

WASHINGTON



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lincoln Oak Home of Mr. & Mrs. Matthew T. Scott & Mr. & Mrs. Carl Vrooman

and/or common Vrooman Mansion

2. Location

street & number 701 E. Taylor

N/A not for publication

city, town Bloomington

N/A vicinity of

state Illinois

code 012

county McLean

code 113

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Bettie S. & George W. Polites

street & number 701 E. Taylor

city, town Bloomington

N/A vicinity of

state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. McLean County Recorder of Deeds

street & number 105 Courthouse

city, town Bloomington

state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Historic Landmarks in McLean County
title Illinois Historic Landmarks Surveys has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date December 1973 by Keith Sculle federal state county local

ML-H-15 Carl S. Vrooman Home & Outbuildings

depository for survey records Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Historic Sites Division

city, town Springfield

state Illinois

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Ground was broken in May 1869 and a three story Italianate style house was built facing north on an acre of high ground in Dimmett's Grove. It had a low pitched hip roof of tin, eyebrow and round head windows, heavy cornices, wide eaves supported by brackets. Solid red brick walls were twelve inches thick on a limestone base. It had four fireplaces. "Gas Lights for All," Weekly Pantagraph, May 18, 1869, indicates that the home was most likely gas lighted.

During the period from April 1900 through October 1901 the house was enlarged by approximately 60% and remodeled featuring romanesque arches on two new porches. Red brick was used for the rounded arches and parapets and yellow brick was used for the walls. Yellowish tan paint unified old and new facades and contrasted with terra cotta capitals and sandstone columns and coping. Old 60 pound railroad rails carry the concrete porch floors. Steps are stone.

Most windows were restyled. Bay windows facing both east and west were retained. There is a fanlight over the front door. Five stained glass and five beveled glass windows dominate the north entrance.

The entry hall is beamed. The broad stairway which leads to the second floor balcony has carved red oak ornament and paneling. Under the staircase is an inglenook. A back stairway leads to the basement and the second and third floors. To the east of the front entrance is the parlor and to the south is a reception room with curly birch mill work. Opening onto the east of the reception room is a study with a 4' x 4' built in safe. A lift adjoins a rear entrance. The centrally located library has cherry paneling and cabinets with leaded glass doors. The oak paneled dining room has a built in side board, hand rondels and stained glass. It overlooks the south lawn. Also on the first floor are a butler's pantry, cold pantry, and a bath. Domed opalescent glass ceiling fixtures are in the parlor, library, and dining room. In 1982 a 5' portion of wall was removed between the 1901 family kitchen and servant's kitchen.

Second floor rooms are: 7 bedrooms, balcony, large linen closet, trunk room, 2 baths. Combination gas-electric sconces are on the first two floors. In 1923 the third floor was completed, bringing the house to 35 rooms. Speaking tubes connect each level. Floors are oak. Walls are plastered and papered. The basement is brick and divided into ten sections. There are eleven fireplaces and eight domers. The approximate floor areas are: first floor, 3,552 sq. ft.; second floor, 3,436 sq. ft.; third floor, 3,436 sq. ft.; basement, 3,436 sq. ft.

The exterior and floor plan of the house are unaltered since the renovation in 1900-1901. The tin roof was repaired and coated in the fall of 1982. The north porch arches and roof have been stabilized. Restoration of the parapet is planned. The lot size is 240' x 150', less a 32' x 32' park where the Lincoln Oak grew. The park was deeded to Bloomington in 1966. The tree died in 1976. Vachel Lindsay, poet of Illinois, and the Central States, was the dedication speaker in 1914 when a tablet was affixed to the oak:

"I have heard Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln at different times speak from a platform erected under the shade of this tree. This historic spot was then a part of Dimmett's Grove."

Adlai E. Stevenson I

A plaque by the Clayton Street entrance to the home reads: The Lincoln Oak Home of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew T. Scott and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Vrooman.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1869 April 1900- Oct. 1901 **Builder/Architect** G.W. Bunting (owner: Elias Barber) Arthur Pillsbury (owner: Julia G. Scott)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This house is significant because of the national and state prominence of two of its occupants: Mrs. Matthew T. (Julia Green) Scott and her son-in-law, Carl Vrooman. Mrs. Scott (1839-1923) exerted leadership primarily through the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which at that time was the most influential body of women in America. Carl Vrooman (1872-1966) was an intellectual reformer. He served as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture during both Woodrow Wilson administrations.

Matthew T. Scott made his fortune in real estate as a pioneer landlord and gentleman farmer. When he died in 1891 Mrs. Scott took on the management of 12,000 acres of farm land, using scientific methods to increase production. She enrolled forty of her tenant farmers in agricultural courses at the University of Illinois. She undertook the major renovation of her home, founded the Matthew T. Scott Institute at Phelps, Kentucky, and was elected president of the McLean County Coal Company. She was the important influence for the purchase of Fort Massac Park, the first of several historical sites purchased by the state of Illinois. Through her leadership the D.A.R. erected a monument in honor of George Rogers Clark at Fort Massac.

Mrs. Scott's sister, Letitia Stevenson, was wife of Vice President Adlai E. Stevenson I and one of the founders of the D.A.R. Mrs. Scott, a fluent speaker, served as vice president general for four years and was President General of the National D.A.R. from 1909 through 1912. During her administration 7,000 new members were added and Continental Hall in Washington D.C., the national home of the D.A.R., was completed and dedicated. President Taft made the opening address.

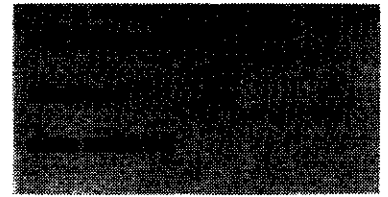
After World War I she helped obtain \$50,000 for the installation of a water works system in the war devastated town of Tilloloy, France. She chaired an organization known as Fatherless Children of France and sent \$180,000 for the adoption of 4,000 French war orphans. On April 12, 1920 in the nation's capital, French Ambassador Jusserand presented Mrs. Scott, in the name of his government, the Gold Medal of French Gratitude as a token of the service she rendered to France.

Mrs. Scott, who shared common ancestry with George Washington and Queen Elizabeth of England, entertained countless world renown visitors in her Bloomington home. During the influenza epidemic of 1918 she turned her spacious home into a hospital. Mrs. Scott had a sense of duty and responsibility. She was a preserver of the history and traditions of America and a true patriot.

Carl Vrooman was an author, orator, and reformer. He wrote five books and numerous essays and articles. His Farm Bulletins emphasized economics and summarized scientific information into business suggestions. In 1917 and 1918, as Assistant

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

Vrooman Mansion

Item number

8

Page 1

Secretary of Agriculture, he assumed the role of spokesman for aims of the Wilson administration. He often filled in for President Wilson on speaking engagements the President was unable to keep. During World War I he promoted back yard gardening as individual food preparedness in case war cut off food distribution and to free food for export. The War Garden Movement was the forerunner of the famous Victory Gardens of World War II. Carl became known as the Father of the War Gardens.

At the close of World War I, representing the American Farm Bureau Federation, Carl collected, had processed, and shipped to starving people of Poland, Chechoslovakia and Austria nearly a million bushels of corn as a gift from the farmers of America. For this service he was decorated by the Polish government. In an attempt to secure post war agricultural relief, he devised the first modern Farm Relief Plan, which was introduced into the U.S. Senate by Senator Norris in May, 1921. The plan called for the establishment of a Farmers' Export Financing Corporation to purchase surplus agricultural products and ship them abroad in idle ships to sell to foreign purchasers.

Carl absorbed and reflected the thought of his day. He was a spokesman for change

The house also has architectural significance. It is a good example of a brick Italianate house that was sympathetically expanded, using terra cotta and brick, in the Romanesque-style. The sensitively eclectic combination of Italianate and Romanesque forms combine with interior oak details and striking domed glass fixtures in parlor, library and dining room, to make this a particularly strong example of a late nineteenth century villa.

9. Major Bibliographical References

BOOKS

Cavanagh, Helen M. Carl Schurz Vrooman, Self Styled "Constructive Conservative."
Chicago: Lakeside Press, 1977.

Paulson, Ross E. Radicalism and Reform: The Vrooman Family and American Social Thought, 1837-1937, University of Kentucky Press, 1968.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property approximately one acre

Quadrangle name Bloomington East Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A

16	331700	4482260
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

--	--	--

D

--	--	--

E

--	--	--

F

--	--	--

G

--	--	--

H

--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by Taylor Street on the North, Clayton Street on the West, and Jackson Street on the South.

Lot 1 in the Julia Scott Vrooman Subdivision to the City of Bloomington, according to the Plat thereof recorded Nov. 10, 1982 as document No. 82-10463, in McLean County, Illinois.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
<u>NA</u>			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bettie S. & George W. Polites

organization owners

date April 1983

street & number 701 E. Taylor

telephone (309) 828-8816

city or town Bloomington

state Illinois

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director

date 6/22/83

For NPS use only

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

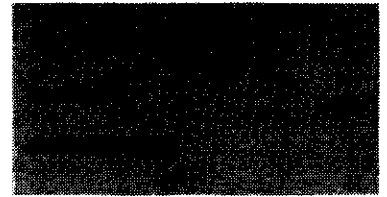
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Vrooman Mansion Item number 9 Page 1

PERIODICAL

Downing, Margaret P. "Mrs. Matthew T. Scott," American Woman's Review, August 1911.

PUBLISHED REPORT

Vrooman, Carl and Scott Bromwell (executors of the estate of Julia G. Scott).
Protest Against Assessment of Deficiency Estate Tax. Chicago: U.S. Printing
Company, 1926.

NEWSPAPERS

"City and Vicinity," The Weekly Pantagraph (Bloomington), 19 May 1869.
"Will Make Extensive Repairs," The Daily Pantagraph (Bloomington), 21 April 1900.
"Day for the Daughters," The Daily Pantagraph, 28 October 1901.
"A Brilliant Function," Daily Bulletin (Bloomington), 29 October 1901.
"Entertain High Officers," The Daily Pantagraph, 29 October 1901.
"Fort Massac Memorial," The Daily Pantagraph, 11 January 1907.
"Another Flu Wave Strikes Bloomington," The Daily Pantagraph, 21 October 1918.
"Financing Planned for Farm Products," Washington Times, 17 May 1921.
"Surplus Grain Perils Farmers, Vrooman Says," Chicago Daily Tribune, 17 May 1921.
"Mrs. Julia Green Scott Lingers at Death's Door," The Daily Pantagraph, 29 April 1923.
"Mrs. M.T. Scott Claimed by Death," The Daily Pantagraph, 20 April 1923.
"Mrs. Scott Mentioned in the State Report," The Daily Pantagraph, 16 April 1924.
"Mr. and Mrs. Carl Vrooman Give Reception for Poet and His Wife," The Daily
Pantagraph, 7 July 1929.
"Carl Vrooman, 93, Civic Leader, Dies," The Daily Pantagraph, 9 April 1966.
"White, Roland. "Vrooman Papers to Library of Congress," Sunday Pantagraph, 15 April 1977.
"A Lady, A House, A Life," Vidette (Illinois State University), 3 November 1978.

MISCELLANEOUS

Vrooman, Carl. "Back-Yard Gardens" (text for speech), March 1917. (Copy: 701 E. Taylor)
Pillsbury, Arthur. Blueprints prepared in autumn 1899. (On slides)
Scott, Julia G. Family Tree Scroll. (Held by National Bank of Bloomington)
Lawrence, R.S. Bloomington. Bloomington: A.J. Geoff & Co. 1871.
1895 Plat Book of McLean County, Book 93, p 91.
Stevenson, Adlai E. I. Plaque attached to "Lincoln Oak" tree.

GEORGIA, Floyd County, Mt. Aventine Historic District, (08/18/83)
GEORGIA, Floyd County, Rome, South Broad Street Historic District, S. Broad St. and Etowah Terr.
(08/18/83)
GEORGIA, Terrell County, Sasser Commercial Historic District, (08/18/83)

HAWAII, Honolulu County, Waipahu, Marigold Building, 97—837 Waipahu St. (08/18/83)
HAWAII, Kauai County, Kilauea, Kilauea School, Kolo Rd. (08/18/83)
HAWAII, Maui County, Kula, Holy Ghost Catholic Church, Lower Kula Rd. (08/18/83)

IDAHO, Bingham County, Blackfoot, Shilling Avenue Historic District, Shilling Ave. between E. Idaho
and Bingham Sts. and Bridge and Judicial Sts. to Stout Ave. (08/18/83)
IDAHO, Blaine County, Ketchum, Greenhow and Rumsey Store Building, Main Ave. (08/18/83)
IDAHO, Bonner County, Sandpoint, Bernd, W.A., Building, 307—311 N. 1st. Ave. (08/18/83)
IDAHO, Boundary County, Eastport vicinity, **Snyder Guard Station Historical District, S of Eastport
on Forest Service Rd. 211 (08/19/83)
IDAHO, Canyon County, Nampa, Nampa Historic District, 1200 and 1300 blocks S. 1st St. (08/18/83)

