

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bishop Hill Colony

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bishop Hill

— VICINITY OF
CODE

12

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

17

STATE

Illinois 61419

COUNTY

Henry

CODE

073

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

N/A (See Attachment A for List of Owners)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

— VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office, Henry County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Illinois 61238

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

National Register of Historic Places

DATE

1970

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of the Interior, National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D. C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>See Below</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Introduction. The proposed Bishop Hill Landmark District includes sites, structures and objects integral to the history of the Bishop Hill Colony, a communal settlement established in 1846 by religious dissidents who emigrated from Sweden to establish a new way of life on the Illinois prairie. The District includes approximately 200 acres in the Village of Bishop Hill, Illinois, and its immediate surroundings. The District comprises approximately fifty percent of the village as it was platted in 1866, although it includes nearly eighty percent of the developed town.

Within the District are twenty-one structures built by the Colony (1846-1861), thirteen of which are major buildings retaining a high degree of historic integrity. Fourteen buildings in the District date from the period following the formal dissolution of the colony, during which the transition occurred from collective to individual ownership and production (1862-1870). Seven of these structures retain at least exterior integrity. Also included in the District are sites on the outskirts of the village related to colony industry. Some fifty-five commercial and residential structures built after 1870 are located within the District.

Bishop Hill Colony buildings reflect the religious and communal life of the colonists. The architecture expresses both vernacular building traditions and the Greek Revival style. Interiors display skilled craftsmanship in construction detail and application of traditional decorative arts.

A wealth of Bishop Hill Colony records and documents, Colony-manufactured objects and implements, and the collection of Olof Krans' oil paintings of colony life and personages which remain in Bishop Hill constitute a material record of the historic period.

The District generally retains a high degree of integrity in its structures, scene and archeological resource. Contemporary uses of historic structures are compatible with the District and, in many cases, enhance preservation. An existing Historic District ordinance (1968) controls exterior modifications of buildings and new development in the current National Register Historic District.

District Overview. The site selected by the Swedish colonists in 1846 is situated on a hill surrounded by rolling prairie and bounded by the Edwards River on the north. The town was laid out around a public square on which the major colony buildings faced. Between 1846 and 1861 the colony erected nineteen large structures as well as some thirty smaller residences, barns, wash houses, storage facilities and other outbuildings. Thirteen of the major structures remain around the square, including the church, school, hospital, hotel, administrative and residence buildings and commercial/industrial structures. Ten additional colony structures

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1846-1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Statement of Significance. The proposed Bishop Hill National Historic Landmark District has outstanding value for interpreting the broad national themes of immigration and ethnic heritage; the District offers significant contributions to the history of communitarian societies in nineteenth century America, as well. The integrity of setting, architecture, archeological resource, material culture and living cultural traditions with the District invests the collective entity with exceptional historical significance. Of secondary importance, but also significant, is the architecture of Bishop Hill, both in its vernacular and Greek Revival expressions. Further, the extensive archeological remains, thousands of artifacts and vast collection of colony papers provide a valuable resource for documenting agricultural, commercial and industrial practices of the 1846-60 period in the American mid-west.

Origins and Historical Development of the District. The Bishop Hill Colony was founded on the western Illinois prairie in 1846 by a group of Swedish religious dissenters who left their homeland to escape persecution at the hands of the state Lutheran Church. Their leader, Erik Jansson, proclaimed that the Bible was the only true book, that holiness was attainable on earth and that he, Jansson, was a prophet raised up by God to continue the work of Jesus in this world. Although a groundswell of pietism was emerging in Sweden in the early 1840's, Jansson's open disregard for the ordinances of the Church, his fiery charismatic preaching and radical acts--including book-burnings-- led to repeated arrests and imprisonments and, finally, to the decision to emigrate and establish a New Jerusalem in America. Over the next few years some 1200 Jansonnists would depart for Bishop Hill.

In 1846 four hundred Swedes, primarily from the rural district of Halsingland, pooled their financial resources and followed Erik Jansson to Henry County, Illinois. An advance party had purchased eighty acres of land and a log cabin on a wooded tract known as Red Oak Grove. By the end of the year, 696 additional acres had been acquired, including the town site of Bishop Hill--named for Jansson's home parish, Biskop-skulla. Eventually the colony would own 11,000 acres of land and reach a population of 800 - 1,000. (Many who arrived at Bishop Hill died in the early years or left to choose another way of life.)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ander, O. Fritiof. "Reflections on the Causes of Emigration from Sweden." In Clipper Ship and Covered Wagon: Essays from the Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly, edited by H. Arnold Barton. New York: Arno Press, 1979, pp. 143-54.

See Continuation, Page 26

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 150

UTM REFERENCES Not available. See below for latitude and longitude coordinates.

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	41° 12' 20"	90° 7' 24"
NE	41° 12' 20"	90° 6' 54"
SE	41° 11' 54"	90° 6' 54"
SW	41° 11' 54"	90° 7' 24"

The proposed Bishop Hill National Landmark District may be described as follows:
See Continuation, Page 31

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
None.			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kathleen Lidfors - Historian

1 February 1984

ORGANIZATION

DATE

National Park Service - Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Route 1, Box 4

715-779-3397

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Bayfield

Wisconsin 54814

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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PAGE

1

(2) Historic American Buildings Survey
Illinois Survey 169
Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

(3) American Index of Design
National Gallery of Art
Washington, D. C.

(See Attachment B for List of Reference Numbers)

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are located within the proposed District. The sites of six major colony buildings destroyed since 1876 are essentially undisturbed: the major colony residence, bakery/brewery, two mills, the tannery and brickyard (Map A).

Five agricultural "outposts" were maintained by the colony at the far reaches of their 12,000 acres of land. Two of the outposts have been destroyed; one remains in altered form; two have been moved within the proposed District to effect their preservation. Two barns also have been moved into Bishop Hill: a colony barn which had been located on private land nearby and a later barn representative of a colony type. (Both are sited where barns previously stood.)

Contemporary Bishop Hill bears the stamp of the Colony plan and scale. The public square remains a park planted with grass and shade trees and enclosed by a picket fence. Tree-lined streets create vistas along the square and front the facades of the large colony buildings. Many of the plantings remain from the 1850s. The facade lines on the south and west of the square are virtually unchanged from the colony period. The blacksmith shop, carpenter and paint shop and "Steeple Building" face the east side of the park; the colony store, administration building, apartment building and Bjorklund Hotel line the west side. No post-colony buildings intrude; the visual rhythm and scale of the historic scene are preserved.

On the north side of the square the colony Church is visible behind three late nineteenth century shops which now face the park. (Interestingly, the Church faces north, away from the square.) Of the three shops, only one constitutes an intrusion; an 1874 storefront now used as a tavern flaunts a facade inappropriate to the District in color and materials, though it has undergone little structural change. In the church yard itself stands a colony residence built as a Boys' House and now a private home. Adjacent to the church yard, but also on the north side of the square, is a small frame town hall (1906) and the baseball diamond, a small grassy field well below the grade of the street and the park. Again, tall trees line the margins and no intrusions mar the streetscape. The change from the historic scene lies in absence; the colony bakery and brewery building stood here, as did Big Brick, the main colony residence.

One block off the square to the west and southwest stand the colony hospital and school. Original sight lines are unimpeded from the square to the school; however, a large Queen Anne style residence was constructed

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between the park and the hospital in the 1890's, partially obstructing the hospital view. Turn-of-the-century dwellings stand on either side of the hospital, although no recent intrusions have appeared.

The 1912 herring-bone brick walks have been maintained around the public square and on Bishop Hill Street; colony-period board walkways in front of the Church have been restored.

The main cross streets reflect the character of the village upon the dissolution of the colony and division of property. Thirty percent of the existing structures in the blocks adjacent to the main cluster of colony buildings were constructed 1862 - 1870 during the years of individual property assignments. Another forty percent were constructed between 1870 (when Bishop Hill was chartered as a village) and 1900. Within the proposed District, only ten buildings have been constructed since 1930, five of which were built under the guidelines of the Bishop Hill Historic District ordinance.

The village retains to a high degree the scale and density of its historically significant period. (A steady decline in population from 1861 to 1960 helps to account for this.) Lots are large; buildings well-spaced. From virtually any point near the center of town one can glimpse prairie fields beyond. The visual and physical flow the colonists would have experienced between the agricultural lands and the communal heart of the colony is present today. A typical view presents a loose weave of nineteenth century clapboard dwellings interspersed with coal and cob houses, weathered privies, perhaps a small barn, an edge of picket or board fence, a patch of garden, and, in the distance, the large blue silos of a modern prairie farm. The many platted but undeveloped alleys and streets of Bishop Hill create a warp and woof of green space defining the loose clusters of buildings. Although the pattern unravels at the edge of town, dissolving into fields, it is firmly fixed at the square in the solid regularity of the original colony structures.

Colony history can still be traced in the landscape surrounding Bishop Hill. Several acres of the Red Oak Grove which sheltered the colonists during their first winter still stand. A small cemetery and monument (1882) erected to the colonists who died of the early hardships remain within the grove. Traces of the miles of sod fence constructed by the colonists are visible in open fields. Vistas from the original outpost sites are unimpeded by suburban development, and the grain elevator, testimony to early Bishop Hill commerce, looms on an unbroken horizon. The oxpojke trail along which the colony ox boys herded cattle may be

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walked by today's visitor from the steam mill site, along the Edwards River, past the brickyard ruins and out to the Red Oak Grove.

The land use pattern and visual character of the countryside have been shaped by the colony. In contrast to the vast acreages under a single farmer's cultivation elsewhere in the area, the 12,000 acres once controlled by Bishop Hill Colony retain their division into 160 acre tracts. The hills are dotted with small farmsteads, many owned by descendants of the Colony, and some bearing strong marks of their Swedish vernacular origins. Thus, the proposed Landmark District exists in a landscape setting which not only evokes but bears extensive physical evidence of the historic past.

Architecture. The buildings within the proposed District may be divided into three categories: (1) Bishop Hill Colony, 1846-1861; (2) Early Post-Colony, 1862-1870; (3) Village of Bishop Hill, 1871-present.

(1) Existing Bishop Hill Colony buildings include a wide spectrum of types: multiple residence dormitory or apartment buildings; conventional dwellings; church; school; hospital; hotel; structures housing cottage industries, trades and commerce; barns; outbuildings.

Architectural styles represented in the remaining colony buildings range from a variety of vernacular approaches to well-articulated Greek Revival. However, Greek Revival features are present in a number of essentially vernacular structures, while aspects of even the purest Greek Revival buildings reveal their Swedish heritage. In plan, many Colony structures are derived from the traditional Swedish parstuga form. A tendency noted in Sweden to repeat the basic parstuga unit in long rectangular structures is evident in Bishop Hill until at least 1855. From 1855 to 1861 Greek Revival influence was strongly expressed in the buildings constructed on the public square. However, buildings serving the more homely colony functions, such as the Dairy (1855), remain vernacular in form and treatment. Although the 1857 Blacksmith Shop fronts the square with a refined Revival cornice and large six-over-six light windows, the facade is asymmetrical and runs to a length of nine bays.

The early vernacular buildings reflect several approaches to construction. Lacking an ample supply of the raw material on which native Swedish log construction was based, the colonists employed adobe wall, timber frame, timber wall with adobe nogging (fachwerk) and, finally, kiln-fired brick wall construction techniques. With the introduction of fired

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brick in 1848, the course of colony architecture was set; after this date all major buildings except the timber-framed hospital were constructed of brick. Secondary and outpost buildings tended to be frame, rather than brick, however. The two extant outposts were both constructed in 1855: Red Oak House was timber-framed; Krusbo was one of the earliest examples of balloon-framing in the area.

The Greek revival style is expressed in six major colony buildings: Steeple Building (1854), Colony Store and Post Office (1854), Hospital (1855), Apartment Building (1855), Administration Building (1856), Colony School (1859-1860). Bilateral symmetry, well-proportioned and simply molded cornices and returns, large six-over-six double-sash windows and simple trabeated doors with sidelights are characteristic. The style is articulated with unpretentious success in the Colony Store and reaches distinction in the Steeple Building. Together, the buildings "show the architectural amenity and formal grandeur for which the Colony was striving." (Hamlin)

The size and scale of the buildings reflect the communal enterprise. For the most part they are two and one-half to three stories with interiors symmetrically arranged on a center hall plan. Rooms in the Apartment and Administration Buildings, Steeple Building and the ground floor of the Church tend to be identical in size and interchangeable in function, reflecting the multiple uses for which the Colony employed most buildings.

Details of interior design and decoration are pure in line and skillfully executed. Balustrades and interior trim are carried out in walnut or oak with well-proportioned turns and moldings. Decorative arts practiced in Sweden are evident in Bishop Hill interiors, though with a greater emphasis on simplicity here than in the homeland. Traditional spatter-painting appears in the Steeple Building and Bjorklund Hotel; a rainbow of color off-sets an arch; traditional woodgraining is evident on floors and doors. The early nineteenth century Swedish practice of emulating southern European masonry architecture through painting on wood ("panel architecture") is applied with dramatic success to the interior of the Bjorklund ballroom and to the pulpit and communion rail in the Colony Church.

(2) Early Post-Colony buildings reflect the dissolution of the communal style of life and the division of colony property into units of individual ownership. Although most of the main colony buildings continued to serve their previous functions, individuals began to set up shop for themselves and construct private dwellings. Small farmsteads were developed on former colony holdings.

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A number of the structures built between 1862 and 1870 remain in the District. Some have been altered through the addition of porches or wings, but several retain a high degree of integrity. A mortuary, tin shop, goldsmith's, boarding house, church and several residences are extant, as are a number of farmsteads lying outside the District.

For the most part both commercial buildings and residences are typical of their period, small in scale and modest in design. Exceptions are the Swanson (1862) and Jacobson (1866) houses, two fine Greek Revival residences facing each other at the south entrance to Bishop Hill. Also exceptional is the large grain elevator (1870) standing on the outskirts of town as evidence of the continued growth and expansion of the colony's agricultural enterprise.

(3) Structures belonging to the Village of Bishop Hill period tend to date from either 1871 to ca. 1920 or 1950 to the present. The majority of structures in the District which belong to the Village period are late nineteenth century shops and dwellings, the most prominent building being the large Queen Anne style residence on the west side of the public square. The 1950's and 1960's contributed a hardware store, a small telephone facility, a relatively large cement block school which now houses the Henry County Historical Society (excluded from the District), and a fire station. Two mobile homes remain out of a sizeable number present in the 1960's. (The present Historic District Ordinance (1968) allows existing mobile homes to remain, but precludes the siting of new units in the District.) Six other buildings have been erected since 1970; five of these were constructed to be compatible with Bishop Hill's historic architecture and scene.

Integrity and Uses. The main intrusion on Bishop Hill's historic scene comes from a small group of buildings lying between the Colony Church and the Dairy building on the north end of town. A row of four buildings (1923-1983) on the east side of Bishop Hill street constitutes a change in scale and density from the Colony and Post-Colony periods.

Although these buildings approximate the false storefront style of some of the 1860-1870 buildings, they are placed close together in dreary monotony and their concrete block and aluminum facades create an inappropriate contrast with earlier board and batten or clapboard counterparts.

Further, there is a woeful lack of trees or fencing which might provide continuity with the public square just up the street. Since the basic scale and design of these buildings are within the parameters of the historic scene, however, exterior treatments could be amended to advantage.

Alterations to the facade of the 1874 storefront (tavern) on the west side of Bishop Hill Street and behind the Church could reconcile that intrusion, as well, with its surroundings.

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Only three structures, all of which lie outside the District, constitute glaring aberrations from the texture and scale of historic Bishop Hill: the water tower, the 1953 school, and a storage shed for village maintenance equipment.

Present uses of District buildings are, for the most part, compatible with the character of the structures themselves and of the District. The Colony Store, now owned by the Bishop Hill Heritage Association (BHHA), sells a selection of items appropriate to the historic community; the Blacksmith Shop (BHHA owned) houses a living crafts program, including only crafts practiced by the colony; the Hospital (BHHA owned) has been restored on the exterior and adapted as four housing units for senior citizens; the Colony School is headquarters for the Old Settlers' Association of Bishop Hill; the Colony Church and Bjorkland Hotel are owned by the State of Illinois and are open to the public; the Colony Apartment Building is the private residence of a colony descendent; the Administration Building, privately owned, is undergoing exterior restoration and preparation for adaptive use as a "bed and breakfast" inn; the Steeple Building (owned by BHHA) is presently being restored for use as a museum and archives. Other historic structures are privately owned, serving as residences or shops. Exterior treatments and signs are subject to the Historic District ordinance.

Archeological Potential. The archeological potential in and around the proposed District is outstanding. All phases of Bishop Hill Colony life are represented in the archeological resource, from the earliest temporary shelters through the period of experimentation and early development, agricultural expansion and growing mercantilism, to the mature commercial and industrial settlement.

The Red Oak Grove site, where seventy colonists took shelter the first winter is undisturbed. Dug-out shelters, constructed for the larger group of colonists in the banks of a ravine at Bishop Hill, remain where they were buried when the colonists later filled in the ravine. The sites of early adobe kitchens, temporary residences and the original "tent" church are documented (Map B). Surface remains are still apparent at the undisturbed sites of the water and steam mills, tannery and brickyard (a portion of the brickyard has undergone cultivation). The ruins of the brewing cellar stand at the site of the Bakery/ Brewery; the minimal surface modification of the ball field area has not disturbed the subsurface remains of the Big Brick.

Activity areas around the historic structures have experienced astonishingly little disturbance. Many outbuildings still stand; others show their outlines; still others appear in historic documents. Some colony structures to this day have not been plumbed; public water has only come to Bishop Hill within the last twenty years. Because many

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platted streets and alleys were never developed, historic areas and traffic patterns utilizing these open spaces may be traced archeologically in the future. The undisturbed yards of many standing colony buildings hold the material record of their varied communal uses.

Other Historic Resources.

(1) Historic Objects. The material culture of the Bishop Hill Colony is abundantly represented on site in the collections of the State of Illinois and the Bishop Hill Heritage Association. The approximately 2,500 museum items include a major collection of colony furniture, rugs and other textiles, tools and utensils, architectural elements, bottles and ceramics, special collections of carpenter's and watch-maker's tools, and some five hundred post-colony objects.

(2) Olaf Krans Paintings. Ninety-eight oil paintings by Olaf Krans, a sign-painter and narrative artist who grew up in the colony, are a part of the Bishop Hill collections. These paintings depict scenes in the life of the colony, particularly the communal approach to agriculture. A series of portraits provides a visual record of individual colonists. The paintings date from the years 1895 - 1896. The majority of the paintings are owned by the State of Illinois and are exhibited in the Colony Church.

(3) Archives. The written records of the Bishop Hill Colony are preserved in the Bishop Hill Heritage Association Archives, presently housed in the Steeple Building. Thousands of documents chronicle the daily life and activities of the colony: administration, health, food production, purchases of land and goods, correspondence with Sweden and other communal societies in America (particularly the Shakers at Pleasant Hill), fiscal records, production and sales, inventories, births and deaths, personal documents. The colony documented its own history, and the records have been preserved. Worthy of note are the oral history interviews conducted with living colonists by descendent Philip Stoneberg in 1905 - 1906. Original notes to approximately 45 interviews are retained by the Bishop Hill Heritage Association and two area colleges. Additionally, some 2,000 books and printed items associated with early Bishop Hill are held in the Heritage Association collections.

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LIST OF STRUCTURES

CONTRIBUTING TO PROPOSED LANDMARK DISTRICT

(MAP C)

COLONY STRUCTURES

(1) Colony Church, 1848. (Map-1) A gambrel-roofed, timber-walled structure (*fachwerk*); two stories over brick basement. (Photo-1) Exterior divided stair and balustrade typical of colony style. (Photo-2) Worship space is on second floor; it is marked by spacious simplicity and well lighted by large twelve-over-twelve and six-over-six double-sash windows. The sanctuary seats one thousand. Original pews of native black walnut with turned maple rungs are in place. Chandeliers were a Swedish brass style rendered here in locally forged iron and walnut; reproductions were hung as part of the State of Illinois restoration of the building in 1965. Of note is the fine hand-painted marbling on the pulpit and communion rail balusters. The first floor and basement have ten rooms each, arranged along a center hall. These rooms originally served as family dwelling space; presently they house museum exhibits including the Olaf Krans paintings, prepared by the State of Illinois.

(2) Dairy Building, 1855. (Map-2) A vernacular brick structure laid in six course American bond with dog-tooth cornice; two and one-half stories, seven bays. (Photo-3) Small additions to south and north ends of building were constructed in 1875 and 1948. Dairy products used by the colonists were processed and stored in this building; dwelling rooms for the dairy maids were located on second floor. Much of the original interior plan remains intact, although the building is suffering structural deterioration. The Bishop Hill Heritage Association has acquired a sixty percent interest in the building and is negotiating full ownership. The Association plans to restore the exterior and rehabilitate the interior for adaptive use.

(3) Blacksmith Shop, 1857. (Map-3) A nine-bay, two-and-one-half story brick vernacular structure with horizontal gabled roof. (Photo-4) Shows colony's increasing mastery of brickwork in variant of American bond and refined jack arches over window openings. Roof-line is set off by well-proportioned molded cornice and return. The smithy originally occupied first floor; carriages and wagons were manufactured above. The Bishop Hill Heritage Association owns the building and leases space to craftsmen who produce their wares using traditional techniques; a potter, broom-maker and blacksmith presently occupy the space. The forge will be relocated in its original position, and the wagon ramp which led down from second floor will be reconstructed in 1984.

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(4) Colony Residence, 1848. (Map-4) Original section a timber-framed single room dwelling. Addition to the south constructed in the 1870's. Retains a high degree of integrity; electricity is the only modern intrusion. Presently a private dwelling. (Photo-5)

(5) Carpenter and Paint Shop, 1852. (Map-5) A two-and-one-half story brick vernacular structure laid in American bond. Facade is bilaterally symmetrical and displays a brick cornice; a molded cornice accents the gable ends. The high thresholds are a traditional Swedish characteristic. (Photo-6,7) Originally a ramp extended from second floor to the ground at the rear of the building (as on the Blacksmith Shop). The porch on the south end was added ca. 1920. Several of the six-over-six light double-sashes have been replaced with single-pane double-hung windows. The building originally contained the colony carpentry and paint shops. Wagons were brought from the blacksmith shop to second floor of this building to be painted; much general repair work was also done here. The building is privately owned; first floor houses an antique shop and the U.S. Post Office.

(6) Steeple Building, 1854. (Map-6) The largest and most prominent building in Bishop Hill. A three-story Greek Revival structure styled after the Doric order and crowned with a two-stage clock tower. (Photo-8,9) The original flat roof, which carried a balustrade, was changed to its present hipped roof in 1869. The three central bays on the front facade are emphasized by a recessed porch which extends three stories; square piers on the ground level carry two Doric columns of solid walnut and their flanking piers which, in turn, carry a pediment gable topping the portico. This dramatically three-dimensional treatment is echoed on the south facade in pilasters with a crowning entablature. An ornate iron balcony extends from the second floor to balance the recessed porch and balustrade on the front of the building. "The building has that true impressiveness which good proportion and adequate size always produce." (Hamlin) The clock was modeled on a hall clock brought by the colonists from Sweden. Although built as a hotel, the Steeple Building housed the colony school (until 1861), living quarters, and administrative offices. The Bishop Hill Heritage Association now owns the building and is restoring the exterior (below the roofline) to its 1860 appearance. The building will serve as a visitor center, archives and museum with exhibits interpreting Bishop Hill history from 1861 to the present. (Photo-10,11,12)

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(7) Colony Store and Post Office, 1854. (Map-7) Like the Steeple Building, a structure intended for contact with the outside world. A simple and direct example of the Greek Revival style, the building is somewhat Swedish in feeling with its gable-end entrance and casement windows. (Photo-13,14) Restoration was carried out by the Bishop Hill Heritage Association in 1974; a staircase is currently being reconstructed from HABS drawings to replace the original which had been removed from the west wall. The Colony Store houses the Heritage Association's museum gift shop.

(8) Administration Building, 1856. (Map-8) A three-story Greek Revival ell-plan structure, plaster over brick. Brick arches support the building from the basement level. (Photo-15,16,17) The fifteen rooms originally housed offices and apartments for the colony trustees. Several major alterations of the facade have occurred: the divided stair and turned balustrade have been removed from the front entrance; large "picture" windows have been opened up on the front of the building at ground level; the side balcony and balustrade have been removed and the balcony doorway has been filled in with two small windows and horizontal siding. Current owners are renovating the interior for use as a "bed and breakfast" inn and have announced plans to restore the exterior to its original appearance.

(9) Apartment Building, 1855. (Map-9) An ell-plan Greek Revival structure, this building and the Administration building next door were designed to mirror each other in plan and facade. (Photo-18,19) Built as a residence for colonists, the five rooms on each floor open onto a central hall. In the attic, boards with hand-carved clothes pegs indicate each family's storage space. Drying poles for hard-tack (knickebrod) and seed corn remain in place. Original fabric is largely intact throughout the building; missing pieces of the balustrade on the entrance stair have been reconstructed. The building is privately owned.

