



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: The Urbana Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Kevin Garcia, AICP, Planner II

DATE: July 29, 2016

SUBJECT: 804 S. Lincoln Avenue: Historic Landmark Application, Case No. HP 2016-L-03

Introduction

Historic Preservation Case No. HP 2016-L-03 involves an application submitted on May 16, 2016, by Meghan McDonald to designate the house at 804 S. Lincoln Avenue as a local historic landmark. Ms. McDonald is currently a resident of the property. Vision Housing, LLC is the property owner.

The Historic Preservation Ordinance requires that the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) hold a public hearing on a landmark application within 60 days of receiving a complete application. The application was reviewed by staff and deemed complete on June 13, 2016, following the submission of additional required information.

At the public hearing on August 3, 2016, the HPC should take comments from the nominator, the owner, and any other parties who wish to be heard on the application. In addition, the HPC should consider all written comments received prior to or during the hearing. It is the responsibility of the nominator to provide evidence of the suitability for historic landmark status as well as documentation of such evidence.

Following the public hearing, the HPC should review all information presented that is pertinent to the nomination. In this case, the property owner has not consented in writing to the nomination of the property as a historic landmark. Lacking such written consent, the HPC shall recommend either approval or denial of the application to the Urbana City Council. The City Council will then either designate the property by enacting an ordinance or decide not to designate the property as a landmark. If the property owner files a valid protest against the landmark designation prior to the Council meeting, per the requirements of Section XII-5.1 of the Zoning Ordinance, the nomination would require a minimum two-thirds vote of the Council to be approved. If no such protest is filed, a simple majority vote in favor of the application would designate the property as a historic landmark.

Should the application be approved, the owner would be required to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission for future exterior changes to the property, per the requirements of Section XII-6 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Background

Demolition Delay List

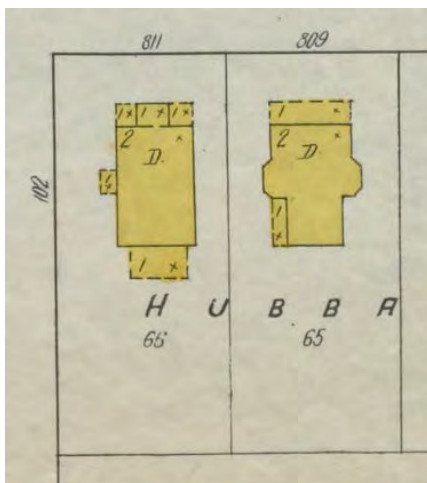
804 S. Lincoln Avenue is on the City of Urbana's Demolition Delay list (Ord. 2007-10-118), which was established in 2007 to "encourage the identification and designation of additional historic landmarks within the City of Urbana." For properties on the demolition delay list, the ordinance prohibits demolition permits from being issued for a period of 45 days after a demolition permit is applied for. During the 45-day delay period, properties that are nominated for landmark designation may not be issued a demolition permit until the landmark application is acted upon by the City. A demolition permit for 804 S. Lincoln Avenue was applied for on March 28, 2016. The application to nominate the property was received on May 16, 2016, after the 45-day demolition delay period had expired on May 12, 2016. With the demolition delay period having expired prior to receiving the nomination, a demolition permit was issued for the property. As a result, if the property is designated as a local landmark, a Certificate of Appropriateness will not be required to demolish the building.

Plan Cases 2276-PUD-16 & 2277-PUD-1

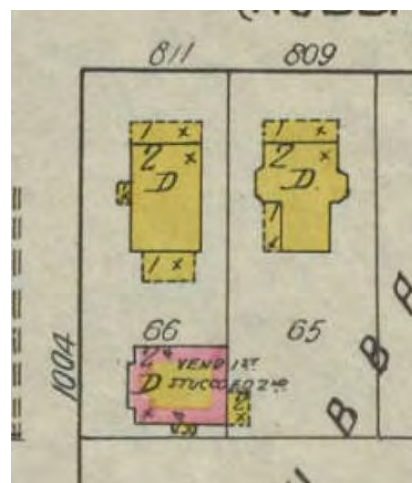
804 S. Lincoln Avenue is on one of four parcels that were part of a residential Planned Unit Development proposal to construct a multi-family apartment building along Lincoln Avenue. The proposal was heard by the Urbana Plan Commission on May 5, 2016, and the case was continued to June 9, 2016. The owner withdrew the application on June 8, 2016. The properties are located within the Lincoln-Busey Design Review Corridor and any proposed redevelopment would be subject to review by Design Review Board.

Property History

The house at 804 S. Lincoln Avenue was built around 1912¹ and is located at the T-intersection where the western portion of Nevada Street meets Lincoln Avenue. It was built in the rear yards of 811 and 809 W. Nevada Street (at the time called Hubbard Street). Its original address was 1004 S. Lincoln Avenue. Sometime after 1919 the lots were subdivided to provide a lot for the subject property at 804 S. Lincoln Avenue.



1909



1915

¹ City of Urbana, *Historic Resources Survey Form for 804 South Lincoln Avenue* (see Exhibit D)

The original owner of the house was Guy Ford, who sold it to William Trelease, the head of the Department of Botany at the University of Illinois, in 1914. Trelease, a prominent botanist, lived in the house until his death in January of 1945. From the 1940s through the 1980s, the house was owner-occupied, though records indicate it has been a duplex since 1962 at the latest. It is currently rented to students at the University as a duplex.

The house is built with a mixture of design elements from several architectural styles, including Tudor Revival, Craftsman, and Prairie styles. The Tudor Revival style is evident in the stucco walls with false half-timbering, the prominent brick chimney, and brown brick southern wall. The exposed rafter ends and 3-over-1 double hung windows show a Craftsman influence, while the low-pitched hipped roof, through-the-cornice dormer, and brick front porch (with hipped roof) are typical of the Prairie style. The main entrance to 804 S. Lincoln Avenue is located atypically on the side, rather than the front, of the house, with the chimney located next to the walkway near the front porch. The house appears to have undergone few exterior alterations over time. The house is not identified on architectural surveys of Urbana as notable, nor is it on the list of Urbana's 100 Most Important Buildings.

The property is located within the R-5, Medium High Density Multiple-Family Residential, zoning district. The 2005 Comprehensive Plan designation for the site is "High Density Residential" and refers to the Lincoln-Busey Corridor inset map showing future land use by parcel. The inset maps shown on Future Land Use Maps #8 and #9 also designate the future land use of the subject parcels as "High Density Residential." These map designations were adopted as part of the Downtown to Campus Plan in 1990 and carried over into the 2005 Comprehensive Plan.

The Downtown to Campus Plan set future land use designations in the area to protect the Low Density Residential (single- and two-family) areas along Busey Avenue from eastern expansion of higher density uses from Lincoln Avenue. In exchange, the Plan called for High Density Residential uses along Lincoln Avenue itself. The City has long envisioned this property, along a minor arterial street and across the street from the University of Illinois, as part of a high-density residential corridor. The existing structure, built as a single-family home, is not consistent with that high-density vision.

Discussion

Under Section XII-5.C of the Urbana Zoning Ordinance, the proposed landmark must meet one or more of seven possible criteria in order to qualify for landmark designation. The application states that 804 South Lincoln Avenue meets these five of the seven criteria:

- a) *Significant value as part of the architectural, artistic, civic, cultural, economic, educational, ethnic, political or social heritage of the nation, state, or community;*
- b) *Associated with an important person or event in national, state or local history;*
- c) *Representative of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type inherently valuable for the study of a period, style, craftsmanship, method of construction or use of indigenous materials, while retaining a high degree of integrity;*
- e) *Identifiable as an established and familiar visual feature in the community owing to its unique location or physical characteristics;*

- g) *Located in an area that has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.*

Each of the seven designation criteria is explained in the next section, followed by an analysis of whether 804 South Lincoln Avenue meets each of the criteria.

Designation Criteria

- a) *Significant value as part of the architectural, artistic, civic, cultural, economic, educational, ethnic, political or social heritage of the nation, state, or community.*

The application states that 804 S. Lincoln Avenue “has served as a mark of the cultural, educational, and social heritage of the Urbana community and of the University of Illinois” since 1912. It does not elaborate on this statement except to add some remarks about longtime owner William Trelease, the location of the property, and its current use. As such, the application does not provide compelling evidence to suggest that 804 S. Lincoln Avenue meets this criterion.

City staff recommends a finding that 804 S. Lincoln Avenue does not qualify under criterion a) as there is no compelling evidence that it has significant value as part of the architectural, artistic, civic, cultural, economic, educational, ethnic, political or social heritage of the nation, state, or community.

- b) *Associated with an important person or event in national, state or local history.*

Of the known owners and residents of 804 S. Lincoln Avenue, the most important, from a historical perspective, was William Trelease. Trelease was a prominent botanist and head of the Department of Botany at the University of Illinois from 1914 until he retired in 1928. He lived at 804 S. Lincoln Avenue from 1914 until his death in early 1945. Prior to moving to Urbana, Trelease was the Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, a position he held from 1889 to 1912.² Founded in 1859 by Henry Shaw, the Missouri Botanical Garden is America’s oldest continuously-operating botanical garden. It is now a National Historic Landmark. It was Shaw’s desire that, upon Shaw’s death, Trelease be named the garden’s Director. In 1889, shortly after Shaw died, the first Board of Trustees met and carried out their founder’s desire by naming Trelease Director of the garden.

As noted in the application, William Trelease was the first President of the Botanical Society of America³ (elected in 1894 and again in 1918). He also has two fungus genera (*Treleasia* and *Trelesiella*) and a seed plant (*Neotreleasia*) named after him.⁴ In 1933, the National Geographic Board unanimously voted to name a mountain near Georgetown, Colorado after him.⁵ Trelease had collected plants there in 1886. Mount Trelease is located in the Loveland Pass in the vicinity of several peaks

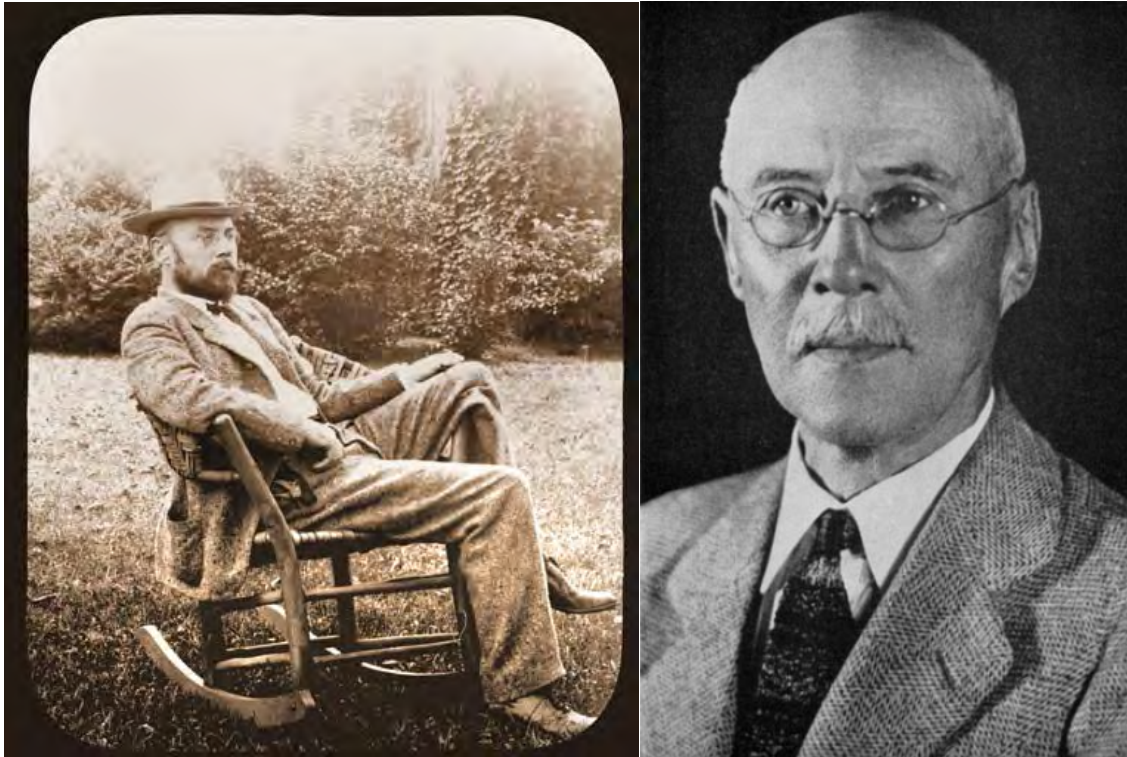
² *William Trelease 1857—1945: A Biographical Memoir by Louis Otto Kunkel*

³ <http://cms.botany.org/home/about/an-historical-overview-of-the-bsa.html>

⁴ *William Trelease 1857—1945: A Biographical Memoir by Louis Otto Kunkel*

⁵ *Ibid.*

named after other prominent early American botanists, including one named after his former instructor Asa Gray.⁶



William Trelease in 1905 (left) and c. 1918 (right)

Trelease was also one of 25 scientists and artists selected for the Harriman Expedition to Alaska in 1899. The two-month expedition, financed by railroad magnate Edward H. Harriman, created an important scientific record of Alaska at the turn of the 20th Century. Other notable members of the expedition included naturalist John Muir, nature writer William Burroughs, and George Bird Grinnell, founder of the Audubon Society.⁷



Mount Trelease

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ <http://www.pbs.org/harriman/index.html>

William Trelease died in January, 1945. His obituary from the Daily Illini is shown below (see Exhibit F for the full text).

Trelease's Obituary in the Daily Illini (see Exhibit F for details)

City staff recommends a finding that 804 S. Lincoln Avenue qualifies under criterion b), as it is associated with William Trelease, an important figure in the botanical history of the nation and the States of Missouri and Illinois.

c) Representative of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type inherently valuable for the study of a period, style, craftsmanship, method of construction or use of indigenous materials, while retaining a high degree of integrity.

Criterion c) is a two-part test. For a property to qualify under this criterion, it must represent the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type and retain a high degree of integrity.

The application states that 804 S. Lincoln Avenue is designed in the Tudor Revival style. While the house has elements that are commonly associated with Tudor Revival – false half-timbering and white stucco walls, brown brick walls, and a prominent chimney –, several elements of the style are noticeably absent, while prominent elements from other styles are present. Tudor Revival buildings almost always have steeply-pitched roofs and prominent gables. This house does not. The low-pitched hipped-roof and hipped porch roof on 804 S. Lincoln Avenue are common Prairie style elements, as is the porch itself, with its wide brick columns. The exposed rafter ends visible under the roof eaves are most often found on Craftsman style homes, while the 3-over-1 double-hung windows are common of many of the “eclectic” styles. On this house they suggest Craftsman or Prairie influence.

While the application draws comparisons between the Urbana Landmark Hotel and 804 S. Lincoln Avenue, the former is a prime example of the style, while the latter only exhibits some elements that are commonly found (though not exclusive) in buildings of the style. As noted above, certain elements –

such as the roof, porch, and windows – do not match the Tudor Revival style. The style of the house is perhaps best described as “eclectic”, blending elements of Tudor Revival, Craftsman, and Prairie styles.

The house is unusual in that there is no front entrance; rather, the entrance is on the side, while the front is symmetrical and contains two sets of two windows on the first and second stories. In addition, there is a full-length window in the center of the second story and a short, decorative balustrade in front of the window.

Staff does not believe that 804 S. Lincoln Avenue meets the first part of the two-part test for criterion c), as it is not representative of the distinguishing characteristics of the Tudor Revival architectural style as stated in the application.

The second part of *criterion c)* requires a building to have a “high degree of integrity”. The *Urbana Historic Preservation Plan*⁸ defines “integrity” in the following way:

Integrity: Historic integrity is the authenticity of a property’s historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property’s prehistoric or historic period. Integrity enables a property to illustrate significant aspects of its past. Qualities of historic integrity may include location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. All seven qualities do not need to be present for eligibility (as a landmark or to contribute to a historic district) as long as the overall sense of a past time and place is evident.

Most of the exterior architectural features that are present at 804 S. Lincoln Avenue appear to be original or have been replaced with complementary or in kind materials. Most, or all, of the original house and its characteristics are intact. The location and footprint of the house appear unchanged. The integrity of the house is high.

City staff recommends a finding that 804 S. Lincoln Avenue does not qualify under criterion c) as it does not represent the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type, though it retains a high degree of integrity.

d) Notable work of a master builder, designer, architect or artist whose individual genius has influenced an area.

The application does not include information on the designers and builders of 804 S. Lincoln Avenue, nor could staff find this information.

City staff recommends a finding that 804 S. Lincoln Avenue does not qualify under criterion d) as the designers and builders are unknown.

⁸ *Urbana Historic Preservation Plan, Appendix F (July 6, 1998)*

- e) *Identifiable as an established and familiar visual feature in the community owing to its unique location or physical characteristics.*

The application states that 804 S. Lincoln Avenue “stands between the end of campus and the forefront of historic Urbana. It is a literal and metaphorical gateway between the communities.” It also states that the property is in a “very visible and established location, on axis with Nevada Street, looking down on Foellinger Auditorium.” While the house is located at the T-intersection where Nevada Street meets Lincoln Avenue, it is not clear that the house is an “established and familiar visual feature.” Aside from the above statements, and an account of how much Julia Trelease enjoyed the views of Nevada Street from within the house, the application does not provide evidence that the house meets this criterion. Simply being on a street corner or at a T-intersection does not enough qualify a property under this criterion.

City staff recommends a finding that 804 S. Lincoln Avenue does not qualify under criterion e) as it is not clearly identifiable as an established and familiar visual feature in the community.

- f) *Character as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, including, but not limited to, farmhouses, gas stations or other commercial structures with a high level or integrity or architectural significance.*

The application does not claim that 804 S. Lincoln meets this criterion, nor does it provide evidence that it does. The house is not a utilitarian structure.

City staff recommends a finding that 804 S. Lincoln Avenue does not qualify under criterion f) as it is not a utilitarian structure as described by the criterion.

- g) *Located in an area that has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.*

This criterion refers to a site’s potential for yielding archaeologically-significant information. The application does not provide any evidence to suggest that the site has such potential.

City staff recommends a finding that 804 S. Lincoln Avenue does not qualify under criterion g) as the area around 804 S. Lincoln Avenue site has not yielded, and does not appear likely to yield, any archaeologically-significant information.

Summary of Findings

Recommended statements of findings based on the application and the completed analysis are below. The Historic Preservation Commission may revise these findings based on their review and consideration of the case, including any evidence that may be submitted at the public hearing.

1. Article XII of the *Urbana Zoning Ordinance* provides the City of Urbana the authority to

designate local landmarks and historic districts with the stated purpose of promoting the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the community.

2. The City of Urbana on May 16, 2016 received a landmark application to designate the property located at 804 S. Lincoln Avenue as a local landmark. The application was deemed complete by staff on June 13, 2016.
3. The house located at 804 S. Lincoln Avenue was constructed circa 1912.
4. The house located at 804 S. Lincoln Avenue does not qualify under criterion a) as there is no compelling evidence that it has significant value as part of the architectural, artistic, civic, cultural, economic, educational, ethnic, political or social heritage of the nation, state, or community.
5. The house located at 804 S. Lincoln Avenue qualifies under criterion b) as it is associated with William Trelease, an important figure in the botanical history of the nation and the States of Missouri and Illinois.
6. The house located at 804 S. Lincoln Avenue does not qualify under criterion c) as it does not represent the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type, though it retains a high degree of integrity.
7. The house located at 804 S. Lincoln Avenue does not qualify under criterion d) as the designers and builders are unknown.
8. The house located at 804 S. Lincoln Avenue does not qualify under criterion e) as it is not clearly identifiable as an established and familiar visual feature in the community.
9. The house located at 804 S. Lincoln Avenue does not qualify under criterion f) as it is not a utilitarian structure as described by the criterion.
10. The house located at 804 S. Lincoln Avenue does not qualify under criterion g) as the area around 804 S. Lincoln Avenue site has not yielded, and does not appear likely to yield, any archaeologically-significant information.

Options

In Case No. HP 2016-L-03, the Historic Preservation Commission shall find whether or not the nomination meets one or more of the criteria for designation as a local landmark and:

- 1) Recommend that the Urbana City Council approve said application to designate the property as a local landmark; or
- 2) Recommend that the Urbana City Council deny said application to designate the property as a

local landmark.

In either case, the Historic Preservation Commission should include Findings of Fact in their motion. The Findings of Fact should summarize the Commission's justification for finding that the nomination either does or does not meet the relevant criteria and whether it should be designated as a local landmark. The required vote is a majority of those members present and voting but with not less than three affirmative votes.

Staff Recommendation

As discussed above, the property at 804 S. Lincoln appears to meet one of the criteria necessary for designation as a landmark. Under criterion (a), it is associated with an important person in national and state history, as it was the long-term residence of noted botanist William Trelease.

While 804 S. Lincoln Avenue does meet one or more of the criteria necessary for designation as a landmark, the City may consider other factors in determining whether to landmark the property. In the current case, the designation decision is affected by the fact that the property has been zoned and planned for high-density residential use for a number of years, creating a development expectation on the part of the property owner. The property owner acquired the property with plans to construct a higher density residential use.

More specifically, the current owner is in the process of developing plans for the redevelopment of the property, along with adjacent properties also under his ownership. Furthermore, there is a valid demolition permit attached to the property, making designation of the property as a landmark ineffective – and potentially counterproductive – in terms of preserving the property. Designation as a landmark in advance of the City approving redevelopment plans for the property could serve to hasten its demolition. If the City were to decide not to landmark the property at this time, there is the potential that the building could be preserved until such time as the owner or any other future owner chose to complete redevelopment plans. It may also be possible that the owner or other future owners may reconsider redevelopment of the properties.

For these reasons, City staff recommends that the City not designate 804 S. Lincoln Avenue as a landmark at this this time. However, should the site remain as it is currently, and the demolition permit is allowed to lapse, the City may wish to reconsider the landmark application at a future time.

This recommendation is based on the evidence presented to date, and does not reflect additional evidence that may be presented prior to or at the public hearing. The specifics of this recommendation may change during the course of formal review of HPC Case No. 2016-L-03. The staff recommendation contained herein represents the professional opinions of the City's planning staff and does not bind or limit the recommendations and decisions which may be made by the City's appointed and elected officials.

cc: Chris Saunders, Owner
Meghan McDonald, Applicant
Rick Aeilts, Legal Counsel of Owner
Elizabeth Tyler, FAICP, Community Development Director
Lorrie Pearson, AICP, Planning Manager

Attachments: Exhibit A: Location Map
Exhibit B: Application
Exhibit C: Historic Resources Survey Form
Exhibit D: *A Field Guide to American Houses, Virginia McAlester (Excerpt)*
Exhibit E: *William Trelease 1857—1945: A Biographical Memoir, Louis Otto Kunkel*
Exhibit F: Select Research Regarding William Trelease
Exhibit G: Photos

Exhibit A: Location Map



Case: HP-2016-L-03
Subject: Landmark Nomination
Location: 804 S Lincoln Ave
Petitioner: Meghan McDonald

 804 S Lincoln Ave



Application for Historic Landmark Designation

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

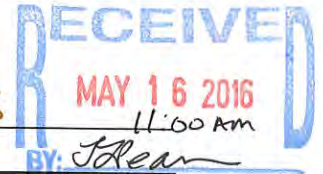
APPLICATION AND REVIEW FEE – NO CHARGE

Although there is no fee to file an application for Historic Landmark Designation, the Applicants are responsible for paying the cost of legal publication fees. Estimated costs for these fees usually run between \$75.00 to \$225.00. The applicant is billed separately by the News-Gazette.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE - FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Application Filed 5/16/2016

Case No. HP-2016-L-03



PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

1. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Applicant(s): Meghan McDonald

Phone: (618)-795-3119

Address (street/city/state/zip code): 804 S. Lincoln Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801

Email Address: memcdon2@illinois.edu

Property interest of Applicant(s) (Owner, Contract Buyer, etc.): Tenant

2. OWNER INFORMATION

Name of Owner(s): ~~Green Street Realty~~ Vision Housing, LLC Phone: (217)-356-8750

Address (street/city/state/zip code): 510 S. Neil Street

Email Address: N/A

3. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Location of Subject Site: 804 S. Lincoln Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801

PIN # of Location: ~~None~~ 92-21-17-154-007

Lot Size: 112 ft. x 50 ft.

Current Zoning Designation: R-5

Current Land Use (vacant, residence, grocery, factory, etc): Residence

Present Comprehensive Plan Designation:

Legal Description (If additional space is needed, please submit on separate sheet of paper):

1/2 The south 50 feet of Lots 69 and 70 in Block 6 in T.S. Hubbard's Elmwood Addition to Urbana, as per plat recorded in Plat Book "B" at page 270, situated in Champaign County, Illinois.

Date of Construction of Structure: Circa 1912

Missing
5/17
Resubmitted
6/13

Attach a map showing the boundaries and location of the property proposed for nomination.

Attach photographs showing the important structures or features of the property or structure

Indicate which of the following criteria apply to the property or structure (*check all that apply*). Additionally, attach a statement that describes the proposed landmark and its historic significance; list reasons why it is eligible for nomination; and show how the proposed landmark conforms to the criteria for designation (*see attached Suggested Format*).

- Significant value as part of the architectural, artistic, civic, cultural, economic, educational, ethnic, political, or social heritage of the nation, state or community;
- Associated with an important person or event in national state or local history;
- Representative of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type inherently valuable for the study of a period, style, craftsmanship, method of construction or use of indigenous materials and which retains a high degree of integrity;
- Notable work of a master builder, designers, architect or artist whose individual genius has influenced an area;
- Identifiable as an established and familiar visual location or physical characteristics;
- Character is a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, including, but not limited to, farmhouses, gas stations or other commercial structures with a high level of integrity or architectural significance;
- Yields, or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory

NOTE: If additional space is needed to accurately answer any question, please attach extra pages to the application.

By submitting this application, you are granting permission for City staff to post on the property a temporary yard sign announcing the public hearing to be held for your request.

CERTIFICATION BY THE APPLICANT

I certify all the information contained in this application form or any attachment(s), document(s) or plan(s) submitted herewith are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.


Applicant's Signature

5/12/15
Date

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ONCE COMPLETED TO:

City of Urbana
Community Development Department Services
Planning Division
400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801
Phone: (217) 384-2440
Fax: (217) 384-2367

URBANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Suggested Format for Content and Organization of “Statements”
For Property Located in a Proposed Historic Landmark

Summary Paragraph

- Criteria which apply to subject property
- Introductory or background statement about significance of subject property
- Statement of integrity

Property Description

- Architectural style
- Date of construction; date of major modifications
- Name of architect and builder, as available
- Construction materials (foundation, walls, roof shape/material)
- Description of building elements: number of stories, window type and shape, porches, entrances, etc.
- Description of unique architectural elements
- Alterations or additions to building
- Missing or removed architectural features
- Outbuildings and important landscape or streetscape features

History

- Brief community background (downtown development, neighborhood development, etc.)
- Discussion of property as it relates to the development of the community
- Important people associated with the property
- Important events associated with the property

For Architectural Significance

- Background of the style and/or architect
- Why/how the building reflects the style and/or architect’s work
- Other works in the community/elsewhere by same architect; discuss briefly

Context

- Placement or location of property within the city/community
- Relationship to other properties of similar architectural style and date/era of construction



Background Statement about Significance of the Property:

Since 1912, the property of 804 S. Lincoln Avenue has served as a mark of the cultural, educational and social heritage of the Urbana community and of the University of Illinois. Many University affiliates have resided within its walls, the most notable figure being Professor William Trelease, namesake of Trelease Residence Hall at Florida Avenue and Lincoln Avenue and of Trelease Woods, just East of the City of Urbana. The property itself is situated at a very visible and established location, on axis with Nevada Street, looking down to Foellinger Auditorium. This location has served as a gateway between the Urbana community and the University of Illinois for over 100 years. Julia Trelease, wife of Professor Trelease, favored this intersection for its presentation of university life: "Seated comfortably in her favorite spot, an old fashioned chair in the living room of the Trelease home at 804 South Lincoln avenue in Urbana- where she can look down two streets and watch the activity of a busy university town".¹

In the present day, 804 Lincoln serves as a pseudo-community center: as The Basement Gallery for local and student artists, a music venue for rising Urbana-based bands such as A Cool Hand and The Tomblands, and as a fundraising venue for organizations such as Amnesty International and Illini 4000. The Tudor style architecture draws a comparison between 804 Lincoln and the Landmark Hotel in downtown Urbana, reflecting a time of great transition and development for the local community. With Historic Landmark designation, this property may remain the nexus of university and community life as it has been for over 100 years.

This property will need renovations to certain aspects of the building, however the structural integrity appears to be intact. A surveyor could offer further insight into the physical state of building elements and will be contacted upon approval of this application.

Statement(s) of Integrity:

"The world only mattered because people lived there and sometimes, in spite of the pain, tragedy, and degradation, even managed to triumph there."

"This information, then, will give a more complete picture of the environmental heritage of Champaign and Urbana, and most important, will allow the future inhabitants of the cities to more fully appreciate and understand what has been done in the past so that they may create a continuity of purpose in new architectural ventures. A pleasing environment in which to live can only be accomplished by an harmonious relationship between the old and the new." - Frank Heitzman, Master of Architecture, University of Illinois, 1974

¹ From "The Treleases Are Like That" by Marion Lea Stearns, 1939. This article was published in a University of Wisconsin journal and speaks to Julia Trelease's childhood in Madison, yet closes with a description of this iconic intersection at Lincoln and Nevada.

Property Description:

Architecture Style: *Tudor; Craftsman (revival of Tudor style in the U.S.)*

Date of Construction: *1912; renovated into a duplex apartment in 1991*

Name of Architect: *N/A*

Construction Materials: *brick foundation; brick and timber walls; timber, Gable-style roof*

Building Elements: *3 stories; standard, double hung windows; 2 porches - first floor and second floor; 4 entrances; 2 fireplaces - first and second floor*

Unique Architectural Elements: *large, second story screened-in porch; small, second story front balcony*

Alterations or Additions to building: *renovated as a duplex in 1991*

Missing or Removed features: *N/A*

Outbuildings/Landscape: *N/A*

PIN: 92-21-17-154-007

Legal Description: The south 40 feet of Lots 69 and 70 in Block 6 in T.S. Hubbard's Elmwood Addition to Urbana, as per plat recorded in Plat Book "B" at page 270, situated in Champaign Country, Illinois.

History/Architectural Significance:

804 S. Lincoln originally began as a lot of land that was handed down through generations of early Urbana residential families. Most notably, Archa Campbell owned the majority of the land and split it up into several business transactions, according to the abstract of the address found in the archives at the Urbana Free Library. This is notable because Archa then went on to be the first mayor of the City of Urbana. Trent Hubbard purchased this lot (Lot 72 at the time) and many others from Campbell. He proposed the "Elmwood Addition to Urbana" so that the land he had purchased could officially and legally be part of the city limits.

As mentioned previously in the summary, the architecture of 804 S. Lincoln and the Urbana Landmark hotel are quite strikingly similar. Being built in the same decade in Urbana's history was not a coincidence. This was right before the Great Depression hit and most people seemed and felt well off financially. The Urbana community wanted their economy to grow and to do so they had to attract the right people. To do this, they had to create and foster an environment of perceived wealth visually. Tudor architecture was perfect for this because of its history over in Europe and its frequent association with the wealthy in the states. So on and so forth, the landmark hotel and 804 S. Lincoln came to be.

As far as important people connected to the property, the Trelease family has come up time and time again in our research. No other family/people have lived in this house for more consecutive years than them. From 1914-1944, this was William Trelease's home. Leaving his time as the director of the Missouri Botanical Gardens, Trelease found new work at the University of Illinois being the Professor of Botany. He also became head of the department. His passion for botany had been long growing before his time at the University; he was the first president of the Botanical Society of America in 1894 and again for a second term in 1918, while living in 804

S. Lincoln. He was instrumental in the acquisition of specimens from all over the world by connecting with renowned collectors. By his time of retirement in 1926, the number of plant specimens on the U of I campus had exceeded 200,000. In recognition of his hard work, many plants have been named after him such as Treleasea and Neotreleasea. According to William Trelease's obituary, there also stands a beautiful 12,500-foot summit in Colorado named in his honor. As an author, a scientist and a member of the American Society of Naturalists, the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society and many other respected organizations, we believe the development of Illinois and national botany studies would be incomplete without him. It would be a true tragedy to knock down the home he and so many others have lived and loved in during times of pursuing greater education.

Context:

804 S. Lincoln stands in between the end of campus boundaries and the forefront of historic Urbana. It is a literal and metaphorical gateway between the two communities. To have it knocked down and replaced with a gigantic, modern apartment complex would be inconsistent with the history of the lot and what physically extends beyond it. Looking at the house now from Nevada, it creates a sense of peace; An olive branch, a bridge of sorts. It invites students to explore and become part of a second community; the Urbana community. It comes with its own lifestyle and appreciation of the homes and the people inside.

Map Satellite

Oregon St W Oregon St

Oregon Building
Computer Lab

Family Resiliency Center

Nevada St W Nevada St

Dance Studio
Caffe Paradiso
Jimmy John's
Department of Dance

S Lincoln Ave

Champaign-Urbana
Young Life

W Nevada St

804

Alpha Chi
Omega Sorority

ey Ave

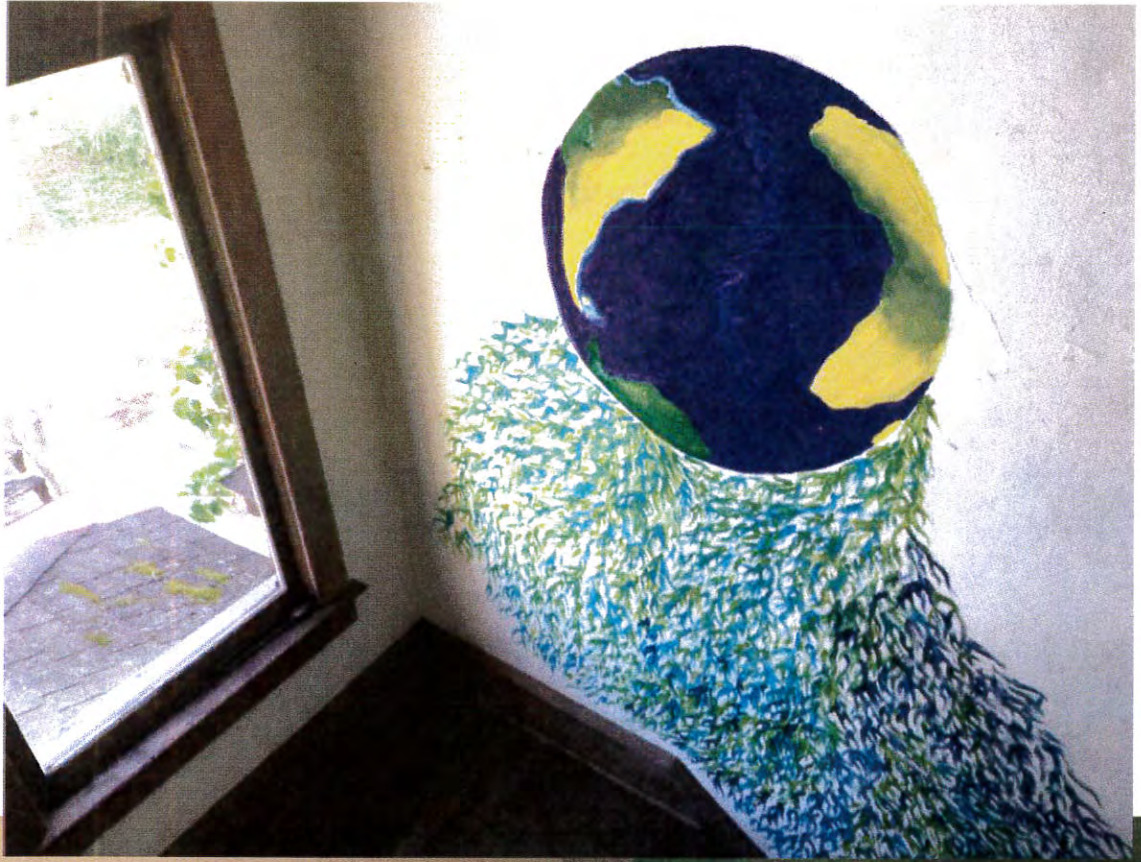
W Nevada St W Nevada St

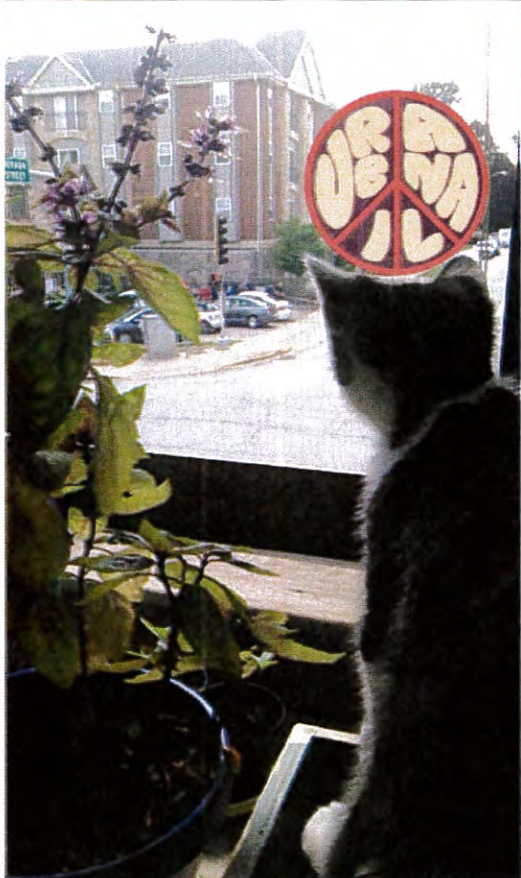
S Busey Ave

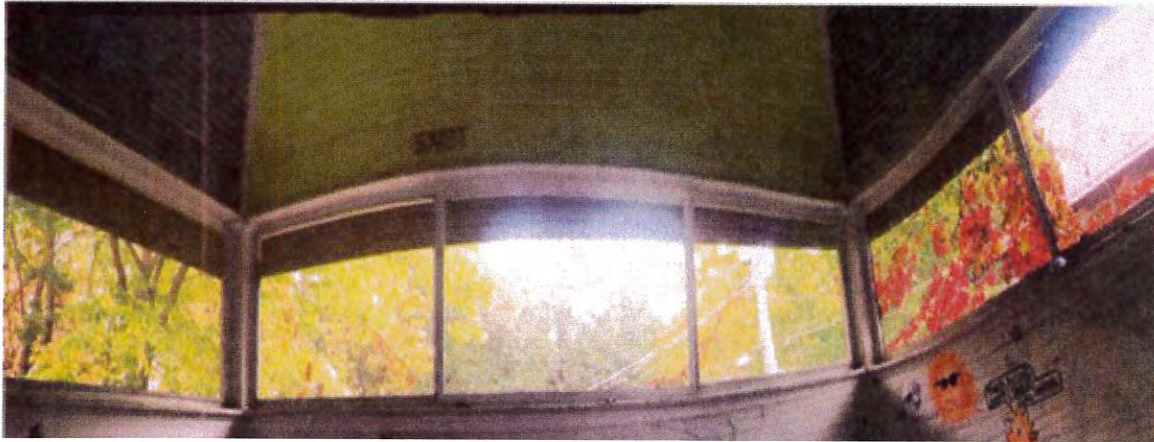
County Rd 1550 N

S Busey Ave









Top-rated Most recent My comments

lived there from '12-'14, can confirm it is a filthy, deteriorating shithole with great character. i hate love this house, RIP

Sean O'Connor Chicago, IL

3 months ago



[Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Delete](#)

The beauty in this house changed my life.

Jessica Tang Urbana, IL

3 months ago



[Delete](#)

Because this is for a place that people have shared real love, real relationships and real experiences, instead of something thats just on paper.

Rothchild Wong Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China

3 months ago



[Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Delete](#)

The beautiful days followed by the long, dreamy nights of Urbana have been experienced by many in this lovely and humble abode. Romantic idyll of young love, the quest for knowledge of curious minds, and collegiate growth from youth to young adulthood is embodied in the heart and soul of this home. The character of the house is evident - displayed through the art and personalities of all residents and friends, both past and present. A walk through the corridors will open a world of phantasmal idealism, as the paintings on the walls create vivid imagery for your mind to take you on a walk through Arcadian fields. To destroy this house would be an affront to the sacred rite of "Coming of Age." The transformation seen by those who have known this home know damn well that they would not be the upstanding person they are today had they not stepped foot into the house that I know, adoringly and forever, as The Coffin House.

Daniel Stankus Chicago, IL

3 months ago

this house exemplifies the hrt and soul of urbana <3

Marc Ceruti Champaign, IL

3 months ago

♥ 3

[Delete](#)

I live on Nevada in another of those rickety Urbana houses, and I wouldn't change it for the world

Allison Hollatz Naperville, IL

3 months ago

♥ 2

[Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Delete](#)

there are too many large apartment tenants on campus that take away from the CU tradition

Brian Kolasa Champaign, IL

3 months ago

♥ 2

[Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Delete](#)

It's an important installation to a historic neighborhood!

Vanessa Gabel Urbana, IL

3 months ago

♥ 2

[Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Delete](#)

This is an Urbana landmark

Samantha Harr Arlington Heights, IL

3 months ago

♥ 2

[Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Delete](#)

I'm a firm believer in reduce, reuse, and recycle. ... why not instead tearing these turn of the century houses down, redesign them and update them to be multi-tenant income properties. Look at Portland, Me off of Fore St. as an example.

Keith Schutte Overland Park, KS

3 months ago

because this campus is already flooded with cheaply built and extremely overpriced housing

Michael Hennessy Champaign, IL

3 months ago



 Share  Tweet [Delete](#)

That house has provided so many people with good times and great friends! I know it will continue to do so if given the chance.

Aaron Sachs Davis Junction, IL

3 months ago



[Delete](#)

So many wonderful memories in this house with so many beautiful friends. I cannot imagine this amazing house being demolished and being replaced by apartments for more corporate profit when this house is apart of historic Urbana. Green Street Reality is one of the most corrupt property management groups in the area. Stop them from destroying some of my best friends home!

Shepherd Harriman Champaign, IL

3 months ago



[Delete](#)

I lived there 1994-1995. Many wonderful memories, including a run in with a ghost!

Marie Carpenter Pritchard Sidney, IL

3 months ago



[Delete](#)

This house has a beautiful soul. Don't kill it.

Colette Hamann Urbana, IL

3 months ago



[Delete](#)

I think it's important and necessary to preserve old houses such as 804 S. Lincoln, that have served as a home and sanctuary for decades. These types of living spaces are becoming harder and harder to find. They have character, and stories, and souls. They're what make Urbana, well, Urbana. They're timeless.

Maddie Hansen · CHAMPAIGN, IL

3 months ago

♥ 2

[Delete](#)

Always good times in the coffin house :)

Maria Poonawalla · Champaign, IL

3 months ago

♥ 2

[Delete](#)

I love this house.

Stephanie Sofinski · Mount Prospect, IL

3 months ago

♥ 2

[Delete](#)

I LOVE THIS HOUSE AND I LOVED LIVING IN IT.

Bridget Gallagher · Urbana, IL

3 months ago

♥ 2

[Delete](#)

"He who loves an old house
Never loves in vain,
How can an old house,
Used to sun and rain,
To lilac and to larkspur,
And an elm above,
Ever fail to answer
The heart that gives it love?"
-Isabel Fiske Conant

Katie Klaus · Aurora, IL

3 months ago

♥ 1

[Delete](#)

THIS HOUSE IS SO COOL AND SHOULD BE SAVED

Sarah Coleman Champaign, IL

3 months ago



Share Tweet [Delete](#)

That place is too great to just let go like that!

Habeeb Olowo Chicago, IL

3 months ago



Share Tweet [Delete](#)

This house is full of memories, life and character. I wanted to live here since my freshmen year but this past semester, while looking for houses was told by green st. realty that is was being taken down. It absolutely broke my heart.

magdalena wierzchucki champaign, IL

3 months ago



Share Tweet [Delete](#)

I painted the Africa in the stairwell (and a couple other paintings inside as well)!!

Michael Hoffman Brooklyn, NY

3 months ago



Share Tweet [Delete](#)

Long live Coffin House.

Lookman Olowo Chicago, IL

3 months ago



Share Tweet [Delete](#)

Over the years I've seen multiple groups of residents of this house come and go... I've been to parties hosted by at least three of them. Hell, I think I bought a guitar from someone living here once. This house, although not the best-maintained, is very loved and cherished by those who have spent time within its walls, and it would be a shame to lose this iconic party location. It's the 410 W. Springfield of the current generation (and that house was gutted and renovated a few years ago).

Matthew Apy Philadelphia, PA

3 months ago



Share Tweet [Delete](#)

i'm signing because i lived next door

Aaron Hernandez Burbank, IL

3 months ago



Share Tweet [Delete](#)

I like the art in there

Angelica Haennicke Urbana, IL

3 months ago



Share Tweet [Delete](#)

This house embodies everything about the college experience and what Urbana-Champaign has to offer. This house is my home. It made me feel accepted, loved, and able to express myself. It's art is a symbol of the minds of students prior to us, and should be a symbol, after us. Without this house, I wouldn't be standing where I am today. Coffin House is my home, don't destroy it.

Jolene Strauss Champaign, IL

3 months ago



Share Tweet [Delete](#)

Please don't let the Urbana side of campus become like Champaign, overrun with nondescript cinderblock apartment complexes. This neighborhood was an exemplary part of my college experience and I would hate to see its unique beauty destroyed.

Danielle Pacelli Courbevoie, France

3 months ago



 Share  Tweet [Delete](#)

I remember the very first music filled, wall painting get togethers. Many friends were made in that house - and many of my college memories took place there. Leave it standing.

Lauren Greco Kingwood, WV

3 months ago



[Delete](#)

I'm signing because I have great memories of this house, and it SHOULD remain intact and renovated.

Heather Urbanczyk Justice, IL

3 months ago



[Delete](#)

LONG LIVE 804

Mary Baker Chicago, IL

3 months ago



[Delete](#)

I lived and died in this house.

Madeline Rehayem Lisle, IL

3 months ago



[Delete](#)

I've been to this house before and it's amazing

Vinay Shanbhag Champaign, IL

3 months ago

♥ 1

[Delete](#)

I'm signing this petition in defense of history, art and expressionism. This house doesn't deserve to get torn down just so big realty can profit off building another cookie cutter apartment.

Neil Hemmer Arlington Heights, IL

3 months ago

♥ 1

[Delete](#)

this house is dope and shitty constructed apartment buildings aren't

Meghan Olin Urbana, IL

3 months ago

♥ 1

[Delete](#)

Art is important

Marissa Kircher Champaign, IL

3 months ago

♥ 1

[Delete](#)

I believe in the importance of historic preservation -- it's what makes Urbana so special!

April Leigh Champaign, IL

3 months ago

♥ 1

[Delete](#)

This building is a significant building to the many people who have been blessed enough to be a part of it. SAVE COFFIN HOUSE.

Kayla Smith O'Fallon, IL

3 months ago

If a 21 year old woman cares enough about this house to go to all of this work to save it, maybe people should listen!! Houses like this add so much more flavor to a community than do blocks and blocks of apartments. Save the house!!

Kathleen Quick Ester, AK

3 months ago



[Delete](#)

This house is awesome. Stop making Urbana into apartment-ville. That's what Champaign is for.

Lisa Ma Champaign, IL

3 months ago



[Delete](#)

This building is a significant building to the many people who have been blessed enough to be a part of it. SAVE COFFIN HOUSE.

Jake Koenig C.Fallon, IL

3 months ago



[Delete](#)

This is the coolest house I've ever been to. So many great memories.

Anissa Vasquez Champaign, IL

3 months ago



[Delete](#)

My friends love this house! Residents, students, and neighbors would be better served with positive memories in historical spaces than a new building that could be found in any other college town.

Manju Connolly Minneapolis, MN

3 months ago



[Delete](#)

This house is the ultimate manifestation of Urbana's beautifully-artistic community, and it would be really sad to see it go

Nick Georgelos Naperville, IL

3 months ago

♥ 1

[Delete](#)

a beautiful home that embodies the spirit of urbana

Justin Cagadas Urbana, IL

3 months ago

♥ 1

[Delete](#)

Ain't nobody need another Green Street eyesore in CU. This house contains, and inculcates, so much character, joy and love- don't just relegate a beautiful piece of local history to become another whipping board pigsty for the worst leasing agency in town. Please!

