

McHenry County
Historic Preservation Commission

1996
ANNUAL
REPORTS

McHENRY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

FY 95-96 ANNUAL REPORT

I. Cases Reviewed

In fiscal year 1995-96 the Commission reviewed no Certificates of Appropriateness and no Certificates of Economic Hardship.

II. Designations (See Appendix A.)

In fiscal year 1995-96 the Commission held no public hearings for local landmark designations. However, the Commission conducted two plaqueing ceremonies.

The events of the ceremonies are summarized below:

- #HP 95-03 The ***John James House***, a single-family residence completed in 1850, was formally recognized as a local McHenry County landmark on May 19th during the County's Historic Preservation Week Awards Celebration. At the plaqueing ceremony, Ms. Gloria Urch, a local historian, spoke about the underground railroad and why she believed this newly landmarked structure harbored "fugitive" slaves. According to Ms. Urch, the kitchen floor showed *evidence of a trap door, and openings in the field stone foundation lead into the basement where a short five-step staircase remained under that trap door.* It is believed that this part of the house was probably a root cellar that provided a "safe station" for southern slaves seeking freedom. The John James House is located at 2719 Greenwood Rd. Woodstock, Illinois.
- #HP 95-02 Plaqueing of the ***Frank & Louisa Newman House*** was celebrated on Memorial Day, May 27th with a collective program organized by the Commission. Local Boy and Girl Scout troops joined the Harvard American Legion along with a noted Abraham Lincoln impersonator and Civil War reenactors to provide a salute the County's veterans and to recognize the historical importance of this new landmark. (The original structure was built in 1873. Italianate in architectural style. A partial basement is thought to have originally been a root cellar, which like the John James House, might have been connected to the underground railroad too.) The structure is located at 20605 East Brink Street, immediately east of the Harvard city limits.

During this fiscal year there was one property, Camp Algonquin, that was considered for local landmark status and then the application was withdrawn by the property owners. (Refer to minutes from 3/12/96.)

At the present time there is one pending designation, the 7 Gables House, located at 10308 Route 14 in Harvard, Illinois. Commission members were given the preliminary report (refer to minutes 11/20/96), for review and discussion at the December meeting. At the time of this writing, the Commission scheduled a public hearing on January 15, 1997.

III. Survey

The Survey Committee is comprised of Chairperson Nancy Welsh Jim Keefe, Tony Howard, and the late Frank Scherschel. Commissioner Scherschel, an architect from Cary, died suddenly while vacationing with his family in Cape Cod. The Survey Committee will greatly miss his knowledge and guidance. The Commission is actively seeking a local architect to fill this vacancy.

In February members of the Committee visited Camp Algonquin to gathered site specific information and to survey the property. Unfortunately, Camp Algonquin personnel turned the press away, and the Commission was accused of violating the *Open Meetings Act* (refer to minutes 3/12/96).

The Survey Committee also researched two additional properties (the unincorporated area of Trout Valley and a barn on the Camp Algonquin property) which were found not to be worthy of additional consideration.

Survey Committee Chairman, Nancy Welch represented the Commission as part of the 1997 *"Barn Again" Bus Tour Committee* (refer to 3/96 minutes).

The early incident at Camp Algonquin and the loss of Frank Scherschel later in the year has dampened the enthusiasm of Committee members. Much more focus went to helping municipalities adopt ordinances and/or work out intergovernmental agreements.

IV. National Register

In fiscal year 1995-96 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

As stated above, one of the most significant activities of the Commission were the many hours dedicated to the municipalities of Crystal Lake and Cary in particular helping to establish a preservation commission and a workable intergovernmental agreement, respectively.

Commission members also submitted articles for the Summer issue of *The Commissioner* (see Appendix D).

The accomplishments of each Sub-committee are briefly listed as follows:

- a) *Survey Committee* - (See Section III above.)
- b) *Municipal Liaison* - The Municipal Liaison Committee, responsible for providing information to the various municipalities in the County regarding Historic Preservation, also began working on a County-wide preservation effort through a joint meeting/program scheduled to begin January of 1997. 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. See the attached report from Commissioner Gail Drabant.

Representative copies of the newsletter are attached as Appendix B of this report.

- d) *Vistas* - This one-year old sub-Committee has been very busy exploring the scenic beauty of the County, contacting local historians, and researching old records. See Attached report from Carol Lockwood on the vista's sub-Committee.

- e) *Commission Scrapbook* - The Commission decided to change this category to an on-going project. Commission Jennifer Iftner maintains the scrapbook of newspaper articles which relate to the Commission and preservation efforts in the County in general and makes reports to the Commission as needed.
- f) *Awards and Recognition* - This sub-Committee is in charge of the Preservation Awards along with program events scheduled during Preservation Week. See reports from Commissioners Gail Drabant and Gloria Mack, and Appendix B for more details.
- g) *Grants* - This sub-Committee was newly created because the Commission decided to take a more active approach to their preservation efforts. The 1996-1997 Work Program has slated time for hopefully two special educational projects if finances permit.

The first project, historical maps of the County showing the area pre-1830 and another illustration describing events after the railroad came to the County. This project will be financed through private donations. Reduced versions of these maps will also be included in the Commission's other planned project.

For the second project, a guide to the historic rural and village architecture of McHenry County, the Commission applied for moneys from the Grant-in Aid program sponsored by IHPA. This more expansive proposal can only come to fruition, at this time, if grant money is available. See Commission Tony Howard's report for further details.

- h) *Calendar of Events and Work Program* - The Calendar of Events and the Commission's Work Program for FY 96-97 is attached to this document outlining the schedule of activities for the next fiscal year. See Appendix D.

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission

FY 95 - 96

Notes from the Commission Chairman - Jim Keefe

It seems that every year there is a turnover of commission members. This year was no exception other than we lost a greater number with the death of Frank Scherschel. As an architect, he was a valuable member of our Survey Committee. Our commission lost other members but they have been replaced by Tony Howard from Crystal Lake; Jennifer Iftner, from Harvard; and David Gervais from Cary. One more member is still needed to fill out our group for 1997.

The Survey Committee had two locations honored this year and Gloria Mack, our Public Relation's chairman, put together great programs. The dedication of the *John James Home*, in Greenwood Township, had Ms. Gloria Urch narrating accounts about the underground railroad and how it related to this house and the history of McHenry County. The *Newman House* had an Abraham Lincoln impersonator who recited stories from the Civil War as well a tying in tales from the underground railroad. The events were well attended and covered by the local papers. Along with the plaqueing of the John James Home, an awards meeting was held at the Greenwood Township Hall to acknowledge County-wide property owners with certificates for their preservation efforts. (See Appendix B.)

The Survey Committee also made the newspapers by having what the press called a "violation" of the *Open Meetings Act*. The Committee found out that just before they were to examine a particular property, the owners had turned away the press. It was not the Committee's intention to keep the press uninformed, and learned that even though the Committee is a sub-committee, it still represents the Commission and that if a majority of the Commission membership is present, all rules of the *Open Meetings Act* apply. The McHenry County State Attorney's Office informed the Commission of the regulations that must be met. All Commission members received this report.

Tony Howard, one of our members attended an educational program sponsored by the State Historical Commission and fulfilled the requirement of Section 10.b.7 for Local Government (CLG) Certification.

The Commission started working with the Village of Cary because their Council membership felt that the size of the municipality would not warrant nor justify the passing of an historical preservation ordinance and the appointing of a commission. Instead, Cary has asked that the McHenry County Preservation Commission take over those duties and utilize the County's ordinance. This is a new philosophy here

in the County, one that may be applicable for other communities, and one that will definitely benefit landmark-quality properties throughout McHenry County.

The Commission is trying to put together an historical map(s). We have applied for a grant from the State Historical Society for the purpose of a book (Special Project for next year) that will be prepared by the same person who would draw these maps. He (the cartographer) has already produced a three-dimensional map of the City of Woodstock that has been well received. The Commission is presently looking for sponsors to help pay for the cost of two maps. We would like to do something similar showing the County pre-1830, and on a second map circa 1855 (after the railroad came to McHenry County).

Lastly, the Commission welcomed Maryanne Wanaski, our new staff liaison, who has been a great help to all of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Keefe, Chairman
McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission
FY 95 - 96
Municipal Liaison Committee Chairman - Gloria Mack

1996 began with continued efforts to preserve the *Mass Barn* in McHenry. Information has been requested and provided by the Commission, to the City of McHenry, throughout the year regarding experts in areas such as slate shingles and architects with experience in the historic preservation of barns. This past fall, the City of McHenry received a \$5000,000 grant for restoration of the Barn. the stipulation, however, is that the money be spent within one (1) year. Preservation of the Barn seems possible now.

The Crystal Lake Historic Preservation Ordinance was approved by their City Council on April 16, 1996. Crystal Lake is the second municipality in the County to adopt a preservation ordinance. The ordinance passed by a three to two (3/2) vote, the slimmest of margins.

In August, Nancy Welch, Landmark Committee chairman, and I addressed the Village of Cary Zoning Commission. They were very receptive to the concept of a preservation ordinance. In our discussion, it was determined that they would prefer to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the County rather than establishing their own commission. To date, deliberations are underway with Mr. Larry Asaro, Village of Cary Administrator, to establish the terms of the pact.

In September, Nancy Welch and I met again to discuss preliminary plans for a County-wide meeting of all preservation groups. We have meet several times since then and have scheduled January 15, 1997 for the first forum. Amy Slocum of the State of Illinois Historic Preservation Office, will be our featured speaker.

As this year came to an end, we had one more challenge before the Commission. McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) was in the process of evaluating a site (*an historic farmstead*) for a possible viewing station for the newly restored Lost Valley. This would involve demolition of a Greek Revival house on the site. Our Commission member, Gail Drabant, researched the house (see Appendix C) and we provided that report to MCCD's acting Director, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and several other trustees. Gail and I attended a MCCD meeting in late December and the Conservation District decided to reevaluate the site.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Mack, Chairman

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission
FY 95 - 96
Communications/Public Relations Committee Chairman - Gloria Mack

In observance of Preservation Week, the Commission scheduled the Plaquing Ceremony for the John James House in Greenwood, and also the Commission Awards Presentation for the same day in the old Greenwood Town Hall. The Awards were bestowed on the recipients at 1:30 p.m. and at 3 o'clock we motored or walked down to the John James House. Ms. Gloria Urch, a local historian, versed in the *underground railroad* in McHenry County was the speaker. She spoke specifically about the John James House and why she believed it was a stop in route to freedom for many slaves.

