Richard Schachtsiek
Interview # 1: HP-A-L-2010-010
March 3, 2010
Interviewer: Newlyn Hosea

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.

Hosea: This is Newlyn Hosea on March 3rd 2010 doing an interview with Richard Schachtsiek as a part of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Legacy Project. Richard, to begin would you just give us a brief a history of Richard up until the point that you started working for what was then the Conservation Agency?

Schachtsiek: Grew up in Quincy, Illinois, went to high school at Petersburg Porta, graduated in 1969. From there went up to Western Illinois University, got my bachelor's degree in education, graduated in 1973, realized I liked history but did not like teaching history. [Had] a few odd jobs before I started with the Department of Conservation at New Salem in 1975 and was with Conservation through August of 1979 when I went to Eastern Illinois University to get my master's degree in the Historic Administration Program. Completed that in the summer of 1980. Had a few odd jobs before returning briefly to the Department of Conservation in April of 1982 at Lincoln Tomb and I remained with Conservation and Historic Sites until December of 2002.

Hosea: Your original job with New Salem: what did that job entail, what did you do there?

Schachtsiek: I was a site Interpretive Specialist—I can't remember I think it was a II [two]. I was an interpreter at New Salem. There were seven or eight people who worked in the village and that's where I worked. They were, at the time, starting to do period crafts, period clothing. The period clothing at that time consisted of Amish trousers, flannel shirts, maybe an Amish shirt. And started

to do things that would make the village look more appropriate as a period village.

Hosea: Were they using volunteers back then or was this mostly a paid staff?

Schachtsiek: At this time, as I recall, it was mostly paid staff. There were volunteers that would come in, particularly in the spring and summer for the school groups and for various special occasions. But it was mostly full-time staff. When I started, they still had a wand system.

Hosea: What's a wand system?

Schachtsiek: At the start of the village, you had the option of just going through or purchasing this little hand-held wand. As you would approach a particular building this wand would pick up a radio signal and give you information. There was a balance between having the wand, but also having living interpreters there and you know, the conflict between which buildings would do what and it seemed to be the technology of the time didn't always work that well. So it was up there for maybe the first year or so I was at New Salem and then the system was shut down and done away with, I think a combination of technical problems and the conflict between which buildings had the wand and which ones were staffed. The public wasn't quite sure what was going on so it was there for a while. For the staff, the Site Manager when I started at New Salem was John Blum—B-L-U-M, I believe was his name. Eileen Altig from Greenview was the Ranger in charge of the village.

Hosea: What was her last name?

Schachtsiek: Altig, A-L-T-I-G. Under her was another Ranger, Rick Welchens. I think it's W-E-L-C-H-E-N-S.

Hosea: Did you enjoy your time there?

Schachtsiek: Oh yeah, it was a tremendous learning experience because my background had been more in education rather than in historic sites, but it was a good experience; I enjoyed working with the public.

Hosea: So you answered questions, kept order, that type of stuff.

Schachtsiek: On occasion would be in the cooper's shop. They had a film from Colonial Williamsburg on making barrels and that was my entire training on really working in the cooper's shop. But on occasion they would have some barrel maker, I believe out of Peoria, who used to work for Hiram Walker, come down and somewhat explain to me and explain to the public about making barrels. And so you would be in there and explain about being a wet cooper or a dry cooper and how important that was to the community. Sometimes I would be in the second Berry-Lincoln store, or the first Berry-Lincoln store

because it was heated, and therefore, could be staffed during the winter months.

Hosea: And if I could magically be transported back to that time and looked at the buildings and so on, would it look very much different or would it be identical to what I would see if I went there today?

Schachtsiek: The buildings would be pretty much similar to what you see today. One of the big differences is, the yards were much better maintained because there was a prison work camp north of New Salem and those prisoners would come over and help mow the grass and maintain the campgrounds and that sort of thing. I was not in a position to understand why, but at some time that was done away with and then it fell totally to the maintenance staff at the park to take care of it. The evolution of wanting the village to look correct to the period, a neatly-mowed lawn, was not correct to the period. You had to have a balance between something that looked a little long because that would have been appropriate to the time—but then people would think you were not maintaining the place—but not having it look like a mowed golf course. So the buildings were pretty much the same. There hasn't been anything major new or different. They were starting to do more smaller out-buildings, support buildings, chicken coops, that sort of thing, privies, out-houses, that I believe have not been maintained since the 1970s when I was there. They just don't, I think partially, have the staff to keep chickens and geese in the small type of things that they had at the time. But the main buildings, the log homes, are pretty much the same ones that they had at the time. Some have had, you know, major work done on them and upgrades and what have you, but the layout of the village is pretty much the same.

Hosea: Was there continuing archaeology going on at all then?

Schachtsiek: Not at the time that I was there. What I used was, I think, Benjamin Reaps and Benjamin Thomas's *History of New Salem* and some of the archaeology that was done in the 1930s when the village as we know it today was being built that they had done archaeology and research in the community as to where the various log homes were to be built. And so there was some of the reports from the 1930s that the staff had a chance to look at and understand the background as to why this log home is here and not over there and some of the controversy, or uncertainty may be more accurately, as to why it's placed. Part of it is the ridge just through nature has changed since the 1830s in a hundred years. And some of the buildings had to be moved a little bit closer to the main road than what they may have been in Lincoln's time. Apparently, there are a couple of surveys that don't totally agree with placement.

Hosea: And the mill, down by the river, was that as it is today pretty much?

Schachtsiek: The mill down by the river is pretty much as it is today, but they were doing a project at the time. They were putting in a concrete pond on the south side of

the mill dam. There was a pump that would pump water from the Sangamon River into this, for lack of a better term, concrete lined pond and the water in that pond would be deep enough and volume enough that at one time they were going to run the mill. Problem was the concrete didn't hold water. So all this time and effort was spent to create this pond area and it never held water. So that was one of the things that was tried at the time and I don't know if the mill ever really ran even at that time. They did some work on the carding mill that just over time the big wheel in the back had fallen into disrepair. So they had a carpenter, Ron Teraski, who did a lot of repair work on the wheel and the mechanism. They had a herdsman, John Flynn, out of Tallula, I think F-L-Y-N-N, who was willing to bring the oxen up onto the wheel the way it would have been done historically and for awhile they were able to operate the wheel, not the carding machine within the mill, but at least operate the wheel and give the public, on occasion, an idea of how the whole thing worked. And I don't know if that has been done very much since then. I believe on a few occasions they had the big wheel work and I think they've even had the machine in the carding mill refurbished and had used it for an occasion but I haven't seen it recently.

Hosea: In the general spirit among the employees there, was it good? You felt good about the process and what was happening there?

Schachtsiek: Yes. In part of the other evolution at the time was, it was known as Lincoln's New Salem. So everything was based on what Lincoln owned this or Lincoln stayed here or Lincoln worked here, and presented a bit more as a pioneer village in which one of the residents was a young man named Abraham Lincoln and how, in some ways, unique New Salem was as a trading center in the area that everybody in the village relied on somebody else to make a living. They were not self-supporting farmers in the way they were not self-supporting craftspeople. They were store keepers, doctors, a carding mill, a woolen mill, a cooper, cobbler, cabinet-maker. All those people, in order to survive, need to have a population big enough in the area to make a living, which meant this was not the rude, crude, frontier where the Indians were hiding behind the next tree. The Indians had moved on. This was a time of settlement and that gives you a bit different interpretation of the village.

Hosea: How about the interactions between the New Salem people and Springfield. Was there a lot of interaction there, or are you mostly working on your own?

Schachtsiek: At my level, I was mostly just working with the staff there at New Salem. I was a frontline interpreter, sort of low-man on the totem pole. I was not that much aware of interaction with Springfield or with the Department of Conservation overall. That was handled a couple of levels higher than what I was.

Hosea: How long did you stay at New Salem?

Schachtsiek: I was at New Salem, I think, roughly a year and a half.

Hosea: And then you left for graduate school?

Schachtsiek: Then I went and became Site Manager at Bryant Cottage in Bement, Illinois.

Hosea: This is before going to graduate school then?

Schachtsiek: Yes, yes.

Hosea: So, say that again: Site Manager where?

Schachtsiek: Bryant Cottage in Bement, Illinois, B-E-M-E-N-T, about twenty miles east of Decatur, south of Monticello.

Hosea: And how did it feel to go from, as an Interpreter, all of a sudden doing all of the administrative things and so on involved with being a Site Manager?

Schachtsiek: Well, in a way, Bryant Cottage was one of the smaller sites within the system, and therefore, it wasn't going to a site that had heavy administrative burdens or personnel responsibility. I was the only full-time person there.

Hosea: You were the full-time; were there volunteers or others there?

Schachtsiek: When I went there, I was the first non-local person who managed the site. I replaced an older lady—I don't recall her name at the time—but I had to go by her house to pick up the current papers and she literally gave them to me in a grocery sack. So it was a good site to learn at and that was part of …

Hosea: Do you remember her name by chance?

Schachtsiek: No, I don't. I have no idea. But that was part of the evolution of historic sites, that they were trying to develop a training program where ideally someone might start as a front-line interpreter, go to a small site and then sort of work their way up to the bigger sites.

Hosea: You're still at the Department, still Conservation at this point.

Schachtsiek: Still under Conservation and we were Land and Historic sites. We were in a division separate from hunting and fishing.

Hosea: So you were part of a division called Land and Historic Sites?

Schachtsiek: Historic Sites, yes, and I think Bill Farrar (F-A-R-R-A-R) was head of Historic Sites.

Hosea: And that's who you reported to?

Schachtsiek: Yes. Well, technically I reported to a regional historian who then reported to Bill Farrar.

Hosea: Can you give us a shortened version of what Bryant Cottage was all about and why it is an historic site?

Schachtsiek: Bryant Cottage, tradition has it, was where Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas met in 1858 to finalize their Lincoln-Douglas debates. There is evidence that both men spoke on—I can't remember the particular date—in Monticello. Lincoln spoke earlier in the day, was leaving Monticello, coming back to Bement because it had the railroad, met Douglas and they agreed to meet at Bryant Cottage that evening to finalize dates and places for the Lincoln-Douglas debates. There is a letter from Lincoln, postmarked Bement, that sets up the dates and places for the Lincoln-Douglas debates. So there's plenty of evidence that the meeting took place. There is **no** evidence that I recall that they actually met in Bryant Cottage. But it was local tradition. It was located across from the railroad tracks, but as I got there and was encouraged to do a little more objective study of the situation, that there were some areas of doubt. In particular, it's a four room little white Victorian cottage—parlor, family parlor, bedroom and a kitchen area—and it was Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Bryant, his wife, and I think he had two or three children at the time, living in this small four-room cottage—but the formal parlor had furniture in it that was, tradition had it, in the room when Lincoln and Douglas met. That when Mr. Lincoln, President Lincoln, was assassinated, died, Francis Bryant went into the parlor and wrapped the chair that Lincoln sat in in a U.S. flag because he realized the significance of Abraham Lincoln having been in his parlor. What's interesting is that Bryant was a Democratic not a Republican. But also, as it proved out, the furniture was not from the 1850's; it was East Lake style from the 1870's. But local tradition had that being the furniture. That chair, with the flag wrapped around, it was kept in a glass display case up at the Piatt County courthouse in Monticello for decades and then, I want to say it was in 1955/1958 that the cottage became a State Historic Site and then the chair and the other furniture was brought back to the parlor. The building was somewhat decorated and furnished to the period. One of the big changes is when it became a State site; they put in a central hallway so people could come in the front door and have access to all four of the historic rooms. That was not part of the original floor plan. Fortunately, in the 1930s there was AHABS, Historic American Buildings Survey. Architects came and surveyed the house in the 1930s and the floor plan was different than what it was when I went there in the 1970s. After I left, during one of the brief periods when the State had a lot of money, they restored it back to the original floor plan, Also, with the assistance of Mary Anna Munyer (M-U-N-Y-E-R), they were able to get correct period wall-paper, correct period drapes, correct period carpeting, furniture coverings and what have you, and put the furniture in the parlor back to the original style that it would have been.

Hosea: Is there a tension of decisions to be made when, particularly in a small locality like this, that what you find historically is not what the local people would like put out there?

Schachtsiek: Yes, yes. Because Bryant Cottage put Bement—which I think is a town of maybe 1500 people if that—on the map. When you look at a map of Illinois, Bement has a State Historic Site, which makes it unique as compared to other communities and, you know, they were very protective. It was their historic site and it was somewhat awkward coming in as the first outsider to **their** local site. So, while I was there I had to tread somewhat carefully on some of these changes.

Hosea: Would you meet with local groups, the mayor, and this kind of thing?

Schachtsiek: There were a couple of local citizens who were very active in the Piatt County Historical Society…

Hosea: What county?

Schachtsiek: Piatt. …and they would give me their versions and the early, quote, history, county histories that told the stories. But the thing was, they were always histories that came out in the 1870s, 1880s, 1890s, long after the fact and long after Lincoln became famous as the great American resident martyr, and they had not bothered to try and look at contemporary evidence to fully support it. So later site managers incrementally were able to downplay more and more the "fact" that this was where Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas met and said yes, they met in Bement. Tradition has it that they met in this cottage.

Hosea: You probably don't remember exactly, but do you have any kind of idea what kind of budget you were working with back then?

Schachtsiek: Uh, dollar amount, no. Overall, it was adequate, particularly when I was at Bryant Cottage. Once again, I was there when things were somewhat good. We were able to paint the building, do some cleaning up in the yard that had been neglected over the years under the prior manager. I was able, with the assistance of the original historian, to bring in some more furniture, some more small items to really make the house look like it was lived in and do a little research, get away from the site to do some research as to economics of the period, the railroads coming through of the period. And since the Lincoln-Douglas connection was thin, I tried to bring out a little bit more about who F. E. Bryant was and how he represented the pioneer businessman when the railroads were coming through in the 1850s and how that totally changed the face of Illinois, in particular, East-Central Illinois, because you don't have a river system there to take farm produce, to bring finished goods in. So East-Central Illinois was one of the last areas to be settled until the railroads came. Then overnight all these communities were created because of the coming of

the railroad and of a time of great economic growth and potential for a shrewd businessman like F.E. Bryant.

Hosea: Did you feel that, in general, you were able to operate as you wanted to, were you given a lot of independence?

Schachtsiek: Yes, I was fortunate. At the time, the district historian at the time was Jim Allen. There were, I believe, originally four districts in Illinois; at the time I was there it was down to three.

Hosea: Each one had their own historian?

Schachtsiek: There were four regional historians, the northern area, which I would say would be from Bishop Hill north, central, southern and I think the French district. And by the time I was there, I believe it was down to three regional historians, because this was when historic sites were getting an identity of their own and because of good economic times, able to expand, do new programs, and what have you, and you needed historians to assist with research and direction and planning, but also some of the administration.

Hosea: So what year again, or time of?

Schachtsiek: We're talking the 1970s.

Hosea: Okay.

Schachtsiek: And my District Historian was very supportive: Jim Allen (A-L-L-E-N). He was instrumental in getting me to Bryant Cottage because he was part of the concept of allowing employees to grow and move up through the system. His office happened to be at New Salem, so he knew me as an Interpreter at New Salem and knew my educational background and that, yes, I was wanting to advance. So it was through his efforts that, you know, I learned about the opening at Bryant Cottage and was able to move up.

Hosea: And how long were you at the cottage?

Schachtsiek: A little over two years.

Hosea: And decided then that you needed to have a more advanced degree to keep advancing in your career?

Schachtsiek: Yeah, yeah. And part of it, still at that time, there wasn't a lot of turnover within Historic Sites. Front-line interpreters, a lot of them, and New Salem was a prime example, were local people and they're going to be in that position until they retired or died, and that didn't allow for a lot of mobility. If someone from, say another historic site was a big Lincoln fan, and boy, they wanted to go to Lincoln's New Salem because that's the main Lincoln site, no, nobody moved, there wasn't any opportunity. And somewhat the same

thing with some of the site managers; some of the site managers had been in those positions for years and years and years, and their roots were there, their family was there, they weren't particularly looking to move up and out and I realized I enjoyed being historic site administrator. I knew I did not want to be administrator of a big site; I preferred a smaller site, and I was made aware of the program down at Eastern Illinois University and realized it was geared towards small museums, not particularly historic sites, but small museums. But it would give me…

Hosea: It deliberately prepared people for smaller museums rather than larger institutions?

Schachtsiek: Right. It was at a time when American Association for State and Local History, AASLH, was geared toward small county museums, small historic home museums. Duane Elbert, who was the organizer and creator of the program at EIU, wanted to train people in a well-rounded capacity to step into small museums, house museums, that could do administration, could do photography, could do accessioning, could do care of artifacts, would know about architecture, would know about decorative arts—just a good all-around basic idea to manage a museum.

Hosea: You used one term there I'm not familiar with: accessioning? What is that?

Schachtsiek: Accessioning. That is taking an historic item and doing a description, doing the paperwork, assigning it an accession number, so that instead of a thumb-tacked piece of paper on the back of a photograph, or on the back of a piece of furniture, there is a particular number appropriately placed on that item that can tell you all the information when you find the right file about that piece of furniture, rather than, "oh, oh, Aunt Mildred donated this to the museum and the family tradition had it," but it's all oral. It would be written down; a physical description and photographs and everything would be done.

Hosea: So how long were you at Eastern Illinois, how long was that program?

Schachtsiek: It was a twelve month program; nine months at the school, at EIU, and then a three month internship at wherever you were able to, your interests took you and you were able to get a position.

Hosea: And where was that with you?

Schachtsiek: For me it was at the U.S. Army Military History Institute at Carlyle Barracks, which is part of the Army war college at Carlyle Barracks

Hosea: The U.S. Army?

Schachtsiek: Military History Institute.

Hosea: Okay.

Schachtsiek: USAMHI.

Hosea: Were you given any assurance that there would be a job when you came back or were you just taking a chance?

Schachtsiek: Nope. Really when I left I drew out my retirement at the time to help pay for my schooling and really thought I would find some job somewhere else and move on. It did not work out that way, so eventually I came back to, what still at the time, was DOC, Conservation.

Hosea: So now you had your Masters, is that right?

Schachtsiek: Yeah.

Hosea: So right out of that, your next job was with Conservation?

Schachtsiek: I had a couple of other part-time jobs until I was able to get back as a Site Interpreter, back at the bottom of the ladder at Lincoln's tomb.

Hosea: Oh, so you went to Lincoln's tomb, then.

Schachtsiek: Yes. Under Carol Andrews.

Hosea: And what year?

Schachtsiek: That would have been from April, 1982 through June of 1984.

Hosea: So Carol was the Site manager or Administrator, and how many interpreters were there?

Schachtsiek: Carol was the Site manager, there was Charlotte Oglesby, who I believe was the lead Interpreter, Jerry Johnson was an Interpreter, I was an Interpreter, and David Boyle was the maintenance worker. At that time it was strictly the tomb; you did not have the Viet Nam Memorial, the Korean War or the World War II Memorials. So from a maintenance point of view, it was the Lincoln Tomb. It wasn't all that has been added to it since then.

Hosea: So as an interpreter you would, what, stand out in that hallway where people came?

Schachtsiek: You would greet people in the rotunda as they came in, give them a brief general history about the tomb, a little bit about the family, direct them around to the burial chamber and be available to answer questions as they came out. If the weather was nice, in the spring, summer and fall, we would take people on tours around the outside of the tomb. Carol believed the tomb had a story of its own above and beyond the fact that Lincoln was buried there. About how it was the first monument built to a president, and there are only, in some ways, a handful of major monuments built during the Victorian era. ut how it

all came about, she felt that that was an important story that needed to be told and it wasn't in some ways totally appropriate to do a lot of talking in the tomb. So whenever weather and things would permit, it would be done outside. When school groups would come, there would be a small podium outside with a speaker and the information would be given outside and then they would be walked through on the inside. Carol was the first also of a newer generation of site managers, particularly at the tomb. The prior thinking was, this is a tomb, it's solemn, it's deserving of respect. There used to literally be signs that said take off your hat—because historically, men wore hats—and be silent and be reverential and what have you, and that idea was evolving away into being a historic site. Yes, the man is buried there and is deserving of respect but there is a place also, generally outside, to tell some history, particularly when school groups come through. Rather than just have them parade through and look at the sarcophagus that they get some history about Lincoln and the family and the tomb and what have you. So Carol Andrews was the first one who really developed that concept of trying to tell the bigger story of the tomb and people always at the time, "Oh boy, isn't it depressing working in the middle of the cemetery at the tomb?" And I said, "Not at all." I never felt depressed working there. I found it very interesting and a challenge because often times we would get people who had just been to the Lincoln home and had learned a little bit about Lincoln the family man. Now came out to hear the rest of the story about the family. How did they live, when did they die? That sort of thing and we're the only, in a way, appropriate place to tell that part of the story. I found it interesting. I enjoyed it. I was able to do reading on my own about Lincoln and Mary Todd and was able to bring out, you know, the role that Mary Todd had to support Lincoln, and the difficulties she had after the President's death and her committal for insanity. That it was as much a legal maneuver as a medical maneuver and that how a lot of people don't realize that Lincoln had a grandson, Abraham Lincoln II, who for a while was buried in the tomb. And why he was taken out and why Robert Lincoln is not buried at the tomb and that it's only the immediate family. That originally there were enough crypts for Robert and his family to be buried in the tomb and how that changed and how originally when you came to view the tomb, you viewed the burial chamber from the outside looking in. It wasn't until the remodeling in the 1920s that you walked through the inside of the tomb to view the burial chamber.

Hosea: There have been a spate of books and documentaries and stuff that have been done about all of the wanderings around of Abraham Lincoln's body in the tomb. Was that area in the basement covered at all?

Schachtsiek: Uh, Lincoln, for a while, was hidden in the inner areas of the tomb after the attempted theft, which once again, was a bigger area than what it is today. Because originally you came into that oval entry room and that was a small museum. The entire center core of the building, the square area, was not finished. It was not open to the public because you went, once again, around to the outside to the north, and you stood on the outside and you looked in on

a small semi-circular burial chamber. The whole inside under the terrace area was, to a certain extent, unfinished. It was possible to take a coffin or two, Lincoln and Mary, and put it under construction debris and nobody would ever see it because nobody would ever have got into that part of the tomb. And Robert, correctly, did not think that was appropriate for his parents, let alone a former President. That's why for a while he was placed under the floor in the old burial chamber and it wasn't until years later that he was buried ten feet below ground surrounded by steel and concrete.

Hosea: Now there was an original famous or infamous curator of the tomb who kind of was **the person** when it came to Lincoln's tomb for a while. Was that way before your time?

Schachtsiek: Oh yeah. You had John Carol Powers, who is buried out at Oak Ridge Cemetery, was the one who was Director of the tomb when the attempted break-in was made.

Hosea: Okay. Well that was …

Schachtsiek: He did an early history of the tomb. Then it was, I can't think of the guy, but he is also buried…

Hosea: It was John Powers I was thinking of.

Schachtsiek: John Carol Powers was the first one. There is another one; he and his son ran the tomb for awhile and they're buried just straight south of the tomb on the main drive as you come in, near the Tanner monument. And then it was George Cashman. I knew George. George was the curator of the tomb, I'm going to say for several decades, maybe from 40's, 50's and 60's possibly, yeah, into the 70's and when he retired that's when Carol Andrews came in.

Hosea: Administratively, even back then, the tomb was entirely separate administratively, from the rest of the cemetery and so on?

Schachtsiek: Yes, yes. The tomb and the acres surrounding it were State property and that was a challenge on occasion because the cemetery somewhat kept a different holiday schedule than what the State did. And there were times when the tomb would be open, but "the cemetery would be closed" because of a holiday. And there were some problems of the water running to the tomb. Up to a certain point apparently it was part of the cemetery, but after a certain point it was the tombs, and who was responsible, you know. I was just secondarily aware of that because I was just the front line Interpreter. Carol Andrews is the one who really was responsible for working out the fine details between the city and the tomb and what was State property and what was city property and who was responsible for this and who was responsible for that.

Hosea: And so you were there for how long did you say?

Schachtsiek: From April of ’82 through June of ’84, a little over two years and then I got promoted to Historic Site Manager at Postville-Mt. Pulaski, and at that time we were still part of Conservation.

Hosea: It was still part of Conservation at that point.

Schachtsiek: I attended one state-wide site managers’ meeting when we were still under Conservation. And that was at the time the break, the transformation changed, and we became Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Hosea: So, very early in your Pittsfield?

Schachtsiek: In the Postville and Mt. Pulaski.

Hosea: Yeah.

Schachtsiek: So it would have been some time, I would have said ’84, that IHPA came in.

Hosea: And who did you report to then, when you started out? Who was your boss?

Schachtsiek: Bill Farrar was head of Historic Sites.

Hosea: I thought we had mentioned him before; he was your immediate supervisor?

Schachtsiek: He was head of Historic Sites and by that time the regional historians were gone, so technically the level of bureaucracy between the site managers and the central office was gone.

Hosea: So the regional state historians were not just historians; they were part of the administrators as well.

Schachtsiek: They were administrators. Yes. And once again, I really wasn’t that involved with them long enough to get the full impact of what their jobs were. But when I was at Bryant Cottage, they did research but they also were responsible for administration.

Hosea: And again, could you give a brief overview of the sites you were responsible for?

Schachtsiek: Postville and Mt. Pulaski Courthouses originally were two separate sites. My predecessor, Eric Robinson, who is also a graduate of EIU, was the first professional non-local Site Manager and the two courthouses were combined.

Hosea: What was his name again?

Schachtsiek: Eric, E-R-I-C, Robinson and he eventually went to the Florida State Museum in Tallahassee. But, it would have been sometime in the 70’s that it was decided, from an administrative point of view you don’t need two separate sites.

Hosea: How far away from each other are they?

Schachtsiek: Twelve miles. Thematically, historically, the stories are the same. You know, they're both courthouses from the Eighth Judicial Circuit of the 1840s and 1850s. It's not as if one was a courthouse and the other was an historic farm and the themes would not tie together. The themes historically tied together. So under my predecessor the two sites were combined and you had the Site Manager, two Site Interpreters and a maintenance worker and both sites were kept open seven days a week. And when I went there that's what the staff consisted of: two interpreters and a maintenance worker and myself and the sites were open seven days a week.

Hosea: So they were open every day?

Schachtsiek: Yep. Times were still good and staffing was full and budgeting was full. The historic story behind both of them. Postville was the first county seat for Logan County when it was created in1836. The courthouse that is there now is a replica. Henry Ford has the original Postville Courthouse in Greenfield Village outside Detroit. So the courthouse we have is based on what Henry Ford did in Greenfield Village. And what Henry Ford did in Greenfield Village was his interpretation of what the courthouse should look like. One of the big differences between his layout and ours, he has the court room on the first floor, we have the court room on the second floor. My thinking on it is he had it on the first floor because it allowed easier access for the visitor at Greenfield Village to walk in the front door, see the Lincoln court room and walk out the back door. At Postville, because of the smaller numbers, it was practical to have the court room on the second floor which historically was generally the case. In other surviving courthouses of the period, the court rooms are generally on the second floor because they were not used that often that you would set aside the first floor for something that would be used basically two weeks out of the year as a court room.

Hosea: When it was taken to Deerfield Village, do you know what it was like? Had it gone into disuse and so on?

Schachtsiek: It had. When the county seat moved to Mt. Pulaski in 1848, the building was sold and it became a private residence. Fortunately, when Henry Ford bought the original building, his people came in and did a lot of research and they were able to find historic photographs of the building after it was the courthouse and what it looked like say in the 1870s and 1890s and then early twentieth century. But it was also moved once on the same city block, but it was moved, and it has had additions and changes to it to meet the needs of the various families. But Henry Ford's people came in, they did floor plans, they did architectural drawings to help them rebuild it, they did photographs, so we know what it looked like when Henry Ford got it. Then we also know what it looked like when Henry Ford rebuilt it. No one knows what it looked like when Lincoln was there in the 1840s. The State has its interpretation, Henry

Ford's people have their interpretations, and it's up to the public to decide which they feel is the more accurate.

Hosea: And the other courthouse?

Schachtsiek: Mt. Pulaski Courthouse is one of only two surviving eighth circuit courthouses in Illinois. Metamora courthouse is the other one. You do have to be specific, because the Postville Courthouse in Michigan is an original eighth circuit courthouse, but it's not in Illinois.

Hosea: Ha, ha, that's great.

Schachtsiek: Decatur, Macon County, has a courthouse that survives but it was not on the eighth circuit at the time; I think it was on the first circuit, so you have to be somewhat precise in the wording on that. The advantage of Mt. Pulaski courthouse is it was later, it was brick, it was used by the government in one form or another until the state took it over to restore it as a courthouse. And

they were able to come up with a much better concept of the original floor plan. The building was always in good repair, always in use, but it also had some major changes done to it during its various usages that had to be undone and brought back to restore it to its original 1840s configuration.

Hosea: And once again, when you arrived to take over as Site Manager, did the property look essentially the same as they do today? Was it essentially the same?

Schachtsiek: Yes. Fortunately, while I was at the courthouses we also were in some very good years financially and there was funding to do some major capital development projects at both courthouses. Postville was closed for about a year, all new siding was done on the outside, new, more historically appropriate windows were put in, the inside was cleaned and painted and freshened up. So the building—I'd say its fifteen years ago now—really looked good and probably looked better and more accurate than what it had ever done as a State historic site. Mt. Pulaski courthouse in 1998, the city was celebrating its sesquicentennial as the county seat and the building was 150 years old. So we also had a capital development project that brought the building back to probably the best it looked since it came into the State system. The outside was freshened up, historically appropriate windows were put in, the inside was cleaned up, freshened up. We were able to put in historically appropriate chandeliers and other things such as that. The building really looked good after that capital development project. Unfortunately, with that one, but I think also with Postville, since then, they do not have the staff and they do not have the money to maintain the buildings and they are really getting run down.

Hosea: Now it was during this time, of course, while you were there that the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency began. Can you, from the perspective of a site manager, can you give a little bit of history on that process of change?

Schachtsiek: Having been a Site Manager under Conservation, we were always aware that it was the Parks, the Natural Recreation Parks that owned hunting and fishing, that were the big part. Historic sites were 'in addition to.' That in some ways Historic Sites were always the poor relative at the table and really was not able to get the recognition and the funding that it perhaps really deserved. Some conservation managers or directors were sympathetic, some apparently were not. And through whomever had the effort, I wasn't involved with it and don't know, a case was made to Jim Thompson that Historic Sites should stand on their own, that their purpose was separate from Parks, let alone Hunting and Fishing. So under Jim Thompson historic sites, IHPA was created.

Hosea: I gather from your comments that at least at your level that that was a pretty popular decision. It was something that was…

Schachtsiek: Oh yeah. When the break came, there were—I can't remember the number—sites that were identified that would go to IHPA. And it was up to some of the Site Managers who also had like camping and parks affiliated with the sites, as to whether they wanted to come to IHPA or stay with Conservation. New Salem would be an example. You have the historic village but you also have that large campground and all that natural area and it would have been up to the Site Manager at the time to decide which way they wanted to go. Black Hawk State Park up in the quad cities has a historic museum, but it also has very large natural area and parks. Well, that Site Manager decided to come with IHPA. The Site Manager at Nauvoo decided to stay with DOC. So, no one was going to be forced to stay one way or the other, and apparently each site such as that, that could tip either way had to make an argument as to why it would go with the historic sites or why it would stay with Conservation. Jubilee College was broken off from Conservation because you had the college, the historic college, and then you also had a major part with lakes and horses and trails and what have you and it was decided that the historic area was significant enough to be broken off. And also, at the same time, the Old State Capitol, Carl Sandburg, David Davis Mansion, had been under the historic library. They were stand-alone sort of entities; they were brought into IHPA. But the State Museum was kept as a separate entity; it was not brought into the agency. But the Old State Capitol, David Davis Mansion, Carl Sandburg, I think those were the only ones, came into IHPA.

Hosea: Did you find your role as Site Manager changing a lot once it became under Historic Preservation Agency?

Schachtsiek: No, fortunately by that time the head of historic sites was Bob Coomer; Bob, even though he came from a conservation and parks background, really was

an excellent representative for historic sites. In all the years I was Site Manager at Postville-Mt. Pulaski it was under Bob. And Bob always put the needs of the agency and the site first. He was an excellent representative to the public, but also with the legislature. My understanding was he had good standing with both sides of the aisle. That both sides of the aisle respected Bob for being fair and balanced and willing to listen to what the politicians wanted, but also to be able to say, "this is why I do yes or no." And so we were very fortunate with Bob as Historic Sites Division leader. When we first started, Michael Devine was head of IHPA; I don't know anything about his background. He was not, in my thinking, a great representative, but he was the first over-all director for IHPA. Bob Coomer was head of Historic Sites. Then you also had Historic Preservation which was the historic register people who took care of architecture and what have you, and you also had the historic library. So there were sort of like three areas within the Historic Preservation Agency.

Hosea: Now as a Site Manager, did you tend to mostly think locally where you were responsible, or did you have to pay a lot of attention to what was going on in Springfield and budgets and that kind of interaction?

Schachtsiek: Well, you know, since particularly the funding came out of Springfield and all support, whether it was research or interpretation, came out of Springfield. But you know, Coomer realized the sites were all unique to their particular locality and he wanted high standards as far as the level of care for the building, for the level of research, for the level of interpretation, but he was also aware that a David Davis Mansion, a Victorian house, would have a different clientele than Lincoln Log Cabin over at Charleston. A fine example was, some sites wanted to go with period clothing. Some sites wanted to have career apparel; like the Old State Capitol, you would wear slacks, a shirt and a tie. And there was, Does everybody wear career apparel even though you're working out of a historic building as compared to wearing period clothing? So Bob was aware that at certain times everybody should have the option of wearing career apparel, but also at those sites that do period activities, should be able to do period clothing. So that was an example where the central office out of Springfield set the criteria but he was sensitive to what the particular needs of the communities were. What kind of special events you would put on; that would depend on the size of your site, what kind of staff you had to put something on, and funding. I was fortunate up in Logan County at the two courthouses; coincidentally when I came on, there was a Logan County Tourism Bureau that was created and they had hotel/motel taxes. Their main purpose was to promote Logan County, but they also would have funding to support various entities within Logan County and particularly when we came onto tight financial times and could not do special events, Logan County Tourism Bureau eventually picked up a hundred percent of the cost of the special event. And therefore, you had to be aware of what the local community wanted and what they could support rather than being mandated out of Springfield.

Hosea: So most of your local interaction was through this board? That's the people you dealt with?

Schachtsiek: Yes and I served on the Logan County Board, as a non-voting member because it would have been a conflict of interest, and I was on the County Board and it was a great experience for myself, but also for the sites, because in a way they were the major attraction for Logan County. They were open, originally, seven days a week. They were a State site. They got signage that was something special to bring people into Logan County. Other various attractions in Logan County tended to be a bit more of a local nature. So fortunately, the Logan County Tourism Bureau was very supportive of the sites as far as promoting the sites and as time went by, helping to fund some of the various special events.

Hosea: Obviously from Logan County standpoint, they were interested in that, but from the State, was it considered one of your goals to market the place to get as many visitors as possible or was the idea that you just served those who showed up?

Schachtsiek: The State, the agency, knew headcount is, in a way, how they justified spending state funds. You know saying you're preserving history is fine, that you're preserving historic buildings is fine, but to the legislature you had to justify it by we had, you know, so many warm bodies that came through. So Springfield, when times were good improved site brochures, did publications, tried to do things to promote heritage concept—that southern Illinois was the French district, central Illinois was the Lincoln site. Then you had these other ones that didn't really fit into any category, like Bishop Hill or the Pullman site. But the State would try and promote as best they could from the State perspective, but also if the sites could, they were encouraged to work with the local communities to get support from the local communities for promotion and tourism and what have you.

Hosea: And you were there now for the rest of your career, essentially?

Schachtsiek: Yes, yep.

Hosea: And you retired when?

Schachtsiek: December of 2002.

Hosea: Okay. There's huge changes that occurred in that time.

Schachtsiek: Yeah. When I started there I had a staff of three: two Interpreters and a full-time maintenance worker. We were open seven days a week. Unfortunately, I can't always remember dates, but sometime in the early 1990s there was the first tight financial time. And there was going to be reductions and I would lose one of my interpreters. Fortunately, Bob was able to get him transferred to another Historic Site down at Charleston at Lincoln Log Cabin. So I ended

up with one interpreter, one maintenance worker and the sites were only open five days a week. Then in 1992 the second round of major layoffs came and I lost my Site Interpreter; my maintenance worker fortunately was able to transfer to New Salem. Mt. Pulaski was closed for a while, and Postville was only open two days a week when I was there. The other three days that I worked, I was responsible for maintenance and doing both buildings. Shortly after that, the State had a lease agreement with the City of Mt. Pulaski that the City of Mt. Pulaski would lease the courthouse and they would provide volunteers and it was my responsibility to train the volunteers, supervise the volunteers, and maintain the building and pay all the utilities and what have you. So, I'm going to say somewhere around 1992 Mt. Pulaski was open five afternoons a week using volunteers and I would go over the days that Postville wasn't open to mow the yard, clean the restrooms and supervise the volunteers. It was one of the first times that that sort of arrangement had been done with the State where volunteers, in a sense, were totally responsible for a historic building. I was not there on site all the time. So that was a new situation. A number of other sites had volunteer programs but they were always under direct supervision of a full-time state worker: David Davis Mansion, Dana Thomas House, what have you. But this was the first time they were there on their own. I was very fortunate; they were a great group of people to work with. They were all local people, most of them were retired, they didn't have the training or the knowledge, but they received that and they were very good at taking that and sharing it with the public. I always looked at them as they did not have the formal training of a true interpreter, but they cared about the site. It was more than just quote "a job." It was their courthouse, they were all Mt. Pulaskians and they were very proud of the courthouse. So what they lacked in formal training they made up for with their enthusiasm in caring for the site. It was a great experience to work for the ten plus years that I worked with them. And then it was late 1990s that it was decided to start a similar volunteer program at Postville. So Postville was opened five afternoons a week, three or more of the afternoons were done with volunteers, and then at least two afternoons I would do it. But I was there since that was where the administrative office was for the site, but I was responsible for training them and supervising them and that was also a great experience. When I resigned in December of 2002, the plans were that they would hire another Site Manager to continue to do the administration and the maintenance and what have you and that position has not been filled in seven years. And the maintenance work: maintenance worker from New Salem comes over and mows the grass at the two courthouses and cleans the restrooms and checks the restrooms and does whatever sort of maintenance work that has to be done. All the paper work, bill paying and everything comes out of Springfield.

Hosea: Once again, during this rather lengthy period of time, did you have to worry about politics in terms of hiring and laying off or you pretty much, did feel that you were able to exercise your judgment?

Schachtsiek: I only had one instance where I was responsible for hiring someone and that was shortly after I got there; one of the interpreters had left and we were to hire in a position and it was suggested that a certain person be hired. Fortunately, that person found another state job and I was, therefore, able to go to the second person which was someone that I had recommended in the first place. But Bob Coomer, and I didn't have much turnover so I didn't have that much in the way with direct political dealings with job openings and what have you, but my understanding was that Bob did the best he could to—I'll use the term—shield the site managers from direct political influence. We're a State agency, we're part of Illinois politics and sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. Bob would be the one that would have to make the decision of which battle do you fight and which ones you don't fight and my feeling was all site managers felt Bob was one of the best representatives for Historic Sites that anybody could ask for. He was always very supportive of the staff and, as I said earlier, he had good rapport with the legislators. My understanding is, he was respected by the people on both sides. That he wasn't viewed as, you know, he's supporting this party so when the next party comes… Because he sort of came in under Thompson, a Republican, that you know if things would have changed, "Oh, let's get rid of that political hack and bring in somebody of our own." He was able to continue and be respected and really represented to the agency historic sites very well.

Hosea: Did you have much interaction with other site representatives, was there a lot of communication or talking back and forth?

Schachtsiek: As time and budget would permit, we oftentimes would have two annual site manager meetings where we would meet at or near some other state historic site. And that would be the chance for Bob to tell everybody at one time, this is what the union agreements are about, this is what the next budget is going to be about, this is something that's going to impact everybody across the board. Also, fortunately, it gave some of us a chance to go to historic sites that I would not have gone to otherwise; Douglas Tomb up in Chicago, would not have been a site I probably would have gone to on my own; Shawnee Bank, some of the ones way in southern Illinois that just would not have been some place I would have gone on my own. So, because of these various meetings, I was exposed to some of these other sites. Often times they would bring in some specialist on American Disabilities Act to explain how that would impact the sites and the positive side of following the ADA guidelines. There would be somebody who would come in about photography, taking pictures of the collection that some people weren't that comfortable with. Bad years, it would maybe only be one time a year. And it was also sometimes decided did it need to be two days or three days that maybe things could be organized a little bit better and cut the time down so people would not have to be away from the Site during a particular period busy times. But Bob also saw the value of us getting together and talking and thinking and keeping that contact because we were all at our own individual sites. Admittedly some of the ones here in Springfield and Central Illinois are close, but some of the other sites

are very dispersed and you don't have much opportunity, necessarily, business-wise, to meet with some of the other site managers. So Bob placed a value on the site managers getting together and sharing ideas. During some of the good times they even tried to do that with the front line interpreters so that they could see what other sites were doing, good, bad or indifferent, to make them aware that they were part of a bigger organization. And just as an example, the site interpreters at New Salem that, yes, New Salem is a big site, an important site, but it is part of a bigger system, that maybe you could go to Lincoln Log Cabin and see how they interpret a period farm with period clothing and first person interpretation, or just to go to some other Lincoln affiliated sites so you can tell visitors what it's like to go to Metamora Courthouse. So when times were good they even had workshops for the various site interpreters, but once again, as funding got tight and staffs were reduced apparently they weren't able to continue to do that.

Hosea: Now towards, the end of your time there, things were heating up in Springfield in terms of the State Library at first and then, I assume, plans were well underway and things were happening as far as the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Did this sap up energy and time and money from the other sites that were not in Springfield and not part of the publicity?

Schachtsiek: Directly, it didn't have that much of an impact on, at least on my site; I can't speak to the Old State Capitol or New Salem. But at some of these annual site managers meetings, Bob would bring out that this was going to happen and once again he said "Oh, we could fight it and maybe we would win or maybe we would lose and pay the price." And his philosophy was it's going to happen, it's better to work with and influence it and have it go for the better and, you know, the museum was always presented as the gateway to the other Lincoln sites. That you would come to the Presidential Museum and you would learn about Lincoln's New Salem. But you were supposed to then go to Lincoln's New Salem and not just the Presidential Museum. Or, when you learned about Lincoln on the Eighth Judicial Circuit, if things permitted, you were encouraged to go out to those historic sites and, uh, I was not there that long once the museum actually opened. Matter of fact, I think I may have been retired, so I did not have direct impact from once the museum opened as to good, bad or indifferent as to how it impacted the sites.

Hosea: It seems like on the other side of the coin in the last decade or so there's been much more of a recognition of the importance of his law career to Lincoln and to the Eighth Circuit in particular. Were there organizations or efforts involving a recognition of the circuit itself and all the various sites on that circuit?

Schachtsiek: My impression is Lincoln legacy evolves. Decades ago it was Lincoln the frontier youth, who rose above this crude background to become this great American president and great speaker. Then there would be the look at Lincoln the politician and house divided speech and the Lincoln-Douglas

debates. So over time, the public perception of Lincoln and the historic perception of Lincoln evolved. And it just so happened in the 1980s/1990s there were some historians doing research on Lincoln's legal career and the Lincoln legal papers project in particular. I can't say there's a direct spin-off from the Lincoln legals project to increased interpretation or increased visitation to the courthouses, but I believe there was. That when articles came out in various learned magazines, let alone newspapers about the discovery of this Lincoln legal document or this Lincoln legal case, that people then, who were going to Lincoln sites would have included one of the courthouses on their tour that otherwise they may not have. When the Lincoln legal papers came out, they opened up a wealth of knowledge that, if time had permitted, we could make use of at the two courthouses. And there were instances: the Illinois Bar Association, I believe, did a special program based on the Lincoln legal project and they held it at the courthouses, at Mt. Pulaski in particular and when it was all over, they gave us this script of, I think it's, four or five different cases from four or five different stages of Lincoln's legal career. They did not all, none of them happened at Postville or Mt. Pulaski, but it was done there and we could take those little scripts and we did, we shared them with local schools and local school kids would come up and take on some of the roles. And that got us involved with the local community, with the local teachers, got local people to come to particularly Mt. Pulaski, who would not have otherwise. So the Lincoln Legal Papers Project was a benefit to the courthouse, not always where you could directly see that connection, but there was a benefit from the Lincoln Legal Papers Project and interest focused on Lincoln the lawyer, because historians realized Lincoln the politician grew out of Lincoln the lawyer. And people interested in the Lincoln the President, therefore, to understand him fully had to understand Lincoln the lawyer and that meant the Lincoln-Herndon law office or the courthouses. And fortunately, the two courthouses are close enough to Springfield that it was practical for people to come out and hit the two courthouses while doing the Springfield site; in a way we weren't much further than going out to New Salem. Metamora Courthouse probably did not receive that direct benefit because they're just a little bit too far afield.

Hosea: Now would you have people—speaking of documents and artifacts this kind of thing—did you have someone come into your office and have an inkwell or a chair or something purportedly from Lincoln era and so on, would you handle that or would that go to Springfield?

Schachtsiek: We had, right off the top of my head, one local farmer who said he had a law desk that his family tradition had been in Postville Courthouse and Lincoln had sat at it. I contacted Mary Anna Munyer in Springfield because she was our collections advisor of what was going on. She said for me to go out and take pictures of it, take measurements and then come and talk with her and so I did that. And it was decided, stylistically, it probably was not of the period. That is the only one that immediately comes to mind of something like that happening. And if something would have come, say a Lincoln paper, legal

book, or something, or an inkwell, I would simply be the conduit. The State is the holder of the museum, of the buildings, of the artifacts. I would do the paperwork, but it would be Springfield that would make that type of decision as to whether it would be kept or not. When I started at Mt. Pulaski, we had a set of saddlebags that supposedly Lincoln used during his life and, you know, they were just over the back of a chair in one of the offices at Mt. Pulaski. We didn't interpret them, they weren't part of our story, so for conservation purposes, they went to Springfield. We had a mailbox that had been Lincoln's in Springfield. Apparently during one of the remodelings of the Springfield Post Office, after the remodeling the mailboxes went to Mt. Pulaski. And when Mt. Pulaski remodeled, someone knew box number, whatever, had been Abraham Lincoln's mailbox in Springfield, so they kept that mailbox. Well we had that mailbox at Mt. Pulaski Courthouse and what-in-the-world a mailbox has to do with Mt. Pulaski Courthouse, other than it was from Mt. Pulaski. So quietly during one of the remodelings the mailbox did not come back to Mt. Pulaski and it is now in part of the collection of the Lincoln Presidential Museum. So, you know, it was one of those things that in consultation with Bob Coomer or Mary Anna Munyer, it would be, does it support the story of say, the courthouses, and if it did and if we used it, then the argument would be made that it should stay there. But if it didn't, why have it there?

While I was up there, I did some special exhibits at Postville Courthouse and we had, when I started there, a life mask, first generation copy of a life mask, the early life mask. And it was nice, but it really didn't tell the story of Lincoln the lawyer on the Eighth Judicial Circuit. To me, it was a curiosity; I spoke with Mary Anna Munyer and Coomer about it and they said fine, so it also went to Springfield. There were some local people upset about that but we could make the argument that it would serve the public better at a different place than at Postville-Mt. Pulaski. But we would upgrade the exhibits at Postville with newer graphics and newer things and even audio-visual presentations to sort of say "Oh, we're not stripping things away from Postville Courthouse; we're also upgrading."

Hosea: And I guess that a final question is, are there any events or issues that I haven't talked to you about that were important to you during the last part of your career?

Schachtsiek: As you said, I was fortunate being up at Postville-Mt. Pulaski for almost twenty years, that I saw the creation of Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. I was also there during some of the good years and the sites really benefited from that. Once again, whether Susan Mogerman as Director or Bob Coomer as head of historic sites saw that all the sites, even the smaller ones like Postville-Mt. Pulaski, benefited from the good times. Whether it was staff, whether it was equipment, whether it was programming, whatever. When the times were good we had the three capital development projects at the two courthouses. And unfortunately, towards the end I was also there when the

bottom was falling out and we lost staff and we were not able to have funding to help maintain the buildings or do special events. That if it hadn't been for the tourism, local tourism bureau, special events would not have happened. And special events were a big factor, major factor in the attendance at the two sites. We just don't get that many walking in off the street to those two courthouses; it was the big special events that would bring in the hundreds, maybe even a thousand people at a time.

So, my time there was a good experience. It was at the level of a site that I was comfortable with; I was not interested in becoming the manager of a big site like Lincoln's New Salem or something such as that. My strength did not lie with a large management type of operation. I enjoyed front line interpretation, which at a smaller site you do, but also dealing with budget and doing research and dealing with the artifacts at a smaller site. I was a jack-of-all-trades and that meant that every day was new and challenging and different. I was my own boss, and that was one thing that also Bob Coomer was very good about; if you did the job, he didn't bother you; if you needed help, you could turn to him. But he was very good; if you did your job and the public was happy, you continued to do your job and he would support you as best he could. And that was the case for me at the two courthouses.

Hosea: Very good. Thank you for you time, Richard.

Schachtsiek: Um-hm.