

Preservation News

Jan. 2002

Home Tour

This year's home tour was a rousing success. Approximately 270 people participated in the tour. From what we have gathered, there were absolutely no complaints and we are compiling a list of potential home tour locations for next year. Thank you for your participation.

Membership

It is also time to renew your membership for 2002. Keep in mind that your membership includes the Indiana Historic Landmarks Foundation magazine. The previous month even showcased gyms of which Martinsville's historical gym was the premier article. We plan to suggest an article on renovated historic jails of which there are several in Indiana and one of which we know in Martinsville. A change to the membership is that of "Company" versus "Organization". If you wish to pay a membership for a business, the cost is \$35.00. You are invited, in this category, to submit a small ad for your business which will be printed in each newsletter. We are planning to send out newsletters at least twice a year to keep the membership informed of preservation events and actions. Please keep in mind that your membership contributions are also tax deductible. In the event that you have not received a letter from MCHPS, we will be sending letters acknowledging your contribution for tax purposes in 2002 for your records. You might also consider giving a gift membership for friends or family. We are including an addressed envelope for your convenience in addition to a membership form for the year 2002. Your contributions assist in the following areas:

Jail

In case you haven't noticed, the jail has a new roof! It is a period reproduction of a covering that was used to cover a shake roof. We are currently experiencing difficulties with the built-in concealed cornice gutters and plan to remedy the problems. Tina and Judy of Hummingbird Heaven have a lease on the building and have installed 3 furnaces in order to heat the building. The majority of the jail cells in the rear of the building are used for storage purposes. The old apartment quarters of the sheriff on the second level are used for renting dealer spaces for antiques in addition to the two women's holding cells. Space is still available for dealers of quality antiques. Tina is also accepting consignments. For further information, please contact her at 34Space is still available for dealers of quality antiques. Tina is also accepting consignments. For further information, please contact her at 349-1949. If you haven't had a chance to come by and see the differences, please do so. Hummingbird Heaven occupies the first floor. Jail cell tours are given for \$2.00 per person which contributes to the upkeep of the building. Thank you and thank Tina and Judy for all their support and your support in preserving this significant facility – if the walls could only talk!

Hite-Finney House

The McGuires finally are in possession of the Hite-Finney House and have many plans in renovating this historic home including the potential of renting portions of the house. They are pursuing grants and loans in their efforts to "put the house back the way it was" as much as they possibly can. If you have any ideas or thoughts to support them in their efforts, please contact Mike McGuire at

Web Site

Believe it or not, we finally have a web site thanks to Mark Stuttgen, he has spent many hours adding information about Martinsville's historic preservation efforts including photos and descriptions of our recent Christmas home tour. Thank you Mark. If you have a personal computer, please visit the web site at www.mchps.org Any suggestions you might have will be welcome.

Kennedy Home

This is probably the most critical issue that we have at this time. The wrecking ball is due to come again to Martinsville to yet another landmark which contributed to the name "Artesians". In addition to a neon sign that is still on top of one of the buildings on the square (albeit not working and who knows for how long it will be there), this is another mineral spring landmark that is destined to become non-existent. The facts are very fuzzy and the owner representatives do not return telephone calls. This health care facility apparently will be torn down at the expense of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. The current owners refuse to donate the building and would rather pay the money to tear it down that give it to anyone who would like to utilize it. This information came to us in late December with the date of February ??? to sell it. Because of the late notification, there is very little we can do. Local officials don't appear to be concerned that yet another historic building will disappear (let alone all the local people who were employed there). Where does the Mayor stand in this issue? Indiana Historical Landmarks Foundation has been involved in addition to our organization but the facts cannot be ascertained as to why this is such a "rush" project. If you, too, are concerned, please contact the Mayor's office to see what you can do.

Board Members

We have a new board member and secretary of the board, Terry Bell, who recently relocated to the Martinsville area from Knightstown where she implemented a Historic Preservation Commission and owned the Elias Hinshaw House (tower house on Main Street) on US 40. She has also contributed to the upkeep of the jail by renting a "cell" for her Victorian clothing and other items.

Dates to remember:

Annual Meeting:

We are also considering the following money making projects and events:

"Flea Market" at the jail in the spring and summer months
Still have candle holders and ornaments
Providing space for historical photographs of homes in the jail
Potential jail brochure with before and after photos
Luminaries for Veterans Day or Christmas

Projects:

Bridge
School
School
Kennedy Home
Neon Sign