

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

WASHINGTON 10/83

For NPS use only
received
date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Beith, William, House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 6 Indiana Street N/A not for publication

city, town St. Charles N/A vicinity of Congressional District 14

state Illinois code 012 county Kane code 089

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum in work
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Restorations of Kane County, Inc.

street & number P.O.Box 338

city, town LaFox, X vicinity of state Illinois 60147

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Kane County Government Center

street & number South Batavia Avenue

city, town Geneva, state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Historic Structures
title in Kane County, Interim Report has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 1972 federal state county local

depository for survey records Illinois Department of Conservation

city, town Springfield state Illinois

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered minor	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

ORIGINAL EXTERIOR APPEARANCE

This two story (30' x 37') with recessed one story ell (17' x 20') simple Greek Revival house built of Lamont riverstone rubble had three inside chimneys, one at either end of gabled roofs, flat sawn cedar shingles, six/six window sashes, grade level entrance on north elevation of ell at NE corner and also one at north elevation, NE corner of two story section. Two grade level entrances in close proximity suggests that the ell could have been added later, although saw cuts, building techniques give no positive clues.

Main entry is on east elevation at SE corner, simple surround of modified Greek Revival style, with original two panel door extant. A false shuttered window opening (stone filled) is above the door (perhaps for formal balance) at second floor level. To right are two 6/6 windows on both first and second floor level. South elevation has false window on first floor level, with 6/6 window above on second floor level, near east corner. Toward west on south wall is one 6/6 window on first floor level with another directly above it on second floor level. West elevation has two 6/6 windows at first floor level with two 6/6 directly above on second floor level. North wall in northeast exposure of elevation has one 6/6 window with one 6/6 directly above.

The ell had two 6/6 windows on east elevation, two on west elevation, door of four panels to north. Door stoops apparently were of wood.

Stoops to main entry door extant--of large slabs of cut Lamont riverstone laid over brick foundation. Above roof chimneys were corbeled brick.

PRESENT EXTERIOR APPEARANCE

Same as original with exception of main entry surround having been removed (early photograph is reference for restoration); chimneys have been replaced; southeast window of east elevation of ell has been made into a doorway many years ago; grade level entrance of two story portion has been stoned up. Stone slabs for steps at east ell doorway; north ell grade level entrance has been replaced. Window sashes have been restored (1982) with security/storm sashes installed.

Spot tuckpointing needed, scheduled for 1984.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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ORIGINAL INTERIOR APPEARANCE

Main entry was directly into parlor with crosssetted painted pine woodwork. Staircase had varnished newel railing, spindles, with unfinished steps and risers. Plastered walls, cast iron door latches and butt hinges through house. Random 6 to 8 inch pine flooring throughout house, unpainted. Plain flat 4" trim in all of house except parlor. Full riverstone basement with stone walls dividing basement into three sections, with no access from main portion basement into ell basement. Small opening in north stone wall in northwest corner about 45" high x 24" wide which opens into north ell basement; brick narrow path winds into north ell (further excavatinn necessary to determine its course). (Folklore tells that there was an underground railway tunnel leading from this house to an unknown exterior point. Beith was a strong abolitioist and St. Charles had many freedmen residents and was along one of the underground railway routes, but no written proof has been discovered.) Basement access stairway is located under parlor staircase as well as a trap door access to the north basement in the buttery floor.

There was parlor, dining room downstairs, with kitchen, buttery, and one bedroom in the ell, with three bedrooms and hallway in the two story portion upstairs, with attic access in upstairs hall ceiling.

PRESENT INTERIOR APPEARANCE

Front parlor has been divided into hall with door to dining room and smaller parlor with double doorway into dining room. Plaster extant in upstairs and parlor, as well as dining room walls on south and west. Cast iron door latches and hinges extant. Wainscot added to kitchen walls at some period. All woodwork and some floors have been painted--some several times. Wallpaper and paint analysis is being done. Floor joists and flooring has been restored where needed, 1983. Inconspicuous climate control, electrical wiring, security system being installed 1983. Missing stair spindles being replaced.

8. Significance

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

Home of impt. stonemason in Fox Valley

Specific dates 1850-1865 **Builder/Architect** Beith, William

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This simple Greek Revival riverstone house built by William Beith for his own family in 1850 is one of the few surviving examples in the St. Charles area which has not been significantly altered.

"Having learned stone masonry from his father when a boy in Scotland, his first contract in St. Charles (1843) was to erect the Congregational Church (now stuccoed), and he subsequently erected many of the prominent structures of that place, including the paper mill, etc., and built many buildings in Batavia, so many that it may be said that most of the prominent buildings in that place were constructed by him. His handiwork is largely seen in Aurora--the Jennings Seminary, the Dunning block, Methodist Church, factory buildings."

"His operations extended to Chicago, where, with a partner, he was largely interested in contracting and building. Until 1865 he was the most prominent contractor and builder in Kane County; then he retired partially and devoted his time to supervising and terra cotta field tiling many acres of land to make it farmable!"

"Mr. Beith was largely involved in introducing and starting the manufacture of tile (field) in Aurora" supplying field tile for hundreds of miles of tile for farm land....as a result many, many acres of low-land became productive farmland in Kane County.

"William Beith, a strong abolitionist..."
 Quotations from Kane County History of 1888

9. Major Bibliographical References

Kane County History of 1888

Family Records, Mrs. Robert (Lucinda) Carron, Carron Road, P.R.
Elgin, Illinois 60120

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name GENEVA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	9	1	1	2	0	4	6	4	0	5	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is roughly 11,050 square feet.
See attachment for legal description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eve Johnson, Beith House Restoration Committee

organization Restorations of Kane County, Inc. date July 17, 1983

street & number 41W483 Beith Road, Route 2 telephone 312-584-4034

city or town Elburn, Illinois 60119 state Illinois 60119

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director

date 10/24/83

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

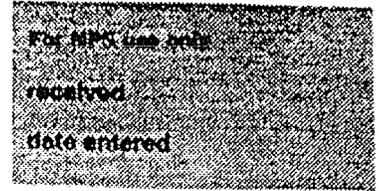
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet Beith, William, House Item number 10

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Verbal Boundary Description and justification

Beginning at a point 130 feet west of the western edge of the Fox River and 54 feet north of the center of Indian Street, proceed west 70 feet along the east property line of Fox Island Square Parking Lot. Then proceed northwest 124 feet to southern edge of Fox Island Square property, turning east 42 feet to the western edge of Fox Island Square Parking Lot, then proceed southeast 128 feet to the point of origin.

Property B. with William House

State Ill - Kans Working Number 4-21-80 1193

CONTROL

TECHNICAL

Photos 7
Maps 1

HISTORIAN

This Greek Revival house built by a prominent local stonemason for his own family appears to be eligible, but it is about to be moved. We can judge its integrity with more certainty once the move has been completed, when photographs can be provided. Section # 7 should also be rewritten in more succinct form.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Reverie
O'Connell
6/3/80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back 6.13.80 Entered _____
Federal Register Entry _____ Re-submit _____

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for verification of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NATIONAL REGISTER IS RESUBMITTED.

7 Description: Please rewrite in succinct form, omitting all but most directly relevant information on details of restoration.

Full information on the moving of the house should be provided, however; reasons, effect on the building's integrity, new location and orientation,

8 Statement of Significance: ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Please re-write (over)

9 Bibliography: _____

10 Geographical Data -- Acreage: _____

UTM Reference(s): _____

Verbal Boundary Description: Please provide precise verbal boundary description for house in new location.

House to remain on original site (7/1983)

12 Certification: _____

Photographic Coverage: Please provide photographs of building in its new location.

Map Coverage: _____

*4-18-83
The house does to be not moved.*

Other: Please resubmit nomination after move has been completed, when integrity of the resource in its permanent setting can be evaluated.

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Kristin O'Connell

on the National Register staff, telephone (202) 343-6401

Thank you for your attention to the above items.

