

The [City of Cape Girardeau Historic Preservation Commission](#) recently approved its 2016 Endangered Buildings list below. The following list was adopted by the Commission for the sole purpose of promoting awareness of buildings and structures that the Commission believes have historic value and are at risk of being lost due to deterioration and/or imminent demolition.

The listing of a building or structure does not constitute an act of enforcement of any law or regulation, nor does it constitute a legal action against any person or entity. The information below is compiled from various sources, including public nominations. Please report any corrections to the [City of Cape Girardeau Planning Services Division](#) at (573) 339-6327.

[View the 2015 Endangered Buildings List](#)

[View the 2014 Endangered Buildings List](#)

[View the 2013 Endangered Buildings List](#)

2016 ENDANGERED BUILDINGS LIST



BROADWAY THEATER – 805 BROADWAY

In its heyday, the Broadway Theater was associated with both Twentieth-Century Fox and Paramount Pictures. It originally opened with a showing of the motion picture *The Sheik*, starring Rudolph Valentino. It was first-rate, with state-of-the-art equipment, an orchestra pit, stage facilities, and a grand marquee. The main floor and the balcony had a total seating capacity for 1,200 persons. Today, the 1921 theater stands vacant, and the marquee is long gone. The building has not had a viable use for several years, and is showing signs of deterioration. (On Endangered Buildings List since 2012)



ESQUIRE THEATER – 824 BROADWAY

On its opening night of January 21, 1947, over 1,300 movie goers flocked to this modernistic movie theater to watch Bing Crosby in *Blue Skies*. Featuring an Art Deco design (with over one mile of neon lights), the theater quickly became a landmark to many locals. Its doors closed in October of 1984, the last of the grand neighborhood movie houses in Cape Girardeau. The theater was re-opened briefly for second-run movies, but by the end of 1985 it had again become vacant. The building, including the marquee, has been damaged over the years. The theater was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. (On Endangered Buildings List since 2012)



FORT D BLOCKHOUSE – 920 FORT STREET

The block building located on the Fort D historic site was built by the Works Progress Administration around 1936. It was used as a meeting house for various groups and also as a private residence, but by the mid 1980's the building stood vacant. In 2005, the deteriorated roof was removed and major stabilization improvements were made. Today, the building is used annually as part of Civil War living history demonstrations by the

Friends of Fort D. Aside from such events, the building is rarely utilized and is showing signs of disrepair. The Cape Girardeau City Council approved funding to repair the blockhouse, including construction of a new roof. At the time of release of this list, work had not yet commenced. (On Endangered Buildings List since 2012)



WOOLWORTH'S STORE – 1 NORTH MAIN STREET

The building at 1 North Main Street is the end cap of a block of storefront buildings in the downtown district. The building has changed looks and owners many times over the years. The building gained historic significance in 1914, when F.W. Woolworth's original store was opened. In 1950, the store expanded and when it was completed, the building extended the width of the entire block and had openings on Main, Spanish, and Independence Streets. This expansion reflected a surge in commercial shopping activity in the downtown district. The building is now vacant and deteriorating. (On Endangered Buildings List since 2013)



635 GOOD HOPE STREET

Located at the southeast corner of Good Hope and South Sprigg Streets, this ca. 1884 building served as a German saloon from the 1880's through the 1910's and was one of the first saloons in Cape Girardeau to cease liquor sales during the Prohibition era. Throughout the 1920's and 30's, it functioned as a gathering place for community discussion, much as it had when it was a saloon. It eventually became the official meeting site of the local German

American Alliance as well as several local unions related to the construction industry in Cape Girardeau. The saloon itself was owned by Anton and Joe Haas, two important figures in the development of Cape Girardeau. The brothers were involved in the construction of the old Saint Francis Hospital and Saint Mary's School, among others. In addition, Anton's concrete company was responsible for the pouring of the courthouse steps – one of the earliest uses of concrete in Cape Girardeau. The building has been deteriorating for years and is mostly, if not entirely, vacant. In July 2014, the adjacent building at 633 Good Hope Street collapsed, exposing the party wall and further jeopardizing the future of this once vibrant corner building, (On Endangered Buildings List since 2013)



127 SOUTH LORIMIER STREET

The brick house at 127 South Lorimier Street reflects the Missouri German Vernacular style, which was once prevalent in Cape Girardeau. It has many of the character defining features, such as a rectangular footprint, close proximity to the street, a brick facade, a stone foundation, brick arches over double-hung sash windows, and a low pitched roof with an end chimney. Unlike most houses of this style, it features two stories. The house appears to be vacant and certain elements, including the windows, the bay window, and the rear addition, are damaged and/or deteriorating. If ignored, the deterioration will increase and over time could lead to more serious conditions affecting the building's historic and architectural integrity. (On Endangered Buildings List since 2013)

OCHS-SHIVELBINE HOUSE – 1409 NORTH SPRIGG STREET



Built in the early 1920's by Henry Ochs, this expansive house was purchased by L.J. Shivelbine in 1962 and remains an iconic historic home that once existed beyond the northern city limits of Cape Girardeau. The property once contained a plant nursery. The house features oak floors, deep eaves, Palladian windows, and stained glass windows. Formerly used as a fraternity house, it stands in the way of Southeast Missouri State University's plans for a new Greek housing development, and its demolition is pending. (On Endangered Buildings List since 2015)

MARQUETTE SCHOOL -2815 SOUTH SPRIGG STREET



This former two-room schoolhouse was in service for more than 40 years before its doors were closed. In the 1970's, it served as a lodge for Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. The brick building features a hipped roof and a projecting pavilion. It represents a typology of small rural schoolhouses that once served as the primary source of education for most Americans. Such buildings are becoming rare as rural land is cleared for development. Such is the case for this schoolhouse. (On Endangered Buildings List since 2015)



14 SOUTH LORIMIER STREET

What was once a great example of Gothic Revival architecture has become a worsening eyesore. The house, which features a high pitched gable roof and ornamental brackets, is slowly succumbing to structural failures in the roof, walls, porch, and rear addition. Its condition is severe enough that it could be considered a "demolition by neglect." (On Endangered Buildings List since 2015)



213 SOUTH MIDDLE STREET

This Victorian-era house has retained many of its ornamental features, including fishscale siding, brackets, panels, cornices, porch trim, and bay windows. It is in poor condition, with several broken windows and rotting wood structural members. The house was condemned by the City due to a fire, and the current property owner intends to demolish it. (On Endangered Buildings List since 2015)

230 SOUTH MIDDLE STREET



This one-story Craftsman house with a brick exterior represents a style that was prevalent in Cape Girardeau neighborhoods at the turn of the century. It features large overhanging eaves with exposed brackets, a full length porch with brick columns, and three-over-one sash windows. The house is rapidly deteriorating, most likely due to long term vacancy and neglect. The eaves are rotting, the siding is falling off the roof dormer, the roof singles are work, and there is substantial Mortar loss in some areas of the brick. The damage is extensive enough to lead to structural failures if not addressed soon. (Added to Endangered Buildings List in 2016)



529 OLIVE STREET

One of only a handful of L-houses left in the historic Ingram's Addition, the house at 529 Olive Street was built ca. 1873. The original shape of the house has not changed, even though it was updated in the 1920's and again in the 1950's. The house was built by, or for, John Henry Brown, an African-American. At the time, Ingram's Addition was a predominantly white subdivision. Today, the house sits next to an apartment building and parking lot, which altered the topography by creating a large embankment around the narrow yard of the house. Another apartment development is located across the street. The recent developments signal a transition in the character of the neighborhood away from single-family homes and toward multi-family housing. The house is further threatened due to the broken windows, loss of siding, and other damage. (Added to the Endangered Buildings List in 2016)

UPDATES – PREVIOUS ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE LIST

LORIMIER APARTMENTS – 142-148 SOUTH LORIMIER STREET



Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2010, this two-story brick apartment building was built in 1925 and features a U-shaped floor plan with a courtyard and double front porches. For the past several years, the building has been vacant, its windows and