

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

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

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

For HCRS use only
received _____
date entered _____

1. Name

historic Grierson, General Benjamin Henry, House

and/or common _____

2. Location

street & number 852 East State Street

not for publication _____

city, town Jacksonville

vicinity of _____

congressional district _____

20th

state Illinois

code _____

012

county Morgan

code 137

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 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 Mrs. Charlotte Cleeland

street & number 852 East State Street

city, town Jacksonville

vicinity of _____

state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Morgan County Recorder's Office

street & number Morgan County Court House

city, town Jacksonville

state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey property been determined eligible? yes no

date November, 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

The General Benjamin Henry Grierson House was built about 1850. The

detached Italianate dwelling has a simple cross plan and is a two-story element with a finished attic. The brick running bond on the exterior has been painted white, and the exterior walls are 16 inches thick. The interior walls are also of brick and are finished with plaster. The roof is 5-12 pit series of gables.

The original spaces remain basically unchanged, although the function uses of the spaces have changed through the years. Wings were added to the north and west during the residence of General Grierson in the house, but the exact date of these additions could not be determined. The home includes a number of handsome spaces, including a fine entry hall highlighted by a curved stairway, the west parlor which is set off by a bay window which extends for two stories, the northeast bedroom on the first floor which is augmented by a one-story bay window with a domed interior ceiling, and French windows at the front of the house leading from the east and west parlors. The west parlor contains a marble fireplace with cast iron pipe and marble mantel, all of which are in good condition. The original windows remain and are characterized by wood mouldings which are still in excellent condition. Window types are double-hung and casement sash throughout the house. Most windows extend from near the ceiling to the finished floor. The front door is rounded at the top in an especially attractive manner.

The interior trim is original with the exception of the ceiling mould which is now wood, in lieu of the original plaster moulds. Interior doors contain relief panels in very simple patterns.

The bedrooms are on the second floor. Above them, in the original portion of the house, is a large finished attic room with small stages at each end; this room was used as a music room, ballroom and for amateur theatricals.

The original structure had several decorative features, including eave supports and porches that have been removed. The original structure has experienced only minor alteration, and the interiors have been only slightly altered to function as apartment units. The exterior in the back on the northwest side was altered to accommodate the addition of entrance stairs for the two upstairs apartments. A small sub-grade space was created at the back of the house to permit access to the boiler room.

Fine shrubs, trees and flowers surround the house. Two rare pink magnolias which were imported from Japan during the last century by the Griersons still grace the east side of the house, and a large woods is located at the rear of the house.

A stone marker in front of the house reminds the passer-by of General Grierson's association with 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" 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 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 built circa 1850 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Benjamin Henry Grierson was one of the most illustrious heroes to emerge from the Civil War. He was associated with 852 Eads State Street from the time he moved with his family to Jacksonville in 1851 until well after the turn of the century. Grierson was a music teacher when he first lived in the house with his parents. In the mid-1850s, he tried the mercantile business and continued in this line until the Civil War when he volunteered for Union service in 1861. He rose rapidly through the ranks and took part in numerous engagements as a cavalry colonel. On April 17, 1863, under orders from General Grant, left LaGrange, Tennessee, with 1,700 men, with but three days' rations in their haversacks and, marching south through the entire state of Mississippi a distance of over 600 miles, 16 days later arrived at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. During the last 20 hours of this raid, Colonel Grierson force-marched 76 miles, had four engagements, destroyed two ~~Confederate~~ ^{Confederate} camps, captured nearly 100 prisoners, and crossed the Tickfaw, White, and Genite Rivers. The famous expedition resulted in the destruction of 60 miles of railroad and telegraph lines, several locomotives, over 100 cars--many of them loaded with shells and other ordnance or quartermaster stores--3,000 stands of arms, and the capture of 1,000 horses and mules. The loss to the Confederates amounted to millions of dollars in property, besides 100 soldiers killed or wounded and 500 captured and paroled. A large number of slaves accompanied Grierson's force to Baton Rouge and mustered into Union regiments. The expedition proved the Confederates "a mere shell," disconcerted the enemy's plans, scattered and drew their forces from vulnerable points, and threw them into such confusion as to render them unserviceable and unable to concentrate against General Grant's forces in the movement against Vicksburg. As a consequence over 20,000 rebel troops were ordered to distant points, depleting the strength of the Confederate forces at Vicksburg in the vain attempt to capture and destroy Colonel Grierson and his raiders from Illinois and proving an important factor in the capture of Vicksburg soon thereafter. President Lincoln recognized Grierson's service by promoting him to brigadier general of volunteers "for gallant and distinguished service." Referring to the raid of 1863, General Grant stated in writing "General Grierson was the first officer to set the example of what might be done in the interior of the enemy's country without a base from which to draw supplies." Grierson continued his active service for the Union until the end of the Civil War. On the reorganization of the regular army, Grierson was appointed colonel of the Tenth Regiment of U.S. Cavalry. For nearly a quarter of a century he was actively engaged in scouting, exploring, Indian-fighting and administering throughout the western states and territories at various military posts. His commands were often all-black units at this time. At different times he commanded the Districts of Indian Territory and Texas, Texas; the Department of Texas; the District of New Mexico; and the Department of Arizona, with headquarters at Los Angeles, California, where he received his appointment as brigadier general from the U.S. Army to rank from April 1890. He retired from active service July 8, 1890, and returned to Jacksonville where he remained until his death August 31, 1911. Throughout his military

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For HCPS use only
received
date entered

1

8

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

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career General Grierson used 852 East State Street, Jacksonville, as his official residence. In the late 1890s, following his retirement, he moved to 729 West State Street, Jacksonville, and lived there until his death. This house, an ornate Victorian structure in what was then a more fashionable portion of town, was destroyed by fire in 1980, which leaves 852 East State Street as the only tangible reminder of General Grierson's great service to the United States. This, 852 East State Street, was his home from the 1850s to the 1890s, and he was still the owner of the family homestead at the time of his death in 1911.

