

Stage Coach Inn, Rare 2-Story Log Building
A Macoupin County Historical Treasure

Don Eichen & Frank R. Masters, 11-29-12

Overview

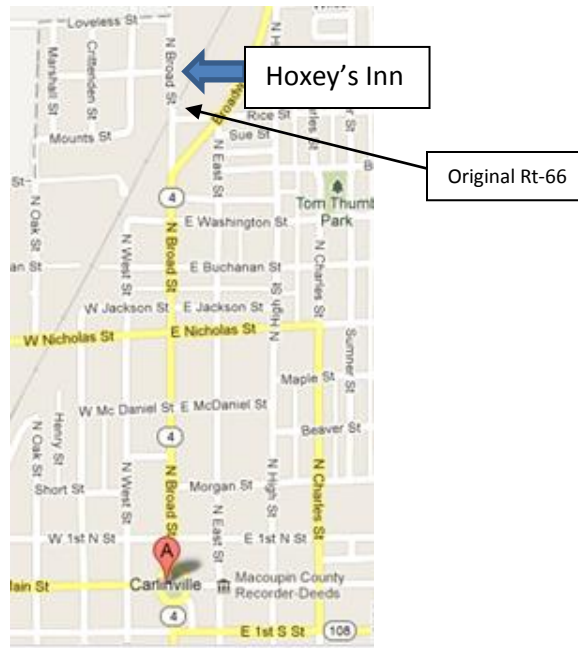
About a mile north of the Carlinville, Illinois town square, on North Broad Street (a portion of the original Route 66), is a pricelessly-rare, two-story log building that is hard-wired to Macoupin county early history. The building, one of the earliest in the county, was built in 1835 about 3 miles southeast of Carlinville to comfort stagecoach travelers stranded when the Macoupin Creek would flood the stagecoach road (to become Route 66) connecting Springfield, via Carlinville, to the then state capital of Vandalia. A small settlement eventually grew around the inn, and became known as “Weatherford’s Prairie”, in reference to Jefferson Weatherford, one of the area’s earliest settlers, builder of the inn, and owner of 80 acres around it. Weatherford went on to become a Macoupin County Sherriff, A Lieutenant in the conflict with the Black Hawk Indians, a bodyguard of the Illinois Governor, and a renowned Texas State Senator and businessman. He also built Carlinville’s first courthouse, 40 years before the “million dollar” version. “Weatherford’s Prairie” went on to become one of the county’s first “vanished communities”. In 1836, Weatherford sold (at a \$5,525 profit in nine months), the inn and the 80 acres, to T. P. Hoxey, another of the area’s earliest settlers, and a member of the very first Macoupin county Commissioners Court. The log building became known as “Hoxey’s Inn”. President Lincoln was rumored to have stayed there as a young (mid-20’s) traveling circuit lawyer. The building was eventually given the superficial appearances of a “modern” farmhouse, and served as a home to the local Fieker family then as rental property until 1998 when the owner at the time, Don Fieker, painstakingly disassembled its original components and re-constructed the building at it’s current location (also on original Route 66 alignment). Today, most local residents pass by the building routinely without the slightest suspicion of its status as an archeological treasure.



Log building at its current location in Carlinville (inside a protective metal structure)

Current Location

Southwest corner of Blackburn Street, and North Main Street, Carlinville, IL (Approx. 1 mile north of town square)



Original Location 39-15.060N, 89-49.606W SW4SW4 T9N R7W 3rd PM, Brushy Mound Township
17174 Route-4, Carlinville, IL 62626

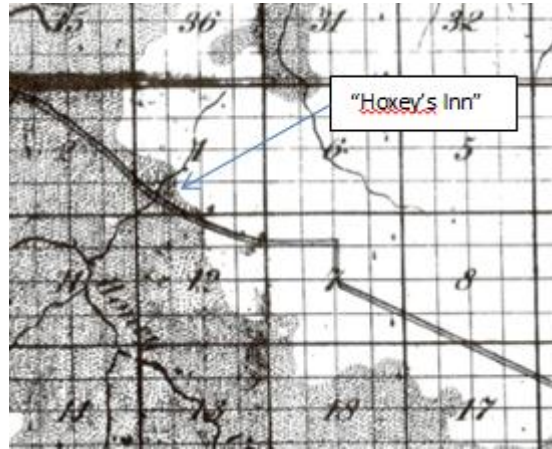
Approx. 3 miles southeast of Carlinville town square, along Route 4, at east side of highway at intersection of Rt-4 and Prairie Lawn Road (17250 N/17250 BLK)



Finding the vanished community of "Weatherford Prairie"
"Foundation remains can be seen at times in the field north of the inn".
"rock-lined wells dotted "nearby woods" (to JW's 80 acres). Weatherford also owned 10 acres of timber south of the south end of the Lake Williamson spillway Which remains timbered.

Current and Original Locations only 4 miles apart

Both are on original Route-66

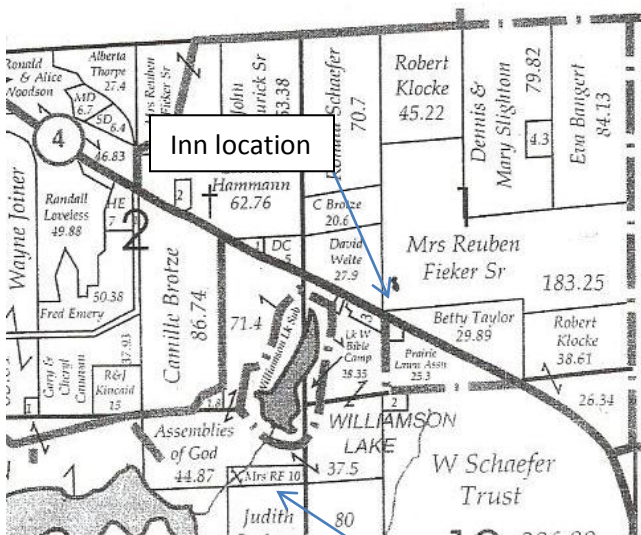


1851 map showing timber vs prairie (discussion below)

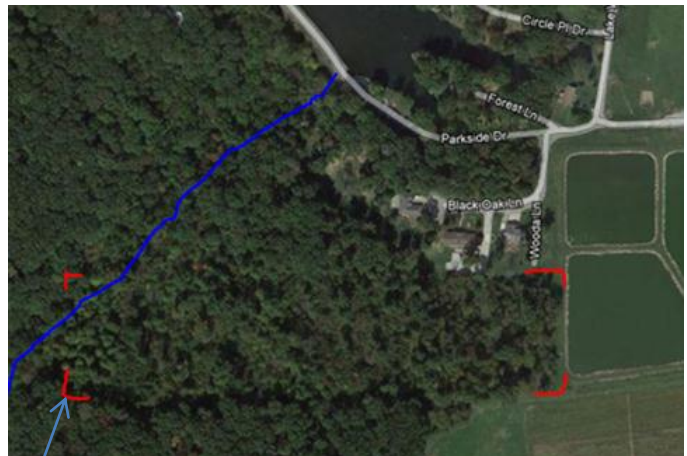
Finding the Vanished Community of "Weatherford's Prairie"

The area around "Hoxey's Inn", somewhere in the northeast corner of Brushy Mound township, a small community evolved and became unofficially known of as "Weatherford Prairie", in reference to Jefferson Weatherford, an early settler of the vicinity, and builder of the inn, which in that time was a major economic development. Extensive research has failed to find anything but fleeting referenes of the community. It just..."vanished".

Don Fieker, who grew up living in "Hoxey's Inn", was quoted to say of Weatherford Prairie: "Foundation remains can be seen at times in the field north of the inn"...rock-lined wells dotted *nearby woods*"...(it was) three miles south (near to the inn). Satellite imagery of crop fields in the area have not revealed indications of town remains. "*nearby woods*" likely referred to one of two things; either the virgin timber that originally existed just west of the inn location, or a 10 acre site located four miles southwest of the inn location that was then, and still is timbered. Ownership of that plot of timber paralleled that of the land the inn was built on, and remains a distinct legal entity. It was common practice for land owners to pool resources to purchase plots of timber for use as a source of construction material and firewood. So, the 10-acre site has potential significance as either, or both, the site of Weatherford Prairie, and a source of timber for the inn's construction and the firewood that kept it warm.



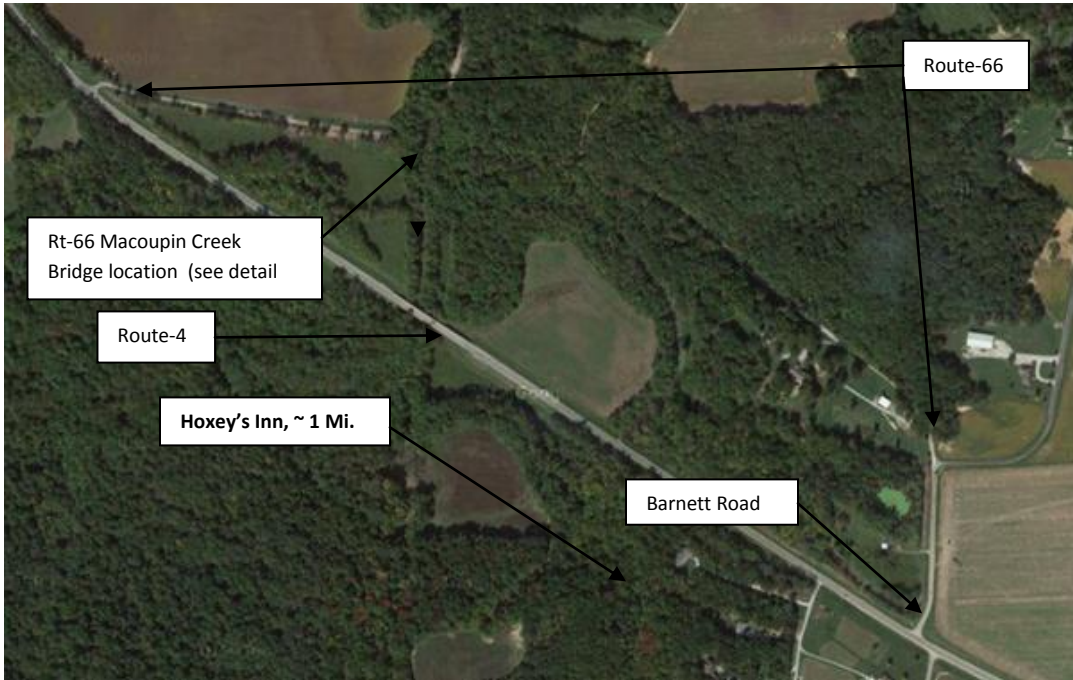
1996 Plat Map



10-acre site also owned by Fieker family

Inn Proximity to Original Route-66

Approximately one mile north of the original Inn location along present day Route-4 (about three miles south of it's present location) is a section of about one mile of original concrete pavement of Route-66, dating from the period 1926 to 1930. It is probable that this section, and many others of Rt-66, follows the original stagecoach road the inn was built alongside. Here, Pavement side berms remain in places. Some of this section is built-up with steeply-sided roadbed fill where the single lane road crosses the Macoupin Creek floodplain (flooding of the stagecoach road here was the impetus for the inn's construction in the first place). At the Macoupin Creek, both creek-side foundations of the single-lane Rt-66 bridge remain. The bridge itself is missing. Unfortunately, this section of road is posted "closed", or "private property".



Rt-66 bridge foundation at east bank of Macoupin Creek.



Rt-66 original pavement east of Macoupin Creek. Note roadside berm.

1998/1999 Newspaper Articles & accompanying photos transcribed exactly, describing building and it's relocation

(Editorial comments are in red font)

State Journal Register, Springfield, Illinois, page 13

Friday, April 10, 1998

By; Kimbre Chapman, Correspondent

Down, not out – Owner hopes to restore stagecoach stop

CARLINVILLE - Nestled in tall grass on the edge of a large forest, the two-story stagecoach inn once beckoned travelers with a promise of a hot meal, bracing drink and a warm bed.

Built about 1835, a building like this would have been so rare that it would have dominated the 2,000 acres of prairie where it stood. It's rumored that Abraham Lincoln stopped here on his way to Vandalia, when it was the state capital. Nearby, wagon ruts cut a still clearly visible trail that people would have traveled to Vandalia or Edwardsville, where land was sold.

"It was a two story building, and that was very rare that time," said owner Don Fieker, 69. "I don't know of another two-story log house anywhere, and I've been traveling the country looking for 60 years."

He took down the old building this week in hope of preserving and restoring it to its former glory. Fieker, whose family bought the inn in 1866, grew up in the four room building just south of Carlinville. An addition was built 60 years after its construction, turning it into a comfortable home.

The old inn, which looks much like a building you'd see at Lincoln's New Salem, is constructed of huge oak logs from the ancient forest that grew close to its door. After counting the rings on the logs, one of Fieker's neighbors concluded that some were 500 years old.

"The largest log is 18 inches," Fieker said. "Can you imagine the skill it took for men to lift these logs? It would have taken muscle and will."

The claylike soil (prevalent in Macoupin County) mixed with water produced mortar, which was mixed with saplings wood chips and horse hair to keep the wind out.

No glass was in the windows, which were merely large doors that were opened in the daytime. In the winter, the window/door were covered with animal skins.

Wooden pegs held things together, as did hand-cut, square, steel nails that were very hard to come by, Fieker said.

Evidence of fireplaces can be found in each of the four rooms.

Jefferson Weatherford, a wealthy man who also constructed the county's first one story log courthouse in 1830, purchased the property for \$175 on September 18, 1835. He sold it on April 5, 1836 (complete with the newly built inn) to Tristran P. Hoxey for \$5,700.

At that time, there was an ongoing fight over the site of state capital, and in Macoupin County, the county seat. Fieker believes that the inn was probably built to lure the county seat away from Carlinville **to Weatherford Prairie, the town 3 miles south of Carlinville where the inn stood.**

The two communities were divided by Macoupin Creek, which Fieker said could get as wide as the Mississippi and wet weather.

"A lot of pioneers had to stay on this (the Weatherford Prairie) side of Macoupin Creek for a few days until it went down," said Fieker. "Then they had trouble coming from Carlinville this way. That's the reason there were two towns here. Weatherford's Prairie was a small town with a number of cabins and rock lined wells."

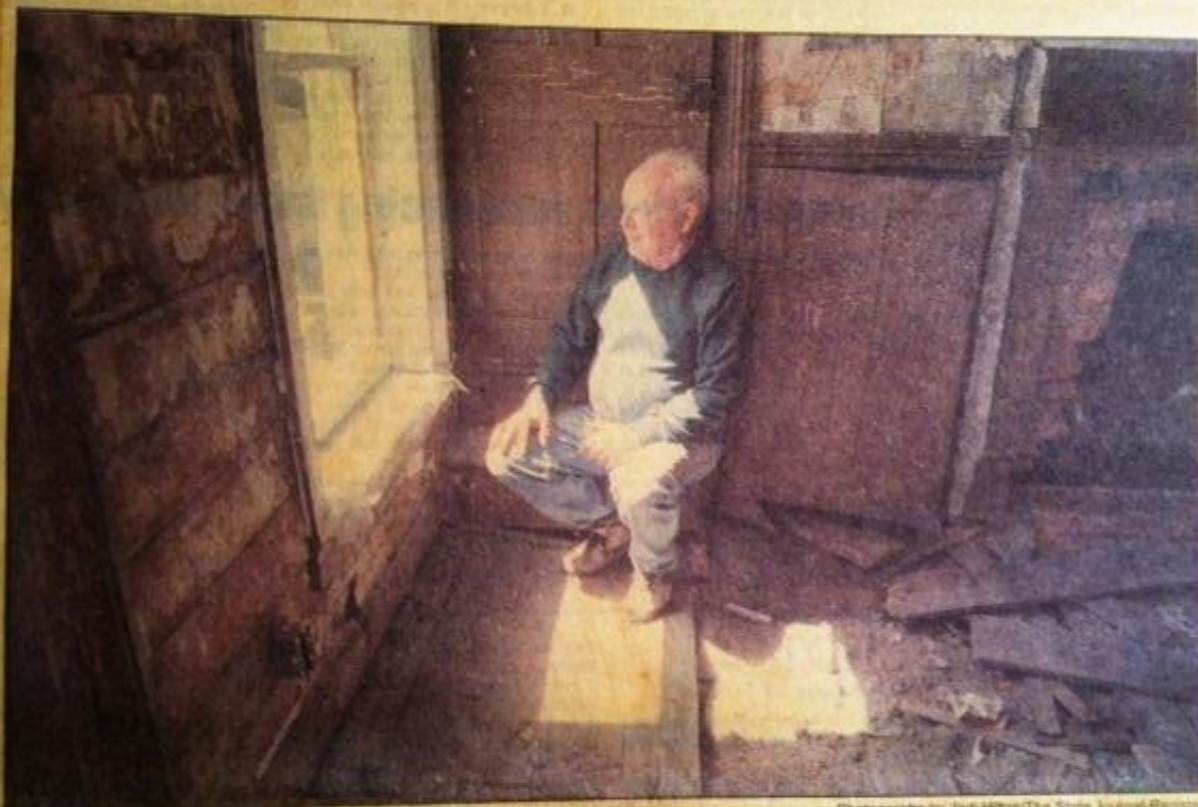
Over the years, Fieker has found an old Pike's Peak whiskey bottle from the gold Rush days and two Indian baskets in the old inn. When the floorboards were taken up, he found a pair of scissors lost by his mother 60 years ago.

Until the building can be restored, Fieker has numbered the boards and will store them in hopes of future reconstruction.

Once restored, he said he'd like to invite music legend Willie Nelson to sing an old tavern song to dedicate the inn. Anyone interested in restoring the building may reach Fieker at 6751.



Carlinsville residents take down the old stagecoach stop south of town on the way to Gillespie.



Photographs by Jodi Hilton/The State Journal-Register

"I can remember sitting here on these stairs when I lived here during the Great Depression," says Don Fiokee, for whom the former stagecoach stop once was home.



Actually, Don told George Eichen that Fieker's mother always blamed him for losing the scissors, and she badgered him about it throughout his boyhood. Fieker also found "Indian baskets and whiskey bottles" under the floorboards.

Macoupin County Enquirer, Carlinville, Illinois, page 12

Thursday, April 16, 1998

By; Rosemary Jordan

Macoupin County History is on the move

A piece of Macoupin County history is on the move. Don Fieker of Carlinville has recently sold a farm owned by his family for 132 years. On that farm was located one of the oldest buildings in Macoupin County. The building did not sell with the farm and needs a new home.

When Illinois became a state in 1818, part of Macoupin County was called the Black Hawk hunting grounds.

In the early 1820s a settlement known as Cahokia was reportedly located near the present day Staunton. Seth Hodges and his family lived 10 miles Northwest of present day Carlinville and was considered the only white man north of Cahokia at the time.

During the 1820s the area saw big changes as many more settlers followed Hodges into the area to establish homes. In 1829 Macoupin County was organized from Madison, Greene and Sangamon counties. On April 12, 1829, the first session of the County commissioners court was held at the house of Joseph Borrough in Carlinville. Seth Hodges, William Wilcox, Theodorus Davis and T.P. Hoxey were involved in the court.

In 1830 The Court established a tavern tax. Rates were established in 1830. Several tavern keepers were authorized to receive the rates. They were licensed for business and told what they could charge.

According to Fieker, on September 18, 1835, Paria Mason sold 80 acres of land to Jefferson Weatherford for \$175. The land is located in Brushy Mound Township along Illinois Route 4 just southeast of Macoupin Creek.

Fieker stated that in the early 1830s several areas were vying for state capital and county seat recognition. Carlinville was wanting the commerce that traveled to the capital would generate, as well as business associated with county seat status. The community known as Weatherford's Prairie, southeast of Macoupin Creek, was vying with Carlinville for those same benefits.

Travelers stayed at the stage coach/tavern during rainy weather while they waited for the Macoupin Creek to go down so they could cross it. Many people traveled from the northern part of the state to Edwardsville for title work and to Vandalia, the state capital of the day, passing back and forth over the Creek.

As the population of the county grew, stagecoach routes gradually crossed the county using Carlinville as the hub.

In 1836. Weatherford sold the land to Tristram P. Hoxey for \$5,700. Fieker believes the reason for the enormous increase in price is due to the construction of a log house. The house was very large for the time. The size is attributed to the fact that it was designed for use as a stagecoach stop/tavern.

The house stood until last week when Fieker hired Don and George Eichen to take it down, piece by piece. Fieker hopes to find someone who would like to reconstruct the historic building on their own property.

The logs for the house measured 20 feet long, about 20 inches wide and about 6 inches deep. They were stacked 11 logs high to build the two-story four-room structure.

The house measured 40 feet long and 20 feet wide. On the inside it measured 18 feet 8 inches long and 16'6" wide. The lower floor had walls 7'3" tall and the upper floor had walls 6'6" tall.

Altogether, the house had four rooms, including a kitchen, a dining room, a women's bed chamber, and a men's bed chamber. The kitchen and dining room had fireplaces on the outer opposite walls. The dining room had a whitewashed ceiling (probably whitewashed with a mixture of lime and water.)

Fieker and the Eichens believed the planed boards would have to have come from downriver, possibly as far away as New Orleans. The log joists have holes drilled in them. Apparently, the logs were lashed together in a raft and the planed boards and other lumber were put on them.

Smaller hand-hewn logs were used to fill the gaps in the wall. Clay and probably a horsehair plaster were also used. The original fireplaces were built from sticks with clay liners. Fieker and the Eichens explained that the "fire extinguisher" was built right into the house. A notched stick was built into the side of the chimney. If a flue fire broke out, the stick was pulled or kicked and the chimney fell away from the house.

The house was built with doors and windows placed opposite each other for ventilation. Fieker believes in the very early days a horse pulling a log could come into the kitchen and then on through so that the log splitting could happen in the warmth of the kitchen.

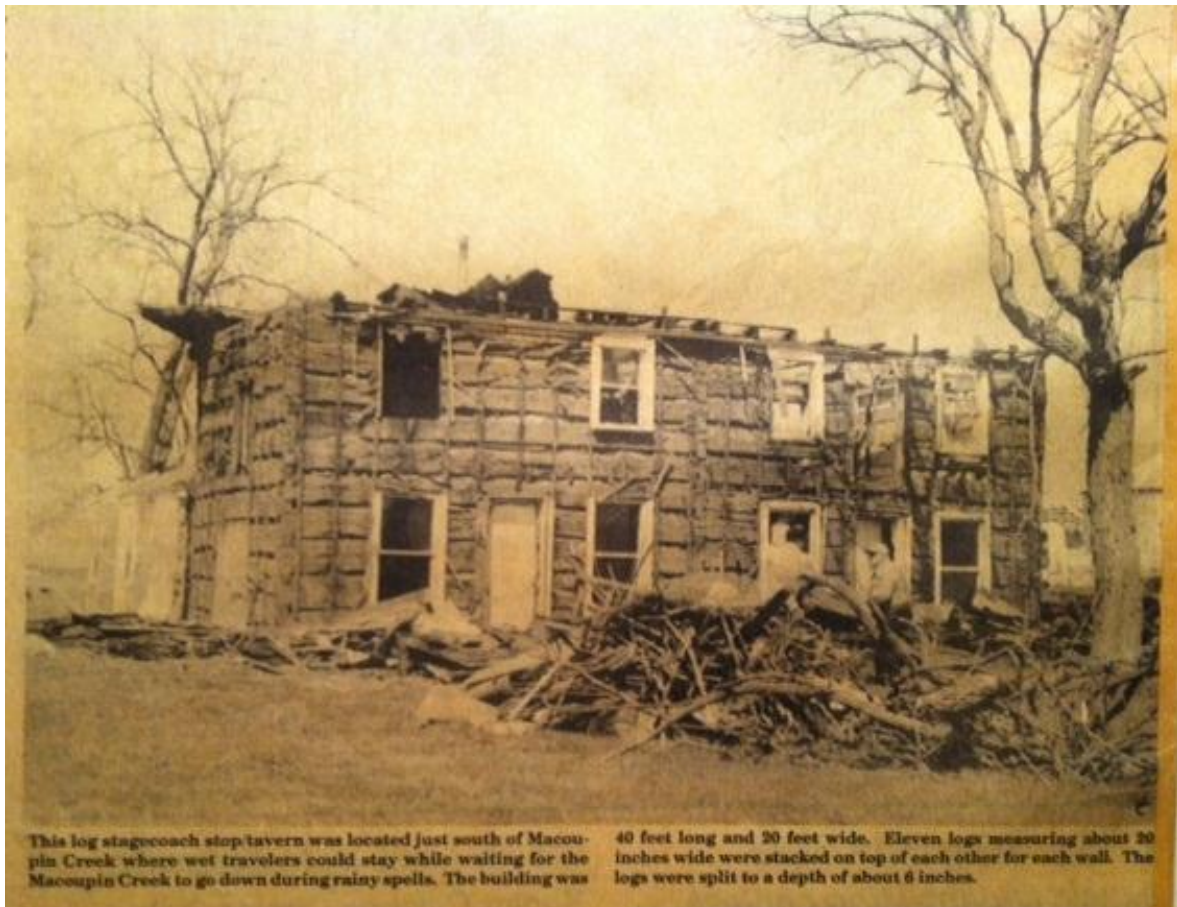
The Windows on the house for about 30 inches wide and 4 1/2 feet tall on the bottom floor and some shorter on the top floor.

Windows and casements were eventually build into the openings. The logs were covered with wood-lap weather-boarding then, later, with artificial brick siding. Still later the house received a three-quarter inch Styrofoam insulation and certified vinyl siding. Sometime during one of the "improvements" in addition was built onto the back of the house.

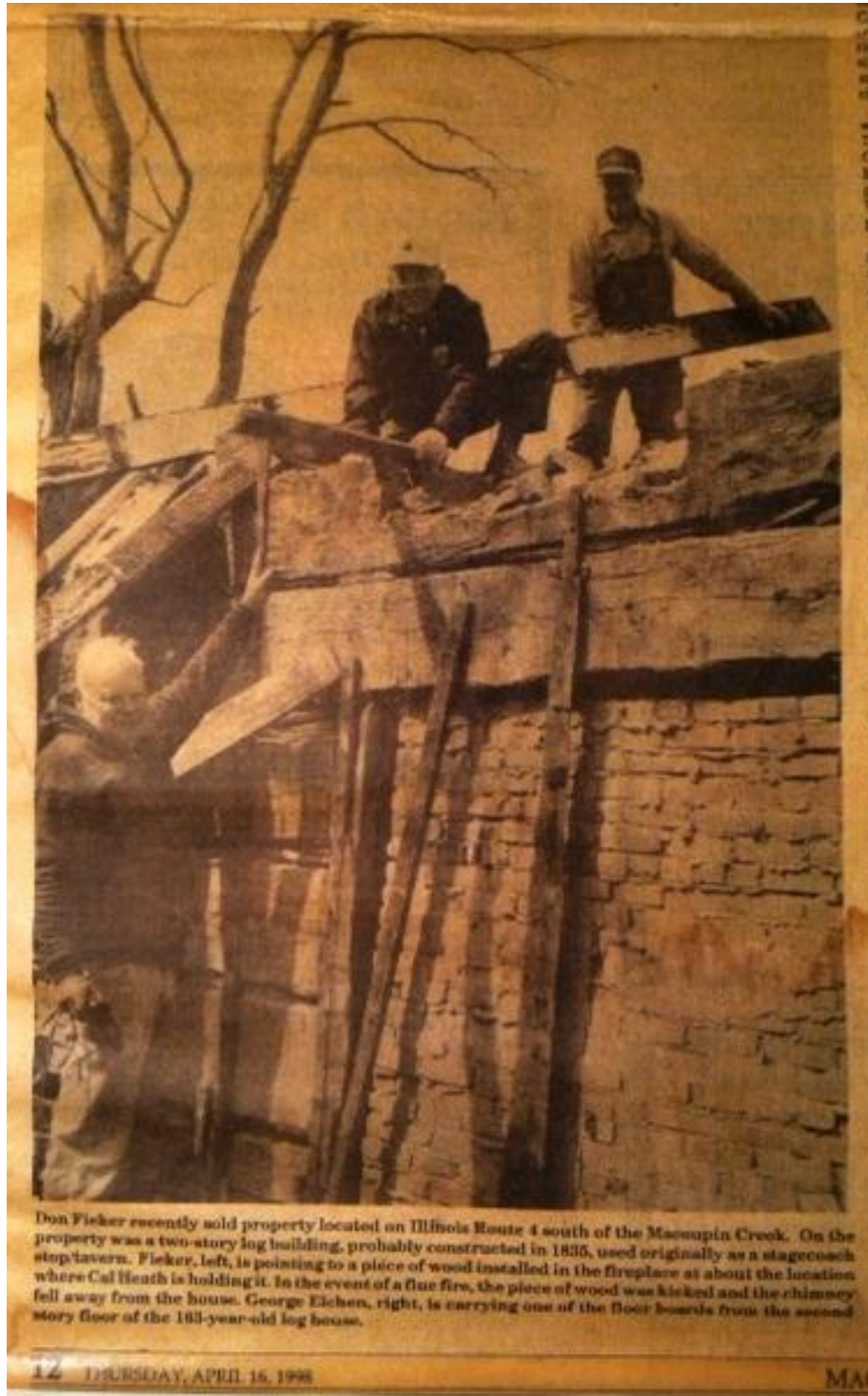
Peeling off the layers without damaging the logs and the history underneath presented a challenge to the crew. Cal Heath of the Macoupin County Historical Society donated his help the project.

The Eichens found very little termite damage during the takedown process of the 163 year old house and stated that the logs were white oak, post oak, walnut and bur oak, all common to the Macoupin County area.

Any historic preservation group wishing to move this authentic log building to their site should contact Fieker at 854-6751 for details. The logs are numbered and stored future reconstruction.



This log stagecoach stop tavern was located just south of Macoupin Creek where wet travelers could stay while waiting for the Macoupin Creek to go down during rainy spells. The building was 40 feet long and 20 feet wide. Eleven logs measuring about 20 inches wide were stacked on top of each other for each wall. The logs were split to a depth of about 6 inches.



Don Fieker recently sold property located on Illinois Route 4 south of the Macoupin Creek. On the property was a two-story log building, probably constructed in 1835, used originally as a stagecoach stop/tavern. Fieker, left, is pointing to a piece of wood installed in the fireplace at about the location where Cal Heath is holding it. In the event of a fire, the piece of wood was kicked and the chimney fell away from the house. George Eichen, right, is carrying one of the floor boards from the second story floor of the 163-year-old log house.

Macoupin County history is on the move

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April 9, 1998

By; Staff Writer

19th century stagecoach stop comes to light as workmen prepare to move structure

Piece by piece, workmen are dismantling a historic 162-year-stage coach stop near Carlinville in anticipation of reassembling the structure at another location in the future.

"I think it's worth saving," said Don Fieker of Carlinville, the building's owner. "There's a real historical value in it."

The two-story, log construction building is located on Illinois Route 4, about 3 miles east of Carlinville. Sheathed in weather boarding and asphalt shingles, the building has looked like an ordinary farmhouse for years. But Fieker and other historians have always known what lay just beneath the modern façade.

"In the 1830s, all log cabins faced south," Fieker said, "and they never had windows on the ends because the ends of the primitive structures were reserved for fireplaces." Therefore, a South-facing building with no windows at the ends is likely to be a log cabin beneath the weather boards.

Moreover, Fieker had historical documentation to know the building was indeed an early 19th century inn. The property has been owned by Fieker's family for 132 years, he said. It's last tenants moved out of the house just two weeks ago.

Having sold the farm land on which the building is situated, Fieker now is determined to salvage the building and reconstructed at another location.

According to Fieker, the cabin was built in the 1830s by Jefferson Weatherford, a Carlinville businessman who also was responsible for building the county's first courthouse-a log building that predated the current courthouse by nearly 40 years. Located on the main route connecting Vandalia, Edwardsville, Carrollton and Springfield, the inn was host to scores of travelers in its heyday. Lincoln is rumored to have spent the night there as a young circuit riding lawyer.

An abstract of the property shows that the land was sold to Weatherford in September 1835 for \$175. A year later, in April 1836, Weatherford sold the property to T.P Hoxey for \$5,700-pin pointing the period when the building was erected.

In the first half of the 19th century, **Hoxey's Inn** was a well-known landmark in the Carlinville area-a stopping place for weary travelers journeying through the area.

"They say this is what made Carlinville," said George Eichen, with a sweeping gesture around the room that once was the inn's kitchen. Availability of an inn in close proximity to Carlinville brought travelers and commerce to the new Macoupin County seat.

Eichen and his son, Don, have been retained by Fieker to carefully dismantled the building. Logs are being numbered and keyed for later reconstruction. On Monday, Don Eichen was using a backhoe to strip away siding and weather boarding, exposing the log building with surgical precision. Fieker predicted the entire building will be dismantled and in storage by the end of the week.

The Eichens, craftsman in their own right, find the construction of the building fascinating.

"There are lots of one-story cabins around," said George Eichen. "One that's two stories is pretty unusual."

The superstructure is made of hand-hewn oak logs, averaging 16 inches in diameter. Nineteenth century, craftsman cut six-inch notches to assemble the walls without nails or pegs. Spaces between the logs that form the walls originally were "chinked" with Macoupin County clay to keep out the Prairie wind. Most of the original chinking is gone, replaced with plaster. But occasionally the workers are finding bits of the original yellow clay tucked into recesses between the logs.

"These are some of the biggest logs I've ever seen," Fieker commented. "I've seen the logs at New Salem (the reconstructed Lincoln-era village near Petersburg), and those logs are toothpicks compared to these."

He believes the logs were cut locally from virgin timberland that has long since disappeared, replaced by agricultural fields, roads and homes.

"You can't find logs that size anymore," he said.

Adding to the complexity of the building is its two-story height, which no doubt created a challenge for the original builders.

"It's amazing how they got logs that size up that high, with nothing but muscle," Fieker marveled.

The sills under the floor of the ground floor are full-sized, un-hewn logs. Fieker speculates the logs under the floor may have been part of a raft brought up the Mississippi River, perhaps from as far away as New Orleans. The logs bear borings that indicate they were used previously for some other purpose. The builders cut notches into the underside of two-inch thick oak floor boards to fit evenly over the rounded sills.

Fieker believes the building originally was equipped with fireplaces made of logs and sticks with the inside plastered to make them fire resistant. Sometime in the past, the original fireplaces were replaced with safer brick versions. Otherwise the building is remarkably intact.

Termites attacked an area no bigger than the palm of one's hand on one of the bottommost logs, but went no further as if the insects abandoned their task. "They must have cut the logs under the right sign to keep them from rotting," Fieker said. "That's something we've forgotten about these days."

The thriving inn apparently became the hub of a small community that has since disappeared into history. Fieker said nearby woods are dotted with stone-line wells that mark the locations of former homes. During certain times of the year, one can discern the locations of foundations in the field lying north of the building.

"It's one of Macoupin county's lost towns," Fieker said.

An 1879 History of Macoupin County records the prices Hoxey exacted for his services as an innkeeper. A traveler could purchase breakfast, dinner and supper for 25 cents. A night's lodging was 6.25 cents per person. Horses could be fed for 12 cents per feeding and could be boarded for 25 cents per night/day. Whiskey sold for 12.5 cents for a half-pint. Rum, wine, or French brandy could be purchased for 25 cents per half-pint, and cider or beer could be bought for 12.5 cents per quart.

"They were controlled by law to charge these prices," Fieker said.

The ground floor of the two-story building housed the kitchen and dining area, Fieker surmises, while the upper floor housed sleeping quarters. Fieker speculates that women slept in the West room, while men were confined to the east. He bases that theory on the fact that the East room had an exterior door that would have been accessible only by an outside stairway. An interior set of stairs led to the women's room.

Sometime after building the inn, Weatherford made his way to Springfield, where he served for a while as a bodyguard to the governor, Fieker said. Later, he moved to Texas, where he was involved in politics and brick making. The County of Weatherford, Texas, Fieker said, is named for the builder of the stagecoach stop he is dismantling.

Fieker said he has been in discussions with members of the Macoupin County Historical Society about the possibility of reconstructing the inn on the organization's museum's property in Carlinville. The Clayville Rural Life Center near Pleasant Plains also has expressed an interest.

"If worse comes to worse, I can put it on a truck, take it to St. Louis and sell it at auction," Fieker said.

Regardless of where the building ends up, Fieker hopes to see it restored as a touchstone to Macoupin county's past.

"If you don't know the past," he said, "you don't know where you're going."

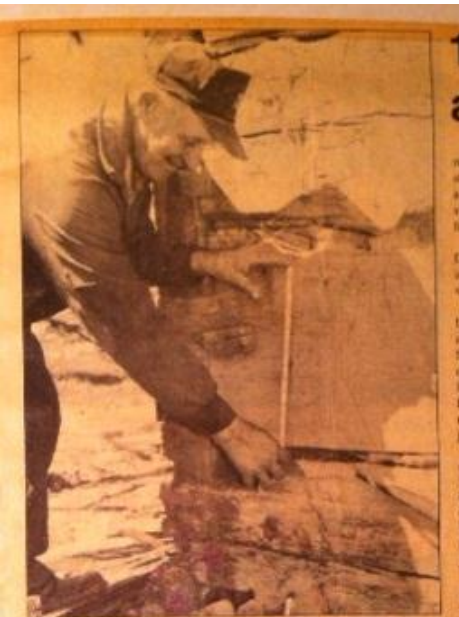




Ladies room

George Eichen and building owner Don Fieker show the interior construction in one of the upstairs rooms of the two-story log structure. The building, once a stagecoach stop, was built in the 1800s by Jefferson Weatherford who was responsible for

construction of the county's first courthouse. Fieker believes men and women lodgers were segregated in separate sleeping quarters. The room pictured above probably was the women's room.



Massive timbers

George Eichen measures one of the massive timbers making up the walls of an old stagecoach stop near Carlinville. At right, he holds one of the floorboards which were notched to fit over the log sills on the ground floor. Eichen and his son have been hired by building owner Don Fieker of Carlinville to dismantle the log structure. Fieker is hoping the building can be reassembled in another location as a historic site.



Thursday, November 11, 1999

By; Jim Zuber

Local man reconstructing log cabin for enjoyment of Carlinville citizenry

Passersby at the intersection of Broad and Blackburn streets in Carlinville may have noticed the construction of an 1800s era log cabin currently in progress at the site. The two-story, log building was formerly located on the Weatherford's Prairie, Southeast of Carlinville. According to the building's owner, Don Fieker of carbon bill, the cabin was built in the 1830s by Carlinville businessman Jefferson Weatherford, who was also instrumental in construction of the county's first courthouse, a log building that predated the current courthouse by about 50 years. Additionally, Weatherford spent some time in Springfield, serving as a bodyguard, the governor before moving on to Texas where he was involved in politics and brick making. In fact, the County of Weatherford, Texas, is named in honor of Jefferson Weatherford.

The property has been owned by the Fieker family for over 130 years and was utilized as rental property until the spring of 1998. An abstract presented by Fieker shows that Weatherford purchased 80 acres of land from Paria Mason in September of 1835 for \$175. The following April T.P. Hoxey purchased the property from Weatherford for \$5700. Fieker feels that the best explanation for the increase in price is due to the construction of the log cabin. Hoxey operated an inn at the site, which with its connecting routes to Vandalia, Edwardsville, Carollton, and Springfield proved popular with scores of travelers who stayed there during rainy weather while waiting for the high waters of the nearby Macoupin Creek to subside. Local rumor has it that Abraham Lincoln spent the night at Hoxey's inn while passing through the area as a young circuit riding lawyer.

Fieker has hired George and Don Eichen to reconstruct the building, and plans are in place to have the cabin available for public tours during the Christmas Market weekend, December 3-5. The logs have been numbered and key duties the reconstruction process. After the log cabin has been reconstructed, Fieker plans to construct a metal building over the structure to protect it from the elements, with the hope that it can be relocated to another location for the public to enjoy. Fieker has spoken with representatives of the Macoupin County Historical Society as well as the Clayville Rural Life Center near Pleasant Plains concerning the possibility of reconstructing the inn at either one of those sites.

The structure is made of hand-hewn oak logs averaging 16 inches in diameter. Craftsman then cut six-inch notches in order to assemble the walls without nails or pegs. Open space between the logs that form the walls were chinked with Macoupin County clay in an effort to keep out the chilling wind; however, most of the original chinking is gone and has been replaced with plaster. Fieker speculates that the logs were likely cut locally.

The cabin featured four rooms, including a kitchen and dining room on the ground floor with the women's bedchamber and men's bedchamber located on the upper floor. The dining room ceiling was whitewashed with a mixed your likely made up of lime and water. Both the kitchen and dining room featured fireplaces on the outer opposite walls. The original fireplaces were built from logs and sticks with clay liners. The insides were plastered to make them fire resistant. Later these original fireplaces were replaced with safer brick versions.

The sills under the structures ground-floor are full-sized, un-hewn logs. The logs bear borings, indicating that they were used previously for another purpose. The craftsman cut notches into the underside of 2-inch thick oak floorboards to fit even over the rounded sills.

The doors and windows were placed opposite each other to provide ventilation. The windows on the house measured approximately 30 inches wide and 4 1/2 feet tall on the ground floor, and were somewhat shorter on the upper level. In the name of progress, Windows encasements were built into the openings. Later, the house was insulated with three-quarter inch Styrofoam and certified vinyl siding. Sometime over the years an addition was built onto the back of the house. Surprisingly, the house has sustained very little termite damage over the years. Fieker stated that the logs were white oak, post oak, walnut, and bur oak, all of which were common to Macoupin County.

Fieker is excited about the opportunity to share this historical log structure with Carlinville visitors during Christmas Market weekend. It's additionally Fieker states that space is available for craft booths and vendors during that time. Anyone seeking further information regarding the log cabin or booth space make contact Fieker at (217) 6751.



Jefferson
 to
 Trisram P. Hoxey
 April 5, 1836
 Samuel T. Mayo
 to
 Charles Loger
 Aug 11, 1866
 Fieker family
 to 1998
 182 yrs

Cal Heath's notes of Don Fieker's recollections

Timeline of Events

- Sept., 17, 1787 - US Constitution is signed (only 48 yrs prior construction of Hoxey's Inn)
- Dec 3, 1818 - Illinois becomes the 21st State of the United States of America
- 1809 - Abraham Lincoln born
- 1829 - Portions of Green, Madison, and Sangamon counties become Macoupin County.
- 1830's - Various communities vie to become the next Illinois state capital, replacing Vandalia. Carlinville had 5 families in 1830.
In 1833 Carlinville population of 200. All buildings of log.
- Dec. 20, 1834 - Jefferson Weatherford obtains original land patent for tract inn to be built on. Pays \$1.25/acre.
- Sept. 18, 1835 -per Cal Heath (see next page), Jefferson Weatherford buys 80 acres from Paris & Sarah Mason (UNCONFIRMED)
- April 5, 1836 - Jefferson Weatherford sells 810 acres, plus the completed inn, to Trisram P. Hoxey for \$5,700. (deed book-D, pg. 352)
- Aug. 11, 1866 -per Cal Heath, Samuel T. Mayo sells inn property to Charles Loger (UNCONFIRMED)
- 1875 - Period atlas shows owner of land inn built on as Samuel T. Mayo
- 1876 - per Cal Heath, Fieker family buys the inn.
- April 1998 - Inn is disassembled, subsequently moved and reassembled in Carlinville. Land sold by Fieker family.
- 1838-1869 - Brick courthouse on Carlinville's town square in use (built by Jefferson Weatherford)
- 1860 – 1865 - American Civil War
- 1869 - Carlinville's "Million Dollar" courthouse is built
- 1913 - Carlinville is in transition from horse & buggy to automobile
- 1926- 1930 - Route 66 passes thru Carlinville

No other architectural form has so captured the imagination of the American people than the log cabin. Political supporters of 1840 presidential candidate William Henry Harrison appropriated the log cabin as a campaign symbol. The log cabin was birthplace and home for young Abe Lincoln, as well as other national figures, and assumed by many 19th century historians to be the very first type of house constructed by English colonists. In 1893 Frederick Jackson Turner in his influential paper, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" suggested that European colonists had adopted this means of shelter from the Indians.

Source: April 1998, "History of Weatherford Stagecoach Stop", Cal Heath, Macoupin County Historical Society.

Editorial Note: Cal Heath participated in the April 1998 disassembly of the stagecoach inn. Most of the details in his documentation that follows would likely have come from Don Fieker, who had grown up living in the building (it had been converted into a modern farm home), who's family owned the land and building, and was selling the land the building was on. The disassembly immediately preceded the land transfer.

In the spring of 1831, the Weatherford family came to the Carlinville area and located in what was for many years known as "Weatherford Prairie" in the northeast corner of Brushy Mound township. The prairie consisted of a proximately 3000 acres, bounded on the west side by dense woods from which the logs came for the stagecoach stop and tavern. The story goes that the stage trail when South toward Litchfield and then went West toward St. Louis and east towards Vandalia. The trail went North, fording Macoupin Creek toward Carlinville. The story also goes that Abraham Lincoln went from Carlinville to Vandalia, then the state capital, and it's not impossible he might have had to stay overnight (at the inn.), If Macoupin Creek flooded.

Another story goes that Macoupin Creek was damned during construction and a vertical gang saw was installed to cut timbers for the roof rafters, ceiling joists, etc. The roof rafters were on similarly to a wagon tongue-thick at the wall end and thin at the roof peak end.

At the time the stage stop was built there were more of cabins in Weatherford Prairie than there were in Carlinville.

The 80 acres (the Inn was built on) originated from Sarah Mason and Paris Mason to Jefferson Weatherford September 18, 1835, for \$175 (research proves Weatherford obtained the original land patent on December 20, 1834, and sold it to T.P. Hoxey on April 5, 1836. The Mason's involvement warrants further research). Then from Jefferson Weatherford April 5, 1836, to T.P. Hoxey for \$5700, indicating the value of the new construction and done in seven months (the "value" and "seven months" references are not factual).

The story goes that the first floor joists were what made up the raft that floated the procession up the Mississippi to the Illinois (Kampsville area). Then the raft was disassembled and everything brought to Weatherford Prairie by oxen. All of the wall logs were hewn by hand to an approximate thickness of 6 inches, even if the tree was 24 inches in diameter. All of the logs were taken out of the timber in one place to provide a good cabin site.

The women's room upstairs was serviced by an inside stairway, the men's room by an outside stairway. All of the fireplace bricks were made from clay on the property.

I found some of the original log chinking in some of the inaccessible logs made out of horse hair, Clay, and straw.

Almost all of the logs are Oak and were put up with the bark still attached on the top and bottom surfaces. I counted 238 rings on one of the larger logs.

All of the nails were square and there were thousands of them (the only metal components of the building). All of the logs were wooden-pegged together, as required. I talked to a man who visited the site who said he had researched a lot of the old cabin sites to try and establish old records. He said the owner cabins were very hard to find because many of the pioneers, who moved on, burned their cabins to salvage and take what nails they had, in the cabin, with them. The older square nails came from England and were very expensive and the blacksmith's couldn't make nails fast enough.

In 1835, there were still some friendly Indian families around and one can only imagine the pace of life at that time, much less the tastes, smells, and every day tensions. We're fortunate to have been a small part of this wonderful history and to have at least captured some of it in picture form.

Many thanks to Don Fieker for the opportunity and the honor of participating. A piece of history lovingly disassembled by Don Eichen, George Eichen, Don Fieker, Cal Heath-representing MCHS, and occasional friends, helpers, and the curious.

Cal Heath
April 98

Building Disassembly at original location (photos provided by Don Eichen)



Modern exterior weather-proofing and window removal. Doorway on 2nd floor is visible. It's outside stairway is not recovered, and it is uncertain if it ascended to the east or west.



Modern inside brick chimney retrofit is exposed. Original wood chimney long-removed. Front & Rear hewn logs weigh 1,530 lbs each, which is why two-story log buildings were rarely built. Fireplace openings on 1st & 2nd floors are offset as each had separate, side-by-side flumes. Hewn logs are 20" x 6" X up to 20'.



East end ground floor kitchen. Doors are storage cabinets.

Kitchen and dining room walls were originally coated with home-made lime white-wash. Precious-few spots of this remain on the walls (see photo below). The upstairs interior walls were never coated or covered.



West end ground floor dining room (tavern). Stairwell on left is a modern addition.

Owner Don Fieker in photo (died 2003)

Stairway to left of fireplace was a modern retrofit.

To right of fireplace, just off-camera shot, is an original doorway located right beside the main doorway (both on north side). It is safely postulated that this doorway lead to a fruit cellar, likely with a stone, arched-roof cover, adjoining the building. (stones may be at the 10 acre wooded site south of Lake Williamson). Nothing remains of the original fireplaces or mantels.

Doors were originally of hand-sawn boards, but none are recovered.



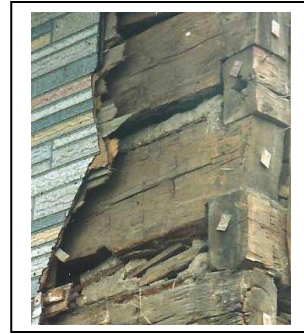
Un-hewn, 17" diameter ground floor support logs are original and weigh ~1,435 lbs each. They had to be pried out of the host earth.

Nails were the only original metal components of the building, and were used to fasten floorboards to joists or floor logs, and boards to roof trusses. Nails were recycled from burned barns, so very brittle (they'd break off during disassembly, so few were recovered). Modern nails used in re-assembly are flattened concrete nails that resemble the original ones). 2nd floor floor boards were painstakingly hand sawn to uniform thickness. 1st floor floor boards are hand-sawn flat on one side but retain the log's natural curvature on the other (remnants of the log hewing process), thus, the floor support logs were trimmed on top to accommodate the varying thicknesses of the floorboards.

Building Features (photos taken 12-1-12)



View of protective metal structure covering log building.



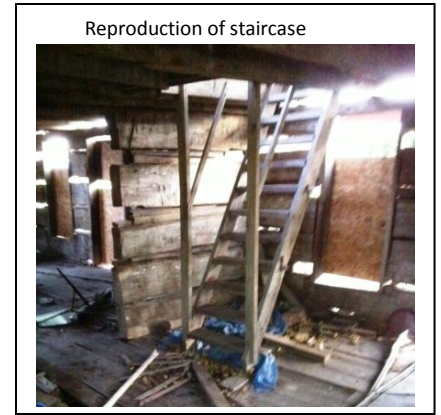
Original hewn logs very well hidden by multiple layers of modern siding.



Exterior view of chimney base (bases here are modern reproductions). The opening above accommodated second floor fireplace. The hewn logs are supported by vertical reinforcing rods entirely around the building perimeter. The rods are not original. The building was originally constructed with absolutely no metal components whatsoever, except for flattened nails which fastened the floorboards to the floor joists.

The original chimneys appeared as shown in this photo, only they would extend up just above roof elevation. These structures were free-standing structures, entirely independent of the rest of the building, except where each chimney was attached to the building by two horizontal boards that attached to each side of the chimney at one end, and was wood-pinned to the 2nd floor floor joists at the other. If a flue fire broke out, the pins could be removed and the boards shoved outward which would push the chimney away from the building (chimney was weighted more heavily on the off-building side) onto the ground. Mud plaster lined the interior of the chimney. The inn latter had a modern, interior brick chimney retro-fitted. Photos below shows original notches in floor joists which accommodated the chimney fire push-away boards.





Interior view from east 2nd-floor women's sleeping room looking into west, men's sleeping room. Note original location of stairwell access & opened door on the right side of photo (these *inside* stairs used by the lady folks). A 2nd floor doorway leads into the men's sleeping room (SE corner). The stairway leading to that door was outside the building, now lost to time, and was used to carry firewood upstairs.



View from 2nd floor of roof. Roof trusses and gable ends are original (truss boards are wider at base than at apex). Original wood shake roof exterior is entirely lost. Between the hewn logs was packed wood "chinking" (~3"x5" chunks hewn off the logs). The chinking was then covered with a mud plaster ("daubing"), which needed replacement/maintenance every several years. Chinking shown here is modern. Some original chinking material remains on site. During building disassembly, the only thing found in the attic was about \$40 cash (though *that's* supposed to be a secret).



View from east ground floor kitchen room (from the “fireplace”) looking into west dining room (tavern). Floor boards are original.



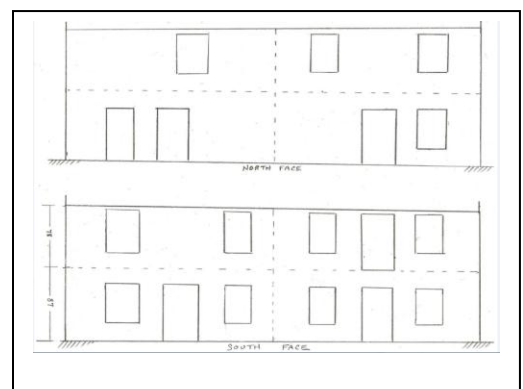
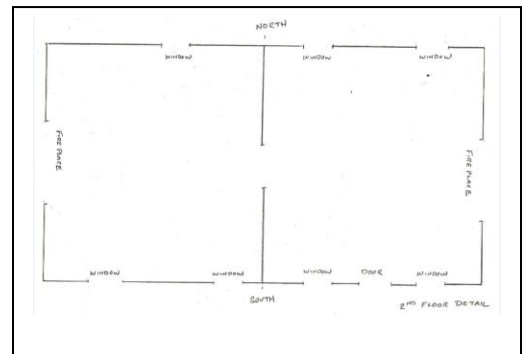
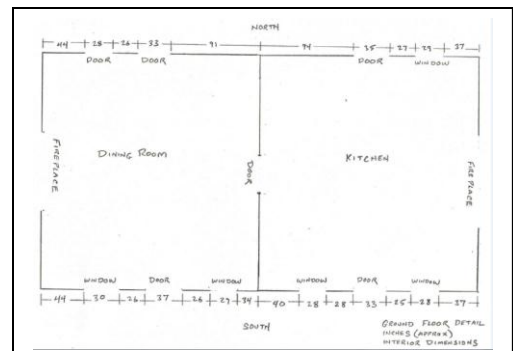
Hewn log end showing construction peg originally used only to secure window frames to hewn logs.



View from ground level looking straight up, depicting coded tags used to facilitate reassembly of logs. Note the log-end “interlock” cut.



Floor & Front View Plans



1998 Land Sale

Excerpt of an applicable document allowing Don Fieker to remove the inn from the land being sold

The Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; and the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter; and a tract containing 98.63 acres in the North part of the Southeast Quarter, described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Quarter, thence North 81 degrees 36 minutes East along the Quarter Section line 2,626 feet to the East section line, thence South 0 degree 28 minutes West along said line 1,800.2 feet, thence South 82 degrees 30 minutes West 1,876.3 feet to a stone, thence North 0 degree 36 minutes East 432.6 feet to a stone; thence South 82 degrees 11 minutes West 740.3 feet to a stone at the Southwest corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, thence North along the West line of said Quarter to the place of beginning, all situated in Section One (1), Township Nine (9) North, Range Seven (7) West of the Third Principal Meridian, in Macoupin County, Illinois; containing 183.25 acres, more or less, with improvements.

Subject to the right of Donald Fieker to remove the house situated on the above described parcel, at Donald Fieker's sole expense and for which Donald Fieker assumes all liability to third persons. Said removal to take place within 220 days of the date of this conveyance.

Dated this 3rd day of April, 1998.

Exempt under provisions of paragraph (1),
Section 91-46 Real Estate Transfer Tax Law.
Date _____
Buyer, Seller or Representative

Clarence R. Shultz
ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF MACOUPIN COUNTY,
ILLINOIS

1836 Authentic Land Deed

Transferring the land and completed inn from Jefferson Weatherford to Tristram P. Hoxey

Source: Macoupin County Circuit Clerk Pete Duncan's Office, Deed Book-D, Pages 352, 353, & 354

Special Thanks: To Circuit Clerk Pete Duncan, for taking personal effort well beyond the role of office to provide these document scans.

- Dec. 20, 1834 - Jefferson Weatherford obtains original land patent for tract inn to be built on. Pays \$1.25/acre.
- Sept. 18, 1835 -per Cal Heath (see next page), Jefferson Weatherford buys 80 acres from Paris & Sarah Mason (UNCONFIRMED)
- April 5, 1836 - Jefferson Weatherford sells 810 acres, plus the completed inn, to Tristram P. Hoxey for \$5,700. (deed book-D, pg. 352)
- Aug. 11, 1866 -per Cal Heath, Samuel T. Mayo sells inn property to Charles Loger (UNCONFIRMED)
- 1875 - Period atlas shows owner of land inn built on as Samuel T. Mayo
- 1876 - per Cal Heath, Fieker family buys the inn.
- April 1998 - Inn is disassembled, subsequently moved and reassembled in Carlinville. Land sold by Fieker family.

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Examined

This Indenture made and entered into this fifth day of April A.D. 1836 between Jefferson Weatherford & Millberry his wife of one part and Tristram P. Hoxey of the other part, both parties of the County of Macoupin & State of Illinois, Witnesses: That the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Five Thousand Seven hundred dollars, to them in hands paid, the receipt whereof they do hereby acknowledge, do hereby grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm, unto the said party of the second part all the following described Real Estate, lying and being in the County of Macoupin and State of Illinois, known and designated as the North East quarter of the North West quarter of Section N^o Twenty Two, the South West quarter of the North East quarter of Section N^o Twenty Two, and the South West quarter of the South West quarter of Section N^o Two, and the North East quarter of the North West quarter of Section N^o Twenty Two in Township N^o Twelve North Range N^o Nine

West, the North West quarter of the South West quarter of
Section 24th Two, North West quarter of the North West quarter
of Section 24th Twelve, West Half of the South East quarter
of Section 24th One, North West quarter of the South West
quarter of Section 24th One, East Half of the South West
quarter of Section Two, East Half of the South West quar-
ter of Section 24th One, South Half of the North West quarter
of Section 24th One, South West quarter of the South West quarter
and the East Half of the North West quarter of Sections
24th One, all in Township 4th Nine North Range 4th Seven
West of the third principal Meridian, containing in the
whole Eight hundred and ten Acres more or less, also
a certain tract containing one Acre and described as
follows Viz: Beginning 2 1/2 Rods East from the North West Corner of
the North West quarter of Section 24th Thirty One in Township 4th
Nine North Range 4th Seven West of the third principal Meridian,
and running thence East 15 1/2 Rods, thence South ~~10 1/2~~
Rods, thence West 15 1/2 Rods & thence North to the place of beginning
and also Eighteen 1/2 Acres, described as follows Viz: Begin-
ning 60 Rods West and 40 Rods South from the South East
Corner of the East above described quarter quarter Section
of land, and running thence West 50 Rods, thence North 60 1/2
Rods, thence East 60 Rods, thence North 10 1/2 Rods, thence East
12 Rods, thence North to the South West Corner of a certain
Acre of land conveyed by the Said Jefferson Weatherford
to John L. Mavor, on the 13th July A.D. 1836, thence East
15 1/2 Rods and thence South 77 1/2 Rods to the place of
Beginning.

He doth and he hold the above described and
granted premises, together with all and singular the rights and
profits, tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereto
belonging or in any wise appertaining to the same, to the Said
William P. Macey (the Said party of the second part) and to
his heirs and assigns forever. And the Said Jefferson
Weatherford and Wilberry his wife (the Said party of the
first part) for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators
do Covenant promise and agree to and with the Said William
P. Macey (the said party of the second part) that the right &
title of the above described tracts of land and bargained
premises, they will warrant and forever defend to his sole
and only proper use, benefit and behoof, against the claims
or Claims of all and every person or persons whatsoever.
In Testimony Whereof, the Said Jefferson
Weatherford and Wilberry his wife have hereunto
set their hands and affixed their Seals this

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Fifth day of April 1836 (Signed) Jefferson Weatherford Deed
 signed made & delivered in the presence of
 State of Illinois
 Macoupin County } Det. Weiberry ^{her} Weatherford ^{mark} Deed

Be it known that on the day of the date hereof, personally appeared before me the undersigned, an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, Jefferson Weatherford, and Weiberry his wife, both to me personally known to be the said persons named in, and who executed the foregoing deed of Conveyance, and acknowledged the said to be their free Act and deed for the uses and purposes therein mentioned; And the wife of the said Jefferson Weatherford, being by me examined separate and apart from her husband, and the contents of the said deed being explained and fully made known to her, did declare that she executed the same of her own free will and accord, and that she relinquished her right of dower in the lands and tenements therein described without Compulsion or Coercion of her said husband. Given under my hands and Seal, at Carlinville, this fifth day of April A D 1836

Jefferson Weatherford J. P. Deed

Recorded April 21st 1836

William J. Casey Recr.

1834 Land Patent issued to Jefferson Weatherford

includes tract inn would be built on

Document pending receipt from the Illinois State Archives

Tristram Patton Hoxey (birth & death dates unknown), Biography

Chronology:

- 1825 - Hoxey becomes one of the first of four teachers in the county. The schoolhouse is an 18' x 25' log cabin with dirt floor. Archibald Hoxey is one of the other four early teachers (relationship tbd).
- 1829 Apr. 13 - First election in the newly-formed county of Macoupin takes place in the home of Joseph Borough. Hoxey was one of the 78 voters casting ballots. In that election, Hoxey was elected the County Recorder, County Clerk, and Circuit Clerk.
- 1829 Jun. 1 - Court orders the County Surveyor, Joseph Borough, to lay-off the Macoupin county seat of Carlinville. On Aug. 27, 1829, Hoxey officially registers the order.
- 1830 Mar. 1 – County Commissioners Court issues a bond allowing the first county tavern to open. Hoxey executes the bond. Tavern prices are set by the court.
- 1833 Jan. 24 - Hoxey marries Elizabeth M. Anderson (b. 10-24-1811, d. 12-26-1906) in Madison County, Illinois
- 1835 abt - Weatherford and Tristram P. Hoxey become “Proprietors” of Scottville, Macoupin county, Illinois.
- 1836 April 5 - Weatherford sells 810 acres, including the recently-built stagecoach inn, to Tristram P. Hoxey for \$5,700, or \$7.04/acre (Weatherford paid \$1.25/acre to the federal government for the same land, without the inn, less than 16 months earlier).
- 1840 - Hoxey resides in Carlinville, Macoupin County, IL, and resides with one “free colored woman”, per 1840 Census.
- 1843 Feb. - Final land transaction recorded in Macoupin county (following years of frequent land transfers). Presume relocated around this date.
- 1906 Dec. 26 - Elizabeth M. Hoxey passes. Interred at Ottumwa Cemetery, Ottumwa, Iowa (Find-a-grave Mem. No. 96763896). An Ottumwa city directory for 1907 lists “Elizabeth M. Hoxey (widower), Tristram P.” as living at 603 Center Ave., Ottumwa, IA. An extensive search for further details of Tristram Hoxey’s life, and interment site failed to produce results (Hoxey Cemetery in Alhambra, Madison County, IL, does not list Tristram there).

Tristram P. Hoxey, Associated Information

Source: 1911, “History of Macoupin County Illinois”, 1911 by Charles A. Walker, publisher; S.J. Clarke Co., Chicago

Tristram P. Hoxey was recorder, county clerk, and I believe also treasurer. Jefferson Weatherford was sheriff. The county court was composed of Lewis Solomon, Seth Hodges and Roger Snell. Many of their descendants are now living in the county and are highly respected members of society. Ezekiel Good was county surveyor. Macoupin county was then represented in the legislature by Joseph Borough, of Carlinville. A. S. Walker must have been justice of the peace, for from the time of our first acquaintance with him he was called squire. He was a good hunter in those days, supplying not only his own but several other families with game, with which the prairies abounded. Prairie chickens, deer, quail, rabbits, etc. could be had at any time for the shooting, and occasionally a bear would be found.

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In 1825 the first school house was built. It was constructed of split hickory logs, with clapboard roof and dirt floor. The second building for school purposes was made of hewn logs, with a shingle roof and oak plank floor. It was 18x20 feet in size and one story in height. The first teachers were Rodger Snell, Tristram P. Hoxey, Philip Denham and Archibald Hoxey.

LAYING OFF THE TOWN OF CARLINVILLE, JUNE TERM OF COURT, 1829 JUNE I. "It is ordered by the court that the surveyor of this county proceed to lay off the town of Carlenville into town lots, under the direction of the Commissioners of this county, and that he return a plot of the same to the office of this court, previous to the 2/th day of August next, and it is further ordered by the court that twenty lots of the aforesaid town of Carlenville be offered for sale on the 27th day of August next on the premises, on a credit of six, twelve and eighteen months, the purchaser giving bond with approved security for the purchase money, and that the clerk of this court furnish an advertisement conveying the intent and meaning of this order, to be published in the Illinois Intelligencer, and also advertise the same in such public places in this county as may be deemed expedient." State of Illinois, Macoupin county, s. s. : "On this day personally appeared before me Ezekiel Good and Seth Hodges, who are personally known to me to be the identical persons who executed thirty acres, as a donation, to Seth Hodges, Theodoras Davis and William Wilcox, county commissioners of said county, and also said county commissioners, all of whom acknowledged the within to be their act and plat to all intents and purposes : Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of August, A. D., 1829. "LEWIS SOLOMON, J. P. "Registered August the 27th, 1829. "T. P. HOXEY, Recorder."

FIRST TAVERN. At the county commissioners' court held at Carlenville, March 1, 1830: "On motion of William S. Holton he is allowed to keep a tavern at his own house in the county of Macoupin, for the term of one year from this date, he having executed bond with Tristram P. Hoxey, as required by law, in the sum of one hundred dollars, and the said William S. Holton having also paid a tax. one dollar and fifty cents being the amount of tax assessed on said stand by the court." It is considered by the court that the following be tavern rates for the year 1830, viz:

Breakfast, dinner or supper for one person 25 cents
Horses for single feed 12 1/2
Horse per night or day 25
Lodging per night for one person 6 1/4
Whiskey per half pint 12 1/2
Rum, Wine or French Brandy per half pint 25
Cider or Beer per quart 12 1/2 cents

COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF ALMOST UNLIMITED POWER LIST OF FIRST VOTERS
COMMISSIONERS' COURT ABOLISHED AND COUNTY DIVIDED INTO TOWNSHIPS

NAMES OF COUNTY OFFICIALS FROM 1829 TO 19!

I. Under the act of the legislature passed in 1829, creating the county of Macoupin, provision was made for a governing body to be known as the county commissioners' court, and at the first election, held at the home of Joseph Borough on the 13th day of April, 1829, a majority of the votes cast resulted in the choice of Theodoras Davis, William Wilcox and Seth Hodges as members of said court. Tristram P. Hoxey was appointed county clerk. His duties included the offices of county recorder and circuit clerk. Joseph Borough, at whose home the first election was held, was appointed county surveyor by the governor in 1829, and it was he who laid out the county seat. At the election referred to, seventy-eight votes were cast.

It was not very long after Elihu Palmer's arrival that Dr. Gideon Blackburn came to Carlenville to look for a site upon which to build his college, preaching to the people in the court house. Among the first converts admitted to the Presbyterian church then formed were T. P. Hoxey and Daniel Anderson. Dr. Blackburn was one of giant intellect and with wide reaching plans for the good of his fellow creatures. It was our pleasure to entertain him a few times at our home, and we always found him entertaining, genial company, so that he was indeed a welcome guest.

Jefferson Weatherford (1810-1869), Biography

Parents: Money Weatherford (b. 1765 Virginia, d. probably 1816 Virginia). Money & Frances married 1790 in Pittsylvania, Virginia
Frances Spraggins (b. Abt. 1777 Virginia, d. date unknown, in Dallas County, TX). Migrated to Macoupin county 1831, was 73 yrs in 1850.

1st Wife: Mahalia Drennan (died 1841). interred Macoupin County, Illinois

2nd Wife: Mary Stradden (b.1811 Dayton, OH, d. 1851) married Weatherford in Macoupin County, Illinois. Died 1851 Dallas county, TX.

3rd Wife: Sarah (Martin) Neely (b.1820 Kentucky, d.abt 1870 Dallas county, TX). Married Weatherford March 04, 1852 in Dallas County, TX.

Siblings: Tabitha Weatherford, b. Abt. 1790, d. date unknown.

William J. Weatherford, b. Abt. 1816, Bedford County, Tennessee, d. date unknown.

Money Weatherford Jr., b. Abt. 1807, Bedford County, Tennessee, d. March 07, 1877, Dallas County, Texas.

Children of Jeff Weatherford and Mary Stadden are:

- i. Harbird Weatherford, b. 1834, d. date unknown.
- ii. B. Burrell Weatherford, b. 1837, d. date unknown.
- iii. Thomas Jefferson Weatherford, b. December 29, 1841, Macoupin County, Illinois, d. date unknown. Served 6th Texas Cavalry, wounded at Farmington just after the fall of Atlanta. President of Globe Pressed Brick Co., resided (in a "substantial brick home) in Ferris, TX
- iv. Milbery W. Weatherford, b. 1844, d. date unknown.
- v. William Weatherford, b. 1848, d. date unknown.
- vi. +Mary Weatherford, b. 1851, d. date unknown.

Children of Jeff Weatherford and Sarah Martin are:

- i. Ellen Weatherford, b. 1853, d. date unknown.
- ii. Syrena Weatherford, b. 1855, d. date unknown.
- iii. Edith Weatherford, b. 1858, d. date unknown.
- iv. Seth S Weatherford, b. 1862, d. date unknown.

Note: a "Hardin" or "Harding" Weatherford is mentioned in Macoupin county research. He is listed on the 1850 census as a 16-year-old, Dallas county farmer, "born in Illinois" (ie, born in 1834). C.A. Walker's book has him settling with Jefferson 1831, buying land 1830, and being in the Black Hawk War in 1832 (ie, an adult by 1834).

Chronology:

1810 - Jefferson Weatherford, Born, Bedford or Lincoln County, Tennessee

1818 Dec. 3 - Illinois becomes the 21st State of the United States of America

1829 - Portions of Green, Madison, and Sangamon counties become Macoupin County.

1830 - U. S. Census records for 1830 list Frances, Jefferson, and William, as residents of Morgan County, Illinois. (This warrants further research)

1831 - Weatherford migrates and settles in the northeast corner of Brushy Mound township in Macoupin county, Illinois. The area later became unofficially known as "Weatherford Prairie", though extensive research has failed to uncover any substantial documentation of the place name. Weatherford, age 21, soon becomes "a leader in politics and 'the bettering of the condition of the pioneers'". Marries Mary Stradden in Macoupin County after 1831.. Mother, Frances, and other family, came to Illinois with Weatherford.

1832 Apr 22 - At the outbreak of the Black Hawk War, Weatherford enlists as a lieutenant in Captain Harris' company. Rendezvoused at Beardstown and was mustered at Rock Island under command of Colonel A. B. Duwitt of Jacksonville.

1833 - Carlinville population is 200. All buildings of log construction.

1834 - Weatherford becomes Macoupin county Sheriff, deputizes Beatty T. Burke. Two years later deputy Burke defeats Weatherford and becomes new sheriff. About this same year, Weatherford builds an ox mill east of Carlinville.

1834 Dec 20 - Weatherford issued a land patent for 40 acres in SW4SW4 Sec-1 Brushy Mound township. On this tract, within the next 16 months, Weatherford would complete construction of the stagecoach inn.

1835 abt - Weatherford and Tristram P. Hoxey become "Proprietors" of Scottville, Macoupin county, Illinois.

1836 April 5 - Weatherford sells 810 acres, including the recently-built stagecoach inn, to Tristram P. Hoxey for \$5,700, or \$7.04/acre (Weatherford paid \$1.25/acre to the federal government for the same land, without the inn, less than 16 months earlier). Weatherford sells his Carlinville, Illinois grocery store this same year to Beatty T. Burke.

1836 Dec - Jefferson and Harbird Weatherford win court bid to build, for \$1,500, the second Macoupin county courthouse in the town square of Carlinville. This courthouse was used from 1838 thru 1869 and was visited by W. Douglas, and A. Lincoln.

1836 Dec 6 – Weatherford defeats six other candidates and is elected "House Doorkeeper" by vote of legislature, including Abraham Lincoln, in Vandalia. This is likely what gave rise to stories that Weatherford was "the Governor's Bodyguard".

1846 June - Migrated to Texas, just east of Wilmer, TX, where presumably his wife Mary (Stadden) Weatherford had family. Jefferson would eventually be buried in the Stadden family cemetery in Wilmer. Weatherford farmed and operated a sawmill initially. Weatherford had very little formal education, but he was soon recognized as one of the county's more prominent political leaders. Migrating with the Weatherfords were Jefferson's mother and father.

1853 - 1857 - Served as Texas State Senator, 5th & 6th Legislature, Dem., for Dallas, Ellis, and Tarrant counties. Lived in Pleasant Run, TX

1854 - Senator Weatherford joins State Representative Isaac Parker in support of a bill that established Parker county, Texas, so named in honor of Rep Parker. Latter, the county's seat was named "Weatherford" in recognition of Senator Weatherford's support in county formation. The town's first settlers arrived less than ten years earlier (about 1845). Between 1846 and 1874 there were many Indian attacks in the area. Many Parker county headstones read "killed by Indians". According to Weatherford's cousin, Jefferson never set foot in the town (likely because of the Indian attacks).

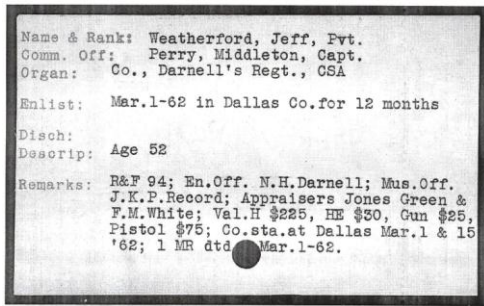
1860 - Following the election of Abraham Lincoln in Nov. 1860, Weatherford was an ardent advocate of secession and played a prominent role in the drive to whip up enthusiasm for that course in North Texas.

1861 - 1864 - Served as Texas State Senator, 9th & 10th Legislature, Dem., for Dallas, Kaufman, and Henderson counties. Lived in Lancaster, TX.

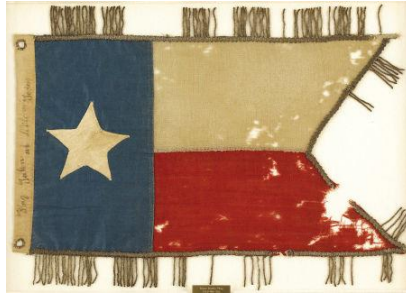
1862 March 1 – Enlisted for one year, as Private, at age 52, in Colonel N.H. Darnell's 22ND Regiment, Texas Cavalry (aka "1st Indian-Texas Regiment"), Company D-I, serving the Confederate. Commanding Officer Capt. Middleton Perry. The 22nd Texas Cavalry (dismounted) regiment was at the battle of Newtonia on Sept.30, 1862.

22nd Cavalry Regiment [also called 1st Indian-Texas Regiment] was formed by Colonel R. H. Taylor during the spring of 1862 with 873 men. The regiment was assigned to W.R. Bradfute's, Flournoy's, W.H. King's, and J.E. Harrison's Brigade in the Trans-Mississippi Department. In May, 1862, its force was down to 20 officers and 315 men, and it lost 1 killed, 9 wounded, and 1 missing at Newtonia. Later it was dismounted, saw action in Arkansas and Louisiana, and in March, 1865, contained 14 officers and 167 men. It was included in the surrender on June 2. Battles List for the 22nd is: Newtonia (Sept. 30th 1862), Red River Campaign (March - May 1864), Harrisonburg (March 2nd 1864) Mansfield (April 8th 1864), and Pleasant Hill (April 9th 1864).

1867 – Jefferson Weatherford dies at the family homestead in Wilmer, TX, Dallas County. Interred at Stradden Cemetery, Wilmer, TX, (1/2 mile south of Beltline Road, west side of Geller Road), on former homestead of John Stradden, possibly Mary's father. Cemetery owned by W. H. Hilton in 2010, is unmaintained. No headstone has been located. Three stacked slabs noted by researchers in 2010 suspected to be interment site of Jefferson, Mary, and Frances Spraggins. Interestingly, multiple, intensive searches for a photo or portrait of Jefferson Weatherford have produced none. Weatherford is recorded as being of Baptist faith. (Find-a-grave Mem. No. 31864027)



I muster roll index card for Jefferson Weatherford



Confederate Texas State "Lone Star" Cavalry Guidon



Weatherford's unceremonious interment site

Jefferson Weatherford, Associated Information

Source: 1911, "History of Macoupin County Illinois", 1911 by Charles A.Walker, publisher; S.J. Clarke Co.,Chicago

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Governor Reynolds' circular which he addressed to the citizen soldiers in the crisis then pending, follows :

"To the Militia of the Northwestern Section of the State:"FELLOW CITIZENS: Your country requires your services. The Indians have assumed hostile attitude, and have invaded the state in violation of the treaty of last summer. The British band of Sacs and other hostile Indians, headed by Hlack Hawk, are in possession of the Rock river country, to the great terror of the frontier inhabitants. I consider the settlers on the frontiers to be in imminent danger. I am in possession of the above information from gentlemen of respectable standing, and also from General Atkinson, whose character stands high with all classes. In possession of the above facts I have hesitated not as to the course I should pursue. No citizen ought to remain inactive when his country is invaded and the helpless part of the community are in danger. I have called out a large detachment of militia to rendezvous at Beardstown on the 22d. Provisions for the men and food for the horses will be furnished in abundance. I hope my countrymen will realize my expectations and offer their services,as heretofore, with promptitude and cheerfulness in defense of their country. "JOHN REYNOLDS."

To the stirring appeal of the Governor the patriotic citizens of the state and Macoupin county nobly responded. Many of the best and prominent men of the county enlisted to protect the frontier and preserve the honor of the state and did signal service in the memorable events of the Black Hawk war. Among the citizens of Macoupin county who went out were as follows: Officers : Captain Harris, afterward better known to the citizens of this county as General Harris, who organized the first company. Captain Bennett Nolan also organized a company. Lieutenant Colonel Powell H. Sharp, then a resident of what is now Scottville township, ranked as lieutenant colonel in this war and is spoken of as a brave man. William Coop, Jefferson Weatherford and the late Judge John Yowell were commissioned lieutenants. The two former were lieutenants in Captain Harris' company and the latter a lieutenant in Captain Nolan's company. Aquilla P. Pepperdine was the orderly sergeant in Captain Harris' company. Thomas McVey and John Lewis were also sergeants in the same company. Captain Harris' company rendezvoused at Beardstown and was mustered at Rock Island under command of Colonel A. B. Duwitt of Jacksonville. William J. Weatherford was lieutenant colonel of the regiment.

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Newton Berry settled in the county in 1831 and was one of the first teachers. Among other settlers this year (1831) may be mentioned ...the Weatherfords.

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Beatty T. Burke was a native of Jefferson county, Virginia, and was born in 1806. He arrived in Macoupin county in 1836 and purchased the grocery store of Jefferson Weatherford, at Carlinville.

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The Weatherfords emigrated to the county before its organization and soon became leaders in politics and 'the bettering of the condition of the pioneers. Jeff Weatherford succeeded John Harris as sheriff in 1834, but was defeated by Beatty T. Burke, Sr.,for that office in 1836, Burke having been deputy under Weatherford for the two previous years. Harbird Weatherford was the working man of all the Weatherfords that I ever knew. He erected an ox mill at an early day, three miles southeast of Carlinville.

The second building erected as a courthouse had an atmosphere about it never attained by its successor. It was built on ground dedicated by its donor for that purpose and its walls echoed and reechoed many times the eloquence of a Lincoln, and Douglas and other great legal lights that have long ceased to shed their radiance upon an admiring public. Men of national renown, in the days of "riding the circuit" attended court in this historic old building.

The court adopted the following as the plan of a courthouse in the town of Carlinville and county of Macoupin : "The square of the house fifty feet ; wall to be of stone, four feet, two feet underground, of rough stone, and the other of two feet hewn stone, all to be laid with good lime mortar, two feet, six inches thick ; the balance of good hard burnt stock brick, laid with good lime mortar, in workmanlike manner, two and a half bricks thick first story, and two the second, each story to be fourteen feet in the clear ; the lower floor to be even with the top of the stone wall, to have four posts with a door, and two windows in the lower story and three windows in each front in the upper story, each window to be twenty-four light, 10x14, and the door to be made in accordance with a plan given by Dr. J. R. Lewis ; the first door in the east to be made permanent and the judge's seat to be placed against the same. The lower part to be divided into a court room and lobby, separated by a bannister four feet high, passing through the house from north to south, parallel or nearly so with the near side of the north and south doors, to the judge's seat, two flights of stairs running from the court room over each door to the center space of upper story, and to be one chimney. "December term, 1836. It is ordered by the court that Harbird Weatherford and Jefferson Weatherford, two of the undertakers to build the courthouse for this county be allowed the sum of \$1,500 to be due and payable on the 1st of March, 1839, and if not punctually paid when due to draw interest at the rate of eight per cent per annum from the time the same becomes due and payable until paid.



Photo depicts 2nd courthouse on Carlinville square used from 1838 thru 1869, built by Jefferson Weatherford, visited by A. Lincoln W. Douglas. First courthouse was a primitive ~18'x24' log cabin, also built on square (not by JW).

The people in those early days found it very difficult to get their corn and wheat ground, having to go to adjoining counties for that purpose. About 1830 John Harris built a water saw and grist mill on the Macoupin creek one and a half miles east of town at and on the farm now owned by C. A. Walker. After a few years, Mr. Weatherford built an ox mill east of town for grinding corn, but it was not at all certain to be in running order.

In 1831 several settlers came, among them the Weatherfords, Jefferson, Hardin and others, who located in the northeast corner of the township on what was later known as Weatherford's prairie. In 1833 or 1834 Jefferson Weatherford built a mill which was operated by ox power.

The village of Scottville is located on sections 16 and 21. The proprietors of the town were Jefferson Weatherford and Tristram P. Hoxey. It was laid out by Benjamin Stephenson in 1835.

Source: <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/f/a/r/Brad-Farris/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0045.html>

"A man of but limited education, Jefferson inspired all his associates with confidence and a conviction of his wisdom in the practical affairs of life. His popularity and acknowledgement of his sterling qualities eventually spread far beyond Dallas county, as is evident by his election to the state senate for the district comprising not only that county, but Tarrant, Bosque, Johnson and Parker. His service and his individuality made an impression on that body, which honored him by christening the county seat of parker county with his name. Later in life became interested in spiritual matters.

Source: 1911, "Jefferson Weatherford", Sue Swaner Coffelt, January 14, 2013

Jefferson Weatherford - born ca. 1811, probably Lincoln Co., Tennessee, as his father was listed there on the 1810 tax list; and he died in 1867 in Dallas County, Texas. He and his family, including his mother, moved to Texas in 1842, from Illinois.

His parents were Money Weatherford and Frances Spraggins, who married in 1790 in Pittsylvania Co., Virginia. Money Weatherford was listed on the Tax List for Bedford Co., Tennessee in 1812, and died there probably about 1816. At some time afterward, Jefferson Weatherford moved from there to Illinois, with his mother Frances Spraggins Weatherford, and other family members.

Jefferson's first wife was named Milberry (last name unknown). She died in Macoupin County, Illinois, before October 1840. The date and place of their marriage is unknown. They had five children.

Mary Stadden was the second wife. She was born about 1811 near Dayton, Ohio, died in 1851, and is buried in the Stadden Cemetery, on the family homestead, near Wilmer, Dallas County, Texas. They married in Illinois, and had four children.

Sarah Martin, widow of Charles Neely/Neeley, was the third wife of Jefferson Weatherford. She was born 1820 in Illinois, and died ca. 1870, in Dallas County, Texas. They married March 4, 1854, Dallas County, Texas, and had four children.

On the U. S. Census records for 1830, Frances, Jefferson, and William, were listed as residents of Morgan County, Illinois. In 1840, the family members were listed in Macoupin, Jersey, and Morgan Counties, while Jefferson was listed as Jefferson Wetherford, in LaSalle Co. By 1850, the family was enumerated in Dallas County, Texas.

After arrival in Texas, Jefferson Weatherford patented land in the Robertson District. In the book, THE PETERS COLONY OF TEXAS by Seymour V. Connor, published by The Texas State Historical Assn., H. Bailey Carroll, General Editor, on page 423:

"Hardin Weatherford was issued a certificate for 320 acres by the county court of Dallas County in 1853. The certificate was sold unlocated and was later patented in Tarrant County (Robertson Third Class No. 1687. He is listed on the 1850 census (Dallas County, family No. 300) as a 16-year-old farmer, born in Illinois."

"Jefferson Weatherford, arrived in the colony in June 1846, with his family. He reported to Ward in 1850 and was issued a certificate for 640 acres, which he patented in Dallas County (Robertson Third Class No. 1511). He is listed on the 1850 census (Dallas County, family No. 300) as a 29-year-old [should be 39-year-old/ssc] farmer, born in Tennessee, with six children. He apparently moved to Texas from Illinois"

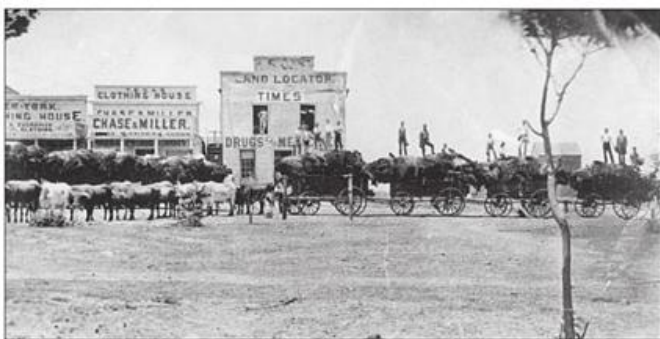
Jefferson Weatherford is said to have built the first schoolhouse in Macoupin Co., Illinois. In 1832, he served in the Black Hawk War in Illinois. After moving to Texas, he served as a State Senator, representing Dallas Co. 1853-57, and 1861-65.

WEATHERFORD, TEXAS.

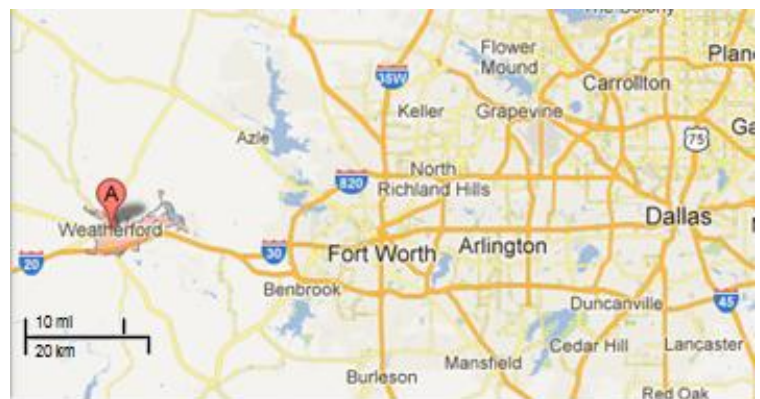
Weatherford, the county seat of Parker County, is thirty miles west of Fort Worth in the center of the county. Parker County held an election to select the site for its county seat. Of three eligible sites, the present location was selected and named Weatherford in honor of Jefferson Weatherford, a member of the Texas Senate who coauthored the bill establishing the county. On the crest of a divide between the Trinity and Brazos valleys, Weatherford, for its first decade, was the principal frontier settlement in North Texas. The town was incorporated in 1858, and a post office was opened in 1859. The new county seat was midway on the stage run between Fort Worth and Fort Belknap. For its first twenty-five years Weatherford acted not only as the county seat but also as a safe haven for Parker County residents, who fled to the city during the series of Indian raids which lasted until the early 1870s. Once the threat of Indian attacks abated, the city prospered. The tracks of the Texas and Pacific Railway reached Weatherford in 1880. Seven years later the Santa Fe line entered the city limits. In 1891 a local line, the Weatherford, Mineral Wells and Northwestern Railway, began operating. This network established the county seat as a retail and shipping point for Parker County farmers and ranchers. In the mid-1890s Weatherford had an estimated population of 5,000 and 100 businesses, seven churches, several schools, three banks, four hotels, three weekly newspapers (*Weatherford Sun*, *Weatherford Constitution*, and the *Parker County News*), and one institution of higher learning, Weatherford College. Throughout the twentieth century Weatherford continued to serve as the agribusiness center of Parker County. Among the other businesses in the city today are manufacturing plants that produce oilfield equipment, rubber, and plastic products. Since 1900 watermelon has become the main agricultural product farmed in the Weatherford area. . By 2000 the population of Weatherford had grown to 19,000 with 1,614 businesses.



Parker county courthouse, Weatherford, TX



Oxen-drawn wagons laden with buffalo hides are pictured on the west side of the courthouse square in what is said to be the earliest photograph of Weatherford from around 1874. The two-story building behind the wagons housed A.B. Gant, land locator and druggist, and the office of the *Weatherford Times* newspaper. Chase and Miller and the New York Store were clothiers that occupied two smaller buildings to the south. (UTA, Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection.)



Macoupin County Stagecoach Roads, Circa 1835

Source: <http://macoupinctygenealogy.org/history/plainvie.html> Article by Jim Frank, Macoupin County Historical Society

In the fall of 1817, John Powell and the family of Abram Folk arrived. John Powell shortly after married a daughter of David Coop. This was the first marriage in Hilyard Township. Powell and Folk settled in the north east part of Hilyard near an old Indian trail that was later to be called the Sangamon-Alton Trace Stage Road. This road is now named Stagecoach Road.

In olden times there was an Indian trail that came up from Edwardsville in Madison County, passing over Wolf Ridge which is now Bunker Hill. There was also an Indian trail that came up from near Alton and passed through what is now Fosterburg and Woodburn and then the two trails merged into one trail east of Plainview, passing up over Brushy Mound Township and on past Carlinville on the east side of town.

A stage wagon was advertised in 1822 to run from St.Louis to Sangamon every two weeks taking two days for the trip. This stage route which passed through Edwardsville, Lincoln (near Bunker Hill) and Carlinville followed much of this Indian trail. By 1833 this route was being used as a Federal mail route between Springfield, Alton and St. Louis.

A state road between Springfield and Alton was surveyed in 1833 and followed the same route from Springfield as the Sangamon-St. Louis Road to Section 3 in Hilyard Township and then turned southwest following the Indian trail through Woodburn and Fosterburg towards Alton. The Illinois State Legislature was promoting Alton as a major river port in competition with St. Louis and regulated that state roads pass to Alton instead of St. Louis. In 1837 a contract was awarded to carry mail between Carlinville and Alton over this route.

The first Post Office in Hilyard Township was established in 1846. Alfred Ellet was the first Postmaster. A few years previous, Alfred Ellet and his brother Edward had come from Pennsylvania and established a settlement called Plainview in the northeast corner of the township on the Springfield Alton Trace Stage Road. The name Plainview is thought to be derived as when the State Road was surveyed and laid out, a path of trees six rods wide (approximately one hundred feet wide) was cleared to make the road. Thus, this gave a plain view through the woods. This Plainview was three miles east of the Plainview we know today. The settlement consisted mainly of a stagecoach change station and tavern and a few scattered cabins. There was a stage coach change station at Woodburn and another near Carlinville and the team pulling the stage was run from one station to the next where the stage was then changed to a fresh team. Later when the railroad was established through the county, the stage line ceased operation and the village faded away. A new Plainview was surveyed, established and settled along the railroad three miles to the west.

While early history tells us there were only a few people living here around 1817, there were apparently a few other families now unknown living scattered about the southern part of the county at this time. Sometime between 1815 and 1817 the Reverend William Jones, an evangelist preacher of the Baptist faith who lived near Upper Alton, came and preached a meeting on Coop's Creek near where the Woodburn-Carlinville Stage Road crossed the creek.

The settlement of Centerville located in the south part of the township sprang up around the old stage road. Centerville was so called because it was centrally located, bound to the north by Plainview, to the east by Dorchester, to the south by Bunker Hill and Woodburn, and to the west by Shipman. It is about five miles from each of these towns. Centerville was the scene of varied activities before its gradual decline, which began after 1852 after the coming of the railroad and the termination of the stage line passing through the village. There was a stage stop in front of the Church, a livery stable, mail service, the families of Drake, Bullman, and Edsall preformed blacksmith service. The general store was run by the Barns', Taylor's, and Brakam's. A part of the store at one time was devoted to millinery. It was here in Centerville where a young fellow by the name of Daniel Drew, newly arrived from Cork, Ireland, while driving the stage line between Alton and Peoria, met Mary Fleming who worked at selling millinery in the store. They were married and shortly settled on a farm northwest of Plainview. From this marriage came forth the many, many descendants now totaling several hundred people that populate the Plainview, Shipman, Chesterfield, Brighton, Carlinville and Gillespie communities.

Centerville even had a veterinary, William Hoover, at one time. It is told that Abraham Lincoln while traveling the old stage road stopped at the Bullman property north of the Church in Centerville and drank from the well, a well use by many travelers in those days.

Today, all that is left of the village is the Church, a community hall and the old school building which has been converted into a residence and is the home of Dick and Nelda Edsall.

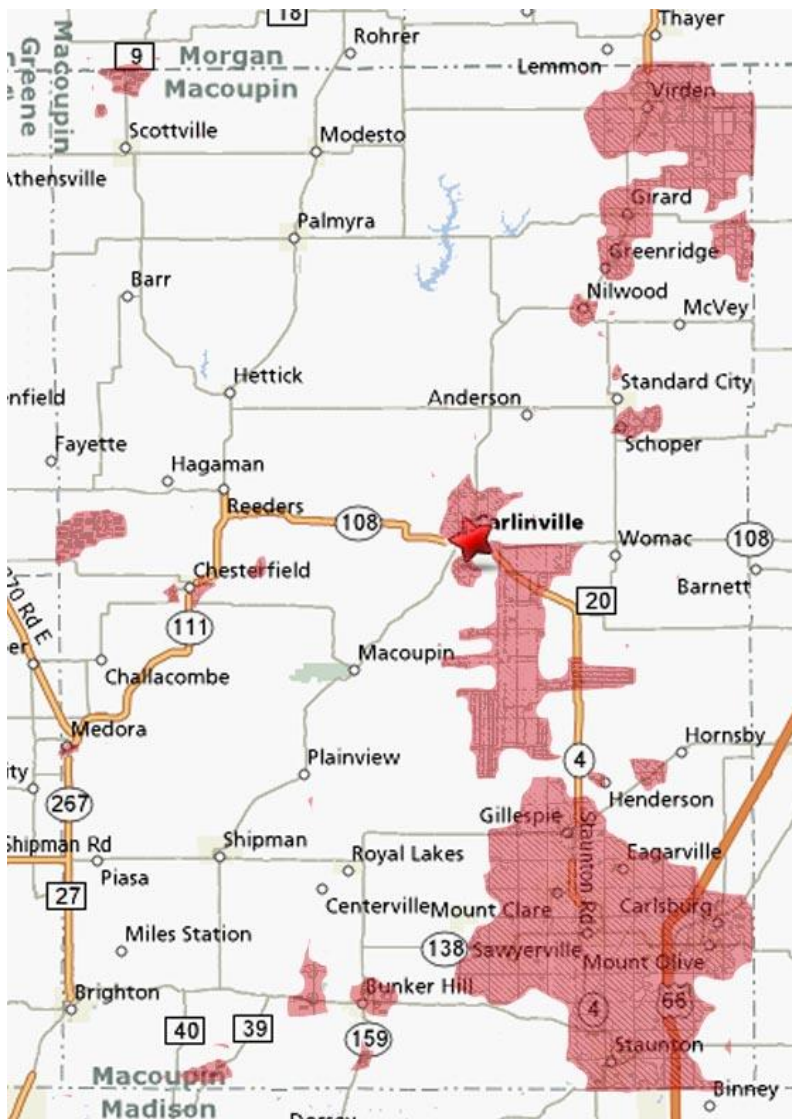
In 1822, a stage wagon was advertised to run from Sangamon to St. Louis once every two weeks. Taking two days for the trip. This stage ground, which passed through Carlinville, Lincoln (near Bunker Hill), and Edwardsville, passed through Hillyard Township on the East, following closely what is now the Carlinville-Bunker Hill Road. A contract was given to carry mail from St. Louis to Springfield in 1833.

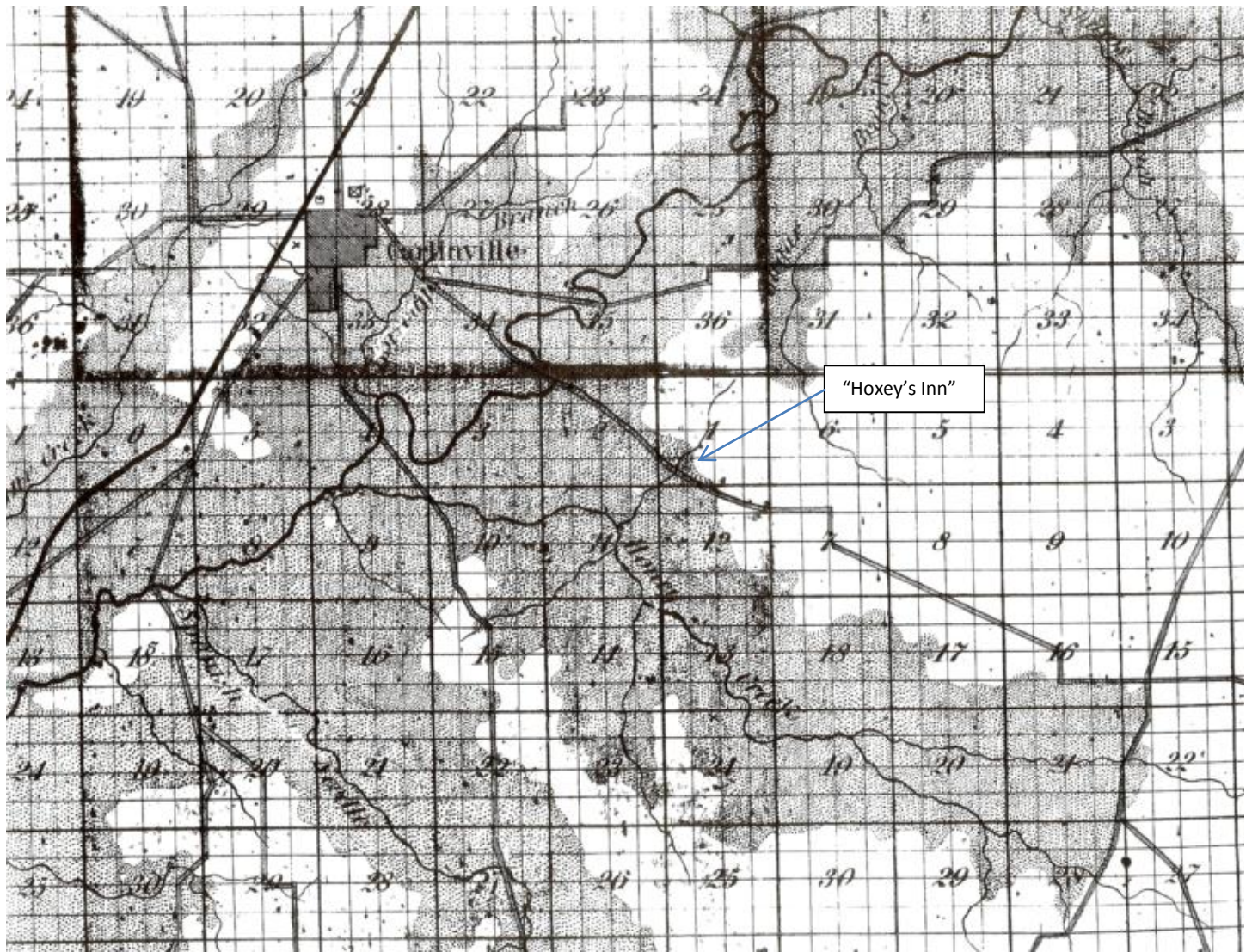
The state road between Alton and Springfield was surveyed in 1833 and followed the same route from Springfield as the Sangamon-St. Louis Road to section 3 in Hillyard, then turned Southwest following an old Indian trail, passing through Centerville and Woodburn and Fosterburg towards Alton.

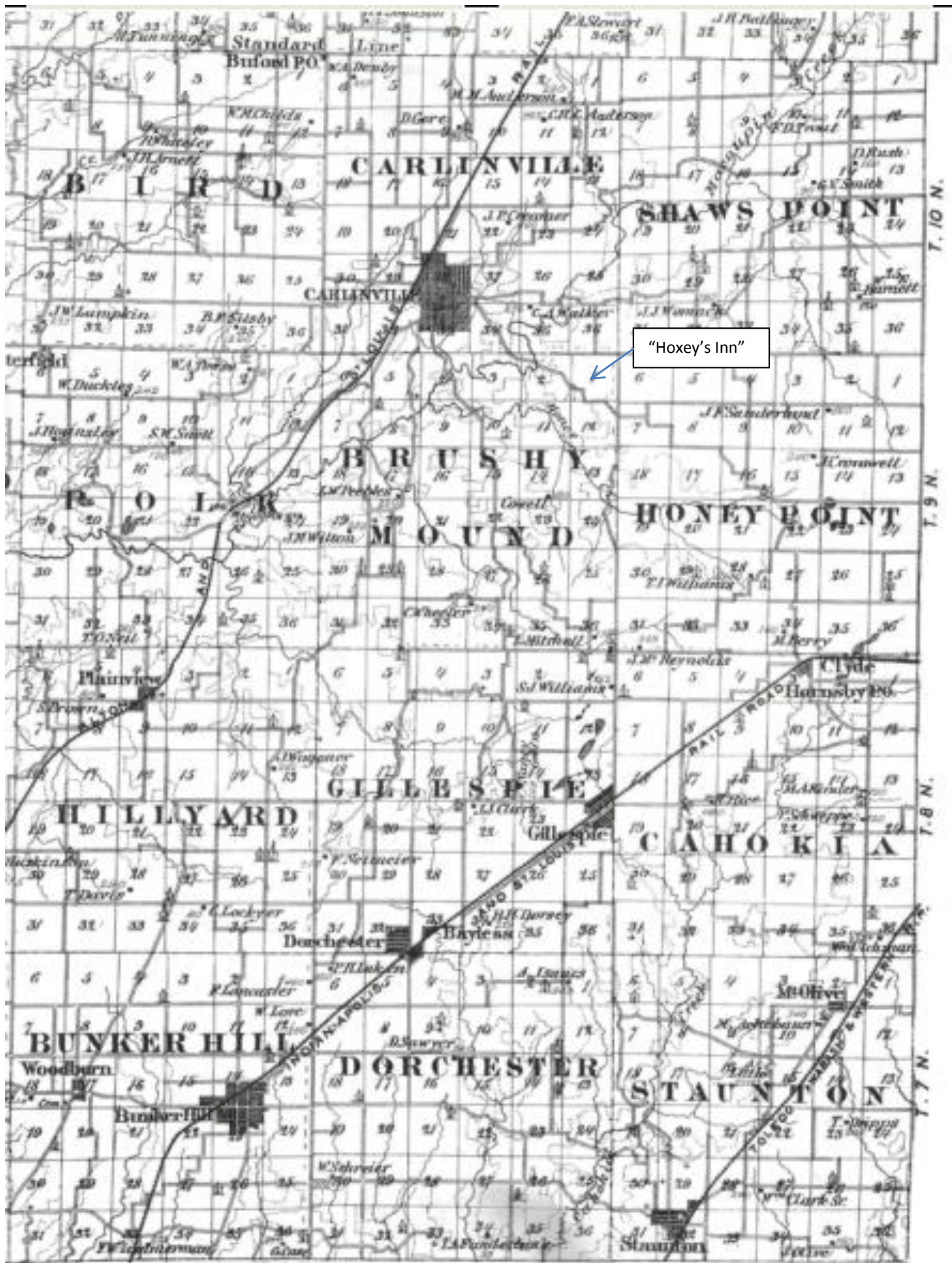
The first post office in Hillyard was established June 8, 1846. Alfred Ellet was the first postmaster. It is not known whether the post office was at Centerville or Plainview Station. Plainview Station was a small community of a few cabins situated around a stagecoach change station and Tavern on the Alton-Springfield stage road. This station was located in the center of section 1, where the road makes a bend as it starts into the timber. There was a change station at Woodburn and another at Carlinville; the team pulling the stage was run from one station to the next where the stagecoach was then changed to a fresh team. With the completion of the Sangamon-Alton Railroad (now, Illinois Central Golf), the stage line ceased operation.

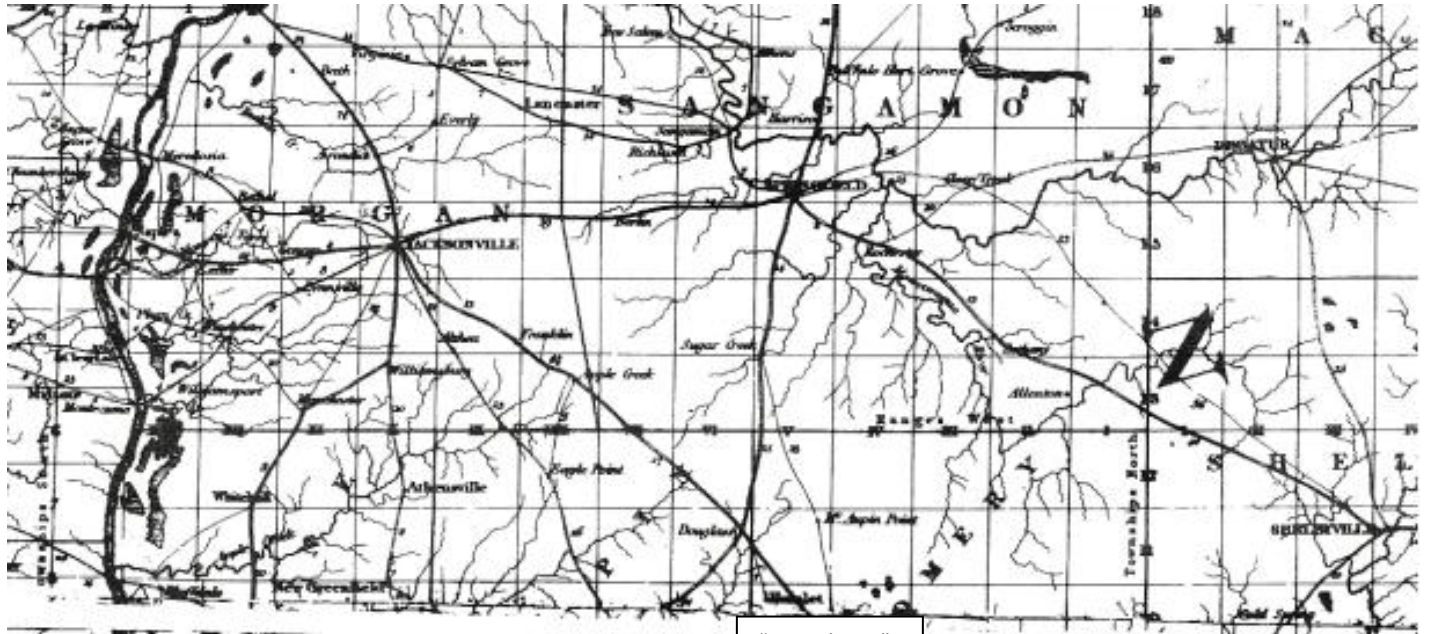
In 1853, a town was plotted on the new railroad in sections 4 and nine. Several of the few residents at Plainview Station moved to what was now called Plainview.

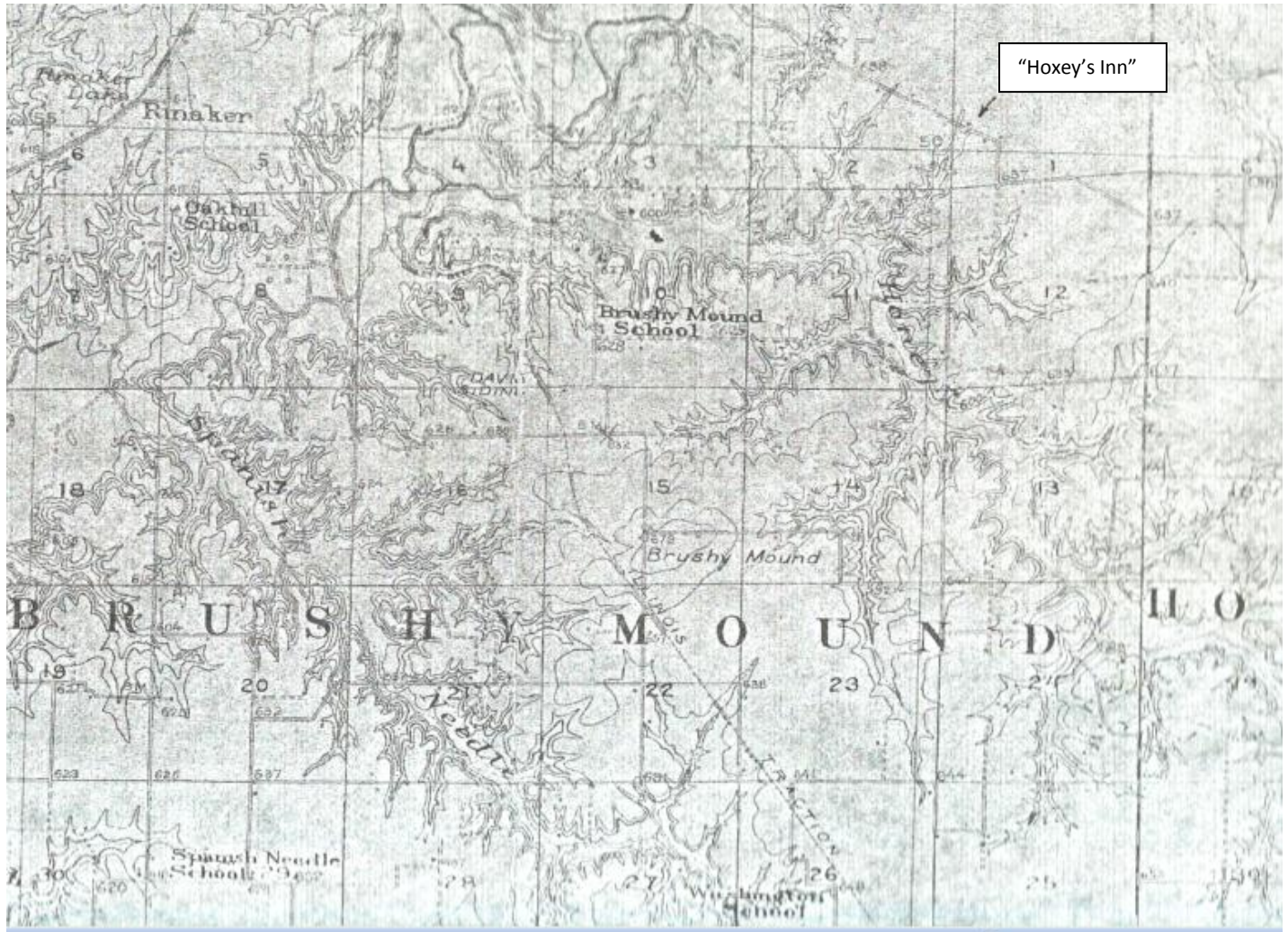
Underground Mine Map Included here for depiction of early town locations, some now "vanished"











Presidential Passerby?

From ~1835, when the inn was constructed, until 1839, when the Illinois state capital was moved from Vandalia to Springfield, Abraham Lincoln lived in Springfield and traveled biannually to the State capital in Vandalia...a route which logically would have used the very stagecoach road the inn was located on. Stories prevail locally that Lincoln not only passed by, but overnighted at the inn, presumably while the Macoupin Creek was flooded. Research cannot confirm this though.

Source: "Lincoln Day by Day, A Chronology 1809 – 1865", C. Percy Powell & Earl Schenck Miers. ISBN 0-89029-54-25

1819 to 1839 - Vandalia serves as Illinois State capital

1834 – Lincoln Elected to State legislature as Whig. (Resides in Springfield till 1861. Law partner with John L. Stuart till 1840.)

1835 – Lincoln is Postmaster, New Salem; appointed by President Jackson.

1838 to 1840 – Lincoln Reelected to State legislature.

1836 – 1839, 2-day Trips from Springfield to Vandalia, or Carlinville:

Jan. 1 1835, Dec. 7 1835, Dec. 5 1836 (elects Jefferson Weatherford as House Doorkeeper), Apr. 17 1837 ("Macoupin Circuit Court Convenes"), Jul. 11 1837, Apr. 9 1838 ("Macoupin Circuit Court begins 5-day term" at Carlinville), Nov. 30 1838, Apr 6 1840 ("Carlinville. Lincoln speaks at Whig rally in courthouse. Democratic "Register" calls him the Lion of the Tribe of Sangamon"...and judging from outward appearance, originally from Liberia"), Jul 25 1840 ("Carlinville. Whigs hold Log Cabin and Hard Cider rally, with visiting delegations. Lincoln was in Carlinville this summer, possibly at this time").

Should This Historic Jewel be Allowed to Rot?

Almost nobody knows the compelling story about this rare architectural artifact that dates back to a mere single lifetime after the signing of the US Constitution. Most folks that live near it and see it routinely consider it a town eyesore. The building is in desperate need of proper restoration and preservation. Should it be allowed to just rot away? We think not. New efforts are recently underway to protect this building.

To learn more, please contact Frank R. Masters at 217-273-3307, or Don Eichen at 217-854-2333.



Street view of un-restored inn and partially-built protective structure.