

XV

Survey Use Only

- Archaeology
- Architecture
- History

48-H-27

127405

1. Name of Site:

Common:

Ottawa Appellate Court

Historic:

Historic:

2. Location of site:

Street and Number

Township

Section

Columbus & Lafayette, 116 W. Lafay. Ottawa

11

City or Town

Zip Code

Range

W Section

Ottawa

T33N, R3-R4

SE

County:

LaSalle

3. Classification

Category: (check one)

Integrity: (check one)

District

Building

Altered

Damaged

Site

Structure

Position: (check one)

Moved

Original site

4. Ownership:

Status:

Public

Occupied

Preservation

Private

Unoccupied

Work in progress

Access to the public:

Yes

Restricted

Unrestricted

No

Present Use: (check one or more)

Agricultural

Industrial

Religious

Commercial

Military

Scientific

Educational

Museum

Transportation

Entertainment

Park

Other (specify)

Government

Private Residence

5. Owner of property:

Owner's name

Phone Number

State of Illinois

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

GOVERNMENT

6. Description:

Condition:

- Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation under way?     Yes     No  
 If yes, give a brief description on separate sheet, and attach hereto.

7. Historical themes: (check one or more of the following)

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological site | (pre-Columbian)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological site | (post-Columbian to 1673) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French influence    | (1673-1780)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois frontier   | (1780-1818)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois early      | (1818-1850)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois middle     | (1850-1900)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois late       | (1900-present)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Famous people       | (give names and dates)   |

Specific date of site: 1857-1860

Areas of significance: (check one or more)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication             | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning            |
|  |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other specify) |

Brief statement of significance: (Include all names and dates)  
 On attached sheet.

8. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: P. Kozlowski Date: 5-17-71  
Organization: LaSalle County Historical Society  
Street and Number: Box 577  
City or Town: Ottawa County: LaSalle Zip Code: 61350  
Phone Number: 434-0188

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site.

When filling out the survey form, please list according to the following example any published references to the site for which the form is being completed.

If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly reduce the survey's task.

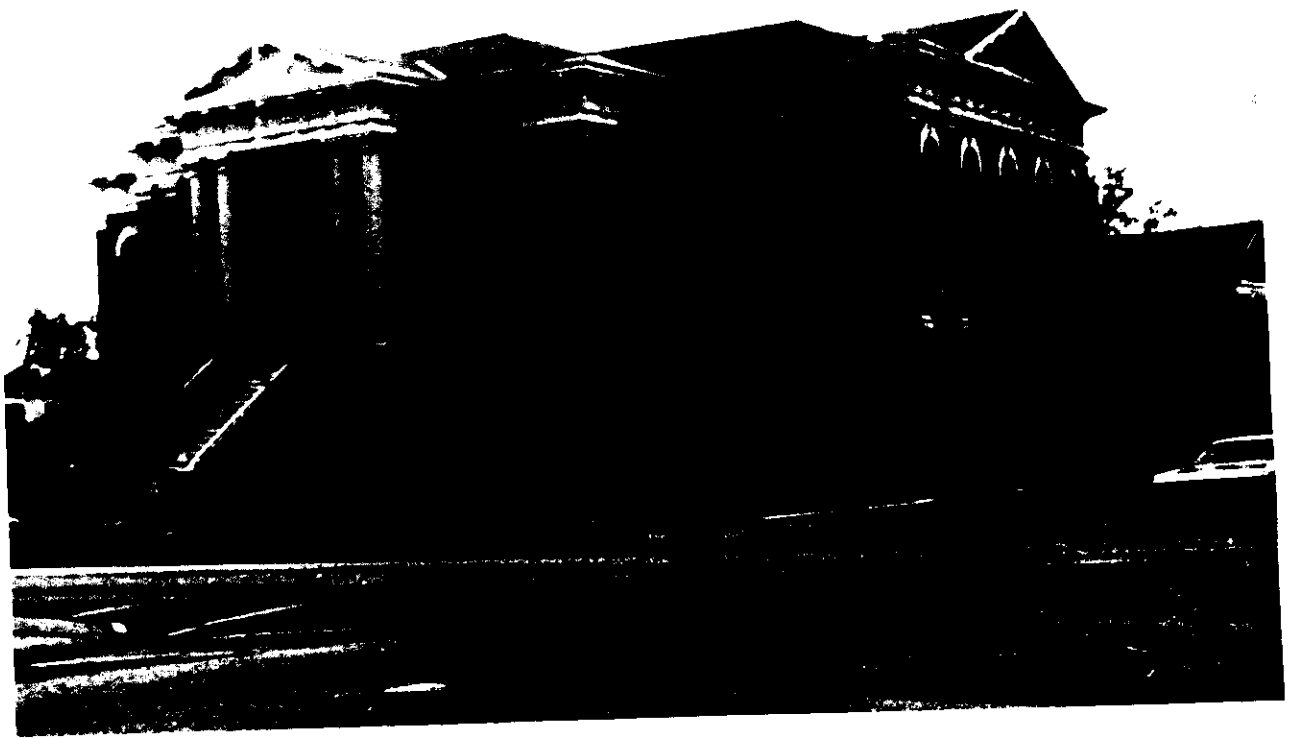
Bibliography Form.

Robertson, Robert B., Of Whales and Men, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

Attach sheet and list Bibliography

Daily Times, Ottawa September 26, 1968  
On file LaSalle County Historical Soc.

Historical Architectural Tour  
Ottawa, September 28, 1969



APPELLATE COURT

Historical Architectural Tour of OTTAWA IL  
Sep 28, 1969

This handsome structure on the east side of Columbus Street and the corner of Lafayette Street is a well preserved example of Greek Classic Revival architecture. The detail of red brick and Joliet limestone, together with its well proportioned Doric columns and handsome pediment, form a harmonious structure worthy of the title "one of Ottawa's most handsome public buildings". The central portion of the structure was constructed in 1857-1860 by the State of Illinois at a cost of \$229,600. The wings were added in 1877 when the Appellate Court System was made part of the State Judiciary. Thus, it served as a State Supreme Court and Appellate Court until about 1897 when the three branches of the Supreme Court at Ottawa, Mt. Vernon, and Springfield were consolidated into one Court at Springfield. Now, as an Appellate Court only, it serves thirty-two Illinois counties as the Court for the 2nd District.

The Court has also served several social purposes, such as the event in December 1867 when the socialites of Ottawa and Chicago gathered for the wedding reception of the daughter of Judge John Dean Caton and her Chicago groom. Among the guests for the gala event was Robert T. Lincoln, son of the late president.

# Appellate Court Building, 'Historic Landmark'

By THE SPECTATOR

LOCATED on "Old Main" of Knox College is a bronze plaque which reads: "Old Main—Knox College has been designated a Registered National Historic Landmark under the provisions of the Historic Sites Act of Aug. 21, 1935. This site possesses exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the History of the United States. (U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service, 1962)"

If we examine the information, Knox College claims to be the only structure still standing where a Lincoln - Douglas Debate occurred.

LOCATED in Ottawa's Washington Square is the Ottawa Appellate Court. This handsome structure on the east side of Columbus Street and corner of Lafayette is a well preserved example of Greek classical architecture. The detail of red brick and Joliet limestone together with its well proportioned Doric columns and handsome pediment, form a harmonious whole worthy of the title, "one of Ottawa's most

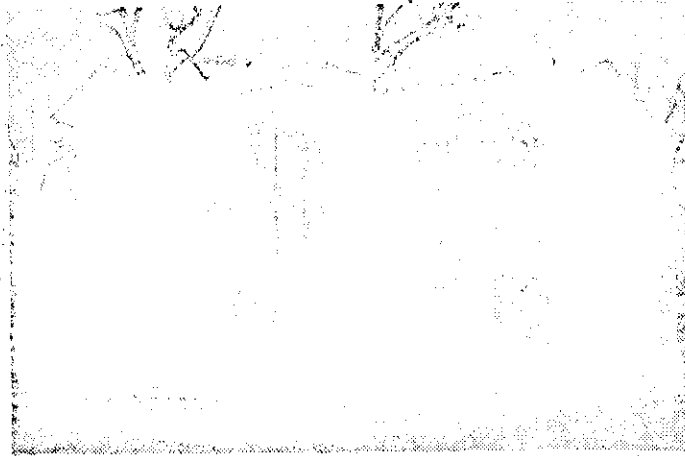
handsome public buildings."

The central portion of the structure was constructed in 1857-1869 by the State of Illinois at a cost of \$229,600. The wings were added in 1877 when the Appellate Court System was made part of the State Judiciary.

Unquestionably the Ottawa structure is worthy of the title of a Registered National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of Interior for it also stood at the Debate between Lincoln and Ottawa on Aug. 21, 1858, to guard and preserve our heritage for the future — our heritage of irreplaceable buildings, sites and outstanding American events — American landmarks—such as Ottawa's Washington Square.

As one stands in the center of Washington Park viewing the historic buildings, eyes fall upon the Appellate Court, Red-dick's Library, the magnificent church spires and the La Salle County Jail.

