

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

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

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

For NPS use only
received **JUL 29 1985**
date entered **SEP 11 1985**

1. Name

historic Effingham County Courthouse

and or common

2. Location

street & number 110 East Jefferson not for publication

city, town Effingham vicinity of

state Illinois code 012 county Effingham code 049

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 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 Effingham County

street & number 110 East Jefferson

city, town Effingham vicinity of state Illinois 62401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number 122 East Washington

city, town Effingham state Illinois 62401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 1) Inventory of Historic Landmarks in Effingham County: Interim Report
2) Inventory of Architecture before has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1) April 1973 World War II in Effingham County & Fayette
2) October 1973 Countys Interim Report federal state county local

depository for survey records Illinois Department of Conservation

city, town 405 East Washington state Illinois
Springfield, IL

7. 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 present Effingham County Courthouse is the fourth courthouse in the county. It is the main building located in section twenty of Douglas township. It is bordered by Washington street on the north, Jefferson street on the south, Third street on the east, and Fourth street on the west. The building measures 70 feet wide, 82 feet long and 44 feet high. It is two stories high with an attic and a basement. The attic has been converted to office and storage space. The basement has offices, restrooms and the boiler room. Building materials include brick, stone and wood. The walls are 18 inches thick. There are stone quoins at each corner, as well as stone window headers with keystones above each window. It has a concave Mansard roof with dormers. The roof had asphalt shingles which were painted green. They were recently replaced with wooden shakes. The original roof covering was probably multi-colored slate, based on old photographs. The roofline is corbeled.

The north and south ends of the courthouse have porches with both round, fluted columns and square, flat columns, as well as flat, half-columns against the building itself. The porches have flat roofs with corbels along the rooflines.

The windows are tall, uniform in size on both floors and have stone arched window headers. They are paired on the north and south ends with a single window above each porch. The east and west sides have single windows. All of the windows are of a four-over-four configuration. There is a small porch on the east side of the southeast corner of the building. It was created when an entrance for disabled persons was built about 1976. The bottom half of a window to accommodate the porch and door. The elevator in this area was put in at the same time. The porch has flat columns with Doric capitals similar to those on the other porches. The roofline is also corbeled. On the east side of the northeast corner a window has been eliminated, but the stone window header has been retained. On the north side of the northeast corner, two non-arched modern windows have replaced two arched windows. Again, the window headers were left for symmetry, and the arched portion was bricked in. This window alteration was done to accommodate the safe placed in this corner of the Circuit Clerk's office. The dormer windows have similar arched windows in wood rather than stone. The dormer windows are oval-shaped with a two-over-two configuration.

The doors on the north and south ends, as well as the new one under the corner porch, are paneled with two long, vertical panes of glass on each side. The north and south doors are double doors and appear to be the original ones. There are arched fanlights above the double doors.

There is a single brick chimney in the northwest quadrant of the building. The other three quadrants had chimneys at one time, but they were eliminated when the present boiler system was installed.

Decorative elements include stone quoins at the corners of the building and vertically above the north and south porches. The roofline has decorative corbels. The open belvedere was enclosed into a bell tower in 1913. The

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

belvedere had a convex Mansard roof with ornamental clocks. Real clocks were installed when the new bell tower was built. The bell tower is two-tiered with a hip roof. The first tier is corbeled and has arched louvres on each side. The corbeled first tier looks much like the roofline of the belvedere. The hip roof is not consistent with the Mansard style.

The interior of the courthouse has been modernized, but certain architectural features have been retained, such as wainscoting and transoms. In 1935 the Federal Works Progress Administration project painted the interior and trim of the exterior, installed lavatories, relaid floors with oak flooring, equipped the treasurer's office with fixtures, remodeled stairways, plastered walls, and laid a cement floor in the basement. Most of the buildings doors have been replaced with new, paneled oak doors. Carpeting and tile now cover the floors. The south stairway was replaced in the 1976 remodeling project. The replacement is very similar to the one that was removed. The north stairway was changed from a spiral stairway to the current u-shaped one about 1980.

The main courtroom was remodeled in 1967. At that time the walls were paneled with walnut paneling and the ceiling was lowered, covering up the domed ceiling. Part of the original courtroom was divided to make a small 300 square ft. second courtroom, a judges' chambers, and a room for the secretary of the court. All of the original lighting fixtures have been replaced with fluorescent lighting throughout the whole building. The county board room looks like a modern office.

There are two other structures located on the courthouse grounds. One is a bandstand located in the northwest corner of the block. According to Robert Luchtefeld, a local historian of Effingham, it was probably built sometime in the 1930's. There is a small, one-room structure on the west side of the Courthouse. It was used as Santa's house at Christmas time. A memorial canon, dedicated in 1910 is located on the southwest corner. It commemorates Thomas Howard, Earl of Effingham, who resigned his commission as Deputy marshall of King George III of England rather than draw his sword against the American Colonies in their struggle for independence. A descendent of his, another Lord Effingham, visited Effingham during the Bicentennial Celebration. Effingham County and the city of Effingham are named after his ancestor. An employee's parking lot is located on the east side of the Court house.

The Effingham County Courthouse is a very stately, impressive building located on a nicely landscaped courthouse square. The height of the courthouse is second only to St. Anthony Catholic Church located two blocks directly north of the courthouse. One can see the bell tower for several blocks from any direction. When seen close-up, the courthouse is massive and imposing. Its overall exterior condition appears to be quite good, except for some deterioration of the ends of the stone window headers. The building's interior has been remodeled over the years to suit the changing needs of county agencies and officials.

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The Effingham County Courthouse is the only contributing building nominated within this form.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1870-71 **Builder/Architect** William Brown of St. Louis, architect
W. E. Grey, Contractor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Effingham County Courthouse satisfies criterion C of the National Register as a prime example of the Second Empire style in Effingham County. The courthouse also satisfies criterion A because it has been the focal point of the entire county's public business since 1871.

The first two courthouses in Effingham county were located in Ewington, four miles west of Effingham. In 1860 the county seat was moved to Effingham. The first courthouse in Effingham was a brick structure, two stores high with a graduated cupola. It was destroyed by fire on March 17, 1869. Several subsequent meetings of the county board about a new courthouse yielded no results. A committee of supervisors inspected the Douglas County Courthouse on April 13, 1870. The committee reported to the board on April 14. On April 15, the plans submitted by William Brown, the architect from St. Louis, were adopted by the board. The building contract was awarded to W.E. Grey for \$28,268. That amount was increased by \$1,385 when stone window headers and quoins were added to the specifications.

There are three other Second Empire buildings in Effingham County, all of them houses located in Effingham. The courthouse is decidedly the fanciest of any of the county's Second Empire buildings. A house located at 512 East Jefferson is a brick, stone and wood building with the Mansard roof. The second floor windows have stone window headers with keystones. The dormers are arched and the roofline is corbeled. The classic Second Empire projecting pavilions are not present. It follows a three-stage recessed plan. Another Second Empire house located at 206 Crawford is a frame building with plain dormers and non-arched windows. The porch does have gingerbread. A third brick house located 300 East Washington is quite plain in contrast to the courthouse. The windows are very slightly arched and very little ornamentation. There is a commercial building located across the street from the courthouse with arched windows on the upper floors. These are quite similar to those of the courthouse. (Contacts with the Missouri State Historical Society and the St. Louis Public Library yielded no information about William Brown, the architect).

The Effingham County courthouse is central to the business affairs of Effingham County. It houses, or has housed, most of the county officials and their records. It is also home for the Effingham Circuit Court. In 1875 the Effingham County courthouse was the site of the trial of Nathan Burgess on a change of venue from the Fayette Circuit Court. Burgess was accused of killing Joseph Robbins, a watchman on the Vandalia bridge east of Vandalia. The trial concluded with the conviction of Burgess and his subsequent execution on the courthouse lawn on June 18, 1875. The trial of Nathan Burgess was reported in The Democrat, a local Effingham newspaper, from beginning to end. The actual hanging on June 18, 1875, was fully described,

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Fiftieth Anniversary Souvenir of Effingham, IL 1853-1903, The Effingham Democrat Newspaper, May 12, 1903
2. Inventory of the County Archives of Illinois, Effingham County No. 25, Illinois Historical Records Survey, Chicago, 1940 (WPA project)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____ .8125 acres _____

Quadrangle name Effingham South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 1 6 | 3 6 6 7 5 0 | 4 4 3 1 2 2 0
Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Effingham County Courthouse is located on the lot known as the Courthouse Square. There is no lot number assigned to this lot, according to official records. The justification for this is that the lot comprises the courthouse square. It is located in section 20 of Douglas township and measures 214.5' x 165'.
List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Illinois code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles Philip Lewis

organization Historical Administration Project
for Eastern Illinois University

date April 4, 1985

street & number 608 W. Fayette

telephone 217/342-6280

city or town Effingham

state Illinois 62401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 Deputy William G. Farnan

date 6/19/85

For NPS use only

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

Beth Grosvener
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/11/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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including the appearance of the body at various time intervals. When the body was removed from the scaffold and placed in a seated position, it was carried through the streets for the excited crowd of thousands (according to the newspaper account) to see. They were "allowed to see the remains of a man who paid the severest penalty of the law." Burgess had maintained his innocence to the very end.

The news article went on to state that the execution was almost perfectly with no excitement occurring to shock those present. The reporter stated, "Although the act is horrible to contemplate, all the officers who were required to do this did their duty with the accuracy and firmness which characterize men of capacity and courage." In the county histories of 1903, 1910 and 1968 there were reports of other murders and convictions. There was, however, never another execution of a convicted murderer in Effingham County. Although there was never an organized movement to abolish capital punishment in Effingham county, the hanging of Nathan Burgess evidently remained in the minds of local residents. Juries and judges never again imposed the death penalty in trials held in the county.

The courthouse has also been the center of community activities in addition to its role as the county's center of government. The Courthouse was central in the celebration of Illinois' centennial in 1918. There was a rally held at the courthouse and, according to Robert Luchtefeld, a local historian, William Jennings Bryan was one of the noted speakers. Bryan, of course was born in nearby Salem, Illinois, and was a stunning orator and candidate for the President of the United States several times.

Robert Overbeck, Clerk of the Circuit Court in Effingham, said the courthouse served as a training site for Civil Defense volunteers during World War II. The volunteers would go to the roof and try to identify airplanes from that vantage point.

There is an organization in Effingham known as the Old Settlers Reunion. It uses the courthouse as the center of its yearly festivities. Elderly residents of the community are honored, particularly if their ancestors were involved in the settling of Effingham county. This calls to mind not only local history, but the westward migration of our ancestors into the area known as the Northwest Territory.

In the early 1970's an attempt was made by a group of local businessmen to have a new courthouse built in Effingham county. Local individuals successfully thwarted those efforts, thus indicating the pride of many county residents in local history and interest in historic preservation of the county's most significant public building.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Ref #
85002304

Effingham County Courthouse
Effingham County
ILLINOIS

Substantive Review

JUL 29 1985

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-4-86

Date Due: 8/29/85 - 9/12/85

Action: ACCEPT 9-11-85

_____ RETURN _____

_____ REJECT _____

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. 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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Effingham County Courthouse
Phil Lewis
March 6, 1985
Location of neg. in Lewis home
View of south facade of courthouse



Effingham County Courthouse
Phil Lewis
March 6, 1985
Location of Neg. In Lewis home
View of Main Courtroom, second floor



Effingham County Courthouse
Phil Lewis
March 6, 1985
Location of Neg. in Lewis home
View of east facade of Courthouse

Effingham County
Courthouse
E 366750
N 4431220
16366770/4331195

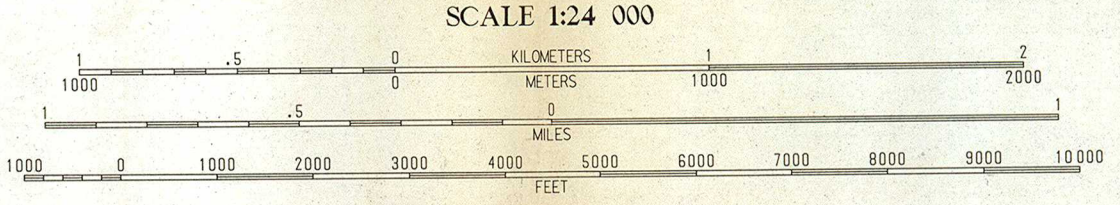


PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
CONTROL BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN 1981
FIELD CHECKED 1983 MAP EDITED 1985
PROJECTION UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR
GRID 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR
GRID 1000-FOOT STATE GRID TICS ILLINOIS EAST ZONE
UTM GRID DECLINATION 0°59' WEST
1984 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION 1°50' EAST
VERTICAL DATUM NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
HORIZONTAL DATUM 1983 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM

To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983,
move the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks
(2 meters south and 2 meters east)

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any
Federal and State Reservations shown on this map.
No distinction made between houses, barns, and other buildings.
Gray tint indicates areas in which selected buildings are shown

PROVISIONAL MAP
Produced from original
manuscript drawings. Infor-
mation shown as of date of
photography.



SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 15 METERS
CONTROL AND FIELD ESTABLISHED ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ILLINOIS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS 61820

CONTOURS AND ELEVATIONS IN METERS
ROAD LEGEND

Improved Road
Unimproved Road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

EFFINGHAM SOUTH, ILLINOIS
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1985

39088-A5-TM-024

EFFINGHAM SE, IL.
BROWN LETTERING

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

ADJOINING QUADRANGLE NAMES

1 Shumway
2 Effingham North
3 Teutopolis
4 Alton East
5 Dieterich
6 Effingham
7 Eberle

UTM 24K

DRAINAGE

AFC

Illinois



Department of Conservation

life and land together

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62701-1787
CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NORTH LASALLE 60601-3184

June 21, 1985

Beth Grosvenor
National Register Program
National Register Services
Department of the Interior
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Beth:

Please find enclosed the following National Register Nomination Forms:

- Swedish American Telephone Co. Building
- Municipal Courts Building
- The Welling-Everly Horse Barn
- The Hoopes-Cunningham Mansion
- The Miner's Institute Building
- Perkins, Dwight House
- ✓ Effingham County Courthouse
- Lincoln School, Public School Number 04
- LaSalle City Building

All the USGS maps and photos are also enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kate Refine".

Kate Refine

JUL 29 1985