

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

George M. Brinkerhoff House

AND/OR COMMON

The Castle**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1500 North 5th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Illinois

VICINITY OF

20CODE
012

COUNTY

Sangamon

CODE

167**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Springfield College in Illinois

STREET & NUMBER

1500 North 5th Street

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 LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSIllinois Historic Structures Survey, 1800 South Prairie Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

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 Brinkerhoff house was designed and built in 1869-70. The architect, Elijah E. Myers, chose the Italian Villa style with some Gothic revival details. It is a two and one half story L-shaped brick structure. The most striking feature of the design was a four story tower on the southwest inside corner. This was shortened in 1960. The original slate roof remains.

Along with the typical brackets supporting overhanging eaves, the facade included brick quoins, a dentiled cornice and some other neo-classic elements such as urns on balustrade posts. The entrance porch angles around the south and west sides of the building. All window and door openings on the exterior are arched at the top. Many are edged with the architect's trademark, wooden rope trim.

The interior remains essentially unchanged since the time of its construction. The woodwork consists of fourteen types of hardwood and most main rooms have the original finish on this woodwork. A large central stairway curves up three floors and is built of walnut wood. The stairway is an elaborate example of the type found in many Italianate homes. The balusters and newell posts are simple in design. French style marble mantel pieces are placed in some rooms. There is at least one wooden Eastlake style mantel piece in a main room. This may have been added shortly after the house was constructed. Nearly all of the interior window shutters remain in working condition. The entire interior exhibits a restrained elegance. Rococo plaster ceiling ornaments and corbels placed in bay window openings are the only decorations besides the woodwork and mantels. Most hardware is original.

The only significant alterations to the building are the shortening of the gothic tower roof and removal of brackets and porch trim. Around 1920 the lattice grilles under the front porch were replaced with a rough-cast concrete block, still in keeping with the original design.

Plans are underway for restoration and reconstruction of the building. This will be done in a series of phases. To date over \$8,000.00 has been raised toward completion of phase one.

Overall the house is an intact example of high style 19th century Italian Villa design.

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		

1870-

SPECIFIC DATES Brinkerhoff family-1928 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Elijah E. Myers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brinkerhoff house is important to the city of Springfield as the home of George M. Brinkerhoff, one of the city's most prominent capitalists. Brinkerhoff was involved in a multitude of financial and civic ventures from the 1860's to the early 1900's. He was a typical example of the 19th century "self made man". Having graduated from Pennsylvania College in 1859 he came to teach at Springfield's Illinois State University. After one year he secured a position with the Auditor of the State of Illinois. His financial education here helped him win the office of City Comptroller from 1865-1870. At the same time he became affiliated with the State National Bank. He was a founder of the Springfield City Railway Company and the Springfield Iron Company. In addition to church associations he was a member of eight business, civic or fraternal organizations. His influence in local matters was considerable. The Brinkerhoff family entertained regularly and the home was a background for much of the local social, civic and cultural activities of the time.

Brinkerhoff lived in the house until 1928. After his death in that year, his home was purchased to house the newly founded Springfield Junior College (now Springfield College in Illinois). The house continued to be an anchor building even as the college grew around it. Much of the feeling of the naturally landscaped grounds remains. During the last fifty years the house has served every purpose from dormitory to classrooms. Local civic organizations also took advantage of its spaces. For example, Springfield's theater group used the basement to construct its first sets.

The Brinkerhoff home is important nationally primarily because it was designed by a significant 19th century architect, Elijah E. Myers. Myers began his career as a carpenter for the noted Philadelphia archi-

(Continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

tect Samuel Sloan, known for his use of the Italinat style and publication of carpenter's planbooks. Myers came to Springfield in the 1860's. He was an outstanding entrepreneur and captured the prize for the design of the Macoupin County, Illinois, Courthouse. This formed the cornerstone of his career. He left Springfield in the 1870's and went on to design four state capitol buildings including those for Michigan and Texas.

Myers turned out scores of designs while he lived in Springfield. However, of those which have been identified, few remain standing. Only one other house design from this period of his career has been identified locally. This was rebuilt after a catastrophic fire in the 1880's.

Of his public building of this time, the Macoupin County Courthouse is the ~~most~~ ^{best known} ~~important~~. He also designed the Logan and Menard county jails which are still in use. However the former is scheduled for destruction this year and the latter is expected to be replaced in the near future.

Thus the Brinkerhoff home is one of the few remaining examples of Myers' work during the period in which he went from "carpenter" to "architect" in 19th century terms.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Goelding, Paul, "Elijah E. Myers, Politics, Patronage, and Professionalism." Speech given at Spring, 1976 meeting Society of Architectural Historians.

Krohe, James, Jr. "Saving the 'Castle', monument to the American dream." Illinois Times, Springfield, Illinois, January 13, 1978 p. 4.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Brinkerhoff House occupies a site on the campus of Springfield College in Illinois at 1500 No. 5th Street

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

Edward J. Russo, Head, Sangamon Valley Collection

ORGANIZATION

Lincoln Library, Springfield's Public Library

DATE

June 1, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

326 S. 7th St.

TELEPHONE

(217)753-4910

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 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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



