

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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9/17/77

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC MIDDLETOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Significant portions of the traditional Middletown and Hunterstown neighborhoods

CITY, TOWN
Alton

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
Illinois

VICINITY OF
CODE

COUNTY
Madison

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☐ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

☒ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☒ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☒ MUSEUM

☒ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☒ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple - see attached list

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Madison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Edwardsville

STATE
Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

1) Illinois Historic Structures Survey, Madison County

2) Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey, Madison County

DATE

1) October 1973; 2) May 1974

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE
Illinois

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☐ UNALTERED	☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☐ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The City of Alton (1970 population: 39,700) lies on the north bank of the Mississippi River, here flowing nearly due east, about equidistant between St. Louis, Mo., to the south and the mouth of the Illinois River, and just upstream from the mouth of the Missouri. Topographically, the area is quite varied, embracing river bottom, precipitous bluffs and hills cut by ravines and valleys of lesser watercourses, and ridges, and gradually shades into high prairie back from the river. The soil is generally quite fertile and is underlain by extensive coal deposits. Limestone -- both of building quality and a grade suitable for the burning of lime -- and sand are abundant. The specific area of the Middletown Historic District, on high ground directly east of the valley of the erstwhile Little Piasa Creek, is topographically rather gentle -- though hardly level -- and shows marked variation only on the south, where the land quickly descends to the level of the river.

The Middletown Historic District includes significant portions of the traditional Middletown and Hunterstown neighborhoods, the former having developed out of the original town and the latter out of a very addition. The actual -- and very irregular -- boundary was established primarily on the basis of visual cohesion and circumscribes those portions of the two neighborhoods that preserve an historic fabric indicative of 19th Century Alton. Thus, the district is not confined to the architectural magnificence of streets such as 12th Grove, or the upper reaches of Henry and Liberty, but also includes modest areas highly representative of the artisan classes, such as 4th east of Henry. Although topography was generally not considered in determining the district's boundary, there is a distinct and often very close relationship between the character of the land and that of the extant structures: not only was the highest ground commonly sought out first, it was also developed in a substantial manner that has tended to preclude radical change. This correspondence is particularly clear north of 5th Street, where the western boundary, even though determined visually, nearly parallels the 550' contour line for considerable stretches: below the line, early development appears to have been sparse and minor -- and there are numerous more recent structures --, while above it are found many of the district's earliest and finest buildings. Other segments of the boundary reflect even more specific elements. The southern boundary mirrors the commercial nature of Broadway, which, further marred by several recent intrusions, has preserved its older character in only a few specific blocks. Most of these have been included in the district, the major exception being the block between Henry and Ridge, which, while very fine, has been isolated by recent developments. In the Hunterstown neighborhood -- southeast of 7th and Henry and/or Liberty -- much of the irregularity is caused by St. Joseph's Hospital on 5th between Oak and Central, whose continuing expansion has not only effectively destroyed the immediate area but adversely affected adjacent blocks as well. In the same general vicinity, 7th Street itself, though old, has neither the stature nor continuity to warrant inclusion. Much the same is true of Union east of Liberty. On the west, the Market Street boundary reflects the central business district immediately to the west, which, although quite intact and pleasant, is so mainly by dint of the topography -- it lies in the narrow valley of the former Little Piasa Creek between Middletown and Christian Hill -- and not because of any innate architectural or historical values that would warrant inclusion. The area south of 6th from Market to about George has been weakened by several parking lots and its proximity to the central business district -- the far western part may actually be considered part of the latter -- but the scale and quality of the remaining older structures is such as to outweigh these deficiencies of continuity. Finally, those blocks of Alby included north of 6th are distinguished by structures of both individual and collective strength, strengths that disappear just south of 9th.

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Land use within the district is mainly residential or residential-related -- religious, educational, park, etc. -- and exclusively so north of 8th Street. Major commercial uses are centered on Broadway, with a secondary, purely neighborhood commercial concentration on Ridge. The area generally southwest of 5th and George is the only part of the district with a distinctly non-residential flavor. Close to the central business district, it has long been dominated by a number of public and semi-public uses -- city hall, the post office, several churches, a high school, etc. -- and is now somewhat marred by a rather heavy concentration of parking lots. There are no industrial uses in the district and the only federal property seems to be the U.S. Post Office at the northwest corner of 3rd and Alby.

The street pattern of the Middletown Historic District is governed by two rectangular grids -- that of Alton's original plat (Middletown), aligned along major compass points, and that of Russell or Hunter's Addition (Hunterstown), running more nearly parallel to the north bank of the Mississippi River -- with the two intersecting just east of Henry. The regularity of these systems, though, is broken by deviations imposed by the topography, almost obscured by the nearly constant rise and fall of the land, and even further softened by luxuriant vegetation. Another major factor contributing to the streetscape is the presence of numerous native limestone retaining walls, varying in height from a few inches to several feet: one such wall, for example, significantly lessens the impact of the district's most prominent intrusion. Traffic within the district is mostly local in nature, with Henry, Alby and 9th the most travelled thoroughfares. Consistently heavy volume is encountered only on Broadway.

Average structural density in the district is relatively low -- 2.81 structure/acre -- but varies markedly from one specific area to another. The greatest distinction -- in density, as in scale, lateral distance, siting, street setback and height -- is between Middletown proper and Hunterstown. Residentially, the former is generally marked by moderate to large scale homes, set well apart and back from the street on relatively large lots, while the latter is distinguished by a higher ratio of 1-1½ story structures of modest scale, set in close proximity and nearly up to the building line. The differences can be best summarized as being those between a middle and upper class neighborhood -- Middletown -- and an artisan or working class neighborhood -- Hunterstown -- as they existed in the 19th Century. There are, however, certain features common to both neighborhoods. First, most residences are single-family and detached; second, the majority are of masonry construction -- no surprise considering the excellent properties of both the local limestone and the locally produced brick --; and, third, there is relatively little variation in scale, siting, etc., within each, thus producing strong, albeit different relationships between buildings in both. The largest structures in the district -- mainly churches and other semi-public and public buildings -- rarely exceed three stories in height and are almost all of masonry construction. Most are located in the western part of the district discussed above.

Of 653 structures encompassed within the Middletown Historic District, excluding garages and other incidental buildings, 153 have been evaluated as possessing special architectural and/or historical significance and an additional 53 were photographed by

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the Illinois Historic Structures Survey. The character of the background structures is generally quite strong and many -- about 20% -- rise considerably above the level of mere background, either through age or quality or a combination of both. This is particularly true of Hunterstown, most notable as an ensemble relatively devoid of exceptional individual structures, in which almost every building characteristic of that ensemble's specific time and class must be considered integral, regardless of how one would judge it if it stood alone. Many of these -- as well as many of the background structures in Middletown proper -- are unsuitably sided, but, since much of that siding is of an older type, it is neither as disruptive nor as irreversible as it would be were it aluminium, steel or vinyl. Structures with intrusive force -- including intrusively remodeled older structures -- number only 20, or about 3% of all extant structures. Non-intrusive recent structures are exactly equal in number. Both figures are remarkably low and would indicate that extensive areas of the district are virtually free of intrusive or recent buildings, which is, indeed, the case. The single most prominent intrusion in the district is the modern office building of the Alton Box Company on 4th between Alton and George -- its impact, however, is alleviated by a magnificent limestone retaining wall, as previously mentioned.

Though most of the architectural styles popular in Illinois from ca.1830 to the First World War are represented in the Middletown Historic District -- many of them by fine examples -- those most fashionable before 1890 are best documented, both as regards number and quality. The earliest structures are all cast in the Federal Style, those in Middletown being quite pure (including Nos.2,4,17,26,37 below), while those in Hunterstown (of which No.27 below is perhaps the most characteristic) are invariably simplified. The Italianate is extremely widespread, occurring in all parts of the district (and including Nos.5,9,16,20,30,32-4 below), as is the Queen Anne (including Nos.3,10,13 below). The Greek Revival is particularly noticeable by virtue of its nearly complete absence -- both in the district and Alton in general. Although purer examples of any particular style seem to pique interest, impure ones, whether the result of early alterations, transitional periods, or the sheer love of the picturesque, cannot always be lightly dismissed. In the Middletown Historic District, such impure expressions are remarkable in terms of number, quality, and their very variety: Federal-Greek (including Nos. 11-12 below), Federal-Italianate (including No.1 below), Greek-Italianate (Nos.14, 25 below), Italianate-Gothic, Italianate-Neo-Classical (including No.29 below), Italianate-Queen Anne (very widespread, including Nos.7, 19,35 below), and the hardly expected Queen Anne-Classical Revival.

Of other styles occurring in the district, Classical Revival is the most widespread and significant (including Nos.22-4 below), while Gothic -- both non-archaeological and Revival -- is generally reserved for churches (including Nos.31,36 below). Romanesque, Tudor, and Renaissance Revivals (including No.15 below), Shingle Style, and the Chateau-esque are less prominent. The only 20th Century style represented is the Prairie School, occurring together with other, related early modern attempts to escape historic models.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

N.B.: Architecture is the only area that applies for the district as a whole. Other areas that may attach to specific sites should become clear from the discussion of those sites below.

The Middletown Historic District includes significant portions of the original town plat and an early addition of the City of Alton, one of the most colorful and prominent places in the early history of the State of Illinois. Founded in 1817, Alton long entertained hopes of supplanting St. Louis as the metropolis of the Middle Mississippi Valley and nearly bankrupted the Illinois State Bank in 1837 with incredible schemes to realize them. Once selected as the future site of the state capital, the city was also one of the key centers in the abortive system of internal improvements that, by 1840, had nearly bankrupted Illinois itself. An apparent failure in the early 1840's, Alton revived in the 1850's and prospered through the Civil War as one of Illinois' most important river ports, only to sink into stagnation when peace returned. Health and vigor rose from decline in the 1870's and Alton, though hardly content, assumed the important albeit secondary role in the St. Louis metropolitan area which it has yet to relinquish.

What makes the Middletown Historic District so significant is that almost every phase of that checkered history is visible in the extant streetscape. The plat itself, early homes of men involved in the machinations of the 1830's, splendid baronial palaces of the post-Civil War industrial and commercial magnates, streets marked by waves of German immigrants in the 1840's and 1850's -- these, and more, combine in creating the living atmosphere of an important 19th Century city.

Architecturally, there are splendid examples of most styles popular between 1830 and 1890: pure Federal, Italianate, Queen Anne, Gothic, etc., and some intriguing, picturesque combinations. Streets such as 12th or Henry compound individual examples into considerable stretches of uninterrupted excellence. Others, such as 4th east of Henry, retain the feel of the 19th Century artisan and immigrant classes virtually untouched since the last third of that century. Seminary Square -- dominated by three homes, each a fine example of one of the 19th century's major styles (Federal, Italianate, Queen Anne) -- is a remarkable termination to Mechanic Street. But, above all, there is a fabric to the district stating emphatically, though with several voices, that this is Alton.

HISTORY

The first European settler on or near the present City of Alton was probably Jean Baptiste Cardinal, who was reported living at Fiasa around 1783 and who may have transferred his claim to one John Edgar of Kaskaskia in 1795. There is also some indication that the French maintained a trading post until about 1807, but neither this nor Cardinal's homestead played a part in the development of the future city. Other early settlers -- none

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of whom took an active part in later growth -- were James Preuitt and James Stockden, known to have been living on the bluffs in 1804 and the discoverers of a spring at the present northeast corner of Broadway and Spring; and two men by the name of Price and Colter, who settled near that spring in 1810.

The history of Alton qua Alton begins in 1817, when it was laid out by Col. Rufus Easton, who had first obtained land in the area in 1814. Col. Easton, naming both the new town and several of its streets after some of his children -- Alton, George, Henry, Langdon and Alby -- was of considerable prominence in the area, having served as St. Louis' first postmaster (1808), and later played an important role in the early history of Missouri's statehood. In Illinois, his new town extended from Market on the west to Henry on the east and from the river north to 9th Street -- or roughly the southern half of the Middletown neighborhood. Despite the immediate establishment of a ferry, Easton's Alton did not flourish and remained little more than a small collection of log cabins near the ferry house for several years subsequent.

In an almost simultaneous move, Joseph Meacham, who had founded Upper Alton in 1816-17, purchased a property known as the Bates Farm and projected a town he called Alton-on-the-River. Extending roughly from the river to 9th and east from Henry to about Washington, the property passed to Major Charles Hunter in 1818 and was laid out and platted by him in 1820 -- hence, Hunterstown. Maj. Hunter erected a substantial frame structure in 1819, keeping it as a public house, but his efforts proved no more successful, at first, than those of Col. Easton.

In 1821, Beck's Gazeteer of Illinois and Missouri commented that "Alton, although yet small, possesses natural advantages rarely equaled." To a certain degree, it was the spreading recognition of these advantages that prevented Alton from flourishing during the 1820's: they seduced a group of men led by such luminaries as Ninian Edwards and Nathaniel Pope into possession of a land claim disputing Easton's. Since the contest spanned years, no clear titles could be had, and the town languished. An act of the State Legislature, 15 February 1827, stipulating Alton as the site of Illinois' first state penitentiary and Gov. Edwards as one of the commissioners to select the site was the first indication of a brighter future. By the time that prison was opened in 1833, Alton was growing by leaps and bounds.

Activity actually began to increase in 1829, the year a Mr. Mintony erected Alton's first industrial establishment, a steam saw-mill, and had reached healthy proportions by 1831. In March of that year, the population totaled 170 and the signs of encroaching civilization included 2 shoemakers, 2 brickmakers, and one apiece of steam saw-mills, beef and pork packing houses, carpenters, wagon makers, tanneries, coopers, brick masons, stone masons, blacksmiths, lawyers, taverns and retail stores. By the fall of the year, William Manning had commenced work on the erection of a steam flouring mill, the first important manufactory in Alton and the pioneer of one of the city's most significant industries. Building lots sold during 1831 for from 20 to 100 dollars -- very low, but under penalty of forfeiture if the buyer failed to erect a substantial building within a year, which may help explain the many fine structures dating from the early 1830's -- but toward the end of Alton's initial boom, 1837, land near the river was selling for 300-400 dollars a frontfoot and "more retired situations" went for 25 to 100 dollars, again per foot.

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The tremendous increase in land values, very similar to those in Chicago during the same period, is an excellent indicator of Alton's transformation from a minor speculative venture to a major commercial center and one of the principal cities in the state. Organized as a town in 1833, Alton was granted a city charter on 21 July 1837. Population had reached 1,000 by 1834 and was estimated between 2,000-2,500 (4,000 if one includes Upper Alton) at the time of incorporation (St. Louis, by comparison, which Alton sought avidly to surpass, numbered 13,000 that same year). Those years, 1834-37, are perhaps the most astounding in the city's entire history, marked as they are by two overriding goals: first, to destroy rival St. Louis and, then, to assume the Seat of Empire in the west.

One of the first efforts to promote Alton reached fruition in 1834, when the Illinois Legislature selected it as the future state capital. In 1835, a state bank with capital stock of \$1,500,000 was chartered, and, though its principal office was located elsewhere, it was virtually controlled by Godfrey, Gilman and Company of Alton. Thus Altonians -- mainly Godfrey, Gilman and Co. -- met with little resistance in tapping the bank's resources to further their own ends. To wit: Benjamin Godfrey of that firm -- and president of the Alton Branch of the Illinois State Bank (est. 1836) -- managed to borrow \$800,000 for the purpose of diverting the important Galena lead trade from St. Louis to Alton. That the Alton Shot and Lead Manufacturing Company was incorporated 16 January 1836, with Benjamin Gilman as one of the principals, was probably more than coincidental. A second loan of "several hundred thousand dollars" was made to Stone, Manning and Company and Sloo and Company, who planned a manoeuvre in produce similar to Godfrey, Gilman and Co.'s in lead -- and doubtless spawned the Illinois Exporting Company (incorporated 13 January 1836) for the processing of flour, wool, hemp and other agricultural products. Another undertaking, and the only one to ever actually take up business, was the Alton Marine and Fire Insurance Company, chartered 7 February 1836, Benj. Gilman, president.

1837 -- destined to end Alton's dreams -- began well enough. On 27 February, the Illinois Legislature passed the Act for a General System of Internal Improvements, providing millions to widen rivers and build turnpikes and railroads, and envisioning Galena, Cairo, Chicago, and, of course, Alton as the chief beneficiaries. Alton alone was to become the terminal of three railroads: the Southern Cross extending to Mt. Carmel, a second line connecting it to Shawneetown, and a third to intersect with the Central Railroad between Galena and Cairo. The National Road, then located as far as Vandalia, was to cross the Mississippi at Alton, according to a formal request to Congress by the State Legislature. The year also saw Alton in command of a large proportion of the trade of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers, a position that was somewhat illusory, bolstered as it was by the lead and agricultural machinations of Godfrey, Gilman and friends. Those same machinations eventually failing, the commodities, which had been purchased at prices inflated by 50-75% in order to strip St. Louis of them, were sold "at a ruinous sacrifice." And then came the Panic of 1837. Followed by the murder of Elijah Lovejoy during a pro-slavery riot, 7 November 1837, leaving Alton with a very black mark amongst the moneyed -- and abolitionist -- circles of the northeast. 1837 also saw the State Legislature rescind its 1834 decision and select Springfield as the state capital. Although the Internal Improvements Act was not repealed until 1840 -- with Illinois on the brink of insolvency -- and the Illinois State Bank was not liquidated

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until 1842 -- together with the Shawneetown Bank, also unfortunate to have had a major branch at Alton -- Alton's visions of Mississippian hegemony died in 1837.