(10) Privy and Wash-house, 1855. (Map-10) Built to serve the Apartment Building, it is the only remaining example of a type of structure once common in Bishop Hill. Post-frame with rack-sawn oak and walnut siding; extensively altered but presently being restored. (Photo-20)

(11) Bjorklund Hotel, 1852. (Map-11) Originally a two-story brick building similar to Carpenter and Paint Shop; probably used as dwelling or workshop. Remodeled in several stages from 1857-61: a bar-room was added on first floor and hotel-keeper's quarters on second; a kitchen was added with quarters above, making the building U-shaped. Before 1861 a third story and tower were added, and the exterior was stuccoed. (Photo-21,22,23) The State of Illinois owns the building and has completed seventy percent of its program to restore both the interior and exterior

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and furnish the main rooms, largely with original pieces. Many fine decorative details are in evidence: spatter painting, painted wood-graining on floors, trim and doors, and walls painted to simulate marble in the ballroom. The building is open to the public and is the site of interpretive programs, including cultural demonstrations, operated by the Historic Sites Division of the State of Illinois.

(12) Olson Barn, 1859-60. (Map-12) Built as a colony horse-barn, on land to the southeast of the village, the barn was acquired by the Bishop Hill Heritage Association and moved to the site of the Bjorklund Hotel stable in 1982. The integrity of the structure is excellent. It will be preserved and interpreted as part of the Bishop Hill museum complex. (Photo-24)

(13) Krusbo, 1855. (Map-B) A one and one-half story balloon frame structure sheathed in 5" mill siding with six-over-six light windows. The one-room wing on the back was added in the 1870's. (Photo-25) Krusbo was built as an outlying dairy (similar to Swedish fabod), one of five such outposts in the colony. Butter was produced here on a sufficiently large scale to require a horse-powered butter churn. The building was moved into Bishop Hill in 1975 to prevent its destruction as a consequence of farm consolidation. It is privately owned and is presently undergoing a meticulously documented restoration.

(14) Colony School, 1861. (Map-14) The last major colony building to be constructed, the one and one-half story brick school features many Greek Revival details: pilasters, sidelights, rows of tall nine-over-nine light windows, a well-executed rubbed and molded brick cornice finishing the side walls and a molded wooden cornice in the gable ends. The original tower, which was centered on the roof-line, was removed in the 1890's; the present bell tower was added in the 1920's, along with the porch at the entrance. A small addition was added to the rear in 1898. (Photo-26,27) The bell was acquired during the colony's founding year and was used to call the colonists to devotions and meals. From 1861 to 1952 it called Bishop Hill children to school. The Old Settlers' Association of Bishop Hill owns the building; it is used for community activities.

(15) Hospital Building, 1855. (Map-15) A timber-framed Greek Revival structure, two and one-half stories over full brick basement; vaulted medicine cellar at the rear. The style employs the Doric order with a two-story rear portico flanked by two wings. A signature Bishop Hill balustrade adorns the portico on the second story. Analysis of the original paint showed that the building was yellow with white trim, except for the portico walls which were a pale green. (These colors were common to Swedish panel architecture.) The building exterior was recently restored by the Bishop Hill Heritage Association and the interior

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adapted for use as four apartments for senior citizens. Original paint colors are used in the common areas. (Photo-28,29)

(16) Erik Jansson's Residence, 1847. (Map-16) Originally a two-over-two room timber-framed structure. Two wings were added ca. 1910, and the original doorway was relocated in the north wing. Erik Jansson and his family lived here in the early years of the colony as did several other families; part of the structure was used as a hotel for a time. The building is presently a private residence. (Photo-30)

(17) Meat Storage Building, 1853. (Map-17) A five-bay one and one-half story vernacular brick structure; part of a complex which originally included barns, ice house, slaughter house, smoke house and live-stock pens. A front gable was added in the late 1800's; garage and porch were added in the 1950's. Window openings have been altered. The building has been converted into a residence and is privately owned. (Photo-31)

(18) Brewing Cellar, 1853. (Map-18) A vaulted brick structure built into an earthen bank; all that remains of the Bakery/Brewery building which was torn down in 1961. Along with the Meat Storage Building and the structures related to it, the Bakery/Brewery was part of early development aimed at improving the level of subsistence in the colony.

(19) Boys' House, ca. 1847. (Map-19) A two-over-two room balloon-frame structure with an addition to the west and south built in 1922. A shoemaker's shop originally occupied the first floor; dwelling rooms for colony boys were upstairs. The building is privately owned and used as a residence.

(20) Bandstand, ca. 1860. (Map-20) The existing structure is a 1976 reconstruction of the original bandstand at its original location in the park. The reconstruction was based on archeological research and measurements derived from historic photographs. The Bandstand is owned and maintained by the Historic Sites Division of the State of Illinois, as is the park. (Photo-32)

(21) Red House (Rött Hus), 1855. (Map-21) A timber-framed "saltbox" styled house, thirty-six feet square; five rooms downstairs, two dormitory rooms upstairs. Although American in exterior design, the structure has a decidedly Swedish feature: the front porch built by Hans Brunk, emigrant from Alfta, Sweden. (Several similar porches built by Brunk remain in Sweden.) (Photo-33,34) The Red House was originally one of the farm outposts and was used as headquarters for farm crews during planting and harvest. It was moved to Bishop Hill in 1966 to prevent its demolition. Its owner, a historian formerly in the Historic Sites Division of the State of Illinois, has restored the exterior and adapted the interior for use as a dwelling.

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EARLY POST-COLONY STRUCTURES

(1) Andrew Chaiser Residence, 1866. (Map-A) A two-story frame house with early 1900's addition. Home of publisher of the Svenske Tribune, Chicago.

(2) Jonas Malmgren Mortuary, 1866. (Map-B) One and one-half story storefront. Small side addition in 1870's. Original structure intact; presently a restaurant. (Photo-35)

(3) Poppy Barn, 1882. (Map-C) A "hillside" barn representing one of the barn styles built by the colony. In 1979 the building was moved to an early barn site just northeast of the Blacksmith Shop; its integrity is excellent. The barn now houses part of the Bishop Hill Heritage Association crafts program. (Photo-35,36)

(4) Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church, 1869. (Map-D) The only church to survive in post-Jansson Bishop Hill. A major addition has almost completely enveloped the original small frame structure.

(5) Olof Pilstrand House, 1867. The original two-story hipped-roof four-square house has been modified by a one story addition wrapping two sides of the house. The house retains a high degree of integrity; although electricity and running water have been added, it has not been plumbed for sewer connection.

(6) Erick Troil House, 1867. (Map-F) The post-colony resident of the Bishop Hill gold- and silversmith has been moved one block from its original site. A rear kitchen and front porch have been added. Original siding remaining under the asbestos shingles will be restored by the owner during 1984. (Photo-37)

(7) J. H. Westerberg House, ca. 1866. (Map-G) The original I-house has been enveloped in a series of added wings and gables.

(8) Boarding House, 1868. (Map-H) Interior and exterior integrity are well-preserved in this ell-shaped one-story frame structure. The building is presently for sale with commercial zoning. (Photo-38)

(9) Abraham Florine House, 1867. (Map-I) A two-story cross-gabled frame dwelling; interior and exterior retain their integrity. An extension has been added to the rear of the first story. The house is currently for sale. (Photo-39)

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(10) Neumann's Tin Shop, ca. 1870. (Map-J) A two-story frame store-front with a porch supported by slender wooden posts. The first floor is divided into three bays; molded and paneled bay windows with multiple glass panes flank double doors which repeat the window pattern and, in turn, are topped with a multi-paned transom. The whole effect is rather like a "countrified" version of the Colony Store. The building retains much of its integrity; it presently serves as a gift shop. (Photo-40,41)

(11) Peter Johnson House, 1867. (Map-K) A two-story frame gabled ell-plan house with front bracketed bay window. High integrity inside and out; the few inappropriate alterations to the interior are being carefully returned to historic appearance by the owners, who live and operate a small handcraft shop in this structure. (Photo-42,43)

(12) Swan Swanson House, 1862. (Map-L) A simply-detailed Greek Revival T-plan structure, impeccably restored. Privately owned. (Photo-44,45)

(13) Jacob Jacobson House, 1866. (Map-M) An essentially Greek Revival T-plan structure with a columned entrance portico and ornately bracketed cornice. A sleeping porch was added to the east wing in 1910. (The house is a slightly grander version of the Swanson house across the road; the two men were brothers.) The house is retained by the Jacobson family. (Photo-46)

(14) Grain Elevator, 1870. (Map-N) Post-and-beam constructed on a stone foundation, clapboard sheathing. Originally in northeast Bishop Hill, the building was moved one mile east when the railroad was relocated in 1905. The structure was remodeled at that time. It served as a grain storage facility until 1978, when the local operation ceased. It is privately owned. (Photo-47,48,49)

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LIST OF INTRUSIONS AFFECTING LANDMARK DISTRICT

NON-CONFORMING INTRUSIONS WITHIN PROPOSED DISTRICT (See Map C):

Bergren's Hardware, 1953 (a)

Spetz Paint Shop, 1923 (b)

Gift Shop, 1983 (c)

Bishop Hill Fire Station, 1966 (d)

Telephone Facility, 1954 (e)

Mobile Home, ca. 1960 (f)

Mobile Home, ca. 1960 (g)

STRUCTURES OUTSIDE OF DISTRICT WITH VISUAL IMPACT ON HISTORIC
SCENE (See Map C):

Township Equipment Shed, ca. 1940 (h)

Storage Building, ca. 1970 (i)

Machine Shed, ca. 1980 (j)

Ranch-style House (k)

Bishop Hill Water Tower (l)

New School (Henry County Historical Society Museum), 1953 (m)

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The first winter was spent in dugout shelters, the colony divided between Red Oak Grove and Bishop Hill. A small cemetery at Red Oak Grove testifies to the hardships of that first year. In the spring crops were planted and new buildings erected, including adobe kitchens, additional dugouts and a cruciform log and canvas church. The variety of building types suggests the effort made by the Swedes to overcome the lack of pine timber used in their traditional log construction.

By 1848 the colony had erected numerous adobe and timber-framed buildings. But the combination of available raw materials and technical instruction from Americans hired to assist had resulted in the construction of a brickyard and the ultimate solution to the colony's building needs. Two hundred acres of land were now under cultivation, flax being the primary commercial crop. The knowledge of flax production and linen manufacture brought from Sweden made the difference between mere survival and early success; demand from markets in the Mississippi valley was sufficient to require shift-work to keep spinning wheels and looms in operation around the clock. 12,433 yards of linen and carpet matting were produced in 1847, the first crop year, with peak output in 1851 at 30,579 yards. (Nelson, 1967)

Although a devastating cholera epidemic in 1849 reduced the work force and threw the colony into serious debt, Bishop Hill entered the 1850's with a sawmill, grist mill, newly constructed steam mill, a church which seated 1,000 and Big Brick, a four-story residence with ninety-six rooms. With the recovery of a large outstanding debt, colony prospects had brightened; then an assassin's bullet took Erik Jansson's life.

The death of the colony's leader proved to be more a spiritual than a temporal loss. Without the spiritual authority of the "prophet," the already growing emphasis on mercantile activity in the colony became more dominant. The colony incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois, vesting its leadership in a seven-man board of trustees. The charter stated the colony's business to be: "manufacturing, milling, all kinds of mechanical business, agriculture and merchandising." (Nelson, 1967) For a decade the colony flourished under the new administration, becoming a major mercantile and industrial center for a large area of the developing midwest region.

Broomcorn production became the colony's single most profitable enterprise. Colony income from the sale of broomcorn between 1852 and 1860 ranged between \$30,000 and \$50,000 annually, with shipments to points as far away as New England and Canada. A busy trade in carriages and wagons was carried on with Chicago, St. Louis and points in between. After the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad reached nearby Galva in 1855, the colony established an office there from which to conduct

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business. From 1850-55 Bishop Hill itself experienced a period of active building: tannery, meat processing house, carriage and wagon shop, bakery and brewery, dairy, hotel, store and post office, hospital, administration building, the "Steeple Building" which served as school and offices, farm outposts, additional residences. Excellent smithwork in iron, silver and gold, production of high quality clothes and furniture and the milling of lumber and flour brought the outside world to Bishop Hill. An 1853 visitor made note of the colony coal mine and lime quarry with ovens, the 60 acre orchard of 3,000 fruit trees; the 400 head of colony cattle, 25 teams of oxen, 50 horses, 600-700 hogs and 1,000 fowl. (Norton, 1978) Colony property grew from a value of \$300,000 in 1853 to \$625,000 by 1860.

The accomplishments of these years were largely made possible by the colony's communal organization. Although a communitarian life style was not an ideological requirement for the Janssonists, it was a pragmatic expedient for the pioneering colony and had been adopted as such until circumstances would permit individual ownership of property. Consequently, "the centralized direction of the labor force and the occupational specialization inherent in the organization contributed to the variety and quality of the commodities produced." Further, the large scale of the colony's enterprises, under centralized leadership and with a sizeable pool of labor and capital "enabled the colony to diversify its economy by engaging in a variety of productive endeavors. . . which were beyond the realm of possibility for individual settlers." (Nelson, 1970)

Although the colony was quick to adopt language, technology, styles and agricultural practices from the larger American society (minutes of colony meetings were kept in English as well as Swedish from the first year), internally the colony retained much of its traditional culture. Diet, dress, household furnishings and, especially in the early years, tools, farm implements, and buildings reflected characteristics of Swedish northern folk culture. (Wilson, Wilson, correspondence) Even at the height of the colony's economic expansion, the majority of the colonists lived a life quite sequestered from commerce and communication with the outside world. The days were ordered in a sequence of communal tasks punctuated by bell calls to prayer. Much of the labor took place outside of the village itself on the vast agricultural lands and farm outposts; other tasks were shared in the large brick buildings which outsiders had no cause to enter. The trustees had sole responsibility for the administration of colony affairs, reporting to the membership as infrequently as once a year.

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It was the autonomy of the trustees which led to failure of the colony as a corporation. Ill-advised investments and irresponsible borrowing against colony assets resulted in formal dissolution of the colony in 1861. This was not the community crisis it might have been, however. Social and theological differences had already weakened the communal bond within the colony; further, the pioneering phase was over. Individual opportunities were abundant in 1861, and resources were sufficient. From 1861 to 1869 colony lands and properties were systematically divided among the members, many of whom continued to live in the same rooms and carry out the same trades as before--but for personal rather than community profit. In assessing success and failure, it should be noted that Bishop Hill Colony achieved its two main goals: religious liberty and economic prosperity.

There is no terminal date for the Bishop Hill community. Although a number of colonists left Bishop Hill, some to join other communal societies, descendants still live in buildings and work on land apportioned to their forebears in the dissolution. The transition was gradual; a few new shops and residences appeared during the 1860's, but many people remained in the brick colony buildings. In 1870 Bishop Hill was finally chartered again, this time as a village of Weller Township.

Swedish immigrants continued to arrive in Bishop Hill. Women and children often stayed while the men continued west to establish homesteads and eventually send for their families. Others used the community as a temporary wayside where, among Swedish-speaking relatives or friends, they could become acclimated to the new culture and seek out their own prospects. It wasn't until the Big Brick burned in 1928 that the colony became completely individualized. Even today the titles to Bishop Hill buildings and lands are a legal maze of multiple owners, descendants of the colony still possessing their families' shares of the dissolved venture.

Bishop Hill reached its nadir in the early 1960's with a population reduced to 130 and the colony buildings going to ruin. With the demise of the Bakery/Brewery building in 1961, the Bishop Hill Heritage Association was formed to bring new life to the colony legacy. The combined efforts of the State of Illinois and the Heritage Association, with support from many private individuals and foundations, have resulted in the restoration of six major and several lesser colony buildings, a historic district zoning ordinance, interpretive programs which are scheduled year around (annual visitation of 70,000), a traditional crafts program, major archeological and material culture studies, significant exhibits of colony art and artifacts in this country and Sweden, a reversal of the population decline--and a renewed sense of pride in the living traditions which give Bishop Hill its identity.

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Analysis of Significance. I. IMMIGRATION: The Bishop Hill colony played a "pivotal role. . .in major demographic movements of the nineteenth century," having "far-reaching. . .effects in both Sweden and the United States." (Wagner, correspondence) During the three-quarters of a century that Swedish mass emigration took place (1846-1920), 1.2 million Swedes, or one quarter of the population of Sweden at the time, left for North America. The Erik Janssonists were the first major group to emigrate, and it was their correspondence which was published in Swedish newspapers and the existence of their community in Bishop Hill that triggered the movements of the 1850's, 1860's, and 1870's. Experts in both Sweden and the United States agree that it is hard to over-estimate the influence of Bishop Hill on subsequent Swedish immigration, not only from Janssonist regions but other parts of Sweden as well. (Soderberg, 1981; Beijbom, 1971, Scott, 1979) "Bishop Hill became the earliest Swedish magnet in the rural American Midwest." (Beijbom, correspondence) It "played a central role in the further settlement of. . .Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas and the Northwest (Washington), being the single most important stop-off and drawing point for Swedish immigration from 1846 - ca. 1880, when the nature of the Swedish immigration changed." (Wilson and Wilson, correspondence) The Bishop Hill settlement "led to the establishment of a string of Swedish colonies. . .which later served as reception and transit centres for subsequent emigration." (Soderberg, 1981)

For several decades there existed in the United States a far-flung Swedish community, referred to as Swedish America, which had its own schools, churches, organizations, publications and theater. "Its members made important contributions to the economic, political and cultural life of the new nation," and, as assimilation occurred, they wove "an important Swedish strand into the cultural weave that is America." (Hasselmo, 1976) The Swedish population has never surpassed 1.5 percent of the total American population, but only Norway, Great Britain and Ireland have contributed a greater share of their populations to this country. (Hasselmo, 1976)

However, Bishop Hill is more than a name on a map marking a point of dispersion. The settlement which drew so many from their homeland retains to an outstanding degree the physical and cultural milieu which greeted Swedish immigrants 130 years ago. The president of the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society observed that those Swedes "whose ancestors came from the cities, where the old Swedish neighborhoods have turned into ghettos and where there are no places we can point to as our own" cannot address feelings of transiency and alienation in their children. In Bishop Hill there is "a place to return to and recover your sense of identity." (Westerberg, 1972)

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The museum and research collections at Bishop Hill are a unique repository of materials related to Swedish immigration and of the day-to-day workings of this particular immigrant community. Extensive correspondence with the homeland and records of other immigrants passing through Bishop Hill are part of the collections. Objects brought from Sweden-- "America chests," tools and precious keepsake items selected for the journey--are present in the collections as well as in private homes. The Philip Stoneberg oral history interviews with original colonists (1905-06) are an invaluable resource to the student of Swedish immigration history. "It is a unique monument to Swedish immigration to North America. . .and. . .a tangible aid to further research in the social history of immigrants in general and of Swedes in particular." (Swanson, correspondence) What gives this resource its incomparable value is the fact that the documents and objects exist in their primary physical and historical context. (Swanson, correspondence; Setterdahl, personal communication) No similar collection exists in the United States.

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II. ETHNIC HERITAGE: Bishop Hill today is "a remarkable instance of ethnic preservation, both with respect to the physical environment and in terms of linguistic persistence. . .and the maintaining of cultural traditions." (Wright, correspondence) The Director of the National Historical Museums of Sweden describes Swedish traditions in Bishop Hill as "amazingly rich." One is able to listen to third generation Swedes speak "an excellent 1850 Halsingland dialect;" Swedish practices and customs are still in use, most apparently in preparation of food, and provincialisms, folk songs and ballads now dead in the old country can be heard here. (Isaksson, 1968)

It is unlikely that the living traditions in Bishop Hill will be lost. The Bishop Hill Heritage Association has made it a goal to keep the traditional crafts alive through their colony crafts program and the restoration work, itself. (E.g., the carpenter and mason who have been responsible for much of the restoration work are both fifth generation descendents and in the third generation of their trade. "Endangered" crafts, like wood-graining, have been taught to young apprentices by the old practitioners in the course of restoring the buildings.) Further, the Bishop Hill Heritage Association has initiated a major, professionally conducted oral history program to continue the record begun by Philip Stoneberg in the early 1900's.

The preservation of ethnic heritage in Bishop Hill's physical environment was effectively described by Helge Nelson in the 1940's: "It is as if you have been transferred from American surroundings home to Sweden, to a Central-Swedish iron-manufactory community with a manorial character putting its stamp on certain buildings and a type of "brukslanga" characteristic of others. . .This spot, Swedish even as to the exterior style of building contrasts with the rest of Swedish settlements, which almost without exception have little or nothing left of Swedish style of building and living." (Nelson, 1943)

The buildings are a significant expression of Swedish ethnic heritage; no similar group of essentially intact structures exists in America. Many "have unique architectural features not found outside of Europe. While these features are often thought to be similar to some of the American German communal counterparts, they are, in actuality, completely different and of a purely Scandinavian tradition." (Ott, correspondence)

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The quality remarked upon by Nelson in the 1940's persists today; only one colony building has been lost since then, while several have been restored. Further, the decline in population since the colony period has precluded new development. Bishop Hill is thus left as a "peculiar Swedish relic with the stamp and atmosphere of a small Swedish town in the middle of the last century." (Nelson, 1943)

Although Bishop Hill is unique in its Swedish communal heritage, it also serves as a microcosm of the ethnic community in America as it is transformed by time. The landscape, archeological resource, architecture, collections and living descendants all provide primary evidence of this process. Early pieces of Bishop Hill furniture, for instance, reflect Swedish ideals in form and style, but the process of Americanization can be traced over a few years' time, culminating in the production of furniture for outside sale which shows no ties with the homeland. The processes of cultural retention, borrowing and innovation can be traced as well through the architecture, agricultural and manufacturing techniques, decorative arts and many other avenues. Bishop Hill as an entity has the potential to make a significant contribution to the study of cultural transformation.

As a representative of Swedish ethnic heritage in America, Bishop Hill stands unrivalled:

"No other Swedish settlement since the Delaware colony approaches Bishop Hill in significance. . ." (Scott, correspondence)

"Bishop Hill. . . is the most valuable memorial of Swedish cultural history beyond the borders of the country. . ." (Isaakson, correspondence)

"No other town founded by Swedes in America has the same historical qualities as Bishop Hill." (Beijbom, correspondence)

III. COMMUNITARIAN SOCIETIES: The Bishop Hill Colony was one of over one hundred communitarian societies (total membership exceeding 100,000) which were established in America during the nineteenth century. The 1840's was "the busiest decade in community history," as Hopedale, Bethel-Aurora, Bishop Hill, Amana, Oneida and countless lesser societies joined the established Shakers, Rappites and Zoarites. (Holloway, 1966)

Bishop Hill cannot compare with the Shaker or Amana colonies in duration, material contribution or impact on the history of ideas in America. It was, however, one of the largest single communitarian groups, and it achieved a remarkable level of social and economic success in its fifteen years as a communal society. Bishop Hill is a strong representative of the many ethnically cohesive communities which formed on religious principles. Of these groups, few managed to establish and sustain a relatively self-sufficient existence and to enlarge their economic base through trade; Bishop Hill was one of the most successful

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of these. The significance of Bishop Hill to the communal movement lies in the integrity and extent of its physical and documentary remains and the records of its interactions with other communal societies, particularly the Shakers at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky.

The structures, setting and collections at Bishop Hill compare favorably to the major historic Shaker villages. More diverse physical remains may be found at Hancock in a setting from which post-colony structures have been removed. However, Bishop Hill retains a more complete collection of objects, documents and paintings which are original to the site (Pearson, personal communication) and a total integrity which is unavoidably diminished at a site developed to the extent of Hancock Shaker Village. (Ott, personal communication) The integrity of site and structures at Bishop Hill as well as the representative sample of structures remaining exceeds both Mt. Lebanon and Pleasant Hill. Bishop Hill is most fully comparable to Canterbury, where Shaker sisters still reside, an organic integrity exists, and the buildings and collections exist in their primary context as part of a living tradition. (Pearson, Ott, personal communication)

Bishop Hill is comparable, as well, to the midwestern sites of New Harmony and Nauvoo. Bishop Hill retains a higher percentage of its original buildings than does New Harmony, and its original plan is more intact. New Harmony has suffered greater impacts from non-historic intrusions. Nauvoo lacks the collections and extensive documentation which enrich the Bishop Hill site; further, the rigorous historicity of the Bishop Hill restoration work gives that site an authority which Nauvoo has not attained. (Ronald Nelson, personal communication)

Bishop Hill makes a major contribution to the interpretation and understanding of American communal societies through its extensive collections. Information about individual colonists is very rich, including details of the lives of craftsmen, agricultural workers and women in the colony. (Wilson, Wilson, correspondence) Of special significance is the series of nearly one hundred paintings by Olof Krans, a colony son. Many facets of communal life are recorded in Krans' narrative scenes: details of dress, techniques of planting and harvest, roles of women and men, mechanics of such operations as pile-driving. Portraits of individual colonists comprise "an anthology in art" (Glick, 1982) augmented by the objects and documents associated with these individuals in the museum and research collections. The Director of the Museum of American Folk Art describes this as "one of the very great folk art collections of America." (Bishop, correspondence) Interactions between Bishop Hill and several major communal societies including Amana, Oneida and various Shaker communities are recorded in the archives. "This exchange of ideas and information played a significant role in the develop-

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ment of various techniques that shaped their economic systems. It also led to a clear knowledge of their respective Christian theologies." This material "further substantiates the importance of Bishop Hill society to the overall American Communal movement." (Ott, correspondence)

Bishop Hill stands out as "one of the best-preserved examples of the religious utopian colonies which occupy such a distinctive place in the nineteenth century American cultural scene." (Barton, correspondence) It is the only such Swedish society in America.

Historic District Boundaries. Although a National Register Historic District has been established in Bishop Hill, the existing boundaries should be adjusted for the purpose of Landmark nomination to include sites and structures which have primary significance for the historic period, 1846-1870. The proposed Landmark District enlarges present boundaries to include the undisturbed sites of colony mills, tannery and brickyard and a section of the original oxpojke (ox-boy) trail.

Boundaries defining the central village area have been enlarged somewhat to include the farm outpost buildings (these were moved from their original sites into Bishop Hill but have retained high integrity through the quality of restoration undertaken) and several of the 1861-1870 structures which reflect the transition from a communal to an individualized society.

No distinct visual barrier sets the historic district apart from the rest of the village. Very little development has occurred since the early 1900's, and the Historic District ordinance (adopted in 1968) has served to maintain consistency of scale, materials and design. Boundaries have been drawn at points where the concentration of significant properties diminishes. Two significant sites have been "spot-zoned" to avoid including large tracts of undeveloped land and/or properties which contribute no significance to the main district.

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CORRESPONDENCE AND PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Barton, H. Arnold. Department of History, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale; Editor, Swedish-American Historical Quarterly.

Beijbom, Ulf. Director, The Emigrant Institute, Vaxjo, Sweden.

Bishop, Robert. Director, Museum of American Folk Art.

Isaksson, Olov. Director, National Historical Museums, Sweden.

Kenney, David. State Historic Preservation Officer, Illinois.

Lundeen, Joel W., Kermit Westerberg and Lilly Setterdahl. Swenson Swedish Immigration Research center, Augustana College.

Nelson, Ronald. Board of Directors, Bishop Hill Heritage Association; Past President, National Historic Communal Societies Association; former Historian, Historic Sites Division, State of Illinois.

Ott, John Harlow. Director, Atlanta Historical Society; Past President, National Historic Communal Societies Association.

Pearson, Elmer R. Board of Trustees, Hancock Shaker Village, Massachusetts, and Shakertown, South Union, Kentucky; Department of Design, Illinois Institute of Technology.

Pitzer, Donald E. Executive Director, National Historic Communal Societies Association.

Scott, Franklin D. Curator, Nordic Collections, Honnold Library, Claremont, California.

Swanson, Alan. Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages, Brigham Young University.

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Thomas, M. W. Director Emeritus, New York State Historical Association.

Wachtmeister, W. Ambassador to the United States from Sweden.

Wagner, Jon. Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Knox College.

Wilson, Carolyn A. and J. Hiram Wilson. Anthropologists, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Wright, Rochelle. Department of Germanic Languages and Literature, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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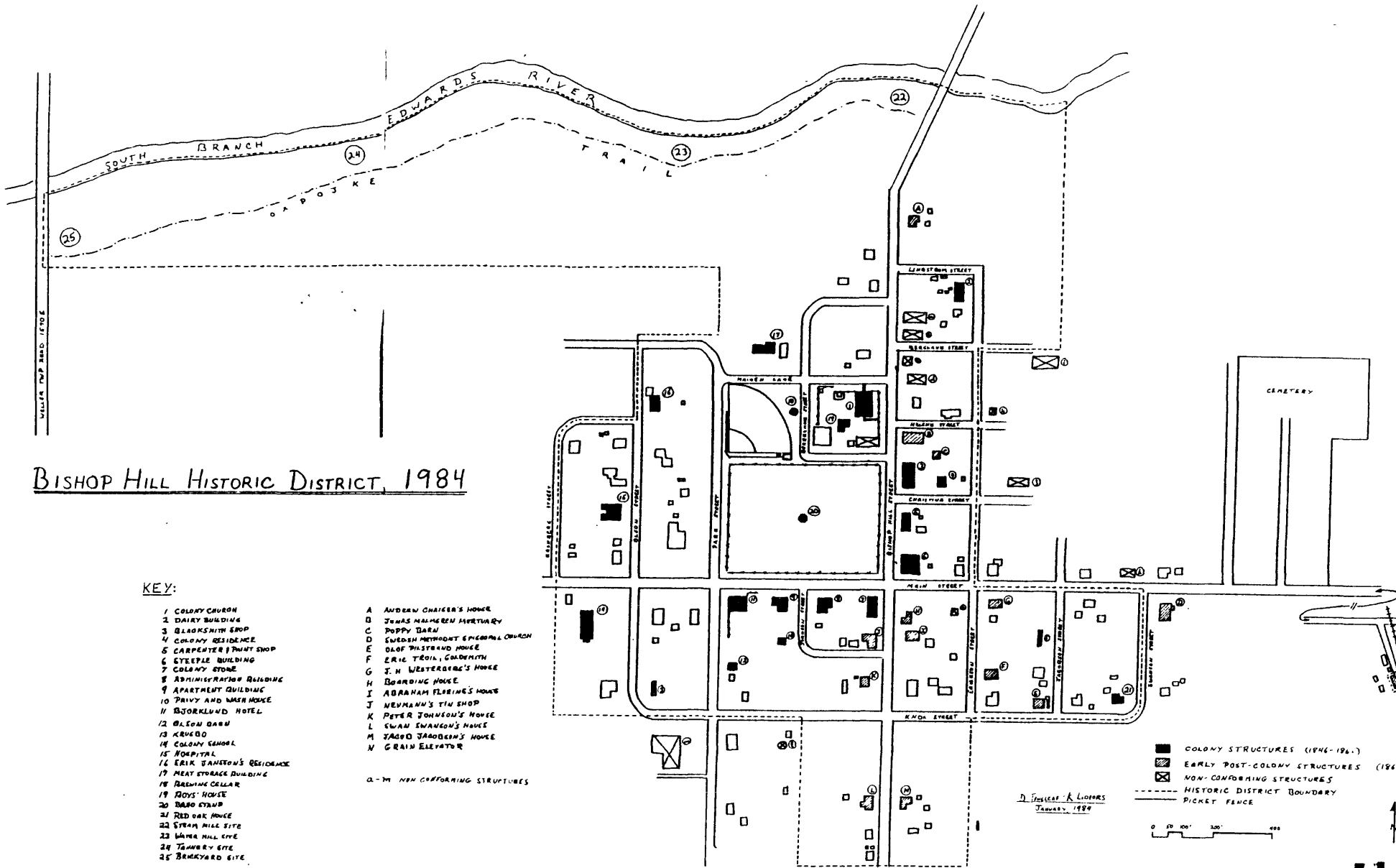
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The proposed Bishop Hill National Landmark District may be described as follows:

Commencing at the northeast corner of block 71 in the original town of Bishop Hill thence south (850') to the center line of Bergland Street, thence west (265') to the center line of Erickson Street, thence south (1,677') to the center line of A Street, thence west (573') to the center line of Johnson Street, thence north (425') to the center line of Knox Street, thence west (815') to the center line of Kronberg Street, thence north (980') to the center line of Hedeem Street, thence east (260') to the center line of Olson Street, thence east (270') to the center line of Park Street, thence due north two hundred-twenty feet (220'), thence due west (3,760' more or less) to the center line of Weller Township Road 1570E, thence due north to the south bank of the South Branch of the Edwards River, then easterly along the south bank of said river to the point of beginning;

Also, Lot 1, Block 51 in the original town of Bishop Hill, being approximately one-third (1/3) acre;

Also, commencing at the point of intersection of the center line of the extension of Main Street east of the town of Bishop Hill and the center line of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company's abandoned track, thence southeasterly following said center line of said abandoned railroad track for a distance of five hundred feet (500') more or less, to and including the tract of land on which is situated an abandoned grain elevator (approximately .5 acre).



BISHOP HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT, 1984

KEY:

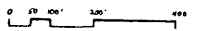
- 1 COLONY CHURCH
- 2 DAIRY BUILDING
- 3 BLACKSMITH SHOP
- 4 COLONY RESIDENCE
- 5 CARPENTER / PAINT SHOP
- 6 STEEPLE BUILDING
- 7 COLONY STORE
- 8 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
- 9 APARTMENT BUILDING
- 10 PRIVY AND WASH HOUSE
- 11 BJORKLUND HOTEL
- 12 BISON BARN
- 13 KRVEDO
- 14 COLONY SCHOOL
- 15 HOSPITAL
- 16 ERIC DANSON'S RESIDENCE
- 17 MEAT STORAGE BUILDING
- 18 BREWING CELLAR
- 19 BOYS' HOUSE
- 20 BARRICAMP
- 21 RED OAK HOUSE
- 22 STREAM HILL SITE
- 23 BARRA HILL SITE
- 24 TANNERY SITE
- 25 BARRIAGE SITE

- A ANDREW CHAIKIN'S HOUSE
- B JONAS MALMEREN APERTURARY
- C POPPY BARN
- D SWEDISH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
- E OLAF THORSTAD HOUSE
- F ZARA YESIN, GOLDMITH
- G J. W. WESTERBERG'S HOUSE
- H BOARDING HOUSE
- I ABRAHAM FLORIN'S HOUSE
- J NEWMANN'S TIN SHOP
- K PETER JOHNSON'S HOUSE
- L SWAN SWANSON'S HOUSE
- M JACOB JACOBSON'S HOUSE
- N GRAIN ELEVATOR

Q - M NON CONFORMING STRUCTURES

- COLONY STRUCTURES (1846-1861)
- ▨ EARLY POST-COLONY STRUCTURES (1862-1884)
- ⊠ NON-CONFORMING STRUCTURES
- - - HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- PICKET FENCE

D. THOMAS R. LIPPHS
January, 1984



Property Verification, Bishop Hill Colony Historic District

BLOCK 78	American National Bank of DeKalb Harold Nordeen A. Gunnar and Alfva Borg Dewey D. Olander
BLOCK 79	Arlene J. Rigg
BLOCK 86	Arlene J. Rigg
BLOCK 87	Arlene J. Rigg
BLOCK 3	Bishop Hill Heritage Association Edward J. Hepner Alfva C. Borg Lawrence W. Johnson, et al A. Gunnar and Alfva C. Borg
BLOCK 81	A. Gunnar Borg, et al Alfhild Ohberg
BLOCK 4	Walter M. Larson, et al A. Gunnar Borg
BLOCK 5	Mr. and Mrs. David R. Rushing Josephine C. Nelson
BLOCK 6	Mrs. Harry Dale (Doris) Ericson
BLOCK 7	Village of Bishop Hill
BLOCK 8	Harry H. Lander, et al Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Berg State of Illinois Mrs. Joseph P. (Dorothea) Matson
BLOCK 9	Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur E. Nelson Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Nordeen C. Wallace Anderson Bishop Hill Community Fire District
BLOCK 16	Bishop Hill Heritage Association Dolores Todorovich

Property Verification, Bishop Hill
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BLOCK 17	Michael E. Massie, attorney, trustee for Helen L. Berg Mrs. Kenneth L. Lindbom Mrs. Harry Dale Ericson	
BLOCK 18	Mr. and Mrs. Daniel D. Wigant Kenneth N. Wexell, et al Beth Guyer Tanton	
BLOCK 19	Bishop Hill Heritage Association Lewis I. Nelson, et al	
BLOCK 20	Rolland H. Olson	
PUBLIC SQUARE	State of Illinois, Department of Conservation	
BLOCK 21	Bishop Hill Heritage Association Milo (Mike) J. Anderson, et al Wayne Ericson Mr. and Mrs. Rias P. Spets	and the Lorena Honson estate (Lucille Bergstrom)
BLOCK 28	Marietta M. Clausen VASA Order of America Larry J. Riner, et al Harriet Diane Anderson Mid Century Telephone Cooperative	
BLOCK 29	Bishop Hill Heritage Association Stephen Holden, et al James H. Robertson, et al Janet S. Arter State of Illinois Department of Conservation	and the Laura Johnson Leff estate (William Leff)
BLOCK 30	State of Illinois, Department of Conservation Edla C. Warner Peter J. Nordstrom estate (Bryce Nordstrom)	
BLOCK 31	Walter Larson, et al Marvin L. Gustafson (Mr. and Mrs.) John I. Alstrom	
BLOCK 32	Bishop Hill Old Settlers' Association Howard E. Stephenson (Mr. and Mrs.)	
BLOCK 40	Mr. and Mrs. Alex Darragh	

Property Verification, Bishop Hill Colony Historic District
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BLOCK 41 Richard H. Andersen
BLOCK 48 Richard H. Andersen
BLOCK 49 Mr. and Mrs. Willard J. Holden
Mr. and Mrs. Mac R. Miller
BLOCK 60 Mr. and Mrs. Mac R. Miller
BLOCK 61 Jacobson Family Trust
BLOCK 68 Jacobson Family Trust
BLOCK 69 Harold W. Sellman (Mr. and Mrs.)

Property Verification, 1861 - 1870 not located in the Bishop Hill Colony
Historic District currently

BLOCK 25 Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church
BLOCK 27 Dorothy Florine
James Richard Robertson (Mr. and Mrs.)
Mr. and Mrs. Billy L. Dowell (Cheryl)
BLOCK 26 Ronald E. Nelson (the 1855 Red Oak House)
BLOCK 51 Elmer R. Pearson, et al (the 1855 Krusbo)
BLOCK 76, 77 & American National Bank of Dekalb
A,B,C,D,H

Verification done by Dina Nelson, January 19, 1984.

Records located at the Henry County Court House, Cambridge, Illinois 61238

TRACT G Gail Wexell
TRACT F Gail Wexell
Jacob Jacobson Estate
NW $\frac{1}{4}$,NW $\frac{1}{4}$,SEC 14 Kenneth Wexell
NW $\frac{1}{4}$,SE $\frac{1}{4}$,SEC 13 Daniel Tingleaf

Index of American Design

Bishop Hill Reference Numbers:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| <u>Mo. Mscl.</u> | 3 - auger
6 - fire extinguisher
7 - coffee grinder
8 - salt box, wooden
11 - copper skillet |
| <u>Mo. Me. I</u> | 10 - hand iron
15 a. - hand iron |
| <u>Mo. Me.</u> | 15 - hand iron |
| <u>Ill. Ca.</u> | 8 - washing flail
9 - wooden spoon
10 - wooden pitcher
11 - mangle
12 - wooden cheese mold
16 - clock hand (off the Steeple Building clock)
46 - newel post and stair railing |
| <u>Ill. Co.</u> | 1 - dress |
| <u>Ill. Fu.</u> | 27 - bed
28 - table
29 - auger
30 - combination settle and folding bed
31 - table
32 - cradle
34 - desk (two views)
35 - chair
36 - dressing case
39 - cupboard
52 - church pew |
| <u>Ill. Me.</u> | 27 - large spoon
28 - small silver spoon
116 - scissors
117 - small scissors
120 - wood pin or dowell cutter |
| <u>Ill. Mscl.</u> | 27 - skate
86 - wood lathe
88 - wagon
92 - hotel lantern (Bjorklund Hotel, which is also referred to as the Colony Hotel) |

III. Mscl. continued 93 - straw fork
94 - flail
95 - wood thread or screw cutter
96 - mangle
97 - auger

41 items in all, with at least one of which has two or more views

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION: BISHOP HILL, ILLINOIS

ERRATA

- Item 8, Significance Para. 3, line 7: 12,000 instead of 11,000
- Item 7, p. 2 Para. 2, line 6: State instead of private land
- Item 7, p. 5 Para. 4, line 3: white pine instead of oak
- Item 7, p. 7 Para. 1, line 3: Township instead of village
- Item 7, p. 9 Para. 1, line 7: spindles instead of rungs
Para. 1, line 8: cherry instead of walnut
- Item 7, p. 12 Para. 2, lines 2 and 3: now owned by the State of Illinois was instead of was acquired by the Bishop Hill Heritage Association and
- Item 7, p. 14 Para. 2, line 2: 1970's instead of 1870's
Para. 7, line 1: Westberg instead of Westerberg
- Item 9, p. 27 Murray, Anna Wadsworth. "Olof Krans of Bishop Hill Colony" instead of County