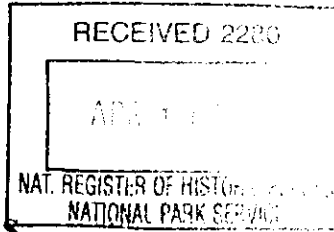


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



453

**SENT TO D.C.**

4-9-07

resubmittal 9-11-07

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name **Geister, Christian, House**

other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number **302 South Main Street** \_\_\_\_\_ Not for publication

city or town **Algonquin** \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity

state **Illinois** code **IL** county **McHenry** code **111** zip code **60102**

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide  locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Walter L. White / SHAG  
Signature of certifying official

4-6-07  
Date

**Illinois Historic Preservation Agency**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
American Indian Tribe

Name of Property

County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):	_____	_____

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Contributing                            | Noncontributing                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>1</b> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>1</b> _____ buildings |
| _____                                   | _____ sites                                       |
| _____                                   | _____ structures                                  |
| _____                                   | _____ objects                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>1</b> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>1</b> _____ Total     |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register      **0**

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Name of Property **Geister, Christian, House**

County and State **McHenry, Illinois**

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**Domestic: Single Dwelling**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store**

**Domestic: Secondary Structure**

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Late Victorian: Queen Anne**

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation **Limestone**

Roof **Asphalt Shingle**

Walls **Wood**

other **Wood**

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**See Continuation Sheets**

Name of Property **Geister, Christian, House**

County and State **McHenry, Illinois**

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

**Architecture**

Period of Significance **1894**

Significant Dates **1894**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) **NA**

Cultural Affiliation **NA**

Architect/Builder **Wilburn, Amos**

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) **See Continuation Sheets**

Name of Property **Geister, Christian, House**

County and State **McHenry, Illinois**

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository **Algonquin Historic Commission**

---

**10. Geographical Data**

---

Acreage of Property

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

1 **16 393110E 4668730N**      3 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_      4 \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Name of Property **Geister, Christian, House** County and State **McHenry, Illinois**

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title **Diane Bustos Post**

organization

date **November 2006**

street & number **4524 Vista Drive**

telephone **847-639-9832**

city or town **Island Lake**

state **IL**

zip code **60042**

---

**Additional Documentation**

---

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

---

**Property Owner**

---

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name **Perla Gonzalez and Delfino Bustos**

street & number **40985 Bethesda-Belmont Road**

telephone **740-484-1898**

city or town **Bethesda**

state **Ohio**

zip code **43719**

---

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 7 Page: 1

Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

---

## 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Christian Geister House, at 302 South Main Street in Algonquin, Illinois, is located in the Old Downtown District of Algonquin. Main Street was not only the main thoroughfare at the turn of the century, but was also a place where Chicagoans vacationed and automobile enthusiasts gathered for the Algonquin Hill Climbs. The house sits on a corner lot approximately thirty feet from the streets Main, also known as Route 31, and Washington. The yard can be accessed from the Washington Street sidewalk via a flagstone walkway and is not enclosed. The yard includes a garden accessible via flagstone walkways enclosed by an antique wrought iron fence. The house is accessible on 3 sides. The main entrance is located on Main Street and can be accessed by a poured concrete walkway that leads to the porch steps. A secondary entrance is on Washington Street where the house can be accessed by a poured concrete walkway that leads to the porch steps. The last entrance to the house is through the yard's garden flagstone pathway that leads to the back porch steps. A non-contributing garage is located behind the residence.

### HOUSE EXTERIOR

It is presumed that a local carpenter by the name of Amos Wilburn built the house. His name was carved into a plank of wood found inside the main staircase's treads that was broken during rehabilitation of the house in 2004. This plank of wood is now in the possession of the Algonquin Historical Commission.

The three-story, frame Queen Anne residence has a steeply pitched, cross-gabled roof consisting of two front gables and two side gables. In addition, there is a square tower turret on the northeast corner of the property intersecting with the roof line and based at ground level. The turret peaks approximately ten feet above the roof line. The floor plan is irregular. The house has wood clapboard siding and a limestone foundation. The gabled roofline and turret are covered with asphalt shingles. All four sides of the house contain patterned shingles on the upper most portions of the house. A variety of woodwork is noticeable on the house, including brackets, scrolls, sunbursts, gingerbread, fish scales, spindles, finials and turned balusters.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 7 Page: 2

Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

---

The turret originally was topped with a spire and was comprised of patterned scales. The turret's highest eaves, parallel to the third floor, are decorated with brackets on all three sides and continue down into a narrower eave decorated with fish scales. Underneath this narrower set of eaves, is a second story bay window decorated with a total of twelve three-dimensional squares with centered buttons in sets of three on each projecting corner. Underneath the second story bay window, is another set of eaves decorated with fish scales which continues down into a first story bay window decorated with a total of twelve three-dimensional squares with centered buttons in sets of three on each projecting corner. At the base of the turret and underneath the first-story bay window, there is a series of eight large roundels with sunbursts: four on the front and two on either side.

The remainder of the primary gabled roof line is comprised of four gables: one the north; one on the south; one on the east; and one on the west. There are also two lower intersecting gables on the west and north sides of the house as well as a gabled dormer on the west side of the house and a sloped dormer on the east side. The cornice returns underneath the primary gables of the north side are trimmed with scrolls and buttons with downward pointing finials in the center of the gable. The cornice returns are trimmed with a bargeboard scroll. The gables on the east and west sides are decorated the same, but are missing its finials. The lower intersecting gables on the west side, as well as the gable on the south side, are plain. The lower intersecting gable on the north side of the house forms the roof of a second story porch. The intersecting portion of this gable meets fish scales on this side of the house. It is decorated in the same fashion as its primary gable.

The majority of the windows are double sash, one-over-one lights with wood frames that have original pulley systems. Storm windows were placed over the windows in the 1960s by a previous owner. All the first floor windows, with the exception of the westernmost portion of the house, are decorated with eaves that are asphalt shingled. The windows on the westernmost portion of the house are plain. There is a picture window on the east side of the house, which is the front of the house. The picture windows' eaves are covered with fish scales. The picture window has a patterned pane of leaded stained glass above a blank pane. There are sidelights with leaded stained glass on both sides of



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 7 Page: 3

Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

---

the picture window. Underneath the sill of the picture window are five large roundels with sunbursts and buttons, making this trim work three-dimensional. There is also a sidelight one-over-one, double sash, patterned leaded stained glass window on the northern wall as you enter from the eastern door. There is also a picture window on the first floor of the turret. The turret's picture window contains patterned leaded stained glass panes directly above and on either side of the blank pane.

The majority of the second floor windows are decorated with asphalt shingled eaves with the exception of the set of two eastern facing windows, which are covered with fish scales. This pair of windows projects approximately one foot from the façade of the house. On either side of this set of windows, there are three three-dimensional squares with centered buttons with an additional matching set of trim around the corners of the projected portion of the structure. The eastern sloped dormer contains a set of two small patterned paned leaded stained glass windows. There is also a small-to-medium-sized ornately patterned leaded stained glass window on the west side of the house.

There are three third floor windows which are small paned. The north and south sides of the third floor have no windows. The east side of the third floor has one small, patterned leaded stained glass window. The west side of the house contains two windows. The west side contains one small patterned leaded stained glass window and a triangular small blank-paned window. The basement contains a variety of plain garden view windows.

There are three porches attached to the house. The porch on the west of the house is made up of concrete steps and a railing. The western porch is attached to an enclosed porch that was originally a sleeping room.

The northern porch has two stories. The first story of the northern porch accesses the first floor of the home via a Queen Anne Style door with original hardware and an ornamental wooden screen door with spindlework and scroll trim. There is a leaded stained glass over light above the door. The first-story porch extends approximately three feet out from the second-story porch and contains a shingled mansard style roof for this portion only. The base of the first-story porch is surrounded by lattice work. The four steps of the porch are concrete and are accompanied by a metal railing installed in the 1960s.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 7 Page: 4

Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

---

The deck of the porch is wood planks. There are turned baluster supports on each corner of the first floor northern porch. The two northerly supports are turned redwood balusters with a decorative top and bottom. The bottom of the baluster breaks into a four-cornered base post. The two remaining supports are balusters cut in half, mimicking their counterparts, and are attached directly to the house. The side railings on the porch are comprised of archways with roundels and buttons and turned spindlework posts. There is a break on the northwest side of the porch that allows access to the house via an attached ramp, installed in 2004 as a requirement of the Village of Algonquin. The ceiling of the porch is wood and is ornately trimmed with gingerbread and scrolled brackets. The second-story porch is only accessible via the second floor interior through an etched Eastlake door and outdoor wooden screen with turned balusters. The Eastlake door has an etching of a heron fishing in a pond and trimmed with flowers and fish. The second-story porch is located directly under the lower intersecting northern gable. The base of the second-story porch is the asphalt shingled flat portion of the mansard style roof of the first story porch. Its railings and supports match the first-story porch. The ceiling of the second story porch is wood planked and is trimmed by archways on all three sides. In the center of each archway, there is a downward hanging finial. There are brackets and scrolls in all corners and roundels on the header of the porch.

