### Upcoming events

- **Now—Dec ’09**  
  From Southwest to Midwest: A story of Germans who became Missourians. Exhibit at the Missouri State Capitol Museum

- **December 5**  
  Living Windows—6-9pm  
  Downtown Jefferson City

- **December 5-6**  
  Mansion Candlelight tours 7-9pm Friday, 4-6pm Saturday

- **December 6**  
  Kristkendelfest, Old Munichberg

- **December 6**  
  Christmas Parade, 2 pm  
  Downtown Jefferson City

- **January 7-31, 2009**  
  A City Within a City; Missouri State Penitentiary 1836-2004. Exhibit, Missouri State Capitol Museum

- **March 20, 2009**  
  HCJ Annual Dinner meeting, Central United Church of Christ, Washington St.

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### Zion Chapel Ole’Time Gospel Meetin’  
Blends History and Entertainment

The small country church off Route C in Cole county was built in 1906 but the Lutheran congregation that it housed dated back to 1845. The congregation of Zion Chapel disbanded in 1977 and the old church was restored by Joe and Liz Page. It’s current owner, June Netta Nevins opened up the church for the Historic City of Jefferson and re-enactor, David Clifton, on Sept. 28 for a trip back in time. Clifton portrayed the “unpredictable” Rev. Peter Cartwright, a legendary revival preacher of the 1800’s. The River Ridge String Band played some sing-along gospel music to a “congregation” of around 80. A reception following the “service” featured homemade pies baked by Nevins.

Some attendees shared stories of relatives buried in the church cemetery. Janet Maurer tells how her Grandfather, a musician, would drive his old Ford to the chapel to play for weddings and funerals. He had to drive up the hill to the church backwards because gas would run back into the gas tank and stall out the car!

It is interesting to note that at one time Catholics and Lutherans shared the chapel, alternating Saturday and Sunday services.

We want to thank sponsors, Kent, Christy and Kyle Trimble, Dulle-Trimble Funeral Home; Darryl and Connie Hubble, Whaley’s East End Pharmacy; and Chez Monet.
To me, it was like meeting Abraham Lincoln or Thomas Jefferson. There I was in New Harmony, Indiana, one of the great preservation success stories in this country, having afternoon tea with Mrs. Jane B. Owen, the 93 year old woman who took a sleepy little town and turned it into a heritage tourism destination par excellence.

My wife, Kay, and I have visited New Harmony several times over the last 30 years. Located just across the Illinois border in southwest Indiana, it was a town that time seemed to have forgotten. But in the 1940s, Mrs. Owen decided the course of history had to be changed. New Harmony was not going to wither and die, it was too historically important for that. She took the bull by the horns and not only preserved some of the most historically significant buildings in the town, but built new ones to compliment the old. Her formula for success merged historic preservation, modern architecture, art, and even theology, to create a most remarkable place.

She founded the New Harmony Inn (slogan: “Find your way back to quiet”) and the Red Geranium restaurant, where we met for breakfast the morning after our tea last July. I asked her then, “Did you have a grand plan?” Her answer: “Of course not.”

Grand plan or not, New Harmony is a grand place to visit thanks to this truly grand lady.

Mrs. Owen was honored at an awards ceremony on Oct. 23 at the annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. I was honored to be in attendance at that event. If ever a person deserved a national award like this, it is she.

If you want to know more about Mrs. Owen and the town she reinvented, I suggest you visit this Web site: www.usi.edu/hnh And, if you get the chance, go to New Harmony and see for yourself. The slogan is not just a slogan. In New Harmony you really can find your way back to quiet.
Golden Hammer Awards
August, September and October winners

Historic City of Jefferson concluded its inaugural year for the Golden Hammer awards in October. Six homes were recognized May through October for tasteful rehabilitation of their older homes, contributing to the revitalization of their neighborhoods, adding aesthetically to the city’s streetscape and preserving our historic architecture. All of the homes reside in older neighborhoods, some in blighted areas, and will hopefully serve as a catalyst for neighborhood renewal.

The Golden Hammer awards will resume next year in April or May.

ABOVE: 1031 West Main—August
The home of Brian Donnelly was built circa 1903. It has been returned to a single family dwelling after many years split up into 4 apartments. The beautiful exterior colors and landscaping is a drive-by eye-catcher while the inside captures the creative and eclectic decorating talents of Mr. Donnelly.

LEFT: 114 E. Atchison—September
This 1910 home in the Munichberg district is a Habitat for Humanity success story. Owner Erin Geick contributed many hours of labor toward its rejuvenation. An interesting note: Habitat volunteer David Schwaller discovered it was built by his great grandfather. The Schwaller family lived at the home until the 1950s.

RIGHT: 301 E. Ashley—October
The renovation of this Munichberg home is a dramatic transformation. It was vacant and in a state of decay for 10 years before Lisa Castillo and Don Galbreath saw investment potential in it. It was a total make-over. “We just started knocking things down and got carried away,” say Castillo. The 1700 square foot house had been split into 4 apartments, the front porch was gone and had a rotten back porch. The owners plan to sell the property and invest in another distressed older property.
Many Jefferson City residents are asking the question, “What are they going to do with that old prison?” Area residents wonder if anyone has given much thought to what to do about the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). The answers to those questions are: there is a plan in place to redevelop the MSP site, and a lot of thought has gone into the future of the 142 acres that formerly housed some of the worst criminals in the state.

The state of Missouri, under the Office of Administration (OA), began the process of developing a master plan for the MSP site in 1999. Public meetings were held to get input from the public about what people in this community and in the state wanted to see happen at the MSP site.

