



# Preservation Matters in Independence

A Publication by the Independence Historic Preservation Division  
Community Development Department

111 East Maple Avenue, Independence, MO 64050

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

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

*Spring 2009*

## Celebrating Historic Preservation Month- May 2009

In May each year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and thousands of its partners across the country demonstrate the importance of our nation's heritage through tours of historic destinations, heritage education programs, promotion of historic homeownership, and community revitalization.

Riding on the success of last year's theme, the 2009 Historic Preservation Month is again titled "This Place Matters." The theme is chosen each year by the National Trust to reflect changing attitudes and trends in preservation efforts across the country.

This year's City-wide events in Independence include:

- Tours of Woodlawn and Pitcher cemeteries
- A day-long Civil War battlefield tour
- Lunch 'n Learn lectures on the history of the Jackson County Courthouse and the 1859 Jail, the Civil

War's Order Number 11, and the tradition of military headstones.

- An evening presentation at the National Frontier Trails Museum on the construction of log cabins.
- The celebration of Truman's 125<sup>th</sup> birthday with the unveiling of his working office at the Truman Presidential Library.
- A children's art and architecture program sponsored by the National Park Service.
- A Square Walking Tour.
- Finally, a special "behind the scenes" tour of the grounds and exterior of the Truman Home hosted by the National Park Service.

Most of the events are free. For a quick-reference calendar or more detailed information go to the Web site listed above or call (816)325-7419.



*Tour Pitcher Cemetery on May 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 - 11 a.m. with local historian Kathleen Touhey.*



## SHPO Turns 40

The Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, also known as the SHPO, turns 40 in 2009. Created by the State Park Board (now the Division of State Parks) in 1968 under the Department of Natural Resources, the function of the SHPO is to identify and protect historical and archaeological resources throughout the State of Missouri. The Preservation Office helps to process the designation of National Register nominations, administer the Certified Local Government program, mandate compliance and review through the Section 106 process for federal undertakings and federally-funded projects, and facilitate surveys of architectural and archaeological resources. For more information about the many services provided by the Missouri SHPO, located in Jefferson City, MO call (800)361-4827 or go on-line to: <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/shpo/index>.

## Nine Things in 2009



The City of Independence Preservation Division has issued a challenge this year to all heritage enthusiasts called "Nine Important Things to do in Independence in 2009." The list includes:

- 1) Visit a historic site.
- 2) Shop/eat on the historic Courthouse Square.
- 3) Attend a local history lecture.
- 4) Take part in an activity during Historic Preservation Month in May.
- 5) Attend the 2009 annual Statewide Missouri Preservation Conference, November 4-6.
- 6) Research your historic house.
- 7) Join a preservation advocacy group.
- 8) Regularly check out a local preservation/heritage Web site.
- 9) Volunteer at a local historic site.

If you have more suggestions to add to the list, send them to the Historic

Preservation Division at P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64050 or e-mail them to Wendy Shay, Preservation Manager at [wshay@indepmo.org](mailto:wshay@indepmo.org).

## Repairs Continue at the Historic Truman Depot

Spurts of warm weather this spring allowed for work to continue on the historic Truman Depot located at 1111 West Pacific Avenue. Last year, improvements began on the 96-year-old depot including re-painting the historic sign and caboose and the addition of new plantings. This spring, a new decorative bench was installed outside the waiting room, rotted fascia was replaced and re-painted, pigeon spikes were installed, and the gutters were realigned to facilitate proper drainage.

The historic depot is significant for its Mission/Spanish style architecture, rare in Independence, but also for its intimate association with President Harry Truman. Truman arrived and departed from this depot many times before, during, and after his presidency. This depot,

along with dozens across the country, became famous as part of Truman's "whistle-stop" presidential campaign in 1948.

The depot is currently home to the Jackson County Genealogy Society and also serves as the Amtrak Station for Independence, though the depot does not function as a ticket office.

Work will continue on the depot throughout 2009. Landscaping and additional aesthetic improvements will continue in addition to the installation of a new waiting room door and exterior painting.

A special thank you is extended to all the volunteers, who over the past year have made the depot once again a welcome stop along the tracks. If you would like to know more about volunteering at the depot, call the Preservation Division at (816)325-7419.



*Rotted fascia prior to spring repairs.*