

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Belleville Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Much of the east side of Belleville between "E", South Belt, Illinois & Forest

CITY, TOWN

Belleville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

CODE

NO. FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Saint Clair

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Saint Clair County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Belleville

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Illinois Historic Structures Survey

DATE

October 1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Dept. of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Clair county is one of the southwestern Illinois counties comprising part of the standard St. Louis, Mo., metropolitan area. Its topography is determined by the Mississippi River flood plain and its limiting bluffs in the west and gently rolling prairie in the east. Belleville, the county seat, is situated on elevated land about midway between the Mississippi and Kaskaskia rivers, 14 miles southeast of St. Louis and 110 southwest of Springfield, Illinois. The terrain of the town site does not deviate markedly from that of the county's eastern reaches, being best described as slightly undulating with neither extensive flat areas nor prominent hills and valleys. The fertility of the surrounding area is high and extensive coal deposits underlie the entire region.

The Belleville Historic District includes most of the older east side sections of the city bounded by "F" street on the north and the city limits on the south. Specific boundaries were drawn dependant on visual cohesion and are extremely irregular, mainly due to recent expansion of the central business district. Generally, they circumscribe the maximum extent of an area still dominated by Belleville's 19th-century brick architecture. Starting from the intersection of South Belt and Freeburg, the boundary extends north along Freeburg to the first property line south of Grant, east along this line to the east line of 600 E. Grant, north along this and the first property line west of Ann to the second lot line north of Grant, and then east and north along the east and south property lines of 702 E. McKinley. It then continues north along the east line of 707 E. McKinley to the interior property lines south of Adams, west on these lines to the west line of 600 E. Adams, then north to the interior property lines southeast of Monroe, northeast along these lines to the interior property lines southwest of Mascoutah, southeast on these to the fifth lot line southeast of Monroe, and then northeast on this and the south line of 518 S. Mascoutah to the interior property lines northeast of Mascoutah. The boundary then proceeds northwest along these lines to Garfield, northeast on Garfield to the first property line southwest of Forest, north on this and the east line of 810 E. Washington to Washington, west on Washington to the east line of 721 E. Washington, north on this to the interior property line North of Washington, west on this, the north lines of 12 and 11 S. Oak and interior property lines south of Main to the east line of 512 E. Main. From here the boundary jogs east on Main to include the two buildings of the Belleville Shoe Co., then north and further east along the interior property lines south of "A" to the east line of 522 E. "A", north along this and the west line of 525 E. "A" to the alley north of "A", east along this alley to Delmar, north on Delmar to the alley north of "B", west along this alley to Charles, north on Charles to "C", west on "C" to the alley west of Church, north on this alley to "D", east on "D" to Charles and then north on Charles to Kircher Place.

From Charles and Kircher, the boundary extends west along Kircher and the north lines of 519 N. Church and 522 N. Jackson to Jackson, south on Jackson to the south line of 515 N. Jackson, west on this and then south on the interior property lines west of Jackson to "E", west on "E" to the interior property lines west of High, south on these and then east on the south line of 417 N. High. The boundary then follows High south to "D",

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"D" west to the property lines west of Illinois, these lines south to "C", "C" east to Illinois and the south lines of 226 N. Illinois and 215 N. High east to High. It then moves south on High to "B", east on "B" to Jackson, south on Jackson, east on the south line of 116 N. Jackson, further east on the second lot line and the alley south of "B" to the west line of 409 E. "A", south on this to "A", east to Walnut, south on Walnut to the alley, west to the first property line west of Walnut and south on this to Main. The boundary continues south on Mascoutah, west on the alley north of Washington, south on Charles, further west on Washington, south on Church, west on Lincoln, south on High, west on the north line of 211 S. High, south on the interior property lines west of High to the Illinois Central Railroad right-of-way and west on the north line of this to Illinois. Finally, the boundary follows Illinois and the south line of the I.C.R.R. r.o.w. to High, the 4th and 6th property lines south of Grant to the interior property lines east of Jackson, these lines south to the I.C.R.R. r.o.w., the south lines of 1013 and 1014 S. Church to the interior lines east of Church, these lines south to South Belt, and South Belt east to Freeburg.

Land use within this area was once almost exclusively residential, particularly south of Main street, but has suffered commercial incursions in recent years. Most such incursions have taken the form of conversions of existing residential structures, often carried out with some sensitivity, and thus do not constitute a major destruction of the original building stock. By and large, residential uses still predominate in all areas of the district. The major commercial arteries are Main and Illinois, neither of which plays a significant role in the district. Other commercial uses are scattered, with a slightly higher concentration along Freeburg and Mascoutah. A few light-to-medium industrial properties are located in the district; only one, however, is of recent date. Most other uses are of a type and intensity consistent with a residential neighborhood. Vacant land is not extensive; most of it, though, lies at sensitive points and could become disruptive if unsympathetically developed. There seem to be no federal properties in the district.

The street pattern conforms to the standard rectangular grid of older Illinois cities and towns and is, for the most part, an expansion of the original 1814 plat. A section in the southeast of the district, though still a rectangular grid, is based on different co-ordinates. Two streets, Mascoutah and Freeburg, depart from these grids, since both are descended from older plank roads to neighboring towns. The major arteries of traffic are Main and Illinois, with Charles (south of High), Freeburg, "A", High, and Washington fulfilling secondary functions. The private automobile is the main source of transportation, though public bus service is available as part of the greater St. Louis transportation system.

Density within the district is generally moderate, with a few areas of lower density occurring near the eastern and southern boundaries. Single-family detached residences are the most common building type. With very few exceptions, these are built of locally fabricated brick and range from one to 2½ stories in height. The relationship between buildings is, despite great similarity of materials, extremely random. No laws seem to govern the streetscape: modest and palatial residences abut; street setbacks vary dramatically, often on neighboring lots; lateral distance between structures fluctuates wildly; height is uncontrolled.

The majority of structures within the district fall into two categories, one

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of small 1 to 1½ story buildings of generally simple craftsmanship that can be encountered virtually anywhere in the district, and the other of a more cubic and pretentious two story type concentrated on the north-south streets between Lincoln and Garfield and around N.Jackson and "D", but also present in lesser concentration in other areas. The oldest documented house (v.No.24 below) dates from 1830 and is cast in a highly-simplified Greek Revival style. While several other small houses with similar detailing survive from the 1830's (v.No.21), the general type represented by these oldest houses retained its popularity in Belleville throughout the century, simply adopting new window, door and cornice detailing and different roofs as fashion dictated. Thus the same basic house ca.1870 comes replete with mansarded and patterned roof, neo-classical dormers, etc. (v.Nos.3, 13d, 17). Although very common in Belleville and nearby towns, such as Mascoutah or Lebanon, the type is rarely met with elsewhere in Illinois and clearly represents an indigenous development -- one possibly colored by the waves of German immigration that formed Belleville after ca.1830. Among clearly established styles, the Italianate is dominant by size and number, with many examples throughout the district. There are also some late Federal (v.No.19), Second Empire (v.Nos.5 & 10), Gothic Revival (v.No.16) structures, and several others combining features of styles popular later in the 19th century (v.Nos.2, 4,15). often the result of additions and remodeling. Since this part of Belleville was relatively mature by ca.1880, later styles are hardly represented, although the Queen Anne is present in a few scattered examples.

The Belleville Historic District is marred by few prominent intrusions, yet the sum of minor intrusions does amount to a significant detracton. Many buildings have been sided, enlarged, or otherwise unsuitably altered. Most disturbing in this category is the untoward modernization of a converted residence on the southwest corner of Washington and Charles. Several gaps occur in the visual continuity, often because the original development was quite haphazard, but just as often because structures have been replaced with parking lots. This is most obvious on N.High, E.Washington, and areas immediately adjacent to the district around Main street. Newer construction has been limited and is intrusive only in a few instances, namely an apartment building on S.Jackson, a new educational facility on S.High, a factory on S.Church, and a soft drink distribution warehouse on "D" east of Charles. A few house trailers at scattered locations constitute another intrusion. Perhaps the most pervasive visual disruption introduced by our century is occasioned by the out-sized scale of utility poles in various sections of the district, but most noticeable toward the south where the permanent structures are literally dwarfed. All told, the intrusions have definitely weakened the historic fabric as it existed 75 years ago, yet nowhere within the district have they produced a decided rent.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PERIOD	__ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__ COMMUNITY PLANNING	__ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__ RELIGION
__ PREHISTORIC	__ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__ CONSERVATION	__ LAW	__ SCIENCE
__ 1400-1499	__ AGRICULTURE	__ ECONOMICS	__ LITERATURE	__ SCULPTURE
__ 1500-1599	X ARCHITECTURE	__ EDUCATION	__ MILITARY	__ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__ 1600-1699	__ ART	__ ENGINEERING	__ MUSIC	__ THEATER
__ 1700-1799	__ COMMERCE	__ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__ PHILOSOPHY	__ TRANSPORTATION
X 1800-1899	__ COMMUNICATIONS	__ INDUSTRY	__ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__ OTHER (SPECIFY)
__ 1900-		__ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Belleville Historic District embraces an area distinct in the quality of its architecture and its deep historical associations. Of greatest interest are the large number of buildings representing an indigenous architectural development that flourished ca.1830-1900. These are of a small, one or 1½ story masonry cottage type (v.No.13 below) and form, albeit not always of the greatest significance as individual examples, an architectural ensemble unique in Illinois. Though several such structures exist elsewhere in Belleville, the Historic District boundaries do circumscribe their heaviest concentration.

Added to this are a number of outstanding examples of architectural styles more commonly encountered throughout the state and numerous 2-story brick structures of basically Italianate design that form an admirable background complement. Since virtually all structures in the district utilize locally produced red brick and the vast majority derive from ca.1845-75, there exists a striking homogeneity of material and, to a lesser degree, style that is rarely met with in Illinois.

Historically, Belleville is important as an example of a city that reached early maturity (ca.1860) but did not stagnate, rather continuing its growth along the lines already clearly established. Its economic base, for example, is still largely dominated by flour-milling and beer -- as it was in the mid-19th century. A second significant factor is Belleville's role as an important early center of German immigration. Few cities in Illinois were so thoroughly colored by a single ethnic group and even fewer have been able to carry that coloration forward to the present. In sum, the Belleville Historic District describes an area of the city in which its singular historical development assumed corporeal form, which form has survived relatively undisturbed.

HISTORY

The earliest history of the Belleville area is that of the successive aboriginal cultures that flourished throughout the region, notably the Middle Mississippian, relics from the Mississippian cultures culminating in the Cahokia Mounds complex about ten miles northwest of the city. At the time of the first European incursions in 1673, the region was controlled by the Illinois Confederacy -- 160 years later the last American Indians were removed to west of the Mississippi.

French settlement had assumed permanence by 1700 and was centered on Cahokia and the American Bottoms directly west of Belleville on the

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Mississippi River flood plain. After passing to the English and then the United States, the area became a key part of the Northwest Territory and was established as the County of St. Clair in 1790, thus making it the oldest county in the state. The county seat was located at Cahokia, but as American settlement around 1800 began to populate the highlands to the east, the center of population shifted from the river and it was deemed necessary to find a more central point for the seat of justice. The site of Belleville was selected by a legislative commission 10 March 1814.

The first settler on and owner of the townsite was George Blair, who had arrived before 1806. Blair donated one acre of land to the county for use as a public square and relinquished a further 25 acres for the townsite, which was promptly dubbed Belleville, apparently by Blair. The land was surveyed and platted by John Messenger in 1814 and the public square fixed at the intersection of Main and Illinois. The center of the square was selected for the courthouse, erected by Etienne Penseneau in 1817. The first of many hotels was raised in 1815 and operated by Blair; the first store, run by Joseph Kerr, opened the same year. Belleville's first industry, aside from government, apparently appeared in 1817, when James Tannehill opened a distillery. The first brick buildings were erected in 1818 and 1820 and brick soon became the virtually exclusive building material in the young town.

Early settlers were principally from Virginia and other southern states and most were slave-holders. Consequently, the question of slavery was a hot issue until settled in 1821 with the freeing of the slaves. By the time of its incorporation as a town in 1819, Belleville had grown to encompass about 25 families, but instead of embarking on a bright future, the new town stagnated and actually lost population, prompting Blair to sell his interests to Etienne Penseneau. Despite the discovery of coal in 1825, Belleville continued to "linger along in poverty and log cabins," and in 1828 Penseneau sold out to Gov. Ninian Edwards. An energetic man, it was Gov. Edwards who assured the town of future growth.

Adding considerably to the fact of that growth were the beginnings of German immigration. The first German to settle in Belleville was Conrad Bernmann (v.No.24), arriving in 1819. The first major influx occurred in 1832-33, mainly as a result of the unrest occasioned by the 1830 French Revolution; this was followed by wave after wave for the duration of the century. By 1870, an estimated 65% of Belleville's population was either German-born or of German stock. The atmosphere was pervasively German and such German organizations as the Sangerbund, Turnverein, Liederkrantz, Kindergarten, and Philharmonic Society (v.No.23) played the vital role in the community's cultural and social life. The German element was also responsible for the first public library in Illinois (organized July 1836) and, in large part, the public school system.

Belleville in 1837 was a flourishing town of about 700 that had embarked on a long and steady period of growth, both in point of population and of area. By 1840, the census listed 1,207 inhabitants and the number of dwelling houses had more than doubled in three years (up to 280 from 107). Belleville was incorporated as a city in 1850, and during the succeeding decades the population rose to ca. 12,000 in 1874, 14,823 in 1890, 24,741 in 1910, and

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41,699 in 1970. Most of this growth, obviously, occurred in newly annexed territory, Belleville having expanded from its original 25 acres to cover 8.73 square miles in the mid-1960's.

Belleville's industrial base has long been stable and well-diversified, forming, together with the proximity of St. Louis and its free access to western markets in the 19th century, a solid foundation for steady growth and prosperity. Coal has been a major factor since its discovery in 1825, but flour-milling, beer, and the manufacture of stoves have been traditionally more intimately associated with the city. The history of milling dates to 1819 and the erection of the Ringold and Wilkonson ox treadmill. The mill was purchased by Thomas Harrison in 1826 and, after relocation and expansion, developed into the city's leading establishment. Other important mills included Hinckley's Mill (1832), the Crown Mill (by 1874), Knoebel's Mill (1872), and F.A. Reuss & Co. (1857). Together with Harrison, they had a combined daily capacity of 1,555 bbls. in 1880. Belleville's first brewery - and the first in the state of Illinois - was opened by Jacob Fleishbein in 1832. This was followed by the erection of several others in rapid succession. By 1860, eight breweries with markets primarily in the south, produced over 30,000 bbls. annually. In 1880, three major breweries, Steelze's (1853), Western (founded by Philip Neu and Peter Gintz in 1851), and Star (1857), were producing ca. 52,000 bbls. By 1940, one alone (Western) had annual sales of 260,000 bbls. The first stoves arrived in Belleville in 1834 and a burgeoning industry soon arose. The principal establishments were the Enterprise and Empire factories. Like brewing and milling, the manufacture of stoves still plays a role in the city's economy.

Among other industries that have flourished in Belleville, the manufacture of farm implements, tanning, distilling, cigars, shoe fabrication, and nail milling have played - and in some cases, still play - a major role. The Harrison Machine Works, specializing in grain threshers, were incorporated in 1848; a number of contemporary enterprises manufactured grain drills. The Belleville Nail Company, organized in 1869, was the first such factory in Illinois and had a daily run of ca. 600 kegs. Its markets lay mainly west of the Mississippi. A later and still flourishing addition to the city's industry, the Belleville Shoe Factory, was established in 1900 at Main and Walnut. The cigar industry, however, which once boasted at least 17 manufactories, has vanished.

Just as Belleville's industry grew during the last century, so too did its transportation facilities. The Coal Mine Bluffs Railroad, the first railroad in Illinois (albeit with wooden rails and mules), was built from Illinoistown (E. St. Louis) to near Belleville in 1837 and extended into the city in 1865. The St. Louis, Alton & Terre Haute entered the city from Illinoistown in 1854 and was later (1857) extended as the Belleville and Southern Illinois and linked with the Illinois Central. Other, later railroads included the St. Louis and Southeastern's line from E. St. Louis to Belleville and Mount Vernon. The stretch Belleville-St. Louis was further improved by the construction of the state's first macadamized road in 1846, its route now followed by W. Main. Communications between Belleville and St. Louis were again improved with the stringing of telegraph wires in 1847.

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The first moves toward civic improvement in Belleville date to the same period. The city's fire brigade was organized in 1840; gas lighting was introduced in 1856; the first street railway operated in 1874; and electric lighting was inaugurated in 1891. Paving of the city's main streets was begun during the 1850's, with eight and two-thirds miles macadamized by 1860.

One facet of Belleville's history not yet mentioned is the publishing trade. The first newspaper was the short-lived Western News published irregularly in 1826-27. This was succeeded by the St. Clair Gazette in 1833, a periodical that grew into the Advocate (1839) and was eventually absorbed by the Belleville News-Democrat in 1958. Of equal or perhaps greater importance is the development of Belleville's German language press. Illinois' first German newspaper, Der Freiheitsbote für Illinois, was issued in 1840, with Gustav Koerner (v. NO. 28) as publisher and chief editorial writer. This was followed by the Beobachter (1844), which soon removed to Quincy, and, in 1849, by the Zeitung. The Zeitung was established by Theodore Engelmann and Bartholomew Hauck, with Koerner connected editorially soon after. Under the leadership of Franz Grimm (1858-61), it was strongly anti-slavery and became a powerful influence in state and national politics in support of Abraham Lincoln. The Zeitung continued to publish until falling victim to anti-German sentiment during World War I.

Belleville's general history is one of steady, uneventful growth. Cataclysms beyond cholera outbreaks in 1832, 1833, and 1849, have not been present. The city, like the specific area of the Historic District, quite simply grew. Residential maturity was reached at different times in various parts of the city, with that in the specific Historic District having been attained around 1880. Although the area of the district has been subject to some recent re-development particularly nearest the expanding business district, it has remained basically stable ever since.

SITES AND STRUCTURES OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Numbers refer to the map. Areas of significance, where more than one applies, are in order of priority.

1. John H. Flanagan Residence
 419 E. "A"
 Built ca. 1863
 Architectural Significance

2. Moses Carter (William H. Underwood) Residence
 215 Abend
 Built ca. 1853-7; additions and alterations ca. 1871
 Though the property of Moses Carter, there is no record of his ever having lived in the house. The first recorded resident was William Underwood, a prominent politician who served three terms as state senator and was also state's attorney, a circuit judge, and a member of the 1869 Constitutional Convention.
 Architectural and Historical Significance

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3. Residences
401-403 E. "B"
Architectural Significance
4. John P. Major (Louis C. Starkel) Residence
513 E. "B"
Built ca. 1854; enlarged and altered shortly after 1870
The first resident was John P. Major, who owned and operated the Belleville-St. Louis express line. Louis Starkel moved in in 1870 and the present appearance dates basically from his residence. Starkel was a leading citizen who began as a medical doctor and later pursued a career in politics. In 1893, the house was purchased and occupied by Charles Becker, treasurer of the State of Illinois, and president of the Belleville Pump and Skein Works, the first foundry to manufacture stoves in the city.
Architectural and Historical Significance
5. Albert Badgley Residence
300 S. Charles
Built ca. 1876
Albert Badgley was engaged in a number of business ventures, including banking, insurance, coal, and gold mining (in Colorado).
Architectural Significance
6. Henry Steingötter Residence
721 South Church
Built ca. 1874
Henry Steingötter was co-proprietor of the St. Clair Drug Store with Julius Kohl. He also served as director of the Belleville Businessmen's Association.
Architectural and Historical Significance
7. First Presbyterian Church
221 South High
Built in 1874-6
The congregation was organized in 1839 by A. J. Norton and Thomas Lippencott. The present building was erected at a cost of \$21,472.
Architectural Significance
8. Jackson Street German Methodist Church
213 South Jackson
Built in 1858-64
The congregation was organized in 1845.
Architectural Significance
9. Residence
712 South Jackson
Architectural Significance

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10. Juilius W. Ilse Residence

518 Mascoutah

Built in 1873

Julius Ilse came to Belleville from Germany in 1857 and operated a "Gentlemen's Furnishings" store with Benjamin West. The second resident, in 1879, was West's son, Benjamin Jr., a prominent attorney and mayor of the city.

Architectural and Historical Significance

11. Moses Carter Residence

310 East Washington

Built ca.1857; greatly enlarged and modified ca.1866

Moses Carter was Belleville's first dentist and a man of means and great prominence in the city.

Architectural and Historical Significance

12. Moritz Dobschuetz Residence

701 East Washington

Built ca.1866

Moritz Dobschuetz, who emigrated from Westfalen in 1856, was a prominent Belleville businessman. The house is now headquarters of the St. Clair County Historical Society.

Architectural and Historical Significance

13. Entry consists of several examples of small masonry cottages typical of Belleville's architectural development ca.1830-1900.

A.) One-story only

1. Lee Hughes Residence

421 East "A"

Built in 1855

Lee Hughes was a saddler and partner in the firm of "Hughes & McClintock Saddlers" established in 1820. Hughes came to Belleville from Virginia in 1818.

2. Samuel H. Phillips Residence

417 East "B"

Built ca.1853-60

S.H. Phillips was proprietor of the Belleville Saw Mills. In 1872, the house was purchased by William Winkelmann, a prominent attorney and large property owner in Clinton, Monroe, and St. Clair counties.

3. Jacob Reutchler Residence

625 East "B"

Built in 1853; rebuilt in 1860 after fire

Jacob Reutchler was engaged in the manufacture of grain drills and formed the highly successful Reutchler Agricultural Works in 1853.

4. Residence

313 South Charles

5. John Adams Residence

600 South Charles

Built in 1859

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13.A.5 - Cont.

Mr. Adams was a plasterer.

6. Residence
1031 South Charles
7. Residence
609 East Fulton
8. Residence
606 E. Garfield
9. Residence
507 Survey

13.B. One-and-one-half stories.

1. Residence
702 East Washington
2. Residence
502 South Freeburg
3. Residence
500 South Freeburg
4. Residence
419 Mascoutah
5. Residence
416 Mascoutah
6. Residence
123 Mascoutah
7. Charles Seitz Residence
309 South Jackson
Built in 1858
Mr. Seitz was St. Clair County assessor.
8. Residence
219 South Jackson
9. Residence
600 South High
10. Residence
800 South Freeburg
11. Residence
404 South Church
12. Residence
122 South Church
13. Residence
701 South Charles
14. Residence
405 East "B"
15. John and Nicholas Schuessler Residence
516 East "A"
Built ca. 1870
John Schuessler, a contractor, came to Belleville from Germany
in 1856. He shared this double house with his brother, Nicholas.
16. Residence
319 North High

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13.B. - Cont.

17. Rev. Henry Keneke Residence

500 East "B"

Built ca. 1855-60

Rev. Keneke was the first resident pastor of the German Methodist Church, coming to America in 1837. He also served as district superintendent of the Southwestern German Methodist Conference.

18. Residence

326 North High

19. Rufus Melcher Residence

311 North High

Built by 1860 by Melcher

Rufus Melcher was a carpenter-architect, whose buildings included Belleville's old St. Peter's Cathedral.

13.C. Same as 13.B. but executed in frame.

George Oberbauer Residence

1019 South Freeburg

Built in 1900 by Oberbauer

Mr. Oberbauer was a German-born carpenter. The house is perhaps the last constructed of the type and one of only three known to have been executed in frame.

13.D. One-and-one-half stories, with mansard.

1. Residence

638 East Monroe

2. Residence

512 Mascoutah

3. Adam Rau Residence

315 South Jackson

Built in 1870

Adam Rau was a mattress maker and his wife, Margaretha, a mid-wife.

4. Residence

721 South High

5. Andrew Uhl Residence

323 South Church

Built in 1856; mansard possibly added later

Andrew Uhl was born in Germany in 1824. He owned a brick contracting company and was director of the Brick Layers' Union in 1886.

6. Residence

308 East "B"

7. Residence

311 East "E"

8. Residence

505 N. Jackson

Architectural and Historical Significance

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14. Louis McLean Kane Residence
200 North Jackson
Built before 1862
The house and grounds were purchased from Mr. Kane by Joseph Sturgis for \$4,500 in 1862.
Architectural Significance
15. James Perryman Residence
321 North Jackson
Built in 1848; expanded in 1867; tower added in 1893
The house originally belonged to William Bissell, Governor of Illinois from 1857-60, and Narcisse Penseneau, whose brother once owned the land on which Belleville is situated. James Perryman, who purchased the house in 1867 and made extensive alterations to its appearance, was a prominent physician and surgeon, much respected by his contemporaries.
Architectural and Historical Significance
16. Charles P. Knispel Residence
420 North High
Built in 1875
Mr. Knispel was an attorney and proprietor of the St. Clair County Abstract Company. Charles Spoenemann, prominent industrialist and head of the Enterprise Stove Foundry, was the second resident of the house (1903).
Architectural and Historical Significance
17. Charles Ashlock Residence
213 East "E"
Built ca. 1873
Mr. Ashlock was a miller.
Architectural Significance
18. Heinzelmann Brothers Carriage Works
Northwest Corner of Jackson and "B"
Built in 1874
The business was established by John A. Heinzelmann in 1857 and existed at this location since at least 1868. The firm was carried on by his sons after his death in 1869 and flourished well into the twentieth century.
Architectural and Historical Significance
19. Peter Wilding House
315 North Illinois
Built in 1851
Peter Wilding was a very prominent citizen who served four separate terms as Mayor of Belleville.
Architectural and Historical Significance

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20. Store
301 N. Illinois
Built in 1865
Architectural Significance
21. Adolph Hildebrandt Residence
12 East "C"
Built ca. 1837
Hildebrandt was a jeweller and watchmaker who settled in Belleville in 1837.
Architectural Significance
22. Store and Residence
226 North Illinois
Architectural Significance
23. Philharmonic Hall
116 North Jackson
1874; altered
The structure originally housed a kindergarten, one of the first in the United States, and was acquired by the Philharmonic Society in 1897. The Belleville Philharmonic Society presented its first concert 27 January 1867 and is the second oldest continuing symphony orchestra in the United States.
Historical Significance
24. Residence
602 Fulton
Built ca. 1820; under restoration
One of the oldest surviving houses in Belleville, it was recently moved from its original site on the southwest corner of Jackson and Washington to avoid demolition. The house was possibly built by Conrad Bornmann, the first German immigrant and first known brickmason and brick manufacturer in Belleville.
Historical and Architectural Significance
25. Wehrle Residence
305 East "D"
Built in 1884
The Wehrle family conducted a jewelry business in Belleville for almost a century, from 1859 until 1956. The house has remained in the family's possession.
Historical and Architectural Significance
26. Edward Abend Residence
224 Abend
Built in 1850 by Edw. Abend
Edward Abend was one of Belleville's most prominent citizens in the later 19th century. He emigrated with his family from Mannheim,

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26. - Cont.

Germany, in 1833, was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1842, and was elected mayor of the city on three separate occasions.

Historical Significance

27. Hugo Westermann Residence

218 Abend

Built in 1866 by Westermann

Hugo Westermann was a prominent leader of the German community, married to Edward Abend's sister, Bertha. He organized one of the original companies from St. Clair County in the Civil War and rose to the rank of Lt. Col. during the conflict.

Historical Significance

28. Gustav Koerner Residence

200 Abend

Built in 1852 by Koerner

Gustav Koerner was an influential citizen and leader of the German community who served as Lt. Governor of Illinois and was Abraham Lincoln's close friend and Minister to Spain. He was also a noted author, legislator and jurist. His Das deutsche Element remains a major source in the study of the Germans' role in 19th century America. The house is now a nursing home.

Historical Significance

29. Green Tree Hotel

301 North High

Built in 1876 by Jacob Leiner; under restoration

The Green Tree Hotel and Jake Leiner's Wine and Beer Saloon was one of Belleville's most frequented watering-spots and a popular stopping off place for farmers from the surrounding territory.

In 1936, it was converted into a grocery and apartments.

Historical and ARchitectural Significance

30. Residence and Cigar Manufactory

Southwest Corner Church & "B"

Built ca. 1845

This was the first of Belleville's cigar manufactories, which once numbered 17 and played a significant role on the city's economy.

Historical Significance

31. George Neuhoff Residence

205 East "D"

Built ca. 1881

George Neuhoff was one of the first German settlers in Belleville and was naturalized in 1839. He played a prominent role in the city, erecting the first 3-story building as well as an early brewery (Star Brewing, 1857).

Historical and Architectural Significance

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32. George Swigart (Waugh) Residence
203 Abend
Built ca.1874; enlarged ca.1898
George Swigart was president of Crown Mills, one of the city's most important flour-milling establishments. The Waugh family - James, James C., Robert, and William - were instrumental in establishing and operating the first nail mill in Illinois at Belleville in 1869.
Historical and Architectural Significance
33. B.F.Champion Residence
218 South Charles
Built in 1855; altered
Mr.Champion was a druggist. From 1878-1893, the house was occupied by General William C. Kueffner, a civil war hero and prominent lawyer. During the Civil War, he rose from the ranks to the position of Brevet Brigadier General. He also pursued an active political career and was an unsuccessful candidate for U.S.Congress in 1882.
Historical Significance
34. Bernard Hartmann Residence
118 South Charles
Bernard Hartmann was president of Star Brewing, also known as Hartmann Bros.Brewing and became sole owner in 1881. He emigrated from Germany in 1864 and was involved in numerous industrial enterprises in the city. He also organized the Belleville Distillery in 1888.
Historical and Architectural Significance
35. Augustus Rubach Residence
411 East Washington
Built ca.1860
Augustus and Wilhelmina Rubach came from Germany in 1841 and originally farmed near the town. They later became a socially prominent family in the city's German community. Mr.Rubach was engaged in the mercantile trade.
Historical and Architectural Significance
36. Ferdinand Rubach Residence
413 East Washington
Built in 1866
Ferdinand Rubach, son of the foregoing, was a graduate of the universities of Würzburg and Berlin and was appointed United States Examining Surgeon in 1862.
Historical Significance

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mohrman, Mrs. Robert, ed., Reflections, Belleville 1964
History of St. Clair County, Illinois, Brink, McDonough & Co., Philadelphia 1880
Centennial History of McKendree College, Lebanon, Ill. 1928
Journal of the St. Clair County Historical Society, 1965-to date

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 154

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see Item Number 7: Description

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

Robert Wagner, Staff Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Historic Preservation Services (Paul Sprague)

DATE

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

1808-10 W. 103rd Street

312-881-1870

CITY OR TOWN

Chicago

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

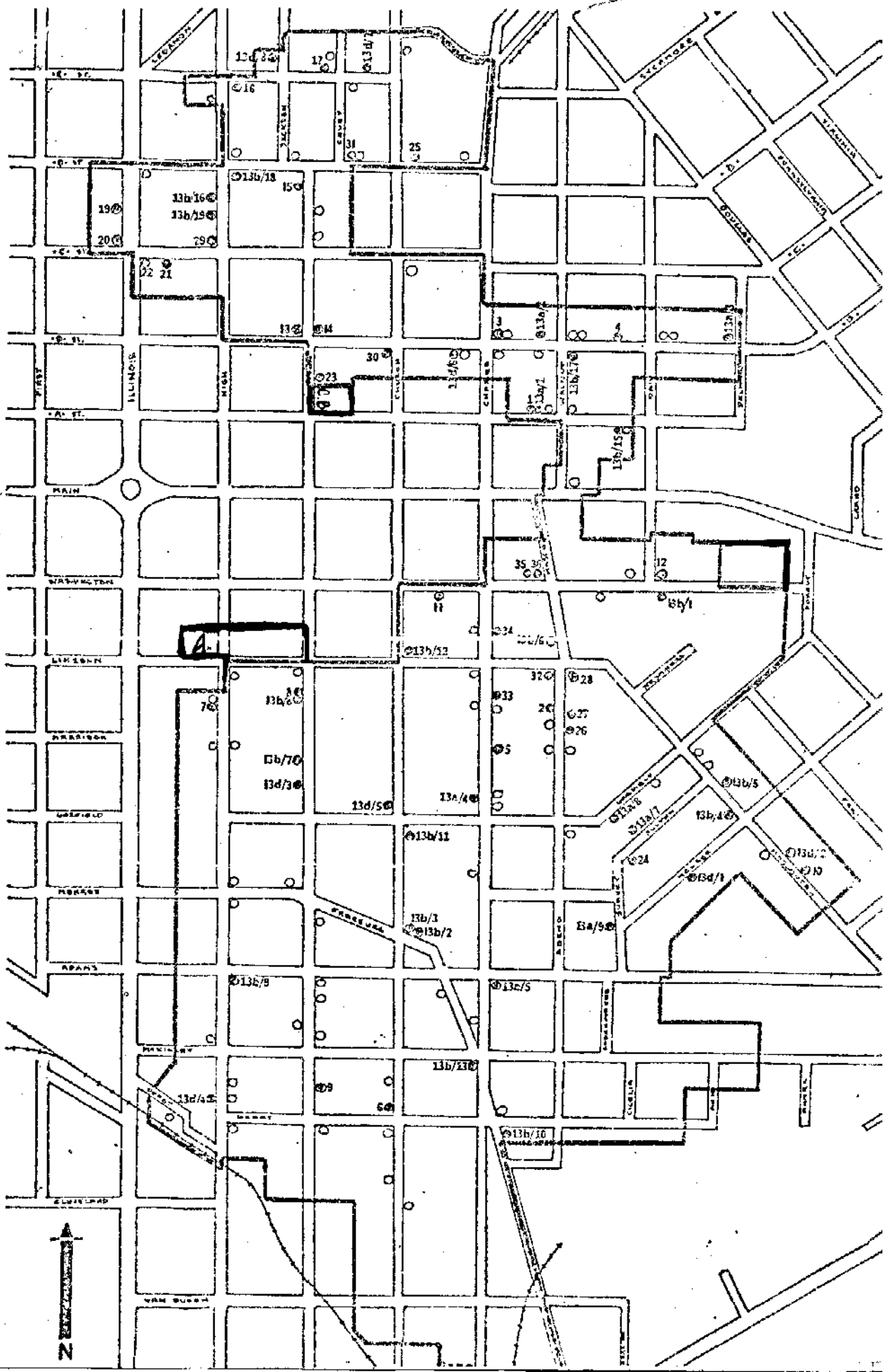
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

