

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

Elijah P. Curtis Home

AND/OR COMMON

Massac County Historical Museum

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

405 Market Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Metropolis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

24th

STATE

Illinois

___ VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Massac

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Massac County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

405 Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Metropolis

STATE

Illinois

___ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Massac County Court House, County Clerk Office

STREET & NUMBER

Fifth & Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Metropolis

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Landmark Survey

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield, Illinois

STATE

7- 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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Massac County Historical Museum

This is a two story brick Classic Revival house with a one story wing on the rear. The front (east) facade is symmetrically arranged with two six over six double hung windows on each floor on both sides of a central two story porch. The windows have plain trim, shallow brick segmental arches and louvered shutters. Brick pilasters separate the windows and define the corners. The two tiered central portico with octagonal columns and balustered railing is the predominant feature. The portico frames identical first and second floor doorways with details including battered casings, scalloped transoms and sidelights, shouldered architrave moldings, and pilasters flanking the doors.

The exterior and interior walls are all bearing, 15" thick, and rest on six foot foundations. Brickwork is common bond with every sixth course a header course. An enclosed chimney is placed at each end of the gable ridge.

The interior plan of the main body of the house is symmetrically arranged on both floors with one large room on either side of a central entry/stair hall. The stairway is open well, two flights with walnut balustrade and newel post. The open string stair returns on itself with a graceful curve.

The house has two coal burning fireplaces, both on the first floor. One mantle is black marbelized iron and the other is carved walnut.

Interior walls are plaster and ceilings are 12 feet high on first floor and 10 feet high on the second floor. Baseboards are 13 inches on the first floor and 10 inches on the second. Interior window trim upstairs AND in the rooms of the rear wing is plain but in the main part of the first floor, windows and doors have shouldered architrave moldings and battered casings.

The one story, two room wing on the rear (west) is brick with gable roof. Dining room and kitchen are in this wing.

Limited alterations appear in the house. The rear porch on the north side of the wing has been enclosed to house a bathroom and furnace room. A small porch on the south side of the wing has been enlarged and repaired. Fieldstone porch floors have replaced wooden floors on the front and side porches. The classic return eaves have been removed.

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"/> 1600-1899	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History (loc
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

Built 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Joseph Alexander Fardell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is a fine Classic Revival house with Egyptian influence, seen in the battered window and door casings. It was built in 1870 for Major Curtis by Joseph Alexander Fardell, a prominent local craftsman noted for perfection in his work. The home has retained its beauty and prominence over the years and is one of only a few brick homes of this period remaining in Massac County. The house has been purchased as part of the Massac County Historical Society.

Elijah Curtis (1834-1901) came to Massac County as a boy with his father, a land surveyor and teacher. Elijah Curtis graduated from the University of Louisville, Kentucky Law School in 1860 and started a law practice in Massac County a few short weeks prior to the Civil War. Along with John A. Carmichael and William T. Day, Elijah Curtis recruited and organized Co. K, 29th Regiment of the Illinois Volunteers, the first in Massac County. He enlisted in 1861 as First Lieutenant and by 1863 was promoted to Major. At the end of the Civil War, Curtis resumed his law practice in Metropolis and built the house in 1870.

Although primarily significant for its architecture, the house is secondarily significant for local history in that no one man is more clearly identified with the early history of Massac County than Major Curtis.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Artman, Pauline T., Massac County & The Civil War,
Metropolis, Ill: unpublished manuscript.

Interviews:

Allen, Jim, New Salem, Ill. March 2, & June 8, 1977.

McClanahan, Florence M. Curtis (granddaughter of Major
Curtis), 3851 Holly Hills Road, Dt. Louis, Mo.,
April 2 & July 11, 1977

Interviews Cont'd.

Nelson, Ron, Bishop Hill, Illinois.
March 2 & June 8, 1977

Woodson, Mignon Curtis, (daughter
Major Curtis), 60 Plaza Square,
St. Louis, Missouri, July 8,

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 365 and the South 15 feet of Lot 366, and the South 90 feet of the
East 9 feet of Lot 364, all in Block 35 of the original plat of the City
of Metropolis, Illinois, as per recorded plat thereof.

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

Mary J. Leonard

September 22, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Massac County Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

213 E. Third Street

TELEPHONE

618-524-9211

CITY OR TOWN

Metropolis

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

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:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER