

ROCK ISLAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOMINATION FOR
LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Case # 87-3

Date 5/26/87

Time 4:55 P.M.

Common Street Address of Property: 1906- 7th Ave, RI

Name and Address of Property Owner: Northwest Bank + Trust Co.
100 E Kimberly Rd Dept.

Please attach a simple statement setting forth the reasons for requesting designation. Please refer to the criteria listed on the reverse side. (These are excerpted from the Rock Island Preservation Ordinance.)

Name(s) and Address(es) of Applicant(s):

Karen L Williams
Signature

Karen L. WILLIAMS
Name

852- 19th St
Address

786- 1969
Telephone

1. Legal description of property (available from abstract or County Recorder of Deeds office).
2. Map indicating location of property proposed for designation (assistance available from Planning Division).
3. Recent photograph (copies of old photographs or drawings may also be included).
4. Indicate whether or not the owner is aware of the proposed designation.

the owner is not yet aware of the nomination

5TH CASE 87-3

ST. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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 3 R.I. 6635
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AVENUE
 82 158
 CITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH OL 36
 R.I. 5299

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 4 R.I. 3775
 5 R.I. 3774 (F) ✓
 6 R.I. 3773 ✓
 7 R.I. 3772 ✓
 8 R.I. 3769 ✓
 9 R.I. 3770 ✓

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 OL 31
 R.I. 5289
 290 290
 STREET VAC STREET

185
 (C) ✓
 LINCOLN SCHOOL
 R.I. 5277-1
 OL 30
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30 140
 SALVATION ARMY
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 OL 41
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7TH
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On behalf of the Rock Island Preservation Society, I nominate the Potter House (1906-7th Ave., circa 1907) for landmark designation.

Aside from its obvious timeless architectural merit, it stands as an everpresent visual reminder of our city's past. The Potter House is one of the finest physical evidence of a family who shaped Rock Island. It's exterior design and craftsmanship throughout, shows the family's commitment of excellence to the community. Its prominent location shows that it was not only a home in which to reside, it was a home meant to be visually shared with all who pass it.

Marguerite Potter had preserved the home until her death. I feel it is time now for the city to take steps to protect the home in her absence. *

Submitted May 1987
Karen Lee Williams

*Attached is an architectural description of the building, a legal description and photographs.

1906-7A06

Sheet 15

Index No.

Rock Island 6656

Marguerite Potter
1906 7 Avenue
Rock Island, Ill.

John W. Spencer's 3rd Add. All except South 50 feet Lot 1
Block 1.

Jeffrey R Crawford to
Rudolph J Sanchez 1906-7A06
QC 1059-46
Filed 10-31-84
Exempt E

Val 14000
L- 4000 L-10000

Marguerite Potter by Exctr to
Rudolph J Sanchez
Ex D 1140-191
Filed 7-21-86
DOC 1982

TAX BILL
1906-7A06
L.I. OWN SHEET

Rudolph J Sanchez to
Northwest Bk & Trst Co
QC 1184-230
Filed 4-24-87
Exempt M
Rel 1140-192 & 1140-382

1906 7th Avenue
Potter House, Circa 1907

Rock Island architect, George Staudahar, designed this home in 1907 for Mrs. Minnie E. Potter, president of J. W. Potter Company. Plans for this home are in the Staudahar archive at the University of Illinois. Mrs. Potter resided here until her death and the property remained in the Potter family until 1983 when it was sold.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE

This house retains its original appearance, except for the porch on the East which has been enclosed.

STYLISTIC DETAILS

The overall architectural style of this house is Colonial Revival which has been blended with stylistic details from the Prairie School of architecture. The front facade of this house is primarily colonial, with the symmetrical positioning of the windows and entrance. The roof line is colonial with dormers. There is a frieze with dentil work below the eaves. The entrance is typical of colonial revival style. The door has side lights and an elliptical fan light above. 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 third floor windows are arched.



JOHN W. POTTER, SR., died Jan. 11, 1898, at the age of 36, but he had already built a firm foundation for The Argus during the 16 years when he was its editor and publisher. When he took over the paper it had a subscription list of less than 500 names. He was Rock Island postmaster four years.



MRS. JOHN W. POTTER, SR., directed The Argus for 33 years after her husband's death. She passed away in 1934. The present publishers, daughter and two sons of Mr. and Mrs. Potter, seek to maintain the journalistic standards which enabled the paper to outlive its competitors.

1918 7th Avenue
Circa 1890

The Potter's chauffeur lived in this cottage which is older than the Potter house.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE

The original appearance of this house has been retained, with a few exceptions. The front porch has been enlarged and it is likely that the columns have been changed.

STYLISTIC DETAILS

The style of this house is most likely "cottage Italianate".

The Argus, in its early years, outlasted many of its owners

FEB 28 1987

The story of the Rock Island Argus goes back to 1851. The newspaper, now owned by Small Newspaper Group, Inc., owners of The Daily Dispatch, survived these many years in part due to its policy of seeing, "All the News All the Time." The word "Argus" in Greek mythology means an enormous and powerful monster with many eyes. The Argus has also survived because of its adaptation to change when necessary.

"The Argus was among the first newspapers in the Middle West to drop the practice of what was known as 'personal journalism,' when printing the news unalloyed by personal observations and confining what was printed in the news columns to facts, becoming recognized as the ideal of the newspaper business," according to the, "The Story of The Argus 1851-1925", published by the Aledo Democrat Publishing Co. of Aledo.

The Argus began as a weekly known as the Rock Island Republican. Since the Republican party had not yet been formed the term was used in its governmental sense. Then in 1855 the Republican party was formed. The political beliefs of the new party were opposed to those of the newspaper's publisher. Thus the name was changed to the Argus.

THE ORIGINAL publishers were Fred S. Nichols and John W. Dunham. Both men had been employed by the St. Louis Intelligencer. They began business in Rock Island with second-hand equipment purchased in St. Louis. The newspaper was located in a rear room in the Whitaker and Evans building, located east of the present building. The first edition was printed Oct. 18, 1851.

After six weeks Dunham sold his share to Nichols and returned South. In November, 1852, Nichols sold a half interest to J. B. Danforth, Jr., who continued on the staff until 1869.

In the spring of 1853 Nichols sold out to Danforth. Danforth was sole owner for three years.

During these three years what became known as the Buford block was completed. It was located at the north-east corner of Second Ave. and 17th St. The first four-story structure in Rock Island was built in this block. The newspaper stayed there for 17 years.

On July 13, 1854 the first daily issue of The Argus was printed. At that time there was no other daily nearer than Dubuque, Iowa. On Dec. 17, 1855, The Argus became a morning paper.

At the end of the three-year era Danforth sold a share in The Argus ownership to Robert V. Shurley. On Sept. 16, 1857 Pershing & Connelly purchased the rest of the interests. Pershing & Connelly were publishers of the Rock Islander. The two publications were combined as the Rock Islander and Argus. A week after this transaction Shurley sold out to Milton Jones who stayed until 1881.



Images of the Past

By Marlene Gantt

ON SEPT. 16, 1859 Danforth bought out Pershing & Connelly. The newspaper became known as The Argus again. In the meantime the daily had become tri-weekly. It resumed publication as a daily on Sept. 1, 1861. It also became an evening newspaper.

Robert F. McNeal bought out Danforth in 1869 and resold to J. S. Drake on Jan. 1, 1870. Three years later The Argus Company was formed and incorporated with a capital stock of \$32,000.

In 1871 The Argus went into its first exclusive quarters. The Argus block was erected by the Buford heirs next to the alley on the east side of East 17th St. Ten years later Richardson & Powers acquired a controlling interest in the company. For one brief year they waged a struggle against adversity. At the end of that time, in 1881, financial reverses necessitated a suspension of the newspaper.

The Argus got a new lease on life when J.W. Potter, publisher of the Freeport Bulletin, bought the folded newspaper. He sent his son J. W. Potter, Jr. to Rock Island to manage The Argus. The first issue under the new management came out Aug. 2, 1882. In May, 1885 the elder Potter died and the son became sole owner.

It was said that little but the name The Argus was left of the newspaper when Potter took charge. In June of 1888 Potter purchased a building on Second Avenue and remodeled it. By then the newspaper was back on a paying basis.

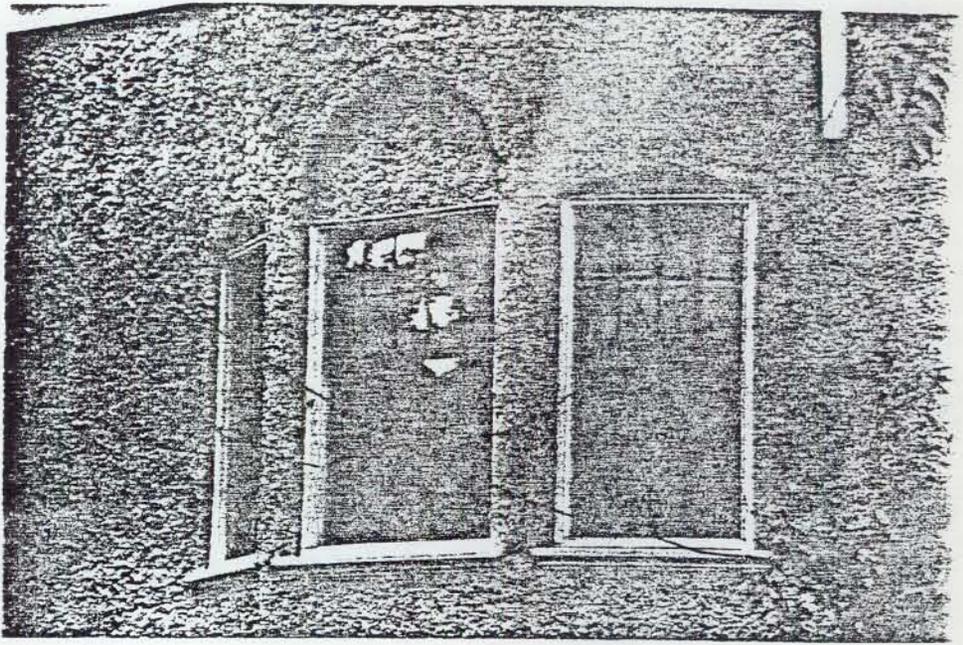
After Potter died in 1898 the J. W. Potter Co. was organized. The newspaper was published under the corporate name by Mrs. J. W. Potter, as president of the company.

