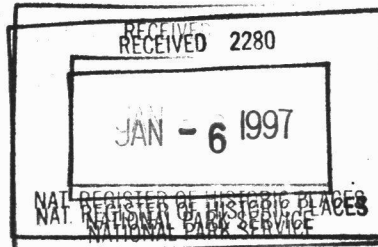


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Chick House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 119 - 123 South Main Street not for publication

city or town Rockford vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Winnebago code 201 zip code 61101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. Wheeler / SHPO 12-27-95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 2-7-97

Chick House

Winnebago, IL

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Hotel

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial/Restaurant

Commercial/Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century

Greek Revival

Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Brick

roof rubber

other stone

metal

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Chick House

Architectural Description

The Chick House is a three story brick structure built in 1857¹ and is one of three remaining pre-Civil War commercial buildings in downtown Rockford, Illinois. The structure, built as a hotel, is utilitarian and rather simple in decoration. The east, front facade runs 66' on South Main Street and the south elevation dominates half of the block of Elm Street and is 149' feet in length.

Located in the heart of Rockford's west side, the Chick House is on the northwest corner of South Main and Elm Streets. The facade of the 100 block of South Main is a interesting study of architecture. Directly north of the Chick House is the Stewart Building which was built in 1890. The massive four-story red stone building is Richardsonian Romanesque. This ornate structure works well as the antithesis of the simplicity of the Chick House. Finishing the block to the north is Stewart Square, built in 1929. The blond brick three story structure is difficult to categorize in style, but, shows elements of Art Deco. The three buildings work well together for contrast in style, decoration and materials. Directly west of the Chick House across the alley is a four-story parking deck built for Stewart Square also in 1929. The rest of the surrounding structures are relatively new. Across Elm Street is the MetroCentre. This massive orange steel structure, built in 1979, occupies the whole city block. The other two corners of the intersection are surface parking on the southeast corner and a four-level parking deck on the northeast corner, constructed in 1994.

This Greek Revival and Italianate influenced building was originally an L-shaped building. Three additions, built c. 1890s, c. 1900s, and 1932, have partially filled in the back of the structure located on an alley. The foundation of the original building is rough-faced local limestone of varying sizes set in random courses. Mortar repair is quite extensive in the partial basement. Distinguishing the original mortar proved difficult, but small pebbles and straw were evident in deeper joints. Except for alterations to the first floor front facade, the remaining structure is of common brick construction, laid in the basic running pattern. (See diagram) Historic photos indicate that it was always painted. The exterior decorative elements are simple. Horizontal stone sills and lintels along the south, north, and west sides of the building are Greek Revival influenced. However, the arched window hoods on the east facade are distinctively Italianate and more decorative. The east elevation is six bays wide with the middle two bays stepped higher at the brick parapet. Originally a balconet ran the east facade of the building, (see

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Chick House

reproduction of 1903 Wheat photo). The stepped parapet with decorative brick work is still in good condition.

Originally built as the Griggs House in 1857, the front, east facade was separated into three storefronts. Three canvas awnings operated over the tripartite storefront. Immediately above the first floor was a metal balconet that ran the span of the east facade. The second and third floors of the east facade each featured, six, nine-over-six windows, with decorative window caps. According to historic photos, the decorative window caps were three-pointed crown shaped. The photo of the south facade indicates the cellar ran the length of the original building with the basement windows visible in the photo. Only one door lead to the front portion of the building, situated approximately, one-fourth of the length from the east end of the structure. The fenestration of the second and third floors of the south facade had evenly spaced nine-over-six windows. The windows on the south facade have simple stone lintels and sills. No historic photos have been found of the other elevations.

The building has a projecting arcaded corbel table and cornice along the east and south elevations. Beginning at the bottom of the cornice is two courses of projecting brick headers forming dentil-like blocks. Two projecting stringcourses of stretchers are located above the dentils. Six courses of headers continue above the fourth course. Three courses of stretchers, followed by a single header are topped by two courses of stretchers. When the pattern is repeated (see diagram) an arcaded corbel table with segmental arches is created topped by a row of dentils. The east cornice is separated into three equal sections, with the middle portion six courses higher than either side.

The flat roof originally contained eight chimneys, spaced along the periphery of the structure. The original roofing material is unknown. Only three of the eight chimneys remain and the flat roof is protected by a rubberized membrane roofing material.

Between 1891 and 1897, a one story brick wing 22' x 83', was extended to the west from the middle store room of the Chick House. It has a flat roof. In the early 1900s a three story brick wing containing five bays was added to the west of the south three story block of the Chick House. This wing extends to the alley. The builders carefully matched the elaborate brick corbelling of the original building. The addition has horizontal concrete sills and lintels. There were slight changes made to the Chick House, according to a 1903 photograph. Additional doors and windows were added to the south, first floor elevation, near the east end of the

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3

Chick House

structure. Only a partial photo is available, so the number and type of openings is unclear. The decorative window hoods on the east facade are still apparent in the 1903 photo, so were removed at a later date. In 1928 renovations to the hotel included a metal canopy on the south facade. In 1932 a brick addition was added to the northern storeroom. The one story addition is 22' wide and 43' long. The rear of this addition has been covered with synthetic siding. Both of the one story additions are used for storage.

