

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Stephenson, Benjamin House

and/or common Edwards House

2. Location

street & number 409 South Buchanan Street _____ not for publication

city, town Edwardsville _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 2

state Illinois code _____ county Madison code _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<u>X</u> occupied	___ agriculture
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	<u>X</u> yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
		___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			<u>X</u> private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Stephen E. and Jacqueline A. Weissman

street & number 409 South Buchanan Street

city, town Edwardsville _____ vicinity of _____ state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Madison County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square, Main and St. Louis Streets

city, town Edwardsville _____ state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

1. Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey
title 2. Edwardsville Historic Landmark has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1. November, 1973
2. in process _____ federal 1 state _____ county 2 local

depository for survey records 1. Illinois Department of Conservation - Historic Sites Division
2. Edwardsville Historic Commission

city, town 1. 405 E. Washington St., Springfield
2. 400 N. Main St., Edwardsville state Illinois

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The original house is a two-story rectangular structure of early Federal style built in 1822 with solid brick walls three courses thick, interior as well as exterior. The bricks were manufactured on location by Stephenson's indentured servants. The structure consists of four square rooms (18 feet by 18 feet), two rooms on the ground floor, two duplicate rooms on the second floor. Five windows up and four windows down pierce the East (front) and the West facades, with an inset door opening onto a central hallway. The seven-foot-wide hall stretches front to back in the Southern manner, and contains the staircase. Each of the four rooms has a fireplace served by chimneys built flush with the North and South end walls of the house.

A detached kitchen (approximately 20' by 20'), was built over a fruit cellar behind (West of) the original house. The house's roof was wood shakes, still lying beneath the present roof. A segmented arch surmounts the front door and transom. Original oak sills and ground brick lintels (vaulted, except on the East) remain, as do some shutters.

Inside, the floors are of four-inch-wide pine boards (covered by oak strips in the 1940's); the staircase is thought to be of red cypress (see photo); the mantle pieces are carved more ornately, in the Adam style, than is the other woodwork, and are tiled (see photo). Original woodwork, with reeding, original tile and hardware remain.

In 1845, the detached kitchen was torn down, and a two-story wing, 20' by 40', of the same brick, was annexed to the West of the original house, thus altering the building's shape to an ell. A stringcourse of brick characterizes the South and West sides of the upper story of the wing. A 13-foot wide veranda is attached to the first floor of the wing's South side. The porch had fluted Ionic pillars, now parts of a porch on a neighboring house. The 1845 wing with its four rooms covered six windows of the West face of the original house.

An 1894 publication said that this wing's builder "is now living in one of the oldest houses of Edwardsville, a brick structure which his father purchased about 1838 (sic). He has remodelled and added to it and now has one of the finest and most commodious residences of the city . . ."

(continued)

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Less than a decade later, in 1902, the next owner affixed a front porch, approximately 20' by 12' with a gable and with Victorian wood tracery. He also reversed the staircase, and filled in the four original fireplaces.

In the 1940's, that Victorian porch was torn off, thereby restoring the East facade to its original appearance. Square pillars replaced the earlier columns on the South porch; a French window was cut into the North side to open onto a brick terrace. Modern plumbing was installed, and a frame one-car garage was attached to the extreme West end, facing the alley.

-
1. A PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF MADISON COUNTY (Chicago:1894)
pp. 173-174.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) American Indian his

Specific dates 1820; 1843

Builder/Architect Benjamin Stephenson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Stephenson House is significant because of its association with several figures important to early Illinois history. Its builder and first resident, Col. Benjamin Stephenson (1769-1822), bought the 172-acre tract on which the house stands in 1819. The next year he constructed the original house (that is, the East half) and used it as his family's dwelling and as his business and political headquarters until his death. Thus to its architectural beauty and its value as representative of an era, is added the significance of association with an important family in Illinois politics. No other house so connected to Stephenson remains anywhere; none of this age and style stands in Edwardsville.

Stephenson's first service to Illinois was during the War of 1812, where he commanded a battalion of "Rangers" which campaigned in what was to become Illinois. Stephenson continued to serve Illinois as Adjutant General, (commissioned 12/11/13); as U.S. Representative from the territory, 1813-'14; as delegate to the First Constitutional Convention in 1818, in Kaskaskia. Because of these distinctions, the legislature, in 1836, named the county of Stephenson, in Northern Illinois, for him, as a plaque in Freeport still attests.

Of national importance was Stephenson's service as "Receiver of Public Moneys" for the federal land office in 1816; and his service as negotiator (together with Auguste Chouteau) of the Treaty of Edwardsville and the Treaty of Fort Harrison, in July and August of 1819, respectively, whereby the Kickapoo Tribe ceded 969,400 acres and 2,317,84 acres to the United States.

Of local significance are Stephenson's many contributions to the early growth of Edwardsville: between 1816 and 1822 he was founder of Edwardsville's first bank, owner of an early store, one of six of the first town trustees (appointed by the Illinois Legislature 2/23/19); influential citizen; and close colleague of Senator (later governor) Ninian Edwards.

With Ninian Edwards the Stephenson House is also associated, hence its popular misnomer, "Edwards House". When the Edwards family resided in Edwardsville, the two men together led the local Jacksonian Democratic Party, and their families were intimate. For example, when the Edwards' residence burned, they moved into the Stephensons' House for a time. Moreover, after Benjamin Stephenson's death, Mrs. Ninian Edwards (Elvira) bought the house, holding it from 1834 to 1837. A son of the Edwards' was named Benjamin Stephenson Edwards; and a daughter of the Stephensons was named Elvira.

That Elvira Stephenson married Palemon Winchester, who was a founder of Carlinville, Illinois. Another Stephenson son, Col. James W. Stephenson, held title to the house in 1833. That Stephenson was important in Illinois history as Democratic candidate for governor in 1836.

Though subsequent years, the House has endured as a monument to Illinois' heritage, and as the residence of several families which the town has considered prominent. Well-preserved, it remains the oldest brick structure in Edwardsville, reminding the town of our forebears and of their architectural genius.

9. Major Bibliographical References

BIOGRAPHICAL DIRECTORY OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS 1774-1949
U.S. Government Printing Office (Washington: 1950)

Brink, W.R. A HISTORY OF MADISON COUNTY ILLINOIS, Brink & Co., (Edwardsville: 1882)
(continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property one acre

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Stephenson House is located on two adjacent lots of 112' x 150' total dimensions, in Edwardsville township, Wolf's addition, Block 404, parcels 023 and 024.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n.a. code county * code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen Weissman

organization Edwardsville Historic Commission date 1/23/1980

street & number 406 Hillsboro Ave. telephone (618) 656-1929; (618) 692-3246

city or town Edwardsville state Illinois

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Clayton, J. (ed) THE ILLINOIS FACT BOOK, S.I.U. Press (Carbondale: 1970)

EDWARDSVILLE SPECTATOR newspaper, Stephenson obituary October 12, 1822 (Edwardsville: 18

Harper, Terry, "Benjamin Stephenson House" unpublished paper for the Southern Illinois University (Edwardsville: n.d.)

Lange, Robert, "Col. Benjamin Stephenson" unpublished biography for the Land of Goshen Historical Society (Edwardsville: 1957)

Madison County Recorder of Deeds, Plat Book Number 4 (Edwardsville: 1819)

Madison County Historical Society, unpublished photographs in archives (Edwardsville: n.

Norton, W.T. (ed) A CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF MADISON COUNTY ILLINOIS, Lewis Publishing Co. (Chicago: 1912)

Personal interviews: Miss Ione Berry, Stephenson House owner 1943-1975
August, 1975 and December, 1979 (Edwardsville)

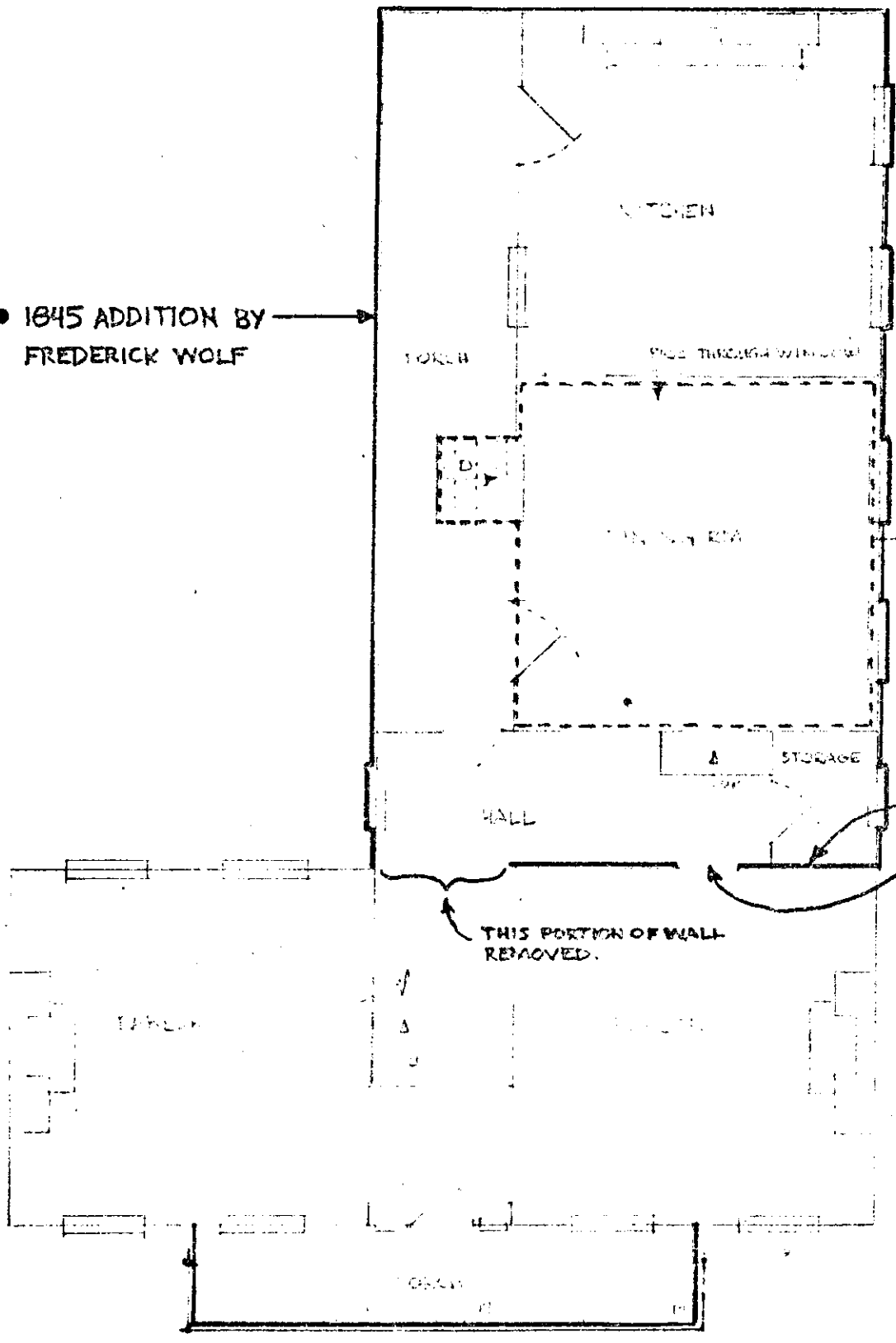
Smith, G.W., A HISTORY OF ILLINOIS AND HER PEOPLE, American Historical Society (Chicago: 1927)

Travous, Louise, "The Illinois Years of Edward Coles", and other unpublished papers and sketches for the Madison County Historical Society (Edwardsville: n.d.)

Works Projects Administration ILLINOIS: A DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL GUIDE (Chicago: 19

● 1845 ADDITION BY
FREDERICK WOLF

NOTE: 2ND FLOOR
FLOOR PLAN (BED



FOOD CELLAR REMOVED
RM BUILT ON TOP

RETAINED ORIGINAL O

2 WINDOWS COVERED
IN CENTER OF WALL

THIS PORTION OF WALL
REMOVED.

TABLE

HALL

STORAGE

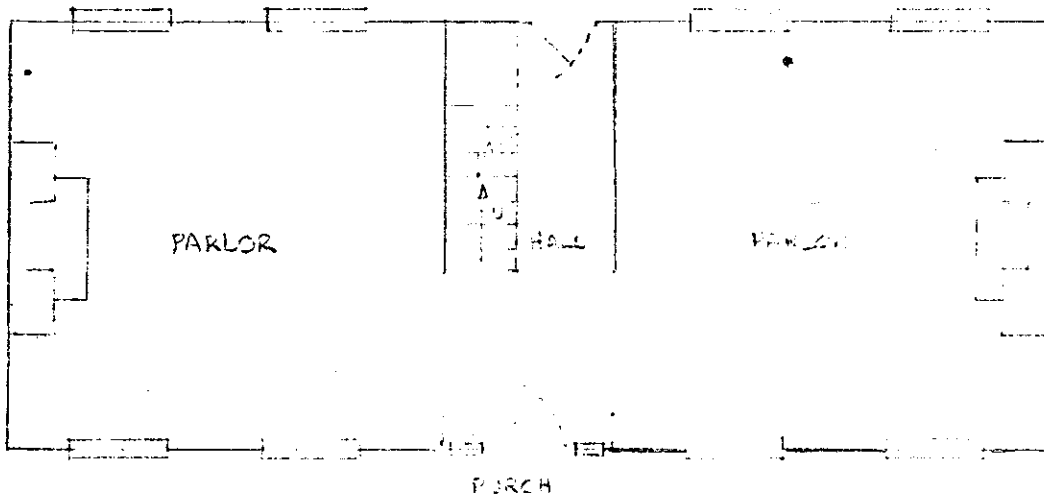
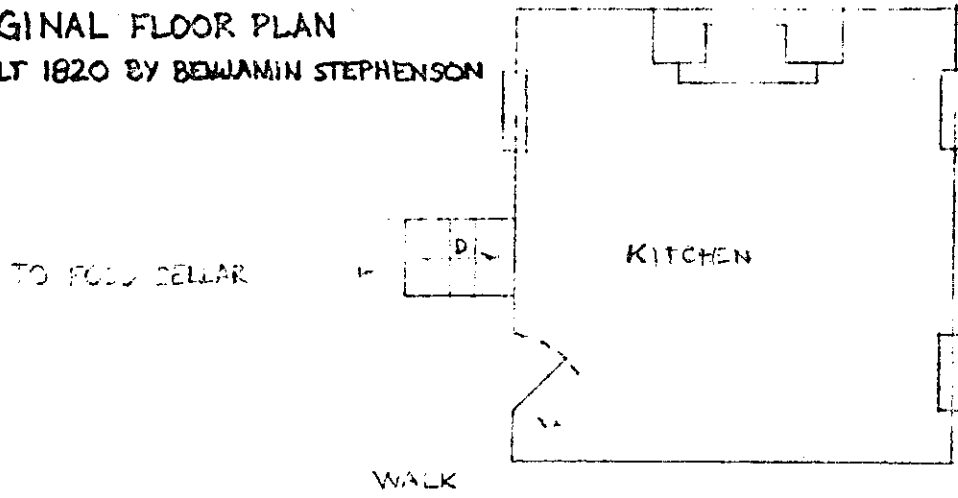
KITCHEN

PORCH

PIPE THROUGH WINDOW

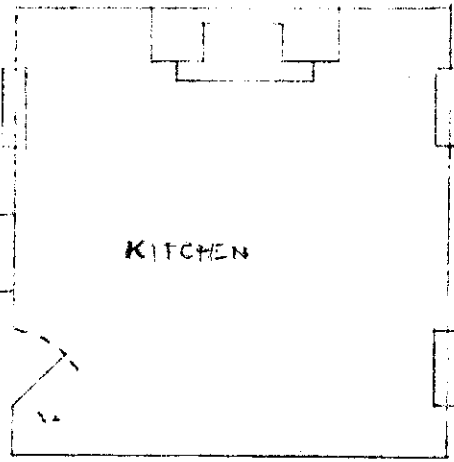
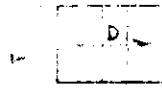
PORCH

