

Four Bottle Tavern
Lee County,
Lee Center, Illinois

HABS Ill. No.166
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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. Ill.1.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Earl H. Reed, District Officer,
435 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

FOUR BOTTLE TAVERN
Lee Center, Lee County, Illinois

Owner - Mrs. Charles Conibear

Date of Erection - Unknown

Builder - Unknown

Present Condition - Good

Number of Stories - Two

Materials of Construction - Two story frame house on stone foundation, wood shingle roof. An outside brick chimney was added later.

Additional Data - A log tavern kept by Benjamin Whittaker in 1839 is said by residents of the community to have stood on the site of the present farm house, locally known as the "Four Bottle Inn" but called by some the "Three Bottle Tavern". Logs in the basement ceiling indicate that the present building was built between 1840 and 1850, but the first authentic record is a mortgage placed by the owner, Conrad Ullrich and Margaret his wife in 1882 to Cephas Clapp.

The early tavern was operated for the benefit of travelers along the old Chicago Galena stage road and was famous in pioneer days in Illinois for its gay parties. The village of Lee Center, with a present population of about two hundred persons, was laid out in 1846 just west of the tavern. The house stands on the north side of Chicago Road just east of Clinton Street.

Sources - Lee County Records, Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, the History of Lee County and information obtained from residents of the community and the present owner and occupant, Mrs. Charles Conibear.

By Margaret A. Jones

Approved E. W. Reed