

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC  
Frances Willard HouseAND/OR COMMON  
"Rest Cottage"**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER  
1730 Chicago Avenue

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Evanston

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE  
IllinoisCODE  
17COUNTY  
CookCODE  
031**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME  
National Woman's Christian Temperance UnionSTREET & NUMBER  
1730 Chicago AvenueCITY, TOWN  
Evanston

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
Illinois**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC  
Cook County RegistrySTREET & NUMBER  
118 North ClarkCITY, TOWN  
ChicagoSTATE  
Illinois**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE  
Historic American Buildings Survey (ILL-1095, 13 sheets)DATE  
1967 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs DivisionCITY, TOWN  
WashingtonSTATE  
D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR              UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The home of Frances Willard and her family and the longtime headquarters of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union was built by her father, Josiah Willard in 1865 and added to in 1878. The building shows the influence of the publications of Andrew Jackson Downing's patternbooks and was designed by Mr. Willard from plates illustrating the English cottage style. It is also a good example of early use of concrete in the foundation walls, a technique being experimented with at the time, which had been used in Wisconsin not far from where the Willard family had previously lived. The house is a fine example of the period and an appropriate memorial to Frances Willard since the WCTU has carefully preserved the exterior and the interior with its furnishings as Miss Willard left it.

Originally the house appears to have consisted of an L-shaped unit which is now the far southeast portion of the building. Its vertical board and batten siding and scrollwork trim determined the form and decoration of the later addition. The foundation walls of the original section of the building were made of a crude type of concrete, a method described in 1853 by Orson Squire Fowler in A Home for All.

The first major addition came in April 1878, shortly after the death of Oliver Willard, Frances' brother, to provide a home for his widow and four children. This large addition substantially changed the form and appearance of the house although the exterior treatment of the original was continued. In 1890 Frances Willard reported to the WCTU that the proceeds from her autobiography had been used for repairs and additions to "Rest Cottage," probably being the addition of large bay windows on the east facade. Again in 1893 she reported the house have been "enlarged and fitted," probably the last remodeling during her residency.

The house is a two-story, 17-room example of Carpenter Gothic architecture, painted pearl gray with white trim. The house is actually a double dwelling, as seen on the enclosed floor plan, with uniform exterior treatment of board and batten siding and bargeboard trim. Six porches are attached to the building, two columned porches on the front, three small open porches leading to entrances, and one balcony on the rear outside of the second floor study. The three gables on the east side of the house have pierced and cusped barge board trim with a turned finial in the center.

There are several stained glass and leaded glass windows in the house and much of the interior flooring and woodwork is of oak and walnut. The mantels and fireboards in the parlors and the wainscotting and chair rail in the dining room are particularly nice decorative features of the interior.

Frances Willard was a teacher in a nearby community when her father built this house and her mother maintained it as home while Frances was away working. Frances called it "Rest Cottage" and it was her real home although she worked elsewhere and traveled often throughout her career and she had a vacation cottage in the Catskills also.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1865-1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Frances Elizabeth Caroline Willard was born on September 28, 1839, in Churchville, New York. By the time of her death on February 18, 1898, she had raised the temperance movement to national significance and had made the country aware of the social evils of liquor.

Her family moved from New York in 1841 to Oberlin, Ohio because of that community's reputation as an educationally and religiously oriented town, and there both of her parents attended college for two years. From there they moved to a farm in Janesville, Wisconsin and finally to Evanston, Illinois. Planning to teach, Miss Willard first attended the Milwaukee Female College and then Northwestern Female College from which she graduated in 1859. She spent two and one-half years traveling and studying abroad at Le Petit Sorbonne and the University of Paris. In 1871 she received her M.A. from Syracuse University and Ohio Wesleyan College awarded her an LL.D in 1894.

Miss Willard intent in developing her own career and her independent nature had been stimulated in college by her reading about Margaret Fuller Ossoli, whom she greatly admired. Between 1858 and 1874 Frances Willard taught in eleven different institutions and had a total of some 2,000 students. In 1871 she became president of the Evanston College for Ladies, a new institution, where she introduced self-government by the students, an innovation in that day. When this college was absorbed by Northwestern University, she became Dean of the Women's College, but resigned in 1874 because of a conflict over the role of women in the university.

Miss Willard's resignation marked a turning point in her life, for her attention now turned to the temperance movement, a tradition in which she had been reared--her father's membership certificate in a temperance society had hung on the wall of their home. She was a Methodist and her basic point of view was one that regarded temperance as a Christian endeavor aimed at preserving the home and family life. While teaching she had continued to be interested in temperance. As she recorded in her autobiography, in her last year of teaching she had her students discuss and write about subjects concerning prohibition. Instead of considering whether or not Napoleon was a great man, she had her pupils consider the question, "Is prohibition a success?"

Once attracted to the temperance movement, Frances devoted herself entirely to it. Upon returning from a trip to the East in the summer of 1874, she stopped in Pittsburgh and visited her first saloons, in company with other ladies. They sang "Jesus the Water of Life Will Give" and "Rock of Ages" and prayed. Inspired, she returned to Chicago and became president of the national organization and president of the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union, in 1891.

1879

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- McCarthy, Raymond G. and Douglass, Edgar M., Alcohol and Social Responsibility (New York, 1949).
- Shank, Wesley, "Frances E. Willard House," Historic American Buildings Survey report (Ill-1095), August 1967.
- Shively, Mas E. "Educator for Sobriety," The Union Signal February 1975, pp9-10.
- Willard, Frances, Glimpses of Fifty Years (Chicago, 1889).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY One

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	443719.0	4655115.0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Willard House is located in the midst of three other WCTU-owned buildings which together serve as the national headquarters. North and south of the Willard House are two houses, presently used as offices, and to the west is the library of the WCTU, however, all of these post-date the period of Frances Willard's association with the organization, and do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.

(cont'd)

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Blanche Higgins Schroer, Landmark Review Project; S. Sydney Bradford, 1963

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, NPS

DATE

11/29/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Designated: 6/23/65.  
date

Boundary Certified:  
DATE

Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys  
DATE

Boundary Affirmed:  
DATE

Director, OAHIP  
date

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W. H. ... 3/9/77*



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Frances Willard

CONTINUATION SHEET

House

ITEM NUMBER #8

PAGE #2

As Susan B. Anthony had for the suffrage movement, Miss Willard gave the temperance movement organization and direction. She set up sections responsible for curbing the sale of liquor, educating the public about its evils, and lobbying legislatures for anti-saloon laws. Furthermore, she stressed the value of mass meetings, contests, publicity, and literature in the war against the liquor interests. Like other reform crusaders, she also resorted to petitions, and one of them, the "polyglot petition," protesting against the widespread sale of whisky and dope, contained 7,000,000 names from throughout the world. Under her leadership the movement established a journal, the Union Signal.

Miss Willard also recognized the value of political action, and she caused the temperance movement to support the suffrage drive, thinking that the ballot could help destroy the power of the whisky lobbies. She even threw the support of her movement behind candidates, supporting James A. Garfield in the election of 1880. But she soon suffered disillusionment in that tactic, for after visiting Garfield in the White House in March 1881, with a delegation of ladies, she wrote:

His manner seemed to us constrained. He was not the brotherly Disciple preacher of old, but the adroit politician "in the hands of his friends" and perfectly aware that the liquor camp held the balance of power.

When the Republican party convened in 1884, Miss Willard sought a resolution against liquor, but when none was forthcoming, she left the party.

The success of Willard's leadership of the movement is attested to by the formation of the World's Christian Temperance Union in 1883, largely through her efforts. By 1891, the world organization had over 200,000 members. Its first convention met in Boston in 1891, with delegates from more than forty nations in attendance. It was at this time that Frances Willard was elected president of the international organization. The unending work, speaking, and travel took their toll, and from 1892 on, Miss Willard suffered from poor health. She never fully recovered her old zest and died in New York in 1898.

\*\*\*History from original report by S. Sydney Bradford, 1963.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Frances Willard House ITEM NUMBER #10 PAGE #2

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The site is bounded by the west curb of Chicago Avenue on the east and the property line which is about 88 feet long on the east and west and 200 feet long on the north and south borders. The property is located within lot 16, Block 15 in Evanston, a subdivision, Section 18 of Township 41, Range 14.