

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SENT TO D.C.

10-1-96

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **Mershon, Joab, House**

other names/site number **Wyne, Walter, House**

2. Location

street & number **507 West Fifth Street** not for publication
city or town **Vermont** vicinity
state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Fulton** code **057** zip code **61484**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. Wheeler / SHPO
Signature of certifying official

10-1-96
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 for additional comments.)

 Signature of commenting or other official Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

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 4. National Park Service Certification
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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 Keeper Date
 of Action

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 5. Classification
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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National
 Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) **Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois**

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **Domestic**

Sub: **Single Dwelling**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **Domestic**

Sub: **Single Dwelling**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Greek Revival

Other: Four-over-Four

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation **Limestone**

roof **Asphalt**

walls **Brick**

Wood

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce

Period of Significance **1859, Criterion C**
1859-1888, Criterion B

Significant Dates **1859**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Mershon, Joab

Cultural Affiliation **N/A**

Architect/Builder **Unknown**

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository: Vermont Public Library, Vermont, IL

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	718200	4463270	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

_____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title David Newton, President; John Reinert, Vice President

organization Vermont Betterment, Inc.

date May 1, 1996

street & number Box 265

telephone 309-784-2414

city or town Vermont

state IL zip code 61484

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name John and Jan Reinert

street & number Box 70

telephone 309-784-2213

city or town Vermont

state IL zip code 61484

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Description

Summary

The Joab Mershon House is a two story brick Italianate residence built in 1859.¹ It sits on the southwest corner of West Fifth and Peggy Ann Streets in the village of Vermont in southwestern Fulton County and faces north towards West Fifth Street. The house sits approximately five blocks southwest of the downtown business district. The character of the neighborhood is characterized as residential with farms to the south and west. To the west of the house is a 1970s ranch house. To the southwest is a ten-acre field. To the southeast is a 1960s ranch house. Across Peggy Ann Street to the east is a 1960s ranch house. To the northeast across West Fifth Street is the 1872 William Franklin and Rebecca (Mershon) Durell House. This house according to Vermont legend was built as a wedding present for Joab Mershon's daughter, Rebecca. Across West Fifth Street to the northwest is a Spanish Revival ranch house built in the 1970s. The house lot slopes to the northeast towards the corner of West Fifth and Peggy Ann Streets. It is landscaped with large evergreen, tamarack, pine, oak, and tulip trees. A limestone wall approximately two feet tall is located near the front edge of the property.

The house was originally built as a double-pile central passage two story cubic Italianate house with a belvedere with segmental arched windows, paired brackets, dentils, and a Gothic Revival styled entry porch. It has a cornice with paired decorative wood brackets and recessed wood panels at the cornice. There are raised corner quoins and raised brick panels beneath the brackets. The windows are four-over-four with cast iron hoods and sills, and wood shutters. The front entry porch had a balustrade, large chamfered columns with capitals, and a Gothic arched opening with fretwork. It had a low-pitched hipped roof with a balustrade. There were four panelled chimneys, two on both the east and west sides. The main block has a stone foundation.

A two-story brick rear wing to the south was added by the early 1860s. This is evidenced by bricks which do not "feed" into the south wall of the main house; the southeast dining room rear window is covered over; a double door in the central hall is narrowed; and the wing it has a brick foundation, while the main house has a stone foundation. The two story rear wing has a low-pitched gabled roof and is shorter in height than the main block of the

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house. It has cornice returns on the south elevation and dentil-like brackets around the cornice.

In the 1870s a one story mansard roofed brick addition with a stone foundation was added to the east side of the main house. It had four-over-four windows with cast iron hoods and sills, and brick quoins. Also in the 1870s a one story mansard roofed brick addition was added to the southeast corner of the main house, along the east wall of the rear wing. It had a cutaway bay on the southeast corner. This is evidenced by a circa 1880s picture showing the two additions.

In the early 1900s these two additions were removed. The front porch deck was increased in size and rock-faced concrete block piers and foundation were added. Also, both the main roof and front porch roof balustrades were removed. Three additional four-over-four windows were added to the east elevation. Three chimneys were removed and a new one was added on the south. A rear service porch at the south wall of the main house and east wall of the rear wing was added. This is evidenced by a 1910 photo of the house in the Vermont School Yearbook.

In the 1960s the rear porch was removed and a concrete deck and aluminum canopy with wrought iron columns was added along the east and south elevations of the rear wing. This porch was removed in 1990. In the mid-1970s the front porch was removed and a concrete deck and brick base with a wrought iron railing was added.

Windows throughout the house are four-over-four with cast iron hoods and sills except where noted. The house has a five bay front facade fenestration pattern. The hipped and gabled roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The rough-cut stone foundation is laid in regular courses. The brickwork pattern is seven courses of stretchers to one course of headers. The brickwork pattern on the corner quoins have six courses of stretchers.

Beginning at the east end of the north front facade first story are two windows. In the center bay is a segmental wood arched entryway with a double door and transom. The archway has heavy molded roping and a wood keystone. Between the doors and transom are dentil like brackets. The door sill is wood. The double wood doors have large glass panels. The transom has two lights. To the west of the doorway are two windows. Beginning at the

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east end of the second story are two windows. The center bay has a paired window with a single cast iron hood and sill. To the right of the paired window are two windows.

The west has two windows on each story.

The south elevation has two windows on each story.

At the north end of the first story west elevation of the rear wing is a window with a wood lintel and cast iron sill with decorative brackets. To the south is a window with a brick segmental arch and stone sill. On the second story are two windows with brick segmental arches and stone sills.

At the west end of the first story south elevation of the rear wing is a single fixed pane with brick segmental arch and wood sill. To the east is a single door with a two-light transom. It has a horizontal stone lintel and concrete sill. It has an upper three-pane window with three lower wood panels. On the second story are two windows with brick segmental arches with stone sills.

At the south end of the first story east elevation of the rear wing is a paired window with a single cast iron hood and sill. To the north is a door with a two-light transom. It has a stone lintel and a concrete sill. The wood door has an upper three-pane window with three lower wood panels. On the second story are two windows with cast iron hood and sills.

At the south end of the first story east elevation of the main house is a window with cast iron hood and sill. Immediately to the north are two windows that were added in the early 1900s. They have wood lintels and cast iron sills with small decorative brackets. To the north is an original window. On second story are three windows. The middle window was added in the early 1900s. It has a cast iron hood and sill and matches the original windows.

