

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Wenner, Charles, House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rocky Road (Rural Route 1)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Galena

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Illinois

CODE

012

COUNTY

Jo Daviess

CODE

085

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER NOT

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Robert E. Latousek

STREET & NUMBER

738 Timberline Drive

CITY, TOWN

Glenview

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois 60025

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jo Daviess County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

330 N. Bench Street

CITY, TOWN

Galena,

STATE

Illinois 61036

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 Charles Wenner house is a two-story, rectangular-plan, vernacular stone dwelling in rural Jo Daviess County. It sits alone on a southern slope of one of the many hills that surround Galena in Vinegar Hill Township. Exterior alterations of this limestone structure include an early lean-to addition, removal of the front door and of most window glass bars due to deterioration. Though the house has deteriorated, no improvements have been made that would conceal or remove the building's historical integrity.

The house faces south with its five front windows and heavy stone construction collecting the sun's warmth. The twenty-inch thick walls are constructed of coursed limestone quarried locally. Sawed-finish limestone serves as sills and lintels. The wooden sash windows, originally six-over-six lights, are arranged in three bays, symmetrically around the front door. The two windows on the east and west sides are off-center to make space for the centered flues of the two brick chimneys that sit on the gabled ends of the house. The lean-to addition, construction date unknown, was built on the north side out of the same stone. A brick wall patch and new chimney on the east wall of the addition were probably constructed in 1942 when a new wood-shingle roof was put on the house. Electric wiring was also added to the house at that time. Plumbing was never installed. Behind the house and up the hill are the foundations of two barns that were built in the 1920's. Inside, the rooms were originally arranged with two bedrooms upstairs and two down. The four walls that divided these rooms and the plaster ceilings on both floors were removed in 1954 when the house was used as a corn crib. Most of the simple, squared woodwork is still intact, as is the narrow, enclosed stairway and most of the plasterwork. The lean-to addition contained the kitchen and pantry. The back of this addition is actually below grade at floor level, as the hillside slopes up behind the house. The basement is entered from an interior stairway and also through a stairway hatch on the east facade. The foundation and the cellar floor are stone. The total effect is solid and simple.

Due to thirty years of vacancy and use as a corn crib, the Wenner house is in terrible disrepair. However, though some of the original walls were removed, no attempt was made to hide the scars of their original placement. Though most of the doors and windows are out, their decaying remains are still inside the house.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Wenner

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Galena is an important historic district in Illinois because it is virtually unchanged evidence of a very early settlement within the state. The lead mines in the surrounding hills and the settlers that lived there are also part of Galena's story. The Charles Wenner house represents a vernacular type of dwelling constructed by those settlers who came to Galena to work the mines. It shows how a common man lived in the early days of Galena's growth--a German immigrant who worked for a mining company, started a farm and a farm, and built a house that he lived in for the rest of his life.

Architecturally, the house is similar to many earlier examples of houses built by settlers in the eastern states: the symmetrical arrangement of doors and windows on the front and the lean-to addition on the back are typical vernacular forms. The thick stone walls, the end chimneys, and the rooms arranged side by side with no stair hall reflect German origins. Locally, eight notable houses in Galena share most of these characteristics with the Wenner house. These are the Harrison House, 1826; the Delaney House, 1828; the Paul House, 1840; the Cogan House, 1841; the Bond House, 1843; and the Holder House, 1853. The Wenner house resembles the earlier 1820's houses most in its simplicity of form and extensive use of stone. The later houses use wood framing and siding in conjunction with the stone. The Holder House is the only other house in this group without a more or less elaborate porch. The unembellished plainness of the Wenner house without porch or wood corner construction makes it stand out among its in-town relatives.

The house's most significant value, however, is not as an example of an architectural type, but as a very particular vestige of a time not to be overlooked locally: the time when settlers came from as far away as Germany and England to work the lead mines. On a map dated 1860 and titled "Diagram of the Lead-Bearing Crevices Near Galena, Illinois," just north of the place where the Wenner house sits, the "Schaber Lot" is marked. Louis Schaber, Charles Wenner's stepfather, gave his stepson the land on which he built the house. The entire Schaber clan had arrived in Galena from Wurtemberg, Germany in April, 1834. Louis, also "Ludwig" (born 1790), and his wife, Christiana (1797) probably arrived at this time with her son, Charles Wenner (1819), and other relatives. The couple were in Galena, in any case, when their son, Louis Jr., was born in 1838. During these early years, Schaber was possibly leasing this Vinegar Hill property from the Federal Government. As early as 1836, Galena residents were able to obtain title to the land occupied by the right of preemption but the government did not sell the land until 1847. The 1840 census lists two miners among the five men and two women

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

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the Schaber household. The 1850 census also lists two miners, but Schaber himself is listed as a farmer. It should be noted that lead mining was considered "off season" employment to some: a way to stay occupied between spring planting and fall harvest. More than likely, when Schaber bought his property in 1847 for \$1.25 an acre from the government, he was involved in both occupations. The original Schaber homestead, like most miner's dwellings, was a log cabin. Charles Wenner was living in Rawlins Township just south of Vinegar Hill with his English wife of three years, Anne, and their baby daughter at the time of the 1850 census. He worked as a teamster at the time for a mining company. In 1852, Louis Schaber gave his stepson half-ownership of the Vinegar Hill property. In 1854, Wenner built his house on the property and moved in with his wife and, now, two daughters. Louis Schaber Jr. received the other half-ownership of the property upon his return from the Civil War in 1864. His father died a year later, and at that time Wenner and Schaber divided the property to farm separately; Louis Jr. built a stone house to replace the family's original log cabin. This structure still exists today on the neighboring property not far from the Wenner house. Charles Wenner lived in his house until three months before his death, when, in 1905, he sold the house and the land to the Collier and Gibson Mining Company.

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Diagram of Lead-Bearing Crevices Near Galena, Illinois, Western Engraving Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1860.

History of Jo Daviess County, Illinois 1878, H. F. Kett and Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1878, p.373.

Johnson, Carl H. Jr., The Building of Galena, Union-Hoermann Press, Dubuque, Iowa, 1977, pp.6, 14, 26, 30-33, 80.

Land Atlas and Flat Book, Jo Daviess County, Illinois, Rockford Map Pub. Inc., 1983, pp.23, 24.

Plat Book of Jo Daviess County, Illinois, N.W. Publishing Co., F. Bourquin Printers, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1893, pp. 18, 57.

Schaber, Ernest (great-grandson of Louis Schaber, previous owner of Wenner house and surrounding property), Interview in Cuba City, Wisconsin, May 1983.

Spillane, Tom (previous resident of Wenner house), Interview in Galena, Illinois May 1983.

Standard Atlas of Jo Daviess County, Illinois, G.A. Ogle and Co., Chicago, Illinois, 1913, pp. 39-40.

Timpe, Vince (long-time resident of Vinegar Hill township), Interview in Galena, Illinois, November 1983.

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by starting at the Southwest corner of said property and proceeding North along the property line (fence line) approximately 320 feet and then turning due East and proceeding approximately 210 feet.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Abstract, Vinegar Hill Township, Section 33, S.E.¼, in possession of Robert Latousek (present owner)
 Atlas of Jo Daviess County, Illinois, Warner, Higgins and Beers Publishers
 62 and 64 West Lake, Chicago, Illinois, 1872, p.G.
 Census Records, Jo Daviess County, Illinois (Galena Public Library Historical Collection): 1840, p.374; 1850, pp.102, 237; 1860, p.330; 1870, pp.323, 324. (continued p. 2)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Galena

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
E	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
G	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
F	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
H	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The Charles Wenner house stands on the West 1/4 of the Southwest quarter of the Southeast quarter of section thirty-three (33) of township twenty-nine (29) North, range one (1) east of the Four principle meridian. The position of the house may be found, continued

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

Brian McCormick

ORGANIZATION

DATE April 30, 1984

STREET & NUMBER

511 W. California

TELEPHONE (217) 367-9230

CITY OR TOWN

Urbana

STATE Illinois 61801

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) hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

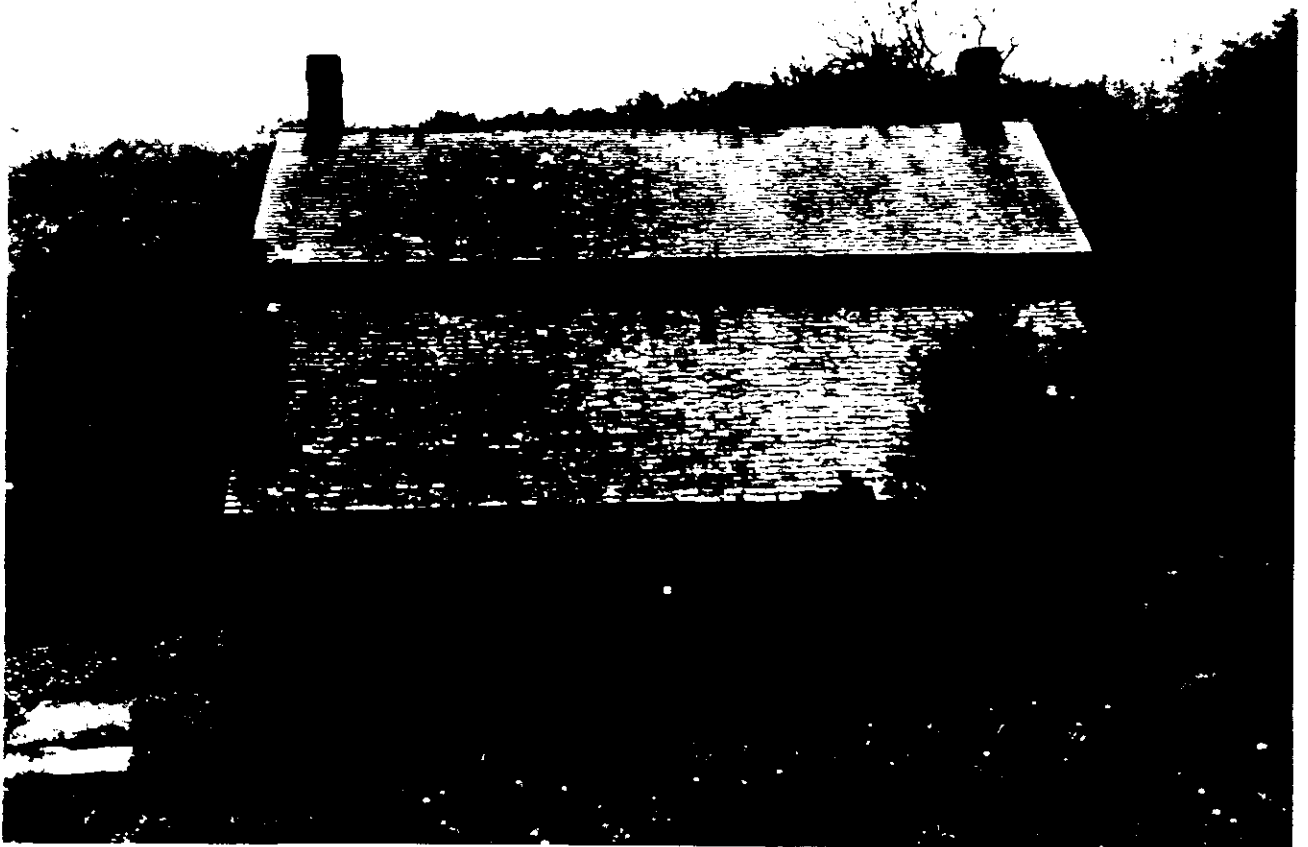
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



LOOKING NW



LOOKING SOUTH



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

AUG 31 1984

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 beginning August 19, 1984 and ending August 25, 1984. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

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

ILLINOIS, Jo Daviess County, Galena vicinity, Wenner, Charles, House, Rocky Rd. (08/22/84)
ILLINOIS, Kane County, Aurora, G.A.R. Memorial Building, 23 E. Downer Pl. (08/23/84)

LOUISIANA, East Baton Rouge Parish, Baton Rouge, Planter's Cabin, 7815 Highland Rd. (08/23/84)

MINNESOTA, Hennepin County, Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Old Campus Historic District, University Ave. and 15th Ave. (08/23/84)

MINNESOTA, McLeod County, Glencoe, American House Hotel, 12th and Ford Sts. (08/23/84)

MINNESOTA, McLeod County, Glencoe, McLeod County Courthouse, 830 11th St. E. (08/23/84)

MINNESOTA, Ramsey County, St. Paul, SchorNSTein Grocery and Saloon, 707 E. Wilson Ave. and 223 N. Bates Ave. (08/21/84)

MINNESOTA, Washington County, St. Croix River Access Site, (08/23/84)

MISSOURI, Marion County, Hannibal vicinity, Hendren Farm, Off U.S. 61 (08/22/84)

MISSOURI, St. Louis (Independent City), Blind Girls' Home, 5235 Page Blvd. (08/23/84)

MISSOURI, St. Louis (Independent City), Louise Apartments, 3900 Lindell Blvd. and Vandeventer Ave. (08/23/84)

MISSOURI, St. Louis (Independent City), Robert, Johnson and Rand-International Shoe Company Complex, Mississippi and Hickory Sts. (08/23/84)

MISSOURI, St. Louis County, Ferguson, Church Street Commercial District, 2-100 Church St. (08/23/84)

NEW YORK, Chemung County, Elmira, Elmira College Old Campus, Roughly bounded by College and W. Washington Aves., N. Main St., and Park Pl. (08/23/84)

NEW YORK, Jefferson County, Oxbow, Benton, Dr. Abner, House, Main St. (08/23/84)

NEW YORK, Onondaga County, Syracuse, Stickley, Gustav, House, 438 Columbus Ave. (08/23/84)

NEW YORK, Suffolk County, Montauk, Montauk Manor, Fairmont Ave. (08/23/84)

NEW YORK, Sullivan County, Rockland, Rockland Mill Complex, Palen Pl. (08/23/84)

NORTH CAROLINA, Forsyth County, Winston-Salem, Bland, Joseph Franklin, House, 1809 Virginia Rd. (08/21/84)

OHIO, Cuyahoga County, Cleveland, Doan School, 1350 E. 105th St. (08/23/84)

OHIO, Franklin County, Bexley, Duncan, Robert P., House, 333 N. Parkview Ave. (08/23/84)

OHIO, Hamilton County, Finneytown, Smith-Jessop House, 1038 W. North Bend Rd. (08/23/84)

OHIO, Hardin County, Kenton, Kenton Courthouse Square Historic District, Roughly Main, Detroit, Market, Columbus and Franklin Sts. (08/23/84)

OHIO, Jackson County, Petersburg vicinity, Johnson Road Covered Bridge, SW of Petersburg (08/23/84)

OHIO, Montgomery County, Dayton, South Park Historic District, Roughly bounded by Park, Morton, Hickory, and Wayne Ave. (08/23/84)