• ORIGINAL FLOOR PLAN
BUILT 1820 BY BENJAMIN STEPHENSON

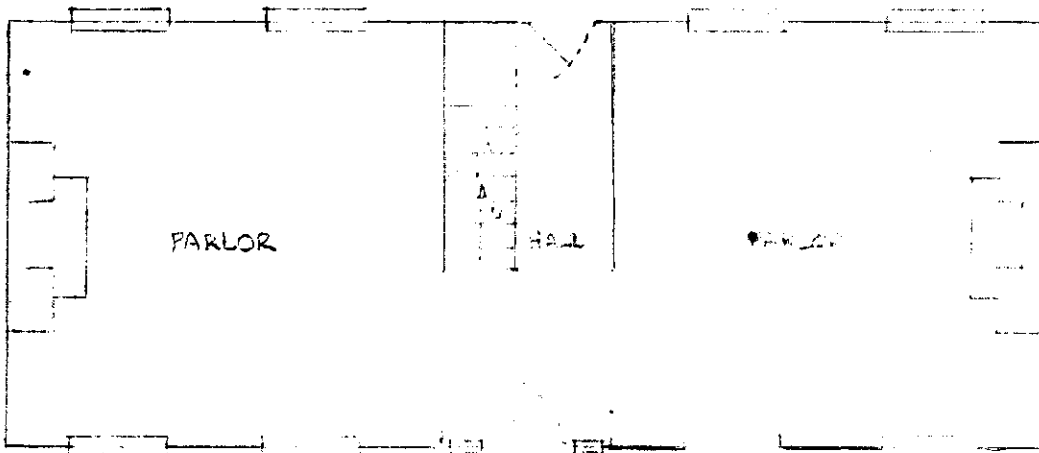


• ORIGINAL FLOOR PLAN
BUILT 1820 BY BENJAMIN STEPHENSON

TO FOLD BELLAR



WALK



PORCH

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered MAY 31 1980

*Mark 7
Regs head
Add to Mad Co
Sheriff's Bldg
for City of Co
notified*

Name

Location

Eureka College Administration Building
and Chapel

Eureka
Woodford County

Mundelein College Skyscraper Building

Chicago
Cook County

Stephenson, Benjamin, House

Edwardsville
Madison County

Madison County Sheriff's House and Jail

Edwardsville
Madison County

Gifford-Davidson House

Elgin
Kane County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Tom Corcoran
Honorable Sidney R. Yates
Honorable Charles M. Price
Honorable Robert McClory

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

SURVEY USE ONLY

1. Name of Site: Benjamin Stephenson House

Common

Historic

- Archeology
- Architecture
- History

2. Location:

Street and Number

Township

Section

409 S. Buchanan
City or Town

Zip Code

Edwardsville
Range

1/4Section

Edwardsville

62025

County

Madison

3. Classification:

Category (Check one)

- District
- Building
- Site
- Structure

Integrity (Check One)

- Altered
- Unaltered

Position (Check one)

- Moved
- Original Site

Status (check one)

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

4. Ownership

- Private
- Public

Access to Public

- Yes
- Restricted
- Unrestricted
- No

Present Use (check one or more)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | |

5. Ownership of Property

Owner's Name

Phone Number

Miss Jone Berry

Street and Number

409 S. Buchanan

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

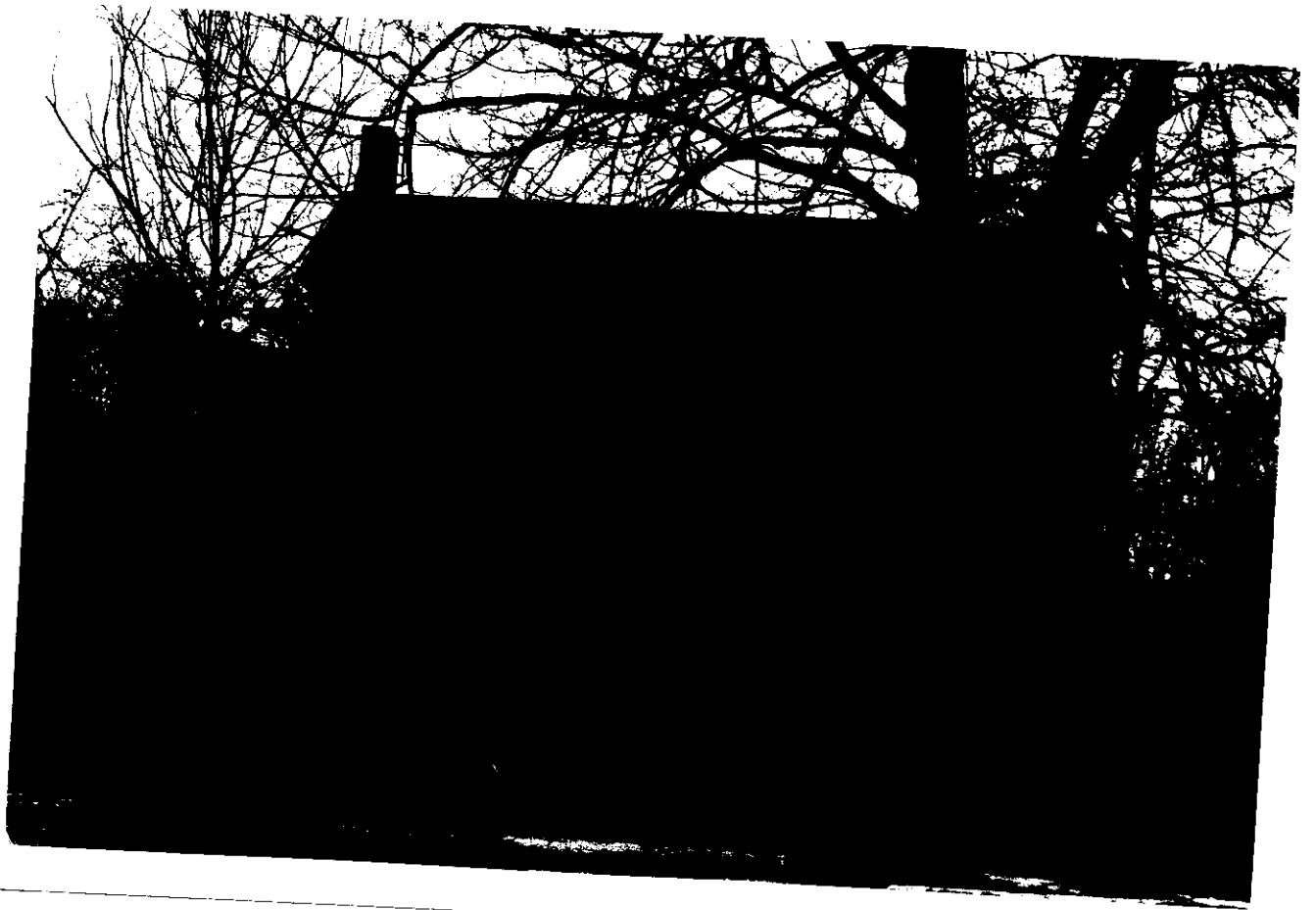
Edwardsville

Ill

Madison

62025

ARCHITECTURE



6. Description:

Condition

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? Yes No

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

- Archeological Site (pre-Columbian)
- Archeological 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 & dates)

8. Specific Date:

Areas of Significance (check one or more of the following)

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

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates). Use additional sheets if necessary.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title Mrs. V. H. Mindrup Date _____

Organization Madison County Historical Society

Street and Number 715 N Main St.

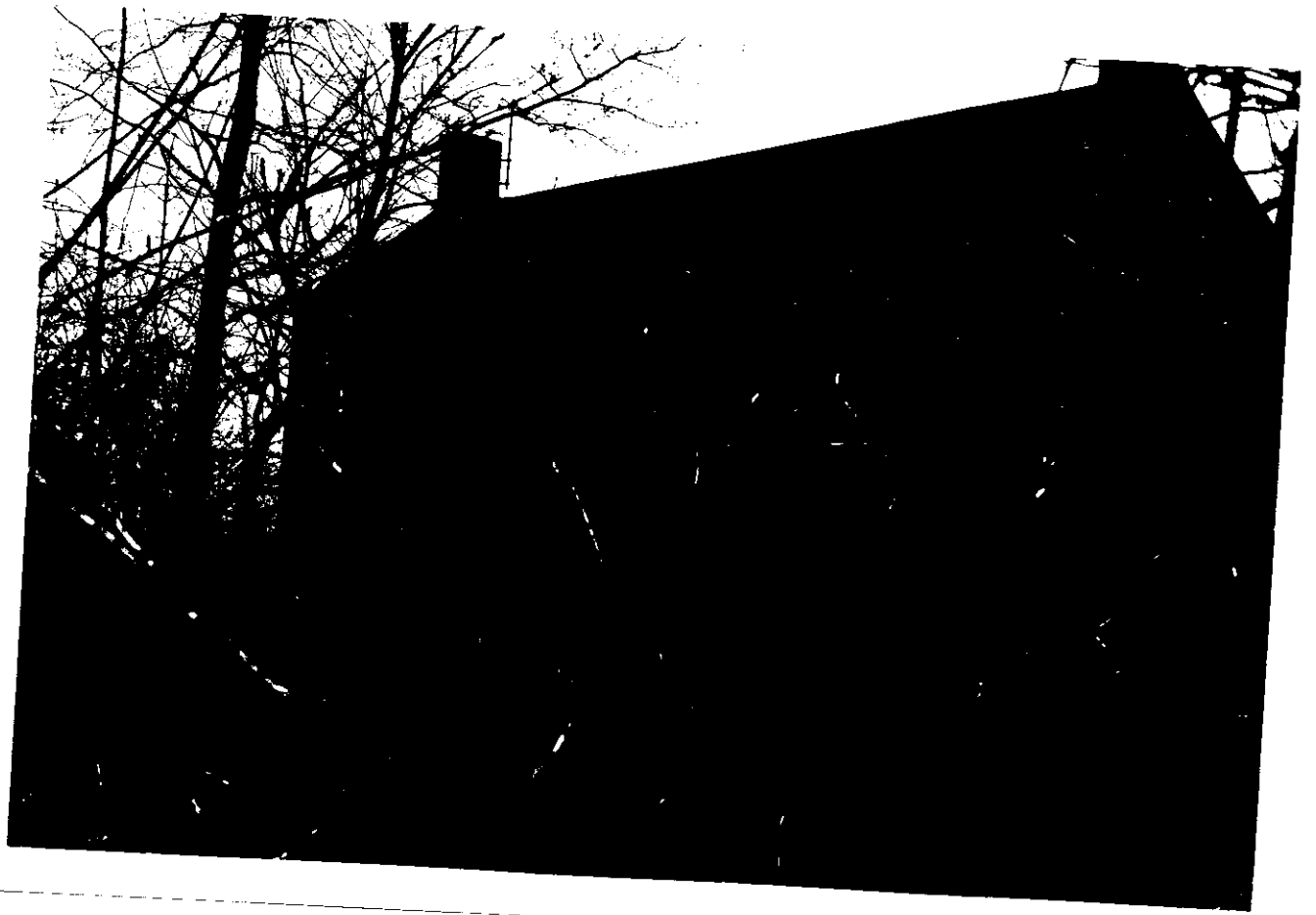
City or Town Edwardsville County Madison Zip Code 62025

Phone number _____

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, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.



Sixth Division Presents

THE HISTORIC STEPHENSON HOUSE, EDWARDSVILLE, ILLINOIS



The Benjamin Stephenson House in Edwardsville, Illinois, was built in 1819 to replace an earlier homestead. When the home of Governor Ninian Edwards burned, the Edwards were given shelter rent-free by their close friend the Widow Lucia (Benjamin) Stephenson; The Edwards family was there through March 1824.

Benjamin Stephenson lived at this location from 1813 to 1823 when he died. Mr. Stephenson opened the second store in Edwardsville; was the first receiver of Edwardsville Land Office; was one of the commissioners who dealt with the Kickapoo Indians in the Treaty of 1819 and with certain other men laid out Upper Edwardsville when the town moved south from Lower Town.

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Regent</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Regent</i>
Ninian Edwards	Mrs. Wm. H. Dittman	Toussaint du Bois	Mrs. R. C. Illyes
Belleville	Mrs. Loyd W. Marshall	Marissa	Miss Dorothy E. Elrod
Prairie State	Mrs. Dean Merten	Walter Burdick	Mrs. Dan Gard
Collinsville	Mrs. R. C. Raymond	Olney-Jubilee	Miss Berna Dean
Cahokia Mound	Mrs. B. M. Van Dan Elzen	James Halstead Sr.	Mrs. Ausby Clements
Edwardsville	Mrs. Harris H. Bliven	Isaac Hull	Mrs. Wm. A. Miller
Ann Crooker St. Clair	Mrs. Charles Holley	Fort Chartres	Mrs. C. H. McDonald
Drusilla Andrews	Miss Nelle Carr	Old State Capitol	Mrs. Ben W. Perkins
Benjamin Mills	Mrs. Lelah Clementz		

DIVISION DIRECTOR — MRS. GEORGE M. UHL