

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

II-9

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sutton, Dr. George, Medical Office Building

other names/site number 029-029-51106

2. Location

street & number 315 Third Street N/A not for publication

city or town Aurora N/A vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Dearborn code 029 zip code 47001

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Name of Property

Dearborn Co., IN
County and State

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	
2	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH CARE: medical business/office
SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH CARE: medical business/office
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: second empire

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other METAL: tin
WOOD: weatherboard

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Name of Property

Dearborn Co., IN
County and State

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH/MEDICINE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1870-1886

Significant Dates

c.1870

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Sutton, Dr. George

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Name of Property

Dearborn Co., IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	116	6815810	4324810
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carroll Sutton
organization _____ date August 15, 1993
street & number Box 15920 S.R. 148 telephone 812-926-1912
city or town Aurora state IN zip code 47001

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name see "Form Prepared By"
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Dearborn Co., INNarrative Statement of Description

The Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building is an excellent small scale example of Second Empire architecture from the late nineteenth century. The exterior of the structure has changed little since its original construction in about 1870.

The building is two story, including that under the mansard roof, and sits directly on the public sidewalk. It is constructed of brick in a stretcher bond pattern. The north or front facade rests upon a foundation of rectangular shaped limestone blocks with a rough cut face, topped by a band course of smooth cut stone. The front facade contains three bays with two one-over-one wood windows and a recessed entrance located at the northwest corner. The openings have cut stone sills and pressed tin window and door hoods with small extended side brackets. There is no indication that any of the windows had exterior shutters.

There are three steps which get progressively smaller on all three sides leading to the recessed entrance. The entrance is surrounded by stained wood trim. There are indications that at one time there was a door and probably a transom. The inside of the entrance vestibule has rough plaster or stucco on the walls. The doorway and surrounding composite trim is also stained. The wooden door has a single pane of glass in the top half surrounded by decorative trim with corner blocks at the top and at the bottom there is a small bracketed sill with a chevron decoration below. The bottom half of the door contains a recessed panel with outer trim. There is a single pane transom directly above the door and narrow sidelights on either side of the doorway. At the bottom there is a recessed wooden panel with three vertical panes of glass extending up along side the transom. Above the doorway there is horizontal ship-lap siding.

The front facade is not perfectly symmetrical or evenly proportioned which is most evident in the pressed tin bracketed cornice on the front of the building. All of the panels are evenly spaced except for the one located closest to the northwest corner which is smaller. This would indicate that the building was probably not designed by an architect, but built by a local contractor using some mass produced parts. Between each of the cornice brackets there are recessed panels which contain a circle flanked by rectangular panels. A pressed tin band course runs

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2 Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Dearborn Co., IN

around the building, except the rear facade, near the bottom of the brackets. The building has boxed gutters with a raked outer edge and a mansard roof on the north, east, and west facades, the rear or south facade simply has a gambreled end. Above the mansard roof there is a very low pitched roof with two internal chimneys in the ridge. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and there is a decorative piece of wood trim around the top. In the center of the front facade on the second floor there is a dormer with a flat top which contains a pair of one-over-one round arched wood windows with decorative pressed tin surround.

The east facade, which is more decorative than the west but less so than the north, was probably always exposed to the street. It also is brick in a stretcher bond, however the limestone foundation is made of stones in a more varied pattern and size. There are three one-over-one wood windows with cut stone sills and lintels. The window nearest the northeast corner may have been a door at one time because there are seam lines in the bricks below.

There is an external chimney between the first and second window from the northeast corner. The chimney is original to the construction of the building because its limestone foundation matches the main foundation. The brick chimney is constructed in a common bond pattern. Once the chimney passes the boxed gutters it steps back closer to the mansard roof. This portion of the chimney may be a replacement. The cornice on this facade is created by a row of brick headers in a vertical portion with every other one being recessed to create small voids. Beneath this is the pressed tin band course and there are pressed tin brackets at the corners of the building and above each corner of the window openings. Because the windows are not evenly spaced, the bracket spacing is irregular.

There is a dormer near the northeast corner which matches the dormer on the front, but only contains one one-over-one window. The second and third dormers from the northeast corner are much plainer, but maintain a similar shape and size. Probably the third dormer is later than the others.

The west facade is very plain compared to the others. The only applied decoration is the pressed tin band course which is part of the cornice on the other facades. Pressed tin, raked, boxed gutters have a row of brick vertical headers directly beneath. This was originally a blank brick wall, possibly

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3 Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Dearborn Co., IN

indicating that there was a building next door; however, midway back a wooden door and a horizontal window opening containing two side hinged, single pane, windows have been added. The doorway has a concrete sill and stone lintel and the window has a stone sill and lintel. On the second floor there are two plain, flat topped dormers with one-over-one windows located near the middle and at the southwest corner. A small dormer has been added at a later time to the left of the middle dormer.

The rear or south facade has two openings on the first floor, a door to the right and a window to the left. The wooden four panel door has a single pane transom above. The window is one-over-one with wooden sash. Each has a stone sill and lintel. A projecting or extended addition has been attached to the second floor and it is supported by three rusticated concrete posts. This creates a covered area on the first floor. The east and west sides match the mansard roof, the rear or south side is a gambreled end and is covered with thin clapboard siding. There is a wooden exterior stair leading to a small deck or landing near the southeast corner. At this location there is a wooden door with multiple panes of glass, covered by a small shed canopy with simple side brackets. There is a two-over-two window near the southwest corner.

The Dr. George Sutton's Medical Office Building is located on Third Street in downtown Aurora and there is a city alley on the east and south boundaries of the property. The building is located in the southwest portion of the lot. The building sits directly on the front sidewalk, there is a narrow strip of grass on the west a small yard in the back or to the south, and a driveway to the garage between the main building and the eastern alley. East of the southeast corner of the medical office building there is a circa 1930s two car garage with two sliding doors each containing two six pane windows. The garage sits on a poured concrete foundation which sits back into a bank and has wooden clapboard siding, boxed eaves with no gutters, a hip roof with a very small ridge covered with asphalt shingles. There are small two-over-two windows on the east and west facades. It is a non-contributing building.

Behind the office building located in the southwest corner of the property directly on the south alley, there is a livery stable which was at some point converted into a house. The two story building has gable ends facing north and south. There is a centrally located internal chimney located on the roof ridge.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4 Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Dearborn Co., IN

The building has a varied limestone foundation and wooden siding which matches the garage (this is probably newer than the structure itself). This main facade which faces east contains a centrally located wooden paneled door with six panes of glass near the top. This entrance is flanked by pair of six-over-one windows with simple surrounds. The main entrance is on the east where there is a porch with shed roof supported by two wooden Doric columns, simple railing, wooden floor and lattice below. The second floor contains two small six-over-one windows directly below the eaves.

The north facade contains a small wood plank door into the basement or cellar. On the first floor there is a six-over-one window located near the northeast corner and a pair of six-over-one at the northwest corner. There is a small six-over-one window located in the center of the gable on the second floor.

The rear or south facade contains of the first floor a wooden paneled door with a single pane of glass at the top near the southwest corner and a six-over-one window at the southeast corner. The second floor contains a pair of side hinged windows each with twelve small panes of glass, it is thought that this opening was at one time access to the hay mow. The west facade is within one foot of the building next door. There are only window openings on the first floor and they consist of, from the southwest corner, a pair, a single, and a pair of multi-pane windows. The former livery counts as a contributing building because it is thought to date from George Sutton's lifetime.

The interior of Dr. George Sutton's Medical Office Building has been changed several times since its initial construction in circa 1870. The interior was probably never very elaborate since it was a place of business. One enters through the front door into a stair hall which contains a simple stair to the upstairs. There is a stained, square newel post with applied trim, a rounded hand rail, two square spindles per tread, thirteen stairs to a landing and seven additional stairs to the left which lead to the second floor rooms. There is an unused space next to the stairs and the wall surface beneath the stairway has very simple panels. This area contains wooden floors and 12' high ceilings. There are several different types of woodwork evident throughout the structure, ranging from what was probably the original with a very molded top surface, to others which are plain boards with a simple outer edge.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 5 Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Dearborn Co., IN

It seems that the Office Building was built over a crawl space and early in the twentieth century a pit with poured concrete sides was inserted in the basement area to house a furnace.

Upon entering the stair hall one can turn left and enter into the medical offices which were used by members of the Sutton family until the early decades of the twentieth century. After that time the space was converted into housing and completely remodeled following the 1937 flood which submerged the first floor of the building. Through the years other interior changes were made and in 1991 a medical office returned to this space and several new partitions were constructed. All of the internal walls are paster on brick or over lath. Historically, there seems to have been three main rooms on this floor. All the woodwork was changed and the ceilings dropped following the 1937 flood. The only historic fabric remaining is a cast iron fire place mantle on the east wall, a single pane transom above the door from the hall, and a wooden cold air return grate located in the floor along the north wall.

The historic use of the second floor is unknown. It could have been used for housing or also for office space. There are four main rooms on this floor because of the second floor extension at the back. A great deal of the original woodwork, including door and window surrounds and stepped baseboards, remain in the upstairs; however, the numerous partitions added through the years resulted in many types of woodwork being evident. Because of numerous additions and alterations the original room configuration is somewhat obscured. Deep recesses are created at the window openings by the dormers in the mansard roof.

The Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building is an excellent example of late 19th century architecture which was used by one of Indiana's premier physicians and scientists. The exterior of the building has changed little through the years except for a second story rear addition. The interior of the building, which was never elaborate, was functional space which has been changed through the years to meet the demands of the Sutton family which still owns the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6 Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Dearborn Co., IN

The Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building meets National Register criteria B and C. Sutton was important figure in Indiana medical history for his early research and efforts to combat infectious diseases in the state. His Second Empire style office, built c.1870, made an important architectural statement in the community and served to indicate his professional status. Sutton came to Aurora in 1836, living and practicing medicine in the community until his death in 1886.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7 Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Dearborn Co., IN

Narrative Statement of Significance

The building that is being submitted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places is noteworthy for two reasons. The Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building is of a unique architectural style in Aurora, Indiana and the person who had the building constructed was an outstanding figure of his time, both in southeastern Indiana and in the country.

George Sutton was born in London, England, June 16, 1812. He emigrated with his family to the United States in 1819. He attended school during his early years in a log building in the newly formed state of Indiana. His family settled briefly in Cincinnati and then in New Trenton, Indiana in Franklin County. Like most people at that time, the Sutton's farmed the land. In 1828 George Sutton was sent to Miami University at Oxford, Ohio to study Latin and mathematics.

In the summer of 1833 he commenced the study of medicine under Dr. Jesse Smith of Cincinnati, Ohio. Soon thereafter, Dr. Smith died of cholera and he then studied under Dr. John Eberlie and Professor S. D. Gross. During the winter of 1834 he attended medical lectures at the Medical College of Ohio. The following spring and fall he spent much time in the dissecting room. During his entire professional career Sutton was keen on following up a death with an autopsy. In some locales at this time autopsies were illegal. In 1835 he graduated from the Ohio Medical College after attending three full courses of lectures. The title of his thesis was "The Relation between the Blood and the Vital Principal".

I point out the extent of his medical schooling because many doctors at that time became physicians only by serving apprenticeships under other doctors. Much of Sutton's success in medicine and other scientific activities perhaps can be traced back not only to an inquiring mind but to the inspiration and instruction of his early professors.

Dr. George Sutton began his practice in Aurora, Indiana during the spring of 1836. At that time Aurora, which was laid out in 1819, was a small Ohio River port town of approximately 500 inhabitants. The 1885 Dearborn County History states that in 1836 a bridge was built across Hogan Creek and this greatly aided in the town's growth. During that year several young men including Dr. George Sutton, came to Aurora and "that summer a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8 Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Dearborn Co., IN

number of young men of energy settled in Aurora, who assisted in different ways in diffusing life and energy to the old inhabitants of the town" (page 317). Soon his medical practice was thriving and on June 7, 1838 he married a local girl by the name of Sarah Folbre.

It is unknown how or when Dr. George Sutton acquired the land on which his medical office building was constructed. Lot #123 as purchased by Phillip Skinner of Cincinnati, Ohio on May 10, 1836 for \$5.00. One hundred and fourteen years later, the lot was awarded to a descendant of Dr. George Sutton, because no Skinner descendant came forward, by the Dearborn County Circuit Court on September 21, 1950 (Order Book #102, pg. 254, case #10975). It is uncertain if Skinner gave the property to Sutton, if it was purchased, or if the record books were lost in a courthouse fire or flood; however, the record of the transaction was never officially filed. An 1855 map in the collections of Hillforest Historical Foundation indicates that Sutton had control of the property, as well as others on Third Street, at this time. For example, Sutton purchased the lot next door, #124, from the estate of Henry Vanmiddlesworth on November 13, 1838 for \$75.50 and sold the lot to George Ensenberger on October 9, 1865 for \$200.

Throughout the nineteenth century Aurora continued to grow as a manufacturing and transportation center. By about 1870, Dr. Sutton constructed a small Second Empire styled office building on Third Street in downtown Aurora. This street has historically been a mix of commercial and residential uses; to the north is commercial and residential to the south.

In the nineteenth century a number of doctors practiced in Aurora; however, none were as famous nor influential as Dr. George Sutton. The 1859 Aurora city directory indicates that Sutton had his office in the same block as the current medical building and possibly on the same site. Five other physicians were listed in town: R. C. Bond, J. Ebersole, C. Forbriger, A. B. Haines, and F. L. Vieht. Again in 1871-72, his office is listed in this same area and three other physicians and surgeons appear. They include, R. C. Bond, A. B. Haines, and F. Rectanus. During the 1850s and 1860s, Sutton like other doctors in town, advertised in the local newspaper. The Aurora Commercial (17 April 1862) contained the following advertisement,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9 Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Dearborn Co., IN

PHYSICIANS

George Sutton, M. D. -
Aurora, Indiana.

Office on Third Street; residence on the hill
south of the city

DR. SUTTON may be found at his office from
eight to twelve o'clock A.M., and from one to
seven P.M., unless profession-ally engaged.

Sutton practiced medicine when the true cause of germ related illnesses were unknown. It was during his life time that the scientific community discovered the relationship between microscopic organisms and disease. He studied and practiced medicine at that time in history when the foundation of modern medicine was being laid. Pasteur laid in the groundwork of the germ theory of medicine between 1822 and 1895. Joseph Lister (1827-1912) was known as the founder of antiseptic surgery. Lister's sterilization theory and practice reduced the death rate related to surgery from 45 to 15 percent. Edward Jenner performed successful vaccinations for small pox in 1796, but it was almost a century later that his methods were adopted. It was in 1885 that Pasteur saved the life of small boy mauled by a rabid dog. Until this time, the rabies infection was fatal. The above items are cited to establish a context for the medical profession during the time frame in which Dr. George Sutton worked as a practicing physician and scientist.

Because of this lack of knowledge, whole communities were wiped out by different epidemics. In fact, in the summer of 1849 cholera struck Aurora and 25% of the population died. In the neighborhood where Sutton lived, one out of ever two persons died. He, himself, was struck with the illness and his eldest son, just a boy of the age of four, died after a few hours with the disease. Sutton reported at the state medical convention in 1851 that at the beginning of the outbreak "large fires were made at the corner of streets in the infected portion of the town and cannons were fired every twenty-five minutes for four or five hours. This I have no doubt did harm." Sutton also reported that "out of the ninety-seven people in the infected districts of Aurora fifty-one died, while 1,600 out of the population of 2,000 left town." Indiana, especially along the navigable waterways like the Ohio River, was struck by Cholera epidemics between each year between 1849 and 1852.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10 Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Dearborn Co., IN

In 1852 the Indiana State Medical Society appointed Dr. Sutton to make a study and a report on the medical history of cholera in Indiana. In the report entitled, "A Report to the Indiana State Medical Society on Asiatic Cholera as it Prevailed in this State 1849-50-51-52" (1853 State Transactions, p. 109-175), Dr. Sutton summarized that cholera was an infectious disease that was diffused over the globe by humans. In his writings, Sutton advanced the theory that cholera was spread by careless disposal of the bowel movements of those infected with the disease. These waste products, if not disposed of properly, infected the water supply, hence spreading the dreaded disease.

Sutton's most life saving studies centered around the disease cholera. Hogs in great quantity were raised in the distillery town of Aurora. They were always infected to a greater or lesser degree with hog cholera. Through studies he determined that this was an infectious disease passed from hogs to other hogs. Many at this time thought it was improper feeding practices that made the hogs sick. He also determined that the cholera of hogs was different from the cholera that affected humans. It was a common belief at that time that hogs brought the cholera to a community. Another area of veterinarian science in which Sutton worked was trichinosis. He determined that the disease can be passed between swine and humans. This fact was not commonly known at the time. Dr. Sutton studied this disease and published much on the subject of trichinosis.

Sutton published numerous professional articles on the diseases which affected the residents of Indiana, including "Remarks on an Epidemic Erysipelas, Known by the Popular Name 'Black Tongue,' Which Prevailed in Ripley and Dearborn Counties, Indiana" (1843), "Preliminary Report on Milk Sickness as it Prevails Within the State of Indiana" (1853), "Report on Erysipelas" (1856), "Report on Cholera" (1867), "President's Address: Man's Power over Nature, and Medicines as a Means by Which He Aids and Controls the Laws of Life" (1870), "Report of the Diseases of Indiana for the Year 1872, with a Brief Outline of the Medical Topography and Climatology of Different Localities" (1873), "A Report on Trichinosis, as Observed in Dearborn County in 1874" (1875), "On the Reduction of Dislocation of Hip-joint by Manipulating the Femur as a Lever Over a Fulcrum placed in the Groin" (1876), "Parasites, and Their Effects Upon the Human System" (1883), and "A Review of the Epidemics That Have Occurred in Southeastern Indiana During the Last Fifty Years, and the Observation of Change of Type in Our Endemic Malarial Diseases" (1885).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 11 Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Dearborn Co., IN

Sutton, like many of his colleagues, was a strong proponent for the establishment of a State Board of Health and Indiana doctors started requesting such action of the State Legislature as early as 1850. He presented a report, "Diseases of Indiana for the year 1872" where he stated that statistical data by county should be published annually concerning the health of Indiana's citizens. It was later in the 1870s that the Indiana Medical Society established a commission to study the problem and make recommendations. This commission was the forerunner of the Indiana State Board of Health. As president of the Board of Trustees of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Indiana, Sutton delivered an address to the graduating class of 1887-1888. Sutton furnished the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC. with meteorological observations for many years, probably from 1859 to 1873. He also wrote on the subjects of geology and archaeology. In May 1837 former President Andrew Jackson returning to his home state of Tennessee and having heard of Sutton's success in fighting some of the more devastating health problems of the time, stopped in Aurora to make Dr. Sutton's acquaintance. Jackson stated "I esteem him as one of the most learned men of the medical profession in the United States and it would afford me great pleasure to make his acquaintance." However, finding Dr. Sutton not in town, Jackson made his way back to the steamboat and continued on his way South.

Dr. George Sutton was described in the 1885 History of Dearborn County as "an independent thinker; has been remarkable for his indefatigable energy, industry and love of science". Also, "he has had the confidence of the public for nearly a half century and from an extensive and consulting practice and lucrative business as surgeon and physician has, although a poor collector, been able to acquire ample means to live comfortable in his old age" (page 936-937). The 1886 Transactions of the Indiana State Medical Society contained an obituary for Sutton, who had died on June 13, 1886, which stated, "Dr. Sutton was a close observer, had a logical mind, and was full of untiring and intelligent industry. His writings, professional and scientific, have been more abundant and more important than those of any other physician in Indiana."

Sutton constructed a Second Empire style house on "Sutton's Hill" above the town and behind Hillforest, the 1850's home of Thomas Gaff. This house was added onto several times and was a rambling creation. It was torn down in 1939 by George Sutton's grandson, George S. Sutton, and replaced by a colonial revival

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 12 Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Dearborn Co., IN

house designed by Taylor & Porter of Cincinnati, Ohio. Sutton involved himself in many civic affairs, such as the formation of the Dearborn County Medical Society in 1844, the temperance movement, the public school system, serving as Mayor of Aurora from 1863 to 1867, and his daughter, Georgianna Sutton, had the Aurora Public Library (1913-1914) constructed in his memory.

His two sons, Harley H. (December 24, 1852-September 1, 1921) and Willis Edgar Sutton (June 2, 1848-February 24, 1879) became medical doctors and practiced with him in the building at 315 Third Street, Aurora, Indiana. Willis died at a very young age, but his brother, Harley, lived a full life and was considered at the time of his death as "one of the most prominent and influential physicians of Southeastern Indiana." Like his father, Harley Sutton, was very involved with many professional organizations and civic affairs.

The Medical Office Building of Dr. George Sutton was used by him and his sons for their medical practices from about 1870 until approximately 1920. During the great flood of the Ohio River in 1937 the water reached 6 feet in ground floor level. Since the late 1930s the building has been used for housing with an apartment on each floor. In 1992 a medical office returned to the building which is still owned by a Carroll Sutton, a great grandson of Dr. George Sutton.

The Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building is significant to the history of Dearborn County and Indiana because of the medical and intellectual contribution of the men who operated their practices out of the small office building. This early Indiana family played a significant role in the growth and development of southeastern Indiana and advancements in medicine and the veterinarian sciences. Also, it is an excellent example of a small scale Second Empire structure in southeastern Indiana.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 13 Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Dearborn Co., IN

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 & 10 Page 14 Dr. George Sutton Medical Office Building
Dearborn Co., IN

Other

Civil Order Book #102, Dearborn County, Indiana, 13
September 1950, case #10975, page. 254.

Deed Record Books, Dearborn County Recorders Office,
Dearborn County Courthouse, Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

Section 10-Geographical Data-Verbal Boundary Description

In-lot number 123, City of Aurora Original Plat

Boundary Justification

This is the historic property boundary, inclusive of the office, former livery,
and non-contributing garage.