

HISTORIC ALTON DRIVING TOUR

Presented by:

ALTON AREA LANDMARKS ASSOCIATION

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CHRISTIAN HILL ❁ MIDDLETOWN
UPPER ALTON

DISTRICTS ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



ILLINOIS
MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE

WELCOME

Welcome to Alton, Illinois, a Mississippi River city steeped in history and rich in Victorian and earlier architecture. The city is home to three historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places — Christian Hill, Middletown and Upper Alton. We hope that you will take the time to drive the streets of Alton viewing not only these striking houses, but also the nearly 1000 buildings contributing to the unity of these districts.

AS YOU TOUR:

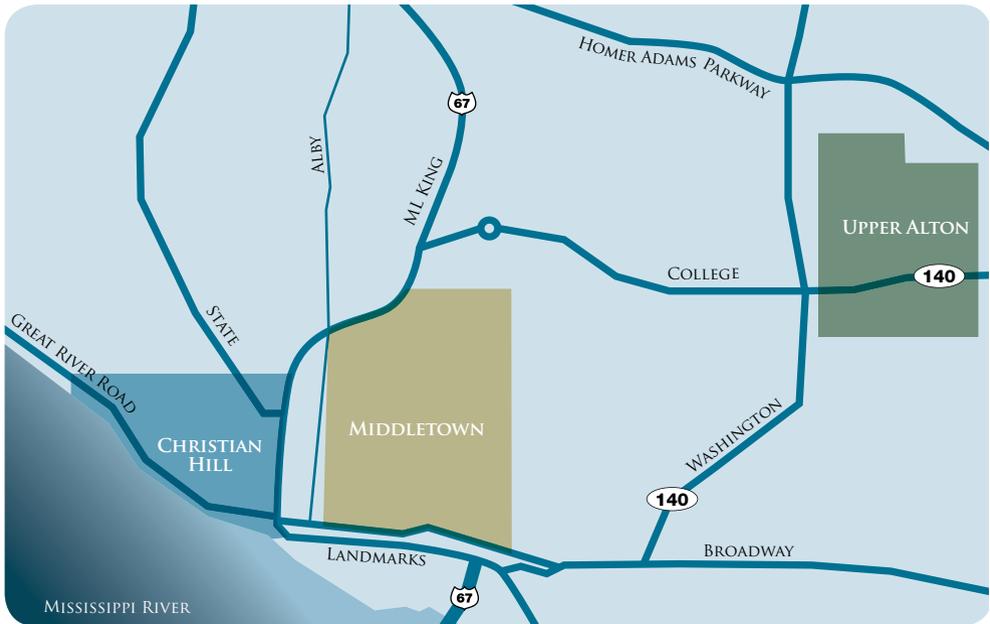
Driving the entire tour will take at least two hours. The guide is divided into three sections representing each historic district. There is a separate map at the beginning of each section that highlights one of the three districts. The maps will serve as your guide to the houses. Within each district, the houses are numbered to correspond with their location on the district map. You will also notice houses within each district that are designated with a red star. This red star is a symbol that the individual property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

