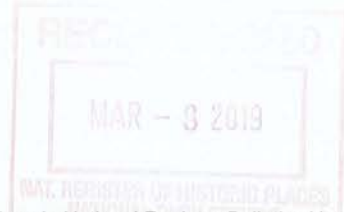


3646

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name The Forum
other names/site number Forum Hall
Name of Multiple Property Listing _____
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number 318-328 East 43rd Street not for publication
city or town Chicago vicinity
state Illinois county Cook zip code 60653

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: ___ national ___ statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria: x A ___ B x C ___ D

Forrest J. Applegate 03.05.19
Signature of certifying official Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register
- ___ other (explain:)

by Barbara W. Galt 4-16-19
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/music facility
- SOCIAL/meeting hall
- COMMERCE AND TRADE/business
- COMMERCE AND TRADE/specialty store
- COMMERCE AND TRADE/restaurant

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
- Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: BRICK
- walls: BRICK
- roof: ASPHALT
- other: STONE/limestone
- METAL/cast iron

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

Summary Paragraph

The Forum is located six miles south of Chicago's Loop in the Bronzeville neighborhood of the Grand Boulevard community area at 318-328 East 43rd Street. The building is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of East 43rd Street and South Calumet Avenue and immediately east of the 43rd Street 'L' Station. The Forum opened in 1897 as a social, recreational, political, and cultural center for the Grand Boulevard community. The initial construction is composed of the main block which includes: the red brick two-story hall and stores section, Calumet Avenue entrance section, and one-story commercial section which fronts 43rd Street. In 1900, the property was expanded with a three-story addition at the northwest corner of the main block. The period of significance is from 1897, the date of initial construction, to 1969, the fifty-year cutoff for significance for the National Register of Historic Places. The hall closed in the 1970s and the storefronts closed in the 1990s. Since then the building has remained vacant. Due to its consistent use as a social hall for nearly 75 years before it was vacated and left untouched for the next 40 years, much of The Forum's significant architectural details and character defining features remain intact. The Forum retains a high degree of integrity and is worthy of listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Narrative Description

The Forum is located at 318-328 East 43rd Street in the Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago's Grand Boulevard community area. Even though today the property reads as three separate buildings, historically The Forum was constructed in 1897 as a main block, composed of the hall and stores section at the southeast corner, the two-story Calumet Avenue entrance section, and the abutting one-story commercial section with three storefronts located to the west. A three-story rear addition at the northwest corner was constructed in 1900, believed to have served as additional event space. Both the 1897 original construction and 1900 rear addition were designed by Samuel Atwater Treat. The hall and storefronts and Calumet Avenue entrance sections are excellent examples of the Late Classical Revival style with Georgian Neoclassical details. Featured details include grand, round arch windows at the 2nd Floor, brick quoins, brick corbeling at the cornice, and brick relief window trim. The one-story commercial section is an example of the Mid-Century Modern style along East 43rd Street. When originally constructed, the one-story commercial section of The Forum had a second-floor over the easternmost storefront. A fire in 1953 destroyed the 2nd floor over the store and destroyed the interiors and front façade of the one-story commercial section. The existing façade dates to 1954 when the stores reopened. The storefronts are constructed of face brick in a raking stretcher bond and feature storefronts which angle toward recessed entrances, both popular details at the time. No photographic documentation of the original storefront design has been found. Following are exterior and interior architectural descriptions for the main block, divided by the hall and stores section, Calumet Avenue entrance section, and the one-story commercial section, and the rear addition.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION: MAIN BLOCK

Hall and Stores

The two-story hall and stores section is constructed of dark red face brick at the south and east façades with a front-facing gable roof over the main hall space and a flat roof at the Calumet Avenue entrance. At the 1st floor of the hall and stores section there are four storefronts: three which face 43rd Street and one that faces Calumet Avenue. The four storefronts are currently boarded-up. The storefronts have been replaced over time, but the original cast iron header and brick piers with simple, rectangular limestone caps and bases remain.

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At the western end of the front façade is the main entrance to the hall on the 2nd floor. The original wood and glass entrance doors and transom are intact, but boarded-up behind plywood panels to protect them against further damage. The recessed entrance originally had a pedimented portico, supported by a pair of Tuscan columns. This was removed sometime after the early 1970s. The 2nd floor of the south (43rd Street) façade is ornamented with a moulded brick string course above the cast iron header, brick quoins, brick corbeling at the raking cornice along the gable end, and three round arch windows with the center window extending taller than the two others. The brick voussoirs of the arched windows alternate between being flush with the front façade and slightly raised, this alternating pattern continues down along the sides of the windows to create a similar look to the brick quoins. Above the tallest arched window is a pressed brick sign with "THE FORUM" in brick relief lettering. Below the peak of the gable is a oeil-de-boeuf or "bull's eye" window with similar brick relief moulding to match the arched windows. The east (Calumet Avenue) façade is also adorned with brick quoins and four round arch windows like those at the front façade and a pair of narrow, round arch windows above the original entrance for the Calumet Avenue storefront. It appears a smooth limestone cornice originally existed at the east façade which has been removed.

Calumet Avenue Entrance

At the north end of the east façade is the two-story Calumet Avenue entrance to the hall space. The front façade is divided into two bays by an articulated brick pier. The entrance is located in the south half of the 1st floor. The entrance is currently boarded-up from the exterior and a similar pedimented portico to the south (43rd Street) façade was removed some time after the early 1970s. The only difference between the porticos is that the Calumet Avenue columns followed the Ionic Order compared to the 43rd Street's Tuscan Order. At the north half of the 1st floor, is a single round arch window and brick corbeling above the window. At the south half of 2nd floor is a pair of round arch windows, which are shorter in height to accommodate the missing pediment. There is a single round arch window at the north half of the 2nd floor. All windows are ornamented with a similar brick relief moulding to the arched windows at the 2nd floor of the hall and stores section. Above each of the 2nd floor windows is brick corbeling and the cornice is moulded brick.

One-story Commercial

The one-story commercial section to the west of the hall and stores section is composed of three storefronts: a corner storefront at the southwest corner with the entrance oriented to the alley and 'L' station and two storefronts to the east which are oriented to the sidewalk along 43rd Street. The front façade is constructed of red face brick in a raking stretcher bond, popular during the Mid-20th Century, while the side and rear façades are constructed of the original Chicago common brick from 1897. The brick around the corner storefront has been painted white. The stores appear to retain their aluminum and glass storefronts which were installed after the fire in 1953. The center storefront also retains its Mid-20th Century storefront configuration which angles back to the recessed entrance. The third storefront is currently boarded-up and inaccessible.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION: REAR ADDITION

The rear addition is purely utilitarian in its exterior features and lacks ornamentation with the exception of segmental arched window lintels. It is constructed of Chicago common brick, which appears to previously have been stuccoed and has a flat roof.

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INTERIOR DESCRIPTION: MAIN BLOCK

Hall and Stores

On the interior of the building, the degree of integrity varies between each section and space. In the 1897 "The Economist: A Weekly Financial, Commercial, and Real-estate Newspaper, Volumes 17-18," The Forum is described as the following:

"Samuel A. Treat, fisher Building, has prepared plans for the improvement of the northwest corner of Calumet avenue ad Forty-third street. The property is owned by A. E. Kent, and the plans show the entire frontage of 130 feet on Forty-third street and 83 feet on Calumet avenue are to be covered with a two-story building to be devoted to stores on the main floor. On the property immediately on the corner above the stores there will be erected a lecture and amusement hall, 61x64 feet. The auditorium will have a seating capacity on the main floor and gallery of about 700. It will be reached by two flights of stairs, the principal one being from the Forty-third street entrance, and the other from Calumet avenue. Dressing rooms for ladies and gentlemen will be provided and also a dining room and kitchen. The interior views show a tasteful and appropriate arrangement of the gallery, proscenium and inglenook. The building throughout will be heated by steam and the auditorium will be ventilated by mechanical devices. It will be lighted by incandescent lights. The cost of the building will be \$20,000, and it is to be ready for occupancy September 1."

At the 1st floor of the halls and stores section, the storefronts retain portions of the original tin ceilings. Many of the historic features of each storefront have been replaced and modernized with the different tenants and styles over time.

In contrast to the storefronts, both entrances, the hall space, and the 2nd and 3rd floors of the rear addition retain many of the features and details that make it significant. Visitors to The Forum would enter into the hall from the main entrance off of 43rd Street and ascend the wood stairs to the hall. The original wood stairs remain intact, as well as the wood baseboard and chair rail. The original material and finish of the walls is unknown and has been replaced with a trowel-textured wallpaper. A dark blue carpet has been added to the stairs and a metal handrail installed below the wood chair rail. At the stair landing, one can choose to enter the hall to the east, continue straight ahead to a hallway which terminates at the backstage area/rear addition to the north of the hall, or upstairs to the balcony/3rd floor. It is believed that the hallway which leads to the backstage area was a later alteration as the exposed framing of the hallway's west wall appears to have been built around the stair railing. Historically, there was also a door to the 2nd floor of the now one-story commercial section to the west which was accessible from the 2nd floor landing. The original door trim and opening is still visible at the top of the landing, though it has been boarded-up.

Heading east from the 2nd floor landing is Forum Hall. To enter the hall, one passes through the original wood doors. At the center of each door is an opening for ticket takers. There are three lights across the top and three panels along the bottom. Once you enter the hall, you are struck by the cove vault at the center of the space. The top of the vault is bounded by a simple plaster moulding from which the plaster ribs of the vault extend down to a wood beam finished in plaster and terminate at plaster corbels. Where the vault interrupts the ceiling, each side is lined with 15 exposed bulb light fixtures. The ceiling is divided into sections by wood and plaster beams which carry the vault and span the full width and length of the space. In the center of the vault is a smaller vaulted ceiling which houses the ventilation system for the space. The smaller vault is bordered by a simple trim, once lined with three lights on each side. A historic spotlight remains at each corner of trim.

As with the staircase walls, the walls in the hall and stage apron have been remodeled with the same trowel-textured plaster. The floor is the original 1897 oak floor with a ca. 1940s linoleum dance floor placed on top of one-third of the

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floor closest to the stage. Isolated areas of the flooring have been replaced due to extreme deterioration from the almost five decades that the hall remained vacant. The original simple, rectilinear wood baseboard and chair rail remain, as well as the Classical entablature wood window (located at the south and east elevations) and door surrounds. From the interior, the original, extant wood windows are visible including the multi-light transom which fits into the tympanum of the arch and the fixed wood windows with quarrels below the transom. The remaining windows are boarded-up and inaccessible or have been removed.

The stage is located at the north end of the hall. The stage is flanked by wood Ionic columns with low-relief carvings of a festoon and a recessed paneled base. The capitals of the columns are carved with an egg and dart motif which carries across the wall as a crown moulding to terminate at the capital of the other column. At the center of the wall is a carved, wood "keystone". The opening of the stage is enframed by a simple wood moulding. On the inside of the frame is a narrow wall with a paneled design and then a Doric Column. On the stage, the wall serves as a small storage space and retains its historic glass "No Smoking" signs for performers. The base and shaft of the Doric columns are both ornamented with a recessed panel. At the shaft, low-relief carvings of a palmette are located at the top and bottom of the recession. The stage floor is also the original 1897 oak flooring. To the west of the stage, at the north wall of the hall, is the passageway to the backstage area and rear addition. The pair of original wood paneled doors remains. An entrance detail of this passageway is the width of the doors. The doors are asymmetrical in design as the east door is only one-third the width of the opening, while the west door is two-thirds the width of the opening and functions like a bi-fold door. Directly to the east of the stage was an additional backstage area with the same passageway located to the north (of the stage) and at the 3rd floor additional support space. Unfortunately, these areas had to be removed due to severe deterioration. The floors are currently being reconstructed and the wall features (trim, doors, moulding) have been retained as much as possible.

Along the west elevation of the hall is the entrance from the 43rd Street staircase, the area below the 3rd floor balcony, and the inglenook. While the balcony will be described as part of the 3rd floor, at the 2nd floor, the balcony is visually supported by a Doric column at either end, identical to those found at the stage. At the southwest corner of the west elevation is the inglenook. An original feature of the space, the inglenook is accessed by passing through a segmental arch opening trimmed with carved, wood moulding and flanked by two tapered, cylindrical Ionic columns. A wood "keystone" sits at the center of the moulding and a wood screen, which mimics the adjacent balcony railing, partially encloses the "tympanum". Inside the inglenook are the original wood built-in bench seating, with a paneled back design, and fireplace, though the mantel and surround were previously removed. A bar was added to the entrance of the inglenook prior to the 1970s.

The backstage area directly behind the stage is fully intact with its original wood stairs, down to the Calumet Avenue entrance, wood wall trim, paneled doors at either end of the hallway, and a mural which depicts a pastoral scene. With the exception of the staircase from the Calumet Avenue entrance, the rest of the 2nd floor has been gutted due to deterioration from water damage. This includes the staircase between the 2nd floor and 3rd floor off of the Calumet Avenue entrance staircase, wall finishes and trim, and flooring. Some of the flooring does remain and plans are to reconstruct the lost staircase. A remaining detail on the 2nd floor is a pair of wood and glass doors which separated the backstage area from the Calumet Avenue stair landing. While original to the building, one of the doors is painted with gold lettering that reads "Brown" (Line 1), "I.B.P.O.E. OF W" (Line 2), "Exalted Ruler" (Line 3). This detail denotes that the area once served as the office of Exalted Ruler for the Greater Fort Dearborn Lodge of Elks during the three decades that the Elks used The Forum as their headquarters. Lastly, beneath the stairs from the 2nd floor to 3rd floor off of the 43rd Street entrance is an original bathroom. The original white tile and bullnose trim on the wall and wood window moulding remains.

The only current access to the 3rd floor of the hall and rear addition is via the staircase at the 43rd Street entrance. This stair is original to the building and retains its wood wall trim, handrail, railing, and carved newel post. From the top of

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the 3rd floor landing, there is the option to turn west (left) into a large event space in the rear addition, east (right) into a coat check room, or to follow the stair railing and hall to the south to the balcony. The railing follows the hall and then curves to terminate at the west elevation. The top rail has a rounded profile and rests on tapered spindles. There are three steps to the balcony to provide tiered seating. The floor in the balcony is the original 1897 wood floor. The railing curves at either end and is simple in design with square balusters and square newel posts topped with a “knob-like” finial. There are two windows located on the west elevation of the balcony and match the other windows in the hall in design and scale.

To the north of the balcony and 3rd floor landing for the 43rd Street staircase is the main 3rd floor hallway which runs east-west through the space. The hallway is ornamented with a wide wood chair rail and baseboard with plaster walls. On the north side of the hallway is a large, open space, originally two separate spaces, and the auxiliary stair landing. The stair landing is currently blocked off until the stair is reconstructed. A pair of wood paneled double doors in the hallway separate the private event spaces in the rear addition and balcony from the public staircase. Along the north elevation of the east half of the hallway are two windows which are currently boarded-up and inaccessible.

Directly outside the double doors, on the south side of the hallway is the original coat check for the 3rd floor. The coat check space aligns with the backstage area on the 2nd floor. The room is again similarly ornamented to the rest of the spaces on the 3rd floor and retains its original coat counter: a projecting hexagonal bay entrance with two narrow “Dutch” style doors with a built-in counter at the center of the bay flanked by sidelights. The last space on the 3rd floor is located at the eastern end of the floor on the south side of the hallway. This space is one of the aforementioned spaces removed due to the structural deterioration of the floor. It’s currently unknown what the space was used for.

Calumet Avenue Entrance

As previously mentioned, the Calumet Avenue entrance interiors remain largely intact. The original entrance doors have been replaced, but the original wood transom and the brown mosaic tile floor with a black tile in a Greek key design and border remains intact. Once inside the Calumet Avenue lobby one can go up the staircase to the 2nd floor or wait in the seating area. The staircase is the original wood staircase to the space with a square newel post with carved panels. Inset within the panels is foliated carvings. An egg and dart motif accentuates the cap of the post. The staircase also retains its original wood wall trim and handrail. The seating area is located in the north half of the Calumet Avenue entrance. To enter into the seating area, one passes through an opening supported by wood brackets adorned with foliated carvings. Much of the floor and built-in seating has been lost to deterioration, but a portion of the seating remains along the east elevation. The seating is identical to the built-in seating in the inglenook and plans are to reconstruct the missing portions.

One-story Commercial

No historic material remains on the inside of the one-story commercial section. The interiors have experienced significant damage due to decades of neglect and deferred maintenance which has even caused the loss of large portions of the floor.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION: REAR ADDITION

On the interior, the rear addition encompasses roughly a 30’ x 35’ space at the northwest corner of the main block on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The 2nd floor space of the rear addition has been completely gutted down to the exterior masonry walls and does not retain any interior historic materials. The 3rd floor space is only accessible from the 43rd Street entrance staircase. Heading west from the 3rd floor landing of the 43rd Street staircase you enter a large event space in the rear addition. The walls are plaster with the original wood wall trim including a baseboard, chair rail, picture rail, and crown moulding. The only exception is the west elevation which has been stripped down to the common brick construction due to necessary masonry repairs. The windows at the north and south elevations are trimmed in a Classical entablature surround which extends from the floor to the picture rail. The floors have been removed due to

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deterioration. Additionally, two, large segmental arch entrances have been infilled with concrete block at the west elevation. Its currently unknown what these openings were used for (e.g. bringing in large equipment, balconies, etc.). The 3rd floor space is connected to the main block at the east elevation by a recessed passageway that leads into the main 3rd floor hallway. The passageway is trimmed in an identical Classical surround as the windows and the interior of the door frame is paneled. A piece of horizontal wood trim across the top of the doors suggest there was once a transom above that has since been removed.

While The Forum has seen a significant amount of deterioration due to neglect for nearly fifty years, many of the architectural features and details which contribute to the significance of this space including the fully intact hall, main circulation patterns, staircases, and entrances, wall, window, and door trim, and the south and east exterior façades remain intact.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Entertainment and Recreation
- Politics/Government
- Social History
- Architecture

Period of Significance

1897-1969

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance

Architect/Builder

Samuel Atwater Treat

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

Constructed in 1897 by Chicago Alderman, and later California Congressman, William E. Kent and his father Albert E. Kent, The Forum is representative of a late nineteenth century meeting and social hall. It served as the heart of the Grand Boulevard community's society, culture, and commerce. The building was designed by prominent local architect Samuel Atwater Treat, also known for his design of St. Luke's Hospital (Chicago), Western Electric Hawthorne Works (Cicero), and residential commissions including the homes of George Armour, Martin A. Ryerson, and Charles B. Farwell (Chicago). The Forum hosted a range of events from political campaigns, ward mass meetings, and speeches by Oscar Stanton de Priest and Dr. Emil G. Hirsch; performances by Nat King Cole, Tiny Parham, and the Johnny Long Orchestra; and Civil Rights activities such as the Chicago Scottsboro Defense Conference and the "Negroes in major leagues" movement. The Forum is locally significant and eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A for Entertainment/Recreation, Politics/Government, and Social History, and Criteria C for Architecture. The period of significance for The Forum begins in 1897 with the initial construction and ends in 1969, the fifty-year cutoff for the National Register of Historic Places.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

CRITERION A: THE FORUM AS THE HEART OF SOUTH SIDE POLITICS, COMMUNITY, MUSIC, AND CIVIL RIGHTS

For over 75 years, The Forum served as a center for commercial, social, political, and cultural activities for the Grand Boulevard community. Beginning in 1897, it functioned as one of the most significant assembly spaces on the South Side hosting politicians and local clubs and associations, while the storefronts at the first floor contributed to the commercial core along 43rd Street.

While The Forum was built for the initial citizens of the community, wealthy, as well as middle- and working-class American-born whites of Irish, Scottish, and English descent, German Jews, and a small African-American population, it seamlessly became a meaningful part of daily life for Black Metropolis which developed at the beginning of the twentieth century.

