Vandalia, Ill.

(From "History of Fayette County.")

The location of the town is very beautiful, being upon rising ground surrounded by wooded hills. The court house, formerly the state capitol, is a fine structure of brick, sixty by one hundred feet, and stands in the center of a handsome square. The Kaskaskia river flows along the east side of the town and the main wagon road is spanned by a substantial iron bridge. The great national road from Washington has its western terminus here. The city now contains a population of upwards of 2,000, has several churches, an excellent graded school, three weekly newspapers, and several well-kept hotels, a number of manufacturing establishments, two banks and seven fine stores. The town is adorned by a number of beautiful residences and substantial business houses.

(The above was written in 1878. Therefore, as to population, schools, etc., it will not apply to the Vandalia of today. The population is about 4,000. The old state house, however, is still used as the county court house.)