

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH IDEAS – MAY 2020

PURPOSE: As City Council has not allocated additional resources for planning an activity, they must be primarily planned & implemented by HPC members or other volunteers; staff can provide minimal support.

- Release/upload Historic Landmark plaque installation videos and interviews
  - Time-intensive option: video or photograph David Seiler installing the plaques on the Freeman & Sutton Houses, and the Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority House
  - Less-time-intensive option: interview and video/photograph the owner of the home when it was nominated, or the nominator themselves, on why it was important that the building be designated
  - Bridget B. is willing to work on this, as may be Jason Liggett, within staffing constraints
- Downtown Historic District Walking Tour
  - A knowledgeable guide would tour attendees through the district and pass by (all) of the contributing properties, providing verbal info on the properties; walk through as many of the properties as possible.
  - Ask Dan Maloney to give additional info on the importance of the District, and why he initiated the designation process.
  - Have property owners give a brief description of their property, and why it is important to them to have it recognized. If the current property owner is not interested in talking, ask the original nominator.
  - \*\*Create a Downtown District Walking Tour Brochure, to replace or supplement existing Downtown Urbana Walking Tour Brochure?
- Historic Preservation Workshop
  - Window restoration: there are at least two sites that may be actively restoring the windows of their Historic District contributing properties
- Urbana Landmark Hotel Tour
  - Collaborate with new owner/developer to tour of their new property; it could generate good public sentiment for them, while helping remind the general public why the hotel was designated, and its potential for restoration/adaptive reuse.
- Buena Vista Court Tour: tour Court, and have current renovators show us their improvements.
- Greek House, et al. Tour: tour current and adaptively-reused fraternities, sororities, communal living spaces.
- Potential Collaborators
  - PACA
  - City of Champaign
- Thoughts from March, 2017:
  - Lectures?

- Tours:
  - Bike tour was cool, needed a more knowledgeable guide; walking tours were awesome
  - Downtown tour? Royer tour? Landmarks tour? Greek tour?
  - “Open House Chicago”-like event?
  - Window preservation place?
  - Out-of-town tour?

## **PAST ACTIVITIES AND OTHER HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECTS**

- Walking tours:
  - Downtown – June 29, 2002
  - Green Street – 2002?
  - Architecture Tour – 2016?
  - Modern Urbana Home Tour – May 6, 2012, 1-4pm: six houses, self-guided, \$10, with house info sheets; <https://www.urbanaininois.us/modernurbana>
  - Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Houses – May 27, 2017
  - WUNA Historic House Tour – October, 2006, with PACA
  - In Lincoln’s Shadow Pastcast Tour
  - Historic Urbana Self-Guided Tour
  - Historic Downtown Urbana Walking Tour Brochure
  - Urbana’s Significant Buildings, three podcast tours: Historic Urbana; Style Inventory; At the Turn of the Century
- Lectures:
  - “Hidden History of Urbana’s Antebellum Houses”, Stewart Berlocher, June 2016
- Fora:
  - Living with Historic Preservation Forum: February 18, 2003 (two hours); panel talking about: HP in general, impact of historic district designations in communities; historic district property owner, Illinois CLG Staffer, Illinois Preservation Commissioner, and HP practitioner. short presentations with Q&A.
- Workshops:
  - Research Your Old House – March 10, 2016; House History Workshop – February 17, 2001
  - House Unveiling Workshops:
    - June 13, 2013: volunteers removed aluminum siding from 303 West High Street Queen Anne-style house. Bob Yapp gave two seminars.
    - February 2009: Bills House There were also emails about doing this in 2008 for 508 West Elm (Urbana Development Group).
  - Stucco Workshop – May 21, 2006
  - Window Workshop – August 25, 2007: lecture & hands-on workshop (8:30am-5pm)

- Brochures:
  - Urbana HP Ordinance: Understanding Local Historic District & Designations – an FAQ
  - Joseph Royer Arts & Architecture District: 2007; grant-funded
- Resources:
  - 100 Most-Historic Buildings in Urbana: list, with online guide with architectural and historical descriptions; separate webpages for Urbana’s Architects; Architectural Styles; and Buildings
  - Historic Resources Web Map
  - Historic Resource Survey Digitization: 1,300+ surveys digitized
    - \*\*Make sure all Landmarks and District properties are surveyed?
    - ??Are these our surveys or PACA’s surveys?  
<http://www.idaillinois.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/ufl>
  - Demolition Delay List: \*\*Make sure it is updated?
  - Historic Resources Database (internal database): \*\*Make sure it is updated and includes all new properties?
  - Looking for Civil War Urbana: link to article by local resident
  - Websites for West Main Street, Buena Vista Court, and Royer Districts
  - Inside Historic Urbana: CD/DVD: Lindley, Ricker, Sheldon, Matt Busey Houses; Buena Vista Court; Princess Theatre – 2008; UPTV production, put on DVD
  - “Looking for Lincoln” freestanding wayside exhibit at Race & Main – 2007
  - From 2009 activity report:
    - Held an arts contest for High School students to promote improved awareness of historic resources (Spring 2007)
    - Established “Founders Park” at the original Busey Cabin site (June, 2008)
    - Conducted a mobile workshop for a statewide planning conference on the West Urbana Neighborhood, which was voted one of the ‘Great Neighborhoods in America’ by the APA (October, 2008)
    - Celebrated the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Urbana’s founding through a year-long celebration including numerous community events and programs (2008-2009)
    - Supported the Urbana Free Library to obtain a grant to create a website where users can access a huge variety of archival documents in digital format, which will include the City’s architectural survey forms and historic photos of Urbana neighborhoods (2008-2009)