

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

SENT TO D.C.
10-2-97

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 an 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 Vermont Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 101-217 N. Main St., 101-109 E. 3rd, 101 W. 3rd., 101 E. 2nd. not for publication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, 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 9-30-97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

Vermont Historic District
Name of Property

Fulton, Illinois
County and State

5. Classification

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

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
23	7	buildings
1	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
25	8	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Commerce/Trade/specialty store
- Commerce/Trade/department store
- Commerce/Trade/financial institution
- Commerce/Trade/professional
- Social/meeting hall
- Government/city hall
- Government/fire station
- Government/post office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Commerce/Trade/specialty store
- Commerce/Trade/financial institution
- Commerce/Trade/restaurant
- Social/meeting hall
- Government/city hall
- Education/library
- Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Greek Revival
- Italianate
- Late Victorian

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation brick
- walls brick
- metal
- roof rubber
- other cast iron
- terra cotta

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Criteria for previous documentation on file (NPS).

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Commerce, Social History, Politics/Government, Entertainment/Recreation, Architecture.

Period of Significance

- c. 1858-1947, Criterion A, Criterion C.

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Beal, David, Builder

Rankin, Fred, Builder

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data.

Name of repository:

Vermont Historic District
Name of Property

Fulton, Illinois
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 7.1 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 0 |

3 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 0 |

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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Newton, President
organization Vermont Betterment, Inc. date August 15, 1997
street & number Box 265 telephone 309-784-2414
city or town Vermont state IL zip code 61484

Additional Documentation

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)

Property Owner

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

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Vermont Historic District

Description

The Vermont Historic District lies within the village of Vermont, Illinois in southwestern Fulton County approximately 60 miles southwest of Peoria, Illinois. The district's boundaries are roughly Second Street to the north, the alley to the east and west of Main Street, and Fourth Street to the south. The buildings within the commercial district are aligned along both east and west sides of North Main Street, the south side of East Third Street, the south side of West Third Street, and the south side of East Second Street. The district encompasses approximately four city blocks. To the north of the district are scattered residences and a few businesses. East of the district are parking areas, a trucking company, and residences. South of the district are two newer gas stations and residences. West of the district is the Vermont Christian Church, residences, and a modern Post Office building.

The Vermont Historic District is comprised mostly of one and two-story brick buildings dating from the 1850s through 1951. At the south end of the district is the public square (contributing site), a public park that was part of the original platting of Vermont. The public square served as a site for circuses, speeches, political rallies, parades, and fairs throughout the history of Vermont. It is a flat rounded grassy area encircled by Main Street with East and West Fourth Street entering Main Street from their respective east and west sides. A modern 1950s concrete block bandstand (noncontributing structure) is located in the southwest corner of the park. A 1926 marker commemorating Abraham Lincoln's appearance in Vermont in 1858 is located in the northeast corner. Near the marker is a metal tower with a fire siren.

The Vermont Historic District includes one contributing building that was previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Vermont Masonic Hall at 107-109 North Main Street, listed on November 16, 1988.

Architectural styles or periods represented in the district include Greek Revival, Italianate, Late Victorian, Commercial, and the Early 20th Century. These styles and periods are present in one and two-story red brick buildings that generally have one or two storefronts. Many of the buildings are three or five bays wide conforming to standardized lot lines established in the village. The majority of the commercial buildings have metal storefronts on the first story with a few having sheet metal facades

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on their second story. Most of the brick buildings either have brick corbelling or metal and wood decorative cornices. Historically, many of Vermont's downtown buildings had metal or wood awnings with metal roofs. Sanborn Maps and historic views of the downtown show awnings on many of the buildings. Today, a few of these awnings exist. Most have been replaced with modern roof materials. A few have newer metal or wood posts.

The buildings are generally aligned along both sides of North Main Street, the south side of East and West Third Street, and the south side of East Second Street facing toward the street. They are all uniformly set back from the street. Originally Vermont's streets were dirt and at the turn of the century were paved with brick. Today, the streets are asphalt. The sidewalks historically in front of the buildings were originally wooden, later in the 19th century they were paved with brick and in the early 20th century concrete sidewalks were constructed.

Historically, the downtown area of Vermont evolved from its early settlement and development, from 1832 through the end of the Civil War; the coming of the railroad to the turn of the century, and on through 1947. The first commercial buildings in the downtown area were wood frame structures. These structures generally had gable fronts or false fronts and were one to two stories in height. Among the early wood-frame buildings from the 1840s and 1850s was the Stephens Building, a two-story gable front building with a three bay wide facade and the Edward and Patterson Hamer Building, a two-story gable front building with a three bay wide facade. Both buildings were located on the west side of Main Street, two blocks north of the square. The Hamer Building was destroyed by fire in 1909 and the Stephens Building was demolished in the early 1950s.

With the establishment of brickyards in the village in the 1850s, businessmen began to erect brick commercial establishments which were thought to be more fireproof than wood frame buildings. Among the earliest brick commercial buildings was the c. 1850 Harvey Lee Ross Building on the east side of the square and the c. 1858 Henry Mershon Building on the west side of Main Street, one block north of the square. The Harvey Lee Ross Building was a two-story side gabled building with first story commercial spaces and second story residential space. It was demolished in the 1920s to make room for a gas station. The Henry Mershon Building is a two story gable front

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brick building with a three-bay wide facade. The building has a fanlight in the attic, heavy cornice returns at the gable ends, and large dentil blocks along the cornice of the building. The remaining buildings in the historic district built during the period of significance were of brick construction except for three buildings including the O. H. Russell Building, at 214 North Main Street which is of frame construction with a sheet metal facade.

