

RESOURCE TYPE Property Park District of Forest Park
NRHP STATUS Eligible SURVEY ID 1-3

NAME

Park District of Forest Park

OTHER NAME(S)

N/A

STREET ADDRESS CITY

7441 Harrison Street Forest Park

OWNERSHIP TAX PARCEL NUMBER
Forest Park See NRHP Boundary

YEAR BUILT SOURCE

1938 Park District of Forest Park Website, "About Us: History" (2014)

DESIGNER/BUILDER

WPA, Carl J. Kastrup

STYLE PROPERTY TYPE

Recreation and Culture

FOUNDATION WALLS ROOF

Not Applicable Not Applicable Not Applicable

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

The Park District of Forest Park occupies an approximately 17-acre, multi-use site in the village of Forest Park, Illinois. The Park District operates the park, which is located in a densely-developed urban setting, bounded by the Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) Blue Line Forest Park branch and the I-290 Eisenhower Expressway to the north; Hannah Avenue to the east; Harrison Street to the south; and Des Plaines Avenue to the west. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed the park between 1936 and 1938. The original 16.5-acre section of the park was purchased in 1935; the westernmost portion of the park, totaling .83 acres, was purchased between 1983 and 1984. The park's overall footprint is horizontal and linear and the terrain is flat.

Curving concrete walkways wind throughout the park, paralleling Harrison Street and connecting buildings and recreational sites within the park. The majority of these walkways are an original hardscaping component of the park, built by the WPA. Mature trees, ranging from ornamental trees to those larger in stature, provide shade along these walkways and sidewalks; trees are also planted along the perimeter of athletic fields and building footprints. In some instances, low shrubs are also located along sidewalks and patios and are used as landscaping along building elevations. Dense vegetation and mature trees planted along the park's north boundary also form a visual buffer, screening the CTA Blue Line Forest Park branch and I-290 Eisenhower Expressway from view.

East of the park's center, a curving asphalt-paved road (formerly Beloit Avenue), bisects the park on a north-south axis and is accessed from Harrison Street. Though eventually widened, the curving road is an original component of the park's design. Curving medians divide the road, which is lined with angled and parallel parking spaces, and intersects with a rear, perpendicular road that is not original to the park. Lined with parking spaces, this rear road primarily follows the park's north boundary, curving on a northwest-southeast axis before it intersects with Hannah Avenue. An asphalt-paved, surface-level, L-shaped parking lot is located immediately west of the park's softball fields and is accessed from Harrison Street. The first iteration of this parking lot, which has been altered over time, was built after 1951 and as early as 1962. The westernmost portion of this parking was originally located on the .83-acre parcel added to the park between 1983 and 1984.

Today, the Park District of Forest Park retains several original features, dating to the park's late-1930s development and construction, as well as elements dating to the mid-twentieth century. Original components include the Tudor Revival-style Administration Building (1936-38), designed by Forest Park architect Carl J. Kastrup, and the Warner Fountain.



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Centered within the park, the three-story, Tudor Revival-style Administration Building exhibits a rectangular-plan footprint. This footprint includes the three-story building, an original one-story, L-shaped projection that wraps around the building's west side and north rear elevations, and a 2008 three-story, east-end addition. Oriented south to Harrison Street, the building is clad in coursed fieldstone. The 2008 addition is clad in a custom manufactured fieldstone, designed to match the building's original exterior. This addition houses a handicappedaccessible entrance to the building. The original three-story section of the building has a steeply-pitched, slate shingle-clad, side-gabled roof with an off-center front-gabled projection at the building's facade and rear north elevation. Pyramidal-roof dormers also pierce the roof at the facade and rear elevation. The one-story, L-shaped section's roof is flat; the section's second story is an open deck. The 2008 east-end addition's roof has a complex form, with side-gabled and hipped sections. The asymmetrical facade's entrance features a projecting stone bay with stone columns, supporting the front-gabled projection, which is clad in false half-timbering. An octagonal tower is located at the facade's east end, originally the point at which this elevation terminated. A band of false half-timbering wraps around the tower. The rear north elevation's front-gabled projection also features false half-timbering. The Administration Building does not appear to retain any original windows. Replacement windows and windows in the addition are comprised of six-over-six light, nine-over-nine light, and one-over-one light, double-hung windows and glass block windows. Windows, but not dormers, feature stone sills and stoneblock lintels. The building is set back from Harrison Street, fronted by an open lawn. An original half-circle form sidewalk reaches the facade's entrance and also leads to the curving walkway at Harrison Street.

The Warner Fountain, dedicated to Dr. John T. Warner, is an original component of the park's hardscaping. The fountain is located directly south of the Administration Building; a sidewalk connects the fountain with the half-circle sidewalk fronting the building. Now infilled with dirt, the stacked-stone fountain is centered within a raised quatrefoil-form bed. The fountain is formed by three circular tiers. A plaque on the fountain reads "WARNER FOUNTAIN."

A flagpole centered in a raised flowerbed is located south of the park's fountain, installed between 1951 and 1962. A concrete sidewalk connects the fountain and the bed. The park's Recreation Building #4 dates to ca. 1958. Located in the northeast section of the park, the one-story building sits on a concrete foundation, has concrete block walls, and a shed roof. The facade is faced in stone.

Though they have been revamped and refurbished over time, and were briefly converted into an artificial ice-skating rink, six tennis courts have occupied the same location in the park's southeast corner at the intersection of Harrison Street and Hannah Avenue since the park was built. Three west-end softballs fields, which have also been revamped and upgraded over time, are located in a section of the park that has consistently been used for baseball and softball fields and have featured the same configuration since the late 1930s. The remaining features and buildings within the park date to the late twentieth and early twenty-first century. A playground and a garage built in the northeast portion of the park date to 1984. Constructed between 1995 and 1996, the Forest Park Aquatic Center is located directly north of the Administration Building. The complex is comprised of a 367,000-gallon pool, an interactive play area, drop slides and fume slides, a sprayground, sand play area, and a concession stand. A concrete patio leads from the Administration Building's rear elevation to the prominent concrete patio surrounding the aquatic center's swimming pool. Also constructed at the same time as the pool complex, a one-story, gabled-roof building is located west of the Administration Building and was built in a similar Tudor Revival style.

The Bud Mohr Skatepark, located between the playground and Recreation Building #4 in the park's northeast corner, was built after 2005. Other recreational features within the park include a turf multi-use field, two bocce ball pits, and two sand volleyball courts, all of which are later additions to the park. Most recently renovated and expanded between 2012 and 2014, a building that predates 1962 and was originally built as a gas station is located in the park's southwest corner at the intersection of Harrison Street and Des Plaines Avenue. This building houses the "16 Inch Softball Hall of Fame Museum."

HISTORY/DEVELOPMENT

The origins of the Park District of Forest Park date to 1920, when local residents formed the Forest Park Citizens Protective League. As the village of Forest Park had grown and expanded, many realized that if the community were to ever have a park, this step was necessary to ensure that there was enough open land for a park. Joining



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forces with the Forest Park Kiwanis Club and its then president, Emery Parichy, both groups worked to oppose the construction of any industrial or railway sidings on the land that the Park District occupies today. After a fourteen-year-long period, the Forest Park Citizens Protective League and the Forest Park Kiwanis Club succeeded in their efforts and on November 6, 1934, the Park District of Forest Park was created by a referendum. With a population of 16,000, Forest Park was the largest community of its size in the state to lack park facilities until this time. The referendum was officially entered into the Cook County Court records on November 14, 1934.

Following the referendum, a meeting of local civic groups resulted in a petition, which then led to the election of John S. Murray, Fred Steers, Raymon H. Warnecke, Dr. John T. Warner, and Harry Weidermann to the Park District's Board of Park Commissioners. Charles Heidelbach soon replaced Dr. Warner, who passed away before taking his oath of office in December 1934. On July 2, 1935, the board purchased a 16.5-acre tract of land for \$80,000, bounded by the Chicago and Great Western Railroad tracks to the north, Hannah Avenue to the east, Des Plaines Avenue to the west, and Harrison Street to the south. At that time, the tract did not include the easternmost portion of the park. Owned by an estate and initially intended for industrial uses, the tract was comprised of overgrown vacant lots and the reportedly swampy terrain made it an ideal location for local children to catch frogs. On August 15, 1935, the Park District's first Administrative Office opened at 7520 West Harrison Street, a temporary location used during the park's construction.

The Park District's board began developing plans for the park in earnest, seeking to create an environment of recreation and enjoyment that would appeal to as many members of the community as possible. Realizing the magnitude of their plans, the board sought outside assistance for the project through the Federal Government's Works Progress Administration (WPA). Under the board's direction, an application detailing the development phases necessary to build the Park District as planned was submitted to the WPA on September 6, 1935. The application requested a grant in the amount of \$271,000, with a commitment from the Park District to contribute \$31,000, to be financed by village residents. Approved in November, the grant became WPA Project No. 2509 and was assigned a 300-man workforce in December 1935. F. H. Thormahlen served as project supervisor and Orvin Bertelson as construction supervisor. In early 1936, much of the initial work consisted of preparing the swampy site to become a park, excavating stone from the ground, relocating dirt, and digging trenches to install drainage and water pipes.

The WPA carried out work on the Park District of Forest Park over a period of two years, constructing buildings, structures, and recreational features between 1936 and 1938. In October 1937, work on the park briefly halted for a period of two months, until the WPA issued an additional grant for workers' wages. Ultimately, the project well exceeded the original budget. The Park District of Forest Park was completed at a cost of \$611,623. By the time the project was completed in 1938, the WPA had issued \$386,623 in grants. Forest Park citizens bore the remaining amount.

The finished park provided a number of recreational amenities. A softball diamond, baseball diamond, one of the park's two wading pools for children, a playground with seven pieces of equipment, a stone comfort station providing first aid and washrooms, and six tennis courts were located within the east end of the park. Set back from Harrison Street and with an open grass lawn, the three-story, Tudor Revival-style Administration Building was constructed in the center of the park and completed in 1938. The building housed showers and lockers for pool patrons, a recreation room, an auditorium with a kitchen, an infant welfare room, meeting rooms, and executive offices. Designed by local architect Carl J. Kastrup, the Administration Building was completed at a cost of \$125,000. The park's swimming pool, a saucer-shaped 180? x 280? concrete pool with an 800,000 gallon capacity, was constructed directly north of the Administration Building in the rear of the park. The largest in the state at the time, the park's 9.5-foot-deep pool was equipped with high and low diving boards.

The park's west end contained the largest open area, flat and ideal for community events and landscaped with trees and shrubs, along with a baseball diamond. Other recreational features in the park included one additional wading pool, a rifle range, horseshoe court, a concrete grandstand for pool and softball spectators, and three wood bleachers. A multipurpose building served as a garage, shop, and storage area. In addition to trees and shrubs, permanent landscaping elements included an illuminated fountain with colored lenses and a mile of winding concrete walkways and a winding concrete street, Beloit Avenue, which previously bisected the tract of land on a straight, north-south axis. Concrete islands were also added to Beloit Avenue to slow automobile



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traffic. A parking lot provided spaces for 200 automobiles. In order to screen the Chicago and Great Western Railroad's right-of-way from view, a landscape mound was designed along the park's north boundary and planted with trees.

Changes and Alterations

The Park District of Forest Park has undergone changes over the years since the WPA completed the park in 1938. Many alterations to the park's original configuration resulted from the efforts of the Park District's Board of Commissioners to maintain the park, upgrade existing and sometimes dilapidating facilities, and provide Forest Park residents with up-to-date amenities.

After the I-290 Eisenhower Expressway was built immediately north of the park during the 1950s, Beloit Avenue no longer intersected with the railroad and terminated within the park. In 1958, the park's tennis courts were converted into an artificial ice-skating rink and a "warming house" was built to accompany the rink, both of which were later removed during the 1960s. Nearly a decade later, the State of Illinois informed the Board of Park Commissioners that the then thirty-year-old swimming pool would need to be closed, due to its condition. After several attempts to obtain a bond issue to renovate the park, an effort led by Forest Park residents persuaded the board to request a bond issue for renovating only the pool itself. A referendum passed 2-1 in February 1968. The new pool was constructed within the 1938 pool's existing structure. During this period, the Administration Building also underwent extensive remodeling.

The greatest period of change for the park began in the 1980s. In 1983, the Park District applied for a federal grant to purchase a gas station, constructed prior to 1962 and located on the lot at the corner of Des Plaines Avenue and Harrison Street, now the westernmost portion of the park. After obtaining the grant, the building was converted into a recreational building and a playground and two tennis courts were constructed north of the building. Active throughout the decade, the Park District also replaced the ca. 1938 garage (1984), revamped the playground (1987), installed a waterslide at the pool (1988), and resurfaced the tennis courts at Hannah Avenue and Harrison Street (1989).

Between 1990 and 1991, the Park District repaved and widened Beloit Avenue, resurfaced existing walkways, and installed basketball courts. In 1994, the park's swimming pool faced closure a second time. In response, the \$3.1 million Forest Park Aquatic Center was built to replace the pool. The aquatic center opened in 1996, with slides, sand volleyball courts, and an interactive play center. In 1999, existing courts and fields were resurfaced and refurbished and an in-line hockey rink was installed. The Park District also created a senior area with game tables. In 2002, the 1938 Administration Building's roof and gutters received repairs. Another round of improvements and upgrades to existing athletic fields were carried out in 2003.

As a result of the five-year Comprehensive Master Capital Improvement Plan for the Park District of Forest Park, developed by Brusseau Design Group and W-T Engineering and implemented in 2005, many major projects have been completed within the park. The Bud Mohr Skatepark replaced the basketball courts, the aquatic center's waterslides were resurfaced, and Recreation Building #4, formerly the warming house built for the ice-skating rink, underwent a major renovation. The building is now used for after-school programs, summer day camps, and a group meeting space. A distance-marking system was also installed on the existing pathway system. In 2008, the 1938 Administration Building received a major renovation, which included restoring the 6,800-SF building and the existing masonry and roof deck, and constructing a three-story, 2,250-SF addition. Designed by Robert Juris & Associates Architects, Ltd. and executed by contractor Henry Brothers Company, new spaces within the building included a two-story lobby, common areas, a board room, offices, bathrooms, and an elevator, required to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards. The building's eastend addition housed the new lobby and the existing stair tower was also remodeled. In 2009, the Park's District of Forest Park celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary.

In 2012, construction began on the recreation building previously acquired by the Park District of Forest Park in 1983. The Park District donated the building to the Chicago 16 Inch Softball Hall of Fame, who then expanded the building and renovated the exterior, updating the facade, side elevations, and rear elevations, and adding a vestibule with a new main entrance. Completed in 2014, the building presently houses the "16 Inch Softball Hall of Fame Museum."



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Village of Forest Park

In 1839, French-Indian trader Leon Bourassa received a land grant for 160 acres along the Des Plaines River, an area originally occupied by the Potawatomis. The next settler was German immigrant Ferdinand Haase, who purchased land from Leon Bourassa in 1851. Five years later, the Chicago and Galena Union Railroad established a railroad line through the area, bringing with it public transportation and a workforce who settled in the community. The community was named Harlem after one landowner's hometown in New York City. More settlers came in the aftermath of the 1871 Chicago Fire, building new homes in Harlem. A smaller rail line established in 1881 and the elevated "L" electrified rapid transit service established in 1895 further contributed to the development of the community by providing additional public transportation to Chicago. The Town of Harlem formally incorporated in 1884 and was later renamed Forest Park in 1907 due to shifting borders with River Forest and the existence of another Harlem in Illinois.

The community was known for its several large cemeteries, which cover much of the village. The first, Jewish Waldheim, was established in 1870 and was soon followed by Concordia in 1872, German Waldheim in 1873, Forest Home in 1876, and Woodlawn in 1912. German Waldheim merged with Forest Home in 1968 and is known as the final resting place for the four men hanged in 1887 for their alleged role in Chicago's Haymarket Riot. When the Eisenhower Expressway was constructed in the 1950s, over 3,700 graves were moved from three of the village's cemeteries.

Forest Park was also known for its leisure activities. From 1907 to 1922, the Forest Park Amusement Park was a popular attraction for area residents as one of the only of its kind in Illinois at the time; it was also one of the largest in the country. It featured a roller coaster superstructure, fun house, beer garden, casino, swimming pool, and skating rink. A downturn in business due to Prohibition and a devastating fire in 1922 permanently closed the park. In the early twentieth century, Forest Park was also home to a several thoroughbred racetracks and the Harlem Golf Course.

Although Forest Park was predominately occupied by cemeteries and workers who commuted to Chicago's industries, the community had a few of its own industries. The first, a sausage factory, was established in 1890. In 1918, the Checkerboard Air Field was constructed and used by the Chicago-St. Louis United States mail run until 1927. In 1942, the United States Naval Ordinance Plant (Amertorp) began operations to meet the armament needs for World War II. The plant manufactured thousands of torpedoes and employed up to 6,500 workers during the war. It operated until 1971 when the majority of it was replaced by a mall. One of the most well-known industries was the Ferrara Pan Candy Company, which was founded in 1908 by Salvatore Ferrara in Chicago. The manufacturing facility moved to a former dairy in Forest Park in 1959, where it continues to operate today.

Works Progress Administration (WPA)

In 1935, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was created under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, in order to provide millions of jobless Americans with work during the Great Depression. The program aimed to preserve workers' job skills and sense of self worth, while also increasing the purchasing power of the newly employed, therefore stimulating the economy. Wages ranged from \$15 to \$90 per month. The WPA existed for eight years, providing approximately 8.5 million people with jobs at a cost of \$11 billion to the U.S. Government. WPA workers were responsible for public buildings, roads, bridges, parks, and airports, as well as cultural programs that provided writers, photographers, artists, designers, and architects with jobs. In 1939, the WPA's name changed to Work Projects Administration. The government reduced the appropriations to the programs after accusations of mismanagement and abuse of funds by workers. In 1943, the program was terminated due to the nation's bustling wartime economy.

While no national register of New Deal era projects presently exists and efforts are being made to compile these projects into a comprehensive database, research did reveal that the number of park buildings constructed in Chicagoland by the WPA likely totaled less than twenty. This approximated number includes the Park District of Forest Park's Administration Building. These park buildings ranged from administration buildings and fieldhouses, a term often used interchangeably to refer to these park buildings, to clubhouses and beach houses. Within the City of Chicago, for example, eighty-three field houses already existed when the Chicago Park District



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received WPA funding for the first time in 1935, and there was not a great need for park buildings, though many other improvements were carried out within existing parks using WPA grants. Among the WPA park buildings constructed in the Chicago metropolitan area, the Tudor Revival-style Promontory Park Field House in Chicago, designed by park district architect E. V. Buchsbaum and built in 1937, and the Arlington Heights Recreation Center, built between 1936-39 in Arlington Heights, Illinois, closely resemble the Park District of Forest Park's Administration Building in terms of size and stylistic appearance.

Architect Carl J. Kastrup, AIA

Forest Park native and architect Carl J. Kastrup (1901-51) designed the Park District of Forest Park's Administration Building. Kastrup first worked as an electrical engineer before opening his own architectural practice during the mid-1930s. Kastrup joined the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1937. The earliest newspaper articles pertaining to Kastrup winning architectural projects in the Chicago area date to the second half of the 1930s. Kastrup designed the park's prominent Tudor Revival-style Administration Building at the beginning of his career. A deviation from the Administration Building, the remainder of Kastrup's short yet prolific career was dominated by multi-family housing projects, often garden apartments, and modest single-family housing for suburban residential developments. Typically, these were affordable housing projects for lower and middle-income residents with Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured mortgages. He worked on several projects built specifically to provide war workers and veterans with housing. In 1939, his house plan for a Cape Cod-style residence in a Prospect Heights development was awarded first prize in the Public Service Company of Northern Illinois modernization and home building contest's moderate priced house class. Most often, Kastrup designed buildings in the Colonial Revival, Minimal Traditional, Cape Cod, and Ranch styles. By the time of his death in 1951, Kastrup-designed projects were located throughout Chicago and in the nearby communities of Forest Park, River Forest, Homewood, Westchester, Oak Park, Broadview, Wheaton, Berwyn, Melrose Park, La Grange, Evanston, and Prospect Heights, amongst others.

Tudor Revival Architecture

The Park District of Forest Park's Administration Building is an example of a Tudor Revival-style building with modest and restrained detailing, designed by architect Carl J. Kastrup and constructed by the federally-funded WPA.

The Tudor Revival style was a dominant architectural style in the early twentieth century, particularly for domestic buildings in 1920s and 1930s. Loosely based on a variety of early English building traditions, the American interpretations emphasized steeply pitched, front-facing gables as the dominant facade element; about half have ornamental false half-timbering. The earliest American examples date from the late nineteenth century, tended to be architect-designed landmarks, and closely copied late Medieval English buildings with Renaissance Revival detailing. More modest examples from 1900 to 1920 incorporated steep gables, half-timbering, or other typical detailing on otherwise symmetrical facades; most commonly, these were full front gable facades. These earlier examples were usually clad with weatherboard, shingles, or stucco while post-World War I examples more commonly used brick and stone cladding. These later examples sometimes incorporated Craftsman-style decorative detailing.

The Tudor Revival style is characterized by steeply pitched gables, which were sometimes parapeted; decorative half-timbering or patterned brickwork or stonework; groups of three or more tall, narrow windows with multi-pane glazing; and massive chimneys commonly crowned by decorative chimney pots. Cast stone trim, varied eaveline heights, overlapping gables, and castellated parapets further distinguished the Tudor Revival style. Constructed for the Park District, the Administration Building embodies many of the attributes that typify domestic Tudor Revival-style buildings. The Administration Building's exterior is clad in stone. The facade features an entranceway with stone columns and a front-facing gable clad with false half-timbering. An octagonal tower, clad with a band of false half-timbering, is located at the facade's east end. Dormers pierce the building's side-gabled, steeply-pitched roof. Completed in 2008, an east-end addition was designed to be sympathetic to the building's Tudor Revival design. Slate shingles and custom manufactured stone were selected for the addition to match the 1938 building's exterior materials.

NRHP STATUS

DATE LISTED

Eligible



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NRHP CRITERIA				
☑A ☐B ☑C ☐D ☐Not Applicable				
NRHP CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS				
□A □B □C □D □E □F □G ✔Not A	Applicable			

NRHP EVALUATION/JUSTIFICATION

The Park District of Forest Park was evaluated for significance under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria A, B, and C using guidelines set forth in the NRHP Bulletin "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation."

The first park constructed in the village of Forest Park, the Park District of Forest Park was the result of a great effort led by local citizens groups. A significant portion of the project was funded by federal grants through the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the New Deal era program instrumental in putting millions Americans back to work during the Great Depression, and responsible for building the park between 1936 and 1938. The Park District of Forest Park is also associated with recreation and entertainment in the densely-developed village of Forest Park, providing citizens with playing fields, outdoor activities, a swimming pool, wading pools and playgrounds for children, and open green space for relaxation and community events. Due to the park's association with the WPA and recreation in Forest Park, the Park District of Forest Park is eligible under Criterion A

The Park District of Forest Park is not known to be associated with the lives of persons significant in the past. Background research did not reveal any significant associations, and therefore, the Park District of Forest Park is not eligible under Criterion B.

As the village of Forest Park's first and oldest community park, the Park District of Forest Park has undergone physical changes since the WPA completed the park in 1938. Over time, the Park District's Board of Commissioners carried out changes to the site and its built features that have been consistent with changing and evolving trends in recreation. However, these alterations to the Park District of Forest Park do not detract from the overall appearance or integrity of the site. The Park District of Forest Park retains many of its original features and its original configuration and layout. These features include the 1938 Administration Building. Designed by Forest Park native and locally significant and prolific architect Carl J. Kastrup (1901-51), the building is a rare example of a Tudor Revival-style public building designed by Kastrup, who primarily designed affordable, Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured multi-family housing and single-family homes during his career. The building is also an excellent example of the administration buildings and fieldhouses constructed in parks by the WPA and of the Tudor Revival style as applied to a public building, demonstrated by the building's stone-clad exterior, false-half timbering, steeply-pitched gabled roof, octagonal tower, and slate shingles. Additional original park features that remain intact include the curving walkways and road, formerly Beloit Avenue, which define the overall form of the park and spaces within the site, along with the west-end softball fields, Warner fountain, the grass lawn fronting the Administration Building, and six tennis courts. The ca. 1958 recreation building has also been retained. Other changes made to the Park District of Forest Park exemplify the need to provide village residents with state-of-the-art and safe facilities. Therefore, the Park District of Forest Park is eligible under Criterion C.

The property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this assessment.

Generally, extant elements and buildings within the Park District of Forest Park dating from the 1930s to the midtwentieth century retain their integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The Administration Building, which was updated and renovated in 1967 and again in 2008, retains many of its original exterior materials, with the exception of doors and windows. The upper-level, double-hung, multi-light windows are similar in appearance to the building's original windows. For the building's historically-sympathetic addition, completed in 2008, materials were manufactured to be cohesive with the original exterior fieldstone and slate shingles. The retention of the Administration Building, landscaping, the open grass lawn, Warner Fountain, curving walkways, the curving street, softball fields, tennis courts, and Recreation Building #4 convey the historic appearance of the site. Therefore, the Park District of Forest Park retains moderate levels of design, materials, and workmanship, despite alterations and changes to the park, and a high degree of integrity



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of location, feeling, and association. Overall, the Park District of Forest Park retains its integrity of setting, though it has been diminished to the east by the demolition of the Roos Building at 7329 Harrison Street in 2013 and to the north by the construction of the I-290 Eisenhower Expressway and CTA Congress Line in the 1950s. The construction took some of the park's original acreage at the north boundary and changed the setting from its original railroad transit corridor to a much wider and visually intrusive six-lane interstate and railroad corridor.

The Park District of Forest Park's period of significance is 1935-65.

NRHP BOUNDARY

The proposed NRHP boundary for the Park District of Forest Park is parcels 15-13-225-004-0000, 15-13-113-004-0000, 15-13-113-005-0000, 15-13-113-006-0000, 15-13-113-007-0000, 15-13-113-008-0000, 15-13-113-009-0000, 15-13-113-010-0000, 15-13-113-011-0000, 15-13-113-012-0000, 15-13-113-013-0000, 15-13-113-014-0000, 15-13-113-015-0000, 15-13-113-016-0000, and 15-13-113-017-0000, the legal parcels on which the park is located and which contain all associated historic features.

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RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

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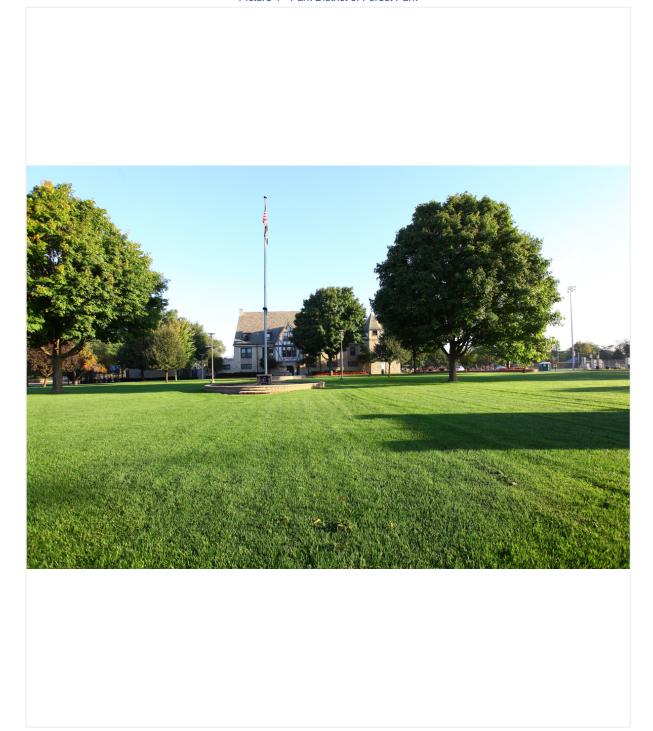
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RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park
SURVEY ID 1-3

Picture 1 - Park District of Forest Park



Facing north to south-facing facade of Administration Building, Warner Fountain, and flag pole from Harrison Street



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park
SURVEY ID 1-3

Photo 2 - Park District of Forest Park



Facing north to south-facing facade of Administration Building



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park
SURVEY ID 1-3

Picture 3 - Park District of Forest Park



Facing north to south-facing facade of Administration Building from walkway



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park
SURVEY ID 1-3

Picture 4 - Park District of Forest Park



Facing northeast to south-facing facade and west side elevation of Administration Building



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park
SURVEY ID 1-3

Picture 5 - Park District of Forest Park



Facing northwest to east side elevation and south-facing facade of Administration Building from parking lot



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park SURVEY ID 1-3

Picture 6 - Park District of Forest Park



Facing southwest to east side elevation and north rear elevation of Administration Building



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park
SURVEY ID 1-3

Picture 7 - Park District of Forest Park



Facing south to north side of Warner Fountain from walkway



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park
SURVEY ID 1-3

Picture 8 - Park District of Forest Park



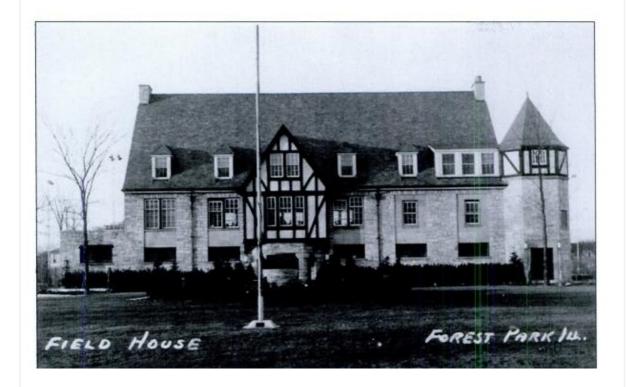
Facing west to ball fields from walkway



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park
SURVEY ID 1-3

Picture 9 - Park District of Forest Park



Historic photograph of Administration Building during construction ca. 1938



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park
SURVEY ID 1-3

Picture 10 - Park District of Forest Park



Historic photograph of Administration Building's north rear elevation and the park's original swimming pool, 1939



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park SURVEY ID 1-3





RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park
SURVEY ID 1-3

Map - Park District of Forest Park



1938 aerial photograph of Park District of Forest Park from historicaerials.com



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park
SURVEY ID 1-3



1951 aerial photograph of Park District of Forest Park from historicaerials.com



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park SURVEY ID 1-3



1962 aerial photograph of Park District of Forest Park from historicaerials.com



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park SURVEY ID 1-3



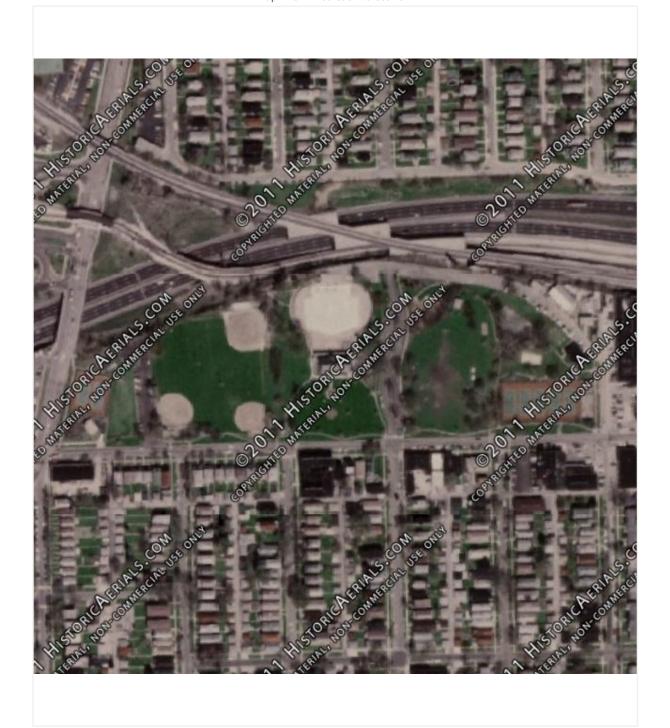
1972 aerial photograph of Park District of Forest Park from historicaerials.com



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park
SURVEY ID 1-3

Map - Park District of Forest Park



1988 aerial photograph of Park District of Forest Park from historicaerials.com



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park
SURVEY ID 1-3



1998 aerial photograph of Park District of Forest Park from historicaerials.com



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Park District of Forest Park SURVEY ID 1-3

Map - Park District of Forest Park



2005 aerial photograph of Park District of Forest Park from historicaerials.com



RESOURCE TYPE Property 631 Hannah Avenue
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible SURVEY ID 1-4

NAME

631 Hannah Avenue

OTHER NAME(S)

N/A

STREET ADDRESS CITY

631 Hannah Avenue Forest Park

OWNERSHIP TAX PARCEL NUMBER
Edward Goodwin 15-13-220-026-0000

YEAR BUILT SOURCE

1916 Cook County Assessor's Office, 2015

DESIGNER/BUILDER

Unknown

STYLE PROPERTY TYPE

Dutch Colonial Revival Domestic

FOUNDATION WALLS ROOF
Brick Brick Asphalt

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

The residence at 631 Hannah Avenue is an altered two-story, cross-gambrel roof, Dutch Colonial Revival house with a two-story, gambrel-roof rear addition. The house, which has an irregular footprint, is clad in red brick on the facade and porch, buff-colored brick on the secondary elevations, and vinyl siding on the rear addition. Its asphalt-shingle roof has three shed roof dormers and an interior brick chimney rises from the cross-gambrel. Located at the northwest corner of Hannah Avenue and Lehmer Street, the house is oriented east to Hannah Avenue and set back slightly from that street. The yard is landscaped with grass and decorative plantings near the facade's porch and south side elevation. A vinyl fence encloses a portion of the property's backyard. A one-story, vinyl-clad, hipped roof two-car garage is located behind the house, accessed by the alley running along the property's west boundary.

Facing east to Hannah Avenue, the house is reached by an off-center, short flight of stairs that lead to a raised front porch. The porch, which has a flat roof, is supported by brick piers and has a wood balustrade with thin wood members grouped in triplicate. The porch's wood steps are aligned with the front entrance, consisting of a wood door with a glazed screen door, at the facade's north end. The facade's south portion of the first story has a pair of one-over-one, double-hung, replacement vinyl-sash windows. The facade's second story contains a central one-over-one, double-hung, replacement vinyl-sash window flanked by two smaller single-pane, replacement vinyl windows within the gambrel end. Each of the windows has a prominent stone sill and is topped with a symmetrical geometric motif where a lintel would usually be placed. The gambrel roof has exposed rafters.

The south side elevation shows substantial alterations that have occurred over time. The original house is clad in buff-colored brick to the east and the rear addition is clad in vinyl siding to the west. One basement-level window is present on the original house, consisting of glass blocks in an original segmentally arched opening; brick fills the arched portion. The original house's first story comprises three window openings. At the easternmost end, paired one-over-one, double-hung, replacement vinyl-sash windows fill an original segmentally arched opening; the arched portion has been filled. The two westernmost windows consist of narrow one-over-one, double-hung, replacement vinyl-sash windows on stone sills flanking the ghost marks of a former, larger segmentally arched window opening. Above, the original house has a shed-roof dormer with a one-over-one, double-hung, replacement vinyl-sash window in an original segmentally arched opening. The rear addition comprises the western end of the elevation. It consists of an exterior vinyl-clad chimney, no openings on the first story, and a shed roof dormer with a one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl-sash window.



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

631 Hannah Avenue SURVEY ID 1-4

Like the south side elevation, the north side elevation shows the alterations that have occurred over time. To the east, the original buff-colored brick-clad house consists of a projecting bay created by the cross-gambrel roof form extending from the building plane while the rear addition is clad in vinyl siding to the west. The original house's basement-level and first story windows are irregularly placed. All feature replacement components within original segmentally arched openings that have been filled with standard rectangular windows, and the arched portions have been filled. The basement-level has three glass block windows on stone sills. The first story has a two-pane wood-sash window to the east and two one-over-one, double-hung, replacement vinyl-sash windows to the west. The second story gambrel end is clad in vinyl siding and also has two irregularly placed windows, consisting of one-over-one, double-hung, replacement vinyl-sash windows. The rear addition comprises the western end of the elevation, consisting of a secondary entrance to the east and a one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl-sash window to the west on the first story. The second story consists of a shed-roof dormer with one off-centered one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl-sash window.

The west rear elevation comprises the two-story, gambrel-roof rear addition clad entirely in vinyl siding. The first story has a one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl-sash window to the north and a bay window to the south. In the gambrel end, the second story has a one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl-sash window to the north and paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl-sash windows to the south.

HISTORY/DEVELOPMENT

The house at 631 Hannah Avenue was constructed ca. 1916 based on information obtained from the Cook County Assessor. Research revealed that from at least 1920 to 1927 it was the home of Nathaniel Ames, a former railway postal clerk, who lived there with his grandson Claude Escher, a stock clerk, and his wife Grace Escher. In 1927, local contractor P.J. Organ & Company received a building permit for a front porch at the address costing \$350. In 1930, the house was solely owned by Claude Escher and occupied by his family and a boarder. From at least 1935 to 1940, the house was owned and occupied by Benjamin Whedbee, a United States Army warrant officer, and his family. By 1945, Miss Betty Burns is listed at the address. From 2000 to 2006, Michael Becker and Pilar Fin owned the house. In 2005, they applied for permission to add a two-story addition to the house. It was subsequently approved and built. Edward Goodwin purchased the property in 2006 and is the current owner.

Forest Park

The house at 631 Hannah Avenue was constructed ca. 1916 in Forest Park, which was first established as Harlem in the 1850s. Through the mid-to-late nineteenth century, the community steadily grew as the result of the 1871 Chicago Fire, a smaller rail line established in 1881, and the elevated "L" electrified rapid transit service which provided public transportation to Chicago. The Town of Harlem formally incorporated in 1884 and was later renamed Forest Park in 1907 due to shifting borders with River Forest and the existence of another Harlem in Illinois. The community was known for its several large cemeteries, which cover much of the village, and were established between 1870 and 1912. When the Eisenhower Expressway was constructed in the 1950s, over 3,700 graves were moved from three of the village's cemeteries.

Forest Park was also known for its leisure activities. From 1907 to 1922, the Forest Park Amusement Park was a popular attraction for area residents as one of the only of its kind in Illinois at the time; it was also one of the largest in the country. It featured a roller coaster superstructure, fun house, beer garden, casino, swimming pool, and skating rink. A downturn in business due to Prohibition and a devastating fire in 1922 permanently closed the park. In the early twentieth century, Forest Park was also home to a several thoroughbred racetracks and the Harlem Golf Course.

Although Forest Park was predominately occupied by cemeteries and workers who commuted to Chicago's industries, the community had a few of its own industries. The first, a sausage factory, was established in 1890. In 1918, the Checkerboard Air Field was constructed and used by the Chicago-St. Louis United States mail run until 1927. In 1942, the United States Naval Ordinance Plant (Amertorp) began operations to meet the armament needs for World War II. The plant manufactured thousands of torpedoes and employed up to 6,500 workers during the war. It operated until 1971 when the majority of it was replaced by a mall. One of the most well-known industries was the Ferrara Pan Candy Company, which was founded in 1908 by Salvatore Ferrara in Chicago. The manufacturing facility moved to a former dairy in Forest Park in 1959, where it continues to operate today.



RESOURCE TYPE Property Not Eligible NRHP STATUS

631 Hannah Avenue **SURVEY ID**

Dutch Colonial Revival

The house at 631 Hannah Avenue is an altered example of a Dutch Colonial Revival house, a common architectural style in the early twentieth century when revival styles of architecture referencing early international precedents were executed by American architects. From about 1895 to 1915, the most common Dutch Colonial Revival form had a front-facing gambrel roof, occasionally with a cross gambrel at the rear, that was influenced by the typical gambrels of the earlier Shingle style. The style is most commonly associated with steeply pitched gambrel roofs and often executed in brick or stucco exteriors. Some have separate dormer windows or a continuous shed dormer with several windows. The house at 631 Hannah Avenue is a typical example of a Dutch Colonial Revival-style house, distinguishable by its original cross-gambrel form. However, it has been substantially altered by a two-story rear addition, replacement vinyl siding on the secondary elevations, and replacement vinyl windows throughout the house. Similar cross-gable Dutch Colonial Revival-style houses are located on the same block as 631 Hannah Avenue and have undergone similar alterations.

NRHP STATUS Not Eligible	DATE L	STED
NRHP CRITERIA A B C	D Not Applicable	
NRHP CRITERIA CONSID		✓ Not Applicable
	ah Avenue was evaluate	d for significance under National Register of Historic Places

(NKHP) Uniteria A, B, and U using guidelines set forth in the NKHP Bulletin "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation."

This property is not known to be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of United States history or with the lives of persons significant in the past. Background research did not indicate any significant associations, and therefore, the house at 631 Hannah Avenue is not eligible under Criterion A or B.

The house at 631 Hannah Avenue is an altered example of a Dutch Colonial Revival-style house, a common house form in the early twentieth century. The house's original form and appearance has been altered by a twostory rear addition, replacement vinyl siding and vinyl windows, and replacement rectangular windows in original segmentally arched openings. Its type, style, and features are typical of modest interpretations of early twentieth century Dutch Colonial Revival houses and do not indicate architectural or artistic significance. Further, it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and does not represent the work of a master. Therefore, the house at 631 Hannah Avenue is not eligible under Criterion C.

The property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this assessment.

SOURCES

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Forest Park Review. Volume XIII, No. 13. March 26, 1927.

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RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

631 Hannah Avenue SURVEY ID 1-4

Photo 1 - 631 Hannah Avenue



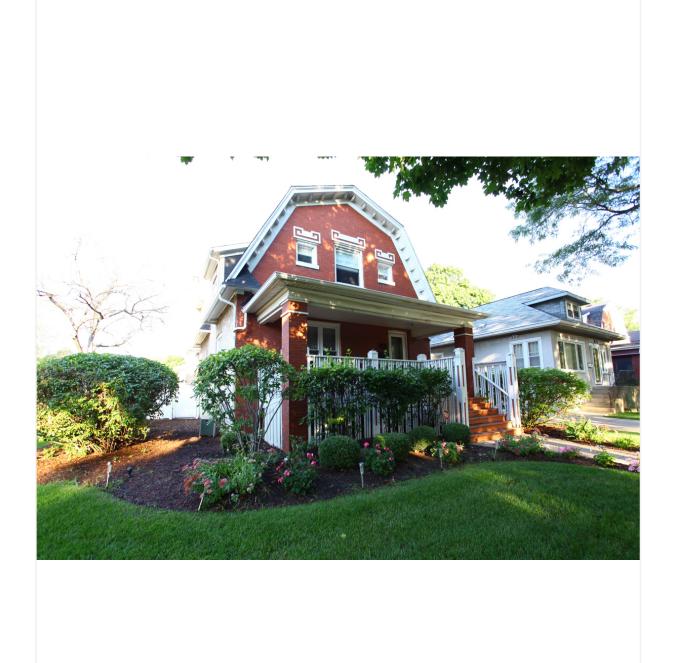
Facing southwest to the east-facing facade and north side elevation from Hannah Avenue



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

631 Hannah Avenue SURVEY ID 1-4

Photo 2 - 631 Hannah Avenue



Facing northwest to the east-facing facade and south side elevation from Hannah Avenue



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

631 Hannah Avenue SURVEY ID 1-4

Photo 3 - 631 Hannah Avenue



Facing northwest to the east-facing facade and south side elevation from Lehmer Street and Hannah Avenue intersection



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

631 Hannah Avenue SURVEY ID 1-4

Photo 4 - 631 Hannah Avenue



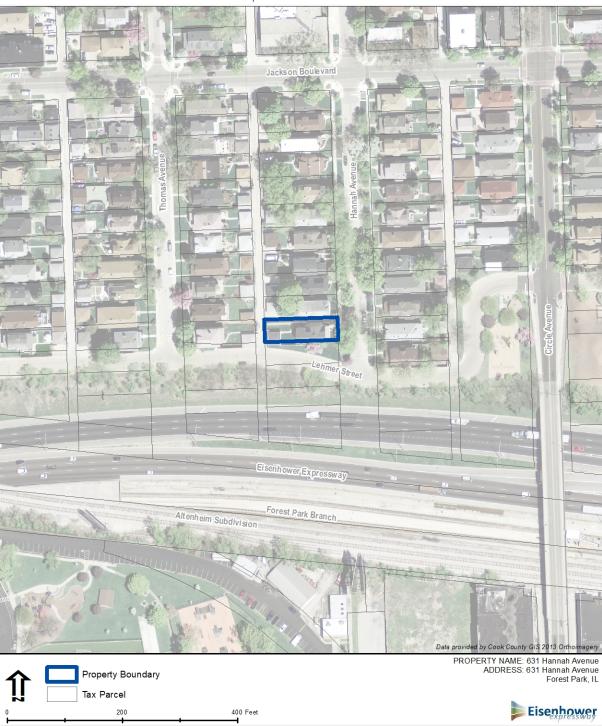
Facing southeast to the house's west rear elevation and garage from the alley



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

631 Hannah Avenue SURVEY ID 1-4

Map - 631 Hannah Avenue





RESOURCE TYPE Property 841 South Oak Park Avenue
NRHP STATUS Eligible SURVEY ID 1-6

NAME

841 South Oak Park Avenue

OTHER NAME(S)

N/A

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

841 South Oak Park Avenue

Oak Park

OWNERSHIP TAX PARCEL NUMBER
Greenplan Management 16-18-135-019-0000

YEAR BUILT SOURCE

1911 Cook County Assessor's Office, 2015

DESIGNER/BUILDER

Peter Nielsen

STYLE PROPERTY TYPE

Beaux Arts Commerce

FOUNDATION WALLS ROOF
Stone Terra Cotta Built-Up

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

The building at 841 South Oak Park Avenue is a three-story, terra cotta-clad, two-part Beaux Arts-style commercial block located at the northwest corner of South Oak Park Avenue and Harrison Street. The facade comprises the building's east and south elevations, united by a curved southeast corner and large, light stone-colored terra cotta tile cladding. The facade features Beaux Arts-style details including Corinthian pilasters, two rows of windows separated by a stringcourse entablature, an elaborate frieze, decorative panels, a roofline balustrade, and a broken pediment parapet at the building's southeast corner. It has a roughly L-shaped plan and built-up flat roof. The building's first story consists of commercial storefronts, and the upper two stories are apartments. It is located in a commercial block of early-to-late twentieth century buildings.

The facade's first story has four enframed window wall storefronts and an elaborate apartment entrance. The storefronts have varying door and window placements and materials, bisected by Corinthian pilasters extending from the foundation to the second story stringcourse entablature. The storefront at 841 South Oak Park Avenue is located at the building's southeast corner, extending across portions of the facade's east and south elevations. The remainder of the facade's east elevation comprises the storefront at 839 South Oak Park Avenue, while the south elevation comprises the storefronts at 810 and 808 Harrison Street as well as the apartment entrance at 804 Harrison Street.

At the northernmost end of the facade's east elevation, the 839 South Oak Park Avenue storefront's enframed window wall comprises three single-pane, aluminum replacement display windows on a brick bulkhead. South of the window wall is a recessed entrance comprised of a replacement aluminum door. Above, a non-historic black awning extends the width of the storefront. South of this storefront, the remainder of the facade's east elevation comprises the corner storefront at 841 South Oak Park Avenue with two sets of enframed window walls of single-pane, aluminum replacement display windows. The northernmost window wall sits on a brick bulkhead, while the southernmost window wall has a brown-tiled bulkhead with decorative vents. The storefront's entrance is located on the building's southeast corner. The storefront continues onto the facade's south elevation with two sets of enframed window walls comprised of single-pane, replacement aluminum display windows on brown-tiled bulkheads with decorative vents. Above, a large green awning extends across the entirety of the storefront.

The apartment entrance at 804 Harrison Street is centrally located on the facade's south elevation, just west of the 841 South Oak Park Avenue storefront, between two pilasters. The three-bay apartment entrance consists of a center replacement aluminum door with a Beaux Arts-style door surround of pilasters and an entablature. The



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

841 South Oak Park Avenue SURVEY ID 1-6

entablature consists of a plain architrave flanked by small, decorative panels featuring floral designs; a decorated frieze; and a projecting cornice. Two bands of slightly projecting terra cotta tiles run along either side of the entablature, continuing the lines of the cornice, frieze, and architrave. Classical light fixtures flank the main entrance. A replacement metal door is located east of the entrance and a window covered in iron bars is located west of the entrance on the first story. The wall above the side door is slightly recessed into the facade.

The storefront at 808 Harrison Street is located just west of the apartment entrance at 804 Harrison Street. It comprises two former storefronts divided by a pilaster with brown-tiled bulkheads. The east storefront comprises a recessed side entrance with a replacement glass and metal door, flanked to the east by a single-pane, aluminum replacement enframed window wall. The west storefront comprises a central recessed entrance with a replacement glass and metal door flanked by identical single-pane, aluminum replacement enframed window walls. A non-historic green awning extends across both storefronts. At the westernmost end of the facade's south elevation, the storefront at 810 Harrison Street comprises a recessed side entrance with a replacement glass and metal door, flanked to the west by a single-pane, aluminum replacement enframed window wall with a brown -tiled bulkhead.

The facade's east and south elevations have nearly identical, evenly spaced rows of windows on the second and third stories. All windows are double-hung, vinyl-sash replacement windows with black metal frames arranged individually and in pairs across the facade. The facade's east elevation has seven bays of windows on the upper stories. From north to south, the first northernmost bay has paired, six-over-one windows; the second, fourth, and seventh bays have a central, six-over-one window flanked by a four-over-one window on either side; the third bay has a four-over-one window; and the fifth and sixth bays have eight-over-one windows. The third story windows have a black metal balustrade in the third, fourth, and fifth bays. At the building's southeast corner, above the storefront entrance at 841 South Oak Park Avenue, there are identical eight-over-one windows with curved frames.

The facade's south elevation has twelve bays of windows on the upper stories. From east to west, the second story's first and second bays have eight-over-one windows; the third, fourth, ninth, tenth, and twelfth bays have a central, six-over-one window flanked by a four-over-one window on either side; the fifth and seventh bays have six-over-one windows with black metal balustrades; the sixth and eleventh bays have eight-over-one windows with a black metal balustrade on the sixth bay; and the seventh bay has a small four-over-one window. Above, the third story is nearly identical with the exception of the second bay, which has a one-over-one window.

The facade's upper stories are heavily ornamented. The pilasters dividing the storefronts have Corinthian capitals supporting a second story entablature that runs across the entire facade, separating the second and third stories. The entablature consists of a plain architrave, frieze decorated with floral patterns, and projecting cornice. Panels with a circle motif are located along the frieze above the pilasters. A decorative panel with floral, urn, and shield motifs is located above every pilaster on the third story. Above, there is decorative molding with leaf carvings and egg and dart molding run across the facade. At the center of the facade's south elevation, "SVBVRBAN APARTMENTS" is inscribed in the molding. The projecting cornice has Acanthus relief. A roofline balustrade runs along the entire facade above the roof. A broken pediment parapet is located above the curved, corner section of the building. An urn rests on the parapet between the segments of the pediment. An oval medallion is located under the urn on the parapet base.

The west and north rear elevations are clad in brick and unornamented. The west elevation has a single-pane basement-level window and a double-hung first story window with metal bars and a stone sill. The second and third stories have five identical one-over-one, double-hung, replacement vinyl-sash windows with stone sills. The north elevation was not accessible during field survey.

The building at 841 South Oak Park Avenue was surveyed for the Oak Park South Town District Survey in 2010. The report determined that the area's remaining buildings did not form a cohesive historic district, but recommended individual buildings as having "no merit," "merit," or "significant merit." The report found 841 South Oak Park Avenue as having "significant merit" as a potential locally designated landmark.

HISTORY/DEVEL OPMENT

The commercial block at 841 South Oak Park Avenue was constructed ca. 1911 according to the Cook County



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

841 South Oak Park Avenue SURVEY ID 1-6

Assessor. The 1908 Sanborn Map shows a small, single story structure on the site of the current building. The building was designed by Peter Nielsen. Research did not reveal additional information about Peter Nielsen. The commercial block was constructed across Congress Street (now Harrison) from the Aurora Elgin & Chicago Railway tracks, which carried the Garfield Park Line's interurban service, and the Chicago Terminal Transfer Railroad Station, providing easy access for visiting patrons and a convenient commute for apartment residents. The commercial block at 841 South Oak Park Avenue includes addresses at 802, 804, 806, 808, and 810 Harrison and 833, 835, 837, 839, and 841 South Oak Park Avenue.

The 1920 Census records middle class professionals living at 841 South Oak Park apartments. Dressmakers Clara M. Zetterman and Emma W. Bayer lived at 802 Congress (Harrison). John, Nora, and Anita Modine also lived at 802. John was a photographer and engraver, and his daughter Anita was a clerk. Michael and Bertha Fruindlich lived at 804. They worked at a grocery store. Gustav, George, and Nick Condos, three brothers, lived at 806 and worked in a confectioner shop called Condos Bros. located within the same building at 837 South Oak Park Avenue. Gust and George continued to live and work in the building for several years, moving to 810 by 1922 and living there through 1925. Their shop remained at 837 South Oak Park Avenue through 1925. Ida and Emma Danielson also lived at 806.

By 1922, Congress Street became Harrison Street. The 1922 City Directory for Oak Park lists several tenants with Harrison Street addresses. F. J. Schallau, a fireman with Engine Company No. 3, lived at 802 with his wife, and continued to live there through 1925. Anthony Giles, a grocer, worked at a shop at 804 while living with his wife Rose at 806 in 1922-1923. Clara and Augusta Zetterman, both seamstresses, are listed at 804 in 1922 and 1923 directories. Fred W. Kiepert, a milliner, lived and worked at 806 with his wife Myrtle. In 1923, Keipert's shop was replaced by the Acorn Smoke Shop. The Whitmore and Berry Company is listed at 810 in 1922. The Whitmore and Berry Company was a real estate firm that frequently advertised in the Chicago Daily Tribune. It is first recorded at 810 Congress Street in a 1919 Tribune advertisement. The Company continued to work out of 810 Congress Street through 1923. However, by 1924, the real estate firm Holeman and Easter moved into the space. 833-835 South Oak Park Avenue housed the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank, a local bank founded in 1912. The bank continued to lease portions of the building along South Oak Park Avenue until constructing a new building across the street at 840 South Oak Park Avenue between 1925 and 1927.

By 1925, Joseph Rocal, a fireman with Engine Company No. 3, lived at 804 Harrison Street with his wife Albine. Several new businesses had moved into the block. Moss & King, a law firm; Oak Park Mercantile Agency; and Sorensen & Sorensen are listed at 804, while partners Cornelius and R. B. Bruinekool of C. Bruinekool & Son occupied 806. The real estate firm Holman & Easter remained at 810, and was last listed at the address in a 1926 Tribune advertisement. The South Oak Park Avenue portion of the block housed a new business, Betty Beauty Shop at 835, along with the Condos Bros and Suburban Trust and Savings Bank.

By 1930, the management company Suburban Apartments leased out 804 Harrison. Tenants included dentist A. H. Kratky, Walter L. Jolesch, J. M. Dieter, C. R. Lohr, real estate agent M. R. Sears, Chas., Clyde, and Jean Magnensen, janitor Michael Reise, and barber C. M. Snyder. Physician Dr. L. R. Brewer practiced at 804. Several new companies also occupied the building, including real estate firm Wittrock & Co at 806 and William Cran & Company at 810. William Cran was a realtor and builder in Oak Park. He designed and constructed bungalows in Oak Park from 1910-1929, and several are still extant on Kenilworth Avenue, Clinton Avenue, and Garfield Street.

New businesses filled the vacated Suburban Trust and Savings Bank addresses along South Oak Park Avenue. The Suburban Radio Shop rented 835 and Dutch Mill Candies rented 837. The 1930 directory also includes 839 and 841 South Oak Park Avenue. These addresses were not included in 1922-1925 directories. Carle Parthier ran a barber shop at 839 South Oak Park Avenue, and Latsis Drug Co. rented 841 South Oak Park Avenue. Harry and J. H. Latsis, Oakwood residents, ran the drug store. The 1947 Sanborn Map indicates a drug store still occupied the corner shop, but it is unclear if it remained Latsis Drug Co.

Today, 841 South Oak Park Avenue remains a mixed-use commercial and residential block. Residential apartments are located at 804 Harrison Street and above all commercial spaces. Businesses along the first story include the Animal Care League Second Chance Shop and Adoption Center at 808 Harrison Street, the Westgate Flower and Plant Shop at 841 South Oak Park Avenue, and the Artisans and Crafters shop at 839



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South Oak Park Avenue.

Oak Park

Constructed in Oak Park ca. 1911, the commercial block at 841 South Oak Park Avenue was built during a period of rapid expansion due to increased industry and growth in Chicago's suburbs in the early twentieth century. Oak Park originated in 1835 when Joseph and Betty Kettlestrings constructed a house near what is now Lake Street and Harlem Street. Conveniently located between the Des Plaines River and Chicago, they started a small hotel providing dinner, a bed, and breakfast for 50 cents. The area became known as Oak Ridge, and boasted a market, general store, and newspaper. After the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad extended west of Chicago in 1848, the Kettlestringses sold off parcels of land to settlers. The depot, and subsequently the village, was named Oak Park, because the name Oak Ridge was already taken by another depot. Oak Park grew steadily through the mid-nineteenth century

After the 1871 Chicago Fire pushed city residents to the suburbs, population exploded. The area near the railroad station was initially subdivided, followed by more subdivisions further out, and infrastructure improvements were made. Soon Oak Park had electricity, paved streets, and surface transportation lines. Residents founded clubs, a library, and parks, among other organizations. The Lake Street "L" extension to Harlem Avenue at the turn of the twentieth century further improved connections to jobs in Chicago, as the Oak Park stop was one of the few suburban stops in the system, and contributed to an increasing population.

Consequently, the area around the intersection of Lake Street and Harlem Avenue became the first commercial hub of the western suburbs, and remains the commercial center of downtown Oak Park today. Several years later, the first commercial block was constructed along Oak Park Avenue at North Boulevard by Mr. Goelitz in 1888. It housed Goelitz' shop, and the Nissen and Puchner grocery story and meat market. However, the commercial center shifted temporarily to Marion Street and Lake Street in the late 1890s. One prominent business in this area was the Oak Park State Bank. Founded in 1892 amidst the quickly growing suburb, the bank occupied a small commercial building on Lake Street near Marion Street. A few years later, J.W. Scoville constructed a building on the corner of North Oak Park Avenue and Lake Street that housed the Avenue State Bank and drew other businesses to the area.

Soon after Oak Park separated from Cicero Township in 1902, community leaders began planning the municipal center of the new community. The town constructed the municipal building at Lake Street and Euclid Avenue and the post office at Lake Street and North Oak Park Avenue. In 1905, E. E. Roberts designed the Masonic Building on the corner of Lake Street and North Oak Park Avenue opposite the post office, bringing an influx of stores and offices to the area and providing public space. The Masonic Building established Oak Park Avenue south of Lake Street as the fashionable shopping district through the mid-1920s, and patrons came to visit stores such as William E Gilmores and Garbles.

Soon, many of the older homes in the central district were replaced by apartment, commercial, and office buildings. In the early twentieth century, local builders began constructing new multi-family residences in the southern area of Oak Park near the Aurora Elgin & Chicago Railway tracks, which carried the Garfield Park Line's interurban service, bringing businesses to South Oak Park Avenue, Madison Street, and Harrison Street. The South Oak Park Avenue business district grew after the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank was established on South Oak Park Avenue near the interurban station in 1912, seeking business from the quickly growing and commuting population. Other business followed, including a popular theater, grocery stores, bakeries, and retail. The new mixed-use commercial and residential buildings on South Oak Park Avenue were conveniently located across Congress Street (later changed to Harrison Street) from the Aurora Elgin & Chicago Railway interurban station and the Chicago Terminal Transfer Railroad Station, providing easy access for visiting patrons and a convenient commute for apartment residents.

World War I and the 1918 influenza epidemic slowed Oak Park's rapid development. However, business picked back up in the 1920s with the construction of major department stores along Lake Street. These stores include Hub, which became Lyttons; The Fair, which became Montgomery Ward; and Marshall Fields, constructed at the corner of Lake Street and Harlem Avenue. Hillsmans, Baskins, Bransons, and Peck and Peck soon followed, and Oak Park became the definitive shopping center of the western suburbs. Soon, another new business found its



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home in Oak Park: automobile showrooms. By World War II, Madison Street was known as "automobile row," servicing the needs of the western suburbs.

Local banks grew along with local commerce. The Avenue State Bank constructed a flagship building in 1919 at 100 North Park Avenue, and the Oak Park Trust and Savings Bank, which incorporated and absorbed the Oak Park State Bank in 1902, constructed a flagship building at 1044 Lake Street in 1923. The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank followed suit, constructing a flagship building in 1925-27 at the northeast corner of South Oak Park Avenue and Harrison Street. The business district along South Oak Park Avenue, south of Van Buren Street grew, and formed the South Oak Park Commerce Association to promote business along this corridor. Growth in this area was in response to visiting patrons of department stores, auto showrooms, and ever increasing residential communities.

Increased growth in the Oak Park business district pushed out small business owners and residents that could not afford the rising rent in competition with large department stores. Soon, other businesses felt the hardships of the Great Depression. However, local banks such as the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank, Oak Park Trust and Savings Bank, and Avenue State Bank survived. Oak Park was on the road to recovery by the end of the Depression, and Lake Street between Forest Avenue and Harlem Avenue continued to be a center of suburban commerce. The Southern District Businessmen's Association formed in the South Oak Park commercial district in 1933. This organization remained active for decades, changing to the Congress-Oak Park Merchants Association by the mid-1980s.

After World War II, while the housing market skyrocketed in Oak Park, the commercial centers suffered from the construction of expressways. Instead of shopping in downtown Oak Park, people went to new shopping centers constructed along the expressways. In the late 1950s, I-290 bisected the south side of town through the South Oak Park Avenue commercial district. Over the next few decades, the area slowly recovered, and today, Lake Street between Harlem and Forest Avenues remains the busy commercial center of downtown Oak Park. Portions of South Oak Park Avenue remain prosperous commercial districts, especially in the historic shopping district between Lake Street and North Avenue. Further south along South Oak Park Avenue, various smaller commercial districts remain in varying states of prosperity and historic integrity. The commercial section between Van Buren and Lexington Streets, bisected by I-290, is a moderately prosperous block with moderate building integrity.

Beaux Arts Style

The commercial block at 841 South Oak Park Avenue is a relatively intact example of Beaux Arts architecture, a common and popular building style for mid-sized downtown commercial buildings after the turn of the century. The style emerged in the late 1880s after American architects studied in Paris at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. These architects brought back an academic design philosophy elevating balance and order. Beaux Arts architecture paid homage to classical models while adding elaborate décor to classical motifs such as columns, friezes, colonnades, lintels, and pilasters. Common decorative features include garlands, stylistic floral patterns, and shields; ornamental panels; quoins; smooth, light colored masonry walls; and rusticated stone. Facades feature strong, repeating horizontal patterns emphasized by balustrades, string courses, rows of windows, and decorated cornices. The Beaux Arts emphasis on order and horizontal patterns was partially a reaction to Victorian architecture, which was characterized by asymmetrical facades and a myriad of different architectural features along the same facade.

The first Beaux Arts buildings were architect-designed homes, commercial, and governmental buildings in and near large cities. After the style gained popularity at the turn of the century, it became a common style for vernacular main street buildings across the United States. Simple, vernacular commercial buildings often only reflected the order and unity of the style with no decorative elements. The style persisted in popularity until the advent of the Great Depression in 1929, when the details and size of many Beaux Arts buildings became hard to maintain.

Other Oak Park Beaux Arts style commercial blocks include 1142-46 Chicago Avenue and 1101-13 Chicago Avenue (Figure 1). Both are contributing resources to the local and nationally designated Frank Lloyd Wright Prairie School of Architecture Historic Districts and display representative features of the Beaux Arts style. These



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features include terra cotta cladding, elaborate door surrounds, parapets, decorative panels, pilasters, and classical motifs. Both have somewhat altered first story storefronts and relatively intact second stories with replacement windows. However, 841 South Oak Park Avenue is larger than the Chicago Avenue examples, predates them by about fifteen years, and displays a more harmonious representation of the style. For example, the pilasters, friezes, and other ornamentation on 841 South Oak Park Avenue cover the entire facade in a noticeable pattern, while the parapet on 1142-1146 Chicago Avenue is abruptly undecorated. Also, facade features on 1101-13 Chicago Avenue are not as symmetrical as 841 South Oak Park Avenue, with unique details such as a small arched window with decorated surrounds on the second story and a variety of door surrounds along the first story. As such, 841 South Oak Park Avenue is a better example of the Beaux Arts style commercial block in Oak Park.

The commercial block at 841 South Oak Park Avenue is a representative example of Beaux Arts architecture constructed during the style's peak popularity. It features Beaux Arts elements such as a smooth, light colored masonry veneer, classical door surrounds, Corinthian pilasters, rows of windows separated by a string course entablature and topped by an elaborate frieze, decorative panels, a balustrade, and a parapet featuring a broken pediment, urn, and shield. It has not been significantly altered and retains many of its original materials and features, including decorative facade elements, balustrade, parapet, and windows. Alterations are largely confined to the first story's replacement storefronts. Storefront replacements were a common occurrence in a building's later years to give building's an updated and current appearance. Three removable awnings have been added to the facade and first story windows and doors have been replaced. The storefront bulkhead at 839 South Oak Park Avenue has exposed brick.

NRHP STATUS	DATE LISTED
Eligible	
NRHP CRITERIA A B C D	Not Applicable
NRHP CRITERIA CONSIDERA A B C D NRHP EVALUATION/JUSTIEJA	☐E ☐F ☐G ☑Not Applicable

In 2010, the "Oak Park South Town District Survey" deemed the building at 841 South Oak Park Avenue has significant merit as a potential locally designated landmark. The report also evaluated the commercial area along South Oak Park Avenue as a potential historic district, of which the building would be contributing. The report concluded the area's remaining buildings did not form a cohesive historic district.

The building at 841 South Oak Park Avenue was evaluated for significance under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria A, B, and C using guidelines set forth in the NRHP Bulletin "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation."

The commercial building at 841 South Oak Park Avenue is associated with the expansion of the South Oak Park commercial area, outside of the northern historic commercial center, in the early twentieth century. The mixed-use commercial and residential building type is common in Oak Park's commercial districts. Furthermore, research did not reveal any significant tenants at 841 South Oak Park Avenue. A variety of middle class professionals rented apartments while storefronts housed a bank, drug stores, grocery stores, and other retail throughout the building's history. Although the building at 841 South Oak Park Avenue is associated with the development of Oak Park in the early twentieth century, background research did not indicate any significant contributions to the broad patterns of United States history or any historically significant associations with the lives of persons significant in the past, and therefore, the building at 841 South Oak Park Avenue is not eligible under Criterion A or B.

The building at 841 South Oak Park Avenue is a largely intact, good example of an early twentieth century Beaux Arts-style commercial block. Though the first story storefronts have been altered over time, this does not detract from the building's overall appearance and integrity. Historic downtown storefronts have changed over time as small shops competed with department stores and installed newer, bigger display windows. Such changes are common and do not significantly diminish the building's overall integrity.



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The building at 841 South Oak Park Avenue retains many of its original features, such as its terra cotta veneer, classical door surrounds, Corinthian pilasters, string course entablature, elaborate frieze, decorative panels, balustrade, and parapet, and its overall form and features are representative of early twentieth century Beaux Arts buildings. Therefore, the building at 841 South Oak Park Avenue is eligible under Criterion C as a representative local example of an early twentieth century Beaux Arts commercial block.

The property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this assessment.

The commercial block at 841 South Oak Park Avenue retains integrity of location, feeling, and association. Although the first story storefronts and upper stories' windows have been altered and replaced, this is a common occurrence in many commercial buildings, and does not substantially detract from the building's overall integrity as the majority of the building's historic materials remain intact. Therefore, the building retains moderate integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Prominently located at the corner of a commercial area, the building's primary elevations face east to other commercial buildings along South Oak Park Avenue and south to the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) and CTA Congress Line, which replaced the Aurora Elgin & Chicago Railway interurban lines in this area. Although the building's relationship to other commercial buildings along South Oak Park Avenue has been retained, its south viewshed and integrity of setting has been compromised by the expressway construction.

The building at 841 South Oak Park Avenue's period of significance is 1911, encompassing the building's construction.

NRHP BOUNDARY

NRHP Boundary: The NRHP boundary for the building at 841 South Oak Park Avenue is parcel 16-18-135-019-0000, the legal parcel on which the building is located and which contains all associated historic features.

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RESOURCE TYPE Property
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Photo 1 - 841 South Oak Park Avenue



Facing northwest to east and south facades from South Oak Park Avenue and Harrison Street intersection



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

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Photo 2 - 841 South Oak Park Avenue



Facing northwest to east and south facades from South Oak Park Avenue and Harrison Street intersection



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Photo 3 - 841 South Oak Park Avenue



Close-up view of terra cotta upper stories on east facade



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Figure 1 - Comparative Examples



Top Photo: 1101-13 Chicago Avenue; Bottom Photo: 1142-1146 Chicago Avenue (Cook County Assessor's Office)



RESOURCE TYPE Property
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Map - 841 South Oak Park Avenue







RESOURCE TYPE Property T.A. Holm Building
NRHP STATUS Eligible SURVEY ID 1-7

NAME

T.A. Holm Building

OTHER NAME(S)

N/A

STREET ADDRESS
CITY
905 South Oak Park Avenue
Oak Park

OWNERSHIP TAX PARCEL NUMBER
Chris Miller 16-18-307-019-0000

YEAR BUILT SOURCE

1926 Village of Oak Park Building Permit No. 16062

DESIGNER/BUILDER

Jeremiah J. Cerny/Freevol & Smedberg, T.A. Holm & Co

STYLE PROPERTY TYPE

Classical Revival Commerce

FOUNDATION WALLS ROOF
Concrete Terra Cotta Built-Up

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

The T.A. Holm Building at 905 South Oak Park Avenue is a Classical Revival-style three-story, two-part block commercial building. The building, which was constructed in 1925-1926, faces to the east along Oak Park Avenue and has a rectangular footprint. While the street-level storefront has been replaced, the second and third stories feature ornate, original decorative elements executed in polychrome terra cotta. The ornament is executed in Classical motifs, with stylized elements that are indicative of the Beaux Arts style. The building features steel beam construction to support the heavy ornament on the facade, as well as a wider foundation slanting inward to provide a larger footing and walls that are three bricks deep.

Facing east to South Oak Park Avenue, the facade's replacement storefront consists of an off-center, recessed entrance with a glazed door at the south end. A five-pane storefront window with anodized metal frames comprises the remaining portion of the street level. Below the storefront window, the building is clad in replacement brown brick. Above the storefront, a metal panel with neon separates the first and second stories. This is surmounted by a band of terra cotta panels with three applied sculptural figures. The central figure is an Art Deco-inspired interpretation of Columbia, added to the building at an unknown date. The two flanking sculptures are grotesques and appear to be more recent additions.

The two upper stories comprise three bays of evenly spaced windows, which appear to be original to the building. Second story windows consist of two sliding panes topped with a filled in area that imitates a transom in form. The third story openings have full height two-pane sliding windows. Aluminum storm windows are installed, covering the second and third story windows. Below the second story windows, metal acanthus ornaments are located at the base of the columns that divide the story's bays. Terra cotta panels are located below each third story window. These panels contain sculptural cartouches with elements of coquillage flanked by stylized acanthus leaves and floral motifs. The backgrounds of these panels are executed in colored terra cotta.

The entire facade is surrounded by beveled terra cotta panels and a linear vertical ornament that encircles lattice ornamentation, punctuated with small circular medallions. Above the storefront, terra cotta engaged columns that allude to the Corinthian order span the second and third stories. The columns are angular, as are the capitals, with wide flutes. The shafts' lower halves, which are on the second story feature an elaborate stacked coin molding in the three wide flutes on the second story of the columns. They are capped by a thin band of floral motif in the flutes' molding between the second and third story. The shafts' upper portions are devoid of ornament.



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

T.A. Holm Building SURVEY ID 1-7

The columns support an impressive entablature that does not adhere to the classical divisions. The lattice ornamentation extends up the building and partially returns onto the frieze, which contains the words "T.A. HOLM BUILDING." An ornate cornice with zigzag motifs, echinus molding, a dentil course, and egg-and-dart molding is surmounted by a cornice comprised of a series of cartouches with a large, central, articulated cartouche. This central cartouche is flanked with sculptural floral and fruit motifs. Rising above these applied decorative elements is a small section of the facade's unornamented yellow brick wall and concrete coping.

The building's south side elevation is attached to an adjacent building in the commercial row. A small portion of the east end (facade) extends beyond the adjacent building; it is clad in yellow brick and the facade's terra cotta panels extend around the elevation and continue to the roofline as quoins. The north side elevation is separated from the building to the north by a narrow alley of approximately five feet. At the east end, the north side elevation has a storefront display window on the first story, framed by terra cotta panels. The terra cotta panels extend to the roofline at the corners of this section, appearing as quoins. There are no window openings on the upper stories.

The building's west rear elevation, which is largely hidden from public view, is lacking ornamentation, as is typical for secondary elevations. It is clad in brick and has irregularly placed replacement windows on the second and third stories. An exterior chimney is located near the building's southwest corner.

The flat roof is covered with built-up roofing.

The surrounding area is commercial in character. The building is located close to the street, separated only by the sidewalk. A few clusters of deciduous trees are located on the block where the building is located.

HISTORY/DEVELOPMENT

The T.A. Holm Building is named for Thor Alexander Holm (1880-1960), who was responsible for the construction of the building in 1926. Born in Denmark, Holm was a bricklayer who aspired to build homes, and spent his spare time studying the home-building business and learning to draft. In 1908, he built two brick houses in Oak Park, and then went on to found T.A. Holm & Co. Realtors, which advertised as Oak Park's largest real estate operators and builders in the 1920s. The company provided "sales, series, homes built to order, insurance, and loans." Originally located at 947 Garfield Street in Oak Park, the company built its new headquarters, the T.A. Holm Building, at 905 South Oak Park Avenue and had an opening party there in 1926. T.A. Holm hired local Chicago architect Jeremiah J. Cerny to design the three-story building, which was to have a store and two flats according to the building permit application. The mason was Freevol & Smedberg and the carpenter was T.A. Holm & Co.

Jeremiah J. Cerny was a locally prolific architect, who designed numerous two- and three-flats buildings, residences, and commercial buildings with stores and flats in various styles in the early twentieth century throughout Chicago and Oak Park. Born in Iowa in 1888, he began his career as a draftsman in 1905 in Chicago. From 1906 to 1910. Cerny worked in the office of architect Frank O. DeMoney. DeMoney was the architect who designed the S.T. Gunderson & Sons homes in Oak Park between 1905 and 1920. During his association with DeMoney, Cerny may have worked on designs for the Gunderson developments. Cerny continued to partner with DeMoney in 1911 and 1912 on a number of commissions, including two- and three-flats. In 1913, Cerny was admitted to the Illinois Society of Architects and opened his own office at 1444 South Crawford (now Pulaski) Avenue; he remained there until at least 1922. Cerny designed at least 80 buildings in various Chicago neighborhoods, the majority of which were two- or three-flats apartment buildings. His earliest known work is the industrial building designed for Essanay Studios in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood, which was on the nation's premier movie companies. Cerny's early career was also marked by flats buildings and modest one-story bungalows. Into the 1920s, his work progressed to larger apartment buildings, one-to-three-story commercial buildings, and more affluent single-family homes, including the Freeman Landon House, an Oak Park local landmark. Cerny primarily designed Classical Revival, Prairie Style, and Colonial Revival buildings, often mixing the styles on one building. Cerny lived and worked at 1444 South Crawford for many years. He died in 1948.

T.A. Holm & Co. was responsible for building many homes in the southeast section of Oak Park. To establish credibility with new customers, Holm obtained signed testimonials from his prior clients, who attested to the



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NRHP STATUS Eligible

T.A. Holm Building SURVEY ID 1-7

company's reliable and trustworthy business practices and the quality of the homes that it built. "Homes that Holm Built" became the company slogan, and Holm proved to be a "distinctive and innovative" advertiser. He was recognized by his contemporaries for his methods, distributing brochures and circulars, advertising on streetcars, and creating an elaborate display booth for trade shows. He also used quotes from famous Americans, including Abraham Lincoln, on the virtues of home ownership to bolster his business. As a result, between 1913 and 1922, the company constructed 500 houses in Oak Park; data on the years following 1922 was not identified, but the company's continued success is likely indicated by the construction of the T.A. Holm & Co. Realtors headquarters in the T.A. Holm Building in 1926 and Holm's continued ownership of the building until 1950.

After T.A. Holm & Co. Realtors vacated the building in 1950 when Holm sold it to T.A. Parren, various commercial and professional enterprises occupied the building, including medical offices, Peglow Florist, a real estate office, a security company, a single word processor, an antique store, and the Disabled American Veterans organization. Since 1985, Chicago Digital, a compact disc music store, has occupied the storefront and residential apartments comprise the second and third stories. T.A. Parren owned the building until 1975, when it passed to his wife upon his death, and in 1979, the building was jointly inherited by his daughter and son, Thomas Parren. Throughout their ownership, the family occupied the building's apartments.

Constructed in Oak Park in 1926, the T.A. Holm Building was built during a period of rapid expansion due to increased industry and growth in Chicago's suburbs in the early twentieth century. After the 1871 Chicago Fire pushed city residents to the suburbs, population in Oak Park exploded. The area near the railroad station was initially subdivided, followed by more subdivisions further out, and infrastructure improvements were made. Soon Oak Park had electricity, paved streets, and surface transportation lines. Residents founded clubs, a library, and parks, among other organizations. The Lake Street "L" extension to Harlem Avenue at the turn of the twentieth century further improved connections to jobs in Chicago, as the Oak Park stop was one of the few suburban stops in the system, and contributed to an increasing population.

Consequently, the area around the intersection of Lake Street and Harlem Avenue became the first commercial hub of the western suburbs, and remains the commercial center of downtown Oak Park today. Several years later, the first commercial block was constructed along Oak Park Avenue at North Boulevard by Mr. Goelitz in 1888. It housed Goelitz' shop, and the Nissen and Puchner grocery story and meat market. However, the commercial center shifted temporarily to Marion Street and Lake Street in the late 1890s. One prominent business in this area was the Oak Park State Bank. Founded in 1892 amidst the quickly growing suburb, the bank occupied a small commercial building on Lake Street near Marion Street. A few years later, J.W. Scoville constructed a building on the corner of North Oak Park Avenue and Lake Street that housed the Avenue State Bank and drew other businesses to the area.

Oak Park

In the early twentieth century, local builders began constructing new multi-family residences in the southern area of Oak Park near the Aurora Elgin & Chicago Railway tracks, which carried the Garfield Park Line's interurban service, bringing businesses to South Oak Park Avenue, Madison Street, and Harrison Street. The South Oak Park Avenue business district grew after the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank was established on South Oak Park Avenue near the interurban station in 1912, seeking business from the quickly growing and commuting population. Other business followed, including a popular theater, grocery stores, bakeries, and retail. The new mixed-use commercial and residential buildings on South Oak Park Avenue were conveniently located across Congress Street (later changed to Harrison Street) from the Aurora Elgin & Chicago Railway interurban station and the Chicago Terminal Transfer Railroad Station, providing easy access for visiting patrons and a convenient commute for apartment residents.

World War I and the 1918 influenza epidemic slowed Oak Park's rapid development. However, business picked back up in the 1920s with the construction of major department stores along Lake Street. These stores include Hub, which became Lyttons; The Fair, which became Montgomery Ward; and Marshall Fields, constructed at the corner of Lake Street and Harlem Avenue. Hillsmans, Baskins, Bransons, and Peck and Peck soon followed, and Oak Park became the definitive shopping center of the western suburbs. Soon, another new business found its home in Oak Park: automobile showrooms. By World War II, Madison Street was known as "automobile row,"



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

T.A. Holm Building SURVEY ID 1-7

servicing the needs of the western suburbs.

Local banks grew along with local commerce. The Avenue State Bank constructed a flagship building in 1919 at 100 North Park Avenue, and the Oak Park Trust and Savings Bank, which incorporated and absorbed the Oak Park State Bank in 1902, constructed a flagship building at 1044 Lake Street in 1923. The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank followed suit, constructing a flagship building in 1925-27 at the northeast corner of South Oak Park Avenue and Harrison Street. The business district along South Oak Park Avenue, south of Van Buren Street grew, and formed the South Oak Park Commerce Association to promote business along this corridor. Growth in this area was in response to visiting patrons of department stores, auto showrooms, and ever increasing residential communities.

Increased growth in the Oak Park business district pushed out small business owners and residents that could not afford the rising rent in competition with large department stores. Soon, other businesses felt the hardships of the Great Depression. However, local banks such as the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank, Oak Park Trust and Savings Bank, and Avenue State Bank survived. Oak Park was on the road to recovery by the end of the Depression, and Lake Street between Forest Avenue and Harlem Avenue continued to be a center of suburban commerce. The Southern District Businessmen's Association formed in the South Oak Park commercial district in 1933. This organization remained active for decades, changing to the Congress-Oak Park Merchants Association by the mid-1980s.

After World War II, while the housing market skyrocketed in Oak Park, the commercial centers suffered from the construction of expressways. Instead of shopping in downtown Oak Park, people went to new shopping centers constructed along the expressways. In the late 1950s, I-290 bisected the south side of town through the South Oak Park Avenue commercial district. Over the next few decades, the area slowly recovered, and today, Lake Street between Harlem and Forest Avenues remains the busy commercial center of downtown Oak Park. Portions of South Oak Park Avenue remain prosperous commercial districts, especially in the historic shopping district between Lake Street and North Avenue. Further south along South Oak Park Avenue, various smaller commercial districts remain in varying states of prosperity and historic integrity. The commercial section between Van Buren and Lexington Streets, bisected by I-290, is a moderately prosperous block with moderate building integrity.

Building Style and Development

The building displays an interesting and harmonious blend of Classicism and Beaux Arts ornamentation. At the time the building was constructed in 1925-1926, prior to the Great Depression, prominent private commercial buildings often contained detailed decorations, a significant expense, to convey success or status. It is possible that because of the financial nature of T.A. Holm's business he selected Classical motifs, common in both bank and federal architecture, while also opting to include Beaux Arts motifs. Popularized during the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the Beaux Arts style was commonly applied to homes of the wealthy, schools, museums, libraries, and public buildings from 1885 to 1930. The building appears to be one of the only commercial buildings that architect Jeremiah J. Cerny designed in polychrome terra cotta and displaying a lavish blend of the Classical Revival and Beaux Art styles. It has had several alterations, including a replacement storefront and first-story windows. Originally, the buildings on either side of the T.A. Holm Building were further set back, giving the building greater prominence on the street and explains the presence of the storefront display window on the north side elevation. At an unknown date, the owners of the adjacent buildings built out their facades to be even with the T.A. Holm Building. According to a 1997 newspaper article, the storefront was replaced at an unknown date when a car hit the building's first story. It replaced a storefront with two bay windows and a step-up to a recessed front door.

NRHP STATUS Eligible	DATE LISTED
NRHP CRITERIA A B C D	Not Applicable
NRHP CRITERIA CONSIDERA	ATIONS E F G Not Applicable



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

T.A. Holm Building SURVEY ID 1-7

NRHP EVALUATION/JUSTIFICATION

In 2010, the "Oak Park South Town District Survey" deemed the T.A. Holm Building had significant merit as a potential locally designated landmark. The report also evaluated the commercial area along South Oak Park Avenue as a potential historic district, of which the commercial building would be a contributing building. The report concluded the area's remaining buildings did not form a cohesive historic district.

The T.A. Holm Building at 905 South Oak Park Avenue was evaluated for significance under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria A, B, and C using guidelines set forth in the NRHP Bulletin "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation."

This property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of United States history. T.A. Holm & Co. Realtors was an important local builder that was responsible for constructing many homes in Oak Park, largely as a result of innovative advertising. The T.A. Holm Building represents the company's local success and is eligible under Criterion A.

Buildings that are named solely for honorary purposes to recognize people may not be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B if the property is not directly associated with the productive life of the honoree. However, the T.A. Holm Building at 905 South Oak Park Avenue is directly associated with T.A. Holm's productive life and represents his success as an immigrant who established a business that met local needs. The T.A. Holm Building is eligible under Criterion B.

The T.A. Holm Building's design is a skillful blend of Classical and Beaux Arts architecture with terra cotta ornamentation designed by prolific Chicago architect Jeremiah J. Cerny. Although the building's original storefront and first story windows have been replaced, the building retains its ornate terra cotta facade. It is an excellent example of pre-Depression commercial architecture in Oak Park, and therefore, the T.A. Holm Building is eligible under Criterion C.

The property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this assessment.

The T.A. Holm Building at 905 South Oak Park Avenue retains integrity of location, feeling, association, and setting. Although the first story has been altered, this is a common occurrence in many commercial buildings, and does not substantially detract from the building's overall integrity. Therefore, the building retains moderate levels of integrity of design, workmanship, and materials.

The period of significance for the T.A. Holm Building is 1926-1950, which encompasses the era that the building was owned by T.A. Holm and occupied by T.A. Holm & Co. Realtors.

NRHP BOUNDARY

The NRHP boundary for the T.A. Holm Building is parcel 16-18-307-019-0000, the legal parcel on which the building is located and contains all associated historic features. This is the location that the building has occupied since its establishment at this site in 1926.

SOURCES

Butterfield, Francis, Lisa Napoles, Susan Parks, and Susannah Ribenstein. South Town District Survey. Village of Oak Park, May 2010.

"Homes that Holm Built." Building Age and the Builder's Journal, vol 44, (1922): 50-51.

Longstreth, Richard. The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture. Washington, DC: Preservation Press, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1987.

Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission. Freeman Landon House, 700 South Lombard Avenue. Historic Landmark Nomination Report. 2011

Trainor, Ken. Who the Heck is T.A. Holm? And Why is there a Building Named after Him? Unknown newspaper, pgs. 49, 58. January 22, 1997.



RESOURCE TYPE Property T.A. Holm Building
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Village of Oak Park. "Building Permit No. 16062 for 905 S. Oak Park Ave." May 29, 1925.



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

T.A. Holm Building SURVEY ID 1-7

Photo 1 - T.A. Holm Building



Facing west to east-facing facade from South Oak Park Avenue



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

T.A. Holm Building SURVEY ID 1-7

Photo 2 - T.A. Holm Building



Facing northwest to east-facing facade and south side elevation from South Oak Park Avenue



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

T.A. Holm Building SURVEY ID 1-7

Photo 3 - T.A. Holm Building



Facing southwest to east-facing facade and north side elevation storefront from South Oak Park Avenue



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

T.A. Holm Building SURVEY ID 1-7

Photo 4 - T.A. Holm Building



Close-up view of east-facing facade's terra cotta upper stories and cornice



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

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Photo 5 - T.A. Holm Building



1926 advertisment for the opening of the T.A. Holm Building



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NRHP STATUS Eligible

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Map - T.A. Holm Building





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Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building
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NAME

Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building

OTHER NAME(S)

N/A

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

840 South Oak Park Avenue

Oak Park

OWNERSHIP TAX PARCEL NUMBER
Fifth Third Bank 16-18-224-027-0000

YEAR BUILT SOURCE

1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1908-1950

DESIGNER/BUILDER

Unknown

STYLE PROPERTY TYPE

Neoclassical Commerce

FOUNDATION WALLS ROOF
Stone/Granite Stone/Limestone Built-Up

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building is a two-story, rectangular, limestone-clad Neoclassical-style bank constructed in 1925-1927 with a ca. 1955 two-story, rectangular, limestone-clad addition on its north elevation. The building is located at 840 South Oak Park Avenue, at the northeast corner of South Oak Park Avenue and Harrison Street in a commercial block of early-to-late twentieth century buildings with some new construction infill. The building's primary elevations along South Oak Park Avenue and Harrison Street have a granite-clad foundation, limestone cladding, and Neoclassical ornamentation commonly applied to early twentieth century banks. Its secondary elevations are brick-clad and unornamented. The addition is similarly clad on its west-facing facade and secondary elevations, and also incorporates rusticated stone on the facade. The building has a flat, built-up roof.

Facing west to South Oak Park Avenue, the Neoclassical facade is divided into three bays. The slightly projecting middle bay is topped by a shallow pediment and flanked by simple, almost identical side bays. The middle bay is dominated by two, two-story, fluted lonic columns flanking the recessed main entrance. Egg and dart molding is located above and below the volutes, and the capital base is decorated with a floral motif. Large pilasters are located to the north and south of the columns, creating a portico and dividing the middle bay from the side bays. These pilasters are slightly raised along the edges and have a projecting base and entablature with floral motifs and egg and dart molding. The pilasters and columns rest on the water table. Within the portico's middle bay, the main entrance consists of replacement metal and glass double doors and a large, vinylsash replacement transom window. The entrance has a classical door surround outlined by bead-and-reel molding, leaf motif molding, and an entablature with dentils along the architrave and acanthus molding along the cornice. A narrow rectangular, single-pane vinyl-sash replacement window flanks either side of the entrance on the first story. Above the entrance, a two-pane, vinyl-sash replacement window is flanked by tall, narrow, rectangular, single-pane vinyl-sash replacement windows. Flanking the portico, the facade's side bays have slightly inset windows. The first story windows are single-pane, vinyl-sash replacement picture windows and the second story windows are two-pane, vinyl-sash replacement windows. Across the entire facade, a simple entablature is located above the second-story windows, pilasters, and columns. The faint outline of "SVBVRBAN TRUST E SAVINGS BANK" is visible above the entablature in the middle of the facade (See Photo 6). Above this, a projecting cornice with dentils runs across the facade. A parapet rises above the cornice, and a shallow pediment is located along the middle portion of the facade. A sign for Fifth Third Bank is affixed to the parapet and a flagpole projects above the pediment. A large triangular electronic Fifth Third Bank sign projects from the southwest corner of the parapet displaying the time and temperature on each side.



RESOURCE TYPE Property
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Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building
SURVEY ID 1-8

The facade's water table, simple second story entablature, projecting cornice, and parapet continue along the entire south side elevation. The twelve-bay south side elevation is divided into three sections by a slightly projecting middle section. The middle section consists of eight bays of windows separated by pilasters supporting the second-story entablature. The pilasters sit on the water table, and have floral motifs and egg and dart molding under the capitals. Decorative metal panels separate the identical first and second story windows. The middle six bays contain two-pane, vinyl-sash replacement windows, and the outermost two bays contain single-pane, vinyl-sash replacement windows. The south side elevation's middle section has a sign for Fifth Third Bank affixed to the parapet, below a shallow pediment. The south side elevation's east and west outermost sections consist of two bays of slightly inset, single-pane, vinyl-sash replacement windows on each story. The easternmost bay contains a secondary entrance consisting of a replacement metal door with a transom. The entrance has a decorative door surround and above, scroll brackets support a projecting cornice.

The brick-clad east rear elevation has five irregularly placed windows with darker brick surrounds and wood sills. The southernmost window is a two-over-two, double-hung, wood-sash window. Below, a doorway has been infilled with brick and has a dark brick lintel. The three middle windows consist of three-over-two, double-hung, wood-sash windows. The northernmost window is a double-hung, wood-sash window covered in metal bars. A brick chimney projects from the roof.

The north side elevation's second story has two small, single-pane awning windows surrounded by glass block in the middle of the elevation. Its first story has a single-story, brick-clad non-historic addition along the eastern portion of the elevation and a two-story, brick-clad, addition adjoining the western portion of the elevation. Both additions were constructed ca. 1955 as part of the bank. The single-story addition's north elevation comprises an entrance at the east end, five sets of three, single-pane, vinyl-sash picture windows with stone sills, and two, one -over-one, vinyl-sash windows at the west end. The two-story addition's east elevation comprises a carport at the first story's north end while the remainder of the first story has a row of three, two-pane, vinyl-sash windows with stone sills. The addition's second story has a set of three-pane, vinyl awning ribbon windows on either side of a metal access door. A brick chimney projects from the south end of the roof.

The addition's west-facing facade is clad in rusticated stone on portions of its first story and limestone on the second story. An ATM is located at the facade's south end. The first story has a row of rectangular, single-pane vinyl picture windows at the south end, separated by a rusticated stone veneer from two, smaller vinyl-sash picture windows and the carport entrance at the facade's north end. A vinyl-clad flat roof awning projects over the first story. Two sets of three-pane, vinyl-sash awning ribbon windows are located on the second story.

HISTORY/DEVELOPMENT

The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building was constructed from 1925 to 1927 according to the Oak Park 1908-1950 Sanborn Map. The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank, Suburban Safe Deposit Company, and Suburban Loan and Mortgage Co. are listed at this address in the 1930 Oak Park City Directory. The bank is not listed at this address in the 1925 directory, indicating the current building was likely constructed after this time.

The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank was established in 1912 at 835 South Oak Park Avenue, seeking business from the quickly growing south Oak Park population. As the bank grew, it expanded its offices on South Oak Park. From 1922 to 1925, its offices were located at 833-837 South Oak Park Avenue, across the street from 840 South Oak Park Avenue. The first president of the bank, George A. Chritton, served from 1912 to 1914. He was succeeded by George Tough from 1914-1915, followed by William H. Rattenbury from 1915 to 1933. During his tenure, the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank constructed the flagship Neoclassical building at 840 South Oak Park Avenue in 1925-1927. The bank survived the Great Depression under the leadership of acting president F.B. Peake and Chairman of the Board of Directors Gilbert Alexander, and continued to be an Oak Park establishment for the next several decades. In 1995, Pinnacle Bank acquired the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank, and the flagship building remained open as a Pinnacle Bank branch office. In 1999, Pinnacle Bank was purchased by Old Kent Bank, which changed its name to Fifth Third Bank in 2001, and continued to operate this location as a branch office. In 2009, the Oak Park branch also changed its name to Fifth Third Bank, which it remains today.

Throughout its history, the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank rented space at 840 South Oak Park Avenue to



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other tenants. The 1930 city directory lists several doctors working at 840 South Oak Park Avenue, including Dr. J. R. Boyd, Dr. C. W. Trowbridge, Dr. Raymond Thomas, and Dr. George Marquardt. Today, medical professionals still rent offices in the building.

According to the Oak Park 1908-1950 Sanborn Map, the bank's two-story addition was constructed after 1950. Constructed ca. 1955, the addition replaced two, single-story commercial buildings at 830-836 South Oak Park Avenue. Today, the building houses Fifth Third Bank, and continues to serve the original purpose for which it was constructed. Alterations include replacement windows and doors, an infilled doorway on the east elevation, removable modern signs, the single-story rear addition, and two-story north addition.

In 2010, the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building was surveyed for the Oak Park South Town District Survey. The report determined that the area's remaining buildings did not form a cohesive historic district, but recommended individual buildings as having "no merit," "merit," or "significant merit." The report found the building to have "significant merit" as a potential locally designated landmark.

Oak Park

Constructed in Oak Park from 1925 to 1927, the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building was built during a period of expansion due to increased industry and growth in Chicago's suburbs in the early twentieth century. Oak Park originated in 1835 when Joseph and Betty Kettlestrings constructed a house near what is now Lake Street and Harlem Street. Conveniently located between the Des Plaines River and Chicago, they started a small hotel providing dinner, a bed, and breakfast for 50 cents. The area became known as Oak Ridge, and boasted a market, general store, and newspaper. After the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad extended west of Chicago in 1848, the Kettlestringses sold off parcels of land to settlers. The depot, and subsequently the village, was named Oak Park, because the name Oak Ridge was already taken by another depot. Oak Park grew steadily through the mid-nineteenth century.

After the 1871 Chicago Fire pushed city residents to the suburbs, population exploded in Oak Park. The area near the railroad depot was initially subdivided, followed by more subdivisions further out, and infrastructure improvements were made. Soon Oak Park had electricity, paved streets, and surface transportation lines. The Lake Street "L" extension to Harlem Avenue at the turn of the twentieth century further improved connections to jobs in Chicago, as the Oak Park stop was one of the few suburban stops in the system, and contributed to an increasing population.

Consequently, the area around the intersection of Lake Street and Harlem Avenue became the first commercial hub of the western suburbs, and remains the commercial center of downtown Oak Park today. Several years later, the first commercial block was constructed along Oak Park Avenue at North Boulevard by Mr. Goelitz in 1888. It housed Goelitz' shop, and the Nissen and Puchner grocery story and meat market. However, the commercial center shifted temporarily to Marion Street and Lake Street in the late 1890s. One prominent business in this area was the Oak Park State Bank. Founded in 1892 amidst the quickly growing suburb, the bank occupied a small commercial building on Lake Street near Marion Street. A few years later, J.W. Scoville constructed a building on the corner of North Oak Park Avenue and Lake Street that housed the Avenue State Bank and drew other businesses to the area.

Soon after Oak Park separated from Cicero Township in 1902, community leaders began planning the municipal center of the new community. The town constructed the municipal building at Lake Street and Euclid Avenue and the post office at Lake Street and North Oak Park Avenue. In 1905, E. E. Roberts designed the Masonic Building on the corner of Lake Street and North Oak Park Avenue opposite the post office, bringing an influx of stores and offices to the area and providing public space. The Masonic Building established Oak Park Avenue south of Lake Street as the fashionable shopping district through the mid-1920s, and patrons came to visit stores such as William E Gilmores and Garbles.

Soon, many of the older homes in the central district were replaced by apartment, commercial, and office buildings. In the early twentieth century, local builders began constructing new multi-family residences in the southern area of Oak Park near the Aurora Elgin & Chicago Railway tracks, which carried the Garfield Park Line's interurban service, bringing businesses to South Oak Park Avenue, Madison Street, and Harrison Street.



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

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The South Oak Park Avenue business district grew after the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank was established on South Oak Park Avenue near the interurban station in 1912, seeking business from the quickly growing and commuting population. Other business followed, including a popular theater, grocery stores, bakeries, and retail. The new mixed-use commercial and residential buildings on South Oak Park Avenue were conveniently located across Congress Street (later changed to Harrison Street) from the Aurora Elgin & Chicago Railway interurban station and the Chicago Terminal Transfer Railroad Station, providing easy access for visiting patrons and a convenient commute for apartment residents.

World War I and the 1918 influenza epidemic slowed Oak Park's rapid development. However, business picked back up in the 1920s with the construction of major department stores along Lake Street. These stores include Hub, which became Lyttons; The Fair, which became Montgomery Ward; and Marshall Fields, constructed at the corner of Lake Street and Harlem Avenue. Hillsmans, Baskins, Bransons, and Peck and Peck soon followed, and Oak Park became the definitive shopping center of the western suburbs. Soon, another new business found its home in Oak Park: automobile showrooms. By World War II, Madison Street was known as "automobile row," servicing the needs of the western suburbs.

Local banks grew along with local commerce. The Avenue State Bank constructed a flagship building in 1919 at 100 North Park Avenue, and the Oak Park Trust and Savings Bank, which incorporated and absorbed the Oak Park State Bank in 1902, constructed a flagship building at 1044 Lake Street in 1923 (Figure 1). The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank followed suit, constructing a flagship building in 1925-27 at the northeast corner of South Oak Park Avenue and Harrison Street. The business district along South Oak Park Avenue, south of Van Buren Street grew, and formed the South Oak Park Commerce Association to promote business along this corridor. Growth in this area was in response to visiting patrons of department stores, auto showrooms, and ever increasing residential communities.

Increased growth in the Oak Park business district pushed out small business owners and residents that could not afford the rising rent in competition with large department stores. Soon, other businesses felt the hardships of the Great Depression. However, local banks such as the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank, Oak Park Trust and Savings Bank, and Avenue State Bank survived. Oak Park was on the road to recovery by the end of the Depression, and Lake Street between Forest Avenue and Harlem Avenue continued to be a center of suburban commerce. The Southern District Businessmen's Association formed in the South Oak Park commercial district in 1933. This organization remained active for decades, changing to the Congress-Oak Park Merchants Association by the mid-1980s.

After World War II, while the housing market skyrocketed in Oak Park, the commercial centers suffered from the construction of expressways. Instead of shopping in downtown Oak Park, people went to new shopping centers constructed along the expressways. In the late 1950s, I-290 bisected the south side of town through the South Oak Park Avenue commercial district. Over the next few decades, the area slowly recovered, and today, Lake Street between Harlem and Forest Avenues remains the busy commercial center of downtown Oak Park. Portions of South Oak Park Avenue remain prosperous commercial districts, especially in the historic shopping district between Lake Street and North Avenue. Further south along South Oak Park Avenue, various smaller commercial districts remain in varying states of prosperity and historic integrity. The commercial section between Van Buren and Lexington Streets, bisected by I-290, is a moderately prosperous block with moderate building integrity.

Oak Park Banks

The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building is one of three historic downtown Oak Park bank buildings servicing Oak Park today. These buildings include the Oak Park Trust and Savings Bank Building and the Avenue State Bank Building. All three share similar stories from early Oak Park history to recent mergers with the large national banks.

The Oak Park State Bank was founded in 1892 amidst the quickly growing Oak Park suburb, and occupied a small commercial building at 1053 Lake Street near Marion Street. The three-story modest Italianate commercial block is still extant. In 1902, Oak Park State Bank merged with the Dunlop Brothers Bank, the first bank in Oak Park, to form the Oak Park Trust and Savings Bank and constructed a new building on the corner of Lake and



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Marion in 1910. The bank later constructed a large flagship office at 1044 Lake Street in 1923. The bank building was an anchor of the prosperous Lake and Marion Streets commercial district. After surviving the Great Depression, the Oak Park Trust and Savings Bank continued to serve Oak Park for another fifty years. The bank merged with the First National Bank of Chicago ca. 1990. In 1998, it became part of the Bank One Corporation, and merged with JP Morgan Chase in 2004. Today, Chase Bank continues to operate out of the historic Oak Park Trust and Savings Bank building. In 2005, the Oak Park Trust and Savings Bank Building was surveyed for the "Architectural Survey of Downtown Oak Park and the Avenue Business District." The report determined the building to be significant and "important enough to warrant individual Oak Park Landmark designation."

The Avenue State Bank was established on December 18, 1899 as Oak Park's population skyrocketed. The bank occupied a building constructed by J.W. Scoville on the corner of North Oak Park Avenue and Lake Street, drawing other business to the area. In 1919, the Avenue State Bank constructed a large flagship office at 100 North Oak Park Avenue. After surviving the Great Depression, the Avenue State Bank continued to serve Oak Park for several decades. In 1995, Avenue State Bank merged with Firstar Bank of Illinois. Firstar merged with U.S. Bank in 1999. Today, U.S. Bank operates out of the historic Avenue State Bank building at 100 North Oak Park Avenue. The Avenue State Bank building is a contributing resource to the NRHP-listed Ridgeland-Oak Park Historic District.

Neoclassical Style

The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building is a relatively intact example of Neoclassical architecture, a common and popular building style for mid-sized downtown commercial buildings, and specifically banks, after the turn of the century. The Neoclassical style became popular after the 1893 World's Colombian Exposition in Chicago. The large, classical Exposition structures featured colonnades, pediments, and other classical details. Following the Exposition, many large commercial and public buildings were designed using these same elements. The smaller Exposition buildings inspired Neoclassical residential construction. In 1907, McKim, Mead & White designed the Knickerbocker Trust Company in New York in the Neoclassical style, with massive Corinthian columns, pilasters, and a large, decorated entablature. This bank building set a precedent for bank architecture in the coming decades. The Neoclassical style persisted in popularity throughout the early and midtwentieth century in two manifestations. Pre-World War II Neoclassical architecture often included a masonry veneer, columns, pediments, elaborate classical door surrounds, pronounced cornices featuring dentils and other ornamentation, rectangular windows, and decorative details. Post-war Neoclassical architecture was much simpler, alluding to columns with simple posts and simplified pediments without additional classical motifs.

Oak Park bank construction followed New York's Neoclassical style example. The Oak Park Trust and Savings Bank Building, Avenue State Bank Building, and Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building were all constructed between 1919-1927 in the Neoclassical style. All three banks are local, representative examples of different manifestations of Neoclassical style banks in Oak Park.

The Oak Park Trust and Savings Bank building was designed by Theodore C. Vischer and James Burley and constructed by the Hoggson Brothers in 1923. It replaced a 1910 bank building that became a rear extension of the new building. The limestone-clad, rectangular, three-story Neoclassical building is located on the northeast corner of Lake Street and Marion Street. A large four-story, non-historic rear addition has replaced the 1910 building. The primary facade faces south to Lake Street and is divided into three bays. The large, projecting middle bay is flanked by almost identical side bays. The middle bay comprises a portico supported by fluted, Corinthian columns and pilasters. The columns and pilasters sit on the large granite water table. A simple entablature is located above the pilasters and columns. Above this, a projecting cornice with large dentils runs across the facade. A parapet rises above the cornice.

The Avenue State Bank was designed by Puckey & Jenkins and constructed by S. H. Nielson in 1919. The red brick-clad, rectangular, two-story Neoclassical building is located on the northeast corner of North Oak Park Avenue and Lake Street. The primary facade faces west to North Oak Park Avenue and is divided into three bays. The middle bay comprises a portico supported by two-story, Doric columns flanked by brick pilasters. The columns and pilasters support a large classical pediment. The entablature features decorative limestone panels and dentils. An elaborate shield panel with swags is located in the pediment and dentils line the pediment cornice. The side bays have an arcade of first-story shop windows and a rectangular pediment with the engraved



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

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words "AVENUE BANK BUILDING."

The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building is a typical example of Pre-War Neoclassical style banks constructed near the end of the style's popularity. It has not been significantly altered and retains the majority of its original materials and Neoclassical elements, such as a masonry veneer, Ionic columns, column pilasters, classical ornamentation, a decorated cornice, rectangular windows, simple pediments, and elaborate door surrounds. Alterations include replacement windows and doors along the facade and south elevation, the removal of "SVBVRBAN TRUST E SAVING BANK" sign along the west-facing facade, and the single-story and two-story additions on the north side elevation. The ca. 1955 additions on the building's north side elevation do not detract from its original appearance or form. The additions incorporate compatible materials and the overall massing does not overshadow the original building.

Eligible	DATE LISTED
NRHP CRITERIA A B C D	Not Applicable
NRHP CRITERIA CONSIDER A B C D	ATIONS ☐E ☐F ☐G ☑Not Applicable

NRHP EVALUATION/JUSTIFICATION

In 2010, the "Oak Park South Town District Survey" deemed the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building has significant merit as a potential locally designated landmark. The report also evaluated the commercial area along South Oak Park Avenue as a potential historic district, of which the bank would be a contributing building. The report concluded the area's remaining buildings did not form a cohesive historic district.

The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building was evaluated for significance under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria A, B, and C using guidelines set forth in the NRHP Bulletin "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation."

The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building is associated with the expansion of the South Oak Park commercial area, outside of the northern historic commercial center, in the early twentieth century. The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank was one of several banks that contributed to Oak Park's history and growth, which also included its predecessors, the Oak Park Trust and Savings Bank and the Avenue State Bank located in the commercial center. Although the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building is associated with the development of Oak Park in the early twentieth century, background research did not indicate any significant contributions to the broad patterns of United States history, and therefore, the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building is not eligible under Criterion A.

Research did not reveal any historically significant associations with the lives of persons significant in the past, and therefore, the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building is not eligible under Criterion B.

The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building is a largely intact, good local example of an early twentieth century Neoclassical-style bank. The building embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Neoclassical style, which was commonly applied to banks during the 1910s and 1920s throughout Illinois and nationally. Within Oak Park, it is one of three Neoclassical-style buildings that each reflects different manifestations of the Neoclassical style. Though they share similar features such as columns, pilasters, entablatures, pediments, and classical details, each emphasizes different elements of the style. The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building is distinguished by two-story lonic columns and pilasters framing the facade as well as a masonry veneer, elaborate door surrounds, simple pediments, a decorated cornice, and classical ornamentation. The building retains its overall appearance, massing, and many of its original features, despite replacement windows and doors that do not substantially alter the building's original appearance. A ca. 1955 addition on the building's north side elevation has similar cladding and compatible massing, and does not significantly diminish the original building's integrity. Therefore, the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building is eligible under Criterion C as a representative local example of an early twentieth century Neoclassical bank building.



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building
SURVEY ID 1-8

The property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this assessment.

The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building at 840 South Oak Park Avenue retains integrity of location, feeling, and association. Although the bank has been enlarged by additions and has replacement windows, these do not substantially detract from the building's overall integrity as the majority of the original building's historic materials remain intact. Therefore, the building retains moderate integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Prominently located at the corner of a commercial area, the building's primary elevations face west to other commercial buildings along South Oak Park Avenue and south to the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) and CTA Congress Line, which replaced the Aurora Elgin & Chicago Railway interurban lines in this area. Although the building's relationship to other commercial buildings along South Oak Park Avenue has been retained, its south viewshed and integrity of setting has been compromised by the expressway construction. The Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building's period of significance is 1925-1955, and encompasses the building's original construction and additions.

NRHP BOUNDARY

The NRHP boundary for the Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building is parcel 16-18-224-027-0000, the legal parcel on which the building is located and which contains all associated historic features.

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RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building
SURVEY ID 1-8

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RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building SURVEY ID 1-8

Photo 1 - Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building



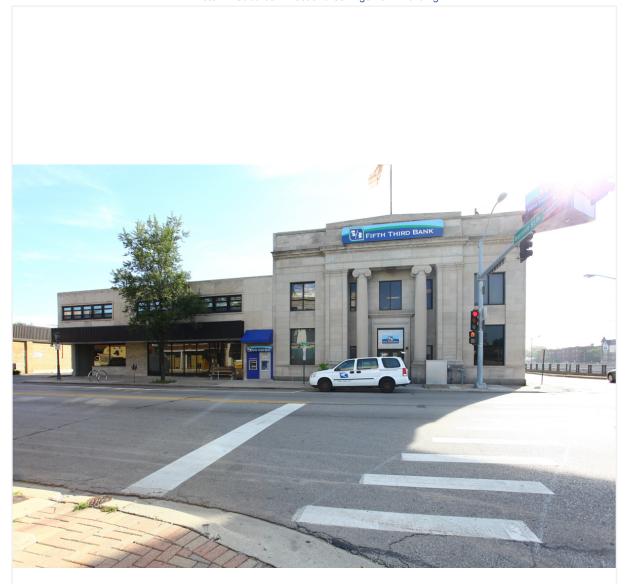
Facing northeast to west-facing facade and south side elevation from South Oak Park Avenue and Harrison Street intersection



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building SURVEY ID 1-8

Photo 2 - Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building



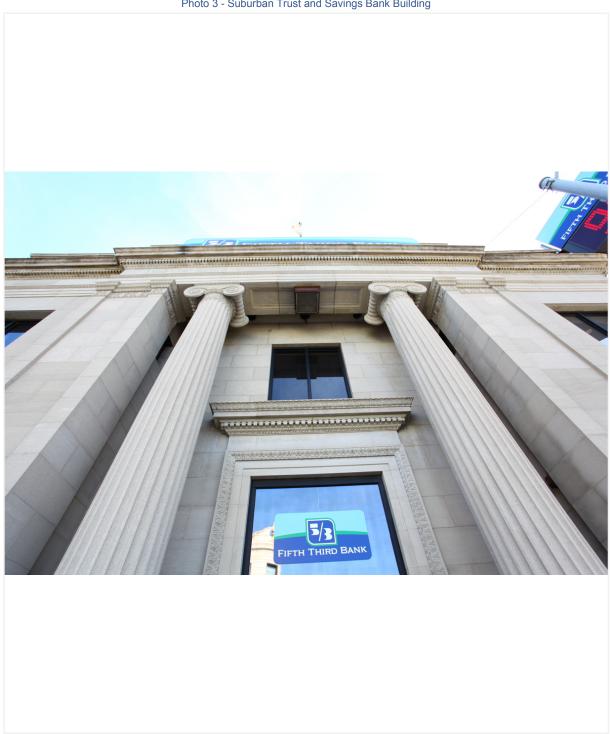
Facing east to west-facing facade of 1927 bank (right) and west-facing facade of ca. 1955 addition (left) from South Oak Park Avenue



RESOURCE TYPE Property NRHP STATUS Eligible

Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building **SURVEY ID**

Photo 3 - Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building



Facing east to west-facing facade portico from South Oak Park Avenue



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building SURVEY ID 1-8

Photo 4 - Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building



Facing northwest to east rear elevation and south side elevation from Harrison Street



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building SURVEY ID 1-8

Photo 5 - Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building



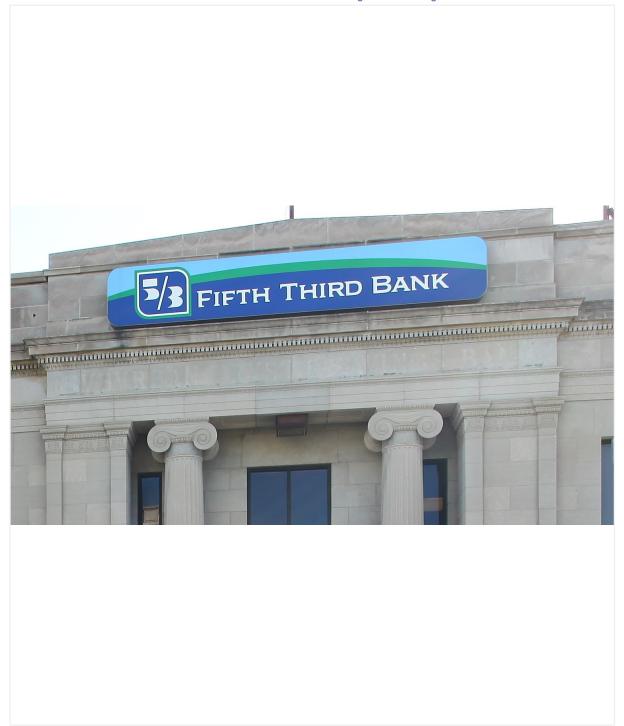
Facing southwest to north side elevation of 1927 bank and east rear elevation of ca. 1955 addition



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building SURVEY ID 1-8

Photo 6 - Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building



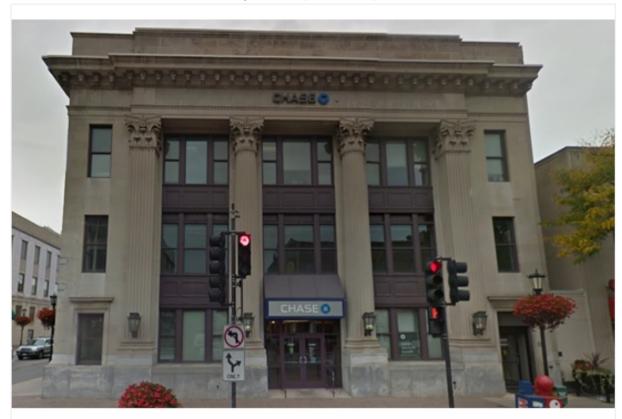
Detail of "SVBVRBAN TRUST E SAVINGS BANK" sign outline



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building SURVEY ID 1-8

Figure 1 - Comparative Examples





Top Photo: Oak Park State Bank; Bottom Photo: Avenue State Bank (Cook County Assessor's Office)



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Eligible

Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building
SURVEY ID 1-8

Map - Suburban Trust and Savings Bank Building





RESOURCE TYPE Property 846 South East Avenue NRHP STATUS Not Eligible SURVEY ID 1-11

NAME

846 South East Avenue

OTHER NAME(S)

N/A

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

846 South East Avenue

Oak Park

OWNERSHIP TAX PARCEL NUMBER
Thomas Howe 16-18-228-026-0000

YEAR BUILT SOURCE

1911 Cook County Assessor's Office, 2015

DESIGNER/BUILDER

Unknown

STYLE PROPERTY TYPE

Prairie Style Domestic

FOUNDATION WALLS ROOF
Stucco Asphalt

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

Constructed in 1911, the house at 846 South East Avenue is an American Foursquare with Prairie Style influenced stylistic detailing. The house is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of South East Avenue and Harrison Street, immediately north of the I-290 Eisenhower Expressway, in the village of Oak Park. The two-story building is oriented to the west towards South East Avenue. The building has a full unfinished basement. Foundation walls constructed from an unknown material are covered in concrete stucco, and the building's exterior covered walls are in concrete stucco. The house exhibits a rectangular-plan footprint and has an asphalt-shingle-clad hipped roof; a one-story porch at the facade features a shed roof with wide eaves that wrap around the porch. The house occupies a small lot with a yard, driveway, and rear garage.

The two-bay-wide facade's first story is formed by the rectangular-plan, one-story, full-width enclosed porch. Square-form piers, also covered with concrete stucco, form the porch's four corners. The porch has one northend entrance with a replacement multi-light paneled door, likely vinyl or aluminum, which is not original to the Prairie Style house. The entrance is reached by six wood steps resting on a concrete slab and a concrete sidewalk extending from South East Avenue. Attached to the porch, simple wood balustrades and banisters flank the steps. The entrance is flanked by one window on its north side and a ribbon of six windows on its south side. Each is a wood-frame, multi-light window with three upper panes above two, larger, horizontal panes. These windows are each topped by a rectangular, three-light, wood-frame window. A wood panel is located below each of the seven windows. The facade terminates in a wood cornice. Three casement windows with the same configuration also occur on the porch's north and south side elevations. Two, recessed, wood panels are located beneath the windows. The porch's side elevations also terminate in a wood cornice. The enclosed porch is covered by an asphalt-shingle-clad shed roof with wide eaves that wrap around the porch's corners and terminate at the building's side elevations. The facade's second story features wood corner boards. Two vinylframe windows with six-over-one light, double-hung configurations are replacements, but feature original wood surrounds. The eaves of the building's hipped roof are wide and shelter the facade's second story on all sides. At the attic level, a flat-roofed, concrete-stucco-covered canted dormer is centered on the roof. The dormer contains a replacement, vinyl-sash window with sliding lights. A wood surround encases the window and the dormer's roof features a wood cornice and wide eaves.

The building's side south elevation, oriented towards Harrison Street, contains one six-over-one light, double-hung, vinyl-sash, replacement window at the elevation's first story. The window retains an original wood surround and sill.



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

846 South East Avenue SURVEY ID 1-11

A small rectangular-plan projection, located at the elevation's north end, is covered by a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. A ribbon of three recessed, stained-glass, casement windows is located in the projection. The windows have wood sashes, sills, and surrounds. The projection terminates in a wood cornice. The elevation's second story features wood stick work, which forms a horizontal band framing the second-story windows, and is divided into sections by evenly spaced vertical stickwork. Two six-over-one light, double-hung, vinyl-sash, replacement windows are located at the building's second story.

The building's side north elevation was not fully accessible during survey. Two basement-level windows with wood surrounds occur on the elevation, but the configuration of these windows is unknown. At the first story, there is one west-end entrance with a wood frame. The door in this opening was not discernable. The entrance is accessed by a concrete driveway that extends north of the building from South East Avenue. Two six-over-one light, double-hung, vinyl-sash, replacement windows are located at the first story. Like the building's other windows, these also retain original wood sills and surrounds. Horizontal and vertical stickwork also occurs on this side elevation's second story. There is one second-story window; the window in the opening was not visible during survey, but it does feature a wood sill and frame.

The house's rear elevation is oriented to the east. At the elevation's north end, a wood-frame door with a single glass pane is reached by a raised wood deck. The porch features a wood balustrade and banister and is accessed by wood steps. A wood staircase is also located on the deck and accesses the roof of the rear garage, which appears to have a deck. A six-over-one light, double-hung, vinyl-sash, replacement window with a wood surround flanks the entrance. A second larger window with the same configuration occurs south of the entrance and window. A roof likely sheltered a portion of the rear elevation's first story at one time, but has since been partially removed. The elevation's second story also features wood stickwork, identical to that on the side elevations. One six-over-one light, double-hung, vinyl-sash, replacement window with a wood surround occurs at the second story's north end.

The house's low-pitched hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney is located north of the roof's center ridgeline.

According to a building permit, the one-story garage located east of the house was built in 1924. The garage's footprint on a Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from 1947 also indicates that the building has received an addition or the original garage has been replaced. All elevations of the garage were not accessible during survey. The building exhibits a nearly rectangular-plan footprint and has a flat roof. It appears that the garage's facade abuts the house's northeast corner. The garage's exterior is covered in concrete stucco and features metal pieces that allude to stickwork, a recent addition to the garage. The facade, which is oriented to the west, contains one wood overhead garage door and opens directly onto the property's driveway. The overhead door features two multilight windows. The garage's south side elevation has one entrance with a paneled door, likely vinyl or aluminum, and a large louvered window. A wood staircase at the house's rear deck accessed the garage's roof, which features a high parapet wall. The garage's roof has also been converted into a deck space and features a wood balustrade.

Concrete city sidewalks are located west and south of the house on the building's lot. A concrete sidewalk and a concrete driveway extend from South East Avenue. The building's front and south side yard feature grass. A bed with a rock border contains three manicured Loropetalum bushes and fronts the facade's enclosed porch. A wooden fence that abuts the building's porch at the facade, projects from the building and then turns to parallel the city sidewalk along the property's south boundary, and then follows the property's rear boundary, enclosing the backyard. South of the house, a small tree is located in the panel of grass between Harrison Street and the city sidewalk. One mature tree is located in the backyard.

HISTORY/DEVELOPMENT

The building at 846 South East Avenue was constructed in 1911 in the village of Oak Park. There are some discrepancies regarding the building's early owners. The 1920 Census indicates that Samuel M. Week, his wife Mildred, and their daughter and two sons resided at 846 South East Avenue. Week is listed as the home's owner. However, Samuel Morrett and his wife Elizabeth are also listed as a separate household that occupies 846 South East Avenue in the 1920 Census. Morrett is also listed as the building's owner.



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

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A 1922 city directory reveals that Francis (Frank) P. Sexton, his wife Eileen, and Eileen's sister Frances Moran were living in the home by 1922. Francis and Eileen (Moran) Sexton were young and newly married at this time. Though her parents are not listed in the directory, Irish immigrants John and Mary Moran owned and also lived in the home. Francis Sexton was employed as a road superintendent for the Checker Taxi Company and the couple's first daughter Mary Sexton was likely born that year. John Moran, Jr., Eileen Sexton and Frances Moran's brother, also lived in the house at 846 South East Avenue.

In 1923, Francis Sexton, who was involved with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters as a labor slugger through his job at the taxi company, was shot and killed while attempting break up a gathering of anti-union cab drivers. Eileen gave birth to the couple's second daughter, Frances Eileen Sexton, following Francis Sexton's death. Adding to the family's turmoil, Eileen Sexton's father-in-law Patrick Sexton shot and killed the man charged with her husband's murder in 1924, after the defendant was granted nine continuations and the case progressed slowly in court. Patrick Sexton then faced manslaughter charges for the crime.

A second discrepancy in regards to the building's owner also dates to 1924. That year, a permit was filed to construct a one-story garage at 846 South East Avenue and Charles S. Moore of 833 Clarence Avenue is listed as the property's owner. Moore may have built the garage for the Moran and Sexton family, but it is not likely that he owned the house.

By 1925, the eldest John Moran had passed away. His wife, Mary Moran, was listed as widow in the city directory that year. In 1930, Mary Moran was indicated as the home's owner in the census. By that time, Eileen was working as an office clerk for the Board of Education. Her sister Frances Moran was not included in the census that year, but her name appears in the 1930 city directory. Mary Moran passed away in 1936, leaving the home to Eileen. In 1940, Eileen remained employed by the Board of Education and her sister Frances Moran was working as a ticket agent for the electric railroad. Eileen Sexton remarried before 1946. That year, she and her second husband, Frederick C. Ramp, placed an engagement announcement in the newspaper for her daughter Frances Sexton. Frederick Ramp's name appears at the home's address in two city directories dating to 1956 and 1966-67. He passed away some time before 1970. Eileen (Sexton) Ramp may have remained in the home until her death in January 1986. In August of that year, Joe and Patricia Hollingsworth purchased the

In May 1991, the Hollingsworths sold the property to Jaimie and Scott Sigman. The Sigmans later sold the house to Yvonne M. Reno in 1994. Thomas J. Howe purchased the home in 2011 and is the current owner. Research did not reveal any additional information about these individuals.

When the house at 846 South East Avenue was advertised as for sale in 1991 and 1994, photographs indicate that the building appeared to be excellently maintained. The building's facade retained original windows and doors in open house advertisements from both years. A 2007 photograph in the Cook County Assessor's database reveals that the building's original second-story windows were replaced with vinyl windows prior to 1997. At this time, the original door in the front porch had not been replaced, but many of the porch windows were in need of repair. The original front door was replaced prior to 2014. The garage also underwent alterations that year.

Village of Oak Park

Oak Park originated on 173 acres of timber and prairie land, just east of the Des Plaines River, settled by Joseph and Betty Kettlestrings in 1835. The Kettlestringses constructed a house on the Galena to Chicago stagecoach route, near what is now Lake and Harlem Streets. Conveniently located, their house became a small hotel providing dinner, a bed, and breakfast for 50 cents. In 1848, the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad extended west of Chicago with tracks parallel to the stagecoach route and brought more settlers, to whom the Kettlestringses sold large land parcels. Known first as Kettlestrings Grove, the area eventually grew into the small village of Oak Ridge, named for the oak trees once covering the land. By the end of the Civil War, Oak Ridge had a market, general store, and newspaper. A school district was established in 1857. Eventually, the post office and railroad were renamed Oak Park, because the name Oak Ridge was already taken by another post office in Illinois. The village was subsequently renamed Oak Park in 1872, but still remained under the



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

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governance of Cicero Township.

Oak Park rapidly grew after the Chicago Fire of 1871, which pushed city residents out to the suburbs. The area near the railroad station was initially subdivided, followed by more subdivisions further out, and infrastructure improvements were made. Soon Oak Park had electricity, paved streets, and surface transportation lines. Residents founded clubs, a library, and parks, among other organizations. The Lake Street "L" extension to Harlem Avenue at the turn of the twentieth century further improved connections to jobs in Chicago, as the Oak Park stop was one of the few suburban stops in the system, and contributed to an increasing population. Between 1892 and 1950, the majority of Oak Park's housing stock and most of the village's current buildings were constructed.

In 1902, Oak Park incorporated as a municipality and separated from Cicero Township. A regional shopping district developed around the elevated transit system by the 1920s, while many of the older homes in the central district were replaced by apartment, commercial, and office buildings. Local builders, Seward Gunderson and Thomas Hulbert, developed houses south of Madison Avenue while the prairie land north of Lake Street was replaced by large architect-designed homes. Frank Lloyd Wright established his home and studio in Oak Park in 1898, designing many area homes and the nearby Unity Temple. During this time, Oak Park was also home to several notable individuals, including author Ernest Hemingway, Tarzan author Edgar Rice Burroughs, and modern dancer Doris Humphrey.

After World War II, expressway construction and changing population demographics affected Oak Park. Instead of shopping in downtown Oak Park, people went to new shopping centers along the expressways, while the construction of the Congress Expressway (now the Eisenhower Expressway) bisected the south side of the village in the late 1950s. Oak Park's zoning and planning laws became weak and out of date. Soon after, the Fair Housing Act of 1968 ended housing discrimination, and many communities around Chicago were unprepared for the coming change. However, Oak Park anticipated the arrival of new residents and worked to ensure a smooth transition to a more diverse society. Oak Park founded the Community Relations Commission to prevent discrimination, stave fears and rumors that often accompanied integration, and visit neighborhoods to encourage residents to welcome new neighbors. The village passed an open-housing ordinance that banned "panic peddling," racial steering, and other forms of real estate agitation. New African American families were encouraged to disperse throughout the city instead of grouping in one neighborhood, and home-seeking Caucasians were similarly directed. The village encouraged neighborhoods to form block clubs and promote community unity.

American Foursquare and the Prairie Style

In the early twentieth century, the American Foursquare became a popular house form in urban and rural areas. The American Foursquare is also sometimes classified as vernacular Prairie, cornbelt cube, or Midwest box for its prevalence in rural locations. The two-story American Foursquare typically had a low-pitched, hipped roof with attic dormers; wide, enclosed eaves; and a one-story porch spanning the width of the facade. Urban examples were frequently distinguished by Prairie or Craftsman influenced stylistic detailing, unlike their rural counterparts, which remained relatively plain; Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, and Tudor Revival influences were also sometimes incorporated. In Chicago and the surrounding suburbs, the American Foursquare often incorporated Prairie and Craftsman-style elements and shared a similar interior floor plan with the bungalow form. The American Foursquare's boxy shape provided a maximum amount of interior space while making the most of small city lots.

Developed by a group of Chicago architects known as the Prairie School, the Prairie Style originated in Chicago as one of the few indigenous American styles in the early twentieth century. The Prairie School grew out of the Arts and Crafts movement, profoundly affecting the development of the Chicago bungalow and early twentieth-century housing styles. The style's low proportions were meant to harmonize with Midwestern prairies and the surrounding landscape. Frank Lloyd Wright was the acknowledged master of the Prairie Style house and his and Louis Sullivan's examples influenced many of Chicago's important architects. Landmark examples of the Prairie Style are located throughout Chicago and its suburbs, particularly in Oak Park and River Forest, as well as in major Midwestern cities. Pattern books and popular magazines spread vernacular examples throughout the Midwest and, to a lesser degree, other regions.



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

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A short-lived style, most Prairie buildings were constructed between 1905 and 1915, fading quickly from fashion after World War I. The Prairie Style house is typically square or rectangular in form, two stories with one-story wings or porches, and topped by a low-pitched, hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves and a broad, flat chimney. Appearing low to the ground, the style is defined by strong horizontal lines emphasized by multiple banks of windows that sometimes wrap around corners, beltcourses, horizontal patterns in the wall materials, and details at the facade, cornices, and eaves. Most were clad in some combination of brick, stone, wood, or stucco materials; the use of contrasting wall materials or trim emphasized the top half of the house's upper story. The porches often have massive, square porch supports constructed of masonry in high-style examples while vernacular examples more commonly have square wooden imitations. Though lacking in ornamentation, the Prairie Style incorporated a variety of geometric and nature-inspired Wrightian and Sullivanesque forms and shapes through window arrangements and glazing, columns, cornices, low walls, and planters. Some examples also incorporated Mission Revival or Renaissance Revival details like tiled roofs or cornice brackets.

The building at 846 South East Avenue is a common example of American Foursquare dwelling. The modest house displays minor Prairie Style stylistic influences. Typical of the American Foursquare and the Prairie Style, the house features a low-pitched hipped roof with overhanging eaves. The house exhibits the boxy, two-story American Foursquare form. The building has an attic-level dormer and a one-story porch that extends the length of the facade, features that typify an American Foursquare. Prairie Style influenced details included the building's stuccoed exterior, contrasting darkly-stained wood trim, and elements that emphasize the horizontal, including the porch's casement windows and their multi-pane configurations and stickwork at the building's second story. Over time, changes have occurred to the house at 846 South East Avenue. All of the building's original Prairie Style second-story windows have been replaced with vinyl-sash windows that are not historically compatible with the building. The facade's original wood-frame multi-pane door that accessed the enclosed front porch has been replaced with a multi-light paneled door. Changes to the rear garage have also occurred, which may have included its demolition or the garage's expansion and exterior alterations.

NRHP STATUS Not Eligible	DATE LIS	STED	
NRHP CRITERIA A B C D	✓ Not Applicable		
NRHP CRITERIA CONSIDER		✓ Not Applicable	
NRHP EVALUATION/JUSTIFI The house at 846 South Ea (NRHP) Criteria A, B, and	ast Avenue was evalua		

This property is not known to be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of United States history or with the lives of persons significant in the past. Background research did not indicate any significant associations, and therefore, the 846 South East Avenue is not eligible under Criterion A

The house at 846 South East Avenue is a modest example of a 1910s American Foursquare reflecting common period details influenced by the Prairie Style. Although the building retains some original features, the building's architectural integrity has diminished due to the removal of many original windows and the original entrance door. Though the house displays typical elements of the American Foursquare and Prairie Style, the buildings is not a representative example of the house form or the architectural style. It does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and does not represent the work of a master. Therefore, the house at 846 South East Avenue is not eligible under Criterion C.

The property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this assessment.

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or B.

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RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

846 South East Avenue SURVEY ID 1-11

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RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

846 South East Avenue SURVEY ID 1-11

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RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

846 South East Avenue SURVEY ID 1-11

Photo 1 - 846 South East Avenue



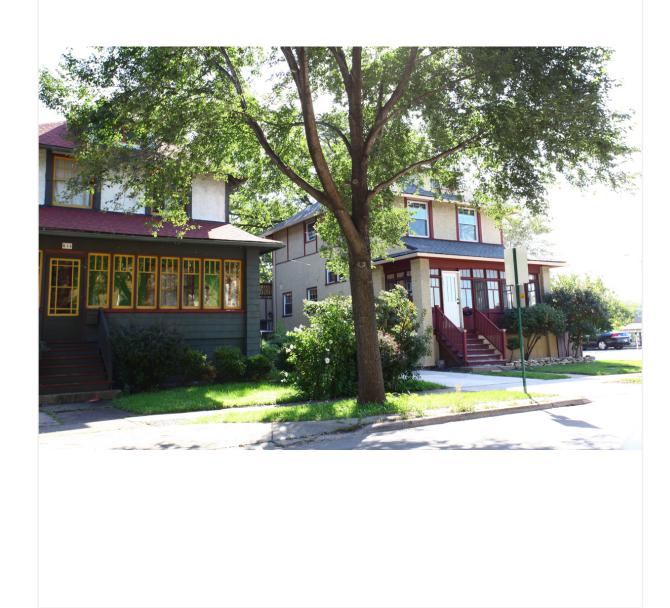
Facing east to west-facing facade from South East Avenue



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

846 South East Avenue SURVEY ID 1-11

Photo 2 - 846 South East Avenue



Facing southeast to west-facing facade and north side elevation from South East Avenue



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

846 South East Avenue SURVEY ID 1-11

Photo 3 - 846 South East Avenue



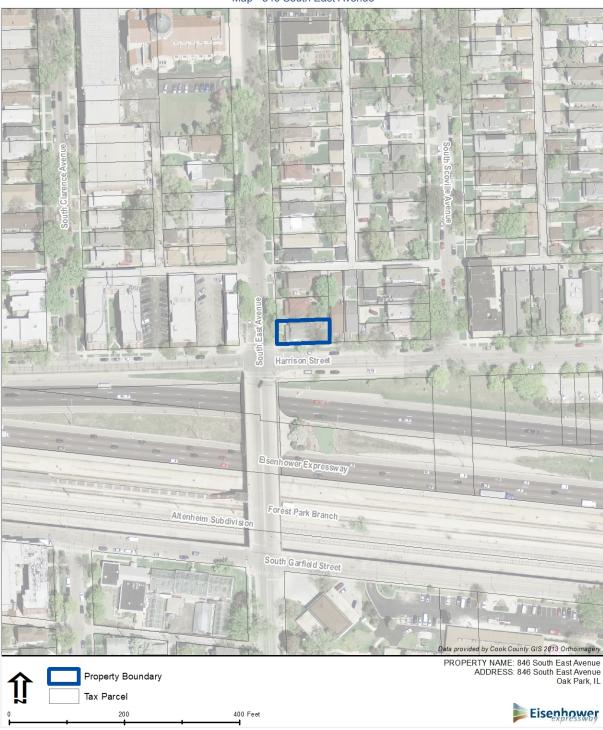
Facing northwest to south side elevation and east rear elevation from Harrison Street



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

846 South East Avenue SURVEY ID 1-11

Map - 846 South East Avenue







RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

538 and 540 Harrison Street
SURVEY ID 1-12

NAME

538 and 540 Harrison Street

OTHER NAME(S)

N/A

STREET ADDRESS
CITY
538 and 540 Harrison Street
Oak Park

OWNERSHIP TAX PARCEL NUMBER

Bidlenick Eichinger, Madora Bond 16-18-228-028-0000, 16-18-228-

027-0000

YEAR BUILT SOURCE

1923 Village of Oak Park Building Permit No. 12929

DESIGNER/BUILDER

George A. Brisch

STYLE PROPERTY TYPE

No Discernible Style Domestic

FOUNDATION WALLS ROOF
Concrete Brick Asphalt

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

The two houses at 538 and 540 Harrison Street are nearly identical mirror images of each other, and were designed by the same architect and constructed simultaneously in 1923. Both buildings have undergone alterations that diminish their historic integrity. Separated by only a few feet, they are being evaluated together as part of this determination of eliqibility.

Clad in brick veneer, the houses have rectangular footprints and are each one-and-one-half stories with steeply pitched prominent side-gable roofs. Raised basements on each building originally had a cruciform-shaped brick panel on the south-facing facade; however, a glass-block window has been installed at the basement level at 540 Harrison Street, obscuring the original brickwork.

Each building features an asymmetrical facade, which faces south to Harrison Street, with a covered first-story entrance reached by a flight of wood stairs flanked by stepped brick piers with concrete caps that serve as railings. The recessed entrances feature non-original doors.

The remainder of the facade features an off-center window configuration. In both cases, the original windows have been replaced. The house at 540 Harrison Street features a replacement bow-front picture window, while the house at 538 Harrison Street contains one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl-sash replacement windows hung in triplicate. A concrete sill is located beneath each window opening. A simple wood cornice tops the facade and extends onto the side elevations. A gutter system with downspouts is present on each building.

The east and west side elevations feature wood shingles in the gable at 538 Harrison Street and replacement vinyl siding at 540 Harrison Street. Windows at both the first and attic stories are replacements that are hung singly and in pairs. The attic story windows on 540 Harrison Street are covered with metal awnings.

The north rear elevations were not accessible during survey but aerial photography shows the houses have elevated rear entrances and replacement windows.

Roofs are steeply pitched side gable forms, with the front slopes extending further than the rear slopes. The roof of 540 Harrison Street is covered with asbestos shingles, while the roof of 538 Harrison Street is covered with asphalt shingles. Tall chimneys extend from the rear slopes.



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

538 and 540 Harrison Street
SURVEY ID 1-12

Both houses are set close to the street, which is located north and parallel to I-290 in a residential neighborhood. The houses are separated from the street by a sidewalk and narrow grass panels. The backyards consist of grass panels, and detached garages with pyramidal roofs.

HISTORY/DEVELOPMENT

The buildings at 538 and 540 Harrison Street were built by owner and architect George A. Brisch (1899-1940). Building permit applications were approved in February 1923. Brisch's father, Andreas, was a local architect and contractor who built the Andreas Brisch House No. 1 at 745 East Avenue in Oak Park; the building has been designated as a local landmark in Oak Park. He was the architect and builder of at least two other residences in Oak Park; he lived at one of them—1001 North Kenilworth Avenue—with his family. George A. Brisch was one of six children. He began his career as a carpenter, perhaps working with his father. Later, city directories list the younger Brisch as a contractor. Both Chicago and Oak Park had builders such as the Brisches who appear to be self-taught and who developed small-scale residences for sale or rental income.

Oak Park

The houses at 538 and 540 Harrison Street were constructed in Oak Park in the early twentieth century. Infrastructure improvements, subdivisions, and the Chicago Fire of 1871 led to the growth of Oak Park into the twentieth century. Between 1892 and 1950, the majority of Oak Park's housing stock and most of the village's current buildings were constructed. Local builders, Seward Gunderson and Thomas Hulbert, developed houses south of Madison Avenue while the prairie land north of Lake Street was replaced by large architect-designed homes. Frank Lloyd Wright established his home and studio in Oak Park in 1898, designing many area homes and the nearby Unity Temple. City directories for the two houses show that residents were in sales and service industries, with a few blue-collar workers at times. While the houses appear to have been primarily owner-occupied, a few occurrences of renters are noted.

Chicago Bungalow

With its origins rooted in the Arts and Crafts movement of the early twentieth century, the Chicago bungalow is a ubiquitous house type throughout Chicago and the surrounding suburban areas. Constructed between 1910 and 1940, it was an affordable and stylish home for residents moving out of the city's older downtown neighborhoods. Many were built from house plan catalogs, modified to fit the physical limitations of narrow city lot sizes and the builder's preferences. More than 80,000 bungalows were constructed throughout the city, representing nearly one-third of the single-family housing stock.

The one-and-a-half-story Chicago bungalow was constructed exclusively of brick on a concrete foundation and topped by a low-pitched hipped roof with wide overhangs and a central dormer at the front and back of the house. Its long rectangular form was well-suited to the city's long and narrow lot sizes. All had a full basement. The bungalow's facade was typically distinguished by an off-center or side entrance under a small covered porch and a row of double-hung windows that often had upper sashes of decorative colored and cut glass patterns. Many bungalows had a living room that projected out from the facade into the front yard as a square or angled bay lined with windows. The facade was typically clad in face brick while the secondary elevations were of common brick. The bricks were laid in decorative patterns to add character and depth to the house in addition to decorative and structural limestone details. Limestone insets and bands were incorporated at the basement level, the roofline, and above and below the windows. Bungalows located on corner lots were often larger, incorporating more elaborate ornamentation on its facade and side elevation, than those built side by side. The limestone bands, rows of windows, low-pitched roof, and rectangular form contributed to an overall horizontal appearance, conveying its Arts and Crafts movement and Prairie Style antecedents. The house form was further distinguished by the liberal use of windows of various sizes and shapes to provide light, air, and a feeling of openness and connectivity to the outside, which reflected an Arts and Crafts movement philosophy emphasizing a park-like streetscape with mature trees, landscaped lawns, and foundation plantings. Most Chicago bungalows also had a similarly designed garage located at the back of the lot, accessed by the public service alley.

The houses at 538 and 540 Harrison Street are a variation of the Chicago bungalow type as interpreted by a local architect. The houses incorporate elements of the style, including brick cladding with minimal decorative patterns, a long rectangular form, wide overhanging eaves, and a facade consisting of an off-center small



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

538 and 540 Harrison Street
SURVEY ID 1-12

covered porch and a row of double-hung or bay windows. However, their prominent steeply pitched side-gable roofs are a departure from the typical Chicago bungalow, which had a low-pitched hipped roof with a central dormer contributing to an overall horizontal appearance. The steeply pitched side-gable roofs give the houses at 538 and 540 Harrison Street a more vertical and narrow appearance than other Chicago bungalows found in Oak Park and Chicago.

Fark and Chicago.	
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible	DATE LISTED
NRHP CRITERIA A B C D Not Appli	icable
NRHP CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS A B C D E F	☐G Not Applicable
NRHP EVALUATION/JUSTIFICATION The buildings at 538 and 540 Harrison St	treet were evaluated for significance under National Register of Historic

The buildings at 538 and 540 Harrison Street were evaluated for significance under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria A, B, and C using guidelines set forth in the NRHP Bulletin "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation."

These houses are not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of United States history and research did not indicate any associations with the lives of persons significant in the past. Therefore, these buildings are not eligible under Criterion A or B.

The houses at 538 and 540 Harrison Street are a vernacular interpretation of the Chicago bungalow that do not embody the distinctive characteristics of the house type. They have modest designs based solely on function; neither building has notable design features and they are not architecturally significant. Although they incorporate elements of the Chicago bungalow type, their steeply pitched side-gable roofs give them a vertical and narrow appearance unlike the low horizontal appearance that typifies the Chicago bungalow. Both houses have been altered by replacement windows that change the appearance of the buildings. They do not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and do not represent the work of a master. The buildings at 538 and 540 Harrison Street are not eligible under Criterion C.

The property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this assessment.

SOURCES

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Village of Oak Park. "Application for Building Permit, No. 12928 for 540 Harrison Street." February 27, 1923.

Village of Oak Park. "Oak Park City Directories 1925, 1930, and 1956."



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

538 and 540 Harrison Street SURVEY ID 1-12

Photo 1 - 538 and 540 Harrison Street



Facing northeast to the south-facing facade and west side elevation of houses from Harrison Street



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

538 and 540 Harrison Street SURVEY ID 1-12

Photo 2 - 538 and 540 Harrison Street



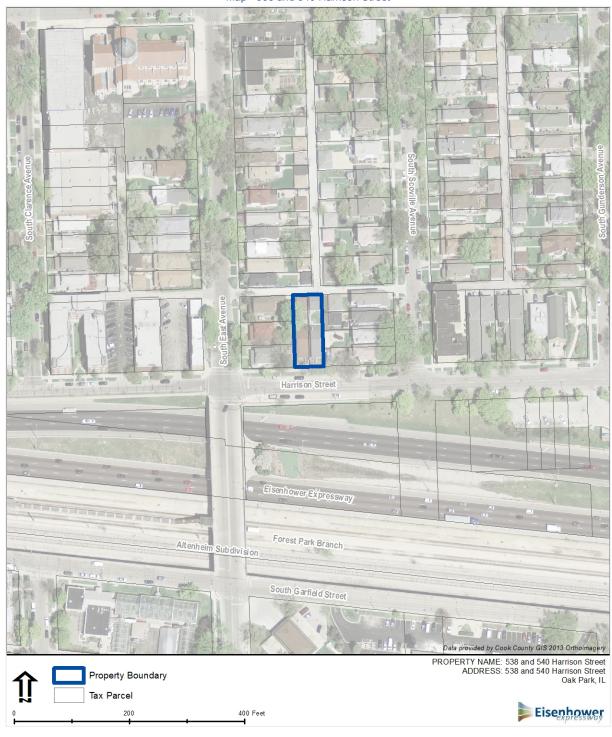
Facing northwest to the east side elevation and south-facing facade of houses from Harrison Street



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

538 and 540 Harrison Street SURVEY ID 1-12

Map - 538 and 540 Harrison Street





RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

845 South Scoville Avenue
SURVEY ID 1-13

NAME

845 South Scoville Avenue

OTHER NAME(S)

N/A

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

845 South Scoville Avenue

Oak Park

OWNERSHIP TAX PARCEL NUMBER
Gary Smith 16-18-228-032-0000

YEAR BUILT SOURCE

1923 Cook County Assessor's Office, 2015

DESIGNER/BUILDER

Unknown

STYLE PROPERTY TYPE

Prairie Style Domestic

FOUNDATION WALLS ROOF
Concrete Stucco Asphalt

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

The house at 845 South Scoville Avenue is a typical and altered American Foursquare residence that displays modest elements of the Prairie Style. The building has a rectangular, somewhat elongated footprint, unlike many true American Foursquares. It is two-and-one-half stories in height and is clad in roughly applied stucco. Primary alterations include the interior division of the building into two apartments and the installation of a second entrance on the south side elevation that this change required.

Facing east to South Scoville Avenue, the asymmetrical facade has a projecting, front-gable, single-story, enclosed bay to the south with a flanking raised entrance porch to the north. The raised basement features a decorative panel incised in the stucco. The recessed entrance is reached by a small flight of wood stairs with a wood railing. The door is a wood-and-glass multi-pane configuration. The main plane of the projection contains an original series of three multi-pane, double-hung, wood-sash windows. They have been obscured by the installation of a vent in one window and an air-conditioning unit in another. The front-gable roof is accentuated by a triangular panel. The facade's second story contains an off-center ribbon window series with four multi-pane, double-hung, wood-sash windows.

The hipped roof, which has wide overhanging eaves, is covered with asphalt shingles and is punctuated on the facade by a hipped roof dormer that contains two square windows, one of which has been filled in with a vent. The other contains a single glass pane.

Facing Harrison Street, the south side elevation contains a modern entrance at the first story. The vinyl door is reached by two concrete steps. Windows on both the first and second stories are irregularly spaced and are hung singly, in pairs, and in triplicate. These windows are all replacements and have a one-over-one configuration. A basement-level window has been filled in with glass block. A tall narrow concrete chimney extends from the roof on this elevation.

The north side elevation consists of similarly irregularly placed replacement windows at both stories.

The west rear elevation has a two-story covered porch with an exterior wood staircase. Windows and doors on this elevation are modern replacements. A single-story addition with modern one-over-one, double-hung windows and a hip roof extends from the first story.

The building is set close to the street and divided only by two narrow grass panels and the sidewalk. Evergreen



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

845 South Scoville Avenue SURVEY ID 1-13

foundation planting surround the building and deciduous street trees are present. An altered detached two-car garage is located on the lot to the rear of the house.

HISTORY/DEVELOPMENT

The residence at 845 South Scoville Avenue was built in 1923 as a single-family residence. However, by 1930, it had been divided into two apartments, and it retains this configuration, with one of the apartments using the address of 526 Harrison Street.

Oak Park

The house at 845 South Scoville Avenue was constructed in Oak Park in the early twentieth century. Infrastructure improvements, subdivisions, and the Chicago Fire of 1871 led to the growth of Oak Park into the twentieth century. Between 1892 and 1950, the majority of Oak Park's housing stock and most of the village's current buildings were constructed. Local builders, Seward Gunderson and Thomas Hulbert, developed houses south of Madison Avenue while the prairie land north of Lake Street was replaced by large architect-designed homes. Frank Lloyd Wright established his home and studio in Oak Park in 1898, designing many area homes and the nearby Unity Temple. A review of city directory information shows that residents of 845 South Scoville and 526 Harrison Street through the years primarily worked in the service sector, and families living in an apartment also often took in boarders, usually single men, or extended family members lived with them. Residents included both owners and tenants.

American Foursquare

American Foursquare houses were common in the early twentieth century throughout the United States. The form, which was usually relatively unornamented compared to earlier Victorian-era styles, gained popularity as the simple workmanship of the Craftsman style gained popularity. In the Midwest, Prairie Style elements popularized by Frank Lloyd Wright's designs, were sometimes applied to the form. These usually consisted of wide, planar eaves and Prairie-inspired multi-pane windows.

American Foursquares generally have a box-like form, are two-and-one-half stories in height, with a hip or pyramidal roof, usually with prominent dormers. The interior generally was planned to have four square rooms per floor, resulting in the eponymous name for the style. The houses maximized usable square footage on smaller urban or suburban lots, but the form also was popular in rural areas, with many turn-of-the-century American Foursquare farm houses present in the Midwest and East. The form was also popularized through mail order catalogs, which supplied building materials and instructions via rail to builders throughout the country. The house at 845 South Scoville Avenue is a typical and altered example of the American Foursquare type with applied Prairie-inspired elements in Oak Park.

NRHP STATUS Not Eligible	DATE LISTED	
NRHP CRITERIA A B C D	ot Applicable	
NRHP CRITERIA CONSIDERATION	F G Not Applicable	
	N Avenue was evaluated for significance under National Register of Historic C using guidelines set forth in the NRHP Bulletin "How to Apply the Nation	al

Register Criteria for Evaluation."

The house is not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of United

States history and research did not indicated any associations with the lives of persons significant in the past. Therefore, the house at 845 South Scoville Avenue is not eligible under Criterion A or B.

The house at 845 South Scoville Avenue is an altered and modest American Foursquare, a nearly ubiquitous form throughout Oak Park and Illinois. The house does not have notable design features and is not



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

845 South Scoville Avenue SURVEY ID 1-13

architecturally significant. It does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and does not represent the work of a master, and therefore, the house at 845 South Scoville Avenue is not eligible under Criterion C.

The property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this assessment.

SOURCES

Cook County Assessor's Office. "Property Search." Accessed October 8, 2015 through November 4, 2015. http://www.cookcountyassessor.com/newsearch.aspx.

Village of Oak Park. "Oak Park City Directories 1925, 1930, and 1956."

Sanborn Map Company. Chicago 1905-1951. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1948, v. 11, Sheet 76.



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

845 South Scoville Avenue SURVEY ID 1-13

Photo 1 - 845 South Scoville Avenue



Facing west to east-facing facade from South Scoville Avenue



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

845 South Scoville Avenue SURVEY ID 1-13

Photo 2 - 845 South Scoville Avenue



Facing northwest to south side elevation and east-facing facade from Harrison Street



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

845 South Scoville Avenue SURVEY ID 1-13

Photo 3 - 845 South Scoville Avenue



Facing northeast to south side elevation and west rear elevation of house and garage from Harrison Street



RESOURCE TYPE Property
NRHP STATUS Not Eligible

845 South Scoville Avenue **SURVEY ID** 1-13

Map - 845 South Scoville Avenue



