

364

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

APR 04 1989

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Potter House
other names/site number 1906 - 7th Avenue

2. Location

street & number 1906 - 7th Avenue
city, town Rock Island
state Illinois code IL county Rock Island code 161 zip code 61201

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing (3), Noncontributing (0 buildings, 0 sites, 0 structures, 0 objects), Total (3)
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature]
Date: 3-16-89
State or Federal agency and bureau:

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official:
Date:
State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register. (checked)
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature]
Date of Action: 5/5/89

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling

Domestic: Secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling

Domestic: Hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and early 20th Century Revivals:

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Limestone

walls Stucco

Wood

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

POTTER HOUSE -- DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original Appearance

It is believed that the property retains its original appearance.

(See continuation sheet)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1

Potter House

Stylistic Details

The property known as the Potter House consists of three buildings -- a primary residential structure, a carriage house, and a servants house.

Located within the City of Rock Island, in the area known as "below the hill", the house sits along a major east-west thoroughfare on a bank that raises the house slightly (about four feet) above the street. Flanking the Potter House along the same street (7th Avenue) on the same bank are a row of large houses of varying architecture that were constructed between 1890 and 1910, creating one of Rock Island's premier residential boulevards.

The Potter House and its neighborhood sit just to the Southeast of Rock Island's Downtown and approximately seven blocks south of the Mississippi River. This, originally large, upper class neighborhood originally abutted the fashionable downtown section of Rock Island. Though the neighborhood has been reduced in size by the development of a somewhat run-down zone of transition around the downtown, the area of the Potter House retains most of its original upper-class feel and ambiance.

The main house, set back approximately 20 feet from both 7th Avenue and 19th Street, sits on the northwest corner of the property. Directly east of the main house on the northeast corner of the property nearly abutting the alley and set 20 feet back from 7th Avenue is the servants house. A broad grassed yard fronting on 7th Avenue lies between the main house and the servants house. On the southeast corner of the property abutting the alley and the south property line sits the carriage house. A driveway running between the south property line and the south facade of the main house connects the carriage house with 19th Street.

The main house has a rather unusual massing. It is primarily rectangular shaped with latitudinal alignment and a short wing extending off of the west end of the south facade. However, when viewed from the rear it appears to be "L" shaped with a three story central mass that is not visible from the front. A sun porch extends off of the south wing and another extends off of the east facade.

The main facade of the house faces 7th Avenue. Its main entrance is located symmetrically under a wall dormer which is located in the center of the main facade. (A sun porch extending approximately 20 feet off of the east facade and set back four feet from the front facade tends to give the front facade a rather asymmetrical appearance, however, the front facade is symmetrical.)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 2

Potter House

The roof dormer extending four feet from the center of the front facade frames the main entrance. The second floor extends over the front porch and a set of columns (non-load bearing) forms the visual connection between the extended wall dormer and the entrance. Large rounded steps lead up to the front entrance of the house. Two dormers puncture the roof on either side of the wall dormer.

The west facade of the house faces 19th Street. It is punctuated by the gable of the main roof and a dormer extending from the roof of the south wing. A bay extending from the ground to the eaves denotes the transition between the main section of the house and the south wing.

The south facade of the house is jumbled. It contains the south facade of the south wing, the porch that extends from the south wing, the angled facade of the three story mass noting the rear stairway, the south facade of the main mass of the house, and the south facade of the east sun porch.

The east facade of the house contains the east facade of the east sun porch on the first story, and the east facade of the main mass of the house on the second and third floors.

The overall architectural style of this house is Colonial Revival which has been blended with stylistic details from the Prairie School of architecture. The way the front facade of the house blends with the roof line and the roof dormers indicates a colonial style. There is a frieze with dentil work below the eaves. The entrance is typical of the Colonial Revival style. The windows themselves are Prairie Style leaded glass, with the lower sash having a single pane and the upper sash having nine panes. The portico is supported by Tuscan columns. On the west side of the house is a Palladian window. The other windows are typical of the Prairie Style, with the lower sash having a single pane of glass and the upper sash having nine panes. The exterior surface treatment is stucco with rough texture on the lower portion and smoother texture on the upper portion divided by molding. This too is characteristic of Prairie Style. The windows have recessed simulated fans or pediments above them. On the east side of the house the windows are arched.

The Floor Plan of the Potter House

Upon entering the house from its main (north) entrance one steps into a small alcove. Both the outer and inner doors of the alcove as well as the sidelights and transom around those doors contain large amounts of leaded glass. This leaded glass is in the Prairie style design found through out the house.

Once through the alcove one enters a "grand hallway" leading to the south. This hallway terminates three quarters of the way through the house at the main stair case. To the right of the hallway in the northwest corner of the house is a small parlor. Also to the right but in the center of the west half of the house is the dining room. The parlor and dining room are connected and each has a fireplace located back to back along the common wall. Another room on the west side of the house but located in

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 3

Potter House

the southwest corner is the kitchen. The kitchen is "L" shaped and tucked behind the stairway.

To the left of the hallway, on the east side of the house is the living room. It is an expansive room that occupies the entire east side of the house. The living room connects with the grand hallway via either of two sliding French doors located at the north and south ends of the common wall. Further to the east is the sun-porch. It too is an expansive space and is entered via doors located at the north and south ends of the common wall between the sun-porch and the dining room.

At the top of the main staircase is a large rectangular hallway/landing. All around this landing are doors leading to the house's bedrooms; an east (master) bedroom, a north bedroom, a northwest bedroom, and a west bedroom. Behind the stairs is another bedroom that originally served as a servant's bedroom.

The third floor has a similar floor plan except that the hallway/landing is larger and the bedrooms are smaller.

THE SERVANT'S HOUSE

The Servant's House is a very simple structure. It is of frame construction, one and one half stories tall and has a longitudinal gable main roof. The main structure is three bays long and two bays wide and has a small gable addition on the back and an extended hipped roof porch off of the front.

At first appearance the structure is a bungalow house. However, on closer observation it possesses none of the stylistic features that a bungalow should have (i.e. extended rafters, symmetry between main roof and porch lines, etc.). In fact, the structure pre-dates the bungalow style. Stylistically the servant's house would be described as "cottage vernacular".

The exact construction date of the servants house is unknown. Sanborn maps indicate that it pre-dates the main house and directories indicate that its construction date is ca. 1900. Between the time of its construction and the construction of the main house, the servant's house was a laborer's cottage. Between 1900 and 1907 there was another house similar to the servant's house just to its west and a somewhat larger but still rather nondescript house on the site of the main house. These two houses also served as laborer's quarters and were removed to make room for the Potter House.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 4

Potter House

THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

According to Sanborn maps the carriage house was constructed (or, possibly, moved to the site) at approximately the same time that the Potter House was built. It is a frame structure two stories tall with a longitudinal gable roof. Its most distinguishing features are wall dormers that protrude from the center of the roof on both the east and west sides of the north/south main gable. These wall dormers add enough height to the second floor loft to allow for its space to be used.

All four gable peaks are richly decorated with fishscale shingle to form sunbursts. There are full length windows in all four of the peaks as well as smaller eave windows on the furthest north and south bays to allow light to reach the corners of the loft. The entire loft is simply one large open room.

The original appearance of the ground floor is unknown. It, like the loft, is three bays long and two wide. At present the west facade has garage-type openings on both the north and center bays and no opening on the south bay.

It appears that the northernmost opening is original and has a three panelled sliding door (probably original) in it. However, it is unknown if the center opening is original or not. The opening for the center door is approximately four inches shorter than the northernmost opening and it is filled with a relatively new overhead door. Further, the opening does not sit symmetrically under the peak of the wall dormer; it is offset approximately six inches to the north.

There was never an opening in the south bay. This bay contains a bathroom, the furnace that heats both levels of the carriage house, a coal bunker, a small workshop, and the stairs leading up to the loft.

The interior of the northernmost two bays are essentially large open spaces.

The Potter House was designed by a local architect, George Stauduhar. Educated at the University of Illinois Academy and the College of Engineering, his practice in Rock Island at the turn-of-the-century is characterized by the range of architectural styles he employed in his numerous residential, religious, and public buildings. Stauduhar's eclecticism is indicative of architectural design in general during the late 19th and early 20th century. Rock Island buildings which he designed include St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Villa de Chantel, his own home at 1608 21st Street (1898), and the Wagner House at 904 23rd Street (1904).

Picture #2

Picture #1

7TH AVENUE

Picture #7

Picture #6

SERVANT'S HOUSE

PROPOSED DRIVE

Picture #9

MAIN HOUSE

Picture #5

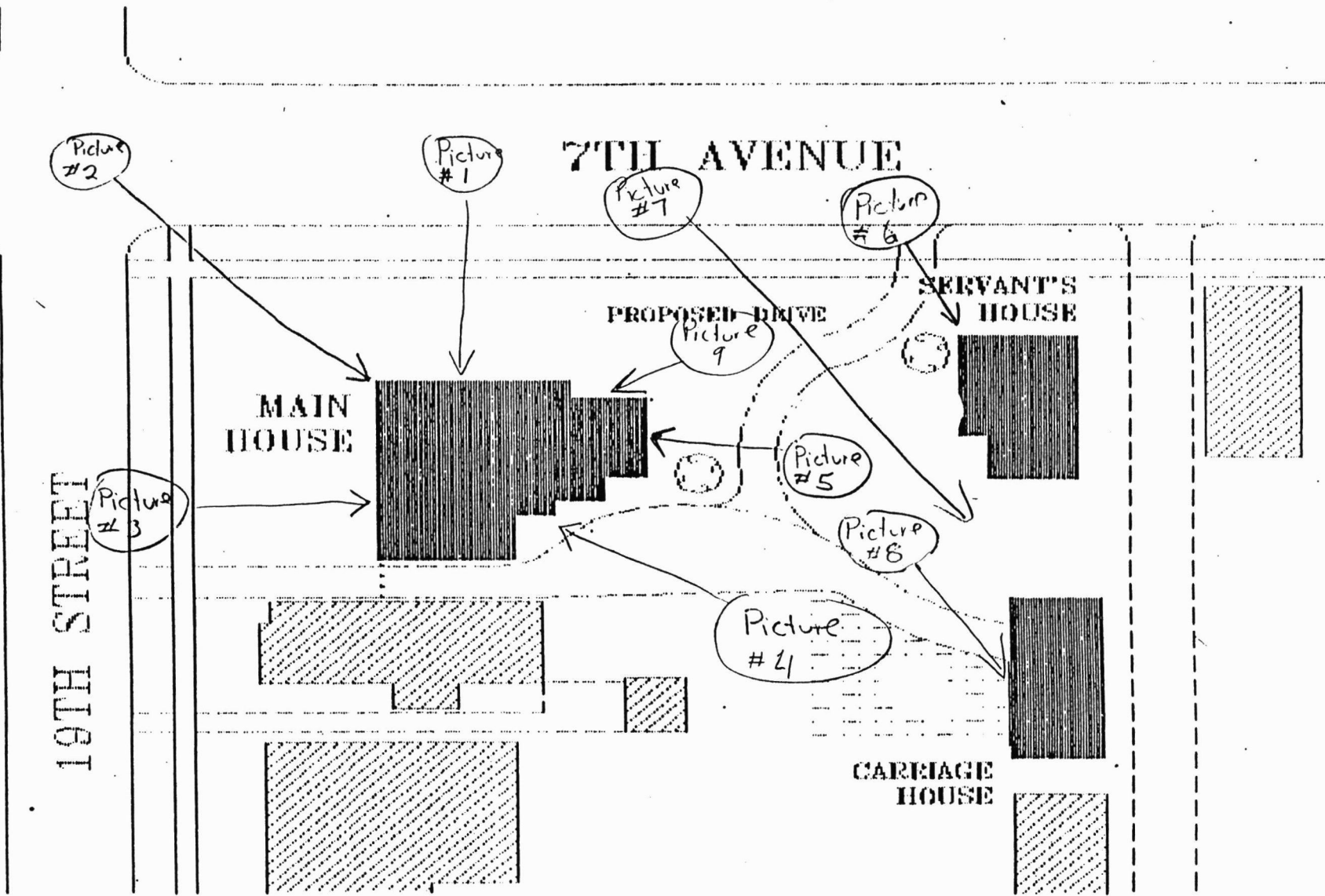
Picture #3

Picture #8

Picture #4

19TH STREET HIGH

CARRIAGE HOUSE



8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Communications

Period of Significance
1907 - 1936

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
Potter, Minnie

Architect/Builder
Stauduhar, George

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Potter House, due to its association with the Potter family and The Rock Island Argus newspaper is significant in the field of Communications primarily within the City of Rock Island, from the time of its construction in 1907 until 1936.

From its construction in 1907 until her death in 1936, the Potter House served as the home of Ms. Minnie Potter who, upon the death of her husband, John W. Potter II, guided The Rock Island Argus newspaper from a small newspaper with an uncertain future into a major local and regional newspaper with a secure future.

Though there were many newspapers in Rock Island, all of which started out with very insecure futures, The Argus was the only paper to survive to present times. It was under the reign of Minnie Potter that the last of The Argus's Rock Island rivals succumbed to the combination of economic difficulties and competition with The Argus. And it was The Argus under Minnie Potter that played a leading role in vanquishing one of the most notorious and infamous players in Rock Island history: John Looney. Thus The Argus was the sole chronicler of the history of the City AND was very intertwined in the City's history.

Therefore, the Potter House is significant in the area of Communications with/in the City of Rock Island in the years 1907 - 1936 and meets National Register Criteria "B".

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Potter House

The Rock Island Republican, later known as The Argus, was established in 1851. In its first 31 years it changed publishers 12 times. During its last 100 years, for all practical purposes, did not change publishers. (See Appendix 1, Discussion of the Publishers of the Argus)

Between 1851 and 1882 The Republican/Argus, in going through its changes of publishers, just barely survived. It went from a tri-weekly to a bi-weekly to a weekly to a daily and back several times depending upon the ability of the owner to secure ink, paper, and wages for any employees that they might have had. In 1881 financial difficulties forced the suspension of the paper. (See Appendix 2, Discussion of Newspapers in Rock Island and the Quad Cities)

In 1882, John W. Potter I, an Irish immigrant newspaper publisher from Freeport, Illinois purchased the bankrupt and virtually defunct Rock Island Argus for \$3200.00 and sent his son, John W. Potter II to run it and be its publisher. According to the December 31, 1925 edition of the Argus, "Little but the name was left to the Argus when Mr. Potter took charge of the publication, and the task of placing it on a paying basis was one which required a great amount of persistent effort and journalistic ability." The senior Potter died in 1885 and the junior Potter took over ownership of the paper in addition to his other duties, while his brother took control of the Freeport Bulletin, the Potter's old newspaper. (Records are unclear as to the identity of his mother or if there were any other brothers or sisters.)

From J. W. Potter II's ascension to the throne of The Argus until his death in 1898, The Argus went through a brief change from an evening publication to a morning publication and back, but as a whole enjoyed its first taste of stability and a measure of prosperity. However, its long-time survivability was far from certain. The Argus was still Rock Island's second paper, second to the far more wealthy and established Rock Island Union.

Upon the death of the junior Potter in 1898, the J. W. Potter Company was organized and until recent times published The Argus under that corporate name. Mr. Potter's widow, Mrs. J. W. (Minnie) Potter II, 32 years old at the time, organized the company and served as its president and thus, for all practical purposes, publisher from 1898 until her death in 1936.

In 1907 Minnie Potter commissioned Rock Island master architect, George Stauduhar to design the home of the Potter family. Once completed later that year, the entire Potters spent a great deal of their time there.

When Ms. Potter moved into the Potter House she brought three children with her: John W. Potter III, Ben, and Marguete.

