

**Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission  
OFFICIAL PUBLIC AND MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

**12 noon, Tuesday, July 16, 2024**

**At Muscatine County Administration Center, Supervisors Meeting Rm  
Muscatine, IA 52761**

**Members in attendance (X-present, E-excused)**

Lynn Pruitt	X	John Kiwala	X
Becky Furlong	X	Joe Harper	X
Bill Koellner	X	Rebecca Bovenmyer	X
Mary Beveridge	E	Doug Conklin	X
Becky Allgood	X	Nathan Sneath	E
Ken Snyder	X		

Also present was Kala Naber, Muscatine County Budget Administrator and Jennifer Price, Price Preservation Research and Max Reeb, visitor.

**Meeting called to order at noon pm by President Furlong.**

- A. Approval Agenda – Approved (Kiwala/Conklin)
- B. Approval of June 18, 2024 Minutes – Approved (Koellner/Conklin)
- C. Approval of June 5, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes- Approved (Koellner/Pruitt)
- D. Receipt of Financial Reports – Approved (Koellner/Harper)

**Old Business:**

- A. **Country Schools & Churches Project** –Furlong reported that Lynn Pruitt and Tom Furlong installed the final two signs for this project. Pruitt questioned the status of the Historic Page on MAGIC; then subsequently confirmed that it was complete and accessible to the public for Country Schools and Churches.
- B. **HRDP 2023 Grant Update for Wilton Historic Neighborhoods survey** – Allgood reported that the historian has submitted the final draft to SHPO for this project and that there were 106 homes in this two-neighborhood survey.
- C. **Fairport Fish Hatchery Update** – Pruitt reported that they are getting bids for the pavilion project and are working through a lot of the details. The status of expanding the mural on Houser Street was questioned but unknown.

**New Business:**

- A. **Muscatine County Fair Work Schedule** – Furlong passed out a fair work schedule so that commissioners could sign up for the MCHPC booth in the Heritage Hall building.
- B. **Transportation Project** – Koellner reported that the first draft of this project is completed and that we are looking into publishing one or two volumes for this project. Pruitt will check into this and get back to us with his findings at the next meeting once SHPO has issued comments and Price has completed the survey.
- C. **CLG Fruit and Vegetable Industry Update** – Historian Jennifer Price presented a Project Overview and the draft is attached to these minutes. A project kickoff meeting will be scheduled soon with SHPO and the Research Design will be submitted for approval.

- D. **2024 CLG Status** – It was decided to proceed with putting together a CLG Grant for the West Liberty North Calhoun Historic Neighborhood Intensive Level Survey project. Koellner and Pruitt will work on putting together this grant. Pruitt made a motion to proceed with the CLG Grant and Allgood seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- E. **Relocating Records from West Liberty Library** – Furlong reported that the West Liberty Library is cleaning out old archive records and has come across records for other towns in the county outside of the West Liberty area. A discussion was held and it was decided that Furlong will find out more about these records so that we can disperse them to rightful repositories.
- F. **Nichols NRHP Listings** -- Pruitt informed the meeting that a bronze plaque is being order by the Nichols Catholic Church for their NRHP listing. A sign is being order by owners of the Nichols Home for their NRHP listing.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 @ noon at Muscatine County Administration Center

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Becky Allgood, Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes Approved Date: 8 / 20 / 24 by: \_\_\_\_\_





# FRUIT & VEGETABLE SURVEY OVERVIEW OF PROJECT

## Focus of the Project

- 🍃 This project is a mix of reconnaissance and intensive survey methods.
- 🍃 The field survey will be focused on Fruitland, Orono, and Pike Townships, but minimal documentation methods will be used for most historic resources identified.
- 🍃 The historic context development will involve intensive survey methods focused on these three townships but will take in the whole of Muscatine County where necessary.
- 🍃 Intensive survey methods will be used for the 10 historic resources selected for Iowa Site Inventory Form documentation.

# PHASE 1 - RESEARCH

Town hall meetings and historical research will be the primary methods of gathering information for the historic contexts and the identification of historic properties in the target townships.



From the collection of Musser Public Library

## Town Hall Meetings in Target Townships

MCHPC members and volunteers will schedule a series of town hall meetings in communities within the field survey area – Pike, Fruitland, and Orono Townships – to

- 🍉 Generate interest in the project,
- 🍉 Gather local historical information,
- 🍉 Begin to identify historic properties associated with the fruit and vegetable industry,
- 🍉 Potentially conduct interviews with people who have local historical knowledge of the industry and associated extant resources.

## Historic Context Research

- 🍅 Researching the historic contexts will be divided by subject amongst the MCHPC members and volunteers, who will begin identifying information resources and organizing research efforts.
- 🍅 The research will be organized chronologically and by fruit/vegetable type, facilities, infrastructure, labor, and other historical factors that supported the cultivation, harvesting, packing, distribution, and sale of produce.

# Historic Context Subjects

- 🍉 Specific fruits and vegetables (melons, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet potatoes, cabbage, etc.)
- 🍉 Farms, farmers, cultivation methods, and machinery;
- 🍉 Agricultural labor and housing;
- 🍉 Irrigation, drainage, and flood control;
- 🍉 Processing, packing, and storage facilities, equipment, and machinery;
- 🍉 Transportation infrastructure;
- 🍉 The associated seed industry;
- 🍉 Inventions and innovations;
- 🍉 Promotional and marketing organizations;
- 🍉 Consumer markets and grocery stores; and
- 🍉 Research facilities and agricultural extension services

# Research Sources and Organization

## Sources

SHPO records, county records, historic maps, historic photographs, county histories, vertical files at local libraries, online newspapers, census records, probate records, Google Books for trade journals, annual reports, etc. We can add to this list when we really get going.

## Organization

I have established a Google Drive folder to upload this collected information, divided by subject.

All research information will be documented per guidelines that the consultant will outline during the first training session.

## PHASE 2: FIELD SURVEY

### Fruitland, Orono, and Pike Townships

-  The three target townships will be divided among commission members.
-  The survey will include those specific resources identified during the public meeting and historical research phase.
-  Previously documented resources needing confirmation of their status will be included in the field survey. The consultant will conduct a second training meeting at this point on field survey methods.
-  Surveyors will take field notes and photograph existing historic resources related to the fruit and vegetable industry in the targeted survey areas of Pike, Fruitland, and Orono Townships.



QUESTIONS?