

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 Whitney, Colonel Nathan, house

other names/site number Franklin Grove Nursery and Orchards

2. Location

street & number 1620 Whitney Road

not for publication

city, town Franklin Grove

vicinity

state Illinois

code IL

county LEE

code 103

zip code 61031

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> 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.

Signature of certifying official [Signature]

Date 9-25-90

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)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/ Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/ limestonewalls WOOD/ weatherboard

roof ASPHALTother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Whitney home, also once known as the Franklin Grove Nursery and Orchards, is located in the southwest quarter of section 12 of Lee County, Illinois, approximately one mile south of the town of Franklin Grove. The home stands nearly 600 feet east off of Whitney Road with no other homes within close proximity. Approaching the house, and on either side of the lane are small apple orchards which the owner is reestablishing. There are 100 trees¹ planted on both sides. The surrounding land is used for other various crops. The house was built circa 1860, which has been established through the Lee County Courthouse Mortgage records, and stands as an elegant example of Italianate architecture.

The main house is two stories with a cupola space above a low-pitch hip roof, while a kitchen wing, to the rear (east), stands one and one half stories and is covered by a gable roof. The house utilizes a frame structure with a full basement below the main house. To allow light and ventilation into the basement the first floor is approximately four feet above grade at its highest point. The east portion, having no basement, is raised above grade about two feet. A central projecting porch emphasizes the main facade and entrance.⁴ Accenting the porch are square, wood columns with molded capitals and large, ornately carved brackets supporting a wide cornice with dentils. Molded railings with carved side panels and newel posts also add to the porch's elegant appearance.^{6,7} Large brackets along a wide cornice are traditional elements of Italianate architecture and can be seen throughout the exterior. Entry from the porch is through a pair of paneled doors, which are original. The doors have been restored and replaced by the present owner.

Two roof styles are utilized on the house, as previously mentioned, and to accent the eaves, large paired brackets are incorporated with dentil coursing. This coursing can also be found along the eave of the south porch roof and on the east facade following the line of the gable.^{5,12} Originally, both roofs were covered with wood shingles but these have since been replaced by asphalt shingles.

The east wing, used as the kitchen area, is spanned on the southern side by an open porch and is approximately six feet in width. A flat roof, mentioned above, extends over the entire porch and is supported¹² by slender columns which are similar in style to those along the front porch.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Col. Nathan Whitney House

One of the Italianate styles prominent features is the cupola. Tall, slender windows give added height to the cupola and to the entire house. Single molded brackets are incorporated along the eave once again, but are extended downward separating and framing the rounded arch of each window.¹¹ All windows on the house are floor to ceiling with molded wood frames that are original and in good to fair condition. Louvered shutters with accompanying screens are being restored and are not up at the present time.⁹ Windows used on the west facade are similar in size but use a wide vertical mullion similar in style to the molded columns on the porch. This treatment is visible on the frames at both levels. Not only do the windows appear to be larger¹⁰ than those on alternate facades, but it further emphasizes the main facade.

The floor plan of the main house is basically symmetrical around the foyer, with the main feature being the open stair.¹³ The original floor plan has been kept intact, walls, doors, etc. altered only by the installation of plumbing fixtures. The kitchen area has been modernized to provide the owner with sufficient working area for preparation of meals. This has consisted of removing the back storage room and installing a central island as to not disturb existing windows. The second floor also remains virtually unchanged. The location of the closet doors have been moved to provide ample space for plumbing fixtures. Plumbing walls have been added as necessary. (please refer to enclosed floor plan showing all changes in red) The open stair in the foyer is being completely restored due to deterioration. Missing pieces of the railings and the one newel post were recovered, while the portions of the railing and side rungs are being provided to match the style of the existing pieces. Painted wainscoting, in need of repair, can be found in the foyer and continues up the stair.

East of the kitchen is an earlier addition to the house, circa 1900.^{3,4,5} This was originally used as a smoke house, but has become a garage and storage space over the years. This addition does not detract from the view of the house as it is unnoticeable from the road.¹ Repairs have had to be made to the foundation along the north side due to deterioration of the limestone and in general to weathered wood. A small porch to the north of the kitchen is also included as an early addition, allowing entrance into the kitchen from either side of the room. Above the porch is a small roof which is being replaced because of its age, while the roof above the south porch is being repaired. The owner has not made any changes to the exterior except to restore any portion that may be deteriorating and in need of repair. All restoration work is being done to match the original craftsmanship.

The present owner is Sheryl Lyons of Amboy, Illinois, who has recently purchased the property. Upon completion of restoration and repairs the owner intends to open a "Bed and Breakfast" country inn facility.

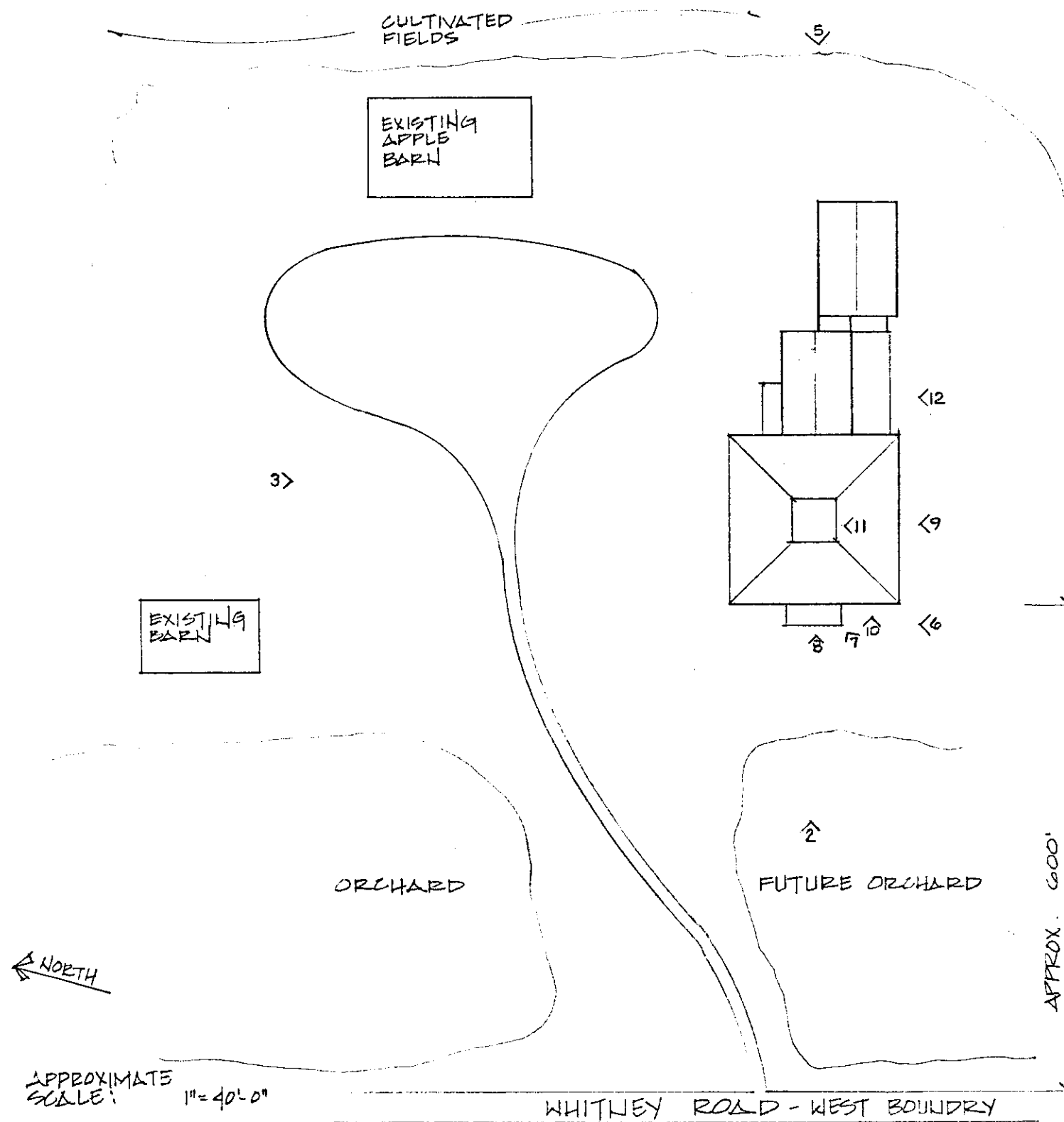
* numbers correspond to photograph numbers

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

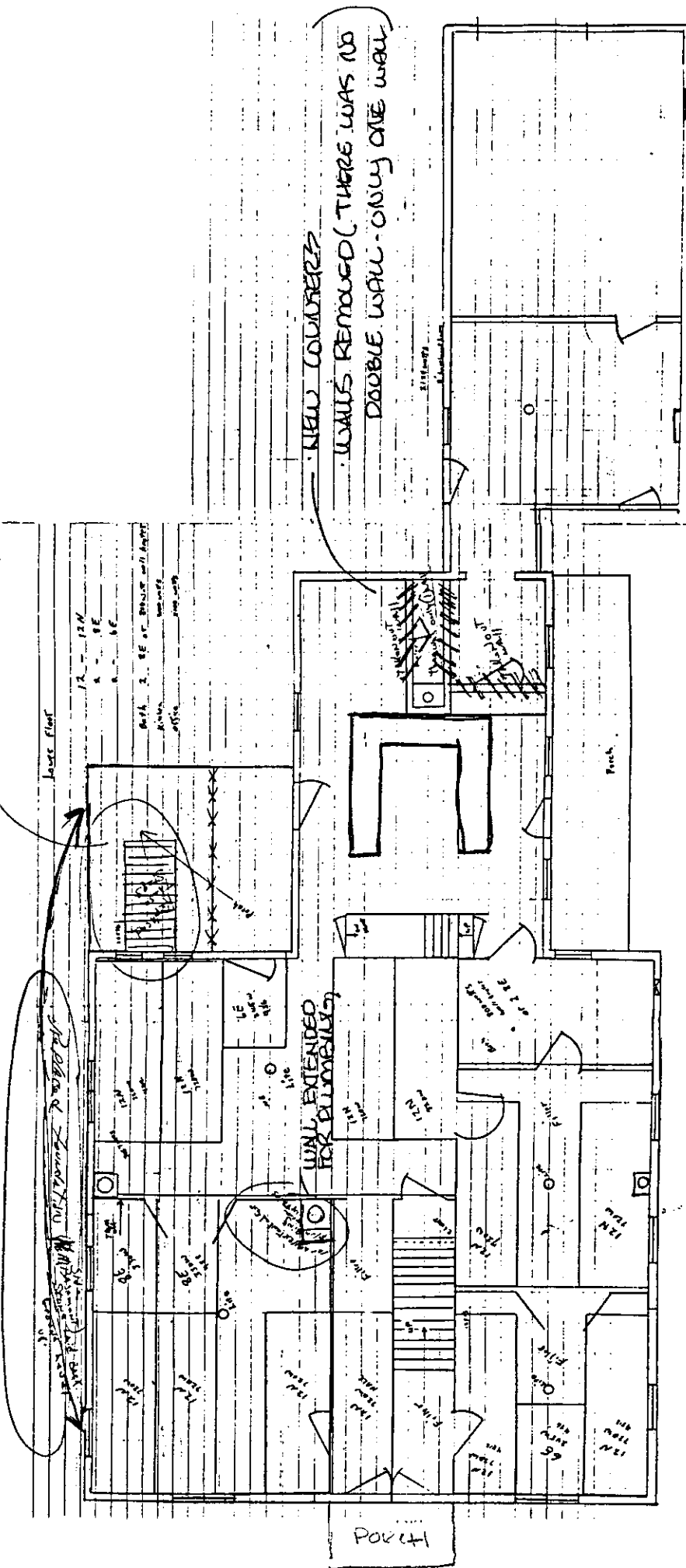
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Property:
Whitney, Nathan, House
Sketch Map

Section number 7 Page 3



REPLACED STAIR TO
BASEMENT + PORCH

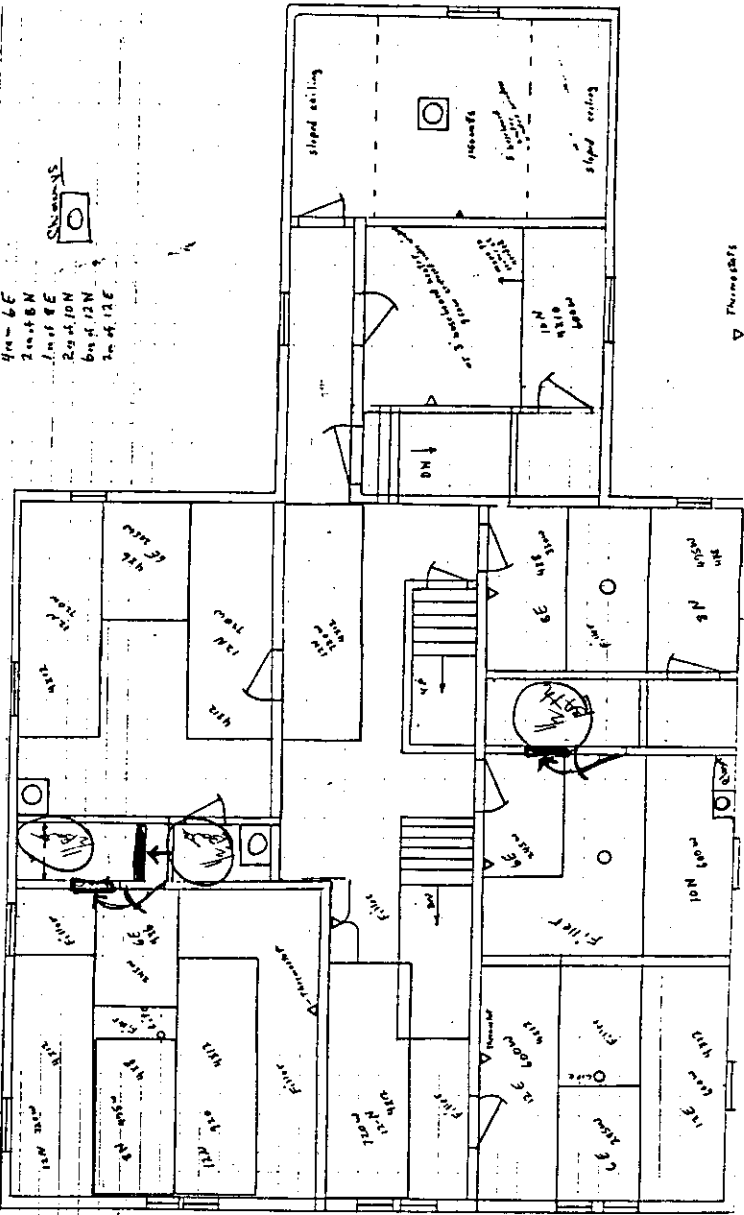


NATHAN WHITNEY HOUSE

Lower Level Floor Plan N ↑

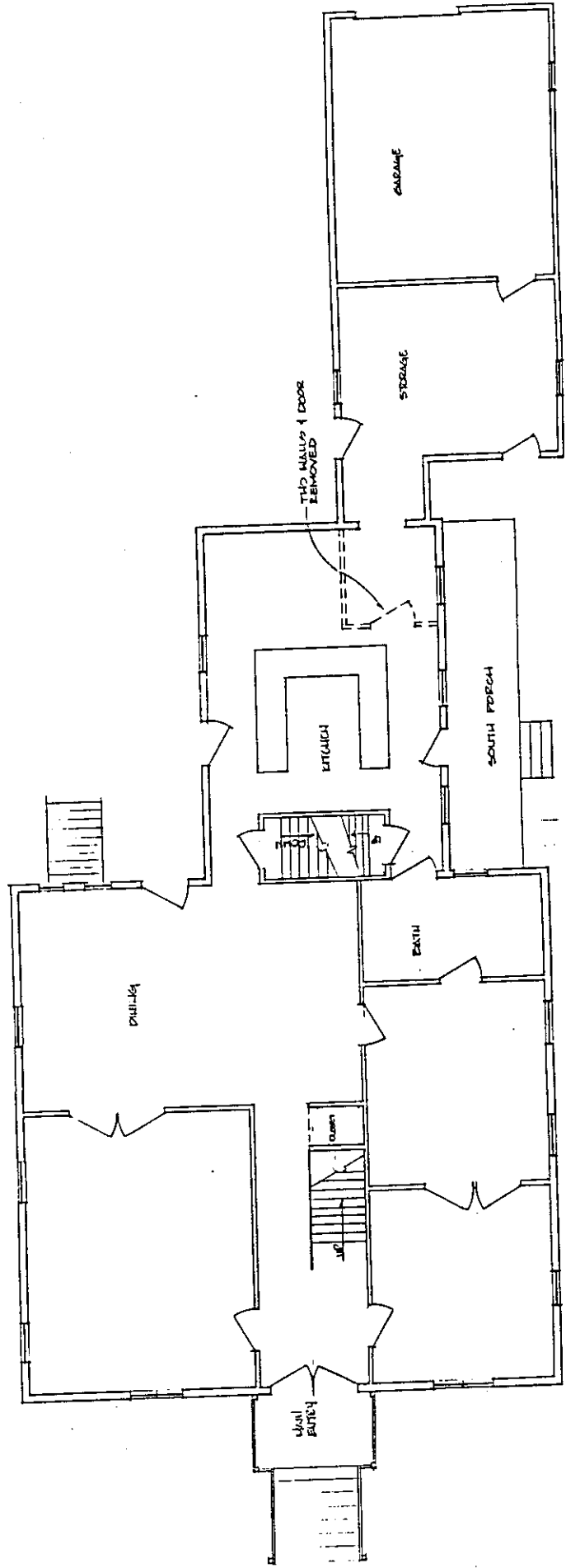
N1


Upper floor
Electric HEAT
400-6E
200-8N
100-6E
200-10N
600-12N
200-12E

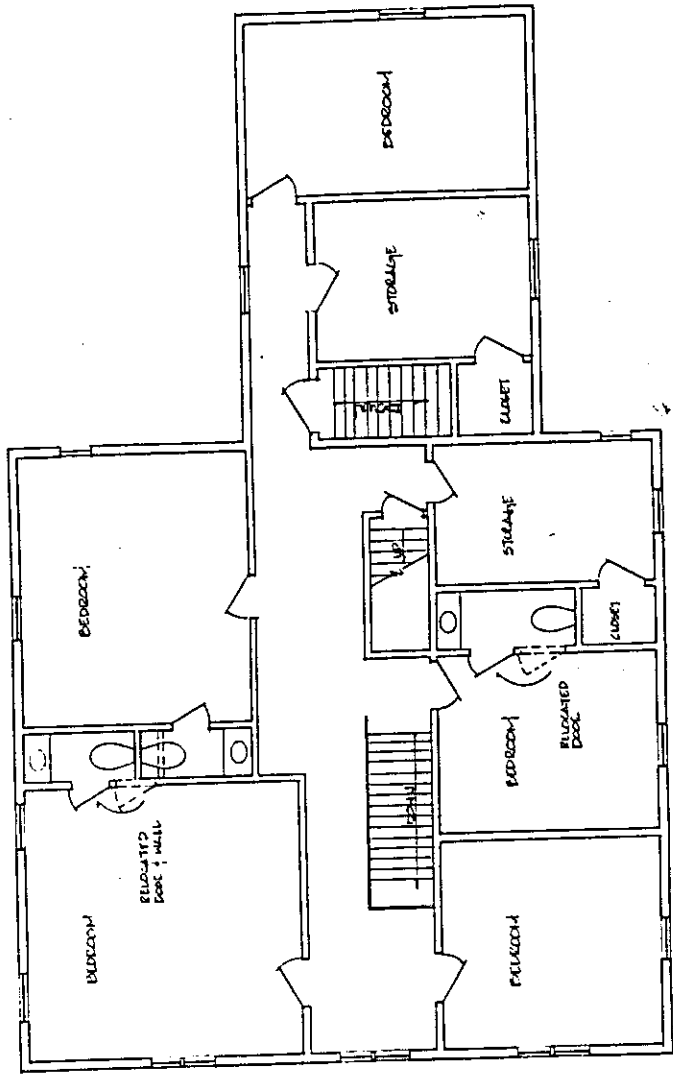



NATHAN WHITNEY HOUSE

UPPER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN




FIRST FLOOR PLAN NO SCALE
 COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOUSE
 FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS




SECOND FLOOR PLAN NO SCALE
 COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOUSE

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)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1860 - ca. 1900

Significant Dates

ca. 1860

ca. 1900

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The Whitney home, built circa 1860, for Colonel Nathan Whitney remains standing on its original site and is a wonderful example of the Italianate architectural style within the Franklin Grove area. It meets Criterion C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Houses on the surrounding farms are very simple in style and detailing which gives further emphasis to the ornate craftsmanship and detailing of the Whitney house.

