

ADDED 12-17-64

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Edwards Place

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
700 North Fourth Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Springfield

STATE: **Illinois** CODE: **62702** COUNTY: **Sangamon** CODE: **167**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Art Association
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Art Gallery

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Springfield Art Association

STREET AND NUMBER:
700 North Fourth

CITY OR TOWN: **Springfield** STATE: **Illinois** CODE: **12**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Sangamon County Building

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Springfield** STATE: **Illinois** CODE: **12**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.9 acre**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1934 to date** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: 12
COUNTY: 167
ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Edwards Place is a 14-room, 2-1/2 story brick structure situated on its original 1-acre site. The present kitchen areas, built in 1833 comprised the original part of the house. In the 1850's, the Benjamin S. Edwards remodeled and enlarged the one story structure to its present spacious proportions.

The exterior walls are 18 inches thick and are presently painted grey. The roof overhang is deep with heavy bracketed cornices, typical of the homes built in the Italianate style during the last half of the 19th century. The center of the structure is crowned with a cupola which can be seen through an oval skylight over the stairway in the second story ceiling.

The rooms are spacious and contain many fine pieces of 19th century furniture, paintings by well known 19th century artists, and choice objets d'art.

In 1937-38 an adjoining art gallery was built on the east side of the structure. In 1968-69, the gallery was enlarged and extended southward. This addition was designed in the style of the Edwards house and adds to rather than detracts from the appearance of the structure. To the east of the house and gallery is a masonry studio where art classes are given. The house, gallery, studio, and grounds are property of the Springfield Art Association. Funds derived from memberships, student fees and an annual Beaux Arts Ball are used to maintain Edwards Place and carry forward its programs. The recent remodeling of the gallery was paid for from pledges from members.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1833 (original part) enlarged Ca 1850

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Edwards Place is the oldest house on its own grounds in Springfield, and for well over a century has been prominent in the cultural life of the city. From 1833 to 1909, it was a gracious private home. Built by Dr. Thomas Houghan, it comprised at that time just the kitchen areas of today. In 1843, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin S. Edwards bought the house and, in the 1850's remodeled and enlarged it from the original story and a half to its present proportions.

Benjamin S. Edwards, a lawyer, was the son of Ninian Edwards, first territorial governor of Illinois and third state governor (1826-30). Another son, Ninian, married Mrs. Abraham Lincoln's sister. The Benjamin Edwards home was a center of social and political life before and during the Civil War. From one of its upper windows, Abraham Lincoln once spoke to a gathering in the grove. The grove was also the scene of a Stephen A. Douglas rally attended by a chartered train load of Douglas supporters from Chicago.

The house was thrown open to guests who came to Springfield to attend Lincoln's funeral and many spent the night there. The funeral cortege passed by the Edwards home.

Mrs. B. H. Ferguson, daughter of Benjamin Edwards, deeded Edwards Place to the Springfield Art Association in 1913. Since that time, the house has functioned as a combination club, museum and art school.

Included among the furnishings at Edwards Place are pieces which touched Lincoln's life personally. These include the Empire courting sofa from the Ninian Edwards home, where Lincoln courted and married Mary Todd; a marble-topped, carved walnut table from Lincoln's home, and several dishes which are said to have belonged to Mary Todd Lincoln.

Edwards Place is architecturally significant inasmuch as it is an outstanding example of the Italianate Villa style which became popular during the 1850's. The details of the structure are of excellent proportion; there is no remaining structure in the city of Springfield of equal quality in this particular period style.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Old Illinois Houses, John Drury, Illinois
State Historical Society, Springfield, Illinois, 1959

Historic Homes of Springfield, Floyd S. Barringer,
Springfield, 1966

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 48' 36"	89° 39' 00"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles Kirchner, Chief of Local and Regional Planning

ORGANIZATION: **Illinois Department of Business & Economic Development** DATE: **8-13-69**

STREET AND NUMBER:
222 South College

CITY OR TOWN: **Springfield** STATE: **Illinois** CODE: **62706**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS