



Fact Sheet

Illinois Governor Blagojevich has vetoed \$2.7 million from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency's (IHPA) fiscal year 2009 budget, jeopardizing more than half of the state's 60-plus historic sites, as it specifically targets the personnel services line of the Historic Sites Division.

What does this mean and how will it impact you?

Historic Preservation

- With no staff, many of these historic buildings and sites will be closed making them more susceptible to vandalism and neglect. Others will have their hours dramatically reduced.
- With reduced admission public donations, grants, and various fees used to upkeep many sites will be lost creating a deferred maintenance situation. The recent lack of capital improvement funds for these properties complicates this issue.
- This irreplaceable collection of some of the state's most historic properties could be threatened with permanent closure.

Tourism

- A significant decrease in the 2.6 million annual visitors to communities where these historic sites are located. A potential loss of \$717 million in tourism dollars for hotels, restaurants, and retail stores statewide.
- A loss to the Illinois Bureau of Tourism for international and group tour marketing which takes years to build back—ironically at a time when high gas prices have increased the demand for in-state tourism.
- Decrease in special events such as the Rendezvous at Fort de Chartres (14,000 visitors) and Olde English Faire at Jubilee College (18,000 visitors) which communities economically rely upon annually.

-More-

Fact Sheet—page two

- Lack of venues to promote and host visitors during the much anticipated and marketed Lincoln Bicentennial in 2009. The states of Indiana and Kentucky will now capture and economically benefit from most of these visitors during the Bicentennial year.
- Student group tours will look to “electronic field trips” and other online resources with no physical site left teach history.

Economic

- Many of the 100 full-time staff at these historic sites are subject to losing their jobs.
- State revenue created by special events, weddings, parking, filming permits, site rentals, and other sources will be severely reduced.
- “Main street” communities where historic sites are located will experience economic loss from lack of visitors to restaurants and businesses.
- Illinois “main street” communities have been impacted by the \$239,000 budget elimination of IHPA’s Design Services Program which provides pro bono façade improvement designs to commercial building owners.

-End-