

MCHENRY COUNTY
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
COMMISSION

FY 94-95
ANNUAL REPORT

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

McHENRY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER - ANNEX BUILDING A
2200 NORTH SEMINARY AVENUE
WOODSTOCK, IL 60098
815/334-4560 FAX# 815/337-3720

McHENRY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING DATES FOR 1995

January 10, 1995

February 14, 1995

March 14, 1995

April 11, 1995

May 9, 1995

MEETING June 13, 1995 **CANCELLED**

July 11, 1995

August 8, 1995

MEETING September 12, 1995 **CANCELLED**

October 10, 1995

November 14, 1995

December 12, 1995

**FY 94-95 ANNUAL REPORT
MCHENRY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

I. CASES REVIEWED

In fiscal year 1994-95 the Commission reviewed one Certificate of Appropriateness and no Certificates of Economic Hardship. The Certificate of Appropriateness was for local landmark # HP 93-03, commonly known as the Diggins School House and approved for local landmark status in November 1993. This structure was the third local landmark in McHenry County. The request stemmed from the owners desire to increase living space in the school house which was converted to a dwelling. The existing lower floor walk out basement was to receive interior remodeling. As a result of this an additional double hung window needed to be added to the northwest corner of the structure. The window was to be identical to those existing in the structure and would make the west side of the structure symmetrical to the existing east elevation. (See attached plans). On March 14, 1995 the Commission approved this Certificate of Appropriateness.

II. DESIGNATIONS (See Appendix A for Documentation of Designations)

In fiscal year 1994-95 the Commission made three local landmark designations. These were as follows:

1). #HP 95-01, Designation of the Holcombville School House as a local McHenry County Landmark. This structure was built in 1858 on one-half acre of land purchased from the Sutherland Ingersoll homestead. It is one of the earliest one room school houses in McHenry County and still stands on its original site and remains virtually unchanged from the days when it was in use. The architectural pattern is a simplified federal style. Intricate brick work exists under the roof which was common in the mid-1800's and is classical in form. Most windows contain their original glass panes. The interior of the structure contains original wood floors, embossed tin ceiling and blackboards. The structure was in as a school for eighty-eight years and closed in 1946. It has had two owners since that time. The structure is located at 6310 Crystal Springs Road, Crystal Lake, Illinois.

2). #HP 95-02, Designation of the Frank & Louise Newman House as a local McHenry County Landmark. The original structure was built in 1873. Italianate in architectural style, it is a farmhouse constructed of handmade native brick. The house contains a kitchen, dining room, parlor, and bath (formerly a sewing room) on the first floor and three bedrooms on the second floor. A partial basement is thought to have originally been a root cellar. An enclosed wooden porch was added shortly after construction. Bricks in the structure are stamped with various names and initials which identify the Newmans as the builders as well as Washington Hammond, a local Harvard brickmason. Newman and Hammond were in-laws, that is, Frank Newman's wife, Louisa, was Hammond's daughter. Both were Civil War veterans serving as volunteers in Company E of the 127th Illinois Infantry. Brick fragments, as well as other artifacts, indicate Hammond and Newman were engaged in the brickmaking business for greater Harvard. The structure is located at 20605 East Brink Street, immediately east of the Harvard city limits.

3). #HP 95-03, Designation of the John James House as a local McHenry County Landmark. The residence, completed in 1850, is characterized as federal in architectural style and was constructed of field stone. Exterior walls of the structure are 12 inches thick. Some of the windows in the structure are made of beveled glass and are still in place. In the kitchen of the structure here is evidence of a trap door. Openings in the field stone foundation lead into the basement where a short five step staircase remains under the trap door. This may have been a root cellar or perhaps a "station" for fugitive slaves. John James, the original owner and builder of the house came from New Hampshire in 1842 where he was a farmer. He received an original land grant and purchased 120 acres of land. He was active in Township politics, moderator of town meetings, Commissioner of Highways in 1850 and 1857, and was overseer of the poor farm from 1861 to 1864. The structure is located at 2719 Greenwood Rd. Woodstock, IL. Research done by the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission found a striking similarity between this house and the Osgood Family House in Fryberg, Oxford County, Maine. (See photos in Appendix A).

During this fiscal year there were no properties which were considered for local landmark status and rejected or appealed. At the present time there are no designations pending. The survey committee has distributed applications to individuals interested in designating their properties as local landmarks. None of these applications have been received to date. A total of eight local landmarks have been designated by the Commission to date.

III. SURVEY

The Survey Committee is comprised of Jim Keefe, Frank Scherschel, and Chairperson Nancy Welsh. Prior to recommendation and approval by the County Board, the Survey Committee visited and researched the three buildings which are identified as landmarks in this report . These are the Holcombville School House - Bull Valley, The Frank and Louise Newman House - Harvard, and the John James House - Greenwood.

On April 23, 1995 the landmarking ceremony for the Springshire Inn was held although the Ordinance designating the site a local landmark was approved the previous fiscal year. This will also be the case for the ceremonies honoring the landmark designation of the Newman House and the John James House as warmer weather is needed for the outdoor ceremonies to be well attended and meaningful.

Commissioner Frank Scherschel is a new addition to the Survey Committee this year. He is a McHenry County architect from Cary, IL., and began participating in the landmark process at the beginning of the John James and Newman Houses.

The Survey Committee has greatly missed the knowledge and guidance of former member Al Kramka in this his first year since his resignation from the Commission. This has led to a revamping of the Committee to carry on. This next year should see the Committee solidify more and have less "we need Al " struggles.

On going projects for the Survey Committee include property on Harmony Hill Road (near Marengo) . The owners have had an application for two years and have had three visits from the Survey Committee. They cannot decide whether they want to designate the property. The Survey Committee will continue to follow up. The Pyramid House in Alden is at the same status. The Committee also plans to revisit the mill in Alden and deliver an application for landmark status.

The Seven Gables House (refer to minutes 3/14/95) will be applying for local landmark status as soon as the porch is restored. The Committee has made two visits and delivered an application to be returned after to porch restoration is complete. The correct name of the property is the Rudolph Hutinchson House (refer to minutes of 4/11/95). The owners have consulted with the Commission in the restoration and have

agreed to install a wood shingle roof instead of a tin roof for which there is no precedent.

Other on-going projects include the annual awards ceremony to take place during preservation week. A new category to cover "vistas" will be added this year. A planning session is to be scheduled by March 1st to establish new surveying date for the Spring and Summer of 1996.

The Survey Committee also researched two additional properties which were found not to be worthy of additional consideration.

IV. NATIONAL REGISTER

In fiscal year 1994-95 no National Register nominations were considered by the Commission. No National Register nominations are pending with the Commission.

V. MONITORING

The Commission did not review nor identify any cases of alteration/demolition's to National Register or Illinois Register properties in McHenry County.

VI. ACTIVITIES

One of the most significant activities of the Commission was the division of the Commission into Sub-committees. The accomplishments of each Sub-committee are briefly listed as follows:

- a). Survey Committee - (See Section III Above)
- b). Municipal Liaison - The municipal liaison is responsible for providing information to the various municipalities in the County regarding Historic Preservation (e.g. formation of plans, study groups, ordinances, etc.). See the attached report from Commissioner Gloria Mack.
- c). The Old House Support Group - The Old House Support Group is an offshoot of the County Preservation Commission. The Support Group is an association of "Old House" owners throughout the County who are pursuing the objective of restoring their homes. A newsletter is published and sent to members. Representative copies of the newsletter are attached as Appendix B of this report and report from Gail Drabant.

d). Vistas - This sub-Committee is newly created and has been grappling with ways to preserve some of the scenic beauty of McHenry County. See Attached report from Carol Lockwood on the vista's sub-Committee.

e). Commission Scrapbook - The Commission also maintains a scrapbook of newspaper articles which relate to the Commission and preservation efforts in the County in general.

f). Calendar of Events - The calendar of events for the next fiscal year (FY 95-96) is attached to this document to outline activities for the next fiscal year.

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission
FY 94-95
Notes from the Chairman

The Commission started out with 7 voting members, obtained one, Carol Ann Songer, then lost two very quickly when one was transferred out of the area and the other resigned. This left the Commission with only 5 voting members. This is the minimum number which constitutes a quorum and all members had to be in attendance to approve anything. Additional appointments have been made (Frank Scherschel, Carol Lockwood, Beverly Merz and Mike Orndahl) and the Commission is up to 8 members. Additional applications have been received and the Commission should have a full 9 members shortly.

Commissioner Gloria Mack and Chairman Jim Keefe met with the Harvard Historical Society and are working with them to pass a Preservation Ordinance in the City of Harvard.

The Commission also agreed to contribute funds for a speaker for Preservation Week. This was done in conjunction with the McHenry County Historical Society.

During the past fiscal year the Commission held a hearing on a Certificate of Appropriateness for an alteration to the Diggins School (the County's 3rd local landmark). This was a first for the Commission.

The Commission made substantial progress on the completion of a comprehensive listing of all County landmarks (incorporated and unincorporated) and has maintained the map which identifies all the County landmarks.

Three hearings were held regarding local landmarks in the County. All were approved and also approved by the McHenry County Board. These include the Holcombville Schoolhouse, the Newman House and the John James House .

Commissioner Gail Drabant produced a promotional brochure for the Commission and also made business cards for the Commission.

Commissioner Gloria Mack put together a orientation/notebook for new commissioners. This is designed to get new commissioners "up to speed" more quickly.

Chairman Keefe attended the I.H.P.A. conference in Springfield. Mr. Keefe met with Mike Ward and Amy Slocomb and attended a C.L.G. workshop program.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Keefe, Chairman McHenry County Preservation Commission

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission
FY 94-95

Gloria Mack - Municipal Liaison/Public Relations & Communications

Municipal Liaison

The Municipal Liaison committee has been very busy this year. It is our charge to urge and encourage the counties municipalities to adopt historic preservation ordinances. I began the year by attending the Harvard Historical Society regular meeting. Chairman Keefe and myself addressed the group and provided them with a copy of the County Historic Preservation Ordinance.

This year three of our fastest growing municipalities had begun the process of adopting a historic preservation ordinance. We have served these municipalities as a resource for information and council for their ordinances.

The City of Woodstock has the first draft of their ordinance. It was reviewed by our Commission, we suggested changes and returned the ordinance with a note outlining our recommendations. It appears Woodstock will adopt a historic preservation ordinance within the next 6 months.

The City of Crystal Lake has completed a final draft of their ordinance. It will be discussed by their City Council at a "Meeting of the Whole" on Tuesday, December 12, 1995. It will then be on their agenda for adoption on December 19, 1995. There seemed to be a lag in the Crystal Lake process but then during the summer a Crystal Lake landmark, the historic pump house, was demolished. The outcry was heard throughout the County. I forwarded a letter to Mayor Wagner suggesting the Ordinance be adopted in honor of the pump house, he concurred.

The City of McHenry Landmark Commission is currently drafting an ordinance. Nancy Fike, director of the McHenry County Historic Society, is on the McHenry Commission and that ordinance is in good hands. I am not sure with the current make-up of the McHenry Council that a preservation ordinance could be passed, however, the municipal elections slated for 1997 could change the current aldermen and mayor.

Recently I contacted six municipalities in the County regarding the possibility of adopting an ordinance to protect their historic treasures in our fast changing county. To date I have received only one response, not favorable.

Public Relations & Communication

The Public Relations/ Communication committee plans all of the Landmarking Ceremonies and arranges for press coverage. This year we conferred landmark status on three properties. The Newman House - Harvard, The John James House - Greenwood, and the Holcombville School - Bull Valley.

We also officially plaqued the Springshire Inn on April 23, 1995. The ceremony consisted of entertainment by the "Sweet Adelines" and presentation of the plaque by County Board member John Jung.

