

preservation **issues**

NEWS FOR THE PRESERVATION COMMUNITY

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

★ Vol. 6, No. 2 ★

The Women of the Clubs: 1890-1920

In March of 1910, a group of women met in the home of Marie Garesche to discuss the formation of a suffrage organization in St. Louis. Formally incorporating itself as the Equal Suffrage League of St. Louis on April 8, 1910, the new organization sponsored a speech by noted English suffragist Ethel Arnold three days later at the Wednesday Club Auditorium in the Central West End. The Wednesday Club headquarters, at the southwest corner of Westminster and Taylor avenues, had been designed in 1908 by architect Theodore Link.

Founded as a study club in 1890, the Wednesday Club quickly developed a reputation for academic seriousness. Kate Chopin, author of *The Awakening*, had been a founding member of the club, as was Charlotte Eliot, the mother of poet T.S. Eliot.

Another organization with members active in the suffrage movement was the St. Louis Woman's Club, founded in 1903 to welcome important guests to the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The St. Louis Woman's Club, located in the Central West End like the Wednesday Club, occupied a Colonial Revival mansion at 4600 Lindell Boulevard where it remains to this day.

Although the Wednesday Club and St. Louis Woman's Club were different in character and mission, a number of prominent women who belonged to both provided a core of members for the Equal Suffrage League. Neither club ever formally endorsed the cause of suffrage, but the Wednesday Club

alone provided more than one-quarter of the league's members. Over one-third of the league's total membership was from the affluent Central West End.

From 1910-1912, the Equal Suffrage League continued to meet in the Central West End at the Cabanne Branch of the St. Louis Public Library, a 1906 Beaux Arts design from Mauraan, Russell & Garden, at 1106 Union Boulevard. The decision to meet at a branch library would supply a model for the league's growth.

NAWSA's decision to hold its convention in St. Louis recognized how important the city had become to the national suffrage movement.

By 1912, the league had formed affiliate chapters at the Barr and Crunden branches located closer to downtown. Both libraries had been built with grants from Andrew Carnegie: Barr was designed in Renaissance Revival style by Theodore Link and completed in 1906; Crunden was completed in 1909 as a Beaux Arts work from Eames & Young. Additionally, both branches were near working-to-middle class neighborhoods, thereby expanding the suffrage movement beyond the borders of the Central West End.

In early 20th century St. Louis, downtown was still the hub of commercial and social activity, and so the league established headquarters in the Syndicate Trust Building at Tenth and Olive streets from 1912 to 1918, when it moved next door to the adjacent Century Building. The downtown office soon became an active center for the suffrage movement.

Despite the failure of a 1914 statewide referendum on suffrage, "The Cause" itself was becoming more and more popular among St. Louis women. Affiliate leagues for Jewish women, businesswomen, young women and working women were formed. By 1918, all wards of the city would be represented in the league as the result of a concerted effort to attract members from different backgrounds.

In 1919, the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA)
(See WOMEN, Page 4)

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March/April 1996

Public Comments Requested . . .

FY 1997 State Historic Preservation Program Activities and Priorities

The Historic Preservation Program (HPP) is developing its annual work program for fiscal year 1997. Over the next few months, we will be developing priorities for allocation of staff resources and for distribution of federal Historic Preservation Fund monies. The HPP expects to receive approximately \$660,000.00 from the Historic Preservation Fund this year. Ten percent of that amount must be provided to Certified Local Governments (CLGs) to carry out historic preservation activities at the local level. Including the monies awarded to CLGs, we expect to award approximately \$250,000.00 in matching grants to local governments, organizations and individuals.

Suggestions from the public have been important in developing programs and priorities in the past. Your help is needed again this year as we make difficult decisions concerning the allocation of scarce resources. We are particularly interested in your comments on the following:

- What are the greatest threats to historic and archaeological resources in your community?
- What types of properties are at greatest risk?
- What areas in Missouri should be priorities for survey of historic or archaeological resources?
- What types of properties should be priorities for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places?
- What types of properties should be priorities for planning and development grants?
- What types of technical assistance from the HPP would benefit your community?

- Are there special projects that should be initiated or developed?

The HPP expects to carry out or fund activities in the areas of statewide survey and inventory; nominations to the National Register of Historic Places; review and compliance; rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings; Historic Preservation Revolving Fund assistance; Missouri Main Street Program design assistance; unmarked human burial assistance; planning; and preservation awareness and education. A major component of the work plan will be completion of a statewide historic preservation plan.

The following basic priorities are proposed for selection of FY 97 grants:

Survey Priorities

This includes architectural or archaeological survey and survey plans.

- Surveys in areas representing data gaps in Missouri's cultural resource 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 successful surveys begun under a previous grant cycle.

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 or county 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.

(See *PRIORITIES*, Page 8)

Historic Preservation Revolving Fund Activities

A number of activities have kept the revolving fund busy the last several months.

Ozark Rock Complex, Joplin

In October, the Ozark Rock Complex outside of Joplin was sold to a family returning home from service in the United States Navy. This house was donated to the revolving fund by the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department in 1993.

What makes this house unusual is that, according to a 1992 survey, only 17 Ozark Rock-style rural houses, complete with outbuildings, exist today in an area of approximately 46,000 acres in southern Jasper and northern Newton counties. This house was determined to be in the top three or four complexes in terms of historic integrity.

Marketing of this house proved tricky, due to the hesitance of lenders, appraisers and insurance agents in the area to deal with an older home, as well as a problem with well water contamination. Fortunately, these hurdles have been overcome and the home is again serving as a residence. Preservation covenants will assure the preservation of the exterior of the house and outbuildings.

Choplin House, Independence

On November 20, the revolving fund announced it was providing assistance to the Truman Preservation Trust, an Independence, Mo., non-profit organization, in preserving a significant local historic resource. The house, referred to as the Choplin House, is located diagonally across the street from the Harry S Truman National Historic Site. Although a part of the National Historic Landmark District surrounding the Truman home, this house's fu-

ture has been in jeopardy since the collapse of its front wall in July of 1994.

David A. Shorr, state historic preservation officer stated, "The Department of Natural Resources is excited to be able to participate in a project impacting the viewshed of the Truman home. We assisted in preservation of White Haven, now the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in St. Louis County, and this provides an opportunity for us to honor Missouri's other president, Harry S Truman. Furthermore, we look forward to working closely with the Truman Preservation Trust in our first such project in the western part of the state." Support for the project was evident by the number of preservationists, city officials and National Park Service employees from the Truman Home in attendance at the press conference held on site. Cooperation by the city was an essential part of this project as it was a complicated transfer, with a deadline for issuance of a building permit of November 17.

The house was donated to the department's Historic Preservation Revolving Fund by Linda Choplin, now residing in Arizona. The property has since been transferred to the Truman Preservation Trust, and the department's Historic Preservation Program (HPP) is providing further assistance in the form of a \$63,000 loan from the revolving fund. These funds are being used for stabilization of the property, which is already under way. Following stabilization, the Truman Preservation Trust will offer the building for sale under the preservation guidelines established by the HPP.

The property is included in the Midtown/Truman Road Corridor Revitalization Plan, and so will qualify for a 100 percent property tax abatement for 10 years following the completion of the project. Rehabilitation

of this property, as well as other properties in the area, is part of a planning effort expected to further economic revitalization of the surrounding neighborhood.

Commercial Hotel, Boonville

Following a collapse of a section of the brick wall in the rear wing of the Commercial Hotel in Boonville, and after inspection by several architects, it was decided that stabilization of this section would prove too costly, both for the revolving fund and for any future purchaser. Demolition of this wing is currently under way. The bright side is that the revolving fund has an offer of an option to purchase the property that is currently under consideration by the HPP.

Pierce City Fire Station, Pierce City

A contractor has been hired and stabilization work is in progress on the fire station.

Properties for Sale

If you are interested in a reasonably priced historic home in either Hermann or Ste. Genevieve, please contact Jane Beetem for more information.

The house in Hermann is a traditional German-style one and one-half story brick ready for rehabilitation. In Ste. Genevieve, the revolving fund owns four houses of various styles, including a vertical log house priced at an unbelievable \$24,150! This house was not flooded in 1993 or 1995. With rehabilitation halfway finished, you can add your finishing touches and have a charming home in an equally charming town.

Call (573) 751-5373 for a packet of information on these houses. — *Jane Beetem*

Board meeting of the Equal Suffrage League, Syndicate Trust Building, 1912. Photo courtesy of the Missouri Historical Society.



(WOMEN, from Page 1)

decided to hold its national convention in St. Louis at the Statler (now Gateway) Hotel at 9th and Washington. NAWSA's decision to hold its convention in St. Louis recognized how important the city had become to the national suffrage movement. Realizing that the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment was imminent, the members of NAWSA voted to re-charter themselves as an organization that would encourage women to use their new right: The League of

Women Voters.

The locations of sites associated with the Equal Suffrage League show why its members were so successful. Had the league's early leaders simply regarded the cause of suffrage as a social activity, they would never have left the mansions of the Central West End. By drawing from the strength of established women's organizations, and then moving to the public libraries and to downtown, the league broadened its appeal and made itself a formidable political presence.