All but two of the properties in the district are listed in the description by street address; the Public Square and water tower do not have a street address. Where appropriate, the building's current business name is also given for ease of reference locally; street addresses are not commonly used in Vermont. When the historic name of a property is known, it follows the address; if applicable, the building's current business is listed in parenthesis. Building dates, property type classifications, and style/influence and/or venacular building type, if any, are listed. For property type descriptions, significance, and registration requirements, refer to Section F of the multiple property documentation form "Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois."

The descriptions are organized beginning at the west side of the Public Square, then north along the west side of Main Street, then south along the east side of Main Street back to the Public Square. Buildings along the south side of East Third Street, West Third Street, and East Second Street, follows.

104 North Main Street, C. W. Craft and Brothers Carriage Repository Building, 1900. One story gable front, frame storage building. This building has a double door garage entry with double-hung windows on either side. The entry is protected by a shed roof. Contributing.

106-110 North Main Street, Mershon's Hall and Bank Building, 1868. (Vermont State Bank) Two story Italianate styled brick building. The building has a gable roof with a false brick front with wood cornice. The cornice has decorative large wooden brackets. The brickwork is seven courses of stretchers to one course of headers. Windows are double-hung, with segmental arches and cast iron sills. The five-bay wide building has two storefronts. The building was originally built as a bank and store on the first story with an opera house on the second story. A cast iron balcony was located in the middle three bays of the second story. The bank storefront to the south was remodeled in

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1917 with a terra cotta Classical Revival front. The storeroom to the north was remodeled in 1942 with black structural glass and plate glass windows. The original cornice with brackets remains above this storefront. Contributing.

112 North Main Street, Col. Thomas Hamer Building, 1872. Two story Italianate styled brick building. This building has a flat sloping roof to the rear. The brickwork pattern is seven courses of stretchers to one course of headers. Windows are double-hung with segmental brick arches and cast iron sills. The building is three bays wide. The metal storefront was remodeled in the 1970s with a modern garage door entry. Some of the cast metal columns of the storefront still remain. Contributing.

114-116 North Main Street, Emmor and Ezra Dilworth Building, 1873. Two story Italianate styled brick building. This building has a flat sloping roof to the rear. The brickwork pattern is seven courses of stretchers to one course of headers. Windows are double-hung with segmental brick arches and cast iron sills. The building is five bays wide and has two storefronts. A staircase divides the two storefronts. The south storefront occupies the two south bays and the north storefront occupies the three north bays. The storefronts are original with cast metal columns and wooden bulkheads. Contributing.

118 North Main Street, Emmor and Ezra Dilworth Building, 1868. (Hodgepodge and Sweet Buns) Two story Italianate styled brick building. This building has a flat sloping roof to the rear. The brickwork pattern is seven courses of stretchers to one course of headers. Windows are double-hung with segmental brick arches and cast iron sills. The segmental arches have stone keystones. The building is three bays wide. The original storefront has cast iron columns, a metal stoop, wooden bulkheads, and plate glass windows. The storefront was modernized in 1895 with larger plate glass windows. Contributing.

200 North Main Street, Henry Mershon Building, c. 1858. (Vermont Youth Center) Two story Greek Revival styled brick building. The gable front building has a metal gable roof. The wooden cornice has large wood dentils and end gable cornice returns. The brickwork pattern is seven courses of stretchers to one course of headers. The four-over-four windows have horizontal wood sills and lintels. A fanlight is located in the front facade gable. The original storefront was remodeled in 1891 with a central

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recessed entry with large plate glass windows with wooden bulkheads on either side. Contributing.

202 North Main Street, Henry Phillips Building, 1894. One story Late Victorian era brick building. This small brick and frame building has a flat roof. The wooden storefront has an entry on the south side with a plate glass window to the north. The window has been boarded over but is easily removable exposing the original storefront. Contributing.

204-206 North Main Street, Henry Phillips Building, 1894. (Dip-It-Shop) Two story Late Victorian era brick building with a pressed sheet metal facade. The four-bay wide building has a flat roof. The second story has a pressed sheet metal covering resembling cut stone blocks. The first story has two original storefronts with a staircase located in the center. The storefront came from the Central Iron Works in Quincy, Illinois. Contributing.

208-210 North Main Street, Dr. Columbus McCurdy Building, 1891, David Beal, contractor. (Dip-It-Shop Storage) One story Late Victorian era brick building with a pressed sheet metal facade. The building has a flat roof. The cornice has a pressed sheet metal covering with raised swag patterns and a corner finial. The first story has two original plate glass storefronts. Contributing.

212 North Main Street, Bobbie Douglas Building. (Douglas Insurance Agency) One story 1970s gable roofed building. The front facade has a lava rock wall with a window bay. Noncontributing.

214 North Main Street, O. H. Russell Building, c. 1887. (C & E Grocery) One story Late Victorian era brick building with a pressed metal facade. The building has a flat roof. The cornice has a pressed sheet metal covering resembling cut stone blocks. A frame addition added in the 1960s is attached to the north side of the building. Contributing.

220 North Main Street, Grant McClain Building, 1910. Job Hughes, contractor. Two story Commercial Style brick building. The building has a flat roof. Two bays wide with brick segmental arches, the building has some brick corbelling in the cornice. The cast

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metal and plate glass storefront has been altered but retains its cast metal columns. The original storefront came from the Mesker Bros. Iron Works in St. Louis and Evansville, Indiana. Contributing.

217 North Main Street, S. K. (Joe) Chipman Building, 1914. Fred Rankin, contractor. (Vermont Bowl) Two story Commercial Style brick building. The building has a flat roof. Three bays wide with brick segmental arches, the building has some corbelling in the cornice. The building was originally built as an automobile garage with a central arched garage entrance with folding wooden doors. In 1942 the building was remodeled into a movie theater with a fanlight placed over the entry and a metal and wood marquee. Some of the windows on the first story were bricked in to make the building dark for the showing of movies. The marquee has been removed and the front entry has been filled in. The fanlight remains in storage in the building and the owners plan on reinstalling it in the future. A concrete block one story wing was added on the south side of the building in the 1970s. Contributing.

