

AURORA PRESERVATION COMMISSION

STATE OF ILLINOIS CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



**CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REPORT
CITY OF AURORA, ILLINOIS
2013**

This report is produced as a requirement for the Certified Local Government Agreement between the City of Aurora and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. It describes the activities of the Preservation Commission during the period of January 1 through December 31, 2013. Contents include COA cases reviewed, survey files, National Register nominations, loan & grant programs, monitoring, landmark designations, general preservation activities, etc. Further requirements include educational functions attended, commissioner attendance records, and year-end 2013 reporting numbers for the Planning & Zoning annual report submitted for the 2014 budget.

Prepared by Charlie Wilkins, Associate Planner, Planning & Zoning Division.

Cover Images:

1997 photograph of 220 N. Locust Street in the Tanner Historic District (Top Image)
2013 photograph of 220 N. Locust Street following historic rehab (Bottom Image)

AURORA CITY COUNCIL

THOMAS J. WEISNER, MAYOR

ROBERT J. O'CONNOR	ALDERMAN, AT-LARGE
RICHARD C. IRVIN	ALDERMAN, AT-LARGE
KRISTINA "TINA" BOHMAN	ALDERMAN, FIRST WARD
JUANY GARZA	ALDERMAN, SECOND WARD
TED MESIACOS	ALDERMAN, THIRD WARD
BILL DONNELL	ALDERMAN, FOURTH WARD
JOHN S. "WHITEY" PETERS	ALDERMAN, FIFTH WARD
MICHAEL SAVILLE	ALDERMAN, SIXTH WARD
SCHEKETA HART-BURNS	ALDERMAN, SEVENTH WARD
RICHARD B. "RICK" MERVINE	ALDERMAN, EIGHTH WARD
EDWARD BUGG	ALDERMAN, NINTH WARD
LYNNE JOHNSON	ALDERMAN, TENTH WARD

AURORA PRESERVATION COMMISSION

SHANITA ANDERSON
FENANDO CASTREJON
JILL JENKINS
ANTHONY LOWE
CONNIE NOLTEMEYER
DONALD TRUAX

STAFF

SUE JACKSON	ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
TIM MACHOLL	PLANNER
STEPHANE PHIFER	DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
JANELL ROEHLK	PLANNER
ED SIEBEN	ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
TRACEY VACEK	PLANNER
CHARLIE WILKINS	ASSOCIATE PLANNER

NATIONAL REGISTER

No new properties were added to the National Register during 2013. Staff continued to monitor activity in the three National Register Districts (Stolp Island, LaSalle Street Auto Row, Westside) and for all properties individually listed on the National Register.

CASES REVIEWED

The Preservation Commission received 176 Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) applications during the 2013 year. Of these, 168 were approved.

MONITORING

Staff completed 101 Section 106 reviews for HUD Programs administered by the City of Aurora. The HUD Programs administered by the City include Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Section 108, Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), and Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). Surveys were completed for every Section 106 review. In May of 2013, the City of Aurora finalized a new programmatic agreement with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency for certain programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administered by the City. The programmatic agreement allows the City to more effectively fulfill its Section 106 review responsibilities for HUD program activities. This new programmatic agreement will remain in effect until September 30, 2020.

Please see Appendix for list of Section 106 reviews completed during the 2012 year.

LOCAL LANDMARKS

No new landmarks, historic districts, or annexations to historic districts were applied for in 2013. When needed, staff provided interested parties with copies of the "Historic District Designation Handbook: A How to Guide for Establishing Historic Districts," an informational guide designed to help homeowners through the designation process. In April 2013, staff gave a presentation on the process for creating a local historic district at a meeting of the Friends of LaSalle Street Historic Auto Row. The Friends of LaSalle Street is a group of property owners from Aurora's LaSalle Street Auto Row National Register Historic District. The group has recently been looking into making the Auto Row stretch of LaSalle Street a local historic district.

MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS

The Aurora Preservation Commission is a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Landmarks Illinois, the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions (IAHPC), the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, and the Association for Preservation Technology.

In June 2013, commissioners Shanita Anderson and Don Truax attended the Illinois Statewide Preservation Conference held in Evanston, Illinois. Staff representative Charlie Wilkins also attended. Commissioner Anderson and staff representative Wilkins participated in the all-day Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) training session while at the conference. CAMP is a training and mentoring training session designed to support the work of municipal and county preservation commissioners and their staff.

GRANT/LOAN PROGRAMS

Staff monitored two grant projects and one loan project during the 2013 year and approved payout authorizations for exterior work done in compliance with the historic district guidelines. Five new grants were also approved during 2013. These five new grants were approved as part of the new, consolidated Preservation Grant Program that was approved by City Council in 2012 (*see the 2012 CLG Report for more information*).

Below is an example of a 2013 project funded in part by the Preservation Grant Program:



220 N. Locust Street (before):

Aluminum siding, non-original 1/1 windows, non-original porch posts.

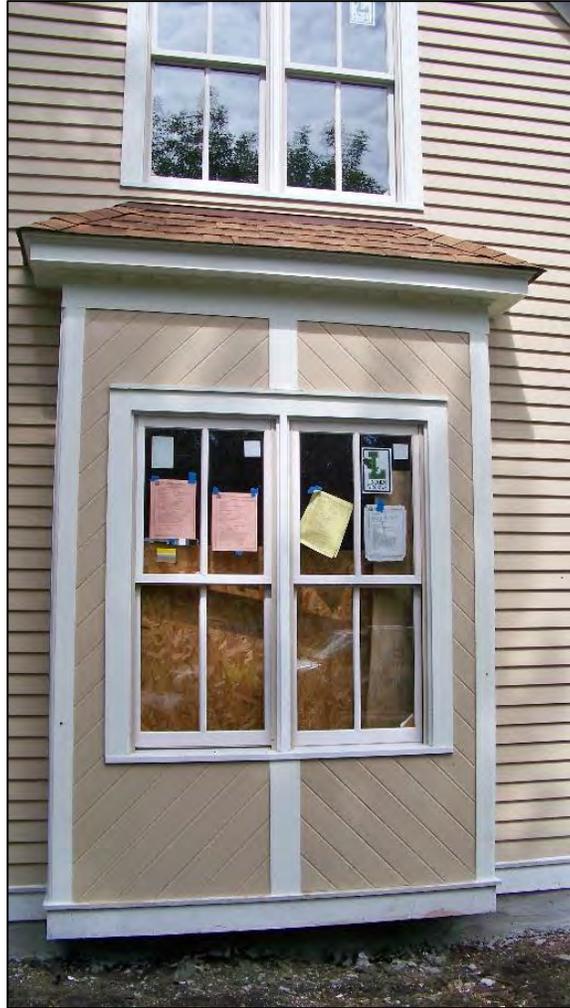


220 N. Locust Street (after):

Aluminum siding removed. Deteriorated beveled clapboards removed and replaced with in-kind cedar replacements. Original Stick-style detailing replicated on bay. Non-original windows removed and replaced with period appropriate 2/2 double hung windows. Non-original porch posts replaced with stylistically appropriate square posts with knee braces.



220 N. Locust Street (after)



***220 N. Locust Street (after):
Stick-style detailing on bay.***

PUBLIC AWARENESS

In honor of National Historic Preservation Month in May, the Aurora Preservation Commission held the 2013 Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation. Eight homeowners were recognized for making significant exterior improvements to their properties while all the while maintaining the character and fabric of their historic homes. Each winner was presented with a certificate signed by the Mayor. Photos and certificates of each winning property are framed and displayed in City Hall in order to boost public recognition and awareness of historic preservation in Aurora.

Below are some photos from the 2013 Mayor's Awards event:



Left to Right: Sara Ruiz, Chairman Truax, Frank Rojas – award for 215 West Park Avenue



Left to Right: Patricia Taylor, Chairman Truax, Robert A. Taylor – award for 377 Spruce Street



The Aviles Family with Chairman Truax (center) – award for 416 Wilder Street

Following are before and after photos of some of the 2013 award winning properties:



416-418 Iowa Avenue (before)



416-418 Iowa Avenue (after)



377 Spruce Street (before)



377 Spruce Street (after)

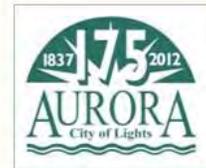


461 W. New York Street (before)



461 W. New York Street (after)

Also during National Historic Preservation Month in May, staff representative Charlie Wilkins led a seminar on how to conduct research on your house. The seminar was hosted by the Aurora Historical Society. Topics covered by the talk included: deed research, overview of residential architectural styles, use of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, and discussion of various online and print sources available to researchers.



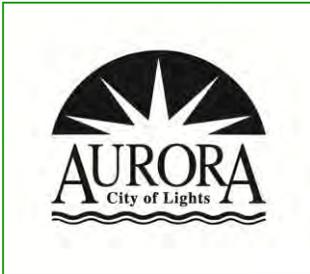
Researching Your Aurora Home

A Guide to Uncovering the Past

Title Slide from PowerPoint – House Research Seminar Hosted by Aurora Historical Society

APPENDIX

- Commissioner Attendance
- List of Section 106 Reviews
- Publicity



AURORA PRESERVATION COMMISSION

2013 PRESERVATION COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Members

Shanita Anderson
 Fernando Castrejon
 Jill Jenkins
 Tony Lowe
 Connie Noltemeyer
 Donald Truax

Staff

Stephane Phifer, Planning Director
 Charlie Wilkins, Associate Planner

P = Present
 A = Excused Absence

** February, May, July, & December meetings cancelled due to lack of agenda items*

Commissioner	Jan.	Feb.*	Mar.	Apr.	May*	Jun.	Jul.*	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.*	Attend Rate
Shanita Anderson	A	N/A	A	P	N/A	A	N/A	P	P	P	P	N/A	62.5%
Fernando Castrejon	P	N/A	P	P	N/A	P	N/A	P	A	P	P	N/A	87.5%
Jill Jenkins	P	N/A	P	P	N/A	A	N/A	P	P	P	P	N/A	87.5%
Tony Lowe	P	N/A	A	P	N/A	P	N/A	A	P	P	P	N/A	75%
Connie Noltemeyer	P	N/A	A	P	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	A	A	N/A	62.5%
Donald Truax	P	N/A	P	P	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	N/A	100%
TOTAL	5	N/A	3	6	N/A	4	N/A	5	5	5	5	N/A	79.2%

CITY OF AURORA SECTION 106 REVIEWS COMPLETED DURING 2013 YEAR

ADDRESS	CLIENT	PROGRAM	RECOMMENDATION	WORK TO BE PERFORMED	DATE COMPLETE
275 S. LaSalle St.	Jennings Terrace Inc.	CDBG Public Facilities	Not eligible for the National Register.	Flooring Improvements.	2/4/2013
659 S. River St.	Public Action to Deliver, Hesed House	CDBG Public Facilities	Not eligible for the National Register.	Bathroom Remodel.	2/4/2013
Hinman St. from 5th Ave. to 6th Ave.	City of Aurora	CDBG Program - Infrastructure	No historic properties are located within the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE).	Reconstruction – Streets, Curbs and Gutters.	2/7/2013
Superior St. from Beach to Loucks	City of Aurora	CDBG Program - Infrastructure	No historic properties are located within the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE).	Reconstruction – Streets, Curbs and Gutters.	2/7/2013
509 Talma	CHAD	NSP	Not eligible for the National Register.	Demo of garage and construction of new garage.	3/1/2013
530 Gates	Daisy A. Kiss	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roofing.	3/5/2013
820 Hinman Ave.	Rebuilding Together Aurora	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Bathroom Modifications & ADA Ramp.	3/11/2013
1012 Assell	Rebuilding Together Aurora	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Bathroom Modifications.	3/11/2013
1234 Liberty St.	Rebuilding Together Aurora	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Bathroom Modifications and ADA ramp.	3/11/2013
2211 Gettysburg	Rebuilding Together Aurora	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Bathroom Modifications.	3/11/2013
534 S. Lake St.	Thomas Traynoff	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Porch/Outside Steps.	3/18/2013
540 N. Harrison	GONZALEZ, Antonio	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	HVAC and Electrical.	4/8/2013

CITY OF AURORA SECTION 106 REVIEWS COMPLETED DURING 2013 YEAR

514 Claim St.	Ivar L. FORSNER	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roof & Plumbing.	4/11/2013
945 Hammond	Ricky RODGERS	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roof.	4/11/2013
333 W. Illinois	ROBERT CHANNELL	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roof & Porch.	4/16/2013
439 California	Kathleen S. Hamaker	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Electric / Plumbing / HVAC/ Roofing	4/16/2013
761 North Ave.	Berta Lopez	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Furnace / HVAC / Electrical	4/16/2013
982 Autumn Ln.	Carolyn Delaney	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Plumbing, Electrical, HVAC	4/16/2013
814 S. Fourth St.	Gregory A. Decker	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Electrical	4/16/2013
315 Hinman	Rebuilding Together Aurora	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Build wheelchair ramp to the front door	5/6/2013
208 S. Ohio St.	Mary R. Newell	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Furnace / Electrical	5/6/2013
150 Half Moon Cir.	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Accessibility Modifications.	5/15/2013
538 S. LaSalle St.	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Bathroom Modifications.	5/23/2013
718 Palace	Jacqueline Short	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register. Told NR that this will need a COA for exterior work since in Palace HD.	Plumbing/Electric.	5/28/2013
1165 S. Kenmore	Nancy Streit	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Furnace & Electric.	5/28/2013
424 Lakelawn Blvd.	Jule Lyle	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Furnace & Electric.	5/28/2013
1124 E. Front St.	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Build ADA ramp.	5/28/2013

CITY OF AURORA SECTION 106 REVIEWS COMPLETED DURING 2013 YEAR

231 N. Calhoun St.	Melvin Rodgers	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roofing.	6/6/2013
545 Iroquois	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Bathroom Modifications.	6/6/2013
768 E. New York St.	Paula Salinas	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roof repairs.	6/6/2013
1000 Assell Ave.	Gerald F. O'Riley	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roof.	6/6/2013
1379 N. Randall Rd.	Mary Wish	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Plumbing & Electric.	6/6/2013
1209 Kane St.	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	ADA Ramp.	6/19/2013
856 Church Rd.	Joan Schosseler	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roof.	7/10/2013
1823 Ivy Ln.	Edna Gardner	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roof.	7/10/2013
640 Jefferson St.	Elizabeth Wagner	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Electric / Roof.	7/10/2013
1125 S. Jackson	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	ADA Ramp.	7/18/2013
1305 Superior St.	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Bathroom Modifications.	7/18/2013
129 E. Warren Ave.	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	ADA Ramp.	7/22/2013
N. East Ave. between Claim & Spring Streets	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	Subject property area is not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
Liberty St. between N. Union & Beach Streets	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	Subject property area is not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013

CITY OF AURORA SECTION 106 REVIEWS COMPLETED DURING 2013 YEAR

N. Fourth St. between Claim & Liberty Streets	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	Subject property area is not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
Flagg St. between Lincoln & Root Streets	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	Subject property area is not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
Kane St. between N. Union & N. East Streets	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	Subject property area is not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
High St. between Claim & Columbia Streets	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	Subject property area is not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
Fulton St. between N. Spencer & N. Union Streets	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	Subject property area is not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
Columbia St. between High & Beach Streets	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	Subject property area is not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013

CITY OF AURORA SECTION 106 REVIEWS COMPLETED DURING 2013 YEAR

S. LaSalle St. between Washington St. & North Ave.	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	Subject property area is not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
Spring St. between State & Spencer Streets	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	Subject property area is not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
College Ave. between N. Union & Root Streets	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	Subject property area is not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
Claim St. between Kane St. & Roosevelt Ct.	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	Subject property area is not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
Broadway Ave. between North Ave. & Washington St.	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	Subject property area is not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
Benton St. between Union & Spencer Streets	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	Subject property area is not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013

CITY OF AURORA SECTION 106 REVIEWS COMPLETED DURING 2013 YEAR

Beach St. between Claim & Columbia Streets	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	Subject property area is not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
W. Park Pl. between Galena & New York Streets	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	No adverse effect. Work will not adversely affect historic properties located within the subject property area.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
S. Lincoln Ave. between Avon St. & North Ave.	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	No adverse effect. Work will not adversely affect historic properties located within the subject property area.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
S. Fourth St. between Clark & Benton Streets	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	No adverse effect. Work will not adversely affect historic properties located within the subject property area.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
Anderson St. between Benton & Spring Streets	City of Aurora	CDBG Public Facilities	No adverse effect. Work will not adversely affect historic properties located within the subject property area.	Replace Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer in the parkway/public right-of-way.	8/7/2013
218 Beach St.	Serafin Tena	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Furnace & Water Heater.	8/14/2013
1241 S. Fourth St.	Lashon Harden	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Electrical & HVAC.	8/15/2013
1044 S. Pearl St.	JOCO	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Plumbing.	8/15/2013
533 Grand Ave.	Martin Hieronimi	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roof.	8/15/2013

CITY OF AURORA SECTION 106 REVIEWS COMPLETED DURING 2013 YEAR

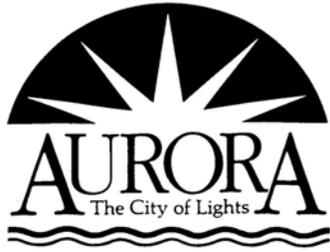
421 Hinman St.	Otilia Llamas	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roof.	8/15/2013
934 E. Lake St.	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	ADA Ramp.	8/26/2013
645 Adams St.	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	ADA Ramp & Bathroom Modifications.	8/28/2013
368 N. Root St.	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	ADA Ramp.	9/11/2013
1046 Kensington	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	ADA Ramp.	9/13/2013
615 Claim St.	Lorena Tavizon	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roofing.	9/19/2013
833 Taylor Ave.	Sonia Bickett	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roofing.	9/19/2013
883 Taylor Ave.	Mamie Robertson	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Furnace & Water Heater.	9/19/2013
Various AHA Sites	Aurora Housing Authority	Aurora Housing Authority	Not eligible for the National Register.	Various Interior & Exterior Rehabilitation.	9/24/2013
730 Fifth St.	Lillie Garcia	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Furnace & Water Heater.	10/14/2013
996 Sheffer Rd.	Maria Galvan	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roofing.	11/22/2013
630 Lebanon St.	Whitney Elder	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roofing.	11/8/2013
134 Cross St.	Sylvia Bustos	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roofing.	10/10/2013
1485 Mountain St.	Josephine Beamon	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roofing.	11/5/2013
939 Fulton St.	Laura Simmons	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roofing.	11/5/2013
605 N. Edgelawn Dr.	Fernando Quinones	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roofing.	11/5/2013

CITY OF AURORA SECTION 106 REVIEWS COMPLETED DURING 2013 YEAR

339 S. Fourth St.	Ramon Rios	Safety First - JOCO	Property is a contributing resource within the Near Eastside Historic District - a locally designated historic district that has been determined to be eligible for the National Register. The proposed roofing work however, constitutes a no adverse effect to the historic property and the surrounding Near Eastside Historic District. Please note that a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) will be needed in addition to a building permit in order to comply with local historic district guidelines.	Roofing.	11/5/2013
883 Taylor Ave.	RTA	CDBG - Safe at Home Program	Not eligible for the National Register.	Fence Repair & Electrical Panel.	11/13/2013
704 Spring St.	Alfredo Zamudio	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Roof, Plumbing, HVAC, Electric.	11/13/2013
56 N. Anderson St.	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Fence Replacement.	11/13/2013
29 Hopkins	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Front Steps Modifications.	11/13/2013

CITY OF AURORA SECTION 106 REVIEWS COMPLETED DURING 2013 YEAR

620 S. LaSalle St.	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Patch Work on Chimney Stack.	11/22/2013
517 Binder	RTA	CDBG PY 2013 - Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Fence Repair.	11/22/2013
423 Rosewood	RTA	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	ADA Ramp.	11/21/2013
3140 Bloomfield Ct.	Kehar Gunya	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Furnace / HVAC.	11/26/2013
623 High St.	Barbara M. Scroggins	Safety First - JOCO	Not eligible for the National Register.	Plumbing & HVAC (Chimney).	12/6/2013
531 Hammond	RTA	CDBG PY 2013 - Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Bathroom Modifications.	12/6/2013
546 College Ave.	City of Aurora	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Garage Door, Replace Soffits, Repair Porch.	12/13/2013
223 N. Union	City of Aurora	CDBG Housing Rehab	Not eligible for the National Register.	Replace Soffits & Paint Exterior of Home.	12/23/2013



NEWS RELEASE

Mar. 1, 2013

Contact: Donald Truax, Acting Chair, Aurora Preservation Commission
630-707-7406

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

The City of Aurora's Preservation Commission is looking to honor local property owners who in 2012 have made significant exterior improvements while maintaining the historic character of their buildings.

The Commission is accepting nominations for excellence in historic preservation through Monday, April 1. Properties eligible for the Mayor's Awards for Historic Preservation should be at least 50 years old. Nominations are being sought for projects completed in 2012.

Builders or residents are encouraged to submit their own work or other projects warranting consideration. The winners will be named during the celebration of National Historic Preservation Month in May and in conjunction with the opening of an Aurora Public Art Commission exhibit on the restoration of the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall Building (GAR), which will be on display beginning Friday, May 17 at the David L. Pierce Art and History Center, 20 E. Downer Place.

Nomination forms are available on the City's website or by contact the Commission's Acting Chair Donald Truax at:

- **Mail:** Donald Truax, Acting Chair, Aurora Preservation Commission, 55 S. Commonwealth Ave., Aurora, IL 60506;
- **Phone:** 630-707-7406;
- **Email:** dptruax@comcast.net
- **Website:** Nomination form available at http://www.aurora-il.org/development_services/planning_and_zoning/historicpreservation/award_nomination.php

Located 35 miles west of Chicago, Aurora is the second largest city in Illinois with a population of 197,899. Aurora is known as the "City of Lights" because it was one of the first in the nation to illuminate its streets with electric lights. Situated along the Fox River and the Ronald Reagan Memorial Tollway (Interstate 88), the city extends 46 square miles encompassing Kane, DuPage, Kendall and Will counties. Aurora also is home to six public school districts and seven townships. For the latest news, access to an archive of past news releases or to follow the city on Facebook or Twitter, visit the city's website at www.aurora-il.org.



City of Aurora

Planning and Zoning Division

Mailing Address: 44 E. Downer Place • Aurora, Illinois 60507

Office Location: 1 S. Broadway • Aurora, Illinois 60507

Phone (630) 256-3080 • Fax (630) 256-3089

Stephane A. Phifer, AICP
Director

Press Release, April 12, 2013

Exhibit Opening and Awards Ceremony:

Up From Bedrock—Restoring the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Memorial Museum, Post 20; May 17—ongoing (1st floor gallery)

AND

Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation

Location: Aurora Public Art Commission

20 East Downer Place

Aurora, IL 60506

Opening Reception: Friday, May 17 from 5:00 - 7:30

Mayor's Awards for Historic Preservation: During Reception, 5:30 – 6:00

Regular Gallery Hours: Wednesday - Friday from Noon - 4:00 pm

Admission: free

Contact: Rena Church, Aurora Public Art Commission Director/Curator

630 - 256 - 3340 or 630 - 256 - INFO (4636); Charlie Wilkins, Planning & Zoning Division, 630-256-3080 or 630-256-INFO (4636)

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Memorial Museum, Post 20 is one of Aurora's most beloved landmarks. It was constructed in 1878 with funds raised by the citizens of Aurora, many of whom had fought in the Civil War. Their intention was to create a sacred space. It was a shrine to their fallen comrades: men who had died in the cause of preserving the union and ending slavery. It would also serve as a veterans' meeting hall and as Aurora's first free public library. The GAR organization operated the building until 1939, and then, with membership dwindling, they organized the Sons of Union Veterans, who held meetings in the hall until the late 1990s, when the city was forced to close it due to structural problems.

Restoration

In 2007 the City of Aurora began the stabilization and restoration of the exterior of the GAR. The project was funded by the city, as well as with grants from the Kane County Riverboat Fund, the National Trust for Historic Preservation/American Express, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Activity, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Between 2007 and 2012, the City of Aurora completed phases one and two of the exterior restoration and phase one of the interior restoration. **Up From Bedrock** documents this process through photographs and text.

Although much has been done, there remains one last phase of interior restoration. Once this is completed, the Aurora Public Art Commission, which oversees operation of the GAR, plans to open the building once again, as a museum and center for veterans, for historical and genealogical research, and as an educational venue about Aurora's role in America's wars.

The Aurora Public Art Commission is a civic organization dedicated to the presentation of public art in all its forms. For more information on the Commission or the gallery visit the City of Aurora's website at www.aurora-il.org

Opening Reception and Mayor's Awards

The opening reception for the exhibit will be held Friday, May 17, from 5:00 – 7:30 pm. The reception will include light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. At 5:30, during the reception, the City of Aurora's Preservation Commission will present the Mayor's Awards for Historic Preservation to local property owners who, in 2012, have made significant exterior improvements while maintaining the historic character of their buildings. May is National Historic Preservation Month.

The Aurora Preservation Commission is a civic organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the City's historic buildings and places. For more information on the Aurora Preservation Commission visit the City of Aurora's website at www.aurora-il.org