In May of this year, in conjunction with Historic Preservation Week, we awarded a certificate to Praticia Etzkorn for "Most Sympathetic Restoration/ Adaptation" of a historic residence to a business in the Village of Richmond.

On Saturday, December 9, 1995, one of the coldest days of the year, The McHenry County Historical Society and the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission both landmarked the Holcombville School. The school is embroiled in a property line dispute and part of the dispute was whether it was in the unincorporated area of the County or in the Village of Bull Valley. In an effort to preserve the school, The County and the Village entered into an intergovernmental agreement and thus the structure could be brought under the protection of the County preservation ordinance. 60 people, former students, their children, grandchildren, a former teacher and the press crowded into that historic school to witness what can happen when we "all" work together.

I also serve as the Long Range Planning Chairman for the Village of Ringwood. In that capacity I attended the Municipal League Conference in September. I attended two workshops, the Main Street Program designed to restore the dying "downtown's" in rural communities. Valecia Crisafulli, Main Street Program Coordinator, was the main speaker. I also attended a seminar on "Land Use and Zoning". This dealt with the legal limitations of annexation agreements and recent legislation impacting such agreements.

Respectfully Submitted,
Commissioner Gloria Mack

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission
FY 94-95
Carol Lockwood - Vista's Sub-Committee

The vista's sub-committee was created as a sub-committee of the Public Relations Committee on September 12, 1995. The purpose of the sub-committee is to bring attention and recognition to the natural landscape/vista features of the County, particularly with regard to prairies and wetlands, and to bring landmark status and recognition to some of the non-structural aspects of the County's heritage. In this capacity the sub-committee will begin to consider the possibility of giving landmark status to natural features such as bogs, groves, springs, etc. and other non-structural features such as cemeteries and roadways that have historical as well as scenic value to the County.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Lockwood
Vista's sub-committee

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission
FY 94-95
Gail Drabant - Old House Support Group (OHSG)

The OHSG met monthly January through May and September through December of 1995. (We do not meet during summer due to conflicts with house projects). The format that we use is to alternate informative programs with open houses (at members homes). Programs presented during 1995 included, "Researching Your House's History", "Old House Insurance", "Wood Restoration", and "Roofing Problems and Alternatives". We have anywhere from 15 to 40 members in attendance at each program/open house. Our mailing list reaches approximately 150 addresses including old house home-owners, local libraries and historic preservationists. For specific details, see the OHSG's attached newsletters for 1995.

Aside from the OHSG publications were produced in 1995. These included a brochure for the Commission to detail our scope and the landmarking process, business cards to ease introductions, programs for landmark presentations, a preservation award and several versions of the Commission's County landmark list which includes other historical county landmarks by other commissions, societies, or municipalities (see attached landmark lists).

McHenry County Preservation Commission
FY 94-95 Attendance

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Meetings Attended</u>	<u>Total Meetings =11*</u>
Jim Keefe	11	
Gloria Mack	11	
Rick McGrath	1 (Resigned 7/95)	
Nancy Welsh	10	
Gail Drabant	10	
John Jurewicz	1 (Resigned 4/95)	
Carol Ann Songer	2 (Resigned 2/95)	
Frank Scherschel	6 (New Commissioner 4/95)	
Carol Lockwood	6 (New Commissioner 4/95)	
Beverly Merz	1 (New Commissioner 11/95)	
Mike Orndahl	1 (New Commissioner 11/95)	

* June Meeting canceled due to
vacation schedules of members &
staff.

McHenry County
Historic Preservation Commission

1995

Monthly Reports

Memos, and

Attachments

MCHENRY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

4/11/95 - Committee Report - Gail Drabant

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD HOUSE SUPPORT GROUP:

The OHSG's March program was the rescheduled "Researching Old Houses" program presented by the McHenry County Recorder of Deeds office and the McHenry County Historical Society. We had our largest turn-out yet for this very successful program. Many thanks to the representatives from the Recorder of Deeds Office and to Nancy Fike from the Historical Society. Their information and insights into the researching process proved to be very valuable to all that attended. All agreed that there are more sources of information than any of us were aware of. The April meeting will be an Open House in Woodstock at the Diehl's and the May meeting will be a program on insurance needs for old houses. The mailing list has been is undergoing its final revisions.

TEMPORARY COMMITTEES:

BROCHURE:

The brochure is in the production stage. Enough brochures have already been produced for availability to the Survey Committee, the upcoming landmarking, preservation week and on a "as per request" basis. The next phase will be distribution to the twelve library districts within McHenry County. These will be available next month. It was decided at the prior commission meeting that commission members will do the actual distribution to those libraries in their areas rather than doing a mailing.

COMPREHENSIVE LANDMARK LIST:

Some of the input has been received on the draft of the Comprehensive Landmark List. Further revisions will be made as more input is available. There are two versions: a short list consisting of just the property name, address, city, township and year constructed and a long list that also includes a descriptive paragraph of each property. The data for both versions has been entered, but more information will need to be entered for the local organization's input. Both versions will be available by the May preservation events. We have landmark information from 5 organizations (3 are county-wide and 2 are local).



Gloria G. Mack

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission

The landmark ceremony for the Ormsby/Starck House is in place. The Chain "O" Lakes chapter of the Sweet Adeline's double quartet will provide a 20 minute performance. County Board members William Carroll and John Jung will present the plaque on behalf of the county. Claudia Henning, owner of the house, will give the history.

Richard Rostron of the Chicago Tribune is doing a feature on the house. He has interviewed Claudia Henning and myself. I believe that he is waiting until after the ceremony to submit the feature. I am going to mail him some information regarding the commission and also ask him to consider a feature highlighting all the historic groups in the County and their activities.

**Historic Preservation Commission
Public Hearing Holcombville School
May 9, 1995
McHenry County Government Center
Woodstock, Illinois**

Members Present: Chairman Jim Keefe, Gail Drabant, Steve Gulgren, Carol Lockwood, Gloria Mack, Frank Scherschel, Nancy Welch.

Members Absent: Rick McGrath.

Guests: Tony Valenziano, Marcel Aimi, John and Judith Lovaas.

The Hearing was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Jim Keefe opened the Public Hearing on the Holcombville School. Jim Keefe stated 9 out of 14 criteria were met for nomination.

- 1) It has character, interest, or value which is part of the development, heritage, or cultural character of the community, county, state or nation.
- 2) It embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.
- 3) It embodies elements of design, detailing, materials, or craftsmanship that render is architecturally significant.
- 4) It embodies design elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative.
- 5) It has a unique location or singular physical characteristics that make it an established or familiar visual feature.
- 6) It has character which is a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, including, but not limited to, farmhouses, gas stations, or other commercial structures, with a high level of integrity or architectural significance.
- 7) It establishes a sense of time and place unique to a community and /or the County of McHenry.
- 8) It is suitable for preservation or restoration.
- 9) It is an exceptional example of a historic or vernacular style or one of few remaining in the County of McHenry.

Jim Keefe stated aeriol photos of the Holcombville School is indicate it is not in the Village of Bull Valley. Mr. Valenziano stated he feels it is the Village of Bull Valley. Mr. Valenziano produced a survey showing the county line on the survey is going through the middle of the Holcombville School building.

Jim Hogue suggested we continue the Hearing on the Holcombville School and do not vote on it at this time. Jim Hogue also stated he will talk to the States Attorney on this matter to see if it is in the Village of Bull Valley and get an opinion as to how the Commission should proceed on this matter.

A motion was unanimously approved. The Hearing will be continued until the July 11, 1995 regular meeting.

There are no minutes for the June 1995 meeting of the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission as the meeting was canceled.

July 11, 1995
McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission
Gloria Mack - Report

Greenwood School:

Clara Vogel, the owner of the Greenwood School, has contacted me. She is very disappointed that there is not anything in place that encourages individuals, like herself, to have their properties landmarked. Somehow misinformation about the tax freeze is at the root of this problem. Clara thought it was automatic, however, it is not. Greenwood recently incorporated and the County has lost its jurisdiction over the School and Clara Vogel doesn't think she will pursue any intergovernmental agreement. What can we do??

Holcomville School:

Grace Moline, McHenry Co. Historical Society called me and asked me if we would consider a joint ceremony for the Holcomville School. I didn't feel that would be a problem, however I would like your thoughts.

I would like the Commission to get involved with the Mast farm barn. It appears McHenry is serious about preserving it. I will be talking to Barb Gilpin, Chair of the McHenry Landmark Commission, and inform her of the advantages of McHenry having a preservation ordinance and the +'s of CTU status. Also, Nancy Fike, a commission member is working on an ordinance for McHenry.

Crystal Lake:

Crystal Lake has completed their ordinance and it is presently being evaluated by the City attorney. When the attorney finishes, it will be returned to the Study Group for final revisions and then on to the City Council. Also, the Crystal Lake Pump house issue took a hit last night when the Council voted in favor of the parking lot. Mary Thennes, feels that of all the groups, the school and the library, are the ones she can't believe don't support preservation of the Pump House.

McHenry overnight

A DIGEST OF LATE NEWS REPORTS, COMPILED BY MARLA DONATO

Schoolhouse status raises control issue

■ **McHenry County:** County officials said one thing is certain: The Holcombville School, more than a century old, will be preserved. The question is who will manage it.

At its meeting Tuesday night, the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission approved a resolution granting landmark status to the red brick schoolhouse, built in 1858.

However, the building, on Crystal Springs Road just west of Walkup Road, appears to be half in the village of Bull Valley and half in unincorporated McHenry County.

The commission also approved a measure asking the Bull Valley Village Board either to enter into an agreement with the county for the preservation of the schoolhouse or to approve a village ordinance designating the county as the caretaker of the school.

There has been some dispute over who owns the school, which has been preserved by a couple who believed the school was on their land.

According to Jim Hogue, the county's principal planner, the schoolhouse is owned by three doctors.

Two of the three doctors have agreed to deed the property to the county. The third is still deciding what to do, he said.

Betsy Boldt

8-10-95

MC Chicago

MC HENRY COUNTY BRIEFING



Tribune photos by Phil Greer

Judith Lovaas (above) sits in the one-room school (right) she and her husband bought in 1966. Landmark status is sought while boundaries are reworked.



Landmark status sought for 1-room school

■ **Bull Valley:** To protect a little red schoolhouse while boundary lines are being rearranged, the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission on Tuesday accepted a draft resolution aimed at encouraging the county and the Village of Bull Valley to authorize a plaque for the Holcombville school as a historic landmark.

Back in 1858 a surveyor mapped out the site for what was to be the new Holcombville School, a little red brick, one-room building on what is now the corner of Walkup and Crystal Springs Roads.

Both the building and survey survive, each remarkably intact and owned by John and Judith Lovaas, who acquired both in 1966. In the subsequent years the Lovaas' maintained the building, tuckpointing the brick, painting the interior walls, paying the taxes and periodically opening its doors for guided tours.

Now, nearly 30 years later, it seems they only own half the building—the east half—with the other half belonging to a developer who plans to convert 714 acres of farmland to the west into an exclusive residential subdivision.

"Somewhere along the line," according to the McHenry County's principal planner, Jim Hogue, "someone made a mistake," a fact made obvious by a recent survey which shows the Lovaas' property line slic-

ing cleanly through the center of the school.

Hogue said the starting point of the current "metes and bounds" survey is 15 feet east of the starting point shown on the 1858 survey. When and where the surveying mistake was made is up in the air but, Hogue noted, "if you look straight south from the front of the school, you'll see that it lines up perfectly with the center line of Walkup," suggesting the original mistake was made with the original survey.

Both the developer and the Lovaas agree that the building should stay. But until actual ownership is determined, the landmark designation will afford an extra level of protection.

