



CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REPORT

FY July 2005—June 2006

Historic Preservation Commission City of Urbana, IL

During FY July 2005-June 2006, the Historic Preservation Commission met on five 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, Bill Rose, 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 Intern, Rebecca Bicksler, and Community Development Secretary Tony Weck.

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

Three Certificates of Appropriateness were submitted and all were approved.

Case # HP-2005-COA-01: The Gothic Revival Cottage Siding Repair, 108 N. Webber.

The applicant, Norman and Carolyn Baxley (owners), requested the COA to remove and repair or replace 3-4 boards of siding. The application was approved administratively on October 14, 2005.

Case # HP-2005-COA-02: The Gothic Revival Cottage Fence, 108 N. Webber.

Kathleen Jones (owner) applied for a COA to construct a fence in the back of the lot at 108 N. Webber. The COA was approved administratively on November 3, 2005.

Case # HP-2005-COA-03: 1Buena Vista Court, Installation of Window Shades.

Marya Ryan (owner) requested a COA to install clear plastic shades on the exterior of the porch windows of her home at 1Buena Vista Court. The shades are intended to keep the rain from entering the screened porch and damaging the wooden edge of the window and the floors. The request was approved administratively on December 8, 2005.

No applications for Certificate of Economic Hardship were submitted.

2) **LOCAL DESIGNATIONS:**

There was one local landmark nomination submitted; however the public hearing has been postponed because the owners are not prepared to pursue landmark nomination. The application is for the old Urbana post office, located at 202 S. Broadway (more described under "Monitoring").

There were no other local landmark nominations submitted during FY 2005-2006.

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 are available to the City of Urbana for future use.

4) NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS:

Urbana Lincoln Hotel-Lincoln Square Mall (June 2006)

The application came before the Historic Preservation Board at a special meeting on May 31, 2006. The Historic Preservation 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 has 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.



5) MONITORING:

Revised Master Plan for the Urbana Free Library

The Historic Preservation Commission reviewed the library's plan for expansion and provided the library board with recommendations. The wording of the plan was altered in a way that removed a lot of the discussion about the demolition of buildings and lessened the impact on what the future of those buildings would be.

202 S. Broadway – IMC/Old Urbana Post Office

The Independent Media Center (IMC) purchased the old Urbana Post Office located in Urbana's downtown. The owners expressed



interest in nominating the building as a local landmark. City staff prepared the nomination; however, the nomination is currently postponed because the owners are not ready to pursue landmark nomination.



A representative of the IMC, Mike Lehman, attended an HPC meeting in December 2005 to share their concerns about the nomination. They were and still are unsure about nominating the building as a local landmark, because there are some physical changes they would like to make to the building without going through the process required for local landmarks. The Historic Preservation Commission and city staff encouraged them to retain the historic characteristics of the building and provided resources that would explain the financial and other benefits of preservation.

Historic East Urbana Brick Sidewalks



Chris Stohr, President of the Historic East Urbana Neighborhood Association (HEUNA), spoke to the Commission in February 2006 regarding the potential removal of some brick sidewalks in the neighborhood. Mr. Stohr stated that in light of the fact that the neighborhood's brick sidewalks had been recognized for their historic significance, they should be preserved. He urged the Historic Preservation

Commission to coordinate with the Urbana Public Works department to see that they are properly maintained and that they are not demolished in favor of concrete sidewalks.



Mumford House

The Mumford House is located on the south quad of the University of Illinois. It is currently listed 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 discussed the pros and cons of moving the structure. While it is in its original location now, moving the house to the south farms would place it back in its original historic context.



Mumford House, Urbana

www.landmarks.org/ten_most_2006_4.htm

6) ACTIVITIES:

Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting

The meeting was held in Urbana on September 9, 2005. Alice Novak presented on a national register nomination for 'The Georgian', a historic apartment building in Champaign, Illinois.

Updated Historic Urbana Brochures

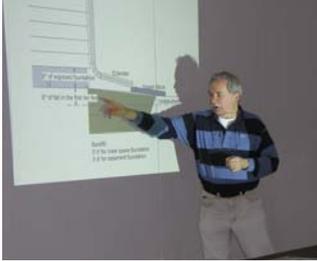
Staff updated and printed more brochures of local landmarks and question/answer booklets that are distributed to residents interested in historic preservation.

"Kids' Building Fair" at the Orpheum Children's Science Museum, May 2005

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

Stucco Workshop (CLG grant # CL20050104)

The stucco workshop was held on May 21, 2006. Historic Preservation Commissioners, Alice Novak, Bill Rose, and Rich Cahill presented information on the history and maintenance of stucco homes. A local contractor, Steve Halfar, demonstrated stucco home repair and gave participants a chance to try their hand at applying stucco on a small demonstration wall. The event took place at Phillips Recreation Center (Urbana Park District), adjacent to Urbana's historic Buena Vista Court.



25th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference

The meeting was held in Bloomington-Normal on June 8-10. Rebecca Bicksler (city staff) and Alice Novak (HPC chair) attended the conference.

7) ATTACHMENTS:

FY 2005-06 Commissioner Attendance Record.

Letter from Urbana Historic Preservation Commission to IHSAC regarding the National Register nomination for the Urbana Lincoln Hotel/Lincoln Square Mall.

Example of survey form completed by University of Illinois students.

Meeting Minutes: Sept. 7, 2005; Dec. 7, 2005; Feb. 1, 2006; Mar. 1, 2006; and May 31, 2006.

cc. Elizabeth Tyler, Bruce Walden