Lastly, as one views Ottawa's Washington Square, let us consider the words of James Bid-



APPELLATE COURT BUILDING

dle, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation:

"If a great work of art (painting or sculpture) is upon the market and one museum or collector does not buy it, another will. It will not be ripped, burnt or smashed, lost forever. But this rule does not apply to architectural sites and scenically

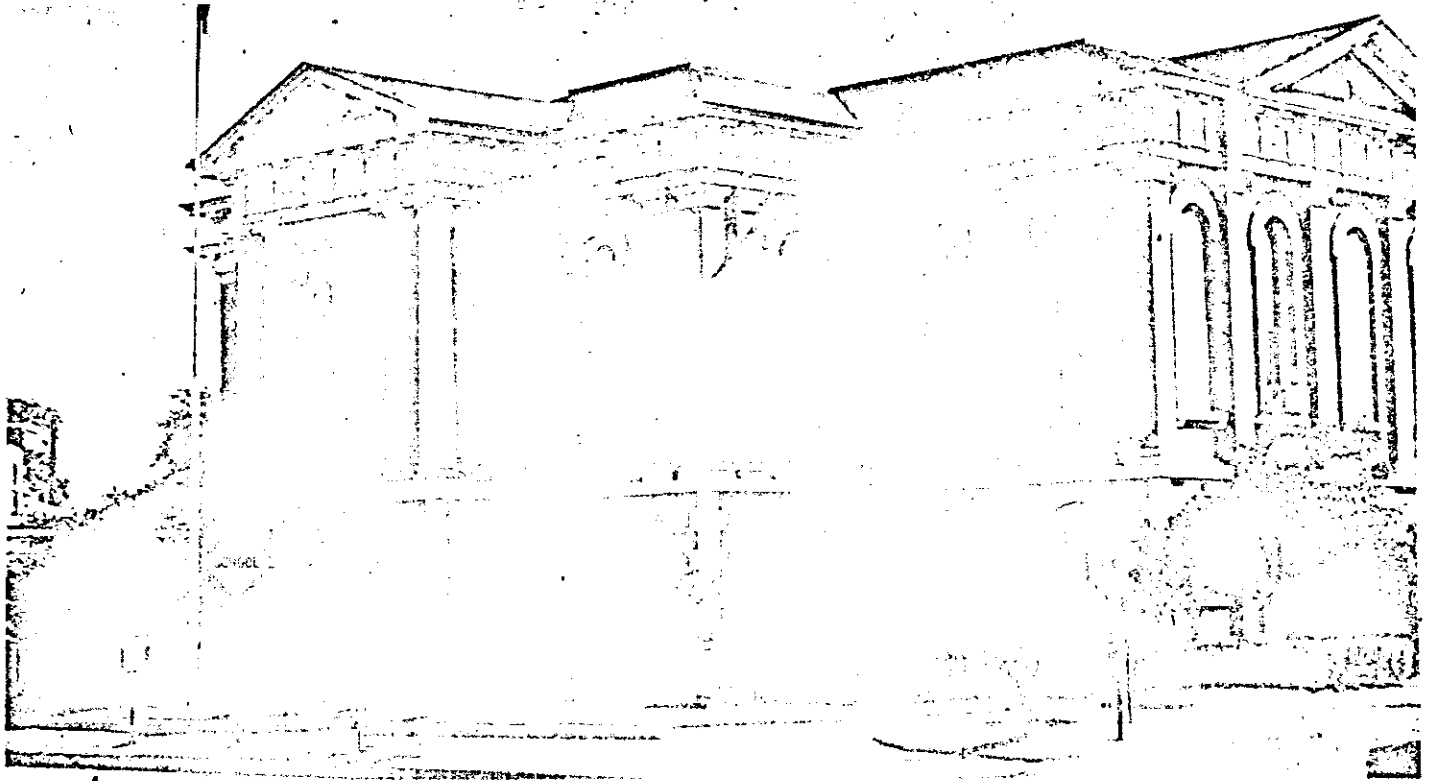
beautiful areas. They simply are ripped, burnt or smashed, lost forever."

discussion program regarding their reasons for dropping out of school and the problems of finding employment.

Each member of the panel returned the reply card indicating that he would be at the TV station at the stipulated time and date.

Result: three failed to show up; two were late; one made it.

The panel discussion was postponed.



**HISTORICAL OTTAWA** — The central portion of this handsome structure on the east side of Columbus and the corner of Lafayette, known as the Appellate Court building, was constructed in 1857-1860 by the State of Illinois at a cost of \$229,600. The wings were added in 1877 when the Appellate Court System was made part of the State Judiciary, and it served as a State Supreme Court and Appellate Court until about 1897 when the three branches of the Supreme

Court at Ottawa, Mt. Vernon and Springfield were consolidated into one Court at Springfield. Now, as an Appellate Court only, it serves 32 Illinois counties as the Court for the Second District. The Ottawa Community Arts Council says the red brick and Joliet limestone details along with well proportioned Doric columns and handsome pediment, form a harmonious structure worthy of the title "one of Ottawa's most handsome public buildings."