

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Pittsfield Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Much of the central part of the city, with an eastward extension  
along Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Pittsfield

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Illinois

CODE

012

COUNTY

Pike

CODE

069

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple - see attached list

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pike County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Pittsfield

STATE

Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE 1. Illinois Historic Structures Survey, Pike County Interim Report  
2. Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey, Pike County

DATE

1. October 1974; 2. September 1972

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input 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 City of Pittsfield (1970 population 4,244) lies in west-central Illinois, about 70 miles west of Springfield, the state capital, and 80 northnorthwest of St. Louis, Missouri. It is situated near the geographical center of Pike County, of which it is the seat. The surrounding countryside may be best described as gently rolling and devoid of prominent topographic features, characteristics shared by the townsite itself. Most of the immediate vicinity of Pittsfield is under active cultivation, and agriculture is the economic mainstay of the area and the city.

The Pittsfield Historic District includes most of the central part of the city and extends to the corporate limits on the east (Washington Street) and southeast (Piper Lane). The precise boundary, which describes the maximum extent of a contiguous and reasonably homogeneous area distinguished by quality pre-World War I structures, was determined on the basis of visual criteria. Though there are few clear-cut breaks in the fabric of the city, beyond which nothing of interest may be encountered, those areas lying immediately outside the district boundary are dominated by a higher incidence of more recent structures, of old structures with little intrinsic merit, and/or of older structures that have been very substantially altered. As mentioned above, the eastern and southeastern boundary on Washington and Piper coincides with the Pittsfield Corporate Limit, beyond which there are few buildings and none of particular interest. The ragged southern boundary from Piper to Memorial reflects the transition from late 19<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century streetscapes, while the boundary southwest of Memorial and Fayette represents a rather clear distinction between the old and the new. Fayette, Adams and Jefferson immediately west of the district boundary are rather mixed, but lack both the historic fabric and the outstanding individual structures that might justify the inclusion of numerous insignificant buildings. The west boundary on Washington presents a special problem. While to the west the street is similar to Fayette, Adams, and Jefferson and therefore excluded, there is considerable deterioration to the east, in an area included. The historic character of the south side of the street from just east of Memorial to west of Mississippi, for instance, has been completely destroyed. The only justification for carrying the district boundary as far west as has been done is the high quality of several structures that could not legitimately be excluded at Washington and West. Northwest of Perry and Monroe, the boundary again distinguishes between an area of mixed quality and one of strong historic character. North east of Adams and Monroe there is another peculiar problem, particularly on Jefferson. This part of town is dominated by the remarkable Pittsfield East School and is also clearly an older section of the city. However, most of the structures are merely old and have been so altered or are so dilapidated as to have little remaining character and raise grave doubts as to the validity of considering them to be even a potential resource. With the East School already on the National Register (entered 2-12-71) and little other than actual age to recommend inclusion, most of the section northeast of Adams and Monroe has been excluded.

Land use patterns within the Pittsfield Historic District are relatively complex, but seem determined by the factor of proximity to the courthouse square and to Washington Street, a state highway. Most early commercial uses are located on the square itself or in the first block beyond the square on those streets that form it (Adams, Monroe, Washington, Madison). In recent years, however, commercial uses radiated out from this center and now affect most of the area described by Jefferson, Jackson, Fayette, and Memorial. The tendency has been particularly disruptive on the north side of Fayette and the south side of Jefferson. The worst effects of poorly directed commercial expansion into previously residential areas, however, have been felt on W. Washington, which has degenerated from east of Memorial to west of Mississippi into the type of tawdry strip that most municipalities have preferred to relegate to the outskirts. Because of these

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developments, the relationship between the older commercial district and the older residential neighborhoods, both of which survive largely intact, has been nearly destroyed. Religious, social, and cultural uses are concentrated on the fringes of the business district, but their transitional role between that district and the residential parts of the city has been rather obscured, except on Adams. Industrial uses are confined to the city's north-south axis (Madison and Monroe) and the only federal property seems to be the U.S. Post Office at Fayette and Madison. There is little vacant land in the district; but four of the six vacant parcels are on Fayette and Washington streets, where there is little reason to expect that they will be sympathetically developed.