In a joint effort, initiated by the Commission, the Harvard American Legion, and Scott Summer (the current owner of the Newman House), worked with the Commission to put together a wonder program to honor Memorial Day and to landmark the Newman House, which is located next to the Oakridge Cemetery, in Harvard. (Mr. Newman, a Civil War veteran and builder of the newly designated property is buried in Oakridge Cemetery.) The usual program for Memorial Day was to be presented including the Boy and Girl Scouts, the Harvard High School Band, along with participating veterans. The Commission arranged to supplement the program with a noted Abraham Lincoln impersonator and Civil War reenactors who would provide a salute to the veterans with an antique canon. Unfortunately, the weather *did not cooperate so participants and spectators moved to the Harvard High School Gymnasium*. Playing to a packed house of 300 to 400 people, When Mr. Lincoln stood and began to speak, children and adults alike sat with their eyes riveted to the stage. President Lincoln spoke of the tragedy of this war and recited the Gettysburg Address. At the end of his speech, the Civil War reenactors saluted their Commander-in-Chief. Everyone then moved on to the Newman House for its designation ceremony. Mr. Lincoln spoke again and Scott Summers, owner of the property, did his interpretation of old Mr. Newman. (See Appendix B.)

I believe that the Newman House designation ceremony qualifies as an educational program presented by the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Mack, Chairman

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission

FY 95 - 96

Vista Committee Chairman - Carol Lockwood

Slowly, we are coming to terms with the idea of recognizing natural features, landscapes, and vistas as part of the work of our Commission. During the past year, the Committee has explored some possible suggestions for vista/landscape sites for plaqueing in Greenwood township. Though attractive, the sites were not judged to be historically significant. Still under consideration is a site of pine trees at the Shalimar Subdivision in McHenry near the Fox River.

With regard to the possible project of identifying sites from the 1837 Survey of McHenry County, the Committee has contracted the Chief Director at the Illinois State Archives for assistance in locating the microfilm copies of the plats and surveyors' notes for McHenry County. In addition, the Committee has spoken to several experts in geography and environmental subjects at McHenry County College, Northern Illinois University, and the University of Chicago. All of them have been encouraging about the value of such a project and suggest that we try to obtain the services of a graduate student/summer intern with experience in surveying and landscape features. So far, the cost would appear to be prohibitive for a project with such an uncertain outcome.

The Committee has also been compiling a monthly photo series of a restored prairie/native wildflower field in rural Coral township. The fields received one of our Preservation Week Awards for a natural prairie last May. To date, we have a record of the changing flowers and grasses from May through November. The months of December through April are still to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Lockwood, Chairman

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission

FY 95 - 96

Grants Committee Chairman - Anthony Howard

The Grants Committee is a comparatively new committee, having only been formed in September, 1996. Our first acts were to explore the possibilities of obtaining funding for one or more of our programs. Two sources were considered -the Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Grants-in-Aid Program, administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency for the use of Certified Local Governments.

Application to the IHPA was prepared and submitted, with the kind assistance of Commission-liaison, Maryanne Wanaski, in November of 1996. The grant was requested for the purpose of public education in the matter of historic preservation, specifically, to aid in, and help defray the costs to cartographer, Tom Wilcockson's development of printed materials concerning the early and pre-settlement perspective map(s) and/or an illustrated history book. Mr. Wilcockson is quite accomplished in his craft and this could prove to be a very exciting project for the Commission. Final determination of our grant proposal will be made and communicated to us, by the IHPA, early next year.

As of the writing of this report, a decision concerning the submittal of a CDBG application had not yet been made. This would no doubt be combined with the County's own application.

In these days of tight moneys, I believe the importance of seeking out and prudently using available funding cannot be overstated. Such funds could prove invaluable in the cause of public education, and in supporting historic preservation in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Howard, Chairman

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission
FY 95 - 96
Communications Committee Chairman - Gail Drabant

Old House Support Group

The OHSG met monthly January through May, and September through December in 1996. (We do not meet during the summer do to conflicts with house projects.) The format that we use is to alternate informative programs with open houses (at Member's homes).

Programs presented during 1996 included:

- ***Period Interiors*** - included decorating topics unique to old house spaces.
- ***What Style Is My House?*** - included a slide presentation of each of the basic sub-styles of Victorian architecture using McHenry County homes as examples.
- ***Restoration Roundtable Discussion*** - included a demonstration on wood repair using epoxy fillers.
- ***Basements*** - included both old solutions and modern materials for new solutions to the common water and support problems of basements.

Open Houses in 1996 included:

- a rescued Queen Anne that had been restored from top-to-bottom (located in Woodstock),
- a late Victorian transitional to Prairie style including some Mission and Bungalow influences (located in Richmond) that is in excellent condition,
- a brick Tudor Revival that has had countless hours of renovation (located in Cary), and
- an elaborate Queen Anne Victorian from 1894 with all of the typical exquisite details of Queen Anne houses.

The OHSG has had this year, anywhere from 15 to 30 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 Appendix B for the OHSG's newsletters for 1996.

Awards

The third annual McHenry County Historic Preservation Awards were presented in May, sponsored by the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission. Eight awards were presented this year in each of eight categories. The recipients were all very deserving of the encouragement of their preservation efforts that was provided by the awards presentation. All of McHenry County is eligible for these awards regardless if the sites or efforts are from within a municipality in unincorporated McHenry County. Therefore, this is the only such County-wide historic preservation awards program. We will continue this program in 1997. See Appendix B for publication from the awards presentation for details on the specific categories and awards winners.

Miscellaneous Publications

Publications produced during 1996 included:

- County Preservation Awards press releases, Award Certificates, and Awards programs and recipient's listing,
- programs for two landmarking ceremonies,
- business cards to ease introductions for new members, and
- updates to the County Landmark list.

Historical Research

A document was produced researching the history of a 1850's Greek revival house on McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) property. Included in this document was a search of early deeds and tax records. This structure was scheduled for demolition. It is now being studied as a possible restoration project for interpretive history. However, its future status is yet to be determined. (See Appendix C.)



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

January 15, 1997

Ms. Amy Slocombe
Local Government Services Manager
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Old State Capitol
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Dear Ms. Slocombe,

Enclosed please find a copy of McHenry County Historical Preservation Commission's FY 1995-1996 Annual Report. This documents the activities of the Commission over the last year.

I believe this satisfies one of the requirements of the agreement between McHenry County and the IHPA for Local Government Certification.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (815) 334-4560.

Sincerely,

Maryanne Wanaski
Staff Liaison
McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission



**Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507 • (217) 782-4836 • TTY (217) 524-7128

January 29, 1997

Maryanne Wananski, Planner
Dept. of Planning & Development
2200 N. Seminary Ave., Annex Building A
Woodstock, IL 60098

Dear Maryanne,

Thank you for sending the Certified Local Government (CLG) 1996 annual report for McHenry County. After reviewing the report, I have determined that McHenry County has met the requirements of the CLG program.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 217/785-5730.

Sincerely,

Amy Slocombe
Local Government Services
Manager

file: CLG: annual report

Excellent report!

McHenry County
Historic Preservation Commission

1996

Monthly Reports

Memos, and

Attachments



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 1996

January 9, 1996

February 13, 1996

March 12, 1996

April 9, 1996

May 14, 1996

June 11, 1996

July 9, 1996

MEETING August 13, 1996 **CANCELLED**

September 18, 1996

October 16, 1996

November 20, 1996

December 18, 1996



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

1996 PRESERVATION AWARDS:

The *McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission* will present Historic Preservation Awards in several categories. Do you know of anyone that has helped to preserve a part of our county's history? Now is the time to give that well-deserving individual or organization (or even yourself) recognition. The process is simple. Just call Jim Keefe (337-2100) with the property address and which category (see below) for which it is being nominated by April 15th.

CATEGORIES:

- 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 Preservation & Restoration of a Natural Vista**
- Outstanding Historical Achievement by a Group or Individual**

Sincerely,

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission



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

1996 PRESERVATION AWARDS: NOMINATION APPLICATION

Date of nomination: _____ Nomination #: _____

Person submitting the nomination: NAME _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE #: _____

Property being nominated: OWNER NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE #: _____

CATEGORIES: (CHECK ONE)

- 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 Preservation & Restoration of a Natural Vista
Outstanding Historical Achievement by a Group or Individual

Reason why you feel this property is outstanding: _____

Photographs (before & after) available? _____

Survey completed date _____ Recommendation _____

Bypass foes step up push for landmark

Landmark

Continued from page 1

"I don't think the intent of this ordinance was to stop development," Keefe said. "The intent of this ordinance is to have people recognize history when it's available and protect it when it's feasible."

Jarczyk argued Camp Algonquin doesn't want to stand in the way of easing the traffic jams.

"But we are very interested in preserving our site," he said. "There is history in this area that environmentally we need to take a closer look at."

"I don't think our commission has the authority to stop the bridge. And I don't think we want to. We'll let the county board make the final decision."

Jim Keefe

Preservation commission president

President Jim Keefe said. "But I don't think our commission has the authority to stop the bridge. And I don't think we want to. We'll let the county board make the final decision."

Camp Algonquin leaders are trying to convince commission members that McHenry County's first settlers, the Gillilans, farmed on 27 acres of the campgrounds.

But even if the commission members agree, they only can ask the county board to preserve the land and ensure the public has access to it.

Camp Algonquin is a private facility.

That alone won't stop the bridge voters overwhelmingly endorsed last year to ease congestion on busy Routes 31 and 62.

"I don't think the intent of this ordinance was to stop development."

Jim Keefe

Preservation commission president

Commission members told Camp Algonquin officials to do more homework on the buildings and property they believe have historic value.

"Now it's phase three and we have to be more specific. It's kind of like getting a term paper back and the professor says, 'Good start, but you have some more work to

do," Jarczyk said.

Commission Chairman Nancy Welch, Commissioner Frank Scherchel and adviser Al Kamka flanked Keefe on the tour. Two members of the McHenry County Economic Development Corp. tagged along, Keefe said.

But if the commission can't block a bypass through Camp Algonquin, Jarczyk hinted his group may seek help elsewhere.

Jarczyk said several 100-year-old oak, maple, hickory and walnut trees grow on the property.

"We also know that we have wild flowers out here, and they are very rare and unique to this area," he said.

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (9/10/96)

THIS ARTICLE REFLECTS EXACTLY WHAT OCCURED
WE DID OUR USUAL SURVEY - NO MEETING - NO QUORUM
NO VOTE - WE GATHERED INFORMATION ONLY
WHICH NANCY WILL PRESENT TO US ALL NEXT
MEETING - / AS OF 3-4-96 I HAVE HEARD NOTHING
FROM STATES ATTORNEY.

ENC IS MAP OF LOCATION IN 1892 - HOUSE
IS ON ALGONQUIN - CARY BLACK TOP -

WE MAY GIVE THIS TO CAROL + VISTA'S
HOW ABOUT IT CAROL?

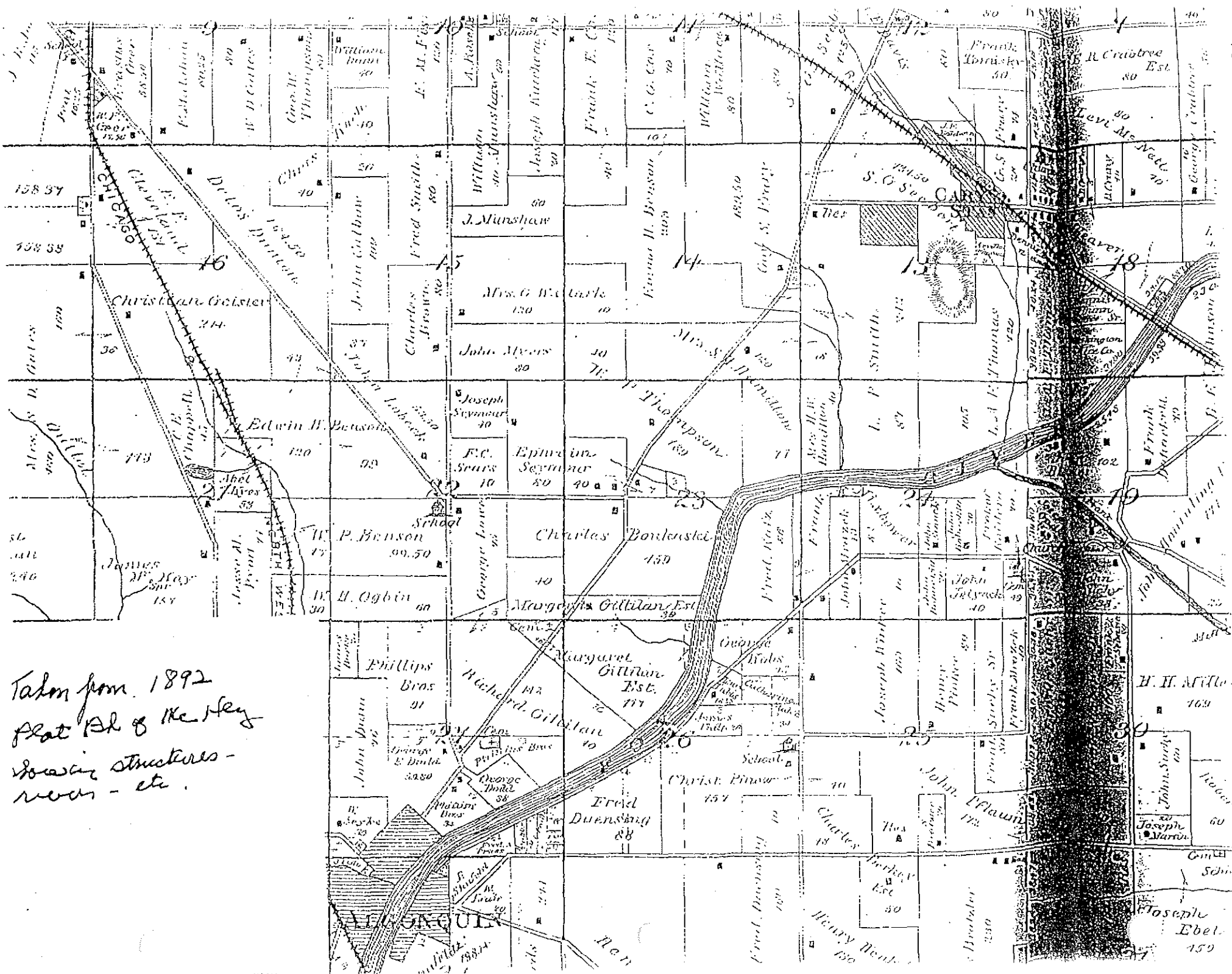
PAUL M. ANDERSON
Northwest Herald

ALGONQUIN — Granting landmark status to a portion of Camp Algonquin might not be enough to stop a Fox River bridge. McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission members voted Saturday morning as camp officials lobbied for landmark sta-

Camp Algonquin Executive Director John Jarczyk refused to let reporters accompany Saturday's meeting even though it was considered a public meeting of the commission. In a later telephone interview, Jarczyk said he felt media participation would "distract" the commission members.

Camp Algonquin officials want to halt any plans for a bypass through their property. "It would ruin our program," Jarczyk said.

But naming a part of the 116-acre property a landmark might not be the trump card Camp Algonquin officials need to put the brakes on a bypass through their campground.



Taken from 1892
 Plat of the Key
 showing structures -
 roads - etc.

3/11/96

Mr. James Keefe
McHenry County Historic Commission
109 S. Jefferson St
Woodstock, Ill 60098

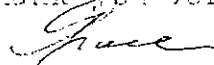
RE: Marango Historic School House
19017 River Road
Marango, Ill 60152

Mr. Keefe:

Indeed sorry I could not be present at the meeting of March 12th, 96 however, kindly find some photos taken of the front and side of the school house, drawings of the addition to the west side being 16ft long, by 16ft wide,also enclosed is a picture similar to what the finished product will look like, (keep in mind the addition is on the opposite side).

Please let us know soon as possible if this construction is permissible and meets with the committee's approval.

Thank you very much,


Grace Cocconate
2606 W. Devon Ave
Des Plaines, Ill 60018

APPENDIX D

CAMP ALQUONQUIN
(BARN)

RATING SYSTEM FOR THE EVALUATION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES

TIER 1

<u>Category</u>	<u>Factors</u>	<u>Point Value</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Score</u>
Rarity: Architectural Type	Extremely rare	5		<u>4</u>
	Rare	(4)	*	
	Medium rare	2		
	Common	1		
Rarity: Structural Type	Extremely rare	5		<u>4</u>
	Rare	(4)	*	
	Medium rare	2		
	Common	1		
Association with an Historical Event, Person, or Cultural Activity	National	5		<u>5</u>
	County, State, or Local	(5)	*	
	None	0		
Association with an Architect or Master Builder	National	5		<u>0</u>
	County, State, or Local	5	*	
	Architect or builder identified but of no known importance	1		
	Architect or builder unknown	0		
Established or Familiar Visual Feature	Symbol of County as a whole	5		<u>4</u>
	Symbol of community or local area or a conspicuous and familiar structure in the context of the entire County	(4)	*	
	A conspicuous and familiar structure in the context of the community or local area	3		
	Not particularly conspicuous or familiar	0		
Tier 1 Score (Add Above 5 Lines)				<u>17</u>

* The category with the highest point value is given a weight of 10. All other categories are weighted 1.

TIER 2

<u>Category</u>	<u>Factors</u>	<u>Point Value</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Score</u>
Integrity	Good	5		<u>10</u>
	Fair	3	10	
	Minor Alterations	2		
	Major Alterations ↔	(1)		
Age	1830 to 1859	5		<u>12</u>
	1860 to 1910 →	(3)	4	
	1911 to 1945	2		
	1946 to (Current date - 40 years)	1		

<u>Category</u>	<u>Factors</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Score</u>
External Context (View)	Original	5		<u>8</u>
	Altered	(2)	4	
	Major alterations	0		
Context Within Site (Setting)	Original	5		<u>0</u>
	Altered	2	3	
	Major alterations	0		
Condition	Exceptional	5		<u>3</u>
	Good	3	3	
	Fair	1		
	Deteriorated	0		

Tier 2 Score 23 ÷ 6.6
 (Add Above 5 Lines and Divide by 5)

Total Score (23.6)
 (Add Tier 1 and Tier 2 Totals)

INTERPRETATION OF TOTAL SCORE

<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Rating</u>
80-94	Unique
55-79	Significant
47-54	Important
14-46	Contributing

result of a unique location, appearance, or physical character that creates an established or familiar vista or visual feature; or as a geologic or natural feature associated with the development, heritage or culture of the community, county, State or nation.

"Site". The traditional, documented or legendary location of an event, occurrence, action or structure significant in the life or lives of a person, persons, group, or tribe, including but not limited to, cemeteries, burial grounds, campsites, battlefields, settlements, estates, gardens, groves, river crossings, routes, trails, caves, quarries, mines or significant trees or other plant life.

"Structure". Anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires permanent or temporary location on or in the ground, including (but without limiting the generality of the foregoing) barns, smokehouses, advertising signs, billboards, backstops for tennis courts, bridges, fences, pergolas, gazebos, radio and television antennae, solar collectors, microwave antennae, including supporting towers, roads, ruins or remnants (including foundations), swimming pools or walkways.

"Survey". The systematic gathering of information on the architectural, historical, scenic, and archaeological significance of buildings, sites, structures, areas, or landscapes through visual assessment in the field and historical research, for the purpose of identifying landmarks or districts worthy of preservation.

¹ Chapter 30, § 401 et seq.

² Chapter 24, § 11-48.2-1A.

