



ALTON AREA LANDMARKS ASSOCIATION  
BOX 232, ALTON, ILLINOIS 62002  
[WWW.ALTONLANDMARKS.ORG](http://WWW.ALTONLANDMARKS.ORG)

## **NOVEMBER 2012**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Monday November 19, 7:30 p.m., Hart House, 524 Belle St., Alton, Il. Our November meeting will feature a documentary film about St. Louis bricks. "Brick by Chance and Fortune" by Bill Streeter. The film chronicles St. Louis' history as both a producer and user of a building material that's as lovely as it is sturdy. Once a mayor player in the U.S. brick-making industry, St. Louis still boasts countless brick houses, as does Alton. Go to [www.stlbrickfilm.com](http://www.stlbrickfilm.com) for more.**

**Coming soon- Dec. 9th, AALA Holiday Party and Jan. 16th, Western Military Academy.**

**HOLIDAY PARTY: The AALA's annual Holiday Party will be Sunday December 9th at Princivalli's Cafe, 602 East Third St., Alton, across from St. Mary's Catholic Church. The party will begin at 6:00 p.m. The meal will be an Italian buffet with two kinds of pasta, salad and bread for \$15.00 per person. This includes tea, coffee, soft drinks, tax and tip. There will be a beer and wine cash bar available.**

**You can pay at the door, but call Terry Sharp (463-5761) and tell him how many is in your party. This**

is a very informal party, so we hope everyone will come out. Even if you didn't call Terry, come anyway. There is always enough food.

**HOUSE TOUR:** October's AALA Fall Historic House Tour was our 40th and was another successful one. We had a large crowd due to a couple of big houses. This was the first Tour we have had in some years that had a brief rain shower in the late afternoon. But then the sun came out and everyone continued visiting the sites. Thanks to all the house owners for opening up their homes. And thanks to all of our volunteers and ad buyers. See you next year for 41.

**VINTAGE VOICES:** If you missed it, it was another fun day of theater and history.

**PLAYHOUSE:** The Lucy Haskell Playhouse has recently been broken into and suffered from vandalism. Being in open area near a busy street has not deterred criminals from damaging this Middletown iconic building. But in addition to this recent damage, the playhouse has been found to need extensive and expensive renovations to the roof and exterior. The Lucy Haskell Playhouse Committee has a fund drive to paint, reroof and restore the exterior of the Playhouse. Not knowing how much it might cost, their first goal is to raise \$25,000. The whole Playhouse needs to have layers of paint removed, primed and repainted. A new slate roof will be very expensive. The city will have to be involved also since the playhouse

is owned by the city.

Call Debbie Schuneman at 433-1991 for more information.

**WEBSITE:** Our new website is finally finished. Go to [www.altonlandmarks.org](http://www.altonlandmarks.org) and let us know what you think.

**DUES:** Please remember to support us with a check. Dues 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. Help us be a strong voice in preserving historic Alton. Thank you for your support.

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**ENDANGERED:** Alton's Bruch Guertler House at 101 Blair was accepted for this year's Ten Most

**Endangered Historic Places in Illinois.** The owner, James Bailey (618-960-7349), has had numerous code citations on the building from the city. The AALA nominated three other buildings to be on Landmarks Illinois' **TEN MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES IN ILLINOIS** list. We also nominated the Grand Theater, the Wise Olin House at 1128 State Street, and the Kendall Cracker Factory at 201-207 East Broadway. The Grand Theater has recently been boarded up and the vertical sign removed from the exterior. The Cracker Factory was granted \$330,000 of TIF money for redevelopment. There is work started there. The Wise Olin House is in foreclosure through the Deutsch National Bank. The contact for it is Steve Needham at 312-431-1455.

**FOR SALE:** There are many historic houses for sale in Alton.

1128 State Street- Wise-Olin House is in foreclosure.  
1700 Liberty- The very elegant James Beall House  
1211 Washington- Call Building/Zoning at City Hall  
Please remind people you know who are house-hunting to drive around Alton. Contact the AALA for suggestions.

**SAVE WESTERN:** The Mississippi Valley Christian School is selling the old Western Military Academy in the Upper Alton Historic District. Charles "Bo" Jackson, whose family was associated with the academy since its inception, is leading the drive to preserve it. He has created a website with information about it,

**savewestern.com. This is another large building in Alton which we need to find a new loving owner.**

**HISTORIC COMMISSION: The Alton Historic Commission is the body set up by our historic preservation ordinance to review changes in Alton's three historic districts. Visit their website at <http://www.historicalton.com/>.**