

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 Amos Catlin Spafford House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 501 North Prospect
CITY, TOWN Rockford VICINITY OF _____
STATE Illinois COUNTY Winnebago CODE 012 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 16 NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CODE 201

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input 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 Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Whitlock
STREET & NUMBER 501 North Prospect
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 1) Illinois Historic Structures Survey of Winnebago County
2) Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey of Winnebago County
DATE 1) October 1974
2) July 1974 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS 405 East Washington
CITY, TOWN Springfield STATE Illinois

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1863 or 1864, the Amos Catlin Spafford House in Rockford, Illinois is a successful amalgamation of the picturesque revival styles that flourished throughout mid-nineteenth-century America. Its asymmetrical massing in general -- and three-story tower in particular -- are characteristic of the Italian Villa style, but steeply-pitched gable roofs and a prominently-featured wall dormer suggest the Gothic Revival as well. Exterior ornament reflects this same marriage of styles. Paired round-headed windows and the tower's bracketed projecting eaves are quintessentially Italianate. Gothicized elements include an entrance porch and veranda with beveled posts and trefoil ornament, richly-carved flared bargeboards, decorative pinnacles and elaborate chimneys. A bracketed canopy with tracery balustrade happily embodies both idioms. And the mansard-like concave hip roof atop the tower presages yet a third mode, the Franco-American or Second Empire.

The house is constructed of yellow brick, said to have been brought from Milwaukee by bullock cart. The tower, corner veranda, kitchen wing, and several small additions (see below) obscure what is in essence a simple L-shaped plan. A parlor and dining room to one side of the central hall retain original white marble fireplaces. The original staircase stands beneath an octagonal skylight. Interior wood and plaster trim is original and in excellent condition. Several oriental rugs and other furnishings (including a magnificent gilt mirror frame over the parlor mantle) are also original to the house.

Minor alterations have occurred since the house's construction. The veranda was enclosed with glass in 1911. A small green house or conservatory was added to the south side of the house in the 1920s. Two small service porches were apparently constructed at the rear of the house sometime in the early 1950s. Inside, the kitchen has been modernized, and a dressing room on the second floor converted to a bathroom.

Also included as part of this nomination are twelve acres of ornamental grounds surrounding the Spafford House. The site plan (enclosed) reveals a striking similarity to the "picturesque" landscape designs popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing. Family members report that the grounds have remained largely unchanged since at least the turn of the century. Two outbuildings--a frame coach house (now a garage) and a groundskeeper's cottage-- date from the 1860's.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1863-1897 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

While the Amos Catlin Spafford House is surely one of Rockford's most striking--and best preserved--examples of the picturesque movement in American architecture, it is primarily significant for its historical association with six generations of the Spafford family, instrumental in the growth and development of Rockford since 1839. It is one of only thirteen structures in this city of 150,000 identified by both the Illinois Historic Structures Survey and the Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey as prime candidates for National Register listing.

History

A native of Jefferson County, New York, Amos Catlin Spafford was one of three brothers who traveled to Rockford by canal boat, Lake steamer, and team in the fall of 1839. For several years young Spafford worked as a farmer, than as a sawyer, than as a merchant. His real rise to prominence, however, began in 1854, when he founded a private banking firm with C. C. Briggs and David Penfield. In 1864 this was reorganized as the Third National Bank of Rockford and Spafford became its first president. He served in this capacity until his death in 1897.

As head of one of the city's major financial institutions, Spafford played a key role in Rockford's rapid growth as a manufacturing center. He was instrumental, for example, in the creation of the Kenosha and Rockford Railroad. Son George served as president of the bank (one of two in Rockford to survive the Great Depression) from 1906 to 1943. Today, a great-great-grandson works as a cashier in the same bank (renamed the First National Bank of Rockford in 1958).

Spafford's daughter Jessie was a Rockford personage in her own right. Educated at Vassar College, the University of Chicago and the Polytechnic Institute in Zurich, Switzerland, Jessie Spafford returned to her native city to become head of the mathematics and physics department at Rockford College. She later served as vice-president of Third National until her death in 1952 at the age of 90.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Father and daughter were among the most public spirited of Rockford's citizens. Amos Spafford was a founder of the First Congregational Church and held a variety of township and municipal offices. Jennie Spafford was the first woman president of the Rockford School Board. Together, they played an important role in founding the Boy's Club, the Rockford Woman's Club, the Community Chest, and Montague House, the city's first settlement house. Small wonder, then, that local historian Charles Church should describe the Spafford family in 1916 as "one of the best known and most highly respected in the county."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Church, Charles A. Past and Present of the City of Rockford and Winnebago County, Illinois. S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, 1905.
Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and Winnebago County. Munsell Publishing Co., Chicago, 1916.
Portrait and Biographical Record of Winnebago and Boone Counties, Illinois Biographical Publishing Co., Chicago, 1892.

Continued

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 15 acres

UTM 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"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Spafford grounds are roughly bounded by Jackson Street to the south, Prospect Street to the west, Rural Street to the north, and Chicago Avenue to the east.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CCDE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jeffrey S. Flemming, National Register Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Illinois Department of Conservation

DATE

8/79

STREET & NUMBER

405 East Washington

TELEPHONE

217-782-1847

CITY OR TOWN

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 K...

TITLE Director, Ill. Dept. of Conservation

DATE 10/26/79

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

FHR-8-300A
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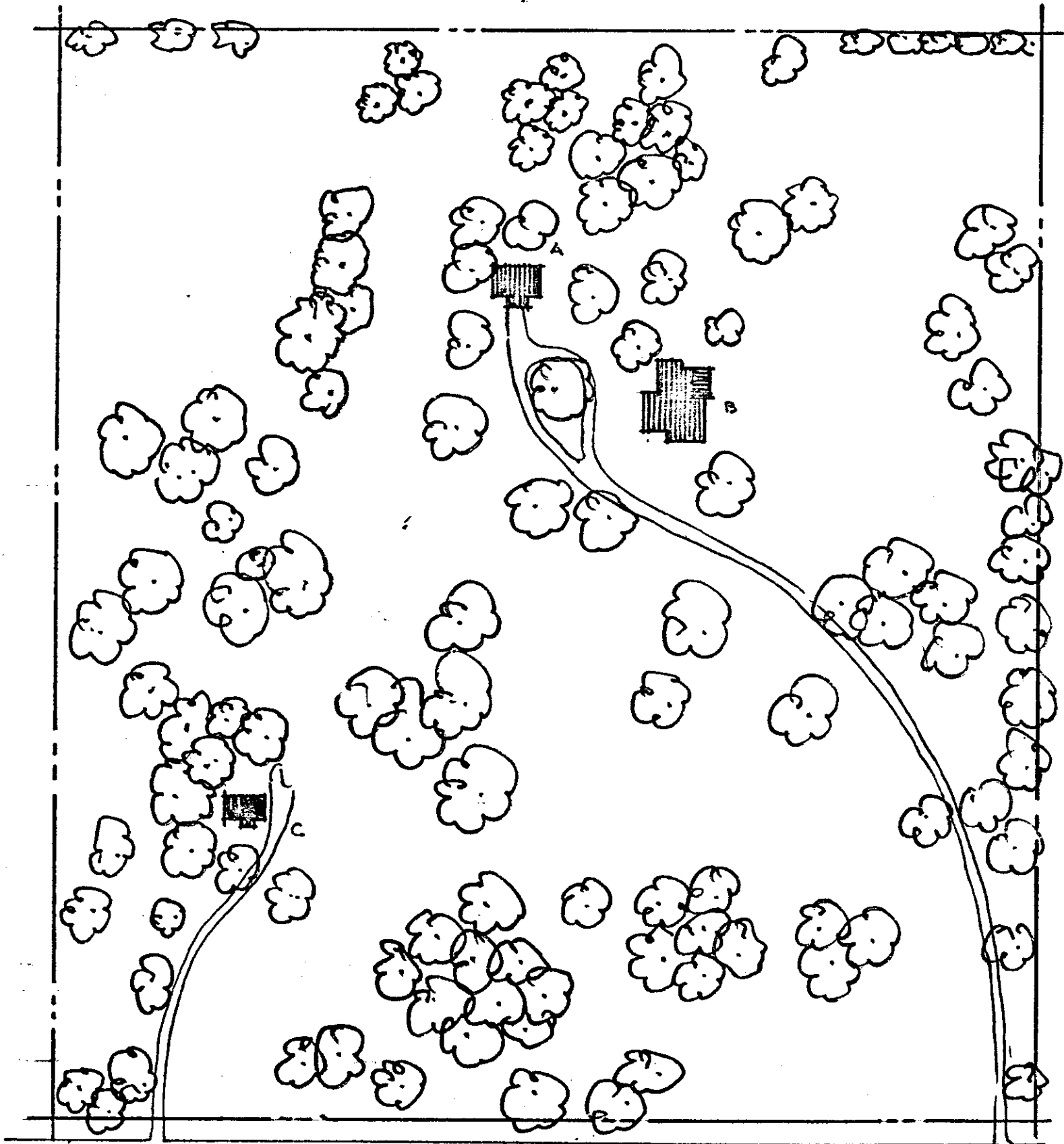
ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Communications with Mrs. Robert A. Whitlock, current owner and descendant of Amos Catlin Spafford.

- A. COACH HOUSE
- B. SPAFFORD HOUSE
- C. GROUNDSKEEPERS' COTTAGE

GROUNDS, SPAFFORD HOUSE,
ROCKFORD, ILL.



PROSPECT AVE.



SITE PLAN 1" = 100'

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered FEB 20 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Spafford, Amos Catlin, House	Rockford Winnebago County

Also Notified

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

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

WN-4-52

205278

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

SURVEY USE ONLY

1. Name of Site: Spafford Home

Common

Historic First family of Rockford

- Archeology
- Architecture
- History

2. Location:

Street and Number

501 N. Prospect

City or Town

Rockford

County

Winnebago

Township

Rockford

Range

Section

1/4Section

3. Classification:

Category (Check one)

- District
- Building
- Site
- Structure

Integrity (Check One)

- Altered
- Unaltered

Position (Check one)

- Moved
- Original Site

Status (check one)

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

4. Ownership

- Private
- Public

Access to Public

- Yes
- Restricted
- Unrestricted
- No

Present Use (check one or more)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific |
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | |

5. Ownership of Property

Owner's Name

Robert Whitlock

Street and Number

501 N. Prospect

City or Town

Rockford

Phone Number

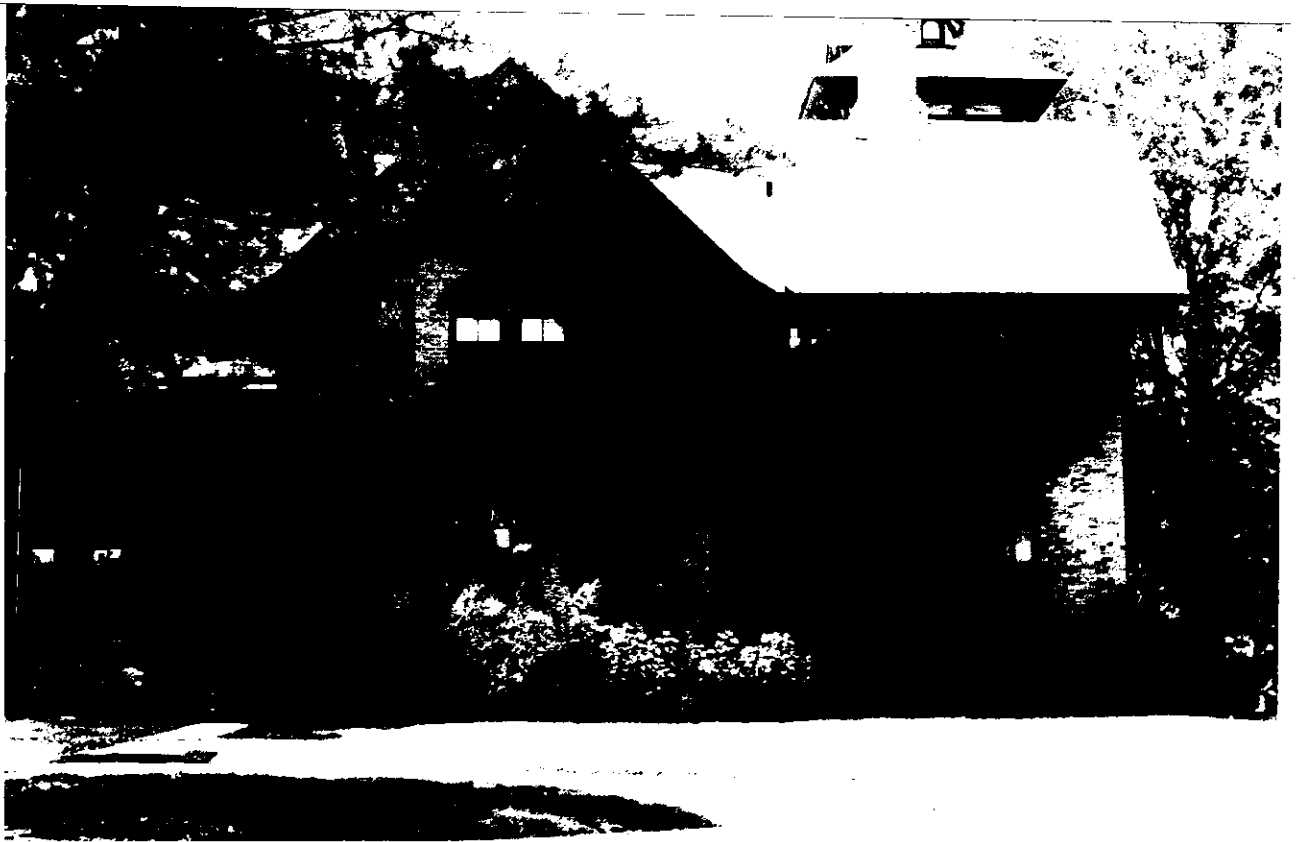
State
Ill.

County

Winnebago

Zip Code

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT



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)

- Archeological Site (pre-Columbian)
- Archeological 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)

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 (prehistoric) | <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.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title _____ Date _____

Organization _____

Street and Number _____

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.

This home is situated on 13 acres in the east center of town. The same family is in residence. The house will be sold sometime this year and probably will be demolished.