

APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION
as
LANDMARK OR HISTORIC DISTRICT

PEORIA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Article III, Sec. 9-8 of Ordinance No. 11,990, I submit the following:

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

Name

Address

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MEMORIAL HALL (G.A.R. HALL)
ALSO KNOWN AS THE GREENHUT MEMORIAL

1/0 MR. ROLAND LITTERST

525 PEORIA SAVINGS PLAZA

PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61602

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

416 HAMILTON BOULEVARD, PEORIA, ILL. 61602

ORIGINAL TOWN OF PEORIA N.E. QUARTER SECTION 9

RANGE 8N 8E PART OF LOTS 4 AND 5 BLOCK 15

- 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).

Submitted by:

Veronica Taylor
3117 N. Sheridan
Address

1/29/93
Date
685 9658
Phone



GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MEMORIAL HALL
416 HAMILTON BOULEVARD,
PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61602

APPLICATION FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION

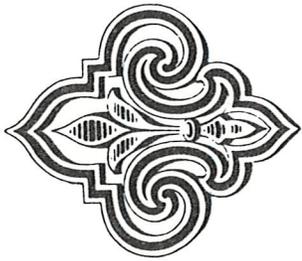
TO COMMISSIONERS OF THE PRESERVATION COMMISSION, MAYOR JAMES
MALOOF, MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND WAYNE ANTHONY

The GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MEMORIAL HALL, also known as the GREENHUT MEMORIAL HALL, exemplifies outstanding architectural and historical significance. It was designed by Hewitt and Emerson, Peoria Architects, for use by Civil War Veterans on a parcel of 50' x 80' of land. It was constructed in 1909 and the architecture is Beau Arts Style. The front facade of the building is composed of Bedford stone and Danville Brick, while the remainder of the building is of Danville brick, dominated by two corinthian columns and a cathedral window.

The entrance is flanked by a 7,000 pound muzzle loading cannon and a pyramid of cannon balls, each weighing 110 pounds.

The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall is on the National Register of Historic Places and also has been marked with an Oval Symbolic Marker by the Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation.

This information has been abstracted from the attached Central Illinois Landmarks brochure and from the National Register application.



INFORMATION

The small auditorium is suitable for plays, concerts, movies, seminars, lectures, and other similar activities. The acoustics of the auditorium have been pronounced "excellent" by local musicians. The walls of the auditorium give ample space for exhibits.

The fact that this fine small auditorium is in the heart of the Central Business Area is an asset in that it is within walking distance of thousands of potential users who work and use the Central Business Area every day.

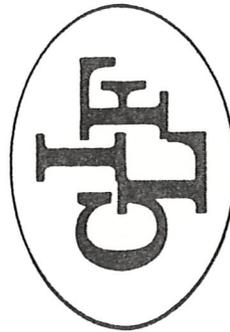
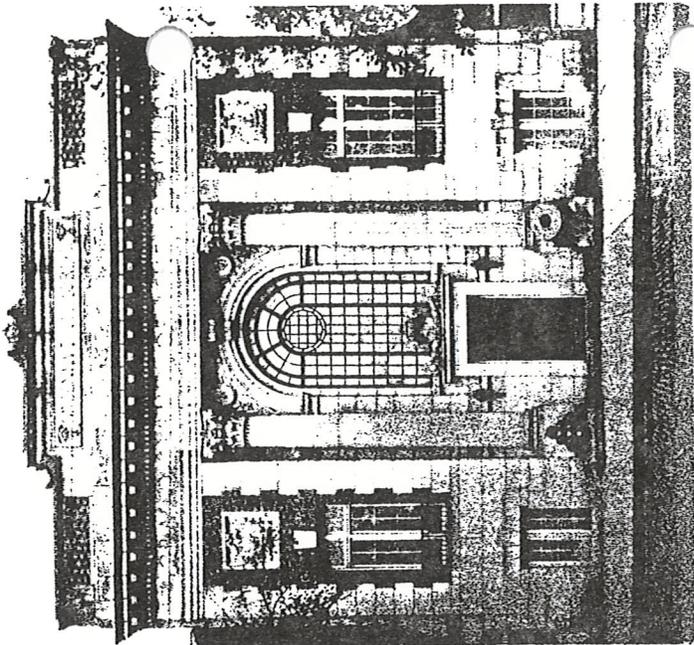


For information on rates and availability contact:

Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation
Post Office Box 495
Peoria, Illinois 61651

Telephone 309/674-7121

The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall



CENTRAL ILLINOIS
LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

The
Central Illinois
Landmarks
Foundation

P.O. BOX 495
PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61651

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Peoria, IL 61601
PERMIT NO. 132

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

The Grand Army of the Republic was organized with Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson (Surgeon, 14th Illinois Infantry) considered the principal leader of the group of veterans who were responsible for the new society.

Until 1869, the local groups in Illinois and Indiana were primarily campaign clubs for the Radical Republicans, but after 1869, the organization spread into the rest of the country and became largely fraternal in nature. The Hall, known as the Greenhut Memorial Hall of G.A.R. Hall, was dedicated on December 30, 1909, and named for Captain Joseph B. Greenhut, who had organized and led his own Company of infantry in the Civil War.

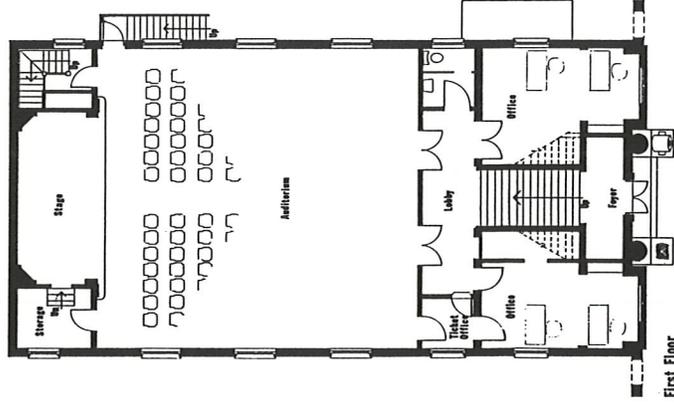
Capt. Greenhut was a prominent early Peorian and wealthy New York businessman. He contributed \$14,000 towards the Hall which at the time of its construction cost \$22,000 for the building and land.

The Greenhut Memorial Hall continued to serve the G.A.R. until 1965 when the last Civil War veteran died.

The restoration of the G.A.R. Hall would not have been possible without the many contributions from the many people of this area.

THE RESTORATION EFFORT

On September 14, 1972, The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall, on Hamilton Boulevard, just off Court House Square, in Peoria, was turned over to the Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation for management and restoration.



The G.A.R. Hall's first floor contains an auditorium with a stage and two small dressing rooms, a lobby outside the auditorium, two coat rooms, and public lavatories. The capacity of the auditorium is approximately 150 persons.

The lower level is currently undergoing restoration.

Contributions to assist in the continuation of the restoration effort can be made to The Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation, Post Office Box 495, Peoria, Illinois 61651.

The G.A.R. Hall was placed on the National Register of Historic Sites on July 13, 1976.

ARCHITECTURAL NOTES

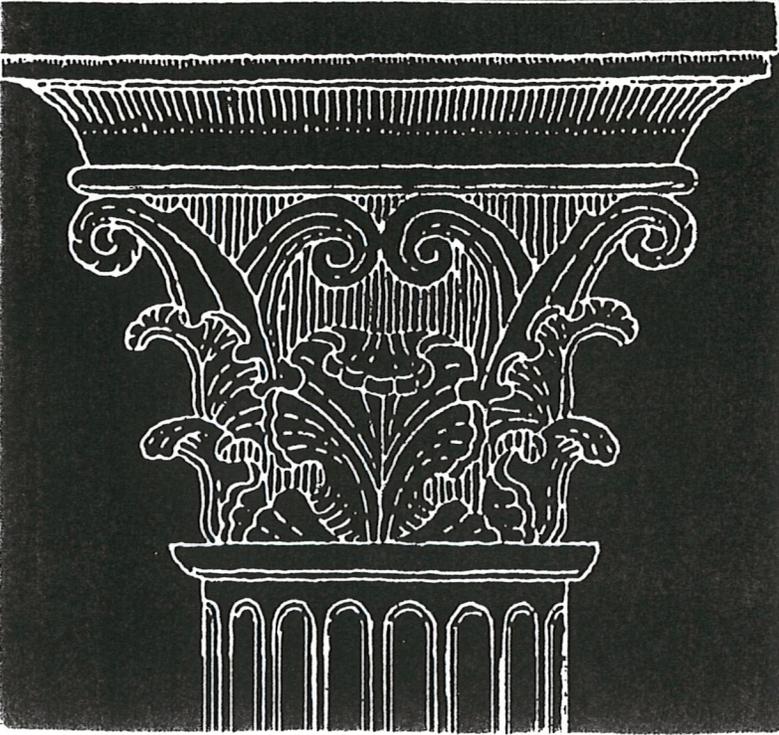
The Grand Army of the Republic Hall was constructed in 1909. The architecture is Beaux Arts Style.

A two-story building was designed by Hewitt and Emerson, A Peoria architectural firm that later designed the Peoria Life Insurance Building (now The First National Bank of Peoria).

Hewitt is said to have researched ideas for the buildings both in Europe and America.

It's front is Bedford stone and Danvian brick, dominated by two large Corinthian columns and a cathedral window. The G.A.R. emblem and eagles are sculpted into the stone and stained glass in some of the windows repeats the emblems.

Guarding the entrance are 7,000 pound muzzle loading cannon, of mortar, inscribed "No. 7 — 1862 — C.A. & Co. Boston" and a pyramid of cannon balls, each weighing 110 pounds.



The Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation was formed to aid in preservation and appreciation of historic structures in the area.

Too much of our priceless heritage has been irretrievably lost to the swing of the wrecking ball.

Officers and Board Members

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- Thomas Biederbeck, Vice President
- Gordon S. Peters, Treasurer
- Sharon McBride, Secretary
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- Joseph Heine
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Advisory Board Members

- F. M. Bourland
- Mrs. Walter Swardenski
- Armond Ciota
- Helen Ritter
- Paul Prutsman

Your 1988 membership is welcome

*Please mail to Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation
Post Office Box 495, 61651*

- Single membership -----\$ 15.00*
- Family membership -----\$ 25.00*
- Sponsor membership -----\$ 50.00*
- Patron membership -----\$100.00*

15 YEARS OF WINS AND LOSSES

1987

- Advocated the recycling of the Packard Building to the administration of both the City of Peoria and County of Peoria, decision pending

Foundation members joined with members of other civic groups to explore ways to save and recycle the historic Judge Gale House circa 1830, decision pending

Archive Committee held open house at the Public Library with an exhibit of some of the more outstanding architectural drawings from the archive

1986

- Formed a Buildings at Risk Committee to assist historic building owners

1985

- Lost pre-civil war house 1231 Hamilton Blvd to demolition by a church

- Established Architectural Archives for tri-county area

- Co-sponsored with the City of Peoria conference for developers of historic buildings

- Peoria Creamery terra cotta medallion recycled to Lakeview Library

- Historic Preservation T-shirts put on sale for Preservation week 85 & 86

1984

- Hosted the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois 4th annual conference

- Assisted the Mayor's Task Force for the Madison Theater recycling

- The Jacob Woolner house built in 1878 was razed after many efforts with the owner to recycle this fine Second Empire style house

1983

- G.A.R. Hall made available to Peoria Civic Ballet School

1982

- Hosted the State of Illinois Advisory Council on Historic Sites in G.A.R. Hall

- Compiled National Register application for the near North Side of Peoria, approved

- Published walking tour brochure for four areas of the city with historic sites

- Successful in preventing the razing of the Musicians Union Building (Peoria's oldest standing church building built in 1856) by arranging a meeting between the City Council and the Board of the Union

1981

- With the City of Peoria and other groups a list of significant historic buildings was compiled for the Central Business Area

- Setup markers program for significant historic structures in the Tri-County Area

1980

- Joined with Preservation Alliance to recycle the Palace Theater, demolished

1979

- Completed restoration of the main level of the G.A.R. Hall with public contributed funds

1978

- Established walking tours of the historic areas in the city

1977

- Developed a continually growing membership roster

1976

- Applied for and received National Register listing for the G.A.R. Hall

1975

- Assisted the Roanoke Randolph district obtain City of Peoria Historical District Status

- Signed agreement with Family of the G.A.R. to allow restoration of and use of the G.A.R. Hall by the public

1972

- State of Illinois Charter applied for and received establishing the Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation

All of the above could not have been possible without the continued and loyal support of you, the Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation membership. For this, we and our community are forever grateful

Board of Directors,
Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
ILLINOIS	
COUNTY	
PEORIA	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

THE G.A.R. HALL, CENTRALLY LOCATED IN PEORIA, IS AN IMPORTANT HISTORICAL BUILDING AND ALSO A VERY VIABLE STRUCTURE. IN THE RECENTLY PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF DOWNTOWN PEORIA, THE G.A.R. HALL HAS BEEN GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION AND INCLUDED IN THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN. PRESENTLY THE BUILDING IS HOUSING THE OFFICES FOR THE PEORIA BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE AND THE CENTRAL ILLINOIS CULTURAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM. FUTURE USES FOR THE BUILDING COULD INCLUDE SUCH ACTIVITIES AS; NOON HOUR CONCERTS, CHILDREN'S THEATRE, ART SHOWS AND EXHIBITS OF VARIOUS INTERESTS.

In terms of State wide significance the G.A.R. Hall provides a good example of an uncommon and disappearing style of architecture. Historically the building is significant for it's role as the focal point for the political activities of the Grand Army of the Republic in the post-Civil War period.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian; | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century. | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | lasophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

THE G.A.R. HALL IS A TRUELY UNIQUE MEMORIAL TO ALL THE AREA SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR. DEDICATED TO JOSEPH B. GREENHUT, WHO LED CAVALRY IN THE CIVIL WAR, IT WAS BUILT IN 1909 AND DEDICATED DEC. 30, 1910. MR. GREENHUT RAN A PEORIA DISTILLERY AND WAS LATER A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN IN NEW YORK. HE PERSONALLY DONATED 2/3 OF THE ORIGINAL COST OF \$22,000 FOR THE BUILDING. THE BUILDING WAS DEDICATED DEBT FREE.

THE HALL FLOURISHED FOR MANY YEARS WITH ACTIVITIES OF THE CIVIL WAR VETERANS AND VARIOUS GROUPS. SLOWLY, AS THE SOLDIERS BEGAN TO PASS AWAY, SO DID INTEREST IN THE HALL. THE BUILDING HAS UNDERGONE SOME HARDSHIPS IN RECENT YEARS.

PRESENTLY, THERE IS NO HEATING SYSTEM IN THE BUILDING SINCE THE CITY HAS DISCONTINUED THE USE OF STEAM HEAT.*

IN THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING MANY ARTIFACTS STILL REMAIN, A MARBLE BUST OF GENERAL JOHN A. LOGAN, FOUNDER OF G.A.R., RESTS ON A PODIUM AT THE TOP OF THE ENTRY STAIRS. THE MARBLE BUST IS BY FRITZ TRIEBEL, REKNOWNED SCULPTOR. VARIOUS PICTURES, PRINTS AND PAINTINGS OF CIVIL WAR EVENTS ARE HUNG THROUGHOUT THE AUDITORIUM. AREA CIVIL WAR VETERANS ARE ALSO PICTURED AND IDENTIFIED IN THE AUDITORIUM.

THE G.A.R. HALL WAS THREATENED TO GO ON THE AUCTION BLOCK AND POSSIBLE DESTRUCTION WHEN THE CENTRAL ILLINOIS LANDMARK FOUNDATION LEASED THE STRUCTURE, SAVING IT FROM DESTRUCTION. THE LEASE IS LONG-TERM AND RENEWABLE AND ALLOWS PUBLIC USE OF THE HALL FOR ALL TIME IN FUTURE. THE COMMITTEE HAS DECLARED THE RESTORATION OF THE G.A.R. HALL ITS OFFICIAL BIGENTENNIAL PROJECT. ITS FIRST PRIORITY IS TO HAVE HEAT INSTALLED IN THE BUILDING TO PREVENT DAMAGE FROM ANOTHER WINTER TO THE BUILDING FROM FREEZING AND THAWING. AS FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE, THE COMMITTEE PLANS A COMPLETE PRESERVATION OF THE STRUCTURE. FUNDING IS ENTIRELY FROM DONATIONS AND IS UNDERWAY AT THIS TIME.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

* CONDITION IN 1990

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

THE G.A.R. HALL, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, ALSO KNOWN AS THE GREENHUT MEMORIAL, IS LOCATED AT 416 HAMILTON BLVD. THE STRUCTURE IS OF BEAUX ARTS style with a Roman influence. The HALL WAS BUILT FOR THE USE OF CIVIL WAR VETERANS ON A PARCEL OF GROUND 50' x 80'.

DESIGNED BY HEWITT AND EMERSON, PEORIA ARCHITECTS, THE G.A.R. HALL WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1909 AT A COST OF \$22,000, INCLUDING LAND. THE BUILDING IS A TWO STORY STRUCTURE WITH THE BASEMENT LEVEL PARTIALLY RAISED ABOVE GROUND LEVEL, CREATING A SPLIT LEVEL ENTRANCE FOYER. THE FRONT FACADE OF THE BUILDING IS COMPOSED OF BEDFORD STONE AND DANVILLE BRICK, WHILE THE REMAINDER OF THE BUILDING IS DANVILLE BRICK. A GABLED ROOF COVERS THE MAIN PORTION OF THE BUILDING AND A FLAT ROOF COVERS THE ENTRANCE FOYER AND MAIN STAIRCASE. THE ROOF IS SUPPORTED BY HEAVY BEAMS AT 16" ON CENTER. A STAINED GLASS SKYLIGHT AND THREE GRAVITY VENTILATORS WERE ONCE PART OF THE CEILING OF THE AUDITORIUM, BUT IN LATER YEARS WERE REMOVED. IT IS HOPED THAT THE SKYLIGHT CAN BE RESTORED WHEN RECORDS OF ITS ORIGINAL DESIGN ARE FOUND.

THE BRICK AND STONE FACADE OF THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING IS DOMINATED BY TWO LARGE CORINTHIAN COLUMNS. A STONE PARAPET RISES ABOVE THE COLUMNS WITH STONE INSCRIPTIONS OF "GREENHUT MEMORIAL" AND "GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC" SEPARATED BY A STONE FREIZE OF DENTILS. THE TOP CENTER OF THE PARAPET ONCE HAD A FLAG STAFF THAT WAS WHERE THE ORNAMENTAL STONE PLATE STILL REMAINS. STONE QUOINS ARE FOUND IN THE CORNERS OF THE FRONT FACADE. A WIDE CENTRAL PORTAL DOMINATES THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING. THIS IS TOPPED WITH AN ORNAMENTAL LAUREL ROPE DRAPPED UNDER AN URN COMPOSED OF LIMESTONE. SURMOUNTED ABOVE THE ENTRYWAY IS A LARGE MEMORIAL STAINED GLASS ARCHED WINDOW WITH CLEAR GLASS CENTER INSERT. THE CENTER PANEL WAS DESTROYED BY A STORM. THE WINDOW HAS THE DATES "1861" AND "1865" INCORPORATED IN THE DESIGN AND THE G.A.R. EMBLEM. THE LARGE ARCHED WINDOWS AND DOUBLE ENTRY DOORS ARE NOT ORIGINALS. THE ORIGINAL LIGHT FIXTURES HAVE SINCE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ENTRANCEWAY. THE PANELS ON EACH SIDE OF THE ARCHED WINDOW ARE DECORATED WITH A STONE ROSETTE AND LEAF DESIGNS.

LARGE EAGLE WALL SCULPTURES, PERCHED ON CROSSED CANNONS ARE FOUND ABOVE THE CASEMENT TYPE DOORS OF THE FRONT FACADE. SMALLER SIMILAR WINDOWS ALLOW LIGHT TO PASS INTO THE ENGLISH BASEMENT AREA. STONE BUTTRESSES WITH DOORWAYS FLANK BOTH SIDES OF THE FRONT FACADE LEADING TO AREAWAYS. THE BUTTRESSES ARE CAPPED BY DECORATIVE STONE URNS AND AT ONE TIME THERE WERE WOOD DOORS IN THE DOORWAYS. A CIVIL WAR CANNON, DATED 1862, AND A PYRAMID OF CANNONBALLS, A GIFT FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, FLANK THE ENTRYWAY TO THE BUILDING.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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69)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