All of the above-mentioned sites remain, although the Syndicate Trust/Century Building, the Crunden Branch Library and the Gateway Hotel are threatened. Landmarks Association of St. Louis surveyed these sites last year as part of the first phase of a proposed three-phase project on women's history in St. Louis, entitled "Organizing For Power: Women and Clubs, 1890-1920." The survey was funded by a Historic Preservation Fund Grant. — *John Saunders*

John Saunders joined Landmarks Association of St. Louis in July 1995 as



By drawing from the strength of established women's organizations, and then moving to the public libraries and to downtown, the league broadened its appeal and made itself a formidable political presence.

a researcher. He holds a B. A. degree with honors in history from Vanderbilt University, and expects to receive his M. A. degree in history from Washington University in May 1996.

Selected Bibliography

Two articles provide excellent background on the Equal Suffrage League. Mary Semple Scott, ed., "History of Woman Suffrage in Missouri" (*Missouri Historical Review*, 14: April-July, 1920, p. 281) is actually a series of articles written by participants in the recently successful suffrage movement. Among these, Althea Grossman, "The Part of the St. Louis Equal Suffrage League in the Campaign for Equal Suffrage," Florence Arkison, "'Middle Ages' of Equal Suffrage in Missouri" and Florence E. Weigle, "St. Louis Business Women's Suffrage League" are of particular interest. A more recent and scholarly account is Dina M.

Young's "The Silent Search for a Voice: The St. Louis Equal Suffrage League and the Dilemma of Elite Reform, 1910-1920" (*Gateway Heritage*, 8: Spring, 1988, p. 2.).

Archival collections of interest are the Clubs and Societies and Equal Suffrage League Collections at the Missouri Historical Society Archives, the Wednesday Club Papers and Branch Library Records at the St. Louis Public Library Archives, and the Collections of the St. Louis Woman's Club.

Section 106 and Missouri's Historic Resources

Neighborhoods bulldozed! Communities obliterated! These used to be common occurrences before the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) was passed in 1966. Highway construction and urban renewal sliced large chunks out of numerous cities with little input from affected citizens. Section 106 of the NHPA helped change that. It stipulates that for any federally funded, licensed or permitted activity the federal agency involved needs to take into account any effect on historic properties, both above and below ground (buildings and archaeology).

The review and compliance section of the Historic Preservation Program (HPP), which administers Section 106, helps agencies determine whether there are historic properties within the area of their projects and how to avoid or lessen any impact a project may have on those properties. Projects run the

gamut: from installation of automated banking equipment – licensed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.; to dredging at the Lake of the Ozarks – permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; to highway construction – funded by the Federal Highway Administration; to low-income housing rehabilitation projects – funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; to construction of federal facilities, such as federal courthouses.

Although the HPP reviews over 2,000 projects each year, most do not involve historic properties, defined by the NHPA as properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A formal determination of eligibility (DOE) does not mean a property is automatically entered into the National Register. In fact,

few properties identified as eligible through the section 106 process are eventually listed in the National Register. Successful nomination requires a considerable amount of scholarly research, as well as approval by both the Missouri Advisory Council for Historic Preservation and the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

However, as a result of this identification, some properties are preserved or avoided and others are documented prior to their destruction. For example, the flooding over the last few years has resulted in thousands of properties in the flood plain being purchased and demolished with the help of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Properties eligible for the National Register were documented with photographs, floor plans and building histories before their demise. Each year, dozens of significant archaeological sites threatened by highway construction, levee construction and other projects are identified and avoided or their data recovered through scholarly methods that contribute meaningful data about Missouri's prehistoric and historic inhabitants.

The review and compliance section has undergone a number of changes over the past year. It now consists of three staff: Judith Deel, manager and archaeologist; Laura Sparks, architectural historian; and an archaeologist position, currently vacant. The section staff members are dedicated to providing professional and efficient review of all projects. Public participation in both identification and protection of historic resources through the Section 106 process is always a priority. If you have a question or concern about a project in your area, please contact our office at the return address or call (573) 751-7858. – *Laura Sparks*



One of thousands of buildings cleaved from the floodplain with federal funds after the 1993 flood, this historic house in St. Marys, Ste. Genevieve County, was documented with photographs, measured floor plans and a research report prior to demolition, as a result of the Section 106 regulations.

