

MPC 13-04



Local Historic Landmark/District Application

City of Peoria Historic Preservation Commission

Property Information:

(The property proposed for designation. For a district, give a location such as 800 block of NE Perry or give the district a name.)

Address: 301 NE Madison Avenue, Peoria IL 61603-3635

Applicant: (The person/organization applying.)

Name: Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation (CILF)

Company/Neighborhood Association: _____

Address: 416 Hamilton Blvd.

City: Peoria State: IL ZIP: 61651

Daytime Phone: (309) 672-1800 Email: ordaz.w@gmail.com
cilf.peoria@gmail.com

Applicant Signature: William Ordaz, President Date: Feb. 19, 2013
William Ordaz

Additional Required Information:

- Include a map that identifies the boundaries of the property proposed for designation.
- Include labeled, color pictures of each of the properties proposed for designation.
- If you desire to prepare the application on a computer or typewriter, sheets may be attached, but please use the following pages as an outline and indicate all data in the order it is requested on the following pages to maintain consistency. All information is required.

LANDMARKS

For the property to be designated complete the following pages:

DISTRICTS

For each individual property to be designated complete the following pages. Make copies if necessary:

Also provide on a separate sheet and narrative that describes the distinguishing characteristics of the proposed district and setting forth reasons in support of designation. Specifically, it is helpful to the petition to indicate how the area is significant in terms of local or national development methods and trends, local or national individuals/residents, or architectural styles.

The narrative must show how the proposed district meets one or more of the designation criteria (Section 16-38 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance).

Individual Property Information: (The individual property(ies) proposed for designation.)

Address: 301 NE Madison Avenue Zip Code 61603

Tax ID Number: 180-922-600-1

Owner: (Skip this section if the applicant and owner information is the same)

Name: Peoria Women's Club

Company/Neighborhood Association: _____

Address: 301 NE Madison Avenue

City: Peoria State: IL ZIP: 61603-3635

Daytime Phone: (309) 676-5762 Email: _____

Owner Signature: Mary Ann Armbrust, Pres Date: 2/19/13

Does the owner consent to designation? (circle one) (yes) (no)

How was the owner contacted? Owner contacted CILF to help with Landmark app.

Legal description of the property to be designated:

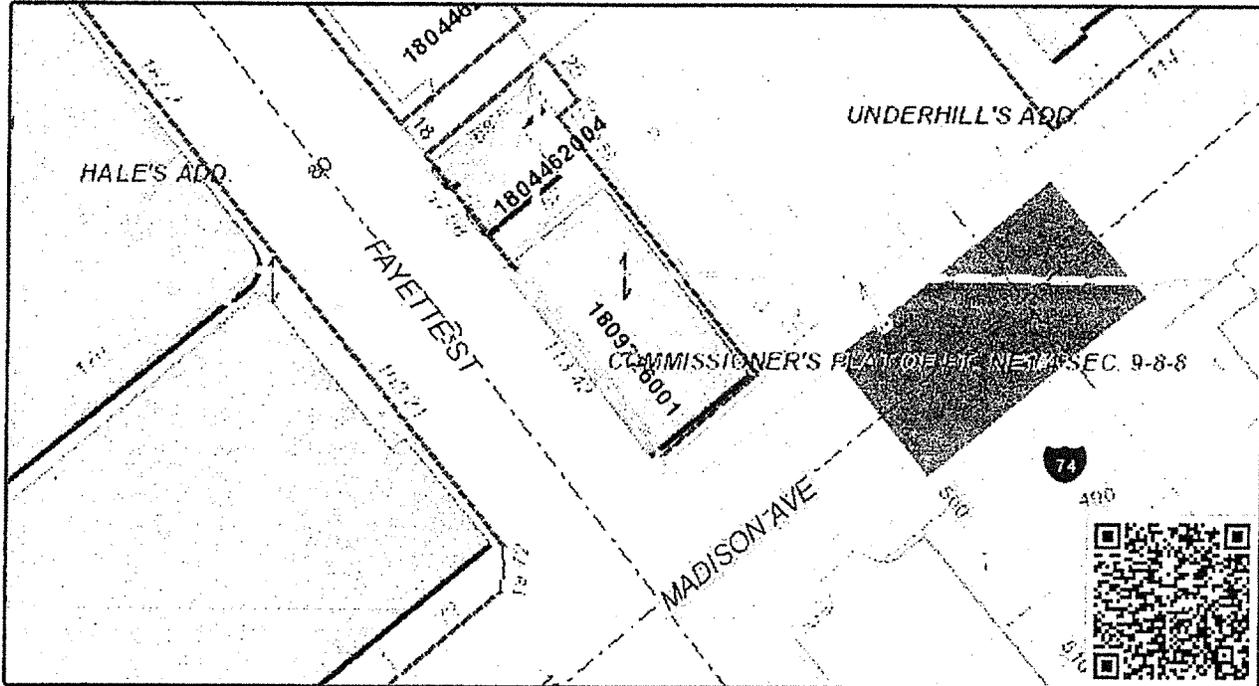
Part of Lot Seven (7) in Block Twenty-five (25) being located partly in the original town (Now City) of Peoria and partly in Hale's addition to the town (Now City) of Peoria and partly in Underhill's Addition to the town (Now City) of Peoria being Fifty-seven (57) feet front more or less on Madison Street by One hundred and Thirteen (113) feet and Five (5) inches in depth of Fayette Street in said City, lying, being and situate in the City of Peoria, County of Peoria and State of Illinois.

