

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only

received JUL 28 1980

date entered SEP 29 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Plainfield Halfway House

and/or common Halfway House

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 503 Main Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Plainfield \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 17<sup>th</sup>

state Illinois code 012 county Will code 197

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Levi Brockway

street &amp; number 503 Main Street

city, town Plainfield \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Illinois

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Will County Courthouse

street &amp; number 14 West Jefferson Street

city, town Joliet \_\_\_\_\_ state Illinois

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Landmarks

in Will County

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date February 1974

 federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Department of Conservation, Historic Sites Division

city, town 405 E. Washington, Springfield \_\_\_\_\_ state Illinois

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The original section of the Plainfield Halfway House as it stands today is a two story ell-shaped frame house built in 1836 in the Federal style. A one story addition was made to the back of the house in 1850, utilizing the same siding, window framing, and gable roof as the original. A second one story addition was made on the west side in 1907, and a porch was added to the main entrance in 1880. (See diagrams on the Evolution of the Plainfield Halfway House).

The foundation sill is of handhewn oak beams, partially covered by cement for preservation and stability. The building framing is of oak and walnut utilizing mortise and tenon joints fastened with wood pegs. The house is sided with black walnut boards painted white, with thin corner boards.

The south facade contains the main entrance. Sidelights frame the original oak door with its crisscross panels and original iron lock. Rectangular double sash windows with 12 over 8 lights glazed with lead are symmetrically placed on the south, east, and west facades. Smaller double sash windows, varying from 6 over 6 to single pane, are located in the rear portion and west addition of the house.

The east-west portion of the ell-shaped building has a simple pedimented gable roof. The north-south portion of the ell and the 1850 addition also have a simple gable roof. The original roofing material of walnut shingles has been replaced by asphalt roofing. Exterior chimneys are located on the west and north facades. Two attic window vents are located in each of the east and west gables.

Interior trim is of black walnut painted white. The flooring is oak covered in most places by carpeting or tile. One solid oak beam joist is exposed in the dining room. (While all the other original framing members remain, they are covered by wallpaper). The first floor originally served as the tavern, dining room, and kitchen for the Inn. The existing usage includes a 27 X 11 foot living room, an adjoining 16 X 15 foot music room, and a 25 X 10 foot dining room. The original tavern floor lies beneath floor tile in the 17 X 15 foot kitchen. Adjoining the kitchen is a sun parlor, half bath, and storage room. An entrance hall contains a solid oak staircase that leads to the second floor. The ballroom/meeting room measures 27 X 16 and now serves as the master bedroom. Three additional bedrooms (sleeping rooms for the Inn) and a full bath complete the second floor plan. The attic was originally used for cheaper accommodations, but now serves as storage space. Here the original framing is exposed, and there is evidence of fireplaces at either end.

The Plainfield Halfway House, with the exception of new roofing material and the 1907 west addition, looks much the same as it did when it served as a tavern, inn, and stagecoach stop between 1836 and 1886.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**

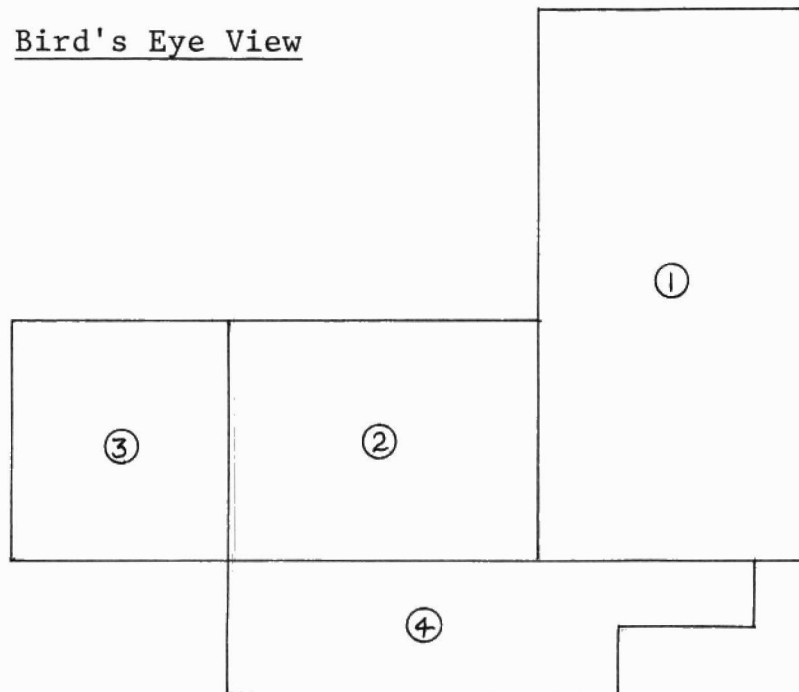
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received JUL 28 1980  
date entered SEP 29 1980

Continuation sheet Description

Item number 7

Page 2

Bird's Eye View

- (1) Built in 1836.
- (2) Built simultaneously in 1836.
- (3) Built circa 1850.
- (4) Built circa 1907.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1836-1886 **Builder/Architect** Mr. Mathews

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### SIGNIFIGANCE

The Plainfield Halfway House played an important role in the settlement and development of Plainfield and Will County. Built in 1836 as a tavern and inn, it marked the halfway point on the Chicago to Ottawa Stage Line. The building soon became a center of activity, serving as a militia headquarters, town meeting hall, social center and gathering place for the surrounding area. It was also the home of the first practicing physician in the Will County area, Dr. Erastus Wight. Still in use today as a private residence, it retains the spirit and appearance of its pioneer origins.

#### HISTORY

The property on which the present Halfway House stands was owned by Squire L.F. Arnold, Plainfield's first postmaster. On this site in 1834 he built a one story frame building to serve as a combination post office and stagecoach stop. (This building was adjacent to the present Halfway House and was used by the House's owners until the 1940's when it was torn down).

In 1836, a Mr. Mathews bought the Arnold property and built the present two story frame building to serve as a combination tavern, inn, and stagecoach stop. The name Halfway House came into use at this time, as Plainfield marked the halfway point on the Dr. Temple Stage Line between Chicago and Ottawa.

By 1837, Halfway House had been rented to Dr. Erastus Wight, the first practicing physician in the Will County area. Dr. Wight came to Illinois from Philadelphia in 1831, and in those early years his monthly circuit took him from Plainfield to Bourbonnais Grove to Chicago Heights, back through Western Springs and occasionally as far west as Rock Island. The Doctor lived at and managed the House until his death in 1845. His family continued to run Halfway House, and in 1850 it was purchased by his son, Dr. Roderick Wight.

Between 1836 and 1886, Halfway House served the community in a variety of ways. Because of its size and public access, it was used as a town meeting hall, with many Cook-Will County land grants administered there. Halfway House was an ideal place for social gatherings, with many dances and entertainments taking place in the second floor ballroom. Prior to the Civil War, it served as the militia headquarters and artillery park for the Plainfield Light Artillery, organized by Dr. Roderick Wight and Edward McCallister in 1856. Add to this the steady influx of travelers, settlers, and stages, making Halfway House the center of activity in the growing Plainfield area.

In 1886 the tavern and inn was closed, but the house was maintained as a private residence by succeeding generations of the Wight family. In 1956 it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Levi Brockway, who reside there today.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Will County Historical Society Illinois Sesquicentennial Publication,  
John Schauer, December 1967, Joliet, Illinois

Early History of Plainfield, Alice Graves Brown, October 1926, Plainfield

# 10. Geographical Data

Cont'd...

Acreeage of nominated property 1.5  
Quadrangle name PLAINFIELD, ILL

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 16 399660 41607130  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

Verbal boundary description and justification Lot 4 and the Northeasterly 5 feet of Lot 3 in O.L. Gaylord's Subdivision of part of Lot 10 of Arnold's Subdivision of part of the Southeast quarter of Section 9, Township 36 North, Range 9 of East of Third Principal Meridian

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	1.Ed W. DeMarco, Director of Parks and Recreation 2.Michael Ward, National Register Assistant		
organization	1.Plainfield Township Park District 2.Department of Conservation		date
street & number	1.P.O. Box 294 2.405 E. Washington	telephone	1.(815) 436-2200 2.(217) 782-3775
city or town	1.Plainfield 2.Springfield	state	1. Illinois 62544 2. Illinois 62706

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national     state     local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Dir., Ill. Dept of Conservation date 6/30/80

For HCRS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

W. Ray Luce date 9/29/80  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Linda Flint McClelland date 9/22/80  
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received JUL 28 1980  
date entered SEP 29 1980

Continuation sheet    Halfway House    Item number    9    Page    2

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Major Bibliographical References

Will County Recorders Office, Land Grants and Deeds

Interview, Ruth Rouse Brockway, Owner, Halfway House, April 1978

*[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]*

Property Plainfield Halfway House | 50001421  
State Ill. Will Working Number 7.28.80.1984

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 6  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

**HISTORIAN**

*Built in 1836 as a tavern & inn 1/2 way along the stage line from Chicago to Ottawa, this inn served the local community as town hall, land grants office, early post office, in the town's early development. Although no residence since 1886, the building conveys its historic associations with early Plainfield.*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

Accept  
Vinda Flint-McClelland  
9/22/80

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back \_\_\_\_\_ Entered SEP 29 1980  
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_



1. Plainfield Half-way House
2. 503 Main Street *Will co.*  
Plainfield, Illinois
3. Photographer-Donald Beahn
4. Location of negatives-Plainfield  
Park District
5. May 1978
6. Rear elevation

SEP 29 1980

JUL 28 1980 1/6

*Plainfield  
Halfway House*



1. Plainfield Half-way House
2. 503 Main Street  
Plainfield, Illinois *Will Co.*
3. Photographer-Donald Beahn
4. Location of negatives-Plainfield  
Park District
5. MAY 1978
6. Side view

SEP 29 1980

JUL 28 1980

2/6



1. Plainfield Halfway-House
2. 503 Main Street  
Plainfield, Illinois *Will co.*
3. Photographer-Donald Beahn
4. Location of Negatives-Plainfield  
Park District
5. May 1978 *3/6*
6. Side view

SEP 29 1980

JUL 28 1980



1. Plainfield Half-way House
2. 503 Main Street *Willco*
3. Plainfield, Illinois
4. Photographer-Donald Beahn
4. Location of negatives-Plainfield Park District
5. May 1978
6. Rear view

SEP 29 1980

JUL 28 1980  
4/6



SEP 29 1980

1. Plainfield Half-way House
2. 503 Main Street  
Plainfield, Illinois
3. Photographer-Donald Beahn
4. Location of negatives-Plainfield  
Park District
5. May 1978
6. Side and Front elevation

SEP 28 1980  
willco.

5/6



1. Plainfield Half-way House
2. 503 Main Street  
Plainfield, Illinois *Will co.*
3. Photographer-Donald Beahn
4. Location of negatives-Plainfield  
Park District
5. May 1978
6. Front elevation

SEP 29 1980

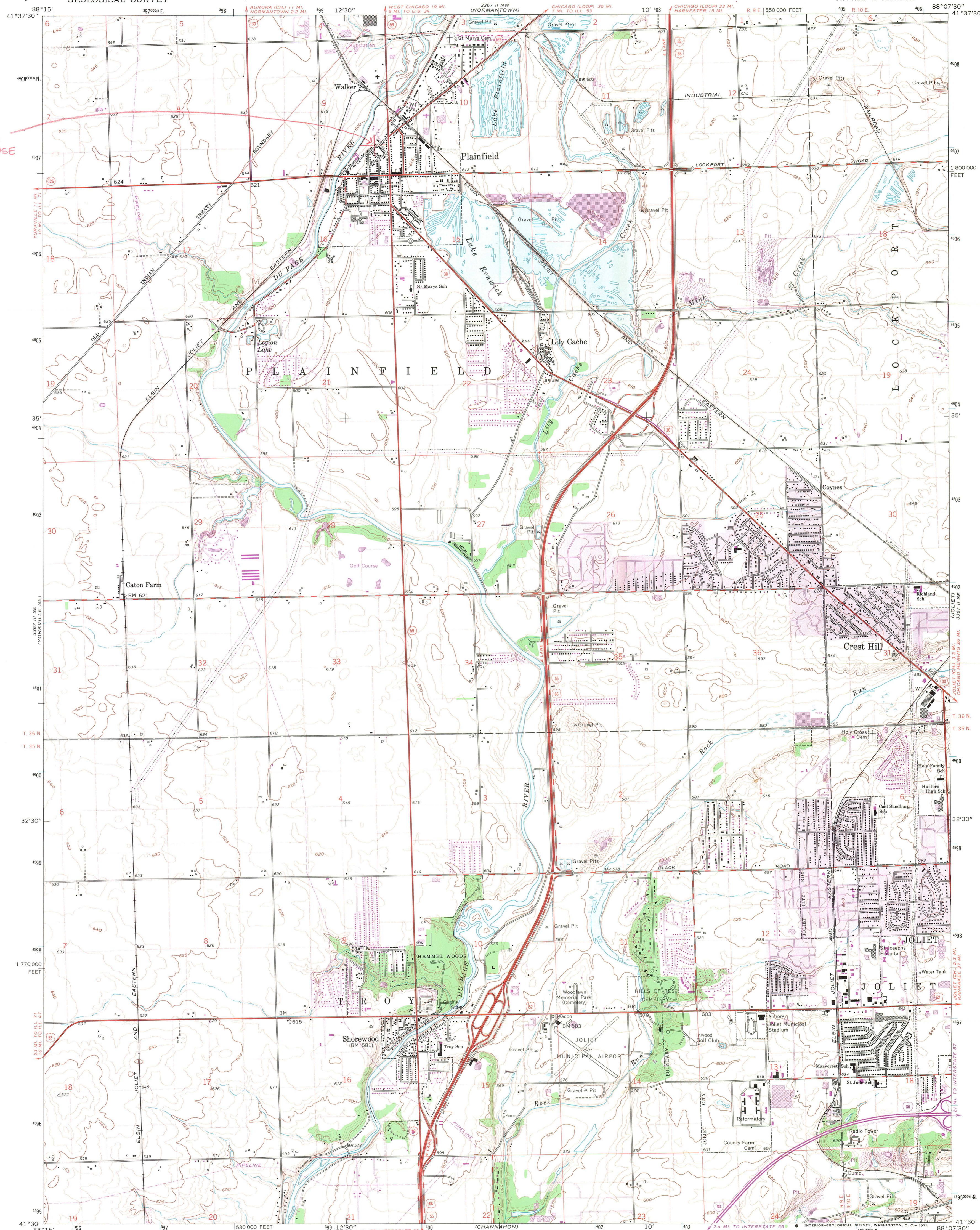
JUL 28 1980

6/6

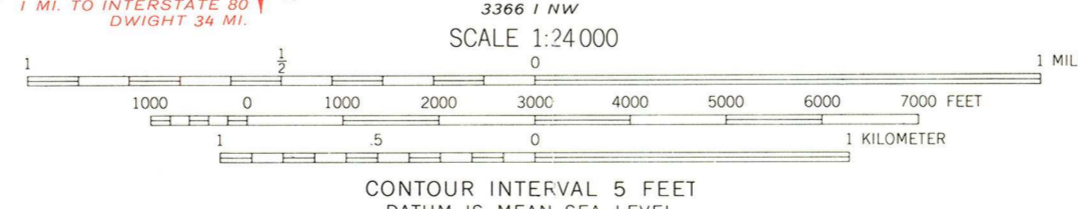
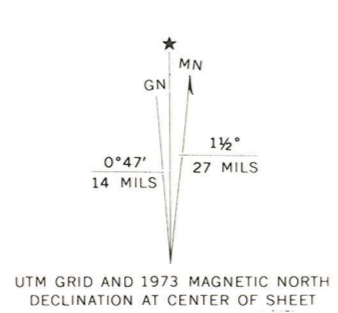
*Donald Beahn  
Plainfield, Illinois*

