

10/84

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 Price/Wheeler house

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 618 South Seventh Street

not for publication

city, town Springfield

vicinity of

state Illinois

code 012

county Sangamon

code 167

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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Fletcher F. Farrar

street & number 610 South Seventh Street

city, town Springfield

vicinity of

state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sangamon County Building

street & number 800 East Monroe Street

city, town Springfield

state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NA has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The house at 618 South Seventh Street is currently undergoing full rehabilitation. The exterior is being totally restored to its original appearance through the use of period photographs as guides. All later intrusions on the main facade have been removed and the integrity of the original design restored. When completed the building will be used as a multi-family dwelling.

Built in 1899, this building is a fine example of classical revival residential architecture as interpreted in Springfield, Illinois at the turn-of-the-century. The house proper is a symmetrical, box-like cube, a popular form for Georgian revival houses. It has a hip roof typical of these as well as the usual over-size dormers and Palladian windows. But the two-story entrance portico with a rough ashlar base, Ionic columns, decorative frieze and dentiled cornice, clearly identifies this as an example of the loose interpretation of the grand classical style (rather than the more restrained Georgian revival) characteristic of early 20th century architecture. An off-center front door is the single exception to a perfectly symmetrical facade.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1899

Builder/Architect ?

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Price/Wheeler house has outstanding local significance in Springfield's architectural development. It is the city's first fully-developed classical revival house to be built in the period following the World's Columbian Exposition of 1892. The exposition is of course credited with influencing the passion for neo-classical buildings in America during the next thirty years.

Springfield's architectural development, and that of most midwestern towns and cities, lagged behind metropolitan areas like Chicago, Boston and New York. While the classical revival had made great strides in these places by the late 1890s, Springfield's classical revival is primarily a post-1900 phenomenon. As late as 1900 a few major pre-Civil War classical buildings existed in Springfield--both capitols and a number of federal and Greek Revival houses--but all of the new and fashionable structures were in the Romanesque revival, Queen Anne or shingle styles with the addition of a few classical design details at most. When built in 1899, the Price/Wheeler house was a startling departure from this trend.

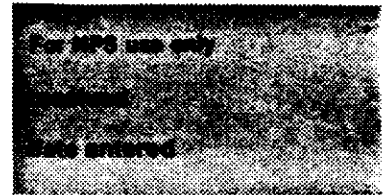
At that time City Hall offices and the public library were housed in a new Romanesque revival structure. The railroad depots, major banks, Concordia Seminary's main buildings, a half-dozen new "skyscrapers," and numerous downtown commercial buildings were likewise clothed in multi-turreted, dark brick or stone versions of the Romanesque revival. The classical influence first appears in Springfield in the form of Doric, Ionic or Corinthian columns used on remodeled porches and porte-cocheres. Several of these porch remodelings incorporated the rough stone walls so typical of Romanesque revival work. The 1898 remodeling of the Executive Mansion by the city's leading architect featured one of these transitional entrance-ways and was much imitated. Springfield's new and fashionable mansions on Aristocracy Hill (originally the most expensive residential district) in the 1890s were in the Queen Anne or Romanesque style interspersed with an occasional shingle style design.

A number of locally influential structures in the classical style were built after 1900. The new public library (1904), Supreme Court Building (1908), Logan Hay Mansion (1905), Hagler Office Building (1905), several large apartment buildings and hundreds of classical or colonial revival houses had appeared by 1910, by which time the style was clearly entrenched in Springfield. Classicism reached its zenith locally with the gargantuan Beaux-Arts-influenced Springfield City Plan of 1925. But in 1899 the new Price/Wheeler house was a radically different design introduced to Springfield.

Isaiah Price who had the house built was an entrepreneur whose business firm controlled "...the great bulk of the clothing and tailoring business" in Springfield. His new mansion was located socially if not technically on Aristocracy Hill. After Price's unexpected death at age 49 less than two years later, it was discovered that he was financially over-extended. His widow was forced to sell the house. The house's desirability was well illustrated in 1904 when Loren Wheeler, city postmaster, former mayor and later U.S. Congressman, paid nearly \$9,000 for it at a time when

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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

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neighboring houses were selling for \$2,000 to \$4,000 less. Most of these were of similar age and size.

Classical revival houses later became so common in the city that the unique position once held by the Price/Wheeler house was forgotten. The outstanding detail still intact and the meticulous restoration on this house, coupled with its importance as a local "first" architecturally, make it an important structure in illustrating Springfield's development.

9. Major Bibliographical References

RUSSO, Ed, "100 years ago at Seventh and Capitol." Illinois Times, May 27-June 2, 1982.
Springfield in 1892. Illinois State Journal, Springfield, Illinois. 1892 p. 92.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Springfield West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	2	7	3	4	4	0	4	4	0	8	1	8	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

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 Edward J. Russo

organization Lincoln Library

date October 3, 1984

street & number 326 South Seventh Street

telephone 753-4910

city or town Springfield

state Illinois

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 date

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:

FEB 22 1985

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 February 10, 1985 and ending February 16, 1985. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

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

- ALABAMA, Limestone County, Athens, Athens State College Historic District, 202-212 and 311 N. Beaty St., central campus area roughly bounded by Beaty, Pryor and Hobbs Sts. (02/14/85)
ALABAMA, Mobile County, St. Elmo, Bishop Manor Estate, Argyl Rd. (02/14/85)
ALABAMA, Walker County, Jasper, First United Methodist Church, 1800 3rd. Ave. (02/14/85)
- CALIFORNIA, El Dorado County, Placerville, Combella-Blair House, 3059 Cedar Ravine (02/14/85)
- COLORADO, La Plata County, Durango vicinity, Durango Rock Shelters Archeology Site, (02/11/85)
- ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Burlingham Building, 104 W. Oak St. (02/14/85)
ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Dawson Brothers Plant, 517-519 N. Halsted St. (02/14/85)
ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Hermitage Apartments (4606 North Hermitage Avenue), 4606 N. Hermitage Ave. (02/14/85)
ILLINOIS, Kane County, Elgin, Elgin Milk Condensing Co./Illinois Condensing Co., Brook and Water Sts. (02/14/85)
ILLINOIS, Ogle County, Byron, Soldier's Monument, Chestnut and 2nd Sts. (02/14/85)
ILLINOIS, Sangamon County, Springfield, Price/Wheeler House, 618 S. 7th St. (02/14/85)
- LOUISIANA, Madison Parish, Tallulah vicinity, Shirley Field, Off U.S. 80 (02/14/85)
- MAINE, Cumberland County, Falmouth, Purinton, Elisha, House, 71 Mast Rd. (02/14/85)
MAINE, Hancock County, Seal Harbor, Seal Harbor Congregational Church, ME 3 (02/14/85)
MAINE, Piscataquis County, Brownville, Brown House, High St. (02/14/85)
MAINE, Sagadahoc County, Phippsburg, Cold Spring Farm, Off Fiddler's Reach Rd. (02/14/85)
MAINE, York County, Newfield, Newfield (Willowbrook) Historic District, Elm St. (02/14/85)
- MARYLAND, Queens Ann's County, Centreville, Ozmon, Capt. John H., Store, Centreville Wharf (02/14/85)
- MICHIGAN, Ionia County, Ionia vicinity, Sessions Schoolhouse, Riverside Dr. (02/11/85)
MICHIGAN, Wayne County, Detroit, Fox Theater Building, 2111 Woodward (02/14/85)
- MISSISSIPPI, Leflore County, Greenwood, Four Corners Historic District, Washington and Henderson Sts. (02/14/85)
- MISSOURI, Marion County, Palmyra, Speigle House, 406 S. Dickerson (02/14/85)
MISSOURI, St. Louis County, Ladue, Price School, Price School Lane (02/14/85)
- NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, Rota Island, Songsong vicinity, Dugi Archeological Site, E of Songsong (02/11/85)