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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC Post House

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1516 State Street

CITY, TOWN

Alton

VICINITY OF CODE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

56th

STATE

Illinois

COUNTY

Madison

CODE

## 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. William Roller

STREET & NUMBER  
1516 State Street

CITY, TOWN

Alton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Madison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Edwardsville

STATE

Illinois

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Alton Historic Buildings Survey

DATE

1967

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Hayner Library

CITY, TOWN

Alton

STATE

Illinois

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (Cont.)

TITLE Inventory of Architecture before WW2 in Madison County  
DATE 1973  State  
DEPOSITORY Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Division of Historic Sites  
CITY, TOWN Springfield STATE Illinois

TITLE Open Space and Historic Site Preservation Study  
Madison, St. Clair, Monroe, Randolph Counties  
DATE 1973  Regional  
DEPOSITORY Southwestern Ill. Metropolitan Planning Commission  
CITY, TOWN Collinsville STATE Illinois

TITLE Historic Sites Inventory for the St. Louis Metropolitan Area  
DATE 1976  Regional  
DEPOSITORY East-West Gateway Coordinating Council  
CITY, TOWN St. Louis STATE Missouri

# DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The William Post House is a 1 1/2 story limestone (original front section, 1838) and painted brick (rear addition, after 1869) structure of Greek Revival design. In the front, a pedimented gable end rests on a wide entablature (with unadorned frieze) which is supported by four stocky fluted Doric columns which, in turn, rest on a "raised platform". The pediment and entablature form a porch roof across the whole front of the house. The porch continues halfway down either side; another Doric column and a pilaster on each side of the house complete the side porches. A dentil moulding decorates the pediment and heavy cornice. The Post House has a T-shaped plan.

Three strongly vertical trabeated openings, indential in size and symmetrically located, mark the limestone facade. The main entrance is to the right. To the left and center are two 6-over-12 paned, to-the-floor windows. Over the door is a horizontal transom. A cast iron railing and chunky posts may have been added by the second owner of the house, James Patterson, proprietor of the Patterson Iron Works. The original vertical window in the pediment has been replaced with two smaller windows, giving a more traditional elongated-opening shape. Side windows in the stone structure have simple limestone block lintels with 6-over-6 panes.

Sometime after 1860 a rear addition of brick was constructed with a southwest corner porch with square posts and simple ornamentation. The brick addition has segmental arch, 6-over-6 windows. A continuous oblong gable roof covers both the stone and brick sections and the porches. The rear gable end of the house has return cornices. In the 1920's, twin dormers on each side of the roof were replaced with single large dormers on each side to provide more second floor living space.

In 1922 when William Hancock bought the house, the 20-inch thick stone walls were covered with smooth, incised, two-color cement. Removal of the cement revealed unmortared stone. Sometime in the 1920's the stone section was tuck-pointed. Mr. Hancock discovered that no nails had been used in framing the white pine and walnut timbers; the 1830's house had been fastened together with mortices and pins. Hancock replaced the roof and some rotted roof timbers, changed the stairway system (see next paragraph) took out some partitions to make larger rooms on the second floor and replaced the wood front porch floor with poured concrete.

The Post House has eight rooms. Unlike traditional three-opening, temple-front floor plans, originally there was no stairway in the front entrance hall; the stairway was in what was then the back of the house. The building has been remodeled by eliminating the rear stairs and adding stairs to the second floor in the front entrance hall. The old rear stairway was rebuilt directly underneath its old location to provide indoor stairs to the basement which underlies the whole front section of the house. A wide hallway crosses the building beyond the rear wall of the original stone portion; two rooms in the brick addition open onto the hall which has exterior doors at each end. The present structure has two interior chimneys.

# 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/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 type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)			
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION					

SPECIFIC DATES Built in 1837-38

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Post House is a superior example of domestic early Illinois Greek Revival architecture interpreted in locally available building materials by local craftsmen. Its basic form is little altered from the original, it has associations with two Altonians prominent in their time, and its immediate surroundings enhance its design.

The front facade of the Post House has all the classic elements of the Greek temple form in America: The low, pedimented gable front, the wide entablature, the heavy cornice, the raised platform, the encircling front and side porches with roof supported by Doric columns and pilasters (all of which contribute to the colonaded effect of the Greek temple) the three-opening-front with windows to the floor and off-center entrance. The Post House is constructed of limestone and timbers from Alton's bluffs and native forests, fashioned by local masons and carpenters. Woodwork throughout, especially the columns, the entrance-way, the interior hall and the parlor woodwork is marked by superior craftsmanship and fine design. Alterations, such as the single large dormers on either side of the roof which have been remodeled into two single large dormers and the rear brick addition, can hardly be seen from the street, partly because of trees and plantings and partly because the house is situated above the street within a stone retaining wall. The house is located on a corner lot; it faces State Street which is heavily traveled, but Patterson Place, on the north, is a short dead-end street. The Post House is bordered on the south by a large grassy field, several acres in extent.

In 1838 William Post had this house built on the State Road north of Lower Alton. Around that time, Post was captain of the steamboat "Columbus"; he afterwards engaged in various Alton enterprises in business, banking and politics before he left Alton for Litchfield, Illinois in 1870. William Post was a city assessor (1837), proprietor of the Eagle Tavern (1840) a liquor dealer and grocer (1858) a director of the Alton Mutual Insurance and Savings Company (1862) and twice mayor of Alton (1859-60 and 1866-67). By 1854 Post had moved to William Street in Lower Alton, reportedly to live within the city limits so he could more effectively pursue a political career. In 1854 James Patterson of the Illinois Iron Works purchased the house. Patterson in 1863 took over the factory, renaming it the Patterson Iron Works. The company employed 100 workmen and produced threshers, engines, sugar mills, saw mills and all kinds of mill machinery. It was Patterson who added the brick addition to the house. Absolom Ash, a plasterer, owned the house from about 1869 to 1871, when he sold it to William Feldwisch. The Feldwisch family never lived in the house; they used it as rental property until they sold it to William Hancock in 1922.

When William Hancock bought the house, it was in poor repair; having been, for some years, subjected to the attrition of a series of renters and vacancies. Mr Hancock's daughter, Mrs. William Roller, inherited the property in 1962. The Post House is excellently maintained by the Rollers.

Note: The William Post House is not located within the boundaries of any of Alton's three National Register historic districts.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alton Telegraph, April 25, 1840 p.3, c.5; April 3, 1841, p.e, c.5; Mar. 1, 1850 p.3, C.1;  
 December 21, 1882 p.5, c.4.  
 Brink, W.C., Illustrated Encyclopedia and Atlas Map of Madison County, L\* & #, St. Louis,  
 Missouri, Brink-McCormick and Co..  
 Brink, W.C., History of Madison County, 1882, Edwardsville, Illinois, W.R. Brink and Co.  
 Coombs and Elgin, Alton Historic Buildings Survey, 1967, Alton Rotary Club  
 (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

## 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 The Post House is located on the southwest corner of State Street and Patterson Place in the Sempie Addition. Starting at the southwest corner of State and Patterson, proceed south along State Street 150 feet, then west 125, then north 150 feet, then 125 feet along Patterson Place to the point of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Ruth Means

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

DATE  
January 1980

STREET & NUMBER

R. R. #2

TELEPHONE  
(618) 259-6710

CITY OR TOWN

Alton

STATE  
Illinois

## 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

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Cont.)
- Hair, James T., Gazetteer of Madison County, 1866, Alton, Illinois, James T. Hair
- Illinois Historic Structure Survey Team, Inventory of Architecture Before WW2 in Madison County, 1973, Dept. of Conservation, Division of Historic Sites
- McEvoy and Bowron, Alton City Directory and Business Mirror for 1958, 1858, Alton, Illinois, McEvoy and Bowron
- Norton, W.T. Centennial History of Madison County, 1912, Chicago and New York, Lewis Publishing Co.
- Roller, Pauline, Interview, January 11, 1980