

10-3-79

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCPS use only

**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 Eureka College: The Original College Building and the Chapel

and/or common Eureka College: The Administration Building and the Chapel

**2. Location**

street & number 300 College Avenue \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Eureka \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 15

state Illinois code 012 county Woodford code 203

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>

**4. Owner of Property**

name The Trustees of Eureka College

street & number 300 College Avenue

city, town Eureka \_\_\_ vicinity of state Illinois 61530

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Woodford County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Eureka state Illinois

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title 1. Illinois Historic Structures Survey  
2. Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1. October, 1973  
2. November, 1973  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Both: 405 East Washington Street

city, town Both: Springfield state Both: Illinois

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	___ ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	___ moved    date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Administration Building, built in 1858, is a three story masonry bearing wall structure with an attic and a small cellar. The masonry bearing walls are approximately 18" to 2' thick at the base and taper up to about 12" or 13" thick in the attic.

The roof is framed with wood trusses built up out of solid timbers. Two modified Howe wood trusses run from the front to the back of the building. Between the trusses, running crosswise through the middle of the building are additional simple King trusses with steel tension rods and solid timbers. These are supported at the exterior bearing walls and at the Howe trusses in the center.

The ceiling joists for the third floor bear on the exterior walls and on the King trusses. In addition to that, tension rods go down through the third floor and take some of the load of the third floor joists.

The building has the conventional central hall plan that runs from the front to the back and has a series of straight-run staircases that take you up to the top of the building. On either side of the central hall were classrooms and offices in the original plan when this was the only building in the College. Now the areas are divided into administrative offices for the College.

The building is Italianate with Federal and Georgian influences. The design of the front elevation and the back elevation is the same because at the time the building was being constructed, they were not sure in which direction the town of Eureka would develop in future years. The elevations of the building appear to have a strong Federal Style influence in the windows. The windows are tall with very slender mullions. The lintel is cast iron with small dentils in relief. The only detail on the sides is the brick return and a small brick mold adjoining the window frame. The sills are also cast iron and again have a small mold in relief.

The exterior of the building is light red brick. The front entrance doors and sidelights are Georgian Colonial influence. A palladian window is at each end of the second floor Hall. The entrance portico is more robust in detail and again is Georgian Colonial. A nonconforming detail is the portico column capitals which are similar to those found in the Tower of the Wind, Athens. These are done in cast iron. This same motif is found in the cast iron pilasters in the palladian window.

The windows in the front and back elevations are in pairs and arched at the top. They still retain the cast iron exposed lintel.

The Administration Building is in a fine state of preservation, but the cupola was removed at some time in the past; however, the stairway up through the attic to the cupola still remains.

The Italianate style is stated in the roof overhang and brick frieze. The overhang for the roof is almost 30 inches wide. The outlookers that support the overhang extend back into the attic about 26 to 28 inches and bear on the exterior masonry wall as well as being secured to the rafters.

The entire building is brick except for the field stone facing around the foundation. Running bond is used except at every sixth course, which is a row of headers. Brick pilasters are at the corners and on either side of the entrances. They project about eight inches from the face of the wall.

(continued)

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Approximately two feet below the eave line and between the brick pilasters a series of brick dentils (enlarged) form the architrave for the brick frieze above. The dentils are deep set and effect a strong shadow line in addition to the roof overhang.

The stairway handrail, newel post and balusters are still in use; however, the stairway has had to be enclosed to satisfy fire regulations. The enclosure, however, did not interfere with any of the original detailing of the stairs.

The Chapel Building is Italian Villa style or Italianate with deep overhangs supported by decorative wood brackets approximately 2½ feet on center. These brackets are not as ornamental as those found in the Frederick Hall House of Ionia, Michigan, or Camden Caroline County, Virginia, House but more like the brackets in the Morse-Libby House of Portland, Maine. Also the center gable mentioned earlier is very similar in design to the gable found on the Morse-Libby House.

The tall slender windows have a simple mullion design and brick hood mold often found in earlier Italianate buildings. All the windows have a segmented arch. Only in the protruding portion of the front elevation are the windows grouped. Both the first and second floors have a group of three windows with the center window being taller, thus, recalling the palladian window motif.