The eastern porch is accessed via five concrete stairs with wooden railings containing decorative turned balusters and finials. There are three corner supports made up of turned balusters matching the north porch. The base of the porch is surrounded by lattice work. The deck and ceiling of the porch are wood. The lower railings surrounding the porch are made up of archways with roundels and turned spindlework posts. The upper trim work is comprised of gingerbread and scrolled brackets, matching the northern porch. The roof of the porch is Mansard in style with asphalt shingles. There is a Queen Anne door with three-dimensional squares overhead.

The western elevation of the house is flat except for a small projecting ten-by-eighteen foot room, which is located in the southwest corner of the façade under a lower intersecting projecting gable. This room was originally the kitchen and is now a Tub Room. There is also a gabled dormer facing west on the southwestern portion of the roof. On the first floor, the Vichy Shower, originally the dining room, and the Tub Room,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 7 Page: 5

Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

---

originally the kitchen, are located in the west elevation of the house. There are two different types of patterned scales underneath the primary gable.

The northern elevation of the house includes the two story porch and turret on the northeastern corner creating the Nail Room, originally a parlor, and the home's main staircase on the first floor. On the second floor, the home's main staircase and the home's attic stairs can be found along with the Double Treatment Room, which originally was a bedroom in the northeastern corner. There are two different types of patterned scales under the primary gable and fish scales under the lower intersecting gable.

The east elevation of the house faces Main Street. The wall surface is broken up by a projecting window. The projection adds square footage to the Retail Room, originally a parlor, on the first floor and a Massage Room, originally a bedroom, on the second floor. The Tea Room is recessed six feet and is located on the southern-most portion of the eastern façade. There are 2 different types of patterned scales beneath the primary gable.

The southern elevation of the house is flat except for the gabled dormers located on the southwestern corner of the house. The facade recesses slightly on the western most portion of the house where the original kitchen stood. The façade on this side of the house is made up of three different patterned shingles on the upper third of the house.

#### HOUSE INTERIOR: FIRST FLOOR

The floor plan of 302 South Main Street is asymmetrical and was modified to its current configuration, including plumbing and electrical work, in 2004. The first floor has six living areas, including a Retail Room (originally the second parlor), Tea Room (originally a bedroom), the Nail Room (originally the first floor parlor), the Vichy Shower and ADA Shower (originally the dining room), the Prep Room (originally a maid's bedroom) and the Tub Room (originally the kitchen). There is also an ADA bathroom behind the Prep Room, which was originally part of the maid's bedroom. The walls in these rooms are both plaster and drywall. When the house was brought up to meet electrical code in the 1980s and 2004, some of the plaster walls could not be salvaged. However, all the exterior walls are plaster. The Tub Room floor is

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 7 Page: 6

Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

---

covered with a laminate made to resemble hardwood. The Prep Room and first floor bathroom floors are covered with ceramic tile made to resemble hardwood. The Vichy Shower is tiled from floor to ceiling, as it is a wet room, with earth tone ceramic tiles. The remainder of the first floor contains original oak hardwood planks. The original radiators were removed in the 1980s, and a central HVAC system was installed, but there are markings in the original oak floors indicating the spots where the radiators once stood.

The window casings, door casings and baseboards are original and are made from a variety of hardwoods, including oak. All the woods were stained with the same dark varnish. The entry ways to all the rooms are also trimmed with hardwoods eight inches thick. Many are topped with decorative corner trim. A few of the corner pieces are crowned with another hardwood trim carved with leaves. The baseboards are nine and a half inches high and are comprised of a middle board and top overlay. There are three double pocket hardwood doors with original hardware and locking mortised pulls. There is one single pocket door with original hardware and locking mortised pulls. All the pocket doors are eight feet tall.

Entering through the primary entrance on the east side, there is a small foyer with a stained glass sidelight leading into what was once a parlor. This entrance was not intended as the main entrance to the home, but was modified in 1910 by the owner of record at that time for personal reasons. The foyer leads immediately into the Retail Room with nine-foot ceilings, which can be enclosed by two of the double pocket doors on the north and west side and by the single pocket door on the south side. The room is very bright due to the large picture window and various sidelights.

Moving south from the Retail Room is the Tea Room, which was a bedroom. This room also has nine-foot ceilings and is accessible via the single pocket door. A built-in china cabinet was installed on the southeast corner of this room in the 1980s.

Exiting the Tea Room and walking through the Retail Room leads to the Nail Room, which was a parlor. This is a very bright room due to the bay window with patterned leaded stained glass pane above blank pane and sidelights as well as an additional window on the southern wall. The Nail Room has nine-foot ceilings and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 7 Page: 7 Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

two sets of double pocket doors on the west and south walls.

