National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
historic name Pont	iac City Hall a	nd Fire Sta	tion				
other names/site numbe	old City Hal	1					
2. Location	•						
	U U C						
	West Howard St	reet				or publicatio	n
state Illinois	code 012			·	vicin	lty	
J. J	6009 012	county	Livingston	code	105	zip code	61764
3. Classification		·					
Ownership of Property	Cated	ory of Property		Maria I 4 Pa			
private	<u> </u>	iliding(s)		Number of Re			,
X public-local		anding(s) strict		Contributing	Nonco	ntributing	
public-State	sit			1		bulldinge	
public-Federal	===					sites	
may be a most of the second of		ructure				structures	
		ject				objects	
Name of related multiple	Dronadu liatina.					Total	
N/A	broberty listing:	-		Number of con	itributing re	sources pre-	viously
				listed in the Na	ational Regi	ister0	
l. State/Federal Ager	cy Certification		······································				
Signature of certifying offi Illinois H State or Federal agency a	istoric Pres	ervation .	Agency		Date	-	<u> </u>
In my opinion, the prop	erty meets do	es not meet the	National Registe	r criteria. See	continuation	n sheet.	
Signature of commenting	or other official		· ·		Date		
State or Federal agency a	 						
National Park Servi					·		
hereby, certify that this p	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		· ·		 		
entered in the National	Register.						
See continuation shee	t.						
determined eligible for	the National						
_ Register. 🔙 See continu	ation sheet.						
determined not eligible	for the					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
National Register.							
removed from the Natic	nal Register.						
			Signature of the Ke	eper		Data of Act	

6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
1. Government/City Hall	1. Social/Meeting Hall
2. Social/Meeting Hall	2. Government/City Hall
3. Government/Fire Station	3. Government/Government Office
4. Government/Correctional Facility	
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
	foundation Stone, concrete
Late Victorian/Romanesque	walls Brick, stone, concrete
	roof Slate, asphalt
	other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Pontiac City Hall and Fire Station is located on the southwest corner of Howard and Main Streets in Pontiac, Livingston County, Illinois. The two and one-half story rectangular brick building is situated one short city block north of the courthouse square. The building stands approximately ten feet from the street edge to the north and east. To the south it faces onto a parking lot and faces west to an alley which borders the property. The building occupies its original site without any structural intrusions.

The Pontiac City Hall and Fire Station was constructed in 1900 on Lot 1, Block 42 of the Original Town (City) of Pontiac. Although built together and physically linked by a bell tower, the buildings are different in both height and orientation. The narrower west side of the City Hall faces the broader east side of the Fire Station. The City Hall structure measures 50' by 70' and the Fire Station, 40' by 59'. Attaching the two buildings is a three and one-half story high bell tower, identical in height, configuration and detail above the first floor, to the northeast tower of the City Hall. These two towers create a more uniform structure from two distinct buildings. Exterior alterations include roof patching of asphalt shingle in place of, or covering, the patterned slate; the removal of metal roof cresting; and the replacement of the original fire station bay In 1958 the three wooden swinging doors were removed and the openings widened to accommodate two wider overhead doors. At this time, the three round arched lights were removed and the window area was bricked in, though the integrity of the three door arches remains. A few other windows have been boarded up or painted to block the sunlight. A number of storm windows were installed over the original windows in places (1970s). A stable and tool building, added in 1911 to the south face of the Fire Station, was removed in 1986. This alteration restored the south face to its original appearance.

Although built as one unit in 1900, for the purposes of the National Register a separate description for each building will be given. First, the City Hall will be described in detail, followed by the Fire Station.

The Pontiac City Hall is constructed of red brick laid in common bond with a limestone foundation. The building is two and one-half stories in height, having a steeply pitched hip roof. The raised basement is composed of nine courses of alternating wide ashlar and narrow cut stone. Belt and stringcoursing counteracts the vertical thrust of the three and one-half story corner towers and tall window openings of the north and east facades. The three square corner towers have pyramidal roofs with a bell cast slope at the base. The metal cornice with modillions is restated in the tower roof lines.

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The north and east facades are similar in treatment. Commonly, they are each composed of five bays with projecting corner towers and central bay entrances with gable roofs. Both public entrances have arched openings with semi-circular windows over two panelled doors. The raised basement windows are square with a single pane. First and second story windows are tall and rectangular, single pane with double sash. The projecting bays have arched semi-circular windows on the second story, while those on the recessed bays have ashlar lintels. Limestone stringcoursing delineates the basement, divides the first and second stories, and forms a sill course on the second story.

The east, or side, facade is divided into five bays. The projecting rear, or southernmost, bay has two windows at each level. Above the second story is a square corner tower. The next bay forward has single windows at each level. The projecting third, or entrance, bay has two windows on the second story. The next bay has all single windows. The projecting northernmost bay has two windows at each level. Above is a third story corner tower with rectangular openings as seen on the bell tower.

The north, or front, facade is a five-bay block. The easternmost bay is described as the previous bay above. The next bay contains three windows at all levels. The next projecting entrance bay has two windows which light the interior stairway landing between the first and second floors. The fourth bay has three windows on each story. The westernmost bay, the bell tower, has a tall arched entrance leading south to the rear of the building via a concrete walkway. Above the archway, at the third story level, is the bell tower.

The building is connected to the Fire Station at the northwest corner of the west facade. The northernmost bay is a solid brick wall up to the third story bell tower. The next bay to the rear, a private entrance, has two doors at street level with a semi-circular window set into a round arched opening. All remaining windows are small with segmental arches. Above, on the second story, the interior jail stairway is lit by a single window. The next, southernmost bay has three stories which are lower in height (8'5" ceilings in jail area) than the previous two-story configuration. A single barred window exists at basement level. Two windows are at each story with iron bars extant on the second floor.

The south, or rear, facade has four bays. The westernmost bay has two windows at each story and a single barred basement window. The next bay has single windows at three story levels. The third bay returns to the two-story configuration with a single tall window on both stories. At basement level are a pair of wooden doors once used to access the coal storage area. The easternmost bay has three tall windows on both stories. Two basement windows are below.

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				Pontiac	City	Hall	and	Fire	Station

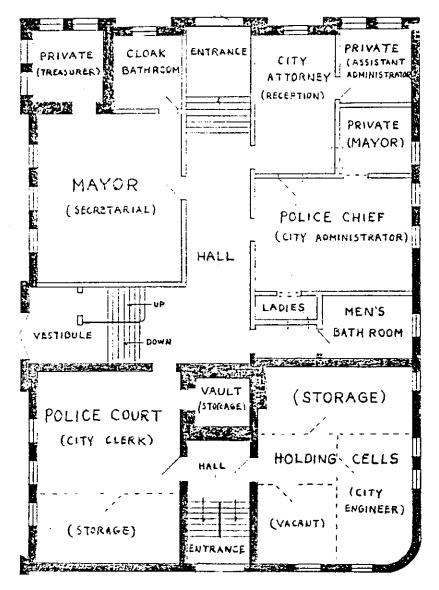
The interior plan of the City Hall is based on a central east-west hallway approached by the two public entrances. The offices flank the hall on each side on the first floor. On the second floor, a shorter north-south hallway serves to access the council chambers and two other rooms. Many of the original rooms are in current use as city offices. (See sketch plans.) The plans show the original intention for each room. Below each title, in parenthesis, is the current use of each room or area. The modern alterations to room areas (dotted lines) are indicated. The basement served as a boiler room with coal storage. A small room in the northwest corner is used by the State for employment service. The original floor plan is essentially intact.

The interior finishes of the building have been altered by the use of dropped ceilings and wallpanelling. Carpeting was installed over wood flooring, tiled floors and stairs. (1970s) In 1986, six pulse furnaces were installed in the building. The first floor received central air conditioning. This caused intrusion into the rooms for duct work and piping. Also, some of the pressed metal ceiling squares were damaged. Most of the decorative ceiling and plaster work remains, however, as does the original woodwork and staircases. The bathroom fixtures, in their original location, are of a more modern type. Restoration of the original interior fabric of the building is possible.

