

Benjamin Historic Certifications was selected as contractor to undertake the recordation of the Rock Island County Courthouse at 210 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island, Illinois. (SHPO LOG #003092716). The Contractor immediately contacted the SHPO to tell the office that they will be undertaking the Recordation.

1. All the Fieldwork has been completed. There have been two site visits.
  - a. The Contractor has taken site, interior and exterior digital images of the building that were used to develop an architectural description of the building.
  - b. The SHPO and Contractor communicated to select images for final HABS photography
  - c. HABS photographs were taken by Leslie Schwartz, a photographer experienced in taking HABS photographs, with a large-format film camera, using 4" x 5" black-and-white negatives processed according to HABS guidelines.
  - d. Copies of field notes including a physical description and photographs were submitted for review and comment to the SHPO/National Park Service. for review. On August 4, 2022, David Calease, Architectural Historian with the Park Service responded to Susan Benjamin, the Consultant, by d-mail. He stated that:

*"Based on the documentation submitted, it appears that items that require fieldwork to be undertaken have been sufficiently documented. The remaining aspects of the documentation that need further development can be completed without continued site work at the courthouse".*

A letter needs to be issued by the Illinois EPA that demolition may begin

2. Recordation Components
  - a. Current condition drawings are being completed according to HABS specifications
  - b. HABS photos are being printed. Package containing photo prints, original negatives and a contact will be assembled for submission
  - c. Digital photos will be printed.
  - d. All research has been assembled from Rock Island architectural historians, data at the County Building, material at the Rock Island Public Library and sources in newspapers available on the Internet. A written narrative is being developed to be incorporated into the 95% submission. The narrative will include the following: a brief history of Rock Island County, a discussion of the history of the site, changes over time to the site and the building, information on the architectural firm who designed the building and firm that made changes, a discussion of the architectural style of the building, a discussion of the Rock Island Courthouse in relation to other courthouses in the State of Illinois.
  - e. HABS Title Blocks have been received. In consultation with the SHPO, drawings will be selected and scanned into the recordation package.
  - f. Original field notes have been gathered.
  - g. Historic images and maps have been gathered and will be scanned into the recordation package
  - h. Archival CD/DVDs are ready for the recordation.
3. The 95% draft is being written and will be sent to the SHPO for review and comment. When it has been accepted in writing, the Contractor will complete two copies of the final recordation.

4. which will go to the Heritage Documentation Programs at the National Park Service and at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield.

Although it took time because of the condition of the unheated and unlit building, requiring Hasmat suits to enter, poor weather and Covid, There have been no problems encountered, no disputes and no objections received in the County's efforts to provide mitigation through recordation.