

**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



April 18, 2013

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

RE: 2012 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 (retired March 2012)
Peg Jerome, County Board Supervisor (appointed June 2012)
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
(608) 785-6475 fax: (608) 785-6474
e-mail: vtwinde-javner@uwlax.edu
Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
UW-La Crosse
1725 State Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

County Contact Person: Alice Sorenson, Admin. Asst. to the County Board Chairman
(608) 785-9563 fax: (608) 789-4821
e-mail: Asorenson@lacrossecounty.org
County Administrative Center, Room 3260
400 4th Street North
La Crosse, WI 54601

The La Crosse County Historic Sites Preservation Commission held ten monthly meetings in 2012. The Commission added two properties to its local listing of historic sites – the Asbury Cemetery and the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church/Town of Onalaska – Midway Town Hall. The interest to have these properties designated as historic sites was brought forth by a member of the township the properties are located in, and the Commission worked with him to get the properties nominated. The Commission also discussed several other possible nominations and are currently working on more nominations.

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. Three grant applications were received in 2012. The Commission voted to award the \$500 to the Bangor and Area Historical Society towards the purchase of a digital camera, scanner, laptop, printer, and surge protector to document their existing collections, and \$500 to the Onalaska Historical Society towards the purchase of a digital camera, tripod, memory card, and light box backdrop to document their existing collections.

The Commission printed bookmarks with photos of 4 different historic properties within the County. These bookmarks had information regarding the Commission and our website address. The bookmarks were distributed to local libraries, schools, and other areas we felt best to serve to get information out to the public about the Commission. The Commission also worked on a new brochure for nominated sites on the southern end of the county, and will finish it in 2013. The Commission also made a one time donation of \$500 each to both the Striped School and Middle Ridge School for their building relocation efforts. This money was not part of our normal operating budget, but leftover funds from a Wisconsin Historical Society survey and planning grant the Commission had received.

The Commission 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 in 2011 and he suggested writing a letter to his committee to review drafts of proposed changes. The Commission did this, however, the PRD Committee were working on other projects in 2011, and in 2012 a new PRD Committee chair was appointed when the former Chair retired, so no progress was made on proposed ordinance changes in 2012.

This report briefly sums up the activities of the La Crosse County Historic Sites Preservation Commission over the year 2012, 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