

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

file

incomplete  
form  
missing sec 7

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

COLES COUNTY COURTHOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Charleston Public Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Charleston

VICINITY OF

22

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Illinois

12

Coles

29

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

County of Coles

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Coles County Courthouse

STATE

Charleston

VICINITY OF

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Coles County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

P.O. Box 107 Coles County Courthouse

STATE

Charleston

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Landmarks in Coles County

DATE

November 1973

FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Architect's Report, Coles County Courthouse, September, 1976. Consultant: SRGF Architects, Inc., Champaign, Illinois.  
 Wilson, Charles. History of Coles County. Chicago, 1906.  
 Perrin, W. H. The History of Coles County Illinois: 1879. Chicago, 1879.  
 Kimball, Constance and Marta Ladd, eds., History of Coles County. Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co., 1976.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Toledo, Illinois

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCES

A

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Coles County Courthouse lies in the Southwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section II, Township 12 North, Range 9 East of the third Prime Meridian. It occupies all of Block 6 in the Original Town of Charleston.

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

David Hight/ Brian Conway

ORGANIZATION

Coles County Regional Planning Commission/Ill. Dept. of Conservation

DATE

4/14/77

STREET & NUMBER

701 Monroe Street/ 405 East Washington

TELEPHONE

(217)348-0521/ (217)782-0273

CITY OR TOWN

Charleston/ Springfield

STATE

Illinois

/ 62706

# 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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1898 BUILDER/ARCHITECT C. W. Rapp

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Coles County Courthouse was built in 1898. Chicago architect Cornelius W. Rapp designed the building. In 1906, the firm became Rapp and Rapp when C. W. Rapp's younger brother George L. joined him. From that time, until 1932, Rapp and Rapp became leaders in theatre design. The Coles County Courthouse is a good example of Richardsonian Romanesque style, the best such example in east central Illinois. The builders were S. Coehring and R.R. Fuller.

The Coles County Courthouse serves as a seat of Government for the County and houses most County offices and the County court system. This building has been the scene of Coles County's administrative and legal activity since 1898. The site has served such purposes since 1835.

The site of the present courthouse is associated with two events involving local response to the Civil War: (1) the Matson Slave Case of 1847 and (2) the Charleston Riot of March 28, 1864. In the Matson Slave Case, it was decided that the wife and the four children of a slave brought temporarily into Illinois by a slaveholder to work, could elude the slaveholder and become freedmen. The Charleston Riot resulted in the death of six soldiers and three civilians and the wounding of four soldiers and eight civilians. The Riot was instigated by furloughed soldiers and southern sympathizers from the Charleston area.

# 77 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Coles County Courthouse is a large, basically square plan three and one half story building on a high foundation (full basement). The building stands in the center of a public square, in the heart of the commercial section of Charleston.

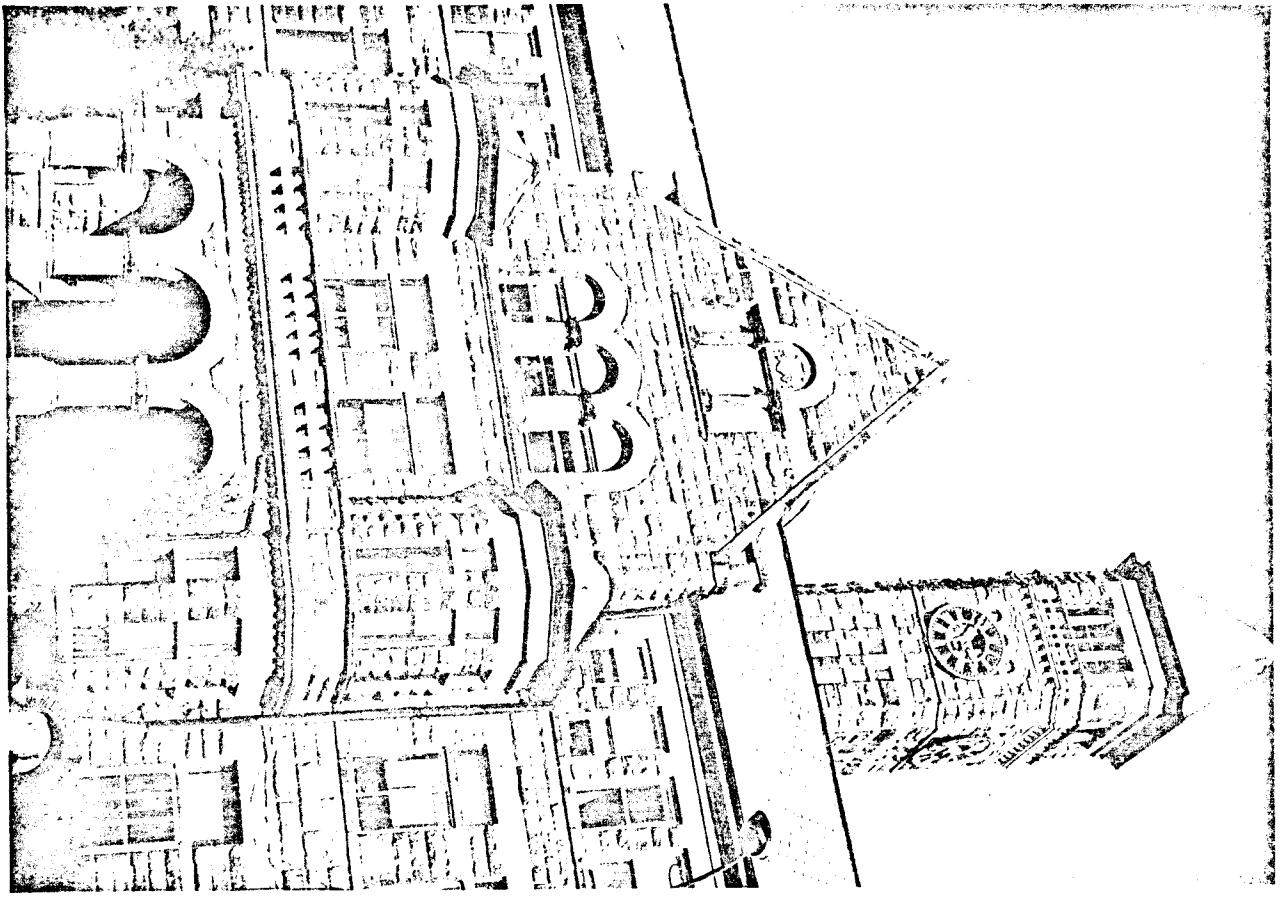
The building is constructed with masonry exterior bearing walls and a steel and concrete interior structural system. The stone exterior is comprised of two stone types. The main body of the building is rock-faced brown colored stone from the Oliver quarries on the Embarras River in Eastern Illinois. The lintels, stringcourses and arches are contrasted with a smoother, lighter colored Bedford (Indiana) stone.

