

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Illinois
COUNTY:	Peoria
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Peoria City Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Peoria City Hall

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
419 Fulton Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Peoria - City

STATE: Illinois

CODE: 17

COUNTY: Peoria

CODE: 143

Congressman: Robert H. Michel
18th Congressional District

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Object			

Public Acquisition:
 In Process
 Being Considered

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Peoria

STREET AND NUMBER:
419 Fulton Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Peoria

STATE:
Illinois

CODE:
17

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Peoria County Court House - County Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
324 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Peoria

STATE:
Illinois

CODE:
17

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR

Radio antenna now installed on top of cupola. Interior of cupola has had installed an internal platform and wooden ladder leading to the top of its dome. Bell is not operable and has been disconnected. Roof consists of original look tile with molded copper cornices with in-laid gutters. Several areas of the molded copper gutters, especially on the west side, are rotted through and leaking. The copper duwelleds have been removed from the rear roof due to ageing. Several carved stone sections have been removed from dormer faces due to a breakdown in the mortar joints. The sky lights' glass is cracked and the ribbed construction is loose and no longer water tight. The two chimney flus have been capped-off and closed. The windows are the original 1 3/4" thick oak sash, double-hung. The third and fourth floor windows have an arched upper-sash. Mercury vapor lights are mounted on the south and west sides. The base stone corse is deteriorating at a rapid and graduated pace. The metal scroll work has been removed rom the entrance doors. A sidewalk has been installed in the rear of City Hall and there are new steps to the north and east entrances. The north and east sides have been landscaped with a planter area consisting of grass, flowers, shrubs and trees. The basement level window wells on all four (4) sides have been closed, bricked up and filled in. The grade level corridor that connected City Hall with the former City prison has been removed. A wheel chair ramp has been added on the north side (Madison Street) entrance. The inlaid decorative ceramic floor in the weather locks have been removed. The ceramic floor tile in weather lock on the east side (Fulton Street) is deteriorating.

DESCRIPTION - INTERIOR

Wood partitions have been installed in the attic for storage purposes. The two (2) ventilation systems from the roof to the Council Chambers have been blocked off at the roof line and are no longer operable. A portion of the stained glass on the attic light well has been removed. The Council Chambers' ceiling has been lowered with a grid system (accoustical, one hour fire-rated) with recessed lighting fixtures. High intensity lights have been installed in the ceiling in addition to a camera platform located in the rear of the Chambers for television coverage. Most of the original ceiling light fixtures (globes) have been removed and replaced with fluorescent tubes. Many ceilings throughout the building have been lowered utilizing a grid system. All hardwood floors, except in room 400 and 300 have been covered. The ornamental ironwork on the exterior faces of the four (4) elevator doors has been removed. The elevator service pit has been bricked-up in the basement and a steel firedoor installed. The three (3) murals (one (1) ceiling - first floor lobby and two (2) walls - one in Council Chambers and other on attic stairwell) need restoration work done via cleaning and touch up. The marble stairs in the stairwell from the first to the second floor have depressions from rear. The marble areas in front of the first floor elevator door and the rear door have been removed

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and replaced with concrete. The lighting in the rotunda has been removed. The decorative newel post lights have been removed from the stairwell on the first floor. The brass hardware has been removed from all lavatories. The twin marble lavatories on the fourth floor and the men's lavatory on the first floor have been removed. The old lavatory, located behind elevator was altered into a store room. An adjacent wall was removed allowing additional floor space in the Environmental Development Department. The wall mounted overhead flush tanks and the original water closets have been removed. Several of the hand-carved marble lavatory tops and handpainted china lavatory basin have been removed. The utility sink by the first floor rear door has been removed. The eastern portion of the second floor hallway has been enclosed in a partition and is being utilized as an Executive Suit. Room 200 has been divided into five (5) offices.

The City's master fire alarm and traffic control system are also housed in the rear of Room 200. There are two (2) central air conditioning systems in the building; one (1) in the Executive Suite on the second floor and the other in the Electronic Data Processing Division on the first floor. The remainder of the offices in the building are cooled by window units. Walls in the Treasurer Office, Room 100 and the Department of Environmental Development (Rooms 110-111) have been removed to increase floor space. A coffee shop and snack bar is located in Room 109. A dumbwaiter has been installed between the first floor and the basement in the Election Commission's Office (Room 106). An underground corridor on the north basement wall (Madison Street) has been installed and is connected to a sidewalk elevator. An independent heating plant and a new 1,000 ampere electrical breaker system have been installed. The west and north sections of the basement are being remodeled and altered for storage needs of the Election Commission.

Prepared by:
James A. Koepfel
Supervisor of Buildings
Source: Original Sepia Trans-
perancies of City Hall

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Architectural style of the City Hall Building of Peoria, Illinois

The City Hall, built in 1892, is of a German Renaissance Style.

Exterior elevations of the four-story building are divided into three horizontal divisions. The ground floor elevation is of rough finished stone with simple design windows. The second and third floors are in the middle division and here the stone is less rough and the windows more decorated. The top division is of smooth stone with more ornament around the windows.

Its facades are well balanced and follow the rules of good proportion. The very high mansard roof has fifth floor windows set in large gable which are highly ornamented and stepped, in the tradition of middle European Renaissance design. Also following the middle European is the plan of the City Hall.

As in many civic buildings of the Renaissance periods, the offices and meeting rooms are arranged around a central "Hall-Court". These Hall-Courts on each floor are visually connected from floor to floor through an open central oval gallery. Natural light is introduced into the Hall Court through a stained glass skylight in the roof just over the galleries.

The staircase takes good advantage of the space but still keeps the character of the grand staircases of Renaissance halls. From the top it starts with a two opposing short flights to landing then turns 90 degrees with a very short flight to a central landing where the stair widens into a central stair descending to the next floor. This is repeated on each floor.

Stairs and gallery railings are embellished with intricately designed cast iron which contrasts with the plain marble floors. Many of the interior walls around the Hall-Court have large, borrowed light windows of bevel glass or cut glass designs. This again gives the feeling of the central Court of Renaissance civic buildings.

In the last twenty years the adjacent buildings have been removed and in their place trees and shrubbery have been planted. Thus the building now enjoys a setting it did not previously have. The bell tower atop the mansard roof was removed from the first City Hall, which was of modified Victorian design. Originally the bell was used to warn citizens when fire or equal disaster was taking place. In more recent years it has been tolled only for marking the passing of civic leaders and members of the City administration/

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On the fourth floor the City Council Chamber has a barrel vault ceiling with a half sphere over the dias where the mayor sits. The surface of the sphere contains a mural typical of the era in which the building was built.

Notes by Leslie H. Kenyon, Architect AIA
Member Society of Architectural Historians
Member National Trust for Preservation
Member Peoria Historical Society.

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Dedicated January 5, 1899

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | <u>Architecture</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Early in 1897, contracts were let for a new Peoria City Hall. Reeves and Baillee were the architects and William M. Allen, who was Mayor in 1895-1896, was the contractor.

The building cost \$234,592.09 and furniture an additional \$36,918.91. From the drawing of the plans to the placing of the last brick on the chimney, as far as was reasonably possible, the present City Hall is the result of Peoria skill and Peoria labor. The red sandstone from Portage entry quarries on Lake Superior was finished by the inmates of the workhouse, greatly reducing the cost of the building.

The dedication of the building was on January 5,6,7, 1899 - three days and nights of festivity that began with a procession of the City officials, police and fire departments etc, with Spencers Light Guard Band providing musical inspiration as it paraded the principal streets on Thursday, January 5, 1899, and the population convened at the new City Hall at 2 p.m.

At the ceremonies, Mayor Warner said: "Today fellow citizens, circumstances require that I should say something on the most trying occasion of my life. I have to look backward and forward. I have to look at Peoria in a limited degree and see it in some respects as it was fifty years ago, see it as it is today and contemplate what it will be fifty years hence."

The building at that time was considered the last word in civic structures, a marvel of beauty, comfort and convenience owing greatly to its architectural style and interior and exterior art work.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see continuation sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	40°	41'	3.5"	89°	35'	27"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

(See continuation sheet)

ORGANIZATION:

DATE:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

Bateman, Newton (LLD) and Selby, Paul (A.M.), ed.
Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and
History of Peoria County. Vol. II, Chicago
and Peoria: Munsell Publishing Company, 1902.

Rice, Col. James M., Peoria City and County Illinois:
A Record of Settlement, Organization, Progress,
and Achievement. Vol. I Chicago: The S. J. Clarke
Publishing Company, 1912

Richter, Edward L. , ed. Peoria of To-Day with Peoria
Blue Book Directory. Chicago, Peoria: National
Writers of History, 1915.

NEWSPAPERS

Peoria Journal Star, August 11, 1971
Peoria Journal Star, August 18, 1954
Peoria Journal Star, August 19, 1970
Peoria Journal Star, August 22, 1971
Peoria Journal Star, December 27, 1955
Peoria Journal Star, January 2, 1938
Peoria Journal Star, July 28, 1956
Peoria Journal Star, November 18, 1945
Peoria Journal Star, October 19, 1956
Peoria Journal Star, September 18, 1956
Peoria Star, April 4, 1928
Peoria Transcript, November 23, 1941

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered FEB 6 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
The McLean County Courthouse and Square	Bloomington McLean County
Peoria City Hall	Peoria Peoria County

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, III
Hon. Edward Madigan
Hon. Robert H. Michel