

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
July 8, 2026

The Historic Preservation Commission met at Mount Vernon City Hall on Wednesday, July 8, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners present at City Hall were Sue Astley, Mary Evans Mike Guerber, Duane Eash, Sherry Brayton, Randy Brown, Kim Benesh, Guy Booth and Edith Dawson. There were no persons joining via Zoom. Guest present was Nathan Countryman from the Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun.

The Minutes of the June 6, 2026 meeting were approved.

There are two design review requests. The first is from the owner of the gas station located at 1206 1st St SW. The property has recently changed owners, and the new owner is requesting a permit for signage on the canopy that will cover pumps at the station and other signs. The logo on the current canopy will change, the color scheme will change, and perhaps, lighting will be changed. The application for a certificate of appropriateness has only requested approval of the new signage for the station. The new affiliate for the petroleum products is BP. There was not a request for any exterior change to the building on the property or to the location of the canopy, pumps or signage.

Commissioners were concerned that there was no information given regarding the amount of lighting that will be on the new canopy. There was not any request for approval of lighting or modifications to the canopy. Upon motion by Guy Booth, seconded by Sue Astley, the Commission approved the granting of a certificate of no material effect as it relates to signage. This motion and approval of the application does not relate to any change of the structures at the site which would require a building permit and further application to the Historic Preservation Commission. The motion carried.

The second request comes from Ink Expression, a tattoo and piercing business. The business is requesting approval of a shingle bracket and sign that will be affixed to the front of the building at 114 1st St SW, Mount Vernon. This building is located in the Downtown Historic District. After reviewing renderings of the bracket and of the actual sign, upon motion by Mike Guerber, seconded by Sherry Brayton, the Commission approved a certificate of appropriateness for the proposed sign and bracket holding the sign.

Kim Benesh reported that the Heritage Days exhibit will be set up in front of 224 1st St SW. There will be a table that will have numerous giveaway items from the Commission, as well as a picture board in which visitors can have their picture taken looking through a hole in the board that would show them in early period garments. It should be a fun experience for the Commission to have this physical presence in the midst of the Heritage Days celebration.

There was discussion regarding the attachment of the new plaques that identify the historic tour of the Downtown Historic District. These plaques can be accessed by QR Code. There are still several plaques that need to be affixed to the buildings that are part of the tour. The information for each building gives an historic background for the property. The new signage identifying buildings on the tour replaces older plaques that identified the previous telephone access to the tour. Duane Eash is still working on finding the appropriate solution for attaching some of the plaques that may need extra attention. The design of the plaques was

contributed as a volunteer effort by Rickard Sign Company. They are an excellent design and should help identify buildings that are on the tour.

There was additional discussion about the newsletter that is being published by HPC. Sue Astley indicates that because First Class stamps are going to increase in price in the near future, that she be allowed to purchase adequate postage for the next two newsletters prior to the postage price increase. Upon motion by Sue Astley, seconded by Duane Eash, the motion to pre-buy postage for the newsletter was approved.

Mike Guerber indicated there were no homes or other structures in historic districts that have changed title during the last 30 days. Mary Evans gave a brief report on the excellent work that has been completed by Edith Dawson. Going to the HPC website, it is easy to follow the numerous photographs that have been added to the website that help define the history of Mount Vernon and identifies many residents who have lived here and worked here over many years. These website photos give a great introduction to the history of Mount Vernon. The next edition of the HPC newsletter may have an article directing people to this portion of the website.

Randy Brown reported that there will be an interesting seminar regarding “creating community with cheap, old houses.” This will be held in Moline, IL. This is an interesting concept, as the historic districts in Mount Vernon, as well as numerous houses that are not in districts would be considered the affordable housing in the community, as opposed to the value of the new homes that have been built over the last 15 years.

No further business being addressed, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary