

*Washington*

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

**1. Name**

historic J. L. Robinson General Store

and/or common Hagaman Store

**2. Location**

street & number R. F. D. \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Hagaman \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 20th

state Illinois 62630 code 012 county Macoupin code 117

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Chester A. Jacoby, Jr.

street & number R. F. D.

city, town Chesterfield \_\_\_ vicinity of state Illinois 62630

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Macoupin County Court House

street & number East Main Street

city, town Carlinville state Illinois 62630

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None known has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

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

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The J. L. Robinson General Store is a wood frame, false front structure. The overall shape is rectangular and measures 80 x 40 feet. The structure is comprised of two stories in the main operational area and one story on the south side. The south side of the structure is original and was built to accommodate dry goods sales. The store was built with all native materials located within the general vicinity of the store. The foundation is comprised of piled granite rocks at stress points with 12 x 12 oak sills set upon them. Each sill is quarter notched and lap-jointed at these stress points.

The outside walls are sheathed with 1 x 16 inch boards and 1 1/2 inch shiplap nailers. The hipped roof was originally cedar shingled but a roll tar paper roof was installed to protect the inside tin ceiling.

A roofed portico adorns the front of the building and runs the width of it. Large windows, approximately 4 x 6 feet, are next to the front entrance allowing for great quantities of light and heat to infiltrate the trading area. The entrance doors are double and open to the inside. One chimney, located at the center of the building, was utilized by three wood and coal stoves to heat the building. A tin ceiling adorns the main trading area. A single set of stairs allows access to the upper story. The original lighting was by kerosene and later, over hanging electric lights were installed.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates**      1881                      **Builder/Architect**      Charles Crossland Robinson

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The J. L. Robinson General Store is significant in the fields checked above because it was the focal point for the Chesterfield area's needs. Built in 1881 by Charles Crossland Robinson with his earnings as a railroad worker, the Robinson General Store supplied the area with seed, fertilizers, and general household goods. The Robinson Store also functioned as the Post Office for the Western Mound Township and as an express agency shipping the area's produce and livestock on the two railroads that served Macoupin County at the time; the Chicago, Peoria, and St. Louis and the Litchfield, Carrolton, and Western. When C. C. Robinson died his son, James Leo, took over the business hence the name The J. L. Robinson General Store. The store is still in the Robinson family today and functions much like it did a hundred years ago.

The J. L. Robinson General Store was the site of several "firsts" in the Chesterfield community. It was the first building to have electricity. The electricity came from a Delco System and was run to some of the neighboring homes. Part of the Delco System still exists today. The first telephone was located here as was the first telegraph.

The J. L. Robinson General Store contributed to local politics in that it was the headquarters for the Democratic Party Organization prior to the 1932 election. The writer has two letters from Franklin Delano Roosevelt to C. C. Robinson thanking him for organizing the party in Western Mound Township.

The J. L. Robinson General Store is architecturally significant because it is the only extant building in the Chesterfield area of pre-1900 architecture. It along with St. Catherine's Church (1905) and the Hagaman Town Hall (1913) are the only surviving buildings that once made up the town of Hagaman.

An interesting footnote to the history of the Robinson Store occurred in the winter of (c.) 1900 or 1901. Orville and Wilbur Wright were traveling in the Chesterfield area trying to raise money to finance their flying machine. They tried to induce the people of Macoupin County, including C. C. Robinson, to invest in it but were unsuccessful.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

The Story of Macoupin County, 1829-1979, General Reference, June, 1979.  
The Northwestern News, Vol. 9, Dec. 1977.  
The Carlinville Globe Democrat, 1978.  
History of Macoupin County, Brink, McDonough & Co., 1879.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Greenfield

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References ---UTM not available

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Ninety feet off the east end of lot number one (1) in block numbered one (1) in the original plat of the town of Hagan Macoupin County, Illinois said plat being executed by John Hagaman and wife and shown recorded in the recorder's office, Macoupin County:

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

state none code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title William R. Jacoby

organization J. L. Robinson General Store

date April 21, 1980

street & number 10409 S. Menard Avenue

telephone (312) 636-9692

city or town Oak Lawn, Illinois

state

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

Div., Ill. Dept. of Conservation

date

6/27/80

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered

SEP 12 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Robinson, J. L., General Store	Hagaman Macoupin County
Christ Episcopal Church	Springfield Sangamon County
Lincoln Public Library	Lincoln Logan County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy  
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson  
Honorable Paul Findley  
Honorable Edward R. Madigan

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

1. Name of Site:

Common  
Historic Robinson General Store

2. Location:

<u>Street and Number</u>		<u>Township</u>	<u>Section</u>
		10N	15
<u>City or Town</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>¼ Section</u>
Hagamon		9W	SE
<u>County</u>			
Macoupin			

3. Classification:

Category (check one)		Integrity (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

4. Ownership:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied
<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied
	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

Yes     Restricted     Unrestricted     No

Present Use (check one or more)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	

5. Ownership of Property:

<u>Owner's Name</u> Mrs. Zoa Robinson	<u>Phone Number</u>
<u>Street and Number</u>	
<u>City or Town</u>	
<u>State</u>	<u>County</u> <u>Zip Code</u>

6. Description:

Condition:

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins  
 Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway?     Yes     No

COMMERCE



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

- Archeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archeological 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)

8. Specific Date: 1881

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

- Aboriginal (historic)
- Aboriginal (pre-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)

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

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_ BK \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street and number: \_\_\_\_\_  
City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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.



The store was built by C.C. Robinson in 1881. At the time, Haganon was a growing settlement as two RR (The Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis, and the Litchfield, Carrollton and Western Train) were constructed through and crossed here.

The two Wright Bros. Wilbur and Orville, spent a couple of Winters in Haganon trapping and coon hunting. Later they contacted the citizens from St. Louis asking for a \$1,000 investment in their airplane -- they were turned down.

At this store, in "the old days", tags on chewing tobacco were taken in trade.