5-30004. Authority to protect and preserve landmarks and preservation districts

§ 5-30004. Authority to protect and preserve landmarks and preservation districts. The county board of each county shall have the following authority:

(1) to establish and appoint by ordinance a preservation study committee and to take any reasonable temporary actions to protect potential landmarks and preservation districts during the term of an appointed preservation study committee;

(2) to establish and appoint by ordinance a preservation commission upon recommendation of a preservation study committee;

(3) to conduct an ongoing survey of the county to identify buildings, structures, areas, sites and landscapes that are of historic, archaeological, architectural, or scenic significance, and therefore potential landmarks or preservation districts;

(4) to designate by ordinance landmarks and preservation districts upon the recommendation of a preservation commission and to establish a system of markers, plaques or certificates for designated landmarks and preservation districts;

(5) to prepare maps showing the location of landmarks and preservation districts, publish educational information, and prepare educational programs concerning landmarks and preservation districts and their designation and protection;

(6) to exercise any of the powers and authority in relation to regional planning and zoning granted counties by Divisions 5-12 and 5-14¹, for the purpose of protecting, preserving and continuing the use of landmarks and preservation districts;

(7) to nominate landmarks and historic districts to any state or federal registers of historic places;

(8) to appropriate and expend funds to carry out the purposes of this Division;

(9) to review applications for construction, alteration, removal or demolition affecting landmarks or property within preservation districts;

(10) to acquire by negotiated purchase any interest including conservation rights in landmarks or in property within preservation districts, or property immediately adjacent to or surrounding landmarks or preservation districts;

(11) to apply for and accept any gift, grant or bequest from any private or public source, including agencies of the federal or State government, for any purpose authorized by this Division;

(12) to establish a system for the transfer of development rights including, as appropriate, a mechanism for the deposit of development rights in a development rights bank, and for the transfer of development rights from that development rights bank in the same manner as authorized for municipalities by Section 11-48.2 of the Illinois Municipal Code.² All receipts arising from the transfer shall be deposited in a special county account to be applied against expenditures necessitated by the county program for the designation and protection of landmarks and preservation districts. Any development rights acquired, sold or transferred from a development rights bank, shall not be a "security" as that term is defined in Section 2.1 of The Illinois Securities Law of 1968,³ and shall be exempt from all requirements for the registration of securities.

(13) to establish a loan or grant program from any source of funds for designated landmarks and preservation districts and to issue interest bearing revenue bonds or general obligation bonds pursuant to ordinance enacted by the county board, after compliance with requirements for referendum, payable from the revenues to be derived from the operation of any landmark or of any property within a preservation district.

(14) to abate real property taxes on any landmark or property within a preservation district to encourage its preservation and continued use or to provide relief for owners unduly burdened by designation;

(15) to advise and assist owners of landmarks and property within preservation districts on physical and financial aspects of preservation, renovation, rehabilitation and reuse;

(16) to advise cities, villages or incorporated towns, upon request of the appropriate official of the municipality, concerning enactment of ordinances to protect landmarks or preservation districts;

(17) to exercise within the boundaries of any city, village, or incorporated town any of the powers and authority granted counties by this Division so long as the corporate authorities by ordinance or by intergovernmental agreement pursuant to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act,⁴ or pursuant to Article 7, Section 10 of the Constitution of the State of Illinois have authorized the county preservation commission established by authority of this Division to designate landmarks or preservation districts within its corporate boundaries, and such county preservation commission shall have only those powers, duties and legal authority provided in this Division;

(18) to exercise any of the above powers to preserve and protect property owned by any unit of local government

Office of the State's Attorney
McHENRY COUNTY
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS




ARY W. PACK
STATE'S ATTORNEY

McHENRY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
2200 NORTH SEMINARY AVENUE
WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS 60098
815/334-4159
FAX 815/337-0872

MEMORANDUM

TO: McHenry County Historic
Preservation Commission Members

FROM: R. Glenn Gable 
Chief, Civil Division

DATE: April 5, 1996

RE: On Site Inspections

This memorandum is intended for informational purposes to assist your commission in conducting on-site inspections in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Article II G of the McHenry County Preservation Ordinance sets a quorum for the Historic Preservation Commission at 5 members and further states all meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public. A majority of a quorum would therefore be 3 members.

The fundamental purposes of the open meetings law is to require that the people's business be conducted in public, not in secret. Site inspection required by a board may be excepted from the Open Meetings Act requirements by statute or by court or attorney general decision. Illinois has no attorney general decisions exempting site inspections from the open meetings act requirements. Furthermore, there are no Illinois statutes or court decisions that exempt site inspections. What is pivotal is the definition of meeting in the Act:

"Meeting means any gathering of a majority of a quorum of the members of a public body held for the purpose of discussing public business." 5
ILCS 120/1.02

"A gathering need not be prearranged and set as to time, nor need it be at an official meeting place to come within the purview of the Act." 1974 Op. Atty. Gen. NO. S-726.

Where a majority of a quorum discussed matters concerning public business which were scheduled to be dealt with at a subsequent board meeting, such meeting violated the intent and terms of the Open Meetings Act despite the designation of meeting as something other than a meeting and despite whether meeting is designated as an informal gathering as opposed to a formal meeting. See People ex rel Difanis v. Barr, 46 Ill. Dec. 678 (1980).

Even in states that allow on site inspections to be excepted from the open meetings requirements, the public body must distinguish between on-site inspection itself which is often excepted, and the subsequent formulation of its findings and recommendations, which is not. An inspection can and should occur without an exchange of views among the members of the public body. The exchange of views appropriately occurs in a meeting open to the public noticed in accordance with the open meetings law.

Since, Illinois does not specifically except inspections, it is critical that McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission members not exchange views while conducting an on-site inspection, in order to avoid violating the Open Meetings Act.

The Historic Preservation Commission can send less than a majority of a quorum to conduct the inspections or send 3 or more members if they refrain from exchanging views during the inspection and only go about their respective task of gathering information at the site inspection. Your members still may be subject to public criticism if 3 or more members are sent and the inspection has not been noticed as a public meeting; you will be placed on the defense to assert that no views were exchanged nor was commission business discussed among members. Another alternative is to notice the inspections as a public meeting and cancel the meeting if members of the public are excluded by the property owners.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any additional questions concerning this memorandum.

cc: Bill Barron

wah

Carol Lockwood -
Vistas

Historic Preservation Commission
Vistas Committee
May 12, 1996

Following on from last month's report on the ideas found in the National Trust documents about imagined communities and defining boundaries of historic sites and districts, I've been exploring the possibility of starting a project, which I'd first mentioned in January, using the original surveyors' report of the county from 1837 to see if any of the features/landmarks identified in the survey still exist and would be worthy of preservation, or at least recognition. Everyone I spoke to was pretty encouraging about the value of such a project.

I started with the Geography Department at McHenry County College. I spoke to Mr. Trudell who said that MCC is too small an institution to undertake such a project, and that it would probably be more suitable to a graduate institution or a group which had experience in compiling environmental/regional/historic surveys. He suggested that we not ignore "post-settlement" land boundaries or "relic" boundaries. He gave an example of areas of former fields which have been turned into sub-divisions for housing and in which old fence rows are still identifiable because of the way in which field-plowing on either side of a hedge-row/fence-line mounded the earth in between the fields.

Next I turned to the Geography Department at Northern Illinois University who, somewhat inexplicably, put me in touch with their cartography services department. They wouldn't really be helpful in doing any of the field work for a project such as this, but their department could do the printing and publishing of any final version of maps etc. that we might produce. I got a few more contacts, one being the Regional History Center at NIU, whom I have yet to make contact with, and the Cultural Map of Illinois project which is being undertaken at the University of Chicago.

At the University of Chicago I spoke with Katherine Hannaford, a graduate student in the geographical studies department. She said that the Cultural Map of Illinois would be too general for our purposes, but she had a few suggestions for us. First, she knows the woman who is one of the directors of the National Register's Rural Heritage or Rural Survey division and will be sending a contact address and phone number for her. Secondly, she gave me the names of a couple of different books/publications which we might be able to use as models for our tentative project:

Built for Farming, Kane County Planning Commission
Cultural and Historical Inventory, DuPage County Regional Planning
Commission, 1993

From Palisade Head to Sugar Loaf: An Inventory of Minnesota's Geographic Features of Historic and Cultural Significance, State Historical Preservation Office;
author Carol Zellie

For graduate students who might be interested in a project such as ours, she suggested that I speak with Michael Conzan at the University of Chicago. I will do so after he returns from Europe in mid-July.

In addition, I have also spoke with William Howenstine of the Geographic and Environmental Studies department at Northeastern University. He said that NEU would probably have a graduate student or two who would find this kind of project to be useful,

but he said that he himself is retiring and I'd have to wait until September to see if we could set something up because that's when Tom Simpson from the Morton Arboretum joins the NEU faculty as a professor of landscape ecology. William Howenstine mentioned a Limestone Quarry just east of Garden Prairie as a site worth exploring.

I contacted Mr. Everett Thomas too. He was very enthusiastic about the whole idea and mentioned at least half-a-dozen possible sites that we might want to explore with regard to Indian trails/paths/villages both in Coral township and Greenwood township. He offered to take me on a tour of some of the possible sites, and I will set that up for later this month. Anyone wishing to join in, let me know and we can try to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Several of these people also mentioned Ed Collins in the Conservation District as key player in identifying sites. I had contacted him last year with regard to some of the features in Glacial Park, and we let them pass because we seemed to think that the Conservation District was already doing a great job of conserving and restoring their lands. However, as the Conservation District cannot acquire ALL of the sites it identifies as worthy of preservation and conservation, several people I spoke with said that our commission should target those areas. This is where Ed Collins re-enters the picture: he is working in his Master's Degree at Northeastern University - with William Howenstine - and his project began with matching surveys with soils and identifying springs in the Glacial Park area. But he has expanded his project and his conducting surveys in other townships too.

If we could tie into projects such as these which are already in place, we might be able to locate some suitable vistas.

I did not forget the suggestion of Trout Valley, but as I read in the newspaper within the last the week that they incorporated, it takes it, unfortunately, out of our jurisdiction.

I also have not forgotten things like cemeteries, roads, which are more easily identifiable features than vistas and landscapes, but I also renew the suggestion/request which I made last time for spinning those kind of "non-structural landmarks" into a committee of their own.

*Respectfully submitted,
Carl Lockwood*

Gloria Mack

Report 5/14/96

The City Council of Crystal Lake passed their Historic Preservation Ordinance on 4/16/96. It was reported to me by Mary Thennes that in a last minute effort to amend the ordinance, to allow only property owners to nominate potential landmarks, a motion was put to the floor prior to the councils vote. That amendment was put to a vote and was defeated 3/2. The ordinance was then brought to the floor and passed 3/2. I would like to suggest to the Commission that we send a letter of Congratulations to Mayor Wagner and offer as always our assistance. I have attached a copy of the ordinance as passed to this report.

May 19, 1996/ The awards presentation will take place at 1:30 at the old Greenwood Hall and the landmarking of the John James House will take place at 3:00 PM. There was a nice article on the John James house in the Herald on April 25th. (Copy attached)

May 27, 1996/ Newman House/On May 1st, I arranged a meeting with Gary Swanson/American Legion Commander of Harvard, Scott Summers, home owner, John & Marcie Matussek, Civil War reenactors. The ceremony will begin at 10 am. There will be a parade to the cemetery, including our Civil War reenactors, and Abraham Lincoln, hopefully a horse and buggy will be available. The program will include the usual Memorial Day recognition and the guest speaker of the day will be Abraham Lincoln, compliments of Scott Summers. (Lincoln info attached). At the conclusion of the cemetery program we will adjourn to the house for the presentation of the plaque. Mr. Lincoln will be available for photos., bring your cameras. Article on the Newman house was in the Herald on April 18th (copy attached.)

