

Memphis Heritage, Inc.  
2282 Madison Avenue at  
Edgewood  
Memphis, TN 38104

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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Memphis, TN  
Permit No. 965



# MEMPHIS HERITAGE

## KEYSTONE

### NOT JUST ANOTHER PRETTY FACE



The building that houses the Nineteenth Century Club on Union Avenue has a rich history. Built in 1907 by lumber baron Rowland Darnell as his family home, the interior was fitted with the finest wood from England, France, and Italy, when Memphis was the lumber capitol of the world; it boasted state of the art plumbing fixtures, and grand, sweeping contours, making it a showplace in its time along with the many other stately mansions that lined Union Avenue at the turn of the twentieth century. When Darnell died in 1919 the house continued to be lived in by his family for only a year and was acquired by Memphian Leslie M. Stratton who lived in the house for six years. Stratton is memorialized by having the downtown YMCA named for him. In 1926 the building became the headquarters for the women's club called the Nineteenth Century Club, which had been founded late in the previous century by Elise Massey Seldon.

The Club was not a tea and bridge venue in its early days. Indeed, it was an active, vital social center where women's and community issues merged into action on a regular basis. This club was responsible for many of the things

that are now taken for granted by our city. Among its numerous causes:

- Initiated program efforts to build Memphis General Hospital, now the Med.
- Influenced legislation that created the first juvenile court laws and the Memphis-Shelby County Juvenile Court

in 1910.

- Organized the first public playground in the Memphis Park System.
- Instrumental in bringing about employment of the first police matron for care of women prisoners.
- Established and operated the ELC (Elizabeth Club) which is now the Lowenstein-Long House to provide a residence for young employed women on low incomes.
- Its board founded and served as the first board of City Beautiful in 1930 and provided housing in the Club quarters.
- Organized Memphis Arts Association and founded the Free Art School, a forerunner of the Memphis Art Academy.
- Established an employment service for women, hired and trained the first women elevator operators.
- Initiated the first of the Free Baby Clinics.
- Sponsored legislation to establish the Vocational School at Tullahoma, The Mother's Pension Act, equal guardianship for mothers and fathers; and state laws permitting women to serve on school boards.
- Sponsored and provided equipment and staff to the first Children's Heart Clinic, now a part of Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.

- Provided leadership, volunteers and support to Memphis Heart Association, Cancer Society, Community Chest, Shelby United Neighbors (United Way), Cotton Carnival (Carnival Memphis), American Red Cross and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

- Worked to get the vote for Women

Over the years the Club became more social and membership declined to a point that its very existence was jeopardized and it was left in the hands of a small directorial contingent that made all decisions. In the meantime, there was little money for maintaining the spacious house, or making necessary repairs. As long ago as 1998, the condition of the house placed it in Environmental Court. The place acquired a seedy look and the functions of the house as a club or party venue had to eventually cease pending repairs. The court appointed a repairman to do work on the building but the leadership of the Club would not let him continue repairs, turning him away in January 2012. It was at that point, when the Club failed to comply with the requirements of the Court, that the fire department and the Court declared the building closed to further occupation. An estate sale was held shortly thereafter and many of the Club's furnishings were sold off.

For over twenty years, a group called the Women's Foundation had offered to buy and restore the Club building and allow the Club to use it for its purposes. The Women's Foundation founded by the Rose/ Hyde Families, both

### MEMPHIS HERITAGE ANNOUNCES NEW PRESENTING SPONSOR DILLARD DOOR & ENTRANCE CONTROL -ADAPT-A-DOOR "5"

**Dillard**

Door & Entrance Control

Memphis Heritage is very pleased to announce that it's 5th Annual Adapt-A-Door Auction will be "The Dillard Door and Entrance Control Adapt-a-Door". In becoming the presenting sponsor, Dillard Door and Entrance Control says by their support of this annual event, that as a company they are not only supporting the efforts of Memphis Heritage Inc. but those past and present individuals that have worked diligently to make Memphis a City of Choice...a society that embraces the past and builds for the future.

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Mr. Dillard's Southern Glass company at 556 Madison Ave. forged its first connection with the door industry – representing Crawford Door Co.

