

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

AUG 01 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1775 Vista Walk not for publication
city, town Hoffman Estates vicinity
state Illinois code IL county Cook code 031 zip code 60196

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 7/21/89

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century/Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Unknown

walls Brick

roof Wood shingles

other Wood door

Wood window frames

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse is on the property located at 1775 Vista Walk in Hoffman Estates, Illinois. It is a one story rectangular structure, twelve feet wide by sixteen feet long, and is of common brick construction. Its entrance is off center in the north facade, which faces the Sunderlage Farmhouse located at the same address. The only door is made of wood and is set in a wood frame, as are the two windows on the east and west facades. These windows, each with a flat arch lintel of vertical bricks, are now glazed with glass, but were originally fitted with interior wood shutters which would have been used to provide controlled ventilation for the smoking fire.

The smokehouse has a wood gable roof clad in recently applied cedar shingles, replacing deteriorated shingles of similar style which were removed during restoration of the building in 1988. The cream colored common brick walls, recently chemically cleaned, are in good condition, with evidence of some repointing. A former lean-to on the west facade, now removed, left some asphaltic residue near the eave line of the building. The eave, or entablature, of the smokehouse is constructed in brick, with a dentil design and brick gable returns at each of the four corners. The gable ends have two courses of brick at the roof line which form a simple, but attractive, ornamentation. There is a single course of vertical headers just below the gable returns on each end of the building. The chimney, at the southerly end of the roof, is built of the same common brick, with a single course of brick forming an ornamental band just below the top.

The interior of the smokehouse has exposed common brick walls with "battered" mortar joints. There are heavy (3" X 10") horizontal wood members at approximately 24" centers at the eave line. The material being "smoked" was hung from these members. Above these members is a curved brick ceiling supported by the vault action of the brick. Above this ceiling are wood roof rafters which support the sheathing and shingles. In the southeast portion of the smokehouse is the fire pit. Approximately five feet above the pit is a wood framed brick "hood", which is formed in such a manner so as to cause the smoke to spread out in the room when the chimney was blocked or partially blocked. Evidence of a "dampering" system is still present, although the damper is missing. The interior of the smokehouse shows evidence of numerous alternate layers of whitewash and deep black soot from the smoke. A twentieth century concrete floor was recently removed to expose a dirt floor where the scorched earth near the hearth indicates that this was the original condition.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

c. 1860

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse meets Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is an excellent example of a domestic secondary structure. A smokehouse was an important element in the operation of a farmstead in the mid-19th century and later. Its function was one which was clearly associated with events and activities which made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. This particular smokehouse is a superb example of the type and, unlike many other remaining smokehouses in Northern Illinois, it has survived in fine condition and has never been adapted for other uses. It retains clear evidence of its original distinctive characteristics and utilitarian function, and its architectural fabric is intact.

The clean proportions and subtle detailing of the Sunderlage Smokehouse reflect the Greek Revival style prominent in the period 1830-1845, yet the steepness of the gabled roof is reminiscent of Italianate architecture of a decade later.¹ Its form might best be described as classic. Its utilitarian purpose required a straightforward design and a clear understanding of architectural detail.² It has a rectilinear plan (15'-10" X 12'-4"), enclosing just enough space to provide for the smoking and storage of farm produced meats. The original fire pit and other appurtenant devices required for this are still in place. It was, and still is, located near the kitchen entrance of the Sunderlage Farmhouse and is thus clearly part of the human needs rather than livestock or other farm operations.

The Smokehouse was one of several outbuildings at the Sunderlage farmstead. It stands 30 feet south of the kitchen entrance of the farmhouse. Documentary evidence indicates that the farmhouse was constructed circa 1856. Johann Sunderlage first settled the farm where the present smokehouse and farmhouse were built in circa 1850.³ Today these two buildings are all that remain of the original farmstead. The farm has been subdivided and developed as part of the Village of Hoffman Estates.⁴ The building of such a utilitarian structure as a smokehouse would have had a high priority for the settlers of this farmland, for the production and preservation of food was an important part of rural pioneer life. Thus, it is reasonable to assume that the Sunderlage Smokehouse was built at about the same time as the original farmhouse. The smokehouse survives in virtually original condition.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse

The Sunderlage Smokehouse is the only surviving physical reminder in Hoffman Estates of the period of American history which is characterized by largely self-sufficient homesteaders who settled on the rich farmland of northern Illinois. The contribution of these pioneers can be more clearly understood and appreciated by today's citizens when buildings such as this one are preserved and maintained.

The preservation of meat by smoking has been practiced for centuries. Prior to the invention of refrigeration, it was one of the few techniques available for the preservation of meat. Smokehouses were fairly common throughout the eastern half of the United States and many are preserved today.⁵ They were constructed of various materials including stone, logs and lumber, as well as brick. Other "smokehouses" can be found in northeastern Illinois. For example, a rural survey conducted by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency revealed a total of 44 "smokehouses" in nearby Kane County. However, there is little evidence to indicate that these buildings are still used as smokehouses. Another study⁶ indicates that most surviving "smokehouses" are in very poor repair, if not actually dilapidated. Many are now used as storage buildings. The Sunderlage Smokehouse has not suffered this kind of distress.

Smokehouses were, and some still are, used for curing and storing meat. The process of smoking preserves the meat and improves the flavor by exposure to the chemical creosote, which results from imperfect combustion of wood.⁷ In order to facilitate this process, a smokehouse must be designed to permit careful control of the fire which must be regulated so as to give off the greatest amount of smoke. Windows and doors must be tightly fitted and operable in a manner which permits just the right amount of air for proper burning of the wood fuel. The Sunderlage Smokehouse was designed in that manner with a tightly fitted door in the gable end and interior shutters on the windows, which permitted control of ventilation during the smoking process. These shutters could be opened to provide light during the storage phase. Meat was hung over smoldering fires for a period of several days and then stored, usually in the smokehouse, for later consumption. Evidence of this process is clearly evident in the Sunderlage Smokehouse. The fire pit, smoke hood, and timbers with iron pins for hanging the meat have all survived. The chimney flue was fitted with a damper to control the flow of smoke and ensure that the smoke filled the entire interior space and thoroughly permeated the meat. Years of use have permanently marked the interior with alternate layers of black soot and whitewash on the walls and ceiling. The Sunderlage Smokehouse remains an excellent example of how farm families used a specially designed structure for preserving meat by smoking. Modern agricultural activities no longer include this activity, even in areas where farming is still the principal means of livelihood.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2 Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse

The Sunderlage Farm, with its farmhouse and smokehouse, provides the only extant example of the early history of the Village of Hoffman Estates. It is the oldest remaining homestead in the area, which includes Schaumburg Township of Cook County, Illinois, an area which has been intensively developed in the past two decades. It is the only property in the Village of Hoffman Estates set aside as a park which retains some evidence of the heritage of an early Illinois settlement. The original farmhouse on the same property has recently been adapted as a Village Cultural Center. The other farm buildings have been either removed or altered and only the smokehouse remains intact and in near original condition. The Sunderlage Smokehouse is an essentially unaltered example of utilitarian and vernacular architecture.

- 1 This blending of stylistic elements often occurred due to various pattern books published in the mid-nineteenth century which were copied in part by local builders.
- 2 The smokehouse is believed to have been built circa 1856 by Hiram Thurston, then the president of Palatine, Illinois. This information has been provided by Mrs. Marilyn Lind, President of the Poplar Creek Historical Society and resident of Hoffman Estates, Illinois.
- 3 Research in 1977 concerning the Sunderlage Farmhouse established its date of construction as 1856. Its present form, however, is the result of its adaptation as a local civic cultural center. Many "improvements" made in the late 19th and early 20th centuries have been removed and it has been returned to a condition closely approximating that of a 19th century farmhouse. It is used for small community events. The entire 1.59 acre farmstead site, including the smokehouse site, is now a village park.
- 4 Hoffman Estates today is totally developed. No farmland or farm buildings, other than those of the Sunderlage Farm, have survived.
- 5 Kauffman, Henry J. The American Farmhouse. Hawthorne Books, Inc., New York, N.Y.: 1975, pp. 221-230. An excellent, well illustrated text covering smokehouses of the same general type as the Sunderlage Smokehouse.
- 6 Weir, Elizabeth. Smokehouses. Springfield, Illinois: 1974. This paper reviews twelve smokehouses in Illinois, only four of which were built of brick.
- 7 Noble, Allen G. Wood, Brick, and Stone, The North American Settlement Landscape, Volume 2: Barns and Structures. University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst: 1984, pp. 88-90. An excellent discussion of the design and function of farm smokehouses.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 3 Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse

easterly on the south line of said lot two, a distance of 373.92 ft., said line having an assumed bearing of north $85^{\circ}-55'-11''$ east; thence southerly perpendicular to the last described course, on a bearing of south $4^{\circ}-04'-49''$ east, a distance of 75.0 ft. to the point of beginning; thence continuing south $4^{\circ}-04'-49''$ east, a distance of 95.0 ft. to the north line of Poplar Creek Club Homes Unit No. Three, according to the plat thereof recorded June 17, 1985 as Document No. 85063430; thence, south $85^{\circ}-55'-11''$ west on the aforementioned north line of Poplar Creek Club Homes Unit No. Three a distance of 130.0 ft.; thence north $85^{\circ}-55'-11''$ east, a distance of 130.0 ft. to the point of beginning, all in Cook County, Illinois.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Cook

DATE RECEIVED: 8/01/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/15/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/31/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/15/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001210

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9/13/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Return
REVIEWER Boland
DISCIPLINE historian
DATE 9/13/89

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments (Y/N) see attached SLR Y/N

X CLASSIFICATION

X count

X-? resource type

See attached.

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___ historic

___ current

DESCRIPTION

___ architectural classification

___ materials

___ descriptive text

X SIGNIFICANCE

X Period

X Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___ summary paragraph

___ completeness

___ clarity

X applicable criteria

X justification of areas checked

___ relating significance to the resource

X context

___ relationship of integrity to significance

___ justification of exception

___ other

See attached.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

X GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___ acreage

? verbal boundary description

___ UTM's

___ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___ sketch maps

___ USGS maps

___ photographs

___ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone _____

Signed

Beth Baland

Date

9/13/89

Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse
Cook County, IL

Evaluation/Return Sheet, continued

The Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse meets National Register criterion C as an excellent example of an important type of outbuilding. The documentation does not adequately explain significance under criterion A, however, and there are other questions that need to be answered before the property can be listed.

3. Classification: The nomination form assigns "structure" as the category, but counts the resource as one building. Please make the property category and the resource count consistent. We suggest "building" as the most appropriate category.

8. Significance:

Period of Significance: Although the date of construction is an appropriate "period" of significance for architecture, this single date does not represent a period during which any significant associations with a pattern of the area's agricultural history may have occurred. Before determining an appropriate period, please see the comments under "Statement of Significance," below.

How was the date for the smokehouse determined? The 1980 nomination states that "the farmhouse is almost certainly of later date" than the smokehouse, but the current form places the dates for both "at about the same time." The fact that smokehouses were an important type of building for a farmstead is not sufficient evidence alone for concluding that the surviving smokehouse was built either before or at the same time as the farmhouse with which it is currently associated. It is likely that characteristics that are inherent to the building (materials, construction techniques, style, and/or other features) contributed to estimates of the building's age. This should be explained.

Statement of Significance: The nomination states that "the Sunderlage Smokehouse is the only surviving reminder in Hoffman Estates" of the area's early farming history. Yet the farmhouse survives. The adaptation of the farmhouse as a village cultural center does not necessarily preclude its eligibility as an important surviving component from the historic farmstead. What alterations were made, and how does the building's current appearance differ from its historic one? Footnote #3 states that the house was "returned to a condition closely approximating that of a 19th century farmhouse;" what documentation was used to ensure an accurate restoration of this building's earlier

appearance. If the changes made as a result of that adaptation have destroyed the building's historic integrity, then this should be explained. Otherwise, the farmhouse and smokehouse together would best represent the early history of this area.

The nomination form does not contain enough information to justify eligibility under National Register criterion A. Historic function alone does not constitute a significant representation of a pattern of history; the significance of this type of building's function is recognized through its eligibility under criterion C, as a type, period, and method of construction.

The nomination needs to explain more specifically what aspect of the area's history the smokehouse represents, and to provide enough historic context to make clear how the smokehouse constitutes a significant representation of that aspect of history. Does the smokehouse represent the early history of Hoffman Estates, the historic rural life and development of the west Chicago area, typical Illinois farm life from this period, or some other historic theme? Should it be compared with other surviving farm complexes; other domestic outbuildings; other extant resources from the community, county, or other area; or some other class of resources?

For example, if the smokehouse represents the early rural beginnings of Hoffman Estates, please discuss the history of Hoffman Estates, how this smokehouse fits into that history, and how it compares with other remaining historic resources with similar associations. When was Hoffman Estates settled? Was it predominantly a farming community? Do any other farmsteads or other resources survive from the area's agricultural period? Was there a commercial center in Hoffman Estates, or was Sunderlage Farm part of a larger rural area identified with another town? The nomination states that this is "the oldest remaining homestead in the area;" what is the area referenced? If only the smokehouse survives with integrity, it may not be as good a representation of its period in history as other more intact farm complexes, even if they are not as old. Does Hoffman Estates have a distinctive history as a community, or is it a more recent entity whose history is incorporated into that of a larger community? If the former, is the smokehouse the oldest surviving building from Hoffman Estates, and therefore represent the community's settlement and early development?

10. Geographical Data:

Please review the verbal boundary description, which appears to contain an error. Specifically, the second line of direction, which travels on a route perpendicular to the first line, returns to the point of beginning, which does not seem possible.

Data Collector Recommendation: SLR Clarification/Return

Lower Action: SLR Final Return
 None

DOCUMENTATION ISSUES--DISCUSSION SHEET

State Name IL County Name Cook Resource Name Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse
Reference No. 89-1210 Multiple Name _____
Listed Date _____

Section of Nomination:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Classification	<input type="checkbox"/> Description	<input type="checkbox"/> Geographical Data
<input type="checkbox"/> State/Agency Certification	<input type="checkbox"/> Significance	<input type="checkbox"/> Accompanying Documentation
<input type="checkbox"/> Function	<input type="checkbox"/> Bibliographical References	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

See Page _____ Paragraph _____

Solution:

Several problems: no period of significance for agriculture. Insufficient justification for criterion A. Questions about the farmhouse + changes to it. Integrity of setting.

NR Staff: Beth Boland

Date: 9/12/89

Data Collector's Explanation of Problem:

*Resource type is listed as structure but resource count is 1 building.
I entered resource type as building.*

Data Collector: Shrimpton

Date: 8/2/89

Resolution in Data Base:

D.B. Corrected:

Date:



**Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency**

Old State Capitol • Springfield, Illinois 62701 • (217) 782-4836

July 25, 1989

Beth Boland
National Register Program
National Park Service
Dept. of the Interior
1100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

AUG 01 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Dear Beth:

Enclosed please find the nomination form, photographs, and map for the Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse in Hoffman Estates, Illinois. The form has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer as meeting the criteria for listing. However, I would like to request a substantive review of the property. Smokehouses are difficult buildings to assess, and I would like to have your personal review of the historic context and the general level of documentation regarding this particular building.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Ann V. Swallow
Survey & National Register Coordinator

AVS/ws

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

AUG 01 1989

NATIONAL
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1. Name of Property

historic name Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1775 Vista Walk not for publication
city, town Hoffman Estates vicinity
state Illinois code IL county Cook code 031 zip code 60196

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
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<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 7/21/89
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Beth Boland 2/20/90
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century/Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

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walls Brick

roof Wood shingles

other Wood door

Wood window frames

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse is on the property located at 1775 Vista Walk in Hoffman Estates, Illinois. It is a one story rectangular structure, twelve feet wide by sixteen feet long, and is of common brick construction. Its entrance is off center in the north facade, which faces the Sunderlage Farmhouse located at the same address. The only door is made of wood and is set in a wood frame, as are the two windows on the east and west facades. These windows, each with a flat arch lintel of vertical bricks, are now glazed with glass, but were originally fitted with interior wood shutters which would have been used to provide controlled ventilation for the smoking fire.

The smokehouse has a wood gable roof clad in recently applied cedar shingles, replacing deteriorated shingles of similar style which were removed during restoration of the building in 1988. The cream colored common brick walls, recently chemically cleaned, are in good condition, with evidence of some repointing. A former lean-to on the west facade, now removed, left some asphaltic residue near the eave line of the building. The eave, or entablature, of the smokehouse is constructed in brick, with a dentil design and brick gable returns at each of the four corners. The gable ends have two courses of brick at the roof line which form a simple, but attractive, ornamentation. There is a single course of vertical headers just below the gable returns on each end of the building. The chimney, at the southerly end of the roof, is built of the same common brick, with a single course of brick forming an ornamental band just below the top.

The interior of the smokehouse has exposed common brick walls with "battered" mortar joints. There are heavy (3" X 10") horizontal wood members at approximately 24" centers at the eave line. The material being "smoked" was hung from these members. Above these members is a curved brick ceiling supported by the vault action of the brick. Above this ceiling are wood roof rafters which support the sheathing and shingles. In the southeast portion of the smokehouse is the fire pit. Approximately five feet above the pit is a wood framed brick "hood", which is formed in such a manner so as to cause the smoke to spread out in the room when the chimney was blocked or partially blocked. Evidence of a "dampering" system is still present, although the damper is missing. The interior of the smokehouse shows evidence of numerous alternate layers of whitewash and deep black soot from the smoke. A twentieth century concrete floor was recently removed to expose a dirt floor where the scorched earth near the hearth indicates that this was the original condition.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Agriculture
Architecture

c. 1860

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse meets Criterion C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is an excellent example of a domestic secondary building. A smokehouse was an important element in the operation of a farmstead in the mid-19th century and later. This particular smokehouse is a superb example of the type and, unlike many other remaining smokehouses in Northern Illinois, it has survived in fine condition and has never been adapted for other uses. It retains clear evidence of its original distinctive characteristics and utilitarian function, and its architectural fabric is intact.

The Smokehouse was one of several outbuildings at the Sunderlage farmstead. It stands 30 feet south of the kitchen entrance of the farmhouse. Documentary evidence indicates that the farmhouse was constructed circa 1856. Johann Sunderlage first settled the farm where the present smokehouse and farmhouse were built in circa 1850.¹ Today these two buildings are all that remain of the original farmstead. The farm has been subdivided and developed as part of the Village of Hoffman Estates.² The building of such a utilitarian structure as a smokehouse would have had a high priority for the settlers of this farmland, for the production and preservation of food was an important part of rural pioneer life. The smokehouse survives in virtually original condition. It is reasonable to assume that the Sunderlage Smokehouse was built at about the same time as the original farmhouse.

The clean proportions and subtle detailing of the Sunderlage Smokehouse reflect the Greek Revival style prominent in the period 1830-1845, yet the steepness of the gabled roof is reminiscent of Italianate architecture of a decade later.³ Its form might best be described as classic. Its utilitarian purpose required a straightforward design and a clear understanding of architectural detail.⁴ It has a rectilinear plan (15'-10" X 12'-4"), enclosing just enough space to provide for the smoking and storage of farm produced meats. The original fire pit and other appurtenant devices required for this are still in place. It was, and still is, located near the kitchen entrance of the Sunderlage Farmhouse and is thus clearly part of the human needs rather than livestock or other farm operations.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hasbrouck, Wilbert R. Sunderlage Farm Site. Chicago: Historic Resources, Inc., 1977. (Unpublished historic structure report and feasibility study prepared for the Village of Hoffman Estates.)

Kaufman, Henry J. The American Farmhouse. New York: Hawthorne Books, Inc., 1975.

Weir, Elizabeth. Smokehouses. Springfield, Illinois: Task II Site Planning: Farm Buildings, 1974. (Unpublished paper prepared under the direction of Dr. Edward Hawes at Sangamon State University.)

Noble, Allen G. Wood, Brick, and Stone, The North American Settlement Landscape, Volume 2: Barns and Structures. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.2835

UTM References

A 16 407030 4655870
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

That part of the east half of the southwest quarter of section eight, township forty-one north, range 10, east of the third principal meridian, bounded and described as follows: Commencing at the southwest corner of lot two, in Peter Robins Farms Unit One, according to the plat thereof recorded on November 14, 1969 as Document No. 21013530; thence

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The southern and eastern boundaries were established by the present and historic limits of ownership by the Village of Hoffman Estates. The northern and western boundaries were established to define and preserve the open area around the smokehouse without including the adjacent farmhouse, sidewalks, driveways, or other recent manmade elements. The boundaries as established provide a contextually accurate surrounding for the smokehouse.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wilbert R. Hasbrouck, FAIA, Architect

organization Hasbrouck Peterson Associates date _____

street & number 711 South Dearborn Street telephone (312) 922-7211

city or town Chicago, Illinois state IL zip code 60605

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 09 1990

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1

The Sunderlage Smokehouse is the only surviving physical reminder in Hoffman Estates of the period of American history which is characterized by largely self-sufficient homesteaders who settled on the rich farmland of northern Illinois. What is now the Village of Hoffman Estates was, at the time the Sunderlage farmstead was built, a typical area of farmland with none of the urban characteristics present today. The Sunderlage farmstead became part of the Village of Hoffman Estates in 1969 when the farm was subdivided and developed as residential property. Thus, the Sunderlage farmstead in general, and the Smokehouse in particular, is representative of the historic rural life and development of the northwest Chicago area and of typical Illinois farm life of the period circa 1856. Its preservation in situ provides an historic link to the now vanished lifestyle of the original settlers of the land where the Village is now located. The contribution of these pioneers can be more clearly understood and appreciated by today's citizens when buildings such as this one are preserved and maintained.