By the 1920s, the Great Migration had brought an influx of African Americans to Chicago's South Side. Soon after the 43rd Street corridor became part of the core of the jazz and blues music scenes of Chicago. Political meetings existed alongside concerts and musical events. The Forum hosted some of the most prominent names in the music industry, including Nat King Cole, Tiny Parham, Floyd Campbell, Captain Walter Dyett, and Milt Hinton. Between 1940 and the early 1970s, the hall served as the headquarters for the Elks which continued to host club events, musical concerts, performing art events, and even boxing. The Forum was also an organizing center for civil and labor rights movements, making it a stop on the Illinois Labor Trail.¹

¹ The Illinois Labor Trail was first established by the Illinois Labor History Society (ILHS) on August 5, 1969. Over the years, the ILHS has advocated for the protection of important Illinois labor history sites, published guidebooks by the later Professor William Adelman, and provided labor history programs and tours for thousands of union members, students, teachers, and members of the general public. It is the purpose of the ILHS to encourage the preservation and study of labor history materials of the Illinois Region, and to arouse public interest in the profound significance of the past to the present. Additionally, the Chicago Center for Working-Class Studies (CCWCS) has created the Interactive Labor Trail, made possible by a generous grant from the Illinois Humanities Council. This on-line history resource builds on "The Labor Trail: Chicago's History of Working-Class Life and Struggle," a map of 140 significant locations in the history of labor, migration, and working-class culture in Chicago and Illinois. The Labor Trail is the product of a joint effort to showcase the many generations of dramatic struggles and working-class life in the Chicago area's rich and turbulent past. The Trail's neighborhood tours invite you to get acquainted with the events, places, and people -- often unsung -- who have made the city what it is today.

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While the demographics of the community changed over the course of the period of significance (1897-1969), The Forum's use remained consistent. The following sections will provide a historical narrative of The Forum's contribution and local significance in the realms of politics, society, unions and fraternal organizations, music, and civil rights over the course of the period of significance.

HYDE PARK TOWNSHIP AND GRAND BOULEVARD: INITIAL DEVELOPMENT

Located at 318-328 E. 43rd Street, The Forum is situated within the historic boundaries of Hyde Park Township in Chicago's Grand Boulevard community area. The neighborhood, initially developed as a railroad suburb by the Illinois Central Railroad and later the Chicago & South Side Rapid Transit Railroad, played an important part in The Forum's long history as an assembly hall.

Hyde Park Township

Prior to its annexation to the City of Chicago in 1889, Hyde Park Township was bounded by Pershing Road/39th Street on the north, Lake Michigan and the Indiana state line on the east, State Street on the west, and 138th Street and the Calumet River on the south. This region comprised a majority of what is the "South Side" of Chicago and includes today's communities of Hyde Park, Kenwood, Woodlawn, South Shore, South Chicago, East Side, Hegewisch, Avalon Park, Calumet Heights, South Deering, Burnside, Pullman, Riverdale, the southern part of Oakland, the eastern parts of Grand Boulevard, Washington Park, Greater Grand Crossing, Chatham, Roseland, and West Pullman.

The area that would become Hyde Park Township was first founded by Paul Cornell in 1853. In 1852, Cornell paid for a topographical survey along the lakefront south of Chicago. Encouraged by the advice of Senator Stephen Douglas and by the opening on the Illinois Central Railroad (chartered in 1851 and completed to Cairo, IL in 1855) Cornell bought 300 acres of land along the lakefront between 51st and 55th Streets and began developing the area as Chicago's first railroad suburb.

Cornell selected the name "Hyde Park" to associate the new area with the upper-class neighborhood located in New York and the royal park in London. Hyde Park was officially incorporated as an independent township in 1861 by the Illinois General Assembly which allowed for any community of 300 resident citizens to petition the Illinois legislature for incorporation as a municipality under a municipal charter. With a population of 350, Hyde Park was now empowered to better govern the provision of services to its increasingly suburban residents.

While Cornell began subdividing tracts in 1855, large-scale development did not begin until the 1860s. Prior to then, settling in Hyde Park was the equivalent of homesteading in the wilderness, there were no improvements, the parcels were large, and the natural prairie and swamp remained untouched. As a catalyst for development, Cornell sold 60 of his 300 acres in 1856 to the Illinois Central Railroad in exchange for the construction of a passenger station at 53rd Street serving three trains running into the city daily.

The opening of the Illinois Central Railroad is regarded as the original impetus for the establishment of Hyde Park. Development was then subsequently stimulated by the establishment of the South Park Board in 1869 and the creation of Chicago's boulevard system which encompassed Jackson and Washington Parks and Drexel and Grand Boulevards. The South Park Commission, with the West Park Commission and Lincoln Park Commission, proposed a revolutionary network of parks, circling the South, West, and North Sides of the city, linked together by 26 miles of landscaped, ornamental, and park-like boulevards. When completed it was the first comprehensive system of parks and interlinking pleasure drives in the country, inspired by the boulevards of Paris. The system was established in response to the belief

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that it would create healthful, accessible and livable neighborhoods, but would also spur residential real estate development in what was then the outskirts of the city. Historic residential development along the boulevard system is still extant today along Drexel and Grand Boulevards.

Between the formation of the Illinois Central Railroad and South Park Commission, was the opening of the Union Stock Yards on December 25, 1865, which altered the development path of Hyde Park and the adjacent Lake Township. Lake Township, where the stock yards were located, would become a major industrial center for Chicago for more than a century, and Hyde Park was transformed into a middle-and upper-class enclave. The population of Hyde Park grew from 3,600 in 1870 to 15,700 in 1880. The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 also created an influx in population and Hyde Park was incorporated as a village in 1872. Between 1880 and 1889, development within Hyde Park grew at an astonishing rate with the population multiplying fivefold from 15,700 (1880) to 85,000 (1889).

With the elections in June of 1889, several suburban townships voted to be annexed to Chicago which offered better services including improved water supply, sewerage, and fire and police protection. The majority of voters supported annexation and the township of Hyde Park was absorbed into the City of Chicago. Today, the present area of Hyde Park has been reduced to the Hyde Park-Kenwood community area bounded by 47th Street on the north, Lake Michigan on the east, Cottage Grove on the west, and 59th Street on the south.

Grand Boulevard Community Area

Within the historic boundaries of Hyde Park Township is the community area of Grand Boulevard. This area is bounded by Pershing Road/39th Street on the north, Cottage Grove Avenue on the east, the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad tracks on the west, and 51st Street on the south. The namesake of the community area dates to 1874 when Grand Boulevard (now Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive) was established by the South Parks Commission. The area was originally known as the Forrestville Settlement until it was incorporated into Hyde Park Township in 1861. The population of Grand Boulevard grew steadily during the latter of part of the nineteenth-century. Wealthy, as well as middle-and working-class American-born whites of Irish, Scottish, and English descent, German Jews, and a small African-American population settled in the community. This earliest settlement consisted of modest frame cottages between the 1860s and early 1870s. These homes were soon torn down and replaced by stately mansions, emboldened by the beautification efforts of the South Park Commission and creation of Grand Boulevard between 1874 and 1879. Grand Boulevard was designed with narrow service roads next to the building lots which flanked a wide, tree-lined and landscape parkway. The boulevard begins at 35th Street, passes Oakwood Boulevard, and continues south to 51st Street where it terminates at the northern edge of Washington Park. By the 1880s, the area was ideal for upper-class, residential development.

Similar to Hyde Park, but later in its development, the availability of transportation between Chicago and the blooming commercial and residential development of Grand Boulevard provided a second catalyst for development. Along 43rd Street, the Chicago City Railway Company operated local horse car service on double tracks from the Illinois Central Railroad Station, located at Lake Michigan and 43rd Street, west past Cottage Grove Avenue and Grand Boulevard to State Street. Running perpendicular to the 43rd Street service was the city's first street railway on Cottage Grove Avenue. Originally utilizing horse cars, by 1887 it ran from State and Madison to 67th Street and had upgraded to a cable car system.

The most significant transportation line to serve Grand Boulevard was the Chicago & South Side Rapid Transit Railroad, which opened as the first of Chicago's "main line" elevated railroad companies and provided service from Congress Boulevard to 39th Street in 1892. The company incorporated on January 4, 1888, with a fifty-year franchise and the vision of an elevated railroad reaching from downtown Chicago to the Illinois/Indiana state line. The railroad ran along

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city-owned alleys, to avoid problems with securing consent signatures from property owners, giving the line its nickname the "Alley L". By the end of 1892 the line was expanded to 63rd Street and Calumet Avenue to connect downtown Chicago with the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. The "Alley L" was to eventually run from Van Buren Street between Dearborn Street and Wabash Avenue, south to Cottage Grove Avenue and 67th Street. In October 1895, the company was forced into receivership by the Northern Trust Company and the Illinois Trust & Savings Bank due to insufficient earnings that did not cover the interest due on its outstanding securities. During the winter of 1895-1896 a new company, the South Side Elevated Railroad, was formed to acquire the assets of the "Alley L". On October 18, 1897, the South Side Elevated Railroad was first diverted from the Congress Street Station to run on the loop tracks we know today and the line was converted from steam to electricity in the spring of 1898.

Adjacent to each "Alley L" station at 43rd, 47th, and 51st Streets, small commercial strips of then Jewish-owned businesses began to develop. In 1890, the one-mile stretch of 43rd Street between State Street to Cottage Grove Avenue was undeveloped. By 1895, it was a thriving commercial corridor composed of multi-story, masonry storefront buildings with residential and commercial space located on the upper floors, similar to The Forum.

By 1895, the earlier modest frame residences had all but been demolished and replaced with larger three-story masonry residences and flats for the middle class. Middle class residences were located to the east and west of the boulevard, while along the boulevard itself, were the grand, high-style mansions of the wealthy.

43rd Street Commercial Corridor

Located on the 43rd Street commercial corridor, The Forum was part of the initial development catalyzed by the opening of the Chicago & South Side Rapid Transit Railroad (later the Southside Elevated Railroad) in 1892, as part of the south side's development boom for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. The first train to carry passengers ran on May 27, 1892 on a non-stop run from Congress Street to 39th Street. By the end of 1892, the line was expanded to 63rd Street and Calumet Avenue. The Forum is located immediately to the east of the 43rd Street Station.

The station was strategically placed almost in the center of the commercial corridor which would extend from Cottage Grove Avenue on the east to State Street on the west. To transport commercial patrons along 43rd Street, the Chicago Surface Lines (CSL) established the 43rd-Root line which ran from Halsted and Root Streets to 43rd Street and Oakenwald Avenue. The streetcar line terminated on the east at the Illinois Central (I.C.) Railroad 43rd Street Station (1888-1942) and the lakefront. At the western terminus of the CST line was the main gate to the Union Stockyards and the Halsted Station for the Stockyards Branch of the Southside Elevated Railroad. The "Alley L" and CSL provided Chicagoans and neighborhood locals with access between work at the stockyards and home, as well as between entertainment, recreational, and cultural venues along the one-mile commercial corridor. Additionally, the Illinois Central Railroad provided a key north-south route between downtown, the south side, and the south Chicago suburbs.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE FORUM

The Forum was constructed by Chicago politician William Emmett Kent. Kent, a native Chicagoan, was born on March 29, 1864 to his father, Albert Emmett Kent, a merchant, banker, and founder of the packing industry in Chicago, and mother, Adaline Elizabeth (Dutton) Kent. He attended Yale University during which time he was part of the Skull & Bones society. Upon graduation in 1887, Kent returned to Chicago and entered his father's real estate firm of A.E. Kent & Son. On February 23, 1890, he married Elizabeth Thatcher in Ojai Valley, California.

Kent's political career began when he was elected Alderman on Chicago's City Council, which he served from 1895-1897. He helped establish the Municipal Voters League in 1897 of which he became president in 1899. In 1897, Kent

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constructed The Forum in his own aldermanic ward, the 3rd Ward². No information has been found as to why he built The Forum, but it is believed that Kent, a philanthropist, businessman, and politician, may have done so to fulfill the need of a community space in the Grand Boulevard community that could serve as the political, cultural, and social center.

Since its inception, The Forum served as a center of South Side Chicago politics. One of the first documented political events at The Forum was a 32nd ward Republican mass meeting to prepare for the upcoming primary election on June 1, 1898. Though Kent was a Republican, all parties were welcome at The Forum, it was meant to serve as a communal space for the populace. Notable politicians, businessman, and leading public figures who spoke at The Forum (during Kent's tenure) include³:

- Howland Joseph Hamlin (Illinois Attorney General, 1901-1905), 32nd Ward Republican Meeting, September 24, 1900.
- Carter Harrison Jr. (Mayor of Chicago, 1897-1905, 1911-1915), 6th Ward Democratic Meeting, March 21, 1901; Mayor Harrison speaks at Forum Hall, April 1, 1903; Carter Harrison Campaign meeting, March 21, 1911.
- Charles F. Gunther (Chicago Alderman 1896-1900; Chicago City Treasurer, 1901-1903), 6th Ward Democratic Meeting, March 21, 1901.
- Samuel Alschuler (Illinois House of Representatives from 1896-1900; United States Federal Judge, 1916-1939), 6th Ward Democratic Meeting, March 21, 1901.
- William Loeffler (Chicago City Clerk, 1897-1903), 6th Ward Democratic Meeting, March 21, 1901.
- Thomas A. Moran (Dean of Chicago College of Law, 1895-1903); Edward Tilden Democracy opens its field campaign with guest speaker Moran, October 24, 1901.
- William Kent (Chicago Alderman, 1895-1897; U.S. House of Representatives, 1911-1917), Republican meeting address given by ex.-Ald. Kent on choosing Harrison over Lorimer for mayor, February 10, 1903.
- Lawrence Beaumont Stringer (Illinois Senate, 1900-1904; Chief Justice of the Illinois State Court of Claims, 1905-1913; U.S. House of Representatives, 1913-1915), Lawrence B. Stringer candidacy for Governor speech, October 31, 1904.
- Jenkin Lloyd Jones (Unitarian Minister and uncle of Frank Lloyd Wright), Sixth Ward Mass meeting with speaking guests George L. Warner, E.P. Barry, W. C. Nelson, H. O. Nourse, William A. Bither, S.H. Strawn, and Jenkin Lloyd Jones, March 30, 1904.
- Edward Fitzsimmons Dunne (Mayor of Chicago 1905 – 1907; Governor of Illinois, 1913-1917), Edward Fitzsimmons Dunne Meeting, March 24, 1905.
- Dr. Emil G. Hirsch (reform movement leader and rabbi), Dr. Emil G. Hirsch Speech to aid Ald. Merriam's election, February 14, 1911.
- Lawrence Yates Sherman (Illinois House of Representatives, 1897-1905; Lieutenant Governor and ex Officio President of the Illinois Senate, 1905-1909; U.S. Senator 1913-1921), Senator Lawrence Y. Sherman Speaking Campaign, October 16, 1914.
- William Hale Thompson (Mayor of Chicago, 1915-1923 and 1927-1931), Mayor Thompson opened his speaking campaign in the Third Ward, January 20, 1916; Mayor Thompson address April 1, 1916; Mayor Thompson addressed the Third Ward, January 16, 1919.

Alongside The Forum's political functions, social clubs, alumni associations, sororities, and charity organizations also hosted informal dances, waltzes, alumni receptions, seasonal parties, dance classes, and charity events. Organizations

² A 2019 3rd Ward map is included in the "Additional Documentation" section of this nomination. See Figure 13.

³ A full list of known events to have occurred at The Forum is provided as Figure 21 of this nomination.

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which frequently utilized The Forum's hall include: the Forum Club, Calumet Assemblies, Progressive Club, the Young Ladies Guild of the Holy Angels' Church, De La Salle Alumni Association, Englewood Union Hospital Alumnae, the Alpha Iota Sorority, The Maricopa Social Club, the Westside Olde Tymers, and the John R. Tanner camp, United Spanish War Veterans.

In 1907, Kent and his family moved to California. He was elected to the U. S. Congress as a progressive Republican, and served from 1911-1917. He then went on to serve on the U.S. Tariff Commission from 1917-1921. While in Washington he helped establish the National Park Service, even making a donation of 295 acres and overseeing the creation of Muir Woods National Monument after his friend and conservationist John Muir. He also promoted development in Marin County, California, by supporting the creation of the Marin Municipal Water District, the Golden Gate Bridge, and Mt. Tamalpais & Muir Woods Railway. Kent died on March 13, 1928 in Kentfield, California due to pneumonia.

Though Kent left Chicago in 1907, he and his family maintained ownership of The Forum under his real estate firm in Chicago with Otto Langbien (real estate agent and lawyer) managing the firm and it continued to be used as a political and social hall throughout his ownership. It was not until 1948, that Kent's wife, Elizabeth, sold The Forum out of the family. As the community transitioned into an African American community during the Great Migration (ca. 1916-1970), The Forum not only maintained its intended use but expanded its uses to include performing arts events and labor and civil rights activities.

THE GREAT MIGRATION AND BRONZEVILLE

Between 1850 and 1870, the African-American population in Chicago grew from 320 to 3,700. Settlement was concentrated in small pockets of the city and outlying suburbs, with the largest being in what is Chicago's Near South Side. By 1870, a long narrow strip known as the "Black Belt"⁴ had been established, bounded on the west by the Chicago, Rock Island, & Pacific rail yards, on the east by affluent white residential neighborhoods, Van Buren Street on the north, and 39th Street on the south. Due to its location, the "Black Belt" was staged to evolve into a completely independent and full-fledged commercial, social, and political center.

By 1900, the population of the "Black Belt" had reached 30,000, due largely in part to the increasing access of financial resources from the prosperity of the African-American community. By 1908, entrepreneur Jesse Binga founded Chicago's first Black-owned life insurance, realty, and financial institution. As financial resources continued to enter the community, commerce and trade continued to transform and grow into a wide range of professional, commercial, and manufacturing interests. Between 1916 and 1920, more than 50,000 African-Americans from the southern United States migrated to Chicago, many settling in the Grand Boulevard community area.

The next decade would be defined by the beginning of the Great Migration. African-Americans migrated from the southern United States with the hope and promises for better lives. However, the actual reality of this fell far short as conditions were still repressive and segregated. African-Americans were restricted to live in the "Black Belt" in white-owned housing that was dilapidated and densely populated and typically more expensive than housing in white areas.

Beginning in the late nineteenth century and continuing through the early twentieth century, the Grand Boulevard community area transitioned from a middle and working-class white neighborhood to an African-American one. By 1920 African-Americans constituted 32 percent of the area's 76,703 residents and by 1950, at its peak population, African-Americans encompassed 99 percent of the community's 114,557 residents. Grand Boulevard quickly became a flourishing epicenter of black-owned businesses, civic organizations, and churches and home to a number of prominent intellectuals, politicians, sports figures, artists, and writers. This hub of Grand Boulevard was located between Dan Ryan

⁴ A map of Chicago's 'Black Belt' has been provided as Figure 14 in the "Additional Documentation" section of this nomination.

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Expressway to the west, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive to the east, 31st Street to the north, and Pershing Road to the south. This neighborhood was named "Bronzeville" by the Chicago Bee in 1930 after the significant African-American population in the area. Bronzeville spans two community areas, Douglas and Grand Boulevard, roughly bounded by 25th Street on the north, State Street on the west, Lake Michigan or Cottage Grove Avenue on the east, and 51st Street on the south.

Due to the isolated area and conditions, Bronzeville's residents worked to establish a self-sufficient community with financial, cultural, and community institutions, free of racial restrictions still enforced in many of Chicago's communities. By 1920, Chicago's African-American population reached 110,000, an increase of 150 percent. Because of this rapid influx in growth and population, Bronzeville thrived despite its exclusion from the economic and social mainstream of the rest of the city.

During the earlier part of the twentieth century, Bronzeville became the national model of African-American achievement. The community was the origin of some of the nation's most influential and notable entertainers, intellectuals, artists, and writers including musicians Louis Armstrong, Nat "King" Cole, Sam Cook, Dinah Washington, Quincy Jones, and Herbie Hancock; gospel music pioneers Mahalia Jackson and Thomas A. Dorsey; choreographer Catherine Dunham; women's aviation pioneer Bessie Coleman; author Richard Wright; activist and writer Ida B. Wells; Olympic legends Jesse Owens and Ralph Metcalfe; Negro League Baseball founder Andrew Rube Foster; boxer Joe Louis; Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gwendolyn Brooks; and Daniel Hale Williams, a surgeon, pioneering open-heart surgery at Bronzeville's Provident Hospital.

Politics in Bronzeville

Bronzeville and the larger Grand Boulevard community area had proven itself a political stalwart early in its history. Since its establishment, the neighborhood played a pivotal role in the advancement of African-Americans in government. Flexing its political prowess, the community elected John Jones to the Cook County Board of Commissioners in 1874. Jones, a tailor of mixed free- black and white parentage was the first African-American to hold elected office in Illinois and elected by both whites and African-Americans.