A pyramid topped pavillion with a one step, gabled wall dormer on each side, projects slightly from each corner of the building. On the center of each facade between the pavillions, the hip roof line is broken with a large, one step gable end. These gables are located directly above the four main entrances. A tall, pyramid capped tower projects directly from the center of the building.

Some windows are straight topped and others have semi-circular arches above. The window size is progressively reduced in ascending order on each facade. In 1966, aluminum windows were added on the first floor. In 1968 aluminum windows were put in the second floor, and in 1969 they were added to the third floor. In 1975 new gutters were added. The attic story windows, as well as the upper portions of the arched windows, have been closed with panels. A new cooper sheet roof is being added to the building. These are the only visible alterations to the exterior.

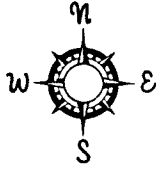
The four major entrances, one on each facade, have doors recessed behind a three arch arcaded porch. The interior corridor floors are tile and the wainscoting is polished granite.

In the northwest corner of the square is a statue erected in 1911. The statue commerates soldiers and sailors from the Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, and the Spanish American War.

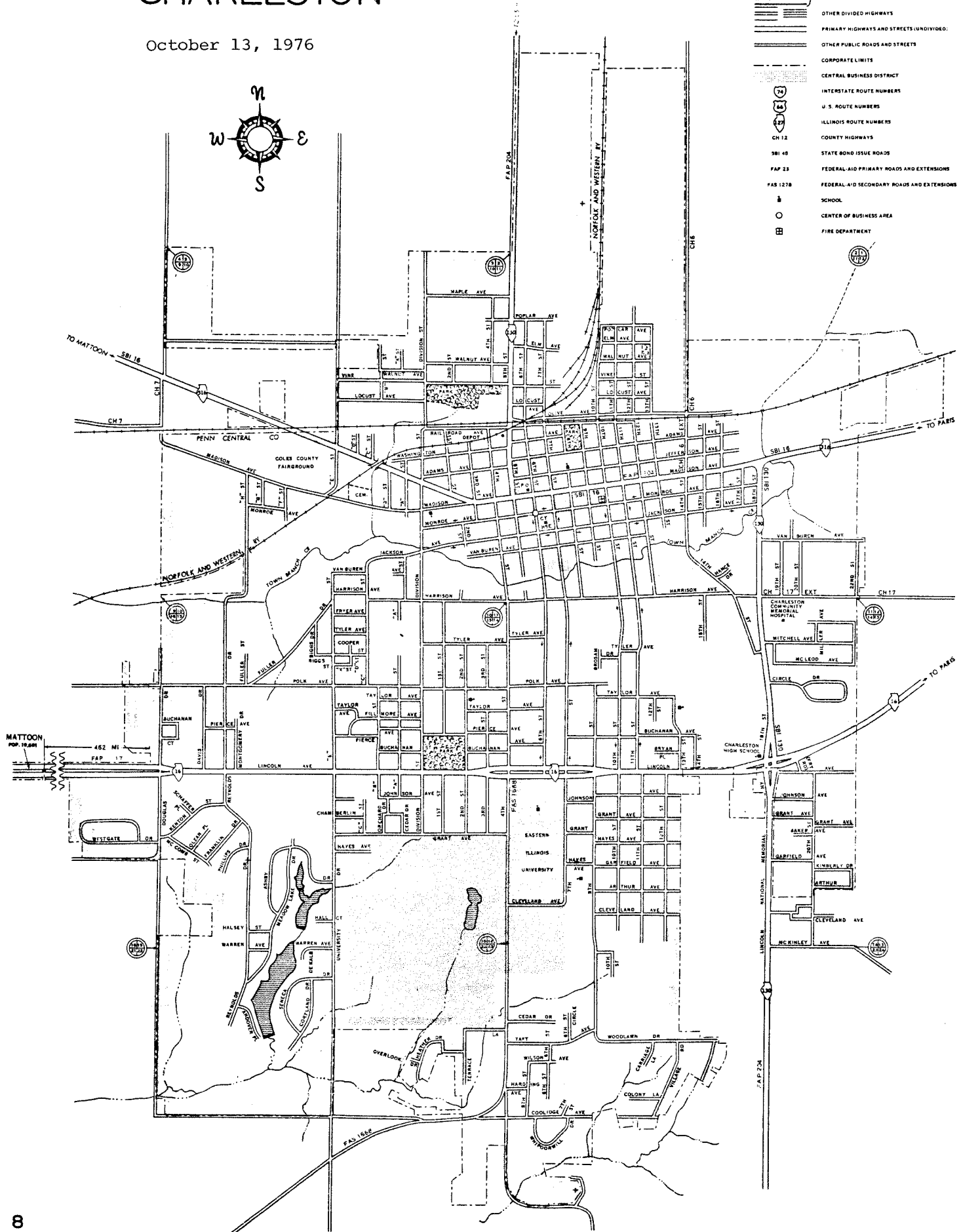


# CHARLESTON

October 13, 1976



- LEGEND**
- DIVIDED HIGHWAYS WITH ACCESS CONTROL
  - OTHER DIVIDED HIGHWAYS
  - PRIMARY HIGHWAYS AND STREETS (UNDIVIDED)
  - OTHER PUBLIC ROADS AND STREETS
  - CORPORATE LIMITS
  - CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
  - INTERSTATE ROUTE NUMBERS
  - U. S. ROUTE NUMBERS
  - ILLINOIS ROUTE NUMBERS
  - COUNTY HIGHWAYS
  - STATE BOND ISSUE ROADS
  - FAP 25
  - FAS 1278
  - SCHOOL
  - CENTER OF BUSINESS AREA
  - FIRE DEPARTMENT



ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

CO-H-9

200177

1. Name of site:

Common Coles County Court House

Historic

2. Location:

