

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Illinois	
COUNTY: Morgan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Rev. James Caldwell Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Governor Duncan Mansion "Elm Grove"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
No. 4 Duncan Place

CITY OR TOWN:
Jacksonville

STATE: Illinois	CODE: 17	COUNTY: Morgan	CODE: 137
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Rev. James Caldwell Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution

STREET AND NUMBER:
No. 4, Duncan Place

CITY OR TOWN:
Jacksonville

STATE: Illinois	CODE: 17
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Clerk's Office, Deed Book 103, page 129

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse, West State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Jacksonville

STATE: Illinois	CODE: 17
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D. C.	CODE: 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Illinois**
COUNTY: **Morgan**
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.

The Governor Duncan House as it was originally built consisted of the main portion of the house with two wings on either side. In this form, the house could best be described as Colonial architecture of the early Georgian type. The wings were later removed and all porches, the porte cochere, maids quarters and kitchen at the rear were added in alterations of 1882 and 1900.

The general proportions of the house, the symmetrical arrangement of the facade, the absence of a projecting central pavilion, and the rather steep, pitched roof with rectangular windows in the dormers were popular in this type of architecture in the East around 1750. However, the semi-circular fanlight over the front door was more common in the period after 1750 in the East. The two wings were characteristic of the early Georgian in the southern states. Since the facade of Governor Duncan's House was derived from his father's house in Kentucky, this is the probable origin of the wings.

The original house is an interesting example of a style popular several years earlier in the East adapted to a later building in Illinois.

Oak frame, black walnut weather boarding. Three storeis. Sixteen rooms--two baths, three spacious halls and a large foyer. Asbestos roof-five years old, gas fired hot air furnace. Brass lighting fixtures, etched crystal shades. This structure fronts on the curved side of the D in Duncan Park. 185 foot frontage, lot is 500 feet deep.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 14th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Joseph Duncan, the owner of the house, was born in Paris, Kentucky, on February 22, 1794. He served in the War of 1812 and received a sword and vote of thanks for gallantry in the defense of Fort Stephenson, near Sandusky, Ohio, while under the command of Major George Croghan.

In 1818 Duncan moved to Illinois from Kentucky and settled in Jackson County, where he served as Justice of the Peace from 1821 to 1823. In 1824, he became a state senator.

During his term as state senator he served as Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs and was instrumental in drafting a complete militia law. Duncan also served as Chairman of the Committee on Seminary Lands.

Duncan's greatest accomplishment as state senator was his successful attempt to draft and enact a Public School Bill. This Bill, passed on January 25, 1825, provided for free common schools years before comparable legislation in other states. Taxes could be levied to support the schools.

In 1826, Duncan ran against Daniel Cook for Congress and won. Duncan was the sole representative from Illinois during the years 1827-1833. During his time in Congress, Duncan served on the Committee on Public Lands and agitated for a system of mounted volunteers for protection of the western settlers. Duncan also began to press for construction of the Illinois and Michigan canal within his own state.

In 1828, Duncan married Elizabeth Caldwell Smith of New York City, the granddaughter of Rev. James Caldwell of New Jersey, a chaplain in the Revolutionary Army. The D.A.R. Chapter, which now owns and occupies the Duncan Mansion, is named in honor of Rev. Caldwell. In 1830, the Duncans moved to Jacksonville, and in 1833 work was begun on the Mansion which was to become their permanent home.

In 1831, Duncan was re-elected to his seat in Congress and also the leader of a force of 1500 militia-men who volunteered for service during the Black Hawk Wars. In the hostilities which followed, Duncan led an attack on Black Hawk's village in the Rock River Valley, which was a limited success.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Perrin, J. Nick, Perrin's History of Illinois, 1906, Illinois State Register, Springfield.

Pease, Theodore, Calvin, The Story of Illinois, University of Chicago Press, Chicago: 1965.

Smith, George W., A Student's History of Illinois, Hall & McCreary Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1921.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39	44	10	90	15	00			
NE	39	44	10	90	14	53			
SE	39	43	51	90	14	53			
SW	39	43	51	90	15	00			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 25.5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **William G. Farrar, Director**

ORGANIZATION: **Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey** DATE: **2/12/-71**

STREET AND NUMBER: **320 South Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Benton** STATE: **Illinois** CODE: **17**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Illinois
COUNTY		Morgan
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

(Number all entries)

No. 8 - Significance, cont.

In 1834, Duncan was elected Governor of Illinois. His campaign had been conducted from Washington, D. C., and Duncan spent no time in Illinois electioneering or speech making. In his inaugural address, Duncan urged more money be spent for education and internal improvements and strongly advocated construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal.

Duncan's hopes for the Canal were partially realized. Although the Canal was not completed during his term of office, or even his lifetime, by the time he left office all but 23 miles were under construction.

Though Duncan had pressed for internal improvements, an Internal Improvements Bill in 1837 was vetoed by him, due to what he felt was an excessive amount of requested funds. The Bill was passed over his veto. The Panic of 1837 proved Duncan's contentions and at a special session of the legislature, the Bill was repealed.

Duncan retired from office at the close of his first term. His last political campaign was one in 1842 when he unsuccessfully ran for Governor against Thomas Ford. Duncan's interest in education carried throughout his life. As a trustee of Illinois College, he gave \$10,000 in land to that institution. He was also a trustee of the State Deaf and Dumb Institution for Idiotic Children.

Duncan died at age 49 on January 15, 1844, and was buried in Diamond Grove Cemetery in Jacksonville.

While Duncan was Governor, the capitol of Illinois was Vandalia. No official residence for the Governor existed in Vandalia, so Duncan's Mansion in Jacksonville was used for that purpose.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
Morgan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

No. 9 - Bibliography, cont.

Publication #26 - Illinois State Historical Library:
Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society for Year 1919 -
20th Annual meeting, May 12, 1919, Springfield, Illinois State Journal Co.,
Springfield, Illinois, 1920.

Putnam, Elizabeth Duncan, The Life and Services of Joseph Duncan, Governor
of Illinois. 1834-38, pp. 107-187.

Early American Architecture, High Morrision, Oxford University Press - New
York, 1952.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered **NOV 5 1971**

Name

Location

Governor Duncan Mansion "Elm Grove"

Jacksonville
Morgan County

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, III
Hon. Paul Findley

Illinois Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey Use only
Survey Track

- Archaeology
- Architecture
- History

16-H-46

200507

1. Name of Site:

Common:

Rev. James Caldwell Chapter, D.A.R.

Historic:

Governor Duncan Mansion

2. Location of site:

Street and Number:

#4 Duncan Place

Township

15N

Section

18

City or Town

Jacksonville

Zip Code

62650

Range

10W

Section

SE

County:

Morgan

3. Classification

Category: (check one)

District

Building

Altered

Unaltered

Site

Structure

Position: (check one)

Moved

Original Site

4. Ownership:

Public

Private

Status:

Occupied

Unoccupied

Preservation

work in progress

Access to the public:

Yes

Restricted

Unrestricted

No

Present Use: Check one or more)

Agricultural

Commercial

Educational

Entertainment

Government

Industrial

Military

Museum

Park

Private residence

Religious

Scientific

Transportation

Other (specify)

5. Owner of property:

Owners name

Rev. James Caldwell Chapter, D.A.R.

Phone Number

Street and number

#4 Duncan Place

City of town

Jacksonville

State

Illinois

County

Morgan

Zip Code

62650

POLITICAL AFFAIRS

6. Condition:

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruins
- Unexplored

Is there a program of preservation under way? Yes No
 If yes, give a brief description on the back of this page.

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

- Archeological site (pre-Columbian)
- Archeological 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 and dates)

Specific date of site: 1834 - present

Areas of significance: (check one or more)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |

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

8. Form prepared by

Name and Title: Staff _____ Date: 3-24-71
 Organization: Illinois Historic Sites Survey
 Street and Number: 320 South Main
 City or Town: Benton County: Franklin Zip Code: 62812
 Phone Number: 439-4253

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 examples any published references to the site for which the form is being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly reduce the surveyor's task.

Bibliography Form:

Robertson, Robert B., Of Whales and Men, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1970.

List Bibliography on back of sheet.

7. Statement of Significance:

Building of the house was begun in 1834 and finished in 1835. It was the home of Governor Joseph Duncan, fifth elected governor of Illinois, and his family. At the time the house was built, Jacksonville was one mile away.

Elizabeth Caldwell Smith was the daughter of James and Hannah Caldwell Smith. Her father, James Smith was a wealthy New York Merchant, who at his death, left his daughter a fortune of \$150,000. After the death of her parents, she went to live in Washington, D.C., across from the White House with her sister, Mrs. Matthew St. Clair Clark, wife of the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

She was the granddaughter of Rev. James Caldwell, known as the "fighting parson of New Jersey", who during the Revolution, when the soldiers ran out of wadding for their muskets, galloped to the church and returned with his arms full of Watt's Hymn Books, flung them down, crying, "Give 'em Watts, boys, give 'em Watts."

She was the niece of John E. Caldwell, one of the founders of the American Bible Society and the Christian Herald.

The tiny four feet five inches tall Elizabeth Caldwell Smith met the handsome six feet tall Joseph Duncan at the White House at an intimate little dinner party given by President John Quincy Adams. They soon fell in love and were married in Washington May 13, 1828.

At this time, Joseph Duncan was serving as the only representative of Illinois in Congress and had already distinguished himself in the War of 1812. He was awarded a gold sword for his bravery at the battle of Fort Stevenson (Stephenson) by Congress and elevated to the rank of Major General. He served in Congress from 1827 to 1833.

In 1834 he was elected Governor of Illinois and took the oath of office under an old walnut tree in the grove just north of his house in Jacksonville. The state capitol was then at Vandalia and there was no official Governor's residence. The Governor Duncan Mansion in Jacksonville served as the Governor's Mansion for the State of Illinois from 1834 to 1838. It was here the Governor entertained Daniel Webster, his wife and niece and gave a huge barbecue for Mr. Webster in a grove northwest of the house. A whole steer was roasted for the occasion. The location is marked by a boulder at the corner of Webster and Lafayette Streets. Alexander Hamilton, Col. John J. Hardin (the hero of Buena Vista), young Abe Lincoln, who served as the Representative of Sangamon County in the legislature during the governorship of Joseph Duncan, and many other distinguished people were entertained.

Governor Duncan authored and secured the passage of the first public school law for Illinois in 1824. He was instrumental in establishing Illinois College, making large gifts to it of money and land (\$10,000) and served many years as a trustee. However, he did write a letter of resignation from the Board of Trustees. Gov. Duncan had freed his own slaves but he did not believe as the Abolitionists did that the slaves be freed by force but by the conscience of slave holders.

Mr. Duncan was also the driving force in securing the Illinois Institution for the Education of Deaf Mutes for Jacksonville, raising funds for the purchase of the site and serving as the first president of the Board of Trustees, a position he held until his death.

There was agitation during Governor Duncan's term to move the state capitol to a more central location in the state. The people of Vandalia were determined to keep it at Vandalia and when the legislature adjourned for the summer of 1836, the people of Vandalia, without any authority, tore down the old capitol building and built a new one. Governor Duncan dedicated this building, which still stands, in the fall of 1836.

Significance, cont.

Governor Duncan died in the Mansion January 15, 1844, leaving a widow and seven of his ten children. He is buried in Diamond Grove Cemetery, Jacksonville.

As far as is known, the Governor Duncan Mansion is the only house other than the Governor's Mansion in Springfield, which has served the State of Illinois as a Mansion which is still standing. The Mansion housed the first Illinois Institution for Idiotic Children (forerunner of Lincoln School) having been rented to the State of Illinois in 1865 by Mrs. Duncan for \$600.

8. Bibliographical references:

Johnson, Allen and Malone, Dumas, Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. III, Cushman-Fraser, Charles Schribner's Sons, New York. 1958.

Pease, Marguerite Jenison, The Story of Illinois, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois, 1967.

