

Alton Area Landmarks Association

Box 232, Alton, IL 62002

www.altonlandmarks.org

AALA
July 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. The city tore it up.

Grant Money: In an article in The Telegraph of 6-29-07 there is mention of \$80,000 of Community Development Block Grant money for improvements in the Hunterstown area. The Paducah, Ky. riverfront which has attracted artists and craftsmen is being studied as model for the East Fourth Street area. Too bad many of the Soulard style old worker houses have been torn down in this area. When "beautification" of an area means demolition of historic houses we all lose.

Volunteers: There seems to be a wave of citizen involvement in Alton. The Friends of Haskell Park is buying new playground equipment and is concerned about the continued use of Haskell House. The Alton Museum of History and Art Community Jazz Committee just sponsored the second annual Miles Davis Jazz Celebration and has some ambitious plans for the future. Christian Hill has an excellent e-mail system alerting residents of events, news and crime in their neighborhood. The new Downtown Alton, Inc. has taken the lead in landscaping the West Third Street area. If you have any interest in these projects, please get involved.

Hart House: We continue to renovate the interior of the Hart House. A new security and smoke alarm system was installed. Trim was added to some kitchen doorways. Thanks to Greg Stranquist for cleaning the gutters.

De Fence: We have recently received a letter about the beautiful iron fence in front of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church (the Old Cathedral). Is the church really thinking about replacing it?

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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.

House Tour: We need several more houses 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.

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.