The wood belvedere has a segmental wooden arch two-over-four window with wooden sills on each elevation, corner boards, clapboard siding, and a low-pitched hipped metal roof.

Currently the cornice, brackets, and windows are being painted in a historic paint color scheme from Alexander Jackson Downing's 1850 The Architecture of Country Houses.

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The window sashes are being painted "Indian Red" and the cornice and brackets are being painted light, medium, and dark "Brownstone."

Interior

The interior has a central hall plan with rooms on either side. Woodwork throughout the house has heavy Italianate moldings with shouldered architraves. The window and door casings flare out towards the middle, a Greek Revival trait. Underneath the windows are decorative panels. The central muntin is wide with beading in an attempt to replicate casement windows. The ceilings on the first story are 11' 3" tall and on the second story are 10' 6" tall. Some of the ceilings were replaced with plaster ceilings due to water damage in 1970s and 1980s. They were kept at their original height. Originally there were four coal-burning fireplaces downstairs. They were removed in the early 1900s. The floors are 1 1/2" oak throughout the first floor that was added in the early 1900s. On the second floor is wide pine plank flooring.

Upon entering the central hall at the front north door is a staircase along the west wall. It has an Italianate walnut newel post and walnut tapered balusters. The ceiling has a decorative floral medallion and a heavy crown molding.

To the west is the 14' 6" x 15' formal parlor. The entryway from the front hall has a door opening with a two-light transom with dentil-like brackets. The doors throughout the house are four panelled. The ceiling has a large medallion and crown molding. Through a large flat cased opening to the south is the 14' 6" x 15' 9" family parlor. The ceiling in this room was replaced.

Across the front entry hall to the east is the 14' 6" x 13' 6" library. The double doorway from the front hall was enlarged and the transom removed in the early 1900s. The current owner has the bifold panel doors in storage that will be reinstalled. The ceiling in this room has been resurfaced. Through a large flat cased opening to the south is the 14' 6" x 17' 3" dining room. It has a Classical styled fireplace that was added in the early 1900s with molded cast iron trim, a wood mantel, and decorative tile at the hearth. It has a resurfaced ceiling.

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The rear wing has a 11' 8" x 14' 7" kitchen with original wood built-in pantry, basement stairs, and service staircase.

The second story has a central hall with bedrooms on either side. There are two bedrooms on the west, which are separated by closets and passageway with a built-in dresser. There are two bedrooms on the east. Between these two bedrooms is the stair to the belvedere.

The belvedere has a wide pine plank floor and wood bead-board panelling for the walls and ceiling.

The basement extends under the east half and central hall of the main block of the house. It has a stone floor. The west half and rear wing have crawl spaces.

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Statement of Significance

The Joab Mershon House is locally significant for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It meets Criterion C for architecture as a good example of a cubic, Four-over-Four, Italianate house with some Greek Revival detailing. The house was built at a time when the Greek Revival style's popularity was being supplanted by the newer Italianate style. The house reflects this transition from the Greek Revival to the Italianate in its stylistic details including the earlier Greek Revival inspired horizontal window hoods with anthemion decoration and the newer Italianate style with its cornice line brackets and segmental arched entryway. The period of significance for Criterion C is 1859, the year the house was built, to c. 1860s to include the rear two story brick wing addition. The Joab Mershon House is also locally significant for Criterion B for commerce for the life of Joab Mershon. As a leading pork packer, merchant, and banker, Mershon was a principal developer of the village of Vermont from the 1840s to his death in 1888. The period of significance for Criterion B is 1859, when the house was built to 1888, when Joab Mershon died. The house meets the registration requirements of the single dwelling property type in the multiple property documentation form, "The Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois."

Architecture

For a discussion of Greek Revival and Italianate residential architecture and the Four-over-Four vernacular type, please refer to the multiple property documentation form, "The Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois."

The Joab Mershon House built in 1859, is a good example of a simple hipped roof, cubic, Four-over-Four, Italianate house with some Greek Revival detailing.² The Joab Mershon House has a balanced four-over-four room plan with a central hallway. Originally the home had two chimneys arranged on each of the side elevations of the house.

The Joab Mershon House was built at a time when the Greek Revival style (1820-1860) was losing its popularity to the Italianate style (1850-1880s). The house has characteristics of both styles and is a good example of the transition between the two styles. Earlier Classical inspired details include its symmetrical, balanced massing with a four-over-four,

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central hall plan and the cornice blocks which give the effect of recessed blind arches on the front facade. Greek Revival details on the house include the dentils at the entryway and belvedere, horizontal cast iron lintels with anthemion designs, and cornice returns in the rear wing.

Elements of the Italianate style on the house include its low-pitched hipped roof with a belvedere, paired brackets at the cornice, and segmental arched entryway and windows in the belvedere.

On the interior the home has a combination of Greek Revival and Italianate features. Greek Revival influence can be seen on the doorways and windows which have shouldered architraves and flared side moldings. Above many of the interior doorways are dentil-like moldings. The four-over-four windows have a vertical bead in the muntins resembling casement windows. The Italianate influence can be seen in the heavily molded woodwork and Italianate newel post.

The interior of the home was updated in the early 1900s by the Walter Wyne family who removed the earlier fireplace mantels. A new Classical inspired mantel was placed in the south wall of the dining room and the chimney was relocated from the east wall of the room to the south wall. The earlier Gothic Revival influenced front entry porch was expanded in 1910 by the Wyne family with a ornamental concrete block porch. This porch was later torn off and a concrete and brick platform was added.

The house maintains its historic integrity of setting, location, design, materials, association, and feeling. The Joab Mershon House is comparable to other Greek Revival and Italianate residences in Vermont as one of the best examples of the transition between two styles.

The Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House at 401 North Main Street was built c. 1855 as a brick, Greek Revival influenced I-house. The house had horizontal stone sills and lintels, six-over-six windows, an elaborate entry with divided transom and sidelights, and a tripartite window. In the 1870s the house was updated in the more fashionable Italianate style of the time with a raised hipped roof and paired brackets. In 1892 the house was updated again with a two-story, polygonal window bay, one-over-one windows, stained glass windows, and some new woodwork.

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Other Greek Revival houses in town include the Harvey Lee Ross House at 610 South Main Street. The two-story wood frame house built c. 1858 has a side-gable roof and five-bay fenestration pattern. The house has an elaborate central entry with transoms and sidelights. The original wood front porch has decorative Doric wood columns with fluting and dentils, as well as a decorative wrought iron balustrade. The cornice has dentils and end gable returns.

The Milton I. and Roxanna Amrine House at 208 East Fourth Street was built in 1864. The wood frame two-story house has a cornice with dentils and returns, six-over-six windows, and elaborate entry with sidelights and transom. The front gabled, side hall house has been covered with metal siding.

The George Swartz House at 411 North Main Street was built c. 1850s. It is a two-story frame residence with a side gabled roof. It has some dentils in the cornice line and end gable returns. The house has a central entry with transoms and sidelights and six-over-six windows. The house has been covered with asbestos siding and the porch was updated in the early 1900s with rock-faced concrete block piers and foundation.

Italianate houses in Vermont include the Edward Hamer House at 200 West Second Street. The two-and-a-half story brick house was built for Edward Hamer in 1871. The gable front house has decorative brackets in the cornice, segmental arched windows and doorways, a three-sided window bay, and a steep pitched, multiple gabled roof. The interior of the home has heavy Italianate molded woodwork.

The Major Caleb B. Cox House at 302 East Fifth Street was built in 1871. The two story brick house is an excellent example of a simple hipped roof Italianate house. The house has many Italianate details including a low-pitched hipped roof with a belvedere, paired brackets and molded panels at the cornice, segmental and round-arched windows, wraparound front porch with chamfered columns and arched spandrels, and a round-arched entryway. The interior has a side hall plan with elaborate Italianate stair newel, woodwork, and plaster moldings.

The Robert Dilworth House at 604 East Fifth Street was built in 1871. The two-and-a-half story brick house is an excellent example of a front gabled Italianate house. The house has many Italianate details including its cornice line with brackets, segmental and round-arched

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windows, front porch with chamfered columns and scrollwork, and a round-arched entryway. The interior has a central hall plan with rooms arranged on each side. Woodwork in the interior has heavy Italianate moldings. There are two Italianate newel posts, and plaster moldings.

The William Franklin and Rebecca Durell House at 408 West Fifth Street was built in 1872. The simple-hipped roof, two story brick house has a side hall plan. The house has many Italianate details including its cornice line with paired brackets, segment and round-arched windows, front porch with chamfered columns and jigsawn ornament. The interior has heavily molded Italianate woodwork with an Italianate newel post. There are two Italianate cast iron fireplace mantels.

History

Please refer to the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois" for discussions about pork packing, the development of the railroad, and commerce in the village of Vermont, Illinois. The Joab Mershon House is significant for the life of Joab Mershon, a prominent pork packer, merchant, and banker in the village of Vermont, Illinois.

Joab Mershon was the son of Henry and Ruth (Dilworth) Mershon. He was born in New York on January 26, 1812. He was married in Vermont, Illinois on January 7, 1841 to Sarah E. Dilworth, the daughter of Rhodes and Rebecca (Foulke) Dilworth. Sarah E. Dilworth was born on April 4, 1825.

Joab Mershon, after receiving rudimentary education, became a cattle drover and later a shoe cobbler. In 1839 he moved to Vermont, Illinois and established a cobbler shop. In 1841, he erected a brick general store (demolished) on the northeast corner of the village square. Joab Mershon became a leading merchant and pork packer in town during the 1850s and 1860s. In 1859, he had his brick house built on lots on the west side of town on West Fifth Street. A frame house that was occupied by the Mershons was moved to make way for the house.

A. F. Powers in his 1895 self-published book, Sunshine and Shadows, described the arrival of Joab Mershon in Vermont in 1839:

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" . . . About this time a young man by the name of Joab Mershon, landed in the town, with grip in hand, and the fabled half dollar (the only money he had on hand at the time) in his pocket. He was genteel, quiet, and an unassuming person, who had just graduated in the honorable profession of shoemaker, and was looking for an eligible location to set up in the business.

. . . he readily seized the opportunity, and soon opened the first manufactory in the place. His work was soon noted as being far superior to the work of the local cobblers, both in fit and style of finish. His obliging and punctual habits still added to his popularity, and he soon found himself in the midst of a thriving and somewhat lucrative business. . . . He soon invested his savings in merchandise, opened a little store, and was on the royal road to success as a merchant.

The conditions surrounding the locality of this town were rather peculiar. On the northwest, at a little distance, lay a fine rich body of prairie, which was being gradually though slowly brought into cultivation, while at the south was a densely wooded tract (Joab Mershon) grasped the situation, and by frequent enlargements to his business and business quarters, he was enabled to say to the timber settler, 'Bring on your staves, your hoop poles, your shingles or clapboards, your cord wood or tan bark, your rails or what not,' and to the prairie settler, 'Bring your wheat, corn, pork, etc.,' and here a portion was exchanged from one locality to the other, after passing through his hands, and the surplus grain and pork, after being properly prepared, was forwarded to St. Louis to be exchanged for merchandise. . . . his (Mershon's) career was a gradual but continuous success from the time he entered the town until the close of his eventful life.

His business furnished employment for the builder, the cooper, the teamster, and many others, and thus was a great help to the laboring class, and his clearing house was truly a 'god-send' to the pioneer farmer for many miles distant. Many a poor farmer pressed to the wall, went to him for advice and assistance, and never was the worthy turned away wanting."

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Vermont's first major exporting business, pork packing, was begun by Rhodes Dilworth in the 1840s who came upon the idea of hunting, slaughtering, and salting down the numerous wild and domestic hogs for shipment to the markets at St. Louis. Hogs could not be driven far to market because they lost weight quickly while on the road and did not drive easily like cattle. There were strong economic incentives to slaughter and pack pigs near the place where farmers raised them. Pork packing was thus one of the the earliest and most important of frontier industries, springing up wherever people established new agricultural settlements.³

Frontier farmers raised hogs as their great residual crop. Unlike cattle, pigs were perfectly willing to fend for themselves even in the earliest days of settlement, whether in prairie or in woodland. Often allowed to run wild, they grazed, ate acorns, foraged in cornfields, and consumed any household garbage. They were wonderfully productive animals, converting grain to meat with two or three times the efficiency of cattle or sheep. Hogs also reproduced quickly, having large litters. Their prodigious meat-making powers enabled farmers to use corn to feed them allowing them to profit quickly by marketing them for packing. The new farming areas of the prairie had large crop of pigs whose owners were eager to sell them for cash. Unwilling to waste their investment by driving the animals far, farmers instead chose to sell them to seasonal pork packers in the nearest town. Before railroads arrived, pork-packing operations existed in many midwestern communities, usually run by general merchants who hired seasonal workers to slaughter and dress pigs in warehouses.⁴

Pork packing required moderate capital, few specialized tools, and only a few weeks worth of labor. Merchants could pack pork on the margin, as a way to use capital at a time of little trade. The needs of the business were simple: nearby farms to supply pigs, the cash or credit with which to buy them, a source of barrels, salt and saltpeter as preservatives, inexpensive transportation, and, not least, cold weather. Like everything else in the prairailroad economy, packing depended on the seasons. Hogs were generally at their fattest after gorging themselves on the seeds and fruits of autumn. Early winter was an advantageous time in the labor market as well, since farmworkers were more willing to take on other jobs once the fall harvest was complete. Most important, subfreezing temperatures were critical if a packer hoped to chill a carcass quickly. For all these reasons, early winter was prime packing time.⁵ The pork was packed into barrels and

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 12 Mershon, Joab, House
name of property
Fulton County, Illinois
county and State
Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont
name of multiple property listing
=====

shipped out on the river before it froze in early winter or stored in warehouses until warm weather returned.

Vermont had all the necessary requirements to raise and pack hogs including plenty of foraging land and corn for the hogs, a good supply of white oak timber to provide barrels and staves for packing, and a short twenty-mile road to the Illinois River where the barrels could be loaded on steamboats for shipment downriver to St. Louis and on to other ports. Soon over seven pork packing firms were in business in Vermont in the 1850s including Harvey Lee Ross, James Dilworth, J. H. Stephens, Patterson, Edward, and Thomas Hamer, and Joab Mershon. Over fifty wagons and teams were used to ship the packed barrels to Rhodes Dilworth's Landing near present-day Browning, Illinois. Often Main Street was choked for over half a mile with over a hundred teams and wagons being loaded for shipment.

Joab Mershon soon became the leading pork packing merchant in town, packing 1644 hogs in the 1859-1860 winter season. His closest competitor, packed only 190 hogs that same year. The total pork packed in Vermont in 1859-1860 was 2,260 head. In one shipment alone, Mershon packed over 3,000 hogs. The pork packing industry brought employment for barrel and stave makers, tanneries, teamsters, and seasonal laborers as well as providing much needed income for the area's farmers. Vermont remained a pork packing center into the 1860s when changes in transportation patterns including the arrival of railroads allowed farmers to ship live hogs to pork packing centers in Chicago much cheaper than having them packed in Vermont.

Mershon's general merchandise firm provided credit for merchandise to the area farmers and town's citizens. During the Civil War, Mershon offered unlimited credit to soldiers' families for merchandise.

In 1868, Joab Mershon with his nephew, Major Caleb B. Cox formed a bank and in 1869 erected a two-story brick Italianate commercial building on the west side of Main Street, just north of the village square for the bank and a general merchandise store. The second story, known as Mershon's Hall, became the village's opera house. Following the death of Major Cox in 1874, Joab Mershon took his son, Henry in as a partner and the bank became known as the J. & H. Mershon Bank. The Mershon Bank was a leading financial institution in southern Fulton County throughout the 1870s and 1880s.

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National Park Service

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name of multiple property listing

=====

During the late 1860s, Joab Mershon was a leading promoter of acquiring a railroad line through Vermont. On February 27, 1868, Mershon spoke at a meeting in Rushville with his nephew, Major Caleb B. Cox, about the advantages of a railroad line through Vermont and Rushville and for raising subscriptions for the new line.⁶

Joab Mershon for a time owned a flour mill in town. He also owned several thousand acres of prime agricultural land in the Vermont area, most of which was leased to tenant farmers. Joab Mershon established many businesses in other locations besides Vermont, including a general store in Denver, Colorado; a grain elevator in Westmore, Kansas; a general store in Galesburg, Illinois; and a general store in Peoria, Illinois. For some time the firm had interests in a store in Chicago, Illinois.

Joab and Sarah Mershon's children were Henry, Rebecca, Demaris, Milton, and Rhodes. Henry Mershon, became a partner in the Mershon Bank and General Merchandise store with his father. Henry married Louella Stevens and built a Second Empire styled house on North Main Street in 1888 in Vermont.

Rebecca Mershon married William Franklin Durell in 1870. According to local tradition, as a wedding gift for the couple, Joab Mershon had a brick Italianate house built across Fifth Street to the northeast. Durell was a jeweler and a business partner with his father-in-law, in many ventures.

Demaris Mershon married Eva Russell. Milton Mershon married Amy Worsdell and was a farmer. Rhodes Mershon ran a livery stable in Vermont in the 1880s and 1890s.

Sarah (Dilworth) Mershon died on November 25, 1887. Joab Mershon died on November 13, 1888. Following Joab Mershon's death, Henry Mershon took over the Mershon Bank. The bank made a number of bad investments and with the economic downturn in 1892 the bank failed and was closed. Henry Mershon remained in Vermont but was emotionally crushed by the ordeal of the bank failure and died soon after. The other Mershon children left the Vermont area and established careers in other cities and states.

There were many prominent business leaders in Vermont during the 1850s through the 1880s, during Joab Mershon's productive life in town. Several owned prominent merchandise firms including Harvey Lee Ross; the Hamer cousins, Patterson, Edward, and

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Section 8 Page 14 Mershon, Joab, House
name of property
Fulton County, Illinois
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Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont
name of multiple property listing

=====

Thomas Hamer; J. H. B. Stephens; the Dilworth brothers, Ezra and Emmor; Robert Dilworth; James Dilworth; and Joab Mershon's brothers, Henry and James Mershon. Joab Mershon's nephew, Major Caleb B. Cox was a prominent business leader in town and a partner with Mershon in the bank. Harvey Lee Ross established the Fulton Bank in town in 1859 and was a prominent merchant during the 1850s through 1873. Robert Dilworth established a prominent bank in town in the 1880s with General Thomas J. Kinney that continued after the Mershon bank failure in 1892. The Durell brothers, including Joab Mershon's son-in-law, William Franklin Durell were other prominent business leaders in town during the 1870s and 1880s. Joab Mershon, was one of the town's wealthiest citizens during his lifetime and provided major employment for the town's and area's residents. His leadership in pork packing and banking provided for a major part of Vermont's economic development and growth from the 1850s through the 1880s.

The Joab Mershon House is directly associated with the productive life of Joab Mershon. Joab Mershon arrived in Vermont in 1839 and erected a brick store building in 1841 on the northeast corner of the public square. This building was demolished in the late 1800s. The Mershon family occupied a frame house on West Fifth Street before their brick house was built in 1859. The frame house was moved off of the building lots to make room for the new house. It is not known if this frame house still exists today, it might have been moved to another location in town. No known historic photographs of the house exist and no one remembers what this house looked like when the Mershons occupied it. Although the Mershon Bank and Hall on North Main Street, northwest of the public square is also directly associated with the life of Joab Mershon, it was not built until 1869, many years after Mershon had established his prominence in town as a pork packer and merchant. The Italianate styled Mershon Bank and Hall maintains excellent historic integrity although the first story bank front was remodeled with a Classical Revival styled terra cotta front in 1917 by the People's State Bank. The first story storefront for the Joab and Henry Mershon General Merchandise Store in the north half of the Mershon Bank and Hall was remodeled in 1942 with structural glass. The Italianate styled bracketed cornice above this storefront still remains.

Following Joab's death, his son, Milton Mershon occupied the house with his wife, Amy (Worsdell). In the 1890s the house was sold to Mr. & Mrs. Amaziah McCormick. McCormick was a prominent farmer in the Vermont area. Around 1900, McCormick had a

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National Park Service

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Section 8 Page 15 Mershon, Joab, House
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 Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont
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=====

two story, frame, Queen Anne house built (destroyed by fire) to the west of the Mershon house.

Walter Wyne and his family moved into the Mershon House in 1902. Walter Wyne was the president of the Vermont Bank. The Wynes made some changes to the house including the removal of four coal burning fireplaces and chimneys. A classical inspired fireplace was placed in the south wall of the dining room. Also, an ornamental concrete block porch was built onto the original front porch. Walter Wyne sold the house to Caleb Mershon, a nephew of Joab Mershon in 1920.

Caleb Mershon was a prominent farmer in the Vermont area and occupied the house until his death in 1926. His widow, Delvina, continued to occupy the house during the late 1920s and early 1930s. The house went through several owners and tenants during the 1950s-1980s. Today, the house is owned by John and Jan Reinert, owners of Hodgepodge and Sweet Buns in Vermont, Illinois.

Endnotes

1. Vermont Central Watchtower. March 2, 1859. "Joab Mershon is about commencing the erection of a new brick dwelling near his present residence on the west part of town."
2. Ibid.
3. Walsh, Margaret. The Rise of the Midwestern Meat Packing Industry. Lexington, Kentucky: University Press of Kentucky, 1982. Cronon, William. Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1991. p. 226.
4. Walsh, p. 16, 42, 76.
5. Walsh, p. 72-76.
6. Rushville Times. Rushville, Illinois, February 27, 1868.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

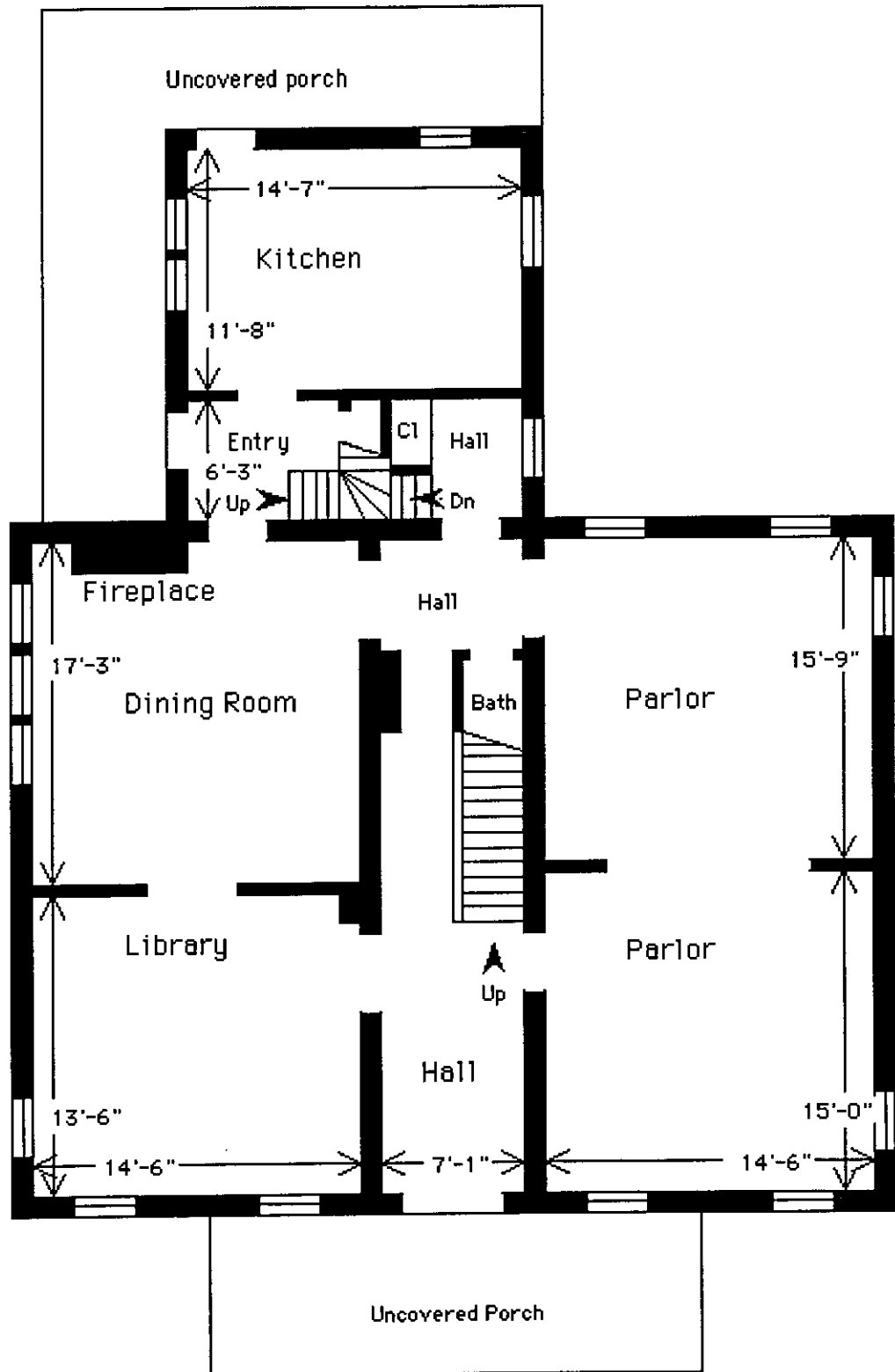
Section 9, 10 Page 16 Mershon, Joab, House
name of property
Fulton County, Illinois
county and State
Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont
name of multiple property listing
=====

Verbal Boundary Description

The legal boundary description of the Joab Mershon House is Lot 8 in Kessler's Subdivision Number 1 to the village of Vermont, Fulton County, Illinois.

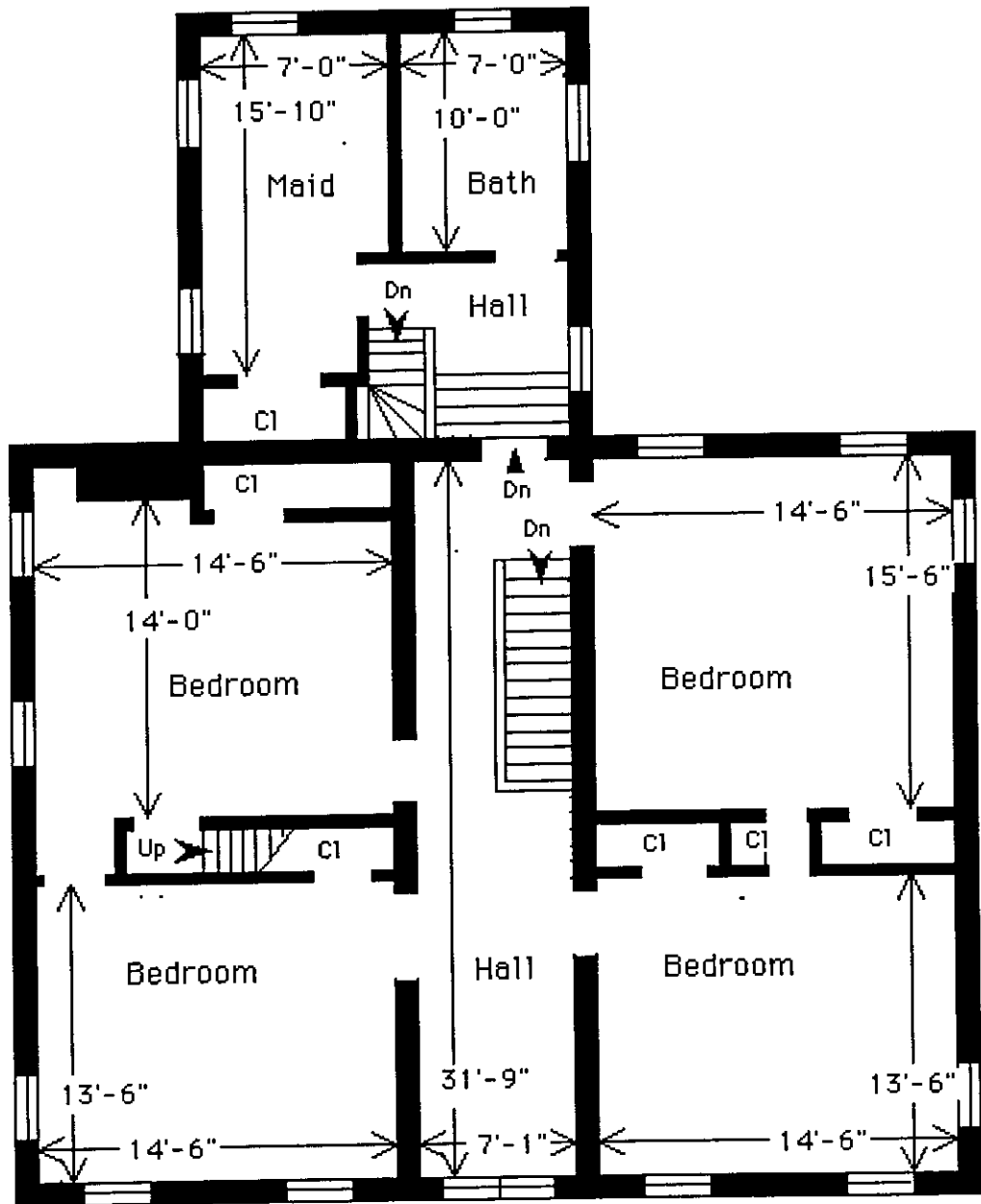
Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the house and surrounding land that have historically been associated with the Joab Mershon House and that maintain historic integrity. Land owned by Joab Mershon adjoining the property to the south, west, and north have been subdivided with new buildings or are currently farms and are not included in the property being nominated.



Joab Mershon House
First Story

▼ north



Joab Mershon House
Second Story

▼ north

ILLINOIS, ADAMS COUNTY, Fall Creek Stone Arch Bridge, 1.2 mi. NE of Fall Cr.--Payson Rd., across Fall Cr., Payson vicinity, 96001282, LISTED, 11/07/96

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Chipman, Edith, House, 201 W. 3rd St., Vermont, 96001290, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Durell, William Franklin and Rebecca, House, 408 W. 5th St., Vermont, 96001292, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Haner, Edward, House, 200 W. 2nd St., Vermont, 96001293, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Hamer, Patterson, House, 405 W. 5th St., Vermont, 96001287, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Hoopes, William, House, 204 N. Liberty St., Vermont, 96001285, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Hunter, Lucinda, House, 101 E. 8th St., Vermont, 96001286, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, McCormick, Charles Emmor, House, 712 W. 3rd St., Vermont, 96001284, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Mershon, Joab, House, 507 W. 5th St., Vermont, 96001294, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, O'Connell, Daniel, House, 115 N. Union St., Vermont, 96001288, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Page, Henry H., House, 221 N. Union St., Vermont, 96001289, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Ross, Harvey Lee, House, 602 S. Main St., Vermont, 96001295, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Snowden, Elsworth, House, 504 W. 3rd St., Vermont, 96001283, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Stapleford--Hover--Whitney House, 401 N. Main St., Vermont, 96001291, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, WHITESIDE COUNTY, Sterling Masonic Temple, 111--113 W. 3rd St., Sterling, 96001279, LISTED, 11/07/96

MISSISSIPPI, ALCORN COUNTY, Rienzi Commercial Historic District, Jct. of Front and Main Sts., Rienzi, 96001312, LISTED, 11/07/96

MISSISSIPPI, HINDS COUNTY, Holly Grove Plantation House, 1056 Old Bridgeport Rd., Bolton vicinity, 96001313, LISTED, 11/07/96

NORTH DAKOTA, WALSH COUNTY, Grafton State School, 700 6th St., W., Grafton, 96001191, LISTED, 11/06/96

PENNSYLVANIA, BERKS COUNTY, Livingood House--Stryker Hospital, 417--419 Walnut St., Reading, 96001195, LISTED, 11/07/96

PENNSYLVANIA, CHESTER COUNTY, Fairville Historic District, Kennett Pike between Fairville Rd. and Hickory Hill Rd., Pennsbury Township, Kennett Square vicinity, 96001200, LISTED, 11/07/96

PENNSYLVANIA, ERIE COUNTY, Villa Maria Academy, 819 W. 8th St., Erie, 96001193, LISTED, 11/08/96

PENNSYLVANIA, LANCASTER COUNTY, Rever, Peter and Catherine, Farmhouse, Trout Run Rd., W of jct. with PA 272, Ephrata, 96001314, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Historic Farming Resources of Lancaster County MPS)

PENNSYLVANIA, MERCER COUNTY, August, Wendell, Forge, 620 Madison St., Grove City, 96001192, LISTED, 11/07/96

RHODE ISLAND, WASHINGTON COUNTY, Westerly Armory, Railroad Ave., W of downtown Westerly, Westerly, 96001322, LISTED, 11/07/96

SOUTH CAROLINA, CHARLESTON COUNTY, Coming Street Cemetery, 189 Coming St., Charleston, 96001223, LISTED, 11/05/96

SOUTH DAKOTA, CAMPBELL COUNTY, Pollock Depot, Ave. A, SW of SD 10, Pollock, 96001229, LISTED, 11/08/96

TENNESSEE, CARTER COUNTY, Butler House, 206 Main St., Hampton, 96001315, LISTED, 11/07/96

TENNESSEE, SEQUATCHIE COUNTY, Douglas Coal and Coke Company Clubhouse, 512 Mountain View, Dunlap, 96001317, LISTED, 11/07/96

TEXAS, POTTER COUNTY, Northwest Texas Hospital School of Nursing, 2209 W. 6th Ave., Amarillo, 96001234, LISTED, 11/07/96

UTAH, SUMMIT COUNTY, Park City High School Mechanical Arts Building, 1167 Woodside, Park City, 96001324, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Public Works Buildings TR)

UTAH, WASHINGTON COUNTY, Parunuweap Canyon Archeological District, Address Restricted, Springdale vicinity, 96001235, LISTED, 11/07/96

VERMONT, BENNINGTON COUNTY, Wait Block, Near jct. of Main and Bonnet Sts., Manchester Center Village, Manchester, 96001327, LISTED, 11/07/96

VERMONT, FRANKLIN COUNTY, Fairfield Street School, 78 Fairfield St., St. Albans, 96001326, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Educational Resources of Vermont MPS)

VERMONT, WINDHAM COUNTY, Grout, Lewis, House, 382 Western Ave., Brattleboro, 96001328, LISTED, 11/07/96

VIRGINIA, CHARLOTTESVILLE INDEPENDENT CITY, Lewis Farm, 1201 Jefferson St., Charlottesville (Independent City), 82001807, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 11/07/96 (Charlottesville MRA)

VIRGINIA, CLARKE COUNTY, Long Marsh Run Rural Historic District, Roughly bounded by WV state line, VA 608, VA 612, VA 7, and VA 653, Berryville vicinity, 96001173, LISTED, 11/04/96

VIRGINIA, FRANKLIN COUNTY, Waverly, N side of VA 122, 2 mi. NE of jct. with VA 116, Burnt Chimney vicinity, 96001329, LISTED, 11/07/96

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

1. Name of Site:

Common Mershon House

- Archeology
- Architecture
- History

2. Location:

Street and Number
W. 5th Street

Township
Vermont

Section
30

City or Town

Zip Code

Range

1/4 Section

Vermont

61484

4N., 1E.

S. E.

County

Fulton

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

District Site

Building Structure

Integrity (check one)

Altered

Unaltered

Position (check one)

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 (specify)

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name
Harold Lawson (for sale)

Phone Number

Street and Number
W. 5th Street

City or Town
Vermont

State

County
Fulton

Zip Code
61484

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)

- Archeological Site
- Archeological Site
- French Influence
- Illinois Frontier
- Illinois Early
- Illinois Middle
- Illinois Late
- Famous People

- (pre-Columbian)
- (post-Columbian to 1673)
- (1673-1780)
- (1780-1818)
- (1818-1850)
- (1850-1900)
- (1900-Present)
- (Give names and dates)

HOMES OF PROMINENT PEOPLE

seen

8. Specific Date: CA 1860's

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

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Aboriginal (prehistoric) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Music |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Art | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> | Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation |
| <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.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: E. Pierre Marshall Date: _____

Organization: Fulton County Historical Society

Street and Number: _____

City or Town: Vermont County: Fulton Zip Code: 61484

Phone Number: 309-784-3716

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 diduct from the Survey 's task.

