



PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
 VOLUME 23 SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 2003 NUMBER 5

Focus On: HAARGIS

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) is now offering HAARGIS—not the traditional Scottish delicacy—a computer database that serves up a full plate of information about Illinois’ historic resources. The mission to restore, retain, and document the state’s built heritage has yielded many visible results, in the form of thoughtfully restored and adapted historic structures. But managing the documentation has been a bigger challenge—until now. The Historic Architecture and Archaeology Geographic Information System, HAARGIS, for short—is a new tool that has been developed by IHPA to manage information about the historic and prehistoric properties that it is charged to protect. And there is an abundance of data on the state’s historic resources.

While the preservation of our nation’s cultural resources is a rewarding task, managing the pertinent information can be daunting. As the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Preservation Services Division of IHPA oversees the various federal and state initiatives and laws regarding historic preservation in Illinois. One of these laws requires that the SHPO maintain an inventory of properties with historic, architectural, and/or archaeological significance. As a result, three state-wide surveys were conducted in the 1970s, and until recently, that survey information was retrievable only in its original paper form. Communities also conducted surveys over the years and filed copies of their results with our office. A single property may have been picked up in several surveys, and may also have information from a nomination and subsequent listing in the National Register of Historic Places. As a result, staff members (and the public) spent a tremendous amount of time locating information on properties in order to make informed decisions about preservation efforts.

| PROPERTY INFORMATION REPORT | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Name / Location | | | |
| Significant Name: School Building | Other Name: | | |
| Location: 44 E. Main St. | Vicinity: N | Archaeology Comp.: | |
| City: Champaign | Pin: | Reference Number: 210113 | |
| County: Champaign | | | |
| Property Listings | | | |
| This property is listed in the National Register | | | |
| This property is within a CLG | | | |
| CLG: 7 | Tax Freeze: | TRA: | Comments: |
| National Register Information | | | |
| Significant Criteria: | C | | |
| Criteria Considerations: | None | | |
| Multiple Property Listing: | None | | |
| Areas of Significance: | Period of Significance—Begin Date: | Period of Significance—End Date: | |
| Architecture | 1916 | 1916 | |
| Property Category: | Non-Contributing | | |
| Contributing Buildings = 1 | Buildings = 0 | | |
| Sites = 0 | Sites = 0 | | |
| Structures = 0 | Structures = 0 | | |
| Objects = 0 | Objects = 0 | | |
| Totals = 1 | Totals = 0 | | |
| Owner Type: | Acquire: | NR Certification No: | Date Entered in f |
| Private | <1 | 9000024 | 07/2/99 |
| Data Entry Notes: | | | |
| Surveys of Property | | | |
| View Acknowledgment/Disclaimer | | | |
| Survey Type: | National Register Application | Date of Survey: 10/1995 | |
| Survey Prepared For: | Architect, Historic Preservation Consultants | | |
| Survey Prepared By: | Alice E. Noveck, Karen L. Kummer | | |
| Opinion Of Significance: | Opinion Of Condition: | Opinion Of Integrity: | |
| Survey Type: | Structure | Date of Survey: 1973-1975 | |

| Survey Prepared For: | Opinion Of Condition: | Opinion Of Integrity: |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| Survey Prepared By: | | |
| Opinion Of Significance: | | |
| 0 (Structure survey only) | | |
| Property Details | | |
| Unit Ext: 1 | Category: building | Arch Class: Classical Revival, Commercial |
| Current Function: Commercial/Trade - professional | Condition: | Integrity: |
| Historic Function: Commercial/Trade | Roof Material: Asphalt | Other Material: Terra Cotta |
| Wall Material: Brick | Builder: English Brothers | |
| Foundation Material: Concrete | | |
| Architect: Temple, Henry Roberts | | |
| Data Entry Notes (Unit): | Begin Year: 1916 | End Year: 1916 |
| Original or most significant construction | | Mod: |
| Data Entry Notes (Date): | | |
| Photographs | | |
| | | |
| PhotoDate: 5/8 slide | PhotoDate: 5/8 slide | PhotoDate: 5/8 slide |
| LocOfOrig: 23347 | LocOfOrig: 23342 | LocOfOrig: 23340 |
| PhotoID: 23347 | PhotoID: 23342 | PhotoID: 23340 |

Sample inventory sheets for Lincoln Building, Champaign as found on HAARGIS.

Some questions could not realistically be answered using the paper survey forms: How many brick Queen Anne style houses are there and where are they located? What buildings in Illinois were built during the Lincoln era? How many old railroad stations still exist, and what are they now being used for? What National Register properties are located within a floodplain?

In 2000, IHPA initiated a project to computerize survey information about Illinois’ historic architectural and archaeological properties in response to these needs. Its main objective is to provide rapid access to survey data so staff members can more easily and efficiently use this information as the basis for decision making in managing preservation programs. With funds provided by a special

legislative initiative in 2001, the project expanded to include a geographic information system (GIS) component, and HAARGIS was born. The new database includes not only the survey data about properties and historic districts, it also puts the location of those properties on a map. And it identifies on the same map other spatial features that place historical properties in their geographical context. These spatial features include streets and roads; county and municipal boundaries; section, range, and township lines; waterways; railroads; floodplains; high probability archaeology areas; federal lands; and House and Senate district boundaries. Accompanying topographical map images and aerial photographs can be used as a background to those map features.

To date, data and scanned photographs and background documentation for almost 78,000 buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts in Illinois has

been logged into HAARGIS. These properties were surveyed either as part of a National Register nomination, or through the Illinois Historic Structures Survey, the Illinois Landmarks Survey, the Illinois Department of Transportation's Historic Bridge Survey, and the Chicago Historical Resources Survey. This phase of the project should be completed by July 2003. Remaining tasks include entering information from the Illinois Rural Survey and from ninety-five separate "community" surveys done by local preservation groups. The program is accessible now, and new data will be added continually.

HAARGIS Three Ways

Three applications of HAARGIS have been created for varied users: a Web application on the Internet for the general public (due to be launched in early- to mid-March 2003. The URL of the site will be <http://gisinternet.hpa.state.il.us/hargis>); a Web application on our local area network for our staff users; and an enhanced application utilizing ESRI's ArcGIS software for staff who require advanced spatial analysis capabilities. These applications all draw from the same geodatabase (a database that includes map features, or spatial data), but each one is customized for its intended audience.

The Web application on the Internet gives users a map of Illinois and a map tool to zoom into an area for a closer look at the properties that have been identified as historically significant. Properties that are on the National Register are red; properties determined eligible for the National Register are blue; properties within a National Register historic district are orange, and properties that do not have formal National Register status are green. NRHP historic districts are identified as a green hatch polygon. Other map tools enable the user to zoom out, and to pan (move the map around to get a better view). There are shortcut tools to jump to the full statewide extent, and to return to a previous extent. The "select" tool highlights properties for further study.

Selected properties appear in a list below the map display. They are arranged first by county, then by city, then alphabetically by street name. If a property has a name by which it is known, that name is listed as well. The "identify" link on the left of the row places a star on the map to identify the property if necessary. The "report" link opens another window and contains collated survey information about the property, including photo-

graphs. The following list describes the type of information that is contained within the report:

- name(s) of the property
- location—address, city, and county
- local tax ID number

National Register status, and if listed, additional details about its listing (Certification number and date, Significant criteria and criteria considerations for listing, Multiple Property Listing, if applicable, Area of significance, and dates, number of contributing and non-contributing buildings, sites, structures, and objects on the property, Acreage)

Information about the surveys in which the property was reviewed (name, surveyor name, date, and their opinion of significance, condition, and integrity of the building). For properties with NRHP nominations, Landmarks surveys, and Community surveys, we have scanned the applications into Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format and made those available from the report through a hotlink.

Details about each individual item on the property. These details include the following:

- Category (building, structure, object, site, district)
- Architectural class
- Current and historic functions
- Wall, foundation, roof, and other materials used in construction
- Architect and builder
- Significant dates (construction, renovation)

A sampling of photos contained in IHPA files, including the location of the original, and the date of the photo.

Users can use shortcuts to jump to a specific county or municipality. Another shortcut selects National Register properties within a county or municipality. The Advanced Search dialogs help users identify properties based on the characteristics that we have entered into the geodatabase. A query builder gives users the flexibility to create their own queries, which gives them unlimited searching capability.

The version of HAARGIS that is available to Preservation Services staff includes all of the above features, plus it links architectural site visits, grants received, covenants, tax freeze or tax credits received, and other programmatic reviews to a specific property. Staff no longer must chase each other down in the halls to tap our "institutional memory." This version also provides a vehicle to store staff comments about a property to further help in coordinating our efforts.

HAARGIS and Local Preservation Efforts

With HAARGIS, the IHPA can also serve as a state-wide repository for local preservation efforts by making their data available on the Web. There are fifty-two Certified Local Governments (CLGs) in Illinois that have passed preservation ordinances. The IHPA is currently working with these CLGs to include their local landmarks and historic districts in HAARGIS. Many of them lack the resources to computerize their surveys or to make them available to those who would benefit from them—local historians, educators, community planners, local commerce leaders, builders, and developers. Others have them in electronic form, but there is no uniformity between municipalities. By adding the local landmarks, districts, and full community surveys into HAARGIS, we will not only help preservation on a state-wide basis, but on a local level.

Maintaining HAARGIS

While building HAARGIS has been an enormous effort, maintaining it will be an enormous and *continuous* effort. We know that the data entered from the surveys done in the 1970s is out of date—we also know that some of the properties we have included are probably gone now. In a perfect world, we would have completely resurveyed the state and built HAARGIS using only the most current information. In our real world where we have to factor in time and money, however, we entered the best data we had—and now we must take steps to correct it as we can and add to it as new data becomes available. The software we are using is coming out with a "disconnected editing" feature, so we can extract a geographical piece of the database onto a portable computer and Global Positioning System (GPS) unit, and take the data into the field to update it. When finished, we can bring it back to the office and feed the updated version back in the database. We hope to get local groups involved in this effort and provide grants to CLGs to do this updating. Like all information management systems, it will only be as good as the data it contains. As such a critical tool to our preservation programs, though, the effort is well worth it.

This article was written by Martha L. Benner, Survey Computerization Manager, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. It was first printed in the April, 2003 issue of HISTORIC ILLINOIS.

From the President's Desk

Welcome to our new board member. Greg Clark joined our board in September, fulfilling the unexpired term of Trevor Jones. Greg is employed by R.R. Donnelley in Mattoon, as the Environmental Health and Safety Officer. He has helped on a number of salvage operations, including one trip to Danville Area Community College to move marble from the restrooms. He brings to the board his experience in encouraging safe work practices, which will carry over to how we conduct our salvage operations. Greg will also strengthen our ties in the Charleston - Mattoon area to expand our salvage opportunities and also encourage historic preservation in these communities.

PACA goes to the Theater

The next time you go a live theater performance in the Champaign-Urbana area, some of the props you see on the stage may have been borrowed from our salvage warehouse. The Celebration Company, which performs at the historic Station Theater, is currently using radiators, a bulletin board, and an old fan. Earlier this summer they used a kitchen sink in a production. The C-U Theater group, the resident performers of the Virginia Theater, has used material from our warehouse. The theater departments at Parkland and University of Illinois have also borrowed items for many their productions. My favorite borrowed item was a large urinal used in a play at the Kranert Center a few years ago. We encourage you to support local theater.

Annual Volunteer Recognition Party

The party was held on Columbus Day weekend, which marks the approximate



Membership and Volunteer Recognition Party, October, 2003.

date when we purchased the warehouse in the fall of 1998. PACA honored 20 volunteers who have contributed countless hours keeping the salvage operation going strong and the warehouse running smoothly. This year we thank Radio Maria for providing the beverages and Chevys Fresh Mex Restaurant for chips and salsa. As in the past, the food was catered by Longhorn Smokehouse.

Doings at the Warehouse

With no fanfare, PACA recorded its first credit card sale on September 6. The Salvage Committee had been discussing adding the convenience of credit card sales for sometime. Thanks to Treasurer Lou Simpson, the system was set up very quickly and has worked extremely well. We hope our customers, especially from outside the area, will take advantage of this new feature at the warehouse.

In mid-August work began on the side yard at PACA. This involved moving, recycling, and burning of unwanted materials. Steve Pankau, Pankau Masonry, added concrete pads to the east side of our building and on the south side of the Myer's building that adjoins our lot. With concrete poured, we were able to con-

struct proper frames for storage of slate black boards and restroom marble. Some of this material had been damaged in the past, in part due to improper storage. The center area of the lot is now clear, and will soon be graded and a proper surface material added. We hope this work will enhance the appearance of this busy intersection, and make finding items easier.

A Sad Note

Joan Severns recently passed away. Joan served on the PACA Board from 1984-1991, and was president in 1987 and 1988. Joan was active in historic preservation even before PACA was formed and was instrumental in saving the 1857 Cattle Bank during her term as Mayor of Champaign. She also was a major fund raiser and promoter of PACA's restoration of the Greek Revival Cottage in the mid-1980s. Even after her term on the board, she was always available for advice and council and continued to participate in PACA activities. Her wit and wisdom will be missed. The PACA Board has made a contribution to the Lachlan Blair Preservation Education Fund in her name.

Rich Cahill, PACA President

P.A.C.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

- Adult \$15
- Student \$10
- Senior Citizen \$10
- Family \$20
- Corporate \$75

Additional Contribution _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PACA

TYPE

- New _____
- Renewal _____

PACA

Box 2575, Station A
Champaign, IL 61825

WWW.PACACC.ORG
217 359 7222

INFORMATION:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

PACA Presents Heritage Grants

Last May, in honor of Historic Preservation Week, PACA awarded six grants to area non-profit groups for various preservation projects. A total of \$7401 was dispersed. By Board decision, at least 10% of the preceding year's salvage proceeds is given back to the local community in the form of Heritage Grants. To date, over \$35,000 has been granted to area preservation and conservation-related projects. Grants in 2003 were given to:

University YMCA, \$1500, to tuck point sections of their historic building.

Channing-Murray Foundation, \$1000, to repair/tuck point two chimneys on their historic church.

Edison Middle School, \$687, to purchase a digital camera, flash card, carrying case, and tripod for a historic building digitization school project.

Dr. Howard School, Enrichment Program, \$720, to supply buses for field trips for the Structures Curriculum Program.

Center for the Study of Art and

Architecture and Yankee Ridge School,

\$1494, to complete ArchiTeacher website and curriculum and provide transport for school architecture field trip.

Orpheum Children's Science Museum, \$2000, for energy saving window project.

Next year's award applications will be available in February with awards announced in May.

**HISTORY OF C-U'S
HISTORIC THEATERS
MONDAY, NOV. 24
7:30 PM
ORPHEUM CHILDREN'S
SCIENCE MUSEUM
FREE**

PACA Newsletter

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New & Renewing Memberships

(received since the last newsletter)

Charter Members (1981-1983)

Mr. & Mrs. George A. Miley
James & Mare Payne

Over Ten Year Members

Melanie & Chris Hill
Marjorie & Jack Richmond
Craig & Rose Grant
Sheryl & Joe DeBarr
Catherine Barbercheck
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(Norman & Carolyn Baxley) (Corporate)

Five to Ten Year Members

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