Continued on Page 2

Continued on Page 4

# HEARD ON THE STREETS



## MEMPHIS HERITAGE KEYSTONE

The Keystone is a publication of Memphis Heritage, Inc. Memphis Heritage's mission is to stimulate an appreciation for our heritage and preserve historic places. Our offices are at 2282 Madison Avenue.

You can write to us or call us at 901-272-2727. Or visit our website at [www.memphisheritage.org](http://www.memphisheritage.org).

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- We've heard that the latest large, historic home that needs to be watched is Ashlar Hall at the end of Central Avenue. Ashlar Hall, once known as nightspot The Castle has been on and off the market for years. Recently, some of the facade and entrance has lost some stone. There has been discussion that current owner, Robert Hodges and Judge Potter in Environmental Court are trying to come up with positive solutions to satisfy the issues raised in environmental court.

We've heard (noticed, really) that at least three new tenants are moving into Overton Square and the parking garage is showing serious progress. Just across the street, at the corner of Monroe and Cooper work continues on a house that will be a new bar/ restaurant. No name confirmed as of press time.

We've heard that the French Quarter Inn has another plan in the works Too soon to report anything, though. The nearly 78,000 square foot building built in 1984 would be a large undertaking and has been empty since 2008. A plan for a Comfort Suites never materialized and it sits as a big empty in a vibrant part of midtown.

A Fresh Market in midtown is likely going to happen, according to various reports. While the location at McLean and Union appears to be the frontrunner, there is a possible second location they have been scouting. With over 100 locations across the country, they are large but much smaller than similar grocer Whole Foods. Squash Blossom, on Union near McLean was bought by Wild Oats and then became part of Whole Foods. Meanwhile, Kroger is spending millions to replace their 1761 Union Avenue location (new location will be on south side of Union bordered by LeMaster and Idlewild) with a much larger store and has hosted community meetings unveiling their evolving plans and accepting feedback. The current Union Avenue location is about 40,000 square feet. Newly expanded stores tend to be about 55,000-65,000 square feet. Kroger had to assemble several properties to plan for the new Union store.

We've heard there have been talks about a parking garage in Cooper-Young. Parking seems to come at a premium there these days with paid parking more common. Street parking on most days remains plentiful. No plan has been announced as of press time.

Plans for the new McDonalds on Highland have brought planners, the University of Memphis, city/county representatives and local neighborhood organizers together to discuss recently unveiled plans that would remove buildings on the east side of Highland at Southern and replace them with a new McDonalds location. Whatever and the Super Sub Shop currently occupy these buildings. The restaurant chain would close the location just down the street on Highland. The latest plans do not conform to overlay guidelines for the University District overlay. Look for more details as plans evolve.

### ADAPT-A-DOOR

# Dillard

Door & Entrance Control

- a manufacturer of sectional overhead doors. See more of the history of Dillard Door at <http://www.dillarddoor.com>.

Go to History of company.

This year's event will be held on Saturday Nov.2, 2013 starting at 7pm. NOTE: our exciting location is a going to be a surprise so stay tuned!! In April, architects, artists and designers made a \$25 commitment to participate in the pre-auction event at the Sears Crosstown building, the Dunkin' Donut Door Dash, where they raced for salvaged doors that Memphis Heritage volunteers rescued from old buildings around the city. The participants create something new using these doors and windows and present their designs to the public at the Adapt-A-Door Auction and Party. All proceeds from the event will go to Memphis Heritage and its efforts to preserve the architectural heritage of Memphis.

"The preservation of historical landmarks and Memphis architecture is our No. 1 priority, and the Adapt-A-Door Auction is a great way to engage the community and expose others to our efforts," said June West, executive director of Memphis Heritage. "We have lots of fun at this event, and we are looking forward to another successful year."

At the event, guests can bid on the door creations and participate in voting for first, second and third place winners in the "Best of Door" contest.

The Dillard Door and Entrance Control Adapt-A-Door Auction and Party is open to the public. Tickets, which include admission, food by The Slider Inn and Bardog Tavern and beverages, are \$35 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. If you are not already a MHI member you can join and purchase the tickets at the member price on line. Advanced tickets are available at [www.memphisheritage.org](http://www.memphisheritage.org) or by calling 901-272-2727. Advanced ticket purchase is highly suggested, as this event will reach capacity.



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in his yard during the Mid-South Fair each September at fifty cents a car. And I worked at the Fairgrounds for a few years at a twenty-five cent picture booth owned by one of my neighbors. I spent many nights in that house on Parkway listening to the pleasant noises from across the

## OUR CAROUSEL—

### Lest We Forget

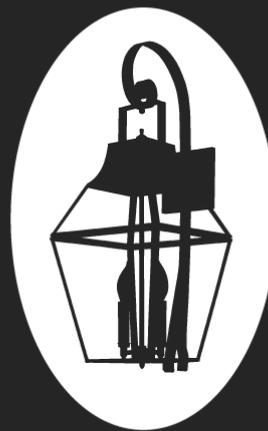
Lest we forget, a Memphis gem is packed away in a local warehouse, waiting to return to its former glory. I speak of the Grand Carousel from the Memphis Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds on East Parkway is no more. The sights and sounds of the happy children and adults who spent time riding rides, eating Pronto Pups (invented there), and strolling from one exhibit to another are just ghosts lost in the barren acres of a beautiful past. Personally, I have a special connection to the old amusement park that was moved from the current Overton Square section of the city in the 1920's to its final location on one of the major parkways that used to define the city limits of Memphis. My uncle, Bob Ewing, was one of the kids in the neighborhood who was on hand when the new rollercoaster "The Pippin" was constructed in 1923 and needed guinea pigs for a test ride. He was 14 years old. He recalled the thrill of that venture for the rest of his 93-year life. Besides, my mother was born at 927 East Parkway directly across the street from the Fairgrounds. She grew up in that house where her parents lived until they died in the 1960's. My frugal grandfather parked overflow cars

street. Around midnight, an old vinyl recording of "GOODNIGHT SWEETHEART", a song written in the 1920's, was played over a loudspeaker announcing the park's closing for the evening. That melodic tune wafting in my window was a memory I have never forgotten. Nor have I forgotten many rides on the Pippin and the "merry-go-round", as we called it. The Grand Carousel was a major feature at the Fairgrounds during those halcyon days. It was built in early 1900's for Forest Park in Chicago and stayed there from 1909-1920 when a fire damaged it. The carousel went back to its manufacturer, the Denztel Carousel Company, for repairs and was subsequently sold to the Memphis Fairgrounds. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Festooned with angels, jester, mirrors and numerous white lights, the splendiferous machine has 32 jumping horses, 16 standing horses, and 2 chariots all brightly painted yellow, red, blue, and green. Recorded music, much of it organ selections, played while the carousel spun gracefully in a rapid circle, round and round and round. Today it languishes in three watertight semi-trailers in a building at an undisclosed Memphis location, awaiting revival by someone,

sometime, someplace. This is another example of "lost Memphis", one that cries out for resolution before it is forgotten by those of us who care, the several generations of aging adults who remember the thrill of trying to catch the ring on that marvelous, old machine. Surely, there is a suitable place (the grounds of St. Jude Children's Hospital, Children's Museum, downtown, Shelby Farms, Overton Park, or Audubon Park) to reconstruct this valuable piece of our past for kids of all ages to discover or rediscover. Incidentally, Memphis Heritage made a recent inquiry about the Grand Carousel and has been assured that it is being well-maintained and protected in storage. That's good to know but not a satisfactory arrangement for the long term. We want "our carousel" back; that's the least it deserves after its years of glorious service.

By Charlie Lambert

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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## THE RUNDOWN FROM YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MHI's Neighborhood News brings together information from various neighborhood associations around Memphis. If your association is interested in becoming a part of MHI's Neighborhood News, please contact Robert Tom at [rtom@southwest.tn.edu](mailto:rtom@southwest.tn.edu)

### Cooper Young

Festival Friday 4 Miler Sept. 14 at 7 p.m will hit the road. The race will be capped at 2,500 runners. Registration is \$25 or \$35 the day of the race. For the first time this year, people can register to "run in spirit" (i.e., just buy a shirt and cheer on a runner), for \$17.50. Registration is at <http://cooperyoung4miler.racesonline.com>.

### Vollintine Evergreen (VECU)

VECA Bike Night weekly cycling meet-up every Wed in Sept. and Oct. Neighborhood Preservation Thursday, Sept. 26, and Oct. 24, 6pm – 7pm.

The Indie Memphis Film Festival, October 31 through November 3, nationally-ranked as one of the "25 Coolest Film Festivals" by *MovieMaker* magazine and named a "Top 20 Event" by the Southeast Tourism Society. Indie Memphis, marking its 16th anniversary, will show films at three venues in Midtown's Overton Square area, including Playhouse on the Square, The Circuit Playhouse, and on three screens at Malco Theatres'

### NOT JUST ANOTHER PRETTY FACE Continued

prominent in Memphis business circles certainly had or could have raised funds to bring the house back to its pristine grandeur. The Club leaders would not deal with them for any apparent reason. Time passed and, instead of taking the generous offer of the Foundation, the Club leaders put the house on the market to sell in 2010. It was later taken off the market and, after Richard Hackett approached the Club with an offer to help them auction the property with his Children's Museum being the recipient of the proceeds of the auction.

Interestingly enough, the full membership was not involved in the decision to sell the house at auction. After a preliminary vote in 2010 to sell the house, providing it would not be torn down, the membership as a whole was never asked its opinion about subsequent actions taken by the executive committee, against the bylaws of the Club, the executive Commit-

tee assumed it had received full authority to act on behalf of the membership based on the 2010 vote. Fortunately, the subsequent sale of the building and grounds to land developers who are intent on demolishing it immediately has been forestalled by an angry community, the Courts, a disenfranchised Club membership, and even the State Attorney General. Additionally, the Memphis Heritage Inc. with generous financial support from a number of well-known Memphians and other smaller donors has raised enough money to post a bond in excess of \$50,000 to cover any losses the buyers suffer because of the suit, should they prevail in court.

### Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA)

River Arts Fest Friday, Oct 25, 2013 South Main Street Located in the heart Downtown Memphis' South Main Historic Arts District, River Arts Fest 2013 is a three-day street celebration of the visual, performing and culinary arts with attractions and activities for all ages. Over 170 artists from around the country will gather to present their unique selection of original fine arts in what's become this region's largest outdoor juried artist market and urban street festival.

Memphis Farmers Market Saturdays, April thru October, 7 am to 1 pm, rain or shine at the Central Station Pavilion, S. Front Street at GE Patterson in the Historic South Main District, Downtown Memphis. Cost: Free. Come to the weekly farmers market featuring produce, meat, baked goods, handmade items, food trucks, live music and free pet sitting.

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So here we stand at a crossroads. A beautiful, but also strikingly historic structure, being made ready for the wrecking ball so that yet another strip shopping center may rear its ugly head on Union Avenue. June West, Executive Director of the MHI thinks the Women's Foundation might still be interested in the property for use as a venue for women's issues.

### Bartlett

Bartlett Station Farmers Market 7:00AM-Noon until October 2013 at Freeman Park except September 28 (Fall Fest) in the Bartlett Station Historic District.

### Collierville

Solo exhibitions in the Community Art Gallery at the Museum and satellite galleries The Morton Museum and the Collierville Arts Council selected 21 artists for around Collierville. Exhibitions will run for six to eight weeks in three prominent locations—the Morton Museum of Collierville History, Harrell Performing Arts Theatre, and Collierville Town Hall. The Morton Museum of Collierville History is part of the Town of Collierville and admission is always FREE and open to the public Wednesday-Friday, 10-4pm, and Saturday, 1-5pm. The Museum is located at 196 Main Street, Collierville, TN 38017. [www.colliervillemuseum.org](http://www.colliervillemuseum.org).

### Germantown

42nd Annual Germantown Festival, Sept. 7, 2013 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM, 7771 Poplar Pike

If not, the space is an excellent venue for wedding receptions, parties, and the like. It might be converted into a restaurant with the panache of the old Justine's or the Four Flames. Another historic house in the Annesdale-Snowden area is currently being developed as a party venue, one much needed in the city.

Whatever the outcome, a valiant effort is being made to preserve this building for future use and to help keep alive the graceful civilization of the past that is slipping away building by building. Our children's children with assume we only prized storefronts and fast food joints because that's what our landscape is becoming. Aren't we better than that? Don't they deserve to be left with a better impression of our contributions than a row of burger outlets and chicken stands where beauty and function once stood?

By Charlie Lambert  
Thanks to Heather Koury for her substantial contribution to this article.

