

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):	_____	_____

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	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	objects
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Total

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

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

Name of Property Henry Clay Moss House

County and State Edgar, Illinois

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC – Single family dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE - Museum

OTHER – Artifact Storage and Archives Repository

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian - Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Brick

Roof Asphalt

Walls Brick

other Limestone, Wood and Concrete

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

See Continuation Sheets

Name of Property Henry Clay Moss House

County and State Edgar, Illinois

8. Statement of Significance

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

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

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1876-1957

Significant Dates 1876

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Unknown

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

See Continuation Sheets

Name of Property Henry Clay Moss House

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository - Edgar County Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
16	440350E	4385077N	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

Name of Property Henry Clay Moss House

County and State Edgar, Illinois

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen A. Thompson, President

organization Intrepid Consulting Services, Inc.

date 31 August 2007

street & number 1120 Broadway Avenue

telephone 217/234-6004

city or town Mattoon state Illinois

zip code 61938-4123

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Edgar County Historical Society

street & number 414 North Main Street

telephone 217/463-5305

city or town Paris state Illinois

zip code 61944

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

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

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HENRY CLAY MOSS HOUSE DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Henry Clay Moss House (Moss House) is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of North Main Street and East Roberts Street in Paris, Illinois. This 44'w x 57'd x 40'h, four-level, single-family residence was constructed in 1876 in a then newly developing residential, commercial and industrial area to the northeast of the Paris town square.

The Moss House exterior is executed in the Italianate style. The interior floor plan/ finishes reinforces the Victorian Italianate theme. Defining exterior style elements include a simple hipped roof, a bracketed cornice/eave line, a projecting two-story bay, segmental arch window crowns and a wrap-around single story porch. Interior Italianate features include a cantilevered staircase, a dual-arched wall subdividing the parlor and ornate oak door/window surrounds and baseboard trim.

The Moss House retains a high percentage of its original physical integrity and is an excellent example of a late 19th Century single-family residence integrating home office space.

SITE

The Moss House site exhibits the sense of a 19th Century family residence in a commercial/industrial/residential transition zone. Areas to the west and north of the site are residential in nature, exhibiting a variety of mid to late 19th Century and early 20th Century styles. Other styles present include, Queen Anne, Italianate, Gothic Revival and Italian Renaissance Revival. Areas to the east and south of the site are dominated by 20th Century commercial/industrial resources due in part to the proximity of the Moss House site to the former Big Four rail line, the Illinois Route 1 corridor, the central Paris commercial district and the county/municipal governmental district.

The 270'x100' Moss House site has a typical boulevard-to-alley pattern of depth and encompasses two City of Paris out lots, #62 & #63. The site is landscaped with a variety of deciduous/coniferous trees and plantings.

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The Moss House is the dominant feature of the site, is centered on lot #62 and is set back approximately 50' from the right-of-way of North Main Street. The perimeter of the house contains common aesthetic, circulation, mechanical and leisure features associated with a site of this character. These features include a steel flagpole, concrete walkways/driveway, a concrete water pump/cistern structure, concrete benches, a flower garden, a time capsule marker and a wrought iron fence. A wooden grape arbor is directly to the rear of the house along a pathway leading to a concrete parking pad marking the site of a garage built prior to the 1930s and removed in the 1970s.¹

The rear of the property, lot #63, is landscaped in a similar fashion as lot #62, is surrounded by a wire fence on the north and a split-rail wooden fence on the east. Lot #63 contains two log buildings, one log structure and a wood frame outhouse with origins in rural Edgar and Crawford County areas. These buildings/structures have been salvaged and reconstructed on site in the post-1976 era by the Edgar County Historical Society for use in conjunction with Society folk-life interpretative programs. Adequate planning for these reconstructions included placement within the existing landscaping and addition of appropriate organic plantings in an effort to minimize disruption of the sense of place of the Moss House.

EXTERIOR

The exterior design of the Moss House reveals not only the Italianate style, but also the satellite business function for which the building was intended. The north (East Roberts Street) elevation exhibits the principal deviation from a basic Italianate rectangular plan by the incorporation of a projecting, two-story bay. 1st level bay space integrates a separate exterior entrance with a dominating wood/sheet metal canopy. These features, combined with extant interior elements, indicate that the building was intended for business enterprises in addition to its primary use as a residential property. Additionally, the one story kitchen projection on the east elevation gives a sense of intent to separate domestic work spaces from the formal living/business spaces defined by the principal perimeter of the building.

The Moss House possesses three types of roofs; cross-hipped, asphalt-covered over the main house, simple-hipped, asphalt-covered over the kitchen and a low-sloped, half-gabled, asphalt-covered structure over the first level porch. The exterior walls transition to the roof through the use of a cornice integrating wooden rectangular panels, side-by-

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side, fixed, wooden, attic windows and scrolled wooden brackets linking the cornice to the exaggerated eaves. All wooden cornice/eave elements are painted white. The only extant chimney projecting above the roofline is present on the east elevation. Two aluminum, attic ventilation louvers exist in the cross-hips. Contemporary, white, aluminum guttering is present on the house and porch roof perimeters. Evidence of an earlier tin, built-in drainage system is evident in the eaves of the porch.

The first level porch wraps portions of the west and south elevations. The porch consists of a brick foundation, concrete flooring, brick balustrade with concrete caps, wooden Tuscan columns, tongue and groove ceiling/fascia and wooden roof structure. All wooden elements are painted white. Porch lighting fixtures are present in the west elevation porch ceiling and on the south elevation wall just below the porch ceiling.

The foundation, exterior walls and extant chimney of the building are constructed of red brick laid principally in a running bond two stretchers in width. Selective demolition and examination of the foundation and exterior walls/roof structure juncture at the attic-level showed no indication of the exterior walls being a cavity type. The foundation is reinforced at the 1st level by a running limestone watercourse. The kitchen addition exhibits common bond, with header rows present at row seven, thirteen and again at row seven. The limestone water course is not present on the exterior kitchen walls. All mortar joints are flush to the cited masonry elements.

The fenestration pattern of the exterior walls is typical of the Italianate style, with vertical in-line and symmetrical, horizontally spaced openings. Seven foot, 4 over 4 wooden sash windows with limestone surrounds, sills and segmental arch crowns are typical. Window crowns contain a carved diamond design centered in the routed arch of the crown and a carved X in the base of the crown on both sides of the window openings. Most windows of the house have applied aluminum storm/screen units. Door openings also incorporate limestone surrounds and crowns. Exterior doors are oak paneled with glazing present in the upper section. Most exterior door openings contain modern aluminum storm units. All door and window surround elements are painted white. Door and window hardware date from the period of significance and feature porcelain knobs, skeletal deadbolt locks and winged-window lock levers.

The Moss House site is bordered on the north and west by city thoroughfares and on the east by an alley. The Edgar County Historical Society Annex Building is adjacent to the

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Moss House site to the south. The streetscape directly adjacent to the west elevation of the Moss House contains a concrete sidewalk and grass boulevard. A grass boulevard exists on the north side of the site. The streetscape setting throughout the Moss House's period of significance, 1876-1957, was residential with multi-story domestic dwellings and lining both sides of the North Main Street to the north of the site. To the south on North Main Street, a mix of residential/commercial buildings lined both sides North Main Street between the Moss House site and the former Big Four railroad right-of-way. The extant streetscape remains consistent with the Moss House period of significance.

WEST ELEVATION

The primary, west elevation, is subdivided into two bays. The southern bay is a flat design with a setback on the south end. The northern bay is a projecting, ½ hexagonal design. Bays are consistent in form from grade to attic level.

At the first level, the wrap around porch extends from a point adjacent to the formal entrance on the north side of the bay, 36' to the south and then runs 36' to the east along the south elevation. The concrete porch floor is level with the exterior limestone water course. The brick porch balustrade is laid primarily in a running bond. A single layer of stretchers in a Flemish bond, minus the headers, extends from the floor to a header row two rows below the concrete baluster cap through much of the baluster line. A concrete, single riser porch access stair with wrought iron railings is centered on the west façade.

Exterior door openings on the west elevation of the southern bay are identical with limestone surrounds and thresholds. The door openings are topped by segmental arch, limestone transom openings and crowns. Transoms are fixed and filled with translucent glazing with black, wooden surrounds. Carved limestone elements incorporating the design of a ½ heart and a diamond extend perpendicularly from the base of the crowns approximately half the distance down the transom surrounds. The northern exterior door contains two bulls eye and two modified rectangular panel designs below upper glazing. The northern door also contains a mechanical bell ringer centered below the glazing surround and a modern deadbolt lock. The southern exterior door exhibits two rectangular panel patterns below upper glazing.

The three 1st level and three 2nd level window openings and windows are as typically described in the general exterior section, as are the cornice/eave elements. A white,

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aluminum downspout linking to the porch guttering system is present at the northern limit of the 2nd level. A downspout leading from the porch guttering system to grade level is present on the porch structure where the north and west elevations are joined.

The setback, northern bay integrates exterior entrance opening at the 1st level and a ½ hexagonal projecting structure from grade to attic level. The northern bay possesses typical cornice/eave elements, the 1st level limestone watercourse and typical windows.

The entrance is accessed by a concrete sidewalk around the perimeter of the west and north elevations. Grade-level structural signatures in the yard perpendicular to East Roberts Street indicate walkway stones leading to the perimeter sidewalk which accesses this entrance. The door opening is accessed by one limestone slab riser. The opening surround is limestone, contains a typical exterior transom, but the segmental arch crown differs from typical exterior door crowns in that the crown recesses to the upper transom and that it incorporates limestone scrollwork centered above the arch. The subject opening also is covered by an ornate tin/wood canopy with a quasi-mansard roof covered by red-painted tin covering. Metalwork on this feature exhibits detailed scrolling, finials, bulls eyes and anti-bird cresting around the canopy roof perimeter. The wood door is typical with two rectangular panels below the glazing surround. A window is above the door opening at the 2nd level.

