



CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REPORT

FY July 2006—June 2007

Historic Preservation Commission City of Urbana, IL

During FY July 2006-June 2007, the Historic Preservation Commission met on seven occasions. The following report comprises an overview of the cases and other activities of the Historic Preservation Commission in the past year.

The members of the Historic Preservation Commission included Alice Novak (Chair), Rich Cahill, Scott Dossett, Katherine Lipes (term commenced September 18, 2006), Trent Shepard, Mary Stuart, and Art Zangerl.

Staff support to the Historic Preservation Commission was provided by Community Development Services Director, Libby Tyler; Planning Manager, Robert Myers; Planning Interns, Rebecca Bicksler and Rebecca Bird; and Community Development Secretary, Tony Weck.

1) **CASES REVIEWED: Certificates of Appropriateness and Certificates of Economic Hardship**

One Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) was submitted.

Case # HP-2006-COA-01: Royer Certificate of Appropriateness, 801 West Oregon St.

The applicant, Young Sun Kang (owner), requested a COA to remove all 64 windows in the house and replace with new vinyl clad windows. A COA was granted on October 4, 2006 to allow replacement only of those windows in a 1968 addition to the subject house as per staff recommendation and the letter granting the Certificate specified the retention of the currently existing fenestration openings.

2) **LOCAL DESIGNATIONS: Local Landmarks and Historic Districts**

Two Local Landmark designation applications were submitted.

Case # HP-2007-L-01: Application to Designate the Sutton House, 502 West Elm St.

The applicants, Brian Adams and Iona Matkovszki, nominated the Sutton House for local landmark designation. The house was built in 1889 by Elizabeth Sutton, widow of R.A. Sutton, Urbana mayor (1874-75) and “Brick King of Champaign County.” It is an excellent local example of the Queen Anne architectural style and is one of the few remaining examples of this style executed in brick. The property owner submitted a Registered Preference against the designation. The Historic Preservation Commission made a preliminary determination that the property qualified for designation on April 4, 2007. A public hearing was held on May 2, 2007. Eight people spoke in



favor of landmark designation and the Historic Preservation Commission and City staff received approximately 35 e-mails and letters in support of the designation. The Historic Preservation Commission recommended that the City Council designate the property a local landmark. The City Council designated the property on June 4, 2007, after receiving approximately 26 e-mails and hearing 16 people speak in support of the designation at the City Council meeting.

Case # HP-2007-L-02: Application to Designate the Freeman House, 504 West Elm St.

The applicants, Brian Adams and Ilona Matkovszki, nominated the Freeman House for local landmark designation. The house was built by Edward Benton from the design of architect Joseph Royer in 1902 for Gus Freeman, owner of Urbana's first movie theater. It is an excellent local example of the Classical Revival architectural style and the only such example of this style in Urbana. The property owner submitted a Registered Preference against the designation. The Historic Preservation Commission made a preliminary determination that the property qualified for designation on April 4, 2007. A public hearing was held on May 2, 2007. Eight people spoke in favor of landmark designation and the Historic Preservation Commission and City staff received approximately 35 e-mails and letters in support of the designation. The Historic Preservation Commission recommended that the City Council designate the property a local landmark. The City Council designated the property on June 4, 2007, after receiving approximately 26 e-mails and hearing 16 people speak in support of the designation at the City Council meeting.



3) SURVEY:

Approximately 107 properties were surveyed by students at the University of Illinois, as a part of Alice Novak's Historic Preservation class. The surveys have been given to the City of Urbana for future use.

The Champaign County Archives has applied for a grant for funding to create a website where users can access a huge variety of archival documents in digital format. This would include all the architectural survey forms completed by Alice Novak's historic preservation planning students over the years (approximately 1,000). The Archives expect to hear about the grant in October 2007.

4) NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS:

Urbana Lincoln Hotel-Lincoln Square Mall (Application June 2006)

The nomination was reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission at a special meeting on May 31, 2006. The Commission commented that national significance was not well documented in the nomination, but believed the application clearly conveyed state and local significance. Their comments were submitted to the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council for review with the application. IHSAC forwarded the nomination to the National Park Service with a recommendation to list the Urbana Lincoln Hotel/Lincoln Square Mall on the National Register of Historic Places as a nationally significant structure. Lincoln Square Village was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 8, 2006.

5) MONITORING:

Mumford House



Mumford House, Urbana

The Mumford House is located on the south quad of the University of Illinois campus. The Mumford House was listed last year as one of Illinois' most endangered buildings by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois. The University is considering moving the building to the research farms, which are south of the main campus. The house was originally built as a model farmhouse for the university research farms, and since then the farms have been moved further south and other campus buildings have been constructed around the house. The Historic Preservation Commission sent a letter requesting the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency investigate whether or not the University of Illinois initiated State Law 707 review.

6) ACTIVITIES:

Neighborhood Conservation Districts

City staff in the spring of 2006 initiated formal public discussions of neighborhood conservation districts (NCDs). The City's 2005 Comprehensive Plan included an implementation strategy calling for NCDs as one tool to protect the character of traditional neighborhoods. A 26-page report was prepared comparing the pros and cons of several NCD ordinances across the country. The Plan Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, and City Council took part in a series of discussions on the topic and provided input. City staff in the spring of 2007 followed up with a Zoning Ordinance text amendment to allow property owners and neighborhood groups to apply for NCD designation with enactment of a neighborhood plan and other protections such as design review. Comments from a series of public meetings have been incorporated in the proposed ordinance. The City Council is expected to take up consideration of the ordinance in September 2007.

David Bahlman, President of Landmarks Illinois

David Bahlman, President of Landmarks Illinois, spoke in Temple Buell Hall at the University of Illinois on October 6, 2006 on the University and historic buildings on campus.

West Urbana House Tour

The West Urbana Neighborhood Association and the Preservation and Conservation Association held a house tour in the West Urbana Neighborhood on October 15, 2006.

Workshop on Historic House Research

The Champaign County Archives held a workshop on historic house research on February 24, 2007. The course taught participants how to use a variety of sources, including deed records, government land sale records, city directories, and old maps and atlases, to establish when a house was built and who owned and lived in it. The course also covered basic architectural styles commonly found in Champaign-Urbana.

Historic Art Contest

The City of Urbana's Historic Preservation Commission hosted an art show and contest about historic preservation for local high school students. This project aims to develop an interest in historic buildings and historic preservation in Urbana through artistic expression. High school students at Urbana High School and University High School submitted an artistic representation of a historic building accompanied by a short essay describing the building's history. Original student artwork and essays were on display in downtown Urbana for the last two weeks of May.



“Kids’ Building Fair” at the Orpheum Children’s Science Museum, May 2007

The Commissioners helped at the Fair which was sponsored by the Orpheum and the Preservation and Conservation Association (PACA). The Commission sponsored the architectural rubbings activity. The Fair is an annual event which allows children to participate in interactive booths that demonstrate masonry and other building crafts.

26th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference

The meeting was held in Chicago on June 14-16. Rebecca Bird (city staff) and Katherine Lipes (HPC Commissioner) attended the conference.

Looking for Lincoln Wayside Exhibit

City staff applied for a grant from the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition for a wayside exhibit. The program is to provide assistance to communities and sites within the federally proposed Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area interested in creating Looking for Lincoln wayside exhibits. If the grant is awarded, the wayside exhibit will be located near Main and Race streets in downtown Urbana and tell the story of Lincoln sitting for Samuel Alschuler, a traveling photographer.

Historic Preservation Incentives

The Urbana City Council and the Historic Preservation Commission held a joint meeting on February 7, 2007 to discuss promoting historic preservation in Urbana, and specifically how to encourage historic landmark nominations. Following the meeting, City staff researched several types of incentives including a building permit fee waiver, a property tax rebate, a landmark recognition grant, a revolving loan, and a historic marker program. City staff will be making recommendations about this in September 2007.

Demolition Review

The Urbana City Council has expressed interest in demolition review as a tool to prevent the needless loss of historically and architecturally significant buildings. City staff will be making recommendations about this in September 2007.

Historic Wood Windows Repair Workshop (CLG grant # CL20070143)



A windows repair workshop will be held on August 25, 2007. Historic Preservation Commissioner Alice Novak and former Commissioner Bill Rose will speak on historic preservation in Urbana and provide background on historic windows. Bob Yapp, of Renaissance Danville, will give a primer on how to cost effectively repair and restore old windows and how to make old windows as energy efficient as replacement windows. Mr. Yapp will also lead a hands-on session in the afternoon, demonstrating cost effective and energy efficient methodology.

7) ATTACHMENTS:

FY 2006-2007 Commissioner Attendance Record.

Example of survey forms completed by University of Illinois students.

Resume for Katherine Lipes (formerly Couch), commencement of term in September 2006.

Meeting Minutes: Sept. 6, 2006; Oct 4, 2006; Nov 1, 2006; Feb. 7, 2007; Mar. 7, 2007; April 4, 2007; and May 2, 2007.

cc: Elizabeth Tyler
Alice Novak