The preservation of meat by smoking has been practiced for centuries. Prior to the invention of refrigeration, it was one of the few techniques available for the preservation of meat. Smokehouses were fairly common throughout the eastern half of the United States, and many are preserved today.⁵ They were constructed of various materials including stone, logs and lumber, as well as brick. Other "smokehouses" can be found in northeastern Illinois. For example, a rural survey conducted by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency revealed a total of 44 "smokehouses" in nearby Kane County. However, there is little evidence to indicate that these buildings are still used as smokehouses. Another study⁶ indicates that most surviving "smokehouses" are in very poor repair, if not actually dilapidated. Many are now used as storage buildings. The Sunderlage Smokehouse has not suffered this kind of distress.

Smokehouses were, and some still are, used for curing and storing meat. The process of smoking preserves the meat and improves the flavor by exposure to the chemical creosote, which results from imperfect combustion of wood.⁷ In order to facilitate this process, a smokehouse must be designed to permit careful control of the fire, which must be regulated so as to give off the greatest amount of smoke. Windows and doors must be tightly fitted and operable in a manner which permits just the right amount of air for proper burning of the wood fuel. The Sunderlage Smokehouse was designed in that manner with a tightly fitted door in the gable end and interior shutters on the windows, which permitted control of ventilation during the smoking process. These shutters could be opened to provide light during the storage phase. Meat was hung over smoldering fires for a period of several days and then stored, usually in the smokehouse, for later consumption. Evidence of this process is clearly evident in the Sunderlage Smokehouse. The fire pit, smoke hood, and timbers with iron pins for hanging the meat have all survived. The chimney flue was fitted with a damper to control the flow of smoke and ensure that the smoke filled the entire interior space and thoroughly permeated the meat. Years of use have permanently marked the interior with alternate layers of black soot and whitewash on the walls and ceiling. The Sunderlage Smokehouse remains an excellent example of how farm families used a specially designed structure for preserving meat by smoking. Modern agricultural activities no longer include this activity, even in areas where farming is still the principal means of livelihood.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 09 1990

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

The Sunderlage Farm, with its farmhouse and smokehouse, provides the only extant example of the early history of area now developed as the Village of Hoffman Estates. It is the oldest remaining homestead in the area, which includes Schaumburg Township of Cook County, Illinois, an area which has been intensively developed in the past two decades. It is the only property in the Village of Hoffman Estates set aside as a park which retains some evidence of the heritage of an early Illinois settlement. The original farmhouse on the same property has recently been adapted as a Village Cultural Center. The other farm buildings have been either removed or altered and only the smokehouse remains intact and in near original condition. The Sunderlage Smokehouse is an essentially unaltered example of utilitarian and vernacular architecture.

- 1 Research in 1977 concerning the Sunderlage Farmhouse established its date of construction as 1856. Its present form, however, is the result of its adaptation as a local civic cultural center. Many "improvements" made in the late 19th and early 20th centuries have been removed and it has been returned to a condition closely approximating that of a 19th century farmhouse. It has not, however, been restored. It has been adapted for contemporary use and does not retain sufficient historic integrity for National Register status. It is used for small community events. The entire surviving 1.59 acre farmstead site, including the smokehouse site, is now a village park.
- 2 Hoffman Estates today is totally developed. No farmland or farm buildings, other than those of the Sunderlage Farm, have survived.
- 3 This blending of stylistic elements often occurred due to various pattern books published in the mid-nineteenth century which were copied in part by local builders.
- 4 The smokehouse is believed to have been built circa 1856 by Hiram Thurston, then the President of Palatine, Illinois. This information has been provided by Mrs. Marilyn Lind, President of the Poplar Creek Historical Society and resident of Hoffman Estates, Illinois.
- 5 Kauffman, Henry J. The American Farmhouse. Hawthorne Books, Inc., New York, N.Y.: 1975, pp. 221-230. An excellent, well illustrated text covering smokehouses of the same general type as the Sunderlage Smokehouse.
- 6 Weir, Elizabeth. Smokehouses. Springfield, Illinois: 1974. This paper reviews twelve smokehouse in Illinois, only four of which were built of brick.
- 7 Noble, Allen G. Wood, Brick, and Stone, The North American Settlement Landscape, Volume 2: Barns and Structures. University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst: 1984, pp. 88-90. An excellent discussion of the design and function of farm smokehouses.

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

JAN 09 1990

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 3

easterly on the south line of said lot two, a distance of 373.92 ft., said line having an assumed bearing of north 85°-55'-11" east; thence southerly perpendicular to the last described course, on a bearing of south 4°-04'-49" east, a distance of 75.0 ft. to the point of beginning; thence continuing south 4°-04'-49" east, a distance of 95.0 ft. to the north line of Poplar Creek Club Homes Unit No. Three, according to the plat thereof recorded June 17, 1985 as Document No. 85063430; thence, south 85°-55'-11" west on the aforementioned north line of Poplar Creek Club Homes Unit No. Three a distance of 130.0 ft.; thence north 0484'-49" west, a distance of 95.0 ft., thence north 85°-55'-11" east, a distance of 130.0 ft. to the point of beginning, all in Cook County, Illinois.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Cook

DATE RECEIVED: 1/09/90

DATE OF PENDING LIST:

DATE OF 16TH DAY:

DATE OF 45TH DAY:

2/23/90

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001210

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/20/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The information on the farmhouse still is not specific or detailed enough to allow an adequate assessment of integrity. However, because the smokehouse now is being nominated solely ~~for~~ under criterion C as an example of a type, period, & method of construction, the inclusion of the farmhouse is ~~no~~ no longer relevant. If anyone decides to amend the documentation to justify significance under criterion A, this would become an important issue again.

The VBD still is worded in a confusing way, but see the State's 1/5/90 letter for the explanation: the first "point of beginning" apparently refers to the beginning of the actual boundary, not the first point mentioned in the VBD.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept - C

REVIEWER Boland

DISCIPLINE Historia

DATE 2/20/90

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___ count ___ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___ historic ___ current

DESCRIPTION

___ architectural classification
___ materials
___ descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___ acreage ___ verbal boundary description
___ UTM's ___ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___ sketch maps ___ USGS maps ___ photographs ___ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



**Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency**

Old State Capitol • Springfield, Illinois 62701 • (217) 782-4836

JAN 09 1990 NR

January 5, 1990

Ms. Beth Boland
National Register Program
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
1100 L. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Beth:

Enclosed please find the revised nomination form and accompanying documentation for the Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse in Hoffman Estates, Illinois.

In response to your Return Sheet dated September 13, 1989 the applicant has made the following revisions to the form.

1. The "building" resource type box has been checked, instead of "structure."

2. Only Criterion C for architecture is being claimed; Criterion A has been deleted. Therefore, the applicant has not answered the questions relevant to Criterion A.

3. The applicant has answered your question regarding the construction date for the building in Section 8. Further information on the integrity of the farmhouse at the site can be found in Footnote #1.

4. The boundary description has been rewritten. Bill Hasbrouck discovered that one line was missing in the description. Also, he has written the description to include information on a reference point from which the actual boundary begins. So, the first half of the description orients us to the reference point and the second half is the description of the actual boundary. I hope this helps clarify the VBD.

Beth Boland
January 5, 1990
Page 2

The applicant completely retyped the back half of the form (Section 8-11) and I have attached it to the original front half. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

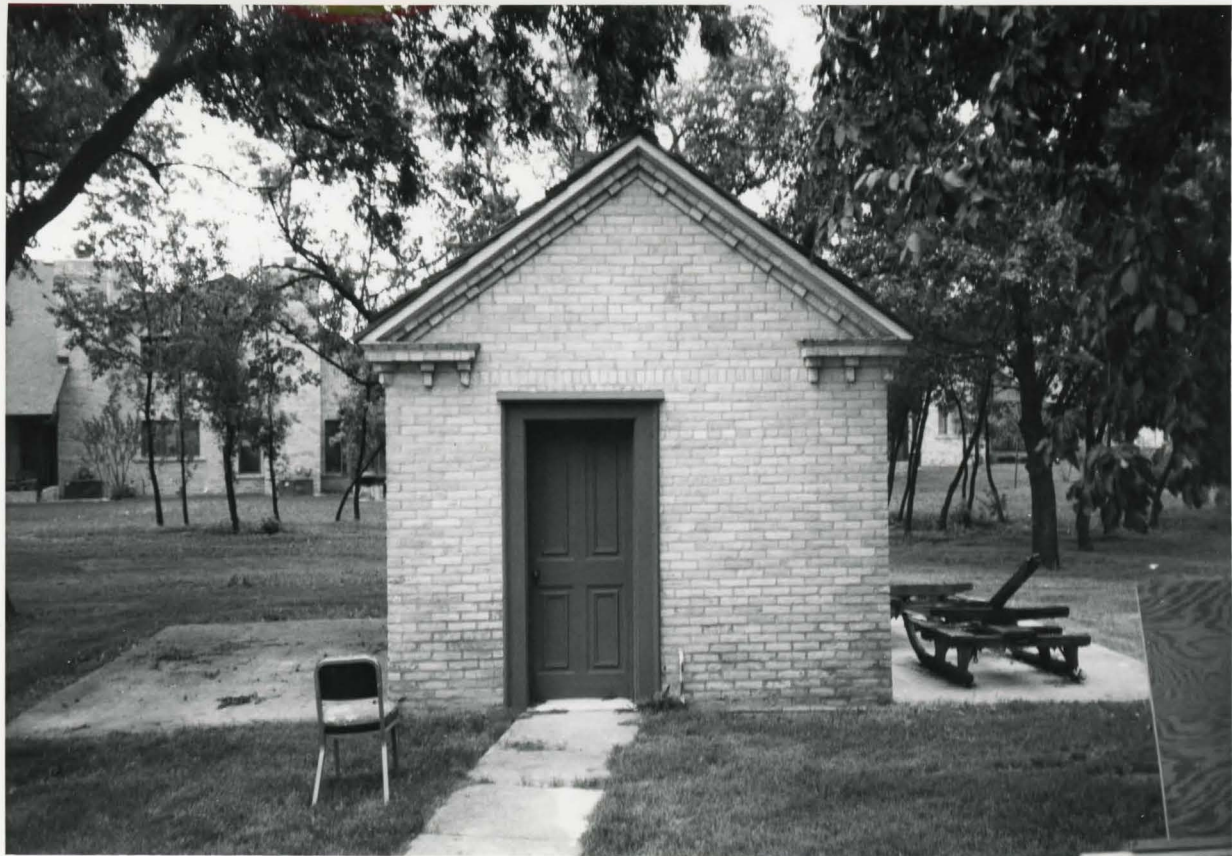
Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Ann V. Swallow
Survey & National Register Coordinator

encl.

cc: Representative Terry Parke
Bill Hasbrouck
Shirley Wells English
Marilyn Lind



SUNDERLAGE SMOKE HOUSE
HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILLINOIS

PHOTO: W.R. HASBROUCK

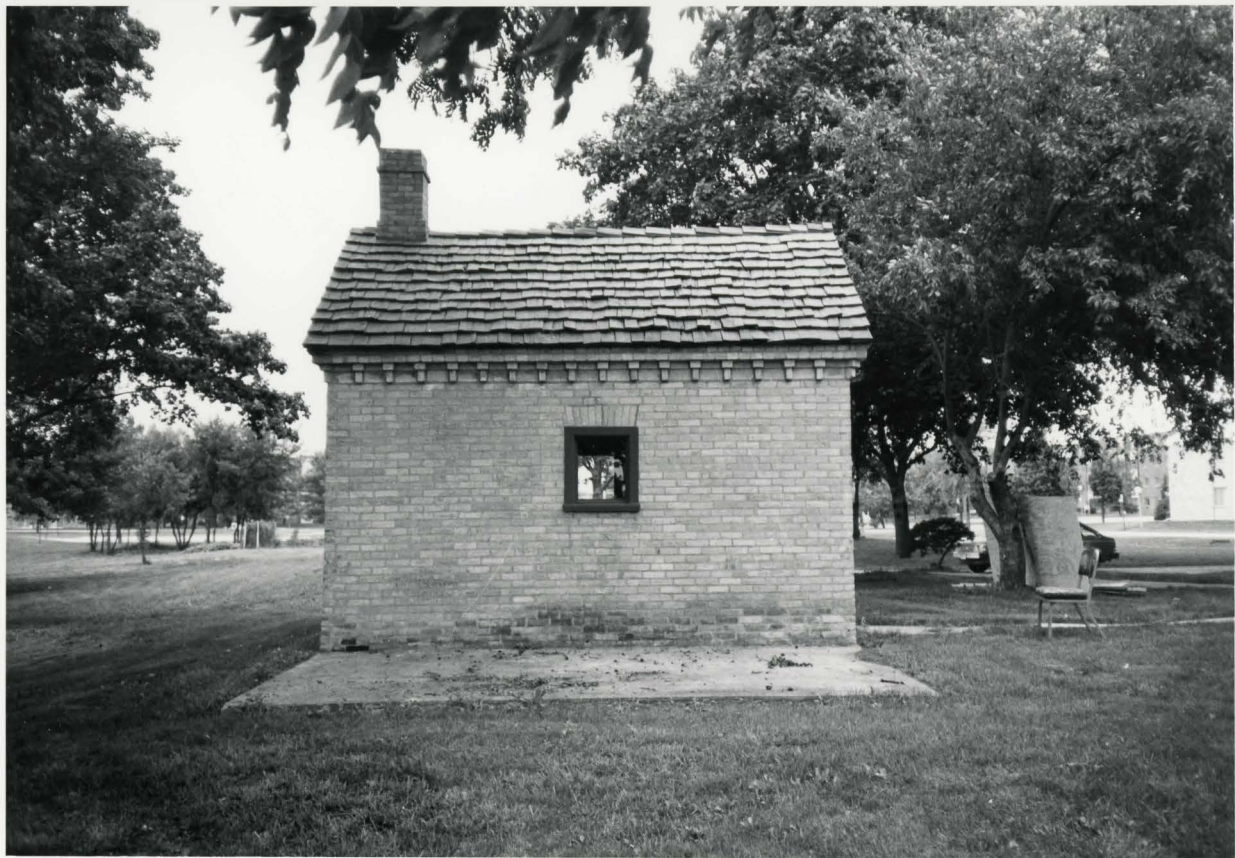
DATE: AUGUST 4, 1988

NEGATIVE AT HASBROUCK PETERSON ASSOC. - CHICAGO, IL
NORTH ELEVATION

#1

76344

AUG 1 1989



SUNDERLAGE SMOKEHOUSE
HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILLINOIS

PHOTO: W. R. HASBROUCK

DATE: AUGUST 4, 1988

NEGATIVE AT HASBROUCK PETERSON ASSOC. - CHICAGO, IL
EAST ELEVATION

#2

76344

3

AUG 1 1989



SUNDERLAGE SMOKEHOUSE

HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILLINOIS

PHOTOG: W.R. HASBROUCK

DATE: AUGUST 4, 1988

NEGATIVE AT HASBROUCK PETERSON ASSOC. - CHICAGO, IL

SOUTH ELEVATION

#3

AUG 1 1989



SUNDERLAGE SMOKE HOUSE

HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILLINOIS

PHOTO: W.R. HASBROUCK

DATE: AUGUST 4, 1988

NEGATIVE AT HASBROUCK PETERSON ASSOC. - CHICAGO, IL

WEST ELEVATION

#4

76344

K 7

AUG 1 1989



SUNDERLAGE SMOKEHOUSE
HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILLINOIS
PHOTO: W.R. HASBROUCK

DATE: AUGUST 4, 1988

NEGATIVE AT HASBROUCK PETERSON ASSOC. - CHICAGO, IL

EAVE/ENTABLATURE/GABLE DETAIL

#5

8

AN 896

AUG | 1989



SUNDERLAGE SMOKEHOUSE
HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILLINOIS
PHOTO: W.R. HASBROUCK

DATE: AUGUST 4, 1988

NEGATIVE AT HASBROUCK PETERSON ASSOC. - CHICAGO, IL
FIRE PT/HOOD DETAIL

#6

AUG 1 1989



SUNDERLAGE SMOKEHOUSE

HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILLINOIS

PHOTO: W. R. HASBROUCK

DATE: AUGUST 4, 1988

NEGATIVE AT HASBROUCK PETERSON ASSOC. - CHICAGO, IL

INTERIOR OF HOOD/CHIMNEY DETAIL

#7

AUG 1 1989



SUNDERLAGE SMOKEHOUSE
HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILLINOIS

PHOTO: W. R. HASBROUCK

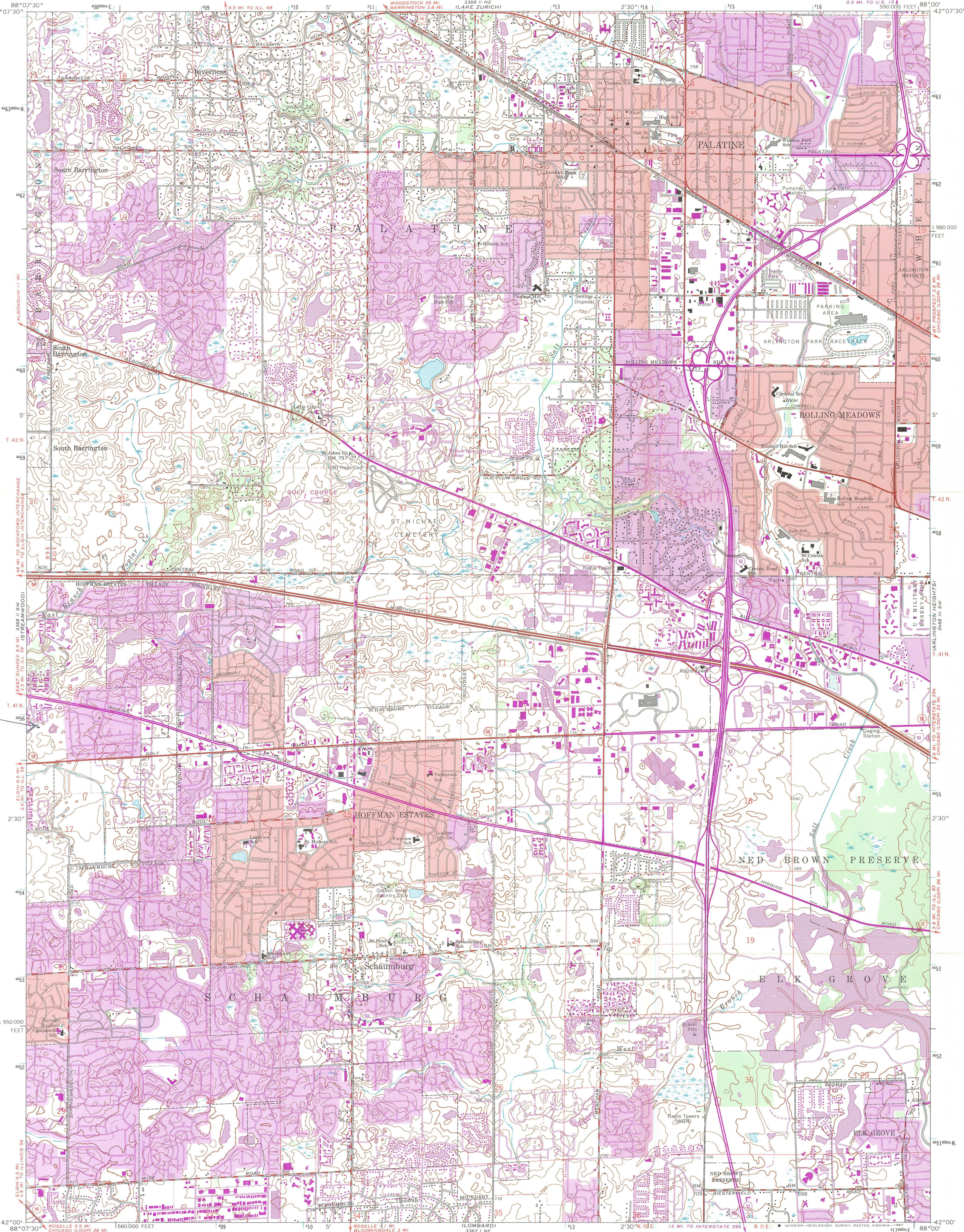
DATE: AUGUST 4, 1988

NEGATIVE AT HASBROUCK PETERSON ASSOC. - CHICAGO, IL

DETAIL OF RAFTERS/CEILING VAULT
#8

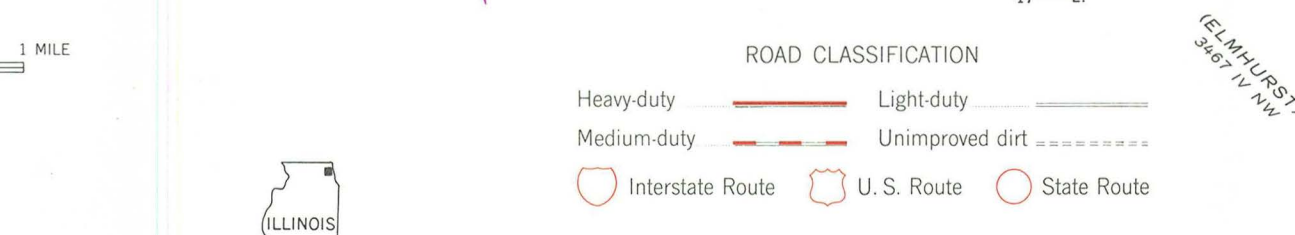
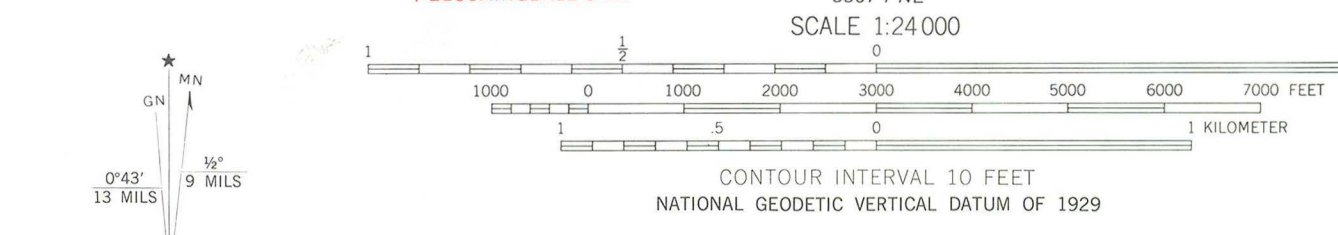
76344

AUG 1 1989



Sunderlage
Farm
Smokehouse
zone 16
E 407030
N 4655870

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Cook County Highway Department
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1952 and planetable surveys 1953. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1961
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
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 2 meters north and
6 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



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
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1972 and 1978. Map edited 1980
This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area

PALATINE, ILL.
SE/4 BARRINGTON 15' QUADRANGLE
42088-A1-TF-024
1961
PHOTOREVISED 1972 AND 1980
DMA 3368 II SE—SERIES V863

Area of Significance: AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE

Periods of: 1850-1874
Significance:

Circa: Specific Sig. Years:

C 1860

Architect/Builder/Engineer/
Designer:

Cultural Affiliation:

Unknown

NOT APPLICABLE

Other Documentation:

NOT APPLICABLE

HABS No. N/A

HAER No. N/A

Architectural Styles: GREEK REVIVAL

Describe Other Style: NOT APPLICABLE

Foundation Materials: NONE LISTED

Wall Materials: BRICK

Roof Materials: SHINGLE

Other Materials: WOOD

Acreage: 0.3

UTM	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
-----	------	---------	----------	------	---------	----------

Coordinates:	16/	/4	07	030/	/46	55	870	/	/	/	/
--------------	-----	----	----	------	-----	----	-----	---	---	---	---

MEMO

TO: National Register staff; Mark Baker
FROM: Beth Boland
SUBJECT: Please review the Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse
nomination for staff meeting discussion.
DATE: 9/18/89

Illinois has requested a substantive review of the attached nomination. Although there are some obvious technical problems (eg: no period of significance for agriculture), there are also more important issues that Carol and I agreed deserved a broader discussion. Thanks in advance for your help. Please consider the following in reviewing the nomination:

1. does the documentation justify significance under both criteria A and C?

2. if the smokehouse is significant under criterion A, what are the implications for the program? Would all isolated, single examples of various types of outbuildings meet criterion A? at what point is a property too far removed from its historic environment to be significant in representing a pattern of history?

3. if the smokehouse does not meet criterion A, is it because we need more information, or because we have enough information and the property just doesn't meet the criterion? if the former, what more would we ask? if the latter, why not -- isn't the process of curing meat an important farm activity, historically (related to question 2)?

4. given the alterations to the farmhouse, the loss of other outbuildings, and the adjacent new construction, is there sufficient integrity of setting? even for criterion A?

5. what about the farmhouse? should it have been included within the boundaries? do we know enough about the alterations made during its conversion to a village cultural center to evaluate whether or not it should be included?

6. is there enough contextual information on smokehouses, their use, their role in agricultural life, and a comparison of remaining ones that are still in use as smokehouses to evaluate this one?

7. is the general fact that smokehouses were important on farmsteads enough evidence to conclude that this particular one was built at the same time as the farmhouse with which it is associated?

8. any other questions?



**Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency**

Old State Capitol • Springfield, Illinois 62701 • (217) 782-4836

July 25, 1989

Beth Boland
National Register Program
National Park Service
Dept. of the Interior
1100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

AUG 01 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Dear Beth:

Enclosed please find the nomination form, photographs, and map for the Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse in Hoffman Estates, Illinois. The form has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer as meeting the criteria for listing. However, I would like to request a substantive review of the property. Smokehouses are difficult buildings to assess, and I would like to have your personal review of the historic context and the general level of documentation regarding this particular building.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Ann V. Swallow
Survey & National Register Coordinator

AVS/ws

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

AUG 01 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1775 Vista Walk not for publication
city, town Hoffman Estates vicinity
state Illinois code IL county Cook code 031 zip code 60196

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 7/21/89
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century/Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Unknown
walls Brick

roof Wood shingles
other Wood door
Wood window frames

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse is on the property located at 1775 Vista Walk in Hoffman Estates, Illinois. It is a one story rectangular structure, twelve feet wide by sixteen feet long, and is of common brick construction. Its entrance is off center in the north facade, which faces the Sunderlage Farmhouse located at the same address. The only door is made of wood and is set in a wood frame, as are the two windows on the east and west facades. These windows, each with a flat arch lintel of vertical bricks, are now glazed with glass, but were originally fitted with interior wood shutters which would have been used to provide controlled ventilation for the smoking fire.

The smokehouse has a wood gable roof clad in recently applied cedar shingles, replacing deteriorated shingles of similar style which were removed during restoration of the building in 1988. The cream colored common brick walls, recently chemically cleaned, are in good condition, with evidence of some repointing. A former lean-to on the west facade, now removed, left some asphaltic residue near the eave line of the building. The eave, or entablature, of the smokehouse is constructed in brick, with a dentil design and brick gable returns at each of the four corners. The gable ends have two courses of brick at the roof line which form a simple, but attractive, ornamentation. There is a single course of vertical headers just below the gable returns on each end of the building. The chimney, at the southerly end of the roof, is built of the same common brick, with a single course of brick forming an ornamental band just below the top.

The interior of the smokehouse has exposed common brick walls with "battered" mortar joints. There are heavy (3" X 10") horizontal wood members at approximately 2 1/2" centers at the eave line. The material being "smoked" was hung from these members. Above these members is a curved brick ceiling supported by the vault action of the brick. Above this ceiling are wood roof rafters which support the sheathing and shingles. In the southeast portion of the smokehouse is the fire pit. Approximately five feet above the pit is a wood framed brick "hood", which is formed in such a manner so as to cause the smoke to spread out in the room when the chimney was blocked or partially blocked. Evidence of a "dampering" system is still present, although the damper is missing. The interior of the smokehouse shows evidence of numerous alternate layers of whitewash and deep black soot from the smoke. A twentieth century concrete floor was recently removed to expose a dirt floor where the scorched earth near the hearth indicates that this was the original condition.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

c. 1860

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse meets Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is an excellent example of a domestic secondary structure. A smokehouse was an important element in the operation of a farmstead in the mid-19th century and later. Its function was one which was clearly associated with events and activities which made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. This particular smokehouse is a superb example of the type and, unlike many other remaining smokehouses in Northern Illinois, it has survived in fine condition and has never been adapted for other uses. It retains clear evidence of its original distinctive characteristics and utilitarian function, and its architectural fabric is intact.

The clean proportions and subtle detailing of the Sunderlage Smokehouse reflect the Greek Revival style prominent in the period 1830-1845, yet the steepness of the gabled roof is reminiscent of Italianate architecture of a decade later.¹ Its form might best be described as classic. Its utilitarian purpose required a straightforward design and a clear understanding of architectural detail.² It has a rectilinear plan (15'-10" X 12'-4"), enclosing just enough space to provide for the smoking and storage of farm produced meats. The original fire pit and other appurtenant devices required for this are still in place. It was, and still is, located near the kitchen entrance of the Sunderlage Farmhouse and is thus clearly part of the human needs rather than livestock or other farm operations.

The Smokehouse was one of several outbuildings at the Sunderlage farmstead. It stands 30 feet south of the kitchen entrance of the farmhouse. Documentary evidence indicates that the farmhouse was constructed circa 1856. Johann Sunderlage first settled the farm where the present smokehouse and farmhouse were built in circa 1850.³ Today these two buildings are all that remain of the original farmstead. The farm has been subdivided and developed as part of the Village of Hoffman Estates.⁴ The building of such a utilitarian structure as a smokehouse would have had a high priority for the settlers of this farmland, for the production and preservation of food was an important part of rural pioneer life. Thus, it is reasonable to assume that the Sunderlage Smokehouse was built at about the same time as the original farmhouse. The smokehouse survives in virtually original condition.

See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1 Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse

The Sunderlage Smokehouse is the only surviving physical reminder in Hoffman Estates of the period of American history which is characterized by largely self-sufficient homesteaders who settled on the rich farmland of northern Illinois. The contribution of these pioneers can be more clearly understood and appreciated by today's citizens when buildings such as this one are preserved and maintained.

The preservation of meat by smoking has been practiced for centuries. Prior to the invention of refrigeration, it was one of the few techniques available for the preservation of meat. Smokehouses were fairly common throughout the eastern half of the United States and many are preserved today.⁵ They were constructed of various materials including stone, logs and lumber, as well as brick. Other "smokehouses" can be found in northeastern Illinois. For example, a rural survey conducted by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency revealed a total of 44 "smokehouses" in nearby Kane County. However, there is little evidence to indicate that these buildings are still used as smokehouses. Another study⁶ indicates that most surviving "smokehouses" are in very poor repair, if not actually dilapidated. Many are now used as storage buildings. The Sunderlage Smokehouse has not suffered this kind of distress.

Smokehouses were, and some still are, used for curing and storing meat. The process of smoking preserves the meat and improves the flavor by exposure to the chemical creosote, which results from imperfect combustion of wood.⁷ In order to facilitate this process, a smokehouse must be designed to permit careful control of the fire which must be regulated so as to give off the greatest amount of smoke. Windows and doors must be tightly fitted and operable in a manner which permits just the right amount of air for proper burning of the wood fuel. The Sunderlage Smokehouse was designed in that manner with a tightly fitted door in the gable end and interior shutters on the windows, which permitted control of ventilation during the smoking process. These shutters could be opened to provide light during the storage phase. Meat was hung over smoldering fires for a period of several days and then stored, usually in the smokehouse, for later consumption. Evidence of this process is clearly evident in the Sunderlage Smokehouse. The fire pit, smoke hood, and timbers with iron pins for hanging the meat have all survived. The chimney flue was fitted with a damper to control the flow of smoke and ensure that the smoke filled the entire interior space and thoroughly permeated the meat. Years of use have permanently marked the interior with alternate layers of black soot and whitewash on the walls and ceiling. The Sunderlage Smokehouse remains an excellent example of how farm families used a specially designed structure for preserving meat by smoking. Modern agricultural activities no longer include this activity, even in areas where farming is still the principal means of livelihood.

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2 Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse

The Sunderlage Farm, with its farmhouse and smokehouse, provides the only extant example of the early history of the Village of Hoffman Estates. It is the oldest remaining homestead in the area, which includes Schaumburg Township of Cook County, Illinois, an area which has been intensively developed in the past two decades. It is the only property in the Village of Hoffman Estates set aside as a park which retains some evidence of the heritage of an early Illinois settlement. The original farmhouse on the same property has recently been adapted as a Village Cultural Center. The other farm buildings have been either removed or altered and only the smokehouse remains intact and in near original condition. The Sunderlage Smokehouse is an essentially unaltered example of utilitarian and vernacular architecture.

- 1 This blending of stylistic elements often occurred due to various pattern books published in the mid-nineteenth century which were copied in part by local builders.
- 2 The smokehouse is believed to have been built circa 1856 by Hiram Thurston, then the president of Palatine, Illinois. This information has been provided by Mrs. Marilyn Lind, President of the Poplar Creek Historical Society and resident of Hoffman Estates, Illinois.
- 3 Research in 1977 concerning the Sunderlage Farmhouse established its date of construction as 1856. Its present form, however, is the result of its adaptation as a local civic cultural center. Many "improvements" made in the late 19th and early 20th centuries have been removed and it has been returned to a condition closely approximating that of a 19th century farmhouse. It is used for small community events. The entire 1.59 acre farmstead site, including the smokehouse site, is now a village park.
- 4 Hoffman Estates today is totally developed. No farmland or farm buildings, other than those of the Sunderlage Farm, have survived.
- 5 Kauffman, Henry J. The American Farmhouse. Hawthorne Books, Inc., New York, N.Y.: 1975, pp. 221-230. An excellent, well illustrated text covering smokehouses of the same general type as the Sunderlage Smokehouse.
- 6 Weir, Elizabeth. Smokehouses. Springfield, Illinois: 1974. This paper reviews twelve smokehouses in Illinois, only four of which were built of brick.
- 7 Noble, Allen G. Wood, Brick, and Stone, The North American Settlement Landscape, Volume 2: Barns and Structures. University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst: 1984, pp. 88-90. An excellent discussion of the design and function of farm smokehouses.

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Section number 10 Page 3 Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse

easterly on the south line of said lot two, a distance of 373.92 ft., said line having an assumed bearing of north $85^{\circ}-55'-11''$ east; thence southerly perpendicular to the last described course, on a bearing of south $4^{\circ}-04'-49''$ east, a distance of 75.0 ft. to the point of beginning; thence continuing south $4^{\circ}-04'-49''$ east, a distance of 95.0 ft. to the north line of Poplar Creek Club Homes Unit No. Three, according to the plat thereof recorded June 17, 1985 as Document No. 85063430; thence, south $85^{\circ}-55'-11''$ west on the aforementioned north line of Poplar Creek Club Homes Unit No. Three a distance of 130.0 ft.; thence north $85^{\circ}-55'-11''$ east, a distance of 130.0 ft. to the point of beginning, all in Cook County, Illinois.

Sub
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DATE TUE, AUG 15, 1989, 4:44 PM
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY REPORT
REFERENCE No.: 89001210

Page: 6

Control No.: 890815/jps

PROPERTY NAME: Sunderlage Farm Smokehouse

OTHER NAME/ NOT APPLICABLE
SITE No. :

MULTIPLE NAME: NOT APPLICABLE

ADDRESS/ 1775 Vista Walk
BOUNDARY :

CITY: Hoffman Estates

COUNTY: Cook

STATE: ILLINOIS

Restricted Location Information: Owner: LOCAL Resource Type: BUILDING

Contributing Noncontributing

Buildings	1	0
Sites	0	0
Structures	0	0
Objects	0	0

Nomination/Determination Type: SINGLE RESOURCE

Nominator: STATE GOVERNMENT

Nominator Name:
NOT APPLICABLE

Federal Agency: NOT APPLICABLE

NPS Park Name: NOT APPLICABLE

Certification: DATE RECEIVED/PENDING NOMINATION

Date: 08/01/89

Other Certification: NOT APPLICABLE

Historic Functions: DOMESTIC

Historic Subfunctions: SECONDARY STRUCTURE

Current Functions: DOMESTIC

Current Subfunctions: SECONDARY STRUCTURE

Level of Significance: LOCAL Applicable Criteria: EVENT ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING

Significant Person's Name: NOT APPLICABLE

Criteria Considerations: NOT APPLICABLE