Pittsfield's streets are laid out in a standard rectangular grid aligned according to major compass points, and structures front on all streets regardless of alignment. Non-local traffic is generally limited to Washington Street and is quite heavy at nearly all times, Washington being a major highway and truck route. But the automobile has also had a negative effect on other streets, since off-street parking in Pittsfield is often synonymous with parking on one's front lawn.

Residential density in the district is generally quite high (particularly if one overlooks Washington east of Illinois for the moment) and averages over ten structures per square block. Almost all residences are single-family and detached and the overwhelming majority are of frame construction. The somewhat less overwhelming, yet still considerable majority are also 2-2½ stories in height. Almost all of the frame residences are painted white and that fact, combining with nearly uniform street set-backs and lateral spacing and strong affinities of scale and style, helps produce very strong relationships between individual buildings. The largest homes and lots, some of them extensive on both counts, are located on Washington east of Illinois.

Commercial and other non-residential structures are almost exclusively of masonry construction (the most notable exception is the wooden grain elevator at Madison and North). Most, particularly among commercial structures themselves, are also two stories high. Though structural density is high throughout the commercial district, it is highest on the four sides of the courthouse square. Here, particularly on Madison and Monroe (west and east sides of the square, resp.), the commercial ensemble forms gap-free walls of nearly uniform height. The courthouse, nicely framed by these commercial walls, is by far the largest and tallest structure in the district.

Of 442 structures encompassed within the Pittsfield Historic District, excluding garages and other incidental buildings, 100 have been evaluated as possessing special architectural and/or historical significance, another 52 were photographed by the Illinois Historic Structures Survey, and an additional 25 are decidedly above average background quality. The remaining older structures (200) are of collective interest and date from the same general period as the more important buildings in the district. Their contribution would be considerably greater were not so many (70) inappropriately sided. Many of those 70, however, are covered with pre-aluminium materials and, having preserved much of their detailing, are certainly recoverable. Seventeen older structures have recently been extensively remodeled, nine of them intrusively so. These latter include offices of the Illinois Secretary of State (SE corner Jefferson and Memorial) and Department of Conservation (west side Madison, south of Fayette); some false fronts

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on structures on the north and west sides of the square; and the Farmer's State Bank (NE corner Adams and Madison), so extensively remodeled as to be virtually indistinguishable from a new structure. Three older structures, including two former gas stations (SW corner Adams and Jackson, and SW corner Washington and Illinois), have been judged intrusive.

There are 62 recent (i.e., post World War II) structures in the district, or somewhat over 14% of all extant structures. Forty-six of these are non-intrusive and most of these 46 are residences. While their number may be larger than desirable they are still usually widely enough scattered as to have little detrimental effect on streets that carry the historic fabric. (Their heaviest concentration, for instance, is on Illinois between Fayette and Clare, where the fabric is decided mainly by Piper and Clare.) The 16 recent intrusions, however, are destructive beyond their numbers, simply because they often occur in concentrations or in threatened areas on the fringes of the central business district. Washington Street which is in some respects still the finest street in the district (east of Illinois and in the vicinity of West), has been especially badly treated. Ten of the 16 recent intrusions occur along this single street. None of these ten -- and none of the other six -- is by itself a particularly major intrusion, since they are almost all of a semi-transient commercial nature (gas stations, drive-ins, etc.). In concert on Washington and the very vulnerable stretch of Fayette immediately south of the square, however, they are extremely disruptive. Their occurrence, coupled with mindless remodelings and other reflexive and expedient changes, also reflects the unthinking quest for "progress" that has been eroding the city's historic character, destroying what is probably its greatest resource and hope for true progress. Despite the fact that Pittsfield has had an Historic Landmarks Ordinance for several years, there is every reason to fear that the process of degeneration will soon have proceeded beyond the point of no return unless quick and firm steps are taken to reverse it.. Pittsfield is still a major historic resource, but will not remain so for much longer unless public awareness and sensitivity are immediately stimulated.

The oldest dated structure in the district is the William Ross House of 1836 (No.11 below), cast in a rather straightforward Greek Revival Style. While the influence of the Greek Revival is certainly present (Nos.2,9,12 below and others), as is to a lesser degree that of the Federal Style (including Nos.15,19 below), the earliest style to have left a profound mark is the Italianate (Nos.3-7,10,16,21, 24,26 below and many others). It seems to have held sway in Pittsfield until the earlier 1880's and is still by far the most frequently encountered style in the city. Next in point of time, excellence and frequency is the Queen Anne (including Nos.14,22-3,25 below), but this is most often met with in relatively simplified form. Beyond some rather eclectic expressions of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and earlier 20<sup>th</sup> centuries that are confined to non-residential structures (including Nos.4,13,20) and a scattering of non-archaeological Gothic (including No.8), no other styles are represented in either quantity or quality. Italianate and Queen Anne are the earmarks of the district, albeit tempered by earlier styles and somewhat diluted by numbers of the a-stylistic residences typical of smaller 19<sup>th</sup> Century Illinois cities.