The ½ hexagonal projection extends approximately 5' north from the point it joins with the rectangular entrance structure. This bay projection contains three typical windows at the both the 1st and 2nd levels. These windows are centered in each hexagonal face. A wood frame window containing four divided lights and a wood framed screen exists at grade level on the northern face of the projection below the limestone watercourse. A gas meter has been installed below the limestone water course on the northeast hex projection.

NORTH ELEVATION

The north elevation of the Moss House is subdivided into two principal bays. The three level western bay is linked to the western elevation's 1st level porch and contains the primary living spaces of the house. The eastern bay is a one story kitchen/cooling porch attached to the east elevation.

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The exterior wall, window and roof joint features of the north elevation are as previously described. An iron, crawlspace vent is present at grade level just east of the bay/porch junction. The projecting bay entrance canopy is a dominating feature on the 1st level of this façade. In the recess to the east of the projecting bay is an aluminum downspout extending from roof level to grade level.

Setback approximately 16' from the projecting bay is an exterior entrance leading to the interior dining room. The surround and crown for this opening is inconsistent with other previously described exterior door openings. This opening incorporates a typical transom feature, but the crown is typical of the window openings. The exterior door is a typical wooden glazing above panels. No storm/screen door is present. The opening is currently infilled with plywood, painted to match the red brick of the exterior walls. One concrete riser ascends to the entrance threshold. Above the entrance is a ½ gabled canopy constructed of wood. The canopy is covered with black asphalt shingles, has mini-brackets at the cornice/eave line and incorporates a half-timbered support brace. The canopy fascia exhibits a carved circular pattern. The support brace and the fascia also contain carved wooden finials. At the 2nd level above the door is the outline of a typical window that has been infilled with red brick, a by-product of the 2nd level bathroom modification.

The eastern bay of the north elevation is fronted by the kitchen cooling porch, which is approximately 3' short of extending the entire length of the kitchen bay. The cooling porch is tied to the original exterior of the eastern and western bays of the north elevation. This feature has a concrete block foundation, is of wood stud construction, is covered with wood fiber siding painted red to match the brick walls and has a low sloped ½ gabled roof covered with black asphalt shingles. The cooling porch contains one modern, aluminum sash window and an aluminum gutter/downspout drainage system.

The kitchen bay contains a simple-hipped roof covered in black asphalt shingles. Typical aluminum guttering and downspouts drain this roof. The wooden cornice/eaves features of the kitchen bay are not as elaborate or pronounced as the upper level cornice/eave line.

EAST ELEVATION

The east elevation of the Moss House exhibits minor asymmetrical form distinctions of the house and is divided into two bays. The northern bay extends from grade to roof

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level and encompasses the projecting structure on the north elevation. The southern bay includes contains principal interior living spaces from grade to roof level and has the one-story kitchen attached perpendicularly to its east façade. Exterior wall, window opening and cornice/eave characteristics for this elevation are typical throughout.

The northern bay contains the grade to roof level bay projection attached to the north elevation which is joined to a north-south flat wall of approximately 16' in length, which joins the right angle structure created by the exterior dining room entrance. The dominant feature of this 16' wall is the parallel canopy over the dining room entry opening. An iron basement vent is centered just below the limestone watercourse along the 16' wall.

The southern bay is of 24' in length. The one-story kitchen is attached to this wall at the southern extremity. An electrical meter and power lines feeding the site are connected to the northern extremity of this bay at the 1st level. A cooling porch is attached to the kitchen on its northern façade. Exterior access to the kitchen is gained through a typical wooden panel/glazed door. The segmented limestone surround for this opening contains a blacked painted transom and has no crown. An organic signature on the brick wall above/adjacent to the upper door surround indicates there was a wooden canopy associated with this opening in the past. Concrete risers and landing with wrought iron railing access this opening.

On the northern side of the kitchen entry risers is basement access consisting of a concrete dwell and six concrete risers leading to a wooden door constructed of 1"x8" members. The basement entrance dwell is accessed by a low sloped wooden 1"x8" constructed door with tin covering. The cooling porch is adjacent to the kitchen on the north. It is accessed by concrete block risers through a wooden swing door with fixed transom above.

The upper portion of the southern bay contains two typical window openings and a chimney which cuts through the cornice/eave line at the roof level. The window on the south contains an exempt window air conditioning unit.

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SOUTH ELEVATION

The south elevation of the Moss House is divided into two bays, the east bay being the attached kitchen and the west bay being the principal interior living spaces of the house. The window openings and cornice/eave lines are typical, except for the previously identified kitchen cornice/eave. Aluminum downspouts are present on both the east and west bays.

The east bay kitchen brick wall exhibits the only deviation from the running bond typical throughout the remaining exterior walls of the house. The deviation takes the form of common bonding. There is no limestone watercourse associated with the kitchen addition. The single kitchen window is untypical in that it does not possess a crown. At grade level to the west of where the kitchen risers join the bay, there exists a half-circular concrete window well. Mounted within the foundation inside this well is a steel-framed, dual-light, hopper window. Further west along this wall, there exists a modern electrical receptacle box/aluminum wire conduit and an exterior plumbing (hose) connection.

The prevailing feature of the western bay is the 1st level wrap around porch, possessing features previously addressed. Access to the porch is gained by a concrete sidewalk from a concrete driveway on the southern perimeter of the site. This walkway bisects two concrete benches and leads to a single concrete riser with wrought iron railing. A wooden ADA ramp spans the west portion of this porch opening. An air conditioner compressor unit exists at grade level east of the eastern porch terminus, as well as a concrete base for a no longer extant television antenna.

The western bay of the south elevation contains four typical window openings/windows, two at the 1st level and two at the 2nd level. The westernmost window on the 2nd level contains an obsolete, window air conditioning unit.

INTERIOR

The interior of the Moss House retains a high percentage of its plan, finishes and materials related to its period of significance, 1876-1957. The only deviation from the original floor plan is the introduction of bathrooms prior to 1937 in the kitchen and in a bedroom on the 2nd level.² All interior wood floors, doors, windows, trim and above-grade staircases are original and were executed in oak and pine materials. Fabric

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treatments exist on interior window facing, as well as the interior of most exterior door glazing. Plaster, covered primarily with period print wall paper, is the principal wall finish. Plaster ceilings are painted white. Period gas/electric light fixtures, electrical receptacles, electrical switches and steam radiator piping/units are common throughout the house.

BASEMENT LEVEL

The basement of the Moss House extends east from the line of the above grade projecting bay under the projecting bay, dining room and kitchen. The area to the west of the projecting bay line is crawlspace. The basement is 8' in height, has a concrete floor with drains and brick foundation walls. A 3' high, 2' wide brick shelf projection is present on a majority of the basement walls. The ceiling is 1st level wood floor and flooring support system consisting of 2"x12" joists on 18" centers. Circular HVAC ductwork, electrical wiring and water/sewage/gas lines are present adjacent to the 2"x12" joists throughout the basement ceiling. Access to the basement is gained either by the outside entrance previously cited, or by a wooden stairwell with 9 risers abutting the south wall of the kitchen. Two iron framed windows are present in the basement at grade level. One above the interior stairwell in the southern wall and one in the area below the projecting bay on the northern wall.

The basement is subdivided into four spaces. The interior stairwell descends to a space of approximately 170 square feet (sf) directly under the kitchen. The stairwell landing walls are covered with wainscoting and flowered print wallpaper. A angled shelving projection is present at foot of the interior stairwell. The entire south wall and shelving projection in this space has been covered with shotcrete or a similar cement/mortar material. A 52 gallon *Fowler* hot water heater is present in the northwest corner, as are iron sewage lines along the north wall. A door opening with wooden surround, minus the door, is present adjacent to the shelving projecting on the west wall. This opening leads to the approximately 180 sf space located under the dining room.

The space under the dining room contains a 3' high shelving projection in its southern 1/3rd. A *Weil-McLain Ultra 80* 80K BTU heating unit and associated gas lines is centered on the on the floor. Openings on the west and north wall of this room lead to separate basement spaces. The opening to the north has the only door present in the

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basement, which is constructed of 1"x6's. To the west is a 72sf space containing the HVAC blower unit and crawl space access opening in the west wall.

The space under the projecting bay is approximately 100sf. Brick shelving wall in this room are angled at a 45 degree angle. A wooden work bench is located on the east wall. It appears from dark residue present on the walls and floor in the area of the grade-level fixed window, that this was once the position of an heating oil reservoir tank.

FIRST LEVEL

The first level of the Moss House exhibits the primary ingress/egress circulation features of the building and contains the principal formal domestic spaces and the kitchen. Although the construction craftsmanship remains consistent throughout this level, the kitchen was finished in a reduced design and materials quality mode. The first level also includes study/home office incorporating a separate exterior entrance. Ceilings are a consistent 11' height throughout this level. Flooring on this level is a high-grade 1"x2" oak covering.

Door/window surrounds and baseboard trim on this level are primarily light-stained oak. Door surrounds are rectangular and are topped by a two-light, hopper transom unit glazed with clear glass. Doors are principally 4-panel oak units. Window surrounds are also rectangular in form. Windows are wooden, 4 over 4, dual sash units. Door and window hardware are brass. Door hardware incorporates black/white porcelain knobs. Baseboards in the front hall, parlor and study/home office are 1"x6"s with 1"x6" crown molding and ¼ round at the junction with the floor.

Gilded or silver cast iron steam radiators/steam feed lines are present throughout the first level spaces. Contemporary, beige, aluminum, floor-mounted, HVAC vents are present in all first level spaces. Electrical receptacles/switches date to the period of significance and have brass covers. Switches are either push button or rotating with plastic housing.

