

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**SENT TO D.C.**

5-14-03

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 **Shastid, John, House**

other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number **326 East Jefferson** \_\_\_\_\_ Not for publication  
city or town **Pittsfield** \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity  
state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Pike** code **149** zip code **62363**

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide  locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. White / SHPO \_\_\_\_\_ 5-14-03  
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

Shastid, John House  
Name of Property

Pike, Illinois  
County and State

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

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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):	_____	_____

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#### 5. Classification

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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      0

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

N/A

**Shastid, John House**  
Name of Property

**Pike, Illinois**  
County and State

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**Domestic/Single Dwelling**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**Work in Progress**

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Other: Timber Frame**

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation    **Limestone**

Roof            **Cedar Shake**

Walls          **Clapboard**

other

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

**Shastid, John House**  
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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)

**Architecture**

Period of Significance      **1838**

Significant Dates      **N/A**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder      **Shastid, John Greene / Builder**

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

Shastid, John House  
Name of Property

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property **Less than 1 acre**

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	688725	4386476	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.)

**Shastid, John House**  
Name of Property

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County and State

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title **Terry Pridemore**

organization **Pike County Historical Society**

date **January 2003**

street & number **818 East Washington Street**

telephone **217/285-5783**

city or town **Pittsfield**

state **IL**

zip code **62362**

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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name **Pike County Historical Society**

street & number **818 East Washington Street, PO Box 44**

telephone **217/285-5783**

city or town **Pittsfield**

state **IL**

zip code **62362**

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**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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John Shastid House

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### Description

The John Shastid House is located at 326 Jefferson, on the northwest corner of Illinois and East Jefferson Streets on a lot with two trees out front and one in the side yard. The house, which faces south, is set back 35 feet from the west side of North Illinois Street and 30 feet north of the edge of East Jefferson. The house is located in a mostly residential area about a block and a half outside the Pittsfield Historic District which was listed in the National Register on June 4, 1980. Across the street to the east is the Pittsfield East High School that was built between 1861 and 1866 and listed in the National Register on February 12, 1971. Although not included within the historic district, the Shastid House is consistent in age with some of the earlier buildings located within the district. A small one story house, constructed sometime after 1937, sits just east of the Shastid House.

The Shastid House is a one story 30 by 30 foot frame house with a square footprint and five rooms of unequal size (see floor plan A). The front (south elevation) of the house has five bays and resembles a traditional hall and parlor configuration with an off center front door opening into a large room with a chimney along the east side wall and a smaller room divided in half to the west side. However, unlike a hall and parlor, the Shastid House has two rooms along the rear of the house giving the structure more of a double pile form, although without the central hall and central chimney. It appears that the five-room configuration was constructed in one building episode because the basic framing techniques are consistent in all rooms. The east elevation shows the gable roof with a slight broken extension where the rooms across the rear of the house begin. Two windows are located on this side of the house--one toward the front and one toward the rear of the house. The north elevation has a center doorway and a window at the far east side. The cellar entrance is located to the west of the doorway. The west elevation is similar in form to the east elevation, except there are three windows--two centrally located in the gable portion of the house and one in the rear extension.

### General Construction

The foundation of the house consists of a perimeter wall, 12 inches to 18 inches thick, of flat limestone laid up without mortar in rubble-fashion, with additional intermediate stone piers lending support to floor joist spans. The cellar room, measuring 13 feet 3 inches by 11 feet 6 inches, has a dirt floor with an outside access on the north side of the house. The original cellar entrance was from the exterior of the house on the west side just south of the northwest corner. Other than the cellar, the entire house is on a crawl space 12 to 24 inches deep.

The lower sill plate is constructed of original hewn logs roughly 10 by 10 inches that are shouldered together to form the 30 by 30 foot layout of the house. The original floor joists,

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**John Shastid House**

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which remain in the house, are logs 10-12 inches in diameter, most with the bark removed, on 22 to 27 inch centers. They are laid perpendicular to the façade of the house and are 18 feet-16 inches in length. The joists have been mortised into the sill plate and are occasionally braced by rubble stone piers. The floors in the main block of the house remain and are full 1 inch by 6 inches, unplaned oak with no tongue and groove. They are straight-nailed to the joists with square-cut nails.

The studs are four to six inch logs hewn on two sides. Consistently, the portion of the logs not hewn has bark remaining. The thickness of the stud saplings is approximately 3 ½ inches placed 16 to 20 inches on center. Corner braces connect the post and beams at various locations in the structure. On the outside walls the house is covered with clapboard. On the interior walls, the logs were hewn to accept lath. Most of the original split-oak lath has been preserved. That which was replaced was either bowed, broken, or missing. The upper or rafter plate is ten-inch hewn timber similar to the sill plate. Original ceiling joists in the main block of the house are logs seven to ten inches in diameter, hewn on the bottom with the bark remaining on the other sides. The joists are approximately 18 feet 6 inches in length on 24 foot centers. Ceilings are lath and the plaster has been removed.

The house has a principal rafter system constructed of log joists and rafters, which are all still covered in bark. Since the attic has never been floored, it has never served as a loft or for additional bedrooms. There has never been a ridge beam in the roof structure, but sometime within the last twenty-five years, unplaned two by four inch posts and struts have been added to alleviate some of the roof sagging. Roof rafters are three to five inches in diameter and are approximately 8 foot 9 inches long and are on 21 to 24 inch center nailers. Roof sheathing is a mixture of boards ranging in size from one by six to one by 18 inches. Many of these boards are sawn lumber indicating that the roofing material had been replaced over time. Wood shingles cover the exterior of the roof. During the restoration process, the existing cedar shingles were badly weathered and were removed and were replaced with shingles true to the original design and dimensions.

The original exterior walls were covered with pine tapered clapboard with sizes varying from six to eight inches. During the restoration process, it was determined that most of the clapboard was beyond repair and was replaced in kind with like materials. The new clapboard was the same type of wood as was used for the original cladding and was milled to the original dimensions.

The Shastid House has wooden six over six double hung windows. The sills are unplaned, full dimension two inch pine. The windows were salvaged from a log cabin near Milton, Illinois,



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and are similar in configuration and age to the original windows that would have been in the Shastid House. The original windows were removed and replaced in the 1940s.

### **Interior**

The interior of the Shastid House consists of five rooms: A large parlor (Room 1), two side rooms (Rooms 2 and 3) along the west side and two rear rooms (Rooms 3a and 4) along the north side. Room 1 is roughly 20 feet by 20 feet. The front door opens into this space. One window is to the east of the door and two windows are to the west of the door. Another window is located along the east side toward the front of the house. Beside this window along the east side of the house is the fireplace. Three doorways open off Room 1 into Rooms 2, 3 and 4. Rooms 2, 3 and 3a run along the west side of the house and are all roughly ten by ten feet in size. Rooms 2 and 3 have a doorway between them and each has a door into Room 1. Room 2 has windows along the south and west sides. Room 3a is located in the northwest corner of the house. It has one window on the west wall and can only be entered through Room 4. Room 4 is roughly ten by 20 feet and runs along the north side of the house. It is connected to Room 1 through a small doorway and also to Room 3a. This rear room has two windows: one along the east side of the house and one along the north side of the house. The rear entrance to the house is also in this room.

The Shastid House had very little interior ornamentation and is in the process of rehabilitation. All of the walls have been replastered and the very small amount of historic trims that remained in the house has been re-installed. At this time, the ceilings still have the historic lath exposed. A brick fireplace has been reconstructed using older brick to match the original fireplace. The house never had central heating. Originally, the parlor fireplace provided heat and only a small brick chimney, which was connected to a cooking/baking/heating stove, served the original kitchen, near the southeast corner of the house. At some point, probably in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, an iron-heating stove was placed in front of the firebox in the parlor. The firebox was closed and the house was heated more efficiently than it had been with the open firebox.

### **Modifications/Changes**

Most of the substantive changes in the house took place in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the Shastid family no longer owned the house. While originally constructed as a five room house, the Shastid House was added onto in the 1940s (see floor plan B). In the early 1940s a rear enclosed porch area was added to the north side of the house (Room 6). The cellar entrance was relocated to this side of the house the 1940s, when the additions were built. Additions were built in 1946 on the east and west elevations (Rooms 5, 7 and 8). The addition on the east elevation ran the

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entire length of the original house and consisted of two rooms (Room 5 and 8). The addition on the west side of the house was a small centrally located bathroom extension (Room 7). New windows were installed and the house was covered with asphalt siding.

When the additions were put on, portions of the wood siding on the sides of the original house were removed. Under the non-historic siding, wood clapboards remained intact only along the front elevation, sections of the west elevation, and along the gable of the east elevation. Interior walls of the house were finished with two coats of lime plaster (principally with a hog-hair binder) over split-oak lath. Most of the original walls and ceilings were covered over with plasterboards or beaverboard and almost all of the historic trim removed.

Given freeze-thaw heaving and the foundation shifting over 164 years, the house began to lean 7 inches on both north and south walls. The lean is from south to north and although it has been straightened, a slight tilt remains.

In 1990, the Pike County Historical Society received a grant from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) to have a historic structures report conducted on the Shastid House. At that time, IHPA determined the property eligible for listing in the National Register. The following year, a physical report on the Shastid House containing, among other things, a history of the house and its former occupants, a discussion of the house's current condition, and recommendations for rehabilitation and restoration, was completed by Robert Christie, a consultant from Quincy, Illinois, and approved by the IHPA. In the report, Christie concluded that the original house consisted of five rooms with additions on the east, west and north sides. For restoration, Christie recommended that the 1940s additions and asphalt siding be removed. According to Christie, very little trimming in the house was original, except the door trim between rooms 4 and 1 (see illustration). Following that, Christie recommended that the original trim and any remaining clapboard be removed and catalogued so that they could be reconditioned and re-used, or replaced if necessary. The fireplace could also be rebuilt once the north-south walls were straightened. Christie also suggested that the floorboards be removed in order to make any necessary repairs to the timber joists or stone piers and then replaced (Christie, 1991: pp.12-13).

In 2000, the Pike County Historical Society began to restore the Shastid House. As a result, the asphalt siding, the 1940s additions, and closets/cabinetry added to the interior in the 1940s have all been removed. Also, any hint of electricity or gas was removed from the house.

Over the past few years a dedicated local rehabilitation/restoration effort has occurred at the John Shastid House. Certainly, materials that are not original to the house have been added, such as most of the siding, windows, and roof shingles. These changes were done in accordance with the

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Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. More importantly however, the significance of the house is based upon its method of construction--timber framing with no sawn lumber. This aspect of the house is intact and required little or no replacement. The John Shastid House represents an early timber frame house in this region of the state and has sufficient integrity to convey its architectural associations.

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### Statement of Significance

The John Shastid House, completed in 1838, in Pittsfield, Pike County, Illinois, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its method of construction. The Shastid House is an example of early timber-frame construction in this region of Illinois. This type of resource needs to be represented in the buildings that are being preserved in the state. Additionally it is a rare known surviving example of early frame construction without sawn timber. The period of significance for the Shastid House is 1838, the year the house was constructed.

### Method of Construction

Historic methods of construction are important for the information they provide on the people and communities of the past. Previously overlooked, the importance of material culture and vernacular building types was brought to light by Fred Kniffen, a cultural geographer. In "Buildings in Wood in the Eastern United States: A Time-Place Perspective, Kniffen and co-author Henry Glassie stress the significance of "folk practices":

...they [folk practices] better serve the ultimate purposes of the undertaking to find origins and trace diffusions and changes. Folkways are comparatively the simplest and most direct expression of fundamental needs and urges. They conform to type with a minimum of individual deviation, and thus attest to the innate conservatism of their practitioners. They are often areally [sic], even when not numerically, dominant. Further, folk practices with respect to material things have been badly neglected in comparison with, say, traditional music and tales. Architects, for example, have largely disregarded the simpler folk methods and forms of construction in favor of more sophisticated methods and more pretentious structures. Finally, the new attack on rural poverty will surely accelerate the destruction of unchronicled folk structures and practices to the point where their record is beyond recovery (Kniffen and Glassie: 1966: 41).

This new focus on the built environment created another avenue for studying the people and the communities of earlier times using physical evidence found in their dwellings.

The method of construction used at the Shastid house is timber framing, a common practice in Illinois in the 1830s (Brown, 1976: 23). This type of construction uses timbers, varying in size from four by fours or larger, as structural elements. The largest timbers were used as sills, plates

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or joists and were hewn to meet the needs of the builder. Trees were squared, hewn into studs, rafters, sills, and beams of different sizes. Often smaller timbers were left in their more natural rounded form and used in construction. The structural members were connected together with mortise and tenon joints. "Heavy members were cut so that squared holes called mortises were ready to receive square projections called tenons, so the joint could be pegged securely" (Brown, 1976:23). Timber framing continued to persist through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in some regions.

The Shastid House has several features that identify it as timber-frame construction. The studs of the house are tapered at the ends like tenons. The floor joists fit into "pockets" cut into the foundation. The construction method differed from the later-developed balloon framing for balloon framing required the use of lighter sawn wood, smaller studs (originally 3" x 4" and currently less than 2" x 4") and nails instead of mortise and tenon joinery found in timber-frame construction. (Brown, 1976: 24). The original sill and floor joist of the Shastid House are logs and still remain under the main block of the house, laid perpendicular (Christie 1991:5). The original ceiling joists also still remain in the main block of the house (Christie 1991:6). Floors in the original block of the house still remain and are rough sawn oak with no tongue and groove (Christie 1991:6).

The method of construction of the Shastid House is also distinctive in its lack of sawn materials. The logs used for the house were hewn indicating a heavy reliance on locally procured materials and the use of hewn and splitting technologies. During this period, if sawn lumber was not available, many individuals chose to build log structures. It is possible that Shastid, born in Kentucky and moving to Illinois via Tennessee through very wood rich environments, was quite familiar with horizontal log building tradition. He, however, chose to build his new house using hewn logs, but a different construction method.

The lack of sawn lumber in the Shastid House is an indication that there were probably no saw mills near Pittsfield. This appears to be confirmed by county histories and maps. The History of Pike County indicates James McMurphy and son built a saw and grist mill in Rockport in 1828. This same history also mentions a saw mill near Chambersburg in 1830 owned by Johnson (Chapman, 1880:212, 228). The 1860 Map of Pike County indicates that by that time there were three saw mills in the county: the Algers Saw Mill in Section 14 of Barry Township, the Mace, Rupert and Company Saw Mill in Rockport, and a saw mill near Chambersburg (Holmes and Arnold, 1860). None of these mills were particularly close to Pittsfield.

With introduction of sawmilling in region, hewn lumber and timber was generally replaced with sawn materials and timber frame buildings became more common, replacing horizontal log construction. Timber framing was a popular construction technique until the invention of

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balloon framing, which was an easier method of construction. Balloon framing was first used in Chicago in the 1830s, but did not catch on in this part of the state until post-1850s (Brown, 1976: 23).

**History the Shastid Family**

The Shastids were early among the early settlers of the town of Pittsfield. Pittsfield was laid out in 1833 by Colonel William Ross, an early resident, who named the town in honor of Pittsfield, Massachusetts. In 1836 when John Greene Shastid moved his family there, the town of Pittsfield consisted of only six houses. There are four buildings located within the historic district that were built around the same time that Shastid settled in Pittsfield: The Star Hotel at 206 East Jefferson which is a two story brick structure built in 1835, the Colonel William Ross House at 130 West Jefferson which is a Greek Revival built in 1835 or 1836, the William Watson House at 332 West Washington which is a two story brick which began construction in 1838, and the George Foote/Dr. Orin S. Campbell House at 304 West Adams which was built circa 1838. Each of these houses is larger and more detailed than the Shastid House. Shastid, a farmer, may not have been as wealthy as those who built the other houses in town which date to the same time period.

Today, Pittsfield has approximately 4200 residents and is the seat of Pike County. It is located on US 54 and Illinois 106, just three miles south of Interstate 72. The city is only 65 miles west of the State Capitol in Springfield and 100 miles north of St. Louis. Pittsfield is in the heart of a rich agricultural county, facilitated by the Mississippi River, only 18 miles away and the Illinois River, 11 miles away.

The basis for most of this history of John Greene Shastid and the Shastid House comes from the autobiography of John Green Shastid's grandson, Dr. Thomas Hall Shastid. Of French descent, John Greene was born in 1798 in Kentucky as John Green Chastain. John's mother was from an English family named Greene and the migrations of both the Shastid and Greene families parallel each other, starting in 1806 from Kentucky to Tennessee to Illinois. During some of their moves, the Shastids changed their original French name "Chastain" because the French "ain" was unpronounceable in English. John changed the "ain" to "id" and the "Ch" to "Sh" so the name could be spelled as it sounded. Many in the Greene family also changed their name by dropping the final "e".

In 1818 while living in Tennessee, John married Elizabeth Edwards and began farming and raising stock with his father, who subsequently moved in with him and his new wife. In 1828, John briefly moved his family to Menard County, Illinois, but decided not to stay, and in the same year moved to a farm just outside what was to become the town of New Salem, in

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Sangamon County. The Shastids flourished in New Salem and established a profitable farming operation near John's wife's relatives, the Greenes. While living in the New Salem community, the Shastids and the Greenes bought most of their goods at the local shop Offut Store, whose clerk happened to be Abraham Lincoln.

After seven years of living in New Salem, in 1836, John Shastid decided to move his family again to capitalize on an opportunity in rural Pike County. The Greenes decided not to accompany their relatives to Pike County and stayed in the New Salem area. Even though John Shastid moved his farming/teaming operations to rural Pike County, he decided to settle in the town of Pittsfield, where he believed his children would have a better education.

John Shastid bought Lots 7 and 8 in the small growing town. On the west half of Lot 8, stood a "small red house not more than 20 feet by 30 feet," according to Shastid's grandson, Thomas Hall Shastid. The family moved into this house and lived there until John Shastid could complete a new house in 1838. Probably due to the lack of access to a local sawmill, Shastid chose hand hewn timber framing as the method of construction for his new house, with structural members fashioned from logs, principally oak, and sized according to function. It appears from the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps that the small red house may have stood on Lot 8 until sometime between 1924 and circa 1937. Is it possible that the family may have lived in both houses or that they rented out the smaller red house.

John Shastid engaged in farming and teaming and was elected constable. He eventually served as Sheriff of Pike County for eight years. The 1850 census shows John Shastid, his wife (Elizabeth) and four children (Sarah E., Jon, William and Thomas) residing in the house. An Elnora St. John, age 13, is also listed; it is unclear whether she is a child of John and Elizabeth. Sarah and Jon were listed as 25 and 23, respectively, and both are school teachers. William was 20 years of age and listed as a teamster. William later dies in the Civil War. Thomas was 18 and did not have an occupation listed, but does go on to become a doctor in Pittsfield. In 1863 Elizabeth Shastid dies and John Green Shastid dies in 1874. By that time, with the exception of Thomas who owned the former Star Hotel property and started his own family, the other remaining children had moved out of Pittsfield. The Shastid family continued to own the property at the corner of Jefferson and Illinois until 1927, but used it as rental property.

### **Conclusion**

The Shastid House maintains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The most interesting feature of this house is the framework, which was uncovered during its restoration. Its sturdy construction provides us with information about the era in which it was built, as well as the people who built it. This factor, coupled with its age and lack of sawn

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**John Shastid House**

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lumber, makes the Shastid House an important local resource and worthy of preservation in Illinois. The additions and alterations that were made during the 20<sup>th</sup> century were removed, and the house is back to its original configuration. The majority of the framing members – studs, joists, rafters, and lath – and the flooring remain intact and identify the construction method as timber-frame.

The National Register has special considerations for assessing the integrity of rare property types. A property needs to have retained enough characteristics that help identify its significance, but exceptions are made when there are few surviving examples: “The rarity and poor condition, however, of other extant examples of the type may justify accepting a greater degree of alteration or fewer features, provided that enough of the property survives for it to be a significant resource (National Register Bulletin 15: 47).”

A possibility that could attribute to the rarity of a property such as the Shastid House is that most people, upon uncovering a timber-frame house, may not realize its significance and therefore take no steps to preserve the structure. Log cabins, on the other hand, have received much attention. They have become symbols of the pioneer age and of Abraham Lincoln:

Americans outgrew their log houses but enshrined them in myth. Popular thinking overlooked the complexities of horizontal log construction and reduced all log buildings to one type – the log cabin. Celebrated as Lincoln’s birthplace, the log cabin was thought to have attributed to his greatness. A 1910 poem, “The Old Log Cabin,” saluted Lincoln’s humble origins and concluded that: “The White House of the blessed goal/Was but the evolution of thy soul (Sculle, 1982:4).”

It is more likely that horizontal log cabins, discovered either during a demolition or even a remodeling, are often recognized and reported. Since log cabins have become synonymous with the pioneer days, even though log buildings have been built well into the twentieth century, the general population deems these “relics” to be a significant part of our past. However, the significance of other methods of early construction are frequently overlooked because they do not fit the stereotype of what a “pioneer house” should look like. Additionally, it is difficult to determine how many extant houses in Illinois have timber-frame construction. This is mostly due to the fact that they are hidden from plain view. Even so, upon discovery, these structures have usually changed significantly from their original appearance and may only contain remnants of their early framing techniques.



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**John Shastid House**

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The Shastid House received several alterations over time. Without knowing its history, one could easily have mistaken it for a late nineteenth century house, rather than an early nineteenth century house. The removal of the circa 1940s additions to the Shastid House has restored the original form of the house. The introduction of new materials during its restoration was necessary due to the amount of damage that occurred to the original materials. The new roof and clapboard has protected the framework of the house, which is still intact. The house is in its original location, its setting is still residential, its design is still intact, and its workmanship is still apparent in the framework.

More importantly, it does not appear that there is any building similar in construction to the Shastid House in Pittsfield. Other known buildings dating from that time in Pittsfield were the Star Hotel (206 E. Jefferson), the Colonel William Ross House (130 W. Washington), the Foote/Campbell House (304 W. Adams) and the William Watson House (332 W. Washington). All of these buildings, which are located in the Pittsfield Historic District, are two stories and much larger than the Shastid House; the Watson House was originally a hotel, as was the Star Hotel and both are brick. Both the Ross and the Watson houses are examples of Greek Revival style architecture; the Star Hotel and the Foote/Campbell house are vernacular but have returns on the eaves, a characteristic common of the Greek Revival style. It is doubtful that the methods of construction employed in these buildings were similar to those of the Shastid House. There are not many known surviving examples of this type of construction in Illinois, especially from this era:

...the small vernacular housing of early to mid-nineteenth century housing is disappearing in Illinois at an alarming rate. Nineteenth-century housing, even if dramatically altered over the years, can contribute to our understanding of the modernization of the American home. Major technological changes affecting the social and economic climate of the household are reflected in architectural details. Above-ground archaeological investigations of these structures, combined with traditional subsurface archaeology and documentary research, can result in a more thorough understanding of the house, its setting, and the family that occupied it (Mansberger and Dyson, 1990: 86-87).

The house might have passed into obscurity if not for the fact that it has been associated with Lincoln lore: Lincoln, a friend of John Shastid's son Thomas, is said to have visited the house on several occasions and dined there. It is certainly this connection that has saved the structure from further neglect or even possible demolition.

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**John Shastid House**

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The Shastid House still conveys the property's historic character and retains its association with 1830s construction. The interior framework maintains the original materials and characteristics that allow us to interpret its method of construction, which reveals information about the people and the community of Pittsfield in the early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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John Shastid House

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Shastid House is located at 326 East Jefferson Street in Outlot 36 in the City of Pittsfield, Pike County, Illinois. The legal description of the property is as follows:

Beginning at the Southeast corner of the aforementioned Outlot 36; Thence South 90 degrees 00 minutes West along the South line said Outlot, 85.98 feet; thence North 00 degrees 13 minutes and 44 seconds East, parallel with the East line of said Outlot 36, a distance of 226.23 feet; thence South 89 degrees 08 minutes and 06 seconds East, 85.98 feet to a point on the East line of said outlot 36; thence South 00 degrees 13 minutes and 44 seconds West along said East line, 224.93 feet to the point of the beginning.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the Shastid House and the lot upon which it sits, both which are owned by the Pike County Historical Society.

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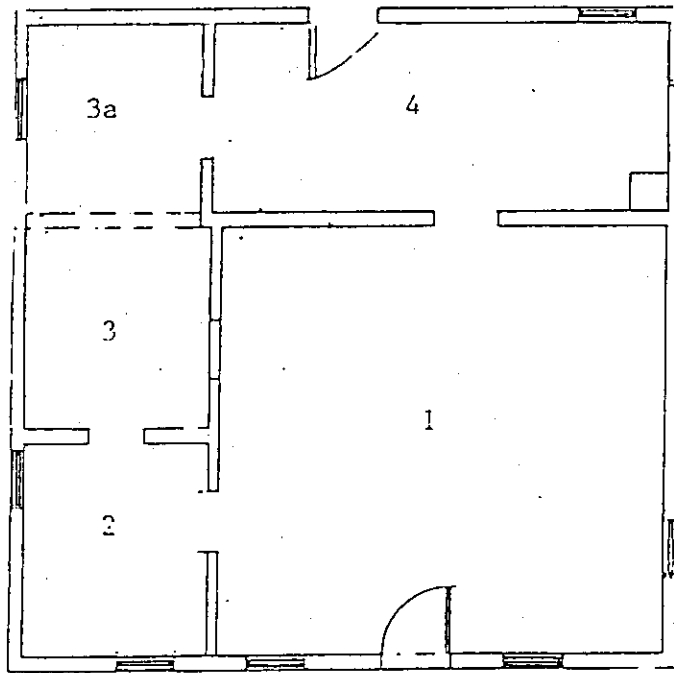
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**John Shastid House**

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Floor Plan A

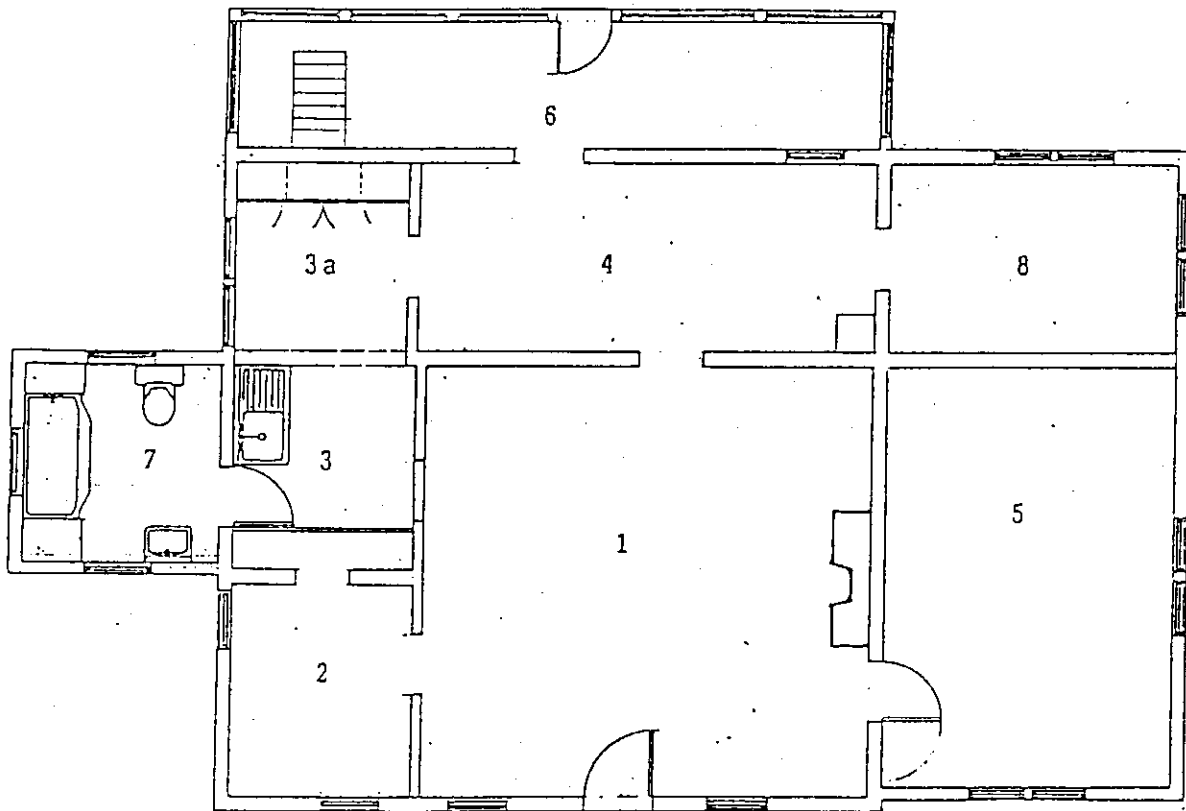
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**John Shastid House**



Floor Plan B

Roughly bounded by Whitehaven St., Rock Creek Park, Potomac River, and  
Georgetown University campus,  
Washington, 67000025,  
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 7/03/03

GEORGIA, JEFF DAVIS COUNTY,  
Pace House,  
61 E. Coffee St.,  
Hazlehurst, 03000591,  
LISTED, 7/05/03

IDAHO, LINCOLN COUNTY,  
Wood River Center Grange No. 87,  
375 W 4 Mile Rd.,  
Shoshone vicinity, 03000586,  
LISTED, 7/03/03

\*ILLINOIS, PIKE COUNTY,  
Shastid, John, House,  
326 East Jefferson,  
Pittsfield, 03000579,  
LISTED, 6/26/03

MARYLAND, BALTIMORE INDEPENDENT CITY,  
Baltimore City College,  
3320 The Alameda,  
Baltimore (Independent City), 03000573,  
LISTED, 6/30/03