The fenestration on the second and third floors has not been altered. The six windows on the upper floors of the east facade are symmetrically placed. The double-hung, one-over-one windows measure 7' 1" high and 2' 9" wide. There is a covered window on the north side of the second floor which contains the original nine-over-six window. Sixteen windows run each upper floor on the south facade. The windows on the west end and on the inside of the "L" vary in size and are irregular in placement. The north wall of the structure is adjacent to the Stewart Building and does not have any windows. Six of the original nine-over-six windows remain. The other window openings have been boarded over, although the original windows may remain under the wood. The windows on the east and south facades were replaced with one-over-one windows in the early 1900s.

The wall between the two storefronts to the south has been partially removed to provide space for a restaurant. A metal signboard, dating from the 1950s, approximately 3' high runs the length of the east facade of the building and wraps around onto the south facade. The front facade, first floor storefront was extended out front approximately two-and-a-half feet in the 1950s with large plate glass windows and metal front. The restaurant storefront has a large plate glass windows on either side of a recessed entryway in the center. The office supply storefront was added in 1959 and has a porcelain enamel signboard with an off center recessed entryway with rounded glass walls and a sunburst pattern in the terrazzo floor. Both storerooms have also been modernized in the 1950s. An entryway to an interior staircase is located between the office supply store and restaurant. The 1950s plate glass and metal storefront wraps around the south facade of the building for one bay.

Some of the first story windows on the south facade have been bricked in. Two small windows are located in the fourth and fifth bays to the west. A large plate glass window and entry to the restaurant are located in the seventh bay to the west. West of this entryway is the lobby to the hotel. It has large plate glass windows and a recessed entry. The c. 1900s addition has a large plate glass window opening west of the lobby, a doorway with a prism glass transom

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

Chick House

and a large plate glass window with upper prism glass to the west. A metal fire escape is located above the metal canopy.

The west elevation of the c. 1900s addition contains two windows and a door on the first story. The second floor has one window directly above the first story door. Toward the north end is a small window. The fenestration on the third floor is the same as the second.

The 13' x 20' lobby on the south facade has a beamed ceiling and elaborate crown molding. A dark wood staircase in the northeast corner leads up to a landing and then turns to the south through a doorway and leads up to the second floor. Part of the staircase walls have been filled in. A basement staircase located underneath the main staircase leads to the partial basement. The limestone basement contains a boiler room and a small storage room to the east. The storefront to the west of the lobby in the c. 1900s addition has a decorative metal ceiling with a crown molding.

Unfortunately, no photos or plans exist for the original layout of the rooms of the Chick House. Woodwork in the rooms varies from Italianate styled woodwork to Classical inspired woodwork from the early 1900s. A hallway running east to west is located to the north side of the south L of the building. This corridor has a staircase near the west end leading from the second floor to the third floor. The main staircase from the lobby extends to the second floor. The corridor turns to the north near the east end of the building. A staircase leading to the third floor is located near this turn. An open stairway and hallway with windows opening on to it is located on the second and third floors in the center between the northern two storefronts. The hallway provides light to some interior hotel rooms. Many of the doorways along the corridors leading to individual hotel rooms have operable transoms. The hotel rooms vary in size from 7' 4" x 11' 11" to two-room suites near the front (east) of the building. The larger rooms on the east feature a river view and metal cove moldings. All of the hotel rooms contain a small sink and medicine cabinet. There are community bathrooms on each floor. Extensive plumbing permits reveal that the renovation in plumbing was completed in 1928.

Chick House
Name of Property

Winnebago, IL
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Period of Significance

1857, Architecture

1857 - 1946, Commerce

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Chick House
Name of Property

Winnebago, IL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1, 6	3, 2, 7, 2, 1, 0	4, 6, 8, 1, 7, 4, 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Valerie Olafson

organization _____ date July 8, 1996

street & number 434 Hilton Avenue telephone 815-399-6481

city or town Rockford state IL zip code 61107

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name see attached

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Chick House

Statement of Significance

The Chick House is one of only three remaining pre-Civil War structures in downtown Rockford. The hotel which was essential to a growing American town during the mid-19th century, marking the beginning of the hospitality trade as we know it today and therefore, qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for commerce. As a rare example of mid-19th century commercial construction, it qualifies for Criterion C for architecture. The dates of significance for Criterion A are 1857, the date of construction, to 1946, the fifty-year cutoff for the National Register. The period of significance for Criterion C is 1857, the date of construction.

The area which is now the city of Rockford was first settled in 1834. Actually it was established as two settlements, one on the east side of the Rock River and one on the west. The first hotel in Rockford was built on the east side of the river. This three story frame structure known as the Rockford House was built in 1837. The Rockford House was a simple lodging house; the third floor consisted of one large room filled with cots and was accessible only by ladder.²

Stagecoach service was established from Chicago in 1838 and this ignited the hotel business in Rockford, the halfway point between Chicago and the booming mining town of Galena. The Washington House was built on the east side of the river in 1839. This brick structure which featured private rooms was closer to the modern hotel than the Rockford House. On the west side of the river, the Stage House was opened in 1838. The Chick House is located at 119-123 South Main Street which was the site of the Inn, built in 1840 by Spencer and Fuller. The Inn marked the beginning of the modern hotel in the growing city of Rockford, Illinois.³ The Winnebago House opened for business in 1843. The next twenty years marked the boom of the hotel business in Rockford. Brown's House, the Waverly and the Union opened for business between 1850 and 1852 near the passenger railway station on Rockford's west side.

The Griggs House, later known as the Chick House, was built in 1857 on the northwest corner of Main and Elm Streets. Later that year the Holland House was erected on the southeast corner of Main and Elm. The Holland House was the first hotel in Rockford to install an elevator. It burned on Christmas Eve in 1896. The Holland House was followed by several other hotels, the Commercial House, the American House, and City Hotel. The Nelson which opened in 1892

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Section number 8 Page 6

Chick House

set a new standard for the hotel business in Rockford. Of all these hotels, the Chick House is the only one still standing.

The Nelson Hotel opened in 1892 and became the premiere hotel in Rockford. (Demolished 1961) "Rockford To-day," prepared by the *Rockford Morning Star* in 1903 stated:

The Nelson and the Chick are the leading hotels, and the former is one of the finest places in the northwest. It is six stories high and has accommodations for over 200 guests. . . . The Chick House, together with its cottages and annexes, will accommodate two hundred guests, and is the popular headquarters for commercial travelers. It has a large number of regular boarders and many families of the city patronize the house for Sunday dinners. The house is centrally located, and the city and interurban cars pass the door.⁴

The Griggs House operated from the time of its construction in 1857 to 1888 when the property was purchased by Thomas Chick. The Griggs House had in the first story storefronts an office to the south, grocery store in the center and saloon to the north. A restaurant was located in the basement. Thomas Chick, a former railroad engineer, renamed the hotel the Chick House in 1888. In the early 1900s the storeroom of the first story housed an office to the east with a dining room to the west. The c. 1900s addition allowed the dining room to expand to the west with a kitchen to its west. A laundry was located in the basement. Various businesses occupied the middle storeroom. The office supply store located in the north storeroom in 1912 and remains to this day. Various upper stories of buildings to the east, south, and southeast of the Chick House were leased by Thomas Chick to provide additional lodging space for the Chick House.

The Chick House was sold in 1923 by the widow of Thomas Chick and it was reported at that time that the hotel had gained quite a reputation.

Governor John P. Altgeld, while chief executive of Illinois, stayed at the hotel several times while on speaking tours through this section. Many men prominent in the present day life of Rockford lived at the hotel during their younger days. During the war (World War I) the hotel housed thousands of Camp Grant soldiers, relatives and friends who came to Rockford to visit them.⁵

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 7

Chick House

The number of hotels continued to grow and in 1923 when the Chick was sold the total was 23. At the time, the Chick was the oldest hotel in the city.⁶ These hotels ranged from simple hostels to fancy "two dollar a day houses"⁷ to resident hotels such as the Chick House. Resident hotels provided overnight lodging as well as long-term housing for boarders. The Faust Hotel at 618 - 636 East State Street, was built between 1927 and 1929. The eleven-story Art Deco styled building featured ballrooms, businesses on the first story, and 400 hotel rooms. The Faust Hotel became bankrupt during the Depression and closed for business. The Faust now operates as elderly housing and has been renovated. The Chick House continued operations until 1928. The building was then sold and closed for renovation, plans called for a shoe store in the first floor of the building and a residential hotel/rooming house on the second and third floors. The east end of the building housed Rockford Office Supply, Wharton's Hardware and the Nelson Caveth Shoe Company in 1929. The Chick House was renamed the Elms Hotel and opened for business that same year. Included in the renovations for the hotel was a new entrance canopy along Elm Street, a redecorated lobby with a coffered ceiling, elaborate crown moldings, and redecorated rooms with new plumbing fixtures including individual sinks. Community bathrooms were located on each floor. The renovations stylistically updated the building to attract business from residents and boarders in order to compete with the recently built Faust Hotel as well as other newer 20th century hotels in Rockford. The Elms Hotel remained in business until 1951.

The Chick House is also eligible for the National Register for architecture as a rare example of mid-19th century commercial architecture with both Greek Revival and Italianate influences in the city of Rockford. Financed by two bankers, R. P. Lane and C. H. Spafford, and T. D. Robertson, a real estate agent and cofounder of Rockford's first bank, the current brick structure was built in 1857. It is the last remaining hotel from the 1800s left in Rockford. The other two pre-Civil War commercial buildings in Rockford are on the east side of the Rock River. Both buildings are brick, however, their original facades have been altered. The building at the northeast corner of First Street and East State Street has been completely covered in stucco. The other building located two buildings east of the northeast corner of First and East State streets is covered with metal siding and wood shingles. The Chick House is the only pre-Civil War commercial building remaining in Rockford that maintains its historic integrity.

The hotel was built at a time when the Greek Revival style's popularity was being supplanted by the newer Italianate style. The building reflects this transition from the Greek Revival to the Italianate style in its stylistic details including the earlier Greek Revival inspired

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Chick House

horizontal stone sills and lintels, the decorative projecting dentil-like bricks at the cornice, and some nine-over-six and six-over-six windows. The Italianate style can be seen in the front facade segmental arched tall, thin windows with cast iron hoods and brick corbel table frieze.

