pent would in

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

-			
STATE:			
Illi _r	nois		
COUNT			
Henry	7		:_
	FOR NP	S USE ONLY	
ENTRY	DATE		
		-	

	(Type all entries	complete applicable	e sections)			
1.	NAME					1
<u>-</u>	COMMON:	is Woodland Palac	20]
	Frederick Franc	is woodland ratas	<u>, </u>	•]
	, and the state of	_				1
3	LOCATION					4
1000	STREET AND NUMBER:				!	ł
	North & section	24, Kewanee Town	ship, 1/4	mile N. on Ill. 34		1
	CITY OR TOWN:			•		
	miles E. of	Kewanee	CODE COUNT	ry:	CODE	<u>]</u>
	Illinois		Hen	ry	073	
5	CLASSIFICATION				1	4
2.	CATEGORY	OWNE	CUID	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE	
	(Check One)	OWNER			TO THE PUBLIC	-
	District K Building	1201 1 1 1 1 1 1	c Acquisition:	₹ Occupied	Yes:	
	Site Structure	I LIIAGIA	In Process	Unoccupied	☐ Unrestricted	
,	Object	□ Both	Being Conside	Preservation work	K □ No	
•				p. o g. o		4
)	PRESENT USE (Check One or					┪
•	Agricultural G	overnment 🛖 Parl		Transportation	Comments	
:	LI Commercial	· =	ate Residence	Other (Specify)		·
			gious			_
•	Entertainment M	luseum Scie	mine,			
<u> </u>	OWNER OF PROPERTY					S
-	City of Kewanee					ដ
1	STREET AND NUMBER:					ILLINOIS
	City Hall	•				ğ
- -	CITY OR TOWN:	•		TATE:	CODE	S
-	Kewanee			<u>llinois</u>		- [
5	LOCATION OF LEGAL DES	CRIPTION				
•	COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF					HENRY
	Henry County Co	ourthouse				を引
	STREET AND NUMBER.			·	-	` "
	CITY OR TOWN:		:	STATE	CODE	
	Cambridge	•		Illinois	 	-,-
6	REPRESENTATION IN EXIS	TING SURVEYS				Ē,
	TITLE OF SURVEY:			•		
		ric Structures Su	rvey Federal	State County	Local	ENTRY NUMBER
	DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY	L 17/4 ' "T		<u> </u>		Z Z
	I					m m
	Survey Office.	Glessner House				
	Survey Office,	Glessner House				
	Survey Office, street and number: 1800 S. Prairi		,	CTATE	1 0005	
	STREET AND NUMBER:			STATE: Illinois	CODE	RY NUMBER DATE

. DESCRIPTION)N					
				(Check One)		
	☐ Excelle	ent 🔀 Goo	d 🗌 Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	☐ Unexposed
CONDITION		(Check	k One)		(Che	ck One)
	5 2	Altered	Unaftere	d	☐ Moved	😿 Original Site

DESCRIPTION

The Frederick Francis 'Woodland Palace' is located in Francis Park, a 60 acre public picnic and camping area 4½ miles east of the city of Kewanee, Illinois. It is a flat, grassy area of about five acres with the remaining area a heavily forested site with nature trails. The Francis home is sited on the southwest quadrant of the open picnic area.

The building is about 25 x 30 feet, excluding the solarium and attached sitting room on the west side. The house is constructed of a locally manufactured hard-pressed reddish colored firebrick, most of which was hand-chipped by Frederick Francis to provide a rough textured decorative effect. A twostory concrete tower, cast and scored to simulate stone, designates the main entry on the east side. Another doorway just to the north of the porch allows entry to either the basement or main floor. There are two small sitting porches on each corner of the south end of the house, entered from the bedroom through glass doors which slide up into the roof area. frames also contain maple and walnut shutters which similarly conceal into the walls. The gambrel roof surface, originally poured concrete over wire mesh, was replaced during restoration with asphalt shingles. There is a full basement, rising above grade about three feet. This area contains a kitchen with built-in cabinetry, a workshop, a bathroom with tub and shower, a furnace and storage room, sitting room, and a small deep cellar storage area reached by a closet-like entry on the east wall. The basement floor is painted pine planking, the ceiling embossed tin. The staircase leading up to the main floor is of wild cherrywood.

