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 2013 included architects Liz Kuhlman and Greg Munn (chairman), historian Jim McKee, realtor Tim Francis, archeologist Cathy Beecham, and citizens-at-large Berwyn Jones and Jim Johnson. Cathy Beecham resigned in May to accept an appointment to the Planning Commission and was replaced by historian Jim Hewitt in October. Jim is an attorney and has a Ph.D. in American history; he has taught at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

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.

**West Haymarket Redevelopment**

The Commission met monthly in 2013; with a quorum at every meeting. The February 21st, April 18th, and July 18th meetings included joint sessions with Urban Design Committee on West Haymarket. The February 21st meeting was held at the City Planning Department on the 4th floor of the City Hall Council Chambers.
Haymarket items. The February meeting reviewed “Project Oscar” at P and Canopy Streets. The April session focused on the “inter-canopy” space west of Lincoln Station and the July session considered enhancements to the parking decks on Arena Drive.

Landmarks & Special Permits

The following properties were designated as landmarks in 2013: Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity at 635 N. 16th St. in Greek Row, the LAFB Remote Facility at 6901 West Adams Street (with an associated special permit), the Conrad A. Schaaf House at 659 S. 18th Street (with a special permit), the Bowman-Cameron House at 1201 D Street (with a special permit), and Muny Pool House east of 21st and M Streets. The Commission also recommended approval of a special permit and revised preservation easement for the Lewis-Syford House, supporting its rehabilitation by the Sartore family.
Review of many Haymarket projects occurred in 2013 including Seaton & Lea Building (LeadBelly), Tool House Building (residential and commercial space), DelRay Ballroom (outdoor dining and balcony), and infill buildings west of the former Salvation Army building on P Street. The Commission also recommended the nomination of Lincoln Haymarket Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places, allowing its submission to the State Historic Preservation Board.

Other projects reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission included new commercial buildings at Holdrege and Idylwild in East Campus Neighborhood Landmark District, a new master plan for Valentino’s Idylwild Park, and off-campus “Greek” chapter houses in the landmark Weil and Atwood Houses on S. 17th Street.
Outreach & Upcoming Projects

Outreach efforts in 2013 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. Neighborhood history plaques for installation in Trago Park were completed with a community advisory group and Abigail Anderson, after a multi-year effort.

Current and up-coming projects include: a revised walking tour booklet and web site for Haymarket, with the Historic Haymarket business group; a National Register nomination for the Koop House at 15th & A; continued contributions to the Historical Society’s wiki “Placemakers of Nebraska: The Architects.”

M:\plan\UrbanDesignReview\HPC\HPCReports\REPORTS\Annual Reports\HPC2013.docx