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date entered

Continuation sheet **2.**

Item number **9**

Page **2**

Bibliography Continued

Brown, Alexander D., Grierson's Raid, 1954, Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Short, W. F., Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Modern Com
1906, Chicago: Ransell Publishing Company.
Jacksonville Daily Journal, September 2, 1911.
Underwood, Larry, "Colonel Grierson," Illinois Magazine, Vol. XVIII, No. 1,

10. Geographical Data

(continues)

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A

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

Zone Easting Northing

B

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

Zone Easting Northing

C

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

D

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

E

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

F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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 John Power, chairman

organization Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission

date April 24, 1980

street & number

c/o Jacksonville Journal Courier Company

telephone 217-245-6121

city or town Jacksonville

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 NCRS 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Short, W.F., Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Morgan County, 1906, Chicago: Munsell Publishing Company.
Jacksonville Daily Journal, September 2, 1911.
Underwood, Larry, "Colonel Grierson," Illinois Magazine, Vol. XVIII, No. 4, May, 1979 (cont.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UMT 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"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

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 John Power, Chairman
 Jacksonville Historic Preservation
 organization Commission date April 24, 1980
 street & number % Jacksonville Journal Courier Co. telephone 217/245-6121
 city or town Jacksonville state Illinois

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national state local

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State Historic Preservation Officer signature *David Kerney*
 title *Dir., Ill. Dept. of Conservation* date *6/27/80*

For HCRS 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 NOV 20 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Quinby, Ivory, House	Monmouth Warren County
Grierson, Gen. Benjamin Henry, House	Jacksonville Morgan County
Taft Farmstead	Rochester Sangamon County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Tom Railsback
Honorable Paul Findley

COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF NOMINATION

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

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

MG-H-5

203124

1. Name of site:

Common Gen. Benjamin Grierson Home
Historic Robert Grierson Home

2. Location:

Street and number 852 E State St. Township 15N Section 21
City or Town Jacksonville Zip Code Range 10W 1/4 Section NE
County Morgan

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

For MacMurray College students

5. Ownership of Property

Owner's name MacMurray College

Street and number

Phone Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

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 Gen. Benjamin Grierson (give names & dates)

MILITARY AFFAIRS



8. Specific Date: 1852

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

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

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

9. Form prepared by:

Name and title: _____ Date: _____

Organization: _____

Street and number: _____

City or town: _____ County _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number: _____

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.

Robert Grierson was born in Ireland of Scottish parents. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1818 with his parents; his first home was at Youngstown, Ohio, but he soon moved to Jacksonville where he became a large landowner and something of a local aristocrat.

He was also the father of Gen. Benjamin H. Grierson. The son, a veteran of the Civil War and the western Indian campaigns, is best known for leading one infantry raid behind enemy lines in Mississippi during the battle at Vicksburg. He also lived in this house, for a time.

THE GRIERSON HOME ✓

The Grierson home on East State Street in Jacksonville, Illinois, was built by Robert Grierson ^{Legend has it} a little over 100 years ago.

Robert Grierson, father of General B.H. Grierson, was a descendent of the Rob Roy MacGregor Clan of Scotland and through them of the Clan MacAlpine. His forefathers after being outlawed by the English kings went to France where the name was softened to Grierson. Later they returned to Dublin, Ireland, and it was there that Robert Grierson was born. The family was of some importance, but Robert was a younger son and left Dublin with his wife and young family in 1818.

On the way over from Dublin to America there was a mutiny on board and the crew locked the drunken captain in his cabin. Robert Grierson, who had studied navigation as a pastime, was put in command and brought the ship safely into the Bermuda harbor which was considered quite a feat. Afterwards they went on and landed in New York. The log of the voyage is still in the possession of some of his descendents. A portrait of Robert Grierson is at the home of Mrs. Walter Bellati of Jacksonville. It was painted by his granddaughter, Mary Fuller Kirk.

Robert Grierson lived first at Youngstown, Ohio, but later moved to Jacksonville where he bought a large tract of land extending from the Blind School on the west through some wooded land on the east, north to the Wabash and south to East State St. The home he built facing State St. was originally of red brick with long windows opening on to the low porches. There was a bay window to the east, brick walks running around the house and a bricked patio and fountain off the dining room. The front door opened into a wide hall with a long stairway leading to the second floor. To the west of the hall was a spacious parlor or living room with long French mirrors at either end. The fireplace was in the center of the west wall. To the east of the front hall was a sitting room and a downstairs bedroom. The dining room opened off these front rooms but it ran ^{across} east and west instead of lengthwise of the house. It was a very pleasant room. Beyond were the kitchen, pantries, and storerooms. Above the bedrooms on the second floor was a large finished attic room used as a music room and ballroom.