

XV

Survey Use Only

- Archaeology
- Architecture
- History

26

LS-H-

12-1473

1. Name of Site: Reddick's Library
Common:

Historic: Home of Wm. Reddick
Historic:

2. Location of site:
Street and Number

100 W. LaFayette
City or Town

Ottawa
County:

Zip Code
61350

Township
Ottawa
Range
R3

Section
11
* Section
N E

LaSalle,
3. Classification
Category: (check one)

- District
- Building
- Site
- Structure

Integrity: (check one)

- Altered
- Unaltered

Position: (check one)

- Moved
- Original site

4. Ownership:

- Public
- Private

Status:

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

Access to the public:

- Yes
- Restricted
- Unrestricted
- No

Present Use: (check one or more)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Park
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (specify):

5. Owner of property:

Owner's name
City of Ottawa

Phone Number
433-0161

Street and Number
301 W. Madison

City or Town
Ottawa

State
Illinois

County
LaSalle

Zip Code
61350

HOMES OF PROMINENT PEOPLE

6. Condition:

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexplored

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)

- Archaeological site (pre-Columbian)
 Archaeological site (post-Columbian to 1673)
 French influence (1673-1780)
 Illinois frontier (1780-1818)
 Illinois early (1818-1850)
 Illinois middle (1850-1900)
 Illinois late (1900-present)
 Famous people (give names and dates)

Specific date of site: approx. 1860

Areas of significance: (check one or more)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |

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

8. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: Betty Catlin Date: 5-17-71

Organization: LaSalle Co. Hist. Society

Street and Number: Box 577

City or Town: Ottawa County: LaSalle Zip Code: 61350

Phone Number: 433-5458

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

- (1) Mattinger's Souvenir of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ill. June 1900
- (2) O'Byrne, Michael C. History of LaSalle Co. Ill. Chicago, Lewis Pub. Co. Vol. 1 pg. 265-266
- (3) Historical Architectural Tour of Ottawa, Ill. Sept. 28, 1969



Byrne, Michael C, History of LaSalle Co. Ill
Chicago, Lewis Pub Co. Vol 1 Pg 265-266

HISTORY OF LA SALLE COUNTY 265

in his home town and was elected city attorney. In 1908 he was chosen as supervisor of the township, and was reelected in 1910 and 1912; in the latter year he was the winner in the contest for the office of state's attorney.

The Ottawa bar, from the earliest period of its existence, ranked high throughout the state, maintaining, as it does today, the stainless reputation and traditions now a century old, of the Lelands, Dickeys, Bushnells, Catons and others whose honored memories remain to stimulate and energize their successors and strengthen our confidence in justice and right dealing.

THE REDDICK LIBRARY

In 1812 William Reddick was born in the historic town of Ballynahinch, County Down, Ireland, and he acquired his education in the efficient undenominational schools whose manuals and textbooks were so thorough and simple as almost to dispense with a teacher. In 1816 the family came to America, and in 1821 his father, James Reddick, died.

In 1830 William married Eliza Jane Collins of Brownsville, Pennsylvania, where he was employed in the manufacture of window-glass. In 1835, having saved \$1,000, the Reddicks—husband and wife—came West and settled in Bruce Township, section 11. In 1838 Mr. Reddick was elected sheriff, and moved to Ottawa, continuing as sheriff until 1846.

He was State Senator from 1847 to 1851, and in 1870 was again elected for two years. At the time of his death he was one of the trustees of the Kankakee Insane Asylum. He was a member of the Board of Supervisors for years, and in 1870 introduced and had passed what is known as the Reddick Temperance Law. In 1838 the public mind was disturbed by the question of selecting the "best man" for sheriff, the trouble with employes working on the canal

being then at its climax. Wash Armstrong gave his opinion that "William Reddick would fill the bill," he being big, powerful, and fearless. Accordingly, Mr. Armstrong went out to the Reddick farm to see Mr. Reddick. He was found working in a field, barefooted; his wife was also working in the field. When the suggestion was made that Mr. Reddick should become a candidate he ridiculed the idea, but Mr. Armstrong insisted, and Mr. Reddick finally consented. He made no fight for the office, but was elected by a large majority, and he made one of the best officials the county ever had. When his health began to fail he stated to a friend: "Well, this will be a good time to die—under a democratic administration," and he expired six days after the inauguration of Grover Cleveland, leaving in the library he founded and that bears his name, a memorial more durable than brass. The library contains 17,500 volumes, with an average circulation of 77,000; the cost of building amounted to \$17,500; the librarian, Miss Vera J. Snook.

OTTAWA NEWSPAPERS

The Republican-Times and the Free Trade Journal and Independent are old and influential daily newspapers; the Central Illinois Wochenblatt and the La Salle County Herald are German weeklies, their publishing days being Friday.

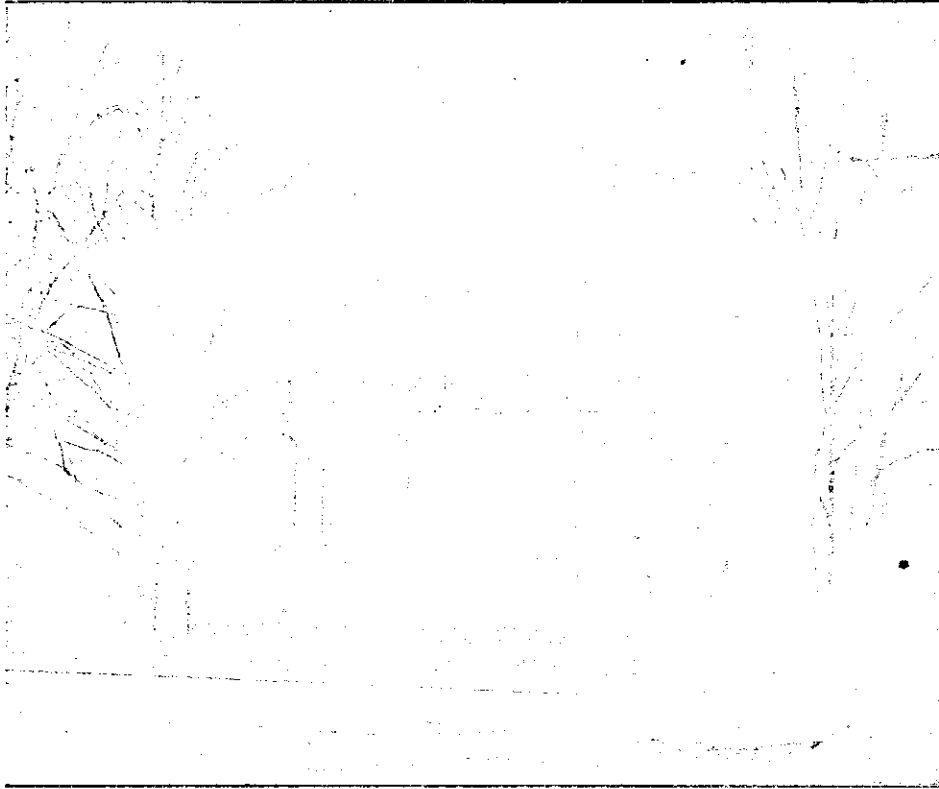
The business associations are the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, the president being L. C. Brand; secretary, L. C. Carrol; and the Business Men's Association, president, J. L. Bane; secretary, G. M. O'Kane.

COMMISSION GOVERNMENT

On January 17, 1911, Ottawa adopted the commission form of civic government, a system or method in certain of its aspects reminiscent of the Venetian Council of Ten,

Reddick's Library and Ryburn Memorial Hospital.

There are two institutions of which Ottawa is justly proud—Reddick's Library and the Ryburn Memorial Hospital. They are two monuments of the generosity of former citizens, and fill their mission in a most happy and efficient manner.



REDDICK'S LIBRARY.

REDDICK'S LIBRARY.

Reddick's Library occupies two-thirds of the block opposite the Appellate Court House. It is the gift of the Hon. William Reddick.

The building was formerly the residence of Mr. Reddick, and it cost originally \$40,000, and was, at the time of its erection, one of the finest private residences in the state of Illinois. With the residence Mr. Reddick gave an endowment fund of \$100,000. The will was contested but the Library Association, having been organized under the laws of the state of Illinois, won the suit. The library was open to the public September 19, 1888. The library proper occupies the four large rooms on the first floor of the building, the reading room, in which are kept illustrated and daily papers and magazines, the reference room and two other rooms being occupied by the books of the library.

In the library is a total of 10,000 books, well selected and adapted to the wants of the community. The catalogue has been arranged with great care, with due attention to modern systems, and librarians from other cities pronounce the finding list one of the most convenient and efficient in use.

The scope of the library is extensive and covers every subject in classification common to city libraries. The library is under a government of nine directors, three of whom are appointed in July by the mayor and confirmed by the council; they draw no salary and serve three years. A strict code of rules and regulations govern the library and it is rigidly enforced.

It is open daily from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M., Sundays and legal holidays excepted.

The officers of the library are W. B. Titus, President; Henry Mayo, Vice-President; John F. Nash, Treasurer; H. C. Wiley, Secretary; E. J. Kelly, Financial Secretary; Nellie D. Nash, Librarian; Mrs. E. L. Peticlec, Assistant Librarian.

The directors are Wm. Osman, Sr., W. F. Mozier, Herbert C. Wiley, Chas. E. Hook, Mrs. Fanny Osman-Starrett, E. J. Kelly, Walter B. Titus, Henry Mayo and Benjamin Hess.

In the reading room are excellent portraits of both Mr. and Mrs. Reddick, and in every way the memory of the donor is kept alive by those in charge of the library and building.

From 32,000 to 36,000 books are given out annually.

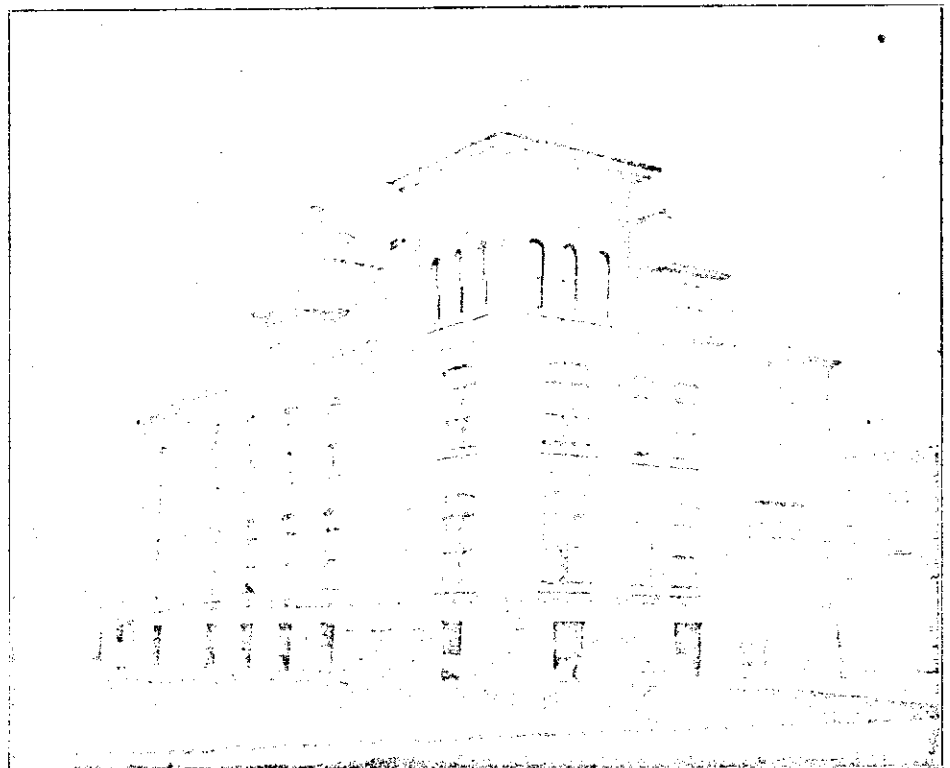
RYBURN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

The memory of Dr. Ryburn, the good physician, is preserved in a most appropriate manner by the daily ministrations of kindness and charity and brotherly love at the Ryburn Memorial Hospital.

It is located on Clinton street, between Madison and Jefferson, and is built of Ottawa pressed brick with stone trimmings, and is a two-story and basement building. The front faces on Clinton street, is plain, and on both sides of the front door are columns of stone. The door opens into a small but handsome vestibule. In the southwest corner is a doctor's room which is large and commodious, with all modern conveniences for the storing of medicines and surgical instruments.

A number of rooms have been endowed. The Gedney room is a memorial of H. E. Gedney, Jr., fitted up by his widow, who has since passed away, and who herself enjoyed the benefits of the hospital for some months.

Rooms have also been fitted up by Mrs.



RYBURN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

TIONS

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the late State Representa-
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view a large collection of
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General Wallace, President
other figures of the state's

Library in a Mansion

NUMEROUS old mansions throughout Illinois have been converted into public libraries, and an interesting example of this is the venerable Reddick residence in Ottawa. For more than half a century it has served as a library and this fact has helped to make it one of the most familiar buildings of the Illinois River city. Its location, too, adds to its familiarity, for it is situated adjacent to Ottawa's principal recreation spot, Washington Park.

An imposing, old-style mansion, three stories high and redolent of the gaudy era of American architecture, this house, it is apparent at first glance, was built by some man of wealth and importance in Ottawa life. The man who built this house, which stands at the northwest corner of Columbus and Lafayette streets, was William Reddick. He constructed his home in 1859, at a cost of about \$60,000. It is of red



William Reddick House, Ottawa, Built 1859.

brick, with white stone facing, and there is a legend that the bricks were hauled by wagons from Milwaukee. Reddick built on such a grand scale that his house and outbuildings occupied half the block bounded by Lafayette, Columbus, and Washington streets, with an alley at the west end of the property. The main building was his home. Along the alley were a horse barn, a carriage house, and a two-story smokehouse of such size that now it has been converted into the home of the library custodian.

After its completion the Reddick abode became one of the show places of Ottawa. Here, during the Civil War and in the years following, the Reddicks reigned as one of the first families of their city. Reddick was elected to the state senate for three successive terms beginning in 1846 and to a fourth term in 1870. He served his final two-year period at Springfield with distinction and, when it was over, returned to Ottawa and spent the remainder of his life there.

In his magnificent house overlooking the trees of Washington Park, William Reddick lived to a ripe age and here he died in 1885. When his will was opened it was found that he had set up an endowment fund of \$100,000 for the founding and maintenance of a library in his home. The library was established here three years later. Since that time several generations of Ottawans have derived knowledge and pleasure from the great array of books lining the walls of the old Reddick mansion. Also in the library is Reddick's indenture paper by which he was bound out as an apprentice glass worker. His first \$1,000 was accumulated by two years of work as a glass blower in Washington, D. C.—from 1832 to 1834.

In addition to the library Reddick's will left a hundred acres of land to La Salle County for "enlargement of the county home." That land, which is still owned by the public, is underlain with millions of tons of fine silica sand and is now worth many times as much as all his property at the time of his death.

Queen Anne

ON A SPRING DAY in Chicago had been incorporated arrived there aboard a sailing ship. He had come to Chicago determined never to have any time earlier he had suffered a farm in his native state of Illinois.

In later life, however, he became known men in Illinois, but on the Supreme Court, he evidently owned a large farm on a bluff above the city. Queen Anne style mansion, one of the residential landmarks of Chicago. It is bare, its red brick, chimneys, bays, dormers, spacious verandas, and the streets of the city below.

In addition to Justice Field, other prominent persons, including Mrs. Marshall Field; Sen. Sherman. In the early years of the city, where house parties, lawn parties, and attention of society editor.

Because of the charm and the sparkling expense of other leading Illinoisans, the city homes was established.

So far as can be determined, the mansion early in the 1880's. In this period Queen Anne architecture. And in this class of citizens, he made his worldly fortune by selling his company to the then new company.

He was not sitting on the bench retired from office in 1860. He was chief justice, in the state of Illinois, served with distinction, and published twenty-seven volumes of

Historical Architectural Tour of Ottawa, Ill
Sep 23, 1969

REDDICK'S LIBRARY

1.

This imposing mansion on the corner of Columbus and Lafayette Streets was built by Mr. William Reddick in approximately 1860. The architectural features of the house embody details of the Romantic Period of American architecture which draws its inspiration from the Italian Renaissance. The fine stone and brick work is of particular interest as is the detail of the woodwork under the cornice and the eaves. Mr. Reddick was one of the truly colorful characters of Ottawa and La Salle County. He was the County Sheriff, State Senator, a self-made man, and a humanitarian. It is reported that he harbored run-away slaves in his house as a station on the "underground railroad." Reddick was a loyal Democrat who told friends that he "wanted to die under a Democratic president". He made it by dying March 8, 1885, just four days after Grover Cleveland took office for the first time. As a philanthropist, he left the major portions of his estate to the City of Ottawa and La Salle County, specifying that his residence be used as a City Library. He donated certain lands west of Ottawa as a site for a County Old People's Home.