



Local Historic Landmark/District Application

City of Peoria Historic Preservation Commission

Property Information:

(The property proposed for designation. For a district, give a location such as 800 block of NE Perry or give the district a name.)

Address: Hamilton Boulevard from Water Street to North Street

Applicant: (The person/organization applying.)

Name: Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation

Company/Neighborhood Association: _____

Address: P. O. Box 495

City: Peoria State: Illinois ZIP: 61651

Daytime Phone: (309) 674-7121 Email: _____

Applicant Signature: Leslie H. Kenyon **Leslie H. Kenyon, President**

Additional Required Information:

- Include a map that identifies the boundaries of the property proposed for designation.
- Include labeled, color pictures of each of the properties proposed for designation.
- If you desire to prepare the application on a computer or typewriter, sheets may be attached, but please use the following pages as an outline and indicate all data in the order it is requested on the following pages to maintain consistency. All information is required.

LANDMARKS

For the property to be designated complete the following pages:

DISTRICTS

For each individual property to be designated complete the following pages. Make copies if necessary:

Also provide on a separate sheet and narrative that describes the distinguishing characteristics of the proposed district and setting forth reasons in support of designation. Specifically, it is helpful to the petition to indicate how the area is significant in terms of local or national development methods and trends, local or national individuals/residents, or architectural styles.

The narrative must show how the proposed district meets one or more of the designation criteria (Section 16-38 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance).

Individual Property Information: (The individual property(ies) proposed for designation.)

Address: WATER ST. TO NORTH (HAMILTON BLVD)

Tax ID Number: _____

Owner: (As indicated on the current tax assessor's rolls)

Name: City of Peoria

Company/Neighborhood Association: Peoria City Hall

Address: 419 Fulton Street

City: Peoria State: IL ZIP: 61602

Does the owner consent to designation? (circle one) (yes) **(no)**

How was the owner contacted? NO EXCEPTION LETTERS TO CITY COUNCIL

Legal description of the property to be designated:

Starting with Water Street and ending at North Street, the length of
Hamilton Blvd. is 4,637 feet. The width of the street right of way is
100 feet.

Physical & Historical Characteristics:

Provide a statement describing the distinguishing characteristics of the property and setting forth reasons in support of designation. **The written statement must show how the proposed designation meets one or more of the designation criteria (Section 16-38 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance) and address the following items.** Contributing structures do not need to individually meet one or more criteria. However, they collectively may satisfy one or more of the criteria.

See Criteria numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 8,

See Items A, + B

The page of Designation Criteria, items 1, 2, and 3, are very well answered.

The character of Hamilton Boulevard and its value to the City of Peoria is

outstanding. The Boulevard was laid out by William Steven Hamilton, son of

Alexander Hamilton, the first Treasurer of the United States, under

President George Washington. Its location is in the center of Peoria

business area and has always been identified with William Hamilton and his
father, Alexander Hamilton. In planning the street, William Hamilton
named it after his father as he believed this would become one of the
important streets in the City.

Hamilton Boulevard is a work of a master city planner. Streets with boulevards
are found in many of America's principle cities, such as New York, Chicago,
Indianapolis, and Cleveland.

The physical characteristics of Hamilton Boulevard establishes it as a
very central part of Peoria downtown. Many familiar visual features can be
found on both sides of this handsome boulevard.

Current Use of the Property: (circle one) (single family) (multiple family) (commercial) (office) (industrial) other PUBLIC STREET

Current Occupancy Status: (circle one) (vacant) (occupied) USED AS A STREET

Current Property Physical Condition: (circle one) (excellent) (good) (fair) (deteriorated) (ruins) (unexposed / original details covered)

Has the property been significantly altered? (circle one) (yes) (no) If yes, please explain

YES In the 1920's Blvd strip was removed

Is this the original site of the structure? (circle one) (yes) (no) If no, please explain

NA

Period of construction or significance? (circle as many as applies) (18th Century) (19th Century) (20th Century) Specific known date? 18th century

DESIGNATION CRITERIA (Section 16-38)

(a) The historic preservation commission shall upon such investigation as it deems necessary, make a determination as to whether a nominated property, structure or area meets one or more of the following criteria.

1. Its character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the city, the county, the state or the United States of America deems it historically significant.
2. Its location as a site of a significant local, county, state or national event.
3. Its identification with a person who significantly contributed to the development of the city, the state or the nation.
4. Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction or use of indigenous materials.
5. Its identification as the work of a master building designer, architect or landscape architect whose individual work has influenced the development of the city, the state or the nation.
6. Its embodiment of elements of design, detailing, or craftsmanship that render it architecturally significant.
7. Its embodiment of design elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative.
8. Its unique location or singular physical characteristics that make it an established or familiar visual feature.
9. Its character as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure with a high level of integrity or architectural significance.

