

preservation **issues**

NEWS FOR THE PRESERVATION COMMUNITY

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

★ Vol. 3, No. 1 ★

“Homeless, homeless are we”

“Homeless, homeless are we, just as homeless as homeless can be, We don’t get nothin for our labor, So homeless, homeless are we.” John Handcox, “Hungry, Hungry Are We”

On the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 10, 1939, motorists traveling along U.S. Highway 60 between Sikeston and Charleston and U.S. Highway 61 between Sikeston and Hayti were startled to see the roadsides cluttered with the meager and pitiful furniture, household goods, and livestock of hundreds of families of tenant farmers and sharecroppers who were camped along the highways. Their arrival had

begun the night before and, by noon of the 10th, over 1,000 homeless people had camped along the road; most were there because they had no place else to go.

The roadside demonstration was in reaction to evictions of tenants and sharecroppers by local landlords who, by abandoning the share and rental systems of farm production in favor of day labor, were able to pocket government parity payments for crop reductions under the Agricultural Adjustment Act. The payments, made to the land owner, were to be distributed to tenants and croppers in proportion to their share in the crop. To avoid this, the landowners notified large numbers of tenants and sharecroppers in the Missouri Bootheel that their labor would not be needed in 1939.

The Missouri demonstration was largely the idea of Owen Whitfield, a

preacher and organizer for the Southern Tenant Farmers Union (STFU). Although the interracial union was able to publicize the feudal conditions under which tenants and croppers lived (in Missouri and elsewhere), its success in improving those conditions was meager. Whitfield’s progress in signing up new STFU members was also limited. Most Bootheel planters were hostile to the idea of a union for their tenants and croppers, so few of the participants in the roadside demonstration were union members.

The demonstration and the national publicity that it garnered incensed local planters and many local residents. Few planters expressed an interest in allowing their former tenants to return; and few of the demonstrators expressed an interest in returning to the uncertain conditions on the plantations where they

(See **HOMELSS**, Page 9)



PHOTO ARTHUR ROBINSTEIN

“Here our possessions lie.” Evicted sharecroppers’ roadside demonstration, January 1939.

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January/February 1993

National Historic Preservation Act Amendments

Deputy
State
Historic
Preservation
Officer

Preservationists throughout the country scored a major victory recently with passage of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1992 (P.L. 102-575). The amendments, which strengthen and clarify the act's provisions, represent the culmination of many years of grassroots efforts by preservationists nationwide. Particular thanks go to Georgia Senator Wyche Fowler, Jr., who initiated the movement to improve the national preservation program and introduced the legislation. Because of the importance of this recent news, we are including below an excerpt from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's **Preservation Law Reporter Advance**, November 9, 1992, which provides a summary analysis of the law's provision. — **Claire Blackwell**

"On October 30, 1992, President Bush signed into law the National Historic Preservation Amendments of 1992 (Title XL of Public Law 102-575), popularly known as the Fowler Bill (after Sen. Wyche Fowler, Jr., the bill's principal sponsor in the U.S. Senate). This legislation, the first significant change to the National Historic Preservation Act since 1980, enhances the Act by clarifying its terms and strengthening federal protection for historic and archaeological resources. Key provisions of this important new law are summarized below. The National Historic Preservation Act Amendments

of 1992 strengthen the federal-state-local partnership in the national historic preservation program, but also add a new dimension, by formalizing the inclusion of Indian tribes and native Hawaiians in the partnership. The Act also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to delegate additional responsibilities to the State Historic Preservation Offices.

"Among the most important provisions of the new law are enhancements that strengthen the requirements of Section 106, the federal review process for considering adverse impacts on historic resources caused by federal undertakings, including funding and licensing activities. The law includes a new provision that penalizes the intentional demolition of historic properties prior to federal involvement for purposes of avoiding federal historic preservation review. In addition, the law revises the definition of federal "undertaking" to clarify that federal agencies who delegate their responsibilities to states are still responsible for complying with Section 106. Other enhancements to the federal preservation program include the establishment of a new National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, and a new historic preservation education and training program within the National Park Service. The law also clarified that Historic Preservation Fund grants may be used to assist in the preservation of National Register-listed religious properties, so long as the aid is secular and does not promote religion."

