



# Preservation Matters in Independence

*A Publication by the Independence Historic Preservation Division*

*Community Development Department*

*111 East Maple, Independence, MO 64050*

Also available at: <http://www.independencemo.org/comdev/HistoricPreservation.aspx>

**PLEASE PASS THIS ALONG TO A FRIEND OR REMEMBER TO RECYCLE** 

*Summer 2008*

## **Historic Preservation Month 2008 a Success**

Almost 300 people from around the State participated in events celebrating Historic Preservation Month in May 2008. The most popular events included the tour of Woodlawn Cemetery conducted by volunteer and local historian LaNita Cooper, the Pitcher Cemetery Tour hosted by local historian Kathleen Tuohey, and the Civil War Battlefield Tour given by Michael Calvert of the Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri. Other popular events included the tour of Swinney Hall at the Drumm Farm Institute as well as the opening of the Midwest Genealogy Center, where numerous history-related organizations presented information about their interest in Missouri's heritage.

One of the highlights of the month was the "behind the scenes" tour of the Noland Home, hosted by Larry Villalva, Superintendent of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site. More than 25 visitors were given an insiders guided tour of the

building, which is currently closed to the public. The tour provided new information about the architectural history of the home as well as the long-range plans to restore it.

City employees also received a treat with the return of the "Open Doors Tours," which for one day allowed free admission to any full-time city employee and one guest into all the City's historic sites. New this year was free admission to the Truman Library. More than 75 City employees and their guests took part in the tours.

Other events included historical and architectural lectures at the Truman Library, the Fairmount Community Center, and the Truman Memorial Building.

Special thanks to the following partners who without their help, the success of this year's Preservation Month would not have been possible: the Independence City Council, Jackson County Historical Society, the National Park Service, the Truman Presidential Library, the Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri, the Drumm

Farm Institute, the Midwest Genealogy Center, and volunteers Kathleen Tuohey and LaNita Cooper.

## **Interactive Map of National Historic Landmark Properties Now Available**

The Independence Preservation Division, in conjunction with the Technology Services Department, has developed an inter-active, map based upon the historic building survey recently conducted by the National Park Service. The map pinpoints the location of more than 500 properties within the proposed expansion of the National Historic Landmark District, including those properties within the Independence Square and the current Truman Heritage District. The survey data can be accessed via points on the map or by property address. The data shows the date of construction, an architectural description, and history of ownership. Information is intended to assist property owners, historians, contractors, property appraisers, and realtors. The map is now available online at: <http://www.independencemo.org/ComDev/NHLMMap.aspx>.



**How do I know what improvements to my home requires Heritage Commission approval and what does not?**

The Heritage Commission reviews all major exterior alterations for any property that is locally designated as historic. This includes those properties located within the Harry S Truman Heritage District as well as the 25 individually listed properties. In order to provide a quick reference guide, the Preservation Division has developed a Certificate of Appropriateness Matrix which lists most home improvement projects and whether they require no review, administrative review, or Commission review. For a copy of this matrix, go to: [http://www.independencemo.org/userdocs/ComDev/COA\\_Matrix.pdf](http://www.independencemo.org/userdocs/ComDev/COA_Matrix.pdf) or to request a hard copy call (816)325-7419.

**2008 W.Z. Hickman Historic Preservation Awards**

This year's Hickman Preservation Awards recognized individuals and revitalization efforts throughout Independence. As in

previous years, the awards were distributed at the first City Council meeting in May and were presented to those individuals and projects deemed worthy of recognition for outstanding dedication to historic preservation. The awards are named for William Zere Hickman, local historian and preservation pioneer in Independence. Hickman is known for marking the Santa Fe Trail in 1909 and for his efforts to restore the 1827 Log Courthouse in 1916.

Two new award categories were added for consideration this year including "Distinguished Volunteer" and "Outstanding Visual Enhancements." The "Distinguished Volunteer" category is intended to recognize the many hours and often years of service docents dedicate at the city's historic sites. The "Visual Enhancements" category is intended to highlight citizen driven initiatives for improvements within the City's established, older neighborhoods.

This year's recipients included:

- ❖ **Distinguished Service**-Michael

Calvert, President, Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

- ❖ **Outstanding Building Restoration**-9725 East Winner Road, owners David & Terry Raasch
- ❖ **Distinguished Volunteer**-Sandra Dougherty, long-time volunteer at the Vaile Victorian Mansion
- ❖ **Outstanding Visual Enhancement**, Winner Road Improvements accepted by Anne and Tim Verhulst, area residents.

Applications for Hickman Awards are solicited each year in the spring and winners are selected by the Independence Heritage Commission. For an application go to: [http://www.independencemo.org/userdocs/ComDev/Preservation\\_Awards\\_Application.pdf](http://www.independencemo.org/userdocs/ComDev/Preservation_Awards_Application.pdf) or contact Wendy Shay, Preservation Manager at (816) 325-7419.



Sandra Dougherty, 2008 Hickman Award Winner.