M I S S O U R I

Historic Architecture

English Cottage Style 1910-1940

Characteristics:

- A steeply pitched roof, usually side-gabled with one or more prominent cross gables dominating the primary facade creates an asymmetrical or picturesque appearance.
- Roofing materials can be slate, tile or composition shingles. "False thatched" roofs are rare, although there are several known examples in Missouri. The false thatching was accomplished by the use of composition roofing materials with rough textures or the use of alternating, irregular bands of different colors; finally, the roofing material was rolled around eaves and rakes to appear as a thick layer of thatch rather than modern materials.
- Street-facing gables, including gabled dormers, are most often trimmed with plain vergeboards; half-timbering, infilled with stucco or brick, is also common. Dormers can also be of the shed or hooded variety.
- Brick veneer is the most common wall cladding, although slab or "giraffe rock" are common in the Ozark region of the state. Stucco-clad versions are rare and early, usually constructed prior to the common use of brick and stone veneering techniques in the 1920s. Wooden clapboard or shingled examples are extremely rare in Missouri.
- Large, sometimes massive, chimneys of brick or stone are located prominently on the front or side of the house.
- Front porches are rare, although a recessed entrance or vestibule is common. Heavy, single-leaf, round-arched, board-and-batten doors are typical.
- Windows are usually multi-light, wooden or steel casements or double-hung wooden sash used singly or grouped into pairs or threes.
- Fenestration is irregular, and windows often occur in several different sizes.
- Interior spaces borrow heavily from the contemporary Arts and Crafts style and ideology and are open in plan. The front door opens directly into the living room rather than a hall; the open staircase occupies one end or a corner of the living room, which is focused on the hearth. Fireplaces are often massive in relation to the room size. Living rooms "flow" into dining rooms and into sunrooms without impediments like doors. Built-ins – inglenooks, window seats, bookcases and cabinets – are typical.
- Living spaces extend into the outdoors with side or rear stone terraces, sometimes enclosed by a wall. Landscaping is informal, even rustic, suggesting that the house grew organically out of the landscape rather than being placed upon it.

DRAWING MARY ANN HALL



The Ray-Grace-Musick house (ca 1923) in Jefferson City is constructed of "thrown" or roughly textured stucco over hollow clay blocks. Note the massive, rustic stone, front chimney; steep, cross-gables with half-timbering; false thatched roof; and wooden casement windows that are all typical of the style. The double-leaf entry is very atypical. Visible landscape features include a stone side patio and a stone walk and a stone-walled driveway that meander to their destinations. – Karen Grace

(PRIORITIES from Page 2)

SHPO Priorities

- Projects that provide maximum benefit in terms of federal apportionment.
- Reasonable distribution of funds between urban and rural areas.
- Distribution of available funds to the maximum number of applicants possible.

In addition, special priorities under consideration for FY 97 include surveys of areas targeted for highway expansion in the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department's five-year plan; surveys and nominations of properties related to agriculture, ethnic heritage, and transportation; and planning and development projects for county or municipally owned buildings.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Contact Jerald Stepenoff, grants manager, at (314)751-7861. See the May/June edition of *Issues* for final grant priorities and application information.

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preservation issues

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Dates to Remember

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

Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, May 7. For more information call (573) 751-7858.

Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, April 13-14, St. Joseph. For more information call (573) 635-3600.

Missouri Archaeology Week April 28-May 5. For more information call Carol Diaz-Granados at (314) 935-5252.

Landmark Listings



This distinctive house was custom-built of Carthage marble in 1900 to last a lifetime. It features a 15 x 29' formal living/dining room, open staircase, 4 large bedrooms, 3+ baths, family room, 2 fireplaces, 2 HVAC units, a floored third story, and recently updated wiring, plumbing and decorating. A large, full-width, covered front porch extends the living space to the outdoors. This house is sited on 9+ quiet, parklike acres surrounded by mature trees. Asking price is \$185,000. Call Mikel Cole at (417) 358-2219, Carthage.

"Free" Houses Available

Four houses in Carthage's National Register Historic District are available for relocation. The sole restriction is that the entire house must be removed by April 15, 1996 and that houses may not be taken for salvage alone. A house mover is available. For more information contact Mikel Cole at (417) 358-2219.

301 West 7th and 321 West 6th: Both are turn-of-the-century 2-story "foursquares" with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths and original pine moldings, pocket doors, open staircases, beams and other detailing. Both have oak and pine flooring and fireplaces. Some woodwork in 321 is painted. **306 West 6th:** The 1872 Amos Hoag House is one of the first built after the Civil War. The facade has been altered slightly, but detailed window and door trims remain; one side window has all original trim. Converted to a duplex, the house has fireplaces with some tile, pocket doors and hardwood flooring. Hoag House is 2½ stories. **310 West 6th:** An 1895 Queen Anne 2-story with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, this house has aluminum siding-covered clapboards but detailed trims and shingles exposed. It has a 1950s fireplace but other interior moldings remain.

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