The two entrance porticos on the front of the building have simple bracket forms springing from the columns. The double columns of each portico appear to be a more simple version of the columns found in the main entrance portico of the Frederick Hall House mentioned earlier.

The Chapel Building is finished in a soft hued red brick. Pilasters of brick divide the front elevation into five bays and the side elevations into three bays. Across the top of each bay and just under the cornice are projecting ornamental brick scallops.

Inside each entrance a handsome staircase with a midway landing takes you to the second floor. The balusters and rail are simple wood turned posts.

The door and window trim consists of wide moldings, all still in good condition and being used.

The second floor room is now used for classes and occasional Chapel services. The pews have been removed and the chancel platform altered a small amount. Some of the first floor rooms have drop acoustical tile ceilings but in every case, the window and door moldings have been left untouched and still very much in evidence.

The Chapel Building has very simple lines and its wood brackets and columns reflect the more simple efforts of rural carpenters. The architect is not known but the building expresses a well proportioned Italianate style structure.

Leslie H. Kenyon, A.I.A.

## 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 checked="" 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	1858 (Admin. Bldg.)	Builder/Architect	Unknown
	1869 (Chapel)		

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Eureka College was chartered by the State of Illinois on February 6, 1855. In 1857-58 the original College Building (now the Administration Building) was built, and was the only classroom building on the campus until the construction of the Chapel in 1869.

Together, these two buildings housed the academic, administrative and social needs of Eureka College for nearly twenty-five years. Even though many new buildings and dormitories have been added since then, the Administration Building and Chapel are still in use and the focal point of the 112 acre campus. They are, in the minds of all who are familiar with the campus, symbols of Eureka College.

Neither building has been altered on the exterior in any way except for the required fire escapes. However, a fire damaged the cupola on the Administration Building and it has been removed. The interiors have been cared for and where remodeling has taken place, the integrity of the structure has been retained, such as the keeping of all the interior molding and trim.

The buildings are in constant use and serve the student body as well as being a constant reminder of the history of their college.

The campus has supportive buildings that are not as strong architecturally or are much later in their period of construction. These buildings do not impinge on these two structures but certainly add security to their well being. The entire campus of Eureka College is endowed with large trees and generous landscape; each structure has its own setting; thus, the Administration Building and the Chapel Building have a promising future.

Historically, Eureka College is significant on the local, state and national levels. Locally, Eureka College provided opportunities for liberal arts education to the citizens of Eureka and Woodford County in days when travel was limited and education was viewed as a privilege. The Chapel has always added to the cultural life of the community. Until more modern facilities were built, the Chapel served as a concert and recital center for campus and community. Many nationally known artists presented concerts here, including Percy Grainger, pianist and composer.

Eureka College is tied to the origins of Woodford County and the City of Eureka. Many of the founders of both the county and city were also instrumental in the founding of the college, as stated by Roy L. Moore in his 1910 History of Woodford County. The buildings themselves are among the oldest to still stand in Eureka and Woodford County.

Eureka College grew out of Walnut Grove Academy, which was founded in 1850. The founders of this educational institution were members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a religious movement which stressed the need of cultural and moral education. Many of the founders were originally from Kentucky and had left that state because of their objection to slavery. In late 1854, when plans to charter Eureka College were being finalized, the Board of Trustees set up a Committee to oversee the construction of a classroom building for the college.

(continued)

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The college history indicates the original building facilities became inadequate in 1867, so the trustees resolved to build a second structure. E. B. Myers, who was the wealthiest citizen of Eureka, again donated the land. The Chapel was completed in 1869 or 1870.

Of American colleges still existing today, Eureka was the third nationally and the first in the State of Illinois to admit men and women on an equal basis. In fact, Eureka College was on the leading edge of other movements in its history. Debating societies held their debates in the Chapel Building, and during the era immediately following World War I, many debates were held here regarding the Prohibition movement. National leader for Prohibition, Norma Brown came from Eureka College and these debating societies. Other nationally known speakers that have met with students and spoken with them are Governor Harold Stassen, Senator Everett Dirksen, Senator Paul Douglas and Governor Ronald Reagan. Governor Reagan was also a student of Eureka College and as a student, attended classes in the Chapel and Administration Building.

Poet Vachel Lindsay read his poetry in the Chapel. Mayor Joseph Barr of Pittsburgh and later a member of President Lyndon Johnson's cabinet spoke on careers to the student body in the Chapel. Darwood Sandifer, aide to Eleanor Roosevelt in the writing of the Human Rights Bill for the United Nations, spoke to the student body in the Chapel Building as well as Roy Ross, Chief Executive of the National Council of Churches when it was first formed.

Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>Roy Lewis Moore, History of Woodford County: A Concise History of the Settlement and Growth of Woodford County, (Eureka: Woodford County Republicans, 1910), P. 213.

<sup>2</sup>David B. Potts, "American Colleges in the 19th Century; From Localism to Denominationalism," in Education in American History, Readings on the Social Issues, Michael B. Katz, Ed., (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1973), pp. 106-107.

<sup>3</sup>Minutes of the Eureka College Board of Trustees, November 15, 1854. (Unpublished, located in the Eureka College Melick Library.)

<sup>4</sup>R. H. Knapp and H. B. Goodrich, Origins of the American Scientist, (Chicago: Univeristy of Chicago Press, 1952), appendix 4.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Astin, Alexander, and Calvin Lee. The Invisible Colleges, New York; McGraw-Hill, 1972

Dickinson, Elmira, et al. A History of Eureka College with Biographical Sketches and Reminiscences. St. Louis: Christian Publishing Company, 1894

(continued)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.43

Quadrangle name Eureka Quadrangle Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

For boundary description of Administration Building and Chapel, see accompanying campus map; boundaries marked in red.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jana Knapp, Assistant Director of Public Relations

organization Eureka College date October 3, 1979

street & number 300 College Avenue telephone (309) 467-3705

city or town Eureka 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

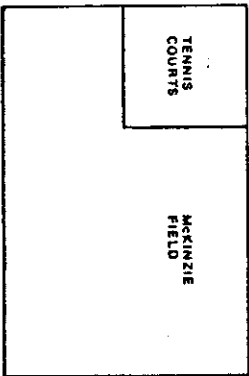
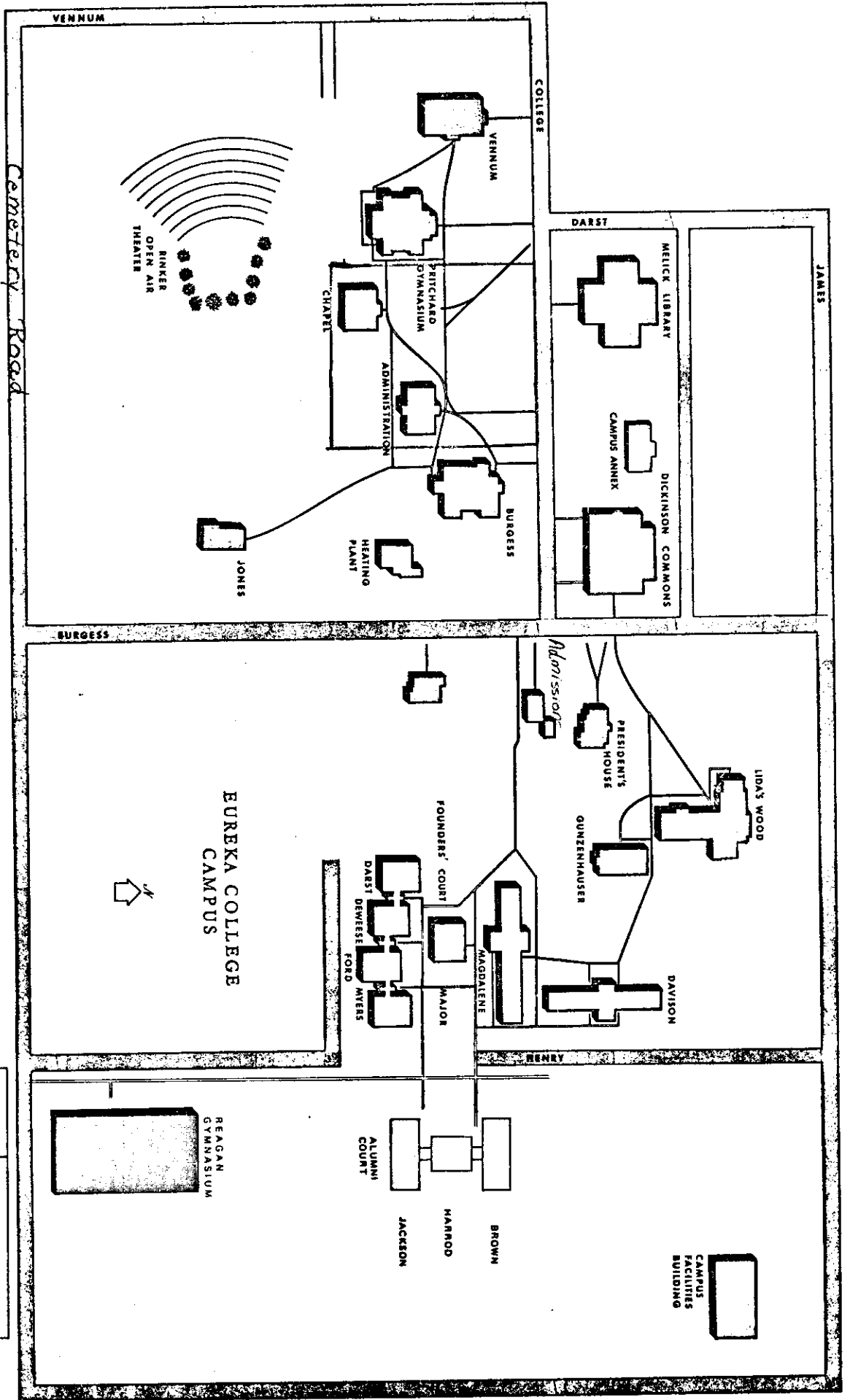
title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

