

United States Department of the Interior  
 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
 Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Lake-Peterson House

and/or common "Jenny's"

**2. Location**

street & number 1313 East State Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Rockford \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 16th

state Illinois code 012 county Winnebago code 201

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Board of Directors

street & number Swedish-American Hospital

city, town Rockford \_\_\_ vicinity of state Illinois

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Winnebago County Courthouse

street & number 400 West State Street

city, town Rockford \_\_\_ vicinity of state Illinois

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

1) Ill. Hist. Structures Survey  
 title 2) Ill. Hist. Landmarks Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

1) October, 1974  
 date 2) July, 1974 Both:  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records 405 East Washington Street

city, town Springfield \_\_\_ vicinity of state Illinois

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Asymmetrical in plan and massing, this two story detached residence is constructed of yellow brick with steeply-pitched slate tile roofs and a stone foundation. A decorative gable graces each of the four sides of the original portion of the house. Tall brick chimneys with corbeled chimney caps and polygonal chimney pots, dormers, bay windows, and a spacious veranda also contribute to the Lake-Peterson House's picturesque appearance.

Exterior trim is particularly worthy of note. Architectural historian Paul Sprague wrote, "The details are exquisitely designed and executed." At gable edges, the designer eschewed the typical curvilinear or "gingerbread"-type vergeboard in favor of dramatically simple pointed arch forms ornamented with pendants. Window treatment is distinguished by its variety. Three of the four sides of the house feature bay windows--two-tier bay windows on the east and west sides, and a one story bay window with quatrefoil-pattern balustrade on the north. Elsewhere, windows are surmounted by decorative limestone hood molds incised with a foliated pattern (the one over the main entrance is embellished with the first owner's initials as well). Windows themselves range from simple double-hung sash windows on the second floor to diamond-pane tracery windows with colored glass highlights in the first-floor sitting room. Attic windows are of the quintessentially Gothic pointed arch type.

Sometime after 1918 an addition was made to the southeast corner of the house. It features the smooth stone finish and window grouping characteristic of the Late Gothic Revival. A relatively nondescript three-story enclosed brick porch was added to this part of the house at about the same time.

The structure now houses a number of professional firms and retail establishments but its interior is essentially unchanged. Original fireplaces, intricate plaster moldings, and interior woodwork remain intact. Workmanship and materials are of high quality throughout.

Also included as part of this nomination is a two-story wood frame carriage house nearby. It dates from approximately the same period as the house itself and features clapboard siding, pointed arch windows, decorative vergeboards and--most striking--a four-gabled louvered cupola.

## 8. 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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1873-1927 Builder/Architect John Lake, probable builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lake-Peterson House possesses statewide significance as one of Illinois' finest examples of domestic architecture in the "Victorian Gothic" style. The house displays virtually all of the elements cited by architectural historian John Blumenson as distinguishing the "Victorian Gothic" style from earlier and later variations of the Gothic: the juxtaposition of materials of different colors and textures, incised carvings in a foliated pattern, the combined use of both straight-headed and pointed arch windows and doors, and the "massive and strong" appearance of gable and eave trim. The name of the architect--if any--is unknown. Plans for the house may have been obtained by John Lake (first owner and probable builder) in England, as construction began in 1873 shortly after his return from a visit there. The survival of a contemporary outbuilding (itself identified as architecturally significant by the Illinois Historic Structures Survey) is unusual. The house is also locally significant for its historical associations with two prominent citizens of early Rockford, John Lake and Pehr August Peterson.

### History

English-born John Lake came to Rockford in 1837, just three years after the first settlement was made on either side of the Rock River there. Young Lake apprenticed himself to a joiner, and soon began work as a carpenter and contractor. In 1852--the very year that the opening of the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad sparked Rockford's rapid growth--he entered the first of several successive partnerships in the lumber trade. By the 1870s John Lake was one of the city's wealthiest and most prominent citizens, serving as a ward supervisor and alderman and as Chairman of the Board of Education. Lake lived in this house until his death in 1907.

In 1918 the handsome dwelling was purchased by Pehr August Peterson, dean of Rockford furniture manufacturers. Peterson arrived in Rockford in 1852 with the first wave of Swedish immigrants. He worked first as a farm hand, later put himself through a local business college. In 1876 he was chosen secretary of the newly-formed Union Furniture Company. Peterson's swift rise in the business world was paralleled by the spectacular growth of the furniture industry in Rockford. By 1892, for example, seven out of twenty furniture companies there were directed by P. A. Peterson; that year, the city was surpassed only by Chicago and Grand Rapids in the manufacturing of furniture. At the time of his death in 1927, Peterson was president of more than a dozen industrial firms.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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It is not surprising that local historian Charles Church named him "the great organizing genius of the furniture industry in Rockford," and, "one of the leading representatives of manufacturing interests in this part of the country."

Peterson was also a philanthropist. The house itself, for example, was donated to the Swedish American Hospital in 1919 (he and his wife retained life tenure). Following Mrs. Peterson's death in 1964, the house was used as a residence for the hospital's School of Medical Technology. The Jenny Lind Society, a volunteer organization of the Swedish American Hospital, undertook the task of preserving the house in 1973. Since that time, rooms have been leased to various professionals and shop owners and the proceeds used to maintain the landmark structure.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Blumenson, John, Identifying American Architecture. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1977.
- Church, Charles A., Past and Present of the City of Rockford and Winnebago County, Illinois. Chicago: Munsell Publishing Co., 1916

## 10. Geographical Data

continued

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Rockford North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6	3	2	8	9	2	0	4	6	8	1	3	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The Lake-Peterson House occupies Lot 3 and part of Lot 4 of John Lake's Subdivision of the Northwest Quarter of Section 25, Township 44 North, Range One East of the Third Principal Meridian (nominated property is outlined in red on enclosed map).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeffrey S. Flemming, National Register Coordinator

organization Illinois Dept. of Conservation date November, 1979

street 405 East Washington Street telephone 217/782-1847

city or town Springfield state Illinois

## 12. 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director, Ill. Dept. of Conservation date 1/18/80

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Reviewed by the National Register

date

Approved by

Chief of Registration

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Illinois Sesquicentennial Commission, Illinois: Guide and Gazetteer.  
Chicago, New York, San Francisco:  
Rand McNally & Company, 1969

Koeper, Frederick, Illinois Architecture: From Territorial Times to  
the Present. Chicago, London: University of Chicago  
Press, 1968. P. 252-3.

Portrait and Biographical Record of Winnebago and Boone Counties,  
Illinois. Chicago: Biographical  
Publishing Company, 1892.

Sprague, Paul E., "The Lake House, Rockford." Outdoor Illinois, vol. XII,  
no. 2, February 1973,  
pp. 9-13.

LAKE-PETERSSON HOUSE

SITE PLAN

1"=50'

NORTH

1313 E. STATE

SWEDISH  
AMERICAN  
HOSPITAL

PARKING

163.9'

260'

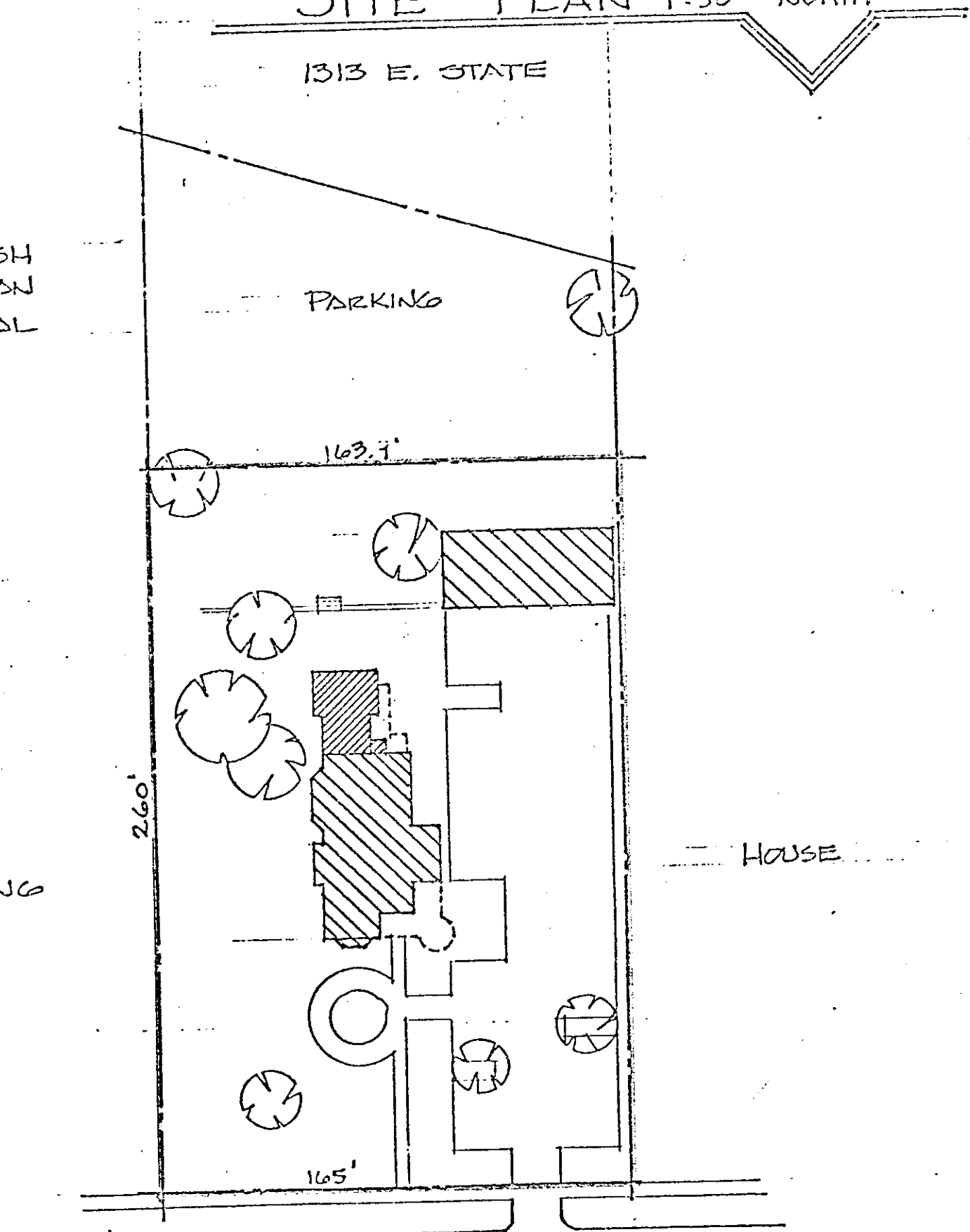
PARKING

HOUSE

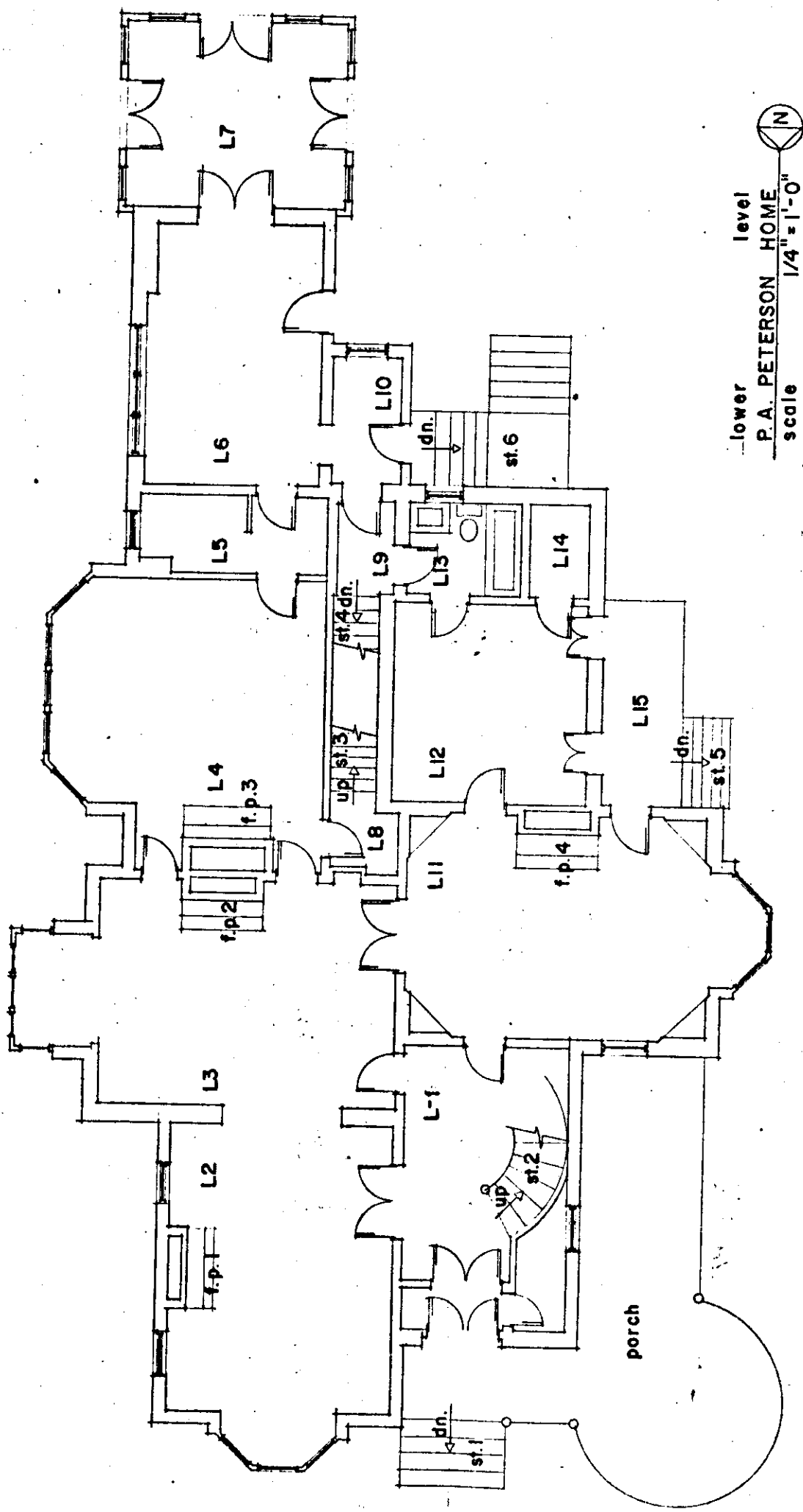
165'


EAST STATE STREET

1 COPY



↑ Carriage  
house



lower level  
P. A. PETERSON HOME  
scale 1/4" = 1'-0" 

12



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS \_\_\_\_\_

Date Entered JUN 25 1980 \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Location

Lake-Peterson House

Rockford  
Winnebago County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy  
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson  
Honorable John B. Anderson

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

200310

1. Name of Site:

Common

Lake-Peterson Home

Historic

2.. Location:

Street and Number

1313 E. State St  
City or Town

Zip Code

Township

Range

Section

1/4 Section

Rockford  
County

Winnebago

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

- District
- Building
- Site
- Structure

Integrity (check one)

- Altered
- Unaltered
- Moved
- Original Site

4. Ownership:

- Private
- Public

Status (check one)

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

- Yes
- Restricted
- Unrestricted
- No

Present Use (check one or more)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Park
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (specify)

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name Swedish-American Hospital Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description: Gothic

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruins
- Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway?  Yes  No

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

7. Historical Themes : (check one or more of the following)

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site         | (Pre-Columbian)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site         | (Post-Columbian to 1673) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Influence           | (1673-1780)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Frontier          | (1780-1818)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Early             | (1818-1850)              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois Middle | (1850-1900)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Late              | (1900-present)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Famous People              | (give names & dates)     |

8. Specific Date: 1873

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry       | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture    |  |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates) Use additional sheets if necessary.

Home of local industrialist.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street and number: \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

