



**KENDALL COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Plano Masonic Lodge • 5 ½ Main Street •

Plano, IL • 60545

(630) 553-4141

Fax (630) 553-4179

AGENDA

March 21, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Eric Bernacki (Vice-Chair), Elizabeth Flowers, Kristine Heiman (Secretary), Marty Shanahan, and Jeff Wehrli (Chair)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tour of the Masonic Lodge

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of Minutes of December 18, 2023, Meeting (Pages 2-8)

Approval of Minutes of January 17, 2024, Gathering (Pages 9-10)

Approval of Minutes of February 21, 2024, Meeting (Pages 11-15)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of a Proclamation Declaring May Historic Preservation Month (Page 16)
2. Review of Historic Preservation Award Applications; Commission Could Select Winner(s) (Page 17)
 - a. Chapel on the Green (Pages 18-34)
 - b. Susan Kritzberg (Pages 35-42)
 - c. Roger Matile (Pages 43-44)
 - d. Lisa Wolancevich (Pages 45-49)
 - e. Naperville Preservation, Inc. (Pages 50-52)
3. Discussion of 13860 Fox Road (Pages 53-63)

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of February 2024 Meeting with Historic Preservation Groups
 - a. Approval of Invoice for Food and Water in the Amount of \$49.50; Invoice to Be Paid from PBZ Department's Historical Preservation Line Item 11001902-63830 (Page 64)
 - b. Follow-Up Discussion on the Meeting
2. Discussion of Having Commission Meetings at Historic Locations in the County; Commission Could Determine Meeting Locations and Times
 - a. Henneberry Barn and Ashley Farm (Page 65)
 - b. Pickerill Pigot House for Summer Meeting with Historic Preservation Groups
3. Discussion of Historic Structure Surveys
4. Discussion of Native American Tribes Associated with Kendall County (Page 66)

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. December 28, 2023, Email from Edith Farnsworth House (Pages 67-69)
2. Proactive Historic Preservation and Adaptive Reuse in Chicago Event Flyer (Page 70)
3. Preservation Approaches for Cultural Landscapes Webinar (Pages 71-72)
4. Northern Illinois Regional History Conference (Page 73)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJOURNMENT: Next Meeting April 15, 2024

If special accommodations or arrangements are needed to attend this County meeting, please contact the Administration Office at 630-553-4171, a minimum of 24-hours prior to the meeting time.

**KENDALL COUNTY
Historic Preservation Commission
County Boardroom
111 W. Fox Street
Rooms 209 and 210 Yorkville, IL 60560
6:00 p.m.
December 18, 2023-Unofficial Until Approved**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jeff Wehrli (Chairman), Eric Bernacki, Elizabeth Flowers, Kristine Heiman, and Marty Shanahan

Absent: None

Also Present: Matt Asselmeier and Wanda A. Rolf

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Bernacki made a motion, seconded by Member Shanahan, to approve the agenda. With a voice vote of five (5) ayes, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Bernacki made a motion, seconded by Member Flowers, to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2023, meeting. With a voice vote of five (5) ayes, the motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of 2024 Historic Preservation Awards

Commissioners reviewed the press release and application for the awards.

The awards application window opens on January 12, 2024. Commissioners will discuss a list of potential nominees at the next meeting. Mr. Asselmeier stated that the following previously received awards: Chapel on the Green, LaSalle Manor, Howard Manthei, Historic Yorkville Jail and Sherriff's Residence, Beverly Casey, Lowell Mathre, and Stephenie Todd. Mr. Asselmeier stated the next meeting for Historic Preservation is on January 17, 2024. The window to accept nominations closes on February 28, 2024.

Commissioners discussed projects that were previously nominated, but did not receive awards, including Lyon Farm. It was noted that several nominees, such as the Ferndell Museum and the Misner Blacksmith Shop were still incomplete at the time of application submittal. Mr. Asselmeier will compile a list of nominees that did not receive awards in previous years. Chairman Wehrli asked if the historic commission can have Roger Matile come to one of our meetings as a guest. Mr. Asselmeier mentioned he would look into inviting Mr. Matile.

Discussion of 2024 Meeting with Historic Preservation Groups

Commissioners reviewed the list of invitees, save the date card, and letter to invitees.

Mr. Asselmeier stated that the “Save the Date Card” will include sentences regarding the nominees for the historic preservation awards and identifying the oldest structures and businesses in Kendall County. The “Save the Date Card” will be sent in January 2024.

Discussion of Historic Structure Surveys

Mr. Asselmeier stated the County Board approved Forty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$44,000) to survey unincorporated Na-Au-Say and Seward Townships. The grant window is expected to open in February 2024. The County Board is still waiting for a reimbursement check for the previous structure survey.

Discussion of Having Commission Meetings at Historic Locations in the County

Mr. Asselmeier reported that the below list are some of the locations the Commission could have tentative meetings:

United Plattville UPA hall is available for the January 17, 2024. They are still trying to find someone to speak on the history of the arsenal.

Plano Masonic Lodge is tentative for the March 2024 meeting.

Henneberry Barn and Ashley Farm have no insulation and meetings could be held in the spring or summer of 2024.

Pickerill Pigot House will be reserved after the Summer 2024 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

November 20, 2023, November 22, 2023, November 27, 2023, and November 30, 2023, Emails from Edith Farnsworth House

Commissioners reviewed the emails from Farnsworth House. There were four (4) emails sent in November. On December 18, 2023, another email was sent for the 2023 Annual Appeal.

Member Heiman asked if other counties have invited Kendall County Historic Preservation to their meetings. Mr. Asselmeier responded that geographically our neighboring counties are much larger than Kendall County and do not necessarily have the same types of meetings.

November 28, 2023, Federal Highway Administration and Illinois Department of Transportation Section 106 PA Development Notification Letter

Discussion occurred regarding notification of historic places. Chairman Wehrli asked about Lyon Farm receiving a Section 106 notification letter. Mr. Asselmeier stated that the Planning, Building and Zoning Department receives the Section 106 notification letters, but the Lyon Farm letter might have been sent before he started with Kendall County in January 2017.

Chairman Wehrli spoke about several old homes being torn down on Wolf’s Crossing and how this type of demolition can be prevented.

Chairman Wehrli discussed the possibility of inviting Native American Tribes to a future Commission meeting. Member Bernacki mentioned having a Native American Tribe do a presentation on historic traditions at one (1) of the meetings. Member Flowers asked to possibly contact Aurora University to see if they have a contact. Mr. Asselmeier will check with Larry Nelson and Fran Klaas to see if they have contacts with some of the Native American Tribes historically associated with the area.

December 4, 2023, Email from Landmarks Illinois

Commissioners reviewed the email which included nominations for the most endangered historic structures in Illinois.

December 2023 Edition of the Bell Tower

Commissioners reviewed the newsletter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Shanahan, to adjourn. With a voice vote of five (5) ayes, the motion carried. The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda A. Rolf
Administrative Assistant

Matt Asselmeier

From: Edith Farnsworth House <farnsworth@farnsworthhouse.org>
Sent: Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:45 PM
To: Matt Asselmeier
Subject: [External]You're Invited to be a Part of Our Future

CAUTION - This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

EDITH FARNSWORTH HOUSE

A site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Ignite, Engage, Transform, and Build with Us



Our Foundation for the Future is You!

Whether its **igniting** a passion for preservation, art, architecture, nature, and history; **engaging** new and diverse communities with programs, tours, and events; **transforming** lives through educational experiences leading to new discoveries; or **building** a bridge to the future by preserving and protecting this unique historic site, **we invite you to join us** as we strengthen our foundation and move forward into 2024.

IGNITE curiosity and passion through the arts with curated tours and special events.



ENGAGE on and offsite at one-of-a-kind events and community collaborations.



TRANSFORM through education, exploration, and discovery.



You're Invited to **BUILD** Our Future

In 2024 we look to diversify our audience by expanding school visits, developing specialized guided tour experiences, deepening outreach efforts through offsite programs and collaborations, encouraging nature exploration, and increasing sustainability initiatives while maintaining and improving the natural environment of this unique setting.

No gift is too small, and we appreciate everyone's support as we strive to meet our year-end fundraising goal.

We invite **YOU** to be an integral partner in achieving these plans.

[Donate Now](#)

Edith Farnsworth House | 14520 River Rd, Plano, IL 60545

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Sent by farnsworth@farnsworthhouse.org powered by



**KENDALL COUNTY
Historic Preservation Commission
United Plattville Association Hall 6617 Chicago Road
Yorkville, IL 60560
(630)553-4141 Fax (630)553-4179
6:00 p.m.
January 17, 2024-Unofficial Until Approved**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Eric Bernacki and Jeff Wehrli (Chairman),

Absent: Elizabeth Flowers, Kristine Heiman, and Marty Shanahan

Also Present: Matt Asselmeier, Wanda A. Rolf, and Debbie Stadel

Due to the absence of a quorum, no meeting occurred.

DISCUSSION

Commissioners discussed the history of the Plattville Armory. Debbie Stadel stated that The Plattville Armory was established in July 1923 and burned down in 1946. Once the U.S. entered into WW1, many residents looked for ways to support the war effort. Charles Howell was unable to join the US military due to accidentally shooting off his index finger in his youth. Howell and his neighbors formed The Illinois Reserve Militia. The state's home guard. The group was organized as Company K Fifth Infantry. The United States Army provided Company K with a surplus military equipment. Over the years, Howell and his men established the Plattville Armory that can be a community center for the residents. In 1933, Bonnie and Clyde raided the Plattville Armory and stole a number of firearms including the powerful Browning automatic rifles. The weapons were since recovered. The US government sent a letter to the Plattville Armory asking for the weapons to be returned to the government. The weapons were picked up and brought back to Washington D.C. The Plattville Armory burned down in 1946 and was rebuilt as a VFW hall. The hall housed events for the community.

Mr. Asselmeier reported the press release for the nominations for historic preservation awards was sent out on January 12, 2024. It will be discussed at the meeting on February 21, 2024. The application for nominations is on the Kendall County website. The window to accept nominations closes on February 28, 2024.

Jon Pressley from the State of Illinois will be here to discuss preservation awards and the importance of landmarking a structure. The request to ask attendees about the oldest structure and oldest business in Kendall County has been added to the save-the-date.

Commissioners reviewed a list of Native American tribes provided by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Commissioners reviewed an email from Farnsworth House, a flyer regarding the Naperville Preservation Incorporated's Proactive Historic Preservation and Adaptive Reuse in Chicagoland event, and an email regarding the Preservation Approaches for Cultural Landscapes webinar hosted by WJE.

Attendees left at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda A. Rolf
Administrative Assistant

KENDALL COUNTY
Historic Preservation Commission
Historic Preservation Organization Meeting
Au Sable Presbyterian Church 5021 Wheeler Road
Yorkville, IL 60560
6:00 p.m.
February 21, 2024-Unofficial Until Approved

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Eric Bernacki called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Eric Bernacki (Vice Chair), Elizabeth Flowers, and Kristine Heiman

Absent: Marty Shanahan and Jeff Wehrli

Also Present: Matt Asselmeier, Wanda A. Rolf, Jon Pressley from the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (Via Zoom), Lisa Wolancevich from Kendall County Historical Society, Johanna Byram from Kendall County Historical Society, Todd Volker from Kendall County Economic Development, Ed Hatteberg from Norsk Museum, Jeff Farren from Chapel on the Green, Tina Beard from Oswego Heritage Association, Judy Wheeler from Oswego Heritage Association and Au Sable Presbyterian Church, Sharon Lowy from Chapel on the Green, Jill Morgan from City of Aurora, Ken Donart from Chapel on the Green, Susan Kritzberg from Chapel on the Green, Sarah Skilton from Oswego Public Library, Philip Buchanan from Naperville Preservation, Mary Lou Wehrli from Friends of the Green Barn and Naperville Preservation, and Jeanne Valentine from Plano Historical Society.

WELCOMING REMARKS

Elizabeth Flowers, Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission, welcomed the attendees and spoke about the importance of preserving historical places. Elizabeth Flowers and Eric Bernacki spoke about the historic places the Commission visited in Kendall County.

PRESENTATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LANDMARKING PROPERTIES

Jon Pressley, MA, RPA, Illinois Department of Natural Resources spoke about the importance of landmarking properties. Mr. Pressley stated that locally enacted and enforced ordinances are the most effective means of preserving cultural landmarks. Ordinances authorize a municipality or county government to create historic preservation commissions, create landmarks, and delay or deny proposed demolition permits. One (1) of the attendees asked if there was a website to obtain the Historical Preservation information and printable lists of historic places. Mr. Asselmeier responded to go to the website kendallcountyil.gov, click Departments, then GIS Portal, and then go to Planning, Building and Zoning. Click on the that says Zoning, click on it and click on Historic Features.

Mr. Pressley also spoke about The Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act. Section 707 requires state agencies to follow preservation protocols for projects receiving state funding. Mr. Pressley also spoke about Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which requires that each federal agency identify and assess the effects its actions may have on historic buildings. Under Section 106, each federal agency must consider public views and concerns about historic preservation issues when making final project decisions.

Mr. Pressley also stated that the window for Certified Local Government Grants would open in the summer.

PRESENTATION BY AU SABLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Judy Wheeler stated that, in 1846, like-minded people gathered together and wanted to have a place to meet. In 1848 a one (1) room school was built. Union School/Church was the social center and worship location for the people in the area. Then, in 1866, a stand-alone church was built. During harvest time, farmers took a small part of grain out to pay for the church. In 1959, the current sanctuary was built. Since then, there have been youth activities, missions, bible study, and generations of Au Sable Grove Presbyterian church members. Many of the nearby roads were named after the founders.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Tina Beard, with Oswego Heritage Association, spoke about history of The Chapel on the Green. Built in 1855, the Chapel is a charming historic venue for weddings. Many renovations have occurred including new floors and a new roof. The chapel has the original stained glass windows. The windows will need to be restored, which the church is working on currently. There is a memorial bench for Howard Manthei who was active in several organizations in the area including Chapel on the Green. Recently, the Chapel on the Green received a large collection of vintage wedding clothes, gowns and accessories dating between 1800 and 1930. Chapel on the Green was also recognized for its part in assisting those escaping from slavery through the Underground Railroad.

Tina Valentine, with the Plano Historic Museum, spoke about the fundraiser to restore the Chamber of Commerce's reaper, the 1883 Plano Manufacturing Harvester which appeared in parades for many years. The Plano Historic Museum is at 4 S. West Street and is open Saturdays from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. She also discussed the books that she wrote about the reaper.

Jill Morgan, with the City of Aurora, spoke about the major rehabbing of Copley Hospital Healthcare Center. Ms. Morgan also spoke about The Venue on Broadway. The Venue is a live music performance space in downtown Aurora, Illinois, with a two hundred (200) seat venue and outdoor stage when weather permits. She also discussed the impact of the River's Edge Tax Credit.

Ed Hatteberg, with the Norsk Museum, spoke about the how families can attend several museums for One Dollar (\$1) per family in LaSalle County through a passport system. The Norsk Museum is open to the public Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., June through September. The museum is located in the former Hauge Lutheran Church. The Norway Temperance Hall is listed on the National Register as a contributing building to the Norway Historic District. Built in 1909, by the Methodist Church, the Norway Temperance Hall served as a social and educational center in the community. It is currently on the list of Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois. He also discussed the upcoming bicentennial of the settlement of Norway.

Mary Lou Wehrli, with Naperville Preservation and Friends of the Green Barn and Oak Cottage, is an active advocate of public trails, local history, and historic preservation. She spoke about the Mayslake Peabody Mansion, an estate constructed as a country home for Francis Stuyvesant Peabody, a coal magnate, between 1919 and 1922. After Peabody's death during a fox hunt on the grounds, the property went to the Franciscan religious order of the Catholic Church. The legend says that Peabody's corpse had been preserved in formaldehyde and lay in state, suspended in a glass coffin on the altar of the little Portiuncula Chapel which is still on the grounds. Rumors spread and teenagers went to the grounds for a peek inside. If apprehended by the monks, the teens would be punished by kneeling on salt or broken glass, which was not true. Mr. Peabody is interred in a nearby cemetery. People who visit the property say it is haunted.

Lisa Wolancevich, with Kendall County Historical Society, stated that the mission of the Society is to aid in the preservation, renovation and economic promotion of historic buildings and sites in the Yorkville area, the Old Jail at 111 West Madison Street was one of them. A haunted house was held in the jail to help raise funds to

keep the building maintained. It was slated for possible demolition. There are now tenants in the building. The Kendall County Historical Society encourages new people to join in and help save the historical landmarks. She also discussed efforts to renovate the buildings on the Lyon Farm and various fundraisers.

Philip Buchanan, from Naperville Preservation Society, is a Project Manager in the Museum Exhibits industry. projects include the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, and The Great Train Story and Toymaker at the Museum of Science and Industry. He has worked in just about every large museum in the Chicagoland area.

DISCUSSION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Mr. Asselmeier reported that the application deadline for historic preservation awards is the end of the day on February 28, 2024. To date, the County has received five (5) applications.

DISCUSSION OF THE OLDEST BUILDING AND OLDEST BUSINESS IN KENDALL COUNTY

The Kendall County Record was considered the oldest continually operating business.

Discussion occurred regarding the stone barn that were used to house prisoners prior to the construction of a County jail and was used to hide from Native Americans.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Bernacki noted that the Commission had been holding meetings at various historic locations throughout the County.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Valentine asked about the changes to the Kendall County Recorder of Deeds Office's website. Mr. Asselmeier said that she should contact Recorder of Deed Debbie Gillette.

Discussion occurred about inviting Native American tribes to have educational events in the County.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Heiman, to adjourn. With a voice vote of three (3) ayes, the motion carried. The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda A. Rolf
Administrative Assistant

Enc.

**KENDALL COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
February 21, 2024**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED ON FUTURE MEETINGS REGARDING THIS TOPIC, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME	ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)	EMAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)
✓ Lisa Wolgreenich Kendall County Historical	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Johanne Byram Kendall Co. Historical Society	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
✓ Todd Volker Kendall County		
✓ Ed HATTEBERG Noosa Museum		
Jeff Farrow Chapel on the Green		
✓ Tina Beard Oswego Heritage Ass.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
✓ Judy Wheeler Oswego Heritage	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sharon Lowy Chapel on the Green	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

✓ Jill Morgan
City of Aurora

✓ Kent DeWart - Chapel on the Green

**KENDALL COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
February 21, 2024**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED ON FUTURE MEETINGS REGARDING THIS TOPIC, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME	ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)	EMAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)
✓ SUSAN KRITZBERG Chapel on the Green		
✓ SAMUEL SKELIN OSAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY		
✓ PHILIP BUCKHART NAPERVILLE PRESERVATION	NAPERVILLE, IL And Oak Cottage	
✓ MARY LOU WEHRLI Friends of the Greene Barn & Naperville Preservation		
Jeanne Valentine Plano Historical Society		

A PROCLAMATION
Declaring Historic Preservation Month in Kendall County, Illinois



WHEREAS, historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth and sustainable development, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride and maintaining community character while enhancing livability; and

WHEREAS, historic preservation is relevant for communities across the nation, both urban and rural, and for Americans of all ages, all walks of life and all ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, it is important to celebrate the role of history in our lives and the contributions made by dedicated individuals in helping to preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has shaped us as a people; and

WHEREAS, “*People Saving Places*” is a theme adopted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and embraced by Kendall County as we celebrate our historic built environment and work to preserve the places that matter to the citizens of our County; and

THEREFORE, the Board of Kendall County do proclaim May as National Preservation Month, and call upon the people of Kendall County to join their fellow citizens across the United States in recognizing and participating in this special observance.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD THIS 7TH DAY OF MAY, 2024.

Attest:

Matt Kellogg
County Board Chairman

Debbie Gillette
County Clerk

Award Ballot

- _____ Chapel on the Green
- _____ Susan Kritzberg
- _____ Roger Matile
- _____ Lisa Wolancevich
- _____ Naperville Preservation, Inc.

List 1 Through 5 with 1 Being the Highest

Annual Kendall County Historic Preservation Awards

A recognition of properties that have undergone recent exterior and/or interior preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use, or sympathetic additions as well as for people or groups that exhibit dedication to the field of historic preservation or for sites that possess importance to the history of Kendall County, State of Illinois, or the United States.

MAIL NOMINATION FORM TO:
Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission
111 W. Fox Street
Yorkville, IL 60560
EMAIL NOMINATION FORM TO:
Matt Asselmeier,
masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov

DEADLINE: February 28, 2024-4:00 pm
Street address: 107 W. Center St. Yorkville, IL 60560

Current property owner: Chapel on the Green NFP

Historic name and/or original owner (if known): Bristol Congregational Church

Current use: Wedding and Events Venue, community meeting place

Historic use: Church and Community center

Year built (if known): 1855

Year rehabilitated, renovated, restored (if known): Ongoing

Architectural style / form (if known): New England style church building

Reason for nomination: *Please provide a short description, between 50 and 500 words, explaining the project or person being nominated. The statement should clearly identify the purpose and scope of work, unusual challenges or innovative approaches, sensitive treatment of historic fabric, long-term impact and any other information that supports the nomination as being exceptional.*

Please see addendum and supporting documents

Images: *Please provide a minimum of five photographs or quality digital photographs in .jpg format on a CD ROM, flash drive, or by email highlighting the project. Before and after pictures are encouraged.*

Submitted by: Ken Donart and the chapel board

Phone: [REDACTED] **Email:** [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Addendum from Chapel on the Green, NFP

Annual Kendall County Historic Preservation Awards 2024

To: The Kendall County Preservation Commission

We realize the Chapel received a preservation award in 2019 but we feel so much has been done to restore, improve and preserve the building that we would apply for the 2024 award.

Please consider a visit to the chapel to see what we have accomplished.

1. We have had new carpet and wood flooring installed in the sanctuary. The old carpet had deteriorated, underneath was padding, another layer of carpet, plywood and then we assure wood planks. We wanted a historic feel which we accomplished with the wood. We could not get down to the planks.
2. To preserve the the original wood on the southern facade and steeple, both were scraped and a new coat of paint was applied.
3. On the west facade a new deck was built to cover the crumbling concrete extension from the basement. Materials and paint fit the 1953 addition where it is located. This was an Eagle Scout project by Ethan Dhuse.
4. Added landscaping features of a memorial bench and pavers, a new arbor behind a antique bench, [bench is probably from the 1900's] were installed. This was an Eagle Scout project by Matthew Zimmermann.
5. The exceptional accomplishment this year was recognition by The National Park Service as a site of the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. One of twenty-three new listings added internationally this year, we join over 740 locations that help to tell this story. This was accomplished after a year of research and over one hundred pages of information submitted by Susan Kritzberg. An informational display has been done inside the chapel to showcase this recognition.
6. We are now caretakers of a donated collection of antique wedding attire, vintage clothing and accessories. 21 cartons were received as a surprise from a collector in Indiana.

The collection has been cataloged and will be preserved. How we will use or how much will be retained is to be determined. The estimated value is over \$10,000.

Documents included with this application:

Underground Railroad documents. General information and a detailed history of the Chapel and

the connection to the UGRR.

An updated history of the chapel replacing the one the commission used before with corrections.

Today's Chapel on the Green (original "Bristol Congregational Church") was built in 1855 for a church society that was organized in 1836. The building's design was selected from a Book of Plans for Churches and Parsonages published in 1853 under the direction of the Central Committee at the General Congregational Convention held in New York in 1852. Local builder, Menzo W. Lane, constructed the wood frame building from hand hewn oak and walnut beams harvested from timber along the nearby Fox River for a total cost of \$900.

In 1920, the Yorkville (Bristol) Congregational church merged with the neighboring Bristol Baptist Church to form the "Yorkville Federated Church," utilizing the Congregational building for worship and the Baptist building for Sunday School and community activities. The Baptist church was torn down in 1947.

In the early 1950's, plans were made for the addition of a two story annex (including a full basement) to replace the 1900 single-room addition on the north side of the Congregational church. As part of the construction, the original church building was raised from its foundation and the shallow cellar below was replaced with a full concrete block basement to create a kitchen/reception area in the lower level. The two-story Heritage Hall addition provided needed space for Sunday School classes and other social and community activities. The Heritage Hall annex was constructed and dedicated in 1953. In 1959, due to declining Baptist membership, the congregation voted to dissolve the federation and affiliated with the Illinois Conference of Congregational Churches.

In 1987, the congregation voted to relocate to Countryside Center near the corner of Rt. 47 and Rt. 34 and build a new church in that location. Construction of the new church took place in 1989 and regular services began there in 1990. The old church was vacated and deeded to the Kendall County Historical Society for \$1.00. In 2010, the Historical Society removed its artifacts and the building was taken back by the Yorkville Congregational church. In 2011, the Chapel on the Green Historical Society, NFP was organized to maintain and preserve this historic structure and continues this responsibility to date.

Several key historic features of the Chapel building include the original Meneely Co. church bell, the fully-functional 1899 Hinners Pipe Organ, and original 1915 stained glass windows.

Today, the Chapel on the Green is best known as a charming wedding venue - also available for other life celebrations such as baptisms, memorial services, and funerals. It is the home of B.S.A. Troops 40 & 50, Treasure Breads gourmet baking company, Archi Spices, and the Kalico Kuilters quilting group. It houses the archives of the Kendall County Record newspaper, features a popular Bridal Fashion Museum, and is a center for cultural and educational programming.

In 2016 the Chapel on the Green was added to the National Park Service's *National Register of Historic Places*, and in 2023, was included in the new Site listings for its *National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom* program.

While many interior and exterior improvements have been addressed in recent years, future goals include stained glass window restoration, handicap accessibility to all levels, and the acquisition and installation of an Illinois Historic Marker to commemorate its significance as an Underground Railroad site.



NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM

On September 28, 2023 the Chapel on the Green (original 1855 Bristol Congregational Church) in Yorkville, Kendall County, Illinois was accepted into the National Park Service's *National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom* program.

The Bristol Congregational Church was one of 23 new listings from the 46th round of applications submitted in July of 2023, and these new listings join more than 750 sites, facilities, and programs in 14 states across the U. S. and the U. S. Virgin Islands already in the Network.

The NTF program, which was established in 1998, works to coordinate commemoration, preservation, and education regarding the history of the Underground Railroad. Focusing on “the resistance to enslavement through escape and flight,” the program has been “dedicated to preserving and commemorating stories of freedom for the past 25 years,” according to acting National Program Manager, Ka’mal McClarin. Collecting and recording the unique and diverse experiences and insight of freedom seekers and of the allies who assisted and supported them are core to the program’s goals.

Separate from the National Park Service’s *National Register of Historic Places* which recognizes structures and locations for their historical significance, the distinction of the *National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom* program ensures that sites, facilities, and programs listed as part of the network have been nominated, completed the application process, and have proven to have verifiable and documented association with the Underground Railroad.

Being listed as a member of the NTF offers a variety of benefits to the recipient including: prestigious national recognition, opportunities for networking, eligibility for NTF Grants, verification of documented association with the UGRR, and much more.



The Bristol Congregational Church and the Underground Railroad in Kendall County, IL

Before the abolition of slavery, a movement known as the Underground Railroad was established throughout the northern states to help enslaved African Americans escape north into free states and onward to Canada. Free black Americans, white Quakers, and other abolitionists were the original organizers of the Underground Railroad.

This system was built on the ability to pass freedom seekers along from one point of concealment to the next until they reached places of safety. Over time, a trustworthy chain was formed - a network of secret routes and safe houses where they were assured of a place to sleep and eat, warm clothing, guidance to the next location and protection along the way, if necessary. The Underground Railroad was made up of communities, cities, and farmhouses where "stations" were located five, ten, twenty, or even fifty miles apart, but all trending in one general direction - north to freedom.

The men and women who operated the organization of the UGRR were ministers, lawyers, doctors, teachers, farmers, and tradesmen - many of them prominent citizens in their communities. Driven by moral and religious convictions, they were steadfast and diligent in their work, but it was a dangerous service. Even though it was a free state, Illinois was far from a friendly place for fugitive slaves. Laws were harsh, feelings between proslavery and antislavery factions were bitter, slave hunters roamed, and it was often hard to know the true feelings of one's own neighbors. The secrecy of the UGRR protected not only the traveler, but also those assisting the freedom seekers on their journeys.

In Illinois most of the routes led to Chicago. During the height of activity (1840-1861), a large percentage of freedom seekers passing through Kendall County came from Missouri and, to a lesser degree, Kentucky, having entered from the western border of Illinois along the Mississippi River and continuing northeast along one of three "secret" trails starting at St. Louis, Alton, or Quincy. Those trails that converged at Ottawa, in neighboring LaSalle County, generally passed north through Kendall County. From there, all routes continued in a northerly or easterly

direction, often passing east through Plainfield, continuing north toward Wheaton and Downers Grove, or following the Fox River through such communities as Aurora, St. Charles, and Elgin.

As early as 1834, a Baptist Church society was founded in what would later become Kendall County, followed by others in 1844, 1848, and 1858. When the Bristol Congregational Church was organized in 1836, it was one of seven Congregational Church societies established in Kendall County between 1835 and 1858. The early settlers who established these Congregational societies came from the East with strong convictions on the sins of slavery and with intentions and plans to colonize the untamed west and establish their religious beliefs. Many were influenced by the religious teachings in Oneida, New York, where revivals were often held, and a training school for evangelists was established. With their Oneida influence, these Congregational Churches served as "the nucleus of the abolitionists, Anti-Slavery Society members, and the heart of the Underground Railroad" in our county. Congregationalists were sometimes referred to as "the stepping stones" of the UGRR.

It was a brave and risky undertaking to escape slavery, and freedom seekers embarked on a long and perilous journey. While the Underground Railroad was neither an actual *railroad* nor made up of *underground tunnels*, trains and tunnels might, at times, have been part of an escape route. Wagons and carriages were often modified with spaces for passengers to hide, and homes and barns had secret passages and hiding places, but the heart of the Underground Railroad was, in fact, the network of *people* - people secretly guiding and helping freedom seekers in whatever manner they could along their journey. These helpers were often referred to as "conductors," "agents," or "station-keepers," and the freedom seekers were known as "passengers, freight, or cargo."

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Rev. Heman Swift Colton was the first full-time pastor of the Bristol Congregational church. He was a dedicated and outspoken abolitionist from the East, and became an active member of the Underground Railroad in Kendall County. He was also integral in establishing the Lisbon and Aurora Congregational Churches. He and his wife remained life-long members of the Bristol community following his arrival in 1836.

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DR. (and MRS.) CALVIN WHEELER (1805-1876)

Dr. Wheeler, born in Hollis, New Hampshire, was one of the earliest residents of Bristol, where he was a respected physician for 40 years, and a valued member of the community. Dr. Wheeler and his wife were actively involved in the Underground Railroad, and their home on East Main Street was known as a station on the route through Bristol.

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Reverend Kendrick was a "Minister of the Gospel," and was Dr. Wheeler's older half-brother. He settled in Bristol a few years after Dr. Wheeler arrived, and served as pastor at the Bristol Congregational church in 1847. Wheeler family history notes that his home also served as a station for the UGRR.

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Mr. Johnson was the grown son of Elisha and Philene Johnson from Chautauqua County, New York who were charter members of the Bristol Congregational church in 1836, and he is also mentioned in the records of the Bristol Congregational church. Reuben was a farmer, making his home just north of Bristol at Jericho in Kane County. His farm was listed as a station on the UGRR in "*A Bicentennial History of Kendall County*" 1976. Historical references identify him as a Methodist, but he donated land and funds to build the Jericho church (Mount Prospect Free Mission Church) in 1855 which was considered to be a Congregational church, although it was occupied by the M.E. society for part of the time.

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Mr. Ament was associated with the Baptist church in Bristol. He was an early settler whose farm, located southeast of the village of Yorkville on the south side of the river, was listed as a station on the UGRR in "*A Bicentennial History of Kendall County*" 1976.

Jan. 2024/sk















Annual Kendall County Historic Preservation Awards

A recognition of properties that have undergone recent exterior and/or interior preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use, or sympathetic additions as well as for people or groups that exhibit dedication to the field of historic preservation or for sites that possess importance to the history of Kendall County, State of Illinois, or the United States.

MAIL NOMINATION FORM TO:
Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission
111 W. Fox Street
Yorkville, IL 60560
EMAIL NOMINATION FORM TO:
Matt Asselmeier,
masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov

DEADLINE: February 28, 2024-4:00 pm
Street address:

Chapel on th Green: Person

Current property owner:

nominated Susan Kritzberg

Historic name and/or original owner (if known):

Current President of Chapel

Current use:

on the Green NFP

Historic use:

N/A

Year built (if known):

work done 2022-2023

Year rehabilitated, renovated, restored (if known):

N/A

Architectural style / form (if known):

N/A

Reason for nomination: Please provide a short description, between 50 and 500 words, explaining the project or person being nominated. The statement should clearly identify the purpose and scope of work, unusual challenges or innovative approaches, sensitive treatment of historic fabric, long-term impact and any other information that supports the nomination as being exceptional.

See Attached

Images: Please provide a minimum of five photographs or quality digital photographs in .jpg format on a CD ROM, flash drive, or by email highlighting the project. Before and after pictures are encouraged.

Submitted by: Sharon Lowry Ken Donat

Phone: [Redacted] **Email:** [Redacted]

Address: [Redacted]

Please accept our nomination of Susan's work of two years to establish the connection of the Underground Railroad to the Bristol Congregational Church (now known as the Chapel on the Green). Her research proving the connection consisted of over 100 pages.

Attachments:

- 1) Acceptance from the National Park Service National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.
- 2) History of the Underground Railroad in Kendall County.

In July, following nearly two years of research, I submitted an application to the NPS National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom - nominating the original Bristol Congregational Church as a site on the Underground Railroad. The category that our nomination best fit was a "Church, with a Congregation Active on the UGRR." Our hope was to add a rich layer of history to the Chapel, and bring to light this fascinating period of American history right here in our own community. We were very proud to receive word in September that the nomination had been accepted! One of twenty-three new listings added internationally, we join over 740 locations that help to tell the story of the UGRR in America. A critical part of celebrating this fascinating history will be the acquisition of an IL Historical Marker to tell its story and identify the chapel as an Illinois landmark. Acquiring this marker will come at a hefty price - around \$6K. While we are confident that there is grant funding available, it often helps to have matching funds in place to show our dedication and sense of responsibility. We have met with professional grant-writer, Lisa Navarette, and her guidance will help ensure that we are as successful as possible in our appeal for funding of this project, and others that will benefit the Chapel.

Susan's Information:

Susan Kritzberg





NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM

On September 28, 2023 the Chapel on the Green (original 1855 Bristol Congregational Church) in Yorkville, Kendall County, Illinois was accepted into the National Park Service's *National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom* program.

The Bristol Congregational Church was one of 23 new listings from the 46th round of applications submitted in July of 2023, and these new listings join more than 750 sites, facilities, and programs in 14 states across the U. S. and the U. S. Virgin Islands already in the Network.

The NTF program, which was established in 1998, works to coordinate commemoration, preservation, and education regarding the history of the Underground Railroad. Focusing on “the resistance to enslavement through escape and flight,” the program has been “dedicated to preserving and commemorating stories of freedom for the past 25 years,” according to acting National Program Manager, Ka'mal McClarin. Collecting and recording the unique and diverse experiences and insight of freedom seekers and of the allies who assisted and supported them are core to the program's goals.

Separate from the National Park Service's *National Register of Historic Places* which recognizes structures and locations for their historical significance, the distinction of the *National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom* program ensures that sites, facilities, and programs listed as part of the network have been nominated, completed the application process, and have proven to have verifiable and documented association with the Underground Railroad.

Being listed as a member of the NTF offers a variety of benefits to the recipient including: prestigious national recognition, opportunities for networking, eligibility for NTF Grants, verification of documented association with the UGRR, and much more.



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EDWARD G. AMENT

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Matt,

Here is a short write up on Roger. Let me know if you need any more information.

Roger Matile moved to Oswego in 1954. Generations of his family had lived in the area, so he was already quite familiar with the land. In 1964, he graduated from Oswego High School before going on to attend Northern Illinois University.

He claims his love for writing began in 1976, when he and his wife, Sue, were members of the Kendall County Bicentennial Commission. Together, they helped produce "A Bicentennial History of Kendall County, Illinois", as well as monographs including "Indians of Kendall County" and "A Students' History of Kendall County"

Determined to make a career out of his new-found love, Roger Matile began his journalism career as a local history columnist for the Fox Valley Sentinel in 1977. Soon after, he accepted additional work as a reporter for the Sentinel, covering several local governmental agencies, including the Montgomery Village Board, the West Aurora School Board, the Oswego School Board, and the Kane County Board.

Eventually, Roger was promoted to editor of the Ledger-Sentinel, serving for 28 years. As editor, he became one of the driving forces that helped grow the newspaper from a 2,000 circulation, 20-page newspaper in 1980 to a circulation of more than 8,300 with an average of more than 80 pages each week. During his time at the newspaper, he won many awards for news articles, editorials, columns, photography, and graphics, including multiple IPA awards for Best Coverage of Taxation Issues and Best School Board Coverage in Illinois. Despite retiring from the Ledger-Sentinel in 2008, Roger Matile continues writing his weekly 'Reflections' column on local history for the Ledger-Sentinel's Opinion page.

When he isn't writing, Roger keeps himself busy at Little White School Museum. When he and his wife were working on the Kendall County Bicentennial Commission in 1976, he was asked to join the Oswegoland Heritage Association in preserving the old Little White School building. Since then, he has accumulated more than 30 years of service as the museum's volunteer director.

Anne Jordan

She/her/hers

Museum Manager | Little White School Museum

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

INTEGRITY • COLLABORATION • INNOVATION

We Create Opportunities for a Healthy Community!

I am nominating Lisa Wolancevich for the 2024 Kendall County Historic Preservation Award.

As a testimonial, if there is a building that should be saved for historical and architectural purposes, Lisa is the person to spark a movement with passionate volunteers. She has dedicated many volunteer hours to the field of historic preservation.

Her past preservation leadership efforts have been the Kendall County Jail, a business building (Superman-American flag brick building) in downtown Plano, Illinois, and the Grand Theater in Wheaton.

Without her leadership, the 1893 Kendall County Jail and Sheriff's Residence would have been demolished. Now it compliments the historic courthouse across the street and is serving as a new adaptation of the property.

She consulted for the Superman building on Main Street in Plano, meeting with the owner and mayor, then the realtor and developer.

Her expertise was sought for the history and photos of the 220 South Bridge building in Yorkville, the former Homer Dickson agricultural implement facility, discovering its three buildings on the site. She arranged for the Dickson family to meet the Williams family that owns it now.

There's the ongoing historic Kendall County Fair ticket booth renovation project at Lyons Farm. Obtaining volunteers, the building was saved from termites and carpenter ants from an old woodpile against the building. Then, she researched and proved that this was the ticket booth.

Through the preservation of the old jail, Wolancevich became aware of the need for an organization and other buildings to preserve the Yorkville community's historic legacy and encourage economic well-being through a new purpose for the jail structure. So, she founded and became director of the Yorkville Historic Preservation Society in 2018.

"People want to save their history; it is the identity of our town," she said in a radio interview

But involvement also comes in many other forms.

She has been instrumental in organizing and preserving documents and photos for the Kendall County Historical Society, creating a research library for current and future generations to enjoy.

There are the annual successful events at the Lyons Farm on Route 71 in Yorkville, such as the Fall Festival, Christmas on the Farm, and the Halloween Party. She has helped to promote, organize activities and obtain volunteers.

Through all of the aforementioned involvement, Lisa shares her knowledge with other historical entities in the region. Her enthusiasm and energy is contagious to others.

As an example, she founded the Grand Theater Corporation in 2000 that saved the Grand Theater in Wheaton, spearheading fundraising events, grants and property deeds totaling \$9000,000 in the first year. During those 365 days, the first phase of restoration and reopening

of the shuttered theater occurred. Then she chaired the board and ran programming events for four years.

Awarding this Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission honor to Lisa Wolancevich will serve to inspire others to help protect the heritage of the county and its surrounding communities.

Respectfully,

Mark Harrington

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Annual Kendall County Historic Preservation Awards

A recognition of properties that have undergone recent exterior and/ or interior preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use, or sympathetic additions as well as for people or groups that exhibit dedication to the field of historic preservation or for sites that possess importance to the history of Kendall County, State of Illinois, or the United States.

MAIL NOMINATION FORM TO:

Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission 111 W. Fox Street
Yorkville, IL 60560

EMAIL NOMINATION FORM TO:

Matt Asselmeier, masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov

DEADLINE: February 28, 2024-4:00 pm Street address:

Current property owner:

Historic name and/or original owner (if known): _____

Current use:

Historic use:

Year built (if known):

Year rehabilitated, renovated, restored (if known):

_____ Architectural style / form (if known):

Reason for nomination: Please provide a short description, between 50 and 500 words, explaining the project or person being nominated. The statement should clearly identify the purpose and scope of work, unusual challenges or innovative approaches, sensitive treatment of historic fabric, long-term impact and any other information that supports the nomination as being exceptional.

I am nominating Lisa Wolancevich for the 2024 Kendall County Historic Preservation Award.

As a testimonial, if there is a building that should be saved for historical and architectural purposes, Lisa is the person to spark a movement with passionate volunteers. She has dedicated many volunteer hours to the field of historic preservation.

Her past preservation leadership efforts have been the Kendall County Jail, a business building (Superman-American flag brick building) in downtown Plano, Illinois, and the Grand Theater in Wheaton.

Without her leadership, the 1893 Kendall County Jail and Sheriff's Residence would have been demolished. Now it compliments the historic courthouse across the street and is serving as a new adaptation of the property.

She consulted for the Superman building on Main Street in Plano, meeting with the owner and mayor, then the realtor and developer.

Her expertise was sought for the history and photos of the 220 South Bridge building in Yorkville, the former Homer Dickson agricultural implement facility, discovering its three buildings on the site. She arranged for the Dickson family to meet the Williams family that owns it now.

There's the ongoing historic Kendall County Fair ticket booth renovation project at Lyons Farm. Obtaining volunteers, the building was saved from termites and carpenter ants from an old woodpile against the building. Then, she researched and proved that this was the ticket booth.

Through the preservation of the old jail, Wolanceich became aware of the need for an organization and other buildings to preserve the Yorkville community's historic legacy and encourage economic well-being through a new purpose for the jail structure. So, she founded and became director of the Yorkville Historic Preservation Society in 2018..

"People want to save their history; it is the identity of our town," she said in a radio interview

But involvement also comes in many other forms.

She has been instrumental in organizing and preserving documents and photos for the Kendall County Historical Society, creating a research library for current and future generations to enjoy.

There are the annual successful events at the Lyons Farm on Route 71 in Yorkville, such as the Fall Festival, Christmas on the Farm, and the Halloween Party. She has helped to promote, organize activities and obtain volunteers.

Through all of the aforementioned involvement, Lisa shares her knowledge with other historical entities in the region. Her enthusiasm and energy is contagious to others..

As an example, she founded the Grand Theater Corporation in 2000 that saved the Grand Theater in Wheaton, spearheading fundraising events, grants and property deeds totaling \$9000,000 in the first year. During those 365 days, the first phase of restoration and reopening of the shuttered theater occurred. Then she chaired the board and ran programming events for four years.

Awarding this Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission honor to Lisa Wolancevich will serve to inspire others to help protect the heritage of the county and its surrounding communities.

Respectfully,

Mark Harrington

[Redacted signature block]

Images: Please provide a minimum of five photographs or quality digital photographs in .jpg format on a CD ROM, flash drive, or by email highlighting the project. Before and after pictures are encouraged.

- Submitted by: _____ Mark Harrington

_____ Phone:

_____ Email:

_____ Address: _____

Kendall County Historic Preservation Awards
NOMINATION
Submitted February 9, 2024

Thank you for spurring recognition of culturally significant historic community assets!

I nominate Naperville Preservation, Inc. (NPI) for its dedication to historic preservation. Nichols Library, Oak Cottage and Greene Barn are significant to the cultural and agricultural history of the State of Illinois and United States of America.

“2024 Kendall County Preservation Award” for dedication to the field of historic preservation. Specifically, successful saving and accomplishing adaptive re-use of Nichols Library in downtown Naperville and encouraging adaptive re-use of the Greene Homestead: Oak Cottage and Greene Barn.

It takes a village; including, but not limited to: citizens, elected officials, professionals, and organizations. NPI has actively sought preservation tools, engaged in education, and effectively brought people and processes together to benefit historic preservation. They are DEDICATED.

NPI has cultivated resources, volunteers, marketing, education, and can-do spirit to preserve the built heritage of our community.

Specific examples include, but are not limited to:

NPI has attracted broad recognition and support with its nomination to Landmarks IL which then designated Oak Cottage as among the top 10 most endangered structures in the State of Illinois 2023.

<https://www.landmarks.org/preservation-programs/most-endangered-historic-places-in-illinois/#>

NPI has included Oak Cottage and the Greene Barn in its Living History list of significant historic buildings.

<https://www.napervillepreservation.org/places/living-history>

NPI has funded tours and stories of endangered and loved structures. It is through the success of the Greene Barn stabilization that the next steps toward adaptive re-use can be informed, defined, supported, and executed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adVfCvaclvY>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzrR5pZtHGA>

NPI successfully saved Nichols Library from demolition and actively supported its adaptive re-use. Now it is a beautiful and delicious Gia Mia restaurant!

<https://www.napervillepreservation.org/places/old-nichols-library>
<https://www.napervillepreservation.org/news>

Kendall County Historic Preservation Awards
NOMINATION
Submitted February 9, 2024

As Kendall County marches thoughtfully toward preservation of its cultural heritage I am grateful that KCHP casts a broad net to include possible recognition of groups that exhibit dedication to the field of historic preservation AND sites that possess importance to the history of Illinois and America.

Perhaps in the future “stabilization” can be included as an award category. It is an important step. That is what was accomplished, after much community input, in 2012 when the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County stabilized the Greene Barn for \$1.2M. Perhaps someday W.B. “Bill” Greene will be honored posthumously for his generous donation of the 10-acres with house and barn. Visibility of generous philanthropy encourages more of the same.

The largest barn in DuPage County at 14,000 square feet sits on the 10-acre farmstead donated to future generations for public use. The property is the visible north cornerstone of the 1,388-acre Greene Valley Forest Preserve. Oak Cottage, home of Greene Families 1850-1982, stands nearby.

Naperville Preservation, Inc. is a grassroots, independent 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to all architectural styles and periods.

Naperville Preservation, Inc. is nominated for “2024 Kendall County Preservation Award” for its dedication to the field of historic preservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted February 9, 2024 by
Mary Lou Wehrli



5 photos

Kendall County Historic Preservation Awards
NOMINATION
Submitted February 9, 2024



Greene Homestead: Oak Cottage & Barn
DuPage Southern Regional Trail in front.



Barn interior. East/West wing.



Oak Cottage interior.



Oak Cottage rear.



Nichols Library adaptive re-use
as Gia Mia restaurant.

Matt Asselmeier

From: Barris, Anna Margaret <AnnaMargaret.Barris@Illinois.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 11:28 AM
To: Matt Asselmeier
Cc: Wallace, Carol; Pressley, Jon L.; Jeff Wehrli; Elizabeth Flowers; Christina Burns
Subject: RE: [External]McCormick Tenant House- CLG grant?
Attachments: 016010924 SL; IDNR SSSFVA CERP 2405966, with Trib maps.pdf

Hi Matt,

Please find the attached SHPO review regarding the former Tenant Farmhouse at Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area. We/IDNR should be able to make the necessary repairs this year to prevent further deterioration, then we hope to find a new use. IDNR regularly has leases with commercial tenants, local governments and/or non-profits to use state property so if you become aware of an interested party please do not hesitate to make us aware. A lot of work will still be needed to make the farmhouse habitable/useable, but at least this is a step forward and in the opposite direction of demolition!

I'm in the office today- so please don't hesitate to give me a call if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Anna Margaret Barris
Project Reviewer
State Historic Preservation Office
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1271
217-785-7929
AnnaMargaret.Barris@illinois.gov

From: Barris, Anna Margaret
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 3:54 PM
To: Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov>
Cc: Wallace, Carol <Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov>; Pressley, Jon L. <Jon.L.Pressley@Illinois.gov>; Jeff Wehrli <jeffw.ent.2022@gmail.com>; Elizabeth Flowers <EFlowers@kendallcountyil.gov>; Christina Burns <cburns@kendallcountyil.gov>
Subject: RE: [External]McCormick Tenant House- CLG grant?

Hi Matt,

Before I called you last week I met with IDNR regional staff, John Wilker (Regional Land Manager for Region 2), and Laura Verden (Regional Landscape Architect) regarding the history of the former McCormick Tenant House. The acting site superintendent, Michelle Petragallo wasn't able to join our meeting, as she had a prior meeting scheduled.

Both John and Laura were aware that I would be contacting you/Kendall County due to Kendall County's CLG/HPC status. Neither were aware of the history of the house or the McCormick Experimental Farm. I haven't had a chance to speak with Michelle to make sure that the information regarding the history of the house was passed along to her. However, on February 7th Michelle did provide recent interior photos of the house after I requested additional information and notified IDNR staff that we would not approve *"the demolition of the tenant house without more*

information and the knowledge that other options have been exhausted.” The house has not been occupied since 2008/2009; utility services disconnected around 2017/2018 (or possibly earlier).

I will send you a copy of the letter with SHPO comments by the end of this week. I know that John and Laura both want this letter, citing the historic significance of the house/property, prior to discussing a possible alternative use with other organizations. I just haven't had time to do it yet despite the letter being on the top of today's to do list!

A lot of IDNR Regional staff are attending meetings this week, so I'm not sure if Michelle is available this week.

Thanks,

Anna Margaret Barris
Project Reviewer
State Historic Preservation Office
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1271
217-785-7929
AnnaMargaret.Barris@illinois.gov

From: Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 3:09 PM
To: Barris, Anna Margaret <AnnaMargaret.Barris@Illinois.gov>
Cc: Wallace, Carol <Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov>; Pressley, Jon L. <Jon.L.Pressley@Illinois.gov>; Jeff Wehrli <jeffw.ent.2022@gmail.com>; Elizabeth Flowers <EFlowers@kendallcountyil.gov>; Christina Burns <cburns@kendallcountyil.gov>
Subject: RE: [External]McCormick Tenant House- CLG grant?

Anna Margaret:

Have you contacted the superintendent at Silver Springs regarding the history of this structure?

Thanks,

Matthew H. Asselmeier, AICP, CFM
Director
Kendall County Planning, Building & Zoning
111 West Fox Street
Yorkville, IL 60560-1498
PH: 630-553-4139
Fax: 630-553-4179

From: Barris, Anna Margaret <AnnaMargaret.Barris@Illinois.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 10:08 AM
To: Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov>
Cc: Wallace, Carol <Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov>; Pressley, Jon L. <Jon.L.Pressley@Illinois.gov>; Jeff Wehrli <jeffw.ent.2022@gmail.com>; Elizabeth Flowers <EFlowers@kendallcountyil.gov>; Christina Burns <cburns@kendallcountyil.gov>
Subject: RE: [External]McCormick Tenant House- CLG grant?

Thank you Matt- I understand, and would not expect-or want this to replace any current workplan that the HPC has for CLG grant funding...more of a "here is an idea/possibly" that would enable future discussions, direction and/or planning at the County level.

This is also with the presumption that IDNR is able to have an evaluation of the existing structural integrity and secure/mothball the house to prevent more deterioration. I'll keep in touch once I know more.

Thank you!

Anna Margaret Barris
Project Reviewer
State Historic Preservation Office
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1271
217-785-7929
AnnaMargaret.Barris@illinois.gov

From: Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 9:22 AM
To: Barris, Anna Margaret <AnnaMargaret.Barris@Illinois.gov>
Cc: Wallace, Carol <Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov>; Pressley, Jon L. <Jon.L.Pressley@Illinois.gov>; Jeff Wehrli <jeffw.ent.2022@gmail.com>; Elizabeth Flowers <EFlowers@kendallcountyil.gov>; Christina Burns <cburns@kendallcountyil.gov>
Subject: RE: [External]McCormick Tenant House- CLG grant?

Anna Margaret:

Yes, I can give the Forest Preserve a heads up, but I want to some research on my own before I do notify the Forest Preserve District.

As to your request for the County to apply for a CLG Grant to do a feasibility study for the house, that question would have to be run by the Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission. The Commission's current strategy for CLG Grants is to do structure surveys in the unincorporated area. Once each township had been surveyed, the County would then apply for a CLG Grant to do a preservation plan. To date, 2 of the 9 townships have been surveyed. The Commission always assumed that it would take several years to survey the entire unincorporated area and the possibilities exist that CLG funding might not be available every year and/or the County Board might not fund the required grant match(es). In the current budget, the County Board allotted \$44,000 to do structure surveys of unincorporated Na-Au-Say and Seward Townships, pending a CLG Grant.

I can run your request by the Commission at their next meeting.

Thanks,

Matthew H. Asselmeier, AICP, CFM
Director
Kendall County Planning, Building & Zoning
111 West Fox Street
Yorkville, IL 60560-1498
PH: 630-553-4139
Fax: 630-553-4179

From: Barris, Anna Margaret <AnnaMargaret.Barris@Illinois.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 8:14 AM
To: Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov>
Cc: Wallace, Carol <Carol.Wallace@Illinois.gov>; Pressley, Jon L. <Jon.L.Pressley@Illinois.gov>
Subject: [External]McCormick Tenant House- CLG grant?

CAUTION - This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

Thank you again for your time yesterday discussing this house! Would you feel comfortable making the Kendall County Forest Preserve aware of the house and its significance to Kendall County? I do plan to contact the Forest Preserve, but if you would be willing to give them a heads up I would appreciate it.

I also want to mention/ask if you think there would be any interest in Kendall County applying for CLG funding to do a feasibility study on the house for possible uses? I should be able to provide you clearance from IDNR prior to you preparing/submitting a grant application.

A structural assessment/evaluation of the house should be done and I'm hoping that IDNR will be able to do this over the summer. I'm hoping that we can at least get the house secured and mothballed over the summer- so that there are still options for the house in future years... From what I've seen the house is not too far gone, but will be if no action is taken to address existing leaks in the next couple of years.

Please let me know your thoughts. Thanks for your time 😊

Anna Margaret Barris
Project Reviewer
State Historic Preservation Office
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1271
217-785-7929
AnnaMargaret.Barris@illinois.gov

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**Kendall County
Plano**

**Demolition of Former Education Center and Former Superintendent Residence
Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area
13689 Fox Rd. former Outdoor Education Center
13860 Fox Rd. former Superintendent's House/Tenant farmhouse**

IDNR-CERP-2405966, SHPO Log #016010924

March 4, 2024

**Dawn Cobb
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1271**

Thank you for your submission proposing the demolition of the former Outdoor Education Center and the former Superintendent's House/Tenant farmhouse at Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area, which we received on 1/9/24 (SHPO Log# 0160109024). On February 6th, we requested additional information, that you provided on February 7th. Because these properties are owned by the State of Illinois, our comments are required by the [Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act](#) (20 ILCS 3420) and [its implementing rules](#) (17 IAC 4180) (Act).

In 2018, the former Outdoor Education Center (CDB A7850; IDNR 49710) at 13689 Fox Road suffered a catastrophic fire. Thus, the property retains no history integrity and may be demolished as proposed.

The former superintendent's house (CDB A7860; IDNR 49725) at 13860 Fox Road, also known as the Tenant Farmhouse, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C, for Architecture, with a local level of significance dating to the original construction (pre-1871). The archaeological site 11KE67 was previously determined not eligible for NRHP listing.

It is likely that the majority of the 1350 acres that encompass the Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife area was the Yorkville/Plano location of the 1300-acre Tribune Experimental Farm, owned by Robert Rutherford "Colonel" McCormick. As President of the Tribune Company (beginning in 1911) and sole editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune (beginning in 1925), Colonel McCormick published a regular column titled "Day by Day Story of the Experimental Farm". Colonel McCormick's family estate, Red Oaks, now Cantigny, near Wheaton (DuPage County) was also the site of a slightly smaller (1000 acres) Tribune Experimental Farm. Both Experimental Farms were regular features in the Chicago Tribune, where innovations and experiments in the field of Agriculture were presented to a broad audience. The Tribune Experimental Farms were open to the public and hosted field trips for many Chicago schools.

**March 4, 2024
SHPO Log# 016010924**

1

Due to the significant history associated with the Tribune Experimental Farm, the farmstead (including Tenant farmhouse) and associated acreage may also be eligible for listing to the NRHP under Criterion A, for Agriculture with a period of significance dating to Colonel McCormick's ownership, approximately 1930-1955. In our request for additional information (2/6/24) we notified you that Tenant farmhouse retains excellent integrity, appears to be in good to fair condition and that the proposed demolition of the Tenant Farmhouse would be an adverse effect that should be avoided.

On Thursday, February 22, Anna Margaret Barris (Project Reviewer) met with IDNR staff John Wilker, Regional Land Manager for Region 2, and Laura Verden, Regional Landscape Architect to discuss the significance of the Tenant farmhouse. The Site staff do not have a use or need for the Tenant farmhouse, which was last occupied in 2008. During this meeting alternate uses for the farmhouse were discussed including the potential for new occupants/owners. The farmhouse has been in decline for several years, without immediate action to repair current roof leaks and mothball the house until a new occupant/owner can be identified, the Tenant farmhouse will succumb to demolition by neglect.

Since the 2/22/24, meeting SHPO staff have been in touch with the Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission staff (Matt Asselmeier, Director of the Kendall County Planning, Building and Zoning). Through the Certified Local Government program, our office previously provided federal grant funding to the Kendall County HPC for the identification of historic resources in unincorporated areas within the County. Kendall County recommended contacting the following local organizations to gauge their interest in the historic Tenant farmhouse:

Kendall County Historical Society, Kendall County Forest Preserve District, Forest Foundation of Kendall County, Kendall-Grundy Farm Bureau

Additionally, the McCormick Foundation and Cantigny Park, may have interest in the former Tenant farmhouse for its association with Colonel McCormick and the Tribune Experimental Farm.

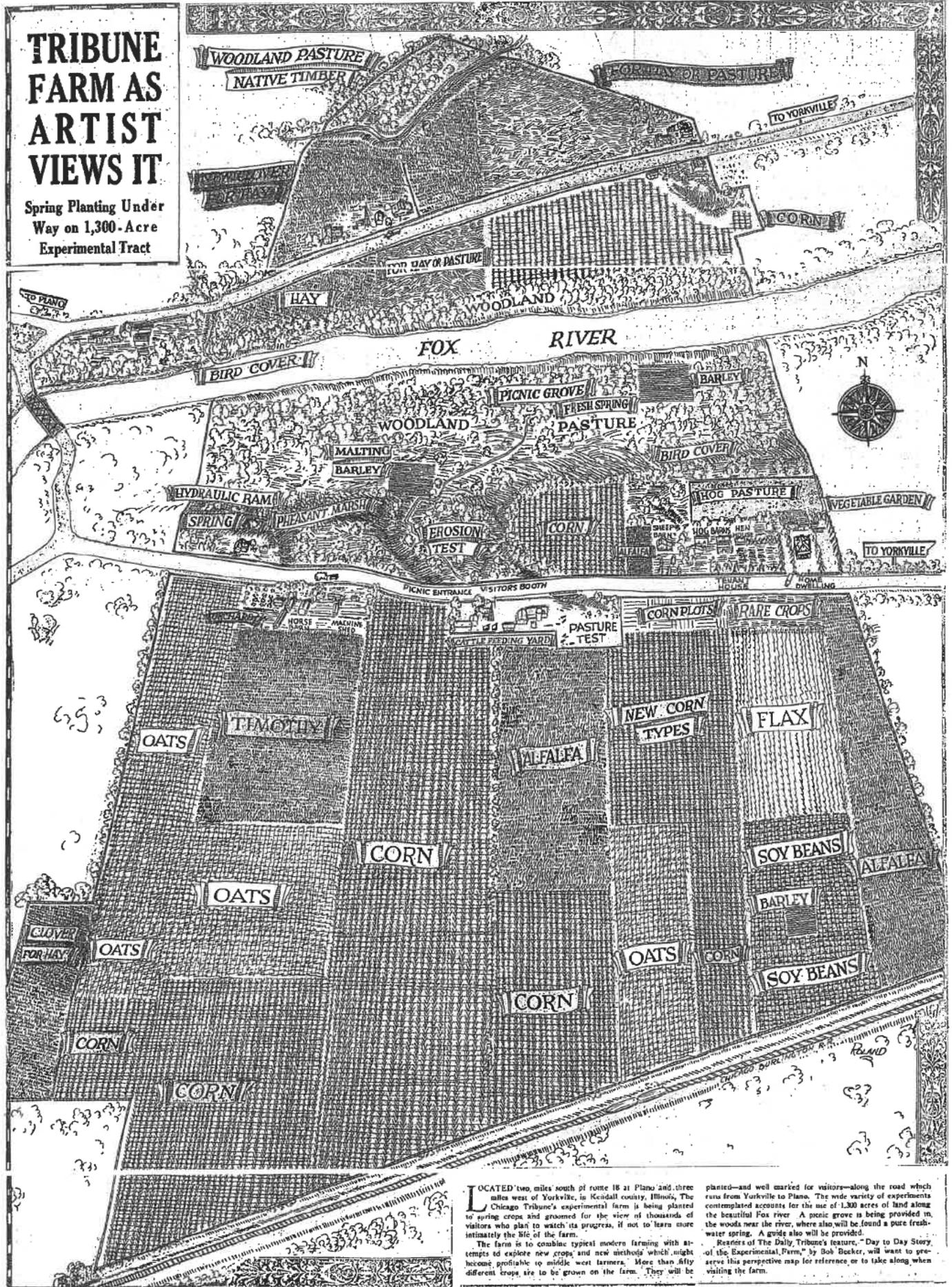
If a new occupant/owner for the former McCormick Tenant farmhouse is not identified in the next several months, IDNR must make the necessary roof repairs in the Fall 2024 to prevent further deterioration of the NRHP eligible property.

Sincerely,

Carey L. Mayer, AIA, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

**c: John Wilker, Regional Land Manager for Region 2
Laura Verden, Regional Landscape Architect
Matt Asselmeier, Kendall County Planning, Building and Zoning**

**March 4, 2024
SHPO Log# 016010924**



LOCATED two miles south of route 18 at Plano and three miles west of Yorkville, in Kendall county, Illinois, The Chicago Tribune's experimental farm is being planted to spring crops and groomed for the view of thousands of visitors who plan to watch its progress, if not to learn more intimately the life of the farm.

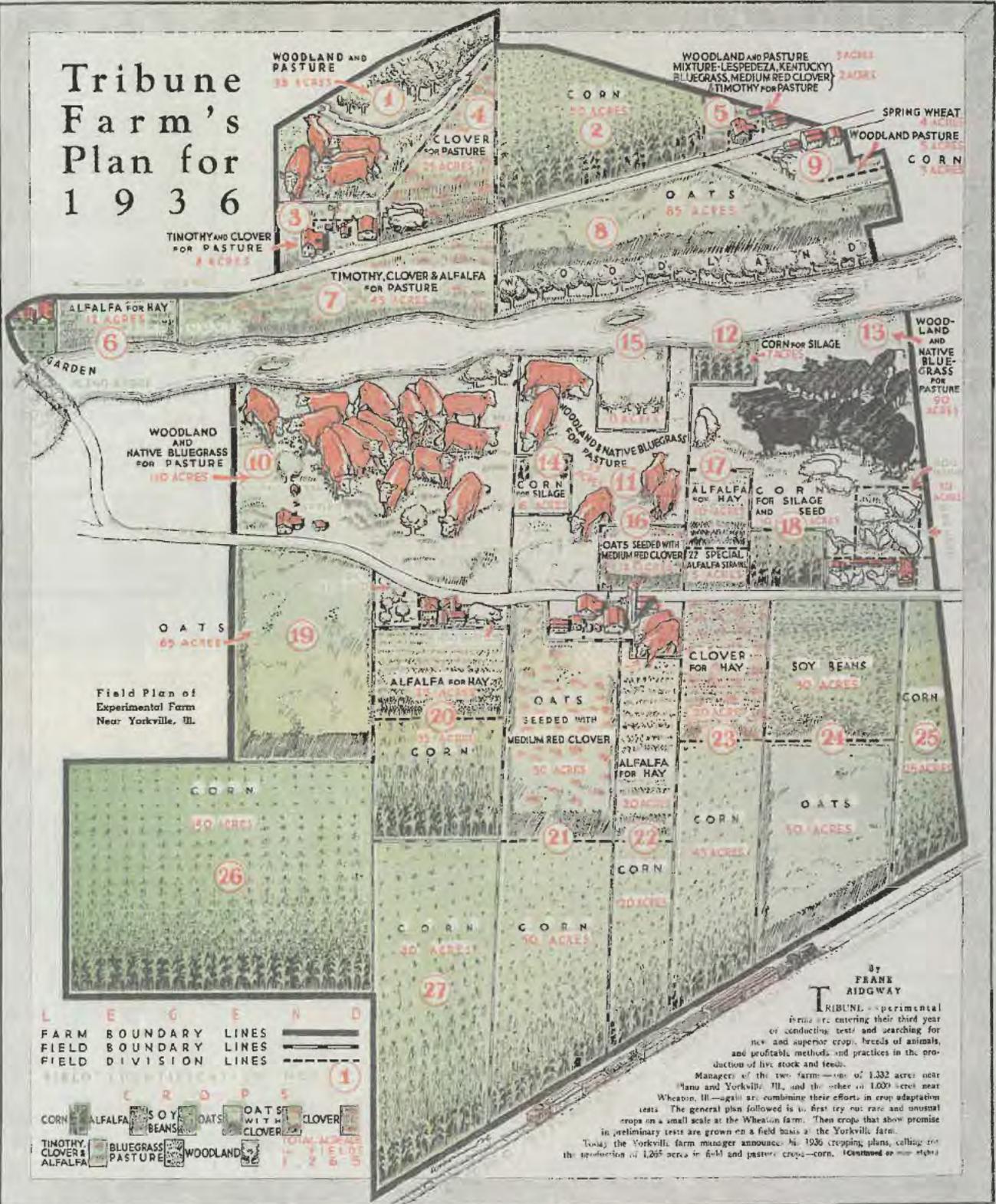
The farm is to combine typical modern farming with attempts to explore new crops and new methods which might become profitable to middle west farmers. More than fifty different crops are to be grown on the farm. They will be

planted—and well marked for visitors—along the road which runs from Yorkville to Plano. The wide variety of experiments contemplated accounts for the use of 1,300 acres of land along the beautiful Fox River. A picnic grove is being provided in the woods near the river, where also will be found a pure fresh-water spring. A guide also will be provided.

Rearers of The Daily Tribune's feature, "Day to Day Story of the Experimental Farm," by Bob Becker, will want to preserve this perspective map for reference or to take along when visiting the farm.

MAY 17, 1936

Tribune Farm's Plan for 1936



Matt Asselmeier

From: Jeanne Valentine <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 1:16 PM
To: Scott Mehaffey
Cc: John Morello; Matt Asselmeier
Subject: [External]Re: House south of Farnsworth House
Attachments: 1950 Census - Vic Garner.jpg; 1940 Census Vic Garner.jpg

CAUTION - This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I will ask about photos. I've attached the 1940 and 1950 census records showing Vic Garner and neighbors.

On Thu, Mar 7, 2024 at 11:59 AM Scott Mehaffey <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Interesting! I wonder if anyone has a better photo? It would be interesting to know what Dr. Farnsworth's view was during the 1950s & 60s!

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2024, at 6:51 PM, Jeanne Valentine <[REDACTED]> wrote:

[CAUTION: External Sender. Please do not click on links or open attachments from senders you do not trust.]

Hello folks,
I got this information today from Anne Sears:

"I talked to Virgil HYTE last night. As a kid he lived on River Road. He said the guy who lived across the river from the house was Vic Garner.
Virgil thinks the buildings in the picture were Vic's house and outbuildings."

Jeanne



Store 2702 Dr. Marie Motamter
 Main: (630) 553-1617 Fax: (630) 553-0615
 234 E. Veterans Parkway
 Yorkville IL 60560



0 2702 05301052402211713

YOUR CASHIER TODAY WAS SELF

GROCERY
 213025400 STG SPRING STR 24PK Price You Pay
 Sale Savings -0.50 4.49 3.99 U
 TAX 0.04
 **** BALANCE 4.03

Debit Purchase 02/21/24 17:13
 CARD: [REDACTED] PRIMARY
 TOTAL TRANSACTION AMOUNT: 4.03
 CASH BACK AMOUNT: 0.00
 REF: 781351194340 AUTH: 00099392

AL US DEBIT
 AID A000000029819540
 TVR 8000048000
 TSI 6800

Debit	4.03
CHANGE	0.00
YOUR SAVINGS	
Store Savings	0.50
Total	0.50
Total Savings Value	11%
YOUR REWARDS	

Points Earned Today 3
 TOTAL NUMBER OF ITEMS SOLD = 1 8653
 02/21/24 17:13 2702 53 105
 Thank you for shopping Jewel Osco!
 For JEWEL-OSCO FOR U questions call
 877-276-9637 or JewelOsco.com/foru

Wro1f

Order Number: 459014

RPL

02/21/24 at 11:30 AM
 Cashier: Ariana

1 1 2 Dzn Mix Cookies

1 1 Confirm Napkins

Order Checked By [REDACTED]

5.47

Accuracy Matters. If your order is not right, please let a manager know.

Matt Asselmeier

From: Deborah Stevens <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 1:46 PM
To: Matt Asselmeier
Cc: Rick Stevens; Jeff Wehrli
Subject: Re: [External]Re: Henneberry Barn Question

I think either of those dates would be fine .
--Deborah
Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 26, 2024, at 8:49 AM, Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov> wrote:

Deborah:

We discussed having a Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission meeting at the Henneberry Barn last year.

Would April 15th or May 20th at 6:00 p.m. work for you?

Thanks,

Matthew H. Asselmeier, AICP, CFM
Director
Kendall County Planning, Building & Zoning
111 West Fox Street
Yorkville, IL 60560-1498
PH: 630-553-4139
Fax: 630-553-4179

From: Deborah Stevens <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:06 AM
To: Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov>
Cc: Rick Stevens <[REDACTED]>; Jeff Wehrli <ieffw.ent.2022@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: [External]Re: Henneberry Barn Question

Hi Matt,
Would love to have you all use the barn .
The barn has a ramp , and has a concrete floor inside ; but getting to it involves crossing the lawn grass.
Possibly? one could pull a car close for a shorter distance .
Heaters are portable electrical heaters . It's not bad as long as not -15F.

--Debbie

Sent from my iPhone

Matt Asselmeier

From: Galloy, Joseph <Joseph.Galloy@Illinois.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 9:26 AM
To: Matt Asselmeier
Subject: RE: [External]Tribal contacts for Kendall County

Matt,

Several federally recognized Tribes claim Kendall County as counties of interest (these include but are not limited to ancestral lands). These currently include the Peoria, Miami, one of the Winnebago tribes, four Potawatomi tribes, and the Sac and Fox. Also, Tribes occasionally add and remove counties of interest.

Joe

Joseph M. Galloy, PhD, RPA
Cultural Resources Unit Manager
Chief Archaeologist & NAGPRA Officer

Bureau of Design & Environment
Illinois Department of Transportation
2300 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62764
217-785-7833 • Joseph.Galloy@illinois.gov

From: Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 1:40 PM
To: Galloy, Joseph <Joseph.Galloy@Illinois.gov>
Subject: RE: [External]Tribal contacts for Kendall County

Joe:

Would you be able to tell me which tribes formerly lived in Kendall County?

Thanks,

Matthew H. Asselmeier, AICP, CFM
Director
Kendall County Planning, Building & Zoning
111 West Fox Street
Yorkville, IL 60560-1498
PH: 630-553-4139
Fax: 630-553-4179

From: Galloy, Joseph <Joseph.Galloy@Illinois.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 4:03 PM
To: Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov>
Subject: [External]Tribal contacts for Kendall County

Matt Asselmeier

From: Edith Farnsworth House <farnsworthhouse@savingplaces.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2023 6:01 AM
To: Matt Asselmeier
Subject: [External]Double Your Impact Today

CAUTION - This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The logo for Edith Farnsworth House features the name in a bold, sans-serif font. The word "EDITH" is on the top line, "FARNSWORTH" is on the second line, and "HOUSE" is on the third line. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic consisting of three horizontal bars of varying lengths, with a vertical bar intersecting them, and a small square at the bottom right of the vertical bar.

**EDITH
FARNSWORTH
HOUSE**

A site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Farnsworth & Friendships - Building & Growing Together



Thanks for being a friend!

During this season of giving, we *so appreciate* your support of the Edith Farnsworth House Historic Site. Your gift helps us preserve, protect, program, and interpret this National Historic Landmark for visitors of all ages.

College architecture and design students from around the world come to study and discuss the house – a milestone of modernism. Active seniors and Midcentury Modern design enthusiasts come to check it out – and check it off their bucket list. Young adults come to photograph the minimalist glass pavilion in the woods they've seen in so many design books and magazines – and maybe take an aspirational “selfie” or two!



Whatever your connection to Farnsworth, we want to continue to be *your* destination for memorable experiences in 2024 and into the future. With every dollar donated by December 31, the National Trust for Historic Preservation receives a matching gift – so your generosity will have *double the impact!* AND from now through January 15, all donors of \$100 and up will receive a BOGO (buy one, get one free) single-use discount code* so you can bring YOUR friend!

With all best wishes for the holidays,

Scott Mehaffey
Executive Director

**single-use code will be emailed to you after January 15, good for any regular-priced Guided Tour through Sunday, December 1, 2024. Limited to published tour times and subject to availability and possible rescheduling due to severe weather conditions.*

DONATE HERE & DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

Edith Farnsworth House | 14520 River Rd, Plano, IL 60545

[Unsubscribe masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov](mailto:unsubscribe@masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov)

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Naperville Preservation Inc. presents:

Proactive Historic Preservation and Adaptive Reuse in Chicagoland

January 24, 2024, 7PM

Naperville Municipal Center, Meeting Rooms A/B
400 S. Eagle Street, Naperville, IL



Proactive Historic Preservation and Adaptive Reuse in Chicagoland

A panic-free approach to pre-planning a building's possible next life for its highest and best use with owner and community in mind.

Wednesday
January 24th
7 PM

Naperville Municipal Center
Meeting Rooms A/B
400 S. Eagle Street, Naperville, IL

[RSVP Link*](#)



Naperville Preservation, Inc.

www.napervillepreservation.org
napervillepreservation@gmail.com
331-472-0817

Our speaker is John Curley, Chief Development Services Officer, City of Aurora, IL. He has been instrumental in Aurora's many preservation successes. You'll hear about:

- How to identify and preserve historic buildings that make a community unique.
- How historic buildings can be repurposed often at lower cost and less harm to the environment than new construction.
- How genuine communication between various community groups can lead to successful outcomes for all.

Please join us.

* If you cannot attend in person, you may [register for a zoom viewing](#). The event will also be recorded.

Matt Asselmeier

From: Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. <webinars@wje.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 8:31 AM
To: Matt Asselmeier
Subject: [External]You're Invited to a WJE Webinar

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YOU'RE INVITED

Preservation Approaches for Cultural Landscapes



The National Park Service defines a cultural landscape as “a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person, or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.” Cultural landscapes range from abandoned coal mines to remote coastal fishing villages, historic farmsteads, urban neighborhoods,

battlefields, national cemeteries, and Cold War-era missile sites, among others. Each historic site presents unique challenges in terms of assessment and stewardship. Cultural landscape studies provide a basis for the preservation and rehabilitation of the landscape and its features.

In this complimentary, one-hour webinar, WJE conservator and historian **Deborah Slaton**, with historical landscape architects Liz Sargent and Jane Jacobs, will provide an overview of cultural landscapes and the approaches used to evaluate, document, and develop treatment recommendations for these significant historic places.

By the end of the webinar, you will be able to:

- Describe the types of natural and cultural resources that may be encountered in cultural landscapes
- Identify examples of cultural landscapes to illustrate the wide variety of sites for which studies may be prepared
- Differentiate between cultural landscape reports and cultural landscape inventories
- Explain some of the challenges encountered in the preservation of cultural landscapes today

There will be plenty of time for your questions during the presentation. Attendees are eligible for one American Institute of Architects (AIA) HSW Learning Unit.

DETAILS

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Eastern Time

[REGISTER](#)

ABOUT WJE

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE), is a global firm of engineers, architects, and materials scientists committed to helping clients solve, repair, and avoid problems in the built world.

- [Learn about WJE Services](#)
- [Explore WJE Projects](#)
- [Contact WJE](#)



2024 Regional History Conference

NIU Libraries Regional History Center will host the second annual Northern Illinois Regional History Conference on Saturday April 20, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center on NIU's campus in DeKalb. The conference theme is "**Transnational Communities and Global Influences in/on Northern Illinois**," and will feature concurrent panel sessions with presentations on a variety of topics and projects related to Northern Illinois' history, heritage, and culture in local and global contexts.



The conference keynote speaker is Dr. Erik S. McDuffie, Associate Professor of History and African American Studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, who will examine the global impact of Black Northern Illinois from the late eighteenth century to the present. Specifically, McDuffie will discuss African-descended people such as Jean Baptiste Point Du Sable, Ida B. Wells, and Christine Johnson, the historic all-Black municipality of Robbins, Illinois, and movements such as the Nation of Islam and the Black Arts Movement.

RSVP

The Northern Illinois Regional History Conference is free and open to public but attendees are encouraged to RSVP by April 15, 2024. For more information, please contact Special Collections and Archive Department Head Bradley J. Wiles via email or 815-753-9392.

RSVP BY APRIL 15, 2024