

SOUTH MAIN COUNCIL (PRISM)  
MARCH 1979 NEWSLETTER

EXCITING FEBRUARY MEETING!

Our February 15 meeting was very good. The National Trust film, "Brooklyn Brownstones", showed marvelous ways that these vintage homes have been restored and renovated. The emphasis was on the interiors, and showed a wide range of remodeling and decorating styles, running the gamut from Victorian to contemporary.

The film was terrific, but equally important was the social hour--both before and after the regular meeting. The enthusiastic socializing between long-term and new residents was very encouraging and demonstrated again the cohesiveness of the neighborhood.

MARCH 15 NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AND BOARD MEETING

There will be a Neighborhood Watch organizational meeting on March 15 for all South Main area residents wishing to help protect our neighborhood and each other. The Neighborhood Watch program is sponsored by the Middletown Police Department. There will be a police representative at the meeting, which will be at 7:30 P.M. at the First United Methodist Church at Second and Broad Streets. This can be an extremely effective crime prevention program. All residents are urged to attend.

The Board meeting will immediately follow, at 8:00 P.M. Board members, please note the place change from the usual Board meeting location.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED

A committee has been appointed to maintain the flower beds in South Park: Jeri Rossi, chairman, and Ann Amburgey, Lois Salyers, Vicki Summers, and Vicki Wannamacher.

A Grants Committee has been appointed to investigate the feasibility of submitting a group request for a federal historic preservation matching grant. The committee, to be chaired by Eileen Gomia, is composed of Dick Brandenburg, Carl Morrel, and Evia Stacy. This could be a great opportunity to do something constructive in the neighborhood; any suggestions will be welcomed. Their final report will be due in December of this year, as the application for fiscal year 1981 will be due in February, 1980.

A Goals Committee, consisting of Ralph Schirmer, chairman, Phyllis Billman, and Lois Salyers, has been appointed to suggest some immediate goals for PRISM. Their first report will be at the March 15 Board meeting. Again, suggestions are welcome; call Ralph at 422-7884.

### HOUSE SIGNS

The Board of Directors has been considering the creation of individual date signs on each house or building in the South Main Historic Area. Many different styles and sizes of signs have been discussed, but nothing definite has been recommended. If you have any opinions or suggestions, call Phyllis Billman at 423-1063.

### HISTORIC DISTRICT IDENTIFYING SIGNS

As we mentioned before, the hand painted signs have been erected at both ends of the South Main Historic District. The city is requesting that any suggestions on better placement of the signs be given to Susan Keany at the Planning Department, 425-7939.

### ATTENTION, VICTORIANA ENTHUSIASTS!

There will be a how-to workshop, "Upstairs and Downstairs in the Victorian House", in Indianapolis, Indiana, on April 21, 1979.

Sponsored by The Victorian Society in America, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission, the Junior League of Indianapolis, and the Old-House Journal, it will feature sessions on restoration research, structure, carpets and wallpapers, paint colors, fabrics and window treatments, lighting fixtures, local resources, Victorian gardens, and stenciling and graining techniques.

The full day fee is \$20.00 (\$15.00 Student). Since space is limited, pre-registration by April 5 is advised. For more information, call Phyllis Wacker at 422-9063. If enough members are interested, we may make plans to go as a group. It sounds like a very pertinent program!

### PRISM APPLIES FOR AWARD

Phyllis Billman reports that...."PRISM, with help from the City Planning Division, has submitted the South Main Historic Preservation Project in nomination for the Miami Purchase Association's annual Preservation Award. The criteria by which nominations are to be judged are 1) exhibited quality in concept and execution, 2) results in preservation of threatened buildings or areas through unusual effort or adaptive use, 3) education of the public on preservation value, and 4) benefits to the greatest number of people.

We think we present a strong case through our activities since PRISM was organized in 1976. We have been listed on the National Register, upgraded our neighborhood, increased the value of our homes, pushed with the Planning Division for an enactment of a Historic Preservation Ordinance by the City Commissioners, educated

thousands through our Heritage Days, through many showings of our slide presentation and through 8000 copies of the Historic South Main booklet. (The popularity of this booklet prompted the Planning Division to compile 2 other publications). Our booklet is part of the National Trust's travelling library.

The award is to be announced March 27, 1979.

Whether we win or not, we have realized in our review that we really have achieved a remarkable record!

I'd like to thank Dave Clark, Jack Howard, and Susan Keeney for their help in compiling our entry. The people you see going about with all fingers crossed will be the four of us!"

We will all have our fingers crossed, Phyllis, and we thank you for your hard work.

SEE YOU ON MARCH 15TH!!!

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