

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SENT TO D.C.

12-16-99

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 Dale Building

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 101-103 North Vermilion Street [NA] not for publication

city or town Danville [] vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Vermilion code 183 zip code 61832

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)
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/14/99
Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of 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
See continuation sheet [].

Signature of the Keeper

Date

Dale Building
Name of Property

Vermilion County, Illinois
County/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 count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/specialty store
COMMERCE/business

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/specialty store
COMMERCE/vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Brick
Stone
roof Asphalt composition
other _____

Narrative Description

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

Dale Building
Name of Property

Vermilion County, Illinois
County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic 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):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Periods of Significance

1914

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository:

Danville Public Library

Dale Building
Name of Property

Vermilion County, Illinois
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
16	446350	44441780			

C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing
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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 Karen Lang Kummer, Architectural Historian
organization ArchiSearch date August, 1999
street & number 2801 Holcomb Drive telephone (217) 367-1855
city or town Urbana state IL zip code 61802

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 North Vermilion Street Corporation, c/o John Heskitt
street & number 137 North Vermilion Street telephone 217/442-4924
city or town Danville state Illinois zip code 61832

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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Narrative Description

The Dale Building, at 101-103 North Vermilion Street, was built in 1914 after a major fire in May of that year virtually destroyed the original building on that site, the Vermilion Opera House. It stands in the center of downtown Danville on the northeast corner of North Vermilion and East North streets and is located one block from both the Vermilion County Courthouse (south) and the Federal Courthouse (north). The area surrounding the building contains mainly commercial buildings of heights varying from one to seven stories; professional offices, specialty stores, and restaurants are all located in these nearby buildings. North Vermilion Street, in front (west) of the Dale Building, is a main north/south artery for vehicular traffic; large flower planters and street trees soften the wide sidewalks flanking the thoroughfare.

To the immediate west, across Vermilion Street, is the Classical Revival designed Temple Building (1900), a six-story commercial building vacant since 1987 due to fire damage; across North Street to the south is a one-story commercial building housing a pharmacy. An alley is directly behind the Dale Building, on the east, then there is a small scale commercial building that faces onto North Street. To the north is a two-story commercial building directly adjacent to the Dale Building with abutting walls.

Designed in the Commercial Style, the Dale Building rises three stories with a high attic and is among the taller of the historic commercial or public buildings in downtown Danville. Large fixed-glass display windows allow ample light into the first floor commercial spaces, while wide double-hung windows provide ventilation for the upper story offices. Brick is the main material used with wood windows and stone sills as accents; wood, glass, and modern brick are employed on the remodelled storefronts and stone ornamentation decorates the primary street elevations. The building features a brick foundation and an asphalt composition low-pitched three-quarters hip roof. Plaster walls and pine woodwork are used throughout the interior. The original building was financed and built in 1873 by three prominent Danville businessmen, Joseph G. English, Col. William Chandler, and John W. Dale, as the Vermilion Opera House; subsequently it housed the Illinois Printing Company before it burned in 1914. After the fire, John Dale had the building constructed in its current Commercial Style. The nomination consists of one contributing building.

Exterior

Built in 1914, the Dale Building is a good example of the Commercial Style of architecture as executed in dark brown brick with stone detailing. The building is three stories in height with an unaccessible attic story that may constitute another full floor. Two storefronts comprise the first story of the North Vermilion Street elevation; these storefronts have been modified over the years, but vestiges of the 1914 storefronts may remain in the transom area that is now covered by modern

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materials. The north storefront (103) retains its historic 1914 configuration of a center entry (aluminum frame door with sidelights and three-light transom) with flanking display windows, but uses modern one-light aluminum-frame display windows that cantilever over the modern red brick bulkhead. The recessed vestibule area is carpeted. A wood-shingled shed roof covers the transom area and extends over the entry to the upper stories; turned wood engaged posts are placed at each end of the added roof ensemble and a sign panel is set above the roof overhang. The south storefront (101) has an angled c. 1960s storefront, also with large modern one-light display windows, and a large vertical wood "hood"; these details return for one bay on the south elevation. A very narrow vertical wood bulkhead is below the display windows and it connects with the wood surround of the modern solid-wood entry door; a red-tinted and scored concrete pad is in front of the entry. However, the historic brick piers with stone caps and bases that divide the storefronts remain uncovered as does a brick soldier stringcourse and the large full-width decorative rowlock and header brick panel with stone corner accents that spans the area above the storefronts. At the far north end is the recessed entry to the upper stories with its small recessed ceramic-tiled vestibule with masonite covered walls; an aluminum-framed modern door is set in the tall opening below three modern one-light transoms.

The three upper stories are grouped together inside a stone surround that rests on a continuous stone sill set below the second story windows. The surround is embellished at its lower corners by plain projecting square blocks with small guttae; in the center, above the attic story, is a large stone U-shaped plaque inscribed "DALE" which is flanked by circles and also has guttae at its lower corners. It is topped by a reeded-torus-and-tie molding that rests on reeded torus blocks. The windows of the second and third stories are large paired one-over-one-light double-hung wood sash that are divided into four slightly recessed bays by three brick piers. Decorative stone caps with stylized "arrow" drops are set at the tops of the piers and plain square bases are atop the continuous stone sill. Below the third story windows, the spandrels have decorative brick panels that are detailed the same as the large first-story panel. The attic story also has four bays, each bay having three grouped vertical one-light windows set on a continuous stone sill; however, the bays are accented by corbels below the projecting sills and by stone corners set in the brick soldier course window surrounds. A tall gabled parapet with center block, stone coping, and U-shaped corner blocks with guttae caps the west elevation.

The south elevation returns the details of the west elevation for one wide slightly projecting bay including the attic story (here the openings are blind), tall stone surround, brick panel details, and gabled parapet with stone coping and corner blocks; the vertical wood storefront "hood" is also repeated above the storefront display window. Centrally placed on the first story of the south elevation is an original opening flanked by stone bases and caps. Infilled with slightly projecting red brick and two small double-hung windows that are set to the east above a small counter/ledge, the opening is topped by a similar vertical wood "hood." A brick soldier course with drip cap is above

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this hood, a detail repeated from the main facade. To the east is a raised and recessed pedestrian door (rear storefront entry) with a tall infilled transom set below another soldier course; and a two bay storefront, divided by a stone accented pier and side walls, is at the east end. The storefront has a recessed ceramic-tiled vestibule and entry to the west with modern display windows to the east; the transom and bulkhead areas have been covered with vertical "board and batten" aluminum. A soldier course with drip cap is also above this transom area. The second and third stories, east of the first bay, consist of a series of seven large single one-over-one-light double-hung windows in the center and two sets of large paired one-over-one-light double-hung windows at the east end. Single stone sills are on the second story and a continuous stone sill is on the third story where stone corbels mark projecting window sills; stone blocks also accent the corners of the double brick header/rowlock surrounds of the third story windows. Below the tall parapet with stone coping is a stone stringcourse that spans the blind attic story. Decorative stone plaques interrupt the stringcourse; these plaques have a plain rectangular center with a reed-and-tie bundle on top that drapes on the sides to a circle at midpoint. A large incised circle is also centered at the bottom of the plaque.

The north elevation is attached to the adjacent building for its first two stories with a blind brick wall above.

The rear (east) elevation, with its softer and lighter colored common brick, shows the most signs of alteration and appears to be a remnant of the earlier 1873 building; it is the only elevation which shows the remains of a sandstone foundation with brick infilled openings. The first story of the blind south end has the tar-and-paper remnants of an addition's roof. Just to the south of the building's center line, is a narrow historically-infilled triple-rowlock round-arch opening, while to the north of the center line are two closely spaced tall double-rowlock round-arched modern brick-infilled openings that now contain a single large four-over-four-light double-hung window with security grille. A tall at-grade door with a concrete block infilled transom is to the north with a small narrow sash to the immediate south. The second and third stories have four-over-four-light double-hung windows: two to the south of the center line and two near the north end; all appear to have concrete sills. Slightly off-center on the second story is a smaller two-over-two-light window with a stone sill set below an infilled double-rowlock round-arched opening; above, the third story has a tall narrow double-rowlock round-arched opening now infilled with brick and the remnants of a similar round arch to the north. The attic story has a tall center two-over-two-light round-arched window set below a double-rowlock round arch with stone sill that is flanked on the north and south ends by large round double rowlock openings that provide access to the drainage scuppers. The low stepped parapet has tile coping. Along the southeast corner of the building is visual evidence that the dark brick of the south elevation is keyed into the common brick of the east elevation and was joined to the older east wall after the fire of 1914.

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Interior

The interiors of the three storefronts have been modified over the years, but the spatial arrangements remain original. The south storefront (101 N. Vermilion Street, B.E.S. Designs & Associates, Inc.; Stuebe Printing) has retail space with a display counter in the front third which is separated from the rear work area by a wood half-height partition; the rear two-thirds has a modern loft area along its north and east walls with a staircase to the basement below the northwest end of the loft. A historic pressed-metal ceiling with wide cornice is exposed along the length of the entire store; the floors are wood. Below the storefront, in the basement, is a large finished room with a vinyl floor, drop ceiling, and covered walls; a dark room has been added in the southeast corner. A smaller room is to the rear (east) that has stairs to a small vestibule and the south side exit.

The north storefront (103 N. Vermilion Street, Beverly's Silks N Veils) has a suspended acoustical-tile ceiling covering its historic metal ceiling and its interior space is essentially one large open room with a wood partition wall along the rear (east) wall that separates off a small storage/office area and bathroom. Low wood partitions also create dressing and storage rooms along the side walls; the floor is carpeted. The stairs to this storefront's basement are located in the northwest corner below the stairs to the upper stories; here the walls are brick and it is apparent that the vaults below the west sidewalk have been infilled as has been an opening connecting to the south basement.

The North Street storefront (7 E. North Street, Downtown Danville, Inc.) consists of two connected rooms with suspended acoustical-tile ceilings, carpeted floors, and paneling covering the walls. Modern partition walls divide both rooms into front office space and rear storage areas; one-panel doors open into each storage area. A tall historic pressed metal ceiling is exposed in both storage rooms and it continues above the suspended ceiling of the office areas. To the rear (north) of the west storefront is a storage room with stairs to the basement. This section of the basement has four interconnected rooms all with concrete or vinyl covered floors; the walls are either concrete or brick. The brick east and south walls have wide corbelled brick footings, but no sandstone foundation is apparent on the interior as it is on the exterior of the east elevation. Behind the east office is another storage room; both storerooms have five-panel wood doors that lead to a rear hallway along the building's north side. This L-plan hallway joins the rear of the 103 N. Vermilion storefront with the east alley; its north/south section is raised two steps from the east/west section. Half-baths are located at the south and east ends of the hallway.

The staircase to the upper stories is located to the north of 103 N. Vermilion, at the northwest corner of the building. The second story is reached via a wide set of boxed stairs, the treads of which are now linoleum covered, and there is a landing halfway up the flight. The stairs open onto a vestibule with office suites to either side (west and east); and a high archway separates the vestibule from a double-loaded corridor that extends east with office suites along both sides. A two-story white

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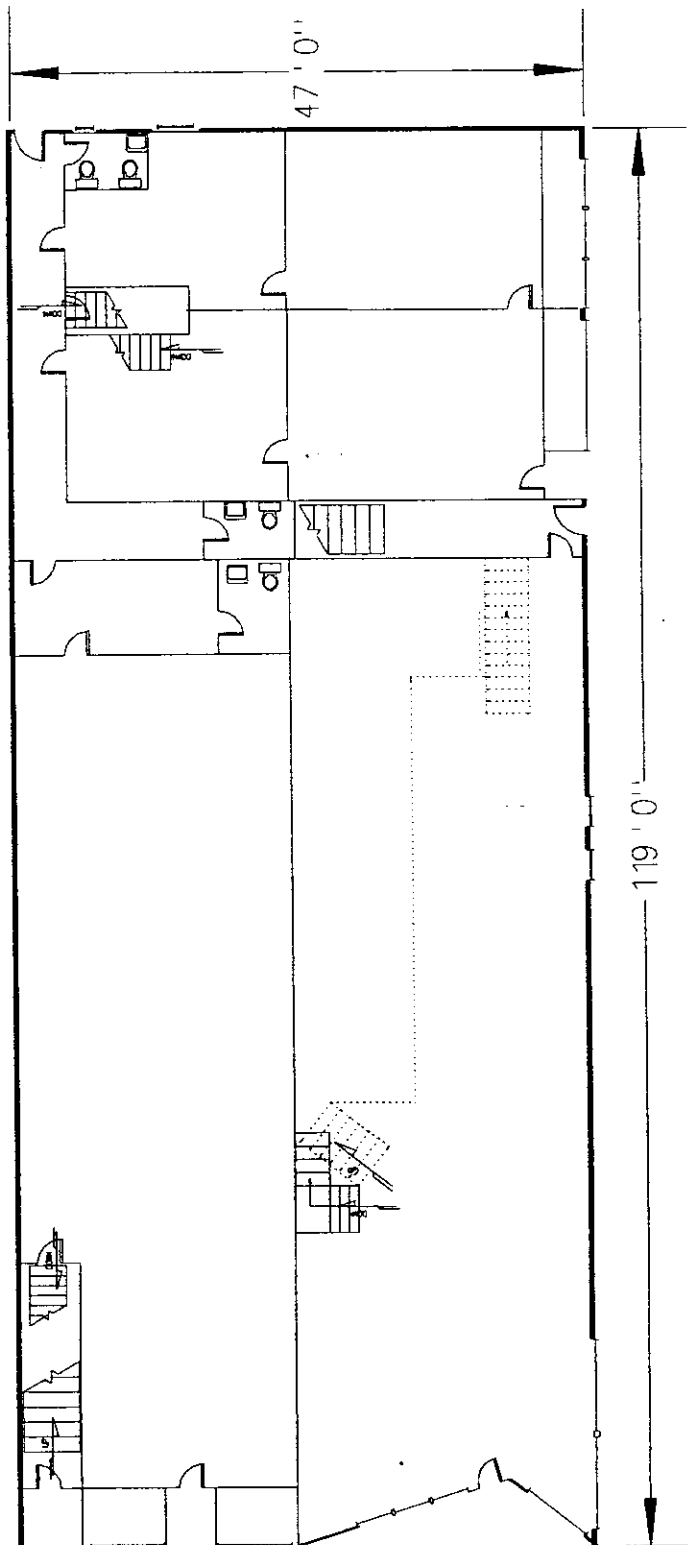
glazed-brick light well is in the center of the north wall and provides ventilation for the offices along the north side of the hallway. Entry into the suites, most of which are interconnected, is through one-light wood doors which have high fixed one-light sash (clear or art glass) to one or both sides of the doors; the entries are topped by one-light transoms, all of which are now painted. The offices have large one-over-one-light windows that extend almost full-height, except for the windows on the east (rear) side which are four-over-four. All of the simple four-inch wide pine door and window surround woodwork with molded cap is painted. Floors are covered with either carpeting or asphalt tile; acoustical tile covers most of the office ceilings and some of the plaster walls have panelling. Tall marble baseboards are extant in the hallway, the walls of which are divided into two sections by a wood chair rail at the level of the hall windows. Two small restrooms are located on the north side at the east end of the hallway. Along the east side of the vestibule is a large service room/closet finished in beadboard with a wood floor. A wall ladder leads through a hatch to an interfloor space approximately three-feet high, here added steel beams and posts are discernible and the construction of the second floor ceiling and third floor is visible.

The third story is reached by an open double-run continuation of the staircase, which has an ornate open-metal balustrade with a curvilinear design and simple metal newel posts, marble treads with metal risers, a marble-floored intermediate landing, and a marble chair rail along the upper section. Centered on the landing is a long narrow rectangular opening that is set below the chair rail; this is possibly a window opening, now blocked, but no evidence of the opening appears on the exterior of the building. The stairs open onto a small vestibule with double four-light-over-three-panel doors with a four-light transom that in turn open into a small hallway with offices to either side (east and west); two interconnected office suites are located in the front southwest corner. The offices have one-light over one-panel doors set into partitions that have a plaster wall base, large painted-glass windows that pivot, and large clear-glass transoms. Double French doors with a two-light transom connect the hallway with an almost full-length room that extends from the front offices to the rear (east) wall; the light well is along the north wall. To the rear/east of the light well is an office/storage area separated from the main room by a similar plaster and glass partition wall. Located here are a small double room, two bathrooms, and a storage closet in the northeast corner. The floors of the third floor are wood, the woodwork (baseboard, door and window surrounds) is dark varnished pine in a design similar to that of the second floor, the ceilings are plaster with some historic hanging light fixtures in the large room, and there is a beadboard counter near the entrance to the large room. The attic story is currently inaccessible, but as examined through holes in the third floor ceiling, the rear portion appears to be unfinished open space.

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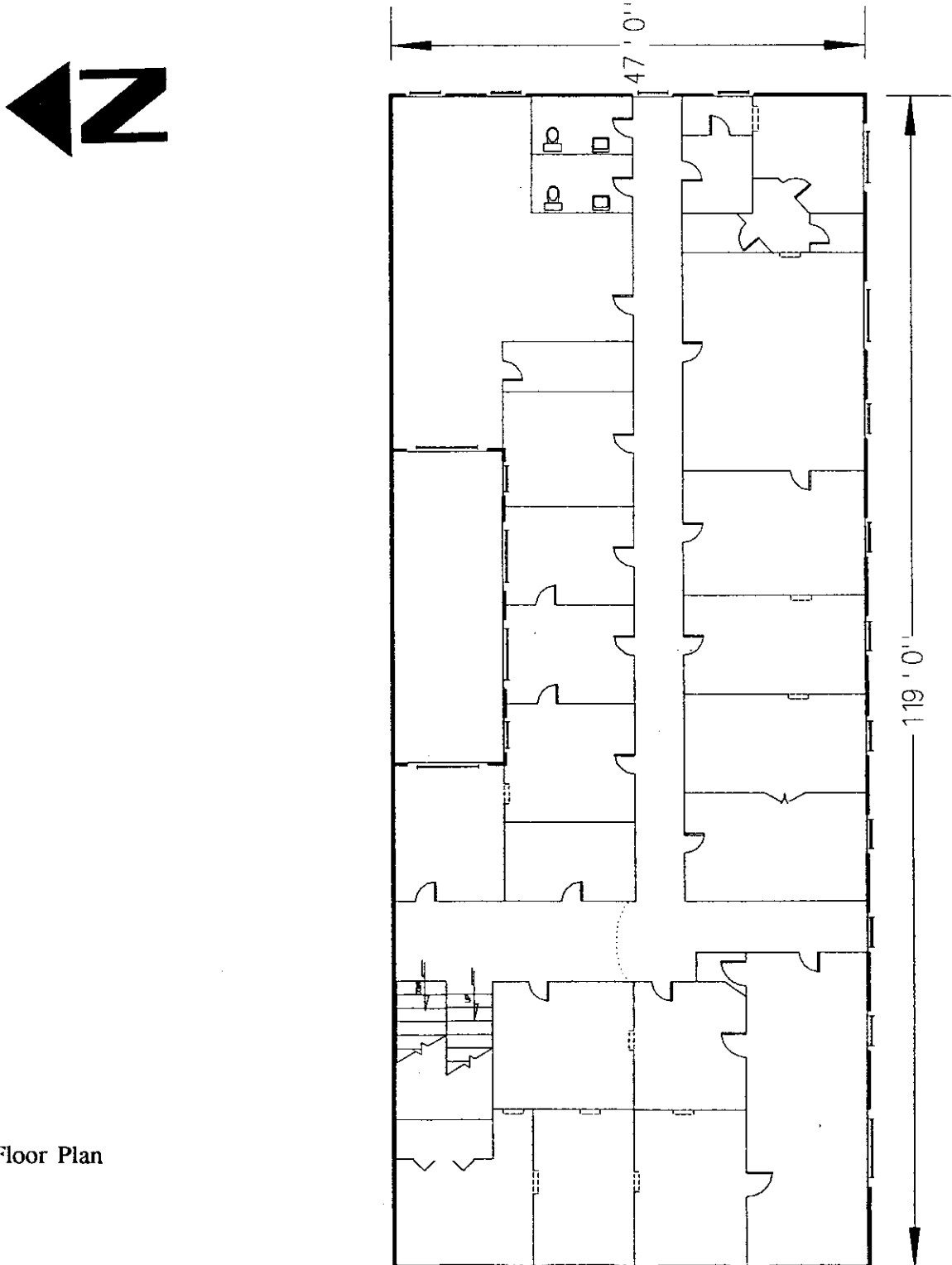
First Floor Plan

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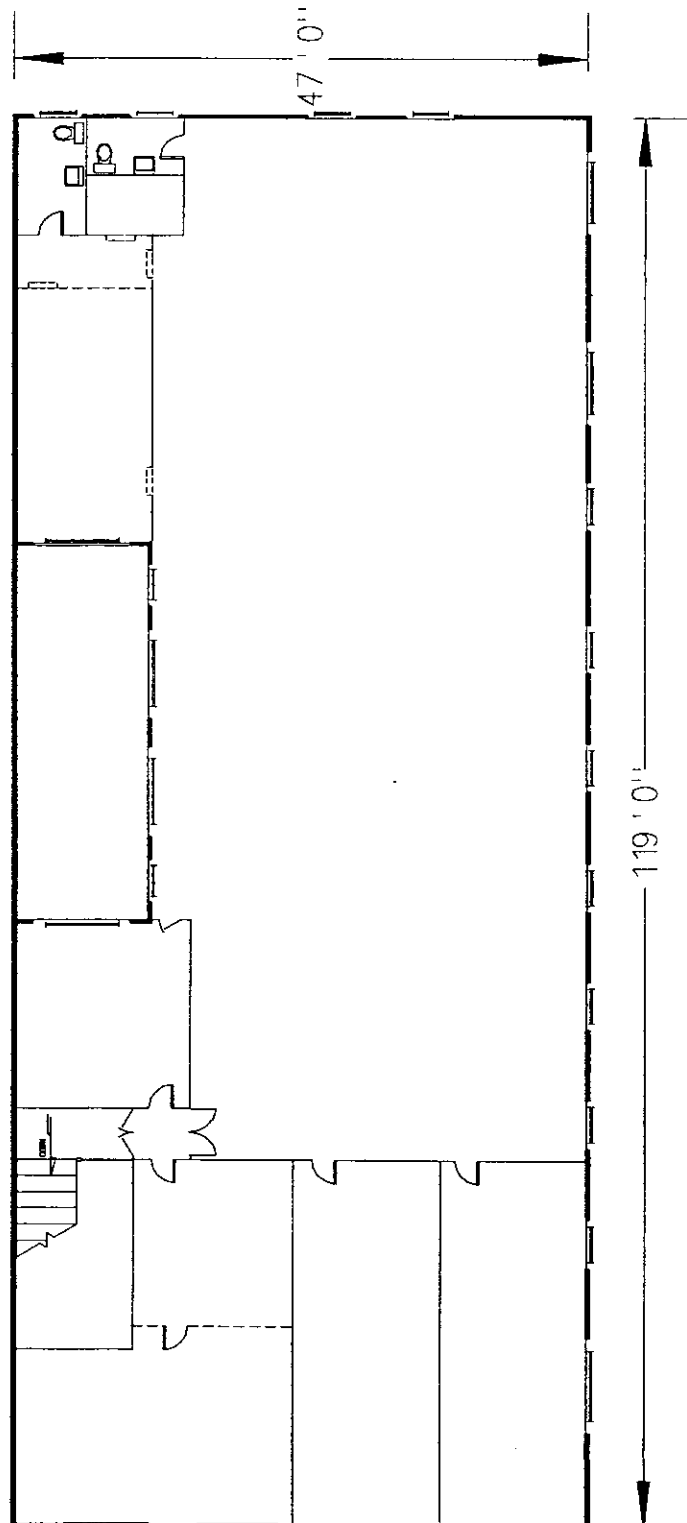


