

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Macktown Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Macktown Forest Preserve

CITY, TOWN

Rockton

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
16th

STATE

Illinois

VICINITY OF

CODE

17

COUNTY

Winnebago

CODE

201

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Winnebago County

STREET & NUMBER

400 West State Street

CITY, TOWN

Rockford

VICINITY OF

STATE
Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Winnebago County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

400 West State Street

CITY, TOWN

Rockford

STATE
Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey

DATE

1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Div. of Historic Sites, Ill. Dept. of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE
Illinois

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of Macktown is located on the banks of the Rock River on a high bluff. With the exception of Stephen Mack's house and the Whitman Trading Post none of the original buildings now stand. Various traders lived in log huts and cabins scattered throughout the settlement. The historic district encompasses all of the townsite where locations of the buildings have been identified. The boundary runs approximately 600 feet southwest from a point on the Rock River near Whitman's Trading Post then 2100 feet north-west to the Pecatonica River then along the right banks of the Pecatonica and Rock Rivers to the beginning.

The store was the first building that Mack built. It was situated west of where Mack's house now is. Mack carried on his store until his cousin, Merrill E. Mack, arrived and went into partnership with him, giving him time for his other enterprises. In 1838, Mack began building other structures for his town. A story-and-a-half structure was built next to his store. A furniture maker who sold his furniture throughout the northern portion of Illinois occupied the lower part of the building. The children of the settlement used the upper story as a school. A double log cabin on the other side of the road from Mack's store was built in 1838. The cabin served as a local tavern and as the residence of the tavernkeeper. In 1846, Mack built a school building and town meeting hall. The building is reputed to have had a great stone chimney and fireplace; however, no trace of it is left today.

Of the two remaining structures, one is the Whitman Trading Post, established in 1846, by a Mr. Whitman (first name unknown). The limestone building is in four segments: two two-story gable end sections connected by a one-story segment which is flush with the walls of the two larger segments. The roof ridge of this middle segment is perpendicular to the walls of the two other segments and intersects them below the eaves. The fourth segment is a gable end wing attached to the west end. It is one story high. The roof has not protruding eaves. The windows are all double-hung, 6/6, but are irregular in their size and distribution. A few have limestone lintels, but most do not.

(See Continuation Sheet)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

7. Description

The other remaining building is the Stephen Mack House, built in 1839. It is a two-story Greek Revival with the entrance on the gable end. There is a rear kitchen addition with a porch extending beyond the wall of the house. There is a second addition attached to the rear of the kitchen addition. The frame house rests upon a limestone foundation.

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 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"/> 1700-1759	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSFORMATION		
<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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The settlement of Macktown is significant in that it was one of the first settlements in the area of northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. It served as an important stopping place on the Galena Trail. Wagon ruts are still visible leading down past the Whitman Trading Post to where a ferry crossed the Rock River, and where, in 1843, Stephen Mack constructed the first bridge across the Rock River in the area.

Many of the founders of Rockford and other northern Illinois communities lived in Macktown. Further, Stephen Mack played an important role in the formation of Winnebago County in 1836. His home is believed to be one of the first painted frame houses west of Chicago.

The settlement of Macktown provided early settlers with a haven in their travels further west and north and the existence of the ferry and later the bridge hastened the development of Macktown. The wagon trail that passed through Macktown preceded the development of other river crossings south of Macktown. The Galena Trail was an early, important route for commerce and emigration from Chicago to the lead mining region of northwestern Illinois and southwestern Wisconsin. This trail came into use in the mid-1820's and served travelers through the 1850's as a major route through northern Illinois.

The Whitman Trading Post along with other commercial establishments in Macktown provided the earliest commercial center in the area. Information describing the early settlement indicates that there may be fruitful historic archaeological exploration of the townsite.

In summary, Macktown provides not only architectural significance in the construction of Stephen Mack's house, but provides other significance in that Macktown was a major link in the pattern of settlement of northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin.

Significant Structures

1. Stephen Mack House: (1839) Historical and architectural.

2. Whitman Trading Post: (1846) Historical

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carr, Edison, Jm., The History of Rockton: 1820-1898.

Rockton, Ill.: Herald Office Print. 1898.

The History of Winnebago County, Illinois. Chicago: H.F. Kett. 1877.

Brochure. Rockton Township Historical Society. n.d.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9.86 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	B	26	960	47	01	880	B	16	326	760	47	01	430
	ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING			ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING
C	16	32	8590	47	01	880	D	16	326	590	47	01	430	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Duane Hanson, County Board Administrative Asst.

