Ambrose Hopkinson House, Olney

Part 3: Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council

— The fifteen members of the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council are appointed by the Director of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and approved by the Board of Trustees of the Illinois Historic Presevation Agency. Council members represent both academic and advocate positions in the following fields—history, archaeology, architectural history, and related fields. The Council, which meets four times a year, evaluates the property against National Register criteria and votes whether or not to advise nomination of a place.

Part 4: State Historic Preservation Officer(SHPO)/ Department of the Interior

— A positive vote by the Council advances the nomination to the SHPO, who has the authority to officially nominate the property.

— The nomination is then sent to the Keeper of the National Register, Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., who has 45 days to act on the nomination. The Keeper of the National Register has the final authority to designate properties to the National Register.

— If the nomination is approved neither by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council nor the State Historic Preservation Officer, an appeal may be made to the Keeper of the National Register.

Additional Information

For additional information on the National Register program in Illinois, write, call, or visit the IHPA website.

National Register Coordinator
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701-1512
217-785-4324
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Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

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Illinois Fact Sheet

The Rookery, Chicago

National Register of Historic Places

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Division of Preservation Services

The National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of places recognized for their historical, architectural, or archaeological significance and considered worthy of preservation. The National Register is maintained by the U.S. Department of the Interior, and nominations of Illinois properties to the Register are processed through the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Gunderson Historic District, Oak Park

Criteria for Evaluating a Place

Properties eligible for listing on the National Register include buildings, districts, sites, structures, and objects that are significant to local, state, and national history through the integrity of their location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association. A building, district, or site must meet one of the following criteria:

— be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history

— be associated with the lives of significant persons in our past

— be distinctive for its type, period, or method of construction; or represent the work of a master, or possess artistic value; or, in the case of a district, be representative of a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction

— yield important information about the area's history or prehistory

Morris Wide Water Canal Boat Site, Morris vicinity

Benefits of National Register Designation

National Register listing provides limited protection, makes a property eligible for certain financial benefits, and may increase a community's awareness of its cultural resources by:

— requiring that projects involving state or federal monies, licenses, permits, or assistance be examined for their effect on the historic property

— making properties eligible for grants-in-aid, when available

— offering a property-tax abatement for rehabilitating owner-occupied residences

— offering federal income-tax credits for rehabilitating income-producing properties

— increasing awareness of historic properties and promoting a sense of pride in past achievements

The National Register Does NOT

The National Register does not interfere with a private owner's property rights, nor does it:

— prevent private property owners from making changes or force owners to make improvements to their property

— limit the use of listed buildings or require owners to erect or purchase plaques

— require that properties be accessible to the public or open to the public

The National Register Process

Applications to the National Register must pass through a four-step process coordinated by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency's National Register staff.

Part 1: Preliminary Staff Review

— Interested applicants are required to submit information and photographs of the property, which will permit the staff to evaluate a place's significance and integrity. Please contact the National Register Coordinator for copies of the National Register "Preliminary Evaluation" handout.

— After evaluation of submitted material, a written staff opinion is sent to the applicant. The evaluation will explain why or why not the place deserves further consideration. If the staff opinion is positive, a nomination form is forwarded to the applicant along with recommendations for completing the form. If a negative staff opinion is given, the applicant may still request a nomination form, and the applicant will be advised of criteria issues that should be addressed.

The Pioneers, *Elmwood*

Part 2: Submitting the National Register Form

— Following receipt of a complete and correct form, the property will be scheduled for consideration at the next meeting of the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council.

— If the property is within a Certified Local Government, the nomination will be forwarded to the community for its official comment on the listing.