

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SENT TO D.C.

9-23-94

**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 Randecker's Hardware Store

other names/site number 112 S. Bloomingdale Rd.

2. Location

street & number 112 S. Bloomingdale Rd. not for publication

city or town Bloomington vicinity

state Illinois code IL county DuPage code 043 zip code 60108

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 9-20-94
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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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:) _____

Randecker's Hardware Store
Name of Property

DuPage IL
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.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce / Specialty Shop

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce / Specialty Shop

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood

roof asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Randecker's Hardware Store
Name of Property

DuPage 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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

commerce

Period of Significance

1909 - 1944

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Randecker's Hardware Store
Name of Property

DuPage IL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

116	410380	4645300
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 Joan-Marie Moss

organization Village of Bloomingdale date 7/5/94

street & number 201 S. Bloomingdale Rd. telephone 708-980-8539

city or town Bloomingdale state IL zip code 60108

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 Paul & Dolores Mazzearella

street & number 6N407 Medinah telephone 708-529-3085

city or town Medinah state IL zip code 60157

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Randecker's Hardware Store

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Randecker's Hardware Store is a one-and-a-half story building located on the southwest corner of Bloomingdale Road, the main thoroughfare running through Bloomingdale, and Franklin Street. It is just one block south of the old Chicago-Galena Highway (currently called Lake Street or U.S. 20) and near the center of the original village of Bloomingdale which became an established rest stop for Frink and Walker's Stage Line which ran from Chicago to Elgin and on to Galena. The building is a freestanding commercial building built in 1908-1909, one of a number of business establishments that catered to the needs of local farmers and area residents.

Immediately to the south of Randecker's Hardware, on lot 34, is William Randecker's house, which he built at the same time as he built the Hardware Store. This and another residence just south of it have been converted to commercial use. Immediately across Franklin on Bloomingdale Road, to the north of Randecker's Hardware, is the Bloomingdale Museum which had originally been built as a Baptist Church in 1849 and has been adapted to a number of uses over the years. North of that is the old Hausemann home which also has been converted to commercial use. Other buildings in the immediate area are primarily residences which have been converted to commercial use and Victorian era buildings which have been built through the years as the village grew and developed. The area has been developed into a shopping center consisting primarily of specialty and gift shops. It has been designated as Old Town Shopping Center in recognition of its historical heritage.

Randecker's Hardware Store sits on lot 29, block 6 of the Town of Bloomingdale as platted in 1865. William Randecker originally owned Lots 28, 29, 35 and the north half of lot 36. All other lots in this parcel have been sold off over the years.

Exterior Description

Randecker's Hardware Store, a 24' x 54' rectangular building, is constructed of wood. It sits on a stone and concrete block foundation that is clearly visible around the perimeter of the building. The gambrel roof is asphalt shingle.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

Randecker's Hardware Store

The building was constructed solely based on functionality, with the only distinguishing element being the storefront itself. The construction of the foundation appears to be very similar to that of rough farm buildings constructed late in the 19th century, evidenced by the rough unfinished appearance of the wood support beam, girder, crossbeams, flooring, stairs, etc. An interview with Reuben Bender, 84, the sole surviving brother of George Bender, who inherited the store, confirms that the building was built specifically for the purpose of serving as a hardware store by his uncle William Randecker when he decided to get out of the paint business due to poor health.¹

The east facade/front entrance faces onto Bloomingdale Road. Five steps lead from the ground level to an open balcony-type porch that spans the width of the building. A metal railing lines the steps and the perimeter of this porch. The front facade is dominated by the front entrance, an inset double front door. Each wood door has a single vertical pane of glass approximately 4' tall above a single wood panel. The doorway is flanked by massive show windows on either side that wrap around the front sides of the building giving passers-by clear view of the interior and its contents. Above these large plate glass windows are smaller rectangular windows. A cornice line with small wooden brackets wraps around the storefront above those windows. Above the front entrance a sign reading "Olde Towne HARDWARE" is mounted below three double-hung one-over-one windows. These windows give light to the attic, which serves as a second floor storage room. A weather vane is perched on the top of the roof. The building is painted white with the trim around the plate glass windows painted dark green. The upper windows are not trimmed with dark green.

Originally the open front stoop, a 4' platform running the length of the front elevation, was constructed of wood and rose five steps from ground level. It had no railings or banisters to allow for off-loading of large items from delivery vehicles and loading purchases onto customers' vehicles. There was also a hitching post out front of the store where shoppers could tie up their horses and buggies while shopping in the store. When Bloomingdale Road was widened in the 1970s the front yard was severely cut back. Today the building sits right on Bloomingdale Road with only a walkway separating the street and the building. This proximity to the street, together with the problem of ice and snow being thrown directly onto the porch by powerful village snow plows, resulted in the need for Mazzarella's, the current owners of the property, to replace the wooden porch on several occasions. Finally, they replaced the wood porch with concrete. The design of the front porch, though, is the same as it had been when it was wood constructed except that they added steel railings on the porch and steps to comply with village ordinances.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Randecker's Hardware Store

The south elevation has three, two-pane windows at ground level giving light to the basement. Above these are two double-hung 1/1 windows providing light for the first floor, one located approximately 15 feet from the front of the building and the other at the west corner. The original 4/4 storm windows are mounted in place. A shed dormer with two small windows juts out from the roof allowing light and ventilation into the attic. All drip caps and casings are plain unadorned wood. An electrical meter is located at the east corner of this elevation. All windows have simple unadorned wood frames and sashes with the first floor trim painted dark green and the trim on the shed dormer painted to match the paint on the building.

The west elevation has a double-hung 1/1 window located to the south of two entrances. The original 4/4 storm window is in place over this window. The main entrance, a 31" wooden door painted green, has a wood shake-covered gabled overhang. Attached to the peak of this overhang is a metal bird representing a hawk or an eagle. A large old outdoor electric light is hung above this doorway. The doorway leads directly to the stairway leading up to the first floor. The second entrance, 19" to the north of this one, was a 38" door leading to the stairway down into the basement. A wood panel now replaces the original door. This wider entrance was most likely used for loading larger items directly into the basement. A smaller single pane window is located just north of this door. There is no storm window here but behind the window is mounted an old protective metal security grate. Two double-hung 1/1 windows are centered in the upper level giving light to the attic.

The north elevation, has two single pane windows in the foundation that allow light into the basement and a single double-hung 1/1 window with a plain unadorned drip cap and casing located approximately in the center of the elevation providing light to the first floor. A shed dormer with two small windows juts out from the roof on this side to allow cross ventilation and light into the attic. A thin brick chimney, approximately 6-7' tall, with a single chimney pot rises from the roof just to the west of the shed dormer.

Outside the building approximately 15-20' from the building is the old water pump that served this property when William Randecker owned the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Randecker's Hardware Store

Interior Description

Entrance into the building from the front leads to the main floor of the store which is a single large showroom. The floors are unfinished wood, the walls and ceiling appear to be a form of wallboard. The east three quarters of the south wall and part of the north wall are lined with shallow wood shelving that appear to be mounted directly to the walls. The shelving along the south wall has enclosed glass cases and a row of drawers in addition to open shelves. An old ornate free-standing glass and wood display case runs along the south side of the room and includes an area where the proprietor transacted business and took care of administrative tasks like bookkeeping. The show cases and cash register are believed to be original fixtures installed at the time the building was constructed. Old papers and records of transactions made early in the 20th century can be found in the drawers and cash register.

The rest of the room is original, from the unfinished wood floor to the wall and ceiling materials. A number of light fixtures drop from the ceiling from thin metal supports that may have been added after the building was constructed with wiring strung through the original gas pipes. No documentation has been located concerning their installation. These lights have no light shades. Several other drop light lamps are suspended from the ceiling but appear to be there for display purposes rather than usage. The open floor that extends the full length of the building is filled to capacity with antiques and other old merchandise allowing very little free space for walking around.

Halfway back on the north side of the room is a temporary restroom with walls of unfinished fiberboard. This was installed in 1977-1978 shortly after the Mazzarellas purchased the store. The walls rise roughly 10 feet and do not adjoin the ceiling.

At the back of the store is the single access to the stairway that leads to both the basement and the attic. The wall overlooking the stairway leading to the basement is a large opening, with a door that opens from bottom to top using metal handles, that allows access to the attic. It apparently served no other purpose than to control the flow of heat between the first floor and attic.

At the top of the stairway leading from the first floor is a heavy wood door with five horizontal wood panels. The stairway to the basement is unusually steep and is constructed of very rough wood. The stairs are constructed at odd angles and no attempt seems to have been

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5

Randecker's Hardware Store

made to make sure they were level or safe. They lead to a rough heavy solid wood plank door. This door separates the stairs from the expansive, unfinished basement. The floors are primarily dirt and stone. The walls consist of concrete and rough stone most likely brought in from the quarry just to the north of Lake Street in what is currently Meacham's Grove. At a level of just about three and a half feet the base foundation ends leaving a rough shelf that runs the perimeter of the basement approximately 6 inches in depth. The upper half of the walls, roughly another three and a half feet, is constructed of large concrete blocks. No attempt was made to finish the walls or floor. All heating apparatus and gas connections for lights are exposed. The basement has a massive solid wood column and girder running from north to south, which supports the weight of the building.

The basement houses the central furnace, which was installed sometime before the Mazzarella's purchased the property. The rest of the space is used for storage of miscellaneous inventory.