MASSACHUSETTS, NORFOLK COUNTY,  
Quincy Shore Drive,  
Quincy Shore Drive,  
Quincy, 03000575,  
LISTED, 6/23/03  
(Metropolitan Park System of Greater Boston MPS)

MINNESOTA, MEEKER COUNTY,  
Pipe Lake Fort,  
Address Restricted,  
Cosmos vicinity, 03000576,  
LISTED, 6/26/03

MISSISSIPPI, COAHOMA COUNTY,  
Clark, John, House,  
211 Clark St.,  
Clarksdale, 03000589,  
LISTED, 7/05/03

MISSOURI, PIKE COUNTY,  
Georgia Street Historic District,  
Roughly Georgia St. between Main and Seventh Sts.,  
Louisiana, 87000653,  
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 7/01/03

NEW YORK, ALLEGANY COUNTY,  
Belmont Literary and Historical Society Free Library,  
2 Willets Ave.,  
Belmont, 03000599,  
LISTED, 7/05/03

NEW YORK, ALLEGANY COUNTY,  
Bolivar Free Library,  
390 Main St.,  
Bolivar, 03000606,



1-10

PK-H-43

Survey Use Only

Archaeology  
Architecture  
History

Illinois Historic Sites Inventory

1. Name of Site:  
Common: John D. Shastid Home (Lincoln site)

2. Location of site:  
Street and Number

~~John D. Shastid Home~~

326

E. Jefferson  
Township

Pittsfield

Zip

Code

Range T5S

R4W

Section

24

Section

SE

Pittsfield

County:

3. Classification  
Category: (check one)

District

Building

Site

Structure

Integrity: (check one)

Altered

Unaltered

Position: (check one)

Moved

Original site

4. Ownership:

Public

Private

Status:

Occupied

Unoccupied

Preservation  
in progress

Access to the public:

Yes

Restricted

Unrestricted

No

Present Use: (check one or More)

Agricultural

Commercial

Educational

Entertainment

Government

Industrial

Military

Museum

Park

Private Residence

Religious

Scientific

Transportation

Other (specify)

5. Owner of Property:

Owner's Name

Victor Montequin

Street and Number

Phone Number

City or Town

Pittsfield

State

Illinois

County

Pike

Zip Code

62363

HOMES OF PROMINENT PEOPLE

6. Description:  
Condition:

Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor  Destroyed  Abandoned

Is there a program of preservation under way?  Yes  No  
If yes, give a brief description on the back of this page.

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archaeological site (pre-Columbian)
- Archaeological site (post-Columbian to 1789)
- French Influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois early (1818-1850)
- Illinois middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois late (1900-present)
- Famous people (Give names and dates)

8. Specific date of site:

Areas of significance: (check one or more)

- Aboriginal (prehistoric)
- Aboriginal (historic)
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communication
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape architecture
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Other (specify)

Write statement of significance: (include all names and dates)  
Use additional sheets if necessary.

**Home of Lincoln's old New Salem friends - He visited here often, Scene of Pigeon Pot**

Form prepared by: **Pie Story.**

Home and Title: **Mile L. Pearson, Jr.** **8/9/71**

Map location:

Number:

City or Town: **Pleasant Hill** **Pike** **62366**

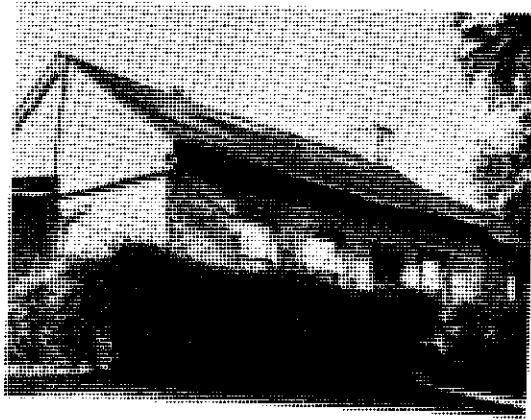
Phone Numbers:

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site.

When filling out the survey form, please cite according to the following example any published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct the survey's task.

Bibliography Form:  
Robertson, Robert., Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

List bibliography on attached sheet.



4. **SHASTID HOME:** Built 1836 by Jon Greene Shastid, neighbor to A. Lincoln in New Salem (now State Park) near Springfield. Here Lincoln visited Shastid family many times, and here he ate pigeon potpie and liked it so well there was none left for the 'second table' when the Shastid children were allowed to eat. It was Shastid who introduced Lincoln and Nicolay.

