

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with August Wisnosky

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Architectural Gems Oral History project

Interview # AG-A-L-2018-050

August Wisnoski, field architect for the Old State Capitol reconstruction, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Architectural Gems* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: October 8, 2018, October 9, 2018, October 11, 2018, October 17, 2018

Location: Home of August Wisnosky

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Carol Esarey, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 0:43 + 1:19 + 1:18 + 1:22 / 0.72 + 1.32 + 1.3 + 1.37
= 4.69 hrs.

Session 1: Augie's entry into the Old State Capitol project as field architect

Session 2: Oversight of contractors and workers during demolition and preservation of building stones

Session 3: Overseeing the reconstruction of the Old State Capitol, floor by floor

Session 4: Completion of reconstruction, landscaping innovations and 1968 dedication

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 5, 2019.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

Abstract

August Wisnosky, *Architectural Gems*, AG-A-L-2018-050

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: August (Augie) Wisnosky was born on June 11, 1938 to Ann and August Wisnosky, Sr. He had one sibling, John Wisnosky, now deceased. Augie graduated from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana in 1962 with a degree in architecture. In the early 1960's he was hired to work on the demolition and reconstruction of Illinois' Old State Capitol, located in Springfield, Illinois, by Ferry and Henderson, local architects. He was assigned to work as the field architect for the project, "the man in the hole." The firm, housed in a 500 square foot, two-room loft office near the construction site, researched and planned the historic capitol building restoration. The renovation of the Old State Capitol became a complex project. Once done, it would include a new home for the state's historical library, offices, and two stories of underground parking, all located underground. As Wisnosky recalls his role as the onsite architect overseeing the reconstruction, he looks back at the massive project as a learning experience which involved extensive historic research of building techniques and materials of the period.

Demolition of the Old State Capitol began in 1966 with the nearly complete dismantling and reconstructing the steel form building. The building's stones and other materials were stored at the State Fair Grounds during the project, which was completed in December 1968. Ferry, Henderson and Wisnosky went on to be involved in other historical building projects in the Springfield area. Augie later formed Fisher-Wisnoski Architects, Inc., known as FWAI Architects. Each of the architects working on the Old State Capitol project went on to have long and successful careers.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois Old State Capitol; historic buildings in Illinois; Old State Capitol's demolition and renovation; preservation of historic buildings in Springfield, Illinois; Wally Henderson; Don Ferry; Fisher-Wisnoski Architects, Inc.

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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