

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 3 1982
date entered JUN 3 1982

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Richard F. Newcomb House
and or common Newcomb-Stillwell House

2. Location

street & number 1601 Maine Street *N/A* not for publication
city, town Quincy *N/A* vicinity of congressional district 20th District
state Illinois code 012 county Adams code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input 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
	<i>N/A</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

Quincy and Adams County Museum
name
street & number 1601 Maine Street
city, town Quincy *N/A* vicinity of state Illinois 62301

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Adams County Court House
street & number 521 Vermont Street
city, town Quincy state Illinois 62301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Illinois Historic Structure Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date federal state county local
depository for survey records Illinois Department of Conservation, 400 South Spring Street
city, town Springfield state Illinois 62706

7. Description

<u>X</u> excellent	— deteriorated	Check one <u>X</u> unaltered	Check one <u>X</u> original site	— moved	date	N/A
— good	— ruins	<u>X</u> altered				
— fair	— unexposed					

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Description of Newcomb-Stillwell House

Design and Construction:

Newcomb-Stillwell House, home of the Quincy and Adams County Museum, is located at 1601 Maine Street, Quincy, Illinois.

The house was designed by Quincy architect, Harvey Chatten, using the Richardsonian Romanesque Style. Characteristics of the style apparent in this building include the massive Indiana limestone exterior; the use of a spiky or leafy architectural ornament carved in stone; the contrast in color and texture of different construction materials, ie, stone exterior, weathered copper metal trim, red tile roof; the subdivision of windows with stone transom bars; and the bold, forceful form of the building. A favorite Richardsonian device, a broad, round arch, appears on the architectural drawings as a dramatic front focus. In fact, it was moved to the west side gable, and is obscured from view by an old copper beech tree. Construction began in 1890, was completed in 1891.

Exterior-Grounds and Landscaping:

Newcomb-Stillwell House is built on two and one-half acres immediately east of Quincy's commercial district. Between 1850 and 1900 fine homes were being built in this area by the wealthiest families.

The entire property is maintained as landscaped grounds. It is surrounded on three sides by city streets; brick, herringbone sidewalks are along the south and west lawns. The building is located in the center of the property, east to west; and set off center toward the south. This permits generous lawns around the house with a much larger area in back. There were formal gardens there in earlier years.

Over fifty trees of great variety grow around the house, many of them probably as old as the residence. There are tall, privacy hedges along the north and west property lines. Other shrubs are growing around the house and near the sidewalks. In general, the property appears attractive and maintained. No doubt, it was much more elaborately landscaped during the years when it was a private home.

Exterior-Structure:

The house has three stories, plus attic and full basement. It is basically rectangular in shape, approximately 61' x 79'. On the northeast corner is a square service wing, 33' x 28'. On the three levels, this wing holds the kitchen and food service area, the women servants' quarters, and the man servant's quarters.

The exterior walls are of brick faced with Indiana limestone, making 20" load bearing walls, with a foundation of 24" native stone. A section of the east wall has slate covering over wood. This area contains a total of 296 square feet of slate.

The roof consists of ordinary wood rafters, 2' x 8" x 16" on center, unprotected heavy wood beams and trusses with asphalt shingle roof cover. The house has a gable roof except for two peaks over the southwest and southeast towers which rise 16' and 8' respectively. There is copper guttering, cownspouts and flashing on the roof, plus copper on the railing around the balcony above the front porch. Copper also trims the two dormer windows facing south.

(See Continuation sheet #1)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number 7

Page 1

There are porches and balconies on all three levels. The main porch wraps around the south and east sides of the house, and contains 865 square feet. It is approximately 11' wide. It has soft wood floors, and a wood beaded ceiling supported by seven stone pillars. Each pillar has an individually carved stone trim. Connected to this porch on the east side is a covered drive-thru with two stone pillars supporting the roof. There are 542 square feet in the drive-thru. A brick driveway with herringbone design runs from Maine Street on the south to Hampshire on the north, 400' minimum length.

A second, large, first floor covered porch on the northwest side of the house has been removed. Part of the Museum's restoration plan includes replacement of this porch.

One other small porch, 4'8" x 8'8", is outside the kitchen door.

There is a 260 square foot balcony off the second floor, directly over the front porch. It has copper clad and heavy cast iron railings.