Hogue said the resolution he presented to the commission Tuesday night will have to make its way through the County Board, which will then presumably enter into an intergovernmental agreement with Bull Valley to plaque the building.

The village is involved, Hogue said, because the developer's eastern boundary coincides with Bull Valley's village limits and thus with the new line drawn through the center of the school.

"I suspect there won't be a lot of opposition from Bull Valley," he said.

Dave Barnes

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING JOHN JAMES HOUSE (1850)
NOVEMBER 14, 1995

MCHENRY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS 60098

Members Present: Chairman Jim Keefe, Steve Gulgren, Carol Lockwood, Gloria Mack, Beverly Merz, Frank Scherschel and Nancy Welch

Member Absent: Gail Drabant

Guest: Barbara Gillette, Chicago Tribune

The Hearing was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Jim Keefe opened the Public Hearing for the John James House which was built in 1850.

Mr. Keefe stated that letters have been sent out to the surrounding neighbors and an announcement was placed in the newspapers on October 26, 1995. There has been no response regarding the plaquing of this property as a local landmark.

The residence is located at 2719 Greenwood Road, Woodstock, Illinois, P.P.I. #08-22-200-003-0040.

The criteria for Landmarking this home is as follows:

1. It has character, interest, or value which is part of the development, heritage, or cultural character of the community, county, state or nation.
2. It is identified with a person who significantly contributed to the development of the community.
3. It embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.
4. It embodies design elements, detailing materials, or craftsmanship that render it architecturally significant.

5. It embodies design elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative.
6. It has a unique location or singular physical characteristics that make it an established or familiar visual feature.
7. It has character which is a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, including, but not limited to, farmhouses, gas stations, or other commercial structures, with a high level of integrity or architectural significance.
8. It establishes a sense of time and place unique to a community and/or the County of McHenry.
9. It is suitable for preservation or restoration.
10. It is an exceptional example of a historic or vernacular style of one of few remaining in the County of McHenry.

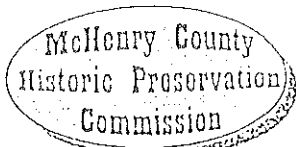
Nancy Welch passed around pictures of the house while Barbara Levesko, the petitioner, briefly described the home.

A MOTION was made by Gloria Mack, seconded by Nancy Welch to approve the John James House (1850) for plaquing. MOTION approved by voice vote.

Jim Hogue stated that he will present this proposal to the Planning and Development Committee in December. This will go before the full Board in December or January.

APPENDIX A

DOCUMENTATION



McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission
c/o McHenry County Dept. of Planning & Development
2200 North Seminary - Woodstock, IL 60098
815 - 334 - 4560

INITIAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION WITH REGARD TO THE HOLCOMBVILLE SCHOOL

The McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission and its Survey Committee and members are recommending that the Holcombville School be designated as an historic landmark as it meets the criteria for designation as provided in Article III, Section 4 of our ordinance.

It is located in a very visible location on the Crystal Lake/McHenry blacktop halfway between both towns at the intersection of Crystal Springs Road on the far eastern border of the Village of Bull Valley.

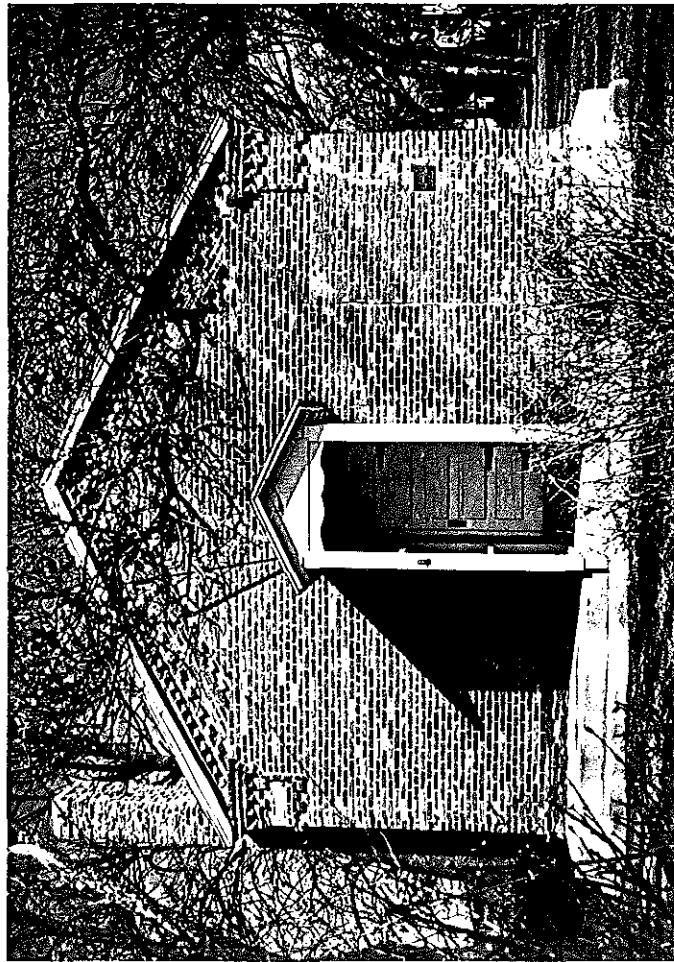
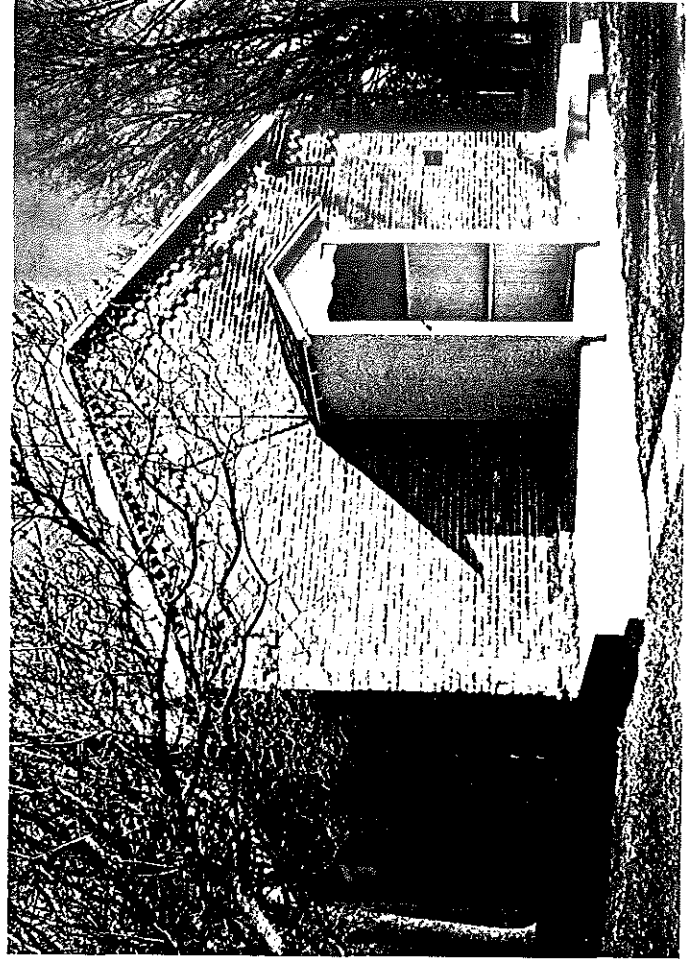
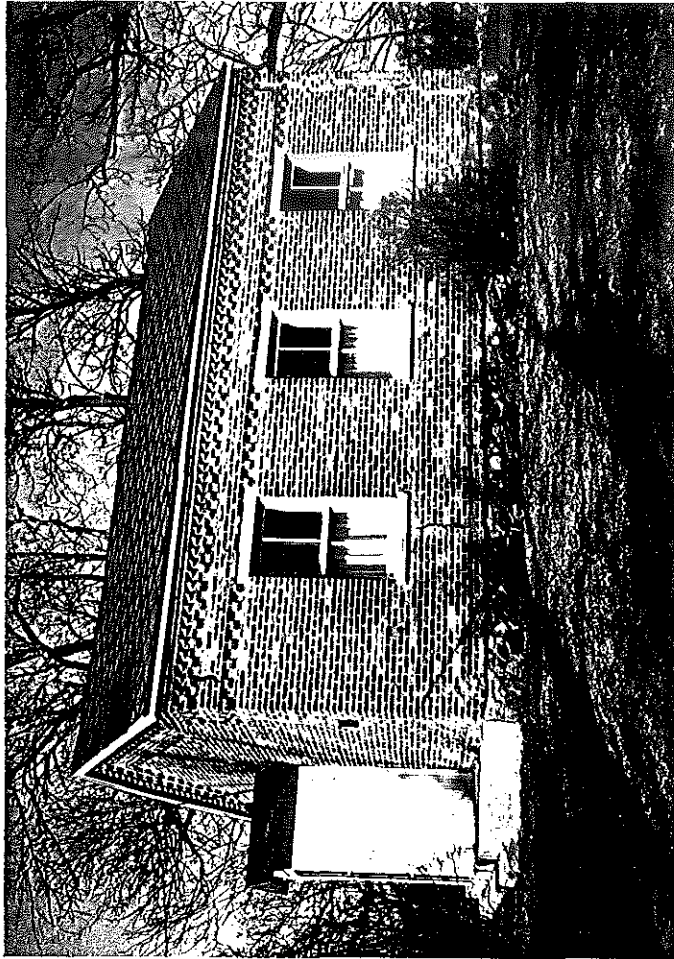
It is one of the earliest one room schools built in McHenry County. It still stands on its original site and remains virtually unchanged from the days when it was in use.

The architectural pattern is a simplified federal style. The brick work is in relatively good condition. Molded bricks near the bottom of the walls are slightly extended to allow rain water to flow away from the riverstone foundation. The intricate brick design just under the roof was common in masonry in the mid-1800's and is classical in form. Most of the windows have their original glass panes. It definitely establishes a sense of time and a place unique to the community because of its past history as a school house. The interior of the school has not been altered. The wood floors, embossed tin ceiling and blackboards are all original features.

In 1858, one-half acre of the Sutherland Ingersoll homestead was purchased to build the school which was in use for eighty-eight years. Following consolidation of rural school districts throughout the county, the school closed in 1946 and was sold at public auction in 1947.

Its character, history, design and location lends itself as a structure that this commission desires to landmark. We recommend approval of this designation.

The structure is currently owned by M. John and Judith Lovaas at 6310 Crystal Springs Road, Crystal Lake, IL 60012. They live adjacent to the property and they are maintaining it.



Schoolhouse receives plaque in Bull Valley

By ASHLEY ZWICK
The Northwest Herald

BULL VALLEY — When Mabel Knox Wyman stood in front of a full classroom Saturday at Holcombville School, a handful of her former students felt like they were experiencing déjà vu.

But the former teacher and students of the school, now senior citizens, weren't there to learn math or writing. They were there as part of a history lesson of sorts.

The 136-year-old one-room schoolhouse on Crystal Springs Road became a county landmark Saturday, an occasion many said even they didn't want to miss. Not even freezing temperatures could keep the 50-person gathering away.

See PLAQUE, page 8



Paul Michna / The Northwest Herald

Edna Kiley and Jack Powers look over old class photos from 1926 Saturday during the Holcombville School landmark ceremony. Both were students at the school in the 1920s.

FROM PAGE 1

Plaque

Continued from page 1

Plaques from the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission and the McHenry County Historical Society were given to the caretakers of the school, John and Judy Lovaas.

Former student and now McHenry County Board member Don Doherty presented the Lovaases the plaque.

"Today is real joyful," said Edna Kiley, 74.

Kiley attended class at Holcombville for first, second and third grades, and has remained in the area since. The school operated until 1947, when a district consolidation forced it up for auction.

"I want this school to stay for a long time, for the memories," she said, as she looked with other classmates at pictures from their early school days.

The building "serves as a gentle reminder to future generations of a way of life, a time gone past," Historical Society member Grace Moline said.

And in Illinois, it's one of a kind.

"It is perhaps one of the only schoolhouses in the state that has not been adapted for a residence or a place of business," she said.

"It has remained virtually unchanged since 1858," she said.

The original wood floors, window panes, blackboards and embossed ceiling still remain, and the Lovaases said in their care, they will stay decades more.

"We feel that this schoolhouse is so special and so unique and so wonderful," Judy Lovaas said. "We will definitely continue to preserve this special place."

The Lovaases said they have cared for the building since they bought it in an auction in 1966.

In addition to historic importance, the plaquing also is legally important for the preservation of the building.

Landmark status puts the building under the protection of the county historical ordinance, which forces any exterior renovations or demolition to first come under review.

Although the building is protected, a property ownership issue still is being battled out in court.

Investors who own the adjoining 712 acres insist their property line actually lies right through the middle of the building, and that half the old schoolhouse is theirs.

The Lovaases contend they own the entire school.

Griswold

Continued from page 1

"Give them certain hours? Who's going to supervise it?" Alexeyuk asked. "It's unfeasible. For the size lake we have, it cannot work."

Those with a stake who have not yet voiced an opinion may contact JCAR through Monday by phone or fax. The phone number is (217) 785-2254. The fax number is (217) 785-8988. Although the Tuesday meeting will be open for the public to observe, members will accept no public input at that time, a state official said.

The meeting will take place at the lower concourse hearing room at the James R. Thompson building, State of Illinois Center, Thomas said.

JCAR may take one of four actions: issue a certificate of no objection; recommend a specific

change; object generally; or file a prohibition. In the first three instances, DNR still could implement a permanent rule, though it would have to respond in writing to any recommendation or objection.

If JCAR filed a prohibition, DNR could not adopt the permanent 10-horsepower rule it seeks for a period of at least 180 days. Negotiations between JCAR and DNR would ensue. If unable to reach agreement within the time period, JCAR could seek a joint resolution from the General Assembly barring DNR's rule. No JCAR-agency dispute never has gone that far, Thomas said.

Considering the committee's composition, it is difficult to garner the eight votes needed to attain a prohibition, Thomas said. It would require at least two members of the governor's political affiliation to cast a vote in essence criticizing their leader's administration.

Zale

Continued from page 1

Barrington Hills residents tired quickly of the heavy traffic moving through their neighborhood and won a lengthy court battle to keep it closed.

Kosin said the road will remain closed unless there is a change in the traffic conditions.

He said the courts agreed that closing the road was the safest and most efficient way to serve traffic in the area.

But the developer said the courts agreed to close the road because it was not sturdy enough to handle the traffic.

Company President Ed Zale said with the improvements his

firm will provide, the courts would be compelled to lift the gates because the new road would take the brunt of the traffic.

Zale said of the \$600,000 donated to build the bypass, \$100,000 would go toward fighting another court battle with Barrington Hills.

Some trustees and area residents called the proposal a gamble.

They said the village could find itself with 150 more rooftops and no bypass.

"To me it seems like we're building on every buildable piece of land," Richard Keltner said.

"There is just too much growth everywhere," Leona Keltner said. "People moved here because they wanted to live in a small town — that's being taken away from us."


Flowerwood
 Northwest Corner Rt. 14 & 176 • Crystal Lake
 (815) 459-6200 • 24 HOUR LINE 815-477-5060
 HOLIDAY HOURS: Sat & Sun 9-6, Mon to Fri 9-9

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COMMUNITY

THE FRANK AND LOUISA NEWMAN HOUSE

The Newman House lies at 20605 East Brink Street in unincorporated McHenry County, immediately east of the Harvard city limits. Built in the Italianate style, it is a farmhouse constructed of handmade native brick. It contains a kitchen, dining room, parlor, and bath (formerly a sewing room) on the first floor and three bedrooms on the second floor. A partial basement is thought to originally have been a root cellar. An enclosed wooden porch was added shortly after construction.

The small hill upon which the house sits was purchased by the Newman couple in 1867. Completion of construction in 1873 is established from two sources: a jump in assessed valuation for that year, and a white unfilled box (rather than a black box to identify a structure) on the 1872 McHenry County Atlas.

The 1870 Census for Dunham Township identifies Newman as a brickmason, supporting the supposition that he built the house. Also listed that year as a brickmason residing in the Harvard city limits is Washington Hammond. His participation in construction is established by two bricks in the structure stamped "W. Hammon". (Other legends in the bricks are "Henry", "Emery", "HNewman", "HH", and "HN". Henry and Emery were the Newmans' two sons.)

Interestingly, Newman and Hammond stood as son-in-law and father-in-law to one another -- that is, Frank's wife Louisa was Hammond's daughter. The two men were Civil War veterans: they joined the Union army together in St. Charles in 1862, and served together at Vicksburg as volunteers in Company E of the 127th Illinois Infantry. Hammond returned to Illinois in 1863; Newman was promoted to corporal and sergeant and went on to Atlanta. Hammond re-enlisted with his young son Herbert for a short tour of duty in 1864.

Exhaustive genealogical research shows a very large extended family nearby. Frank's father Alexander, and his brothers George and Granville, lived with their families on contiguous farms about a mile away in Hartland Township. Close to these Newmans was Napoleon Hammond (thought to be a brother of Washington; he and George Newman served together as Union soldiers in Company B of the 153rd Illinois) and his family. The Newman and Hammond cousins probably attended the "Newman School" (now the Lambrecht home) at the northeast corner of Schultz and Lincoln Roads.

The Newmans and Hammonds are found in McHenry, DuPage and Kane County records beginning in the 1840's. Using census data, deeds, birth and death certificates, marriage certificates, military and cemetery records, probate estates, microfilmed newspapers, and the like, extensive family trees on the Newmans and Hammonds have been developed and living descendents traced.

Brick fragments are found all around the property, giving rise to the suspicion that Hammond and Newman were engaged in the brickmaking business for the service of greater Harvard. Pits, charcoal, and nails also are to be found, as are pieces of limestone and marble (including a broken gravestone). The latter possibly point to the cutting of gravestones for the adjacent Mount Auburn Cemetery. It is in Mount Auburn that the Newmans and Hammonds lie today.

The Newman House is significant for its construction and design: it is an exceedingly unusual (and well preserved) example of McHenry County's 19th century masonry techniques. The extensive genealogy that now attaches to the structure -- including the Civil War service of its builders -- is stirring and moving; it lends a rich and vivid tapestry of life to the county's formulative years.

In 1995, the Frank and Louisa Newman House was awarded the McHenry County Historical Society's plaque number 49 in recognition of its significance. The structure has been owned by Scott Summers and Carol Krohm and their sons, Benjamin and Geoffrey Summers, since 1978.





McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission
c/o McHenry County Dept. of Planning & Development
2200 North Seminary - Woodstock, IL 60098

"Initial Report & Recommendation"
Windhill Farm - John James House
2719 Greenwood Rd.
Woodstock, IL. 60098

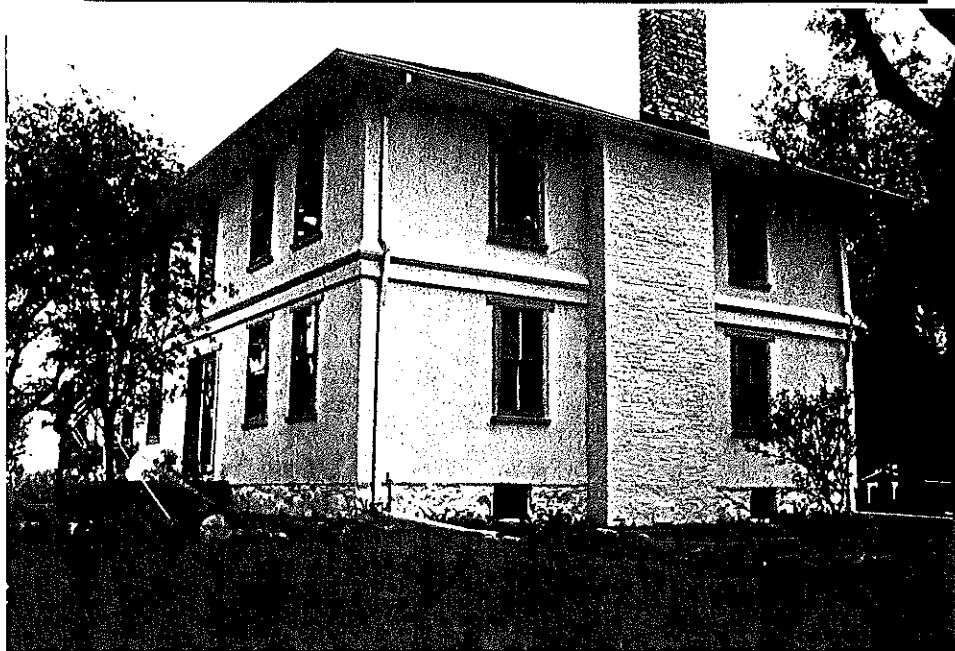
The original owner of Windhill Farm and builder of the existing house was John James. Mr. James came from New Hampshire where he had been a farmer. In 1842 he received an original land grant and purchased 120 acres of land. He was one of the first twelve members of the Baptist Church in Greenwood. James was active in Township politics, moderator of town meetings, Commissioner of Highways in 1850 and in 1857, and was overseer of the poor farm from 1861-1864.

The residence is characterized as "federal" in architectural style. It is constructed of field stone and completed in 1850. External walls of the structure are 12 inches thick. Some of the windows in the structure are made of beveled glass and still in place. In the kitchen of the structure there is evidence of a trap door. Openings in the field stone foundation lead into the basement where a short five step staircase remains under the trap door. This may have been a root cellar or perhaps a "station" for fugitive slaves.

The McHenry County Preservation Commission finds that this residence meets ten (10) of the fourteen (14) criteria for nomination as a local landmark. Since only "one or more" of the criteria are required for nomination, the Windhill Farm (John James House) easily passes the nomination test.

The Commission unanimously recommends the Windhill Farm- John James House for local landmark status.

Nancy Welsh, Chairperson
Survey Sub-committee
November 15, 1995





Osgood Family House

Constructed circa 1810, the Osgood Family House is an excellent example of a Federal style house in Fryeburg, Oxford County, Maine. The house was documented through a county historic resource survey. (Kirk E. Mohnney, Maine Historic Preservation Commission)

APPENDIX B

OHSG NEWSLETTER

FY 95-96 HPC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 1995

Start of new Fiscal Year
Begin work on Annual Report
(Due 60 days from end of fiscal year)
Update Work Program
On-going Projects

JANUARY 1996

Election of Officers
Committee Assignments
Complete Annual Report
On-going Projects

FEBRUARY 1996

Begin Work on Preservation week activities
(Preservation Week is the 2nd week of May)
On-going Projects

MARCH 1996

Continue Preservation Week Activities/Preservation Awards
On-going Projects

APRIL 1996

Finalize Preservation Week Activities/Preservation Awards
On-going Projects

MAY 1996

Preservation Week Activities/ Awards Presentation
On-going Projects

JUNE 1996

Review & Analysis of Preservation Week Activities
On-going Projects

JULY 1996

Begin Budget Process
On-going Projects

AUGUST 1996

Review Budget
On-Going Projects

SEPTEMBER 1996

CLG Grants Applications
On-Going Projects

OCTOBER 1996

CLG Grants Applications
On-going Projects

NOVEMBER 1996

Fiscal Year Ends
On-going Projects

DECEMBER 1996

Start of Fiscal Year
Begin Work on Annual Report
Update work Program
On-going Projects

ON-GOING PRESERVATION PROJECTS

LONG TERM

1. Surveying & Landmarking (Up to Five Per Year)
2. Vistas
3. Communications/Public Relations
 - a. Municipalities Liaison
 - b. Old House Support Group
4. CLG Requirements
5. Scrap Book

SHORT TERM

1. Comprehensive Landmark List
2. Brochures/Business Cards

TOWN & COUNTY

The Old House Support Group newsletter

Volume II Issue 9

January, 1995

The Town & County newsletter will be published **bi-monthly**, beginning with this issue. So take note of the February Open House as there will not be another newsletter prior to this event.