The main floor contains a small vestibule leading into the parlor. On the south end is the bedroom. The solarium and adjacent sitting room are located along the west side, having been constructed after the initial brick structure was completed. Main floor areas are of three-inch maple boards with walnut inlay. A fireplace on the north wall of the parlor has a hearth of four, one-foot square, homemade glass blocks, a feature which allows viewing the fire from the basement sitting room. The fireplace also contains a sophisticated flue system utilized for additional room heating along with the gravity hot air furnace. Windows are of the double hung variety with two special features: the storm windows are permanently attached to the exterior by hinges on one side, opened by a lever system from inside; and screens are built into the wall beneath the lower window sash and raise automatically with the window.

The circular solarium is of frame construction set with glass panels down to about two feet from the floor. This lower section of wall is surrounded by a series of horizontal iron water pipes which provide heat via a hot water furnace located beneath this room in the basement level. This room along with the rest of the house was cooled in the summer by air drawn through a 350-foot long underground tunnel by means of a homemade contrivance of fans and gearwork powered by the windmill in the yard. This power also was used to run machinery in the basement workshop.

The sitting room adjacent to the solarium on the north is of frame construction with clapboard siding. These two rooms were the last constructed by Francis, having been built to accomodate Mrs. Francis who suffered in later years from a respiratory infirmaty.

The house is replete with original furnishings all designed and built by Francis. His tools, papers, books, art work, etc., are also part of the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Woodland Palace, Sheet One (Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
Henry	
FOR NPS USE ONE	_Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)
7. DESCRIPTION, cont.
present furnishings.

HISTORY

Frederick Francis was born January 21, 1856 on the nearby Francis Homestead, an 80-acre farm settled in 1840 by his father, Sullivan R. Francis. The Francis family was from New England, with ties in the New World dating back to the 1630's. Francis attended district schools until the age of 18 when he enrolled in the Illinois Industrial University (now the University of Illinois) graduating with honors in 1878 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Before departing school Francis designed and helped construct a seven-foot diameter clock placed in the west tower of what is presently the oldest building on the U. of I. campus. The clock was a memorial gift of the class of '78. Following school Francis was employed by the Elgin Watch Co. of Elgin, Illinois. During this period he invented a piece of machinery which was instrumental in the manufacture of the famous "Unbreakable" mainspring, an invention for which he received royalties for many years.

Francis returned to Henry County in 1889, purchasing a 60-acre wooded plot one mile north of the old family farm. Here he laid the foundation of his house, moving into the partially completed structure with his new wife one year later. The entire house and its contents were designed and built by Francis, a project which lasted until his death in 1926. Francis willed his home and grounds to the city of Kewanee for use as a park and museum, leaving instructions for the completion of the few minor projects he had not finished and explaining how to care for the heating and ventilation equipment and general upkeep of the house.

The home was named "Woodland Palace" by Francis, an obvious admission to the fairytale quality he sought to embody in the house. The bedroom was called the "Coach Room" and patterned after a Pullman sleeping car. The beds are in niches on either side of an aisle-like room, ceilings are barrel vaulted, and the chandelier is constructed of several railroad kerosene lamps. The floor is painted light green with dark green borders to resemble carpeting.

As a skilled designer, builder, mason, carpenter, woodcarver, mathematician, inventor, artist, writer and poet, Francis was indeed an unusual person. Children were treated to lectures on nature whenever they visited his grounds, which were open to the public several years before he died. Although an avowed atheist, Francis nevertheless respected his wife's right to practice her religious beliefs. The same held true for eating, since Francis was a vegetarian while his wife was not.

Woodland Palace is a showcase of the builder's and inventor's art. Utilizing these arts combined with ingenuity Francis built a home for both comfort and convenience along with one that was both interesting and expressive of his lifestyle.

Although there are far too many unique aspects to describe here in full, some of the more interesting not already mentioned are:

- A system of levers and gears hidden in the framework of the door leading to the basement opened both doors at the same time when either was pushed.
- A 500 barrel fresh water cistern was installed on the north side of the house below grade, filtering rainwater through 40 wagon loads of sand and two tons of charcoal. The water was brought into the house by a hand pump in the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	- "
Henry	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Woodland Palace, Sheet Two (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

DESCRIPTION, cont.

basement, forcing water up to a 500 gallon storage tank in the attic. Another storage tank was concealed in the ceiling of the bathroom and supplied hot water via a donut shaped heating coil surrounding the cooking stove chimney.

- The bedroom was entered through large sliding doors which disappeared into the walls.
- Numerous hidden drawers and secret compartments are located throughout the house.
- The stairway from the basement to the main floor has curved edges on the treads giving the illusion of a curved staircase.
- A bookcase-desk in the west sitting room is hinged to the wall. When pulled down it becomes a twin bed with spring mattress.
- The home is open to the public year round with tours given by volunteers. The City of Kewanee publishes historical material relating to the home and grounds.

The Illinois State Historical Society has designated the home a Historical Site and it is so marked with a plaque.

U	_
2	_
c	
-	
۲	_
L	
=	3
Ω	_
۲	_
U	_
7	_
_	
ш	
	Ī
Ľ	J
v	7

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Whitehigie		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	🔼 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (Il Applicat	ole and Known) 188	9 through 1926	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	iate)	
Abor iginal	■ Education	Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Dther (Specify)
Historic	Industry	losophy	<u>Individualism</u>
Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
■ Architecture	■ Londscape	Sculpture	<u> </u>
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	— itarian	
☐ Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

In being the personal creation of a gifted but eccentric individualist, Frederick Francis Woodland Palace remains one of the most unusual residential structures in Illinois. Carried out with a high standard of craftsmanship and considerable attention to the design and fabrication of unusual mechanical systems, the house in its own provincial way is reminiscent of the work of Gaudi in Barcelona during the same years. As a personal and untutored interpretation of the Queen Anne and Romanesque styles of the late 1880's and early 1890's, the house that Francis built provides a crescendo of vernacular design in Illinois.

	The	Franci	s Stor	y, N	. Darlene	e Hu	ılsand	łе	r, publ	lished	by the	City	of Kew	anee.
		ite in e guid		atio	n and int	erv	views	W	ith cit	ty off	icials	and vo	luntee	r
		844 <u>-111 E</u>		C10000004444		V. 3333.33		30,30						
10.	1		EANDLO		DE COORDINA			0	,		AND LONG			
	DEFIN	ING A RE	CTANGLE	LOCA	ATING THE PR	ROPE	RTY	R			LESS TH			
c	ORNER	L.A	TITUDE		LONGIT	TUDE	E .	K	L	ATITUDI		L	ONGITUE	E
<u> </u>	-	Degrees M	linutes Sec	onds	Degrees Minut	tes S	econds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
	NW	٥	•	•		•	•		41 0	16.	53 .	29°	46.	3/ "
	NE	٥	•		0	•	-		•		_		·	
	SE	۰			0	•	-		1					
		۰	,									<u>i</u>	·	
	SW PPROXI			F NOM	INATED PROF	PERT	TY:		2_					
	FFROX	47.1755	AND COLL	NITIES	FOR PROPER	RTIE	5 OVER	LA	PPING ST	ATE OR	OUNTY BO	DUNDARIE	5	
		STAILS	AND COU	NIIE	- FOR FROI EI		CODE		COUNTY					CODE
51	TATE:					-]				· 	-	
51	TATE:				•	-	CODE	- 1	COUNTY:					CODE
L							-	4-	COUNTY:					CODE
ST	TATE:					}	CODE	┨`	EQUNIT:					
57	TATE:						CODE	†	COUNTY:					CODE
_								<u> </u>						<u> </u>
M	FORM	PREPAR	ED BY											
		ID TITLE:												
	Thom	as G.	Yanu1,	Sur	veyor & F	Pau I	LE.	Sp	rague,	Direc	tor	DATE		,
0		ATION				_								71
ST	Illi TREET	nois H	istori	c St	ructures	Sur	rvey					L_Aug	ust 19	<u> </u>
ĺ	1800	C Dr	airie	Aven	110									
c	ITY OR		9777	CA A Zeri				Ţs	TATE					CODE
	<i>-</i>							ı	Illinoi	ie				
	Chic	ago	OFFICE	0.01	ERTIFICATIO	ON.		NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION					N	
12-	SIAIL	LIAISUI	Y OH I ICI	12.34				1	<u> </u>			<u>,</u>		
	tional	Historic	Preservat	tion A	on Officer for ct of 1966 (P	ubli	c Law	I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.						
-	89-66	5), I hereb	oy nomina	te thi	s property for	r incl	lusion		Nøtiona	t KeRran	-1.			
ĺ	in the	National	Register	and c	ertify that it	has	been							
	evelu	ated acco	rding to ti	he c-i	teria and proc	cedu	res set	1						
	evaluated according to the c-iteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended													
					omination is:			I	Director,	Office of	Archeology	y and Histo	ric Prese	rvation
	level N	or signiii ational		State	Loc	cal								
									Date					-
ĺ	Name									_				
	, and								ATTEST	r:				
	Title													
								H		.	er of The i	National 1	Padistor	
1				,				K		Keep	or or 140	vandiai I	register.	
Į	•	•	, <i>I</i> ,	- 1-				H	Fints					

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1

pent Dack of

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	-
Illinois	
COUNTY:	
Henry	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
Fuzza	

					NTRY DATE			7
3000000	(Type all entries	s - complete applicabl	le sectio	ns)				1
	NAME							1
	COMMON:							
1	Frederick Franc	is Woodland Pala	ce					
ſ	AND/OR HISTORIC:	,			•			
	•	•			•			
2. 1	LOCATION							ा
T	STREET AND NUMBER:					****		7
1	North & section	24. Kewanee Town	nshin.	1/4 mile	N. on T11. 34			-
Ţ	North & section		<u></u>	CONGRESSION	NAL DISTRICT:			7
	miles E. of	Kewanee			•			-
	STATE		CODE	COUNTY:			CODE	\dashv
- 1	Illinois	.*		Henry	•		073	
3. c	CLASSIFICATION		1	nenz y			973	
	CATEGORY					ACCES	SIRI E	***
	(Check One)	OWNER	RSHIP		STATUS	TO THE		.
ļ,		T Public Public	Acquisiti	••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	E	Yes:		\dashv
- 1			In Proc		Cocupied	Restr	icted	
ا ا	Site Structure	<u> </u>	☐ Being (Unoccupied	T 11		
	☐ Object		Demig (Considered	Preservation work	□ No		
L					in progress		•	-
Ė	PRESENT USE (Check One or M	ore as Appropriate)						٦
]	Agricultural Go	vernment 🚾 Park			Transportation	Comme	nts	٦
- 1	Commercial Ind	Justrial . 🔲 Priva	ate Resider		Other (Specify)	_		ı
	☐ Educational ☐ Mil	litary 🔲 Relig	gious					
	Entertainment Mu	seum Scien	ntific				•	
	WHER OF PROPERTY							
	OWNER'S NAME:							<u></u>
ĺ	City of Kewanee							н
-	STREET AND NUMBER:			-	•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		III
	City Hall	•			•			Ż
Į,	CITY OR TOWN:	•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	STATE:			ODF	ILLINOIS
	Kewanee	•		i i	_	<u> </u>	JDF 1	ò
		NIRTIAN		Illino	s			
	OCATION OF LEGAL DESCI							
ľ								H
ļ.	Henry County Cou	rtnouse						HEN
٦	- The Hombert							2
Ļ	CITY OR TOWN:			STATE		• 1		
ľ				l l	_	- 66	DDE	
- }	Cambridge		•	Illino	ois		<u> </u>	
	CERTE CALLE LA COLOR							
	EPRESENTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS						
6. R	TITLE OF SURVEY:							
6. R		_					- 1	- F
T	Illinois Histori	c Structures Sur						
T	DATE OF SURVEY: August	1974 . □	vey Federal	State	County] Local		
ī	DATE OF SURVEY: August DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY REC	1974		State	County] Local		
, D	DATE OF SURVEY: August DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY REC Survey Office, G	1974		State	County] Local		
, D	DATE OF SURVEY: August DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY REC Survey Office, G STREET AND NUMBER:	1974 CORDS: lessner House		State	County] Local		
T	DATE OF SURVEY: August DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY REC Survey Office, G STREET AND NUMBER: 1800 S. Prairie	1974 CORDS: lessner House	Federal		County] Local		
D 5	DATE OF SURVEY: August DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY REC Survey Office, G STREET AND NUMBER:	1974 CORDS: lessner House	Federal	STATE:			DDE	

DESCRIPTION							
		•		(Check One)			
COMPLETION	☐ Excellent	Sc Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	☐ Unexposed	
CONDITION		(Check Or	10)		(Check One)		
	⊋ Alter	red	☐ Unaltered		☐ Moved	▼ Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PE	RESENT AND ORI	GINAL (If kno	wn) PHYSICA	L APPEARANCE			

DESCRIPTION

The Frederick Francis "Woodland Palace" is located in Francis Park, a 60 acre public picnic and camping area 4½ miles east of the city of Kewanee, Illinois. It is a flat, grassy area of about five acres with the remaining area a heavily forested site with nature trails. The Francis home is sited on the southwest quadrant of the open picnic area.

The building is about 25 x 30 feet, excluding the solarium and attached sitting room on the west side. The house is constructed of a locally manufactured hard-pressed reddish colored firebrick, most of which was hand-chipped by Frederick Francis to provide a rough textured decorative effect. A twostory concrete tower, cast and scored to simulate stone, designates the main entry on the east side. Another doorway just to the north of the porch allows entry to either the basement or main floor. There are two small sitting porches on each corner of the south end of the house, entered from the bedroom through glass doors which slide up into the roof area. frames also contain maple and walnut shutters which similarly conceal into the walls. The gambrel roof surface, originally poured concrete over wire mesh, was replaced during restoration with asphalt shingles. There is a full basement, rising above grade about three feet. This area contains a kitchen with built-in cabinetry, a workshop, a bathroom with tub and shower, a furnace and storage room, sitting room, and a small deep cellar storage area reached by a closet-like entry on the east wall. The basement floor is painted pine planking, the ceiling embossed tin. The staircase leading up to the main floor is of wild cherrywood.

The main floor contains a small vestibule leading into the parlor. On the south end is the bedroom. The solarium and adjacent sitting room are located along the west side, having been constructed after the initial brick structure was completed. Main floor areas are of three-inch maple boards with walnut inlay. A fireplace on the north wall of the parlor has a hearth of four, one-foot square, homemade glass blocks, a feature which allows viewing the fire from the basement sitting room. The fireplace also contains a sophisticated flue system utilized for additional room heating along with the gravity hot air furnace. Windows are of the double hung variety with two special features: the storm windows are permanently attached to the exterior by hinges on one side, opened by a lever system from inside; and screens are built into the wall beneath the lower window sash and raise automatically with the window.

The circular solarium is of frame construction set with glass panels down to about two feet from the floor. This lower section of wall is surrounded by a series of horizontal iron water pipes which provide heat via a hot water furnace located beneath this room in the basement level. This room along with the rest of the house was cooled in the summer by air drawn through a 350-foot long underground tunnel by means of a homemade contrivance of fans and gearwork powered by the windmill in the yard. This power also was used to run machinery in the basement workshop.

The sitting room adjacent to the solarium on the north is of frame construction with clapboard siding. These two rooms were the last constructed by Francis, having been built to accomodate Mrs. Francis who suffered in later years from a respiratory infirmaty.

The house is replete with original furnishings all designed and built by Francis. His tools, papers, books, art work, etc., are also part of the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Woodland Palace, Sheet One (Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
Henry	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	1

(Number all entries)
7. DESCRIPTION, cont.
present furnishings.

HISTORY

Frederick Francis was born January 21, 1856 on the nearby Francis Homestead, an 80-acre farm settled in 1840 by his father, Sullivan R. Francis. The Francis family was from New England, with ties in the New World dating back to the 1630's. Francis attended district schools until the age of 18 when he enrolled in the Illinois Industrial University (now the University of Illinois) graduating with honors in 1878 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Before departing school Francis designed and helped construct a seven-foot diameter clock placed in the west tower of what is presently the oldest building on the U. of I. campus. The clock was a memorial gift of the class of '78. Following school Francis was employed by the Elgin Watch Co. of Elgin, Illinois. During this period he invented a piece of machinery which was instrumental in the manufacture of the famous "Unbreakable" mainspring, an invention for which he received royalties for many years.

Francis returned to Henry County in 1889, purchasing a 60-acre wooded plot one mile north of the old family farm. Here he laid the foundation of his house, moving into the partially completed structure with his new wife one year later. The entire house and its contents were designed and built by Francis, a project which lasted until his death in 1926. Francis willed his home and grounds to the city of Kewanee for use as a park and museum, leaving instructions for the completion of the few minor projects he had not finished and explaining how to care for the heating and ventilation equipment and general upkeep of the house.

