

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**SENT TO D.C.**

10-4-96

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

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1. Name of Property

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historic name Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Location

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street & number 401 North Main Street not for publication   
city or town Vermont vicinity   
state Illinois code IL county Fulton code 057 zip code 61484

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William C. Wheeler / SHP 10-1-96  
Signature of certifying official Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register  
criteria. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification  
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action

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5. Classification  
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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	0 buildings
0	0 sites
0	0 structures
0	0 objects
1	0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)  
Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)  
Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)  
Greek Revival  
Italianate  
Queen Anne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation Brick  
roof Asphalt  
walls Brick  
  
other Wood

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance c. 1855 - 1892

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates c. 1855

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder William H. Daugherty, Builder 1892 Renovations

\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository: Vermont Public Library, Vermont

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	718680	4463740	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	___ See continuation sheet.					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title David Newton, President

organization Vermont Betterment, Inc.

date July 30, 1996

street & number Box 225

telephone 309-784-2414

city or town Vermont

state IL zip code 61484

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
 A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage  
 or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)  
name Cliff & Charla Miller

street & number Box 20

Telephone 309-784-2151

city or town Vermont

State IL zip code 61484

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1 **Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House**  
name of property  
**Fulton County, Illinois**  
county and State  
**Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont**  
name of multiple property listing

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### Description

The Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House is a brick, two story building constructed c. 1855. It sits on the northeast corner of North Main and East First Streets in the village of Vermont in southwestern Fulton County. The house is one block north of the downtown business district. Originally the house was an I-House with a rear ell and had Greek Revival features. It had a low-pitched gable or hip roof, six-over-six windows, a central hall plan, stone sills and lintels, a central entry door with sidelights and transom, and a three-part window/panel with classical inspired pilasters on the second story. The house was updated in the early 1870s with a raised hip roof, bracketed cornice and Gothic Revival and Italianate style front porch. This is evidenced by the brick near the roof eaves which is slightly different in color, a break in the brickwork in attic that is lined with tar, and the addition of 10" circular sawn joists on top of 12" circular sawn joists raising the attic floor. A photograph taken in July 1879 shows the raised roof, cornice with brackets, six-over-six windows, and Gothic Revival and Italianate styled front porch. In 1892 the house was updated again with a two story window bay on the south, stained glass windows, one-over-one windows, some interior woodwork, and new fireplace mantels. The 1893 Sanborn Map Company map of Vermont shows the house with the two-story bay. A circa 1905 photograph shows the house with the two-story bay and one-over-one windows.

The house faces west onto North Main Street and its setting is a residential/commercial mix. To the east of the house is the Vermont Methodist Church. To the north is a 1890s front gabled house that has been covered with synthetic siding. Across North Main Street to the west is the 1888 Henry Mershon House, a two story brick Second Empire styled residence. To the southeast is a 1950s concrete gas station. To the south across East First Street is a Queen Anne styled house that has been covered with synthetic siding.

The house has a low-pitched asphalt shingled hipped roof. Walls and foundations of the home are brick with a brick water table defining the line between the basement and first story level on the front, west facade. The brickwork pattern is seven courses of stretchers to one course of headers. A small kitchen wood frame one story addition was added in 1991. It is located in the northeast corner of the ell and is not visible from the two street elevations of the home. It replaced a small one story wood frame kitchen wing. There are four chimneys, one at the north, south, and east ends of the home and one on the north

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wall of the ell. The windows have stone sills and lintels and are one-over-one except where noted.

The front (west) facade of the house has a symmetrical five bay fenestration pattern on both stories. There is a decorative one-story wood porch. It has paired brackets at the cornice and Gothic pointed arches. Within the spandrels are jig-sawn wood circles and scrollwork. The porch has three arched openings across its front and arched openings on the north and south sides with thick sturdy wood piers and pilasters with capitals, and jig-sawn wood balusters. The centrally located front entry has transom windows and sidelights. The divided transom has two-lights above the entry with single lights on either side. Each sidelight has six panes. On either side of the front entry are two windows. The second story has a centrally located Greek Revival three-part window/panel with a four-over-six window separated by pilasters with fluting and inset panels on either side. On either side of the three-part window/panel are two windows.

On the south elevation which faces East First Street are two windows on both stories and the two-story, three-sided polygonal bay with decorative shingles that was added in 1892 by local carpenter, William H. Daugherty. The window bay has a brick foundation, diagonal wood siding beneath the first story windows and turned posts at the first story. The middle south window has a stained glass transom. Above the first story windows is a shingled projection with saw-tooth and three-sided wood shingles. Above on the second story are flat fluted window casings with bullseye corner blocks. The central second story window has narrow vertical stained glass windows on either side of the large pane of glass.

The east elevation rear ell has a back entry door on the first floor leading to a wood porch. The porch has carved brackets, turned columns, and a flat roof. On the north elevation second story of the rear ell is a single window. The east elevation of the modern kitchen addition has a paired casement window. The north elevation of the kitchen addition has a doorway. The east elevation of the main block of the house has a single one-over-one window on the first floor. On the second floor is the large stained glass window over the staircase and a single one-over-one window to the north.

The north elevation of the main block of the house has two false window openings with closed shutters on the first story. They have stone sills and lintels. The second story north elevation has two windows.



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Interior

The house has a central hall plan with parlors opening on either side. The 1991 kitchen and bath addition are to the rear of the central hall. Ceilings on the first and second stories are 12' tall. The house has plastered walls and ceilings. Due to water damage and cracking, some of the walls in the north parlor have been replaced with dry wall. Floors throughout the house are wide pine planks except the dining room.

Upon entering the west front, four-panel door is the main staircase and a central hallway. All of the doors in this hallway have four-panels and shouldered architraves and are very tall. Both of the parlor doorways have recessed panels. The north doorway entering the formal parlor and the south doorway entering the family parlor have had wood spindlework added in the 1890s creating a transom effect. The woodwork is Greek Revival in design and has a tall baseboard. Woodwork in this hallway is grained including the doors. The open well staircase has two flights and a landing. It is located on the east wall of the hallway. The risers, tread, wall string, and carriage all have grained woodwork. The newel post is turned with a cap. The newel post, handrail, and balusters are dark walnut. The stairs go up 14 steps to a landing along the east wall then turn back to the west and go up 7 more steps to the second floor landing on the west. In the 1980s the staircase was enclosed with studs and insulation on the west and north sides by a federal government energy assistance program. The staircase enclosure was removed in the summer of 1995 by the current owners.

The north, formal parlor has a slate black and brown fireplace located in the center of the north wall. It is believed that this fireplace replaced an earlier Greek Revival wood fireplace in 1892 when the house was updated. The current fireplace has a decorative painted fireboard with a glass and metal frame covering the firebox. Paired spindled columns support the mantel on either side of the firebox. The tall windows also were updated in 1892 in this room by adding Eastlake styled trim and corner blocks to the existing Greek Revival styled modling. There are two wood recessed panels located beneath each window.

The south, family parlor windows and door moldings have simple shouldered architraves. There are two recessed panels under each window. Along the south wall, a black slate fireplace with a decorative metallic picture of a deer covering the firebox is believed to have

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replaced a Greek Revival fireplace and mantel in 1892. There is a plaster molding with decorative at the cornice of this room. A large flat arched opening with shouldered architraves and recessed panels leads to the dining room to the south.

The dining room has a black slate fireplace with a decorative tile firebox located on the east wall. This fireplace is still operational and is believed to have replaced an earlier Greek Revival styled fireplace in 1892. To the left of the fireplace in the northeast corner is a large built-in china cupboard. A rear staircase in the northwest corner leads up to the rear, east bedroom. Underneath this staircase is the basement stairs. The basement is located underneath the dining room and south, family parlor. A crawl space is located underneath the north, formal parlor. Along the south wall is the three-sided window bay that was added to the house in 1892. It has Eastlake styled woodwork with some wainscoting under the windows. There is a large multi-colored stained glass transom located above the central window of the bay. This bay replaced two, window openings. The flat arched opening leading to the bay also has Eastlake styled woodwork. A rear entry door dating from 1892, on the east wall has a decorative door knob and plate, it also has wood panels and an upper glass window. The floor in the dining room is a decorative light and dark oak parquet.

