

Louisville - Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges Project
Indiana Historic Preservation Advisory Team
Meeting – June 21, 2006
McCauley Nicolas Centre, Jeffersonville, Indiana

Opening Remarks: Mr. Jeff Vlach, CTS-GEC

Mr. Vlach welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked those present to identify themselves and the entity they represented. A list of the IHPAT members in attendance is attached to this summary. Because of declining attendance at past IHPAT meetings, Mr. Vlach indicated that CTS-GEC had placed courtesy calls during the week of June 12, 2006 to all IHPAT members to remind them to attend the meeting of June 21, 2006.

Project Update: Mrs. Mary Kennedy, INDOT and Mr. John Carr, IN SHPO Office

Mrs. Kennedy indicated that several developments were underway by INDOT since the last IHPAT meeting. Negotiations were continuing with SDC 6 to finalize their contract with INDOT and to issue a notice-to-proceed (NTP). Additionally, the supplement to the INDOT/CTS-GEC contract to provide for the preparation of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations for four Indiana properties was also proceeding toward the issuance of a NTP.

Mrs. Kennedy stated that the INDOT had made contact with the Colgate-Palmolive Company, as part of the NRHP nomination process for that property. Information about the NRHP was provided to representatives of the Jeffersonville plant through a meeting and e-mails, but the firm has been uncooperative to date regarding access for NRHP research purposes. Ms. Valerie Thomas of the Jeffersonville plant indicated that the headquarters in New York does not want the facility nominated to the NRHP and that the INDOT consultant would not be allowed access to the property for research efforts. Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Carr stated that per the MOA, their two agencies had coordinated and agreed that a report-type document for Colgate would be preferable to an incomplete NRHP nomination. The photographs accompanying the report will be prepared to NRHP standards.

Mr. Sekula provided Mrs. Kennedy with a copy of two newspaper articles detailing the current status of the Colgate site. The articles discuss a letter to Colgate from U.S. Representative Sodrel, asking for the company's cooperation with regards to the site's future. The latter of the two articles stated that the Colgate was willing to meet with the community to discuss the property sometime in the summer of 2006.

Lastly, Mrs. Kennedy said that the INDOT would begin interviews for the Indiana Ombudsman position in July 2006.

Mr. Carr welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Draft Outlines for Old Jeffersonville Historic District and Swartz Farm HPPs: Mr. Peter Fritz, CTS-GEC

Draft copies of the table of contents for the HPPs for the Old Jeffersonville Historic District and Swartz Farm Historic Preservation Plan (HPPs) were distributed for discussion. Mr. Fritz discussed each outline in detail. Comments discussed during the meeting were duly noted, and are summarized as follows for incorporation into the respective Draft HPPs.

Old Jeffersonville Historic District

-Mr. Hicks stated that the city of Jeffersonville had completed a parking study that included a portion of the Historic District. He is to supply a copy of it to Mr. Fritz.

-The general public has endorsed an alternate for pedestrian access to the Big Four Bridge. It was stated that the HPP should give possible recommendations on how to connect the bridge to the existing ground in Old Jeffersonville.

-Mr. Hicks stated that a planned unit development (PUD) had been zoned on a riverfront parcel with a time frame of three years to initiate construction. If there is no development within this time, Mr. Hicks stated that the parcel zoning could change.

-Mr. Sekula questioned if additional public input into the development of the HPP would be sought. He stated that because of the excellent public sentiment at the kick-off meeting in March 2006, the HPP should embrace the public. He suggested that the IHPAT of August 16, 2006 could be undertaken in two parts. The IHPAT could be convened as the first portion of the meeting followed by a general public meeting for discussion of the draft HPP. Mr. Rafferty and Mr. Kramer endorsed this format change for the August meeting. Additional coordination with the BiState Management Team (BSMT) would be undertaken to discuss this request.

-Mr. Kramer asked that Mr. Hicks contact the Jeffersonville Rotary Club to include downtown beautification activities along Court Avenue. Mr. Kramer indicated that the Rotary Club is already working on a beautification project, and it is proceeding very well.

Swartz Farm

-Mr. Rafferty questioned if the HPP would contain any provisions for the improvement of the view of adjacent landscapes, especially those with dilapidated buildings and other structures. Additionally, he asked if the HPP would make any recommendations for infrastructure improvements.

-Mr. Kramer replied that he would be teaching a class on Agriculture in the Fall 2006 at Indiana University Southeast. He felt that the development of the HPP for the Swartz Farm would be a good case study for the students. However, it appears that the HPP would be near completion by the time the class convenes in the fall.

-It was questioned if the HPP would recommend the development of additional city parks, especially in the vicinity of the Swartz Farm. Mr. Hicks stated that a recent public survey in Jeffersonville had shown strong support for the construction of new parks. He further replied that the city park plan, which was undergoing update, could recommend the construction of new parks.

-A tour of the general area surrounding the Swartz Farm was requested by the IHPAT members to include the Swartz/Voight/Marble Farm and the Central Passage House. Mr. Fritz indicated that he would contact Mr. Costa to further discuss this field trip.

General Comments

-Mr. Rafferty questioned if the replanting of trees would be included in the HPP. Mr. Fritz answered that the HPP could recommend the replanting of trees; additionally, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) stipulated tree plantings as part of the development of Streetscape Improvements (Stipulation II.J.).

-Mr. Rafferty questioned if the HPP would contain recommendations to mitigate the effects of street lighting. Mr. Hicks replied that existing mitigation measures are the responsibility of the city, and future mitigation measures could be included in applicable zoning ordinances.

It was noted that the historic district boundaries would be reviewed and possible modifications would be recommended; however, the Project would not initiate any process of expansion.

Status of James A. Smith Farm: Mr. Jeff Vlach, CTS-GEC

Mr. Vlach indicated that the deadline for the donation of the James A. Smith Farm had elapsed, and the property owners had not elected to donate the property through the fact that they did not respond. Therefore, the various MOA stipulations concerning the Smith Farm (III.I.9a through III.I.9e) will not be implemented.

Utica Township Historic Lime Industry HPP: Mr. Jeff Vlach, CTS-GEC

The property owner of two of the Utica Lime Kilns had denied access to the property, thereby forcing the cancellation of the kick-off meeting for the HPP on May 24, 2006. CTS-GEC supplied the Legal Division, INDOT, with information for their use in obtaining access to the property. A second kick-off meeting would be scheduled upon the resolution of this issue. Concern was expressed that this had delayed the proposed schedule for development of the HPP for the kilns.

Final Comments: Mr. Jeff Vlach, CTS-GEC

Mr. Kramer indicated that if his teaching schedule would allow it, he would be available to assist with the walking tour of the Old Jeffersonville Historic District as part of the Smart Growth Conference. Additional coordination with Mr. Kramer would be undertaken to define his schedule.

Any comments for consideration by the Co-chairs should be made in writing by the close of business on July 6, 2006. Mr. Vlach indicated that the next IHPAT meeting date is scheduled for August 16, 2006 in the Community Room of the McCauley Nicolas Centre. IHPAT members would be supplied with materials to be discussed at the next meeting at least two weeks prior.

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TEAM ATTENDEES

Co-chairs: Mary Kennedy – Indiana Department of Transportation
John Carr – Indiana State Historic Preservation Office Staff

City of Jeffersonville: Chester Hicks

Clark County Commissioners: Carl Kramer

Clarksville Historian: Wanda Biggs

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana: Greg Sekula
Laura Renwick

Rose Hill Neighborhood Association: Joe Rafferty

Indiana Department of Transportation: Paul Boone

Federal Highway Administration: George Jones
William Hanson

CTS – GEC: Jeff Vlach
Christa Turner
Jim Hilton
Peter Fritz