

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SECRET TO B.O.
4-6-05

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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 **Rogers, Colonel Matthew, Building**
other names/site number **Abraham Lincoln Long Nine Museum**

2. Location

street & number **200 South Main Street** _____ Not for publication
city or town **Athens** _____ vicinity
state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Menard** code **129** zip code **62613**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Wendell White ISHPA _____ 4-1-05
Signature of certifying official 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau American Indian Tribe

Rogers, Colonel Matthew, Building
Name of Property

Menard County, Illinois
County and State

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 ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register ___ 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
<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

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

Rogers, Colonel Matthew, Building
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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Commerccc/general store
Social/meeting hall

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/specialty store
Recreation and Culture/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation **Brick**

Roof **Shingles**

Walls **Wood**

other

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

See Continuation Sheets

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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)

Commerce

Period of Significance **circa 1832-1955**

Significant Dates **circa 1832**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation **N/A**

Architect/Builder **Unknown**

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

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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 **Illinois State Historical Society**

10. Geographical Data

Acree of Property **less than one acre**

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	267335	4426662	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification

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

See Continuation Sheet

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title **John R. Eden**
organization **Menard County Historical Society** date **October 1, 2004**
street & number **R. R. 4, Box 70 (17982 State Park Road)** telephone **217-632-7163**
city or town **Petersburg** state **Illinois** zip code **62675**

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/title **John R. Eden**
street & number **R. R. 4, Box 70** telephone **217-632-7163**
city or town **Petersburg** state **Illinois** zip code **62675**

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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Section 7 Page 1

Rogers, Colonel Matthew, Building
Menard County, IL

Description

The Colonel Matthew Rogers Building is a two-story Greek Revival gable front clapboard store building located in the Athens, Menard County, Illinois approximately 11 miles north of Springfield just off State Route 29. The address of the building is 200 South Main Street (historically 436 Main). Across the street on the west side is a two-story brick building built sometime in the 1860s. This building served as a grocery store and butcher shop. The building is presently used as a restaurant with apartments located in the upper story. Across the street on the north side of the Rogers Building is a grocery store. The grocery store was built in recent years. Along the south side of the Rogers Building is a two and one-half story clapboard house built circa 1870 by Louis Salzenstein who owned the Rogers Building at that time.

Colonel Matthew Rogers, the local postmaster, built the building in circa 1832. The building is 25 feet wide on the east side and 50 feet long on the north side. The two-story clapboard building has approximately 3,750 square feet of floor space including the basement. All of the windows on the building are six-over-six wood double hung wood sash windows with the exception of the storefront windows. In 1972, historic windows were found stored in the attic. They were restored and re-installed.

On the Main Street side a front porch runs the full width of the building. The porch roof is supported by four 4-inch by 4-inch square wooden posts with railing running along the outer edge of the sidewalk. A circa 1870 photograph (#1) showed a porch on the front of the building. The porch was later removed from the structure as shown in a 1959 photograph (#2). A new porch, emulating the circa 1870s porch, was built in 1972. The lower story front entrance on Main Street has two multi-pane wood windows on either side of a recessed store entrance with double-doors and transom. There are two upper story windows.

The north side of the building is punctuated on the lower story by one window on the east end of the north side and in the upper story by three windows. Prior to the circa 1870 tintype photograph, the upper story center window on the north side had been removed to accommodate an enlarged opening. Sometime prior to 1959, the window was reinstalled.

There is a large two-story brick building with Italianate details attached to the east end of Colonel Rogers Building. The brick building built circa 1865 was attached to the clapboard building by an enclosed wooden upper level stairwell and lower level hallway with connecting doors. The Masonic Lodge has owned the brick building since 1913. In 1972, during rehabilitation work, the openings between the two buildings were closed. The two-story brick building is a separate building today and not part of the nomination.

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A wood sided one and two-story addition, which encloses a stairwell, was added in 1972 on the south side to allow access to the upper and lower story of the Rogers building. On the upper story of the west end of the south side is one window.

The main frame of the building is of timber frame construction held together with mortise and tenon joints. The building frame is constructed of a combination of reciprocal sawn and circular sawn oak timber, and the beam width dimensions vary from 1/4 inch to 5/8 inch. Mortise joints, wooden pins, and square iron nails were used throughout the building. On top of the brick basement foundation perimeter, 7 1/2 inch by 9 inch oak beams were placed. In the southeast corner, is a hand hewn oak log 12 feet in length. In the center of the floor, a 7 1/2 inch by 8 inch notched beam runs the length of the building. The floor was originally supported by several vertical wooden posts in the basement. Three 7 1/2 inches by 9 1/2 inch beams run the width of the floor. The three beams are equally spaced from each end of the building. The oak floor sill joists are 3 inch by 8 inch spaced 16 inches apart.

Ten vertical wall posts approximately 7 1/2 inch by 4 inch (some vary up to 5 inches), run from the floor to horizontal beams that support the rafters. They are located on the north and south side outer support walls of the building.

In the upper story of the ceiling, the beam construction is the same layout as in the-lower floor. On top of the upper story outer wall perimeter 5 inch by 6 inch square beams were laid. In the center of the ceiling, a 5 5/8 inch by 7 1/2 inch notched horizontal beam runs the length of the building.

Three notched beams run at a right angle to the main center ceiling beam. The three 5 5/8 inch by 7 1/2 inch beams run the width of the building and are equally spaced from each end. In the middle of the ceiling 6 inch by 8 inch mortised vertical post extend up into the top of attic just below the rafters. The middle vertical posts are attached to 4 inch by 7 1/2 inch support beams running to the other wall at about a 22 degree angle, and form trusses which place the load of the rafters, roof, and upper room ceiling on the outer walls. The building was designed to have the upper story as a single room.

The ceiling horizontal beams are 4 1/4 inch by 2 inch. They are attached on top of the 5 inch by 5 inch beams on the outer wall. The roof rafter wall plate, which measures 2 inch by 10 inch, is attached on top of the horizontal ceiling beams. The original roof rafters measure 5 1/2 inch by 2 inch and are anchored at both ends on the 2 inch by 10 inch wall plate. The roof was originally covered by shakes. The tintype photograph (#1) taken around 1870 shows the shake roof and

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front porch.

The building had two brick chimneys. One is located near the rear of the building. It can be seen in the basement and street floor next to the restored post office. The attic portion of the rear chimney has been removed and the front chimney has been completely removed.

The building interior is comprised of a basement, first floor, second floor and attic. The full basement is a large storage area with two smaller storage rooms located in the east end of the basement storage area. During work in 1972, the dirt basement floor was dug down 16 inches to accommodate an outer perimeter concrete footing. The concrete perimeter supports the base of the original 13 inch thick brick foundation. Four vertical I-beams are located on both the north and south walls. The vertical I-beams support horizontal I-beams that support the floor sills. A few floor sills were replaced. However, the original oak support beams and sills can be seen in the basement. Two concrete footings were poured in the center of the basement to support vertical steel columns. The center floor horizontal I-beam running the length of the building is bolted to the vertical steel columns that support both the main and upper floor I-beams. The I-beams are hidden from view except in the basement area. Between the two vertical basement columns a 9 foot by 13 foot by 3 foot deep finished concrete display area with iron hand railing was added. The basement floor was covered with four inches of concrete. Improvements to the basement area also include addition of sewer tile and sump pump for drainage. In the basement area, are displayed artifacts that were found during the rehabilitation.

A large open area occupies the main part of the first floor. The interior of the first floor has store shelves with plaster walls and ceiling. Some of the historic wooden shelves and interior support posts are intact. Some interior support columns date from the 1972 rehabilitation. Athens' first post office was located in the rear northeast corner of the building. The original tongue-and-groove pine floor still remains exposed in the restored post office. A 4-inch oak wood floor covers the remainder of the pine first floor. The building main entrance is on the west end facing Main Street.

During construction of the two-story brick building, an enclosed stairway was added between the buildings on the north side. The stairway allowed entrance to the upper floors of both buildings from the north side on Jefferson Street. The lower portion of the Rogers Building upper story stairway was removed to provide a hallway entrance between the two buildings. The original top five stair steps in the southeast stairwell are still in place, which substantiates that the Rogers Building was built prior to the brick building. The original stairwell can be viewed in the southeast corner from the south side entrance of the Rogers Building. Also, the original inside and outside stairway entrance doors still remain. The north entrance stairway has not been

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changed, or altered since the construction of the adjacent brick building. Also during construction of the brick building a basement stairway was added to the Rogers Building. Prior to the brick building addition, the basement was accessed from the front of the building on Main Street. The front basement street entrance was later closed. With the 1972 rehabilitation came a complete rewiring of the building and two rest rooms were built in the former hallway between the Rogers Building and the brick building. During this time an 1870-80 Eastlake chandelier was found in the attic. The chandelier now hangs in the rear stairway landing.

The upper story was used as a meeting hall and social center. The original upper floor stairway of the building was located in the southeast corner. The original stairway was closed during construction of the 1865 attached two-story brick building. However, the top five stair steps remain in place. A portion of the upper floor banquet room is carpet covered and now used to accommodate 10 audio narrated dioramas depicting Abraham Lincoln in Athens. The remaining banquet room display area has the original tongue-and-groove pine wood floor. Historic wood flooring may be seen in west end of the banquet room. The walls are plastered. In the west end of the banquet room is a 40-inch by 40-inch open display area in the ceiling. The ceiling was left exposed to show how the building was constructed with mortise and wood peg beam joints.

In the attic, two inch by six-inch stress rafters were built and bolted to the original rafters. When the new stress rafters were installed the roof was not removed. The work was performed from inside the attic. The rafters may be viewed from the secured second floor access area.

The building has had continuous maintenance since the 1972 rehabilitation and is in very good condition. The challenge was not just to make the structure safe and useable, but also, to protect and maintain to the most practicable extent its original status and integrity. Mr. M. D. Turley was the architect and structural engineer for the 1972 work. He was the owner of M. D. Turley and Associates of Springfield, Illinois.

The Colonel Rogers building is now a museum that honors Abraham Lincoln and the Long Nine Legislators for their efforts in moving the State Capital from Vandalia to Springfield. The museum is located in the upper level and in the basement. The post office area is located on the first floor along with the general store space.

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Statement of Significance

The Colonel Matthew Rogers Building is historically significant for Criteria A for its long association with the commercial development of Athens. Built circa 1832, The Rogers Building was one of Athens first major commercial buildings. The building served as a general store, housed the first Athens Post Office, and had a meeting room upstairs. In later years the building transitioned into other commercial uses, as the needs of the community changed. It also continued to serve as a center for social activities and celebrations. The period of significance is from circa 1832 to 1955, the fifty-year cutoff for significance.

Athens History

Permanent settlers started arriving in the Athens area by 1818. The settlement had a blacksmith shop, general store, and saw and gristmill by 1822. On September 7, 1831, Harry Riggin and Abner Hall hired Rueben Harrison to survey a new town--Athens. The original survey consisted of 40 acres with a few houses and commercial buildings, a blacksmith shop and a mill. Between 1830-1840, Athens had some additional businesses including Halls Tavern.

Jonathan Dunn, an Athens merchant, advertised a steam powered saw and grist mill, located at Athens, Illinois, for sale in the Sangamo Journal Newspaper on February 9, 1833 (3 :4). The advertisement described the steam-powered sawmill as being capable of running two saws (an upper and lower saw) cutting 1000 to 2000 board feet per day. One feature was that the sawmill was capable of drawing logs up to the saw carriage from 100 feet away, thus saving manual labor (M. Powis. Bale., 1880). The Sangamo town (Bogues Mill) steam sawmill was located six miles south of Athens on the Sangamon River. The Bogues Steam sawmill began operating in March 1831. Also, the Portland Landing steam sawmill was in operation at that time. When the steamboat Talisman arrived in March of 1832, at the Portland Landing, the Sangamo Journal Newspaper (March 29, 1832, 3:1) reported "Captain Bogue located his steam mill on the Sangamo River twelve months ago, and asserted his determination to land a steam boat there within-year." The Athens steam sawmill would have been established in March 1831, or earlier.

In 1834, Abraham Lincoln surveyed to relocate part of the road between Sangamon Town and New Salem that ran through Athens. Lincoln wrote out his bill at Athens on November 4, 1834, and set the survey stone in the center of the intersection of Main and Jefferson in front of the store. In 1839, Menard County was organized. It was one of three counties split from Sangamon; the other two were Logan and Christian. In 1839, when the new county boundary lines were drawn, Athens was placed in Menard Country. The citizens of Athens did not want to become a part of the newly formed Menard County. James D. Allen, the former postmaster of Athens, had written a letter to William Butler of Springfield that the people of Athens were

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unhappy about the new county boundary change. In a letter to Mr. Butler dated July 26, 1839, Lincoln denied that "saying his two friends Francis and Hall of Athens are now here, and I assure you, they say nothing about giving us hell." They are in good humor as I have ever saw them." In fact, some citizens of Athens were not happy about being placed in Menard County. Some residents addressed mail in large letters "Athens, Illinois, Sangamon County" as late as 1841. Although, Athens had the second largest population in Sangamon County, it lost out to Petersburg to be the county seat.

Athens population continued to grow and the town expand. New additions to the original plat were added north and south of Main Street. While there is not much information on who owned or ran early businesses, histories do indicate that the Mott Cabinet Shop and Funeral Home was established sometime in the 1840s. In 1857 a brick steam grist mill was built by John Overstreet and Alexander Hale. The 1870s saw an influx of German farmers into the area. In 1874 the Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis Railroad arrived. The railroad later became a branch of the Wabash Railroad and in 1926, it became the Chicago and Midland Railroad. The railroad depot was relocated to 501 South Main Street and converted into a residence in 1956. In 1880, C. C. Scott opened a hotel. In later years the hotel was turned into a manufacturing plant and added onto. There were about 75 businesses advertising services between 1885 and 1900. In 1885 the first coal mine was established in the area. New mines continued to develop through the 1920s. The mines attracted numerous Polish and Lithuanian settlers to the area. In 1892 and 1907 additional residential subdivision were platted. The population of Athens had grown to about 1800 by 1898. The construction of the hard road from Pekin to Pana was completed in 1918. Initially known as Route 24 (now Route 29) this road did not run through downtown Athens but east of town. A paved extension linking the route to Main Street was built in 1939 (Menard County, Illinois History; Athens, Illinois, A History). The population of Athens decreased to 1,000 by the 1930s and has remained relatively constant for many years. The population has grown to 1,200 in recent years, due to new subdivisions. Today, Athens has a grocery store, two taverns, a funeral home, an insurance office, two filling stations, two auto repair shops, a bank, a beauty shop, a Junior and Senior high school and numerous houses.

Store History

Circa 1832, Colonel Matthew Rogers built a two-story frame building on the southeast corner of Main and Jefferson Streets. Rogers was born in New London, Connecticut, on March 26, 1770. In his youth his apprenticed as a ship's carpenter, but later became a farmer and moved to the area around Cooperstown, New York, where he purchased about 100 acres. He married Susanna Moore and had eight children the oldest Miriam Lee born in 1794, Arminda, Anna, Matthew, John Lee, Timothy, Elizabeth and the youngest, Henry C. born in 1808. He was in the 54th New

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York Infantry serving from 1795-1818. Rogers served as a Colonel in the War of 1812. After the war he sold his farm and moved to Troy, Illinois. While living in Troy the Rogers family became acquainted with James and Harry Riggins. In 1820, Rogers' daughter Miriam married Harry Riggins. Circa 1819-1820, Rogers made a trip to Sangamon County and staked a claim on 80 acres about one mile north of present day Athens. In 1821, Rogers along with his family and son-in-law moved to the Athens area. As soon as the federal government land office opened, Rogers purchased the tract on November 29, 1824. In 1825 and 1827 Rogers purchased additional land. In 1828 Rogers established a post office in his home and became the first postmaster. He called the area Rogers. His son, Henry C., succeeded him as postmaster in 1829. Rogers' first wife Susanna died in 1828 and Rogers married Anna Senter in 1830 (Hickey, 1959).

When Rogers had the store built, three known carpenters lived in Athens. Ward Clark, J.B. Clark, and Peter Graham were all in the carpentry building trade. Peter Graham had lived in Athens since 1831. Peter Graham had the contract to lay the tongue-in-groove flooring for the State Capitol in 1840. Noah Graham had the state contract to haul materials by wagon and team from Beardstown to Springfield for the new State Capitol (Wayne C. Temple, 1988: 20). Colonel Rogers could have used the services of these carpenters to construct the building. The finishing materials for the building may have been purchased from Knapp and Pogue at Beardstown. Colonel Rogers mortgaged the premises and other property to Knapp and Pogue, Beardstown merchants, for \$453.00 on June 29, 1832, for 90 days, at which point the mortgage released (Abstract of Title).

In 1832 the post office was moved from Rogers' rural house into Athens and the new building. That same year, Harry Riggins and Amberry Rankin, husband of Rogers' daughter Arminda, opened a store in the building. This was probably a family venture, as the retail license was issued to Riggins and Company, but early supply records from Knapp & Pogue show goods sold to the Colonel Rogers' store. Rogers' son, Henry was the store clerk. The building's upper floor meeting room was used for social gatherings and special events during the early history of Athens. By 1833, Colonel Rogers had turned his farm over to his daughter and son-in-law, Arminda and Amberry, and was living in Athens. Colonel Rogers married a third time in 1834 to Susannah Overstreet (Hickey, 1959).

The most famous person associated with Athens and the store was Abraham Lincoln. Between 1833 and 1836, while Lincoln was postmaster at New Salem, he often picked up mail at the Athens Post Office when returning to New Salem from Springfield (R. D. Miller, 1905:62). The Rogers' store, as the local post office, would have been frequented by Lincoln. Additionally, the Rogers' family had quite a collection of books that Lincoln may have used.

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On April 15, 1837, Josiah Francis, a local merchant who was elected to the State Legislature in 1840, purchased the building and site from Rogers for \$2000.00. A few days later, he executed a mortgage on the property in favor of Rogers. While Francis owned the building, the citizens of Athens held a banquet on August 3, 1837, to honor Lincoln and others for their efforts in moving the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield. Lincoln, Archer G. Herndon, Job Fletcher, Ninian W. Edwards, John Dawson, Andrew McCormick, Dan Stone, William F. Elkin and Robert L. Wilson had succeeded in passing an act to permanently locate the State Capital in Springfield in 1837. Because these men were all over six feet they were known as the "Long Nine" and the banquet became historically known as the Long Nine Banquet.

Eventually, Josiah Francis was delinquent on his payments to Rogers, so Rogers hired the firm of Logan and Lincoln to sue for payment. On January 29, 1841, *Rogers v. Francis* was filed by Lincoln in the Sangamon County Circuit Court. The legal brief was written in Lincoln's own hand and describes the parcel. Lincoln won the suit by default on December 3, 1841, and Rogers reacquired the store (Temple and Wagner). Colonel Rogers died in 1848 and was buried in Indian Point Cemetery. The cemetery is located 4 miles north of Athens on Route 29.

Louis Salzenstein purchased the Rogers building at public auction on January 1, 1849, for \$492.00 (Abstract of Title). Mr. Salzenstein, born in 1811 in Germany, came to the United States and settled in Baltimore in 1830-1831 and then moved to Illinois about 1843. He married Minnie Landour and had 5 children: Charles, Mary, Caroline, Myer and Henriette. Louis Salzenstein became a very successful local merchant and one of the wealthiest men in the community. Accounts write of a bar room between the store and Salzenstein's house where liquor was sold. Salzenstein also loaned money to local farmers. Salzenstein was assisted in running the store by his son "Little Charlie" and his nephew, known as "Big Charlie." Louis made lengthy purchasing trips to St. Louis via Beardstown to re-supply the store. Histories tell of an 1851 cholera epidemic that tradition maintains was linked to used clothing from St. Louis sold at the Salzenstein store (Illinois Guide and Gazetteer, 1969).

The 1860 Census indicated that Salzenstein had \$9335 in real estate and \$6000 in personal property (Menard County, Illinois History). An inset map of Athens on the 1865 Map of Menard County shows the store and lists L. Salzenstein and M. Meyers, as two local merchants. The mercantile business continued to grow and in circa 1865 Salzenstein built a two-story brick building attached to the east end of original store building. The two buildings were linked with inside entrances on the upper and lower floors. The 1874 Illustrated Atlas of Menard County, Illinois stated Mr. L. Salzenstein owned the building that Colonel Matthew Rogers had built and was using it as a "store-house."

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Louis Salzenstein died on March 29, 1884, at the age of 73. He was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. Management of the store then transferred to Louis' son, Myer. Myer Salzenstein sold dry goods, china and glassware at the store. He ran advertisements in The Athens Cyclone Newspaper in 1885. Myer Salzenstein probably rented the store buildings until he purchased both buildings on February 3, 1886. The Illinois State Gazetteer and Business Directory from 1886 indicated that M. Salzenstein operated a store in Athens. The 1894 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, which is the earliest Sanborn map for Athens, showed the building (436 Main) still used as a general store with the brick building (225 Jefferson) labeled as warehouse and hall. By 1894, the post office had moved to another storefront along Main Street (414 Main). The same map showed several other specialty stores--milliner, cigar store, drug store, grocery and hardware, but only one other general store at 415 Main Street.

The 1901 Sanborn Fire Insurance map still indicated the use of the building as a general store. By that date no other building was listed as a general store in town. The post office had moved to 408 Main Street across the street from the Rogers Building.

Myer Salzenstein died February 5, 1904. From 1904 until 1913, Phene Salzenstein, his wife, owned the property (Abstract of Title). Mr. George Whitney of Athens said that his father clerked in the store in 1905. Mr. Whitney said the man his father worked for was named Charlie Salzenstein, possibly Myer's brother.

By 1909 and into 1914, according to the Sanborn maps, the building was a hardware store and also sold stoves. The brick building behind was listed as hardware and carriage repository on the first floor and a hall on the second floor. In 1913, the store was purchased by the Van Meter Masonic Lodge (Athens Masonic Lodge #762) for \$3000.00.

A circa 1920s photograph showed an insurance agency operating in the storefront. The 1922 Sanborn map showed the store and brick building as a garage with a Masonic Hall on the second floor. Ahrenkiel's automobile garage across the street to the north used the lower floor of the brick structure for additional auto storage. It is possible that the front of the building was used as office space or other commercial use. This 1922 Sanborn map also shows a note "To Be Removed" in relation to the original store front. This would seem to indicate plans to demolish this portion of the building.

On February 12, 1937, The New Salem-Springfield Lincoln Trail Association held its first annual meeting in the upper room of the Rogers building. The meeting was held to commemorate 100 years since the Long Nine banquet in the same room, on August 3, 1837. The Chicago Daily News and other newspapers reported the event.

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In the 1950s, the Whitney Insurance Agency had an office in the building. The Whitney Insurance Agency was sold and moved out in the early 1960s. The Masonic Lodge used the store's upper floor banquet room for public events and a dining area until the two buildings were separated in 1972. The Athens Boy Scouts held meetings in the lower story. The Athens Mason Lodge #762 sold the Colonel Rogers building to Melvin K. Richardson and John R. Eden on August 6, 1988. Melvin K. Richardson deeded the building to quit claim deed to John R. Eden August 6, 1988.

In 1974, an Illinois State Historical Society Marker was placed near the northwest corner of the building. Many dignitaries were present at the unveiling. In 1977, Governor James R. Thompson issued the following proclamation:

A joyous and seldom referred to event in the life of Abraham Lincoln will be commemorated on August 3, in Athens, where one hundred and forty years ago, he and his Long Nine associates were feted at a sumptuous banquet in appreciation of their efforts to establish the seat of government in Springfield. Two senators and seven representatives, all unusually tall men, steered the bill through the legislature. The General Assembly authorized the move of the Capitol from Vandalia on February 28, 1837.