After serving in the War of 1812, Colonel Whitney and his family began migrating westward from New York state, eventually settling outside the Franklin Grove community in 1836. Eager to begin a family business, Whitney established the Franklin Grove Nursery and Orchards. Throughout the years four homes were built for the family, the fourth and final home being the most elaborate, thus becoming a symbol of Whitney's prosperous family business.

This two story house portrays the Italianate style in nearly every element. The central projecting porch incorporates pronounced moldings on the newel posts, upper railing posts and column capitals. Large ornate brackets, single and paired, can be ofund along the eave of the porch's flat roof and the house's low-pitch hip roof. (respectively) Dentil coursing is also utilized along each roof line with the large brackets. Floor to ceiling windows are used on all facades of the main house and all have molded frames. Window frames on the main (west) facade use a vertical mullion which is similar in style to the columns on the main porch. A gable roof covers the east kitchen wing (behind the main house) while to the south of the kitchn is a large open porch. Keeping with the Italianate style the low, flat roof above the porch is supported by slender columns with moldings that are once again similar to those throughout the exterior. A prominent feature of thisstyle is the cupola and the Whitney house is no exception. Tall, narrow windows with rounded arches add a variation from the rectangular windows used throughout the lower levels. Large single brackets are used to separate the windows while molded frames at the head of each window emphasizes the arch. The detailing of each element and the integration of these elements give this particular house a character that cannot be found on surrounding homes within the Franklin Grove area.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

DIXON EVENING TELEGRAPH Dixon, Illinois
March 25, 1980 pg. 35
February 5, 1985 pg. 6
September 6, 1989 pg. 3

ASHTON GAZETTE Ashton, Illinois
July 24, 1980 pg. 6

Lee County Courthouse - Office of Deeds and Records

Sheryl Lyons present owner of the property
1170 Riverview
Amboy, Illinois 61310

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property LESS THAN ONE

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary line follows a line 10 feet away from the exterior walls of the house.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area includes the existing house standing west of Whitney Road approximately one mile south of Franklin Grove, Illinois. This is the portion of the farmstead that has historically been associated with the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Brenda L. Schober Apprentice Architect	date	August 1, 1990
organization	McLane and Searcy Architects	telephone	(815) 284-6056
street & number	212 S. Ottawa Avenue	state	Illinois
city or town	Dixon	zip code	61021

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.

WEEKLY LIST OF LISTED PROPERTIES
10/29/90 THROUGH 11/02/90

NOV 09 1990

KEY: Property Name, Multiple Name, Address/Boundary, City,
Vicinity, Certification Date, Reference Number, NHL status

ALASKA

Bethel Borough-Census Area
First Mission House
291 Third Ave.
Bethel 10/30/90 90001551

ILLINOIS

Cook County
Oak Lawn School
9526 S. Cook Ave.
Oak Lawn 11/02/90 90001725

Kendall County
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
304 S. Center Ave.
Plano 11/02/90 90001724

La Salle County
Ranson Water Tower
Plumb St. between Cartier & Columbus
Ranson 11/02/90 90001723

Lee County
Whitney, Col. Nathan, House
1620 Whitney Rd.
Franklin Grove vicinity 11/02/90 90001726

Warren County
Patton Block Building
88 & 90 Public Square
Monmouth 11/02/90 90001727

LOUISIANA

Lincoln Parish
Ruston State Bank
107 M. Trenton St.
Ruston 11/02/90 90001730

LOUISIANA

Richland Parish
Rhymes, Nonnie Roark, Memorial Library
206 S. Louisa St.
Rayville 11/02/90 90001736

MARYLAND

Somerset County
Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church
Deal Island Rd. NE of Scotts Cove
Chance 11/02/90 90001718
St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church and Joshua Thomas Chap
el
Deal Island Rd. W of Jct. with Tangier Rd.
Deal Island 11/01/90 90001550
St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church
Jct. of Old Crisfield-Marion Rd. & Heart's Ease Rd.
Hopewell vicinity 11/02/90 90001721

MASSACHUSETTS

Worcester County
First Methodist Church
75 Walnut St.
Clinton 11/02/90 90001720

MICHIGAN

Ingham County
St. Mary Cathedral
229 Seymour St.
Lansing 11/02/90 90001716

NEW JERSEY

Burlington County
Wills, Jacob, House
Evesham Township MPS
Brick Rd., W of Evans Rd.
Marlton 11/01/90 89002296

OREGON

Hood River County
Shau--Dumble House
318 Ninth St.
Hood River 10/30/90 90001601

TENNESSEE

Davidson County
Dozier Farm
8451 River Rd. Pike
Nashville vicinity 11/01/90 90001580

TEXAS

Lubbock County
Tubbs--Carlisle House
602 Fulton Ave.
Lubbock 11/02/90 90001719

WASHINGTON

Yakima County
Buckeye Ranch House
10381 WA 410
Naches vicinity 11/02/90 90001735

Multiple Resource Areas are identified by MRA
Multiple Property Submissions are identified by MPS
Thematic Resources are identified by TR
NHL designates a National Historic Landmark

The following actions have been taken on the following properties:

KEY: Property Name, Multiple Name, Address/Boundary, City,
Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL status, Requested Action, Decision Date

KENTUCKY

Jefferson County
Kennedy--Hunsinger Farm
Jefferson County NRA
4354 Taylorsville Rd.
Jefferson town vicinity 83002685
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION 11/01/90

The following properties were also entered in the National Register but were excluded from a previous notice:

KEY: Property Name, Multiple Name, Address/Boundary, City,
Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL status

MINNESOTA

Cass County
Battle Point (21CA12)
6 mi. W of Co. Hwy. 8 on Leech Lake, Chippewa NF
Cass Lake vicinity 8/17/90 90001144

MISSOURI

Shannon County
Mears Ferry Archeological District
Address Restricted
Rector vicinity 10/25/90 90001541

NEW MEXICO

Lincoln County
Mesa Ranger Station Site
Lincoln Phase Sites in the Sierra Blanca Region NPS
Address Restricted
Nogal vicinity 10/22/90 90001533
Nogal Mesa Kiva Site
Lincoln Phase Sites in the Sierra Blanca Region NPS
Address Restricted
Nogal vicinity 10/22/90 90001532
Nogal Mesa Site
Lincoln Phase Sites in the Sierra Blanca Region NPS
Address Restricted
Nogal vicinity 10/22/90 90001531

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston County
Lighthouse Point Shell Ring (38CH12)
Late Archaic--Early Woodland Period Shell Rings of South Carolina NPS
Address Restricted
Charleston vicinity 10/14/90 90001505