UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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- National Register of Historic Place Listings: (1980, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.)
 - Ward Willits House 1445 Sheridan Road
- Illinois Historic Structumes Survey Listings: (1972-74, conducted under the auspices of the Illinois Department of Conservation, Springfield, Illinois)

140 Belle Avenue House North Shore Sanitary District Tower Cary Avenue at Lake Michigan Rosewood Park Bridge Lake Michigan between Roger Williams and Cary Avenue John Van Bergen House 234 Cedar 147 Central Cornelius Field House Jean Butz James Museum of the Highland Park Historical Society 326 Central 344 Elm Place Roberts House House 344B Elm Place West Side of Green Bay Road, North of Central Water Tower Jennie Alice ReQua House 259 Hazel Henry C. Lytton House 276 Hazel Benjamin F. Demuth House 389 Hazel (listed as 385 Hazel) Thomas H. Spencer House 500 Hazel 1689 Lake George M. Millard House Mrs. Mary W. Adams House 1923 Lake W. Granville-Mott House 80 Laurel C.S. Soule House 304 Laurel (listed as 306 Laurel) Lanzl House 1635 Linden Avenue F.D. Everett House 2023 Linden Emil Rudolph House and garage 160 Linden Park Place 243 Linden Park Place William James House House 278 Linden Park Place House 285 Linden Park Place Francis D. Everett House 296 Linden Park Place John Middleton House 185 Maple

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Herman Pomper House R. Smith House H. Scarborough House Second Henry Dubin House Albert Campbell House Braeside School E. Tyner House Stillman Bingham House House Second Ross J. Beatty House W. Entrance, Ravinia Park Art Gallery (Casino) Ravinia Park Murray Theater Ravinia Park West Gate, Ravinia Park East Entrance, Ravinia Park City Hall Stupey Log Cabin George Pick House (Garage torn down) Ward Willits House Dr. W. Lamborn House S.H. Bingham House Sylvester Millard House Mrs. Frank Geyso Houses

318 Maple 333 Maple (listed as 332 Maple) 2345 Maple Lane 2350 Maple Lane 434 Marshman 142 Pierce Road 204 Prospect 247 Prospect 289 Prospect 344 Ravine Drive Ravinia Park, Ravinia Park Road 1707 St Johns Avenue St Johns, north of 1707 St Johns 970 Sheridan Road 1445 Sheridan Road (previously listed) 2360 Sheridan Road 2376 Sheridan Road



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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

GENERAL PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF HIGHLAND PARK

Highland Park is located in northeast Illinois, on Lake Michigan, 25 miles north of downtown Chicago. With a population of 30,611 the city encompasses some 12.4 square miles and contains approximately 10,550 dwelling units.

Highland Park is predominantly a suburban residential community characterized by fine examples of all significant architectural styles dating from the 1870's through today. Excellent Victorian (Gothic, Italianate, Mansard) structures stand side by side with Prairie School residences, historical revival style (Tudor, Colonial, etc.) buildings and International Style homes. Some are very large; others are quite modest. But all contribute to the rich fabric of Highland Park architecture, which illustrates not a single period of outstanding significance, but a broad overview of the development of architectural styles.

Highland Park residences were primarily built of wood or brick, although stucco was a favored material of the Prairie School architects who practiced here. Stone trim, both polished and rough-faced, is found on homes throughout Highland Park. The older homes, built on the east side along the lake, are typically substantial and situated on large lots; those built near the business districts are smaller. Their condition in most cases ranges from good to excellent. Many homes have been renovated and restored, and several are in the midst of restoration.

Most of Highland Park's significant properties are residential, but some very fine commercial, governmental, ecclesiastical and educational structures are to be found within Highland Park's boundaries. Tudor structures, like the Sheridan Park Apartments or the small retail store building at 1882-8 Sheridan Road, the classically-derived First National Bank Building and the unique Prairie School Humer Building represent the high quality of some of the community's commercial buildings. The City Hall, with its classical monumentality, has a simplicity that is very modern for its time. Highland Park's Presbyterian Church is an excellent example of historical ecclesiastical architecture. And there is no finer example of a Prairie School educational structure than John Van Bergen's Braeside School. Approximately 10% of Highland Park's significant buildings are non-residential.

Of the 7,936 acres or 12.4 square miles of incorporated Highland Park, over 1800 acres is open land that is devoted to golf courses, parks, wooded preserves, playfields and trails. Of that 1800 acres, 600 acres (double the national standard) is park land. Highland Park has 44 parks, including the 95-acre Walter E. Heller Nature Park.

With 990 different businesses, approximately 10% of Highland Park is commercial. Another 22% is open land. The rest - or 68% - of the community is residential. Most of Highland Park that is residential is

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occupied by single-family dwellings. Historically, residents of Highland Park have lived in houses, with a small number living over stores in the business districts. Only in recent years has there been townhouse and apartment development.

Structural density is generally light throughout the city, with a more dense concentration of structures in and around the central business district and around the small but well-designed Ravinia business district (see zoning map).

Zoning density as laid out in the 1978 Zoning Ordinance, for residential property is as follows: There are minimum 3-acre parcels in R1, 2-acre parcels in R2, 1-acre parcels in R3, 1/2-acre parcels in R4, 1/4-acre parcels in R5, and 1/6-acre parcels in R6. Most of the property on the east side of Highland Park, along the lake, is zoned 1/2 acre, although many estates sat originally on larger parcels of property that have only been subdivided in recent years. In northwest Highland Park, which was originally farm land, property is zoned 1/2 to 2 acres and is currently being developed. Those areas zoned 1/4 acre and 1/6 acre tend to be along the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad commuter line east of Green Bay Road. dense zoning can be found in the areas known as Sherwood Forest and Woodridge, south of Berkeley Road and just west of the Chicago and Northwestern freight line paralleling Skokie Valley Road. Although this area was not fully developed until the 1950's and 1960's, it was annexed in the 1920's and was intended for settlement during the twenties, when train stations (such as Briangate) were constructed in Sherwood Forest and Woodridge for the Skokie Valley commuter route of the Chicago, North Shore and Milwaukee Electric Railroad. Highland Park's least dense zoning, 3-acre, is along the Skokie Drainage Ditch. This is flood plain and is used almost the entire length of Highland Park for golf courses.

The facade of every residence in Highland Park must be set back from 25' (for 1/6 acre parcels) to 50' (for 2-3 acre parcels). Because of these setback requirements, homes in general tend to have a great deal of grass, shrubs and trees in their front yards. In general, the overall impression is of a wooded country area, even where lots are small. No residence can be over 35' high; homes tend to nestle into the environment:

Roughly 10% of Highland Park is zoned multiple family residential or multi-family residential-commercial. This kind of zoning is primarily around the central business district and in a few scattered areas along the Chicago Northwestern commuter line. These consist almost entirely of townhouses with a small number of four and fivestory commercial buildings with apartments over the stores and recently constructed apartment buildings. With a height limitation of 45', there can be no high rise residential building in Highland Park.

All commercial development is centered around the 40-acre central business district, the 10-acre Ravinia Business District and along the 6-mile Skokie Boulevard commercial and retail corridor. In the business districts buildings are constructed right to the lot lime. Along Skokie Boulevard they are scattered and set back from the road.

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There are only a handful of factories in town, and whatever industry exists is smokeless, low-rise and non-intrusive.

With the exception of some recent commercial development along the Skokie Corridor, and some recent residential subdivision in the Burr Oaks and High Ridge area of Highland Park, where the land has been virtually clearcut, buildings in Highland Park have almost always been designed and constructed with respect for the local terrain. This is particularly true on the east side of Highland Park where the romantic nature of the landscape has not changed at all over the years; plantings have only matured. Winding roads still cut through deeply wooded ravines. Homes constructed on these ravines have respected and generally enhance the natural landscape.

There is, however, somewhat less open space due to the subdivision of some of Highland Park's large, and even small, estate properties. In some cases the original mansion has been torn down. For instance, the Kimball House was demolished and the screage subdivided with new homes constructed along winding streets. Only the coach house at 750 Kimball Road remains. In other cases, such as the second Ross J. Beatty House at 344 Ravine Drive, the original home is lived in and being renovated and a few homes have been built on the property.

Highland Park's zoning ordinance, to some extent, encourages the preservation of significant structures on large parcels of land. There is a section on Planned Residential Permits that allows builders, architects and developers to depart from the strict application of density requirements when buildings with architectural or historic significance are involved. To quote: "The density may be increased if the development includes the preservation or restoration of buildings, structures, or premises having historic or architectural significance, as ultimately determined by the City Council. The square footage of site area occupied by such significant buildings, structures, or premises, which do not include dwelling units, may be doubled for purposes of calculating allowable density. However, the maximum increase allowable by this method shall be five per cent (5%) overall density."

The zoning incentive has never been used.

Highland Park's Comprehentive Flan, prepared in 1976 by the office of Angelos C. Demetriou, makes no mention of the preservation of significant structures. It only states that one community goal is "to preserve the environmental integrity" of the community.

Except for the preservation efforts of the Highland Park Historical Society in the Stupey Log Cabin and the Historical Society Building at 326 Central, the community was not particularly sensitive to a broader involvement in preservation until 1979, when an ad hoc citizens committee, the Highland Park Landmark Preservation Committee, gathered together volunteers to begin surveying Highland Park.

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The results of the 1979 and 1980 surveys are on file in the Preservation Committee office at 636 Ridge Road in anticipation of the imminent formation of a preservation commission. They will serve as a basic reference for designation. In the meantime, Committee members have sent to the director of Highland Park's Building Division a list of potential landmarks based on the survey, a list similar to those nominated to the National Register. With this information, these structures can be flagged should an owner apply for a building permit, and there can be an informal discussion about alterations to inventoried structures. Even without an ordinance the Planning Department and the Building Division consult with Landmark Preservation Committee members over these alterations.

Highland Park's first real commitment to preservation came when the Historical Society asked Exmoor Country Club for the Stupey Log Cabin built in 1847. The Historical Society raised the money to move and restore it, and the cabin was moved to its present site and opened as a house museum in 1969. That same year the Society received the 10-room Victorian house at 326 Central, built in 1871, renovated it and established the Jean Butz James Museum. It opened in 1972.

Highland Park has a very active preservation constituency. In addition to the Highland Park Historical Society, the Highland Park Landmark Preservation Committee, with a steering committee of twelve and a mailing list of 200, has accomplished a great deal since its inception in 1979. Steering committee members include representatives from the Historical Society, the Park District and the city staff. Members of the committee at large have surveyed all of Highland Park, written a guidebook (now out-of-print) to the community (Highland Park by Foot or Frame), overseen two studies by the Highland Park League of Women Voters on preservation. ordinances and the contents of a preservation ordinance, written an ordinance (currently being reviewed by the city attorney), organized a reference library on renovation and restoration, held numerous bus tours, bike tours, nature walks and programs and put together this National Register Multiple Resource Nomination. Equally important, the Committee has promoted and continues to promote good will for preservation within the community. Many Highland Park residents are renovating and restoring their homes, notably those at 423 Hazel, 296 Linden Park Place and 344 Ravine Drive.

Both the City Council and the Park Board are supporters of Landmark Preservation Committee activities. They have donated funding toward the publication of a second, more comprehensive guide to Highland Park. Even though there is not yet an official city preservation commission, the Committee's advice is constantly being sought by the public, the Park District and the City when remodeling or subdivision is proposed to a landmark-quality building or property. Calls constantly come in from homeowners with questions pertaining to endangered properties and restoration. One resident, the owner of Frank Lloyd Wright's Ward Willits House, has been working actively with members of the Committee to set up a not-for-profit foundation which would own the house.

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Because of the community's strong support for preservation, it is likely there will be a preservation commission established within the next six months.

Largely through the efforts of the Landmark Preservation Committee, Highland Park property owners are very much aware of the community's rich architectural heritage and they are becoming increasingly aware of its particularly distinctive landscape that has elements of its native character surviving intact.

Before the settlement of Highland Park, the native landscape was of four major types: hardwood forest, oak savannah, open prairie and sedge-cattail marshland.

The hardwood forest was mostly a mix of mature deciduous trees. A high, dense summertime canopy was over a middle story of airy shrubs and small trees - mostly witch hazels, hop hornbeams and hawthorns. The forest floor was covered with herbaceous spring-blooming wildflowers and a lot of mossy, lichen-covered fallen timber. Dominant trees were various oaks, sugar maples and hickories, with occasional basswoods, walnuts, elms and others. In the ravines and near the lake's edge the moderating influence of the lake maintained a warmer average climate, and there more southern trees such as beech were found. Numerous remnants of the original hardwood forest survive in Highland Park. They can be seen best in the ravines. Down in Ravine Drive, beginning about half a block east of Knollwood Lane, the native woodland landscape is quite intact. Elsewhere in the city the hardwood forest is present in fairly complete form. One example can be found in the ravine that crosses beneath the Roger Williams Avenue bridge a half block east of Sheridan Road; a second is evident in the hills and ravines of Moraine Park.

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The oak-savannah existed in the main as separate groves of from a quarter to one hundred acres of high canopy of mature oaks. Occasional maples, walnuts, hackberries and hickories grew in the larger groves. Beneath the high canopy the groves were mostly open and park-like with sparse meadow and orchard type grasses as ground cover and a few elderberries and briars scattered about. A very good remnant of the original oak-savannah survives in the east-central portion of the Heller Nature Preserve in the very northwestern corner of Highland Park off Ridge Road, north of Half Day Road.

The landscape of the Illinois prairie was characterized by rolling hills and immense stretches of flatland that ran from Highland Park out into the vastness of the Great Plain with very little interruption. Its vegetation consisted of grasses that grew as tall as six to ten feet high every summer. They were interspersed with various shorter grasses, mid-summer wildflowers and a few low-growing woody plants such as prairie roses. Remnants of open prairie vegetation have survived along the commuter railway north of Vine Avenue and in a number of parcels in the western half of the city, particularly at the Berkeley Prairie Preserve on Ridge Road about a mile north of Deerfield Road.

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The sedge-cattail marshland landscape form has been virtually eliminated in Highland Park. Some remnants survive here and there along the now straightened Skokie Ditch. Formerly it was a sea of cattails, all of relatively uniform height, marked here and there with hummocks of low willows, red osier dogwoods and occasional small groves of tall cottonwood trees, clumps of silver maples and taller willows which stood out like islands. Among the sea of cattails the Skokie creek meandered, as did its numerous, slow tributaries.

As Highland Park became settled, streets in the business district were laid out parallel and perpendicular to the railroad tracks in relatively straight lines forming rectangular blocks. Where the ravines and rugged topography dictated, a more geographically compatible approach to landscape treatment appeared as residences were built there. These streets were laid out by landscape architect William M.R. French, who was to become director of the Chicago Art Institute in the 1870's. The flat areas with straight streets and rectangular blocks were originally landscaped in various Victorian approaches depending upon the resources available to the home owner, while the ravine areas whose streets followed the topographic contours in the pleasing lines and curves of the William French designs were landscaped in European "Picturesque" and later "Frairie Style" approaches.

For the Victorians, the house was the key visual element in the landscape. It faced the street for passersby to see. Landscaping sought to frame and ornament the house, but carefully avoided hiding or distracting from the house. The Victorian landscaper avoided the use of foundation plantings. They did not wish to hide any part of the house. They had beds of roses, of shrubs, (mostly flowering shrubs), and perennial flowers along the property lines and in one or two geometric beds in the foreground of the house. They always included at least two or three botanical novelties such as Elephant Ear plant or Hercules Club, and one or two ornate pedestal urns heavily planted with pendulous annuals and tender perennials.

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The most astute Twentieth Century architects and landscape architects became aware, however, that only so much can be brought to a site. Important houses, houses that answer important housing needs for individuals and for the community, are best built on sites which have natural characteristics to provide a handsome setting and "frame the picture" with grace and appropriateness.

Highland Park offered mature oaks and maples, wild hawthorne, high tableland created ages ago by the action of glaciers and ravines cut by water action as well as cool summer air in a time of concern for health and fresh air. With these attributes, the community began to attract the work of emerging architects and landscapers at the turn of the century. The village changed from the Victorian to the "workshop" of men who would soon be leaders in their field.

The most distinctive landscape style in Highland Park came after the Victorian era. Called the "Prairie Style", it developed from the naturalistic approaches of William M.R. French, Ossian Simmonds and Jens Jensen. Jensen's home and studio were located at . 930 Dean Avenue just south of the ravine. Jens Jensen's style grew from Aristotelian aesthetics, which attempt to recreate a naturalistic setting, and from the Eighteenth Century European landscape approaches, called the "Picturesque" approach, which sought to create a staged sense of nature. Jensen came out of that background to design with nature. He used only native vegetation and let the topography and natural setting of the site dictate the forms his work took. He strove to make his work such that the viewer was mostly unaware that a landscape architect had been there. He manipulated native woodland vegetation with open meadow areas and water as the primary elements of his design. His stone work, usually in ponds and "Indian Council Rings", was his signature. The first council ring was at his own studio. It still exists, in an altered state, on the property at 950 Dean. The residential property at 1425 Waverly known as the Ernst Loeb Estate, owned by Stuart Nathan, is the best restored example in town of Jensen's residential work. His former studio grounds, Rosewood Park (former Julius Rosenwald Estate), the Augusta Rosenwald memorial stone and council ring at Jens Jensen Park, the A.G. Becker Estate and properties near Wade and Cedar avenues are locations with considerable remnants of Jensen's work.

Ossian Simmonds is known to have laid out Fort Sheridan, part of which is within the boundaries of Highland Park. Simmonds was a turn of the century landscape architect who used naturalistic designs and relied primarily on native plant material. He and Jensen fathered the "Prairie Style" of landscape architecture. Other than Fort Sheridan it is not clear whether Simmonds had any commissions in Highland Park. Simmonds' work was largely known for his large institutional properties such as cemeteries and Fort Sheridan, while Jensen's work centered on public parks and private residential sites.

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The "Prairie Style" is more closely associated with Jensen. Leonard Eaton of the University of Michigan wrote of Jensen, "The best landscapes which he created are among the finest works of American art, and it is time that they were recognized as such," (Landscape Artist in America, Leonard K. Eaton, University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1964, page vii.). Norman Newton, historian of landscape architecture, attributes the "Prairie Style" directly to Jensen, of whom he wrote, "In time his brilliant work with indigenous trees, shrubs and wildflowers - in compositions of quiet spaciousness emphasizing horizontality and stratification of the sort found in hawthorns, flowering dogwoods and native crabapples - came to be known and advertised as the "Prairie Style." (Design on the Land, The Development of Landscape Architecture, Norman T. Newton, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. 1971 p. 434.) Other histories of landscape architecture attribute at least a very significant role in the development of the "Prairie Style" to Jensen's contemporaries, Ossian Simmonds and William M.R. French.

Another of Jensen's contemporaries, <u>May Theilgaard Watts</u>, lived at 487 Groveland (1928-1940) in Ravinia. She was an apostle of the preservation and encouragement of natural vegetation as illustrated in her book, <u>Ravinia</u>, <u>Her Charms and Destiny</u>. She developed nature trails in the triangle of parkland bounded by Roger Williams on the south, Ravinia School on the west and Baldwin on the east. She authored <u>Reading the Landscape of America</u> and <u>Reading the Landscape of Europe</u>.

Together, the influence of William M.R. French, Ossian Simmonds, Jens Jensen and May To Watts, along with the efforts of the Ravinia Garden Club, set the tone in the late Nineteenth and first third of the Twentieth Century that remains the distinctive landscape character of much of eastern Highland Park. It is a naturalistic landscape approach with clusters of native vegetation in natural associations interspersed with informal lawn clearings placed to maximize visual appeal and a sense of harmony with the environment. The distinctive character is ecologically very positive and aesthetically peaceful.

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PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	XCOMMUNITY PLANNING	_XLANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	_XCONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	X.EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	_XTHEATER
X 1800-1899	_XCOMMERCE	XEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_XTRANSPORTATION
<u>X</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	_XPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
+		XINVENTION	week and the second second	

ECIFIC DATES

1847 - 1932

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Numerous.

ATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Multiple Resource Area of the City of Highland Park, Illinois, is significant for many reasons. Its history reflects the early settlement of the Northeastern region of the state; its development typifies suburban growth in the greater Chicago area, including commuter transportation to Chicago, and its architecture illustrates the attraction of country living and speculative building.

Architecturally, Highland Park offers a rich diversity of styles prevalent throughout the country from 1870 to 1980. Highland Park has excellent examples of Victorian through Post-Modern buildings. Many are designed by architects with a national reputation. Foremost in the overall beauty of the community is the respect architects and builders have always had for the topography and native landscape of the area.

Highland Park's first residents were the mound builders, whose history in the area can be traced back as far as 500 A.D. Through the years, the land was inhabited by the Pottawattomie Indians who established hunting grounds and chipping stations (collecting flint at the mouth of the ravines and fashioning it into arrowheads and tools). They passed through this area every year as they went from winter home to summer home.

The permanent settlement of the area today known as Highland Park developed in three phases:

- 1) Farm settlement which followed the successful conclusion of the Blackhawk Wars in 1832.
- 2) Establishment of a residential community which included both permanent and summer residents.
- 3) Expansion of the City as a suburb of the greater Chicago area.

The first non-Indians who traversed the area were expeditionary forces sponsored by the French Catholic Church and the French Government. Pere Marquette and Louis Joliet sought a direct water route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico in 1673. The area that was to become Highland Park went from French to British control in 1763 and was used as a resource for the fur industry; still neither of these groups settled the area.

Although the Illinois Territory became part of the United States following the Revolutionary War, the Indians were not removed from the Chicago area, including Highland Park, until after the conclusion of the final Indian treaties of 1833. Then people felt it was safe to settle here. The war was not fought in the Highland Park area, but American men who fought during the Blackhawk wars saw the potential of the entire area as farmland. Many of them settled in Highland Park and encouraged others from the eastern states to settle here also.

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At the same time, Irish and German immigrants were arriving in the Chicago area because of easy access through the Erie Canal and the Great Lakes. Many of the Irish emigrated to work on the Illinois and Michigan Canal which was begun in 1836. Government lands were made available at a reduced rate to these workers; and some of these men purchased U.S. land grants in the Highland Park area. The Germans had also heard of the potentially rich farm lands and proceeded to set up farms. The only documented farm houses from this early period bear the names of Patrick Sheahen (1756 Sunset Road), Casper Zahnle (1520 Ridge) and Francis Stupey (north of 1707 St Johns). Portions of the Sheahen and Zahnle cabins have been incorporated into present-day homes. The Stupey Log Cabin has been moved from its original site and has been restored. Several other farm houses such as the Hessler farm house at 82 Green Bay Road and the Sweeney farmhouse at 3543 Krenn constructed in the 1880's and 1890's (and then outside of Highland Park's city limits) currently serve as houses and have been surrounded by the growing community.

