

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS 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

Jean Morron Residence

AND/OR COMMON

Jean Morron Residence

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1212 W. Moss Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Peoria

18th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Robert Michel

STATE

Illinois

VICINITY OF

CODE

17

COUNTY

Peoria

CODE

143

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Peoria Historical Society

STREET &amp; NUMBER

942 N.E. Glen Oak Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Peoria

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Peoria County Courthouse, Room 11, Recorder's Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

324 Main

CITY, TOWN

Peoria

STATE

Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Inventory of Architecture before W.W. II in Peoria  
by Illinois Historic Sites Survey

DATE

October 1974

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

The Illinois Historic Structures Survey

CITY, TOWN

1800 So. Prairie Ave., Chicago

STATE

Illinois

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 "Morrison House", as it is presently known, was built in 1868 by Moses Pettingill for his family. The building was erected at 1212 West Moss Avenue on a parcel of land, 125' frontage x 545' depth. The home is of the 2nd Empire style of architecture.

The large, two-story brick mansion has a full Basement and large Attic. A one-story addition was constructed on the east end of the building when the Kitchen areas were brought upstairs from the Basement. The structure has 15" thick brick walls, painted grey with white trim. The home is capped by a mansard roof with slate shingles cut round on the bottom edge. The roof has built-in gutters; curved arched dormers protrude from the mansard roofs of the home. The top and bottom lines of the roof have strongly marked cornices, or "French curbs". The lower "curb" rests on bold, ornate wood brackets. The top "curb" was believed to have a wrought iron decorative railing, now missing.

The use of elliptical curves are found throughout the structure in the entrance ways and the windows. The second-story windows are composed of two narrow double-hung windows with arched lintels. A decorative stone lintel links the top of the two windows with a stone foliated ornament in the spandrel between the windows. First Floor windows are large double-hung windows with matching stone sills and lintels.

A large veranda runs the entire width of the front of the house and extends on the west end to form an open porte-cochere. The veranda and porte-cochere are supported by wood columns resting on brick supports. The extension of the veranda over the main entrance is decorated in the gable with a draped motif of leaves and flowers. The veranda originally extended in front of the one story addition also. A small sitting porch is found on the garden entrance to the house.

The main, arched entrance to the house is composed of a natural oak door with leaded, prismatic glass and complementary leaded glass sidelights. A highly ornate brass doorknob and back plate open the doorway to the mansion.

The interior of the house consists of 11 rooms, 2 large halls, a full Basement, and a large Attic. A straight-run staircase dominates the entrance hall, rising to the gallery on the Second Floor and extending upward to the Third Floor Attic. Mosaic tile was used on the entrance floor, and wood parquet floors were used in various First Floor

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

rooms. The parquet floors were installed by the second owner, Samuel Clark, in the time span of 1892 to 1901. There were originally marble fireplaces in all the rooms except for the Kitchen where the chimney goes up through the center of the room to divide it into a Butler's Pantry and a Kitchen. At one time, a stove was attached to this chimney in the Basement. The fireplace in the dining room has been removed, and in its place a built-in china cabinet was installed. The marble fireplace in the Library was moved to the house by its last owner, Miss Jean Morron, from her previous home at 305 North Jefferson, which was built in the late 1700's.

The Drawing Room, which extends the entire west end of the house, was formerly a front and back parlor, each with their own fireplaces. Wood paneling is found in the Dining Room. Future plans are to remove the paint and restore the original oak finish.

An ornate wrought iron fence stretches across the front of the grounds, bordering on Moss Avenue. The fence was moved there by Miss Morron from 305 North Jefferson. The Morron House has managed to maintain its original character both on the exterior and interior throughout the years.

# 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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
Victorian		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The gracious mansion, constructed in 1868, was originally built for Moses Pettingill. Now known as the "Morrison House" at 1212 West Moss Avenue, its previous address was 464 Moss Avenue. Mr. Pettingill operated a hardware store and came to Peoria from Salisbury, New Hampshire in 1833. When he arrived in Peoria, there were 30 log cabins, 3 frame houses, and a population of 150 people. The original house on the site was constructed in 1862 and was destroyed by fire in 1865.

The Morrison House has been a host to six owners and was rented for a period of five years from 1941 to 1945. The last resident, Miss Jean Morrison, lived in the house from 1953 till her death in 1966. She left the house in its true elegance of the Victorian era.

Miss Morrison moved to 1212 West Moss Avenue in 1953 from her ancestral home of over 100 years, located at 305 North Jefferson Avenue. She was forced to leave her historical home when it was razed to accommodate the new freeway. Miss Morrison's strong dedication and love for her own family heritage was greatly reflected in her new home at 1212 West Moss Avenue. From her previous home at 305 North Jefferson, Miss Morrison brought many remembrances of her ancestral home to Moss Avenue. The ornamental iron fence, brass handrailings from the porch, silver nameplate on the front door, marble mantlepiece, and gas lighting fixtures all were moved to her new home. She also brought with her the entire family collection of fine crafted mahogany and rosewood furniture--much of which dates prior to the 1830's when the Morrison family lived in Pennsylvania. She also brought the family's treasured antiques of silver, china, crystal, oil paintings, and oriental rugs. Miss Morrison lived in the same grandeur on Moss Avenue as her family had in their previous home.

The Peoria Historical Society was granted possession of the Morrison House in 1967. The home is open to the public for viewing and many public social events are held at the Morrison House. The Morrison House adds to the truly unique historical character of the Moss Avenue--High Street

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

area of Peoria. This area of the city reflects the manner of living of Peoria's industrial leaders from the early 1800's to the 1930's.

In recent years, a Moss Avenue Association has striven to protect this area from encroachment of traffic and apartments. The City Council of Peoria is considering an ordinance making this area a Historical District.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Victorian Home in America, John Maass, 1972.

Peoria Journal Star, October 28, 1953.

Peoria Journal Star, February 6, 1952.

"The Morron House", brochure by Peoria Historical Society.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 125' frontage x 545' deep

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	279540	45107910
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Leslie H. Kenyon, Architect A.I.A.

ORGANIZATION

Kenyon and Associates, Architects

DATE

July 23, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

735 N. Knoxville Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Peoria

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Anthony Wilson*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11-24-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered APR 2 1976

Name

Location

Pettingill-Morrison House

Peoria

Peoria

**COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION**

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy  
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson  
Hon. Robert H. Michel

1-2

P-H-46

200687

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITE SURVEY INVENTORY

SURVEY USE ONLY

1. Name of Site: Morrison  
 Common: ~~Morrison~~ Home

<input type="checkbox"/>	Archeology
<input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture
<input type="checkbox"/>	History

2. Location:

Street and Number

121 1/2 West Moss Avenue

Township

Peoria

Section

City or Town

Peoria

Zip Code

61603

Range

Section

County

Peoria

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure

Integrity (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered
--------------------------	---------	-------------------------------------	-----------

Position (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Moved	<input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site
--------------------------	-------	--------------------------	---------------

4. Ownership:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public

Status (check one)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied	<input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied		

Access to Public

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
-------------------------------------	-----	--------------------------	------------	--------------------------	--------------	--------------------------	----

Present Use (check one or more)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific
<input type="checkbox"/>	Manufacturing	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence		

5. Owner of Property:

Owner's Name

The Peoria Historical Society

Phone Number

674-4745

Street and Number

942 Northeast Glen Oak

City or Town

Peoria

State

Illinois

County

Peoria

Zip Code

61603

HOMES OF PROMINENT PEOPLE



Original House built in 1862. Destroyed by fire in 1865, rebuilt in 1868.  
Occupied by: Moses Petten Gill, Samuel M. Clarke, William J. Jack, Dr.  
Charles D. Thomas, John Boyd Stone, Miss Jean McLean Morrow.



6. Description:

Condition

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation under way? 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 and dates)

8. Specific Dates:

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

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (prehistoric) | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |
| <input 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"/> Urban Planning      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)     |

Brief statement of significance (included if areas of significance are additional areas if necessary.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: **Mrs. Wilbur D. Ulrich, Secretary** Date: **10/18/71**  
 Organization: **Peoria Historical Society**  
 Street and Number: **Farmdale Road, Route 1**  
 City or Town: **Morton** County: **Tazewell** Zip Code: **61550**  
 Phone: **1-267-7064**

Put bibliography on the back of this sheet.

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