



MISSOURI PRESERVATION

Preserving Place And Community For Future Generations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Missouri Preservation
319 N. 4th Street, Rm. 850
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
(660) 882-5946
www.preservemo.org

Contact:
Riley Price, Executive Director
director@preservemo.org
(660) 882-5946

Missouri Preservation Announces 2021 Places in Peril

Non-profit organization Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation (Missouri Preservation) releases their 2021 list of Missouri's endangered historic places.

October 20, 2021

St. Louis, MO — Missouri Preservation announced their 2020 Places in Peril list via a virtual announcement event on Wednesday, October 20th.

Places in Peril is an annual list of endangered historic places in the state of Missouri. These places are nominated by concerned individuals and decided upon by a committee of preservation advocates. In the past the announcement has been made at an "UnHappy Hour" event but due to COVID-19, will be made virtual. The announcement video is available for viewing on Missouri Preservation's website www.preservemo.org and on social media. In addition to the 2021 list, Missouri Preservation invites individuals to explore the interactive map available at www.preservemo.org/we-advocate/places-in-peril which pinpoints past-listed Places in Peril and lists their known status from successfully saved, in-progress, needing help, and in some unfortunate cases, lost. The 2021 Places in Peril announcement is sponsored by STRATA Architecture + Preservation.

About Missouri Preservation

Founded in 1976 as the Missouri Heritage Trust, Missouri Preservation has evolved into a respected grassroots network of individuals, organizations, and preservation commissions throughout Missouri. Missouri Preservation advocates for, educates about, and assists in the preservation of architectural and historic landmarks that embody Missouri's unique heritage and sense of place.

For Release After 7:00 pm, October 20, 2021

Information on how you can support each of these endangered places can be found at www.preservemo.org/we-advocate/places-in-peril

Dorman House

Clinton, MO (Henry County)

Built in 1852, the Dorman House is the currently the oldest standing two-story home in Clinton, Missouri. It was built by Judge Jerubial Gideon Dorman and his wife, Udolpha Eagle, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 not only for its architectural significance, but also due to Dorman's long influence in Clinton and Henry County. The home remained in the Dorman family for over 150 years but fell into disrepair as fortunes dwindled. Clinton Main Street purchased the home in 1996 from the Dorman family and spent six years restoring the house using volunteer labor. They repaired deteriorating brick work, removed a wooden addition from the late 1900s, and replaced the existing porch with a replica of the original. Unfortunately, any fixtures of value had been sold, so the committee repurposed materials from other local homes which had been destroyed in recent years. Clinton Main Street utilized the home as their office until 2008,

when it was deeded to the Henry County Historical Society. While the historical society has kept up with minor maintenance over the years, including a new roof, larger issues with the structure have become more apparent. The east side of the home exhibits minor cracking and separation — and after major rains for several years in a row — the house has developed severe foundation and wall issues. The 2-story, rear addition is the most concerning, with a bulging exterior wall and sinking threshold. The Henry County Historical Society needs to take immediate action to prevent further damage and possible loss of the Dorman House. It is hoped that listing as a Place in Peril will raise awareness for the Save the Dorman capital improvement campaign and help the historical society find the expertise needed to guide them through the creation of a historic structures report and the proper restoration of this Clinton landmark.

Union Hotel

Jefferson City, MO (Cole County)

Located down the hill from the Missouri Capitol Building and within feet of the Missouri River and railroad, the 1855 Union Hotel at Lohman's Landing in Jefferson City has stood witness to a number of important events and people in Missouri's history. Originally called the Missouri Hotel, the current moniker was adopted upon the return of the hotel's owner from the Civil War to reflect his military sentiments. When river traffic slowed (following arrival of the railroad) the hotel was used for storage and tenements. In the early 1900s the hotel and nearby Lohman Building were purchased for use as a factory and offices for the Tweedle Shoe Company. The state acquired both buildings in the 1960s with the intent of demolishing them for a parking lot, but concerned citizens led by Missouri Preservation's founding member Elizabeth Rozier spearheaded a campaign to save the buildings. Both the Union Hotel and Lohman building were restored to create Jefferson Landing State Historic Site, which opened to the public in 1976. The Union Hotel became home to the Elizabeth Rozier Gallery which housed temporary exhibits on Missouri history, art and culture. Missouri State Parks utilized the upper floors for offices and since 1984, the lower floor has functioned as a passenger station for Amtrak. The building was closed in late 2019 due to structural concerns and in August of 2020 the state issued a report detailing issues and estimated construction costs. During the 2021 legislative session, local non-profit organization Historic City of Jefferson campaigned to have the Union Hotel included as part of Jefferson City's "Capitol Complex" – this effort has not yet been successful. Historic City of Jefferson hopes that listing the Union Hotel as a Place in Peril will encourage support from members of the state legislature in 2022.

Oakley Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Tebbetts, MO (Callaway County)

In 1878, during the aftermath of the Civil War, one acre of land in Tebbetts, Missouri was deeded to the "Trustees of the Colored Methodist Church" and became the site of Oakley Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E) Church. While a large number of freed slaves left Callaway County following the war, a significant number remained and built churches that played integral roles in these communities. One example is Oakley Chapel, which during the 1920's and 30's was used as a school for Black children who were denied public educational access offered solely by "white schools." Oakley Chapel was the first of three A.M.E. churches in the county and remains the only one standing. By the mid-twentieth century, the county's Black population began to decline. As a result, the county's Black churches either closed or consolidated with Oakley Chapel. Oakley Chapel continued to operate until the 2010s and has been closed since that time – Callaway County's last active A.M.E. church. Oakley Chapel is a classic example of a vernacular rural church and has been carefully maintained over the years to preserve its pivotal role, not only as a place of worship, but as a significant gathering place and piece of Callaway County's Black community and history. Tragedy struck in January 2021 when vandals broke into the building by breaking doors and extensively damaged the chapel's interior. Original stained-glass windows were shattered, handcrafted walnut pews installed in 1949 from Cave A.M.E. Church were splintered, the pulpit and altar rail were destroyed, and the organ was overturned. Scorch marks on the floor remain from attempted arson. While the Tebbetts Community came together to temporarily board up the

structure, Oakley Chapel remains vulnerable to deterioration and vandalism. A major concern is the chapel's isolated location. MFA Oil Company has donated land for possible relocation of the church to a more visible location in town, along Highway 94 near the Katy Trail. Community leaders, residents, and the African Methodist Episcopal Church are exploring how moving the church could preserve its legacy and continue to tell the story of the resilient Black communities in Callaway County. It is hoped that listing Oakley Chapel as a Place in Peril will attract more volunteers and much-needed donors, as well as promote the restoration process and allow the community, historians, religious leaders and others to provide their assistance in preserving the property.

Grand Auglaize Bridge “Brumley Swinging Bridge” Brumley, MO (Miller County)

While known by many names, the Grand Auglaize Bridge is memorable to many as the “swinging” bridge. This 500-foot wired cable suspension bridge spans the Grand Auglaize Creek about 2 miles southwest of the Village of Brumley in Miller County, Missouri. Built in 1930-31, the Grand Auglaize Bridge is one of seven suspension bridges built around Miller County by Joseph A. Dice, a unique bridge builder who did not draw his plans but instead relied on his memory and a ball of twine for measuring. The Grand Auglaize Bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2020 for having retained the highest degree of historic integrity among the remaining Dice bridges. For almost 90 years the bridge carried vehicular traffic across its wooden deck between Miller and Camden Counties. It has served as an attraction for visitors to Lake of the Ozarks State Park and is truly unique for the noise made by the wooden planks when driving across the structure. The bridge has been a focal point in many photos for graduations, proms and weddings – it provides a deep emotional connection for many locals. An inspection by MoDOT in 2021 resulted in the closure of the bridge to both vehicular and foot traffic. Following the bridge's closure, Miller County performed preliminary engineering inspections to determine the scope of work required to repair the bridge and safely reopen it to the public. The total to fix the bridge and retain its historic integrity was estimated as \$650,000 - funding that is not available in Miller County's budget. Because the bridge is currently closed, no maintenance is being performed and continued deterioration is inevitable. While the bridge's ultimate fate remains in question, supporters hope that listing the Grand Auglaize Bridge as a Place in Peril will raise awareness and help raise much-needed funds to repair the structure. Supporters have created “Save the Historical Brumley Swinging Bridge,” a not-for-profit organization intended to facilitate advocacy and fundraising efforts for the Grand Auglaize Bridge.

Joplin Union Depot Joplin, MO (Jasper County)

On June 30, 1911, Joplin Union Depot opened to the public. This reinforced concrete structure was designed by Kansas City architect Louis Curtiss and helped define Curtiss' reputation as a pioneer in fireproof construction. Unlike other train depots at the time, which generally depict classical stylistic elements, Curtiss' design incorporated geometric embellishments to create a Prairie-modern style building. The depot serviced the Kansas City Southern, Missouri-Kansas-Texas and Santa Fe Railroads, and allowed the already growing Joplin area to flourish. On November 3, 1969, the last train departed the depot and for over fifty years the building has remained vacant. Since 1972, groups have proposed alternate uses for the structure, including a Joplin Museum Complex, but nothing ever came to fruition. The building is currently threatened by a number of factors including neglect and deterioration as well as vandalism. The once white painted walls are covered with graffiti. Current players in advocacy for the future of the depot include the City of Joplin, the Joplin Historic Preservation Commission, Downtown Joplin Alliance, Post Art Library, Historic Murphysburg Preservation, Inc., and other regional preservation groups and residents. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office has owned the building since 1998 with hopes of finding a buyer who will rehabilitate the structure. Supporters hope that listing the Joplin Union Depot as a Place in Peril will raise awareness of the property's availability and help find a developer to restore this important piece of Joplin's history.

**935 Broadway “Seiden’s Furs”
Kansas City, MO (Jackson County)**

The two-story building at the corner of 10th and Broadway in Kansas City, built in 1874 as the Brackett Brothers Drugstore, is most commonly remembered as the home of Seiden’s Furs. A 1980 architectural survey noted that the building is the oldest existing structure in Kansas City’s Central Business District. When the building closed in 2007, Seiden’s remained one of the oldest businesses in the city. The iconic, vertical neon sign spelling “SEIDENS” and an orange fox still hangs above the corner entrance and boxes of fur coats still fill the vacant building. In July 2021 heavy rains caused a partial roof collapse and shortly afterward, the property was tagged by the city as dangerous. Interested parties have attempted to acquire the building for many years but the owners have so far been resistant, requesting a sum for the property no less than one million dollars. Local artists have envisioned turning the building into Seiden’s Art Studios featuring low-cost rental spaces for artists. Supporters hope that listing 935 Broadway as a Place in Peril will encourage the owners to either repair and reuse their building or accept a reasonable sale offer from one of numerous interested buyers, returning the former Seiden’s Furs to its status as a viable resource in the Central Business District.

Photo Links:

Dorman House (Photo Credit Henry County Museum)

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/a0lhcx96whs9mz6/Dorman%20House Henry%20County%20Museum.jpeg?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/a0lhcx96whs9mz6/Dorman%20House%20Henry%20County%20Museum.jpeg?dl=0)

Union Hotel (Photo Credit Anne Green)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/p3cju2ckvd70xee/Union%20Hotel Anne%20Green.jpg?dl=0>

Oakley Chapel (Photo Credit)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/u9wgjyxpp0jf9zq/Oakley%20Chapel.png?dl=0>

Grand Auglaize Bridge (Photo Credit Missouri Life Magazine)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/mv8n9mkjlvizad/Grand%20Auglaize%20Bridge Missouri%20Life%20Magazine.jpg?dl=0>

Joplin Union Depot (Photo Credit: Jill Sullivan)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/7qbb761se87tham/Union%20Depot Jill%20Sullivan.jpg?dl=0>

935 Broadway “Seiden’s Furs” (Photo Credit Lauren Manning)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3ldgb2gr07ewx2j/395%20Broadway%20Seidens Lauren%20Manning.jpg?dl=0>