

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Shriver Farmstead

and/or common Shriver House

2. Location

street & number Rural Route 1 _____ not for publication

city, town Virden vicinity of congressional district 20

state Illinois code 012 county Macoupin code 117

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Jeanette Lake and Eunice Shriver

street & number 225 North Church St.

city, town Virden _____ vicinity of state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Macoupin County Recorder of Deeds Office

street & number Macoupin County Courthouse

city, town Carlinville _____ state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Illinois Historic Structures has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date 1975 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Sites, IDOC

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The house, smokehouse, and barn were built between 1858 and 1860 by the John Ryan Family. The farmstead is located in the extreme northwest corner of Virden township on a small rise in the landscape where four townships meet. The buildings are quite imposing when approached from any direction.

The Italianate house, facing north, is a two story brick structure with a full basement and two rooms on a third level in the north part. The main, north part of the building has a T shaped extension, which forms a modified H plan for the house and gives the effect of a large, rambling farmhouse. The front three bay facade of the house is symmetrical and more formally balanced than the rear, south part of the house. A single bay porch features square posts supporting a bracketed cornice. Originally, a railing surmounted the porch roof, forming a balcony. The double door entry with glass panels is repeated on the second story, allowing access to the porch roof balcony. A slightly projecting central gable is accentuated with corner pilasters that emphasize the central entrance bay and are repeated on the corners of the building. The house features paired brackets under the eaves and rounded arch lintels on doors and windows throughout. On the roof, which was originally wood shingles, is a widow's walk. The foundation is of stone from the creek that cuts through the property south of the house. The bricks, which comprise the exterior and interior walls, were made on the site.

The north, main part of the house was the living area for the family with parlors downstairs and chambers upstairs. The east parlor was the more formal, with ornamental plaster ceiling mouldings. A central hall, which divides the rooms on each level, has a walnut stairway. The south end of the house has the dining room and kitchen on the first floor and the servants quarters on the second floor. The family area and servants area on the second floor are divided by a wall with no direct access.

The main alterations to the house include removal of the west porch, between the north and south ends, and the removal and redesign of the L shaped east porch. The railing has been removed from the front porch roof and from the widow's walk. The shutters on the north facade are original. Storm windows were recently added to the existing exterior doors and windows, but the original doors and windows remain intact.

The interior has remained essentially unchanged over the years except for the addition of a modern kitchen and bathroom, a new heating system, and carpeting over the existing hardwood floors. The hardwood trim and wainscot are original, with applied graining still evident. Almost all the hardware is also original.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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The house was originally heated with coal burners in each room. The only fireplace in the house, located between the kitchen and dining rooms, was covered over with wood in the early 1900's.

The brick smokehouse, located to the south of the house, is in good condition. It is approximately 10'-5" wide by 12'-2" long with a wood roof and shingles. It has a transom over the door in front, a small high window in the rear and vents formed by decorative brick work in the gable ends. The original meat hooks remain, although the smokehouse has not been used for some time.

Only one of the two original barns remains. It is located east of the house and is unaltered since its construction ca. 1860. The barn is approximately 40' wide by 60' long, all wood on a stone foundation. It was built on the "basilican" plan, a characteristic of the New World Dutch barn. The main level has a central "nave" used for through passage with doors on the east and west ends. On each side of the nave is an aisle which was used for storage and livestock. The five bay barn has access on two levels, the lower level being open on the south the full length of the barn. The upper level is supported by foundation walls and wood posts. The interior beams of the barn are of hewn oak, with wooden pegs. The exterior is vertical siding. The barn is presently used for equipment storage.

Farm buildings within the boundaries of the farmstead but not included in the nomination are a wooden grainary ca. 1920, a new metal pole barn and two metal grain bins.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1858-60

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Shriver farmstead possesses a great degree of integrity. Its location, setting, materials, and workmanship continue to reflect the feeling of a prosperous 19th Century farmstead. These three buildings, all built at the same time, have served as the core of a family farmstead for over one hundred and twenty years. As such, they have been intimately associated with the changes and struggles of agriculture. The barn, designed for the care of feeding of livestock, has evolved along with farming economics and technology to where it is still in use, but for equipment storage only. It is remarkable that these changes were made without any alteration in the building itself. This barn embodies a simple and forthright combination of New World Dutch, Pennsylvania and English barn characteristics that illustrate the diffusion and blendings that formed the barns of the Midwest. The farmhouse, one of the finest examples of Italianate design in Macoupin county, is also a marvelous example of the adaptation of this style to a rural residence. The unusual rambling form of the house, set off by the symmetrical north facade with its projecting front gable, embodies a unique interpretation of this style. Combined with its refined details, it reflects the Mid 19th Century taste of a prosperous farm family in central Illinois. The smokehouse, a classic example of its type, illustrates through its design and relationship to the house and barn the deep-rooted bond between the land, the livestock and the the rural family that characterized this way of life.

John Ryan, the original owner of the farmstead, farmed the surrounding land and lived there with his family until his death in 1877. The surviving family lived on the farm until the death of John's wife in 1881, at which time the children sold the property to Samuel Davidson. He owned it until 1890 when he sold to William Shriver, M.D. The farm has remained in the Shriver family since then. Dr. Shriver, a local financier and civic leader, bought the farm as an investment, then gave it to his son Earl in 1904 as a wedding gift. Earl Shriver raised his family there. In 1976 the grandson of Earl Shriver moved into the house with his family, and is still in occupancy.

9. Major Bibliographical References

None

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately two

Quadrangle name

Quadrangle scale

UMT References

Grid for UMT references A, C, E, G with columns for Zone, Easting, and Northing.

Grid for UMT references B, D, F, H with columns for Zone, Easting, and Northing.

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Shriver Farmstead occupies a site directly southeast of the "T" intersection of rural roads 9W and 19S in northern Macoupin County in the northwest corner of Virden Township.

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

Table with columns: state, code, county, code. Two rows for listing overlapping properties.

11. Form Prepared By

Form with fields for name/title, organization, street & number, city or town, date, and telephone. Includes two sets of data for each field.

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 date

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered SEP 29 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Plainfield Halfway House	Plainfield Will County
Shriver Farmstead	Viriden vicinity Macoupin County
Freeman, Clarkson W., House	Springfield Sangamon County
Evanston Lakeshore Historic District	Evanston Cook County
Fort Sheridan Historic District	Highland Park vicinity Lake County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable George M. O'Brien
Honorable Paul Findley
Honorable Abner J. Mikva
Honorable Philip M. Crane
Mr. Francis B. Roche, DOD
Mr. Leo H. Price, Department of the Army

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