Physical & Historical Characteristics:

Provide a statement describing the distinguishing characteristics of the property and setting forth reasons in support of designation. **The written statement must show how the proposed designation meets one or more of the designation criteria (Section 16-38 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance) and address the following items.** Contributing structures do not need to individually meet one or more criteria. However, they collectively may satisfy one or more of the criteria.

Please see the attached narrative,

Peoria County, IL

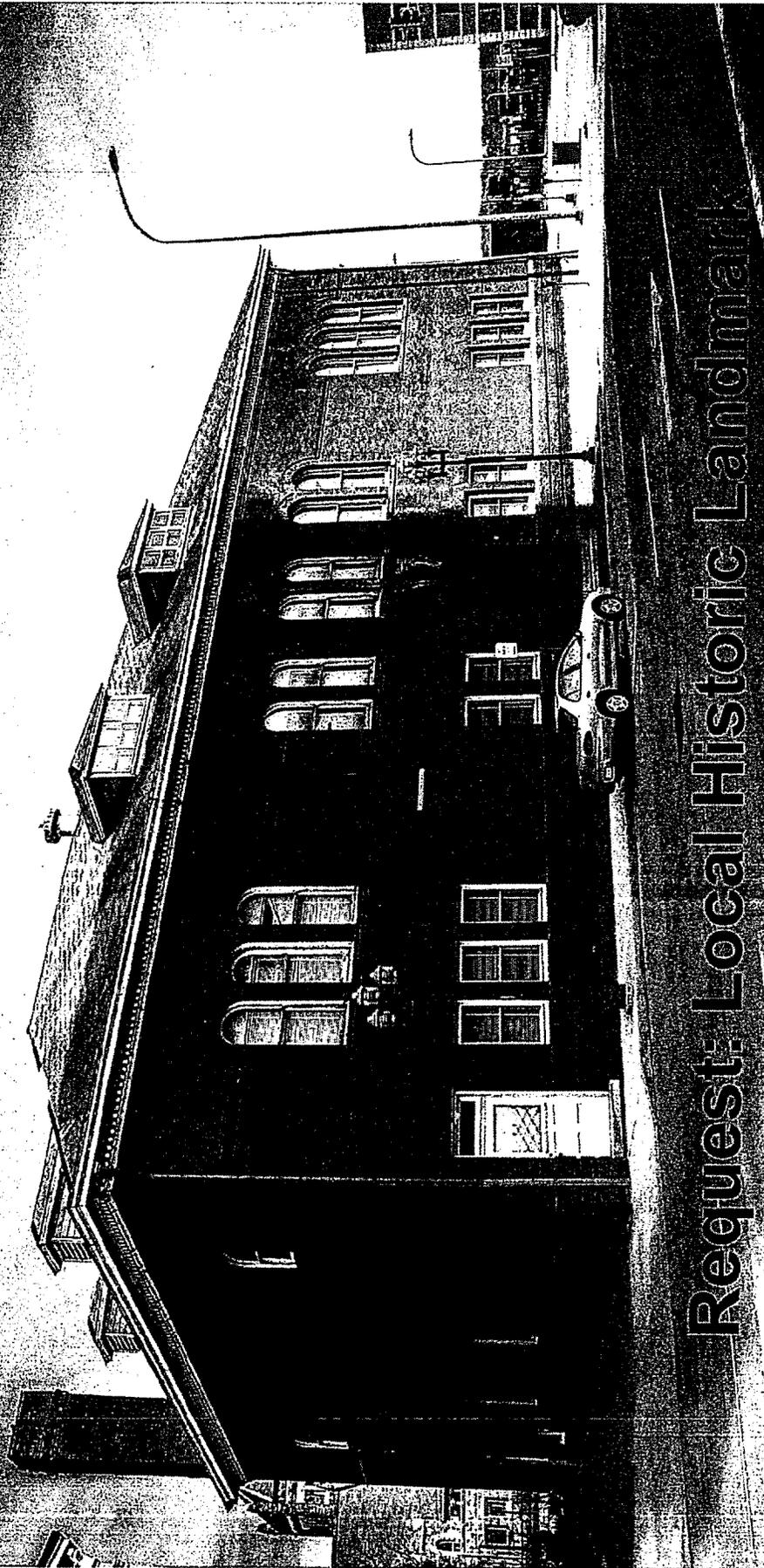


Parcel ID	1809226001	Total Living Area Sq. Ft.	0
Property Address	301 NE MADISON AVE	Main Living Area Sq. Ft.	0
City	PEORIA	Bedrooms	0
State	IL	Basement Sq. Ft.	0
Zip	61603	Finished Basement Sq. Ft.	0
Tax Code	120	Recreation Area Sq. Ft.	0
Property Type		Air Conditioning (Yes or No)	
Neighborhood Number	657	Fire Places	0
Calculated Lot Size	0.15	Attached Garage Sq. Ft.	0
House Style		Detached Garage Sq. Ft.	0
Stories		Grade	
Exterior Construction		Condition	
Year Built	0	Land Assessment	\$19,130
Effective Year Built	0	Building Assessment	\$21,660
Full Baths	0	Total Assessment	\$40,790
Half Baths	0		

Disclaimer: Data is provided 'as is' without warranty or any representation of accuracy, timeliness or completeness. The burden for determining fitness for, or the appropriateness for use, rests solely on the requester. The requester acknowledges and accepts the limitations of the Data, including the fact that the Data is in a constant state of maintenance. This website is NOT intended to be used for legal litigation or boundary disputes and is informational only. -Peoria County GIS Division

Map Scale
1 inch = 81 feet
 2/18/2013

Peoria Women's Club



Request: Local Historic Landmark

301 NE Madison Avenue at Fayette St.

Physical and Historical Characteristics Narrative

Local Historic Landmark Application: Peoria Women's Club

Criterion 1: Its character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the city, the county, the state, or the United States of America deems it historically significant.

Peoria Women's Club, with its clubhouse and recital hall, became a cultural center. PWC is generally regarded as the "parent" club of most of the major organizations in the social and cultural life of Peoria: the Women's Civic Federation, Amateur Musical Club, Peoria Players, which debuted on the exceptional "raked" stage in 1919, and other early drama/art groups. The Women's Club also played a role in the creation of Lakeview Museum. The original charter under which the early Ladies Art Society (subsequently Peoria Women's Club) was formed was also used to merge with the Men's Sketch Club and create the forerunner to the Peoria Art Guild. It became and continues to this day a key player in the cultural identity of Peoria. The music hall was constructed at a time when the city needed a place to present performances, stage plays, and offer lectures. The Peoria Symphony Orchestra gave its concerts and introduced its artists in an auditorium thought to have virtually perfect acoustics. In its heyday, Peoria Women's Club hosted renowned guests like Victor Hugo of Les Miserables fame, Illinois' native son and poet laureate, Carl Sandburg, Ethel Barrymore, and Julia Ward Howe, author of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." The theater took in patrons and guests to listen to Shakespeare, Chopin, or lectures as diverse as nutrition, public affairs, weaving, or Russian history—all to perpetuate the traditions created by the charter members in 1886 and honor the Peoria Women's Club wish to share the heritage of music, literature, and art.

