The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was established in 1980 to promote and protect the historic resources of Lincoln. Making an annual report of past actions and future goals is among the “Powers and Duties” of the Commission.

By Section 27.57 of the Lincoln Municipal Code, the Commission ordinarily meets monthly. Four of the seven appointed, volunteer citizen members constitute a quorum of the Commission. Commission membership is to include two architects, an American historian, a landscape architect (if available), a real estate professional, and two citizens at large. By having over half the members recognized as preservation professionals, the Commission also fulfills a key requirement for the City of Lincoln to be a Certified Local Government in cooperation with the Nebraska State Historical Society and the U. S. Department of the Interior. Membership at the start of 2009 included architects Jerry Berggren and Bob Ripley (chairman), historian Jim McKee, realtor Tim Francis, archeologist Cathy Beecham, and citizens-at-large Berwyn Jones and Jim Johnson. In June, Greg Munn was appointed to replace Jerry Berggren, whose distinguished service began in 1990.

The Commission not only met monthly in 2009, with a quorum at every meeting, members also did extra duty, meeting jointly with Urban Design Committee three times to review and make recommendations on the “Integrated Development Plan [IDP]” for West Haymarket. A copy of the HPC’s joint recommendation is appended to this report.

The Commission reviews applications for landmark designations and special permits for historic preservation, making recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council. As the preservation board of a Certified Local Government, the Commission also is the first group to review and make recommendations on National Register nominations of Lincoln properties. The Commission reviews proposed changes to designated landmarks or properties in landmark districts, such as Haymarket. The educational outreach efforts of the Planning Department in the area of historic preservation is also a prescribed “Power and Duty” of the HPC.

Highlights of 2009 included
• news in January that the Boulevards Historic District had been formally listed by the Department of the Interior on the National Register of Historic Places;
• recognition of Haymarket as a “Great American Neighborhood” in October (the first such designation in Nebraska);
• designations as landmarks of Weese Farmstead, former Northeast Branch Library (MTKO), Reimers Bungalow (2201 B), and Ricketts House (400 S. 33rd).

HPC also endorsed landmark designation of Tuttle-Schaupp House (3008 O), Hutchinson House (3249 Holdrege), and the NRHP nomination of Young-Faulkner House at 40th & South Streets--projects continuing in 2010. Urban Development Dept.’s TIF-supported facade program in the Havelock Avenue Landmark District was a major review item early in the year, along with typical reviews of signs and other projects in Haymarket, at “Grand Manse” (former US Courthouse & Post Office), etc.
Outreach efforts included many walking tours, television programs (in cooperation with Preservation Association of Lincoln and Nebraska State Historical Society [NSHS]), and illustrated talks to groups from 3rd graders to senior citizens. With support from the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Historic Preservation Fund of the Dept. of the Interior (through the NSHS), *Walking and Driving Tours of Wyuka Cemetery* was researched, written, and designed by the Planning Department and published in October by the Wyuka Historical Foundation.

Current and up-coming projects include:
- updating the historic preservation element of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan as part of a major update in 2010-11;
- a National Register nomination for the Woodshire neighborhood; and
- survey, evaluation, and compliance support for the West Haymarket redevelopment in consultation with the NSHS.

A few 2009 projects are illustrated below:

Weese Farmstead, landmark, 10901 Adams St.

Reimers Bungalow, landmark, 2201 B St.
NE Branch Library, now Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, landmark, 27th & Fair Streets

Detail of Ricketts House, landmark, 400 S. 33rd Street
Farmers Market in Haymarket, a Great American Neighborhood