

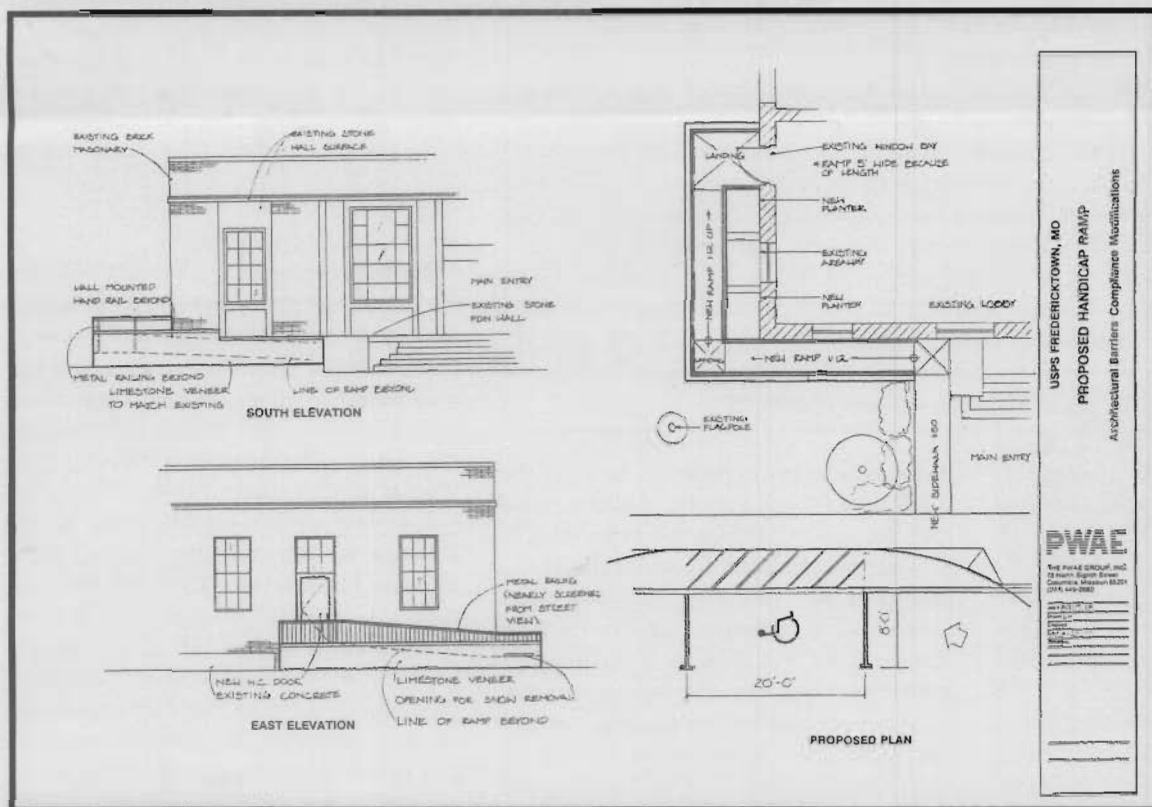
preservation issues

NEWS FOR THE PRESERVATION COMMUNITY

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

★ Vol. 2, No. 2 ★

Disabilities Act Challenges Preservationists



"Fritz" Lathrop of the PWAE Group, Columbia, designed this ramp and site plan for the historic, Art Deco style Fredericktown Post Office.

On July 26, 1991, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law by the United States Congress. The new law parallels the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in that both strive to ensure equal opportunities for all Americans. The ADA benefits Americans with a wide range of disabilities including drug addiction, heart disease, emotional illness, alcoholism, and loss of limb.

Under Titles I, II, and III of the act, all Americans have equal rights to employment, public services, and public accommodations. Therefore, both new and existing buildings, including historic buildings, are directly affected by the rules of the ADA; however, the ADA contains a "public accommodation exemption" for those

historic buildings where ADA guidelines violate the Secretary of the Interior's **Standards for Rehabilitation**. In specific reference to historic buildings, the ADA states that a public entity is "... not required to take action which threatens or destroys historic significance of property."

Owners of historic buildings should be aware of the following four building compliance priorities:

1. access to facility;
2. access to goods and services;
3. access to public accommodations; and
4. removal of obstacles.

Building owners need to demonstrate a "good faith effort" in complying with the requirements of the ADA. A good first step

is the preparation of a facilities audit. Prepared by qualified professionals, the facilities audit is an important planning tool for building compliance priorities. Typically, the audit process will consist of:





- data gathering;
- identification of all barriers;
- identification of all "readily achievable" barriers;
- prioritization of barriers to determine what types of barriers would be eliminated first; and
- development of a "Plan of Action" to remove barriers or provide alternatives.

With most historic buildings, providing an exterior accessible route for the disabled while, at

the same time, maintaining the architectural character of the historic building's primary elevations, is the basic challenge. Alterations to the building's site, the addi-

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March/April 1992

A&D Grants To Be Available in 1992

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

The Historic Preservation Program (HPP) plans to award grants for "Acquisition and Development" (A&D) projects in 1992.

Each year the HPP makes a portion of its federal Historic Preservation Fund allocation available for preservation grants to the public. For the last several years, these grants have been available only for "Survey and Planning" projects. Survey and planning projects typically involve the identification, evaluation, and registration of cultural resources, whereas A&D grants are provided to assist in the actual physical protection of cultural resources.

In the spring of 1992, the HPP will announce the availability of approximately \$50,000 of HPF monies for grant awards to projects involving the stabilization or restoration of Missouri resources associated with the theme of transportation. Examples of such resources include, but are not limited to, bridges, railroad depots, motels, and stagecoach stops. To be eligible, properties must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places and must meet the priority criterion of transportation significance.

A&D grants are provided on a 50/50 matching basis. While these grants will be pre-selected in 1992, funding will not be available until Congressional approval of the Fiscal Year 1993 Historic Preservation Fund appropriation.

Applicants wishing to be placed on the A&D mailing list should write or call Nancy Faerber, program secretary, at (314) 751-7858. — *Claire Blackwell*

Certified Local Governments

Two Certified Local Governments (CLGs) were honored recently by the appointment of preservation com-

mission associates to the boards of national organizations.

Lisa Lassman Briscoe, administrator of the Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, has been appointed to the board of Preservation Action. Preservation Action, the only national citizens' lobby for historic preservation, is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Claire Blackwell is the state coordinator for Missouri. Jane Flynn of Kansas City and Carolyn Toft of St. Louis are board members of long standing.

Briscoe is a graduate of the School of Architecture, Kansas State University, with additional training at the Boston Architecture Center, Boston, MA. Her back-

ground includes experience in both the public and private sectors: planning rehab and restoration projects while on staff at Shaughnessy Fickel & Scott Architects; establishing and directing real estate and rehabilitation activities for the Historic Kansas City Foundation (HKCF), particularly the facade easement program; and, most recently, serving as administrator for the Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, located within the City Planning and Development Department.

Briscoe's duties for Preservation Action will include assisting in the coordination of lobbying efforts in support of national historic preservation legislation and assembling facts and figures to brief elected officials on preservation concerns.

The most recently elected member to the board of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) is JoAnn Radetic, chairman of the Historic Preser-

vation Commission of Washington. The NAPC boasts a membership of more than 1,000 landmark historic districts and boards of architectural review in the United States. The alliance is a network of local commissions organized to provide information, education, and rural support to one another.

Radetic describes her employment status as "free-time civic volunteer." With a degree in chemistry and Spanish, her impressive expertise in historic preservation has been acquired by on-the-job and hands-on experience. She was a key member of the committee that drafted Washington's historic preservation ordinance and lobbied for its successful passage in 1986, and has served as chair of the historic preservation commission ever since. She was also instrumental in Washington's selection as a Missouri Main Street pilot town, one of only 10 in the state, and she serves as a member of the Design Committee for Washington Main Street, Inc.

Radetic estimates that at least 20 hours a week are spent on her nonpaid volunteer position as Washington's historic preservation specialist. She has written and administered Historic Preservation Fund grants for activities ranging from survey, National Register nominations, a downtown plan and design handbook, and educational workshops. She is the liaison between the city and the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office for the CLG program. She also prepares and defends budget requests to the city council; provides technical assistance on historic preservation methods and on tax certifications to historic property owners; organizes public meetings, educational, and technical workshops and media events; attends state and nationally sponsored historic preservation conferences; and assists city staff in preparing applications for state and federal grants that could affect historic resources.

As a NAPC board member, Radetic will attend semi-annual meetings and serve as a source of information and technical assistance to Missouri historic preservation commissions and others in the Midwest. — *Judith Deel*

Issues Receives High Marks from Readers

The results are in from the Readership Survey mailed to subscribers in the November-December edition of *Preservation Issues*. Generally, the responses were both gratifying and challenging, and indicate that *Issues* fills an important need for Missouri's preservation community.

Preservation Issues is published six times a year and distributed to 2,500 subscribers; 153 readers had returned their Readership Survey form by December 2, 1992 when these results were tabulated.

In answer to the question "To what extent do you read *Preservation Issues*?", an

amazing 86 percent responded that they read all or most of each issue; the remaining 14 percent scan or read some articles. A nearly equal number — 83 percent — ranked the graphic design of *Issues* of consistently high quality while 17 percent rated it fair.

Concerning content, 60 percent rated it excellent or high for selection of topics; 52 percent for timeliness of information; 63 percent for clarity; 56 percent for diversity; and 61 percent for accuracy and fairness. All regular features also got consistently high marks: 49 percent rated the cover article excellent or high; 51 percent for **HPP Updates**; 46 percent for **Archaeology Profiles**; 66 percent for **Missouri Architecture**; and 41 percent for **Dates to Remember**.

Our readers also indicated that they have a high or fair degree of interest in a variety of preservation-related topics. Fewer than 15 percent rated their interest in any preservation area as weak or poor.

We are pleased that *Issues* readers are recycling by sharing their copies with friends and associates. A surprising 60 percent said an additional one to three people other than themselves read their copy of *Preservation Issues*, and 8.5 percent said

Issues was recycled to between three and five others. This tells us that, although only 2,500 copies are distributed, our readership may exceed 7,000.

Finally, we appreciate those readers who took the extra time to write comments. Some of your suggestions for improvement have already been implemented; others are in the planning stage. We are listening, and share some of your thoughts below.

- Very good publication! It's consistently interesting – good PR for DNR.
- I like it, but it's too short. You certainly have the content for a larger publication.
- I have enjoyed each issue, found them informative, and saved them for [future] reference.
- Have information available about historic properties that might be available for sale.
- Do more information on problems faced by specific Missouri communities.
- *Issues* that address efforts to preserve

sites that support important historic themes – especially ethnic and cultural.

- You have done a very commendable job ... try to represent the entire state.
- Expand the coverage, and make it a larger publication.
- Excellent newsletter – one of the few I read. Could you possibly add more information on archaeology?
- Your Bridges article was great!
- I would like to see PI expanded to a magazine-type format.
- Feature local people who have done wonderful preservation or rehab on structures that could have been lost by destruction and/or neglect.
- Thank you for a wonderful informative publication. I enjoy each issue.
- You speak the truth.
- Additional pages when funding allows.
- A great newsletter – variety, graphics, type of coverage.

Thank you once again for your input. –

Karen Grace

MISSOURI

Historic Architecture

Neoclassical Houses, ca 1895-1940

Characteristics:

- two stories;
- hipped or side-gabled roof;
- cornices are small in scale, and dentils or modillions are common;
- full-height and sometimes full-width facade porch;
- porch roof hipped, flat, or front-gabled;
- porch roof supported by massive classical columns with Ionic or Corinthian capitals;
- centered primary entry doors most often have sidelights and transoms; some have pilasters and pediments;
- fenestration pattern is symmetrical, and windows are most often double-hung, multi-light.



The Missouri State Flag was designed in this Neoclassical house (ca 1898 and 1915) in Cape Girardeau. Marie Watkins Oliver designed, executed, and presented the model flag to the state legislature in 1909; it was officially approved in 1913. (Photo courtesy of Southeast Missourian.)

Archaeology

Profiles

Recently, the integrity of the majority of rock sheltered sites in Missouri has been threatened by human actions which remove rather than supplement shelter deposits. The combination of prolific cultural remains and a general human fascination with caves and other unusual rock formations makes sheltered sites attractive to contemporary Missourians and stimulates their interest in examining the contents. Perennial springs in many caves and shelters also have attracted developers of water resources.

A 1989 survey in southwestern Missouri revealed that sheltered sites are being destroyed at such an alarming rate that all significant sites in the area may be severely damaged or destroyed by the year 2000 (Ray and Benn 1989). The survey recorded 28 sites with past (ca pre-1970) and recent

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Editor: Karen Grace
Designer: Musick & Co.

(ongoing) uncontrolled digging of all types. To stem this tide of site destruction, a combination of activities is underway: nomination of sheltered sites to the National Register of Historic Places (20 sites were recently listed in the National Register) to raise their status as significant cultural resources; involvement of landowners in the site protection process; and public lectures and media stories to educate the public about site preservation.

The data categories available in sheltered sites illustrate some of the avenues for researching the past. The most prolific data set consists of lithic tools and debitage, also the most common artifact category in virtually all open-air sites in the Ozarks. Stone artifacts from open sites are subject to weathering and mechanical abrasion, especially on the ground surface, but this is not the case in sheltered sites.

In sheltered contexts, lithic tools retain all the aspects created by their makers: indications of manufacturing methods, refurbishing marks, and traces of use-wear. With this information, archaeologists can move beyond lithic typology, the cornerstone of prehistoric studies, to determine empirically the functions of lithic tools and then employ this knowledge to reconstruct human activities in sheltered sites.

Another well-preserved data set includes the remains of plants and animals. Organisms derived from both human activities and the natural setting of the sheltered site are indicators of the environment and climate at the time of the occupation. Thus, we can discover what types of sub-

Dates to Remember

March is Women's History Month! Check media for local events statewide.

Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Meeting March 9. For more information, call (314) 751-5365.

Missouri Archaeological Society Annual Meeting April 3-5 in St. Joseph. For more information, call (800) 472-3223.

Missouri Historic Houses: The Way We Lived April 4-5 in Springfield. Missouri's 7th Annual Historic Preservation Conference. Call (314) 751-7860 for more information.

Inner-City Ventures Fund Grants, preliminary application deadline May 1. Call (202) 673-4000 for an application.

Sacred Trust V, the 5th annual conference on historic religious properties May 6-9 in Baltimore. Call (215) 546-1288 for more information.

sistence prehistoric people were pursuing in sheltered sites and know the environmental conditions under which this took place. Environmental conditions would be significant factors during three periods in prehistory: Late Pleistocene (pre-10,000 B.P.), Altithermal (ca 7500-5500 B.P.), and the Late Holocene (when maize cultivation became widespread).

This list of significant data sets is left open-ended to accommodate additions as archaeology expands its scope of understanding and recognizes new sources of data in other sites. The survey, documentation, and registration of Missouri caves and other rock shelter sites must remain a top priority as long as they are threatened by extinction. - *David Benn, Southwest Missouri State University.*

(ADA, from Front Page)

tion of ramps for wheelchairs, and the adaptation of original doors (or replacement of original doors) for ease of operation entail important design decisions that can radically affect the exterior appearance of a historic building. Many other considerations, including those regarding the removal of interior barriers, are much less problematic.

In addition to consulting a design professional for a facilities audit, owners of historic buildings can contact the Historic Preservation Program, at (314) 751-7859, for assistance regarding both the ADA and the Secretary of the Interior's **Standards for Rehabilitation.** - *Lance Carlson*

(Excerpted from materials provided by Gould-Evans Architects, Kansas City.)

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