

**WHITEWATER LANDMARKS COMMISSION  
ANNUAL PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES REPORT  
(January – December, 2019)**

The City of Whitewater Landmarks Commission's regularly scheduled meetings were held ten (10) times between March 2019 and December 2019.

The Commission currently monitors 25 individually listed Landmarks as well as the Main Street Historic District.

In 2008, the Commission reviewed and accepted the Architectural and Historic Survey of Whitewater properties completed by Carol Cartwright which is still used. It provides information to the Commission with regard to existing structures that would qualify to be designated as Local Landmarks.

In 2019 the Landmarks Commission completed the following:

March

- With permission from the City Council, designated the Territorial Oak site near the corner of Franklin and Main Streets as a Local Landmark.
- Concluded the Main Street Historic District Banner Project sponsored by the Landmarks Commission to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the District being placed on the National Register. Project funding was accomplished by the Commission who received grants from the Whitewater Community Foundation, the Whitewater Tourism Council as well as private donations. Forty (40) banners were acquired at a cost of \$1800 and were placed on the lamp posts on Main Street from Fremont St. to Prairie St.

April

- Continued meetings with the Whitewater Federation of Women's Clubs planning a tour of historic homes to aid with major restorations of the Bassett House. Also included on the planning committee were the Whitewater Historical Society, Downtown Whitewater, the public library, the Whitewater Cultural Arts Alliance and the City of Whitewater.

May

- Installed a display at the Irwin Young Memorial Library regarding National/State Historic Archeological/Historic Preservation Month focusing on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Main Street Historic District.
- Submitted tours and events that the public could attend regarding Commission programs to the Wisconsin Historical Society website.
- Sent letters of appreciation regarding care and maintenance to the owners of all locally designated Landmarks in the city of Whitewater.
- Presented the 2018 Annual Preservation Activities Report to the Whitewater City Council.
- Received proclamations for Wisconsin Historic Preservation Month and Wisconsin Archeological month from the city manager.
- Received a request from the Weinberg family to investigate if the plaque they had placed in the Cravath Lake Front Park was still there. The plaque was found in a drawer at City Hall. A new informative historic plaque which the family will donate will be placed at the lake front park.
- Ordinance to increase fines due to vandalism/theft to National/State and Local Landmarks approved by City Council. Impetus for this ordinance change came from Jimmy Schulgit

(Landmarks Commission City Council Member) with the assistance of Chris Munz-Pritchard (Landmarks Commission City Employee).

#### June

- Received and approved a request from the Delta Zeta Sorority, owners of the George Esterly House to install an exterior and unobtrusive security system on the premises.
- Installed a display at the Irwin L. Young Library educating and informing the public about the Heritage Day Tour scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup> showcasing the Local Landmarks that would be open in the Main Street Historic District.
- Partnered with the Whitewater Federation of Women's Clubs to conduct the Heritage Day Tour which raised over \$6,000 for the restoration/preservation of the Bassett House.

#### July

- Commission member attends Historic Preservation Conference at Waukesha Historical Society

#### August

- Researched the history and condition of the World War Memorial Monument located near Triangle Park on Main Street.
- Finalized reprint of Whitewater Historic Landmarks Guide with Jasmine Designs to include all (25) Local Landmarks. Reprint made possible by the Whitewater Tourism Council. 500 copies were produced

#### September

- Rich Lien presented the history of the Water Department Building located at the corner of Starin Fremont Streets. The commission, pending further research and council approval would like to designate this structure as a Local Landmark.

#### October

- Commission members attended the Wisconsin State Historical Society Annual Preservation Conference at the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva.
- Provided a visual display celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Whitewater Main Street Historic District at the Wisconsin State Historical Society Preservation Conference in Lake Geneva.
- Commission member assisted with a tour of the Effigy Mounds Preserve conducted on October 24<sup>th</sup> for students and staff from UW-Whitewater.
- Contacted Eric Boettcher regarding maintenance needed for the Historic City Owned Property (Starin Park War Memorial). The DPW completed re-grouting portions of the monument to stabilize it.

#### November

- Reviewed and approved copy and photos for historic signage to include the Brickyard Site (dog park), Starin Water Tower, the Territorial Oak, The First Mill/Water Turbine and the Weinberg Family Plaque at Cravath Park. Signage to be placed at locations in spring/summer of 2020.
- Suggested drafts for signage at the corner of Jefferson and Starin Roads regarding the historic brickyard and foundry sites developed.

#### December

- Received relevant files from Irwin L. Young Library pertaining to Local Landmarks and historical buildings in Whitewater.

#### Looking ahead to 2020, the Landmarks Commission is planning:

- Continue to support and be a part of the Irwin L. Young Library programs regarding Local Landmark education.
- With Council approval, designate the Water Department Site as a Local Landmark.

- To assist with the maintenance and restoration of the Effigy Mounds Preserve.
- To research and review the Calvary Cemetery as a possible Local Landmark.