

**LA CROSSE COUNTY HISTORIC SITES
PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN
Administrative Center 400 4th Street North
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601
Telephone (608)785-9563 Fax (608)789-4821



June 17, 2008

Joe DeRose
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1482

RE: 2007 Annual Report

Dear Mr. DeRose,

This communication has been approved by members of the La Crosse County Historic Sites Preservation Commission as its required CLG annual report to the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Commission Members: Jason Gillett, County Board Supervisor (resigned late 2007)
Harriet Schuppel, citizen member: Onalaska representative
Richard Bedessem, citizen member: Bangor representative
Kent Sween, Holmen Area Historical Society
King Holley, real estate broker
Vicki Twinde-Javner, archaeologist
Barbara Kooiman, architectural historian

Commission Member
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Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
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La Crosse, WI 54601

The commission held ten monthly meetings in 2007 (January, February, March, April, May, June, July, September, October, and November). The Commission currently has a vacancy for the County Board Chair representative, as our representative resigned from the Commission in October of 2007. However, we are requesting to be under the jurisdiction of the Planning, Resources, and Development Committee, and hope to have a representative from that committee on our Commission at some point.

The Commission continuously looks at possible sites for historic designation. Two properties were

nominated by the Commission to the historic sites list, the Olson/Weigel home, and the Pettibone Harbor. The Olson/Weigel home property passed through all requirements and was approved by the County Board, and has been added to our list. The Pettibone Harbor nomination brought to the Commission in 2007 by a property owner was approved by our Commission. However, according to our procedures the resolution for each property nominated by the Commission must pass the Executive Committee of the County Board, and the Executive Committee had a concern of our jurisdiction over the property since it was in the limits of the City of La Crosse. Therefore, this nomination was tabled until further notice by the Executive Committee. The Commission continued working on making a list of potential sites to be nominated to our county historic sites list, and progress is being made on starting the nomination process of some of these.

To keep abreast of the current condition of historic properties nominated by the Commission over the years to the list of Historic Site's in La Crosse County, the Commission members took a driving tour in July, and visited seven sites. These sites are either currently on our list of historic sites, or were possibly sites to consider for our list of historic properties.

Each year, since 1995, with the exception of 2004, the County Board has provided some money to be administered by the commission as a Preservation Grant. All county societies which fit the criteria are notified of the grant money, which varies from year to year; they are invited to submit proposals for projects which would make use of the money. Two grant applications were received and reviewed for 2007, and a grant of \$1000 was awarded to the West Salem Historical Society for the moving of the Palmer-Lewis Octagon House, which was moved in March of 2008.

Also, as part of a requirement to have local historical societies or historic commissions review federally funded projects, two letters concerning the proposed location of two different cell towers in La Crosse County were received by the Commission. These letters asked if the Commission had any concerns of the location of these proposed cell towers in their relationship to any potential historic properties in the area. The Commission reviewed these proposed cell tower locations, and did not have any concerns of their proposed locations.

The Commission has also had continuing discussions of possibly publishing an educational booklet for the public as a fundraiser. This potential booklet could contain information on the history of La Crosse, and architectural/archaeological properties in the area (with photos). Over the year, the Commission has also discussed various topics of interest brought forth by Commission members regarding information from historical societies, or in the local media.

This report briefly sums up the activities of the La Crosse County Historic Sites Preservation Commission over the year 2007, as it sought to continue its service to the community. If you have any questions concerning this report or the activities of the commission, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Vicki Twinde-Javner, Chair
La Crosse County Historic Sites Preservation Commission