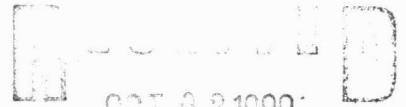


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Whitney, Colonel Nathan, house  
other names/site number Franklin Grove Nursery and Orchards

### 2. Location

street & number 1620 Whitney Road  not for publication  
city, town Franklin Grove  vicinity  
state Illinois code IL county LEE code 103 zip code 61031

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</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]* 9-25-90  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
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): \_\_\_\_\_

**Entered in the National Register**

*[Signature]* 11/2/90  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

---

---

---

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
WORK IN PROGRESS

---

---

---

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)LATE VICTORIAN/ Italianate

---

---

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/ limestone  
walls WOOD/ weatherboard

---

roof ASPHALT

---

other 

---

---

---

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

---

The Whitney home, also once known as the Franklin Grove Nursery and Orchards, is located in the southwest quarter of section 12 of Lee County, Illinois, approximately one mile south of the town of Franklin Grove. The home stands nearly 600 feet east off of Whitney Road with no other homes within close proximity. Approaching the house, and on either side of the lane are small apple orchards which the owner is reestablishing. There are 100 trees planted on both sides. The surrounding land is used for other various crops. The house was built circa 1860, which has been established through the Lee County Courthouse Mortgage records, and stands as an elegant example of Italianate architecture.

The main house is two stories with a cupola space above a low-pitch hip roof, while a kitchen wing, to the rear (east), stands one and one half stories and is covered by a gable roof. The house utilizes a frame structure with a full basement below the main house. To allow light and ventilation into the basement the first floor is approximately four feet above grade at its highest point. The east portion, having no basement, is raised above grade about two feet. A central projecting porch emphasizes the main facade and entrance.<sup>4</sup> Accenting the porch are square, wood columns with molded capitals and large, ornately carved brackets supporting a wide cornice with dentils. Molded railings with carved side panels and newel posts also add to the porch's elegant appearance.<sup>6,7</sup> Large brackets along a wide cornice are traditional elements of Italianate architecture and can be seen throughout the exterior. Entry from the porch is through a pair of paneled doors, which are original. The doors have been restored and replaced by the present owner.

Two roof styles are utilized on the house, as previously mentioned, and to accent the eaves, large paired brackets are incorporated with dentil coursing. This coursing can also be found along the eave of the south porch roof and on the east facade following the line of the gable.<sup>5,12</sup> Originally, both roofs were covered with wood shingles but these have since been replaced by asphalt shingles.

The east wing, used as the kitchen area, is spanned on the southern side by an open porch and is approximately six feet in width. A flat roof, mentioned above, extends over the entire porch and is supported by slender columns which are similar in style to those along the front porch.<sup>12</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Col. Nathan Whitney House

One of the Italianate styles prominent features is the cupola. Tall, slender windows give added height to the cupola and to the entire house. Single molded brackets are incorporated along the eave once again, but are extended downward separating and framing the rounded arch of each window.<sup>11</sup> All windows on the house are floor to ceiling with molded wood frames that are original and in good to fair condition. Louvered shutters with accompanying screens are being restored and are not up at the present time.<sup>9</sup> Windows used on the west facade are similar in size but use a wide vertical mullion similar in style to the molded columns on the porch. This treatment is visible on the frames at both levels. Not only do the windows appear to be larger<sup>10</sup> than those on alternate facades, but it further emphasizes the main facade.

The floor plan of the main house is basically symmetrical around the foyer, with the main feature being the open stair.<sup>13</sup> The original floor plan has been kept intact, walls, doors, etc. altered only by the installation of plumbing fixtures. The kitchen area has been modernized to provide the owner with sufficient working area for preparation of meals. This has consisted of removing the back storage room and installing a central island as to not disturb existing windows. The second floor also remains virtually unchanged. The location of the closet doors have been moved to provide ample space for plumbing fixtures. Plumbing walls have been added as necessary. (please refer to enclosed floor plan showing all changes in red) The open stair in the foyer is being completely restored due to deterioration. Missing pieces of the railings and the one newel post were recovered, while the portions of the railing and side rungs are being provided to match the style of the existing pieces. Painted wainscoting, in need of repair, can be found in the foyer and continues up the stair.