Second Floor Plan

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Third Floor Plan

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The Dale Building, at 101-103 North Vermilion Street in downtown Danville, Illinois, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture as a locally significant example of Commercial Style architecture. Originally constructed as the Vermilion Opera House in 1873, the building was of Italianate style with round-arch windows, quoins, and a decorative corbelled brick cornice with a prominent center gable parapet. However, a destructive fire in 1914 resulted in the building being reconstructed in the Commercial Style by John W. Dale, one of the original builders of the opera house. The new building has the restrained stylistic features of the Commercial Style with simple masonry wall surfaces, large double-hung windows, symmetrical fenestration patterns, bay defining piers and spandrels, and minimal applied ornament.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Commercial Style was used for office buildings from 1875 through the 1920s. Although it is debated where the style first began, whether it was in New York or Philadelphia, it reached its peak in Chicago. In fact, Commercial Style and Chicago Style are often used as synonymous terms.¹ Montgomery Schuyler stated in 1896, "In no other American city has commercial architecture become so exclusively utilitarian as in Chicago."² The requirements of the new office and mercantile buildings were light, space, air, and strength with exterior ornamentation secondary.³

Most buildings in the Commercial Style are of steel construction with masonry wall surfaces. The wall surfaces are largely flat, with minimal, if any, projections from the facade plane. The simple, flat appearance of the masonry is often relieved by panels of brick laid in patterns or the use of accents in tile, concrete, stone or terra cotta. Roofs are flat, and hidden behind parapets or cornices. The most striking element of the style is windows, which make up a large proportion of the buildings' main facades. Large, one-over-one-light double-hung windows are common and are often doubled or tripled in window groups set in bays. An almost skeletal appearance results from the total area of glass exceeding that of the buildings' masonry (or other structural or facing material). Ornamentation is secondary to the fenestration pattern, which is quite regular, and the simple masonry walls are meant to be expressive, often through the use of patterned masonry. Typically, buildings constructed in the Commercial Style have terminating cornices that vary from plain to highly decorative or uninterrupted shaped parapets.⁴

Built in 1914, the Dale Building is a good example of the Commercial Style designed for a small midwestern city. By the 1880s the style was already popular in New York, Chicago, and other large eastern and midwestern cities. Chicago had a number of notable Commercial Style or Chicago School buildings designed by Adler and Sullivan including the Troesch Building (1884) and the Wirt Dexter Building (1887). Burnham and Root's Monadnock Building (1889) is considered by

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Marcus Whiffen to be "the greatest masterpiece of the Commercial Style."⁵

Holabird and Roche, a Chicago architectural firm specializing in commercial buildings, designed a number of Commercial Style buildings during the 1890s through to the 1910s. Included in this firm's portfolio are the Tacoma Building (1887-1889), the Marquette Building (1893), the Chicago Building (1904), the Brooks Building (1910), the Crane Building (1913), and the Century Building (1915). The style continued to be popular with other Chicago architects into the twentieth century as shown in the design of the 1908 Hunter Building (Christian Eckstrom), the 1910 Chicago Business College (D. H. Burnham and Co.), the 1911 Dwight Building (Schmidt, Garden, and Martin), and the 1915 Lemoyne Building (Mundie, Jensen, and McClurg).⁶

Even though it is not as large or monumental as the above Chicago buildings, the Dale Building has many of the defining characteristics of the Commercial Style. Although only three usable stories in height, the tall fenestrated attic story adds considerably to the building's overall stature making it appear to tower over its two-story neighbors. Built of dark brick, the building apparently has at least a partial internal steel skeleton as evidenced in the second floor ceiling cavity; the wall planes are flat with minimal brick and stone decoration. The masonry wall of the building's main elevation (west) is divided into four bays by simple piers and the spandrels are defined by flat brick panels, a common stylistic device of the Commercial Style. Very large one-over-one-light double-hung windows are evenly spaced along both primary street elevations and they are paired along the main facade and at the east and west ends of the secondary elevation. The windows, especially those of the main facade, fill a large proportion of the building plane.

Ornamentation on the Dale Building is minimal, but executed in stone, a contrasting material that underscores its sparing use. A three-story stone surround groups the main elevation bays together, while the three center brick piers are accented by decorative stone caps with stylized "arrow" drops. Stone is also used sparingly for the bases and caps of the first floor piers, and corner accents for the shallow brick panels. The attic story has a continuous stone sill with corbels, while the attic and third story (south elevation) window surround corners are also detailed in stone. The most striking ornament is the building's name plate, centered on the west facade. Using Classical Revival references, the DALE name is set in a large stone U-shaped plaque flanked by circles and with guttae at its lower corners. It is topped by a reeded-torus-and-tie molding that rests on reeded torus blocks. Guttae are also set below the lower corners of the large stone surround. Classical elements are repeated, in a slightly restrained manner, on the south elevation where the blind attic story has a stone stringcourse with decorative stone plaques. These plaques have a reed-and-tie bundle on top that drapes on the sides to a circle at midpoint and there is a large incised circle at the center of the bottom. Although the roof is not flat, but rather is a low-pitched three-quarters hip roof, it is hidden behind a tall gabled parapet. The stone coping of the parapet terminates the building as a low cornice, the corners of which are also accented by U-shaped stone blocks with guttae.

