

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

C. Washington
For HCRS use only
received _____
date entered _____

1. Name

historic The Taft Farmstead

and/or common name same

2. Location

street & number R.R. #3 _____ not for publication

city, town Rochester _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 20

state Illinois code 12 county Sangamon code 167

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Steve and Robin Taft

street & number R.R. #3

city, town Rochester _____ vicinity of _____ state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds

street & number 800 East Monroe St., Rm. 106

city, town Springfield _____ state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Illinois Historic Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October, 1974 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Division of Historic Sites

city, town Springfield _____ state Illinois

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

The Taft farmstead in Sangamon county consists of the house, summer kitchen, barn, numerous outbuildings and smaller barns for livestock and storage, all built during the first quarter of the 20th Century.

The Henry Taft house, built in 1912 by Mr. Bill Dickerson, is a two story neo-classical revival farmhouse facing north atop a gently sloped hill. The white clapboard structure with brick foundation is nearly square, with an L extension to the south.

The facade of this pyramid roofed farmhouse features a two story classical columned gallery which, by its proportions, detailing, and situation, lends an imposing air to the house. Four fluted Doric columns of large scale span the full length front porch which is horizontally bisected by a second story balustrade. The central entrance is flanked by stained glass sidelights. On either side of the entrance are paired double sash windows with single lights, a theme that is repeated in slightly smaller scale on the second floor. A wide low pitched gabled dormer facing the front, punctuated by a pair of small windows, is reminiscent of a pediment.

In the interior a wide central hall extends from front to back of the house, with two rooms on either side, on the first and second floors. The oak woodwork downstairs and the pine woodwork upstairs is intact throughout the house, as is ceiling mouldings, most hardware, light fixtures, switches, and steam radiators, which are still in use. Also intact are a marble fireplace and a food pass-through from the kitchen to the dining room.

The one story L extension, approximately half the size of the main part of the house, contains the kitchen, dining room and bath, plus a back porch which extends the length of the L, the roof being supported by three small, smooth columns.

There have been few alterations to the house. It was modern for a farmhouse in its time, exhibiting modern conveniences such as indoor plumbing, steam radiators with heat provided by a steam furnace in the full basement, and electricity produced by a generator. The bathroom and kitchen have been remodeled, resulting in the removal of the kitchen pantry. Otherwise, the house remains as it was built.

About twenty feet to the south of the house is a summer kitchen, about 20'x20' resting on a brick foundation very similar to that of the barn. It is also sided with the same horizontal shiplap. This building is a basic one room deep, two rooms wide with a narrow extension all along the back, and a porch the full length of the front. It seems probable that this structure served as the earlier residence on the farm, though there is no documentation. The interior has been altered somewhat in room arrangements and conveniences.

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Continuation sheet Taft Farmstead

Item number

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The Taft barn pre-dates the house, being built in 1906 also by Mr. Dickerson. This large, gabled roofed structure has a brick foundation, horizontal shiplap siding, and a wood shingled roof. The main portion of the barn is almost square, the longer side being about 45' in length, with a saltbox type extension on the west running the full length of the structure. The main opening, for equipment and livestock, is on the east facade, toward the south end.

The interior is that of a barn intended to house animals and their feed. On the north and west sides of the first floor are stalls for horses. A series of small 2' x 2' windows punctuate these walls at a height of 4 - 5' from the base of the barn. On the south end are wooden granaries for corn and oats. The second floor was used entirely as a hay mow, and is accessible to the first floor by a central opening with ladders. The structure of the barn is mostly walnut, sawn beams that are pegged together. While the physical appearance of the barn has not been altered, its uses have been modified as evidenced on the main floor which now houses only implements.

Across the farmstead to the east, a low extended gable building that appears to have been built for grain and implement storage was probably built not long after the main barn. With a wood shingled roof and wide vertical siding, the interior beams are lapped and bolted. To the east of this shed is a large commodious sheep barn, long and low, with a clerestory on the south side extending the full length above an open shelter. Another gable roofed barn sets to the south of these buildings, smaller and later than the main barn. It sets on brick piers, and is covered with narrow vertical siding. The building is a long rectangle, with two large doors on the west facade, one near each end.

The farmstead also comes complete with an outhouse, a chicken coop that may have housed Mrs. Henry Taft's turkeys, and a garage.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1906, 1912 Builder/Architect Mr. Bill Dickerson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

As a complete, unaltered example of a prosperous early 20th Century central Illinois farmstead, the Taft farmstead is certainly significant. The number of intact buildings and the lack of intrusions is remarkable. This farmstead clearly reflects the diversity of a full farming operation in the the early 1900's that consisted of grain, work horses, cattle, sheep, and fowl. It is interesting to find a complete farmstead of this period that is not built from an earlier farmstead, or was not built upon and considerably changed from its beginnings.

The farmhouse is partuculary interesting as an adaption of neo-classical revival styling to what would otherwise be a more typical four square farmhouse. This is its uniqueness and this is the detail that shows that, in the early 20th Century, central Illinois farmers had the desire and the means to express their individual tastes.

Henry Taft, the original owner of the farm, was a prominent citizen of the county. His wife, Marie, was a teacher at one time and was said to be a lady of "culture, refinement, and strong mental powers." Local citizens believe Mrs. Taft's tastes, perhaps influenced by an extended visit to relatives in North Carolina, were of no small effect to the design of the house. The farm has remained in the Taft family, passing to Henry Taft's son Isham, and recently to Isham's nephew Steve Taft, who retains a sense of pride in the farmstead and plans to preserve it.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Wallace, Joseph, M.A. Past and Present of the City of Springfield and Sangamon, County, Illinois. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1904
 The Orange Judd Farmer Pictorial Community Album of Rochester Township and Village, Chicago: Orange Judd, 1918.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name SPRINGFIELD EAST, IL

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 116 280720 4403200
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Located on the southeast corner of West Main and Oak Hill road at Rochester, Illinois. NE 1/4 17-15-4

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. Linda S. Jett and Dottie Hopkins 2. Susan M. Seibert		
organization	1. Sangamon State University 2. Division of Historic Sites, ID	date	1. 12/4/79 2. 5/28/80
street & number	1. Shepherd Road 2. 405 E. Washington St.	telephone	1. 217-786-6521 2. 217-782-3340
city or town	1. Springfield 2. Springfield	state	1. Illinois 2. 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 Div., cell. Dept. of Conservation date 6/27/80

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered NOV 20 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Quinby, Ivory, House	Monmouth Warren County
Grierson, Gen. Benjamin Henry, House	Jacksonville Morgan County
Taft Farmstead	Rochester Sangamon County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Tom Railsback
Honorable Paul Findley

COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF NOMINATION

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