Early settlers arrived by lake schooner from Chicago. The first road, known as The Green Bay Trail, was laid out by the U.S. Army between Chicago and Green Bay, Wisconsin, but it was only a horse trail and could not accommodate wagons or equipment.

Besides individual farms, 1844 saw the settlement of the small community of St. Johns, which was located on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan, just north of what is today the city limits of Highland Park. The economic growth of the surrounding area was so meager that the town never realized its potential as the shipping center its founders envisioned. In addition, road construction would not begin until the Township system was created in 1850. St. Johns was abandoned when the town of Port Clinton was platted in 1853.

Port Clinton, located in what is today the Northeast corner of Highland Park, was founded by Jacob Clinton Bloom. It succeeded as a port town because of a plank road which carried lumber and grain from towns to the west to be shipped to Chicago from Port Clinton. Port Clinton also had its own brickyard. The town died because the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, constructed in 1854, did not use Port Clinton as a station. Also contributing, to Port Clinton's demise was the Chicago cholera epidemic of 1855 which spread to the town. Despite the demise of the town, a lighthouse which was constructed at the site of Port Clinton in 1850 continued to operate. It was one of a series to insure safe shipping along Lake Michigan, but its use was discontinued in 1860 as an economy measure during the Civil War. Today the area formerly known as Port Clinton has been claimed by the Lake.

The origin of the City of Highland Park began with the construction of a train station in 1854 at what is today the intersection of Central and First Street in Highland Park.

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In 1853, Walter Gurnee, president of the train line and a former mayor of Chicago, formed the Port Clinton Land Corporation and bought up large tracts of land in the area from Port Clinton to the present day Central Avenue. Placing the train station at Central insured the financial success of his real estate speculation. He had bought the land, which he named Highland Park, not to farm as most purchasers of that day did, but for future resale. He envisioned the area as a place where Chicagoans would build mansions, commuting to and from Chicago by railroad. Businesses grew up around the station. These included McDonald's General Store (at the northeast corner of Central and St Johns), the Highland Hotel (at the southwest corner of Central and First Street), and Moses Moses' Dry Goods Store (at the northwest corner of Central and First Street). McDonald's was replaced by the Erskine Bank, today the First National Bank, in 1907. A segment of an addition to the hotel still can be seen on Central at First Street, but it is to be demolished. The Moses Moses store was demolished in the 1960's.

Gurnee held onto his land as it rose in value. Then, in 1867, the Highland Park Building Company was formed by a group of Chicago businessmen. This was Gurnee's opportunity to sell his holdings. The Highland Park Building Company purchased 1200 acres from Gurnee at \$12 per acre. The Building Company was also buying up land south of Central to Sheridan Road.

It was the intention of the Highland Park Building Company to create a gracious community of fine homes. Before construction began, Frank Hawkins, resident manager for the Company, engaged Landscape Architect William French to plat the acreage that the Building Company had purchased - from Walker Avenue to Beech Street, the north end of Ravinia - taking full advantage of the natural setting including ravines, woods, lakefront bluffs, etc. French was the brother of the famous sculptor Daniel Chester French, and was to become Director of the Chicago Art Institute.

East of the tracks, Hawkins planned to build large homes. Prototypes were put up for speculation. All four houses built on <u>Linden Park Place</u> remain - two Victorian Gothics at <u>211</u> and <u>296</u> and two Italianates at <u>243</u> and <u>274</u>. None of the others erected prior to the City's incorporation are still standing.

West of the tracks land was platted in smaller lots and was intended for commercial development and lower income homes.

Highland Park was incorporated in 1869 with Frank Hawkins as the first Mayor. It was the fourth North Shore community to receive a charter - Evanston 1854, Lake Forest 1857, Highwood 1868). After incorporation the Building Company built additional amenities such as a public school and donated land and materials for a church building to make the community more desirable to prospective residents. These buildings are gone.

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In 1876, Highland Park had 1,076 residents. In the 1870's the residents either bought those homes built for speculation by the Building Company or bought land from the Building Company and chose styles from pattern books, having their houses constructed by the Building Company or local carpenters. No architects designed these early buildings. Examples include: 147 Central, 274 Central, 288 Central, 326 Central, 120 Belle Avenue, 151 Belle Avenue, 217 Laurel, 304 Laurel, 247 Prospect, 204 Prospect, 333 Hazel, 423 Hazel, 461 Hazel (Elisha Gray House), 500 Hazel, 185 Maple, 2130 Sheridan Road, 2145 Sheridan Road. These homes were generally year-round dwellings. Following the Depression of 1873-74, the Highland Park Building Company terminated their operation and no more buildings were constructed by them.

All of the Victorian homes constructed in Highland Park in the 1870's, whether Victorian Gothic, Italianate or French Mansard in style, were less elaborate than their East Coast counterparts. They were built of lumber from local lumberyards and brick from local brickyards. One such brick yard was located on McDaniels at what is today Mooney's Pond. In addition to those houses which can be stylistically categorized with ease there are numerous small vernacular cottages and farm houses built in the 1870's and 1880's that have handsome detailing. Examples may be seen on Laurel Avenue, Green Bay Road, Second Street, McGovern Street, Central Avenue and Deerfield Road. They were constructed by local craftsmen using these readily available materials. Especially interesting are those at 1642 and 1674 Green Bay Road, 1014 Old Deerfield Road and 1670 McGovern.

Few commercial buildings are left that were built in the 1870's and 1880's. The Brand Brothers store on the southwest corner of Central and Second Street has been remodeled beyond recognition. Only the old home and tearoom of Frank Green, 1869 Sheridan Road, retains its general appearance. This frame structure, today houses the John Stevens store. The oldest family -owned business in Highland Park is thought to be Tillman's Sparkling Spring Mineral Water Company at 1627 west Park Avenue. It dates back to the early 1900's.

The first fire station in the city at 675 Central and the adjacent City Hall at 667 Central, constructed about 1870 of Highland Park brick, are still standing. The fire station houses an art gallery, and the City Hall, with its 1918 brick addition fronting on Central, houses shops. The City Hall was in this location until government offices moved into the present City Hall, at 1707 St Johns, - designed in 1930 in a simplified colonial revival style. Highland Park's brick-enclosed water tower, the symbol of the community and its tallest structure, was constructed on its current site in 1930. It was the third water tower in the community, replacing the others.

By 1890, Highland Park's population had grown by 1000 residents to a total of 2,163. Homes continued to be constructed as they had in the 1870's,

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although the Queen Anne style became popular and remained so into the 1890's. Fine examples include 490 Hazel, 259 Hazel, 191 Laurel, the Palmer Montgomery House at 184 Moraine Road and the Prall House (Prallmere) at 126 Edgecliffe.

One of Chicago's earliest architects, William W. Boyington, was an early Highland Park resident who became Mayor in 1874. Although he is best known in the Chicago area as architect for the Chicago Water Tower (one of the few structures to survive the Chicago fire of 1871), Boyington is recognized in Highland Park as its first architect and designer of several stately homes including the Montgomery House and the Sylvester Millard House at 1623 Sylvester.

The Millard House, designed in 1893 to look like a log cabin was originally constructed as a summer house. During the 1890's, Highland Park, along with Lake Forest and Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, became one of the select areas for summer estates of the wealthy. The earliest of these built along the Lake were the Millard's, the J. McGregor Adams House at 1407 Waverly and the Frederick P. Boynton house known as "Ravinoaks." The Adams house has been extensively remodeled, and only a coach house remains on Ravinoaks Lane from the Boynton property. In the 1890's, lakefront property commanded the highest prices with maximum land values running from \$3,500 to \$10,000 per acre. Lakefront homeowners banded together at this time and, in 1896, country club life came to Highland Park. Everett Millard (son of Sylvester) joined with several of his friends to purchase the 95-acre Stupey Farm, which became Exmoor Country Club, a playground for the wealthy. Several other country clubs, such as Bob O'Link, Old Elm and Northmoor, were built before 1920.

High-class property away from the Lake and east of the railroad also attracted well-to-do families. It ran \$30 to \$60 a front foot. Heavily wooded and intersected by deep ravines, this land was almost as desirable as the bluffs overlooking Lake Michigan for the location of summer homes. A unique situation was "Wildwood," a summer colony built for four Hyde Park families. Located at the southeast corner of Linden and Hazel, it originally consisted of four homes with a fifth building which served as a dining hall and servants' quarters. In the 1920's, one home burned, the dining room was torn down and three were winterized to become year-round residences. The trend toward winterizing existing homes occurred all over Highland Park in the 1920's as Highland Park became less of a summer community and more of the commuter suburb it is today.

In the 1890's and early 1900's Highland Park was becoming a year-round community. Working people continued to live near the center of the town on Green Bay, First, Second, Elm Place and Laurel in the simple brick and frame vernacular cottages. More affluent families built away from town toward the lake.

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The large substantial homes were generally designed for large pieces of property and were inspired by specific historical styles. Even the Ross Beatty House of 1893 on 1499 Sheridan Road, with its Queen Anne massing, is symmetrical and has classical detailing; no doubt this was at least indirectly influenced by the Columbian Exposition of 1893. Houses built after the Fair, in Highland Park as elsewhere, became more self-consciously derivative of Colonial, Tudor, and Spanish buildings. "Verde Vista," the Clarence Holmes Thayer House at 325 Orchard, is one of several red brick Georgians built after the turn of the century.

Numerous revival style houses, usually architect-designed, were constructed from 1900 on. The Robert C. Schaffner House, 35 Ravine Drive, designed in 1909 by architect Howard Van Doren Shaw, is definitely colonial revival with its symmetry, white clapboarding broken pediments and dentils. The George P. Everhart House, "Miralago", 2789 Sheridan Road, is decidedly Mediterranean in influence. The Richard S. Churchill House, 1214 Green Bay Road, designed by Alfred S. Alschuler, is a large English Country house, appropriate to its country setting.

The architects who were selected to design these large elegant homes were often well-known designers, deliberately chosen to give the owners an air of respectability. Among them were Shaw, Alschuler, David Adler, who designed an elegant French chateau for the Robert Mandel family at 1249 Sheridan Road, and Arthur Heun who designed the E. Lichtstern house, a large Italian Villa style house with some Prairie School characteristics at 105 South Deere Park. These men were all formally trained and well-schooled in styles of the past. Local architect Robert Seyfarth was one of the most prolific of those architects who designed revival-style buildings. His range of work includes Colonials, Tudors and French Provincial designs, all were beautifully executed. Another local architect, Ernest Grunsfeld II, designed several substantial revival style homes including the Martin L. Strauss House at 945 Dean and the Richard J. Loewenthal House at 1418 Waverly Place.

During this period many Highland Parkers began to think of updating their homes. In the 1920's especially, homeowners restyled as well as renovated their homes into various revival styles. William Mann, designer of the Tudor General Robert E. Wood House at 54 Laurel and the Sheridan-Park building at 430 Park Avenue, for instance, turned a simple 19th Century house at 239 Hazel into a fairly large Cotswald cottage.

At the same time as revival styles were popular, Prairie School architecture was finding a foothold in Highland Park. This avant garde style was introduced to Highland Park by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1902 when he designed his seminal Prairie house, the Ward Willits House (and coach house) at 1445 Sheridan Road. This house is reputed to be the epitome of Prairie School design and the first complete synthesis of Wright's ideas. In 1905, Wright introduced a house with modified

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cruciform plan, the Mary W. Adams House at 1923 Lake Avenue. The next year, 1906, saw the addition of Wright's George Madison Millard House at 1689 Lake Avenue with a plan predating his Robie House of 1909 in Hyde Park.

George Maher, who worked with Wright in Joseph Lyman Silsbee's office, designed several homes c. 1907 in Highland Park. These included a home for Emil Rudolph, a prominent Chicago land surveyor at 160 Linden Park Place. Four other Maher houses may be found clustered between St Johns and Sheridan on Maple Avenue and Maple Lane, and on Sheridan Road.

Frank Lloyd Wright and Maher were not the only Prairie School architects to design homes in Highland Park. During the same period as Maher, Thomas Tallmadge, who coined the phrase "Chicago School", with Vernon Watson designed the W. Granville Mott House at 80 Laurel, the Everett House on 2023 Linden and a chancel for the First Presbyterian Church at 330 Laurel.

John Van Bergen, who was in Wright's employ until 1909, lived in Highland Park from 1921 to 1947 and is responsible for the design of at least twenty Prairie and modified Prairie houses, Braeside School at 150 Pierce Road, Ravinia School at 763 Dean and the Humer Building at 1894 Sheridan Road. His own home, at 234 Cedar, is located in the Ravinia section of Highland Park.

The separate community of Ravinia, just south of Highland Park, extending from south of Cary Avenue to Lake-Cook Road and west to St Johns, was annexed in 1899. Ravinia originally had been planned by B.F. Jacobs as a Baptist village. There were a few farms west of the tracks and a few mansions near the lake, but the community itself was clustered around Dean Avenue where a small frame church was located. Today the church still stands as a private home between Judson and Dean in the triangle where Dean and Judson and Roger Williams intersect. Religious leaders were commemorated in the street names of the community; Roger Williams joined the lake front and the railroad tracks. Adjacent streets were named Bronson, Rice and Judson. Lack of interest saw the demise of the church and the growth of a more heterogeneous population in Ravinia.

Early residents loved Ravinia because of its natural beauty. Its name was appropriate for an area overrun with uncut foliage and slashed by deep-running ravines, but improvements were limited. Its population, not wanting to see the rustic nature of the community destroyed, hoped that the Bluff City Electric Railway (later the Chicago, North Shore and Milwaukee), which ran streetcars from Waukegan to Evanston dating from 1898 and had a station platform at Beech Street, would pay for the much needed water and sewer systems, streets sidewalks and bridge repairs. The electric railway, however, did not come up with the funds and Ravinia was annexed to Highland Park in 1899.

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The Railway, did, however, buy up land in South Ravinia (the present Braeside area) in 1902, and Ravinia Park was conceived as a high class amusement park. It later became a center of opera and the summer home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The purpose of the park initially was to attract riders for the railroad. Electricity for the railroad came originally from the first steamgenerated AC plant to be built in the United States. The Power Plant building at 525 Elm Street is an office building and a marvelous example of adaptive re-use.

Artists and architects were attracted to the Ravinia section of Highland Park as early as 1910. They included James Cady Ewell (sculptor of the Highland Park War Memorial sculpture in Memorial Park on Prospect and Linden), Hazel Crowell Ewell (founder of the North Short Art League), and painters Morris Henry Hobbs, Mary Hallar, Rudolph Ingerle, Frank Peyraud and Tom Wilder. More well-known were Ralph Fletcher Seymour (writer, designer and publisher who founded the Cliff Dwellers Club), Dudley Crafts Watson (artist and lecturer at the Chicago Art Institute), George Wallace Carr (architect for the prototype Sears stores), Lawrence Buck (architect who worked for John Van Bergen) and Henry Dubin, whose own International Style house at 441 Cedar was widely publicized.

