



CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REPORT

FY July 2007—June 2008

Historic Preservation Commission City of Urbana, IL

During FY July 2007-June 2008, the Historic Preservation Commission met on nine 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, 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; Preservation Planner, Rebecca Bird; and Community Development Secretary, Tony Weck.

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

Nine Certificates of Appropriateness (COA) were submitted.

Case # HP-2007-COA-01: Wakeland Certificate of Appropriateness, 807½ W. Main Street.

The applicant, Howard Wakeland (owner), requested a COA to construct a single-family house on a vacant lot in the West Main Street Historic District. A COA was granted on November 7, 2007 to allow construction of a single-family house with three conditions.

Case # HP-2007-COA-02: Replacement of Front Porch at 808 W. Main Street.

The applicant, Cecil Billingsly (contractor), requested a COA to replace the front porch on a contributing building in the West Main Street Historic District. The request was made due to concerns for public safety regarding the current condition of the porch. A COA was granted on November 7, 2007.

Case # HP-2008-COA-01: Wakeland Certificate of Appropriateness, 809 W. Main Street.

The applicant, Howard Wakeland (owner), requested a COA to demolish a single-family house in the West Main Street Historic District. A COA was denied on April 2, 2008.

Case # HP-2008-COA-02: Folk Rental House Certificate of Appropriateness, 814 W. Main Street.

The applicant, Daniel Folk (owner), requested a COA for the following work on a contributing house in the West Main Street Historic District: to remove the current driveway and install a new driveway; replace non-original front, side, and rear doors; and remove exterior staircase to third story at rear of house. A COA was granted on April 2, 2008 for the work listed above.

Case # HP-2008-COA-03: Lincoln Hotel Sign Awning, COA, 209 Broadway Avenue.

The applicant, Twin City Tent & Awning, requested a COA to install an awning over the east entrance at the Lincoln Hotel. The Lincoln Hotel has been nominated for landmark designation, thereby requiring

a COA for any external work until the designation process is complete. The work was determined to be a “Minor Work” and a COA was granted on February 22, 2008.

Case # HP-2008-COA-04: Radon Mitigation, COA, #1 Buena Vista Court.

The applicant, Marya Ryan, requested a COA to install a fan and a vent pipe to mitigate radon on a contributing building in a local historic district. The work was determined to be a “Minor Work” and a COA was granted on February 22, 2008.

Case # HP-2008-COA-05: Repair/Replace Porch Gutters & Downspout, COA, #1 Buena Vista Court

The applicant, Marya Ryan, requested a COA to rework and replace the gutters and downspout on the porch area of a contributing building in a local historic district. A COA was granted on May 7, 2008.

Case # HP-2008-COA-06: Install a fence, COA, #1 Buena Vista Court.

The applicant, New Prairie Construction, requested a COA to install a fence on the property of a contributing building in a local historic district. The work was determined to be a “Minor Work” and a COA was granted on March 24, 2008.

Case # HP-2008-COA-07: Three-Season Porch Addition, COA, 807 W Main Street.

The applicant, Dan Folk, requested a COA to allow the addition of a three-season porch on the rear of a contributing house in a local historic district. A COA was granted on June 4, 2008.

2) LOCAL DESIGNATIONS: Local Landmarks and Historic Districts

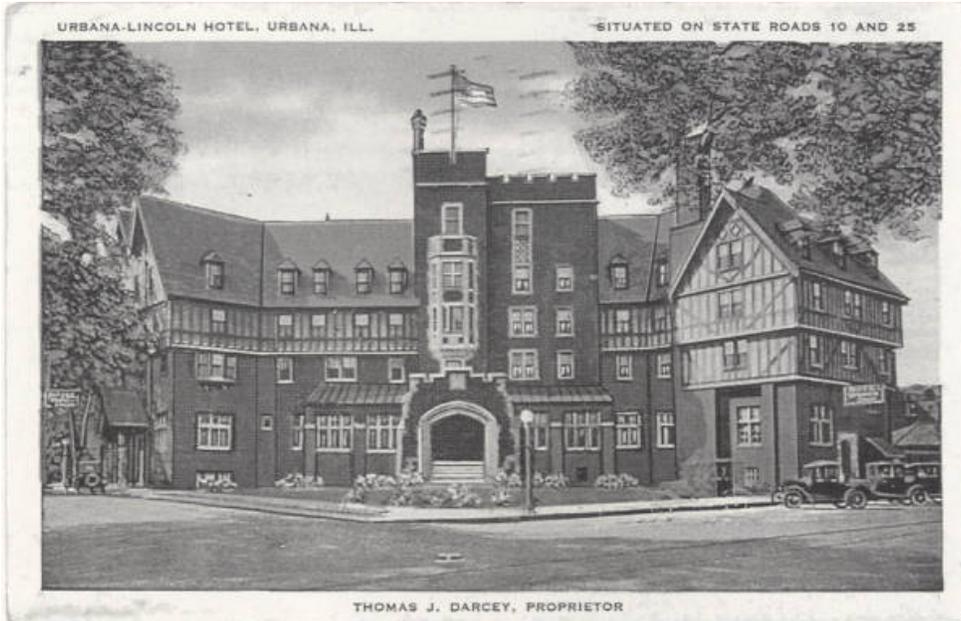
One Local Landmark and one Local Historic District designation applications were submitted.