East of the kitchen is an earlier addition to the house, circa 1900.<sup>3,4,5</sup> This was originally used as a smoke house, but has become a garage and storage space over the years. This addition does not detract from the view of the house as it is unnoticeable from the road.<sup>1</sup> Repairs have had to be made to the foundation along the north side due to deterioration of the limestone and in general to weathered wood. A small porch to the north of the kitchen is also included as an early addition, allowing entrance into the kitchen from either side of the room. Above the porch is a small roof which is being replaced because of its age, while the roof above the south porch is being repaired. The owner has not made any changes to the exterior except to restore any portion that may be deteriorating and in need of repair. All restoration work is being done to match the original craftsmanship.

The present owner is Sheryl Lyons of Amboy, Illinois, who has recently purchased the property. Upon completion of restoration and repairs the owner intends to open a "Bed and Breakfast" country inn facility.

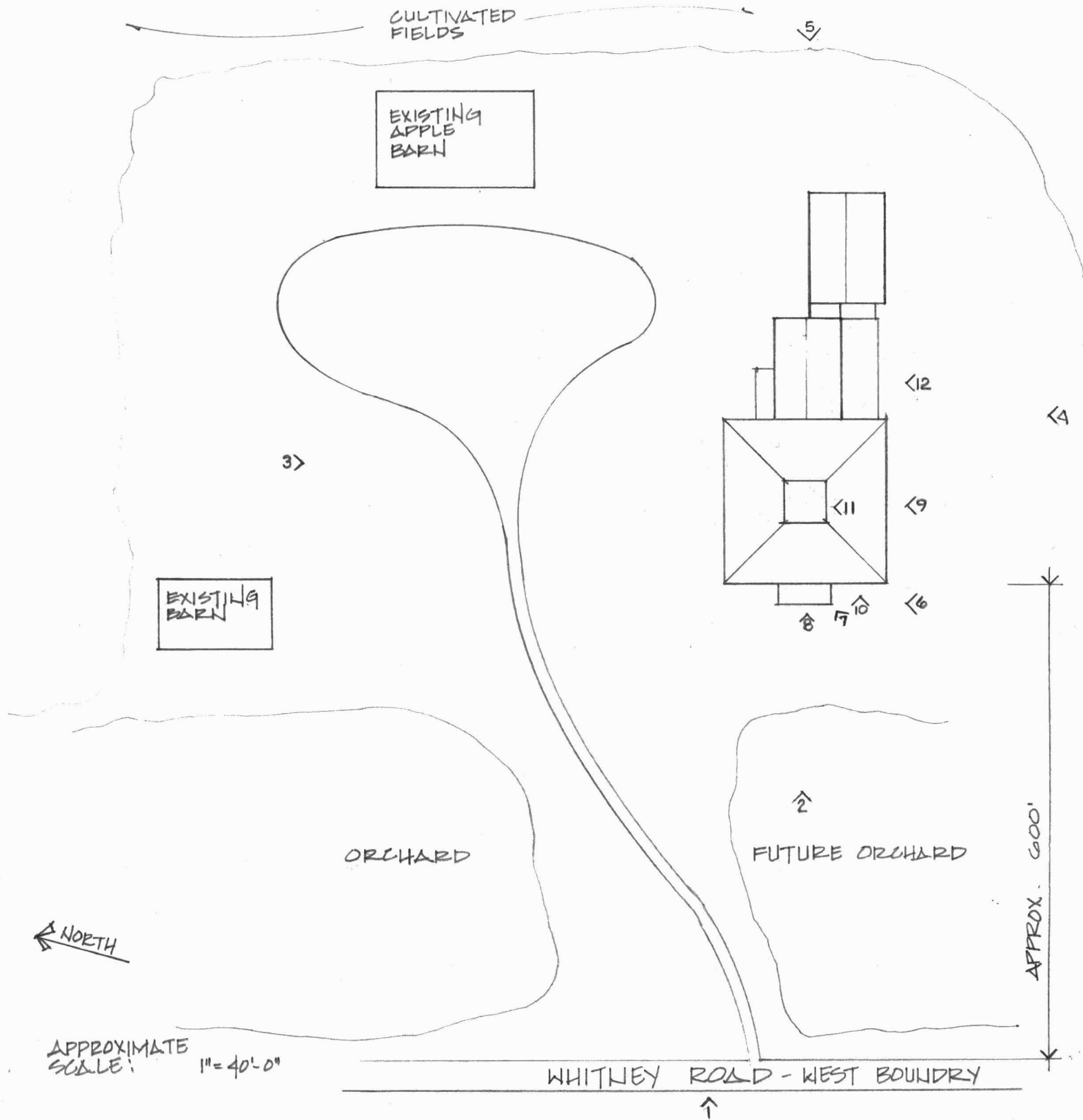
\* numbers correspond to photograph numbers

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Property:  
Whitney, Nathan, House  
Sketch Map

Section number 7 Page 3



**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)  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance  
ca. 1860 - ca. 1900

Significant Dates  
ca. 1860  
ca. 1900

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

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

The Whitney home, built circa 1860, for Colonel Nathan Whitney remains standing on its original site and is a wonderful example of the Italianate architectural style within the Franklin Grove area. It meets Criterion C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Houses on the surrounding farms are very simple in style and detailing which gives further emphasis to the ornate craftsmanship and detailing of the Whitney house.

After serving in the War of 1812, Colonel Whitney and his family began migrating westward from New York state, eventually settling outside the Franklin Grove community in 1836. Eager to begin a family business, Whitney established the Franklin Grove Nursery and Orchards. Throughout the years four homes were built for the family, the fourth and final home being the most elaborate, thus becoming a symbol of Whitney's prosperous family business.

This two story house portrays the Italianate style in nearly every element. The central projecting porch incorporates pronounced moldings on the newel posts, upper railing posts and column capitals. Large ornate brackets, single and paired, can be ofund along the eave of the porch's flat roof and the house's low-pitch hip roof. (respectively) Dentil coursing is also utilized along each roof line with the large brackets. Floor to ceiling windows are used on all facades of the main house and all have molded frames. Window frames on the main (west) facade use a vertical mullion which is similar in style to the columns on the main porch. A gable roof covers the east kitchen wing (behind the main house) while to the south of the kitchn is a large open porch. Keeping with the Italianate style the low, flat roof above the porch is supported by slender columns with moldings that are once again similar to those throughout the exterior. A prominent feature of this style is the cupola and the Whitney house is no exception. Tall, narrow windows with rounded arches add a variation from the rectangular windows used throughout the lower levels. Large single brackets are used to separate the windows while molded frames at the head of each window emphasizes the arch. The detailing of each element and the integration of these elements give this particular house a character that cannot be found on surrounding homes within the Franklin Grove area.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

DIXON EVENING TELEGRAPH Dixon, Illinois  
March 25, 1980 pg. 35  
February 5, 1985 pg. 6  
September 6, 1989 pg. 3

ASHTON GAZETTE Ashton, Illinois  
July 24, 1980 pg. 6

Lee County Courthouse - Office of Deeds and Records

Sheryl Lyons present owner of the property  
1170 Riverview  
Amboy, Illinois 61310

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**

Acreege of property LESS THAN ONE

UTM References

A 

1	6
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3	0	9	5	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	3	1	9	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary line follows a line 10 feet away from the exterior walls of the house.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

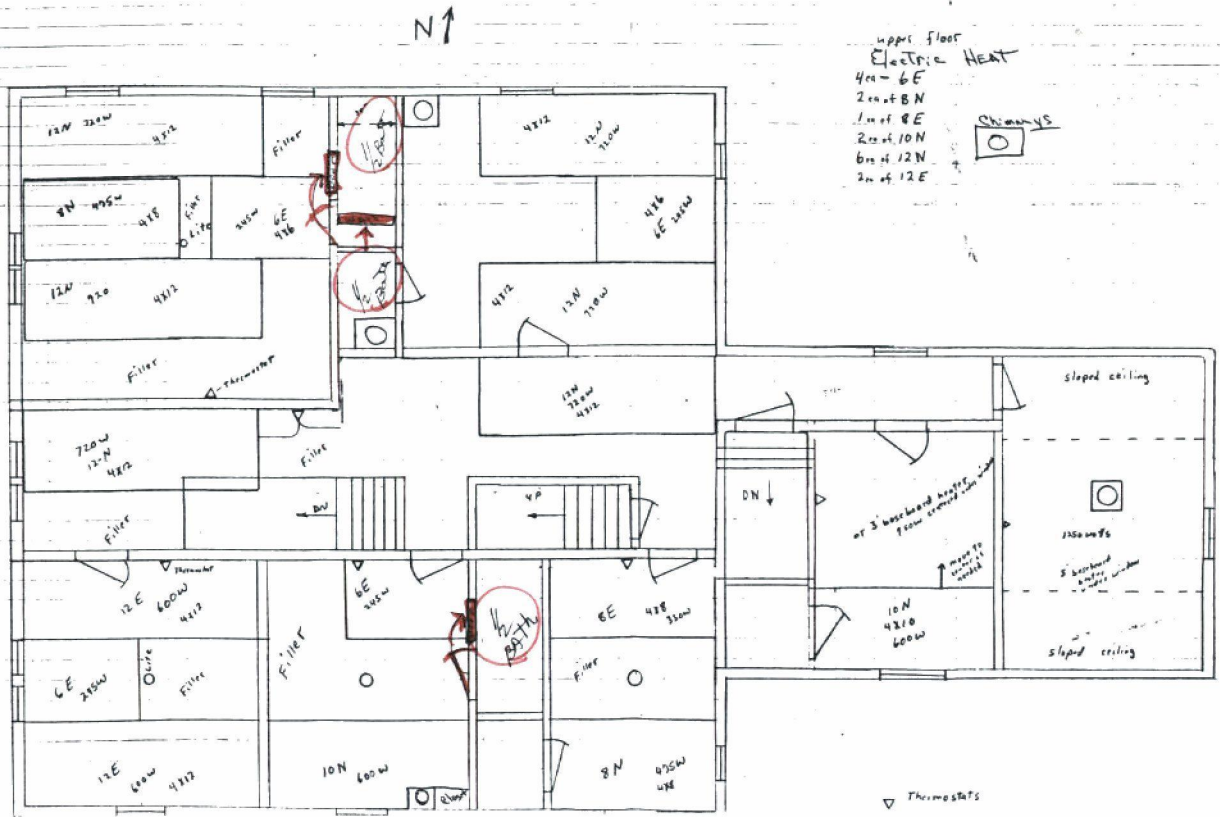
The nominated area includes the existing house standing west of Whitney Road approximately one mile south of Franklin Grove, Illinois. This is the portion of the farmstead that has historically been associated with the house.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

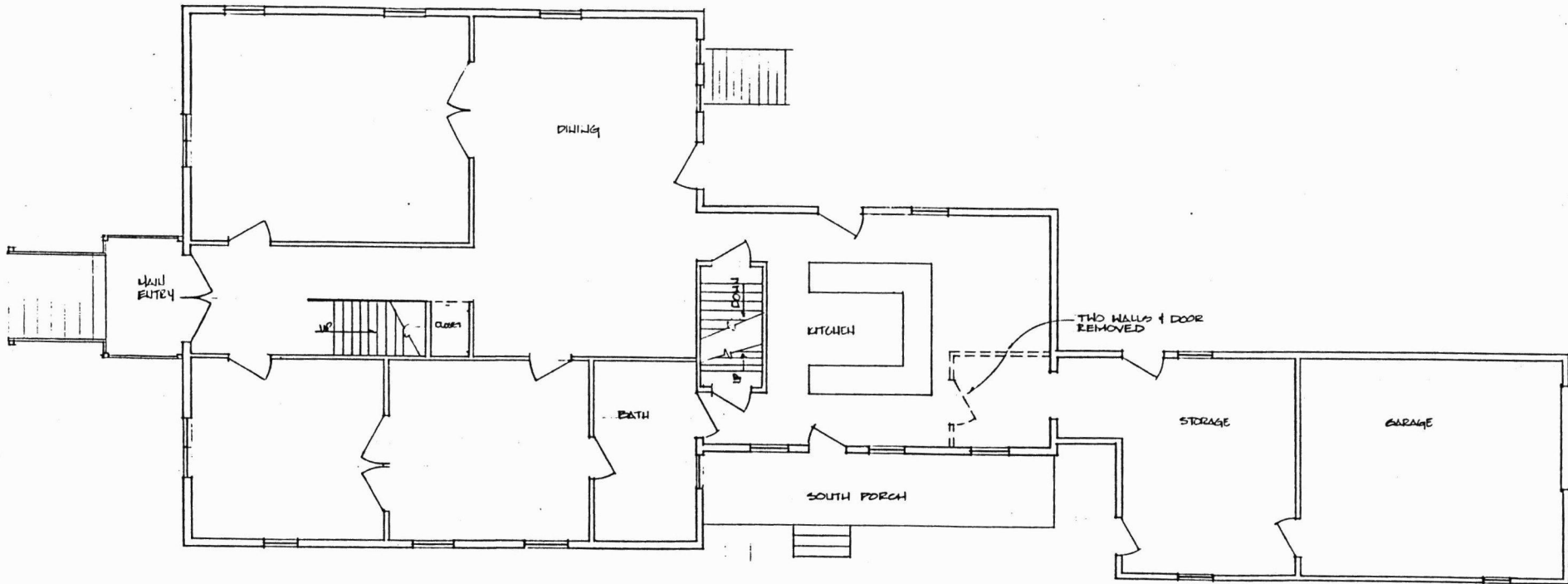
name/title	Brenda L. Schober	Apprentice Architect		date	August 1, 1990
organization	McLane and Searcy Architects			telephone	(815) 284-6056
street & number	212 S. Ottawa Avenue			state	Illinois
city or town	Dixon			zip code	61021





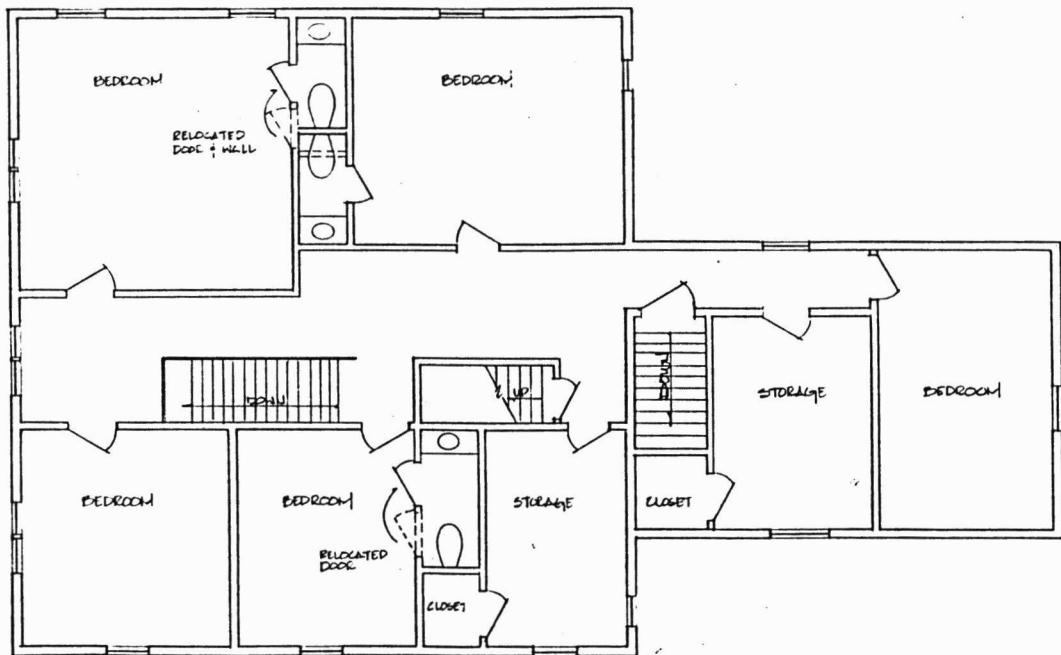
NATHAN WHITNEY HOUSE

UPPER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN




**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**    NO SCALE

COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOUSE  
 FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

NO SCALE

COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOUSE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Whitney, Col. Nathan, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Lee

DATE RECEIVED: 10/02/90      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/17/90  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/02/90      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/16/90  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001726

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: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    11/2/90 DATE    Entered in the National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_



1. COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOME
2. FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS *reed*
3. PHOTOGRAPHER: BRENDA SCHOEER
4. DATE: MAY 1990
5. LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: CHERYL LYONS; 1170 RIVERVIEW; AMBOY, IL. 61310
6. EXTERIOR VIEW LOOKING EAST, NEW ORCHARDS IN FOREGROUND
7. PHOTO #1



1 COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOME

2 FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS

Rec'd

3 PHOTOGRAPHER: BRENDA SCHOBER

4 DATE: MAY 1990

5 LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: CHERYL LYONS; 1170 RIVERVIEW; AMBLY, ILLINOIS

6 EXTERIOR VIEW LOOKING EAST - MAIN FACADE

7 PHOTO #2



1. COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOME
2. FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS *Lucy*
3. PHOTOGRAPHER: BRENDA SCHOFER
4. DATE: APRIL 1990
5. LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: CHERYL LYONS; 1170 RIVERVIEW; AMBLY, ILLINOIS
6. EXTERIOR VIEW LOOKING SOUTH
7. PHOTO #3



1 COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOME

2 FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS

see cc

3 PHOTOGRAPHER: BRENDA SCHOBER

4 DATE: MAY 1990

see cc

5. LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: CHERYL LYONS; 1170 RIVERVIEW; AURORA, ILLINOIS

6 EXTERIOR VIEW LOOKING NORTH

7 PHOTO #4



1 COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOME

2 FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS Leew

3 PHOTOGRAPHER: BRENDA SCHUBER

4 DATE: MAY 1990

5 LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: CHERYL LYONS; 1170 RIVERVIEW; ANEBOY, ILLINOIS

6 EXTERIOR VIEW LOOKING WEST - REAR ADDITION

7 PHOTO #5



1 COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOME

2 FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS *heede*

3 PHOTOGRAPHER: BRENDA SCHUBER

4 DATE: May 1990

5 LOCATION OF NEGATIVES: CHERYL LYONS; 1170 RIVERVIEW; AMBOY, ILLINOIS

6 CENTRAL PORCH, VIEW LOOKING NORTH

7 PHOTO # 10



1 COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOME  
2 FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS *Lucas*

3 PHOTOGRAPHER: BRENDA SCHOPER

4 DATE: MAY 1990

5 LOCATION OF NEGATIVES: CHERYL LYONS; 1170 RIVERVIEW; AUBOY, ILLINOIS

6 CENTRAL PORCH, MOLDED BRACKETS, CORNICE DETAIL, view looking

7 PHOTO # 7 NORTH



- 1 COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOME
- 2 FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS      *need*
- 3 PHOTOGRAPHER: BRENDA SCHOPER
- 4 DATE: May 1990
- 5 LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: CHERYL LYONS; 1170 RIVERVIEW; AMBOY, ILLINOIS
- 6 MAIN ENTRANCE DOOR - ORIGINAL DOUBLE DOORS. VIEW LOOKING EAST
- 7 PHOTO # 8



- 1 COLONEL NATHAN WHITELY HOME
- 2 FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS *Lucy*
- 3 PHOTOGRAPHER: BRENDA SCHUBER
- 4 DATE: APRIL 1990
- 5 LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: CHERYL LYONS; 1170 RIVERVIEW; AMBLY, ILLINOIS
- 6 TYPICAL WINDOW DETAIL ON NORTH, SOUTH & EAST FACADES
- 7 PHOTO # 9



1 Colonel Nathan Whitney Howe

2 Franklın Grove, Illinois

3 Photographer: Brenda Seiber

4 Date: April 1990

5 Location of Negative: Cheryl Lyons; 1170 Riverview; Amboy Illinois

6 Typical Window Detail on West (Main) Façade

7 Photo. \* 10



1 COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOME

2 FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS *hucv*

3 PHOTOGRAPHER: BRENDA SCHORER

4 DATE: APRIL 1990

5 LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: CHERYL LYONS, 1170 RIVERVIEW, AMBOY, ILLINOIS

6 COPULA DETAIL

7 PHOTO # 11



1. COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOME
2. FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS *Ill*
3. PHOTOGRAPHER: BRENDA SCHORER
4. DATE: APRIL 1990
5. LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: CHERYL LYONS; 1170 RIVERVIEW; AMBOY, ILLINOIS
6. SOUTH PORCH - VIEW LOOKING NORTH
7. PHOTO # 12



- 1 COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOME
- 2 FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS *Heer*
- 3 PHOTOGRAPHER: BRENDA SCHUBER
- 4 DATE: May 1990
- 5 LOCATION OF NEGATIVES: CHERYL LYONS; 1170 RIVERVIEW; AMBOY, ILLINOIS
- 6 INTERIOR DETAIL - OPEN STAIR IN THE MAIN Foyer - RAILINGS & POSTS
- 7 PHOTO #13 ARE BEING RESTORED.



1 COLONEL HATHAWAY WHITNEY HOME

2 FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS LUCU

3 PHOTOGRAPHER: BRENDEN SCHROEDER

4 DATE: MAY 1990

5 LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: CHERYL LYONS; 1100 RIVERVIEW; AMPOY, ILLINOIS

6 INTERIOR VIEW - WINDOW & DOOR TREATMENT (TYPICAL) UPPER FLOOR

7 PHOTO # 14



1 COLONEL NATHAN WHITNEY HOME

2 FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS      Leece

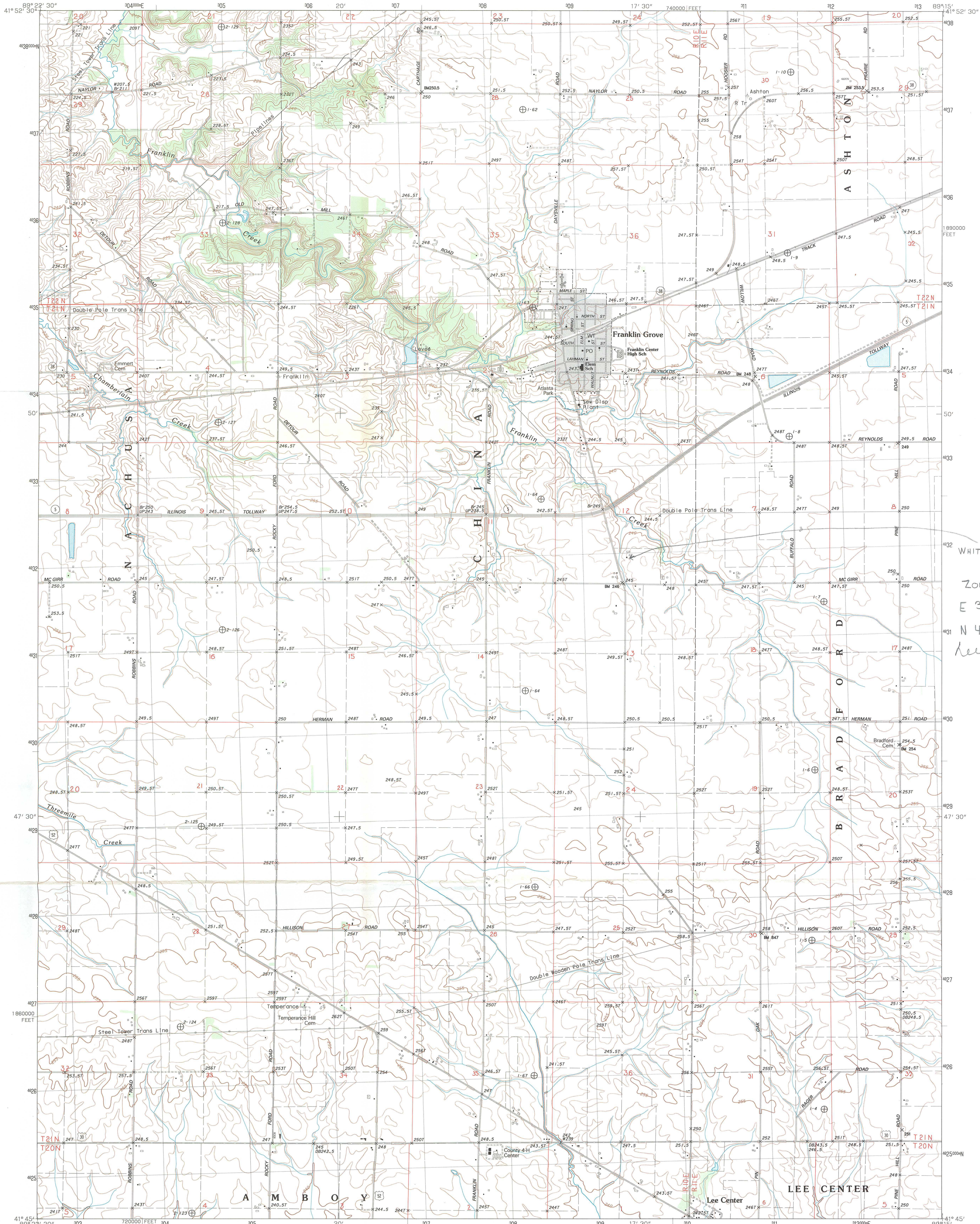
3 PHOTOGRAPHER: BRENDA SCHORER

4 DATE: May 1990

5 LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Cheryl Lyons; 1170 RIVERVIEW; AMBOY, ILLINOIS

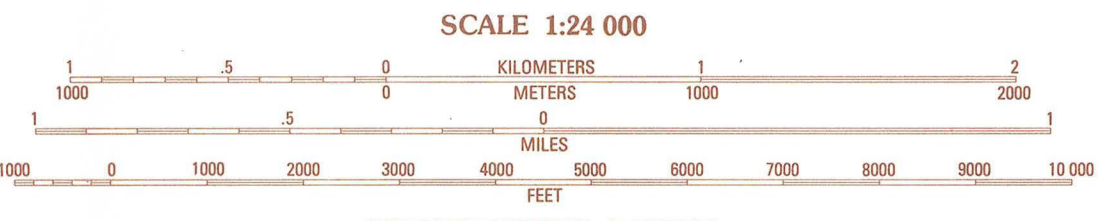
6 INTERIOR VIEW - LOWER LEVEL. FROM MAIN FOYER, VIEW LOOKING EAST

7 PHOTO # 15



PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY CONTROL BY USGS AND NOS/NOAA COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN 1977 FIELD CHECKED 1981 MAP EDITED 1983 PROJECTION UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR ZONE 16 10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS ILLINOIS, WEST ZONE UTM GRID DECLINATION 1983 WEST 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION 1°09' EAST VERTICAL DATUM NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929 HORIZONTAL DATUM 1927 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 north and 8 meters east) There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any Federal and State reservations shown on this map Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown

**PROVISIONAL MAP**  
Produced from original manuscript drawings. Information shown as of date of field check.



1	2	3	1 Grand Detour
2	3	4	2 Daysville
3	4	5	3 Chana
4	5	6	4 Dixon East
5	6	7	5 Ashton
6	7	8	6 Walton
			7 Ambrey
			8 Sublette

ADJOINING 7.5 QUADRANGLE NAMES  
CONTOURS AND ELEVATIONS  
IN METERS

**ROAD LEGEND**  
Improved Road .....  
Unimproved Road .....  
Trail .....  
Interstate Route .....  
U.S. Route .....  
State Route .....

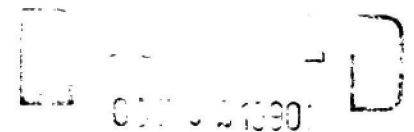
**FRANKLIN GROVE, ILLINOIS**  
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1983

41089-G3-TM-024



**Illinois Historic  
Preservation Agency**

Old State Capitol      Springfield, Illinois 62701      (217) 782-4836  
Suite 4-900      State of Illinois Center      100 W. Randolph      Chicago, IL 60601      (312) 814-1409



**NATIONAL  
REGISTER**

September 28, 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 National Register nomination form and accompanying documentation for the properties that were nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer, namely:

Patton Block Building, Monmouth  
✓ Col. Nathan Whitney House, Franklin Grove vicinity  
Oak Lawn School, Oak Lawn  
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Plano  
Ransom Water Tower, Ransom

I have also enclosed the nomination materials for the Illinois Central Interlocking Tower in Tuscola, Illinois. At present the building is owned by the Illinois Central Railroad, and I have enclosed a copy of the official letter of objection from the owner. The tower will be sold to the City of Tuscola and moved to a new location in the near future. It is the intention of the City to have the new location approved by the SHPO and the National Park Service prior to the move.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Ann V. Swallow  
Survey & National Register Coordinator

encl.