



ArtsPartners
of Central Illinois Inc.

La Ville de Maillet

820 S.W. Adams St.

Peoria, IL 61602

Phone: 309-676-2787

Fax: 309-676-0290

Administrative Offices:

admin@artspartners.net

www.artspartners.net



ArtsPartners
of Central Illinois Inc.

THE ART OF STRUCTURE

AN ARCHITECTURAL TOUR OF DOWNTOWN PEORIA

ArtsPartners is pleased to offer this collection of Peoria's outstanding architecture that showcases how vitally important the arts are to our city's cultural enrichment. This catalog has been made possible, in part, by donations from the RLI Insurance Company Corporate Contributions Fund and the Pete and Mildred Donis Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of Central Illinois; The Caterpillar Foundation; The Illinois Arts Council, a State Agency; and Numéro Publishing, Inc. Special thanks go to local historian Dr. Peter J. Couri, Jr. for his research, Doug Leunig for his photography, and Nicole Blackburn for her layout and design.

Suzette Boulais

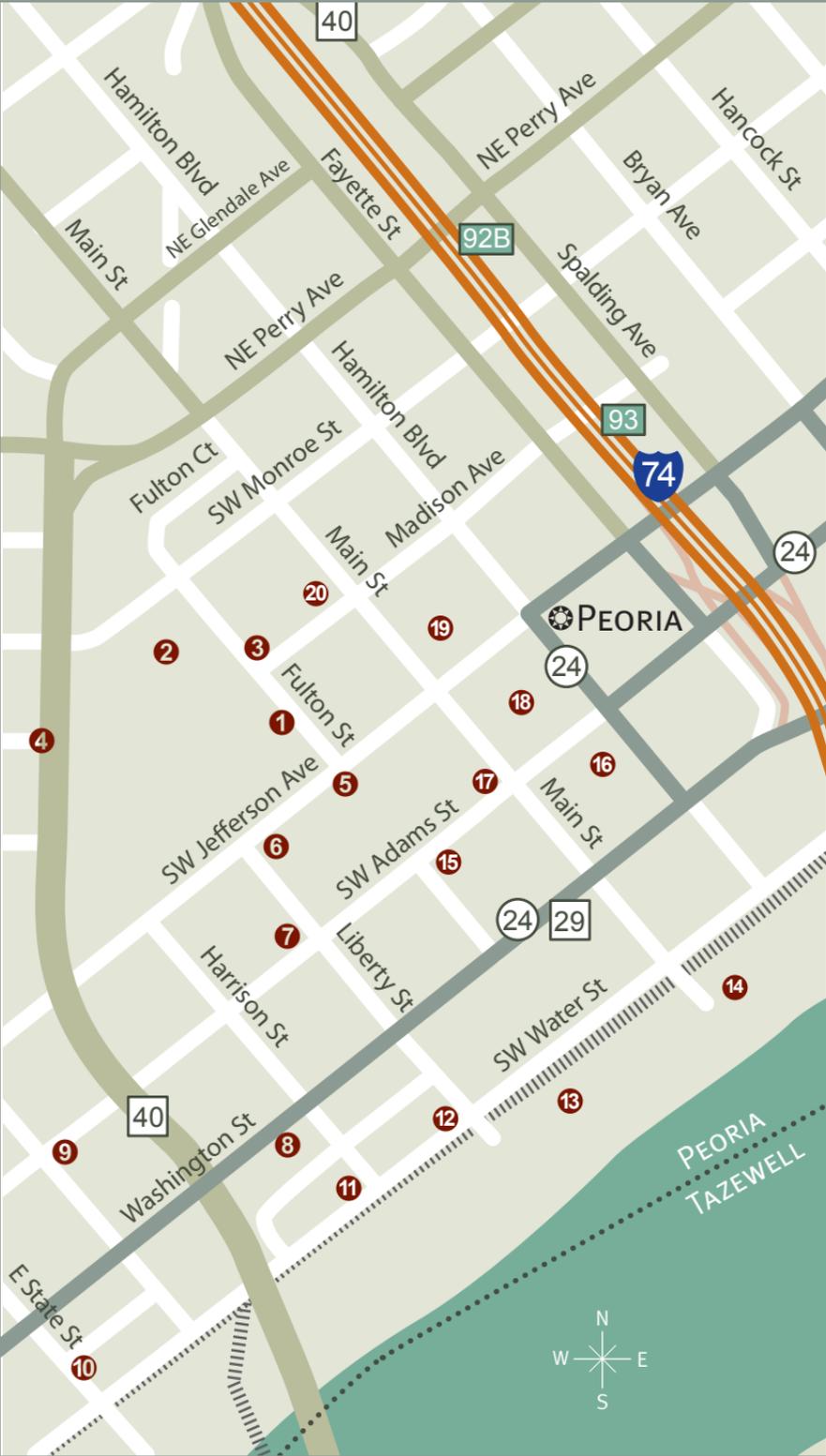
SUZETTE BOULAIS
ARTSPARTNERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





Photo: Peoria City Hall and Peoria Civic Center, pp.6-7.

