

# **center** **city** ©

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## **PLACE OF DISTINCTION GIVEN TO LOCAL LANDMARKS**

After standing years in jeopardy of ruin, the fine architectural history of Memphis—like the buildings of Adams, Beale and Front Streets—has attained some degree of official recognition and statutory protection. A Memphis Landmarks Ordinance, establishing a seven member Commission, a Landmarks Register and a Landmarks Fund, was passed by the City Council this past Tuesday, July 15th.

The Landmarks Commission will be appointed by the Mayor; it is to be made up of one local historian, one architect, one attorney, one engineer, and three local citizens who have demonstrated interest in historical preservation.

A Memphis Landmarks Register will serve as a public record of buildings, sites, and objects which are worthy of special attention and protection. Landmarks will be designated at the recommendations of the Landmarks Commission and the approval of the City Council. Registered landmarks will receive commemorative markers.

The Landmarks Commission will also administer distribution of preservation grants and loans to make needed repairs as required under the ordinance. This will be done through the Landmarks Fund. Only landmarks designated on the Register will be eligible for funding. Initially, \$375,000 will be available from the City's Community Development program to be utilized over a 3 year period. In the future, reimbursements, gifts and other grants will also be deposited into the Memphis

Landmarks Fund.

With this ordinance the City of Memphis has made a substantive policy statement affirming aesthetic and historical value, especially as regards architecture. Though softer than what may be required to accomplish its purposes, and most assuredly ten to twenty years overdue, Memphis will now pursue the documentation and protection of its heritage independent of and in addition to state and federal activities in this area. The success of the Memphis Landmarks Ordinance will depend greatly on the voluntary cooperation of property owners: will they maintain these local monuments, or will the dollar motive override their responsibility to the community?

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For those interested in having a particular structure placed on the Memphis Landmarks Register, the following is a summation of the principal standards, procedures and obligations which designation entails. One of the duties of the newly created Landmarks Commission is to "disseminate information to the public concerning those structures and sites deemed worthy of preservation, and establish a consensus list of those sites...eligible for designation to the Memphis Landmarks Register." However, active participation by citizens in this program is not only a necessary functional element, but a goal of the Landmarks Ordinance; and these duties of the Commission—which, by the way, serves for

five year terms without pay—do not exclude initiatives made on the part of interested citizens.

## MEMPHIS LANDMARKS REGISTER

### Criteria for Designation:

A structure must:

\*have significant...value as part of the development...of the City, County, State or Nation, or association with the life of a person significant in the past; or

be the site of an historic event with a significant effect upon society; or

exemplify cultural, political, economic, social or historic heritage of the community; or

portray the environment of an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or

exemplify the work of a designer whose individual work has significantly influenced the development of Memphis; or

contain significant elements of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship.

### Procedure for Designation:

Designation may be proposed by the City Council or the Memphis Landmarks Commission or the owners or authorized agents for the individual property to be designated. Any such proposal must first be filed with the Executive Secretary (a staff member of the Office of Community Development) and must include all data required by the Memphis Landmarks Commission, such as the name of the landmark, use, location, classification, ownership, description, statements of significance, bibliography, geographical data, photographs, and boundaries.

A public hearing will be held before the Landmarks Commission prior to its recommendation to the Planning Commission.

But, in no event will a landmark site, building or object be so designated without the consent of the property owner.

The Landmarks Commission will recommend approval, disapproval or modification of the proposal, and report its recommendation to the Planning Commission....The Planning Commission will forward its recommendation to the City Council.

### Special Obligations of Landmark Owners:

A Certificate of Appropriateness will be required

for any alterations, demolition, new construction, reconstruction, restoration, remodeling, or other modifications to a building or object within a landmark site.

An application for a Certificate of Appropriateness may be filed by the owner, or authorized agent for the owner, of the property for which permission is sought.

Applications must be filed in the office of the Executive Secretary to the Memphis Landmarks Commission.

The Building Official will conduct periodic investigations of landmarks and if he finds a landmark to be substandard, he will give notice... to the owner...stating in what respect the landmark is substandard, and setting forth the repairs, alteration or improvement required to correct the substandard condition within a reasonable period of time....

If the owner or party in interest fails to comply with a final order by the City Council to repair, alter, preserve or improve a landmark, the Building Official, by such means and with such assistance as may be available to him, is authorized and directed to make the necessary repairs, alterations or improvements....

Violation or failure to comply with the provisions of the Ordinance will make a landmark subject to the City's right of eminent domain.

### Special Benefits of Registration:

[Other than possible tax breaks], the Memphis Landmarks Fund can be used to make rehabilitation loans.

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*\*Editor's Note—All information in bold type has been taken directly from the Landmarks Ordinance. However, liberty has been taken in making alterations which would facilitate reading and convey the point concisely without misrepresenting the contents of the Ordinance.*



## CITY'S GROWTH

*From the AMERICAN EAGLE  
November 18, 1842*

The Cincinnati and Nashville papers are boasting of the rapid progress and building improvements of the two cities. We'll venture the assertion that no town in the United States has for the last four years put up as many handsome buildings, and so increased her mercantile and manufacturing interests and population as Memphis. Block after block of massive brick and mortar are constantly springing up, as if the work of vegetation. Two prodigious hotels, the City and Gayoso, that would beautify any city are yet unfinished, and no less than four or five fine temples of "the living God" are now being and about being erected to his service and glory. The morals of our community we rejoice to state, are also building up monuments to our character, whilst our increasing

exports, amounting now to not less than three and a half millions, is still widening and deepening. The hammer, saw and trowel, are now sounding and ringing as briskly as ever, and even the "audacious" hard times check not our wondrous advancement.

## THE PROMENADE QUESTION

*From the DAILY EAGLE & ENQUIRER  
February 9, 1853*

According to previous notice quite a goodly number of our most substantial citizens, together with the Mayor and Aldermen, assembled in Odd Fellows' Hall on Monday evening last, to hear Col. Trezevant on the subject of selling out the Promenade in lots to aid in the Arkansas R.R. The speaker treated the question both in its legal aspect, and in reference to the policy of the measure, at very considerable length.

# earthly delights

## DOWNTOWN EXHIBITS

### National Bank of Commerce (Lobby)

July—"The Freedom Shrine"—Downtown Exchange Club collection of historical documents\*

### First National Bank (Lobby)

July—paintings and drawings by Norman Lodes

### Sterick Building (Lobby)

July—paintings by Miss Jewell Ritch

## FILM

### Peabody Library

August 1—"American People in World War II", "Memphis Belle"—7:15 p.m.

## THEATRE

### Circuit Playhouse

Through August 17—"Moon On A Rainbow Shawl"—Friday through Sunday—8:30 p.m.

### Christian Brothers College (Auditorium)

July 25-26—"Annie Get Your Gun"—Pastiche—8:00 p.m.

### Circuit Playhouse, Theatre II

July 25—August 12—"The Imaginary Invalid"—Friday and Saturday—8:30 p.m.

### Memphis State Speech And Drama Building

July 31—August 9—"The Roar of the Greasepaint, The Smell of the Crowd"

## REMEMBERING

*On summer evenings  
When the moon is bright  
And the jasmine's heady  
As it is tonight,  
The truant breezes  
Caress my cheek,  
And the hushed silence  
Seems almost to speak,  
Then my heart's wild longing,  
Conjures up your face,  
The long, lost years  
Disappear without trace.  
You're here beside me—  
How the mem'ries cling,  
Oh the blessed joy of  
Remembering!*

*Nell Gardner*

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## CIVIC CENTER COMMUNITY CULINARY CLUB

*Serving from 11:30 to 1:00  
First Presbyterian Church, 166 Poplar Avenue  
PRICE: \$1.50 per serving, including drink*

### MENU FOR JULY 24 - AUGUST 1

#### THURSDAY, JULY 24

*Ham, Macaroni-Cheese, Turnip-Greens, Corn-Bread*

#### FRIDAY, JULY 25

*Chili-Mac, Three-Bean Salad, Crackers*

#### MONDAY, JULY 28

*Roast Beef, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls*

#### TUESDAY, JULY 29

*Salmon Croquettes, Hash Brown Potatoes, Tossed Salad, Rolls*

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

*Spaghetti, Cole Slaw, Rolls*

#### THURSDAY, JULY 31

*Fried Chicken, Rice w/gravy, Squash or Green Beans, Rolls*

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

*Barbecue Pork/Bun, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw*

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166 Poplar

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postage paid at  
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