ORGANIZATION

Winnebago County

DATE

February 20, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

400 West State Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Rockford

STATE

Illinois

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

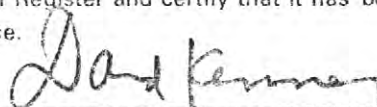
NATIONAL

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 Director, Illinois Department of Conservation

DATE

3/23/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

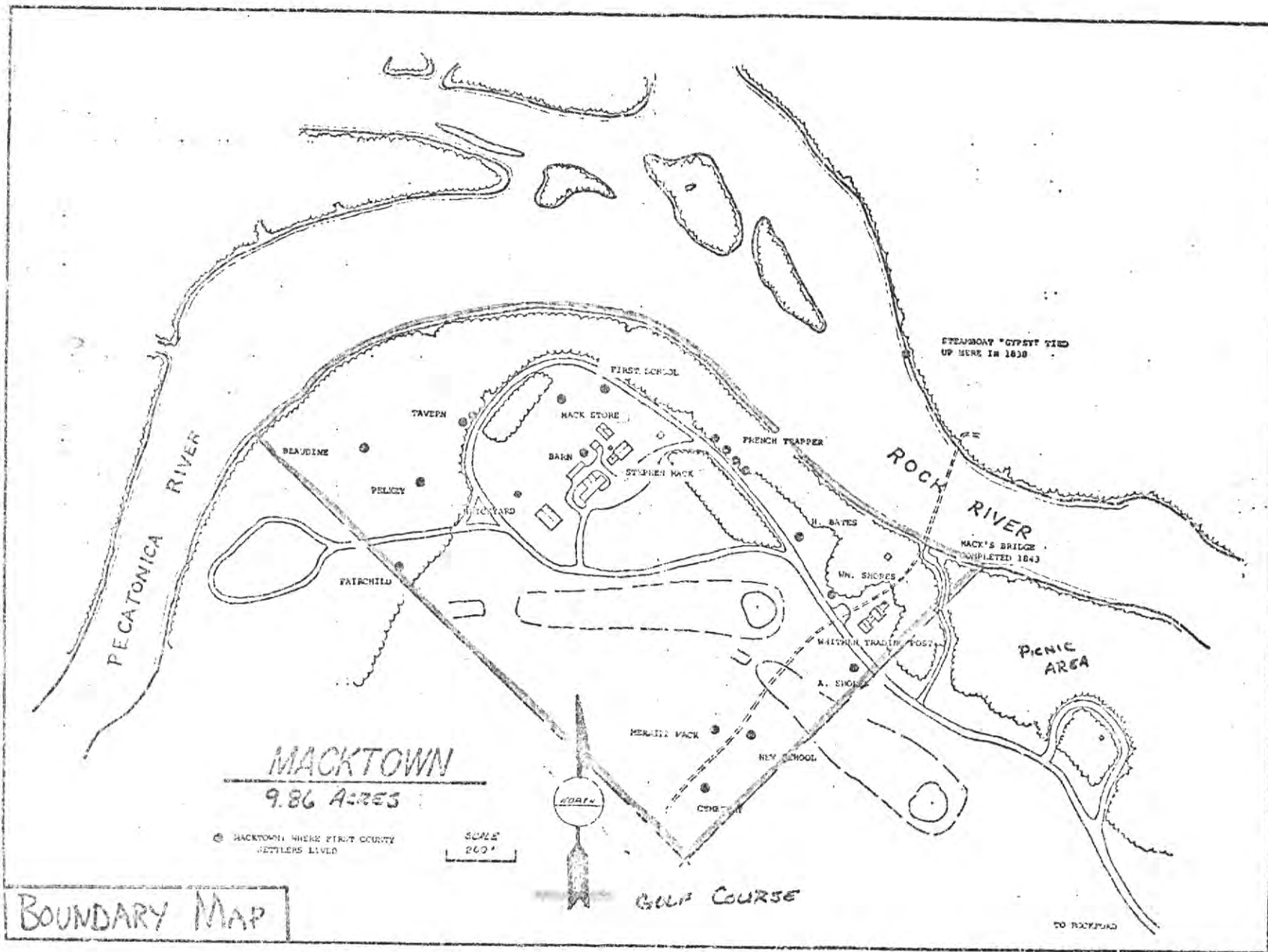
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Macktown Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Rockton VICINITY OF X COUNTY Winnebago STATE Illinois

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Winnebago County Forest Preserve

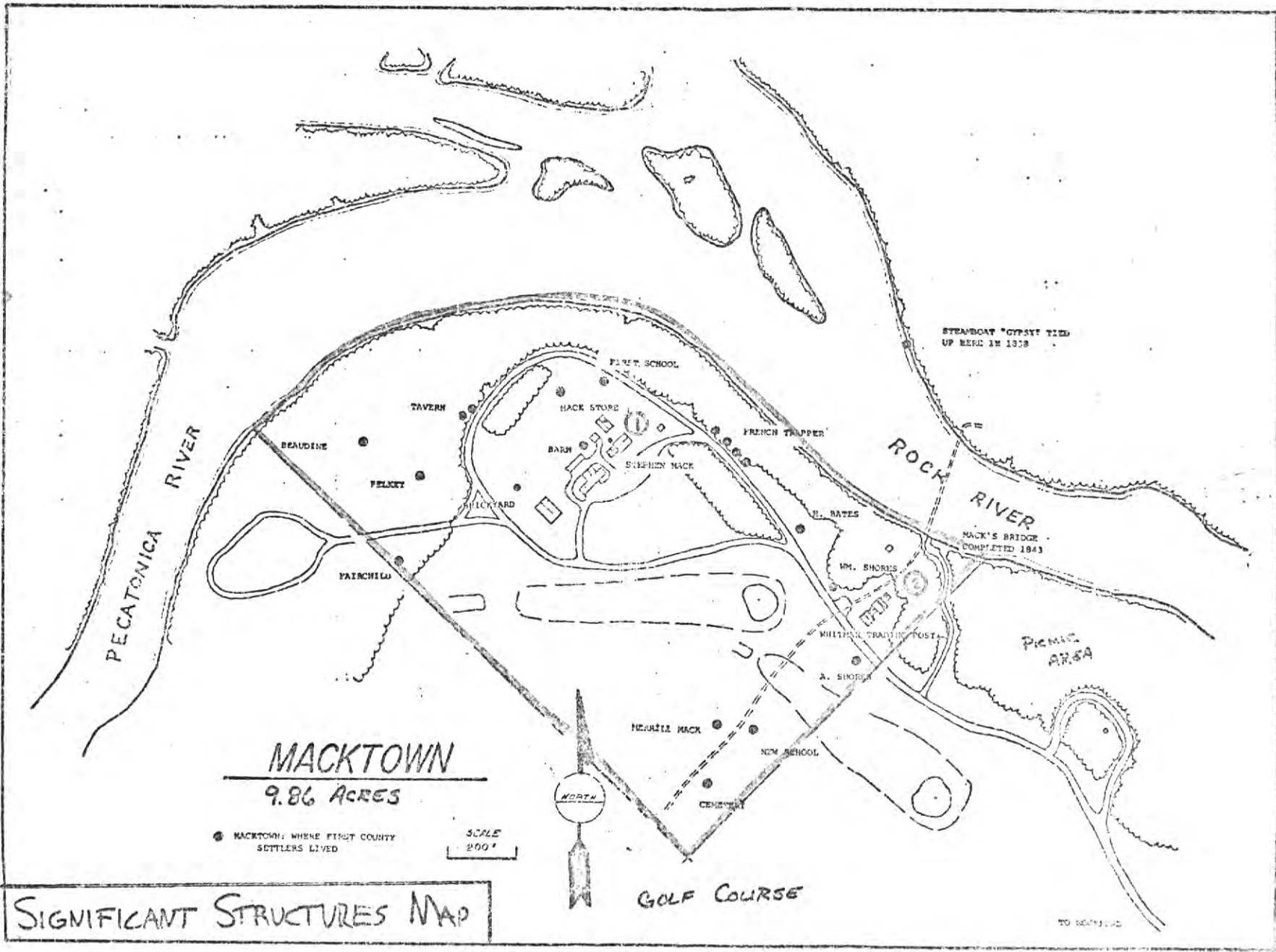
SCALE 1" = 400' DATE 1975

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

Boundary Map

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURES MAP

MACKTOWN
 9.86 ACRES

● MACKTOWN: WHERE FIRST COUNTY
 SETTLERS LIVED

SCALE
 200'



GOLF COURSE

STEAMBOAT "CYPSEL" TIED
 UP HERE IN 1838

MACK'S BRIDGE
 COMPLETED 1943

PICNIC
 AREA

TO CONTINUE

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NAME

HISTORIC Macktown Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN	VICINITY OF	COUNTY	STATE
Rockton	x	Winnebago	Illinois

MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Winnebago Forest Preserve

SCALE 1" = 400' DATE 1975

REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

Significant Structures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered JAN 5 1978

Name

Location

Macktown Historic District

Rockton vicinity
Winnebago County

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson
Hon. John B. Anderson

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION