

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*Second draft*

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC ROBERT MILNE HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 535 East Seventh Street

CITY, TOWN

Lockport,

VICINITY OF  
CODE

012

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

17

STATE

Illinois

COUNTY

Will

CODE

197

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Howard and Lois Adelmann

STREET & NUMBER 1702 East Street

CITY, TOWN

Lockport,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Will County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 14 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Joliet

STATE

Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE 1) Illinois Historic Structures Survey of Will County  
2) Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey of Will County

DATE 1) October 1972

2) February 1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS 405 East Washington

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milne House is a two story Greek Revival building constructed of native limestone in three sections. The oldest and main section of the house (1840's) is rectangular with two principal facades (street and garden) of cut ashlar stone, a stone cornice, hipped roof and two interior brick chimneys. The garden facade is five bays wide. A central door with transom and sidelights divides two pairs of tall first floor windows. The second story is blank. A bracketed porch was added after 1873. The street facade is four bays wide with a corner door and four second story windows in the frieze. The house is surrounded by original limestone sidewalks. Two rear additions were added sometime before 1873. Both the interior and exterior of Milne House are exceptionally well preserved. The interior has original pine floors, hardware, window paneling, wide Greek Revival window and door surrounds and two mantels in the Doric Order. The central hall contains a handmade walnut staircase with a delicately turned Greek vase newel post.

Also on the property are an early stone milk house and hand dug well, as well as a new frame garage (1960's). The front garden is of Romantic "English" design and contains many trees planted by the original owner. The south facade faces a publicly owned park, a visually contained valley formed by Milne Creek, which is its southern boundary.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Robert Milne House, built in the 1840's, is one of the finest of the many native limestone residences in Lockport. Lockport was the center of canal construction, platted in 1836 by the commissioners of the Illinois and Michigan Canal as their headquarters. Robert Milne, a master mason and native of Banffshire, Scotland, came to Chicago in 1836 where he bought out the city's first lumber merchant. In 1840 he took contracts on the Illinois and Michigan Canal and built five of the locks. He settled in Lockport and purchased a farm which he named "Kelvyn Grove," a 240 acre tract of land which had previously been platted as "East Lockporte" but never developed. Milne designed and built his house on the edge of the planned town with a double orientation, both toward a city street as well as open farmland. In spite of considerable development, this house has managed to maintain in large part its original relationship to the landscape, since the former pasture with Milne Creek is now owned by the local school district and kept as public open space. In 1869 Robert Milne was appointed Canal Commissioner by Governor Palmer. He served in this office for four years. Four generations of Milnes lived in the homestead, which was still owned by the family until this past year. The house retains much of its original character, fabric and setting and is an early and significant example of the Greek Revival not only for Lockport but for all Northeastern Illinois.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The New Combination Atlas of Will County (Elgin, Illinois; Thompson Bro's. & Burn, 1873).

The History of Will County, Illinois (Chicago; Wm. LeBaron, Jr. & Co., 1878).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 23, in Twn. 36 North, Range 10 East of the 3rd P.M. which runs 375 feet west from Milne Grove School along east 7th Street.

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

Gerald W. Adelman

July 13, 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Community Consultant, City of Lockport

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1702 East Street

(815) 838-1195

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Lockport,

Illinois

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

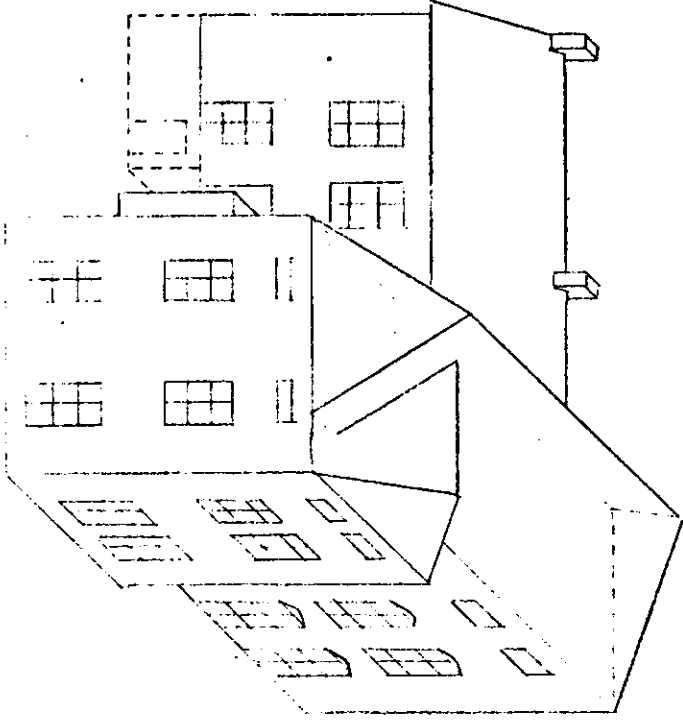
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

