



**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

*Planning Division*

**m e m o r a n d u m**

**TO:** Historic Preservation Commission

**FROM:** Rebecca Bird, Planner I

**DATE:** September 1, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Finalize the 100-Most Historic Structures List

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This memorandum concerns the Historic Preservation Commission's 100 Most Historic Structures List project. The project is intended to recognize the "best of the best" historic resources across our community by composing an honorary list intended for educational purposes. It is hoped that the list will promote public recognition of these resources and instill community pride and community identity. Through this effort, it is also anticipated that property owners will consider nominating their own property for local landmark designation.

At the July 6, 2011 meeting of the Urbana Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), the Commission voted on approximately 275 potential properties under consideration for inclusion on the list. Following this meeting, staff sent a second round of approximately 75 nominations to the HPC that included late submissions, Urbana's landmarks, and other properties that were not included in the first round of voting.

At the August 16, 2011 meeting, the Commission discussed the list of properties that had essentially achieved a "super majority" of "yes" votes in the preliminary rounds of voting. At this meeting, the HPC decided to consider Greek Houses (sororities and fraternities) as a group for inclusion on the final list. In addition, the HPC asked staff to add a number of properties to the "super majority" list and to prepare three lists for consideration at the September meeting. The first is a list of all historic Greek Houses in Urbana, the second is a list of properties that received all "yes" and "maybe" votes but were not included in the list of properties that had achieved a "super majority" of "yes" votes, and the third is a list of properties in the Historic East Urbana Neighborhood that received a high number of "yes" and "maybe" votes. Staff prepared these lists and sent them to the HPC on August 23, 2011.

There are now 98 properties on the "yes" list as well as the group of Greek Houses, which brings the total to 99. The HPC should look at the 99 properties currently on the list as well as the properties included in the three lists described above to finalize a list of 100 properties.

## **Next Steps**

Once the final list has been determined, the City will begin work on the architectural and historic narrative for each property, along with getting high resolution photographs for each. As part of this effort, we will send letters to the owners of each of the structures informing them of inclusion on the list and asking if the property owner has any historical information on the property.

## **Recommendation**

City staff recommends that at their September 7, 2011 meeting, the Historic Preservation Commission further discuss and finalize the list of Urbana's 100 Most Significant Historic Structures.