



LEGEND

— SUBJECT PROPERTY

**LA NDMARK
NOMINATION**

 **CITY OF ROCK ISLAND**
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
PLANNING AND REDEVELOPMENT DIVISION

SCALE: 0 25 50 100 FEET

 **NORTH**

DRAWN BY: L.R.O.
APPROV. BY: JD/AMC

92-7

ROCK ISLAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION
NOMINATION FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Common Street Address of Property:

1915 9th Avenue

Name and Address of Property Owner(s):

Robert Yapp, Jr. 1915 9th Avenue, Rock Island

Is Owner Aware of Proposed Designation: Yes No

Please attach a short report 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.) A list of other details you should attempt to provide in the nomination report is attached.

Please also attach the following:

1. Legal description of property (available from abstract or County Recorder of Deeds office).
2. One photograph of each elevation (side) of the property being nominated. Copies of old photographs or drawings may also be included.
3. Sources used to write the report.

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

Robert Yapp, Jr. 1915 9th Avenue, Rock Island
Name Address

Robert Yapp, Jr. 788-6311
Signature Phone Number

Return Nomination Form To:

City of Rock Island
Planning and Redevelopment Division
1528 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

OFFICE USE ONLY Case # 92-7 Date 6/1/92 Time 4:20 P.M.

1915 9th Avenue

John W. Spencer's 3rd Addition to the city of Rock Island

Subdivision of outlet 6: Lot 4

This Italianate Bungalow style home sits at 1915 9th Avenue and is believed to have been constructed in 1879. The home was originally built and owned by Palmer and Polly Ann Stearns who was a member of the Old Settlers Association.¹

The appearance of this structure is significantly enhanced by its numerous unique architectural elements. A highly detailed Italianate center entry porch is present at the front of the house. In addition, the windows on the front of the house are complimented by detailed Italianate window hoods.

The property on which the house stands was originally acquired by Polly Ann Stearns on May 1, 1878, as a lot in John W. Spencer's Third Addition to the city.² The house is represented on the Sanborn Insurance maps printed in 1892.³ Mrs. Stearns is listed as the resident at the address in the 1891–2 city directory.⁴ Because of the architectural style of the structure and the building materials used, we have estimated that the construction took place immediately after the property was purchased.

The twelve–inch thick rubble stone foundation and full dimension two–by–fours used in the construction process are consistent with other houses in the vicinity known to be built in the 1870's. Additionally, the Italianate feather–grained woodwork was done on–site at the same time the wood flooring was grained which is yet another indication the house was most likely constructed in 1879, as this practice was common during this period. Finally, the use of square, cut nails, was more prevalent prior to 1890, which further strengthens the case that the house was constructed before 1890.

The house stands one and one–half stories high with a gable roof and has it's original double–hung, two–over–two windows. The original one story, shed style summer kitchen is still intact and retains it's original, vertical batten board siding. entire structure is a frame construction with clapboard siding on the main house. entry–size front porch is Italianate in style and highly detailed. Alterations and

additions were not made on the structure and no architectural features have been removed.

We believe the house was used as a rental unit from the beginning although Mrs. Stearns resided there briefly following the death of her husband, Palmer. The home was occupied by many short-term renters in the following years who represented a wide variety of labor-type occupations like a wallpaper hanger, a painter, a chauffeur, and a railroad switchman. This house is a good indicator of the need for rented worker housing during the development of Rock Island's central business district, railroad network, and industrial sections in the late nineteenth century. The establishment of the railroads ties in significantly to the development of interstate trade and transportation.

The house sits on Ninth Avenue between 19th and 20th Streets in what has been established as the Broadway Historic Area. It is a familiar and visible structure on a neighborhood thoroughfare. It is nearly situated to the Sturgeon-Bahnsen House at 852 19th Street which was built in 1876. This landmark home has window hoods that are strikingly similar to the ones present on the Stearns home. We believe that the same builder may have constructed the house at 1915 9th Avenue.

The historic value of this home is derived not only from its untainted period architectural style but also its importance as a classic example of a Rock Island worker house representing the strong labor force present here from the late 1800's to the present.

We are therefore applying for landmark status under criteria 3.

Footnotes

1. The Daily Dispatch. March 16, 1896.
2. Rock Island County Recorder. Deed Record: Book 66, Page 65.
3. Sanborn-Ferris Map Co. Insurance Maps for Rock Island, Ill. 1892.
4. Stone's Rock Island City Directory. 1891-2.

Bibliography

The Daily Dispatch. Moline, IL: March 16, 1896.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. 1984.

Portrait and Biographical Album of Rock Island County Illinois. Chicago, IL: 1885.

Quayle, W. P. Illustrated Souvenir of Rock Island County. Rock Island, IL: 1895.

Rock Island County Recorder. Deed Record: Book 66, Page 65. Rock Island, IL: 1878.

Sanborn–Ferris Map Co. Insurance Maps for Rock Island, Ill. New York: 1892, 1898, 1906.

Stone's Rock Island City Directory. 1868 through 1921.

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OBITUARY.

Death of one of the Early Settlers
of the County, Mrs. Fannie Stewart
— Aged 82 Years.

REARER.

At 6:50 this morning, at the home
of her son, George M. Stewart, 3250
Sixth avenue, occurred the death of
the venerable Mrs. Fannie Stewart,
widow of the late Palmer Stewart who
died in Boon Island some twenty years
ago, June 27, 1882. The lady would
have been 82 years of age had she
lived till tomorrow.

Mrs. Stewart was a sister of the late
E. P. Reynolds, and was born at Ber-
lin, Va. Early in the '30's she settled
in Rock Island, the first residence oc-
cupied by herself and husband in that
city being one they erected just south
of where the Harper house now
stands, on Nineteenth street, between
Second and Third avenues. She is
well known to all the old residents of
the county, and highly respected. She
was a member of the Old Settlers' as-
sociation.

She leaves two sons, George M., an
employee of Hincock, Gould & Co.,
and Francis W., in Texas. She also
leaves one brother, John Reynolds,
at Los Angeles, Cal., and four sisters,
Mrs. Simpson in Geneva, Mrs. Kim-
ball in Rock Island, and two in the
east.

The funeral takes place from the
home of her son in Moline at 2:30
Saturday afternoon. It is probable
that the Rev. W. H. Campbell of
Joliet will officiate. The interment
will be beside the remains of her hus-
band in Chippewaock cemetery,
Rock Island.