Heading west, both the Retail Room and Nail Room lead to the hallway, which continues north and south. Directly west of the hallway and Retail Room lies the Vichy Shower, which was the dining room. This room was constructed in 2004 by adding a south and east wall. The room can be entered through a hardwood doorway along its east wall. It is completely tiled with ceramic earth-tone tile and jade color trim and also accommodates an ADA shower in the southern portion of the room. The original hardwood oak plank flooring was protected by an overlay and then a sub-floor was added. Sections of hardwood were removed for drain placement. The sections removed are in storage. There are two windows on the western portion of this room which were painted black in 2004 and carefully covered after salvaging the trim with wallboard before the tile was laid.

Directly south of the Vichy Shower are the Prep Room and ADA restroom, which are accessible via the southern portion of the hallway. These two small rooms were originally the maid's room. The ADA Restroom was the original restroom installed around 1904 and was accessible via a hallway door to the maid's room, which was reduced in size. There were two original entrances to the Prep Room: one was a seven-foot entrance to what was the first-floor bedroom and the other was to the hallway. The entrance through the first-floor bedroom was drywalled and sealed off in 2004 in order to divide the rooms for functionality. The door trim removed during the drywalling was relocated for use in the new entrance to the current ADA Restroom.

The last room located directly west of the ADA restroom, is the Tub Room. This room was originally the kitchen with a sleeping porch. In 2004, laminate flooring was installed, as the original flooring had been removed earlier. Plumbing for the slipper tub located in the room was also added in 2004. This room is the only room on the first floor to have painted trim. The windows were originally plain; however, in 2004, the windows were decorated with the trim removed from the windows in the Vichy Shower. Heading back down the hallway in a northerly direction leads to what was the original foyer. The main staircase is located here. It is an open staircase with a dark green runner on the treads installed in 2006 for safety reasons. The remaining treads, scrolls, finials, and balusters are hardwood. The original balusters and handrails are in tact. The first three stairs are angled into the corner of the wall so that a total

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 7 Page: 8 Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

of twelve treads are used to reach the first landing. The landing turns nearly ninety degrees. There are four more treads to the final landing. Scrolls are located on the side of each riser as well as on the header of the second floor, which is visible on descending the stairs. The railings are four straight railings. The railings accompany both sets of treads and risers on one side as well as the final landing. There are also four turned support posts starting at the base of the stairs and then on each turn. These posts are ornately carved into Doric columns and topped with carved round sunbursts, which are located on every visible top portion of the columns not used for a continued construction of the railing. The column located at the base of the stairs is carved with three sets of sunbursts and the remaining columns are carved with two sets of sunbursts. There are also three downward pointing finials on each corner of the stair that meets the first floor ceiling.

HOUSE INTERIOR: SECOND FLOOR

The top of the staircase landing heading north leads to the attic stairway as well as the Eastlake Door, which has original hardware and is ornately etched with a heron in a pond. The heron appears to be fishing and is surrounded by cattails, trees and other vegetation. The top landing also leads directly to the Double Treatment Room, which was originally a bedroom. The landing and the Double Treatment Room floors are original pine plank flooring. The wood trim in the Double Treatment Room is painted white. This room is very bright due to the patterned leaded stained glass picture window as well as an almost floor-to-ceiling window on the northwest side of the room. The ceiling is eight feet high. The door leading to the Double Treatment room is original with original hardware and is not painted. There is a transom located above the door. The walls are plaster. Heading south from the landing there is another doorway with a transom. The door is no longer here, but the hardware is intact. The doorway leads to the Quiet Room to the west and a hallway to the east. The Quiet Room was originally a bedroom. The pine plank floors were not able to be salvaged, as they were damaged beyond repair. Laminate flooring that looks like hardwood was placed in 2004 in this room as well as the hallway. Painted trim is in the hallway as well as in the Quiet Room. The Quiet Room is bright due to an almost floor to ceiling window trimmed as ornately as the first floor windows. The outside walls are plaster and the interior walls are dry-wall.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 7 Page: 9

Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

---

Directly east of the Quiet Room is the Facial Room, which was originally part of another bedroom. This room was created in 2004 by moving a wall a few feet from where it stood originally. This floor now has a pocket door and laminate floors made to look like hardwood. One third of this room has original pine flooring. The other two-thirds were destroyed by a previous owner. A plywood overlay protects the pine flooring.

Behind the Facial Room on the east side of the house, is the Massage Room, which made up the remaining portion of the final bedroom. This room is also entered by a new pocket door. The original pine plank flooring is intact. The trim is painted but has the same moldings and trim as the first floor windows.

Heading south through the Quiet Room there is the small Changing Room with laminate flooring. The Changing Room also made up a portion of a bedroom. The chimney's brick is exposed in the easternmost portion of the room. Matching baseboards were placed in this room in 2004.

Heading south past the Changing Room is the Locker Area. The ceiling here is pitched low and angles sharply inward. This area was originally a storage area. The floors here are also laminate modeled after hardwood.

East of the Locker Area and on the southern portion of the house is a bathroom with a shower, toilet and sink. The original door and hardware are intact. There is a small linen closet with an original hardwood door and hardware in the northeastern corner of the room. It is believed this restroom was installed around 1904. The floors are ceramic tile made to look like hardwood. There is a large window with plain window casing.

Directly east of the second floor restroom is Facial Room Two. Originally this area was a storage room. This room has original pine plank flooring. The eastern walls are steeply pitched and angle sharply inward. There are two small patterned windows on the east wall and one large window on the south wall decorated with molding.

The moldings surrounding some of the windows and doors are less ornate than the first floor. The ceilings are eight feet except for where the roof pitches.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 7 Page: 10 Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

HOUSE INTERIOR: ATTIC

The attic is reached via the second floor landing on the main staircase and just west of the Eastlake door. A paneled door, which was placed in the 1980s, leads to the narrow treads. There are three stairs leading to a landing where portions of original floral wallpaper are visible. The small landing serves as a ninety-degree turn for an additional eight-stair flight. Previous owners removed much of the original pine flooring in the attic. Portions that remained were salvaged and used to repair holes in the second floor pine plank flooring. There are three windows in the attic. There is an HVAC unit in the southeastern portion of the attic installed in 2005 to serve the second floor.

HOUSE INTERIOR: BASEMENT

There is a basement underneath the home. The only portion of the home that does not have a basement is the southwestern corner of the house, which was the original kitchen. The limestone foundation built in 1893 by William Wernecke, a local mason, is intact. The home's original cistern is located in the southwestern corner of the basement. A cellar door is located approximately ten feet north of the cistern. The cellar door is intact and is still functional on the western side of the house. There are six cement stairs leading to the cellar door that is accessible from the outside.

PRESENT CONDITION OF HOUSE

The Christian Geister House has sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The original clapboard siding, sunbursts, turret, patterned scales, roundels, scrolls and additional ornamentation remain on the exterior of the home. The Queen Anne doors and the Eastlake door have kept their place and are in excellent condition for a home well over 100 years old. The exquisite gingerbread on the porches, especially the two-story porch with arched headers, is impeccable and a true testament to a Queen Anne Style home. All rotten pieces on the porch have been replaced or will be replaced shortly with matching redwood cedar to prevent any further damage. Gutters were installed in 2005 to prevent any further damage to the home's exterior.

With the exception of the ADA ramp, which the Village of Algonquin required because



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 7 Page: 11

Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

---

the home is now a business, there have been no alterations to the exterior of the home since 1909, when the owner of record built the east porch. The ramp was constructed in such a way that it can be easily removed. The portion of the porch railing that was removed has been saved for re-installation.

When the Geister home was built it was labeled palatial by the local newspapers. It was so large that not all the rooms were utilized, and the owners rented an upstairs bedroom as a "flat." The home was converted to sleeping rooms during World War II, even though locking pocket doors were the only things separating the rooms.

In 2004 the home underwent major electrical and plumbing updates in order to bring it up to code. In addition, two walls were added to create a new room on the first floor. The floors and windows in this room were carefully preserved. In addition, one entry was covered over but can be re-created easily. On the second floor, four walls were added to create three smaller rooms. These walls are not load-bearing and can be removed at any time to re-create the original plan. Laminate and ceramic tile cover damage that occurred while previous owners owned the home.

The current owners have taken great pride and care to maintain the home's integrity and lovingly restored this home to its former grandeur. No expansions or alterations that cannot be undone have been made. All modern upgrades are tailored to suit the original décor of the home. All interior trim and hardwood have been maintained. The windows, including pulleys, are in original condition. From the exterior, the home stands exactly as it stood when it was completed in 1894, except for the 1909 porch and the required ADA ramp installed in 2004. The interior has undergone some alterations for functionality and business needs, but definitely maintains the integrity of the home and can be converted to its original plan.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 8 Page: 12 Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

---

## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Christian Geister House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic places under Criterion C as a good local example of Queen Anne architecture. Its period of significance is 1894, when construction was completed.

### EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF ALGONQUIN

Algonquin is located approximately forty miles northwest of the center of Chicago. It lies in a valley cut through glacial moraine near the Fox River. It was a point on the early trail connecting Chicago to Native American settlements in the Lake Geneva area. European American settlers first arrived in 1831, creating a small village for the area's dairy farmers who served the growing Chicago metropolitan area. Growth was spurred by the Fox Valley Railroad, which was made part of the Chicago and North Western Railroad in 1854. Originally named Cornish Ferry, the community was renamed after resident Samuel Edwards' ship. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, the attraction of the town's picturesque setting and fresh waters transformed it from a farm town to a resort and recreation community.

As the 1880s approached, Algonquin experienced marked developmental changes. In the early 1880s, a school, library and the first public telephone exchange. At this time, there were two separate business districts in Algonquin. One was near the Elgin and State Line Railroad and the other was on Main Street, now known as Algonquin Road or state Route 62. The first business district was important for transportation services, and the second was important because it contained all the businesses basic to a farming community. As the town progressed and grew, the business district grew. This growth filled in the area between the two business districts, creating one large business district. As growth continued, Main Street was "moved" to its present location. The old Main Street was renamed Chicago Street, and then renamed again in 1990 to Algonquin Road. The business district became known and recognized as the "Old Downtown District" in 1996 by the Village of Algonquin.

During the 1880s, Algonquin received its first face lift where businesses were given fresh coats of paint and new facades. It was also during this time that

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 8 Page: 13 Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

area carpenters began building Algonquin's second-generation homes. The original small pioneer homes were lifted off their foundation and moved from prime Main Street property. In their places, grand Victorian homes were built.

In 1890, Algonquin was incorporated as a village. At this time, Chicagoans "found" Algonquin. Chicagoans not only enjoyed the picturesque village but desired the cool waters and fishing sport of the Fox River. Algonquin was an escape from city life and was easily accessed by train. Algonquin became a treasure to Chicagoans as a destination in summer, when hotels were filled to capacity. During this time, the tourism industry was ushered into Algonquin and the first-generation farm-related commerce began to decline. By the mid 1890s, Algonquin was becoming so congested that hotels were expanded and foot bridges were built across creeks.

Another group also "found" Algonquin in the early 1900s. This group was made up from the Chicago Automobile Trade Association and the Chicago Automobile and Motor Club, whose members were generally wealthy men who owned America's first automobiles. The automobile at this time was an exclusive piece of equipment; ordinary citizens of the day still traveled by horse and buggy. Most citizens did not trust the automobile and considered it an unproven novelty. In order to instill citizens' trust in the automobile, manufacturers developed "reliability tests" where they could prove that the automobile was, in fact, reliable. These tests, which were performed in the East, captured the public's attention and garnered heavy press coverage. The Chicago auto clubs wanted to capture some of the limelight and decided to bring the "reliability test" to the Midwest. Having heard of a large hill in a summer resort town known as Algonquin, the clubs found Algonquin to be the perfect location. Thus began the Algonquin Hill Climbs. On September 6, 1906, thousands of people poured into Algonquin to witness the first Algonquin Hill Climb. The Hill Climbs continued through 1912, when the final race was held. According to historians, the actual demise of the Hill Climb came when it outlived its original purpose as a reliability test. People realized that automobiles were no longer a passing novelty, but were here to stay. While the Algonquin Hill Climb lasted, it brought national attention to Algonquin, Illinois, and is known as one of the earliest automobile competitions.

In 1893, Amos Wilburn, a local carpenter began construction of the house at 302 South.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 8 Page: 14 Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

---

Main Street as a family residence for Christian Geister. According to the abstract, the land was originally owned by Dr. Thomas Plumleigh, who was granted land totaling 102.17 acres from The United States in 1843. Dr. Plumleigh platted this land in 1860 as Plumleigh's Addition. The lot was originally purchased by Eunice Chapel, who in turn sold it to Julia Hubbard, who sold the lot to Ira C. Goodrich, of the Goodrich tire family. Mr. Goodrich sold the lot to Mr. Geister for \$1,400.00 in 1893. Mr. Geister was one of the town's grist mill owners and village treasurer. Mr. Geister's mortgage was released from the property in 1913, according to the abstract. Mrs. Emma Haeger Estergren, of the Haeger pottery family, purchased the home in 1909 and lived there until her death in the 1970s. She maintained the second floor as her residence. She was a widow early in her life and remained so until her death. She was an activist for animal rights, prohibition, the Women's Suffrage movement and was a respected member of the Algonquin's Woman's Club. During the later years of her life, she rented the first floor of her home to various local businesses.

QUEEN ANNE ARCHITECTURE

Queen Anne homes were popular during the 1880s and 1890s. While the style became popular during Queen Victoria's reign, it was named after an eighteenth century queen. However, architecturally speaking, the British designs were borrowed from the medieval era. Queen Anne architecture became popular in the United States when machine-made building material became available. Local builders pieced together these machine-made creations and built ornate, asymmetrical homes for various people of differing income levels. The decorative detailing of Queen Anne homes are categorized into four sub-types, including one called Spindework. The Spindework Queen Anne is characterized by porches embellished with turned supports and gingerbread. Most often, these homes include Eastlake detailing. They are referred to as "Eastlake" after Charles Eastlake, an English furniture designer. Turrets of all shapes and sizes are also commonly associated with Queen Anne homes. The Geister home is an excellent example of the Spindework sub-type with a square turret in addition to its roofline and asymmetrical floor pattern.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 8 Page: 15

Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

---

There are other Queen Anne homes in Algonquin that survive, however, none have original clapboard siding, ornate spindlework and gingerbread porches. Most have undergone major alteration, including porch removals, enclosures and siding installation. The home at 121 North Main Street is similar in design to the Geister home in that it has a square tower and similar patterned stained leaded glass above a blank picture pane, but the home's exterior has been covered in what appears to be a green aluminum siding and its original porches have been removed. The home at 321 South Main Street is a Queen Anne much simpler in style with a gabled roof; however, the exterior has been covered with stucco and the porches look to have been replaced in the 1960s. The home at 308 South Main is also a Queen Anne with original clapboard siding and original hardwood. This home also had a two story porch, but the second story porch has been enclosed.

The Christian Geister house is a great example of the Queen Anne architecture found in Algonquin, Illinois, and compares favorably with other examples. It has been featured in the publication Historic Homes of McHenry County. The Christian Geister home has also been featured in America's Painted Ladies. The current owners have a great interest in preservation and have and will continue to maintain the home's integrity.

OMB No. 1024-0018  
(8/86)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 9.10 Page: 16 Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

---

**9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Purn, Donald V. (ed.). *Algonquin Historical Events, October, 2006*. Algonquin Historic Commission. 28 Oct. 2006.

Coleman, Marie, *et al.* "The Developing Years 1880-1899." *The History of Algonquin*. June 1995: 8-12.

Craven, Jackie. "Queen Anne Architecture: Reigning Style of the Industrial Age." [www.architecture.about.com](http://www.architecture.about.com). 1 Oct. 2006.

Jolitz, Jeffrey. "The Algonquin Historic Commission Presents . . . A Look at Algonquin's 'Main Street.'" *Village of Algonquin Municipal Calendar 2005*. Jan. 2005: 8.

Jolitz, Jeffrey, *et al.* *Conquering The Hills . . . Algonquin Hill Climbs 1906 - 1912*. Algonquin: Algonquin Historic Commission, 2004.

McHenryCounty Title Company. *Abstracts of Title and Guaranty Policies March, 1843 - August, 1945*. Woodstock, IL: 1843.

*Northwest Herald* Staff (eds.). *Historic Homes of McHenry County*. Marceline: Heritage House Publishing, 2005.

McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992.

Pomada, Elizabeth, and Michael Larsen. *America's Painted Ladies: The Ultimate Celebration of Our Victorians*. New York: Penguin Group, 1994.

NPS Form 10-900-a  
OMB No. 1024-0018  
(8/86)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 9.10 Page: 17 Christian Geister House, McHenry County, Illinois

---

**10. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

LOT 8 IN BLOCK 7 IN PLUMLEIGH'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN. BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 43 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, WEST OF THE FOX RIVER, AND PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 43 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MARCH 24, 1860, IN BOOK OF DEEDS, PAGE 400, IN MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

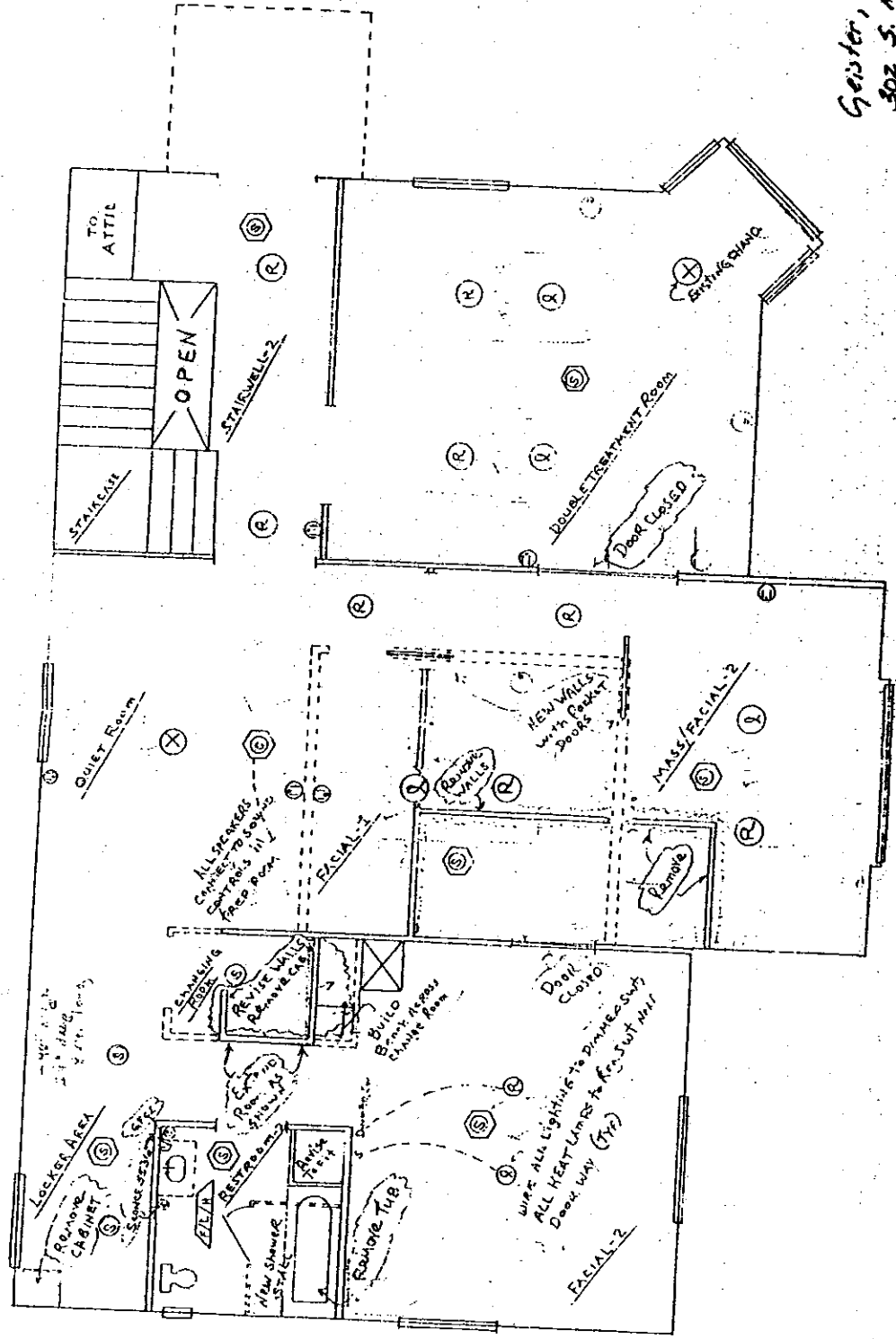
**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary includes the house, the garage and the land currently associated with it.





↗ N  
 Geister, Christian House  
 302 S. Main Street  
 Altonquin, IL 60102



2ND FLOOR



Algonquin

302 South Main Street, Algonquin, Illinois

Jefferson St

Railroad St

Washington St

Good St

© 2006 Europa Technologies

© 2006 Navteq





(Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPS)

GEORGIA, CLARKE COUNTY,  
West Cloverhurst Avenue Historic District, W. Cloverhurst Ave. vet. Springdale St. and S. Milledge Ave.,  
Athens, 07001000, LISTED, 9/27/07

GEORGIA, DE KALB COUNTY,  
Klondike Historic District,  
Klondike and S. Goddard Rds.,  
Klondike, 07001001,  
LISTED, 9/27/07

GEORGIA, SUMTER COUNTY,  
Third District A & M School–Georgia Southwestern College Historic District, 800 Wheatley St., Americus,  
07001002, LISTED, 9/27/07

ILLINOIS, MCHENRY COUNTY,  
Geister, Christian, House,  
302 S. Main St.,  
Algonquin, 07000453,  
LISTED, 9/25/07

IOWA, MAHASKA COUNTY,  
Edmundson Park Historic District,  
Jct. of 11th Ave. W and Edmundson Dr.,  
Oskaloosa, 07001005,  
LISTED, 9/27/07

IOWA, STORY COUNTY,  
Lincoln Township Mausoleum,  
Cty Rd. E18, N end of Pearl St.,  
Zearing, 07001004,  
LISTED, 9/27/07

LOUISIANA, MOREHOUSE PARISH,  
Walnut Grove,  
9069 Oak Ridge Rd.,  
Mer Rouge vicinity, 07001007,  
LISTED, 9/27/07

LOUISIANA, ORLEANS PARISH,  
Union Bethel A.M.E. Church,  
2321 Thalia,  
New Orleans, 07001003,  
LISTED, 9/24/07

LOUISIANA, RICHLAND PARISH,  
St. David's Episcopal Church,  
834 Louisa St.,  
Rayville, 07001006,  
LISTED, 9/27/07

MASSACHUSETTS, ESSEX COUNTY,  
Haverhill Board of Trade Building,  
16-18 and 38-42 Walnut St.,