

Sent to DC  
10/9/91

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name LaHarpe City Hall  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 207 East Main Street  not for publication  
city, town LaHarpe  vicinity  
state Illinois code IL county Hancock code 067 zip code 61450

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
William C. Wheeler  
Signature of certifying official 10-2-91  
Date  
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government - city hall  
Government - correctional facility  
Government - fire station

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government - city hall  
Government - correctional facility

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Commercial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Brick  
roof Asphalt  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The LaHarpe City Hall (Photo No. 1) is located on Lot No. 6 in Block No. 7 on the south side of Main Street, west of Second Street in LaHarpe, Hancock County, Illinois. The two-story brick structure was constructed as a detached building to function as the city hall, correctional facility, and fire station.

Constructed in 1894, the structure sits in the northeast corner of the lot, facing North, with a driveway on the northwest corner leading to a parking area in the rear at 207 East Main Street. The Main Street elevation is an asymmetrical two-story front with commercial design, including a bell tower. The entrance is an open, round arched portal with a triple-row brick relieving arch (Photo No. 2). The east side of the front accommodates a garage door with two rows of six single, square windows. The original doorway (Photo No. 15) was altered in the 1920's to accommodate fire trucks. Three two-paned windows with wooden, eared lentils and stone sills occupy the second level, two above the garage door and one above the entrance portal. The square bell tower is above the entrance, atop a cement base. It has paired, arched openings on all four sides with a bracketed projecting cornice and a metal hip roof. The top of the building (above the garage door) has an elaborate cornice with the name and date displayed (Photo No. 3).

The east side of the building has two rows of three wooden windows with stone sills (one row on the first story and an identical row on the second story), each two-paned with the upper pane being arched and topped with a relieving arch (Photo No. 4).

The rear of the building (Photo No. 5) includes a 5-panel door with an arched transom. At the opposite end is an arched, two-pane window with the original jailhouse bars and a brick relieving arch. The second story contains three, two-pane wooden windows with arched upper panes, brick relieving arches, and stone sills.

The west side elevation is asymmetrical (Photo No. 6) and contains (front to back) two windows identical to the east side and rear windows, a wooden door\* with an arched glass transom followed by another matching window. The second story also contains three windows with the placement of the foremost offset from the window below.

The entrance to the first floor is through wooden, double doors with a glass transom (Photo No. 8) leading to the stairway to the second floor (Photo No. 9) and to the door to the Police Station. The Police Station is one open room with plastered walls (Photo No. 10) and a doorway which leads to the rear room which housed the jail cells. They were removed in 1976 as part of the renovations done in honor of the Bicentennial. The heating system now occupies the area. The east side of the building, that housed the fire station until 1953, is now used for storage.

\* (Photo No. 7)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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LaHarpe City Hall

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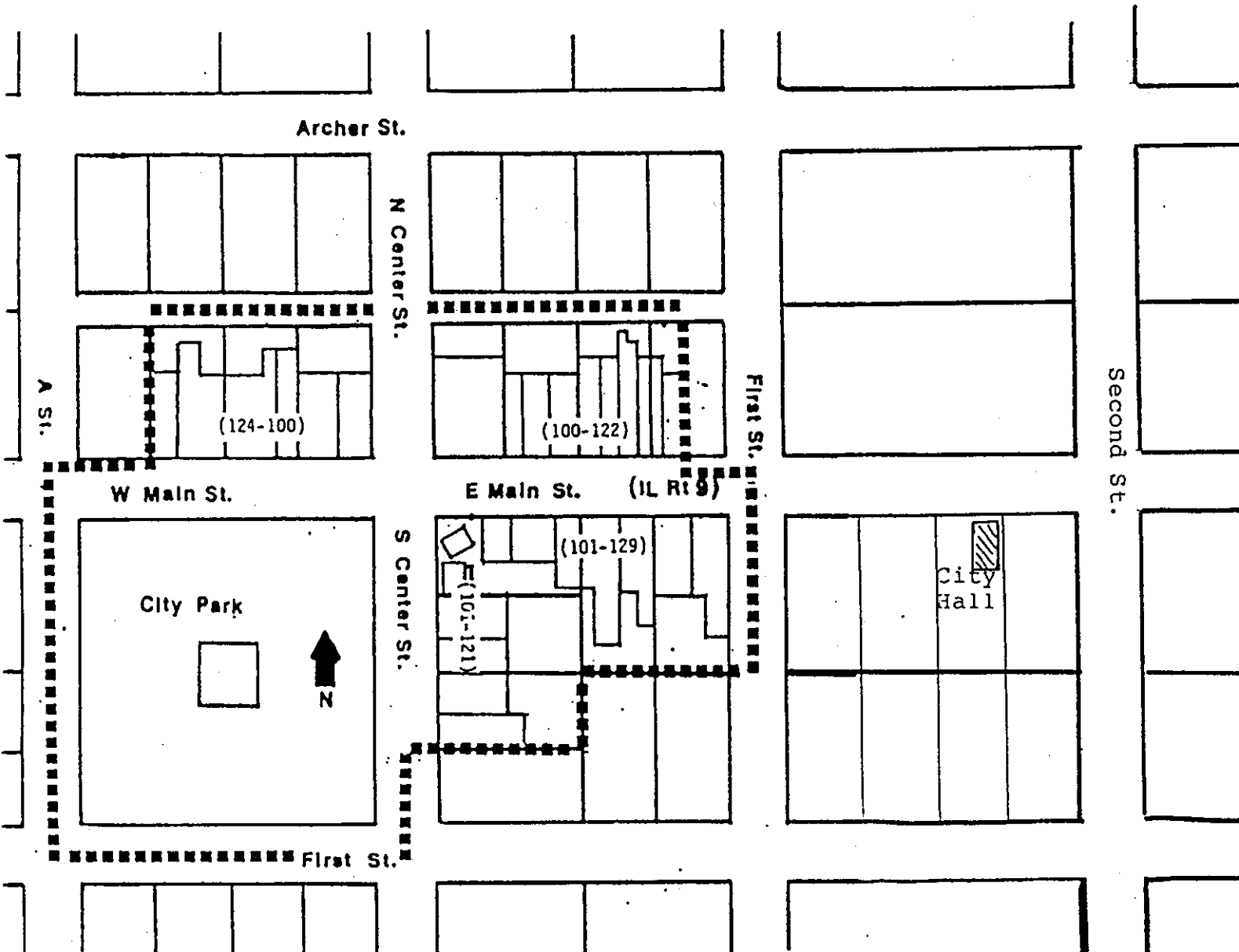
The stairway (Photos No. 11 & 12) curves to the south and still employs the original iron railing. The stairs have been carpeted and the walls have been partially panelled. The original brick can be seen in the entryway (Photo No. 9) and on the north wall to the first landing (Photo No. 11). At the top of the stairs are double doors which lead into the City Council Chamber. The walls have been papered, the floor carpeted, and the woodwork painted but structure has not been compromised. On either side of the chamber entrance are doors to storage areas (Photo No. 13). These rooms were originally used as the City Clerk's office and the jury room when local court cases were tried in the council room. The council room also served as a school room for a short period when the school had been destroyed by fire.

The flat roof, originally asphalt, has been rubberized. The building sports two chimneys, one on the east side and one on the west side (Photos No. 1 & 4). The bell tower proved to have bad acoustics and subsequently when the first bell cracked and had to be replaced, it was mounted behind the City Hall on a sixty foot windmill tower.

The LaHarpe City Hall appears virtually as it did in 1894 with the bell tower, windows, and brick work preserved to reflect its original architectural characteristics. The original fire station door (Photo No. 15) was altered around the 1920's with the acquisition of fire trucks. Regardless, the building has retained its historic integrity in a community of historic distinction.

# LaHarpe Historic District

STREET ADDRESSES



**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Politics/Government

Period of Significance  
1894-1941

Significant Dates  
1894

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Hillier, A.J./builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The LaHarpe City Hall meets Criterion A for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is a locally significant building associated with the need to provide facilities for public welfare and safety. The LaHarpe City Hall was constructed to be a place to hold City Council meetings, elections, and various gatherings, and to house the Police Magistrate's office, calaboose, and the volunteer fire company.

LaHarpe was settled in the 1830's by former soldiers of the War of 1812. The commercial development of the area quickly expanded to serve both permanent settlers and travelers. After the westward expansion boom and agricultural development, the city settled into being a regional service center for much of the surrounding area. Because of the strategic location at the junction of four counties. LaHarpe's service area included much of southeastern Henderson County, northwestern Hancock County, southwestern Warren County, and northwestern McDonough County. The regional dependence on LaHarpe was well established before the advent of rail service (1869) in Hancock County. This probably accounts for LaHarpe Township (of which LaHarpe was the only community) shipping more grain from the Warsaw grain market on the Mississippi River than any other area in the county for much of the latter half of the nineteenth century.

In order to support the growing number of businesses, the local infrastructure grew and developed. Although the city had established a volunteer fire company in 1888, there was no water system nor fire alarm system of any kind. After the fire of 1893, which destroyed all the business houses except two, City Council held many meetings to work out a solution to this problem. Prior to the fire, the Council had discussed an electric light system and a water works plant. Considering the rapid growth of businesses and past fire destruction, the water works plant was voted to be the first city improvement.<sup>2</sup> The immediate action taken was the construction of large cisterns in three locations on Main Street. Meanwhile, plans for a two-story brick building and calaboose submitted by the Building Committee passed through the City Council and A.J. Hillier was contracted to build the new City Hall/Police and Fire Station. The land was purchased for \$550, construction cost \$2,086, and the two-cell jail cage was \$1,486. In October of 1894, bonds were issued at an interest rate of 6% per annum and the first City Council meeting was held in the new City Hall. The new building contained three lower level and three upper level rooms. The large, east side ground level room served as the fire house. On the

See continuation sheet

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LaHarpe City Hall

west side, the rear room was for the Police Magistrate to hold court and housed the jail cells. The front room was used for elections and various gatherings. The upper level included the City Council Chamber and two smaller rooms; one for the City Clerk's office and one for the jury when local court cases were tried in the council room. The new City Hall building was accepted as complete in December of 1894.<sup>3</sup> Other action by City Council that year included giving the Women's Club the privilege of naming the city streets and approving the proposal that the Council Chamber be used as a school room for a term (due to the loss of the school building to fire).

In 1895, bonds were raised, amidst much controversy, to pay for the Water Works Plant. The contract was awarded to Howell Pump Company in the spring. The first firebell was erected in the belfry and an archway was cut through from the fire department to the Police Magistrate's room. The Election of 1895 was the first held in the new City Hall and the first election in which the women of LaHarpe were entitled to vote on the issue of liquor licenses. However, the ladies were to use a separate ballot box and have separate clerk and judges of election.<sup>4</sup>

In 1896, the Electric Lights Plant was built and generated electricity by a steam engine which produced 25-cycle current. In 1918, a power line was built and current was obtained from the Keokuk hydro-electric power plant until sale of the line to the Illinois Power Company.<sup>5</sup> A telephone company was established in the 1880's. Due to the community's regional prominence and growing infrastructure, it was considered for a Normal School in 1899. The City donated 55 acres of land for the project and raised several thousand dollars to clear the land for construction. The City also committed itself to \$200,000 in bonds to install a modern water and sewer system for the school. However, the now Western Illinois University was located in the nearby city of Macomb. Prior to this, from 1879 - 1908, LaHarpe was the home of a liberal arts school called the Gittings Seminary. The seminary was destroyed by fire in 1899, rebuilt, and then disbanded due to competition from Western Illinois University.

The public library collection, after residing in local homes, Johnny's Tavern, and the City Hall Council Room (1890's - 1905), was permanently placed in LaHarpe's new Carnegie Public Library in 1905. After years of interest in establishing a public library, through hard work and dedication of the community, the City purchased the lot east of the City Hall and established a tax revenue to support the public facility.

By 1928, LaHarpe's previous business growth had slowed and its population had steadily decreased. The community began efforts to have State Route 9 locate down Main Street through the central business district. For this to be accomplished, property owners

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LaHarpe City Hall

agreed to pave Main Street from the slab to the curb, and the City Council passed legislation regarding parking in the business district. Achievement came in 1930 and provided assurance of at least one additional transportation linkage to other market areas. Without the City's purchase of right-of-ways, the route would have by-passed LaHarpe two miles south. This action would have rendered LaHarpe relatively isolated and insured a future of shrinking population and business activity. Route 94, running north and south, was built a few years later. This linkage probably accounts for LaHarpe maintaining a stable population; as well as remaining a regional service center with an active business district.

The City Hall, located three lots east of the LaHarpe Historic District (see map), has been a place from which municipal decisions have been made for the last 97 years and continue to be made today. LaHarpe grew into a strong economic community coupled with the civic foresight to obtain rail and highway linkage it remains a tribute to its residents. It is a permanent reminder of a people's ability to carve a community out of the prairie wilderness and foster its growth with a tradition of civic mindedness.

NOTES

1. Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Hancock County (Chicago, IL: Munsell Publishing Co., 1921), p. 672
2. LaHarpe, E. A. Peyron, Sr. (1977), p. 14-15
3. Ibid, p. 14
4. LaHarpe Illinois 1836 - 1986 (Deep River, IA: Brennan Printing 1986), p. 3
5. History of Hancock County, Board of Supervisors, Hancock County, 1968, p. 363

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Peyron, E. A., Sr., LaHarpe, 1977.

Warren, Edwin C., History of LaHarpe 1833-1965, LaHarpe Quill Print, 1965.

Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Hancock County, Munsell Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1921.

History of Hancock County, Board of Supervisors, Hancock County, 1968.

LaHarpe, Illinois 1836-1986, Brennan Printing, Deep River, Iowa, 1986.

See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other IL Historic Structures Survey/1975
- Specify repository:**  
LaHarpe Historical & Genealogical Society/  
Western IL University Library Archives

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

**UTM References**

A 

1	5
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6	7	2	0	5	0
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4	4	9	4	2	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated building occupies lot #6 in the block #7 of the city of LaHarpe, Illinois.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the drive area which has been historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Tina Steelman, Assistant Program Coordinator for Economic & Community Development  
organization Western Illinois Regional Council date July 2, 1991  
street & number 223 South Randolph Street telephone 309/837-3941  
city or town Macomb state Illinois zip code 61455





# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127



IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. For further information call 202/343-9542.

NOV 22 1991

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 11/11/91 THROUGH 11/16/91

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number NHL Status, Action, Date, Multiple Name

FLORIDA, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, Old Palmetto Hotel, 1889 Old Dixie Hwy., Vero Beach, 91001650, NOMINATION, 11/13/91  
ILLINOIS, COLES COUNTY, McFarland House, 895 Seventh St., Charleston, 91001690, NOMINATION, 11/14/91  
ILLINOIS, HANCOCK COUNTY, LaHarpe City Hall, 207 E. Main St., LaHarpe, 91001689, NOMINATION, 11/14/91  
ILLINOIS, TAZEWELL COUNTY, Delavan Commercial Historic District, 307, 309--324, 400, 401, 404--410, 412 and 414 Locust St., Delavan, 91001687, NOMINATION, 11/14/91  
ILLINOIS, WILL COUNTY, Flanders House, 405 W. Main St., Plainfield, 91001688, NOMINATION, 11/14/91  
KENTUCKY, WEBSTER COUNTY, Webster County Courthouse, Courthouse Square, Dixon, 91000924, NOMINATION, 8/08/91  
LOUISIANA, EAST CARROLL PARISH, Byerley House, Jct. of Lake and Ingram Sts., Lake Providence, 91001681, NOMINATION, 11/13/91  
LOUISIANA, ST. MARTIN PARISH, Patin House, 219 W. Bridge St., Breaux Bridge, 91001680, NOMINATION, 11/13/91  
NEW YORK, NASSAU COUNTY, Long Island Rail Road Station at Farmingdale, Along LIRR tracks between Farmingdale and Forest Aves., Farmingdale, 91001677, NOMINATION, 11/13/91  
NEW YORK, OSWEGO COUNTY, Ames Leonard Farmhouse, 5707 Main St., Mexico, 91001630, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Mexico MPS)  
NEW YORK, OSWEGO COUNTY, Arthur Tavern, Jct. of Clarke Rd. and NY 16, Arthur, 91001632, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Mexico MPS)  
NEW YORK, OSWEGO COUNTY, Chandler Peter House, 5897 Main St., Mexico, 91001626, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Mexico MPS)  
NEW YORK, OSWEGO COUNTY, Fowler--Loomis House, 6022 Main St., Mexico, 91001628, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Mexico MPS)  
NEW YORK, OSWEGO COUNTY, Mexico Academy and Central School, 5805 Main St., Mexico, 91001633, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Mexico MPS)  
NEW YORK, OSWEGO COUNTY, Red Mill Farm, 7177 Red Mill Rd., Colosse vicinity, 91001629, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Mexico MPS)  
NEW YORK, OSWEGO COUNTY, Slack Farmstead, 5174 Row Rd., Mexico vicinity, 91001627, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Mexico MPS)  
NEW YORK, OSWEGO COUNTY, Thayer Farmstead, 5933 Church St., Mexico vicinity, 91001631, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Mexico MPS)  
PENNSYLVANIA, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, Coraopolis Armory, 835 Fifth Ave., Coraopolis, 91001695, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Pennsylvania National Guard Armories MPS)  
PENNSYLVANIA, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, Hunt Armory, 324 Emerson St., Pittsburgh, 91001697, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Pennsylvania National Guard Armories MPS)  
PENNSYLVANIA, CAMBRIA COUNTY, Cambria City Historic District, Roughly bounded by Broad St., Tenth Ave. and the Conemaugh R., Johnstown, 91001706, NOMINATION, 11/14/91  
PENNSYLVANIA, CHESTER COUNTY, South Brook Farm, Jct. of Street Rd. and Bird Rd., East Marlborough Township, London Grove, 91001710, NOMINATION, 11/14/91  
PENNSYLVANIA, COLUMBIA COUNTY, Berwick Armory, 201 Pine St., Berwick, 91001692, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Pennsylvania National Guard Armories MPS)  
PENNSYLVANIA, DAUPHIN COUNTY, Harrisburg 19th Street Armory, 1313 S. 19th St., Harrisburg, 91001696, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Pennsylvania National Guard Armories MPS)  
PENNSYLVANIA, ERIE COUNTY, Hamot Pierre S. V. House, 302 French St., Erie, 91001707, NOMINATION, 11/14/91  
PENNSYLVANIA, FAYETTE COUNTY, Connellsville Armory, 108 W. Washington St., Connellsville, 91001694, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Pennsylvania National Guard Armories MPS)  
PENNSYLVANIA, INDIANA COUNTY, Indiana Armory, 621 Wayne Ave., Indiana, 91001698, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Pennsylvania National Guard Armories MPS)  
PENNSYLVANIA, LANCASTER COUNTY, Lancaster Armory, 438 N. Queen St., Lancaster, 91001699, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Pennsylvania National Guard Armories MPS)  
PENNSYLVANIA, LEHIGH COUNTY, Bethlehem Armory, 301 Prospect St., Bethlehem, 91001693, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Pennsylvania National Guard Armories MPS)  
PENNSYLVANIA, LYCOMING COUNTY, Williamsport Armory, 1300 Penn St., Williamsport, 91001704, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Pennsylvania National Guard Armories MPS)  
PENNSYLVANIA, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Old Pottstown Historic District (Boundary Increase), High St. between Hanover and Franklin Sts., Pottstown, 91001715, BOUNDARY INCREASE, 11/14/91  
PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, 32nd St and Lancaster Ave. Philadelphia Armory, Jct. of 32nd St. and Lancaster Ave., Philadelphia, 91001703, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Pennsylvania National Guard Armories MPS)  
PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, Ogontz Hall, 7175--7165 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia, 91001708, NOMINATION, 11/14/91  
PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, Special Troops Armory, 5350 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia, 91001702, NOMINATION, 11/14/91 (Pennsylvania National Guard Armories MPS)  
PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, YMCA of Cermantown, 5722 Greene St., Philadelphia, 91001709, NOMINATION, 11/14/91

200830

1. Name of Site:

Common City Hall

Historic

2. Location: S side Main, W of 2nd (E.)

Street and Number

City or Town

La Harpe  
County

Zip Code

Township

T7N  
Range  
RSW

Section

21  
1/4 Section  
SE

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

- District
- Building
- Site
- Structure

Integrity (check one)

- Altered
- Unaltered
- Moved
- Original Site

4. Ownership:

- Private
- Public

Status (check one)

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

- Yes
- Restricted
- Unrestricted
- No

Present Use (check one or more)

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

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name

City of La Harpe

Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

government

6. Description:

- Excellent
- Ruins
- Good
- Unexposed
- Fair
- Deteriorated

Is there a program of preservation underway?

- Yes
- No

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

- Archeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archeological 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)

8. Specific Date: 1894

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

- Aboriginal (historic)
- Aboriginal (pre-historic)
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communication
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape Architecture
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Other (specify)

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)  
Use additional sheets if necessary. Unique & elaborate town hall.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 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.