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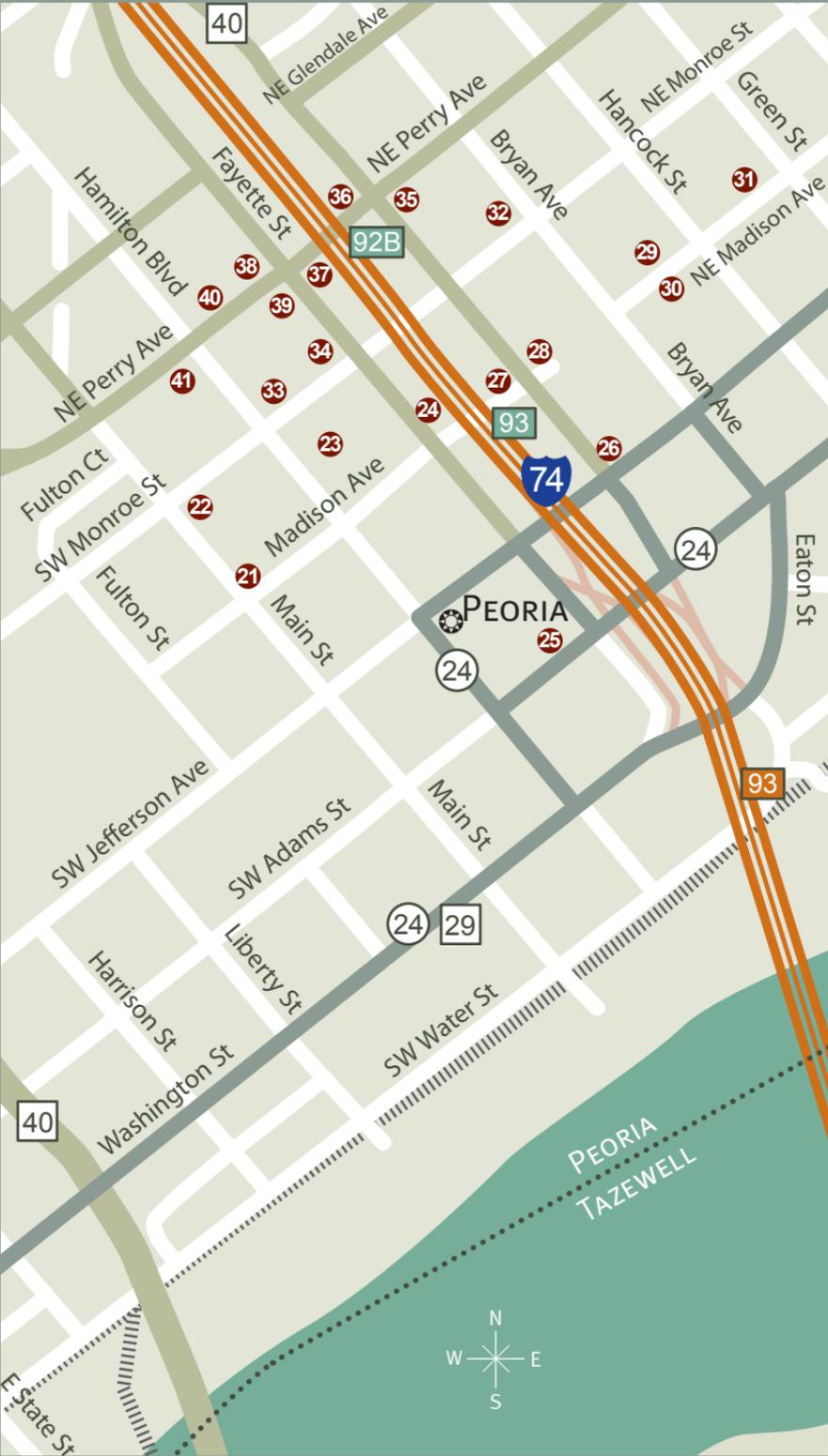
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WHERE: 419 FULTON STREET

BUILT: 1899

ARCHITECT: REEVES AND BAILLIE

STYLE: FLEMISH RENAISSANCE



Considered in its day to be the finest city hall in the nation for a small city, Peoria City Hall was finished on all four sides with Lake Superior red sandstone which today is now mined and depleted. Exquisitely detailed cast iron accents the marble interior with beveled cut glass windows in the public areas. The art on all four floors represents the different Native American, French, and American cultures that have inhabited Peoria's shores. The building was purposely designed in the German style inside and out as a tribute to the German pioneer immigrants from the 1850s who organized and strengthened Peoria's city services. All the construction workers, material suppliers and designers were all Peorians.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES – 1973

WHERE: 201 S.W. JEFFERSON STREET

BUILT: 1982

ARCHITECT: PHILIP JOHNSON AND JOHN BURGEE

STYLE: POST-MODERN

Known as the most prominent architect of the last half of the 20th century, Johnson described his plan for the arena, exhibit halls, and theater as being connected by a “necklace of jewels.” The glass arcades would become his international signature. A major renovation was completed in 2007 utilizing designs by a young architect, David Manaca, who designed a small arena at the 2008 Peking Olympics. In 2005, the National Park Service designated the Peoria Civic Center as the 11th Illinois site of the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Moses and Lucy Pettengill’s 1842 home, once located at the front doors of Carver Arena, hid fleeing slaves and became the center of anti-slavery activities in Peoria before the Civil War. A monument of bronze and stainless steel created by internationally renowned African-American sculptor Preston Jackson will commemorate these events.





For its 100th anniversary, the church undertook a major renovation to restore and enhance the historic murals, mosaics, and marble flooring.

Peoria's newest "tourist" attraction was rededicated in 2007. Though the paint is new, it succeeds in paying homage to the original architectural features and embellishments.

WHERE: 504 FULTON STREET

BUILT: 1906

STYLE: NEO-GOTHIC





WHERE: 405 N. WILLIAM KUMPF BOULEVARD

BUILT: 1856

STYLE: GREEK REVIVAL

Christian crosses serve as the dividers for the 24 pane windows encased within heavy stone lintels and sills. The building is Peoria's oldest standing church.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES - 1979



(BUSEY BANK)



The weight of the building is handled by a steel frame instead of the masonry walls, an important innovation at the time that enabled skyscrapers to become a reality. Chicago architect Jenney is now recognized as the “father of the skyscraper.” The Jefferson Building was billed as “Peoria’s first fire-proof building.”

WHERE: 331 FULTON STREET

BUILT: 1910

ARCHITECT: WILLIAM LeBARON JENNEY

STYLE: CLASSICAL GREEK REVIVAL



(CIVIC CENTER PLAZA)



WHERE: 240 S.W. JEFFERSON STREET

BUILT: 1902

ARCHITECT: HERBERT E. HEWITT

STYLE: PRAIRIE

Large windows, good size classrooms, and ornamental geometric decorations made this building an appealing school for most of its existence.

(PRAIRIE BUILDING)



The carved limestone veneers on the outside lower levels elicit a heavy, massive presence. Enter the lobby with its marble detailing and arched windows and you find it delicate, intricate, and light. The lobby is one of the most impressive indoor spaces in Peoria.

WHERE: 301 S.W. ADAMS STREET

BUILT: 1925

ARCHITECT: HEWITT & EMERSON

STYLE: RENAISSANCE REVIVAL

NATIONAL CITY BUILDING)



WHERE: 426 S.W. WASHINGTON

BUILT: 1870s

STYLE: EARLY AMERICAN COMMERCIAL

Cast iron commercial buildings once were prolific in early downtown Peoria. The cast iron columns serve the purpose of supporting the heavy wood floor beams and masonry walls.



WHERE: 542 S.W. ADAMS STREET

BUILT: 1930

ARCHITECT: HEWITT, EMERSON, & GREGG

STYLE: ART DECO



People would enter the depot on Adams Street into a richly ornamented, two story lobby and then descend to the lower level trains. The Illinois traction system trains departed out of the back of the building and crossed the river with its own bridge. You can still find the railroad tracks. When the train system shut down in the 1950s, the depot became the Peoria Police Station for many years.