The Greek Revival style was popular from the 1820s through the 1860s throughout the country. The Greek Revival style evolved from an interest in classical buildings during the final years of the 18th century. This was first based on Roman models but archaeological investigations and measured drawings of ancient Greek temples in the early 19th century emphasized Greece as the mother of Rome which in turn, shifted interest to Grecian models. Other factors enhanced Greek influence in the United States including Greece's war for independence in the 1820s which aroused much sympathy in the newly independent United States while at the same time the War of 1812, diminished American affection for British influence, including the still dominant Federal style in architecture. The Greek Revival style began in the United States with public buildings built in Philadelphia including the 1818 Bank of the United States by William Strickland. The style was spread through carpenter's guides and pattern books including Minard Lafever's Modern Builder's Guide and Beauties of Modern Architecture as well as Asher Benjamin's The Practical House Carpenter and The Builder's Guide. Greek mania swept the nation during the 1830s and 1840s and many towns were named for Greek cities. The style gradually began to be replaced by the newer Gothic Revival and Italianate styles in the 1850s.

The Greek Revival style soon became the favored architecture of public buildings in the East as the westward trek began. Taking their cues from where they were leaving, the settlers transplanted the earlier forms to the Midwest frontier. Talbot Hamlin in Greek Revival Architecture in America writes:

The settlers pushed their way from New York to Ohio and on to northern Illinois. The rapid settlement of these states, the swift development of government, the prompt emergence of a local culture and an educational system, as evidenced by the proliferation of academies and colleges--these are all well-known facts of American history. All contributed to make the area especially fitted to develop a vivid and vital architecture. That part of it built between the late 1820s and 1850--and this period was in many localities the one that saw growth of rough pioneering communities into prosperous, settled, well-constructed towns--naturally was chiefly under the influence of Greek Revival ideals.

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Chick House

The style's simple massing and austere decorative elements made it ideal for use in the newly settled American territories of the Midwest. It was easily built in brick, stone, braced frame or balloon-frame construction--the first architectural style to implement this technique. With the advent of builder's pattern books and manuals, classical details and the Greek Revival style made their way to the prairie in a variety of adapted forms. Oftentimes, builders blended styles, introduced modifications to the style and simplified patterns to match their abilities or available tools. In general, the buildings erected in Illinois between 1820 and 1860 were simplified in comparison to their Eastern counterparts: low roofs, plain lintels and cornices and brick or painted wood walls.

Architectural historian Leland M. Roth in A Concise History of American Architecture wrote of the absence of the use of columns and pediments on many Greek Revival buildings:

In some instances columns might not be used at all, for general severity of form was one of the attributes of the Greek Revival; indeed, the unadorned bare wall was one of the lasting contributions to American architecture made by the Greek Revival.

Utilitarian in design, the Chick House's decorative elements are functional, simple and elegant. The Greek Revival style can be seen in the symmetry of the building emphasized by its fenestration and steeped parapet, horizontal stone sills and lintels, dentil-like moldings, and some remaining nine-over-six and six-over-six windows.

The Italianate style was popular from the 1850s through the 1880s throughout the country. The earliest Italianate buildings in the United States were built in the late 1830s. Andrew Jackson Downing's pattern books increased the style's popularity throughout the 1840s and 1850s. The Italianate style, along with the Gothic Revival style, began in England as part of the Picturesque movement, a reaction against the formal classical styles that had influenced architecture throughout the world for over two hundred years. The style was loosely based on motifs drawn from Italian buildings from the late Romanesque architecture of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, as well as the more classically inspired high Renaissance architecture of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. These motifs were combined eclectically to ornament the facades of commercial buildings of the nineteenth century. Some buildings were designed with rounded Romanesque forms, such as arched windows with curved hood molds and corbel table

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Continuation Sheet**

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Chick House

friezes, while others were dressed up with more angular features of the later Italian Renaissance including windows with shelf-like caps and wide overhanging cornices with massive brackets.

Italianate and Romanesque details on the Chick House include its tall, narrow front facade windows with segmental arches and arched cast iron window hoods as well as the brick corbel table frieze at the cornice. The styling of the Chick House shows the transition of the Greek Revival to the Italianate style, indicating the rising popularity of the Italianate style. An intensive survey of downtown buildings conducted in 1994, found this building as the only remaining commercial structure with elements of the Greek Revival style. Most important, it is the only intact work of mid-19th century commercial architecture remaining in Rockford.

Endnotes

¹ Sunday Star, June 7, 1908.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ "Rockford To-Day, Historical, Descriptive, Biographical," The Rockford Morning Star, 1903.

⁵ Rockford Republic, September 1, 1923.

⁶ Rockford Register, January 19, 1917.

⁷ Rockford City Directory, 1857, advertisement for the Holland House.

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet**

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Chick House

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Rockford Register, 19 January, 1917.

Rockford Republic, 1 September, 1923.

Roth, Leland M., A Concise History of American Architecture, Harper and Row, New York, 1980.

Sunday Star, 7 June 1908.

Wheat, O.H., Some Half-tones, 1902 Rockford Illinois, self-promotion.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 12

Chick House

Section 10 Geographical Data

Parcel A

Legal Description: In the SW quarter of Section 23-44-1 of Winnebago County, Illinois, the north 22 feet of Lot 13 and all of Lot 15 as designated on the Assessor's Plat of the Subdivision of Lots 1,2,3,5 and 6 of Block 14 of Wyman's West Rockford Subdivision, a.k.a. 119 South Main Street.