The new kitchen addition was added onto the outside brick north wall of the dining room. It replaced a small kitchen addition in 1991. No openings were cut into the original house as the two doorways, one from the dining room and one from the entry hall were used for the new addition. It is small in scale and has a shed roof allowing the second floor windows of the main house to remain in view. The kitchen is L-shaped with a bathroom located in the northwest corner. There is an exterior door on the north side of the kitchen.

At the top of the second floor hall on the west side of the house is the large three-part window/panel with shouldered architraves. The doorways entering the bedrooms on either side of the hall have shouldered architraves. The woodwork and doors grained. Floors on the second story are wide 4" boards.

The northwest bedroom located over the formal parlor has simple Greek Revival moldings with a two board design. All of the woodwork in this room is painted white. A chimney breast runs up the north wall above the first floor fireplace. The room is divided in half from north to south by an open large flat arched opening. The woodwork all matches in this

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opening and it is believed that it was built this way creating a small bed chamber and a sitting area. There are two closets on the south wall that were added in the early 1900s.

The southwest bedroom across the hall has a Greek Revival styled wood mantel along the south wall. The firebox has been plastered over. The window and door woodwork has shouldered architraves. Along the east wall is a large closet to the north, an opening into the southeast bedroom and another closet to the south. The opening to the southeast bedroom has Greek Revival styled woodwork with recessed wood panels. It is painted white.

The southeast bedroom has very simple woodwork. The rear staircase enters this room on the northwest wall. The window bay on the south wall was added in the 1892 and replaced two windows. It has simple woodwork with some Eastlake details. The east wall has closets running the length of it. There is a small attic opening in the ceiling along the east wall.

The attic occupies the main block of the house. It has a raised floor that was added when the roofline was raised in the 1870s. Evidence of this is in the floor joists which have lower 2 x 12 inch boards, then 2 x 10 inch boards are placed on top. Both the 2 x 12's and the 2 x 10's are circular sawn. The brick walls also show evidence of the roof being raised as there is a line of tar along the bricks and the upper bricks are a slightly different color. The mortar appears to be slightly different too. Above the floor at about waist-high level is a truss system of large beams that are pegged together by wood pegs. They are circular sawn and are spaced about 10-12 feet apart.

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**Statement of Significance**

The Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House is locally significant for Criterion C for architecture for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is a good example of a mid-19th century house built c. 1855, with Late Victorian updates from the 1870s and 1892. The home has many Greek Revival features including its elaborate entry door with sidelights and transoms, horizontal stone sills and lintels and three-part central window. In the 1870s the home was updated with the addition of a cornice with paired decorative Italianate brackets and the front porch with Gothic lancet arches and paired Italianate brackets. In 1892 the home was further updated with the addition of a three-sided two-story polygonal window bay with decorative shingles and stained glass. A large stained glass window was added above the stairway along the rear east second story wall. Also in 1892 the six-over-six windows were replaced with one-over-one windows. The home remains today in Vermont as the only intact example of a mid 19th-century house with late Victorian remodelings. These remodelings add to rather than detract from the significance of the house. The period of significance is c. 1855, when the house was believed to have been built for Edward Stapleford through 1892 when George Whitney had the home updated. The Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House meets the registration requirements of the single dwelling property type in the "Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois" Multiple Property Documentation Form.

**Architecture**

For a discussion of the Greek Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne styles and the I-House type, please refer to the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois."

The Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House was originally built as a two story brick I-House c. 1855. The I-House type was popular in the mid-nineteenth century throughout the Midwest. The type is characterized by its two-story rectangular form one-room deep, two-room wide floor plan. The roof oftentimes is side gabled but can be hipped or flat. Front facade fenestration patterns are generally three, four, or five-ranked. I-houses can have central entry halls or no hall. Many I-houses have rear wings or ells providing additional room for families.

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The plan of the Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House was highly rationalized when built. The main block of the house has a symmetrical central-passage plan. A rear brick ell to the southeast provided a dining room behind the south parlor. The frame kitchen addition was to the north of the dining room ell. The Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House is a good example of the I-House type with its five-bay front facade fenestration pattern and central entryhall.

When originally built the Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House had many Greek Revival details including its symmetrical facade, horizontal stone sills and lintels, elaborate entryway with divided transoms and sidelights, and upper three-part window/panel with inset pilasters with fluting. The home was updated by Dr. A. L. Hoover in the early 1870s with the then popular Italianate and Gothic Revival styles including the addition of a raised hipped roof with paired cornice brackets, and Italianate and Gothic Revival styled front and rear porches with brackets and pointed arches.

In 1892 George F. and Adriana Whitney had the house updated again by the addition of a two-story three-window bay on the south elevation with stained glass windows, the replacement of the six-over-six windows with one-over-one windows, the placement of a large stained glass window on the east wall of the second story over the staircase, and the addition of Eastlake styled window and door moldings in the north, formal parlor. The Whitney's also had a parquet floor placed in the dining rooms and decorative spindles placed over the transoms in the entry hall.

With its combination of an I-House form and Greek Revival detailing and its later updates with Italianate, Gothic Revival, and Queen Anne features, the house is a good example of mid- and late-19th century residential architecture in the village of Vermont. No other home features the combination of an earlier Greek Revival inspired form with later Italianate, Gothic Revival, and Queen Anne remodellings.

Other Greek Revival houses in town include the Harvey Lee Ross House at 610 South Main Street. The two-story wood frame house built c. 1858 has a side-gable roof and five-bay fenestration pattern. The house has an elaborate central entry with transoms and sidelights. The original wood front porch has decorative Doric wood columns with fluting and dentils, as well as a decorative wrought iron balustrade. The cornice has dentils and end gable returns.

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The Milton I. and Roxanna Amrine House at 208 East Fourth Street was built in 1864. The wood frame two-story house has a cornice with dentils and returns, six-over-six windows, and elaborate entry with sidelights and transom. The front gabled, side hall house has been covered with metal siding.

The George Swartz House at 411 North Main Street was built c. 1850s. It is a two-story wood framed residence with a side gabled roof. It has some dentils in the cornice line and end gable returns. Also, the house has a central entry with transoms and sidelights and six-over-six windows. The interior has shouldered architrave moldings over the doorway and some ceiling medallions. The house has been covered with asbestos siding and the porch was updated in the early 1900s with rock-faced concrete block piers and foundation.

Italianate houses in town include the Joab Mershon House, built 1859 at 507 West Fifth; Edward Hamer House, built 1871 at 200 West Second; Major Caleb B. Cox House, built 1871 at 302 East Fifth; Robert Dilworth House, built 1871-1872 at 606 East Fifth; and the William Frank and Rebecca Durell House, built 1872, at 408 East Fifth. All of these residences have bracketed cornices much like the Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House. The Mershon, Cox, and Durell houses also have low-pitched hipped roofs like the Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House.

Queen Anne styled houses in town include the R. C. Adams House, built early 1890s at 101 West Ninth. The wood-frame residence has bay windows, a polygonal dormer/tower, and various types of shingles. The Eva O. Witchell House, built early 1890s at 303 East Fifth has a polygonal tower and patterned shingles. It is a wood-framed two story residence. The Thomas C. and Eliza J. Brown House was built in 1892 at 200 West Seventh Street. It has a polygonal tower, decorative vergeboards, and a cutaway window bay. The house has been covered with synthetic siding.

History

Edward Stapleford was a native of Maryland. He ran a store in Beardstown, Illinois before coming to Vermont in 1845. Edward Stapleford was married to Sarah Dilworth on August 12, 1849 in Vermont. Sarah Dilworth was born in St. Clairsville, Ohio, the daughter of Abram and Martha (Judkins) Dilworth. Sarah was the first cousin to Sarah E. (Dilworth) Mershon, the wife of Joab Mershon, who built a large Italianate house in 1859 on West

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Fifth Street; the first cousin to Ezra Dilworth, who built a large Second Empire house in 1871 on East Fourth Street; and the first cousin of Robert Dilworth, who built a large Italianate house in 1872 on East Fifth Street. Edward and Sarah Stapleford had five children, Louise, Edward, Abram, Martha, and Abbie.

Harvey Lee Ross, an early settler and merchant in Vermont recalled Edward Stapleford in The Early Pioneers and Pioneer Events of the State of Illinois, stating, "He had opened a store in about 1845. . . . He was a shrewd business man and soon had worked up quite a trade. He had frequently engaged in speculations in pork and wheat and anything in which money could be made. Generally he was very successful." Edward Stapleford also had erected the two-story brick National Hotel across the street from his residence. It was demolished in 1888 to make way for Henry Mershon's new residence.

As Harvey Lee Ross recalled, in the 1850s, the only means of shipping products to market from Vermont was by steamboats on the Illinois River to St. Louis. There was no telegraph and the mail came only once a week. The means of getting market quotes and commercial news were from newspapers brought up on steamboats from St. Louis, which meant the news was very old before it reached town. During the Crimean War in 1854-1855 the price of pork and wheat rose to a very high price. Edward Stapleford was one of the leading area speculators in pork and wheat.<sup>1</sup>

One Saturday evening in the late fall of 1856, Edward Stapleford succeeded in getting a newspaper direct from St. Louis and brought news that wheat and pork had gone up in price. He went out that early Sunday morning scouring the countryside buying up all the wheat and pork he could find. Stapleford rushed to get the pork packed and wheat milled, to ship to St. Louis before the river froze. As he was getting the shipments ready to load on board steamboats, cold weather set in and the river was frozen solid. His shipment laid at the warehouse until the first of April. By April, the Crimean War had ended and the price of pork and wheat had dropped over one-half. Stapleford was in debt to the St. Louis merchants and when the pork and wheat arrived in St. Louis, they were on hand to secure the last dollar due them leaving him virtually nothing to pay the area farmers who had sold him their produce on credit.<sup>2</sup>

The area farmers were in need of the money to pay their taxes and other debts. They began to demand their money from Edward Stapleford. When several creditors arrived at

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his door one morning, he left out the back door and according to Harvey Lee Ross, remarked to his wife "I guess I'll fool those fellows." A half-hour later he was found hanging dead by a cord in his barn.<sup>3</sup>

Sarah continued to live at the house and raise their children. Sarah Stapleford passed away at her daughter's, Mrs. Martha Durell on July 9, 1906. On December 8, 1871 the Fulton County Ledger reported that Dr. A. L. Hoover had bought the property of Mrs. Stapleford for \$2,000. Dr. A. L. Hoover was a native of Wayne County, Indiana. Dr. Hoover studied medicine at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and commenced practice at New Haven, Michigan. He later married Della Knotts and moved to Vermont where he established a successful practice. The March 26, 1880 Fulton County Ledger reported a farewell reception for Dr. A. L. Hoover and family who was moving to Lincoln, Nebraska where he was going to establish a practice. On April 2, 1880 the paper reported that Dr. J. Hoover, a brother to Dr. A. L. Hoover was moving into his brother's residence.

In the early 1880s the house was bought by George F. Whitney, a merchant from Springfield, Illinois and Adrianna (Ayers) Whitney. Adrianna (Ayers) Whitney was the daughter of Grover and Catherine Ayers. George F. Whitney was born on a farm in 1835 near Henniford, New Hampshire. He grew up on the farm and in his 19th year moved to Springfield, Illinois where he became a brakeman on the Wabash Railroad. Later he was promoted to the position of baggageman and conductor. In 1863 he became a partner with Grover Ayers in a dry-goods firm in Springfield. He retired from the dry-goods business and in 1871 went back into employ of the railroad as a conductor for the Rockford, Rock Island, & St. Louis Railroad. In 1876 he moved to Vermont. George Whitney became a partner with his father-in-law Grover Ayers in the prosperous dry goods firm of Ayers and Whitney in Vermont. After Grover Ayers' death in 1880, the firm became known as Whitney and Sons. On February 23, 1892 George F. Whitney passed away and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois.<sup>4</sup>

The July 21, 1892 Fulton County Ledger reported that, "Charles (Mrs G. Whitney's son) and Mrs. G. Whitney are tearing out a portion of the walls of their two-story brick residence and having put in a large two-story bay window and making other alterations." The August 11, 1892 Canton Weekly Register noted that "The improvements on Whitney's House are beginning to loom up and make a great difference in the looks of things." These improvements included the addition of a two-story polygonal window bay on the south side



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of the house, replacement of the six-over-six windows with one-over-one windows, stained glass windows in the stair and window bay, replacement of three Greek Revival styled fireplace mantels with new metal mantels, the addition of Eastlake styled woodwork in the north formal parlor, and decorative spindles in the doorways of the entry hall.

The November 8, 1892 Fulton County Ledger stated that Mrs. G. Whitney's residence was being painted on the inside and outside. Adrianna Whitney continued to occupy the house with her son Charles Morgan Whitney and his wife Laura (Freeman) until her death on May 13, 1929. Charles Morgan Whitney continued to reside in the house with his wife after his mother's death.

Charles Morgan Whitney was the owner C. M. Whitney Dry Goods Store in Vermont for many years. He also owned the "Wonder Store" in Springfield, Illinois. Unfortunately, as reported in the November 11, 1894 Astoria Argus the Wonder Store had been destroyed by fire. Charles passed away on April 19, 1946 and his wife, Laura (Freeman) Whitney passed away on July 1, 1930.

Their daughter, Katherine and her husband C.C. (Eph) Mercer continued to reside in the house until her death in 1991. C. C. Mercer owned a drug and sundry store. The house was acquired by their grandson, Clifford Miller and his wife Charla in 1993.

Endnotes

1. Ross, Harvey Lee. The Early Pioneers and Pioneer Events of the State of Illinois. Chicago: Eastman Brothers, 1899. Reprint, Havana, Illinois: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1986. p. 78-79.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Chapman, Charles C. History of Fulton County. Peoria, Illinois: J. W. Franks and Sons, 1879. p. 933.

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**Bibliography**

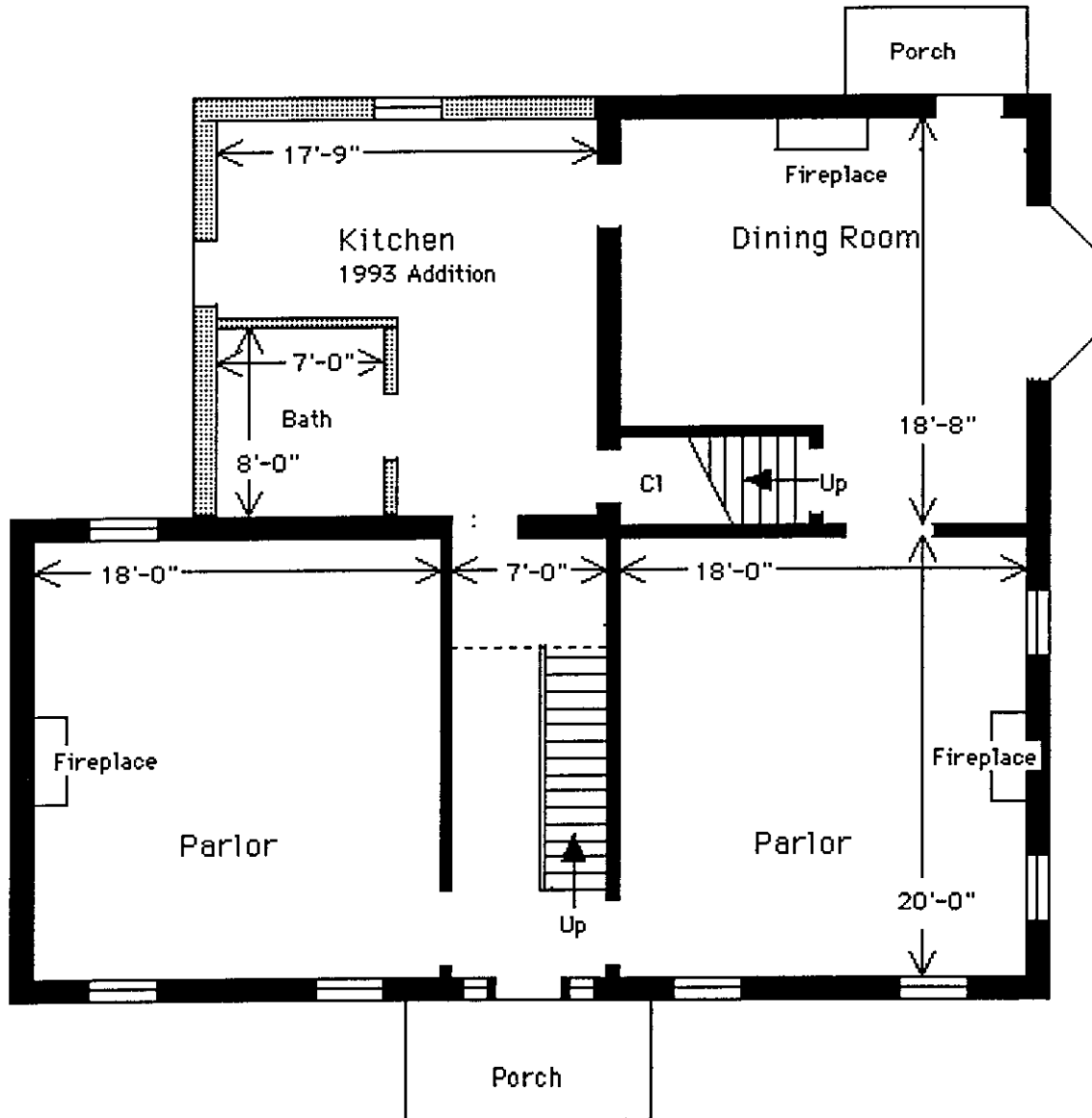
Please refer to the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois" for references.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The legal boundaries being nominated are lot fifteen, lot ten except 25 feet front and 50 feet back out of the northwest corner of said lot ten, and lot nine, all in the original town, now village of Vermont, in Fulton County, Illinois.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the house and lots historically associated with the Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House and that maintain historic integrity. Lot sixteen which was originally part of the property was sold in the late 1800s to the Methodist Church and is occupied by the church.



Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House

First Story

← North

NOV 15 1996

ILLINOIS, ADAMS COUNTY, Fall Creek Stone Arch Bridge, 1.2 mi. NE of Fall Cr.--Payson Rd., across Fall Cr., Payson vicinity, 96001282, LISTED, 11/07/96

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Chipman, Edith, House, 201 W. 3rd St., Vermont, 96001290, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Durell, William Franklin and Rebecca, House, 408 W. 5th St., Vermont, 96001292, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Hamer, Edward, House, 200 W. 2nd St., Vermont, 96001293, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Hamer, Patterson, House, 405 W. 5th St., Vermont, 96001287, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Hoopes, William, House, 204 N. Liberty St., Vermont, 96001285, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Hunter, Lucinda, House, 101 E. 8th St., Vermont, 96001286, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, McCormick, Charles Emmor, House, 712 W. 3rd St., Vermont, 96001284, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Mershon, Joab, House, 507 W. 5th St., Vermont, 96001294, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, O'Connell, Daniel, House, 115 N. Union St., Vermont, 96001288, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Page, Henry H., House, 221 N. Union St., Vermont, 96001289, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Ross, Harvey Lee, House, 602 S. Main St., Vermont, 96001295, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Snowden, Elsworth, House, 504 W. 3rd St., Vermont, 96001283, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, Stapleford--Hover--Whitney House, 401 N. Main St., Vermont, 96001291, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Vermont, Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, WHITESIDE COUNTY, Sterling Masonic Temple, 111--113 W. 3rd St., Sterling, 96001279, LISTED, 11/07/96

MISSISSIPPI, ALCORN COUNTY, Rienzi Commercial Historic District, Jct. of Front and Main Sts., Rienzi, 96001312, LISTED, 11/07/96

MISSISSIPPI, HINDS COUNTY, Holly Grove Plantation House, 1056 Old Bridgeport Rd., Bolton vicinity, 96001313, LISTED, 11/07/96

NORTH DAKOTA, WALSH COUNTY, Grafton State School, 700 6th St., W., Grafton, 96001191, LISTED, 11/06/96

PENNSYLVANIA, BERKS COUNTY, Livingood House--Stryker Hospital, 417--419 Walnut St., Reading, 96001195, LISTED, 11/07/96

PENNSYLVANIA, CHESTER COUNTY, Fairville Historic District, Kennett Pike between Fairville Rd. and Hickory Hill Rd., Pennsbury Township, Kennett Square vicinity, 96001200, LISTED, 11/07/96

PENNSYLVANIA, ERIE COUNTY, Villa Maria Academy, 819 W. 8th St., Erie, 96001193, LISTED, 11/08/96

PENNSYLVANIA, LANCASTER COUNTY, Rever, Peter and Catherine, Farmhouse, Trout Run Rd., W of jct. with PA 272, Ephrata, 96001314, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Historic Farming Resources of Lancaster County MPS)

PENNSYLVANIA, MERCER COUNTY, August, Wendell, Forge, 620 Madison St., Grove City, 96001192, LISTED, 11/07/96

RHODE ISLAND, WASHINGTON COUNTY, Westerly Armory, Railroad Ave., W of downtown Westerly, Westerly, 96001322, LISTED, 11/07/96

SOUTH CAROLINA, CHARLESTON COUNTY, Coming Street Cemetery, 189 Coming St., Charleston, 96001223, LISTED, 11/05/96

SOUTH DAKOTA, CAMPBELL COUNTY, Pollock Depot, Ave. A, SW of SD 10, Pollock, 96001229, LISTED, 11/08/96

TENNESSEE, CARTER COUNTY, Butler House, 206 Main St., Hampton, 96001315, LISTED, 11/07/96

TENNESSEE, SEQUATCHIE COUNTY, Douglas Coal and Coke Company Clubhouse, 512 Mountain View, Dunlap, 96001317, LISTED, 11/07/96

TEXAS, POTTER COUNTY, Northwest Texas Hospital School of Nursing, 2209 W. 6th Ave., Amarillo, 96001234, LISTED, 11/07/96

UTAH, SUMMIT COUNTY, Park City High School Mechanical Arts Building, 1167 Woodside, Park City, 96001324, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Public Works Buildings TR)

UTAH, WASHINGTON COUNTY, Parunuweap Canyon Archeological District, Address Restricted, Springdale vicinity, 96001235, LISTED, 11/07/96

VERMONT, BENNINGTON COUNTY, Wait Block, Near jct. of Main and Bonnet Sts., Manchester Center Village, Manchester, 96001327, LISTED, 11/07/96

VERMONT, FRANKLIN COUNTY, Fairfield Street School, 78 Fairfield St., St. Albans, 96001326, LISTED, 11/07/96 (Educational Resources of Vermont MPS)

VERMONT, WINDHAM COUNTY, Grout, Lewis, House, 382 Western Ave., Brattleboro, 96001328, LISTED, 11/07/96

VIRGINIA, CHARLOTTESVILLE INDEPENDENT CITY, Lewis Farm, 1201 Jefferson St., Charlottesville (Independent City), 82001807, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 11/07/96 (Charlottesville MRA)

VIRGINIA, CLARKE COUNTY, Long Marsh Run Rural Historic District, Roughly bounded by WV state line, VA 608, VA 612, VA 7, and VA 653, Berryville vicinity, 96001173, LISTED, 11/04/96

VIRGINIA, FRANKLIN COUNTY, Waverly, N side of VA 122, 2 mi. NE of jct. with VA 116, Burnt Chimney vicinity, 96001329, LISTED, 11/07/96