Chitra Iyer Aurora, IL

3 weeks ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

I want my friends to live here when we're seniors!

Jennifer Biesiadecki Champaign, IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

This house is an art piece

Jacqueline Genova Champaign, IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

Stop Tearing down Art to put up crap!

Corey allen St Peters MO

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

I was born and raised in Urbana, and I don't like the direction housing in town is turning toward, especially near Campus. Please keep this house, and others like it, intact for generations to come.

Dave Hoover Urbana IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

This house is awesome! It's full of art and history and it would be an absolute shame if it were torn down.

Jacob Roth Jacksonville IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

Every historic property deserves a 2nd chance.

Kathryn Rumer Homer IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

We already have too many cheap apartments being thrown up all over campus which will be trashed in a couple of years. We need to stand up and save these architectural treasures! Our campus is losing its beauty and character. The developers MUST be stopped!

Kimberly Wurl Champaign IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

This house is by far the coolest houses on campus! You can't just tear down something with this much history. It's truly a hidden gem

Grace Mladenik Champaign, IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

This is a cultural artifact of the (probable) thousands of students that have spent time here. You very well may get negative publicity for demolishing the building.

Kurt Von Ohlen Aurora, IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

We need to save our older homes. There are plenty of empty lots that new builds can be put on. Our old homes are our heritage.

Lisa Kidd Champaign, IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

I lived in Urbana from the age of 3 until I graduated from the U of I and moved. I remember this building.

Erica Hanson Lakewood, CO

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

I want to preserve the historical integrity of urbana

Nicholas Keeling Fishers, IN

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

we don't need more giant apartment complexes

Meghan Durst Urbana, IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

This is an important historical site that needs to be protected

Hannah Gutierrez Champaign IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

The well-preserved historical character of West Urbana makes it unique. To tear down houses like these and replace with complex-style apartments tarnishes the quality of the neighborhood and removes beauty from the fabric of the community. Don't do it.

Daniel Malsom Washington, DC

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

I've had so many fond memories in this house. Urbana will not be the same. I remember the first mental breakdown I had, it was this house that kept me grounded. With the comfort of my friends and the people that love me, I felt safe. Secure. And the environment and the feeling of this house did that for me, at one of the worst moments of my life I've experienced.

Fawaz Sarumi Charleston, IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

This house adds history to our town! And for that, it is beautiful.

Elena Wentworth urbana IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

I have lots of great memories of this house. My band played here in August.

Nick Rainey Decatur IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

"Don't demolish! Refurbish!" --I know this axiom does not apply equally well to every property--especially near-campus rental properties with sketchy porches and fire escapes--but in this case, I think damage could be done to the historic character of South Lincoln Avenue if larger high-rises were to start going up

Paul Kotheimer Urbana, IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

I'm signing this petition because one of the things that makes Urbana such a great place to live is the old houses, rich in history and character, that compose it's beautifully forested neighborhoods and set it apart from its high-rise ridden neighbor city, Champaign. This house in particular is iconic for many of us that have lived and continue to live in Urbana and it would really be a shame to see it replaced by yet another soulless, stagnant apartment complex.

Michael O'Mara Chattanooga, TN

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

This is a beautiful house that has become an important part of the Urbana community

Andrew Dolinar New York, NY

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

I helped add to the art inside that house last year (granted it wasn't that great) but there is so much wonderful art on the walls of that house and it's a shame if it all disappeared

Claire Timlin Champaign, IL

3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)

Urbana's history is worth more than Green Street Reality's profits.

Joseph Edwards Urbana, IL

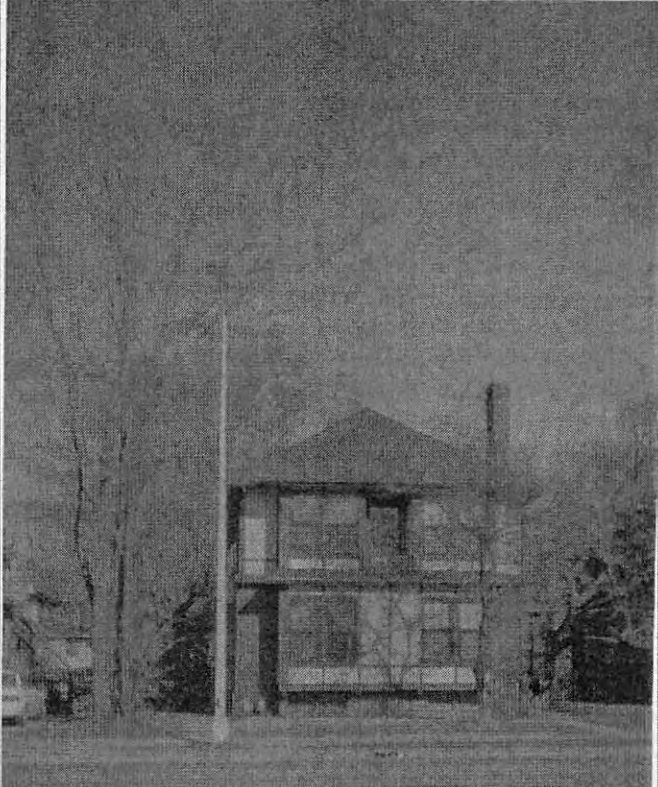
3 months ago

♥ 0

[Delete](#)



HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME Trelease Home	
COMMON/CURRENT PROPERTY NAME	
PROPERTY ADDRESS 804 s. Lincoln	
ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER 92-21-17-154-007	
OWNER/OCCUPANT Billy and Karen Hunsinger	
OWNER'S ADDRESS 2004 Linview Dr., Urbana IL, 61801	
PROPERTY'S HISTORIC USE <i>2-Flat?</i> Single Family Residential	
PROPERTY'S CURRENT USE Multi- Family Residential	
ARCHITECT'S NAME	
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR	
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION Circa 1910-1915	PHOTO BY
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE OR VERNACULAR BUILDING TYPE 4 square home with a Craftsman influence	DATE 3-15-05
FORM PREPARED BY Zachary Brown	VIEW OF PHOTO Front of the home
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (GEOGRAPHICAL DATA: LOT SHAPE, LOT DIMENSIONS) Rectangular lot measuring 50 feet across in the front and 122 feet deep. The lot contains some mature trees on the north side. The building has very little setback from the sidewalk.	

HISTORY OF STRUCTURE

CHAIN OF OWNERSHIP OR OCCUPATION

PREVIOUS OWNERS	DATE(S) OF OWNERSHIP	USE
Guy S. Ford (O)	1912-1914	single family residential
W M. Trelease (O) Professor @ U of I	1914-1944	single family residential
Carl W. Janke (O) Asst. to Department Director @ U of I	1949-1954	single family residential
Edward W. Lantz (O) Assistant to the project director of Alloy Engineering and Castings	1954-1957	single family residential
Harold S. Mason (O) Manager @ Twin Cities Refridgeration, 1501 w John	1957-1960	single family residential
Elanor Blum (O) Librarian @ U of I	1965-1980	single family residential

Attach additional pages, if necessary

CURRENT DESIGNATIONS

Is property National Register Listed? YES NO

If yes, is it a... Individual property District

If no, it is... Not Eligible Eligible

Is Property an Urbana local landmark? YES NO

STATEMENT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The building was constructed circa 1912. The building was constructed in a Four Square style. The building is a moderate example of the Craftsman style and has details including exposed end rafters, half timbering, 3 over 1 double hung windows, and a rear second story sun porch. The building is distinct from the buildings surrounding it. The address of the property changed in 1913 from 1004 s. Lincoln to 804 s. Lincoln. The building is in close proximity to the University of Illinois. As a result of this most of the occupants of the building were employed by the university. W M Trelease was the longest owner of the building. He lived there from 1914 -1944. He was a prominent professor at the University and there is a dorm building in PAR named after him. The building was used as a single family residence from its construction to 1991 when it was bought by Billy Hunsinger and changed into a Duplex.

appears to be a 2 flat originally

INFORMATION SOURCES

STRUCTURE SURVEY

INTEGRITY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered (All or most architectural details present) <input type="checkbox"/> Slight modifications (largely intact, but lacking some details) <input type="checkbox"/> Major alterations (All or most architectural details missing)		CONDITION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent (Roof, walls, and foundation in good repair) <input type="checkbox"/> Good (Same as "Excellent," but in need of some maintenance work) <input type="checkbox"/> Poor (Major overhaul work required)																																		
ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS (include dates and architects/contractors, if known) Modern storm windows were installed but the historic 3 over 1 double hung windows still remain.																																				
CURRENT AND HISTORIC USES <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width:10%; text-align: left;"><u>Current</u></th> <th style="width:10%; text-align: left;"><u>Historic</u></th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Single-Family Residence</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Multi-Family Residence</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Apartment Building</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Commercial</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Industrial</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Public Building</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Educational Building</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Religious Building</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Vacant</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Other</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>Current</u>	<u>Historic</u>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single-Family Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi-Family Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Apartment Building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Educational Building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious Building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	EXTERIOR WALL MATERIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Stone <input type="checkbox"/> Wood siding <input type="checkbox"/> Wood shingles <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stucco (historic or modern) <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt siding <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete block <input type="checkbox"/> Artificial siding <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<u>Current</u>	<u>Historic</u>																																			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single-Family Residence																																		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi-Family Residence																																		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Apartment Building																																		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial																																		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial																																		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Building																																		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Educational Building																																		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious Building																																		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant																																		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other																																		
ORNAMENTAL/ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS (Check all that apply) <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Arcading</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Porte-Cochere</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Pilasters</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Cornice</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Recessed Panels</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Cornice Returns</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Buttresses</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Porch</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Piers</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Stoop</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Spandrels</td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Balcony</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Portico</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Oriel Window</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Quoins</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Columns or Posts</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Bay Windows</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Tower or Turret</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Other</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/> Arcading	<input type="checkbox"/> Porte-Cochere	<input type="checkbox"/> Pilasters	<input type="checkbox"/> Cornice	<input type="checkbox"/> Recessed Panels	<input type="checkbox"/> Cornice Returns	<input type="checkbox"/> Buttresses	<input type="checkbox"/> Porch	<input type="checkbox"/> Piers	<input type="checkbox"/> Stoop	<input type="checkbox"/> Spandrels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Balcony	<input type="checkbox"/> Portico	<input type="checkbox"/> Oriel Window	<input type="checkbox"/> Quoins	<input type="checkbox"/> Columns or Posts	<input type="checkbox"/> Bay Windows	<input type="checkbox"/> Tower or Turret	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		ROOF FEATURES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dormer <input type="checkbox"/> Urn/Finial <input type="checkbox"/> Bargeboard <input type="checkbox"/> Belvedere <input type="checkbox"/> Gablet <input type="checkbox"/> Parapet <input type="checkbox"/> Skylight <input type="checkbox"/> Other														
<input type="checkbox"/> Arcading	<input type="checkbox"/> Porte-Cochere																																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pilasters	<input type="checkbox"/> Cornice																																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Recessed Panels	<input type="checkbox"/> Cornice Returns																																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Buttresses	<input type="checkbox"/> Porch																																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Piers	<input type="checkbox"/> Stoop																																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Spandrels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Balcony																																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Portico	<input type="checkbox"/> Oriel Window																																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Quoins	<input type="checkbox"/> Columns or Posts																																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Bay Windows	<input type="checkbox"/> Tower or Turret																																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other																																				
ROOF MATERIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingles <input type="checkbox"/> Wood shingles <input type="checkbox"/> Slate shingles <input type="checkbox"/> Tile shingles <input type="checkbox"/> Metal <input type="checkbox"/> Tar <input type="checkbox"/> Other		ROOF TYPE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Hipped Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Pyramidal <input type="checkbox"/> Other																																		
DESCRIBE ABOVE ORNAMENTAL DETAILS A Craftsman style two story Four Squire home. The building is square in shape. The number of bays is not noticeable. The building is brick and stucco with some half timbering which is a craftsman style element. Another craftsman style element is the exposed end rafters under the soffit. There is a small second story front balcony and a large 117 sq foot rear second story sun porch. A small wall dormer breaks up the front roof line and is responsible for the undulation of the façade. There is no front entrance to the building only one on the south side. There is no evidence of a front entrance ever existing. The roof is a hip roof and is covered with asphalt shingles.																																				
OUTBUILDINGS <input type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Carport <input type="checkbox"/> Coach House <input type="checkbox"/> Pool <input type="checkbox"/> Gazebo <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse <input type="checkbox"/> Storage Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Other Describe location, construction, and date of detached structures:																																				
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/FEATURES																																				










HISTORY OF STRUCTURE


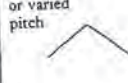
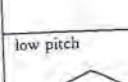
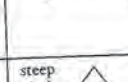
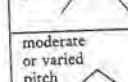
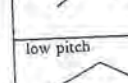
1915 Sanborn map of Champaign Urbana


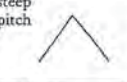

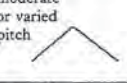

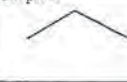


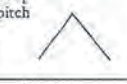

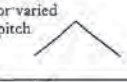
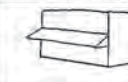
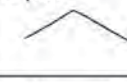
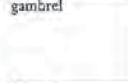


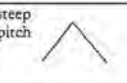

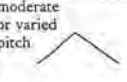
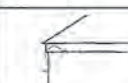
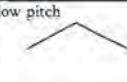
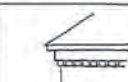
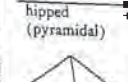
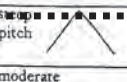

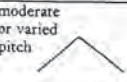


1923 Sanborn map of Champaign Urbana

1912,1914,1916,1918,1921,1923,1927,1929,1934,1937,1941,1943,1944,1945,1947,1949,1954,1957,1960,1965,1970,1975,1980,1984,
Champaign Urbana City Directories.




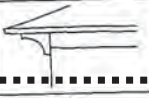

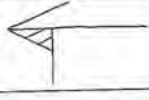














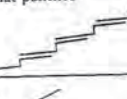

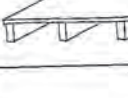

Pictorial Key


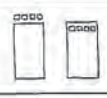











Walls IF YOU SEE	TRY THESE FIRST	rusticated stone (joints exaggerated)	Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance
logs			Pre-Railroad Folk
half-timbering		wall surface material extends up into gable without break	Tudor, Craftsman, Queen Anne, French Eclectic, Prairie
adobe		second-story overhang	Colonial Revival, Tudor, Postmedieval English
rough-faced stone			Colonial Revival, Tudor, Postmedieval English
smooth stone			Richardsonian Romanesque, Shingle (first story only)
stucco			Beaux Arts, Chateausque, Italian Renaissance
patterned wood shingles			Tudor, Mission, Spanish Eclectic, Prairie, Modernistic, International, Italian Renaissance, French Colonial, occasionally in most other styles
plain wood shingles			Queen Anne, Shingle, Folk Victorian
patterned stick-work on walls			Shingle, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Postmedieval English
			Stick, Queen Anne, Exotic Revival (Swiss)

Roof form IF YOU SEE	TRY THESE FIRST	
side-gabled	steep pitch 	Tudor, Gothic Revival, Stick, Queen Anne, French Colonial, Postmedieval English
	moderate or varied pitch 	Colonial Revival, Georgian, Adam, Early Classical Revival, Folk Victorian, Neoclassical, Shingle, National Folk, Pre-Railroad Folk
	low pitch 	Craftsman, Spanish Eclectic, Italianate, Monterey, Greek Revival, Dutch Colonial, Spanish Colonial, Adam
front-gabled (also tri-gabled)	steep pitch 	Gothic Revival, Stick, Queen Anne, less commonly Tudor
	moderate or varied pitch 	National Folk, Shingle, Folk Victorian, Neoclassical, less commonly Colonial Revival
	low pitch 	Greek Revival, Italianate, Craftsman, less commonly Spanish Eclectic

Roof form IF YOU SEE	TRY THESE FIRST	Roof-wall junction IF YOU SEE	TRY THESE FIRST
cross-gabled (or gable front and wings) 	steep pitch 	mansard 	Second Empire, Beaux Arts, Richardsonian Romanesque
	moderate or varied pitch 	hipped with cross gables 	Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque, Shingle
	low pitch 	flat 	Beaux arts, Italian Renaissance, Adam (rare), town house subtypes
centered gable 	steep pitch 	asymmetrical	International, Pueblo Revival, Spanish Eclectic, Spanish Colonial, town house subtypes
or 	moderate or varied pitch 	pent or visor 	Georgian, Colonial Revival, Mission
	low pitch 		
gambrel 		parapet on flat roof (wall extends up beyond roof edge) 	Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance, Pueblo Revival, Spanish Eclectic, Mission, Modernistic, International, Spanish Colonial
hipped (with ridge) 	steep pitch 	parapet on gabled roof 	Tudor, Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque, Mission, French Colonial
	moderate or varied pitch 	no eaves (little or no overhang) 	International, Modernistic, Spanish Eclectic, Postmedieval English
	low pitch 	slight eave overhang, boxed with modillions, dentils, or other classical moldings 	Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Beaux Arts, Adam, Georgian, French Eclectic, Early Classical Revival, Chateausque, Italian Renaissance
hipped (pyramidal) 	pitch 	slight eave overhang, open, not boxed 	Stick, Gothic Revival
	moderate or varied pitch 	slight eave overhang with brackets 	Second Empire, Folk Victorian, Italianate
	low pitch 		

Structure: Pictorial Key

Roof-wall junction IF YOU SEE		TRY THESE FIRST	shaped		Mission, Queen Anne, Tudor
slight eave overhang with wide band of trim below		Greek Revival	Other roof elaborations IF YOU SEE		
wide eave overhang, boxed without brackets		Prairie			
wide eave overhang, boxed with brackets		Italianate, Italian Renaissance, Prairie, occasionally Mission	towers, square		Italianate, Stick, Second Empire, occasionally Queen Anne, Mission, Italian Renaissance
wide eave overhang, open, not boxed		Craftsman, Mission	towers, round		Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque, Chateausque, Shingle, French Eclectic, occasionally Spanish Eclectic
Dormers			roof-top cupolas		Italianate, Octagon, Second Empire, Greek Revival
FRONTS			decorated verge boards		Tudor, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne
hipped		Prairie, French Eclectic, Shingle	trusses in gables		Craftsman, Stick, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Tudor
gabled		Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Adam, Georgian Shingle, Queen Anne, Stick, Gothic Revival, Tudor, Chateausque, French Eclectic	false beams at gable end		Craftsman, Prairie
shed		Dutch Colonial, Craftsman, Colonial Revival	flared eaves		French Eclectic, French Colonial, Prairie, Stick, Dutch Colonial, Craftsman
arched top		French Eclectic, Second Empire, Beaux Arts	multi-level eaves		Tudor, Shingle, French Eclectic, others occasionally
round or oval		French Eclectic, Beaux Arts	tile roof		rounded tiles, usually red
pedimented		Colonial Revival, Georgian, Adam	flat pantiles		Tudor, occasionally Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, Italian Renaissance
wall dormers		Gothic Revival, Chateausque, Richardsonian Romanesque, Mission	exposed rafters		Craftsman, Stick, Mission, occasionally Prairie or Gothic Revival
eyebrow		Shingle, Richardsonian Romanesque			

Other roof elaborations IF YOU SEE		TRY THIS FIRST	Doors IF YOU SEE		TRY THIS FIRST
pinnacles		Chateausque, Richardsonian Romanesque	transom lights		Georgian, Colonial Revival, Pre-Railroad Folk
castellations		Gothic Revival, Tudor	round fanlight or elliptical fanlight with sidelights		Adam, Colonial Revival, Early Classical Revival, Neoclassical
roof-top or roof-line balustrade		Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, Adam, Georgian, Beaux Arts, Early Classical Revival, Italian Renaissance	rectangular transom and side lights		Greek Revival, Neoclassical
metal roof cresting		Queen Anne, Chateausque	six- to eight-panel door		Adam, Georgian, Colonial Revival, Early Classical Revival
Arched doors, windows, porches			board-and-batten door		Postmedieval English, Spanish Colonial, Tudor, Spanish Eclectic, Pueblo
segmental		Georgian, Adam, Colonial Revival, Italianate	pilasters to sides of door (may have pediment)		
round		Italian Renaissance, Italianate, Richardsonian Romanesque, Spanish Eclectic, less common in Adam, Colonial Revival, Beaux Arts, Mission, Tudor			
Syrian		Richardsonian Romanesque, Shingle	pediment		
pointed (Gothic)		Gothic Revival	broken pediment		
Tudor (flattened Gothic)		Tudor, Gothic Revival			
baskethandle (elliptical)		Chateausque, Beaux Arts, Italianate	Windows		
ogee		Exotic Revivals, Chateausque	IF YOU SEE		
			TRY THIS FIRST		
			casement		Prairie, Tudor, Spanish Eclectic, Postmedieval English, Dutch Colonial, Modernistic, International (metal only)
			Palladian		Adam, Queen Anne (free classic), Shingle, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical

Structure: Pictorial Key

Windows IF YOU SEE		TRY THESE FIRST	Chimneys IF YOU SEE	TRY THESE FIRST
pediment	unbroken 	Colonial Revival, Georgian, Adam, Italianate, Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance, Neoclassical	dominant decorated chimneys 	Tudor, Queen Anne, Postmedieval English, French Eclectic (towered)
	broken 	Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, occasionally Georgian, Queen Anne		
oriel		Gothic Revival, Tudor, Chateausque		
label mold		Gothic Revival, Chateausque, occasionally Tudor, French Eclectic		
hood mold		Italianate		
ribbon (three or more contiguous windows)		Prairie, Craftsman, Modernistic, International, all post-1900 Eclectic styles may have such windows, but usually on side wings, not on main house block		
		Shingle, Richardsonian Romanesque		
large pane surrounded by smaller panes		Queen Anne		
blank lower pane with patterned pane above		Queen Anne, most Eclectic styles		
paired window		Italianate or later style		
attic story		Greek Revival, Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance		
bracketed tops		Italianate, Second Empire, Gothic Revival, Stick		
			Porch supports	
			IF YOU SEE	TRY THESE FIRST
			classical columns, two-story (colossal) 	Neoclassical, Greek Revival, Early Classical Revival, Beaux Arts
			classical columns, one-story 	Italianate, Greek Revival, Early Classical Revival, Neoclassical, Beaux Arts, Adam, Colonial Revival, Queen Anne (free classic), Italian Renaissance
			columns with cushion capital 	Richardsonian Romanesque
			chamfered (corners shaved off at 45° angles) 	Italianate, Gothic Revival, Second Empire, Stick
			turned spindles 	Queen Anne (except free classic), Folk Victorian
			heavy squared piers 	Prairie, Mission, Craftsman
			piers with slanted sides 	Colonial Revival, Mission
			rough hewn 	Pueblo, Pre-Railroad Folk
			Porches	
			IF YOU SEE	TRY THESE FIRST
			entry 	Can occur on most styles

Porches IF YOU SEE		TRY THESE FIRST	three or more sides 	TRY THESE FIRST
full-height entry (commonly with pediment) 		Early Classical Revival, Greek Revival, Neoclassical, Folk Victorian (two-tier)		Greek Revival, French Colonial, Folk Victorian
full-facade 		Greek Revival, Neoclassical, Folk Victorian (two-tier)	Other decorative details	
full-width, one-story 		Prairie, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Folk Victorian, Italianate, Gothic Revival, Dutch Colonial, Italian Renaissance, Queen Anne, Shingle, Stick, French Colonial, Second Empire, Octagon, Greek Revival, Mission	quoins 	Georgian, Adam, Italianate, Colonial Revival, French Eclectic, Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance, Second Empire
partial (often inset in L) 		Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Stick, Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque, Folk Victorian, Monterey (upper-story), Craftsman	belt course 	Georgian, Adam, Italianate, Colonial Revival, French Eclectic, Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance, Second Empire
wrap 		Queen Anne, occasionally in other styles	garlands, floral ornament 	Beaux Arts, Adam, Colonial Revival
			pilasters 	Georgian, Adam, Italianate, Colonial Revival, French Eclectic, Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance, Greek Revival, Neoclassical

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

WILLIAM TRELEASE

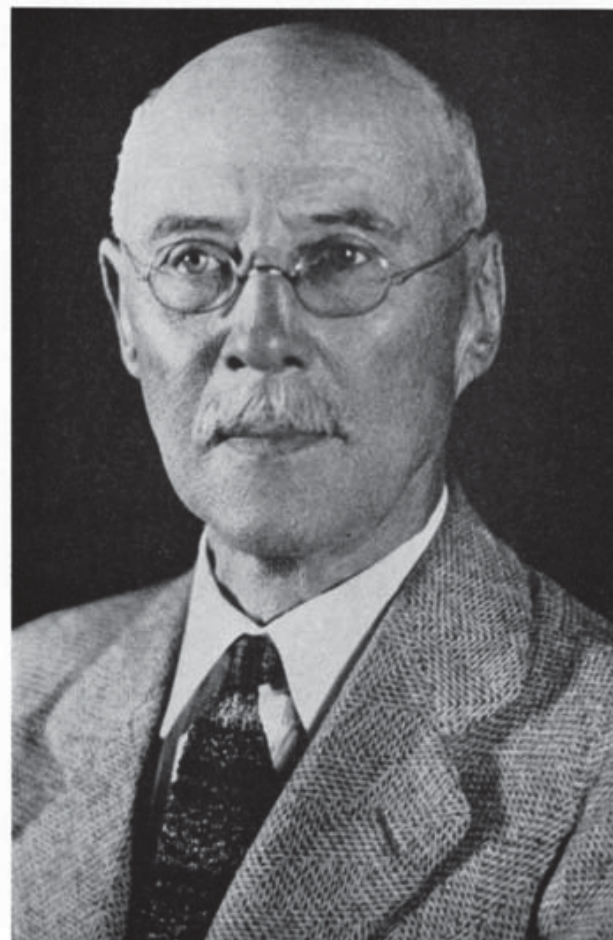
1857—1945

A Biographical Memoir by
LOUIS OTTO KUNKEL

*Any opinions expressed in this memoir are those of the author(s)
and do not necessarily reflect the views of the
National Academy of Sciences.*

Biographical Memoir

COPYRIGHT 1961
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
WASHINGTON D.C.



Wm. Trelease

WILLIAM TRELEASE

February 22, 1857–January 1, 1945

BY LOUIS OTTO KUNKEL

WILLIAM TRELEASE is known as a plant taxonomist but his early interest in natural history indicated a preference for other fields. His first papers dealt largely with pollination of plants by insects and birds. Other early publications were on bacteria, parasitic fungi, and plant diseases. Some were entirely entomological. His thesis for the Doctor of Science degree at Harvard University was on "Zoogloecae and Related Forms." It probably was the first in this country in the field of bacteriology. But his later and perhaps deeper interests were in taxonomy.

It is said that each epoch brings forth leaders to meet the demands of the time. A hundred years ago and for several decades thereafter the vast central and western portions of North America were being settled by pioneers who established homes in the forests and on the prairies. They also built cities but these remained relatively small for many years. Most of the scanty population lived on farms.

It is not easy to picture or to comprehend fully the conditions and needs of those years. Americans of that time lived close to nature and were of necessity familiar with their local floras. They were in almost daily contact with species of both wild and cultivated plants that provided food, clothing, shelter, and medicines. Identification of plants yielding medicinal products was so important in the period 1875 to 1885 that botany in most colleges of that decade was an adjunct of medicine. The pioneers built houses of logs and from plant

fibers wove cloth that was often colored with plant stains. The wagons used in going from place to place were drawn by oxen, slow-moving animals that allowed their drivers time to observe the countryside and the plants that grew there. The pioneers' firsthand knowledge of plants and interest in plants went far beyond the average botanical interests and accomplishments of today among people who predominantly live in cities, work in industries, and travel in fast-moving vehicles. But although the pioneers knew plants and made extensive use of them, they generally were unfamiliar with scientific names and classifications. That this need was felt at an earlier time in the east is revealed vividly by statements made in a speech by Dr. James Hall, the then Director of the New York State Museum of Natural History, at a banquet in St. Louis in 1893. Referring to his boyhood education, he said: "I appealed in every direction for some information, some instruction which would give me a clue to the names of the flowers and shrubs. . . . I knew from my reading, even though a boy, that there were names to flowers, that they had names by which they could be known everywhere. . . . I appealed to the teacher of my academy, who was a graduate of Harvard University, in vain for some instruction which would teach me the names or the manner or mode by which I could learn the names of those plants which I was so interested in collecting, but it was not to come to me, it was not to be had." There was, indeed, a great need to identify species that already had been named and to name and classify species that were new and seen by scientists for the first time in this new land. Hence, it is not surprising that early American botanists, who more often than not were students of medicine, in attempting to meet this need became taxonomists, nor is it surprising that Trelease in spite of other scientific interests made the identification, naming, classification, and geographical distribution of plants the chief labor of a long and busy life.

Trelease was born at Mount Vernon, New York, on February 22, 1857. He died at Urbana, Illinois, on January 1, 1945, in the eighty-eighth year of his life, leaving a widow and four sons. He married

Julia M. Johnson, daughter of Hiram and Maria S. (Briggs) Johnson, at Madison, Wisconsin, on July 19, 1882. To them were born four sons and a daughter,—Frank Johnson, Sam Farlow (deceased), Sidney Briggs, William, Jr., and Marjorie (deceased). His parents, who were of Cornish and Dutch ancestry, were Samuel Ritter and Mary Elizabeth (Gandall) Trelease; they, also, lived to ripe old ages. His grandparents were William and Margaret (Doremus) Trelease and John and Mary (Tyler) Gandall. His father was a pattern cutter in a metal-working establishment. His mother's family on both sides included millwrights and builders. It might have been expected that he would join one of the metal-working or building trades. He did, in fact, serve an apprenticeship in a machine shop where he acquired mechanical skills. However, his interest in learning and especially in natural history overbalanced any inclination he may have had toward mechanical things.

Trelease was brought up in the Methodist Episcopal Church and his early education was in public schools at Mount Vernon, New York, and in a high school that replaced an old academy at Branford, Connecticut. His liking for hunting and fishing took him into the country and stimulated an interest in collecting plants, insects, and other natural objects. His preparation for college was done largely at home on his own initiative but he was aided by some courses offered at a newly opened evening high school in Brooklyn, New York, where he lived at the time. In the autumn of 1877 he entered Cornell University which seemed to offer special opportunities in natural history. He graduated in the spring of 1880, at the age of twenty-three, taking a B.S. degree. His intellectual ability and great capacity for work were recognized there. Although he was an assistant in botany during most of his stay at Cornell and for a short time had charge of laboratory work in botany and entomology, he managed to complete the course in three years. Moreover, he prepared and published several papers during those years. In his junior year he was first employed as a scientist when commissioned under the title of Special Agent of the United States Department of Agri-

culture to study the most destructive insects of cotton. During this year and part of the following year he was an Assistant in the Division of Entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture. At Cornell he met and was closely associated in the Greek letter fraternity Delta Upsilon with two other students who were to become famous American scientists. They were Leland O. Howard and Theobald Smith.

In the autumn of 1880 Trelease entered Harvard University for graduate work. At Cornell and Harvard he came under the influence of such eminent entomologists as John H. Comstock, Hermann A. Hagen, Samuel H. Scudder, and Edward L. Mark. His scientific interests at the time were shaped largely by the writings of Charles Darwin and of Herman Mueller who at that time was reporting work on the pollination of flowers. He studied parasitic fungi under William Gilson Farlow and systematic botany under Asa Gray.

Trelease was appointed an instructor in botany at the University of Wisconsin in 1881. Here in association with W. A. Henry he developed courses in horticulture, forestry, bacteriology, economic entomology, and systematic botany. His work at Wisconsin must have been appreciated for he was promoted to a Professorship there and made head of the botany department in 1883. If he had remained at Wisconsin he undoubtedly would have expanded work in bacteriology for he was especially interested in this subject and the University authorized him to order special bacteriological equipment from Europe. However, shortly after placing the order, he was offered and accepted an appointment as Engelmann Professor of Botany at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. The decision to leave Wisconsin after such a brief but successful stay undoubtedly marked a turning point in his career. His subsequent researches were almost entirely on the taxonomy of flowering plants. But, that he retained an active interest in bacteriology is shown by the fact that in 1889 he worked for a brief period with Robert Koch in Berlin and during that year opened a bacteriological laboratory for physicians in St. Louis. This was before the subject was taught in medical schools.

The magnet that drew Trelease to St. Louis was a botanical garden established by Henry Shaw, a wealthy St. Louis merchant who had endowed a professorship in the Henry Shaw School of Botany that was to be developed at Washington University and had made a will providing that the beautiful garden located on a 75-acre tract that was part of his estate and known as Shaw's Garden would, on his death, pass to a Board of Trustees together with a generous endowment for its further development and maintenance.

There is ample evidence that Trelease was reluctant to leave Wisconsin and that he made the decision to leave only after being convinced of the advantages for research and teaching that would be afforded by Washington University and Shaw's Garden. He accepted the Headship of the Henry Shaw School of Botany only after making two trips to St. Louis to discuss the project with Mr. Shaw, and on being advised to do so by his former teacher Asa Gray. Leaving Wisconsin at the end of the summer of 1885, he launched the new school and began his long stay in St. Louis.

Henry Shaw died on August 25, 1889, and shortly thereafter the first Board of Trustees met and, as had been planned by Shaw himself, appointed Trelease Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden. His administration of the Garden over a period of about twenty-three years was marked by sustained and almost heroic efforts to meet the wishes and fulfill the dreams of its founder. When he took over management of the Garden he found much that needed to be done, streets were without sidewalks, roads were unpaved, stone walls were crumbling, plant houses were in bad condition. Mr. Shaw's residence was out of repair and there was need for city water. In spite of these handicaps and limited funds, Trelease moved Shaw's town house to the Garden, as was provided for in Shaw's will, and built an addition thereto, repaired the stone walls, built a stone cottage at the main entrance to the Garden, assembled an extensive living plant collection, an herbarium, and an excellent botanical library. Shortly before resigning his Directorship in 1912, he completed plans for the building of a new conservatory.

In twenty-three Annual Reports made to the Board of Trustees of the Garden he recorded his accomplishments and those of his associates. He secured permission to sell adjoining lands from the Supreme Court of Missouri. The lands were improved and gradually disposed of. Finally, the yearly income of the Garden reached about one-quarter of a million dollars. Throughout the period he steadfastly pursued those policies that made the Missouri Botanical Garden well and favorably known not only in Missouri and the United States but throughout the world.

On severing his connections with the Botanical Garden and Washington University, Trelease traveled in Europe where he continued his researches in numerous herbaria and libraries. He returned to the United States in 1913 to head the Department of Botany of the University of Illinois. Here, relieved of some of the burdens of administrative duties that had taken so much of his time in St. Louis, he continued his career as an inspiring teacher and highly productive research worker until 1926 when he retired with the title of Professor Emeritus at the age of seventy. However, retirement did not bring Trelease's research career to an end. During the remaining years of his life he pursued taxonomic studies as persistently as ever, going regularly to his office to within a few weeks of his death.

The following episode shows the intensity with which Trelease worked even after retirement. One Saturday morning on a hot summer day several years after he had retired, a former student who had worked at the Missouri Botanical Garden visited the University of Illinois. He was told that members of the staff of the University were away on vacation and that he would find no one there except janitors. As the visitor walked down a deserted corridor in one of the buildings, he saw on a door the name WILLIAM TRELEASE. In spite of assurances from his guide that no scientists were around, he nevertheless knocked on the door. A cheerful voice said "Come in." There he found his old friend and teacher, lens in hand, poring over herbarium specimens and making notes. After a pleasant chat the visitor said, "Professor Trelease, I think you should be taking a vacation

during this hot weather." "That is what Mrs. Trelease thinks, also," the Professor said, and added, "but I must finish this paper on the Piperaceae before going away." The former student knew him well enough to guess that when he did go away on vacation, it would be to observe and collect plants belonging in the Piperaceae or some other family, for the collecting of plants was his hobby, if he can be said to have had one. In pursuit of this hobby he made botanical explorations in practically all parts of North America and in the Azores, Madeira, Teneriffe, southern Spain, New Zealand, and the West Indies.