The formal entrance off the west elevation porch leads to the 120sf foyer. The foremost feature of the foyer hall is the cantilevered staircase to the 2nd level along the north wall. The staircase is constructed of dark-stained walnut incorporating ornately turned balusters below a convex head rail with a stacked, pyramidal/circular/saucer newel post exhibiting elaborate recessed designs at the staircase base. The risers leading to the 2nd

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level landing are covered with gold carpet runner covering about $2/3^{\text{rds}}$ of the riser's face. Below the staircase is an alcove containing a steam radiator. Immediately to the south of the exterior entry is a door opening to the foyer. In the east wall, in line with the exterior entrance is a door opening leading to the study/home office. A gilded-iron, multi-globed electric light fixture is suspended from foyer ceiling.

The 270sf study/home office exists in the projecting northern bay of the house. This room possesses interior door openings to the foyer, rear parlor and dining room, as well as an exterior entrance on the west side of the bay. Doors, windows, surrounds, baseboard trim and flooring are all typical. The interior door to the rear parlor has been removed. The walls are covered in vertical-patterned, beige wall paper to a height of 9.5', where there exists a crown molding. Above the crown molding, walls are painted white.

The east wall of the study/home office contains a built-in closet with overhead storage accesses by dual swing doors. The original panel door for this closet has been removed and the space has been modified with shelving/*Plexiglas* facing for use as a display area for museum artifacts. Also incorporated in the east wall is an exempt fireplace. The fireplace has a brick inner hearth, which is surrounded by a cast iron outer hearth. The outer hearth is veneered with white-speckled burgundy, ceramic tiles that extend approximately 2' outward into to the floor. The fireplace has an ornate wooden surround containing mirrors, shelving and carved scrollwork.

Centrally mounted in the ceiling of the study/home office is an combination gas/electric, four globe, suspended light fixture. A 3' diameter heat diffuser is mounted above the fixture on the ceiling. A contemporary HVAC thermostat is mounted on right side of the door opening leading to the dining room.

The approximately 450sf parlor is subdivided into front and rear sections by a dual-arch dividing wall. The rear parlor contains the lesser square footage of the two spaces. Access to the front parlor is gained through the door opening to the foyer and the arches of the parlor dividing wall. Access to the rear parlor is gained through a door opening to the study/home office and an oversized door opening leading to the dining room.

The parlor exhibits typical wooden door/window units, surrounds, baseboard trim and flooring. Centrally mounted in the ceiling of the front parlor is an combination

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gas/electric, four globe, suspended light fixture. A 3' diameter heat diffuser is mounted above the fixture on the ceiling. In the ceiling of the rear parlor, a suspended, one globe electric light fixture exists. The parlor walls are covered with beige print wallpaper.

The rear parlor exhibits a door opening and mechanical characteristics untypical with the remainder of the house. The 7' opening to the dining room contains dual 70"x42", seven panel, swing doors. Above the doors is a wood, six panel transom approximately 18" in height. The doors and transom are surrounded by 1"x6" rectangular trim. In the southeast corner of the rear parlor is a 40"x15" HVAC ventilation shaft covered in drywall and painted white. A white ventilation grille is mounted in the drywall at a point about 8' off the floor. Additionally, the rear parlor face of the central dividing wall projects approximately 6". The projection is constructed of plywood or fiberboard, covered with cited period wallpaper and has a telephone bell mounted just above the baseboard. The projection encases an exempt chimney structure.

The approximately 260sf dining room possesses two exterior means of egress, one in the southwest corner to the wrap-around porch and one in the north wall to the location of the historic well/cistern. Internal openings exist to the study/home office and kitchen. A narrow staircase enclosed by a oak 1" tongue and groove wall borders the south wall of this room. A coat/utility closet is located under the stair risers. The walls of the dining room are covered with tongue and groove wainscoting to a top rail at approximately 3' height off the floor. Above the wainscoting, the walls are covered with white wallpaper with a multi-colored floral pattern. The east wall integrates a projection in the upper reaches that is the original chimney exhaust for the kitchen.

The approximately 240sf kitchen exhibits a reduction in material and design investment in this space. Flooring is a rougher grade of oak, milled in 2.5" a width. Door and window surrounds are constructed of 1"x6" pine with inornate, pedimented crowns. Walls are covered with 1" tongue and groove wainscoting to a top rail approximately 3' off the floor. Floral print wall paper exists above the wainscoting to the ceiling, which is painted white. A single globe light fixture is centered on the ceiling. A chimney exhaust from the stove exists on the west wall. The south wall contains floor to ceiling cabinets with a zinc paper-covered, wooden counter top. All wood surfaces in the kitchen are painted white. Finishes on interior elements, such as enclosures and utility closets, are stained or varnished.

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One inch tongue and groove siding surrounds the bathroom and basement stairwell enclosures in the northeast and southeast corners of the room. The stairwell enclosure contains two recesses with doors, one for an built-in ironing board and the other a pantry. The bathroom contains only a commode. The stairwell door leads to a landing containing coat hooks above stained wainscoting.

The intense circulation/domestic work activity planned for this space is evident by the number of door openings present. One opening leads to the dining room. On the north wall another leads to the cooling porch. On the east wall, another opening leads to the back yard. On the south wall, another opening leads to the basement. Exterior and cooling porch doors are typical two panel with glazing in the upper section. The bathroom and basement stairwell doors are pine-panel units.

The enclosed 75sf cooling porch appears to be a post-construction addition. The south and west interior walls are original building exterior walls. The south wall contains a window opening that's features mimic the window opening on the kitchen's south exterior wall. The window opening features on the west wall are typical of the primary exterior window openings throughout the building.

The cooling porch walls are wood frame construction with 1"x2.5" tongue and groove ceiling members. Wood paneling cover the frame walls to a 8' height. A modern sash window is mounted on the north wall. A light fixture and electrical receptacle box are mounted on roof joists. The flooring from the brick kitchen wall to a few inches short of the exterior cooling porch wall is 3/4" plywood. The last few inches of the floor linking to the frame wall is older 1"x2.5" oak flooring. On the west brick wall is a non-original red brick chimney introduced prior to 1937.³ A wooden, 1"x6" constructed, exterior door with asymmetrical transom is present on the east wall.

SECOND LEVEL

The second level of the Moss House consists primarily of bedroom spaces. One of the bedroom spaces has been subdivided for the installation of a bathroom. The 2nd level floors, doors, windows, surrounds, baseboard trim, walls/wall coverings are typical with the first level, although the use of lower-grade materials/less ornate design is more prevalent on the 2nd level. Typical steam radiators/piping are present throughout the 2nd

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level spaces. Contemporary electrical lighting fixtures, conduit, receptacles and switch units are more dominant on the 2nd level.

The staircase from the 1st level foyer terminates at a principal circulation point for the 2nd level. Directly to the south is bedroom #1. To the east is a hallway leading to the remaining bedroom spaces. To the west is an approximately 60sf landing linking to the upper staircase accessing the attic. The upper staircase exhibits the same materials/construction characteristics as the lower staircase, minus the carpet runner. The oak flooring in this area is 1"x5" rough oak. The baseboard in this area is 1"x8" oak topped with a 3" crown and joined at the floor by ¼ round. This configuration is typical of the 2nd level oak baseboard treatments. The landing window surround is rectangular oak. A period electric light fixture with pull chain activator is mounted in the landing's ceiling.

Bedroom #1 consists of approximately 300sf of space and is located directly over the 1st level front parlor. A projecting closet is present in the northwest corner of the room. The closet door is an oak 5-panel with a 1"x6" surround. Flooring material is 1"x5" oak boards and baseboard trim is typical 2nd level oak. The door opening surround is rectangular oak with divided light transom above. The entry door is an oak 4-panel unit. The three windows surrounds are typical, rectangular oak. A suspended electric/gas light fixture with two globes is centered in the ceiling. Blue print wallpaper with a white floral print adorns the walls.

The hallway to the east of the staircase landing is accessed through a 4-panel oak door with typical surround. The hallway floor is of 1"x5" oak material. The baseboards are of typical oak materials. The three openings in the hallway access the remaining 2nd level bedrooms. The doors and surrounds leading to the bedrooms are typical oak. A period electric light fixture is mounted in the ceiling. Blue print wallpaper with a white floral print adorns the walls.

Bedroom #2 consists of approximately 140sf and is positioned directly over the 1st level rear parlor. Flooring is 1"x2" oak. Baseboards are typical oak. A projecting closet exist in the northeast corner of the room. The closet door is an oak 5-panel with a 1"x6" surround. The interior entry door and window surrounds in this room consist of 1"x6" oak. The crowns are pedimented. The walls are covered with floral print wallpaper. The west wall contains a projection from a covered historic chimney. A contemporary

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fluorescent light fixture is mounted on the ceiling. Raised electrical conduit runs from the fixture to a switch by the entry door.

Bedroom #3 consists of approximately 175sf and is located above the 1st level study/home office. Flooring is 1"x2" oak. Baseboards are typical oak with crown molding. Entry door and the four window surrounds in this room are typical rectangular oak. On the east wall executed in oak is a built in closet with overhead storage space accessed by dual swing doors. A projection next to the closet indicates a historic chimney behind the wall. A contemporary fluorescent light fixture is mounted on the ceiling. The wall switch for this fixture is a period push button type with a brass cover. The walls in this room are covered with wallpaper containing a gold, floral print.

Bedroom #4 is directly above the 1st level dining room and historically had 300sf of floor space. A post-original construction bathroom subdivision with approximately 60sf of floor space is present in the northeast corner of this bedroom. Floor material is 1"x5" oak. Baseboards are 1"x6" oak with ¼ round trim at the floor junction. The entry door and two window surrounds in this room are 1"x6" oak with pedimented crowns. An oak staircase accessing the dining room is on the south wall. The staircase is constructed of oak, has an 1"x6" constructed oak access door two curving risers above the dining room. The room wall in fronting the stairwell has oak wainscoting with a top rail to a height of 3'. Above the stairwell is a white shelving unit constructed of pine. To the east of the stairwell is a built-in closet with overhead storage accessed by dual swing doors. Plaster walls in this room are painted white. A contemporary fluorescent light fixture is mounted in the ceiling. A modern electrical circuit breaker box is mounted on the west wall adjacent to the hallway entrance.

The bathroom is a pre-1937 addition. The exterior walls are plywood. The 4-panel entry door and surround with pedimented crown are oak. On the west wall south of the entry door is the bath tub plumbing access panel with oak door and surround. The original 1"x5" oak floor is covered with brown carpeting. The baseboard is 1"x10" oak with ¼ round at the floor junction. All interior wood work is painted white. The bathroom incorporates white porcelain fixtures; a sink supported on chromed steel legs, a commode and a tub. Fixtures date to the pre-World War II era. The walls are covered with wallpaper with white prints. The ceiling is painted white. A period pull activated electric light fixture with translucent globe is centered in the ceiling.

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ATTIC LEVEL

The attic level of the Moss House is approximately 1,120sf of unfinished open space. Access to this space is gained through an oak door with oak surround at the top of the formal 2nd story staircase. Floors are rough-grade oak 1"X 6"s and are approximately 30" below the top of the exterior brick walls. The rough-grade, oak roof structure integrating 3"x6" rafters, 4"x4" support columns, 2"x4" bracing and 1"x12" covering is the most compelling feature of this space. A 2"x4", right angled, structural support feature tied to the exterior brick walls and the floor is present around the attic perimeter. Three period, unglazed, reddish-orange, brick chimneys removed to just below the rafter line are evident in this space. Two are located on the south wall and the third is located in the center of the attic space. One incandescent light provides lighting for this space. The fixture is a basic light bulb receptacle suspended from a common rafter by its wiring.

CURRENT PROPERTY CONDITION/INTEGRITY

The Moss House has been very well maintained and is good physical condition. Past projects to repair or modify the original building have been rehabilitative in nature and have been undertaken in a generally sympathetic approach to original design plan and materials.

Modifications to the original building include; removal of three original chimneys to below the extant roofline, addition of 1st and 2nd level bathrooms, Introduction of the 1st level wraparound porch, addition and later enclosure of the cooling porch and infill of 2nd level, north elevation window as part of the bathroom project.

Overall, the Moss House has retained a high degree of its original form, structural/architectural design attributes and materials integrity. It conveys its original architectural design through the exhibition of its exterior Italianate architectural style. The site/building also conveys a sense of a late-19th Century single-family residence, in that it retains a high percentage of original primary spaces, finishes and features.

¹ Joe Sanders, interview by Stephen A. Thompson, Paris, Illinois, 09 August 2007.

² Ada Gertrude Varner and Mary Lou Wright, interview by Stephen A. Thompson, Paris, Illinois, 14 August 2007.

³ Ibid.

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HENRY CLAY MOSS HOUSE HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

SUMMARY

The Henry Clay Moss House (Moss House) is locally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion C.

The Moss House meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion C for Architecture, as it is a well-preserved example of an 1876 multi-level, single-family residence executed in the Italianate architectural style. Exterior Italianate style elements/materials incorporated in the building include simple-hipped roof structure, brick walls with symmetric fenestration, limestone door/window surrounds with decorative crowns and 4 over 4 wooden, sash windows. The interior décor expresses Italianate style characteristics through the integration of a projecting bay, a dual-arched subdividing wall, a cantilevered formal staircase, high-grade oak window/door surrounds and trim and period brass gas/electric light fixtures

The Moss House presently functions as a house museum and administrative storage for the Edgar County (Illinois) Historical Society. The Moss House retains a high percentage of its original exterior/interior physical integrity in design and materials.

PARIS, ILLINOIS

ESTABLISHMENT & DEVELOPMENT

The City of Paris is located in Edgar County 170 miles south of Chicago and 90 miles west of Indianapolis, Indiana on the level topography of east central Illinois.

The terrain in which Paris is located was Kickapoo Indian hunting ground prior to the arrival of Anglo settlers in the area. General William Henry Harrison had treated for this land just prior to the War of 1812, during the State of Illinois territorial era. During this period, an Indian trace between Vincennes and Chicago, the predecessor to Illinois Route 1, was laid out by pioneer Guerdon Hubbard as a rudimentary road.¹ This road played an instrumental role in the Anglo inhabitation of the Paris area as immigrants from Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia were drawn to northward to Edgar County as part of the Upland South migration associated with the settlement of the Northwest Territories.

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The initial Anglo settlement of the City of Paris occurred in the early 1820s. In January of 1823, Samuel Vance purchased approximately 165 acres near the center of the newly designated Edgar County. Edgar County had previously been the northern environs of Crawford County. Vance donated 26 of these acres for the establishment of Paris and the Edgar County seat. The original plat of the city was surveyed and laid out by Amos Williams. The recorded plat of a public square, 64 lots and four principal thoroughfares was registered with the Edgar County Clerk's Office in May of 1823.²

In 1837, approximately 200 permanent residents inhabited Paris. By 1849, the population of the community/surrounding area had grown to approximately 5,000. The community, historically under the governance of the Edgar County Commissioner's Court, voted for city incorporation in June of 1849. Newly elected/appointed corporation officials quickly addressed the fiscal/physical needs of the community by enacting municipal tax, health, building code, gaming and livestock care legislation. During the 1850s, the municipal government emphasized public works projects such as permanent sidewalk construction, adequate water supply, sanitation implementation/enforcement, public square lighting and projects associated with the arrival of rail transportation in the community.³

In 1869, Paris became a city with a charter providing for a Mayor and Council. Four city wards were established with councilmen to represent the wards in which they lived. At the same time, the Paris School District was given its charter. The first real estate/personal property assessments and taxes were recorded/levied in 1870. In 1872, seven city streets were formally designated and by 1874, a macadamizing project was initiated. By 1882, the City of Paris had a population of 5,000 served by 150 businesses and six rail lines. In 1886 electric service was made available to the community.⁴

Live, grand scale thespian and musical entertainment in Paris became a reality with the opening of the Shoaff Opera House on West Court Street in 1890. L.A.G. Shoaff was an early developer of Paris as an agricultural and industrial community. Prior to opening the opera house, Shoaff had operated an amusement hall on the third floor of a building at the intersection of Court Street and Central Avenue since the mid-1870s. In addition to professional entertainment, the Shoaff's Opera House hosted Paris High School plays and graduation ceremonies, and served as a meeting hall for community organizations. The opera house operated until 1927, when Shoaff retired. The building later served as a garage and a jacket factory.⁵

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Residential resource expansion in the community was assisted through the establishment of local mortgage lenders during the turn of the century era. In 1887, the Edgar County Building and Loan Association opened for business. This enterprise was followed by competing lending organizations, the National Building & Loan in 1893 and the Home Building & Loan in 1903.⁶

In 1896, the water supply for the city was enhanced by the construction of a concrete dam and reservoir, Reservoir Park and Lake/Twin Lakes Park, on its northern periphery. In 1897, electric street lights were installed throughout the city. In 1904, the Paris Carnegie Library was opened to the public. An interurban transportation system was put in operation between Paris and Terre Haute, Indiana in 1908. In 1915, the city of approximately 8,000 inhabitants voted by a 2 to 1 majority to change the municipal governing body from the council to commission form. Women's suffrage played a significant role in this referendum as the female vote was almost unanimous for change.⁷

The agrarian, commercial, industrial, transportation and governmental economic influences on the late 19th - early 20th Century development of the City of Paris is evident in the types of businesses and associated construction radiating from the original public square. Post-Civil War streetscape images of the public square and adjacent/perpendicular street right-of-ways indicate a business district dominated by one and two-story frame constructed buildings with many vacant, adjoining lots. The commercial buildings from this period represent livery, firearms, hay/grain dealers and general dry goods enterprises with a interspersing of private residences. By 1900, the character of this area had changed dramatically with the introduction of a massive masonry courthouse, constructed in 1892, and multi-story, masonry, street-level commercial/office buildings, many containing professional service businesses and residential units in the upper levels.⁸

In 1889, Oscar Merkle proposed to construct buildings along the Terre Haute & Paris rail line northeast of the square for a broom making factory. By 1905, the resultant two-story, masonry Merkle Broom Company building was promoted to be the largest broom factory in the country. The Merkle Broom Company employed over two hundred local men and women until closing its doors in 1964.⁹

Other industrial properties introduced during the post-Civil War and early 20th Century period include; the Munsell Mills, the Kidder Corn Milling Plant, the Goding Shoe

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Company and McGuire-Cummings Car & Coach Manufacturing Company.¹⁰ During the post-World War II era, Paris industrial development shifted to an industrial park in close proximity to rail lines and state highways on the west perimeter of the town. Industries and governmental complexes that populated this industrial park included; Illinois Cereal Mills, now ADM, Zenith Manufacturing and the Illinois Department of Transportation District #5 Regional Headquarters.¹¹

Early 20th Century leisure activity property development in Paris is evidenced by the establishment of Sylvain (1921), Sunset (1942) and Sunrise (1944) Parks. In 1907, a motion picture house was opened on North Main Street. In 1922, the Lincoln Theater began operating on the west side of the square.¹²

A Paris native who became a personality of note in the mid-20th Century motion picture industry was Carl "Alfalfa" Switzer (1927-1959). Switzer and his brother Harold were recognized in Paris as being talented singers and musical performers. When Carl was seven, the Switzers traveled to California to audition for the *Our Gang/Little Rascals* cast. The Switzer brothers were cast in the series by producer Hal Roach, with Carl assuming the featured role of Alfalfa. After leaving the *Our Gang* series in 1940, Carl Switzer played minor roles in movies such as *Going My Way* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. When not acting, Switzer bred hunting dogs and was a respected hunting guide. Switzer was shot and killed in 1959 in Mission Hills, California during an altercation over a \$50 debt.¹³

Residential expansion within the City of Paris has, like commercial and industrial development, generally radiated outward from the public square. A few extant residences within the current city limits pre-date the principal period of city growth in the late 19th Century. These residences are associated with the initial agrarian operations in the area and support facilities for travelers using the Chicago - Vincennes Road.

Paris residential properties exhibit a multitude of 19th and 20th Century architectural styles including; Italianate, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Tudor, Italian Renaissance Revival and Prairie examples. Many of these examples are executed in high style denoting the prosperity of the inhabitants of the community during this period.

Paris in 2007 is a community of 9,000 inhabitants supported by regional agricultural operations, governmental service organizations and light industry. Paris remains a

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transportation hub, being the intersection of four major state highways and retaining an active rail freight line. In the late 20th Century, principal consumer retailers constructed business facilities along the Illinois Route 16 corridor in the southeastern portion of the city, somewhat diminishing the long-standing, vibrant, commercial character of the Paris Public Square. Residential development in the late 20th Century shifted to the southeastern perimeter of town, in the form of modern subdivisions along the Lower Terre Haute and Vermillion Roads.

HENRY CLAY MOSS HOUSE

The Moss House is located at 414 North Main Street in Paris, Illinois on the southeast corner of the intersection of North Main and East Roberts Streets. The site, now city out lots 62 and 63, is just north of the original city out lots platted in 1823. Prior to the construction of the Moss House, a brick livery stable and associated frame buildings existed on the site.¹⁴

Edgar County Clerk documents imply this site was fully transferred to Henry Clay Moss, on 14 August 1876 by John and Angeline Taylor.¹⁵ Moss and wife Isabel transferred the site to livery operators Amos Jackson and Robert B. Hennasy on 12 March 1877.¹⁶ Hennasy and wife Ada transferred the rear part of the property, extant lot 63 to Amos Jackson later in 1877.¹⁷ An Abstract of Title for the property generated as part of Daniel Arthur's probate process in 1919 contradicts the Edgar County records.

The Title Abstract indicates that the property changed ownership no less than 15 times between 1840 and 1877. Owners such as Henry Clay Moss and John Moss held title to the property several times during this era. During 1876, Henry Clay Moss had a Bill for Lien filled against the property by local suppliers of building materials, i.e. limestone, lumber and brick, associated with the house he was having constructed on the site. In January of 1877, the "premises", now including an Italianate House, were sold by an unidentified Master of Chancery to local attorney George Dole acting as Trustee for creditors holding a lien against the property. Dole's charge was to "...manage and dispose of said property." It is unknown whether Dole and his family immediately occupied the residence, but in April of 1882 the property was transferred by Master of Chancery John Dyas to Anna E. Dole, George's wife.¹⁸

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Anna E. Dole transferred lot 63 in 1890 and lot 62 in 1893 to local public works executive Zara E. Powell.¹⁹ Zara Powell and wife C. Belle transferred the property to Daniel Arthur in September of 1895.²⁰ The property remained in the ownership of the Arthur family until 1976, when it was transferred to the current owner, the Edgar County Historical Society, upon the death of Daniel Arthur's daughter, Lena.²¹

The Moss House was constructed during 1876 for Henry Clay Moss, a local grocer and livery operator. Moss was born in Kentucky in 1844, moving to Edgar County as a child. Moss decided to construct a family residence on Lot 62 during his final ownership of the property and defaulted on credit issued for building supplies associated with construction of the house. The property was seized by the Edgar County Circuit Court in 1877. By 1881, Moss and his family had moved to Chrisman in northern Edgar County, where he became a politician and was elected to various public offices, serving as the Mayor of Chrisman when it was upgraded from a Village to a City in 1900.²²

George Dole, a Rockville, Indiana native, immigrated to Paris at the age of 18 in 1852. He taught school in Paris until securing sufficient means to attend Washington College in Washington, Pennsylvania from which he graduated in 1861. Dole served in the 3rd Indiana Infantry Regiment during the Civil War and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel prior to his discharge in June of 1865. Dole was united in marriage with Anna Elizabeth Osborn in Greencastle, Indiana in March of 1864. After the war, Colonel Dole returned to Paris, was admitted to the bar and in 1866 formed a legal partnership with Colonel H. Van Sellar.²³ Although George Dole's legal practice may have been his principal source of income, both he and his wife Anna held the deeds to numerous properties in Paris and the surrounding townships during the closing decades of the 19th Century.²⁴

After Colonel Dole's death in 1888, Anna Dole sold the lots comprising the Moss House property to Zara E. Powell in 1890 and 1893. Powell was Paris native born in 1844. He served an apprentice in a print shop before becoming a station agent for the Illinois & St. Louis Railroad Company. After a short tenure with the Illinois & St. Louis Railroad Company, Powell contracted his services to this line and other rail enterprises in the Paris area before moving on to become the Secretary/Treasurer Gaslight & Coke Company.²⁵ Powell owned the property briefly, transferring it to Daniel Arthur in 1895.

Daniel Arthur was born in 1848 in Springfield, Ohio and moved with his parents to a farm north of Paris in 1854. Arthur developed a prowess for livestock breeding and with

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the arrival of the railroads in Paris expanded the family farm business into a successful feed lot and shipping enterprise. Upon the passing of his first wife Mary in 1879, Daniel married Charity Morris in 1881. Arthur had seven children, with youngest daughter Lena being born in 1888.²⁶

Arthur purchased the property in 1895 for use as a town home during the winter months and as a base for his children during the school year. After his death in 1919, his wife Charity made the residence the Arthur family's permanent home. After Charity died in 1934, ownership of the house was passed to youngest daughter Lena.²⁷

Lena Arthur was a local school teacher who never married. She was active golf enthusiast at the Paris Country Club and Civil Defense Driver during World War II.²⁸ Lena Arthur willed the site of the Moss House to the Edgar County Historical Society, which assumed stewardship of the property in 1976.

Since 1976, the Edgar County Historical Society retained the residence as a 19th Century house museum, displaying many Arthur family and Edgar County artifacts in the 1st level display area. Basement, 2nd and attic level spaces are used as archive and artifact storage areas. The Society has developed part of the rear lot, 63, into a folk-life interpretative area, by introducing Edgar and Crawford County log structures and frame buildings otherwise threatened with demolition. The Society also purchased an adjoining lot, 408 North Main Street, and constructed the Society annex containing a genealogical research library, as well as meeting and artifact display/storage space.

HENRY CLAY MOSS HOUSE ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

The Moss House exhibits the features of mid-19th Century, residential Italianate style. Hipped-roofs, bracketed cornice/eave line, red brick walls with in-line vertical/symmetrical horizontal fenestration, window/door crowns and a projecting bay are the dominant exterior features. The interior of the residence continues the Italianate theme in plan and elements such as an arched-opening dividing wall and ornate wood surround and trim.

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Italianate Style

The Italianate architectural style was one of the dominant residential designs in the United States between 1850 and 1880. The style was predominant in the Midwest and the Northeast and least common in the South where new construction was stymied by the political/economic factors of the Civil War Reconstruction process and the nationwide economic depression of the early 1870s.²⁹

The Italianate style features frame or masonry construction, low-sloped hipped roofs with decorative cornice/eave elements at the roof wall junctures. Elaborate carved wood or limestone crowns above doors and windows are common, as are exterior door entrance canopies and porches. Plan footprints are most commonly rectangular with asymmetrical projections. Front and side-gabled versions are widespread. More elaborate designs are extremely asymmetrical in plan, some incorporating towers and roof monitors.³⁰

The Italianate style had its origins in early 19th Century England as part of the Picturesque movement, a reaction to the classical ideals in art and architecture that been fashionable for almost 200 years. The movement emphasized informal rural Italian farmhouses as opposed to the classical Italian architecture prevalent during the eras of the Renaissance or ancient Rome.³¹

The first Italianate residences were built in the U.S. in the late 1830s and were popularized by the pattern books marketed by Andrew Jackson Downing in the 1840s and 1850s. The popularity of the Italianate style began to decline in the post-Civil War era, driven somewhat by the financial panic of 1873 and the subsequent depression. By the time prosperity returned, newly introduced designs, particularly the Queen Anne style, assumed dominance in the residential market.³²

COMPARISON OF THE HENRY CLAY MOSS HOUSE TO OTHER PARIS,
ILLINOIS ITALIANATE RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE

On 09 August 2007, an exterior reconnaissance survey of other period Italianate single-family residences in the Paris neighborhoods adjacent to the Moss House was undertaken. The survey was intended to assess the distribution of the Italianate style in the general proximity of the Moss House and to scale primarily the historic exterior integrity of the Moss House in comparison to the surveyed properties. Abbreviated

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assessments of the Italianate examples originally constructed as single-family residences are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 411 North Main Street | - frame construction; porch modifications including concrete block foundation replacing brick and removal of upper porch balustrade. Sub-divided into multi-unit building. |
| 521 North Main Street | - brick construction; post-construction porch with deviations from Italianate style. Original chimneys removed at roofline. Rear addition hipped roof replaced with steep-sloped, gable example. |
| 316 North Central Street | - brick construction; attic level raised, cornice/eave details removed. Sub-divided into to multi-unit building. |
| 505 North Central Street | - brick, front-gable construction; cornice/eave details removed. Sub-divided into to multi-unit building. |
| 515 North Central Street | - brick construction; vinyl siding, door infill and cornice/eave line details removed. |
| 219 West Chestnut Street | - brick construction, side gabled. |
| 304 West Chestnut Street | - frame construction; original chimneys removed, brick foundation parged with concrete. |
| 209 West Sherriff Street | - brick construction; frame addition cornice/eave brackets replaced. |
| 417 West Prairie Street | - frame, side-gabled construction; not to scale frame additions. |

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- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 418 West Prairie Street | - brick construction; sided with wood clapboard, many of the original windows covered over, cornice/eave line detailing removed. Sub-divided into to multi-unit building. |
| 426 West Prairie Street | - frame construction. Sub-divided into to multi-unit building. |
| 432 West Prairie Street | - brick construction; addition of Colonial Revival 1 st /2 nd level porches and drive canopy. |
| 419 West Court Street | - brick construction with tower; addition of contemporary sun porch on primary and secondary elevation. |
| 423 West Court Street | - brick construction; front and side porch additions. |
| 912 West Maple Street | - brick construction around previously constructed farm house; rear gable addition, window opening infills, cornice brackets removed. |
| 106 East Crawford Street | - brick construction, detailing similar to the Moss House; separate office entrance, chimneys removed at the roofline. |
| 216 West Crawford Street | - brick construction; very minor exterior style modifications. |
| 411 South Central Street | - brick construction; chimneys removed at roofline. Sub-divided into multi-unit building. |
| 413 South Main Street | - frame construction; porch addition of mixed styles. Sub-divided into multi-unit building. |
| 501 South Main Street | - frame construction; chimneys removed at roofline, porch modifications. |

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502 South Main Street

- frame construction; now a commercial building.
Chimneys removed at roofline, aluminum
windows installed.

The survey results indicate that mid to 19th Century Italianate residential architecture is very prevalent in the City of Paris. Some examples such as 419 and 423 Court Street, as well as 316 North Central Street and 432 West Prairie Street were executed in a much grander scale than the Moss House. Other examples of the same scale as the Moss House are of frame construction exhibit less elaborate detailing prevalent in the masonry examples. The only identified local example approximating the residential /business character of the Moss House is 106 East Crawford Street.

Regardless of the style, mass and architectural detailing of the surveyed resources one factor stands out; almost 100% of the surveyed properties have exterior modifications or have incorporated non-original floor plans. The best remaining examples of high style Italianate architecture surveyed in Paris exist at 419 & 423 West Court Street and 216 West Crawford Street. The building at 106 East Crawford Street retains a high level of integrity and exhibits the combination of residential/business aspects of the Italianate style similar to the Moss House.

The resource that retains maximum historic integrity and is most austere example of Italianate style architecture in the area surveyed is the side-gabled, building at 219 West Chestnut Street.

Of the Paris Italianate residential resources surveyed, the Moss House is within the top 25% for design, materials, and other historic integrity factors. Most modifications to the original Moss House have been sympathetic and have assumed significance on their own merit in that they were undertaken prior to 1957. In conclusion, the Moss House is a good example of the local Italianate architectural style.

¹ Philip L. Shutt, "Progress on the Prairie," Sesquicentennial Program: Paris and Edgar Co., 1823-1973 (n.p.: Wittick Printing Co., UMC-Colson Co. and the Beacon-News [1973], n.p.

² Ibid, n.p.

³ Ibid, n.p.

⁴ Ibid, n.p.

⁵ Carol Adams, ed., *Prairie Progress: A History of Edgar County 1880-1975* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1976), 230.

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Henry Clay Moss House

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- ⁶ Ibid, 198.
- ⁷ Shutt, "Progress on the Prairie," Sesquicentennial Program: Paris and Edgar Co., 1823-1973, n.p.
- ⁸ Ibid, n.p.
- ⁹ Adams, ed., *Prairie Progress: A History of Edgar County 1880-1975*, 199.
- ¹⁰ Ibid, 226.
- ¹¹ Ibid, 232.
- ¹² Shutt, "Progress on the Prairie," Sesquicentennial Program: Paris and Edgar Co., 1823-1973, n.p.
- ¹³ Carl Dean "Alfalfa" Switzer, Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_%22Alfalfa%22_Switzer (17 September 2007), 1.
- ¹⁴ *Edgar County Deed Book 54*, page 227. Agreement between John Taylor and Henry C. Moss, 04 January 1876.
- ¹⁵ *Edgar County Deed Book 55*, page 153. Warranty Deed, 14 August 1876.
- ¹⁶ *Edgar County Deed Book 55*, page 540. Warranty Deed, 12 March 1877.
- ¹⁷ *Edgar County Deed Book 58*, page 89. Warranty Deed, 14 July 1877.
- ¹⁸ Edgar County Historical Society, An Abstract to Title: Out Lots No. 62 & 63 to the City of Paris, Edgar County, Illinois, 1919, n.p.
- ¹⁹ Edgar County Historical Society, Edgar County Clerk's Office Warranty Deeds, 26 May 1890 & 19 May 1893.
- ²⁰ Edgar County Historical Society, Edgar County Clerk's Office Warranty Deed, 21 September 1895.
- ²¹ Edgar County Treasurer's Office, Last Will and Testament of Lena Arthur, 11 October 1972.
- ²² Rose Moss Scott, *Chronicles of the Moss Family*, (1926), 29.
- ²³ H. Van Sellar, ed., *History of Edgar County*, (Chicago: Munsell Publishing Company, 1905), 712.
- ²⁴ Edgar County Clerk, Land Transfer Records, Grantor-Grantee Index, 1875-1891, numerous pages.
- ²⁵ W. H. Perrin, H.H. Hill and A.A. Graham, *The History of Edgar County, Illinois* (Chicago: Wm. LeBaron, Jr. & Company, 1879), 593-594.
- ²⁶ Adams, ed., *Prairie Progress: A History of Edgar County 1880-1975*, 335.
- ²⁷ Ada Gertrude Varner and Mary Lou Wright, interview by Stephen A. Thompson, Paris, Illinois, 14 August 2007.
- ²⁸ Lena Arthur Billfold Document Cards, 1928 and 1943, Edgar County Historical Society Arthur House Vertical File, 2007.
- ²⁹ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1990), 212.
- ³⁰ Ibid, 210-229.
- ³¹ Ibid, 212.
- ³² Ibid, 213.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point approximately 35' southeast of the intersection of North Main Street and East Roberts Street in Paris, Illinois, proceed east approximately 270' parallel to East Roberts Street. Then proceed approximately 100' south parallel to the central alley bisecting the block bounded by North Main Street, East Roberts Street, North Connelly Street and East Foundry Street. Then proceed west approximately 270' to the curb bordering North Main Street. Then proceed approximately 100' north along North Main Street to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary was historically known as a northwest portion of out lot #3 of the 1823 original Paris, Illinois Plat and is currently known as 414 North Main Street, Paris, Illinois, out lots #62 and #63 within Connelly's Addition. The boundary includes the Henry Clay Moss House, three log structures and one wood frame building. Only the Henry Clay Moss House and associated landscape features are considered to retain site historic integrity.

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HENRY CLAY MOSS HOUSE NR NOMINATION

CONTRIBUTING PERSONNEL

Local Architectural Survey

Joe Sanders - Edgar County Illinois Architectural Historian

Photography

Gregg "Rich" Henigman - Henigman Images, Inc.

Research & Site Coordination

Patsy Berry - Corresponding Secretary, Edgar County Illinois Historical Society

A. Joyce Brown - Co-director, Edgar County Genealogical Library

Linda Cary - Co-director, Edgar County Genealogical Library

Amanda Neal - Board Member, Edgar County Illinois Historical Society

Ada Gertrude Varner - Arthur Family Member

Don Wiseman - Board Member, Edgar County Illinois Historical Society/Edgar County
Treasurer

Kay Wolfe - President, Edgar County Illinois Historical Society

Mary Lou Wright - Arthur Family Member

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Henry Clay Moss House
Paris, Edgar County Illinois

PHOTO LIST

IL-EdgarCounty_Henry Clay Moss House (HCM)

1. Henry Clay Moss House
2. View
3. July 2007
4. Steve Thompson
5. Edgar County, Illinois

Exterior Photos

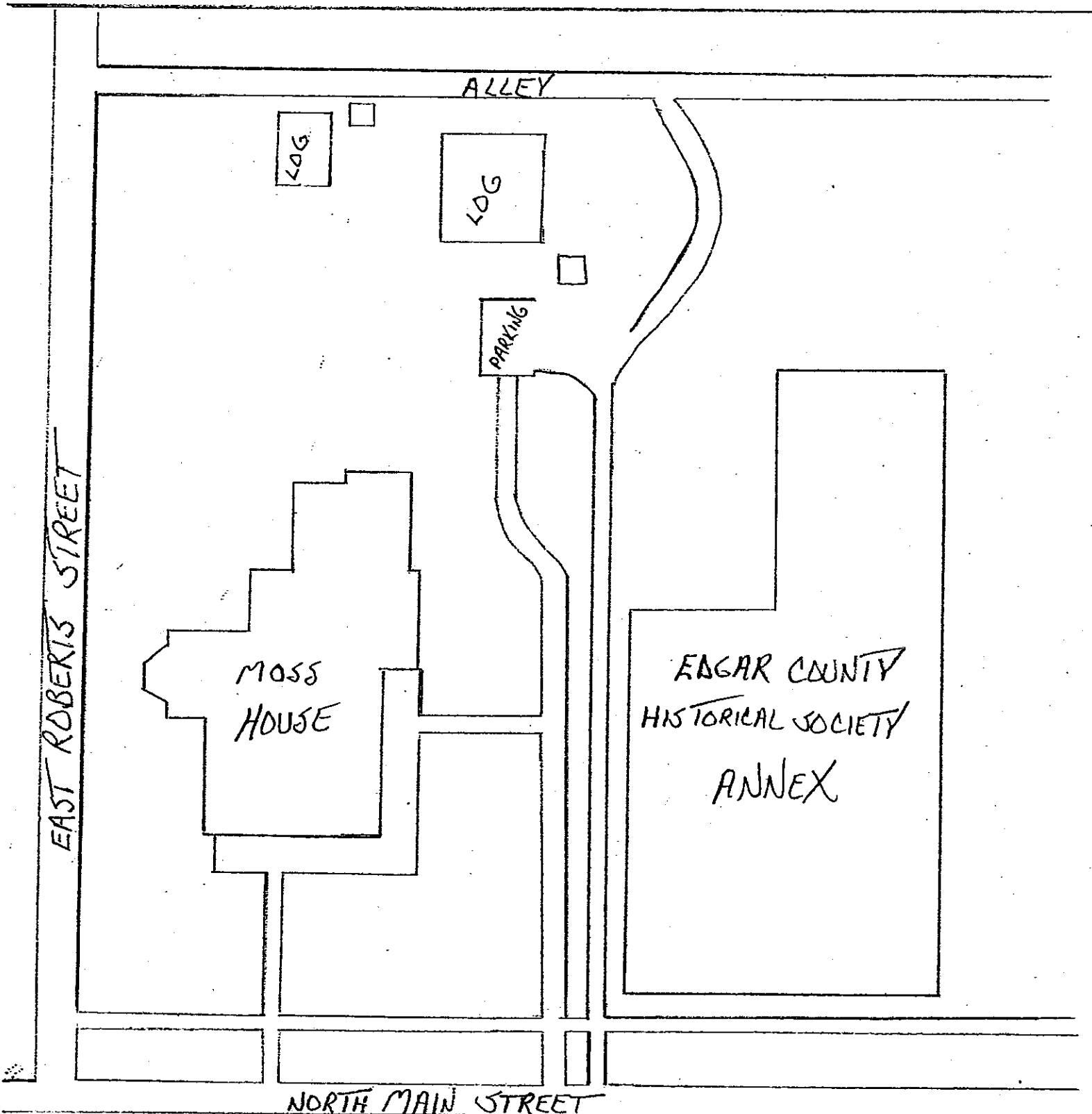
IL_EdgarCounty_HCM0001	East Elevation
IL_EdgarCounty_HCM0002	South Elevation (1)
IL_EdgarCounty_HCM0003	South Elevation (2)
IL_EdgarCounty_HCM0004	West Elevation

Interior Photos

IL_EdgarCounty_HCM0005	Dining Room
IL_EdgarCounty_HCM0006	Interior Foyer (1)
IL_EdgarCounty_HCM0007	Interior Foyer (2)
IL_EdgarCounty_HCM0008	Interior Study (1)
IL_EdgarCounty_HCM0009	Interior Study (2)
IL_EdgarCounty_HCM0010	Interior Front Parlor
IL_EdgarCounty_HCM0011	Interior Rear Parlor & Dining Room

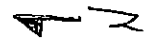
EDGAR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMPLEX

408 & 414 NORTH MAIN STREET; PARIS, ILLINOIS



NORTH MAIN STREET

NOT TO SCALE

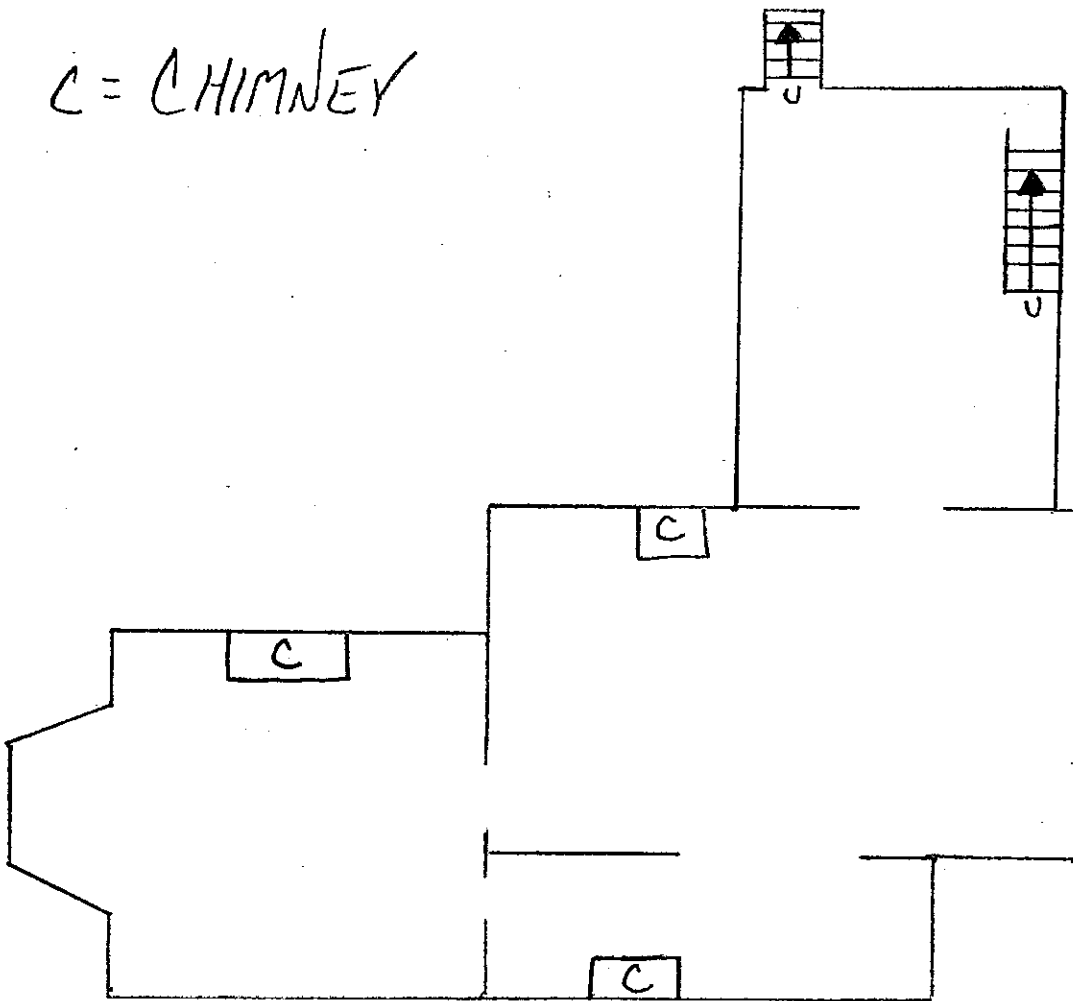


HENRY CLAY MOSS HOUSE

BASEMENT LEVEL PLAN

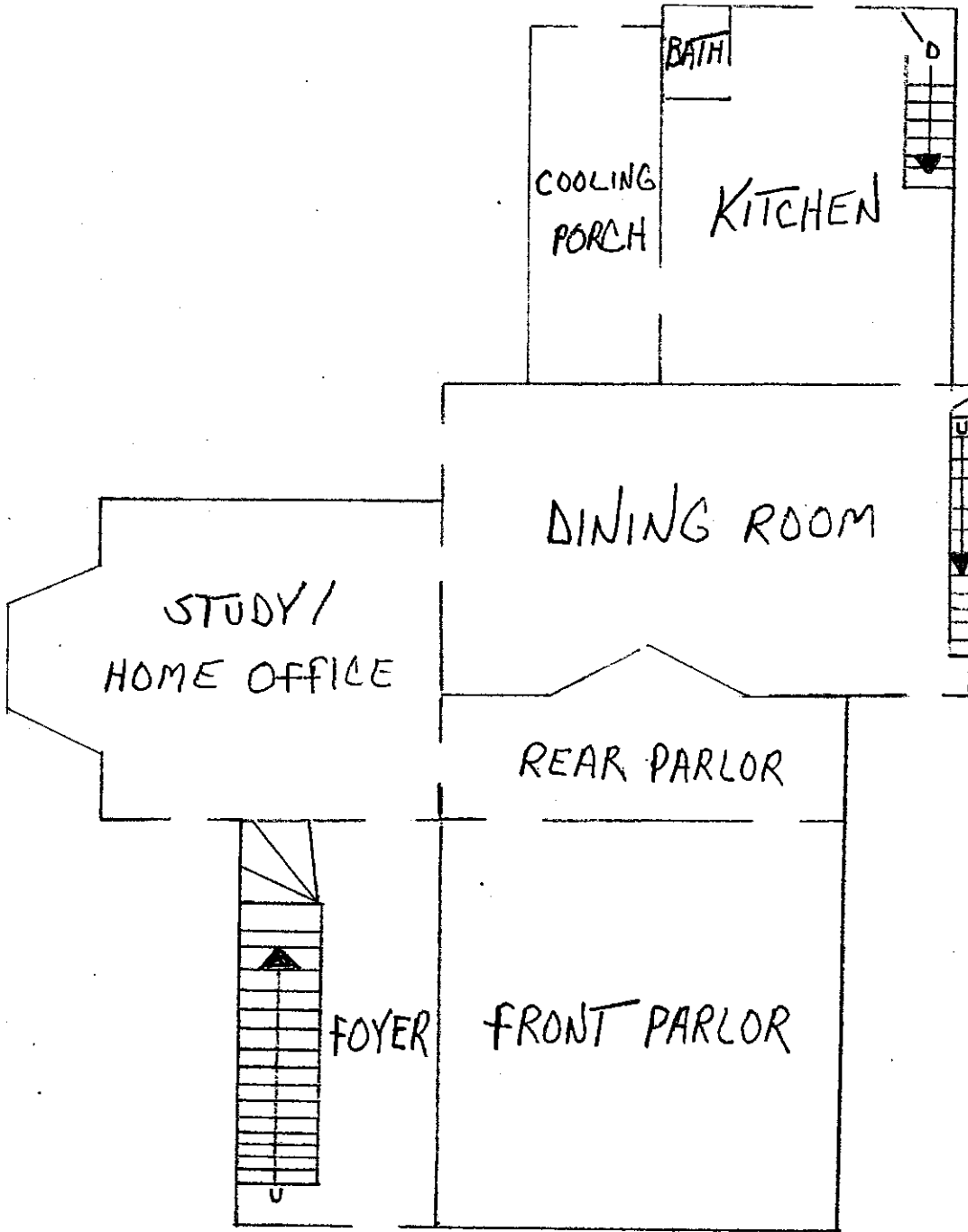
NOT TO SCALE

C = CHIMNEY



HENRY CLAY MOSS HOUSE

FIRST LEVEL PLAN

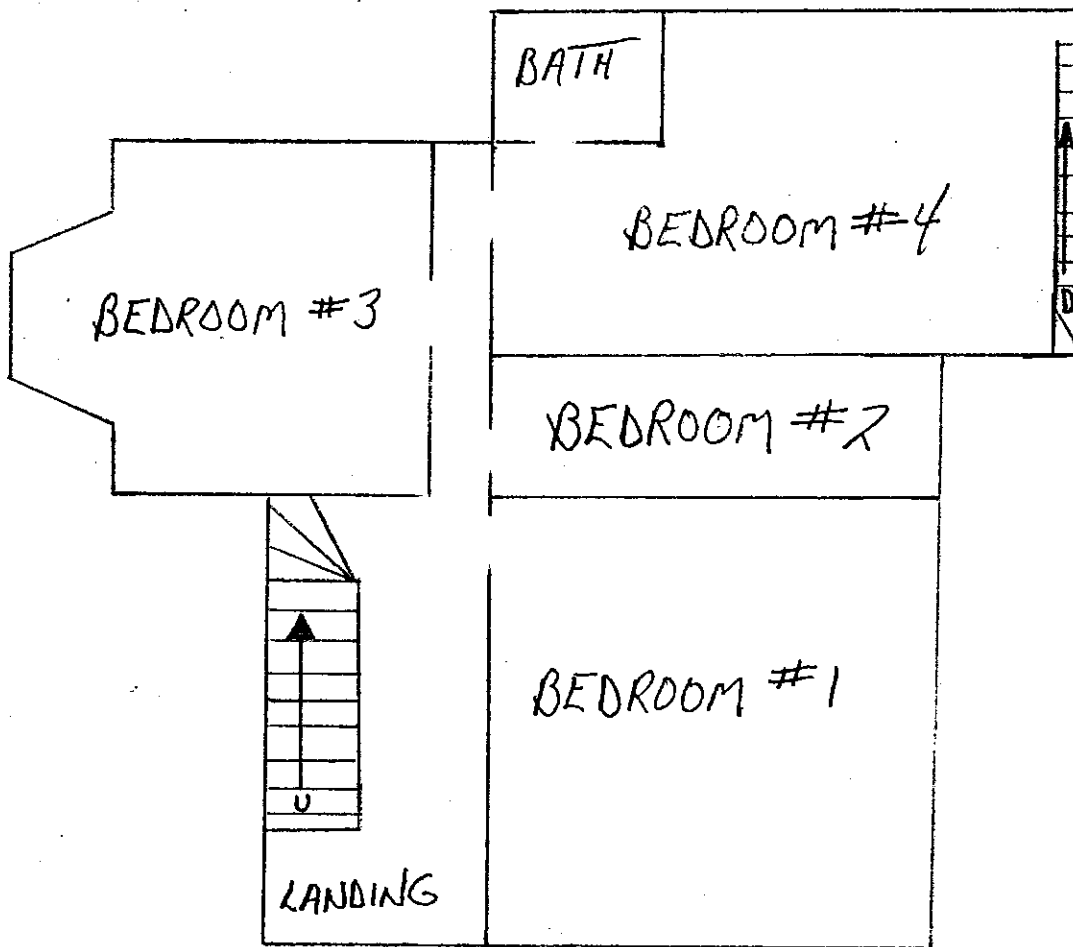


NOT TO SCALE

HENRY CLAY MOSS HOUSE

SECOND LEVEL PLAN

NOT TO SCALE

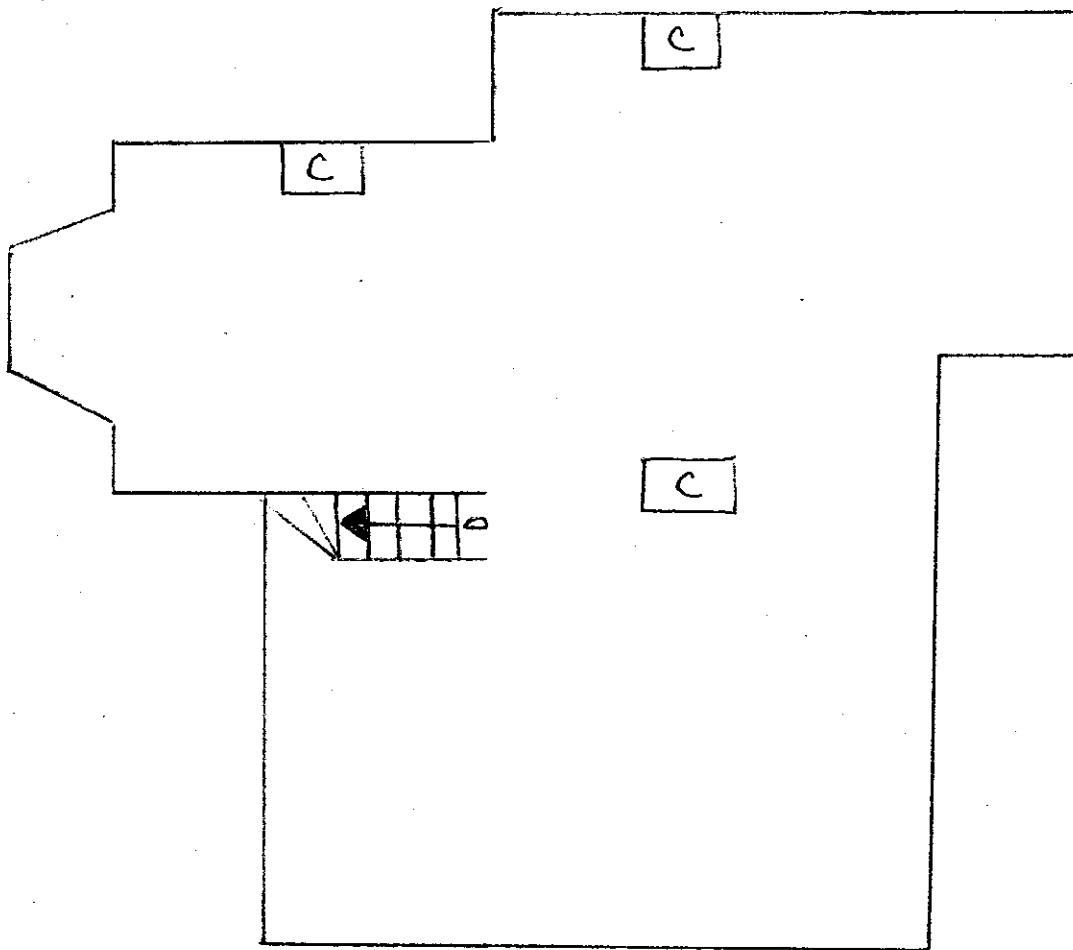


HENRY CLAY MOSS HOUSE

ATTIC LEVEL PLAN

NOT TO SCALE

C = CHIMNEY



of Yerba Buena Island, Yerba Buena Island, 08000084, LISTED, 2/26/08

CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY,

Senior Officers Quarters Historic District, Yerba Buena Island, Whiting Way at Northgate Rd.,
North shore of Yerba Buena Island, Yerba Buena Island, 08000085, LISTED, 2/26/08

COLORADO, EL PASO COUNTY,

Drennan School,
20500 Drennan Rd.,
Colorado Springs vicinity, 08000290,
LISTED, 4/16/08
(Rural School Buildings in Colorado MPS)

COLORADO, LARIMER COUNTY,

Greeley, Salt Lake and Pacific Railroad–Stout Branch, Approx. 1/2 mi. S. of jct. US 287 & Co.Rd.
28, Laporte vicinity, 08000291, LISTED, 4/16/08 (Railroads in Colorado, 1858-1948 MPS)

GEORGIA, FRANKLIN COUNTY,

Ayers–Little Boarding House,
121 Athens St.,
Carnesville, 08000292,
LISTED, 4/16/08

GEORGIA, PICKENS COUNTY,

Griffeth–Pendley House,
2198 Cove Rd.,
Jasper vicinity, 08000293,
LISTED, 4/16/08

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,

International Tailoring Company Building,
847 W. Jackson Blvd.,
Chicago, 07001474,
LISTED, 4/18/08

ILLINOIS, EDGAR COUNTY,

Moss, Henry Clay, House,
414 N. Main St.,
Paris, 08000295,
LISTED, 4/16/08

KANSAS, BARTON COUNTY,

Beaver Creek Native Stone Bridge,
NE. 50 Ave. S. & NE 230 Rd,
Beaver vicinity, 08000296,
LISTED, 4/16/08
(Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR)

KANSAS, BARTON COUNTY,

Bridge #218–Off System Bridge,
NE. 60 Ave. S. & NE. 220 Rd.,