Attached to the west side of City Hall, at the bell tower, is the Fire Station. The flat-roofed, two-story rectangular building has a stepped parapet on the front (north) facade. The three first floor vehicle bay openings were altered in 1958 into two wider openings. The integrity of the arched openings remains, though with face brick in place of the three original glass windows above the doors. The north facade has six windows on the second story. The two central bay windows are arched. The west facade has seven windows with segmental arches and a pedestrian door towards the north (front) end. The rear (south) facade has no windows, the opening being a doorway which was cut out around 1901. This opening is now bricked in. The east facade originally had a large door towards the rear (south) which has been reduced to a pedestrian door and bricked around. Directly above, on the second story, is a hayloft door with the lifting beam still in place. Two windows remain on the second story as well.

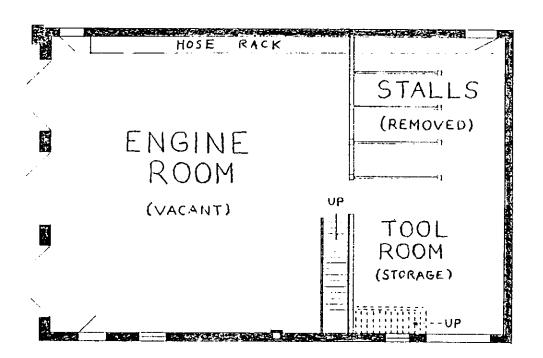
The first floor of the Fire Station is finished with a concrete floor and metal ceiling panels. The staircase to the second floor has been moved over, parallel to the west wall. On the second floor, partition walls were added (1970s) to further divide the firemans' quarters with kitchen and bathroom facilities. The Fire Station is now vacant. The first floor is used for storage.

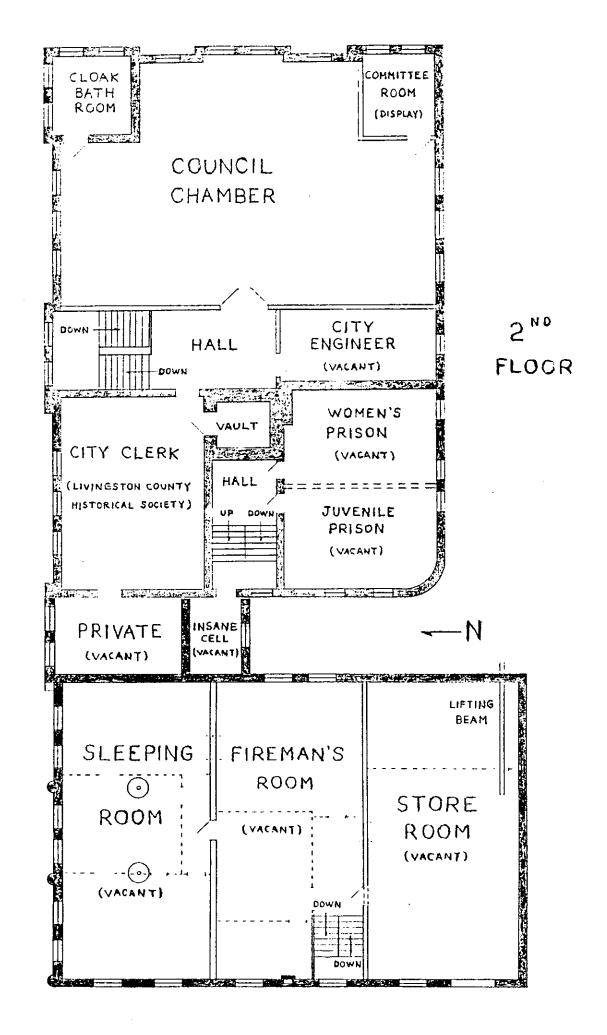
The Pontiac City Hall and Fire Station has met with a few changes since its construction. The re-worked fire vehicle bay doors represent the only serious loss of integrity to the exterior fabric of the building. Close inspection of the interior finishes indicates a covering, rather than a removal, of the original materials. The interior fabric retains most of its integrity.