The County Board Members from these districts have been invited to attend. One must present the plaque in each instance.

Our May 7th meeting with the McHenry Landmark Commission has been rescheduled for their June meeting.

- - - MCHENRY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION - - -

COMMITTEE REPORT - Gail Drabant - 5/14/96

OLD HOUSE SUPPORT GROUP:

The Old House Support Group met in April for an Open House at the Wulffen's in Richmond. Not only did we have a large attendance, but everyone thoroughly enjoyed their well-restored home.

The May meeting will be a slide presentation on the different architectural sub-styles within Victorian architecture. (No, they aren't all Queen Anne's.)

This is the last meeting for this season since we do not meet through the summer months due to everyone working on their houses. We will resume meetings in the fall with programs that are planned based on input from the that was sent out in the May newsletter.

If the OHSG is going to continue, we need help setting up programs.

1996 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS:

awards presentation will be on May 19th at 1:30 at the Greenwood Town Hall. We have received nominations in all of the categories. Congratulation letters were sent out to all nominees congratulating them on being nominated and inviting them to attend the awards presentation.

NEW BUSINESS - MCCD GREEK REVIVAL RESTORATION:

I was requested to do a site inspection by one of the MCCD employees of a Greek Revival house on MCCD property that is scheduled for demolition. After viewing the property (see photos), I am recommending that the house be restored as an interpretive historic representation of early settler living quarters. Although it would need substantial renovation to bring it up to modern living standards, it would NOT need more than a basic restoration to bring it back to the more primitive living standards that existed back when it was built over 125 years ago. I will volunteer my personal time to become actively involved in this project if the commission concurs as to its historical value as a representative of early vernacular housing.

1997 "Barn Again" Bus Tour Committee
McHenry Co. Historical Society

Don Peasley 815-338-1533 388 Lincoln Ave. Woodstock 60098
Arnold Storrs 815-675-2091 3902 N. Solon Rd. Solon Mills 60080
Molly Walsh 815-455-3700 (work) 40 S. Caroline St. C.L. 60014
Margaret Richardson 815-675-2297 9407 Richardson Rd. Spring Grove 60081
Don Schellhaass 815-338-3737 (work) U.of I. Ext. Service P.O. Box 1430
Woodstock 60098
Joyce Perbix 815-669-3998 P.O. Box 284 Huntley 60142
Duane Dahlman 815-568-5788 10411 Payne Rd., Marengo 60152
Grace Moline 815-923-2267 Hist. Soc. P.O. Box 434 Union 60180
Suellen Wilkins 815-568-3647 617 1st Ave. Marengo 60152
Glenn Iverson 847- 516-8671 115 Mary Lane Cary 60013
Bill Holden 847-658-1360 1171 St. Andrews Ct. Algonquin 60102
Nancy Welch 847-639-3119 314 Pearl St. Cary 60013
847-639-8700 (work) Century 21 P.O. Box 246 Cary 60013
Rebecca Krengel 815-923-4449 9409 Voss Road Marengo 60152
Nancy Fike 815-923-2267 Hist. Soc. P.O. Box 434 Union 60180



Built in 1817 by Luke Gannon, 5 miles NE of Huntley. His son, James, born in 1844, died in 1948. Ed Gannon, son of James, donated it in 1964 to the McHenry County Historical Society.

McHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An Illinois Not For Profit Corporation

BOX 434 • 6422 MAIN STREET • UNION, ILLINOIS 60180

PHONE: 815 923-2267

NOTICE--NEXT MEETING

1997 "BARN AGAIN" BARN TOUR
COMMITTEE, THURSDAY, JUNE 20th
7:00 p.m. at the museum

PLEASE BRING YOUR LIST OF POSSIBLE BARN TOUR SITES FOR DISCUSSION

Historic Preservation Commission
Vistas Committee
June 11, 1996

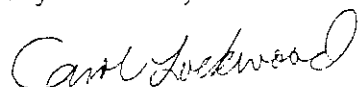
I had hoped to arrange a meeting with Everett Thomas on some warm, sunny day to view some of his suggestions for historic sites in the Greenwood area, but as the weather won't cooperate, I have arranged to meet with him on Saturday June 15 at 9:00 AM. We're meeting at his home at 765 Victoria Drive, Woodstock and anyone who wishes to join us is very welcome.

I contacted Shelley Maston, the director of the Rural Heritage Program at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She is sending me information that might be of interest to us. She also gave me a contact name: Pratt Cassity at the University of Georgia who has worked with preservation commissions before with regard to environmental/landscape issues. I haven't yet been able to reach him.

I am also waiting for some information to arrive from the IL Department of Natural Resources, and a couple of items from the American Planning Association. One bulletin that I'm interested in reading is about Loudon County, Virginia which is an area of about 10,000 acres of farmland which has been placed in a historic district and the ordinance provides for the review of the "relationship of the size, design, and siting of any new or reconstructed structure to the landscape of [the] district." It might be a useful model to explore if we ever find any suitable landscapes/sites to preserve.

I haven't yet completed a readable draft of the article on Vistas which Jim needs to send to Springfield, but it is underway and I should have a decent attempt prepared by next week.

Respectfully submitted,



Gloria Mack.

**McHenry County Historic Preservation
Commission Meeting
June 11, 1996**

The May 19, 1996 Award Presentation and John James House Landmarking went well. The awards were presented at the Old Greenwood Town Hall. The group then traveled down to the John James house for the Landmarking. Gail did a wonderful job as MC and also with the award certificates. Our speaker at the John James house was Gloria Urch. The plaque was presented to the LeVerso's by County Board member Joanne Simes. She spoke on the underground railroad in McHenry County. I sent notes of thanks to Mr Kaiser, Greenwood Township Supervisor, for use of the Town Hall and to Gloria Urch for speaking at the Landmarking.

The Memorial Day/Newman House Landmarking went extremely well in spite of the rain. The parade was canceled and all assembled gathered at the Jefferson School. Scott Summers spoke briefly and the featured speaker was Dick Anderson/Abraham Lincoln. Also the Civil War Battery H, 1st IL light artillery reenactors were a wonderful addition to both the traditional Memorial ceremony and the Landmarking. After the Memorial Day program we moved to the Newman House for the ceremony. The plaques was presented to Scott Summers by County Board members Don Larsen, Mary Lou Zaire and Ann Gillman. It was well attended and our Lincoln did an outstanding job. Notes of thanks sent to Dick Anderson/Lincoln. Frank and Marcie Matuszak (reenactors) and Gary Swanson Harvard American Legion Commander for their cooperation.

On June 4th, I met with the McHenry Landmark Commission. I made a brief presentation and then we had a question and answer session. They are well on their way to presenting their ordinance to their City Council. The new city manager seems to be an ally and has expressed interest in the ordinance. Nancy Fike suggested that a quarterly meeting of historic groups would be beneficial. I like the idea. If we could use a room at the Courthouse it would centrally located. I would like to pursue this.

MCHENRY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

6/11/96 - Committee Report - Gail Drabant

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD HOUSE SUPPORT GROUP:

The OHSG met in May for a slide presentation on different house styles. County landmarks were used as examples of the many sub-styles in Victorian architecture (Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, etc. - plus several post turn-of-the-century styles).

The OHSG takes a break over the summer months, resuming planning activities at the end of August. We are still looking for speakers for next season. Know anyone? (Call Gail at 678-4577 with info.)

AWARDS:

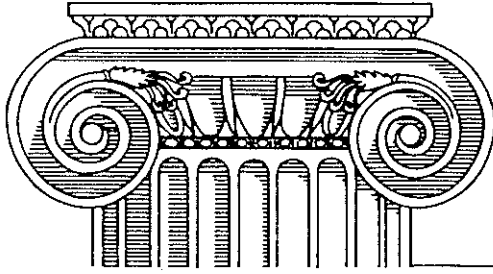
The McHenry County Historic Preservation Awards ceremony was held May 19th. Awards were presented in nine categories. We appreciated the enthusiasm we received this year and look forward to even more enthusiasm next year. We will again concentrate on getting even more publicity next year. (See attached list of the categories and the winners.)

PUBLICATIONS:

While the OHSG is taking a summer break, Commission publications will be updated including, MCHPC member's business cards, the Commission Brochure and the Comprehensive Landmark List.

MCCD Greek Revival Restoration:

Demolition of the Greek Revival house in Glacial Park has been currently put on hold awaiting more information. The added siding was been removed to reveal another entrance on the front facade in the center of the main wing. Research is continuing as to its historical value.



ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSIONS

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Old State Capitol
Springfield, Illinois 62701

May 20, 1996

McHenry County Preservation Commission
Department of Planning and Development
2200 N. Seminary
Woodstock, IL 60098

Attention: Jim Keefe

Dear Mr. Keefe:

Thank you for submitting a nomination for the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions (IAHPC) Local Preservation Award. I regret to inform you that your nominee, Al Kranka, was not selected for an award this year.

The awards jury was greatly impressed by the quality of the nominees and had a difficult time choosing one recipient in each category. The 1996 awards will be presented to Diane Oestreich of Rock Island (individual) and the Decatur Historical and Architectural Sites Commission (commission). The awards will be presented at the Illinois Preservation Conference in Oak Park during lunch on Saturday, June 8 at Mar Lac House, 104 S. Marion. I hope that you will be able to join us for the ceremony.

Thank you for your interest in the Association Awards. Please feel free to contact Michael Ward if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Roger Keys, President
Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions

The Tour

THE BARRINGTON AREA HISTORICAL Society's annual home tour in late June will feature five delightful private homes, located in Barrington and the nearby countryside. Join the Historical Society as it travels through seven decades. Step across the thresholds of homes that have evolved to accommodate the needs of families living in the last decade of the 20th century.

June is the premier garden month, and since each of the homes on the Town and Country Home Tour has distinctive gardens or landscaping features, the tour will include an informal walk through the garden of each of the homes.

