

WASHINGTON

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS 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 The Count's House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 3803 Waukegan

N/A not for publication

city, town McHenry N/A vicinity of congressional district 33rd

state Illinois code 012 county McHenry code 111

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Robert D. and Mary E. Weber

street & number 3803 W. Waukegan

city, town McHenry N/A vicinity of state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. McHenry County Courthouse

street & number 2200 N. Semnary Avenue

city, town Woodstock state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ill. Historic Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October, 1972 federal state county local

depository for survey records Illinois Department of Conservation

city, town Springfield state Illinois

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

McHenry County is located in north central Illinois. Its topography is dominated by gently rolling hills and the Fox River along its eastern border. The county is primarily rural in nature despite its proximity to the metropolitan Chicago area.

The Village of McHenry, approximately 10,000 in population and agriculturally oriented, is located on the Fox River which defines its eastern geographical boundary.

This Greek Revival structure was constructed around 1860 with its principal facade facing Waukegan Road to the north. The house is a two story brick bearing wall structure with a full basement on a field stone foundation. Its four corners are emphasized with brick pilasters and its end gable, pediment is supported on the northern facade by Doric order columns and on the southern facade by Gothic Revival columns. These columns have been shortened and the brick base built up sometime during the early 20th Century. The roof is now covered in asphalt shingles with the original wood shingles beneath. A full entablature further defines the roofline around all facades of the building.

A one and a half story summer kitchen is attached on the eastern facade of the structure. This, too, is brick bearing wall construction with only a crawl space beneath. The entablature composition is a duplicate of that of the main portion of the structure with returns on the eastern gable and a two over two window beneath the eaves. This portion of the house has undergone various modifications in the 20th Century. A porch on the northern facade was enclosed with wooden siding and utility space was added to the north and east facade in brick. The date of this alteration is not known. On the southern facade, a door and window were replaced with a bay window in 1975. A chimney was also removed at some time.

The northern facade of the main structure is symmetrical with a doorway and two windows on the first floor and three windows above. The entrance is capped with a limestone lintel and the doorway is inset slightly and surrounded by the sidelights and transom typical of the Greek Revival Style. A row of dentils visually separates the door and sidelights from the transom. All windows on this facade have limestone sills and lintels. The double hung sashes are all six over six in configuration.

The west facade contains only two windows identical to those in the north and south facade, on the first floor and two small windows with wooden lintels in the basement.

The southern facade, which faces Main Street, was probably altered to become a second major facade around 1874. The pediment varies from the north facade only in the addition of a vent. The pediment is again supported by four columns defining the three bay facade. However, the

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ornamentation of the south facade is Gothic Revival rather than Greek Revival. The three-arched entablature is decorated with pendant drip moldings. This facade has a second story porch with lathe turned spindles on the railing. The porch is further defined by decorative brackets typical of the Gothic Revival style.

The openings on the southern facade are identical to those of the northern facade with the exception of a door which provides access to the second story porch. This door is located in the central bay.

The interior plan of the main structure is an L-shaped configuration on the first floor with three rooms arranged around a hall. This plan has been modified on the second floor with the addition of a bathroom in the northeast corner. The summer kitchen contains a kitchen area on the first floor with one room above. As mentioned earlier, this portion of the house has been modified.

This structure, despite the various 20th Century modifications to the summer kitchen, is still significantly intact and is an excellent example of mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival architecture.

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 ca. 1860; ca. 1874 **Builder/Architect** UNKNOWN

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This structure, locally known as the Count's House, is significant as an excellent mid-nineteenth century example of Greek Revival architecture. Its significance is further enhanced by the addition of a second major facade of Gothic Revival influence added around 1874.

The land the structure occupies was originally owned by George Gage, a prominent figure in McHenry County and Lake County history. Gage, later a State Senator, was influential in obtaining a railroad depot in 1856 for what was to become West McHenry. This action delayed incorporation of the Village of McHenry until 1872 when the two commercial centers on either side of the river became the Village of McHenry.

This particular parcel was sold to Mary Melindy in 1859 for \$500. Due both to the architectural style of the house and the fact that Melindy sold the property to Oliver Owen in 1873 for \$1,200, it would seem that it was Melindy who actually built the original structure and attached summer kitchen.

Owen owned the property for barely ten months, after which he sold the property to Fred Schnorr. Fred Schnorr was the owner until 1912 when he deeded the property to F. J. Schnorr for the sum of \$1.00. The amount of the sale price would indicate that the grantee was a son or other close relative. Also, the length of time that Fred Schnorr owned the property would make him the most likely candidate for the addition of the secondary facade.

In 1920, F. J. Schnorr sold the house to Count Oscar Bopp Von Oberstadt who, with his family, had emigrated from Germany to Chicago in 1916. Von Oberstadt resided in this house until 1927 when he returned to Europe. After that time the name of the "Count's House" was locally attached to the structure.

This structure retains a high degree of integrity and is the only Greek Revival structure included in the Illinois Historic Structures Survey in McHenry.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Interviews: Earl Walsh by Mary Weber August 1981
Catherine Miller by Mary Weber September 1981
Anna Frisby by Mary Weber approximately 1965 (deceased)
Pat Owens Ahlbert by Mary Weber since 1970 and on.
Robert Thompson by Mary Weber 1965 and on.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 _____
Quadrangle name McHENRY, ILL.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1,6	39,52,70	4,68,84,8,0
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Lot 6 in block 2 of the original plat of the Village of West McHenry in the southwest quarter of section 26, township 45 north, range 8 east of the third principal meridian according to the plat there of recorded June 14, 1859, in book 24 of deeds, page 22 in McHenry County Illinois:

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Robert & Mary Weber
2. Anne E. Manuell

organization 2. Department of Conservation date October 29, 1981

street & number 1. 3803 W. Waukegan telephone 1. 815/385-5267
2. 405 E. Washington 2. 217/782-0275

city or town 1. McHenry state Illinois
2. Springfield

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *David Perry*

title *Director* date *4/2/82*

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

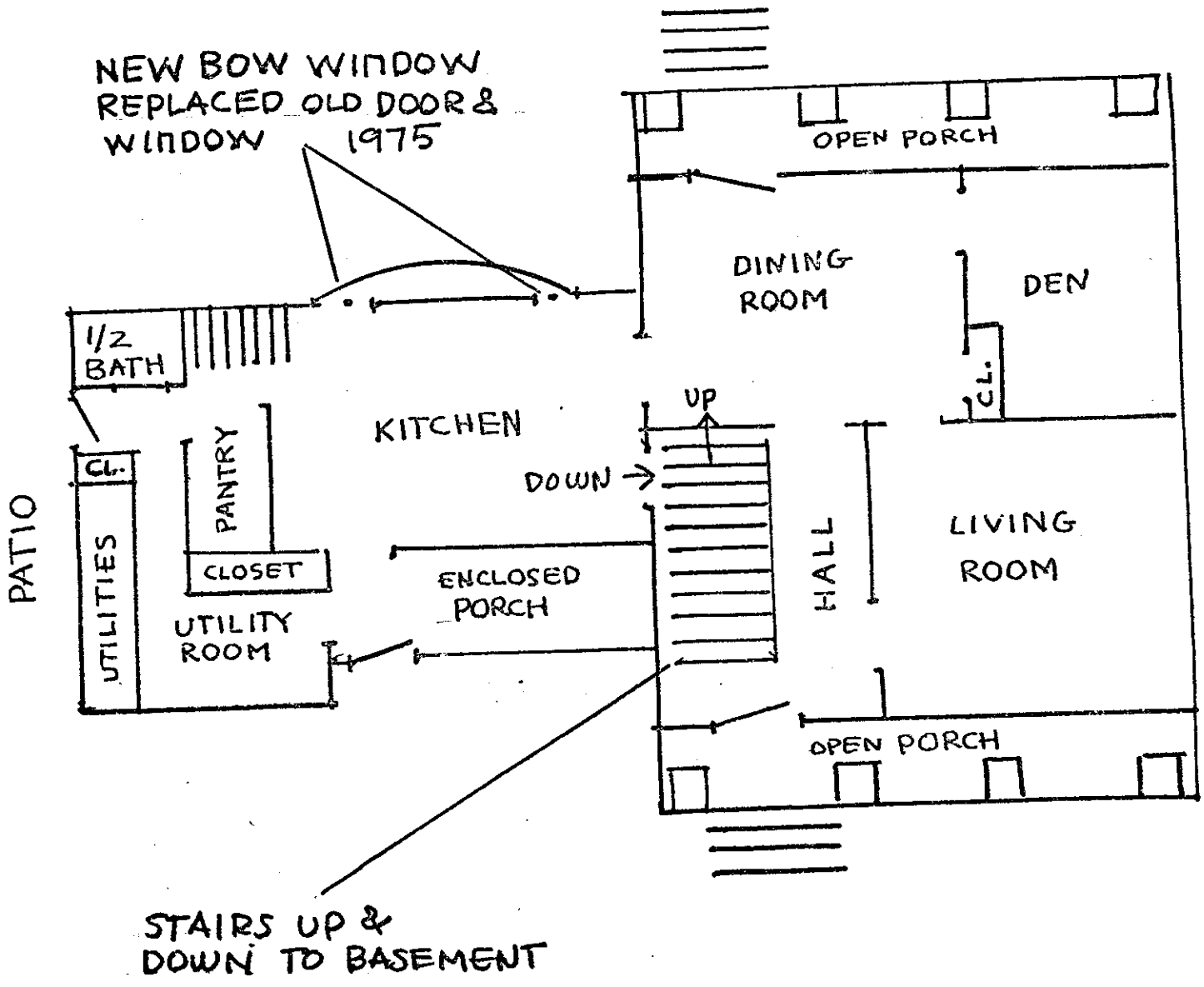
Page 2

- "Personal Notes Column," McHenry Plaindealer (May, 1920) p. 1
"Personal Notes Column," McHenry Plaindealer (June, 1920) p. 1
"Personal Notes Column," McHenry Plaindealer (November 1920) p. 1
"Personal Notes Column," McHenry Plaindealer (October 12, 1922) p. 1
"Personal Notes Column," McHenry Plaindealer (January, 1922) p. 1
"Personal Notes Column," McHenry Plaindealer (August, 1922) p. 1
"Obituaries," McHenry Plaindealer (January, 1928) p. 1

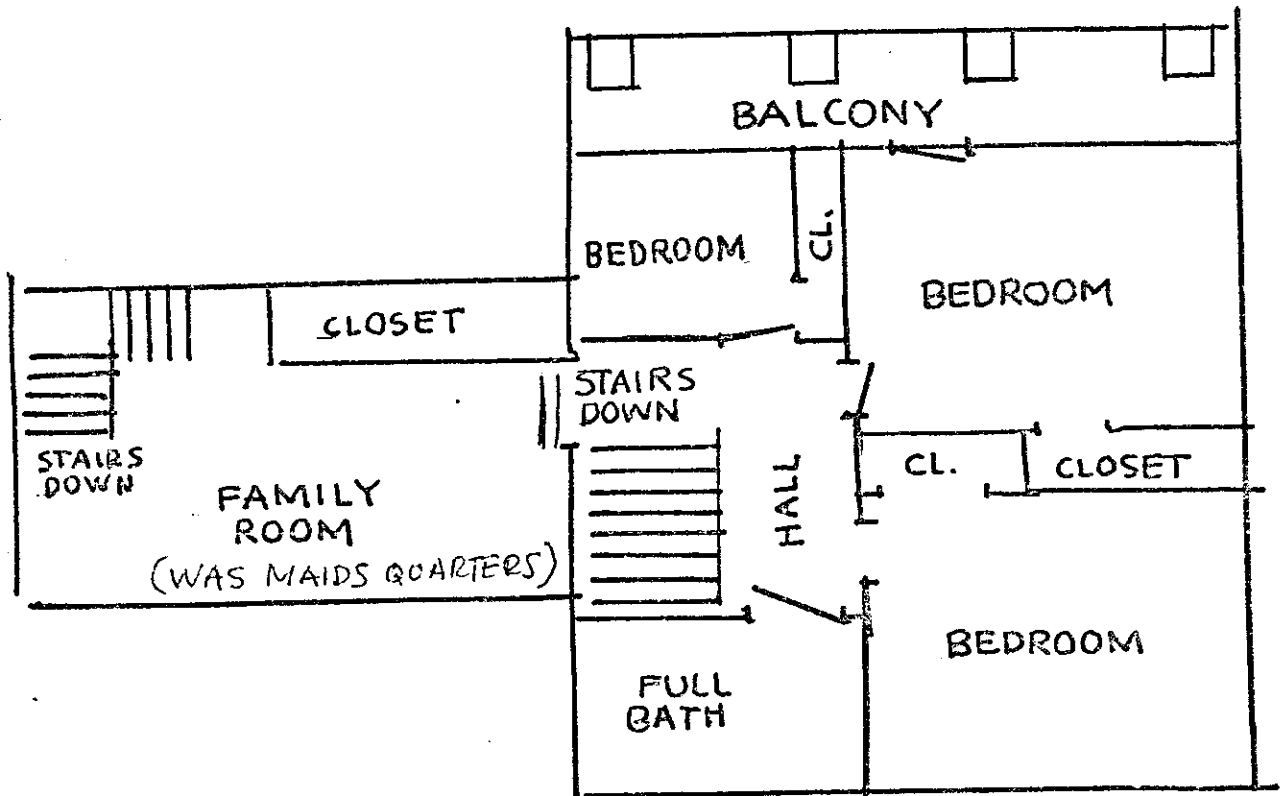
History of McHenry County, Illinois, Interstate Publishing Co., Chicago,
1885.

Pearson, James E., "A New Geography of McHenry County, Outdoor Illinois Magazine, October, 1976.

MAIN LEVEL FLOOR PLAN



2nd STORY FLOOR PLAN



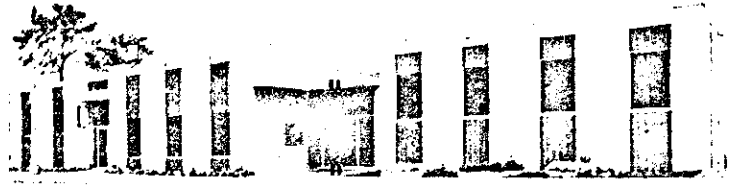


CITY OF McHENRY

1111 NORTH GREEN STREET • McHENRY, ILLINOIS 60050

TELEPHONES:

385-0947 - CITY CLERK
385-1761 - PUBLIC WORKS
385-2131 - POLICE DEPARTMENT
344-3300 - PARKS & RECREATION



MAYOR: JOSEPH B. STANEK
CITY CLERK: BARBARA E. GILPIN
SUPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS: RICHARD J. WEBER
CHIEF OF POLICE: GEORGE R. PASENELLI
DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION: PETE MERKEL

November 3, 1981

Illinois Department of Conservation
605 Wm. G. Stratton Building
400 South Spring Street
Springfield, IL 62706

Attn: Keith A. Sculle

Re: Site Name: Count's House (Webers
House), 3803 W. Waukegan, McHenry

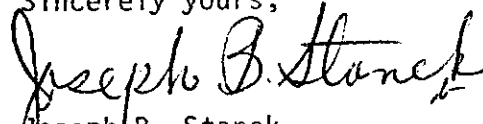
Considered at: Martin Luther King
Branch Library Auditorium
December 11-12, 1981

Dear Mr. Sculle:

At the City Council meeting of November 2, 1981, the historical significance of the Count's House (Weber House) was discussed and there was unanimous agreement that it did meet the criteria as outlined, that it has been an historical landmark in McHenry for many years and that its registration, designation and preservation would be very welcome.

Thank you for allowing us to review and comment on this application.

Sincerely yours,


Joseph B. Stanek
Mayor

JBS:amk