# 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 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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pittsfield is not the finest rural county seat in Illinois. Its courthouse, while magnificent, is not unique. Its business district, albeit intact and old, is cosmetically flawed and somewhat lacking in outstanding individual structures. The residential sections, although consistent and containing several fine homes, are marred by innumerable, usually minor alterations and a seemingly cavalier attitude towards appearance and upkeep. And while still a basically 19<sup>th</sup> Century town, Pittsfield has hardly escaped the effects of the most recent decades of the 20<sup>th</sup>.

These several reservations notwithstanding, Pittsfield remains a very good example of its type and a major historic resource -- but a resource whose potential has yet to be fully realized. The district has a number of very strong points to recommend it. First, there are the courthouse and the complementary business houses surrounding it, a fine ensemble essentially unchanged since about World War I. Second, the public and semi-public buildings -- churches, library, schools, county jail, etc. -- are almost all very strong architectural statements that, while not forming a spatially related ensemble, add emphatic points of excellence to key parts of the district. Third, the residential neighborhoods still present a largely 19<sup>th</sup> Century appearance and preserve several excellent clusters, particularly northwest of the square, on E. Washington, Piper Lane, and N. Monroe.

There is, however, real danger in Pittsfield of losing the connections between these various elements. Already, the transitions from the courthouse square to the area immediately south and to the east end of Washington have been weakened -- and that from the square to the west end of Washington is more of a shock than a transition. But given greater future care and concern, most of these transitions can be restored, helping Pittsfield retain both the fabric and the individual buildings of its earlier days.

## HISTORY

The history of Pittsfield, a city founded for the express purpose of being the new county seat of an extant county, differs but little from that of other towns with a similar origin. Assured an economic base from the very start, orderly progress and uneventful growth are the anticipated pattern. And Pittsfield fits the pattern.

Pike County was organized in 1821 and originally embraced the entire territory northwest of the Illinois River and north to the state line. Settlement proceeded so quickly throughout that area, though, that the county had been reduced to its present size by 1825. Atlas, on the Mississippi, was the county seat, but even as early as 1827 there was agitation for re-location. By 1832, removal of the county

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seat to a more central place was a certainty and the State Legislature duly appointed Samuel Alexander, Earl Pierce, and John Sterne as commissioners to fix upon the new site. Their report, designating the new seat by the name of Pittsfield, was filed 13 April 1833.

The town was immediately laid out by the County Commissioners, George Hinman, Hawkins Judd, and Benjamin Barney, and a sale of lots held on 15 May 1833. Eleven were sold and the Pike County treasury was enriched by \$1,209.88. Subsequent sales were held on 28 October 1833, 4 June 1834 (38 lots sold), 2 May 1836 (102 lots sold), and 6 October 1837 (28 lots sold). With the letting of a contract to build a courthouse (4 June 1833), the removal of the county seat from Atlas was virtually complete and Pittsfield's future secured.

While the business of government has been the underpinning of Pittsfield's economy -- ever larger courthouses were erected in 1838-9 and 1894-5 -- the city has also benefited greatly from the richness of the surrounding land. Agricultural business may always tend to concentrate in the county seat, but the early prosperity of Pike County enabled Pittsfield to develop a relatively large commercial district and an early date. And though the automobile has diverted some trade to Quincy and even, one assumes, St. Louis, Pittsfield has remained a viable regional commercial center.

Industry, however, seems never to have joined government and commerce as an important element in the city's development and stability. There were brickyards as early as 1843 but, though that industry thrived throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, it apparently did not develop beyond the bounds of a purely local undertaking. Flour milling has been somewhat more important. The first major mill was erected by Frye and Gay in 1849 and this was joined by the Chapman Mill in 1870. The latter is still in operation (v.No.18 below). A large shoe factory was added to the industrial base after World War I, but the building has since been vacated and now stands empty.