ILLINOIS, McLean County, Bloomington, Scott-Vrooman House, 701 E. Taylor St. (08/18/83)
ILLINOIS, Washington County, Okawville, **Schlosser, Frank, Complex, W. Walnut St. (08/15/83)

KENTUCKY, Boone County, Archaeological Site 15 BE 36, (08/18/83)
KENTUCKY, Fayette County, Lexington, Woodlands Historic District, Roughly bounded by Main and
High Sts., Ashland and Woodland Aves. (08/18/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Harrods Creek, Shady Brook Farm (Jefferson County MRA), Avish
Lane (08/16/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Jeffersontown vicinity, Reel, Jacob, House (Jefferson County MRA),
Off I-64 (08/19/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Atherton Carriage House (Jefferson County MRA), 3204
Woodside Rd. (08/16/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Bosler Fireproof Garage, 423 S. 3rd St. (08/18/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Edgewood (Jefferson County MRA), 3605 Glenview Ave.
(08/16/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, **Glenview Historic District (Jefferson County MRA),
Glenview Ave. (08/16/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Hewett House (Jefferson County MRA), 3605 Woodside Rd.
(08/16/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Horner House (Jefferson County MRA), 3509 Woodside Rd.
(08/16/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Ladless Hill (Jefferson County MRA), 6501 Longview Lane
(08/16/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Lincliff (Jefferson County MRA), 6100 Longview Lane
(08/16/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Midlands (Jefferson County MRA), 25 Poplar Hill Rd.
(08/16/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Pirtle House (Jefferson County MRA), 5803 Orion Rd.
(08/16/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Rockledge (Jefferson County MRA), 4810 Upper River Rd.
(08/16/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Shwab House (Jefferson County MRA), 4812 Upper River
Rd. (08/16/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Winkworth (Jefferson County MRA), 3200 Boxhill Lane
(08/16/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Woodside/John T. Bate House (Jefferson County MRA),
3100 Woodside Rd. (08/16/83)

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

ML-H-15

201231

1. Name of site:

Common

Historic

Carl S. Vrooman

2. Location:

Street and number

Township

Section

City or Town

Zip Code

Range

1/4 Section

County

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

- District
- Site
- Building
- Structure

Integrity (check one)

- Altered
- Moved
- Unaltered
- Original Site

4. Ownership

- Private
- Public

Status (check one)

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in Progress

Access to 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. Ownership of Property

Owner's name

Street and number

Phone Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description

Condition

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruins
- Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? Yes No

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

- Archaeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archaeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)
- French Influence 1673-1780
- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois Early (1818-1850)
- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-present)
- Famous People (give names & dates)

Carl S. Vrooman

POLITICAL AFFAIRS

BRIDGE ST. N.Y. 10014

1954



BRIDGE ST. N.Y. 10014

1954

BRIDGE ST. N.Y. 10014
1954

BRIDGE ST. N.Y. 10014
1954

8. Specific Date: Have constructed in the 1870's; exact date is presently undetermined.

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates.) Use additional sheets if necessary. The Home was built in the 1870's by Matthew

Scott, an owner of the McLean County Coal Company. It was later the Home of Carl S. Vrooman, the first Assistant Secretary of Agriculture (1914-1919) under President

9. Form prepared by: Woodrow Wilson.

Name and title: _____ Date: June, 1977
Keith A. Sculle
Organization: Illinois Historic Sites Survey
1505 W. Kirby, Apt. 3
Street and number: Champaign, Illinois 61820
City or town: _____ County _____ Zip Code _____
Phone Number: _____

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 list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

Guidebook to Historical McLean County. No other bibliographical information given and page numbers not used. See Stop 4 on the "Suggested Tour of Bloomington Normal".



CLAYTON STREET

TAYLOR STREET

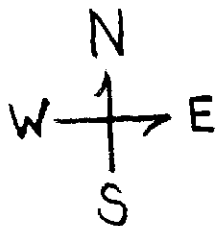
CARL S.
VROOMAN
HOME

"LINCOLN
OAK"

OUT~
BUILDING

JACKSON STREET

PLAQUE on
"LINCOLN OAK"



Carl S. Vrooman, 1810-1880
"Lincoln Oak" on the
(Blvd. in Chicago, Illinois)