Parcel B

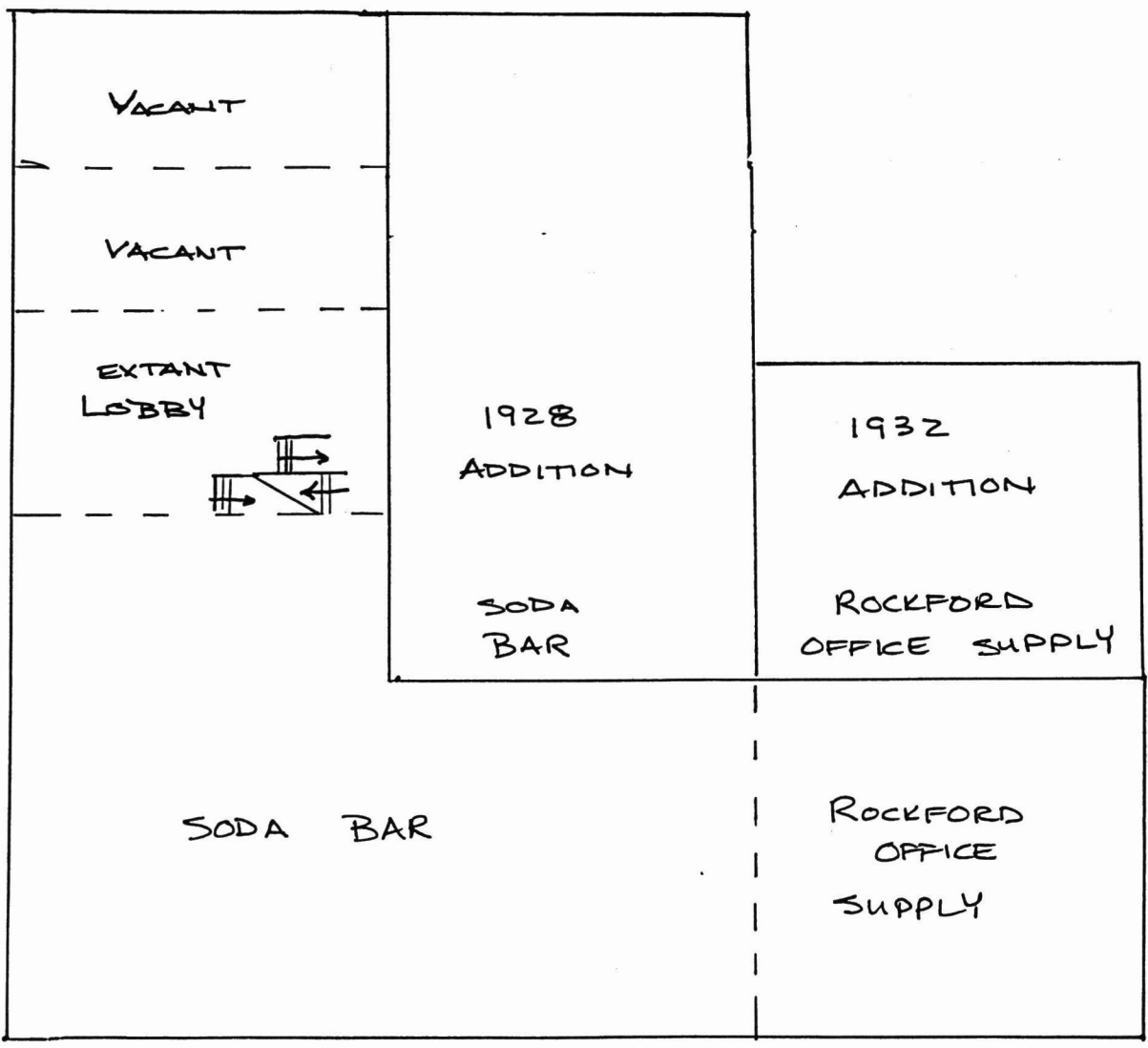
Legal description: In the SW quarter of Section 23-44-1, of Winnebago County, Illinois, the south 44 feet of Lot 13 and all of Lot 14 as designated on the Assessor's Plat of the Subdivision of Lots 1,2,3,5 and 6 of Block 14 of Wyman's West Subdivision, a.k.a. 121 South Main Street

Property Owner

Parcel A: Curt Scribner
Rockford Office Supply House
119 South Main Street
Rockford, Illinois 61101

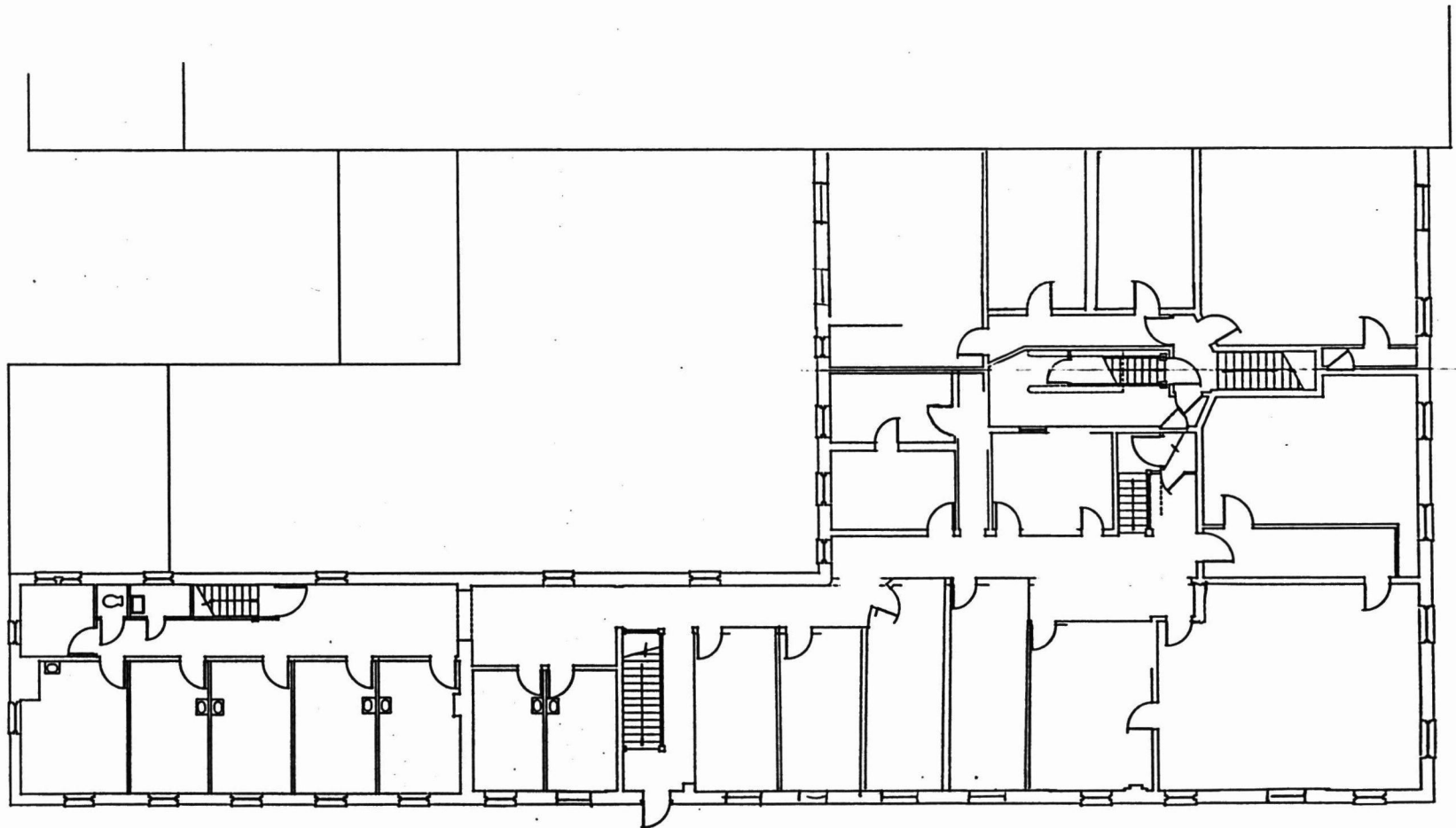
Parcel B: NBD Bank, as Trustee of the Cornell A. Imming QTIP Trust No. 2
1600 Larkin
Elgin, Illinois 60123

(current option for Parcel B held by)
Dick Imming
18 Hillcrest Drive
Aurora, Illinois 60506



CHICK HOUSE
1ST FLOOR PLAN • NOT TO SCALE

→ N



Chick House

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

North ↑
Chick House
Rockford

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Chick House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Winnebago

DATE RECEIVED: 1/06/97 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/22/97
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/07/97 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/20/97
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97000031

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 2-7-97 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



Soda Bar
Restaurant

Coca-Cola

Soda Bar
Restaurant

Coca-Cola

ROCKFORD
OFFICE SUPPLY

Stationery Party Goods
Books - Appliances - Linens

ROCKFORD OFFICE SUPPLY

772 ON THE HALL
SUMMER SPECIAL
39¢ BOTTLENECKS 65¢

STOP

STOP

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CHICK HOUSE
119.123 SOUTH MAIN ST.
Rockford
Winnebago Illinois

VALERIE Olafson . January 1996
photographer
view . EAST facade



CHICK HOUSE

119.123 SOUTH MAIN ST.

Rockford

Winnebago ILLINOIS

Valerie Olafson • January 1996

Photographer

VIEW, NORTH



CHICK HOUSE
119.123 SOUTH MAIN ST.
Rockford
Winnebago ILLINOIS

Valerie Olafson • January 1996

Photographer
VIEW, NORTH



SHIPPING & RECEIVING
KERRICK OFFICE SUPPLY & BOOK WALKER BROS.