Historic Preservation Fund Grant Awards

Historic
Preservation
Fund
Grants

The Historic Preservation Program is pleased to announce the preliminary selection of applications for fiscal year 1993 Historic Preservation Fund Survey and Planning grant awards. Final awards are pending contract negotiations and Missouri Department of Natural Resources' approval. The recommendations for funding follow:

- ☐ American Institute of Architects, Kansas City, for the Endangered Building Evaluation Team (EBET), \$14,057;
- ☐ Triad Research Services for a Survey of Missouri Native American Unmarked Human Burial Sites, \$14,000;
- ☐ National Trust for Historic Preservation for 47th National Preservation Conference Support, \$20,000;
- ☐ Lincoln University Social Science Department for Archaeological Inventory of Historic Black Communities, \$12,345;
- ☐ The Missouri Short Line, Inc. for a Northwest Missouri Electric Traction Systems Survey, \$3,850;
- ☐ Terrell L. Martin for a Survey of Sheltered Sites in the Tavern Creek Drainage, \$5,600;
- ☐ St. Charles County for a Survey/Inventory of Daniel Boone Historical Area, Phase II, \$12,350;
- ☐ University of Missouri-St. Louis Anthropology Department for a Mississippi Central Reconnaissance Survey, \$13,340;
- ☐ Landmarks Commission, City of Kansas City for a City Archaeologist, \$12,000;
- ☐ New Haven Chamber of Commerce for an Architectural/Historical Survey of New Haven, \$11,441;
- ☐ St. Louis City-St. Louis Development Corp. for a City Cultural

- Resource Planner, \$8,784;
- ❑ Curators of the University of Missouri for an East Campus Neighborhood Survey, \$12,256;
- ❑ University City Historic Preservation Commission for a Maryland Terrace Architectural Survey, \$7,432;
- ❑ Southwest Missouri State University (SMSU) Center for Ozark Studies for the Haseltine Orchards Historic Area Survey, \$3,795;
- ❑ SMSU Travel and Tourism Program for the Gilmore Octagonal Barn National Register Nomination, \$1,750;
- ❑ SMSU Travel and Tourism Program for Preservation Corner V - "OzarksWatch", \$2,300;
- ❑ City of Parkville for a Historic Survey, \$10,500;
- ❑ City of Excelsior Springs for Phase II Survey Projects - Boarding Home Districts and Parkways, \$8,200;
- ❑ Historic Kansas City Foundation for a Religious Properties Thematic Survey, \$10,689;
- ❑ Show-Me Regional Planning Commission for a Pre-1881 Church Survey in Show-Me Region, \$13,220;
- ❑ City of Lee's Summit for a Phase II Survey of the City, \$3,834;
- ❑ Stone County Historical Society for a County Survey, Phase I, \$5,175;
- ❑ St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation for a Survey of Affton and Concord, \$9,241;
- ❑ Town of Augusta for Augusta National Register Nominations, \$4,000;
- ❑ Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., for a City-Wide Thematic Church Survey: Phase IV, \$26,542;
- ❑ City of Harrisonville for a National Register nomination for Downtown, \$4,665;
- ❑ City of Poplar Bluff for National Register Nominations, \$5,000;
- ❑ Show-Me Regional Planning Commission for a Johnson County

Courthouse National Register Nomination, \$1,296;

- ❑ Show-Me Regional Planning Commission for a Pickel's Station National Register Nomination, \$1,217;
- ❑ Colored Paths for a Survey of Slave Burials in Warren County, \$3,576;

❑ City of St. Joseph for a Parks and Boulevard National Register Nomination, \$9,410.

❑ Total amount awarded: \$268,279

For more information about HPF grants, call Jerald Stepenoff at (314) 751-5376. - *Jerald Stepenoff*

Black Historic Sites to Visit

Hundreds of significant historic sites associated with Missouri's African-American heritage have been identified by the Historic Preservation Program. The following list of sites that are open to the public was excerpted from the Hippocrene U.S.A. **Guide to Black America** by Marcella Thum.

- ❑ **Columbia - Museum of Art and Archaeology**, in National Register-listed Pickard Hall on the University of Missouri campus (corner of

University Avenue and 9th Street) has a small but excellent exhibit of African art called "Expressions of Africa."