Some of these artists and architects lived in miniatures of the Colonials, Tudors and Spanish Style houses constructed between 1900 and 1930; many lived in Prairie and Arts and Crafts-influenced small homes encircling the ravines on Judson, St Johns, Cedar, Marshman and Wade. In the 1920's and early 1930's Ravinia was a mix of avant garde and historical architecture and of large and humble dwellings.

Along with the artists and architects who lived in the community were the dedicated and influential landscape architect Jens Jensen (at 930 Dean) and naturalist-preservationist May T. Watts (at 487 Groveland). They worked intensively to preserve Ravinia's natural beauty with native plant materials. Early Ravinia estate-owners who engaged Jensen to preserve the rustic look of the ravines and Ravinia proper included such prominent businessmen as A.G. Becker, Harold Florsheim, George Pick and Julius Rosenwald.

After the annexation of Ravinia in 1899 no further areas were annexed until the 1920's (see the attached annexation map). Between 1922 and 1926, Highland Park achieved its present size. In 1920 the population was 6,127; in 1930 it was 12,203. In several areas streets were laid out, and improvements were made. These areas included the Sunset Woods subdivision, the Krenn-Dato subdivision, Sherwood Forest and Woodridge.

The Sheahen Farm became the Sunset Woods area. Some of the homes built by Walt Durbahn's manual arts classes came to be constructed in this area in the thirties, although Durbahn's most prominent project is <u>Sandwick Hall</u>, the high school's vocational trades building.

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The Sweeney Farm and surrounding area became known as the Highlands. It was here that the Krenn-Dato Company envisioned an extensive subdivision. A few of the homes were built, but with the Depression the Company folded and building construction was terminated. The Kenneth Lacey home, at 3121 Dato, was the first to be constructed in 1927. Lacey was president of Lighting Products, Inc. at 1505 West Park Avenue. William Sweeney was still living in his farmhouse at what is now 3543 Krenn.

Sherwood Forest and Woodridge were settled by individuals, and only a few houses were constructed before the Depression set in. Like the houses in Ravinia, these were small houses built in historical styles. A small, Spanish Revival commuter railroad station known as the <u>Briargate stop</u> was built in Sherwood Forest at <u>1495 Old Deerfield Road</u> by the Skokie Valley Route of the Chicago, North Shore and Milwaukee Electric Railroad which also serviced Woodridge. Two similar stations, located at Clavey and Old Skokie Road and Old Elm and Old Skokie Highway, have been demolished.

In 1925, while Highland Park was expanding, zoning laws were developed. This determined the lot sizes for residential buildings, types of housing (single or multi-family) and locations of commercial and industrial buildings. The new zoning ordinances, in essence, prevented further industrial development. By this time, the local brickyards, the shipping pier at the foot of Park Avenue and the Graybar Electric Company (founded by Elisha Gray to produce electric equipment) were no longer in operation. The Graybar building, a large Richardsonian structure located on Ridgewood west of Villa St. Cyril at 1111 St John in what is now a residential neighborhood, was torn down by 1905. Zoning laws firmly established Highland Park as a suburban residential community. (See attached zoning map.)

In the 1930's the economy of the nation affected Highland Park, and the growth of the city slowed considerably. The potential development of the newly-laid-out subdivisions was not realized until the early 1950's. Only a few isolated examples of significant homes were built. These were international style houses mostly designed by local architects.

During the late 20's and early 30's, architect Henry Dubin, who had studied at the Bauhaus, settled in Highland Park. In 1930 he built his own house, which is one of the first International Style houses in Highland Park, at 441 Cedar. It is fireproof because of the incorporation of steel with brick construction. The house exhibits the taut lines, decks and window treatment allowing maximum light and air in the best of the Bauhaus-design fashion. Architects Gilmer V. Black and James Eppenstein built other International Style houses in Highland Park. Gilmer V. Black designed the house at 610 Green Bay Road. Dr. Gustave Weinfeld, one of the first pediatricians in Highland Park, had James Eppenstein design his house at 401 Woodland Road. Later, in the 50's, some Miesian buildings were constructed. The Miesian pole of the International Style is represented in Highland

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Park with fine buildings by James Speyer (Ben Rose House, 370 Beech Street), David Haid (Ben Rose Studio, 370 Beech Street), and Crombie Taylor (2096 Park Lane).

George Fred Keck, an eclectic left-wing proponent of the International Style, designed the AIA Gold Medal Award winning house for Ralph Kunstadter in 1950 at 1936 Waverly Road and a crescent-shape house at 65 Prospect. Keck incorporated passive solar ideas and prefabrication. Other excellent Keck homes exist at 2760 Arlington and 932 Stonegate.

Highland Park continues to be in the vanguard, sporting examples of both Late Modern buildings by Larry Booth and Jim Nagle as well as Post-Modern houses by Stanley Tigerman. As an area which has always existed in the forefront of contained, well-designed traditional buildings and "modern" architectural developments, it is hoped that united community effort can preserve Highland Park's unique architectural and landscape fabric.

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David Adler (1883-1949)

Born in 1883 in Milwaukee, Adler was graduated by Princeton University in 1904. He studied at Plytechnikum, Munich and the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris. In Chicago he worked for Howard van Doren Shaw. He was later associated with Henry C. Dangler (1913-1917) and drawings from the office of Dangler at that time carry only Dangler's name. From 1917-1929 he was associated with Robert Work. Drawings from this period carry Work's name alone or Adler and Work. It is thought that he received a license in 1930; he entered private practice in 1930 and continued until his death in 1949. Adler was a creative eclectic who primarily built in Chicago and on the North Shore. He added to a myriad of details including landscaping, decorating, and furnishings as well as the architecture. His clientele included the wealthiest entrepreneurs of the Midwest.

His Highland Park houses include:

House at 37 Sheridan Road, garage and apartment above Robert Mandel House, 1249 Sheridan Road - 1926
1237 Sheridan Road, Coach House

Alfred S. Alschuler (1876-1940)

Alfred S. Alschuler introduced the extensive use of reinforced concrete to Chicago, He also used multicolored terra cotta and standardized building units. In 1903 he went into business with Samuel Treat. Together until 1907, they did the Western Electric Plant. In 1907 Alschuler was elected president of The Chicago Architectural Club. Later he was made a trustee of the Armour Institute (now Illinois Institute of Technology). He did factory buildings for Brach Candy, Florsheim Shoes and Kuppenheimer Clothes as well as designing the Pelouze Building, Wieboldts, Goldblatts the Cuneo Building and the Stone Container Building (formerly the London Guarantee Building), which won a Gold Medal from the North Michigan Avenue Improvement Association in 1923 when it was built. His residence was in Highland Park.

In Highland Park, houses designed by Alschuler include:

Churchill/A.C. Arenberg House, 1214 Green Bay Road, 1906-07 Dr. Hugh Bernardi House, 1266 Green Bay Road, 1912

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William W. Boyington

William W. Boyington was the Mayor of Highland Park from 1875 to 1877 in addition to being a well-known Chicago architect. His most famous building is the old Chicago Water Tower, which, along with the pumping station, was one of a handful of structures to survive the Chicago fire of 1871. Most of Boyington's buildings are gone, but he designed many of Chicago's most important and sometimes influential structures. He was responsible, in the 1860's, for the Gothic castle housing the first University of Chicago as well as for the 1885 Board of Trade building (demolished c. 1928), the focus of Frank Norris's novel The Pit. He was well-known as the architect of a number of hotels including the Second Empire Grand Pacific, which, though devastated by the Chicago Fire of 1871, served as a model for Chicago hotels for years to come. He also designed the 1873 iron and glass exhibition hall built to proclaim Chicago's recovery from the Fire. This structure, where both James Garfield (1880) and Grover Cleveland (1884) were nominated for President, was replaced by the Chicago Art Institute in 1891.

