

ADDED Aug 17, 1973

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Robinson-Stewart House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
General Robinson House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
110 South Main Cross Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Carmi

STATE: **Illinois** CODE: **17** COUNTY: **White** CODE: **193**

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
White County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
216 East Main Street

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main and Main Cross Streets

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1972** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

21st Congressional District - Congressman: Kenneth Gray

STATE: Illinois
COUNTY: White
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original John Crow house was a two-room log structure with left and breezeway between two large rooms. Erected in 1814, it has a sandstone foundation. Heavy walnut studding was used to back up the lathing and plaster.

When Senator Robinson purchased the house in 1835, the exterior log walls were covered with weatherboarding and a large dining room wing was added at the south end. This was a split level house because there was one step down into the dining room. West of the dining room was built a kitchen with a large fireplace where cooking was done.

Back of the house in the northwest corner of the yard the Senator built a small law office. The wide back porch and law office faced a formal English garden. The garden is still carefully tended today by women of the Wabash Garden Club. The garden still has many flowers and plants put in by Senator Robinson in the 1830's.

The house today looks almost exactly as it did in the 1830's--a white weather-bearded structure with green shutters. Centering the front of the original part is a small porch with graceful columns. The dining room wing has a ponderous door with heavy brass lock, the doorway framed by a trellis.

After the death of the Senator in 1843, the family converted the dining room into a living room, or parlor. Four chimneys afford fireplaces for bedrooms, parlor and dining room.

The original kitchen was made into a dining room by the Senator's widow and a kitchen was added to the west of the dining room.

The interior today looks much as it has since 1843, including furnishings dating back to 1797; furniture, mirrors, portraits, oil paintings and books bought by Senator Robinson in the 1830's in Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, and furnishings added by the Senator's widow, daughter and granddaughter until the latter's death in 1966.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1814

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" 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

One of the oldest houses in Illinois, the Robinson-Stewart House was built by John Crow in 1814.

Here on April 16, 1816, the settlers of a community not yet named gathered to organize the town. The place was called Hay's Mill or Hargrave's Store, or whatever name came to mind when pioneers traveled far distances to have their corn ground and to buy and sell at the trading post.

On this April morning, leaders of the settlement met at the Crow house and voted to name the new place Carmi, a Biblical person, the son of Reuben and grandson of Jacob. At this meeting they voted to have Surveyor Lowry Hay lay off the town into lots.

Before White County had a courthouse in 1828, the Crow house was used as a courthouse, the north room rented by the county for \$3 a day.

Senator Robinson had been in the U.S. Senate four years when he bought the house in 1835. People in this house in the 1830's and early 1840's heard the stage driver's horn as the coach arrived to take on the Senator and his family on their trips to Washington.

Here were entertained political leaders:

Senator Robinson's brother-in-law, State Senator Edwin B. Webb, of Carmi, suitor of Mary Todd, friend of Abraham Lincoln in the Legislature and Whig nominee for Governor in 1852.

State Senator Leonard White for whom the county was named.

William Wilson, of Carmi, State Supreme Court justice for 29 years.

State Senator Willis Hargrave, of Carmi, delegate to first constitutional convention.

State Senators Daniel Hay, William McHenry and Wm. Davidson, of Carmi.

Abraham Lincoln, friend of Robinson and Webb, who visited Carmi

in 1840.

Here after 1835 lived only three generations--the Robinsons, their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stewart, and their granddaughter, Miss Mary Jane Stewart.

Miss Stewart died in 1966, and left the house and all furnishings to the White County Historical Society. It is now a museum.

The Society's work in refurbishing the house has been lauded by members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, who visited here in 1968.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Drury, John, Old Illinois Houses, Chicago Daily News, Illinois State Historical Society, 1941, pps 21, 25
 History of White County Illinois, Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, 1883, pps 503, 504
 Smith, George W., When Lincoln Came to Egypt, Trevillion Private Press, Herrin, Ill., 1940, pps 61, 62
 Smith, J. Robert, Carmi, Illinois Sesquicentennial History, Carmi Times Publishing Co., 1966.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				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	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	.	"	0	.	"	38	06	13	88	09	31
NE	0	.	"	0	.	"						
SE	0	.	"	0	.	"						
SW	0	.	"	0	.	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **4**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **J. Robert Smith, past president White County Historical Society & Past President Illinois State Historical Society**

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: **June 1, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **603 West Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Carmi** 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

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered AUG 17 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Gale, Walter, House	Oak Park Cook County
Robinson-Stewart House	Carmi White County
The Marquette Building	Chicago Cook County
Halsted, Ann, House	Chicago Cook County

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Motified

Hon. Charles M. Percy
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, III
Hon. Harold Collier
Hon. Kenneth Gray
Hon. Cardiss Collins
Hon. Sidney Yates