

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Howard K. Weber House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

925 South Seventh St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

20

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

CODE

COUNTY

Sangamon

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ms. Nanchen Frank

STREET & NUMBER

718 South Seventh Street, Apt. 1300

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

800 East Monroe Street, Room 106

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Architecture Before W.W. II in Sangamon County

DATE

October, 1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Illinois Department of Conservation, 405 E. Washington St.

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

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 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

The Howard K. Weber House is an example of Italianate architecture as interpreted on the main streets of America. It began as a small house of the 1840's (or earlier) and grew through numerous changes until it evolved into its present exterior form sometime in the 1870's. It is a two-story, L-shaped, brick structure with overhanging eaves supported by brackets. The low pitched hip roof and arched windows are characteristic of the Italianate style. The asymmetrical floor plan is in the tradition of the rambling Tuscan Villas and like those, it grew by stages. The main (east) facade has a two-story bay window, three windows wide, which combines corinthian columns, classical pediment, and decorative rectangular arches with a non-functional keystone, which enhances the classical feeling of the Italianate Villa style. The porches, which were originally of wood, were rebuilt about 1900 in the neo-classical style then popular, which is sympathetic to the Italianate Villa style. The porch running north and south, along the east facade picks up details from the earlier structure and carries out a successful transition. Quarried tiles are laid in the floor of the porch.

The house is a successful hybrid of two opposing styles--both typical of the 19th century--the classical and the romantic. The interior best reflects this mood in its major redecoration/remodeling of 1893. At that time the Webers installed parquet floors, a Romanesque Revival stairway, stained glass and yards of lincrusta Walton wainscoting, in rooms which had been primarily classical in proportion and detail. The southeast front parlor, in the "best room" tradition, was redone reflecting the aesthetic principles of late 19th century interior decoration. It features frescoed ceiling artwork, with geometric Eastlake type borders. These are presently being restored. The remaining first floor rooms were treated similarly and included angular, incised woodwork. On the first floor a total of six different hardwoods have been used. A free standing, circular staircase remains in the second floor hall. The house has eight fireplaces. Many rooms have plaster ceiling moldings and medallions from which light fixtures hang. These also are being restored.

In all there were between five and seven additions excluding porches. While the main front of the house dates from the 1870's, there is evidence that the first addition was made to the original structure by the mid-1840's. There is a visible fireplace at the basement level which indicates that a functioning kitchen existed in a southern style structure, possibly dating from the 1820's or 30's. A building with so many clearly defined and documented additions and alterations is indeed an important discovery.

One outbuilding, the carriage house, still stands. Although this has undergone several changes throughout its history, the basic structure (in Gothic Revival style) is still intact. It also is being preserved.

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/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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Circa. 1870's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Howard K. Weber House is important to the city of Springfield for several reasons. It is one of the few remaining great private houses left intact in the area once known as "Aristocrat Hill". This region, in the several blocks around the Illinois Governor's Mansion, was populated by Springfield's upper-middle class and minor rich.

Weber was born in Maryland and was attending Dickinson College in Pennsylvania when the Civil War broke out. He attempted to join the Confederate Army but was persuaded by his father to visit Springfield relatives. Here he became converted to the Northern cause and was appointed a Commissary Sergeant at the local prisoner-of-war camp--Camp Butler. In the post Civil War era he became President of one of the town's largest banks, the First National Bank. Springfield profitted heavily from the wartime economy and experienced tremendous growth in the late 19th century. Weber's career and house reflect those times perfectly.

He purchased this house in 1878 when it was still a simple two-story brick, broadside house. As he prospered he began a series of extensive alterations which make the house a composite of the taste and aspirations of local citizens during the years from the Civil War to World War I. The basic facade, while Italianate in mass and detail, at the same time anticipates the trend toward heavily embellished late Victorian architecture. This shows particularly in the elaborate treatment of the front bay windows and Gothic elements in the drip moldings on the second floor east windows.

Taken as a whole this building is a truer example of a late Victorian home and all that this entails than many museum rooms which portray one decade or less of "correct" fashion.

Nationally, the house reflects the era of mass production and materialism. The post Civil War availability of goods, and improved production and building techniques combined to produce a rich and often cluttered atmosphere. The interiors tended to look the same in Baltimore, Pittsburg, St. Louis, Springfield, or San Francisco due to the availability of interior photographs reproduced in the new home decorators' magazines.

A structure which shows such changes over time, reflecting individual and mass taste is extremely important in understanding 19th century American life and culture. This is a rarity nationally and more importantly, a rarity in Springfield, Illinois.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Barringer, Floyd. Historic Homes of Springfield. Springfield, Ill., 1966.
2. Illinois State Register (Springfield, Ill.). July 2, 1940.
3. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1896 & 1917. Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.
4. Springfield, Illinois. Birdseye Views. Circa. 1867, Circa. 1872, and Circa. 1875.
Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Ill.
5. "Streets--7th South" Files. Sangamon Valley Coll. Lincoln Lib., Springfield, Ill.
6. Title Transfers. Recorder of Deeds Office, Sangamon County, Springfield, Ill.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one-half

UTM REFERENCES

A				B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 9 and 10 and the south 30 feet of lot 11 in Elijah Iles' 2nd Addition to the City of Springfield.

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

Nanchen Frank and Michael Scully.

April 24, 1979

ORGANIZATION

Owner

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

718 South Seventh Street, Apt. 1300

TELEPHONE

(217) 753-1088

CITY OR TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois 62703

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 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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ILLINOIS

STATE

Date Entered SEP 17 1979

Name

Location

Weber, Howard K., House

Springfield
Sangamon County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Paul Findley

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

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