

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

**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 Elliott Street Historic District

and/or common _____

2. Location

street & number Most of South Elliott Street from Chestnut Street to South Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Olney ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Illinois code 012 county Richland code 159

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple

street & number _____

city, town ___ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Richland County Courthouse

street & number 100 West Main Street

city, town Olney state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See Continuation Sheet has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town state

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REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Illinois Historic Structures Survey
1974 State
Illinois Department of Conservation
Springfield Illinois

Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey
1974 State
Illinois Department of Conservation
Springfield Illinois

Inventory of Historic Landmarks in Richland County
1976 County
Embarras Regional Planning & Development Commission
Olney Illinois

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" 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

The town of Olney (population approximately 9,229), seat of Richland County, is in the southeast portion of Central Illinois. Olney is located at the junction of State Route N. 130 and U.S. Route 50 and at the junction of the Illinois Central and Baltimore and Ohio Railroads. The town is almost equidistant (approximately 120 miles) from the metropolitan communities of St. Louis, Missouri; Louisville, Kentucky and Indianapolis, Indiana.

The town and surrounding areas are flat prairie terrain and gentle, rolling hills comprising a productive agricultural region.

The Elliott Street Historic District is a narrow strip along a north-south axis of the town and is confined to a five block area on South Elliott Street -- one of the town's most prestigious streets. The actual boundary was determined on the basis of common historical associations and visual cohesion -- contributed to by the similar character of the residences, lot size, street set back, street lamps that line the street, and landscaping. (See Section 10 For Boundary Justification)

The size and variety of vegetation on the street is impressive. Scattered the length of the district are carefully pruned yew bushes, holly trees, blue spruce, birches, dogwoods, redbuds, weeping cherry and other deciduous trees. Large impressive maple trees line both sides of the street and serve as a unifying element.

All of the structures in the district are single-family residential dwellings with the exception of St. Joseph Church and Convent, St. Joseph Rectory, and St. Alban's Episcopal Church, and 306 South Elliott. This accounts for the low residential density within the district. Of the 33 main structures in the district 14 are masonry and 19 are frame. The majority of structures are two or two and a half stories in height. Only six structures in the district are one story (two of these are intrusions). (See Section 8)

The oldest structures in the district (607, 610, 626, and 627 South Elliott Street) were once the homes of some of the more prominent Olney pioneers. Respectively, they were originally owned by Judge Aaron Shaw, who gave Olney its name, was a legislator, a U.S. Congressman, and a judge; Henry Sands was an attorney and a horsebreeder; John H. Gunn was a pioneer settler and a dry goods merchant; and the A. L. Kurtz family were descendants of the founders of Red Top Seed Company. (See Section 8)

Of the 33 main structures in the district, excluding garages and storage buildings, seven have been evaluated by the Illinois Department of Conservation as possessing architectural and/or historical significance -- 402, 423, 430, 607, 610, 626, and 627 South Elliott Street. The majority of the remaining structures, built near the turn of the century, are buildings that contribute to the character of the district. Two structures are not in keeping with the architectural or historical character of the district. (See Section 8)

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DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The original brick street dates ca. 1880 and is still intact but is covered with asphalt at present. The owners of properties in the proposed Elliott Street Historic District hope that in the future the original brick street will be exposed for use again.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local history
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The proposed Elliott Street Historic District is one of few areas in Olney that has survived the vicissitudes of the twentieth century with both the fabric and the atmosphere of its earlier history virtually intact.

South Elliott Street has been known locally since ca. 1855 as the "Silk Stocking District" (a name denoting the wealth and prominence of its early residents). The first residents of South Elliott Street made up the backbone of the early community -- they were the businessmen, lawyers, judges, politicians, school commissioners, educators, the local pioneers in medicine and the philanthropists.