The citizens of Athens, then included in Sangamon County, served the dinner on the second floor of a building erected in 1832. Representative Lincoln, Leader of the Long Nine was termed one of nature's nobility. Lincoln replied by toasting his loyal friends and declared Sangamon County will ever be true to her best interests and never-more so than in reciprocating the good feelings of the citizens of Athens and neighborhood.

The famous Long Nine Building still stands with its original floorboards where the banquet was served and is now an historic site marked by the Illinois State Historical Society and the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Therefore, I, James R. Thompson, Governor of the State of Illinois, proclaim August 3, 1977, ATHENS LONG NINE DAY and compliment the people of Athens on the pride they have in their Lincoln heritage. Signed, July 29, 1977.

Other Stores in Athens

Throughout Athens history there have been other stores that operated in town. But none seem to have persisted as long as the Rogers-Salzenstein Building. Shortly after Rogers and Riggins

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opened their store, Jonathan Dunn appears to have also been in business, as well as James D. Allen and Simeon Clark, and Abner and Elisha Hall. In 1836 Sebastian Store became partners with James Allen. The exact location or duration of these early stores is not clear. By the 1870s, Seligman and Sons ran a store in Athens. Salzenstein had a daughter, Mary, who married a Seligman. There may be some family connection. Around the 1900s, it is possible to track other general stores in town through the Dunn and Bradstreet business directories. In 1901, Daniel Seligman, M. H. Klempner and Company and George W. Boyd were in competition with Salzenstein. By 1905 Boyd is no longer listed, but Burgheim & Frisch are noted. It appears that Burgheim and Frisch were relatives of the Salzensteins'. A cousin Sophie Salzenstein married Isaac Frisch and had a daughter named Hannah who married Harry Burgheim. Sometime in the 1910s, Burgheim and Frisch closed the store and moved to St. Louis. Seligman eventually transitioned into a grocery that continued to change hands over the years.

Conclusion

The Colonel Matthew Rogers Building represents one of Athens' oldest buildings. Its continued use as commercial and/or recreational space in the community since the 1830s reflects its importance to the commercial history of Athens. Promoted as one of several sites in the Springfield area associated with Lincoln, the building has been featured in local tourism literature, as a stop along the Post Road between Springfield and New Salem. The Rogers Building possesses sufficient local historic importance and overall integrity to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Geographical Data

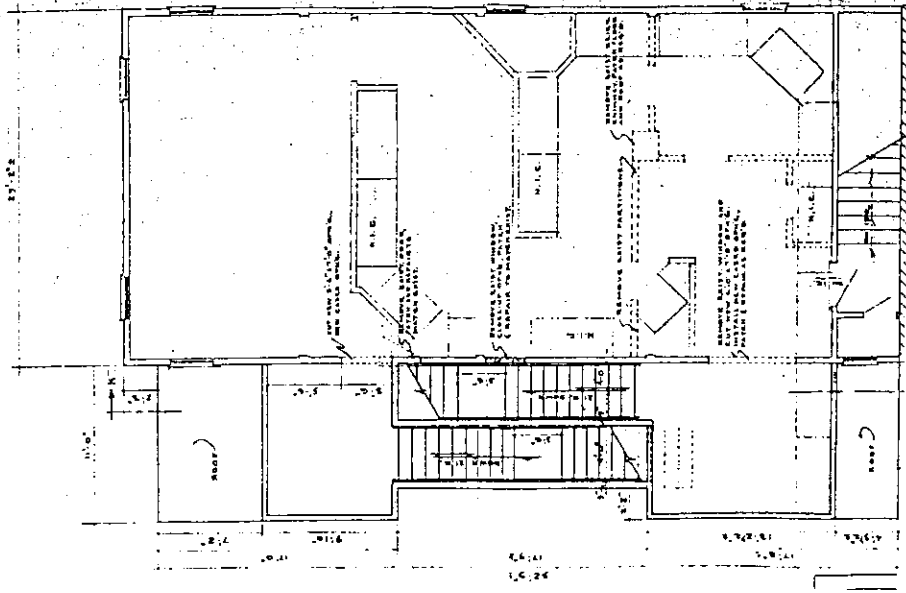
Verbal Boundary Description

Part of Lot No. 1, Block No. 1, in the Southeast Quarter of Athens, Illinois, in Menard County. More particularly described as follows: commencing at the Northwest corner of Lot.No. 1, block No. 1, in the Southeast quarter of the Town, now city of Athens, Illinois, said point being point of beginning, thence South 89 degrees 49 minutes 40 seconds East, 53.67 feet to a brick wall being part of the Van Meter Lodge Building, said point being a drill hole, thence South 0 degrees East, along brick wall of the Van Meter Lodge Building, 38.83 feet to a 3/4" gas pipe, thence North 89 degrees 49 minutes 40 seconds West 53.79 feet to 1 1/2" gas pipe, point being on the East right of way line of Main Street, thence North 0 degrees East, along East right of way line of Main Street, 38.83 feet, to said point of beginning.

Boundary justification

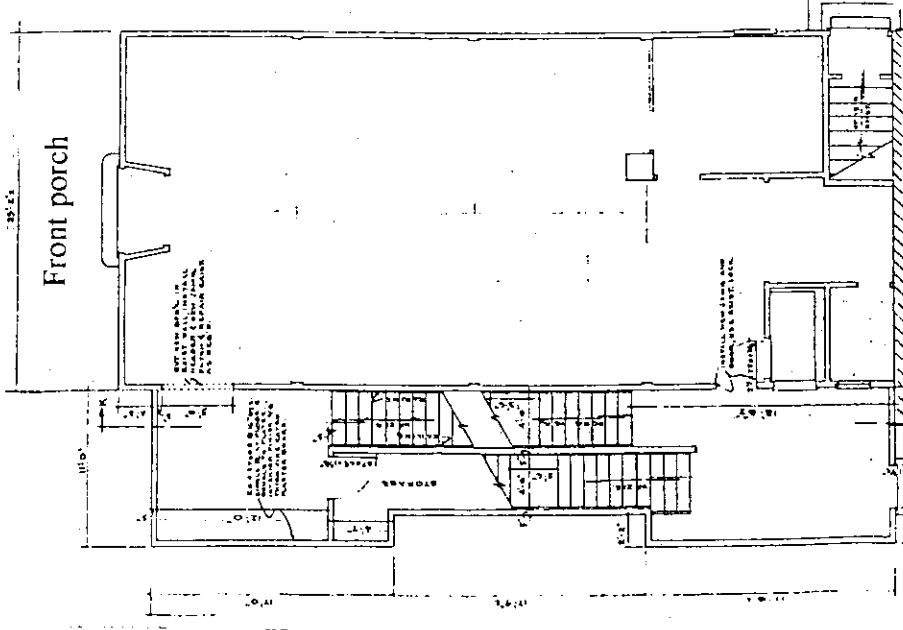
The nominated property includes the Colonel Rogers' Building and the land immediately associated with the property.

North



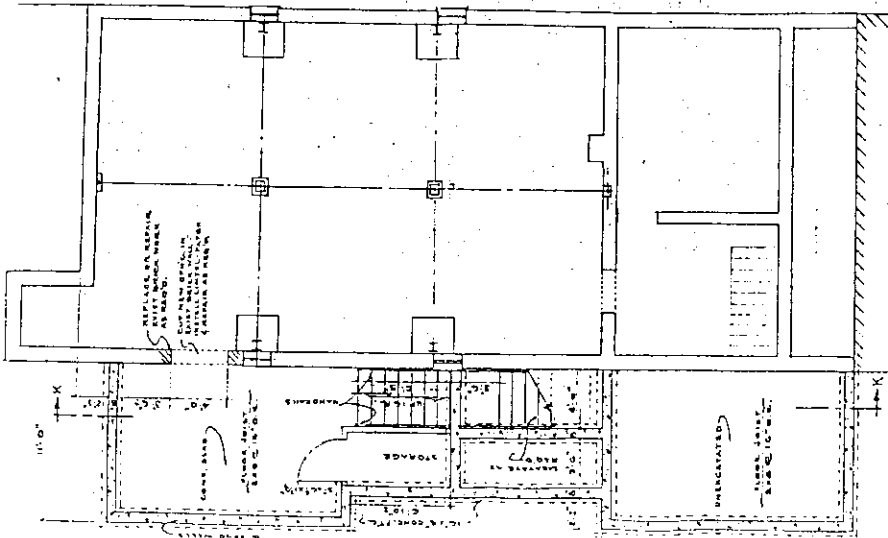
Second story

Matthew Rogers' building
Built 1832
Athens, Illinois



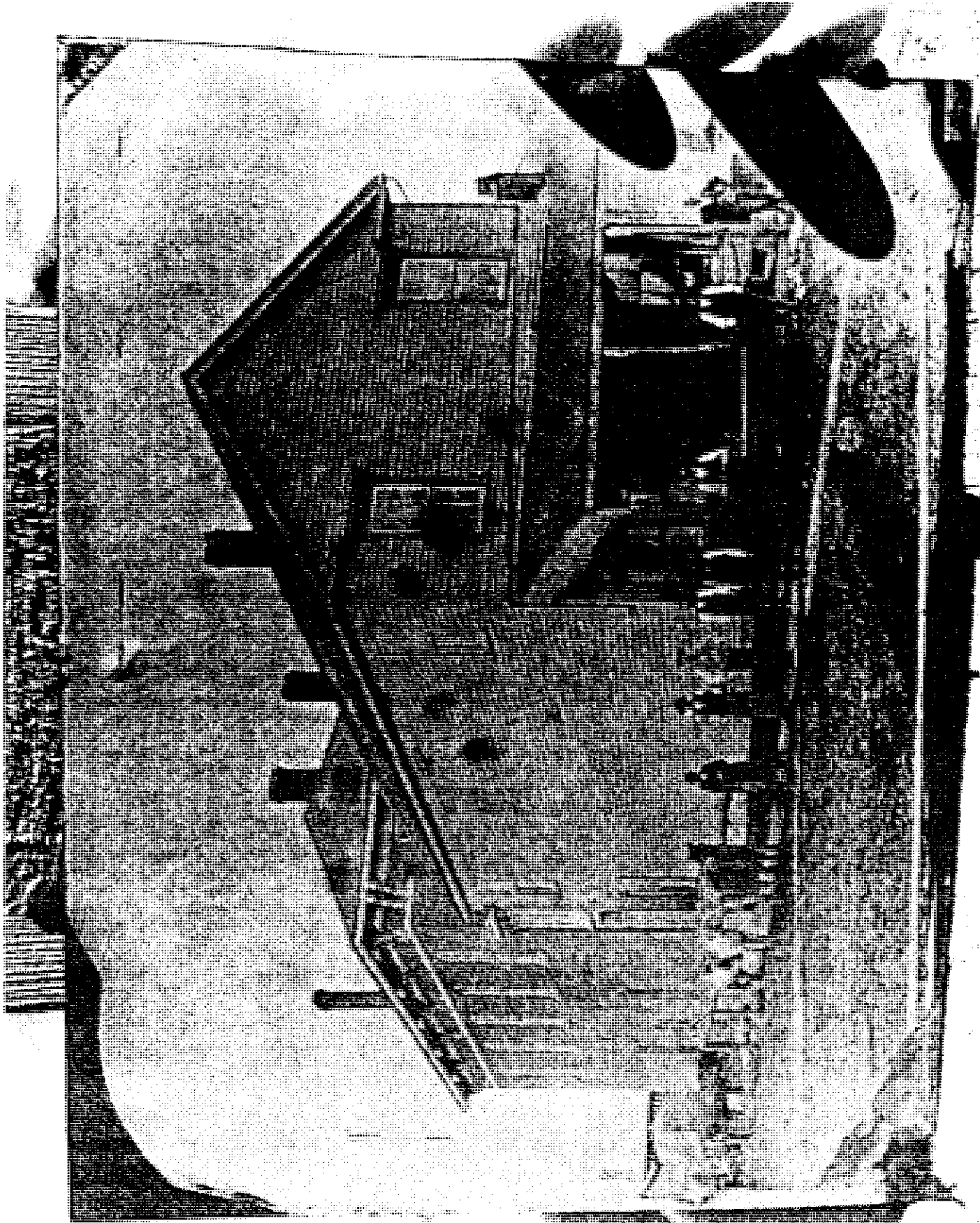
Main floor

Adjacent
Brick building

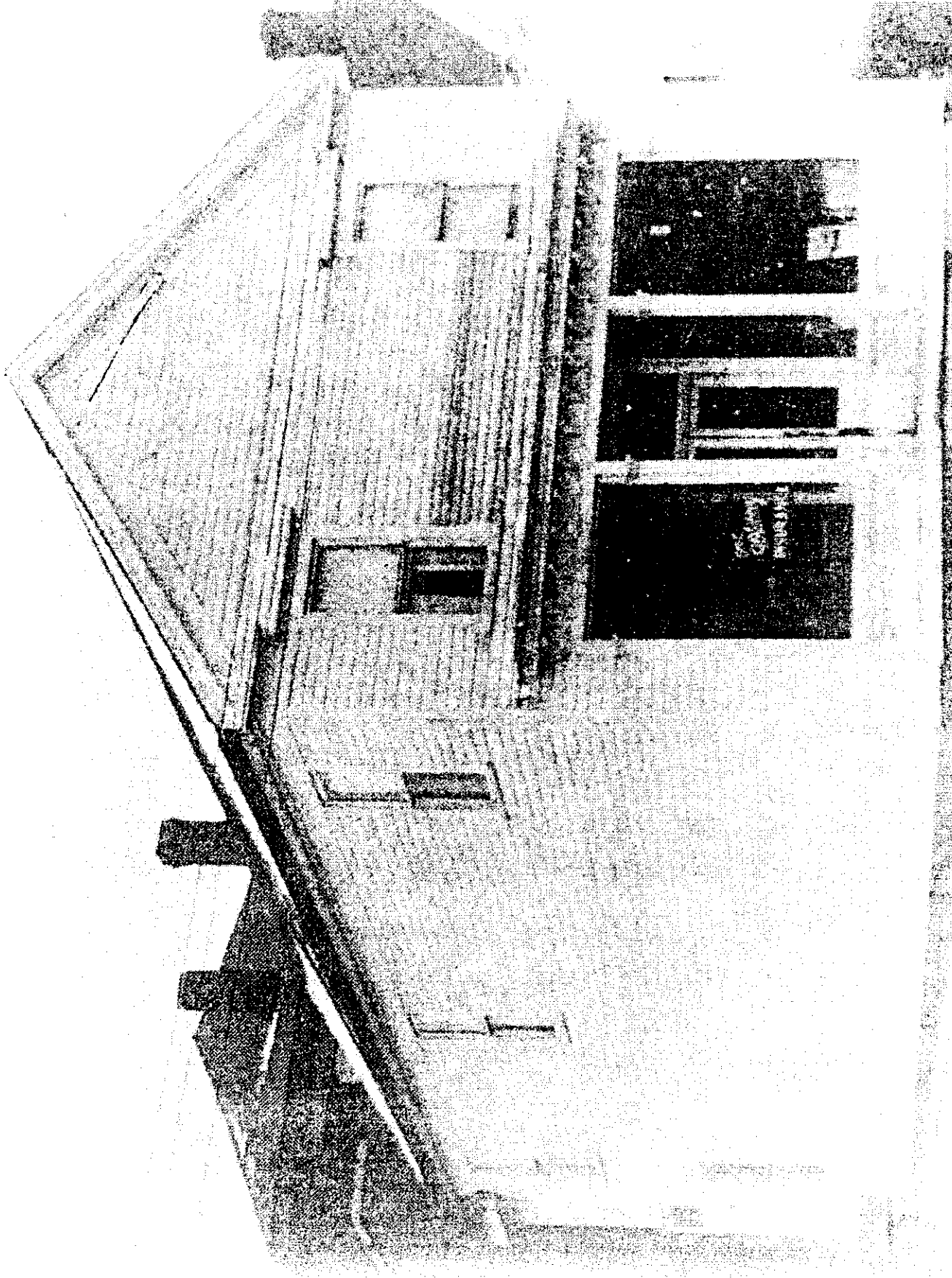


Basement

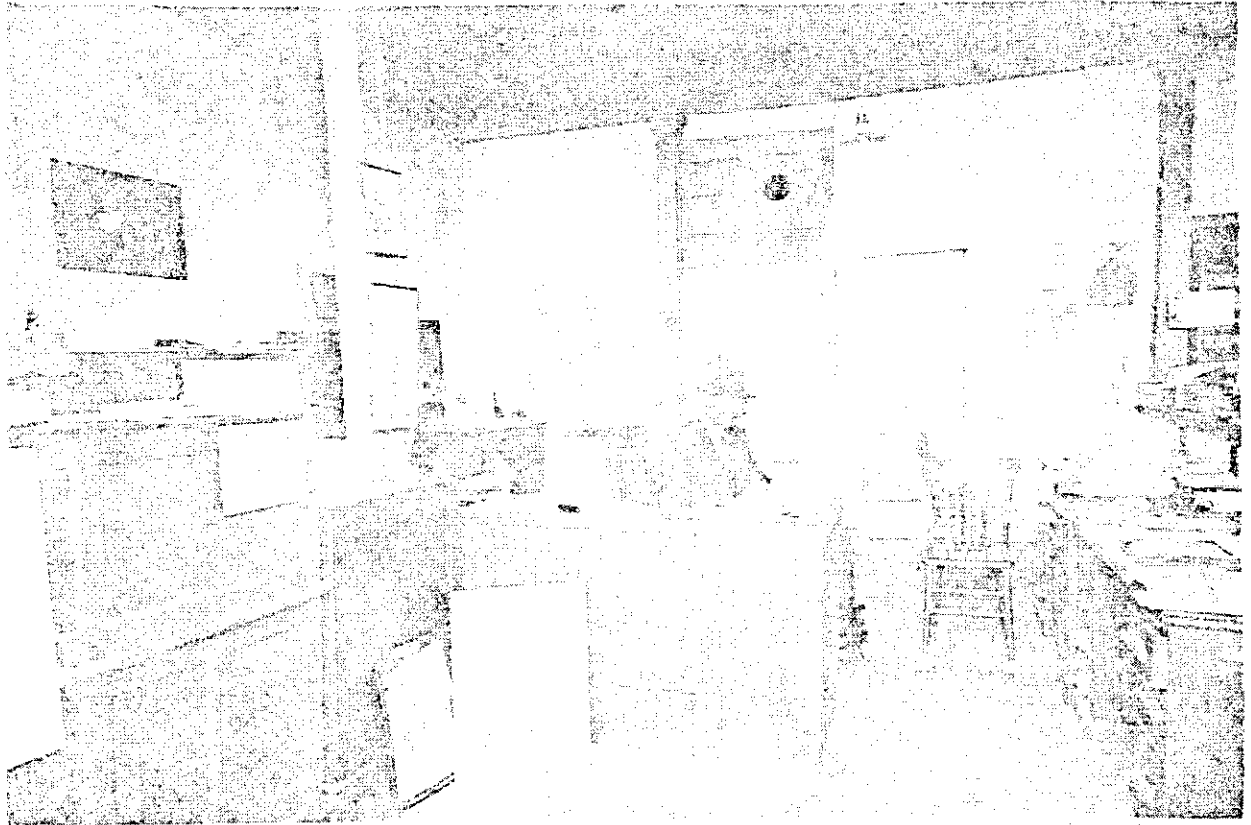
Stairwell
Addition



Circa 1870 Photograph. Colonel Matthew Rogers Building, Athens, Menard County, Illinois.



Circa 1959 Photograph. Colonel Matthew Rogers Building, Athens, Menard County, Illinois.



1920 LONG NINE BUILDING

Circa 1920 Interior Photograph. Colonel Matthew Rogers Building, Athens, Menard County, Illinois.

11th June 1832

Twenty days after date I promise to
pay to the order of Knapp and Pogue the sum
of four hundred and fifty three dollars
for value received and interest after the
21st day of Sept. Matthew Rogers

July 14. C. H. & Co., Boston
102 lbs. Butter - 8.47
July 15. By Cash - 34.00
" " " 2 Hogs Boston
102 lbs. Butter - 5.47
\$ 51.34

BACK

July 16th 1832

So by Ballou in your
favor on account \$42.97

INVOICE TO SIGNED

Beaumont April 10. 1833.

Col. M. Rodgers by Knapp & Pogue B.
1832.

July 143.	5356 lbs Salt @ 1/2 pt Bushel.	11.97
" "	200 ^{fine} - 19 ^{new} - 241 lbs Sugar @ 8/2	20.49
Aug 10-	25 lbs Cotton Yarn @ 30	7.50
" "	15 " I Sugar @ 20	3.00
" "	24 Yards piping @ 8	1.92
" "	4 lbs Annamary @ 25	1.00
" "	4 " Indigo @ 2.50	10.00
" "	1/4 doz Bridles @ 8.00	2.00
" "	2 " Hauls @ 2.40	4.80
" "	3 Sopes Pop @ 1.00	3.00
" "	1 doz Snake lip Col ^{rs} @ 8 ^c	.96
" "	1/2 " Ink powder @ 1.50	.75
" "	5 Gall. Rum @ 1.00	5.00
" "	1 Bag	.50
" "	12 Doz Buttons @ 25	3.00
" "	1 doz pins @ 1.00	1.00
" "	1 " Needles @ 2.00	2.00
" "	2 " Crumblers @ 1.25	2.50
" "	1 Bot	.50
" "	2239 lbs Salt @ 1/2 pt Bushel	27.99
		<u>104.88</u>

Nov 20 By Cash 15.00

Dec 15 " " 11.00

1833
Jan 18 " " 50.00

Feb 16 " 11 Kgs Butter 4 lbs @ 12/2 58.25

" " " 20 lbs Bus ray 3.33

" " " 102 " Rags 2.04

" " " 107 " West India seed 8.56

" " " Cash 20.00

Mar 73 " Butter from Morgan 10.57

297.85
104.88
\$ 202.97

Invoice showing supplies ordered by Rogers from Knapp and Pogue, 1833. Colonel Matthew Rogers Building, Athens, Menard County, Illinois.

ILLINOIS, GREENE COUNTY,
Black Homestead Farm,
RR 3,
Carrollton, 05000110,
LISTED, 5/24/05

ILLINOIS, LEE COUNTY,
Wright, Stephen, House,
612 Chicago Rd.,
Paw Paw, 05000433,
