Protected for the Public

(Photo by Marge Schroeder.)

Illinois gains three new listings on the National Register of Historic Places.

The East Waterford School was recognized by the National Register for Historic Places for the progressive use of construction techniques to benefit learning conditions in a 1907 one-room school.

(Photo by Kelvin Sampson.)

Story By Hal Hassen

The Department of Natural Resources is proud to announce that two of its properties are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A third new listing, owned by the JoDaviess Conservation Foundation, is an Illinois Land and Water Reserve through the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

East Waterford School

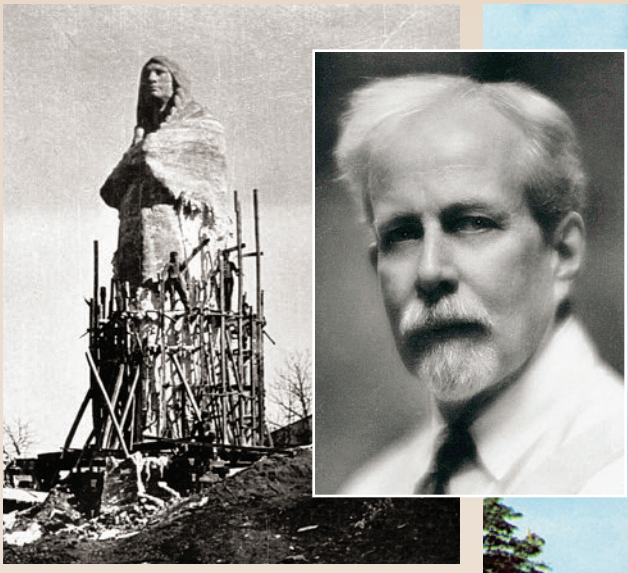
The East Waterford School, located at Dickson Mounds Museum, Fulton County, was constructed in 1907. The building is significant because it represents an evolutionary stage in the development of early 20th century one-room school houses. By the early 20th century educators recognized that pupils were being educated under difficult conditions—poor lighting, ventilation and heating and inadequate interior spaces. The improvements represented in the East Waterford School include an interior-accessed basement that housed the heating unit, separation of the classroom from the cloak room, and numerous windows for improved lighting. The use of poured concrete and an exterior brick veneer added to the progressive nature of the structure. The building served the local community as a school until 1957 and currently is used for educational programming at the Dickson Mounds Museum.

Lorado Taft Sculpture

The Indian Statue in Lowden Memorial State Park, Ogle County, honors both its subject, Native Americans, and its creator, Lorado Taft, a strong proponent of public sculpture whose work may be found throughout the United States. Taft conceived the idea for using continuous poured concrete for a statue in 1908. Working from the Eagle's Nest art colony near Oregon, it was decided to place the statue along the bluffs on the Rock River. When completed in 1911, the 100-ton, 48-foot high monument was the largest poured concrete statue in the country. Until the creation of this statue, concrete had not been used in this manner. Today, the Indian statue is a prominent landscape fixture and a source of regional pride.

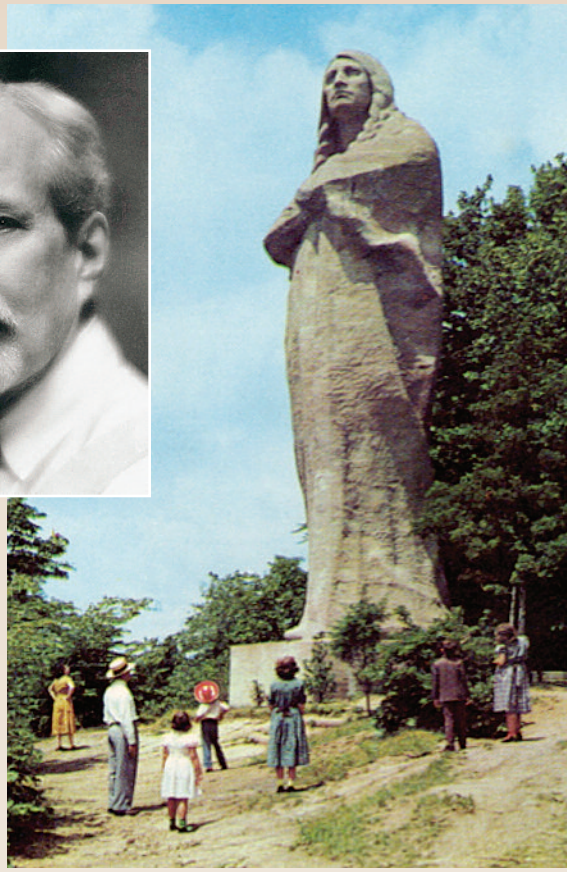
John Chapman Village

The John Chapman Village archaeological site (JoDaviess County) is part of the Wapello Land and Water Reserve owned by the JoDaviess Conservation Foundation. The site was occupied between AD 1050 and AD 1350. Its significance is derived from the information it can provide about the contact between local Late Woodland people in northwest Illinois and Mississippian cultures from the American Bottom region near present day St. Louis. The modern landscape is very different from the setting once inhabited by native peoples. Many important archaeological sites are no longer present. The preservation and protection of significant archaeological sites is an important public trust. The JoDaviess Conservation Foundation is commended for its stewardship of significant archaeological sites.



(Photos courtesy Ted Hild.)

The Indian Statue designed by sculptor Lorado Taft, inset, represents a significant advancement in the use of poured concrete.



The Department of Natural Resources thanks Marge Schroder and Ted Hild for preparing the National Register nomination forms.

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(Photo by Chris Knight.)

Now recognized as a nationally significant historic place, the John Chapman Village archaeological site originally was occupied between AD 1050 and AD 1350.

(Photo by Phillip Millhouse.)