



2019 CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD AND ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION



SPRINGFIELD HISTORIC SITES COMMISSION

Office of Planning and Economic Development
Address: 800 East Monroe, Springfield, IL 62701
Phone: 217.789.2377

Email: info.OPED@springfield.il.us

City Historic Preservation Website: <https://www.springfield.il.us/Departments/OPED/Preservation.aspx>



The Springfield Historic Sites Commission (HSC) reports annually to the City of Springfield and IL Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Historic Preservation Division on the Commission's activities related to preservation issues, recognition programs, public awareness campaigns and collaborative efforts with other conservation and redevelopment groups.

Revitalization of deteriorating historic communities and buildings in Springfield is a priority for the City of Springfield and the Springfield Historic Sites Commission. It is a pleasure for this Commission to report its activities to during 2019.

The Historic Sites Commission has four standing committees making recommendations to the full commission. Those committees are:

Committee Name & Functions

Design Review Committee

Where property is landmarked by the City or is a historic district designated by the City, any plans for external alteration, construction or demolition shall be reviewed and approved by the Design Review Committee's Springfield Historic Sites Commission before the City may issue any permit or other license.

Registry, Landmarking & Zoning Committee

The committee discusses land-marking application for the National Registry and paperwork to the IL DNR Historic Preservation Division. In addition, it collaborates with the City of Springfield Building and Zoning Department to address zoning petitions and related issues and bring forward to the Historic Sites Commission.

Education & Web Committee

The committee recommends ideas on how the Commission's website for Springfield Historic Sites is used. It also advises what needs to be done to make it user-friendly, keep up to date with incentive details, approval process, newsletter publications and so on.

Community Relations

The committee manages preservation workshops and is responsible for the activities, nominations and presentations of Historic Preservation Awards from historical stakeholders. The Committee also encourages community events to have a presence, particularly those related to historical sites.

Resources

Springfield has a great wealth of history, not just in its people and events but in its structures as well. A total of 75 local landmark applications have been approved by the Historic Sites Commission to date, including private residences, apartment buildings, commercial structures, tourism sites and a theatrical marquee. 43 of these and 29 other structures are also listed in the National Register.

There are three Springfield Historic Zoning Districts (H-1, H-2 & H-3), one Springfield National Register Historic District (Downtown) and one Federal Historic District (Lincoln Home National Historic Site) all of which are located within blocks of downtown Springfield; click [here](#) for Historic Zoning Districts Map.



Architectural Surveys

The Historic Sites Commission performed several surveys to properly catalog the historic buildings surrounding Springfield. These surveys identified key historical structures that possess potential landmark status within the city. To date, the following surveys were completed:

- Architectural Survey of Springfield's Central Business District. (June 1991 by Fever River Research)
- Architectural Resources of the Enos Park Neighborhood. (June-1997 by Fever River Research)
- Architectural Resources of the West Side of Capitol Neighborhood. (March-1998 by Fever River Research)
- Architectural/Historical Survey of the East Part of the Central Business District. (January-1995 by C. Kirchner & Assoc.)
- Catalogue of Marked & Unmarked Historical and Architecturally Significant Buildings in Springfield. (1998 by Leadership Springfield Team)
- Architectural Resources Survey of Aristocracy Hill and Neighboring Area. (September 2003 by Fever River Research)
- Central Springfield National Register Historic District Boundary Expansion. (February 2015 by The Lakota Group)
- National Register of Historic Places Thematic Survey of Springfield's African-American Community, and The Central East Neighborhood, Springfield, Illinois. (October, 2018 by Fever River Research).

Copies of all surveys are located at the Sangamon Valley Collection at the Lincoln Library. It is the intent of the Historic Sites Commission to continue to apply for grants to conduct surveys as appropriate within the city.

The most recent architectural survey undertaken by Fever River Study, "National Register of Historic Places Thematic Survey of the African-American Community of Springfield, and Central East Neighborhood, Springfield, Illinois," found 37 architecturally significant properties within City Limits. The Historic Sites Commission unanimously voted in March 2019 to put 11 out of the 37 properties on the demolition delay list. While the 11 properties are additionally being considered by the Commission for local landmark status, the remaining 26 properties are being considered to be added to the demolition delay list.

Landmarking

The Springfield Historic Sites Commission continues to promote participation, interest and public awareness, as well as the benefits of landmarking properties. The Commission continually seeks ways to increase the number of properties on the local register.



