

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Adlai E. Stevenson I House

and/or common George Lemon House

2. Location

street & number 104 West Walnut

___ not for publication

city, town Metamora, ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Illinois code county Woodford code 61548

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 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Abel

street & number 104 West Walnut

city, town Metamora ___ vicinity of state Illinois 61548

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Woodford County Courthouse

street & number (No street address)

city, town Eureka state Illinois 61530

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Landmarks in Woodford County has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date 1973 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Department of Conservation

city, town Springfield state Illinois 62706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Stevenson House is a austere two-story structure built in the late 1830's or early 1840's. It is located a block south of the Village Square and faces north on a corner lot. The home is approximately 35 feet wide and 30 feet deep and is set back from both front and side streets. It is constructed of "faded pink" brick, made locally.

The symmetrical facade of the house has a two-window bay to the east of the entrance and a single-window bay to the west. A simple cornice (it is likely that the double brackets are not original) completely surrounds the structure. Rising from the hipped roof are four brick chimneys, two on the west and two on the east. Constructed of 12" thick brick walls, the house sits very low to the ground, on a foundation four bricks thick. Windows in the house are double hung with six-over-six sashes. Lintels and sills throughout the exterior are made of stone, with the exception of the lintel over the front entry. Here, the larger opening is spanned with a wooden base.

Characteristic of the Federal style, the exterior decoration of the Stevenson House is confined to its entryway -- a distinguished door with four molded panels is flanked by simply articulated pilasters and surrounded by sidelights and a transom, each containing 4 panes of glass. Directly above, placed in the upper stairhall, is a glass-paned door which opens on hinges for ventilation, and possibly at one time, for entry to a second story porch. Its lowered sill extends below the horizontal band established by all other sills and lintels surrounding the house.

Recent excavations have uncovered the foundation of a small building which sat directly behind the house. This was either servants' quarters or a separate kitchen and was most likely connected to the main house by a porch or walkway.

The interior of the home contains eight rooms, four on the upper level and four on the lower, with room sizes and arrangements identical on the two levels. The lower level has double parlors, both on the east side of the house. The front parlor was the formal sitting room and has walnut woodwork and deep plaster moulding around the ceiling. It is the only room in the house where the window recesses extend to the floor. All other rooms have a wide window sill creating a window seat. On the west side of the house are two smaller rooms-- the front one being used for dining and the rear one being used as a kitchen or pantry.

The stairway to the second floor rises straight up from the foyer and has a walnut railing. All four rooms were used as bedrooms.

The home also contains an attic, with access by a flight of stairs directly above the main staircase, and a dirt-floor cellar under the front half of the structure.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			
_____ 1830's or early-1840's				
Specific dates	construction	Builder/Architect	George Lemon	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The most noteworthy person to have lived in the house is Adlai E. Stevenson I, who moved into it with his bride in late 1866. Mrs. Stevenson was the former Letitia Green and came from a society Kentucky family.

Adlai E. Stevenson was born in Kentucky in 1835 and settled in Bloomington in 1852. In 1858, he began his career as a lawyer on the 8th Judicial Circuit. In 1866 Stevenson moved to the house at 104 West Walnut where he remained until 1869 when he resigned from the circuit. Stevenson served a term as Village Board Member during his stay at Metamora.

After resigning from the circuit, Stevenson served as district attorney and was elected to two terms in the U. S. House of Representatives -- 1875 to 1877, and 1879 to 1881. During President Grover Cleveland's term of office from 1885 to 1889, Stevenson became the first assistant postmaster general.

The descendants of Adlai E. Stevenson have also been prominent in United States political history. His grandson, Adlai E. Stevenson II, was Governor of Illinois and was the Democratic presidential candidate who ran against Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952 and 1956. In his later years, he was an Ambassador to the United Nations. Adlai E. Stevenson III, great-grandson to the Metamora lawyer, is currently a United States Senator from Illinois.

The Stevenson House would be very effective as a public museum containing items of local historical significance especially items relating to home life in the latter part of the 19th century. At the present, it is privately owned; however, the Village of Metamora would like to purchase it at some time in the near future and make improvements to it. These improvements would be preserving the exterior of the structure, restoring the interior to its original condition, and providing gardens and landscaping around the structure. A site director would be hired to oversee the renovations on and around the building, and to manage the home as a museum.

9. Major Bibliographical References

In Lincoln's Path, by Woodford County Old Settlers Association, 1964.

Personal interview with Mr. & Mrs. Charles Abel, Metamora, Illinois, owner of the home, May 10, 1977.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approx. 1/5 acre

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Located on Lots 1, 2, & 3 of Block 59, Original Town of Metamora, with Menard Street on the East and Walnut Street on the North side.

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

state N/A code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret A. Martino and Marvin C. Keys Ph. (309) 367-2204

organization Riviera Consultants, Incorporated date 9/21/79

street & number 2000 West Pioneer Parkway telephone (309) 691-2125

city or town Peoria Metamora 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 HCRS us only

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

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Heat for the home was provided by Franklin stoves. There were no fireplaces in the home as one would think by looking at the placement of the four chimneys on the roof.

There is evidence that a widow's walk may have existed on the roof, with a railing completely surrounding it and an entrance through the attic. The roof of the Stevenson House has a large flat portion, and there is a complete set of stairs and a trap door leading to the roof from the attic of the home.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Cont'd.)

Village Records in Illinois Prairie District Library, Metamora, Illinois

Personal interview with Jeannette Smith, Historic Site Manager of
Lincoln Memorial Courthouse, Metamora, Illinois, May 10, 1977.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

In Lincoln's Path, by Woodford County Old Settlers Association, 1964.

Personal interview with Mr. & Mrs. Charles Abel, Metamora, Illinois, owner of the home, May 10, 1977.

Village Records in Illinois Prairie District Library, Metamora, Illinois.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME METAMORA

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 30,056,0 451,78,2,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located on Lots 1, 2, & 3 of Block 59, Original Town of Metamora.

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

Margaret A. Martino and Marvin C. Keys Ph. (309) 367-2204

ORGANIZATION

Riviera Consultants, Incorporated

DATE

9/21/79

STREET & NUMBER

2000 West Pioneer Parkway

TELEPHONE

(309) 691-2125

CITY OR TOWN

Peoria

Metamora

STATE

Illinois

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

Dain Kennedy

TITLE

Director, cell. Dept. of Conservation

DATE

1/7/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered MAR 18 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Cumberland Presbyterian Church	Peoria Peoria County
Peoria Waterworks (Pumping Station #1, Pumping Station #2, Main Well House)	Peoria Peoria County
Stevenson I., Adlai E. House	Metamora Woodford County
Keystone Building	Aurora Kane County
Paramount Theatre	Aurora Kane County
Pattington Apartments	Chicago Cook County
Felt, Cyrus, House	Hamilton Hancock County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Robert H. Michel
Honorable Tom Corcoran
Honorable Sidney R. Yates
Honorable Tom Railsback

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

COPY OF NATIONAL REGISTER

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

WO-H-28

1. Name of site:

Common George Lemon HomeHistoric Adlai E. Stevenson I Home

2. Location:

Street and number104 W. Walnut
City or TownMetamora
CountyZip Code

61548

TownshipRangeSection1/4 Section

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

 District Building
 Site Structure

Integrity (check one)

 Altered Unaltered
 Moved Original Site

4. Ownership

 Private
 Public

Status (check one)

 Occupied
 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 Charles AbelStreet and number 104 W. WalnutCity or Town MetamoraState IllinoisCounty WoodfordPhone Number

(309)367-4543

Zip Code

61548

6. Description

Condition

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins UnexposedIs 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)
Adlai E. Stevenson (1835 - ?)

POLITICAL AFFAIRS



8. **Specific Date:** Built in the late 1830's or early 1840's.

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 checked="" 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. Home of Adlai E. Stevenson I from 1866 to 1868 before the period of his national prominence.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and title: Jeanette Smith Date: 8-3-'72

Organization: Metamora Courthouse Manager

Street and number: 303 N. Hanover

City or town: Metamora County Woodford Zip Code 61548

Phone Number: (309)367-2217

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.

Metamora: In Lincoln's Path. Vol. 1, no. 1 (June 1964), pp. 14-1



OWNER : CHAS. ABEL
lives in the house (309)367-4543

WOODFORD
CO.



Known to some as the "George Lemon" house after the man who supposedly had it built, this house was the residence of Adali E. Stevenson Sr. and his bride.

Our Heritage... In Wood and Stone

ALTHOUGH MANY old houses are described as being built of "faded pink brick," few actually are. This house above is an exception. It was built in the late 1830s or early 40s, and has mellowed into one of our most attractive old structures. Little is known of its early history; it is not even known for certain that it was built by George Lemon, for nothing is found on him in the early histories.

The most famous occupants of this house were Mr. and Mrs. Adali Ewing Stevenson Sr.* There has sometimes been doubt expressed that this was the actual house into which they moved upon coming to Metamora. However, both J. C. Irving, an important town official of the time, and Mr. Ogilvie, whose wives' family at one time owned the house, state that this was the Stevenson residence. Mrs. Marie Hesse wrote that "Adali Stevenson brought his bride to the large brick house south of the park known as the George Lemon house."

immediately after their marriage in Chenoa, Illinois, on December 20, 1866. The beautiful and cultured Mrs. Stevenson was the former Letitia Green of Danville, Kentucky. Northern in sympathy, the Greens lived in Kentucky, where the Reverend Lewis W. Green, who was a famous Presbyterian minister, was also the President of Danville's Center College. Reverend Green was one of the founders of the historic "Back to Liberia" movement, which advocated the removal of the slaves to Liberia to avert war in the United States.

When Reverend Green died, Mrs. Green and her daughter moved to Chenoa where they lived with Mrs. Mathew Scott. It was here that Letitia Green married the young lawyer from Metamora, Adali E. Stevenson, whom she had met at Center College. They then moved to Metamora, where they remained until 1868 when Adali returned to Bloomington and went into law practice with James S. Ewing.

The eight-room house into which Mr. and



From a photo of Metamora House taken in 1866. Lincoln used the room in the upper left.

built low on the ground, of native brick. The downstairs had double parlors, one reserved for "Sunday" usage. The "Sunday" parlor has fine walnut woodwork and a deep plaster molding around the top of the room. At one time there was a plaster finial in the center of the ceiling from which a lamp was hung, but this has been removed.

In later years the front west room was used for dining, the back west room being used for the kitchen. It is possible that there may have been a separate kitchen directly behind the house, as digging has revealed a foundation in that area. The back east room was probably used during this time as an "everyday" room.

Strangely enough, although the house has four chimneys, it has never contained a fireplace. At the time it was built, the decorative "Franklin stove" was quite popular and these were probably used in place of fireplaces. The front stairway, although narrow, contains walnut with a fine old patina, and it is a "double stair" in that there is an identical staircase directly above it leading to the attic. The four upstairs sleeping rooms have the same shape as the rooms on the first floor, which allows the facade of the building to present a beautifully square and clean cut look.

*Grandfather of the present ambassador to the United Nations.

METAMORA'S FIRST HOTEL

With the exception of the Court House, the most familiar building to the lawyer, Judge, or average citizen during much of the last century would probably have been Metamora House. This was the local hostelry of that time; it continued to be used almost into the twentieth century. Although Metamora House was torn down in 1908, and there were other hotels in town (among them Carpentier House and Boswell House), it is with the old Metamora House that we are most familiar.



A picture of Metamora House taken at a much later date showing the gas lantern in front.



Thomas B. Spiers



Marie Spiers



Tommy Spiers



Maggie Spiers

It claims part of its fame as the first building in the town to be constructed especially as a tavern. Built by Samuel S. Parks in 1843, "opened in time to accommodate visitors to the first session of the Circuit Court held after the removal to this place of the county seat from Versailles." ***

An early tin-type shows this building without the rear additions and the familiar front porch which appear in all other known pictures of the house. Metamora House must have been successful, as the later additions made it twice as large as the original structure.

Little is known of the early condition and appearance of the interior of the house. If it was keeping with most hotels of this time and circumstance, it was probably sparsely furnished and none too clean. Robert G. Ingersoll, when asked