

6. Descriptive Conditions:

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation under way? Yes No
If yes, give a brief description on separate attached sheet.

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)

8. Specific date of site:

Areas of significance: (check one or more)

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

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)
Attach sheet.

8. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: J. Robert Smith, Past President Date: Jan. 7, 1972
Organization: White County Hist. Soc. & Illinois State Historical Society
Street and Number: 603 W. Main St.
City or Town: Carmi County: White Zip Code: 62821
Phone Number: Office 382-9466, Home 382-2526

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 surveyor's task.

Bibliography Form.

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

List Bibliography on sheet and attach hereto.

White County Historical Society

Carmi, Illinois



1966

Program of Preservation

We have a \$5,000 fund to be used exclusively for maintenance and preservation of this building.

- 1806 Daniel Bain
First Settler
- 1808 Peter Kuykendall
Settled on Big Prairie
- 1809 Isaac Veatch Built
Cabin on Little Wabash
- 1815 White County Created
By Territorial Legislature
- 1816 Carmi Named, Platted,
Made County Seat
- 1818 Illinois Became State
- 1819 First Courthouse
Erected
- 1819-1848 William E. Wilson
State Supreme Court Justice
- 1828 Brick Courthouse
Completed
- 1831-1842 Gen. John M. Robinson
United States Senator
- 1836 William H. Davidson
Acting Lieut. Governor
- 1840 Abraham Lincoln Spoke
In Carmi
- 1852 Edwin B. Webb
Nominated by Whigs for Governor
- 1869-1873 John M. Crebs
Member of Congress
- 1889-1897 James R. Williams
1899-1905 Member of Congress
- 1897-1899 Orlando Burrell
Member of Congress
- 1945-1949 Roy Clippinger
Member of Congress
- 1949-1953 Ivan A. Elliott, Sr.
State Attorney General
- 1965 White County Sesquicentennial
Tree Planted in City Park
- 1966 Carmi Celebrated
Its Sesquicentennial

Statement of Significance

Ratcliff Tavern was erected in 1828 for James Ratcliff, White County's first clerk, probate judge and Carmi's first postmaster. Bricks were made in the site by men employed by Ratcliff.

Federal doorway with fan shaped glass (original) shows architectural taste of Ratcliff, a Virginia gentleman.

This inn was a stagecoach stop. Here Abraham Lincoln lodged in 1840 when he came to Carmi for a barbecue and political rally for William Henry Harrison.

White County Historical Society saved building from destruction in 1960, paying \$15,000 for the property and spending \$16,000 to restore it.

Illinois State Historical Society has erected historical marker here.



RATCLIFF INN

This building was erected in 1828 by James Ratcliff. Nicknamed "Old Beaver" because of his energy, he was a founder of Carmi (1816), an inn-keeper, merchant, and postmaster, and White County's first Clerk, Recorder, and Probate Judge. Abraham Lincoln lodged here in 1840. The inn was restored in 1960.

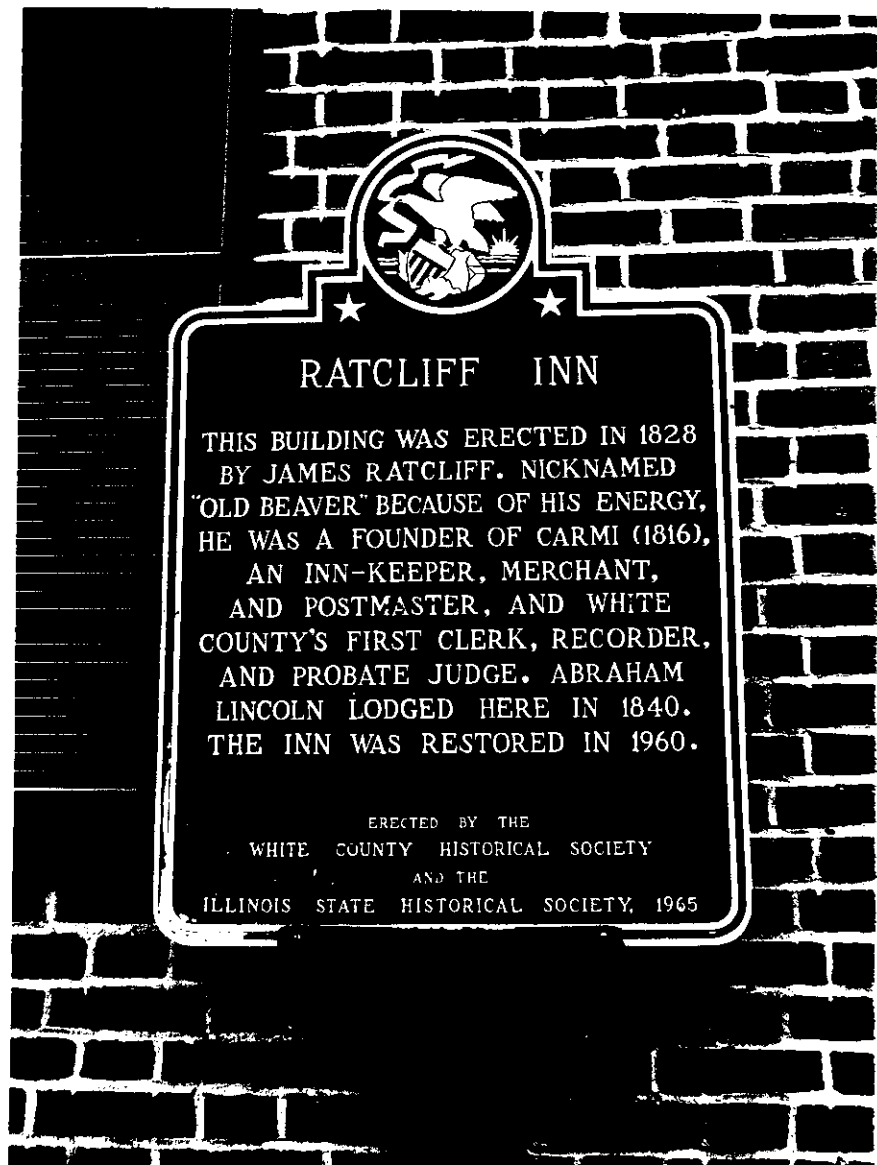
Erected by the White County Historical Society and the Illinois State Historical Society, 1965

Erected: January 5, 1966

Location: Main Street, Carmi

Information signs: No

Remarks:



White County Historical Society

Carmi, Illinois



1966

Bibliography

History of White County, Illinois, Inter-State Publishing
Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1883

- 1806 Daniel Bain
First Settler
Drury, John, Old Illinois Houses, Illinois State
Historical Society, 1948; copyright Chicago Daily
News, 1947. Pages 24 and 25.
- 1808 Peter Kuykendall
Settled on Big Prairie
- 1809 Isaac Veatch Built
Cabin on Little Wabash
- 1815 White County Created
By Territorial Legislature
- 1816 Carmi Named, Platted,
Made County Seat
Linder, Gen. Usher, Bench and Bar of Illinois, 1879,
Second Edition.
- 1818 Illinois Became State
- 1819 First Courthouse
Erected
- 1819-1848 William E. Wilson
State Supreme Court Justice
Smith, George W., When Lincoln Came to Egypt, Trovillion
Private Press, Herrin, Ill. 1940. Pages 60, 61, 62
- 1828 Brick Courthouse
Completed
- 1831-1842 Gen. John M. Robinson
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Smith, J. Robert Smith, Sesquicentennial History of Carmi, Ill.,
Carmi Times Publishing Co. 1966
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