

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC WINCHESTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

Most of the built-up area of the City of Winchester and unincorporated areas on N. Main and W. Cherry immediately adjacent

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Winchester

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE Illinois

CODE

COUNTY Scott

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple -- see attached list

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Scott County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Market and Hill Streets

CITY, TOWN

Winchester

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

1. Scott County: Interim Report, Illinois Historic Structures Survey
2. Scott County: Interim Report, Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey

DATE

1. October 1974; 2. April 1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

Illinois

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Winchester (1970 population: 1,759) lies near the center of Scott County, of which it is the seat, approximately 40 miles WSW of Springfield, the state capital, and 70 miles north of St. Louis, Missouri. The surface of the county was originally divided between prairie and timber, with the latter generally restricted to the proximity of watercourses. Apart from these streams and their valleys -- particularly the Illinois River -- the county shows few marked topographic features and may be best described as gently rolling. Winchester and its immediate environs share these general characteristics.

The Winchester Historic District includes most of the built-up area of the City of Winchester and a number of unincorporated parcels to the north and to the west of the 1971 corporate limits. The precise boundary was determined primarily on the bases of visual cohesion and visible history within a contiguous area, though considerable allowance was made to incorporate a striking group of structures on Cherry west of the railroad. Built-up areas excluded from the district all demonstrate a lack of architecturally or historically significant structures and are characterized almost exclusively by minor and/or new structures -- e.g., the area of Hardin, Green and High, most of Broadway, High and Spring between Pearl and Cherry, and most of the northwest quarter of the town. In most other places, the boundary of the district coincides with the limits of development. The extremely odd character of the boundary, particularly on the east, seems mainly conditioned by the development of Winchester's early substantial buildings along selected streets (N. Main, W. Cherry, Pearl and Jefferson), the semi-agricultural character of certain larger properties, and the very recent residential exploitation of pasture land connected with some of these latter properties.

Land use within the district conforms predictably to the norm of rural Illinois county seats. Commercial and governmental uses are centered on the town square, with a smaller commercial concentration near the railroad, while religious, educational and similar uses are scattered in the remaining, largely residential area of the town. There are no industrial uses in the district and the only federal properties seem to be the U.S. Post Office at Cross and Hill and an office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Market and Walnut.

Residential density in the district ranges from very low to moderate and averages somewhat over 2 structures per acre. Density is lowest near the edges of the district, where the town merges into the surrounding rural area, and along Cherry west of the railroad and Main north of Pleasant where the largest homes and lots are located. Almost all residences in the district are single-family and detached, with masonry construction common for the oldest and/or largest and frame widespread for smaller or more recent structures (after ca. 1890). There are no residential structures over two stories in height and one- and two-story homes are mixed rather randomly in most parts of the district. As a rule, Main north of Pleasant, Pearl, Jefferson, and Cherry west of the railroad have a larger percentage of 2-story homes. Residences front on all streets except Market and are generally set well back from the building line with ample parkways and front yards. Commercial structures around or near the town square vary from 1 to 3 stories in height and are generally of masonry construction, exclusively so among the older structures. Despite some recent replacements, they still form a gap-free wall around the square, contrasting nicely with its open space.

Winchester's street pattern is that of an imperfectly expressed rectangular grid aligned along major co-ordinates. Main and Cherry are the primary thoroughfares, but only the latter, a state highway, carries any appreciable non-local traffic. Though transportation depends on the private automobile, walking has not yet become completely

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unfashionable. Consistently low traffic volumes and numerous mature shade trees also combine to produce a sense of peace and quiet that has become ever rarer, even in rural towns.

