

The Joseph W. Royer Architectural District

The Presenting Parties propose that, after review of the "Joseph W. Royer Architectural District" plan:

- 1) The HPC will resolve to support its designation and creation,
- 2) Approve that a brochure be created explaining the proposed District, and that it be published and distributed freely within the community to promote the District (*mock-up of proposed brochure is provided*),
- 3) Approve future funding for marking historic buildings or building sites in the District, the Royer office site, and for marking the perimeter of the District at logical approach avenues.

The Joseph W. Royer Architectural District :

- Celebrates the architecture of Joseph W. Royer
- Defines an area bounded by Main Street and Green Street, Lincoln Avenue and Lynn St, as the Joseph W. Royer Architectural District
- Identifies 13 Royer buildings and sites within the District, some previously unrecognized
- Provides a focal point for historic education, renovation, and inspiration, extending into city neighborhoods
- Provides a rationale for grant proposals, funding requests, and development grant projects from state and national funding programs
- Brings greater focus on the three original streets platted in Urbana (Main, Elm, and Green) and their gradual extensions east and west
 - The historic nature of West Urbana is generally known and well documented
 - The historic nature of East Urbana is largely unknown and undocumented. The Architectural District will bring closer examination of this early Urbana neighborhood
 - The proposed District clearly integrates East and West Urbana into Urbana's historic downtown
- Becomes a tourist destination in central Illinois, promoting economic development and visitor interest
 - The Urbana Business Association can promote the history of Urbana to developers and investors
 - The District is a clearly explained and well mapped tourist destination
 - The University of Illinois is provided another recruitment tool
- The outlined District encompasses Historic Trails in Central Illinois
 - Walking paths and bike-ways lead into the downtown via the Main Street, Elm Street, and Green Street corridors.
 - The Boneyard Creek redevelopment project is within the proposed Architectural District and is mutually enhanced by it.
 - The Main Street to Green Street corridor follows the original pioneer trail across central Illinois as it passed just south of the Big Grove.
 - The District is on the Lincoln court circuit route. The state of Illinois is planning for the 200-year birthday celebration of President Lincoln; tracing and marking Lincoln's court circuit route is a state priority in 2008.
- The City of Urbana can use the "Joseph W. Royer Architectural District" to enhance the downtown and nearby neighborhoods through the integration of urban landscape and streetscape planning.

NOTE:

The Joseph W. Royer Architectural District DOES NOT ESTABLISH ANY RESTRICTION, FINANCIAL BURDEN, OR DESIGN REVIEW OR DIRECTIVE ON ANY PROPERTY, BUSINESS, OR CITIZEN WITHIN ITS BOUNDARY.