

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

*Integrity?*

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	<i>at Electric?</i>
DATE ENTERED	<i>Passed 12/15/78</i>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC City Building  
AND/OR COMMON "Old City Hall"

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 15 N. 1st Ave. \_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CITY, TOWN St. Charles CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 13th  
STATE Illinois VICINITY OF COUNTY Kane CODE 089

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS*	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME City of St. Charles  
STREET & NUMBER 2 East Main Street  
CITY, TOWN St. Charles STATE Illinois

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kane County Government Center  
STREET & NUMBER 719 Batavia Avenue  
CITY, TOWN Geneva STATE Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of Historic Structures in Kane County  
Prepared by Illinois Historic Structure Survey  
DATE October 1972 \_\_FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Illinois Department of Conservation  
CITY, TOWN Springfield STATE Illinois

# DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**ORIGINAL:** DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The St. Charles City Building is a rectangular red brick two story well composed example of Eclecticism. The Victorian structure was placed adjacent and parallel to the Fox River on the west in 1892, with its main entrance facing east. The exterior three-bay facade was capped with a hip roof that has a graceful bell tower extension at the southern peak. This bell tower has a Victorian styled skeleton capped with a Byzantine type of roof. The main hip roof was detailed with clerestory windows of eye lid design which was characteristic of the H. H. Richardson's Shingle Style of the 1870's. The roof soffit is decorated and supported with wood brackets reminiscent of that seen in Victorian architecture.

The middle bay of the three bay facade, creates the entrance with a vertical continuation of the brick face through the roof soffit to create an open-face pediment with three rectangular windows. On the three corners of the pediment gable are stone sculptures. This pediment creates a larger dormer for the attic which is characteristic of the Victorian style. The main entrance is stilted arched doorway with an eight course brick rowlock arch concluded with a galvanized iron moulding balanced on each side with two small rectangular windows.

The fenestration consists of stilted arched and rectangular double hung windows of Victorian style and composition. The first floor of the front facade is asymmetrical with two large arched windows north of the main entrance and a larger arched double door for service to the south. The two arched windows have a four course brick rowlock arch, and the service door has a six course brick rowlock arch. The second floor is symmetrical with three smaller arched windows above the main entrance and is bordered on each side with two rectangular windows.

The interior is basically symmetrical. Upon entering, there is a straight run stair case leading to the second floor. On the first floor, the stairs separate two large rooms. On the second floor there is also two large rooms on each side of the stairs, with two smaller rooms in the front above the entrance.

**PRESENT:**

The north room on the first floor has been modified to house electrical switch gear for an electric substation. To provide security for this room the two large arched windows have been changed with the insertion of glass block and brick, and a precast concrete ceiling was installed. An additional entrance has been constructed directly south of the main entrance so that circulation to the upstairs could be maintained.

The roof, soffit, and downspouts have deteriorated. Loose copings have caused leakage into the masonry and corresponding efflorescence. There is some plaster deterioration and the floor undulates due to lumber shrinkage variations. The present state of the building is one of ill-repair and recently certain exterior portions of it have been declared structurally unsound. It is the City's intention to enlist every practical means in an effort to preserve the structure.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1892                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      F. W. Alexander

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The St. Charles City Building, constructed by F. W. Alexander, a local builder, offers significant contributions in the areas of architecture, politics and government. Architecturally, the building exemplified eclecticism incorporated in a Victorian style. Some architectural characteristics of note include the Victorian styled bell tower, capped with a Byzantine type roof, the clerestory windows of eye lid design, the main entrance stilted arched doorway with eight course brick rowlock arched, concluded with a galvanized iron moulding balanced on each side by two small rectangular windows and the fenestration which consists of stilted arched and rectangular double hung windows of Victoriana style and composition.\* These features have been preserved to some extent and can be, through a proper effort, brought back to the form which characterizes their unique element of design.

The structure was the first building the City had designed specifically for government and public meeting use. It was used for the aforementioned purposes from 1892 to 1941, which qualified the building as being significant under the criteria of politics and government. It continued to provide a base of operations for the law enforcement branch of the government and as the City's only fire house until 1962. The building's accessibility, due to its central location and availability, after the construction of the City's new Municipal Center in 1941, made it possible for the 16th Judicial Circuit Court to conduct its business on the second floor of the structure in the 1950's and 1960's.

## HISTORY

A quote from an edition of the Valley Chronicle, the local paper, in January of 1900, amply explains the birth of the structure: "It was not until the year 1892 that our citizens began to realize the importance of having some sort of structure that could be referred to as "City Hall". It was under Mayor A. H. Bennett that the thought became a reality. The property where the building now, and originally, stands was purchased from Mr. B. T. Hunt for \$1,500.00 in 1891. On March 12, 1892, the City Council voted to accept the bid of F. W. Alexander to erect the City building....for the price offered, \$5,496.00.

The name carved in stone on the front of the structure "City Building" could not have been more appropriately chosen, as even to this day the structure plays a vital part in the operation of the city. Valuable electrical and water monitoring systems, the meter department and the core of the building maintenance function are housed in it.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Valley Chronicle, publisher S. W. Durant  
Newspaper articles covering the structure from 1891 to 1900

Inventory of Historic Structures in Kane County  
Prepared by Illinois Historic Structures Survey, a division of the Illinois  
Historic Sites Survey, October 1972

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME			QUADRANGLE SCALE				
UTM REFERENCES							
A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION UTM References Not Available

Latitude 41-53-20N  
Longitude 88-18-37W

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE  
Wm. P. Birth, Administrative Assistant

ORGANIZATION  
City of St. Charles

DATE

STREET & NUMBER  
2 East Main Street

TELEPHONE  
312-584-2700

CITY OR TOWN  
St. Charles

STATE  
Illinois

## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Sent to D.C. 1/22/79

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**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME GENEVA

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 39 1140 4040900  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C  
 E  
 G

B  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D  
 F  
 H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION UTM References Not Available

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NAME / TITLE  
Wm. P. Birth, Administrative Assistant

ORGANIZATION  
City of St. Charles

STREET & NUMBER  
2 East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN  
St. Charles

DATE

TELEPHONE  
312-584-2700

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*David Kenney*

TITLE Director, Department of Conservation

DATE 12/28/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION