

**KENDALL COUNTY**  
**Historic Preservation Commission**  
*Oswego Masonic Lodge*  
*71 Main Street, Oswego, Illinois*  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**March 20, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Eric Bernacki (Secretary), Elizabeth Flowers (Vice-Chairwoman), Kristine Heiman, and Jeff Wehrli (Chairman)

Absent: Marty Shanahan

Also Present: Matt Asselmeier (Senior Planner), Anthony Mayer, Dan Koukol, Brock Bausman, and Ricky Jacobsen

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Tour of Masonic Lodge***

Anthony Mayer, Dan Koukol, Brock Bausman, and Ricky Jacobsen led attendees on a tour of the Masonic Lodge. They explained the history of the organization, the Mason's charitable and service activities, and the history of the building. The Lodge is probably the longest continually operating non-religious service organization in Kendall County.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved without objection.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Bernacki, to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2023, meeting and February 15, 2023, meeting. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Wehrli thanked the Masonic Lodge for hosting the meeting and explained the reasons why the Commission visits historic structures throughout the County.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Approval of a Proclamation Declaring May Historic Preservation Month in Kendall County***

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Heiman, to approve the proclamation. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried.

The proclamation will be presented at the May 2, 2023, County Board meeting.

Mr. Asselmeier would let the Commission know if a new theme is developed for the Historic Preservation Month.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***Discussion of February 15, 2023, Meeting with Historic Preservation Organizations Follow-Up Discussion Regarding the Meeting***

Chairman Wehrli explained the purpose of the meeting. The networking aspects of the meeting appeared to be working. The consensus of the Commission was to have the meeting every six (6) months.

### ***Approval of Invoice for Food in the Amount of \$42.78; Invoices to Be Paid from PBZ Department's Historical Preservation Line Item 11001902-63830***

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Heiman, to approve the invoice.

The votes were as follows:

Yeas (4): Bernacki, Flowers, Heiman, and Wehrli

Nays (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Absent (1): Shanahan

The motion carried.

### ***Review of Historic Preservation Award Applications; Committee Could Select Award Winners***

***Lowell Mathre***

***Stephenie Todd***

***Dickson Building (101-109 S. Bridge Street, Yorkville)***

Attendees reviewed the applications and award criteria. It was noted that the exterior renovations to the Dickson Building have not been completed.

Member Bernacki made a motion, seconded by Member Flowers, to approve the award for Lowell Mathre. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried.

Member Bernacki made a motion, seconded by Member Heiman, to approve the award for Stephenie Todd. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried.

Mr. Asselmeier will get proofs and price quotes for the awards. The intent is to present the awards at the May 16, 2023, County Board meeting. Mr. Asselmeier will confirm if the award winners or representatives of the award winners can attend the meeting.

### ***Discussion of Having Commission Meetings at Historic Locations in the County***

The consensus of the Commission was to continue meeting at historic locations. Mr. Asselmeier will send an email to historic organizations asking for suggestions for meeting locations. The Pickerall House did not meet the age requirement as historic.

### ***Discussion of Historic Survey Project/Certified Local Government Grant***

Mr. Asselmeier read an email from Ken Itle discussing the field work. Mr. Itle hopes to have draft documents to the Commission for the April meeting.

### ***Discussion of Cemeteries***

Mr. Asselmeier presented the binder from the Kendall County Historical Society. Discussion occurred regarding how to publicize the information in the binder. Chairman Wehrli will review the information contained in the binder.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

***February 1, 2023, Email from Mike Bortel Pertaining to National Alliance of Preservation Commissions***  
Commissioners reviewed the email.

***February 1, 2023, Email Regarding Illinois State Historic Preservation Office Regional Workshops in Bloomington and Marshall***  
Commissioners reviewed the email.

***February 17, 2023, Email Pertaining to Illinois State Historic Preservation Office Virtual Public Workshop***  
Commissioners reviewed the email.

***February 28, 2023, Emails Regarding Illinois State Historic Preservation Office Regional Workshops in Rockford and Rock Island***  
Commissioners reviewed the emails.

***February 27, 2023, Email From Mark Harrington Regarding Historic Preservation Groups***  
Commissioners reviewed the email.

***April 22, 2023, Northern Illinois Regional History Conference***  
Commissioners reviewed the information.

***March 9, 2023, Historic Preservation Plan Virtual Public Workshop Email***  
Commissioners reviewed the email. Member Heiman said people go on the website and make comments; she noted the need for a historic tax credit for historic homes. Discussion occurred regarding the Rivers' Edge Tax Credit.

Mr. Asselmeier also provided an email dated March 17, 2023, regarding the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office Regional Workshop in Chicago on April 13, 2023.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Heiman, to adjourn. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried. The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Matthew H. Asselmeier, AICP, CFM  
Senior Planner

Encs.

## Matt Asselmeier

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**From:** Itle, Ken <kitle@wje.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2023 10:11 AM  
**To:** Matt Asselmeier  
**Subject:** [External]RE: Survey Update

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.

Hello Matt:

We are continuing to make good progress. There is one day left in the field to complete Kendall Township, and about four survey-days for Bristol Township. Research continues, and we have a working draft of the summary report starting to come together. The plan will be to distribute a draft report for review to the commissioners at the April meeting.

-Ken

### **Kenneth M. Itle**

Associate Principal

### **Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.**

*Engineers | Architects | Materials Scientists*  
330 Pflingsten Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062  
tel 847.272.7400 | direct 847.753.6465  
www.wje.com  
kitle@wje.com

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**From:** Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 7, 2023 8:16 AM  
**To:** Itle, Ken <kitle@wje.com>  
**Subject:** Survey Update

Ken:

Do you have an update on the structure survey for the March 20<sup>th</sup> HPC meeting?

Thanks,

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

## **Matt Asselmeier**

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**From:** Illinois Statewide Historic Preservation Plan <info@thelakotagroup.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2023 9:36 AM  
**To:** Matt Asselmeier  
**Subject:** [External]Illinois SHPP - Chicago/On-Site Regional Workshop Invitation

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**Come join us in Chicago for the final  
Regional Workshop to discuss the future of  
historic preservation in Illinois.**

**On-Site Regional Workshop**



Register for Chicago!

### **Your Voice Matters!**

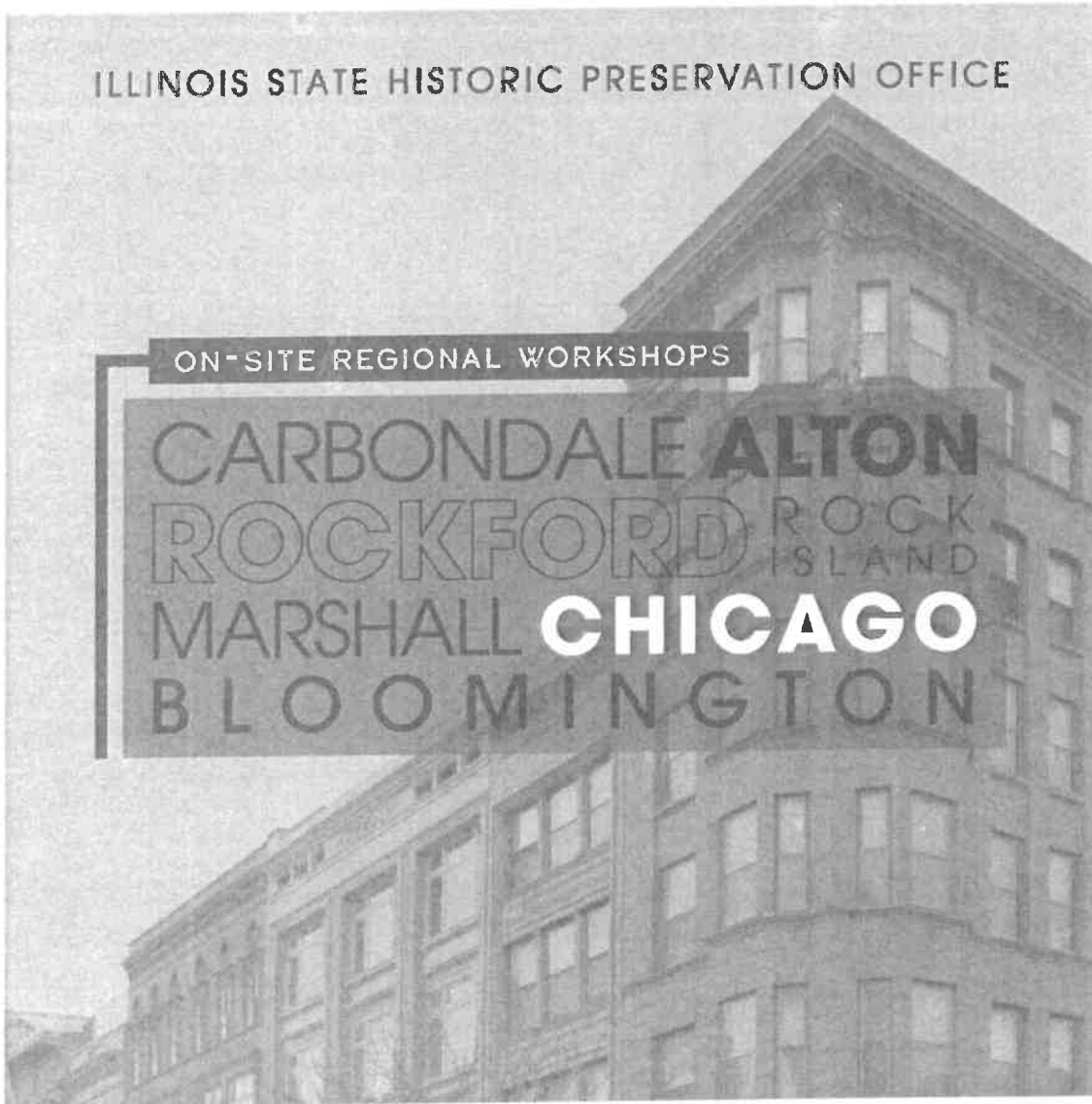
The Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (IL-SHPO) invites you to attend the upcoming on-site regional workshop in Chicago in preparation of the ***Illinois Statewide Historic Preservation Plan***. These workshops provide you the opportunity to identify and discuss local, regional, and statewide issues and trends that impact preservation in your community and around the state.

These Regional Workshops are part of a broad-based stakeholder engagement program for the *Illinois Statewide Historic Preservation Plan*, scheduled for completion by December 2023. This is a public plan informed by comments from Illinois stakeholders about local and statewide preservation priorities.

*The Illinois Statewide Historic Preservation Plan guides effective decision-making by preservation partners across the state as mandated under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1996. The IL-SHPO hosts the Plan, gathers public comment for use in the Plan's development, and monitors how community stakeholders pursue the Plan's goals and accomplish its objectives. Visit the project website at [www.illinoispreservationplan.com](http://www.illinoispreservationplan.com) for more information.*

**Stay Informed!**

Keep up to date with the Illinois Statewide Preservation Plan by visiting [www.illinoispreservationplan.com](http://www.illinoispreservationplan.com). The website will list regular updates on upcoming meetings, and other activities related to the statewide preservation planning process.



[WWW.ILLINOISPRESERVATIONPLAN.COM](http://WWW.ILLINOISPRESERVATIONPLAN.COM)

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# Historic Preservation Commission

## 2013 Spring Property of the Season

### 69-71 S. Main Street

The Oswego Historic Preservation Commission is proud to present the Knapp Building, 69-71 S. Main Street, as the spring Property of the Season. The Knapp building has been owned by the Raven Lodge A.F. & A.M. since 1924. It currently houses both the Lodge and the Oswego Family Restaurant.

Construction began in the fall of 1897 and was completed in the spring of 1898. Since that time, the building has undergone minor updating and alterations. The brick commercial building has a corbeled cornice along the top of the front façade with soldier course of brick lintels on the second story. The owners had quite a scare in March of 1900 when a fire broke out in the building across the alley from the Knapp building. The windows facing the alley were burned out from the heat and flames.



The businesses, Malcolm Meat Market and Croushorn Furniture Store, were able to evacuate their goods

The structure originally included six large narrow windows across the second floor, which had been filled in during a renovation in 1958, leaving only three small window openings. At that time, the wood shingled canopy was added along the front façade. When the Raven Lodge began renovations on the building in 1958, the Kendall County Record wrote about the changes in the August 30, 1958 paper: "The latest local business house to undergo a facelifting is the Oswego Coffee Shop, which is closed this week for alterations, both inside and out. A new brick front is being put on the building, which also houses the Masonic Temple. Both sections of the building are being faced with light-colored brick and modernization of window and door openings. The coffee shop will also be redecorated on the inside."

The building has recently had another 'facelift' with tuck pointing of the brick on the front and side alley façades.

The earliest records for the property show Charles Freeman, of Boston Massachusetts, and wife Sarah selling the parcel to Walter Loukes. Charles Freeman was born in Missouri in 1821 and was living with his young bride, Sarah, in Boston, Massachusetts, as a merchant and trader when he sold the property. Mr. Loukes, one of Oswego's earliest residents, sold the parcel along with other lands, to Lewis B. Judson on August 12, 1845. This parcel,

like many others on Main Street changed hands numerous times between 1845 and the 1880s. Owner's included the Coffin, Van Sickle and Sutherland families.



In 1878 the parcel was purchased by John Knapp and his wife, Elizabeth Spies, from Charles Sutherland. It remained in the possession of the Knapp family until the early 1920s. John Knapp and his brother, Charles, were born in Bayern, Germany, and immigrated to Will and Kendall counties respectively. During the Civil War, John moved to Oswego to join his brother as a hog merchant and butcher. John and his wife moved to Rockford for a time, and then moved to Hastings, Nebraska just before 1900, where John died in 1908. Charles took over responsibility for the building upon his brother's departure. Charles and his wife, Caroline Shoger Knapp, remained in Oswego and were well known, respected citizens. In 1897, he and Rudolph Knapp demolished the old structure and built a new brick building for their meat market.



The Raven lodge purchased this building April 7, 1924, but they have a much longer history in Oswego. The Raven Lodge began in Oswego in 1859, and according the Kendall County Free Press, in May 1863, Raven Lodge, A.F. & A.M., met over Hall's Store on the 1st and 3d Wednesday evenings of each month. After moving to new quarters, they suffered a setback in January 1872. The Kendall County Record wrote, "There was a commotion the other morning among the occupants of the brick block caused by the rain during the night on the snow laying on the flat roof of said buildings. The halls of both the Masons and Odd Fellows fared badly." The Lodge moved once again, in January 1883, back to their original location, then known as the Coffin Building. For 150 years, the Raven Lodge has been an active and respected member of the community. For generations they have hosted community events and gatherings, and continue to do so today.