

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received
date entered

3-22-85
Wash

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

1. Name

historic Colonel Gustavius A. Palmer House

and/or common Colonel Palmer House

2. Location

street & number 5516 Terra Cotta Road (Illinois Route 176) — not for publication

city, town Crystal Lake — vicinity of Congressional District 13

state Illinois code 012 county McHenry code 111

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

Preservation plan implementation

name City of Crystal Lake

street & number 121 North Main Street, P.O. Box 597

city, town Crystal Lake — vicinity of _____ state Illinois 60014

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. McHenry County Courthouse

street & number 2200 North Seminary Avenue

city, town Woodstock state Illinois 60098

6. Representation in Existing Surveys -- Not Applicable

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 Colonel Palmer House was originally constructed in 1858 ca. as a single family detached dwelling by stone mason and architect Andrew Jackson Simon for Colonel Gustavus A. Palmer and his wife Henrietta. The Palmer family relocated to Nunda Township in McHenry County, Illinois in 1840 (approximately) from Livingston County, New York. Mr. Simon also relocated to the above area in 1848 from LeRoy, New York.

The House typifies the design style of homes built during the second quarter of the nineteenth century in the northern midwest region and is derivative of the Neo-Classical Revival style; comprising elements of both the Federal and Greek Revival styles of architecture. Constructed of brick, the House consists of a rectangular two-story front section with a smaller rectangular one-and-a-half-story section to the rear. Please see photographs numbers one (1), two (2), three (3), and four (4).

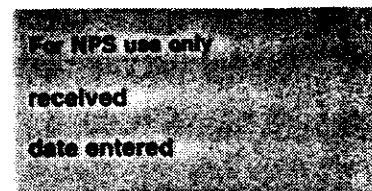
Characteristic of the Federal style, the roof has both broken pediment and a low-pitch gable design with dentilated wood cornice work. Please see photograph number one (1). Other principal Federal features include the off-center entrance and large glazed window areas. Greek Revival characteristics of construction include the entablature and heavy sills and lintels which are of dressed limestone for the doors [photograph number five (5)], windows [photograph number six (6)] and watertable [photograph number seven (7)].

The foundation of the House is representative of the New England cobblestone masonry style. The basement foundation is rubble fieldstone throughout including both the north and east above grade sections [photograph number nine (9)]. The south and west above grade elevations are finished veneer cobblestone masonry from water-rounded fieldstones of various sizes, shapes and colors. The mortar joints, both vertically and horizontally, are of a raised bead style lending the appearance of each set cobblestone to a recessed rectangle [photograph number seven (7)]. The corner quoine, as shown in photograph number eight (8), is a large rough quartered fieldstone with the cobblestones laid six courses to height.

The original first floor plan was typical of small free standing homes built during the same period; often referred to as "sidehall houses". Please refer to Exhibit A for a detailed plan of the first floor. The front main section, rectangular in form, is divided in half (approximately) from the front (south side) to the rear (north side). In turn, the first floor was quartered into two large rooms in diagonally opposite corners further creating two narrower rooms in the opposing diagonally opposite corners. The front (south side) narrow room served as the main entrance and second floor stairhall. The rear section comprised a single room with a staircase (east side) providing access to the attic and earthen floor basement.

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Continuation sheet One (1)

Item number Seven (7)

Page One (1)

This room also has two exterior doors which provide access to the east and west side of the House. The east side wall of the rear room extended from the front main section with the door opening to a wood constructed subsidiary structure or directly out-of-doors. The west side wall of the rear section is recessed from the front main section. The west side door provides access to an open air post porch.

Unlike the standardized first floor plans of the period, second floor plans were often tailored to the express requirements of the owner. Please refer to Exhibit A for detailed second floor plans. The arrangement of the House included five rooms and a hall closet. The single room (north) of the half story above the rear section was accessible by means of the hallway. Standards of the period are represented by the small square shaped room (east) at the head of the staircase, small rectangular shaped room (south) above the staircase and large square shaped room (south) directly above and approximately equivalent in dimension to the front first floor room. Unique arrangements of the Colonel Palmer House include the hall closet, rear hallway and two small rooms to the rear west portion of the second floor plan.

As mentioned earlier, the House has one (1) open air post porch on the west elevation [photograph number three (3)]. At both the front/main entrance, south elevation, and rear entrance, north elevation, there are entrance stoops; photographs numbers one (1) and eleven (11) respectively. The House has a total of thirty (30) windows. The typical window construction is illustrated in photograph number six (6) and there are twenty (20) such windows with five (5) on the south, ten (10) on the west, one (1) on the north, and four (4) on the east elevations. There are three (3) basement windows with two (2) on the west elevation and one (1) on the north elevation. Two (2) windows are located on the clapboard structure in the south and east walls and five (5) windows are located on the one-and-a-half story rear section in the north and west walls. The House has a total of three (3) access doors as shown in photographs numbers five (5), eleven (11) and three (3). There is also one (1) root cellar door on the east elevation. The House has a single, front slope, covered chimney on the east half of the roof as shown in photograph number thirteen (13).

