

Urbana Historic Preservation Commission Staff Report

May 5, 2021

Marcus Ricci, AICP, Planner II

new information on existing entries in italics

A. Historic Preservation Month:

1. Downtown Historic District Walking Tour Podcast

Lily and Marcus completed the inaugural walking tour podcast highlighting nine of the Historic District properties. The podcast uses the PocketSights application, which has both mobile phone and computer desktop platforms for iOS and Android/PC. The desktop tour is available here: <https://pocketsights.com/tours/tour/Urbana-Historic-Downtown-District-and-Imagine-Urbana-Tour-May-2021-5509>. There is a tour route with both “Follow Me” and “Virtual” modes; each site has a 30-60 second audio entry with a written transcript. The Cohen Building and Rose Bowl Tavern also have video interviews with the owners, courtesy of Jason Liggett of UPTV. The audio clips are available on the city’s SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-749057601>. I hope to eventually have a website similar to the one that shows all of the current landmarks and districts, as well as make a second tour and SoundCloud with all of the district’s properties: this will need additional staff time, and *maybe some of you would like to contribute to reading audio-clips!* The sites highlighted will be:

1. The Urbana Free Library, 210 South Race Street
2. Tres Nopales, 114 South Race Street
3. Rose Bowl, 106 North Race Street
4. Cohen Building, 136 West Main Street
5. Princess Theater, 120 – 122 – 124 W. Main St.,
6. Post Office/IMC, 202 South Broadway Avenue
7. Urbana Landmark Hotel, 209 South Broadway Avenue
8. Hunter Building, 133 West Main Street
9. Crane Alley, 115 West Main Street

2. Historic Preservation Month Proclamation

Marcus has drafted a proclamation for this year’s Historic Preservation Month (see attachment). It will be submitted for City Council’s May 10, 2021, meeting.

B. Historic Property Activities:

NEW/UPDATED ENTRIES:

HP-2019-COA-01-C AND HP-2020-EH-01: 2 Buena Vista Court – Andrew Fell: Exterior Window Replacement. Major Work; Approved with Conditions by HPC on 1/8/2020. WORK COMPLETED, EXCEPT FOR BASEMENT EGRESS WINDOW.

HP-2020-COA-07: 806 West Main Street – Joan Price. Exterior Window Replacement. Major Work. COA GRANTED 1/6/2021; WORK STATUS UNKNOWN.

1404 South Lincoln Avenue – Chateau Normand/Pierre Moulin. Installed rental signs in front yard. The signboards were removed; staff will reconnect with property manager regarding removing posts. *The University Group submitted an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness on April 29, 2021; it will need revised and resubmitted.*

502 and 504 West Elm Street – Sutton House and Freeman House. Installed porch railings to meet insurance requirements. Staff contacted owner (Jonah Weisskopf) in February 2020. According to Building Official Nick Hanson, repairing existing railings must meet Property Maintenance Code while installing new railings must meet Building Code. Adding or replacing stair railings would be a Minor Work and adding a new porch railing would be a Major Work. *On April 28, Jonah submitted that he would apply for Certificates to replace the stair railings (Minor Work) and to install a porch railing on 502 (Major Work). He has sketches that he will submit.*

NEW APPLICATION: 8 Buena Vista Court – Henry Strehlow. Henry has applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness to repair the porch: remove the non-original access ramp; replace the non-original concrete steps with concrete or wood steps and remove the brick sidewalls; and repair the porch exterior stucco and window screens and install an exterior door. *ZA Designee Ricci and Chair Novak have determined that all three activities would be Minor Works. Mr. Strehlow will submit detailed information on the door candidates for approval.*

OLD ENTRIES/NO STATUS CHANGE:

HP-2019-COA-01-B: 2 Buena Vista Court – Andrew Fell: Exterior Plaster Repair. Minor Work; approved by Zoning Administrator and HPC Chair on 1/8/2020. WORK ON HOLD PENDING COMPLETION OF INTERIOR RENOVATIONS.

HP-2020-COA-02: 4 Buena Vista Court – Janet Mohr: Exterior Stucco Repair. Minor Work; approved by HPC Chair on 5/20/2020 and ZA on 5/21/2020. WORK IN PROGRESS.

HP-2020-COA-06: 8 Buena Vista Court – Henry Strehlow. Exterior Stucco Repair. Minor Work; approved by HPC Chair and ZA on 11/13/2020. WORK IN PROGRESS.

801 West Oregon Street – Chris Enck. *Staff will contact Mr. Enck regarding removing posts.*

612 West Green Street – Ricker House. Replaced asphalt shingles on roof with like. Minor Work. Staff have contacted new owners in November 2020, who will submit an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness (work done in Summer 2020). Staff will continue to reach out to owners. *No change.*