Among the houses he designed for Highland Park are:

Everett Millard House, 1623 Sylvester Place, 1892 House at 2226 Sheridan Road, c. 1875 Palmer Montgomery House, 184 Moraine Road, 1892

Henry Dubin (1892-1963)

Henry Dubin designed Highland Park's most forward looking and technically innovative early modern residence. His own house, at 441 Cedar, with its geometric massing, flat roofs and ribbon windows is the finest International Style house in Highland Park. The technological innovations like the steel beam construction he used in his houses were extremely rare. Dubin's ideas were equally revolutionary. As early as 1932, in the January issue of Welding, he wrote about utilizing standard units in multiple combinations, predicting the day when the mass production of wall components would revolutionize the construction of houses and commercial buildings.

Following graduation from the University of Illinois in architecture in 1915, Henry Dubin began his career in the office of Holabird and Roche. He remained there for four years before going into partnership and forming the firm of Dubin and Eisenberg. The firm was in existence from 1919-1932 although Dubin took time out to study and travel in Europe in 1928. The firm continued, under the name of Dubin and Dubin, until Henry Dubin's death in 1963. His sons Arthur and Martin David, both architects, are partners in the firm of Dubin, Dubin and Moutoussamy.

Residences Henry Dubin designed in Highland Park include:

Morris Kaplan House	76 Lakewood	1948
Henry Dubin House	441 Cedar	1930
Henry Dubin House #2	2350 Maple Lane	1940 ' s
William Savin House	135 Lakeside	1935
Greenberg House	195 Ivy Lane	1940 ' s
House at	545 Green Bay F	Road

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Ernest A. Grunsfeld, Jr. (1897-1970)

Ernest A. Grunsfeld, Jr. was a prolific Highland Park architect who designed predominantly large, elegant traditional style houses for prominent local clients.

Grunsfeld was born in Albuquerque in 1897. He graduated in architecture from M.I.T. in 1918 and went on to study at the Ecole Des Beaux Arts in Paris and the American Academy in Rome. Once back in the United States, he set up practice in Chicago, working with several partners and on his own. Between 1946 and 1955 he officed with Alfred Alschuler, another prominent Highland Park architect. His larger commissions include Sinai Temple and the Adler Planetarium for which he won a gold medal. In addition to design work Grunsfeld was a lecturer at the University of Chicago (1935), University of Illinois (1943) and Stanford (1951-52).

Grunsfeld's Highland Park houses include:

Harold Florsheim House Richard Lowenthal House Martin L. Straus House 650 Sheridan Road, 1925

1418 Waverly, 1932 945 Dean, c. 1920

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Arthur Heun (1866-1946)

Born in Saginaw, Michigan, Arthur Heun had no formal architectural training and apprenticed under an uncle. At the age of 23 he began his career in Chicago as a draftsman for Francis Whitehouse. There he assisted in the Barbara Armour and General A.C. McClurg houses. Whitehouse retired in 1893 and Heun took over his practice and acquired a noteworthy reputation in the field of domestic architecture. While the Prairie style flourished, Heun was designing Mellody Farm, a country home of Ogden Armour in Lake Forest, now Lake Forest Academy. Much like Howard Van Doren Shaw, Heun was directing his efforts toward an upper class clientele who demanded the classical styles. He developed an especially close relationship with the Ernest and Allan Loeb family. In the teens he had designed an Elizabethan style city house for their father, Albert Loeb, on Ellis Avenue in Kenwood, and in the twenties at least two residences at Loeb Farms, the family summer place in Charlevoix, Michigan. Heun's designs, like Shaw's, were largely derived from the classical styles and are extremely simplified in the use of detail; yet they are graceful and sophisticated in their symmetry and proportions.

Highland Park houses designed by Heun:

Ernest Loeb House 1425 Waverly, 1930
Allan Loeb House 1429 Waverly, 1929
Edith Rosenwald Stern House 855 Sheridan Road, 1913
E. Lichtstern House 105 S. Deere Park, 1919

Jens Jensen (1860-1951)

Jens Jensen, who became one of America's few great landscape artists, had his studio at 930 Dean Avenue in Ravinia (Highland Park) from the 1920's until 1935, and designed landscapes for several Highland Park homeowners. Only some can be documented because most of his documentation was destroyed in a fire at his Door County Clearing studio in 1937. However, many properties bear his influence.

Jensen embarked on his career at age 40 when working for the West Side Park System in Chicago. He designed Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt and Columbus parks in Chicago, as well as parks in Springfield, Racine and throughout the midwest. Although he laid out Jensen Park in HIghland Park (formerly Station Park) at Roger Williams and St Johns, it is primarily his private work that is noteworthy here. His Highland Park clients included the cream of the community: noteworthy businessmen such as A.G. Becker, Harold Florsheim and Julius Rosenwald.

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Jens Jensen (continued)

Jensen's importance lies in his extraordinary sensitivity to nature and the ability to translate that sensitivity into art. Working only with native plant materials, rocks, water and space, he created individualized solutions to landscape problems. Characterized by the use of native trees and plants such as hawthornes and crabapples, by plantings with an eye toward autumn color, by curving paths leading to sun openings, by stone bridges and benches, by stonework laid out in stratified layers to echo the land, by ponds and meandering streams and, foremost, by stone council rings to foster friendly gatherings within the garden, Jensen perpetuated the "Prairie Style" of landscape architecture. He practiced these precepts with a religious fervor and had great impact on landscape architecture in Highland Park and perhaps in the entire midwest.

Documented Jensen properties in Highland Park are as follows:

Ernest Loeb Nathan Becker-Gidwitz Jensen Studio Rosewood Park Jens Jensen Park Oscar Foreman House Irl Marshall and Frederick Greenebaum House

Harold Florsheim House

1425 Waverly

405 Sheridan Road

930 Dean Avenue

Foot of Roger Williams Avenue at lake SE corner/St Johns & Roger Williams

SE corner/Hazel & Linden

Edgecliffe and Sheridan

650 Sheridan Road

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George W. Maher (1864-1926)

George W. Maher was a contemporary of Frank Lloyd Wright and trained with him in the office of Joseph Lyman Silsbee. Like Wright, he sought to create a new original American architecture, one which better reflected the values, lifestyle and terrain than did the Beaux Arts-derived designs fishionable on the East Coast at the time. He thought this was best achieved through expressing the idea of massiveness, centralization and substantiality on residential architecture. These elements are clearly seen in the five simple and largely typical designs Maher executed in Highland Park.

Maher's Highland Park residences are typically massive symmetrical structures with broad overhangs and canted walls. He employs the segmental arch motif and beautiful stained glass windows laid out in ribbons. Balance

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George W. Maher (continued)

and simplicity are his design hallmarks.

Maher's work was widely published. Illustrations of all five of his Highland Park houses appeared in Western Architect or American Architect between 1907 and 1914. According to H. Allen Brooks, Maher created, "A consistent and occasionally highly personal series of ahistorical designs which enjoyed great public favor and had a profound influence over other architects..." His Highland Park houses typify the best of his personal style and were seen, at least by the profession, nationally.

