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Harriet Rees House Relocation Commences with Coach House Move

Coach house moved in advance of main Rees House relocation in November

CHICAGO—Oct. 1, 2014—The relocation of the Harriet Rees House, a Chicago landmark, began today with the move of its 187-ton, two-story coach house. The coach house relocation was undertaken in advance of the highly anticipated move of the three-story, 763-ton main house in November. At almost three times longer, three times taller and four times heavier than the coach house, the limestone and brick Rees House will be one of heaviest residential buildings ever moved in the United States.

The relocation, approved by the City of Chicago Commission on Chicago Landmarks is part of Mayor Emanuel's "Elevate Chicago" initiative. The house and its accompanying coach house are being relocated to make way for the McCormick Place Entertainment District, which will include a 10,000 seat event center and a 1,200 room Marriott Marquis Headquarter hotel.

"We are delighted to have completed this important step in preserving a piece of Chicago history, and we look forward to the relocation of the main Rees House next month," said Jim Reilly, CEO of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority. "This project could not have been possible without the support of Ald. Pat Dowell, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks and the residents of the local community."

Prior to today's move, the coach house was cut from its foundation using masonry saws, lifted on jacks and loaded onto six massive automated dollies. The coach house moved down the street at a speed of one to three miles per hour from 2110 S. Prairie Avenue to its replacement location one city block (400 feet) north at 2017 S. Prairie Avenue.

The move and restoration of the Rees House is being coordinated by Chicago contractor Bulley & Andrews, with Thornton Tomasetti serving as the project's engineering firm. Wolfe House and Building Movers is performing the move of the coach house and the main Rees House.

“We’re honored by the opportunity to handle a once-in-a-lifetime project like the Rees House,” says Allan E. Bulley Jr., Chairman and CEO of Bulley & Andrews. “It was built just three years before my grandfather founded Bulley & Andrews, and it’s a privilege to be a part of the same history of Chicago.”

Built in 1888, the Rees House is a cornerstone of the Prairie Avenue Historic District, a grouping of late 19th century mansions built in the neighborhood by prominent Chicagoans including George Pullman and Marshall Field. After its relocation, the Rees House and its coach house will occupy a lot adjacent to the William H. Reid House and the Wheeler Mansion.

The Rees House was originally built for Harriet Rees, the widow of James H. Rees, a real-estate innovator who drafted one of the early maps of Chicago. In 1910 the Rees House was sold and became a boarding house under several different owners. In 1970 it was converted into a restaurant, the Prairie House Café, and in 2001 the house was sold to its current private owners.

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#### **About MPEA**

The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) owns McCormick Place, the largest exhibition and meeting facility in North America and the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Hotel. The North, South and West Buildings as well as the Lakeside Center offer 2.6 million square feet of exhibition space. Located along Chicago’s lakefront, McCormick Place offers 173 meeting rooms, the 4,249 seat Arie Crown Theater and one of the largest ballrooms in the world.

#### **About Bulley & Andrews**

Founded in Chicago in 1891, Bulley & Andrews offers clients a full range of construction services, including general contracting, design/build and construction management. The company takes great pride in both its mastery of the fundamentals and its extensive expertise in traditional and modern fine-detail work, and prides itself on evolving into a leading, tech-savvy firm with a commitment to sustainable building practices and LEED construction.