(CITY OF PEORIA
ELECTION COMMISSION)





WHERE: 100 STATE STREET

BUILT: 1880S

STYLE: AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL

The complex was built in the 1880s to serve as a richly-ornamented, two-story boarding house for railroad workers at the enormous Union Railroad Depot across the street. It soon became a European-style hotel for business visitors to the city. Adjoining was the E.G. Ish Company which specialized in horse buggies and wooden farm implements.



(LE VIEUX CARRÉ BUILDING)

LARKIN SOAP COMPANY WAREHOUSE

WHERE: 401 WATER STREET

BUILT: 1905

STYLE: AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL

(401 WATER STREET
DEVELOPMENT)



In the early 1900s, the Larkin Company from Buffalo, New York, was the nation's largest provider of dry goods, whole-sale groceries, and automotive supplies. To serve the western United States, they constructed this massive and efficient warehouse. In 2002, the building became a very successful business and condo conversion project.



The limestone details and red brick design work showcase the pride of this national hardware and cast iron stove business.

WHERE: 311 S.W. WATER STREET

BUILT: 1903

STYLE: MIDWESTERN INDUSTRIAL



R F R O N T



(WATERFRONT PLACE -
ILLINOIS ANTIQUE CENTER)

CLARK QUIEN & MORSE BUILDING

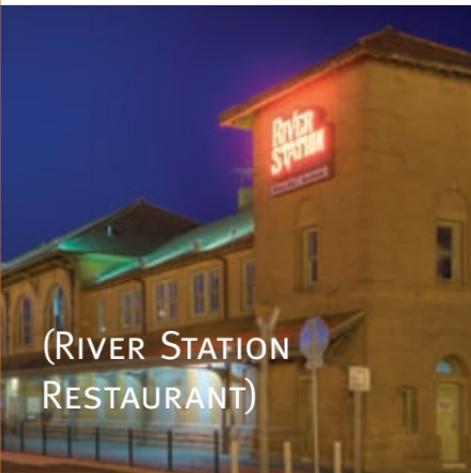
WHERE: 212 S.W. WATER STREET

BUILT: 1899

STYLE: NEO-RENAISSANCE,
CLASSICAL REVIVAL

An eight-story clock tower once anchored the southern end of the building, but the railroad decided to demolish it in 1939 rather than execute the necessary repair work. Graceful arches over the doorways and two-story windows express the luxury that rail travel once was. When the depot was built, over 100 passenger trains departed Peoria's train stations daily.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC
PLACES - 1978**



(RIVER STATION
RESTAURANT)



WHERE: 110 N.E. Water Street

BUILT: 1852

STYLE: EARLY AMERICAN FEDERAL

John Schwab arrived in Peoria during the great German immigration wave of the 1850s. His family lived on the upper story. You could purchase a beer for a nickel or a dish of ice cream for 15 cents on the first level. Once located on Washington Street, it was relocated in 1996 because of its importance as Peoria's oldest downtown commercial building.

(RIVERFRONT
VISITORS CENTER)

SCHIPPER & BLOCK BUILDING



Once clad in ornate white-glazed terra cotta, it was known nationally as the “Big White Store” and sponsored what is now America’s oldest Santa Claus parade. The 1979 renovations greatly altered its majestic architectural features.

(CHASE BANK)

WHERE: 124 S.W. ADAMS STREET

BUILT: 1902

ARCHITECT: HOLABIRD & ROCHE

STYLE: CHICAGO SCHOOL





WHERE: 100 N.E. ADAMS STREET

BUILT: 1968

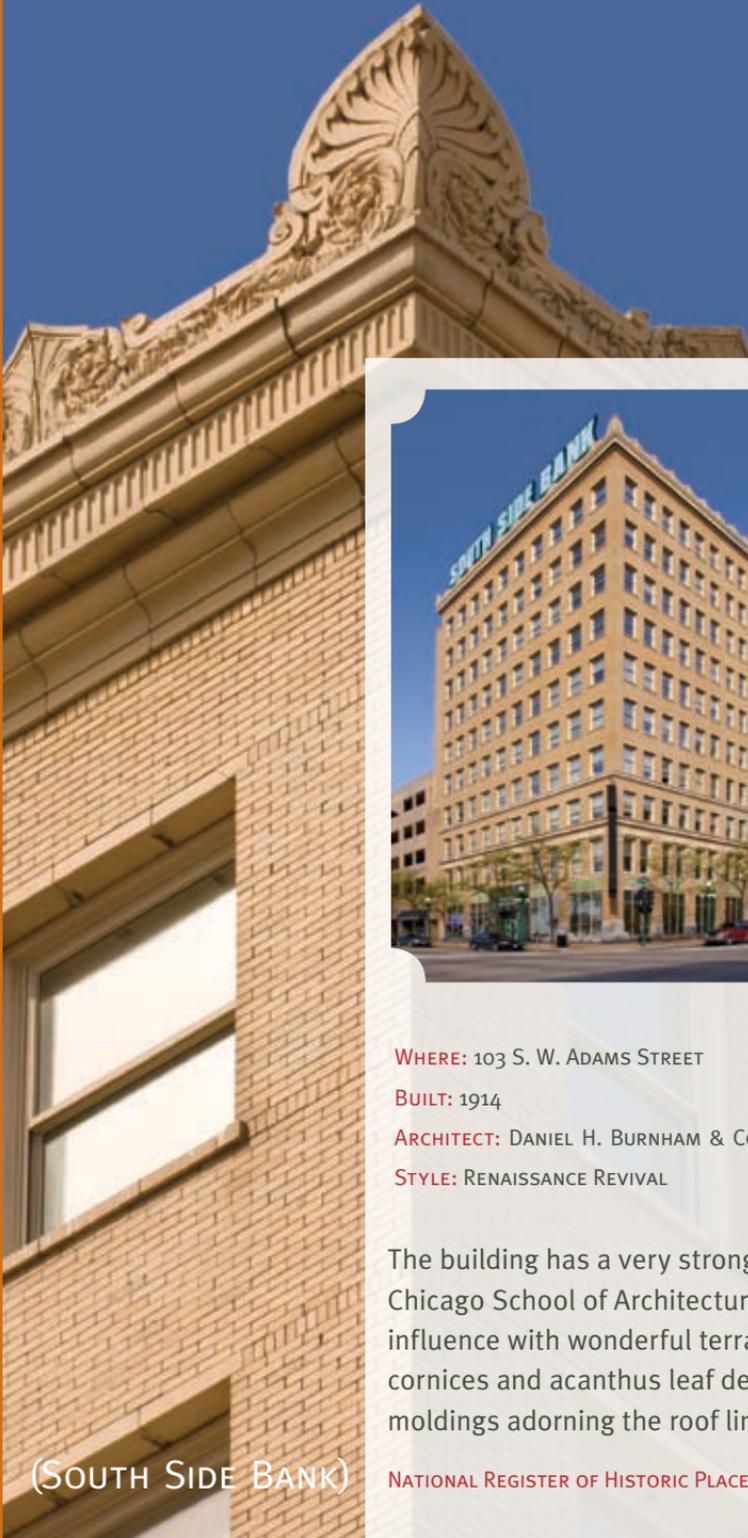
ARCHITECT: SMITH HAINES LUNDBERG &
WAEHLER

STYLE: MODERN

The exterior is clad with limestone in a manner that reflects the other buildings erected in the 1960s during the “Downtown Renaissance.” The main lobby once displayed a rich mixture of travertine marble, Woodbury granite, and safari granite. The formal landscape gardens, designed by Thomas Church, are an important part of the overall architectural whole.



CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING



WHERE: 103 S. W. ADAMS STREET

BUILT: 1914

ARCHITECT: DANIEL H. BURNHAM & COMPANY

STYLE: RENAISSANCE REVIVAL

The building has a very strong Chicago School of Architecture influence with wonderful terra cotta cornices and acanthus leaf design moldings adorning the roof line.

(SOUTH SIDE BANK)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES – 1978



WHERE: 324 MAIN STREET

BUILT: 1964

ARCHITECT: LANKTON-ZIEGELE-TERRY & ASSOCIATES

STYLE: MODERN

Courthouse Square was laid out in 1825 as the seat of Peoria County. The site was once home to an 1835 two-story pillared courthouse where Lincoln often spoke, and an 1876 Grand Venetian-style courthouse that was demolished in 1962. In 1899, President McKinley spoke at the dedication of the Civil War Monument which was created by Peoria sculptor Fritz Triebel. It is considered one of the finest pieces of Civil War art in the nation. The present courthouse was dedicated by Lady Bird Johnson in 1965 where she planted a cherry tree in the beautiful gardens of the plaza.





The white-glazed terra cotta decorative details feature majestic American eagles and sentinel guards that give Peoria its distinctive skyline. The beacon lantern tower was added to guard against a growing problem— the proliferation of low flying airplanes.



WHERE: 416 MAIN STREET

BUILT: 1920

ARCHITECT: HEWITT & EMERSON

STYLE: CLASSICAL

(COMMERCE BANK BUILDING)



WHERE: 501 MAIN STREET

BUILT: 1927

ARCHITECT: HORACE TRUMBAUER OF PHILADELPHIA

STYLE: CLASSIC GREEK REVIVAL

A true Peoria landmark since the day it opened, the hotel still features murals about French explorers Fr. Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet which were painted by George Mathews Harding, the nation's most respected muralist in the 1920s.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC

PLACES - 1982

WHERE: 502 MAIN STREET

BUILT: 1920

ARCHITECT: FREDERIC KLEIN

STYLE: CLASSICAL REVIVAL IN THE
STYLE OF SCOTTISH ARCHITECTS
ROBERT & JOHN ADAM

White-glazed terra cotta reliefs adorn the exterior of the building, including the famous “Madison Maiden” medallion. The interior bucked the trend of excessive vaudeville/movie palace decorations of the time by being detailed with the refined, muted Adams Brothers style of late English Renaissance design. The oval foyer pays homage to the famous foyer of Colean Castle in Scotland. The theater was built to accommodate traveling vaudeville shows as well as the growing early silent film industry.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES - 1980





WHERE: 100 N.E. MONROE STREET

BUILT: 1937

ARCHITECT: HOWARD CHENEY

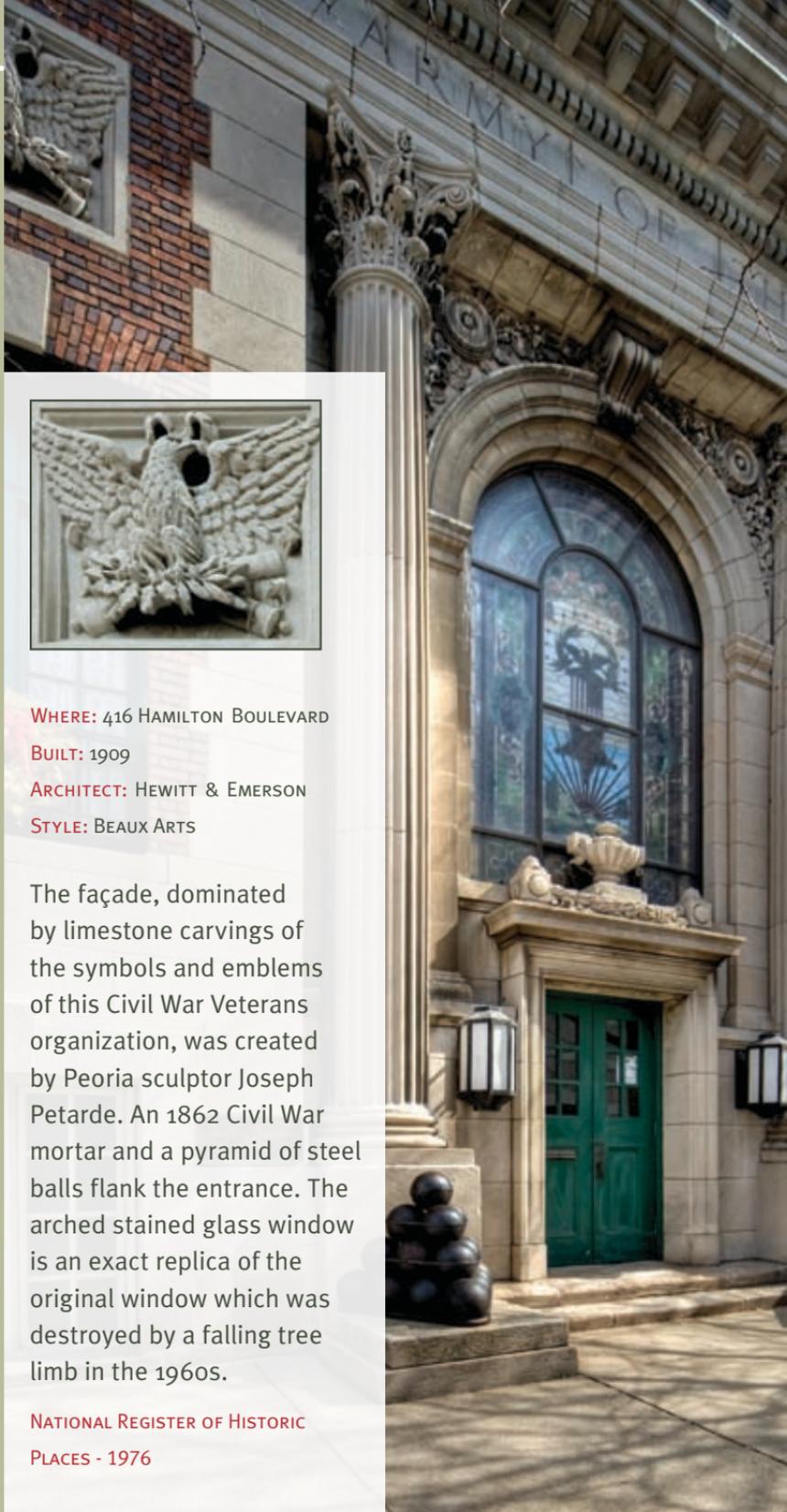
STYLE: INTERNATIONAL ART DECO



The building was part of the Works Progress Administration effort during the Great Depression of the 1930s to get America working again. Rose marble and solid gold leaf decorations highlight the exquisite indoor public areas. Chicago sculptor Freeman Schoolcraft was employed to do the art deco sculptures on the Main Street side. He hired a Pottawatomie Native American whose roots were from our area to pose for him.



(FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING)



WHERE: 416 HAMILTON BOULEVARD

BUILT: 1909

ARCHITECT: HEWITT & EMERSON

STYLE: BEAUX ARTS

The façade, dominated by limestone carvings of the symbols and emblems of this Civil War Veterans organization, was created by Peoria sculptor Joseph Petarde. An 1862 Civil War mortar and a pyramid of steel balls flank the entrance. The arched stained glass window is an exact replica of the original window which was destroyed by a falling tree limb in the 1960s.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES - 1976



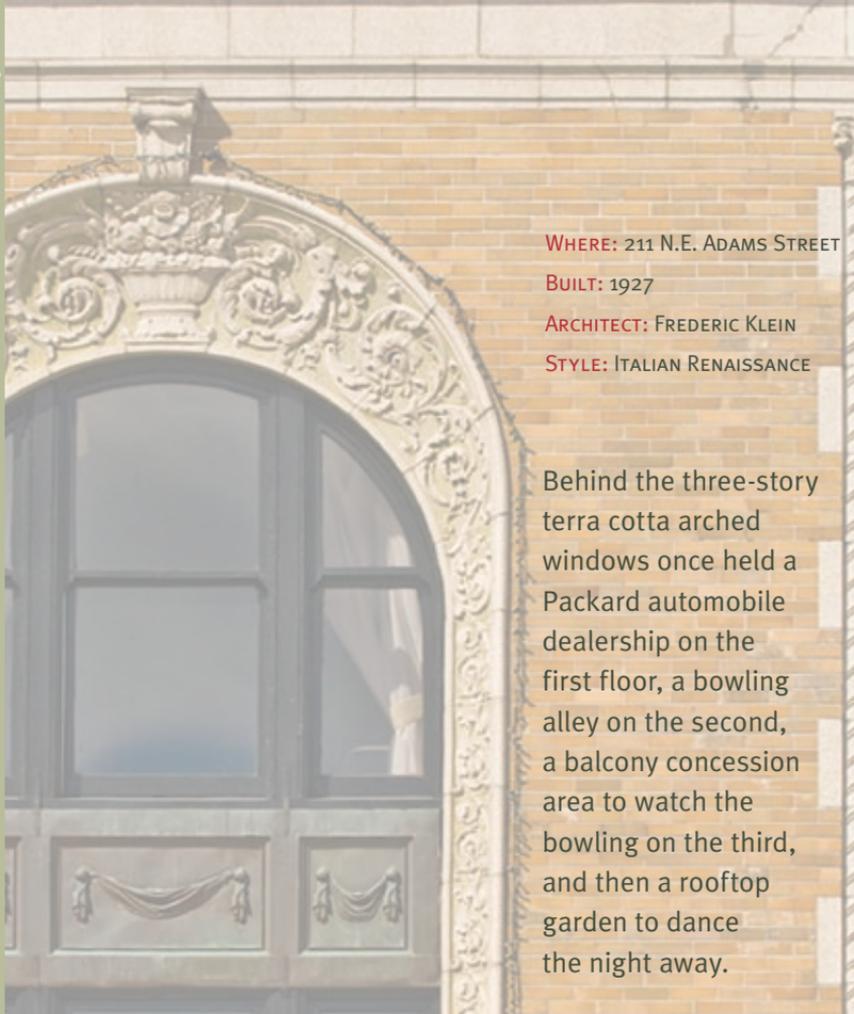
WHERE: 301 N.E. MADISON

BUILT: 1893

ARCHITECT: JENNY & MUNDIE

STYLE: ROMANESQUE

The 2nd floor music hall with its raked stage has passed through the decades virtually undisturbed. The club owns exquisite murals and valuable paintings by Peoria's most famous painters.



WHERE: 211 N.E. ADAMS STREET

BUILT: 1927

ARCHITECT: FREDERIC KLEIN

STYLE: ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

Behind the three-story terra cotta arched windows once held a Packard automobile dealership on the first floor, a bowling alley on the second, a balcony concession area to watch the bowling on the third, and then a rooftop garden to dance the night away.



(PACKARD PLAZA)



This is the oldest standing home in downtown Peoria.

Judge Jacob Gale was a prominent attorney who was elected Peoria's 4th mayor in 1848 and again during the Civil War in 1864.

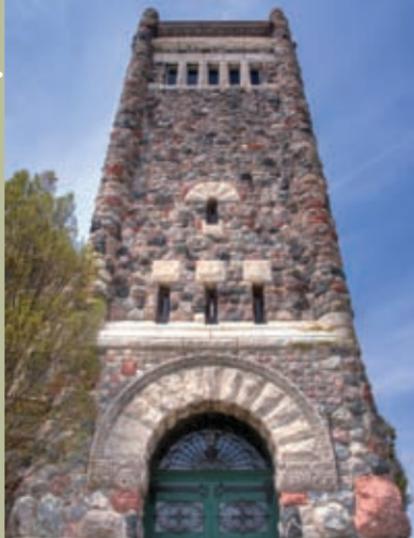
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC
PLACES – 1982

WHERE: 403 N. E. JEFFERSON

BUILT: 1842

STYLE: GREEK REVIVAL

(PRUSAK, WINNE,
& MCKINLEY)



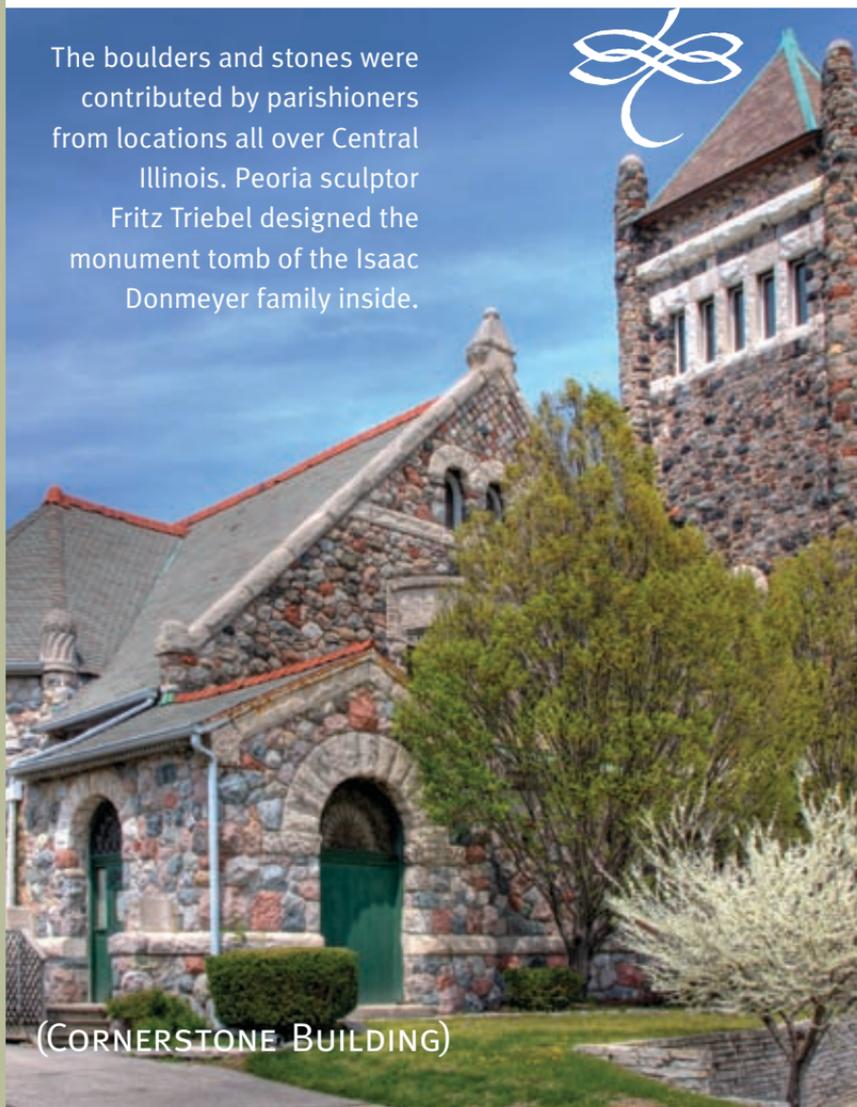
WHERE: 321 N.E. MADISON

BUILT: 1889

ARCHITECT: W. W. BOYINGTON
(ARCHITECT OF THE CHICAGO WATER TOWER)

STYLE: RICHARDSONIAN ROMANESQUE

The boulders and stones were contributed by parishioners from locations all over Central Illinois. Peoria sculptor Fritz Triebel designed the monument tomb of the Isaac Donmeyer family inside.



(CORNERSTONE BUILDING)



Named for the founder of the Catholic University of America, Peoria Bishop John Spalding, it served as a Catholic high school for almost a century.



WHERE: 401 N.E. MADISON

BUILT: 1898

ARCHITECT: REEVES & BAILLIE

STYLE: CHATEAUESQUE OR GERMAN MANOR HOUSE



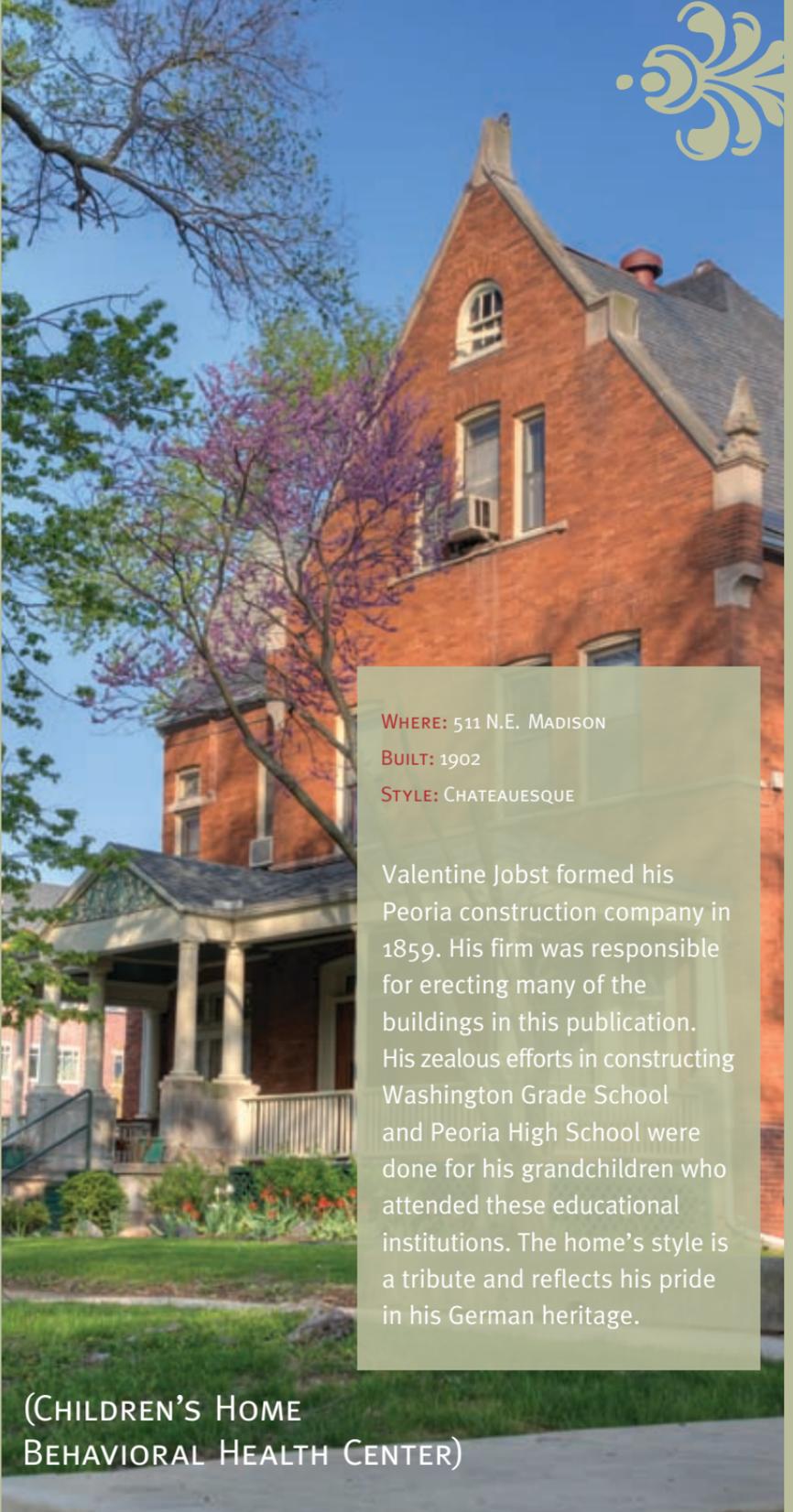
SPALDING INSTITUTE



(CURSILLO RENEWAL CENTER)



VALENTINE JOBST HOUSE



WHERE: 511 N.E. MADISON

BUILT: 1902

STYLE: CHATEAUESQUE

Valentine Jobst formed his Peoria construction company in 1859. His firm was responsible for erecting many of the buildings in this publication. His zealous efforts in constructing Washington Grade School and Peoria High School were done for his grandchildren who attended these educational institutions. The home's style is a tribute and reflects his pride in his German heritage.

(CHILDREN'S HOME
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER)

WHERE: 514 & 516 N.E. MADISON

BUILT: BEFORE WORLD WAR I

STYLE: URBAN RESIDENTIAL

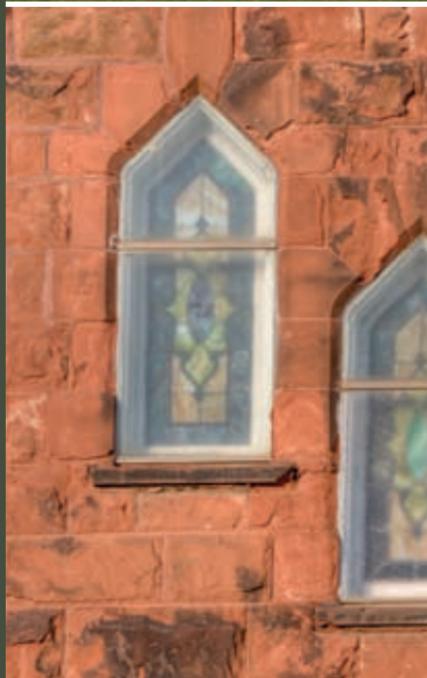
These two turn-of-the-century homes were designated as City of Peoria Historic Landmarks because they are some of the last urban brownstones still standing in Downtown Peoria.





WHERE: 607 N.E. MADISON
BUILT: 1889
ARCHITECT: CASPER MEHLER
STYLE: VICTORIAN NEO-GOTHIC

Bishop John Lancaster Spalding was the first bishop of the Peoria Diocese and he specified that the new Cathedral be designed to honor St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Look for the many references to Peoria's French Missionaries who came here in 1673, Bishop Fulton Sheen who was ordained here, and to Mother Teresa who visited in the 1990s.



WHERE: 521 N.E. MONROE

BUILT: 1898

ARCHITECT: REEVES & BAILLIE

STYLE: NORMAN ROMANESQUE/GOTHIC

The castle fortress architecture gives you the feeling of solid strength and moral intensity. It was built with the same Lake Superior red sandstone as Peoria City Hall.

(CHRISTIAN
ASSEMBLY CHURCH)



WHERE: 207 N.E. MONROE

BUILT: 1938

ARCHITECT: JAMESON & HARRISON

STYLE: ORIENTAL INFLUENCE

The massive auditorium served as the cultural center of Peoria until the Peoria Civic Center was built in 1982.

(RIVERSIDE
COMMUNITY CHURCH)



This finely detailed white terracotta building has two doors on each corner rather than one grand entrance because it was built to house two businesses: the United Duroc Swine Registry and the Charles A. Bennett Publishing Company.

WHERE: 239 N.E. MONROE

BUILT: 1931

STYLE: CLASSICAL



(Amvets Post #45)

SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL



WHERE: 400 N.E. PERRY

BUILT: 1924

ARCHITECT: WALTER JAMESON

STYLE: GOTHIC REVIVAL



Heavy interior wood beam supports distinguish the main gathering room as one of the finest acoustic auditoriums in Peoria.



WHERE: 331 N.E. PERRY

BUILT: 1877

STYLE: SECOND EMPIRE

Portius Wheeler owned a wholesale drug company with a national distribution network. In 1885, the home was purchased by distiller Samuel Woolner. The Woolner Brothers owned several highly successful distilleries in Peoria and they built the massive (now gone) Woolner Building in 1890 as offices for their empire. The building was commonly known as the Bergners building. Samuel Woolner would become one of America's first and foremost Jewish philanthropists, establishing many Jewish charities that still exist today. This house is the most endangered building in this publication.

WHERE: 300 N.E. PERRY

BUILT: 1885

STYLE: SECOND EMPIRE

Hodges was an inventor, carpenter, builder, and bank investor who built himself what is said to be one of the sturdiest and strongest homes in the city. In 1926, it was transformed into Boland Mortuary.



(BENASSI & BENASSI)



WHERE: 245 N.E. PERRY

BUILT: 1877

STYLE: ITALIANATE/VICTORIAN

David Proctor was the owner of the international Culter & Proctor Stove Company. He was the father of Julia Proctor White, a famous Peoria painter, writer, and arts patron. In 1912, the home was purchased by Peoria Evening Star and Peoria Journal Transcript newspaper owner Eugene Baldwin. He was said to have one of the largest book libraries in the country and the house held many thousands of volumes. The collection was donated to Bradley Polytechnic Institute. His daughter was Sydney Baldwin, a famous Peoria poet and writer. Baldwin refurbished the home with a Colonial Revival porch and detailed metal railings. The carriage house in the back is a successful conversion to modern offices.

(VAN FLEET & OHAVER)



PROCTOR/BALDWIN HOUSE



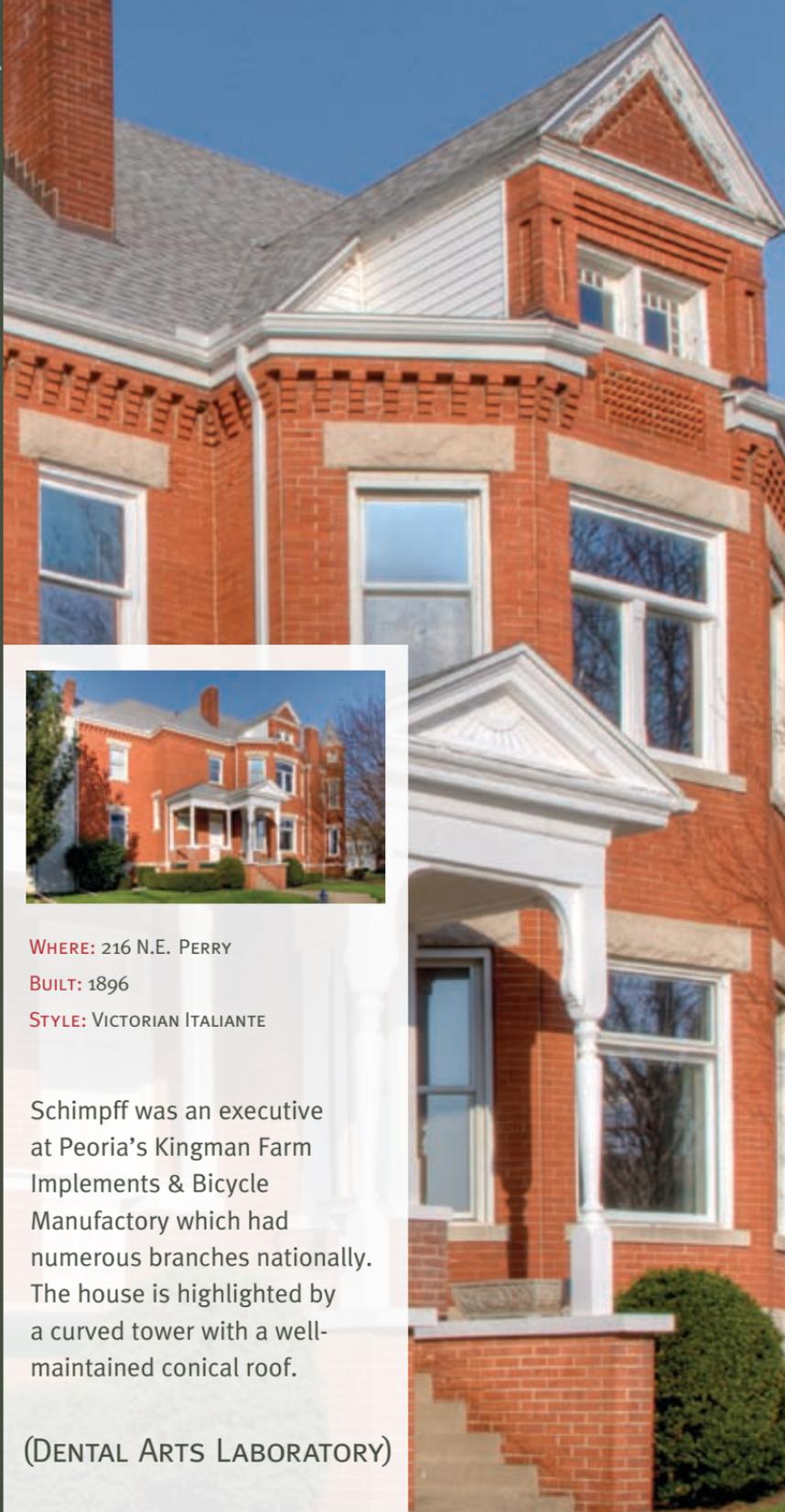
WHERE: 216 N.E. PERRY

BUILT: 1896

STYLE: VICTORIAN ITALIANTE

Schimpff was an executive at Peoria's Kingman Farm Implements & Bicycle Manufactory which had numerous branches nationally. The house is highlighted by a curved tower with a well-maintained conical roof.

(DENTAL ARTS LABORATORY)





WHERE: 203 N.E. PERRY

BUILT: 1879

STYLE: ITALIANE



After becoming a hero in the Civil War, Kingman established his Kingman Farm Implement & Bicycle Manufactory into a national powerhouse. In 1899, he served as chairman of the Peoria Courthouse War Memorial Committee and he unveiled the Civil War monument with his old friend, President McKinley. The full porch with its elaborate adornments, the gabled dormers, and the roof cupola still evoke a comfortable and inviting home. In 1912, the home became Cumerford Mortuary, Peoria's first funeral home.



WHERE: 116 N.E. PERRY

BUILT: 1916

ARCHITECT: HEWITT & EMERSON

STYLE: ENGLISH GOTHIC

The Indiana limestone, slate roof, and solid heavy design bring forth the feelings of deep roots and tradition for one of Peoria's most respected churches. The elegantly carved woodwork throughout the building is some of Peoria's finest.





ABOUT ARTSPARTNERS

Founded in 1999, ArtsPartners of Central Illinois, Inc. is a 501c3 tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to building awareness and economic viability of Peoria area Arts.

ArtsPartners realizes its mission by developing and implementing community-wide arts marketing activities; by facilitating collaborations among the arts organizations; and by creating and nurturing partnerships with the business community, the media, local agencies, and educational institutions.

The City of Peoria and the Peoria Civic Center Authority have committed 2.5% of the collected restaurant tax to ArtsPartners as an economic investment, recognizing that a rich cultural environment is an economic benefit to the entire Peoria area.

RESEARCHED AND WRITTEN BY DR. PETER J. COURI, JR.

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