

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Earl (Wally) Henderson

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

Interview # HP-A-L-2010-032

Wally W. Henderson, a retired architect, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Legacy Oral History* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: July 27, 2010 Location: 2128 Noble Avenue, Springfield, IL

Date: Mar 14, 2011 Location: 2128 Noble Avenue, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Newlyn Hosea, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: Burke, Susan, ALPL Volunteer

Edited by: and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteers

Total Pages: 31 +16 = 47 Total Time: 1:52 + 0:57 / 1.87 + 0.95 = 2.82 hrs.

Session 1: Mr. Henderson's early life, & renovation of Old State Capitol

Session 2: Mr. Henderson's activities in years following Capitol renovation

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on Mar 29, 2011.

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

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Abstract

Earl (Wally) Henderson, IHPA Legacy, HP-A-L-2010-032

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Earl (Wally) Henderson was born in Mishawaka, Indiana on April 5, 1931 and moved to Springfield, Illinois at an early age. He received both a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Architectural Engineering from the University of Illinois in Champaign. After graduation, Wally accepted a position working under the Architect Will Muchow in Colorado. In 1961 Wally and his wife returned to Springfield and began work as a partner in the firm of Ferry and Henderson, Architects.

This interview covers Henderson's preparation to be an Architect and his early work with Architect William Muchow in Colorado. He details the formation of his partnership with Don Ferry, and his participation in the Civil War Roundtable in Springfield. Wally covers discussing the then emerging field of historic preservation and restoration with Illinois State Historian, Clyde Walton. Included is a discussion of the history of the Old State Capital building in Springfield from its original Architect, John Rague through previous changes and finally to plans for a new restoration. Henderson held extensive discussions with the State Historian, Clyde Walton, Governor Otto Kerner, the State Architectural office, and Springfield authorities that eventually led to his firm receiving the contract for restoration of the project. He talks at length about the detailed research and planning for the old state capitol restoration, which included below ground-level space for the State Historical Library and even a parking lot. In addition to this project the interview briefly covers the conversion of Lincoln's home to a federal project and the restoration of the home. In the second session Henderson describes his activities with the Federal Lincoln Bicentennial Committee, including his struggles to have the design of the Illinois Lincoln Penny include the old state capital. He describes in detail his interactions with Senator Dick Durbin and Secretary of the Treasury Henry Paulson Jr. He also describes working with a group of consultants on city planning with the American Institute of Architects and in particular his work in Falls City Virginia. Mr. Henderson describes his recent honor of being chosen as a member of the College of Fellows with the American Institute of Architects and its meaning to him. Finally, he describes designing the Willard Ice Building in Springfield. Henderson was awarded the Springfield First Citizen Award in 2013, and passed away on April 18, 2016.

Topics Covered: Development of restoration and preservation architecture; State Historian Clyde Walton; Governor Otto Kerner; Restoration of Old State Capital; Conservation Director Lodge; Architect John Rague; Conversion of Old State Capital to County Courthouse; Restoration of Old State Capital; Junior Leaguers; Abraham Lincoln Lyceum; Springfield Historic Sites Commission; Lincoln Home Advisory Group; Civil War Roundtable (Springfield); Architect William Muchow; Old State Capital Feasibility Study; State Clearing House; Dr. Ernest Conley; Lincoln Bicentennial Commission; Falls City, Virginia; Willard Ice Building

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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