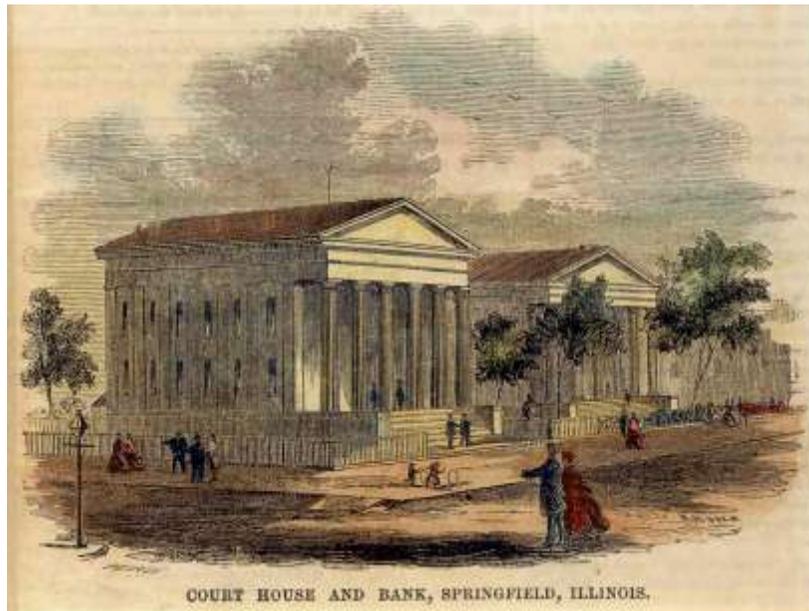


LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

**GREEK REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE  
ON THE PRAIRIE**



COURT HOUSE AND BANK, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

Spring Creek Series

Richard E. Hart

**Front Cover Illustration:** “Court House and Bank, Springfield, Illinois,” *Ballou’s Pictorial Journal*, Boston, Massachusetts, dated November 15, 1856.

**Back Cover Illustration:** A photograph of the First Presbyterian Church, a magnificent example of Greek Revival liturgical architecture built in 1843 at the southeast corner of Third and Washington streets.

*In the 1820s, American admiration for Greece reached a burning intensity - sparked by her valiant struggle against the Turks and fueled by a new understanding of the vigor of her ancient culture. In the spirit of Greek architecture Jacksonian America found its aesthetic ideal.*

*From the 1820s until the Civil War, Greek Revival was a one-style-fits-all building design choice of rich and poor, in town and country, North and South, from the Atlantic Ocean to the new Midwest and around the Cape to California.<sup>1</sup>*

*Greek Revival Style: 1820s to 1850s The Greek Revival is often considered the first truly American style. Earlier styles were inspired by English building fashions and frequently built from English pattern books. The Greek Revival style arose out of a young nation’s desire to identify with the ideals of the ancient Greek Republic. Inspired by the architecture of ancient Greece, buildings in this style are patterned after Greek temples. The triangular gable end which, usually faces the street, is analogous to the temple pediment, while the flat horizontal board which runs along the length of the gable represents the classical entablature<sup>2</sup>*

All proceeds from the sale of this pamphlet will benefit the Elijah Iles House Foundation.

The mission of the Elijah Iles House Foundation is to preserve, restore and endow the maintenance of the Elijah Iles House for the use and appreciation of the citizens of Springfield and its visitors.

*Lincoln’s Springfield: Greek Revival Architecture on the Prairie*  
Spring Creek Series.  
Copyright 2011, Elijah Iles House Foundation  
Springfield, Illinois. All rights reserved.  
First Printing, December, 2011

---

<sup>1</sup> *Greek Revival in America: From Tara to Farmhouse Temples*, James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell. Old House Journal On Line [http://www.oldhousejournal.com/magazine/2003/february/greek\\_revival.shtml](http://www.oldhousejournal.com/magazine/2003/february/greek_revival.shtml) (Hereafter referred to as “Massey.”)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.rchsonline.org/ar\\_greek2.htm](http://www.rchsonline.org/ar_greek2.htm) Rensselaer County Historical Society.

## INTRODUCTION

What a magnificent little town Springfield was at the time Abraham Lincoln walked its streets. As the proud new capitol of a growing and prospering state, it embraced a fresh American style of architecture that emerged and flourished between 1820 and 1860. The style imitated classical Greek architecture and became known as Greek Revival. Springfield examples ranged from imposing public buildings fully expressing the classical style to simple residential cottages modestly expressing the style in an element or two.

A simple early form of the Greek Revival style first appeared in Springfield in about 1832 when Stephen T. Logan built a house in that style at the southwest corner of Third and Madison streets. The style came to its full classical measure in 1837 when a Springfield baker, John Francis Rague, won the architectural contest for his Greek Revival design for Illinois' new State House. Rague's design ushered in a period, roughly from 1837 to 1860, during which Greek Revival architecture thrived in Springfield.

Excellent examples include: the State House (1837)(extant), the Elijah Iles House (circa 1837)(extant), the Tinsley Block (1837)(partially extant), the Lawrason Levering House (1838), the Illinois State Bank (1839), the Second Presbyterian Church (1839), the Davis Meredith Farmhouse (1839)(extant), the First Presbyterian Church (1843), the Sangamon County Court House (1845), the John Gardner Farmhouse (1845)(extant), the Third Presbyterian Church (1851), the Methodist Episcopal Church (1852), the Enterprise Building (1854)(extant), the Illinois State Arsenal (1855), the Lincoln Home (1839, expanded in 1856)(extant), the First and Third Ward Schools (1856), and the Second Portuguese Church (1861)(extant).

Abraham Lincoln spent much of his Springfield life in these Greek Revival structures. Stephen T. Logan sold his Greek Revival house at Third and Madison streets to William Butler and it was here that Lincoln first boarded in 1837 and then roomed and boarded until his marriage in 1842. His first law office was in a simple early Greek Revival building that also housed the Sangamon County Court House from 1837 to 1845. His house at Eighth and Jackson streets was a Greek Revival cottage. His wife's church, First Presbyterian, was a magnificent example of Greek Revival liturgical architecture. The Illinois State House where he spent much of his professional and political life has been described as one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture west of the Allegheny's. The east side of the Public Square was graced with two magnificent Greek Revival public buildings—the State Bank of Illinois called “the most chaste, beautiful and substantial building west of the Allegheny Mountains”<sup>3</sup> and the Sangamon County Court House. The Tinsley Building where Lincoln and Herndon had their law offices and where Lincoln practiced law before the United States Court was of the Greek Revival style. Some of the homes of Lincoln's friends where he spent many leisure hours were of the Greek Revival style. Beyond Springfield, many of the Sangamon County farm houses that he visited or passed on horseback were also of a simple Greek Revival style.

When reading this, remember that New Salem with its assembly of log cabins existed from 1828 to about 1840. Contrast that with Springfield's development during the same years. Here then is a glimpse into *Lincoln's Springfield—Greek Revival Architecture on the Prairie* that I hope will expand your vision of Lincoln's Springfield.

Richard E. Hart  
Springfield, Illinois

---

<sup>3</sup> “*Here I Have Lived,*” *A History of Lincoln's Springfield, 1821-1865*, Paul M. Angle, The Abraham Lincoln Association, Springfield, Illinois, 1935, p. 171. (Hereafter referred to as “Angle.”)

## Table of Contents

<b>GREEK REVIVAL STRUCTURES IN LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Residential .....	1
Governmental .....	1
Commercial .....	1
Religious .....	1
<b>THE BUILDINGS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CIRCA 1832.....</b>	<b>2</b>
Stephen Trigg Logan House.....	2
<b>CIRCA 1835.....</b>	<b>3</b>
Hoffman's Row.....	3
<b>1837 .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Illinois State House .....	4
<b>1837 .....</b>	<b>5</b>
American House .....	5
<b>CIRCA 1837.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Elijah Iles House .....	6
<b>1839 .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Illinois State Bank Building .....	8
<b>1839 .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Rev. Charles Dresser House.....	10
<b>1840 .....</b>	<b>11</b>
Tinsley Building .....	11
<b>CIRCA 1841.....</b>	<b>12</b>
John Francis Rague House .....	12
<b>1842 .....</b>	<b>13</b>
First Methodist Church Annex (Condell House) .....	13
<b>1843 .....</b>	<b>14</b>
First Presbyterian Church.....	14
<b>1845 .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Sangamon County Court House .....	15
<b>1846 .....</b>	<b>19</b>
Clark M. Smith House .....	19
<b>1850 .....</b>	<b>20</b>
Charles S. Corneau House.....	20
<b>1850 .....</b>	<b>21</b>
First Baptist Church of Springfield .....	21
<b>1851 .....</b>	<b>22</b>
Third Presbyterian Church .....	22
<b>1851 .....</b>	<b>24</b>
The North Side of the Square .....	24
Coleman and Ayers and Telegraph Office .....	24
<b>1852 .....</b>	<b>25</b>
First Methodist (Episcopal) Church .....	25
<b>1853 .....</b>	<b>26</b>
First Christian Church.....	26
<b>1854 .....</b>	<b>ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.</b>
Enterprise Building .....	27
<b>1855 .....</b>	<b>28</b>
Illinois State Arsenal .....	28
<b>1856 .....</b>	<b>29</b>
Lincolns Remodel Home.....	29
<b>1856 .....</b>	<b>30</b>
Lawrason Levering House .....	30
<b>1856 .....</b>	<b>31</b>
First Ward School (Palmer) .....	31
<b>1856 .....</b>	<b>32</b>
Third Ward School (Edwards) .....	32
<b>1861 .....</b>	<b>33</b>
Second Presbyterian Portuguese Church.....	33
<b>A FEW COUNTRY HOUSES .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>1832 .....</b>	<b>34</b>
Tiger-Anderson House.....	34
<b>1837 .....</b>	<b>35</b>
Davis Meredith House .....	35
<b>1845 .....</b>	<b>36</b>
Thomas Strawbridge House .....	36
<b>1845 .....</b>	<b>37</b>
John Gardner House.....	37
<b>THE ARCHITECTS .....</b>	<b>38</b>
Minard Lafever and John Francis Rague.....	38
George I. Barnett.....	47
<b>ELEMENTS OF GREEK REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE .....</b>	<b>48</b>
Decline of Greek Revival Style.....	51

## **Greek Revival Structures In Lincoln's Springfield**

### **Residential**

Stephen Trigg Logan House, Circa 1832.  
Tiger-Anderson House, 1832.  
Elijah Iles House, 1837. Architect: perhaps John Francis Rague.  
Rev. Charles Dresser Cottage, 1839. (The earliest form of the Lincoln Home.)  
John Francis Rague's Grecian Cottage, circa 1840. Architect: perhaps John Francis Rague.  
John S. Condell House, 1842.  
Thomas Strawbridge House, 1845.  
Davis Meredith House, 1837.  
John Gardner House, 1845.  
Clark M. Smith House, 1846.  
Charles S. Corneau House, 1850.  
Lawson Leavering House, 1856 .  
Abraham Lincoln House, 1856 remodel.

### **Governmental**

Illinois State House, 1837. Architect: John Francis Rague.  
Sangamon County Court House, 1845.  
Illinois State Arsenal, 1855.  
First and Third Ward Schools, 1856.

### **Commercial**

Hoffman's Row, 1835.  
American House, 1837.  
Illinois State Bank, 1839. Architect: George I. Barnett, St. Louis.  
Tinsley Building, 1840.  
Enterprise Building, 1854.  
North Side of Square, 1860.

### **Religious**

Second Presbyterian Church, 1839.  
First Presbyterian Church, 1843.  
First Baptist Church, 1850.  
Third Presbyterian Church, 1851. Architect: George I. Barnett, St. Louis.  
First Christian Church, 1853.  
First Methodist Episcopal Church, 1852.  
Second Portuguese Church, 1861.

## The Buildings

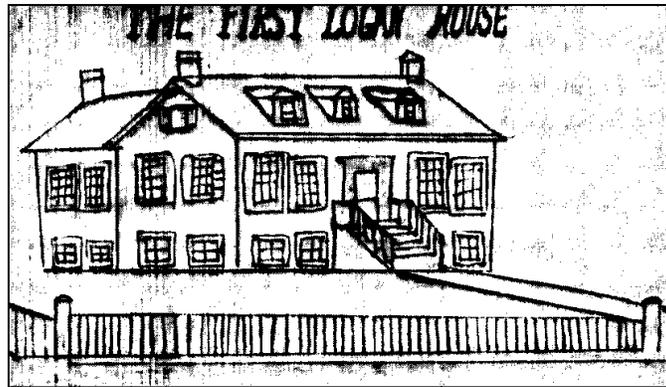
Circa 1832

### Stephen Trigg Logan House

Southwest Corner of Third and Madison Streets

About 1832, Stephen Trigg Logan built a Greek Revival style house at the southwest corner of Third and Madison streets. The house no longer stands and I have found no photograph of the house. However, the drawing below depicts "The First Logan House," a house that appears remarkably similar to the 1837 Elijah Iles House. The house was a raised, one-and-a-half-story frame rectangle with the eave as the front. There were wooden stairs from the ground level to the front main level with two windows on either side of the center doorway and its symmetrical surround. There were also four, smaller, two-over-two windows in the ground level front. The three roof dormers on the front, however, were not typical of the Greek Revival style.

The gable ends of the house had two six-over-six windows on the raised main level. The pediment or triangular area above the main level contained one small window in the center allowing light and air to the half story sleeping area. The ground level had two, two-over-two windows. There were two chimneys, one at each peak of the gable ends. There was an extended one and half story "ell" at the rear of the house. Overall, the house clearly displayed enough style elements to be classified as Greek Revival.



Residence of Stephen Trigg Logan and Later William M. Butler  
at Southwest Corner of Third and Madison Streets

Sometime before 1837, Stephen Trigg Logan sold his house to William M. Butler. As a young man, Butler had been a deputy of the Circuit Clerk for Adair County, Kentucky, where he met Logan, then a young lawyer. They remained friends throughout their lives.<sup>4</sup> Butler was a Whig and later a Republican, and was reputed to be the canniest political forecaster in the country.<sup>5</sup> Camp Butler east of Springfield was named after him.

### *Lincoln Was Here*

From the time Abraham Lincoln first came to Springfield in April 1837 until his marriage in November 1842, he boarded at this house with William Butler and his wife, Elizabeth. From at least January 1841 until he married in November 1842, Lincoln also roomed here with the Butlers.

As Lincoln dressed here for his wedding on November 1842, Butler's young son asked Lincoln where he was going. "To Hell, I guess," Lincoln supposedly replied.

<sup>4</sup> *Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois*, John Carroll Power, 1876, p. 165. (Hereafter referred to as "Power.")

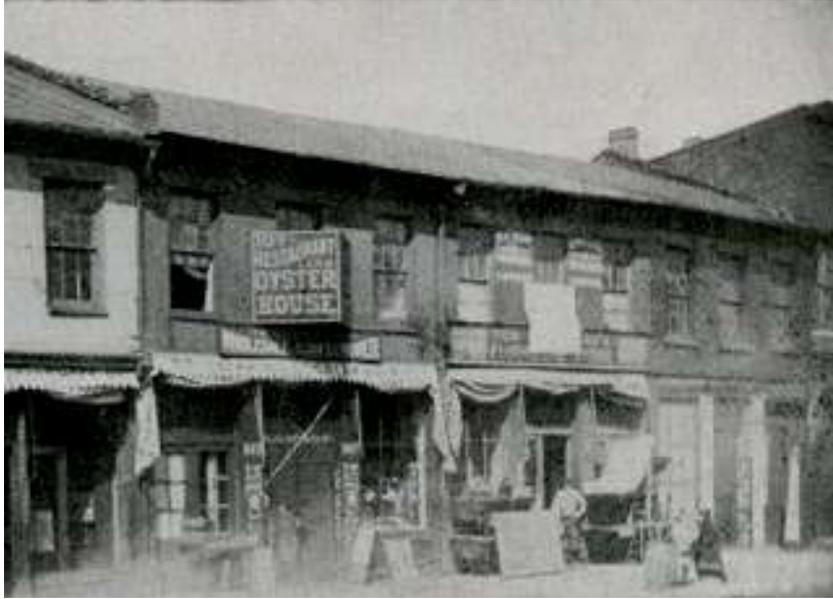
<sup>5</sup> *Angle*, p. 65.

