

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON: Cahners Publishing Company, Inc.
AND/OR HISTORIC: William W. Kimball Home

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1801 South Prairie Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Chicago			
STATE: Illinois	CODE: 17	COUNTY: Cook	CODE: 031

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
<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: Cahners Publishing Company, Inc.			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1801 South Prairie Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Chicago	STATE: Illinois	CODE: 17	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cook County Recorder of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: Cook County Court House			
CITY OR TOWN: Chicago	STATE: Illinois	CODE: 17	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: June, 1960	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.	CODE: 11	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7th Congressional District - Congressman Frank Annunzio

STATE:
IllinoisCOUNTY:
CookFOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7 DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered (int.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered (ext.) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The three-story Kimball House has a majestic exterior of Bedford limestone, sheathing a wood frame. Footings are of limestone, supporting a basement and three stories. Topping the building is a steep slate roof crowned with an ornamental iron-railed gallery.</p>	
<p>Throughout the years, the "Chateausque" facades have not been altered. As is characteristic of the 16th Century "Francis I" style, today often referred to as "Chateausque", the house is topped by a complex mass of steeply sloping roof shapes—hipped, gabled, conical-punctuated with dormer windows; balustrades; tall, slender chimneys with molded designs, and a myriad of finials. Windows on every story and on all four facades are of various shapes and sizes: curved and flat, arched and rectangular, large and small. In every window, stone mullions and transoms separate the panes of glass.</p>	
<p>Although the general shape of the house is rectangular, its massing, like the roofline, is irregular, made up of numerous projections. Windowed walls extend beyond the plane of the building as do other smaller architectural elements; string courses, brackets, balustrades, and pilasters with heavily ornamented Composite capitals.</p>	
<p>The main facade on Prairie Avenue, is dominated by a broad, elliptical bow window, reaching from the ground to the roofline. Centered above the cornice that tops the bow window is a large divided window flanked by ornamented pilasters and capped by a steep gable lavishly decorated in foliate basrelief ornament and flanked by finials. The curved sides of the bow window are topped, above the cornice, by a filigreed balustrade that forms a sort of balcony in front of the windows in the sides of the dormer projection.</p>	
<p>It is said that the interior once contained 29 rooms. Today, although many rooms have been subdivided, the building's character has not been altered appreciably. The main rooms—entrance hall, parlors, and dining room—are still richly paneled in oak and mahogany. Ceilings are beamed. The original onyx fireplaces remain. The intricately carved balustrades of the main staircase are in place. Throughout the interior, as well as the exterior of the mansion, the dignity that once prevailed on Prairie Avenue remains intact.</p>	

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) 1890-1892

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 | losophy | <u>Chicago history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In his Old Chicago Houses, published in 1941, John Drury cited the Kimball House as Chicago's finest example of French Chateau style of architecture. Indeed, its significance as typifying this style is recognized nationally today. Marcus Whiffen, architectural historian and author of American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, includes a photograph of the Kimball House among the illustrations he gives of the "Chateausque" style.

The "Chateauseque" style, according to Whiffen, is characterized by masonry construction, assymetrical plans, and silhouettes with high steep-sided hipped roofs rising to a ridge or a flat top. These roofs are surmounted by metal railings or openwork metal cresting. Dormer windows with pinnacled gables are universal to the style. In the Kimball House, these characteristics are epitomized.

Solon S. Beman, architect of the Kimball House, was brought to Chicago from New York in 1879 by George Pullman. Chiefly noted for designing the village of Pullman, said to be America's first planned industrial town, Beman is also known for having designed Chicago's Studebaker (now Fine Arts) Building and Grand Central Station, in addition to the Kimball House.

William W. Kimball, who commissioned Beman to design his house, was the founder of a piano and organ manufacturing company that was to become one of the city's leading firms. According to Chicago and Its Makers, Kimball was one of the city's best-loved citizens. He was also one of its wealthiest and is said to have spent a million dollars on his mansion.