Design Review

The Design Review Committee approved four changes to the exterior design of properties that were either landmarked or located within one of the Historic Zoning Districts, as required by ordinance. The properties that were reviewed include 1441 Monument Avenue (Oak Ridge Cemetery) a Local and National Landmark Historic Site, which was approved for fence replacement; 425 S. 4th Street (Constant and Groves Chevrolet Dealership), a Local Landmark, was approved to replace exterior doors, uncovering of original window, and rooftop equipment removal/installation; and 600 S. 4th Street, a property located within Historic Zoning District 2 (H-2) had two Certificate of Approvals; the first approval was in November 2019 for removing and restriping the existing parking lot lines, and the second approval was in December 2019 for exterior stair renovation.

Zoning

The Commission also works with the City's Building & Zoning Department to review petitions for rezoning or conditional permitted uses for properties in the City's three Historic Zoning Districts. The Commission did not review or hear any such petitions in the year of 2019.

Summary of Commission Activities/Accomplishments:

- Identified 11 additional potential structures of architectural significance from Springfield's African-American Community, which have been added to Demolition Delay List
- Provided design review for structures that are locally landmarked, located in the downtown historic district or located in one of the City's three historic zoning districts.
- Maintained the SHSC website to include image and narrative of every landmarked property in the community.
- Collaborated with Springfield's Department of Building & Zoning to protect historic and potentially historic structures.
- Coordinated with the Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission on potential impact to historic properties that are NOT within City Corporate Limits, such as the Camp Butler Cemetery Gravesite Expansion Request, a National Register District.

Commission's Community Involvement

The Commission as a whole, in addition to its individual commissioners, was involved with a variety of preservation efforts and with neighborhood groups and civic associations that focus on preservation issues.

Website

The Springfield Historic Sites Commission's website is maintained through the City's Office of Planning & Economic Development. The website currently offers Landmarking application, Map of Springfield Historic Districts, Historic Sites Gallery, as well as financial assistance and incentives for rehabilitating and restoring Springfield's architectural treasures. The Commission is in the process of creating an interactive historic sites map for all properties that have historic significance.



Community Relations

Public Input. The Commission values input by groups with common interests and has welcomed volunteers to assist in our projects. The Mayor and the Aldermen are always welcome to participate as guests of the Commission to help further the message of historic preservation.

The Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office, Bonnie Drew, attended a meeting of the Historic Sites Commission to recommend HSC Liaison Staff review the demolition delay list and continue preserving historic assets in Springfield. The Building & Zoning Department collaborated with HSC Staff to provide permit materials and documentations to the Historic Sites Commission.

The demolition delay list is updated annually by the Office of Planning & Economic Development. The eligibility requirements for the properties on this list include:

- City of Springfield designated landmark;
- Properties within the City of Springfield on the Illinois Historic Landmark Survey list;
- Properties within the City of Springfield on the National Register;
- Historically significant buildings or structure identified by other lists and inventories that are conducted under the auspices of the federal, state or City of Springfield governments.
- Historically significant buildings or structure identified by other lists and inventories that use a methodology approved and certified by the Historic Sites Commission and/or the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; and
- Historically significant buildings or structure identified by other lists and inventories that specifically identifies buildings and structures eligible for landmarking under local, state and federal law.



Current Historic Sites Commission Members and Staff

In 2019, an ordinance was introduced to amend Chapter 101 of the Municipal Code of the Historic Sites Commission to reduce the number of Commissioners from 15 to 11, and the quorum from 8 to 6. The Commission consists of eleven voting members appointed by the Executive Assistant to the Mayor, subject to City Council approval.

David Steckel, Chairman (*IL Registered Architect*)
Aaron Schroeder, Vice Chairman (*General Public*)
Molly Berns (*Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission*)
Craig Colbrook, J.D. (*General Public*)
Stephanie Do (Realtor/Broker)
Lindsay Evans (*Attorney*)
Peggi Gant (*General Public*)
Lakeisha Purchase (*General Public*)
Myrel Simmons (*General Public*)
Ernie Slottag (*Historical Society Member*)
Don Walton (*IL Registered Architect*)

Staff

Mesfin Lenth, City of Springfield Liaison to the Historic Sites Commission

Commission members have had the privilege of representing the City of Springfield in 2019. We appreciate the Mayor and the City Council for their support and interest in the Historic Sites Commission activities.

SPRINGFIELD HISTORIC SITES COMMISSION

Office of Planning and Economic Development
Address: 800 East Monroe, Springfield, IL 62701
Phone: 217.789.2377

Email: info.OPED@springfield.il.us

City Historic Preservation Website: <https://www.springfield.il.us/Departments/OPED/Preservation.aspx>