

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Illinois	
COUNTY: Alexander	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Thebes Courthouse 21st Congressional District

AND/OR HISTORIC: Congressman: Kenneth Gray

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Thebes

STATE: Illinois CODE: 17 COUNTY: Alexander CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) library

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Village of Thebes

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Thebes STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Alexander County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Cairo STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 3/17/34 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Illinois	COUNTY: Alexander	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY			

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Thebes Courthouse is located in Thebes, Illinois on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. It was designed and constructed in 1848 by Architect Ernstt Barkhausen. The contract price was \$4,400.

Its walls are unhewn timbers laid in mortar. The timbers are all local, hand-hewn to size. The boards were hand sawed for the floors and roof and the shingles were split from native timber and hand shaved. The walls were plastered with plaster made from materials secured locally. Lime was burned from local limestone and mixed with local sand. Binding hair was secured locally. The plaster has withstood the ravages of time well.

In 1849 the courthouse grounds were leveled to protect them from washing down the steep hill. The courthouse underwent repair in 1854. The repairs included work on the ceiling, under the gables and on the plaster.

In 1854 judges seats, a bar, and jury boxes were added. In 1855 a flight of steps was built leading from the road to the west door of the courthouse.

In 1858 stoves were added to the jury rooms and courthouse.

The first floor of the courthouse contained a hallway, two ante rooms, a men's cell and a women's cell.

The second floor contained the court room, part of which, was subdivided into four smaller rooms in 1854.

Perhaps the style of Thebes Courthouse is best described as "Southern Greek Revival". The general proportions of the building, the simplicity and symmetry of its front, and its flattened pediment supported by four pillars with a two story porch are characteristic of Southern Greek Revival facades. The doorway, with its rectangular transom and the floor length windows also often appeared in this style. Designs of this general character are found in domestic architecture of the 1840's and earlier, especially in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Atypical of this general style is the particular situation of the building in the hillside. Normally these structures stood apart from the landscape.

Thebes Courthouse is a prominent example demonstrating the expansion of the Greek Revival up the Mississippi River Valley into Illinois.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1848

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Alexander County was established on March 4, 1819. The first county seat was the Village of America. Shifting of the Mississippi River, several destructive fires and an epidemic prompted the movement of the county seat from America to Unity in 1833.

In 1845, Thebes was selected as a successor to the county seat in Unity. The first court held at Thebes was held in 1845 in the out-of-doors under the shade of a large elm tree.

In September 1845, L. I. Lightner was appointed to draw plans and ascertain the probable cost of the courthouse. Lightner was appointed agent for erection of the building and later became the first judge to hold court in the courthouse.

Lightner contracted with Ernstt Barkhausen to construct the courthouse for \$4,400. The courthouse was to be constructed on land which had been deeded to the county by Mr. & Mrs. George Sparhawk in 1845.

The courthouse was completed in 1848 and served as the county seat until 1860 when the location of the county jail and county courthouse was moved to Cairo.

Thebes Courthouse is significant to Illinois because it is one of the earliest Courthouses in the state. It is one of the few remaining buildings of its style in southern Illinois.

Few places in southern Illinois remain which point out so precisely the kind of grandiose plans held by the early settlers of the region. It lends historical flavor to an area which has lost many of its old landmarks.

The building was recognized and recorded in 1934 by the Historic American Buildings Survey.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allen, John W. Legends and Lore of Southern Illinois, Carbondale, Illinois, 1963.
History of Alexander, Union and Pulaski Counties, Illinois, ed. by William Henry Perrin, O. L. Baskin and Co., Chicago, 1883.
Moyers' Brief History of Pulaski County, Illinois, 1843-1943, Mound City, Illinois, the Pulaski Enterprise, 1943.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William G. Farrar

ORGANIZATION: Illinois Historic Sites Survey DATE: May 17, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 320 South Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Benton STATE: Illinois CODE: 62812

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____
 Title _____
 Date _____

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered DEC 26 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Rose Hotel	Village of Elizabethtown Hardin County
Denkman-Hauberg House	Rock Island Rock Island County
Thebes Courthouse	Thebes Alexander County

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, III
Hon. Kenneth Gray
Hon. Tom Railsback

AL-H-23

100518

- Anthropology
- Architecture
- History

NATIONAL REGISTER

1. Name of Site:

Common:

Thebes Courthouse

Historic:

2. Location of site:

Street and Number:

Township

15S

Section

#17

City or Town

Thebes

Zip Code

62990

Range

3W

1/4 Section

SE

County:

Alexander

3. Classification

Category: (check one)

District

Building

Integrity: (check one)

Altered

Unaltered

Site

Structure

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)

Library

5. Owner of property:

Owners name

Village of Thebes

Phone Number

Street and number

City of town

Thebes

State

Illinois

County

Alexander

Zip Code

62990

MAJOR-GOVERNMENT
SUB-COUNTY



2. Preservation
Conditions:

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation under way? Yes No

If yes, give a brief description on the back of this page.

3. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois early | (1818-1850) |
| <input checked="" 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: 1848

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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Museum/Art |
| <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):
Law |

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

4. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: _____ Date: _____
Organization: _____
Street and Number: _____
City or Town: _____ County: _____ Zip Code: _____
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 examples any published references to the site for which the form is being completed.

If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly reduce the surveyor's time.

Bibliography Form:

Robertson, Robert B., Of Whales and Men, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1960, 170p.

List Bibliography on back of sheet.

7. Significance:

Alexander County was established on March 4, 1819. The first county seat was the Village of America. Shifting of the Mississippi River, several destructive fires and an epidemic prompted the movement of the county seat from America to Unity in 1833.

In 1845, Thebes was selected as a successor to the county seat in Unity. The first court held at Thebes was held in 1845 in the out-of-doors under the shade of a large elm tree.

In September, 1845, L. I. Lightner was appointed to draw plans and ascertain probable cost of the courthouse. Lightner was appointed agent for erection of the building and later became the first judge to hold court in the courthouse.

Lightner contracted with John Christian Henry Barkhausen to construct the courthouse for \$4,400. The courthouse was to be constructed on land which had been deeded to the county by Mr. and Mrs. George W. Sparhawk in 1845.

The courthouse was completed in 1848 and served as the county seat until 1860 when the location of the county jail and county courthouse was moved to Cairo.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