Bibliography:

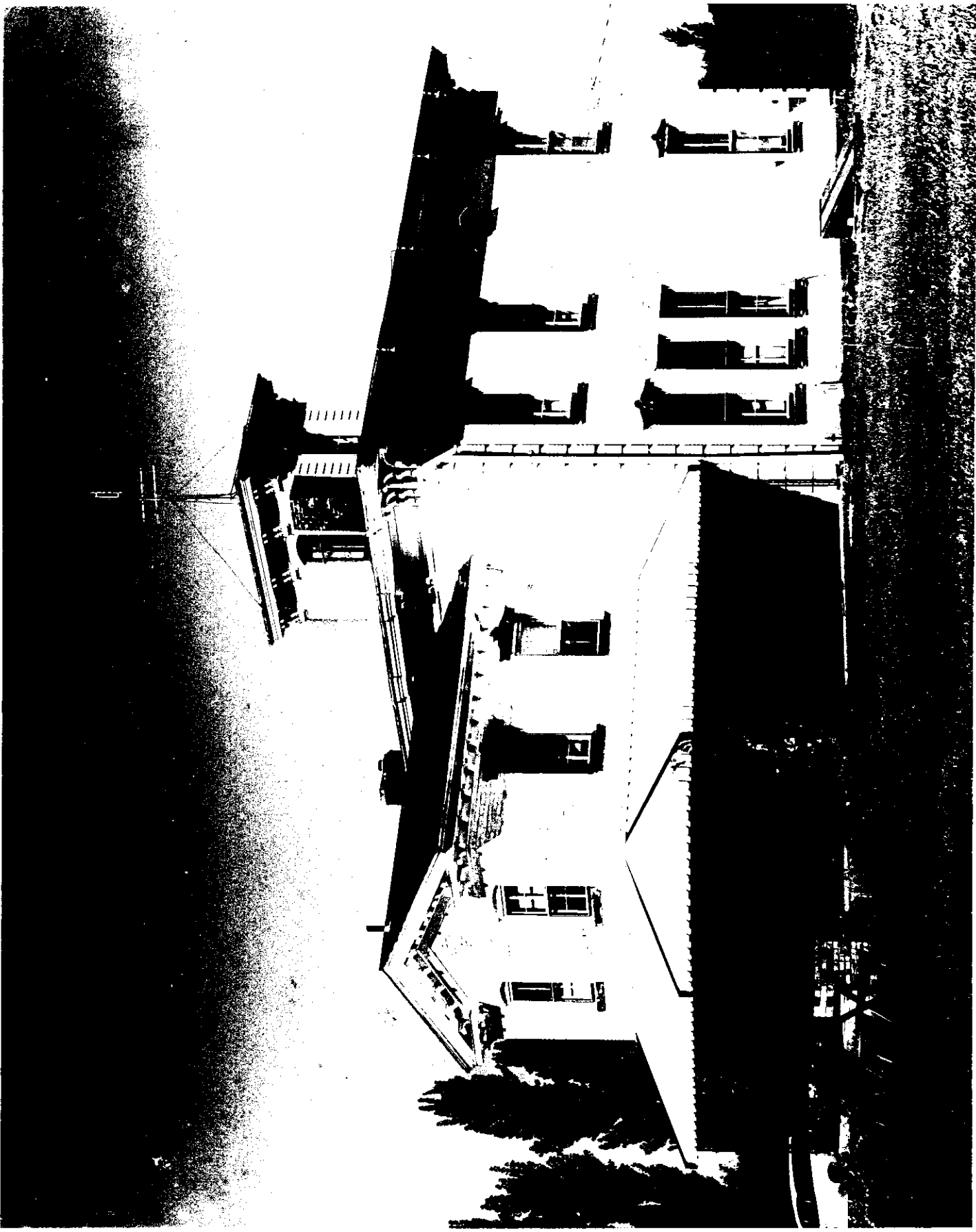
Roberston, Robert, Of Whales and Men, New York, Allfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

Date of consturction not known. It was the home of Joab Mershon, merchant and banker of Vermont in 19th Century. Has ornate plaster work, front & back staris, servants quarters, look-out on top. Front porch new, modern plumbing added

HAROLD LAWSON HOME - Built by JOAB MERSHON

Accurate information about the building of this house is not available. Joab Mershon came to Vermont from Pennsylvania in 1838, and was for a long time a merchant and banker in Vermont..

This was his home, and so far as is known, he built it. It is distinguished by some ornate plaster work, the usual high ceilings, front and back stairways, servant's rooms, and the lookout on the top. At one time there was a conservatory on the east side, and a partially covered wooden porch across the front. The chimneys are concealed in the walls, not showing on the inside of the house. Its size, proportions, and setting have always made it a much admired home.





is further described as follows:

PAGE 906

Number Eight (8) in Kessler's Subdivision Number 1 to the Village of Vermont, situated in the Village of Vermont, in the City of Fulton and the State of Illinois.

206
Feb 1988

property, the Government and its agents may bid and purchase as a stranger and may pay the purchase price of Borrower owing to or insured by the Government, in the order

W-299/22

Fulton
Vermont
S. Side Fifth St., W. of Liberty St.



(13)

RESIDENTIAL

FV-H-106
R2C-2/88
(Shabel Use)

MARSHALL HOUSE
LAWSON HOUSE

SEE ALSO W-2/A

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

SURVEY USE ONLY

1. Name of Site: **Mershon House**
Common

- Archaeology
- Architecture
- History

Historic

2. Location:

Street and Number
W. 5th St.

Township
Vermont

Section
30

City or Town
Vermont

Zip Code

Range
4N-1E

1/4 Section
SE

County

FULTON

3. Classification:

Category (Check one)

Integrity (Check one)

- District
- Building
- Site
- Structure

- Altered
- Unaltered
- Moved
- Original Site

4. Ownership

Status (check one)

- Private
- Public

- 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 (specify)

5. Ownership of Property

Owner's Name **Harold Lawson**

Street and Number **W. 5th St.**

Phone Number

City or Town **Vermont**

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description

Condition

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

Is there a program of preservation underway? Yes No

HOMES OF PROMINENT PEOPLE

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

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

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 checked="" 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 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.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: E. Pierre Marshall Date: _____

Organization: _____

Street and Number _____

City or Town _____ County _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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.

THE JOAB MERSHON HOUSE

Accurate information about the building of this house is not available, but it is thought locally to be pre-Civil War.

Joab Mershon came to Vermont from Pennsylvania in 1838, and was long a merchant and banker in Vermont, at one time being a partner in the bank with Harvey Lee Ross, son of Ossian Ross, founder of Lewistown.

This big old Georgian house was Mr. Mershon's home, and so far as is known, he built it. It is distinguished by some ornate plaster work, front and back stairways, servants rooms, and the lookout on top. At one time there was a conservatory on the east, and a partially covered wooden porch on the front. The interior has been changed little over the years. The chimneys are concealed in the walls, not ~~showing~~ protruding into the rooms. Its size, proportions, and location have always made it a much admired home.