At the third floor level are three small balconies. The east balcony, 103 square feet, has a 1' thickness of stone and cast iron railing three feet high; the south side, semi-circular shaped balcony, 67 square feet; and a small west side balcony, 18 square feet, have the same railing design. All balconies have wood joist flooring with tin-coated steel roof, tar and paper mopped covering.

Interior-Basement:

The full basement of 4,563 square feet has a concrete on earth floor, no floor coverings. The original wood lath and plaster ceilings are mostly broken or removed as a result of age and remodeling projects. Replacing this portion of the basement finish will be a part of the restoration project. Within this area are rooms, originally designated as laundry, boiler, fuel, cold air, wine and a cozy sitting room with a stair to the first floor. This room has the only working fireplace in the basement. Clean outs for all other fireplaces are located on this level.

Interior-First Floor:

The first floor contains seven major rooms with an assortment of halls, closets, storage areas and bathrooms. The walls are 2" x 6" studding on 16" centers, with bridging for added strength and fire resistance, covered with lath and plaster. Canvas and wood wainscoting have been used extensively as wall coverings on these lower, more public rooms.

The floors are hardwood over 2" x 12" wood joists set on 12" centers. Ceramic tile is featured in the vestibule, great hall and as fireplace hearth mosaics.

The kitchen area, located in the northeast wing of the house contains a large, major work area (29'6" x 24'6") with built in cabinets of pine, a butler's pantry, a china hall, built in ice box and pantry. A stairway from the basement to the third floor opens into the kitchen, as does a small, presently inoperative elevator.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

The diningroom is located south of the kitchen (23'6" x 18'). Above the 7'6" high oak paneled walls is hand painted canvas wall covering. The original ceiling had similar hand painting on the plaster, as evidenced by scraps found on the property. Presently, there is lath and plaster between the decorative oak beams. On the south wall is a Mexican onyx front, Roman brick fireplace with carved oak mantel and ceramic tile hearth. On the opposite wall is an oak and onyx built in buffet. The oak base contains cabinets and drawers. The onyx covers the wall. Shelves and serving space are of oak. The east wall has four 8'4" tall French windows.

South of the diningroom is a spacious entry hall which connects the east porch to the great hall in the center of the house.

South of the entry is the sitting room (16' x 18'). Birch wood trim and finish is used throughout this room. Around the ceiling is a 1' wide molding. Five plain glass, double hung windows, enclosing the southeast tower are framed in carved birch. A window seat is built in this alcove. Two large, plain glass, double hung sash windows facing south have interesting folding shutters which are used in windows throughout the house.

Each shutter has a solid and a louvered panel which fold out to the center of the window and latch to a matching set from the other side. When not in use the shutters fold invisibly into the wall and latch into place. Each double hung window has two pairs of shutters, each transom window is also shuttered. Hardware used on the shutters was cast to match the door hardware in that same room.

Doors facing the sitting room have birch veneer; and the fireplace is of birch wood and marble with a birch mantel. Above the mantel on either side of the chimney are two tall, slender stained glass, leaded windows (16" x 67").

The library, west of the sitting room, matches it with regard to the birch, carved window frames and shutters. It has birch book cases with carvings and trim which match the mantel. The three double hung windows (3'8" x 8'6") in this room are curved to form a large 9' wide bay which overlooks the front porch and lawn.

West of the library is the great hall area (23'6" x 47'). Included here are the vestibule, entry hall, grande staircase and great hall. The vestibule is a small area between the outside door and the main front door of the house. The walls and ceiling are oak, the floor is a mosaic of ceramic tile. The entry hall is along the grande staircase which leads to the great hall. This entire area has the 7'6" high quarter sawn oak panaling with lath and plaster upper wall to the 12' high ceiling. The ceiling has decorative oak beams matching those in the diningroom, immediately east of the great hall. The carved oak, grande staircase extends from the center of this area toward the front of the house (south). It consists of two short, facing flights of steps rising to a common landing. A single 5'6" wide flight of stairs ascends from this landing to a second landing above the vestibule. The great hall is highlighted by gold leaf on carved wood trim above the fireplace, on the grande stair posts and at the tops of supporting columns in the hall. On either side of the fireplace are two built in oak benches which flank the 5' wide ceramic tile hearth, forming an inglenook. On either side of the fireplace are double hung windows. Above them are stained glass, leaded transom windows. Along the end of the stair is a 12' long built in oak bench.

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

Continuation sheet Description

Item number 7

Page 3

The door hardware in the area of the diningroom, sitting room, library and great hall is silver over brass. A similarly elegant hardware is found in the master bedroom suite on the second floor.

There are two massive 3" thick oak paneled sliding doors between the great hall and the diningroom. The door which connects the great hall with the sitting room has oak veneer on the great hall side, birch veneer on the sitting room side.

West of the vestibule and entry hall is the parlor. It is extensively trimmed with 1' mahogany ceiling molding. Three mahogany carved, double hung window sashes with curved glass (4' x 8'6"), enclose the southwest tower, 16' in diameter. The fireplace is built of green glazed tile with green tile hearth. A carved mahogany fireplace front and mantel complete the trim. One other flat, double hung window is located on the west wall.

It must be noted that decorating fashion has, at various times, caused the owners of this property to paint under much of the beautiful natural woods found in this house. It is the intent of the present owners to remove the paint so that the variety of woods and fine craftsmanship may be appreciated. The sitting room and library are in the final phase of this particular restoration effort. The birch gleams, and is satiny to the touch!

North of the parlor is an area of bathroom, stairwell and hallway. The stair leads to the basement sitting room.

In the northwest corner of the house, north of the "service area" and west of the great hall, is the den (18' x 19'). The oak of the great hall extends into the den. The fireplace on the north side has oak across the ceiling and paneled on the wall above it. One large double hung window and a door flank the fireplace. Oak window seats have been built next to these, forming another inglenook. Another built in window seat is beneath the three windows which form a bay on the west side of the room. Above these windows are three of stained glass. All windows have the shutters described earlier. The Roman brick fireplace is trimmed with oak, has an oak mantel and a ceramic tile hearth. A 1' high oak floor molding runs around the entire room.

Interior-Second Floor:

The grande staircase which connects the three floors has the same dimensions and is trimmed as elegantly throughout its length as it is on the first level, except that the gold leaf appears only in the great hall area.

At the top of the stair on the left (southwest) is a bedroom which corresponds in shape and size to the parlor directly beneath it. This room is of cherry wood, has soft wood floors, lath and plaster ceiling and walls, a 1' cherry ceiling and 1' floor molding. The white tile fireplace and hearth on the west wall are framed with a carved cherry wood trim and mantel. Three cherry wood, curved glass windows overlook the south lawn. A fourth, flat, double hung window is located on the west wall.

North of this bedroom is a bath and dressing room. Along the west wall are three double hung windows with three leaded, stained glass (2'3" x 1'10") transom

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 4

windows. North of this area is another bedroom (18'6" x 20') which corresponds in dimensions to the den beneath it. It is built with the same cherry wood trim found in the ceiling molding, floor molding, window frames and shutters, fireplace trim and mantel found in the southwest bedroom. The west wall has the three window bay like the one in the den below; and two windows flank the fireplace. The fireplace has brown and white glazed tile on the front and hearth.

East of this bedroom is another bedroom (18' x 25'). It too, has pine wood floor, lath and plaster walls and ceiling, cherry wood 1' wide ceiling and floor moldings. The three flat, double hung windows and shutters are built of cherry wood. The fireplace on the north wall has rose colored glazed tile front and hearth. The trim and mantel are cherry, also. This room had a lavatory enclosed in a closet-like space. During the years when the college occupied the building the lavatory was removed and the space became a closet.

All of these cherry bedrooms open into the large quarter sawn oak and lath and plaster central hall. The connecting doors are faced with cherry wood on the bedroom side, oak on the hall side. The brass door and window hardware, and drawer pulls on the built-in storage chests in the bedroom closets, all match in design.

The master bedroom suite occupies the south and east sides of the second floor. It contains a large dressing room the size and shape of the library below it, a bedroom, the size and shape of the sitting room below it. A vanity-closet-lavatory area north of the southeast bedroom leads to a second bedroom and bath along the east wall.

This suite is built in much the same manner as the other bedrooms. The wood is sycamore. The 1' ceiling and floor moldings appear in each room; the walls and ceilings are lath and plaster, the flooring is pine. Sycamore wood is used to frame out all windows, doors and the fireplaces in this suite.

The windows correspond to those below on the first floor. The dressing room has three large, curved windows. The southeast bedroom has two flat, double hung windows which overlook the south lawn. The southeast tower area has five flat windows around it. Above the fireplace and to either side of the mantel are two tall, slender stained glass, leaded windows. The vanity area has a small window on the east side; and the second bedroom and bath have five windows. The four bedroom, double hung windows form a bay, matching that in the diningroom below.

The remaining portion of the second floor, the northeast wing, above the kitchen area, was designed as the women servants' quarters. This suite contains two small bedrooms (8 x 10), a bath, hallway, closets and the stairwell which leads to the kitchen. The wood used to trim these windows and doors is yellow pine. The walls and ceilings are lath and plaster. No fireplace is located in this area.

During the period of time when this building was used as a dormitory for the college, several of the larger rooms were divided by temporary partitions to permit more efficient use of the space; vinyl coverings were placed on some floors, and lavatories were removed to provide closet space. The temporary walls and floor coverings will be removed to restore the building's architectural integrity. The storage areas will most likely be adapted as exhibit or storage areas for the Museum. The second floor contains 4,563 square feet.

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

Continuation sheet Description

Item number 7

Page 5

Interior-Third Floor:

The oak stair landing above the second floor is lighted by three double strength, plain glass, beveled and leaded wood sash windows which are 1'10" x 2'7" each. These capture the afternoon sunlight and send a rainbow of color up and down the stairs.

On the southwest corner of the third floor is a bedroom which corresponds in shape and size to the two rooms directly below it. It has lath and plaster walls and ceiling, pine wood floor, red tile fireplace. The wood trim here is butternut. It is used to frame out the three large curved windows (6' x 4') on the southwest tower as well as the door facings and the 1' floor molding. Ceiling moldings have been omitted on this floor. The fireplace trim and mantel are of butternut wood. Next to the fireplace on the west wall is a flat, double hung and shuttered window.

North of this room is a bath and dressing area. The west wall of the dressing room has one double hung window. On each side of it are two stained glass, leaded windows (1'6" x 2').

On the northwest corner of the house is the billiards room (21'6" x 18'). All wood used in this room is pine. On the north wall is a white marble fireplace with red tile hearth. There are two double hung windows on the west wall, two on the north wall, one on each side of the fireplace.

The billiards room opens into the trunk room (17'6" x 23') which is next door to the east. The wood work in this room is pine, also. There are two double hung windows on the north side. Double doors lead into the central hall.

Across the hall on the south side of the house is the sewing room. It is finished in pine wood and has only two double hung windows. Next to the sewing room on the east side is the linen room which includes a large cedar closet for summer storage. The wood used in this room for doors, window framing, shutters, etc. is cedar. The only windows in this room are those in the southeast tower, five, to match those on the floors below.

North of the linen room along the east wall of the house is a large storage room. Its woodwork is all pine. It has three double hung windows. North of this area in the northeast wing are the man servant's quarters. Included here are a bedroom, bath, closets, hallway and stairwell.

The third floor window count is reduced substantially because the roof begins to slope toward the ridge, reducing wall space. The door, window and shutter hardware on this floor is a distinctive basket weave design which does not appear anywhere else in the house. Square footage for this floor is 4,385.

Interior-Attic:

A narrow stair in the storage room area leads to the attic. The floor joists have been covered with sub-flooring material, so that the space is usable. Dormer windows provide some light. Of particular interest is a huge metal water tank (4' x 5' x 3.5' or 525 gallons), presumably used to supply house water pressure. The tank sits in a lead lined, wooden box which has overflow pipes. The attic covers 4,007 square feet, making a household total of 22,081.

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

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

7

Page

6

Miscellaneous Notes:

Dimensions indicated in this paper are only approximate, to give the reader a general idea of size. Most rooms are not purely rectangular.

The house was designed to be heated by steam. Every fireplace was piped for gas to add atmosphere and supplemental heat.

Electricity came to Quincy in 1888. It was available for two hours each evening. The house was wired for electricity.

The original plumbing was lead pipe.

The panels of wainscoting were constructed on the site, and are fine examples of craftsmanship.

Most rooms on the second and third floors have blue point etched glass in the transom windows above the hall doors. They open for ventilation.

Ceiling height for the first floor is 12', second and third floors, 10'6".

Closing:

The adaptation of this building for Museum purposes will be to restore it as nearly as possible to its original appearance architecturally. Because it will be a public building certain regulations regarding safety and access will have to be incorporated. Show cases and exhibition areas will be built into closets, connecting halls, and small dressing areas in order to make those spaces useful while keeping the historically attractive portions of the building available for viewing. Most rooms will contain collections. One or two may be decorated in the 1890 style.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1890-1891

Builder/Architect Harvey Chatten, Ernest M. Wood

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Newcomb-Stillwell House was built in 1890-1891, at a time when Quincy, Illinois was a booming commercial center, second only to Chicago in size and significance among Illinois towns. Richard F. Newcomb contracted with Quincy architects, Harvey Chatten and Ernest M. Wood, for the design and construction of his private residence.

This house, an outstanding example of Romanesque Revival style, is located at Sixteenth and Maine Streets, Quincy's most important architectural intersection. It shares this area with W. S. Warfield House (1886), listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Lorenzo Bull House (1851-1852), and the D. W. Miller House (1867).

The three storey, stone structure, with extensive carvings, cast iron and copper ornamentation, stained and beveled glass windows stands on two and one-half acres in the central part of Quincy's most prominent residential area.

The interior is finished in a variety of intricately carved woods, elaborate and unaltered mantels and fireplace tiles, a rich mixture of stained and beveled glass windows and, as revealed by recent research, colorful Romanesque stenciling on the ceilings.

Chatten, respected as an architect for his demand for quality craftsmanship of construction; received his early training in the offices of Boston architects, where the impact of H. H. Richardson's work was strongly felt. Upon his return to Quincy, he apprenticed with Robert Bunce, continuing the work of that office after Bunce's death.

Ernest Michael Wood was Chatten's chief draftsman from 1886 to 1890. In addition to the skills he learned from Harvey Chatten, he studied the work of other architects who came to Quincy. Among them were Joseph L. Silsbee, the architect for Warfield House, and Patton and Fisher of Chicago. Wood also studied the work of other Chicago architects and was greatly influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright. The architectural concepts identifiable in Chatten-Wood buildings are considered to have been contributed equally by the two men.

The construction of Silsbee's Warfield House (1886) caused a considerable stir in Quincy since it was the first Romanesque Revival structure. The massive, rough cut stone exterior, the scroll and leaf ornamentation in stone and tile, the lavish use of natural finished woods and ornate stained glass in the interior were all new to the community. It was known that Newcomb was much impressed with the structure which undoubtedly influenced his decision to build a residence that was larger and more elaborate than that of his neighbor. He had publicly stated that he was employing local architects and craftsmen, an obvious reference to Warfield's "imported" builders.

At the same time that Newcomb House was being constructed, Chatten and Wood were erecting another large Romanesque structure as a residence for Theodore Poling in the new Lawndale subdivision, only five blocks east of the Newcomb House.

Thus, Chatten's and Wood's venture into Romanesque Revival architecture was influenced by Silsbee's work in 1886 and that of Patton and Fisher, architects for the public library building in 1888. (The library is now an architectural museum.) Interest in this style continued in Quincy with Patton and Fisher's 1892 State Savings and Loan Trust Company building with a sympathetic addition by Ernest Wood in 1906. That edifice, presently an office and conference center, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Further evidence of interest is indicated by the E. A. Rogers

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Allen, James R. "Ernest M. Wood: A Provential Testament." Prairie School Review, Vol. XI, Number 2 (1974).
- "Carl Landrum Series," Quincy Herald Whig, January 16, 1966, September 19, 1976, March 23, 1980. (See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.5
Quadrangle name QUINCY WEST Quadrangle scale 1:24 000
UMT References

A	<u>15</u>	<u>637580</u>	<u>4421280</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

state	code	county	code
<u>NA</u>			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joy A. Robertson, Board Member
organization Quincy and Adams County Museum date 11-30-81
street & number 2928 Southfield Drive telephone 217-228-0422
city or town Quincy state Illinois 62301

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 [Signature]

title Director date 4/1/82

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

[Signature]
Director of the National Register

Entered in the National Register 6/3/82

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

Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

residence (1895) at 1627 Maine, architect, unknown, and the Merriam House at 601 Spring (late 1890's), architect unknown. The latter is being restored as apartments. The present condition of all of these structures is good to excellent. It is worth noting that no Romanesque Revival buildings in Quincy have been destroyed.

Newcomb-Stillwell House is the largest and most elaborate of the Romanesque Revival houses, although possibly equaled in quality by the Poling House. The originally planned, broad stone arch entrance was changed, perhaps through family preference, to a more modest entrance; thus eliminating a major characteristic of Romanesque Revival architecture. Nevertheless, Newcomb-Stillwell is an impressive reminder of late nineteenth century growth when many fortunes were made in Quincy.

Quincy has a rich architectural heritage. The people appreciate this historical treasure, left by the pioneers of industry and commerce, and have made creative efforts to protect, preserve and pay tribute to it.

One of those pioneers, Richard F. Newcomb (1837-1904), was among Quincy's most successful industrialists. Following youthful employment in a Wisconsin sawmill, he moved to Chicago and organized a paper company in 1866; only to lose it in the Chicago fire. He moved to Quincy and organized the Quincy Paper Company. His strawboard mill expanded nation wide and was known as the American Strawboard Company. Upon Newcomb's death the company was reorganized as Central Fiber Products Company which included a convert plant in addition to the strawboard mill. This was later merged into Packaging Corporation of America. Further changes occurred so that at this time the Quincy facilities are owned by the Celotex Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Jim Walter Corporation, headquartered in Tampa, Florida.

Newcomb was active in early railroad development in Illinois, serving as president of the Quincy, Beardstown and Havana Railroad. He was instrumental in developing the downtown business corner at Fourth and Maine Streets, taking the lead in the construction of the Newcomb Hotel (1889), acquiring land for the public library erected by Patton and Fisher of Chicago in 1888 and influencing the commercial construction on a third corner of this intersection. Fourth and Maine became known as Newcomb's Corner.

The Newcomb family resided in the home until 1910, when John A. Stillwell, Newcomb's son-in-law, purchased it. It was then known as Stillwell House. John Stillwell was reknowned in his own right as president of Electric Wheel Company. That organization is now a Division of Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.

In 1941 the family donated the building to Quincy College. Stillwell Hall became a dormitory. It was primarily occupied by women students. As the campus grew and built housing facilities, Stillwell Hall was used as the residence for the Notre Dame Sisters. During these years the college purchased property adjacent to the northeast corner where two small homes were located. The homes were removed, the land became lawn.

In 1981 the property was purchased by Quincy and Adams County Museum. Restoration and adaptation are in progress.

After almost one hundred years the Stillwell family is still a vital part of the program at Newcomb-Stillwell House.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Major Bibliographical Ref. Itca number 9

Page 2

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of Adams County, Illinois 1879. Chicago: Murray, Williamson and
Phelps, 1879.

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

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

10

Page

2

Legal description of property on which Newcomb-Stillwell House is located. This is copied from the Warranty Deed.

A part of Lot Thirty-eight (38) in Nevins' Addition to Quincy bounded as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner of said lot, thence running South along the West line of said lot, One Hundred Sixty (160) feet, thence East Fifty (50) feet, thence North One Hundred Sixty (160) feet parallel with the West line of said lot to the South line of Hampshire Street, thence West along the South line of Hampshire Street to the place of beginning;

ALSO, a part of said lot Thirty-eight (38) in Nevins' Addition to the City of Quincy described as follows: Commencing at a point Fifty (50) feet East of the Northwest corner of said lot, running thence East Seventy (70) feet and Six (6) inches, thence North One Hundred Sixty (160) feet to the South Line of Hampshire Street and the place of beginning;

ALSO, the East Six (6) feet of Lot Thirty-six (36); all of Lot Thirty-Seven (37) and the West Sixty-eight (68) feet of the South Two Hundred Thirty-seven and One-half ($237\frac{1}{2}$) feet of Lot Thirty-eight (38), all in Nevins' Addition to the City of Quincy, Illinois;

ALL OF THE ABOVE situated in the City of Quincy in the County of Adams and State of Illinois

COLORADO, Mesa County, Clifton, Clifton Community Center and Church, F and Main St. (06/03/82)
COLORADO, Montrose County, Montrose, Denver and Rio Grande Depot, 20 N. Rio Grande Ave. (06/03/82)
COLORADO, Montrose County, Montrose, Montrose City Hall, 433 S. 1st St. (06/03/82)
COLORADO, Morgan County, Brush, All Saints Church of Eben Ezer, 120 Hospital Rd. (06/03/82)
COLORADO, Pueblo County, Pueblo, Galligan House, 501 Colorado Ave. (06/03/82)
COLORADO, Pueblo County, Pueblo, Gast Mansion, 1801 Greenwood St. (06/03/82)

CONNECTICUT, Fairfield County, Bridgeport, Division Street Historic District, Roughly bounded by State St., Iranistan, Black Rock and West Aves. (06/03/82)
CONNECTICUT, New London County, New London, Woodworth, Nathan A., House, 28 Channing St. (06/01/82)
CONNECTICUT, Fairfield County, Newton, New York Belting and Packing Co., 45-71 and 79-89 Glen Rd. (06/02/82)

DELAWARE, Kent County, Milford vicinity, Archeological Site No. 7K-F-4 and 23, (06/03/82)

GEORGIA, Coweta County, Newnan, Northwest Newnan Residential Historic District, Roughly bounded by RR tracks, Jefferson, Cavender, Duncan, and Towns Sts. (05/28/82)

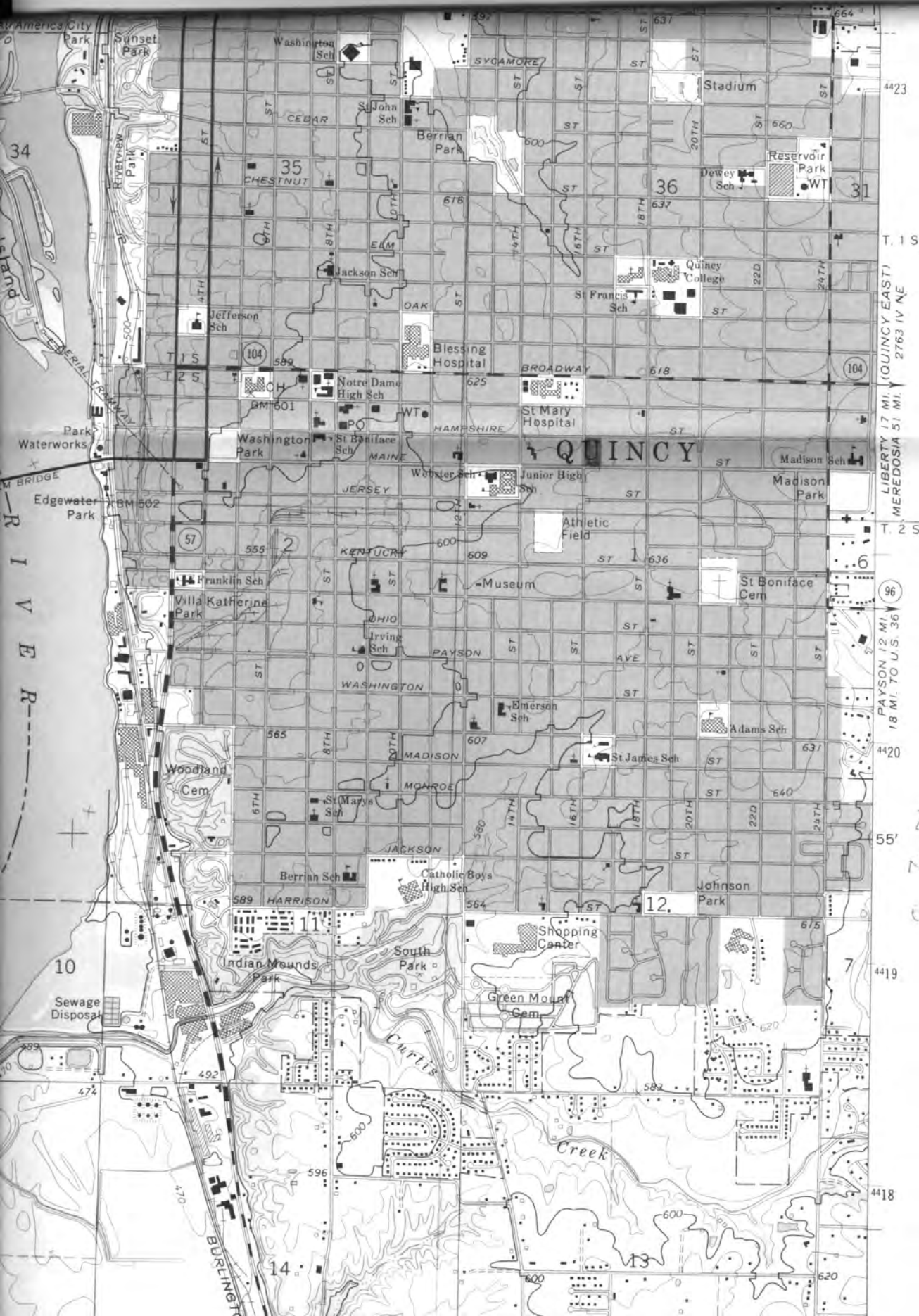
IDAHO, Bannock County, Pocatello, Pocatello Historic District, Roughly bounded by RR tracks, W. Fremont, W. Bonneville and Garfield Sts. (06/03/82)

ILLINOIS, Adams County, Quincy, Newcomb, Richard F., House, 1601 Maine St. (06/03/82)
ILLINOIS, Coles County, Oakland, Rutherford, Dr. Hiram, House and Office, 14 S. Pike St. (06/03/82)
ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago Heights, Bloom Township School, 10th St., Dixie Hwy and Chicago Heights St. (06/03/82)
ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Railway Exchange Building, 100 E. Jackson Blvd. and 224 S. Michigan Ave. (06/03/82)
ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Warner, Seth, House, 131 N. Central Ave. (06/03/82)
ILLINOIS, DuPage County, West Chicago vicinity, McHenry School District No. 27, Roosevelt Rd. (06/03/82)
ILLINOIS, Kane County, Aurora, Hotel Aurora, 2 N. State Ave. (06/03/82)
ILLINOIS, Kankakee County, Kankakee, Swannell, Charles E., House, 901 S. Chicago (06/03/82)
ILLINOIS, McHenry County, McHenry, Count's House, 3803 Waukegan (06/03/82)
ILLINOIS, Randolph County, Sparta, Sparta Historic District, S. St. Louis, W. 3rd and S. James Sts. (06/03/82)
ILLINOIS, Rock Island County, Rock Island, Rock Island Lines Passenger Station, 3029 5th Ave. (06/03/82)
ILLINOIS, Sangamon County, Springfield, Boult, H. P., House, 1123 S. 2nd St. (06/03/82)
ILLINOIS, Whiteside County, Tampico, Main Street Historic District, S. Main St. (06/03/82)

INDIANA, Allen County, Fort Wayne, Bass, John H., Mansion (Brookside) 2701 Spring St. (06/02/82)
INDIANA, Marion County, Indianapolis, Lombard Building, 22-28 E. Washington St. (06/01/82)
INDIANA, Marion County, Indianapolis, Thompson, William N., House, 4343 N. Meridian St. (06/01/82)

KENTUCKY, Fayette County, Lexington vicinity, McCann, Benjamin, House (Castlelawn), Old Richmond Pike (06/03/82)
KENTUCKY, Fayette County, Lexington vicinity, McCann, Neal, House, 5364 Todds Rd. (06/03/82)
KENTUCKY, Greenup County, Greenup vicinity, Stuart, Jesse, House, Stuarts Lane off W-Hollow Rd. (06/01/82)
KENTUCKY, Woodford County, Archeological Site 15-Wd-61, (06/02/82)

LOUISIANA, Evangeline County, Ville Platte, Dardeau Building, 224 W. Main (06/01/82)



← AREA UNDER THE LETTER 'U'

421

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ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

A-H-58
302/198

NR DISTRICT

200355

1. Name of Site:

Common Newcomb House

Historic

2. Location:

Street and Number

1601 Maine

City or Town

Quincy

County

Adams

Township

Section

Zip Code

Range

1/4 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
() Government () Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name Quincy College

Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description:

- () Excellent () Good () Fair () Deteriorated
() Ruins () Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? () Yes () No

ARCHITECTURE

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: 1890

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- Aboriginal (historic) Literature
- Aboriginal (pre-historic) Military
- Agriculture Music
- Architecture Political
- Art Religion/Philosophy
- Commerce Science
- Communication Sculpture
- Conservation Social/Humanitarian
- Education Theater
- Engineering Transportation
- Industry Urban Planning
- Invention Other (specify)
- Landscape Architecture

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)
Use additional sheets if necessary.

Architect Chatten

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title:

Date:

Organization:

Phone:

Street and Number:

City or Town:

County:

Zip Code

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search 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.

