

to DC

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Effingham County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 110 East Jefferson not for publication

city, town Effingham vicinity of

state Illinois code 012 county Effingham code 049

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Effingham County

street & number 110 East Jefferson

city, town Effingham vicinity of state Illinois 62401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number 122 East Washington

city, town Effingham state Illinois 62401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

1) Inventory of Historic Landmarks in Effingham County: Interim Report
title 2) Inventory of Architecture before has this property been determined eligible? yes no

World War II in Effingham County & Fayette
date 1) April 1973 Countys Interim Report federal state county local

2) October 1973
depository for survey records Illinois Department of Conservation

405 East Washington
city, town Springfield, IL state Illinois

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The present Effingham County Courthouse is the fourth courthouse in the county. It is the main building located in section twenty of Douglas township. It is bordered by Washington street on the north, Jefferson street on the south, Third street on the east, and Fourth street on the west. The building measures 70 feet wide, 82 feet long and 44 feet high. It is two stories high with an attic and a basement. The attic has been converted to office and storage space. The basement has offices, restrooms and the boiler room. Building materials include brick, stone and wood. The walls are 18 inches thick. There are stone quoins at each corner, as well as stone window headers with keystones above each window. It has a concave Mansard roof with dormers. The roof had asphalt shingles which were painted green. They were recently replaced with wooden shakes. The original roof covering was probably multi-colored slate, based on old photographs. The roofline is corbeled.

The north and south ends of the courthouse have porches with both round, fluted columns and square, flat columns, as well as flat, half-columns against the building itself. The porches have flat roofs with corbels along the rooflines.

The windows are tall, uniform in size on both floors and have stone arched window headers. They are paired on the north and south ends with a single window above each porch. The east and west sides have single windows. All of the windows are of a four-over-four configuration. There is a small porch on the east side of the southeast corner of the building. It was created when an entrance for disabled persons was built about 1976. The bottom half of a window to accommodate the porch and door. The elevator in this area was put in at the same time. The porch has flat columns with Doric capitals similar to those on the other porches. The roofline is also corbeled. On the east side of the northeast corner a window has been eliminated, but the stone window header has been retained. On the north side of the northeast corner, two non-arched modern windows have replaced two arched windows. Again, the window headers were left for symmetry, and the arched portion was bricked in. This window alteration was done to accommodate the safe placed in this corner of the Circuit Clerk's office. The dormer windows have similar arched windows in wood rather than stone. The dormer windows are oval-shaped with a two-over-two configuration.

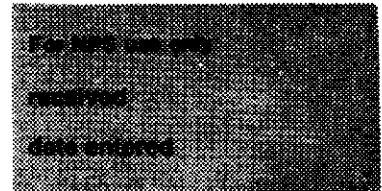
The doors on the north and south ends, as well as the new one under the corner porch, are paneled with two long, vertical panes of glass on each side. The north and south doors are double doors and appear to be the original ones. There are arched fanlights above the double doors.

There is a single brick chimney in the northwest quadrant of the building. The other three quadrants had chimneys at one time, but they were eliminated when the present boiler system was installed.

Decorative elements include stone quoins at the corners of the building and vertically above the north and south porches. The roofline has decorative corbels. The open belvedere was enclosed into a bell tower in 1913. The

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belvedere had a convex Mansard roof with ornamental clocks. Real clocks were installed when the new bell tower was built. The bell tower is two-tiered with a hip roof. The first tier is corbeled and has arched louvres on each side. The corbeled first tier looks much like the roofline of the belvedere. The hip roof is not consistent with the Mansard style.

The interior of the courthouse has been modernized, but certain architectural features have been retained, such as wainscoting and transoms. In 1935 the Federal Works Progress Administration project painted the interior and trim of the exterior, installed lavatories, relaid floors with oak flooring, equipped the treasurer's office with fixtures, remodeled stairways, plastered walls, and laid a cement floor in the basement. Most of the buildings doors have been replaced with new, paneled oak doors. Carpeting and tile now cover the floors. The south stairway was replaced in the 1976 remodeling project. The replacement is very similar to the one that was removed. The north stairway was changed from a spiral stairway to the current u-shaped one about 1980.

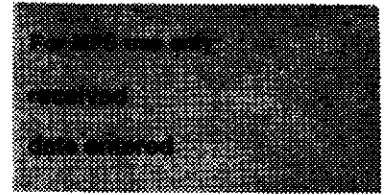
The main courtroom was remodeled in 1967. At that time the walls were paneled with walnut paneling and the ceiling was lowered, covering up the domed ceiling. Part of the original courtroom was divided to make a small 300 square ft. second courtroom, a judges' chambers, and a room for the secretary of the court. All of the original lighting fixtures have been replaced with fluorescent lighting throughout the whole building. The county board room looks like a modern office.

There are two other structures located on the courthouse grounds. One is a bandstand located in the northwest corner of the block. According to Robert Luchtefeld, local historian of Effingham, it was probably built sometime in the 1930's. There is a small, one-room structure on the west side of the Courthouse. It was used as Santa's house at Christmas time. A memorial canon, dedicated in 1910 is located on the southwest corner. It commemorates Thomas Howard, Earl of Effingham, who resigned his commission as Deputy Marshall of King George III of England rather than draw his sword against the American Colonies in their struggle for independence. A descendent of his, another Lord Effingham, visited Effingham during the Bicentennial Celebration. Effingham County and the city of Effingham are named after his ancestor. An employee's parking lot is located on the east side of the Court house.

The Effingham County Courthouse is a very stately, impressive building located on a nicely landscaped courthouse square. The height of the courthouse is second only to St. Anthony Catholic Church located two blocks directly north of the courthouse. One can see the bell tower for several blocks from any direction. When seen close-up, the courthouse is massive and imposing. Its overall exterior condition appears to be quite good, except for some deterioration of the ends of the stone window headers. The building's interior has been remodeled over the years to suit the changing needs of county agencies and officials.

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The Effingham County Courthouse is the only contributing building nominated within this form.

8. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1870-71 **Builder/Architect** William Brown of St. Louis, architect
W. E. Grey, Contractor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Effingham County Courthouse satisfies criterion C of the National Register as a prime example of the Second Empire style in Effingham County. The courthouse also satisfies criterion A because it has been the focal point of the entire county's public business since 1871.

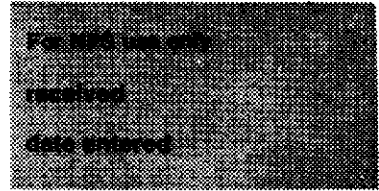
The first two courthouses in Effingham county were located in Ewington, four miles west of Effingham. In 1860 the county seat was moved to Effingham. The first courthouse in Effingham was a brick structure, two stores high with a graduated cupola. It was destroyed by fire on March 17, 1869. Several subsequent meetings of the county board about a new courthouse yielded no results. A committee of supervisors inspected the Douglas County Courthouse on April 13, 1870. The committee reported to the board on April 14. On April 15, the plans submitted by William Brown, the architect from St. Louis, were adopted by the board. The building contract was awarded to W.E. Grey for \$28,268. That amount was increased by \$1,385 when stone window headers and quoins were added to the specifications.

There are three other Second Empire buildings in Effingham County, all of them houses located in Effingham. The courthouse is decidedly the fanciest of any of the county's Second Empire buildings. A house located at 512 East Jefferson is a brick, stone and wood building with the Mansard roof. The second floor windows have stone window headers with keystones. The dormers are arched and the roofline is corbeled. The classic Second Empire projecting pavilions are not present. It follows a three-stage recessed plan. Another Second Empire house located at 206 Crawford is a frame building with plain dormers and non-arched windows. The porch does have gingerbread. A third brick house located 300 East Washington is quite plain in contrast to the courthouse. The windows are very slightly arched and very little ornamentation. There is a commercial building located across the street from the courthouse with arched windows on the upper floors. These are quite similar to those of the courthouse. (Contacts with the Missouri State Historical Society and the St. Louis Public Library yielded no information about William Brown, the architect).

The Effingham County courthouse is central to the business affairs of Effingham County. It houses, or has housed, most of the county officials and their records. It is also home for the Effingham Circuit Court. In 1875 the Effingham County courthouse was the site of the trial of Nathan Burgess on a change of venue from the Fayette Circuit Court. Burgess was accused of killing Joseph Robbins, a watchman on the Vandalia bridge east of Vandalia. The trial concluded with the conviction of Burgess and his subsequent execution on the courthouse lawn on June 18, 1875. The trial of Nathan Burgess was reported in The Democrat, a local Effingham newspaper, from beginning to end. The actual hanging on June 18, 1875, was fully described,

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including the appearance of the body at various time intervals. When the body was removed from the scaffold and placed in a seated position, it was carried through the streets for the excited crowd of thousands (according to the newspaper account) to see. They were "allowed to see the remains of a man who paid the severest penalty of the law." Burgess had maintained his innocence to the very end.

The news article went on to state that the execution was almost perfectly with no excitement occurring to shock those present. The reporter stated, "Although the act is horrible to contemplate, all the officers who were required to do this did their duty with the accuracy and firmness which characterize men of capacity and courage." In the county histories of 1903, 1910 and 1968 there were reports of other murders and convictions. There was, however, never another execution of a convicted murderer in Effingham County. Although there was never an organized movement to abolish capital punishment in Effingham county, the hanging of Nathan Burgess evidently remained in the minds of local residents. Juries and judges never again imposed the death penalty in trials held in the county.

The courthouse has also been the center of community activities in addition to its role as the county's center of government. The Courthouse was central in the celebration of Illinois' centennial in 1918. There was a rally held at the courthouse and, according to Robert Luchtefeld, a local historian, William Jennings Bryan was one of the noted speakers. Bryan, of course was born in nearby Salem, Illinois, and was a stunning orator and candidate for the President of the United States several times.

Robert Overbeck, Clerk of the Circuit Court in Effingham, said the courthouse served as a training site for Civil Defense volunteers during World War II. The volunteers would go to the roof and try to identify airplanes from that vantage point.

There is an organization in Effingham known as the Old Settlers Reunion. It uses the courthouse as the center of its yearly festivities. Elderly residents of the community are honored, particularly if their ancestors were involved in the settling of Effingham county. This calls to mind not only local history, but the westward migration of our ancestors into the area known as the Northwest Territory.

In the early 1970's an attempt was made by a group of local businessmen to have a new courthouse built in Effingham county. Local individuals successfully thwarted those efforts, thus indicating the pride of many county residents in local history and interest in historic preservation of the county's most significant public building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Fiftieth Anniversary Souvenir of Effingham, IL 1853-1903, The Effingham Democrat Newspaper, May 12, 1903
2. Inventory of the County Archives of Illinois, Effingham County No. 25, Illinois Historical Records Survey, Chicago, 1940 (WPA project)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .8125 acres

Quadrangle name Effingham South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The Effingham County Courthouse is located on the lot known as the Courthouse Square. There is no lot number assigned to this lot, according to official records. The justification for this is that the lot comprises the courthouse square. It is located in section 20 of Douglas township and measures 214.5' x 165'.
List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Illinois code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles Philip Lewis

organization Historical Administration Project for Eastern Illinois University date April 4, 1985

street & number 608 W. Fayette telephone 217/342-6280

city or town Effingham state Illinois 62401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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

title Deputy William C. Farnan date 6/19/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

GEORGIA, Union County, Blairsville, Union County Jail (County Jails of the Georgia Mountains Area TR), Blue Ridge Rd. (09/13/85)

GEORGIA, White County, Cleveland, White County Jail (County Jails of the Georgia Mountains Area TR), Main St. (09/13/85)

IDAHO, Bannock County, Pocatello, Rice-Packard House, 454 N. Hayes Ave. (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Blaine County, Hailey, Werthheimer Building, 101 S Main St. (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Gooding County, Gooding, Kelly's Hotel, 112 Main (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Kootenai County, Athol vicinity, Cedar Mountain School (Kootenai County Rural Schools TR), Parks & Lewellyn Creek Rd. (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Kootenai County, Bayview, Bayview School II (Kootenai County Rural Schools TR), Careywood Rd. (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Kootenai County, Camp Mivoden vicinity, East Hayden Lake School II (Kootenai County Rural Schools TR), Hayden Lake Rd. (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Kootenai County, Coeur D'Alene vicinity, Prairie School II (Kootenai County Rural Schools TR), Prairie Ave. (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Kootenai County, Hayden Lake vicinity, Thunborg, Jacob and Cristina, House, Chicken Point (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Kootenai County, Lane, Lane School II (Kootenai County Rural Schools TR), Lanz Rd. (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Kootenai County, McGuire, McGuires School (Kootenai County Rural Schools TR), Corbin Rd. & Old HW 10 (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Kootenai County, Medimont vicinity, Cave Lake School (Kootenai County Rural Schools TR), ID 3 (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Kootenai County, Medimont vicinity, Indian Springs School II (Kootenai County Rural Schools TR), ID 3 (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Kootenai County, Pleasant View vicinity, Pleasant View School II (Kootenai County Rural Schools TR), Pleasant View Rd. (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Kootenai County, Post Falls vicinity, Cougar Gulch School III (Kootenai County Rural Schools TR), Cougar Gulch Rd. (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Kootenai County, Rockford Bay vicinity, Bellgrove School II (Kootenai County Rural Schools TR), Hamaker Rd. (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Kootenai County, Rose Lake, Rose Lake School II (Kootenai County Rural Schools TR), Queen St. & ID 3 (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Kootenai County, Silver Sands Beach vicinity, Upper Twin Lakes School (Kootenai County Rural Schools TR), Twin Lakes Rd. (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Twin Falls County, Buhl, Hotel Buhl, 1004 Main St. (09/12/85)

IDAHO, Valley County, Thunder City vicinity, Braddock Gold Mining and Milling Company Log Building and Forge Ruins, Off Pack Trail near Suicide Rock (09/12/85)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Swedish American Telephone Company Building, 5235--5257 N. Ravenswood (09/13/85)

ILLINOIS, Effingham County, Effingham, Effingham County Courthouse, 110 E. Jefferson St. (09/11/85)

ILLINOIS, Vermilion County, Hoopston, Hoopes-Cunningham Mansion, 424 E. Penn St. (09/11/85)

INDIANA, Gibson County, Weber Village Archaeological Site (12 Gi 13), (09/12/85)

INDIANA, Montgomery County, Crawfordsville vicinity, McClelland-Layne House, 602 Cherry St. (09/12/85)

INDIANA, Orange County, Paoli, Lindley, Thomas Elwood, House, Willow Creek Rd. (09/12/85)