The home was named "Woodland Palace" by Francis, an obvious admission to the fairytale quality he sought to embody in the house. The bedroom was called the "Coach Room" and patterned after a Pullman sleeping car. The beds are in niches on either side of an aisle-like room, ceilings are barrel vaulted, and the chandelier is constructed of several railroad kerosene lamps. The floor is painted light green with dark green borders to resemble carpeting.

As a skilled designer, builder, mason, carpenter, woodcarver, mathematician, inventor, artist, writer and poet, Francis was indeed an unusual person. Children were treated to lectures on nature whenever they visited his grounds, which were open to the public several years before he died. Although an avowed atheist, Francis nevertheless respected his wife's right to practice her religious beliefs. The same held true for eating, since Francis was a vegetarian while his wife was not.

Woodland Palace is a showcase of the builder's and inventor's art. Utilizing these arts combined with ingenuity Francis built a home for both comfort and convenience along with one that was both interesting and expressive of his lifestyle.

Although there are far too many unique aspects to describe here in full, some of the more interesting not already mentioned are:

- A system of levers and gears hidden in the framework of the door leading to the basement opened both doors at the same time when either was pushed.
- A 500 barrel fresh water cistern was installed on the north side of the house below grade, filtering rainwater through 40 wagon loads of sand and two tons of charcoal. The water was brought into the house by a hand pump in the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
Henry	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Woodland Palace, Sheet (Two. (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION, cont.

basement, forcing water up to a 500 gallon storage tank in the attic. Another storage tank was concealed in the ceiling of the bathroom and supplied hot water via a donut shaped heating coil surrounding the cooking stove chimney.

- The bedroom was entered through large sliding doors which disappeared into the walls.
- Numerous hidden drawers and secret compartments are located throughout the house.
- The stairway from the basement to the main floor has curved edges on the treads giving the illusion of a curved staircase.
- A bookcase-desk in the west sitting room is hinged to the wall. When pulled down it becomes a twin bed with spring mattress.
- The home is open to the public year round with tours given by volunteers. The City of Kewanee publishes historical material relating to the home and grounds.

The Illinois State Historical Society has designated the home a Historical Site and it is so marked with a plaque.

U	_
•	•
2	_
_	_
C	٠
-	
۲	_
L	ر
Ξ	כ
Δ	_
۲	_
U	_
Z	Z
_	-
u	
Ŀ	J
v	3

Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	(2) 20 00(1)
ECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applica	ble and Known) 1889	9 through 1926	
EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (CI	neck One or More as Appropri	iate)	
Abor iginal	■ Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	Individualism
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Science	***************************************
X Architecture	Landscape		
☐ Art	Architecture	 •	
☐ Commerce	Literature		
☐ Communications	☐ Military	<u></u>	
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	
	<u> </u>		
Art Commerce Communications	Architecture Literature Military	Sculpture Social/Human- itarian Theater Transportation	

In being the personal creation of a gifted but eccentric individualise Frederick Francis Woodland Palace remains one of the most unusual residential structures in Illinois. Carried out with a high standard of craftsmanship and considerable attention to the design and fabrication of unusual mechanical systems, the house in its own provincial way is reminiscent of the work of Gaudi in Barcelona during the same years. As a personal and untutored interpretation of the Queen Anne and Romanesque styles of the late 1880's and early 1890's, the house that Francis built provides a crescendo of vernacular design in Illinois.

The	Franci	s Stor	<u>y</u> , N	. Darlene	e Hu	ılsan	de	r, publ	lished	by the	City	of Kew	anee.
	ite in e guide		atio	n and int	erv	/iews	W	ith cit	ty off	icials	and vo	luntee	r
								•					
in cross	5		100000000000000000000000000000000000000										
	LATITUDE	AND LO		DE COORDINA			0		NING TH	AND LONG	POINT OF	A PROP	
CORNER	LA	TITUDE		LONGIT	TUDE		K	R			1	E	
	Degrees Mi	inutes Sec	onds	Degrees Minut	tes Se	econds			Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	•	•	0	•			41°	16.	<i>5</i> 3 ·	89°	46 '	3/ -
NE	°	•	-	•		<u>"</u>							
SE		•	-		,	<i>.</i>				,	 		
APPROXI	MATE ACE	REAGE O	F NOM	INATED PROF	PERT	<u></u> ۲۷:		2			<u> </u>		
- 1				FOR PROPER			LA		TE OR	QUNTY BO	UNDARIE	S	
STATE:					Ŧ	CODE	_	COUNTY					CODE
STATE:				• .	-	CODE	1	COUNTY:					CODE
STATE:		<u> </u>		<u></u>		CODE	†;	COUNTY:					CODE
STATE:					_	CODE	†	COUNTY:					CODE
													1
I. FORM	PREPARI	ED BY											
Thom	as G. Y	Yanul,	Sur	veyor & P	au1	E. :	Sp	rague,	Direc	tor	DATE		····
ORGANIZ	•		٥.		Ç			August 19					7/.
STREET	AND NUMB	ER:		ructures	Sur	vey					I Aug	USL 19	/4
	S. Pra	airie .	Aven	ne			Is	TATE					CODE
CITY OR												 	
Chic	ago	OFFICE	o r	RTIFICATIO)N		T111nois NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION					Ň	
2. 31A1E	CIAISON	011161	. (\ \										
tional 89-665 in the	As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the c-iteria and procedures set			I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.									
forth b	forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: National State Local Local				Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation								
Name	Name				Date								
Title							Keeper of The National Register						
,	Data 1/9/25						Date						

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hw-H-I VH. RE6.

l.	Name of Site:				20066
	Common Woodland Pa	l a ce			
	Historic Frederick	Francis House			
2.	Location:				
	Street and Number		Township	Section	
	City or Town	Zip Code	Kewanee Range	13 <u>% Secti</u>	<u>on</u>
	County County		EDAR TISN R5E	SE	
3.	Classification:				
	Category (check or		Integr	ity (check	one)
	() District (x) () Site ()	Building Structure	() Al () Mo	tered (x) ved (X)	Unaltered Original Site
4.	<pre>Ownership: () Private (x) Public</pre>		(X) Oc () Un () Pr	(check on cupied occupied eservation rogress	•
	Access to Public		ъ.	1051000	
	() Yes (X) Rest	ricted () Unrestric	ted () 1	No.
	Present Use (check	one or mor			
	() Agricultural() Commercial() Educational() Entertainment() Government	() Indus () Milit (X) Museu (X) Park () Priva	strial sary m ste Residence	() Reli () Scie () Tran () Othe	igious entific asportation er (specify)
5.	Ownership of Prope				A.,
	Ownerla Man		pt. of Public	Phone Num	lber
	State	Coun	ty	Zip Code	
6.	Description: Beyond (Condition: (X) Excellent ()	description.	Made of wood, b	orick, stone	
	() Unexposed				
	Is there a program	of preserva	ation underw	ra⊽? (X) Y	es () No



7.	Historical Themes: (check	k one or m	ore of	the follo	wing))
	 () Archeological Site () Archeological Site () French Influence () Illinois Frontier () Illinois Early () Illinois Middle () Illinois Late () Famous People 	(Post-C (1673-1 (1780-1 (1818-1 (1850-1	780) 818) 850) 900) resent)	n to 1673)	
8.	Specific Date: 1889					
	Areas of significance (che	eck one or	more o	f the fol:	lowi	ng)
	() Aboriginal (historic) () Aboriginal (pre-historic) () Agriculture (X) Architecture () Art () Commerce () Communication () Conservation () Education () Education (X) Engineering () Industry (X) Invention () Landscape Architecture Brief statement of signification and sheets if respectively.	() () () () () () () ()	Scienc Sculpt Social Theate Transp Urban Other	cal on/Philoso e ure /Humanitar r ortation Planning (specify)	rian	dates)
9.						
ツ•	Form prepared by:			Dat	~ A	
	Name and Title:			ναι	, e	
	Organization:			Phone:		
	Street and number:					
	City or Town:	County:		Zip Cod	e:	

During the course of the Sirvey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

Francis is billed as "Illinois' Forgotten Genius". An engineer for several years in Elgin, he returned to Kewanee and built this house from his own designs in 1889. It has many gadgets and mechanical devices built in. He willed the house to the City of Kewanee in 1926. Restored 1962.





