

Louisville Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges Project
Indiana Historic Preservation Advisory Team
Meeting – April 18, 2007
SUMMARY

Opening Remarks: Mr. Jeff Vlach, CTS-GEC

Mr. Vlach opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Agendas were disseminated to the attendees. The members in attendance were asked to identify themselves and their affiliation.

Mr. Vlach recognized Mr. Carl Percy, Indiana Ombudsman, who indicated that he recently attended a Section 106 training course in Indianapolis. Mr. Percy remarked that he is anxious to apply what he has learned to this Project.

Mr. Vlach turned to the Co-chairs, Mrs. Mary Kennedy and Mr. John Carr, for a project update.

Project Update: Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Carr, Co-chairs

Mrs. Kennedy introduced Mr. Patrick Carpenter, Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Cultural Resources Section, as the alternate to her seat as the INDOT Co-chair. Mr. Carpenter will replace Mrs. Kennedy at the June IHPAT as she will be on vacation.

Mrs. Kennedy informed the IHPAT that INDOT and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) observed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database website that the Train Depot was now listed. Formal approval of the Train Depot's listing from the Keeper of the NRHP has not been received by either the INDOT or SHPO, but should be forthcoming.

Additionally, Mrs. Kennedy apprised those in attendance of a meeting with Mr. Tony Manley, owner of the Utica Lime Kilns, following the March IHPAT meeting. At that meeting, Mr. Manley requested INDOT acquire his property before he grants access. INDOT is presently considering the purchase of the property.

Swartz Farm Rural Historic District Historic Preservation Plan (HPP): Mr. Kevin Senninger, Ratio Architects/CTS-GEC

Mr. Senninger led a discussion with the IHPAT on Draft B of the Swartz Farm Rural Historic District HPP. The following summarizes comments / statements made, including the updates made to the document from the iteration presented at December 2006 meeting:

- Although much of Chapter 1 remained unchanged, **Section 1.5** was added to summarize the impacts of the Project on the Swartz Farm Rural Historic District.
- Chapter 2 contains very little new information regarding the individual properties, but Mr. Senninger informed the IHPAT members that additional (historical) research has been conducted and will be incorporated as part of the next iteration of the HPP (final draft). It was suggested that Mrs. Jeanne Burke be contacted to see if she can provide additional historical information on the properties or families.
- Mr. Greg Sekula raised concerns regarding the accuracy of some of the dates and other information cited in the Historic Context. He also suggested that at one point in time, members of the Swartz family may have lived in the Central Passage House. He noted that such a connection may increase the significance of the structure, and possibly increase its importance/relevance to the proposed historic district.

- IHPAT members also discussed clarifying the spelling discrepancies of the Swartz/Schwartz family name. Mr. Senninger indicated that based on research, both names/spellings have been used. It was suggested that some sort of “disclaimer” be added to Chapter 2 to explain this difference in spelling. It was also noted by Ms. Laura Renwick that the spelling of the Lumen/Lewman family be clarified.
- Mr. Sekula recommended that an acknowledgement be added to the plan indicating that upon completion of the Project the portion of the Swartz Farm to the south would be the only remaining component of the district eligible for the NRHP.
- Section 2.4 was added to this chapter that summarizes some of the historical development trends that have occurred over the years. This is based on historic aerials and provides a context of how this area of the county has evolved over the last 60+ years.
- Chapter 3 has been expanded considerably to reflect the research of subconsultants and additional research. In addition to existing land uses, cultural landscape features and viewshed information has been added to this chapter. This information is revealed at the scale of the district-level, as well as at the individual property level.
- As for the “District Structures” section of this chapter, it was suggested by Ms. Renwick that a brief description be included regarding the typical use of some of the original outbuildings on the Swartz Farm. It was noted that this section primarily discussed the springhouse.
- Mr. Sekula noted several maps require the addition of road names added.
- Mr. Senninger noted that at the conclusion of Chapter 3, a Summary of Issues has been added to not only outline, or review, the issues raised, but also introduce the framework of recommendations related to the Project.
- Chapter 4 details specific Stipulations as outlined in the Project’s MOA relative to interstate corridor issues and historic resources within the Swartz Farm Rural Historic District. After some discussion, it was decided that the precedent photos of contemporary artwork/sculpture in the section on Gateway Features aren’t appropriate to the setting and should be removed.
- During discussions about the interstate corridor to the river, the question was raised concerning the incorporation of a multi-use trail along the interstate corridor similar to what is being planned on the Kentucky side. Because the design of the interstate has not progressed as much as the Kentucky side, those types of issues have not been addressed yet. The IHPAT felt the HPP should include language promoting the idea in order to create a complete trail “loop” between Indiana and Kentucky.
- During discussions regarding the treatment of historic structures, Mr. Sekula again mentioned the feasibility of moving the Central Passage House rather than demolishing it. He also asked if, under current agreements with INDOT, the Project would allow a private, third party to access the property and move the house to a site within the proposed rural historic district. The issue remains unanswered.
- IHPAT members agreed the HPP should also include language concerning the proper maintenance of the Swartz Farmhouse and associated outbuildings while under the ownership of INDOT. Maintaining the building(s) to avoid further deterioration would be key to the nomination process and enhance the historic integrity of the Swartz Farmhouse and property.
- The purpose of Chapter 5 outlines several land use alternatives in an effort to (re)develop the remaining Swartz Farm property into a feasible part of the county. The recommendations in this chapter are