A decision was made at the OHSG business meeting that **voluntary donations** (\$1 per person, suggested) will be collected at programs and open houses to cover the costs of filing fees for the official not-for-profit status and other expenses as they occur. This is instead of membership dues.

We now have a \$26.00 balance in our fledging coffers and Hugh Engelman has agreed to be our **first treasurer**. Make your fund-raising suggestions by phone, fax or mail to: Shelly Trost at 815-363-8287, 3510 W. Washington, McHenry, IL 60050.

Thank you!

The OHSG Open House in December was an elegant, well attended holiday gathering. We would like to thank hosts Hugh and Virginia Engelman of Crystal Lake for opening their beautiful, turn-of-the-century Queen Anne to our OHSG regulars and some new faces. The Engelman's were gracious enough to satisfy our curiosity by lending at our through the private rooms of the house, and filling us in on the details of the home they have spent over 20 years restoring. Thanks again to Hugh and Ginnie for a great evening and no, those were not edible snacks in the strategically placed potpourri dishes around the parlor.

Calling all House History Hunters:

The January program will focus on researching the **history of your property**. We will meet at the McHenry County Government Center, 2200 N. Seminary in Woodstock, on January 19th at 7:30 pm in room B-170. Please use the east parking lot and entrance (at the rear of the building on the upper level).

We are very fortunate to have representatives from both the McHenry County Recorder of Deeds office and the McHenry County Historical Society at this program to give us more information as to what is available and also how to research your house.

The **Recorder of Deeds** office will educate us on the procedures used to trace your property ownership using the Grantor/Grantee Deed Indices, accessing microfiche deed records and tax stamp identification.

The **McHenry County Historical Society** representative will explain the procedures to use the museum's research library in Union, IL and what type of information is available at the library.

Also, some McHenry County census records, plat books and histories will be available the night of the program.

FIELD TRIP to the Pabst Mansion:

Thanks to Carol Obertubbesing for organizing this event. All who attended enjoyed an elaborate look at this extravagant mansion.

Open House

Thursday, February 16th

7:30 to 9:00 PM

Don & Sherry Brewer

314 Washington St.

Algonquin

Please RSVP to the Brewer's at 708-658-7126

Shelly Trost, Public Relations 363-8287; Gail Drabant, Newsletter & Historic Preservation Commission Liaison 678-4577; Carol Obertubbesing, Special Events Coordinator 337-2709; Hugh Engelman, Treasurer 459-3485; John & Pat Hoyt, Mailing List; Rick McGrath, Advisor
Town and County newsletter is issued on alternating months by the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission, c/o McHenry County Dept. of Planning & Development, 2200 N. Seminary Ave., Woodstock, IL 60098 (815)334-4560

Historic Lighting:

In case you missed the follow-up article and photo in the Northwest Herald, follows is the summary from this interesting program:

Connie Blanchette, a local historical lighting expert, set off lightbulbs in the heads of members of the OHSG. Connie, from "Little Bit" Antiques in Richmond, shared her secrets to investing in high quality antique lamps, sconces and chandeliers at the November meeting.

Members were treated to a private showing of Connie's lighting and antiques collection after a brief presentation at Memorial Hall. Oil lamps from circa 1840, gas fixtures, gas and electric Gasoliers from the Victorian period, along with early lighting from the Art Deco, Art Nouveau and Arts and Crafts styles were highlighted.

Connie gave tips on how to spot the most common fakes and made sure to point out that fixtures commonly referred to as "ghastly," that were removed from older homes and buildings during remodeling done from the 1940s-70s now can bring thousands of dollars in auction.

by Shelly Trost

1995 Preservation Awards are coming up soon. Awards will be presented by the *McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission* in May. Do you know of anyone that has helped to preserve a part of history? Start thinking of efforts you would like to nominate or even nominate yourself. Watch for details of award categories & nominations in the next newsletter.



Contributions to the newsletter are encouraged. The "WOULD WORK?" column will be published when questions are posed and/or answered by our readers. Also, included in that column are tips, product testimonials, horror stories, guest columns and related humor. Town & County is looking for a new WOULD WORK? columnist. Call Shelly Trost at 815-363-8287 if you would like to contribute.



Don & Sherry Brewer of Algonquin will be hosting the February Open House on Thursday, February 16th at 7:30 pm.

The Brewers have spent two decades restoring their 1886 Folk Victorian, located at 314 Washington Street in Algonquin.

The McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission awarded the Brewers the "Most Historically Sensitive Addition for a Private Residence" at the 1994 McHenry County Preservation Award program. The McHenry County Historical Society's Historic Sites Committee plaqued the home in October of 1994, as the "James H. Philp" house. The home is now known as the "Victorian Rose Garden" and will be operating as Algonquin's first Bed and Breakfast.

Please RSVP to Sherry or Don Brewer at 708-658-7126 if you wish to attend the February Open House.



HELP . . . MAILING LIST UPDATE:

We are trying to get our mailing list in order. The attached tearsheet (below) is to help us find out who our **interested readers** are. Even if conflicts keep you from the programs and open houses, send us the completed form to keep your place on the mailing list.

We have had mailing problems and are working hard to correct them. Pat and John Hoyt are creating a new master mailing/membership list which will hopefully eliminate many problems. Please indicate any name and address errors or duplicates on the enclosed tearsheet. Thanks to John and Pat for volunteering to take over this job.

OLD HOUSE SUPPORT GROUP - Membership mailing requests

To continue receiving a newsletter, please fill out & send in.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Send To: Old House Support Group
c/o: Shelly Trost
3510 W. Washington
McHenry, IL 60050

OLD HOUSE SUPPORT GROUP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Update your calendars!

(This replaces previously published calendars)

Thursday, January 19 - 7:00 pm

7:00 -Business Meeting

7:30 -Program - "Old House Research"

Tuesday, February 14 - 7:00

McHenry Co. Historic Preservation Commission
meeting - County Building Annex, Woodstock

Thursday, February 16 - 7:30 pm

Open House - Don & Sherry Brewer
314 Washington, Algonquin (708)658-7126

February 26 - 28

Restoration '95 Conference

Need a get-away?Have a business trip scheduled out east?
Consider this informative conference in Boston at the
Hines Convention Center. Call 617-933-6663 for info.

Tuesday, March 14 - 7:00

McHenry Co. Historic Preservation Commission
meeting - County Building Annex, Woodstock

Thursday, March 16 - 7:00 pm

7:00 -Business Meeting

7:30 -Program - "Old House Insurance"

Thursday, April 20 - 7:30 pm

Open House - Mark & Pat Diehl

REMINDER: *Keep the third Thursday of the month open. If questions,
CALL Shelly Trost (363-8287) or Gail Drabant (678-4577)*

McHenry County Dept. of Planning & Development
2200 N. Seminary Avenue - Annex
Woodstock, IL 60098

TOWN & COUNTY

The Old House Support Group newsletter

Volume II Issue 10

March, 1995

Don't forget that the the Town & County newsletter is published bi-monthly, so take note of the April Open House as there will not be another newsletter prior to this event.

A decision was made at the OHSG business meeting that **voluntary donations** (\$1 per person, suggested) will be collected at programs and open houses to cover the costs of filing fees for the not-for-profit status and other expenses as they occur. This is instead of membership dues. Thank you for your support. We are nearing our goal to cover our current expenses.

On another topic, we received a suggestion to use name tags to help us to get to know one another easier. It was then also suggested to include your town name. Initial feedback is that it helped and to continue using the name tags.

Thank you!

The OHSG Open House in February was an great success. We would like to thank hosts Don & Sherry Brewer of Algonquin for opening their beautiful home to our OHSG. It was nice to see several new faces as we shared in the winter warmth of the Brewer's home.

Having been at their restoration projects for several years, it gave us great encouragement of what is possible. It was especially interesting how they have been able to blend the old with the new on their addition and to see several pictures showing the transition that the house has taken over the past years. Thanks again to Don & Sherry for a wonderful evening.

Calling all House History Hunters:

Due to the numerous inquiries we had concerning the January program on House Research that had to be cancelled due to bad weather, we have rescheduled this interesting program for March. Note that the Open Houses remain as scheduled and the programs have been moved back to accommodate this rescheduling. Therefore the Insurance program has been moved to May. We sincerely hope that the cancellation due to weather or the rescheduling has not inconvenienced anyone and apologize for any confusion that may have occurred.

The March program will focus on researching the history of your property. We will meet at the McHenry County Government Center, 2200 N. Seminary in Woodstock, on March 16th at 7:30 pm in room B-170. Please use the east parking lot and entrance (at the rear of the building on the upper level).

We are very fortunate to have representatives from both the McHenry County Recorder of Deeds office and the McHenry County Historical Society at this program to give us more information as to what is available and also how to research your house.

The Recorder of Deeds office will educate us on the procedures used to trace your property ownership using the Grantor/Grantee Deed Indices, accessing microfiche deed records and tax stamp identification.

The McHenry County Historical Society representative will explain the procedures to use the museum's research library in Union, IL and what type of information is available at the library.

Also, some McHenry County census records, plat books and histories will be available the night of the program.

Open House
Thursday, April 20th
7:30 to 9:00 PM
Mark & Pat Diehl
236 North Tryon
Woodstock

~~~~~  
**Please RSVP to the Diehl's at 815-337-0167**

## FOR THE BIRDS

The Stickney House Restoration Committee is planning an exciting fundraiser for Sunday May 21st.

This event titled "For The Birds" will be held at McHenry County College. It is a silent auction of bird creations . . . featuring uniquely crafted birdhouses, feeders, cages and bird-related items.

The Stickney House Restoration Committee would be most grateful to have the Old House Support Group members participate in this wonderful event.

The Stickney House (with its round corners) is an important treasure for all the people of McHenry County. It was built beginning in 1849 by George and Sylvia Stickney. George Stickney was one of the first residents of Nunda township in 1835. The Stickney House is Italianate in style, but with its distinguishing round corners which are also repeated in the interior of the house.

For further information, please contact Don Brodie, Foundation President at 815-338-3417 or Maggie Bailey, Treasurer, at 815-338-0251.

**Mark & Pat Diehl of Woodstock will be hosting the April Open House on Thursday, April 20th at 7:30 pm.**

The Diehl's have spent numerous hours extensively restoring their 1892 Victorian, located at 236 North Tryon in Woodstock.

Their home has an interesting history in that it was once a boarding house for actors who performed at the Woodstock Opera House. Several well-known actors have passed through the house including Geraldine Page who was married in the Diehl's dining room.

The original woodwork and stained glass windows complement this interesting home as does the Diehl's personal collections of antiques.

Please RSVP to Mark or Pat Diehl at 815-337-0167 if you wish to attend the April Open House.

**Historic Landmarking/Plaquin . . .**

*One way to show your support of the excellent architectural integrity of historic landmarks is to attend the plaqing ceremonies. Besides providing support to the owners for their dedicated efforts, you will be able to take a closer look at our county's landmarks. So don't miss the following:*

*April 23rd - 2:00 ~ ORMSBY/STARCK Home (currently known as "SpringShire Inn") 8909 McConnell Road, Woodstock  
by the Historic Preservation Commission*

*May 7th - 11:00 ~ Community Church of Richmond, 5714 Broadway, Richmond  
by the Historical Society (This is their 50th Historic Sites Plaque)*

***McHenry County Historical Society******Sampler Series***

**There is still time to participate in the remaining Sampler series. This award winning lecture series is provided at the Historical Society's Museum in Union (6422 Main St.) on a variety of historical topics. Each is presented from 7:30-9:00 pm on Monday evenings throughout March and April. The Cost per person is \$30.00 for the entire series, \$25.00 for Society members, and \$6.00 for individual sessions. Call the Museum at 815-923-2267 for information and/or registration.**

**March 13th - "Quackery in 19th Century America"**

**March 20th - "Historically Designed Landscapes"**

**March 27th - "The Flu Epidemic of 1918-1919"**

**April 3rd - "The Depression Hits McHenry County"**

**April 10th - "Forty Years a Journalist in McHenry County"**

**April 17th - "A Stroll by Richmond's Historic Homes"**

**April 24th - "Behind the Scenes at the Museum"**

**1995 Historic Preservation Awards**

Awards will be presented by the *McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission* in May. Do you know of anyone that has helped to preserve a part of history? Now is the time to give that well-deserving individual or organization (or even yourself) recognition. (Self-nominations are encouraged.) The process is simple. Just call Jim Keefe (337-2100) with the property address and which category (see below) by April 15th. The awards will be presented in May at a time and place to be announced. Good Luck to all!

**CATAGORIES:**

- Outstanding Preserved Original Residence - Pre-1910**
- Outstanding Preserved Original Residence - Post-1910**
- Outstanding Preserved Original Residence with Adaptive Reuse to Commercial**
- Outstanding Preserved Original Structure with Adaptive Reuse to Commercial**
- Outstanding Historically Sensitive Addition**
- Outstanding Historical Achievement by a Group or Individual**

**HELP . . . MAILING LIST UPDATE:**

The first updates are in and have been entered by the John & Pat Hoyt. Hopefully we have already corrected previous problems. The responses that we have received have greatly improved our mailing list data base with not only corrections, but also with phone numbers, so that we can contact you if there are any last minute program changes.

However, we did not receive as many responses as we had expected. In case it just got put aside or you forgot to mail in your response, we are giving you another chance to respond.

The attached tearsheet (below) is to help us find out who our interested readers are. Even if conflicts keep you from the programs and open houses, send us the completed form (if you have NOT already done so) to keep your place on the mailing list.

**OLD HOUSE SUPPORT GROUP - Membership mailing requests**

*To continue receiving a newsletter, please fill out & send in.*

(If you have NOT already done so.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, ST. ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Send To: Old House Support Group  
 c/o: Shelly Trost  
 3510 W. Washington  
 McHenry, IL 60050

## OLD HOUSE SUPPORT GROUP ~ CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Update your calendars!

(This replaces previously published calendars)

### **Mondays, March & April**

**"Sampler Series" by the McHenry Co. Historical Society. Call the Museum for more info (923-2267)**

Tuesday, March 14 - 7:00

McHenry Co. Historic Preservation Commission meeting - County Building Annex, Woodstock

Thursday, March 16 - 7:00 pm

7:00-Business Meeting, County Building (Room B-170)  
7:30-Program - **"Old House Research"**

Tuesday, April 11 - 7:00

McHenry Co. Historic Preservation Commission meeting - County Building Annex, Woodstock

Thursday, April 20 - 7:30 pm

**Open House** - Mark & Pat Diehl  
236 N. Tryon, Woodstock (815)337-0167

Sunday, April 23 - 2:00 pm

**Plaquing Ceremony Ormsby-Starck House**  
by the Historic Preservation Commission  
Call Jim Keefe for more info (337-2100)

Sunday, May 7 - 11:00 am

**Plaquing Ceremony-Richmond Community Church**  
by the McHenry Co. Historical Society  
Call 923-2267 for more info.

Thursday, May 18 - 7:00 pm

7:00 -Business Meeting  
7:30 -Program - **"Old House Insurance"**

Sunday, May 21 - 1:00 pm

**Greek Revival Exhibit Dedication**  
McHenry Co. Historical Society Museum (923-2267)

Sunday, May 21

**"FOR THE BIRDS"** at McHenry Co. College  
to benefit the Stickney House restoration. Call 338-3417

### **REMINDER:**

*Keep the third Thursday of the month open.*

*If questions, CALL Shelly Trost (363-8287) or Gail Drabant (678-4577)*

McHenry County Dept. of Planning & Development  
2200 N. Seminary Avenue - Annex  
Woodstock, IL 60098

# TOWN & COUNTY

*The Old House Support Group newsletter*

Volume II Issue 11

May, 1995

Don't forget that the Town & County newsletter is published bi-monthly, so watch for the July newsletter as it will contain our annual survey for program suggestions.

The voluntary donations (\$1 per person suggested for programs and open houses) that we decided on last fall has worked out well. We have now reached our goal of covering filing fees for the not-for-profit status and will use any additional donations to cover expenses.

Anyone that would like to get more involved with the group is always welcome. Don't wait to be asked. If you can think of something that you can help with let us know. Specifically, we want to invite everyone to attend the August planning meeting. This is not just for board members. We need everyone's ideas.

## Thank you!

The OHSG Open House in April was an extremely well attended event. We would like to thank hosts Mark & Pat Diehl of Woodstock for inviting us to share their restoration stories. Although they said that there are still rooms that they have not yet decorated, their house was so beautiful that it was hard to tell what was still remaining on their restoration list. We are sure more than one of us are looking at wallpaper for our ceilings now.

We also enjoyed seeing all of their different collections. There was certainly a lot of sharing of stories. Many thanks to the Diehl's for opening their home to us for such an interesting evening.

## Filling the Old-House Insurance Gap:

Have you ever compared the fine-print on homeowners insurance policies? Or is that just another thing on your list that you just haven't quite gotten to? Well, come join us on May 18th at 7:30 pm in room B-170 at the McHenry County Government Center to get your questions answered; or just come and find out about those insurance topics that you just haven't had time to research on your own.

We are very interested in the program that Carol Obertubbesing scheduled for us. She has a representative from Chubb Group of Insurance Companies that was featured in a recent article in the Old House Journal. Michael Reicher, a Senior Underwriter in the Personal Lines Department of Chubb, will be presenting the program. His experience in working with unique appraisals and sophisticated homeowners directly applies to our situation in determining the best alternatives for insuring historic homes.

Some specific concerns regarding insurance include:

- ~ unique appraisals
- ~ valuing the home
- ~ replacement costs and code coverage
- ~ personal property floaters
- ~ reduced risks and premiums.

Come join us for an interesting and educational program.

Shelly Trost, Public Relations 363-8287; Gail Drabant, Newsletter & Historic Preservation Commission Liaison 678-4577; Carol Obertubbesing, Special Events Coordinator 337-2709; Hugh Engelman, Treasurer 459-3485; John & Pat Hoyt, Mailing List; Rick McGrath, Advisor

*Town and County newsletter is issued on alternating months by the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission, c/o McHenry County Dept. of Planning & Development, 2200 N. Seminary Ave., Woodstock, IL 60098 (815)334-4560*



FOR THE BIRDS

The Stickney House Restoration Committee with Chairpersons, Virginia Peschke and Verna Hogan are finalizing plans for their fundraiser, "For The Birds". The event will be held at the McHenry County College on Sunday, May 21, 1995 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

In addition to the silent auction of unique birdhouses, cages, feeders and bird-related items, there will be a modestly priced brunch available from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Entertainment is also being planned for the afternoon. Admission to the silent auction and entertainment is free.

Governor Jim Edgar has personally signed one of the donated birdhouses! You'll also see autographs of sports figures and other famous personalities.

The Stickney House (with its round corners) is an important treasure for all the people of McHenry County. It was built beginning in 1849 by George and Sylvia Stickney. George Stickney was one of the first residents of Nunda township in 1835. The Stickney House is Italianate in style, but has its distinguishing round corners which are also repeated in the interior of the house.

Come out and join the fun! Meet your friends and neighbors at this great event for the restoration of Stickney House. For further information, please contact Don Brodie, Foundation President at 815-338-3417 or Maggie Bailey, Treasurer, at 815-338-0251.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

Turn-of-the-century upright "box-type" Singer piano with Spinnet sound pedal. Exquisite light oak original finish. A prize for any musician or collector. \$700 or best offer. Call Petra at 815-344-5978 & leave message.

Early Deco buffet & dining table. Oak with curved veneers and stunning grain. Buffet has carved legs and original hardware. Table has a double pedestal base. \$500 for both. Will separate. Call Kim at 815-344-3603 & leave message.

"CELEBRATING McHENRY COUNTY LANDMARKS"

There will be a slide presentation on May 17th at 7:30 pm at the McHenry County College Conference Center showcasing McHenry County's historic architecture. This will include plaqued structures by the Historical Society, the Historic Preservation Commission, plus local organizations from McHenry, Woodstock and Crystal Lake. There is no charge. Just come out and appreciate the collection of historic structures in McHenry County.

Take a step back in time . . .

Come join the volunteers at the McHenry County Historical Society Museum in Union for the unveiling of their newest exhibit on Sunday May 21, 1995 at 1:30 pm.

Through the efforts of several volunteers, they have managed to salvage and reconstruct the formal entryway from a Greek Revival home that was destroyed near Richmond. Portions of the John D. and George Myers house continue on as an educational tool in better understanding this important common architectural style used by the early settlers. The house was constructed in 1851. Recreated in the exhibit is the massive door and surround along with one of the original 6-over-6 light windows set into a "room" display.

Besides learning more about the Myers family, the museum is pleased to have a program on Greek Revival architecture presented by Janice Griffin, curator of the Glessner house.

Turn back the hands of time to 1851 and gain a better understanding of the first important architectural style to come along after log cabins.

## WOOD WORKS

Mark Diehl of Woodstock, a professional paper hanger, has a tip for hanging anaglypta (pressed embossed paper) on a ceiling. The directions from the wallpaper shop, or on the paper roll may say to paste the drop and book-it (fold it together) before hanging it. Mark suggests pasting the ceiling and wetting the drop. There is less paste mess and it is lighter to work with. Also, he cautions that rolling the seams can flatten out the embossed pattern.

Don Brewer of Algonquin, who does all of his own millwork, has a suggestion for filling holes on finished woodwork. The wax based finish filler sticks available in hardware stores only come in a limited range of colors. He has had very good results creating his own custom colors by melting multiple sticks together. He does warn however that this takes patience to get just the right shade.

Have any tip? Have any questions? Send them in anytime. We will be featuring this section of the newsletter next year. There has been a renewed interest in this column.

## House History Hunters . . .

Our March program, "**Researching Your House History**," was a hit with our members, who turned out in record attendance to check out the numerous methods to collect information on their properties.

Marilyn Koeller, Supervisor of the **McHenry County Recorder's office**, and Linda Wilson, Assistant to the Recorder, used a sample research project, complete with several research problems to illustrate the procedures and alternate avenues of pursuing property history research. They suggest going back from the most recent deed found in the Grantor/Grantee Index, using the property identification number and brief legal description to trace back to the original owners of the property. When there is a known gap in that information, it is time to tackle the plat books, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, tax assessment information, mortgage records and title information. Title searches can be costly, but it was made know to us that Chicago Title, at Jackson and Throop in Woodstock, will allow history hunters to use their records to search a property themselves.

OHSG members were pleasantly surprised when Ms. Koeller and Ms. Wilson offered to take our group on a tour of the vault, where the indices and microfiche for the entire county, dating back to the mid-1800's, are kept. The procedure in the vault was thoroughly covered, and the staff at the Recorder's Office are more than helpful and generous although the end of the day is not a good time for them.

Nancy Fike, **McHenry County Historical Society Museum Director**, offered a wealth of information that can be found at the Museum's research library. Besides outlining what information is available, she brought with her several examples. Several members were surprised to see old photos and newspaper articles of their houses and were able to look up their property on plat maps. The museum is a great place to continue your research after a deed search, and it has an abundance of information on personal histories of many County residents. Plat maps from 1862 and Sanborn maps form 1885 as well as property abstracts are for use at the museum. Other files contain the name index, biographies, newsclippings, old photographs, old postcards, obituaries and builder's catalogs. An information sheet, available from the museum, describes the steps necessary to complete a house history and the information sources listed here. Society members may work in the research library at no charge. There is a per hour fee for non-members. All research time is by appointment. Call the museum at 815-923-2267 for more information.

We would like our presenters, Marilyn Koeller and Linda Wilson from the Recorder's office and Nancy Fike from the museum, to know how much the OHSG appreciated the knowledge they had to share, and to thank them for their time. We have great sources in McHenry County, please use them.

by Shelly Trost

## OLD HOUSE SUPPORT GROUP ~ CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, May 14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Evanston House Walk - A Mother's Day tradition for 20 years. Call (708)475-3410 for more info.                                                                                                                                 |
| Wednesday, May 17 - 7:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Historic Landmarks</b> Slide presentation at MCC                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Thursday, May 18 - 7:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Old House Support Group program<br><b>"Filling the Old-House Insurance Gap"</b><br>County Building (Room B-170)                                                                                                                |
| <b>Sunday, May 21 - 1:00 pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Greek Revival Exhibit Dedication</b><br><b>McHenry Co. Historical Society Museum (923-2267)</b>                                                                                                                             |
| Sunday, May 21 11:00-4:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | "FOR THE BIRDS" at McHenry Co. College<br>to benefit the Stickney House restoration. Call 338-3417                                                                                                                             |
| Saturday, June 3 - 10:00 - 4:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Milwaukee's Historic Brewers Hill Housewalk</b> - 20 Victorian homes will be open for tour. In conjunction with the house tour is also a Garden tour of this neighborhood overlooking the bluff.(414)273-8288               |
| <b>Saturday, June 10 1:30 pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Plaquing Ceremony-Wascher House</b><br><b>404 West Main Street, Cary</b><br><i>(owned by OHSO members John &amp; Lorie Aslakson)</i><br><b>by the McHenry Co. Historical Society</b><br><b>Call 923-2267 for more info.</b> |
| Tuesday, June 13 - 7:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | McHenry Co. Historic Preservation Commission<br>meeting - County Building Annex, Woodstock                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Monday, June 26 - 7:00 pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>"American Influence of Illinois Barns"</b><br><b>Program at the Historical Society - Call 923-2267</b>                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Sunday, July 9</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Heritage Fair at the Historical Society Museum, Union</b>                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Tuesday, July 11 - 7:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | McHenry Co. Historic Preservation Commission<br>meeting - County Building Annex, Woodstock                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>REMINDER:</b> We normally take the summer off from regular meetings since most of us are busy working on our houses. We will be starting up in August with a planning meeting and September with regular programs. Keep the third Thursday of the month open starting again in August. If questions, CALL Shelly Trost (363-8287) or Gail Drabant (678-4577) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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# TOWN & COUNTY

*The Old House Support Group newsletter*

Volume III Issue 1

September, 1995

Don't forget that the Town & County newsletter is **published bi-monthly**, so mark your calendar for the October Open House as there will not be another newsletter prior to this event.

Our **annual planning meeting** was held in August. We are sorry if we missed notifying anyone that had wanted to contribute their ideas. We always look forward to hearing everyone's suggestions and ideas. At any time please pass them to Shelly Trost (363-8287) or myself, Gail Drabant (678-4577).

We decided to keep everything the same as last year in that we will be alternating informative programs with open houses and we will be asking for a nominal donation at the events to cover expenses.

We also tried to plan out this season's programs. We have already had some changes. If you know of a topic you think would be of general interest to the group or know of anyone that would be willing to come and talk to the group, please let us know. It is always hard to line up the programs and any help would be greatly appreciated. Program topic areas that we would like to target this year are: Wood Restoration, Roofing, Critters & Pests, and Foundation & Masonry problems.

Our "Would Work" column is returning with Gene Racette volunteering to answer questions and provide helpful tips. Thanks Gene, your expertise is greatly needed.

We want to welcome our newest volunteer, Judy Jurgens. Judy has volunteered to be our Open House Coordinator. She has already been hard at work with great results! If you would like to host an Open House any time in the near or distant future, please let Judy know, so she can put you on the list of possibilities. (385-0568)

Looking forward to a great year, *Gail Drabant*

## **Wood Restoration: Sept. 21st ~ 7:30 B-170**

Okay the summer's over and you still haven't fixed the rotten wood on your house. Now is the time to figure out what can be saved. Come to our opening program for this season and learn about wood restoration.

We are pleased to have Steven Tymec, a representative from Abatron, coming to give us a hands on demonstration of their wood restoration system. They will also have information available on their flexible mold materials for duplicating plaster details.

Come find out the differences between this wood restoration system and others. Also, if you are not familiar with their products, you will be surprised how a rotten piece of wood can be turned into an element structurally stronger than the original wood. Come join us on September 21st at 7:30 pm in room B-170 at the McHenry County Government Center for this informative program.

## *Open House*

*October 19th ~ 7:30 p.m.*

*Lance & Chris Wienky*

*531 Dean Street, Woodstock*

*R.S.V.P. 338-0847*

Stickney House Dinner "All That Jazz"

The Stickney House Restoration Committee is planning an exciting event for Sun., Nov. 5, 1995. They will have a cocktail and dinner party at the new Haystacks Manor, 5603 Bull Valley Road, McHenry, IL

Cocktails: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Dinner: 7:30 p.m.

Choice of: Prime Rib au jus or Swordfish - \$40.00 per person

Maureen Christine, an accomplished jazz vocalist will captivate the audience with Broadway favorites and current selections.

Please telephone Phyllis Keinz, Bull Valley village Clerk, for further information and reservations at (815) 459-4833. Your continued support is sincerely appreciated.

*Verna Hogan*

*Open House*

Come join us at October's Open House at the Lance and Chris Wienky home, 531 Dean Street, Woodstock. We welcome Lance and Chris as new members and thank them in advance for sharing their home with us. They have recently purchased this house and are just beginning restoration.

This is your chance to view the "before" rather than the completed restorations that we are all working towards.

The Wienky's house is over 100 years old with wood flooring, a stone fireplace, an old cookstove and the old lighting fixtures. Call 338-0847 to RSVP.

Thank you!

We extend our thanks to Chubb Insurance group for their presentation in May on Old House Insurance. They left additional handouts and even some videos with us for those of you who missed this presentation. Let us know if you would like more information.

Other OHSG Notes. . .

The OHSG **Fall Plant exchange** will take place immediately following our September 21st wood restoration program, in the upper east parking lot of the McHenry County Government Center as we did last year. Please bring in several cuttings or split plants to trade. Vintage plantings from your old house are in demand. Several members enjoyed adding to their gardens last year. We will conduct another plant exchange next spring.

OHSG **Open Houses** are a great way to talk to other members about projects and techniques, as well as success and horror stories. The hosting members can take reservations for the number of people they think they (and their house) can handle. Please give up the notion that only "perfect" houses that are "done" are what the group is looking for. We want to see works in progress and hear about your plans. Call Judy Jurgens (385-0568) if you would like to be put on the list of possible future open houses.

Upcoming OHSG **programs** will include period interiors, pest control and foundation/basement/masonry problems. If you have any expertise in any of these areas or know of anyone who does, contact Shelly Trost or Gail Drabant.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

HELP! There is a old house in the McHenry area that needs to be saved. It is in the way of some new development and must be moved. If you have any possible interest in this house call Barb Gilpin of the McHenry Landmarks Commission for more information (363-2100). Remember that the house must be moved, but is in sound, sturdy condition.

The *Town & County* newsletter takes FREE ads for free restoration materials (including trade/swap). If you are looking for something in particular, maybe someone else has it and doesn't need it. If you would like to pass something on, put in an ad and maybe someone will put it to good use. If you have something that is for sale ads are \$1.00. Call Gail Drabant at (815) 678-4577 to place an ad.

**Historic Pumphouse . . . no more**

To all of those who worked so hard to try to save the Crystal Lake Pumphouse, many thanks for your hard work. It certainly highlights the need to pass Historic Preservation ordinances in each of our communities.

**WOULD WORK**

Welcome to Gene Racette who volunteered to help with this column. Call Gene at (815) 678-4667 to submit tips or questions for our readers.

Gene has the following tip for some rigid, sturdy sawhorses that are easy to maneuver up & down stairs and in & out of vehicles:

**FOLDING SAWHORSES**

Use #3 lumber (1x10 for the legs & 1x4 for the cross-members). Cut the legs on a taper from 9" down to 3". Attach to cross-members with screws. Attach the two sides with hinges. Add a flop-over bar to lock legs into place.

*"Would Work" and OHSG is not responsible for the outcome of your projects based on suggestions printed herein. This is simply an attempt to share information.*

**Salvage Auction**

The Crystal Lake Public Library hosted a salvage auction at three vintage properties it owned and has since demolished. A frame four-square, a frame folk Victorian (both remuddled) and an exquisite brick Dutch Colonial were just taking up space (!) where the library intends to put an additional parking and water retention areas after their expansion is complete.

All interior and exterior fixtures and architectural materials, plus landscaping were for sale during the three hour silent auction. Not even one cent was bid on three plus rooms of clear maple flooring! Some of the maple doors rose past \$40, while others in the same house, but of different dimensions went for less than an dollar. Beveled, leaded glass was sought after by member Karl Nielson ( who was featured prying it out in the Northwest Herald). A very determined counter- bidder in the window wars was good-naturedly heckled (by those who shall remain nameless), then recruited for membership in the OHSG.

Shelly Trost brought her antique and architectural element dealer sister-in-law, Toni, to the auction, and uncovered hidden cast iron fireplace andirons, rack and screen, forged with fleur-de-lis crests. Toni and a local dealer wildly bid and counter-bid from 50 cents to \$22.50 on just the fire screen alone, while Shelly T. scooped up all the broken and damaged fleur-de-lis pieces for 50 cents, to be gilded and displayed. The Trosts also scammed the 15 foot long interior oak stairway handrail from the Dutch Colonial for a few dollars, and a large bucketful of pressed tin and aluminium light fixtures for even less.