Franklin Park and Horse Show Grounds Germantown, Tennessee, will once again provide a free family fun weekend for all. The community will show arts and crafts, children's activities, rides and games, live stage entertainment, car exhibits, community displays, the Running of the Weenies Dachshund race and yummy festival food. FreeThe South Main Trolley Night continues to be a tradition giving individuals of all ages an extraordinary monthly festival to see the wonders that the South Main Historic District has to offer (SOMA District). Trolley Night is the last Friday night of each month starting at 6:00 p.m. Free Event.

### Victorian Village

James Lee House Bed and Breakfast (circa 1869) 690 Adams Avenue, Memphis, TN 38105, 901-359-6750.

**Woodruff-Fontaine House** (circa 1870), 680 Adams Avenue, Memphis, TN 38105, 901.526.1469, Noon-4PM, Wednesday thru Sunday. General admission is \$10 per person.

### COME SEE MEMPHIS HERITAGE AT COOPER YOUNG !!!

Once again Memphis Heritage will host a booth at the 26th Annual Cooper Young Festival to be held Sat. Sept. 14th (rain date Sun Sept 15). Our booth will be on the street to the right of the Beauty Shop Restaurant on Cooper just south of Young Ave. Volunteers will help staff the booth that will be offering lots of cool info on how you can get involved with Memphis Heritage. T-shirts, ball caps, posters, and note cards will be available. You can also become a member and receive a free annual calendar. Don't miss this very popular fall event. If you are interested in helping us at Cooper Young email us at [volunteer@memphisheritage.org](mailto:volunteer@memphisheritage.org) or call 901.272.2727.

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10am - 8pm

November 8, 2013

10am - 6pm

November 9, 2013

10am - 5pm



### Dickens Christmas on the Square

December 14, 2013

10am - 7pm

December 15, 2013

1pm - 5pm



## The show must go on: The Ruffin Theater rises from the ashes

For more than 100 years, 113 W. Pleasant Avenue in Covington has been the center of entertainment. First, as the home of the Palace Theater, and now, as the home of the historic Ruffin Theater, a beloved Tipton County landmark for more than 77 years.

William F. Ruffin bought the old Palace Theater from L.L. Lewis in May 1927 and added it to his chain of theatres he had established throughout West Tennessee. In June 1934, he began working with Memphis architect, Anker F. Hansen, to convert the aging theatre into a modern cinema. Ruffin invested thousands of dollars into the Palace's renovation; upgrading the theatre's heating and cooling system and expanding its seating capacity and the building itself.

Ruffin showed movies every night of the week except for Sunday. The community fell in love with the beautifully, updated theatre. But the enjoyment the newly renovated theatre gave the public was short-lived.

At approximately 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 30, 1936, fire was discovered in the balcony of the Palace and quickly spread throughout the building. Damage to the theatre resulted in a total loss. But Ruffin was not deterred. He vowed on the morning of the fire to reopen the Palace Theatre within a few days.

On Friday, Feb. 1, Ruffin showed Covington and West Tennessee, "the show must go on." Opening with a special 3 p.m. matinee performance, the Palace Theatre opened in its temporary location, the Ray Estate building at West Liberty and Munford, just two days after the fire.

Right away, Ruffin began working on designing a new modern theatre, one he was

determined would rival any found in modern cities.

In addition to being built on the location of the former razed theatre, the new theatre would be larger and strictly fireproof, with larger balconies, increased seating capacity and advanced lighting and heating and cooling systems. Ruffin wanted steel pillars, which would support the roof and be absolutely independent of the brick and concrete walls and floors. It was to be a modernistic theatre, following the trend of the time, which called for purely decorative features.

The new theatre opened just six short months after the devastating fire. The 800-seat theatre was the talk of the area, with admirers comparing its design and conveniences to larger metropolitan theatres.

Feeling very proud of his accomplishments, Ruffin christened the new building the Ruffin Theater.

"This is my home town," he said, "and will always be my headquarters, regardless of other theatres I might build or acquire. It is also probably the finest playhouse I shall ever build with my own capital, and I wanted to give it my name."

The first movie in the new theater occurred on Friday, July 24, 1936 with the showing of Joe E. Brown in Earthworm Tractors for two shows at 7:15 and 9 p.m. The grand opening poster read, "Everything brand new – new building, new seats, new carpet, the last word in sound by Western Electric Wide Range and scientifically cooled by the latest General Electric air-conditioning equipment."

By Sherri Onorati

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## Covington to Memphis and Back Again

Memphis and Covington have had an alliance since both cities were founded. Covington is roughly 40 miles from Memphis. That doesn't sound very far away, but if you were making the trip with a horse and buggy, it was an all day trip if not more. It's also interesting that although Covington is 40 miles from Memphis, it's only 17 miles from the Mississippi River. So Covington was also served by the river by way of Randolph Tn. which was once a rival city of Memphis. Randolph was burned to the ground during the Civil War, never to be rebuilt. Covington is the County seat of Tipton County which is steeped with Civil War history.

yellow fever epidemic of 1878, Covington supplied the water for Memphis. It was taken to the Peabody Hotel and distributed there. Covington was also the home of several Memphis leaders around the turn of the century. Even today, Covington is proud of Tn. political leaders such as Jimmy Naifeh.

Covington will have its annual Heritage Day late in September. This is a fun event held on the town square with booths, good food, music, parades, and interesting events such as Civil War reenactments. If you want a fun day in a relaxed friendly atmosphere, it's worth the one hour drive for this all day event. You'll also find great restaurants and great shopping, and a friendly welcoming attitude. Memphis Heritage thanks Covington for their support and reminds us of our great neighbors in West Tennessee.

A landmark in time for the two cities was around 1873. At this time the railroad was completely from Memphis to Covington. And although the railroad was also completed from Paducah Ky. To Dyersburg, the rough terrain and lack of money stopped the connection from Covington to Dyersburg till ten years later. Obviously, that connection increased commerce and available goods in Covington and also formed the towns of Atoka and Brighton, as well as Tipton and Melrose which are also on the railroad route. Covington really began to prosper when the railroad connected from Memphis to Paducah.

An interesting fact for Memphians is that during the nearly one million people, whereas Tipton County has a population of around 60 thousand. The contrast is obvious. It's not surprising that many Memphians have found a second home in Tipton County. Covington is

>Mark Parrish ( with great thanks to Tipton County Genealogist and Historian, David Gwynn)

What's not to love about Tipton County?

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## Memphis' Hollywood Connection

### Part 1

There was a time in our country (1925 to 1958) when Hollywood's vast output of films were physically shipped to distribution centers around the United States and the rest of the world. 20th Century Fox, MGM, Warner, Universal, Paramount, RKO, and Columbia, were major among filmmakers in those days, as well as less prolific studios such as Selznick (where GONE WITH THE WIND, REBECCA, and other classics were filmed), Eagle-Lion, and Samuel Goldwyn. These outposts had the ominous responsibility of filling screens, sometimes several times a week, with new films, newsreels, serials, shorts, etc. To do this, they needed local staffs to coordinate the monumental process.

area, Memphis was the routing hub for most all Hollywood films shown in the area during the heyday of Hollywood studios. An area close to downtown Memphis boasted representatives of all the major studios of the time. Each studio had its own building and staff. The area was designated as "FILM ROW".

Memphis alone had 35-40 theaters spread out all over neighborhoods in the city, not to mention the prestigious first-run houses downtown (Loews Palace, Loews State, Malco, Warner, and The Strand). Each theatre played two films at a time for three or four days before it changed bills. No two theaters ever showed the same film at the same time. That means that 80 to 100 films were shuffling around the neighborhoods of Memphis on a routine basis. This was before FedEx or

Film Transit Company (founded in 1936 and located on Second Street next to the film distribution complex) in trucks to and from the over 650 theaters in our four-state area (including Missouri). Then the reels were shipped back to Hollywood or to other regions for viewing. Today the Film Transit Company is still in business but delivers small packages, not film.

The public probably never gave a thought to how film miraculously appeared in front of them week after week and took it all for granted. But the vast amount of skill, coordination, and expense involved in keeping things looking seamlessly easy was astounding, especially considering that the cost of seeing these films (two at a time) was just pennies per person. Sheer volume has to be the reason the studios could make money in this environment using this system. Actually, there was no other alternative considering the level of technology of that day and

time. But somehow they made it work year after year for decades.

Today, a few of the structures that comprised FILM ROW are still standing. The studio logos on some of them remain, many years after the buildings stopped being film distribution meccas. They stand, abandoned and in need to attention, on Second Street, Vance, and Huling, among others. If anyone has designs on any of these sites to use as some sort of Hollywood-related enterprise, it's is not obvious. Seems a shame that such vital local history has been relegated to oblivion.

by Charlie Lambert



Memphis was one of the foremost film distribution centers in the South. Due to its strategic location in the tri-state

UPS, or digital transfer. Heavy, multiple film reels were carried in and out of distribution centers and delivered by the prolific

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Sep. 26<sup>th</sup> - A Survey of Historical Markers

Come for a presentation by Matt Meador, the 2011 Heritage Board Chairman!

October 19<sup>th</sup> - A History of the Parkview

Come learn more about this and historically significant building, presentation by Judith Johnson (A \$5 donation is suggested, and all proceeds will go to the Heritage Inc.)

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a grand ball room and a gorgeous lobby that showcases original walnut paneling and hand-carved ceilings. This building has a long history both in Memphis and in the lives of Memphians. Today the Parkview operates as a senior living community, having been purchased in the 1960's by the Presbyterian church. The building is currently managed by Brookdale Senior Living and includes a wide array of learning opportunities for

The Historic Parkview, home of honeymoons and first kisses, home to newlyweds and also a respite for new Memphians. A special place which opened with great fanfare on December 31st, 1923, the Parkview began as a luxury residential hotel. The beautiful ground floor boasts

the general community. The Parkview welcomes the community for these presentations, however, advanced reservations are required. Although the presentations are free, there is a suggested donation of \$5.00 to benefit Memphis Heritage.



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### 37th Annual Memphis Central Gardens Historic District Home and Garden Tour!!!

The 37th Annual Memphis Central Gardens Historic District Home Tour will be Sunday, September 8, 2013. Seven outstanding historic homes will be featured, all either on or near historic Central Avenue making this year's tour exceptionally walkable (a complementary shuttle service will also be available for those requiring assistance). Opera Memphis will be featured at the tour this year, a new addition to further enhance your Sunday afternoon! Tour hours are 1:00pm - 6:00pm and tickets can be purchased in advance for \$12.00 on the Central Gardens web site: [www.centralgardens.org](http://www.centralgardens.org) and at multiple retail locations (also noted on the website). Tickets

may also be purchased at any of the homes on tour day for \$15.00. For additional information, including a sneak peek at the homes on tour, please visit the Central Gardens website.

#### 2013 Tour Homes include:

- 1521 Central Avenue
- 1560 Central Avenue
- 1565 Central Avenue
- 1625 Central Avenue
- 1751 Central Avenue
- 1481 Rosemary Lane
- 667 Rozelle Street

Happy to answer any additional questions! Thank you for your attention – come join us!

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When you join Memphis Heritage, you will receive *The Keystone*, a free copy of the annual Memphis Heritage calendar and notice of all special events. Members are offered early registration to many of our events, and are also entitled to vote in the annual election of board members and officers.

Donations to Memphis Heritage are tax deductible to the extent the law allows. Please check with your tax advisor.

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**Baluster** - One of a number of short vertical members, often circular in section, used to support stair handrails or a porch railing.

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## HISTORIC PROPERTIES MARKET

Name	Address	Listing Price	Approx ft <sup>2</sup>	Year Built	Style	Realtor Contact
Dermon Building	46 N. Third St	\$1,900,000	95,000+	1925	Renaissance Revival	Jerry Couloubaritsis, (901)761-4444
Ashlar Hall	1397 Central	\$1,500,000	11,200	1896	Eclectic, Gothic Revival	Sam Bond, (901)826-9450
Tennessee Brewery	495 Tennessee St	\$1,200,000	60,000	1890	Romanesque Revival	James Rasberry, Rasberry CRE (901)722-8234
Clayborne Temple	294 Hernando St	\$1,000,000	20,000	1891	Romanesque Revival	Sam Mitchell, KW Commercial (901)569-2307
Old Memphis Humane Shelter	463 N. Front St	\$ 950,000	6,771	1936	Art Deco	Gary Garland, Garland Company (901)527-7779
Lifelink Church	1015 S Cooper	\$ 795,000	40,000	1912	Modified Spanish Colonial Revival	James Rasberry, Rasberry CRE
Pritchard Building	433 Madison Ave	\$ 195,000	4,500	1903	Commercial with glazed terra cotta masonry	James Rasberry, Rasberry CRE (901)722-8234
Bradford-Maywell House	648 Poplar Ave	\$ 195,000	3,785	1859	Federal with Italianate details	James Rasberry, Rasberry CRE (901)722-8234

The Memphis Heritage Advocacy Committee is looking forward to working with property owners, agents and buyers. Our goal is to act as liaison with all interested parties in order to prevent inappropriate demolitions and work toward proposals that will be favorable to historic properties. If you would like to promote your historic property for sale via The Keystone, or are interested in a property from our listings, please contact our office at 901.272.2727.

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endeavor. Some creative, historically-minded entrepreneur must have an idea for this worthy structure. Let's hope so anyway!

(Thanks to Larry Blades of Seattle, Washington for additional info for this article, including data from Encyclopedia of Southern Orthodox Jewish Life)

**Other Memphis Properties in Limbo:**

1. The Nineteenth Century Club
2. Justine's Restaurant Building
3. Old Marine Hospital on the River
4. Old Tennessee Brewery
5. Sterick Building
6. First Baptist Church on Beale St.
7. Ashlar Hall
8. State Office Building on Mall (downtown)
9. Clayborne Temple

**Anshel Mischne Synagogue****TEN IN LIMBO – Most Endangered**

Memphis is unique among southern cities regarding its religious demographics. Sitting above the Mississippi Delta, just to the east of Arkansas rice fields, and at the extreme western edge of Tennessee – all three areas known as a major representation of the Protestant Bible belt -- Memphis boasts an impressive number of Catholics and Jews, an inordinate percentage, in fact. There are more Catholics in the Memphis region than in the rest of the state's other cities combined. The Jews, too, have an extraordinary array of synagogues from Orthodox to Reformed, plus schools, clubs, and other enterprises. Certainly, the Mississippi River is responsible for much of this. People of all religions came north and south up and down the river, settling along its banks in the 19th century and beyond. Memphis turned out to be the ultimate destination for many of those ethnic voyagers. Churches and synagogues of all types were built back then and a few remain today.

Among the oldest Orthodox synagogues in the city is the Anshei Mischne (meaning "People of the Book") property at 112 Jackson Avenue, a few steps from Main St. in the Pinch District. The unique nature of orthodox, which requires members to avoid any form of motorized or vehicular transporta-

tion on the Sabbath forced many Synagogues to move to the center of the population or become Reform Synagogues, where such restrictions were relaxed.

The synagogue was begun in 1900 after several members of Baron Hirsch Synagogue moved further east in the city (Baron Hirsch is today the largest orthodox Synagogue in the nation). Ten men, led by Judah Friedman, founded Anshei. They used rented space for several years and then rented, finally purchasing, a building on Jackson where the current building stands. This building was not, however, the original synagogue building, which was torn down in 1927 and rebuilt on the same spot, only larger. The new facility boasted 250 permanent seats and a Mikvah (a natural water tank used to emerge those who wish to convert). Ignatz Isaac was the Rabbi of this synagogue for most of its existence while M.D. Blockman served as its president for many years. Anshei boasted 175 members in 1941 but as the congregation moved out of the downtown

Pinch area, it eventually disbanded.

One would think that such an historical site ought to be dedicated as a monument to its early Jewish congregation. The building is small by today's standards so the outlay of funding to remodel it could be accomplished without tremendous hardship for donors. That would be a fitting way to honor the history of the location. The likelihood is that once Bass Pro opens its Pyramid location the Pinch will see renewal and Anshei may meet its fate on the teeth of a bulldozer.

I spoke to Mr. Michael Cruickshank, the current owner who said he has had the building for about twelve years. Much of its history is still unknown. It was once a nightclub. He says the structure is sound and would need little work to restore it to useful status. It was the second synagogue built in Memphis, dating back to the 1850's. He said there was some thought of putting a plaque outside the building recognizing its history or even a tablet with the Ten Commandments but nothing has been done in that regard to date. Mr. Cruickshank hopes the structure will survive in some iteration but, though it is for sale, no immediate plans for it exist.

Memphis has bad reputation for allowing its history to be plowed under in too many cases. It is too late for many other structures with historic value, to be saved, but this is an example of one that is still alive, ready for restoration as a museum or memorial to early Memphis Orthodox Judaism – or maybe as a new home to some other more commercial