

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Strevell House

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

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

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

## 2. Location

street & number 401 West Livingston Street  not for publication

city or town Pontiac  vicinity

state Illinois county Livingston zip code 61764

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: \_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date \_\_\_\_\_

Illinois Department of Natural Resources - SHPO  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification**

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1		<b>Total</b>

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

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

Domestic/Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Recreation and culture: Museum  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

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

Mid-19th Century, Gothic Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone  
walls: Weatherboard  
roof: Asphalt  
other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

#### Summary Paragraph

The Strevell House is located at 411 West Livingston Street in the city of Pontiac, Livingston County, Illinois. The house is a one and one-half story wood frame with Gothic Revival architecture. The facade of the house faces south towards West Livingston Street. The house is painted with its original dark red color with white trim. The trim includes typical Carpenter Gothic features including scroll sawn drop pendant bargeboards, horizontal bargeboards, finial mini-spires, and window hoods. The house was constructed in 1855. The Strevell House is located in Block 27 of the original 1856 plat of Pontiac. The house is one block north of Route 116, the primary route for east-west travel through Pontiac. The Strevell House retains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register.

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### Narrative Description

#### Environment and Setting

The Strevell House is located at 411 West Livingston Street in Pontiac, Livingston County, Illinois. The house is located in the southeast corner of Block 27 of the original plat of the city of Pontiac. The original plat of Pontiac was laid out with using a perpendicular north-south grid. The Vermilion River winds through Pontiac on a southeast to northwest course and some streets are parallel to the river. Nearby topography is flat and the area is known for its black silt loam soils which are highly agriculturally productive.

The neighborhood surrounding the Strevell House consists of residential single-family dwellings largely constructed in the mid-to-late 1800s, with occasional twentieth century infill construction. The neighborhood is full of deciduous trees in curbs, front, and back yards, some of which are mature and add to the character of the area. Properties more than one block south of the Strevell House are generally commercial in nature.

The house is set back 55 feet to the north from West Livingston Street. The east edge of the house is 25 feet from North Oak Street. The lot is 100 feet in the east-west direction and is 150 feet in the north-south direction. Five trees with trunk bases between 13 and 38 inches in diameter are located on the south and east sides of the lot.

#### Exterior

The original west half of the house built by Zelus H. Nettleton faces West Livingston Street and measures 30 feet wide by 46 feet deep. The original house was one and one-half stories with a steeply-pitched gabled roof. The east half of the house is believed to have been built by Jason W. Strevell in 1858 after he married the widow of Zelus H. Nettleton. This major addition is 20 feet wide and 22 feet deep. The Carpenter Gothic features used on the original house were duplicated onto the east addition. On the east addition, the steeply gabled roof was shifted several feet from the center of the home. The shifted gable on the east side gives the whole facade an asymmetrical appearance.

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The foundation of the original house and the east addition is constructed of roughly cut stone with about 18 inches visible from the exterior. The exterior walls of the home are not sheathed with wide planked wood siding. Six inch high wood tapered siding was nailed to the studs using rectangular nails.

The facade, or south elevation, faces West Livingston Street and is dominated by the central forward-facing center pediment with a steeply pitched roof on either side. The primary entrance is a set of double doors that each have one large pane of glass with a semi-circular top. This entrance is reached by climbing three steps onto the eight foot wide porch that is five foot deep. The front porch has a flat roof above it supported by scroll sawn arms. Above the porch roof is a set of **glazed double doors**. These wood frame doors have curved tops. The top roof extends over the porch roof and the roofing material is sheet metal. The upper roof is adorned with a finial and mini-spire.

On either side of the front entry is two lower windows and two upper windows with hoods. The drop pendant bargeboards on the front of the house are scroll sawn. Three finial mini-spires adorn the front view roof peaks. Horizontal bargeboards are on the three sections of roof seen on the facade or south elevation.

The west elevation on the south end of the house includes three steps which rise to a concrete landing. On the landing is a door that provides access to the kitchen. The north elevation on the west side includes a set of double windows for the kitchen. The west elevation in the middle of the house includes one exterior window for the restroom. The west elevation on the north side of the house has exterior windows for the dining room.

The north elevation of the house has two exterior doors. One door is for access to the dining room and the other gives access to the hallway connecting the library and dining room.

### **Interior - General**

This house used no exterior sheathing on the studs. Tapered cedar siding was nailed to the studs. This home did use extremely wide boards to line the interior walls of the rooms. Lathe and plaster were then applied over the wide planking. All doors are solid wood and most are original to the house.

Door frames and baseboards in the first story are relatively wide with some of them ten inches wide. The second story door frames and baseboards are smaller in size.

### **Interior – First Story**

Upon entering the house via the south elevation, one enters a small entry and is presented with the main stairway leading to the second story. Parallel to the stairway is a narrow hallway that connects to the basement door, library, back door, and dining room.

From the small entry area, one can enter the parlor in the southeast corner of the house. The parlor features a large curved top doorway that leads into a small library. An 18 by 18 inch area on the parlor wall was intentionally left with the original paint color so visitors can see the original room color. The balance of the parlor was repainted to match this original green color.

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From the small entry area, once can also enter the dining room. The dining is spacious at 14 feet wide and 46 feet deep. The dining room is well lighted using the natural light from five exterior windows.

The kitchen is accessed from the dining room. It has one exterior door on the west elevation, one window on the south elevation, and a double window on the north elevation. From the kitchen, the ADA compliant restroom may be accessed. The restroom includes a toilet and a sink.

### **Interior – Second Story**

The stairway has a small landing area about half-way up to the second story. The stairs reverse direction at this landing and continue up to the second story. There is a hallway from the top of the stairs to the south elevation of the house. At the south end of the hallway is a pair of hinged wood doors that open onto the porch roof. These wood doors have curved tops.

The northeast bedroom is fully restored to original conditions with the except of one area of that wall that was not intentionally refurbished so visitors could see the wide planking used to line the interior walls. The southeast and southwest bedrooms are fully restored to original conditions. One room adjacent to the southwest bedroom was intentionally not refurbished and it functions as a storage closet.

### **Integrity**

The Strevell House possesses a notable historic integrity and continues to convey its architectural significance as one of Pontiac's early, permanent homes, dating from a period of growth when Pontiac was incorporated in 1856. Substantial original material and workmanship relative to the period of significance are retained, specifically the Carpenter Gothic detailing and the original wood siding. The house's location in an older residential neighborhood and association with these homes and the nearby historic Jones House embody the same association as during the period of significance.

The house was built in two stages. The original footprint (the west side) was constructed in 1855 by the first owner, Zelus Nettleton. When Mr. Nettleton died in 1857 his widow married Jason W. Strevell the following year in 1858. It is believed that Mr. Strevell added the east side of the home. All of the Carpenter Gothic features used on the original west side of the house -- drop pendant bargeboards, horizontal bargeboards, finial mini spires, and window hoods -- were copied to the east side of the house. The Carpenter Gothic features were copied exactly on the east side addition, making it compatible with the architecture of the original house. The 1869 Bird's eye view of Pontiac suggest the current footprint with existing additions was achieved between 1855 when Zelus Nettleton bought the lot and the 1869 Bird's eye view of Pontiac.

After Jason Strevell moved to Montana in 1879, the house had many different owners. Although the exterior of the house was left relatively intact, the interior was modified and eventually the house was converted into apartments.

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By 2007, the building was in a bad state of repair. The owner was ready to knock down the house. Three Pontiac men purchased the home for \$40,000 in 2008 with the idea of refurbishing it and then donating it to the Livingston County Historical Society.

It took 10 years to fully restore the house to the condition when it was occupied by Strevell. An old-house expert, Tom Nance, was hired to examine the house and then direct the Historical Society in the best way to return it to its original condition. He made three visits to the home during the refurbishment process. His reports are still available documenting his findings and recommendations.

Based upon his analysis of the property, he determined that the west side of the home was constructed first, and it is similar in design to the Carpenter Gothic house that Zelus Nettleton built at 185 W. Third Street in Constantine, Michigan. They theorized that Mr. Strevell had the east addition built, which roughly doubled the size of the home. This addition was done before Abraham Lincoln visited the home in 1860. The footprint of the house has remained the same except for a small addition which is now an ADA compliant restroom in the refurbished home. (The dining room has some renovations to accommodate meeting space – the 1996 submittal to our office called the front or south half of the dining area the west parlor and indicated that there were probably double doors between it and what was an apartment at the time, but is the north half of the dining room today. I would say something like to the effect that there was an opening between the two originally but most likely had double-doors or pocket doors to separate the two spaces. )

The original wood siding on the exterior was retained. All of the windows were sent to a restoration firm in Odell, Illinois, who returned them to their original condition. The intricate teardrops on the roof eaves were repaired to original condition. The top spires were rebuilt to the same configuration as the originals. All of the interior features were restored to their original condition including paint schemes. The original color of the exterior wood siding was red with white trim and this paint scheme was used to repaint the house.

Another recommendation was to remove all the interior modifications and return everything to original condition. By following this recommendation, the beautiful curved library archway was discovered and preserved. The Historical Society attempted to follow every recommendation made by the consultant.

On the exterior of the house, the unique exterior drop pendant bargeboards, finial mini spires, horizontal bargeboards, and window hoods had been relatively well maintained. Exact duplicates of some of the finial mini spires were made to replace some of the originals that had rotted excessively.

Because the Historical Society followed the recommendations of the restoration consultant, the interior of the house largely retains the feeling and association of an earlier era through the retention of the original floor plan and many finishes which date from the period of significance.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1855; ca. 1865

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation** (if applicable)

**Architect/Builder**

Zelus H. Nettleton

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Strevell House is also significant at the local level of significance under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The house embodies the distinct architectural characteristics of the Carpenter Gothic style, and it is an excellent example of a Central Illinois home built before the Civil War. The Strevell House stands out because of the employment and retention of many of the style's key attributes and for its historic integrity. The period of significance is associated with the house as it assumed its current form, beginning with date of construction in 1855 when the house was built by Zelus Nettleton, and ca. 1865, when Jason Strevell built the addition.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **History of Pontiac**

Prior to the European settlers arriving in Livingston County, the area was inhabited at different times by the Potawatomi, Kickapoo, Ottawa, and Illini Native American tribes. In 1828, the Kickapoo tribe moved from Leroy, Illinois, to a site three miles south of Fairbury. Two important Native American foot trails met where the Kickapoo village was located south of Fairbury. The Sauk and Kickapoo trail ran southeast from Ottawa to Danville. South of Fairbury, the Kickapoo trail branched off from the main course and ran east to Indiana.

In 1830, the Kickapoo tribe moved ten miles east to what was later named Oliver's Grove three miles south of Chatsworth. The tribe likely chose to move east so the village would still be located on the Kickapoo trail to Indiana. About 650 members of the Kickapoo tribe lived in 97 wigwams with a council house.

In the 1830s, new settlers assumed that valuable land had trees on it and was near a creek or river. Because Livingston County was mostly swamp with few trees and waterways, it was one of the last counties in Illinois to be settled. In 1830, the Valentine Darnall family became the first white settlers in Livingston County. Mr. Valentine chose timber land on Indian Creek south of Fairbury to make his farm. Because Mr. Darnall arrived at about the same time the Kickapoo were moving to Chatsworth, he had interactions with the tribe. The Kickapoo gave the Darnall family some beans they had grown. These beans helped the Darnall family survive the terrible winter of 1830-1831.

In 1832, the McDowell family settled on timber land on Indian Creek north of Fairbury. Franklin Oliver also arrived in 1832 and he settled on timber and a creek three miles south of Chatsworth. Franklin Oliver inadvertently camped in the Kickapoo village. Mr. Franklin became friends with the Kickapoo tribe living near him. When the Black Hawk War broke out, the Kickapoo Chief told Mr. Franklin he could stay on his farm, but the other settlers should temporarily move to Indiana until the war was over. About a dozen settlers moved back to Indiana until the war was over. When the Black Hawk War ended in 1832, this Kickapoo tribe was forced to leave the state of Illinois. Today, branches of the Kickapoo tribe live in Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Mexico.

Very few additional settlers came to Livingston County. In 1837, Livingston County was formed with Pontiac being designated as the county seat of government. Pontiac was named after Chief Pontiac (1714-1769) from the Ottawa tribe. Chief Pontiac led Native American forces against the British in several battles. He was assassinated in 1769 near Cahokia by a Peoria tribe warrior.



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Congress passed the 1850 Script Act which created a stampede of new settlers to Livingston County. Congress granted military veterans free land for their previous military service. Most of these soldiers fought in the War of 1812 and had no interest in moving to the swampland of Livingston County. These veterans sold their land rights for about 30 cents an acre, well below the official federal government price of \$2.50 per acre. From about 1853 until 1860, most of the land in Livingston County was claimed.

This flood of new settlers made Pontiac a booming town. In 1853, Zelus H. Nettleton, a carpenter, moved his family from Constantine, Michigan, to Pontiac. In Constantine, Zelus built two houses with very distinct architectural features. In 1847, he built a Greek Revival home at 260 South Washington Street that is National Register property 100006782. Zelus also built a Carpenter Gothic style home at 185 West Third Street.

### **Strevell House History and Occupants**

Nettleton bought the southeast corner of Block 27 in Pontiac in 1855. He then constructed a house at 401 W. Livingston in Pontiac that has many of the same Carpenter Gothic style features of the house he built in Constantine, Michigan. Zelus Nettleton, a carpenter, utilized classic Carpenter Gothic features including unique drop pendant bargeboards, horizontal bargeboards, finial mini spires, and window hoods.

Mr. Nettleton died in 1857 and his widow married Jason W. Strevell in 1858. It is believed that Mr. Strevell added the east side of the home. All of the Carpenter Gothic features used on the original west side of the house were copied to the east side of the house. The steep gabled peak on the front facade for the east side was slightly offset to give the finished house an asymmetrical appearance. Because all the Carpenter Gothic features were copied exactly on the east side addition, the architectural integrity of the original house was preserved. The 1869 Bird's eye view of Pontiac suggest the current footprint with existing additions was achieved between 1855 when Zelus Nettleton bought the lot and the 1869 Bird's eye view of Pontiac.

Jason W. Strevell, moved to Pontiac in 1855. In 1856, the village of Pontiac was incorporated and both Zelus Nettleton and Jason Strevell were elected to be members of the first Pontiac Board of Trustees. Jason Strevell practice law and ran one of the first businesses in Pontiac, a hardware store. Mr. Nettleton and Mr. Strevell helped Pontiac establish its first cemetery, the Southside Cemetery. Unfortunately, Zelus Nettleton died in 1857. Jason Strevell married his widow in 1858 and moved into her home at 401 West Livingston Street. Mr. Strevell also significantly enlarged the house to accommodate his family of three children.

Mr. Strevell joined the Young Men's Literary Association of Pontiac. This group tried at least twice to have Abraham Lincoln come to Pontiac and be a guest speaker. Mr. Lincoln finally agreed to travel to Pontiac on January 27, 1860, and deliver a lecture at the Presbyterian Church. Since Mr. Lincoln's train to Bloomington did not leave until 1 a.m., Mr. Strevell invited him to spend the afternoon and evening at his home at 401 West Livingston Street. During the course of that evening, Mr. Strevell measured Mr. Lincoln's height as six feet four inches in the doorway of his home. Jason Strevell and Abraham Lincoln became life-long friends after this experience.

Mr. Strevell then attended the 1860 Decatur Republican State Wigwam Convention that supported Lincoln as the state's for the presidential candidate at the national convention. After Mr. Lincoln became President, he appointed him to serve at the Customs House in New Orleans. Mr. Strevell served briefly in New Orleans but returned to Pontiac because of the annual yellow fever epidemics in New Orleans. Mr. Lincoln invited Mr. and Mrs. Strevell to visit him at his home in Washington, but they never took Mr. Lincoln up on his offer.

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Jason Strevell was then elected to serve two terms in the Illinois House of Representatives. He then served one term in the Illinois State Senate. Mr. Strevell's most important legislative accomplishment was selecting Pontiac as the location of the new Boy's State Reformatory. That institution later became the Pontiac Correctional Center and has been Pontiac's largest employer for over 150 years.

In 1876, Mr. Strevell was selected to be a member of the Electoral College for the 1876 presidential election, one of the most contentious presidential elections in U.S. history. In 1879, the Strevell family moved to Miles City, Montana. Mr. Strevell became a Montana Probate Judge in 1888 and also created many business enterprises. Mr. Strevell died in Miles City in 1903. Mr. Strevell had a net worth of \$6.24 million in today's dollars.

## Architecture

### Gothic Revival Style 1830 to 1860

The Gothic Revival style is part of the mid-19th century picturesque and romantic movement in architecture, reflecting the public's taste for buildings inspired by medieval design. This was a real departure from the previously popular styles that drew inspiration from the classical forms of ancient Greece and Rome. While distinctly different, both the Gothic Revival style and the Greek Revival style looked to the past, and both remained popular throughout the mid 19th century. The Gothic Revival style in America was advanced by architects Alexander Jackson Davis and especially Andrew Jackson Downing, authors of influential house plan books, *Rural Residences* (1837), *Cottage Residences* (1842), and *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850). This style was promoted as an appropriate design for rural settings, with its complex and irregular shapes and forms fitting well into the natural landscape. Thus, the Gothic Revival style was often chosen for country homes and houses in rural or small town settings.

The most commonly identifiable feature of the Gothic Revival style is the pointed arch, used for windows, doors, and decorative elements like porches, dormers, or roof gables. Other characteristic details include steeply pitched roofs and front facing gables with delicate wooden trim called bargeboards. This distinctive incised wooden trim is often referred to as "gingerbread" and is the feature most associated with this style. Gothic Revival style buildings often have porches with decorative turned posts or slender columns, with flattened arches or side brackets connecting the posts.

### Carpenter Gothic

The Carpenter Gothic style is a distinctive variation of the Gothic Revival style featuring vertical board and batten wooden siding, pointed arches and incised wooden trim. The name comes from the extensive use of decorative wood elements on the exterior.

Carpenter Gothic, also sometimes called Carpenter's Gothic or Rural Gothic, is a North American architectural style-designation for an application of Gothic Revival architectural detailing and picturesque massing applied to wooden structures built by house-carpenters. The abundance of North American timber and the carpenter-built vernacular architectures based upon it made a picturesque improvisation upon Gothic a natural evolution. Carpenter Gothic improvises upon features that were carved in stone in authentic Gothic architecture, whether original or in more scholarly revival styles; however, in the absence of the restraining influence of genuine Gothic structures, the style was freed to improvise and emphasize charm and quaintness rather than fidelity to received models. The genre received its impetus from the publication by Alexander Jackson Davis of *Rural Residences* and from detailed plans and elevations in publications by Andrew Jackson Downing.

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Carpenter Gothic houses and small churches became common in North America in the late nineteenth century. Additionally during this time, Protestant followers were building many Carpenter Gothic churches throughout the midwest, northeast, and some areas in the south of the US. This style is apart of the Gothic Revival movement. For example. these structures adapted Gothic elements, such as pointed arches, steep gables, and towers, to traditional American light-frame construction. The invention of the scroll saw and mass-produced wood moldings allowed a few of these structures to mimic the florid fenestration of the High Gothic. But in most cases, Carpenter Gothic buildings were relatively unadorned, retaining only the basic elements of pointed-arch windows and steep gables. Probably the best known example of Carpenter Gothic is the house in Eldon, Iowa, that Grant Wood used for the background of his famous painting American Gothic.

Carpenter Gothic is largely confined to small domestic buildings and outbuildings and small churches. It is characterized by its profusion of jig-sawn details, whose craftsmen-designers were freed to experiment with elaborate forms by the invention of the steam-powered scroll saw. A common but not necessary feature is board and batten siding. Other common features include decorative bargeboards, gingerbread trim, pointed-arched windows, wheel window, one-story veranda, and steep central gable.

Being apart of the Gothic Revival, the ornamentation in Carpenter Gothic is much more eclectic, it uses more superficial and obvious motifs. Specifically, Carpenter Gothic ornamentation, referred to as gingerbread, is not limited to use on wooden structures but has been used successfully on other structures especially Gothic Revival brick houses such as the Warren House in a historic district in Newburgh, New York, which is said to epitomize the work of Andrew Jackson Downing, but was actually done by his one-time partner, Calvert Vaux.

By definition, all Carpenter Gothic houses are considered a sub-set of the Gothic Revival architectural style. Also by definition, not all Gothic Revival houses are considered Carpenter Gothic style because they may lack some of the unique features that define the Carpenter Gothic style.

### **Comparable examples -- Jones House**

The 1850s were a building boom period in Pontiac. Many homes were built using the popular Gothic Revival style architecture. Unfortunately, only one example of this style survives in Pontiac. The Jones House, at 314 East Madison Street, is an excellent example of brick Gothic Revival style home. This 1858 home is the oldest brick home in Pontiac. The Jones House is National Register property number 78001163.

### **Conclusion**

The Strevell House is the only surviving example of a wood frame Carpenter Gothic style home in Livingston County. It was built with all the distinctive exterior features that define a Carpenter Gothic style house including an asymmetrical facade, wood siding, drop pendant bargeboards, horizontal bargeboards, finial mini spires, and window hoods. The house is well-known to the public because of its red siding and white ornamental trim paint scheme. The Strevell House is the only structure remaining in Livingston County that has direct ties to Abraham Lincoln.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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“*Photo Of Strevell House Circa 1940s With Richard Tallman In The Photo*”, Pontiac, Illinois, Accessed October 12, 2022, at <https://tinyurl.com/4rcbzhcu>.

Strevell House  
Name of Property

Livingston County, Illinois  
County and State

*Pontiac Home Has Bit of Lincoln Lore: Book by Former Resident Recalls Lost Lecture*, Pantagraph, February 13, 1954, Accessed October 12, 2022, at <https://tinyurl.com/2p9md3mn>.

Sanborn Map & Publishing Company. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Pontiac, Illinois. 1884-1932. Accessed October 12, 2022, at <https://tinyurl.com/223ud93m>.

*“Selected Pages From Complete Title/Abstract For Land That 401 West Livingston House Is Situated in Pontiac, Illinois”*, Accessed October 12, 2022, at <https://tinyurl.com/2ft595kc>.

Strevell, Charles Nettleton, *As I Recall Them*, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1943.

Strevell, Charles Nettleton, Chapter One excerpted from *As I Recall Them*, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1943, Accessed October 12, 2022, at <https://tinyurl.com/4va963an>.

Strevell, Charles Nettleton, *Story of the Strevell Museum*, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1940.

United States Censuses, 1850-1880. Accessed through Ancestry.com.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

Strevell House  
Name of Property

Livingston County, Illinois  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Less than one

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>40.882199°</u> Latitude	<u>-88.632234°</u> Longitude	3	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude
2	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude	4	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

LOT 80 X 130.9 E80' S130.9' BLK 27 CITY OF PONTIAC PIN NO. 15 22 258 014

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Boundary includes the house and the property historically associated with it.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Dale C. Maley – President date Oct 10, 2022  
organization Livingston County Historical Society telephone 815-692-6633  
street & number 115 West Howard Street email DaleMaley@gmail.com  
city or town Pontiac state IL zip code 61739

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

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**Photographs:**

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Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

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<b>Name of Property:</b>	<b>Strevell House</b>		
<b>City or Vicinity:</b>	<b>Pontiac</b>		
<b>County:</b>	<b>Livingston</b>	<b>State:</b>	<b>Illinois</b>
<b>Photographer:</b>	<b>Dale C. Maley</b>		
<b>Date Photographed:</b>	<b>September 13, 2022</b>		

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0001

Front facade viewed from West Livingston Street, view looking north.

1 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0002

Front facade viewed from West Livingston Street, view looking northeast.

2 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0003

North and west elevations viewed from northwest corner of lot, view looking southeast.

3 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0004

North elevation viewed from northeast corner of lot, view looking southwest.

4 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0005

East elevation viewed from North Oak Street, view looking southwest.

5 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0006

South and east elevations viewed from the intersection of West Livingston and North Oak, view looking northwest.

6 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0007

Front door viewed from brick sidewalk, view looking north.

7 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0008

Staircase to second story viewed from front porch, view looking north.

8 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0009

Hallway parallel to stairs viewed from library to dining room hallway, view looking south.

9 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0010

Southeast parlor and adjoining library viewed from southwest parlor door, view looking northeast.

10 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0011

Southeast parlor viewed from library, view looking southwest.

11 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0012

Southeast parlor viewed from west side of room, view looking southeast.

12 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0013

Library viewed from center of parlor, view looking north.

13 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0014

Dining room viewed from south end, view looking north.

14 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0015

Dining room west wall viewed from south end, view looking northwest.

15 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0016

Dining room south wall viewed from north end, view looking south.

15 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0017

Southwest corner of kitchen viewed from kitchen to bathroom door, view looking southwest.

17 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0018

Southeast corner of kitchen viewed from northwest corner, view looking southeast.

18 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0019

North wall of kitchen viewed from south side of kitchen, view looking north.

19 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0020

East and north walls of bathroom viewed from bathroom door, view looking north.

20 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0021

Stair landing viewed from lower staircase, view looking north.

21 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0022

Second floor hallway viewed from north end, view looking south.

22 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0023

Second floor northeast bedroom viewed from door, view looking east.

23 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0024

South wall of second floor northeast bedroom viewed from north side of room, view looking south.

24 of 29



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0025

East wall of second floor southeast bedroom viewed from doorway, view looking east.

25 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0026

East and north walls of second floor southeast bedroom viewed from doorway, view looking northeast.

26 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0027

West wall of second story southwest bedroom viewed from hallway, view looking west.

27 of 29

IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0028

North wall of second story southwest bedroom viewed from southeast corner of room, view looking northwest.

28 of 29

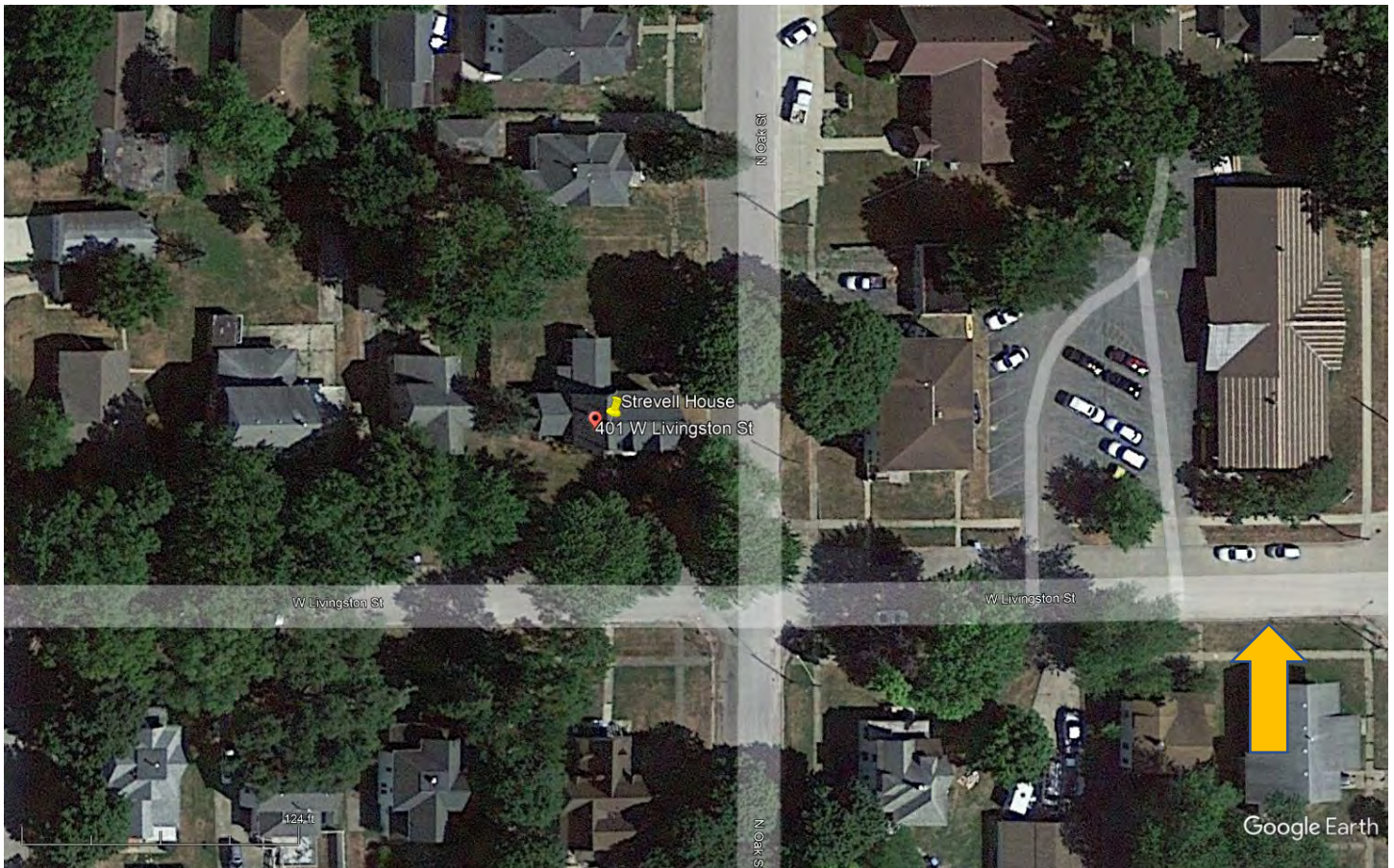
IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0029

South wall of second story southwest bedroom viewed from northeast corner of room, view looking southwest.

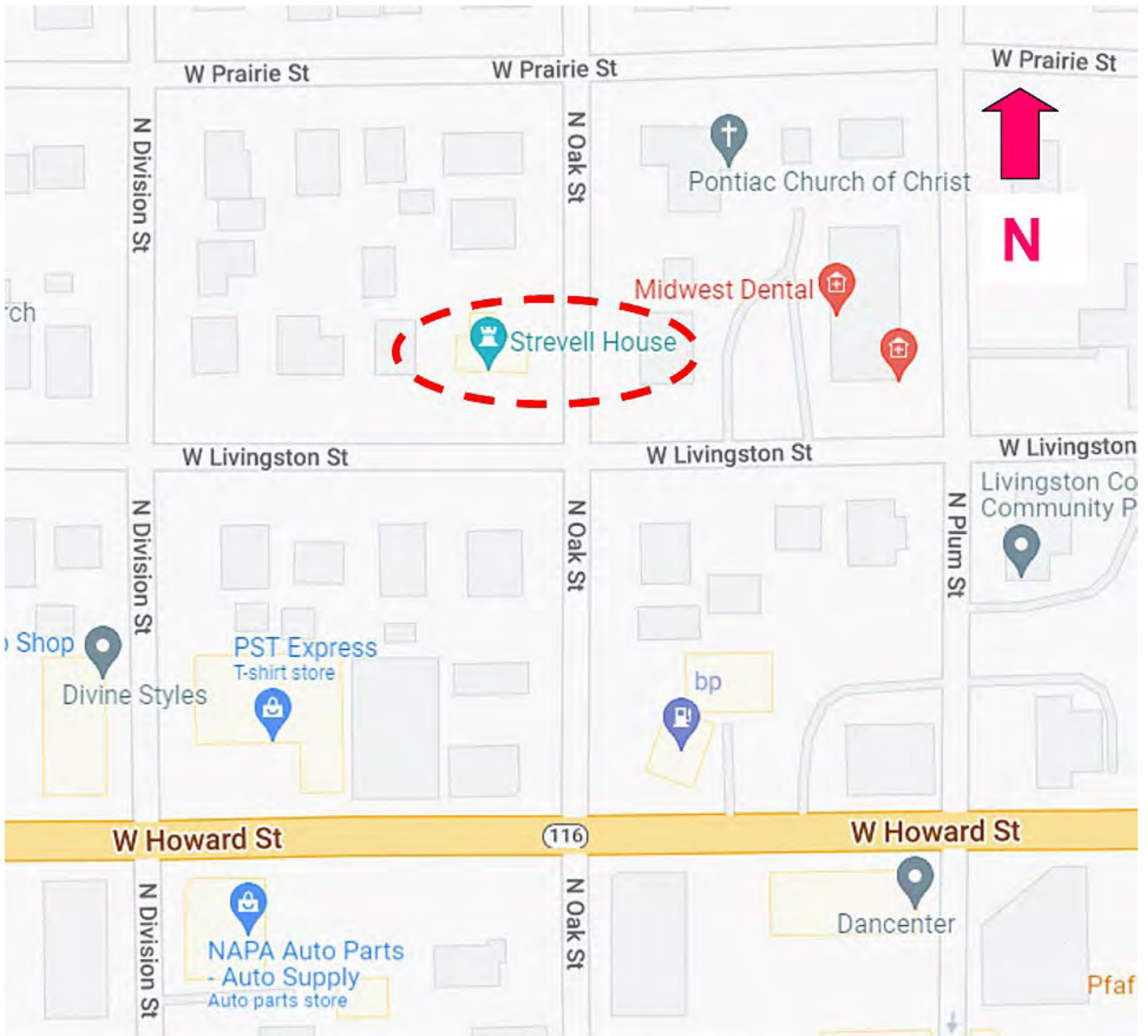
29 of 29

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

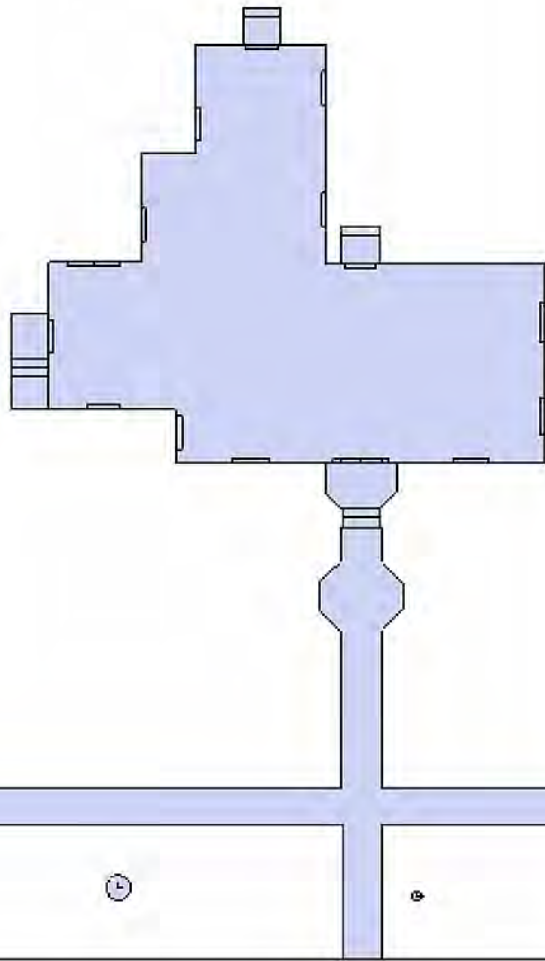


**Strevell House**  
**401 West Livingston Street**  
**Pontiac, Livingston County**  
GIS Coordinates    Latitude: 40.882199°  
                                    Longitude: -88.632234°



Strevell House – 401 W. Livingston, Pontiac

Strevell House location on  
the lot at 401 W. Livingston  
Street, Pontiac, IL



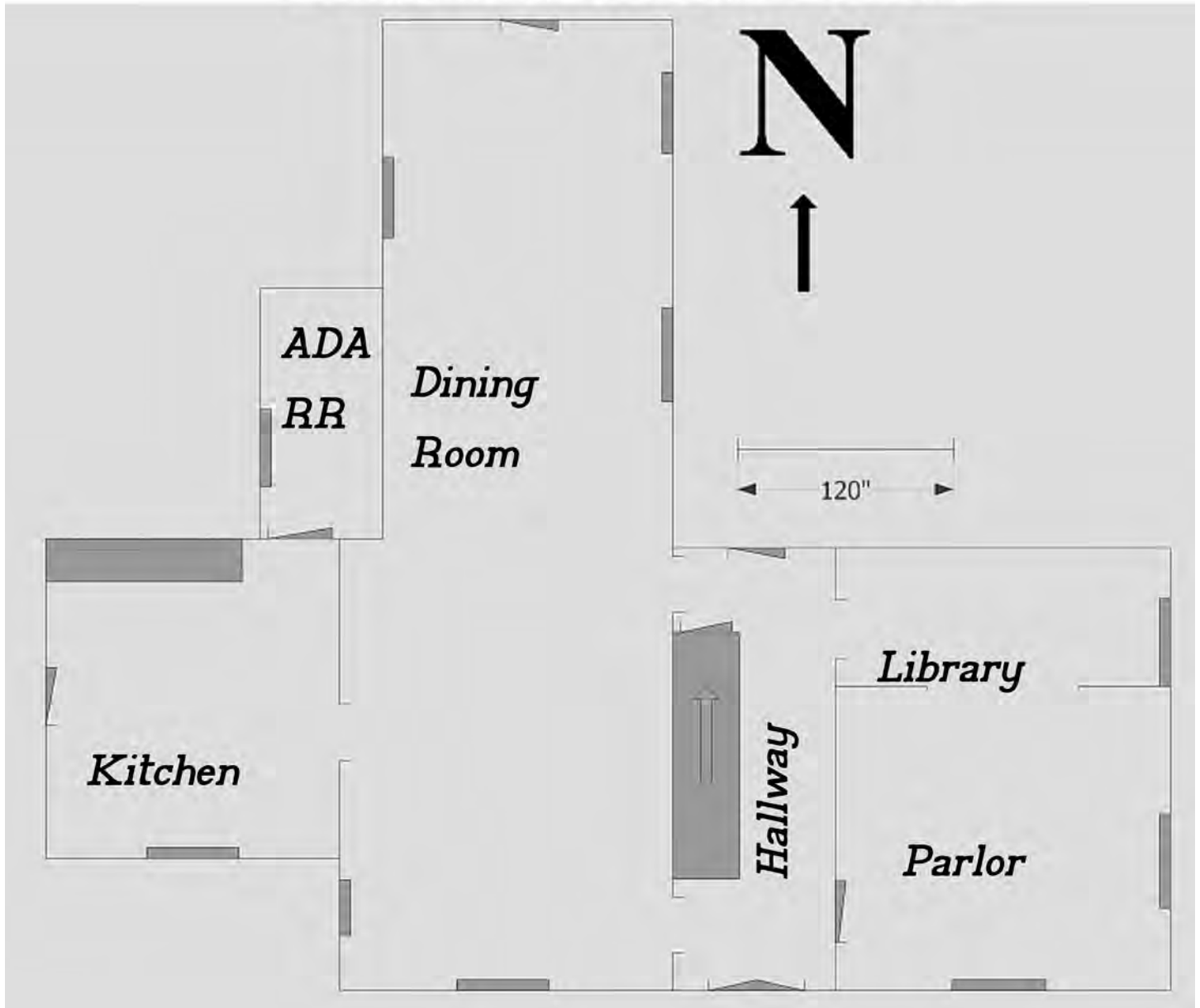
North Oak Street

150'

