

Kankakee County Preservation Master Plan Brainstorming Session

November 19, 2015

Raw Notes

Challenges

- Why landmark anything?
- Public understanding of why preservation is important
- Value to tourism
- Educating public of value of preservation
- Communicating with building inspectors / permit process
- Public objects to “restrictions” of preservation
- Bourbonnais Commission is defunct
- Making technical information more widely available; more accessible
- Get community interested in local history
- Sell value of “old” and “existing” vs. “new”
- Connections to teachers, elementary & high schools; special presentations to classes
- Programs at museums, games, one-room school [Carolyn Pratt]
- Partner with libraries, historical societies, museums
- Service programs by students
- Tourism
- Other areas beyond historic buildings: historic gardens, farmsteads [Perry Farm, living history summer camp]
- Prairie at Olivet Nazarene University
- Partnership with Farm Bureau? Education via meetings [Norma, Ron are members]
- Building codes enforcement, property tax assessment [taxes assessed on little-used agricultural buildings can lead to demolition]
- Farms threatened by new development
- Encouraging public or other groups to nominate properties
- Stonebrook Garden
- Getting publicity: newspaper, cable access channel 3?
- Provide photographs with news releases
- Impending demolition of former Range School in Momence [west side of Dixie Highway between 4th and 5th] - postwar elementary school, but site also contains Civil War memorial and one-room Mount Airy School on 5th Street].
- Need intergovernmental agreements to protect more properties
- Make sure most valuable properties are identified and protected
- Reconstruct log house (1837) on museum site, now in storage in Bourbonnais; funding needed

Goals

- Identify historic properties
 - Possible French settler house, north side of Armour Road, past Quail Drive in northeast Bradley

- House in Bradley, on south side of Broadway, 2 story, with gable roof [*cannot find*]
 - Chatfield House¹ (stone) dating to 1858, on Illinois Highway 17 west of Kankakee (*which township?*)
- Build off existing tours [Vic]
- Bourbonnais walking tours
- Herscher and Bonfield done in part
- Rural hamlets
- Rural areas less identified
- Barn quilt tour (100+ year old barns)
- Build database or list of historic properties
- Review 1977 survey
- Bicentennial era local history books have lists
- Vic's Bonfield book has a list

- Generate interest
- Use tours as education and promotion
- Districts:
 - Ganeer Township area of Momence, historic residential area
 - Downtown Kankakee - Commercial, industrial, residential
 - Pioneer cemeteries
 - Downtown Herscher ? North Main residential area
 - Limestone houses
 - Historic Butterfield Trail [?]
 - Boubonnais areas covered by tours
 - Manteno downtown?
- Community forums
 - Get local government offices to come, promote intergovernmental agreements
 - Meet annually with municipal groups
 - Historic preservation month [May]
 - All local newspapers
 - Preservation Commission is a clearinghouse, community resource
 - Newsletter - be a promotional forum for others
 - Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau [www.visitkankakeecounty.com]
 - Kankakee County Museum [www.kankakeecountymuseum.com]

1. The Chatfields moved to Kankakee in 1858, the land affordable and the growing season nearly 30 days longer than Middlefield's: a little more sunshine, a little less snow, and ample rain.

Kankakee—Potawatomi for “Beautiful River”—remained Ed's home until his 1879 move to Littleton, Colorado.

It was at the Kankakee that Chatfield enlisted on August 5, 1862, where he trained until transferred to Camp Hancock., Chicago.

On what is now Highway 17, and eight miles west of Kankakee, Nathan and his two older sons, Edward and David, helped construct this home between 1858 and 1860.

The Chatfield House remains standing today, one of Kankakee's historic homes.

http://www.chatfieldstory.com/the_chatfield_story_007.htm

- Library
 - Keep up with changing leadership
- Educate
 - What preservation is and is not; not “restricting freedom”
 - Multiple ways to achieve same result
 - Newsletter
 - Tours
 - Help interested homeowners with how to research/document
 - Taking advantage of existing state resources
 - Brochures
 - Lifelong learning sessions, through Kankakee Community College
 - Educate commissioners themselves - CLG programs
 - “How to research your old home”
- Educate people about potential for adaptive reuse
- Development that preserves existing buildings
- Arcade Building rehabilitation (2004) [northwest corner of Schuyler Avenue and Merchant Street in downtown Kankakee]
- Old housing in present-day commercial districts
- Old does not equal bad. See older buildings as an asset
- Sears warehouse in Bradley [*not sure where this is*]
- Promote role models that already exist: Momence downtown district; Historic Frankfort, Geneva, Galena, Wilmington, Morris, Elkhart (Indiana)
- Identify funding sources - “bricks and mortar” grants
- Courthouse mural conservation
- CLG grants - support surveys and other projects
- Help building owners finance projects
- Develop design guidelines
- Technical support; how to hire consultants or contractors; maintain a list of vendors
- Advocacy
- Organize volunteers and craftsmen
- Reconstruct log school as a “barn raising”
- Awards programs
- Main Street Momence
- Preservation easements
- Increase in value due to restoration work, share success stories
- Manteno look House