PLAINFIELD  
HALFWAY HOUSE  
ZONE 16  
E 399 660  
N 4607 130

PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT  
P. O. BOX 294  
PLAINFIELD, ILL. 60544



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1952. Topography by planimetric surveys 1954. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1962  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Illinois coordinate system, east zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1973. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242 AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

PLAINFIELD, ILL.  
SW/4 JOLIET 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4130—W8807.5/7.5  
1962  
PHOTOREVISED 1973  
AMS 3367 II SW—SERIES V865



SEP 29 1960



# VILLAGE OF PLAINFIELD

1400 DIVISION ST. - P.O. BOX 98 - PLAINFIELD, IL 60544

PHONE 815-436-7093

June 3, 1980

RICHARD J. SELFRIDGE  
PRESIDENT

HELEN B. LEIDIG  
CLERK

VILLAGE TRUSTEES

GEORGE ANSLEY

LORIN ROBINSON

SHIRLEY YATES

JAMES KING

JOHN D'ARCY

DONALD RIFE

Mr. Jeffrey S. Flemming  
Illinois Department of Conservation  
Division of Historic Sites  
405 East Washington Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Mr. Flemming:

It is very exciting that the Halfway House is being considered for the honor of inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places later this month. The property and structure are very valuable and worthy of the nomination. The protection afforded by the listing will insure that this community landmark will be available for the benefit of future generations.

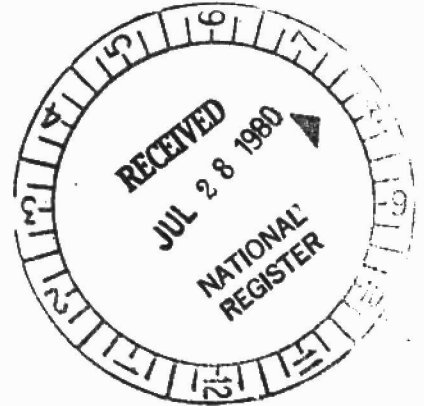
As the planner of the Village, I have been involved in preservation efforts, however, on a limited basis due to the occupancy of my time on other matters. The Village Board of Trustees recently secured the services of a University of Illinois architecture student intern for the summer who will work exclusively on historic preservation. This commitment of the local government will aid those civic groups involved in the restoration and preservation efforts now underway and hopefully, more work of this type will be initiated as a result.

The designation of the Halfway House as a Historic place is most important and your serious consideration is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Ann G. Hintze  
Village Planner

AGH/js





# VILLAGE OF PLAINFIELD

1400 DIVISION ST. - P.O. BOX 98 - PLAINFIELD, IL 60544

PHONE 815-436-7093

June 3, 1980



RICHARD J. SELFRIDGE  
PRESIDENT

HELEN B. LEIDIG  
CLERK

VILLAGE TRUSTEES

GEORGE ANSLEY

LORIN ROBINSON

SHIRLEY YATES

JAMES KING

JOHN D'ARCY

DONALD RIFE

Mr. David Kenney  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
c/o Jeffrey S. Flemming  
Illinois Department of Conservation  
Division of Historic Sites  
405 E. Washington St.  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Re: Halfway House, Plainfield, Illinois

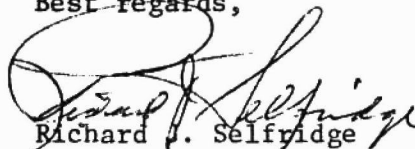
Dear Mr. Flemming:

The Board of Trustees and I are very pleased that the Halfway House in Plainfield is being considered for listing on the National Register of Historic Places by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council. We recognize the importance of this listing and the benefits to be derived therefrom in addition to the recognition that will be obtained.

Plainfield is lucky to have so many of the old structures intact and in sound structural condition. Interest in preservation is becoming more predominant and we hope that other structures will be restored and perhaps nominated for registration as well. The preservation of our heritage is a primary goal of the Village administration and we support the efforts of all groups and individuals involved with restoration efforts.

We appreciate the consideration that you are about to give to one of the most important landmarks in Plainfield and we encourage you to register this Halfway House on the National Register of Historic Places due to its intrinsic value and importance to the community.

Best regards,

  
Richard J. Selfridge  
Village President

RJS:AH:sy

Mrs. Roger M. Bartz  
413 Newkirk Drive  
Plainfield, Illinois 60544

June 3, 1980

Dear Sir,

The group that I represent, the Plainfield Garden Club, is extremely interested in having our own "Hafslund House" be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Plainfield, Illinois, is so involved in history, that the naming of Hafslund House would be the high light of all our events.

Your consideration and interest will be greatly appreciated.

Roger M. Bartz,  
Pres, Plainfield Garden Club





## Plainfield Commerce Association, Incorporated

Progress Character Action

Plainfield, Illinois 60544

(815) 436-2912 or (815) 436-2841

*President*

Vito Sebastiano

*1st V.P.*

Walter Sharp

*2nd V.P.*

Jack Stiteley

*Secretary*

John Smith

*Treasurer*

Roger Russell

*Directors*

Mary Alice Lambert

Wally Lance

Roger Russell

Vito Sebastiano

Walter Sharp

John Smith

John Speckman

Jack Stiteley

Charles Zimmerman

June 4, 1980

David Kenny, Preservation Officer  
c/o Jeffery S. Flemming  
Illinois Department of Conservation  
Division of Historic Sites  
405 East Washington Street  
Springfield, IL 62706

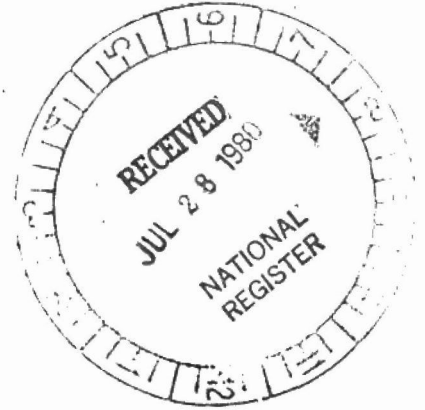
Dear Mr. Kenny:

The Board of Directors of the Plainfield Commerce Association, Incorporated would like to recommend that the property, "Half-Way House", located at 503 Main Street in Plainfield, Illinois, be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council.

Sincerely,

PCA Board Of Directors  
Vito Sebastiano  
President

VS/wlk





**HARRY D. LEINENWEBER**

MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

42ND DISTRICT

81 NORTH CHICAGO STREET, BOX 879  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60434  
815/726-6257

2018 STRATTON BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706  
217/782-8026

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

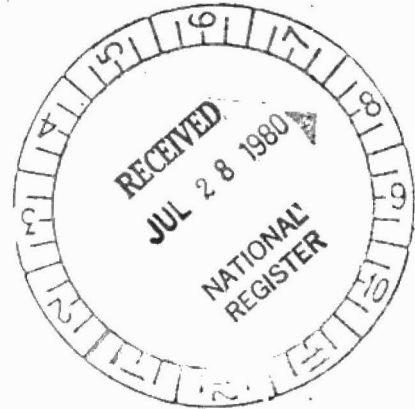
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MINORITY SPOKESMAN

JUDICIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
COMMISSION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE UNIFORMITY OF LEGISLATION IN THE UNITED STATES

June 11, 1980

State Historic Preservation  
Officer David Kenney  
c/o Jeffrey S. Flemming  
Illinois Department of Conservation  
Division of Historic Sites  
405 East Washington Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

RE: Plainfield House  
503 Main Street  
Plainfield, Illinois



Dear Sirs:

This is in regard to the "Halfway House" located in Plainfield Township which is currently being considered for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is my sincere hope that this historic site be nominated to the National Register.

The "Halfway House" was built in 1834 of walnut and other woods from the groves of the area of Plainfield and sawed at a local mill. The building served as an early post office, land grants office and over night stopping point for the stage coach lines running from Chicago to Ottawa. It also served as the residence of Dr. E. G. Wight, a circuit physician and his decendants. It is the only building still standing in Plainfield Township with little or no change and in good repair.

Your consideration and attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

HARRY D. LEINENWEBER

HDL:ka

cc: Ione Mueller

GEORGE M. O'BRIEN  
17TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

LABOR-HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
WELFARE

STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE,  
AND JUDICIARY  
RANKING MEMBER

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

Washington, D.C. 20515

June 12, 1980

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2439 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.  
(202) 225-3635

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
101 NORTH JOLIET STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60431  
(815) 740-2040

The Honorable David Kenney  
Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer  
c/o Jeffrey S. Flemming  
Illinois Department of Conservation  
Division of Historic Sites  
405 East Washington Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62706



Dear Mr. Kenney:

I understand that you have been asked, once again, to consider nomination of the Halfway House in Plainfield for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. You recall my previous interest in this matter and that the nomination was deferred on June 16, 1978.

Ione Mueller, President of the Plainfield Historical Society as well as the Plainfield Park District, Village Board of Trustees, Village Planner and others of the community are anxious that this site be accepted on the National Register.

The "Halfway House" was built in 1834 of walnut and other woods from the groves of the rural area of Plainfield, and sawed at the Walker Saw Mill. The building served as an early post office, land grants office and the over night stopping point for the stage coach lines running from Chicago to Ottawa, which followed the old "High Prairie Trail" used by the Indians. The home also served as the residence of Dr. E.G. Wight, a very early circuit doctor and his descendants. It is the only building still standing in Plainfield Township with little or no change in good repair, reflecting back to that important era.

I would like to express my strong support for this application. The community's plans to preserve this site for posterity are well intended. I would appreciate your advising me of any developments with this application.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George M. O'Brien".

George M. O'Brien  
Member of Congress

GMO:dmh

McCLESTER-NIMMONS VILLAGE OF  
PLAINFIELD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

---

705 Illinois Street  
Plainfield, Illinois 60544

June 13, 1980

State Preservation Officer David Kenney  
C/O Jeffrey S. Flemming  
Illinois Department of Conservation  
Division of Historic Sites  
405 East Washington Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62706



Dear Mr. Kenney:

As librarian of this community's public library, I am responsible for the printed historical records of the area. This community is one with a record of high local interest in its beginnings. Here at the library we have many published and unpublished accounts of the history not only of Plainfield but of the surrounding area. It would be impossible to read any one of these accounts without reference to Halfway House. Our historical collection is used by persons with a general interest in the area as well as by professional writers.

I and my staff at the library feel that while it is important to safeguard the printed materials of our past, it is equally important to safeguard the actual buildings and places of the past.

We urge you to work toward the nomination of Halfway House to the National Register of Historic Places.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lois Krezminski".

Mrs. Lois Krezminski  
Librarian

(LK)

# JACK DAVIS

*Mark 3*

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:  
2074 STRATTON BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706  
TELEPHONE: 217/782-7577

HOME OFFICE:  
DIXIE HIGHWAY  
BEECHER, ILLINOIS 60401  
TELEPHONE: 312/946-2846



COMMITTEES:  
EXECUTIVE  
APPROPRIATIONS I  
ECONOMIC & FISCAL  
COMMISSION

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*Illinois House of Representatives - 42nd District*

June 17, 1980



State Historic Preservation Officer David Kenney  
c/o Jeffrey S. Flemming  
Illinois Department of Conservation, Div. of Historic Sites  
405 East Washington St.  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Mr. Kenney:

I just wanted to drop you a line regarding the "Halfway House" or Plainfield House" located at 503 Main Street, Plainfield, Illinois, which will be considered for listing on the National Register of Historic Places by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council at Vandalia, Illinois on Friday, June 20, 1980.