Traditional African art is not only displayed but is explained in relation to its practical use. Pieces range from Ashanti fertility figures to intricately carved masks, giving physical form to the spiritual. Works of black artists also form

(See **BLACK SITES**, Page 4)



PHOTOS NICK DECKER

The Scott Joplin House State Historic Site (outside left, inside below) in St. Louis, home of the legendary "King of Ragtime," is open to the public. The two-story brick building is an early example of a St. Louis four-family flat (see Missouri Architecture, Page 11).



(BLACK SITES, from Page 3)

part of the museum's collection and there are often visiting African-American art exhibits.

Tues. 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Wed.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., weekends 12 p.m.-5 p.m. Closed national holidays. Free.

- **Diamond - The George Washington Carver National Monument**, southeast of Joplin and two-and-one-half miles southwest of Diamond, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The young Carver spent his childhood on the Moses Carver farm at this site. The trails that the young Carver enjoyed walking have been preserved, along with his own private garden area. In the midst of this garden is a bronze statue of the boy Carver. Visitors may listen to a tape recording of Carver's last public speech.

There is also a demonstration garden containing the main crops that the noted black scientist used in developing hundreds of projects. A visitor's center displays exhibits on Carver's early life, work and honors.

Daily 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Memorial Day-Labor Day; rest of year 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Dec. 25. Admission \$1.

- **Independence - Harry S. Truman Library and Museum**, at the northeast edge of Independence, on U.S. 24 at Delaware Street. It was from Independence that many wagon trains started their long, dangerous trips west in the 19th century. Artist Thomas Hart Benton's mural, Independence and the Opening of the West at the Truman Library shows an African-American blacksmith hard at work. The man in the painting is Hiram Young who lived in Independence and made his fortune building wagons for many of the pioneers.

The museum also contains important documents relating to the civil rights movement that were ex-

ecuted by Truman during his presidency.

Daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Jan. 1, Thanksgiving and Dec. 25. Adults \$2, under 16 free.

- **Jefferson City - Lincoln University**, 820 Chestnut Street, was founded on the dreams of uneducated ex-slaves, the men of the 62nd Missouri Colored Volunteers who served during the Civil War. The money for the school was raised from the regiment. Enlisted men who drew only \$13 a month in pay gave as much as \$100. Begun as the Lincoln Institute in 1866, its first permanent building was erected in 1871. The Lincoln University Hilltop Campus is a National Register historic district.

The Inman E. Page Library, on the campus, has a collection of art works by noted black American artists, such as Aaron Douglas, Hale Woodruff, and James Porter.

Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 1 p.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 3 p.m.-11 p.m. Free.

- **Kansas City - Black Archives of Mid-America**, 2033 Vine Street, is housed in the first fire station in Missouri to be managed by blacks. The museum highlights notable black figures in sports, entertainment, and politics, and serves as a regional research center and repository of records and information relating to the African-American experience in the Midwest.

Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; weekends by appointment. Admission 50 cents.

- **Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center**, at 3700 Blue Parkway (Swope Parkway and Benton Boulevard) commemorates the history of Kansas City's black community. Bruce R. Watkins was a black community leader throughout his adult life. Among the highlights of the center are the Spirit of Freedom fountain, the Brush Creek Amphitheater, and the Grand Hall

of Fame. Within the hall is the Wall of Fame, which honors notable black Kansas Citians. The center offers dramatic and musical productions as well as educational and art exhibits.

Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Exhibits free.

- **Negro Leagues Baseball Museum**. When this museum is completed, it will be part of the International Jazz Hall of Fame in the 18th and Vine National Register Historic District. Upon arriving, the visitor will be greeted by a statue of Satchel Paige throwing his famous "hesitation pitch." Exhibits will weave black history into arrangements of artifacts and photos about the Negro League, which was organized at Kansas City, Missouri, in 1920. Call (816) 924-7373 for more information.

- **The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art**, 4525 Oak Street, has a collection of African art as well as African-American pieces by Richard Hunt, Jacob Lawrence, and Julian Binford.

Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Closed holidays. Adults \$3, ages 6-18 \$1. Free to all on Sun.

- **St. Charles - Lewis and Clark Center**, 701 Riverside Drive, has life-size exhibits and dioramas on the Lewis and Clark expedition that explored the West in 1804. The exhibits include information about York, the black servant of William Clark, who proved invaluable as a hunter and fisherman as well as for his skills in negotiating with the Indian tribes.

Daily 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Closed Dec. 25. Admission \$1.

- **Jefferson National Expansion Memorial**, on the waterfront at Market Street, includes not only the world-famous National Register-listed Gateway Arch but also the Museum of Westward Expansion, which is housed beneath the arch. The museum contains fas-

(See BLACK SITES, Page 8)

5. Please rate your interest in articles on the following preservation topics using the scale above. Circle one.

Architectural styles	1 2 3 4
Rehabilitation projects	1 2 3 4
Preservation legislation	1 2 3 4
Grants and other funding sources	1 2 3 4
Missouri history and prehistory	1 2 3 4
Economic revitalization	1 2 3 4
Urban design	1 2 3 4
Rural preservation	1 2 3 4
Survey and planning	1 2 3 4
Endangered properties	1 2 3 4
National Register listings	1 2 3 4
Other	1 2 3 4

6. Approximately how many other people read your copy of *Preservation Issues*? Check one.

- ☐ None
- ☐ 1-3 others
- ☐ 3-5 others
- ☐ More than 5 others

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(BLACK SITES, from Page 4)

cinating exhibits on black pioneers, and the rangers who conduct tours through the museum point out the role that black men and women played in the westward trek.

Daily 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Memorial Day-Labor Day, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. rest of year. Closed Jan. 1, Thanksgiving and Dec. 25. Ages 17-61 \$1, maximum \$3 per family.

- **The Old Courthouse**, at Broadway and Market Streets, is part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. Before the Civil War, slaves were sold on the courthouse steps to settle estates. It was here that the slave Dred Scott filed suit to gain his freedom in 1846. The litigation went on for 11 years, eventually making its way to the Supreme Court. Although Dred Scott finally lost his case, the decision handed down by Judge Taney widened the split between the North and the South over the issue of slavery. Ironically, Dred Scott himself was set free by his owner a few weeks after the decision was rendered and died a year later. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery.

The courthouse has two restored courtrooms and five museum galleries on St. Louis history, including exhibits on the Dred Scott Case. The building is listed in the National Register.

Daily 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.. Closed Thanksgiving, Dec. 25 and New Year's Day. Guided tours available. Free.

- **Quinn Chapel**, at 225 Bowen Street, near the Mississippi River was built as a public market in 1870. The building was transferred to the Carondelet African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1880. This black congregation had formed in 1845 and called its new church Quinn Chapel, after the A.M.E.'s fourth bishop, William P. Quinn, who opened up the West to African evangelism. The church, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, has been used by

the same congregation at the same location for more than 100 years.

- **St. Louis Art Museum** stands on the top of Art Hill in Forest Park. The museum has a good collection of African art and a small collection of works by African-American artists, including Robert S. Duncanson's oil painting, *View of the St. Anne's River, Canada*.

Tues. 1:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Wed.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Jan. 1 and Dec. 25. Free.

- **The History Museum in the Jefferson Memorial**, also in Forest Park (off Lindell Boulevard), chronicles the history of St. Louis, including a display of photographs and artifacts of blacks in the city's history.

Tues.-Sun. 9:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Closed Jan. 1, Thanksgiving and Dec. 25. Free.

- **St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame**, 100 Stadium Plaza, is on the Walnut Street side of Busch Memorial Stadium, between Gates 5 and 6. This live-action museum of St. Louis sports history includes all sports, but in large part tells the story of baseball. The room honoring players of the St. Louis Cardinals team has larger-than-life-size pictures of famous black Cardinal baseball players, such as Bob Gibson and Cool Poppa Bell. World series movies are also shown.

Daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Open during night games to ticket holders only. Adults \$2, Children \$1.50.

- **Scott Joplin House State Historic Site**, 2658 Delmar Boulevard, just west of Jefferson Avenue, was the home of the King of Ragtime. One of the nation's most creative black musicians, Joplin lived on the second floor of this four-family flat at the turn of the century during his "St. Louis period," and composed some of his most famous works there.

The house was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976 and has been restored to look as it

did when Joplin lived and worked there. The building also includes a museum and exhibit area for black history and culture, including a room for musical performances. The building next door, the "new" Rosebud Club, will be turned into a museum of ragtime music. (See photos on Page 3.)

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 12 p.m.-5 p.m. Adults \$1.25, ages 6-12, 50 cents, ages 3-5, 25 cents.

- **Stowe Teachers College** (now Harris-Stowe), 3026 Laclede, was founded a century ago as a training school for black teachers, the first black institution of higher education west of the Mississippi. Stowe merged with Harris Teachers College, a training school for white teachers, in 1954. The small but excellent archives of historical black material in the library at Harris-Stowe is available to the public by appointment.

One of Stowe's outstanding graduates was Julia Davis who went on to teach three generations of black students at the college. She contributed the Julia Davis Collection of black resource material to the **St. Louis Public Library** and a branch library has been named in her honor. The **Julia Davis Library**, 4666 Natural Bridge, has memorabilia of Julia Davis.

- **Vaughn Cultural Center**, 525 North Grand, has changing monthly exhibits on African-American history and culture. Bus tours of black St. Louis also begin at this center, led by experienced tour guides, who describe black St. Louis history with fascinating stories, legend, and fact.

Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Charge and advance reservations required for bus tour. (314) 535-9277.

- **Sedalia - Maple Leaf Room Ragtime Collection** has a permanent home in the Learning Resources

(See **BLACK SITES**, Page 9)

(HOMELESS, from Page 1)

had formerly worked. On Jan. 13, the state health commissioner pronounced the roadside camps a menace to public health, and in many cases the camps were forcibly disbanded by state police. However, the problem of where the evicted tenants and croppers could go remained.

About 100 families were relocated to an isolated area, christened "Homeless Junction," behind the levee at New Madrid, a location that did not improve on the conditions in the roadside camps but did remove the demonstrators from public view. The St. Louis Committee for the Rehabilitation of the Sharecroppers, organized by Whitfield, purchased a 90-acre tract of land near Harviell in Butler County, which served as a refuge for others. About 45 demonstrators were housed in an abandoned dance

(BLACK SITES, from Page 8)

Center at State Fair Community College. Sedalia has been called the cradle of classical ragtime. It was while black composer Scott Joplin was playing his ragtime music at the Maple Leaf Club here in 1899 that John Stark, a music store owner, purchased the "Maple Leaf Rag" from Joplin for \$50 and Joplin's royalties. The sale of the music made both Stark and Joplin financially independent . . . and ragtime music internationally famous. The "Maple Leaf Rag" became one of the first pieces of American sheet music to sell over one million copies.

The original Maple Leaf Club stood at the intersection of Lamine and Main Streets. A monument marks the spot. The ragtime collection at the college contains sheet music, piano rolls, tapes of interviews, and memorabilia of Scott Joplin and other ragtime greats. The Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival is held annually in June.

**Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.,
Fri. 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Closed
weekends. Free.**

hall in Charleston. And about 100 families remained homeless.

The demonstration was intended to draw the attention of the federal government to the plight of tenants and sharecroppers, and Whitfield and STFU leaders immediately began lobbying the Farm Security Administration (FSA) for relief for the demonstrators.

FSA deputy administrator R.W. Hudgens met with Missouri Governor Forrest Donnell and proposed the construction of housing for the displaced croppers on area plantations. The demonstrators and their representatives rejected the proposal, however, because the croppers and tenants would still be isolated and under the control of landlords. In February 1939, STFU co-founder H.L. Mitchell, STFU officer F.R. Betton, and a delegation of Missouri sharecroppers met with FSA administrator Dr. Will W. Alexander and proposed the establishment of 10 villages in five of the seven Bootheel counties to house the homeless croppers and tenants. The villages would be located in proximity to established Bootheel towns so residents would be



Delmo houses in Lilbourn have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



available for employment in any existing or future industrial jobs or for employment as agricultural labor on nearby plantations. Participants in the roadside demonstration were selected as the nucleus of the new settlements, collectively labeled the Delmo Labor Homes Project by the FSA.

Construction on the Delmo Project houses began in 1940 and was completed in 1941. A total of 595 houses were constructed, with 30 to 80 houses



The Delmo Farm Labor Homes were bought by residents at \$800 each. Payments of \$10.20 per month began in January 1948; all payments were completed in 1954.

(HOMELESS, from Page 9)

in each village. The villages were segregated by race; four of the 10 - North Wyatt (Wilson City), North Lilbourn, Gobler, and South Wardell - were constructed for African-Americans. Each village was constructed in a roughly circular loop around a central common area; Circle City near Grayridge in Stoddard County apparently derived its name from this arrangement.

The houses had four rooms with closets, built-in cabinets, storage space for fruits and vegetables, and were wired for electric lighting. Each house was furnished with one bedroom suite, a cooking stove, a coal heating stove, a dining table, its own privy, and an approximately one-acre plot for growing food. The total cost for each house was \$800.

Each village also included a well and water tower, as well as a community building that housed a manager's office, clinic, showers, laundry facilities, demonstration kitchen, and assembly room. Necessary roads, culverts, bridges, and drainage ditches were also constructed. Rent for the new dwell-

PHOTO STEVE MITCHELL



Alex Cooper, current director of the Delmo Housing Corporation: "The magnitude of the [Delmo] project has never been duplicated in the country."

ings was approximately \$6 a month.

In 1945, Congress ordered the FSA to sell its holdings. Original plans called for the sale of each Delmo village to a single purchaser, and the FSA succeeded in liquidating the village in North Wyatt before public support and support within Congress forced them to consider plans to offer the houses for sale to their occupants. However, this was beyond the means of most of the Delmo tenants.

To assist them, Rev. David Burgess, assigned to the project as a "farm worker minister" by the Congregational church, formed a committee of black and white St. Louisans.

The St. Louis committee solicited contributions and was able to raise over \$80,000. Many Delmo families were also able to make a \$100 down payment toward the purchase of their homes. After rejecting two lower bids, the FSA finally accepted a bid by the St. Louis group of \$285,000 for the purchase of the Delmo Project.

On Dec. 18, 1945, the St. Louis committee was chartered as the Delmo Housing Corporation. The corporation set the price for each house at \$800, the original government cost. Payments by residents began in January 1946 on the 549 houses that remained after the initial and premature sale of the Wyatt village; monthly payments were set at \$10.20. It took eight years to retire the mortgage.

Although the original impetus for the Delmo Housing Corporation ended in 1954, the agency has continued to serve the residents of the Delmo villages and all of the Missouri Bootheel with varied social, health, and educational programs.

The Delmo Labor Homes Project is significant as an example of New Deal relief and recovery programs designed to combat and alleviate the effects of the Great Depression. More particularly, the project represents the aggressive and frequently controversial agricultural programs promulgated during the administration of Franklin Roosevelt, programs that were criti-

cized for what were perceived as efforts at social experimentation or engineering. From their inception, New Deal agricultural agencies such as the FSA sought to mitigate the disruptive effects of massive unemployment and dislocation that were attributed to economic depression, but that were often as much the result of the evolution of agriculture to a more centralized and mechanized agribusiness.

In addition, the rescue of the Delmo houses from the contradictory policies of a disinterested bureaucracy was the initial victory of the first private social service agency established in the Missouri Bootheel. According to Alex Cooper, current director of the Delmo Housing Corporation, "the magnitude of the [Delmo] project has never been duplicated in the country." Approximately 500 of the Delmo houses are extant, and a number of those in South Lilbourn have recently been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. - *Steve Mitchell*

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Lodge Nominated

In Revolutionary Massachusetts, a black man named Prince Hall organized the first group of African-American Freemasons. From the 1770s to the present, Prince Hall Freemasons have added a vital element of stability to the black community, especially in urban centers. During the Progressive Era of the early 20th century, when the push for economic betterment and social justice collided with the rising power of Jim Crow, black fraternal organizations acted as support groups for the black middle class and sources of aid for the poor and displaced.

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge #2, 3615-19 Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard (formerly Easton Avenue), served as the primary meeting place for black Freemasons in St. Louis from 1909 to the 1940s. When the Negro Masonic Hall Association acquired the property in 1909, there were nine different groups

of African-American Free-masons in the city. Membership included many of the most prominent educators, businessmen, and professionals in the local black community.

Prince Hall Freemasons encouraged black entrepreneurs. After 1909, many businesses owned by black St. Louisans occupied space on the main floor of the meeting hall. Meeting rooms occupied

the second and third floors of the large brick building constructed in the 1880s.

Following World War II, St. Louis' Prince Hall Freemasons moved their headquarters to 4525 Olive Street, although some groups continued to meet in the old building until the 1980s. The wedge-shaped building with Romanesque features on Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places

for its significance in the areas of Commerce and Ethnic Heritage-Black. —

Bonnie Stepenoff

Bonnie Stepenoff is a free-lance history and archives research consultant from Jefferson City. Stepenoff has written National Register nominations for a number of Missouri properties including the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge #2.

MISSOURI

Historic Architecture

The St. Louis Two- or Four-Family Flat ca 1850-1950

Characteristics:

- ☐ Small-scale, rectangular plan, two or two-and-one-half stories tall with a flat facade two to six bays wide.
- ☐ Always built of brick, often with stone foundation and trim.
- ☐ Entrances are usually a pair of adjoining doors located in the far left or right facade bay, in two-family flats; four-family flats are mirror images.
- ☐ Sited on narrow city lots, with often only a narrow "gangway" between buildings; early versions sit directly on the sidewalk; later versions are set back slightly to allow for a small front yard.
- ☐ Each apartment has a shotgun floor plan three or four rooms deep with direct access from one room to the next; later buildings also had a side hallway allowing access to rooms.
- ☐ Occur in various architectural styles depending on the period of construction.

PHOTO A. VAN DER TUIN



This typical St. Louis two-family flat with Arts & Crafts-style detailing, ca 1927, is significant as the home of Olive Brown Graham (1914-1982), "Empress of Blues", internationally known nightclub jazz singer. Brown is best known for her numerous performances in the 1960s with Count Basie's All-Star Band in New York, appearances at St. Louis jazz festivals, and a record album, "Olive Brown and Her Blues Chasers."

"Let's just do what's right,"

Gov. John Ashcroft said as he "passed the hat" for donations to repair the flood-damaged Jefferson City Community Center. The more than \$3,000 collected by Ashcroft at the annual National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Freedom Dinner this fall will help the center restore electricity to the lower level of the building, the area that suffered the most damage in the July 20 flood.

The community center was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 14 for its "exceptional significance" as a resource representing Jefferson City's African-American history "from which so few resources survive." The ca 1942 building is only one of a few remaining survivors of what was the heart of the black community in Jefferson City, from the turn of the century to the early 1960s, when the area was decimated by urban renewal. All of the black-owned businesses near the center and most of the oldest and most

(See CENTER, Page 12)

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Editor: Karen Grace
Designer: Musick & Co.

Reminder . . .

The nomination deadline for properties to be studied by the Endangered Building Evaluation Team in 1993 is March 1. Call (816) 221-3485 for more information.

(CENTER, from Page 11)

densely populated African-American residential areas surrounding it were destroyed during this massive land clearance effort.

But the community center remains and is being rehabilitated by volunteers to meet the needs of the new community that has grown up in the area since urban renewal. This new community is more racially mixed than before, and the center's new programs are designed to serve all residents. The building continues, however, to serve as a symbol of pride in the city's African-American community and their accomplishments. —

Karen Grace

preservation issues

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dates to Remember

National Meeting of Society for Historical Archaeology, January 6-10, Hyatt Regency, Crown Center, Kansas City. Call Bill Lees (913) 296-2625 for more information.

Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Meeting February 19, Jefferson City. Call (314) 751-5365 for details.

Introduction to Federal Projects and Historic Preservation Law April 13-15, Kansas City. Cost \$245. For more information call the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at (202) 786-0505.

Neighborhood Conservation: Building Blocks for the Future April 15-17, Kalamazoo, MI. Fee \$135. For more information, contact the Midwest Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation at (312) 939-5547.

Victorian Missouri: A Celebration, Missouri's eighth annual historic preservation conference, April 16-18, Carthage. For more information, see the flyer in this issue or call (314) 751-7959.

Sacred Trusts VI April 29-May 1, Salt Lake City, UT. Call Partners for Sacred Places for details at (215) 546-1288.

PHOTO URBANA GROUP (APPEL)



The Jefferson City Community Center, listed in the National Register May 14, was damaged in a flash flood July 20.

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