

APPLICATION OF DESIGNATION
AS
LANDMARK OR HISTORIC DISTRICT
PEORIA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



Pursuant to Chapter 16, Article IV, Section 16-86 of the Code of the City of Peoria, Illinois, I submit the following:

A. Name(s) and address(es) of the owner(s) of property proposed for designation:

NAME

ADDRESS

18-09-136-016

Peoria Musicians Club, Inc.

405 N. Monson Street

(Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporation)

Peoria, IL 61605

B. Legal description and common street address(es) of the property proposed for designation:

Peoria Musicians Club (Historic - Cumberland Presbyterian Church)

405 N. Monson Street, Peoria, IL 61605

Part of Lots 1 and 2 in Block 48 in Monson and Sanford's Addition to the City of Peoria more particularly described as follows, to wit; commencing at a point on Monson Street 50 ft. south of the northeast corner of the said Lot 1; running thence south along the line of said Lot 1 on Monson Street 50 ft.; thence west 100 ft.; thence north along the west line of said Lot 2, a distance of 50 ft.; thence east, 100 ft. to the place of beginning; situated in Peoria County, Illinois.

C. A map delineating the boundaries and location of the property proposed for designation (attached).

D. Written statement describing the property and setting forth reasons in support of the designation proposed (attached).

E. \$50.00 application fee unless application submitted by an approved neighborhood association.

Submitted by: Peoria Musicians Club, Inc.

April 14, 1994

KUMPH BLVD.

Date

405 N. ~~Monson~~ Street

674-0507

Street Address

Phone

Peoria, IL 61605

City, State, Zip Code

**APPLICATION OF DESIGNATION AS LANDMARK
PEORIA MUSICIANS CLUB (CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH)**

- C. Written statement describing the property and setting forth reasons in support of the designation proposed.

DESCRIPTION

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church sits back from the public sidewalk about 15 feet. It occupies almost the full width of its site. The building is rectangular and is approximately 36 feet wide and 70 feet long, including the rear addition.

The church building is one floor with a small basement just large enough for a furnace. The ceiling of the first floor is flat, thus creating an attic space in the gable.

The building is a masonry bearing wall structure. The painted brick walls are approximately 20 feet from grade to eave line.

The main entrance is by double doors in the street or east elevation. This entrance is in the exact center of the east wall and enhanced with a transom consisting of three equal panes of glass. The door is flanked by wood pilasters topped with a simple wood frieze and pediment. This frieze and pediment over the entrance doors may not be the original door trim. (The wood trim and entrance doors were renovated in 1984.)

On each side of the east elevation are double pilasters about 24" wide and set out from the front wall 4".

The pilasters are of brick and capped with wood mouldings forming a simple capital which appears to have Tuscan influences.

The most outstanding feature of the front elevation is the pediment moulding's forming the eaves and cornice of the front gable. The heavy shadow created by the protruding eave and moulding follows the Greek Revival details.

The north and south elevations each have three large windows divided by heavy vertical and horizontal members that recall the proportions of the Christian cross. This "cross" divides the window into an upper portion having 16 panes; 4 across and 2 vertically. The lower two thirds of the window has four panes across and four vertically for a total of sixteen panes. The stone lintels and sills are still in good condition. The windows are completely covered on the interior with plywood paneling. (The windows were completely repaired and restored in 1986.)

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PEORIA MUSICIANS CLUB (CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH)
(Cont.)

The most intriguing part of the interior can only be seen in the attic. It is the roof trusses that are approximately 10 feet on center and span the 32 foot clear span of the building. The trusses are constructed of 5" x 12" solid timber members in the top chords and queen posts. The bottom chord is built up from three full size 2 x 12's spiked together. The queen posts are secured to the bottom chord with iron straps. The top chord rests in a notch on the side of the post. The truss is flat across the top between the queen posts. This top chord is also 5 x 12 and notched into the posts on each end. The trusses are tied together at the eave line and just above the queen posts with 4 x 6 solid timber purlins. The roof rafters, 2 x 12 24" o.c., rest on the purlins.

Some time in the early 1900's or late 1800's, a small addition was added to the rear of the building. It is a lower structure than the original building with a simple low gable roof. Roof trusses bear on the exterior brick walls. The trusses are built up from full 2" wide members to form an "A" truss with two cross members or collars. These trusses are approximately 48" o.c.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church, now the Musicians' Union Building, is significant as Peoria's oldest standing church building. The city's first growth from being a riverfront town was to the south along the river with industry on the water's edge and residential areas between the river and bluff about a mile away.

This building, formerly the home of four of Peoria's early church congregations, was built in 1856.

This Greek Revival Style building was first used by the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In 1863 it became the St. John's Episcopal Church and in 1875 it was purchased by the First German Baptist Church, which was predecessor to the present North Sheridan Baptist Church of Peoria. In 1897 the building was purchased by Agudas Achim Congregation, which used it until 1911, when it was briefly used by YMCA trustees as a training school for black youth.

Since 1913, it has belonged to Musicians' Union Local 26 and thus, it can be said that since its construction, the building literally and figuratively has served as a center of community life since the year of its construction, 1856.

The Greek Revival architecture of the building reflects the movement of this style across the nation through the 1830's and into the 1850's. Its rather severe exterior remains, with minor alterations, as it was originally designed with a strong pediment and cornices, and double pilasters at each corner of the front of the building. All are basic features of Greek Revival.

Constructed of brick and wood trim, the Church is also one of the earliest of Peoria-area structures to be of masonry construction and is Peoria's oldest standing church building. In addition, very few Greek Revival style buildings remain in Central Illinois.