Sheltered Seat, Marseilles State Park, Illinois

Something of a throwback in this fable of family tree to the example that here stands as its grandfather. There is a mere vestige of the lately added arms, and the recent shagginess of shake roof is missing. Only the use of round timber members practically throughout evidences that change has not come to a full stop. There are those who will claim that the strain reaches its zenith in the member here pictured.

Sheltered Seat, New Salem State Park, Illinois

Here is acceleration of variety not unmixed with faint trace of decadence of a fine old stock. The supporting posts lack the robustness of the ancestral line, but, as if to compensate for this, are fortified structurally with braces to the ground. This feature is not unpleasing and instances again the tendency to supply some kind of arm to the bench. The roof reverts to the ragged informality but one generation removed. Eventual remoulding of the existing grade around this seat will supply a more favorable setting.

Sheltered Seat, New Salem State Park, Illinois

Four supporting posts in place of two, the roof ridge at right angles to that of all foregoing examples, and the family traits are all but lost. This last of the line can still claim a roof covering that is in character and framing members that are adequate in size. The arms have been developed to great prominence. Simple directness that heretofore distinguished the type has now become so vague that further pursuit of this study in evolution would be without point.