

Rockford Historic Preservation Commission
August 24, 2005
12:00 PM
Rockford City Hall, Conference Room CD

MEMBERS PRESENT: Valerie Olafson, Frank St. Angel, Laura Bachelder, Scott Sanders

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alderman Doug Mark, Jeanne Ludeke, Sally Faber

STAFF: Ginny Gregory, Christine Sledge

PUBLIC HEARING

◆ **Nomination of Garrison School, 1105 North Court Street, to the National Register of Historic Places**

The Public Hearing was called to order by Chairman Valerie Olafson. As author of the National Register nomination, she presented a slide show along with a brief narrative. She said that Garrison School, located at 1105 North Court Street in Rockford, consists of three distinct structures. The original Garrison School, designed by George Bradley and Son in 1887, is the two-story west façade. The first addition was made to the building in 1892, also designed by George Bradley. In 1920 the gymnasium building was added to the campus, designed by the firm of Peterson and Johnson. The 1969 pod addition was designed by Orput & Orput. The two school structures are the only buildings on the south end of the block. They sit on the west half of the lot with an open field on the east side. The period of significance for the site is 1887-1950, which makes the 1969 addition a non-contributing element.

She continued, stating that Garrison School is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its local significance for the educational system of a rapidly growing Midwest city and as a representation of a significant aspect of the history of Rockford. The original 1887 part of Garrison School is the oldest remaining building of our school system and is representative of the time when our school system was in its infancy.

The school was designed by George Bradley and Son. The firm is a Rockford institution now known as Bradley & Bradley. George Bradley designed not only the original 1887 structure but also the 1892 addition.

With no comments or questions from those in attendance, the Public Hearing was closed by Chairman Olafson at 12:22 pm.

The meeting was called to order at 12:25 pm by Chairman Valerie Olafson.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made by Scott Sanders to approve the minutes of July 20, 2005. The motion was seconded by Laura Bachelder and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4-0.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS:

◆ **417 S. 2nd Street**

Valerie pointed out that applicant Luis Villegas had attended the meeting on August 17, 2005 regarding his application for a picket fence. She gave a brief overview from that meeting. [Due to lack of a quorum, no official action was taken at the earlier meeting.] Val said that the pickets needed to be moved to the outside and evenly spaced. Ginny said she took pictures of the fence after the meeting of 8-17-05 and it appears to be fine. It looks like the little boards between the pickets have been removed and all the boards are on the outside as required. There was some concern that removal of the small boards may have created spaces that are too large. Frank pointed out that spacing has to at least equal the width of the boards, and Scott said at least 50% or greater, so the fence meets HPC guidelines. Ginny will send a letter to Mr. Villegas along with a picture saying that fence is ok as is.

Val said he asked about replacing hurricane doors but there was some difficulty in getting a clear understanding of precisely what he wanted to do. Ginny said that she could not get a picture clearly showing the doors, so it could be ok because it could not be seen. Val said that he wanted to put up a shed roof. Ginny said to change the roof he will need a Certificate. Val said that siding would have to match existing and a new roof would need to have the same profile of the roof right next to it. The consensus was that Mr. Villegas should bring in a new application for the roof since no one was clear on what he wanted to do. Ginny will check to see if someone from the City who speaks Spanish can be at the next meeting. A **MOTION** was made by Scott Sanders to approve the fence as is, seconded by Frank St. Angel and **CARRIED** by 4-0.

Ginny indicated that she would send a letter to Mr. Villegas along with the Certificate to tell him of the need for an application for changing the door he mentioned at the last meeting, and will ask for someone who can serve as an interpreter to attend the meeting as well.

◆ **922 C Street**

Valerie said that the applicants Philip & Susan Friske had also attended the meeting on August 17, 2005 regarding their application for ornamental fencing. She said the discussion from the last meeting was that they would like to continue with the ornamental to the public right-of-way, which would be Cosper. Val said that would be the alteration just where there is one section of chain-link. What would be seen on both street views would be the ornamental fencing rather than the chain-link. Val said that the ornamental would need to go all the way to the lot line.

Frank St. Angel made a **MOTION** to approve application with the following changes: that the north and east fence line be ornamental fencing and the west and south black-coated chain link or ornamental. On the north fence line, a swing-gate or a removable section can be used for access to the area. Laura Bachelder seconded the motion and **CARRIED** by 4-0.

◆ **Recommendations to IHPA regarding National Register nomination of Garrison School**

Scott Sanders made a **MOTION** to recommend approval for this nomination because it is worthy based on Criteria A as the oldest surviving school in Rockford, and as the work of a notable early local architectural firm that still exists today. The motion was seconded by Laura Bachelder and **CARRIED** by a vote of 3-0-1. Valerie Olafson, author of the nomination, abstained from voting.

◆ **Set Public Hearing Date for Petition to Withdraw from Brown's Hills/Knightsville Historic District**

The public hearing date was set for the start of the next meeting, September 13, 2005.

OLD BUSINESS

◆ **Survey of Barber-Colman Site**

The survey of Barber-Colman being done by Granacki Historic Consultants was discussed at the last meeting. The consensus was that changes suggested by Scott and Ginny were ok and that no further discussion is needed.

◆ **Staff Report**

Ginny said that our night-time maintenance supervisor pointed out a significant problem with the banners installed in Haight Village. Ginny took pictures and it shows that the part of the hardware extends from the banner at eye level and appears dangerous. She will send a letter to Lori Gustafson, head of the neighborhood association, saying they need to cut down the hardware to match the size of the banner and also refer them to Public Works.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Sledge
Senior Clerk