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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 23 1992

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Flagg, Cornelius, Farmstead

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Tipton School Rd., 4/10m. W. of Bus. I-55 and 4/10m. S. of Andrew Road  not for publication

city or town Sherman  vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Sangamon code 167 zip code 62707

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Walter C. Whaley, SVP 12-21-92  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

**Entered in the  
National Register**

Date of Action

Belmont Byrum 2/3/93

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling  
Domestic/Secondary Structures

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling  
Domestic/Secondary Structures

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Brick  
roof Asphalt  
other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Cornelius Flagg Farmstead

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY (See Photos #1 and 2)

Cornelius Flagg had his farm residence and outbuildings constructed from 1871-1880 in Fancy Creek Township, a few miles north of Springfield, by a prominent Springfield contractor, Henry Bettinghaus. The Italianate house and other farm buildings were constructed from bricks made in a kiln from clay taken from the site. Set in a wooded area with at least 50 trees of different varieties, three of the 19th century farmstead buildings remain: the 12 room, 2 story red brick house; a large 2 story brick barn with a cross gable roof, and a 1 story hipped roof ice house, which is now used as a garage. The small frame privy which is located between the house and the barn was built in the early 1930s. The 1874 Sangamon County Atlas (see Exhibit C) also shows that at this time there were other buildings on the farmstead: a 2 story end gabled house east of the existing house, an end gabled machinery shed between the house and barn, and a covered passageway and smokehouse that were attached to the rear of the existing house. The 2 story end gabled house, in which the Flaggs lived before their Italianate house was built, was torn down in the late 1920s. The smoke house and passageway were destroyed by a tornado in the 1940s. It is not known when the machinery shed was demolished.

The Flagg house is irregularly shaped, with the main front two story sections being higher than the rear two story wing. At the attic level in the front part of the house are a series of oval shaped awning type windows. The various sections of the house have hipped roofs. Tornadoes in the 1940s severely damaged the roof and most of the cornice brackets were removed at that time. However, the owner has replaced all of them with new wood cornice brackets using as a pattern the brackets that still existed on the rear wing of the house. The walls of the house are three bricks thick. There are four fireplaces on the first floor and one in the full basement. Three wide (interior) brick chimneys with corbelled caps are still in place: one that serves the fireplace in the northwest front parlor; one that serves the back-to-back fireplaces in the southwest front parlor and dining room; and the third that is located on the rear wall of the kitchen.

The house has a front, one story wraparound porch (ca. 1930) which replaced smaller ones that had decorative wood trim and galleries at the roof lines. The house also has a ca. 1930, one story porch toward the rear on the south side, similar in style to the one on the front. Most of the windows in the house are double hung 4/4 or 4/6 with segmental arched heads. To the north of the front porch there is a prominent bay window with a bracketed cornice.

In 1989, an old wood pantry was torn off the rear (northeast corner) of the house in order to add a new bathroom off the downstairs bedroom. The current owners of the house have restored it for use as a bed and breakfast inn.

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Cornelius Flagg Farmstead

ELEVATIONSFront (West) Elevation (See Photo #2)

The asymmetrical form of the house is expressed on the front elevation through four vertical bays with their hipped roofs. On the front of the main projecting wing is a bay window with a pair of long 4/6 segmental arched windows and a bracketed cornice. To the right of this wing is a wide, one story porch that wraps around the house to the south. The porch, a ca. 1930 replacement of the original one, has square wood posts set on brick piers, with a simple wood railing with balusters running between the piers. A set of limestone steps with two risers leads to the wood floor porch. The main entry has double leaved, wood paneled doors. Above is a semicircular paneled wood transom. To the right of the front entry are two long 4/6 double-hung windows with segmental heads.

At the second level in the projecting front wing are a pair of 4/4 double-hung windows similar to the ones in the bay window below. Above the porch are three segmental arched windows; the one on the left is a tall one with 4/6 lights, and the two on the right have 4/4 lights. At the attic level are a series of small, oval shaped windows, one in the projecting front wing (with a center circular light) and a carved wood molding that extends horizontally around the front sections of the house. In the brick foundation wall, there are a pair of segmental arched basement windows with two lights each (under the bay window).

North Elevation (See Photo #3)

The north elevation is divided into four, 2 story vertical bays with the extensions of the front bay window and one story porch appearing to the right. Extending from the rear, 2 story brick wing is a (1989) 1 story frame addition with a hipped roof that is set on concrete block piers. At the lower level of this elevation are two segmental arched, 4/4 double-hung windows. There is a similar type window above each of these openings at the second floor level. In the rear wing, there are two 4/4 double-hung windows at the second level to the left of a second floor frame addition that houses a new bathroom. In the foundation wall are two awning type basement windows.

Rear Elevation (See Photo #4)

The rear elevation is divided into three vertical, 2 story bays. To the right of the rear wing can be seen the windowless, 1 story frame extension at the first level, with a smaller frame extension above. To the left of the rear brick wing is a 1 story porch with square wood posts with sawn brackets. The posts are set on brick piers. At the first level are three openings; a contemporary wood door with three square lights that opens off the dining room onto the rear side porch, a wood paneled door with three lights and transom on the left side of the rear (kitchen) wing, and a segmental arched opening to the right that was infilled with wood and a small square shaped window (ca. 1965).

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The kitchen door on the rear elevation is accessed by concrete steps with 3 risers. At the upper level there are no windows. Below the window that has been infilled, there is a set of metal bulkhead doors that cover the exterior basement steps. The steps are original, but the metal doors were installed as replacements for the wood ones that were there ca. 1980. There is also a segmental arched 2 light basement window to the left of the rear side porch.

South Elevation (See Photo #5)

The south elevation features seven, 2 story bays with a 1 story, wraparound front porch that extends to the left (west). The rear side porch with its flat roof and bracketed wood columns can also be seen on this elevation. The porches are accessed by concrete steps with 3 risers each. At the first level are five 4/4 double-hung windows with segmental arched heads, one in the main front wing, two in the central section, and two in the rear wing. There are also two contemporary wood doors, one with 3 square, vertically arranged lights; and the other with paneling below and a 3 light opening above. One door is in the main front section and the other is in the rear wing. They each have divided glass transoms and segmental arched heads. At the upper level are seven 4/4 double-hung windows with segmental arched heads. There are two each in the front two sections, and three in the rear wing. Above the upper story windows in the front sections of the house are small oval shaped attic windows. There are two segmental arched basement windows (with 2 lights each) in between the two porches.

Interior Details (See Photos #6-12)

The first floor plan of the Flagg House is irregularly shaped and contains five main rooms (front parlor, sitting room, dining room, master bedroom and kitchen) off the front central and rear halls. In 1989, a new frame addition replaced an enclosed porch on the north side of the kitchen. This addition houses a master bathroom, closet, workshop and utility room. In the front hallway there is a curving staircase, with a walnut newel post and handrail and turned oak balusters, that extends from the first floor all the way to the attic. Off the rear hall there is a narrow enclosed stairway that extends to the second floor. Behind this stairway is an enclosed staircase to the basement. At the north end of the rear hall is a half bath. (See Exhibit A for the first floor plan.)

Off the hallway on the second floor are five large bedrooms. Three new bathrooms have recently been added to serve three of the bedrooms, and two more bathrooms are being built for the other two bedrooms. A sewing room at the west end of the upper hall was converted into two baths, and a small frame addition off the central, north bedroom provides space for a third bathroom. In the rear wing, a small 6' x 9' room and part of the rear hall are being converted to bathrooms. (See Exhibit B)

With the exception of the kitchen (which has a 10' ceiling) and a new rear addition, the ceiling heights in the first floor rooms are 12 feet; the second floor has 10' ceilings. The original floors were 5½" wide pine planks, some of which have been re-finished. The heavily carved woodwork, which was originally hand grained, is painted white; most of the interior doorways have glass transoms. The wide doorways between the front hall and parlors have paneled double leaved doors. The dining room has

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Cornelius Flagg Farmstead

walnut and oak wainscoting and there is beaded wainscoting in the master bedroom (downstairs). The front parlor and sitting room have plaster ceiling medallions. Included in their design are grapes, apples, nuts, ears of corn and maple leaves - all elements native to the area. The lighting fixtures in the house were originally oil lamps that were later changed to gas and acetylene, before being electrified. An unusual feature of the house is the inclusion of dust ducts along the baseboards which slid up to allow dust to be swept through to the basement.

There are four fireplaces on the first floor, one each in the front parlor, sitting room, dining room and bedroom - all with Italianate style mantels. The mantel in the northwest parlor is metal with a faux white marble finish and a circular arched opening that has been tiled in. The mantels in the sitting room and dining room are metal with faux marble finishes and circular arched openings (one finished in black and the other in black and white). The bedroom fireplace mantel is made of wood with decorative paneling and applied columns. The opening has been filled in. (See photos #7-9). There is also a fireplace in the basement with a brick face, which has been covered over with insulation.

Outbuildings (See Photos #12-22)

In the rear of the house is a 20' x 20' red brick garage with a hipped roof that appears to have been built after the house and large barn were constructed (ca. 1880). This building was originally an ice house with a cupola. It is a contributing building.

Between the garage and the barn is a small frame privy (ca. 1930) which has vertical wood siding. This building is in poor condition and is a non-contributing building.

Southwest of the house is a large, two story brick barn (33' x 61') with a cross gable roof. This handsome building contains a stone in an oval shaped opening above the front carriage doors that is incised with the owner's name (C. Flagg), the date the barn was erected (1872), and the initials of the builder, H. B. (Henry Bettinghaus). The red brick walls are laid in a running bond with a header course every eighth course.

At the lower level, the main elevation has one 6/6 double-hung window, a passage door with a segmental arched transom, a pair of wood carriage doors with a segmental head, and four, paired double-hung windows (2/2) to the right of the carriage doors. At the second level are four symmetrically arranged double-hung windows with closed wood shutters. All windows and door in the barn have segmental arched heads. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The cornice originally was decorated with filigreed, wooden verge boards, some of which are still intact.