The wood stairs leading to the attic are considerably better constructed than those leading to the basement, although they, too, are unfinished. The attic is one large room, completely unfinished. All rough hewn cross ties, rafters and ceiling joists are exposed and unfinished. The wood flooring is unfinished. The configuration of the roof allows for the possible use of this attic as a full second story but throughout its existence this level has been used strictly as storage for inventory. The attic is unusually well lit by virtue of the east and west windows supplemented by the smaller windows on north and south.

Several modifications to the building have taken place since it was first constructed. Electricity was installed in 1924. The electrical fixtures currently installed in the building are the ones installed at that time. The gas fixtures are still in evidence. The front porch was changed from an open wooden porch to a concrete porch with banisters and railings in the 1980s. This porch replicates the original in height and dimensions. Water and sewer were hooked up to the building and a makeshift restroom was installed in the late 1970s. The toilet was installed in the center of the north wall on the first floor of the building. A temporary room was then constructed around it using fiberboard for the three walls that jut into the main room. Those three walls are as yet unfinished and do not, in fact, connect with the ceiling, which is approximately 10 feet high. A new asphalt roof was put on the building in 1984-1986. The building has been painted twice during the 18 years that Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mazzarella, the current owners have owned the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Randecker's Hardware Store

Otherwise, the building has remained essentially the same throughout its existence. Allen Kracower, of Kracower & Associates, who was city planner in 1940 reports that this store is exactly what it was when he knew it with the exception that the indoor plumbing was later installed.² One entire wall in the Hardware Store, situated behind the primary counter on the south wall of the building, is still lined with paint and hardware. Some of it is believed to have originated in the days when William Randecker owned the store. The shelves used for sorting mail are still located on the north wall just inside the front door although the mail boxes have been removed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Randecker's Hardware Store

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Randecker's Hardware Store is locally significant for its role in the commercial development of Bloomingdale. It qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for commerce for the period 1909, when the building was built, to 1944, the fifty-year cutoff for the National Register of Historic Places. Randecker's Hardware Store was the oldest family-run business in town and operated well into the 1990s. It also was the center of commercial trade for the village of Bloomingdale serving as a hardware store from 1909 to 1976 and continued to serve the community as a hardware and antique store until 1994. Randecker's Hardware Store survives as one of the few extant examples of a rural commercial retail building with historic integrity left in Bloomingdale. The building remains as a visual reminder of the flourishing economy enjoyed by Bloomingdale residents in the early 1900s when local farmers, travelers on the Chicago-Galena Highway and village residents relied on the hardware store as a general store for every conceivable need of everyday life.

Bloomingdale, including Roselle, was the third recorded town platted in the newly founded DuPage County in January 1845. Bloomingdale's growth was steady and strong in its early years as a result of its being situated on the Chicago-Galena Highway. As early as 1839 several hundred wagons and travelers came through Bloomingdale each day according to local historian Thomas J. Perkins.³ In 1840, even before the village of Bloomingdale was platted, it had a good supply of churches and schools, stores and shops of all kinds that served the settlers in northern DuPage County.⁴

In the 1850s the major occupation in Bloomingdale was agriculture and the only industry in the township worth more than \$500 was that of shoemaker Hiram Cody⁵, who employed three people and paid wages of \$88 per month for their labor. Bloomingdale was already divided into two separate sections in 1855 -- the north being Roselle and the south, principally a farming community. The north and the south shared the same governmental structure and many of the same resources although each had its own post office and business district. Three trustees from Roselle and three from Bloomingdale oversaw the development of the village. Regularly scheduled monthly meetings were held in the Trustees' homes. Streets, sidewalks and other improvements were distributed equally between the two.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8

Randecker's Hardware Store

The 1870 census shows that five of the residents in the area had wealth established at more than \$200,000.⁶ Hiram Cody continued to prosper, manufacturing roughly 400 pairs of shoes and boots, but now had competition in the person of John Roehler, whose business manufactured more than 100 pairs. Robert Wales Gates, wagon-maker and blacksmith for the village, is reported to have produced twenty-six wagons and nine buggies per year. Merchant and tailor, Francis X. Neltner supplied the needs of well-dressed townsmen while John Dumper and Oscar Verbeck competed for the house building, cabinet making and general carpentry work in the area. Oscar C. Woodworth operated a cheese factory six months per year affording the farmers, who were producing 120,000 pounds of milk annually, a ready market. Anthony Kinney was the bed spring manufacturer in the village.

In addition to these merchants, the 1874 Map of Bloomingdale shows two commercial establishments at the intersection of Lake Street and Bloomingdale Road (Main and Second Streets). They were Dunning and Deibert's store and post office on the northwest corner and Loomis and Spitzer's store on the southeast corner. The complete history of these stores has yet to be uncovered. B.B. Dunning and his partner, George F. Deibert, apparently ran a grocery or a general store and the village's post office. George F. Deibert was the postmaster. Loomis & Spitzer was a partnership between A.D. Loomis and A. Spitzer, but the nature of their partnership is uncertain.⁷ However, by 1904, postmaster George F. Deibert was the only one of the four men still living in Bloomingdale, and he was listed as retired. His partner, B.B. Dunning, was deceased. There is no mention of either A.D. Loomis or A. Spitzer⁸

When the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad came through the northern part of the township in 1873, B.F. Meacham and Roselle M. Hough, both landowners living in the northern half of Bloomingdale, donated large tracts of land for the railroad construction. Their negotiations resulted in the track being shifted to run through the north end of Bloomingdale, known as Roselle, rather than along Lake Street as originally expected. Thus the commercial focus in the village shifted from the south to the north. Bernard Beck platted his property located in the north of Bloomingdale in 1875. That plat was recorded on February 16, 1876. Roselle Hough recorded the plat of his parcels at the intersection of State and Chicago Street in Roselle on February 16, 1876. At the same time, many of the original settlers were moving further west into Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and other points west while German immigrants were moving into the area. All these factors threw the village of Bloomingdale into a state of flux.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 9

Randecker's Hardware Store

Cody's Hotel and St. Paul's Church serving northern DuPage County and its own newspaper, the *Northern Illinois Democrat*, run by James O. Monroe. The population in 1910 was 462. The Western United Gas and Electric Company began laying lines in the village in 1916. The increasing demand for electrical and plumbing hardware bolstered William Randecker's business which catered to the needs of the surrounding farmers.

The economic climate was volatile throughout the early 20th century including World War I, the Depression, and a series of disasters including numerous fires, and two train derailments, kept the businesses in Bloomingdale in a state of flux. J.C. Hattendorf's Grain Mill burned to the ground in 1916. It was rebuilt by William Fenz and renamed Roselle Mill & Lumber. Hattendorf and Bagge's in Roselle, reputed to have sold everything from the cradle to the grave, sold out to William Sauerman in 1925. This building was condemned, repaired and reopened as a tavern and dance hall. The incidence of business start-ups and closings was almost staggering. Commercial businesses underwent constant changes throughout this period. Business establishments in Roselle were constantly being torn down and replaced, or moved from their sites to other locations, to make way for more modern structures.¹⁰

Census records show that the population of Bloomingdale dropped to 300 in 1920. In 1922 the village of Bloomingdale, including Roselle and Medinah was dissolved. The village of Bloomingdale, sans Roselle and Medinah, was incorporated June 16, 1923. That same year (1923) the entire northwest corner of Lake and Bloomingdale Roads was wiped out by fire. The fire destroyed one of Bloomingdale's taverns and the drug store.

The 1925-1926 DuPage County Directory shows that, in addition to Randecker's Hardware, the newly incorporated Bloomingdale consisted of the Post Office, St. Paul's Evangelical Church, the school, Seth Smith's General Store, Fred Haase's Music Store, Krueger & Rentner's Service Station, the Bloomingdale Inn, John Heiden's Blacksmith Shop, and two soft drink parlors. Fred Hillman, Randecker's former partner, was still working as a painter. Dr. H.H. Valberding was the local physician. All of the business establishments are now gone. Only St. Paul's Evangelical Church, which was rebuilt in 1914, the Bloomingdale School, which was later used as the village hall, and Randecker's Hardware Store remain. Roselle, which was listed separately had more than thirty various businesses.¹¹

Through it all, Randecker's Hardware remained unscathed. William Randecker focused on the task of meeting the daily needs of the rapidly changing community and represented

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10Randecker's Hardware Store

stability in the community. Randecker's Hardware store served as the only hardware store in Bloomingdale following its re-incorporation.

Throughout these years, people came from miles around to buy much needed commodities at Randecker's Hardware. Greg Heier, of Roselle, whose family came to the area in the early 1940's recalls buying tights at Randecker's. "It was the kind of country market where you could find anything and everything," he remembers.¹² It supplied everything from penny candy and basic articles of clothing to paint and hardware needed by village residents and farmers throughout the area who were essentially do-it-yourselfers. In addition to supplying everything from penny nails to harnesses and gas fittings for the community, Randecker's Hardware had become a gathering place where townsfolk and people from neighboring farms could visit and catch up on the latest politics and business happenings in the community.

William Randecker was highly active in the community, a veteran Bloomingdale merchant, public official, civic leader and bank director. He served on the board of directors of the Roselle State Bank, was collector for Western United, Public Service Co. and an agent for Addison Farmers Mutual and Downers Grove Mutual during the years that he ran his hardware business. He also was treasurer of the village of Bloomingdale for many years and held the office of township clerk 20 years and township collector five years. Local residents welcomed the opportunity to stop in and visit with this community leader.

Randecker Hardware and the businesses in Bloomingdale, unlike those in Roselle, continued to focus on the daily needs of local farmers, and were much less interested in capitalizing on growth opportunities that had come with the railroads. The pace was much more laid back in this rural community.

Randecker worked in the hardware store until the morning of the day he died. His obituary (July 17, 1946) said "Few men have been more honored by his home community ..."

When William Randecker died in 1946, George Bender, his nephew, inherited the hardware store. At this time the village was approximately one mile square with a population of 339. Randecker's Hardware, which soon became known as Bender's Hardware, continued to serve as a hardware store supplying every sort of commodity to the residents -- principally farmers who lived in the area.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 11

Randecker's Hardware Store

In 1955 when Hjelt's Pharmacy, on the northeast corner of Bloomingdale and Lake Street, was closed the post office was moved to Randecker's Hardware. The post office took up a twelve foot square area in the northeast corner of the store. The mail boxes which were lined up in the corner have since been removed. At the time Laura Coppack was postmistress and worked with George Bender in the store delivering mail to the 300 residents who came in regularly to pick up their mail, there being no home delivery at the time. The Hardware Store housed the post office until 1960 when a new post office was built on Schick Road. It's said that Mr. Bender would take off his working cap and put on his postmaster hat to step behind the post office counter when a customer picked up their mail or bought stamps."¹³ George ran the store until his death in 1976.

The building has remained essentially unchanged in appearance from the way it was when originally built in 1909, according to all recollections of surviving members of the Randecker and Bender families. Verification of information herein is substantiated by Reuben Bender, sole surviving brother of George Bender; Bev Sharlau, George Bender's daughter;¹⁴ and the current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mazarella.¹⁵

Several Bloomingdale natives, including George Bender's brother, Reuben; Lois Franzen, who was born in 1917 and raised in Bloomingdale and whose grandparents came to settle and established a farm on Lake Street near the hardware store site; and June Sturm, who was born and raised in Bloomingdale as her mother was before her, have vivid memories about the hardware store. They recall that the children literally carved out a path from the Bloomingdale School, located at the intersection of Lake Street and Third Street, to Randecker's Hardware where they bought penny candy and warmed up on their journey to and from school on cold winter days.

The property was sold to Paul and Dolores Mazarella in 1976. The Mazarella's purchased the hardware store with the intention of turning it into an antique store and gradually sold off parcels until only this one remained.

Dolores Mazarella recalls that when she opened the store, which she and her husband had intended to turn into an antique store, local citizens came in frequently looking for various kinds of hardware. They told her that they knew this store carried everything. "Whatever they needed and couldn't find anywhere else, could usually be found at this hardware store." She didn't know much about hardware at the time. But she recalls that "we would set right in and start rummaging and before long we'd find exactly what they were

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 12

Randecker's Hardware Store

looking for. Then they'd tell me all about what they were going to use it for."She also said that "people frequently just stopped in to visit and reminisce about the old days and share fond recollections about the store."¹⁶

This commercial establishment continuously served the growing Bloomingdale area from the day it was opened until just recently when it was put on the market. This was a family-owned business passed on from Uncle William Randecker to Nephew George Bender, each of whom ran the business until his death. Finally, in 1976, the hardware store was sold to Mr and Mrs. Mazzarella. It is typical of the traditional hardware store in rural America which served as a source of every conceivable need for rural customers. The building has had very little in the way of substantial improvements done to it and the building presently contains an enormous quantity of products that were sold there in the early 1900s. The community relied on Randecker's Hardware for everything from tights, nails and harnesses to penny candy, mail delivery and a place to socialize.

There is little to compare this building with in Bloomingdale and Roselle since most of the pre-World War II commercial buildings have been demolished. The old harness shop, built in 1860, that was turned into a barber shop, has the same kind of frame construction as Randecker's Hardware although it is much smaller than Randecker's. It has no attic, a simple pitched roof and a similar, though much simpler, front facade consisting of large show windows flanking the front entrance to a single large room. However, the building has been moved and is currently standing vacant. Randecker's Hardware is one of the few buildings in the area constructed and used exclusively as a commercial establishment. The houses in the area, most of which have been converted to commercial use in the 1960s and 1970s, are generally Victorian in design or modern day reproductions of Victorian designs.

Other old commercial buildings nearby include Lynfred's Winery approximately 11/2 mile north of Randecker's on Roselle Road, which has been recognized as a historical landmark by the Roselle Historic Society, and the Creamery located on Main Street and Irving Park Road in Roselle, which was built in 1913 and converted into a strip mall in 1924. The Creamery has undergone significant changes particularly to the roofline, which detracts from its historic integrity. However there is little to compare Randecker's Hardware Store with since most typically original commercial properties in the Bloomingdale/Roselle area have been either moved and adapted to other uses or torn down to make way for more modern structures.¹⁷

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

Randecker's Hardware Store

Because of Randecker's Hardware Store's central position in the development of early rural Bloomingdale and its distinctive construction with well preserved historic integrity, Randecker's Hardware qualifies for nomination in the National Register of Historic Places.

Endnotes

1. Interview with Reuben Bender, 84, the oldest of 12 children and sole surviving a brother of George Bender in May, 1994. (He lives at 175 N. Waters, Glendale Heights. His phone is 529-5589)

2. Interview with Allen Kracower, Kracower & Associates, March 1994 Kracower served as City Planner in Bloomingdale in the 1970's. His architectural expertise coupled with the research he's done in the area serve to make him a reliable and helpful resource

3. Interview with Thomas J. Perkins February, 1994. He has been a local historian and teacher in the area since 1972 and has written and published the history of "Bloomingdale"

4. 1874 Combination Atlas Map of DuPage County Illinois By Thompson Bro's & Burr., Elgin, ILLs, 1874

5. DuPage Discovery 1776, 1976, p 197

6. 1870 Census found in the Wheaton Museum

7. Landowners of DuPage County, IL an index of Plat Maps and Related Sources 1835-1904

8. 20th Century Atlas of DuPage County Illinois (DuPage County Historical Museum) book held by Village of Bloomingdale, Middle West Publishing Co. Chicago, IL 1904

9. The Lisle Register, June 27, 1941

10. The History of Roselle, Dorothy Sanborn, 1968

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Randecker's Hardware Store

11. 1925 DuPage Directory, found at the Wheaton Historical Museum

12. Interview with Mr. Greg Heier, Curator, Roselle Historical Museum, May, 1994 Greg Heier has been a resident of the area for many years and has done considerable research in the area.. He has been most helpful in identifying and locating qualified resources, and in pointing out various deficiencies and inaccuracies in resource material.

13. The Voice of Bloomingdale, October, 1982

14. Bev Sharlau, RR1, 804 N 3450 Rd, Utica, IL 61373 Phone interview conducted with her in April 1994 led to a various documentation concerning William Randecker and Bender's Hardware. She also consulted with her brother to provide documentation.

15. Interviews with Reuben Bender and Mrs. Paul Mazzarella, May, 1994

16. Interview with Dolores Mazzarella, May, 1994

17. Interview with Greg Heier, Curator, The Roselle Historic Museum, and information gathered during visit to the museum. May, 1994

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 15

Randecker's Hardware Store

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 16

Randecker's Hardware Store

Thompson Bro's & Burr. *ATLAS MAP OF DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS* Compiled, Drawn & Published from Personal Examinations and Surveys, Elgin, ILL, 1874

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CHICAGO TRIBUNE, Wednesday, October 3, 1964. Section 9

THE LISLE REGISTER, June 27, 1941

THE VILLAGE ALMANAC, July, 1977

THE VOICE OF BLOOMINGDALE. October 1982

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS:

Reuben Bender, 175 N. Waters, Glendale Heights, IL. Interviews May and June, 1994

Franzen, Lois, 120 S 3rd, Bloomingdale, IL 60108 (708) 529-0120 Interview June, 1994

Heier, Greg, Curator, The Roselle Historic Museum, 102 S. Prospect, Roselle, IL (708) 351-5300: Interviews May, June and July 1994

Iden, Bob. Past President of Bloomingdale Historical Society, 201 S. Bloomingdale Rd., Bloomingdale, IL 60108

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 17

Randecker's Hardware Store

Karouliussen, Becky, Curator, The Bloomingdale Park District Museum, 108 S. Bloomingdale Rd., Bloomingdale, IL 60108 980-7650

Krackower, Allen. Krackower & Associates. 100 Lexington Dr., Suite 150, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089, (708) 537-6262, Interview March 1994

Mazzarella, Paul and Delores, 6N470 Medinah Rd., Medinah, IL529-3085 interviews April and May, 1994

Sharlau, Bev. RR1, 804 N 3450 Rd., Utica, IL 61373 interview and letter May, 1994

Sturm, June. 124 N. Bloomingdale Rd., Bloomingdale, IL 60108 Interviews May and June 1994

Williamson, Ethel, 144 S Circle,529-6140, interview June, 1994.

MISCELLANEOUS OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION

Bloomingdale Trustees Meeting Minutes - Official Transcripts From 1889 through 1950 held at the Bloomingdale Village Hall, 201 S. Bloomingdale Rd., Bloomingdale, IL 60108

County Recorder's Office, 421 County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL Documentation of Ownership

Village Planning Department, Village of Bloomingdale, 201 S. Bloomingdale Rd., Bloomingdale, IL 60108, Building Permits and records of changes and alterations to buildings.

Miscellaneous documentation and records held in the Administrative Office of the Village of Bloomingdale.

Miscellaneous documentation and records held in the Bloomingdale Public Library

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 18

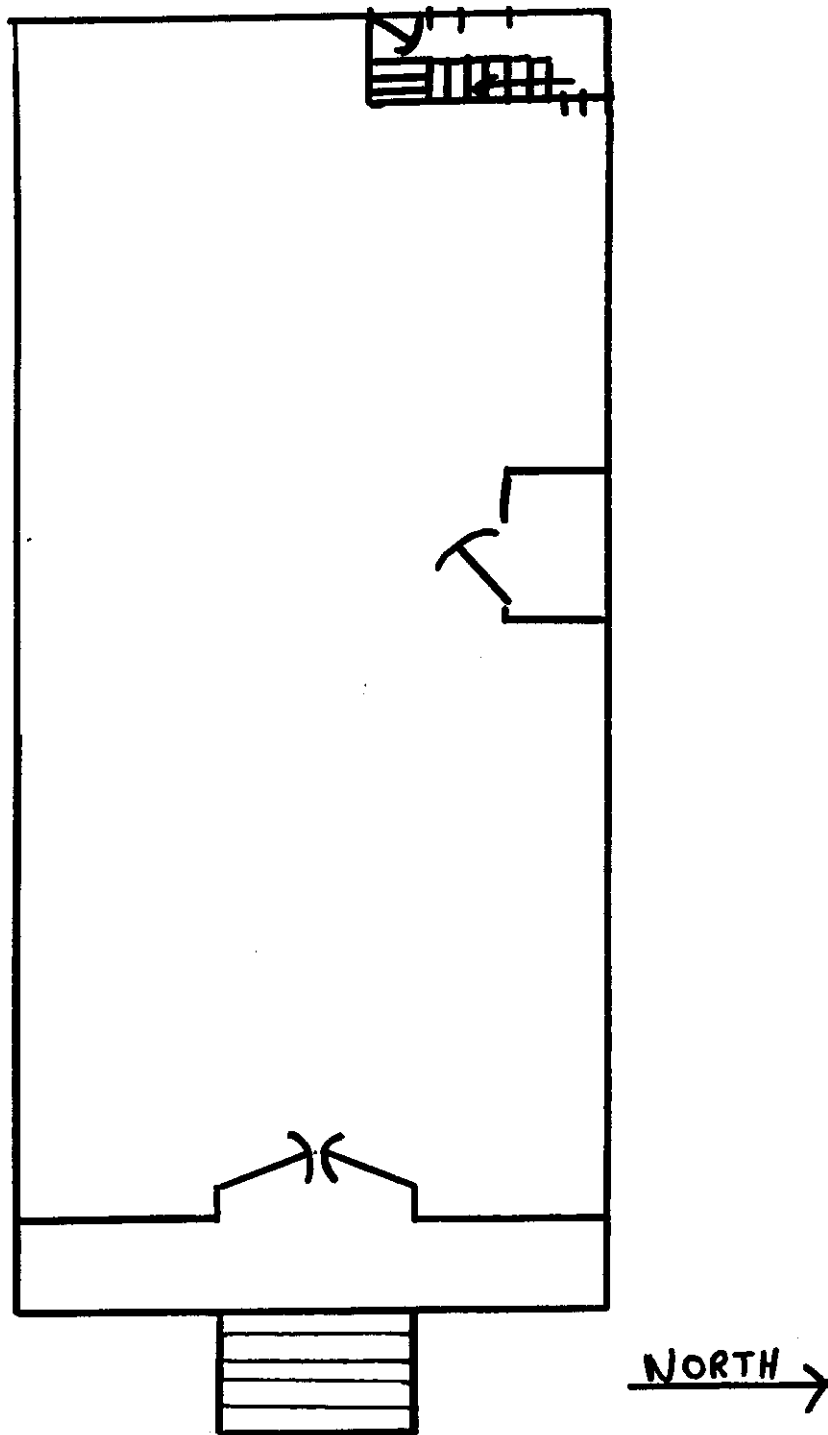
Randecker's Hardware Store

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 29 in the Plat of the Town of Bloomingdale, a subdivision of the Town of Bloomingdale, a subdivision in the Northwest Quarter of Section 15, Township 40 North, Range 10, East of the Third Principal Meridian in DuPage County, Illinois.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the original store building and lot that has historically been known as Randecker's Hardware Store and maintains historic integrity.



RANDECKER'S HARDWARE STORE
BLOOMINGDALE, ILLINOIS
NOT TO SCALE
FIRST FLOOR



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. Box 37127

Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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Preservation Services

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. For further information call 202/343-9542.

NOV 4 1994

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 10/24/94 THROUGH 10/28/94

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number NHL Status, Action, Date, Multiple Name

- COLORADO, ADAMS COUNTY, Riverside Cemetery, 5201 Brighton Blvd., Denver, 94001253, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- COLORADO, LARIMER COUNTY, Hewes--Kirkwood Inn, 465 Long Peak Rd., Estes Park vicinity, 94001254, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- FLORIDA, GADSDEN COUNTY, Nicholson, Dr. Malcolm, Farmhouse, FL 12, N side, W of Havanna, Havana vicinity, 94001272, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- FLORIDA, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, Maier Building, 1423 20th St., Vero Beach, 94001274, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- FLORIDA, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, Smith, Archie, Wholesale Fish Company, 1740 Indian River Dr., Sebastian, 94001275, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- FLORIDA, SARASOTA COUNTY, Out of Door School, 444 Reid St., Sarasota, 94001276, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, Gamma Phi Beta Sorority House, 1110 W. Nevada, Urbana, 94001270, NOMINATION, 10/28/94 (Fraternity and Sorority Houses at the Urbana-Champaign Campus of the University of Illinois MPS)
- ILLINOIS, DU PAGE COUNTY, Bloomington School--Village Hall, 108 E. Lake St., Bloomington, 94001263, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- ILLINOIS, DU PAGE COUNTY, Randecker's Hardware Store, 112 S. Bloomington Rd., Bloomington, 94001265, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, South Fulton Churchhouse, 2.2 mi. S of jct. of Astoria-Bader Rd. and US 24, Astoria vicinity, 94001264, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- ILLINOIS, JERSEY COUNTY, Grafton Bank, 225 E. Main St., Grafton, 94000016, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 6/03/94 (Grafton MPS)
- ILLINOIS, JERSEY COUNTY, Grafton Historic District, 105--225 and 24--214 W. Main St., and stone wharf at Maple St., Grafton, 94000020, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 6/03/94 (Grafton MPS)
- ILLINOIS, JERSEY COUNTY, Mason, Paris, Building, 100 N. Springfield St., Grafton, 94000017, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 6/03/94 (Grafton MPS)
- ILLINOIS, JERSEY COUNTY, McClintock, John and Amelia, House, 321 E. Main St., Grafton, 94000019, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 6/03/94 (Grafton MPS)
- ILLINOIS, JERSEY COUNTY, Ruebel Hotel, 207--215 E. Main St., Grafton, 94000015, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 6/03/94 (Grafton MPS)
- ILLINOIS, JERSEY COUNTY, Slaten--LaMarsh House, 25 E. Main St., Grafton, 94000018, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 6/03/94 (Grafton MPS)
- ILLINOIS, LAKE COUNTY, Hotel Waukegan, 102 Washington St., Waukegan, 94001269, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- ILLINOIS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Montgomery County Courthouse, Courthouse Sq., Hillsboro, 94001266, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- ILLINOIS, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, Marissa Academy, 610 S. Main St., Marissa, 94001267, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- IOWA, JASPER COUNTY, Byal Orchard Historic District, W. 108th St. about 1.5 mi. S of jct. with IA 223, Mingo vicinity, 94001255, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- LOUISIANA, NATCHITOCHES PARISH, Church of St. Anne, Jct. of LA 485 and Bloss Moore Rd., SW corner, Allen vicinity, 94001271, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- LOUISIANA, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, Graugnard House, 2292 LA 44, Reserve vicinity, 94001249, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- MAINE, AROOSTOOK COUNTY, Corriveau Mill, US 1, S side, 0.3 mi. SW of jct. with Paradis Rd., Upper Frenchville vicinity, 94001246, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- MAINE, SAGadahoc COUNTY, Heal Family House, ME 127, W side, 1.2 mi. S of jct. with Robinhood Rd., Georgetown vicinity, 94001243, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- MAINE, WASHINGTON COUNTY, Calais Residential Historic District, Roughly, area along Main St. and Calais Ave., from Calais Ave. to Swan St., Calais, 94001248, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- MAINE, WASHINGTON COUNTY, Hinckley Hill Historic District, Roughly, 305--326 Main St., Calais, 94001244, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- MASSACHUSETTS, HAMPDEN COUNTY, Longmeadow Street--North Historic District, Bounded by Longmeadow St., Springfield Town Line, Westmoreland Ave. and Colley Dr., Longmeadow, 94001262, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- MISSISSIPPI, JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, Holloway, John Fielding, House, US 84, about 450 ft. E of jct. with MS 541, Mount Carmel community, Prentiss vicinity, 94001252, NOMINATION, 10/28/94
- NEBRASKA, CHEYENNE COUNTY, Sioux Ordnance Depot Fire & Guard Headquarters, Jct. of 1st Ave. and Military Rd., Western Nebraska Community College, Sidney vicinity, 94001234, NOMINATION, 10/24/94
- NEW JERSEY, ESSEX COUNTY, Indian and the Puritan, Opposite 5 Washington St., Newark, 94001256, NOMINATION, 10/28/94 (Public Sculpture in Newark MPS)
- NEW JERSEY, ESSEX COUNTY, Wars of America, Military Park, 614--706 Broad St., Newark, 94001257, NOMINATION, 10/28/94 (Public Sculpture in Newark MPS)
- TENNESSEE, GILES COUNTY, Reveille, 408 W. Madison, Pulaski, 94001273, NOMINATION, 10/28/94