

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission**  
**February 3, 2016**

**Members Present:** Chuck Pell, Chairman  
Robert Sherman, Vice Chairman  
Mike Brooks  
Jeanette Goza  
Jerry Jacobson  
Tina Lathan  
Aakash Raut  
James Schackmann  
Norm Sims  
Dean Williams

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Steve Keenan

**Call to Order:** A quorum being present, Chairman Pell called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Pell entertained a motion to approve the January minutes. A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Vice Chairman Sherman and was seconded by Commissioner Schackmann. The voice vote to approve was unanimous.

**Chairman's Report/Comments:** Chairman Pell suggested looking at HARGIS to determine whether any National Register entries in the townships are not surveyed. He encouraged the Commissioners to make similar investigations. Chairman Pell said he is certain not all National Register structures are on surveys.

**Old Business:** Chairman Pell recognized Commissioner Brooks for the Farmhouse Committee report. Commissioner Brooks said the Committee decided to issue a clarification. He said there still needs to be (a connection to a functioning farm of) forty (or more) acres and a demonstrable connection to farming for entries. Chairman Pell asked if there should be another press release. Commissioner Brooks said the changes are a good reason for a press release. Chairman Pell asked if the Committee tracked more leads on houses for the search. Commissioner Brooks said there are three potential leads.

Some discussion ensued about the entries received. Commissioner Jacobson discussed an entry on Wake Road with a limestone foundation and some hand-hewn beams. He said it is on a seven acre tract; but that would not be an entry barrier per the earlier Committee discussion. The consensus of the discussion among Chairman Pell, Vice Chairman Sherman, and Commissioner Jacobson was it is probably an I-house, likely built prior to 1860 with a porch added later.

The Commission secondly discussed an entry on Yankee Town Road. Vice Chairman Sherman said he thinks the house might have an addition and there might even be logs underneath. Commissioner Jacobson said the estimated date of construction was 1857. The entrant sent along a diary entry but it is somewhat illegible. Commissioner Jacobson said he has a call in to receive a better copy (or for a "typed" translation).

The Commission thirdly discussed an entry on Lincoln Trail. Commissioner Jacobson said the house was purportedly on the Underground Railroad, has the best photographs submitted, and the application has an 1835 construction date. However, there is no documentation. Several Commissioners suggested tracking down the

document that appears with the black and white photo. Commissioner Lathan asked if there are any photos of the house in the tax assessor's records. Commissioner Sims said if the house was used in the Underground Railroad, one might presume it was built prior to the Civil War. Commissioner Jacobson said the house sits on five acres but meets the spirit of the rules. Vice Chairman Sherman said the house is 1 ½ story.

The Commission finally discussed an entry on Galloway Road. Commissioner Jacobson said there is a long chain of title that refers to ownership of the house. Commissioner Jacobson and Vice Chairman Sherman suggested tax and recorder documents might reveal more about the house.

Chairman Pell asked the Committee members if any rules needed to change besides the 40 acres rule. Commissioner Jacobson said not at this moment. Chairman Pell asked if the Farm Bureau has any entries that were not passed along, to which Commissioner Brooks said no, but that he would check with the Farm Bureau staff. Some discussion ensued among several Commissioners on generating and following up on leads.

Chairman Pell asked if an old house might be available for a news spot. Commissioner Brooks suggested using one of the entries. Chairman Pell said if one of the entrants wants to do that it would be nice and he would be available to meet a news crew if an owner was willing.

Commissioner Brooks asked about the period of I-houses, Italianate houses, and foursquare houses. Vice Chairman Sherman said foursquare houses were much later [than 1860]. He said an Italianate style might be pre-1860. Vice Chairman Sherman said the I-house got its name from the Illinois, Indiana, Iowa area where it was commonly constructed. Chairman Pell said IHPA has some DVDs on architectural styles. He asked if any were in the RPC library, to which staff said not to his knowledge. Chairman Pell said the square and rectangular houses like Italianates ultimately morphed into the American foursquare house. He said the foursquare house is a late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century house. Chairman Pell said with foursquares the ornamentation was toned down and gave the owner four rooms upstairs and four rooms downstairs. He said the style is very common along streets like South Pasfield and Whittier in Springfield and many other areas. Commissioner Jacobson added sometimes foursquares were called cornbelt cubes. Chairman Pell said Vice Chairman Sherman mentioned one of the entries might have begun as a log house wrapped in a finish with an addition. He said in many cases the rural homeowners amassed a certain amount of wealth and could afford to build something similar to what one might see in the city but out on land in the country. Chairman Pell said it is less common to see great ornamentation on a typical rural farmhouse because of their utilitarian nature. He said the forms would relate to what was going on in a particular architectural period. Vice Chairman Sherman, Chairman Pell, and Commissioner Brooks discussed potential entries and the timing of a press release.

Chairman Pell asked about the Facebook and website agenda item. Commissioner Schackmann asked the Commissioners to share the Facebook site with people they know. He said the new logo is on the Facebook page. Commissioner Schackmann said the website would be shared when it is up and running. Concerning the website, staff asked if there was any objection to replacing the logo shown with the new logo. No objections were noted. Chairman Pell asked about workflow on the website. Staff said he worked on much of the webpage. Chairman Pell asked what software was being used. Commissioner Sims said Dot Net Nuke. Commissioner Jacobson asked about integrating the Historic Preservation Commission page on the County's page. Several Commissioners said it should be a part of the County's webpage. Chairman Pell, Commissioner Brooks, and Commissioner Sims discussed the possibility of integrating social media posts onto the webpage.

**New Business:** Vice Chairman Sherman mentioned a pamphlet put out by the National Parks Service entitled *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes* [NPS Bulletin 30]. He said he would try to get some copies for the Commissioners. Vice Chairman Sherman said it is a good document regarding the thought process as to what constitutes a good survey. Chairman Pell and Commissioner Sims recommended digital copies instead of hard copies. Chairman Pell indicated that it could be easily found on line.

**Initial Recommendation for New Landmark Applications:** None.

**Member Reports:** Commissioner Williams said there would be a premiere of the Lincoln funeral film at the Visitor Center at Lincoln's home on February 26 at 7:30 PM. He said if anyone is interested in VIP tickets for the showing to please coordinate with the RPC office. There were two other showings mentioned, 6:00 PM and 9:00 PM. 7:30 PM and 9:00 PM are open to the public. Commissioner Williams summarized the documentary.

Commissioner Lathan shared a newspaper photo of an old farmhouse on Old Jacksonville Road.

Commissioner Schackmann thanked Commissioner Goza for the new logo. Chairman Pell, Commissioner Schackmann, and Commissioner Brooks discussed putting podcasts on the Facebook site.

**Staff Reports:** Staff introduced a Section 106 [of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966] review for four monopole towers the Union Pacific railroad will construct near Chatham, Springfield, Sherman, and Williamsville. Commissioner Sims added the new poles help meet federal safety requirements. Staff said a cursory review revealed no landmarks but two National Register sites: one (Flagg Farmstead) in Sherman, and one (Caldwell Mansion) in unincorporated Sangamon County. The letter will also suggest consulting with some municipalities about this project. Commissioner Sims said Springfield Historic Sites may have received a letter. Vice Chairman Sherman said Iles Park may have a tower as well. Commissioner Jacobson asked if it makes sense to review requests like this if they are beyond the County's jurisdiction. Commissioner Schackmann said it is not the HPC's responsibility to inform the municipality; the onus should be on the railroad's consultant. Commissioners Jacobson and Sims with Chairman Pell discussed whether to devote resources to reviews not in unincorporated Sangamon County. No consensus emerged. Chairman Pell asked to have the letter forwarded to him for review when complete.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Additional Comments:** Commissioner Raut entered the meeting during the tower discussion.

**Adjourn:** Chairman Pell entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brooks made a motion to adjourn the February meeting with Commissioner Lathan seconding the motion. The voice vote to approve was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 4:49 PM.

Respectively submitted,  
Steve Keenan