

DIXON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

CITY HALL
P. O. BOX 318
DIXON IL 61021
dhpc@discoverdixon.org

MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 19, 2021 Dixon City Council Chambers, 9:00 A.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson McLane called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners present were Deter, Hulstedt, Krueger, McLane, and Wadsworth, along with Tim Shipman, Building Official.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hulstedt moved, and Wadsworth seconded, that the minutes of the Feb. 12, 2021, meeting be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

4. NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were no notices or communications.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a) **Update the status of the Reagan Way walking tour.** Deter presented a rough layout of the brochure (see attached), noting that it needs several tweaks. He will bring a revised version to the next meeting. He also noted that Main Street is the right entity to handle the project and the funding.
- b) **Amendment to expand the boundaries of the Dixon Historic District.** Hulstedt drafted a formal application to add the five additional buildings on South Ottawa to the Historic District (see attached). He also drafted some details for the process of amending the ordinance (see attached). Deter moved, and Hulstedt seconded, that the Commission acknowledge the receipt of the application for historic recognition of the east side of the public square and that the Commission respond appropriately to the application at its next meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Hulstedt will prepare a report that will be considered at the next meeting of the Commission. Shipman indicated that, after the Commission approves the report, it will be sent to the City Council, which will likely then refer it to the Planning Commission.

7. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 23, 2021, and will be held at the Dixon City Council Chambers.

At 9:48 a.m., Deter moved, and McLane seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Tom Wadsworth, Secretary
Dixon Historic Preservation Commission

Ronald Reagan

Historic Walking Tour



PRESENTED BY:
THE DIXON HISTORIC
PRESERVATION COMMISSION



Beginning the Journey

#1 The Ronald Reagan Statue

- CREATED BY SCULPTOR DONALD LUPPEN REED, A RESIDENT OF OREGON, ILL., THIS STATUE WAS DEDICATED ON AUGUST 14, 2009.
- THE FIVE REAGAN SITES ON HENNEPIN AVENUE BEGIN HERE AND END AT THE REAGAN BOYHOOD HOME, NINE BLOCKS TO THE SOUTH.
- IN THE SUMMER OF 1950, RONALD REAGAN RETURNED HOME TO DIXON TO PARTICIPATE IN "INJUN SUMMER DAYS," A LOCAL FESTIVAL.
- IN ITS PARADE, REAGAN RODE A HORSE THROUGH THE STREETS OF DIXON.
- THE STATUE WAS COMMISSIONED BY VARIOUS LOCAL DONORS FOLLOWING REAGAN'S DEATH IN 2004.

Finding Religion

#2 The First Christian Church



- RONALD REAGAN FIRST BECAME INVOLVED IN THIS CHURCH WHEN HE WAS ABOUT 10.
- REAGAN'S MOTHER, NELLE, WAS ACTIVE HERE, TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL, SINGING IN THE CHOIR, AND DIRECTING PLAYS.
- REAGAN HIMSELF DECIDED TO BE BAPTIZED HERE IN 1922 AT AGE 12.
- AT THAT TIME, REAGAN'S CHILDHOOD HERO WAS GARLAND WAGGONER, WHO ALSO ATTENDED THIS CHURCH.
- GARLAND WAS A STAR FULLBACK AT DIXON HIGH SCHOOL AND AT EUREKA COLLEGE, A CHRISTIAN CHURCH COLLEGE. THE COLLEGE REAGAN HIMSELF WILL ATTEND.

A Life Time of Learning

#3 THE DIXON PUBLIC LIBRARY



- IN LATE 1920, WHEN RONALD REAGAN WAS 9, THE REAGAN FAMILY MOVED TO HENNEPIN AVENUE JUST FIVE BLOCKS SOUTH OF HERE.
- THREE WEEKS LATER, REAGAN AND HIS BROTHER, NEIL, TOOK OUT LIBRARY CARDS.
- RONALD'S CARD NUMBER WAS 3695.
- THE O.B. DODGE LIBRARY WAS BUILT IN 1901.
- ONE INFLUENTIAL BOOK THE YOUNG REAGAN READ WAS "THAT PRINTER OF UDELL'S" BY HAROLD BELL WRIGHT.

A School | A Mueseum

#4 SOUTH CENTRAL SCHOOL/ NORTHWEST TERRITORY HISTORIC CENTER



- FLAMES LEAPED HIGH AS THE NEWLY RENOVATED WHITE BRICK SCHOOL BURNED TO THE GROUND IN 1907, DESPITE ITS LOCATION JUST THREE BLOCKS SOUTH OF THE STILL-PRIMITIVE, HORSE-DRAWN DIXON FIRE DEPARTMENT.
- IN 1909, THE NEW SOUTH DIXON HIGH SCHOOL TOOK ITS PLACE IN THE SAME LOCATION.
- IN THE 1920S, YOUNG RONALD REAGAN ATTENDED 6TH AND 7TH GRADES HERE WHEN THE SCHOOL BECAME SOUTH CENTRAL GRADE SCHOOL.
- YEARS LATER, AFTER THE SCHOOL CLOSED, NORMAN WYMBES, A FLORIDA ENTREPRENEUR, PURCHASED THE BUILDING, COMPLETELY RENOVATED IT, AND CONVERTED IT TO A MUSEUM IN 2013.
- NOW NAMED THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY HISTORIC CENTER, IT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITHOUT CHARGE.

Always Home

#5 THE RONALD REAGAN BOYHOOD HOME



- THE REAGAN FAMILY, JACK, NELLE, AND THEIR TWO SONS MOVED TO DIXON AND INTO THIS HOUSE IN 1920 WHEN RONALD WAS 9 AND NEIL WAS 12.
- ALTHOUGH THE REAGANS LIVED IN FOUR OTHER HOUSES IN DIXON, THIS IS THE ONLY HOME IN DIXON MENTIONED IN RONALD REAGAN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY.
- THE HOUSE HAS THREE BEDROOMS UPSTAIRS: THE BOYS SHARED ONE ROOM, THEIR PARENTS HAD ONE ROOM, AND THE SPARE ROOM WAS USED AS A SEWING ROOM BY MRS. REAGAN.
- THE HOME WAS OPENED IN 1984 IN TIME FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN'S BIRTHDAY VISIT WHEN IT WAS FORMALLY DEDICATED.
- IT WAS APPROVED FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ON MARCH 26, 1982.

DIXON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC RECOGNITION

1) Name of property (if applicable)

historic name (original owner name) _____

common or current name East Side of Public Square

2) Location

number and street S. Ottawa Ave

legal description See Attached

property tax identification number _____

name of owner _____

owner address _____

3) Classification according to ownership (check one)

☒ private ☐ public - local ☐ state ☐ federal

4) Category ☐ building ☒ district ☐ site ☐ landmark

5) Functions (residential, commercial, industrial, etc.)

historic use Residential / Commercial

current use Commercial

current zoning _____

6) Statement of significance. Describe reasons why this property is being nominated (architectural style, historic significance, etc.). Attach additional pages if needed.

Part of the Original Town that abuts the Public Square and the current Historic District. Architectural styles and Historic significance are consistent with the adjoining district.

7. Geographical data

size of property _____

boundary description (if district is being nominated) See Attached

8. Supporting documentation

_____ site plan _____ photos x location map _____ other (explain)

9) Preparer _____

organization/applicant name _____

applicant address _____

phone _____ email _____

property interest of applicant _____

date of application _____

signature of applicant _____

mail to City of Dixon Historic Preservation P. O. Box 318 Dixon IL 61021 or
email to dhpc@discoverdixon.org or FAX to (815) 288-1022

Downtown Historic District Proposed Addition

Lot Two (2), and the northern third of Lot Three (3) of Block Forty-Three (43), Lots Two (2), Three (3), Six (6) Seven (7) and Ten (10) of Block Twenty-Seven (27) all being part of the Original Town (now City) of Dixon, Illinois.