Trelease was a many-sided man. In fact, his chief characteristic was said to be versatility. Although quick-tempered, he was good-natured, pleasant, and courteous when circumstances permitted. He followed a set pattern of excellence in all he undertook and was marvelously diligent. In speaking on the subject of opportunities in botany in an address as retiring President of the Botanical Society of America in 1896, Trelease showed the quality of his thinking and his attitude toward science. In outlining a course to be followed by younger scientists he disclosed a formula that guided his own life and scientific work, saying that a man who was not entirely a student was little better than a dilettante in science. But if he was entirely a student and obtained proper training, he could, if fortunate in getting a position or in having private means, look forward to a lifetime of more or less uninterrupted opportunity for unearthing the wealth of discovery that came within his reach. He himself was entirely a student; he did get the best training available at the time, he did enjoy a lifetime of more or less uninterrupted opportunity, and he did unearth and record in a long series of papers a wealth of discovery. His scientific contributions are almost unique in that they came in a steady stream under about 300 titles over a period of approximately sixty-three years. In describing and naming about 2500 species and varieties of plants, he rendered a great service to the pioneers of the middle west and to botanical science in America and throughout the world.

There are some scientists so deeply interested in their specialties that they forsake all other interests. Trelease was not one of these. Although deeply devoted to research, he gave much time to his students and to local affairs in the communities in which he lived. He managed to acquire a personal estate that made him financially independent as he approached old age. In addition to his teaching and research activities, he served a wide variety of scientific organizations in many different capacities over many years. He was President of the Cambridge Entomological Society in 1889, of the Académie Internationale de Géographie Botanique in 1896, of the Botanical Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1900, of the American Society of Naturalists in 1903, of the Botanists of the Central States in 1905, of the Academy of Science of St. Louis from 1909 to 1911, and of the Illinois Academy of Sciences in 1916. He was Chairman of the Organizing Committee and first President of the Botanical Society of America. After this Society was merged with other botanical groups in 1907, he was again elected to its presidency in 1918. He served on editorial boards of the entomological journal *Psyche*, the *American Naturalist*, and the *Botanical Gazette*. He also was for many years Chairman of the American Board of the international *Botanisches Centralblatt*. He was Secretary of the Wisconsin Horticultural Society from 1882 to 1885, and of the Academy of Science of St. Louis from 1896 to 1903. He edited the publications of those bodies for many years. He was a member of the Advisory Board for the publication of the *North American Flora* issued by the New York Botanical Garden.

Trelease was a correspondent for the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, the Société Botanique de France, the Deutsche Botanische Gesellschaft, the National Geographic Society, the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, the Société Centrale Forestiere de Belgique, the Société Botanique de Copenhagen, the Société Royale de Botanique de Belgique, and the Société Nationale des Sciences de Cherbourg. He was a life member of the Botanical Society of America, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the

American Pomological Society, and the Swiss Association pour la Protection des Plantes.

Trelease was also active in the civic affairs of the City of St. Louis and the States of Missouri and Illinois. He served as Chairman of the City Planning Committee of the Civic League of St. Louis which started a movement for the development and beautification of the City. He was Secretary of the Round Table Club of St. Louis for eleven years. He also was a member of the Illinois State Board of Natural Resources and Conservation under which the Geological Survey, the Natural History Survey, and the Water Survey functioned. He represented Missouri as Honorary Commissioner at the Buffalo and Charleston Expositions.

Trelease was the recipient of many honors. His name is commemorated in the fungus genera *Treleasia* and *Trelesiella* and in the seed plant *Neotreleasia* in the *Commelinaceae*. He was made an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1893, was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences in 1902, and of the American Philosophical Society in 1903. Also in 1903 he was made an honorary member of the scholarly society of Phi Beta Kappa. He was the first Chairman of the Section of Botany when that section was established in the National Academy of Sciences, and was one of five of its members charged with the preparation of a volume covering the activities of the Academy in the first fifty years of its existence. He also served on the Council of the American Philosophical Society and was a member of the Society of Sigma Xi and of the National Institute of Social Sciences. He was given an honorary degree by the University of Wisconsin in 1902, by the University of Missouri in 1903, and by Washington University in St. Louis in 1907.

Finally, on June 7, 1933, the National Geographic Board in a unanimous decision designated an unnamed mountain near Georgetown, Colorado, on the Loveland Pass Highway in Clear Creek County, where he had collected plants in 1886, as Mount Trelease. This mountain, having an altitude of 12,503 feet, is located in the vicinity

of other peaks named in honor of those other great early American botanists Gray, Engelmann, and Torrey. He is reported to have esteemed this honor above all others, which is understandable for there are indeed few who leave monuments that reach so high or will endure so long. However, in his numerous and voluminous monographs and in shorter papers describing, classifying, and naming plants, he left a monument even more enduring than a mountain. He met, in an extraordinarily thoroughgoing way, a great need of the time in which he lived.

I SAARBR

Former Botany Department Head, Famed Expert Dies at Age of 87

William Trelease Succumbs to Severe Cold; Funeral Rites to be Conducted Tomorrow

William Trelease, professor emeritus of botany of the University, died at 10 p. m. Monday in his home following an illness of several months. His death was unexpected despite his having caught a severe cold early in the winter. He was 87 years old.

Funeral services will be conducted at 10 a. m. tomorrow from the Renner funeral home, Urbana. Burial will be in Bellfountain cemetery, St. Louis.

Mr. Trelease came to the University in 1913 as professor of botany and head of the department, and was known as one of the world's greatest authorities in the field. He retired in the fall of 1926.

Directed Shaw's Garden

For 23 years he was the director of the Missouri botanical garden (Shaw's garden) in St. Louis after having been selected by Harry Shaw to become the first director of the garden. He had been recommended for the post by two famous botanists, Asa Gray and George Engelmann.

William Trelease was born in Mt. Vernon, N. Y., on Feb. 22, 1857, the son of Samuel Ritter and Mary Elizabeth Gandell Trelease. He attended high school in Branford, Conn., and Brooklyn, N. Y., and was graduated from Cornell university in 1880. In 1884 he received his doctor of science degree from Harvard university, the LL.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1902, and later special degrees from the University of Missouri and Washington university.



WILLIAM TRELEASE

Company D Wins Rifle Honors

B Team Takes Second; Dyer is High Scorer

Winners of the ROTC rifle competition, which took place just

He married Julia W. Johnson, of Madison, Wis., on July 19, 1882. His widow survives, along with four children, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Lectured at Johns Hopkins

Mr. Trelease was a lecturer in botany in the early 1880s at Johns Hopkins university and had charge of the summer school of botany at Harvard university in 1884. He served as professor of botany at the University of Wisconsin from 1885 to 1913 and as director of the Missouri botanical garden from 1889 to 1912.

He spent much time in the great botanical centers of the world and had made botanical explorations into Alaska, virtually all other parts of the North American continent, the West Indies, Madeira, and the Azores. He was a member of the Harriman Alaska expedition. He took his first field outing in 1886 into the Clear Creek country of Georgetown and the Argentine Pass in Colorado. In 1933 a mountain near Georgetown on the Loveland Pass highway became known as Mt. Trelease in honor of his distinguished work.

Century Plant Authority

Several books were written by Mr. Trelease, among them the edited works of George Englemann published in 1887 with the collaboration of Asa Gray. He also edited the reports of the Missouri botanical garden, was the author of "Poulson's Botanical Microchemistry," translated from the German, and "Salemonson's Bacteriological Technology," translated from the Danish. Some of his other well-known books are "Agave in the West Indies," "Plant Materials of Decorative Gardening," "The Genus Phorandendron," "Winter Botany," and "The American Oaks." He was an international authority on the century plant and was said to have known more about it than any other living man.

A member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical society, he also belonged to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Society of Naturalists, of which he was president in 1903, the Engelmann Botanical club of which he was honorary president since 1900, and numerous other organizations.

Headed Botanical Society

He was chairman of the organization committee of the Botanical Society of America, which he twice headed as president, and was a past president of the Acedemie Internationale de Geographic Botanique. He had been a member of the Illinois state board of natural resources and conservation since 1917 and was the last of a group of dis-

(Continued on Page 2)

Trelease Dies . . .

(Continued from Page 1) . . . distinguished professors who were original board members.

Shortly after coming to the University, Mr. Trelease became interested in the pollination of flowers by insects, a study which had been introduced by Darwin. In 1922 he visited the botanical gardens in Europe to study the various types of American pepper.

He started a movement for a campus sundial while here and the class of 1906 took his suggestion and presented the University with the sundial south of the Illini Union. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Delta Upsilon.

In addition to his wife he leaves four children: Frank Johnson Trelease, a government engineer in Washington; A. M. Farlow Trelease, chairman of the Columbia university botany department; Sidney B. Trelease, Champaign-Urbana realtor; and William Trelease, Jr., who is with the Ethyl corporation in Baltimore, Md.

[Home](#)

William Trelease

1857 - 1945



[The 1899 Expedition](#)



[Original Participants](#)



[Brief Chronology](#)



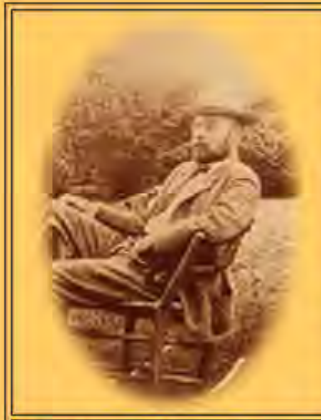
[Science Aboard the Elder](#)



[Exploration & Settlement](#)



[Growth Along](#)



William Trelease. Source: Missouri Botanical Garden.

William Trelease was born in Mount Vernon, New York in 1857. In his teens he was briefly apprenticed in a machine shop, but in 1877 he decided to enter Cornell College and study the natural sciences. After Cornell, he taught at the University of Wisconsin, and planned to study bacteriology there; but when he was offered the

director's job at the St. Louis Botanical Garden, he accepted. It was an ideal position for Trelease, a gifted botanist with a genius for classifying plants. He directed the 75 acre garden for 23 years, during which time he identified and named 2500 species and varieties of flora. Trelease's botanical interests were broad: he published a paper on the giant cactus of Mexico in the same year that he published his findings about coastal species in Alaska. He studied apple scab, leaf blight, nematodes.

While on the *Elder*, he worked with the others involved in botany, collecting specimens, but tending to play second fiddle to Muir, Gilbert and the other, more talkative, scientists. He was first and foremost a scientist, not a story-teller.

After the expedition, he returned to St. Louis, and eventually taught at the University of Illinois. His work includes hundreds of scholarly papers, but Trelease was not solely an academic. He published a small, inexpensive set of guides for the everyday gardener, that remain, to this day, a value for anyone who wishes to graft an apple tree, or identify and avoid poison ivy in the winter. Trelease died in 1945.

Martinez, California

May 10, 1912

My dear Trelease:

I'm glad to learn you are now free to go your own flowery way while yet young and able. Happy man! burdened only with blessed good luck. May you live to be a hundred years young. Anyhow you will live forever in your works. I often think of our Alaska days nothing found in them has given greater pleasure than yourself.

I've just returned from a grand trip in South America & Africa. - Found lots of good botany & geology. Hoping to see you ere long I am with all good wishes

Ever faithfully your friend
John Muir

Martinez, California

May 10, 1912

My dear Trelease:

I'm glad to learn you are now free to go your own flowery way while yet young and able. Happy man! burdened only with blessed good luck. May you live to be a hundred years young. Anyhow you will live forever in your works. I often think of our Alaska days nothing found in them has given greater pleasure than yourself.

I've just returned from a grand trip in South America & Africa. Found lots of good botany & geology.

Hoping to see you ere long
I am with all good wishes
Ever faithfully your friend

John Muir

The Botanical Society of America.

Council 1894 - 1895.

Terms expire with Annual Meeting 1895.

William Trelease, Pres.

Nathaniel Lord Britton, Vice President.

Charles Reid Barnes, Secretary
Treasurer

Charles Sprague Sargent

Edward Lee Greene.

John Donnell Smith, treasurer-elect, signified to the Council, under date of Oct. 22. 1894, his inability to accept the treasurer-ship for the reason that his "frequent and prolonged absences from the country would interfere with a proper attention to the duties of treasurer".

The Council, therefore, after due nominations had been made, elected L. H. Bailey treasurer, by written ballot.

Mr. Bailey declined to accept the office. The Council then elected the Secretary acting Treasurer by written ballot.