The group also had an impressive social conscience and made a number of significant contributions in the following areas:

1. Creating a special fund to promote better conditions, hours, and wages for working women
2. Petitioning legislators for improved child labor laws
3. Subsidizing skill training for blind adults through its Social Service Department and lobbying Springfield for passage of a state law assuring the care and instruction of blind children of pre-school age
4. Working through its Protective Agency for Women and Children to secure legal rights for women and minors, advocating for the appointment of the first local police matron, securing a truant officer for schools, and passing legislation to prohibit expectoration in streetcars and on sidewalks
5. Instituting travelers' aid at railway stations
6. Placing a woman on the school board, starting kindergartens in public schools, and establishing a traveling library that sent books to surrounding towns where such advantages were not available
7. Lobbying successfully in Springfield for more humane treatment of the mentally ill, which eventually resulted in the construction of the state hospital in Bartonville in 1898
8. Selling bonds during World War I, aiding the Red Cross by tirelessly sewing surgical dressings, and opening the first ARC blood bank in the area
9. Furnishing rooms at local hospitals, starting the Meals-on-Wheels program for the hungry, and awarding scholarships for the underprivileged
10. Loaning the clubhouse to the City of Peoria for hospital use during the post-war 1918 influenza pandemic and working courageously to nurse the afflicted

Physical and Historical Characteristics Narrative

Local Historic Landmark Application: Peoria Women's Club

11. Forming the Peoria County Federation of Women's Clubs and then the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs to enlist statewide cooperation of women and women's clubs for social causes

Criterion 3: Its identification with a person who significantly contributed to the development of the city, the state, or the nation.

Peoria Women's Club signed its charter in 1886, and it was officially incorporated on July 8, 1890, as a non-profit, charitable, educational organization with a truly remarkable woman as president. It was the outgrowth of a much earlier mid 1870s women's organization, the Ladies Art Society, with Mrs. Clara Parsons Bourland the galvanizing force behind its inception. Clara Bourland's vision was to form a club for "thoughtful and progressive" women at a time in traditional 19th century American society when many looked askance at activities that took females away from hearth and home. She imbued her own values of education and culture in the early club's mission, and by the time the Women's Club itself evolved, it was to become a fundamental pioneer that made its influence felt throughout every phase of the Peoria community—civic, intellectual, artistic, philanthropic, and social. Clara Bourland was an activist and an advocate, unusual for her time, with the energy and determination to create a serious club for women in Peoria which would embody intellectual excellence, the pursuit of learning, promotion of the arts, and service to society on a broad scale. She served as PWC's president for twenty-five years and as president-emeritus for the rest of her life. She brought value to the concept of women in active leadership roles years before they finally acquired the right to vote in 1920. Her death on October 10, 1929 made front page news in the Peoria Star, while her obituary in the Peoria Transcript indicated that, "she maintained a social authority and a civic influence for almost half a century ..."

Criterion 4. Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction or use of indigenous materials.

This Romanesque Revival styled building is best characterized by the use of the semi-circular Roman arch over the entry and the second floor windows. Unlike other buildings of the same style in Peoria that have been altered, this one remains as it was at the time of its construction and is more subdued than the more flamboyant Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style Cornerstone Building located across I-74. Lake Superior sandstone encircles the slate-roofed, red brick Peoria Women's Club at the foundation and at the first floor window sills. Set-out tapered bricks frame window arches and two entrance portals. In the main doorway, over wrought iron gates, ornamental iron scrollwork encompasses the cut-out inscription. Unusually wide doors display leaded, beveled-glass windows above wood panels.

Physical and Historical Characteristics Narrative

Local Historic Landmark Application: Peoria Women's Club

Criterion 5. Its identification as the work of a master builder designer, architect, or landscape architect whose individual work has influenced the development of the city, the state, or the nation.

The Peoria Women's Club was designed by the firm of Jenney & Mundie of Chicago. William LeBaron Jenney was educated as an architect and engineer, having studied at Harvard and the Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures in Paris, where he had as a fellow classmate the famous Gustave Eiffel. As an engineer, "he absorbed a philosophy which first of all advocated economy, simplicity and structural awareness and theorized that aesthetic beauty would naturally result once practical considerations were rationally satisfied. More importantly, Jenney learned a working methodology to implement and realize this outlook." (Commission on Chicago Landmarks, Preliminary Summary of Information on the Ludington Building, pg 2.)

Jenney tackled the problem of the tall building, how to make it less of a masonry mass and how to provide more light to the interior of the building. Through experimentation with cast and wrought iron and steel, he was able to transfer support of buildings from the load bearing exterior masonry walls to an interior load bearing steel frame, allowing for a curtain-wall façade with large areas of windows. Jenney is acknowledged to be the "Father of the American Skyscraper," and the "Father of the Chicago School of Architecture." His office was the training ground for many young architects who would later become internationally known for designing tall steel framed buildings. Among those trained in his office were Daniel H. Burnham, John W. Root, Louis Sullivan, Martin Holabird, and William Roche. Peoria's first tall steel frame building, the 1904 Schipper and Block store at 124 S.W. Adams was designed by Holabird & Roche. D. H. Burnham & Co. designed the Central Building at Main and S.W. Adams Streets in 1913. In 1908, the firm of Jenney, Mundie & Jensen designed the Jefferson Building at S.W. Jefferson and Fulton Streets. Now known as the Civic Center Plaza, at its time it was the biggest building in Peoria.

Criterion 6. Its embodiment of elements of design, detailing, or craftsmanship that render it architecturally significant.

As an engineer, Jenney was more concerned with structure rather than ornament on his buildings as mentioned above. Where ornament is used, it is kept to a minimum as seen in the simple treatment of the headers over the first floor windows and the "blocks" of the arch at the main entry. The only other design element on the exterior is the horizontal string course of brick that is slightly raised from the façade that runs around the entire building about 2/3rds of the way up on the second floor. This raised string course outlines the arches of the second floor windows and provides a counterpoint to the two recessed courses the divide the base of the building in to three wide horizontal bands, thus giving the façade of the building a good sense of proportion.

Physical and Historical Characteristics Narrative

Local Historic Landmark Application: Peoria Women's Club

Criterion 8: Its unique location or singular physical characteristics that make it an established or familiar visual feature.

In 1891, property located at the corner of Fayette Street and Madison Avenue was purchased by Peoria Women's Club from the First Baptist Church for \$7,500. The club formed a stock company, sold \$10 shares mostly to its own members (in the form of a donation), but also to some public-spirited citizens, and amassed enough capital to design and build the two-story approximately \$46,000 structure. Originally, only a modest structure was planned, but the need in Peoria for a concert and lecture hall was so apparent that PWC assumed additional debt to build what is seen today. The cornerstone was laid on May 22, 1893, for a "handsome and commodious" building whose architecture was meant "as giving the idea of strength and steadfastness." The architects were Jenney and Mundie, and the contractors were John L. Flinn and Frank Hasbrouck. (William LeBaron Jenney is credited with the invention of the skyscraper.) It is the oldest standing club in Peoria, older even than the original men-only Creve Coeur Club, started a year after PWC dedicated its downtown building on January 5, 1894. Further, as the century came to a close, it was only the second women's club in the U.S. and felt to be the first one in the entire country to actually be owned by its members.

Peoria Women's Club is a massive red brick building, with ornamental wrought iron gates at the Fayette Street entrance created by A. Lucas & Sons, beautiful woodwork, high ceilings in spacious rooms, and an impressive 453-seat acoustically ideal upstairs theater. This enduring landmark, still standing unchanged in modern downtown Peoria almost 120 years after its construction, remains a testament to the club's foresight and dedication to excellence, and its efforts to educate, spread culture, and encourage philanthropy.

Criterion 9. Its character as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure with a high level of integrity or architectural significance.

Since Peoria Women's Club has not been altered since its construction in 1893, its integrity has been maintained. There are few buildings in Peoria of similar age that have not been added to, remodeled, or muddled in some way or another. When Jenney designed this prim and proper building for a group of prim and proper ladies, he was America's most well-known architect and at the height of his career.

Criterion 10: Owner(s) consent

Please see attached Letter of Consent, signed by Peoria Women's Club President, Mary Ann Armbruster, February 18, 2013

Peoria Women's Club

February 18, 2013

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Letter of Consent, Peoria Women's Club, Local Historic Landmark application

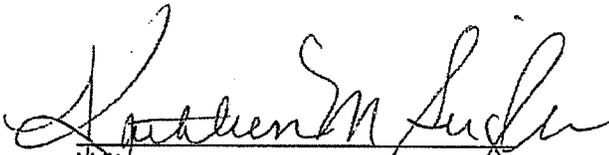
This letter is intended to confirm that the Peoria Women's Club, owners of record for the building at 301 NE Madison Avenue, Property ID 1809226001, hereby consent to designating their building as a Local Historic Landmark.

Last year, the Peoria Women's Club voted unanimously to apply for landmarking their property and requested help and guidance from the Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation (CILF) in submitting the application.

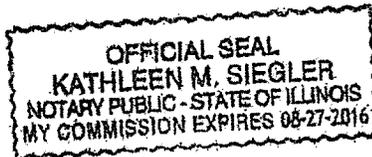
Sincerely,



Mary Ann Armbruster, President
Peoria Women's Club



Witness
Notary 2-18-2013



cc: Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation