

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cambre House and Farm

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

R. R.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Niota

VICINITY OF

18th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Illinois

Hancock

06

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED
- N/A

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESI
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTA
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Relly and Lois Fowler

STREET & NUMBER

R. R.

CITY, TOWN

Niota

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hancock County Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Carthage

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cambre House is an anglicized Creole house as identified by Fred B. Kniffen and Henry Glassie. The river front elevation has been anglicized by reduction of the depth of the house, allowing a two-story Anglo-American front with one door above another. The introduction of a large dormer allows a straight stair-run transverse to the roof ridge of the house. The identification with the Creole house type derives from the front, inset porch, originally enclosed on the Cambre House because of the northern climate, but left open in the earlier (1852) Icarian House owned by Francois Champeau. The Champeau House porch facade is now displayed in Herman Kraus' Nauvoo Hotel and Restaurant. Identity between the two facades and with earlier Creole-type houses in Ste. Genevieve derives from the inset porch and from the 11 1/2" deep beam revealed in the trim over the 3'-3" wide front door of both houses. Cambre House originally had two front entrances either permitting a separate rental room for stagecoach travellers or reflecting another Anglo-Americanization. The 3'-3", extra wide doors on both the Cambre and Champeau Houses may reflect the desire of their Icarian owners for non-church, at-home funeral services; Icarian Emile Vallet, who called himself an "infidel," specified such a service upon his death. And Adolph Cambre had no minister at his funeral which took place in the Cambre House in 1907. Interior panelling, doors, trim, built-in cabinetwork and drawers, as well as the mantel, were also hand-made by Adolphe Cambre, carpenter and cabinetmaker, and are in excellent condition. The tools with which this house was built are currently owned by Arden Cambre, president of the Icarian Society in America.

Major Changes Since 1867:

1. New asbestos cement shingle roof replacing an earlier cedar shingle roof.
2. Removal of the original panelling separating the rental room from the rest of the house, and replacement of the exterior door in that room with a window. The panelling was later installed in the barn during the 1930s.
3. Installation of screen doors and some storm windows.
4. Outbuildings were mostly added after 1900 and are essentially unchanged.
5. Original blue-milk paint on interior stair-well panelling is extant. Exterior original color may have been blue as well.

OUTBUILDINGS: (Dates of construction are as recalled by Relly Fowler from an interview in 1981 with Mrs. Eldon Bergstrom of Ames, Iowa. Mrs. Bergstrom is a sepdaughter of Robert Cambre who transferred all deeds to Mr. Fowler upon his taking possession.)

GARAGE: (1915-1925) Good Condition.

The garage is of frame construction with a heavy timber hoist for lifting motors out of vehicles. Siding is T & G vertical boards nailed to girts. It is unchanged from its' original construction.

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SHED: (1925-30) Good Condition

The Shed is set on the edge of the ravine and the north foundation-retaining wall is of formed and poured concrete or mortar with flat limestone pieces laid in as pouring commenced. It is frame construction with vertical siding on girts. It is unchanged from its' original construction.

BARN: (1910-1915) Good Condition

The original part of the barn is the center hay mow portion. This is of hewn-timber construction, pegged, morticed and tennon, and braced. Horizontal lapped siding was put on the front and sides of the center portion when the shed addition was attached to the west side for livestock stalls. Mr. Fowler has photographs showing that this was of frame construction using used materials. The east shed was added later with vertical siding of boards nailed to girts. This addition is attached to the center portion with the panneling removed from the house. This building has had at various times a mineral-surfaced roll roof or galvanised sheet. Presently portions of it have galvanized roof, some new. Mr. Fowler rebuilt the southwest corner in the Spring of 1984 (this had collapsed earlier.) He used salvaged material and original hardware in the rebuilding.

HENHOUSE: (1920-30) Deteriorated Condition

Frame, sided with vertical boards and with a tin roof. This building is in a dilapidated state but contains original hen coops built by Menott Cambre to retain hens which entered so that a record could be kept of those laying and how much. (This is according to an interview with Delbert Lutz of Nauvoo who lived across the road and worked for Menott as a boy.)

PUMPHOUSE-CISTERN: (about 1900, frame overbuilding added about 1915 to keep water cooler).

This was used for livestock watering and irrigation. A gas engine operated pump forced water up from Mormon Springs to the cistern. It is of frame construction with vertical boards as siding. It is unchanged from its' original construction except possibly reroofing.

34 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL XXXXXXXXXX	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	ETHNICITY
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1867

BUILDER/~~ARCHITECT~~ Adolphe Cambre

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cambre House (1867), built by Icarian, French immigrant Adolphe Cambre on a site overlooking the Mississippi River in Hancock County, Illinois, links twin themes of communitarianism and ethnicity in the mid-nineteenth century history of the state. As the last vestige of Icarian construction retaining architectural integrity in Illinois, Cambre House may be associated with the utopian ideals and ultimate failures of the French communist, republican band of immigrants led by Etienne Cabet which ventured first to the Red River in Texas and to New Orleans (1848) and then to Nauvoo (1849), three years after the Mormon war and expulsion. Located in an area of Appanoose Township known as "Frenchtown," Cambre House additionally expresses the persistent hold of ethnic identity in the lives of the Icarians.

In choosing a vista overlooking the north end of the Mississippi River's lower rapids, which had plagued travellers to the south since Marquette and Joliet traversed the route in 1673, Adolphe Cambre selected a location with distinctly French associations as the place where he and his wife, Hortense would raise their large family. French traders and trappers had plied the route past Cambre's bluff for well over a century. The area's first permanent residents, Leroux and Brock, claimed a French heritage. Directly across the Mississippi River in Iowa, place-names then bore--as they still do--an eloquent testimony to the area's identification with the over century-old French-Canadian colonial world of the Great Lakes and Mississippi Valley--Greenbay Township, named for the northern Wisconsin portal into the river system, and "The Half-Breed Tract," an almost county-sized parcel granted by the Federal Government in 1824 to the displaced French-Indian remnants of the Metis society which predated Anglo settlement. By 1860, at least six Icarian families had settled in Appanoose Township, thus perpetuating the earlier French connection.

Though built a decade after the Illinois Icarians suffered a disastrous schism and dispersed, Cambre House exemplifies the artisanship long associated with the European-born members of several American communal experiments. During his earliest years in Illinois, Adolphe Cambre's skills as a carpenter were undoubtedly useful to the Icarian band in its struggle to refurbish Mormon buildings and construct new ones according to its distinctive communal plan. While Cambre's work on these structures and on the Frenchtown school, which he built, do not remain, three

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surviving buildings, in addition to Cambre House, have been found: two houses in Frenchtown and a brick home (complete with basement wine vault) and store building constructed in Nauvoo for Cambre's brother, Eugene. Unfortunately, these three structures have been extensively altered. Cambre House, in contrast, has benefitted from the long tenure of its builder's family. Adolphe's sixth child, Menotti, lived in the house with his sister, Anita, and grew fruits and vegetables there to market in Nauvoo and Fort Madison until his death in c.1945. The house and farm were purchased by Relly and Lois Fowler at auction in 1979. From beginning of their ownership, Mr. and Mrs. Fowler have treated the house and its out-buildings as important remnants of Hancock County history-- as representative of the long association of the French with the Mississippi River and as representative of the communal impulse so important in the mid-nineteenth century history of Illinois and the nation.

"Mormon Springs" is also situated on the Cambre House site. Originally known as Mineral Springs, the location was visited by Chiefs Black Hawk and Appanoose after their 1813 attack on Fort Madison, across the Mississippi River. Owned by the Mormons in the 1840s, the cool waters of the springs were favored by the Mormons for their regenerative powers.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7.05

QUADRANGLE NAME Niota, IL-Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES
 A 1,5 64,020,0 4,49,48,0,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Situated in Hancock County, Illinois. Lot 4, NW 1/4 Sec. 20, ^{/T7N} R8W, 4PM.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Wm. B. Coney & Barbara M. Posadas -

ORGANIZATION Architect Historian DATE 7-13-84

STREET & NUMBER R. R. 1 735 Hillcrest Drive TELEPHONE 309-837-2017
815-756-6871

CITY OR TOWN Macomb, IL DeKalb, IL STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE X LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE [Signature]

TITLE Director

DATE 9/25/84

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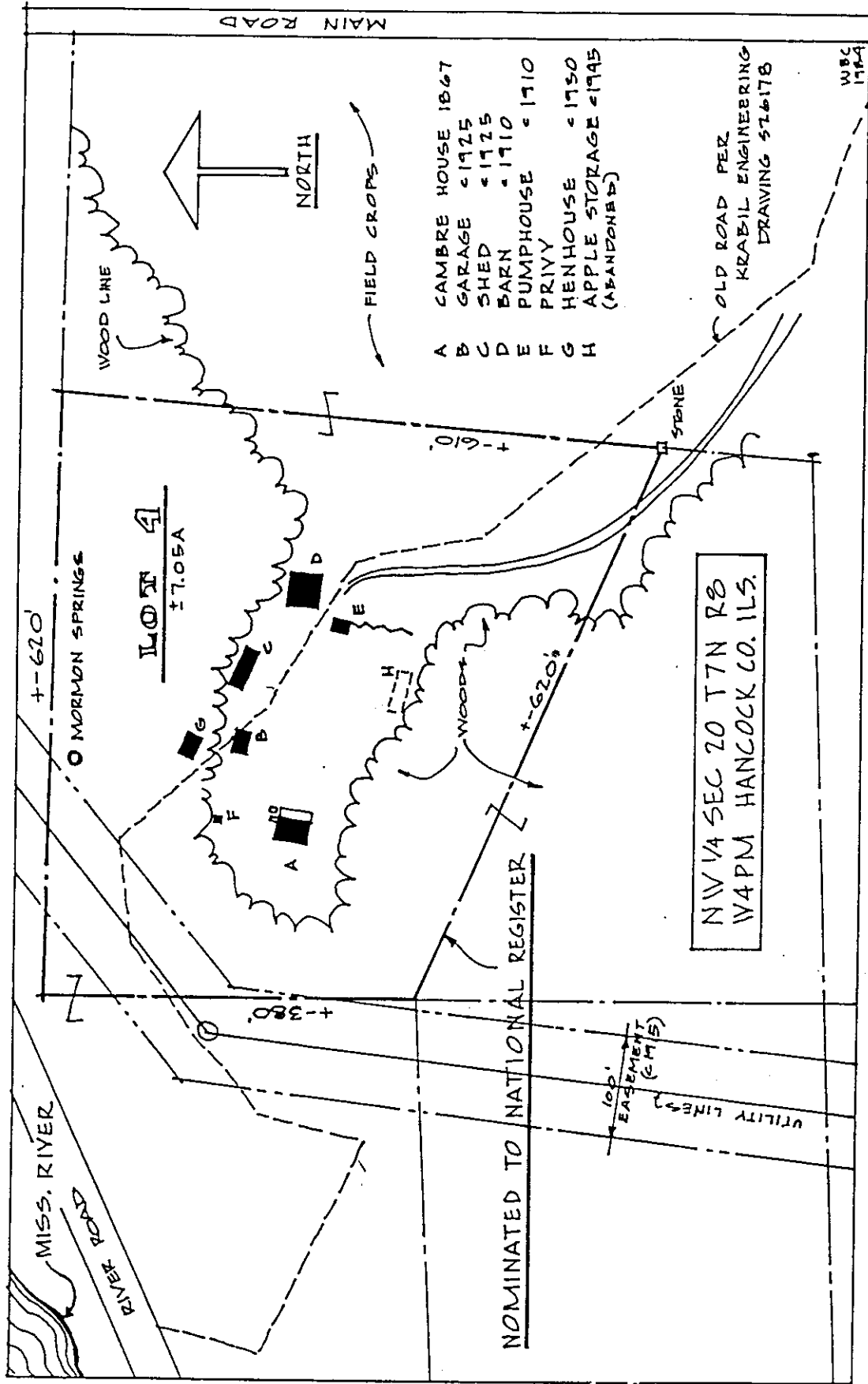
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

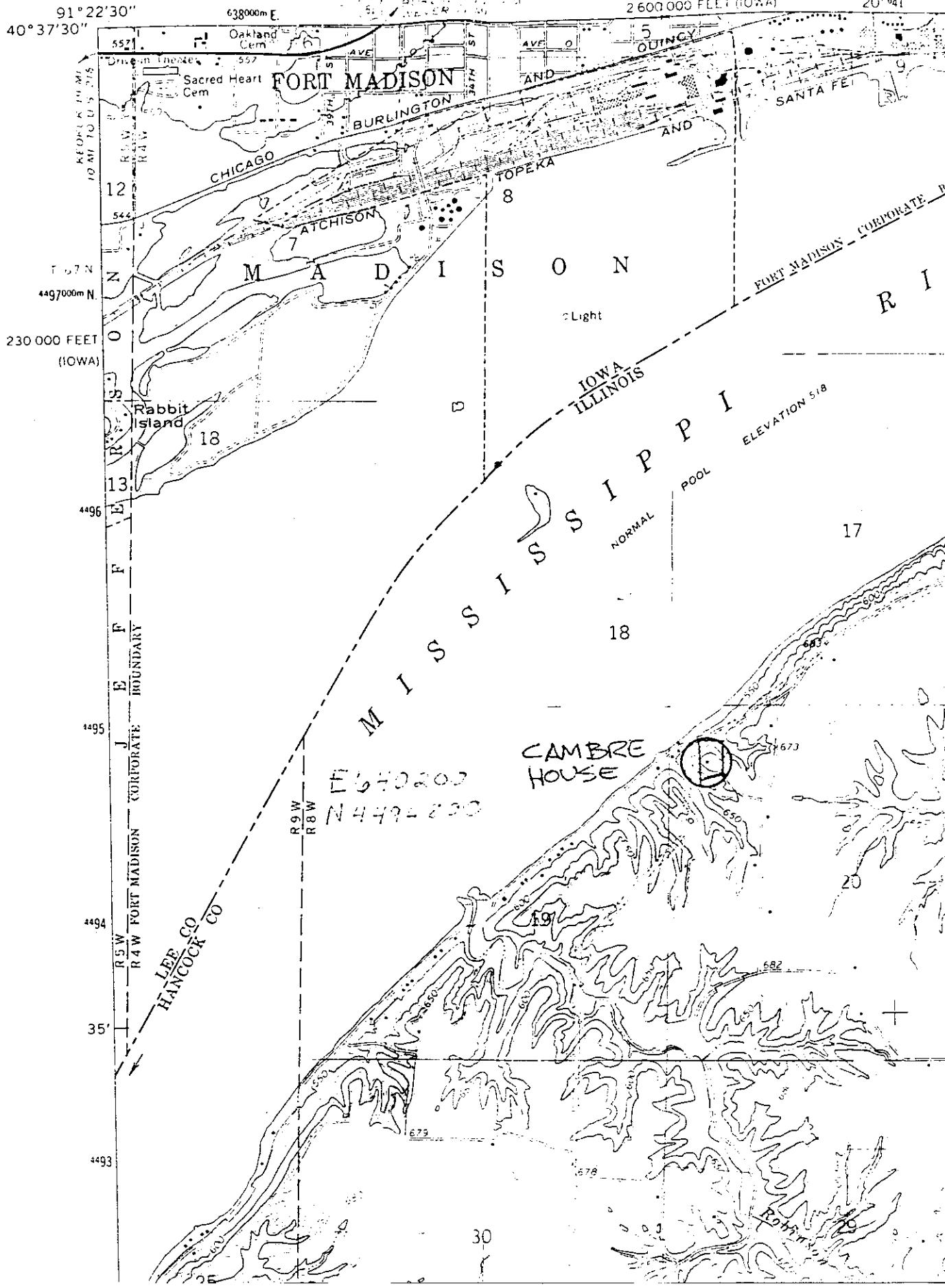
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



SITE PLAN SCALE 1" = 100'
 CAMBRIDGE → FARM
 RELLY & LOIS FOWLER - OWNERS

7105 11 NW
(WEST POINT)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





United States Department of the Interior -

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

NOV 23 1984

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places beginning November 11, 1984 and ending November 17, 1984. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

ARKANSAS, Mississippi County, Chickasawba Mound (3M55), (11/16/84)

ARKANSAS, Pulaski County, Little Rock, Williamson House (Thompson, Charles L., Design Collection TR), 325 Fairfax St. (11/15/84)

COLORADO, Grand County, Estes Park vicinity, Trail Ridge Road, Rocky Mountain National Park (also in Larimer County) (11/14/84)

HAWAII, Honolulu County, Honolulu, Hocking, Alfred, House, 1302 Nehoa St. (11/15/84)

HAWAII, Honolulu County, Honolulu, Oakley, George D., House, 2110 Kakela Pl. (11/15/84)

HAWAII, Honolulu County, Kailua vicinity, Kukuipilau Heiau, Kalaniana'ole Hwy (11/16/84)

HAWAII, Kauai County, Hanalei vicinity, Haena Archeological Complex, Kuhio Hwy (11/16/84)

HAWAII, Kauai County, Hanalei vicinity, Na Pali Coast Archeological District, Na Pali Coast (11/16/84)

HAWAII, Kauai County, Waimea, Kikiaola, Waimea Rd. (11/16/84)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Cook County Criminal Court Building, 54 W. Hubbard St. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Emmel Building, 1357 N. Wells St. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Lake-Side Terrace Apartments, 7425-7427 South Shore Dr. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Peoples Gas Building, 122 S. Michigan Ave. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Yondorf Block and Hall, 758 W. North Ave. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Ford County, Paxton, Paxton Water Tower and Pump House, 145 S. Market St. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Hancock County, Niota vicinity, Cambre House and Farm, SW of Niota (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Jackson County, Murphysboro, Mobile and Ohio Railroad Depot, 1701 Walnut St. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Lee County, Dixon, Brookner, Christopher, House, 222 N. Dixon Ave. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Rock Island County, Rock Island, Fort Armstrong Hotel, 3rd Ave. and 19th St. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Sangamon County, Springfield, Camp Lincoln Commissary Building, 1301 N. MacArthur Blvd. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Sangamon County, Springfield, Hickox Apartments, 4th and Cook Sts. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Will County, Plainfield, Standard Oil Gasoline Station, 600 W. Lockport St. (11/13/84)

INDIANA, Allen County, Fort Wayne, West End Historic District, Roughly bounded by Main, Webster, Jefferson, Broadway, Jones, and St. Mary's River (11/15/84)

INDIANA, Marion County, Indianapolis, Indianapolis Chair Manufacturing Company, 330 W. New York St. (11/15/84)