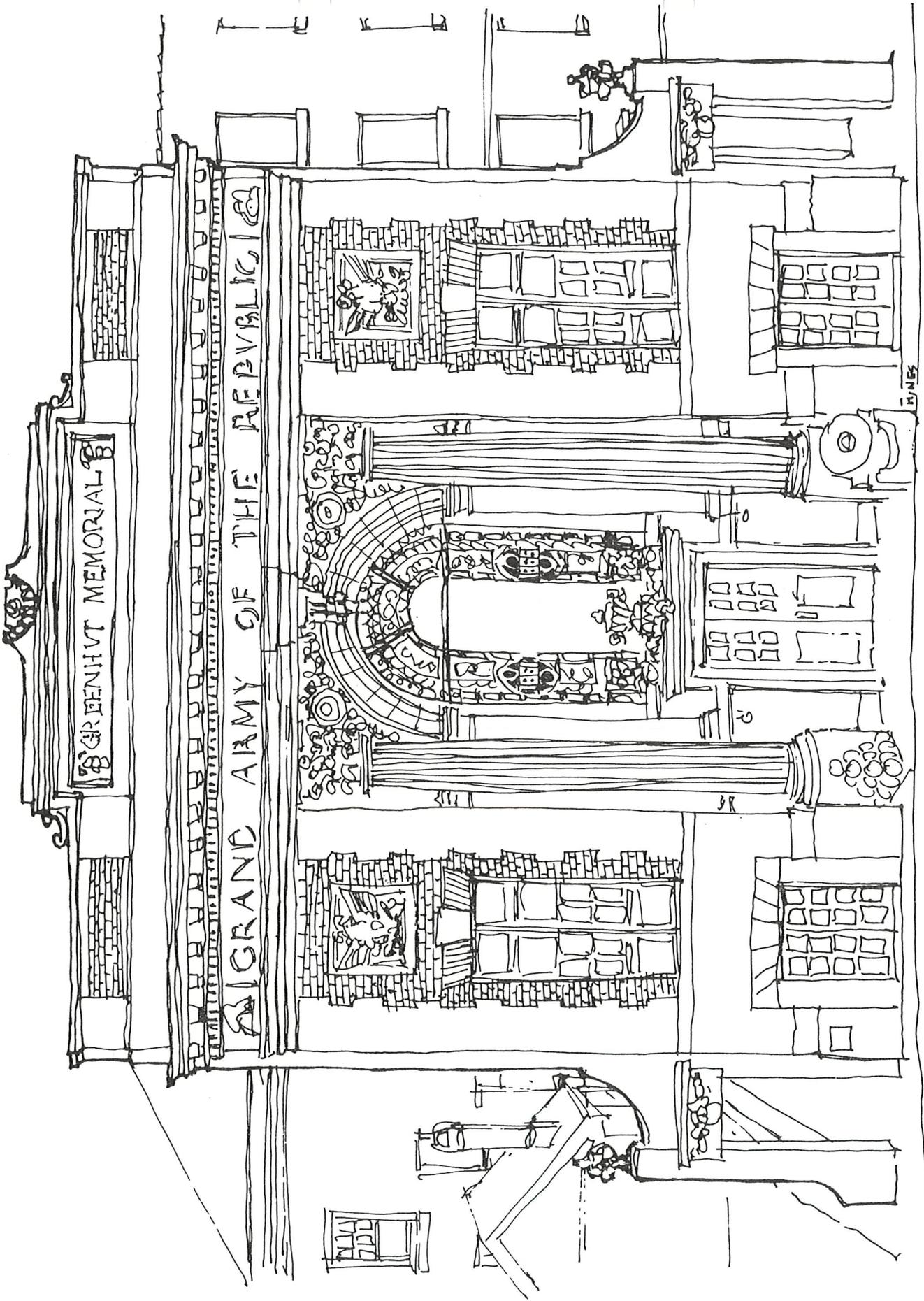
STATE	
ILLINOIS	
COUNTY	
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FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

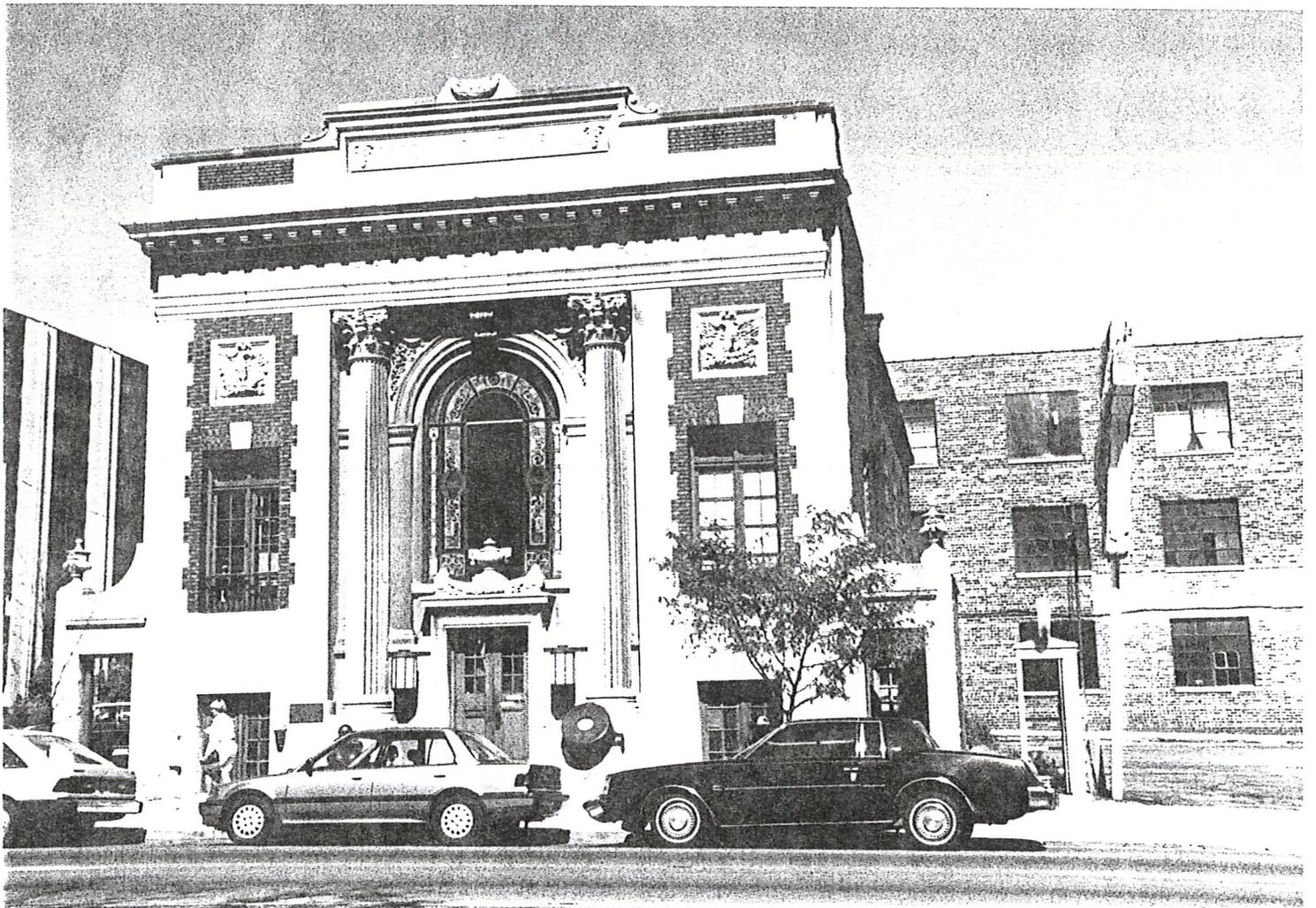
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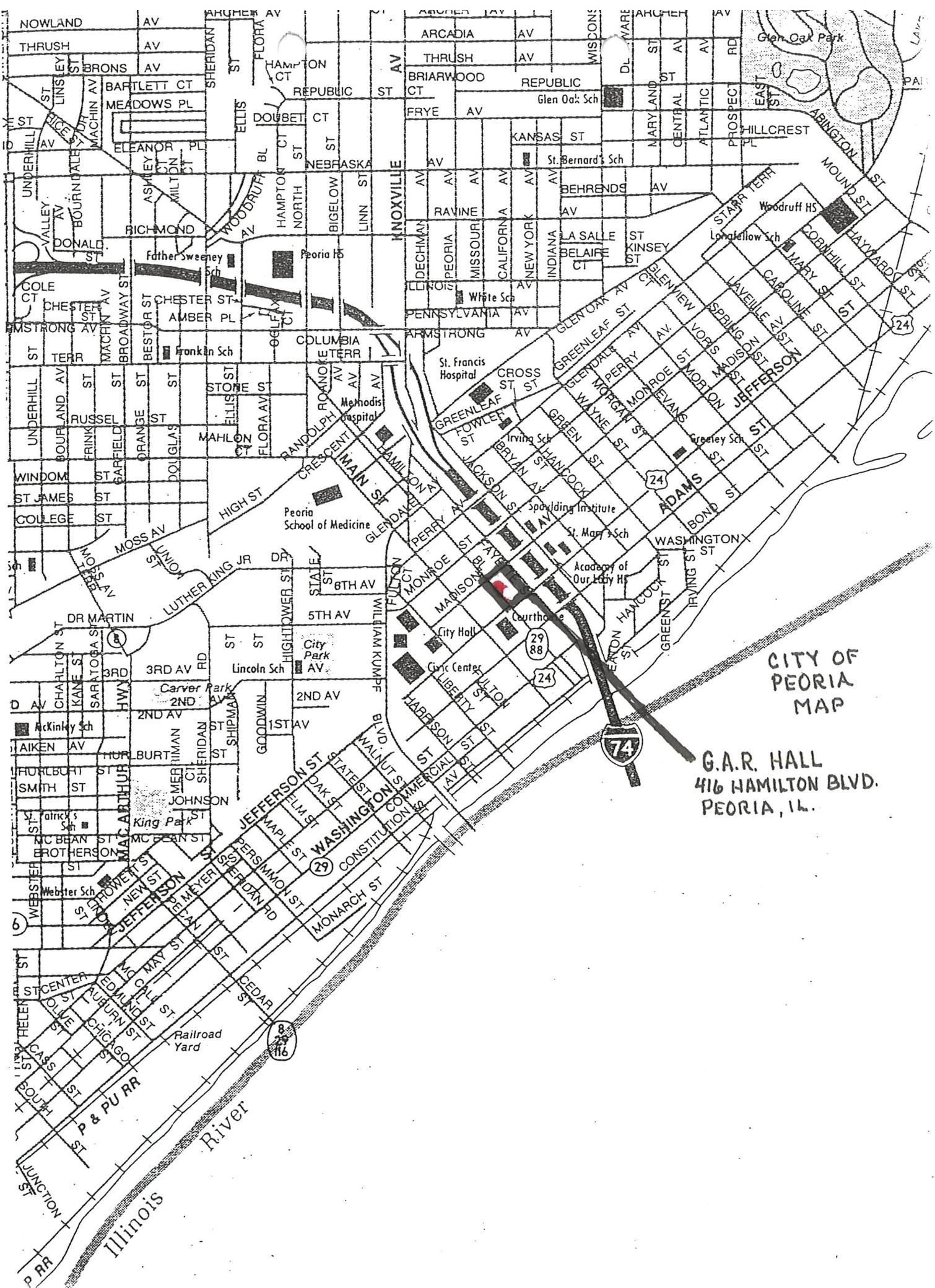
THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING IS DOMINATED BY A 35' x 45' AUDITORIUM AND ADJOINING STAGE ON THE MAIN FLOOR. IN THIS ROOM ARE SIX ARCHED STAINED GLASS WINDOWS. MANY OF THE WINDOWS HAVE BEEN DAMAGED AND ARE BADLY IN NEED OF REPAIR. THESE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS ARE ALSO NOT THE ORIGINAL WINDOWS. THEY WERE INSTALLED AS MEMORIALS. THE CEILING IS BEAMED AND ORIGINALLY HAD A STAINED GLASS SKYLIGHT.

THE ENTRANCE FOYER HAS A HIGH BARREL VAULTED PLASTERED CEILING, MOSAIC TILE FLOOR, AND OAK WAINSCOTING. OAK WOODWORK IS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE.

THE ENGLISH BASEMENT WAS USED AS A DINING ROOM AND KITCHEN AREA. IT HAS PLASTERED WALLS AND CEILINGS AND OAK CUPBOARDS. THE BASEMENT ALSO HAS A MEN'S CLUB ROOM AND SMOKING LOUNGE. THE LIGHT FIXTURES IN THE BUILDING ARE BRASS.







CITY OF
PEORIA
MAP

G.A.R. HALL
416 HAMILTON BLVD.
PEORIA, IL.