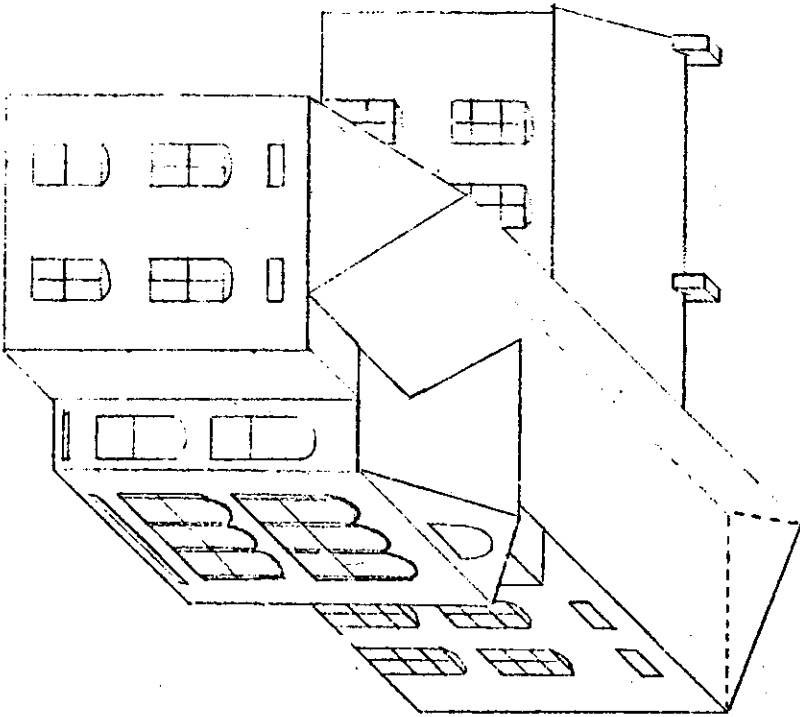
DATE

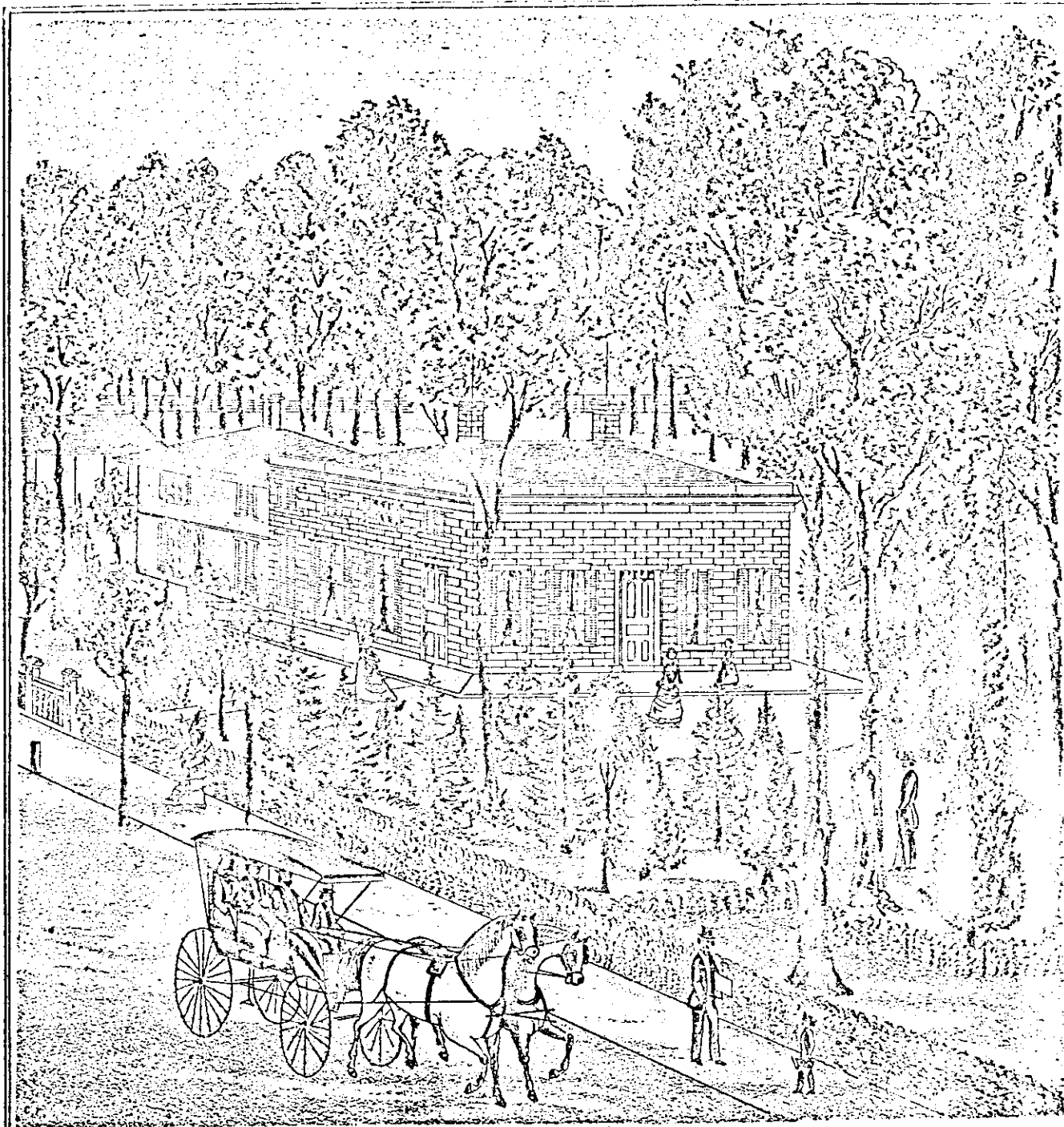
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ca. 1880



ca. 1900 (porch not shown)





RES. OF ROBT MILNE, ESQ., SEC. 23, LOCKPORT TP. WILL CO. ILLINOIS.

Ca. 1875.



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered DEC 17 1970

Name

Location

Gray-Watkins Mill

Montgomery  
Kane County

Milne, Robert, House

Lockport  
Will County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy  
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson  
Honorable Tom Corcoran  
Honorable George M. O'Brien

CONFIDENTIAL



ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

W-1-A-8

265386

1. Name of site:

Common Milne House

Historic Milne House

2. Location:

535 E. 7th St.  
Street and number

Township  
Lockport

Section  
23

City or Town  
Lockport

Zip Code  
60441

Range  
10E

1/4 Section  
NE

County

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

- ( ) District (X) Building  
( ) Site ( ) Structure

Integrity (check one)

- ( ) Altered (X) Unaltered  
( ) Moved ( ) Original Site

4. Ownership

- (X) Private  
( ) Public

Status (check one)

- (X) Occupied  
( ) Unoccupied  
( ) Preservation work in Progress

Access to Public

- ( ) Yes ( ) Restricted ( ) Unrestricted (X) No

Present Use ( check one or more)

- ( ) Agricultural ( ) Industrial ( ) Religious  
( ) Commercial ( ) Military ( ) Scientific  
( ) Educational ( ) Museum ( ) Transportation  
( ) Entertainment ( ) Park ( ) Other (specify)  
( ) Government (X) Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property

Owner's name James P. Milne

Street and number 535 E. 7th St.

Phone Number 838-4585

City or Town Lockport

State Illinois

County Will

Zip Code 60441

6. Description

Condition

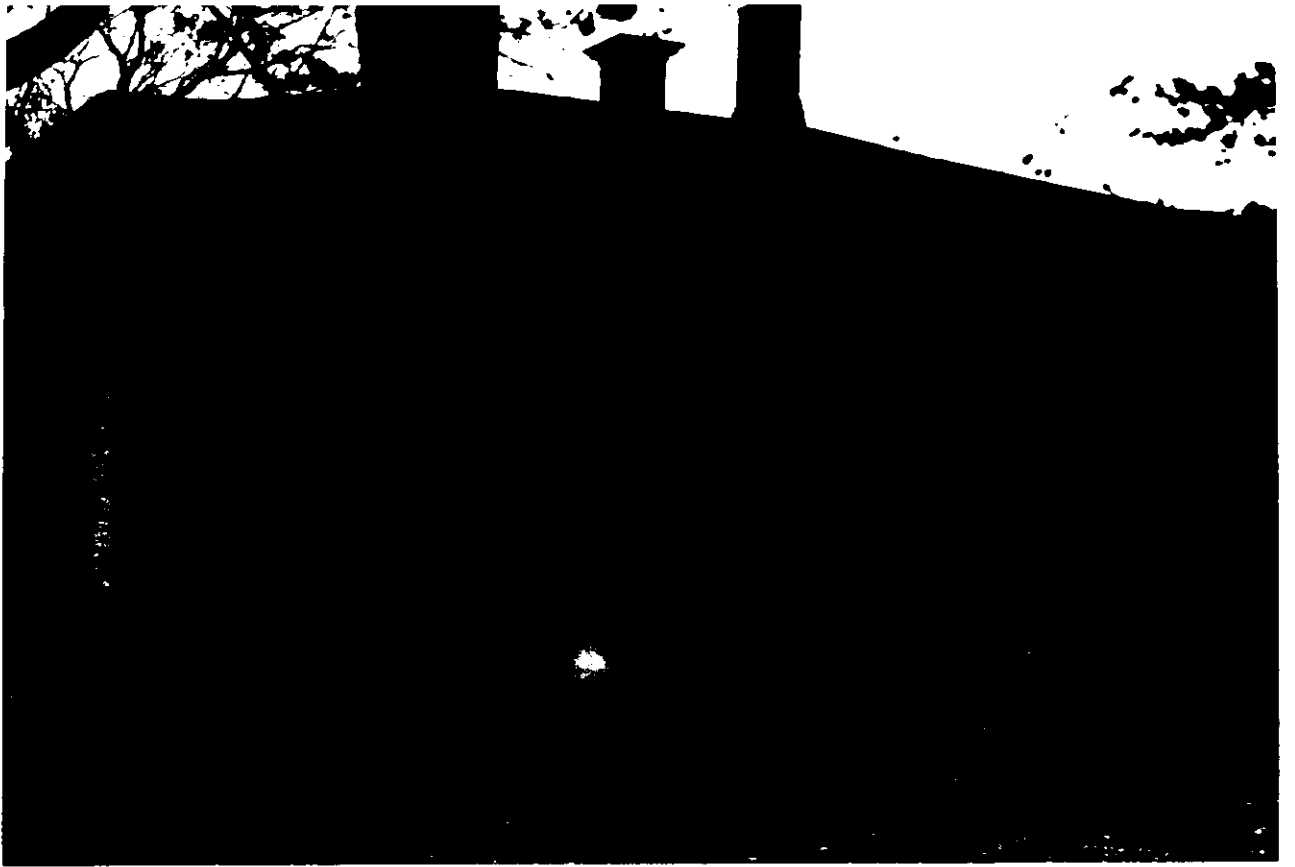
- (X) Excellent ( ) Good ( ) Fair ( ) Deteriorated ( ) Ruins ( ) Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? ( ) Yes (X) 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)  
(X) Illinois Early (1818-1850)  
( ) Illinois Middle (1850-1900)  
( ) Illinois Late (1900-present)  
( ) Famous People (give names & dates)

ENGINEERING



ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

W-1-A-8

1. Name of site:

Common Milne House  
Historic Milne House

2. Location:

535 E. 7th St.  
Street and number  
City or Town Lockport Zip Code 60441 Township Lockport Section 23  
County Range 10E 1/4 Section NE

3. Classification:

Category (check one) Integrity (check one)  
 District  Building  Altered  Unaltered  
 Site  Structure  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 James P. Milne Phone Number 838-4585  
Street and number 535 E. 7th St.  
City or Town Lockport Zip Code  
State Illinois County Will Zip Code 60441

6. Description

Condition  
 Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed  
 Is there a program of preservation underway?  Yes  No

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

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)

ENGINEERING

8. Specific Date: About 1848

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 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 checked="" 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. (over)

9. Form prepared by:

Name and title: John M. Lamb Date: 1/8/74  
Organization: Lockport Preservation Society  
Street and number: 1109 Garfield Street  
City or town: Lockport County Will Zip Code 60441  
Phone Number: 838-7316

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

This house was built by Robert Milne about 1848. He was one of the many stone masons who came to the area because of the canal construction. He had done some canal work in Canada. He was born in Scotland in 1805 and came to Lockport in 1837. He had the contract for the construction of one of the two locks in Chicago. These locks were destroyed in the 1870's when the canal was deepened down to the Sag. He also built the No. 1 lock in Lockport. Milne was appointed a Canal Commissioner in 1869 by Gov. Palmer.