

Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation



October 2020

The Ivy Club Gets CILF Recognition



A CILF historic recognition marker has been placed on the Illinois Valley Yacht and Canoe Club – better known as The Ivy Club. This long-time fixture on Galena Road in Peoria Heights is one of the gems of the Peoria area. An historic boating and social membership organization, it was founded in 1907, and is descended from several earlier clubs: the Peoria Boat Club (1877), the Peoria Canoe Club (1885), and the Peoria Yacht Club (1895).

The Ivy Club’s majestic building started out as a modest one story clubhouse built on pilings about 700 feet down-stream from its present location. In 1927 the club moved its then-cramped clubhouse to its current location on Galena Road in Peoria Heights, and jacked it up to second-story level, and built a new brick first story underneath.



The front facade is enhanced with a large overhanging roof supported by six stately white columns which belie the nautical motif inside. The most stunning feature of the building, however, is its opposite side on the bank of the river with a wall of large picture windows in the dining room that provides a panoramic view of the harbor and upper Peoria Lake. Many additions and improvements to the facility followed over the next 100 years since the relocation, including a swimming pool and bath house, a large concrete and steel-awning-covered deck off the dining room on the harbor’s edge, a

In 1990 there was a major overhaul of the clubhouse by the addition of new octagonal wings on the north and south sides of the building. The north wing has a nautical themed wood paneled bar which serves as a social “watering hole” for thirsty boaters, social members, and their friends to gather. The south wing serves as a multi-functional meeting or separate dining room designated as “The Commodores Room”. For more information on the Ivy Club’s facilities or membership go to www.ivyclub.org or contact social media at <https://www.facebook.com/IVYClubPeoria/>.

CILF is pleased to include the Ivy Club as a designated historic building under its Marker Program.

Supporting Living Landmarks

By Tom Biederbeck
President, CILF

As you can see in this newsletter, CILF is deeply committed to celebrating, enhancing, and protecting the many treasured landmarks in Central Illinois' built environment.

On the front page, you learned how the Illinois Valley Yacht Club chose to be the latest honoree in the CILF Markers Program. Besides acknowledging the club's longstanding relevance in the community—always an important part of a public profile—the members of the IVY Club are taking their place in the forefront of those who honor our shared culture and heritage.

We're proud of our role in helping hundreds of owners proudly self-identify via the Markers Program. CILF has led many other efforts to ensure that our landmarks remain vital: structures and places like Shalikashvili Park, the Musicians Union building, the Powell Press building, the LeTourneau Steel House and more.



At a Critical Juncture: The Hall

And of course we are the stewards of a very special landmark of our own: the Greenhut Memorial G.A.R. Hall.

Today we find ourselves at a critical juncture in our battle to maintain the Greenhut Hall as a precious community resource. Because the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our ability to raise funds for operating and continuing to restore the hall, we are counting on your support.

Without the means to fund operations through Greenhut Hall rentals and events, we are at risk of falling behind in our stewardship of this spectacular 1909 National Register of Historic Places structure.

Continuing Responsibilities

Right now, the hall's requirements are significant and pressing. They include addressing plaster damage from leakage due to needed roof repairs and tuck pointing. New front doors will be necessary. Our HVAC systems were installed decades ago, and they soon must be replaced. You'll be hearing more about our capital campaign for the hall, so stay tuned.

We're also responsible for the basics, like utilities, taxes and insurance. We appreciate all of the ways in which you support CILF and its mission.

The Dimensions of Stewardship

Those of you who live with historic homes and buildings know that older structures demand continuing attention. But those landmarks reward us in ways both practical and inspiring.

Generations of Central Illinoisans have used, enjoyed the hall, and learned the history of Central Illinois through it. Landmarks like the Greenhut Hall enrich and protect our neighborhoods and communities. Please give today, and stand alongside as we continue our progress.

The “King of Retail” In 1951

By Christopher Farris
Research Assistant, Peoria Public Library

South Adams St. in Peoria was still the king of retail in the early 1950’s when Block & Kuhl department store completed work on their “Annex” building in the late summer months of 1951. Chances are that you are familiar with this building in the photograph, but may not know much of its history. Currently, it is undergoing restoration to appear as it would have when it was built by Block & Kuhl as part of its expansive mid-century renovation and modernization efforts. The current restoration is part of OSF’s project to turn this building, and the adjacent one, into the new OSF Ministry Headquarters.



COME IN AT 9:30 TOMORROW
New and Enlarged GALA OPEN HOUSE

COME OVER tomorrow, to our grand new store, to see the new and enlarged Block & Kuhl Annex building at 100 South Adams St. in Peoria, Ill. This new and enlarged store is the most modern and complete in the Midwest. It has more than 100,000 sq. ft. of space, and is the most modern and complete in the Midwest. It has more than 100,000 sq. ft. of space, and is the most modern and complete in the Midwest. It has more than 100,000 sq. ft. of space, and is the most modern and complete in the Midwest.

Completely Air Conditioned for pleasant shopping!

See . . .

- the New Plastic Center!
- the New Piece Goods Section!
- the New Handbag Department!
- the New Luggage Department!
- the New Corsets from the famous Harry East Grantham!

See . . .

- the New Enlarged Fur, Hat, and Bag Department!
- the New Enlarged Toddler and Infant!
- the New Enlarged Girl's Department!
- the New Enlarged baby-suits, Boys' and Men's Section!
- the New Greatly Enlarged Women's Sportswear Section!
- the New Enlarged Women's Coat, Suit and Dress Department!
- the New Enlarged sportswear, Women's, Knitwear and Undies Section!
- the New Enlarged Men's, Women's and Children's Ring Department!
- the New Enlarged sportswear, Men's, Women's Department!
- the New Enlarged sportswear, Men's, Women's Department!
- the New Enlarged sportswear, Men's, Women's Department!
- the New Enlarged sportswear, Men's, Women's Department!
- the New Enlarged sportswear, Men's, Women's Department!
- the New Enlarged sportswear, Men's, Women's Department!

WE APOLOGIZE

Just Step in the door. You'll meet MORE people getting MORE than ever before at Block & Kuhl's New and Enlarged Basement Store!

Maling Shoes and Spiegel were the two original ground floor occupants while Block & Kuhl utilized the upper floors and the basement. The second story and partial third story housed behind-the-scenes work spaces for Block & Kuhl while the basement was connected to the main structure’s renovated and enlarged “Basement Store.” Some of the other tenants over the years were Hecht’s Bonny Shop, Baker’s Shoes and Jean Nicole. As retail progressively left downtown Peoria, the structure became vacant on and off or partially occupied for many years, starting in the mid 1970’s. Not until Caterpillar Inc. placed their Merchandise Centre there in the late 1990’s did the ground space again become fully occupied. Caterpillar moved into the Caterpillar Visitors Center in 2012, leaving the building vacant

once again.

There is optimism that when the several hundred OSF employees relocate to their new headquarters that retail businesses will follow. Of course, it is unlikely downtown will ever again see the blocks of retail as it did in the decades prior to the 1970’s. According to an OSF representative the tentative plan is for the newly renovated Annex building to serve a dual purpose. Housing OSF conference rooms, offices and retail space to be determined later.

**Central Illinois
Landmarks
Foundation**
P.O. Box 495
Peoria, Illinois 61651

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Peoria, IL 61601
Permit #132

CENTRAL ILLINOIS LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ Phone _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

(CHECK ONE)

- CORINTHIAN—\$1000 Individuals, corporations, professionals
 IONIC—\$500 Individuals and corporations
 DORIC—\$100 Individuals, non-profits, professionals
 JOINT—\$50
 SINGLE—\$30

Member's Signature _____

_____ Amount \$ _____ Date _____

Please make checks payable to:

CENTRAL ILLINOIS LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

MAIL TO: P.O. Box 495, Peoria, IL 61651

Note: A number of area employers (including Caterpillar) will match your contribution. Contact your employer for information.

**CILF IS A 501c3 CORPORATION. ANY DONATION IS DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT
ALLOWED.**