The interior of the House has retained many of the original construction elements. The walls are all of plaster and the flooring of tongue and grove Southern Yellow Pine. All hardware fixtures, doors and flooring were imported from the East Coast. Since there were no fireplaces, the House was heated with parlor type Franklin stoves. For an in-depth perspective of the interior features, please refer to the "Site Investigation and Paint Analysis" section of the Evaluation and Plan for Rehabilitation of the Colonel Palmer House, Crystal Lake, Illinois. June 1984, labeled Exhibit A.

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Continuation sheet Two (2)

Item number Seven (7)

Page Two (2)

With respect to other buildings and the environmental context of the nominated acreage, please refer to Exhibit B; a plat of survey prepared by the City of Crystal Lake Engineering Department. As shown by the plat legend, the House (a.) and wooden barn (b.) are still existing. The two (2) outbuildings (c.) were removed in 1979, while the foundations were backfilled and covered. The concrete foundation (d.) of a contemporary barn is located outside of the nominated acreage. Also visible on the plat of survey, accompanying photographs and slide presentation is the existing landscaping with numerous Oak and Maple trees; some existing prior to the twentieth (20th) century.

Alterations to the exterior and interior of the House have been very minimal; retaining most of its original form since built. In general, exterior alterations included several deletions of original fabric and two additions, whereas the interior received only one alteration. For more specific information relative to exterior and interior alterations, please refer to Exhibit A, sections on "Altered Conditions-- Exterior" and "Altered Conditions -- Interior" with subsequent first and second floor plans detailing both original and altered conditions. The identification of alterations was accomplished through several on-site inspections of the structure and a systematic paint analysis as found in Exhibit A.

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 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 checked="" 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

Builder/Architect Andrew Jackson Simon

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Colonel Gustavius A. Palmer House, built one hundred and twenty seven (127) years ago in 1858 ca., stands as a significant contribution to the local heritage, architecture and history of the City of Crystal Lake. Since obtaining the House in 1979, the City and Colonel Palmer House Restoration Association, a not-for-profit organization, have worked diligently to preserve the House and develop plans for its future disposition in lieu of its local historical significance. As shown by Exhibit A, plans for the Colonel Palmer House involve restoration as both a proposed historical museum and local cultural arts center. These uses were identified in a survey mailed to Crystal Lake residents in January 1984 in an effort to gain and determine community support and interest.

Gustavius A. Palmer and his wife Henrietta were among the earliest settlers in Nunda Township. The Palmers relocated to the area in 1840 ca. by journeying three weeks by covered wagon from Livingston County, New York. Gustavius A. Palmer was born in Nunda, New York in 1805, where he was later commissioned as Colonel of the 205th New York Infantry. As an Infantry Colonel, he participated in the Patriots War of 1837-38 following which the U.S. Government granted him bounty lands in McHenry County, Illinois of eighty (80) acres (approximately) by land patent on June 1, 1845. As the Palmers continued to acquire more than three hundred (300) acres in Nunda Township, the acreage came to be known as Palmer's Corners.

Colonel Palmer was also a civic minded individual active in local community affairs. He was the first Postmaster of the Town of Nunda and was appointed Judge of Elections for Nunda Township on June 5, 1850. On September 24, 1914, the Town of Nunda (previously known as Dearborn Village and later as the Village of North Crystal Lake) and Village of Crystal Lake incorporated to form the City of Crystal Lake with a population of 2,000 (estimated). Colonel Palmer was also an instrumental founding member of the Nunda Masonic Lodge No. 169 on October 2, 1855. The Nunda Masonic Lodge, first located at the A.H. Hale farm on Griswold Lake, was destroyed by fire in 1868. The Colonel Palmer House was utilized as a temporary meeting place for the displaced Masonic Lodge. John H. Palmer, his son, was Master of Nunda Masonic Lodge #169 from 1868-73, 1875-77, 1879-87, 1889-92, 1894, and 1998-1900. He also served on the Nunda Township Board of Supervisors in 1884. Colonel Palmer resided in Nunda Township, McHenry County, Illinois for forty three (43) years and both he and his wife died from typhoid pneumonia on December 19, 1884 and December 16, 1884 respectively. The Palmer family retained ownership of the House until 1926.

The Colonel Palmer House, originally built as a residential farm house, is a statement of local historical architecture having retained much of its original design since the time of construction. Also contributing to its significance are

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Continuation sheet One (1)

Item number Eight (8)

Page One (1)

factors such as building materials utilized and the architect Andrew Jackson Simon who designed and built the House; one of the first known local architects. As discussed earlier in Section 7, the House consists of both Federal and Greek Revival styles of architecture generally referred to as the Neo-Classical Revival style. With respect to the restoration of critical design elements and the effect of interior and exterior alterations upon the significance of the House, Exhibit A evidences the current efforts proposed to maintain the architectural integrity of the House throughout the restoration process. Exhibit A also identifies known interior and exterior alterations and their significance upon the property.

Several unique features of local architectural significance pertain to the building materials. Cobblestones for the foundation were obtained from the shores of Lake Michigan near Waukegan, Illinois. Ruble fieldstone for the foundation was obtained locally. As for the limestone sills, lintels, watertable and fieldstone corner quoines, these materials were probably obtained locally at a stone quarry in Marengo, Illinois. The bricks, similar to the Williamsburg Brick style, were manufactured of local clay at a factory previously located approximately one (1) mile west of the Colonel Palmer House on Terra Cotta Avenue. As mentioned earlier, the hardware fixtures, doors and floors of tongue and groove Southern Yellow Pine were obtained from the East Coast. The windows are characteristic of the period in the traditional six light style and were constructed from handblown glass panels.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- 1) An Evaluation and Plan for Rehabilitation of the Colonel Palmer House, Crystal Lake -- June 1984 (Prepared by Robert A. Furhoff for the Colonel Palmer House Restoration Association, Inc.); 2) McHenry County Historical Society -- Colonel Palmer House files; 3) City of Crystal Lake -- Colonel Palmer House Files; 4) Oral History; and 5) Original National Register of Historic Places Inventory -- Nomination Form submitted April 17, 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.22 Acres

Quadrangle name Crystal Lake, Illinois

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	9	3	0	8	0	4	6	7	8	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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E

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The West 220.00 feet of the South 300.00 feet of the Northwest Quarter of Section 34, Township 44 North, Range 8 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in McHenry County, State of Illinois.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries Not Applicable

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bogdan Vitas, Jr., Administrative Assistant to the City Manager *BVR*

organization City of Crystal Lake date January 14, 1985

street & number 121 North Main Street telephone 815-459-2020

city or town Crystal Lake state Illinois 60014

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 William O Farnan

title Deputy S.H.P.O. date 3/21/85

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MAY 31 1985

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 beginning May 19, 1985 and ending May 25, 1985. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

ALABAMA, Colbert County, Tuscumbia, Tuscumbia Historic District, Roughly bounded by N. & E. Commons, Eight St. and Spring Rd., Hooks, W. 5th & S. Milton including Steel Bridge (05/23/85)
ALABAMA, Pickens County, Carrollton, Stewart-Blanton House, AL 86 (05/23/85)

IDAHO, Kootenai County, Coeur d'Alene Davey, Harvey M., House, 315 Wallace Ave. (05/23/85)

~~ILLINOIS, McHenry County, Crystal Lake, Palmer, Col. Gustavus A., House, 5516 Terra Cotta Rd. (05/24/85)~~

MAINE, Androscoggin County, Lewiston, Lower Lisbon Street Historic District, Lisbon St. between Ceder and Chestnut (05/21/85)

NORTH CAROLINA, Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, Trotter, Thomas, Building, 108 S. Tryon St. (05/23/85)

PENNSYLVANIA, Beaver County, Ambridge, Economy Historic District, Old Economy Village roughly bounded by PA 65, 12th, Merchant, and 16th Sts. (05/21/85)

PENNSYLVANIA, Chester County, Coatesville vicinity, Bailey, John, Farm (East Fallowfield Township MRA), Springdell Rd. (05/20/85)

PENNSYLVANIA, Chester County, Coatesville vicinity, Brandywine Building and Loan Assoc. Rowhouses (East Fallowfield Township MRA), Hephzibah Hill Rd. (05/20/85)

PENNSYLVANIA, Chester County, Coatesville vicinity, Dougherty, Edward, House (East Fallowfield Township MRA), Mt. Carmel Rd. (05/20/85)

PENNSYLVANIA, Chester County, Coatesville vicinity, Ercildoun Historic District (East Fallowfield Township MRA), PA 82 and SRs T368, 15236, T371, and 182 (05/20/85)

PENNSYLVANIA, Chester County, Coatesville vicinity, Gladden, Joseph, House (East Fallowfield Township MRA), West Chester Rd. (05/20/85)

PENNSYLVANIA, Chester County, Coatesville vicinity, Hanna, John, Farm (East Fallowfield Township MRA), Fairview Rd. (05/20/85)

PENNSYLVANIA, Chester County, Coatesville vicinity, Passmore, Mansel, House (East Fallowfield Township MRA), Glen Rose Rd. (05/20/85)

PENNSYLVANIA, Chester County, Coatesville vicinity, Pennock, Martha, House (East Fallowfield Township MRA), PA 82 (05/20/85)

PENNSYLVANIA, Chester County, Coatesville vicinity, Powell Farm (East Fallowfield Township MRA), Dupont Rd. (05/20/85)

PENNSYLVANIA, Chester County, Coatesville vicinity, Powell, John, House (East Fallowfield Township MRA), Hephzibah Hill Rd. (05/20/85)

PENNSYLVANIA, Chester County, Coatesville vicinity, Pusey, Joshua, House (East Fallowfield Township MRA), Saw Mill Rd. (05/20/85)