

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Emmel Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1357 North Wells Street ___ not for publication

city, town Chicago ___ vicinity of (9th Congressional District)

state Illinois code county Cook code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Douglas Kenyon, Douglas Kenyon, Inc.

street & number 155 East Ohio Street

city, town Chicago ___ vicinity of state Illinois 60611

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cook County Recorder of Deeds

street & number 118 North Clark Street

city, town Chicago state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Structures in has this property been determined eligible? yes no
Near North Chicago, Cook County

date 1972 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Illinois Department of Conservation/Division of Historic Sites

city, town Springfield state Illinois

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Emmel Building is a virtually intact early example of a store and flat building from the period immediately following the Chicago Fire of 1871. The only significant alteration to the building was a re-working of the storefront in the removal of a two-step stoop on the exterior and its functional replacement by two steps placed immediately inside the entrance doors. Several temporary buildings have stood on the site between the main three-story structure on the front of the lot and a simple two-story brick barn on the rear of the lot; this space now forms a garden between the two buildings. The original four-over-four windows remain on the second floor, but aluminum storms have replaced the original glazing on the third floor. The most important element of the Wells Street (west) is the intricate stonework which surrounds the windows of the two upper floors.

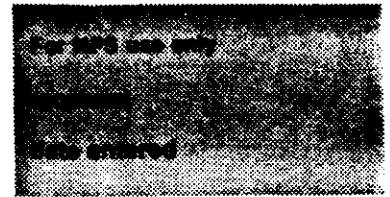
The first-floor storefront is arranged with a recessed entrance flanked by large plate-glass display windows. Slender cast iron columns frame the windows, supporting the storefront cornice which would have typically carried the signage for the business establishment. The beam topping the storefront is presently covered with wood. The entrance to the flat on the second and third floors is located on the north side of the storefront elevation. The entire first floor is framed with detailed stone piers, the carving of which echoes the details of the upper floors.

Typically, such a building dating from the mid-1870's would have been approached by a two- or three-step stoop before the entrance. This arrangement is no longer evident on the Emmel Building; the two steps are placed within the entrance spaces on the interior. A building permit from 1932 allowed modifications to the storefront with no structural changes; the replacement of the steps did require structural changes as seen in new columns in the basement. Consequently, there is no reliable date for the entrance re-working.

The two upper floors display stonework incorporating various Italianate motifs, such as the floral garlands, rosettes, elaborate string courses, and windows arcading. The heavy brackets on the side piers are repeated in the metal cornice. The sheet metal cornice adds to the three-dimensionality of the facade in its elaborate projection, in the alignment of its brackets with the verticals of the facade, and in the superimposed gable which extends the facade beyond the roofline of the building. The most prominent element of the cornice is the declaration of the original owner's identity.

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The southern and eastern facades of the building are constructed of common brick. Two windows on the second floor open onto the middle parlor of the second floor, and one onto the bathroom. Third floor windows open onto the third floor middle parlor and bedroom. The pattern of three windows across the facade is repeated on the rear elevation; most of these have been replaced with metal sash.

The rear building is a purely functional building which has served as a barn, a paint storage shed, and a studio for the various owners. Its windows and doors have been re-worked to the point that it is difficult to determine the original appearance.

The interior of the first floor is presently completely open, but originally it must have been filled with display cases and shelves. The distinguishing characteristic of the former storefront is the refined inlaid Greek-key motif which forms a border to the narrow strip wood floor. This motif is found on the upper floors as well. The second and third floors are arranged in a series of four rooms deep, with double parlors oriented to the western windows, a narrow hall and bath or bedroom marking the passage to the rear room, oriented to the east. The ceiling heights of the residential floors clearly relates the building to the elegant purely residential structures of the period.

The Emmel Building survives as a refined element in the commercial area which developed along Wells Street in the period after the Fire, and retains that same elegance to the present.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1875 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

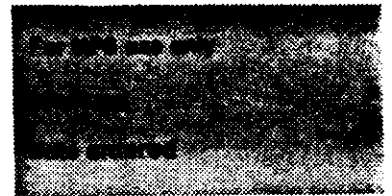
The Emmel Building is an early and unusual example of a typical Chicago building type, the store and flat building. The three-story, flat-front, brick and stone Italinete structure is distinguished by the richly detailed incised stonework on its second and third stories and by the elaborate projecting metal cornice, supported by heavy brackets and topped with a gable bearing the name of the original owner, P. EMMEL. Although the building follows the standard configuration of the store and flat buildings in the area (such as the recently designated 1200 North Wells Street National Register District), it incorporates the elegance of the nearby Gold Coast residences (National Register District, 1978) in the handling of the stone facade. The Emmel Building is the only stone facade of its type in the commercial district along Wells Street between Division (1200 North) and North Avenue (1600 North); its elegant facade is more closely related to the residences along LaSalle Street (former Avenue), one block to the east which forms the western boundary of the Gold Coast neighborhood. The architecture of the Emmel Building represents a unique combination of the functional practicality of the Wells Street commercial strip and the affluence of the Gold Coast residential neighborhood.

Peter Emmel was born in Frankfort, Germany, and came to Chicago in 1854, after serving an apprenticeship as a house painter in Buffalo, New York. He settled in the German community located just west and southwest of Lincoln Park and opened his business in 1855. In 1869, Emmel moved to 500 North Wells (present 1357 North); after the Fire of 1871 until 1875, his business was located at 502 North and his residence at 500 North. In December, 1874, he purchased the lot at 500 North; the family business and residence remained there until 1897. Although no building permit and no architect are known, the building can be dated to 1875.

The Emmel Family business in paints and oils was expanded in 1884 to include wallpaper, and in 1886, to provide interior decorating services. Considering the types of services and merchandise which Emmel and Company offered to its customers, the residents of the nearby neighborhood, the elegance of the architecture of the Emmel Building may be interpreted as a form of advertising aimed at the business' wealthy patrons from the next block.

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Continuation sheet

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1

Bullard, Thomas, Distribution of Chicago Germans, 1850-1914, M.A. thesis,
University of Chicago, 1969.

Chicago Sun-Times, October, 12, 1958.

City of Chicago Directories (Edwards, Bailey's and Halpin's, Lakeside),
1861-1897.

Hofmeister, Rudolf, A., The Germans of Chicago, Champaign, Illinois,
1976.

Industrial Chicago, V.1, Chicago, 1891; v. 2, Chicago, 1894.

Townsend, Andrew Jacke, The Germans of Chicago, Ph.D. dissertation,
University of Chicago, 1927.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Chicago, Illinois

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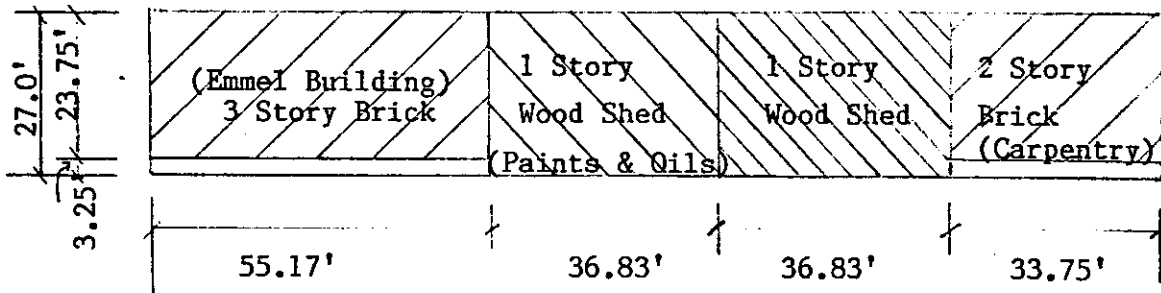
date entered

Continuation sheet 3

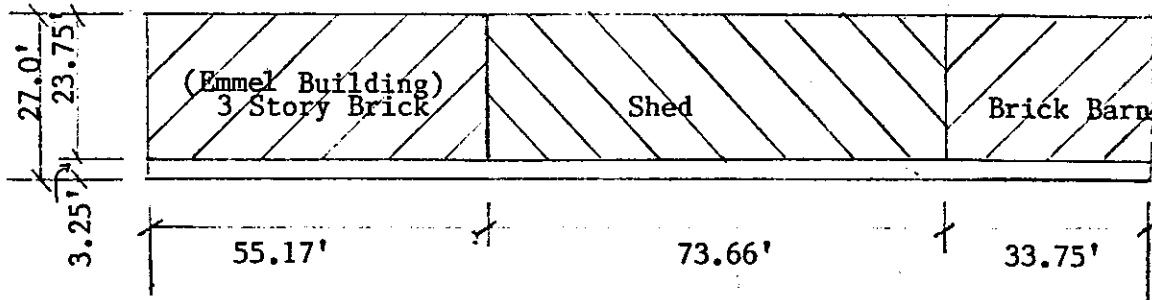
Item number Miscellaneous

Page

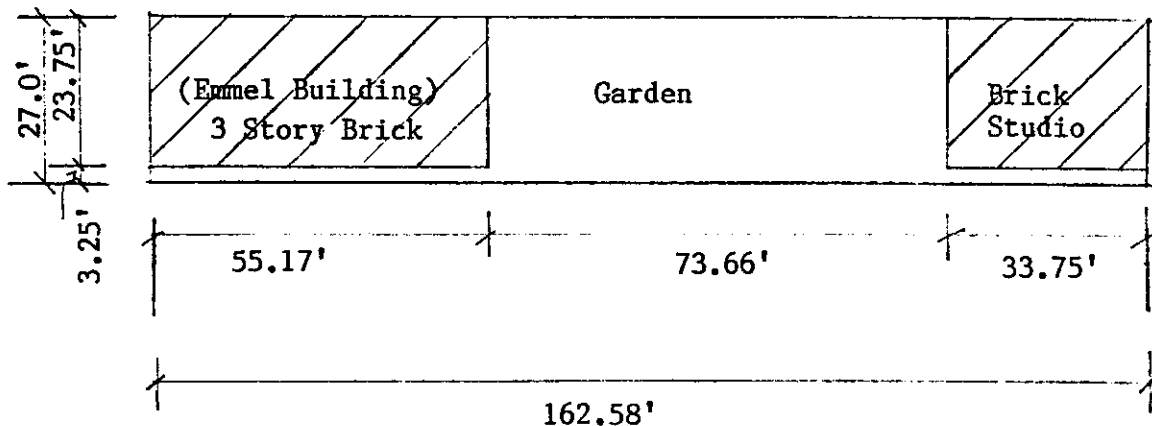
Rasher's Fire Insurance Map, 1892, corrected to 1911



Survey, December, 1914



Survey, June, 1984



9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Page.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Under one acre

Quadrangle name Chicago Loop, IL

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	4	4	7	4	0	0	4	6	3	9	4	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 85 and the North 2 feet of Lot 86 in E.H. Sheldon's Subdivision of Lots 61 to 90 included in Bronson's Addition in the N.E. 1/4 of Section 4-39-14 to Chicago

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy J. Hubbard, Hubbard & Hubbard, Inc.

organization

date July, 1984

street & number 1215 Washington Street, Suite 210

telephone 312-256-7897

city or town Wilmette

state Illinois 60091

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director

date 9/24/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



United States Department of the Interior -

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

NOV 23 1984

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 beginning November 11, 1984 and ending November 17, 1984. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

ARKANSAS, Mississippi County, Chickasawba Mound (3M55), (11/16/84)

ARKANSAS, Pulaski County, Little Rock, Williamson House (Thompson, Charles L., Design Collection TR), 325 Fairfax St. (11/15/84)

COLORADO, Grand County, Estes Park vicinity, Trail Ridge Road, Rocky Mountain National Park (also in Larimer County) (11/14/84)

HAWAII, Honolulu County, Honolulu, Hocking, Alfred, House, 1302 Nehoa St. (11/15/84)

HAWAII, Honolulu County, Honolulu, Oakley, George D., House, 2110 Kakela Pl. (11/15/84)

HAWAII, Honolulu County, Kailua vicinity, Kukuipilau Heiau, Kalaniana'ole Hwy (11/16/84)

HAWAII, Kauai County, Hanalei vicinity, Haena Archeological Complex, Kuhio Hwy (11/16/84)

HAWAII, Kauai County, Hanalei vicinity, Na Pali Coast Archeological District, Na Pali Coast (11/16/84)

HAWAII, Kauai County, Waimea, Kikiaola, Waimea Rd. (11/16/84)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Cook County Criminal Court Building, 54 W. Hubbard St. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Emmel Building, 1357 N. Wells St. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Lake-Side Terrace Apartments, 7425--7427 South Shore Dr. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Peoples Gas Building, 122 S. Michigan Ave. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Yondorf Block and Hall, 758 W. North Ave. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Ford County, Paxton, Paxton Water Tower and Pump House, 145 S. Market St. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Hancock County, Niota vicinity, Cambre House and Farm, SW of Niota (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Jackson County, Murphysboro, Mobile and Ohio Railroad Depot, 1701 Walnut St. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Lee County, Dixon, Brookner, Christopher, House, 222 N. Dixon Ave. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Rock Island County, Rock Island, Fort Armstrong Hotel, 3rd Ave. and 19th St. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Sangamon County, Springfield, Camp Lincoln Commissary Building, 1301 N. MacArthur Blvd. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Sangamon County, Springfield, Hickox Apartments, 4th and Cook Sts. (11/13/84)

ILLINOIS, Will County, Plainfield, Standard Oil Gasoline Station, 600 W. Lockport St. (11/13/84)

INDIANA, Allen County, Fort Wayne, West End Historic District, Roughly bounded by Main, Webster, Jefferson, Broadway, Jones, and St. Mary's River (11/15/84)

INDIANA, Marion County, Indianapolis, Indianapolis Chair Manufacturing Company, 330 W. New York St. (11/15/84)