

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Theodore (Ted) Hild

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Historic Preservation Legacy Oral History project

Interview # HP-A-L-2009-020

Ted Hild, a retired Executive III with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the *Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Legacy* Oral History project

Interview dates & location:

Date: June 2, 2009 Location: 200 Fairway, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Newlyn Hosea, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: Kay Smith, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Betty Workman and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL volunteers

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

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Abstract

Theodore (Ted) Hild, *IHPA Legacy*, HP-A-L-2009-020

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Theodore (Ted) Hild was born in Elmhurst, Illinois. He earned a both an undergraduate and Masters degree in History from Northern Illinois University. He began his work with as a contract worker for the Historic Sites division of the Conservation Agency. Accepting full time employment with the Historic Sites division he was part of the transition as the division was combined with the Illinois State Historical Library to form the new Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. He continued his work with the Preservation Division of the Agency until his retirement in 2007, rising to job of acting division manager of the division.

This interview includes a review of his work with the Historic Sites division of the Conservation agency and the process of its combination with the State Historic Library to form the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Ted speaks in detail of the process of forming the new agency and the personalities involved. He speaks of the interactions of the Board of Trustees, Directors, and Governors through the years as he perceived them. He gives us an overview of the major programs administered through the preservation division including the National Registry of Historic Places, the survey of historic places, Federal Tax Credits, Property Tax Assessment Freeze, Burial Protection, various grant programs, Illinois Main Street and more. Extensive discussion is held on the relationship of the agency to Federal and local governments as well as private interest groups. The coming of the Abraham Presidential Library and Museum is discussed along with its effect on those parts of the agency not directly involved.

Topics Covered: Historic Sites Division – Conservation Agency; formation of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; National Historic Preservation Act; “Beyond Bureaucracy”; Illinois Historic Preservation Act; Governors Thompson, Edgar, Walker, Blagojevich, and Ryan; State Historical Society; State Historic Library; Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; National Registry of Historic Places, Dan Rostenkowski, Directors Michael Devine, David Kenny, and Susan Mogerman; Historic Preservation Agency Board of Trustees; Julie Cellini; National Trust for Historic Preservation; Old State Capital; Certified Local Governments program; Illinois Main Streets program; Journal of Illinois History; Review and Compliance program; Edmond Thornton; State Review Board; Illinois Historic Survey; Federal Tax Credits; Property Tax Assessment Freeze; interactions of interested parties in programs; interaction of Directors, Governors, and Directors.

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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