

Joliet

Historic Preservation

Commission

2016 Annual Report

A Certified Local Government

Gerri Eck, Chairman

Michael Grady, Vice-Chairman

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Overview

The Joliet Historic Preservation Commission (JHPC) was established in 1990 by City Ordinance. The JHPC was created to identify and oversee the City's historic land marks, districts, and sites. This annual report has been prepared in fulfillment of the City of Joliet's annual reporting requirement under the National Park Service's Certified Local Government Program (CLG) established under the National Historic Preservation Act.

The CLG Program is a nationwide initiative providing technical assistance and small grants to local governments seeking to preserve the important and significant aspects of their heritage. The City of Joliet has been a "Certified Local Government" since 1995.

Joliet Historic Preservation Commission

The JHPC consists of twelve members: nine voting members and three non-voting members. All members are appointed by the mayor, with advice from city council, for a two year term. The voting members must be residents of Joliet while the three non-voting members may live outside Joliet. Non-voting members may not serve as officers of the JHPC.

The JHPC started 2016 with four vacancies (two voting members and two non-voting members). Throughout the year, the JHPC had two resignations followed by seven nominations to the Commission. The Commission ended 2016 with one vacancy (non-voting member). Membership of the JHPC can be found as an attachment.

The JHPC elected a new Chair and Vice Chair at its February 2016 meeting.

JHPC Committee Structure

District Committee:

Reviews and advises on Certificates of Appropriateness and Certificates of Economic Hardships.

Nomination Committee:

Identifies and researches potential landmarks and provides recommendations on landmark designations. Also, if appropriate, assists applicants in the preparation and submission of nomination forms.

Public Awareness Committee:

Works with the City of Joliet to maintain and update a web site dedicated to historic preservation in the City of Joliet. Seeks outlets to inform the community of historic preservation events and activities.

Year 2016 Goals and Objectives

1. To recognize volunteer efforts of past commissioners with approximately ten years of service as part of a resolution honoring the 25th anniversary of the JHPC;
2. To plan a specific activity to celebrate May as the annual preservation month;
3. To present the 2016 Preservation Award to Joliet Township High School for the Athletic Fieldhouse and Student Center/Cafeteria Building Addition;
4. To monitor existing local landmarks and districts as well as properties listed on the National Register;

5. To conduct specific activities to raise awareness of historic preservation in the community and in certain related professions like real estate;
6. To fill vacancies that exist on the historic preservation commission;
7. To plan several walking tours of local neighborhoods with an emphasis on viewing local landmarks or local districts;
8. To plan a short workshop to explain the process of completing local landmark forms and to review other aspects of local landmarks and local historic districts,
9. such as completion of certificate of appropriateness reviews;
10. Explore the use of student interns for preservation-related projects;
11. Partner with the Joliet Area Historical Museum on various projects; and
12. Explore the history of transportation & industry in Joliet.

Functions and Activities

Permit Review

Certificates of Appropriateness (2016)

Certificates of Appropriateness (CofA) are required when a proposed project may affect the significance of a historic resource.

In 2016, the JHPC reviewed and approved four CofA's:

1. 609 Western Avenue—exterior stucco and wood window repair
2. 222 Third Avenue—demolition
3. 509 Buell Avenue—rebuild of an existing deck.
4. 1004 Western Avenue—new roof

In 2016, the JHPC denied one Certificate of Appropriateness for a building demolition at 209 Union Avenue.

In 2016, the JHPC tabled a request for demolition at 218-220 Richards Street and 215 Bartleson Street.

Certificates of Economic Hardship in 2016

A Certificate of Economic Hardship is approved by the JHPC to authorize an exterior alteration, new construction, relocation, or demolition when a Certificate of Appropriateness (CofA) was previously denied. An approval is issued on the basis that denial of the CofA deprived the owner of the property a reasonable return on the property.

In 2016, there were no Certificates of Economic Hardship applied for.

Landmarks

Nominations Reviewed or Pending in 2016

There were no new or pending landmark nominations reviewed in 2016.

Landmark De-Designations in 2016

There were no landmarks de-designated in 2016.

National Register

National Register Nominations Reviewed, Pending or Denied in 2016

There were no new or pending nominations to the National Register reviewed in 2016 nor any denials issued.

Surveys

The Commission did not survey or assess any properties in 2016.

Other Activities

Website: The JHPC website continues as a link on the City's website consistent with the other commissions, boards, and departments. JHPC meeting agendas and past meeting minutes are available on the City website as well.

Transportation Center Redevelopment Project (Union Station): City staff continues to seek input from the Commission on its multi-million dollar Transportation Center redevelopment project, which includes the NRHP listed Joliet Union Station. The city and its designers have been very attentive to the historic significance of the Station. All commuter use of Union Station ceased in 2015. The project involves creating a new station and platform, a METRA ticket counter and interior renovations for a restaurant / brew pub that is set to open in 2017.

Historic Preservation Award: In recognition of National Historic Preservation Month in May, the JHPC awarded the 2016 Historic Preservation Award to Joliet Township High School for its new field house and student center building additions to the Central High School campus. The new additions preserve the architectural integrity of the Gothic Collegiate high school built from Joliet limestone with a seamless blend from old to new. The school was listed on the National Register in 1982.

Tours: The JHPC discussed holding a tour of Swinbank Terrace, which are row houses along Hickory Street. This tour was discussed at several meetings, but ultimately tabled.

Demolition of 209 Union Street: Discussion regarding the proposed demolition of the house at 209 Union Street took place at several JHPC meetings. The home at 209 Union Street was the 19th century home of Dr. William Dougall, who commanded a regiment of black soldiers fighting for the Union during the Civil War. In 2016, the City of Joliet proposed demolition of the blighted building after no buyers came forward at a previous auction. The JHPC denied a Certificate of Appropriateness for demolition in August 2016. The building was purchased in September 2016 at the Will County Surplus Property Auction, and renovations began in late 2016.

Guidance to local property owners: The JHPC continues to offer feedback and guidance on renovations to historic homes. They provided such guidance to the property owner at 608 Morgan Street and 614 Western Avenue.

Potential landmarks: The JHPC discussed the possibility of the following homes/buildings as Local Landmarks: 713 Cowles Avenue, 110 S. Midland Avenue, and the Rialto Theater.

Other Major discussion topics:

- American system built homes
- Lustron houses
- Porter Mansion
- Future of the old Joliet Prison
- Pilcher Park renovations
- Nowell Park redevelopment
- Future of the William Limacher Bicentennial Park.
- Historic status of Jackson Street Bridge
- Historic status of the Rialto Theater
- Joliet Area Historical Museum intern project
- JHPC archives: files, images, etc.
- Draft "Checklist for Certificate of Appropriateness (C of A) Applications" regarding proposed demolitions
- JHPC Bylaws and Historic Preservation bylaws
- Illinois Open Meetings Act Training
- 2017 JHPC Goals

Participation at Informational/Educational meetings

JHPC board members were involved in the following activities and meetings in 2016:

- Tour of Joliet Township High School Central Campus;
- Attendance at community meetings on Nowell Park and the Old Joliet Prison;
- Attendance at the CAMP session at the Will County Historical Museum in Lockport;
- Attendance at the Suburban Chicago Preservation Alliance training and meeting on March 19, 2016;
- Attendance at the Landmarks of Illinois and Suburban Chicago Preservation Alliance on Saturday, May 21, 2016 in Plainfield; and
- Attendance at the annual meeting for the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions on December 10, 2016 that took place at the Joliet Area Historical Museum

Several commissioners are active in neighborhood organizations and attend their respective monthly meetings.

Commissioner Sharon Merwin served as secretary of the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions in 2016.

Commission Sponsored Publications

The Commission produced no new official publications in 2016.

Attachments:

Names of commissioners and attendance records.

Agendas and Minutes for year 2016.

TABLE 1: JOLIET HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS AND MEETING ATTENDANCE

Month	Adamowski Quinn	Burden Paul	Chow John	Daniels Mike	Eck Gerri	Grady Michael	Habiger Bill	Heinemann Kevin	Johnson Candace	Merwin Sharon	Peerbolte Greg	Potenziani JoAnn	Stovall Sara
<i>Appointment Date</i>	11/18/2014	11/01/2016	03/18/2014	unknown	03/19/2013	03/19/2013	12/06/2016	06/05/2012	12/06/2016	07/05/2011	11/01/2016	unknown	12/06/2016
<i>Voting Status</i>	<i>Voting member</i>	<i>Voting member</i>	<i>Voting member</i>	<i>Non-Voting member</i>	<i>Voting member</i>	<i>Voting member</i>	<i>Voting member</i>	<i>Voting member</i>	<i>Non-Voting member</i>	<i>Voting member</i>	<i>Non-Voting member</i>	<i>Voting member</i>	<i>Voting member</i>
January	X		X		X	X		X		X		X	
February	X		X		X	X		X		X		X	
March	X			Resigned	X			X		X		X	
April	X		X		X	X		X		X			
May													
June	X		X		X	X		X		X		Resigned	
July	X		X		X			X		X			
August	X				X	X		X		X			
September	X		X		X	X		X		X			
October													
November		X			X	X		X		X			
December		X					X	X	X	X	X		X

Staff Liaisons: Barbara Newberg from January 2016 through November 2016. Ms. Newberg retired in December 2016.
 Michael Schwarz from December 2016 through May 2017