First No. 10-300 (Res. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATA SHEET

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL UF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Carlinville is situated in south-central Illinois, sixty miles from St. Louis, twohundredandtwenty-four from Chicago, and forty from Springfield, and is characterized, like the whole of Macoupin County, of which it is the seat, by cently undulating terrain virtually devoid of prominents varietions in altitude being limited to the immediate proximity of watercourses. The town site is cenerally level except to the south and east where it pproaches a feeder of Macoupin Creek. The fertility of the surrounding region is high, since the greater portion was originally tall-grass prairie interspersed with lesser areas of timber. Coal underlies the entire county

and represents its major natural resource.

The Carlinville Historic District encompasses most of the central and eastern districts of the town. Boundaries were drawn dependant on visual cohesion and are, therefore, rather irrecular. Generally, they circumscribe the makinum extent of an homogeneous architectural quality, though occassional small excension have been added in order to incorporate individual structures of significance. The northern boundary extends east from the first property line east of Oak along the interior property lines north of West Main to West, further east on First North to the third property line east of East, north on this line to the first property line north of Mergan, east on this line to the interior property line east of High further east on the interior property lines north of First North, then by the interior property lines north of Morgan from the first property line east of the line of Union to the property lines west of Orient, north on these lines to prarie and then east to the interior property lines east of Orient. The eastern boundary runs south from this point along the interior property lines to Morgan, further south along the line of Orient to the interior property lines north of First North and then along the first property line east of Center to the second property line south of East Main. The southern boundary follows the interior property lines north of First South from Center to the line of Ellison, the interior property lines north of Second South from Ellison to the first property line west of Euteon, the interior property lines south of Second South from the second property line east of Mayo to the interior property lines west of mast and west from these lines along Mulberry to the interior property lines west of West. The Western boundary runs north from this point to the interior property lines north of Second South, west on these lines to the Circu property line east of Oak and then north along this line to the interior property line north of West Main.

Mand use within the district is overwhelmingly residential east of Righ, becoming considerably mixed from that point west. Commercial uses are centered on the public square and West Main: religious and educational uses are concentrated south of the square, while governmental activity centers on the courthouse to the east. There are no industrial sites within the district and the only federal property seems to be the post office at First South and East.

The private automobile is the main source of transportation, though there is available inter-city commercial bus service. Traffic is concertrated on First South, North and South Broad, and West Main. The streets

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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are laid out in the rectangular grid typical of Illinois towns and cities. Density within the district ranges from low to moderate in the residential areas to relatively high in the commercial zone near the public square. Residential structures are generally single-family, detached, and of one or two-story frame construction, with a scattering of masonry buildings of the same type. Commercial structures, exclusively masonry, do not exceed three stories, except for the St.George Hotel having three stories and a mansard. The dominant structure is the courthouse, a veritable cathedral of justice rising over the town's otherwise modest scale.

Stylistically, the district is ruled by simplified, vernacular interpretations of architectural styles popular after the mid-19th century, most notably the Queen Ahne. There are, however, individual structures of prominent Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate design. The courthouse is an outstanding early example of Beaux Arts Classicism, while the St.George Rotel is French Second Empire. Styles popular in the twentieth century are not represented in any significant numbers.

The district is marred by few obvious intrusions, there having been only limited new construction in Carlinville in recent years. There are some conversions of residential structures and a new bank at Main and High is out of place both as an unfortunate eastward extension of the commercial district and a suburban facility in the center of town. Unsympathetic remodelling, however, -- siding, removal of architectural detail, porches and additions, "modernization" of commercial establishments, careless cleaning -- and outright demolition of older structures constitute the past and present danger to the integrity of the district.

SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | | | |
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| PREMISTORIC 1400-1493 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 | ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORICARCHEOLOGY-HISTORICAGRICULTUREARCHITECTUREARTCOMMERCECOMMUNICATIONS | —COMMUNITY PLANNING —CONSERVATION —ECONOMICS —EDUCATION —ENGINEERING —EPPLORATION/SETTLEMENT —INDUSTRY —INVENTION | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY LIMUSIC PHILOSOPHY LPOLITICS GOVERNMENT | —RELIGION —SCIENCE — SCULPTURE —SOCIAL HUMANITARI —THEATER —(RANSPORTATION) —OTHER (SPECIFY) | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Carlinville is significant as a relatively intact example of an Illinois town that reached maturity by 1900. The architectural quality, although roughly equivalent to other towns of the area and time, is consistently above average and in a good state of preservation. More importantly, the town still reflects the segregation of activities characteristic of the period: a compact, gap-free commercial area surround the square, a governmental district, and a large residential section, all within an easy walk from one another. The older part of Carlinville, i.e. the historic district, preserves an urban environment whose growth and appearance were determined by the horse and the pedestrian well before the automobile began to makes its demands felt.

Beyond this, the district presents a notable setting for its central feature, the courthouse. Carlinville and the illustricus Macoupin County Courthouse form an integrated whole, visually interacting in a manner not unlike that of Chartres and its cathedral.

EISTORY

The part of Illinois now comprising Macoupin County was successively included in Madison and Greene counties, the present county having been created by act of Legislature in 1829. The county was then primarily uninhabited wilderness, naver having attracted premanent settlement either by aborigines or colonists. Five commissioners were appointed on 17 Januar 1829 to "select a seat of justice" and by 1 June they had decided on a tract of land on the Southwest quarter of Section 28, Township 10,

Sorth Range 7 West, the present site of Carlinville.

The first land entries on the site were made 11 March 1828 by Ezekiel Sad and 23 April 1829 by Seth Hodges, these two claims now lying within the corporate limits of Carlinville. The actual original donation of land for the county seat was made by Hodges, who also served as one of the Carlinsisioners charged with the site selection. The town was laid out and surveyed in August 1829 by Joseph Borough and named in honor of Thomas Carlin, who had been instrumental in securing passage of the creating act for Macoupin County.

The earliest history of the town is hardly distinguishable from that if other, similar towns in the state. The first death was that of William From Stown's first wife in 1829, while the first birth was not until October 1832. The first local marriage was performed in April 1832 and the first

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance

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H :STORY (CONT.)

sermon had been delivered in 1831. The first store was not a local enterprise, having been ownwed by William E.Starr and a Major Witchester of Edwardsville. The growth of Carlinville, despite being the county seat, was quite slow for a number of years. By 1853 the population was only 790, but during the succeeding decade or two population stelled, reaching roughly 5,000 by 1879.

The first courthouse was erected in July 1830, but it is the present structure, built during 1867-70 that accounted for the most memorable chapter in Carlinville's history. Macoupin county was authorized by the State Legislature to expend up to \$50,000 for a new courthouse in February 1867. By the time work was halted in 1870, the total cost had amounted to \$1,342,308.32, the most scandalous incident of over-spending in the history of the state. County indebtedness was so great that the final debt payment was cause for a two-day jubilee, 20-21 July 1910, complete with fireworks, a public bond-burning, and a speech by the Governor of Illinois.

Besides government, Carlinville's steadiest major source of employment has been commerce, with most of the business establishments traditionally, as now, located along the four sides of the public square. There have, however, been a number of significant industrial undertakings over the years, coal mining pre-eminent among them. The first mine in the region was the Weir Coal Shaft, sunk in 1867. The shaft of Walters, Gray and Lorenz was sunk in 1869, as was the South SHaft coal mine. These mines -and others -- have had a profound effect on the town's growth pattern, periods of great mining activity corresponding to increasing population: ca.5,000 in 1879, 3,616 in 1911, 5,678 in 1970. A new mine was opened south of town in 1969. Other industry has included several mills -- the first erected by Henry Fishback in 1845 -- a brewery '1859), machine shops, a foundry, and a brickyard, all of which had disappeared by 1911. A number of manufacturing plants have reappeared in recent years. The first railroad through Carlinville was the Chicago and Alton, the Gulf, Mobile and Chio, which completed its track between Alton and Springfield in 1852. By 1864, trains were operating to East St.Louis, later extending tp St.Louis itself. Other, smaller lines passed through Carlinville during the years following, none proving of primary significance in the town's history.

Of greater import was the location of Blackburn College in the town. On 28 September 1337, Dr.Gideon Blackburn placed lands in trustfor the purpose of establishing an institution of higher learning. After much legal and political maneuvering, Plackburn Theological Seminary was chartered in 1857 and functioned as a primary school until college courses began in 1864. Designation as a university was authorized by the State Legislature in 1869. Though small, the religious-affiliated liberal arts

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HISTORY (CONT.)

school has been a steady force in Carlinville. Most of its present buildings, however, are of very recent date and it has, therefore, not been included

Carlinville was incorporated as a city in April 1865 and civic improvements began shortly thereafter with the installation of gas lighting in December 1869. The city's water company was franchised in 1888 and a water system built the following year. A sewerage systemwas begun in 1891, while major streets were paved during the period 1892-1910. By 1912, electrification was well under way, having been somewhat retarded by the easy accessibility of natural gas from hearby fields.

Within the limits defined by a fluctuating population, Carlinville has presented a stable picture over the past decades. Commerce, government, and higher education have kept the town at a certain basic economic niveau, upon which it has expanded during periods of greater mining and manufacturing activity. Carlinville is experiencing just such an expansion at the

SITES AND STRUCTURES OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE Numbers refer to map

Area of primary significance listed first for sites with multiple import

1. Residence 316 S.Broad

Built before 1873

For many years, this was the home of the Ibbetson family, prominent in town affairs.

Architectural Significance

2. ST.PAUL'S EPISCOFAL CHURCH

413 S.Broad

Duilt in 1868-66

The congregation was founded in 1849. The church bell is from Macoupin county's second courthouse. Architectural Significance

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3. DR.J.B.LESTON RESIDENCE

236 N.Figh

Built before 1893

Together with Nos.4-5, this forms part of a group of elegantly detailed small cottages near the northern limit of the oldest part of town. Until 1940, this also served as the parsonage of the Presbyterian church.

Architectural Significance

4. L.GAUCH RESIDENCE

237 N.Main

Built ca.1880 by L.Gauch

Mr. Gauch was active in the pickle business. See also No.3.

Architectural Significance

5. Residence

304 N.High

Built ca.1885

See No.3.

Architectural Significance

6. WILLIAM SURMAN RESIDENCE

718 E.Main

Built in 1890

Wm.Surman was a clothing rerchant.

Architectural Significance

7. GILLMAN RESIDENCE

706 E.Main

Puilt after 1973

Mr.Gillman was a clothier.

Architectural Significance

3. MACOUPIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

E.Main Street

Built in 1867-70 by architect E.E.Mvers

This is the third structure to serve as county courthouse and by far the most notable and scandalous. For details see HISTORY.

Architectural and Historical Significance

9. ST.NICHOLAS HOUSE

212 E.Main

Built ch.1870

St. Nicholas House was originally a hotel, then a private residence; it is now a funeral home.

Architectural Significance

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10. PRANKE RESIDENCE

311 W.Main

Built by Mr. Pranke

Pranke was a miller. His descendants still occupy the house. Architectural Significance

11. C.H. POBERTSON FESIDENCE

305 N.Crient

Built ca.1870

C.H.Robertson was a professor at Blackburn College and a botanist of international repute.

Architectural and Historical Significance

12. LOOMIS HOUSE (ST.GEORGE HOTEL)

E.Side Public Square

Built in 1867 for Thaddeus L.Loomis by architect E.E.Myers
T.L.Loomis was county judge and head of the Board of Commissioners
when the county courthouse was built. His hotel is the dominant
structure on the Public Square.

Architectural Significance

13. SALCON (MESIDENCE)

407 S.West

Built ca.1870

The saloon and beer garden was adapted as a residence around 1900, with little apparent change in the original.

Architectural Significance

14. Residence

302 E.1st North

Built by Harvey Phelps

Harvey Phelps was a contractor-carpenter who built many homes in Carlinville during the second half of the century.

Architectural Significance

15. J.B.LISTON HOUSE

305 E.1st North

Built in 1895 by Liston

J.B. Liston was sheriff and a very wealthy citizen of Carlinville.

The house is still in the family.

Architectural Significance

16. THIFD COUNTY JAIL

116 E.1st South

Puilt in 1859-60; south addition ca. 1870

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16. Cont.

This jail was the site of a notoriuos lynching in 1860. After construction of the 4th Jail (v.No.17), the third was used as a restaurant and then as a hotel.

Architectural and Historical Significance

17. MACOUPIN COUNTY JAIL

E.1st South

Built in 1868-9

This, the fourth county jail, was erected as a part of the county courthouse project.

Architectural Significance

18. BURGDORFF RESIDENCE

·511 E.1st South

Built in 1875

The Burgdorff's were a family of prominent clothiers in Carlinville. The house has been a funeral home since 1940.

Architectural Significance

19. Residence

623 E.1st South

Built before 1873

This was long the home of T.C.Loehr, a prominent druggist.

Archivectural SIgnificance

20. FEDERATED CHURCH

122 E.2nd South

Built in 1858

Architectural Significance

21. PETER HEINZ RESIDENCE

205 W.2nd South

Built ca.1860 by Peter Heinz Peter Heinz was a cabinet maker. He also owned a furniture store still run by the family.

Architectural Significance

22. CITY JAIL

ca.115 N.Plum

Buil: in 1899

A very small municipal jail of a type rarely encountexed in Illinois. Historical Significance

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23. RESIDENCE (JOHN M. PALMER ___SIDENCE) 305 S.East

Built ca.1850; greatly modified John M. Palmer, who lived here for many years, was one of the state's most prominent public figures. He served successively as a State Senator (1852-56), Governor of Illinois (1868-72), and U.S.Senator (1891-96). Paimer rose to the rank of Major-General in the Civil War and acted as Military Covernor of Kentucky in 1865-6. In 1896, he was the candidate for U.S.President of the Gold Democrats, a faction of the Democratic Party opposed to William Jennings Bryan.

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