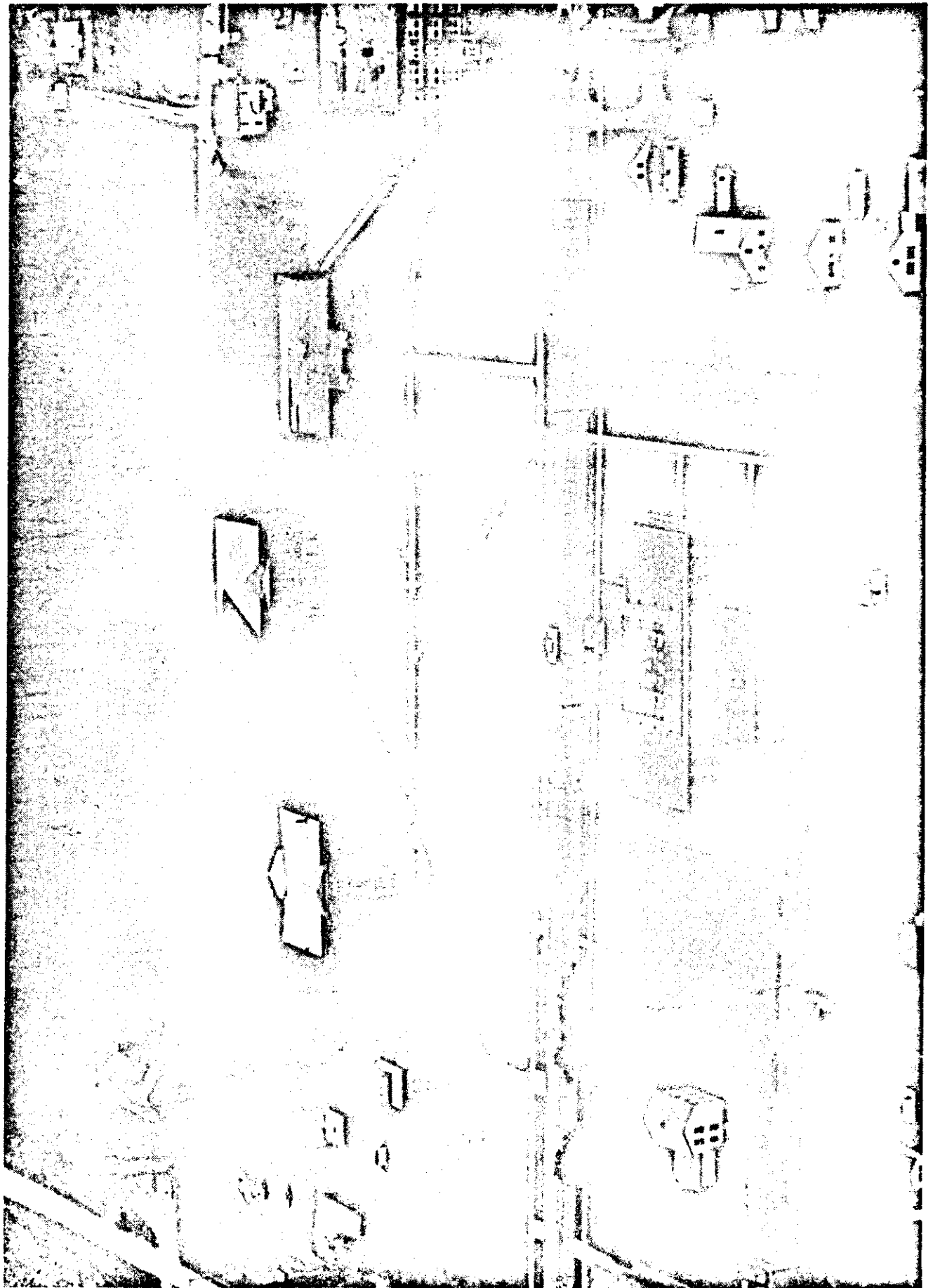
For NCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_







ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

SURVEY USE ONLY

1. Name of Site: Administration Building  
Common  
Historic

- Archaeology
- Architecture
- History

2. Location:

Street and Number                      Township                      Section  
300 E. College                      Ohio  
City or Town                      Range                      1/4 Section  
Eureka                      61530  
County

3. Classification:

Category (check one)                      Integrity (check one)  
 District                       Building                       Altered                       Unaltered  
 Site                       Structure                       Moved                       Original Site

4. Ownership

Private                       Occupied  
 Public                       Unoccupied  
    Preservation work in progress

Access to public

Yes                       Restricted                       Unrestricted                       No

Present Use (check one or more)

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

5. Ownership of Property

Owner's name Trustees of Eureka College  
Street and Number 300 E. College                      Phone Number  
City or Town Eureka                      467-3721  
State Illinois 61530 County Woodford                      Zip Code 61530

6. Description

Condition  
 Excellent                       Good                       Fair                       Deteriorated                       Ruins                       Unexposed  
Is there a program of preservation underway?                       Yes                       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)
- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-present)
- Famous People\* (give names & dates)

\*Lincoln spoke on the campus, but not inside either building.

EDUCATION



8. Specific Date:

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 type="checkbox"/> Political                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and title: President Ira W. Langston Date: January 2, 1973  
Organization: Eureka College  
Street and Number: 300 E. College  
City or Town Eureka County Woodford Zip Code 61530  
Phone Number 467-3721, Ext. 242

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.

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

SURVEY USE ONLY

1. Name of Site: Chapel Building

Common  
Historic

- Archaeology
- Architecture
- History

20070

2. Location:

<u>Street and Number</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Section</u>
300 E. College	0110	
<u>City or Town</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>1/4 Section</u>
Eureka	61530	
<u>County</u>		
Woodford		

3. Classification:

Category (check one)		Integrity (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site

4. Ownership

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied
<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied
	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress

Access to public

Yes       Restricted       Unrestricted       No

Present Use (check one or more)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	

5. Ownership of Property

Owner's name Trustees of Eureka College

<u>Street and Number</u>	300 E. College	<u>Phone Number</u>
<u>City or Town</u>	Eureka	467-3721
<u>State</u>	Illinois	<u>County</u> Woodford
		<u>Zip Code</u> 61530

6. Description

Condition

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway?     Yes     No

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

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- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
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- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-present)
- Famous People\* (give names & dates)

\*Lincoln spoke on the campus, but not inside either building.

EDUCATION/RELIGION



8. Specific Date:

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 type="checkbox"/> Political                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and title: President Ira W. Langston Date: January 2, 1973  
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