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A State Historic Preservation Plan
2012–2016
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ILLINOIS STATE PRESERVATION PLAN, 2012–2016

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Foreword

The bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth in 2009 provided a prime opportunity to showcase Illinois’s historic preservation priorities. From Galesburg to Vandalia, the state polished its Lincoln gems and held special events in honor of the bicentennial. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library in Springfield, which has been operated by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) since it opened in 2005, was the centerpiece of the celebration, drawing schoolchildren and tourists from around the world. The legacy of Lincoln, whose reputation has soared in the past 20 years, has never shone so brightly.

At the same time, the state descended into a fiscal crisis that has severely cut funding for preservation. And the nationwide recession only made matters worse—though it slowed the development fever that gripped the state in the first few years of the 21st century. So while the threat to historic buildings with respect to demolition has declined somewhat, the threat with respect to disrepair and dilapidation has increased because of reduced funding for restoration and maintenance. The state’s Illinois Historic Preservation Agency is thus more vital than ever in protecting our precious past.

The agency has made a special effort with the current State Plan to reach out to more organizations and residents than ever before for advice on how to better serve the state’s needs. We know that if the public does not perceive us as accessible and responsive, we cannot effectively carry out our mission. We have taken great pains to analyze their comments and recommendations to learn how we are perceived by the public and where our blind spots are. The results of these efforts have given us the confidence to steer our future course to new heights in preserving the state’s history.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jan Grimes
State Historic Preservation Officer
Director, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
I. Executive Summary

Every five years, the IHPA engages the public in a conversation about the future of historic preservation in Illinois. A variety of survey and outreach tools are employed to elicit views of current conditions about the future. IHPA partners and organizations not traditionally affiliated with historic preservation were solicited for their comments. This process was completed from the fall of 2010 to spring 2011, to produce this plan, which begins in 2012. It will be revised again in 2016.

The goal of this effort is to bring the greatest breadth of perspectives into the question of how historic preservation in Illinois can improve. From the broadest view, these recommendations were translated into more definable objectives for the state. The planning goals help to specify and distill the following general categories: Outreach and Education, Incentives and Funding, Partnerships and Capacity, and Identification of Historic Resources. These categories capture the themes of many individual comments made by participants through various formats.

In and of themselves, these categories are familiar and may not be all that different from those outlined by many kinds of organizations. Relating these to preservation objectives becomes the key difference. Outreach and education resonated most frequently with respondents. Preservation conferences, web sites and new medial were mentioned frequently. These should become priorities for funding as a way to motivate the public about the power of preservation.

The next category on the list of survey and interview results was financial incentives—specifically, the need for a state tax credit as a redevelopment tool. This has been a goal of many preservation advocacy groups in Illinois. Another key finding is that threats to historic resources can vary considerably. For instance, high growth areas with many “tear downs” require very different funding strategies than “shrinking cities,” with increased disinvestment.

Another category of responses suggested preservation groups expand their partnerships to include organizations and government entities dealing with planning and developing the built environment. Nontraditional partners such as organizations working on sustainability, genealogy, and education could also help get the message across to more people.

Lastly, identifying cultural resources and maintaining the state’s inventory of them still remains a basic foundation for protecting Illinois’ heritage. Illinois is blessed with a wealth of cultural resources and we remain a key entity in recognizing, interpreting and protecting these for all future generations.
II. Vision Statement

The Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will provide leadership in the identification, interpretation and conservation of the historical and cultural places that give special meaning to our citizens.

The Illinois SHPO will enhance the understanding and appreciation of the built environment and cultural landscapes of this state for the benefit of citizens today as well as future generations.

Illinois has one of the strongest records of preserving history in the nation, in part because we have so much of historical value. Abraham Lincoln's legacy looms large, and we have a wealth of other assets that have spurred Illinois preservationists to action since the late 19th century. The mounds built by native cultures and the colonial French settlements along the lower Mississippi have long been sources of historical fascination. At the other end of the state in Chicago are what many believe to be the world's first skyscrapers. The architectures of Frank Lloyd Wright and the Chicago School have inspired an enduring tradition of protectionist zeal in Chicago and Springfield.

Although Lincoln is a true historical treasure for Illinois, it bears noting that it is the home of three other Presidents as well, including the current one. When asked to name the most important historical resources in the state, half of officials surveyed by telephone did not mention Lincoln at all. In coming years, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency would like to emphasize the wealth of historical assets Illinois possesses in addition to Lincoln. Cahokia Mounds, the Swedish community of Bishop Hill, the Mormon town of Nauvoo, and the historic downtown of Galena are just a few historic areas little known outside Illinois that merit greater attention. Publicizing such places can garner more public support for historic preservation and convince lawmakers to provide much needed funding for non-Lincoln sites.

Another aid to this effort will be making stronger alliances with local preservation groups, encouraging and assisting them in restoring historic buildings and areas in their own communities. After all, the locals know best what is of historical value in their towns. As a state agency, the IHPA must serve as a shepherd guiding its flock of communities to a unified goal of preserving remarkable elements of the past and present for future generations. One avenue for accomplishing this will be to collaborate more during the planning stages with local governments and regional organizations. Furthermore, we will develop a comprehensive plan for the state to aid officials in making decisions about what to save, in finding funding, and navigating the approval process.
We will also explore linking historic preservation with sustainability and genealogy, tapping into the growing interest in these fields, as indicated by our survey research. Directing preservation efforts toward natural areas, archaeology, and transportation infrastructure will also attract a wider public to the cause.

The concept of sustainability was completely missing from previous Illinois preservation plans. The national discussion on this topic and its integration with the preservation movement is an important new approach that we should embrace. As preservation seeks out its place in the future, aligning with the sustainability movement represents an advance of our mission and an important new partnership focus. This linkage also helps establish the critical perception of preservation as a future-oriented public policy. When we preserve, we are sending a message to the future about the accomplishments of all preceding generations.

From an archaeological perspective, we look at the large Cahokia Mounds site that IHPA manages as one of the most important resources in the state.

Kevin McGowan, President
Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
III. Goals and Objectives

The central core of the Illinois Preservation Plan is based on a set of five general goals derived from broad categories of preservation priorities that came out of the surveys. These goals and the more detailed objectives to implement them can help guide actions at the state and local level. The goals do not have a specific priority level as to their importance but they do reflect the relative frequency of comments received in our outreach efforts. UIS Survey Research staff delineated categories of most frequent responses from which the goals were extracted.

1. **Increase public awareness in Illinois of the value of historic preservation.**

   The value of historic resources in improving the quality of life and economic benefits to the state needs to be continually reinforced. Developing and promoting preservation “messaging strategies” aimed at the broadest public audience was frequently mentioned in the surveys.

   **Objectives:**
   - Make the connection between historic resources and quality of life, tourism attraction, and sense of place in outreach efforts.
   - Emphasize the ecological benefits of building rehabilitation (sustainability) and the economic advantages of reuse versus new construction.
   - Highlight cases in which preservation has increased property owner options rather than restricted them.
   - Increase use of email, website, social media, and podcasts in outreach.

*The single most important thing is to create more awareness.... Perhaps in the future we could undertake a joint information dissemination and education project.*

Ken Swanson, President
Illinois Education Association
2. Improve education and training of professionals, students, and the public on historic preservation techniques.

The availability of more advanced training on preservation techniques could make preservation a more viable option for residents, businesses, and governmental entities in the state. In addition, there is clearly a need for improved educational opportunities for all age groups through existing and new programs.

Objectives:
- Provide professional development through state preservation conferences and regional training.
- Reach out to youth programs at educational institutions.
- Create a preservation training directory.
- Incorporate enhanced use of new media and information technologies.
- Hold public workshops on restoration and maintenance techniques.

3. Find more funding for preservation and remove economic barriers to preservation.

Key partners agreed that there are very few direct grants to preservation programs. Connecting preservation organizations with other grant programs that can support preservation-based outcomes was frequently cited as a key activity. During the time that this plan was developed, a new state rehabilitation tax credit was being actively promoted and ultimately passed the state legislature. At the opposite end of this spectrum was the need to identify and remove barriers to preservation.

Objectives:
- Identify existing financial incentives for the identification, evaluation and protection of cultural resources.
- Implement the pilot state historic tax credit.
- Change the state’s school funding priority to include renovation of existing. This will remove a barrier to funding created by the legislative priority to replace aging buildings.
- Implement smart building codes and land use policies that facilitate the preservation treatment of historic structures and other cultural resources.

4. Increase partnerships among preservation groups and related organizations.

The survey research showed a need to increase the capacity of preservation organizations through an enhanced network of informed advocates. These informed
advocates can help integrate the preservation message through allied organizations and non-traditional partners. There is also a need to identify underserved constituencies, particularly youth groups. Certified Local Governments (CLG) will continue to be a core connection between the State Historic Preservation Office and local communities. The CLG's should have an improved capacity to integrate preservation in local comprehensive plans and other development and land use tools.

Objectives:

- Expand preservation activities to target groups that affect the built environment such as: political organizations, the Illinois Municipal League, planners and land use organizations, realtors, developers, and regional planning organizations.
- Include “sustainability” groups as newly emerging partners.
- Continue to support and participate in activities of traditional partner organizations such as local historic societies, genealogy organizations, archaeology organizations, and historical museums.
- Formalize the alliance between the Illinois Main Street program and historic preservation.
- Increase the awareness of the benefits of job creation to labor organizations.

Cemetery Preservation Workshops

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources have joined together to present cemetery preservation training classes for the general public. In the past decade there has been a growing interest and a growing need to preserve our cemeteries. One aspect of their preservation is learning how to properly repair and reset broken markers. To that end IHPA and IDNR have developed a basic and an advanced cemetery training class. In the basic class, participants learn about cemetery preservation laws, problems encountered in abandoned cemeteries, and the proper and improper ways to address these issues. They are also taught the basics: how to probe for, lift, and clean buried markers, as well as how to reset simple markers. Advanced cemetery training teaches the more complex techniques of resetting and repairing pillars, obelisks, and multi-base monuments. A comprehensive training program provides modern information and the tools to be successful.

We’d like to learn a lot more about Cemetery Preservation because lately we’ve discovered that the issue has a lot of interest in communities.

Patrick Curry, Educator
University of Illinois Extension, Local Government Center
5. Expand the capacity to identify historic resources.

Comprehensive survey data of historic resources, including structures, districts, archaeology, cultural landscapes and traditional cultural properties is the foundation of virtually all vital preservation programs and activities. The existing data needs to be made available to the general public using the widest available tools. The identification of resources from the recent past is an activity of particular need for both survey and interpretation.

Objectives:

- Improve research tools for evaluation and interpretation of cultural resources
- Develop survey priorities based upon threatened resources, underserved communities and the “recent past.”
- Capitalize on the Main Street organizations as key partners in the survey and designation of downtown historic districts.
- Update and integrate survey data into new electronic formats.

"Everyone knows about the Dana Thomas House, but we don’t talk a lot about the Horace Mann building and the State House Inn, which is a great example of motor lodge in the 1950s."

Norm Sims, Executive Director
Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission
Old is the New Green: Linking Preservation and Sustainability

Illinois has emerged as a leader in the integration of historic preservation and sustainability. Three recent tax incentive projects are evidence of the state’s capacity and willingness to innovate. In addition to individual projects, the IHPA website has been providing downloadable education programs on this topic. Mike Jackson, the chief architect, has served on several national task forces on this issue put together by the National Trust and the National Park Service.

**Holland Apartments (Danville, IL)**

This National Register property was returned to its original use while achieving the status of a historic rehabilitation from the National Park Service and LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. And it provides affordable housing for the community. It has received numerous awards at the state and national level for the remarkable combination of historic preservation, affordable housing and green renovation.

**Tudor Revival House (Geneva, IL)**

The speculative renovation of an old house that qualifies for the property tax freeze program is quite rare. Most projects are undertaken by dedicated homeowners who intend to live in a home for years to come. The story of this Tudor revival is noteworthy for the fact that a local developer who could not stand to see the house deteriorate bought it just to save it. He renovated it to preservation standards while maximizing its ecological benefit. Although the project was designed for maximum energy efficiency, the original windows were retained by adding storm windows with a special low-e glass. The project has received national attention.

**Sears Powerhouse (Chicago, IL)**

The former powerhouse to the Sears catalog campus in the Homan Square area of Chicago is now the Charles H. Shaw Technology and Learning Center—a magnet high school. This long-vacant, coal-fired power plant has been converted to an educational use while preserving its historic character and achieving the highest level of green design from the U.S. Green Building Council. The building is now powered by the earth, with a geothermal system located where railroad cars used to dump coal for the building’s massive boilers.
IV. Reaching Out—How This Plan Was Developed

In 2010 Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Preservation Services Division sought advice and feedback on the state of preservation in Illinois from a broad range of constituents in four ways:

A. The Division published a Stakeholder Survey, which was distributed via the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions’ periodical, The Commissioner—to gather basic data about how our closest peers, Certified Local Governments, historic preservation commissioners, government officials, and public members of the preservation community view our efforts.