The people who lived on South Elliott Street exhibited a sense of style, a dedication to civic concerns through a willingness to serve a variety of public offices, a sense of spirited business adventure, and service to the community through their involvement in education, medicine and other professional areas. It is not surprising, therefore, that the homes and churches of these people represent a concentration of locally significant architecture and history.

The prestige of the first South Elliott Street residents has been transferred through succeeding generations to the present day where the aura of the "Silk Stocking" days linger. In fact, to a surprising degree, many descendants of nineteenth century Olney's elite maintain their loyalty to the neighborhood today.

HISTORY

South Elliott Street was not the first elite residential area in Olney. In fact, it was not even a part of the original plat of the town. In 1841, after Olney was named as the county seat, approximately fifty lots beside the public square were laid off by the plat of Lot Basden, a Richland County Commissioner. These lots were platted along the Old Trace Road (now Main Street) from six acres north of Main Street to seven acres south of Main Street -- an area approximately 2 blocks west of South Elliott at its closest point and 6 blocks northwest of South Elliott at its furthest point.

In 1843-44 Olney experienced a surge of growth as businessmen from surrounding towns and immigrants from the East settled in Olney. These people settled in the western portion of the town -- known locally as "lower Vermont." It was here that the social elite first lived and gained for the town the name "the painted town" -- a majority of their dwellings were painted white, in sharp contrast to the usual dwellings in other midwestern pioneer towns.

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SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Population growth was slow between 1844 and 1854 but gained impetus in 1855 with the opening of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad. It was immediately following this second surge of development that William Elliott platted an area east of the original town (in the area that is now South Elliott Street).

As the commercial area developed south the prominent newcomers to Olney as well as the residential elite of "Lower Vermont" moved east to this newly platted area -- in particular, to South Elliott Street.

While "Lower Vermont" retains only a scattering of the historical and visual remnants of the time, South Elliott Street retains an ambiance of time and place.

SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURES

Numbers refer to accompanying map. Where more than one area of significance applies, the greater appears first.

1. James P. Wilson House
203 S. Elliott
Built between 1892 and 1898 for Charles Van Ausdel. House was purchased in 1917 by banker James P. Wilson. The Wilsons were outstanding local philanthropists. Following Lena Van Ausdel Wilson's death in 1964, for example, approximately \$200,000 was given to Olney Central College to establish the James P. and Lena Wilson Memorial Library Sustaining Fund.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

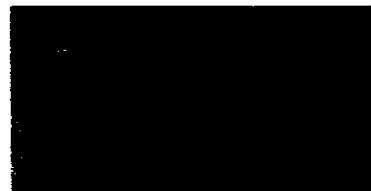
2. Lynch House
221 S. Elliott
This house was built in ca. 1890 for one Judge John Lynch. Lynch's wife lived in the house until 1943.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

3. St. Alban Episcopal Church
231 S. Elliott
Built in 1907 for the first Episcopal congregation of Olney (St. Luke's Episcopal Church) this building was sold to the Lutherans during the great depression. In 1965 the Episcopalians bought the

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structure back and formed St. Alban's Episcopal Church.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

4. Weber House
303 S. Elliott
Built in 1934 for Katherine and Minnie Weber, sisters of the founder of Weber Sanitarium and Clinic. (At one time, Olney's Weber Sanitarium and Clinic was the only accredited hospital on Route 50 between Cincinnati, Ohio and St. Louis, Missouri. Founded in 1898, the Clinic was incorporated by the Weber family in 1907. Weber Medical Clinic is still in existence today.) Katherine Weber founded and managed the Olney Sanitarium of Nursing. Minnie Weber, who died in the early 1970's, was superintendent of nursing at the school. (See numbers 8 and 13)

Despite the late construction date (1934) of this house, materials, detailing, and overall quality are sensitive to the character of the street.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

5. Judge Allen House
306 S. Elliott
Built prior to 1878 for Rev. Wm. G. Eaton, this house was purchased in 1889 by Judge James C. Allen. Allen maintained an active political career from 1845 until 1879. For example, in 1860 he was the Democratic candidate for Governor of Illinois. After moving to Olney in 1879, Allen established a law practice with Theodore A. Fritchey. The firm Allen and Fritchey became a well-known law firm in Southern Illinois.

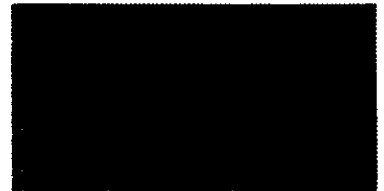
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

6. Ratcliff House
318 S. Elliott
Built ca. 1860 for one Joshua Ratcliff. Original hand-hewn logs are intact in the original portion of the house. Other owners of the house include Frank Powers, an Olney merchant; William E. Moore, an Olney resident; and William A. Moore (son of William E.), a former state representative and an Olney doctor.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

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7. Powers House
 328 S. Elliott
 Built in the early 1880's and purchased by one Susan Powers in 1882, descendants of Powers lived in the house until 1949.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

8. Dr. George T. Weber House
 402 S. Elliott
 Built between 1883 and 1888 for one George W. Horner. Dr. George T. Weber, founder of Olney's Sanitarium and Clinic, purchased the home in 1901. In 1917, Weber commissioned Indiana architect Louis N. Osterhage to expand and remodel the house. Because of the magnitude of the plans (seventeen pages of blueprints), the project was never undertaken. Descendants of Dr. Weber lived in the house from 1928 until 1969. (See numbers 4 and 13)

This two story masonry structure features Italianate detailing -- found primarily in the corner quoins, shallow gable roof, and window treatment.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

9. Elbert Sands House
 403 S. Elliott
 Built ca. 1882 for Elbert Sands, an acrobat, wirewalker, and first professional bareback rider in the United States. The house was purchased in 1899 by Richard and Mary Rowland. Rowland was an Olney attorney and served as state's attorney in 1904-1908 and again in 1944 until 1947. (See number 15)

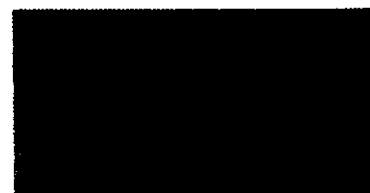
Italianate characteristics of this two story frame house include brackets, window treatment, and massing. The structure also features Gothic Revival characteristics including a hip roof broken on three sides by centralized gables. Bargeboard on gable ends is intact.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

10. Redman House
 407 S. Elliott
 This two and a half story Queen Anne house features an encircling

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veranda. The curve of the veranda at one corner of the structure responds to a polygonal tower. Detailing and surface texture is in excellent condition.

Built ca. 1883 for A. L. Redman, an Olney merchant. Redman was a prominent Olney merchant who operated four stores simultaneously in Olney, Newton, Summer, and Clinton. Redman was a member of the school board, an alderman, and a bank director. He was also one of a five-man committee which, in 1922, raised the money for the Olney Shoe Factory -- a mainstay of Olney's economy for many years.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

11. Residence
415 S. Elliott
This vernacular masonry structure, built near the turn of the century, is two stories in height. Marked primarily by Georgian Revival characteristics, the house features dormer windows lined with modillion brackets.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

12. Blackburn House
423 S. Elliott
Built in 1925 by James and Associates, architects from Vincennes, Indiana for Leslie G. Blackburn, a large stockholder in the Olney Trust and Banking Company. Blackburn became the president of the board of directors of the company and was important in the development of Olney in the 1920's and 1930's. The Blackburns lived in the house until 1968.

Two stories high, this vernacular brick structure features casement windows on the second story and semi-circular arches above ground floor windows. A hip roof with wide eaves is accented with closely spaced brackets. The structure also features a pedimented entranceway.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

13. Dr. Frank J. Weber House
430 S. Elliott
This two story masonry structure is predominantly marked by the

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Georgian Revival style. The structure features a projecting, two-story columned portico with an elliptical fan light in the central gable. Three massive ionic columns stand at each corner of the portico and are mimicked by two ionic pilasters on the facade wall. Two balustraded porches, as deep as the portico, run the length of the facade. The structure also features corner quoins and a modillioned cornice. It is roofed with red tile.

Built by Campbell and Osterhage, architects from Vincennes, Indiana, in 1910 for Dr. Frank J. Weber. Weber was a major stockholder in the Weber Sanitarium and Clinic. He also practiced medicine at the clinic until his death. Several years after his death of 1944, Weber's son acquired the house. Dr. Frank J. Weber, Jr. lived in the house until 1974. (See numbers 4 and 8)

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

14. Judge Aaron Shaw House
607 S. Elliott

Built in the early 1880's, this house was purchased by Shaw in 1884. Shaw was a delegate to the first Internal Improvement Convention of Illinois, state's attorney, three-time member of the Illinois State Legislature, circuit judge of the fourth judicial district for six years, and was elected to the 35th and 48th Congress. He played an important role in the selection of Olney as the county seat and in naming the town (one Olney was a close friend of Judge Shaw's).

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

15. Henry Sands House
610 S. Elliott

Built in 1859 for Henry Sands, an attorney and horsebreeder. At the time the house was built, a railroad side track was constructed on the back lot for unloading horses. The house stayed in the Sands family until 1892. The house changed hands several times and was purchased by Dr. Michael E. Murray in 1970. Murray is the great grandson of Elijah Murray, an early Olney businessman. (See number 9)

Two and a half stories in height, this rectilinear Queen Anne structure features an encircling veranda and centralized square tower. Bargeboard and shingles are intact on all gable ends.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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16. Gunn House
626 S. Elliott
This house was built in 1871 for John H. Gunn, a pioneer Olney dry-goods merchant. Gunn's father opened the first store in Olney, which was later operated by Gunn and his brother. Gunn was a successful and prominent businessman in Olney and was instrumental in the development of Olney's mercantile trade. He eventually established several different mercantile houses in various towns in southern Illinois.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

17. Kurtz House
627 S. Elliott
Built ca. 1878, this house was purchased by the A. L. Kurtz family in 1923. The Kurtz family contributed significantly to the economy of the Midwest through the development of Red Top Seed. Members of the Kurtz family lived in the house until 1952.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

18. Dupree/Knipe House
405 E. North Avenue
This house was built in 1908 for one Joseph Dupree. In 1916, N. H. Knipe purchased the house. Knipe was responsible for centralizing the telephone industry in Olney through his development of the Commerce Telephone Company -- a company that later became one of the components of the present General Telephone Company of Illinois.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

OTHER STRUCTURES

19. St. Joseph Catholic Church
200 S. Elliott
Built 1938
20. Residence
209 S. Elliott
Built between 1854 and 1876

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21. St. Joseph Catholic Rectory
215 S. Elliott
22. St. Joseph Catholic Convent
220 S. Elliott
Built prior to 1900
23. Residence
226 S. Elliott
Built ca. 1919
24. Residence
227 S. Elliott
25. Residence
234 S. Elliott
Built between 1860 and 1874
26. Residence
300 S. Elliott
27. Residence
317 S. Elliott
Built 1940
28. Residence
406 S. Elliott
Built ca. 1900
29. Residence
412 S. Elliott
Built ca. 1900
30. Residence
418 S. Elliott
Built between 1892 and 1895
31. Residence
421 S. Elliott
Built 1874

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INTRUSIONS

- 32. Residence
310 S. Elliott
Built 1969

- 33. Residence
323 S. Elliott
Built ca. 1950

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property _____ See Continuation Sheet
 Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

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

See Continuation Sheet

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	1) Charlotte Bruce		
	2) Shaela C. Dunne, National Register Assistant		
organization	1) -----	date	1) January 15, 1980
	2) Illinois Department of Conser- vation		2) February 15, 1980
street & number	1) 423 South Elliott Street	telephone	1) 618-395-3640
	2) 405 East Washington Street		2) 217-782-3775
city or town	1) Olney	state	1 & 2 Illinois
	2) 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Dail K...*

title *Dir., Ill. Dept of Conservation* date *4/1/80*

For HCRS use only:

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

Frank W. Ray date *11/26/80*
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Shaela Dunne*
 Chief of Registration

date *11/26/80*

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Portrait and Biographical Record of Effingham, Jasper, and Richland Counties, Illinois, 1893.

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Commencing at the SW corner of the intersection of Chestnut and Elm Streets, the boundary extends W on Chestnut to the W property line of 203 S. Elliott, then S to the N property line of 209 S. Elliott, then W to an established alleyway, then S to the S property line of 227 S. Elliott, then E to the W property line of 231 S. Elliott, then S to Elm, then to the W property line of 303 S. Elliott, then S to the N property line of 317 S. Elliott, then W to an established alleyway, then S to the S property line of 317 S. Elliott, then E to the W property line of 323 S. Elliott, then S to Cherry, then E to the W property line of 403 W. Elliott, then S to the N property line of 407 S. Elliott, then W to the W property line of 407 S. Elliott, then S to the N property line of 415 S. Elliott, then W to an established alleyway, then S to the S property line of 421 S. Elliott, then E to the W property line of 423 S. Elliott, then S to North Ave., then E to the SW property line of 430 S. Elliott, then S. to the N property line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, then E to the SE property line of 405 East North Ave, then N along the E property line of 405 E. North Ave. to the N side of E. North Ave., then E to the SE property line of 430 S. Elliott, then N to the S side of Cherry, then W to the E property line of 328 S. Elliott, then N to the S property line of 318 S. Elliott, then E to the E property line of 318 S. Elliott, then N to the N property line of 306 S. Elliott, then W to the E property line of 300 S. Elliott, then N to the N side of Elm, then E to the E property line of 234 S. Elliott, then N to the S side of Chestnut, then W to the point of commencement.

Commencing at the SE corner of the S property line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the boundary extends W to the W property line of 607 S. Elliott, then S to the S property line of 627 S. Elliott, then E to the E property line of 626 S. Elliott, then N to the S property line of 610 S. Elliott, then E to the E property line of 610 S. Elliott, then N to the point of commencement.

The Elliott Street Historic District is a nineteenth century residential area cut in half by a twentieth century (1979) railroad viaduct. The two halves of the proposed district share the same architectural and historical associations. Nominating this area as a discontinuous district eliminates the difficulty of preparing separate nominations for what is actually the same resource.

The northern boundary of the Elliott Street Historic District has been drawn so as to exclude structures that are not of the same historical or architectural character as those south of Chestnut St. and/or to exclude structures that have been massively altered. In particular, the north portion of the 100 block of S. Elliott St. is a largely modernized, heavily travelled commercial area. Eastern, western, and southern boundaries of both parts of the district have been drawn so as to exclude more modest structures and/or structures dating from a later period.-- structures built and inhabited by persons of lesser means and prominence than the original South Elliott Street residents.

