

WASHINGTON

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Virgil Hickox House

and/or common Norb Andy's Building

2. Location

street & number 518 East Capitol Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Springfield N/A vicinity of congressional district 20th

state Illinois code 012 county Sangamon code 167

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Nanchen and Michael Scully

street & number 925 South Seventh Street

city, town Springfield N/A vicinity of state Illinois 62703

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 800 East Monroe Street

city, town Springfield state Illinois 62701

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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 Virgil Hickox house appears today as a brick, two-story, rectangular, Italinat house, 30 by 50 feet over an English (raised) basement, a type commonly built in the Midwest in the thirty years following the Civil War. Overhanging eaves, brackets, a low-pitched hip roof and arched-topped windows on the second floor are the most prominent Italinat features exhibited in this house. However, the building is actually a composite of several remodelings done for the Virgil Hickox family who occupied the house from 1839 to 1880. The house was most likely a one story or story-and-a-half, broadside, frame structure in its original form. It was gradually enlarged until it looked substantially as it does today. The bricks used to build it were fired on the site. Exhibit #1 indicates the various remodelings done for the family and their dates. As finally completed by Hickox, the house had a single set of front stairs and a stoop which was replaced about 1900 with an imitation stone front porch. About 1930, a wooden frame, street level entrance was added for a business which was located in the basement. At the same time that the stone-like front porch was built, a metal-framed bay window with leaded-beveled glass was put on the front and leaded-beveled glass was added to the side and top lights of the front door, which is in the Greek revival style. All of these details remain intact.

The main part of the building was abandoned from 1965 to 1980 but a major rehabilitation is now nearly complete. The Chimneys have been rebuilt using original bricks and other brick of the same period. Layers of paint have been stripped from the exterior with a mild buffered chemical and diluted acid technique, with no loss of brick face or sound mortar. Missing mortar was replaced with a mixture of hydrated lime, Sangamon River sand with various amounts of clay (matching six different mortars found on the site) and a percentage of ground oyster shell to revive the available river sand into an identical chemical mortar match. About one third of the bricks were turned 180° and reset, to correct damage which resulted when a now demolished commercial building was attached to the west side of the house.

The brackets, fascia, and trim on the structure are original. Rotted or missing sections have been re-fabricated. The original roof joists remain in place. New outriggers were used for the overhang. Original floor joists have been reinforced where necessary to provide a load bearing of 80 psf. Fiberglass roof shingles resembling cedar shakes have been used on the roof being most like the original roof and yet meeting present fire codes. Trim colors on the exterior match the original paint samples from the 1900-1930 era. The interior of the main house has been returned to its early 1900s appearance, with fixtures and wallcoverings being reproduced with the assistance of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum and Catherine Lynn of Yale University.

The upper levels will be used for the owner's law offices, and the lower level remains in use as the Norb Andy Tabarin, now owned by Robert Rigdon, who has tended bar there for 30 years.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates **1839-1930** Builder/Architect **UNKNOWN**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hickox house is Springfield's oldest and last single family residence left standing in the central business district. It has been associated with important state and local politicians and civic figures since it was built. Virgil Hickox lived in the house from 1839 until his death in 1880. Hickox was one of Springfield's earliest and most influential citizens. In addition to becoming a financially successful store keeper, he was a prominent attorney and a major force behind railroad development in Springfield. He joined with a few other businessmen to bring the Chicago & Alton Railroad here, and became its general agent in charge of the Springfield area. With the completion of the C. & A. RR, Springfield, for the first time, had full connections with the rest of the country by rail. This was especially significant for Springfield's future, because the town was not on a navigable river. Springfield's real physical and economic growth started with the coming of the railroads in the 1850s. Hickox was also responsible for authoring Illinois law relating to the assessment and taxation of railroad property. He served four years as Canal Commissioner in charge of all contracts and expenses for the Illinois and Michigan Canal, the largest canal built in the U.S. in the 19th century. In addition he was president of a major Springfield bank and chairman the the Democratic State Committee for 20 years. Although allied with Stephen A. Douglas, even managing his 1858 senatorial campaign, Hickox was also closely associated with Abraham Lincoln professionally. Two respected works on Lincoln, Paul Angle's New Letters and Papers of Abraham Lincoln and Harry Pratt's Lincoln Day by Day, include numerous references to Hickox. Hickox was one of the owners of a section of land in Logan County on the C. & A. railroad line which he had platted as the town of Lincoln, Illinois, named after Abraham Lincoln, then attorney for the C.&A. Concerning his relationship with Hickox, Lincoln later wrote, "I have always found Mr. Hickox a fair man in his dealings."

Although the Hickox house was remodeled a number of times, it is substantially the same as when the Hickox family last lived in it in 1880, the porch being the only exterior change, and the house remained in the family until recent years. In 1895, Springfield's first and only private men's business/dining club, the Sangamo Club, chose the Hickox house for its headquarters, remaining there for over 15 years. Illinois Governors are usually given honorary membership in this club. In the 1920s, after the Sangamo Club had left, a speakeasy opened up here in the lower level, and continued as the locally famous Norb Andy Tabarin after Prohibition. Norb Andy's was a popular bar for state legislators and countless political hangers-on. Many local attorneys, including the most politically ambitious, dined there daily and continue to do so today. It was a popular night spot for several years and former owner Norbert Anderson recalls nationally known celebrities like band leader Tommy Dorsey visiting here when entertaining at local clubs and theaters. Some of Anderson's most regular customers were Illinois' Governors Henry Horner (who came in every day in which he was in Springfield), Len Small, Dwight Green, Adlai Stevenson, William Stratton, Otto Kerner, Richard Ogilvie and Dan Walker and countless legislators. In fact, with the closing of so many downtown bars, Chicago's Channel 5 network station, in a Fall, 1980 news story, reported that Norb Andy's is one of the last spots downtown still popular with legislators who drink.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Anderson, Norbert, Taped Interviews, Historical Researchers Inc. 1981.
Angle, Paul M., New Letters and Papers of Lincoln, Houghton 1930.
Power, John Carroll, History of Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Springfield, Ill.
1876. p. 376

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .062

Quadrangle name SPRINGFIELD WEST

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UMT References

A

1	6	2	7	3	2	2	0	4	4	0	8	4	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification Property has a 40' frontage on the south side of Capitol Avenue between 5th and 6th Streets, and a depth of 67.5'. (North 67½ feet of West 40 feet of Lot 2, Block 2 of Pascal P. Enos' Addition to the City of Springfield.)

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nanchen O. Scully

organization

date July 10, 1981

street & number 925 South 7th Street

telephone (217) 753-8585

city or town Springfield

state Illinois 62703

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 Dan Kennedy

title Director, Ill. Dept of Conservation

date 9/25/81

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

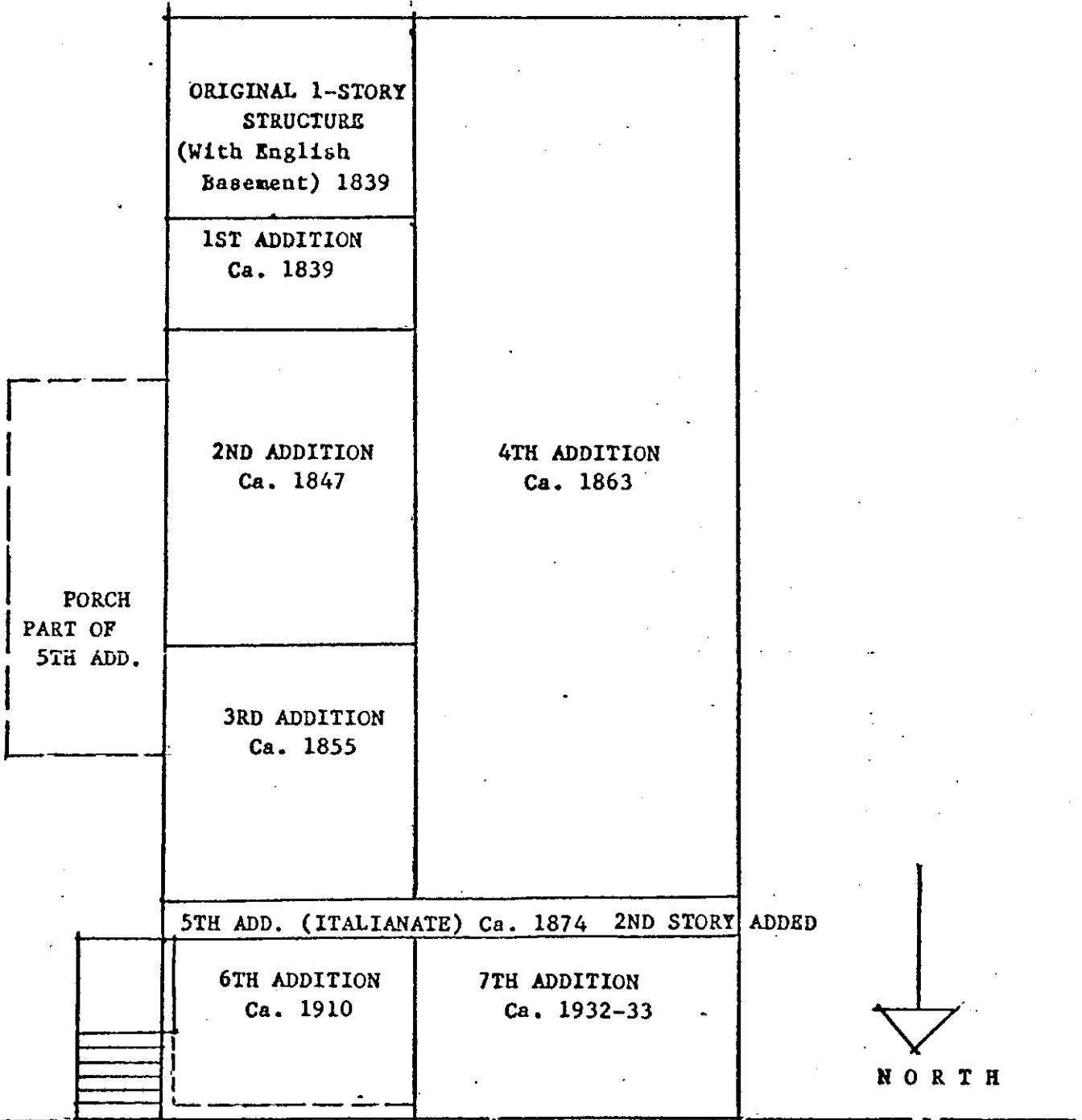
Power, John Carroll, History of Springfield, Illinois, Springfield, Ill., 1871.
Pratt, Harry E., Lincoln Day by Day, Springfield, Ill., Abraham Lincoln Association,
1933.
"The Unsinkable Old Norb Andy's," State Journal-Register, October 19, 1980.
"What's Going On at Norb Andy's?" Illinois Times, October 10-16, 1980.

CHRONOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT AND SUBSEQUENT USE OF
HICKOX HOUSE

YEAR

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES MADE

Ca. 1835	Virgil Hickox opened general store at the rear of the future Hickox residence.
1839	Built one-story masonry addition for living quarters. Dwelling (as did rest of additions) had an English basement.
1839	Married, and shortly thereafter, built one story addition.
1840-1870	Completed 3 more one-story additions with English basement.
Mid 1870's	Enlarged house again; added second story with gabled roof in rear, Georgian entryway, bay window, bracketed cornice and impressive, stone staircase.
Ca. 1895	Home became the headquarters of the city's exclusive Sangamo Club.
1911-1912	Sangamo Club built new building.
1916-1926	Hickox House became the Branson Funeral Parlor.
1927-1928	Health Fume Systems
1929-1930	Mineral Fume Systems
1931	B. Wonder Flower Studio
1932	Ye Tavern Sandwich Shop
1933-1938	"Cude's-Beer-Stube" (Mr. "Cude" Francis)
1938- To present	Norb Andy's Tabarin moved into lower level.
1950-1965	Upper floor used for various businesses including beauty parlor, music shop and boarding house.
1965-1980	Abandoned
1981-	Upper floors low offices



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered MARCH 5, 1982

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Jacoby, Lysander, House	Rockford Winnebago County
Hamilton, Robert W., House	Murphysboro Jackson County
Peoria Mineral Springs (Spring Hill)	Peoria Peoria County
Hickox, Virgil, House	Springfield Sangamon County

Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Alan Dixon
Honorable Lynn Martin
Honorable Paul Simon
Honorable Robert H. Michel
Honorable Paul Findley

✓ State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. David Kenney
Director, Department of Conservation
State Office Building
400 South Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Midwest Regional Office, NPS