Continuing into the twentieth century, as the demographics of the neighborhood shifted, the area that became Bronzeville continued to play a vital role in local politics, as organized political alliances provided the community with increased chances of participation in city government. Historically, white Republican and Democratic bosses controlled the political futures of black wards. Beginning in 1915 with the election of Oscar Stanton DePriest, Chicago's first African-American alderman, the political climate of black wards changed. DePriest who initially worked solely with the bosses organized his own political organization, the Peoples Movement Club. Following the establishment of the Peoples Movement Club, the voting strength of black wards was so profound, that by the 1920s the white bosses had been removed from control. DePriest then went on to become the first African-American from the North to be elected to a seat in the United States House of Representatives in 1928, where he served for three consecutive terms.

Social History in Bronzeville

As the African American population in Bronzeville grew, social clubs and organizations dedicated to developing the community and culture of the neighborhood became highly active. Organizations hosted dances, benefit performances, property owner meetings, classes, lectures, alumni receptions, and civil rights activities in venues like The Forum.

Churches were also instrumental in the development of Bronzeville, both from a spiritual and social stand point. Large congregations such as the Olivet Baptist Church and Pilgrim Baptist Church conducted extensive social programs and helped secure lodging and employment for the newcomers arriving from the South.

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Entertainment in Bronzeville

Much of Bronzeville's thriving economy was centered on the intersection of 35th and State Streets. During the day the area was filled with typical businesses such as drug stores, clothing stores, and restaurants, at night the area was transformed by the bright lights and sounds of nightclubs and all-night restaurants, scattered throughout the business district. These included night clubs where musicians King Oliver, Louis Armstrong, and Jelly Roll Morton played and earned Chicago its reputation as a jazz center. Many of the musicians had arrived from New Orleans and St. Louis, each bringing with them characteristics of the musical style of their origins. The combination of regional styles soon melded into a distinct musical character that was uniquely Chicago.

This began with Robert T. Motts' Pekin Theater at 2700 S. State Street, which opened in 1905. The Pekin was the first full-scale, African-American-owned and operated theater in Chicago. It provided the community with its first entertainment venue free of racial restrictions. Under the guidance of Jordan, its music director from 1903-12, the Pekin became the showcase for Chicago's African-American musical development. It provided the transition from the St. Louis- influenced ragtime music of the turn of the century to the innovative jazz music of the teens and twenties.

Following the Pekin, numerous music-oriented clubs and cafes were established during the following decade. Among the most famous were the Dreamland Cafe at 3618 S. State Street, the Royal Gardens (later the Lincoln Gardens) at 459 E. 31st Street, the Elite Club at 3030 S. State Street, and the Sunset Cafe/Grand Terrace at 315 E. 35th Street (originally located at 3955 Grand Boulevard).

Bronzeville's Slow Decline

Over the next three decades (1940s-1960s), the landscape of 43rd Street began to transform. Significant changes that occurred were the removal of the key public improvements that helped the community flourish and would ultimately be part of the decline of Bronzeville over the coming years. The community peaked by the mid-1920s after which development activity lessened due to a sharp decline in new population. Jobs had not kept pace with the population increase during the Great Migration resulting in large unemployment that impacted the businesses supported by the community. Additionally, the introduction of chain stores in the 1920s created impassable competition for local African-American businesses. Finally, the Great Depression struck in 1929 and many of the community's banks, insurance companies, and other businesses closed which were not able to secure credit and financial backing. The boulevard began to deteriorate as storefronts remained vacant and unemployment and poverty enveloped the community.

In 1942, the Illinois Central closed its passenger depot at 43rd Street, cutting off part of the corridor's access to and from downtown and south Chicago and the suburbs. In 1957, the Halsted Station of the Southside Elevated Railroad was closed due to dwindling ridership and increasing deterioration. A year later, the Chicago Surface Lines abandoned its 43rd -Root line, which eliminated a vital east-west mode of transportation. Furthermore, the opening of the Kennedy Expressway in 1960 and the Stevenson Expressway in 1964, isolated Bronzeville from downtown and the central business district on the north and served as a division between Bronzeville and its neighbors in Canaryville, Back of the Yards, Fuller Park, and New City to the west.

As urban renewal efforts continued and "white flight" took hold in the 1960s, Bronzeville saw heavy disinvestment. The storefronts, residences, clubs, theaters, and halls with once resonated with the sounds of Black Metropolis fell silent. Buildings fell into disrepair and extensive demolition occurred to combat urban blight. Almost three miles of residences, businesses, and community institutions were demolished along State Street for the construction of public housing projects and the campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology. Extensive demolitions have also occurred along the commercial corridors and interior residential streets, leaving gaping holes and reminders of urban blight and

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disinvestment. For the latter part of the twentieth century, Grand Boulevard was a symbol of urban decay and economic decline.

Despite decades of a downturn in investment, the African-American heritage that built Black Metropolis endured in the community. The now famous Checkerboard Lounge opened in 1972, just one block east of The Forum. Opened by L.C. Thurman and Buddy Guy, the club hosted legendary musicians Lefty Dizz, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Eric Clapton, Magic Slim, Vance Kelly, and Muddy Waters with Buddy Guy, Junior Wells, and the Rolling Stones, until it moved to Hyde Park in 2003.

Since the mid-1980s numerous individuals and community-based organizations have been working to serve the needs of the community and re-establish Grand Boulevard as a cultural and social metropolis. Today, Bronzeville is seeing a rebirth, driven by African-Americans who are dedicated to preserving the community's invaluable cultural and social histories for the next generation(s). Historic homes along the boulevards have been restored and integrated with new, diversified housing open to all income levels. Community landmarks are being restored and revitalized including Anthony Overton Elementary School, the original Chicago Defender Building, Unity Hall, the Chicago Bee Building, Overton Hygienic Building, Rosenwald Courts Apartments, the Wabash Avenue YMCA, and the Supreme Life Building. Restaurants, shops, and other local businesses are once again beginning to flourish. Currently, this work radiates from the community's historic center in the Bronzeville neighborhood with new residential and commercial developments along the 43rd Street and 51st Street commercial corridors, including The Forum.

THE FORUM IN BRONZEVILLE

Following its Roman namesake, The Forum served as a cultural, social, and political epicenter for 43rd Street, Bronzeville, and the Grand Boulevard community area for over 75 years. Despite changes in the community over the duration of The Forum's history, the space remained relevant and significant to Bronzeville and Grand Boulevard. From its inception in 1897 through its closing in the 1970s, at least 90 different clubs and associations utilized the space for annual dances, installation ceremonies, parties, weekly meetings, and informal gatherings; labor conferences and civil rights movements were coordinated in the 2nd floor event spaces; and political rallies and ward meetings were held in the assembly hall.

Politics, Labor, and the Civil Rights Movement

Though community demographics shifted at the beginning of the twentieth century, The Forum continued to offer an arena for political and social causes. Politicians and leaders who spoke at The Forum during the height of Black Metropolis (ca. 1916-1970) included:

- William Hale Thompson (Mayor of Chicago, 1915-1923 and 1927-1931), Mayor Thompson addressed the Third Ward, January 16, 1919.
- George Iliff (Chicago Alderman, 1917-1919), Third Ward meeting, March 20, 1919.
- Oscar Stanton De Priest (Chicago Alderman, 1915-1917 and 1943-1947; U.S. House of Representatives, 1929-1935), De Priest a candidate for Congressman, addressed 500 colored voters in the quarters of the William Hale Thompson Republican Club, October 16, 1928.
- William A. Wallace (Illinois Senate, 1939-1943), Speaking engagement on the topic of 'Demand equal rights in education and economic opportunities for American Negroes after the war', April 26, 1942.
- William E. King (Illinois House of Representatives, 1925-1927 and 1929-1933; Illinois Senate 1935-1939), Speaker at Third Ward Political Rally, March 18, 1956.

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These are just some of the significant leaders that spoke at The Forum for general events including Republican, Democratic, and Independent weekly mass meetings and campaign kick-offs to specific speaking engagements.

The Forum also served as the headquarters for key labor and civil rights movements in Chicago and nationally. The first documented civil rights meeting was the Second Session of the Chicago Scottsboro Defense Conference on June 21, 1931. The conference met at The Forum to strengthen their forces and discuss next steps in defending nine, young African-American men sentenced to death after being falsely accused of attacking two white women in Scottsboro, Alabama. While the first group to come to the young men's aid was the American Communist Party (ACP). The ACP had initially utilized their legal department, the International Labor Defense (ILD) to represent the nine men. After two lost trials in which an all-white jury convicted all nine men, the ACP and ILD sparked a national mass movement. The national defense campaign sought to overturn the conviction, protesting through marches and national and international speaking tours. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) then joined with the ACP and other civil rights organizations to establish the Scottsboro Defense Committee, of which there were subset conferences throughout the nation including the Chicago Scottsboro Defense Conference, which met at The Forum. The case persisted for six years, with one of the accusers admitting that she had been pressured by police to falsely accuse the young men and she became part of the movement to save their lives. In 1937, the case went to the United States Supreme Court which ruled in favor of the young men. The Chicago Scottsboro Defense Conference was key in the success of this movement. During its meeting(s) at The Forum it brought together at least 320 national organizations to strengthen the group's cause.

The National Negro Congress (Chicago Council) (NNC) met at The Forum. One documented meeting occurred in April 1936, when the NNC presented and adopted its resolutions condemning the segregation practices at the Cook County Nurses' home. The NNC was such an influential and well-respected civil rights organization that it presented this matter and other racial issues directly to President Roosevelt in a conference that same year.

At the end of the 1930s, The Forum was also the meeting site for the Drug Porters' Union Strike. In March 1939, the Whalen-United Strike was voted by porters after the management of the drug-cigar chain refused to grant a 10 percent wage increase and a 48-hour week to their porters. Strikers and union members were even supported by porters from Walgreens and independent stores, who pledged \$5 to \$10 (\$90-\$180 in 2018) each to support the strike. The strike was deemed 95 percent effective and 19 of the largest Whalen and United stores were being picketed daily by strikers and union members.

In February 1943, The Forum hosted a series of meetings related to the integration of major league baseball. The first, hosted by the Stockyard Congress of Industrial Organizations (SCIO), occurred on February 7th. The SCIO held a mass meeting as the first step to petition for the integration of major league baseball and garner public support behind the "Negroes in major leagues" movement, endorsed by the Congress of Industrial Organizations council, Slavic Congress, N.A.A.C.P, and Urban League, as well as by local churches and civic and social organizations. A second meeting was held a week later by the Chicago Joint Council of Packinghouse Workers (CJCPW). During this meeting the CJCPW prepared a petition with 150,000 signatures and resolutions which condemned the barring of Negroes from major league baseball. The petition was sent to President F.D. Roosevelt, every baseball club owner in the American and National leagues, and Judge Landis High Commissioner of baseball.

Lastly, one of the most significant civil rights meetings to have taken place at The Forum occurred in June 1961. Seven "Freedom Riders" who participated in the integration efforts throughout Mississippi and Alabama met and were interviewed at The Forum while mapping their plans to reach "real independence for the south by July 4" 1961. The "riders" came to Chicago, to the heart of Black Metropolis, and the center prominent, progressive universities to enlist

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additional support from those who would be willing to ride to Jackson, Mississippi where “freedom riders” were being jailed for 66.6 days sentences.

The civil rights and labor movements identified above are just the known movements documented in The Chicago Defender and The Chicago Tribune. Each occurrence continues to highlight The Forum’s central role as the epicenter of politics and civil rights locally and nationally.

Civic Groups

In addition to political gatherings, The Forum was used for educational, cultural, and social functions by prominent African-American civic organizations such as the Appomattox Club, Chicago Urban League, The Colored Women’s Republican Clubs of Illinois, Inc., Federal Athletic and Civic Association, and the Citizens Equal Rights and Protective Association; and progressive social and charity clubs including the Entre Nous Club, Chicago Music and Dramatic Club, Green Donkeys, Twenty Social Club, and the Modern Priscilla Art and Charity Club.

Organizations took advantage of the large hall for events and the smaller spaces in the rear addition for informal gatherings and meetings. Local families used the space for reunions, memorials, graduations, and weddings. Schools, like the Mason School for Children, used the space for annual commencement exercises.

Because of the beautiful oak floor in the hall, educational classes typically focused on the art of dance including ballroom and social dancing. Classes were led by various instructors who rented out the hall space for their classes. Between 1935 and 1942, the Buckner School of Dance was located out of The Forum and led by Professor Oranto J. Buckner.

Beyond the hall and the smaller event spaces which accommodated clubs, associations, and families, The Forum also boasted a “Japanese Tea Room”. It is believed that the “Japanese Tea Room” was in the original dining room and kitchen, from ca. 1930-1945, located in the 2nd floor above 322 E. 43rd Street that was destroyed by fire in 1953.

In addition to the numerous social clubs and associations which utilized The Forum, unions and fraternal organizations also organized in the hall.

Unions/Fraternal Organizations

Union and fraternal organizations that hosted their annual formals, informal parties, charity events, meetings, dances, lodge sessions, anniversaries, all-night frolics, and conventions during the apex of Black Metropolis and the African-American community included:

- The Grayson Court, no.53 Order of Calanthe of the Knights of Pythias; Knights of Pythias of North America, South American, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia
- Sigma Pi Omega
- Chicago Labor Conference
- Chicago Division of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
- Packinghouse Workers’ Council of Chicago
- The Ladies Auxiliary of the Transport Workers of Taxi Drivers Union
- SWOC Local 2171
- Brotherhood Club of Union Bricklayers
- United Supreme Council of the Masons and the Order of the Eastern Star
- Wisdom chapters No. 99 OES and No.49 RAM

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- Civil Liberties League of Chicago

Beginning around the early 1940s, the building, while it continued to host the community functions, it simultaneously served as the headquarters for the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks (Elks). The Elks were the largest and most influential fraternal organization to utilize The Forum. The initial Elks organization (Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks (BPOE)) was founded in 1868 as a social club in New York City, for those who were a “white male citizen of the United States of America, of sound mind and body, of good character, not under the age of Twenty-one years, and a believer in God.” It wasn’t until 1976 that the membership clause was revoked, but the organization kept a provision that the clause would be reinstated if allowed by law.

To combat segregation within the “white” Elks, The Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks was formed, as the African-American fraternal order counterpart. Established as a separate order in February 1897, the Elks were founded in Cincinnati, Ohio by B.F. Howard and Arthur J. Riggs, a Pullman porter who was born into slavery. The new order stated that their descent is from the Free African Society, founded in 1787 as the first formal black society in America.

Riggs had acquired a copy of the BPOE rituals, and managed to hold the first copyright on the document, prior to the BPOE. Elks’ lodges were predominately located in urban areas as black men and families were moving away from the rural South to cities across the north and Midwest during the Great Migration.

Since its inception, the Elks have sponsored educational programming, labor activism, youth classes, and family and community services. The Elks’ programming was notable from other black, fraternal organizations due to inviting both male and female participants, encouraging racial unity, supporting the coalescence of socio-economic classes, their readiness to join other coalitions, and acceptance of different ideologies. For the Elks’ the greater goal was above the individual organization. Unlike the BPOE, where one had to be a practicing Christian, the Elks accepted a range of ideologies within their ranks, from Christianity to Communism.

In 1926, the organization created their Civil Liberties Department. Within its first year, the department was active in supporting integration and fought for the desegregation of schools in Gary, Indiana. During the 1930s and 1940s, the Elks worked to increase the number of jobs available to black workers, while resisting union exclusion and segregation.

It is estimated that the Elks began utilizing the hall space at the Forum as early as 1940 as the Greater Fort Dearborn Elk Lodge. During the time the Elks occupied the 2nd floor spaces the lodge hosted their annual conventions, benefits and fundraisers, elections and installations of officers, annual bathing beauty and talent contest, New Year’s Eve Dance and Cabaret Ball, fraternal rites, lodge meetings, an annual Negro History Week, and informal gatherings. The Elks also opened the Elks Cocktail Lounge in the building in 1960. The exact location of the lounge is currently unknown. In 1962, the Elks Western Division Antlered Guard Department opened their new headquarters at The Forum. The Forum served as the headquarters for the Greater Fort Dearborn Lodge for at least three decades. The last known Elks event to have occurred in The Forum was the 1969 annual New Year’s Eve party.

Entertainment at The Forum

The Forum, with its location on the 43rd Street commercial corridor, adjacent to the 43rd ‘L’ Station, and just over one mile from the Illinois Central Railroad 43rd Street Station, was well positioned to succeed. The 43rd Street commercial corridor was serviced by the Illinois Central Railroad which offered stops at every major commercial corridor throughout Chicago’s south side. Patrons came to 43rd Street from across Chicagoland to shop, dine, and enjoy performances and

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dances led by prominent jazz, swing, and blues artists. Well-served by transit, the 43rd Street corridor flourished. By 1925, 43rd Street was almost fully developed, with only a half block on either side of the street between State Street and Oakenwald Avenue not occupied. There were roughly 435 storefronts located along the one-mile corridor and about two dozen buildings originally constructed as dwellings, half of which had a commercial use in the basement. In addition to the commercial and residential buildings, there were two hotels, two halls (including The Forum), three movie theaters, and two garages, to accommodate the growing use of automobiles. In The Forum, the seven storefronts were almost always occupied by a grocer, restaurant and/or lunch counter, men's wear shop, tailor, haberdasher, tavern, jeweler, billiards, and a hardware store.

Above the storefronts, leading musicians of the time (1920s-1950s) performed at events hosted by clubs, associations, and fraternal organizations, in The Forum's 2nd floor hall. Musicians known to have performed at The Forum include: Johnny Long, Floyd Campbell, Tiny Parham, Milt Hinton, Wildcats Orchestra, Tick Gray Orchestra, Jolly Jones Orchestra, Jimmie Johnson, Melvin Moore Orchestra, Rock and Rollers, David Peyton Orchestra, Freida Gaines, Roberts' Harmony Syncopators, Robert's Orchestra, Tony Fambro, Count Rich Orchestra, Sinclair Calloway Orchestra, Boy Tinsley's Orchestra, Eddie King band, John Earl Lewis, C.J. Harris Orchestra, Fred Brown, and Nat King Cole. Oral histories state that Muddy Waters and The Rolling Stones played an impromptu set at the downstairs lounge after their fabled performance at The Checkerboard Lounge in 1981. Below are biographies of the most prominent and notable local and national musicians to have played The Forum and their connection(s) to the building.

During the 1930s, **Nat King Cole** (1919-1965) assembled bands to play school proms and Sunday dances at Forum. Cole dropped out of high school at age 15 to pursue music professionally, and the Forum played a major role in his early career. In 1936, he made his recording debut with his brother's band, Eddie Cole's Solid Swingers, and he ran two of his own groups called the Rogues of Rhythm and the Royal Dukes. Born in Montgomery, AL, March 17, 1919, his family moved to Chicago when he was four. By the age of 12 he was playing the organ and singing in the church where his father was pastor. Cole left Chicago in 1936.

Trumpeter and bandleader **Johnny Long** (1910-1944) (not to be confused with the violinist/bandleader, 1914-1972) and his Orchestra regularly played at the Forum between 1932 and 1940. During this time, a variety of musicians who would go on to have outstanding careers of their own performed with the orchestra, including Joe Williams, Eddie Johnson, Budd Johnson, Preston Jackson, Johnny Letman, Leonard Bibbs, and Kansas Fields.

Tiny Parham (1900-1943) was a Canadian-born Chicago bandleader with a prolific recording career, cutting 38 sides for Victor Records between 1928 and 1930. His group made multiple appearances at the Forum, including performances for events such as the Foxes World Series Sport Dance, the Sophisticated What Not Social Club, and the Modern Priscilla Art and Charity Club Hop. Parham's band was also broadcast on NBC Radio. Born in Winnipeg, Canada, Feb 25, 1900, Parham grew up in Kansas City. After touring the Southwest with a big band (1925) he moved to Chicago and led a group with violinist Leroy Pickett (1926-7). From 1926 to 1930 he made more than 30 recordings, mainly accompanying blues singers, but also collaborating with the Paramount Pickers and Johnny Dodds. Additionally, he led his own recording groups, which at times included Punch Miller.

In December 1935, The Defender noted weekly Sunday performances at Forum Hall by the **Wildcats**, which likely referred to Jack Ellis's Wildcats. Members of his group included Bill Johnson, George Mitchell, Bob Fagin, David Young, Lil Hardaway, and Cedric Odom. Both Jack Ellis's Wildcats and the Johnny Long Orchestra were part of the "six leading bands" who played in the 1932 Bud Billiken picnic. Several of these performers also played in King Oliver's Jazz Band.

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Milt Hinton (1910-2000) is best known today for his double bass performances, but he got his start in Chicago playing the tuba in Tiny Parham's band. His recording debut was played on the tuba on November 4, 1930 for the song "Squeeze Me." In his biography, he notes that one of his first gigs was at Forum Hall, where he earned a percentage of the gross receipts. Hinton was born in Vicksburg, MS on June 23, 1910. Known as an American double bass player, music educator, and photographer, Hinton was raised in a musical family. He moved with them to Chicago in 1919, where he studied classical music, first at Crane Junior College and later at Northeastern University of Music. While studying music, Hinton learned various instruments, including violin and tuba, before switching to the bass. He started his professional career in jazz at the end of the 1920s and played with musicians such as Freddie Keppard, Jabbo Smith, Erskine Tate, and Art Tatum, before moving to New York in the mid-1930s.

Decline of The Forum

It is believed that The Forum's largest organization, the Elks, eventually outgrew the hall during the latter half of the twentieth century. The closing of the Elk's Lodge in the early 1970s, is believed to have led to the ultimate abandonment of the 2nd floor hall space.

Today, only The Forum and one of the movie theaters remain of the entertainment venues. The movie theater has experienced a considerable loss of integrity, leaving The Forum as the most significant and intact social and cultural space remaining along 43rd Street. Of the 435 storefronts which once dominated the built environment of 43rd street, roughly 40 remain of which many are vacant. A rehabilitation of The Forum looks to not only revitalize the hall and storefronts of the building, but also seeks to activate redevelopment along 43rd Street to create a vibrant and viable commercial corridor once again. As part of Bronzeville's revival, The Forum's rehabilitation will harken back to its roots as a cultural, social, and commercial center and provide these services to the community again.

CRITERION C: THE ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHITECT OF THE FORUM

FORM AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE FORUM

The Forum was designed as a commercial block to integrate with the surrounding 43rd street commercial corridor and provide additional revenue to the property owner. Though The Forum appears as three separate buildings today, it was historically constructed as a main commercial block which included the two-story hall and stores section, Calumet Avenue entrance section, and one-story commercial section. The Forum consists of seven storefronts, four in the hall and stores section and three in the one-story commercial section, which housed local businesses until the building was completely vacated in the 1990s. The second floor served as the hall space, large enough to host performances, political speeches, religious meetings, dances, and civil right activities for up to 700 guests.

The Forum was designed in the Late Classical Revival, with Georgian Neoclassical details, popular at the end of the nineteenth century. It remains one of the most prominent non-residential examples of the Late Classical Revival style in the Bronzeville neighborhood.

Late Classical Revival is inspired by stylistic details of the Greek Revival style, made popular by Burnham & Root's design for the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. Frequently used for civic, institutional and commercial buildings, Late Classical Revival is known for its more formal and monumental details including: balanced arrangement of windows and doors; the front door is often flanked by pilasters or side lights and capped with a flat entablature, broken pediment, or rounded fanlight; symmetrical façades; smooth masonry exterior surfaces; front-facing gable roof; and decorative cornice.

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The design of The Forum follows the characteristic form of the Late Classical Revival style including symmetrical main façades at the south and east, a towering front-facing gable roof at the front (south) façade, smooth, red brick exterior surface, a decorative raking cornice along the gable, and round arch windows. Here the architectural details of The Forum shift to Georgian Neoclassical. Named after England's King George III, Georgian Neoclassical is a subtype of the Neoclassical style which encompasses both Palladian and Adamesque details. In the United States, the Neoclassical style was a dominant architectural style for domestic, civic, and institutional buildings between 1895 and 1955. Inspired by Roman ruins, this style is similar to Classical and Greek Revival but is more ornate compared to its simpler predecessors. Typical architectural characteristics include: massive columns with classical capitals, topped by a front facing pediment; columns are of the Ionic and Corinthian Orders; exaggerated pediments; and sculptural bas-reliefs enframed by friezes, tablets or panels.

Distinctive Georgian details at The Forum include the brick corbeling at the raking cornice, in lieu of the more Classical dentillated cornice, and the brick quoins located at the edges of south and east façades. Neoclassical details include the oeil-de-boeuf or "bull's eye" window below the peak of the gable at the south façade, multi-light fanlight windows set into the tympanum of the round arch windows at the south and east façades, and the removed pedimented porticos supported by Tuscan or Ionic columns, previously located at the 43rd Street and Calumet Avenue entrances.

Designed by prominent local architect Samuel Atwater Treat, The Forum is an excellent example of the popular late nineteenth and early twentieth century revival styles, encompassing the Late Classical Revival style and Georgian Neoclassical details.

SAMUEL ATWATER TREAT

The following biography is partially excerpted from The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Quarterly Bulletin, Vol. 11 No. 2 July, 1910:

Samuel Atwater Treat was born on December 29th, 1839. He was a native of New Haven where he graduated from the "Collegiate and Commercial Institute," familiarly called William Ruseell's Military Academy in 1856. Immediately after graduation, Treat entered the architectural office of Sidney M. Stone and remained there until 1861 at the outbreak of the Civil War.

Treat enlisted in the 15th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry and served as a detail for special duty in the office of Capt. J. A. Judson, Assistant Adjutant-General of the District of Beaufort, N. C. He remained in the service until the close of the war in 1865. For a brief period after the war, he returned to Stone's office in New Haven, but soon afterwards moved to Chicago, where he was employed as first assistant in the office of C. E. Randall.

While employed at Randall's office, Treat met Fredrick Foltz and formed the firm of Treat & Foltz following the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Treat & Foltz is known as one of Chicago's oldest and most successful architectural firms. The firm was known for designing large industrial plants, apartment buildings and single-family residences. Some of the firm's most notable works included: the Chicago Club, St Luke's Hospital on Indiana Avenue, the machine works of Frazer & Chalmers, a fireproof warehouse for the L. S. & M. S. Railroad Company, the Wollensack Fireproof Warehouse, the Arizona Apartments on Lake Avenue, the William Bunge residence, the Tudor Apartments on Ellis Avenue, the Fred A. Cary residence the Martin A. Ryerson residence on Drexel Boulevard, the C. B. Farwell residence on the Lake Shore Drive, C. B. Libby's residence on Michigan Boulevard, Anthony Schmidt's residence on Drexel Boulevard, George Armour's residence on Prairie Avenue, and the Wesley Hospital once located at Dearborn and 26th Streets. The last

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work undertaken by the firm was the Clinton Street plant of the Western Electric Company, covering several blocks, which was mainly the work of Treat.

The partnership continued until 1897 at which time Treat took on a sole practice with offices located in the Fisher Building. Treat's most notable solo work was the design and construction of a new plant for the Western Electric Company in Hawthorne, built in 1905. At the time of construction, it was one of the largest manufacturing plants in the world and the principal work of Treat's life. The water tower is the only remaining vestige of the once expansive works which at the height of operations employed 45,000 people.

Between 1900 and 1907, Treat also established the firm of Treat & Alschuler from 1900 to 1907 with partner Alfred Alschuler. Little is known about the firm, but appears they focused primarily on residential works such as the H.W. Hahn and Louis Kohn residences in Chicago.

While writing Treat's biography, Peter B. Wight stated the following:

"While Mr. Treat was a practical and serious man, he seemed to get more pleasure and joy out of life than most men who have been successful. At times he was extremely busy with his profession, then again, he would pick up and go to some remote watering place for a month or two, or abroad for three or four months, and at the same time he never seemed to miss anything. If he did not miss any of the opportunities that are waiting for the faithful and exemplary practitioner, we, who have stood by him in his efforts to uphold the honor and dignity of his profession, now and for years to come will certainly miss his cheerful countenance at our meeting and his helpful counsel in all our undertakings."

A week after Treat's death, the editorial *Construction News* for June 25, 1910, by Henry W. Culbertson wrote:

"He had gone his three score and ten, but he was youthful and buoyant in spirit, with a manner that endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. Mr. Treat possessed to a remarkable degree a rare combination in these days that of an architect and businessman and his practical knowledge of affairs, coupled with his architectural education and a cheerful, businesslike and helpful nature, were undoubtedly the features of his composition which appealed strongly to his clients."

Treat died on June 18th, 1910 in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Treat was one of the oldest members of the Illinois Chapter, American Institute of Architects (AIA). He was elected an Associate member of the Institute in 1873 and as a Fellow of the Institute in 1889. Additionally, he twice served as President of the Illinois Chapter, and twice as President of Chicago Architects' Business Association. For nine years he was Treasurer of AIA and at the time of his death he was treasurer of the Chicago Architects' Business Association. He was one of the oldest members of the Union League Club and also a member of the Cliff Dwellers. Outside of his professional activities, he was also a noted amateur musician.

THE FUTURE OF THE FORUM

Beyond the period of significance, retail establishments continued to occupy the first-floor storefronts of The Forum into the 1990s. Use of the 2nd floor hall had significantly dwindled by the 1970s and the space was completely vacated soon after. Due to neglect and deferred maintenance since the 1970s, the building fell into a state of disrepair and was threatened with city-ordered demolition in 2011. Days before The Forum was to be demolished, the Bronzeville-based

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community development organization of Urban Juncture Inc.⁵, purchased the building and saved it from its impending fate.

After a four-decade hiatus, Urban Juncture is working to bring back The Forum as a catalyst for the social, political, and economic development of Bronzeville. Since 2011, Urban Juncture has been working to stabilize the building to prevent the continued threat of city-ordered demolition, while developing a rehabilitation plan and securing funding for the project.

Despite the decades of disinvestment, Urban Juncture has invested over \$250,000 to repair the exterior masonry, temporarily repair the roof to prevent further interior damage, and has removed 25 dumpsters of debris. In their effort to complete the stabilization of The Forum, Urban Juncture has launched a crowd-funding opportunity for neighborhood investors through WeFunder. Urban Juncture envisions that The Forum will once again serve as a unique resource for neighbors, a 'go-to' cultural destination for all, and an engine for community revitalization.

⁵ Urban Juncture, Inc. (UJ) working in developing commercial real estate and related enterprises that address the needs of under-served communities. UJ's developments are tailored to the specific needs and unique assets of our communities. We provide job opportunities to residents, quality goods and services to serve existing and secure new residents, and unique events and attractions to attract visitors. As a result, we help to stabilize our communities, facilitate their integration with the broader region, and improve the well-being of residents. A wide gap exists between the downtown districts of our leading metropolises and the ethnic and minority communities located in their inner cities. While our ethnic communities are geographically close to downtown, they are often economically and socially distant. Bridging this gap is one of the most important challenges facing America today. Social programs alone have proven to be insufficient. We must invest in creating sound economic foundations for our communities. Successfully marrying commerce and community requires a deep understanding of and appreciation for commerce and community and the ability to anticipate and address opportunity and conflict between them.

We work with key community, regional, and national groups to facilitate a coordinated and strategic approach to community development.

We are a member of the Bronzeville Retail Initiative (BRI), which works with the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to develop a planning framework for retail development in Bronzeville. This framework focuses on facilitating the creation of unique retail offerings along 47th Street and at the 43rd and 51st Street and CTA Green Line transit nodes.

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Additional Repositories Utilized:

City of Chicago Building Permits (FOIA Request)

City of Chicago Historic Resources Survey

Chicago History Museum: Index to the American Contractor's Chicago Building Permit Column, 1898-1912

Chicago Public Library: Chicago Defender Archives

Chicago Public Library: Hyde Park Community Collection, Grand Boulevard and Gage Family Collection

Chicago Public Library: Chicago Tribune Archives

Digital Public Library of America: The Great Migration

Newberry Library: Lakeside and Polk City Directories

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Chicago, 1905-1951, vol. 14, 1925 and Oct.1950

University of Illinois at Chicago: City of Chicago Building Permits

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>41°49'0.43"N</u> Latitude	<u>87°37'6.89"W</u> Longitude	3	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude
2	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude	4	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Forum is bounded by East 43rd Street on the south, South Calumet Avenue on the east, and public alleys on the north and west.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries selected are based on the historical and existing property boundaries for The Forum.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Erica Ruggiero/Architectural Historian date Nov. 30, 2018
organization McGuire Igleski & Associates, Inc. telephone 847.328.5679
street & number 1330 Sherman Avenue email erica@miarchitects.com
city or town Evanston state Illinois zip code 60201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)

Local Location Map

Site Plan

Floor Plans (As Applicable)

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Photo Location Map (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: The Forum
City or Vicinity: Chicago
County: Cook **State:** Illinois
Photographer: Erica Ruggiero
Date Photographed: July 26, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 28:

View of the south (front) façades of The Forum including the two-story hall and stores section and one-story commercial section of the building looking northwest.

Photo 2 of 28:

View of the south (front) façade of The Forum looking north.

Photo 3 of 28:

View of the one-story commercial section of the building looking northwest.

Photo 4 of 28:

View of the east façade of the two-story hall and stores section of the building looking southwest.

Photo 5 of 28:

View of The Forum looking northwest from the southeast corner of the intersection at West 43rd Street and North Calumet Avenue.

Photo 6 of 28:

Interior view of the corner storefront located at the southeast corner of the two-story hall and stores section looking south.

Photo 7 of 28:

Interior view of the center storefront of the one-story commercial section looking southwest.

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Photo 8 of 28:

Interior view of the center storefront of the one-story commercial section looking north.

Photo 9 of 28:

View of staircase at the Calumet Avenue entrance to The Forum looking west.

Photo 10 of 28:

View of the original floor of the Calumet Avenue entrance looking down.

Photo 11 of 28:

View of the Calumet Avenue lobby looking northwest.

Photo 12 of 28:

View of an original wood bracket, which flank the Calumet Avenue entrance stair, looking up.

Photo 13 of 28:

View of the main stair, to the second floor hall, at the 43rd Street entrance looking north and up.

Photo 14 of 28:

View of the hall looking southeast.

Photo 15 of 28:

View of the hall and stage looking northeast.

Photo 16 of 28:

View of the hall and stage looking north.

Photo 17 of 28:

View of the hall, inglenook, and balcony looking northwest.

Photo 18 of 28:

View of the balcony, inglenook, and entrance from the main staircase looking southwest.

Photo 19 of 28:

View of the hall, from the stage, looking south.

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Photo 20 of 28:

View of the entrance to backstage and the rear addition from the hall looking north.

Photo 21 of 28:

View of the second floor lobby/landing from the Calumet Avenue entrance looking east.

Photo 22 of 28:

View of the entrance to the hall from backstage looking south.

Photo 23 of 28:

View of the original second floor restroom looking south.

Photo 24 of 28:

View of the staircase to the third floor looking north and up.

Photo 25 of 28:

View of the hall and stage from the balcony looking northeast and down.

Photo 26 of 28:

View of the event space located on third floor of the rear addition looking northwest.

Photo 27 of 28:

View of the event space located on the third floor of the rear addition looking northeast.

Photo 28 of 28:

View of the third floor hallway looking west.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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List of Figures

(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all document should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page.

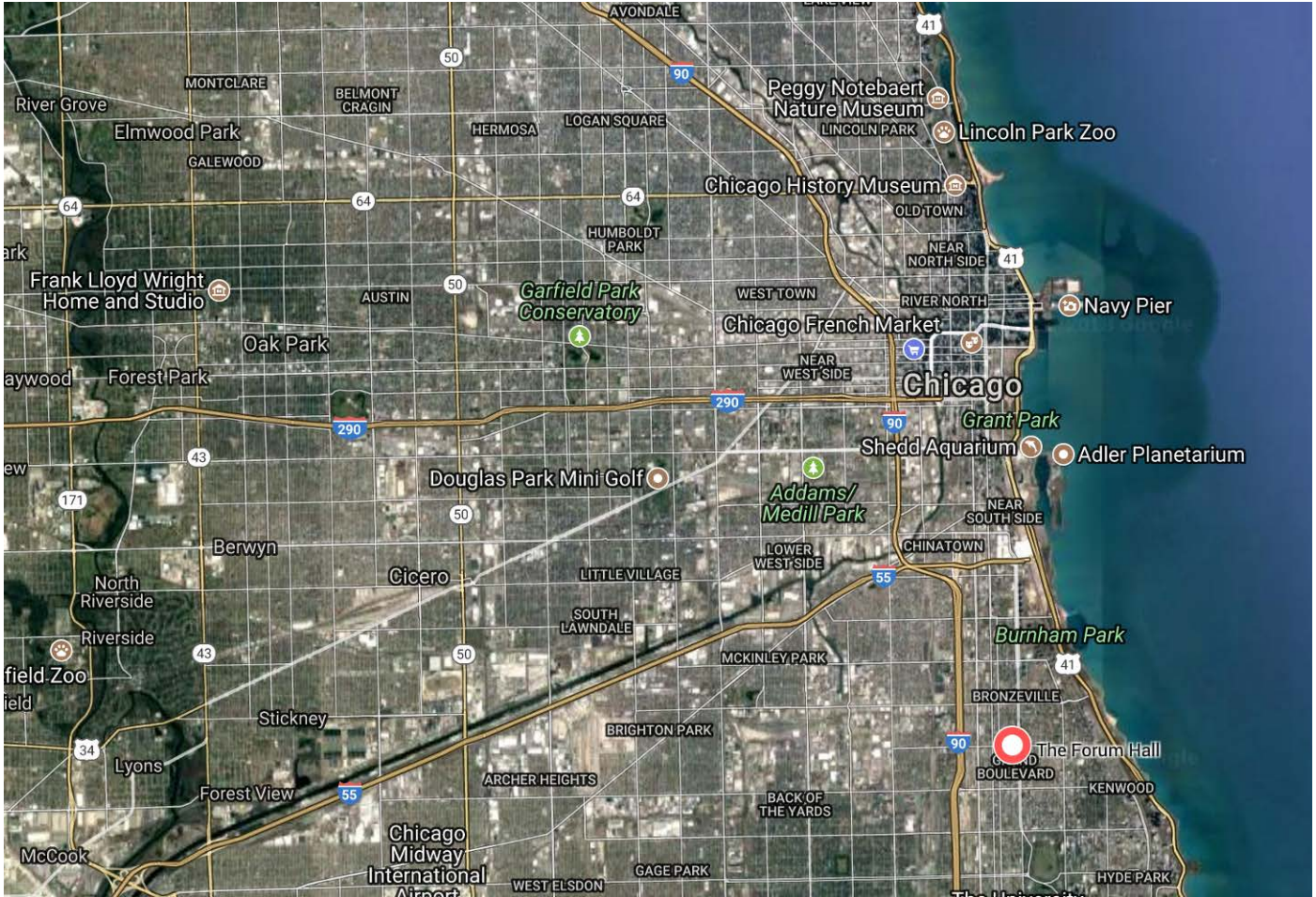


FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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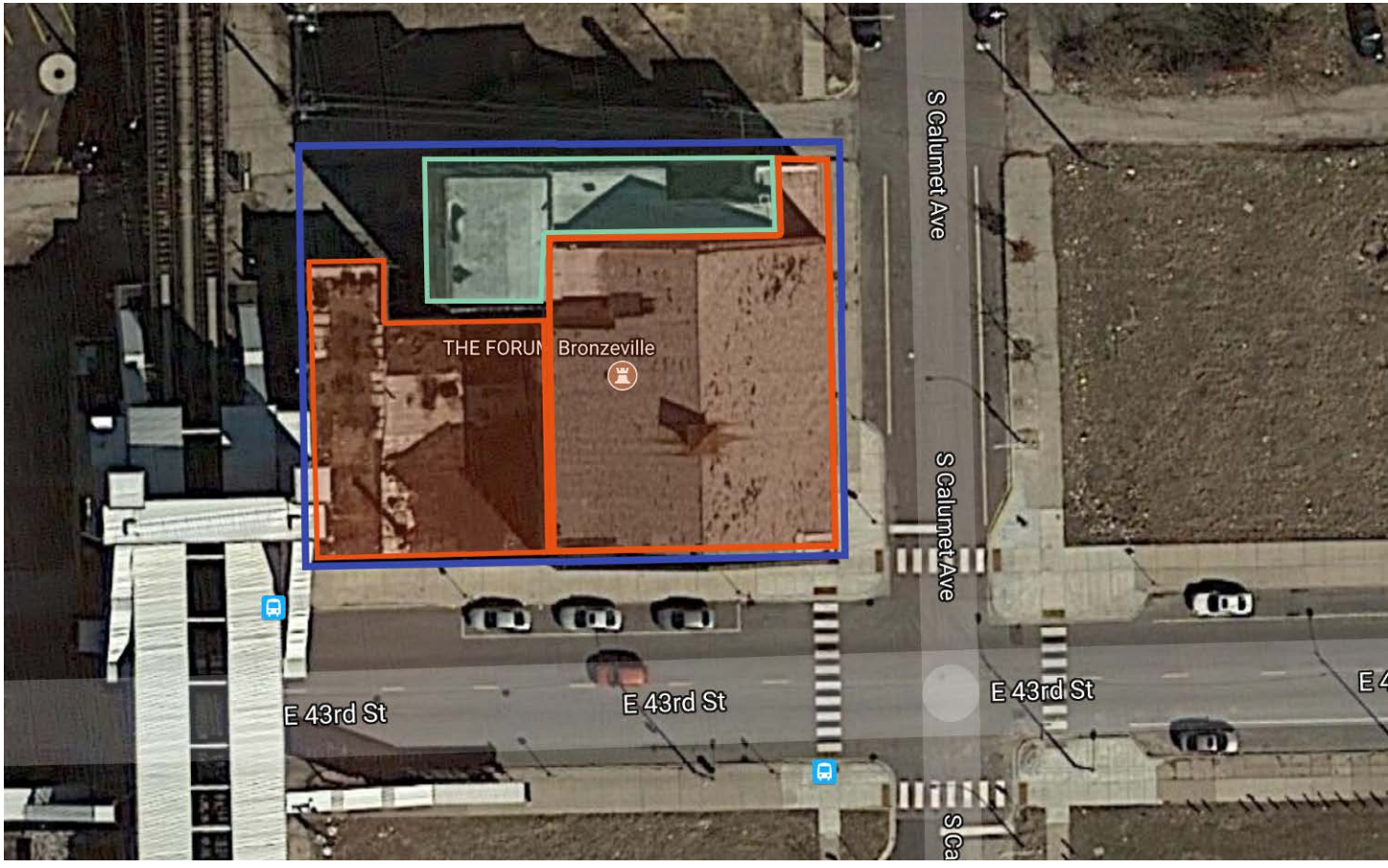


FIGURE 2: SITE MAP OF THE FORUM HALL.
*Note property boundaries (blue), original 1897 construction (orange), and historic 1900 addition (green).

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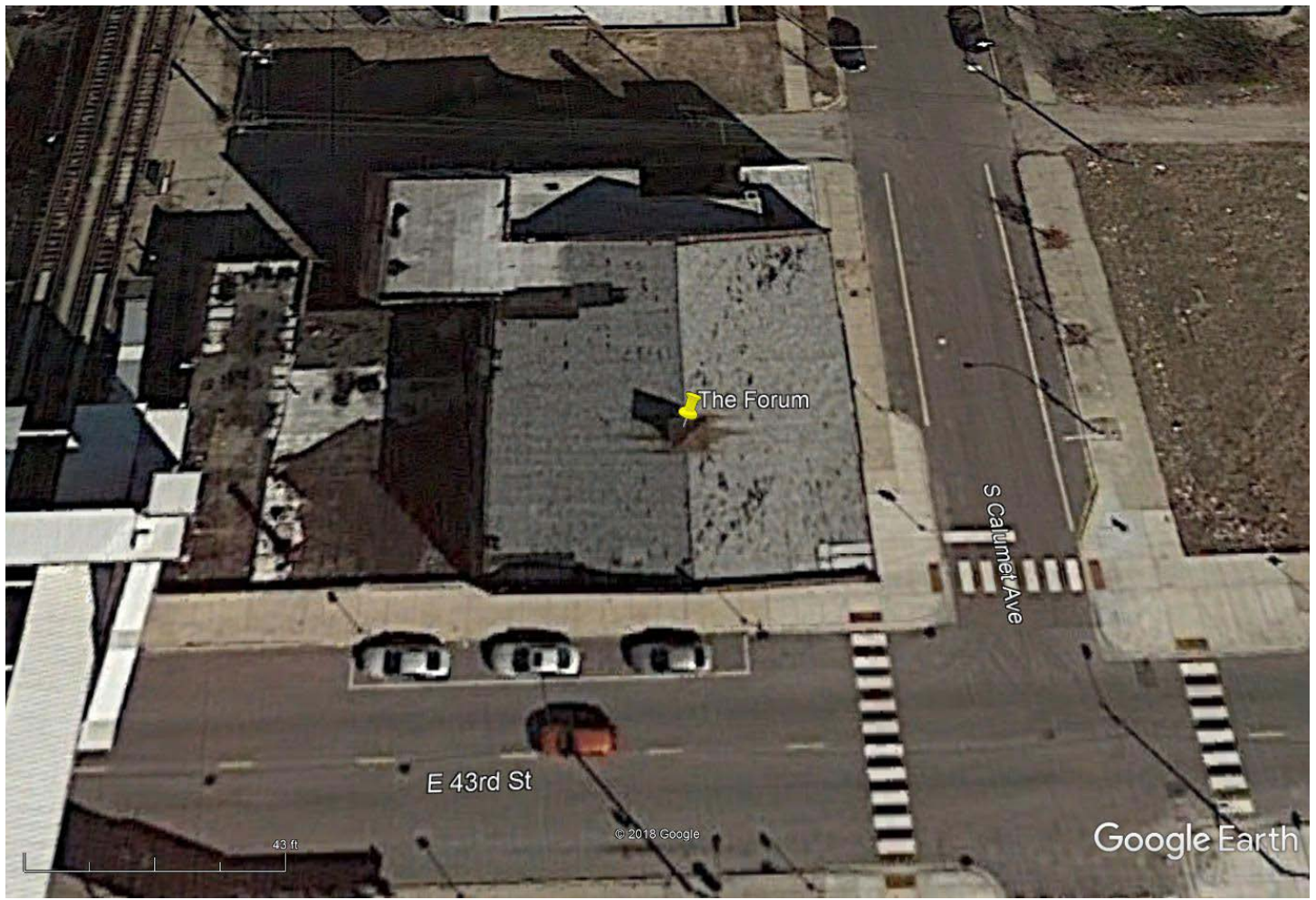


FIGURE 3: MAP FOF GIS POINTS.

<u>1 41°49'0.43"N</u>	<u>87°37'6.89"W</u>
Latitude	Longitude

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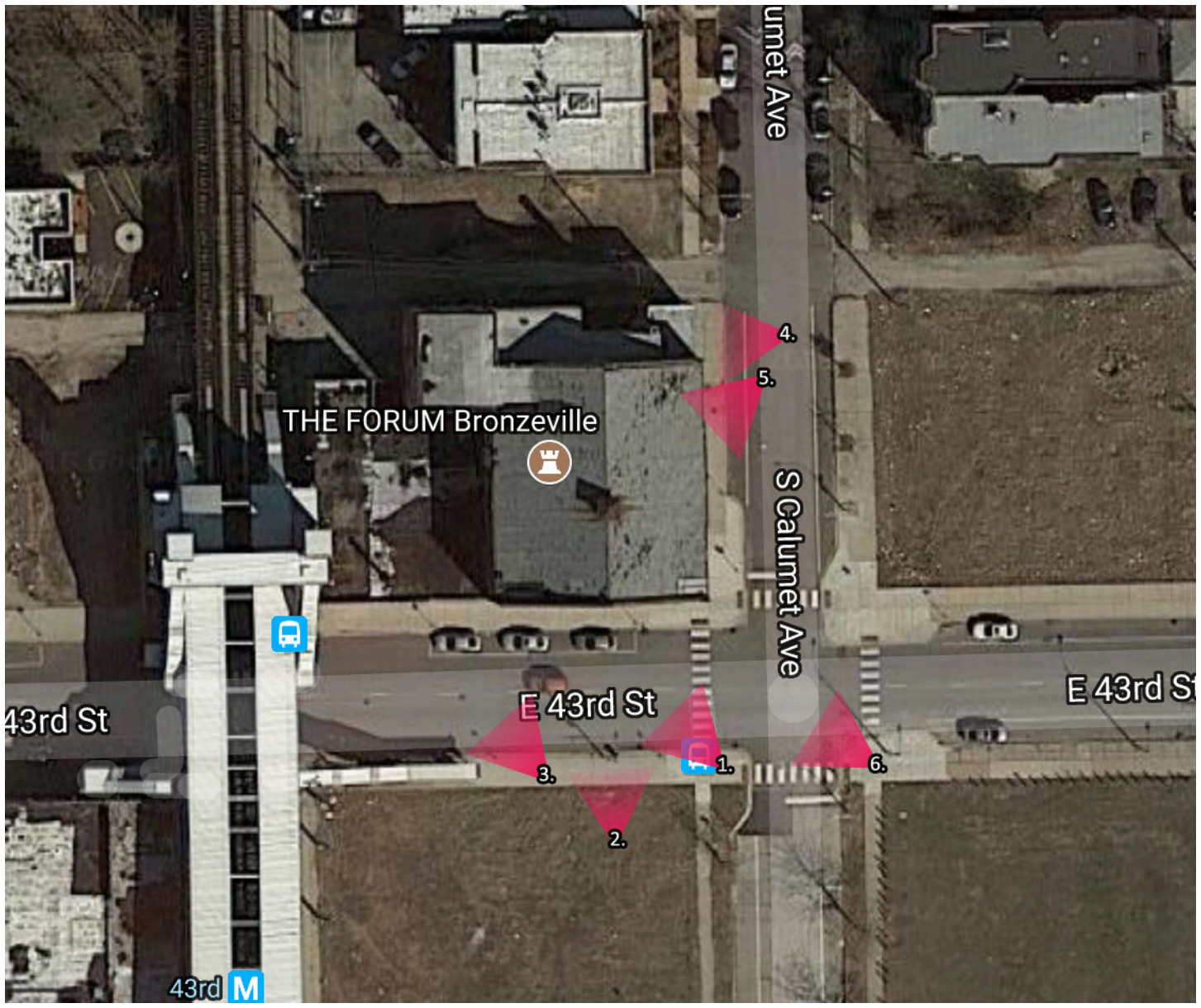


FIGURE 4: EXTERIOR PHOTOGRAPH KEY.
* Number denotes location of camera.

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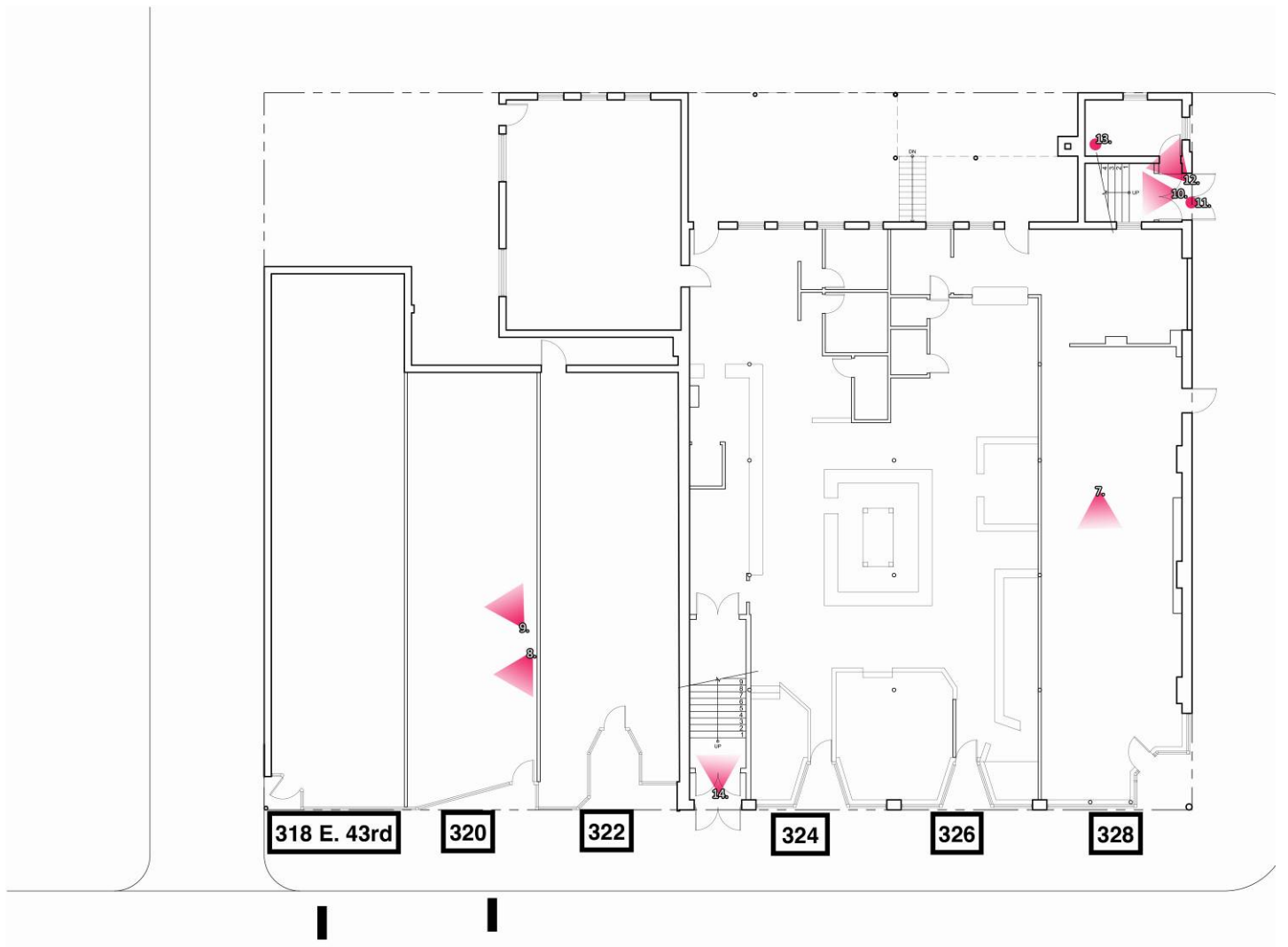


FIGURE 5: FIRST FLOOR PHOTOGRAPH KEY.
* Number denotes location of camera.

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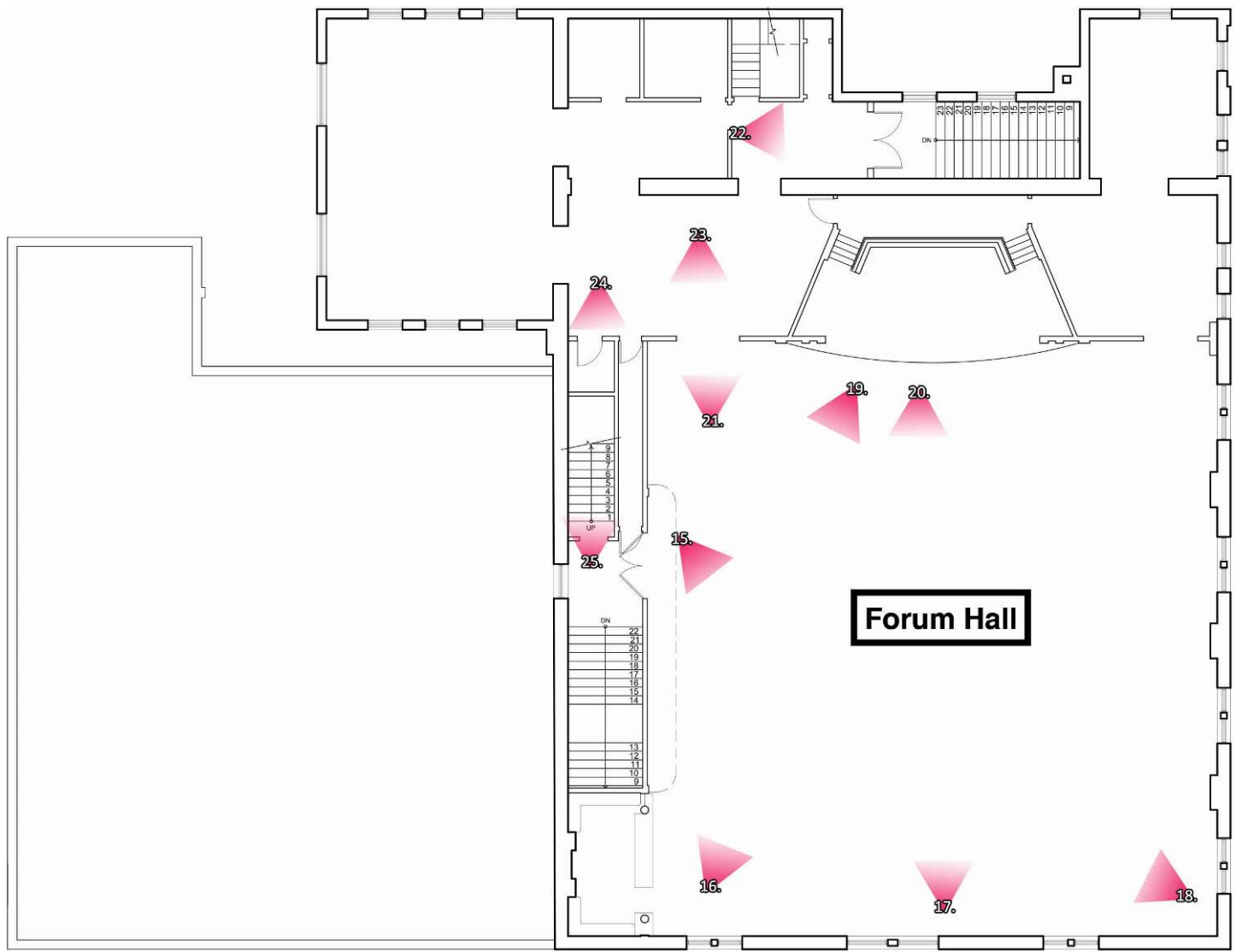


FIGURE 6: SECOND FLOOR PHOTOGRAPH KEY.
* Number denotes location of camera.

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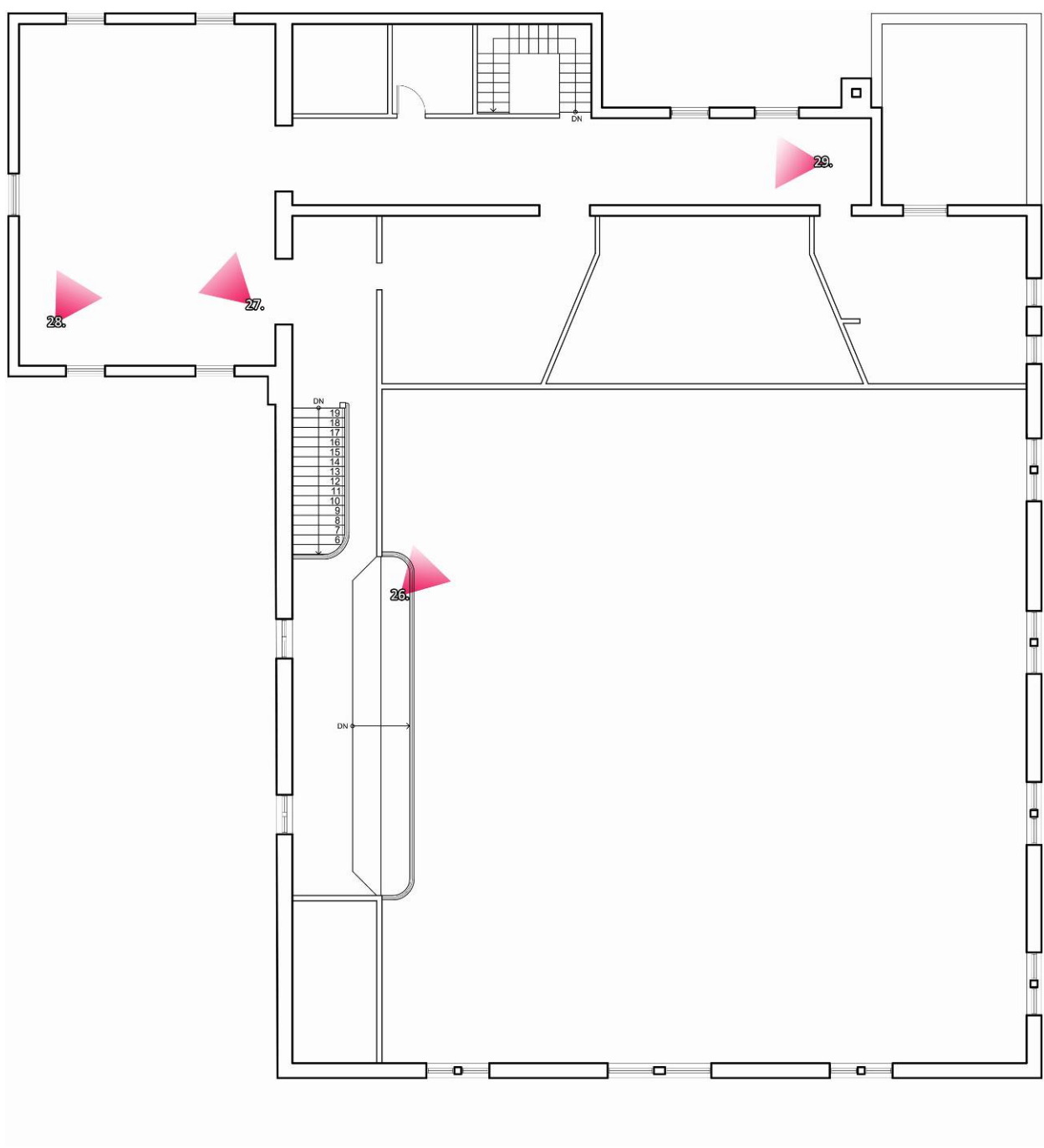


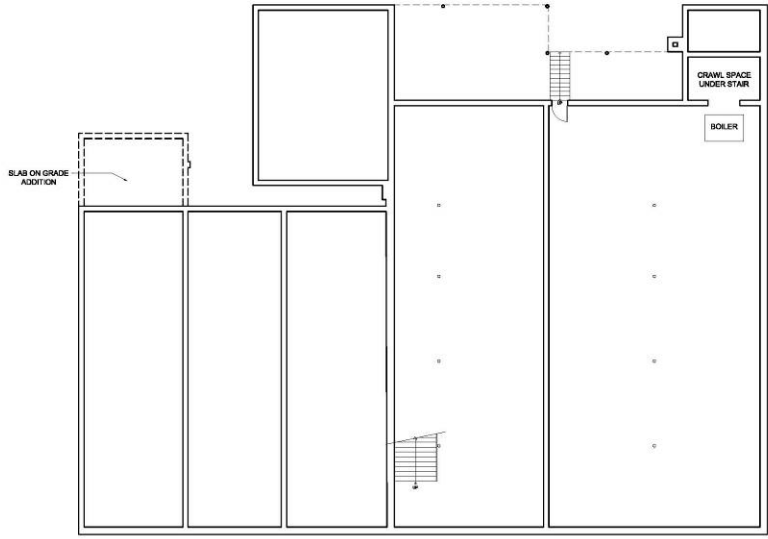
FIGURE 7: THIRD FLOOR PHOTOGRAPH KEY.
* Number denotes location of camera.

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1 BASEMENT PLAN
SCALE: 1/16"=1'-0"

FIGURE 8: BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN.

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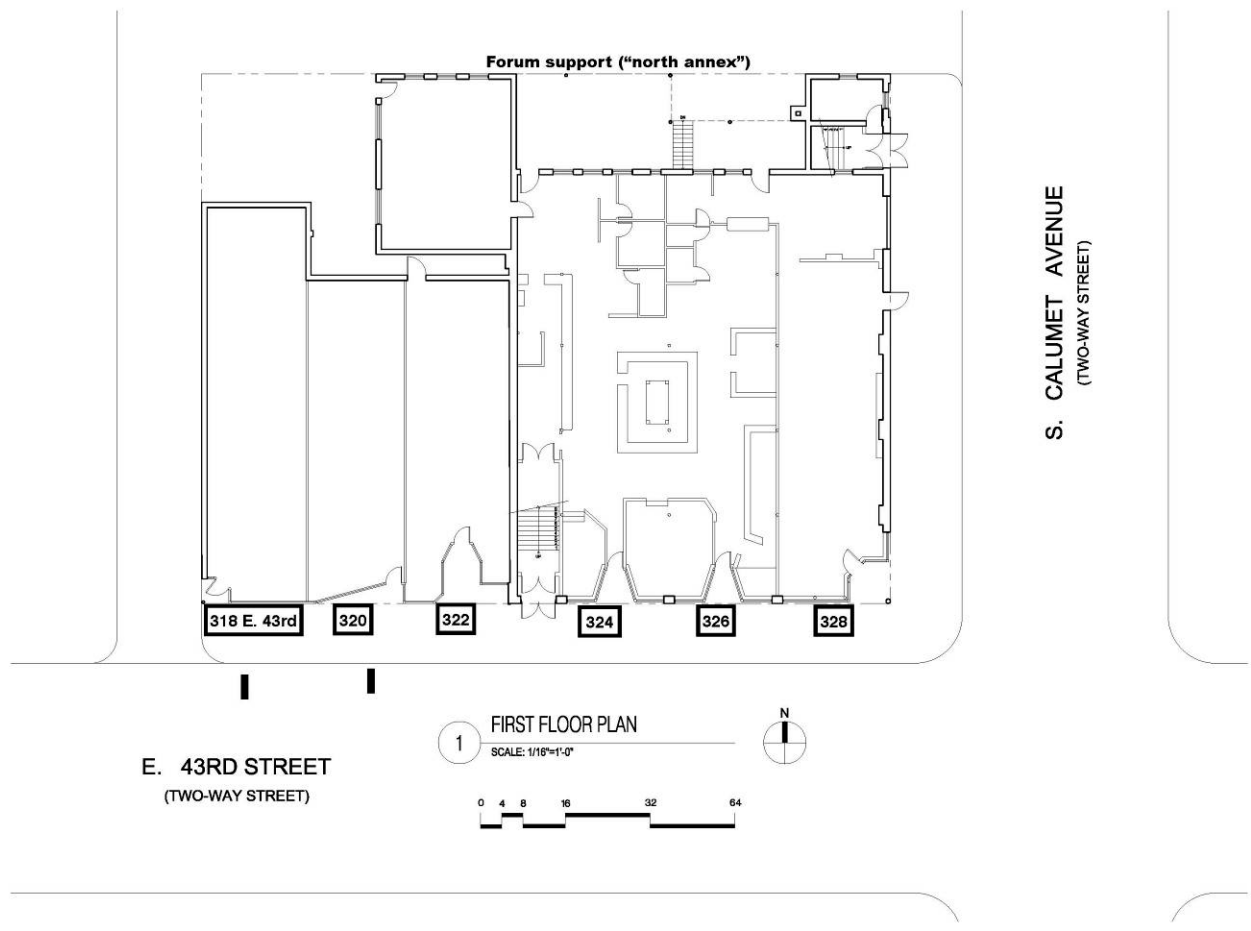


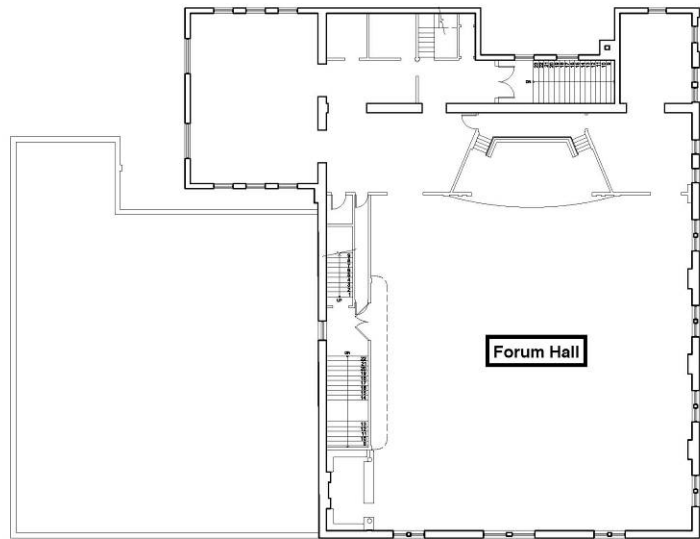
FIGURE 9: FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

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1 SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/16"=1'-0"

FIGURE 10: SECOND FLOOR PLAN.

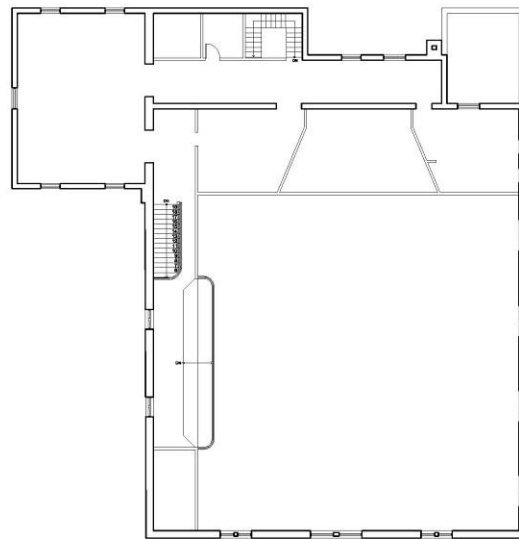
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1 THIRD FLOOR PLAN (BALCONY)
SCALE: 1/16"=1'-0"

FIGURE 11: THIRD FLOOR PLAN.

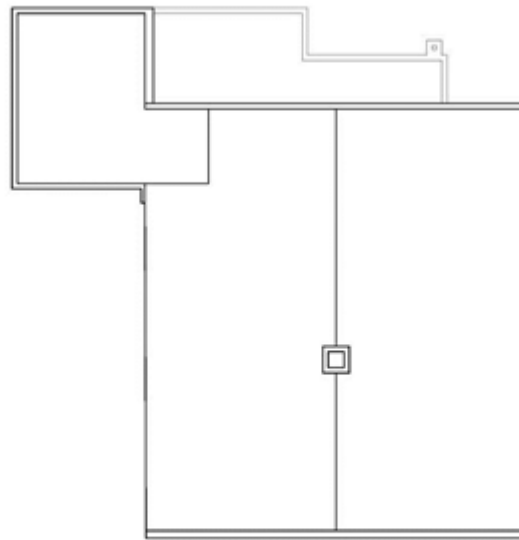
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1 ROOF PLAN
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"

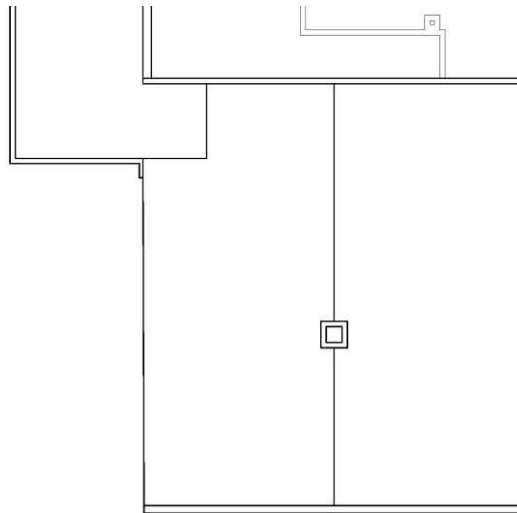
FIGURE 12: ROOF PLAN.

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1 ROOF PLAN
SCALE: 1/16"=1'-0"



Legend

Firehouse	Ward Office
Police Station	Cemetery
School	Park

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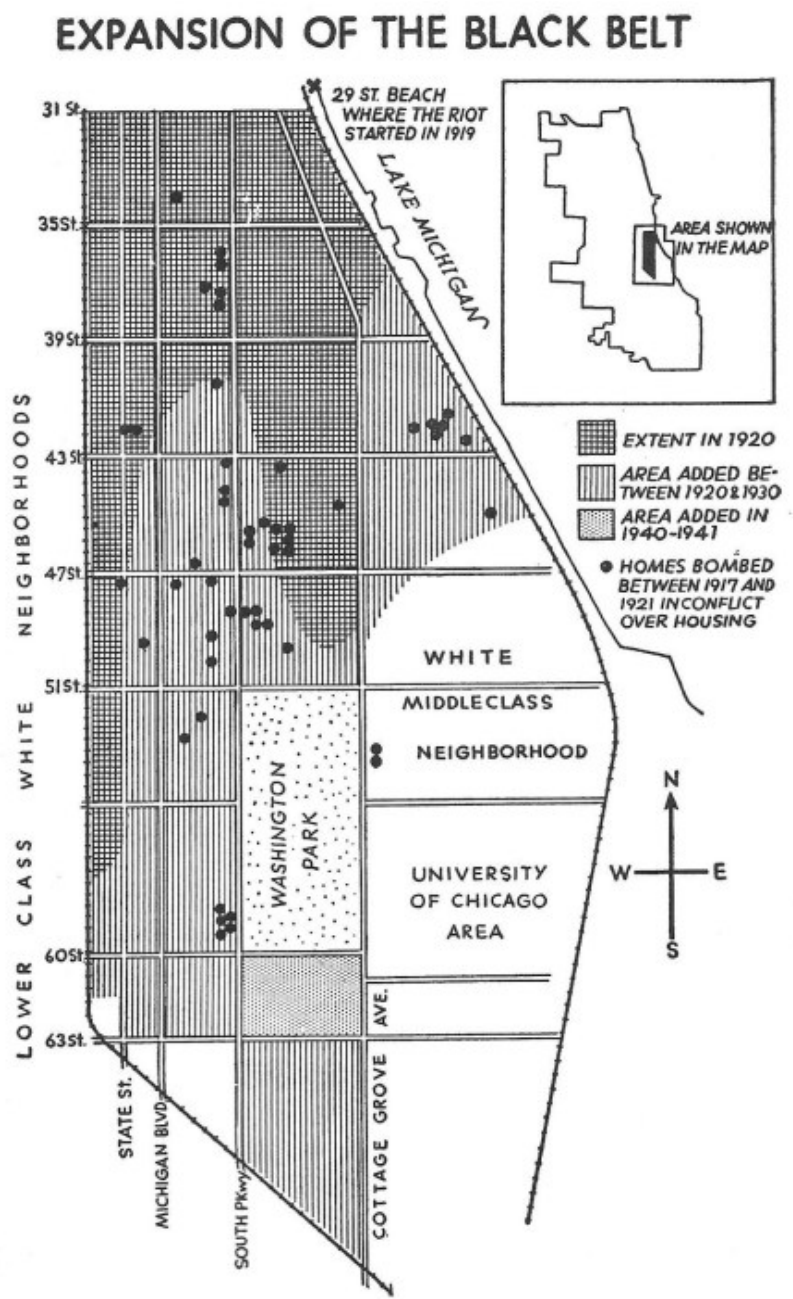
FIGURE 13: MAP OF THE 3RD WARD, 2019.

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FIGURE 14: MAP OF CHICAGO’S BLACK BELT FROM ST. CLAIR DRAKE & HORACE R. CAYTON, BLACK METROPOLIS: A STUDY OF NEGRO LIFE IN A NORTHERN CITY, ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN 1945.



FIGURE 15: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF THE FORUM, 1964.

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FIGURE 16: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF THE FORUM, CA. 1970.

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FIGURE 17: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF THE FORUM, CA. 1990.

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Graham Garfield Collection

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FIGURE 18: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF 43RD STREET LOOKING EAST FROM PRAIRIE AVENUE, 1908.

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FIGURE 19: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF 43RD STREET LOOKING WEST FROM CALUMET AVENUE, 1925.

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FIGURE 20: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF SOUTHEAST CORNER OF 43RD STREET AND CALUMET AVENUE, UNDATED.

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FIGURE 21: DOCUMENTED HISTORICAL EVENTS AT THE FORUM.
 *LISTED BY ACTUAL EVENT WITH SOURCE.

- Clubs/Associations
- Historic Individuals/Organizations
- Performing Arts Individuals/Groups
- Political Figures/Individuals
- Unions/Fraternal Organizations

POLITICS	NEWS	EVENTS (CLUBS)	PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC, THEATRE, OPERA)	ELKS
<p>April 1, 1898</p> <p>Republicans from the Thirty-second ward meet in the interest of the Hyde Park town ticket and Alderman Mavor. Speakers include: Candidates and Colonel Davidson, J.M. Longnecker, John D. Adair, and John T. Richards.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, April 1, 1898.</p>	<p>April 29, 1928</p> <p>Blast damages three stores (322-328) at The Forum.</p> <p>Chicago Tribune, April 30, 1928.</p>	<p>October 6, 1897</p> <p>Forum Club hosts an informal dance party.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 4, 1897.</p>	<p>February 19, 1930</p> <p>The Fleur-De-Lis Choral Club presented the operetta "Songs and Scenes Around the Old Melodeon".</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, February 22, 1930.</p>	<p>March 29, 1940</p> <p>Great Lakes Lodge No. 43 honors Grand Auditor James T. Copper at a banquet.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 2, 1940.</p>
<p>June 1, 1898</p> <p>Thirty-second ward Republican mass meeting to prepare for the upcoming primary election.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, June 2, 1898.</p> <p>Chicago Eagle, June 4, 1898.</p>	<p>1934</p> <p>Forum Hall was robbed in 1934.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, February 2, 1935.</p>	<p>November 25, 1897</p> <p>Colonel Ellsworth Camp, No.87 hosted a Thanksgiving dance with a three-act war drama and exhibition drill by the Burns Military School cadets.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, November 20, 1897.</p>	<p>March 14, 1930</p> <p>Campfire Matrons and Campfire Girls host benefit performance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 15, 1930.</p>	<p>August 1944</p> <p>45th Annual Convention of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks of the World, the largest Negro fraternal organization.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, August 26, 1944.</p>
<p>March 31, 1899</p> <p>Thirty-second Ward meeting. Speakers included: Professor E.J. James, Alderman W.C. Nelson, Colonel Davidson, George L. Douglas, S. H. Ayers, the Honorable J.R. Mann, the Honorable Eli B. Felsenthal, Congressman Foss, and others. Bert Morphy wil sing.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, March 31, 1899.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, April 1, 1899.</p>	<p>ca. 1934-1937</p> <p>Nat King Cole assembled bands to play school proms and Sunday dances at Forum Hall.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Defender, February 25, 1965.</p>	<p>January 2, 1898</p> <p>Forum Club gave an informal dance party at Forum Hall.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, January 2, 1898.</p>	<p>March 1933</p> <p>The Chicago Music and Dramatic and Monarch Insurance clubs gave a minstrel and dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 25, 1933.</p>	<p>August 24, 1944</p> <p>Elks Re-Election of Grand Lodge Officers.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, August 25, 1944.</p>
<p>April 10, 1900</p> <p>Well-known merchant Graeme Stewart made a "red-hot" speech for Judge Carter for governor.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, April 3, 1900.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, April 6, 1900.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, April 10, 1900.</p> <p>Chicago Eagle, April 14, 1900.</p>	<p>September 1938</p> <p>Forum Hall bans Union bands.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, September 24, 1938.</p>	<p>January 14, 1898</p> <p>The first waltz reception of the Calumet Assemblies.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, January 9, 1898.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, January 15, 1898.</p>	<p>June + July 1934</p> <p>Jones Jolly Orchestra regularly playing at Forum Hall.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, June 30, 1934 and July 7, 1934.</p>	<p>December 31, 1953</p> <p>Elks Annual New Year's Eve Dance and Cabaret Ball. Musical guest Tick Grays orchestra.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, January 9, 1954.</p>
<p>April 26, 1900</p>	<p>March 26, 1943</p>	<p>February 18, 1898</p>	<p>December 1935</p>	<p>January 12, 1954</p>

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POLITICS	NEWS	EVENTS (CLUBS)	PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC, THEATRE, OPERA)	ELKS
<p>Judge Hanecy speaks at Forum Hall.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, April 26, 1900.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, April 27, 1900.</p>	<p>An all-night party at Forum Hall was raided.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 27, 1943.</p>	<p>The Violet Club holds its second annual reception and dance.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, February 13, 1898.</p>	<p>Wildcats Orchestra every Sunday at Forum Hall.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 14, 1935.</p>	<p>Ella G. Berry Temple No. 359 Installation and Banquet.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, February 13, 1954.</p>
<p>September 24, 1900</p> <p>Thirty-second Ward Republican meeting. Speakers: H. J. Hamlin, William P. Williams, and candidates.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, September 23, 1900.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, September 25, 1900.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, September 24, 1900.</p>		<p>April 7, 1899</p> <p>Informal dance hosted at The Forum. The committee included: E.E. Sprague, Charles L. Gould, and E.L. Williamson.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, April 2, 1899.</p>	<p>November/December 1937</p> <p>Play by the Artistic Ladies Club.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 4, 1937.</p>	<p>March 4, 1956</p> <p>Greater Fort Dearborn Lodge of Elks host public installation of officers.</p> <p>Daily Defender, March 1, 1956.</p>
<p>October 23, 1900</p> <p>Regular Republican meeting. Speakers included: Congressman Warner, Lieutenant Governor Northcott, and Judge Marcus Kavanagh.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 23, 1900.</p>		<p>October 8, 1899</p> <p>Poster informal dancing party.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 1, 1899.</p>	<p>February 8, 1938</p> <p>Jimmie Johnson Concert.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, February 12, 1938.</p>	<p>May 12, 1956</p> <p>IBPOEOW Annual Bathing Beauty and Talent Contest dance.</p> <p>Daily Defender May 2 and May 3, 1956.</p>
<p>March 21, 1901</p> <p>Sixth Ward Democratic meeting. Speakers included: Mayor Harrison, C. F. Gunther, A. J. Ryan, E. H. Thorp, Samuel Alschuler, William Loeffler, W. S. Forrest, and James Todd.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, March 21, 1901.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, March 22, 1901.</p>		<p>October 13, 1899</p> <p>The first Calumet Assemblies party.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 9 and October 13, 1899.</p>	<p>November 5, 1938</p> <p>Jitterbug minstrel by the Hospitality Committee of the Northern District Association of Colored Women.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, October 29, 1938.</p>	<p>December 5, 1957</p> <p>Fraternal Rites for Robert H. Johnson, Elks grand exalted ruler.</p> <p>Daily Defender, December 4, 1957.</p>
<p>June 14, 1901</p> <p>Annual meeting and election of officers of the Democratic club of the Sixth Ward.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune June, 13, 1901.</p>		<p>October 18, 1899</p> <p>Informal dancing party.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, October 15, 1899.</p>	<p>May 1939</p> <p>Unity Theatre Guild presents the musical comedy "Pagan Drums".</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, May 6, 1939</p>	<p>July 27, 1958</p> <p>Elks Easter Parade and Fur Fashions with local beauty contest.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, April 12, 1958.</p>
<p>October 24, 1901</p> <p>Edward Tilden Democracy opens its field campaign with guest speaker Thomas A. Moran.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 24, 1901.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, October 25, 1901.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, October 26, 1901.</p>		<p>November 11, 1899</p> <p>Calumet Assemblies dance.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, November 6, 1899.</p>	<p>May 1943</p> <p>Floyd Campbell twilight dances started May 30.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, May 29, 1943.</p>	<p>June 21, 1959</p> <p>Elks Annual Bathing Beauty Contest and Talent show.</p> <p>Daily Defender, June 15, 1959.</p>
<p>October 16, 1902</p> <p>Sixth Ward meeting for the Hyde Park Republicans.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, September 27, 1902.</p>		<p>December 8, 1899</p> <p>Calumet Assemblies third party of the series.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, December 8, 1899.</p>	<p>December 9, 1949</p> <p>Negro Theatre Guild performs "The Valiant" with Freddye Douglas (Broadway Dance star) performing, directed by Curley Ellison, and music by Melvin</p>	<p>October 3, 1959</p> <p>Party by the Greater Fort Dearborn Lodge No. 444 and Unique Temple No. 15 and Ella G. Berry Temple.</p>

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<p>The Inter Ocean, October 2, 1902.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 17, 1902.</p>		<p>The Inter Ocean, December 9, 1899.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, December 10, 1899.</p>	<p>Moore's Orchestra with Pat Graham as vocalist.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, November 26, 1949.</p>	<p>The Chicago Defender, October 3, 1959.</p>
<p>October 28, 1902</p> <p>Meeting to protest ex-Ald. Martin B. Madden for congressional nominee for the first district.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 29, 1902.</p>		<p>December 12, 1899</p> <p>Progressive Club dance.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, December 11, 1899.</p>	<p>July 6, 1957</p> <p>"Destination Moon" presented at Elks Hall starring the Starliters.</p> <p>Daily Defender, July 3, 1957.</p>	<p>March 27, 1960</p> <p>Opening night for the Greater Fort Dearborn Elks Cocktail Lounge.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 26, 1960.</p>
<p>February 10, 1903</p> <p>Republican meeting - address given by ex.-Ald. Kent on choosing Harrison over Lorimer for mayor.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, February 11, 1903.</p>		<p>December 31, 1899</p> <p>The Monday evening dance classes host a New Year's ball.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, December 31, 1899.</p>		<p>February 11, 1961</p> <p>Elk's Tent City Benefit Dance with guest speakers Rev. Louie Boddie and Chaster Batey.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, February 9, 1961.</p>
<p>March 31, 1903</p> <p>Republican Party meeting.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, March 31, 1903.</p>		<p>February 2, 1900</p> <p>Calumet Assemblies dance.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, January 29, 1900.</p>		<p>February 12, 1961</p> <p>Joint-public installation ceremonies for Elk Lodge No. 444 with its affiliated temples Ella C. Berry Temple No. 359, and Unique No. 15.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, February 11, 1961.</p>
<p>April 1, 1903</p> <p>Mayor Harrison speaks at Forum Hall.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, March 8, 1903.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, April 1, 1903.</p>		<p>February 5, 1900</p> <p>The Monday evening dance classes host a reception. Horace W. Beek leads the cotillion.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, February 4, 1900.</p>		<p>February 17, 1961</p> <p>History Pageant as part of 39th Annual Negro HisNetry Week, hosted by the Elks Fraternal Order.</p> <p>The Chicago Daily Defender, January 16, January 30, and February 9, 1961.</p>
<p>March 30, 1904</p> <p>Sixth Ward Mass meeting with speaking guests George L. Warner, E.P. Barry, W. C. Nelson, H. O. Nourse, William A. Bither, S.H. Strawn, and Jenkin Lloyd Jones.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, March 30, 1904.</p>		<p>February 16, 1900</p> <p>Dancing party hosted by the Calumet Assemblies.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, February 14, 1900.</p>		<p>May 14, 1961</p> <p>Civil Liberties Department of the Elks host first fundraising tea.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Defender, May 8 and May 13, 1961.</p>
<p>October 25, 1904</p> <p>First Congressional District (Republican) Meeting for Independent Candidate David S. Geer.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 26, 1904</p>		<p>March 12, 1900</p> <p>Monday evening dance classes host a summer party.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, March 11, 1900.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, March 11, 1900.</p>		<p>February 24, 1962</p> <p>Beauty and Talent Department of the Elks of Illinois and Wisconsin host song and dance revue.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, February 24, 1962.</p>
<p>October 31, 1904</p> <p>Lawrence B. Stringer candidacy for Governor speech hosted by the Sixth Ward Parker Davis and Democratic Club. Other speakers included: Samuel Alschuler, A.S. Trude, Judge Philip Stein, George A. Trude, and John E. Traeger.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, October 28, 1904.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, November 1, 1904.</p>		<p>November 16, 1900</p> <p>The Calumet Assemblies host their opening party.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, November 4, 1900.</p>		<p>March 11, 1962</p> <p>Elks Western Division Antlered Guard Dept. open new headquarters at former Forum Hall.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 3, 1962.</p>

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<p>November 2, 1904</p> <p>Sixth Ward Republican meeting.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, November 2, 1904.</p>		<p>December 14, 1900</p> <p>Second party of the Calumet Assemblies.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, December 12, 1900.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, December 14, 1900.</p>		<p>June 14, 1963</p> <p>Elks "Press Ball".</p> <p>Chicago Daily Defender, March 20, 1963.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 23, 1963.</p>
<p>January 10, 1905</p> <p>Sixth Ward meeting called to endorse John Maynard Harlan's candidacy for Mayor.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, January 9 and January 10, 1905.</p>		<p>January 4, 1901</p> <p>Party hosted by the Calumet Assemblies.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, December 30, 1900.</p>		<p>March 21, 1964</p> <p>Greater Fort Dearborn Lodge of Elks banquet to honor Grand Exalted Ruler Hobson Reynolds.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 21, 1964.</p>
<p>March (14), 1905</p> <p>Judge Dunne speaks.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, March 15, 1905.</p>		<p>March 29, 1901</p> <p>The Calumet Assemblies hosted their last dance of the season.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, March 21, 1901.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, March 24, 1901.</p>		<p>June 7, 1964</p> <p>IBPOEOW 15th Annual Bathing Beauty and Talent Contest dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender May 23, 1964.</p>
<p>March 23, 1905</p> <p>Mass meeting with guest speaker John Maynard Harlan.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, March 23, 1905.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, March 24, 1905.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, March 24, 1905.</p>		<p>May 10, 1901</p> <p>May party of the Young Ladies Guild of the Holy Angels' Church.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, May 11, 1901.</p>		<p>May 23, 1965</p> <p>IBPOEOW 16th Annual Bathing Beauty and Talent Contest dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, May 1, 1965.</p>
<p>March 24, 1905</p> <p>Edward Fitzsimmons Dunne Meeting.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, March 24, 1905.</p>		<p>May 17, 1901</p> <p>De La Salle Alumni Association reception.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, May 12, 1901.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, May 16, 1901.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, May 17, 1901.</p>		<p>December 17, 1965</p> <p>Pre-Holiday Dance hosted by the Past Exalted Rulers and the Past Daughter Rulers Council. Musical guest the Rock and Rollers.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 18, 1965.</p>
<p>October 30, 1905</p> <p>Sixth Ward Democratic meeting. Speakers included: Mr. Wenter and Democratic candidates.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, October 31, 1905.</p>		<p>December 10, 1901</p> <p>Reception by the Englewood Union Hospital Alumnae.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, December 11, 1901.</p>		<p>March 1966</p> <p>Elks 50th Annual Public Installation of Officers.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 12, 1966.</p>
<p>May 24, 1906</p> <p>Democratic Sixth Ward meeting for the election of William P. Feeney as county surveyor.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, May 24, 1906.</p>		<p>December 19, 1901</p> <p>Second party of the Young Ladies Guild of the Holy Angels' Church.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, December 16, 1901.</p>		<p>November 19, 1967</p> <p>Warden Temple Celebrates its 60th Anniversary.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, November 18, 1967.</p>
<p>March 13, 1907</p>		<p>May 7, 1908</p>		<p>December 23, 1967</p>

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POLITICS	NEWS	EVENTS (CLUBS)	PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC, THEATRE, OPERA)	ELKS
<p>Mayor Dunne opens his campaign.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, March 13, 1907.</p>		<p>De La Salle Alumni Association annual May party.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, May 4, 1908.</p>		<p>The I.B.P.O Elks of the world honor Miss Betty Washington, columnist for the Daily Defender, as "Lady Journalist of the Year for 1967" at its dinner honoring U.S. personnel returning home from Vietnam.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 23, 1967.</p>
<p>March 25, 1907</p> <p>Republican meeting.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, March 25, 1907.</p>		<p>June 8, 1911</p> <p>Alpha Chapter of the Alpha Iota Sorority host a benefit dance for Miss Prouty's Home for Crippled Children.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, June 5, 1911.</p>		<p>November 23, 1968</p> <p>Born Lodge No. 444 of the I.B.P.O. Elks hosts a benefit dinner dance/ Thanksgiving "extravaganza". Musical guests were the "Road-Runner Band" with vocalist Geraldine Hart, Clifford Jones, and singer Claudius Phillips.</p> <p>Other entertainment included impressionist Vernell Simmons, Go-Go dancer "Edna", exotic dancer "Lorieli", and comedy dance team the Crazy Leg Brothers.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Defender, November 19 and November 23, 1968.</p>
<p>May 14, 1907</p> <p>Political meeting against William L. O'Connell, former commissioner of public works - indicted for conspiracy to violate the civil service laws.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, May 15, 1907.</p>		<p>December 13, 1912</p> <p>The Maricopa Social Club second annual reception and ball.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, December 4, 1912.</p>		<p>June 1, 1969</p> <p>Greater Fort Dearborn Elk Lodge No. 444 Bathing Beauty and Talent Contest.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Defender, May 24, 1969.</p>
<p>September 12, 1907</p> <p>Public Policy club meeting. Speakers included: former Mayor Dunne, Alderman William E. Dever, and others.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, September 12, 1907.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, September 13, 1907.</p>		<p>May 9, 1913</p> <p>The Maricopa Social Club hosted their fifth annual reception and ball.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, April 19, 1913.</p>		<p>December 31, 1969</p> <p>The Greater Fort Dearborn Elks Lodge No. 444 New Year's Eve Party.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Defender, December 20, 1969.</p>
<p>March 24, 1908</p> <p>Republican Meeting called to support Alderman McCoid.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, March 25, 1908.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, March 25, 1908.</p>		<p>November 14, 1913</p> <p>Maricopa Social Club of Fuller Park Tango party and reception.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, November 6, 1913.</p>		
<p>November 1, 1910</p> <p>Sixth Ward Democratic meeting. Speakers included: Samuel Alschuler, Carter H. Harrison, Michael Zimmer, John E. Owens, Edward F. Dunne, William L. O'Connell, and Roy D. Keehn.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, November 1, 1910.</p>		<p>December 1925</p> <p>Whist (Pool/Billiards) Party.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 12, 1925.</p>		

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POLITICS	NEWS	EVENTS (CLUBS)	PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC, THEATRE, OPERA)	ELKS
<p>February 14, 1911</p> <p>Dr. Emil G. Hirsch Speech to aid Ald. Merriam's election.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, February 12 and February 15, 1911.</p>		<p>June 3, 1926</p> <p>Commencement exercises for the Mason School for Children.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, June 26, 1926.</p>		
<p>February 15, 1911</p> <p>German-American Harrison Organization Speech.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, February 15, 1911.</p>		<p>July 3, 1926</p> <p>Delta Sigma Theta scholarship fete.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, July 3, 1926.</p>		
<p>March 21, 1911</p> <p>Carter Harrison Campaign meeting.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, March 21, 1911.</p>		<p>November 24, 1926</p> <p>First annual dance of the Progressive Social Club.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, November 27, 1926.</p>		
<p>March 22, 1911</p> <p>Sixth Ward Ald. Merriam Campaign meeting. Speakers included: Charles E. Merriam, Albert W. Beilfuss, William F. Mayhew, Julius Rosenwald, Charles A. Alden, Wallace Clark, Moses Greenbaum, and Alderman Long.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, March 22, 1911.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, March 22, 1911.</p>		<p>April 19, 1927</p> <p>Urban League dance and mass meeting.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, April 23, 1927.</p>		
<p>July 13, 1911</p> <p>Meeting of the Lorimerites - to protest the persecution of Senator Lorimer./Republican mass meeting against the Lincoln-Lorimer conference at Senator Lorimer's office July 10, 1911.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, July 13, 1911.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, July 14, 1911.</p>		<p>April 20, 1927</p> <p>First annual party by the La Papillon Social and Charity Club.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, April 23, 1927 and April 30, 1927.</p>		
<p>July 16, 1911</p> <p>Republican meeting.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, July 18, 1911.</p>		<p>July 4, 1927</p> <p>David Peyton and orchestra play for the Ambassador Club.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, July 9, 1927.</p>		
<p>September 5, 1911</p> <p>Cook County Campaign of Senator Lorimer kick-off.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, September 2, 1911.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, September 5, 1911.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, September 3 and September 6, 1911.</p>		<p>August 13-20, 1927</p> <p>24th Biennial Session of the Knights of Pythias of North America, South American, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. Supreme lodge sessions were held at Forum Hall.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, August 20, 1927.</p>		

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POLITICS	NEWS	EVENTS (CLUBS)	PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC, THEATRE, OPERA)	ELKS
<p>October 19, 1911</p> <p>Democratic campaign for the judges of the Circuit and Superior courts opening meeting.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 20, 1911.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, October 20, 1911.</p>		<p>January 6, 1928</p> <p>Post-season party for Third Ward children.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, January 14, 1928.</p>		
<p>March 11, 1912</p> <p>Edward F. Dunne opened his campaign for the nomination as governor on the Democratic ticket.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, March 12, 1912.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, March 12, 1912.</p>		<p>February 17, 1928</p> <p>Sigma Phi Omega annual formal.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, February 11, 1928.</p>		
<p>October 8, 1912</p> <p>Republican meeting. Lewis Rinaker, Republican Candidate for State's Attorney, speaks.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 9, 1912.</p>		<p>March 1929</p> <p>Jackson Playground Jamboree hosted by Ald. Robert R. Jackson of the Third Ward.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 30, 1929.</p>		
<p>October 22, 1912</p> <p>Democratic meeting with speakers Edward F. Dunne and candidates.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 22, 1912.</p>		<p>July 3, 1929</p> <p>The Property Owner's Improvement Association meeting with guest speaker Netta Paullyn Garner.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, July 6, 1929.</p>		
<p>April 15, 1914</p> <p>James C. McShane gives opening speech for his campaign for the Democratic nomination for Senator.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, April 1, 1914.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, April 16, 1914.</p> <p>The Inter Ocean, April 16, 1914.</p>		<p>January 31, 1930</p> <p>Chicago Labor Conference dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, January 25, 1930.</p>		
<p>October 16, 1914</p> <p>Senator Lawrence Y. Sherman Speaking Campaign.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 27, 1914.</p>		<p>March 6/7, 1930</p> <p>Ninth annual inaugural dance of the Appomattox Club.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 8, 1930.</p>		
<p>January 26, 1915</p> <p>Third Ward Political Meeting with speaking guest Robert M. Sweitzer.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, January 26, 1915.</p> <p>Chicago Eagle, January 30, 1915.</p>		<p>November 6, 1930</p> <p>The Colored Women's Republican Clubs of Illinois, Inc. host a reception in honor of Miss Nannie H. Burroughs.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, November 8, 1930.</p>		

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<p>February 19, 1915</p> <p>First speech by Gov. Edward F. Dunne for mayoral campaign.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, February 20, 1915.</p>		<p>May 13, 1931</p> <p>The Satellites hosted their third annual April prom.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, May 16, 1931.</p>		
<p>January 20, 1916</p> <p>Mayor Thompson opened his speaking campaign in the Third Ward.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, January 21, 1916.</p>		<p>December 25, 1931</p> <p>Twentieth annual formal dance of the Entre Nous Club.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 26, 1931.</p>		
<p>April 1, 1916</p> <p>Mayor Thompson address.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, April 2, 1916.</p>		<p>January 16, 1932</p> <p>Durable 500 Club ball.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, January 23, 1932.</p>		
<p>September 6, 1916</p> <p>Speech by Col. Dudley Chase Smith.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, September 6, 1916.</p>		<p>March 5, 1932</p> <p>Fifth anniversary dance of the Romping Earls Social Club.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 6, 1932.</p>		
<p>October 12, 1916</p> <p>Congressman James R. Mann opens speaking campaign in Third Ward.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 12, 1916.</p>		<p>March 25, 1932</p> <p>De Luxe Club hosts its first annual party.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 26, 1932.</p>		
<p>October 24, 1916</p> <p>Third Ward Democratic demonstration with speaker Roger C. Sullivan.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 24, 1916.</p>		<p>June 1932</p> <p>Ladies of the Entre Nous Club dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, June 11, 1932.</p>		
<p>March 29, 1917</p> <p>State's Attorney Hoyne gives a speech in the interests of George F. Iliff, Democratic candidate for 3rd Ward alderman.</p> <p>The Day Book March 29, 1917.</p> <p>The Day Book, March 30, 1917.</p>		<p>December 24, 1932</p> <p>Reception hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Seymore Mackey and wedding announcement for their daughter Gladys Naomi Kennedy to James Webb Wagner.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 24, 1932.</p>		
<p>January 16, 1919</p> <p>Mayor Thompson addressed the Third Ward.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, January 17, 1919.</p>		<p>1932</p> <p>Johnny Long was a standing Tuesday night gig.</p> <p>The New York Age, March 12, 1932.</p>		
<p>March 20, 1919</p>		<p>January 18, 1933</p>		

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POLITICS	NEWS	EVENTS (CLUBS)	PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC, THEATRE, OPERA)	ELKS
<p>Third Ward meeting with speaker Ald. George Iliff.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, March 21, 1919.</p>		<p>The Les Chics Cheres annual formal.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, January 21, 1933.</p>		
<p>October 21, 1924</p> <p>Democratic mass meeting.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 21, 1924.</p>		<p>February 4, 1933</p> <p>Mr. and Mrs. James Parker honor Misses Auna Marie and Elizabeth Lawrence, graduates of Englewood High School. Musical guest Mrs. Nina Cunningham.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, February 11, 1933.</p>		
<p>December 8, 1925</p> <p>Republican Club meeting - notable for the passing of Dr. William Fielding Garnett on stage.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 12, 1925.</p>		<p>February 1933</p> <p>Miss Billie Jordan entertained members of the Les Coffeusse Bridge Club.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, February 25, 1933.</p>		
<p>October 16, 1928</p> <p>Oscar Stanton De Priest, candidate for Congressman, addressed 500 colored voters in the quarters of the William Hale Thompson Republican Club.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, October 17, 1928.</p>		<p>April 2, 1933</p> <p>The Universal Social Club holds its sixth installation in the Japanese Tea Room.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, April 8, 1933.</p>		
<p>April 26, 1942</p> <p>Speaking engagement of State Senator William A. Wallace. Topic: Demand equal rights in education and economic opportunities for American Negroes after the war.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, April 27, 1942.</p>		<p>July 1933</p> <p>The Broadcasters Social Club held its second annual summer dance in the Japanese Room.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, July 8, 1933.</p>		
<p>March 1952</p> <p>Third Ward meeting with speaking guest Louis E. Nelson.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, March 17, 1952.</p>		<p>July 22, 1933</p> <p>Just Boosters Sport Dance with musical guests Miss Christine Wright and Clarence Harris.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, July 22, 1933.</p>		
<p>March 18, 1956</p> <p>Third Ward Political Rally with guest speaker William E. King.</p> <p>Daily Defender, March 15, 1956.</p>		<p>August 11, 1933</p> <p>The ladies of the Chicago Music and Dramatic Club hosted a bridge party with musical guest Freda Gaines.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, August 26, 1933.</p>		
<p>March 25, 1970</p> <p>The Second District Police-Community Workshop Steering Committee regular monthly meeting. Speakers included: Silas Purnell, ada McKinley, Verdi Coleman, and Irma Cole.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Defender, March 24, 1970.</p>		<p>May 11, 1934</p> <p>Kute Kittens Club dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, May 12, 1934.</p>		

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		<p>July 2, 1934</p> <p>Graduation (Hyde Park High School) for Miss Helyn Campbell. Musical guest was Roberts' Harmony Syncopators.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, July 7, 1934.</p>		
		<p>November 1934</p> <p>Granada Social Club dance with musical guest Robert's orchestra.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, November 17, 1934.</p>		
		<p>December 1934</p> <p>The Ladies of the Entre Nous Club hosts their fourth annual formal dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 8, 1934.</p>		
		<p>January 4, 1935</p> <p>Foxes formal dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 29, 1934.</p>		
		<p>January 23, 1935</p> <p>Green Donkeys regular meeting in their clubroom at Forum Hall.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, January 26, 1935.</p>		
		<p>March 21, 1935</p> <p>Bachelor and Benedicts regular mid-monthly meeting.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 30, 1935.</p>		
		<p>March 1935</p> <p>The Chicago Illinois Beauty Shop Owners Association hosted their formal.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 30, 1935.</p>		
		<p>April 5, 1935</p> <p>Les-Vingt Quatres Freres, brother club to the We Modernettes, hosts its inaugural spotlight dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 30, 1935.</p>		
		<p>April 7, 1935</p> <p>Buckner's Art and Social Club meeting.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 30, 1935.</p>		
		<p>April 18, 1935</p>		

POLITICS	NEWS	EVENTS (CLUBS)	PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC, THEATRE, OPERA)	ELKS
		<p>Mrs. Ada Lewis of the Modiste Club and social worker stages her third annual fashion revue. Musical guests included: S. Sylvester Johnson, Misses Alberta Polk, Clara Bolton, female quartet from the William Henry Singers, and tap and toe dancing by Misses Hermine and Edith Dorsey.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 30 and April 20, 1935.</p>		
		<p>May 15, 1935</p> <p>Chicago Division of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters annual spring dance - news announced of the National Mediation Board's orders to hold an election and determine the representation of pullman porters and maids.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, May 25, 1935.</p>		
		<p>August 9, 1935</p> <p>Philander Smith Elites host first sport dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, August 10, 1935.</p>		
		<p>October 19, 1935</p> <p>Foxes world series sport dance with musical guest Tiny Parham and his NBC broadcasting orchestra.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, October 19, 1935.</p>		
		<p>November 3, 1935</p> <p>The Fern Leaf Social Club gives its first cocktail party.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, November 9, 1935.</p>		
		<p>November 23, 1935</p> <p>First pre-Thanksgiving cabaret party by the Houston Movement, Inc.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 7, 1935.</p>		
		<p>February 13, 1936</p> <p>Tiny Parham and his orchestra perform for the Sophisticated What Not Social Club.</p> <p>The New York Age, February 22, 1936.</p>		
		<p>February 20, 1936</p> <p>Modern Priscilla Art and Charity Club Hop with musical guest Tiny Parham and his orchestra.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, February 22, 1936.</p>		
		<p>March 26, 1936</p>		

POLITICS	NEWS	EVENTS (CLUBS)	PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC, THEATRE, OPERA)	ELKS
		<p>Monarch Instructor Club meeting and social. The Chicago Defender, March 28, 1936.</p>		
		<p>April 18, 1936 Semper Iden Bridge Club spring party. The Chicago Defender, April 18, 1936.</p>		
		<p>April 24, 1936 Spiders Athletic Group, first annual prom with musical guest Tony Fambro. The Chicago Defender, May 2, 1936.</p>		
		<p>June 21, 1936 The Federal Women's Club of the Chicago Post Office host their annual June frolic. The New York Age, June 27, 1936.</p>		
		<p>September 1936 Eight-Eight Club dance. The Chicago Defender, September 19, 1936.</p>		
		<p>October 20, 1936 Monarch Instructor Club meeting with musical guest Johnny Long. The Chicago Defender, October 24, 1936.</p>		
		<p>February 18, 1937 Lee Umbles appears on the charity card at Forum Hall. The Chicago Defender, February 20, 1937.</p>		
		<p>March 1937 Wrestling events every Thursday. The Chicago Defender, March 6, 1937.</p>		
		<p>July 10, 1937 The Ideal Social Club dance. The Chicago Defender, July 10, 1937.</p>		
		<p>September 25, 1937 La Familia Club hosts its debut informal dance with musical guest Count Rich and his broadcasting orchestra. The Chicago Defender, September 18, 1937.</p>		

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		<p>October 1, 1937</p> <p>Entre Nous Club annual meeting and stag.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, October 2, 1937.</p>		
		<p>November 8, 1937</p> <p>Green Donkeys Halloween Party.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, November 13, 1937.</p>		
		<p>November 10, 1937</p> <p>Green Donkeys meeting in their clubroom at Forum Hall.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, November 13, 1937.</p>		
		<p>November 13, 1937</p> <p>Federal Athletic and Civic Association dance with musical guest Johnnie Long's orchestra.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, November 13, 1937.</p>		
		<p>November 20, 1937</p> <p>Twelfth Annual Benefit sponsored by the Kentucky State College Alumni.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 4, 1937.</p>		
		<p>January 28, 1938</p> <p>Annual formal dance of the Ladies of the Entre Nous Club.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender January 29, 1938.</p>		
		<p>October 19, 1938</p> <p>Citizens Equal Rights and Protective Association regular meeting.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, October 22, 1938.</p>		
		<p>December 25, 1938</p> <p>Christmas Banquet by the Progressive Twenty Social Club.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, January 7, 1939.</p>		
		<p>January 1939</p> <p>Louisiana Club of Chicago held its annual Bal Masque.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, January 21, 1939.</p>		
		<p>July 12, 1939</p>		

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		<p>Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Davis Wedding Anniversary. The Chicago Defender, July 29, 1939.</p>		
		<p>October 8, 1939 Eulas "Greek the Barber" Roberts Birthday Party. The Chicago Defender, October 14, 1939.</p>		
		<p>December 1939 Meeting of the executives of the Packinghouse Workers' Council of Chicago to finalize their constitution. Chicago Daily Tribune, December 28, 1939.</p>		
		<p>Week of January 20, 1940 The Golden Link Society Club hosts its 27th anniversary dance party with musical guest Floyd Campbell's orchestra. The Chicago Defender, January 20, 1940.</p>		
		<p>February 3, 1940 First annual dance of the Natchez Social and Civic Club. The Chicago Defender, February 3, 1940.</p>		
		<p>February 11, 1940 Twentieth Century Civic Organization meeting with presentation entitled "Capitalism, Unionism, and Discrimination". The Chicago Defender, February 17, 1940.</p>		
		<p>February 29, 1940 Professor Buckner gives a party for friends and students. The Chicago Defender, March 2, 1940.</p>		
		<p>April 19, 1940 The Toppettes Club gives its annual spring dance. The Chicago Defender May 4, 1940.</p>		
		<p>April 26, 1940 The "49ers" Club hosts its first spring frolic. The Chicago Defender, May 11, 1940.</p>		
		<p>May 24, 1940 Entre Nous Club sport dance with musical guest Sinclair Calloway's orchestra.</p>		

POLITICS	NEWS	EVENTS (CLUBS)	PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC, THEATRE, OPERA)	ELKS
		The Chicago Defender, June 8, 1940.		
		<p>June 29, 1940</p> <p>The Merry Twelve Social Club hosted its sixth annual dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, July 13, 1940.</p>		
		<p>July 6, 1940</p> <p>Bachelor and Benedicts Club sport dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender July 6, 1940.</p>		
		<p>July 19, 1940</p> <p>Highlight Social Club hosts its first barn dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender July 6, 1940.</p>		
		<p>November 4, 1940</p> <p>John R. Tanner camp, United Spanish War Veterans and auxiliary officer installation.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, November 3, 1940.</p>		
		<p>November 20, 1940</p> <p>Bachelors and Benedicts Club sixth annual club round-up with musical Floyd Campbell and his band.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 14, 1940.</p>		
		<p>November 30, 1940</p> <p>Entre Nous Club hosts its monthly meeting and goes on record as the first club in the city to have its members fingerprinted.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, November 30, 1940.</p>		
		<p>November 1940</p> <p>Harriet Tubman Club style show.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 7, 1940.</p>		
		<p>December 13, 1940</p> <p>The Ladies Auxiliary of the Transport Workers of Taxi Drivers Union, Local 201, C.I.O. of Chicago Benefit Dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 28, 1940.</p>		
		<p>December 25, 1940</p> <p>SWOC Local 2171 hosts it first annual cabaret dance. Musical guest Johnny Long and his orchestra.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 14, 1940.</p>		

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		<p>January 17, 1941</p> <p>The Ladies of the Entre Nous annual formal.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, January 18, 1941.</p>		
		<p>January 25, 1941</p> <p>Eighth Annual Benefit Dance by the Mt. Beulah College Club sponsored by the Popularity Clubsters.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, January 25, 1941.</p>		
		<p>January 1941</p> <p>The Golden Link Society Club celebrates its 29th anniversary.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, February 1, 1941.</p>		
		<p>February 1, 1941</p> <p>Second annual dance of the Natchez Social and Civic Club.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, February 1, 1941.</p>		
		<p>February 14, 1941</p> <p>Tioma Members Valentine "Sweater" Dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, February 15, 1941 and March 8, 1941.</p>		
		<p>February 15, 1941</p> <p>Entre Nous Club holds 32nd Annual Dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 1, 1941.</p>		
		<p>February 22, 1941</p> <p>13th Annual Dance of the Original Gladiators Club with musical guest Boy Tinsley's Orchestra.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 22, 1941.</p>		
		<p>March 1941</p> <p>Entre Nous Club dance with musical guest Sinclair Calloway's orchestra.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, March 15, 1941.</p>		
		<p>June 15, 1941</p> <p>The Community Garden Club hosted Sunday tea.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, June 1, 1941.</p>		
		<p>August 24, 1941</p> <p>Cocktail party honoring David Minor.</p>		

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		The Chicago Defender, August 23, 1941.		
		<p>October 4, 1941</p> <p>Freeman Barnes and the Elite Masters to crown the king and queen of clubs at the presidential ball.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, September 27, 1941.</p>		
		<p>October 11, 1941</p> <p>Green Donkeys Club Harvest dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, November 1, 1941.</p>		
		<p>October 1941</p> <p>Rialto Girls "affair".</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, November 1, 1941.</p>		
		<p>Week of December 6, 1941</p> <p>Bachelor and Benedicts annual club dance - "award annual trophy for outstanding work beneficial to Negroes" to Alderman Earl B. Dickerson.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 6, 1941.</p>		
		<p>January 24, 1942</p> <p>Third annual dance of the Natchez Social and Civic Club.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender January 24, 1942.</p>		
		<p>April 4, 1942</p> <p>The Amicable Twelve Social Club hosts its first spring dance at Forum Hall.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, April 25, 1942.</p>		
		<p>April 12, 1942</p> <p>Vassar Girls Cocktail Party.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, April 18, 1942.</p>		
		<p>June 23, 1942</p> <p>Surprise birthday party for Professor Oranto J. Buckner.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, July 4, 1942.</p>		
		<p>August 8, 1942</p> <p>Social Register Club cabaret party.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, August 8, 1942.</p>		
		<p>February 13, 1943</p>		

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		<p>Green Donkeys formal. The Chicago Defender, February 6, 1943.</p>		
		<p>February 20, 1943 Green Donkey Club formal with musical guest Eddie King's band. The Chicago Defender, February 20, 1943.</p>		
		<p>April 10, 1943 All-night frolic of the Brotherhood Club of Union Bricklayers. The Chicago Defender, April 10, 1943.</p>		
		<p>June 19, 1943 Supreme Girls summer dance. The Chicago Defender, June 19, 1943.</p>		
		<p>June 26, 1943 Supreme Girls at Forum Hall. The Chicago Defender, June 26, 1943.</p>		
		<p>October 2, 1943 Foxes world series dance. The Chicago Defender, October 9, 1943.</p>		
		<p>January 15, 1944 Westside Olde Tymers reunion. The Chicago Defender, January 15, 1944.</p>		
		<p>March 4, 1944 Gloom Chasers dance. The Chicago Defender, March 4, 1944.</p>		
		<p>April 15, 1944 Supreme Girls pre-Easter frolic with musical guest Floyd Campbell. The Chicago Defender, April 15, 1944.</p>		
		<p>May 29, 1944 The Westside Auld Tymers Klub ramble. The Chicago Defender, May 27, 1944.</p>		
		<p>June 25, 1944 Children's Style Festival by the Advisory Committee of the Tabernacle Community Center.</p>		

Property name: The Forum
Illinois, Cook County

POLITICS	NEWS	EVENTS (CLUBS)	PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC, THEATRE, OPERA)	ELKS
		The Chicago Defender, July 1, 1944.		
		July 9, 1944 Carioca Sports Club dance. The Chicago Defender, June 17, 1944.		
		September 10, 1944 Fall Fashions Smartest Eye event. The Chicago Defender, September 2, 1944.		
		January 13, 1945 The Exclusive Twelve Club informal party. The Chicago Defender, December 23, 1944.		
		April 7, 1945 Supreme Girls pre-Easter frolic. The Chicago Defender, April 7, 1945.		
		October 5, 1945 The American Cab Drivers Association party. The Chicago Defender, October 13, 1945.		
		December 9, 1945 Peppipettes cabaret party. The Chicago Defender, December 8, 1945.		
		January 19, 1946 The Exclusive Twelve formal dance. The Chicago Defender, January 19, 1946.		
		January 26, 1946 Ninth anniversary party of the Westside Auld Tymers. The Chicago Defender, January 26, 1946.		
		June 30, 1946 All-Clubs tea as part of the "Miss Progressive Southside" context for interracial harmony. The Chicago Defender, July 8, 1946.		
		September 9, 1946 Bronzeville Veterans Cab Owners' Association Labor Day ball. The Chicago Defender, September 7, 1946.		

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POLITICS	NEWS	EVENTS (CLUBS)	PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC, THEATRE, OPERA)	ELKS
		<p>September 16, 1946</p> <p>Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters fifth biennial convention soiree at Forum Hall.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, September 21, 1946.</p>		
		<p>October (12 or 19), 1946</p> <p>Silent Twelve Social Club fall dance and popularity contest.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, October 19, 1946.</p>		
		<p>January 25, 1947</p> <p>The Exclusive Twelve Bridge Club formal.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, January 25, 1947.</p>		
		<p>August 9, 1947</p> <p>The Pacific Boys Social and Charity Club host a benefit dance for the South Side Boys Club.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, August 3 and August 8, 1947.</p>		
		<p>October 11, 1947</p> <p>The Silent Twelve third annual fall dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, October 11, 1947.</p>		
		<p>November 8, 1947</p> <p>Exclusive Twelve annual fall dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, November 8, 1947.</p>		
		<p>May 1, 1948</p> <p>The Chicago-Arkansas Club crown "Miss Arkansas".</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, May 1, 1948.</p>		
		<p>June 12, 1948</p> <p>The Brotherhood Club of Union Bricklayers host their 17th annual frolic with musical guest Floyd Campbell.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, June 12, 1948.</p>		
		<p>November 26, 1949</p> <p>Loyal Twelve Social Club sport dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, November 19, 1949.</p>		
		<p>June 10, 1950</p> <p>The Metropolitan School of Tailoring cabaret party.</p>		

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POLITICS	NEWS	EVENTS (CLUBS)	PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC, THEATRE, OPERA)	ELKS
		The Chicago Defender, June 17, 1950.		
		<p>June 9, 1951</p> <p>Buccaneers Social Club held its first sports dance with musical guest C.J. Harris and his orchestra.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, June 9,1951.</p>		
		<p>October 20, 1951</p> <p>Chics Club hosts annual fall dance.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, July 7, 1951.</p>		
		<p>August 1953</p> <p>Board meeting of the United Supreme Council of the Masons and the Order of the Eastern Star.</p> <p>Chicago Daily Tribune, August 29, 1953.</p>		
		<p>June 21, 1953</p> <p>The Trail Blazers cabaret party.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, June 20, 1953.</p>		
		<p>December 26, 1954</p> <p>A. McKinize Divine Healing Power Show.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 18, 1954.</p>		
		<p>December 4, 1955</p> <p>The Fleur-De-Lis Club, thank you party.</p> <p>The Chicago Defender, December 10, 1955.</p>		
		<p>November 3, 1956</p> <p>The Gaylords "Blues in the Night" Party.</p> <p>Daily Defender, October 25, 1956.</p>		
		<p>December 1, 1956</p> <p>Blue Eagles party with John Earl Lewis.</p> <p>Daily Defender, December 4, 1956.</p>		
		<p>April 19, 1958</p> <p>Blue Eagles annual cabaret party.</p> <p>Daily Defender, April 15, 1958.</p>		
		<p>May 10, 1958</p> <p>Wisdom chapters No. 99 OES and No.49 RAM give spring dance.</p>		

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POLITICS	NEWS	EVENTS (CLUBS)	PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC, THEATRE, OPERA)	ELKS
		Daily Defender, May 8, 1958.		
		February 11, 1961 The Steiners waistline ball. The Chicago Defender, February 9, 1961.		
		September 30, 1962 Meeting of the Civil Liberties League of Chicago. Chicago Daily Defender, September 26, 1962.		
		December 18, 1967 Miracle and Blessing Meeting Healing Revival and Soul Saving by Rev. J. Thomas from Nassau. The Chicago Defender, December 16, 1967.		
		April 1968 The Grayson Court, no.53 Order of Calanthe of the Knights of Pythias held its anniversary banquet. Chicago Daily Defender, April 3, 1968.		
		November 9, 1968 "Swinging Affair" revue featuring the soul sound of Fred Brown. Chicago Daily Defender, November 6, 1968.		
		November 9, 1968 "Swinging Affair" revue featuring the soul sound of Fred Brown. Chicago Daily Defender, November 6, 1968.		



THE FORUM

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1950

1970



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 3/8/2019 Date of Pending List: 3/21/2019 Date of 16th Day: 4/5/2019 Date of 45th Day: 4/22/2019 Date of Weekly List: 4/22/2019

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 4/16/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

JB Pritzker, Governor
Colleen Callahan, Director

March 5, 2019

Ms. Barbara Wyatt, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

Enclosed are the disks that contain the true and correct copies of the National Register nomination recommended for nomination by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council at its October 26, 2018 meeting and signed by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer:

Leaning Tower of Niles, Niles, Cook County
Paris High School, Paris, Edgar County
Copley Hospital, Aurora, Kane County
The Forum, Chicago, Cook County
Fredrick Louis House, Barrington Hills, Lake County

PLEASE NOTE: Staff requests a substantive review of the Fredrick Louis House nomination.

Please contact me at 217/785-4324 if you need any additional information. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Heckenkamp, Coordinator, Survey and National Register program
Illinois State Historic Preservation Office/Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Attachments