



RIPS NEWS

Advocates for Historic Architecture

Membership Meetings

August 18, 2026 Tuesday 7:00 PM	Hauberg Civic Center - 1300 24 th St., Rock Island Regular business meeting
September 15, 2026 Tuesday 7:00 PM	Hauberg Civic Center - 1300 24 th St., Rock Island Regular business meeting.
October 20, 2026 Tuesday 7:00 PM	Hauberg Civic Center - 1300 24 th St., Rock Island Regular business meeting

If you have requested, an email reminder with the Meeting Agenda will be sent prior to each meeting with confirmation of time and location of each meeting.

Remember to keep the third Tuesday of each month marked on your calendar for monthly RIPS meetings and activities

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

We encourage you to follow our Facebook page for the latest updates on some of the recent threats to historic preservation in our community and elsewhere.

Our quarterly newsletter provides dates and locations of our monthly meetings as well as articles we hope you find informative, while our Facebook page strives to provide you with timely and relevant information. From threats to the Section 106 process to local efforts to save such things as the Centennial Bridge, we try to keep you aware. Just follow <https://www.facebook.com/RockIslandPreservationSociety> or search for "Rock Island Preservation Society" in the upper left corner of Facebook. Mark it as a "Favorite" so that it appears on your feed.

Our web page, www.RockIslandPreservation.org is a great overall resource, containing newsletter archives, the popular "Postcards from Home", out-of-print Tour Guides of Rock Island historic neighborhoods, and more.

ROCK ISLAND'S SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURES

Now you can (relatively) easily make a nomination for buildings that should be included on the city's list of Historic Structures and Sites. You can access the current list at www.rigov.org/BusinessDirectoryii.aspx

A new nomination form for addition to this list is being prepared and will be accessible online soon. But you can start working on additions to the list right now. What is needed is information that documents at least one of the following areas of significance: Historical, Architectural, or Cultural. Association with important people or events and overall Community value are also areas to be considered. Of course, a few pictures are needed as well.

Why do this? This inventory identifies buildings, structures, sites, and landscapes that possess historic, architectural, cultural, or archaeological significance. It serves as a planning tool for preservation efforts and future Landmark opportunities. Note that unlike Landmark designation, inclusion in this inventory does NOT designate a property as a local landmark or impose regulations on the property owner.

And if it serves as an impetus to Landmark a property, the owner will be provided with a NEW Landmark plaque!

ROCK ISLAND LOCAL LANDMARK PLAQUES

Not long after the Rock Island Preservation Commission was formed, with the ability to create Landmarked properties, it was determined that a plaque for owners of Landmarked properties was needed. A competition among high school students was advertised and the design, still used today, was submitted by a student. But how would it be made? Based on several considerations, including cost, a handmade terra cotta design was chosen, with details highlighted in white glaze. This has served for forty years. But as the supply grew scarce, the Commission determined that a new material was needed.

Commissioner (and architect) Jeff Dismer, worked with the Crawford Company to create a new plaque. While retaining the overall original design, the newly created one has several advantages: It is more visible, is much easier to mount (there were no mounting holes in the terra cotta) and is much sturdier and resistant to damage.

The next problem was cost. Although Crawford has invested a great deal in creating samples and prototypes, the city did not have the budgeted funds to buy a stock of plaques. Even after Crawford made an additional monetary donation, there was still a significant gap. RIPS to the rescue! At a recent meeting, we voted to invest \$3000 to permit the purchase of a stock of plaques. They are beautiful!



The plaques have a plain copper backing – whether coated to remain shiny or uncoated to develop a patina has yet to be decided. About 3/8 inch above that is a laser-cut painted metal piece that replicates the original design. The illustration shows the piece painted off-white, but options of blue and terra cotta are still being considered. Only one final design will be selected and all plaques will be the same.



SECTION 106 REVIEW PROCESS AT RISK

Time for another call to action!

The Trump Administration, through the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), has proposed significant modifications to the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. If these changes go through, decades of protection for historic and cultural sites could disappear almost overnight.

What is Section 106?

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires federal agencies to consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, assist, fund, permit, license, or approve throughout the country. If a federal or federally-assisted project has the potential to affect historic properties, a Section 106 review will take place.

Section 106 mandates the ACHP, interested parties, and the public are given the chance to weigh in on these matters before a final decision is made. This process is an important tool for citizens to lend their voice in protecting and maintaining historic properties in their communities. It mandates a public process (State, Tribal, and local governments and the public) to determine whether an activity using federal funds will impact historic resources.

It's one of the only tools we have to make sure the public gets a say before a historic site is damaged or destroyed using your tax dollars.

What's proposed?

- Eliminating consultation with State and Tribal Preservation offices
- Cutting local governments and the public out of the review and comment process entirely
- Letting federal agencies make internal decisions to push projects forward with no regard for avoiding or minimizing damage to historic sites or resources, and no obligation to ask for local comment

Let's break this down a bit more.

Public process – Currently, public comment is required when federal funds are to be spent on a project affecting a historic resource. The proposed changes would eliminate this requirement, allowing an agency to proceed without regard for avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating harm.

Historic resource – A building, district, or site that has been identified as historic or is potentially historic. This includes all properties and districts on the National Register of Historic Places, Native American sites, archeological sites, locally designated landmarks and districts and sites that could be historic based on this review process — in other words, the places that define our shared history and identity.

Examples of affected local resources and projects could include:

- Using Community Development Block Grant funds to renovate or demolish a local landmark or building on the National Register
- Any Federal Highway Administration-funded project (such as the Centennial Bridge/U.S. 67 project)

Other examples could include painting the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C. with no consultation if the federal government determines other considerations outweigh historic preservation; building a bridge over the Grand Canyon; or allowing mining near or on Native American sites – all without the public ever getting a voice.

One stated reason for amending the Section 106 process is to "streamline" it and help projects move forward faster. That's unlikely — legal challenges from preservationists and others would slow a project down even further, not speed it up.

The Section 106 consultation process is not perfect, but it does provide for a timely impact analysis and negotiated outcome when historic resources are affected.

So, what can you do?

Contact your elected officials and let them know you oppose the proposed changes to the Section 106 process. Call, email or write to Senators Duckworth and Durbin and Representative Sorensen – don't wait. Another option is to comment on the proposed rule changes that are published by the Federal government. You can comment by going to www.regulations.gov and using the search bar. Specify "106" and that should get you to the right place once the comment period opens. The dates of the comment period have not yet been announced so watch for our notification on the RIPS Facebook page.

**Remember - once a historic resource is altered or destroyed, it cannot be undone.
Speak up before that decision is made without you.**