



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
*Planning and Economic Development Division*

m e m o r a n d u m

**TO:** Bruce K. Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

**FROM:** April D. Getchius, AICP, Director

**DATE:** February 17, 2000

**SUBJECT:** HP005-L-99 Nomination of 612 West Green Street (Commonly Referred to as "The Ricker House") as a Historic Landmark

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## Introduction

Ms. Jamie Clapper has nominated the property located at 612 West Green Street, Urbana to be a historic landmark. The Preservation and Conservation Association (PACA) are the property owners. This property is commonly referred to as "The Ricker House." **At their February 2, 2000 meeting, the Historic Preservation Commission voted 3-0 (2 abstentions) to recommend designation of this property as a landmark.**

## Background & Discussion

For a detailed discussion, please refer to the staff memo to the Historic Preservation Commission dated January 11, 2000 and to the attached minutes of the February 2, 2000 Historic Preservation Commission meeting. Below is a brief summary:

1. The date of construction is 1892.
2. According to the application, the property is associated with an important person or event in national, state or local history. The application documents that Nathan C. Ricker constructed the subject property. Mr. Ricker was instrumental in establishing the architecture program at the University of Illinois, which was the only architectural program outside of the East Coast until 1889. He was Head of the Department of Architecture and resided in this home during his most active years, between 1885 and 1912. He was responsible for developing innovative curricula at the University of Illinois and was responsible for the design of many key University buildings. These buildings include Harker Hall, Kenney Gymnasium Annex, Natural History Building, Aeronautical Lab B and Altgeld Hall, which were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. He was also innovative in his contribution to modern methods of natural lighting

and ventilation systems. Additional detailed information regarding Mr. Ricker's significance to the community is included in the nomination application.

### **Summary of Historic Preservation Commission Findings**

1. The building is associated with Nathan C. Ricker who is considered an important person in national, state or local history.

### **Options**

In Historic Preservation Case HP002-L-99 the Urbana City Council may:

- a. approve the designation of 612 West Green Street as a landmark.
- b. deny the designation of 612 West Green Street as a landmark.

### **Historic Preservation Commission Recommendation**

At their meeting on February 2, 2000, the Historic Preservation Commission voted 3-0 (with two abstentions) to forward the nomination of 612 West Green Street as a landmark to the Urbana City Council with a recommendation for **APPROVAL**. Staff concurs with this recommendation.

Prepared by:

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Elizabeth H. Tyler, AICP/ASLA, Assistant City Planner

Attachments: Proposed Ordinance  
Minutes of the February 2, 2000 Historic Preservation Commission meeting

- c: Jamie Clapper  
Karen Kummer, Preservation and Conservation Association  
Building Safety Division

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING A HISTORIC LANDMARK

(612 West Green Street, "The Ricker House" -  
Historic Preservation Case HP005-L-99)

WHEREAS, Ms. Jamie Clapper has nominated the property located at 612 West Green Street, Urbana (commonly referred to as "The Ricker House") to be designated a historic landmark pursuant to the Urbana Historic Preservation Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the owners of the subject property, the Preservation and Conservation Association, have been duly notified of the nomination and have submitted an affirmative historic parcel vote to the City; and

WHEREAS, after due publication and notice to all parties as is required under the ordinance, a public hearing was held by the Urbana Historic Preservation Commission on February 2, 2000 concerning the subject historic landmark nomination; and

WHEREAS, following the public hearing, the Historic Preservation Commission voted to approve landmark designation for the subject parcel by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions, and made a written recommendation accompanied by a report summarizing the evidence presented at the hearing, with an explanation of its recommendation, which said recommendation and attachments was forwarded to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the owners of the subject parcel were notified by letter with a copy of the recommendation and attachments on February 16, 2000, of the

date of the City Council meeting at which the designation is to be considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, THAT:

The Council does hereby find and determine, based upon the recommendation and report of the Historic Preservation Commission, that the subject parcel should be designated as a historical landmark on the basis of meeting the following criterion:

- a. Association with an important person or event in national, state, or local history; and

thus, the said parcel a 612 West Green Street, which is commonly referred to as "The Ricker House", is hereby designated as a historic landmark, pursuant to the Urbana Historic Preservation Ordinance.

PASSED by the City Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tod Satterthwaite, Mayor