

ORIGINAL

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  
Batavia Institute - Bellevue Place - Most recently Fox Hill Home  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
333 S. Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN  
Batavia

STATE  
Illinois

VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
Kane

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CODE

CODE

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Girls' Home

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Batavia Bank (Bob Riley)

STREET & NUMBER  
18 E. Wilson

CITY, TOWN  
Batavia

STATE  
Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER  
719 South Batavia Avenue

CITY, TOWN  
Geneva

STATE  
Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The prominent, central structure, known as Batavia Institute was constructed of local cut limestone. Of Greek Revival design, it was a three-story structure incorporating the following features:

1. Quoins at important corners
2. Heavy wooden entablature
3. Pedimented roof
4. Cupola

The interior boasted double handcarved winding staircases, heavy mouldings and doors and high ceilings.

Sometime after its purchase in 1867, the building was remodeled to assume its role as Bellevue Sanitarium. The following additions were made:

1. Two 2-story wings of cut stone (north and south) with mansard roofline
2. Wooden portico at main entrance (east) to accomodate carriages
3. Two 2-story wooden bay structures on east (front) facade framing the entrance (wooden brackets used as ornamentation)

The cupola was removed.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1853 and 1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Elijah Shumway Town

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fox Hill Home is one building that Batavia can be especially proud of. Built of Batavia limestone, the main part three stories high with two wings each two stories high, it stands foursquare and beautiful in the midst of its four acres of lawn.

It was originally built as a school of academic stature and called the Batavia Institute. Erected in 1853 and 1854, more than 120 years ago, it was built and financed by a group of five Batavians; E.S. Town, Dr. D.K. Town, John VanNortwick, Joel McKee, and Rev. Stephen Peet. The latter was the Congregational Church minister. He was the first to conceive the idea of establishing the Chicago Theological Seminary here in the midwest to serve students clear to the west coast. Taxation did not provide funds for public education on the high school level. The church academies were forerunners of the public high schools. With the cooperation of two wealthy laymen of his church, Peet raised \$12,000.00 for building the Batavia Institute, placing it under the "control of the Congregational Churches and ministers of this region". It had the reputation of being "school of high grade." Two literary societies, the forerunner of our Batavia Public Library, were formed by the students of the Batavia Institute and the Institute was used as a library source. The Batavia Institute was used as a school for ten years until a new public school law went into effect rendering the need for such a school not so necessary.

Although we don't know who the architect nor the builder of the Batavia Institute was, it is believed that Elijah Shumway Town was possibly the architect and builder. This supposition is based on similar architecture of other buildings built by E.S. Town at the same time.

In 1857, a bill was signed creating the Illinois State Normal University. Several towns wanted to be the home of the new school including Batavia. Batavia offered a remade plant, the grounds of Batavia Institute and \$15,000.00 in cash. Bloomington got when it offered through Jesse W. Fell 2500 acres and \$141,000.00

For a time the Institute was rented to the District as a public school, then it closed down and, in 1867, the fine grounds and spacious building was sold to Dr. R.J. Patters who had it remodeled into a sanitarium for the treatment of mental and nervous disease of women. From then on it was known as Bellevue Place. Many notable women were treated at this sanitarium with successful results, among them Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.

The building was operated continuously as a private women's sanitarium until July of 1965 when Fox Hill Home was established. This was to be the first maternity home established in Illinois in over 50 years. Through the cooperative efforts of Dr. Suzanne Ross, Mr. Wallace Bucher, Mr. Raymond Lubbs, and Mr. Anthony Salerno, a lease was drafted in January of 1966 between Fox Hill and Merecorp. In December of 1966, after finally meeting the requirements for licensing by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the State Fire Marshall and with some renovation and remodeling, Fox Hill became authorized as a maternity center governed by a Board of Directors from the Fox Valley.

Today Fox Hill Home is a private, not-for-profit, residential therapeutic facility neglected, dependent adolescent girls, ages 13-17, and Minors in Need of Supervision both pregnant and non-pregnant.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Religion and Education on the Frontier - A Life of Stephen Peet, Lawrence E. Murphy, The Telegraph-Herald Publishers, Dubuque, Iowa pp. 116-117.  
The Batavia Historian, John Gustafson, 4 May 1961 (a part of a series in the Batavia Herald).  
Batavia, Illinois Past and Present, Eunice Shunway and John Gustafson, Batavia Historical Society, 1965.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE  
 Marlene Bolly Administrative Assistant

ORGANIZATION  
 Fox Hill Home for Girls

STREET & NUMBER  
 333 S. Jefferson Street

CITY OR TOWN  
 Batavia

DATE  
 12/3/75

TELEPHONE  
 312-879-7266

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

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

K-H-104

NR  
200722

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

1. Name of Site:

Common Fox hill  
Historic Bellevue Place

2.. Location:

Street and Number Jefferson bet/Elm & Walnut  
City or Town Batavia  
County Kane  
Zip Code  
Township  
Range  
Section  
¼ Section

3. Classification:

Category (check one) Integrity (check one)  
 District  Building  Altered  Unaltered  
 Site  Structure  Moved  Original Site

4. Ownership:

Status (check one)  
 Private  Occupied  
 Public  Unoccupied  
 Preservation work in progress

Access to 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 Girls home

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name Phone Number  
Street and Number  
City or Town  
State County Zip Code

6. Description: Large stone building

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway?  Yes  No

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

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

- |   |                          |                           |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site         | (Pre-Columbian)          |                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois Middle | (1850-1900)              |                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Late              | (1900-present)           |                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Famous People   | (give names & dates)     | Mary Todd Lincoln late 18 |

8. Specific Date: Built ca. 1860

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture              | <input 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 checked="" 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. Built as a private hospital for "refined but menta

9. Form prepared by: "unstable females" Mrs. Lincoln was patient here after Abe's assassination. Now a g home.

Name and Title: T.H. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street and number: \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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.