FLOOR

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8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this propernationally	ty in relation to other properties: statewide X locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria XA B C	□¤	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	□D □E □F □G	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Politics/Government	Period of Significance 1900-1940	Significant Dates N/A
	Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Significant Person N/A	Architect/Builder Barnes, John H.	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Pontiac City Hall and Fire Station meets Criterion A for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Locally, it is a significant building directly connected with the administration of city government since 1900. Pontiac was incorporated as a city in 1872 and until 1883 the city council met in various locations. The first city hall and engine house were built in 1883 and served until the construction of the new building was completed in 1900. The City Hall and Fire Station served as the center of all city political functions and fire protection until 1986. The period of significance for the building begins with its construction in 1900 to 1940, the arbitrary fifty-year mark for National Register purposes.

The City Hall and Fire Station is characteristic of public buildings in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In keeping with the new progressive theory of management, centralization of all city departments in one building was the trend. The City Hall complex follows this sense of order to include the functions of administration, public assembly, fire protection and record keeping. The city jail facilities were located within the City Hall building. In a locational sense, the prominent placement of the Pontiac City Hall and Fire Station near the center of the community is representative of the city halls throughout the country. The historic building occupies the corner of two main boulevards north of the courthouse square on its original site.

Pontiac was established as a village and the county seat of Livingston County in 1837. Mills for grain, blacksmith shops, and a sawmill were the earliest industries to develop the growth of the settlement. The abundant hardwood trees along the Vermillion River provided lumber for construction and shipment to furniture makers in the state. Many men were employed as wood cutters to provide fuel for the steam locomotives which began arriving when the C&A Railroad came to Pontiac in 1854. Agriculture progressed rapidly in and around Pontiac as the railroad made the town an important center for farm commodities shipped from the grain mills in Pontiac to the markets in Chicago. In 1877 a report of the State Board of Agriculture showed that the nearly eleven million bushels of corn produced in Livingston County was more than that produced in any other county in the world. I

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Until 1883 the city administration had no permanent hall in which to conduct business. Since incorporation as a city in 1872, the council met at various locations, including the office of A. W. Cowan, the first city clerk. The Engine House, as it was called, was completed in 1883. This building served as city hall, fire station and jail until a growing population justified the need for a larger structure. A committee was drawn up at the council meeting of November 3, 1899, to make arrangements for a new City Hall and Fire Station. The location chosen for the building was Lot No. 1 of the Original Town (City) of Pontiac, purchased previously in 1898. The lot faced a main thoroughfare one block north of the courthouse square. On December 12, 1899, the new city hall committee moved to employ a supervisor of construction, to vote on an architect, and to adopt plans and drawings for the new building. John H. Barnes, a Joliet, Illinois, architect, won on the third ballot. Mr. Barnes, an 1888 graduate of the University of Illinois, designed several buildings in Joliet; among them were the Farragut, Longfellow and Ridgewood Schools. In January, 1900, the city clerk let bids for the new city hall with a February 16 deadline. The result was a contract to J. A. Sipe, with a low bid of \$14,685 and a completion date of August 15, 1900. The Engine House was to be sold and vacated by September 1. Work on the new foundation was superintended by Robert Lobb beginning in March. An ordinance passed on April 16 authorized the issuance of eleven city hall bonds of \$1,000 each, payable at the rate of 5 percent beginning in July, 1900. At the first meeting in the new city hall on September 21, a committee representing the Associated Charities asked the council for a meeting room. By the end of October, the final bills were audited and paid. The Associated Charities was given the use of two small rooms.

