

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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DATE ENTERED

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

1. NAME

HISTORIC

Miller-Davis Law Buildings

AND/OR COMMON

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

101-103 N. Main Street, 102-104 E. Front Street

CITY, TOWN

Bloomington

STATE

VICINITY OF
CODE

012

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

21

COUNTY

McLean

CODE

113

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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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

McLean County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

201 W. Grove Street

CITY, TOWN

Bloomington

Mrs. J. K. Adelman

1306 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill.

STATE

Illinois

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bloomington

Recorder of Deeds

McLean County Court House

202 N. Main St.

STATE

Illinois

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NA

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The two buildings, 101-103 N. Main and 104 E. Front were erected in 1843 in a vernacular interpretation of the Greek-Revival style. 101-103 N. Main is a two story structure measuring 40 feet by 31 feet with attic, gable roof and double-flued wall chimney. Wooden sash windows with wooden and brick headers are found on the second story and attic. It has two entrances facing Main Street. The exterior walls are common bond brick with iron anchor beams at the second floor.

The attic and second floor interior are relatively unchanged. In the attic, an anti-sag turnbuckle remains with original roof beams and sheathing. On the second floor, plain window molding trims the West windows. The interior walls are plaster over brick. The floors are 6 inch Pine. On the first floor interior is found 7 inch Pine flooring and the wall treatment is plaster over brick. There is a full basement showing a foundation of brick on a 2 foot Limestone pad.

104 E. Front, the Davis Law Office, was originally a one story building measuring 14 feet by 40 feet. It had one door and window facing Front St. Walls are common bond brick and wooden headers are found over the North door and window. The interior walls are plaster over brick. It shares a common foundation with 101-103 N. Main. The second story was added in the late 1850's with the same wall treatment.

Parts of the buildings were remodeled in the 1890's. The remodeling involved removal of 15 feet to the South of interior wall on the first and second floor which separates the two buildings and plate glass was installed on both buildings. Part of the interior ground floor was covered with ceramic tile and a stamped tin ceiling added. The second story and attic are unchanged except for minor window treatment.

From 1950 to 1970, the buildings had various facades applied. Interior work lowered ceilings with suspended tile and various wall treatments were used. An exterior treatment added a single course brick veneer on the first floor, removing only 104 E. Front's plate glass. The second floor and attic were covered by a steel facade which sets 2 feet out from the walls and does not effect the second floor exterior or roof line.

Because of the structural relationship between the two buildings (i.e. common foundation and shared walls), both must be restored to retain physical and site integrity.

The Society has strong convictions concerning the integrity of the restoration. The architectural drawings accompanying this proposal are preliminary and based on known building techniques and design of the period as well as specific knowledge gained from investigation of the building. More information will come as restoration begins. Daily on site supervision will assure quality restoration including any changes and additions needed.

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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				

SPECIFIC DATES 1843

BUILDER/ARCHITECT See Continuation Sheet "Significance", Pg. 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1843, twelve years after the town of Bloomington was laid out, James Miller and David Davis constructed the second and third brick business buildings in Bloomington. Here would congregate the brightest, young legal minds; the sculptures of history: Lincoln, Scott, Douglas, Swett, Davis, the Fells, Lamon, Gridley, Orme and Miller. The buildings are the oldest surviving structures in the Downtown area and the only good examples of non residential 1840's architecture remaining in McLean County. They are being suggested for the National Register of Historic Places on condition of a plan being submitted for restoration to their appearance in the 1840's.

The corner of Front and Main was the scene of numerous political rallies and confrontations including a famous one between Stephen Douglas and David Davis in the 1840 Congressional campaign. The Miller Building, 101-3 N. Main was built by James T. Miller, a prominent local business man and land speculator, who was deeply involved in State politics. After running unsuccessfully for State Treasurer in 1854 on the American (Know-Nothing) Party Ticket, he won the post on the Republican Ticket in 1856 serving until 1860. Soon after construction, a Drug store was opened on the first floor and that kind of business remained continually for 128 years. The second floor was used as Law offices by various people including Asahel Gridley and his partner John M. Scott. A legal card in the Bloomington "Whig" read, "Gridley Office upstairs in Miller's Brick Building", August 5, 1848.

Gridley was an attorney, banker, merchant, legislator, land speculator, town founder and the man largely responsible for routing the earliest railroads through Bloomington. Scott was an attorney who first opened his practice in this building and later served 18 years on the Illinois Supreme Court. While on the bench, he issued a writ which stopped the execution of four of the convicted Haymarket Rioters.

The adjoining building at 104 E. Front was built by David Davis to replace a frame structure he had purchased from Jesse Fell along with Fell's Law practice. Davis continued in this office until he rose to the bench in 1848. He had gained prominence in the area by recruiting lawyers and riding the old 8th Circuit Court District. "In 1844 out of 61 chancery cases at the Spring term of the Circuit Court in McLean County, Davis and Colton were attorneys in 45." (Lincoln's Manager, David Davis, p. 46-47). During this time, Davis was elected to the State Legislature as a Whig and became a leader in those circles. He was also becoming closer to Lincoln, certain pleas being filed in the McLean County Circuit Court under the names, "Davis and Lincoln".

Please see Continuation Sheet "Significance" Page 2

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bloomington Whig (Aug. 5, 1848) p. 4

Duff, John J. Lincoln: The Prairie Lawyer, New York: Rinehart and Co., 1960

Duis, E. Good Old Times in McLean County (Bloomington: Leader Publishing and Printing House 1874) "Kersey H. Fell" 320-326, "General Asahel Gridley" 262-276, "Hon. James Miller" 308-309. (See Continuation Sheet Page 1)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .04133

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING	

B

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Assessors subdivision, original Town of Bloomington, commencing from Southeast corner of Lot 11 and running thence East 45 feet 5 inches; thence North 40 feet; thence West 45 feet 5 inches; thence South to place of beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Barbara Dunbar, Director

ORGANIZATION

DATE

McLean County Historical Society

October 11, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

201 E. Grove, St.

309-827-0128

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Bloomington,

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

In 1847, he served in the Illinois Constitutional Convention working particularly on Supreme Court reform. When being elected Circuit Judge of the 8th Circuit, Davis rented his building to various attorneys including Gridley, Scott and Thomas Macon who became a prominent Judge in a Western state. As history records, Davis went on to serve as Lincoln's campaign manager and was later appointed by President Lincoln to the Supreme Court bench.

Of this building the "Pantagraph" reported on July 3, 1888:

"Interesting stories were related yesterday to the Pantagrapher who looked up the above facts, showing there were many noted visitors to this little room during the days of Judge Davis... There are men living in this town today who have seen in the little building... Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas, John T. Stuart, Gen. Orme, Gen. Gridley, and many others."

After 1859, the Law offices were sold to a shoemaker and in an 1890 remodeling most of the interior wall separating the two buildings was removed. As restored, the buildings will be a reminder of the early Bloomington that Lincoln knew.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Builder/Architect

James Miller, James Goodheart, Zachariah Lawrence, Andy Matthews

The following excerpt is taken from Dwight Frink's biography of James Miller, 1905.

"In 1843 Mr. Miller had erected on his lot at the northeast corner of Main and Front Streets the little two story brick building which stands there today. James Goodheart and William T. M. Miller worked on that job and Squire Lawrence, a character of the city in early days, laid the brick.

Although a small building, the work which was commenced early in July was not finished until the latter part of September. The most amusing thing about the work was that outside scaffolding used for the mason.

Mr. Miller went to the timber and cut some line poles and then cross pieces. A half a brick was laid out here and there in which to insert the cross stick and the other end was tied to the pole...these boards were laid for the...Andy Matthews, of Danvers, one of the best masons in the county, was finally called in to assist with the work and to hurry it along, if possible."

The Davis building was constructed by the same tradesmen.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliographical ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1
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Frink, Dwight E. "Men of Affairs in Early Bloomington, James Miller",
Bloomington Bulletin Dec. 24, 1905.

Hart, James, "Building Used By Lincoln the Lawyer Yet Standing at Busy Downtown
Corner", Bloomington Bulletin, 1926

"Historical Research" Daily Pantagraph, July 3, 1888

King, Willard L. Lincoln's Manager: David Davis (Cambridge: Harvard University
Press, 1960)

McLean County Abstract Company, "Abstract of title to a part of lot 11..."
November 7, 1936

McLean County Directory, for 1859-60 (Chicago: John C.W. Bailey, 1860)

Morehouse, Frances, "The Life of Jesse W. Fell" University of Illinois Studies
in the Social Sciences, Vol. 5 no. 2 (June 1916)

Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County Illinois (Chicago: Chapman Bros.
1887). "Jesse W. Fell," 1060-1061; "Hon. John M. Scott," 969-970.

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Weekly Pantagraph (July 4, 1854)

Weekly Pantagraph (Jan. 4, 1854)

Weekly Pantagraph (March 5, 1856)

Weekly Pantagraph (April 11, 1857)

Western Whig (July 29, 1849)

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered APR 27 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Miller-Davis Law Buildings	Bloomington McLean County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Edward R. Madigan

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

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