outside the scope of the MOA, but could be explored further as part of Jeffersonville's Comprehensive Plan currently being updated.

- Mr. Senninger described his April 5, 2007 meeting with Mr. Rob Poff, Superintendent of the Jeffersonville Parks and Recreation Department. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce Mr. Poff to the Swartz Farm HPP, its purpose, and inform him of preliminary IHPAT discussions regarding the creation of a regional park at the Swartz Farm. Mr. Poff reacted very favorably to the concept and welcomed any effort to expand the amount of parkland in Clark County. He also discussed his research/interest in agriculturally-themed parks, and the importance of preserving farmland and the history of farming in Clark County.
- Mr. Sekula recommended the inclusion of Blackacre in Louisville as an example of a rural park theme.
- Building on this theme of creating a park on the Swartz Farm, it was recommended that the HPP could discuss the opportunity of creating a trailhead at the farm as part of a potential multi-use trail along the I-265 corridor.
- On a related note, Mr. Senninger asked the group for guidance as to the appropriateness or feasibility of the remaining land use alternatives. It was suggested by the IHPAT members to eliminate the residential component or alternative due to the amount of existing residential development surrounding the Swartz Farm.
- Following some discussion, IHPAT members decided that the concept of a regional park should take on added significance in the recommended alternatives, and the remaining land use scenarios would be moved to the Appendix section of the HPP.
- Mr. Sekula noted the importance of finding an appropriate reuse of the farmhouse regardless of the type of land use or activity is recommended for the Swartz Farm property.
- Mr. Sekula recommended the inclusion of a condition assessment of the Swartz Farm in the plan detailing the requirements necessary to stabilize the structure. Mr. Carr added that INDOT appeared to be amenable to assisting with the stabilizing of the structure, but not a full rehabilitation.

Final Comments: Mr. Vlach, CTS-GEC

Mr. Vlach extended the opportunity for the Co-chairs to provide any final comments prior to adjournment. As the Co-chairs had no additional comments or concerns, an opportunity for the remaining IHPAT members to comment or express concerns was afforded.

Mr. Sekula summarized his efforts to contact the owners of the five contributing homes in the Old Jeffersonville Historic District that are to be relocated as part of the Project. Of the five owners he attempted to contact, one favorably responded to the possibility of meeting; no response were received from the remaining four. He provided CTS-GEC with the names and addresses of the owners and requested that letters be prepared for each requesting a meeting to evaluate the interior of the structures.

Mr. Sekula noted that HLFi would be unable to attend the scheduled June 13, 2007 IHPAT meeting, as it conflicts with another scheduled meeting. It was requested by the other members in attendance that the June IHPAT meeting be rescheduled to accommodate HLFi. If amenable with the schedule of the Co-chairs, CTS-GEC is to reschedule the next IHPAT meeting for June 12, 2007. CTS-GEC is to confirm the availability of the McCauley Nicolas Center. If unavailable, CTS-GEC will explore other possible venues to convene the June meeting. *(Subsequent to the meeting, CTS-GEC rescheduled the June IHPAT meeting to June 12, 2007 at Preservation Station. IHPAT members were notified via e-mail on May 1, 2007 of the adjustment.)*

IHPAT members will be notified of the meeting location and supplied with materials to be discussed at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Any comments for consideration by the Co-chairs should be made in writing by the close of business on May 3, 2007. The meeting was then adjourned.

**Louisville - Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges Project
Indiana Historic Preservation Advisory Team
Meeting – April 18, 2007
TEAM ATTENDEES**

INDOT: Mary Kennedy (Co-chair)
Patrick Carpenter

IN SHPO: John Carr (Co-chair)

Jeffersonville Preservation: Laura Renwick

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana: Greg Sekula

Clarksville Historical Society: Jane Sarles
Wanda Biggs

CTS – GEC: John Sacksteder
Jeff Vlach
Chad Costa
Christa Turner
Kevin Senninger
Jason Falls

Indiana Ombudsman: Carl Pearcy

Public: Jenny Eggenpiller (Congressman Baron Hill's Office)