

Introduction

Hermann, Missouri, is a town of rich architecture and a strong and consistent 19th Century character. The numerous blocks of brick buildings with crisp trim and fine ornament make a strong impact which few towns can match. The concentrations of significant structures make the town as a whole much more important than those towns which have only a scattering of good building.

A book of history, commentary and illustrations such as CENTENARIANS is an important aid in developing a broader and deeper appreciation of the townscape as well as the individual buildings.

Anna Hesse researched, wrote, illustrated and published the 1st edition of CENTENARIANS, which was the basis of the nomination of the historic district of Hermann to the National Register of Historic Places by the Department of Parks and Historic Preservation of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. This second and expanded edition, like the first, is a singular contribution to the City of Hermann and its citizens and is the only organized source on the subject. It will serve as the framework to propagate yet more information on Hermann architecture and its history.

The publication of works such as CENTENARIANS usually enhances the appreciation of and interest in good architecture and thus helps to insure its continued conservation as well as its continued use to the community. Frequently it is not enough to have a heritage of fine architecture in a town. One needs to be reminded and interested with a written history to awake one to the value of significant everyday surroundings.

CENTENARIANS is an offering to the present citizens and to the posterity of one of the handsomest towns in the Middle West for the conservation and full use of its grand heritage.

W. Philip Cotton, Jr.

St. Louis July 1981