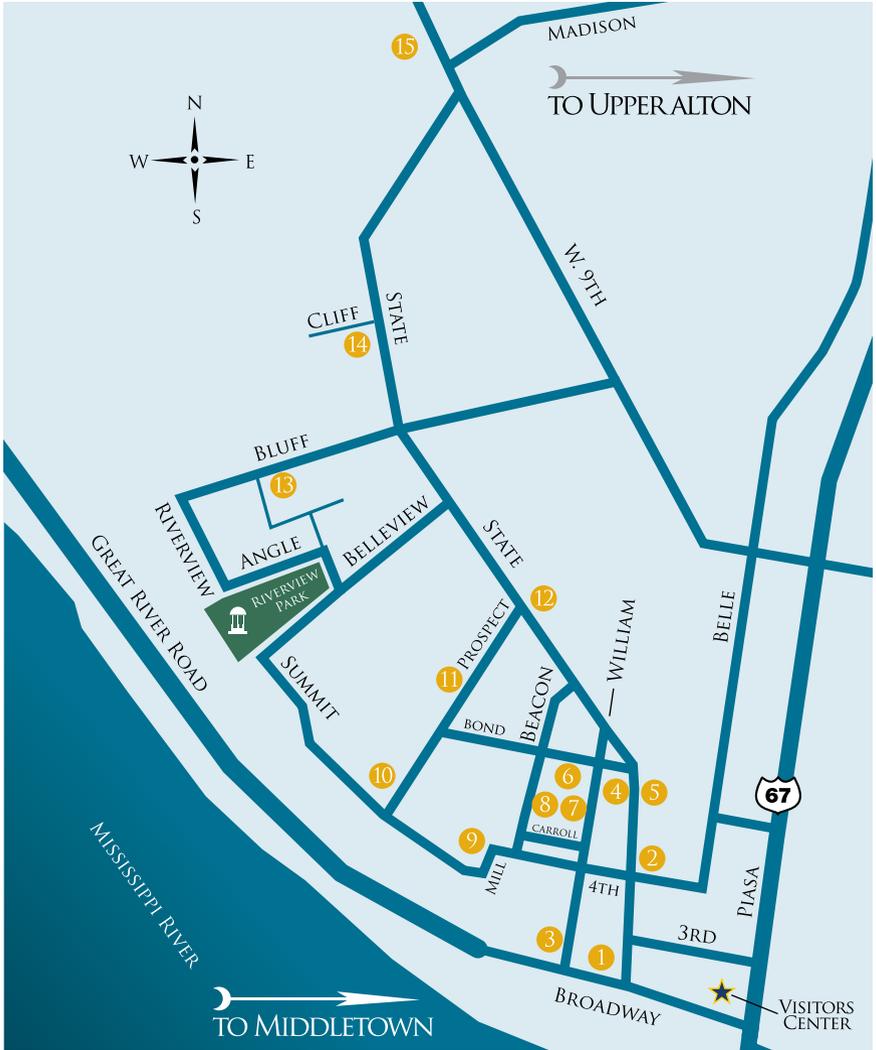


NATIONAL
REGISTER

While touring, please keep in mind that these homes are private residences and private property. We encourage you to browse the properties from the curb and avoid walking on the grounds or approaching owners for a tour.

We hope that you will enjoy this driving tour of Alton's historic neighborhoods. We would like to invite you to return the second weekend of October for the annual Alton Area Landmarks Fall House Tour, in which you will have the opportunity to view the interior of some of these magnificent sites.





INTRODUCTION

On the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River, Christian Hill was developed from the 1830s to 1910 and contains over 250 buildings. Mostly antebellum Victorian houses line the streets with the occasional older Federal styled exception. Once dominated by the prison and flour mills below, many of the foundations and retaining walls are built of limestone from the prison ruins. Later the neighborhood was anchored by the Old Cathedral with its towering spires and Riverview Park with its steep steps, sunken garden and Victorian bandstand. The initial climb up State Street is reminiscent of the streets of San Francisco. West Seventh Street is a contender for one of the steepest streets in America.

CHRISTIAN HILL

LINCOLN LOFTS

1 **208 State Street**
Built: 1841

This three-story brick building, has three tall and narrow dormer windows which open at the attic level. It is Federal style with Victorian elements added later. Federal features include: a recessed paneled entry with fan lighting, plain stone lintels, and elongated windows. The fan motif is repeated in the center second-story window. The original windows are six-over-six sashes, common in the Federal period. Originally the site of the Alton Marine and Fire Insurance Company, the building was enlarged and remodeled into the Franklin House, which was considered Alton's largest and finest hotel in the 1840s and 1850s. On October 15, 1858, the Franklin House hosted a reception for Abraham Lincoln prior to the seventh and last of a series of senate debates with Senator Stephen Douglas. In 2008 the building was renovated into 12 apartments and first floor commercial space and then renamed Lincoln Lofts.



JENNIE D. HAYNER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

2 **401 State Street**
Built: 1891

This building was erected by John E. Hayner in memory of his late wife, Jennie D. Hayner who had served as director of the public library. The architect was Theodore Link, designer of Union Station in St. Louis. The brick and stone building is Romanesque Revival. Many classic elements of this style can be seen here, such as: a heavy, rough-cut stone foundation, recessed windows and doorways, round arches, brick and stone mullions and transom bars, dog-tooth modillion courses as well as other decorative brickwork. One of the defining features of the building is the hexagonal tower on the southwest corner. This historic building was completely renovated in 2011 and is now the home of The Hayner Public Library District Genealogy & Local History Library.

PENITENTIARY WALL REMAINS

3 **200 block of William Street**
Built: originally 1833

The area behind and up hill from the prison wall display was the site of the first prison in Illinois, called the "Bluff Castle" by locals. The original twenty-four cells expanded to 256 cells by 1857. Although it was considered a model prison at the time, conditions became deplorable.

In 1860, the legislature moved the prisoners to Joliet, Illinois. In 1862, the prison was reopened as a military prison for Confederate soldiers. 1354 Confederate soldiers, 22 civilians and 250 Union soldiers died due to poor conditions and a smallpox epidemic. The prison was demolished in the late 1800s. This ruin was a corner portion of a cell block. It is listed as an archeological site on the National Historic Register.



CHRISTIAN HILL

COLONEL SAMUEL BUCKMASTER HOUSE

4 **514 State Street**
Built: 1835

This is one of the oldest homes in Alton. The three story brick, Federal style building was home to Buckmaster when he became a state senator in 1858. The Colonel also served as a mayor, a leader of the state Democratic Party, Speaker of the House, and warden of the Illinois state penitentiary from 1846 to 1860. The style of the front door and the spindle work at the side entry were updates in the Victorian era.



LEVI DAVIS HOUSE

5 **517 State Street**
Built: 1830

This Federal and Greek Revival style brick townhouse was the home of Levi Davis, a state auditor and attorney for the State of Illinois. Mr. Davis was a good friend of Abraham Lincoln, who dined and slept here. Mr. Davis's son Charles was a surgeon and doctor for the Confederate prison on William Street. Having only three owners, this home features its original reeded woodwork and wide pine flooring. It still has

the original kitchen stone hearth fireplace with crane and brick "bee-hive" bake ovens alongside. Jib windows open to the balcony overlooking the Mississippi River.

SEBASTIAN WISE HOUSE

6 **505 Bond Street**
Built: Circa 1854

Sebastian Wise and his brother Peter invested in Mississippi River steamboats and later owned National Mills on the river front. The Philadelphia architectural firm that designed the house insisted on three other commissions in Alton to justify the travel. This thirteen-room three-story Victorian home with Italianate influences was, as many other large houses, divided into apartments in its mid-life. The east wing is an addition. In recent years, the bricks were stripped of paint and it was restored to a single family home.





CARROLL HOUSE

7 **512 William Street**
Built: 1838

Michael W. Carroll, a saddle and harness maker, lived in this quaint two story Federal home with his wife, Louisa. It is constructed of soft brick with cut stone lintels and stone steps. Much of the original wavy glass remains in the windows. The original structure consisted of a living room, dining room and kitchen.

WOMEN'S CLUB

8 **509 Beacon Street**
Built: 1910 - 1911

This Arts & Crafts stucco cottage served as the Alton Chapter House for the American Women's League. This organization promoted the education of

women as they readied themselves for suffrage rights. It provided architectural plans and built the house on a lot provided by chapter members. The organization would soon be defunct but its members would re-group as the League of Women's Voters. The Chapter House, designed by the St. Louis architectural firm of Helfensteller, Hirsch and Watson, was cruciform in plan and combined stylistic characteristics of the Prairie School of the Arts and Crafts movement in both its exterior massing and interior detailing.



MITCHELL MANSION

9 **310 Mill Street**
Built: circa 1858

This double house was built for brothers John J. and William H. Mitchell, prosperous businessmen who had interests in flour milling, steamboats and railroading. The brothers also had significant land holdings surrounding the present town site of Mitchell, Illinois. Cast iron lintels over the windows represent the Greek Revival style. The mansard roof and the dozen dormers on the third story typify French Second Empire, and may have been a later addition. This estate compound in the heart of the city includes a two-story carriage house, a one-room school, a coalhouse, servants' quarters and an icehouse.

FLOSS HOUSE

10

302 Prospect Street

Built: 1895

Designed by John Pfeiffenberger, Lucas' son, this house was Arthur L. Floss's home for only five years before his death. After his widow Julia, other owners included W.H. Rippe, a cigar manufacturer and city auditor, and James Corbett, a superintendent of the Stanard-Tilton Milling Company. The only change to the exterior of the house was made in the 1920s when sheet steel columns in the classic Corinthian style replaced rectangular wooden posts.



SPARKS-REASONER HOUSE

11

410 Prospect Street

Built: rear portion 1835-1840

This stately house was built in four stages. The earliest was a small house in the rear portion, which contained a sleeping loft. The front portion (circa 1860) has fourteen and a half foot ceilings, beaded woodwork, two marble fireplaces and

original plaster molding. The lights on the outside of the house are from the battleship USS Maine. The Sparks family was prominent in the Alton milling industry. Col. Mathew A. Reasoner was the first flight surgeon in the U.S. Army.

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

12

717 State Street

Built: 1855-1857

This Gothic church, known as the Old Cathedral, was constructed of local limestone at a cost of \$35,000. Designed by St. Louis architect Thomas Walsh for a fee of \$200, the cathedral took two years to complete. The Rt. Rev. Henry D. Juncker became the first bishop when Alton was made the See of the Second Illinois Diocese in 1857. Bishop Juncker and his successor, Bishop Peter Baltes, are buried beneath the main altar. The Cathedral is 125 feet long, 60 feet wide and has three bells in the newer Art Deco styled spires. The original spires were destroyed by a lightning strike in 1949.





MAHONEY HOUSE

13 **431 Bluff Street**
Built: circa 1890

Michael Mahoney, Civil War veteran, founder of an insurance firm and trustee of Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, lived here with his wife Catherine. The house style is classic Queen Anne Victorian exhibited in its dentil lined cornices, balusters, turret, grouped classic columns and third story Palladian window.

WISE-OLIN HOUSE

14 **1128 State Street**
Built: between 1859 and 1865

This three-story brick Victorian home with Italianate features was built for Peter and Harriet Wise. Peter and his brother Sebastian were pioneers in the Alton flour milling industry. Franklin and Mary Olin purchased the property from the Peter Wise Estate in 1898. Franklin Olin was founder of the Olin Corporation, manufacturer of ammunition for small arms and hunting guns. He conducted experiments in the "invention room" in the basement. A distinctive front porch is formed by tall pillars and topped by an ornate wrought iron veranda. The windows are arranged in arched pairs. The third-story gabled dormer has Palladian windows.



POST HOUSE

15 **1516 State Street**
Built: 1838

This stone house with its Doric columns and cast iron railing is a fine example of Parthenon Style of Greek Revival architecture. The home was built by Captain William Post, a riverboat captain and mayor of Alton (1866-67). William Post was a friend of Stephen Douglas and during the Lincoln-Douglas debates entertained Douglas. Originally, the exterior was covered with a lime plaster incised to resemble limestone cut blocks. The Greek temple form is more fully achieved by the scale of the columns and the full pediment on the gable end. Cast iron railings feature Grecian laurel wreaths within the castings.



INTRODUCTION

Middletown was the center of wealth in the early days of Alton. The homes not only represent the prosperity of the community, but the wealth of families and their descendants that led Alton society for more than a century. There are more than 650 buildings in the Middletown Historic District. Henry and East Twelfth Streets feature many of the larger and elaborate styled houses. Brick sidewalks and architectural styles connect a beautiful park with a Victorian playhouse and an area called Insuranceville. Views of the River and well-tended gardens make for great walking and biking trips.



STRATFORD HOTEL

1 **229 Market Street**
Built: 1908

This five-story hotel was opened on September 4, 1909 as the Illini Hotel. Designed by the St. Louis architectural firm Barnett, Haynes and Barnett, it was touted as being fireproof because the floors were made of steel reinforced concrete with the only wood being used in the trim. The 51,000 square foot

building had a capacity for 250 guests and was financed by a group of local businessmen. Among its unique architectural features are quoin brick corners, detailed terra cotta trim, limestone panels, Gothic columns and marble staircases.

WATSON HOUSE

2 **628 Alby Street**
Built: 1879 - 1881

Alton architect Lucas Pfeifferberger designed this Second Empire/ Italianate thirteen-room mansion with a three-story central tower. Previous homes were relocated or removed from the Alby Street facing lots to accommodate the new residence. The upper terrace, side yards and rear garden are raised fill from Watson's quarry, giving Watson's Mount an imposing appearance from the street level. Henry Watson was born in Durham, England in 1836. By 1859 he had come to America and settled in Alton where he had relatives. He operated two stone quarries on Piasa Street behind his home and was one of the owners of the Alton Water Works.



TAPHORN HOUSE

3 **510 Seminary Square**
Built: 1898

This house was built for Dr. Gerald Taphorn, a prominent turn of the century physician. This massive brick and stone structure is Romanesque Revival, a style popularized in the 1890s by Henry Richardson, a Chicago architect. Romanesque



elements include the massive stone arch framing the front window and the arches in the tower. The tower is reminiscent of an Italian Renaissance villa. The wooden balustrades around the porch provide a decorative relief from the massiveness of the style.

SAMUEL WADE HOUSE

4 1014 Henry Street
Built: circa 1830

Samuel Wade, a pioneer settler in Alton and founder of the Alton Bank, purchased this site in 1831. A carpenter and builder, he is believed to have begun construction of this house in the 1830s.

It is considered an outstanding example of Victorian Gothic Revival style. Originally it had an Italianate piazza-type porch, which was replaced in later years by the classic portico supported by Ionic columns. The rear kitchen section is believed to have been added in the 1870s. A two-story glassed-in gallery on the south side of the building links the front and rear sections. Samuel Wade was elected to Alton's first city council in 1837 and later served as mayor for four terms.



FORBES HOUSE

5 1007 Henry Street
Built: 1871

This grand Italianate house was built for James Hyde Forbes. It features arched windows in the Italianate style on the first floor and segmented arches over the second story windows. Four brick chimneys tower over the main block of the house, servicing six

interior fireplaces. The roof is surmounted by a "Widows Walk." James Forbes founded the Forbes Tea and Coffee Company in St. Louis and was also associated with the Alton National Bank.

LYMAN TRUMBULL HOUSE

6 1105 Henry Street
Built: 1837

Built sometime between 1820 and 1837, this house was home to Senator Lyman Trumbull beginning in 1849. It is a one-and-a-half story brick, gable-roofed residence with a full basement and limestone foundation.

Originally rectangular in shape, a rear L-shaped addition was added about 1849. Trumbull served as Illinois Secretary of State, was on the Supreme Court of Illinois and elected to the U.S. Senate in 1855 by defeating Stephen Douglas when Lincoln threw his support to Trumbull. He served as senator until 1873. He was a staunch Union supporter and strong ally of Lincoln during the Civil War. As Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, he was co-author and instrumental in passage of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery, the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution and the Civil Rights Act of 1866. This house is a National Historic Landmark, this country's most prestigious designation.





HASKELL PLAYHOUSE

7

1211 Henry Street

Built: 1885

This playhouse was built by Dr. and Mrs. William Haskell for their five year old daughter Lucy. It is a rare architectural gem containing many of the flamboyant elements of the Queen Anne style: cartwheels, brackets, spires, diagonal sticking, fish scale shingles and stained glass windows. Its importance is magnified because so few of these accessory structures for children have survived. The playhouse contains a single room, front porch and side porch. Sadly, Lucy died in 1890 at age nine of black diptheria. Mrs. Haskell died in 1932 leaving her home, six acres of land, including Lucy's playhouse, to the City of Alton stipulating that the land never be subdivided and always be called Haskell Park. The interior has been restored and the playhouse is open for special occasions.

RYRIE HOUSE

8

1308 Henry Street

Built: 1902

This elegant house was built for George M. Ryrie, a prominent wholesale grocer and one of the incorporators of the Alton and East Alton Railway and Power Company. A later design by Lucas Pfeifferberger, it is constructed of yellow Roman-style brick. Corinthian columns support the front porch. The gables and roof lines are reminiscent of a French chateau. Its massive front door is carved with columns and roping, and features large areas of beveled glass.



DRUMMOND HOUSE

9

442 East 12th Street

Built: 1882 - 1885

Designed by Alton architect Lucas Pfeifferberger, this was the home of tobacco magnate John Drummond, whose St. Louis firm, Drummond Tobacco, controlled a large portion of the national plug tobacco market. The red brick and limestone Victorian masterpiece is constructed in Eastlake style with Second Empire/Italianate influence. A monumental cut stone porte-cochere was added to the house in 1896 and the rectangular porch was then extended into a full wrap around veranda.

DUNCAN HOUSE

10 **410 East 12th Street**
Built: circa 1860

This imposing two and one-half story brick home was built by Arba Nelson, a hardware merchant. Albert Wade gifted the house to his daughter, Caroline, who married into the Duncan family. The home is a mixture of late Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The Italianate details are the cupola tower, weighty eave brackets and cornices, generous veranda and tall narrow windows. The principal feature of the house is the double-height portico with its Ionic columns, full pediment and entablature. Secondary Greek Revival motifs include the Palladian window and balustrade on the second floor.



BEALL MANSION

11 **407 East 12th Street**
Built: 1903

Designed by Alton architect Lucas Pfeifferberger, this two and one-half story blonde brick mansion was commissioned by railroad baron and riverboat magnate Z. B.

Job as a wedding present for his son, who was to wed the daughter of John Drummond, the tobacco magnate. Edmund Beall purchased the house in 1909. He and his brother co-founded Beall Brothers Manufacturing which was the largest manufacturer of mining tools, railroad implements and heavy equipment in the United States. Beall served four terms as mayor and one term as state senator. The house is currently a bed and breakfast.

SIX CHIMNEYS

12 **1025 George Street**
Built: 1860

Six Chimneys is an immense Italianate villa, built on the eve of the Civil War by Isaac Scarritt (1817-1873). Scarritt was an acquaintance of Abraham Lincoln and a prominent local banker. During the Civil War, troops were camped on the hill to the west of the house and prisoners were housed on the ground floor. The house has 12 fireplaces. A Palladian window is over the main entrance and an octagonal cupola graces the roof. The original carriage house with matching detail is located at 409 E. 11th Street.





FERGUSON HOUSE

13 **628 East 15th Street**
Built: 1903

This home was built for Harry H. Ferguson, the vice president of the Illinois Terminal Railroad, which ran from St. Louis to Alton, Peoria and Danville. Lucas Pfeiffenberger designed this Georgian Revival home with echoes of classical revival. The fifteen-room

interior contains a massive amount of oak and walnut wood trim and a Georgian style staircase with Corinthian columns in a spacious foyer.

JAMES WESLEY BEALL HOUSE

14 **1700 Liberty Street**
Built: circa 1895

The Beall House is a magnificent example of the Queen Anne style with its wrap-around porch and asymmetrical shape. It features many bays, recesses, porches and balconies and is decorated with ornamental scrolls, brackets and spindles. It typifies the ornamental excesses of the period. The house was home to J.W. Beall, president of Beall Tool and Metal Products Company. The firm made shovels, spades, and railroad track maintenance tools in three Alton factories.



MOSES ATWOOD HOUSE

15 **1750 Liberty Street**
Built: Circa 1852

This gracious stone edifice was built by Moses G. Atwood, secretary, and later president, of the Illinois Mutual Fire Insurance Company. It is Federal style with French and Italianate influences. It is graced by a trapezoid roof and elaborate wrought iron balconies and porch railings. The house is built on the side of a hill and has two stories below street level. The neighboring

insurance company offices and surrounding homes of insurance executives led the Grove and Liberty streets area to be called "Insuranceville."



BRUCH-GUERTLER HOUSE

16 **101 Blair Avenue**
Built: 1854

This house was designed and built by Ignatz Bruch, a skilled stone mason, born in Baden, Germany in 1822. He immigrated to the United States and arrived in Alton via Cincinnati. Bruch's widow married Peter Guertler and the house remained in the Guertler family for three generations. It is a one-and-one-half story, side-gable dwelling. Its limestone was probably quarried from the bluffs behind the house. The house has bargeboard and bracketed eaves. The uniqueness of the house lies in its superbly shaped windows and doorway. The pointed arch, presented here in stone, is a hallmark of Neo-Gothic architecture. According to an Illinois preservationist, this house ranks as one of the most important 19th century dwellings in the state because of its Gothic forms, which were rarely seen in residential architecture west of the Alleghenies.



MCPIKE MANSION

17 **2018 Alby Street**
Built: 1869

Henry Guest McPike (1825-1910), a wealthy businessman, horticulturist, and mayor (1887-1891), built this Second Empire /Italianate style mansion in the center of his 15 acre estate "Mount Lookout Park" on one of the highest hills in Alton. The house

is one of the best of Lucas Pfeifferberger, an architect who designed many of the finest homes, schools and churches in Alton from 1857 through 1918. With its mansard roof, arched windows, 16 spacious rooms and vaulted wine cellar, it was one of the most elegant homes in Alton. McPike, a charter member and president of the oldest horticultural society in Illinois, planted trees, rare shrubs, orchards, flowers and vineyards throughout the grounds.

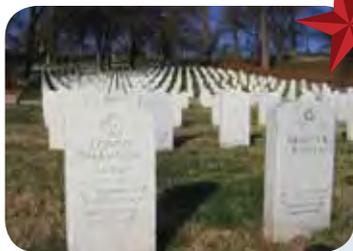
UNION STREET BREWERY / YAKEL HOUSE

18 **Brewery: 1431 Pearl Street, 1836**
House: 1421 Pearl Street, 1863

Renamed Bluff City Brewery in 1883, this complex of buildings including the Yakel House, originally covered eight to ten acres. Philip Yakel (1803-1854), born and apprenticed in brewing in Germany, came to Alton in 1836 with his wife and children. The house was built in 1863. It is Federal style with Victorian ornamentation. The soft red brick building has a symmetric five-opening front façade with a double-doored first floor entrance. The house was remodeled in 1936 when the front balconies from the downtown Spalding Building were added.



MIDDLETOWN DISTRICT



ALTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

19 **600 Pearl Street**
First Burial: 1862

Located in the northeast corner of the Alton City Cemetery, this half-acre cemetery is the resting place for more than 500 veterans from the Civil War to Vietnam.

Started in 1862, an estimated 163 Union soldiers and 12 unknowns were buried here when it was a section of the Alton City Cemetery. It was donated to the federal government in 1940. The remains of 49 other Union soldiers were moved in 1941-42 from another part of the City Cemetery and re-interred in the federal cemetery.

On the Pearl Street side of the cemetery is a cast stone entrance and rostrum built by the WPA in 1941. The Alton National Cemetery was accepted on the National Register of Historic Places in 2011.

UPPER ALTON

INTRODUCTION

A cultural and educational center, Upper Alton was once a separate town from Alton. There are 75 buildings in this Historic District. It is anchored by a former military academy and one of the oldest educational buildings in Illinois. The main street names, Seminary and College, continue the education theme in the area. Many of the houses were built for the professors and administrators of these institutions. The neighborhood now has the Alton Museum of History and Art, and the life size statue of Robert Pershing Wadlow, the world's tallest man.

LOOMIS HALL

1 **2809 College Avenue**
Built: 1832

As one of the oldest buildings in Illinois in continuous use as an educational facility, Loomis Hall has remained even while institution names (Alton College, Shurtleff College, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and the Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine) have changed. This Federal style brick building with Victorian bracketed cornice ornamentation is named after Rev. Hubbell Loomis (1775-1872). He was one of the first instructors and president of Shurtleff College, and one of the few local defenders of abolitionist Elijah P. Lovejoy. Loomis Hall now houses the Alton Museum of History and Art.





UPPER ALTON GUIDE





BULKLEY HOUSE

2

3005 Leverett Street

Built: circa 1865

Rev. Justus Bulkley was an instructor at the adjacent Shurtleff College. Later the house was acquired by the college and used for music and choir practice. It now houses faculty offices for the

Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine. This brick building is Federal style with Victorian bracketed cornice ornamentation and decorative pillars on the front porch.

CORA COLE-FISH HOUSE

3

3123 Leverett Street

Built: 1905

The first owner of this Princess Anne style house was Herman H. Cole, a businessman and officer of a downtown hardware store. His daughter, Cora Fish, was a writer and journalist who owned the house until the 1980s. It is constructed in the Princess Anne style that features a complex roof line, an asymmetrical design with a simpler exterior than its predecessor, the Queen Anne style. Each room has a unique shape with no rectangular room in the house.



ALVIN OLCOTT HOUSE

4

1800 Seminary Street

Built: 1859

Alvin Olcott acquired this site in 1853 and completed construction in 1859. Olcott was a furniture dealer in downtown Alton. This two-story frame house marks a transition between Federal and Victorian architectural styles. The basic lines are Federal, but it features Victorian elements: the bay window and front porch with ornate posts.





JACKSON HOUSE

5

1821 Seminary Street

Built: Circa 1880

This frame Victorian house was built by Richard Beardslee, a dry goods merchant. Its second owner, Thomas C. Jackson, was a teacher at nearby Western Military Academy, and brother of the president of the school, Colonel Albert Jackson.

Unique architectural features of the house are a semi-circular wrap-around porch and a summer sleeping porch. It currently operates as a bed and breakfast.

ORLANDO CASTLE HOUSE

6

1831 Seminary Street

Built: 1866

This house was built by Professor Orlando L. Castle in the Italianate style in the shape of a Greek cross. It is distinguished by its curving porticos at each of the front corners and its bay windows on the front and sides. It has a hipped roof over each of its four wings and brackets supporting the eaves. Orlando Castle joined the faculty of Shurtleff College in 1853 as a professor of Latin, oratory, rhetoric and Belles Lettres (speech and literature).



WESTERN MILITARY ACADEMY

7

2009 Seminary Street

Built: 1903

Originally founded as Wyman Institute by Edward Wyman in 1878, it was reorganized as Western Military Academy in 1896. A fire destroyed the original school buildings in 1903, but by later that year the present buildings were erected. The architecture is English with battlement parapets. The buildings are constructed of broken ashlan stonework up to the first story windowsills, and above that the walls are built of paving

brick trimmed with Bedford stone. The military school was disbanded in the early 1970s. The Mississippi Valley Christian School opened in 1974.

Dedicated to the memory of William Dittmann.

Alton Area Landmarks Association

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www.AltonLandmarks.org

For Visitor Information:



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