After two disastrous fires which leveled major downtown structures in 1872 and 1874, a fire company was formed and located on the east side of the courthouse square. In 1883 a new building was constructed by H. R. Davies on Lots 8 and 9 for the sum of \$3,065. The Engine House included facilities for a city hall and jail. The fire company was summoned to fire calls by the nearby Methodist Church bell. Later, a new bell (Van Duzen and Tift) was ordered and installed in 1886 (Extant) on the Engine House roof. In 1894 a Gamewell Fire Alarm and Telegraph System was installed, the most modern available at the time (Extant). This allowed individual fire bells to be located at the home of each fireman. On September 1, 1900, the fire department relocated to its quarters at the new city hall complex. The first motorized pumper truck in the county, a 1916 Seagraves (Extant) was purchased with the assistance of a loan from the Fireman's Pension Fund established in 1912.

Between 1880 and 1900 Pontiac's population nearly doubled, taxing the city's ability to provide adequate services in the Engine House building. Upon completion of the new city hall, the first city council meeting was held on September 21, 1900. An ordinance was then passed by the council appointing R. W. Babcock as the city collector. A resolution was passed authorizing Mayor Silas Rathbun to appoint a

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				Pontiac	City	Hall	and	Fire	Station	

three-person committee to look into municipal ownership of the water works system. In 1900, the city was divided into a fourth ward due to the population expansion. During the post-1900 growth years, Pontiac developed many improvements for the benefit of its citizens. A comprehensive street paving and sidewalk program was initiated. At the turn of the twentieth century, electric street cars had become ubiquitous across big cities in America. On February 21, 1903, the Pontiac City Council adopted a franchise ordinance for an interurban rail line. The result was called the "Bloomington, Pontiac and Joliet Railway Co." One of the cars, "The Pontiac", was exhibited at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, called the finest, most modern interurban car. Service began on April 23, 1905, and although never completed, the railway served the community until 1925 when competition from the automobile questioned its feasibility. The last run was made on November 25th of that year.

On May 18, 1917, the Pontiac City Council accepted a deed for the Chautauqua Park, located on the southeast side of the city and bordering on the meandering Vermillion River. In 1923, Mayor B. R. Thompson appointed a three-person park committee. The Chautauqua Park was designated a tourist campground that same year. For thirty years this park was the site of annual two-week long assemblies for the cultural and spiritual enlightenment of all who came to Pontiac for these programs. The last of these Chautauqua assemblies occurred in 1929. The park committee was replaced by a five-member park board in 1932.

Fred Hierth was the first Pontiac Mayor to serve a four-year term which began after 1937. Hierth's first term was significant in that major improvements in the city's sewage system occurred during his administration. In 1936, combined federal, state and local funds of \$160,000 were expended to upgrade the sewage plant.

The Pontiac City Hall was the focal point for all city political activity and administrative functions. The city council meetings were held in the council chambers on the second floor. City ordinances and records were stored on this floor in the city clerk's office. Two jail cells, an insane person's room, and the city engineer's office were located on the same floor. The first floor offices accommodated the mayor, police chief and officers, the city attorney and treasurer. Four holding cells for prisoners were located across from the police court. The city officials collected taxes, held elections, and granted permits and licenses. The attached fire station provided quarters for the fireman on the second floor. The building continued to serve the political administration to the end of the period of significance.

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				Pontiac	City	Hall	and	Fire	Station	

ENDNOTES

- 1. Harris, Elizabeth, Editor and Publisher. <u>Pontiac, Illinois Sesquicentennial</u> Souvenir Book, 1837-1987. 1987.
- 2. Pontiac City Council Minutes, October 5, 1883.
- 3. Pontiac Fire Department Meeting Record Book, October 5, 1915.

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Section nur	nber <u> </u>	_ Page	2.	Pontiac	City	Hall	and	Fire	Station	
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BIBLIOGRAPHY (Continued)

Municipal Government In Illinois. Compiled by workers of the Writer's Program of the Work Projects Administration. 1941.

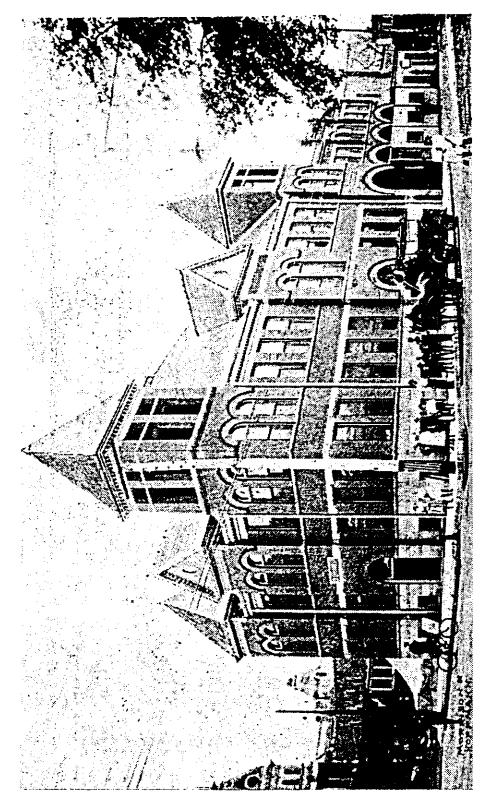
Pontiac City Council Minutes, 1872-1940. Pontiac City Hall.

Pontiac Fire Department Meeting Record Book, 1894-1916. Pontiac Public Safety Complex.

The Pontiac Daily Leader. September 22, 1900 and October 8, 1900.

PONTIAC FIRE COMPANY

WITH 1916 SEAGRAVES MOTORIZED PUMPER



PONTIAC CITY HALL / FIRE STATION

Looking S.W.

CA. 1900's

9. Major Bibliographical References	<u> </u>
Bateman and Selby, Eds. <u>Historical Encyclop</u> County. Chicago: Munsell Publishing County	
Harris, Elizabeth, Editor and Publisher. Por Book, 1837-1987. 1987.	ntiac, Illinois Sesquicentennial Souvenir
History of Livingston County. Chicago: Wil	liam Le Baron and Company, 1878.
Inventory of the County Archives of Illinois	: Livingston County, No. 53. Chicago. 1940
Lebovich, William L. America's City Halls. Press, 1984.	Washington, D.C.: The Preservation
	X See continuation sheet
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 Specify repository:
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property Less than one acre	
UTM References A 1 6 3 6 2 7 5 0 4 5 2 6 6 0 0 Zone Easting Northing C	B Zone Easting Northing D J
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	
,	
	See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
	See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Thomas Goldasich	
organization Private Citizen street & number Rt. #4	date
city or town Pontiac	state Illinois zip code 61764

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of historic Places. For further information call 202/343-3542.

MERKY LIST OF LISTED PROPERTIES AUG 2 4 1990

KEY: Property Name, Multiple Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Certification Date, Reference Mumber, NHL status

1DRHO
Tuin Falls County
Bickel School
607 Second Rve. E.
Tuin Falls 8/17/90 90001233
Kimberly Migh School
141 Center St. W.
Kinberly 8/17/90 90001229
Lincoln School
238 Seventh St.
Tuin Falls 8/17/90 90001218

ILLIMOIS
Livingston County
Pontiac City Mall and Fire Station
110 N. Howard St.
Puntiac 8/16/90 90001200

RASSACHUSETTS
Morcester County
Holland--Toune House
SR 32
Petershan 8/13/90 89002327

MISSISSIPPI Monroe County Inompson, Janes Young, house Old Cotton Gun Rd., 1/4 ns. N of US 278 Amony vicinity 8/16/90 90001223

HOMTRHR

Big Horn County

St. Xavier Mission Church and Rectory

On Big Horn River in the Crow Indian Reservation

St. Xavier 8/17/90 90001214

Travis County
Tissouri, Kansas and Texas Land Co. Nouse
Hyde Park MPS
3008 Mvs. C
Rustin 2/16/90 50001179
Dilphant-Halker House
Hyde Park MPS
3900 Avs. C
Austin 1/16/90 90001177
Page-Silbert House
Hyde Park MPS
3913 Rvs. 6
Rustin 3/16/90 50001186
Parker, Janes F. and Susia R., House
Hyde Park MPS
3916 Rvs. 0
Rustin 3/16/90 90001181
Rensey, F. T. and Julia, Mousa
Hyde Park RPS
411 Rensey, F. T. and Julia, Mousa
Hyde Park RPS
411 Rvs. 8
Rustin 1/16/90 90001176
Robbins, Riice M., House
Hyde Park NPS
4311 Rvs. R
Austin 1/16/90 90001235
Sears, Rev. Henry R. and Jennia, Mouse
Hyde Park NPS
209 M. 39th St.
Rustin 1/16/90 90001174
Shadou Laun Historic District
Hyde Park NPS
209 M. 39th St.
Rustin 1/16/90 90001192
Smith-Harcuse-Loury Mouse
Hyde Park NPS
3131 Rvs. C
Rustin 1/16/90 90001180
Williams, W. T. and Clotilde V., House
Hyde Park NPS
3820 Rvs. F
Rustin 1/16/90 90001182
VIRGINIA
Shenandoah County
Canobell Farm
VR 675, near Lantz Hills
Edinburg vicinity 1/16/90 90001416

Builtiple Resource Areas are identified by MRR Builtiple Property Submissions are identified by MPS Thenatic Resources are identified by TP NM, designates a National mistoric vandmark

i.	Name of Site:			9003	£ 7
	Common	Pontiac City Hal	1		•
	Historic		•		
2.	Location: SW	cor Main & Howar	d		
	Street and Number		Township	<u>s</u>	Section
3.	City or Town Pontiac County Livingston Classification:	Zip Code	Range	<u> </u>	Section (
	Category (check on	e)		Integrity (chec	k one)
•		(X Building () Structure		() Altered () Moved	(X) Unsiter (X) Original Site
4.	Ownership:	·.	Statu	s (check one)	Site
	() Private (X) Public		() Uı	ccupied noccupied reservation work i	n progress
	Access to Public	•		·	
	() Yes () Res	tricted () Unr	estricted (X) No		
	Present Use (check	one or more)			
	() Agricultural() Commercial() Educational() Entertainment(X) Government		() Industrial () Military () Museum () Park () Private Residence	() Tra () Oth	entific nsportation
5.	Ownership of Proper	ty:	- *		
5	Owner's Name		Pl	none Number	
Z	Street and Number				
ZS.	City or Town				
GOVERNMENT	State	Coun	ty	Zip Code	
\mathcal{O}_{6}	Description:				
	(X) Excellent () Ruins	() Good () Unexposed	. () Fair	() Deteriora	ted
	Is there a program of	of preservation und	derway? ()Yes 休) No

7.	Historical Themes: (check one or	more of the following))	
	() Archeological Site () Archeological Site () French Influence () Illinois Frontier () Illinois Early () Illinois Middle K) Illinois Late () Famous People	(1673-17 (1780-18 (1818-18 (1850-19 (1900-pa	olumbian to 1673) 780) 318) 350) 900)	
8.	Specific Date: 1900 built	,		
	Areas of significance (check one	or more of the follow	ing)	
9.	() Aboriginal (historic) () Aboriginal (pre-historic) () Agriculture () Architecture () Art () Commerce () Communication () Conservation () Education () Engineering () Industry () Invention () Landscape Architecture Brief statement of significance: (in Use additional sheets if necessary. Fire Dept. entrance on N side. Form prepared by: history of Pontice	() Scia () Scul () Socia () Thea () Urba (X) Othe (Covernal and of (City-1900-Hall) Well-preserved & i	itary ic itical igion/Philosophy ence lpture lal/Humanitarian ater isportation in Planning er (specify) ernment lates) above entrance o	
	Name and Title:		Date:	
	Organization:		Phone:	
	Street and Number:	-		
	City or Town:	County:	Zip Code	
·	During the course of the Survey particular site. When filling out the following example, published reference completed. If a hibliography can be	we often find it nece ne Survey form, please ces to the site for wh	list according to ich forms are being	the

task.

Bibliography

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

