

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FINAL

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED _____

DATE ENTERED _____

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC John Hamilton House

AND/OR COMMON

Hamilton House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

132 West Washington Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Shelbyville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Indiana

VICINITY OF

CODE
18

COUNTY

Shelby

CODE

145

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
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. John P. Soller

STREET & NUMBER

132 West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Shelbyville

STATE

Indiana

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

Shelby County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Shelbyville

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory

DATE

1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hamilton House is located in a residential area in Shelbyville, Indiana. The two-story brick Italianate structure rests on a low foundation of limestone blocks. Although somewhat irregular, the house has a basically rectangular shape. Two polygonal projecting bays dominate the main (south) facade. The semi-circular one-story porch with fluted columns, Doric capitals, and balustrades frames the main entrance and spans the opening between the two bays.

The windows have double hung sashes with limestone surrounds and sills. The upper lights are capped by segmental arches. Metal brackets support a low slate roof. There are small rectangular attic windows between the brackets. There are three chimneys—two at the sides and one at the back.

Although west and rear sides are fairly simple, the east elevation has a three-sided projecting bay and two small square porches.

A number of changes have been made in structure. The major change has been the addition of the semi-circular porch on the front of the building about 1910. At the same time the original front porch was moved to the east side. Other changes include the addition of an enclosed wooden porch to the back and a one-story brick garage added to a recess in the back corner (northwest); the garage was added about 1920.

The interior features oak woodwork and decorative moldings. In 1939 a number of partitions and plumbing facilities were added to the interior when the structure was converted to a hotel. Most of these alterations have been removed by the present owners.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 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 1853

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hamilton House is notable chiefly for its architectural merit. The two-and-a-half story Italianate structure is dominated by a double bracketed cornice, segmental-arched windows, and polygonal projecting bays. The treatment of the main facade is particularly unusual since it has two projecting bays which flank the central entrance. As a rule, only one projecting bay is placed on a flat elevation; the Hamilton House's exterior presents a greater variety of planes than is normal in residences constructed in the Italianate style.

The structure was constructed about 1853 for John Hamilton. Hamilton was born in Ireland in 1784 and emigrated to the United States early in the Nineteenth Century. In 1830 he settled his family in Rushville, Indiana. Although he had come from a farming background, he operated a dry goods and grocery store and a hotel in Rushville. In 1834 Hamilton's younger brother, Samuel, joined him in Rushville but soon moved to Shelbyville in April, 1835, to start a mercantile establishment known as J. & S. Hamilton Company.

The J. & S. Hamilton Company proved to be of some success because in 1851 John Hamilton decided to relocate in Shelbyville and purchased several lots in the town's Western Addition. The Hamilton House was constructed at this time. John Hamilton lived in the house until he died in 1875 at age 91. In 1855 he deeded the property to his brother, Samuel, perhaps to be held in trust for his four daughters. In 1871 John's daughters received title to the property. One of the daughters, Jane, married Samuel Laughlin who joined the Hamilton mercantile business. Laughlin inherited a share of the house upon his wife's death in 1908, and in 1916 received full title to the structure after the last Hamilton daughter died. After Laughlin's death, the house passed to his second wife, who died in 1932. In 1939 the Laughlin estate was settled and the house was purchased by Leon Steinhauser, who converted it into a hotel known as the Be Be Inn. The next owners, William and June Hunter, also used the structure as a hotel. The current owners, John and Dottie Soller, have returned the building's use to that of a private residence.

In the 1890's another Shelbyville House, the Major House, was constructed in the same design as the Hamilton House. Although the Major House is slightly larger and is constructed of stone rather than brick, it had the same room arrangement and two projecting bays on the front elevation. The Major House was built for Alfred Major, who was related by marriage to Samuel Hamilton. The Major House was donated to the City of Shelbyville for use as a hospital.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- History of Rush County, Indiana. Chicago: Brant and Fuller, 1888.
 PEAT, Wilbur D., Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1962.
 History of Shelby County, Indiana. Chicago: Brant and Fuller, 1887
 American Biographical History of Eminent and Self Made Men of the State of Indiana. 2 Vols.; Cincinnati: Western Biographical Publishing Company, 1880.
 U.S. Census Records. Deed Records and Court Records, Shelby County Courthouse.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Shelbyville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	6,0,4,8,5,0	4,3,7,5,4,9,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot No. 3 on Washington Street in Shelbyville, measuring 71 by 133 feet.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John P. Soller

ORGANIZATION

DATE

1975

STREET & NUMBER

132 West Washington Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Shelbyville,

STATE

Indiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3-30-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE