

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

North Sangamon United Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

Indian Point United Presbyterian Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

R. R. #2

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Athens

X

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

21st

STATE

Illinois

CODE

012

COUNTY

Menard

CODE

129

**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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input 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 RESIDE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" 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"/> TRANSPORTATI
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Indian Point United Presbyterian Church

STREET & NUMBER

R. R. #2

CITY, TOWN

Athens

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Illinois

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Menard County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Petersburg

STATE  
Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey

DATE

December, 1973

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

405 E. Washington

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE  
Illinois

# 77 DESCRIPTION

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

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

The original portion of the Indian Point United Presbyterian Church is a rectangular structure thirty-seven by sixty-three feet. Exterior walls of hand-fired brick are thirteen inches thick. Pilasters the width of one brick divide the north and south facades into three bays; the east and west facades, into five. Tall, full-arched windows retain original wooden shutters and limestone sills. Also original are the paneled entrance doors. Doors and windows are topped with brick arches. A pedimented brick gable featuring a semicircular vent and craved wooden cornice with dentils surmounts the north facade. The cornice is continued along the east and west facades. Exterior paint colors duplicate the original appearance of the church: white doors, window frames and cornice; green shutters. A modern light fixture and handrails constitute the only alterations to the main facade. However, a one-story brick "Fellowship Hall" built in 1960 extends from the northeast corner of the original structure. One window has been bricked up to accommodate the addition.

The plan of the church is simple. A vestibule flanked by a small cloakroom to the west and an enclosed staircase to the east extends across the width of the building. The gallery above overlooks a sanctuary with twenty-one foot ceiling. The original plaster ceiling was replaced in the 1920s. Original pine flooring has also been replaced. Interior trim and hardware, however, are original. Double-hung windows twelve by four and one-half feet contain eighteen lights of early American plate glass. Fanlights are ornamented with carved, wedge-shaped imposts and keystones. The gallery front and most interior doors are paneled. Especially noteworthy are two doors in the south wall of the sanctuary; they are topped with semicircular wooden panels carved in a fan-like pattern. Interior trim was originally painted white but has been repainted a dark brown. Other interior alterations include the addition of sliding panels which now enclose the gallery, new lighting fixtures, and minor changes to accommodate modern heating and sound systems. Pews are said to be original, but partitions which once separated men and women congregants have been removed.

The proposed site, three acres in area, follows the lines of the original parcel of land conveyed to church trustees in 1844. The grove of oak, maple and walnut trees which covers the site is said in large part to predate construction of the brick church. Historical photographs confirm that the setting has remained almost unchanged since 1905.

# 8 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"/> 1700-1799	<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 \_\_\_\_\_ BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Thatcher, builder

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

While similar in form and construction to a number of mid-nineteenth century Illinois churches, the Indian Grove Church is an unusually fine--and unusually late--example of restrained classical styling. Built between 1860 and 1862, the structure nevertheless embodies features which recall the Georgian tradition: a relatively high-pitched pediment with semicircular vent, the ornamental "fan" motif, interior window treatment. The inspiration for this use of a long-outmoded style remains unclear. Little is known of the builder, Charles Thatcher of Chandlerville, or the pastor, Reverend Robert R. Criswell. The fact that many of the original members of the congregation came to Illinois from Virginia (via eastern Kentucky) may well have influenced the design.

This architecturally distinctive structure possesses considerable local historical significance as well. First organized in 1832 as the "North Sangamon Presbyterian Church", this congregation gave birth to daughter churches throughout Menard County, in Athens, in Sweetwater, and in Irish Grove. The church-sponsored "North Sangamon Academy" (built across the road in the 1860s and replaced by a modern structure in the 1920s) drew students from a wide area in central Illinois and later became a nucleus of the Menard County public school system.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Menard and Mason Counties, O. L. Baskin & Co., Chicago. 1879.

Menard County Church History, The Petersburg Observer, Petersburg. 1976  
Interview with Reverend Jim Thomson, Indian Grove Presbyterian Church.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Three acres

QUADRANGLE NAME			QUADRANGLE SCALE				
UTM REFERENCES							
A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Northwest corner of northeast quarter of Section 24, Township 18, Range 6 West of the Third Principal Meridian.

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 Margaret Kincaid	Jeffrey S. Flemming	DATE November, 1978
ORGANIZATION Indian Point Presb. Church	Historic Sites Div.	TELEPHONE /217 785 02
STREET & NUMBER R. R. #2	405 E. Washington	STATE Illinois
CITY OR TOWN Athens	Springfield	

# 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

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Menard and Mason Counties, O. L. Baskin & Co., Chicago, 1879.

Menard County Church History, The Petersburg Observer, Petersburg. 1976.  
 Interview with Reverend Jim Thomson, Indian Grove Presbyterian Church.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Three acres

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

QUADRANGLE NAME MASON CITY

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES  
 A 16 267 2010 443,122,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B      
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Northwest corner of northeast quarter of Section 24, Township 18, Range 6 West of the Third Principal Meridian.

### 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  
 Margaret Kincaid

Jeffrey S. Flemming

ORGANIZATION  
 Indian Point Presb. Church Historic Sites Div.

DATE  
 November, 1978

STREET & NUMBER  
 R. R. #2 405 E. Washington

TELEPHONE  
 -- /217 785 027

CITY OR TOWN  
 Athens Springfield

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

*David Kenney*

TITLE *Director, Department of Conservation*

DATE *12/28/78*

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

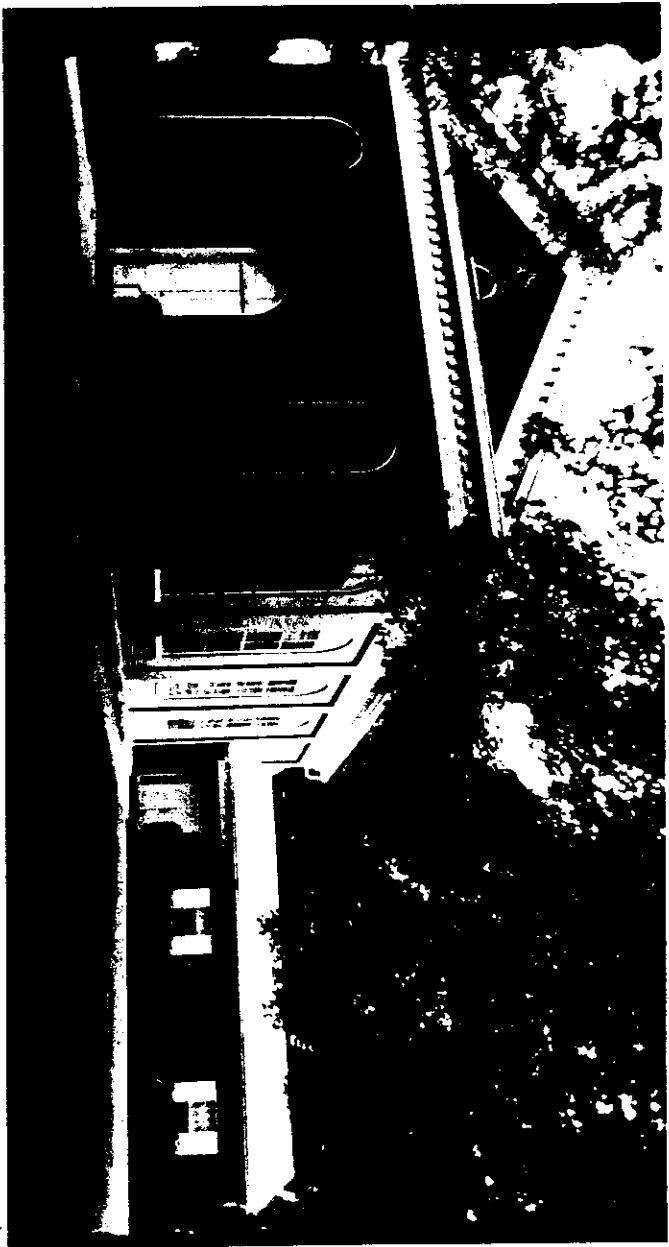
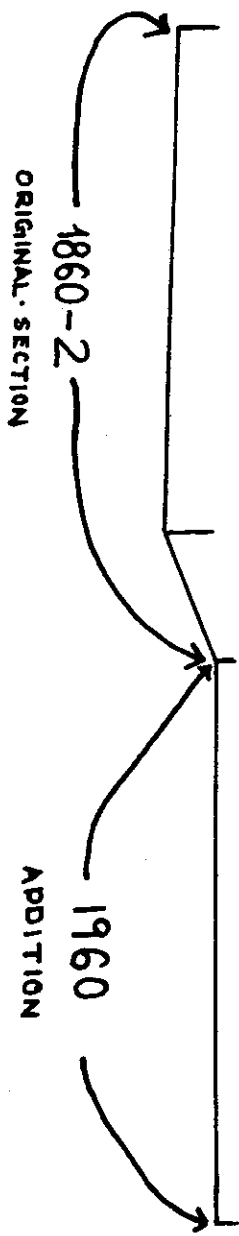
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



508

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered      MAR 23 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
State Savings Loan and Trust Company	Quincy Adams County
Moore, C. H., House	Clinton DeWitt County
North Sangamon United Presbyterian Church	Athens vicinity Menard County
<del>MULLER HOUSE</del>	
Muller House	Arlington Heights Cook County

Also Notified

- Honorable Charles H. Percy
- Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
- Honorable Paul Findley
- Honorable Edward R. Madigan
- Honorable Phillip M. Crane

**COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION**

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