

CARTHAGE HISTORIC PRESERVATION, Inc.



CHP Newsletter Issue No. 26 | A non-profit, community based membership organization focusing on historic preservation | 2nd Quarter 2022

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is in the air and I for one am so happy to welcome warmer weather!

During National Preservation Month in May, CHP will be conducting its annual membership drive so be on the lookout for membership info in the mail...or go to our website to join or renew online. I know that you have many options when it comes to supporting organizations in our community. Your thoughtful generosity to CHP is greatly appreciated.

In May, CHP will also be spreading our love of historic preservation by posting ***This Place Matters*** signs in front of

many of the historic homes and buildings in Carthage.

CHP will again be participating in the city-wide yard sale on Saturday, May 7. Stop by to find a special treasure you can't live without! Enjoy a cookie and lemonade and take a tour of Phelps House if you have never done so. And if you have anything you would like to donate to the yard sale, we would be happy to accept your items. Email us to make arrangements to drop off.

As always, CHP appreciates your support.

~Betsy Flanigan

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BRIDGEY PHELPS



Bridgey Phelps, second wife of Colonel Phelps.

November 1905

COL. W. H. PHELPS

We have searched far and wide for a picture of Colonel Phelps' second wife Bridgey, and one has finally been found! This image was included in a newspaper article published after the couple married (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch* 12 Nov 1905).

Bridgey was born in Ireland in 1871 and came to the United States when she was 18 years old. She worked as a housekeeper until attending school to become a secretary. As reported in the *Carthage Press* (16 Oct 1905): "Miss O'Leary who has become the wife of one of Missouri's best-known men and leading Democratic politicians, is a comely young lady of about 35 years. She has been in the Phelps household for many years and for the last five or six years has been the colonel's stenographer and secretary....She is an unusually bright and cultured lady."

When asked about his father's marriage, son William responded: "If father marries I would rather he marry Miss O'Leary than anyone else. She has been in the

family so long she seems like one of us and is pure gold."

Schedule a tour of the Phelps House

Tours are available 9:00am-3:00pm any day except when an event is scheduled and last approximately 45-60 minutes. Take a tour and enjoy the beauty of this 1895 historic mansion.

Schedule your tour [here](#) or call 417-358-1776.

JOIN CHP!

Go to:

[Membership](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



May 2022	National Preservation Month / CHP Membership Month
	<i>This Place Matters</i> campaign
May 7th	City-wide Yard Sale—find a treasure at Phelps House

SUPPORT PRESERVATION IN CARTHAGE



To celebrate Preservation Month, we will have **lemonade and cookies** on the front lawn of the Historic Phelps House on May 7th. We will also be offering Phelps House tours on the hour from 9 am to 12 pm.

This coincides with the **Carthage Citywide Yard Sale**. We are sorting closets and basements to gather long unused items so be sure to stop by to buy a treasure or two and have some lemonade. In case of rain, the sale will be on the covered front porch.

Save a stamp and drop off your membership gift at the same time!

Membership Levels

Individual	\$35
Family	\$60
Associate	\$125
Contributing	\$200

To join, click [here](#) or mail a check to:

CHP
P.O. Box 375
Carthage, Mo 64836

Member Benefits

- Free Tours of Phelps House
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Annual Members Event
- Discount on Phelps House Porcelain Ornament
- That good feeling that comes from supporting CHP preservation efforts!

“A CONCERTED EFFORT TO PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE IS A VITAL LINK TO OUR CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, AESTHETIC, INSPIRATIONAL, AND ECONOMIC LEGACIES - ALL OF THE THINGS THAT QUITE LITERALLY MAKE US WHO WE ARE.”

STEVE BERRY

In conjunction with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and in honor of Preservation Month in May, we would like to post a **“THIS PLACE MATTERS”** sign in a location that has special meaning to you.



NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

THIS PLACE MATTERS

TO OBTAIN A SIGN:

Stop by Phelps House on May 7 during the city-wide yard sale

or

[email](#) to arrange to pick up a sign

Signs will be picked up at the end of May.

WHY HISTORIC PRESERVATION MATTERS TO CARTHAGE

"There may have been a time when preservation was about saving an old building here and there, but those days are gone. Preservation is in the business of saving communities and the values they embody."

~ Richard Moe, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Here is a top-ten list of reasons why preservation matters to Carthage:

1. Historic preservation allows for collective **memories and a sense of identity and uniqueness**. There are real "Places in the Heart" which are shared by a whole community. For example, who in Carthage doesn't identify with the Jasper County Courthouse? Or perhaps you have memories of cruising Boots Drive-in. Did you or your children attend Mark Twain Elementary School, now over 100 years old?



2. Historic preservation encourages **heritage tourism**. Heritage visitors want to visit our kind of town, and they have a big impact on the local economy. They stay longer, spend more money, and *will spread the word and return if a community has something to offer*.



3. It improves "**livability**." Historic districts are an important component of what makes a city attractive to live in. The livability of a city attracts new people, new talent and new businesses.
4. Historic preservation **supports small business**. Older, smaller buildings provide ideal locations for small business owners.



5. It contributes to **job creation**, for example renovation and construction work, tourism, small businesses, the service sector.

6. And as a result, **money stays in the community!**



7. Historic buildings and districts help to stabilize and support **property values**. Study after study has shown that residential historic districts increase property values of all residences within the district, not just the historic homes.

8. It is the **original green movement**. All of the materials, labor and energy used to construct an older building have already been used. Many old buildings use less operating energy and/or can take advantage of passive energy because of how they were designed. Preservation saves not only the past, but also the future.



9. Historic preservation brings **beauty to a community**. Old buildings are very often works of art, showcasing artisan skills that no longer exist.



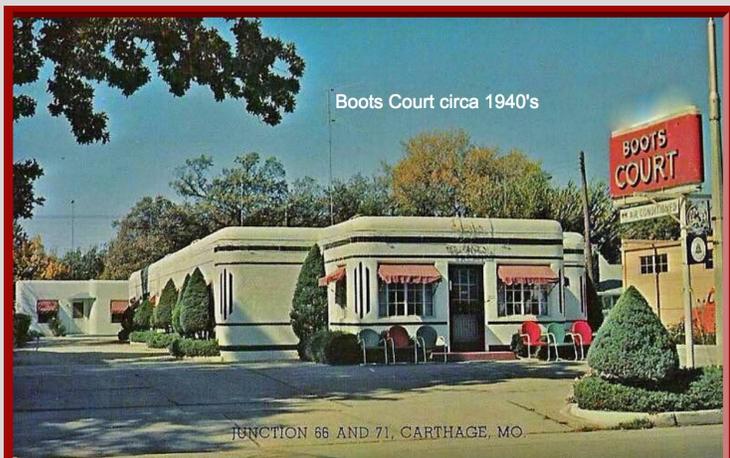
10. Historic preservation **educates us**. Historic structures and places tell us about our past. There are lessons to be learned from the geography of a battlefield, the physical location of a building, the materials and ornate workmanship of an old home, servants' quarters, the hitching post out front...they all have a story to tell.



"How will we know it's us without our past?"

~John Steinbeck

HISTORIC BOOTS COURT RESTORATION BEGINS



PRESS RELEASE

CARTHAGE, Mo—Boots Court Foundation, a non-profit organization, in cooperation with CTown, LLC, has begun a full restoration of the historic Boots Court motel.

Constructed in 1939 by Arthur Boots, Boots Court is located at 107 S. Garrison Avenue in Carthage. Initially offering four rooms, Mr. Boots later expanded to eight when the first four proved successful. A second building, to the west, was built in 1946 by the Neeley family and consisted of

five additional rooms. After many decades of catering to travelers along Route 66, this iconic and unique Streamline Moderne motel fell into disrepair. Over the last decade, flat roof restoration was completed and partial room renovations begun by previous owners.

Boots Court Foundation was established to be the vehicle to fully restore the historic Boots Court, and prevent the motel from further decline and possible demolition. Additional structures around the motel were also acquired to enhance the property and community. Boots Court remains one of the oldest motels on Historic Route 66, serving as a popular attraction along the Route and making Carthage a desired tourism destination. Application has been made to include Boots Court on the National Register of Historic Places, further highlighting its historic tourism status for the community.

Restoration and rehabilitation will be completed with the intent of maintaining the historic feel and experience of the original Boots Court. Updates will be provided as the restoration progresses. Visit bootscourt66.com for additional photos and updates.

If you would like to share any memorabilia or stories of the Boots Court Motel or Boots Drive-In, please email bootscourt66@gmail.com.

JASPER COUNTY RECORDS CENTER



Do you have an interest in the history of Carthage and Jasper County? Do you have some time to volunteer? If so, the Jasper County Records Center could use your help. If you have a particular area of interest, Annie Golden, Records Center Director & Archivist, will find a project suited to your interest. Or perhaps you would like to help with whatever needs doing at the moment. **For more information, contact Annie Golden at 417-358-0404 or email agolden@jaspercountymo.gov.**

The Jasper County Records Center was established to preserve and promote the history, culture, and activities of Jasper County and southwest Missouri through the collection and preservation of historical materials. Click [here](#) for more information about the Jasper County Records Center.



ENJOY A VICTORIAN TEA AT THE PHELPS HOUSE

CHP recently hosted a tea for a group from Bella Vista, Arkansas. The ladies enjoyed a variety of teas and treats and a tour of the Phelps House. They were also treated to a presentation by sisters Emily and Kay Ellis who brought several beautiful hats to display and demonstrated the many garments that were worn by a lady in the early 1900s. Assisted by her lady's maid, layer after layer was removed to reveal the many undergarments worn by the lady

of the house. It's no wonder she needed help getting dressed!

Thank you to Judy Goff and Tommie Baldwin who organized this event, and to our wonderful volunteers who cooked, served, and cleaned up at this event.

If your group would like to enjoy a Tea at the Phelps House, call 417-358-1776 or [email](#) us for more information.



RENT THE PHELPS HOUSE



Enjoy the timeless beauty of the Phelps House at your next event.

For more information:

- [CHP website](#)
- [email](#)
- 417-358-1776

"FARMER" PHELPS, AUTOIST

From the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (St. Louis, Missouri) · 14 May 1905

COL. PHELPS IS BURNING UP GOOD ROADS WITH BIG RED DEVIL.

A NOTED MISSOURI RAILROAD MAN AND POLITICIAN BE- COMES AUTO ENTHUSIAST.

Col. William H. Phelps, erstwhile lobbyist and well-known Democratic politician, has joined the ranks of the skidoodlers and now puffs around in the biggest and noisiest "red devil" in Jasper county.

Every morning when he is at home the auto is brought around to Col. Phelps' front door in Carthage. He mounts the seat, turns the crank with a skill acquired by long experience in dealing with cranks of all kinds, and floats away toward his farm, a few miles from town. So far there have been no fatalities among the chickens, dogs and other farm-yard denizens, as Col. Phelps burns up the gravel roads near Carthage, but that may be due to the fact that even the animals in Jasper county are wise enough to avoid trouble.

"Oh, yes, I ran into a fence the other day," remarked Col. Phelps at the Southern hotel yesterday. "The blamed thing didn't seem able to get out of my way."



Farmer Phelps on the road.

It's great sport, this farming and auto-mobiling combined."

If you shop at Amazon (and don't we all!) please go to smile.amazon.com and select CHP as your charity to support. Amazon will donate



0.5 percent of the purchase price from your eligible purchases.

It may not seem like a lot, but any donation, big or small, helps CHP!



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