

**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



February 13, 2012

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

RE: 2011 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: Bev Mach, County Board Supervisor
Harriet Schuppel, citizen member: Onalaska representative
Anne Loomis, citizen member
Kent Sween, Holmen Area Historical Society
King Holley, real estate broker
Vicki Twinde-Javner, archaeologist
Barbara Kooiman, architectural historian

Commission Member
Contact Person: Vicki Twinde-Javner, Chair
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Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
UW-La Crosse
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La Crosse, WI 54601

The La Crosse County Historic Sites Preservation Commission held eleven monthly meetings in 2011. The Commission added two properties to its local listing of historic sites. Two one room school houses, the Striped School and the Middle Ridge School were added to our list. The interest to have these properties designated as historic sites was brought forth by the landowners, and the Commission worked with them to get the properties nominated.

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 non-profit 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. Currently, the amount of available for grants each year is \$1000. Two grant applications were received in 2011. The Commission voted to award the Preservation Alliance of La Crosse \$1000 for electrification of the cobbler shop and Greek Revival House near City Hall.

In 2009, the Commission submitted an application for \$7500 for a survey and planning grant through the Wisconsin Historical Society. This grant would be for a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination for the Oehler Farmstead district, which includes two farmhouses, mill, cave, cemetery, and other contributing buildings. After being notified of that the Commission was awarded this grant in 2010, the Commission interviewed candidates and selected Tim Heggland. In 2011, the Commission provided Mr. Heggland, our subconsultant, information to help with the nomination. Mr. Heggland's cost for the work was \$4000, so the Commission has been discussing options to use the additional funds for relevant historic projects.

The Commission also worked on re-evaluating its ordinance. Currently, the ordinance does not give the Commission much say in demolition or re-modeling of historic buildings. The Commission met with the County's Planning Resources and Development Committee chair and he suggested writing a letter to his committee to review drafts of proposed changes. The Commission did this, however, the PRD Committee has been working on other projects, so the Commission did not see any changes to their ordinance this year.

This report briefly sums up the activities of the La Crosse County Historic Sites Preservation Commission over the year 2011, 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