

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Sent to
Washington
July 1, 1992

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Weir, William S. Jr., House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 402 East Broadway not for publication

city or town Monmouth vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Warren code 187 zip code 61462

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William C. Wheeler, SHPO 6-25-92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____	_____	_____

Weir, William S., Jr., House
Name of Property

Warren, Illinois
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Tudor Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone

walls brick

stucco

roof asphalt

other wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Invention

Industry

Architecture

Period of Significance

1894-1901

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Weir, William S., Jr.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Weir, William S., Jr., House
Name of Property

Warren, Illinois
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	15	698440	4531480
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kanthak, Carla A.
organization N/A date April 30, 1992
street & number 416 East Broadway telephone (309) 734-3654
city or town Monmouth state Illinois zip code 61462

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name David Reid Clark and Barbara J.B. Clark
street & number 402 East Broadway telephone (309) 734-3762
city or town Monmouth state IL zip code 61462

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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William S. Weir, Jr. House

Overview

The William S. Weir, Jr. House is located on the northeast corner of East Broadway and North Third Street, three blocks from the Public Square in Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois. The structure stands on its original location on a small rise. This rise was formed when Broadway was graded many years ago. Broadway is one of the main streets in the city. Other houses in the area are of the same period. A limestone retaining wall runs the length of the property.

Built in 1894, it was one the later homes built in this area of East Broadway. The Weir House faces south on a 67'x 115.5' corner lot. The house is shaded by a maple tree on the front corner and a magnolia tree in the back yard.

The house is constructed of brick and stucco with wood beam accents. The foundation is limestone. The structure measures about 40 feet deep and 40 feet wide. It has two full stories with a third story at the roof level, an attic is located above the third story.

The home consists of over 14 rooms with basement. Located on the first floor is a vestibule, foyer, study, parlor, formal dining room, kitchen with butler's pantry and a half bath. Located on the second floor are four bedrooms and a bathroom, the third floor has four rooms off of a central hall. Interior detailing and woodwork are still intact. Hardwood floors are also intact throughout the house.

The home has been well preserved due to the fact that there has been few owners. The home remained in the Weir family until 1953. At the time it was deeded to Monmouth College. The college later sold it to Charles Merrill who used the home as a photographer's studio, later known as Bailey's Photography Studio. Mr. and Mrs. Clark purchased the home in 1978.

The Tudor style is evident in the steeply pitched cross-gable roof and the facade of brick and stucco, which is accented with timbers and tall narrow casement windows.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The front of the house faces south. Under the steeply pitched cross-gable roof is a facade of stucco accented with dark oak beams, some of which are curved diagonal braces. The first story level is brick and the foundation is limestone. Starting with the west gable, at the attic level is a group of three narrow, diamond shaped paned casement windows. To the east of

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William S. Weir, Jr. House

this gable, two identical dormer windows with flared eaves which are comprised of two casement windows protrude from the roof. Below the roof line, at the gable, are a line of wood dentils along the soffit. Three double hung windows and a bay window are located on the second story level. All of the windows have Tudor style muntins in the upper sashes. Located on the first story are two tall windows with leaded glass top lights; the front door is beveled glass with an adjacent beveled glass side light; continuing to the east, is a large double hung picture window with leaded glass top light. A porch spans two-thirds of the front of the structure. Four wooden steps with a metal center railing lead up to the porch. The porch consists of a center Gothic archway with pointed Gothic archways on either side. These supports are made of curved wood diagonal braces built on a limestone foundation. The ceiling is decorated with wood beams. Two basement windows are present.

On the east side of the house, beginning at the attic level, in the southern gable, are three diamond shaped paned casement windows. Below the roof line, at the gable, are a line of wood dentils along the soffit. There are two casement dormer windows protruding from the roof line which is set back from the front gable. Located on the second story level are two double hung windows which have Tudor style muntins in the upper sashes. Located just north of these windows are two stained glass windows and another double hung window. At the first story level are two double hung windows with leaded glass top lights. A small side entry porch is located just south of the kitchen wing. Along the wall of the porch is a door, small double hung window and a larger double hung window. To the north of the porch is a double hung window. Two basement windows are present.

On the north side of the house, beginning at the attic level, in the eastern gable are two double hung windows which have Tudor style muntins in the upper sashes. Below the roof line, at the gable, are a line of wood dentils along the soffit. At the second story level are two double hung windows, a small window is located on the side of the protruding gable, a fourth double hung window is located on the west end of this level. All of these windows have Tudor style muntins in the upper sashes. The first story consists of a small wooden back porch which leads to the kitchen door. Three double windows and two stained glass windows complete this level. Six basement windows are present.

On the west side of the house, beginning at the attic level, in the northern gable, are three casement windows. Below the roof line, at the gable, are a line of wood dentils along the soffit. To the south are one set of casement dormer diamond shaped paned glass windows with flared eaves protruding from the roofline. Located on the second story are four double hung windows with Tudor style muntins in the upper sashes. On the first story are four double

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William S. Weir, Jr. House

hung windows with leaded glass top lights. There are four basement windows present.

There are two tall chimneys. One is present on the east side of the house near the gable. The other one is located at the peak of the house midway near the rear of the house.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

Entering the house through the front door, one enters a small vestibule with an encaustic tile floor. A small coat closet is located to the left. The outer front door is wood with beveled, glass next to it is a beveled, glass window. The inner door is leaded, beveled glass as is the sidelight to its right. This door and window were imported from England. Upon entering the foyer one notices the beamed ceiling and Beaux Arts Classicism wood work. Pocket doors are present on the study, parlor and dining room doors. To the right of the foyer is the study, to the left the parlor. The foyer is separated from the staircase hall by two partitions with wood Corinthian columns. These partitions are decorated with a raised wreath & torch carving. Straight ahead is the central staircase which has a landing and then turns to the right and continues up to the second floor. To the left of the staircase is a built-in bench; and a door which leads to the dining room. A small $\frac{1}{2}$ bath is located to the right, down a small hall. This room has an exterior door which leads to the east side porch. This room originally was used as a telephone room. In the 1950's it was converted to a bathroom. The marble sink was originally located in one of the second floor bedrooms. The bathroom is wainscoted and has an encaustic tile floor.

Located in the study is the only remaining fireplace which is located on the north wall. The fireplace consists of a wooden mantel and off white ceramic tiles. The parlor is located on the west side of the house and has windows which allow sunlight in throughout the day. On the north wall is a door which leads to the dining room. An archway is located to the left of this door. Originally a fireplace was here as well as one on the other side in the dining room. They were removed during the 1950's and the archway created. The dining room has a wood beamed ceiling and a built-in buffet. Either side of this buffet are flanked by stained glass windows. There are two doorways on the east side of the room; one is a pocket door which leads into the staircase hall and the other is a swinging door which leads into the butler's pantry. The butler's pantry has original wood cupboards and hardware. A door on the east side leads to the kitchen. The kitchen has been remodeled. A built-in booth is now located where the original cook stove stood. A door on the east side leads to a small area with a built-in cabinet; this area leads out to the back porch. In the southwest corner of the kitchen is another pantry;

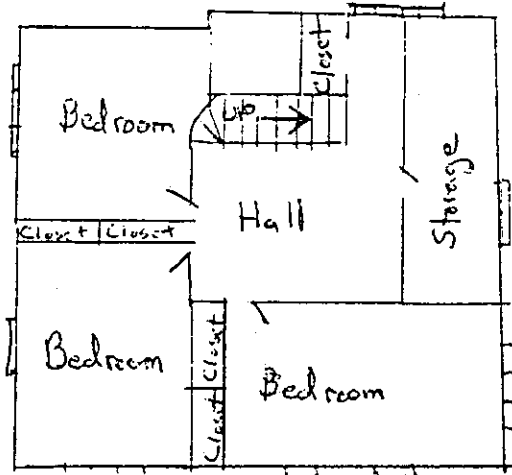
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directly to the right is a door which leads to the rear staircase. This staircase leads to the second and third floors.

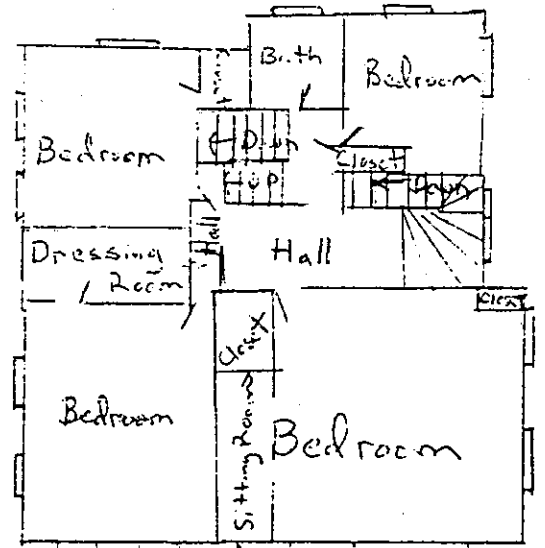
Located in the central staircase are two double hung stained glass windows. The most notable colors in the glass are amber, red, cream and green. All rooms on the second floor are located off of a central hall. To the left at the top of the stairs is a bedroom with an adjacent sitting room area. A bay window with window seat is present here as well as two clothes closets. Two bedrooms are located on the west side of the house. Above the hallway door leading to these bedrooms is wood fretwork. The bedroom in the southwest corner has an adjacent dressing room with a marble sink and closet. The bedroom on the northwest corner is smaller, but also has a small dressing room with a marble sink, built-in cabinet and is wainscoted. To the north of the central hall is a doorway which leads to a small hall, above this doorway is also wood fretwork. Located in this hall is a closet to the right; the rear staircase leading to the third floor and down to the kitchen, is on the left. Another bedroom is located to the right and the full bathroom straight ahead. The bathroom appears to have been remodeled during the 1940's, the tile walls, ceramic floor and sink remain from this era. A small bedroom is located on the northeast corner and has two closets. All woodwork and hardware remain intact and in original finish on the second floor.

Following the rear stairway up to the third floor, the area at the top is a common hall. A walk-in cedar closet is located on the south wall of the hall. Located on this floor are three bedrooms and a storage room. The three bedrooms are good size and all have closets. A small closet and half of the storage room are now being converted into a bathroom; with a shower, stool and double sinks. A stairway will be added leading to the attic.

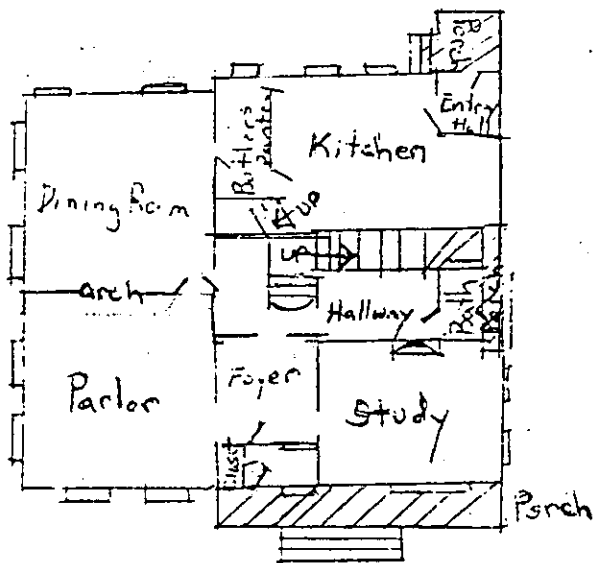
Weir, William S., Jr., House
 Floor Plans
 (Not to scale)



Third Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan



First Floor Plan



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William S. Weir, Jr. House

Overview

The William S. Weir, Jr. House meets Criterion B for listing on the National Register of Historic Places because it is associated with William S. Weir, Jr., who was an inventor and leading industrial leader during the late 19th century in Monmouth, Illinois. He was a local leader in the field of farm implements, the design and manufacturing of pottery and the banking industry. He held patents on many of his inventions and was one of the largest employers in the area. The William S. Weir, Jr., House also meets Criterion C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because it is a representative example of a Tudor Revival style home in the city of Monmouth. The period of significance for the nomination is 1894, the year the home was built, to 1901, the year of the death of William S. Weir, Jr. All other major physical structures related to the life of William S. Weir, Jr. have been demolished.

Architecture

The Tudor Revival style is based on a variety of late Medieval English prototypes, ranging from thatch-roofed cottages to grand manor houses that have Medieval, Gothic, or Tudor style characteristics. The style proved very popular among American home builders from 1890-1940. Tudor Revival got its start in the last decade of the 19th century and was popularized by the British building, Victoria House, designed by Robert Wilson Edis, at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago.¹ When the style was introduced in America, it was often combined with the then popular Queen Anne Style of architecture. The upper floors of these Queen Anne houses were accented with stucco and decorative exposed timbers. Tudor Revival houses unlike Queen Anne houses had more Medieval, Gothic, and Jacobean characteristics. The Weir House is typical of Tudor Revival in that when it was built it was loosely based on the English manor house style.²

Characteristics of the Tudor Revival Style are: a steeply pitched roof, usually side-gabled; facade dominated by one or more prominent cross gables, usually steeply pitched; decorative half-timbering present on about half of examples; tall, narrow windows, usually in multiple groups and with multi-pane glazing, massive chimneys, commonly crowned by decorative chimney pots.

The William S. Weir, Jr., House has Tudor Revival characteristics including: a steeply pitched roof with prominent cross gables, decorative half-timbering, tall, narrow windows in multiple groups and with multi-panes, and massive chimneys.

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There are three other known homes in Monmouth with Tudor Revival characteristics.

700 East Broadway. The former John B. Brown Home at 700 East Broadway, now serves as the Administration Building for Monmouth College. The two-and-a-half story Tudor Revival building was designed by the Peoria architectural firm of Hewitt & Emerson. The large stucco and brick home has multiple steep gables, vertical timbering, and groupings of multi-paned windows. A later addition, adding office space, was placed between the house and garage by the College. Remodelings have also occurred in the home to turn it into an office.

318 East Boston. The two-story side-gabled roof home has a projecting front pavilion. The home has some Tudor Revival characteristics including stucco wall cladding, some half-timbering, and multiple groups of multi-paned windows.

320 North Seventh. This home which was built in the 1940s, is the home of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity at Monmouth College. It has few Tudor Revival accents.

Invention and Industry

William S. Weir, Jr. was born July 2, 1835 in Greene County, Ohio, the eldest child of William S. Weir, Sr. and Frances (Brown) Weir. The family was of Scottish descent. The family came to Warren County in 1838 and started a small factory near Little York for the manufacture of woolen goods. Young William began working on a farm when he was about eleven years old, and received his limited education at the schools of Sumner Township. He married Fidella J. Boyd in Hale Township on October 13, 1859 and nine children were born to them. Five of whom died in infancy. He remained farming in the Sugar Tree Grove (Little York) area until the early 1860s.³

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William S. Weir, Jr. House

In 1859, before the start of the Civil War, William Weir invented a corn plow, and with further alterations and improvements, he had it patented in December of 1862 as the Weir Two Horse Cultivator. He came to Monmouth in the early 1860's and began the manufacture of plows. With \$200.00 in capital and 120 cultivators under contract, Weir soon sold many more. This shop was located on North Second Street and East Archer Avenue (razed). By 1863 his cultivator had been thoroughly tested and was gaining in sales. Business rapidly increased during the Civil War and he erected a shop with the dimensions of 22 x 36 feet, joined by a blacksmith shop 24 x 30 feet, on the east side of the 100 block of North C Street (razed). With the assistance of nine men, he managed in 1863-64 to turn out 400 plows. The following winter 500 plows were manufactured. Soon, much larger quarters were needed, and a plant, 100 x 36 feet, was erected on South Third Street near the C.B.&Q. depot. Capital stock of \$35,000.00 was established and, in 1866, a force of 25 men produced 800 cultivators. On the morning of January 20, 1867, a fire wiped out the entire plant including 1,200 cultivators, with a loss incurred of \$35,000, only \$10,000.00 of which was covered by insurance. Rebuilding the plant immediately, Mr. Weir employed 50 men, and 1,500 implements were made ready in time for spring plowing the next year.⁴

In 1869, the business was incorporated as the Weir Plow Company by William S. Weir, Jr. (President), William Hanna (Cashier), Dr. W.B. Boyd (Secretary) and Joseph Stevenson. It had a capital stock of \$25,000.00, and its wares found ready sale on their merits. Three thousand cultivators were put on the market in 1868; 4,000 in 1869; and 6,500 in 1870. The capacity of the plant was enlarged several times until it made almost a complete line of agricultural implements and Mr. Weir's name was known in many farming communities. Large shops were erected in 1871 just south of the C.B. & Q. tracks, and the capital stock was increased to \$500,000. In the 1870's business was booming, and products were being sent into all the western and southwestern states, Ohio, Indiana, and also into Mexico. By this time Mr. Weir's brothers, James, John and Frank were also employed with the firm. In 1885 the company occupied, with buildings and grounds, about four acres. A full line of agricultural implements, such as cultivators, plows, double shovels, harrows, cotton sweeps, cotton planters, equalizers and sulky plows were produced. Active work generally began about the first of October and closed in June with a work force of 300 to 400 workers. Branch houses were located in Indianapolis, Indiana; Kansas City, Missouri; and Dallas, Texas. General agents were located in St. Paul, Minnesota; Dubuque, Iowa; St. Louis, Missouri; Denver, Colorado and Salt Lake City, Utah. A booklet, which was distributed to farmers at this time, stated: "We are determined: 1, to use the choicest material; 2, to employ only superior workman; 3, to make implements on the best principles; 4, to be energetic in meeting the needs of patrons, 5, to give value for value received; 6, to extend trade by merit of goods; 7, to hold trade by fair dealing; and 8, to make no representaion we cannot verify."⁵