(b) Any structure, property or area that meets one or more of the above criteria shall also be suitable for preservation or restoration and have sufficient integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship to make it worthy of preservation or restoration.

VF 100 - Biography
Stom B

ALEXANDER HAMILTON'S SON SURVEYED PEORIA, PLATTED ITS STREETS

(Editor's note: This is the third of a series of historical sketches of old-time Peorians and events, including new and interesting data found in family and public records and other sources, concerning the lives of persons who came between 1819, the year of the first permanent settlement, and 1835, when the town of Peoria was incorporated.)

A "rough diamond" was William Stephen Hamilton, the pioneer son of Alexander Hamilton, who left his name on a Peoria street and in the records of the county.

Recent examination of century-old land transfers proves he owned and sold for \$50 the 160 acre tract in Limestone township upon which the Peoria Airport is situated.

A very handsome man of 26 years, Colonel Hamilton, as he was afterward called, came to Peoria in 1823 to survey the lots on the Illinois river here involved in the claims of French settlers. He was then United States surveyor at Springfield.

Two years later he gave his services and knowledge of law to defend Nomaque, a bad Indian of the Pottawatomie tribe against the charge of killing Pierre Landre in the Peoria county circuit court's first murder trial. He had no hope of compensation. His client was doomed to die but Hamilton helped get a reversal in the supreme court and Nomaque escaped further prosecution.

In the same year, 1825, Hamilton began a survey of land which became and remains the original town of Peoria. He named or helped the county commissioners name the streets in the area bounded by Fayette, Monroe, Liberty and Water streets. Hamilton street doubtless was named for the surveyor's father, the illustrious Alexander Hamilton, aide to General George Washington, first secretary of the treasury, founder of national banks, commander-in-chief of the infant republic's army and lastly the victim of a pistol duel with Aaron Burr.

From the cultural background of New York City, "Billy" Alexander pushed off for the rough life of the Mississippi valley where rum-drinking was a part of official life and knife and pistol fighting diversions in the peace-time intervals between hostile Indian threats and incursions. It is said he pursued Aaron Burr to St. Louis and to avenge the death of his father, challenged Burr to a duel. Burr is said to have refused to meet Hamilton on account of the differences in their ages.

Hamilton was living in Sangamon county when he purchased September 4, 1822, the quarter section now owned by Peoria Airport, Inc. The deed is

Journal Trans. 1933?

Hamilton, William S.

RECORDED COPY

Peoria Airport, Inc. 4

on file in deed book A, page 6, in the office of County Recorder August Grebe. Thomas K. Rice was the seller, and his residence Madison county, Illinois. The land described was the northeast quarter of section 22, township 8 in range 7 east. Justice of the Peace Amos Squire took the acknowledgement.

Rice acquired the land May 3, 1818, from William Noe who had it by letters patent from the United States December 19, 1817. Hamilton did not record his deed until April 29, 1825.

Hamilton was living in the county of Iowa and the territory of Michigan when he sold the same tract July 29, 1833, at \$50, half the price at which he purchased the land. Thomas Crocker of Adams county was the purchaser. The seller appears to have been in Adams County when the deed was acknowledged before Henry H. Snow, clerk of the circuit court there. Crocker waited until March 27, 1840, to record his deed. The entry is found here in the deed book L, page 95.

Authority for the employment of a surveyor was voted at a session of the Peoria county commissioners' court June 7, 1825. The journal of the court reads as follows:

"Ordered that William Holland be authorized to employ some suitable person to survey lots on the northeast quarter of section nine, township eight north and range eight east of the fourth principal meridian, said lots to be one hundred feet in length (including eight feet to be deducted from each lot for an alley) and eighty feet wide--the street on the shore of the lake to be one hundred and ten feet in width and all the other streets to be one hundred feet wide."

William Holland, Joseph Smith and Nathan Dillon, all then living in the present limits of Tazewell county, were the first commissioners of Peoria county. At the session of the court September 6, 1825, they adopted a rule that the town to be laid out under the direction of Commissioner Holland "run to the cardinal points," except it was provided that Water street should run parallel with the river. Provision was to be made for a market place on the "water lots," which were described as lots lying between the edge of the bank and low water mark of the Illinois River.

The order that streets be laid out to run to the cardinal points was set aside by a further order entered May 2, 1826, which provided that streets should run "parilel" with the river. John Dixon was the clerk.

In the meantime the commissioners were finding difficulty in gaining title to the quarter section upon which the county seat was located by act of the legislature.

The name of William S. Hamilton had not yet appeared on the minutes of the commissioners' court, but he evidently had made his surveys and

plans went forward for sale of the lots on the town site. On July 8, 1826, an order provided that the sale should be held July 10. Terms were to be 10 per cent cash and the balance in three installments of 6, 12 and 18 months. Joseph Smith was authorized to employ an auctioneer and furnish whisky for the sale and the clerk to deliver the plat to be recorded..... Hamlin three dollars and fifty cents for whisky and paper furnished for the sale in the town of Peoria".

A. C. Ballard was allowed two dollars for carrying the chain in surveying the town.

No session of the commissioners court was held on July 10 and it seems likely that the members attended the sale. At a meeting July 11, Henry Neely was allowed four dollars for assisting in the survey and George Sharpe was awarded one dollar for furnishing a table and the services of John Sharp.

The illustrious son of Alexander Hamilton breaks into the news for the first time on July 12:

"Ordered that the treasurer pay William S. Hamilton fifty-eight dollars, 75-100 for his services in full for surveying the town of Peoria for which he has agreed to receive two town lots".

A record of the sale of lots next appears on the record. Prices were \$31 to \$100 a lot.

A second sale of lots in November was ordered at a session of the commissioners court held in September, 1826. Prices were slightly higher.

Reads the record of December 5, 1826: "Ordered that William S. Hamilton be authorized to act as counsel on behalf of this court for the purpose of obtaining title to the land on which the county seat of Peoria county is located, with full power for said purpose except that of commencing a suit at law. Also that the clerk of this court inform said Hamilton that compensation will be allowed only in event of their obtaining said title".

After long negotiations with the United States through the St. Louis land office, the commissioners obtained title to the quarter section set aside as a county seat in the act of the Illinois legislature creating the county of Peoria. A certificate was issued in 1834 by the United States to Acquilla Wren, John Ogle and Edwin S. Jones, county commissioners. It conveyed title to the north east quarter of section nine in township eight north of range eight east of the fourth principal meridian. Pending litigation over the old French claims delayed the grant.

Hamilton's original plat of his survey has been lost or stolen. The copy is found in Plat book G, page 125. The plat is inscribed: "I certify that I have admeasured, laid out and surveyed the town of Peoria, as described in the above plat, July 10, 1826. "William S. Hamilton.

Charles Ballance lawyer, surveyor and historian, made a resurvey of the down-town area of Peoria in May, 1834. Whereas Hamilton's survey provided lots 72 x 180, with no alley, Ballance made provision for an 18 foot alley in blocks and changed the arrangement of lots in several blocks. Lots in block 13, in which the plant of The Journal-Transcript is situated, were unchanged except that nine feet was taken from the length of lots fronting on Jefferson and Madison avenues to make alley way.

PEORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

6

Ballance in his history of Peoria (1870) gives only one paragraph to William Hamilton, referring to his defense of Nomaque and his survey. He says of Hamilton, "He or the commissioners for whom he acted gave names to the streets".

Hamilton, after leaving Springfield, lived in Galena and worked in lead mines as a common workman to learn details of mining. He searched and surveyed land in Michigan, then a territory, in search of lead ore and made a strike at "Hamilton's Diggin's" on Fever river which his historian, Sylvan J. Muldoon says amounted in value to \$250,000.

He led Sioux, Indian allies against Black Hawk's Sacs and Foxes and was on hand or nearby when his cruel warrior scum massacred women and children of Black Hawk's tribe at the battle of Bad Axe, a crossing of the Mississippi river.

LINKS IN CHAIN OF THE SURVEYOR WHO PLATTED CITY

Born August 4, 1797 in New York of Alexander and Elizabeth (Schuyler) Hamilton

At age 7 years saw father die by Aaron Burr's dueling pistol.

Studied French and law in late father's ample library.

Entered West Point 1814. Left on "vacation" which he made permanent.

Surveyor in St. Louis. Deputy surveyor general at age 20.

Removed to Springfield, United States surveyor for Illinois.

Bought 160 acres near Peoria, then in Pike County, now owned by Peoria Airport, Inc., 1822. Price \$100.

Surveyed old French claims at Au Pied (Peoria) 1823.

Elected Illinois legislature, 1824.

Surveyed and platted original town of Peoria 1825-1826. Took two lots as pay.

Defended Nomaque, the Indian, in Peori's first murder trial.

Claimed lead ore lands on Fever river in Michigan territory, called "Hamilton Diggin's".

Captain in Black Hawk war.

Sold in 1833 for \$50 the Peoria Airport site.

To California in "gold rush" of 1849.

Died Sacramento, August, 1850. He never married.

PEORIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE DEPT.

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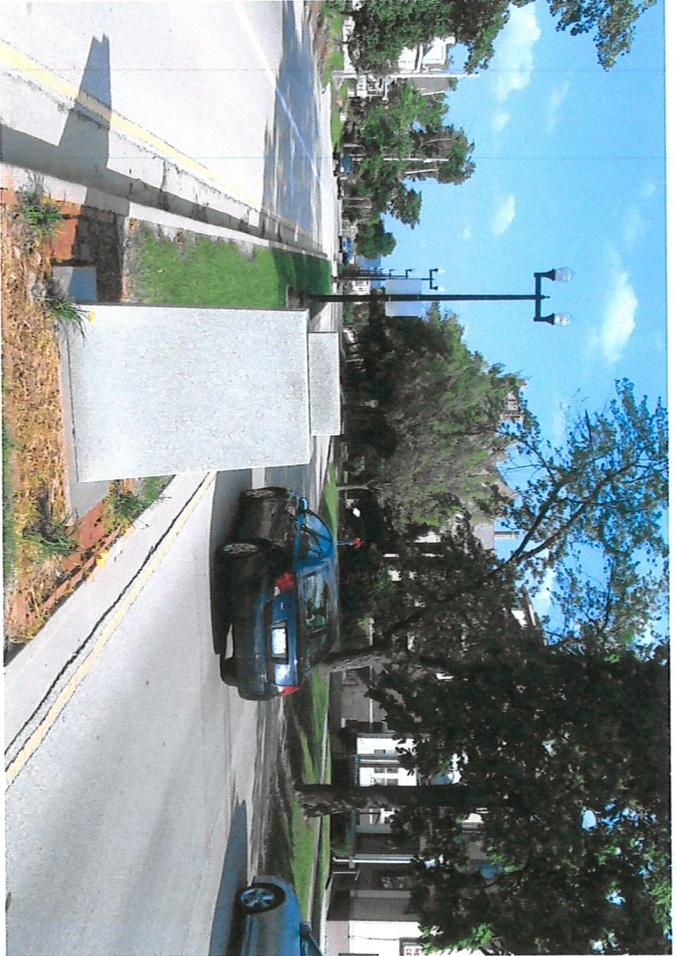
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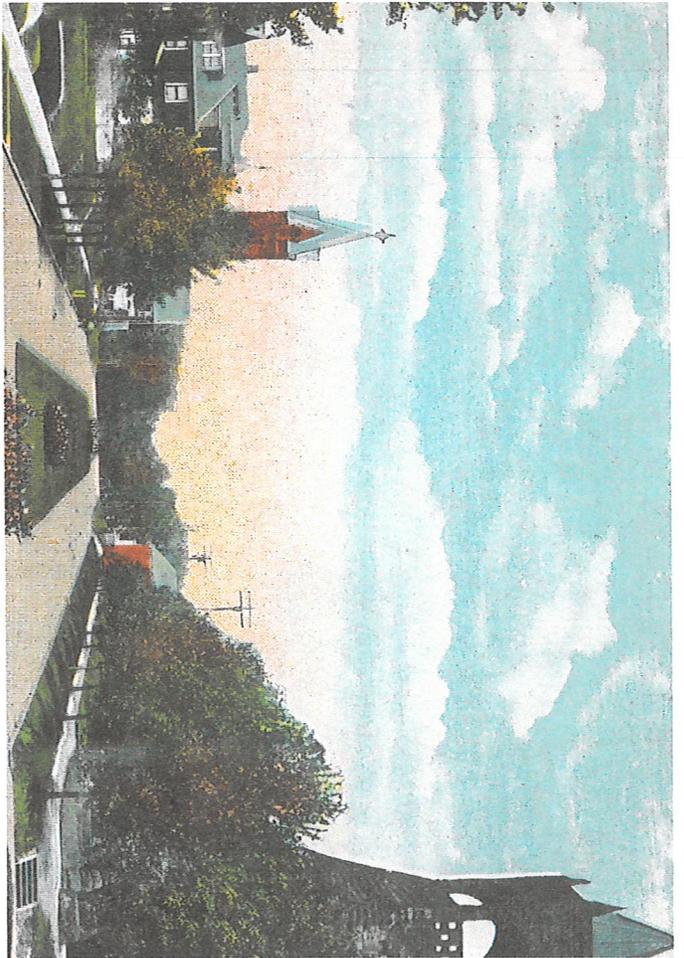
PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF TAMPA
CASE NO. ZC 08-333
DATE JUNE 3, 2008
Gen. bounded by Wilson, Pennington, Egbert
Address: Cedar Oak
494-8600

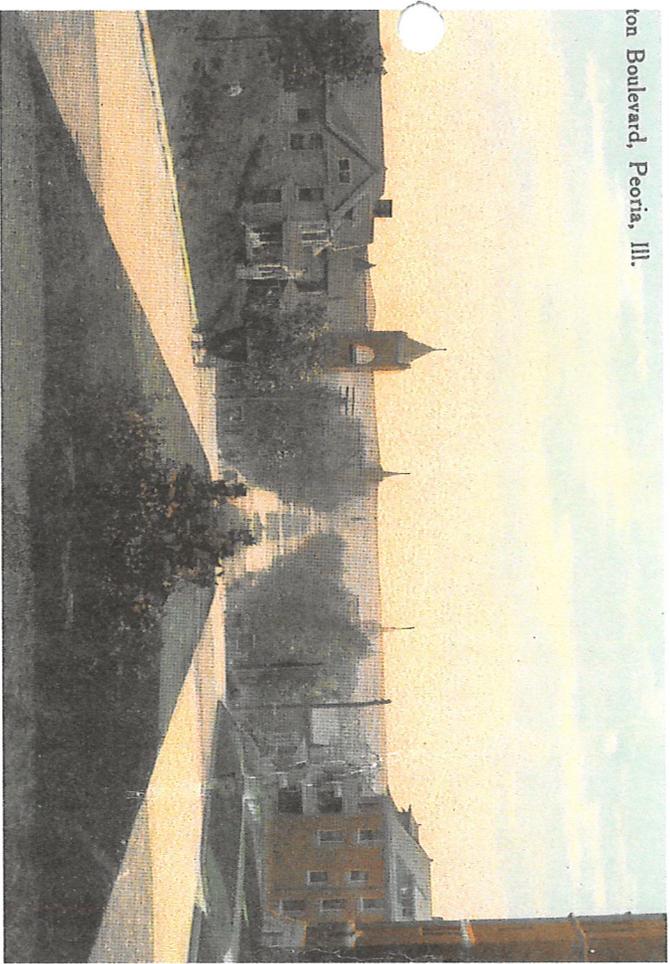
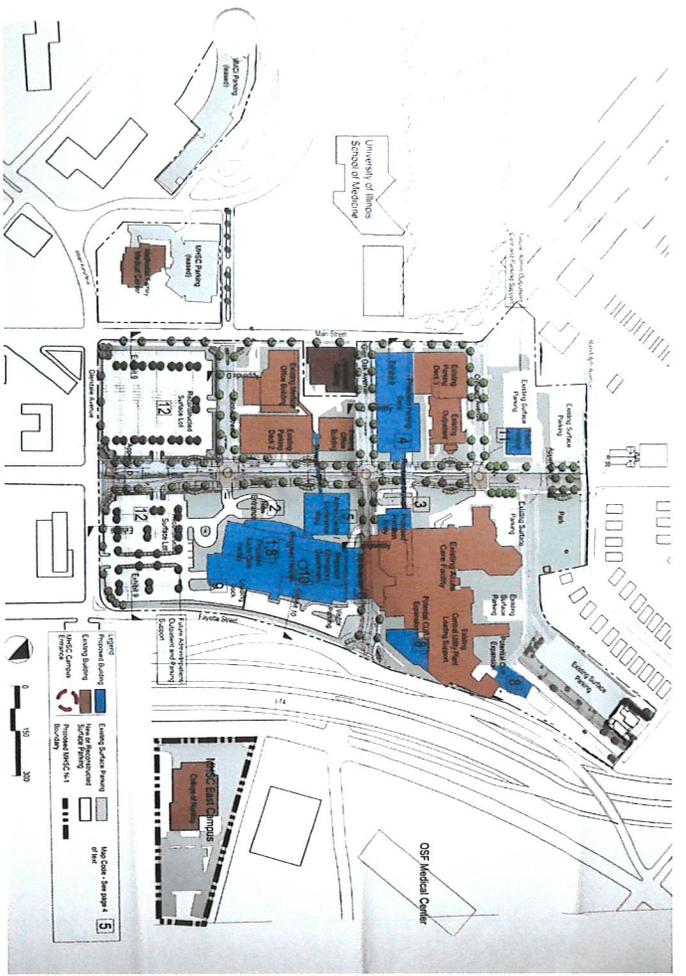


1300



EARLY VIEW









CENTRAL ILLINOIS



LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

June 10, 2008

The Honorable Jim Ardis
Mayor of the City of Peoria
411 Fulton Street
Peoria, IL 61602

Dear Mayor Ardis:

Steven Hamilton, nephew of the first Treasurer of the United States, Alexander Hamilton, laid out the city plan including Hamilton Boulevard. Hamilton Boulevard at one time was a street of churches and later it has become a street for the hospitals. This is a beautiful street with landscaped median spaces that adds to the overall prestige of the City. At one time Peoria City Beautiful planted two of these median strips with raised curbs to protect the landscaping. This historic boulevard should not be lost.

I am sure that the Methodist Medical Center architects can find ways of preserving Hamilton Boulevard and still expand Methodist Medical Center. Cities, such as Chicago, New York, and Toronto, Ontario, and St. Paul, Philadelphia all have handsome boulevards. Peoria, Illinois ranks among these cities around the country.

The Board of the Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation asks you to protect and save this asset to our city.

Very sincerely yours,

Leslie H. Kenyon,
President

LHK:ali



Hamilton Boulevard and Peoria's other grand streets, were laid out in 1826 by William S. Hamilton, son of Alexander Hamilton. This one lane street, the widest of Peoria's streets at that time, led directly to the Illinois River from the Bluff --Mr. Hamilton thought of this as the Bluff's "Gateway" to the River. Stephen Hamilton also considered this creation of his to be, by far, the grandest of all Peoria's boulevards and therefore he named it, not for a President as he did with Washington, Jefferson and Adams boulevards, but for his own father.

When the City contemplated the placement of the Gateway Building on the New Riverfront a few years ago, they centered it at the end of Hamilton Boulevard, the "Gateway" to the Bluff and made sure that the Illinois River could be seen through the gracious 2-story portal.

The center parkway on Hamilton Boulevard is maintained by the Park District and thanks to the efforts of several Peoria groups, it is planted with trees, shrubs, bulbs and native plants yearly. When the Boulevard was widened and became more heavily traveled, the curbing was raised to keep harmful road chemicals from harming the boulevard plantings.

Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation feels that Hamilton Boulevard - what it has been over time and what it could be -- is important to Peoria's history. But we are satisfied that Methodist Hospital will provide a beautiful environment for patients, medical and other staff and visitors as they travel on the Hamilton corridor as it passes through a newly expanded and richly landscaped Methodist Campus.

We therefore have amended our original position with regard to Methodist Hospital's plans and withdraw any objection to the Methodist Plan regarding landmarking Hamilton Boulevard through the Methodist campus and we want to remove the Methodist campus from our landmark request.

Additionally, we implore the City to restore Hamilton Boulevard to reflect it's beauty and grandeur from Water Street to North Street, excluding but reflecting the improvements at the Methodist campus. We suggest a appropriate unity could be expressed in many ways, perhaps through ornamental lighting, plantings, benches etc.

We ask for Methodist's support in making this plan happen. We feel that Methodist Medical Center, The City, and it's citizens will be all the richer if we can accomplish this together.

Item A

Alexander Hamilton's Son Surveyed Peoria, Platted Its Streets

(Editor's note: This is the third of a series, of historical sketches of old-time Peorians and events, including new and interesting data found in family and public records and other sources, concerning the lives of persons who came between 1819, the year of the first permanent settlement, and 1835, when the town of Peoria was incorporated.)

Pool Trans 4-2-33

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Defended Indian

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Surveyed Peoria



Mr. Hamilton

Pioneering Son of Alexander Hamilton Who Surveyed Original Town of Peoria and sold Peoria Airport farm for \$50.

ton had not yet appeared on the minutes of the commissioners' court, but he evidently had made his surveys and plans went forward for sale of the lots on the town site. On July 8, 1826, an order provided that the sale should be held July 10. Terms were to be 10 per cent cash and the balance in three installments of 6, 12, and 18 months. Joseph Smith was authorized to employ an auctioneer and furnish whisky for the sale and the clerk to deliver the plat to be recorded.

On July 9 when the court reconvened, this order was entered: "Ordered that the treasurer pay John Hamlin three dollars and fifty cents for whisky and paper furnished for the sale of the town

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Links in Chain Of The Surveyor Who Platted City

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22, township 8 in range 7 east. Justice of the Peace Amos Squire took the acknowledgement.

Rice acquired the land M. 3, 1818, from William Noe who had it by letters patent from the United States December 19, 1817. Hamilton did not record his deed until April 29, 1825.

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First Commissioners

"Ordered that William Holland be authorized to employ some suitable person to survey lots on the northeast quarter of section nine, township eight north and range eight east of the fourth principal meridian, said lots to be one hundred feet in length (including eight feet to be deducted from each lot for an alley) and eighty feet wide—the street on the shore of the lake to be one hundred and ten feet in width and all the other streets to be one hundred feet wide."

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Title Was Obstacle

In the meantime the commissioners were finding difficulty in gaining title to the quarter section upon which the county seat was located by act of the legislature.

The name of William S. Hamil-

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The illustrious son of Alexander Hamilton breaks into the news for the first time on July 12:

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Order Second Sale

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Who Named Streets

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Surv d old French claims at Au Pied (Peoria) 1823.

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Defended Nomaque, the Indian, in Peoria's first murder trial.

Claimed lead ore lands on Fever river in Michigan territory, called "Hamilton Diggins."

Captain in Black Hawk war. Sold in 1833 for \$50 the Peoria Airport site.

To California in "gold rush" of 1849.

Died Sacramento, August, 1850. He never married.

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Bought Airport Land

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ward for sale of the lots on the town site. On July 8, 1826, an order provided that the sale should be held July 10. Terms were to be 10 per cent cash and the balance in three installments of 6, 12, and 18 months. Joseph Smith was authorized to employ an auctioneer and furnish whisky for the sale and the clerk to deliver the plat to be recorded.

On July 9 when the court reconvened, this order was entered: "Ordered that the treasurer pay John Hamlin three dollars and fifty cents for whisky and paper furnished for the sale in the town of Peoria."

A. C. Ballard was allowed two dollars for carrying the chain in surveying the town.

No session of the commissioners' court was held on July 10. It seems likely that the members of the court were absent on July 10. Henry Neely was allowed four dollars for assisting in the survey and George Sharpe was awarded one dollar for furnishing a table and the services of John Sharp.

The illustrious son of Alexander Hamilton breaks into the news for the first time on July 12:

"Ordered that the treasurer pay William S. Hamilton fifty-eight dollars, 75-100 for his services in full for surveying the town of Peoria, for which he has agreed to receive two town lots."

A record of the sale of lots next appears on the record. Prices were \$31 to \$100 a lot.

Order Second Sale

A second sale of lots in November was ordered at a session of the commissioners' court held in September, 1826. Prices were slightly higher.

Reads the record of December 5, 1826: "Ordered that William S. Hamilton be authorized to act as counsel on behalf of this court for the purpose of obtaining title to the land on which the county seat of Peoria county is located, with full power for said purpose except that of commencing a suit at law. Also that the clerk of this court inform said Hamilton that compensation will be allowed only in event of their obtaining said title."

After long negotiations with the United States through the St. Louis land office, the commissioners obtained title to the quarter section set aside as a county seat in the act of the Illinois legislature creating the county of Peoria. A certificate was issued in 1834 by the United States to Acquilla Wren, John Ogle and Edwin S. Jones, county commissioners. It conveyed title to the north east quarter of section nine in township eight north of range eight east of the fourth principal meridian. Pending litigation over the old French claims delayed the grant.

Hamilton's original plat of his survey has been lost or stolen. The copy is found in Plat book G, page 126. The plat is inscribed:

"I certify that I have admeasured laid out and surveyed the

**Links in Chain
Of The Surveyor
Who Platted City**

Born August 4, 1797 in New York of Alexander and Elizabeth (Schuyler) Hamilton.

At age 7 years saw father die by Aaron Burr's dueling pistol.

Studied French and law in late father's ample library.

Entered West Point 1814. Left on "vacation" which he made permanent.

Surveyor in St. Louis. Deputy surveyor general in 1820.

Removed to Sangamon county. United States surveyor for Illinois.

Bought 160 acres near Peoria then in Pike County, now owned by Peoria Airport, Inc., 1822. Price \$100.

Surveyed old French claims at Au Pied (Peoria) 1823.

Elected Illinois legislature 1824.

Surveyed and platted original town of Peoria 1825-1826. Took two lots as pay.

Defended Nomaque, the Indian, in Peoria's first murder trial.

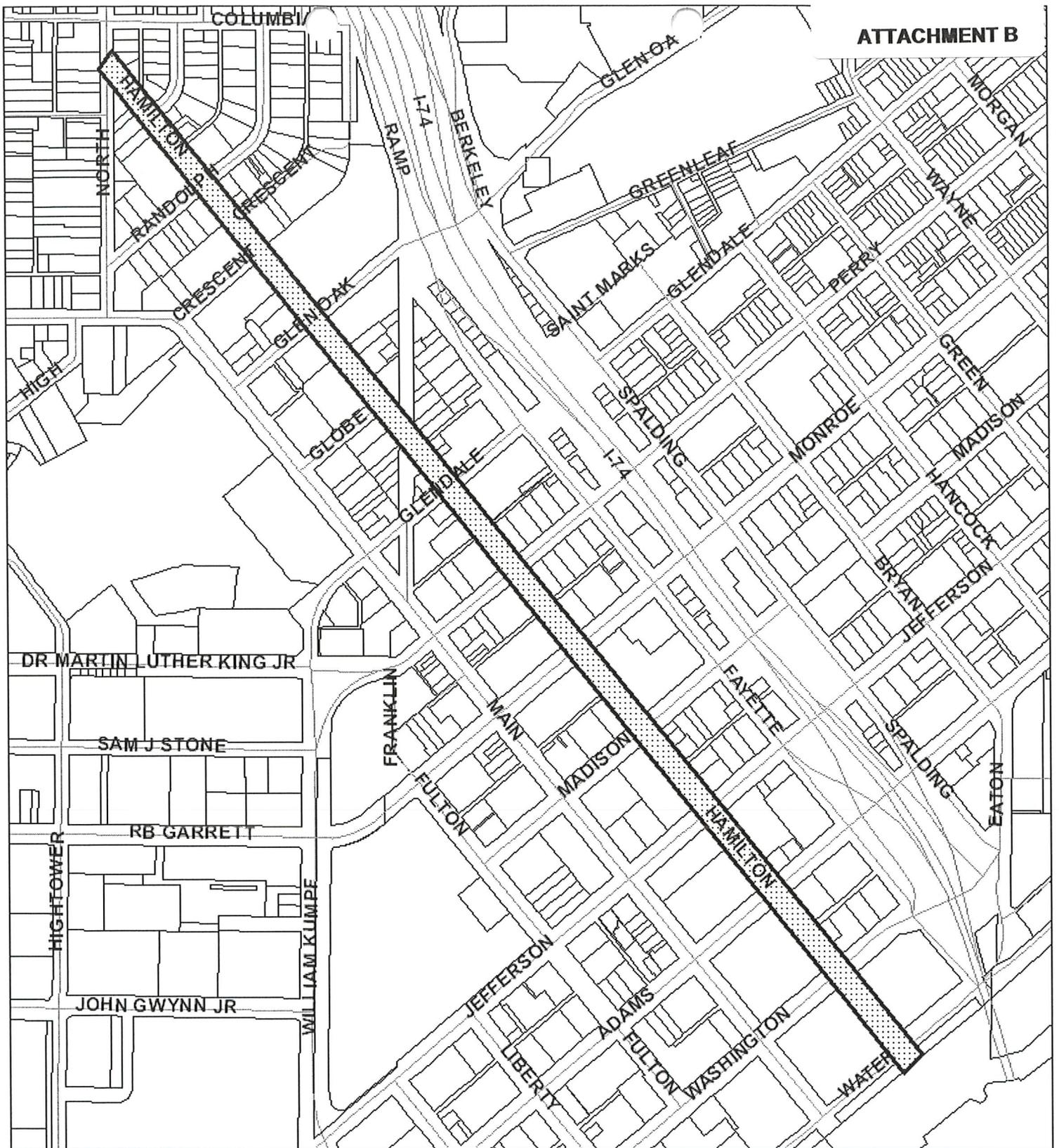
Claimed lead ore lands on Fever river in Michigan territory, called "Hamilton Diggin's."

Captain in Black Hawk war. Sold in 1833 for \$50 the Peoria Airport site.

To California in "gold-rush" of 1849.

Died Sacramento, August 1850. He never married.

to William Hamilton, referring to his defense of Nomaque and his survey. He says of Hamilton



Legend

-  Hamilton Blvd
-  Streets
-  Parcels



**Historic Landmark Application:
Hamilton Blvd. from Water Street to North Street**