LISTED, 5/22/05

ILLINOIS, MADISON COUNTY,
Collinsville Masonic Temple Lodge #712 A.F. & A.M.,
213 W. Clay St.,
Collinsville, 05000430,
LISTED, 5/22/05

* ILLINOIS, MENARD COUNTY,
Rogers, Col. Matthew, Building,
200 S. Main St.,
Athens, 05000431,
LISTED, 5/22/05

ILLINOIS, ROCK ISLAND COUNTY,
Villa de Chantal Historic District,
2101 16th Ave.,
Rock Island, 05000432,
LISTED, 5/22/05

KANSAS, DONIPHAN COUNTY,
Brenner Vineyards Historic District,
SW of jct. of Mineral Point and 95th Rds.,
Doniphan vicinity, 04001514,
LISTED, 5/24/05

MARYLAND, BALTIMORE INDEPENDENT CITY,
Rombro Building,
22--24 S. Howard St.,
Baltimore, 94001172,
LISTED, 5/26/05
(Cast Iron Architecture of Baltimore MPS)

MASSACHUSETTS, BARNSTABLE COUNTY,
Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat CG 36500,
berthed at Rock Harbor,
Orleans, 05000467,
LISTED, 5/27/05

MASSACHUSETTS, ESSEX COUNTY,
River Road--Cross Street Historic District,
Cross, Prospect Sts., River, Salem Rds.,
Topsfield, 05000465,
LISTED, 5/26/05
(Farms and Rural Retreats of Topsfield, Massachusetts MPS)

MASSACHUSETTS, MIDDLESEX COUNTY,
Higginson, Henry, House,
44 Baker Farm Rd.,
Lincoln, 05000468,