Never re-marrying, she, with only the help of a servant/chauffeur who lived on the Potter House grounds, ran the operations of The Argus and raised three children.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Potter House

During her tenure as President of the publishing company and the de facto publisher, Minnie Potter instituted two measures that insured The Argus's longevity:

- 1) She steered The Argus away from the "political journalism" that was the trend in journalism in the early 20th Century, and
- 2) She instituted strict management and cost accounting policies to guide the actions of the Argus.

(The Argus was the first paper in the area to even claim to practice unbiased journalism.)

During the tenure of John W. Potter II as publisher, The Argus was the City's "Democratic" newspaper. (It was the advent of the Republican Party and the politics it followed which early publishers of The Argus abhorred that caused the name change from The Republican to The Argus sometime in the mid-1860's.) John W. Potter II continued to publish the paper with a definite tilt towards the Democratic Party's view of politics. Throughout Mr. Potter's tenure The Rock Island Union, Rock Island's leading newspaper, was published with a Republican tilt.

Apparently, when forced to choose between Republican Journalism and Democratic Journalism the people of Rock Island chose Republican Journalism; however, when forced to choose between Republican Journalism and unbiased journalism, the people of Rock Island chose unbiased journalism.

In 1898 The Argus had only about 400 subscribers. By 1900, The Argus had approximately 3000 subscribers. Unfortunately, no subscription records exist between 1900 and 1917, the year The Argus joined the Audit Bureau of Circulations. In 1917 Argus subscriptions totaled 7110; in 1920, 8448; in 1925, 11173.

Ms. Potter's strict financial controls allowed this increase in subscriptions to be translated into increased profits and revenue to The Argus. The financial growth of The Argus is difficult to document. The John W. Potter Company was a family-owned company and few, if any, financial records are presently available. However, there are a number of indicators of the company's robust financial health.

In 1882 when John W. Potter I purchased The Argus, its plant was, according to The Argus, "on east 17th Street next to the alley adjacent to the Buford Block" (presently about 2nd Avenue and 17th Street). The plant consisted of three rooms and a total of 1100 square feet. By 1925, after several moves, The Argus had moved into its present location at 18th Street and 5th Avenue. The new plant consisted of 28,700 square feet.

Whereas Mr. Potter purchased The Argus for \$3200 in 1882, by 1925, The Argus was housed in a \$300,000 plant and used a printing press valued at \$90,000. (Argus, December 31, 1925.)

Between 1892 and 1898, The Argus employed 30 people. In 1902 it employed 48. In 1912 it employed 88, in 1922 it employed 172 and in 1925 it employed 215.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3

Potter House

In 1920, The Argus's long-time rival, The Rock Island Union, under severe strain from loss of subscriptions, was purchased by the The Argus. The purchase of The Union by The Argus was announced on the front page of March 24, 1920 Argus. The Argus triumphantly boasted that the purchase was NOT a merger but an absorption. The announcement that covered one quarter of the front page of The Argus triumphantly boasted of the victory of unbiased journalism over political journalism.

" A newspaper may exert a tremendous influence for good or evil in a community. Too long has it been used as a party weapon to further the interest of one political division to the detriment of all others. " (See Appendix 3 for complete announcement)

The 1920 victory over The Rock Island Union marked the victory one journalistic philosophy over another and though proud and boastful The Argus did not treat the vanquished Union with contempt. The headline next to the Argus's victory announcement read:

" Daily Union, Established
in 1862, Has Had Long,
Honorable Career "

The same can not be said about the battle that The Argus entered into the next year; the battle against The Rock Island News and its editor John Looney.

The victory over The Union is considered the victory over the last remaining newspaper in Rock Island because The Rock Island News was not a news paper, it was a scandal sheet used as the personal weapon of John Looney.

From 1895 to 1926 John Looney ran Rock Island's underworld. Looney's crime career is much too involved to be discussed here, this too is an area for further study. Looney operated his criminal operations from his headquarters on "2nd Avenue between 18th and 19th Street" (Argus, December 31, 1925). He operated his saloon which was the front for his criminal operations, his law office from which he kept himself out of jail, and his newspaper which he used to brutally attack, liable, defame, and mainly intimidate his opponents and city officials.

Early in 1921, The Argus, under the direct leadership of Ms. Potter concluded that:

" ... it must open warfare on the individuals which were responsible for the stagnation in the growth of Rock Island ... It had been known for years that the City was suffering from an affliction that someday the populace must shake loose from, but previously had hesitated about instituting a campaign that it knew must be protracted and unrelenting.

A time had been reached in the affairs of the community where the underworld characters coming from other parts admitted that they were under the impression that the Rock Island Argus was controlled by the same element that was under the name of the Rock Island News. "
(Argus, December 21, 1925)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4 Potter House

Thus The Argus staff led by Ms. Potter decided:

" that it must strike, not only on behalf of itself but in behalf of the entire community, believing that such a warfare as is contemplated would be backed by the entire citizenship."
(Argus, December 31, 1925)

The day after William Gabel, a Rock Island saloon keeper, was murdered for refusing to pay tribute to Looney's organization, The Argus unleashed a series of articles demanding Looney's arrest. One of these stories, in stating that Looney had visited with the Rock Island Police Chief minutes before the murder implicated and later caused the resignation of several city officials including the Police Chief. It also caused Looney to file a \$50,000 liable suit against The Argus for mentioning his name in connection with the case. Looney then issued a series of editorial tirades against The Argus, its staff, and the Potters.

In a some what cryptic article in The Argus it was stated:

".... he exercised every device known to criminality in an effort to abate The Argus's warfare but found them all to be fruitless.
The Argus found that it was necessary to treat Looney with out gloves. When he screamed through his blackmailing newspaper, The Argus knew that he was being driven into a corner for the first time in his life." (Argus, December 31, 1925)

Before the Looney era was over, The Argus wrote many articles against Looney; Looney's son and heir to his criminal operations was killed in a shoot out; the publication of The Rock Island News was suspended by the State of Illinois; and after a long manhunt, John Looney was arrested in Arizona, charged with Mr. Gabel's murder and sentenced to prison.

After the Looney affair, Minnie Potter and The Argus went through the task of insuring the continued and long-term growth of the newspaper and the task of consolidating their position as the pre-eminent newspaper in Rock Island. They did this by constructing new offices and a printing plant. (This, in addition to simply letting the dust from the Looney affair settle.)

In 1925, despite just moving into a new plant, by far the largest in the Quad Cities, Ms. Potter expected the Argus to continue to grow. The December 31, 1925 issue of the Argus, in discussing its new home contained the following passage:

"Like the clothing thrifty parents buy for a growing boy, the new Argus plant is oversize in all of its particulars. The institution is 75 years old, but is only in the midst of its sturdy youth -- growing like a weed -- and with no cessation in sight...The new home will be well worn by the time it is outgrown, but it is built so that it will not be outgrown. Every department at present is provided with room for a nearly 100% expansion before a crowded

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

Potter House

condition would develop.

When that time comes there is a safety valve to be opened to relieve the pressure with-in the structure's walls. This valve is at present, in the form of a driveway and court at the west side of the building on ground owned by The Argus. This area, roughly 100' by 30' in dimension may serve as a site for an addition which would provide considerable work space."

In 1925, with the construction of the new plant complete, Ms. Potter, for the first time since the death of her husband in 1898, relaxed a little. She transferred two directorships and some of the power as company president to her sons. However, Ms. Potter kept firm control of the newspaper until her death in 1936.

Upon Ms. Potter's death, John W. III and Ben Potter assumed the Co-presidency of the company and Margurite assumed a directorship and the title of Secretary-Treasurer. This situation continued until John W. Potter III's death in 1947.

CONCLUSION

Minnie Potter died in 1936 after seeing the transformation of The Argus from an insecure venture to a venture whose future was secured, from a yellow journalism paper to a paper practicing modern, unbiased journalistic habits, and after seeing The Argus transformed into the only newspaper in Rock Island and one of the major newspapers in the area.

The Potter House, being by far the property most clearly associated with Ms. Potter (because The Argus itself had several different plants during Ms. Potter's tenure as president of the J. W. Potter Company) is significant in the field of Communications within the City of Rock Island between 1907 and 1936 due to her leadership of The Argus. Therefore, the Potter House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

Potter House

APPENDIX 1

PUBLISHERS OF THE ROCK ISLAND REPUBLICAN/ARGUS

1851 - 1852.....Fred S. Nichols/John W. Dunham
1852.....Fred S. Nichols/J. B. Danforth
1853 - 1855.....J. B. Danforth
1856 - 1857.....J. B. Danforth/Robert V. Shurley
1857 - 1859.....Emanuel Pershing/H. C. Connely/Milton Jones
1859 - 1869.....J. B. Danforth/Milton Jones
1869.....Robert F. McNeil/Milton Jones
1870 - 1872.....James Drake/Milton Jones
1873 - 1880.....The Argus Company
1880 - 1882.....M. Richardson/J. Powers
July 10, 1882 - July 28, 1882 -- no issues published.
1882 - 1898.....John W. Potter
1898 - 1986.....The John W. Potter Company

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 7

Potter House

APPENDIX 2

NEWSPAPERS IN ROCK ISLAND AND THE QUAD CITIES

Rock Island Newspapers

Rock Island Republican/Argus.....	1851	- present
Rock Island/Stephenson Gazette.....	1839	- 1841
Upper Mississippian.....	1840	- 1844
Rock Island Dollar Monitor.....	1841	
Illinois Cultivator.....	1840	
Northwestern Advertiser.....	1845	
Rock Island Advertiser.....	1845	- 1851
The Liberty Banner.....	1846	
The Rock Islander.....	1854	- 1857
The Rock Islander (A different Rock Islander).....	1891	- 1896
Rock Island Daily News.....	1855	
The Commercial.....	1858	
The Rock Island Register.....	1859	- 1859
Rock Island Daily News (Looney's).....		
Rock Island Union.....	1864	- 1920

Moline Newspapers

Moline Workman.....	1854	- 1864
Moline Review.....	1870	- 1878
Moline Dispatch.....	1878	- Present
Moline Citizen.....	1880	- 1883
Moline Republican.....	1883	- 1891
Moline Journal.....	1890	- 1907
Moline Mail.....	1907	- 1914
Sunday Press.....	1908	- 1911
Skandia.....	1876	- 1878
Nya Presson.....	1891	- 1897
Vikinger.....	1890	

Davenport Newspapers

Der Demokrat.....	1856	- 1914
Morning News.....	1856	- 1859
Davenport Daily Times.....	1858	
Daily Anti-Know Nothing.....	1856	
Boebachter om Mississippi.....	1856	
The Temperance Organ.....	1856	
Davenport Bee.....	1854	
Bridge City Record.....	1854	- 1855
Davenport Journal.....	1858	- 1870

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 8

Potter House

APPENDIX 2 (Continued)

Davenport Newspapers

Davenport Courier.....	1854
The True Radical.....	1867 - 1869
The Evangelist.....	1856
The Union.....	1856
Sunday Morning Times.....	1871
Sunday Morning Star.....	1871
Davenport Times/Democrat.....	1880 - Present

The exact events that lead to the sorting out of the above melange of news papers is much too involved to be thoroughly analyzed here. There were many failures and liquidations of newspapers. There were many mergers and acquisitions and name changes.

By 1900, there were only two major news papers left in each of the three cities.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 9

Potter House

APPENDIX 3

ANNOUNCEMENT

In announcing the purchase of the Rock Island Daily Union, the publishers of the Argus feel that they owe the public a frank and straight forward statement of their policy and purpose in the future publication of this paper.

The Argus will henceforth be conducted as an independent newspaper, basing its editorial policy on what it believes to be right and just, printing the news accurately and fairly without prejudice.

The Argus, in adopting this policy, does not repudiate its past, for it has pursued a consistent and honorable course for more than three score years. But the war has exerted a great change in the whole political as well as commercial, social, and national life.

New conditions bring new demands and we firmly believe that the demand of today is for an independent public press unbiased by partisan ties, ever free and ready to state its honest convictions in the interest of the common welfare. The trend and tendency of the press of America bears out this conception.

A newspaper may exert a tremendous influence for good or evil in a community. Too long has it been used as a party weapon to further the interest of one political division to the detriment of all others.

The Argus recognizes that the American form of government requires party rule and it believes that there will always be at least two great political organizations in our body politic. But to say that one is wholly bad and the other wholly good, that one is always right, and the other always wrong has ceased to appeal to the average American.

The Argus realizes the wider responsibility it has assumed to the public and will endeavor to merit the esteem and support of its readers in the Quad Cities and through out the tributary territory by giving them a vigorous, clean daily news paper, in every way worthy of the city and the field it serves.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Potter House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Rock Island

DATE RECEIVED: 4/04/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/19/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/05/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/19/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000364

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5/5/89 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



89 1 5

Potter House

Rock Island IL

Photographer: Brent Nelson

Neg location: Planning Division - Rock Island City Hall
Rock Island IL.

Photo of main (North) facade, camera facing south.

Photo #1



7th Avenue
19th Street

Potter House

Rock Island IL

Photographer: Brent Nelson

Neg location: Planning Division - Rock Island City Hall
Rock Island IL

Photo of Northwest corner of main house - camera
facing southeast

Photo #2



8975

Potter House

Rock Island IL

Photographer: Brent Nelson

Neg location: Planning Division - Rock Island City Hall
Rock Island IL

Photo of west facade of main house - camera
facing east.

Photo #3



89 1 5



189

Potter House

Rock Island IL

Photographer: Brent Nelson

Neg location: Planning Division Rock Island City Hall

Photo of east facade ^{of main base} - camera facing west
Rock Island IL

Photo # 5



89 4 5

Potter House

Rock Island IL

Photographer - Brent Nelson

Neg location - Planning Division - Rock Island City Hall - Rock Island IL.

Photo of northwest corner of the Servants house.
camera facing southeast.

Photo #6



89 1 5



89 1 1

Potter House

Rock Island ILL

Photographer: Brent Nelson

Neg location: Planning Division - Rock Island City Hall - Rock Island IL

Photo of west facade of carriage house, camera facing west

Photo # 8



Potter House - Rock Island ILL

Photographer: Brent Nelson

Neg location: Planning Division - Rock Island City Hall
Rock Island ILL

Photo of northeast corner of main house
camera facing south west

Photo # 9



Photo #10

Puffer House

Rock Island, IL

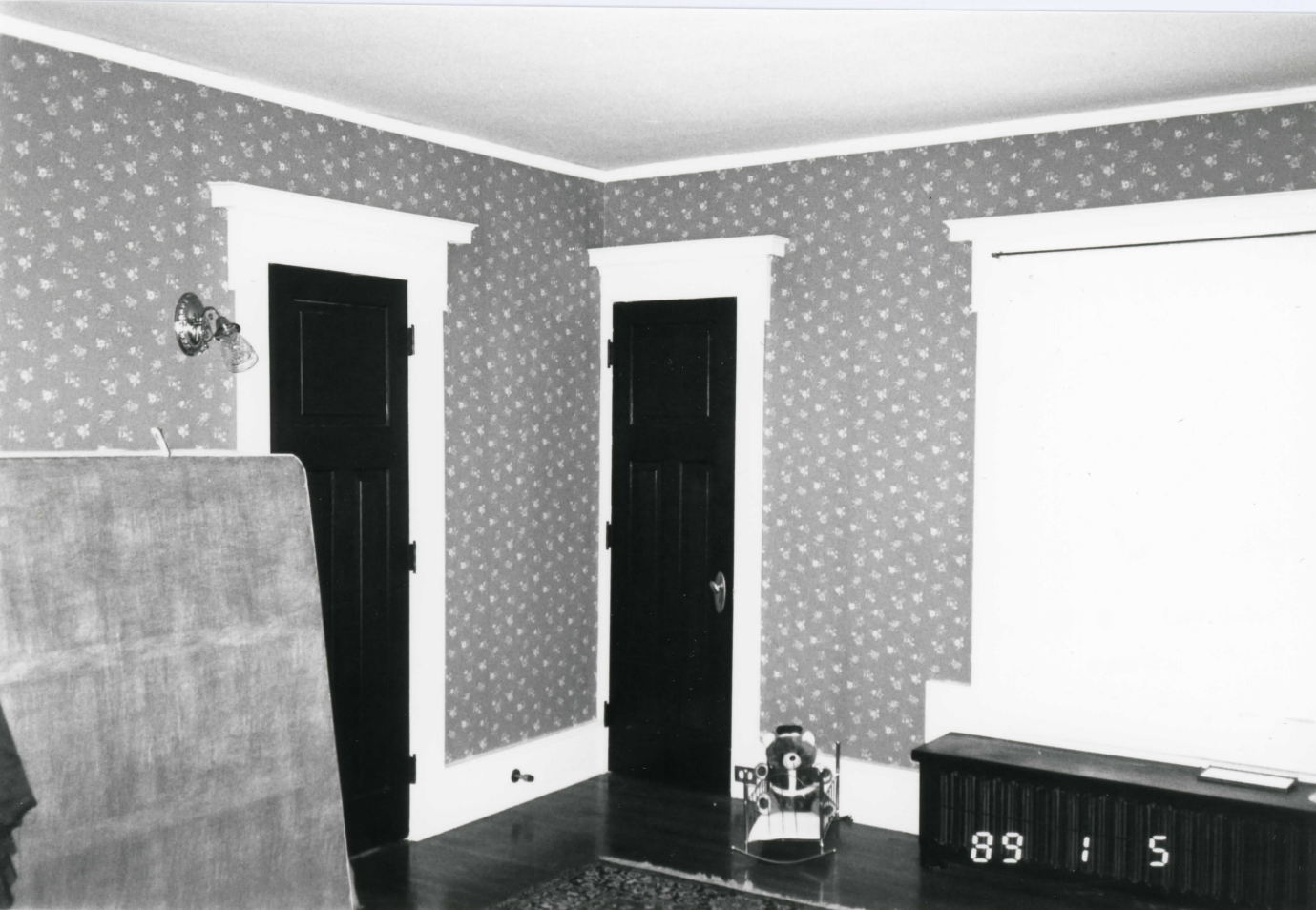
Photographer: Brent Nelson

Neg. Loc.: Planning Division

Rock Island City Hall

Rock Island, IL

2nd Floor, master bedroom



Potter House

Rock Island IL

Photographer: Brent Nelson

Neg location: Planning Div. Rock Island City Hall

Rock Island ILL

Photo of a closet door that was added - wallpaper new -
woodwork & fixtures original. This is in the north wall of the
north bedroom on second floor - camera facing north.

Photo # 11



89 1 5

Potter House

Rock Island ILL

Photographer: Brent Nelson

Neg Location: Planning Div Rock Island City Hall
Rock Island ILL

Photo of inside of main entrance showing lead glass
detail. Camera facing north

Photo # 12



Potter House

Rock Island ILL

Photographer: Brent Nelson

Neq location: Planning Division, Rock Island City Hall
Rock Island ILL

Photo of one of the intercoms on the houses internal intercom system and of one of the houses push button light switches with the cover removed. The intercoms will be retained, the push button switches that work will be retained - those that dont will be replaced with new pushbutton switches & the original covers will be replaced.

Photo #13



Potter House

Rock Island ILL

Photographer: Brent Nelson

Neg location: Planning Division - Rock Island City Hall

Photo of main stairway leading up to landing between
second & third floor. Camera facing south.

Photo # 14



Potter Mouse

Rock Island ILL

Photographer: Brent Nelson

Neg Location: Planning Division Rock Island City Hall

Photo of main stairway leading to the landing between
second & third floor camera facing north.
Rock Island ILL

Photo #15



Potter House

Rock Island ILL

Photographer: Brent Nelson

Negative Location: Planning Division - Rock Island City Hall
Rock Island ILL

Photo of central hallway leading to second floor bedrooms.
Note the wall paper. It is leather. It covered the majority
of the public spaces in the house. It has been
retained & cleaned.

photo #16



Potter House

Rock Island ILL

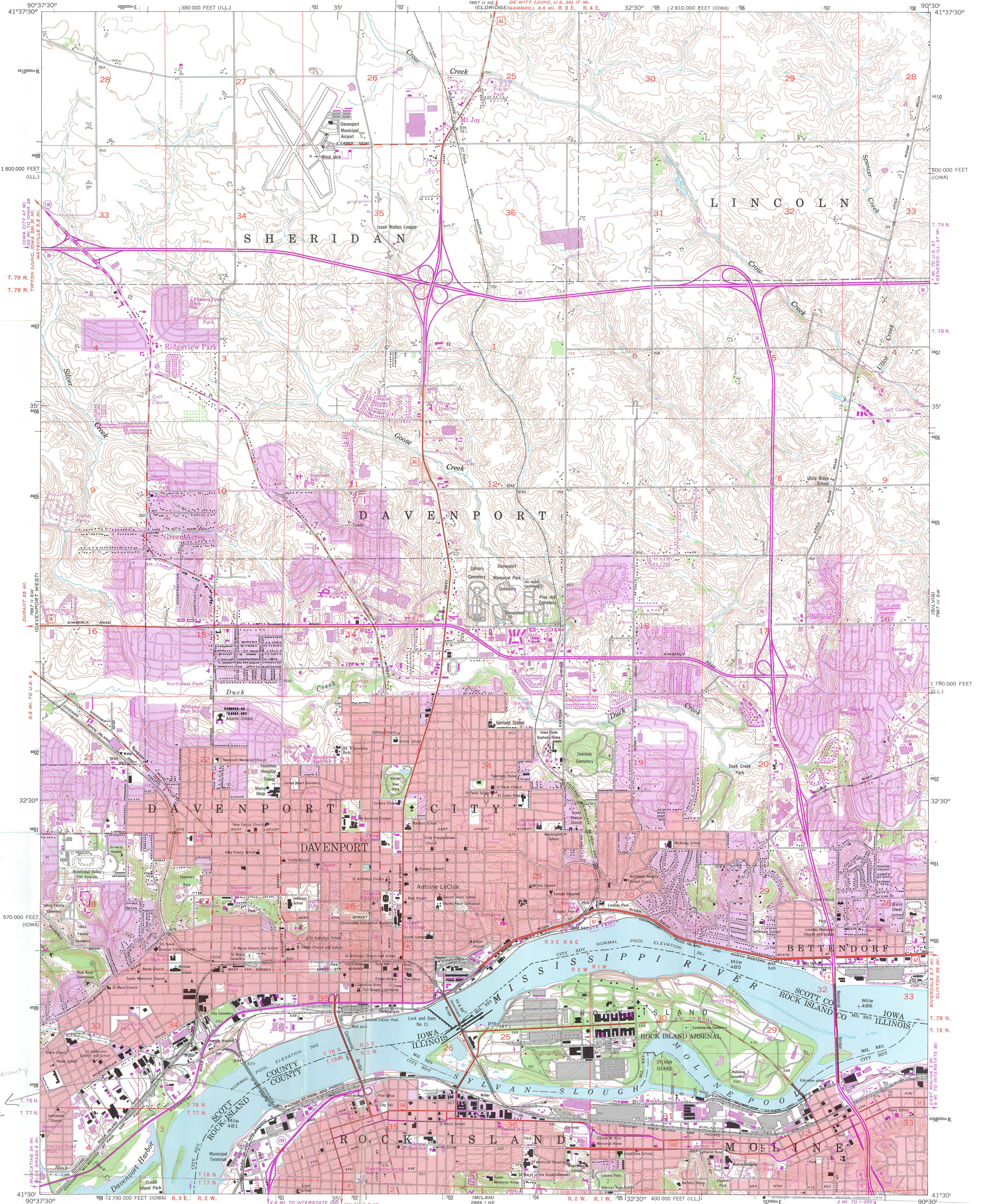
Photographer: Brent Nelson

Neg location: Planning Division - Rock Island city Hall
Rock Island ILL

Photo of the main stairway showing the windows on the landing between the second & third floors. Note the original switch & light fixture

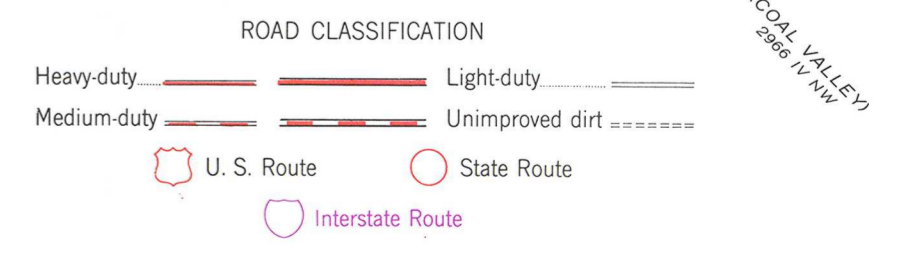
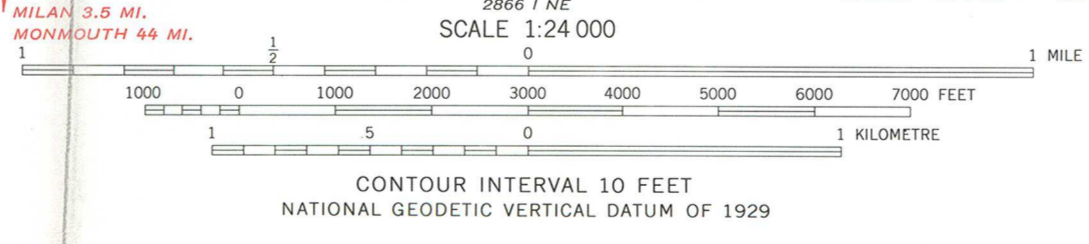
Photo #17





Rock Island County
Potter House
zone 15
E 702510
N 4597440

Illinois area mapped by the Geological Survey
Iowa area mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCG&S, USCE, and
Mississippi River Commission
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Entire map revised and field checked by AMS 1953
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Iowa coordinate system,
south zone, and Illinois coordinate system, west zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey
from aerial photographs taken 1970 and 1975. This information
not field checked



DAVENPORT EAST, IOWA-ILL.
N4130-W9030/7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1970 AND 1975
AMS 7867 II SE-SERIES V876

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
AND STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



**Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency**

Old State Capitol • Springfield, Illinois 62701 • (217) 782-4836

APR 04 1989

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

March 28, 1989

Beth Boland
National Register Program
National Park Service
Dept. of the Interior
1100 L Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Beth:

Enclosed please find the following nomination material for the property nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer:

Potter House, Rock Island

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Ann V. Swallow
Survey & National Register Coordinator

AVS/ws

Enclosure