will be of particular interest: ethnic heritage (e.g., Afri-

can-American, German, French), transportation, agriculture, and women's history.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Contact Jerald Stepenoff, grants manager, at (314) 751-5376. See the May/June edition of *Issues* for final grant priorities and application information. - *Claire Blackwell*

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Hail And Farewell

The Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, a 12-member body appointed by the governor, meets quarterly to approve nominations of properties to the National Register of Historic Places and to provide advice and guidance to the State Historic Preservation Officer on preservation planning priorities and grant awards.

Because members serve on a four-year rotating basis, the Historic Preservation Program (HPP) must annually bid farewell to three valued members. Historian Mary Shore Barnes, architect Jack Luer, and archaeologist James Price recently ended their four-year terms of service; all three were dedicated preservationists and were multi-talented individuals. Their unique contributions to the HPP will be missed.

The HPP welcomes three new members recently appointed by Gov. Mel Carnahan: C. Ray Brassieur of Colum-

bia, Doris Andrews Danna of St. Louis, and Antonio F. Holland, also of Columbia. Anthropologist Brassieur is the programs coordinator and public folklorist at the University of Missouri Cultural Heritage Center. His special interests include both the material culture and the cultural resources of the "Heartland" and French-American cultural history. And, for nearly two decades, he has extensively researched and written about America's cultural heritage.

Architect Danna has served on the staff of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) St. Louis since 1978 and is currently the president of the Board of the Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. During her tenure with the AIA, she designed and edited numerous publications and coordinated public relations campaigns and special events. Danna is a member of the AIA, AIA MO, AIA St. Louis, and the Women's Architectural League (WAL); she is past president of both the AIA St. Louis and WAL.

Historian Holland has been a professor of history at Lincoln University in Jefferson City since 1984 and currently chairs the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Holland's special interest for most of his professional career has been African-American history and sociology. He has written numerous papers and articles on the black experience in America and particularly in Missouri, most recently "Black Missourians in the Civil War" in *Preservation Issues* January/February 1994. Holland also co-authored with Loranzo J. Greene and Gary Kremer *Missouri's Black Heritage* published in 1980, revised edition 1993. He is currently on sabbatical completing a second book, a biography of black educator Nathan B. Young.

The HPP welcomes these new council members and looks forward to working with them for the recognition and protection of Missouri's precious cultural resources. - *Claire Blackwell*

Restoring Flood-Damaged Masonry Workshop

Preservation Education Program

The restoration of flood-damaged masonry will be the focus of a two-day technical preservation workshop scheduled for April 28-29 in St. Louis.

Sponsored by a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Flood Response Program, Midwest Regional Office, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' His-

toric Preservation Program, the intensive workshop is designed for architects, engineers, contractors, craft workers, planners, city officials, preservationists, building owners, and others interested in the restoration of properties damaged by the flood of '93. The curriculum has been approved by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) for AIA Continuing Education Units.

Although repointing and other repair is a periodic need of older masonry buildings, the flood waters greatly ac-

celerated the rate of mortar deterioration in 1993, resulting in a generation of wear in only a few weeks. The proper treatment of these damaged buildings is crucial to their structural soundness and long-term preservation.

A workshop brochure will be mailed in late March to those people currently receiving *Preservation Issues*. For more immediate information, readers may call Marti Lattimore at (217) 524-8279. - *Karen Grace*

Missouri Architects and Builders

Thomas W. Bast (1863-1933)

Prolific Missouri architect Thomas W. Bast was born October 16, 1863, in Wright City, Mo., where he learned carpentry from his father, David A. Bast. In 1881, he went to Dallas, Tx., and while there helped build the courthouse at Graham. This experience stimulated his interest in architecture and he returned to St. Louis where he worked as a carpenter by day and attended school at night to learn his chosen profession.

On January 23, 1888, Bast married Katie Jane Steele at Warsaw, and the couple came to Sedalia in 1889 where he was to practice architecture for the next 41 years.

Among his major commissions in Sedalia were all the original permanent buildings on the Missouri State Fairgrounds except, possibly, the Administration Building (1904-1926); Mark Twain, Horace Mann, Broadway, Whittier, and Washington Elementary Schools; the United Church of Christ (1896); Citizens National Bank (1908 and 1927); Bothwell Lodge (1897-1927); and John H. Bothwell Memorial Hospital (1930). Perhaps his most important local commission was the Smith-Cotton High School (1924). He was assisted on this project by the prominent St. Louis architect William B. Ittner, noted for his school buildings.

Katie Bast died October 31, 1931, and Bast retired from the practice of architecture. He moved out of his bungalow at 902 West 7th Street and rented a room at the Terry Hotel downtown. In 1932, he ran as the Democratic can-

didate for treasurer of Pettis County and was elected to that office. But his health had been declining for several



years, and he died alone in his hotel room Sunday morning, November 19, 1933, aged 70. His funeral was held at the Masonic Temple, and he was buried at Crown Hill Cemetery, Sedalia, on November 22. Bast was survived by four children: Dr. Tom W. Bast, Jr., of Sedalia; Dr. Joe B. Bast of Brunswick, Mo.; Samuel Bast, a civil engineer residing in New York; and Mary Bast of Los Angeles, Ca.

Although the Broadway and Whittier schools have been demolished, all of the remaining aforementioned buildings are still in use. All, except the Citizens National Bank (now Union Savings Bank), Bothwell Lodge, and the State Fair Womans Building, are of red brick trimmed with limestone. Solidly built (the Mark Twain School survived a direct hit by a tornado in 1977), the majority of his extant buildings are conventional and somewhat utilitarian, although the Smith-Cotton High School has a particularly handsome front entrance bay facade and auditorium. In the design of the State Fair buildings and Bothwell Lodge, however, Bast indulged his imagination and whimsy. - *William Claycomb*

For 20 years a bank regulator and real estate investor, Bill Claycomb is an avocational historian who specializes in Pettis County history. Claycomb's degrees are in public administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

T.W. Bast 1911 (left) photo courtesy Ruth Bast of Sedalia.

See, tour, and enjoy special events at these buildings and others designed by Thomas Bast when you attend "A Missouri Classic" in Sedalia April 24-26.



Womans Building - 1910-11



United Church of Christ ca 1896



Bothwell Lodge State Historic Site, 1897-1927



Commercial Building, 1905



Varied Industries Building, 1903

"Though his residence here covers less than five years, he [Bast] has designed over 150 buildings." Portrait and Biographical Record of Johnson and Pettis Counties, 1895

"I can say that a building boom will begin shortly in Sedalia." Thomas W. Bast, Sedalia Morning Gazette, June 1, 1895



Smith-Cotton High School, Bast and Ittner, 1924



Union Savings Bank, ca 1908 and 1927. Bast's design studio and office were upstairs.

All historic photos this page courtesy of the State Historical Society of Missouri.

The Fair Women of Missouri

The first Missouri State Fair opened in Sedalia September 9, 1901 with 18 temporary buildings and an attendance of 25,346. The early years of the fair were enormously successful, attracting larger crowds every year so that facilities were soon severely strained. One of the temporary structures on the fair grounds was a tent, provided by the Missouri Ladies Club, which served as a rest area for women.

The park design philosophy prevailing during the early part of this century was that women and children should have a separate building on park-grounds. Unlike 19th-century parks that encouraged family togetherness, early 20th century park reformers demanded that the sexes and ages be segregated. Thus, the Missouri Ladies Club tent for women was born.

In May 1908, after several years of vigorous lobbying by Missouri club women (see story, page 1), the all-male Executive Committee of the State Fair Board voted unanimously to recommend to the state legislature appropriations for three new buildings on the fair grounds, one of which was to be the "Womans Building[sic]." The fair board called the existing situation "deplorable" and declared that the state could do better for its women and children. The state legislature apparently agreed, and in 1909 appropriated \$30,000 for a Womans Building to be constructed on the fair grounds.

"... the great State of Missouri looks after the comfort of its women folk and the kiddies . . . , which doubtless accounts for the little demand for equal suffrage made by Missouri women." Missouri Ruralist, Oct. 12, 1912.

The first such woman's building, with an attached children's pavilion, was constructed for the World's Co-

lumbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, and proved so popular that numerous parks and state fairgrounds followed suit during the next 30 years.

A better-known, although not more important, influence of the Chicago fair was the revival of interest it created in classical architectural models, particularly Greek and Roman. The exposition's planners mandated a classical theme, which was interpreted in a series of dramatic colonnaded white buildings arranged around a central court. The fair buildings and landscapes were widely photographed and reported, and soon its classical models became the latest fashion. The tremendous influence of the fair on American architecture was noted by architecture critic Louis Mumford who declared that "Roman temples were built everywhere, without thought to the demands of modern life."

The Missouri State Fair Womans Building (ca 1910-1911), designed by Sedalia architect Thomas W. Bast, is an excellent example of a style influenced, in Missouri as elsewhere, by the Chicago Exposition. (See story, page 4.)

Bast platted the fairgrounds site, and designed all of the fair's other permanent buildings, but he approached the Womans Building from a different perspective. Unlike the earlier male-oriented buildings, this one must reflect Missouri womanhood. The classical model he chose corresponded to what Bast may have thought a feminine standard of conduct and manners to be. It reflected a belief that the moral wealth of the state was embodied in Missouri women. The design also left no doubt as to woman's place in Missouri society - it was, and remains, the most pleasantly homelike of all the buildings on the grounds.

A large rear wing of the Womans Building contained the nursery; a fenced playground was adjacent. Women's dormitories were located on the second floor and attic levels of the

main building.

The first floor and basement levels of the Womans Building have seen a variety of uses. For example, beginning in 1911 and for several decades following, the first floor housed the fine arts exhibits at the fair. At various times, lectures and music competitions were held there and educational exhibits displayed. And for several years a cooking school was held in the basement.

The Womans Building did not, however, provide a forum for the promotion of a feminist political platform as the building in Chicago had. A primary function of the Chicago building was to house the first International Congress of Women in which women from around the world were invited to speak their minds on the political topics of the day - and many did. Feminist political discussion was banned from the Missouri Womans Building by the State Fair Board; the official reason given was that Missouri women would find it offensive and, in at least one recorded instance, a suffragette who asked for space in the Womans Building in order to hand out pamphlets promoting voting rights for women was refused admittance.

It seems unlikely that all Missouri women were offended by the idea of political and social equality. By the late 19th century, many Missouri women had learned that there is political strength in numbers; thus the proliferation of women's clubs, which cooperated to lobby for local, state and national legislation to benefit women and children. These women had also learned that the male establishment, and some women, became reactionary when confronted by "loud," assertive women; in order to gain what they wanted, women had to maintain a traditional "feminine demeanor" expected by the larger society. The accomplishments of these women are truly impressive when one considers the simplicity of their political strategy; it was to speak softly and join a big club. - Karen Grace

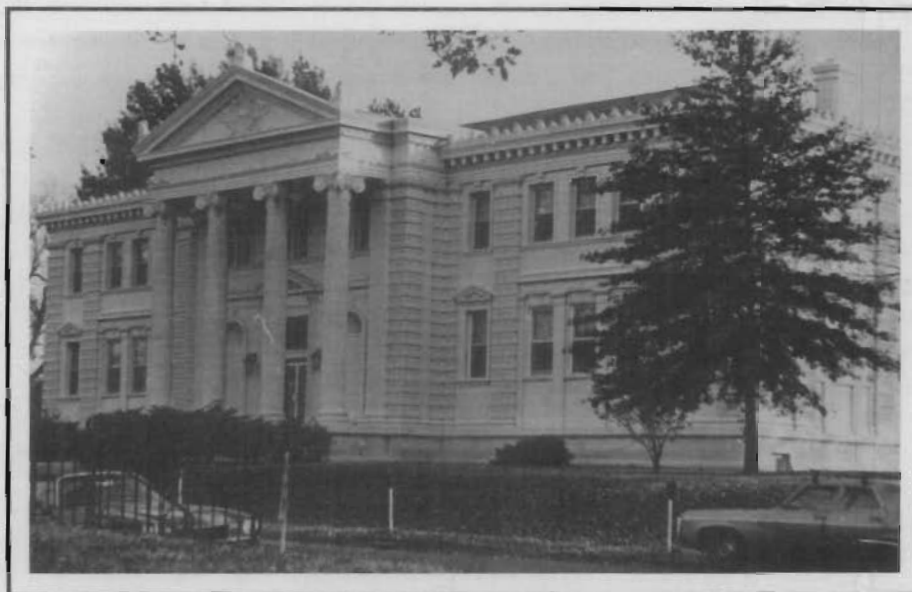
MISSOURI

Historic Architecture

Neo-Classical Revival Public and Commercial Buildings, 1900-1930

Characteristics

- Generally, both the buildings and their individual classical elements are larger in scale than those of 19th century Greek Revival style buildings.
- Although both Greek and Roman (Italian) antecedents are used, the Greek orders are much more prevalent.
- Public buildings are, generally, centered on their site with an expanse of lawn extending to the street on all four sides, as opposed to commercial buildings in the style, which have zero setback from the street and adjoin neighboring buildings.
- Roofs are flat or nearly so; low hips and gables are common.
- Buildings are symmetrical with the primary entrance centered on the facade.
- A colossal pedimented portico, usually in the Ionic Order, highlights the entry; the portico is usually absent on commercial buildings in the style.
- Colossal pilasters in the same order flank the doorway and are sometimes repeated across the full width of the building.
- Windows are usually double-hung, one-over-one light and often have pedimented lintels. Round arched Roman windows are also seen.
- Primary entry doors are massive, usually double-leaf, and often have pedimented lintels.
- White stone or marble were the preferred building materials, but there are a number of Missouri examples constructed of brick, both common and glazed in a variety of colors.



The Sedalia Public Library (ca 1900) is significant as the first public library in the state to receive a Carnegie grant for its construction. Designed by the architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge of Boston and John Mauran of St. Louis, the building is also an outstanding example of a Neo-Classical Revival public building.

Learn more about Classical architecture and tour the magnificent Sedalia Public Library when you attend "A Missouri Classic," April 24-26, in Sedalia.

(SEDALIA, from page 1)

erated from 1894 until it burned in 1925. She also donated the site of her family home on Broadway for a new high school, which was completed the year before her death and named Smith-Cotton in her honor.

In 1912, a group of women approached Sed with an innovative project. Sedalia had become an industrial center, and many women were finding employment outside the home. The women saw a need for day care, surely a visionary concept for those days, and were determined to set up a facility to care for the children of these women, as well as orphans. Sed readily donated the first Smith home in Sedalia, a log cabin built in 1861, to this ambitious endeavor. She became a life-long patron of the Melita Day Nursery, named for her mother, Melita Thomson Smith. Descendants of these women still operate the not-for-profit nursery today.

Another woman who left an indelible mark on Sedalia was Jennie Jaynes Lewis. Lewis was the daughter of Col. A.D. Jaynes, one of the founders of what became the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad. Although she married and moved to St. Louis in 1896, she always considered Sedalia "home." It was her wish that her own good fortune should benefit Sedalia, and, therefore, established that her estate should be used for "the educational and recreational improvement of the young people" of the community. In 1951, a large, modern stadium was constructed and bears her name - Jennie Jaynes Stadium. Additionally, the residue of her estate, the Jennie Jaynes Foundation, provides grants for many local projects.

One of Jennie's closest friends, May Hawkins Ilgenfritz, was also a major benefactress of Sedalia. The thrust of Ilgenfritz' efforts was toward education, and, to this end, her estate has given college scholarships to three generations of Pettis County young people.

Though much more indirectly, Lillian Heard also had an impact on Sedalia. She and her husband, Congressman John T.

(See SEDALIA, page 8)

(SEDALIA, from page 7)

Heard, built a large, palatial home on the corner of Broadway and Osage in 1906. Lillian Heard was a member of two women's clubs - Sorosis, a study club, and the Ladies' Musical Society, later the Helen G. Steele Music Club. The activities of these organizations were far-reaching, and included such efforts as the founding of the Sedalia Symphony, intense lobbying for women's facilities and displays at the Missouri State Fair (see Fair, Page 6), spearheading a drive for crippled children's care in central Missouri, and improvement of parks and recreation.

However, by the early 1930s, both clubs had outgrown the various places in which they met around town, and were in danger of dissolving because of lack of meeting space. Lillian Heard died in 1935, and her will donated her lovely home for the use of the two clubs in perpetuity. Today Heard Memorial Club House remains the center of activity for both groups.

In more recent times, the generosity of yet another Sedalia woman materially affected the city's direction. In the early 1950s, the ladies of Sorosis, assisted by many other women, persuaded Bothwell Hospital to establish a special center for the care of crippled children. This fledgling effort grew until, in the early 1970s, its enrollment and activities had outgrown the original small quarters. Virginia Flower, an original board member of the Children's Therapy Center, gave her considerable es-

preservation issues

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Dates to Remember

March is Women's History Month! Check local media for scheduled events.

Route 66 Association of Missouri Quarterly Meeting, April 9 at Villa Ridge. Call Jim Powell for more information at (314) 982-5500.

Missouri Museum Association Annual Meeting, April 16, Arrow Rock. For more information, call Jean Svadlenak at (816) 361-5639.

"A Missouri Classic," Missouri's ninth annual Historic Preservation conference, April 24-26, Sedalia. Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Historic Preservation Program. Call (314) 751-7959.

Restoring Flood-Damaged Masonry Workshop, April 28-29, St. Louis. See page 3, or call Marti Lattimore at (217) 524-8279 for more information.

National Preservation Week, May 8-14. This year's theme is: It's Your Memory. It's Our History. It's Worth Saving. Plan now for local events.

Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation quarterly meeting, May 13, Poplar Bluff. Call (314) 751-5365 for more information.

Architectural Bus Tour of St. Joseph, June 11, focuses on the work of Eckel & Mann. For more information, call : Missouri Valley Chapter of Architectural Historians at (816) 235-1726.

"Reclaiming Women's History Through Historic Preservation," first national conference June 17-19, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pa. For more information, call Gayle Samuels at (215) 527-4470.

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Editor: Karen Grace

tate for the construction of a modern, enlarged facility, which today screens and treats over 10,000 patients a year.

These are just a few of the strong, vital and enthusiastic women who have given Sedalia its character. There are hundreds, and possibly thousands, who have worked tirelessly for their neighbors and their community. Thus it is appropriate that Nettleship's artwork - a sidewalk in front of Liberty Center,

whose brick and concrete swirls represent the tracks of long skirts in the prairie dust - recalls and honors these generations of Sedalia women. - *Virginia Swearingen*

Virginia Stafford Swearingen is a graduate of the University of Missouri, School of Journalism, and a fourth-generation Sedalian. She is Chairman of the Board of the J.A. Lamy Manufacturing Co.

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