

August 6, 2021

Mr. Jamie Kelly
Head of Anthropology Collections
Field Museum of Natural History
1400 S. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I hereby nominate Harold Hassen as a candidate for the Illinois Archaeology Career Achievement Award. Hal has contributed to Illinois archaeology in a variety of ways including field research and publication, the administration of a contract archaeology program, public and professional service, and most importantly in my opinion, as the Cultural Resources Coordinator for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Hal joined the staff of the Center for American Archeology in 1979 as the Principal Investigator of the Kuhlman Village mitigation, a large Late Woodland community. He co-authored a monograph on the project, which is among several publications on his archaeological research.

Following his work at Kuhlman, the Center established two cultural resource management programs. One served the Illinois Department of Transportation's work in the region, the other concerned all other projects and especially those undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Hal served as the Center's Program Administrator and Principal Investigator for the latter's cultural resource management projects. One project is especially noteworthy. The Corps of Engineers sponsored a series of drainage and levee projects to evaluate the cultural resources potential in select districts in anticipation of future projects. Hal coordinated the efforts of teams of geologists and archaeologists as they documented the depositional history of stretches of the Illinois River floodplain and explored surface and buried artifact-bearing deposits. This landmark work is documented in a series of reports.

In the late 1980s, the Illinois Department of Conservation, now Illinois Department of Natural Resources, launched a statewide infrastructure improvement program in Illinois State Parks. They retained the service of the Illinois State Museum Society to fulfill their cultural resource management responsibilities. In turn, the Museum Society hired Hal to administer this far-reaching program. Hal's capable administration and leadership compelled the Department of Natural Resources hire him to serve as their Cultural Resources Coordinator to ensure their compliance with requisite federal and state historic preservation requirements and to serve as their liaison with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

During his more than two-decade tenure with the Department, Hal was responsible for a long list of cultural resource management projects ranging from small-scale surveys of state park property to the construction of a replica of Fort Massac. Among the most noteworthy projects: a variety of projects on the Illinois and

Michigan canal, which included work at Morris that resulted in detailed documentation of canal barges by Floyd Mansberger and Christopher Stratton of Fever River Research; research on the Newell Fort at Starved Rock State Park, also conducted by Fever River; the Bluebell site at Carlyle Lake (Illinois State Museum Society).

Concerned about the piece-meal approach to cultural resource management at expansive state parks, Hal proposed park-wide cultural resource assessments to efficiently identify sensitive and less-sensitive areas. Large-scale assessments were undertaken at Kankakee and Starved Rock State Parks with considerable success.

The Department's regulatory responsibilities include coal mining, and Hal and his assistant, Marjorie Schroder, reviewed mine permit applications and administrative oversight of contracts to conduct cultural resource assessments.

As is the case with many state and federal organizations, the Department's cultural resource management program depended on the Illinois Inventory of Archaeological Sites. Hal was instrumental in seeking and obtaining financial support from the Department of Natural Resources to build and maintain this important resource.

During his last years of service to the Department, Hal and Dawn Cobb turned their attention to burial grounds and cemeteries on state property and elsewhere, and to the preservation and rehabilitation of cemetery monuments. In addition to presenting public lectures and workshops on the subject throughout the state, they published *Cemeteries of Illinois: A Field Guide to Markers, Monuments, and Motifs*.

Professionally, he served as the Department of Natural Resources liaison to the Illinois Archaeological Survey Board of Directors and he made numerous contributions to the well being of the profession and Illinois archaeology in general.

Taken together, this information when combined with the sum of his everyday commitment to cultural resources managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and his other contributions to Illinois archaeology, I believe that Dr. Harold Hassen has earned the distinction of being celebrated for his career achievements. Thank you for considering this nomination.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Wiant, Ph.D.
Director Emeritus, Illinois State Museum—Dickson Mounds