

**ALTON AREA LANDMARKS ASSOCIATION  
BOX 232, ALTON, IL 62002  
WWW.ALTONLANDMARKS.ORG**

**December 2008**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The next meeting will be Monday January 19, 2009 at 7:30 P.M. at the Hart House, 524 Belle St., Alton. We are going to begin the year with a two month program about the renovation of the U. S. Custom House and Post Office, known to us as the Old Post Office, in downtown St. Louis. At the January and February meetings we will play half of an hour documentary about the 2006 revitalization of this important building which was key to the renewal of the downtown core. Everyone is invited.

Thanks to Charlotte Stetson for a most enjoyable program last month.

**2009:** The AALA will celebrate its 39th anniversary in 2009. We want to remain a important, thoughtful, vibrant organization. Our goal is to promote and protect the architectural heritage of the Alton area. How are we doing? We need feedback. What have we missed? What should we be paying more attention to? How can we do better? The newsletter is the one way we can communicate with the membership, but we need your feedback. Write us a letter to the address below. Contact Terry Sharp at our website listed above or call him at 463-5761.

**HASKELL HOUSE:** An article in the Telegraph mentioned that a Pride event planned to be at the Haskell House had to be moved because the Haskell House has no heat. Haskell House (not the playhouse) is the city owned building in Haskell Park which has the Parks and Recreation offices. Both the Friends of Haskell Park and the AALA are concerned about the future of Haskell House. It is good that outside organizations would be interested in using it for events. But, of course, it is bad that the city is not

**maintaining it. We are keeping our eye on this.**

**DOWNTOWN: There has been more and more discussion about how bad our downtown looks. There seems to be no control on signage and storefronts. The area looks more and more shabby, disjointed, inappropriate or just downright ugly. One measure that might have to be done is to have the whole downtown turned into a historic district so that building permits have to go through the historic commission for approval. We need stronger control over the downtown building owners to keep them from destroying our historic commercial area. Comments?**

**FOR SALE: There are many fine historic houses for sale in Alton. Send us information about them and we will mention them in the newsletter.**

**DUES: Dues for 2009 can be mailed to the AALA, Box 232, Alton, IL 62002. Individual dues are \$15.00 a year. Family membership is \$25.00 a year. Contributions are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.**