



Douglas County

Oakland

Demolish Prairie Observatory, next to Walnut Point State Park

Prairie Observatory, 0.67 miles SW of the intersection of N Country Road 2200E

and E Country Road 370N, DOE 8/14/23

IDNR-2316616, SHPO Log #009072623

September 5, 2023

Dawn Cobb

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way

Springfield, IL 62702-1271

Dawn,

Thank you for your letter of July 26, 2023, regarding the demolition of the Prairie Observatory building. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurs with IDNR that 1) the existing construction plans and 2) plan to return the site to a natural forested environment for hiking and hunting are adequate as mitigation, given the hazard to public safety caused by the dilapidated condition of the building and several instances of unauthorized entry. IDNR has satisfied its responsibilities for the above-mentioned undertaking, according to the Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act.

Please feel free to contact CJ Wallace at 217-761-0104 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Carey L. Mayer, AIA

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CLM