

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Beecher Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Illinois College

CITY OR TOWN:
Jacksonville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
20th-Congressman Paul Findley

STATE: Illinois CODE: 17 COUNTY: Morgan CODE: 137

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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	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 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:
Illinois College

STREET AND NUMBER:
1101 West College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Jacksonville

STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Illinois

STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: March 24, 1934 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

STATE: Illinois
COUNTY: Morgan
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 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 original portion of the present two-story brick structure, the south half, was begun in the summer of 1829 and completed in early 1830, although it was opened to occupancy on January 4, 1830. Its size was 33' by 36'. The lower story consisted of a single room used to conduct classes while the second floor housed four "sitting rooms" used as offices for the college departments and four "bedrooms". In 1830 the north half was constructed - it is of a similar design.

This design suggests the "late Georgian style of New England" rather than the newer classical revival. Semicircular windows, Adam-like interior details, the Flemish bond of the brick, and dormer windows, (now removed), contribute to this impression. Plans were drawn by a local carpenter and joiner, James Kerr. It is uncertain whether a portico was part of the original plan, but an early photograph shows one whose detail is that of about 1840. The present portico was built in 1928.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1829-30

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>medical training</u>
<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 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

This structure is the original building of Illinois College and is the oldest college building in Illinois. It was named for the college's first President, Dr. Edward Beecher, the brother of Henry Ward Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe. The college, founded in 1829, was one of the first three institutions of higher learning to be chartered in Illinois. The first courses of instruction began in this building on Monday, January 4, 1830; nine students were in attendance in the unfinished building.

Illinois College, which preceeding the Civil War was the center for the anti-slavery movement in the Middle West, was originally founded as a men's college. It became coeducational in 1903 when it merged with the Jacksonville Female Academy - the oldest girl's seminary in Illinois being established in 1833. Beecher Hall, in continuous use since it was erected, has been at the center of the college's activities. The college conferred the first college degrees awarded in Illinois; and, the first medical courses given in Illinois were held on the second floor of this hall. These courses were inaugurated on November 1, 1843, and continued regularly until 1848 when the medical school closed. Over the years, the hall has been used as a dormitory, classroom building, the home of campus literary societies, and college fraternities and as a library. Its facilities have been used by such representative alumnu as five governors of various states including Richard Yates, Illinois "War Governor" who graduated in 1835; William Jennings Bryan; John Wesley Powell; 18 United States Representatives and two U.S. Senators' and by one of the college's more distinguished educators, Jonathan Baldwin Turner, the "father of the Land Grand Universities".

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Federal Writers Project; Illinois: A Description & Historical Guide. ("American Guide Series") Rev. Ed. Chicago: A.C. McClurg & Co., 1947.

Koeper, Frederick, Illinois Architecture. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1968.

Rammelkamp, Charles Henry. Illinois College: A Centennial History; 1829-1929. New York: Yale University Press, 1928.

N.S. Prepared by L. Vernon Caine, President; Illinois College.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		39° 43' 43"	90° 14' 49"	
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Robert Kren

ORGANIZATION: Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey

DATE:

STREET AND NUMBER:
2122 Austin Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Springfield

STATE: Illinois

CODE: 17

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 _____

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

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

M6-H-42

200813

1. Name of site:

Common

Historic Beecher Hall

2. Location:

Street and number

Township

Section

Illinois College

City or Town

Zip Code

Range

1/4 Section

Jacksonville, Ill.

62650

County

Morgan

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

- () District Building
 () Site () Structure

Integrity (check one)

- () Altered () Unaltered
 () Moved (X) Original Site

4. Ownership

- Private
 () Public

Interior Modified
 Status (check one)

- Occupied
 () Unoccupied
 () Preservation work in Progress

Access to Public

- () Yes Restricted () Unrestricted () No

Present Use (check one or more)

- () Agricultural () Industrial () Religious
 () Commercial () Military () Scientific
 Educational () Museum () Transportation
 () Entertainment () Park () Other (specify)
 () Government () Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property

Owner's name Illinois College

Street and number 1101 West College Ave.

Phone Number
 (217) 245-7126

City or Town Jacksonville

State Illinois County

Zip Code

Morgan

62650

6. Description

Condition

- Excellent () Good () Fair () Deteriorated () Ruins () Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? () Yes No

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

- () Archaeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
 () Archaeological 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 & dates

EDUCATION



Recher Hall, Illinois College, Jacksonville 1829-30

8. Specific Date:

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input 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.

See attached sheet.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and title: L. Vernon Caine, President Date: March 26, 1973

Organization: Illinois College

Street and number: 1101 West College Avenue

City or town: Jacksonville County Morgan Zip Code 62650

Illinois

Phone Number: (217) 245-7126

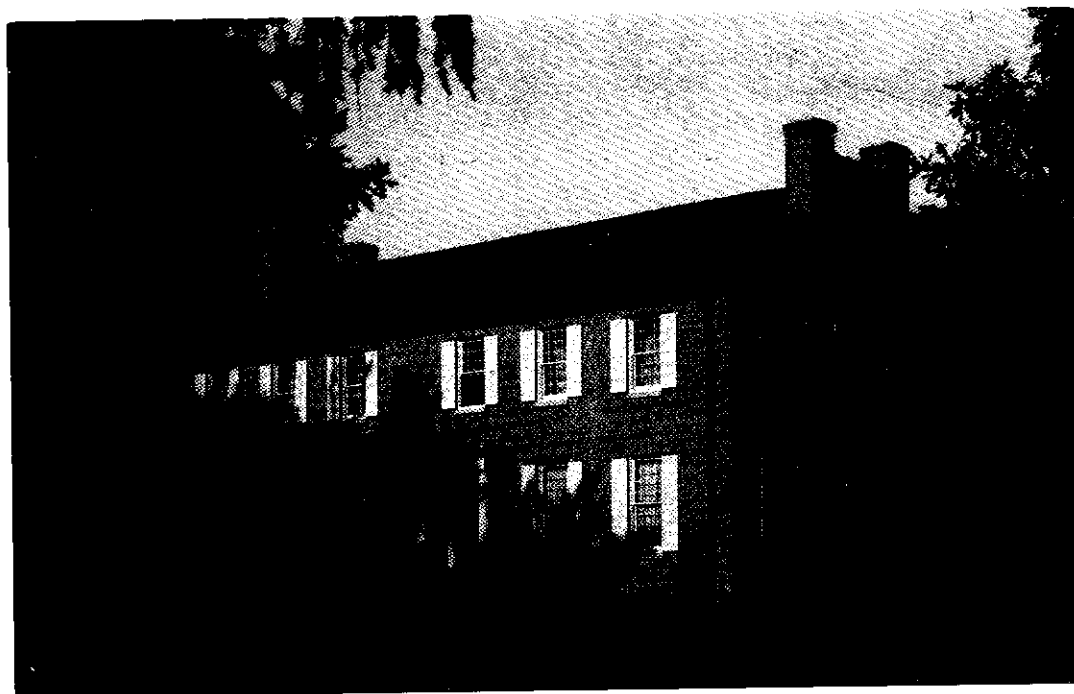
During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will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

Bibliography

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

Charles Henry Rammelkamp, Illinois College: A centennial history, Yale University Press, 1929

Beecher Hall was selected as a historic building by the Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. The record of appearance and condition is deposited for permanent reference in Library of Congress.



ILLINOIS COLLEGE
Independent · Church Related · Founded 1829
JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS 62650

Beecher Hall

Beecher Hall, constructed in 1829, was the first college building in Illinois. It has been in continuous use since it was erected.

It was also the location of the first medical school in Illinois which was established in 1841 and opened to students in 1843.

A great many people of historic importance, including the two Governors Yates, William Jennings Bryan, John Wesley Powell, and many others, have been associated with this building. The College itself has had 18 United States Representatives, two United States Senators, and five governors of various states who attended here; all of them would have been in one way or another associated with this building.

In the beginning it was the only college structure.