213 North Main Street, H. K. Leighty Building, 1904. (Vermont American Legion) One story Commercial Style brick building. The building has a flat roof. A brick parapet in the center of the building has the word "Leighty." The building has four storefronts originally with central entries with plate glass windows on either side. The storefronts have been covered over with wooden shingles and some permastone. Some of the windows have been replaced with smaller rectangular ones. The recessed entries still exist with their cast metal stoops. Noncontributing.

209 North Main Street, Lawrence E. Gardner Building, 1905, Daniel S. Frazier, contractor. (Viking Print) One story Commercial Style brick building. The building has a flat roof. The cornice has two recessed brick panels. The storefront originally had a recessed central entry with large plate glass windows. The storefront was remodeled in the 1980s with a new brick front. The recessed entry remains. Noncontributing.

207 North Main Street, Lawrence E. Gardner Building, 1909, Daniel S. Frazier, contractor. (Motorcycle Shop) One story Commercial Style brick building. The building has a flat roof. The cornice has two recessed brick panels. The storefront has large plate glass windows to the north with cast metal columns and a recessed entry to the south. Contributing.

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205 North Main Street, David Kirkbride Building, c. 1890-1892. (Hickle's Barber Shop) One story Late Victorian era brick building. The building has a flat roof. The storefront originally had a segmental arched window to the north and entry to the south. The storefront was covered over in the 1970s with permastone. The window and door openings were maintained. Noncontributing.

203 North Main Street, David Kirkbride Building, 1891. (Vermont Floral & Gifts) One story Late Victorian era brick building. The building has a flat roof. The storefront originally had two small storerooms, today there is one storeroom. The building has a decorative metal cornice with cast iron columns. The storefront has been filled in with vertical wood siding and small rectangular windows, but the original cast iron columns and bulkheads remain underneath the covering. Noncontributing.

201 North Main Street, Kost Building, 1951. (Kinney's Billiards III) One story blond brick implement building with concrete block garage to the rear. The building was recently covered with a built-up gabled metal roof. Noncontributing.

115 North Main Street, Lyle Douglas Building, 1947. (D & T Repair Shop) One story enamel steel panel and concrete block Art Moderne styled building. The building has two tall garage bays to the south and a trapezoidal office space to the north. The building's shape is constrained by a narrow lot with gas pumps to the north of the building. Contributing

111 North Main Street, Independent Order of Odd Fellows Building, 1891, David Beal, contractor; and Caleb Brinton, mason. Two story red brick Late Victorian building. The three bay wide building has decorative metal hoods and a metal cornice. The cornice has a gable with decorative ornamentation and brackets. The original cast iron and plate glass storefront is intact on the building. The transoms of the storefront have been covered with plywood but are easily removable. Contributing.

107-109 North Main Street, Vermont Masonic Hall, 1891, David Beal, contractor; and Caleb Brinton, mason. (Vermont Hardware & Vermont Masonic Lodge) Two story, red brick Late Victorian building with High Victorian Gothic metal front. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. The three bay wide building has a complete metal front with an upper story centered three-sided window bay, decorative

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engaged metal columns, and a Gothic arched cornice. A metal signboard with the words "Lusk Chapter No. 20" is atop the cornice. A historic metal awning covers the storefront. The storefront has a recessed central entry with large plate glass windows on either side. Contributing.

103 North Main Street, Loyal Tingley Building, 1947. (Vermont Hardware Annex) Concrete block one-story building with gabled metal roof. Contributing.

101 North Main Street, Dr. Columbus McCurdy Office Building, 1894. (Vermont Public Library) One-story red brick Late Victorian building with flat roof. The three-bay wide office building has segmental arched windows. Contributing.

Public Square. Contributing site.

Public Square, Bandstand c. 1950s. Concrete structure with low-pitched hipped roof. Noncontributing structure.

101 East Third Street, Eleazor Jenkins Building, 1871. Jack L. Wiley, contractor, and S. S. Chapman, mason. Two story brick Italianate building. The three-bay wide buildings has segmental arched four-over-four windows. The storefront has cast metal columns with a recessed central entry. There is a corbelled brick cornice. Contributing.

103 East Third Street, M. L. Gardner Building, 1885. One story brick Late Victorian building has an original metal storefront with a recessed central entry. There is a corbelled brick cornice. Contributing.

105 East Third Street, Tingley Building, 1917. One story Commercial Style brick building with two storefronts. The building has some brick corbelling and the storefronts have been covered over with vertical wood siding, however the bulkheads and metal piers remain underneath. Noncontributing.

107 East Third Street, Dr. Hamilton Office Building, 1896, Charles Blemler, mason. One story Late Victorian three-bay wide building. The building has segmental arched double-hung windows and a central entryway. Contributing.

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109 East Third Street, Building, c. 1870s. Two story brick, two-bay wide building. The Italianate styled building has segmental arched windows and brick corbelling. The storefront has a central entry with plate glass windows on either side. Contributing.

101 West Third Street, C. C. Frane Building, 1912. (Vermont Rebekah and Odd Fellows Lodge) One-story brick, Commercial Style building. The building has a central entry with plate glass windows on either side. Contributing.

Water Tower, south side of East Second Street, west of 101 East Second Street, 1947. Chicago Bridge and Iron Company. Seventy-five foot tall steel water tower supported by four steel girders. The steel tank holds 50,000 gallons of water. Contributing structure.

101 East Second Street, Electric Light Plant Building, 1899. (Vermont Village Hall) One-story brick, Late Victorian building. The building has some brick corbelling and segmental arched windows. Contributing.

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Statement of Significance

The Vermont Historic District is locally significant for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It meets Criterion A for commerce as a center for commerce in the village of Vermont and southwestern Fulton County from c. 1858, when the first, remaining building was constructed in the district to 1947, the fifty-year cutoff for listing in the National Register. The district also meets Criterion A for social history as a center for fraternal and social groups' headquarters and meeting locations in the village of Vermont from c. 1858 to 1947. The district also meets Criterion A for politics/government for its role in housing the post office, the electric power plant for the village, village hall, and water tower from 1868, when the first post office was built to 1947, the fifty-year cutoff for the National Register. The district also meets Criterion A for entertainment/recreation as a center for entertainment and recreational events held in the village's opera houses, movie theaters, village square, and fraternal lodge headquarters from c. 1858 to 1947.

The Vermont Historic District also meets Criterion C for architecture for its representative collection of Greek Revival, Italianate, and Commercial Style buildings as well as commercial buildings dating from the Late Victorian and early 20th Century periods. The period of significance for Criterion C is c. 1858, when the Henry Mershon Building was constructed to 1947, the fifty-year cutoff for the National Register.

The Vermont Historic District meets the registration requirements for listing as a historic district established in the multiple property documentation form "Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois." For further information about the commercial development, social history, entertainment and recreation, politics and government, and architecture of the village of Vermont, please refer to the multiple property documentation form, "Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois."

Containing twenty-three contributing buildings, one contributing structure, and one contributing site, the properties meet the registration requirements as developed for the property type "Commercial Buildings" and "Public Buildings and Structures" as developed in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois." As the properties within this historic district span nearly ninety years of the village's history, the historic district directly relates to the associated

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historic contexts "Early Settlement and Development, 1832-1865;" "The Coming of the Railroad and Prosperity, 1866-1900;" and "Commercial Retail Center of Southwestern Fulton County, 1900-1946." Collectively, the district possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Commerce

The Vermont Historic District is locally significant for Criterion A for commerce, as a retail center for the citizens of Vermont and the surrounding area. The context for Vermont's development as a retail center can be found in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois."

The Vermont Historic District developed historically as Vermont's retail business sector. Commercial buildings were erected around the public square and along Main Street, north of the square as soon as the town was platted in 1832. The first businesses in town were general stores which sold a wide variety of items including hardware, sewing supplies, groceries, and clothing to the settlers and a saddle and harness shop. These included Greene Reeve's General Store, William Dilworth's General Store, Joab Mershon's General Store, and Enos Monhan's General Store.

Before long numerous businesses opened including those owned by Edward Stapleford, Winans & Smith, Heizer & Winans, J. H. B. Stephens, Edward and Patterson Hamer, and Thomas Hamer. Most of these early businesses were frame buildings, all of which have been demolished over the years as more substantial brick buildings were built. By the 1840s, a few brick buildings were constructed including Joab Mershon's General Store on the northeast corner of the public square (demolished).

The earliest remaining commercial building in town was built in c. 1858 for Henry Mershon's General Store at 200 North Main Street. The Greek Revival styled brick building housed this business for twenty-five years.

Vermont's first major exporting business, pork packing, was developed by merchants who had businesses along Main Street in the 1840s. In the 1850s pork packing

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merchants included Joab Mershon, Ely Kirkbride, the Dilworth Brothers, James Mershon, Edward Stapleford, and Harvey Lee Ross. Many of the firms were located in frame buildings located on Main Street, north of the square.

By the late 1860s with the town's population expanding and two new railroad lines, Vermont's merchants began to expand into specialized items. Shoe stores, millinery stores, jewelry stores, book shops, music stores, implement dealers, photographer's studios, lawyers and doctors offices began to open up in the downtown area of Vermont. According to historian, William Cronon in Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West, Vermont had become a medium-ranked place due to its sustained specialized retail shops and services, which was unlike a low-ranking town which only sold unspecialized goods and whose trade boundaries extended no more than a dozen miles beyond the town's limits.

Many of the town's remaining commercial buildings were erected during one of the town's economic booms in the late 1860s and early 1870s. Substantial two-story, brick Italianate buildings were built on the west side of North Main Street, just north of the public square and on the south side of East Third Street, just east of North Main Street. They include Mershon's Bank and Hall built in 1869 at 106-110 North Main Street, Emmor and Ezra Dilworth's Building built in 1869 at 118 North Main Street, and the Eleazor Jenkins Building built in 1871 at 101 East Third Street.

Some of the more prominent business firms in town during the 1860s and 1870s included Joab Mershon's General Store and the Mershon and Cox Bank, located in the Mershon Bank and Hall at 106-110 North Main Street, Emmor and Emmor Dilworth's Hardware Store at 114-118 North Main Street, and Henry Mershon and Sons General Store at 200 North Main Street.

The late 1880s and early 1890s were another boom in the construction of commercial buildings in the downtown area. A disastrous fire on the east side of North Main Street, two blocks north of the square destroyed many buildings in 1890. Other frame buildings were moved or demolished by merchants to allow them to erect more substantial brick buildings. New buildings included the Dr. Columbus McCurdy Building at 208-210 North Main Street in 1891, David Kirkbride Building at 203 North Main Street in 1891; the Odd Fellows Hall at 111 North Main Street in 1891; and the Vermont

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Masonic Hall and Nelson Hardware Building at 107-109 North Main Street in 1891. These substantial one and two-story Late Victorian brick buildings had cast iron storefronts, metal cornices, and many had sheet metal facades.