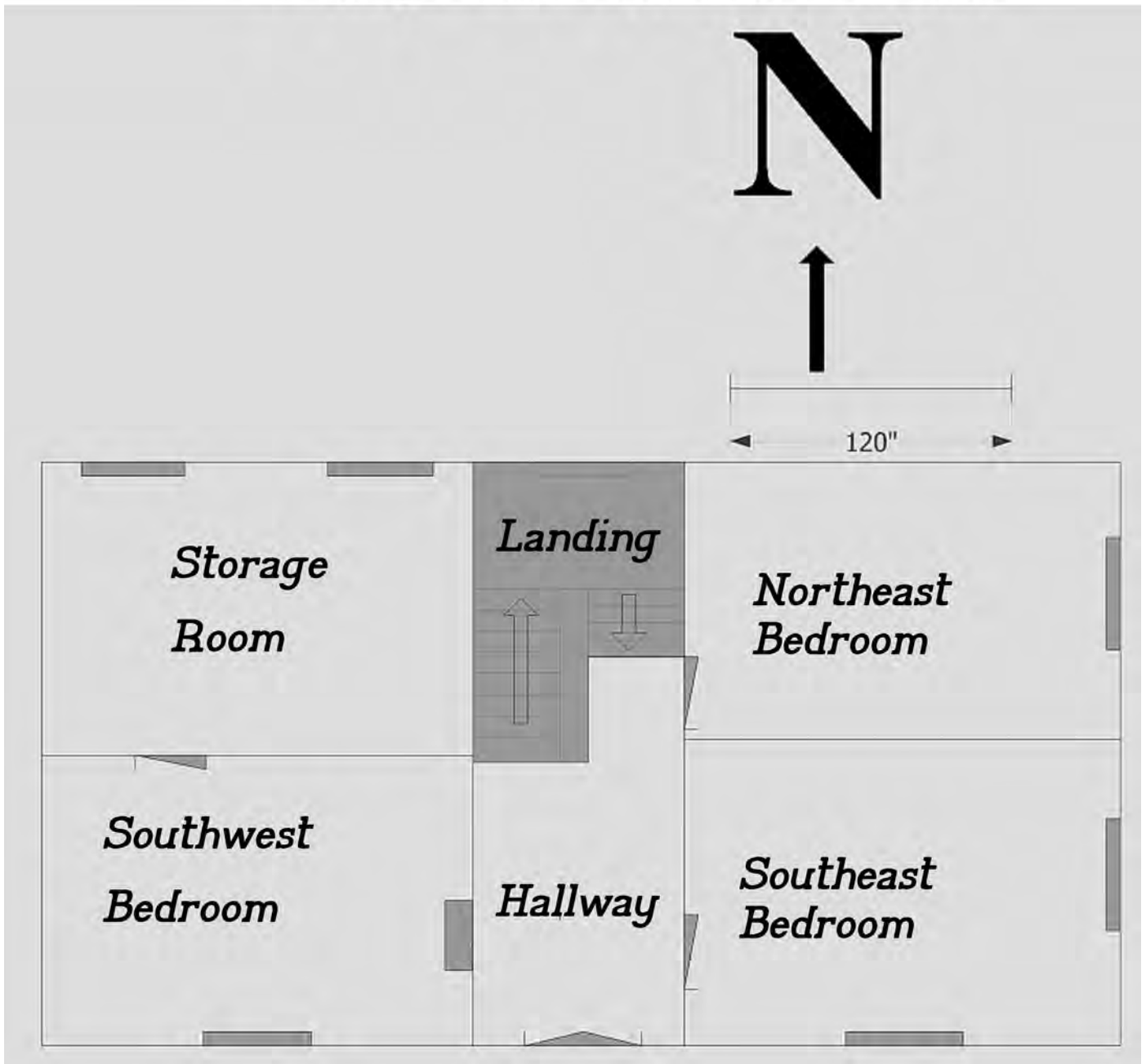
West Livingston Street

100'

**Strevell House**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Story Interior Floor Plan – To Scale**



**Strevell House**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Story Interior Floor Plan – To Scale**





IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0001



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0002





IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0003



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0004



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0005



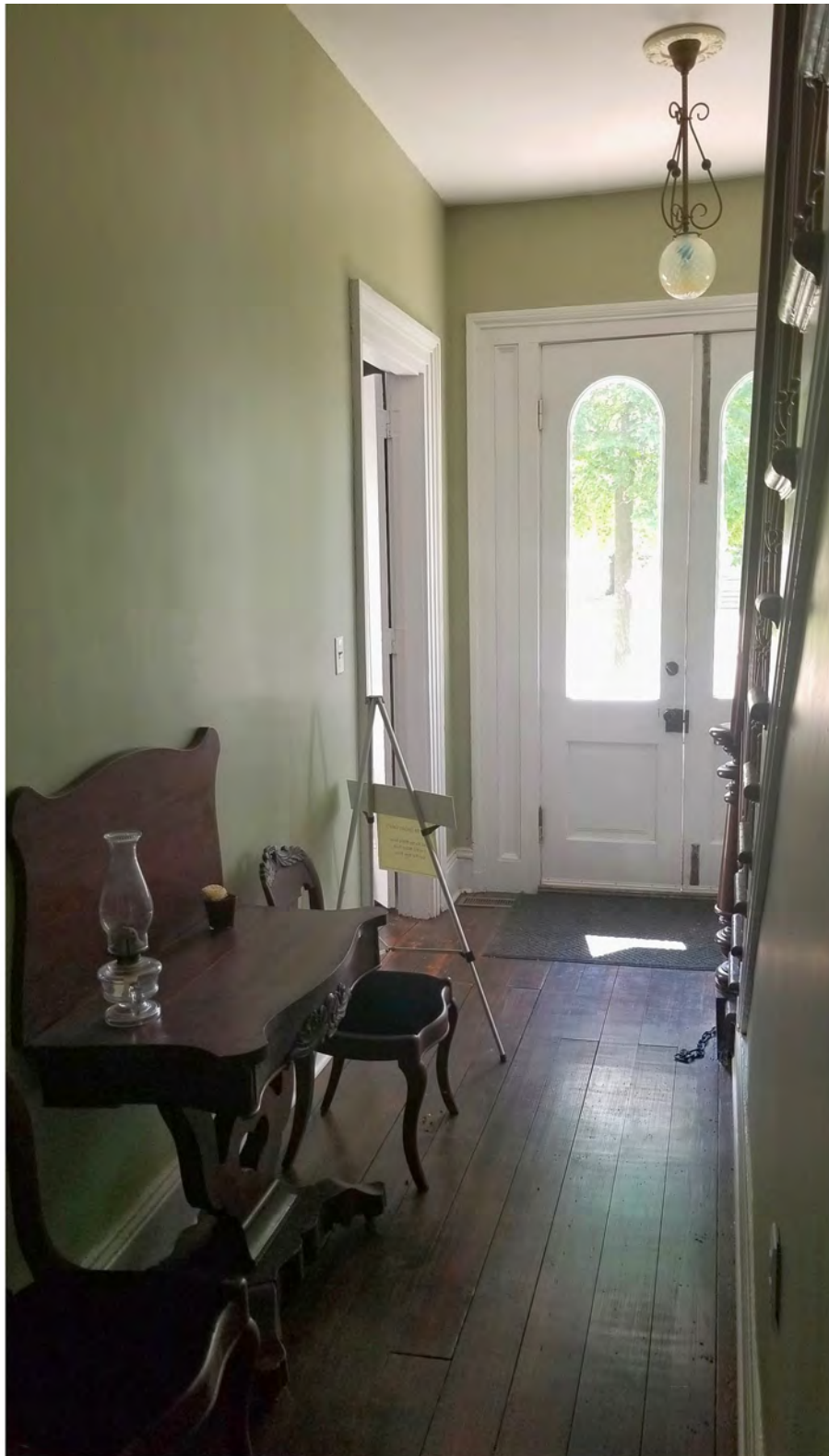
IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0006



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0007



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0008



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0009



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0010





IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0011



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0012



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0013



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0014



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0015



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0016



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0017



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0018

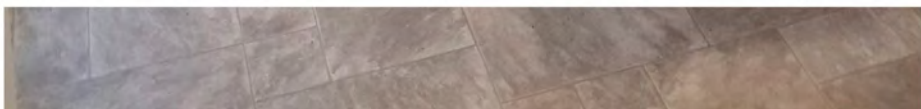




IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0019

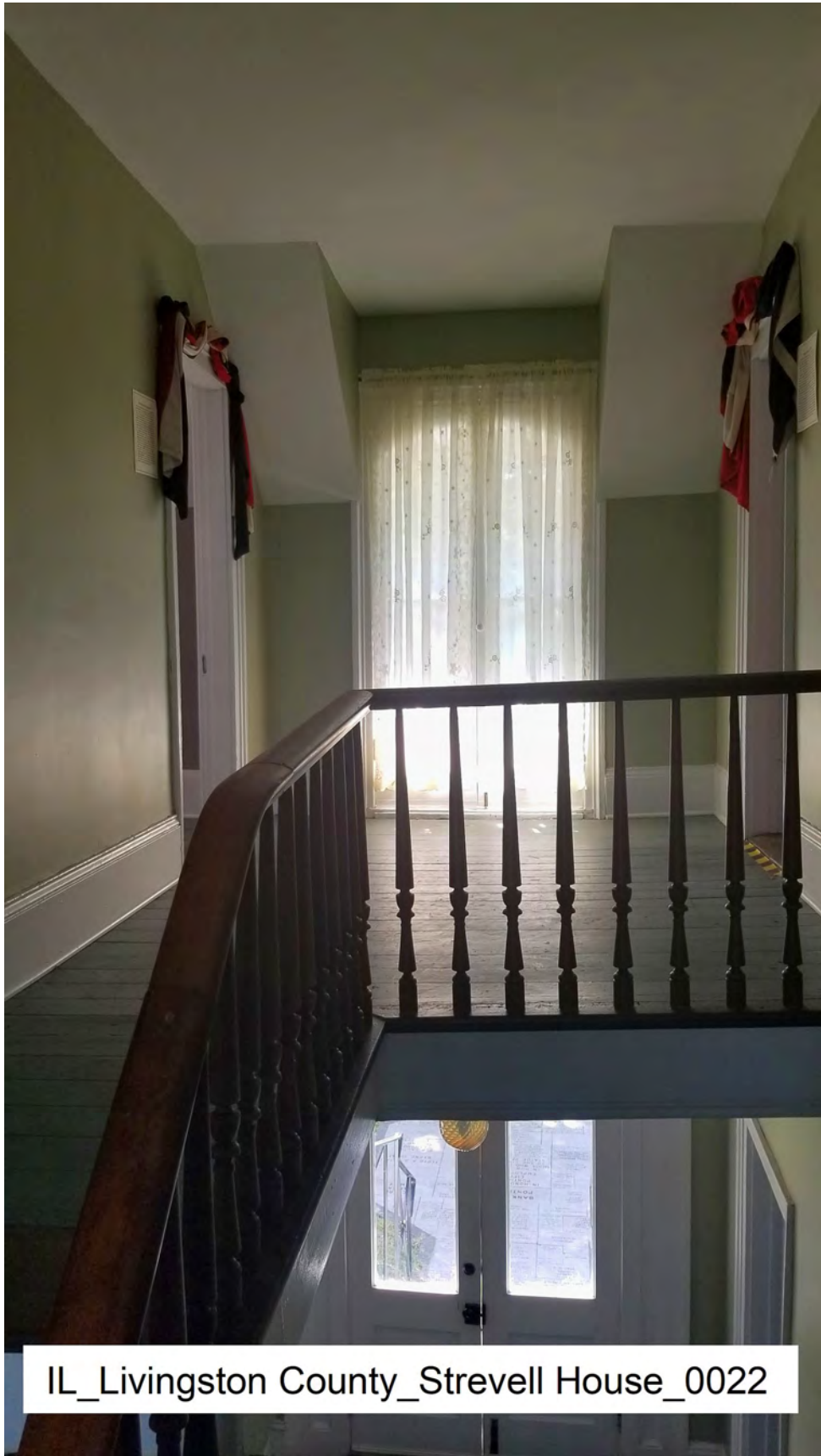


IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0020

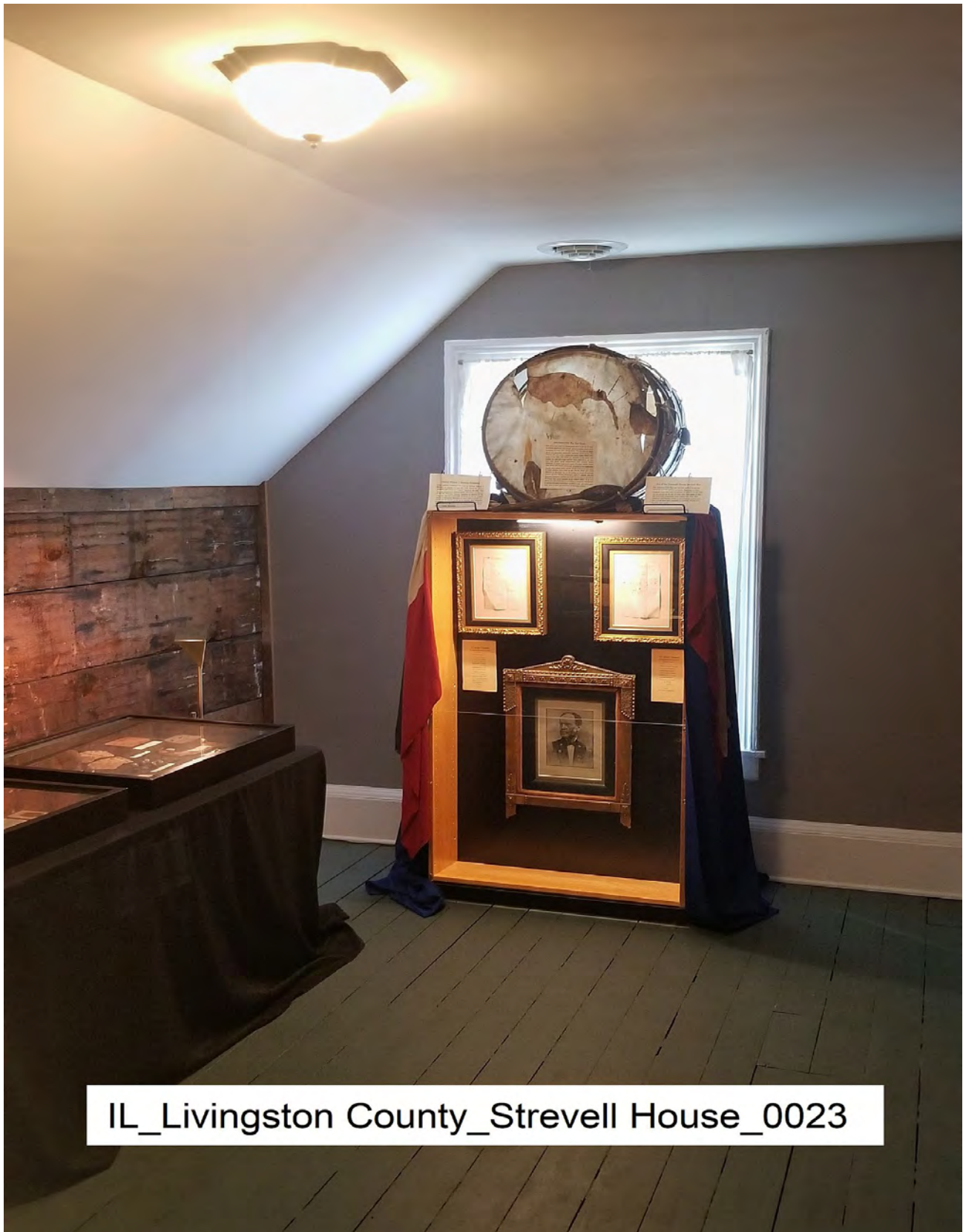




IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0021



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0022



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0023



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0024



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0025







IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0027



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0028



IL\_Livingston County\_Strevell House\_0029