Built on Prairie-Avenue, which an old Chicago saying quoted by Arthur Meeker in his novel Prairie Avenue described as "the sunny street that holds the sifted few", the Kimball home stood near those of Marshall Field, Philip Armour, Pullman, and John J. Glessner. With the Glessner House, designed by H. H. Richardson in 1886 and designated an official "Chicago Landmark" in 1970, the Kimball House is practically the last remaining evidence of Prairie Avenue's high point as Chicago's foremost residential street during the 1880's and 1890's.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bach, Ira. Chicago on Foot. Chicago: Follett Publishing Co., 1969. p. 130.
 Drury, John. Old Chicago Houses. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1941. pp. 49-53.
 Gilbert, Paul, and Bryson, Charles Lee. Chicago and Its Makers. Chicago: Felix Mendelsohn, Publisher, 1929. pp. 180, 653.
 Historic American Buildings Survey. One page of historical information. Two photos. Ill-1077

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	41°	51'	27"	87°	37'	19"	0					
NE	41°	51'	27"	87°	37'	15"						
SE	41°	51'	18"	87°	37'	15"						
SW	41°	51'	18"	87°	37'	19"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **6.1 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Susan Benjamin

ORGANIZATION: **Commission of Chicago Historical & Architectural Landmarks** DATE: **July 7, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
320 North Clark Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Chicago** STATE: **Illinois** CODE: **17**

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Illinois	
COUNTY Cook	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance, continued

With the exception of the Glessner House, the mansions on Prairie Avenue followed the vogue of the day and were built in styles derived from architecture of the past. The Kimball House was no exception. Patterned by Beman after the Chateau de Josselin, in the French province of Brittany, it is significant today because it portrays a way of life long since gone from the Chicago, and American, scene.

The house is further distinctive because it stands in the immediate vicinity of an event important in Chicago history—the Fort Dearborn Massacre. It was near what is today 18th Street and Prairie Avenue, that those men, women, and children fleeing the Fort during the War of 1812 were slaughtered. A statue which formerly marked the spot is now housed in the Chicago Historical Society, while a plaque commemorating the tragedy is affixed to the building at the northeast corner of the intersection, across from the Kimball House.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Illinois	
COUNTY	Cook	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

(Number all entries)

Major Bibliographical References, continued

Historic American Buildings Survey
U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
801-19th Street N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Meeker, Arthur. Prairie Avenue. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1949.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles.
Cambridge, Massachusetts: The M. I. T. Press, 1969. pp. 141-2, 145.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered DEC 9 1971

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Orendorff (Glynn G.) House	Canton Fulton County
Cahner's Publishing Company, Inc. (KIMBALL HOUSE)	Chicago Cook County

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, III
Hon. Frank Annunzio
Hon. Thomas F. Railsback

RECEIVED

DEC 10 1971

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

CK-H-60

✓ 3007 10

1. Name of Site:

Common Cahners Publishing Co.
Historic Kimball House

2. Location:

Street and Number 1801 S. Prairie Ave.
City or Town Chicago
County Cook
Zip Code
Township
Range
Section
1/4 Section

3. Classification:

Category (check one) Integrity (check one)
 District Building Altered Unaltered
 Site Structure Moved Original Site

4. Ownership:

Private Public
 Occupied Unoccupied
 Preservation work in progress

Status (check one)

Access to Public

Yes Restricted Unrestricted No

Present Use (check one or more)

Agricultural Industrial Religious
 Commercial Military Scientific
 Educational Museum Transportation
 Entertainment Park Other
 Government Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name Cahners Publ. Co. Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description: Chateanesque

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated
 Ruins Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? Yes No

ARCHITECTURE

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site | (Pre-Columbian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site | (Post-Columbian to 1673) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Influence | (1673-1780) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Frontier | (1780-1818) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Early | (1818-1850) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois Middle | (1850-1900) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Late | (1900-present) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Famous People | (give names & dates) |

8. Specific Date: 1890-92

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates) Residence designed
Use additional sheets if necessary. for Kimball, the piano mfs. by Solon S.
Beman. Nat'l Register - included in the Prairie Ave. Historical District

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: _____ Date: 6/23/75

Organization: _____ Phone: _____

Street and Number: _____

City or Town: _____ County: _____ Zip Code _____

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.
National Register material

1111
1115



- Survey Track
- Archaeology
- Architecture
- History

200540

1. Name of Site:

Common:

Cahners Publishing Company, Inc.

Historic:

William W. Kimball House

2. Location of site:

Street and Number

1801 South Prairie Avenue

City or Town

Chicago

Zip Code

60616

Township

Range

Section

1/4 Section

County

Cook

3. Classification

Category: (check one)

District

Site

Building

Structure

Integrity: (check one)

Altered Inter.

Position: (check one)

Moved

Unaltered Ext.

Original Site

4. Ownership:

Public

Private

Status:

Occupied

Unoccupied

Preservation

work in progress

Access to the public:

Yes

Restricted

Unrestricted

No

Present Use: (check one or more)

Agricultural

Commercial

Educational

Entertainment

Government

Industrial

Military

Museum

Park

Private residence

Religious

Scientific

Transportation

Other (specify)

5. Owner of property:

Owner's name

Cahners Publishing Company, Inc.

Phone number

Street and number

1801 South Prairie Avenue

City or town

Chicago

State

Illinois

County

Cook

Zip Code

60616

6. Description:
Condition:

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruins
- Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation under way? Yes No
 If yes, give a brief description on the back of this page.

7. Historical themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archaeological site (pre-Columbian)
- Archaeological site (post-Columbian to 1673)
- French influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois early (1818-1850)
- Illinois middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois late (1900-present)
- Famous people (give names and dates)

Specific date of site: 1890-1892

Areas of significance: (check one or more)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (Pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):
Chicago History |

Brief statement of significance: (Include all names and dates)
 See back of page and additional sheets if necessary.

8. Form prepared by

Name and Title: Mrs. Susan Benjamin Date: 12-11-70

Organization: Comm. on Chicago Historical and Architectural Landmarks

Street and Number: 320 North Clark Street

City or Town: Chicago County: Cook Zip Code: 60610

Phone Number:

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site.

When filling out the survey form, please list according to the following examples any published references to the site for which the form is being completed.

If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly reduce the surveyor's task.

Bibliography Form.

ROBERTSON, Robert B., Of Whales and Men, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1974.

Description:

The three-story Kimball House has a majestic exterior of Bedford limestone, sheathing a wood frame. Footings are of limestone, supporting a basement and three stories. Topping the building is a steep slate roof crowned with an ornamental iron-railed gallery.

Throughout the years, the "Chateausque" facades have not been altered. As is characteristic of the 16th Century "Francis I" style, today often referred to as "Chateausque", the house is topped by a complex mass of steeply sloping roof shapes--hipped, gabled, conical--punctuated with dormer windows; balustrades; tall, slender chimneys with molded designs, and a myriad of finials. Windows on every story and on all four facades are of various shapes and sizes: curved and flat, arched and rectangular, large and small. In every window, stone mullions and transoms separate the panes of glass.

Although the general shape of the house is rectangular, its massing, like the roofline, is irregular, made up of numerous projections. Windowed walls extend beyond the plans of the building as do other smaller architectural elements; string courses, brackets, balustrades, and pilasters with heavily ornamented Composite capitals.

The main facade, on Prairie Avenue, is dominated by a broad, elliptical bow window, reaching from the ground to the roofline. Centered above the cornice that tops the bow window is a large divided window flanked by ornamented pilasters and capped by a steep gable lavishly decorated in foliate bas-relief ornament and flanked by finials. The curved sides of the bow window are topped, above the cornice, by a filigreed balustrade that forms a sort of balcony in front of the windows in the sides of the dormer projection.

It is said that the interior once contained 29 rooms. Today, although many rooms have been subdivided, the building's character has not been altered appreciably. The main rooms--entrance hall, parlors, and dining room--are still richly paneled in oak and mahogany. Ceilings are beamed. The original onyx fireplace remain. The intricately carved balustrades of the main staircase are in place. Throughout the interior, as well as the exterior of the mansion, the dignity that once prevailed on Prairie Avenue remains intact.

Significance:

In his Old Chicago Houses, published in 1941, John Drury cited the Kimball House as Chicago's finest example of the French Chateau style of architecture. Indeed, its significance as typifying this style is recognized nationally today. Marcus Whiffen, architectural historian and author of American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, includes a photograph of the Kimball House among the illustrations he gives of the "Chateauseque" style.

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Significance, cont.

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Bach, Ira. Chicago on Foot. Fellet Publishing Company, 1969, p. 130.

Drury, John. Old Chicago Houses. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1941. pp. 49-53.

Gilbert, Paul, and Bryson, Charles Lee. Chicago and its Makers. Chicago: Felix Mendelsohn, Publisher, 1929. pp. 180, 653.

Meeker, Arthur. Prairie Avenue. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1949.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. Cambridge, Mass.: The M.I.T. Press, 1969. pp. 141-2, 145.