Prominent business firms in town during the 1880s and 1890s included Joab and Henry Mershon's Store at 110 North Main Street; Ayers and Whitney Dry Goods at 112 North Main Street, Nelson's Hardware at 107 North Main Street, and Gardner's Jewelry Store at 105 East Third Street.

During the 1900s through 1910s a few Commercial Style brick buildings were built in the downtown area. A disastrous fire in 1904 led to the construction of the Leighty Block, a one-story brick building at 213 North Main Street that had four storerooms. Other buildings built at this time included the Grant McClain Building at 220 North Main Street in 1910 and the S. K. (Joe) Chipman Garage at 217 North Main Street in 1914.

Prominent business firms in town during the 1900s and 1910s included Whitney Dry Goods at 112 North Main Street, Nelson Hardware at 107 North Main Street, Gardner's Jewelry Store at 105 East Third Street, The Rex Clothing Store at 116 North Main Street, Mendenhall's Furniture Store at 118 North Main Street; and Corbitt's Millinery at 208 North Main Street. By 1917, most of the two-block area north of the public square was filled with commercial buildings.

During the 1900s through 1940s the downtown continued to be a local retailing center for the citizens of Vermont and farm areas surrounding town. Businesses in the downtown area included dry goods stores, hardware stores, drug stores, book store, confectionery and gift shop, banks, doctors, dentists, lawyers, variety stores, grocery stores, and implement dealers.

A disastrous fire in 1923 leveled the three-story section of the Eleazor Jenkins Building at the southeast corner of East Third and North Main Street. A house with canopy gas station was soon erected on the spot. In 1947 the gas station was demolished and a modern gas station with office and two service bays was built for Lyle Douglas's Oil Company.

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Prominent businesses in town during the 1920s and 1930s included Whitney's Dry Goods at 112 North Main Street; the People's State Bank at 106 North Main Street; Nelson's Hardware at 107 North Main Street; Charles E. Gardner's Jewelry and Gift Shop at 200 North Main Street; D. K. Miller's Grocery Store at 105 East Fifth Street; and Branson's Ice Cream and Soda Shop and Bookstore at 216 North Main Street (demolished).

In the 1930s Vermont witnessed the Great Depression with a few firms closing up shop. The People's State Bank failed in 1932 and Vermont went without a bank until 1947, when the Vermont State Bank was organized. The Vermont State Bank occupied the former People's State Bank location at 106 North Main Street.

The Vermont Historic District is also significant for Criterion A for social history as the downtown was the headquarters for many local fraternal and social organizations throughout the town's history. During the "Golden Age of the Fraternity"¹ from 1900-1950 over five and a half million males in the United States belonged to fraternal groups such as the Freemasons, Odd Fellows, and Modern Woodmen of America. Many men and women belonged one or more fraternal organizations. Vermont was representative of this social movement in that many of its citizens participated in one or more fraternal organizations. Throughout Vermont's history fraternal organizations were in operation in town. Several men's and women's fraternal organizations had meeting halls in the downtown area including the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Rebekahs, Order of the Eastern Star, and Modern Woodmen of America. Veterans organizations including the Grand Army of the Republic and the American Legion also met in Vermont's downtown buildings.

Buildings which housed fraternal organizations in the downtown included the Vermont Masonic Hall at 109 North Main Street, built in 1891. The hall was built in cooperation with Edmond B. Nelson, who built the storeroom below the hall on the first floor. The Masonic Hall occupied the second floor of the building. Masonic groups who met in the hall included the Vermont, Illinois Lodge No. 116 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Vermont Order of the Eastern Star, and Lusk Chapter No. 20 of the Royal Arch Masons. The Masons continue to use the building today.

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The Vermont Odd Fellows (IOOF) Lodge occupied the second floor, north half of the Emmor and Ezra Dilworth Building at 114-116 North Main Street following its construction in 1873. In 1891 the Odd Fellows decided to erect their own building at 111 North Main Street. The two-story building included the lodge hall on the second floor and rental retail space on the first floor. The Odd Fellows and Rebekah Lodge occupied this building through the historic district's period of significance.

The Vermont Lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America occupied the second floor of the Emmor and Ezra Dilworth Building at 118 North Main Street in the early 1900s. The Modern Woodmen of America continued to occupy the building through the 1940s.

Veterans organizations also met in various downtown commercial buildings. The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) met in the second floor south half of the Emmor and Ezra Dilworth Building at 114-116 North Main Street. The organization met in this room from the 1880s through the early 1910s when the group disbanded. In the 1920s the newly organized American Legion post met in the former GAR meeting hall before moving to the Henry Mershon House on North Liberty Street in the 1930s.

The Vermont Historic District also meets Criterion A for politics/government for its role in housing many of the local government's functions including the electric light plant, water tower, village hall, and post office.

Many of the downtown buildings were leased to the U. S. Postal Service during the period of significance. They include the Emmor and Ezra Dilworth Building at 114-116 North Main Street, built in 1873. The south storeroom of the building was leased to the post office until 1885. The post office then moved into the recently constructed M. L. Gardner Building at 105 East Third Street in 1885. The post office leased this building until 1896 when it was moved to the Henry Phillips Building at 204-206 North Main Street. The post office occupied the Henry Phillips Building until 1904 when it was moved to the Leighty Building. The south storeroom of the Leighty Building at 213 North Main Street was leased to the post office in 1904. The post office continued to occupy the south storeroom of the Leighty Building until 1960 when the current post office building was erected, west of the downtown on West Second Street.

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The Electric Light Plant Building at 101 East Second Street was built in 1899. The one-story brick building housed the village's electric power system until the early 1920s when the power company was purchased by Central Illinois Public Service Company. The plant was then closed and converted by the village into a fire hall and village hall. The village board held meetings in the building during the period of significance. The village's fire truck was housed in the building during the period of significance. The building continues to house the village board.

The water tower located to the west of the current village hall on East Second Street was erected in 1947 completing the village's water system that began construction in the early 1940s by the WPA but was interrupted by World War II.

The Vermont Historic District is also significant for Criterion A for entertainment/recreation as many of the village's entertainment/recreation events, activities, and entertainment related businesses were located in the downtown area.

The Vermont public square was the scene for many circuses, festivals, band concerts by the Vermont Military Band, and political events during the period of significance. Downtown Vermont was also the site for the town's popular Corn and Horse Shows in the 1910s and 1920s. In 1935, the Vermont Centennial celebration was held in the town's public square and along North Main Street in the downtown area.

Many of the town's buildings also housed various entertainment functions. The town's opera house, Mershon's Hall was located on the second floor of the Mershon Bank and Hall built in 1868 at 106-110 North Main Street. Mershon's Hall was a popular entertainment center in the village, hosting such notable speakers as Susan B. Anthony and Schuyler Colfax. Various touring companies performed plays and musicals, and local theatrical productions, balls, and dances were held at the hall from 1868 through the early 1900s. In 1875 due to demand for more seating, a cast iron balcony was built in the building for spectators. Performers appeared on a raised stage at the east end of the building. A balcony on the east exterior of the building allowed performers to cross the back side of the stage during performances to enter from opposite sides of the stage without being seen.

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Following the closing of Mershon's Hall in the early 1900s, local businessmen banded together to organize an opera house. The former C. W. Craft and Brother Carriage Repository Building at 104 North Main Street, to the southwest of the Mershon Hall was bought by the organization and used as an opera house in the late 1900s. In 1914 the organization leased the building for the Duncan Theater. The building was later used for the Princess Theater and Brown's Theater.

S. K. (Joe) Chipman's Garage at 217 North Main Street, was built with a roller skating rink and dance hall on the second floor in 1914. The building hosted dances, local fairs, and roller skating during the 1920s and 1930s. In 1942, Theodore (T. M.) Cox and his son-in-law, Robert Wixom and daughter, Doris Wixom remodeled the building into the Vermont Theater. The Vermont Theater was a popular movie theater in the area during the 1940s and 1950s before it was remodeled into the Vermont Bowl by the Wixoms in the 1950s.

The Vermont Historic District also meets Criterion C for architecture. Architecturally the buildings of the historic district convey an impressive span of the town's commercial development from c. 1858 through 1947. Buildings range from Greek Revival and Italianate buildings built from the late 1850s through 1870s, Late Victorian era buildings with full sheet metal facades built in the 1880s and 1890s, and Commercial Style buildings built in the 1900s and 1910s.

The Henry Mershon Building at 200 North Main Street is an excellent example of a pre-Civil War commercial building in the area. The Greek Revival styled brick building constructed in c. 1858, has a gable front, two-over-two windows with horizontal wood sills and lintels, cornice returns, large dentils along the building's eaves, and a fanlight in the attic.

Excellent examples of Italianate commercial architecture can be found on the west side of the 100 block of North Main Street and on the south side of the 100 block of East Third Street. They include the two story Mershon Hall and Bank Building at 106-110 North Main Street with its prominent overhanging cornice with decorative wood brackets, and arched four-over-four and six-over-four windows with cast iron sills. The Emmor and Ezra Dilworth Building at 118 North Main Street has many Italianate details

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including its arched four-over-four windows, brick corbelling, and original wood, iron, and glass storefront.

Good examples of Late Victorian era commercial buildings include the Odd Fellows Hall at 111 North Main Street, a two-story brick building built in 1891. It has a decorative metal cornice with brackets, pediment, and ornate metal window hoods. Some commercial buildings in Vermont were built with elaborate sheet metal facades including the Vermont Masonic Hall and Nelson Hardware Building at 107-109 North Main Street. The two-story brick building has a High Victorian Gothic styled sheet metal facade on the upper story with arched panels, decorative cornice, and an oriel bay window. The storefront has an original metal and glass storefront with a central recessed entryway.

Other examples of Late Victorian era commercial buildings include the Dr. Columbus McCurdy Building at 208-210 North Main Street built in 1891. The one-story brick building has a sheet metal facade with classical inspired swags and medallions in the cornice. The Henry Phillips Building at 204-206 North Main Street was built in 1894. The two-story brick building has a sheet metal facade. On the second story facade, sheet metal is stamped to look like cut, rectangular blocks of stone, a popular decorative feature on commercial buildings in the 1890s.

Good examples of Commercial Style buildings in the district include the Leighty Building at 213 North Main Street built in 1904. The one-story brick building is divided into four storefronts with recessed entries. The brick cornice has some corbelling, and a stepped brick parapet has the word "Leighty." The S. K. "Joe" Chipman Building at 217 North Main was built in 1914. The two story brick building has brick corbelling and brick panels in the cornice.

Noncontributing buildings in the historic district are minimal. There are two buildings less than fifty years of age, the Kost Building at 201 North Main Street and the Bobbi Douglas Building at 212 North Main Street. The Kost Building is a yellow brick and concrete block, one story building which was built in 1951 as an implement dealership. The building has some Moderne influences in its curved entryway with glass block. The Bobbi Douglas Building is a frame and lava rock, one story gable front building. Both of

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these buildings are the same scale as the historic buildings in the district and do not significantly detract from the historic integrity of the area.

A few historic buildings have had their storefronts completely altered. These noncontributing buildings include the Lawrence E. Gardner Building at 209 North Main Street. The building has had its storefront remodeled in the 1980s with an entire new brick and glass front, completely removing all evidence of the historic storefront. The David Kirkbride Building at 205 North Main Street has also been altered. Although it retains the historic fenestration pattern including a large segmental arched window and a doorway, the building was covered with permastone in the 1970s. Although changes have been made to these buildings, their rhythms and scale are the same as the other historic buildings in the district and do not noticeably detract from the historic integrity of the district.