TERRACE PARKING
ONLY
BRIDGEVILLE, OHIO 45113
6-4-1988



Chick House

119.123 S. Main St

Rockford

Winnebago Illinois

Valerie Olafson - August 1995

photographer

VIEW • LOBBY STAIRCASE





CHICK HOUSE

119.123 S. MAIN ST.

Rockford

Winnebago Illinois

VALEKIE OLAFSON • AUGUST 1995

photographer

interior • 1ST floor



CHICK House

119. 123 S. MAIN ST

ROCKFORD

WINNEBAGO ILLINOIS

VALERIE CLAFSON • AUGUST 1995

PHOTOGRAPHER

VIEW • EAST • FRONT ROOM

CHICK HOUSE

119.123 SOUTH MAIN ST.

ROCKFORD

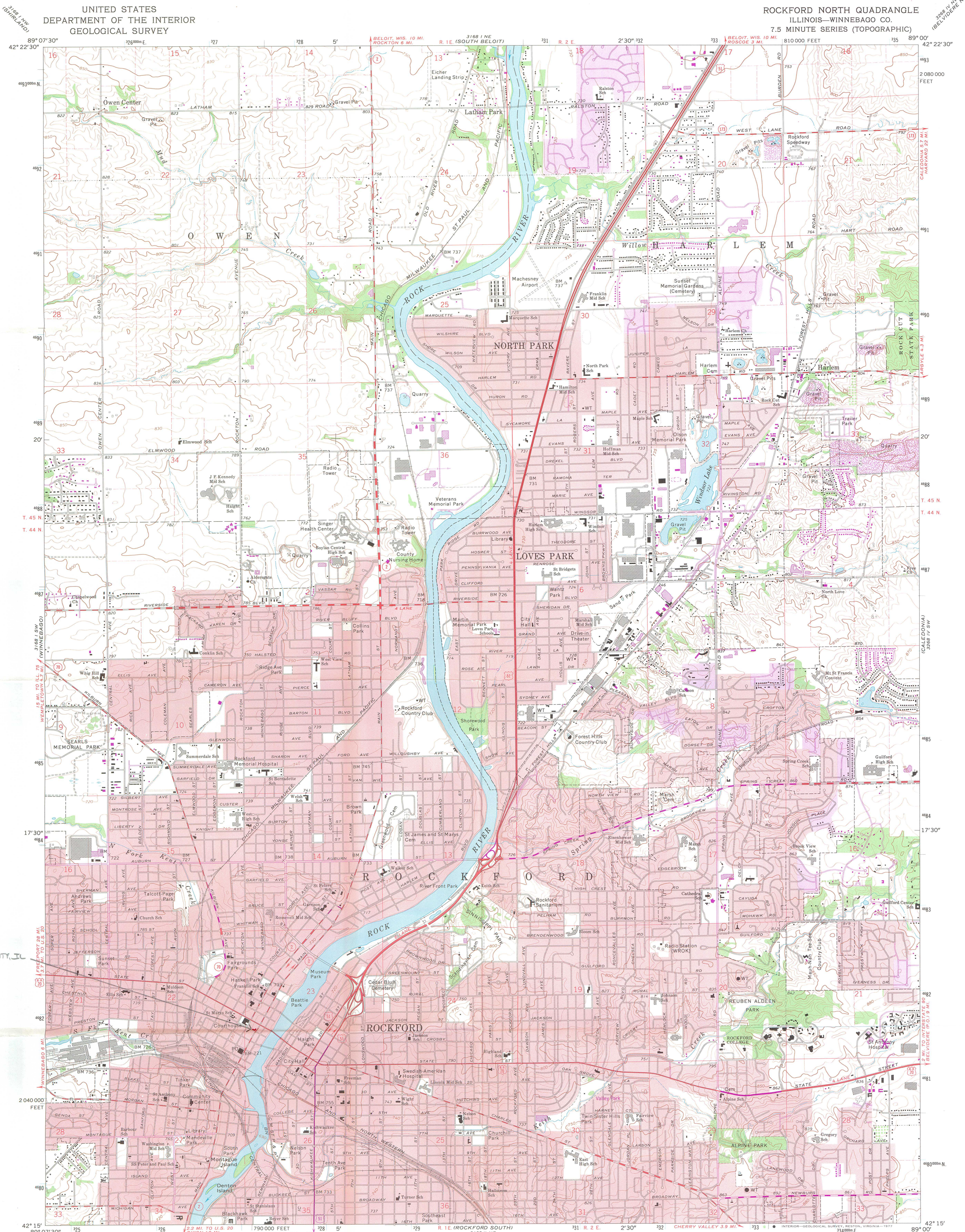
WINNEBAGO CO., ILLINOIS

VALERIE OLAFSON

FALL 1995

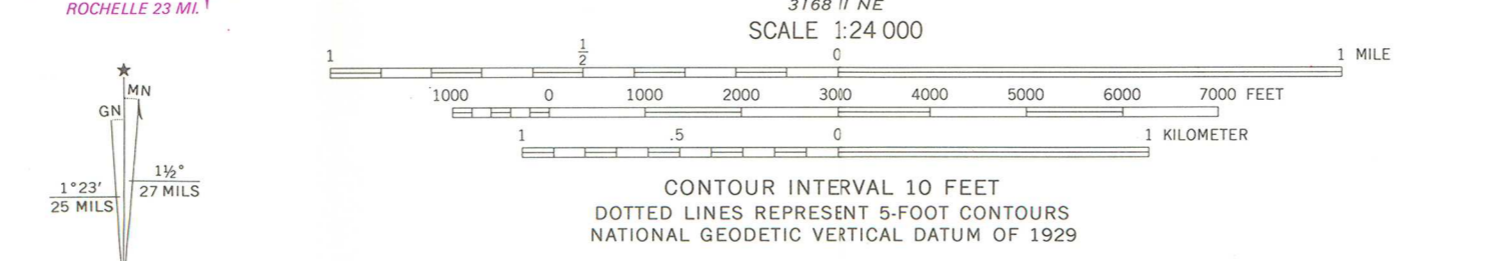
INTERIOR CEILING DETAIL

2ND FLOOR ROOM



CHICK HOUSE
WINNEBAGO COUNTY, IL
ZONE 16
E 327210
N 4681740

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1970. Field checked 1971
Supersedes Rockford map dated 1949
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Illinois coordinate system, west zone (transverse Mercator)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1976. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

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

ROCKFORD NORTH, ILL.
N4215—W8900/7.5
1971
PHOTOREVISED 1976
AMS 3168 1 SE—SERIES V863



**Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507 • (217) 782-4836 • TTY (217) 524-7128

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Charles E. Box, City of Rockford
Virginia Gregory, Secretary, Rockford Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: David Newton, Assistant National Register Coordinator *DAN*

DATE: September 13, 1996

SUBJECT: Preliminary Opinion of the Chick House, 119-123 South Main Street,
Rockford, Illinois

The Chick House, 119-123 South Main Street, Rockford, Illinois meets Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The building meets Criterion A for commerce for its role as an important lodging facility for Rockford during the 19th and early 20th centuries, providing hotel services to guests and residents. The period of significance for Criterion A is 1857, when the hotel opened to 1946, the fifty year cutoff for significance for the National Register.

The Chick House also meets Criterion C for architecture as a rare example of a pre-Civil War commercial building in Rockford. The building has a combination of Greek Revival and Italianate influences. The building shows the transition from the older Greek Revival style to the newer, fashionable Italianate style. Greek Revival influences on the building include its symmetrical fenestration patterns, stone sills and lintels, and some remaining six-over-six and nine-over-six windows. Italianate influences on the building include its tall, narrow front facade windows with segmental arches and arched cast iron window hoods as well as the brick corbel table frieze at the cornice. The period of significance for Criterion C is 1857.

The Chick House was remodeled in 1928-1929 with a new entrance canopy, and some changes to the lobby, staircase, and some of the rooms. These changes do not significantly detract from the original building design.

**CITY OF ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
425 EAST STATE STREET
61104CHARLES E. BOX
MAYOR

September 20, 1996

Ms. Ann V. Swallow
Survey and National Register Coordinator
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507

RE: Chick House
119-123 South Main Street

Dear Ms. Swallow:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the nomination of the Chick House to the National Register of Historic Places. While it certainly is not the most elaborate building in Rockford, it has long been recognized as having historical significance to our downtown. It is one of the few remaining buildings in west downtown Rockford constructed before 1900, and the only one left that was built before the Civil War.

Some of the Chick House's surroundings have changed drastically in the 140 years since it was built. These surroundings include the Rockford MetroCentre, a 10,000-seat arena south of the Chick House that was built in the early 1980s, and a new parking deck immediately across the Main Street Mall from the Chick. Despite this, it retains much of its own original qualities and represents the earliest portion of a time continuum within its own block. It is adjacent to one of the other pre-1900 buildings, the Stewart Block built in 1890. Just beyond that is a commercial building from the 1920s. Both of these have been renovated in recent years.

Rockford has long recognized the East State Street portion of its downtown as historic, primarily because a major portion of it is intact and much of it has been renovated. National Register designation of the Chick House would give added weight to the west side of our downtown as being just as important historically as east downtown. Its designation may also give current or future owners the added incentive they need to restore the Chick House, thereby adding to its contribution to the economic life as well as the history of downtown Rockford.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Ms. Ann V. Swallow
September 20, 1996
Page 2

While the timing of this nomination is not the most opportune due to a possible hotel deal involving this block, on balance it is my feeling that the nomination should be granted. The Chick clearly possesses historical importance to Rockford, and the designation may serve as a positive inducement to its renovation. If it is not designated, then a major positive incentive for renovation, federal income tax credits, would be lost. Therefore, I urge the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council to give a positive recommendation to the designation of this property in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Box
Mayor

Rockford Historic Preservation Commission

TO: Ann Swallow, Survey & National Register Coordinator
IHPA

FROM: Ginny Gregory, Secretary
RHPC

DATE: November 12, 1996

RE: **CHICK HOUSE [119-123 SOUTH MAIN STREET]**

At its regular meeting today, the Rockford Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously to support the nomination of the above property to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Their reasoning for this recommendation was twofold:

- ▶ As the last pre-Civil War commercial structure downtown that retains its historic integrity, this building represents the only remaining example of Greek Revival architecture in a commercial building. It also serves as an excellent illustration of the transition from Greek Revival to the Italianate style with elements of both styles.
- ▶ The Chick also serves as a rare surviving example of the hospitality trade from the mid-19th century, having served as a hotel from 1857 until 1951 under a variety of names.

We ask that you convey these comments to the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Committee in time for their discussion of this nomination at their December meeting.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me next week at 815/987-5618.

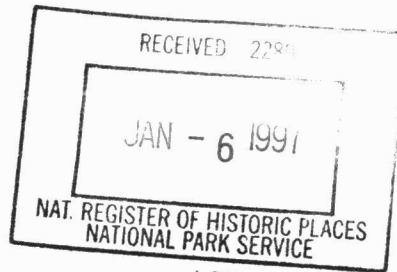


**Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507 • (217) 782-4836 • TTY (217) 524-7128

January 2, 1997

Beth Boland
National Register Program
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P. O. Box 37127
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127



Dear Beth:

Enclosed please find the following properties that were recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council at its December 13, 1996 meeting, and nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer:

Chick House, Rockford
Coca-Cola Bottling Company Building, Quincy
Greenlee, Robert, House, Bloomington
Lena Water Tower, Lena

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

David Newton
Assistant National Register Coordinator

enclosures