



Preservation Matters in Independence

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Community Development Department
111 East Maple, Independence, MO 64050*

Also available on-line at: <http://www.indepmo.org/comdev/HistoricPreservation.aspx>

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Greetings from the Heritage Commission

Our community has such a rich unrivaled history of national importance. This includes: Harry S Truman, the Three Trails, Mormon history and Civil War battles. With so much history, the challenge is to foster a civic attitude that values our heritage and preserves and protects the built environment. How do we answer this challenge? In short, develop a citywide historic preservation program worthy of our history.

The evidence is apparent - a dedicated City Preservation officer; great information and resources on the city's website; active, knowledgeable volunteers on the City's Heritage Commission; and new growing community interest in preserving and rehabilitating buildings in older neighborhoods.

We take great pride that our community was named a Preserve America Community this past year. This federal program, headed by our nation's First Lady, recognizes communities that protect and celebrates their heritage, uses their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourages people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs. The only other Missouri and Kansas communities so honored are Weston and Fredericktown, Missouri and Leavenworth, Kansas. To learn more about the Preserve America program visit www.preserveamerica.gov

But awards, while appreciated, do not relieve us from the obligation to do more. Here's an agenda for what needs to be done:

- ❖ Expand the number of local historic districts. (Our community has only one, while neighboring communities with lesser history have substantially more).
- ❖ Focus attention on other historic resources beyond Truman-related sites. For instance, much work is going into preserving, interpreting and properly marking the two Civil War Battles that took places in Independence. The American Battlefield Protection Program believes there are 384 significant Civil War battlefields - two were held within the present city limits of Independence.
- ❖ Continue to protect historic structures from unnecessary demolition and neglect when pragmatic, economically feasible preservation alternatives exist.
- ❖ Explore viable alternatives for the Independence Square Courthouse- a daunting but essential task that will require lots of community support.

This work cannot be accomplished by one. It requires the support of many. How can you help? Volunteer, restore a historic property, visit the city's historic sites, learn your community's history, and

support public and private historic preservation efforts.

*-Brent Schondelmeyer
Heritage Commission Chair*



CIVIL WAR WALKING/DRIVING TOUR COMING SOON

THE CITY'S PRESERVATION DIVISION AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT ARE PARTNERING WITH THE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE OF NW MISSOURI AND THE INDEPENDENCE HERITAGE COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A WALKING/DRIVING TOUR OF CIVIL WAR SITES IN EASTERN JACKSON COUNTY AND THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE. THE TOUR BEGINS AT THE INTERSECTION OF 7 AND 24 HIGHWAYS AND LEADS VISITORS INTO THE INDEPENDENCE SQUARE. SITES INCLUDE THE BATTLE OF INDEPENDENCE (1862) AND THE BATTLE OF THE LITTLE BLUE (1864). THE SELF-GUIDED TOURS WILL JOIN THE TRUMAN NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TRAIL AS WELL AS THE MORMON WALKING TRAIL. PRINTED BROCHURES WILL BE AVAILABLE SUMMER 2007.



How Can I Become a Member of the Independence Heritage Commission?

Applications for the Heritage Commission are accepted year round. The nine member body is appointed by the City Council. Members serve for a three year term for a maximum of three terms. Both professionals as well as citizens with an interest in historic preservation may serve. For more information, contact Wendy Shay at (816) 325-7419 or for an application contact the City Clerk's office at (816) 325-7010.

An Update from the Harry S Truman National Historic Site

Restoration work continued at the Truman Home, 219 North Delaware, in summer 2006. Due to various structural shifts occurring in the home over many years, wallpaper damage in the form of numerous tears began to manifest itself. In an attempt to mitigate and repair the damage, the National Park Service contracted the Heugh-Edmondson Paper Conservation Services to do restoration work to the living room segments which were damaged.

Prior to repairing the wallpaper, the underlying cause began to be corrected in 2001 with the structural stabilization of several sections of the foundation. This was followed up by repair to the plaster damaged

walls in 2003. In March of 2004, Tom Edmondson, a wallpaper conservator, then began the meticulous and time consuming process of removing the historic 1945 wallpaper from the south wall and the entire living room ceiling.

To allow for the wallpaper's removal and its subsequent replacement to occur, all of the room furnishings and artifacts were removed and placed in temporary storage beforehand. The wallpaper was first dry cleaned using a natural rubber dry wall sponge. The wallpaper segments were removed by applying steam with a hand held steamer and deionized water. The segments were labeled to retain historic location information and then taken to the conservator's studio where they were cleaned and reassembled. Tears were carefully mended with archival Japanese tissue and methylcellulose, a wallpaper adhesive. The many fragments and smaller sections were pieced back together in the same manner by Conservation Services employee, Nancy Heugh. The long paper runs were then backed with Japanese paper for added stability. Methylcellulose paste was used to adhere the backing paper to the wallpaper during re-application. The backing paper and paste which are both inert did not create any adverse effects to the original wallpaper.

After the wallpaper was

reinstalled, small crack lines and paper losses were camouflaged using carefully matched gouache watercolors, a type of paint consisting of pigment suspended in water that is heavier and more opaque than regular watercolors, and pastel pencils. The south wall and ceiling wallpaper installation and touch up work were completed in July 2006.

For more information contact Carol Dage, Museum Curator, Harry S Truman National Park Service Historic Site at (816)254-2720.

Restoration Work Completed at the Vaile Mansion

Restoration work was completed in the fall of 2006 at the 1881 Vaile Victorian Mansion. The work included installation of new chimney caps, replacement of 23 severely deteriorated corbels (decorative brackets), and repair and repainting of the front porch. Expenditures for the project totaled just over \$135, 000. Special thanks to the Vaile Victorian Society who contributed towards the project. The Mansion will re-open for its regular tourist season in April 2007.

Do you have a preservation question or interesting preservation photo you'd like to submit for the next newsletter? Send your questions or graphics to: Independence Preservation Division, P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64050 or via e-mail to: wshay@indepmo.org