In 1920 The Argus absorbed the Rock Island Daily Union. The Union was founded in 1862. It was said that "the leading features of its service were incorporated into The Argus."

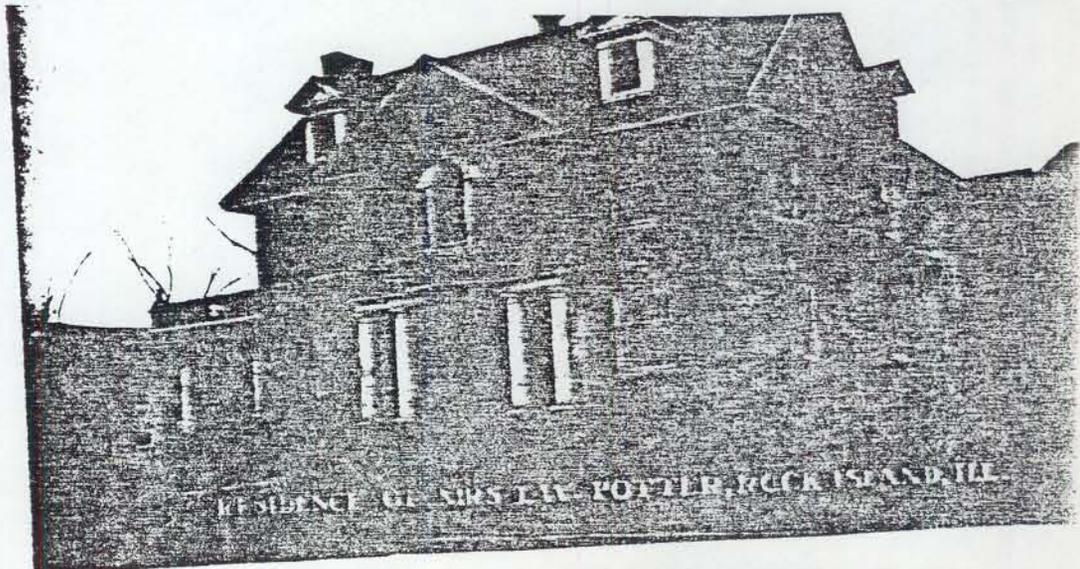
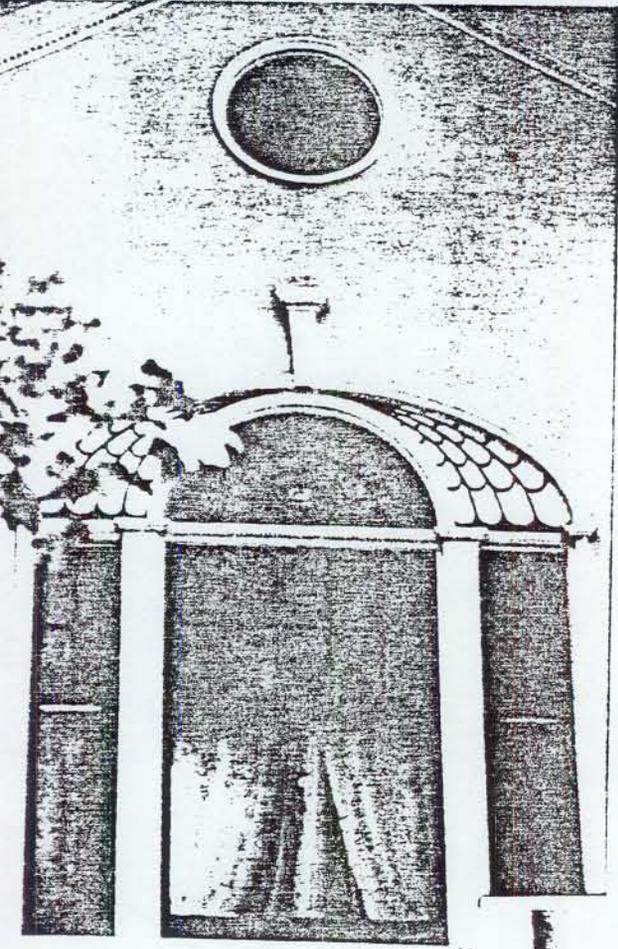
(Next: The Argus gets a new home.)

Marlene Gantt of East Moline teaches school in Rock Island.

Rock Island Daily Argus



1906 - 7 AVENUE



RESIDENCE OF MRS. E. W. POTTER, ROCK ISLAND, ILL.