I have received many letters from my constituents in this area who are anxious that this historic site be accepted on the National Register. The "Halfway House" was built in 1834 of walnut and other woods from the groves of the rural area of Plainfield, and sawed at a local saw mill. The building served as an early post office, land grants office and the overnight stopping point for the stage coach lines running from Chicago to Ottawa, which followed the old "High Prairie Trail" used by the Indians. The home also served as the residence of Dr. E. G. Wight, a very early circuit physician and his descendants. It is the only building still standing in Plainfield Township with little or no change and in good repair, reflecting back to that era in time.

I would appreciate your consideration in placing this landmark in the National Register. In this day and age of fast living, modern times, I feel we need to preserve these landmarks to remind us of how and where we came from to encourage pride and loyalty to this great country of ours. I feel preservation and registration of "Plainfield House" will help to accomplish this for the people of my district.

Thank you for your consideration.

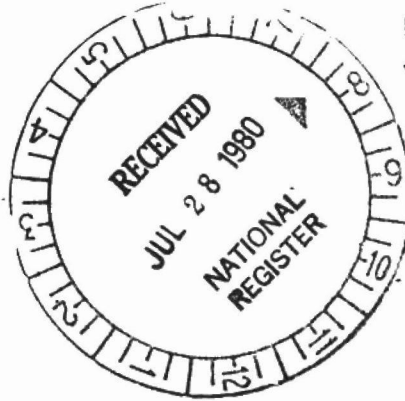
Sincerely,

Jack D. Davis

jdd/al

42ND DISTRICT INCLUDES WILL COUNTY TOWNSHIPS OF: CRETE, WASHINGTON, WILL, MONEE, PEOTONE, GREEN GARDEN, FRANKFORT, NEW LENOX, LOCKPORT, DUPAGE, PLAINFIELD, JACKSON, WILTON, HOMER, WHEATLAND, MANHATTAN, AND JOLIET PCTS. 1 - 25 AND 58 - 92.

Plainfield, Illinois  
June 20, 1980



Michael Ward  
Division of Historic Sites  
405 East Washington St.  
Springfield, Il. 62706

Dear Mr. Ward,

The Plainfield Historical Society would like to ask that the Historical Sites Advisory Council give serious consideration in favor of placing the "Halfway House" which is located at 503 Main St., Plainfield, Illinois on the National Register, when it meets, Friday June 20, 1980.

We feel that this nearly 150 year structure should rightfully be given this recognition. It has served as a landmark for the community as well as the county and state for many years. It has been revered and visited by the local school children and should be preserved for the future generations. "Halfway House" has many historic merits, including being one of the first post offices, land grants office, a stagecoach inn and the residence of an early circuit physician, Dr. E. G. Wight, and his descendants. This house also has many architectural values not to be duplicated anywhere else in the north eastern part of the state. It still is intact with the original walnut siding which grew in the groves in rural Plainfield and was milled at a local saw mill. The hardware is the original and the windows are of leaded glass. It is all in remarkable condition and very well preserved.

It is the hope of the Plainfield Historical Society and the community as a whole that this site, which has contributed so much to the early history of the Plainfield and Will County area will be placed on the National Register.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ione Mueller".

Ione Mueller, President  
Plainfield Historical Society  
Box 291  
Plainfield, Illinois 60544

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered SEP 29 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Plainfield Halfway House	Plainfield Will County
Shriver Farmstead	Viriden vicinity Macoupin County
Freeman, Clarkson W., House	Springfield Sangamon County
Evanston Lakeshore Historic District	Evanston Cook County
Fort Sheridan Historic District	Highland Park vicinity Lake County

Also Notified

Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson	
Honorable Charles H. Percy	State Historic Preservation Officer
Honorable George M. O'Brien	Dr. David Kenney
Honorable Paul Findley	Director, Department of Conservation
Honorable Abner J. Mikva	602 State Office Building
Honorable Philip M. Crane	400 South Spring Street
Mr. Francis B. Roche, DOD	Springfield, Illinois 62706
Mr. Leo H. Price, Department of the Army	

NR Byers/js 10/17/80

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