

REVISION

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Illinois
COUNTY:	Jackson
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

3

1. NAME

COMMON:
West Walnut Street Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: West Walnut St. from Poplar St. to N-S alley between
Springer and Forest Sts. (E to W) to Main St. (N to S)

CITY OR TOWN: Carbondale

STATE: Illinois

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 24th-Congressman Paul Simon

CODE: 17

COUNTY: Jackson

CODE: 077

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Various private owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Carbondale

STATE: Illinois

CODE: 17

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Jackson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Murphysboro

STATE: Illinois

CODE: 17

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973-74

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey

ARTICLE AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 986 1202 West Main Street, Room 21

CITY OR TOWN: Carbondale

STATE: Illinois

CODE: 17

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Illinois

COUNTY: Jackson

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input 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 West Walnut Street Historic District contains 54 houses, 48 of which date from 1859 to 1929. In the 19th century Walnut Street and Main Street were considered the most prestigious streets in Carbondale on which to live, and the district contains most of Carbondale's best remaining examples of pioneer style, bracketed Italianate, Mansard, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival residences, as well as a number of substantial early 20th century houses.

Carbondale was founded in 1852 when lots were platted in the center of the town, and was incorporated as a city in 1860. The area covered by the historic district was originally part of an oak grove and was laid out in the 1850's in a series of numbered outlots, some of which were as large as 6 acres. By the late 1850's, these outlots had begun to be broken up and sold as building lots, but actual building remained sparse in this area until the 1870's. Since the 1920's the configuration of lots and houses on the streets has changed very little, and the number of original oak trees remaining throughout the district, as well as numerous maples and elms, has assured an appropriate setting for the large grouping of 19th and early 20th century houses which is now so rare in Carbondale.

The oldest house on West Walnut Street is the pioneer style frame dwelling at 511 West Walnut Street (#4 on Map 1). Built in 1859 for William Dixon, the original story and a half house (the center portion of the present house) has an unadorned facade and a steeply pitched roof which sweeps down to form a porch across the front of the house. Two additions have been made to the house in the 20th century, but the original structure has been well preserved.

The house at 505 West Walnut Street (#2) is best known as the home of the first president of Southern Illinois Normal University. Built in 1868-69 for Edwin Babcock, the house was originally a two-story square Italianate house with round-headed windows, a low hipped roof, and bracketed overhanging eaves. Obviously an impressive house for Carbondale when it was built, it was sold by Babcock in 1870 for the unusually large sum of \$5,500. In 1879 the house was considered suitable for a university president and was purchased by the first president of Southern Illinois Normal University, Robert Allyn, and remained his home until his death in 1894. Allyn added to the original two-story house an elaborate mansard roof (retaining the original brackets), a two-story bay window on the east side of the house and a dining room wing on the west, also with a mansard roof. Allyn had come to Illinois from Connecticut and was well acquainted with the mansard roof which was fashionable in the east, but it was an unusual feature for Carbondale at the time,

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and 505 West Walnut Street is now the only surviving mansard roofed house in the city.

The third oldest house on the street was built in 1871-72 for Reverend Edward Fish, who was the minister at Daniel Brush's Presbyterian Church from 1868-1872 and who in 1874 was the presiding minister at the inauguration of Robert Allyn as the first president of Southern Illinois Normal University. As befitting a minister, the house at 502 West Walnut Street (#20) was built without exterior ornament, but the interior retains all its original features, including a walnut stairway, coal burning fireplace, handsome moldings, and wide board poplar floors. Originally clapboarded, the house has been covered with shingles and the original porch has been replaced by a smaller porch with columns. Rev. Fish's house was built on the corner of Walnut and Poplar Streets but was moved to the west side of the lot in 1913 to make room for an impressive brick house (#21) built in that year for the prominent local druggist Frank Hewitt.

Other notable examples of 19th century houses on West Walnut Street are a country Queen Anne house at 513 West Walnut Street (#5) and an 1880's house at 603 West Walnut Street (#7). The house at 513 was built in 1894 for Francis Battson and has patterned shingles in the main gable, an overhanging second story, and multiple gables, all of which create the kind of varied house outline favored in that period. The house has been excellently maintained, and the addition to the rear is in keeping with the character of the original structure. The house at 603 West Walnut Street was built by 1886 for Lyman Carleton but has little Victorian ornamentation except a projecting center gable and stick style detail over the gable window. The house originally had a one-story porch across the front.

The best surviving example of Colonial Revival architecture in Carbondale is the house at 605 West Walnut Street (#8) which has overtones of the Queen Anne style in its shingling detail and asymmetrical juxtaposition of bay windows. This house was built in 1900 for George Washington Smith, a professor of history at Southern Illinois Normal University who in 1912 published a 3 volume History of Southern Illinois which included biographical sketches of the most prominent residents and settlers of the area. Except for the addition of the front porch and two-story pillars in the 1940's, the house remains in essentially original condition. Professor Smith moved to this address in 1891 and lived in a square two-story house dating from the 1870's. When he built his

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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(Number all entries)

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new house in 1900, he moved the original 1870's house on the lot to 611 West Walnut Street (#11) where it stands today.

The earliest house on Maple Street is the square two-story bracketed Italianate house at 204 Maple Street (#36). Although the house has been covered with shingles, it retains its elaborate brackets under deep overhanging eaves, handsome round headed windows, and original tin roof. The house originally stood on the corner of Maple Street and West Main Street and was one of many similar three-bay square Italianate houses built on Main Street in the 1860's and 1870's. The house was moved down Maple Street to its present location in 1907 to make room for a new brick house (#39) built by Charles Hundley. Hundley's 1907 house on West Main Street is architecturally the most significant early 20th century brick house in the district and has recently been excellently restored as a combined residence and interior decorating business.

Similar to 204 Maple Street is 509 West Main Street (#25), the last remaining square Italianate house on West Main Street. Built in 1871 for Henry Alden, head of a large and successful fruit preserving company, this house is of a somewhat simpler style than 204 Maple Street, as it was designed without brackets under the overhanging eaves. The house has been excellently preserved over a long period and is one of an ever decreasing number of single family residences remaining on West Main Street.

The extension of the West Walnut Street Historic District to include Springer Street to the west insures an adequate buffer zone of environmental integrity for the main part of the district. Many of the backyards of the houses on the east side of Springer Street and the west side of Maple Street contain remnants of the original oak grove; some of the trees are estimated to be from 130 to 150 years old. Although the houses on both sides of Springer Street are architecturally nondescript, they nevertheless date from the early 1920's and provide a pleasant residential setting which contributes much to the serenity of the district.

5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Environmental</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>quality</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>Important local</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | <u>residents</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <u>Integrity of</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | <u>neighborhood</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The West Walnut Street Historic District is of unique significance to the City of Carbondale as it is the only surviving 19th and early 20th century neighborhood in the city with any kind of architectural integrity, environmental quality, and sense of place. The district contains the widest variety of early architectural styles of any area in Carbondale and includes most of the city's best remaining examples of 19th and early 20th century buildings. Standing at 511 West Walnut Street is the only surviving pioneer style house in the city, the earliest house in Carbondale for which there is documentation. Also included in the district are a number of excellent examples of the square Italianate houses which were so popular in Carbondale in the 1860's and 1870's, as well as the only surviving Mansard-roofed house and the finest example of Colonial Revival architecture in the city. These are complemented by a number of frame Queen Anne houses and substantial early 20th century brick residences, and by a number of large trees remaining from the time when the town was settled. As one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city, the district was the home of a number of important individuals, including Robert Allyn the first president of Southern Illinois University, George Washington Smith a noted historian of Southern Illinois, and many of the most prominent 19th and early 20th century business and professional men in Carbondale. Although there are a few other significant examples of 19th century architecture remaining in Carbondale and in the surrounding area, they are isolated and generally located in inhospitable surroundings so that the West Walnut Street Historic District is the only major residential area which retains much of its turn of the century character and which is worthy of National Register nomination.

1. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

J.H. Brownlee and Robert Allyn, eds., History of Jackson County, Illinois, Philadelphia: Brink McDonough Co., 1878.
 Edmund Newsome, Historical Sketches of Jackson County, Illinois, Carbondale, Illinois, 1894, 2nd edition.
 Milo Milton Quaife, ed., Growing Up with Southern Illinois 1820-1861 (from the Memoirs of Daniel Harmon Brush), Chicago: Lakeside Press, 1944.
 George Washington Smith, A History of Southern Illinois, Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1912, 3 volumes.

2. 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	37°	43'	35"	89°	13'	29"			
NE	37°	43'	35"	89°	13'	19"			
SE	37°	43'	26"	89°	13'	18"			
SW	37°	43'	27"	89°	13'	29"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 18

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

10. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Susan Maycock Vogel Architectural Historian
 ORGANIZATION: Walnut Street Protection Association
 DATE: December 4, 1974
 STREET AND NUMBER: 502 West Walnut Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Carbondale STATE: Illinois 62901 CODE: 17

11. 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.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered MAY 2 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
West Walnut Street Historic District	Carbondale Jackson County

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Notified

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