



Illinois Historic Group Directory

Executive Summary – Illinois Historic Group Directory Northern Illinois Historic League Mission, Goals and Objectives

Mission Statement

To bring history lovers together, and promote Illinois local and regional historic assets.

To increase public awareness in Illinois of the value of these historic assets.

To educate the public on the importance of history, and its continuing relevance for today.

Executive Summary

The Northern Illinois Historic League (NIHL) organization seeks to integrate willing individuals/organizations who share passion about the substantial historic story of Illinois. This organization will resemble a web directory structure for those willing to be included in the organization.

The organization is open format and does not require any payment of subscription dues to be listed. Voluntary donations have always been graciously accepted to help further the work of the organization. Listing of the individual requires the permission of the person to be included. To include a historic group for listing purposes, an authorized person(s) need to be shown on League records as having granted permission to be the Primary Contact. Due to the open format, periodic confirmation of the Illinois directory is needed to ensure accurate information. The listing process is entirely invitational in nature; persons wishing to unsubscribe can opt out at any time at their discretion. Persons need not reside in or have direct relationship with Illinois to be listed, but permission is required to be contacted and included.

The history field has many specializations/expertise, including individuals who may be supporting other historic organizations at the local, regional or statewide level. Promotion of Illinois history can include historic groups focused on some aspect of one or more than one of the following specific disciplines:

Historic Preservation, Genealogy, Marketing Support Organizations which include historic asset promotion, Tourism Organizations which feature historic assets, Antiques, Archival, Arts Culture, Architecture (usually implies interest in Historic Preservation), and Humanities organizations with some historic asset focus

The League's primary focus is on integration of the many groups and individuals, whenever possible. The League may engage in advocacy occasionally to lend support to other organizations for important preservation issues of the day, but this is not a regular feature of the statewide organization. The League will rely on our local groups to promote advocacy when needed as the local groups have the resources to be engaged in advocacy. The NIHL will not engage in political issues, other than to protect the state of the historic industry in Illinois.

The League's scope of work for this project is unprecedented in Illinois, so ongoing research is needed to establish and continue the organization. As such, the League office will research publicly available web-based information or direct information from the group or individual. E-Mail addresses are only shared with permission of the individual or group, and will never be marketed or harvested for other purposes. LinkedIn social media will be the preferred platform for the NIHL for new person introductions.

Logos and Structure

Both the Northern Illinois Historic League (NIHL) and Illinois Historic Group Directory (IHGD) logos represent participation in the same overall statewide network. A substantial majority of the Illinois operating historic groups are from the north, and the network incorporated in 2015 under the League brand with the State of Illinois. The Illinois Historic Group Directory structure was registered in 2019.

Both the NIHL and IHGD logos represent inclusion in the same organization, and do not reflect separate organizations. The IHGD was launched to help offer inclusion/invitation to Illinois groups in parts of the state commonly referred to as 'downstate'. Use of either or both logos is perfectly acceptable regardless of a group's actual location. Any official business involving financial transactions will be conducted in the name of the Northern Illinois Historic League.

The League office will be encouraging logo use as a means of inclusion, since the League does not request any membership fees or dues.

Goals/Objectives – 2022/2023

Since the work is unprecedented, construction of the organization continues and is expected to continue throughout 2021 and into 2022, with ongoing maintenance of the organization after that time.

Since the NIHL is open format, there are no precedents governing identification of defaulted business organizations or retired individuals. Ingress and Egress of interested persons and groups is an ongoing unique process of the League, and this falls upon the League to apply reviews based on changing conditions in the field. As resources allow, the League reviews operating activity for our groups and will help promote worthy projects for publication and observation by peers.

New organizations come into the industry regularly, while others lapse due to retirements or expired business missions. The League applies publicly available databases to help with these reviews.

It is acknowledged that defensive behavior can and should be expected with new group introductions. LinkedIn social media use will help foster introduction of the peer network introduction, which is optional for our partners to use. LinkedIn also offers an opportunity for the central office to monitor people or job movement that could be of relevance to the state directory.

Key data for the network is stored in a Non-profit edition of industry software Quickbooks. The following data is gathered for profile purposes when available:

Customer Name, Company Name, Job Title, Main Phone, Mobile Phone, Main Email, Facebook, Website, LinkedIn, Physical or Mailing Address, County, Group Segment, Employer Identification Number (from publicly available sources for nonprofits)

Note: Sensitive data is never shared with anyone without permission (this includes E-Mail address, which is a primary requirement to be listed in the IHGD).

For organizations, we seek usually the Executive Director or President, Office Manager or Marketing Specialists as points of contact for a group to be in a Listed Status, and for that person to be responsive to network confirmation outreach, whether it be phone, Email or text. Nonresponsive groups will tend to be excluded (unlisted) until contact can be established with a responsible individual. Judgments from the NIHL office will be applied at the organizational level based on the specifics of the group's case and research. Groups can not be considered part of the organization unless permission to list has been extended by an authorized individual (opt-in approach). Full communication history is retained to support this requirement, both for LinkedIn and electronic communications.

SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT UPDATES

Update 06/26/2020 - In June 2020, many of the primary business operations and research for the NIHL were updated to reflect that correspondence would now originate from the Illinois Historic Group Directory (IHGD) office. The terminology ('League') and ('IHGD') are interchangeable. If one refers to the NIHL, that would refer to the nonprofit 501©3 organization that was built to show the original structure of the directory's scope. i.e. the 24 counties of Northern Illinois. In April 2019, this boundary was eliminated. Those from downstate Illinois, other states and even other countries could now be part of the IHGD if they gave their permission to be listed, and provided basic contact information to validate their identity (i.e. phone number, Email address, LinkedIn address if available)

Update 03/07/2021 – The IHGD will continue to expand its footprint into integrated operations with key Washington DC federal agencies. The League acknowledges a difficult recent period for humanities support in light of budget cutbacks and lack of ideological support. Key staffing both at the Department of the Interior (National Park Service) and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP) are crucial to carry on our work. The League will be adopting the ACHP national plan for historic preservation vision. If the State of Illinois and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are able to resume their publication of state level strategic planning (as was previously constructed in 2011 with the IHPA), the League will work with SHPO to convey this to the field. Besides planning, key National Park Service functions the League is interested in includes the National Register of Historic Places, Certified Local Governments, and the Underground Railroad Network – Trail Road to Freedom.

Update 03/07/2021 – The League has become the nonprofit directory portion and integration point of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Illinois community (formerly Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions dissolved in 2017 for tax exemption purposes). This includes many Certified Local Governments (CLG) throughout Illinois but also other commissions with similar historic based themes and objectives who have chosen not to pursue this status with the National Park Service. The basic completion of the comprehensive HPC directory is the first of its kind in Illinois since an early attempt to build one in 2000 by the IHPA. SHPO renders no opinion for the commissions not registered with the National Park Service and CLG designation, but the League does not share this perspective. There may be specific and tangible reasons why HPCs choose not to pursue CLG designation with the National Park Service, but they still are welcome organizations within the IHGD should they wish to be included. Illinois HPC inventory work was completed on March 5, 2021 and the project has now converted into care and maintenance (construction is now complete for the Illinois HPC structures).

As part of this update, it is important to note that SHPO retains primary responsibility for the Illinois administration of the National Preservation Act requirements over Certified Local Governments as administered by the National Park Service. The League office does not have any solid line reporting relationships with the National Park Service for this or with any State of Illinois work with the National Register of Historic Places. As stated before, the League's purpose is for marketing, education and awareness. Questions over administration over these primary business support functions for historic preservation should be directed to the SHPO office.

Update 06/19/2021 – The 2021 Email campaign has been declared complete. This campaign was intended to reach out to affiliates to confirm their Listing information, and was the first communication after the COVID pandemic. A number of individuals have never communicated to date with the League office other than their initial LinkedIn approval and 1st level connection. These individuals will remain in a Listed status for now, but will be reviewed and recategorized to Listed (if they finally respond to outreach), Assigned and Unlisted (if the person is the only contact with a required project of the IHGD), or Deleted entirely if there is question about the legitimacy about the person after followup. Listing rules of the NIHL have always stated that there is an expectation that if an effort is made to contact the person, that courtesy is shown after time and the person responds. It is likely the NIHL will apply a 5 year no contact rule for deletion, even if the person approved LinkedIn, which is no longer sufficient with the COVID pandemic protocols.

Update 06/19/2021 – Since the League is now working directly with the State Historic Preservation Office on records update, the Illinois Historic Preservation Directory is now regarded as an official archive for Illinois projects related to the National Park Service. The League has long also reconciled its IRS database components as well and that is expected to continue to help us establish we are aware of all operating groups in Illinois. All Listed organizations are required to have a Primary Contact on file along with means to contact this individual. Over time, Unlisted organizations or those with governments with staff who have chosen not to respond to requests, will be assigned an individual for this purpose to help enable potential future contact as needed. With the COVID pandemic, the League now feels these groups do not get opt out privileges when they are drawing public tax benefits. Assigned individuals on the directory regretfully point to higher risk of potential fraud since they have not been responsive to public inquiry to date, and future research should be guided appropriately. **It is the League's view that all organizations drawing public tax benefits for historic preservation should be responsive to the public and public inquiry. Groups that do not meet this benchmark will be reflected accordingly on League publications, and will not be treated as fully legitimate while in this status**

(including reference to the group's website or other online references purportedly posted on behalf of the nonresponsive group).

Update 06/19/2021 – The Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission was approved by Gov. Pritzker in Dec. 2020. Since this is an official state commission, it falls under the parameter of the Illinois Historic Group Directory so outreach will be attempted as part of normal League operations, along with identification of Assigned individuals.

Update 06/19/2021 – The Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council meets triennially to review applications for new listings to be approved for the National Register of Historic Places. Since the League is the chief marketing agent for Illinois National Register properties and the National Park Service falls under the IHGD purview, the roster of the IHSAC now falls under the scope of the IHGD and will be addressed with normal League outreach activities, including Listing or Assignment categories.

Update 06/19/2021 – The League office is spearheading efforts to begin to build the Illinois Historic Media Network (IHMN). The IHMN is expected to include Convention and Visitor Team members and others with marketing expertise that can help us reach local media. The IHMN will be an ongoing side project activity of the NIHL. Team members on the IHMN will be expected to be at least Listed on the IHGD but an opt out model will be used for the subgroup, since the desired IHGD optin protocol is in place overall.