

*Examples of National Register  
Landmarks in Ottawa*



Andrew J. O'Connor III Home  
736 Chapel Street



Jeremiah Strawn Home  
532 Congress Street



*Where Can I Get More Information?*

The Historic Preservation Commission meetings are open to the public and are held at Noon on the second Thursday of every month at City Hall, 301 West Madison Street, Ottawa, IL.

For more information, visit our website at:

[www.cityofottawa.org](http://www.cityofottawa.org)  
or contact us via e-mail:  
[historicpreservation@cityofottawa.org](mailto:historicpreservation@cityofottawa.org)  
or at 815-433-0161, ext. 10 or 40.



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**Ottawa** Historic  
Preservation  
Commission



John L. Hossack Home  
210 W. Prospect Street  
Ottawa, Illinois



*What is  
Historic  
Preservation?*



## *What is Historic Preservation?*

Local landmarks, either in the form of structures, buildings, and/or sites, collectively form our cultural heritage. Recognizing this cultural heritage is important - both to honor the past and to understand the present and the future. Historic preservation seeks to continually identify, protect and preserve our landmarks that constitute our cultural heritage for - our use, for education, for observation and for pleasure. Historic preservation is present on a national level, a state level, and, here in Ottawa, on a local level.



## *How Does Historic Preservation Work?*

\*In the federal government, the Secretary of the Interior is responsible for establishing standards and guidelines; for advising on the preservation of historic properties, sites and objects; and, for administering preservation tax incentive programs. These programs and others were established through the National Preservation Act of 1966. Historic areas can be designated as Historic districts - while specific sites can be designated as "landmarks." The purpose of both designations is to offer protection for sites - and allow for compatible modifications of them. There is also

national organization chartered by Congress to promote preservation - its called The National Trust for Historic Preservation.

\* At the state level, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency oversees the functions of the national preservation program. This agency administers several incentive programs for rehabilitating historic buildings, including state and federal grant programs. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency identifies, protects and promotes historically significant sites and districts in Illinois communities through its Certified Local Government program.

\* A community can show support for historic preservation by enacting an ordinance and working with state and federal agencies and organizations.

## *Historic Preservation in Ottawa*

With respect to the national programs, Ottawa has a historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Washington Park Historic District was entered in the National Register April 11, 1973.

Additionally, local property listings on the National Register include: John L. Hossak Home located at 210 W. Prospect Avenue (entered in National Register March 16, 1972); Kneussl Building located at 215-217 W. Main Street (entered in the National Register on May 11, 1992); the Andrew J. O'Connor III home located at 736 Chapel Street

(entered in the National Register on April 22, 1993); the Jeremiah Strawn home located at 532 Congress Street (entered in the National Register on January 24, 1995); the John F. Nash/Clarence Griggs home located at 1333 Ottawa Avenue (entered on the National Register November 27, 1998). Also, the Illinois Waterway Navigation Systems Facilities recognizes Ottawa because of Starved Rock Lock and Dam. This National Register designation was given on March 10, 2004.



## *Why Have Historic Preservation?*

Preservation of our local resources provides important cultural, educational and economic assets for our city. Local landmarks show a sense of civic pride for all of us. Designation as a local historic district or urban conservation district helps maintain neighborhood stability and character. The character of historic buildings and neighborhoods need not be lost through inappropriate expansion, alteration, or through change of use or appearance. We can all participate in the preservation of sites, buildings and objects significant to our history and culture.