Shipping and transportation have also played a relatively minor role. The regular shipping point for Pittsfield was, at the time of the city's foundation and for years thereafter, Florence, situated twelve miles to the east on the Illinois River. Florence was a scheduled stop in the Illinois packet trade and was connected to Pittsfield by a plank road built in 1851. The advent of the railroad did little to promote Pittsfield as a shipping center, since the extension of the Jacksonville and Naples Railroad to Hannibal was located six miles north of the city. Any fears that the county seat would be outstripped by Griggsville, the line's main stop in Pike County, were soon allayed, however, by construction of a branch tying Pittsfield to the main road via Maysville (1869-70). Being only a branch line, the railroad wrought little real change and merely allowed Pittsfield to consolidate its position.

The growth of Pittsfield during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century was steady and quite uneventful. By 1870, the city could claim 1,621 inhabitants and had developed, in all essentials, into the place it still remains. The actual physical appearance is, in many

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respects, of more recent date -- Pittsfield's dominant structure is the Pike County courthouse built in 1894-5 -- but little has happened to change the underlying character since the coming of the railroad. The city was most certainly residential and commercially mature before the end of World War I, but exactly how long before would be difficult to determine. Since World War I there have been few positive changes in Pittsfield -- none, it seems, since the Great Depression -- affecting the area of the historic district; but there have been negative ones, particularly during the past several years. The city that past generations built with pride is being much too quickly eroded and, unless that pride is re-instilled in the present citizenry, Pittsfield may soon join the ranks of anonymous places.

SELECTED STRUCTURES OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Numbers correspond to the accompanying map. Architectural significance determined throughout on the basis of the Illinois Historic Structures Survey final evaluation.

1. PIKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Center of Courthouse Square

Built in 1894-5; Henry Elliott, architect

Elliott was also the architect for the very similar Edgar County courthouse in Paris, Illinois, near the Indiana line.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

2. ZACHARIAH N. GARBUTT HOUSE

500 East Washington

Built ca. 1841-6

Z.N. Garbutt settled permanently at Pittsfield in 1840. A man of considerable influence in the city's earlier days, in 1846 he founded The Free Press, an early and important newspaper with strong anti-slavery and temperance inclinations. A graduate of the legal course at Illinois College (Jacksonville), Garbutt served as Justice of the Peace and Master in Chancery and twice ran unsuccessfully for County School Commissioner (1841, 1843).

John George Nicolay, associated with Garbutt in The Free Press and, to a large degree, his protege, lived here with Garbutt from 1848 and remained in the house after the latter's death in 1855. A native of Germany, Nicolay learned the printer's trade in Pittsfield and succeeded Garbutt as editor of The Free Press. In 1857, when O.M. Hatch of Griggsville was elected Illinois Secretary of State, Nicolay removed to Springfield as his clerk. After two years in that capacity, he read law in the office of Abraham Lincoln and, upon Lincoln's election to the Presidency, became one of his private secretaries. Nicolay subsequently

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served as U.S. Consul to Paris and Marshall of the Supreme Court of the United States.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

3. MAJOR SAMUEL HAYES HOUSE

720 East Washington  
Built ca. 1860-5

Samuel Hayes was a prominent lawyer, practicing in Pittsfield in partnership with C.L. Higbee. In the Civil War, he served as Major of the 16th Illinois and died shortly after the war as a direct result of his service.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

4. DANIEL KELLOGG HOUSE AND STABLE

1005 East Washington  
Built by 1868

The house is quite possibly the work of John Mills van Osdel, to whose contemporary Pittsfield East School it bears a family resemblance. The suspicion is supported by Kellogg family tradition, which ascribes the house to "an architect's plans secured no doubt from an outside source, probably Chicago.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

5. DAVIDSON HOUSE

306 S. Piper Lane  
Built in 1857

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

6. JOSEPH HECK BAKERY

120 East Adams  
Built in 1881

Joseph Heck was a native of Germany and settled in Pittsfield after residency in Philadelphia, Quincy, and elsewhere in Pike County. The bakery was originally located in Pittsfield's first county courthouse (1833-8), which occupied this site until razed in 1880. It was through Nicolay (v. No. 2 above), a family friend, that A. Lincoln was brought by the bakery for cider and gingerbread on 1 October 1858.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE



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7. PIKE COUNTY JAIL

Northeast corner Adams and Monroe

Built in 1861

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

8. FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Southeast corner Monroe and Jefferson

Built in 1874-5

The congregation was organized ca.1839. The church edifice, a brick building with limestone detailing, has been faced with imitation stone, but remains a major architectural statement despite that fact.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

9. WILLIAM WATSON HOUSE

332 West Washington

Built ca.1838-43

William Watson, by chance or design, was the first actual settler of Pittsfield, having located temporarily in the middle of the square in 1833. Later that same year, he erected his house, in which he also kept a store of goods, south of the square. In 1838, he built the Mansion House, probably the most successful and best known of Pittsfield's early hotels. A man of considerable wealth and influence, he was at one time Judge of the Probate Court and served one term (1843-7) as Pike County Treasurer. After some time spent living elsewhere in the town, Watson returned to this house to live with his daughter and son-in-law, Dr. Barrett, the parents of Oliver Barrett, a noted collector of Lincolniana.

During the time that Watson did not reside in the house, Milton Hay did. Hay was one of the city's leading attorneys and later pursued a notable career in Springfield. During his occupancy, his nephew, John Hay, lived here with him while attending Pittsfield's Thomson Academy (1851). The younger Hay, more closely identified with Warsaw (Ill) than with Pittsfield, went on to become another of Lincoln's private secretaries and, eventually, U.S. Secretary of State under Theodore Roosevelt.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

10. JOHN C. HOOPER HOUSE

413 South Memorial

Built ca.1882

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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11. COL. WILLIAM ROSS HOUSE  
130 West Jefferson  
Built in 1835

William Ross can, with little or no exaggeration, be termed the father of Pike County. A veteran of the War of 1812, he and four of his brothers left Pittsfield (Mass.) for Illinois in the summer of 1820 and, after wintering at Upper Alton, settled at what was to become Atlas in February 1821. The actual town of Atlas, first simply called Ross Settlement, was laid out by Ross in 1823 and served as the county seat until Pittsfield was established in 1833. Though understandably not one of the proponents of the relocation of the county seat, Ross was closely connected with that move, since the county commissioners borrowed the \$200 needed for purchase of the 160-acre town site from him.

Serving in numerous minor offices (Justice of the Peace, Col. of Militia, etc.), Ross was also the holder of several more important ones. He was County Judge (1823, 1827-34), Circuit Clerk (1827-35), County Clerk (1826-34), a member of the Illinois House of Representatives (elected 1834), and a member of the Illinois Senata (first elected 1836, returned for several successive terms).

During the Blackhawk War (1832), he served in the field as Aide to General Atkinson and was responsible for the appointment of A. Lincoln to a company captaincy. Ross' association with Lincoln spanned many years, and the latter is known to have been a guest in the Ross home in Atlas and, later, in Pittsfield.

Col. Ross' involvement in both state and local affairs was so extensive that, at least as it applies to the local arena, there is every reason to agree with an earlier writer: "It is safe to say that no public enterprise in the county ever escaped his observation, or was completed without his aid."

Ross lived in this house from the time of its construction until 1847, when he erected a mansion on Washington Street at the east edge of town. This later house has since been razed.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

12. STAR HOTEL  
206 East Jefferson  
Built after 1835

The hotel was built by Capt. George T. Edwards, who emigrated from Tennessee in 1828 and settled at Pittsfield in 1835. Capt. Edwards was active in a number of lines, including teaming, the grocery business, farming, mail contracting, and, of course, hotel-keeping. He also served

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as constable, deputy sheriff, and, from 1854-6, sheriff. Following active duty in the Civil War, he became proprietor of hotels in Naples and Griggsville, and was one of the organizers (in 1869) of the stock company that erected the Pittsfield House, the city's largest hotel. The Pittsfield House opened for business 1 January 1871 and the building still stands at the northeast corner of Adams and Madison. It has, however, been remodeled beyond recognition or hope of restoration.

It is assumed that Edwards lived for years at his hotel (the Star), a not uncommon practice for hotel keepers. A later resident, by which time the hotel had become a house, was Dr. T.W. Shastid, one of Pittsfield's most prominent physicians and surgeons.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

13. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Northeast corner Adams and Memorial  
Built in 1881

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

14. WILLIAM ELZA WILLIAMS HOUSE

308 West Jefferson  
Built in 1891

W.E. Williams was a prominent member of the Pittsfield bar, practicing in partnership with his brother, A.C. Williams. He also spent at least one term in the U.S. House, representing the 16<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

15. MICHAEL J. NOYES HOUSE

629 East Washington  
Built ca. 1847

Michael Noyes, a native of New Hampshire, settled at Pittsfield in 1841 after having spent many years in Pike County, Missouri. An extremely active man in both Missouri and Illinois, he is now best remembered as the founder and editor of The Sucker and Farmer's Record (1842), the first newspaper in Pike County (Ill.).

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16. WILLIAM SMITH HOUSE  
531 East Washington  
Built ca.1880

Nothing could be discovered concerning Mr. Smith. A later resident (in the 1890's) was Alonzo Leonard, a wealthy broker, capitalist, and money lender.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

17. DR. F. M. CASAL HOUSE (NOW: PITTSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER)  
224 West Washington  
Built before 1872; later alterations, probably ca.1900

Dr. Casal, an 1864 graduate of Rush Medical College (Chicago), settled at Pittsfield in the summer of 1868. A member of the usual medical societies, he also served a number of years on the Pittsfield Town Board, at least two of them as its President.

A later resident of the house was Jacob Strauss of the firm of Strauss Brothers, merchants. Strauss emigrated to America in 1853, arriving in Pittsfield in 1863 after time spent in New York and other points east. Strauss' firm, one of the leading mercantile establishments in Pittsfield since at least 1880, is still doing business in the city on the west side of the square.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

18. CHAPMAN MILL  
Northeast and northwest corners of North and Madison  
Main structure (NE Corner) built in 1870

The Chapman Mill, still functioning but under a different name, is quite probably Pittsfield's most significant 19th Century industrial establishment. It was begun in 1870 by the firm of Shaw, Rupert, Adams, and Chapman and shipped its product to all points east under the name of Crystal Gem Flour.

The architecturally most interesting element in the complex is a frame grain elevator (or hopper?) at the NW corner. It is one of relatively few frame elevators in Illinois to have survived intact with wooden clapboards.

HISTORICAL (WHOLE COMPLEX) AND ARCHITECTURAL (FRAME ELEVATOR ONLY) SIGNIFICANCE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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19. GEORGE FOOTE/DR. ORIN S. CAMPBELL HOUSE  
304 West Adams  
Built ca. 1838

George Foote, a contractor about whom little is known, built the east half of the house, while the west half was built a very short time later by Dr. Campbell. Dr. Campbell, an 1829 graduate of the University of Vermont, went to Atlas in 1833 or 1834 and came thence to Pittsfield. He and Dr. Worthington, with whom he practiced in partnership, were the first medical men in the city and enjoyed a large and prominent practice. Among the many men who trained in Dr. Campbell's office was the noted St. Louis surgeon, Dr. Hodgen.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

20. CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Northwest Corner Memorial and Adams  
Built in 1906

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

21. SAMUEL HIRSHEIMER, SR., HOUSE  
403 West Washington  
Built in 1880
22. L.D. HIRSHEIMER HOUSE  
411 West Washington  
Built ca. 1886
23. CHARLES HIRSHEIMER HOUSE  
423 West Washington  
Built ca. 1888

The Hirschheimer family was in the forefront of Pittsfield commerce throughout the later 19<sup>th</sup> and earlier 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Samuel, Sr., (L.D. and Charles were two of his sons), settled at Pittsfield in 1856 and entered into the retail clothing business. After 1870, Samuel took his son Benjamin into the business with him. Meanwhile, L.D. established a retail cigar store on the west side of the square. Later run in partnership with Charles, this business was expanded into a relatively large-scale cigar manufactory with a wholesale market extending over several states. L.D. Hirschheimer's "new" cigar factory (east section built in 1893; west section built shortly before) is still extant at 113-15 W. Adams. Though tobacco seems to have been the mainstay of the Hirschheimer wealth -- L.D. left an estate estimated at \$2.5 million in 1929 -- other members of the family were also involved in the restaurant and dry goods businesses.

HISTORICAL (COLLECTIVELY) AND ARCHITECTURAL (INDIVIDUALLY) SIGNIFICANCE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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24. DR. ALBERT CAREY HOUSE  
305 North Memorial  
Date unknown

Dr. Carey was a dentist.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

25. JEFFERSON ORR HOUSE  
328 North Monroe  
Date unknown

Jefferson Orr, an 1864 graduate of the Old University of Chicago, was one of the most prominent members of the Pittsfield bar during the last third of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Elected State's Attorney for Pike County in 1872 and re-elected in 1876, he retired from politics in 1880 to devote full time to his private practice.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

26. DR. J. H. LEDLIE HOUSE  
349 West Fayette  
Built ca. 1870

Dr. Ledlie, a native of Ireland and graduate of Dublin's Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, emigrated to Pittsfield in 1854. During the Civil War, he was Staff Surgeon and Medical Director of the 13<sup>th</sup> Army Corps and, later, Surgeon in Charge of the General Hospital at Jefferson City, Mo. Mustered out as Lieutenant Colonel in November 1865, he returned to Pittsfield, where he enjoyed an extensive practice.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Chapman and Company, History of  
Grimshaw, Wm. A., History of  
Andreas, Lyter and Co., Atlas  
Portrait and Biographical All-

1880.

*Asfield*

, Davenport (Iowa), 1872.

and Johnson Counties, Ill., Chicago, 1891.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY APPROX. 214.

QUADRANGLE NAME

UTM REFERENCES NOT AVAILABLE

QUADRANGLE SCALE

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G							

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Beginning at the intersection of Washington Street and Washington Court, the boundary extends E on Washington St. to the E line of 1005 E. Washington, S on this to the Pittsfield Corporate Limit, W and then S along the C.L. to the S line of 446 S. Piper

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Robert Wagner, consultant to the Ill. Department of Conservation

ORGANIZATION

none

DATE

27 April 1978

STREET & NUMBER

9640 South Longwood Drive

TELEPHONE

312/779-2109

CITY OR TOWN

Chicago

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

*Dail Kanner*

TITLE

*Director, Ill. Dept. of Conservation*

DATE 3/31/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

TEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

lines W of Jackson, N on these to the S line of 254 S.Monroe, W on this to Monroe S on Monroe to the S line of 327 S.Monroe, W on this to the interior property line W of Monroe, N on these to the S line of 304 S.Madison, W on this and the S line of 303 S.Madison to the interior property lines E of Memorial, S on these to Crane W on Crane to Memorial, S on Memorial to Morrison, W on Morrison to the interior property lines W of Memorial, N on these and the W line of 211 W.Clare to the interior property lines S of Fayette, W on these to the W line of 503 W.Fayette, N on this to Fayette, E on Fayette to the W line of 430 W.Fayette, N on this and the W lines of 423 and 444 W.Washington to the interior property lines N of Washington, E on these to the W line of 325 W.Adams, N on this to Adams, W on Adams to the unnamed alley or street W of Higbee High School, N on this to Jefferson E on Jefferson to the W line of 320 W.Jefferson, N on this to the interior property lines N of Jefferson, E on these to the W line of 219 W.Perry, N on this to Perry W on Perry to the W line of 306 W.Perry, N on this to the interior property lines N of Perry, E on these to Memorial, S on Memorial to Perry, E on Perry to the W line of 120 W.Perry, N on this to the interior property lines N of Perry, E on these and the N line of 404 N.Madison to the interior property lines W of Monroe, N on these to North, W on North to a line five feet W of and parallel to the W wall of the grain elevator or hopper at the NW corner of Madison and North, N on this to a line five feet N of and parallel to the N wall of the same building E on this and the interior property lines N of North to the interior property line W of Monroe, N on these to the N line of 601 N.Monroe, E on this and the S line of 602 N.Monroe and the interior property lines N of Griggsville to the E line of 222 E.Griggsville, S on this to Griggsville, E on Griggsville to Jackson, S on Jackson to the interior property lines S of Griggsville, W on these to the interior property lines E of Monroe, S on these to the interior property lines N of Adams, E on these and the N line of 222 N.Jackson to the Pittsfield Corporate Limit, S and then E on the C.L. and further E on the N line of 918 E.Washington St. to Washington Court, and then S on Washington Court to the point of beginning.

N.B.: All boundary segments along streets and alleys follow the center line of those streets and alleys.  
All references to the Pittsfield Corporate Limit are to that limit as of 31 December 1971.





ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered JUN 4 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Pittsfield Historic District	Pittsfield Pike County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy  
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson  
Honorable Paul Findley

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