

Rockford Historic Preservation Commission

2010 Annual Report

Over the course of 2010, the Rockford Historic Preservation Commission continued its role of reviewing renovation work in local historic districts and landmarks primarily. In addition to the usual review work, the commission took part in a legal workshop given by staff and monitored a handful of properties with violations. Mid-year new staff was introduced to the commission and the later half was spent working through the process with the newly formed organization. Specific Commission activities over the past year included:

- Review of 23 requests for Certificates of Appropriateness
- Review of 1 request for Application for Economic Hardship
- Attendance of the Commission Legal Workshop
- Review of 106 review projects with the City of Rockford
- Updated application forms for landmarks and historic districts; and
- Presentation to the Rockford Historical Society.

Here in more detail is our year in review.

Cases Reviewed

Rockford's Historic Preservation Ordinance requires that a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) be issued by the Preservation Commission before any changes may be made to the exterior of locally designated properties. Of the 23 applications for Certificates submitted to the Commission in 2010, 18 were approved, 3 were denied, and 2 withdrawn. The denials were for applications for demolition of a single-family home, detached multi-family garage, and for window replacements with vinyl exterior rather than wood. Of the 23 applications, 8 were from Brown's Hills/Knightsville, 8 from Haight Village, 2 from Indian Terrace, 1 from the Peacock Brewery, and the remaining 4 for individual landmark sites. Here are the highlights on an application reviewed by the Commission.

Tinker Swiss Cottage (411 Kent Street) Several updates and reviews have been made to the Tinker Swiss Cottage over the years through the process of Certificate of Appropriateness. The Cottage, a local landmark, consists of a museum and surrounding grounds which was originally constructed in 1869 and designated as a landmark in 1983. The updates and construction that took place in 2010 included an elaborate accessible walkway along the grounds and the installation of a decorative handrail along the limestone entrance at the east access.

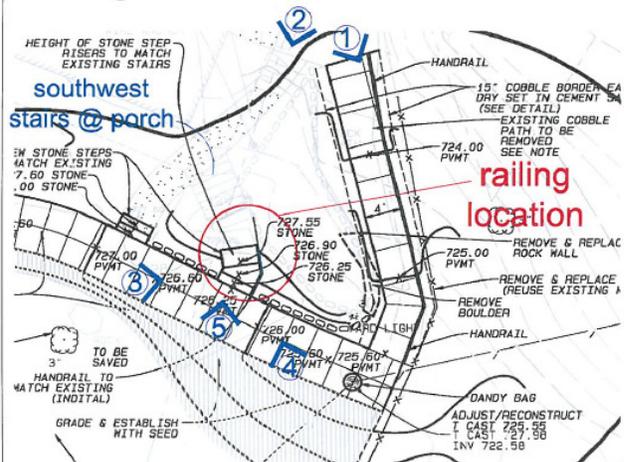




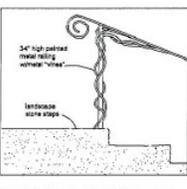




Existing Condition Photos



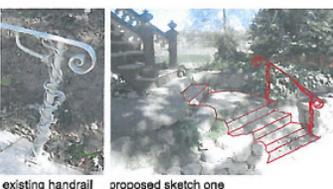
Stone Steps Location



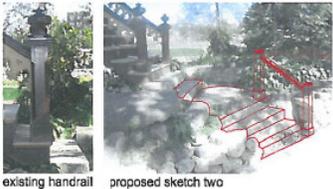
1 Metal Handrail Character
SCALE: 1-1/2" = 1'-0"



3 Wood Handrail Character
SCALE: 1-1/2" = 1'-0"



existing handrail proposed sketch one



existing handrail proposed sketch two

Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum
Rev 0/nd, 1/10/20

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Local Designations

The Commission did not receive any applications for new local landmarks or historic districts in 2010.

Surveys

No new areas were surveyed in 2010.

Monitoring

A number of sites were continued to be monitored over the 2010 year. One site in particular was the Chick House which underwent some renovation work to stabilize the front of building. Additional monitoring continues to involve proposals for redevelopment of properties already listed on the National Register, such as the Barber-Colman Industrial Complex. In 2010 staff completed an Illinois HABS report on three buildings in the Barber-Colman Complex prior to two of the structures being demolished as part of the redevelopment of the site.

Other Commission Activities

Staff worked closely on several projects to establish and guide the redevelopment of areas throughout the City in need of repairs. This included preparing submittals to IHPA for Section 106/707 review of proposed projects in the River Edge Redevelopment Zone; submitting a letter to IHPA supporting the redevelopment of the area for the new Amtrak station; and working with IHPA to develop a Memorandum of Agreement for the newly City acquired Ziock (Amerock) building.

Violations No new properties were found in violation in the year of 2010; however the outstanding violations on the five houses in the 400 block of Kishwaukee Street, part of the Haight Village Historic District, were brought to a close. The exception – the demolition of a detached multi-family garage without the approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness – is still up for discussion and has been forwarded onto legal staff for action.

Training in 2010 Ginny Gregory and Jessica Roberts attended the Historic Preservation Commission Seminar in June 2010. Jessica Roberts attended the Preservation Training Matters, Historic Preservation Workshop in October 2010.

Commission Members as of January 2011

Janna Bailey (Member of a Historical Society)

Maureen Flanagan (Open Position)

Ald. Doug Mark (Member of City Council)

Vickie Krueger (Realtor)

Scott Sanders (Landscape Architect)

Mark McInnis (Resident of a Local Historic District)

David Hagney (Licensed Architect)