The following are documented Maher buildings:

Emil Rudolph House 160 Linden Park Place, c. 1907 Smith House 333 Maple, c. 1907 Scarborough House 2345 Maple Lane, c. 1907 Dr. W. Lamborn House 2360 Sheridan Road, 1910 Samuel H. Bingham House 2376 Sheridan Road, c. 1907

A house at 1080 Sheridan Road contains stylistic characteristics similar to Maher's, but the architect for this house has not been documented.

Robert E. Seyfarth (1878-1950)

Seyfarth was both in Blue Island, Illinois, on April 13, 1878. He attended Chicago Manual Training School, where he received his architectural training. After leaving school he worked for a Chicago architect, George Maher. In 1910 he moved his family to a house he had built for himself in Highland Park, Illinois. He opened a Chicago office and in 1925 moved to the newly-constructed Tribune Tower. In 1934, due to the Depression, he moved his office to his home in Highland Park, where it remained until his death in 1950.

Seyfarth designed many buildings on the North Shore, only a few of which were not residential. In Highland Park along, fifty-two of his buildings are still standing. Compared to contemporary architects, such as Howard Van Doren Shaw, Seyfarth, although he did have some wealthy clients, was more an architect for the middle class. Most of his houses in Highland Park were medium-sized and medium-priced. That, and the graceful proportions, humane scale and charm of his eclectic style explains his enormous popularity which has never waned.

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Robert E. Seyfarth (continued)

Houses by Seyfarth in Highland Park include:

Rex Jones House Alexander Stewart House Holmes House Robert E. Seyfarth House

275 Linden Park Place, 1915

1442 Forest, 1913

2693 Sheridan Road, 1926 1498 Sheridan Road, 1910

Commercial structure:

Retail Store Building, 1882-8 Sheridan Road, 1917

Howard Van Doren Shaw (1869-1926)

Howard Van Doren Shaw was born in Chicago to a prosperous grain merchant and his wife, Sarah Van Doren (of the literary Brooklyn family) in 1869. He attended the Harvard School in Kenwood and Yale University. After graduation from the latter he took his architectural training at M.I.T., completing his studies there in 1892. He traveled to Europe and upon returning to Chicago in 1893 he went to work for William LeBaron Jenney, in whose offices he had trained during his summer vacation. Apparently Shaw was unfulfilled by the character of work at Jenney's firm, and started his own practice in the attic of his parents' house in 1895.

Shaw's earliest residential work such as "Ragdale" and his commissions on Prospect in Highland Park show the decided influence of the English Arts and Crafts movement. These were simple, and later proved to be inappropriate to the later, more extravagant commissions he obtained from 1910 to his death in 1926, during which time he became the midwest's pre-eminent society architect. For his larger projects Shaw eschewed the Prairie Style radicalism of his peers, who also were influenced by the arts and crafts movement, and created designs drawn from historical precedent for many of Chicago's great families including Ryerson, Swift and Donnelly. Despite their grandeur, these works belie Shaw's lasting commitment to Arts and Crafts ideals of careful attention to tasteful, understated detail and high-quality craftsmanship. Further, Shaw was anything but a strict, literally derivative historicist. Rather, his designs show a splendid talent for cultivated eclecticism, masterfully blending elements of the Georgian, the Elizabethan, the Palladian and several Germanic sources as well.

Best known for his large country manors, Shaw also designed several notable public buildings; the Goodman Memorial Theater at the Art Institute, the Quadrangle Club, the Fourth Presbyterian Church parish house, and the Lakeside Press Building,

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Howard Van Doren Shaw (continued)

to name just a few. Probably his best known work is the delightful Market Square complex which forms the center of Lake Forest's commercial district and stands as a testimony to Shaw's masterful treatment of eclectic architecture and inspired city planning. Shaw was awarded the A.I.A. Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement posthumously in 1927.

In Highland Park, Shaw's works include:

Villa Ensor, Charles F. Fishback House Robert C. Schaffner House 35 Ravine Drive, 1909 A.G. Becker House Arthur Baldauf Houses Charles Bingham House George Pick House

409 Sheridan Road, 1912 1419 Waverly (completed after his death in 1928) 215 Prospect, 1897

970 Sheridan Road, 1915

178, 205 and 215 Prospect, c. 1900

200 Vine, 1908

John S. Van Bergen (1885-1969)

Houses at

A native of Oak Park, Van Bergen was educated at Chicago Technical College and in the office of Walter Burley Griffen (1907-08). He left Griffen to work in Wright's office in 1909. He and William Drummond closed Wright's office in 1909-1910. Van Bergen during that time supervised the building of the Robie House, the Mrs. Thomas Gale House and the Isabel Roberts House. He also did the working drawings for these projects. Licensed in 1911, he practiced by himself in Oak Park until World War I broke out. He moved his practice to Ravinia (Highland Park) in 1921, having worked for the U.S. Army as an architect at Fort Sheridan, Illinois. Van Bergen's Highland Park and North Shore work was in complete harmony with Wright's and he is credited with being the Prairie School architect who did the best adaptation of Wright's ideas. In the thirties he moved to Lake Zurich and stayed there until 1951. After the building of another studio-office in Barrington he moved to Santa Barbara, California, in 1955. He worked until two years before his death at 84. Van Bergen continued to build in the Prairie School Style long after it was out of fashion.

His Highland Park buildings include:

May T. Watts House Braeside School James L. Whitehouse House 660 DeTamble, 1937 Wilson Kline House Herman Lanzl House Belle Bemis Duplex

487 Groveland, 1928

142 Pierce (150 Pierce), 1927-28

1510 Hawthorn, 1925 1635 Linden, 1921 295 Cedar, 1923-25

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John S. Van Bergen (continued)

Dudley Crafts Watson House

Ravinia School

Albert J. Kurtzon House
Mrs. Frank Geyso Houses
F.W. Van Bergen Houses
Moldener & Humer Furriers
John Shaver House
John S. Van Bergen House
Albert S. Stoddard and Laura
Stoddard House

Clifford Raymond House

291 Marshman, 1926;

Van Bergen addition, 1926

8

763 Dean, prior to 1926 (c. 1912 plus)

Van Bergen additions, 1926-27, 1934, 1937

266 Delta, 1928

450, 456 Woodland, 1924-1930

1184 Wade, 1927

1894 Sheridan Road, 1926

326 Delta, 1935

234 Cedar Avenue, 1927

290 Cedar Avenue, 1926-30

1050 Wade; John S. Van Bergen remodeling, 1926

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959)

A native of Wisconsin, Wright spent two semesters studying engineering at the University of Wisconsin before he came to Chicago. There he first worked for Joseph Silsbee and then for Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler. In 1893, having built the Winslow House in River Forest and his own house in Oak Park, he established his own practice. By 1902 he had added a studio-atelier for Prairie School designers and had evolved his own original Prairie School style with long horizontal lines and broad overhanging eaves. In 1909 Wright went to Europe to work on the Wasmuth edition. Returning in 1911, he established the Taliesin Fellowship, his studio-workshop in Spring Green, Wisconsin. This same concept was also established at Taliesin West in Scottsdale, Arizona, in 1931. Wright was a prolific writer and architect. It is estimated that he built more than 400 structures in his fifty years of practice. He is credited with revolutionizing contemporary domestic architecture. He built three houses in Highland Park:

Ward W. Willits House
Ward W. Willits Coach House
Mary W. Adams House
George Madison Millard House

1445 Sheridan Road, 1902 1450 Sheridan Road, 1902 1923 Lake Avenue, 1905-06 1689 Lake Avenue, 1906

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Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group dnr-11

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1. Maple Avenue/Maple Lar District	ne Historic Entered in the National Register. Att	eper Adour Byen 4/24/8:
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11. Beatty, Ross, House	Entered in the National Register	fr Keeper	Delous Byen 9/29/82
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