Endnotes

¹ Harwood, W.S., "Secret Societies in America," North American Review 164, May 1996. P. 620-623.

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Bibliography

Please refer to the multiple property documentation form "Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois" for bibliography entries on architectural styles and types and for information on Vermont, Illinois.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The Vermont Historic District lies within lots in the Original Town of Vermont and Joseph Crail's Addition to Vermont, Fulton County, Illinois. The verbal boundaries are as follows:

Beginning at the northwest corner of the north boundary line of Lot 35, proceeding east along the center line of West Second Street, across North Main Street, and along the north boundary lines of Lots 34 and 33 on East Second Street. Thence south along the center line of North Union Street, parallel to the east boundary line of Lot 33. Thence west along the south boundary line of Lot 33 to the east boundary line of Lot 39. Thence south along the east boundary lines of Lots 39, 42, and 47, across East Third Street. Thence east along the center line of East Third Street approximately 24 feet parallel to the north boundary of Lot 49. Thence south approximately 66 feet to the south boundary of Lot 49. Thence west approximately 24 feet to the east boundary of Lot 55. Thence south along the east boundary of Lot 55. Thence east along the boundary of Lot 57 to the east boundary of Lot 57. Thence south along the centerline of North Union Street, parallel to the east boundary of Lot 57 and 64. Thence west along the centerline of East Fourth Street, parallel to the south boundary of Lot 64. Thence south along the east side of the public square to the southeast corner of the public square. Thence west from the southeast corner of the public square to the southwest corner of the public square. Thence north along the west boundary of the public square to a point approximately 33 feet north of the south boundary of Lot 60 along the east boundary of Lot 60. Thence west from this point approximately 71 feet. Thence north approximately 66 feet to a point approximately 33 feet north of the south boundary of Lot 53. Thence east from this point approximately 71 feet to the east boundary of Lot 53. Thence north along the east boundary of Lot 53 and approximately 22 feet along the west boundary of Lot 51. Thence west from this point approximately 6 feet. Thence north from this point approximately 44 feet to the north boundary line of Lot 52. Thence east approximately six feet along the centerline of West Third Street, parallel to the north boundary of Lot 52. Thence north across West Third Street and along the west boundary of Lots 46, 43, 38, and 35 to the point of beginning.

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Boundary Justification

The boundaries includes the historic commercial buildings and structures, public square, and lots historically associated with the Vermont Historic District and that maintains historic integrity. Lots 40, 41, and 48 to the east of the district are vacant parking lots. The east half of Lot 49 to the east of the district is occupied by a residence. Lot 56, east of the district is occupied by a 1950s brick and metal building. Southeast and southwest of the public square are historic residences and two modern, vacant gas station buildings. West of the public square on Lot 61 and the west half of Lot 60 are residences. On the west half of Lot 53 and 52 are residences. West of Lots 35, 38, 43, and 46 are residences and a church. To the north of the district are residences.

Vermont Historic District (boundaries)

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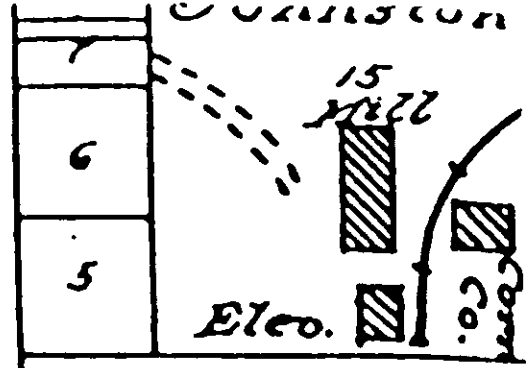
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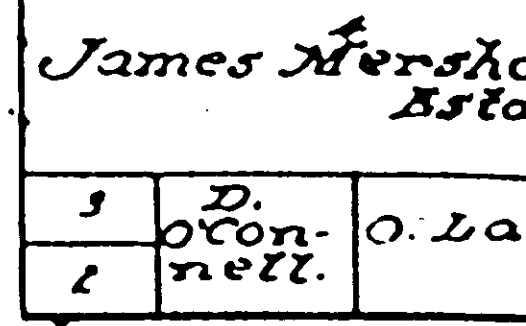


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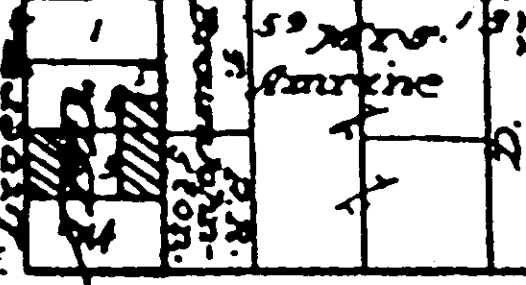
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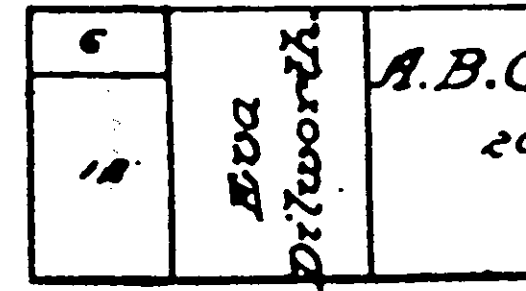


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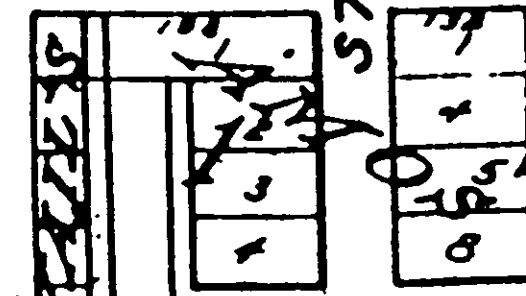
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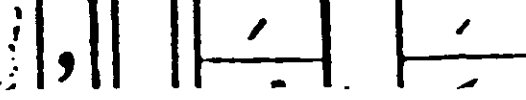
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DEC 5 1997

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 11/24/97 THROUGH 11/28/97

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

ALASKA, FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH-CENSUS AREA, Sullivan Roadhouse, W of Delta Junction, Delta Junction vicinity, 79003756, PROPOSED MOVE APPROVED, 11/24/97

CALIFORNIA, SAN BENITO COUNTY, McCallum, Roy D., House, 1401 San Benito St., Hollister, 97001445, LISTED, 11/24/97 (Hollister MPS)

COLORADO, BOULDER COUNTY, Denver, Northwestern and Pacific Railway Historic District (Boundary Increase), Rollins Pass, Rollinsville vicinity, 97001114, LISTED, 9/23/97

COLORADO, DELTA COUNTY, Stolte House, 1812 CO 65, Cedaredge vicinity, 97001280, LISTED, 11/17/97 (Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado MPS)

COLORADO, DOLORES COUNTY, Ansel Hall Ruin, Address Restricted, Cahone vicinity, 97001418, LISTED, 11/25/97 (Great Pueblo Period of the McElmo Drainage Unit MPS)

CONNECTICUT, NEW HAVEN COUNTY, Southern New England Telephone Company Administrative Building, 227 Church St., New Haven, 97001447, LISTED, 11/24/97

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Vermont Historic District, Roughly bounded by Second, Union, Fourth, and Liberty Sts., Vermont, 97001334, LISTED, 11/24/97 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

MASSACHUSETTS, WORCESTER COUNTY, Gay, Rev. Samuel, House, 10 Williamsville Rd., Hubbardston, 97001450, LISTED, 11/24/97

MISSISSIPPI, ALCORN COUNTY, Bynum, Dr. Joseph M., House, 48 S. Front St., Rienzi, 96001268, LISTED, 11/24/97

MISSISSIPPI, ATTALA COUNTY, Attala County Courthouse and Confederate Monument, 230 W. Washington St., Kosciusko, 97001299, LISTED, 11/17/97

MISSISSIPPI, LINCOLN COUNTY, First Methodist Church, 215 W. Cherokee St., Brookhaven, 97001298, LISTED, 11/17/97

MISSISSIPPI, PERRY COUNTY, Mahned Bridge, Mahned Rd. over the Leaf R., New Augusta vicinity, 97001379, LISTED, 11/24/97 (Historic Bridges of Mississippi TR)

MISSISSIPPI, TATE COUNTY, Hickahala Creek Bridge, Spans Hickahala Creek on CR, Senatobia vicinity, 88002479, REMOVED, 3/15/96 (Historic Bridges of Mississippi TR)

MISSISSIPPI, YALOBUSHA COUNTY, Newberger, Leopold, House, 714 Depot St., Coffeerville, 97001300, LISTED, 11/17/97

MISSISSIPPI, YALOBUSHA COUNTY, Riddick House, Jct. of Pine Valley Rd. and LCG RR tracks, Coffeerville, 97001380, OWNER OBJECTION DETERMINED ELIGIBLE, 11/24/97

MONTANA, RAVALLI COUNTY, Methodist Episcopal Church South, Jct. of First St. and Eastside Hwy., Corvallis, 97001453, LISTED, 11/24/97

NEW YORK, ORLEANS COUNTY, Main Street Historic District Boundary Increase, 530 West Ave., Medina, 97001457, LISTED, 11/24/97

NEW YORK, OTSEGO COUNTY, All Saints Chapel and Morris Family Burial Ground, NY 51, 3 mi. S of Morris, Morris vicinity, 97001455, LISTED, 11/24/97

NEW YORK, OTSEGO COUNTY, Zion Episcopal Church Complex and Harmony Cemetery, E of Morris, NY 51, Morris vicinity, 97001456, LISTED, 11/24/97

NEW YORK, WAYNE COUNTY, Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler, Butler Center Rd., jct. with Washburn Rd., Butler Center, 97001459, LISTED, 11/24/97

OHIO, COLUMBIANA COUNTY, Harris, Franklin, Farmstead, 3525 Depot Rd., Salem vicinity, 97001462, LISTED, 11/24/97

PENNSYLVANIA, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral, 416-420 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, 97001259, LISTED, 11/07/97

PUERTO RICO, SAN JUAN MUNICIPALITY, Casa Klumb, #1 Ramon B. Lopez St., San Juan, 97001307, LISTED, 11/14/97

TENNESSEE, CARTER COUNTY, Simerly--Butler House, 206 Main St., Hampton, 96001315, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 11/24/97

TENNESSEE, KNOX COUNTY, Wilder, Gen. John T., House, 2027 Riverside Dr., Knoxville, 97001463, LISTED, 11/24/97

TENNESSEE, SHELBY COUNTY, Chickasaw Heritage Park, Jct. of Riverside Blvd and Ornamental Metal Museum Dr., Memphis, 97001441, LISTED, 11/25/97

UTAH, SANPETE COUNTY, Osberg--Metcalf House, 12 N 100 E, Gunnison, 97001464, LISTED, 11/24/97

UTAH, Uintah County, Gibson--Sowards House, 3110 N 250 W, Vernal, 97001465, LISTED, 11/24/97

WEST VIRGINIA, OHIO COUNTY, La Bella Iron Works, Jct. of 31st and Wood Sts., Wheeling, 97001415, LISTED, 11/24/97