

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Robert Weichert

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
IHPA Legacy Oral History project

Interview # HP-A-L-2010-007

Robert Weichert, the Division Manager of Administrative Services for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *IHPA Legacy* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Feb 19, 2010 Location: Dirksen home at 2123 South Park, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Julie Dirksen, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: Carolyn Berning, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Betty Workman & Jan Culp, ALPL volunteers

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The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Robert Weichert, *IHPA Legacy*, HP-A-L-2010-007

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Bob Weichert was born December 31, 1950 in Springfield, Illinois. One of six children, Bob's parents moved their family from Springfield to Chatham and then to Decatur, where Bob graduated from MacArthur High School in 1968. Bob earned his BS and MS in Parks and Recreation at SIU Carbondale, graduating in 1975. Following graduation, Bob moved back to Springfield, worked briefly for the State of Illinois and then quit to join his father's construction business in Springfield from 1975 to 1988. During this time, Bob learned all aspects of business management and construction.

On August 4, 1988, Bob was hired as general services manager for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA), with the following duties: Affirmative Action Officer, Telecommunications Coordinator and Travel Coordinator. In October 1989 Bob was promoted to Division Manager of Administrative Services, the position he currently maintains. With this promotion, additional administrative duties include overseeing Fiscal, Personnel, General Services and Physical Services. Bob also served as IHPA legislative liaison from 1991 to 2003. While at the IHPA, Bob worked with statewide site management, to include the Union Station lease purchase from the Scully Trust, oversight of the Journal Register Building restoration for IHPA department headquarters, and the OSC Garage and Landscape project. He served as IHPA general manager for the construction of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, which opened in October, 2004, followed by the museum opening in April, 2005.

Subject Headings/Key Words: IHPA Administrative Services Division manager; Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library/Museum; Springfield "Readiness Committee"; Governor Jim Thompson, Jim Edgar, George Ryan, Rod Blagojevich, Pat Quinn; IHPA Directors – Michael Devine, Susan Mogerman, Maynard Crossland, Bob Coomer and Jan Grimes; Richard Norton Smith; Rick Beard; Tom Schwartz; Bob Rogers; Julie Cellini.

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