B. A Public Online Survey was aimed at a wider range of public constituents, to gather more data about how IHPA is serving the public, which issues they identify as important and future directions for preservation. Visitors to the IHPA website and others contacted through email were invited to use the SurveyMonkey tool to answer focused multiple-choice questions about programs and outreach efforts in preservation.

C. At the same time, a Phone Interview Poll of Organizations with Allied Interests was undertaken with the assistance of professional staff of the Center for State Policy and Leadership at the University of Illinois Springfield. A set of questions was posed to representatives of major state and local organizations that interact with IHPA programs or services. The purpose of this interview poll was to get a different perspective on our programs from organizations that are not necessarily preservation oriented but have an interest in land use and the built environment.

D. Following the completion of the surveys, a Select Committee of Key Preservation Leaders was convened to provide insight into the results. The committee members were drawn from the leadership of the preservation organizations in the state, including:

Landmarks Illinois
National Trust for Historic Preservation Midwest Office
Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions
Illinois Archaeological Association
McLean County Historical Society
A. Stakeholder Survey

This survey consisted of 10 questions, circulated as a page in the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions’ *The Commissioner* newsletter. Most respondents reported that they serve in some capacity on a historic preservation commission. The following summary gives the most frequent answers to each question as well as other responses.

**Effectiveness ratings for Preservation Services:** When asked to rate the effectiveness of the service areas within the IHPA Preservation Services Division, respondents gave federal tax incentives the highest average rating, followed by property tax freeze, architectural consultation and review, Certified Local Government program, and National Register. Other services beginning with regulatory, outreach and education, and preservation planning and advocacy trailed behind, but were above the midrange of effectiveness.

**Most useful tools to assist community preservation programs:** The two areas that were cited most often as valuable in assisting local communities with their preservation initiatives were financial incentives and education efforts. Outreach, advocacy and media promotion came next, followed by preservation planning and architectural design, each with about half as many mentions as the top two areas.

**Under-recognized categories of historic resources:** Respondents most often listed mid-century modern/recent past buildings as the category of historic resources deserving of more recognition. Rural areas, barns, farmhouses were a close second, trailed by landscapes, and vernacular residential.

**Most effective means of communicating preservation information:** Email, website, blogs, and podcasts are clear favorites over traditional seminars and conferences, local government meetings and newsletters as effective means for communicating. Social media was mentioned slightly more often than the traditional methods.

**Largest public misunderstanding of preservation:** By far the most common answer was that preservation is seen by the public as "too restrictive or anti-property rights." Less than half as many respondents mentioned the public perception that preservation is too expensive. A small number also cited the notions that preservation blocks progress and is elitist.

**Most effective preservation training program/medium:** In-person workshops, meetings, conferences, seminars were overwhelmingly perceived as most effective for training purposes. Several mentioned the importance of stressing financial incentives and benefits during training.
New priority or related constituency focus for the future: Preservation stakeholders who completed the survey recommended a wide range of new priorities for the agency. The most common answer came under the heading of efforts to educate, engage, or train young people. Also mentioned were sustainability and energy conservation, involvement of state legislators and city officials, dedicated funding sources and tax relief, and local history.

**Hostess House (Building 42)**
**Great Lakes Naval Training Center**

The Hostess House of 1942 was the first permanent building designed by Gordon Bunshaft (1909-1990), who would go on to become one of America’s most prominent Modernist architects, designing such landmarks as Lever House and the Hirshhorn Museum. An early and important expression of American Modernism, Bunshaft’s only Illinois building is also a significant example of glued-laminate wood construction. In 2005, the Navy had identified the building for demolition. Upon IHPA’s discovery that Great Lakes’ historic resources survey had misidentified, misdated, and misattributed the building, IHPA entered into discussions with the Navy about reuse strategies.

In 2007, the Navy gave the building to the Great Lakes Naval Museum (www.greatlakesnavalmuseum.org), a long-standing institution in need of a new home. Through a Landmarks Illinois “Preservation Fund Heritage Grant,” Vinci/Hamp Architects donated design services. The museum’s foundation has begun a thorough investigation and documentation of the structure, using original plans and photographs to restore the building to its original design, while making minimal interior modifications to accommodate display areas, meeting spaces, archival storage and a museum shop. In 2008, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, through its Partners in Preservation program, gave the Museum a grant for the first phase of the ongoing restoration, which included the restoration of the glass staircase shown in these photos. This project resulted from a successful collaboration among IHPA and preservation partners Landmarks Illinois and National Trust.
B. Public Online Survey

This survey, conducted online through SurveyMonkey, drew 172 participants, who were asked to respond to 20 multiple-choice questions. Almost three-quarters of respondents were between the ages of 35 and 64. Since participation was voluntary, they may be assumed to come from a pool of people interested in or advocating for historic preservation. The survey findings include:

- More than 97 percent said future plans for their communities should include preserving historic places as a priority.
- Nearly all agreed tax dollars should be utilized as incentives for preserving state and local heritage resources. More than 90 percent believe public funds should not be used to demolish heritage structures. Only about half of respondents believe the following statement is true: “The average person recognizes that there are benefits to protecting and preserving the architectural, historic, and cultural characters of the community.”
- More than 90 percent accepted that it is important to protect archaeological evidence, with an overwhelming number feeling that state and local government should fund the identification and interpretation of archaeological sites instead of relying on private developers and corporate donors. Almost half said the federal government should support this work, with a lesser number choosing educational institutions, private developers, and corporate donors.
- Demographically, respondents were drawn from all categories of the public. Most identified themselves as professional historians or preservationists, volunteers, local government staff people, members of historic neighborhood organizations, citizen advocates, local historical society members, or owners of historic property. Others included educators, business owners, archaeologists, state or government officials and students. Almost three times as many of those who responded came from communities with populations over 25,000, than from smaller towns.
- The historic/cultural resources cited as most important to protect included significant architecture, historic homes and museums, archaeology, memorials, landscapes, ethnic heritage sites, and recent past and vernacular places.
- Financial incentives were cited as the greatest motivators to protect historic resources, with volunteer programs, laws, architectural appreciation efforts, and improving building aesthetics seen as less so.
- More than half of respondents mentioned promotion and education as important outreach activities for enhancing historic preservation. Other answers were in the categories of financial incentives, partnerships and planning, and identification of historic resources.
- From a list, the majority chose historic buildings and heritage sites, arts and cultural amenities and aesthetics of their communities as the top three cultural attributes that most enhance the quality of life.
The following were the top eight factors cited as negatively affecting the cultural character of communities: lack of government financial support; sprawling development; politics serving private agendas; lack of interest in local heritage; lack of leadership capacity; lack of foresight in government actions; lack of community cohesiveness; and lack of effective local preservation laws.

According to most survey respondents, internet websites and electronic media are the best ways to communicate the value of historic preservation to various constituents. Half chose conferences and workshops, with less choosing TV or radio PSA’s. Only about a quarter of respondents picked paper newsletters.

REX-East Pipeline

Beginning in May 2006, archaeological and architectural investigations were conducted for the Rockies Express Natural Gas Pipeline (REX-East) in Illinois. The Illinois portion of the pipeline extends for 195 miles across the central part of the state, from the Mississippi River on the west to the Indiana border on the east. The project corridor crossed some of the most densely occupied and studied parts of the Midwest as well as several less well researched areas. Thus, the results provided a valuable window into the shifting patterns of prehistoric land use through time and across space. Conducted between the fall of 2006 and the fall of 2008, the Phase I surveys identified or relocated 483 sites and determined that 69 sites were possibly eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Of these, 58 were subjected to Phase II evaluation, conducted in six rounds of fieldwork between June 2007 and August 2008. The portions of 14 NRHP-eligible sites that could not be avoided underwent Phase III archaeological excavation, conducted in the latter half of 2008. Most of the NRHP-eligible sites dated from the Archaic (7,000 – 600 BC) and Woodland (600 BC – 1,600 AD) Periods. The pipeline was constructed in 2009 and the reports were finalized and accepted by IHPA in late 2010.

...the undiscovered archaeological and historical sites or those that are threatened by construction or development are an essential resource that need protection and preservation.

Mary Pirkl, Director of Education
Center for American Archeology
C. Phone Interview Poll of Organizations with Allied Interests

Staff of the University of Illinois Springfield Survey Research Office were contracted to conduct the survey, which consisted of soliciting participation in phone interviews with some 58 organizations that were identified as having a mission that impacts directly or indirectly on the work of preservation. The executive directors of each organization were contacted by email to invite their participation in a 15-minute phone interview in which they were asked 15 questions. After follow-up emails and phone calls, representatives of 34 organizations were interviewed, including four targeted archaeology organizations. Regional planning commissions and other governmental entities and education, history, and building groups were also represented (See Appendix, pp. 77-78).

From the responses it can be concluded that the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and historic preservation in general have a great deal of support around the state. Many of the executive directors and other officials who were interviewed had much to say about historic preservation and offered an array of ideas for fostering it. Budget cuts and the state fiscal crisis were cited frequently as threats to historic preservation in the state. Comments from the survey fell into five major categories as follows.

Outreach and Education

The one theme expressed by virtually all respondents was the need for IHPA to do more outreach to organizations and communities. Many of those interviewed were unfamiliar with the agency’s services. A small number knew of its administration of Project Review and the National Register listing, but little else. Almost all said they would like to receive more information by email or to host an IHPA speaker at their meetings or conferences.

Specifically, respondents requested more outreach by way of emailed newsletter, Power Point presentation, brochure. or video; in-person presentations and workshops at organization meeting or conference; downloadable documents and data available from website; and articles submitted to organization publications or blogs.

More education of the public on restoration techniques and the value of historic preservation was a related theme. Specific suggestions included public workshops on restoration and maintenance techniques; video or Power Point presentations on the benefits of historic preservation for students; the dissemination of positive stories about IHPA, perhaps through wider distribution of Historic Illinois; harnessing genealogy and history fair interest to promote historic preservation; and raising awareness that restoring structures increases tourism, is more cost efficient in the long run than new construction, and is better for the environment.

Money and Funding

IHPA staff losses were mentioned as a source of concern for the agency’s ability to carry out its mission. One said the lack of sufficient staff has resulted in regulations not being enforced and technology such as HAARGIS not being updated as it should. The instability of the director position was also cited as a negative. Many respondents urged
devising strategies for obtaining more funding for the agency and for communities. Some went back to the agency’s low profile as part of the problem. They emphasized the need to generate support among the public and the state legislature as a pathway to more funding.

Recommended strategies included lobbying the legislature for IHPA funding and the state tax credit; finding federal and state sources of grants for communities; helping communities prioritize funding efforts by providing a funding database; boosting incentives for seeking out and preserving history, such as subsidizing restoration of historic structures, leveraging resources, and relying more on volunteers.

Partnering and Planning

Several interviewees recommended that the IHPA develop partnerships with other organizations and communities to streamline the review process. Some suggested getting historic preservation on the agenda earlier in a project so it’s not seen as a hindrance. Others said the agency should become involved with the planning process itself at the municipality or county level to make planners aware they have a range of options.

Specific suggestions for IHPA included coordinating with Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to streamline the review process; partnering with IDOT on proactive surveys to identify property that should be preserved; moving IHPA review earlier in project timelines; working with community colleges on work-based learning opportunities and community service; providing staff to organizations and communities; and getting help from staff such as planners from regional organizations.

Others recommended developing a comprehensive state preservation plan with regional components; working with the American Planning Association and the American Institute of Architects on education and planning; helping communities and regions with planning; and getting historic preservation advocates on county boards, planning commissions, and city councils.

Focus and Future Direction

Interviewees expressed their level of interest in specific services offered by the Division of Preservation Services, an indication of where the agency may want to focus its resources in the future. Some indicated a growing interest in cemetery preservation and archaeology data. Furthermore, Education and Publications held a lot of interest for most respondents. Several noted a general confusion about what the IHPA and other preservation organizations do and their relationships to one another.

...[IHPA] could get other people from groups like ours to help them do things.
In particular, respondents told us that IHPA should raise the profile of Cemetery Preservation, and Education and Publications services; use connections with the Illinois Historical Society and county historical societies to preserve cemeteries; adjust Main Street Design requirements; improve access to archaeology data and information on county history; synthesize all historic preservation material from various sources in the state into one document; clarify for the public how IHPA works and the roles of the various preservation organizations in the state, so people know when to go to IHPA; discontinue glossy history magazine and history calendar; and help communities manage historic records.

Information Access and Technology

This category was seen as important for strengthening outreach, education, funding, and connections with partners. Recommendations included improving the Preservation Services website; adding a children’s section; creating an interactive virtual museum highlighting themes in various towns and regions. Those interviewed also called for more technological aids in lieu of staff along the lines of the Dept. of Natural Resource’s ECO-CAT; the development of context-sensitive solutions for engaging the public on historic preservation issues; and the use of social media to raise awareness.

Federal Highway Administration Exemplary Human Environment Initiatives

A collaboration among the Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency, Illinois Division of the Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois State Archaeology Survey, and Illinois State Museum, produced two workshops for enhancing relationships and consultation protocols with Tribes that have an interest in Illinois lands. A major outcome of the workshops was a computerized notification system that provides information on new projects to the Tribes at the same time that it is available to the Illinois State Archaeological Survey archaeologists and project engineers. This Project Notification System is a necessary project tool for the Section 106 compliance process of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Federal Highway Administration honored the participating agencies with their Exemplary Human Environment Initiatives award in October 2010 in recognition of outstanding commitment to environmental stewardship.
D. Select Committee of Key Preservation Leaders

The IHPA held a meeting on January 19, 2011, with the State Plan Select Committee to present survey results and to hear feedback and recommendations for the agency based on those results. The committee had an opportunity to review the results of the UIS and online surveys before the meeting. The principal areas of comments are summarized below (See Appendix pp.78-81 for details). In addition to comments about the substantive items, the committee also commented on the state plan process and the need for some follow-up with the survey responders.

Preservation Perception

There was substantial discussion about the need to improve the public perception of the historic preservation movement. An overall planning goal should be that of continuously broadening the public awareness of preservation activities. Numerous individual tools and techniques to improve preservation outreach and education were noted. There is a strong need to counter the negative impact that “last minute appeals” and “preservation as obstruction” have on the perception of historic preservation. The importance of general advocacy was noted as a contrast to the 2005 State Plan, which emphasized regulatory programs rather than all other aspects of the preservation movement. Regulatory programs are important preservation tools but they also depend upon public buy-in to survive political challenges.

Local Preservation Commissions

The importance of local preservation commissions in general and the Certified Local Government (CLG) in particular was actively discussed. Greg Koos (McLean County History Museum) noted that “the health of a preservation commission should be judged on the number of new designations.” There was an overall concern that commissions were not pursuing new designations because of the ongoing fear of “property rights” agendas. The apparent strength of the “property rights movement” is seen as a broad threat to preservation in general. The ongoing measurement of CLG performance was another topic of discussion. The annual report “metrics” should be examined to help determine the strengths and weaknesses of local commissions. The goal of increasing training opportunities for CLG staff and commissions should be part of an overall strategy.

Partnerships

The importance of using partnerships to improve the message and programs of preservation was cited as a key goal. This includes the ability to recognize and utilize both traditional and nontraditional partners. The survey of affiliated organizations revealed a need to improve the awareness of preservation among a wide variety of institutions. Regional planning organizations are particularly important as partners because of their connections to the many communities they serve. At the forefront of nontraditional partners are environmental organizations. The recognition and integration of preservation as a sustainability topic represents an important new linkage that is just beginning to grow.
The importance of engaging youth through educational institutions is another area of great opportunity. Recruiting a new generation of community preservation leaders is essential to the future health of all organizations.

Incentives and Funding

The discussion about funding started with the core support for the national Historic Preservation Fund but quickly moved to a focus on needed new incentives. The statewide effort during the last year to get a state rehabilitation tax incentive emerged as a major advocacy effort. The state’s advocacy partners are well aware of this goal and have a strategy for this. There was a strong consensus on the need to do a better job of promoting the success of the existing incentive programs. Raising awareness of the benefits of preservation in creating jobs and protecting the environment was viewed as a marketing goal that would strengthen the support for better incentives. The lack of any state support for direct “brick and mortar” grants such as those previously provided by the Illinois Heritage Grant program was noted.
Partnership Activities

IHPA staff and programs overlap with local, state and national organizations. Collaborating with partners is an essential way to expand outreach and share the preservation message. The two partnerships listed below are representative of IHPA linkages with nontraditional advocacy partners.

**AIA 150**

The American Institute of Architects celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2007. In conjunction with this event, each state was challenged to find a local “champion” and develop an education program on the impact of architects in society. IHPA’s Mike Jackson, FAIA, was the state’s “champion” for a project to identify 150 Great Places in Illinois. All eras of architecture were to be represented, so the National Register of Historic Places was a great place to begin. The project also included great places from the last fifty years, which will no doubt be great candidates for the National Register when they survive the test of time. The 150 great places were celebrated with local recognition programs, but the “list” survives through an interactive website: www.IllinoisGreatPlaces.com

**APT: Building Technology Heritage Library**

Illinois is the home to the Association for Preservation Technology (APT), a national organization advancing the best technology for conserving historic structures and their settings. An APT initiative to create a free, online digital library of period architectural trade catalogs and other technical literature has been a partnership activity of Mike Jackson and IHPA. The project started with a few catalogs from his personal collection and is growing to thousands of documents with an international scope. Preservationists, historians, homeowners and countless others will benefit from this shared knowledge. The growing collection is available at the following website: www.archive.org/details/buildingtechnologyheritagelibrary
Conclusions

Results from all four surveys suggest that outreach, education, and financial incentives are vital to furthering historic preservation in Illinois. The consensus seems to be that better public understanding of all the benefits of preservation combined with improved financial and technical resources would greatly improve the full integration of preservation into modern life. Likewise the importance of preserving archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, and traditional cultural places would become clear.

Many respondents pointed to new electronic technologies as a way to get the preservation message out. But while they have expanded opportunities for communication, the new technologies have also brought with them the problem of information overload, a concern expressed by some in the surveys. Thus, the question becomes how to make the preservation message stand out as a priority within the constant deluge of email, RSS feeds, and internet chatter.

Funding and financial incentives, such as the state tax credit, are an important answer. But Illinois is currently suffering the worst financial crisis in its history, which was repeatedly raised by executive directors and other officials of various organizations in the UIS survey as the most serious current threat to preservation in the state. The surveys suggest that more partnering creates a synergistic multiplication of resources while at the same time reducing expenditures, which becomes another form of financial incentive.

Linking organizations to form a stronger preservation community would also bring the message to greater prominence in the public eye. Furthermore, the person-to-person communication with the public that occurs in the course of the normal activities of various organizations is often more memorable than technological communication.

Many respondents recommended extending the links to groups not usually associated with preservation, such as sustainability and genealogy groups. These and other groups whose interests align with preservation, offer new vistas for partnering.

The specific issues, threats, and opportunities raised by the surveys can be summarized as follows:

- A majority of public and government officials are not aware of the necessity for or the benefits of preservation. Many believe preservation imposes too many restrictions, costs too much, and blocks progress.
- Improving preservation websites and taking advantage of new technologies would help get the preservation message out.
- An expanding property rights movement is thwarting historic preservation designations.
- Development pressures threaten preservation of archaeological sites, buildings, and other cultural resources.
- Providing the public more education on preservation benefits and training on preservation techniques would encourage more preservation.
- Educating young people in the schools about historic preservation would raise awareness and aid in recruiting the next generation of leaders.
• Partnering with preservation and governmental groups would streamline the historic review process and move it earlier in project timelines so that it is not seen as an obstruction.
• Linking with sustainability, energy conservation, genealogy, and history fair groups would raise the profile of preservation in the state, as would tapping into the growing interest in cemetery preservation and archaeology.
• The state financial crisis has depleted resources for preservation.
• Implementing the state tax credit would provide more incentive for preservation.
• Creating a funding database could help prioritize research efforts.
• Relying more on volunteers and staff from regional planning committees would eliminate costs.
• The state financial crisis has slowed development, which has incidentally aided preservation.
• There is confusion among the public and government entities about what various preservation groups do.
• Developing a comprehensive state preservation plan with regional components would help link allied groups and clarify the roles of various organizations.
**Preservation Highlights 2006–2010**

The progress made in historic preservation in Illinois over the past five years may be discerned in the material that follows, beginning with the Certified Local Governments (CLG) that have been designated during the period. The grants made to CLGs are also listed followed by the additions that were made to the National Register. The additions show the wide range of cultural resources that various preservation organizations in Illinois have been targeting. Other indicators of the advancement of preservation in the state include the federal tax credits that were disbursed for rehabilitation, the reinvestment projects that qualified for the state property tax freeze, and the continued vitality of the Illinois Main Street program.

**Certified Local Government**

The Certified Local Government (CLG) Program, which was established by the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980, gives municipalities and counties the opportunity to participate as partners in state and federal preservation activities. To become certified, a local government must have a historic preservation ordinance, establish a preservation review commission, have an active local survey program to identify historic resources, and provide for public participation. There were 70 Certified Local Governments in Illinois in 2010. Certified Local Governments play an active role in the National Register of Historic Places review process. All nominations for places within the jurisdiction of a Certified Local Government are first submitted to the local review commission and the chief elected official (the mayor or county board chairman, for example) for their review and comment. If both the commission and the chief elected official object to the nomination, it cannot move forward in the review process without an appeal to the Preservation Services Division.

Certified Local Governments are also eligible for matching grant funds to assist in the implementation of their local preservation programs. At least 10 percent of the annual federal Historic Preservation Fund Grant to the Illinois SHPO is set aside specifically for Certified Local Governments. The funds can be used for a variety of projects, including surveys, preservation plans, staff support, and public education.
Certified Local Governments in Illinois

The health of a preservation commission should be judged on the number of new designations.”

Greg Koos
McLean County History Museum
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commission</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alton Historical Commission</td>
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<td>Lemont Historic Preservation Commission</td>
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<td>Lockport Heritage and Architecture Commission</td>
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Macomb Historic Preservation Commission 2009
Marengo Historic Preservation Commission 2006
Marion Historic Preservation Commission 2006
Maywood Historic Preservation Commission 2010
McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission 1993 www.mchhpc.org
Moline Historic Preservation Commission 1994 www.tinyurl.com/2g5txhh
Mount Carroll Historic Preservation Advisory Committee 1986
Murphysboro Historic Preservation Commission 2009
Naperville Historic Sites Commission 1997
Normal Historic Preservation Commission 1992 www.tinyurl.com/2ebc4et
O’Fallon Historic Preservation Commission 2005
Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission 1994 www.tinyurl.com/2fsll70
Orland Park Historic Preservation Review Commission 1987 www.tinyurl.com/2drdo7w
Ottawa Historic Preservation Commission 2005
Peoria Historic Preservation Commission 1991
Plainfield Historic Preservation Commission 2009
Quincy Preservation Commission 1985
Riverside Preservation Commission 1994
Rock Island Preservation Commission 1985 www.tinyurl.com/25nrnpe
Preservation Training

Three of the last six annual CLG workshops have been held in conjunction with the Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference, a national preservation conference held every other year in Chicago. Using CLG funds, IHPA arranged dozens of scholarships for local commissioners and staffers to attend the full complement of conference sessions. A parallel CLG track was held to cover topics of interest to preservation commission members and staff in Illinois.

In April 2006, IHPA sponsored a national conference on preservation and building codes. The conference was presented by the Association for Preservation Technology. This was one of two national preservation conferences to provide training on the International Existing Building Code, which was released in 2003.
Certified Local Government Grants

Over the last five years, Certified Local Governments in Illinois have carried out the essential work of identifying, interpreting, promoting, and protecting historic resources, through IHPA sub-grants totaling $467,255. The projects completed are listed here.

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<th>2006</th>
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<td>Chicago: $7,000</td>
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<td>Decatur: $14,203</td>
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<td>Elgin: $10,920</td>
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<td>Glen Ellyn: $13,860</td>
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<td>O’Fallon: $1,003</td>
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<td>Chicago: $25,000</td>
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<td>Edwardsville: $7,028</td>
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<td>Aurora: $7,000</td>
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<td>Belleville: $15,000</td>
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<td>Carbondale: $4,480</td>
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<td>Glenview: $5,425</td>
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<td>Ottawa: $5,649</td>
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<td>Quincy: $2,095</td>
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<td>Rock Island: $5,810</td>
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<td>Rockford: $4,442</td>
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<td>Urbana: $1,198</td>
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53 GRANTS = $467,255
### 2009

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<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>plot National Register sites on city land-use map</td>
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<td>Crystal Lake</td>
<td>$3,103</td>
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<td>Glen Ellyn</td>
<td>$14,000</td>
<td>historic buildings survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joliet</td>
<td>$2,800</td>
<td>historic buildings survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Park</td>
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<td>Rockford</td>
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### 2010

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<td>Jacksonville</td>
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<td>Ottawa</td>
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### Rockford Study on Historic Designation and Property Values

A CLG grant to Rockford’s preservation commission resulted in a research report that has been shared across the nation. The study looked at the property values in several historic districts and compared them with similar properties that were not in the historic district. Because the other economic variables were very similar, the study showed that historic designation had a positive effect on property values.
**National Register of Historic Places**

The National Register of Historic Places is an ever expanding list of places that truly represent the broad pattern of development in the built environment, archaeology and urban planning. Over the last several years the list expanded with single-family homes and residential districts but it also includes farmsteads, parks, courthouses, gas stations, bridges, and archaeology sites. The work of a master architect like Frank Lloyd Wright is there, along with the work of a local builder and a home that was part of the underground railroad. The Pilsen Historic District in Chicago contains more than 4,000 contributing buildings, the largest historic district in Illinois.

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Pilsen Historic District</td>
<td>Cook</td>
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<td>Carbondale</td>
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<td>Westevelt Christian Church</td>
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<td>Westevelt</td>
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<td>Fairfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joliet YMCA</td>
<td>Will</td>
<td>Joliet</td>
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</table>
Pilsen Historic District
(Chicago, IL)

Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood boasts over 4,400 contributing buildings, comprising the largest historic district in Illinois and among largest in country. Built by Czechs in the late 19th century, the area is now a thriving Mexican-American community. As a result of the 2006 historic district designation, area residents have been able to use state and federal tax incentives for a number of projects.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>TOWN</th>
<th>DATE OF LISTING</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Deerpath Hill Estates: an English Garden Development in Lake Forest, Illinois MPD)</td>
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<td>Downtown Hinsdale Historic District</td>
<td>DuPage</td>
<td>Hinsdale</td>
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<td>Krause Music Store</td>
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<td>5-31-06</td>
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<td>Downtown Momence Historic District</td>
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<td>Momence</td>
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<td>Durham-Perry Farmstead</td>
<td>Kankakee</td>
<td>Bourbonnais</td>
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<td>Springfield</td>
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<td>McGovney-Yunker Farmstead</td>
<td>Will</td>
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<td>Rantoul</td>
<td>7-14-06</td>
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<td>First Congregational Church of Western Springs</td>
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<td>8-8-06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jefferson Park (Chicago Park District MPD)</td>
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<td>Deerpath Hill Estates Historic District</td>
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<td>Lowell Park (Dixon Parks MPD)</td>
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<td>Dixon</td>
<td>8-8-06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church of Christ</td>
<td>Pike</td>
<td>Perry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barber-Colman Company Historic District</td>
<td>Winnebago</td>
<td>Rockford</td>
<td>8-8-06</td>
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</table>
Lincoln Square Mall *(Urbana, IL)*

Designed in 1963 by Vienna-born architect and planner, Victor Gruen (1903-1980), Urbana's Lincoln Square Mall was among the nation's first enclosed downtown shopping malls. The building was listed on the National Register on September 9, 2006, with national significance, making it the country's first historic postwar shopping mall. The owner completed a certified rehabilitation that restored the main central court, transformed the empty department store interior to offices, and even reinstated Gruen's original graphic design program.
<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Peoria</td>
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<td>Cahokia</td>
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<td>William H. Hatch House</td>
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<td>Algonquin</td>
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<td>Davis Junction</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Jo Daviess</td>
<td>Hanover vicinity</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>Highland Park</td>
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</table>
K-Town *Chicago, IL*

The non-profit Neighborhood Housing Services, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the IHPA worked with local residents to list Chicago’s K-Town neighborhood on the National Register. The listing is one component of a larger coordinated neighborhood revitalization effort, partially funded by the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation. The community celebrated the designation at a signing ceremony held on November 13, 2010, at the contributing St. Paul’s AME Church, during which the Deputy SHPO signed the formal National Register certificate.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2006 2007 2008 2009 2010</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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<td>Cook</td>
<td>Glencoe</td>
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<td>Sauganash Historic District</td>
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<td>Chicago</td>
<td>6-7-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union Park Hotel</td>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>6-7-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Charles Hospital</td>
<td>Kane</td>
<td>Aurora</td>
<td>6-7-10</td>
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<td>Eureka College Campus Historic District</td>
<td>Woodford</td>
<td>Eureka</td>
<td>6-14-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-Town Historic District</td>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>9-9-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson County Courthouse</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>9-9-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lamoine Hotel</td>
<td>McDonough</td>
<td>Macomb</td>
<td>9-16-10</td>
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<td>Henry W. Miller House</td>
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<td>Galena vicinity</td>
<td>10-13-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>George and Elsie Mattis House</td>
<td>Champaign</td>
<td>Champaign</td>
<td>12-7-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawrence County Courthouse</td>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>Lawrenceville</td>
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</table>
Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits

Every dollar invested in a historic rehabilitation provides more benefit to the Illinois economy than a similar investment in new construction. Rehabilitation is more labor and less material intensive, which translates to more local jobs. The federal rehabilitation tax incentive program provides the greatest support for historic preservation in terms of public expenditures. The program requires little in the way of public administration other than the SHPO and National Park Service staff, and every federal dollar leverages four private dollars. The program has a great return on its investment in terms of economic and cultural values. Illinois is one of the leading states in the annual investment in historic rehabilitations. While the overall real estate economy has declined over the last several years, the completed investment in historic buildings has increased during this same time period!
Franklin Building—Lincoln Lofts (Alton, IL)

This pre-Civil War building in downtown Alton was recently renovated with funding assistance from the federal historic rehabilitation tax credits. It is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Illinois to utilize this program. Originally a hotel, the building is the reputed location of a restaurant where Lincoln dined when he was in Alton for the Lincoln-Douglas debates. The building has now been converted to residential units on the upper floors with commercial use on the ground floor. This project is one of several downtown Alton properties that have become residential, a growing trend in downtown housing.
### State Property Tax Assessment Freeze

Historic homeowners make up the largest proportion of historic property owners. The property tax assessment freeze program is an incentive for owners of historic homes to make substantial reinvestments in their homes and be rewarded by a freeze on their property tax assessment. The program can be used by individual homeowners, condo builders and co-ops. There has been a drop in homeowner investment over the last several years, a reflection of the overall real estate economy. The noteworthy investment spike in 2008 came about because of the conversion of a large complex in Chicago into more than 800 housing units.

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**2006–2010**

283 PROJECTS

$424,400,000 = 8,488 JOBS
South Water Market (Chicago, IL)

Illinois’ largest tax freeze project, University Commons in Chicago, was completed in 2007. Built in 1925 as the city’s principal produce market, South Water Market was the nation’s largest facility of its kind at the time of its construction. Its closure in 2001 led Enterprise Development to embark upon a $200-million project that transformed the complex into over 900 one-, two-, and three-bedroom condominiums, each of which benefited from the property tax incentive program.

1716 N. Sedgewick (Chicago, IL)

This home, in Chicago’s Old Town Historic District was certified for the Illinois Property Tax Assessment freeze program in 2006. The project is noteworthy for the removal of the artificial siding and restoration of the original siding and windows.
Illinois Main Street

During the last five years the Illinois Main Street program changed its administrative structure, but throughout that time nearly 50 Illinois Main Street communities have kept the local programs active. IHPA’s design and preservation services to the communities have received high praise from many quarters and were one of the strengths of the program. The archive of IHPA’s work on Illinois Main Street projects on the IHPA website continues to serve the communities, as do the training programs. The Agency’s *Upstairs Downtown Program* received a National Trust National Preservation Honor Award in 2007 and the program has traveled to more than a dozen states since it was first started in Rock Island in 2005.

**List of Illinois Main Street programs at the end of 2010**

- Aledo
- Alton
- Batavia
- Beardstown
- Belleville
- Benton
- Bloomington
- Cambridge
- Canton
- Carbondale
- Chicago – Midway
- Chicago – Six Corners
- Crystal Lake
- Danville
- Decatur
- Dixon
- Dwight
- Elgin
- Genoa
- Golconda
- Hardin County
- Jacksonville
- Libertyville
- Lincoln
- Lombard
- Macomb
- Marengo
- Marshall
- Mascoutah
- Moline
- Momence
- Monticello
- Mt. Vernon
- Orion
- Paxton
- Pekin
- Pittsfield
- Plainfield
- Pontiac
- Prophetstown
- Quincy
- Rock Island
- Rockford
- Springfield
- St. Charles
- Sterling
- Taylorville
- Vandalia
- Waukegan

*Poster for Upstairs Downtown*  
Downtown Quincy
Build Your Own—Main Street and Lincoln Sites

Kids of all ages can create HO-scale models of historic buildings in Illinois through images downloaded from the IHPA website. This initiative was first started as an outreach activity for the Illinois Main Street program. It was then expanded to include Lincoln sites in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth in 2009. More than 20 different scale models can now be downloaded. They range from the log cabin Berry-Lincoln Store in New Salem to the Old State Capitol in Springfield. Main Street buildings from more than ten towns showcase a range of building eras and styles popular in older Illinois downtowns.

National Town Meeting on Main Street
Held in Chicago

In March 2009, the National Main Street Conference was held in Chicago. The state’s Main Street program was a conference sponsor, and IHPA’s project designers were directly involved in the planning and execution of the conference. IHPA staff developed walking and driving tours of the region, led discussions, gave conference sessions, and organized the training agenda for all the Main Street designers from across the country.

...continue to emphasize the outreach to make the public aware of history and cultural resources in the state, and continue to educate people in a way that can make it interesting and encourage them to get out and see these places.

Brian Adams, Assistant Director
Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program
University of Illinois
VI. Preservation Partners in Illinois

There are numerous local historical societies and other interest groups that raise public awareness of historic resources. The following organizations represent state-wide constituencies that advocate for historic preservation and heritage issues and benefit cultural resources in various ways.

Center for American Archeology
P.O. Box 366
Kampsville, Illinois 62053
(618) 653-4316
www.caa-archeology.org

Center for Archaeological Investigations
Faner 3479 - Mail Code 4527
Southern Illinois University
1000 Faner Drive
Carbondale, Illinois 62901
(618) 453-5031
www.cai.siuc.edu/index.html

Illinois Archaeological Survey
c/o Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program
University of Illinois
607 South Mathews
Urbana, Illinois 61801
(217) 244-0593
www.ias.wildapricot.org

Illinois Association for the Advancement of Archaeology
c/o Illinois State Museum
502 South Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
(309) 547-3721
www.museum.state.il.us/iaaa/

Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions (IAHPC)
P.O. Box 5337
Springfield, Illinois 62705
(217) 785-5730
www.iahpc.org

Illinois Association of Museums
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701
(217) 524-6977
www.state.il.us/hpa/iam/
Illinois Heritage Association  
602 1/2 East Green Street  
Champaign, Illinois 61820

Landmarks Illinois  
53 W. Jackson, Suite 1315  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Midwest Office  
53 W. Jackson, Suite 350  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Powell Archaeological Research Center  
P. O. Box 413  
Columbia, Illinois 62236

Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Department of Anthropology  
1707 South Orchard Street  
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Archaeology Records Digitization

Within the last five years IHPA has partnered with the Illinois State Museum, which is administered by the Department of Natural Resources, on the digitization of archaeological site files. More than 18,000 individual archaeological site files are now on a GIS viewer that professional archaeologists can access via the internet. Additionally IHPA has partnered with the Department of Transportation to scan all review and compliance archaeological reports. These endeavors have made an unprecedented amount of information available to the professional community and have greatly improved the ability to manage cultural resources in Illinois.
Illinois Cultural Resource Context

Sites in Illinois are evaluated for archaeological, architectural and historical significance according to the following contexts or categories. Such contexts are useful in gauging the relative significance of individual properties and in determining priorities for preservation efforts. They include contexts for not only buildings and archaeological sites, but cultural landscapes and traditional cultural places as well.

Archaeological Contexts
Pre-historic Native Americans dwelt in Illinois for more than 12,000 years. The various Native American cultures left behind evidence of their occupations in the following periods, the earliest occurring after the retreat of glaciers from the state.

- Paleo-Indian to 10000 BC
- Early Archaic 8000 to 6000 BC
- Middle Archaic 6000 to 3000 BC
- Late Archaic 3000 to 800 BC
- Early Woodland 800 to 100 BC
- Middle Woodland 100 BC to 300 AD
- Late Woodland 300 to 1100 AD
- Early Mississippian 900 to 1350 AD
- Late Mississippian 1350 to 1500 AD
- Proto-historic 1500 to 1673 AD
- Historic from 1673

Architectural Contexts (cont.)
- Italianate 1855-1880
- Second Empire 1855-1880
- Victorian Gothic 1865-1900
- Queen Anne 1880-1910
- Romanesque Revival 1880-1910
- Chicago School 1885-1910
- Arts and Crafts 1890-1930
- Beaux-Arts Classicism 1893-1930
- Period Revivals 1895-1940
- Art Deco/Art Moderne 1925-1945
- Modernism 1930-present
- Post-Modernism 1975-present

Historic Contexts
- Agriculture
- Archaeology
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communications
- Community Planning and Development
- Conservation
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering
- Entertainment/Recreation
- Ethnic Heritage
- Exploration/Settlement
- Health/Medicine
- Industry
- Landscape Architecture
- Politics and Government
- Maritime and Military History
- Philosophy
- Religion
- Science and Invention
- Social History
- Traditional Cultural Properties
- Transportation

Historic Archaeology Contexts
- French 1673-1763
- Pre-statehood 1673-1818
- Early Settlement 1818-1832
- Middle Development 1832-1890
- Industrial 1890-1960
- Suburban 1870-1960
- Rural Decline 1890-1960

Architectural Contexts
- French Colonial 1780-1810
- Greek Revival 1830-1870
- Gothic Revival 1840-1860
Compiled Data From The Surveys

A. Stakeholder Survey

Effectiveness ratings for Preservation Services:
(Average number out of 5=highly effective) Percent Responding

Federal Tax Incentives: 4.1 76
Property Tax Freeze: 3.9 76
Architectural Consultation and Review: 3.75 71
CLG Program: 3.7 94
National Register: 3.6 82
Regulatory: 3.4 76
Archaeology: 3.3 53
Outreach and Education: 3.3 82
Preservation Planning: 3.2 76
Advocacy: 3.2 65
Downtown Revitalization: 3.2 76
Historic Illinois: 3.0 59
HAARGIS: 3.0 65
Burial Act Administration: 3.0 12

Most useful tools to assist community preservation programs:
Financial incentives — tax incentives, tax freeze, or grants 47
Education or workshops with IHPA speakers 47
Outreach, advocacy, or media promotion 29
Surveys or preservation planning 24
Architectural design support or advice 24

Other programs that have significant impact on preservation:
Landmarks Illinois 24
Government programs that offer financial incentives 24
Local advocacy groups 18

Under-recognized categories of historic resources:
Mid-century modern/recent past buildings 29
Rural areas, barns, farmhouses 24
Landscapes 12
Vernacular residential 12

Most effective means of communicating preservation information:
Email 47
Website, blog, or podcast 41
Social media 18
Seminars and conferences 12
Local government meetings 12
Newsletter 12

**Largest public misunderstanding of preservation:**
- Too restrictive or anti-property rights 53
- Too expensive 24
- Blocks progress 12
- Elitist 12

**Most effective preservation training program/medium:**
- In-person workshops, meetings, conferences, seminars 76
- Financial incentives and benefits 12

**New priority or related constituency focus for the future:**
- Educate, engage, or train young people 41
- Sustainability 12

**B. Public Online Survey**

SurveyMonkey; 172 participants; 20 mostly multiple-choice questions.

**Survey demographics:**
- Professional historian or preservationist 26.7
- Volunteer 25.3
- Local government staff person 20.7
- Educator/Teacher 13.3
- Local business owner 10.7
- State or government official 5.3
- Archaeologist 2.7
- Student 1.3
- Member historic neighborhood organization 26.7
- Citizen advocate 25.3
- Local historical society member 23.3
- Historic property owner 21.3

**Live in a community with population:**
- more than 25,000 72.2
- 5,000 to 25,000 17.2
- 0 to 5,000 10.6
**Who should fund the identification and interpretation of archaeological sites:**

State and local government: 71.3
Federal government: 49.3
Educational institutions: 45.3
Private developers that own sites: 31.3
Corporate donors: 24.0

**The historic/cultural resources that are most important to protect:**

Significant architecture: 73.3
Historic homes/museums: 71.5
Archaeological sites: 52.3
Commercial buildings: 41.3
Military/civic memorials/sites: 41.3
Ethnic heritage sites: 35.3
Recent past/vernacular places: 27.9
Landscapes: 33.7
Roads, bridges: 23.8
Agricultural artifacts: 23.3

**How to motivate people to protect historic resources:**

Financial incentives: 82.9
Volunteer programs: 47.4
Laws: 36.8
Foster architectural appreciation: 25.7
Rehabilitate buildings/improve aesthetics: 17.8

**The cultural attributes that most enhance the quality of life in their communities:**

*top 3 answers*

Historic buildings and heritage sites: 67.3
Availability of arts and cultural amenities: 52.7
Aesthetics: 50.7

**What negatively affects the cultural character of communities** *(top 8 answers)*:

Lack of financial support from governments: 48.3
Sprawling development: 45.0
Local politics serving private agendas: 44.3
Lack of interest in local heritage: 43.6
Lack of leadership capacity: 40.3
Lack of foresight in government actions: 32.3
Lack of community cohesiveness: 30.9
Lack of local preservation laws: 25.5
The best way to communicate the value of historic preservation to various constituents:

- Internet websites: 73.0%
- Electronic media: 52.0%
- Conferences and workshops: 50.0%
- TV or radio PSA's: 41.0%
- Newsletters (paper): 24.3%

The following survey question called for open-ended responses, which fell into the aggregate categories below.

Outreach methods for enhancing historic preservation:

- Education and training: 28%
- Financial incentives: 20%
- Promotion: 15%
- Collaboration: 11%
- Youth involvement: 8%
- Sustainability: 5%

C. Phone Interview Poll of Organizations with Allied Interests

A total of 58 organizations were contacted by email for the survey. They were invited to participate in a 15-minute phone interview in which they were asked the following 15 questions. After followup emails and phone calls, representatives of 34 organizations were interviewed.

1. What do you know about Illinois Historic Preservation Agency’s Division of Preservation Services?

Most respondents knew that the IHPA operates historic sites around the state and fosters historic preservation, but almost half knew little to nothing about the Division. Respondents who knew something about the Division most frequently mentioned its administration of Project Review and the National Register, followed by its Local Government Services. Several also said the Division sponsors programs to foster historic preservation. Services receiving single mentions were Main Street Design, Architecture Services, Tax Incentives, Cemetery Preservation, and newsletter. Two people said they learned a lot about the Division while reading the letter attached to our email. Only eight of those interviewed expressed a great deal of prior familiarity with the Division. They were:

Norm Sims, Executive Director, Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission
Mike Waldinger, President, *Illinois Institute of Architects*
Nora Fesco-Ballerine, Executive Director, *North Central Illinois Council of Governments*
Lisa DiChiera, Director of Advocacy, *Landmarks Illinois*
Patricia Miller, Executive Director, *Illinois Heritage Association*
Brian Adams, Assistant Director, *Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, University of Illinois*
Kevin McGowan, President, *Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*
Mary Pirkl, Director of Education, *Center for American Archeology*

Some quotes from the survey for this question:

“As a consulting engineer I worked with the IHPA for the last 30 years, but I was not aware of all the services they have available. I was surprised to see in your email some of the services they offer.”
—Charles Hunsinger, Chairman, *Macon County Regional Planning Commission*

“We work a lot with Preservation Services. We provide services to local government officials, such as grant reviews and we do a lot of consulting on historic rehabilitation projects. I know some of our communities have been able to use them, but I understand the agency has been cut back in recent years. They had a great program a few years back that provided $50,000 grants for bricks-and-mortar renovation, but it’s no longer in existence.”
—Nora Fesco-Ballerine, Executive Director, *North Central Illinois Council of Governments*

“I interact with IHPA frequently in my line of work here. I conduct and supervise archaeological surveys in Illinois, and I frequently consult with them about specific projects that I work on.”
—Brian Adams, Assistant Director, *Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, University of Illinois*

“We deal with them all the time from the standpoint of regulatory review. Some of our staff members have worked on the National Register. We’re familiar with what they do.”
—Kevin McGowan, President, *Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

“I’m a professional archaeologist, so I know they’re the central office for information on archaeological projects in Illinois. They provide site numbers, answer calls on human remains, and carry out project review.”
—Mary Pirkl, Director of Education, *Center for American Archeology*
2. How has your membership worked with the IHPA’s Division of Preservation Services in the past?

More than half of those surveyed had had little or no interaction with IHPA or didn’t know whether their members had worked with them. The remainder had experience with Project Review, National Register Listing, Main Street Design, Local Government services, or Cemetery Preservation in about equal numbers. Several also said they rely on the agency as an information resource or refer people to them for information.

“One of the main functions of our organization is completing the Rural Intensive Survey—a comprehensive survey of rural properties begun several years ago at the behest of IHPA. We have relied on IHPA for guidance—and maybe for initial funding, I’m not sure. We have 18 townships in our county, and approximately a third of those have been completed in our survey. Then funding ran out. We’d like to get it started again…We also rely on IHPA to maintain our status as a Certified Local Government.”

—Nick Chirikos, Chairman, McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission

“We contact them when we need an archaeological site number, when we need to submit a report on a survey we’ve completed, and we need the report to be reviewed by their staff. If someone contacts us for a discovery of human remains, we’ll contact them as part of the reporting procedure. And then other than that, we do get updates from them about additions to the archaeology site maps—so in a professional capacity as part of our archaeological research program.”

—Mary Pirkl, Director of Education, Center for American Archaeology

3. Which of the following services offered by the division would your membership like to learn more about?

Almost all the respondents expressed an interest in at least three of the services. Five said they wanted to know about all of them. Mentioned most frequently was Education and Publications, followed by Tax Incentives, Local Government Community Preservation Services, Main Street Design, Cemetery Preservation, HAARGIS, Architectural Services, State/Federal Project Review Information, National Register Listing, and Archaeology. A few mentioned that Main Street Design had fallen out of favor in recent years because of its requirements.

“We’d like to learn a lot more about Cemetery Preservation because lately we’ve discovered that the issue has a lot of interest in communities. We’d like to learn more about implementation and the laws related to preserving cemeteries. So we’d be interested in how-tos and information on all the legal issues that a lot of people aren’t aware of.”

—Patrick Curry, Educator, University of Illinois Extension, Local Government Center
Curry also said he wanted to learn more about Local Government Services: “A persistent problem has been central business districts with serious disrepair—do we knock them down or what? The money is tight right now, so it’s not always feasible to restore them.” He added, “We have a little familiarity with the Archaeology service, but not a lot recently. There is a problem because some data on archaeological sites they don’t share, even though we never share the data with communities. Because of these data-sharing limitations, it’s hard for us to know how many sites of archaeological importance there are in an area.”

Vickie Hand, Legislative Chair, Illinois Cemetery & Funeral Home Association, said the group would be interested in all the services, especially Cemetery Preservation and Education and Publications. “If you could hold a course at a convention, that would be great. We would pay for it.”

4. What is the best format for the information to be presented to your organization?

Most of those interviewed requested an electronic format sent by email. The electronic format most often suggested was a regular newsletter, followed by Power Point presentation, brochure, pdf, video, and DVD. Many also suggested sending a speaker to their meetings or annual conference. One said a webinar would be best, so that only those who were interested could take part. Several stressed that whatever form it is in, it should be kept short and focused, with options for picking and choosing what they’re interested in. Patrick Curry of U of I’s Extension Service preferred documents that could be downloaded from the Education and Publications section of the website as well as databases that could be downloaded into their GIS system. Carole McCarty, President of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, suggested that IHPA could submit articles to their quarterly journal or items to their calendar of events. Similarly David Anderson of the Illinois State Bar Association suggested IHPA could communicate with their membership through their blogs and publications.

“The best format is to disseminate the information in meetings electronically—video, DVD, or Power Point. Our members could give presentations at afterschool meetings, before school meetings or even during lunch programs. It should be crisp and informative, no more than 10 minutes. It doesn’t have to be full of detail, but give them somewhere they can go for information—a website or phone number.”

—Ken Swanson, President, Illinois Education Association

“Probably once a year a short concise email blast of information customized to be of interest to my members. Don’t tell them things that don’t apply to them. Those people who are interested in something they see can pursue it on their own. That’s generally what works the best. I would also leave the opportunity open that once every few years, someone from the office could come do a 15-minute presentation. We would be happy to have you. Give
an overview of topics, then focus on two things of interest to municipalities and townships-cemeteries for townships, tax incentives for municipalities, for example.”
—Janet Agnoletti, Executive Director, Barrington Area Council of Governments

“We’re not looking for a 30-minute presentation on historic preservation because you’ll lose them.”
—Fred Walker, Executive Director, South Central Illinois Regional Planning & Development Commission

“I think the most we have ever had from IHPA is scant at best. In the last year we have not had any interaction at all. Some of the board members had never heard of them. So it would be nice if they could have a continuing presence in the form of email or mailings to remind us that IHPA exists. I’m not saying it should all be on their shoulders. We should reach out too. But this survey did a lot to bring attention to the services they offer.”
—Nick Chirikos, Chairman, McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission

“If they are trying to do some reach out, they should come up with a simple direct mailing that lists what they have to offer, and asks people to check off the services they’re interested in and return it. Don’t make it too long.”
—Vicky Smith, Executive Director, Southwest Conference of Mayors

“They used to have calendars, and they still have a quarterly journal called Historic Illinois. I think that’s a good way to reach the general public. I know they discontinued the calendar and I know that was a very popular way of making people aware of some of the historic homes and buildings in the state. I thought that was kind of a disappointment that that was discontinued. There were other people here in the office who got it every year and they were pretty sad to see it go. But I think the journal and the calendar are good—and the website of course.”
—Brian Adams, Assistant Director, Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, University of Illinois

“Periodic email bulletins. Webpages help only if people know to go look there. People stick something on a webpage and think it’s announced to the world. For the public, it’s best to target things to particular groups, such as people involved in government and legislative. When there’s a specific change in procedure that archaeologists need to know about—like submission of report in pdf format—they have worked with IAS to disseminate that. For the CAI, an email communication to me or one of the other principals here, such as Mark Wagner, is the best format.”
—Brian Butler, Director, Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University
5. How can the IHPA be most effective given the available resources?

About half the organizations answered that the agency should communicate better about what resources it offers, with a few suggesting they give classes or training. A number also recommended coordinating or partnering with other agencies and organizations to streamline the review process and promote preservation. Lisa DiChiera, Director of Advocacy for Landmarks Illinois, suggested more creative partnering. She asked whether DCEO, Main Street and IDOT could be proactive partners by way of a survey, etc., before there is an issue. She also suggested IHPA and the American Planners Association or the American Institute of Architects work together on education and/or planning. She added that IHPA should partner with IDOT to aggressively identify property that should be included in preservation efforts. Others also suggested providing information earlier on in the project review process, helping organizations prioritize their efforts with funding sources, synthesizing all the historic preservation material in the state into one document, emphasizing the green aspects of adaptive reuse in publications, keeping staffing levels adequate, improving the website, and continuing what the agency has been doing.

“Coordinate with other agencies on their requirements. If they can streamline the process and not fight DCEO, for instance, it would help. Also, the archaeology service has been not one of my happier relationships with IHPA. One of the things about a regional planning commission, because of the rural nature of our areas, our money is provided by the USDA or Economic Development Administration. One of their requirements is we contact IHPA to get a general letter of approval for our projects. It’s not as bad now, but there was a time 2 or 3 years ago when if they didn’t have good archaeological data on an area, they would say you’d have to have an archaeological survey done. It was a way for them to get the data without having to do it themselves.”

—Fred Walker, Executive Director, South Central Illinois Regional Planning & Development Commission

“To the extent they can, they should continue doing what they’re doing right now. Most state agencies are in a survival mode right now because of the budget problems. They should try not to let their services decline.”

—Steve Preckwinkle, Director of Political Activities, Illinois Federation of Teachers

“The single most important thing is to create more awareness of what is available. Perhaps in the future we could undertake a joint information dissemination and education project.”

—Ken Swanson, President, Illinois Education Association

“In some conversations I’ve listened in on, there’s a perception that historic preservation can create a delay or increase the costs. In these economic times, it would be very helpful if communities had some technical assistance with funding sources for preservation—in
prioritizing their efforts in getting funding. Also, if we could get some of the information I
mentioned before so that municipalities know how to account for historic preservation
issues early on, it might reduce conflict and angst over what to preserve and what not to
preserve. As it is now, preservation issues come up later in the process, and they’re viewed
as a kind of bump in the road in the way of progress.”

—Mark Baloga, Executive Director, DuPage Mayors & Managers Conference

“They do a good job with what they’ve got. It’s a good vehicle for the entire state for getting
information out. They are also good at helping other groups get their message out.”

—Nora Fesco-Ballerine, Executive Director, North Central Illinois Council of
Governments

6. How does Historic Preservation benefit your membership and their communities?

Most replied that it preserves a community’s heritage, identity, and character for future
generations. It gives residents a sense of community and pride of place. Ambience,
nostalgia, and a traditional feel in a neighborhood connect residents to their community
and its history. Kristina Valaitis, Executive Director of the Illinois Humanities Council
called historic preservation “an antidote to amnesia.”

“Preserving the downtown square is a point of pride—it’s visible evidence that a place
cares about its past and is doing something about it.”

—Patrick Curry, Extension Educator, University of Illinois Extension–Local
Government Center

Several made the point that historic preservation has an economic advantage most people
don’t recognize. Not only is it cheaper in the long run, but it increases tourism and makes
communities more sustainable.

“They say the greenest structure is one that’s already built.”

—Laura Berkeley, Planner, Bi-State Regional Commission

Janet Agnoletti, Executive Director of the Barrington Area Councils of Government
pointed out that knowing the past helps in planning for the future. “When you lose sight of
the original vision, you get things that are opposed to the original plan. Historic
preservation preserves original plans. Speaking as a planner, documenting it all is one way
to keep it alive.”

“When there is a historic site in the community, it’s kind of cool for teachers to have a hands-
on history lesson close at hand.”

—Steve Preckwinkle, Director of Political Activities, Illinois Federation of Teachers
7. Does Historic Preservation negatively impact your membership and their community in any way?

About half said no, although a few of those speculated there may be people who viewed it as blocking progress, etc. Standing in the way of progress and economic development was the most common negative impact cited, including a few complaints about “rabid preservationists.” Mike Waldinger, president of the Illinois Institute of Architects put it this way: “Some advocates of historic preservation sometimes go too far and get hung up on saving everything rather than looking at the historical significance of a building and what’s feasible to preserve....Preservation should be based on more than just age.”

Others mentioned that people don’t like being told what to do in general.

“When people are told, for instance, ‘you can’t replace your old windows with more energy-efficient ones,’ they don’t understand why. It would be better if the state worked with them to find alternative solutions instead of just saying, ‘no you can’t do that.’”

—Nora Fesco-Ballerine, Executive Director, North Central Illinois Council of Governments

“Cass County is struggling with making their courthouse handicap accessible, and the solutions they’d like to use don’t coincide with what the IHPA wants.”

—Dusty Douglas, Executive Director, Morgan County Regional Planning Commission

A few mentioned that historic preservation requirements delay projects. A couple others said historic preservation increases costs or is more expensive.

“Most teachers would say historic preservation is fantastic as long as you don’t have to sacrifice comfort. They would rather work in comfortable buildings with air conditioning than preserve a historic building. If they are working in a building at 100 degrees with windows that don’t work properly—with fans just blowing hot air—kids just sit there comatose and don’t learn. If you have those kinds of conditions it’s not conducive to good learning. Teachers are first concerned about living conditions in the schools—the physical plant. But if you can combine that with historic preservation, then that would be ideal. Teachers view preservation positively if they don’t have to sacrifice state of the art wiring, computer labs, and other things conducive to learning.”

—Steve Preckwinkle, Director of Political Activities, Illinois Federation of Teachers

“The only negative is if and when there is preservation of a facility or buildings that were on the tax rolls and it takes them off the tax rolls.”

—Ken Swanson, President, Illinois Education Association
8. What are the most important historical resources in Illinois?

The responses ranged widely on this question, though Lincoln sites (Presidential Library and Museum, Lincoln Home, New Salem, and Lincoln Memorial) and historically significant buildings were frequent ones. Historic homes and sites were other general categories commonly cited, as well as many specific buildings, sites, and homes. A couple people mentioned buildings and homes in Chicago as being particularly important. Local or community history, historic figures, courthouses, downtowns, government buildings, cemeteries, libraries, state parks or prairie remnants, archaeological sites, and Native American sites were each mentioned by at least two interviewees. Two people also mentioned the IHPA. Two of the more unusual answers were riverboats and infrastructure.

“We have a real appreciation of infrastructure—for example, the Metro lines. The development in proximity to those railroad lines has been a real key strength for this region. If you look at a community with historic preservation aspects to it—in Lake Forest, for instance—the area right around the Metro train station, which was built around the 30s or earlier, is considered a historic gem. It is a good example of the principles we’re focusing on—transportation with retail and housing nearby.”

—Stephen Ostrander, Associate Regional Planner, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

“Everyone knows about the Dana Thomas House, but we don’t talk a lot about the Horace Mann building and the State House Inn, which is a great example of motor lodges in the 1950s.”

—Norm Sims, Executive Director, Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

“We do a lot of survey work in places where we do planning. Usually we’re not terribly surprised by what they consider most important—a courthouse, for instance, or the Red Rooster Inn in Hillsboro. People like how those structures look. Rarely do they cite an archaeological site; it’s often buildings dating back to the turn of the century. And cemeteries are very important in the minds of adults. But it’s very parochial. It’s very tough to find a theme in most communities, except for county courthouses.”

—Patrick Curry, Extension Educator, University of Illinois Extension—Local Government Center

“It’s hard to name just one or two, but obviously I’m interested in archaeological sites. Some of the mound groups along the rivers are very important for archaeological reasons and for Native American groups’ connection with the past. Historic districts in cities and towns are important for preserving not just archaeological sites, but standing buildings and neighborhoods as well.”
“You’re talking to a prehistoric archaeologist. Lincoln sites have been done already. Illinois has some fantastic prehistoric sites. There’s Cahokia, of course, and a second gem is Kincaid Mounds, which we work with and we’ve developed. The state recognizes pretty much all the biggies. Euro-America sites should get more attention. The state’s done a reasonably good job of recognizing French colonial sites. But some of the proto-historic sites from the 18th and 19th centuries that have nothing above ground have been neglected. Some archaeology has been done 30 or 40 years ago, but nothing since. They are early historic Native American villages in the northern part of the state that appeared after the Europeans arrived, such as Saukenuk village. Native American groups have an interest in these. U of I is writing that stuff up now.”

—Brian Butler, Director, Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University

“From an archaeological perspective, we look at the large Cahokia Mounds that IHPA manages as one of the most important resources in the state. Obviously we’re familiar with all the architectural resources around the state as well. I think they’ve already got a lot of those important resources in the fold in terms of things that they manage. The way we work, we’re out looking for additional important resources in the state, and that’s part of what we’re out there trying to identify as part of the regulatory process.”

—Kevin McGowan, President, Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“Our existing state parks and museums, such as Cahokia Mounds state historic site, some of the historic forts in southern Illinois, the historic buildings in cities and towns throughout the state. I also think the undiscovered archaeological and historical sites or those that are threatened by construction or development are an essential resource that need protection and preservation.”

—Mary Pirkl, Director of Education, Center for American Archeology

9. What are threats to Illinois’ historical resources?

Not surprisingly, lack of money or funding was mentioned by almost everyone we talked to. Lack of staff, time, resources, and the state fiscal crisis were variations on that theme. Next came development pressures and then lack of knowledge or awareness of the value of historic preservation and how to maintain older structures. Three people mentioned no state tax credit as a threat. Some of the more interesting answers were that historic preservation groups aren’t integrated into local government planning, and local governments don’t have enough knowledge of legal rights for protecting historic structures.
Mike Waldinger, President of the Illinois Institute of Architects, had a different take on the effect of the economy. “There are not a lot of threats right now since the economy is down. People aren’t so inclined to bulldoze buildings these days, especially in cities. The buildings on the cusp of historic preservation are mid-century modern buildings — those not quite 40 years old. People usually don’t appreciate them and want to tear them down, but they don’t have the money these days.” He added however that the lack of state tax credit and the trends toward energy efficiency and environmental friendliness can be threats. “...people who are concerned with making buildings environmentally friendly or energy efficient don’t recognize that older buildings have a lot of passive energy features, such as transoms and windows, that keep air circulating in the absence of air conditioning. Most people think you have to seal a building tightly for energy efficiency, so they don’t appreciate the features in older buildings.”

“You can have someone not opposed to historic preservation, but when push comes to shove, they’ll want to put food on the table ahead of preserving history.”
—Fred Walker, Executive Director, South Central Illinois Regional Planning & Development Commission

“A lack of caring is a huge threat. It’s the attitude — why have an old dilapidated building when I can have something new?”
—Laura Berkeley, Planner, Bi-State Regional Commission

“The $14 billion deficit. It’s a big black wall. You can’t see above it, around it, or through it. It’s not the money alone, but the political culture that produced it. It’s going to be at least 10 years before we can pull out of it. It’s going to take much more than just a tax increase. It’s all those mindsets that got us here. If we focus only on the money, it makes people think money is the only resource in the state. Things like history, leisure, and a sense of being connected fall by the wayside.”
—Kristina Valaitis, Executive Director, Illinois Humanities Council

“There’s been a tendency to abandon wonderful communities that have great buildings and great downtowns for subdivisions, which require new infrastructure and put people farther out and increase traffic.”
—Stephen Ostrander, Associate Regional Planner, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

“Development in sensitive areas — highways and roads that go through where record has shown there are archaeological resources. If developers could be more sensitive to where the archaeological resources are before they start a project, we wouldn’t have to go in at the last minute and rescue things. They should become more aware of what’s on their properties and recognize that in some cases they should be left as they are.”
“In general terms, development. Now, probably, urban development is more serious than anything else. It’s particularly difficult to defend important historic structures, particularly in Chicago, because of the huge cost of maintaining these properties. In terms of archaeology, U of I discovered all kinds of stuff under East St. Louis, and everybody’s astounded by what’s there. Once they’ve scraped all the rubble off, we’ll see what we’ve got and how we can protect it.”

—Brian Butler, Director, Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University

“My fear as a professional is the watering down of regulations and the nonimplementation of regulations for cultural resources in the 106 process. Over the last couple of years I see less and less interpretation of those rules, and letting more and more things slide by as unreviewed. And it could be coming from the federal level or the state level. I’m not sure which level it’s coming from, but there’s quite a number of development things that should be regulated under the 106 process that seem to be going by without any review at all.”

—Kevin McGowan, President, Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“Ongoing construction. Also I think a big threat is just lack of awareness on behalf of the public. All of us who work in public education and outreach have to contend with a lack of knowledge and/or appreciation for why the past and history is important. So I think extra efforts to share that information with the public is important, and especially too to address some of the misconceptions associated with archaeology and archaeological research—for example, archaeologists horde artifacts in the basement of their museums or we steal property or we steal artifacts. Those types of misperceptions are certainly a hindrance to what we’re trying to accomplish in the state.”

—Mary Pirkl, Director of Education, Center for American Archeology

10. What steps can be taken by the IHPA and others to combat those threats?

Education and outreach to increase people’s understanding of the value of preserving historic properties or to overcome the stereotype that it will cause delays and increase costs was overwhelmingly the number one answer. David Anderson of the Illinois State Bar Association recommended the IHPA “celebrate the rich history and heritage of the state at every opportunity.” Patricia Miller of the Illinois Heritage Association suggested disseminating positive stories about the IHPA, perhaps through a wider distribution of Historic Illinois.
Many said the IHPA should lobby and be more proactive on policy. In line with this, an equal number said the agency should find more funding for historic preservation from state and federal sources. A couple mentioned leveraging its resources, and others recommended adding staff. A few also said the agency should sell itself more and offer training in maintenance and restoration.

Several suggested that the IHPA become more involved in community planning, work more with local communities and preservation groups to assist them, or partner with other organizations.

Other more specific answers were: harnessing genealogy and history fair interest to increase awareness and support for historic preservation, giving people resources for litigating to save buildings, and offering technological aids in lieu of staff. Patrick Curry recommended a more comprehensive inventory of historic properties than HAARGIS and better access to information on county history. David Blohm of the Illinois Library Association suggested adding a children’s portion of the website with an RSS feed that schools and history societies could subscribe to. Other answers included improving regulation, adding properties to the National Register, maintaining and expanding services at historical sites, and supporting the people who work at the sites.

“First, make it easy by providing training in maintenance and restoration, and second, subsidize the restoration of historic structures. Some of the federal code required for energy efficiency and lead paint are positive, but add cost to structures. ADA codes also cause problems when elevators or other requirements for people with disabilities don’t fit into older buildings.”

—Norm Sims, Executive Director, Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

“If timing is an issue and you can’t afford additional staff, look at what DNR has done with their ECO-CAT. It’s a map of Illinois that you can zoom in on and use a drawing tool to draw a circle around your project site. Then it’ll spit out any national area, wetland, or flood plain in the area. Human resource requests are minimized—if a red flag comes up, then you are asked to contact staff.”

—Fred Walker, Executive Director, South Central Illinois Regional Planning & Development Commission

“Vigilance in Springfield in the legislative process, possibly political action committees. Considering IHPA’s proximity to the legislative body, I would think they could be very effective. Specifically, they could promote passage of the Senate bill I referred to [Senate bill 2629—state tax incentive for historic preservation].”

—Nick Chirikos, Chairman, McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission
“It would be nice to see their presence more. I know they don’t really have the wherewithal to do it. Maybe they could communalize the resources we already have to get more people interested in preservation and documenting historic buildings. There is a lot of interest at history fairs — maybe there’s a way to capture that energy.”

— Nora Fesco-Ballerine, Executive Director, North Central Illinois Council of Governments

“Raising awareness should be the start. Collaborating with other organizations could help achieve this goal. In the past the IHPA has given information to the IAM and that is a great way to disseminate information to the cultural community. More support could be given to that organization.”

— Patricia Miller, Executive Director, Illinois Heritage Association

“More outreach, and not just to the general public. Try to communicate better with developers, spread the word amongst developers about what you do. Work very closely with them to make them aware of what archaeologists do and what we’re interested in.”

— Brian Adams, Assistant Director, Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, University of Illinois

“Additional information about the organization and what it does, perhaps a greater presence at archaeology day events throughout the state. For example, Cahokia Mounds has an archaeology day at the beginning of August, we have an archaeology day at the end of June, so even an information table with a person who can answer questions about the legislation and what’s going on in that office would be important. That said, I also understand that IHPA is one of the first offices to get their budget cut whenever the state is having a fiscal meltdown — so that’s the pie-in-the-sky ideal. But I think more of a public presence, as well as additional internet presence, but it’s important for the public to associate a face with the place.”

— Mary Pirkl, Director of Education, Center for American Archeology

11. Is there something that the IHPA does well?

Of those who had interacted with IHPA, a frequent response had to do with the staff — working hard, doing their job well, loving what they do, being responsive and knowledgeable. Its National Register program was frequently mentioned.

A few mentioned its management and publicizing of historic sites; others lauded the IHPA for its SHPO activity and continuing to function despite hard times. Three people said everything the IHPA does is done well.

Two people mentioned Architectural Services, and two others the State/Federal Project...
Review. One mentioned the Local Government program. Another said the IHPA works well with other agencies. The fact that they offer a lot of services and have a wide reach was also praised. Finally, two interviewees mentioned that the survey itself is good outreach.

“If I had to sum it up in one thing it would be that they have so many knowledgeable, dedicated people who are outgoing in a friendly way to help answer any question or to go any place. That’s not true of every state agency. They know their stuff, they don’t lecture, and they help people understand how to save, maintain, and restore properties.”

—Mike Waldinger, President, Illinois Institute of Architects

“The architecture staff goes above and beyond. They are exceptional at review, interaction and guidance.”

—Lisa DiChiera, Director of Advocacy, Landmarks Illinois

“I don’t know enough to say. But it can be confusing when you’re trying to figure out who’s regulating what and who’s doing what. If we better understood the preservation community, it might help us understand when we should go to the IHPA.”

—Stephen Ostrander, Associate Regional Planner, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

“I don’t have a lot of direct experience with IHPA. But I do think that their work with the National Register and the way they oversee some of our major historic assets are done pretty well and publicized pretty well. The historic sites I know of in DuPage and in Chicago have a real sense of place, stability, and protection.”

—Mark Baloga, Executive Director, DuPage Mayors & Managers Conference

“In general, every contact I’ve had over there has been very knowledgeable and useful. Because of time demands over the years, I’ve depended on the website as a gateway. I don’t have a basis for criticizing much—one of the things we realize is this is pretty darn important stuff in most places and getting more important over time as people are seeing degradation of resources.”

—Patrick Curry, Educator, University of Illinois Extension, Local Government Center

“I think it does a lot of things well—just to maintain this wonderful network of historic sites is one. They’ve done the best they could to retain good people in these bad economic times. They have worked with other agencies to break down the barriers to preserving history. There are very good people there and they need support. They need to be free to lead more, so they can be heard.”

—Kristina Valaitis, Executive Director, Illinois Humanities Council

“The fact that you’ve undertaken this outreach. I know more now than I did 15 minutes ago
12. Is there a way in which the IHPA could better achieve their mission?

More outreach, education, or communication about what the agency does and the benefits of historic preservation were recommended by more than half the respondents.

“Self-promotion is important. When I think about what I hear from local planning commissions, IHPA just doesn’t pop up. They should look into what kind of recognition they have in communities, whether they understand their mission and the resources they have available. Make sure people can connect to them.”

—Patrick Curry, Educator, University of Illinois Extension, Local Government Center

Lisa DiChiera of Landmarks Illinois suggested holding biannual workshops for outreach and education—with certified local governments in particular. Norm Sims, Executive Director of the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission, stressed pulling historic preservation interests together. “There is not a large enough constituency for historic preservation, so it becomes a low priority for local governments when they’re cash-strapped,” he said. “If [IHPA] could pull folks together and develop a joint interest in historic preservation, that would be useful.” One suggested reaching out more to rural areas, and another said to market to the enduser, the people who deal with historic preservation. Patricia Miller of the Illinois Heritage Association recommended making better use of the website and social media to raise awareness.

The next most pressing need, many said, was obtaining more funding for the agency in order to add more staff and resources. Along these lines, a couple respondents urged the agency to focus on generating more support in the legislature.

“If they had better support in the legislature, they could do more. They need better communication, better investment in education. I think it’s unfortunate the state is lopsided in its funding resources. I know people downstate are suspicious of Chicago, but they must embrace Chicago. IHPA needs to develop more friends here. Most of the money is right outside my window.”

—Kristina Valaitis, Executive Director, Illinois Humanities Council

Laura Berkeley of Bi-State Regional Commission suggested making more community
grants available and devising a funding database to help communities find sources of funding.

Other suggestions were developing partnerships with local communities and working more with planning groups. “Become involved in the planning and let them know they have a range of options,” said Stephen Ostrander, Associate Regional Planner with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. “Work on the larger scale, with municipalities and counties rather than individual sites.” Others suggested investing in technology, and seeking out volunteers.

“...make a concerted effort to become a catalyst for historic preservation, not an impediment to development—except when development would clearly affect a rare historic structure. Their perspective of the world is a very narrow vantage point.”

—Fred Walker, Executive Director, South Central Illinois Regional Planning & Development Commission

“I would say a little more outreach, because this is the first time I’ve heard from you in 10 years. I’ve never gotten a newsletter or an email, and the list of COGs in Illinois is widely available.”

—Janet Agnoletti, Executive Director, Barrington Area Council of Governments

“Better communications between IHPA and local organizations that are basically their boots on the ground all over the state. They need to reach out to these folks more consistently and make the availability of their services better known.”

—Nick Chirikos, Chairman, McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission

“I do think it’s a challenge for the agency to allow people to understand the complex structure of the IHPA and its governance and oversight. How do we let the interested public understand how it all works? Many people seem to be confused on how everything fits together. A chart or something like that may be helpful.”

—Patricia Miller, Executive Director, Illinois Heritage Association

“Marketing themselves to the end user, the people who are in a position to work with property situations. Joe Public doesn’t need to know how the agency works, but people granting zoning ordinances do. Market to the end user so that they know you can provide backup support when they need it.”

—Steven Quigley, Executive Director, Will County Governmental League

“Have you seen Jim Welholme on Illinois Adventures on PBS-WTVP? The frequency and quality of that presentation is probably one of the best things going on for historical resources. If people are not seeing this statewide, they should be.”
“Hold workshops or spread the word with online resources—the website. It’s been awhile since I’ve gone to the website, but I would say they could tweak it to make it more accessible to people who don’t ordinarily visit it. Spread the word that IHPA exists and has a role. Be more proactive, rather than coming in to projects at the last minute. Reach out to the business community and other entities that might be involved in projects that could threaten cultural resources.”

—Brian Adams, Assistant Director, Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, University of Illinois

“They can get some stable leadership. The director position has been a musical chairs position. There’s been a real problem with the agency with the loss of staff and a lot of expertise that has not been replaced. They need some stability there I think and durability in leadership positions, and they have lost a lot of their expertise in handling grants and contracts. They’ve lost bureaucratic expertise and so are at a loss as to what to do in certain situations.”

—Brian Butler, Director, Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University

“Updating some of the technology they use, so that more of the data we submit could be submitted electronically rather than as hard paper copies, and that data could then go into a database which is more user friendly than what they have available currently. The HAARGIS system is a very difficult and unmanageable system because it’s a proprietary rather than an open system. HAARGIS in particular crashes significantly. It hasn’t been updated in close to 10 years so it’s basically out of date. They don’t have the system support for it anymore to update or maintain it, and most of the cultural resources throughout the country have gone to systems using the ESRI software so that data can be inputted faster and retrieved by standard software packages that people have on their computers. So it’s really making an adjustment in how that information is maintained by the state, and how other users can utilize it to improve the cultural resources environment in the state.”

—Kevin McGowan, President, Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“I don’t know how it would work, but if they had some type of internship or staff person who—a significant part of their job was public education and outreach. Again, I’m not 100 percent familiar with their staffing structure, so we need people in the office up there to make sure the organization is handling the paperwork and the information, but even creating some type of internship in association with UIS or Champaign-Urbana, or something where a student of history, or a historical preservation museum studies—someone who is an emerging professional—could go out and about and even do
presentations at some of the local archaeology society meetings or the archaeology days I
mentioned.”

—Mary Pirkl, Director of Education, Center for American Archeology

13. Is there a service currently offered by the IHPA that should be discontinued?

More than half said no, with ten others saying they don’t know enough about it to say. Three
people suggested the Main Street program, and another said some of the publications
should be discontinued, such as the history calendar and the glossy history magazine.

“The problem with Main Street is it asked communities to draw a line around certain blocks
of the community and make them a priority. Elected officials want to shift priorities to
where the revenue streams are—a strip mall at the edge of town with a Walmart, for
instance…. With Main Street, the onus is on the property owners downtown to make it
happen. The reality is everybody says they care about historic preservation, but when it
comes down to it, they would rather have a Walmart.”

—Patrick Curry, Educator, University of Illinois Extension, Local Government Center

“The Main Street program I know is sacred, but I think it’s heavy-handed for small
communities—with the requirement for volunteers and a manager. I’m not sure about it
being the best model for downtown renovation.”

—Nora Fesco-Ballerine, Executive Director, North Central Illinois Council of
Governments

“No, I think it’s under resourced right now.”

—Norm Sims, Executive Director, Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning
Commission

14. Is there a way in which the IHPA could partner with your organization to achieve
mutual goals?

Almost all answered yes, maybe, or “already do” to this question. Only three said no or
probably not. Those who said yes usually suggested hosting educational workshops
together, having an IHPA speaker at their conference, or a less-defined communication or
information exchange with the IHPA. The more specific answers included help from the
IHPA with planning for local and regional historic preservation, management of historic
records, inventory of historic properties and items, and providing staff and financial aid.
Karen Anderson, Vice-President of the Illinois Community College Board suggested IHPA
could work with community colleges on work-based learning opportunities and
community service. David Blohm of the Illinois Library Association proposed that the
IHPA create an interactive virtual museum on its website to highlight different themes in
towns and regions across the state—to bring the focus back to local history.

“There are probably some great programs we could do to strengthen county historic preservation organizations. We have to start by learning a lot more about you and how we could work together.”

—Patrick Curry, Educator, University of Illinois Extension, Local Government Center

“Yes, we could help them get their message out, host workshops, training, and webinars for people who are interested. We have planners and mapping available, and we have several quality architects. I think IHPA staff are creative at the state level; they could get other people from groups like ours to help them do things.”

—Nora Fesco-Ballerine, Executive Director, North Central Illinois Council of Governments

“We have focused a great deal in the last couple years on downtown and transit redevelopment. Just yesterday we were awarded a grant of $2.53 million from HUD as part of its sustainable communities program. We will use it to create a landbanking nonprofit agency to identify and acquire downtown properties for development. As we undertake that project, we need to be sure we aren’t destroying historic structures as we redevelop. It will involve some demolition and land clearing, and we don’t want communities to remove historically significant structures. We could use IHPA’s help to come up with funding sources and techniques for restoring them.”

—Ed Paesel, Executive Director, South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association

“...help us with planning for local and regional historic preservation. Provide staff or other guidance, if not financial resources, to develop those plans. Also, try to educate the public on the financial value of maintaining these structures. It certainly benefits tourism in Springfield. The public doesn’t understand that there is market advantage to historic preservation. The historic preservation interests are not as well organized as environmental interests, for example.”

—Norm Sims, Executive Director, Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

“I have had the thought that if we could find a funding source, it would be a good idea to document historic properties, furniture, etc., like they did in the HABS survey project during the Great Depression. With unemployment among architects at 40 percent now—and similar numbers in construction and other building jobs—it would be a great way to employ these people while accomplishing something valuable. It would be like HAARGIS, but taking it to a higher level.”

—Mike Waldinger, President, Illinois Institute of Architects
“…with our GO TO 2040 Plan, we’re going to need lots of partners in the coming years, and I think we could find a way to partner with IHPA.”

—Stephen Ostrander, Associate Regional Planner, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

“Make people in Illinois aware of history. Put pictures in the newsletter and share success stories.”

—Carole McCarty, President, Illinois State Genealogical Society

“Sure. We’ve done some stuff—we took some of the work they’ve done with HAARGIS, and sort of dropped it into an ESRI software package to begin to develop something that’s more conventional to use. So we’ve partnered with them in the sense that they’ve given us information they have available and we’ve converted it back into something more usable. And then we’re updating the information as we do projects around the state. But right now we can’t transfer that information back to the state because they don’t have the ability to receive it. So if we find new important resources, we can basically give them that data electronically, and it would be a more efficient system rather than having data entry at two locations.”

—Kevin McGowan, President, Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“Absolutely. My job as Director of Education is to interact with the public on a daily basis with their interest in archaeology. I teach and I do classroom presentations, and I think it would be a great asset to me professionally to be able to collaborate with IHPA in presenting some of this information. Even if both of us or two representatives, one from each organization, couldn’t attend an event together because of scheduling conflicts or whatever, knowing there’s a collaboration there and a sharing of information, and we’re working toward this goal of improving public awareness and knowledge of what we do, I think that’d be fantastic.”

—Mary Pirkl, Director of Education, Center for American Archeology

15. Are there any other issues or comments that should be considered as the IHPA continues in its planning for the future?

David Blohm of the Illinois Library Association urged IHPA to think about how to “boost incentives for seeking out and preserving history.” He also suggested using connections with the Illinois Historical Society and county historical societies to preserve cemeteries. Lisa DiChiera, Director of Advocacy for Landmarks Illinois suggested that the State Historic Preservation Office do more proactive surveys using certified local government funds. When partnering with other agencies, she advised handholding through the educational process to prevent “messes.”
“You guys provide a vital resource and one that will over time become even more important. In our surveys of the resources communities consider most important, cemeteries were at the top of the list. It's the first time we included them on the survey, so it was eye-opening. It shows that the interest in historical resources changes over time and it depends on accessibility to those resources.”

—Patrick Curry, Educator, University of Illinois Extension, Local Government Center

“I would like to see the state have a comprehensive preservation plan, as well as regional components of that plan. It's sort of mushy what our priorities are. We need to decide what part of the built environment we're going to keep. The state should have a long-range historic preservation plan.”

—Norm Sims, Executive Director, Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

“The only thing I can think of is to come up with a way to get local officials beyond community preservation services and to get them to appreciate the assets they have. Often they are so concerned with establishing new preservation districts to bring in more money that they neglect fixing up existing buildings....”

—Mike Waldinger, President, Illinois Institute of Architects

“Be bold. Start somewhere. Don’t wait until all the results are in. Start doing something. Don’t just buy one more log for the log cabin. As parochial as Chicago is, downstate is more parochial, and we can’t afford it anymore.”

—Kristina Valaitis, Executive Director, Illinois Humanities Council

“People who are not historically motivated will not be interested in Historic Preservation especially if it negatively impacts them.”

—Carole McCarty, President, Illinois State Genealogical Society

“I know they did a building-by-building study of Utica after the 2004 tornado, but the community has not ever gotten any of that information. That is such a great repository of information on their town that it’s a shame they don’t have access to it. I’m sure there’s tons of stuff in there that would be useful to them.”

—Nora Fesco-Ballerine, Executive Director, North Central Illinois Council of Governments

“The agency should know about something IDOT is doing these days called context-sensitive solutions. IDOT has gotten very diligent in engaging with the public on a whole range of issues. It provides a forum for when historic preservation is an issue to have a discussion about it. Talk to Keith Sherman at IDOT about it.”

—Terry Kohlbuss, Executive Director, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
“This current effort is a good sign that they are interested in getting input from around the state. It shows that they are reaching out to organizations and people around the state. I commend them on that.”

— Patricia Miller, Executive Director, Illinois Heritage Association

“I can’t think of anything specific at this point. Maybe just continue to emphasize the outreach to make the public aware of what they do, aware of history and cultural resources in the state. And continue to educate people in a way that can make it interesting and encourage them to get out and see these places.”

— Brian Adams, Assistant Director, Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, University of Illinois

“The other thing that’s a current concern is the reduction in staffing, particularly for the archaeologists in the state. A number of the professionals that were there have left, and they’ve not been able to refill those positions, leaving it as a thinly manned staff, meaning if one person is sick, there’s no way to get a hold of anyone. They’re down to one person. And obviously with the state’s monetary situation, it’s unclear what will happen. But they’ve really reduced the staffing there pretty significantly. At one point they had 5 archaeologists on staff and they’re down to one. Most of the time I’ve been working with them over the last decade, it’s almost consistently been 3, but now it’s sitting at one. There are certainly things that can be improved, and a lot of it from our perspective has to revolve around the HAARGIS system. There’s a lot of information we collect as professionals that would be nice to be able to distribute to other professionals in a consistent format. Right now that’s not really possible.”

— Kevin McGowan, President, Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

List of 34 organizations surveyed:
- Barrington Area Council of Governments
- Bi-State Regional Commission
- Center for American Archeology
- Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- DuPage Mayors & Managers Conference
- Illinois Board of Higher Education
- Illinois Cemetery & Funeral Home Association
- Illinois Community College Board
- Illinois Education Association
- Illinois Federation of Teachers
- Illinois Heritage Association
Illinois Humanities Council
Illinois Institute of Architects
Illinois Library Association
Illinois State Bar Association
Illinois State Genealogical Society
Landmarks Illinois
Macon County Regional Planning Commission
McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission
McLean County Regional Planning Commission
Morgan County Regional Planning Commission
North Central Illinois Council of Governments
Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
South Central Illinois Regional Planning & Development Commission
South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association
Southwest Conference of Mayors
Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission
Theatre Historical Society of America
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
U of I Extension, Local Government Center
West Central Municipal Conference
Western Illinois Regional Council
Will County Governmental League

D. Select Committee of Key Preservation Leaders

Meeting notes from January 19, 2011, in Bloomington, Illinois:

Attendees:
Karen Fitzgerald, UIS Survey Research Office
Director Jan Grimes, Director, IHPA
Mike Jackson, FAIA, Division Manager, Preservation Services, IHPA
Greg Koos, Executive Director, McLean County Museum of History
Christina Morris, Program Officer, Midwest Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Catherine O’Connor, Manager, Local Government Services, IHPA
James E. Peters, President/Executive Director, Landmarks Illinois
Jeffery Woodard, Director of Marketing and Community Relations, McLean County Museum of History
Overall planning goals:

- Continuously broaden the public awareness of positive preservation activities. We need to do a better job of collectively countering the negative preservation impact of “last minute appeals” and “preservation as obstruction.”
- The lifestyle choice of the “old house movement” seems to be slowing down (or moving from the 19th century house to the mid-century house.) There is a need to strengthen the overall number of home owners who are motivated by the old house purchase/renovation as a critical lifestyle choice. (Note: The Bloomington-Normal area has had a very strong growth spurt until recent years.)
- The 2005 State Plan emphasized the regulatory programs rather than all other aspects of the preservation movement. The regulatory programs don’t help to broaden the buy-in for the program. They are important but don’t carry the most political weight.

Outreach and Education:

- There is a need to increase awareness of the IHPA programs through partnership activities and electronic formats.
- IHPA should participate at other statewide conferences and programs.
- Improve the use of website materials.
- There is a need for more “promotion” materials about the value of preservation that do not have to be tied to specific programs or services.
- There is a need to strengthen the economic impact data about preservation.
- Training is needed for both the preservation audience and the general public.

Reaching Planning Commission organizations:

- They are active users of HAARGIS.
- They could use more materials about preservation laws, including cemeteries.
- The relaunch of HAARGIS will be a great marketing opportunity for Preservation Services to do a major public relations effort.

Strengthening the outreach to the CLGs:

- IHPA should consider a “master” membership for CLG’s to the National Trust Forum, which is an established national networking device.
- The Museum 2.0 is another model for a better on-line communication devise for preservation commissions.
- The role of The Commissioner as a print document versus an electronic document was discussed along with need for on-going contributions to the content.

Other Programs and Organizations:

- The genealogy community, particularly through their interest in cemeteries
needs to be a part of our communication network.

- There should be an annual calendar of key institutions and meetings that would benefit from a Preservation Services program.
- The Illinois Humanities Council “Roads Scholars” program does not currently have any preservation-based speakers. This program pays the speakers fee and provides a great promotional opportunity.
- University of Illinois Extension Service is a large outreach tool that would benefit from a preservation/history training.
- Landmarks Illinois is considering a speaker’s directory as a part of its resource directory.

**Increasing Youth involvement: (There was only one survey respondent under 25)**

- What is the relationship with Preservation Services and the History Fair?
- Landmarks Illinois recently hosted an event for preservationists under 25.
- Kids are increasingly using the websites for their history research projects. We should make sure to place content that has particular appeal to them.

**Funding and Financing:**

- Some are under the mistaken impression that CLG grants are too complicated. The simplification of this grant program should be investigated.
- There was no general consensus about the priorities of the CLG grants, but it was noted that they have not been used for “bricks and mortar” because the funds would not go very far for this. Ensuring that the grant criteria focuses communities on critical issues is an appropriate strategy.
- There is little awareness that there ever was a Heritage Grants program for construction activities. A list of previous projects should be added to the website to give some historical data about this former program.
- The website should be used more frequently to post ongoing program information.
- Maps should also be considered as part of the website improvements to show graphically the impact across the whole state. It was noted that the Tax Freeze program is primarily used in the Chicago metro area and does not have much use downstate.

**Other Resources:**

- The agency needs to “brag” more about the quality of the historic built environment in Illinois.
- Context studies can be used to create policy and practical guidance on the special areas of history that need to be recognized in the National Register. Do we have a context theme study for Lincoln? For threatened resources?
- This is great information to post on the website.
Survey Programs:
- There are large areas of the state that have not completed surveys, particularly the rural counties.
- Preservation Services should investigate the Indiana model for doing surveys, which does a great job of building a volunteer and professional team.

Local Commissions:
- Many local commissions seem to be stuck in a “rut” about their programs.
- There is a great need to increase positive designations as a public relations effort to help counter the effect of “last minute” designation of threatened resources.
- “The health of a preservation commission should be judged on the number of new designations.” Ongoing measurement of CLG performance was also a major topic of discussion. The annual report “metrics” should be examined to help determine the strengths and weaknesses of local commission.
- There is an overall concern that commissions are not pursuing new designations because of the ongoing fear of “property rights” agendas. The apparent strength of this “movement” is seen as a broad threat to preservation in general.
- CLG’s should work more with real estate professionals.
- Need for better “awareness documents” that are readily accessible and increased input of IAHPC to be explored.
- More promotion materials about commission activities are needed.
- What are the annual training requirements for CLG’s?
- The overall goal of increasing training opportunities for CLG staff and commissions should be part of an overall strategy in addition to travel scholarships for staff and commissioners, which are now available.

Archaeology:
- A targeted survey specifically for archeologists is needed.

Mission Statement suggestion:
- “Work with the people of Illinois to preserve their historic environment.”
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