Case # HP-2007-D-01: Application to Designate the 800 Block of West Main Street



The applicant, Dan Folk, nominated the 800 block of West Main Street for local historic district designation. The block consists of 14 residential structures constructed during the period 1878-2007. Eleven of the 14 properties are more than 50 years old. Nine properties date before 1910. Three modern structures, which could be considered intrusive in terms of historic integrity, are located on the west end of the block. The Historic Preservation Commission made a preliminary determination that the property qualified for designation on September 13, 2007. A public hearing was held on October 3, 2007. Eight people spoke in favor of designation and two in opposition. The Historic Preservation Commission recommended that the City Council designate the property a local landmark. Prior to consideration by the City Council, six properties owners filed a registered preference in opposition to the designation. The City Council designated the property on November 5, 2007.





The applicant, Brian Adams, nominated the Urbana-Lincoln Hotel for local landmark designation. The Urbana-Lincoln Hotel/Lincoln Square Mall is listed in the National Register of Historic Places based on its architectural and commercial significance. The building was designed by Joseph Royer, the most prestigious architect in Urbana

between the late nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries. The City of Urbana recently designated the Joseph W. Royer Arts and Architecture District to recognize his contributions to the city's historic and architectural heritage. The Urbana-Lincoln Hotel is in the Tudor Revival style, built of dark brick and stucco, with half-timbering and stone detailing. It is a classic example of the period revival style buildings for which Royer is so noted. It is the only remaining hotel in downtown Urbana and is the only commercial building downtown in the Tudor Revival style. The Urbana-Lincoln Hotel has been an important part of the community since the early twentieth century. 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 2, 2008. A public hearing was held on May 7, 2008. Three people spoke in favor of landmark designation; a representative of the property owner spoke in opposition. The Historic Preservation Commission recommended that the City Council designate the property a local landmark. The City Council voted not to designate the property due mainly to economic development concerns.

3) SURVEY:

Approximately 100 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 and received 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 is expecting to begin the project in 2008.

4) NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS:

No National Register nomination applications were submitted.

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 in 2008 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:

Historic Window Repair Workshop, August 2007

The City of Urbana and the Urbana Historic Preservation Commission, with a grant from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, hosted a Window Repair Workshop on August 25, 2007. The day started off with Jeffrey Gordon, a Research Specialist in Building Technology, gave an overview of the history of wood windows as well as information regarding the benefits of restoration over replacement, including several recent studies that were very convincing. A question and answer session followed the presentation, where many participants were able to ask specific questions about their windows.

Following the introductory presentation and question-answer time, the participants met our main speaker, Robert Yapp. Mr. Yapp gave a very dynamic two-hour presentation on cost effectively repairing and restoring old windows as well as making existing wood windows as energy efficient as replacement windows. Mr. Yapp brought samples of the products and tools he discussed and passed them round for the audience to get a closer look. He also brought other props, including part of a wood sash that had rotted and then been repaired using a wood epoxy, a vinyl replacement window, and a new wood replacement window. Included in the presentation was a discussion of safety, including how to safely remove lead-based paint.

For the afternoon session, the participants were broken into four groups and each group was assigned a window opening. The groups then had to removed the panes, assess their condition and then begin repairing/restoring. Mr. Yapp and his assistant moved from group to group, helping as needed. As each group got to a new step, he would call everyone's attention to that group and then demonstrate the new



step. Towards the end of the session, the participants boarded up the window openings with plywood and cleaned up their work stations.

Demolition Review Ordinance

On November 5, 2007, the Urbana City Council passed an ordinance establishing a 45-day delay in the issuance of demolition permits for the purpose of historic preservation. During the delay period, a landmark designation application may be submitted. Properties subject to this ordinance must be residential properties listed on the City's Historic Resource Survey Inventory and be 75 years old or older at the time of the permit application.

Building Permit Fee Waiver for Historic Landmarks & Districts, 2007

On December 3, 2007, the City instituted a building permit fee waiver program for locally designated historic landmarks and districts. The property owner must still apply for and receive a permit, but the fee will be waived. This waiver applies to the following: building permit fees, electric permit fees, plumbing permit fees, and mechanical permit fees.

Joseph W. Royer Arts & Architecture District, 2007

On December 17, 2007, the City established the Joseph W. Royer Arts and Architecture District. The district, located in downtown Urbana, is based on the theme of buildings designed by Urbana architect Joseph W. Royer and is intended to promote the area's historic resources as cultural and economic assets.

"Kids' Building Fair" at the Orpheum Children's Science Museum, May 2008

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.

Looking for Lincoln Wayside Exhibit

City staff applied for and received 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. 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.

7) ATTACHMENTS:

FY 2006-2007 Commissioner Attendance Record.

Example of survey forms completed by University of Illinois students.

Meeting Minutes: July 2007 – June 2008

cc: Elizabeth Tyler
Alice Novak