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William S. Weir, Jr. House

In 1886 Mr. Weir sold his interest in the company to William Hanna, who was president until 1892, when a majority of the stock was sold to Martin Kingman and Associates, of Peoria. In 1895 stockholders decided to move the plant to East Moline, but before this could happen, the buildings were destroyed by fire on December 12, 1895. The losses were so heavy that in 1898 an assignment was made, and what was left of the once thriving business was moved to Averyville, near Peoria. The plant property was later acquired by the Monmouth Plow Company, organized by John S. Brown in 1901.⁶

After retiring from the plow company, Mr. Weir ventured into other business areas. In the late 1880's Mr. Weir had a great interest in the growing community of Alexis, located 13 miles northeast of Monmouth. He was instrumental in the organization of the Bank of Alexis in 1887 (the population at that time was 400) and built the Alexis Opera House in 1889.⁷ In 1892 Mr. Weir secured a patent on a pottery self-seal jar and in 1896 he incorporated the Alexis Pottery Company, which evolved from the Alexis Stoneware Manufacturing Company (1892-1895), which he operated until July 1899. Mr. Weir secured patents on various articles in the pottery line which were produced at this extensive plant. In 1899 the Weir name again became prominent in manufacturing with the production of the Weir Stone Fruit Jar. The Weir Stone Fruit Jar had been produced in Alexis until the plant was destroyed by fire in 1900.⁸ He chose to depict that item on his company letterhead. The letterhead further stated they manufactured "Vitrified and Opaque China Made in Table Ware, Toilet Ware, Porcelain Jars with Weir Patent Fastener-Also for Parafine Seal and in Porcelain Specialities of all kinds." It was further stated that the jar was made in all sizes from one pint to ten gallons.⁹

In 1899 Mr. Weir had an idea for a self seal jar cover for the fruit jar. He took a piece of bent wire with a lever attached and patented the Weir self seal jar cover. He offered to let his former associate, William Hanna, build it at the Monmouth Pottery Company (organized in 1892), but he declined. Mr. Weir strongly believed that this jar cover would be revolutionary to the industry. In fact, he was so confident in this product, that he built a pottery with this sole product in mind.¹⁰ The patent, dated April 16, 1901, stated that he invented "certain new and useful improvements in Fruit-Jar Covers." The document further states; "This invention relates to improvements in fruit-jar covers, and has for its primary object the provision of simple, cheap, and effective fastening means whereby the cover of a fruit-jar may be instantly and effectivley sealed as against accidental opening or unsealed when it is desired to remove the contents of the jar." " On November 13, 1899 the Weir Pottery company was organized in Monmouth by William S. Weir, W.W. McCullough and D.S. Hardin with William Weir serving as president. All of these men seem to have been woven into the fabric of the community as

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William S. Weir, Jr. House

pottery men, bankers, farmers, and primary investors of most of the businesses in the area. The factory was located on South D Street (south of the Burlington Railroad line and adjoining the tracks of the St. Louis division) and began operation in February of 1900. The factory, a four story building, 80 x 80 feet, was erected during the fall and winter of 1899-1900. Work started with four kilns, but three more were added the following summer, giving employment to about 135 men. A second patent was secured on a self seal jar in April of 1901. The Weir fruit jar was quite a success and the plant was largely increased, Mr. Weir himself devoting much time to the work. An advertisement that appeared in Buyers Want Book, 1900-1901, published by Oakford and Fahnestock Wholesale Grocers of Peoria, Illinois, stated that these heremetically sealed jars were made and sold by the thousands. Other various "advertizing" items were produced at the pottery for such companies as; cruets for Cudahay Packing Company; cruets for Armour and Company, Chicago; jugs for Hannah and Hogg, Chicago and jugs for Klein & Pauntz, Wines and Liquors, Minneapolis, Minnesota.¹ By far the most successful item produced was the fruit jar with the self seal cover. A variation on this self seal jar and fastener is still used today by many cheese companies that pack their product in stoneware crocks. In recent years Western Stoneware produced a cheese crock for Kaukauna Dairy Company, Kaukauna, Wisconsin with Weir's original patent fastener.³

Upon Mr. Weir's death in 1901, Delevan S. Hardin assumed the presidency and Mr. Weir's son, William B. Weir became vice-president of the firm. It was under Mr. Hardin's connections that the Weir Pottery began production of the well known Sleepy Eye Pottery in 1903. In fact, 1903 must have been a banner year for the pottery, since an advertisement appearing in the June, 1903, issue of the Ladies Home Journal noted that H.J. Heinz Company, makers of the famous "57 Varieties", ordered 1,000,000 Weir stoneware fruit jars for packing their preserves and apple butter. As was the misfortune of Monmouth's other pottery, The Monmouth Pottery, the entire plant, except the office, one warehouse and a new pattern room, was destroyed by fire on the night of May 29, 1902 - entailing a loss of \$60,000. The plant was later rebuilt and was purchased along with the Monmouth Pottery in 1906 to form Western Stoneware Company.⁴ The Monmouth College yearbook, the Ravelings, has an ad from this time which states that Western Stoneware Company was the largest stoneware manufacturer in the world with factories in Monmouth, Macomb, Whitehall, Illinois, Fort Dodge, Iowa and Clinton, Missouri. The operation occupies the old Weir Pottery Company site. It also bears the distinction of being the only pottery in the United States that is completely self-sufficient from mining its own clay to packaging the finished stoneware.⁵

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Mr. Weir was instrumental in organizing The Peoples National Bank of Monmouth in May of 1890 which began business on July 5th of that year, with a capital stock of \$75,000.00. Mr. Weir served as the first president of the bank. He also was one of the founding members of the first bank in Little York, Illinois. The Bank of Little York began business as a private institution in 1890 with Mr. Weir serving as President. Other organizers of the bank were R.M. Stevenson and S.L. Thomson with a starting capitol stock of \$15,000.00.¹⁶

Mr. Weir was also involved in community activities and especially in his church. He served as an elder of the First United Presbyterian Church (now Heritage United Presbyterian Church). In 1888 he donated the land for a new church to be built at 300 East Broadway. That church is still in use today.¹⁷

In 1894 he constructed his Tudor Revival home at 402 East Broadway. His former home on South Main Street was actually built for his mother in 1873 (razed). After his wife, Fidella, passed away in 1884 he remained there with his family until the home was sold in 1892. While the new home was being built he and four of his children, Ella, Jessie, Amy and William rented a house nearby the construction site. Many of the stained glass and beveled leaded glass windows were imported from England.¹⁸ The home remained in the family until 1953.

Mr. Weir remained active in his business ventures until the time of his death. Even though he had sold his interest in the Weir Plow Company, he still retained connections in the farm implement field. Perhaps no other individual accomplished more for the established welfare of Monmouth than William S. Weir, Jr.. Hundreds of families benefitted daily from the establishment of his businesses. His inventions in farming equipment and pottery improved the quality of life for many. His investments in the banking industry helped to created a firm foundation for not only Monmouth but the communities of Little York and Alexis. His sincere interest in the community of Alexis benefitted everyone who resided there with the establishment of the Bank of Alexis, the Alexis Pottery and the Alexis Opera House.

The biography of William S. Weir, Jr., as written in the Historical and Biographical Record of Monmouth and Warren County Illinois, states the following: "That he began life a very poor boy and under the greatest disadvantages, is readily observed from the facts already disclosed; that he has made his life a success, and in doing so accomplished more for the established welfare of Monmouth than any other man in Warren County, is attested by his personal history and by the hundreds of families who are benefitted, not to say supported, from the gigantic establishments over which he presides and which should be made perpetual as a monument to his memory. Indeed, the history, of Monmouth itself must ever be pregnant with the works

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of William S. Weir. Compare the man who does great work; erects immense shops; employs hundreds of his fellow men as laborers in the manufacture of useful articles, which he sends broadcast throughout the world, returning their products to him to go again and again into the wages of the poor; compare such, with the miserable miser, who hoards up his hundreds of thousands, dispensing only upon the guarantee of usury, and note the difference."¹⁹

William S. Weir died early on the morning of November 14, 1901, at his residence. He had been well the preceding day looking after his business interests as usual. He had been nearly all day at the Weir Pottery which opened that week for its season run, and had been interested in the success of the proposed company to make the Brunner plows, and had taken the subscription paper to one or two possible subscribers for stock. In the evening he attended the midweek service at his church, returning home after the service and retiring. At midnight he was taken sick and toward 3:00 a.m. his son found him dying.²⁰

Mr. Weir's funeral was held on November 16th at the First United Presbyterian church which was filled with friends. The pastor Dr. T.H. Hanna, was in charge and in his sermon paid a touching tribute to the honored man. During the hour of the funeral, business in the city was generally suspended, factories and stores were closed, and in accord with the proclamation made by Mayor Sawyer the people paid tribute to the memory of the man so loved and honored by them all.²¹

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END NOTES

1. Victorian Homes Magazine, Annual Sourcebook, 1992 article by Schweitzer, R. p. 51
2. McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, New York, Alfred Knopf, 1988
3. Robinson, Luther E. Historical and Biographical Record of Monmouth and Warren County Illinois (Chicago: Musell Pub. 1927, p. 605-606
4. Rankin, J., Born of the Prairie (Kellogg Printing 1981) p. 38-39
5. Monmouth Review Atlas September 20, 1984
6. Robinson, Luther E. Historical and Biographical Record of Monmouth and Warren County Illinois Vol. II (Chicago: Musell Pub. 1927 p. 164
7. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form Alexis Opera House, Swallow, Ann 1987
8. Monmouth Review Atlas May 26, 1989
9. Martin, J. and Cooper, B. Monmouth Western Stoneware, p.28
10. Monmouth Review Atlas May 26, 1989
11. United States Patent Office, Letters Patent No. 672,049, dated April 16, 1901.
12. Martin, J. and Cooper, B. Monmouth Western Stoneware, p. 30-31
13. Conversation with James Martin.
14. Martin, J. and Cooper, B. Monmouth Western Stoneware, p. 29
15. Rankin, J., Born of the Prairie (Kellogg Printing 1981) p. 17
16. Rankin, J., Born of the Prairie (Kellogg Printing 1981) p. 29
17. Robinson, Luther E. Historical and Biographical Record of Monmouth and Warren County Illinois Vol.I (Chicago: Musell Pub 1927. p.113
18. Statement made by Jean Weir, relative of William S. Weir

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19. Robinson, Luther E. Historical and Biographical Record of Monmouth and Warren County Illinois Vol II (Chicago: Musell Pub. 1927 p. 164
20. Monmouth Review Atlas Moffett, V. column, Obituary of William S. Weir Jr.
21. IBID

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Martin, Jim and Cooper, Betty, Monmouth-Western Stoneware. Monmouth.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, "The Alexis Opera House," by Ann V. Swallow. 1987.

Rankin, Jeff, Born of the Prairie. Monmouth: Kellogg Printing Co., 1981.

Robinson, Luther E., Historical and Biographical Record of Monmouth and Warren County Illinois. Chicago: Munsell Pub., 1927.

Various articles by Eckley, Ralph. Monmouth Daily Review Atlas.

Various articles by Moffet, Victor, "Do You Remember? Away Back When." Monmouth Daily Review Atlas.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A part of Block Fourteen (14) of the Old Town Plat of the City of Monmouth, Illinois, described as follows, to-wit: Commencing at the Southwest Corner of said Block, running thence North Seven (7) Rods, thence East Four (4) Rods, and One (1) Foot, thence South Seven (7) Rods, thence West to the place of beginning, being a lot Four Rods and One Foot wide East and West fronting on Broadway, and Seven Rods deep on Third Street North and South, Situated in the County of Warren, in the State of Illinois.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This property is historically associated with William S. Weir, Jr.



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. For further information call 202/343-9542.

AUG 28 1992

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 8/17/92 THROUGH 8/21/92

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number NHL Status, Action, Date, Multiple Name

ARIZONA, MARICOPA COUNTY, Craig Mansion, 131 E. Country Club Dr., Phoenix, 92001013, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
ARKANSAS, LOGAN COUNTY, New Blaine School, jct. of AR 22 and Spring Rd., New Blaine vicinity, 92001007, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
ARKANSAS, PHILLIPS COUNTY, Battery A Site, Battle of Helena, NW of jct. of Adams and Columbia Sts., Helena, 92001012, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
ARKANSAS, PHILLIPS COUNTY, Battery B Site, Battle of Helena, NE of jct. of Liberty St. and Summit Rd., Helena, 92001011, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
ARKANSAS, PULASKI COUNTY, Runyan, J. P. House, 1514 S. Schiller, Little Rock, 92001067, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
CALIFORNIA, NAPA COUNTY, Earl, Thomas, House, 1721 Seminary St., Napa, 92000996, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
CALIFORNIA, NAPA COUNTY, Wulff, Capt. N. H. House, 549 Brown St., Napa, 92000994, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
CONNECTICUT, HARTFORD COUNTY, Burwell, Ernest R. House, 161 Grove St., Bristol, 92001009, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
CONNECTICUT, LITCHFIELD COUNTY, Wilton Center Historic District, Roughly, area around jct. of Lovers Ln. and Belden Hill and Ridgefield Rds., Wilton, 92001003, NOMINATION, 8/19/92
FLORIDA, BREVARD COUNTY, Barton Avenue Residential District, 11--59 Barton Ave., Rockledge, 92001046, NOMINATION, 8/21/92 (Rockledge MPS)
FLORIDA, BREVARD COUNTY, Rockledge Drive Residential District, 15--23 Rockledge Ave., 219--1361 Rockledge Dr. and 1--11 Orange Ave., Rockledge, 92001045, NOMINATION, 8/21/92 (Rockledge MPS)
FLORIDA, BREVARD COUNTY, Valencia Subdivision Residential District, 14--140 Valencia Rd., 825--827 Osceola Dr. and 24--28 Orange Ave., Rockledge, 92001047, NOMINATION, 8/21/92 (Rockledge MPS)
GEORGIA, FULTON COUNTY, Atlanta Buggy Company and Ware--Hatcher Bros. Furniture Company, 530--544 Means St., Atlanta, 92001070, NOMINATION, 8/21/92
GEORGIA, LIBERTY COUNTY, Liberty County Jail, 302 S. Main St., Hineville, 92001036, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
GEORGIA, TURNER COUNTY, Ashburn Commercial Historic District, Roughly, Main St. between Murray and Monroe Aves., Ashburn, 92001042, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY, Wheeler--Magnus Round Barn, 811 E. Central Rd., Arlington Heights, 92001017, NOMINATION, 8/18/92 (Round Barns of Illinois TR)
ILLINOIS, KANE COUNTY, St. Mary's Church of Gilberts, 10 Matteson St., Gilberts, 92001018, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
ILLINOIS, LEE COUNTY, Amboy Illinois Central Depot, 50 S. East Ave., Amboy, 92001015, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
ILLINOIS, OGLE COUNTY, City and Town Hall, jct. of Fourth Ave. and Sixth St., Rochelle, 92001006, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
ILLINOIS, TAZEWELL COUNTY, Hergel, Carl, Mansion, 420 Washington St., Pekin, 92001005, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
ILLINOIS, WARREN COUNTY, Weir, William S., Jr. House, 402 E. Broadway, Monmouth, 92001004, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
MASSACHUSETTS, NORFOLK COUNTY, Clapp, Lucius, Memorial, 6 Park St., Stoughton, 92000998, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
MICHIGAN, BARRY COUNTY, Carveth, John, House, 614 W. Main St., Middleville, 92001076, NOMINATION, 8/21/92
MICHIGAN, OAKLAND COUNTY, Pleasant Ridge Historic District, Roughly bounded by Willington Rd., Woodward Ave., Ferndale and Ridge Rd., Pleasant Ridge, 92000165, NOMINATION, 8/11/92
MICHIGAN, WASHTENAW COUNTY, Salem Methodist Episcopal Church and Salem Walker Cemetery, 7150 Angle Rd., Salem Township, Salem, 92001054, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
MISSISSIPPI, WARREN COUNTY, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 805 Monroe St., Vicksburg, 92000858, NOMINATION, 7/30/92 (Vicksburg MPS)
MISSISSIPPI, WARREN COUNTY, Blum House, 1420 Cherry St., Vicksburg, 92000859, NOMINATION, 7/30/92 (Vicksburg MPS)
MISSISSIPPI, WARREN COUNTY, Vicksburg Public Library, Old, 819 South St., Vicksburg, 92000857, NOMINATION, 7/30/92 (Vicksburg MPS)
MISSOURI, FRANKLIN COUNTY, AME Church of New Haven, 225 Selma St., New Haven, 92001002, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
MISSOURI, JEFFERSON COUNTY, Leight, Valentine, General Store, 4566 Main St., House Springs, 92001014, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
MISSOURI, PIKE COUNTY, Griffith--McCune Farmstead Historic District, MO WW E of jct. with MO D, Eolia vicinity, 92001001, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
MONTANA, LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, Kemna, Herman, House, 635 First St., Helena, 92001056, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
NEW YORK, ESSEX COUNTY, Adsil Log House, Point Rd. N of Ligonier Pt., Willsboro, 92001053, NOMINATION, 8/18/92
NEW YORK, RENSSELAER COUNTY, Melville, Herman, House, 2 144th St., Troy, 92001081, NOMINATION, 8/21/92
OHIO, ASHTABULA COUNTY, Conneaut Light Station Keeper's Dwelling, 1059 Harbor St., Conneaut, 92001078, NOMINATION, 8/21/92 (Light Stations of Ohio MPS)
OHIO, ERIE COUNTY, Meritz, John, House, 610 W. Washington St., Sandusky, 92001077, NOMINATION, 8/21/92
OHIO, MONROE COUNTY, Salem Church, 48452 OH 255, Sardis vicinity, 92000989, NOMINATION, 8/18/92