Circa 1835

### Hoffman's Row

Northwest Corner of Fifth and Washington Streets

In 1835, six, two-story brick commercial structures were built on the west side of Fifth Street extending northward from the building at the northwest corner of Washington Street. The structures, called "Hoffman's Row," featured simple Greek Revival elements including a symmetrical arrangement of features and a low pitched roof.



The stretch of two-story buildings to the north of the building at the Northwest Corner of Fifth and Washington Streets was known as Hoffman's Row<sup>6</sup>

### *Lincoln Was Here*

On April 15, 1837, two years after Hoffman's Row was constructed, Abraham Lincoln moved to Springfield from New Salem and became John Todd Stuart's junior law partner. From April 1837 until April 1841, Stuart and Lincoln's law office was on the second floor at "No. 4 in Hoffman's Row, upstairs."<sup>7</sup>

**J. T. STUART AND A. LINGOLN,**  
**A**TTORNEYS and Counsellors at Law, will practice,  
conjointly, in the Courts of this Judicial Circuit.--  
Office No. 4 Hoffman's Row, up stairs.  
Springfield, April 12, 1837. 4

In 1837, Sangamon County leased space in the first floor of Hoffman's Row for use as the Sangamon County Court House. It was in this Court House that Abraham Lincoln practiced law for eight years, from 1837 to 1845.

<sup>6</sup> Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois. (Hereafter referred to as "SVC.")

<sup>7</sup> *The Story of the Sangamon County Court House*, Henry D. Giger, Springfield, 1901.

1837

## Illinois State House

Extant

On February 28, 1837, the Illinois State legislature chose Springfield as the capital of Illinois. The State acquired the public square containing two and half acres “upon which... shall be erected a State House...for the State of Illinois.”

On April 8, 1837, the *Sangamo Journal* carried an advertisement “to Architects,” announcing that a premium of \$300 would be paid for the “best plans and estimates of a Building for a State House.” Springfield resident John F. Rague won the prize and was appointed the supervising architect of the project with a salary of a thousand dollars per year.<sup>8</sup> The building that Rague designed was one of the finest Greek Revival structures in the United States, and it remains so today.



The Illinois State House Taken From the West Side of Fifth Street Looking to the East  
Sangamon County Court House and Illinois State Bank to Left Rear of State House<sup>9</sup>

### *Lincoln Was Here*

No other public building is more closely identified with Lincoln’s Springfield professional and political career.

*Here Lincoln attended his last session of the legislature in 1840-1841; attended to some 235 cases in the Illinois Supreme Court; delivered the “house divided against itself” speech; and used the Governor’s room as his office during the campaign of 1860 and as president-elect. Here his body lay in state May 3-4, 1865.<sup>10</sup>*

<sup>8</sup> *American Places: Encounters with History*, William E. Leuchtenburg, 2002, Oxford University Press, pp. 187-188. *Ten Ministers: A History of the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Illinois 1828-1953*, Roger E. Chapin, p. 13. (Hereafter referred to as “Chapin.”) *By Square and Compass: Saga of the Lincoln Home*, Wayne Calhoun Temple, Mayhaven Publishers, Mahomet, Illinois, pp. 4-5. (Hereinafter referred to as “By Square and Compass.”)

<sup>9</sup> Photographic Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois. (Hereafter referred to as “ALPL.”)

<sup>10</sup> *Lincoln’s Inner Circle*, Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield, 1955.

1837

## American House

Southeast Corner of Sixth and Adams Streets

In 1837, Elijah Iles and two partners built the American House, a three-story brick hotel at the southeast corner of Sixth and Adams streets. It was Springfield's finest hotel and was known as "the finest three-story house west of the Alleghenies." The building featured simple Greek Revival elements including a symmetrical arrangement of features and a low pitched roof. The American House provided lodging for many lawyers and lobbyists who flocked to Springfield each year for sessions of the state legislature, the Illinois Supreme Court, and the federal courts.



The American House<sup>11</sup>

An Ohio newspaper editor described the hotel:

*"Near the State House," he wrote, "is a gigantic building, called the American House, intended perhaps as the tavern proper for the Legislators. Politics and politeness hover round this splendid affair. Everything inside puts you in mind of the Turkish splendor, the carpeting, the papering, and the furniture, weary the eye with magnificence. The building itself is distinguished more for the harmony and simplicity of its proportions, than the richness of its exterior. A fine place for those who are troubled with a superabundance of silver."<sup>12</sup>*

Rheuna Lawrence, father of Susan Lawrence Dana, partially razed the building in 1880-81 and built a new structure on the hotel's hand-fitted foundation.

### *Lincoln Was Here*

Mary and Abraham Lincoln attended many social functions at the American House. When the American House opened on November 26, 1838, with a dinner for two hundred citizens, Mary and Abraham Lincoln was probably in attendance. Lincoln was one of the hosts of a Cotillion Party held here in late 1839. On June 17, 1842, Lincoln was probably here at a reception to honor Ex President Martin Van Buren.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>11</sup> ALPL.

<sup>12</sup> Angle, p. 87.

<sup>13</sup> *Lincoln Day by Day: A Chronology 1809-1865*, Earl Schenck Miers, Editor-in-Chief, William E. Baringer, Morningside, Dayton, Ohio, 1991, p. 98. (Hereafter referred to as "Day by Day.") *Following in Lincoln's Footsteps*, Ralph Gary, Carroll & Graf Publishers, New York, 2001, p. 157.

**Circa 1837**

**Elijah Iles House**

628 South Seventh Street  
Extant

In about 1837, Elijah Iles built a grand Greek Revival house at the southeast corner of what is now Sixth and Cook streets. The house, one of Illinois' earliest and finest examples of Greek Revival architecture, may have been designed by John Francis Rague, the architect for the Illinois State House. The house still stands but has been moved to the northeast corner of Seventh and Cook streets where it has been restored by the Elijah Iles House Foundation.



**Elijah Iles House: Built Circa 1837**

The house is a one-and-a half-story frame rectangle, 46'-6" x 44'-0", on a raised brick lower level. There is a monumental wooden stairway from the ground level to the eve front porch at the main level. The porch is a 10 foot deep gallery<sup>14</sup> that runs the full width of the front (west) elevation. Six square columns with crown molds and bases are symmetrically spaced across the front.<sup>15</sup> There are pilasters<sup>16</sup> at each corner of the main level elevations, with crown moulds and bases that match the profile and size of the front porch columns. The roof of the porch is continuous with the main roof of the house, and is not a separate structure.

The west front main level has four, double-hung wood windows with six-over-six panes. The windows are symmetrically set on each side of the main entrance door. Each window has a pair of wood slatted shutters painted green.

The exterior siding of the main and upper levels is painted, walnut clapboard.

<sup>14</sup> Gallery, gallerie. In French Vernacular architecture of Louisiana, a roofed porch, usually open-sided, about 6 to 12 feet wide; it often extends across the entire front, across the front and one or both sides, or completely around the building and provides useful living space in the open air, of particular value in a hot, humid climate. On a raised house, the gallerie is usually on the first floor, i.e., the upper level; in a Creole house, there is sometimes a gallerie across the front of the house and loggia at the rear. *American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*, Cyril M. Harris, W. W. Norton and Company, New York, 1998, p. 143. (Hereafter referred to as "Harris.")

<sup>15</sup> The descriptions are taken from an unpublished report prepared for the Elijah Iles House Foundation by Floyd Mansberger of Fever River Research, Springfield, Illinois. (Hereafter referred to as "Mansberger.")

<sup>16</sup> Pilasters are frequent Greek Revival features. They are most commonly used on the corners of frame house. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2005, p. 182.

The front main level entrance is a classic Greek Revival doorway of monumental scale. The door itself is walnut with two, large vertical panels. On either side of the door, there are glass side lights with 4 panes in 4'-6" vertical openings. The wooden bases below the side lights have inserted rectangular panels. Above the door, there is a glazed transom light of 6 panes.



The interior walnut trim of the front doorway is unique. There is a pediment above the front door itself and a larger-frieze and pediment above the glass transom. All interior woodwork is oiled and stained walnut.<sup>17</sup>



The upper north and south gable elevations are triangular within the gable of the roof. A frieze board along the rake of the roof is an 8-inch painted flat fascia board. There are two wood, double hung six-over-six windows symmetrically balanced off the center of the upper gable face. The cornice eaves are a 12-inch frieze<sup>18</sup> board. The house has three simple brick masonry chimneys that are exposed above the roofline.

### *Lincoln Was Here*

The first owner of the house, Elijah Iles, was a friend and client of Lincoln's. The second owner, Robert Irwin, was Lincoln's friend and banker. Lincoln often visited the house when Robert Irwin lived there and would play cards--euchre and whist--in the front parlor. When Lincoln left for Washington, he left his financial affairs in the hands of Irwin.

*Mr. Lincoln played euchre, and while not so enthusiastic at the game as were Mr. Irwin, Mr. Ridgley, Mr. Douglas, and Dr. Merryman, the quartet that usually got together at the table, was fond of it. His nature unfolded while at play, and he was the humor of the evening and the pacificator of the losers.*<sup>19</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Mansberger.

<sup>18</sup> Frieze. In house construction, a horizontal member connecting the top row of the siding with the underside of the cornice. *Harris*, p. 138.

<sup>19</sup> "William B. Corneau's Recollections," *Chicago Tribune*, February 10, 1895, Part 5, p. 4.

1839

**Illinois State Bank**  
East Side of Public Square  
George I. Bennett, architect

In 1839, the Illinois State Bank built a majestic Greek Revival bank building in the middle of the East Side of the Public Square opposite the State House. Designed by St. Louis architect George I. Bennett, it was called “the most chaste, beautiful and substantial building west of the Allegheny Mountains.”<sup>20</sup>

The building was a temple, a rectangular-massed stone building, one story high and six window bays deep. The windows were large and gave the appearance of there being more window than wall. Eight stone steps lead up to a full portico across its front with a front gable pediment supported by six Corinthian columns. The pediment was closed by a full entablature. The square pilasters at each corner provided a frame for each facade.

A double entry door, centered on the front (west) facade, was capped with a full entablature. Each entry door had five horizontal wood inset panels. There also was a large rectangular panel above the doors creating a heightened appearance to the entrance.

The building was a perfect complement to the newly constructed Illinois State House, its neighbor across Sixth Street.



Illinois State Bank on the East Side of the Public Square<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> *Angle*, p. 171.

<sup>21</sup> *ALPLM*.

*Mr. Barnett was not only one of the best known architects in St. Louis but he was reputed to be the ablest in the country in the classic school, from which he would not swerve. He had no use for modern innovations and style, such as low ceilings, small windows and dwarfed doorways. His buildings, whether public or private, always showed in their treatment what is characteristic of the educated architect, namely, character, expression and proportion.*

Hyde and Conard's Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis (1899).

*The design is by Mr. George I. Barnett, of St. Louis, an architect of established reputation, to whom, for this design [Third Presbyterian Church] and that of the State Bank, our city is indebted for two of its chief architectural ornaments. Mr. Barnett has a fine genius for architecture, and has introduced in St. Louis a new and peculiar style which characterizes the ornamental architecture of that place, which he modestly calls "St. Louis style," but which others more justly call by the name of its originator. The Third Church is in this style of architecture. The design is entirely original, being Grecian in its general character.<sup>22</sup>*

### *Lincoln Was Here*

The 1834-35 Illinois legislature created the State Bank of Illinois. The 1837 economic crash forced the State Bank of Illinois to suspend specie payments, and in 1839 the legislature forbade it to accept new business. By 1841, Lincoln was less supportive of the bank, although he continued to make speeches around the state supporting it. In 1843, the legislature ordered the bank to liquidate its assets within five years. The bank lasted until 1848, when it failed.

From 1851 until 1886, thirty-five years, the Springfield Marine and Fire Insurance Company, which later became the Springfield Marine Bank, occupied the State Bank Building. From 1852 until his death in 1865 this was Abraham Lincoln's bank. He made a number of withdrawals shortly before leaving for his inauguration and made deposits here while President. In 1886, the Illinois State Bank building was razed to make way for a new three-story brownstone bank structure.<sup>23</sup>

---

<sup>22</sup> *George I. Barnett [St. Louis Architects: Famous and Not So Famous, Part 13]*, Carolyn Hewes Toft. (first published in Landmarks Letter, May/June 1988) <http://stlouis.missouri.org/501c/landmarks/architects13.html>

<sup>23</sup> *The Marine Bank: The Story of The Oldest Bank in Illinois*, Paul M. Angle, MCMXXXI, Springfield, Illinois, endpiece. History of City Banks Dates Over 100 Years, Journal, April 2, 1959.

1839

### Rev. Charles Dresser House

Eighth and Jackson Streets  
Extant Modified

In 1839, Rev. Charles Dresser, the minister of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul' Episcopal, built a Greek Revival cottage at the northeast corner of Eighth and Jackson streets. The house was a one-and-a-half story frame rectangle. It had four windows on the eve front with a setback center doorway framed with sidelights and a transom light. The windows were double hung six-over-six with classical surrounds. The gable ends had two similar windows on the first floor and in the pediment there were two small, "eyebrow" windows allowing light and air to the half story sleeping area. There were two chimneys, one at each peak of the gable ends. The corner boards and entablature were most likely present on the original house as is shown on the drawing and the model below. This modest Greek Revival house was a prevalent residential style in Lincoln's Springfield.



Drawing of the Rev. Charles Dresser's Home<sup>24</sup>



### *Lincoln Was Here*

In 1844, Rev. Charles and Louisa Dresser sold the house to Abraham Lincoln for \$1,200. Lincoln and his family lived in this house largely in this form until 1856, when the cottage was enlarged by adding a full second floor.

<sup>24</sup> Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, XLVIII, p. 14.

1840

## Tinsley Building

Southwest Corner of Sixth and Adams Streets  
Partially Extant

In 1840, Springfield merchant Seth M. Tinsley built a large Greek Revival “merchant’s block” known as the Tinsley Building at the southwest corner of Sixth and Adams streets. It was the first three-story building on the south side of the Public Square and was the finest brick business house in central Illinois.<sup>25</sup> Its Greek Revival features included a symmetrical arrangement of features, a low pitched roof, undecorated pilasters and small clerestory windows, called “frieze” or “eyebrow” windows, set in the wide entablature along the roof edge.



The Tinsley Building<sup>26</sup>



Drawing of The South Side of The Public Square: Circa 1860<sup>27</sup>  
(The Tinsley Building is on the far left with twelve windows across.)

### *Lincoln Was Here*

In 1841 the mercantile firm of S. M. Tinsley & Co. occupied the ground floor. From 1841 to 1855, the federal government rented space on the building’s second floor for a courtroom, court clerk’s office, and judge’s chambers to serve the United States District Court, where semi-annual sessions were held and Lincoln practiced law. In late 1843 or early 1844, the law firm of Logan & Lincoln moved their offices to the third floor and remained there until the dissolution of the partnership in the autumn of 1844. The law firm of Lincoln & Herndon officed here from 1844 until late 1852 when they moved to the west side of the Public Square.<sup>28</sup> In the winter of 1860-1861, Lincoln used a room in an upper floor as a study where he wrote his first inaugural address. In 1872, Lincoln’s brother-in-law, Springfield merchant Clark M. Smith, tore down three-quarters of the building, all but the quarter now remaining and owned by the State of Illinois.

<sup>25</sup> *Springfield’s Public Square in Lincoln’s Day, 1861 and 1941*, Harry E. Pratt, Williamson Printing and Publishing Co., Springfield, Illinois, 1941) (Hereafter referred to as “Public Square.”)

<sup>26</sup> ALPL.

<sup>27</sup> Drawn from nature on stone by H. Haerting, 1860, L. Gast Bros., St. Louis, Missouri. (Hereafter referred to as “Haerting.”)

<sup>28</sup> *Public Square*.

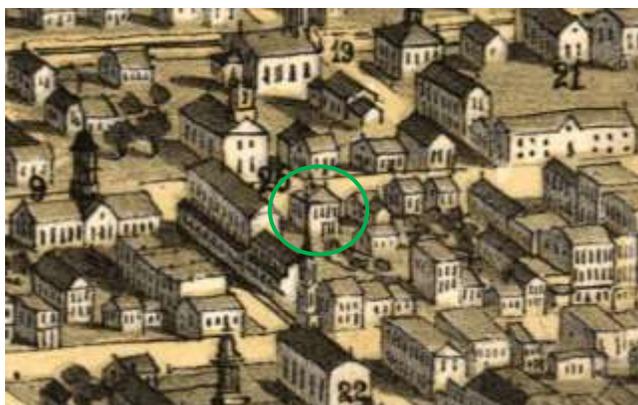
## Circa 1841

### John Francis Rague House

East Side of South Fourth Street, Between Adams and Monroe Streets

On July 15, 1842, John Francis Rague, Springfield baker and architect of the Illinois State House, advertised in Springfield's *Journal* newspaper, "Houses, Lands, Farms and Lots—for sale."<sup>29</sup> One of the houses advertised was a "Grecian Cottage" opposite the Second Presbyterian Church on the east side of Fourth, between Adams and Monroe streets and described as follows:

*That well built and beautiful Grecian Cottage opposite the 2nd Presbyterian Church, 46 feet square, containing six rooms, a good cellar, garret room, closet, pantries, well-room, inner portico, and portico extending across the entire front and standing on a lot 78 ½ by 160 feet in a beautiful part of the city. A credit of one or two years will be given for one-quarter or one-half of the purchase money if desired.*



1867 Map of Springfield, Illinois Drawn by A. Ruger<sup>30</sup>  
Showing the Rague Grecian Cottage



Rague's Advertisement in the September 30, 1842 *Journal*

This little ad tells us a great deal about Rague's South Fourth Street "Grecian Cottage." The "Cottage" was 46 feet square, the same size as the Elijah Iles House. This was quite a large house for its day and present day parlance would not be considered a "cottage." It had a portico or porch across the entire front. The use of the word "Grecian" by Rague confirms that the term Greek Revival or a variant thereof had become a part of the public vocabulary of Springfield to the extent that it was used in a newspaper advertisement to sell a "Grecian Cottage."

### *Lincoln Was Here*

Late in 1843, Mary, Abraham and their new baby boy, Robert, moved out of the Globe Tavern and began renting a three-room frame cottage at 214 South Fourth Street in Springfield. This would probably have been next door to the Rague Grecian Cottage.

<sup>29</sup> *Journal*, September 30, 1842, p. 1, cl. 2. Curtis Mann and Linda Garvert at the Sangamon Valley Room found this advertisement.

<sup>30</sup> *City of Springfield, Illinois Map, 1867*, A. Ruger, Chicago, Chicago Lithographing Co., 1867. (Hereafter referred to as "Ruger.")

1842

**First Methodist Church Annex (John S. Condell House)**

605 South Fourth Street  
Extant

In 1842, the First Methodist Church built a new wing to its church building facing Monroe at the southeast corner of Monroe and Fifth streets. In 1852 when the church built a new building, John S. Condell bought the wing and moved it to 605 South Fourth Street where it stands today.<sup>31</sup> The house is a one-story, wooden Greek Revival, I-cottage with a center pediment at the eve front (east side).



First Methodist Church Annex (Condell House)

The house has pedimented window hoods, cornice returns, a wide frieze (or entablature) board, and a front porch supported by Corinthian columns. The front pediment is formed by a cornice return that extends only part way in from the corners. Though predominately Greek Revival in character, the Condell House has decorative brackets along the cornice, an element from the later Italianate style.



Corner Return



Pedimented Window Hood

<sup>31</sup> *Historic Homes of Springfield*, Floyd S. Barringer, M.D., Springfield, Illinois, 1966, pp. 24-25. (Hereafter referred to as "Barringer.")

1843

### First Presbyterian Church

Southeast Corner of Third and Washington Streets

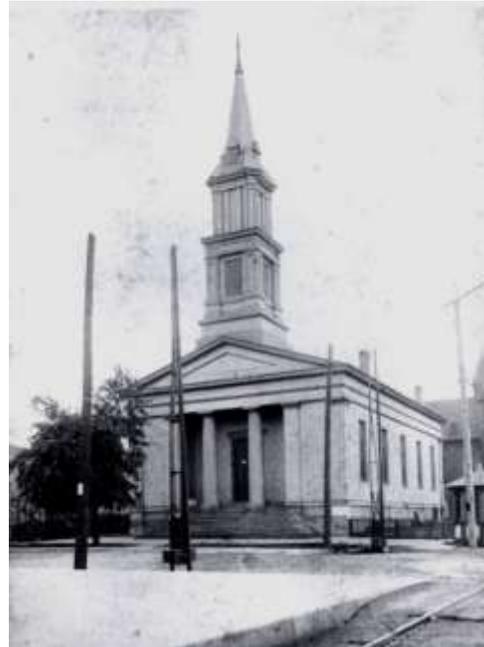
In 1843, the First Presbyterian Church built a new church at the southeast corner of Third and Washington streets. It was one of the finest Greek Revival structures in Springfield and in Illinois.

The church was a one story, rectangular, stone structure. It had a partial front portico and a front gable pediment supported by two columns and square, Doric brick pilasters.

Six stone steps led up to the portico and centered double entry door on the front (north) facade capped with a full entablature. Each entry door had wood panels.

The symmetrical sides (east and west) had five bays, each with large windows. The belfry, centered over the entrance door, extended above the front gable peak and consisted of several tiers.

The building was used by the First Presbyterian Church from 1843 to 1871 and was razed in 1912.



First Presbyterian Church

#### *Lincoln Was Here*

When Edward “Eddie” Baker Lincoln, Mary and Abraham’s son, died in December 1848, the Lincolns asked the minister of the First Presbyterian Church to conduct the funeral. After that, the Lincoln’s regularly attended the 11 o’clock Sunday service.

On April 13, 1852, Mary Lincoln joined the First Presbyterian Church, the first church she had joined.<sup>32</sup>

*Tuesday, August 30, 1853*

*Springfield, Illinois. The Register and Journal announce that Lincoln will speak on “Colonization” at First Presbyterian Church this evening. “The subject is of deep interest and growing magnitude,” says the Register, “and well worthy of consideration on the part of all good patriots and well-wishers of humanity. . . . The subject and the speaker are both attractive. Let them meet with an appreciative audience.”*

Thomas “Tadd” Lincoln, Mary and Abraham’s son was baptized here on his second birthday, April 4, 1855.

Ohio governor, Salmon P. Chase, later Secretary of Treasury and Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, joined Lincoln in his pew at the First Presbyterian Church on January 6, 1861.

<sup>32</sup> Church Meeting Minutes Entry, 13 April 1852, *Session Minutes, 1828-1862*, 89, First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Illinois.

1845

**Sangamon County Court House**  
Southeast Corner of Sixth and Washington Streets  
East Side of Public Square



The Sangamon County Court House is in the Center Background to the Left of the State Bank of Illinois.

In 1845, Sangamon County built its fourth court house at the southeast corner of Sixth and Washington streets, facing the Public Square and the State House. It was a classic Greek Revival, two-story brick building with a full portico and a pediment supported by six Doric columns of sand-covered hollow wood and brick pilasters. The contractor was Henry Dresser.<sup>33</sup> It stood just north of the State Bank of Illinois, the two buildings occupying the half block on the east side of the square facing the State House. They were massive, picturesque structures, and in combination with the magnificent Greek Revival Illinois State House added much dignity to the town.



East Side of The Public Square: 1860<sup>34</sup>  
The Sangamon County Court House is to The Far Left.

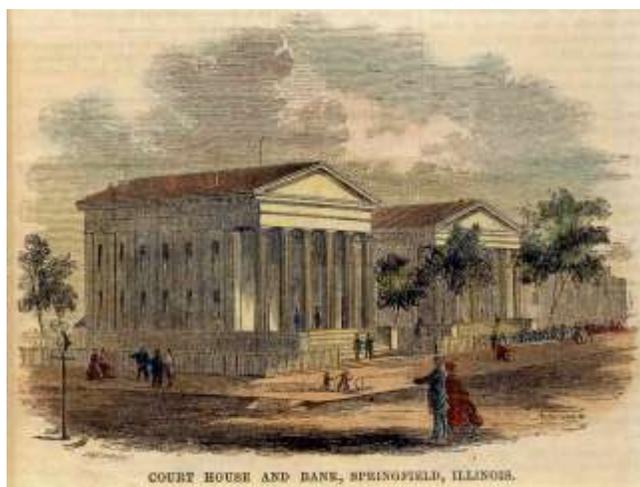
This Court House was used by the county from 1845 to January, 1876, when the State of Illinois moved its offices to the present State House and vacated the Public Square. Sangamon County then purchased and moved into what is now the Old State Capitol, and the Court House at Sixth and Washington streets was torn down, the ground subdivided into lots and sold off in 1877.

*Lincoln Was Here*

From 1845 to 1860, Lincoln tried many cases in this Greek Revival Sangamon Court House. Voting for the 1860 presidential election was on the second floor. From his temporary office in the Governor's Chamber at the State House, Lincoln watched voters going and coming all day on November 6, 1860, and went to vote himself when he noticed a lull in the crowds.

<sup>33</sup> *History of Sangamon County, Illinois*, Inter-State Publishing Company, Chicago, 1881, p. 555. (Hereinafter referred to as "1881 History.")

<sup>34</sup> Haerting.



The Sangamon County Court House and  
The Springfield Marine and Fire Insurance Company<sup>35</sup>

[Sangamon County] Court House Specifications<sup>36</sup>

*Length of building from the corner pilaster to the column in front, both inclusive, seventy feet.*

*Length exclusive of portico, sixty one feet.*

*Width of building from outside to outside of pilasters forty five feet.*

*Elevation from the grade to the top of the horizontal cornice, thirty four feet.*

*The foundation wall of the building to be seven feet in height from the bottom of the wall to the top of the water table; three feet of which wall to be below and four feet above the grade.*

*That part of the foundation wall which is below the grade to be two feet nine inches thick constructed of rubble rock laid in lime mortar.*

*The part of the foundation above the grade to be of cut rock --and this, as well as all the other cut rock to be used in the building to be ~~obtained from the sand (?) stone quarry belonging to the estate of John Broody deceased.~~ of good limestone rock.*

*The steps at both ends of the building, the buttresses, the platform under the portico, and the sides and lintels for the doors and windows to be of cut rock.*

*The cut stone steps to be sixteen inches wide and eight inches high.*

*In that part of the foundation wall which is below the grade, inverted arches of brick are to be constructed between the pilasters on the sides and rear of the building, and also under the door in front, of sufficient span and thickness to sustain the wight [sic] of the pilasters &c.*

*The walls of the superstructure to be of brick --those in front and on the flanks to be thirty one inches thick including the pilasters. The wall in the rear to be twenty three inches thick including the pilasters.*

*\* The pilasters on the front and flanks to project from the wall the length of two bricks. Those in the rear to project the length of one brick. [Asterisk refers to Addendum which was added to the end of the document and included below.]*

*The partition walls to be of brick nine inches thick.*

*Fire places in all the offices on the first floor and in the jury rooms on the second floor --flues for stoves in the walls of the court room.*

<sup>35</sup> "Court House and Bank, Springfield, Illinois," *Ballou's Pictorial Journal*, Boston, Massachusetts, dated November 15, 1856.

<sup>36</sup> Transcribed by Floyd Mansberger with assistance from Richard Hart from Xerox copies acquired from Richard Hart, October 2001. Original document is in the Special Collections Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois (Sangamon County Court House and Jail Specifications, SC File 86-7).

*The fire places to be made with jambs and head or cap of sand stone polished. The jambs to show eight inches in front and the head or cap twelve inches and all to project two inches beyond the line of the brick wall.*

*The joists of the first and second floors to be ten inches wide, and two & a half thick, and thirteen and a half inches apart and to be well anchored to the brick walls on the sides and ends of the building.*

*The ceiling joists to be two by eight inches, and fourteen inches apart.*

*Partition studding in the second story to be two by seven inches & fourteen inches apart.*

<i>Main beams</i>	<i>to be</i>	<i>8 by 12 inches.</i>
<i>Tie [?] joists</i>	<i>to be</i>	<i>5 by 11 inches</i>
<i>Queen Posts</i>	<i>to be</i>	<i>8 by 12 inches</i>
<i>Strain beams</i>	<i>to be</i>	<i>8 by 8 inches</i>
<i>Spur rafters</i>	<i>to be</i>	<i>8 by 9 inches</i>
<i>Main braces</i>	<i>to be</i>	<i>4 by 8 inches</i>
<i>Purloins</i>	<i>to be</i>	<i>4 by 12 inches</i>
<i>Small rafters</i>	<i>to be</i>	<i>2 by 4 inches</i>
<i>Wall plates</i>	<i>to be</i>	<i>8 by 8 inches</i>

*The roof to be supported by seven sections of truss framing.*

*The beams to be secured to the queen posts by iron bolts one inch & a quarter in diameter, & not less than two feet and a half long.*

*The roof to be covered with sheeting seven eighths of an inch thick.*

*Shingles to be eighteen inches long, half an inch thick at the butt, and laid one fourth of their length to the weather.*

*The rooms and passages in the first and second stories to be arranged according to the plans.<sup>37</sup>*

*The hall to be twelve feet wide.*

*The floors to be jointed, tongued and grooved.*

*The front door to be six feet wide, fifteen feet high and three inches thick.*

*All the inside doors and the outside door in the rear to be made of two inch plank.*

*The office doors to be three feet wide and seven feet high.*

*The jury room doors to be three feet wide and seven feet & six inches high.*

*The entrance door to the court room to be four feet wide, and eight feet six inches high.*

*The window glass to be twelve by eighteen inches of the best Pittsburg crown.*

*The window sash to be raised and lowered by weights.*

*Base in all the rooms and passages made according to plan.*

*Doors and windows to be cased with based architraves nine inches wide.*

*Doors to be hung with suitable butts, and each to be furnished with a good Carpenter's lock.*

*The court room to be furnished with judge's bench, with a bar, elliptical [sic] table, six seats for jurors inside the bar, and twenty seats—ten on a side—outside the bar according to plan.*

*The judge's bench to be made like the base of the pulpit in the Second Presbyterian Church in the Town of Springfield.*

*The seats to be seven feet six inches long—the bottom, back and strip under the bottom to be one inch thick—the bottom to be fourteen inches, the back seventeen inches, & the strip under the bottom four inches wide—the end pieces to be one inch & a half thick—and the backs to incline three inches.*

---

<sup>37</sup> Although this document makes several references to the accompanying "plans," I did not find them in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's collection.

*The table to be eleven feet & six inches long and seven feet six inches wide, and to have six turned legs five inches in diameter.*

*The bar rail to be five inches wide and two and three quarter inches thick.*

*The posts to be six inches in diameter and turned.*

*The banisters of the bar to be one inch and seven eighths of an inch square.*

*The cornice, pilaster caps, columns, doors, windows, door and window casings to be made of the best quality of white pine lumber.*

*The stair rail, newel and banisters, the bar rail, posts and banisters, table, judge's bench, and seats in the court room to be made of black walnut and all except the seats to be varnished with five coats of varnish.*

*All the outside woodwork and all the inside woodwork except the floors and that made of black walnut, to be painted with three coats of white lead and linseed oil.*

*The brick wall upon the outside to be painted with two coats of paint of a light drab colour (sic).*

*The walls and ceilings of all the rooms and passages to be plastered with three coats of good lime mortar—the finishing coat to be of white lime.*

*The cornice to be furnished with a tin gutter and suitable pipes to convey the water to the ground.*

*All the pine, black walnut and flooring used in the building to be thoroughly seasoned, and these and all other materials of whatsoever kind used in its construction to be of the best quality.*

*The contractor to excavate the ground for the foundation, do all the mechanical labour [sic] of every kind, and furnish all the materials necessary to complete the building in every particular according to the foregoing specifications and the accompanying plans.*

*Addendum to come in on the second page. All the outside brick in the building to be (what are necessarily called) "front brick" & of the quality of those used in the front of the house built & now occupied by James Campbell of Springfield.*



The Sangamons County Court House in the Background Decorated for the Funeral of Abraham Lincoln, May 1865<sup>38</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Collection of Richard E. Hart. Photographer A. C. Townsend.

1846

### Clark M. Smith House

Southwest Corner of Fifth and Edwards Streets  
603 South Fifth Street  
Extant

In 1846, Clark Moulton Smith, a Springfield merchant, built a two-story, frame Greek Revival residence at the southwest corner of Fifth and Edwards streets.<sup>39</sup> It is a wooden rectangle five bay structure with a wide entablature on each side. A single-story porch extends across the three middle bays of the five-bay facade, supporting a low-pitched hip roof, with a dentiled cornice, on four square wooden posts. The center front entrance is a recessed door, with a three-paned transom above and narrow side lights. It is neatly framed by square pilasters and fine woodwork in the recess.

Green louvered shutters flank the upper windows and the tall, floor-length windows of the first story. There is a center pediment at the eve front (east side) with two small windows in the pediment. An enclosed chimney rises from each end of the gable roof.



Clark M. Smith Residence

Later in the nineteenth century, this was the home of the parents of poet Vachel Lindsay. The Lindsays substantially remodeled the house. The cut glass panel in the doorway and those in the side lights and transom were designed by the poet's mother.

#### *Lincoln Was Here*

Clark Smith's wife, Ann Marie Todd (1824-1891), was a sister of Mary Todd Lincoln. Mary Lincoln spent a week in this home in 1860 helping in the final illness of Ann and Clark's son who died of typhoid fever. Abraham Lincoln visited the Clark M. Smith house on many occasions and he and Mary attended a reception there shortly before leaving Springfield for Washington in February 1861.

<sup>39</sup> *Barringer*, p. 70. Lots 16, 17, 18 and the N 1/2 of Lot 15, Block 1, B. S. Edward' South Addition.

1850

**Charles S. Corneau House**

Southwest Corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets  
Extant

In 1850, John G. C. Wessels built a Greek Revival cottage at the southwest corner of Eighth and Jackson streets. The house was later owned by Charles S. Corneau and is now known by his name.

The house is a one-story wood frame rectangle. It has four windows on the eve front with a center doorway with a four-light transom. The windows are double hung six-over-six with simple classical surrounds and shutters. There are two interior chimneys, one at each peak of the gable ends. The house is sheathed in clapboard with corner boards.<sup>40</sup>

This modest Greek Revival house was a prevalent residential style in Lincoln’s Springfield.



Charles S. Corneau Residence



*Lincoln Was Here*

This house was diagonally across the street from the Lincoln home at Eighth and Jackson streets. Corneau was a close friend of Lincoln and one of the owners of the drug store on the east side of the Square where Lincoln spent many an hour talking and joking around the pot belly stove.

<sup>40</sup> *Historic Base Map, Lincoln Home Springfield, Illinois*, November 30, 1869, Edwin C. Bearss, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, U. S. Department of the Interior, pp. 52-55. (Hereafter referred to as (“Bearss”). *Barringer*, pp. 30-31.

1850

### First Baptist Church of Springfield

Southwest Corner of Seventh and Adams Streets

In 1850, the First Baptist Church of Springfield built a Greek Revival church facing Adams Street at the southwest corner of Seventh and Adams streets. It was a rectangular, brick building with a front gable pediment. A bell tower was centered and protruded from the north, front facade, giving the church its common name the “Old Town Clock Church.” An entry door was centered on the front (north) facade into and through the bell tower. Doric pilasters were on the building corners and divided the four windows on the sides. The symmetrical sides, (east and west) have four bays, each containing high windows at the second level. The top of each window appears to meet the entablature at the eave. A lower level first floor has smaller windows.



First Baptist Church of Springfield<sup>41</sup>

*In 1834 the Baptists had erected a small frame church on the southwest corner of Seventh and Adams Streets. The society grew, and a new building became desirable, but a campaign for subscriptions fell far short of the necessary amount. Refusing to give up, the pastor, G. S. Bailey, set out in 1847 to raise money in the East. Seven months later he returned with \$700. The congregation took heart, local subscriptions increased, and a church building was started. By the spring of 1850 the Baptists, too, had a new church.<sup>42</sup>*

In 1880, the congregations of the North Baptist Church of Springfield and the First Baptist Church of Springfield merged and became Central Baptist Church. The church building was not used after 1881.

#### *Lincoln Was Here*

The First Baptist Church was about four blocks from the Lincoln Home and one block from the Lincoln-Herndon law offices and the Public Square. Without a doubt Lincoln walked by the church many times and no doubt on many occasions he looked up at Old Town Clock to check the time.

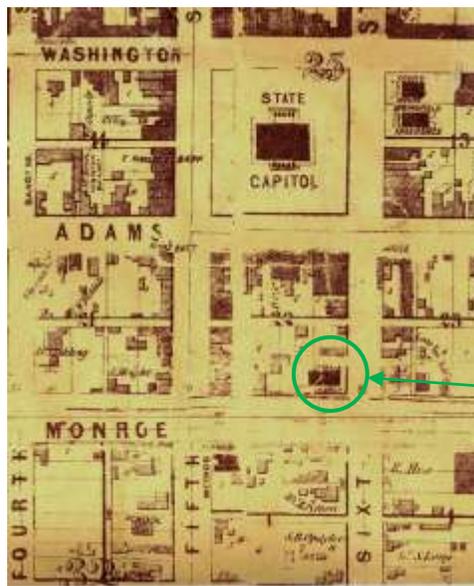
<sup>41</sup> Photograph by Springfield photographer Marcel Duboce. 6-14.567 *Illinois State Register*, November 22, 1939.

<sup>42</sup> *Angle*, pp. 197-198.

1851

### Third Presbyterian Church

Northwest Corner of Sixth and Monroe Streets



*On February 7, 1849, the Presbytery of Sangamon met in a called meeting to consider the petition of forty-four men and women, who had been granted certificates of dismissal by the First Presbyterian Church, so they could organize a new congregation. The petition was granted, and the Reverend Thomas Galt was appointed to proceed with the organization of the new church. A meeting was held on the evening of the same day. The name chosen was The Third Presbyterian Church, and three ruling elders were elected: Ashael Stone, James L. Lamb, and Edmund R. Wiley. [On August 2, 1849] A call was extended to the Reverend R. [Richard] V. Dodge of Terre Haute, Indiana to serve as Pastor. [They first worshiped in the court-house.] In the course of the next few months a commodious sanctuary was built at the northwest corner of Sixth and Monroe. It cost \$12,000 and was quickly paid for<sup>43</sup>*

*We are requested to state that in consequence of a number of persons having expressed a wish to see the inside of the new Third Presbyterian Church, before the dedication, it will be open to the public all day on Monday next, the 28th instant.*

*In giving the above notice, we cannot refrain from congratulating our friends of the Third Church on the near completion of the elegant and beautiful building with which they have ornamented our city. Although the exterior is yet incomplete, it never fails to arrest the attention of all observers by the beauty and grace of its design, the justness of its proportions, and the excellence of its execution; and it has been generally admired by all who give any attention to architecture.*

*The design is by Mr. George I. Barnett, of St. Louis, an architect of established reputation, to whom, for this design and that of the State Bank, our city is indebted for two of its chief architectural ornaments. Mr. Barnett has a fine genius for architecture, and has introduced in St. Louis a new and peculiar style which characterizes the ornamental architecture of that place, which he modestly calls, "St. Louis style," but which others more justly call by the name of its originator. The Third Church is in this style of architecture. The design is entirely original, being Grecian in its general character, while, without belonging strictly to either of the regular orders, it violates no rule of that school of architecture. The design is light, graceful and striking in its general effect, and well adapted to the size and situation of the building.*

<sup>43</sup> 1881 History, p. 606. *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Sangamon County*, vol. 1, Newton Bateman and Paul Selby, editors, Chicago, Munsell Publishing Company, 1912, p. 863.

*The structure is novel in its character, being entirely of wood, worked into an imitation of stone, the base representing plain cut stone, and the remainder of the walls representing rustic work. It is to be sanded after the manner of most of the finer class of building in St. Louis. When this is done the imitation of stone will be perfect. The erection of such a building would have been somewhat of a novelty in the great cities, and was quite an undertaking for the young architect of this place who has executed it. It is due to Mr. Thomas J. Dennis, in this notice to say, that he has executed the design throughout in a manner that has called forth the approval and admiration of many competent judges, who have notice the work. This and some other structures of his execution give the best evidence of his devotion to the study of the science of his calling and show that he needs only practice in its higher branches to place him among the best practical architects.*

*The interior of the church is chiefly from a design my Mr. Barnett. It was intended for the modern plan of finish now general in the cities, by which a fine effect is produced in church architecture, at a very moderate expense. Instead of an elaborate and expensive finish of wooden columns, stucco cornices, &c. as formerly was the custom, when a fine room was desired, it is now the practice to finish the room with a plain coat of common plastering and to imitate the architectural decorations in fresco painting. In the bands of an artist of fine taste and skill, very beautiful effects are produced in this way, and the representation of columns, pilasters, cornices, &c. are so perfect as often to deceive.*

*Mr. L. D. Pomarade, a noted artist in this line, has just finished the painting of the interior of the church, and has afforded such a beautiful exemplification of his fine taste and execution, which are now giving grace and beauty to many of the public edifices in the great cities. His work excites unusual admiration. Those who are familiar with such things have readily accorded him all due praise, while those of us to whom this kind of effect is new have never failed to express much surprise at the beauty of the work and the perfection of the imitations.*

*We would be doing injustice to a promising young mechanic if we were to omit to mention the painting of the pulpit, pews, &c. the graining, bronzing, &c., of which are done in a very creditable style by Mr. John G. Huntington, of this place.*

*On the whole, we think our city has some right to be proud of its public buildings, and of now more than of this beautiful little church, which we do not much fear to say is one of the prettiest churches of its size in all the country.<sup>44</sup>*

*[In 1867], it was necessary to build a larger church. The old building (17 years old) was sold to the Second Methodist Church (now Kumler), and a new building was built on the northwest corner of Seventh and Capitol at a cost of \$70,000. Since 1871, the new building has been occupied by the First Presbyterian Church.*

---

<sup>44</sup> *Journal*, July 26, 1851, p. 2.

1851

**The North Side of the Square**  
**Coleman and Ayers and Telegraph Office**  
North Side of Square

About 1851, Springfield entrepreneur George Pasfield built a series of three-story commercial buildings on the north side of the Public Square. In the photograph below taken in about 1860, one of the buildings had three frieze windows and was occupied by the dry goods and groceries firm of Coleman & Ayers. Its Greek Revival elements included a symmetrical arrangement of features, a low roof, small clerestory windows, called “frieze” or “eyebrow” windows, set just below the entablature along roof edge. The buildings on either side of the Coleman & Ayers building also had Greek Revival elements. The 1860 Springfield commercial streetscape pictured below was similar to much of that of 1850s lower Manhattan in New York City.



*Lincoln Was Here*

*The town's principal telegraph operator had invited Lincoln to await the returns at the nearby Illinois & Mississippi Telegraph Company headquarters on the north side of Capitol Square, in whose second-floor office, he promised, "you can receive the good news without delay."...Lincoln fully appreciated telegraphy...By nine o'clock, Lincoln could resist the opportunity no longer. ...Lincoln strode across the square, ascended the stairs of the telegraph building, and installed himself on a sofa "comfortably near the instruments." Here he remained, sitting or lying down "snugly," waiting for "lightening" to strike... The final telegram from New York ended with the words: "We tender you our congratulations upon this magnificent victory."...Lyman Trumbull tired to break the tension by embracing his old friend and shouting: "Uncle Abe, you're the next President, and I know it." All Lincoln allowed himself to say was: "Well, the agony is almost over and you will soon be able to go to bed."<sup>45</sup>*

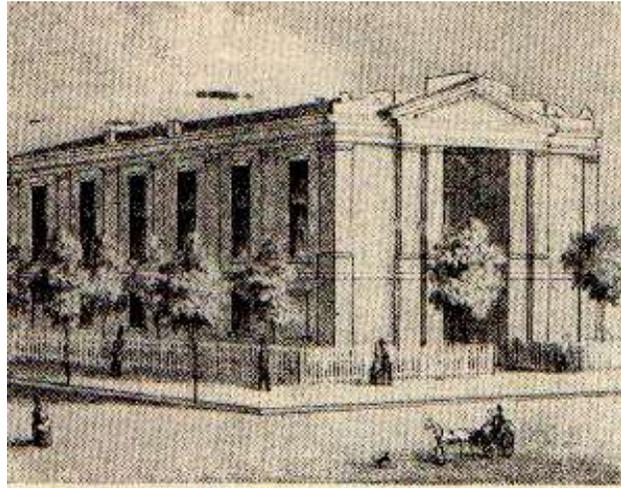
<sup>45</sup> *Lincoln President-Elect*, Harold Holzer, Simon & Schuster, New York, 2008, pp. 33-40.

1852

### First Methodist (Episcopal) Church

Southeast Corner of Fifth and Monroe Streets

In 1852, the First Methodist Episcopal Church built a Greek Revival church at the southeast corner of Fifth and Monroe streets at a cost of about \$10,000.<sup>46</sup> It was a rectangular, brick building. The main entry door was centered on the front (west) facade and was capped with a pediment at the center that was closed by a full entablature. Doric pilasters flanked the center and were on the building corners.



First Methodist (Episcopal) Church

The symmetrical sides, (north and south) had six bays, each containing high windows. The top of each window appears to have meet the entablature at the eave.

The church originally had a steeple that can be seen in the drawing below. It was blown off by strong winds.<sup>47</sup>



Ruger's 1867 Drawing Showing the First Methodist (Episcopal) Church With its Steeple<sup>48</sup>

<sup>46</sup> *First Methodist Church, Springfield, Illinois: 125 Years*, W.G. Piersel, Published by the Official Board for the 125 Anniversary Celebration, January 1947. Lot 3 and 4, Block 1, P.P. Enos' Addition. Present site of Ridgley Building. *Barringer*, p. 24.

<sup>47</sup> *1881 History*, p. 600.

<sup>48</sup> *Ruger*.

1853

## First Christian Church

Northeast Corner of Sixth and Jefferson Streets

In 1853, the First Christian Church built a Greek Revival church facing Sixth Street at the northeast corner of Sixth and Jefferson streets. It was a 40' by 60' rectangular two-story, brick structure with a front gable pediment and square Doric corner pilasters. The pediment had a tympanum of brick and was closed by a full entablature with dentils and a raking cornice of similar detail rising to the center ridge.



First Christian Church

A double door was centered on the front (west) facade. There was a rectangular transom above the doors with six lights creating a heightened appearance to the entrance and facade. There were two windows on the first floor, one on either side of the center door, and three windows on the second floor. The windows were simple six-over-six, double hung, wood sash windows. The top of each window on the second floor meets the entablature at the eave. The foundation was constructed of cut slabs of limestone.



*The record of February 15, 1852, shows that a committee consisting of Jonathan R. Saunders, Stephen T. Logan, William F. Elkin, William Lavelly and Joseph W. Bennett was appointed to make arrangements for a "more suitable house of worship." A new lot at the northeast corner of Sixth and Jefferson Streets was purchased at a cost of \$1,300 and a building 40' by 60' erected under the contractorship of Joseph W. Bennett.<sup>49</sup>*

### *Lincoln Was Here*

Abraham Lincoln attended political meetings here.

<sup>49</sup> *Ministers of First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Springfield, Illinois 1833-1962*, Charles Foster McElroy, The Bethany Press, 1962, p. 16.

## Enterprise Building

427 East Washington Street  
Extant

In 1854, John Roll built the Enterprise Building on the north side of Washington Street just west of Fifth Street. It was a three-story, five bay brick structure with a low pitched roof. The classical cast-iron window hoods, evenly spaced windows and brick corbelled cornice were all Greek Revival elements. The building was similar to buildings built in New York City in the 1850s and to those built around Springfield's Public Square at the same time. The building stands today with little change from its 1854 appearance.



Enterprise Building



*Lincoln Was Here*

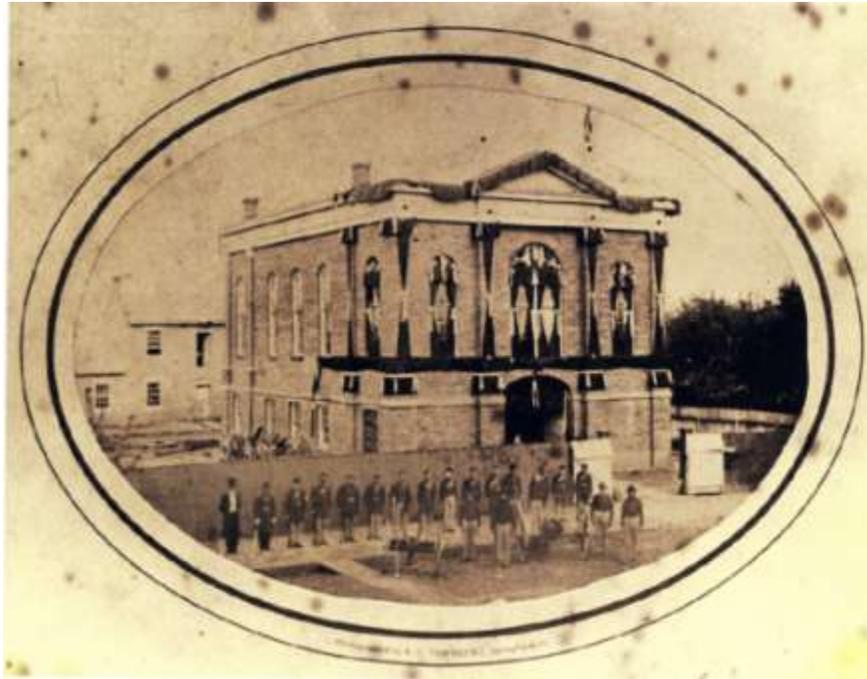
In the mid 1850s, the City of Springfield rented space in the Enterprise Building and the building became Springfield's City Hall. At the time, William Herndon, Lincoln's law partner, was Springfield City Clerk.

1855

### Illinois State Arsenal

Fifth Street, Between Mason and Carpenter Streets

In 1855, the State of Illinois built an arsenal on the east side of Fifth Street, between Mason and Carpenter streets.<sup>50</sup> It was a rectangular, brick building with a pediment at the center front (west side) and pilasters at the corners and at the center between window bays. It had a wide entablature at the roofline on each facade. The main front doorway was a wide arched opening allowing horses and wagons to enter. The north and south facades (sides) had five window bays with rectangular sash windows in the ground level and larger arched windows above.



Illinois State Arsenal<sup>51</sup>

*Springfield, on the nineteenth of April [1865] presented the appearance of deep gloom and sadness," wrote Power. "On the day of Mr. Lincoln's death all goods in the stores that could be used for draping the buildings in mourning were taken, and more ordered at once by the merchants. Such additions were made that on this day the insignia of sorrow were profusely displayed on the .....Arsenal ...*

*When the time arrived for the services to commence – at noon – twenty-minute guns were fired, at the Arsenal.<sup>52</sup>*

<sup>50</sup> Illinois State Archives, *Record Group 513.000 - Board Of Commissioners To Erect A State Arsenal*. A board of commissioners to oversee the construction of a state arsenal, armory, and museum building was created in 1901 (L. 1901, p. 13). ...The board also was empowered to sell the old State Arsenal which had been built in 1855.

<sup>51</sup> Photograph by Springfield photographer A. C. Townsend circa May 4, 1865, at the time of the funeral of Abraham Lincoln.

<sup>52</sup> *Abraham Lincoln*, John Carroll Power, E. A. Wilson & Co., 1873, p. 116 and p.

1856

### Lincolns Remodel Home

Eighth and Jackson Streets

Extant

In 1856, the Lincolns added a story to their 1839 Greek Revival cottage. The result is a simple two-story, five-bay structure, two rooms wide and one room deep on each floor separated by a central hall. There are two chimneys, one at each peak of the gable ends. The gable pediment is formed by a cornice return that extends only part way in from the corners. The decorative brackets along the cornice are of the Italianate style, just making its appearance as an American architectural style and often introduced on Greek Revival structures. The Lincoln Home after 1856 was very similar in appearance to the Thomas Strawbridge House, featured at page 36, and literally hundreds of Central Illinois farmhouses.



Lincoln Home

### *Lincoln Was Here*

In 1844, Rev. Charles Dresser sold his one and one-half story, Greek Revival cottage to Abraham Lincoln. In 1856, the Lincolns enlarged the cottage by adding a full second floor that retained all of the Greek Revival elements of the original cottage. Lincoln and his family lived in this house from 1844 until they departed for Washington, D.C. in February 1861.

1856

### Lawrason Levering House

West Side of South Second Street, Between Edwards and Jackson Streets

The land where the Lawrason Levering house was situated, on the west side of Second Street between Edwards and Jackson streets, is now the site of the Centennial (now Howlett) Building, a part of the State of Illinois Capitol Complex. In 1837, Ninian W. Edwards sold the land to Levering, a merchant on the Public Square. In 1838, Levering built a story-and-a-half residence on the land. In 1847, Levering sold the property to Thomas Yeatman of St. Louis for \$4,000, and in 1849, Yeatman sold it to William Pope.



Lawrason Levering House on South Second Street

In 1856, John E. Owsley, a wealthy retired land-owner, bought and enlarged the house to what is shown above. It was a full two-story, side-gabled, brick I-House with a prominent two-story classical portico supported by Corinthian columns. A second-floor balcony was sheltered within the portico. There was a wide entablature that continued along the gable ends of the house in order to form a pediment on each of the gables. The columns and portico were patterned after Owsley's old home in Kentucky.<sup>53</sup> Springfield architectural historian Floyd Mansberger has declared the house to be one of the most imposing early examples of Greek Revival domestic architecture in Springfield.<sup>54</sup>

The Levering House was demolished in the early twentieth century in order to allow for the construction of the Centennial (now Howlett) Building.

#### *Lincoln Was Here*

Lincoln spent time in the house when it was owned by Lawrason Levering and before it was remodeled by John E. Owsley in 1856. The house under Levering's ownership was probably a much simpler Greek Revival residence than the later remodeled full blown, Greek Revival mansion.

*Saturday, September 11, 1841.*

*Wedding of James C. Conkling to Mercy A. Levering takes place at home of Lawrason Levering. Miss Levering is close friend of Mary Todd, and Conkling and Lincoln are friends.*

<sup>53</sup> *Journal*, February 3, 1941.

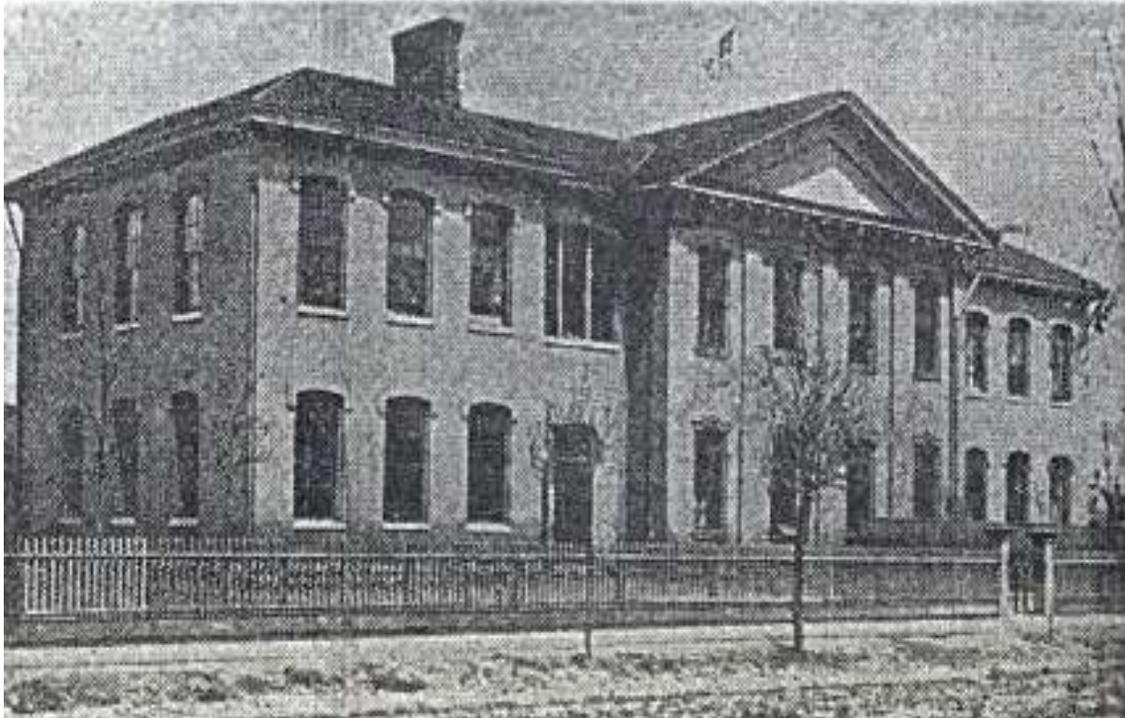
<sup>54</sup> *The Architectural Resources of the Aristocracy Hill Neighborhood, Springfield, Illinois*, Floyd Mansberger, prepared by Fever River Research, Springfield, Illinois, September 2004, p. 61.

1856

**First Ward School (Palmer)**

Mason, Between 12th and 13th Streets

On April 14, 1856, Springfield's first public school building, the First Ward School, opened. It was located on East Mason, between 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> streets and was later known as the Palmer School. The brick building was two stories, the lower with four rooms. The upper floor included a large hall, two recitation rooms and two smaller rooms suitable for library and apparatus. It was a classic Greek Revival public building with a middle pediment on at least one side as shown in the photograph below. Dentils project at the bottom of the pediments at the entablature. This building was a model for the Third Ward School built at the same time.



First Ward (Palmer) School

*...entire building, accommodations for three hundred and twenty four pupils. Cost of ground and improvements, about \$12, 000.<sup>55</sup>*

*Lincoln's Law Partner Was Here*

On Tuesday, April 4, 1854, William Henry Herndon, Lincoln's law partner, was elected Mayor of Springfield on a reform agenda that attracted both Whigs and Democrats and that included "laying the ground work for a public school system."<sup>56</sup> Personally investigating the various sites suggested for the new public school buildings, Herndon supervised the expenditure of thousands of dollars to buy suitable lots in each of the city's four wards. Though the schools did not begin operation until later, the Springfield educational system owed much to Billy's forceful advocacy.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>55</sup> *1881 History*, p. 587.

<sup>56</sup> *Lincoln Day By Day, A Chronology 1809-1865*, Earl Schenck Miers, Editor-in-Chief, Morningside, Dayton, Ohio, 1991, p. 14. *The Young Eagle*, Kenneth J. Winkle, Taylor Trade Publishing, Dallas Texas, 2201, p. 290.

<sup>57</sup> *Lincoln's Herndon*, David Donald, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1948, pp. 68-69.

1856

**Third Ward School (Edwards)**

Northeast Corner of Edwards and Spring Streets

In 1856, the Springfield public school district built the Third Ward school house [Edwards School] on the northeast corner of Edwards and Spring streets. The two-story brick building was a classic Greek Revival public building with pediments on at least two sides, the south and west shown in the photograph below. Doric corner pilasters frame each corner and dentils project at the bottom of the pediments at the entablature.<sup>58</sup>



Third Ward (Edwards) School  
Northeast Corner of Spring and Edwards Streets<sup>59</sup>

<sup>58</sup> *Illinois State Register*, August 19, 1940. *1881 History*, p. 588. Named for Ninian W. Edwards, the first state superintendent of public education. Razed in 1914. Present site of Illinois State Museum.

<sup>59</sup> *Vertical File*, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

1861

## Second Presbyterian Portuguese Church

Northeast Corner of Eighth and Miller  
Extant

In 1849, several hundred Portuguese immigrants from the Madeira Islands arrived in Springfield. In about 1857, some of those immigrants formed the Second Presbyterian Portuguese Church and in 1861, built a new brick building at the northeast corner of Eighth and Miller streets. It was a classic Greek Revival church building with a front gable pediment and square Doric corner pilasters providing a frame for each facade. The front pediment is formed by a full-length frieze and a cornice return that extends only part way in from the corners. It appears to be the oldest extant church building in Springfield. Even though it has had a number of alterations over the years, the old church still retains its simple Greek Revival style.<sup>60</sup>

For a period in the 20th century, the building served as the church for the New Hope Baptist Church congregation. Abandoned as a church sometime between 1941 and 1952, it was thereafter used as the office of an engineering firm for a number of years. Currently, the building is occupied by the Mental Health Centers of Illinois.



Second Presbyterian Portuguese Church



*Lincoln Was Here*

*Monday, July 16, 1860.*

*Springfield, Illinois Lincoln writes \$5 check to Second Portuguese Church, Springfield.<sup>61</sup>*

<sup>60</sup> 1881 History, p. 610. *Historico*, the newsletter of the Sangamon County Historical Society, June 2009.

<sup>61</sup> *Personal Finances of Abraham Lincoln*, Harry E. Pratt, The Abraham Lincoln Association, Lakeside Press, Chicago, Illinois, 1943.

## A Few Country Houses

1832

### Tiger-Anderson House

2851 Green Valley Road  
Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 7,  
Springfield Township, Sangamon County, Illinois  
Extant

Built around 1832, the Tiger-Anderson House is an outstanding example of an early Sangamon County Greek Revival farmhouse. This two-story L-shaped residence is constructed of soft orange brick made on the premises. Its doorway, fenestration, shallow pediment lintels and returned gables are Greek Revival in style.



Tiger-Anderson Residence, 2851 Green Valley Road,  
Section 7, Springfield Township, Sangamon County, Illinois

The Greek Revival doorway in the center of the first floor has one stone step and a six-panel wood door with side lights and a three light, rectangular transom. The pediment is formed by a cornice return that extends only part way in from the corners.

There are three fireplaces in the house, one each in the parlor, dining room and kitchen. The interior chimneys at each end of the roof serve the fireplaces and heating stoves. The front elevation contains five windows across the second floor and four across the first floor, two on each side of the main entry. All the windows are six-over-six, double hung sashes, with wooden sills and shallow or flattened pediment lintels. The entrance opening also has a shallow or flattened pediment lintel.

The house stands at the edge of a prairie facing south. Behind the house and outbuildings, the land begins to fall away into tree lined water courses leading north a short distance to the Sangamon River. The house's appearance has changed little over the past 150 years.

The house may have been built by Charles Broadwell. In 1835, Broadwell sold it to John Kendall. Jacob Tiger, a miller who came to Sangamon County in 1840, owned the house from 1853 to 1868. Moses K. Anderson owned the house from 1868 to 1881, and one of his sons lived there. Anderson served as the State's Adjutant General for 18 years (1839-1857), was a justice of the peace for 28 years and held several other local offices including Springfield city alderman. At one point, he was the second largest real estate taxpayer in Sangamon County.

### *Lincoln Was Here*

In the spring of 1831, Lincoln canoed down the Sangamon River on his eventual way to New Orleans. Perhaps he looked up and saw the site on the south uplands of the river where this house would be built a year later.

1837

### Davis Meredith House

Section 12, Ball Township, Sangamon County, Illinois<sup>62</sup>  
Extant

The modest Davis Meredith house in south Sangamon County is a classic adaptation of the Greek Revival style to the country farmhouse. The house is a one-and-a-half story rectangle with the gable front facing the road. There is a bay or window on either side of the front center doorway framed with sidelights and a transom light. The windows are six-over-six, double hung and have classic surrounds. The pediment is formed by a cornice return that extends only part way in from the corners and in the center of the pediment there is a large window allowing light and air to the upper half-story sleeping area. There is a modest porch in Greek Revival style with two plain square columns and matching pilasters.



Davis Meredith Residence North of the Intersection of North Pawnee Road and New City Road,  
Section 12, Ball Township, Sangamon County, Illinois  
Post Office During Civil War

The house is perhaps the most historic still standing in Ball Township.

*During the Civil War, Davis and Mary Newcomer Meredith's house in Section 12, served as a post office for the Cotton Hill community. The stagecoach from Springfield to Pawnee went directly past Meredith's, and it was convenient to leave the mail there. Twice a week during the dark days of the Civil War, the yard was crowded with anxious people awaiting the mail from those serving in the military. Robert Southwick relates that the crowd would read their mail from a son or husband and then share the news with the others gathered in the yard. No doubt the front yard of this house witnessed the many emotions experienced by the Cotton Hill residents who gathered there and shared mail during the Civil War*

### *Lincoln Was Here*

There is an unsubstantiated account of Abraham Lincoln spending the night in the Davis Meredith House.

<sup>62</sup> The Davis Meredith House is located on Pawnee Road, one mile south of East Lake Drive.

1845

### Thomas Strawbridge House

Shepherd Road, Woodside Township, Sangamon County, Illinois  
Extant

The Thomas Strawbridge House is a classic Illinois two-story, broadside, farmhouse with Greek Revival elements. It is located five miles south of downtown Springfield at the southern edge of the University of Illinois Springfield campus. The 1845 house is a classic example of the Central Illinois farmhouses of the period. There were hundreds of similar farmhouses across the Central Illinois prairie, but most have now been torn down.



Thomas Strawbridge's Farm Residence, Woodside Township, Sangamon County, Illinois

In 1845, Thomas Strawbridge built a two-story frame house on an open prairie just west of Sugar Creek, now Lake Springfield.<sup>63</sup> It was a simple five-bay structure, two rooms wide and one room deep on each floor separated by a central hall. The 1845 house was a braced-frame structure of hand-hewn oak timbers secured with mortise and tenon joints.

The center front entrance is a handsome recessed door, with a five paned transom above and side lights. It is neatly framed by unfluted, square, pilasters and fine woodwork in the recess. Originally, there was a Greek Revival small portico at the front entrance. It was supported by flat columns. A wooden entablature crosses the facade at the roofline and originally returned at the gable ends.

There are four fireplaces in the 1845 house and they are served by two chimneys, one at each peak of the gable ends. The quality of workmanship is exceptional. All four rooms of the 1845 house contained fireplaces that were framed with walnut mantels and surrounds. The fireplace mantels have a pediment as a decorative backpiece on the mantel. The floors are of oak. The lath is hand-split hickory. The woodwork is walnut with some pine.



1874 Drawing of Thomas Strawbridge, Jr. Farm House<sup>64</sup>

<sup>63</sup> Located in the Northeast Quarter of Section 26, Township 15 North, Range 5 West of the Third Principal Meridian, Sangamon County, Illinois. Shepherd Drive, just south of the campus of the University of Illinois Springfield.

<sup>64</sup> *Illustrated Atlas Map of Sangamon County, Ill.* [Illinois], Brink, McCormick & Co., 1874.

1845

**John Gardner House**

Section 17, Gardner Township, Sangamon County, Illinois  
Extant

In 1845, John Gardner built a Greek Revival farmhouse west of Springfield. It is perhaps the finest Greek Revival farm house still standing in Sangamon County.<sup>65</sup> The house is a one-and-a-half-story rectangle with four windows on the eve front with a center doorway framed with side lights and a transom light. The windows are double hung six-over-six with a classic surround. A wide entablature runs along all four sides. The corner boards or pilasters frame the facades. The gable ends have two windows on the first floor and in the triangular pediment there are two small windows allowing light and air to the half story sleeping area. There are two chimneys, one at each peak of the gable ends. The porch is modest and is Greek Revival in style with two plain square columns and two matching pilasters.



John Gardner House  
Section 17, Gardner Township, Sangamon County, Illinois

Today the house retains many of its Greek Revival features, although it has been sided. The house is remarkably similar to the home of Rev. Charles Dresser built in 1839 at Eighth and Jackson streets in Springfield and purchased by Abraham Lincoln in 1844.



<sup>65</sup> The Gardner House is located in Gardner Township at 7369 Route 125, ¼ of a mile west of the intersection with Route 97.

## The Architects

The origins of the use of the Greek Revival style of architecture in Springfield may be traced to three men—Minard Lafever, John Francis Rague and George I. Barnett.

### Minard Lafever and John Francis Rague

Minard Lafever, one of the fathers of Greek Revival architecture in America, was born on August 10, 1798, in Morristown, New Jersey.<sup>66</sup> Seven months after Lafever's birth, John Francis Rague was born in Scotch Plains, New Jersey. From 1828 to circa 1831, Rague worked as a draftsman in Lafever's architectural office in New York City. It was here that Rague acquired the skills that he used in designing the 1837 Illinois State House, one of the finest Greek Revival structures in America.

John Rague's father, Dr. John Rague, came from France to the American Colonies during the Revolutionary War as the personal physician of General La Fayette. After the Revolution, Dr. Rague married and remained in America.<sup>67</sup> In 1804, Dr. Rague moved with his family to New York City, where his young son John attended school. On April 16, 1820, 21 year-old John Francis Rague married Eliza M. Van Dyke.

In 1828, 29 year-old Minard Lafever moved from Newark, New Jersey to New York City where he worked as a draftsman and carpenter.<sup>68</sup> In that same year, John F. Rague began working in Lafever's New York office, studying architecture and copying drawings and plans.<sup>69</sup> Lafever published a total of five builders' guides between 1829 and 1856.<sup>70</sup> They spread the Greek Revival style nationwide. Here is what noted Greek Revival historian Talbot Hamlin says about Lafever.

*Minard Lafever. Trained as a carpenter in the Finger Lakes region of New York, to which his family had moved in his early childhood from his birthplace near Morristown, he was entirely self-taught architecturally. He preserved all his life something of the common-sense practicality of his early training, and during at least the early part of his practice in New York (where he arrived in 1828) he worked as a draftsman for builders. It was hard and not particularly rewarding work...and apparently it prevented Lafever from emerging as a full-fledged professional architect until the forties. ...undoubtedly his designs and his books exerted a tremendous influence in the New York of that time. It is by his first three books that his Greek Revival work must be judged: The Young Builder's General Instructor (1829), The Modern Builders' Guide (1833), and The Beauties of Modern Architecture (1835) His artistic progress from the crudity of the first to the polished restraint of the last is amazing in so brief a period; it shows Lafever to have been not only an omnivorous reader but a designer of unusual and continually growing aesthetic sensitiveness. All the books are simple and unassuming. All bear witness to their author's carpenter training and his eagerness to help those who like himself entered architecture through the building trades. Yet all the books show a driving, imaginative,*

<sup>66</sup> *The Beauties of Modern Architecture*, Minard Lafever, Da Capo Press, New York, 1968, introduction by Denys Peter Myers, p. vi.

<sup>67</sup> *Family Records or genealogies of the first settlers of Passaic Valley and Vicinity above Chatham, with their ancestors and descendants, as far as could be ascertained in 1851*, John Littell, 1851.

<sup>68</sup> *The Architecture of Minard Lafever*, Jacob Landy, review, *Art Bulletin*, Vol. 53, No. 2 (Jun., 1971), pp. 266-267.

<sup>69</sup> *Greek Revival America*, Roger G. Kennedy, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Stewart Tabori & Chang, New York, p. 133. (Hereafter referred to as "Kennedy.")

<sup>70</sup> In 1833, Minard Lafever published *The Modern Builder's Guide*. The book, one of the most influential in the history of American architecture, was responsible for the rapid spread of Greek Revival architecture in the United States. The heart of *The Modern Builder's Guide* is the collection of plates showing elevations and full plans for churches and "country residences," details of such structural elements as groin arches, roofing, staircases and window construction. Most important are the examples of Grecian-style ornament for use on fireplace mantels and front doors, as parlor ornamentation, etc.: rosettes, anthemion bands, consoles, anta capitals, scrolled anthemion and acanthus design. There is also detailed information on practical geometry, construction techniques of carpentry, masonry, plastering, etc.<sup>70</sup> Local carpenters as far south as Kentucky and as far west as Wisconsin used the book as a "builder's guide" to construct Grecian temple-houses and public buildings. The 1835 *New York Register, and City Directory* listed Minard Lafever as an architect.<sup>70</sup> In that same year, Lafever published *The Beauties of Modern Architecture*.

*creative force that expresses itself with clear and lovely restraint. The second and third contain probably the most exquisite and the least archaeological of all American Greek Revival detail—personal, inventive, restrained. As a pure creator of beautiful form—the pure artist in architecture—Lafever was at his time unrivaled.*<sup>71</sup>



Plate 52 From Minard Lafever's  
*The Young Builder's General Instructor*, 1829

In 1829, Minard Lafever published *The Young Builder's General Instructor*, a builder's guide that popularized ornament and construction details for Greek Revival architecture. It extolled a temple in Athens for the "elegant base of the columns," the "grand" proportions of the entablature, the "spacious surface of the frieze," and the "strength" of its appearance.<sup>72</sup>

The 1829-30 *Manhattan New York City Directory* listed Minard Lafever as a carpenter living at 24 Watts.<sup>73</sup> In succeeding directories, Lafever listed himself as an architect. In the same *Directory*, John F. Rague was listed as a mason living at 21 Stanton.<sup>74</sup>

The architectural world of New York City in 1832 is vividly described by James Gallier in his autobiography:

*On my arrival in New York on the 14th of April, 1832, I considered a large city as the most likely place to expect employment in my profession, but I found that the majority of people could with difficulty be made to understand what was meant by a professional architect; the builders, that is, the carpenters and bricklayers, all called themselves architects, and were at that time the persons to whom owners of property applied when they required plans for building; the builder hired some poor draftsman, of whom there were some half a dozen in New York at that time, to make the plans, paying him a mere trifle for his services. The drawings so made were, it is true, but of little value, and some proprietors built without having any regular plan. When they wanted a house built, they looked about for one already finished, which they thought suitable for their purpose; and then bargained with a builder to erect for them such another, or one with such alterations upon the model as they might point out. All this was soon changed, however, and architects began to be employed by proprietors before going to the builders; and in this way in a short time, the style of buildings public and private showed signs of rapid improvement.*<sup>75</sup>

The 1839-40 *Manhattan, New York City New York Directory* listed Minard Lafever as an architect with offices at 9 Beekman and residence at 4 Allan.<sup>76</sup>

<sup>71</sup> *Greek Revival Architecture in America*, Talbot Hamlin, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1944, pp. 146-147. (Hereafter referred to as "Hamlin.")

<sup>72</sup> Massey.

<sup>73</sup> *Manhattan New York City Directory: 1829-30*, p. 339. Hollister, Catherine, comp. *Manhattan New York City Directory: 1829-30* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2002. Original data: Longworth's American Almanac, New-York Register and City Directory for 1829. New York, NY, USA: Thomas Longworth, 15 Pine Street, 1829.

<sup>74</sup> *Manhattan New York City Directory: 1829-30*, p. 465. Stanton Street is a one lane street in Manhattan's Lower East Side one block north of Rivington Street. In the early 1830s, this was a neighborhood of red brick row houses stretching north of Soho between Second Avenue and Washington Square. This district was New York's prime residential area from the 1830s through the Civil War.

<sup>75</sup> *Hamlin*, pp. 140-141. There was at that time, properly speaking, only one architect's office in New York, kept by Town and Davis. Town had been a carpenter, but was no draftsman;... he had been once or twice to London, and bought there a huge collection of books in various languages upon the arts, and furnished his office with a very respectable library... Davis, his partner, was no mechanic, but a good draftsman, and possessed much taste as an artist...

<sup>76</sup> *Manhattan, New York City, New York Directory: 1839-1840*, Catherine Hollister, comp. [database on-line]. Provo, Utah: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2002. Original data: Longworth's American Almanac, New-York Register and City Directory for 1839, Thomas Longworth, 118 Nassau Street, New York, 1839.

Early in 1831, 32 year-old John F. Rague and his wife, Eliza, moved from New York City to Springfield. The first evidence of their presence in Springfield is their joining the First Presbyterian Church in March 1831.<sup>77</sup>

*His wife testified that he began to stray during the second year of their marriage. Probably to save face, the couple fled from New York City and settled down in Springfield late in the fall of 1831.*<sup>78</sup>

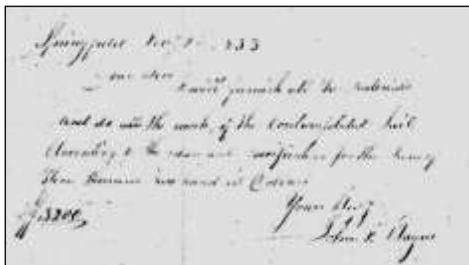
In Springfield, Rague was at first a baker and over time was quite active in many of the town's civic, business and church organizations.<sup>79</sup> He bought and sold real estate, served as first president of the Springfield Mechanics Union that operated a school,<sup>80</sup> and was an organizer of the Second Presbyterian Church and led that church choir. He acted as vice-president of the Illinois State Musical Association and served as a Springfield Town Trustee, and a director of the Illinois Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He was the Town Market Master from 1833 to 1834,<sup>81</sup> and was the architect of the Illinois State House.

On July 26, 1832, John F. Rague advertised in the *Sangamo Journal* that he "continues the Bakery business" in a new brick building "a few doors west of Garland and Edmondson's store." He stated that he was a wholesaler as well as a retailer.



John F. Rague Advertises Bakery in *Sangamo Journal*<sup>82</sup>

In 1833, Rague submitted a bid of \$3,200 for the construction of a new Sangamon County Jail. He was not the low bidder and did not receive the contract. Rague's bid, however, is evidence that he was working as a Springfield contractor/builder in 1833. His bid reads as follows:



John Rague's Bid Proposal For Construction of The Sangamon County Jail-1833<sup>83</sup>

Springfield [Illegible date], 1833

Dears Sirs:

I will furnish all materials and do all the work of the contemplated Jail According to the plan and specification for the sum of Three Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$3200).

Yours [illegible word]

John F. Rague

<sup>77</sup> *Minutes of the Session: of the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield*, Rague File, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois. Kennedy, p. 133.

<sup>78</sup> *Illinois' Fifth Capitol*, Sunderine (Wilson) Temple and Wayne C. Temple, Phillips Brothers Printers, Springfield, Illinois, 1988, pp. 7-8. (Hereafter referred to as "Capitol.")

<sup>79</sup> *By Square and Compass*, p. 4-5.

<sup>80</sup> *Chapin*, p. 13.

<sup>81</sup> *Journal of Town Trustees, Springfield, Illinois*, April 30, 1833, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois.

<sup>82</sup> *Journal*, July 26, 1832, p. 3. He was located in the "new brick house" near the Journal office. This was probably the house in Block 14, located on the east side of lot 3 (a lot which fronted on Washington Street mid-way between Fourth and Fifth Street. Rague mortgaged the property "including Rague's dwelling house and improvements" for \$500 to Erastus Wright, the School Commissioner on October 10, 1835. *Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds*, Book H, pp. 550-551, Grantor and Grantee Records.

To Travellers and others.  
**PILOT BREAD.** of a superior quality,  
 is constantly kept on hand, for sale, by  
 the subscriber. This is considered the most  
 wholesome of all kinds of bread, and is par-  
 ticularly suitable for travellers. It is conven-  
 ient to carry, is palatable and will scarcely  
 perish from age.  
 The subscriber will have also for sale Loaf  
 Bread and Rusk every day, Crackers and  
 Cakes of various kinds, with Mead and  
 Beer, at the new brick house near the pub-  
 lic square, a few doors west of the Journal  
 Printing Office.  
 Country merchants will find it to their ad-  
 vantage to buy and sell the Pilot Bread.  
**JOHN F. RAGUE.**  
 Springfield, August 29, 1833. 9ctf

John F. Rague Advertises Bakery in *Sangamo Journal*<sup>84</sup>

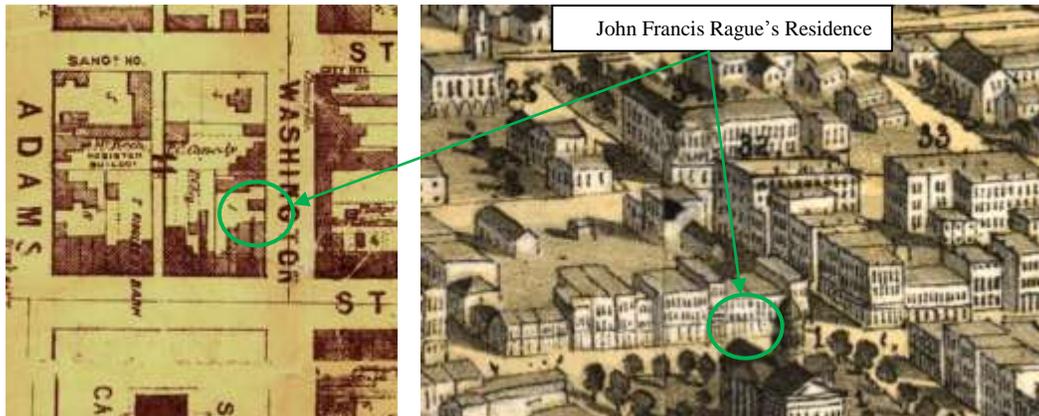
On August 29, 1833, John F. Rague advertised his bakery goods in the *Sangamo Journal*. He stated that he carried pilot bread, a very hard unsalted biscuit or bread that in earlier times was a ship's staple.<sup>85</sup>

*This is considered the most wholesome of all kinds of bread, and is particularly suitable for travelers. It is convenient to carry, is palatable and will scarcely perish from age.*

He also advertised loaf bread, rusk,<sup>86</sup> crackers and cakes of various kinds. He also sold mead and beer. His place of business was "a new brick house located near the public square, and a few doors west of the Journal Printing Office."

In 1835, John F. and Eliza M. Rague were two of the 28 who withdrew their membership in the First Presbyterian Church and organized the Second Presbyterian Church, now Westminster Presbyterian Church.<sup>87</sup>

On October 6, 1835, John F. Rague was living on the south side of Washington Street, between Fourth and Fifth Streets. On that date he purchased 7 ½ feet of the lot adjoining to the east from John G. and Margaretta M. Bergen for \$1,000. He also mortgaged his property to Erastus Wright to secure a \$500 loan.<sup>88</sup>



<sup>83</sup> *Sangamon County, Illinois, County Commissioners Court SC 1333-A*, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois.

<sup>84</sup> *Sangamo Journal*, January 1834.

<sup>85</sup> [http://www.answers.com/topic/pilot-bread#after\\_ad1](http://www.answers.com/topic/pilot-bread#after_ad1)

<sup>86</sup> A rusk is a rectangular, hard, dry biscuit or twice-baked bread.

<sup>87</sup> *1881 History*, p. 605. *Minutes of Session and Church Register, Second Presbyterian Church*, Vol. 1, 1835-1867, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Illinois.

<sup>88</sup> Deed Book H, pp. 550-551: October 6, 1835 John G. and Margaretta M. Bergen to John F. Rague, \$1,000, 7 ½ feet off the West end of Lot 1, Block 14 and 32 ½ feet off the east side of Lot 3, Block 14, Town of Springfield.

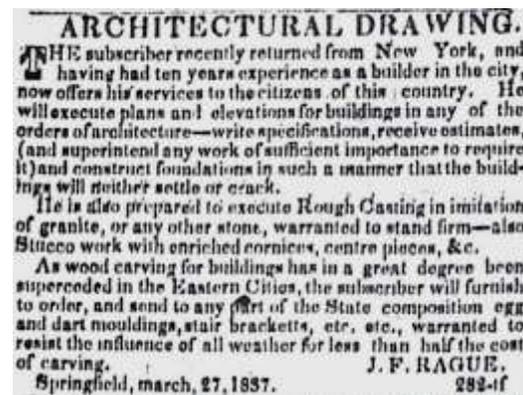
Deed Book H, pp. 550-551: October 6, 1835 John F. Rague to Erastus Wright, School Commissioner, Lot and improvements where I now live, 32 ½ feet off the east side of Lot 3, Block 14, also 7 ½ feet off the West end of Lot 1, Block 14, Town of Springfield. Mortgage securing \$500 loan. Satisfied April 14, 1842. This information was provided by Curtis Mann, Sangamon Valley Room, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

In 1836, John F. Rague was elected a Springfield Town Trustee, but he resigned the position in the fall of the same year when he returned to New York City to work in Minard Lafever's architectural office.<sup>89</sup>

*Perhaps he was summoned there by Lafever himself, who by that time was well recognized for his designing talents, having completed two additional builder's guides. The great fire that destroyed much of lower Manhattan in 1835 resulted in a flood of new commissions for most New York architects and builders, including Lafever, so that there was an acute shortage of trained personnel. Even if Lafever had not contacted him personally, Rague would have known of the situation in New York through newspaper accounts or personal correspondence. However, another factor, closer to home, seems a more probable motivation. Rague would have known of the plans to establish the state capitol in Springfield. Seeing the design of this structure as a potential commission, Rague may have seized upon the idea of a New York sojourn, viewing it as a refresher course tailored to fit his own ambitions. Knowing that his local prestige would be increased by the trip, even to the point of enabling him to secure the important capitol commission, would have been a powerful added incentive to his decision to go East. Ultimately, his success in winning the open competition against such professionals as A. J. Davis (1803-1892) and Ithiel Town (1794-1844) in 1837 allowed Rague to advance his professional status from carpenter-builder to architect, a change that might not have been possible had he remained at home in Springfield.<sup>90</sup>*

On February 28, 1837, the Illinois State legislature chose Springfield as the capital of Illinois and authorized the Sangamon County Commissioners Court "to convey to the Governor of the state of Illinois...that piece...of ground ...known as the "public square," containing two and half acres ..upon which... shall be erected a State House...for the State of Illinois."

By March 27, 1837, Rague had returned to Springfield and he published a notice in the *Journal* captioned in bold letters "ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING." He introduced himself by stating that he had just returned from New York. He stated that he had ten years of experience as a builder in "the city," and now offered his services to the citizens of this country. The "city" is undoubtedly New York City where he worked from at least 1828 to the fall of 1831, prior to moving to Springfield, and from the fall of 1836 to the spring of 1837.



John F. Rague's Advertisement For Architectural Drawing

Rague offered his services to Springfield stating that he would "execute plans and elevations for buildings in any of the orders of architecture—write specifications, receive estimates, (and superintend any work of sufficient importance to require it) and construct foundations in such a manner that the buildings with neither settle or crack."<sup>91</sup> He stated that he was prepared to execute rough castings in imitation of granite or any other stone and would do stucco work with "enriched cornices, centre pieces, etc." He stated that wood carvings for buildings had been to a great degree replaced in Eastern Cities. He

<sup>89</sup> Kennedy, p. 133. *Journal of Town Trustees, Springfield, Illinois*, November 15, 1836. Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois.

<sup>90</sup> *John Francis Rague: Mid-Nineteenth Century Revivalist Architect (1799-1877)*, Betsy H. Woodman, Master's thesis, University of Iowa, February, 1969. (Hereafter referred to as "Woodman.") A copy of the manuscript may be found in the Sangamon Valley Room, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

<sup>91</sup> *Journal*, March 27, 1837.

would furnish “composition” egg and dart moldings, stair brackets, etc. at less than half the cost of wood carving.

On April 8, 1837, the *Sangamo Journal* carried an advertisement directed to architects and announcing that a premium of three hundred dollars would be paid for the “best plans and estimates of a Building a State House.” John Francis Rague’s design was accepted and he was appointed the supervising architect of the project with a salary of \$1,00 per year.

In mid April, 1837, Abraham Lincoln moved from New Salem to Springfield and roomed at the southwest corner of Fifth and Washington streets, just a half block east of Rague’s residence.

In April 1837, the Mechanics Institute was established in Springfield under the presidency of John F. Rague. It had a short and uneventful career and was succeeded by the Mechanics Union in 1839.<sup>92</sup>

On March 22, 1838, 101 citizens of Springfield, including John F. Rague, signed a note for \$16,666.67 to the State Bank to enable the town to pay the second installment of a pledge made in February 1837 to obtain the capital.<sup>93</sup>

On January 31, 1839, John Eddy Roll married Harriet Van Dyke, who was born on January 29, 1815, in New York City. Harriet was the sister of John F. Rague’s wife, Elizabeth Van Dyke Rague.<sup>94</sup>

On February 23, 1839, The Illinois Mutual Fire Insurance Company was incorporated with John Francis Rague as one of the directors.<sup>95</sup>

On March 1, 1839, the Springfield Academy was organized and John F. Rague, together with Washington Iles, F. Webster, Jr., S. T. Logan, N. H. Ridgley, Robert Allen and Charles R. Matheny, was a member of the Board of Trustees.<sup>96</sup> For fifteen years (1839-1854) this institution, together with the Springfield Female Seminary ... and the Mechanic’s Institute, bore the brunt of the educational burden, although there were always a number of smaller schools.<sup>97</sup>

On December 17, 1839, a group of Springfield mechanics petitioned the Illinois legislature to pass an act incorporating the Springfield Mechanic’s Union.<sup>98</sup> Lincoln presented the petition in the legislature.<sup>99</sup>

John F. Rague, former baker but at that time architect of the Statehouse, was active in the [Springfield Mechanic’s] Union until called away to erect the capitol of Iowa Territory.

Membership in the Union was limited to mechanics of good moral character, free from all bodily infirmities. The first board of directors included: William D. Herndon, brick mason; J.

<sup>92</sup> *The Springfield Mechanics Union, 1839-1848*, Harry E. Pratt, Journal Of The Illinois State Historical Society, Vol. 34, No. 1, March 1941, 130-134.

<sup>93</sup> *Day By Day*, p. 87. *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, Abraham Lincoln Association, 1953, v. I, p. 116.

<sup>94</sup> *Illinois Marriages to 1850*. John Eddy Roll was born on June 9, 1814, at Green Village, New Jersey and moved to Sangamon County in the early 1830s. In the Spring of 1831, John Roll met Abraham Lincoln for the first time when at Sangamo Town he helped Lincoln build the flat boat that later became lodged on the Rutledge Dam at New Salem, Illinois. John made all the wooden pins used in constructing the boat. After Lincoln left Sangamo Town, John left the village and made his home at Springfield, Illinois. He was a plasterer.

<sup>95</sup> *Alton Telegraph*, Alton, Illinois, April 18, 1840, p. 2. *Capitol*, p. 8.

<sup>96</sup> *Angle*, p. 200.

<sup>97</sup> *Lincoln’s Springfield: Springfield’s Early Schools (1819-1860)*, Richard E. Hart, Spring Creek Series, a series of booklets about early Springfield history, p. 20.

<sup>98</sup> Petition to the Illinois legislature for the incorporation of the Springfield Mechanic’s Union. Two sheets, short notation only in Lincoln’s hand. The document is written by Simeon Francis.

<sup>99</sup> *Illinois State Archives*, Detailed Record No. 2518, File Name: 208596.djv

Van Hoff, coach trimmer; John Armstrong, carpenter; John Connelly, cordwainer; E. R. Wiley, tailor; and John F. Rague and J. P. Lankford.

The 1840 United States census listed John F. Rague as living in Springfield, Illinois. In late March of that year, Rague traveled to St. Louis to purchase 10,000 feet of pine for use in the construction of the new Illinois State House.

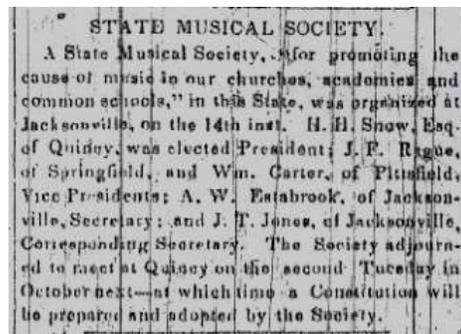
*Note. Mr. Rague the Architect left for the same point [St. Louis] on 31st March for the purchase of 10,000 feet pine, no action of the Board in relation thereto on record. April 1st, 1840 Arch. Job.<sup>100</sup>*

In the spring of 1840, Rague traveled to New York City to hire skilled stonecutters and to order carved wooden capitals and hardware for the interior of the Illinois State House. It was reported that while in New York, Rague advertised in the *New York Sun* for twenty stone cutters for the capitol building at \$2.50 per day. Two came as a result.<sup>101</sup>

*The bill of carving for the embellishment of the interior of the building including the dome, cost in the city of New York \$2529.59. The carving having been shipped with other materials, it is impossible to give the exact cost of freight and charges; but it cannot have exceeded the sum of \$250.00, which would make the net cost of the carved work amount to the sum of \$2779.59. The contract for the carving and hardware was made by our Architect, Mr. Rague, by direction of the Board, and he was allowed the sum of \$150.00 for expenses to and from New York; which is all that has been paid in the shape of commissions or for agents in their purchase.<sup>102</sup>*

In 1840, John F. Rague designed Iowa's first state capitol building at Iowa City.<sup>103</sup> Construction of the Greek Revival style building began with the laying of the cornerstone on July 4, 1840. Nine days later, Rague resigned.

William Henry Harrison died on April 4, 1841, and Springfield honored him with a memorial service at the Second Presbyterian Church where John F. Rague directed the choir.<sup>104</sup> On August 14, 1841, Rague was elected a Vice President of the Illinois State Musical Society, organized to promote the cause of music in churches, academies and common schools.



John F. Rague Elected Vice President of Illinois State Musical Society<sup>105</sup>

Early in 1841, John F. Rague was an agent for the Illinois Mutual Fire Insurance Company.<sup>106</sup>

<sup>100</sup> Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois. File SC823-B.

<sup>101</sup> *Woodman*, p. 30, fn. 11. Archibald Job while in Pittsburgh purchasing lumber advertised for masons as did Henry in Louisville and Cincinnati. *Register*, March 20, 1840, p. 3.

<sup>102</sup> Reports Made to the Twelfth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, 1840, Springfield, William Walters, Public Printer, 1841, p. 278.

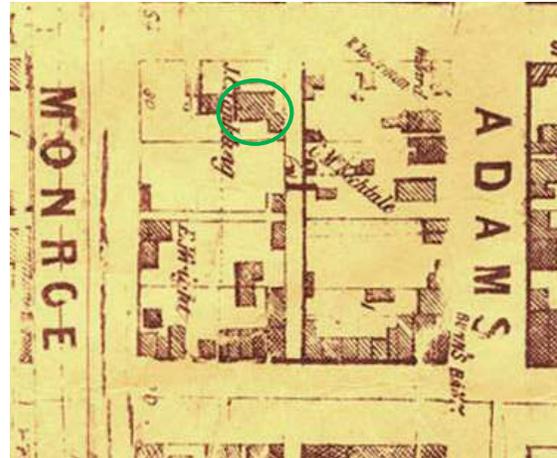
<sup>103</sup> Territorial Capitol (1842-46). State Capitol (1846-57). Clinton Street at Iowa Avenue.

<sup>104</sup>

<sup>105</sup> *Journal*, August 20, 1841, p. House Journal; Photocopy.

<sup>106</sup> *Journal*, January 8, 1841, p. 3.

On July 20, 1841, Rague bought the north 1/2 of lots 5 and 6 Block 21 OTP from Erastus Wright for \$600, giving Wright a note for the purchase price.



In August 1841, Rague was cited to appear before the Church Council for “Sabbath breaking, uttering falsehood, and ’trifling with the sessions.” Although the last charge was dropped, Rague never attended the Council to defend himself and was consequently “removed” from the church on August 24, 1842.

In 1841, Rague was involved in the dispute over the financing of the Illinois State House that ultimately led to his removal from Springfield. Although he was never proved dishonest, repercussions could have been unsettling enough to cause his lashing out as someone who might have criticized his actions or honesty.



On July 15, 1842, John F. Rague advertised in the *Journal* “Houses, Lands, Farms and Lots—for sale.”<sup>107</sup> One of the houses is a “Grecian Cottage” opposite the Second Presbyterian Church on the east side of Fourth, between Adams and Monroe Streets.

*That well built and beautiful Grecian Cottage opposite the 2nd Presbyterian Church, 46 feet square, containing six rooms, a good cellar, garret room, closet, pantries, well-room, inner portico, and portico extending across the entire front and standing on a lot 78 ½ by 160 feet in a beautiful part of the city. A credit of one or two years will be given for one-quarter or one-half of the purchase money if desired.*

This little ad tells us a great deal about the Grecian Cottage on South Fourth. The “Cottage” was 46 feet square, the same exterior dimensions as the Elijah Iles house. (See page \_\_.) The use of the word “Grecian” by Rague confirms that the term Greek Revival or variants thereof had become a part of the public vocabulary of Springfield to the extent that it would be used in a newspaper advertisement to sell a “Grecian Cottage.”

<sup>107</sup> *Journal*, September 30, 1842, p. 1, cl. 2. Curtis Mann and Linda Garvert at the Sangamon Valley Room found this advertisement.

The ad also raises questions. Was this Rague's personal residence? And if so, did he design and construct the Grecian Cottage? When did he purchase the lot? The Lincolns moved from the Globe Tavern to the same block on South Fourth Street in the fall of 1843 and lived there until the middle of 1844.<sup>108</sup> Did they move to this Cottage or were they neighbors? Why was Rague selling all of this real estate? What happened between July 1842 and October 1843?

By a letter in October 1843, Eliza Rague was separated from the Second Presbyterian Church.<sup>109</sup>

James C. Conkling received a master in chancery deed for the property in November 22, 1845 due to a foreclosure suit filed by Wright against Rague and some other Springfield businessmen.

The 1850 United States census showed fifty year-old John F. Rague living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In 1853, Eliza Rague left her husband in Milwaukee and returned with their daughter to Springfield.

In 1854 at age 55, Rague moved from Milwaukee to Dubuque, Iowa at the request of Stephen Hempstead who returned to the city after completing his four year term as the Governor of Iowa. In that year, Rague designed a Greek Revival residence at 834 North Johnson Street—The Downey-Pickering-Glasgow House.

Minard Lafever died on September 26, 1854 at age 56.

On April 16, 1820, 21 year-old John Francis Rague married Eliza M. Van Dyke. The marriage was "tempestuous" and ended in 1856, Elizabeth Rague filed for divorce on the grounds of John's drunkenness and adultery with "divers women." She alleged that her husband's adultery was "publicly notorious" and his "licentiousness" had become so established that there was "no reasonable hope of his reformation." "For the last three years John has become more and more addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors, frequently returning to his home drunk."<sup>110</sup> In the file are notes written by one of Rague's mistresses to him. (apparently Rague met her on Sundays, after church) They were torn up but someone (Mrs. Rague?) had carefully re-assembled and pasted them together to present as evidence. Elizabeth Rague was granted the divorce.<sup>111</sup>

*In spite of his many talents, John F. Rague had a serious defect in his personality: he chased women and sometimes caught them! It mattered little to him that he definitely was not single. His wife testified that he began to stray during the second year of their marriage.<sup>112</sup>*

On September 22, 1858, Elizabeth Rague married Levi H. St. Clair in Sangamon County. Levi died in April, 1866, near Rochester, Illinois.<sup>113</sup>

In 1862, John Rague began to lose his eye sight, and he eventually became blind. When the first wife, Elizabeth, heard of his blindness, she came to Dubuque where she and John's second wife worked together to help Rague until he died in 1887. John was buried in Linwood Cemetery, Dubuque, Iowa.

<sup>108</sup> *Mary Todd Lincoln*, Jean H. Baker, W. W. Norton & Company, New York, 1987, pp. 99-100.

<sup>109</sup> *Woodman*, p. 11.

<sup>110</sup> *A Blueprint For Divorce*, Tara McClellan McAndrew, *Journal Register, Heartland Magazine*, October 20, 2006, p. 5A.

<sup>111</sup> Tom Wood, IRAD, University of Illinois at Springfield. Sangamon County Circuit Court records.

<sup>112</sup> *Capitol*, pp. 7-8.

<sup>113</sup> *Power*, p. 677.

It seems improbable that the Illinois State House was John Francis Rague's sole Springfield work. I have often wondered what other Springfield buildings he may have designed or influenced others to design. Proof meeting the test of legal evidence that Rague designed other Springfield buildings may never be found, but some reasonable speculations and deductions can be suggested from the known facts.

### **George I. Barnett**

George I. Barnett, a St. Louis, Missouri architect, designed at least two Greek Revival buildings in Springfield--the Illinois State Bank in 1839<sup>114</sup> and the Third Presbyterian Church in 1851.

*Mr. Barnett was not only one of the best known architects in St. Louis but he was reputed to be the ablest in the country in the classic school, from which he would not swerve. He had no use for modern innovations and style, such as low ceilings, small windows and dwarfed doorways. His buildings, whether public or private, always showed in their treatment what is characteristic of the educated architect, namely, character, expression and proportion.*

Hyde and Conard's Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis (1899).

Barnett was born in Nottingham, England in 1815, and after completing his education and working for three years with a builder, he did an apprenticeship with a London architectural firm. In early 1839, Barnett left England for the United States and St. Louis.

By mid century he had an enviable reputation as Missouri's foremost architect. The only extant building from his first decade of practice is St. Vincent de Paul Church in LaSalle Park. Built in 1844-45, just a few years after Barnett's College Church (razed) for St. Louis University, St. Vincent de Paul is one of the oldest churches in Missouri.

In St. Louis, Barnett designed other churches, hotels, public buildings, schools, town and country houses, the waterworks and white water tower, a wide assortment of commercial and institutional buildings and the Governor's Mansion. For Henry Shaw, he designed Tower Grove, the 1849 country house that became the nucleus for the Missouri Botanical Garden. His last was Shaw's mausoleum, designed five years before Henry Shaw's death in 1889.<sup>115</sup>

---

<sup>114</sup> *The Marine Bank: The Story of The Oldest Bank in Illinois*, Paul M. Angle, MCMXXXI, Springfield, Illinois, endpiece.

<sup>115</sup> *George I. Barnett [St. Louis Architects: Famous and Not So Famous, Part 13]*, Carolyn Hewes Toft (first published in Landmarks Letter, May/June 1988) <http://stlouis.missouri.org/501c/landmarks/architects13.html> <http://www.articleclick.com/Article/George-I.-Barnett-and-Thomas-P.-Barnett/1055251> "Among Architects," *St. Louis Republic*, 31 May 1891, p. 9. Barnett, Thomas P. *Building of Homes*, *The Saint Louis Builder*, 7 December 1901, unpagged. Bryan, John Albury. *Henry Shaw and George Ingham Barnett. Co-Workers in American Culture*, Chillicothe, Missouri, By the Author, 1975. *Centennial History of Missouri (The Center State); One Hundred Years in the Union: 1820-1921*, Volume III. D. J. Publishing Company, St. Louis Chicago, 1921. Examples of the Recent Works of Barnett, Haynes and Barnett. I. Haas Publishing & Engraving Co., St. Louis, 1896. *St. Louis, The Fourth City*, Vol. 1, S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., St. Louis, 1909.

## ELEMENTS OF GREEK REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE

The identifying elements of Greek Revival architecture were:

**Gable Front:** treated as a classical temple front with triangular pediment and columns and corner pilasters; emphasized with cornice returns and corner pilasters.



Gable Front of the State Bank of Illinois

**Eave Front:** eave faces the street. finished with a cornice and the gable side is embellished with a cornice return.

**Porch:** can run the width or the height of the structure with square or rounded columns.

**Roof:** hipped or gable, low-pitched; lower than in earlier years; roof height is also minimized by a parapet at the eaves or a flattened deck at the ridge.

**Chimneys:** not a prominent design aspect and are usually thin and plain.

**Color:** painted white to resemble the marble exterior of the original Greek marble temples.

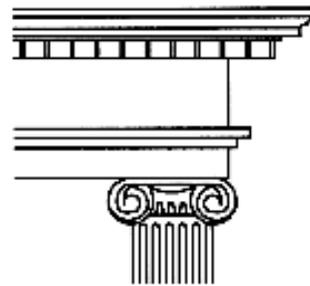


Eave Front of the Iles House

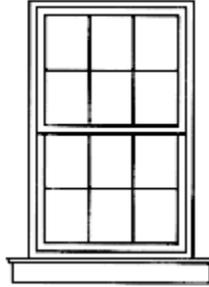
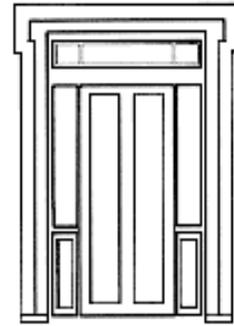
**Columns:** square or rounded freestanding or applied to the façade--pilasters.

**Entablature:** wider and heavier than the Federalist style, but with the same three components:

1. **architrave** at the top (seen here with dentil molding);
2. **frieze** section in the middle;
3. **cornice** at the bottom (seen here on top of the column with Ionic capital); a wide band of trim often with dentils.



**Entry Door:** doorways usually have rectangular transoms and sidelights. (never rounded like federal) Doorways and windows are boldly delineated.



**Windows:** large, double-hung, multi-paned, like this 6/6 (six-over-six) example

Window openings set in masonry are marked by emphatic lintels, sometimes with carved keystones.

Wooden window surrounds are heavily molded and may also emphasize a corner block or a heavy pediment.

Attic windows may be in a frieze beneath the eaves or in the triangular pediment.<sup>116</sup>



Attic Windows in the Triangular Pediment of the C. M. Smith House



Attic Windows in the Frieze of the Tinsley Building

---

<sup>116</sup> Massey.

*Greek Revival in America: From Tara to farmhouse temples.* By James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell:

Americans of the early 19th century saw several good reasons for adapting at least some aspects of Greek classicism to their own houses, churches, and public buildings. For starters, Greece's struggle for independence from Turkey was at its height in the 1820s, reminding Americans of their own hard-won sovereignty. Greece, the world's first democracy, seemed an appropriate philosophical reference point for a self-confident new republic. Plus, with its air of antiquity, Greek Revival architecture brought a sense of permanence and solidity to the spanking-new American landscape. It's very austerity proclaimed the sturdy self-reliance of a nation that was pushing westward with all its might, conquering new frontiers at the same time it was trying to establish its cultural credentials with the Old World.

They were in search of a "National Style" of architecture reflecting their own time and place—one that would represent America's abundance and energy as well as its political and cultural ideals. They wanted a style that betokened a glorious future as well as a glorious past. The Greek example, properly modified, seemed to fit their needs.

Although the details varied from region to region and from one economic stratum to another, the general characteristics of this new-old style include simplicity, as well as an emphatic rectilinear geometry and insistent symmetry of form.

In New England, Upstate New York, and the Northwest Territory (Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois, which were just then being settled by a wave of New Englanders), the most common form was a blocky farmhouse, often sans porch and full columns but with handsome pilasters or attached square columns at the corners of a pedimented gable front.

The style evolved over time as well as across geographic areas, settlement patterns, and economic strata. First, in the 1820s and 1830s, came the rich man's high-style Greek Revival "temple" with its impressive four-columned two-storey portico and prominent pediment. Then, as the middle class picked up the idea in the 1830s and 1840s, the portico was scaled down. It became a porch, with plain columns or square posts and a simplified pediment. This economy version might have four columns and three bays stretching across the entire front of the house, or it might have only a single bay at the entrance. It was more often one story high than two stories. In freestanding houses, the temple form required a gable front, but practicality or preference very often called for end gables instead, with the entrance on a long side. Either way, the pediment might be formed by a full-length frieze or it might be merely suggested by bold cornice returns that extended only part way in from the corners.

Roof pitches, which had been flattening noticeably from the colonial through the federal period, became even flatter with the advent of the Greek Revival style. In fact, some roofs seemed to have no slope at all, because they were hidden behind straight parapets and balustrades, paneled or ornamented with upstanding palmettes. Other buildings had broad gables and heavy full or partial cornice returns, representing the classical Greek temple form. The cornice might display a row of tooth-like dentil molding.

The most familiar characteristic of the Greek Revival roofline, however, was a deep frieze, often undecorated except perhaps for a row of the distinctive Greek triglyph and metope ornament. This was usually enough for all but the most fashionable mansions. Even simpler dwellings might have nothing beyond a wide board frieze, minus dentils, triglyphs, or metopes, to suggest their Greek connections.

Windows became much larger in the Greek Revival period, as factory-made glass, transported to growing towns and prosperous farms by rail or canal, became easier to come by. Tall six-over-six double-hung windows brought light to graciously proportioned interiors with high ceilings. Sometimes

the windows extended from near the ceiling to the floor, making it possible to step through to the porch beyond. Floor plans featured center or side halls.

Although Greek-derived wooden ornament was generally simple in form, the intricate decorative ironwork of the period was another story altogether. Magnificent cast- or wrought-iron designs appeared on fences, balconies, and roof-top acroteria, providing a fanciful finishing touch for the rather stiff architecture. As the Industrial Revolution matured and foundry technology improved, cast iron almost entirely replaced the earlier wrought iron.

By 1850 railroads and canals carried machine-made wooden ornament to even remote outposts, doing away with much of the painstaking handwork once required for fluted column shafts, elaborate capitals, and other ornament. Generally, ornate Corinthian column capitals of the Georgian era were seen less frequently than simpler Ionic scrolled capitals and plain Doric columns, fluted or unfluted, without platforms, or bases. Rectangular transoms above the doorways were more common than semi-elliptical fanlights in Greek Revival houses, and while fancy tracery in wood or iron often appeared in transoms or sidelights, these were more often undecorated rectangles. Flat, wide trim surrounded doors and windows. Molded panels were often set into the walls below windows, both inside and outside the house.

### **Decline of Greek Revival Style**

The Greek Revival was, as its early proponents claimed, America's first truly national style, and it dominated the era of Manifest Destiny. It easily outdistanced the picturesque Gothic Revival, its closest competitor in the early 19th-century "War of the Styles." A very different kind of conflict brought an end to the elegance of the Greek Revival period, however. After the Civil War, Victorian eclecticism reigned on the home front. In a fast-moving industrialized country, the stark symmetry of the Greek Revival house seemed hopelessly stiff and even boring. Although the style kept its appeal for public buildings and churches, Greek Revival houses soon became relics of a simpler time, the time Before the War.<sup>117</sup>

---

<sup>117</sup> *Massey.*