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Cornelius Flaag Farmstead

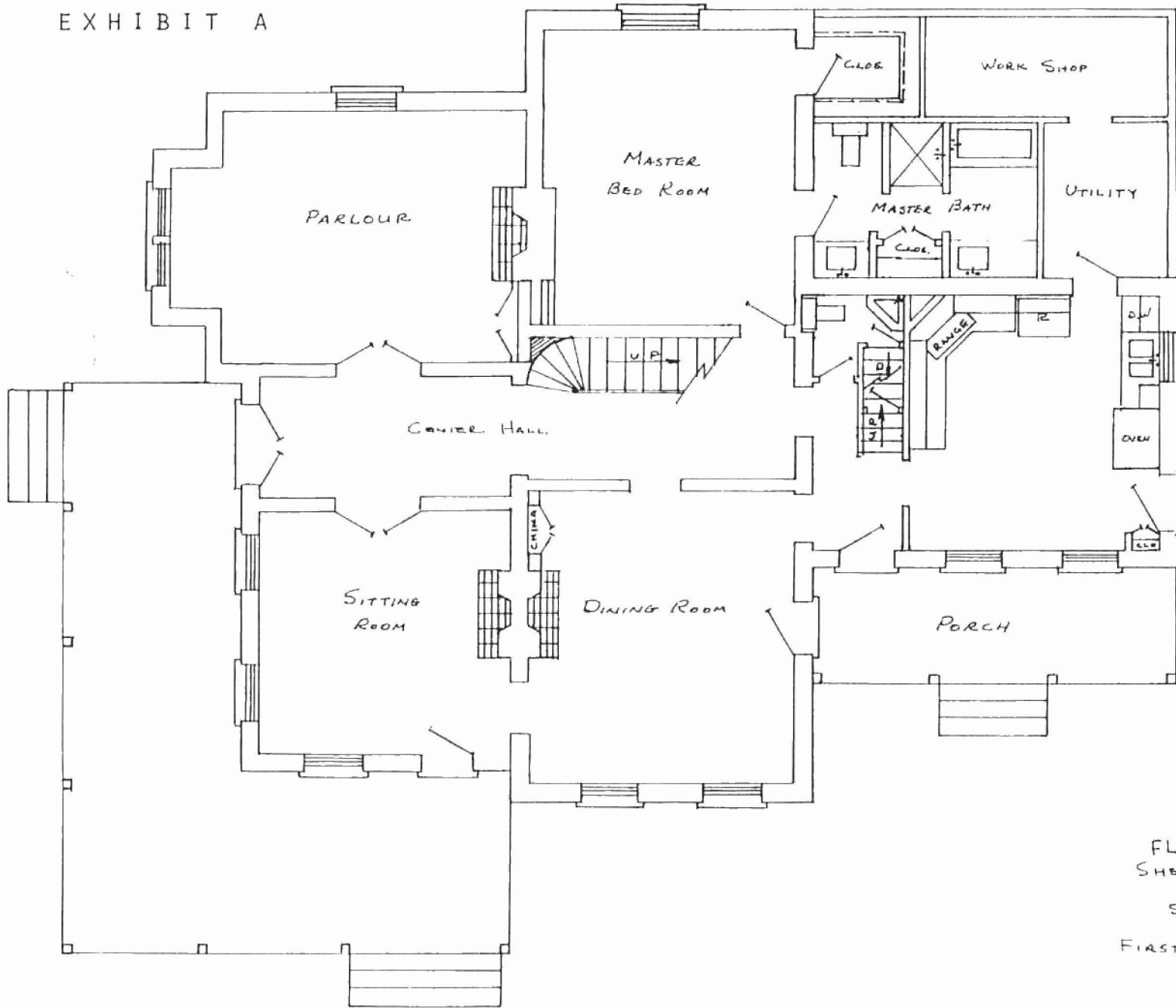
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The north elevation contains a 6/6 double-hung window and wood paneled door with a divided glass transom at the first level. At the second level, there is a 6/6 double-hung window directly over the one below, and a similar type window at the attic level in the gable end. Between the first and second floor level is a segmental arched opening enclosed with wood. On the rear of the barn is a frame, pent roofed addition that was probably used to shelter a few milk cows. The addition (which is one open space) has post and beam framing with mortise and tenon joints fastened with wood pegs. On the south elevation, there is a passage door with a transom in the center of the wall. Above the door is an opening with a segmental arched head that has been infilled with wood. At the attic level is a double-hung 6/6 window.

in the main block of the first floor of the barn (which is one big open space), there are eight large box stalls that were used for horses. Also on the first floor was storage space for carriages. The loft at the second story level was used to store hay. A straight wood staircase runs along the back wall of the barn to provide access to the loft. The barn is in good condition with some need for tuckpointing and general rehabilitation. It is a contributing building.

Attached to the brick (ice house) garage (on the east) are two modern metal buildings. One is 16' x 32' with a flat roof, and the other is approximately 20' x 20' with a gable roof. While these buildings are attached to the garage, there is no connecting door between them.

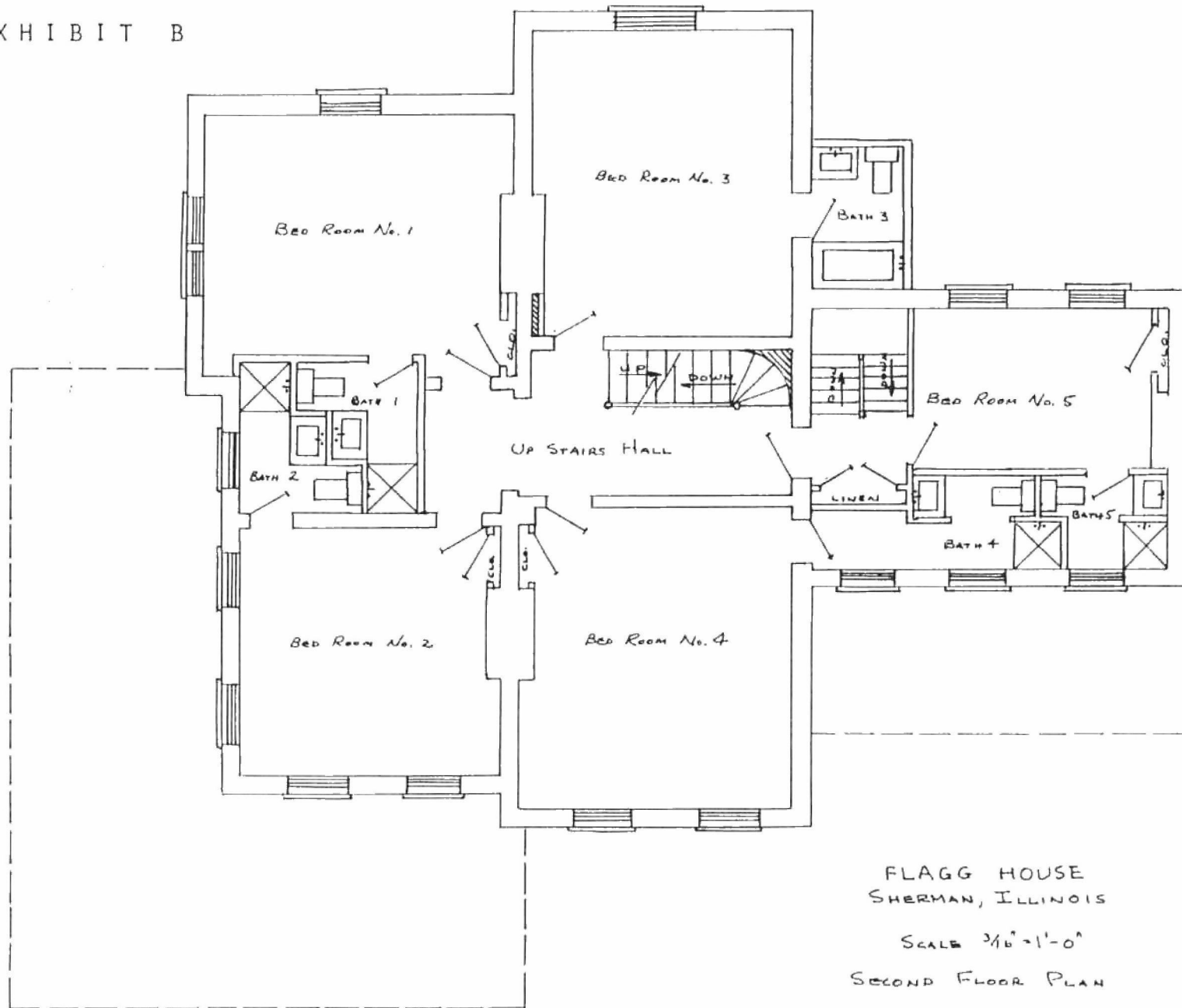
EXHIBIT A



FLAGG HOUSE  
SHERMAN, ILLINOIS  
SCALE 3/16" = 1'-0"  
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Cornelius Flagg Farmstead

EXHIBIT B



Cornelius Flagg Farmstead

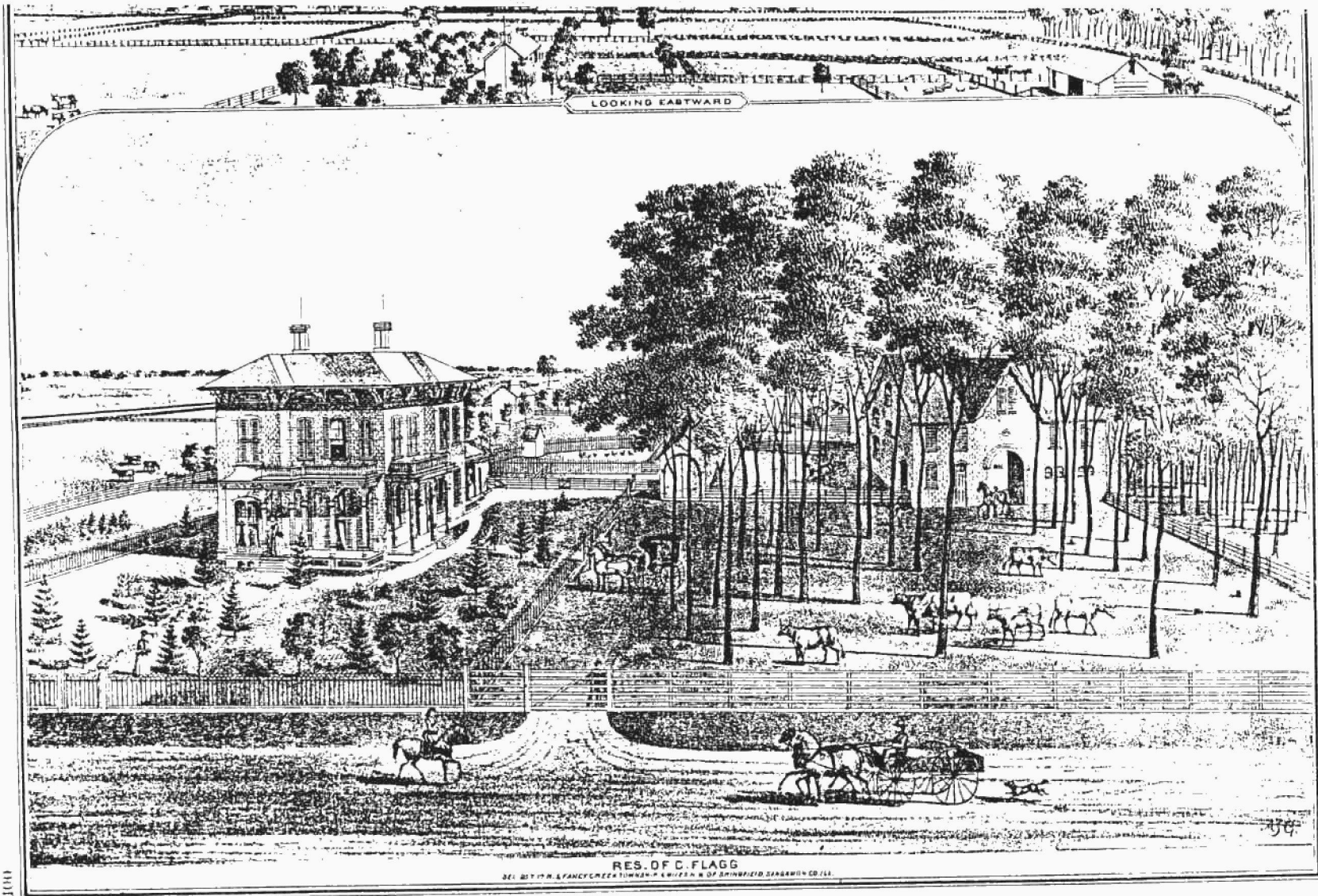


EXHIBIT C

Cornelius Flagg Farmstead

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1871-80

Significant Dates

1871-2

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bettinghaus, Henry, Builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Flagg, Cornelius, Farmstead

Sangamon County, Illinois

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.66 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid for Zone, Easting, Northing with values 16, 276310, 4418590

UTM grid for Zone, Easting, Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles Kirchner

organization Charles Kirchner & Associates date October, 1992

street & number 107 West Cook telephone 217/789-1330

city or town Springfield, state IL zip code 62704

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. & Mrs. Alan B. Lichtenberger

street & number R. R. #5 telephone 217/527-1599

city or town Springfield, state IL zip code 62707

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places...

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions...

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Cornelius Flagg Farmstead

## Narrative Statement of Significance

### SUMMARY

The Cornelius Flagg Farmstead is significant in the area of Architecture. It meets National Register Criterion C - as one of the best remaining examples of a farmstead in northern Sangamon County, Illinois with a brick asymmetrical, Italianate style house, a large stylish brick barn, and other outbuildings. While there are several other farmsteads with brick Italianate farmhouses in northern Sangamon County, only one other (the Price-Prather House) matches the quality of the Flagg farmhouse, and none have as impressive an assemblage of relatively intact outbuildings. The period of significance is 1871-1880, the era during which the contributing farmstead buildings were constructed.

### History of Property

Cornelius Flagg, whose father, Abraham, platted a part of the Village of Williamsville, Illinois, came to the state from Ohio with his family in a covered wagon in 1841. He was raised on his father's farm and received an elementary school education. After farming for awhile, he discovered there was money to be made in the rapidly growing railroad industry. When the Chicago & Alton Railroad (C&A) extended its line to Kansas City, Flagg, who owned extensive lumber mills in Portia, Arkansas and at Funk's Grove (south of Bloomington, Illinois), sold the C&A thousands of railroad ties at 1½ cents per foot. Two of Flagg's ledgers, now in family hands, show that he had an extensive business selling ties and lumber to at least ten different railroads in addition to the C&A, including the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe.

Flagg also made quite a lot of money gambling, and in 1871-72, he used some of his winnings to build a fine brick, 12 room Italianate farmhouse and a large brick barn on the 300 acre farm he owned in Fancy Creek Township - both befitting of his upper middle class status. The farmstead also included an earlier two story farmhouse, a brick machinery shed, and a wood privy. A brick, hip roofed ice house was built (ca. 1880) after the original farm buildings were erected. The earlier farm dwelling, in which the Flagg family lived until their new house was built, was demolished in the late 1920s. A smokehouse, which was connected to the house by a covered passageway, was destroyed by a tornado in the 1940s. It is not known when the machine shed was torn down.

The original farmstead buildings were constructed by Henry Bettinghaus, a prominent Springfield contractor, who made the bricks from clay on the site.

### The Architecture of the Farmhouse

The Flagg House is a good example of a relatively grand style, asymmetrical Italianate farm dwelling. It was built for a prosperous farmer and railroad contractor. As noted in Section 7 of the nomination form, the two story brick house has hipped roofs and recently restored decorative cornice brackets patterned after those still intact on the rear wing of the building. The brick walls are three bricks thick. The wraparound

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front porch replaced the original porches that had decorative wood trim and wood balustrades at their roof lines. There is also a one story porch with bracketed wood columns on the south side of the house (kitchen wing).

The interior of the house showcases some of the high style detailing typical of the period, including a curving staircase with walnut newel post and handrail, and turned oak balusters; heavily carved woodwork, walnut and oak wainscoting, large double leaved doors, transoms, and four fireplaces on the first floor with Italianate style mantels. The 12' ceilings in the main rooms on the first floor have plaster ceiling medallions, and there are dust ducts along the baseboards which allowed dust to be swept through to the basement.

While the existing front and side porches, with their square wood columns set on brick piers, were added in the 1930s, the exterior of the house still maintains a high level of integrity, as does the interior. There have been a few modifications to the interior, such as the inobtrusive addition of bathrooms to allow the house to function as a bed and breakfast inn, but the original character of the interior has been successfully maintained also.

The Architecture of the Brick Barn

Cornelius Flagg's brick, cross gabled barn is an excellent representative of its type, a late 19th century farm structure built by a prosperous midwestern farmer and businessman. The barn's proportions and siting, along with its fine detailing, helped to create an architecturally harmonious ensemble on the Flagg farmstead.

The barn has a typical layout with central doors in the front and rear, stalls for animals, and storage space for carriages and equipment on the first floor, with a hayloft above. It also exhibits early barn construction practices in its wood rear addition such as mortise and tenon joints fastened by wood pins. It is not so typical with respect to details such as its brick construction, arched carriage doors, multipaned double-hung windows with shutters, and decorative verge boards in the gable ends. In his book, Barns, Their History, Preservation and Restoration, Charles Klamkin says that it was only the more successful farmers who could afford the more pretentious barns. The Flagg barn also contains a stone panel over the main doorway that displays the owner's name, date of construction, and the builder's initials.

While there are at least three somewhat similar 19th century, brick barns/carriage houses within the nearby city of Springfield, the Flagg barn is believed to be one of the few remaining brick barns of this size and type outside Springfield in northern Sangamon County. Examples remaining in Springfield include; (1) a large 2 story, cross gable brick carriage house at 600 East Clay Street (back of the Howard K. Weber House which was listed in the National Register on October 1, 1979); it has segmental arched 6/6 windows and verge boards along the gable ends; (2) two identical 2 story, front gabled barns/carriage houses in the 600 block of East Jackson Street, with gabled side dormers, square headed off-center carriage doors, and small segmental arched windows; and (3) a 2 story, side gabled barn at the rear of 717 North 6th Street with segmental arched openings.

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The historic contexts within which this nomination is presented are as follows:

- I. Italianate residential architecture in the U. S., particularly farm dwellings in northern Sangamon County, Illinois in the period 1850-1880;
- II. The architecture of barns in the second half of the 19th century.

Italianate Residential Architecture<sup>(1)</sup>

The Italianate style was very popular in the United States in the era between 1850-1880, particularly in the Midwest as well as in the Northeast and West. Many of the early frame houses in San Francisco exhibited this style. The style is not often found in the southern part of the country since there was not much new construction in the South during this era due to the Civil War and the 1870s Depression.

Beginning in England, as an element in the Picturesque movement, the Italianate style was characterized by rambling Italian farmhouse forms with square towers. It is interesting to note that while the Picturesque movement was a reaction to formal classical architectural forms that were inspired by ancient Roman examples, Italy was also the source for the new architectural ideal.

In the U. S. and Midwest, Italianate dwellings often were patterned after the Picturesque informal rural examples, and were adapted in a style which may have exhibited only a few characteristics of Italian precedents. A rarer form of the Italianate in the U. S. was the Italian Renaissance townhouse. These were usually rectangular, masonry 3 story buildings with few decorative embellishments except for window pediments.

The earlier Italianate residences in this country were constructed in the late 1830s. Andrew Jackson Downing's pattern books were responsible for fostering the style's popularity. His books were published in the 1840s and 1850s. Most of the examples that survive today were built in the era between 1855 to 1880.

The financial panic of 1873 and the resulting depression have been noted as the cause for the demise of the Italianate style. As the economic picture brightened in the late 1870s, residential architecture turned to other styles such as the Queen Anne for inspiration.

(1) The discussion of Italianate residential architecture is based on material relating to this style in A Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia & Lee McAlester, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1984.

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Italianate houses were usually two stories high with low pitched roofs with widely overhanging eaves. The eaves were supported by decorative wood brackets, often paired. Windows were usually tall and narrow, often with segmental or full arched tops. Windows frequently had decorative hood molds, particularly on full or segmental arched shapes.

Porches are quite common in the Italianate style with restrained detailing and of one story height. While small entry porches were common, so were full width porches. The porch posts were usually square and beveled.

Doorways were either paired or single with large pane glazing in the door. Doorways are similar in shape to windows with crowns or lintels similar to those found on windows.

Basically, there were six principal subtypes of the Italianate style; the simple hipped roof (most common subtype); front facing projecting gable; asymmetrical (compound plan, generally L-shaped without tower); towered; front gabled roof; and town house.

Italianate Farmhouses in Northern Sangamon County

The Flagg farmstead compares favorably with the few remaining farmsteads in northern Sangamon County that contain a brick Italianate farmhouse. These include: the asymmetrical Lewis Sommers farmhouse (1864) on Route 125 near Bradfordton; the 11 room, asymmetrical Alfred Hussey House (1864-70) east of Sherman; the Price-Prather House (formerly part of a farmstead) (ca. 1868) in Williamsville; and a square, hipped roof farmhouse with a bracketed cornice on old Route 36 near Lanesville.

Of the three asymmetrical type Italianate farm dwellings mentioned above, only the Price-Prather House in Williamsville (listed in the National Register in 1991) can compare in form and high style with the Flagg farmhouse.

With respect to the farmsteads themselves, only the Flagg farmstead has a fairly complete collection of early outbuildings, including the large, ornate brick barn.

The Architecture of Late-19th Century Barns

Many Midwest barns were based on the 18th century English barn, which was built in a simple basic shape about 60 feet long with a central pair of doors in the front and back. It had a gable on each end and an uninterrupted roof ridge.(2)

(2) Klamon, Charles, Barns, Their History, Preservation and Restoration, Bonanza Books, New York, 1979.

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Cornelius Flagg Farmstead

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In the second half of the 19th century, some barn builders began to apply more decorative elements, in some cases to match the style of architecture of the farmhouse. Ornamentation was used to embellish doors, windows and roof lines. Cupolas, pidgeon roosts, and verge boards were added. On smaller barns, these new decorative elements gave them a cottage-like appearance. On larger ones, it livened up the hulking shapes and also gave them a more residential character.

In the latter part of the 19th century, less floor space was devoted to the storage of hay and other crops, with more space used for livestock. It was only the more successful farmers who could afford the more pretentious barns. Some even had double-hung windows, which gave the barn a more finished appearance as style became more important for well-to-do landowners.

### The Flagg Barn

The Flagg barn is an example of a building in which decorative elements were employed to help it compliment the stylish architectural character of the main farmhouse. Its use of double-hung, 6/6 windows and vergeboards, as well as its imposing size, gave evidence that the owner was, indeed, a prosperous one who could afford the best in the way of barn construction. The pent roofed addition at the rear of the brick part also demonstrates some of the earlier barn construction features, such as post and beam framing, and mortise and tenon joints fastened with wood pegs.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 11

Cornelius Flagg Farmstead

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Arthur, Eric and Whitney, Dudley, The Barn, A Vanishing Landmark in North America, M. F. Feheley Arts Company, Limited, 1972.
2. History of Sangamon County, Illinois, Chicago, Interstate Publishing Co., 1881.
3. Klamkin, Charles, Barns, Their History, Preservation and Restoration, Bonanza Books, New York, 1979.
4. McAlester, Virginia & Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1984.
5. Slater, Kent, introduction to Barn Architecture of McDonough County, by David Alan Badger, Havana, IL, 1984.
6. Obituary of Henry Bettinghaus, Illinois State Journal, May 4, 1915.
7. Interviews with Susan Park, Sherman, IL (granddaughter of Cornelius Flagg), October and December, 1991.
8. Cornelius Flagg ledgers, ca. 1880.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 12

Cornelius Flagg Farmstead

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Verbal Boundary Description

Part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 25, Township 17 North, Range 5 West of the Third Principal Meridian, described as follows: Beginning at a point on the West line of said Section 25, 407.42 feet North of the Southwest corner of said Section 25, thence North on the West line of said Section 25, 521.78 feet; thence East parallel to the South line of said Section 417.42 feet; thence South 521.78 feet to a line parallel to the South line of said Section 25; thence West 417.42 feet to the point of beginning, except the West 30 feet thereof being used for highway purposes; containing 4.66 acres more or less.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the farmhouse, large brick barn, ice house (now garage), frame privy, farmyard and pond that have been historically a part of the Cornelius Flagg Farmstead, and that still maintain their historic integrity.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 13

Cornelius Flagg Farmstead

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Additional Owner

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Flagg  
R.R. 16, Box 231  
Springfield, IL 62707

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Flagg, Cornelius, Farmstead

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Sangamon

DATE RECEIVED: 12/28/92      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/12/93  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/28/93      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/11/93  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92001848

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    2/3/93 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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CLASSIFICATION

EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION  
count resource type

PROPERTY NAME: Fladd, Cornelius, Farmsstead  
STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

MULTIPLE NAME:  
FUNCTION  
historic current

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Sangamon  
DESCRIPTION  
DATE RECEIVED: 12/28/92  
DATE OF 15TH DAY: 1/28/93  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:  
architectural classification  
materials  
descriptive text

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92001848

SIGNIFICANCE

NOMINATOR: STATE  
REASONS FOR REVIEW:  
Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N DATA PROBLEM: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N  
summary paragraph  
completeness  
clarity COMMENT WAIVER: N  
applicable criteria  
justification of areas checked REJECT RETURN ACCEPT  
relating significance to the resource  
context ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:  
relationship of integrity to significance  
justification of exception  
other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description  
UTMs boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS  
REVIEWER  
DISCIPLINE  
DATE

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to  
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments. Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

Phone

Signed

Date



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

VIEW OF FARMSTEAD SHOWING HOUSE & BARN

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING E.

P-1



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (8-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

FRONT ELEVATION

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING E

P. 2



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (8-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

NORTH ELEVATION

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING S

P. 3



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (8-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

PIERSPECTIVE VIEW - HOUSE FROM NEAR

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING NW

P-4



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

SOUTH ELEVATION

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING N

P-5



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER : CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

TYPICAL WOODWORK & DOUBLE LEAVED DOORS

IN FRONT PARLORS

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING N

P-6



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

METAL FIREPLACE MANTEL WITH FAUX MARBLE

FINISH, & CUPBOARD - NW PARLOR

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING E.

P-7



CORNELIUS FLAGG BARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

METAL FIREPLACE MANTEL IN SW PARLOR

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING E.

D-8



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

METAL FIREPLACE MANTEL IN DINING RM.

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING W

P-9



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

FRONT HALL SHOWING CURVING STAIRWAY,

PINE FLOOR & DOOR WITH TRANSOM

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING E

P-10



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

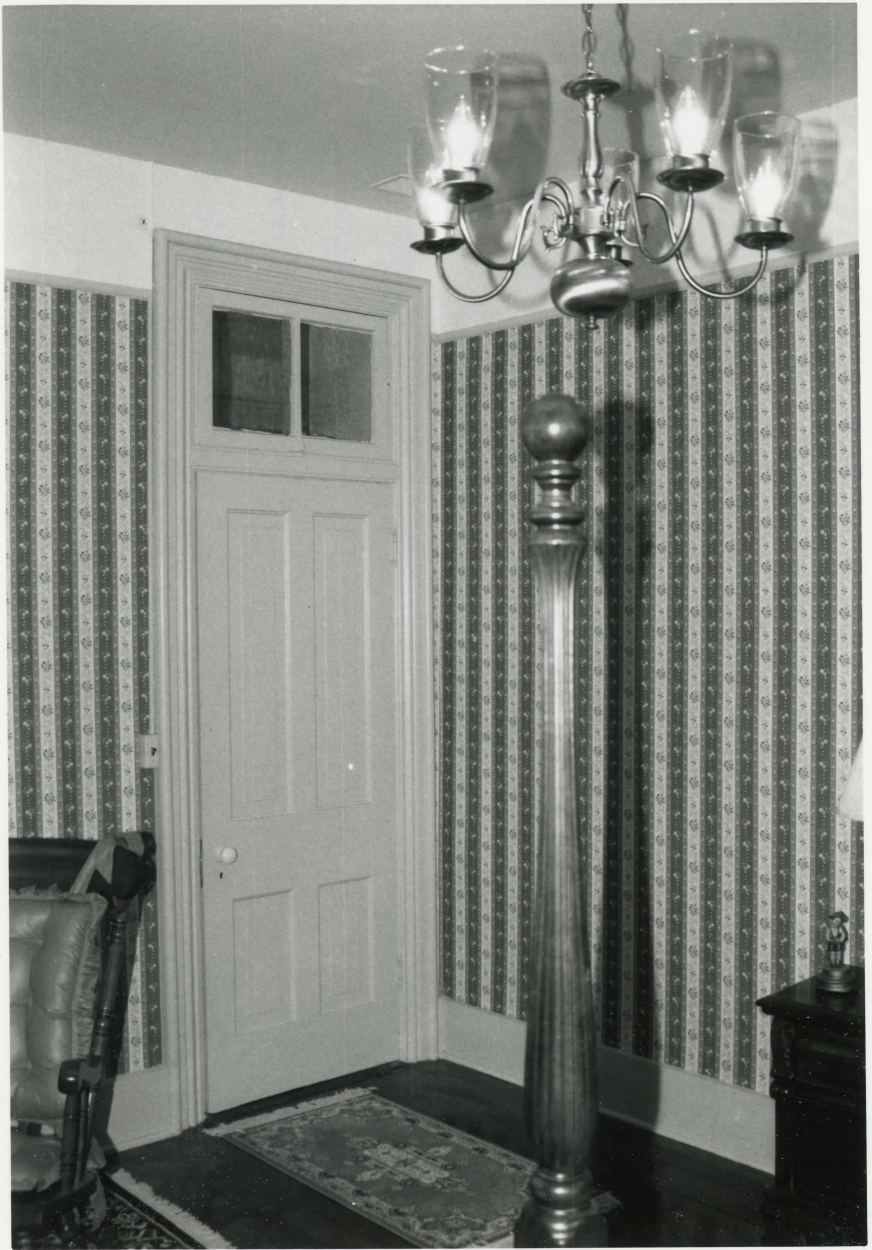
PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

SECOND FL. BEDRM. SHOWING PINE FLOORING

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING N.

P-11



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

SECOND FL. BEDROOM SHOWING TYPICAL WOODWORK,  
DOOR & TRANSOM

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING SW

P-12



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARHSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

HIPPED ROOF GARAGE (FORMER ICE HOUSE)

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING SE

P-13



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

N. ELEV. OF BARN & FRAME PRIVY

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING S

P. 14



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

PIERSPECTIVE VIEW OF BARN

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING NE

P-15



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL


PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

SOUTH ELEVATION OF BARN

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING N

P-16



G. FLAGG  
EREGTED 1872  
H. B.

CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (12.92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

STONE OVER MAIN BARN ENTRY SHOWING NAME OF  
OWNER, DATE OF ERECTION & BUILDER'S INITIALS.

PHOTOGRAPHER DACING E.

P. 17



CORNELIUS FLAGG PARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

INTERIOR OF BARN, 1ST FL, SHOWING 2ND

FL CONSTRUCTION

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING N

P-18



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

VIEW OF HORSE STALL, 1ST FL. OF BARN

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING E

P-19



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

2ND FL. OF BARN SHOWING ROOF CONSTRUCTION

PHOTOGRAPHER FACING E.

P-20



CORNELIUS FLAGG FARMSTEAD

SHERMAN, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHARLES KIRCHNER (10-92)

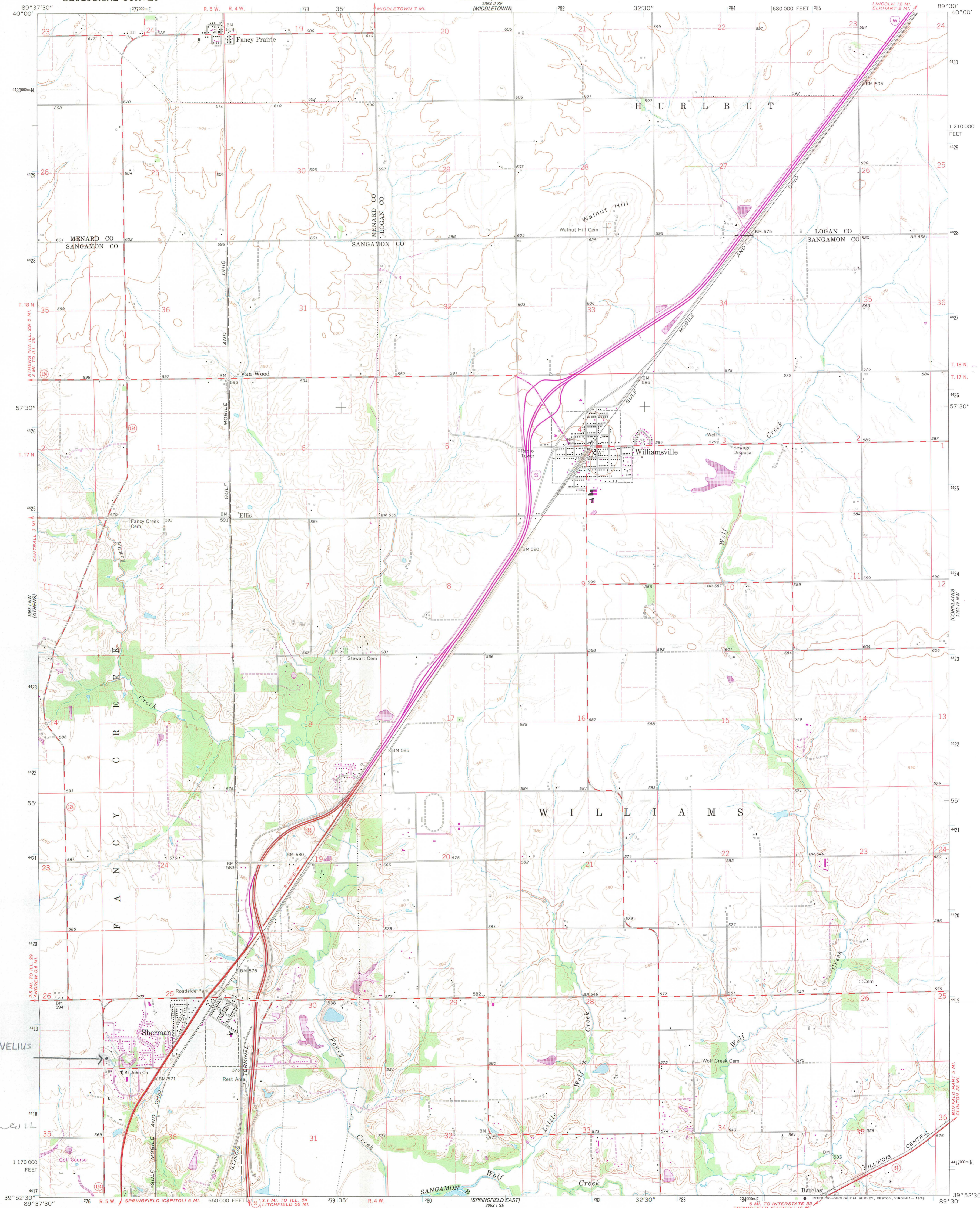
NEGATIVE IN POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHER

VIEW SHOWING CONSTRUCTION OF BEAM, FRAME

ADDITION TO BRICK BARN

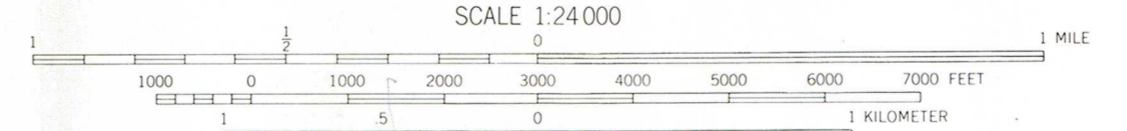
PHOTOGRAPHER FACING SW

P-21



FLAGG, CORNELIUS  
FARMSTEAD  
ZONE 16  
E 276310  
N 4418590  
*Sammuel IL*

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1966  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Illinois coordinate system, west zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 16, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1971 and 1976. This information not field checked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
NATIONAL GEODETTIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

WILLIAMSVILLE, ILL.  
N3952.5-W8930/7.5

1966  
PHOTOREVISED 1971 AND 1976  
AMS 3063 I NE-SERIES V863



**Illinois Historic  
Preservation Agency**

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

DEC 22 1992

RECEIVED

December 22, 1992

Ms. Beth Boland  
National Register Program  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
800 N. Capitol Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Beth:

Enclosed please find the National Register nomination forms and accompanying documentation for the following properties that were nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer:

Abraham Groesbeck House, Chicago  
Cornelius Flagg Farmstead, Sherman vicinity  
Bryant H. and Lucie Barber House, Polo  
Mrs. A. W. Gridley House, Batavia  
E. B. Colwell and Company Department Store, Monmouth  
White Hall Historic District (Boundary Increase), White Hall

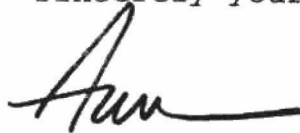
Please note that no USGS map was submitted with the White Hall Historic District (Boundary Increase). It was not necessary to amend the UTM references for the boundary increase. Apparently the UTMs for the original district boundaries were drawn to include the U.S. Post Office, and therefore the UTMs remain exactly the same for this boundary increase. Also, the U.S. Postal Service was officially notified of this nomination as per the federal regulations

The Mayor of Chicago did not comment on the Abraham Groesbeck House, therefore only the comment letter from the Commission on Chicago Landmarks is attached to the nomination form (along with my preliminary opinion.)

Beth Boland  
December 22, 1992  
Page 2

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ann V. Swallow  
Survey & National Register  
Coordinator

encl.