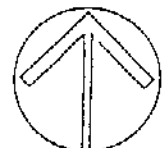
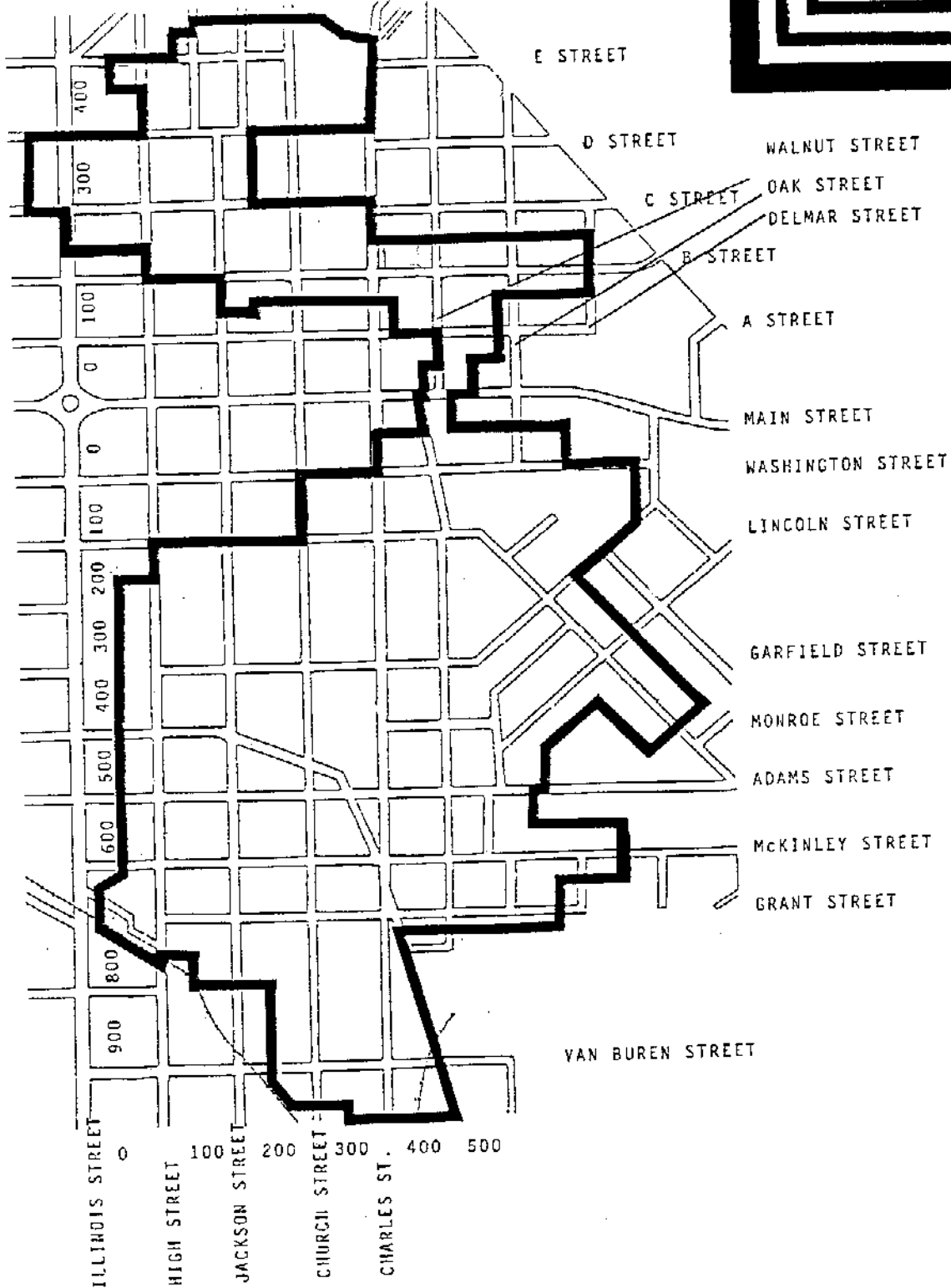
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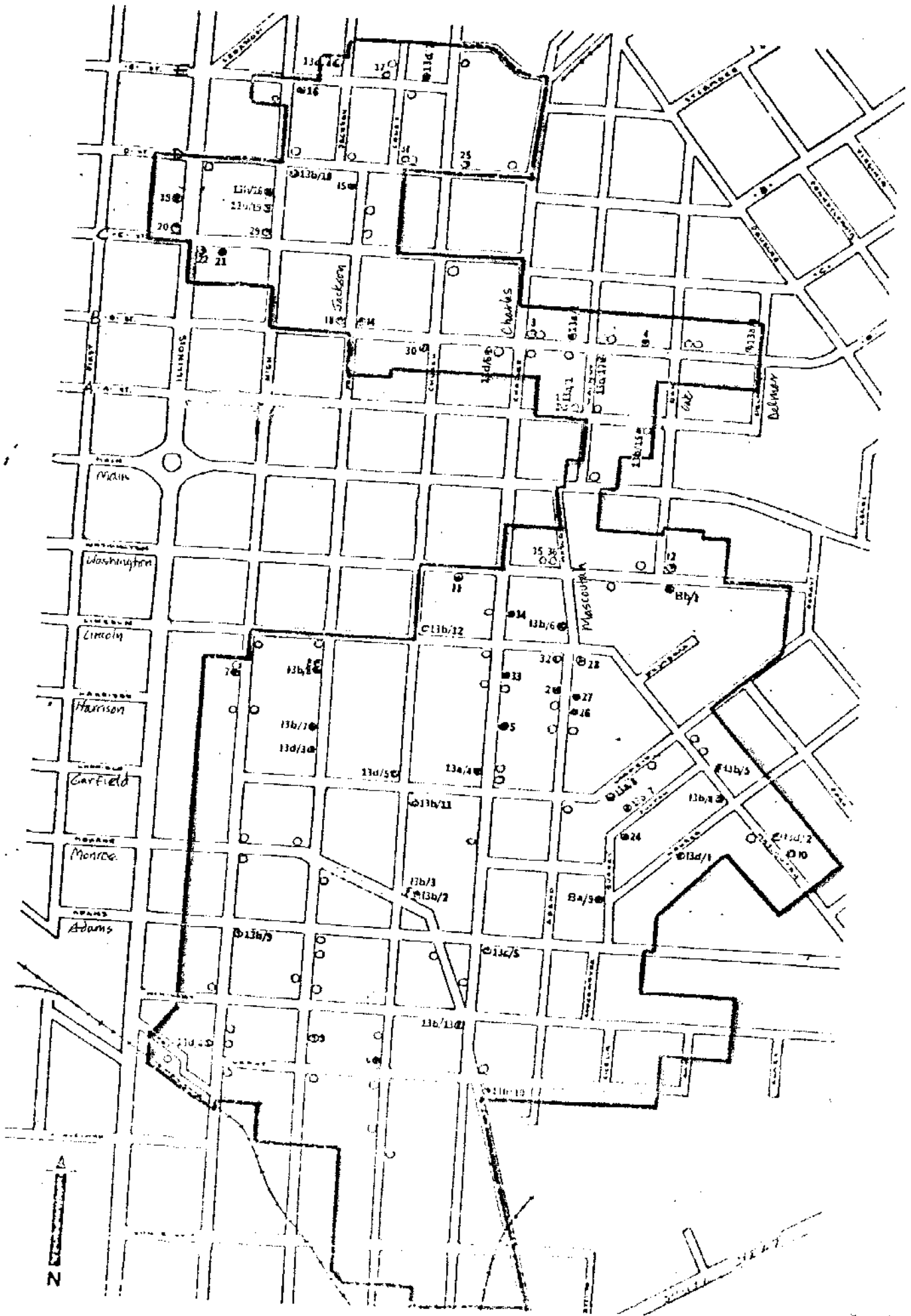


BELLEVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT



BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS





NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT