

CENTER FOR HISTORY

A Facility of the Wheaton Historic Preservation Council

Wheaton Historic Preservation Council – *A Leader in Education*

Since the Wheaton Historic Preservation Council (WHPC) was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 1980, it has developed into an award-winning, education institution and museum nationally recognized for its brilliant and innovative programming. It opened the Wheaton History Center in 1986; the Wheaton History Center Research Annex in 2000; and changed its name to Center for History, a facility of the Wheaton Historic Preservation Council in May 2005. WHPC expanded its facilities and opened a museum and research facility on the 2nd floor at 315 W. Front Street in winter of 2006.

Staff and volunteers have successfully advanced the Council's mission *to inspire an appreciation of and preserve the heritage of Wheaton and its connection to national and world history* by:

- Operating a permanent repository with professional staff to care for artifacts and archival materials.
- Creating an awareness of American history through informative programs, tours and exhibits
 - Programs are presented to students, scouts, adults and families
 - Even with the economic environment schools are coming for *NO RIGHTS! The Injustices of Slavery* program and District 200 is scheduling *Images of Wheaton* and Local Government Walking Tour. Golf and Eastland programs are also popular topics.
 - In May 2010, 22 education programs were presented to students, girl scouts and adults
 - Programs have already been requested for 2011
- Operating a resource center for inquires via personal visits, letters, email, and telephone
- Generating tourism by attracting an audience beyond Wheaton's borders
 - Mostly from the Chicago metro area, Indiana, and Wisconsin
 - International visitors came to learn more about the SS Eastland, Grote Reber, and golf
 - Buses bring students for educational programs from as far away as Indiana and Kansas
- Providing copies of historic photos for individuals, businesses, news media, and publications
- Recording oral histories of individuals covering WWII, Eastland , golf, and local history

The museum at 315 W. Front Street, 2nd Floor in Wheaton is a 6,000 sq. ft. facility with three exhibit galleries, research room, and collection space with climate control and security system, plus The Gate Museum Shop. The permanent exhibit galleries include *Fairways, Greens & Clubs; Disaster, Courage & Silence: The Eastland Story*; and a Wheaton National Hall of Fame honoring renowned Wheatonites with national notoriety. The gallery currently highlights the twelve major league baseball players who called Wheaton home. This facility is available for corporate and private events.

The facility at 606 N. Main Street, Wheaton is used for a multitude of programming and July 4th Stars & Stripes Breakfast. There is a re-created Underground Railroad station in the basement and *NO RIGHTS! The Injustices of Slavery* is a powerful interactive program which draws thousands of students every year.

Recognized for professionalism and leadership:

- Recipient of 45 awards since opening the museum in 1986
- President & CEO serving on Illinois State Historical Society board; former board member of the American Association for State & Local History
- Center has presented at numerous state and national conferences
- Museums, locally and nationally, have called the Center for advise relating to exhibits and education programming