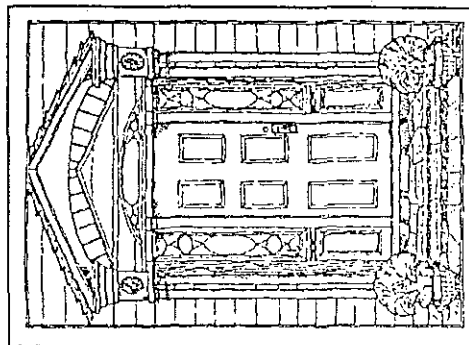
The stable and portico of an estate coach house will be the backdrop for local artisans displaying their unique array of personal accessories and specialty items.

Chicago Magazine, in its May issue says, Be thankful for gems like Barrington Country Bistro." The Historical Society couldn't be more thankful because the owner of this popular, new restaurant, Jean-Pierre Leroux, will host a French country brunch as part of the Town and Country Home Tour. What could be more pleasant than beginning or ending your tour at one of the "best new dining spots in and around Chicago."

THE BARRINGTON AREA HISTORICAL Society was founded in 1968 by local residents dedicated to preserving the history and culture of the Barrington area. Since then the Society has become an integral part of the community. Its mission is to keep community history alive through preservation and education.

The Barrington Area Historical Society is a private nonprofit institution which depends solely on the community for its financial support. Proceeds from the Town and Country Home Tour benefit the Historical Society and are critical to its success.

Barrington Area Historical Society
212 West Main Street
Barrington, Illinois 60010



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 122
Barrington, IL 60010

Doorways Through The Decades

A Town & Country Home Tour

presented by

Barrington Area Historical Society
Sunday, June 30, 1996
10:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Brunch offered at
The Barrington Country Bistro
Located at The Foundry,
Northwest Highway & Hart Road
Limited seating at 11:00 & 1:00
Advance reservations only

Presale tickets available until June 28th at:
BAHS Office, 212 W. Main St.,
Jewel Tea Gallery, Ice House Mall
Iveta's Espresso Bar, 220 S. Cook St.,
Ambrosia Patisserie, 710 W. Northwest Hwy.

Program Maps & Registration June 30th:
The Barrington Country Bistro
from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Children under 12 are not admitted
Special arrangements available for handicapped access

For more information, call: BAHS Office (847) 381-1730

OVERVIEW

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) is a result of the Community Development Act of 1974. Funds are administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The primary objective of this Act is "the development of viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low- and moderate-income."

Specific objectives of the Act pertinent to the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission are:

1. "A more rational utilization of land and other natural resources." This could perhaps tie in with our "Vistas" category.

2. "The restoration and preservation of properties of special value for historic, architectural and aesthetic reason."

The General Requirements of the Act specify any activity or project funded by CDBG meet one of three broad objectives, which are:

1. Principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons. This may be an "area" benefit or a "direct" benefit.

2. Help prevent or eliminate blight. This must be an area which is defined as a "slum" which contains "a substantial number of deteriorating or dilapidated buildings", or may be

blight on a "spot" basis.

3. Meet urgent local needs. This requires the project to "alleviate a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community."

The above requirements and the economic nature of McHenry County would render it difficult if not impossible for the Historic Preservation Commission to qualify for CDBG funding on its own.


Obviously, we would of necessity be part of a larger county program which ties in historic preservation with other means of economic enhancement for low- to moderate-income persons.

Inasmuch as the Commission is not a "hands-on" organization, actual restoration activities are not feasible. However, planning activities are also eligible and would better relate to the Commission's function. Eligible plans include: land use, open space and recreation, historic preservation and historic preservation studies. Total planning and administrative costs may not exceed 20% of the annual CDBG grant.

Pre-submission requirements must be met and submitted to HUD along with a Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS). The latter would need to be prepared by the County (and hopefully already has been!) and submitted to HDLD for approval by September 30. The CHAS includes a community profile, a five-year strategy and a one-year plan and must be approved by HUD before funds are released.

A spirit of co-operation between the Commission and the County Planning Department as well as a certain degree of creativity are essential to see such a program through to a successful conclusion.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony".

Anthony Howard
McHenry County Historic
Preservation Commission

**MCHENRY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION
COMMISSION REPORT 9/18/96
GLORIA MACK**

On August 15, 1996 Nancy Fike, McHenry County Historic Society and myself met to discuss preliminary plans to cosponsor a council of representatives of all the Historic Preservation Organizations in the County. We agreed on the following:

.The first meeting will be in January

.All the Organizations will submit their Mission Statement

.Each Organization will appoint two representatives to this council

This was a preliminary meeting, we will firm up our plans prior to the Commissions October meeting.

On August 26, 1996 Nancy Welch and I met with the Cary Building and Zoning Commission. At that meeting they indicated they were very interested in a preservation ordinance. Nancy and Jim will follow up at the next Cary meeting. I had a conflict and couldn't attend. Jim Keefe will attend in my absence.

On Monday, September 16, 1996, The McHenry Landmark Commission presented its preservation ordinance to the City of McHenry Zoning Commission. A copy of the ordinance was forwarded to all the other City Commissions Nancy Fike, Chair, will keep us posted on its progress.

On Tuesday, September 17, 1996, I spoke to Mary Thennes, Chair of the Crystal Lake Historic Preservation Commission. She informed me that they have 5 members. She also noted that their first goal was to conduct a survey. Ann Swallow of the State Office of Historic Preservation will be in Crystal Lake on 9/19/96 to present a training session on the various ways to conduct a survey. She noted that they have many volunteers who will be assisting the Commission in the survey. I suggested that it may be to their advantage to formulate a Preservation Plan. I will forward her the McHenry County Preservation Plan.

On a personal note, I received a call from Jill Osth, our first liaison from the County Planning Department. She will be moving back to the County and is interested in getting involved in the preservation movement. She is expecting her first child and hopes to have some time on her hands. (RIGHT)

Please correct my address and telephone number:

1712 Pleasant Ave.
McHenry, IL 60050
815-385-1274

HPC - September 1996

Vistas Committee :

Spoke to :

- 1) - Michael Conzani at University of Chicago, Geography Dept.
Thinks an idea of using 1837 is intriguing & says that grad. students often take on such projects for part of their work/research, but that a stipend is nice
- suggested several articles for me to look at - 1 of which I located & mentions the plats which go along with the 1837 Surveyors' notes, so I'm trying to locate the plats
- mentioned money possibly from Historic Preservation Planning Grants
- 2) - Tom Simpson at Northwestern IL University
- suggested that we look for pre-settlement age trees & focus on key "sites"
- again, said that graduate students might help us either a summer intern (\$6.50 per hour, approximately) or some might do it out of the goodness of their hearts - but it would take a lot longer
- 3) I'll try to locate the plats
& see if I can get info on Historic Preservation Planning Grants

Respectfully submitted,
Cecil Lockwood

MCHENRY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

9/18/96 - Committee Report - Gail Drabant

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD HOUSE SUPPORT GROUP:

The OHSG will begin their season with a meeting tomorrow night which will be a planning meeting for this season. We are also going to have a restoration roundtable discussion of each other's summer restoration successes and problems.

In October we will be meeting in Cary for an Open House at a 1925 Tudor Revival home owned by OHSG members, John and Lorrie Aslakson.

PUBLICATIONS:

Commission publications in the process of being updated are business cards and the brochure. The Comprehensive Landmark list will be republished for the Joint Council of Historical Groups that will meet after the first of the year.

MCCD Greek Revival Restoration:

After extensive research, it was determined that the Greek Revival house in Glacial Park was built in 1854 by Elon Powers. Another significant owner of this house was Samuel Walker. It is therefore now known as the Powers-Walker house. The research included a thorough deed research with supporting data found through tax records, plat maps, census records, cemetery records and history books. Elon and Mary Powers settled here on the original claim from the United States government (claimed filed in 1848) and raised their 5 children in this house before later retiring to a house in Richmond. Samuel Walker owned much of what is now Glacial Park including the Kames, the bog and the portion that later was owned by the Weidrich brothers.

As to the current status of the house, after the later siding was removed from the house, the remaining tar paper and nails were removed. The garbage has been cleared in the interior and the brush surrounding the house has also been cleared.

Although the complete set of documents, including copies of all supporting data and a proposed restoration plan was delivered to the acting director of MCCD in early August, no response has been received. I will continue to make inquiries concerning the Powers-Walker house.



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

Larry Asaro, Village Administrator of Cary, called regarding the possibility of Cary's Village Board referring possible structures, etc. within their municipal boundaries to the County's HPC for landmark designation. (They would pass a recommendation, ordinance etc. that defers to the County's Plan and Ordinance.)

Cary's Board would like the opportunity to do the recommending first, (just in case HPC decides to landmark a property/structure that the Board does not agree with) and to that effect would appreciate a letter from the Commission stating the terms of an intergovernmental agreement.

The "Cary-Grove" Historical Society is only concerned with artifacts, etc.




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815/334-4560 FAX# 815/337-3720

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: October 8, 1996

To: Sue Ehardt, McHenry County Deputy Director of Planning and Development
Gary Pack, McHenry County State's Attorney
Bill Barron, McHenry County Administrator

From: Maryanne Wanaski 
Staff Liaison, McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission

Re: Request from the Village of Cary

Attached please find a facsimile from Mr. Jim Keefe, Chairman of the McHenry County Preservation Commission, explaining the purpose of a letter dated September 25, 1996 from Mr. Larry Asaro, Administrator for the Village of Cary.

Cary would like the County's Preservation Commission to do the review process for landmark designation. Please review Cary's proposal for legal implications, and because of the inter-governmental agreement this request will mandate.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would appreciate an answer by October 28th so that Mr. Asaro can report your decision to his Board.

Tony Howard-

**OVERVIEW:
GRANTS-IN-AID FOR CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

GENERAL

Recipient must be a Certified Local Government.
Grants awarded on a 60% federal share/40% local share basis.
Applications (2 max.) must be received by IHPA no later than 5p.m.,
November 15, 1996.

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

Priority points are awarded as follows:

Public Education	100pts
Survey	90pts
Planning	80pts
National Register	60pts
Program Administration	40pts
Development	20pts

PROGRAM STANDARDS AND CONDITIONS

All projects must be planned and undertaken in accordance with "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines."

The project period will not exceed two years.

Federal funds shall not be used as all part of local 40% share, except for Community Development Block Grant Program funds.

Contributions of materials, expertise, labor etc. may be accepted as part of local share.

DESCRIPTION OF GRANTS

Public Education Public education is any outreach program or activity that serves to promote historic preservation in the community such as the production and distribution of printed information, plaques or markers, public assemblies, audio-visual presentations or exhibits.

Survey Surveys are undertaken to indentify and gather information on prehistoric and historic properties such as buildings, archaeological sites, landscapes and historic districts. All surveys must be done under the supervision of a qualified professional.

Planning This may be a comprehensive community preservation plan, a thematic study of related historic properties, an archaeological resource protection plan or a revision of existing planning documents.

National Register Aids in the nomination and documentation of properties to the National Register. Districts and groups of properties are priority.

DESCRIPTION OF GRANTS cont.

Program Administration This type of grant applies to salary support that can be provided to local governments for the administration of the local preservation program or to hire a contractual employee or consultant.

Development This grant applies to proposals for actual restoration of a building or work on an archaeological site. An historic property may be developed with federal assistance if listed on the National Register. Development projects shall be accomplished in accordance with the Secretary's Standards.

NOTE: This program is a **reimbursement** program which means after the date of federal approval, the local sponsor will incur eligible costs, pay them and submit proof of billing and payment to the IHPA for reimbursement. The important point to remember is the project sponsor incurs the cost and **then** receives a reimbursement at a **later** time.

Anthony Howard
McHenry County Historic
Preservation Commission
October 16, 1996



109 S. Jefferson Street, Suite #7
Woodstock, IL 60098
Off. Ph: 815-337-2100
Fax. Ph: 815-337-2115
Res. Ph: 815-338-2695

JAMES E. KEEFE, LUTCH, Agent

FAX COVER LETTER

TO: *Maryanne Wawashi*

DATE: *10/11*

COMPANY:

FAX NUMBER: *337-3720*

NUMBER OF PAGES: *3*

COMMENTS: *I got this today - Jim called Lawrence Asaw, Village Adm + told him we referred to States Attorney - He would appreciate a answer by Oct 28 - his board meeting - please include him in your correspondence*

FROM: *[Signature]*

IF THIS MEMO ARRIVES ILLEGIBLE, PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE AT (815) 337-2100





Susan E. McCabe, Village President
Mark W. Shackelford, Village Clerk
Coreen N. Pichen, Deputy Village Clerk

Trustees

Susan T. Anderson Debra E. McNamee
Donald M. Huffer Gcoffrey VanderPal
Steve Lamal Thomas O. Vieweg

Lawrence A. Asaro, Village Administrator
Cameron Davis, Assistant Village Administrator
Robert C. Broznowski, Finance Director
Robert J. Levitt, Chief of Police
Robert C. Nowak, Building & Zoning Official
Gary L. Stauffer, Public Works Superintendent
Vernon P. Keller, Water & Sanitation Superintendent

10/28

September 25, 1996

Mr. James Keefse
Chairman
McHenry County Historical Preservation Commission
109 South Jefferson, Suite 7
Woodstock, Illinois 60098

Dear Mr. Keefse:

The Village of Cary is interested in continuing historical preservation efforts in our area. Recently, Ms. Nancy Welch, discussed the objectives and merits of the McHenry County Historical Preservation Ordinance with our Building, Planning and Zoning Committee. After that presentation it was suggested that Cary might request that the McHenry County Historical Preservation Commission would do the review process for our community. There are likely to be only a few designations in Cary and setting up a process and commission in a new ordinance would be redundant.

We would recommend that the Village pass an ordinance that recognizes the authority of the McHenry County Ordinance within the Cary corporate limits. The Cary Village Board would require a prospective designee to summarize their request for historical designation. With Village Board approval by motion, the applicant would then be authorized to go through the formal McHenry County Historical Preservation Commission process for designation. The Village would accept the results of this procedure and any subsequent tax benefits.

printed on recycled paper

255 STONEGATE ROAD • CARY, ILLINOIS 60013-2599 • (847) 639-0003 • FAX (847) 639-2761 • e-mail:cary@mc.net

Mr. James Keefse
September 25, 1996
Page 2

If this proposal is satisfactory, we would like to authorize our Village Attorney to prepare the necessary ordinance to formalize the relationship and procedure we would hope to have this program operating by year's end.

If you have any questions on this program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Lawrence A. Asaro
Village Administrator

LAA/dms

cc: Village Board
Robert Nowak, Building & Zoning Official
Bernard Narusis, Village Attorney




DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
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WOODSTOCK, IL 60098
815/334-4560 FAX# 815/337-3720

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: October 8, 1996

To: Sue Ehardt, McHenry County Deputy Director of Planning and Development
Gary Pack, McHenry County State's Attorney
Bill Barron, McHenry County Administrator

From: Maryanne Wanaski 
Staff Liaison, McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission

Re: Request from the Village of Cary

Attached please find a facsimile from Mr. Jim Keefe, Chairman of the McHenry County Preservation Commission, explaining the purpose of a letter dated September 25, 1996 from Mr. Larry Asaro, Administrator for the Village of Cary.

Cary would like the County's Preservation Commission to do the review process for landmark designation. Please review Cary's proposal for legal implications, and because of the inter-governmental agreement this request will mandate.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would appreciate an answer by October 28th so that Mr. Asaro can report your decision to his Board.



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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WOODSTOCK, IL 60098
815/334-4560 FAX# 815/337-3720

Mr. Lawrence Asaro
Administrator, Village of Cary
255 Stonegate Road
Cary, Illinois 60013

Re: Historic Preservation Review

Dear Mr. Asaro,

Attached for your review is a memo from the State's Attorney Civil Division Chief, Glenn Gable regarding the legality of whether the County's Historic Preservation Commission could be appointed by the Village of Cary as the preservation authority within Cary's corporate limits.

You will note that pursuant to state statute and the McHenry County Preservation Ordinance, Cary may either pass a resolution or, if easier for the Village, enter into an inter-governmental agreement with the McHenry County Board in order to formalize landmarking procedures.

The Commission's membership applauds Cary's endeavors to preserve significant attributes of its history and looks forward to a productive and workable relationship. The Commission only asks that the Village consider appointing one or two citizen-representative(s) to assist whenever a survey is required.

Please direct your attorney to proceed. If questions should arise, kindly contact Mr. Jim Keefe, Chairman of the Commission, or myself at 334-4560.

Sincerely,

Maryanne Wanaski
Staff Liaison, HPC

Enclosure

cc: Jim Keefe, Chairman HPC
Bill Barron, County Administrator
SuzAnne Ehardt, Deputy Director Planning and Development

Office of the State's Attorney
McHENRY COUNTY
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS

Rec'd 10/17/96
inter-office mail

GARY W. PACK
STATE'S ATTORNEY



McHENRY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
2200 NORTH SEMINARY AVENUE
WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS 60098
815/334-4159
FAX 815/337-0872

MEMORANDUM

TO: Maryanne Wanaski
Staff Liaison, County Historic
Preservation Commission

FROM: R. Glenn Gable *RG*
Chief, Civil Division

DATE: October 15, 1996

RE: Historic Preservation Review
For Village of Cary

I am in receipt of your memorandum to State's Attorney Pack dated October 8, 1996 wherein you seek legal review to determine whether the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission can perform the review process for the Village of Cary for landmark designation of structures located within the municipal boundaries of Cary and if so, what are the legal implications.

Article III of the Historic Preservation Act states that the County Historic Preservation Commission or any person may propose landmark status on any property or structure located in the unincorporated area of the County. Furthermore, the County Board, via the Historic Preservation Commission has the authority:

"(16) to advise cities, villages or incorporated towns, upon request of the appropriate official of the municipality, concerning enactment of ordinances to protect landmarks or preservation districts."
55 ILCS 5/5-3004(16).

In addition, the County Board, via the Historic Preservation Commission has authority:

"(17) to exercise within the boundaries of any city, village or incorporated town any of the powers and authority granted counted by this Division so long as the corporate authorities by ordinance or by intergovernmental agreement pursuant to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, or pursuant to Article 7, Section 10 of the Constitution of the State of Illinois have authorized the county preservation commission established by authority of this Division to designate landmark or preservation district within its corporate boundaries, and such county preservation commission shall have only these powers, duties and legal authority provided in this Division." 55 ILCS 5/5-30004(17).

Therefore, pursuant to Section 300004(17), the Village of Cary may pass an ordinance that recognizes the McHenry County Preservation Commission as having authority to designate landmarks within the Cary corporate limits pursuant to the procedure stated in Lawrence Asaro letter to James Keefe dated September 25, 1996. As an alternative to passing such an ordinance, Cary could enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the McHenry County Board, by which such intergovernmental agreement could create the same procedure for conducting hearings for landmark status. Either method is acceptable.

Unless the Village adapts an ordinance authorizing the County to hear landmark matters for property located within the municipal village limits, or unless the Village enters into an intergovernmental agreement with the County Board, the County's Preservation Historic Commission has no authority over property located in the incorporated area.

cc: Bill Barron
Sue Ehardt

wah

glenn/historic

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission
November 20, 1996 Report
Gloria G. Mack

New Business:

This month I visited Barbara ??????? of Shalimar Subdivision. It was a perfect day and we walked down the pine tree lined street (absolutely beautiful). I took pictures that will be retained in the permanent record of this meeting and are available for your review.

I am not sure what the procedure is in this situation as this is a private road and if the Commission should decide to designate this a historic vista we would require direction from P&D .

I mailed copies of the research on the Powers - Walker Greek Revival house that is located on MCCD property to Professor Wm. Howenstine (Trustee MCCD) and Ken Kohler (Chairman MCCD Board of Trustees) requesting that they review the information. I also stated Gail and/or myself would be happy to attend a MCCD meeting when this subject is discussed. Attached find a copy of the report I mailed.

I would like approval of the Commission to send a letter to Marengo in regard to their concerns regarding the Strahorm Library. Perhaps a Cary situation might be applicable to Marengo.

Nancy Fike and I discussed the date for the County Wide Historic Meeting, we agreed that Wednesday January 15, 1996 would be the meeting date. It is a Commission Meeting date and I would appreciate all the Commission members attending.

In regard to Cary or any municipalities that we have an intergovernmental agreement to administer their historic preservation efforts; I would like to suggest that each municipality appoint an ex officio member to the Commission.

Old Business:

The Memorial Day Landmarking of the Newman House might be utilized as part of our CLG annual report as an educational program. Due to the inclement weather the Lincoln reenactor spoke about the Civil War in a packed auditorium, the majority of those present were boy scouts, girl scouts, and high school band members. You could not hear a pin drop, these young people were fascinated by Mr. Lincoln.

THE HOUSE OF 7 GABLES

McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

THE SIGNIFICANCE

The House of 7 Gables is a microcosm of a bygone era of American history in the midwestern plains during the middle 1800's. It and several historically significant out buildings are located 6 miles North of Harvard, Illinois on a 17 acre portion of the original 292 acre farm that faces the Big Foot Prairie. The 12 room gothic revival brick home is in remarkable unaltered condition as well are the outbuildings. The Farm was plaqued by the McHenry County Historical Society in 1983.

THE HISTORY

The home was built by Rudolphus A. Hutchinson in the 1838/1840 time period. (Bricks in the home are dated 1838 but the home does not appear on the tax rolls until 1840) Hutchinson (of English ancestry) was a native of Vermont who was educated at New York State University and settled in Alden, New York. After being widowed there in 1838, he remarried and came west and his first son Oren was born in the house on July 14, 1840. A second son, George was born on April 13, 1842 and the family lived there until 1863 after Rudolphus' death on August 20, 1860. He is buried in the cemetery at Big Foot, Illinois.

While it is hard to document Hutchinson's exact occupation, from an initial investment of \$300, the 1850 census values the farm at \$3000 and lists two "Irish" hands. By 1860 this value had grown to \$10,500 plus \$1500 in personal property. This would indicate a very successful farmer, but Hutchinson's signature appears on numerous legal documents of the era as a Justice of the Peace. Further credence to this occupation is the unusual layout of the house to include a separate "prisoner wing"/ court room area. Also, there is historical information indicating the home had been used as a court house. Local folklore tells that the barn was the scene of "frontier justice" for thieves.

The prairie surrounding the farm was home to the Potawatomi Indians and their chief, Big Foot. After the federal government ordered these indians out of the area, Chief Big Foot retained his ties to the region that now bears his name and was reportedly Hutchinson's guest in the House of 7 Gables on numerous occasions.

Also, the farm is said to have been a station on the underground railway. Under the dirt bank leading into the upper level of the barn, and hidden from the road, is a brick lined cave that is said to have been used to hide runaway slaves. With the farm's proximity (less than a night's walk) to other known stations, this speculation could have validity. There is also data to suggest that the home was a stop (for mail ?) on the North/South stage coach route (now U.S. Hwy 14) through the area. From 1899 to 1930 the Marengo, Harvard & Geneva Lake Railroad passed in front of the house along the western edge of the property. The railroad was built to carry vacation bound Chicagoans from the Northwestern station in Harvard to Geneva Lake. It ended up being the ice hauler (in the winter) to move ice from Geneva Lake to Harvard thence to the Chicago meat and dairy plants. (6000 cars of ice were hauled annually at the peak)

The property's abstract reads like a who's who for the area in these early times as it follows various owners through marriages, divorces, lawsuits, chattels and the like. It even includes the late Hutchinson's sons suing their mother for her portion of the estate after she remarried. (The kids lost.) The current owners are the seventh owners of the House of 7 Gables. After the Hutchinsons, the property passed through the Lewis family, the Ingalls family, the Kirkendalls, the Lemmons, the Andersens and finally to Susan and David Netherton in 1995.

The Outbuildings

The Carriage House is considered by several knowledgeable persons to be one of the most unique old structures remaining in the area. These experts feel that it predates the house and was probably used to house workers during the building of the main structure. It has a very unusual "European" framing construction design made of hand hewn and pit sawn timbers. It is about 30' x 50' with an upstairs loft for hired hand's quarters. The lower level has separate stables for riding and carriage horses and the main area for carriages, tack etc. The original wood burning stove remains.

The Smoke House is constructed of native stone and cement. This important building was used for the curing and cooking of meats during pre-refrigeration times. It is conveniently located outside the rear door near the original kitchen.

The Barn is on a slight rise behind the house and, because of its size (42' x 80') is often called a spite barn. (In those days you couldn't spite your neighbor with a new car but you sure could with a bigger barn). It is believed to be the second barn on this spot because it is constructed of hand hewn, pit sawn and water sawn timbers of different early eras. Some large timbers (not of native origin) have notching marks indicating they were rafted down from Wisconsin. This dates them to before the railroads (1860). The Native stone and cement foundation goes down 42 inches, which certainly is a major reason for the barn's excellent condition. Floor beams are 12" x 12" x 42 foot long clear span Wisconsin pine. All timbers are pegged together. Hand made nails are used in the flooring. The barn's rectangular design is of Germanic origin and has a side bank built to gain access to the upper level for feed storage. This allowed the farmer to drive his hay wagon directly onto the second story hay mow to unload. Suspended from the peak is a circa 1880 cast iron hay trolley. There are several trap doors in this second floor to allow the animal food to be chuted down to a monorail feeding cart located overhead in the lower level animal pens. Sort of a 1850 automation.

THE FUTURE

To plan a restoration project you need to know as much about the history of the building as possible. Only then it is possible to intelligently approach the project and how best to preserve the historic character of what is existing. The House of 7 Gables is a sum of its history.

The Nethertons are currently refurbishing the house, updating the mechanicals and redoing the interior decor to be authentic for the 1850's. At this time, the kitchen, dining room and living room have been completed. The bedrooms (with the addition of 4 bathrooms) are next, plus the owners are redoing the "cell" area as their apartment.

The rendering of the exterior is being used to back date the exterior to its original splendor. The only exterior change planned is to add the missing portion of the wrap around porch as shown on the ambrotype print and replace some horizontal siding (added after a fire in 1970) with the more authentic vertical board and batten. Further investigation on the bargeboard/trim issue is being done.

The eventual plan is to open the house to the public as a Bed and Breakfast. This type of venture will allow many to enjoy the way of a yesteryear while preserving a notable part of regional history and McHenry county's link with the past.

Susan and David Netherton

November, 1996

December 18, 1996
McHenry Co. Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Gloria Mack/Municipal Liaison & Public Relations

Immediately after our last meeting I contacted the State of Illinois Office of Historic Preservation and spoke to Amy Slocum. I explained our cosponsoring a County wide preservation group meeting and she agreed to attend and be our featured speaker at the January 15th meeting. She will discuss the values of a Historic Preservation Ordinance and the advantages to Certified Local Government status.

Also, in reference to the correspondence, with the compiled data concerning the Powers-Walker house (MCCD), that I forwarded to Prof. Howenstine and Ken Kohler. **Update**, Chairman Kohler has called me twice since he received (Gail's research) and has decided to push up discussion on the Greek Revival structure. The house will be on the December 19, 1996 MCCD meeting agenda. It appears the dilemma is that the barn, adjacent to the house, is scheduled for restoration and reuse as a viewing building for "Lost Valley", the house is blocking the view. The district would like to move the house to another site. Gail and I have discussed this and both feel that to remove the house from the farm site would significantly diminish its historic integrity. However, if the district could keep the house on the original farmstead site, it would still retain its historic significance. Gail and I will attend the MCCD meeting tomorrow night (December 19, 1996). If any other Commission members would like to attend, the meeting is held at the MCCD headquarters in Glacial Park.

I spoke to Barbara Nueske, Shallimar, regarding the private road, lined with pine trees. She informed me that the Shallimar Association will be meeting on January 8, 1997. She will contact me to let me know if we will be put on the agenda. She also would like someone to attend that could direct them in any special care for the trees that might help them survive. What Commission members would like to attend this meeting??

Information only, The City of McHenry has received a \$500,000. grant to restore the Powers-Mass horse barn on McCullom Lake Road. Our Commission has been called on several times regarding the Barn, since I initially spoke to the City Council when they were considering residing it with aluminum. Clerk Althoff has called me on two separate instances, once to find a siding expert and recently a historic preservation architect. Thanks to Gail Drabant who provided me with the names of experts in these areas and I passed them on to the City. I would also like to note that the State of Illinois Office of Historic Preservation was also very helpful to the City.

MCHENRY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

12/18/96 - Committee Report - Gail Drabant

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD HOUSE SUPPORT GROUP:

The OHSG had an excellent program in November titled, "Basements - Common Problems from Cracks to Support". This brought out the more handy and technical people of our group. We were informed of not only traditional methods to address these problems, but also of the use of modern techniques and materials that can also produce excellent results.

In December, we will be meeting in Woodstock for an Open House at a grand Queen Anne Victorian, the "Charles Wright" house. This 1894 house is complete with all of the original elaborate details.

PUBLICATIONS:

Work is progressing on a revision for republication of the Commission's brochure. This is basically the same except we are changing the illustrations to structures that we have more recently landmarked.

Also, a revision is in the works for the Comprehensive Landmark List. Both the revised brochure and revised Comprehensive Landmark List will be available for the Joint Historical Group's meeting in January.

MCCD Greek Revival Restoration:

The Powers-Walker house is the Greek Revival house in Glacial Park that was built in 1854 by Elon Powers. Another significant owner of this house was Samuel Walker. Elon and Mary Powers settled here on the original claim from the United States government (claimed filed in 1848) and raised their 5 children in this house before later retiring to a house in Richmond. Samuel Walker owned much of what is now Glacial Park including the Kames, the bog and the portion that later was owned by the Weidrich brothers.

The study to determine the future status of this house will be discussed as part of MCCD's agenda at their board meeting tomorrow night.

Available at tonight's meeting are the new pictures of the house taken after the later siding was removed.



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

December 19, 1996

Mr. Jay Filler
Board Member Strahorn Library
118 E. Washington Street
Marengo, Illinois 60152

Dear Mr. Filler,

On October 18, 1996 an article titled *Marengo library may be history* appeared in the Northwest Herald. The McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission considered this issue at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 18, 1996. After open discussion, the Commission recognized the historical significance of the structure.

As you know, many of our County's most precious landmarks are disappearing. It is, therefore, most critical that we do everything possible to conserve our local history for future generations. The Commission has recommended the preservation of the Strahorn Library building.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future. The Commission would be happy to send a representative to your library meetings or to have you attend our meetings to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission

By, _____
Mr. James Keefe, Chairman

cc: Maggie Smith, Director
Strahorn Library



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

Date: December 18, 1996

To: McHenry County Conservation District

From: McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission

Re: The Powers - Walker House

On December 18, 1996, at its regularly scheduled meeting and after open discussion of pending issues relating to the preservation of the Powers - Walker House, the McHenry County Preservation Commission has recommended that the McHenry County Conservation District save that residence and not remove the structure from the original site due to its historical significance. The Commission did not make any recommendation regarding demolition, preservation or removal of the barns located on the site.

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission


by James Keefe, Chairman