

Barrows-Coatsworth Building  
122 South Main Street  
Galena  
Jo Daviess County  
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1112

HABS

ILL,  
43-GALA,  
32-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

## BARROWS-COATSWORTH BUILDING

HABS,

ILL. 43-GALA 32-

Location: 122 Main Street, Galena, Jo Daviess County, Illinois.  
USGS Galena Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator  
Coordinates: 15.711560.469891.

Present Owner: Housing Authority of the County of Jo Daviess (1978).

Present Occupant: Vacant.

Present Use: Vacant, to be demolished and reconstructed as a center for the handicapped and senior citizens, and apartments for the elderly.

Significance: Built circa 1856, the Barrows-Coatsworth Building is an integral part of the Main Street Wall, a continuous facade of commercial buildings facing the Galena River. Constructed of Milwaukee brick, which is noted for its yellow color and durability, the building housed the J. R. Grant leather shop where Ulysses S. Grant worked from 1860-61.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. History of the Structure:

On the sixth of February, 1854, D. A. Barrows and his wife, Mary Ann Barrows deeded part of their property (lot 18) to Joseph and James Coatsworth for \$3500. The property was described as "beginning six feet eight inches from the southwestern corner of said Lot on main street thence running nineteen (19) feet (4) four inches more or less with the line of said Main Street to the Southern line of the lot now owned by said parties of the second part, thence with southern line one hundred and twenty (120) feet to Commerce Street, thence along Commerce Street nineteen (19) feet (4) four inches more or less to a point six (6) feet (8) eight inches from the South Eastern Corner of said Lot No (18) eighteen on Commerce Street thence Westwardly one hundred and twenty (120) feet to the place of beginning on Main Street aforesaid" (Book of Deeds pages 433-435).

In 1856 several blocks in Galena burned causing Barrows and Coatsworth to build new stores. The Barrows and Coatsworth buildings were similar in design and presented a united facade.

They were each four stories, seventy feet deep, and fronted with Milwaukee brick. The addresses for the Coatsworth stores were 145-147, while those of Barrows' were 141-143.

In 1858, J. R. Grant, father of Ulysses S. Grant, rented 145 Main Street for his leather goods store. An announcement was made in the Weekly Northwestern Gazette, and advertisements were run for some time. Grant was listed in the 1858-59 Galena City Directory as a "dealer in leather, saddlery, hardware, shoe findings, pegs, lasts, plastering hair, etc." The terms of Grant's four year lease specified that he build a two story brick building behind the Coatsworth Building. This building was to cost at least \$1000 and he had a year, three months and fifteen days in which to have it constructed. The cost of the building was substituted for his rent in this time period; otherwise the annual rent was \$775. When J. R. Grant renewed the lease in 1862 the terms reveal that the brick building was built although it still needed "an addition to join the buildings together" (lease from J. R. Grant to J. Coatsworth & Son). Grant's quarters consisted of the cellar, store (first floor), back room of the second floor and the entire third floor. In April or May, 1860, Ulysses S. Grant came to Galena to work for his father. He stayed there for approximately a year until he quit his job to offer his services in the Civil War. J. R. Grant left the building in 1864 when he formed a partnership with C. R. Perkins and moved to 173 Main Street.

The other sections of the building were used as shops, offices and meeting rooms. Coatsworth had a jewelry store in 147; the Barrows section had retail establishments. The fourth floor was used as meeting rooms for the Odd Fellows, of which U. S. Grant was a member. Later the upstairs was used as the European Hotel with a section of the Barrows portion serving as a lobby for the hotel. The Barrows-Coatsworth building's facade was constructed of Milwaukee brick as opposed to the typical Galena brick. Milwaukee brick was prized for its yellow color and durability. The brick was discovered in the mid 1830s, the first house constructed of the brick was built in 1836, and the first commercial block was built in 1840. The yellow brick became very popular, and by 1853 one third of the 6,000,000 bricks produced was shipped out of state. Buyers outside the state were paying double the price of the brick to import it. While Milwaukee was the most famous area for this brick, there were numerous other brickyards in the southeastern Wisconsin producing similar material.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views:

Several photographs, circa 1870-90, showing the main facade of the building. From the Alfred W. Muller Collection at the Department of Conservation, State of Illinois.

2. Bibliography

Coatsworth/Barrows building files. Galena State Historic Sites, Department of Conservation, State of Illinois.

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Researcher  
Site Superintendent  
Galena State Historic Sites  
Department of Conservation  
State of Illinois

Mary Beth Betts  
Compiler  
Historic American Buildings  
Survey  
1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Barrows-Coatsworth Building is a rectangular, four story building measuring 70' deep. The building is composed of four shops in four major bays. It is faced with yellow Milwaukee brick, while the rest of the building is of the local brick. The trim is of cut stone and cast iron. The street facade, which is no longer visible, originally consisted of full-length windows and doors with transoms. The doors were framed by cast iron colonettes. There were four double doors with glazed panels, and two single doors of wooden panels. The first and second floors are separated by a cut stone band. The windows on the second through fourth floors are grouped by threes. The second and third floor windows have cast iron cornices and sills. The fourth floor windows are arched and framed by cast iron trim consisting of fluted surrounds terminating on pilasters, and sills. These openings are visually framed by brick arches of soldier coursing, above which is a header arch. These header arches terminate in a projecting brick which also serves as the starting point of the next header arch within the group of three windows. A short string of vertical projecting header bricks with a cross brick punctuate the header arches between the second and third arches of each grouping. Between the first and

second window groupings and the third and fourth, are two vertical rows of projecting bricks terminating in a row of projecting bricks that connects the two groups. Below this coursing are seven rows of two projecting header bricks. Between the second and third grouping is a single line of headers intersecting the arches and terminating in a horizontal projecting bricks, parallel to the top of the pilaster. There are two rows of two header bricks underneath. Above the fourth story windows is a cornice of patterned brick with dentils. This terminates in a sloping parapet of terne roofing that conceals the flat roof.

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## PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the City of Galena with funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as a mitigative effort in the proposed demolition and reconstruction of the Barrows-Coatsworth Building as a center for the handicapped and senior citizens and apartments for the elderly. John A. Burns, AIA, was the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) project coordinator. The historical and architectural written data was based on research by Thomas A. Campbell, Jr., Site Superintendent, Galena State Historic Sites, Department of Conservation, State of Illinois. The data was written in February 1979 by Mary Beth Betts in the HABS office. Measured drawings of the facade and details were drawn by Seigfreid, Johnson, Edwards, Architects. The originals are in their collection. Photographs showing the building in 1870-90, are in the Alfred W. Muller Collection at the Department of Conservation, State of Illinois. In addition photographs depicting the current state of the building were taken in September 1978 by Mike Johnson.