The proceeds will go to the library's expansion funds. The library had owned the properties for quite some time, and renters had inhabited them until recently. It is sad to see three in a row go like this, but the salvage operation was interesting, and people from all over the county and beyond will have a piece of the neighborhood's history.

*by Shelly Trost*

## OLD HOUSE SUPPORT GROUP ~ CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|                                         |                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wed., Sept 20 - 7:00-9:00 pm</b>     | <b>Old Fashioned Card &amp; Parlor Games</b><br>McHenry County Historical Society, Union<br>Call 815-923-2267 for more info.  |
| Thursday, Sept 21- 7:30 pm              | Old House Support Group program<br>"Wood Restoration" presented by Abatron<br>County Building (Room B-170)                    |
| <b>Sun., Oct 1 - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm</b> | <b>18th Annual Apple Cider Festival</b><br>McHenry County Historical Society, Union<br>Call 815-923-2267 for more info.       |
| Tuesday, Oct 10 - 7:00 pm               | McHenry Co. Historic Preservation Commission<br>meeting - County Building Annex, Woodstock                                    |
| <b>Wed., Oct 18 - 7:00-9:00 pm</b>      | <b>4th Annual Historic Halloween Haunting</b><br>McHenry County Historical Society, Union<br>Call 815-923-2267 for more info. |
| Thursday, Oct 19 - 7:30 pm              | OHSG Open House<br>Hosted by Lance & Chris Wienky (338-0847)                                                                  |
| <b>Wed., Oct 25 - 1:30 pm</b>           | <b>Annual Quilt Raffle &amp; Program</b><br>McHenry County Historical Society, Union<br>Call 815-923-2267 for more info.      |
| Sunday, Nov 5 - 6:30 pm                 | "All That Jazz" - Stickney House dinner<br>to benefit the Stickney House restoration. Call 459-4833                           |
| Tuesday, Nov 14 - 7:00 pm               | McHenry Co. Historic Preservation Commission<br>meeting - County Building Annex, Woodstock                                    |

**REMINDER:** *Keep the third Thursday of the month open for OHSG programs and Open Houses.  
If questions, CALL Shelly Trost (363-8287) or Gail Drabant (678-4577)*

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# TOWN & COUNTY

*The Old House Support Group newsletter*

Volume III Issue 2

November, 1995

Don't forget that the Town & County newsletter is published bi-monthly, so mark your calendar for the December Open House as there will not be another newsletter prior to this event.

Any ideas for programs? Do you have a lead to pass us? Or better yet, would you be willing to set-up one of our informative programs? We are specifically looking for someone who could provide information on Period Interiors, Critters & Pests and Foundations & Masonry problems. We always look forward to hearing everyone's suggestions and ideas. At any time please pass them to Shelly Trost (363-8287) or myself, Gail Drabant (678-4577).

## Many thanks . . .

to Lance & Chris Wienke for opening their home to us in October. We all enjoyed a chance to see their Greek Revival home. They are fortunate to have several of the original Greek Revival element still intact. I certainly enjoyed seeing the original vertical panel interior doors, the woodwork with the "key" motif, original floors and the post-and-beam construction. We all enjoyed the warmth of the stone fireplace and cookstove. Thanks to the entire Wienke family!

## Roofing Problems & Alternatives:

*Nov. 16th ~ 7:30, Room B-170*

We have an interesting program lined up for November. Robert Raleigh of Renaissance Roofing out of Rockford will be providing information on roofing. His company is well-known in restoration circles and on the national level for repairing and saving historic tile and slate roofs while using historic materials from other structures. His company also works with more conventional roofing materials. He will be providing information on all types of roofing and typical problems that arise with historic buildings.

Many of us have put off facing what we should do to our roofs. Do you just do the porches or tackle the entire project? Do you go back to the original shakes or use a reproduction? Take advantage of the program to be able to ask a professional your questions. Come join us on November 16th at 7:30 pm in room B-170 at the McHenry County Government Center (North Route 47, Woodstock) for this informative program.

## *Open House*

*Thursday, December 14th*

*7:30 - 9:00 p.m.*

*Linda & Dan Witonski*

*315 Dean Street, Woodstock*

*R.S.V.P. 337-8405 (evening) or 338-6460 (daytime)*

*(PLEASE call, as the number of guests is limited)*



## WOULD WORK

Call Gene at (815) 678-4667 to submit tips or questions for our readers.

Gene has the following tip for to avoid accidental dents on special projects and woodwork.

### HAMMER SHIELD

I've found that a simple hammer shield is great for preventing hammer marks. I made my shield from a small section of steel strapping, which was obtained from a local lumber dealer, but any fairly heavy piece of sheet metal will work equally well. Simply cut a tapered slot in one end for slipping the shield around the nail, then bend the other end up and out to form a handle.

*"Would Work" and OHSG is not responsible for the outcome of your projects based on suggestions printed herein. This is simply an attempt to share information.*

## Open House

Come join us at December's Open House at the Dan & Linda Witonski, 315 Dean Street, Woodstock.

The Joseph Petrei House was built in 1865 and added on to around 1895 by Darwin C. Doolittle. It's style is considered to be a Victorian Farm House. It has 10-foot ceilings and hardwood floors throughout. The formal dining room has a built-in china cabinet and the wall-coverings are of the Victorian era. The Christmas decorating at the now-Witonski Home is done in the Victorian tradition.

So join us for a holiday get-together in a Victorian setting. The Witonski home is located one block south of the Woodstock Opera House on the corner of South and Dean Streets. However, PLEASE RSVP as the size of the group is limited. Call 337-8405 (evening) or 338-6460 (daytime).

### Other OHSG Notes. . .

The OHSG Magazine Exchange/Give-away will take place immediately following our November 16th roofing program. Bring those old magazines or publications that you really don't use and share them with others. It is a good way to exchange restoration and historical information. (Okay, so you have read between the lines and realized that I have been up to some cleaning and need to reduce my inventory of Old House Journals and other historical magazines.) Some topics might be of interest to you or you might have some of your own that you would like to share.

Thanks to those of you who braved the rain to bring plantings for the plant exchange at the November meeting. It's a great chance to add something different to your garden. Hopefully we will be able to avoid the rain next time.

Upcoming OHSG programs will include period interiors, pest control and foundation/basement/masonry problems. If you have any expertise in any of these areas or know of anyone who does, contact Shelly Trost or Gail Drabant.

### RESTORATION MATERIALS:

Members have recommended the following source for restoration materials -

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Springfield Salvage | Bay Salvage      |
| 7242 Spring Street  | 88 Walworth Ave. |
| Springfield, WI     | Williams Bay, WI |
| 414-248-4076        | 414-245-1368     |

Both are open Sat. & Sun. 11:30 - 5:30. The one in Springfield is in an old school on Hwys 120 & 36, north of Lake Geneva. 35,000 sq. ft. of architectural antiques. Sounds like a great place for a field trip. Anyone interested in organizing one?

### CLASSIFIED ADS:

The Town & County newsletter takes FREE ads for free restoration materials (including trade/swap). If you are looking for something in particular, maybe someone else has it and doesn't need it. If you would like to pass something on, put in an ad and maybe someone will put it to good use. If you have something that is for sale ads are \$1.00. Call Gail Drabant at (815) 678-4577 to place an ad.

## OLD HOUSE SUPPORT GROUP - CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |                               |                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, Nov 14 - 7:00 pm     | McHenry Co. Historic Preservation Commission meeting - County Building Annex, Woodstock                                                                |
| Thursday, Nov 16 - 7:30 pm    | Old House Support Group program<br>"Roofing Alternatives & Problems"<br>County Building (Room B-170)                                                   |
| Sun., Nov 26 - 1:00 - 4:00 pm | <b>Annual Heritage Christmas (Craft &amp; Bake sale)</b><br><b>McHenry County Historical Society, Union</b><br><b>Call 815-923-2267 for more info.</b> |
| Dec 2 & 3 (1st weekend)       | Christmas House Walk in Historic Geneva, IL<br>Call 708-232-6060 for more info.                                                                        |
| Sun., Dec 3 - 2:00 pm         | <b>Ostend Area Historical program</b><br><b>Greenwood Township Hall</b><br><b>Call 815-923-2267 for more info.</b>                                     |
| Dec. 9 & 16                   | Turn-of-the-Century House Tour<br>Sponsored by the Frank Lloyd Wright Studio<br>Call 708-848-1976 for more info.                                       |
| Tuesday, Dec 12 - 7:00 pm     | McHenry Co. Historic Preservation Commission meeting - County Building Annex, Woodstock                                                                |
| Thursday, Dec 14 - 7:30 pm    | OHSG Open House<br>Hosted by Dan & Linda Witonski (337-8405)                                                                                           |
| Tuesday, Jan 9 - 7:00 pm      | McHenry Co. Historic Preservation Commission meeting - County Building Annex, Woodstock                                                                |
- REMINDER:** *Keep the third Thursday of the month open for OHSG programs and Open Houses.  
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OSTEND HISTORY PROGRAM ON DEC 3rd:

You are invited to attend a program detailing the historical and archeological significance of the Ostend area (between Greenwood and McHenry). Sarah Pfannkuche a professional archaeologist will be speaking at the Greenwood Township Hall (5211 Miller Road) on Dec., 3rd at 2:00. A donation of \$1 is asked to fund the program. The program is co-sponsored by the McHenry County Historical Society and Greenwood Township. Call the Historical Society for more information (923-2267).

~ ~ ~ WOOD RESTORATION ~ ~ ~

September's wood restoration program by Steve Tymec of Abatron was excellent, informative and encouraging! Those who attended learned so much about preserving apparently beyond-repair interior and exterior wood.

Abatron's basic three-part system for preparing and stabilizing decayed wood begins by saturating the affected area with Liquid Wood to rebind the existing fibers. When the wood surface is tacky and shiny from that product, the Wood Epox resin and hardener pastes are mixed to create a heat-producing chemical reaction. After a 5-10 minute induction period, it is worked into the wood and molded by hand or cast to the desired form.

When dry, this epoxy is easier to sand than pine, but is structurally stronger than wood and must be predrilled for hardware. The bond is permanent, it "fossilizes" the wood, but it is a substance that will expand and contract with the weather as wood does. Entire sections of frames, sills, structural and decorative elements can be replaced using the Abatron system.

Dry pigment can be added to the epoxy mix or it can be stained/painted after it is dry. Graining can be achieved by pressing a piece of waxed wood into the paste before it hardens. It also works great on furniture. Steve demonstrated many techniques, let us handle the mixed components and showed slides of restored national landmarks in which Abatron materials have been used.

Basic kits of start at around \$65, but are cheaper than replacing wood. Free workshops are available at their new Kenosha headquarters. Call 1-800-455-1754 if you are interested in brochures or catalogs. Sounds like a field trip! We'll check on dates and keep you posted.

by Shelly Trost

**CLG Workshop in Springfield:**

The Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency held a Certified Local Government Workshop on October 27th and 28th. The theme was "Community Preservation Education and Awareness." The OHSG was invited to provide one of the speakers to detail the workings of our humble group. Shelly Trost and Virginia Engelman travelled to Springfield to represent our group with Shelly volunteering to be our speaker. On a state level there has been interest in our group as a means to exchange information.

After a tour of the Dana-Thomas House by Frank Lloyd Wright, the workshop toured the Iles House, an 1827 raised Greek Revival that is the oldest known house in the City of Springfield. We had anticipated an opulent mansion tour, but the bus pulled up to a boarded-up, decaying structure, that from the street looked like a small raised cottage. It certainly was a wreck, but a fabulous one. Inside, the four parlours had 15 foot ceilings, with 10-foot tall pocket doors and 14-foot windows. The original black walnut woodwork has not ever been painted in 168 years. The fireplace mantels and the huge, classic Greek Revival doorway surround were breathtaking. The house, already moved once in 1910, has been purchased by the city's preservation commission, and will be moved again, within a block of its original site. The future site is now a parking lot and parking revenues will fund the restoration of the house until the house is moved. A parking lot will be torn up to become the site of a historic house!

On Saturday, the workshop included speakers from the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois and a representative of the National Park Service from Washington, D.C. After lunch, speakers from diverse community preservation organizations around the state told of current community preservation, education, awareness programs and their success rates. There were representatives from Boone County, Evanston, Rockford, Peoria, Edwardsville, Quincy and Belleville that explained various restoration projects and adaptive reuse of historic structures.

OHSG's Shelly Trost reprised her May 1994 speech from the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission's awards ceremony. The presentation outlined our mission to bring old house lovers together to share information and the good reception we've had in the past 3 and 1/2 years since we began. This state-sponsored workshop really legitimized our group with more than a dozen communities requesting start-up information.

by Shelly Trost