In 2001, Section 217.900 of the Missouri Revised Statutes (RSMo) established the Missouri State Penitentiary Redevelopment Commission. This commission is made up of ten commissioners. Three commissioners are from Jefferson City, appointed by the mayor with the consent of the City Council. Three commissioners are from Cole County, appointed by the county commission. The remaining four commissioners are appointed by the governor. This commission has many powers and duties, including acquiring title to the property and leasing or selling property to developers.

The MSP Redevelopment Master Plan was finalized in November 2002. This plan divides the 142 acres site into seven areas:

- The Historic Area
- The Judicial Center Area
- The Community Area
- The Office Area
- The Landing Area
- The Entertainment Area
- The Natural Resources Area.

The plan also identified the Top 10 buildings with historic value:

- Housing Unit 4
- Housing Unit 1
- Housing Unit 3A And 3B
- The Wall and Towers (Upper Yard)
- Gas Chamber
- Centennial Cells
- I-Hall
- The Wall and Towers (Lower Yard)
- Shoe Factory and
- Potato House.

Since the MSP Redevelopment Master Plan was adopted by the MSP Redevelopment Commission two state office buildings have been constructed on the site: the Lewis and Clark Office Building, which houses Missouri’s Department of Natural Resources, and the new State Health Lab. In the next few months ground will be broken for the new federal courthouse which will be constructed on the western edge of the site. The MSP Redevelopment Commission is in the process of hiring a master developer to oversee development of MSP. A group representing Naval veterans has expressed interest in putting a retired naval ship on the Missouri River at the MSP site. The ship would be a Naval war museum.

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Many central Missouri residents remember visiting MSP when it was still a prison for concerts put on by the inmates, to play baseball (the field was rumored to be the best baseball field in Jefferson City) and other events. Some of our older citizens recall concerts that inmates gave on the lawn of the Marmaduke House. The 1954 riot illustrated serious problems that were taking place in the prison, overcrowding, violence against staff and other inmates, drugs and other dangerous situations.

Today, the MSP site is a reminder of good and bad things in our community’s history. The MSP Redevelopment Master Plan envisions preserving the most significant historical structures and at the same time developing the site as a economically thriving area that will stimulate our area and provide necessary office and meeting space as well as tourist attractions and entertainment venues.

In the 1950s Jefferson Citians frequently read about crimes taking place on the prison grounds in the local newspaper. Yet this city was surprised when the 1954 prison riot broke out. If we as a community continue to be complacent about the redevelopment of the MSP site, and only concern ourselves with it by asking “What are they going to do with that old prison?” we may have some unpleasant surprises in our future.

We should be taking an active role in the MSP site by attending the MSP Redevelopment Commission’s monthly meetings and contacting city council representatives to discuss the redevelopment of this area.

As noted above, the MSP wall and guard towers were identified as part of the most historic structures on the site. However, the walls are at risk of collapsing. Before the prisoners were moved to the new prison part of the wall on East Capitol did collapse. The state legislature has not allocated money to stabilize the wall. One proactive thing that Historic City of Jefferson members can do is contact your state legislator to ask that the Missouri Assembly budget money for this purpose in the next legislative session.

As one of the MSP commissioners stated at a recent meeting, “Without the wall, it’s just a bunch of old buildings no different than any other old buildings.”

Right: The shell of a burnt out building inside the wall after the 1954 prison riot, looking north from the corner of E. Capital and Chestnut streets. The guard towers, since replaced once matched towers at the Warden’s house (Marmaduke house).


Missouri’s Rep. Ike Skelton and Sen. Kit Bond as well as Gov. Matt Blunt were on hand at the official ground breaking for the construction of the new federal courthouse in Jefferson City. The $70 million structure will be located on the northwestern edge of the MSP prison redevelopment site.

The Western District courthouse is currently in the top floors of the Jefferson City U.S. Post office at 133 W. High St. Construction of the new courthouse is expected to start by mid November and ready to occupy by 2011.

In the meantime, planners will grapple with the problem of providing easy assess to the site from U.S. highway 50. Draft plans involve a Lafayette Street interchange and a modification of the Clark Avenue interchange. A proposal to widen existing streets is expected.

Preservationists will probably need to brace themselves for tough loses of older architecture in this area. There will be public hearings next year, before any plans are implemented.
German Emigration in Missouri, Exhibit at Missouri State Capitol Museum

If you come from Central Missouri German stock you might find this temporary exhibit at the Missouri State Capitol Museum interesting; *From Southwest to Midwest: A story of Germans who became Missourians*. In the early 1800s during social unrest and political upheaval in their homeland, many Germans came to the United States. From the 1830s to 1910, Germans from the Baden-Wurttemberg area of southwest Germany settled along the Missouri river from Jefferson City to St. Louis and south down the Mississippi river to Ste. Genevieve. They brought with them their culture; music, art, food and craftsmanship.

The exhibit will run through December 2009.

…. and another exhibit worth catching: *A City Within a City: MSP 1836—2004*

The exhibit: *A City Within a City: Missouri State Penitentiary, 1836—2004* will be displayed in the State Capitol Museum for only a limited time, January 7—31, 2009. As you may have guessed, our fellow member, Mark Schreiber, a former Corrections official and author of “Somewhere in Time” has had a hand in the development of this exhibit. Many artifacts and memorabilia will be on display.

HCJ HAS POSTCARD BOOKS FOR SALE

This special collection is available at Samuel's Tuxedo, 236 E. High St. and at a discount to HCJ members. These would make perfect gifts for your children’s teachers, your employees or employer. Proceeds will benefit various HCJ programs.

Visit our Web site at www.historiccityofjefferson.org