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Context

The Dale Building compares favorably with other Commercial Style buildings in Danville. The building at 208 West Main is a small two-story brick commercial building with retail on the first floor and residential space above. Four brick piers with stone bases and caps divides the first floor into two unequal storefronts and an upper level entry bay; all three spaces have been drastically altered with infill construction. The second floor also has small modern windows infilling the original large triple window space with its continuous stone sill with corbels, stacked soldier surround with stone corner blocks, and upper stone stringcourse/lintel. A very handsome contrasting brick diaper patterned blind attic story, however, is extant and attests to the quality of the building's original design.

The King Building at 101 East Main is quite similar to the Dale Building, but slightly smaller and less imposing. Also three stories in height with dark brick masonry with stone trimming, the building has a single storefront at its south end (Main Street) and a single rear storefront to the north. The upper stories are divided into bays by two-story piers that march down the secondary elevation (Jackson Street) for twelve bays, while the main elevation is only two bays wide. The piers are decorated with stone bases and caps with drops and, like the Dale Building, the spandrel area has brick panels but here the panels have decorative center stone diamonds. A classical stone cornice terminates the building rather than a high decorative parapet.

The Fischer Theater, 158-164 North Vermilion, was also built in the Commercial Style. Originally Romanesque Revival in design, the building was rebuilt in the simpler Commercial Style with restrained Classical Revival detailing. Its first story is rusticated brick and two storefronts flank the center double entry. Its two upper floors are separated from the rest of the building by stone stringcourses and they have large single and paired one-over-one-light double-hung windows with decorative panels or round arches over the third story windows. A tall attic story continues the fenestration pattern and a wide metal overhanging Classical-inspired cornice terminates the building.

History

The Dale Building began existence as the Vermilion Opera House on the northeast corner of the intersection of North and Vermilion streets in 1873. Three prominent Danville businessmen constructed the building, Joseph G. English, Col. William P. Chandler, and John W. Dale, on the site of Leonard and Holden's lumber yard.⁷ The building was built of brick with Milwaukee brick for trim details; it was 50 feet by 100 feet and cost \$20-25,000.⁸ When built, the opera house was considered the most pretentious structure in the city and was the farthest north building in the business district. On the first floor was a general store operated by J.H. Barkley and a wholesale

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grocery store occupied the north storefront. The opera house was considered the finest in the state outside of Chicago and the entire building, except for the two storefronts, was used by the theater.⁹ In 1882 the theater business moved to the Lincoln opera house but the 1883 graduating class of the Danville high school received their diplomas on the opera house stage as had many of their predecessors.¹⁰

In 1884 the Illinois Printing Company remodeled the building for their use. The printing company located in Danville in 1874 and was first housed in a building directly to the east of the opera house on North Street. When the remodeling was complete, a temporary bridge was built between the two buildings and most of the equipment was moved between the second floors over the bridge.¹¹ A second remodeling took place in 1913 when the Illinois Printing Company rebuilt the second and third stories in re-enforced concrete. When completed, the presses were moved from the basement to the upper floors.¹²

At least three previous fires occurred in the building before the disastrous fire of 1914. In 1882 the south corner grocery store (Doan & Wrisk) was damaged by a fire that was supposed to have been started by mice nibbling on matches; later, the north storefront had a fire that consumed binding twine in P.T. Baker's establishment and in 1912, the same storefront, now housing a restaurant, called out the fire department.¹³ However, it was the fire of Sunday, May 31, 1914 that caused extensive damage to the structure and resulted in the present building's construction.

The conflagration began around 4:00 pm and it took all the city's fire companies and eleven hose lines to get the blaze under control by 6:00 pm. It took three more hours and about a million gallons of water, however, before the fire was completely out; two firemen, Captain Miller and Pipeman Jenkins, were overcome by the gas and smoke and had to be lowered out a window from the second floor. While the cause of the fire was undetermined, it apparently began at the east end in the basement under the Illinois Printing Company and the Grand Union Tea Company (north storefront), spreading to the stock room of the printing company and then to the upper stories of the entire building.¹⁴ A number of businesses suffered losses in the fire besides the printing company (\$60,000) and the Grand Union Tea Company (\$5,500) including Baum & Son Druggists (\$2,500), John W. Webster insurance (\$200), Fidelity Building Association (\$200), and John W. Dale (\$14,000). Other tenants of the building were Union Dentists, the *Danville Record*, and Walter Wilson, typewriter supplies. Immediately after the fire, it was not known if the building would need to be demolished, but the owner John Dale, told the *Commercial News* that "he was of the opinion that it would not."¹⁵

Two months later, in August, the newspaper reported that Smith's florist shop would occupy the first floor of the building once extensive repairs had been made. Dale reported that an entire new front would be put on the building and a brick veneer added to the North Street elevation. The first floor

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was to be lowered to conform with the adjacent buildings and the level of the sidewalk. The basement was to be improved and the upper floors would be the "most modern and up-to-date in the city" when they were completed. Sheets and Ingersoll were in charge of building the structure; but no further information about this company has been found.¹⁶ The end of the year building report in the *Commercial News* included the construction of the Dale Building as part of the report, declaring it to be "an exceptionally handsome business structure, which adds very much, indeed, to the appearance of the North and Vermilion street square."¹⁷

Sanborn fire insurance maps confirm that the building was altered in 1914. The 1890, 1895, 1900 and 1909 maps show the Illinois Printing Company as the main tenant of the building. In 1909 the company had their presses in the basement, offices on the first floor, a stock room and sign painting department on the second floor, and composing occupied the third floor; the north storefront was used by a tea and coffee company and, in the rear/east one-story brick wing (formerly a coal house) were cobbler and barber shops. In 1914 the Sanborn Map labels the building, "damaged by fire, to be remodeled." Subsequently, the building was constructed along the lines of the original three-story building with two storefronts facing Vermilion Street, plus two storefronts along North Street (at the east end of the building), and the one-story rear wing/coal house next to the alley that is now gone. On the interior, the staircase to the upper stories was moved from between the Vermilion Street stores to the north end of the elevation and a light well was added along the north side.

The building has housed a number of different businesses in its storefronts and upper stories over the years. City Directories, in five year increments, list the following occupants; however, the list is not inclusive.

1915-1916

- 1: Smith & Sons; E E Laughlin
- 2: International Correspondence School
Browns Business College
Herbert Kraul, builder
various physicians
- 3: not listed

1921

- 1: Smiths Florist
Florence Shop
- 2: Brown Business College
Herbert Kraul, builder
various physicians, insurance agents
- 3: not listed

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1924-1925

- 1: Smiths Florist
Florence Shop
- 2: Browns Business College
Herbert Kraul, builder
various physicians, real estate agents, insurance agents
- 3: Browns Business College

1930

- 1: Smiths Florist
- 2: various physicians, dentists, real estate agents, an architect
- 3: Utterbacks Business College

1936

- 1: Smiths Florist
Hat Shop
- 2: various physicians, engineer, insurance agents
- 3: Utterbacks Business College

1941

- 1: Smiths Florist
Hat Shop
- 2: Chamber of Commerce, Credit Bureau, engineer, various
physicians
- 3: Danville Institute of Business

1951

- 1: Womens Clothing
- 2: Danville Plan Commission, Chamber of Commerce, Credit Bureau,
various physicians
- 3: Academy of Dance

1955

- 1: Womens Clothing
- 2: Danville Municipal Band, Chamber of Commerce, Credit Bureau,
physicians
- 3: Academy of Dance

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John W. Dale

The builder and long-time owner of the property was John W. Dale (1842-1933), a prominent Danville resident, active in both governmental and business affairs. He emigrated to Vermilion County with his parents around 1860 from Ohio and served in the Civil War, being severely wounded (his left arm was amputated) at the battle of Chickamauga. He spent the next two years furthering his education before being elected assessor and collector for Ross Township; an office he held for two or more terms. In the fall of 1869 Dale was elected Vermilion county clerk and served in that capacity for three consecutive terms for a total of thirteen years. Later, he served on the board of supervisors from 1905 to 1909, being one of the members elected on a business ticket to get the county out of debt. He was also chair of the board when the County Courthouse was built in 1911, serving for four years; he was again elected in 1919 and held office until 1931.¹⁸ He served as the commissioner of highways and was a member of the board of education; he was also a delegate to various Republican state conventions.¹⁹

After retiring from the clerk's office in 1882, Dale entered Danville's business sector and formed a partnership with Martin Hulce and J.C. Hull to advance the Danville Buggy Company. This partnership was dissolved after a number of years, and Dale joined with W.T. Cunningham in the purchase of 931 acres of land west of the city from the Consolidated Coal Company in 1892 for \$32,000. This land became the site of a later subdivision, Vermilion Heights, which Dale advanced. It was also the location of the Danville Brick Company and the Western Brick Company, both companies which Dale enticed to locate in Danville around 1900.²⁰ Dale was a partner with Joseph English and William Chandler in the building of the Vermilion Opera House (1873), which stood on the site of the Dale Building, and he served on the board of directors of the Danville Building and Savings Association, which was chartered in 1873.²¹ He was also president for 20 years of the Vermilion County Building Association.²²

Endnotes

1. Stephen C. Gordon, *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory* (Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Historic Preservation Office, 1992), 96.
2. Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles* (Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, rev. ed., 1992), 186.
3. Ibid.

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4. Gordon, 96; Whiffen, 183-184; and City of Milwaukee, *Good for Business, A Guide to Rehabilitating the Exteriors of Older Commercial Buildings* (Milwaukee, Wisconsin: City of Milwaukee, 1995), 18.
5. Whiffen, 186-188.
6. Ibid., 190; and Carl W. Condit, *The Chicago School of Architecture* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1964), 176,178.
7. "Outfit Ordered While Fire Burns," *Danville Commercial News*, 1 June 1914.
8. Lottie E. Jones, *History of Vermilion County, Illinois*, Vol. I (Chicago: Pioneer Publishing Co., 1911), 226.
9. "Enlarge Illinois Printing Building," *Danville Commercial News*, 16 October 1913; and 1 June 1914.
10. *Commercial News*, 1 June 1914.
11. Ibid.
12. *Commercial News*, 16 October 1913.
13. *Commercial News*, 1 June 1914.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. "Florists' Shop in New Quarters," *Danville Commercial News*, 7 August 1914.
17. "Danville a Builder," *Danville Commercial News*, 30 December 1914.
18. "John W. Dale, 90, Long Prominent in County, Dead," *Danville Commercial News*, 15 January 1933.
19. *The Past and Present of Vermilion County, Illinois*, (Chicago: F. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1903), 19.

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20. *Illinois and It's Builders* (np: Illinois Biographical Association, James O. Jones, Company, 1925), 337; and *The Weekly Press*, 6 April 1892.
21. Jones, 307.
22. *Commercial News*, 15 January 1933.

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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The South Half (S1/2) of all that part of Lot 7, Block 3 North, Range 1 East of the Public Square in Original Town, now City of Danville, laying South of Twenty (20) feet taken evenly off of the North side of said Lot 7, being otherwise known and described as Lot 2 in Dale and Webster's Subdivision of part of Lot 7, Block 3 North, Range 1 East of Public Square in the Original Town of Danville.

Boundary Justification

The nomination consists of the property historically associated with 101-103 North Vermilion Street, Danville, Illinois.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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FEB 4 2000

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 1/24/00 THROUGH 1/28/00

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

COLORADO, ALAMOSA COUNTY, Husung Hardware, 625 Main St., Alamosa, 00000003, LISTED, 1/28/00
COLORADO, EL PASO COUNTY, McGregor Hall, 930 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, 99001705, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Colorado College MPS)
COLORADO, EL PASO COUNTY, Ticknor Hall, 926 Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, 99001704, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Colorado College MPS)
COLORADO, LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, First Baptist Church, 809 San Pedro St., Trinidad, 00000005, LISTED, 1/28/00
FLORIDA, LAKE COUNTY, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Umatilla, 100 W. Guerrant St., Umatilla, 99001707, LISTED, 1/27/00
GEORGIA, RICHMOND COUNTY, United States Post Office and Courthouse, 500 E. Ford St., Augusta, 99001648, LISTED, 1/21/00
ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY, St. Matthey Evangelical Lutheran School, 2101-2107 W. 21st St., Chicago, 99001710, LISTED, 1/27/00
ILLINOIS, MADISON COUNTY, Hotel Stratford, 229 Market St., Alton, 99001709, LISTED, 1/27/00
ILLINOIS, VERMILION COUNTY, Dale Building, 101-1-3 N. Vermillion St., Danville, 99001711, LISTED, 1/27/00
LOUISIANA, JEFFERSON PARISH, Kerner House, 1012 Monroe St., Gretna, 00000008, LISTED, 1/28/00
LOUISIANA, RICHLAND PARISH, Delhi Municipal Baseball Park, Chicago and Louisiana Sts., Delhi, 00000007, LISTED, 1/28/00
MICHIGAN, CHIPPEWA COUNTY, Parker Road--Charlotte River Bridge, Parker Rd. over Charlotte River., Burce Township, 00000009, LISTED, 1/28/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)
MICHIGAN, LEELANAU COUNTY, Lake Leelanau Narrows Bridge, M-204 over Lake Leelanau Narrows, Leland Township, 99001732, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)
MICHIGAN, LENAWEE COUNTY, Van Wagoner, Murray D., Memorial Bridge, MI 156 over Silver Cr., Morenci, 99001731, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)
MICHIGAN, OAKLAND COUNTY, Derby Street--Grand Trunk Western Railroad Bridge, Derby St. over GTW Railroad, Birmingham, 99001730, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)
MICHIGAN, OAKLAND COUNTY, Gillespie Street--Clinton River Bridge, Gillespie St. over Clinton R., Pontiac, 99001729, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)
MICHIGAN, OAKLAND COUNTY, Trowbridge Road--Grand Trunk Western Railroad Bridge, Trowbridge Rd. over GTW Railroad, Bloomfield Hills, 00000010, LISTED, 1/28/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)
MICHIGAN, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, Indian Trail Road--Belle River Bridge, Indian Trail Rd. over Belle River, China Township, 00000012, LISTED, 1/28/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)
MICHIGAN, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, Jeddo Road--South Branch Mill Creek Drain Bridge, Jeddo Rd. over S. Branch Mill Creek Drain, Brookway Township, 00000013, LISTED, 1/28/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)
MICHIGAN, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, Masters Road--Belle River Bridge, Masters Rd. over Belle R., Riley Township, 99001728, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)
MICHIGAN, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, Vernier Street--Swan Creek Bridge, Vernier St. over Swan Cr., Ira Township, 00000011, LISTED, 1/28/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)
MICHIGAN, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, Wadhams Road--Pine River Bridge, Wadhams Rd. over Pine River, Saint Clair Township, 00000014, LISTED, 1/28/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)
NEW MEXICO, BERNALILLO COUNTY, Hendren Building, 3001 Monte Vista Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, 99001678, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Auto-oriented Commercial Development in Albuquerque, MPS)
NEW MEXICO, BERNALILLO COUNTY, Newlander Apartments, 616 Coal Ave., Albuquerque, 99001677, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Multi-unit Dwellings in Albuquerque, New Mexico MPS)
NORTH CAROLINA, ASHE COUNTY, Todd Historic District, Along Todd Railroad Grade Rd., Big Hill Rd., and Carter Miller Rd., Todd, 00000017, LISTED, 1/28/00
OHIO, BELMONT COUNTY, Zweig Building, 3396 Belmont St., Bellaire, 00000018, LISTED, 1/28/00
OREGON, BENTON COUNTY, Avery--Helm Historic District, Roughly bounded by SW 2nd, 6th, and Jefferson Sts. and OR 20/34 By-Pass, Corvallis, 99001716, LISTED, 1/27/00
OREGON, HOOD RIVER COUNTY, Butler Bank, 301 Oak Ave., Hood River, 99001713, LISTED, 1/27/00
OREGON, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, Emerson Apartments, 5310 n. Williams Ave., Portland, 99001714, LISTED, 1/27/00
OREGON, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, Gresham Carnegie Library, 410 N. Main St., Gresham, 99001715, LISTED, 1/24/00
SOUTH CAROLINA, SPARTANBURG COUNTY, Spartanburg Historic District (Boundary Increase), 100 Blk. of E. Main St., Spartanburg, 00000019, LISTED, 1/28/00
SOUTH DAKOTA, CLAY COUNTY, South Dakota Department of Transportation Bridge No. 14-060-032, Local Rd. over Spring Creek, Wakonda vicinity, 00000020, LISTED, 1/28/00 (Historic Bridges in South Dakota MPS)