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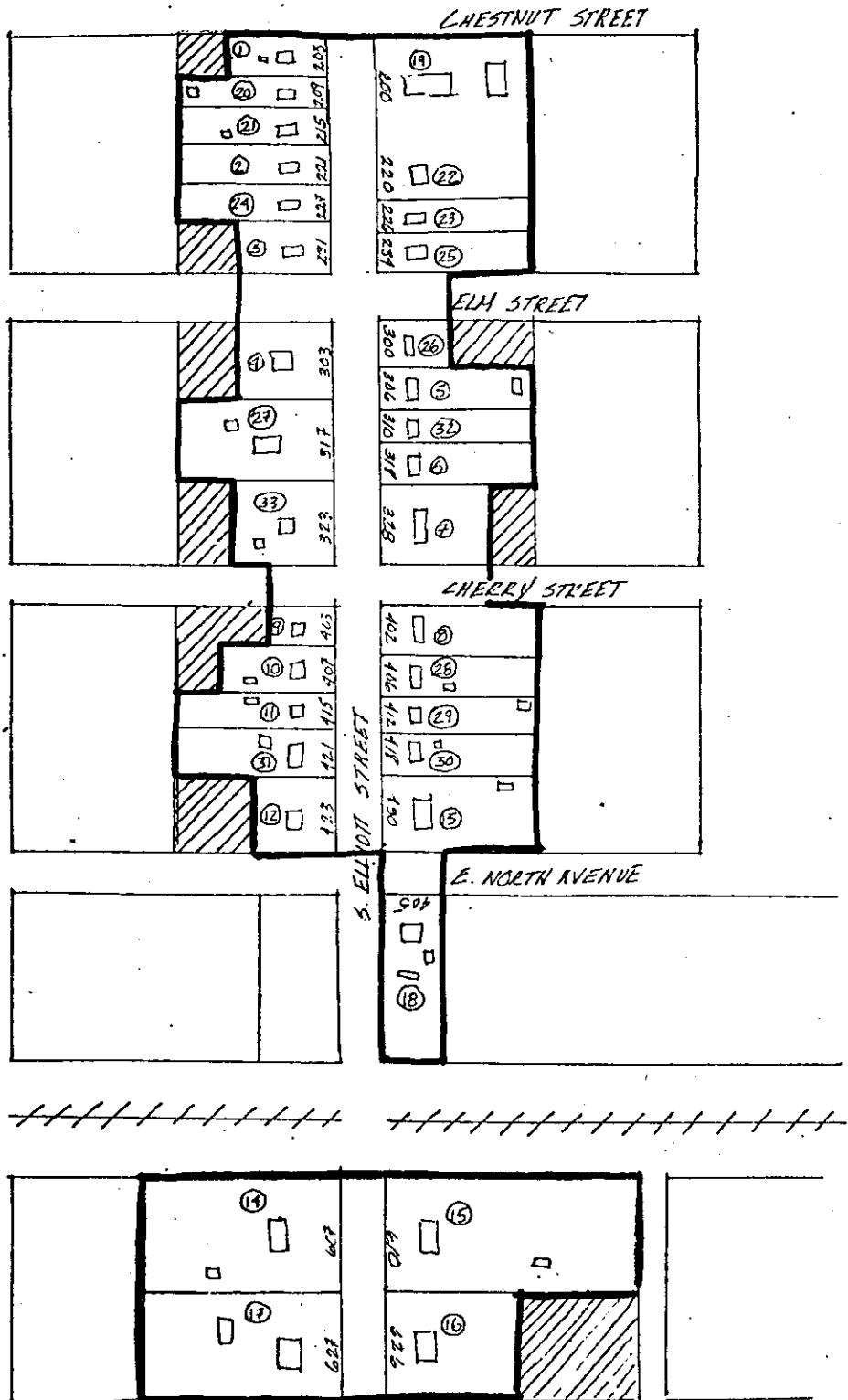
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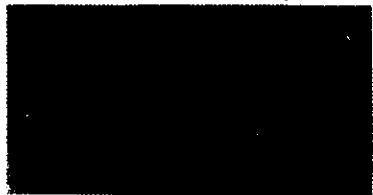
NORTH
↑

Numbers Correspond
to Nomination Form



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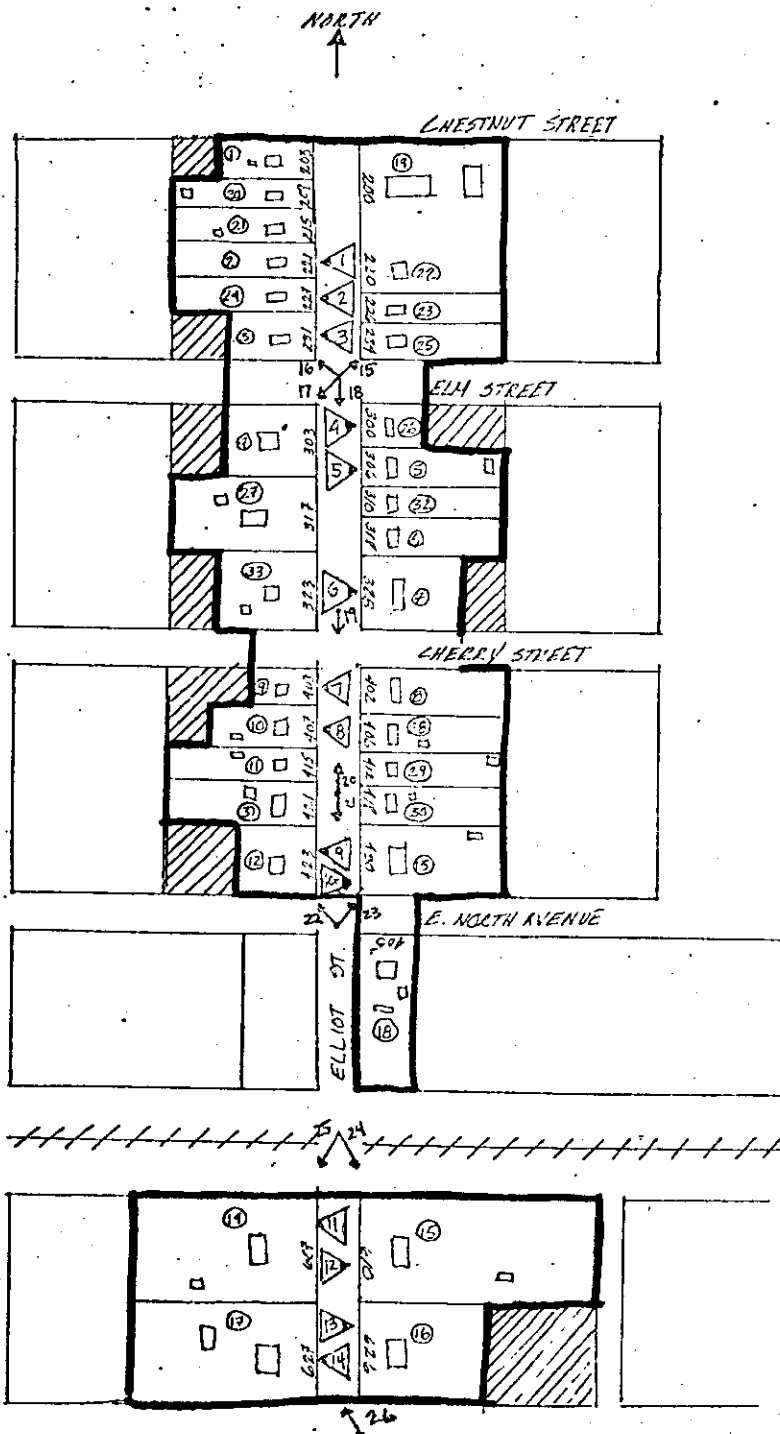


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Photo View Map:
Numbers Correspond
to those on back
of Photo



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Horseshoe Lake Mound and Village Site (11-MS-37)	Madison County
Stone Manor	Lockport vicinity Will County
Elliott Street Historic District	Olney Richland County
Mount Carroll Historic District	Mount Carroll Carroll County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Charles M. Price
Honorable George M. O'Brien
Honorable Daniel B. Crane
Honorable Tom Railsback

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