

 <b>ST. CHARLES</b> <small>SINCE 1834</small>	<b>HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>			
	<b>Agenda Item Title/Address:</b>	Camp Kane Historical Site Marker		
	<b>Proposal:</b>	State Historical Marker		
	<b>Petitioner:</b>	Camp Kane Heritage Foundation		
<b>Please check appropriate box (x)</b>				
	<b>PUBLIC HEARING</b>		<b>MEETING 8/7/19</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>AGENDA ITEM CATEGORY:</b>				
	Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)		Façade Improvement Plan	
	Preliminary Review		Landmark/District Designation	
X	Additional Business		Commission Business	
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>				
Marker Wording				
Marker Examples				
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:</b>				
<p>During the 7/17 meeting the Commission discussed the potential to place a State sponsored Historical Marker at Camp Kane. The Commission expressed support for the installation of the marker, but was worried about the number of signs at that location. Commissioner Malay stated that with a State sponsored marker, other signs could be taken down.</p> <p>Wording for the marker has been provided in the packet and a location map will be provided at the meeting. The Commission has been asked to provide approval regarding the wording and final location of the marker.</p>				
<b>RECOMMENDATION / SUGGESTED ACTION:</b>				
Provide feedback and recommendations on approval of the marker wording and location.				

## **Historic Marker Wording:**

Camp Kane  
Civil War Training Camp  
1861-1865

Camp Kane is the Civil War Training Camp site of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalries. Both were organized by John F. Farnsworth, when he obtained authorization from President Lincoln to form a voluntary cavalry regiment.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry regiment formed in 1861, fought with the Army of the Potomac in such major battles as Manassas, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg. They fought in 50 other battles and skirmishes. The 8<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry had the regimental strength of 1200 men and a roster of 2412 during the war. 194 soldiers were killed or died of disease, 185 were wounded and 11 died in Confederate prisons.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry regiment recruited in 1863. Commanded by Col. John L. Beveridge, it distinguished itself when it captured 1,000 Confederate troops at Mine Creek, Kansas.



## THE NORWAY BUILDING

THE NORWAY BUILDING STOOD ON THIS SITE FOR THE 1893 WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXHIBITION. AFTER THE FAIR, CHICAGO MILLIONAIRE C.K. BILLINGS PURCHASED THE STRUCTURE AND MOVED IT TO HIS ESTATE IN LAKE GENEVA, WISCONSIN. WILLIAM WRIGLEY OF CHEWING GUM FAME LATER BECAME THE OWNER. IN 1935 THE BUILDING WAS PURCHASED BY ISAK DAHLE AND MOVED TO LITTLE NORWAY IN BLUE MOUNDS, WISCONSIN, AN OUTDOOR MUSEUM SHOWCASING NORWEGIAN HERITAGE. IN 2015 THE NORWAY BUILDING WAS BROUGHT BACK TO ORKANGER, NORWAY, WHERE IT HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY CONSTRUCTED AND WAS AGAIN REBUILT. THE NORWAY BUILDING IS MODELED AFTER THE NORWEGIAN STAVE CHURCHES OF THE MIDDLE AGES. IT IS ONE OF THE FEW BUILDINGS FROM THE EXHIBITION IN ORIGINAL CONDITION AND THE ONLY ONE TO RETURN TO ITS COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

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THE DIRECTORATE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE NORWAY  
AND THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
AUGUST 2018





## LAKE MICHIGAN AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

THE VERNON HILLS ATHLETIC COMPLEX ONCE WAS A MILITARY AIRFIELD THAT TRAINED YOUNG AMERICANS FOR WAR. THE AIRFIELD WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF A MASSIVE NAVAL AVIATOR TRAINING PROGRAM DURING WORLD WAR II. AFTER PEARL HARBOR, AMERICA FOUND ITSELF DESPERATELY SHORT OF AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, QUALIFIED PILOTS. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR, PILOT TRAINING WAS CONDUCTED AT SEA ON FLEET CARRIERS. THE NAVY DECIDED PILOTS COULD BE TRAINED ON AIRCRAFT CARRIERS ON LAKE MICHIGAN AND NOT BE EXPOSED TO ENEMY ATTACK. THIS RESULTED IN HIGHER NUMBERS OF TRAINED PILOTS AND FREED URGENTLY NEEDED FLEET CARRIERS FOR COMBAT DUTY. IN 1942 AIRCRAFT CARRIER QUALIFICATION TRAINING BEGAN USING TWO SIDE-WHEEL STEAM-POWERED CRUISE SHIPS CONVERTED INTO AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AND RE-CHRISTENED THE *USS SABLE* AND THE *USS WOLVERINE*. THIS AIRFIELD SUPPORTED THE MAIN AIRFIELD AT NAS GLENVIEW, AND PILOTS TRAINED HERE IN STATE-OF-THE-ART AIRCRAFT TO LEARN CHALLENGING CARRIER LANDING AND TAKE OFF TECHNIQUES. ONCE A PILOT DEMONSTRATED PROFICIENCY HE WOULD THEN FLY TO A HOLDING POINT OVER THE BAHAI TEMPLE IN WILMETTE AND AWAIT CLEARANCE TO LAND ON ONE OF THE CARRIERS.

THIS TRAINING PROGRAM QUALIFIED 17,820 PILOTS INCLUDING THEN 18-YEAR-OLD ENSIGN GEORGE H.W. BUSH, FUTURE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. THOUGH DURING THE WAR THOUSANDS OF NAVY PILOTS DIED IN SERVICE, THE ENEMIES OF THE UNITED STATES WERE UNABLE TO MATCH OUR DEPLOYMENT OF AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AND HIGHLY SKILLED PILOTS. THIS AIRFIELD MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE VICTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OVER THE AXIS POWERS.

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AMERICAN LEGION POST 1247 AND THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.  
SEPTEMBER 2018.