

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 7 1975  
DATE ENTERED MAY 4 1976

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  \*

Fox River House

AND/OR COMMON

Galena Hotel

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

116 West Galena

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Aurora

15th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Tim Hall

STATE

Illinois

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE

17

COUNTY

Kane

CODE

089

**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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Bessie Koummoutseas

STREET & NUMBER

116 West Galena

CITY, TOWN

Aurora

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kane County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

North Campbell Street

CITY, TOWN

Geneva

STATE

Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Illinois Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1974

\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Ill. Dept. of Conservation, Division of Historic Sites

CITY, TOWN

901½ So. Spring St., Springfield

STATE

Illinois

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

The Galena Hotel has four floors plus a basement and is constructed of locally-fired brick except for the first floor in the rear which is of native limestone. The north-facing building measures seventy-seven by forty feet and has seven bays across the front with the main entrance in the center bay. The lintels and dripstones on the first and second floor windows are of limestone and squared. The windows in the third floor are double-hung 2/2 except for the rear and the dormers in the fourth floor.

The fourth floor is under the roof and is illuminated by four gable dormers in the front and rear. The windows are arched and double-hung, but they are smaller than the others, with a single pane of glass in each sash. The dormers have been covered with aluminum siding. Other features of the roof are a skylight (which is original), asphalt shingles, and one brick chimney. The roof projects over the front and rear walls by about three feet.

The building has apparently been painted several times, but most of this paint has chipped off revealing the light red brick beneath. At the northeast corner on the ground floor there is evidence that some sort of structure was attached and removed in recent years. Although greatly faded one can still decipher the words Hotel Grand painted between the windows of the first and second floors. This was the name of the hotel from 1907 to 1962.

Except for the top floor the interior has been altered to the degree that the original floor plan is not recognizable. At one time there was a ballroom and a dining room but their locations are now uncertain. The top floor, however, is exactly the way it appeared when the hotel was built except for the floor coverings and an occasional coat of paint.

The exterior of the building has hardly been changed at all. An early photo dating from around 1870 reveals the presence of pairs of cornice brackets for each bay and small wood verandas in the center bay on the second and third floors. Evidence of these features is still clear on the face of the building. The photo also indicates seven chimneys on the roof instead of the present single one. This number of chimneys was required as a Franklin stove heated each room individually. It also appears that the original windows had sashes of 6/6 instead of the current 2/2.

An 1872 atlas of Kane County contains an engraving of the hotel that shows verandas extending the entire length of the building. Remaining evidence and the 1870 photo proves that these verandas existed only in the eye of the engraver.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1862

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1857 the Fox River House was built on Galena Street between River and Lake Streets. An early directory of the city names the proprietors as A.N. and G.W. (M?) Pierce. In 1860 the hotel burned down and the lot remained vacant until E.D. Huntoon purchased it to rebuild the hotel along the side of the once-important state road.

Huntoon operated the place until he sold out to George Dowling and/or W.L. Dunn in 1871. A new owner changed the name to the Northwestern Hotel in 1888. The next record of a transfer of ownership was noted in 1907 when Mrs. Mary Jones became the proprietor. She in turn sold it to a Mr. Ward in 1912 who, apparently, initiated extensive remodeling of the interior in 1943 and changed the name to the New Grand Hotel. Mrs. Jones had named the place Grand Hotel. In 1961 the Koummoutseas' purchased the building and gave it its present name, the Galena Hotel. Mrs. Bessie Koummoutseas, now widowed, is the sole owner.

Aurora had become a principal milling and manufacturing town in the Fox River Valley when the hotel was erected originally. It lay on one of the principal roads in the northern part of the state, the Chicago-Galena State Road which had been in use since the early 1830's.

After Huntoon rebuilt the hotel in 1862 it soon became widely known as the best and most popular place for parties, balls, marriages, and other social and political events. Although no evidence or memory of the heyday of the establishment remains, the hotel served as "a great social center" for over a generation.

Time, wear and tear, and competition from newer hotels have long since taken away the building's usefulness as a social center. The building retains, however, a certain dignity and still commands the attention of passerby from several streets in the neighborhood.

The Galena Hotel is the oldest remaining hotel in the city of Aurora and the vicinity. One early resident claimed it was "the first hotel in Aurora to amount to anything". It is near the center of the oldest part of the city and shares a block with several other old commercial structures, principally a tavern and a hardware store, which, taken together, could constitute a historic district if adjustments could be made in the appearance of the other buildings.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Robert W. Barclay, Aurora, City of Bridges, V. 2, (Aurora Hist. Museum, 1956), p. 49.  
Combination Atlas Map of Kane County, Illinois, (Geneva, Ill.: Thompson and Evarts, 1872), p. 55.  
William C.L.E. Ferslaw, Kane County Gazeteer, Directory, and Business Advertiser, (Geneva, Ill.: Ferslaw and Co., 1857).

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .17 (94.4' x 52.2')

UTM REFERENCES

A			B		
1	6	640			
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			D		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
			X
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Theodore Hild

ORGANIZATION

National Register Assistant, Ill. Office of Preservation

DATE September 12, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

839 1/2 North Eleventh Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

DeKalb

STATE

Illinois

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL X

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

*Anthony J. Dean*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10-8-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

*William H. Murtagh*

DATE

5/4/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Charles A. ...*

DATE

5-4-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED	NOV 7 1975
DATE ENTERED	MAY 4 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Biographical and Historical Record of Kane County, Illinois,  
(Chicago: Beers and Leggett and Co., 1888), p. 950.

Various City Directories in Aurora Public Library. Scrapbooks  
of clippings of local newspaper column "Now and Then",  
Aurora Public Library.

K-H-114

200720

NR

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

1. Name of Site:

Common Galena Hotel

Historic

2. Location:

<u>Street and Number</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Section</u>
116 W. Galena		
<u>City or Town</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Range</u>
Aurora		
<u>County</u>		<u>1/4 Section</u>
Kane		

3. Classification:

Category (check one)	Integrity (check one)
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

4. Ownership:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	Status (check one)
<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied
	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

Yes  Restricted  Unrestricted  No

Present Use (check one or more)

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

5. Ownership of Property:

<u>Owner's Name</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
<u>Street and Number</u>	
<u>City or Town</u>	
<u>State</u>	<u>County</u> <u>Zip Code</u>

6. Description:

3-story Federal style  
 Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway?  Yes  No

TRANSPORTATION

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

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site        | (Pre-Columbian)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site        | (Post-Columbian to 1673) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Influence          | (1673-1780)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Frontier         | (1780-1818)              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois Early | (1818-1850)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Middle           | (1850-1900)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Late             | (1900-present)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Famous People             | (give names & dates)     |

8. Specific Date: ca. 1848

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

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

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates) Use additional sheets if necessary. Early stage hotel, still used as hotel.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: T.H. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street and number: \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

