

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 Paxton First Schoolhouse

AND/OR COMMON Corbett House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 406 East Franklin Street

CITY, TOWN Paxton

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 17th

STATE Illinois VICINITY OF CODE 12

COUNTY Ford CODE 053

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input 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 Mrs. Robert Rasmus

STREET & NUMBER R.R. #2

CITY, TOWN Paxton

VICINITY OF STATE Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Ford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 200 West State Street

CITY, TOWN Paxton

STATE Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey

DATE May, 1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS 405 East Washington Street

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

Paxton's first schoolhouse is a one-story frame building with a brick-walled basement. Its construction incorporates balloon framing along with mortise and tenon joinery in the larger structural members. Framing is of oak except for the rafters which are of walnut. The original siding is intact but covered with asphalt siding. Similarly, the original wooden shingled roof survives under a covering of composition shingles. Window frames and much of the glass seem to be original.

Interior trim is modest hand-planed pine without decorative elements. The original hair plaster over lath is in excellent condition and is now covered with wallpaper. Flooring is of hand-planed pine boards. Hardware is varied and it is doubtful whether any is original. Lighting fixtures date from ca. 1930.

A small frame extension was added to the east side in 1862 or 1863. While the building stands on its original site, it may have been raised to accommodate the brick basement sometime in the nineteenth century. An outbuilding shown in the 1865 "bird's eye view" of Paxton (see attached) no longer exists.

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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Paxton's first schoolhouse possesses local historical significance as the oldest surviving structure in that east-central Illinois community and one of the oldest in Ford County.

History

Built in the winter of 1856-57, this structure served at first not only as a school but as a church and meeting hall as well. Local church histories, for example, mention that it was used by early Methodist circuit riders. Thus it was a gathering place for the earliest families in the area--the Stites, Pattons, Dobbs, Dunhams, and others. No prominent people owned or frequented this "little building on the southeast corner of Franklin and Union streets" (as it was described in the 1884 Atlas of Ford County)--nonetheless, it is a unique link with the beginnings of community life in Paxton. The Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey has identified fewer than half a dozen contemporary structures (that is, dating from the 1850s and 1860s) in all of Ford County. These include the Federated Church and a brick commercial structure in Paxton, both built in 1865, and the Toledo, Peoria and Western Railroad depot in Piper City, built in 1857.

This first schoolhouse was outgrown sometime in the 1860s and sold as a dwelling house. Subsequent alterations have been largely superficial in nature and are reversible.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Atlas of Ford County. Chicago, 1884.
 Gardner, E. A., History of Ford County from its Earliest Settlement to 1908. Chicago, 1908.
 Taft, Oren B., "Early History of Paxton, Illinois", Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society. Springfield, 1919-2

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME _____ QUADRANGLE SCALE _____
 UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: 1. W. W. Sauer, Director 2. Jeffrey Flemming DATE: May, 1979

ORGANIZATION: Ford County Hist. Soc. Illinois Dept. of Conservation

STREET & NUMBER: 145 West Center Street 405 E. Washington TELEPHONE: 1. 217-379-312 2. 217-782-184

CITY OR TOWN: Paxton Springfield 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE _____ DATE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

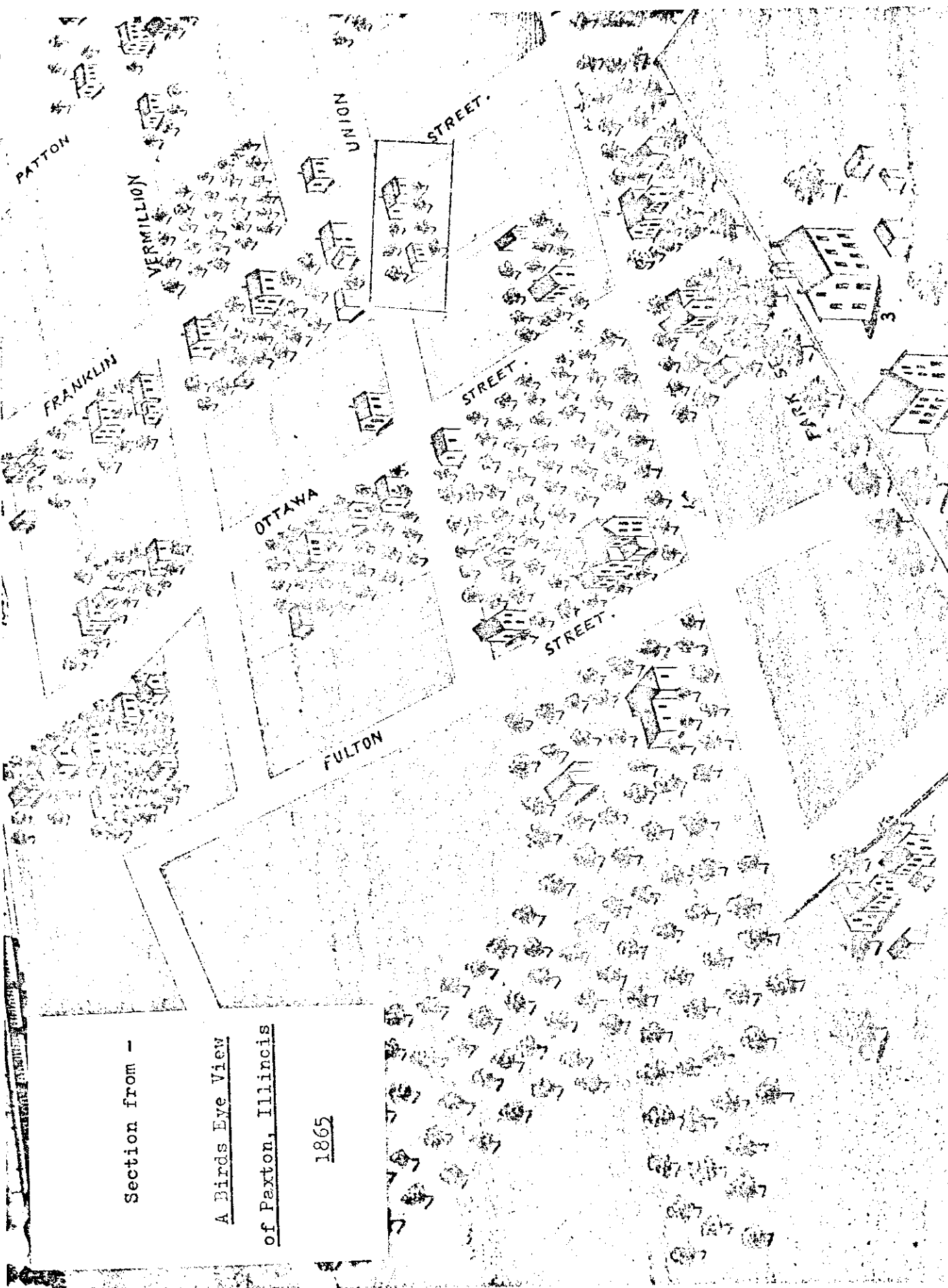
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



Section from -

A Birds Eye View
of Paxton, Illinois

1865

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ILLINOIS

STATE

Date Entered JAN 29 1980

Name

Location

Paxton First Schoolhouse

Paxton
Ford County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Tom Corcoran