

Alton Area Landmarks Association

Box 232, Alton, IL 62002

www.altonlandmarks.org

August 2007

General Membership Meeting: The next general membership meeting will be in September. Keep cool and have a great summer.

Sidewalks: Let's declare August "Clean Off Brick Sidewalks" month. If you have one, please clean off the dirt and grass. If you don't, consider adapting a neglected sidewalk. Please contact the AALA, if you discover any limestone sidewalks. We lost one of the last sections of limestone sidewalk last year on Bluff Street. We want to inventory and work to preserve these rare cityscape gems.

Driving Tour: We are pleased to announce the release of the Historic Alton Driving Tour booklet. This is a 20 page guide to 40 of the finest homes and buildings in Alton. The houses are mainly from Alton's three historic districts or from buildings listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places. There is a short history and picture of each. The booklet includes four maps to aid visitors in finding each site. The booklets can be found at the Visitors Center at Piasa and Broadway Streets in downtown Alton or contact Terry Sharp at 463-5761.

Thanks to the committee that spent last winter writing the Driving Tour booklet; Doug Bader, Bill McKenzie, Robyn Stranquist, Terry Sharp and Patrick Pickerill. Eric Shultis and Greg Stranquist also helped. Good job, everyone.

Fence: Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church (the Old Cathedral) is removing the old iron fence on the lower State Street side. They plan to replace the fence with one very similar to one that is in drawing of the church by Ruth Means.

Signs: The Middletown Historic District has some small brown signs with a drawing of the Haskell Playhouse on it identifying the area. The AALA thinks it is important that the Christian Hill and Upper Alton Historic Districts are also marked. The Christian Hill signs could have the Old Cathedral as its visual and Upper Alton could have Loomis Hall.

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House Tour: We could use another house for the 2007 Tour. The Tour is Sunday October 14th. Let us be your motivation to finally complete your home renovation projects. We have no houses in the Upper Alton area. Mid-century homes are now historic. Do you own a fine example of a house built in the 1950's? Call Terry Sharp at 463-5761 for more information or to volunteer.

If you would like to have an advertisement in the house tour booklet, now is the time to act. A business card ad cost \$25.00. Call Steve Sands at 465-1463 for more information.

Dues: Dues for 2007 can be mailed now to: AALA, Box 232, Alton, IL 62002. Individual dues are \$15.00. Family membership is \$25.00 a year. Contributions are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.