

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Illinois
COUNTY:	Fulton
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Ulysses G. Orendorff House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
345 West Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Canton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
19th-Congressman Thomas Railsback

STATE: Illinois CODE: 61520 COUNTY: Fulton CODE: 057

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) not occupied
			Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Frank Olinda Nimietz

STREET AND NUMBER:
851 West Diversey Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Chicago

STATE: Illinois CODE: 60614

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Fulton County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Lewistown

CITY OR TOWN:
Lewistown (one acre)

STATE: Illinois CODE: 61542

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Illinois
COUNTY: Fulton
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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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
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ordendorff House remains very much in its original condition. A few minor changes have been introduced; notably the opening of a new entrance from the ground floor hall into the lavatory, the adding of kitchen facilities in the rear corridor of the second floor, the roofing of the sewing balcony and the conversion of the upper floor of the carriage house into a dormitory (no longer in use).

The basement walls and floor are concrete; the floor above is carried on steel beams. Exterior walls are brick laid up in a flemish bond on the first floor and frame surfaced with fawn colored plaster (pigment in the plaster) and dark stained unplanned strips of wood. The roof was originally red tile (now replaced with red asphalt shingles). Originally there were entrances on the front and rear, the latter thru a porte cochere. The one of the front was thru an open porch which is now enclosed.

The living room on the east side opens onto a terrace thru a polygonal bay containing French doors. The room is paneled in wood painted white which originally contained a glass mosaic fireplace and inset mural paintings. The dining room is trimmed in stained and polished red mahogany. This room opens onto a screened porch thru double doors for the purpose of convenient summer dining. Beyond it was a serving pantry, kitchen and servant's dining room. A coat, telephone, and lavatory enclosure is situated under the stairs. This lavatory - as is also true for all the bathrooms in the house - contains its original fixtures, tilework and the like.

At the eastern end of the second floor is the master bedroom, dressing room, and bath. Its fireplace is finished in glass mosaic and has a mural painting above it. The library still has its foliage paper and stencils. On the same floor there are two other bedrooms and a sewing room. On the third floor there is a card room with fireplace and exposed beam ceiling, a smoking room and additional bedrooms.

The glory of the interior is the three-story hall with casement windows containing leaded glass in simple geometric designs running thru three floors. The landings do not touch the glass so that this colored transparent wall and the space contiguous to it rises unobstructed from the first thru attic floors. The balusters are of rectilinear design and the wall surfaces are decorated and subdivided by stained wood strips laid horizontally and vertically. At the landing between the first and second floors there is a built-in polygonal couch or seat.

The grounds, although not properly cared for at present, seem to follow the original plans of O. C. Simonds, a landscape gardener from Chicago, who laid them out.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. 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)

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ulysses Orendorff was born in Canton, Illinois on September 15, 1865, the son of W. J. Orendorff, co-founder of Parlin & Orendorff, manufacturers of farm equipment. Ulysses was educated in the Canton Public Schools and at Northwestern University. In 1886 he entered his father's firm where in 1889 he became assistant secretary and in 1891, secretary. The firm continued until 1919, when it was sold to International Harvester. It is still the largest employer in Canton with its factory buildings occupying a site approximately one-half mile square on the south side of town. Orendorff was one of the most important citizens of Canton and his house has remained the largest and finest residence in the city since its construction in 1902. It was designed for Orendorff by Chicago architect Robert C. Spencer.

Spencer was born in 1864, received a degree in architecture from MIT in 1888 and worked for various architects including Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge who were his last employers before he opened his own office in the Schiller Building, Chicago, in 1895. The architect in the office next to him with whom he became the very best of friends, was none other than Frank Lloyd Wright. In fact, in 1899, Spencer published in the Boston Architectural Review the first study of Wright's work. In 1897, Spencer moved into Steinway Hall, Chicago, where there were a number of young architects interested in developing a new architectural style free of the forms and details of historical architecture. It was among these architects in Steinway Hall that the Prairie School was born with Spencer a charter member, so to speak.

Many of Spencer's buildings around 1900 while innovative to a degree, seem historically oriented in the direction of an English medieval half-timbering. About 1902, however, he began to modulate his work away from so specific a dependence on this historical style and in the direction of a rectilinear early modern style in which the half-timbering had been reduced to a kind of rectangular grid subdividing the surfaces. No doubt these new designs still looked to the clients like the historic half-timbered style they wanted but to later architects and historians they are clearly a new, and thus modern style, almost completely free of historical reminiscences. Only one of the most magnificent of these mature early

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Illinois	
COUNTY Fulton	
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(Number all entries)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE - continued

modern houses by Spencer is the Susan Denkmann House at Rock Island, built in 1909. The Orendorff House is unique in forming the connecting link between Spencer's earlier, more historically-oriented work and his later, early modern designs.

Spencer's interiors were similar to those of this Prairie School colleagues. The emphasis is on clean rectilinear surfaces; materials treated naturally, such as the dark stained wood; and on the design of such elements as lighting fixtures, grilles, stained glass, etc., in an inventive rather than historical manner. Such a Prairie School feeling prevades the interiors of the Orendorff House.

But the Orendorff House is important not only because of the Historical significance of its owner, its early Prairie School character, its direct relationship to the origins of modern architecture or because of the special significance of its architect. It also deserves recognition because of its aesthetic qualities which alone are sufficient reason to nominate it to the Register. The massing is extremely fine and varied, the textures rich and satisfying and the plan is rational, yet elevating to the spirit. For the textures see the especially handsome brickwork; for the plan see the interior open stairway and high window wall.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Ulysses G. Orendorff", History of the Illinois River Valley, Chicago, 1932, pp. 444-448
 "The House 'Redcrest'", The Ideal House, August, 1906, pp. 3-9
Chicago Architectural Club Annual, 1902.
Western Architect, XX (April, 1914).
American Architect, XCII (July 20, 1907).

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40°	33'	25"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		90°	02'	33"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Paul E. Sprague, Director, Historic Structures Survey

ORGANIZATION

Illinois Historic Sites Survey

DATE

April, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:

1800 South Prairie Avenue

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.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered DEC 9 1971

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Orendorff (Ulysses G.) House	Canton Fulton County
Cahner's Publishing Company, Inc.	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

N.R.

Survey Use Only

X

- Archaeology
- Architecture
- History

Name of Site

Address

Ulysses G. Orendorff House

Historic

FU-H-24

Location of site

Street and Highway

345 W. Elm Street

City or Town

Canton

Zip Code

61520

Township

7N

4E

County

Cook

County

Fulton

Identification

Historic site, check one

Integrity - check one

National

National

National

National

State

State

National

Category

Residential

Commercial

Residential

Commercial

Residential

Commercial

Structure type

Single

Multiple

Single

Multiple

Number of stories

One

Two

Three

Four

Five

One

Two

Three

Four

Five

One

Two

Three

Four

Five

not occupied

Name of proprietor

Proprietor name

Mrs. Frank Olinda Nimietz

Address

851 W. Diversey Street

City

Chicago

State

Illinois

Survey Number

County

Cook

Zip Code

60614

ARCHITECTURE; INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

x

Office
The back of this page

of the following

- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...

Office date of ...

Area of significance

<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnographic	<input type="checkbox"/> Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical
<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literary	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical	<input type="checkbox"/> Maritime
<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input type="checkbox"/> Revolutionary	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Social	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts

Area of significance ... include all areas and dates.
The back of page and additional sheets if necessary.

Form prepared by

Paul E. Sprague, Dir., Historic Structures Survey 4-71

Illinois Historic Sites Survey

1800 S. Prairie Avenue

Chicago

Cook

60616

... course of the structure ...

When filling out the survey form, please list ...

... can be supplied, it will greatly ...

... New York, Alfred ...

...

Description:

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Significance:

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Significance, cont.

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