After several years of stagnation, business again revived in the 1840's and from that time on the city enjoyed relatively constant and far more rational growth. A river port from its very inception, Alton developed a substantial trade, registering 1,818 steamboat arrivals in 1853, not counting the St. Louis packets, which had begun operating in 1833 (by comparison, in 1854 St. Louis registered 3,006 arrivals and Cairo had 3,793). 1853 in Alton also saw two large flouring mills in operation, substantial industries for the production of lime and agricultural machinery, receipts of wheat, corn and oats that ranged from 250,000 to 300,000 bushels of each, and a goodly packing business that processed 27,000 head of hogs and 3,000 head of cattle.

A steady increase in population -- 3,586 in 1850, ca. 6,000 in 1858 and 8,000 in 1867 -- paralleled the consolidation of this strong economic position. To some degree, both were the result of a steady influx of German immigrants that extended to most of the Middle Mississippi Valley. Germans were in Alton by 1836, but the largest contingents arrived during the late 1840's and early 1850's, apparently persuaded by a concentrated newspaper campaign aimed at attracting them. Their numbers were large enough to support three German-language newspapers, the Alton Freie Presse, Illinois Beobachter, and Alton Banner, edited respectively by Theodore Canisius, John Reis and John Mold, and in 1867 the German-Americans were described as Alton's "dominating element." Hunterstown was the center for the recent immigrants, a fact borne out by the increasing activity there from 1842-55, the extant building stock, and such typical Hunterstown names as Merkle, Dietz, Faulstich, Schoeffler, Weisback, Netzenhammer, u.s.w.

Alton during the 1850's, rarely indulging in the fantasies of the 1830's -- though they surfaced at least once, when the city organized the 1856 Illinois State Fair "in the spirit of making St. Louis, Mo., a mere suburb of Alton" -- had nonetheless established itself as one of Illinois' chief municipalities. The surest sign of that is that Alton was selected as the site for the 7th and final Lincoln-Douglas Debate, 15 October 1858. Though the city preferred Douglas, the pro-slavery sentiments rampant when Lovejoy was murdered had been atoned for: Alton, adjacent to slave-holding Missouri, was a major terminal on the Underground Railway.

During the Civil War, Alton was garrisoned and served as a rendezvous camp, but that period is now best identified with the military prison established at the old Illinois State Penitentiary (on National Register, entered 12-31-74). The presence of troops and the general activities of war flushed Alton's economy -- so long as the war lasted -- but the return of peace revealed the devastation of the vital north-south trade and Alton, like so many other Mississippi River towns, fell upon hard times.

The massive slump brought on by the war lasted into the early 1870's, at which time the city began to successfully shift its economic base from dependence on the river and commerce to the railroad and industry. The first railroad into Alton, the Chicago and Mississippi, later part of the extensive Chicago and Alton, was completed in 1852, but the Mississippi River -- which the road did not bridge -- and then the Civil War seem to have lessened its impact. Economic growth during the last third of the century was such, though, that by 1911 Alton was served by no less than 12 separate lines, which in 1910

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had accumulated a freight tonnage of 2,783,132 tons.

Flour milling, stone quarrying, agricultural implements, and the burning of lime had been important pre-war industries -- continuing, in some cases, in prominence to the present -- and these were augmented in the 1870's and early 1880's both by new branches and expansion of the old. Chief among new industries was the Illinois Glass Company, founded in 1873, and soon to become the largest hollow-ware glass manufactory in the world. Other important additions included the Alton Box Manufacturing Company (1872), the Hapgood Flow Company (1874), and Alton City Mills (1881, later known as Standard-Tilton). By 1911, the Alton manufacturing district, with 102 establishments and an annual output of 35 to 40 million dollars, was fifth in the state in the value of finished products. Producing one-seventh of the U.S. lead output, ranking 5th in the nation in flour production, and 3rd in the state in meat-packing (behind Chicago and East St. Louis), Alton's major products included oil, glass, zinc, paper, mining tools, shovels, heavy hammers, railroad track tools, gunpowder, paper boxes, lime, machinery, foundry products, ice, woodenware, plows, cartridges, soft drinks, beer, brooms, brick, cigars, barrels, and rugs.

Though none of these industries are (or were) located within the area of the historic district -- the manufacturing district extends east along the river -- the wealth they generated, a wealth disproportionate to the city's population, found expression in the homes of various notables. And one of the locations preferred by the new industrial and commercial magnates was the same as that chosen by earlier luminaries: Middletown. (Another was State Street or Christian Hill, under separate nomination.) Coupled with the Hunters-town neighborhood -- working class and generally pre-1880 -- Middletown presents an excellent picture of Alton as it developed during the 19th Century. Certainly, Alton has grown since 1900, and grown significantly; but almost all of that occurred elsewhere and has left two of the city's oldest neighborhoods surprisingly intact.

SITES AND STRUCTURES OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Numbers refer to the corresponding map. Where more than one area of significance attaches, the greater is cited first.

1. SAMUEL WADE HOUSE

1419 Henry

Built ca. 1845; since modified

Samuel Wade was one of Alton's pioneer settlers, arriving in 1831, and is justly considered one of the city's founders and builders. A carpenter by trade, he later entered into the packing business with his brother-in-law, Ebenezer Marsh (v.No.2). Marsh and Wade also established the Alton Bank (1852), the former acting as first president and the latter as second (1877-85). Samuel Wade also served several years on the city council and four terms as Mayor of Alton (1849-51, 1855, and 1857).

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2. EBENEZER MARSH HOUSE

1403 Henry

Built in 1836; greatly altered

Ebenezer Marsh, who settled at Alton in 1832 and originally engaged in the drug business, was one of the key figures in the development of Illinois and Alton banking. In 1836, he was one of the organizers and secretary of the Alton Marine and Fire Insurance Company, an early and leading institution in insurance and banking that was succeeded by the Alton Bank (v.No.1). Marsh was also involved with the Illinois State Bank established by Gov.Duncan in 1835, succeeding Benjamin Godfrey as its president in 1839. The scandal-ridden bank -- embroiled in the costly schemes to divert upper Mississippi River trade from St.Louis to Alton -- was liquidated by the State Legislature in 1842, as was Illinois' other early bank, that at Shawneetown.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

3. WILLIAM A. HASKELL PLAYHOUSE

1209 Henry

Built ca.1880; Lucas Pfeiffenberger, architect

On National Register, entered 7-30-74.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

4. LYMAN TRUMBULL HOUSE

1105 Henry

Built in 1820; modified in 1849

National Historic Landmark, entered 5-15-75

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

5. JAMES FORBES HOUSE

1007 Henry

Built in 1871

Mr.Forbes was the founder of St.Louis' James H.Forbes Tea and Coffee Co. He lived, however, in Alton.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

6. HENRY CALVIN PRIEST HOUSE

519 Henry

Date of construction unknown

H.C.Priest settled at Alton in 1854, entering the lumber firm of his uncle, H.C.Sweetser. He later became a partner and, in 1885, the sole owner. Lumber was a relatively important early industry in Alton, and Sweetser and Priest was one of the city's leading firms.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE 8 7
ITEM NUMBER PAGE

7. CHARLES HOLDEN HOUSE
400 Henry
Built ca.1880

Charles Holden was a printer and publisher. Brought from England as a boy in 1841, he was apprenticed to the Alton Telegraph (founded in 1836 and still publishing) and was associated with the paper, with interruptions in Missouri and Springfield, Ill., until 1880, the last 14 years as a partner. In 1880, he opened his own printing office. He was also postmaster of Alton, city treasurer for eight terms, and a leading member of the city council.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

8. CHARLES AUGUSTUS CALDWELL HOUSE
1420 Henry
Built ca.1868

C.A.Caldwell settled at Alton in 1850, entering the office of the Alton Marine and Fire Insurance Company. In 1852, upon organization of that firm's successor, the Alton Bank, he was named cashier. In 1865, he assumed the same post with the Alton National Bank and in 1885 became president of that latter institution. Mr.Caldwell also served one term as Mayor of Alton (1873).

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

9. JOHN L. BLAIR HOUSE
1500 Henry
Built ca.1868-74

Mr.Blair is best remembered in Alton for his dedication to the cause of public schools, serving on the board of education for 19 years, most of the time as its president.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

10. J.WESLEY BEALL HOUSE
1700 Liberty
Built ca.1890

Mr.Beall was president of the Beall Tool and Metal Products Company.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

11. MOSES G. ATWOOD HOUSE
1750 Liberty
Built in 1852

M.G.Atwood was one of the organizers and first secretary of the Illinois Mutual Fire Insurance Company, the oldest such firm in the state. By 1866, he was

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 8

11. Continued

president of the company, whose operations extended as far as Chicago. Heavy involvement in that latter city led to the firm's demise after the Great Fire of 1871. The main office was originally located in Middletown -- possibly in the structure at 1715 Liberty and certainly at that location -- and this and the nearby homes of its executives led to the areas designation as "Insuranceville."

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

12. LEWIS KELLENBERGER HOUSE

807 Grove
Built ca.1850

Lewis Kellenberger settled at Alton in 1835, entering the employ of John Dean and Company, merchants, of St. Louis. He later became prominent in the real estate and insurance businesses, was instrumental in promoting the city's school system, and served as Mayor of Alton (1860-62).

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

13. RESIDENCE

702 Euclid
Built ca.1885

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

14. CAPT. ALFRED DOW (COL. STEPHEN H. LONG) HOUSE

800 Franklin
Built ca.1850

Captain Dow was a steamboat captain. Col. Long, one of the most noted engineers of his time, moved into the house in 1862. Having taught mathematics early in his career, he made surveying expeditions up the Mississippi River (1817) and to the Rocky Mountains (1819-20), where Long's Peak was named for him. A consulting engineer for several railroads, he was named Chief of Topographical Engineers of the United States Army in 1861, subsequently supplying 1,406 maps to armies in the field.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

15. HARRY H. FERGUSON HOUSE

628 East 15th
Built before 1912

H.H. Ferguson was involved in railroading, first with the Alton office of the Chicago and Alton, later in St. Louis, and then as acting manager of the Bluff

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15. Continued

Line RR. In 1894, he organized Alton's Illinois Terminal Railroad and served as vice-president and general manager.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

16. UTEN SMITH NIXON HOUSE

727 Langdon
Built ca.1864

Mr. Nixon was a local architect of some prominence. This house is nearly identical to the Edward Hollister House (No.20, q.v.).

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

17. JUTTEMAYER HOUSE

604 Langdon
Built ca.1850, but possibly ca.1835-40

Little is known concerning the Juttemayers.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

18. ARBA NELSON HOUSE

410 East 12th
Built ca.1860

Arba Nelson settled at Alton in 1836, becoming a dealer in stoves and tinware. Later expanding his business to include hardware and steel, he was one of the city's most successful merchants.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

19. JOHN DRUMMOND HOUSE AND COACH HOUSE

442 East 12th
Built in 1885; Lucas Pfeifferberger, architect

Mr. Drummond was a prominent St. Louis tobacco merchant, preferring, however, to live in Alton.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

20. EDWARD HOLLISTER HOUSE

549 East 12th
Built ca.1862

Edward Hollister was Mayor of Alton for three terms, 1863-66.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

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21. CHARLES PHINNEY HOUSE
445 East 12th
Built in 1854

Charles Phinney settled at Alton in 1838 and conducted a wholesale grocery business, eventually known as Phinney and Barr and one of the most prominent in the area, from that time until his death in 1904.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

22. R. GUY HUSKINSON HOUSE
503 East 12th
Date of construction unknown; probably ca.1900

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

23. J.W.CARY HOUSE
415 East 12th
Built by 1891

Joseph Cary was engaged in the jeweler's business in Alton from 1870 to 1885, then transferring his business to St.Louis and extending it to wholesale watch materials and jewelers' manufacturing. Though prominently involved in St.Louis' commercial life, he continued to reside at Alton.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

24. EDMOND BEALL HOUSE
407 East 12th
Built ca.1910; L.Pfeiffenberger and Sons, architects

Edmond Beall was a scion of one of Alton's earliest (arrived 1813) and most prominent families, also prominent, however, in his own right. In business, he was identified with the firm of Beall Brothers, manufacturers of miners' tools and supplies, shovels, spades, and railway supplies, founded in 1872 and one of the city's more important manufactories. Politically, he served three successive terms as Mayor of Alton and was also a State Senator.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

25. AUGUSTUS T. NORTON HOUSE
404 East 10th
Built ca.1839; present appearance dates from Civil War era

A.T.Norton was extremely important in the affairs of the Presbyterian Church, having established more congregations in Illinois and nearby states than any other man. His first work in the state was at Naples, followed by duties in

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25. Continued

Griggsville, Pittsfield, and St. Louis before being called to Alton in 1839.
HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE EQUALLY

26. (REINHOLD GOSSRAU) HOUSE

430 East 9th

Date of construction unknown; pre-Civil War

The original owner has not been determined. Mr. Gossrau, a native of Saxony, was an active and leading member of Alton's German community. Best remembered as a musician -- he was director of the Alton Männerchor -- he was also one of the founders of the Alton Germania Building and Loan Association.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

27. DOUBLE HOUSE

714 East 6th

Built ca. 1840

The provenance of this house is unclear, but it is a fine and representative example of the type encountered in Alton's old working-class neighborhood of Hunterstown.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

28. LOVEJOY MONUMENT

in Alton National Cemetery, head of Monument Street

Erected in 1896-7; R.P. Bringhurst, sculptor, St. Louis

Elijah Lovejoy, publisher of the Alton Observer and a leading abolitionist, was murdered by a pro-slavery mob during the celebrated riot of 7 November 1837, making him one of the first martyrs in the cause of freedom from slavery. The site of his assassination is included in the Christian Hill Historic District, under separate nomination.

The monument, erected by a coalition of black and white citizens, celebrates his service in the cause of abolition as much as it commemorates his death.

SIGNIFICANCE: URBAN FURNITURE

29. TURNER HALL

401 Ridge

Built in 1867

Turner Hall was the social and cultural center of Alton's large and influential German community (for which, see HISTORY above) and as such witnessed innumerable

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29. Continued

events still fondly remembered. The Turnverein itself was organized before 1855.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

30. NATHANIEL HANSON HOUSE (ENCS APARTMENTS)

325 East 3rd

Built before 1868; upper floor added after 1910

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

31. FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

106 East 3rd

Built in 1905; Mr. Hess of St. Louis, architect

The present church incorporates parts of two previous buildings: St. Matthew's Catholic Church, which burned in 1853, and the original Unitarian Church, built shortly after that fire.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

32. KENDALL'S CRACKER FACTORY

201-07 East Broadway

Built ca. 1864

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

33. HENRY WATSON HOUSE

628 Alby

Built in 1832; L. Pfeifferberger and Sons, architects

Henry Watson was a stone mason by trade and did considerable work for a number of railroads. His numerous projects included the bridges of the Chicago and Alton RR between Bloomington and Shirley, the railroad shops of the Big Four at Mattoon (Ill.) and Waverly (Mo.), the Merchants' Bridge at St. Louis, and the St. Louis Union Depot. He was also the owner of one of Alton's largest quarries and of the Alton Water Works, and president of the Alton Lime and Cement Company.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE EQUALLY

34. ISAAC SCARRITT HOUSE

1025 George

Built ca. 1860

Isaac Scarritt was a prominent merchant and banker, active in the advancement of public education.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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35. WILLIAM SONNTAG HOUSE
518 Henry
Built ca. 1880

William Sonntag, another of the leaders of Alton's German community, came to the city from Saxony in 1866, working at first in the local woolen mills and soon progressing to a partnership in the mill of F.K. Nichols. In 1879, he entered the real estate and insurance business in partnership with F. Rudershausen, their firm going on to become one of Alton's most successful. Mr. Sonntag also served as Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue under President Benjamin Harrison.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

36. GRACE METHODIST CHURCH
700 Henry
Built in 1880; Lucas Pfeiffenberger, architect

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

37. RESIDENCE
450 East 7th
Date of construction unknown; probably before 1840

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 232

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
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B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

C

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

D

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
Beginning at the intersection of 3rd and Alby, the boundary extends S on Alby to Broadway, E on Broadway to the W line of 121 East Broadway, S on this to the interior property lines S of Broadway, E on these and the S line of 117 Easton to the E line of 217 East Broadway, N on this to Broadway, E on Broadway to the E line of 400 East Broadway, N on this to the interior property lines N of Broadway, E on these to Langdon, N on Langdon to the alley N of Third, E on this to Henry, N on Henry to 4th, E on 4th to Ridge, S on Ridge to the N line of 319 Ridge, E on this and then S on the E line of the same property to Adams Court

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME, TITLE

Robert Wagner, National Register Assistant for Historic Districts

ORGANIZATION

Illinois Department of Conservation

DATE _____

31 July 1977

STREET & NUMBER

9640 South Longwood Drive

TELEPHONE

312-779-2109

CITY OR TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois

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

TITLE

DATE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE _____

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE _____

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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E on Adams Court to Spring, S on Spring to the S line of 307 Spring, E on this and N on the E line of the same property to Adams Court, E on Adams Court to Central, S on Central to the S line of 309 Central, E on this and N on the E line of the same property to Adams Court, E on Adams Court to the interior property lines W of Cherry, S on these and the W line of 1026 East Broadway to Broadway, E on Broadway to the E line of 1106 East Broadway, N on this, the interior property lines E of Cherry and the W line of 1113 East 4th to 4th, E on 4th to the E line of 1312 East 4th, N on this to Hunter Court, W on Hunter Court to the interior property lines E of Monument, N on these to 5th, N, W & then S on the property lines of the Lovejoy Monument, S on the interior property lines W of Monument to Hunter Court, W on Hunter Court to the W line of 1012 East 4th, S on this to 4th, W on 4th to Oak, N on Oak to Hunter Court, W on Hunter Court to Spring, N on Spring to Quincy Court, E on Quincy Court to Oak, N on Oak to 6th, E on 6th to the first property line E of 6th, N on this and the interior property lines E of Oak to the N line of 615 Oak, W on this to Oak, S on Oak to Humboldt Court, W on Humboldt Court to the interior property lines W of Oak, S on these to 6th, W on 6th to the interior property lines E of Spring, N on these to the N line of 617 Spring, W on this and the N line of 618 Spring to the interior property lines W of Spring, S on these to Humboldt Court, W on Humboldt Court to the E line of 707 East 7th, N on this to 7th, W on 7th to Liberty, S on Liberty to the interior property lines N of 7th, W on these to the E line of 609 East 8th, N on this to 8th, W on 8th to Henry, N on Henry to 9th, E on 9th to the interior property lines E of Henry, N on these to the S line of 1007 Henry, E on this to the interior property lines W of Liberty, N on these and the W line of 711 East Union to Union, E on Union to Liberty, N on Liberty to the first property line N of Union, E on this to the interior property lines E of Liberty, N on these to Pearl, W on Pearl to Liberty, N on Liberty to Caroline, W on Caroline to the interior property lines W of Liberty, N on these to 12th, E on 12th to Liberty, N on Liberty to Royal, E on Royal to the interior property lines E of Liberty, N on these and the E lines of 711 & 712 Euclid to 16th, E on 16th to a line 5 feet E of and parallel to the E wall of the Church at Blair and Maple, N on this line to the interior property lines S of Blair, E on these and the S line of 1630 Central to Central, N on Central to the interior property lines N of Grove, W on these to interior property lines E of Maple, N on these and the E line of 300 Franklin to the interior property lines N of Franklin, W on these to the W line of 796 Franklin, S on this and the interior property lines W of Maple to the interior property lines N of Grove, W on these and the N line of 1750 Liberty to the interior property lines W of Liberty, S on these to the interior property lines S of Blair, W on these to the interior property lines E of Henry, N on these to Blair, W on Blair to the interior property lines W of Henry, S on these and Langdon to the N line of 1300 Langdon, W on this and S on the W line of the same property to 13th, W on 13th and the interior property lines N of 12th to the W line of 410 East 12th, S on this and George to the interior property lines N of 11th, W on these and the N line of 1100 Alton to the interior property lines W of Alton, S on these to 9th, E on 9th to the interior property lines E of Alton, N on these to 10th, E on 10th to the E line of 404 East 10th, N on this to the interior property lines N of 10th, E on these to the interior property lines W of Langdon, S on these to the interior property lines S of 10th,

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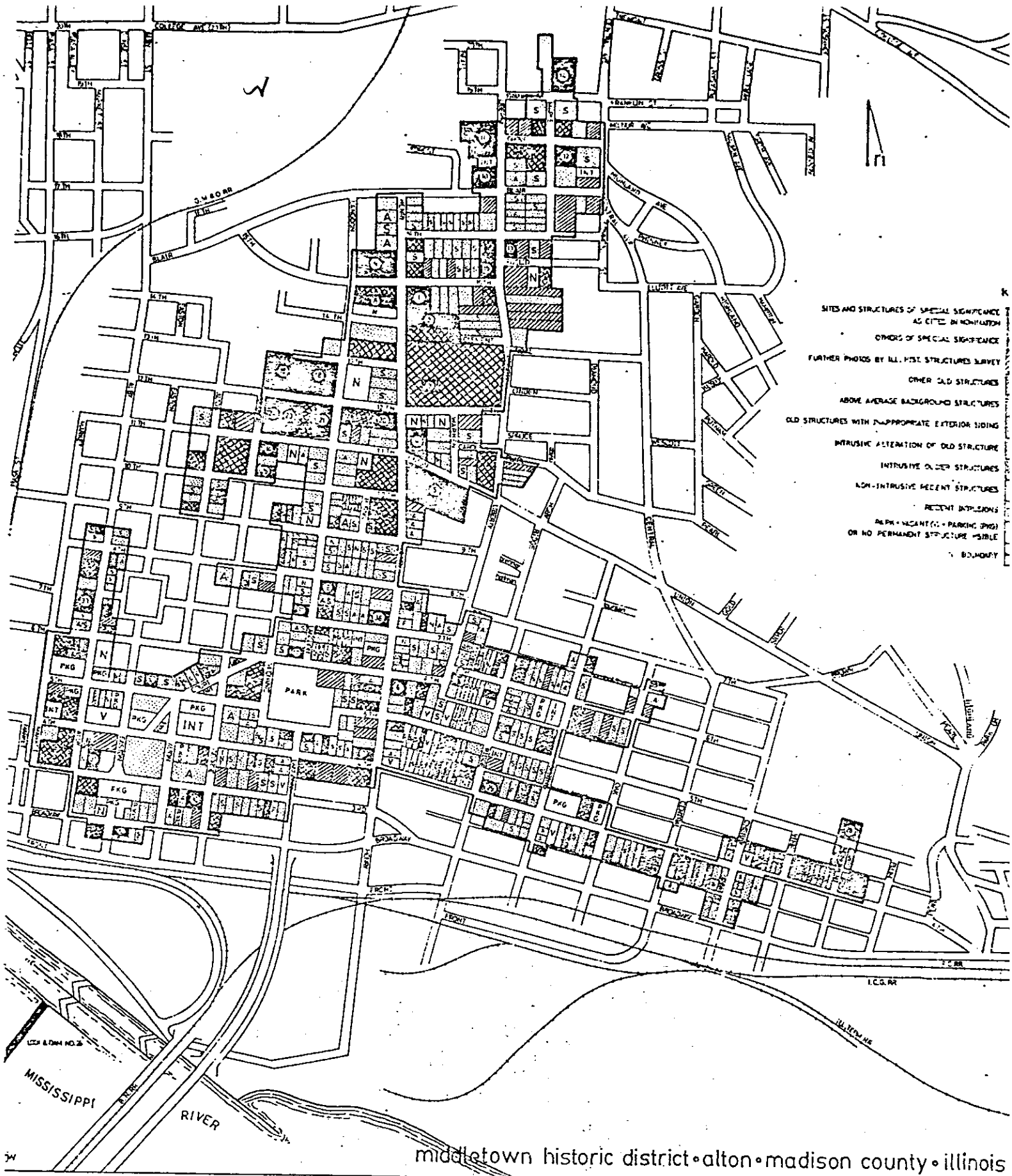
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W on these to the E line of 414 East 9th, S on this to 9th, E on 9th to the W line of 431 East 9th, S on this and the W line of 428 East 8th to 8th, W on 8th to the W line of 327 East 8th, S on this to the interior property line S of 8th, E on these and the S line of 718 Mechanic to the W line of 450 East 7th, S on this to 7th, W on 7th to Mechanic, S on Mechanic to the N line of 612-14 Mechanic, W on this to the W line of 412 East 6th, S on this to 6th, W on 6th to the interior property lines W of George, S on these to the interior property lines NW of Court, SW on these to the interior property lines N of 5th, W on these to the interior property lines E of Alby, N on these and the E line of 123 East 8th to the N line of 809 Alby, W on this and the N line of 814 Alby to the interior property lines W of Alby, S on these to 6th, W on 6th to the W line of Market, S on the W line of Market and the mid-line between Market's two r.c.w.'s S of 4th to Third and then E on Third to the point of commencement.

N.B.: Unless otherwise specified, all boundary segments along streets and alleys follow the mid-line of those streets and alleys.



- SITES AND STRUCTURES OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE AS CITED IN NOMINATION
- OTHERS OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE
- FURTHER PHOTOS BY ALL HIST. STRUCTURES SURVEY
- OTHER OLD STRUCTURES
- ABOVE AVERAGE BACKGROUND STRUCTURES
- OLD STRUCTURES WITH INAPPROPRIATE EXTERIOR SIDING
- INTRUSIVE ALTERATION OF OLD STRUCTURE
- INTRUSIVE OLDER STRUCTURES
- NON-INTRUSIVE RECENT STRUCTURES
- RECENT IMPROVEMENTS
- ALPH. + NEGATIVE (+ PARKING SPG)
- OR NO PERMANENT STRUCTURE VISIBLE
- BOUNDARY

middletown historic district • alton • madison county • illinois

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

Item number 12

Page 1

WASHINGTON

MIDDLETOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY EXTENSION
Alton, Madison County, Illinois

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.

Dan Ferry

State Historic Preservation Officer

Danister

Title

7/15/92

Date

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is local.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Middletown Historic District Boundary Extension - Alton Illinois
Continuation sheet Item number 7

Page 4

Historical information and description of buildings and landscape features in proposed District extension:

Lower Market Street and Mini-Park
Current Owner: City of Alton

The present District boundary proceeds down the center of Market Street including only the upper portion of the street. At 132 feet, Market Street is the widest street in Alton, still acting as a promenade from the old river landing area. Near Market's intersection with Third Street, Alton's first Market House once provided a public gathering place encompassing areas both above and below a natural escarpment which divided Market Street and today causes its two levels. Market Street is stepped just as the buildings on the north side of Third Street and today, between its upper and lower levels, a mini-park-green space provides the same relief near the Old "Y" as do the garden reveals bordering the other similarly scaled semi-public buildings to the east continuing up "Pagan Hill" in the present District.

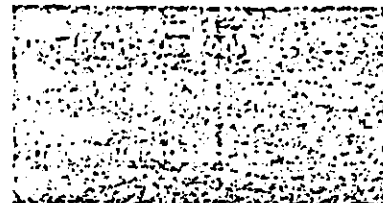
YMCA Building (The Old "Y" Building)
2-8 West Third Street

Current Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Johnno Yakubian 407 E. 12th St., Alton, Illinois
Building is currently for sale and under option for rehabilitative reuse as apartment complex.

Constructed in 1908 after a fund raising drive which galvanized Alton to action, the Alton YMCA became a focal point for community activity for over half a century, featuring the first indoor heated swimming pool (20X60) in the area, two bowling alleys, reading room and parlors "furnished in best quality of Old Mission furniture" and "one of the best gymnasiums in Southern Illinois". A fine example of early Twentieth Century Georgian Revival interpreted here in monumental-residential scale, the Old "Y" building is a three-story-over-raised-basement building of red Alton brick with white Alton limestone detailing and foundation. The building consists of a main (south) block and a rear (north) recessed block. Including 1914 fenestration changes and rear block additions following a disastrous fire that year, the main block features Georgian-Palladian to Federal styling details in applied limestone and terra cotta while the recessed north block or rear wing is more commercially designed. The effect of finely detailed Georgian-Palladian-styling details of white limestone from Alton quarries symmetrically applied to graduated window openings and unadorned Federally styled facades of red brick supplied by the well known Alton Brick Co. highlight and residentialize the principal elevations. The eight Palladian styled arched windows springing, as they do, from the lipped stone beltcourse give the effect of Jeffersonian style "French" doors opening onto an emplaced terrace. In 1964, the organization moved to a new building and the old YMCA was put up for sale and later purchased by its present owner. Still vacant and unreused after almost 20 years, the building is a grim reminder of the many vacant commercial spaces it overlooks in the old Downtown central business district (still only partially revitalized), however its present optioned purchase as a certified historic building would allow rehabilitative reuse as an apartment complex.

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Continuation sheet

Alton Illinois

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12 West Third Street

Current Owner: Wuellner Family, 301 Piassa Street, Alton, Illinois

Directly to the east of the Snyder Block is a two story brick commercial building above rubblestone foundation of early Twentieth Century vintage with applied stone veneer. On the street facade a recessed entrance and a former storefront are placed beneath two double window openings on the second floor. Applied stone pilasters with recessed panels on the ground floor support an intermediate stone frieze and cornice at sill height of the second floor windows. At the second floor level pilasters "support" the entire building frieze and originally in addition they "supported" a dentiled projected cornice which has been removed along with the hip roof and three matching stone flues. The building is presently vacant.

The Snyder Block (Snyder's Department Store)

301-3 Piassa Street

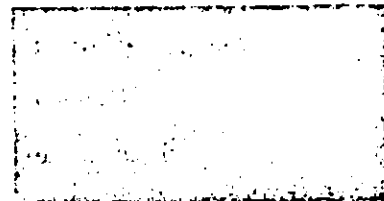
Current Owner: Bert Wuellner

The Snyder Block was constructed in 1901 on the site of the former Crossman Auction House (by 1884, John Snyder and Co. Drygoods) which had burned earlier. It was "one of the most substantial and attractive in its appearance in Alton." "It stands at the corner of Piassa and Third Streets, and is the first of modern buildings to be erected in this, the acknowledged center of trade and business." The Snyder building with its crenelated turret is still one of the most recognizable in Alton and continues to be used as a drygoods emporium under the same name in the old style of doing business by the third generation of the builder.

The three story brick building at street level contains cast iron trimmed and pilastered wooden store fronts. The building utilizes an iron post and beam system and incorporates an ornamented corner column which supports the massive corner turret overlaid in tin, shaped to simulate stone detailing. Raised joint profiles in continuous "courses" of varying height and varying "stone" length and smooth stone "pattern" is interrupted by "rough-cut" sections trimmed with panel mold. The remarkable turret is more projected from, than applied to, the building by the brick detailed stringcourses of the building above the store front, between the second and third stories and above the third story, being continued in simulated brick rowlock and sawtooth around the turret. Also, a series of sheet metal vents in the masonry is continued around the turret just below the encompassing decorated cast iron cornice. The turret rises an additional story through its own projected circular cornice, matching in design the one below, to finally terminate in saw-tooth crenelation. Inside, on the main floor of the building, the present owner may still be observed on his elevated bookkeeping-cashier platform above the wood floored selling floor, overlooking the same type of stock his grandfather supervised at the turn of the century.

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Middletown Historic District Boundary Extension -- Alton Illinois
Continuation sheet Significance

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Justification For Boundary Extension

The boundary extension down "Pagan Hill" is the natural continuation of a unique hill-side streetscape evolving from private secular use to semi-public secular use over 150 years. In early days, Piasa Street was a shallow stream (Piasa Creek) crossed by footbridges at Third Street and emptying into the Mississippi near where in 1783 Jean Baptiste Cardinal built the first dwelling on a site then called "Piasa". By the 1830's, frame residences climbed the hill accompanying the two stone churches near a large Greek Revival Market House astride 132 foot wide Market Street (the widest street in Alton) which proceeds as a promenade from the Commons landing area on the riverfront, and was even then on two levels caused by an escarpment across the hillside. When Alton Catholics sold their old church near the peak of the hill to the Unitarians and built a new church (St. Peter's and St. Paul's) on top of the hill (Christian Hill") on the other side of the valley of the Piasa, the steep hill became known as "Pagan Hill". By the early 1850's, Piasa Creek had been contained in a giant culvert by Captain Benjamin Godfrey who laid his rails atop it down newly constructed Piasa Street. Although it was proposed to regrade Third Street to a more navigable grade, the owner of a bordering property objected because his residence as well as the church at the corner of Third and Market would have been left "high and dry" above the new grade. Formerly a gathering place but by then a smelly nuisance, the old Market House near the Third and Market intersection was razed and in Civil War times great Italianate mansions were constructed where Miller's Mutual Insurance headquarters, City Hall, and the old Post Office are today. As commercial usage spread along Piasa Street and John Snyder anchored the hillside with his turreted dry goods emporium (1901) proceeding up Third Street, the sites of the antique frame houses and the great mansions were reused in Alton brick and limestone construction for civic, commercial, and semi-public purposes. The two stone churches remained as a continuum. Today, the three block west face of "Pagan Hill" looking north (two blocks to the center of Market Street are already in the Middletown National Register District) is composed of indigenous Alton brick and limestone combinations. From the horizontal bulk of Miller's Mutual's red brick and white smoothed limestone Beaux-Arts Classic Revival facade above the simple rubblestone symmetry of the venerable Unitarian Church (cited #31 in nomination), the north side of steep West Third Street is a stepped procession of integrated-in-scale buildings to spaced reveals between them (open space side "gardens"), as well as the indentations of Alby Street and Market Street as they proceed north; i.e. - the Unitarian Church's "garden" reveal atop its rubblestone retaining wall - Alby Street - the Old Post Office of Mid-Georgian styling heritage in tan brick and cut limestone - its "garden" reveal atop a cutstone-topped rubblestone retaining wall - the Episcopal Church's "garden" reveal - the Gothic abbey styled rubblestone Episcopal Church - 132 foot wide Market Street on its two levels where the proposed extension begins, part of its width utilized by a mini-park echoing the other landscape reveals along the hillside-- the Fed-rally styled mass of the Old "Y" building in red brick and cut and smoothed white limestone - a recently vacant lot flanked by a rubblestone retaining wall - the small commercial building of finished stone veneer, and the decorated brick with rough-cut stone trim side elevation of Snyder's Block, terminating in its simulated stone tin crenelated turret on the Third and Piasa street corner; anchoring "Pagan Hill".

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Middletown Historic District Boundary Extension - Alton Illinois
Continuation sheet Item number



Page

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (Cont.) Page 2

TITLE (1) Historic Sites Inventory for the St. Louis Mo.-Ill. Metropolitan Area
(Regional Study)
(2) Further Photographs Ill. Historic Structures Survey, Mad. Co. (State Study)
(3) Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey, Mad. Co. (State Study)

DATE (1) July 1980
(2) 1972
(3) May 1974

DEPOSITORY (1) East-West Gateway Coordinating Council
(2) Illinois Department of Conservation
(3) Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN (1) St. Louis
(2) Springfield
(3) Springfield

STATE (1) Missouri
(2) Illinois
(3) Illinois

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Cont.) Page 2

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Alton Telegraph, Apr. 11, 1908; Mar. 28, 1914; Mar. 30, 1914; July 9, 1914; Mar. 29, 1915;
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Reid, James Allan, Alton, Illinois Illustrated, 1912, St. Louis, Mo. and Alton, Ill.,
James Allan Reid
Special Edition of Alton Telegraph, September 1928, Alton, Illinois
The New YMCA Building of Alton, 1908, St. Louis, Mo., Perrin and Smith Press
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Young, J.M., Alton Illinois Illustrated, 1907, Alton, Illinois J. M. Young and Co.

Form Prepared by: Ruth Means

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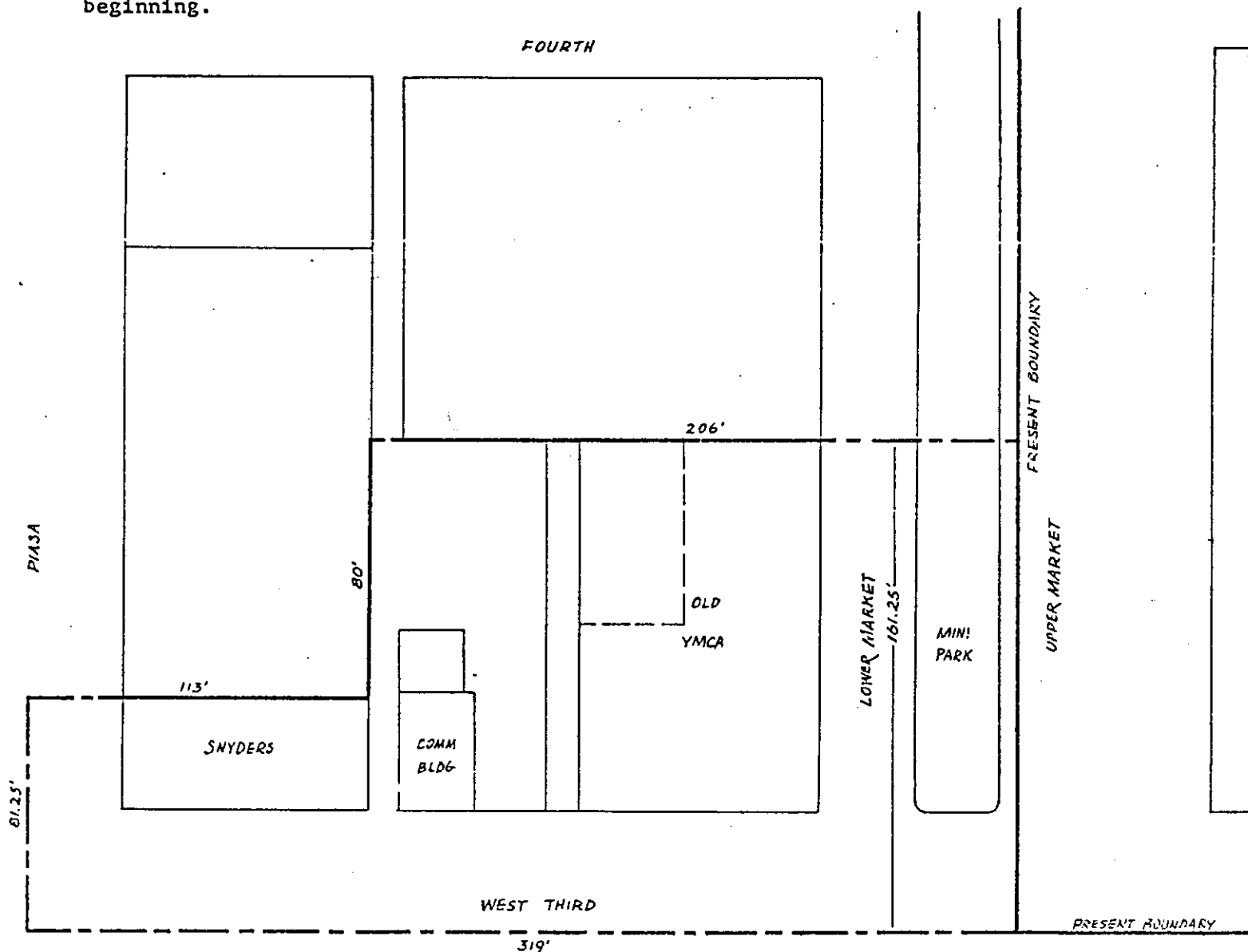
National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Middletown Historic District Boundary Extension - ALTON ILLINOIS
Continuation sheet Item number 10

Page 4

It is hereby proposed that the boundary of the Middletown Historic District of Alton (listed on the National Register September 17, 1977) be revised and extended to include the balance of the north side of Third Street along "Pagan Hill" including the following properties: Balance of Market Street, 2-8 W. Third (former YMCA Building), 12 W. Third, and 301-303 Piasa (Snyder's Department Store); the extension being described as follows;

At a southwest corner of the present district, beginning at a point in the center of the intersections of Market Street and Third Street proceeding west down the center of West Third Street 319 feet to the center of Piasa Street; then north 81.25 feet; then east from the center of Piasa Street along the northern facade of the Snyder Building 113 feet to the northeast corner of the Snyder Building; then north 80 feet; then east 206 feet to the center of Market Street, then south 161.25 feet to the place of beginning.



301-3 Piasa
12 W. Third
2-8 W. Third

301-3 Plaza
12 W. Third
2-8 W. Third

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ILLINOIS

STATE

Date Entered **JUL 11 1978**

Name

Location

Middletown Historic District

Alton
Madison County

Also Notified

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

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

WEST VIRGINIA, Wood County, Parkersburg, Union Trust & Deposit Co./Union Trust National Bank (Downtown Parkersburg MRA), 700 Market St. (10/08/82)
WEST VIRGINIA, Wood County, Parkersburg, Van Winkle, Peter G., House (Downtown Parkersburg MRA), 600 Juliana St. (10/08/82)
WEST VIRGINIA, Wood County, Parkersburg, West Central WV Community Action Assoc., Inc. (Downtown Parkersburg MRA), 804 Ann St. (10/08/82)
WEST VIRGINIA, Wood County, Parkersburg, Windmill Quaker State (Downtown Parkersburg MRA), 800 Murdoch Ave. (10/08/82)

WISCONSIN, Milwaukee County, Milwaukee, Woman's Club of Wisconsin, (The Athenaeum), 813 E. Kilbourn Ave. (10/04/82)

The following properties were also entered in the National Register but were excluded from a previous notice:

ILLINOIS, Madison County, Alton, Middletown Historic District, 3rd St. between Market and Piasa St. (Boundary increase) (09/16/82)

IOWA, Keokuk County, Thornburg vicinity, Bruce Goldfish Fisheries, E of Thornburg, off IA 22 (09/20/82)

LOUISIANA, West Feliciana Parish, St. Francisville, St. Francisville Historic District, (boundary increase) Ferdinand and Sewell Sts. (10/01/82)

NEW MEXICO, Bernalillo County, Albuquerque, Armijo, Juan Cristobal, Homestead, 207 Griegos Rd. NE (09/30/82)

Multiple Resource Areas are identified by MRA
Thematic Resources are identified by TR

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9/17/77

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC MIDDLETOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Significant portions of the traditional Middletown and Hunterstown neighborhoods

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Alton

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Madison

CODE

STATE

Illinois

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☐ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

☒ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☒ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☒ MUSEUM

☒ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☒ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple - see attached list

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Madison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Edwardsville

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

- 1) Illinois Historic Structures Survey, Madison County
- 2) Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey, Madison County

DATE

1) October 1973; 2) May 1974

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT
☒GOOD
___FAIR

___DETERIORATED
___RUINS
___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___UNALTERED
___ALTERED

CHECK ONE

___ORIGINAL SITE
___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The City of Alton (1970 population: 39,700) lies on the north bank of the Mississippi River, here flowing nearly due east, about equidistant between St. Louis, Mo., to the south and the mouth of the Illinois River, and just upstream from the mouth of the Missouri. Topographically, the area is quite varied, embracing river bottom, precipitous bluffs and hills cut by ravines and valleys of lesser watercourses, and ridges, and gradually shades into high prairie back from the river. The soil is generally quite fertile and is underlain by extensive coal deposits. Limestone -- both of building quality and a grade suitable for the burning of lime -- and sand are abundant. The specific area of the Middletown Historic District, on high ground directly east of the valley of the erstwhile Little Piasa Creek, is topographically rather gentle -- though hardly level -- and shows marked variation only on the south, where the land quickly descends to the level of the river.

The Middletown Historic District includes significant portions of the traditional Middletown and Hunterstown neighborhoods, the former having developed out of the original town and the latter out of a very addition. The actual -- and very irregular -- boundary was established primarily on the basis of visual cohesion and circumscribes those portions of the two neighborhoods that preserve an historic fabric indicative of 19th Century Alton. Thus, the district is not confined to the architectural magnificence of streets such as 12th, Grove, or the upper reaches of Henry and Liberty, but also includes modest areas highly representative of the artisan classes, such as 4th east of Henry. Although topography was generally not considered in determining the district's boundary, there is a distinct and often very close relationship between the character of the land and that of the extant structures: not only was the highest ground commonly sought out first, it was also developed in a substantial manner that has tended to preclude radical change. This correspondence is particularly clear north of 5th Street, where the western boundary, even though determined visually, nearly parallels the 550' contour line for considerable stretches: below the line, early development appears to have been sparse and minor -- and there are numerous more recent structures --, while above it are found many of the district's earliest and finest buildings. Other segments of the boundary reflect even more specific elements. The southern boundary mirrors the commercial nature of Broadway, which, further marred by several recent intrusions, has preserved its older character in only a few specific blocks. Most of these have been included in the district, the major exception being the block between Henry and Ridge, which, while very fine, has been isolated by recent developments. In the Hunterstown neighborhood -- southeast of 7th and Henry and/or Liberty -- much of the irregularity is caused by St. Joseph's Hospital on 5th between Oak and Central, whose continuing expansion has not only effectively destroyed the immediate area but adversely affected adjacent blocks as well. In the same general vicinity, 7th Street itself, though old, has neither the stature nor continuity to warrant inclusion. Much the same is true of Union east of Liberty. On the west, the Market Street boundary reflects the central business district immediately to the west, which, although quite intact and pleasant, is so mainly by dint of the topography -- it lies in the narrow valley of the former Little Piasa Creek between Middletown and Christian Hill -- and not because of any innate architectural or historical values that would warrant inclusion. The area south of 6th from Market to about George has been weakened by several parking lots and its proximity to the central business district -- the far western part may actually be considered part of the latter -- but the scale and quality of the remaining older structures is such as to outweigh these deficiencies of continuity. Finally, those blocks of Alby included north of 6th are distinguished by structures of both individual and collective strength, strengths that disappear just south of 9th.

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Land use within the district is mainly residential or residential-related -- religious, educational, park, etc. -- and exclusively so north of 8th Street. Major commercial uses are centered on Broadway, with a secondary, purely neighborhood commercial concentration on Ridge. The area generally southwest of 5th and George is the only part of the district with a distinctly non-residential flavor. Close to the central business district, it has long been dominated by a number of public and semi-public uses -- city hall, the post office, several churches, a high school, etc. -- and is now somewhat marred by a rather heavy concentration of parking lots. There are no industrial uses in the district and the only federal property seems to be the U.S. Post Office at the northwest corner of 3rd and Alby.

The street pattern of the Middletown Historic District is governed by two rectangular grids -- that of Alton's original plat (Middletown), aligned along major compass points, and that of Russell or Hunter's Addition (Hunterstown), running more nearly parallel to the north bank of the Mississippi River -- with the two intersecting just east of Henry. The regularity of these systems, though, is broken by deviations imposed by the topography, almost obscured by the nearly constant rise and fall of the land, and even further softened by luxuriant vegetation. Another major factor contributing to the streetscape is the presence of numerous native limestone retaining walls, varying in height from a few inches to several feet: one such wall, for example, significantly lessens the impact of the district's most prominent intrusion. Traffic within the district is mostly local in nature, with Henry, Alby and 9th the most travelled thoroughfares. Consistently heavy volume is encountered only on Broadway.

Average structural density in the district is relatively low -- 2.81 structure/acre -- but varies markedly from one specific area to another. The greatest distinction -- in density, as in scale, lateral distance, siting, street setback and height -- is between Middletown proper and Hunterstown. Residentially, the former is generally marked by moderate to large scale homes, set well apart and back from the street on relatively large lots, while the latter is distinguished by a higher ratio of 1-1½ story structures of modest scale, set in close proximity and nearly up to the building line. The differences can be best summarized as being those between a middle and upper class neighborhood -- Middletown -- and an artisan or working class neighborhood -- Hunterstown -- as they existed in the 19th Century. There are, however, certain features common to both neighborhoods. First, most residences are single-family and detached; second, the majority are of masonry construction -- no surprise considering the excellent properties of both the local limestone and the locally produced brick --; and, third, there is relatively little variation in scale, siting, etc., within each, thus producing strong, albeit different relationships between buildings in both. The largest structures in the district -- mainly churches and other semi-public and public buildings -- rarely exceed three stories in height and are almost all of masonry construction. Most are located in the western part of the district discussed above.

Of 653 structures encompassed within the Middletown Historic District, excluding garages and other incidental buildings, 153 have been evaluated as possessing special architectural and/or historical significance and an additional 53 were photographed by

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the Illinois Historic Structures Survey. The character of the background structures is generally quite strong and many -- about 20% -- rise considerably above the level of mere background, either through age or quality or a combination of both. This is particularly true of Hunterstown, most notable as an ensemble relatively devoid of exceptional individual structures, in which almost every building characteristic of that ensemble's specific time and class must be considered integral, regardless of how one would judge it if it stood alone. Many of these -- as well as many of the background structures in Middletown proper -- are unsuitably sided, but, since much of that siding is of an older type, it is neither as disruptive nor as irreversible as it would be were it aluminium, steel or vinyl. Structures with intrusive force -- including intrusively remodeled older structures -- number only 20, or about 3% of all extant structures. Non-intrusive recent structures are exactly equal in number. Both figures are remarkably low and would indicate that extensive areas of the district are virtually free of intrusive or recent buildings, which is, indeed, the case. The single most prominent intrusion in the district is the modern office building of the Alton Box Company on 4th between Alton and George -- its impact, however, is alleviated by a magnificent limestone retaining wall, as previously mentioned.

Though most of the architectural styles popular in Illinois from ca.1830 to the First World War are represented in the Middletown Historic District -- many of them by fine examples -- those most fashionable before 1890 are best documented, both as regards numbers and quality. The earliest structures are all cast in the Federal Style, those in Middletown being quite pure (including Nos.2,4,17,26,37 below), while those in Hunterstown (of which No.27 below is perhaps the most characteristic) are invariably simplified. The Italianate is extremely widespread, occurring in all parts of the district (and including Nos.5,9,16,20,30,32-4 below), as is the Queen Anne (including Nos.3,10,13 below). The Greek Revival is particularly noticeable by virtue of its nearly complete absence -- both in the district and Alton in general. Although purer examples of any particular style seem to pique interest, impure ones, whether the result of early alterations, transitional periods, or the sheer love of the picturesque, cannot always be lightly dismissed. In the Middletown Historic District, such impure expressions are remarkable in terms of number, quality, and their very variety: Federal-Greek (including Nos. 11-12 below), Federal-Italianate (including No.1 below), Greek-Italianate (Nos.14, 25 below), Italianate-Gothic, Italianate-Neo-Classical (including No.29 below), Italianate-Queen Anne (very widespread, including Nos.7, 19,35 below), and the hardly expected Queen Anne-Classical Revival.

Of other styles occurring in the district, Classical Revival is the most widespread and significant (including Nos.22-4 below), while Gothic -- both non-archaeological and Revival -- is generally reserved for churches (including Nos.31,36 below). Romanesque, Tudor, and Renaissance Revivals (including No.15 below), Shingle Style, and the Chateau-esque are less prominent. The only 20th Century style represented is the Prairie School, occurring together with other, related early modern attempts to escape historic models.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

N.B.: Architecture is the only area that applies for the district as a whole. Other areas that may attach to specific sites should become clear from the discussion of those sites below.

The Middletown Historic District includes significant portions of the original town plat and an early addition of the City of Alton, one of the most colorful and prominent places in the early history of the State of Illinois. Founded in 1817, Alton long entertained hopes of supplanting St. Louis as the metropolis of the Middle Mississippi Valley and nearly bankrupted the Illinois State Bank in 1837 with incredible schemes to realize them. Once selected as the future site of the state capital, the city was also one of the key centers in the abortive system of internal improvements that, by 1840, had nearly bankrupted Illinois itself. An apparent failure in the early 1840's, Alton revived in the 1850's and prospered through the Civil War as one of Illinois' most important river ports, only to sink into stagnation when peace returned. Health and vigor rose from decline in the 1870's and Alton, though hardly content, assumed the important albeit secondary role in the St. Louis metropolitan area which it has yet to relinquish.

What makes the Middletown Historic District so significant is that almost every phase of that checkered history is visible in the extant streetscape. The plat itself, early homes of men involved in the machinations of the 1830's, splendid baronial palaces of the post-Civil War industrial and commercial magnates, streets marked by waves of German immigrants in the 1840's and 1850's -- these, and more, combine in creating the living atmosphere of an important 19th Century city.

Architecturally, there are splendid examples of most styles popular between 1830 and 1890: pure Federal, Italianate, Queen Anne, Gothic, etc., and some intriguing, picturesque combinations. Streets such as 12th or Henry compound individual examples into considerable stretches of uninterrupted excellence. Others, such as 4th east of Henry, retain the feel of the 19th Century artisan and immigrant classes virtually untouched since the last third of that century. Seminary Square -- dominated by three homes, each a fine example of one of the 19th century's major styles (Federal, Italianate, Queen Anne) -- is a remarkable termination to Mechanic Street. But, above all, there is a fabric to the district stating emphatically, though with several voices, that this is Alton.

HISTORY

The first European settler on or near the present City of Alton was probably Jean Baptiste Cardinal, who was reported living at Fiasa around 1783 and who may have transferred his claim to one John Edgar of Kaskaskia in 1795. There is also some indication that the French maintained a trading post until about 1807, but neither this nor Cardinal's homestead played a part in the development of the future city. Other early settlers -- none

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of whom took an active part in later growth -- were James Preuitt and James Stockden, known to have been living on the bluffs in 1804 and the discoverers of a spring at the present northeast corner of Broadway and Spring; and two men by the name of Price and Colter, who settled near that spring in 1810.

The history of Alton qua Alton begins in 1817, when it was laid out by Col. Rufus Easton, who had first obtained land in the area in 1814. Col. Easton, naming both the new town and several of its streets after some of his children -- Alton, George, Henry, Langdon and Alby -- was of considerable prominence in the area, having served as St. Louis' first postmaster (1808), and later played an important role in the early history of Missouri's statehood. In Illinois, his new town extended from Market on the west to Henry on the east and from the river north to 9th Street -- or roughly the southern half of the Middletown neighborhood. Despite the immediate establishment of a ferry, Easton's Alton did not flourish and remained little more than a small collection of log cabins near the ferry house for several years subsequent.

In an almost simultaneous move, Joseph Meacham, who had founded Upper Alton in 1816-17, purchased a property known as the Bates Farm and projected a town he called Alton-on-the-River. Extending roughly from the river to 9th and east from Henry to about Washington, the property passed to Major Charles Hunter in 1818 and was laid out and platted by him in 1820 -- hence, Hunterstown. Maj. Hunter erected a substantial frame structure in 1819, keeping it as a public house, but his efforts proved no more successful, at first, than those of Col. Easton.

In 1821, Beck's Gazeteer of Illinois and Missouri commented that "Alton, although yet small, possesses natural advantages rarely equaled." To a certain degree, it was the spreading recognition of these advantages that prevented Alton from flourishing during the 1820's: they seduced a group of men led by such luminaries as Ninian Edwards and Nathaniel Pope into possession of a land claim disputing Easton's. Since the contest spanned years, no clear titles could be had, and the town languished. An act of the State Legislature, 15 February 1827, stipulating Alton as the site of Illinois' first state penitentiary and Gov. Edwards as one of the commissioners to select the site was the first indication of a brighter future. By the time that prison was opened in 1833, Alton was growing by leaps and bounds.

Activity actually began to increase in 1829, the year a Mr. Mintony erected Alton's first industrial establishment, a steam saw-mill, and had reached healthy proportions by 1831. In March of that year, the population totaled 170 and the signs of encroaching civilization included 2 shoemakers, 2 brickmakers, and one apiece of steam saw-mills, beef and pork packing houses, carpenters, wagon makers, tanneries, coopers, brick masons, stone masons, blacksmiths, lawyers, taverns and retail stores. By the fall of the year, William Manning had commenced work on the erection of a steam flouring mill, the first important manufactory in Alton and the pioneer of one of the city's most significant industries. Building lots sold during 1831 for from 20 to 100 dollars -- very low, but under penalty of forfeiture if the buyer failed to erect a substantial building within a year, which may help explain the many fine structures dating from the early 1830's -- but toward the end of Alton's initial boom, 1837, land near the river was selling for 300-400 dollars a front foot and "more retired situations" went for 25 to 100 dollars, again per foot.

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The tremendous increase in land values, very similar to those in Chicago during the same period, is an excellent indicator of Alton's transformation from a minor speculative venture to a major commercial center and one of the principal cities in the state. Organized as a town in 1833, Alton was granted a city charter on 21 July 1837. Population had reached 1,000 by 1834 and was estimated between 2,000-2,500 (4,000 if one includes Upper Alton) at the time of incorporation (St. Louis, by comparison, which Alton sought avidly to surpass, numbered 13,000 that same year). Those years, 1834-37, are perhaps the most astounding in the city's entire history, marked as they are by two overriding goals: first, to destroy rival St. Louis and, then, to assume the Seat of Empire in the west.

One of the first efforts to promote Alton reached fruition in 1834, when the Illinois Legislature selected it as the future state capital. In 1835, a state bank with capital stock of \$1,500,000 was chartered, and, though its principal office was located elsewhere, it was virtually controlled by Godfrey, Gilman and Company of Alton. Thus Altonians -- mainly Godfrey, Gilman and Co. -- met with little resistance in tapping the bank's resources to further their own ends. To wit: Benjamin Godfrey of that firm -- and president of the Alton Branch of the Illinois State Bank (est. 1836) -- managed to borrow \$800,000 for the purpose of diverting the important Galena lead trade from St. Louis to Alton. That the Alton Shot and Lead Manufacturing Company was incorporated 16 January 1836, with Benjamin Gilman as one of the principals, was probably not coincidental. A second loan of "several hundred thousand dollars" was made to Stone, Manning and Company and Sloo and Company, who planned a manoeuvre in produce similar to Godfrey, Gilman and Co.'s in lead -- and doubtless spawned the Illinois Exporting Company (incorporated 18 January 1836) for the processing of flour, wool, hemp and other agricultural products. Another undertaking, and the only one to ever actually take up business, was the Alton Marine and Fire Insurance Company, chartered 7 February 1836, Benj. Gilman, president.

1837 -- destined to end Alton's dreams -- began well enough. On 27 February, the Illinois Legislature passed the Act for a General System of Internal Improvements, providing millions to widen rivers and build turnpikes and railroads, and envisioning Galena, Cairo, Chicago, and, of course, Alton as the chief beneficiaries. Alton alone was to become the terminal of three railroads: the Southern Cross extending to Mt. Carmel, a second line connecting it to Shawneetown, and a third to intersect with the Central Railroad between Galena and Cairo. The National Road, then located as far as Vandalia, was to cross the Mississippi at Alton, according to a formal request to Congress by the State Legislature. The year also saw Alton in command of a large proportion of the trade of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers, a position that was somewhat illusory, bolstered as it was by the lead and agricultural machinations of Godfrey, Gilman and friends. Those same machinations eventually failing, the commodities, which had been purchased at prices inflated by 50-75% in order to strip St. Louis of them, were sold "at a ruinous sacrifice." And then came the Panic of 1837. Followed by the murder of Elijah Lovejoy during a pro-slavery riot, 7 November 1837, leaving Alton with a very black mark amongst the moneyed -- and abolitionist -- circles of the northeast. 1837 also saw the State Legislature rescind its 1834 decision and select Springfield as the state capital. Although the Internal Improvements Act was not repealed until 1840 -- with Illinois on the brink of insolvency -- and the Illinois State Bank was not liquidated

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until 1842 -- together with the Shawneetown Bank, also unfortunate to have had a major branch at Alton -- Alton's visions of Mississippian hegemony died in 1837.

After several years of stagnation, business again revived in the 1840's and from that time on the city enjoyed relatively constant and far more rational growth. A river port from its very inception, Alton developed a substantial trade, registering 1,818 steamboat arrivals in 1853, not counting the St. Louis packets, which had begun operating in 1833 (by comparison, in 1854 St. Louis registered 3,006 arrivals and Cairo had 3,798). 1853 in Alton also saw two large flouring mills in operation, substantial industries for the production of lime and agricultural machinery, receipts of wheat, corn and oats that ranged from 250,000 to 300,000 bushels of each, and a goodly packing business that processed 27,000 head of hogs and 3,000 head of cattle.

A steady increase in population -- 3,586 in 1850, ca. 6,000 in 1858 and 8,000 in 1867 -- paralleled the consolidation of this strong economic position. To some degree, both were the result of a steady influx of German immigrants that extended to most of the Middle Mississippi Valley. Germans were in Alton by 1836, but the largest contingents arrived during the late 1840's and early 1850's, apparently persuaded by a concentrated newspaper campaign aimed at attracting them. Their numbers were large enough to support three German-language newspapers, the Alton Freie Presse, Illinois Beobachter, and Alton Banner, edited respectively by Theodore Canisius, John Reis and John Mold, and in 1867 the German-Americans were described as Alton's "dominating element." Hunterstown was the center for the recent immigrants, a fact borne out by the increasing activity there from 1842-55, the extant building stock, and such typical Hunterstown names as Markle, Dietz, Faulstich, Schoeffler, Weisback, Netzenhammer, u.s.w.

Alton during the 1850's, rarely indulging in the fantasies of the 1830's -- though they surfaced at least once, when the city organized the 1856 Illinois State Fair "in the spirit of making St. Louis, Mo., a mere suburb of Alton" -- had nonetheless established itself as one of Illinois' chief municipalities. The surest sign of that is that Alton was selected as the site for the 7th and final Lincoln-Douglas Debate, 15 October 1858. Though the city preferred Douglas, the pro-slavery sentiments rampant when Lovejoy was murdered had been atoned for: Alton, adjacent to slave-holding Missouri, was a major terminal on the Underground Railway.

During the Civil War, Alton was garrisoned and served as a rendezvous camp, but that period is now best identified with the military prison established at the old Illinois State Penitentiary (on National Register, entered 12-31-74). The presence of troops and the general activities of war flushed Alton's economy -- so long as the war lasted -- but the return of peace revealed the devastation of the vital north-south trade and Alton, like so many other Mississippi River towns, fell upon hard times.

The massive slump brought on by the war lasted into the early 1870's, at which time the city began to successfully shift its economic base from dependence on the river and commerce to the railroad and industry. The first railroad into Alton, the Chicago and Mississippi, later part of the extensive Chicago and Alton, was completed in 1852, but the Mississippi River -- which the road did not bridge -- and then the Civil War seem to have lessened its impact. Economic growth during the last third of the century was such, though, that by 1911 Alton was served by no less than 12 separate lines, which in 1910

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had accumulated a freight tonnage of 2,783,132 tons.

Flour milling, stone quarrying, agricultural implements, and the burning of lime had been important pre-war industries -- continuing, in some cases, in prominence to the present -- and these were augmented in the 1870's and early 1880's both by new branches and expansion of the old. Chief among new industries was the Illinois Glass Company, founded in 1873, and soon to become the largest hollow-ware glass manufactory in the world. Other important additions included the Alton Box Manufacturing Company (1872), the Hapgood Flow Company (1874), and Alton City Mills (1881, later known as Stanard-Tilton). By 1911, the Alton manufacturing district, with 102 establishments and an annual output of 35 to 40 million dollars, was fifth in the state in the value of finished products. Producing one-seventh of the U.S. lead output, ranking 5th in the nation in flour production, and 3rd in the state in meat-packing (behind Chicago and East St. Louis), Alton's major products included oil, glass, zinc, paper, mining tools, shovels, heavy hammers, railroad track tools, gunpowder, paper boxes, lime, machinery, foundry products, ice, woodenware, plows, cartridges, soft drinks, beer, brooms, brick, cigars, barrels, and rugs.

Though none of these industries are (or were) located within the area of the historic district -- the manufacturing district extends east along the river -- the wealth they generated, a wealth disproportionate to the city's population, found expression in the homes of various notables. And one of the locations preferred by the new industrial and commercial magnates was the same as that chosen by earlier luminaries: Middletown. (Another was State Street or Christian Hill, under separate nomination.) Coupled with the Hunters-town neighborhood -- working class and generally pre-1880 -- Middletown presents an excellent picture of Alton as it developed during the 19th Century. Certainly, Alton has grown since 1900, and grown significantly; but almost all of that occurred elsewhere and has left two of the city's oldest neighborhoods surprisingly intact.

SITES AND STRUCTURES OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Numbers refer to the corresponding map. Where more than one area of significance attaches, the greater is cited first.

1. SAMUEL WADE HOUSE

1419 Henry

Built ca. 1845; since modified

Samuel Wade was one of Alton's pioneer settlers, arriving in 1831, and is justly considered one of the city's founders and builders. A carpenter by trade, he later entered into the packing business with his brother-in-law, Ebenezer Marsh (v.No.2). Marsh and Wade also established the Alton Bank (1852), the former acting as first president and the latter as second (1877-85). Samuel Wade also served several years on the city council and four terms as Mayor of Alton (1849-51, 1855, and 1857).

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

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2. EBENEZER MARSH HOUSE

1403 Henry

Built in 1836; greatly altered

Ebenezer Marsh, who settled at Alton in 1832 and originally engaged in the drug business, was one of the key figures in the development of Illinois and Alton banking. In 1836, he was one of the organizers and secretary of the Alton Marine and Fire Insurance Company, an early and leading institution in insurance and banking that was succeeded by the Alton Bank (v.No.1). Marsh was also involved with the Illinois State Bank established by Gov.Duncan in 1835, succeeding Benjamin Godfrey as its president in 1839. The scandal-ridden bank -- embroiled in the costly schemes to divert upper Mississippi River trade from St.Louis to Alton -- was liquidated by the State Legislature in 1842, as was Illinois' other early bank, that at Shawneetown.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

3. WILLIAM A. HASKELL PLAYHOUSE

1209 Henry

Built ca.1880; Lucas Pfeifferberger, architect

On National Register, entered 7-30-74.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

4. LYMAN TRUMBULL HOUSE

1105 Henry

Built in 1820; modified in 1849

National Historic Landmark, entered 5-15-75

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

5. JAMES FORBES HOUSE

1007 Henry

Built in 1871

Mr.Forbes was the founder of St.Louis' James H.Forbes Tea and Coffee Co. He lived, however, in Alton.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

6. HENRY CALVIN PRIEST HOUSE

519 Henry

Date of construction unknown

H.C.Priest settled at Alton in 1854, entering the lumber firm of his uncle, H.C.Sweetser. He later became a partner and, in 1885, the sole owner. Lumber was a relatively important early industry in Alton, and Sweetser and Priest was one of the city's leading firms.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

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7. CHARLES HOLDEN HOUSE
400 Henry
Built ca.1880

Charles Holden was a printer and publisher. Brought from England as a boy in 1841, he was apprenticed to the Alton Telegraph (founded in 1836 and still publishing) and was associated with the paper, with interruptions in Missouri and Springfield, Ill., until 1880, the last 14 years as a partner. In 1880, he opened his own printing office. He was also postmaster of Alton, city treasurer for eight terms, and a leading member of the city council.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

8. CHARLES AUGUSTUS CALDWELL HOUSE
1420 Henry
Built ca.1868

C.A.Caldwell settled at Alton in 1850, entering the office of the Alton Marine and Fire Insurance Company. In 1852, upon organization of that firm's successor, the Alton Bank, he was named cashier. In 1865, he assumed the same post with the Alton National Bank and in 1885 became president of that latter institution. Mr.Caldwell also served one term as Mayor of Alton (1873).

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

9. JOHN L. BLAIR HOUSE
1500 Henry
Built ca.1868-74

Mr.Blair is best remembered in Alton for his dedication to the cause of public schools, serving on the board of education for 19 years, most of the time as its president.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

10. J.WESLEY BEALL HOUSE
1700 Liberty
Built ca.1890

Mr.Beall was president of the Beall Tool and Metal Products Company.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

11. MOSES G. ATWOOD HOUSE
1750 Liberty
Built in 1852

M.G.Atwood was one of the organizers and first secretary of the Illinois Mutual Fire Insurance Company, the oldest such firm in the state. By 1866, he was

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11. Continued

president of the company, whose operations extended as far as Chicago. Heavy involvement in that latter city led to the firm's demise after the Great Fire of 1871. The main office was originally located in Middletown -- possibly in the structure at 1715 Liberty and certainly at that location -- and this and the nearby homes of its executives led to the areas designation as "Insuranceville."

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

12. LEWIS KELLENBERGER HOUSE

807 Grove
Built ca.1850

Lewis Kellenberger settled at Alton in 1835, entering the employ of John Dean and Company, merchants, of St. Louis. He later became prominent in the real estate and insurance businesses, was instrumental in promoting the city's school system, and served as Mayor of Alton (1860-62).

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

13. RESIDENCE

702 Euclid
Built ca.1885

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

14. CAPT. ALFRED DOW (COL. STEPHEN H. LONG) HOUSE

800 Franklin
Built ca.1850

Captain Dow was a steamboat captain. Col. Long, one of the most noted engineers of his time, moved into the house in 1862. Having taught mathematics early in his career, he made surveying expeditions up the Mississippi River (1817) and to the Rocky Mountains (1819-20), where Long's Peak was named for him. A consulting engineer for several railroads, he was named Chief of Topographical Engineers of the United States Army in 1861, subsequently supplying 1,406 maps to armies in the field.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

15. HARRY H. FERGUSON HOUSE

628 East 15th
Built before 1912

H.H. Ferguson was involved in railroading, first with the Alton office of the Chicago and Alton, later in St. Louis, and then as acting manager of the Bluff

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15. Continued

line RR. In 1894, he organized Alton's Illinois Terminal Railroad and served as vice-president and general manager.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

16. UTEN SMITH NIXON HOUSE

727 Langdon
Built ca.1864

Mr. Nixon was a local architect of some prominence. This house is nearly identical to the Edward Hollister House (No.20, q.v.).

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

17. JUTTEMAYER HOUSE

604 Langdon
Built ca.1850, but possibly ca.1835-40

Little is known concerning the Juttemayers.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

18. ARBA NELSON HOUSE

410 East 12th
Built ca.1860

Arba Nelson settled at Alton in 1836, becoming a dealer in stoves and tinware. Later expanding his business to include hardware and steel, he was one of the city's most successful merchants.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

19. JOHN DRUMMOND HOUSE AND COACH HOUSE

442 East 12th
Built in 1885; Lucas Pfeiffenberger, architect

Mr. Drummond was a prominent St. Louis tobacco merchant, preferring, however, to live in Alton.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

20. EDWARD HOLLISTER HOUSE

549 East 12th
Built ca.1862

Edward Hollister was Mayor of Alton for three terms, 1863-66.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

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21. CHARLES PHINNEY HOUSE

445 East 12th
Built in 1854

Charles Phinney settled at Alton in 1838 and conducted a wholesale grocery business, eventually known as Phinney and Barr and one of the most prominent in the area, from that time until his death in 1904.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

22. R. GUY HUSKINSON HOUSE

503 East 12th
Date of construction unknown; probably ca.1900

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

23. J.W.CARY HOUSE

415 East 12th
Built by 1891

Joseph Cary was engaged in the jeweler's business in Alton from 1870 to 1885, then transferring his business to St.Louis and extending it to wholesale watch materials and jewelers' manufacturing. Though prominently involved in St.Louis' commercial life, he continued to reside at Alton.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

24. EDMOND BEALL HOUSE

407 East 12th
Built ca.1910; L.Pfeiffenberger and Sons, architects

Edmond Beall was a scion of one of Alton's earliest (arrived 1813) and most prominent families, also prominent, however, in his own right. In business, he was identified with the firm of Beall Brothers, manufacturers of miners' tools and supplies, shovels, spades, and railway supplies, founded in 1872 and one of the city's more important manufactories. Politically, he served three successive terms as Mayor of Alton and was also a State Senator.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

25. AUGUSTUS T. NORTON HOUSE

404 East 10th
Built ca.1839; present appearance dates from Civil War era

A.T.Norton was extremely important in the affairs of the Presbyterian Church, having established more congregations in Illinois and nearby states than any other man. His first work in the state was at Naples, followed by duties in

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25. Continued

Griggsville, Pittsfield, and St. Louis before being called to Alton in 1839.
HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE EQUALLY

26. (REINHOLD GOSSRAU) HOUSE

430 East 9th

Date of construction unknown; pre-Civil War

The original owner has not been determined. Mr. Gossrau, a native of Saxony, was an active and leading member of Alton's German community. Best remembered as a musician -- he was director of the Alton Männerchor -- he was also one of the founders of the Alton Germania Building and Loan Association.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

27. DOUBLE HOUSE

714 East 6th

Built ca. 1840

The provenance of this house is unclear, but it is a fine and representative example of the type encountered in Alton's old working-class neighborhood of Hunterstown.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

28. LOVEJOY MONUMENT

in Alton National Cemetery, head of Monument Street

Erected in 1896-7; R.P. Bringhurst, sculptor, St. Louis

Elijah Lovejoy, publisher of the Alton Observer and a leading abolitionist, was murdered by a pro-slavery mob during the celebrated riot of 7 November 1837, making him one of the first martyrs in the cause of freedom from slavery. The site of his assassination is included in the Christian Hill Historic District, under separate nomination.

The monument, erected by a coalition of black and white citizens, celebrates his service in the cause of abolition as much as it commemorates his death.

SIGNIFICANCE: URBAN FURNITURE

29. TURNER HALL

401 Ridge

Built in 1867

Turner Hall was the social and cultural center of Alton's large and influential German community (for which, see HISTORY above) and as such witnessed innumerable

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29. Continued

events still fondly remembered. The Turnverein itself was organized before 1855.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

30. NATHANIEL HANSON HOUSE (ENOS APARTMENTS)

325 East 3rd
Built before 1868; upper floor added after 1910

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

31. FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

106 East 3rd
Built in 1905; Mr. Hess of St. Louis, architect

The present church incorporates parts of two previous buildings: St. Matthew's Catholic Church, which burned in 1853, and the original Unitarian Church, built shortly after that fire.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

32. KENDALL'S CRACKER FACTORY

201-07 East Broadway
Built ca. 1864

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

33. HENRY WATSON HOUSE

628 Alby
Built in 1882; L. Pfeifferberger and Sons, architects

Henry Watson was a stone mason by trade and did considerable work for a number of railroads. His numerous projects included the bridges of the Chicago and Alton RR between Bloomington and Shirley, the railroad shops of the Big Four at Mattoon (Ill.) and Waverly (Mo.), the Merchants' Bridge at St. Louis, and the St. Louis Union Depot. He was also the owner of one of Alton's largest quarries and of the Alton Water Works, and president of the Alton Lime and Cement Company.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE EQUALLY

34. ISAAC SCARRITT HOUSE

1025 George
Built ca. 1860

Isaac Scarritt was a prominent merchant and banker, active in the advancement of public education.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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35. WILLIAM SONNTAG HOUSE
518 Henry
Built ca. 1890

William Sonntag, another of the leaders of Alton's German community, came to the city from Saxony in 1866, working at first in the local woolen mills and soon progressing to a partnership in the mill of F.K. Nichols. In 1879, he entered the real estate and insurance business in partnership with F. Rudershausen, their firm going on to become one of Alton's most successful. Mr. Sonntag also served as Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue under President Benjamin Harrison.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

36. GRACE METHODIST CHURCH
700 Henry
Built in 1880; Lucas Pfeiffenberger, architect
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

37. RESIDENCE
450 East 7th
Date of construction unknown; probably before 1840
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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E on Adams Court to Spring, S on Spring to the S line of 307 Spring, E on this and N on the E line of the same property to Adams Court, E on Adams Court to Central, S on Central to the S line of 309 Central, E on this and N on the E line of the same property to Adams Court, E on Adams Court to the interior property lines W of Cherry, S on these and the W line of 1026 East Broadway to Broadway, E on Broadway to the E line of 1106 East Broadway, N on this, the interior property lines E of Cherry and the W line of 1113 East 4th to 4th, E on 4th to the E line of 1312 East 4th, N on this to Hunter Court, W on Hunter Court to the interior property lines E of Monument, N on these to 5th, N,W & then S on the property lines of the Lovejoy Monument, S on the interior property lines W of Monument to Hunter Court, W on Hunter Court to the W line of 1012 East 4th, S on this to 4th, W on 4th to Oak, N on Oak to Hunter Court, W on Hunter Court to Spring, N on Spring to Quincy Court, E on Quincy Court to Oak, N on Oak to 6th, E on 6th to the first property line E of 6th, N on this and the interior property lines E of Oak to the N line of 615 Oak, W on this to Oak, S on Oak to Humboldt Court, W on Humboldt Court to the interior property lines W of Oak, S on these to 6th, W on 6th to the interior property lines E of Spring, N on these to the N line of 617 Spring, W on this and the N line of 618 Spring to the interior property lines W of Spring, S on these to Humboldt Court, W on Humboldt Court to the E line of 707 East 7th, N on this to 7th, W on 7th to Liberty, S on Liberty to the interior property lines N of 7th, W on these to the E line of 609 East 8th, N on this to 8th, W on 8th to Henry, N on Henry to 9th, E on 9th to the interior property lines E of Henry, N on these to the S line of 1007 Henry, E on this to the interior property lines W of Liberty, N on these and the W line of 711 East Union to Union, E on Union to Liberty, N on Liberty to the first property line N of Union, E on this to the interior property lines E of Liberty, N on these to Pearl, W on Pearl to Liberty, N on Liberty to Caroline, W on Caroline to the interior property lines W of Liberty, N on these to 12th, E on 12th to Liberty, N on Liberty to Royal, E on Royal to the interior property lines E of Liberty, N on these and the E lines of 711 & 712 Euclid to 16th, E on 16th to a line 5 feet E of and parallel to the E wall of the Church at Blair and Maple, N on this line to the interior property lines S of Blair, E on these and the S line of 1630 Central to Central, N on Central to the interior property lines N of Grove, W on these to interior property lines E of Maple, N on these and the E line of 300 Franklin to the interior property lines N of Franklin, W on these to the W line of 796 Franklin, S on this and the interior property lines W of Maple to the interior property lines N of Grove, W on these and the N line of 1750 Liberty to the interior property lines W of Liberty, S on these to the interior property lines S of Blair, W on these to the interior property lines E of Henry, N on these to Blair, W on Blair to the interior property lines W of Henry, S on these and Langdon to the N line of 1300 Langdon, W on this and S on the W line of the same property to 13th, W on 13th and the interior property lines N of 12th to the W line of 410 East 12th, S on this and George to the interior property lines N of 11th, W on these and the N line of 1100 Alton to the interior property lines W of Alton, S on these to 9th, E on 9th to the interior property lines E of Alton, N on these to 10th, E on 10th to the E line of 404 East 10th, N on this to the interior property lines N of 10th, E on these to the interior property lines W of Langdon, S on these to the interior property lines S of 10th,

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W on these to the E line of 414 East 9th, S on this to 9th, E on 9th to the W line of 431 East 9th, S on this and the W line of 428 East 8th to 8th, W on 8th to the W line of 327 East 8th, S on this to the interior property line S of 8th, E on these and the S line of 718 Mechanic to the W line of 450 East 7th, S on this to 7th, W on 7th to Mechanic, S on Mechanic to the N line of 612-14 Mechanic, W on this to the W line of 412 East 6th, S on this to 6th, W on 6th to the interior property lines W of George, S on these to the interior property lines NW of Court, SW on these to the interior property lines N of 5th, W on these to the interior property lines E of Alby, N on these and the E line of 123 East 8th to the N line of 809 Alby, W on this and the N line of 814 Alby to the interior property lines W of Alby, S on these to 6th, W on 6th to the W line of Market, S on the W line of Market and the mid-line between Market's two r.o.w.'s S of 4th to Third and then E on Third to the point of commencement.

N.B.: Unless otherwise specified, all boundary segments along streets and alleys follow the mid-line of those streets and alleys.

9

- Alto

10

UTM REFERENCES

C

VE

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

STATE

ORGANIZATION

DATE _____

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12

NATIONAL_____

STATE _____

LOCAL

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE _____

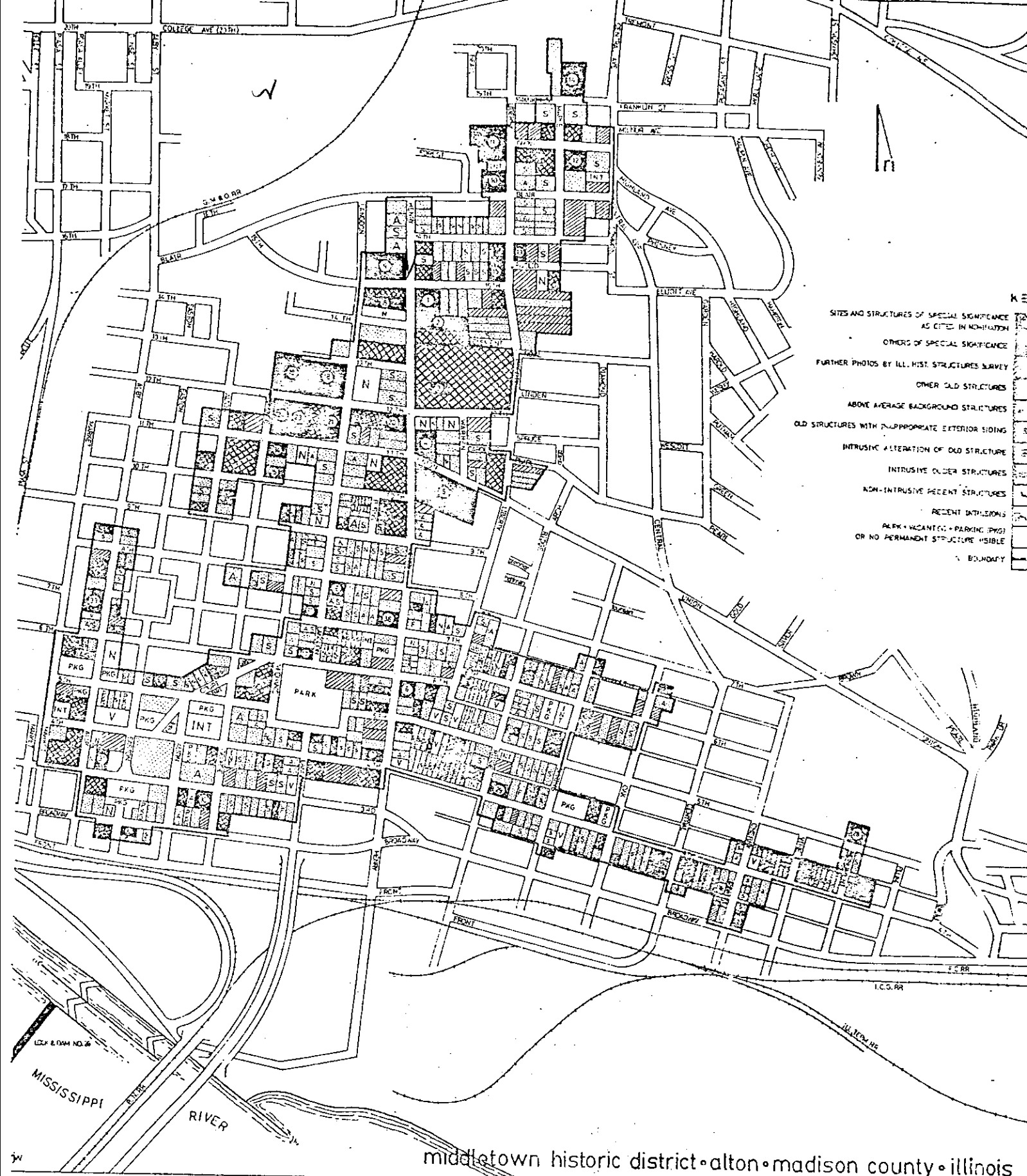
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

ATTEST:

DATE _____

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

12

Page

1

WASHINGTON

MIDDLETOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY EXTENSION
Alton, Madison County, Illinois

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.

David Kennedy
State Historic Preservation Officer

Director
Title

7/15/82
Date

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is local.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Middletown Historic District Boundary Extension - Alton Illinois
Continuation sheet Item number 7

Page 4

Historical information and description of buildings and landscape features in proposed District extension:

Lower Market Street and Mini-Park
Current Owner: City of Alton

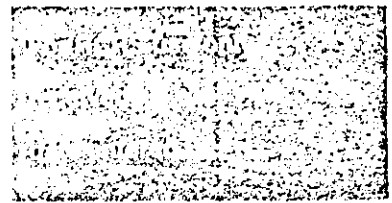
The present District boundary proceeds down the center of Market Street including only the upper portion of the street. At 132 feet, Market Street is the widest street in Alton, still acting as a promenade from the old river landing area. Near Market's intersection with Third Street, Alton's first Market House once provided a public gathering place encompassing areas both above and below a natural escarpment which divided Market Street and today causes its two levels. Market Street is stepped just as the buildings on the north side of Third Street and today, between its upper and lower levels, a mini-park-green space provides the same relief near the Old "Y" as do the garden reveals bordering the other similarly scaled semi-public buildings to the east continuing up "Pagan Hill" in the present District.

YMCA Building (The Old "Y" Building)
2-8 West Third Street

Current Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Johnno Yakubian 407 E. 12th St., Alton, Illinois
Building is currently for sale and under option for rehabilitative reuse as apartment complex.

Constructed in 1908 after a fund raising drive which galvanized Alton to action, the Alton YMCA became a focal point for community activity for over half a century, featuring the first indoor heated swimming pool (20X60) in the area, two bowling alleys, reading room and parlors "furnished in best quality of Old Mission furniture" and "one of the best gymnasiums in Southern Illinois". A fine example of early Twentieth Century Georgian Revival interpreted here in monumental-residential scale, the Old "Y" building is a three-story-over-raised-basement building of red Alton brick with white Alton limestone detailing and foundation. The building consists of a main (south) block and a rear (north) recessed block. Including 1914 fenestration changes and rear block additions following a disastrous fire that year, the main block features Georgian-Palladian to Federal styling details in applied limestone and terra cotta while the recessed north block or rear wing is more commercially designed. The effect of finely detailed Georgian-Palladian-styling details of white limestone from Alton quarries symmetrically applied to graduated window openings and unadorned Federally styled facades of red brick supplied by the well known Alton Brick Co. highlight and residentialize the principal elevations. The eight Palladian styled arched windows springing, as they do, from the lipped stone beltcourse give the effect of Jeffersonian style "French" doors opening onto an emplaced terrace. In 1964, the organization moved to a new building and the old YMCA was put up for sale and later purchased by its present owner. Still vacant and unreused after almost 20 years, the building is a grim reminder of the many vacant commercial spaces it overlooks in the old Downtown central business district (still only partially revitalized), however its present optioned purchase as a certified historic building would allow rehabilitative reuse as an apartment complex.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Middletown Historic District Boundary Extension
Continuation sheet

Alton Illinois

Item number 7

Page 5

12 West Third Street

Current Owner: Wuellner Family, 301 Piasa Street, Alton, Illinois

Directly to the east of the Snyder Block is a two story brick commercial building above rubblestone foundation of early Twentieth Century vintage with applied stone veneer. On the street facade a recessed entrance and a former storefront are placed beneath two double window openings on the second floor. Applied stone pilasters with recessed panels on the ground floor support an intermediate stone frieze and cornice at sill height of the second floor windows. At the second floor level pilasters "support" the entire building frieze and originally in addition they "supported" a dentiled projected cornice which has been removed along with the hip roof and three matching stone flues. The building is presently vacant.

The Snyder Block (Snyder's Department Store)

301-3 Piasa Street

Current Owner: Bert Wuellner

The Snyder Block was constructed in 1901 on the site of the former Crossman Auction House (by 1884, John Snyder and Co. Drygoods) which had burned earlier. It was "one of the most substantial and attractive in its appearance in Alton." "It stands at the corner of Piasa and Third Streets, and is the first of modern buildings to be erected in this, the acknowledged center of trade and business." The Snyder building with its crenelated turret is still one of the most recognizable in Alton and continues to be used as a drygoods emporium under the same name in the old style of doing business by the third generation of the builder.

The three story brick building at street level contains cast iron trimmed and pilastered wooden store fronts. The building utilizes an iron post and beam system and incorporates an ornamented corner column which supports the massive corner turret overlaid in tin, shaped to simulate stone detailing. Raised joint profiles in continuous "courses" of varying height and varying "stone" length and smooth store "pattern" is interrupted by "rough-cut" sections trimmed with panel mold. The remarkable turret is more projected from, than applied to, the building by the brick detailed stringcourses of the building above the store front, between the second and third stories and above the third story, being continued in simulated brick rowlock and sawtooth around the turret. Also, a series of sheet metal vents in the masonry is continued around the turret just below the encompassing decorated cast iron cornice. The turret rises an additional story through its own projected circular cornice, matching in design the one below, to finally terminate in saw-tooth crenelation. Inside, on the main floor of the building, the present owner may still be observed on his elevated bookkeeping-cashier platform above the wood floored selling floor, overlooking the same type of stock his grandfather supervised at the turn of the century.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Middletown Historic District Boundary Extension -- Alton Illinois
 Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8

Page 14

Justification For Boundary Extension

The boundary extension down "Pagan Hill" is the natural continuation of a unique hill-side streetscape evolving from private secular use to semi-public secular use over 150 years. In early days, Piasa Street was a shallow stream (Piasa Creek) crossed by footbridges at Third Street and emptying into the Mississippi near where in 1783 Jean Baptiste Cardinal built the first dwelling on a site then called "Piasa". By the 1830's, frame residences climbed the hill accompanying the two stone churches near a large Greek Revival Market House astride 132 foot wide Market Street (the widest street in Alton) which proceeds as a promenade from the Commons landing area on the riverfront, and was even then on two levels caused by an escarpment across the hillside. When Alton Catholics sold their old church near the peak of the hill to the Unitarians and built a new church (St. Peter's and St. Paul's) on top of the hill (Christian Hill") on the other side of the valley of the Piasa, the steep hill became known as "Pagan Hill". By the early 1850's, Piasa Creek had been contained in a giant culvert by Captain Benjamin Godfrey who laid his rails atop it down newly constructed Piasa Street. Although it was proposed to regrade Third Street to a more navigable grade, the owner of a bordering property objected because his residence as well as the church at the corner of Third and Market would have been left "high and dry" above the new grade. Formerly a gathering place but by then a smelly nuisance, the old Market House near the Third and Market intersection was razed and in Civil War times great Italianate mansions were constructed where Miller's Mutual Insurance headquarters, City Hall, and the old Post Office are today. As commercial usage spread along Piasa Street and John Snyder anchored the hillside with his turreted dry goods emporium (1901) proceeding up Third Street, the sites of the antique frame houses and the great mansions were reused in Alton brick and limestone construction for civic, commercial, and semi-public purposes. The two stone churches remained as a continuum. Today, the three block west face of "Pagan Hill" looking north (two blocks to the center of Market Street are already in the Middletown National Register District) is composed of indigenous Alton brick and limestone combinations. From the horizontal bulk of Miller's Mutual's red brick and white smoothed limestone Beaux-Arts Classic Revival facade above the simple rubblestone symmetry of the venerable Unitarian Church (cited #31 in nomination), the north side of steep West Third Street is a stepped procession of integrated-in-scale buildings to spaced reveals between them (open space side "gardens"), as well as the indentations of Alby Street and Market Street as they proceed north; i.e. - the Unitarian Church's "garden" reveal atop its rubblestone retaining wall - Alby Street - the Old Post Office of Mid-Georgian styling heritage in tan brick and cut limestone - its "garden" reveal atop a cutstone-topped rubblestone retaining wall - the Episcopal Church's "garden" reveal - the Gothic abbey styled rubblestone Episcopal Church - 132 foot wide Market Street on its two levels where the proposed extension begins, part of its width utilized by a mini-park echoing the other landscape reveals along the hillside-- the Fed-rally styled mass of the Old "Y" building in red brick and cut and smoothed white limestone - a recently vacant lot flanked by a rubblestone retaining wall - the small commercial building of finished stone veneer, and the decorated brick with rough-cut stone trim side elevation of Snyder's Block, terminating in its simulated stone tin crenelated turret on the Third and Piasa street corner; anchoring "Pagan Hill".

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Middletown Historic District Boundary Extension - Alton Illinois
Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (Cont.) Page 2

TITLE (1) Historic Sites Inventory for the St. Louis Mo.-Ill. Metropolitan Area
(Regional Study)
(2) Further Photographs Ill. Historic Structures Survey, Mad. Co. (State Study)
(3) Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey, Mad. Co. (State Study)

DATE (1) July 1980
(2) 1972
(3) May 1974

DEPOSITORY (1) East-West Gateway Coordinating Council
(2) Illinois Department of Conservation
(3) Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN (1) St. Louis
(2) Springfield
(3) Springfield

STATE (1) Missouri
(2) Illinois
(3) Illinois

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Cont.) Page 2

Alton Telegraph, Centennial Edition, January, 1936, Alton, Illinois
Alton Telegraph, Apr. 11, 1908; Mar. 28, 1914; Mar. 30, 1914; July 9, 1914; Mar. 29, 1915;
Mar. 1, 1916; May 19, 1919; May 5, 1920; Sept. 22, 1920; Sept. 30, 1964
Reid, James Allan, Alton, Illinois Illustrated, 1912, St. Louis, Mo. and Alton, Ill.,
James Allan Reid
Special Edition of Alton Telegraph, September 1928, Alton, Illinois
The New YMCA Building of Alton, 1908, St. Louis, Mo., Perrin and Smith Press
(printed program at dedication)
Young, J.M., Alton Illinois Illustrated, 1907, Alton, Illinois J. M. Young and Co.

Form Prepared by: Ruth Means

Phil Poelner

R R.2 Box 115
Alton Illinois 62002

257 W. 19th St
Alton Illinois

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

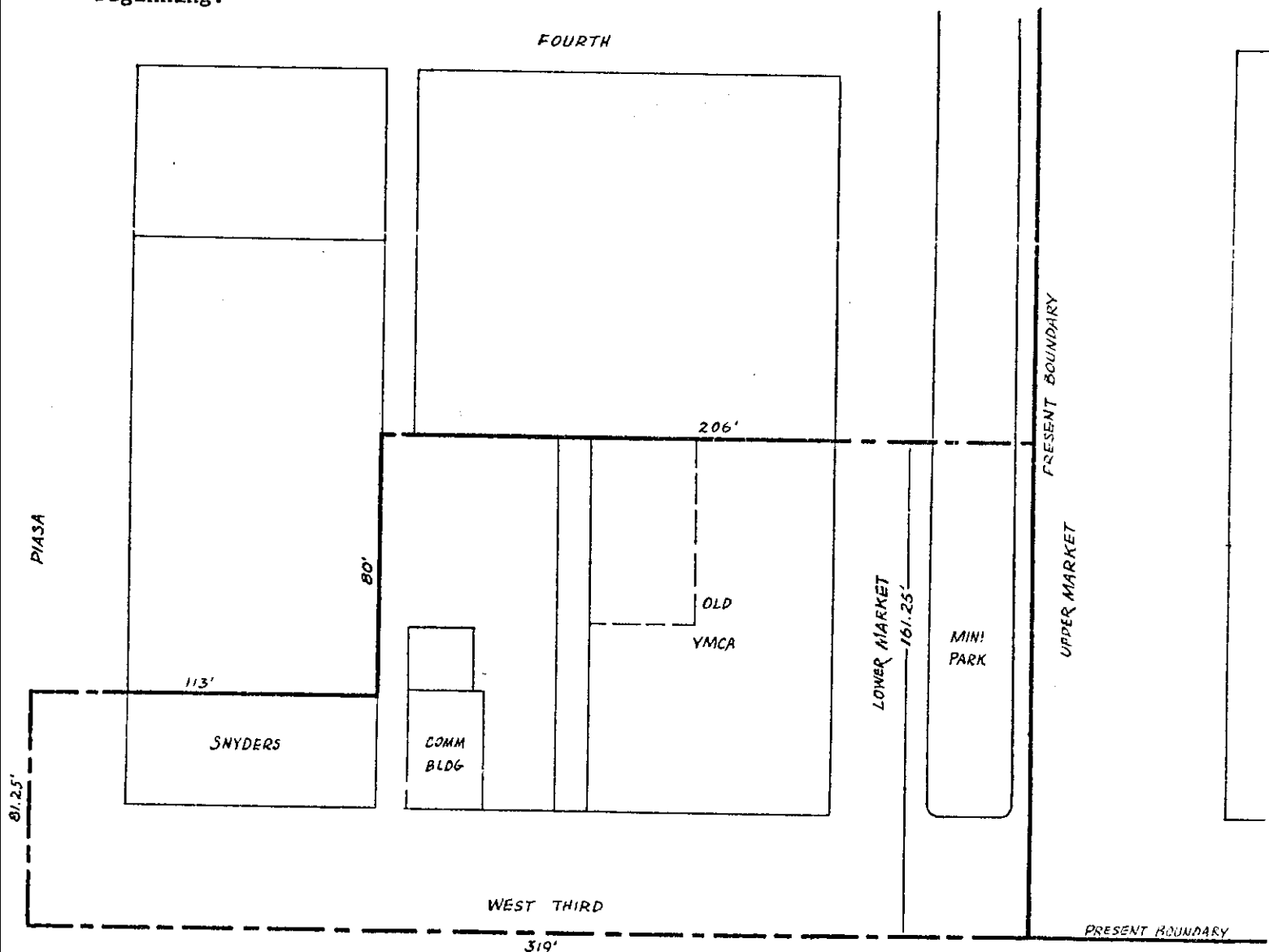
Middletown Historic District Boundary Extension - ALTON ILLINOIS
Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 4

It is hereby proposed that the boundary of the Middletown Historic District of Alton (listed on the National Register September 17, 1977) be revised and extended to include the balance of the north side of Third Street along "Pagan Hill" including the following properties: Balance of Market Street, 2-8 W. Third (former YMCA Building), 12 W. Third, and 301-303 Piasa (Snyder's Department Store); the extension being described as follows;

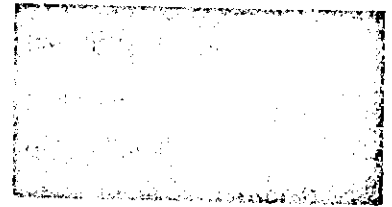
At a southwest corner of the present district, beginning at a point in the center of the intersections of Market Street and Third Street proceeding west down the center of West Third Street 319 feet to the center of Piasa Street; then north 81.25 feet; then east from the center of Piasa Street along the northern facade of the Snyder Building 113 feet to the northeast corner of the Snyder Building; then north 80 feet; then east 206 feet to the northeast corner of the Snyder Building; then north 80 feet; then east 206 feet to the center of Market Street, then south 161.25 feet to the place of beginning.



United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

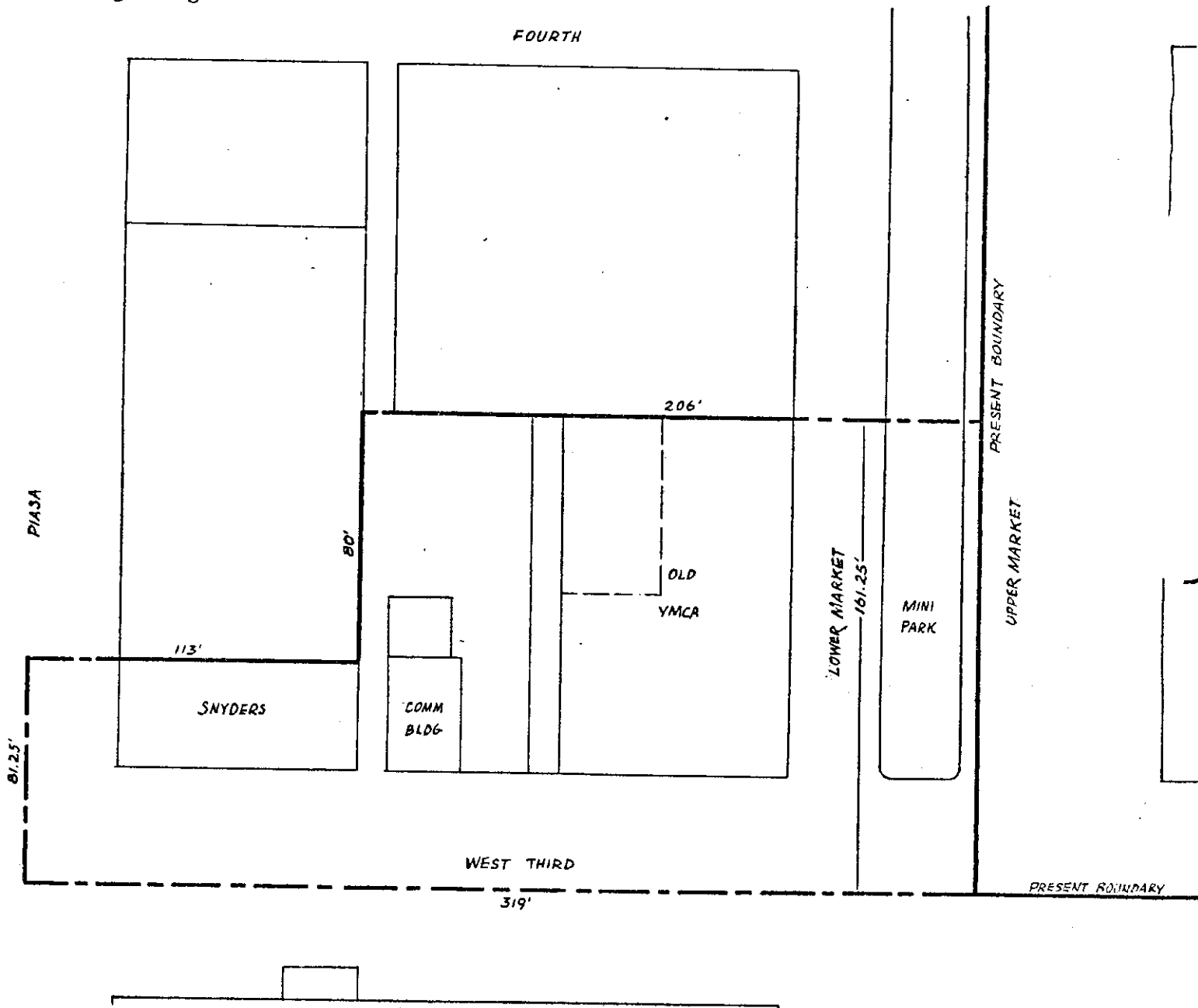
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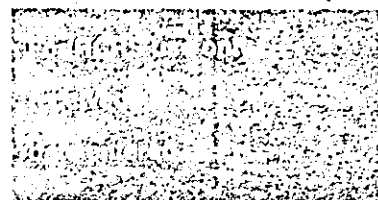


MIDDLETOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
PROPOSED BOUNDARY EXTENSION



United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Middletown Historic District Boundary Extension
Continuation sheet

Alton Illinois

Item number 7

Page 5

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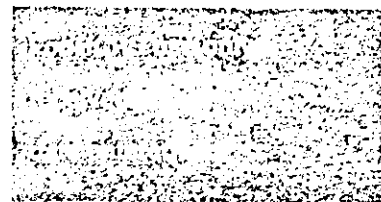
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Middletown Historic District Boundary Extension - Alton Illinois
Continuation sheet Item number 7

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Middletown Historic District Boundary Extension -- Alton Illinois
Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8

Page 14

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(3) Illinois Department of Conservation

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Form Prepared by: Ruth Means

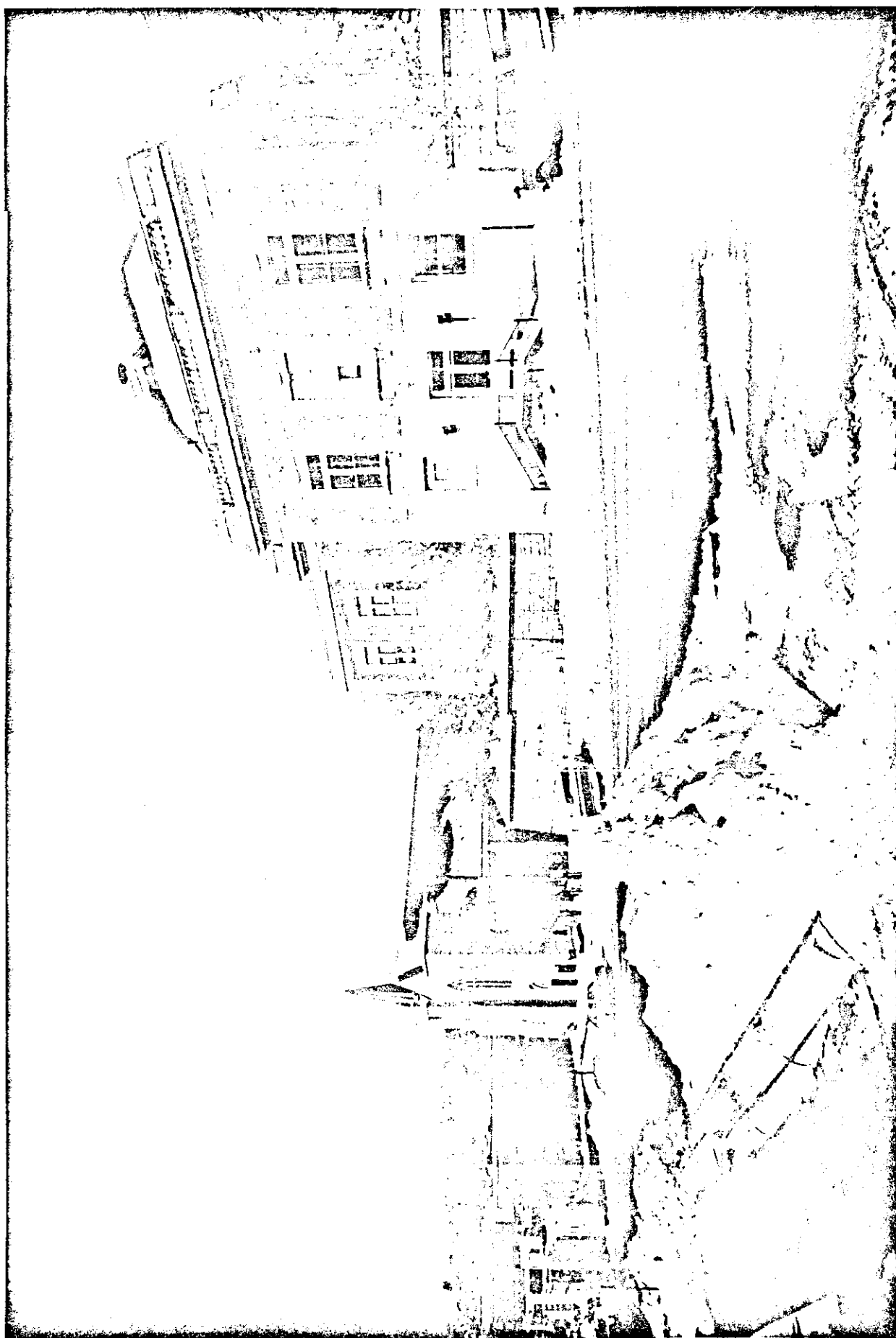
Phil Poehner

R R.2 Box 115
Alton Illinois 62002

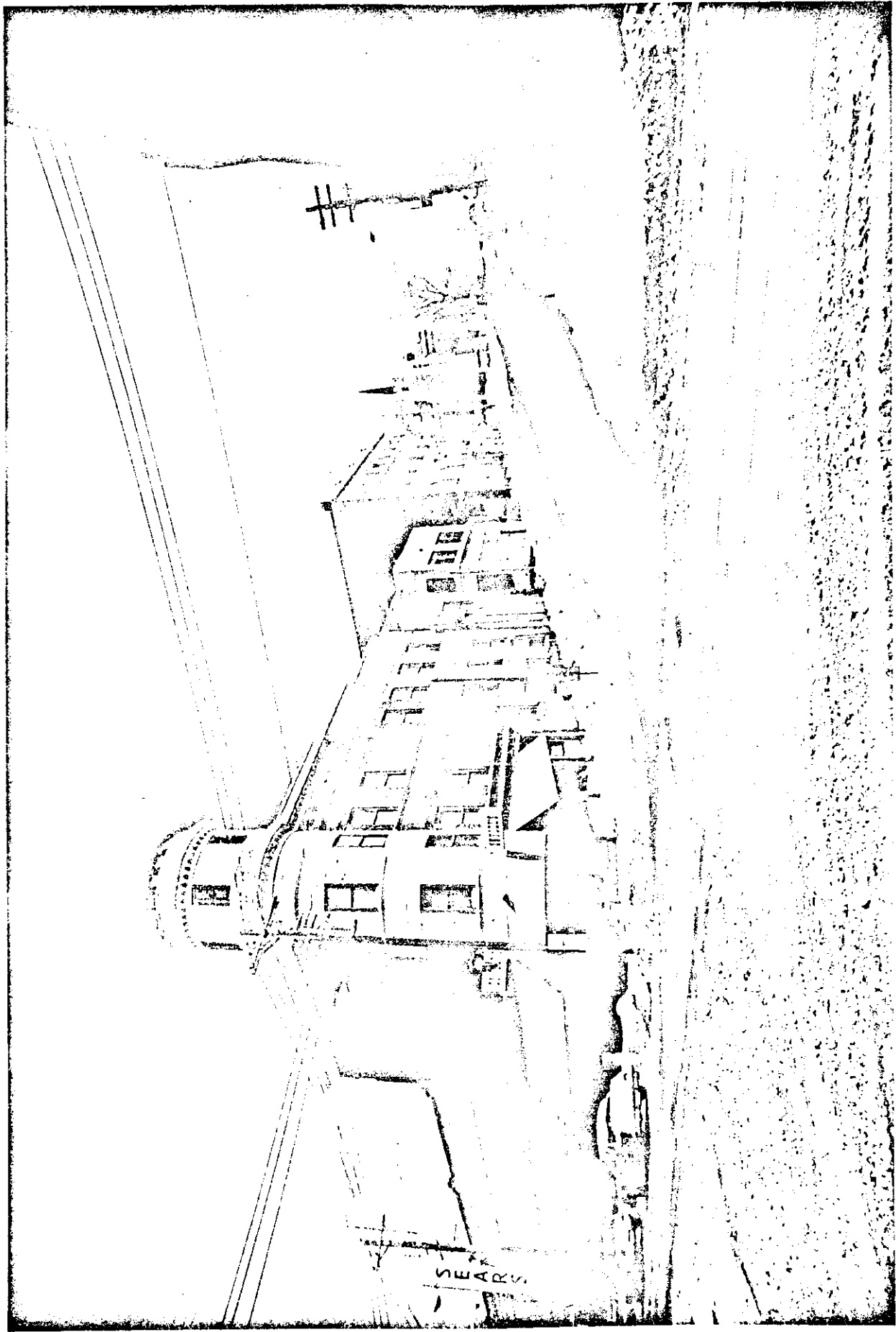
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Alton Illinois

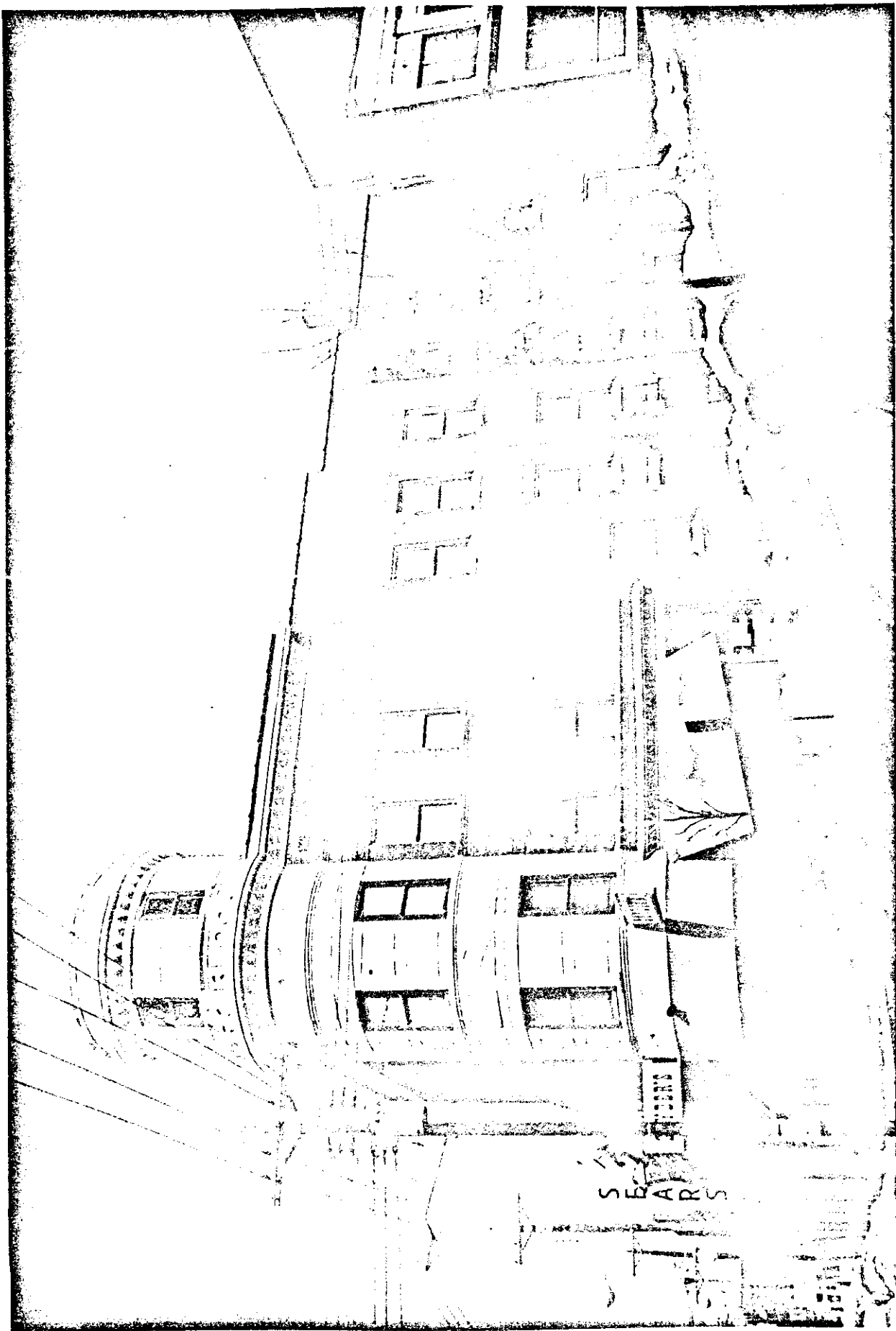
PROPOSED
EXTENSION

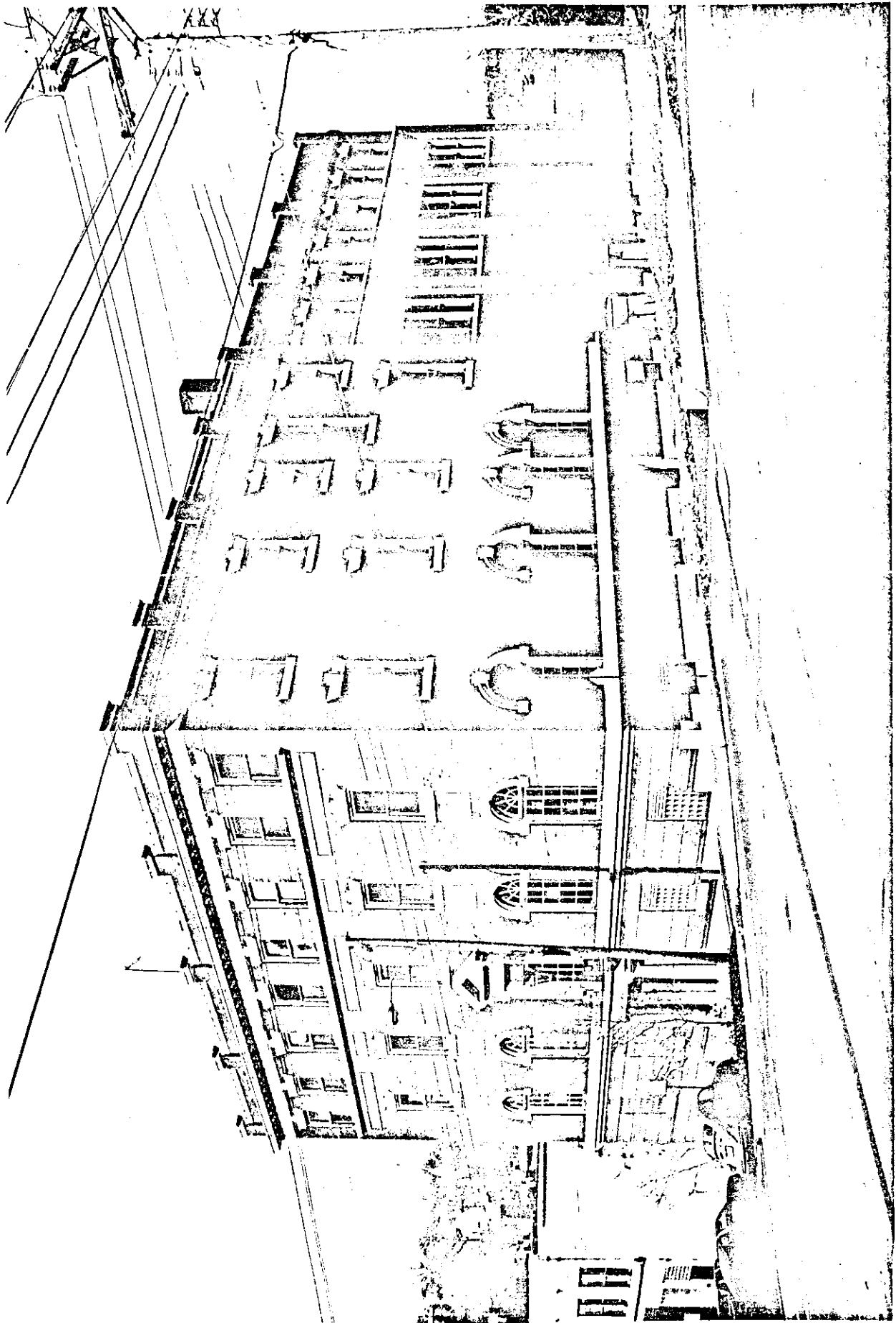
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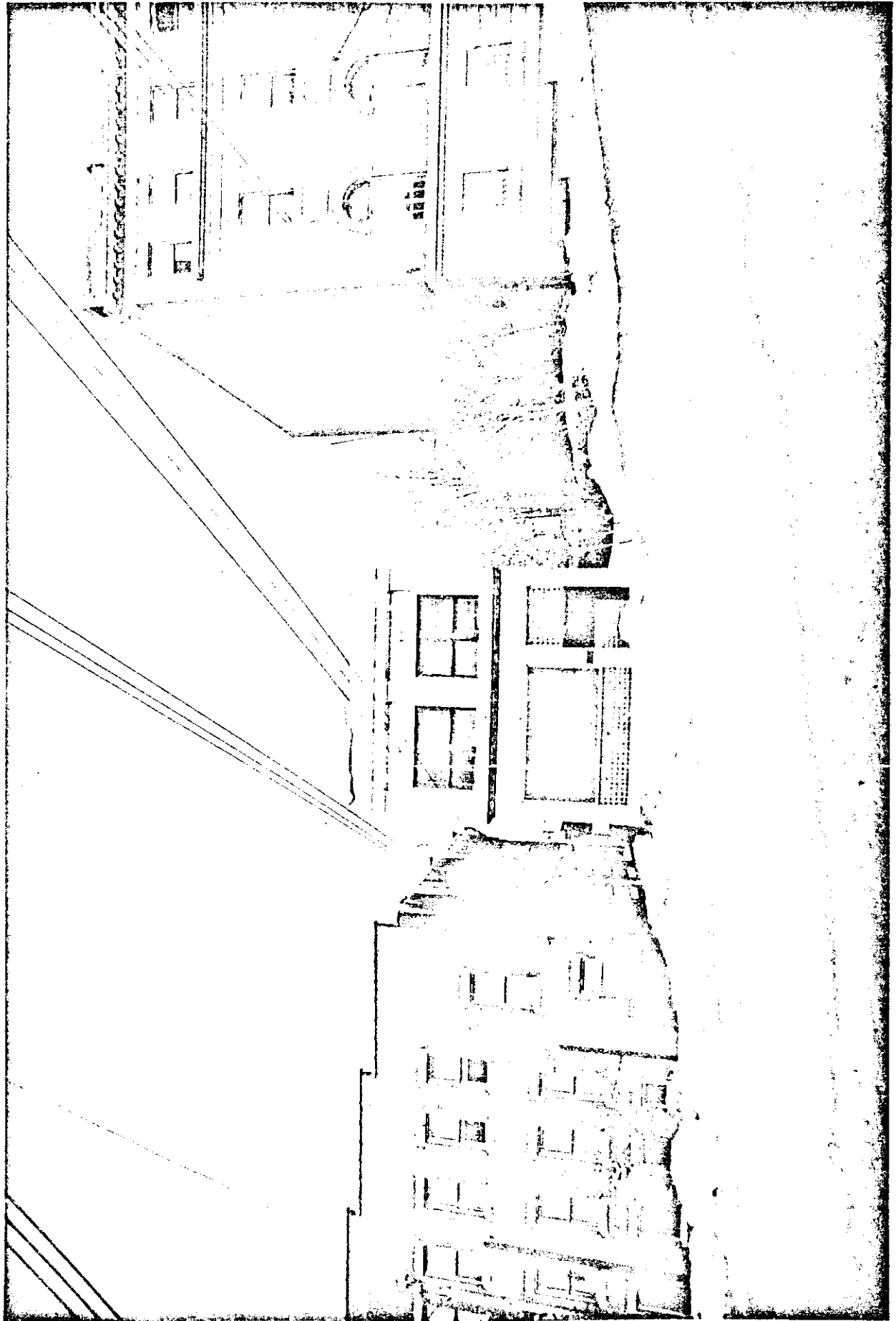


YMCA
12 W. 3rd
SNYDER'S











MIDDLE (SOUTH)
C 1/3
A E 715 200
N 111 509 880
T 6 N.
B E 145 300
N 111 509 500
T 5 N.
C E 145 100
N 111 509 880
D E 745 100
N 111 509 180
E 840
N 111 509 700
F 900
N 111 509 100
G E 714 100
N 111 509 210
H ELM RIDGE HOUSE

STATE 270
14 MI.
BETHALTO 47 MI.
CARPENTER VIA ILL 140 13 MI.