Of 438 structures encompassed within the Winchester Historic District, excluding garages and other minor buildings, 86 have been evaluated as possessing special architectural and/or historical significance and an additional 64 were photographed by the Illinois Historic Structures Survey. Recent construction and intrusions account for 81 structures, or roughly 18% of those extant. These, however, are scattered throughout the district, often on minor streets such as Walnut, and approach a disruptive level only on Cherry at Main and again at the railroad farther west. The most prominent intrusions are a super market with attendant parking lot at the southwest corner of Cherry and Main and a monstrosly insignificant residence at the northeast corner of Hardin and Walnut that detracts badly from one of the district's finest structures. More disturbing than recent structures and intrusions, over 40% of the district's background buildings (24 of 207) and a few more prominent structures have been unsympathetically sided, mostly with aluminium. Several of these were of great age and visual potential but, having lost most of their detailing along with their original exterior materials, they now make no positive contribution whatsoever and are hardly distinguishable from far more recent structures.

The oldest structures in the district are from the 1830's and 1840's and are cast, as are several slightly later structures, in the Federal and Greek Revival styles or have features of both styles (incl. Nos.1, 5-8, 13, 16 below). Of particular significance is the old Presbyterian Church (v.No.6), regarded on the basis of the inventory assembled by the Illinois Historic Structures Survey as the finest Greek Revival church in any Illinois town with over 500 population. The transition from Greek Revival to the Italianate is unusually well documented in the district (incl. Nos.2, 11,12,14,17 below), while mature Italianate is also well represented (incl. Nos.4,9, 18-20 below). Of later styles, the Queen Anne is quite common, though not present in any great significance. There is also a scattering of Classic and Medieval Revival and one excellent example deriving from the Arts and Crafts Movement (v.No.10). Among the smaller and less pretentious structures may be found several fine quasi-Italianate and Queen Anne cottages, while the district's largest and most imposing building -- the Scott County Courthouse -- is so uniquely eclectic as to defy categorization.

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 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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Winchester is an excellent example of the small, rural Illinois county seat built on the town square plan as it developed during the third quarter of the 19th century. All the attributes are present: the square itself, enclosed by commercial buildings and an imposing courthouse; fine residences and churches, attesting to the relative sophistication of even a small county seat; an almost complete lack of industry; and, quite important in preserving the aura, no major highways.

In at least one respect, though, Winchester transcends its type -- and that is in the quality of architectural expression. Its courthouse is not only imposing, it is outstanding and quite possibly unique. Its churches are not only fine, but include one of Illinois' finest Greek Revival religious structures. And its residences, particularly those from ca. 1840-70, are on so high a level as to be rarely surpassed in a town of comparable size in Illinois. Of special interest is a nearly unbroken succession of large residences illustrating the gradual transition from the late Federal and Greek Revival style to the Italianate. It is a local example of this change in fashion, but not the less significant for being far from the mainstream.

The state of preservation in Winchester is generally high, particularly as regards the most important structures. There are, however, a large number of small 19th century residences that have not fared as well, for the current residents of Winchester have demonstrated a decided bent towards the use of aluminium siding that has rendered many of these unrecognizably new. This is the greatest weakness in the district and one that, at least in spots, threatens to reduce Winchester's historic character to a chain of islands washed by the bland sea of modern technology.

HISTORY

Writing of the Act of the General Assembly of Illinois that struck Scott County off from Morgan County, 16 February 1839, the 1903 chronicler of that newer county could assert that "no local event since that time has created more excitement, or engendered more intense feeling among the people..." An entire life-time later, the statement still holds: Scott County, and its chief town Winchester, remain singularly devoid of historic events that excite the imagination.

The area of the county was early inhabited, as witnessed by several mounds near Naples on the Illinois River, and there seems to have been at least sporadic aboriginal inhabitation up to the time the Kickapoo ceded their land to the U.S. Government in 1819. There is no evidence, however, that there were any permanent settlements in or near Winchester.

The land was first surveyed by the government in 1819-21 and the first white settlers began arriving in 1820. The first entry of land was made by Joel Meacham on 15 August 1823. The earliest settlers near Winchester were David Casebier, Daniel Roberts, and A.T. Hite, all three of whom ran commercial establishments on Sandy Creek

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immediately south of the present town. Hite and Casebier seem to have conceived the idea of founding a town in 1829 and in 1830 Winchester was duly laid out and platted by J.P. and M.A. Williamson. This original town, named for Hite's place of origin, Winchester, Ky., consisted of thirty-six lots and was bounded by Cherry, Green, Walnu, and the line of Walker. Early addition were made in 1831 and 1832 on the west, and by 1840 the town could claim 720 inhabitants. Certainly the most famous resident of Winchester during this period was Stephen A. Douglas, who arrived in November 1833 and taught a subscription school March 1834 before moving on to Jacksonville, Springfield and a national career.

As mentioned above, Scott County was created in 1839 and, in the act of establishment, Winchester was specified as the county seat. This was not accomplished without the opposition of a party promoting North Prairie as the seat and it was this struggle that made the creation of the county the most exciting event in its history. After this, quiet reigned and development proceeded with uneventful regularity. Winchester was incorporated as a town 4 March 1843 and its limits extended to nearly a mile square. On 11 September 1876, it was organized as a city. By that time, Winchester's character as a rural county seat was firmly determined and neither that nor its population -- 1,661 in 1870 and 1,759 in 1970 -- has been subject to much change since.

Manufacturing has never played a significant role in the city's economy, although there were once tanneries, several potteries, brickyards, a reaper factory, and some flour mills. None of these enterprises survived long into the 20th century, however, and after decades with no industry at all, there is now but one plant in the city. The railroad arrived in 1869, but also never seems to have been a major factor. Civic improvements were carried out more or less as a matter of course, with electricity arriving in 1891, the telephone in 1899, and the first paved street in 1924.

The flavor of Winchester, then, is that of an extremely peaceful rural county seat that established itself early -- most of the city's prominent buildings were built before 1870 -- and has changed very little over the years. There has been some recent development, most of it seemingly unplanned and quite unfortunate that has slightly eroded the older fabric: some gas stations, utility poles and wires, insignificant residences on parcels subdivided from older, larger lots, etc.; and there is now public housing, fortunately well-designed in light of the city's character. All in all, though, the Winchester of the 1970's is unmistakably the same as the Winchester of the 1870's.

SITES AND STRUCTURES OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Numbers correspond to the accompanying map. Where more than one area of significance applies, the greater is listed first.

•1. RESIDENCE

171 S. Main *Wilson Ford*

Date unknown; certainly pre-Civil War

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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2. CHESELDINE HOTEL *CLARENCE HENDERS, JR.*
Southeast corner of Hill & Cross
Date unknown; probably Civil War era
The roof has been considerably altered.
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
3. SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE *C. S. ...*
Northeast corner of Market and Hill
Built in 1885; James Stewart & Co., St. Louis, architects; Wm. Buckingham, contractor
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
4. JAMES M. RIGGS HOUSE *Wm. McLAUGHLIN*
315 North High
Built ca. 1868; disfigured by large porch
James Riggs was a prominent lawyer and politician. Admitted to the bar in 1867, he served in the 27th Illinois General Assembly (1870), as Winchester's first mayor (1876), as State's Attorney (1882), and as U.S. Congressman (1882-5).
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE
5. WILLIAM H. WILSON HOUSE
108 North High *RICHARD WANN*
Built ca. 1849
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
6. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (NOW: ASSEMBLY OF GOD)
Northeast corner of Cherry and Mechanic
Begun in 1860, dedicated in 1865
The congregation was organized in 1837.
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
7. RESIDENCE *Elmer Fedder*
54 North Main
Built ca. 1842
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
8. THOMAS KERSEY HOUSE *VERN BAKER*
121 North Main
Built in 1838
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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9. DANIEL SMITH HOUSE
137 North Main *ORVAL HOOTS*
Built ca.1863

Daniel Smith emigrated from Germany in 1854, settling permanently in Winchester in 1863. He was engaged in the manufacture of cigars and also owned considerable property.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

10. CARNEGIE LIBRARY - *LIBRARY*
213 North Main
Built in 1910; Lawrence Buck, architect

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

11. RESIDENCE *Mrs. SOCKETT HOWELL*
434 North Main
Date unknown; probably ca.1858-68

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

12. WILLIAM C. GIBBS HOUSE *George Myers*
North end, east side of Main
Built ca.1867

Mr. Gibbs was a prominent farmer and landowner.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

13. SAMUEL A. MORGAN HOUSE *Emery Wood*
ca.124 East Park
Date unknown; probably ca.1840-50

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

14. RESIDENCE - *FRED EVANS*
111 East Hardin
Date unknown; probably ca.1858-68

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

15. J.V. CARPENTER HOUSE
147 North Main *Samuel L. ...*
Built before 1876; remodelled ca.1900

J.V. Carpenter was one of Winchester's earliest settlers, arriving there in December 1835 with a stock of goods. He remained in the mercantile business until his retirement in 1876 and was one of the city's most respected citizens. The present appearance of the house dates largely from the remodelling.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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16. E.G. MINER HOUSE - *Al Watt*
461 West Cherry
Built in 1848

E.G. Miner, a merchant, was one of Winchester's most prominent early residents. He arrived from Vermont in 1832. He was one of Winchester's early postmasters, a member of the Illinois General Assembly, a trustee of the Hospital for the insane at Jacksonville for 12 years, and a trustee of Shurtleff College at Alton for 10 years. It was Miner, too, who assisted a fellow Vermonter, Stephen A. Douglas, when he arrived virtually penniless in 1833.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

17. WILLIAM MARKILLIE HOUSE
303 North Main *Richard LasHmitt*
Built by William Buckingham; date unknown, probably ca. 1860-70

William Buckingham was an important contractor-builder in Winchester. He was the contractor for the Scott County Courthouse (v. No. 3) and tradition and stylistic traits assign several other early houses to him (incl. Nos. 11, 12, 14). The high quality of most of Winchester's early and mature Italianate residences is most probably due to him.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

18. CHARLES B. HUBBARD HOUSE
ca. 434 West Cherry *Dr. Paul Garrison*
Built ca. 1866

Charles Hubbard was a prominent banker. He settled in Winchester in 1864 and, in November 1867, entered into partnership with E.G. Miner (v. No. 16) and Robert Frost (v. No. 20) in the banking house of Miner, Frost & Hubbard. The bank, known as Frost & Hubbard's from 1886-1919, is now the First State Bank of Winchester.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

19. JOHN H. COATS HOUSE
156 South Main *Frank Thomas*
Built ca. 1868

John Coats was in the grocery business but also enjoyed considerable prominence in politics, serving as State Assessor and Treasurer of Scott Co., in the Illinois General Assembly (1881-2), and as a presidential elector (1896).

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

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20. ROBERT FROST HOUSE EDWARD FROST
307 East Jefferson
Built in 1858; considerably modified

Robert Frost was the progenitor of one of Winchester's wealthiest and most prominent families. Born in England, he settled in Scott County in 1842. His several interests included merchandizing and banking.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Scott County Bicentennial Book, Winchester 1976.

Souvenir Times, Winchester 1897.

Scott County Atlases, 1873 and 1903

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 205

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at the intersection of Pleasant and Mechanic, the boundary extends S on Mechanic to the interior property lines N of Cherry, W on these to Elm, further W on Railroad and the interior property lines N of Cherry to Commercial, further W on the north property line of 11 N. Commercial and the interior property lines N of Cherry to the west line of 461 W. Cherry, S on this to Cherry, E on Cherry to Glasgow Road, S on Glasgow Road to the interior property lines S of Cherry, E on these to Arch, S on Arch to the S line of 14 S. Arch, E on this and the interior property lines S of Cherry

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Wagner, National Register Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Illinois Department of Conservation

DATE

June 2, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

9640 South Longwood Drive

TELEPHONE

312/779-2109

CITY OR TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered FEB 14 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Hibbard, Charles H., House	Marengo McHenry County
✓ Winchester Historic District	Winchester Scott County
Brower, Adolphus W., House	Sycamore DeKalb County
Hyde Park-Kenwood Historic District	Chicago Cook County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
honorable Robert McClory
Honorable Paul Findley
Honorable Tom J. Corcoran
Honorable Bennett Stewart

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

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