Street and number

Township

Section

Bounded by 6th, Madison, 7th, and Monroe Streets, 4 Section

City or Town

Zip Code

Range

Charleston

61920

County

Coles

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

- ( ) District (x) Building  
 ( ) Site ( ) Structure

Integrity (check one)

- ( ) Altered (x) Unaltered  
 ( ) Moved (x) Original Site

4. Ownership

- ( ) Private  
 (x) Public

Status (check one)

- (x) Occupied  
 ( ) Unoccupied  
 ( ) Preservation work in Progress

Access to Public

- (x) Yes (x) Restricted ( ) Unrestricted ( ) No

Present Use ( check one or more)

- ( ) Agricultural ( ) Industrial ( ) Religious  
 ( ) Commercial ( ) Military ( ) Scientific  
 ( ) Educational (x) Museum ( ) Transportation  
 ( ) Entertainment ( ) Park ( ) Other (specify)  
 (x) Government ( ) Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property

Owner's name

Street and number

Phone Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description

Condition

- (x) Excellent ( ) Good ( ) Fair ( ) Deteriorated ( ) Ruins ( ) Unexposed  
 Is there a program of preservation underway? ( ) Yes (x) No

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)  
 (x) Illinois Middle (1850-1900)  
 ( ) Illinois Late (1900-present)  
 ( ) Famous People (give names & dates)

GOVERNMENT





8. Specific Date: Erected 1898-1899.

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture    |   |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates.) Use additional sheets if necessary. The center of county-wide political activity in Coles County.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and title: Keith A. Sculle Date: April 1973  
Organization: Illinois Historic Sites Survey  
1505 W. Kirby, Apt. 3  
Street and number: Champaign, Illinois 61820  
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 example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

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

Coleman, Charles H. Abraham Lincoln and Coles County, Illinois. New Brunswick, New Jersey: no publisher given, 1955.