



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – STAFF REPORT

Landmark Nomination: Public Hearing

Address: **1201 Fair Oaks Ave**
Meeting Date: January 12, 2023
Property Owner: Craig and Noopoth Stevaux
Historic Designation: Not currently located in a historic district or a listed Landmark
Zoning: R-2: Single Family
Project: Nominated to be an Oak Park Landmark by homeowners



Historic Preservation Ordinance

Relevant sections of the Historic Preservation Ordinance include the following:

7-9-4: CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS AND INTERIOR HISTORIC LANDMARKS:

A. The Commission, in determining whether to recommend for designation, and the Village Board, in determining whether to approve designation of particular sites, structures, or improvements as historic landmarks and/or interiors of structures or parts thereof as interior historic landmarks, shall consider the following criteria:

Historical And/Or Cultural Importance

1. Significance as an example of the architectural, cultural, economic, historic or social development or heritage of the Village of Oak Park, the state, or the United States;
2. Location as a site of a historic event, with a significant effect on the Village of Oak Park, the state, or the United States;

3. Identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the architectural, cultural, economic, historic or social heritage, or other aspect, of the Village of Oak Park, the State, or the United States;

Architectural And/Or Engineering Importance

4. Existence on the National Register of Historic Places;
5. Embodiment of those distinguishing characteristics of significant architectural type, or style, or engineering specimen;
6. Identification as the work of a builder, designer, architect, craftsperson, engineer or landscape architect whose individual work is significant in the development of the Village of Oak Park, the State, or the United States;
7. Contains design elements, detail, materials or craftsmanship that make the property or building structurally or architecturally innovative, rare or unique;
8. Representation of an architectural, cultural, economic, historic or social theme, style or period, expressed in distinctive areas, districts, places, buildings or structures that may or may not be contiguous.

B. Any site, structure or improvement that meets one or more of the above criteria shall also be at least fifty (50) years old and shall have sufficient integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship to make it worthy of preservation or restoration.

C. It shall be within the discretion of the Village Board to deny designation of any historic landmark, irrespective of whether or not the proposed landmark satisfies one or more of the above listed criteria. (Ord. 1999-0-7, 3-15-99)

7-9-5: NOMINATION AND PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN HISTORIC LANDMARK OR INTERIOR HISTORIC LANDMARK:

A. Submission Of Nominations: Historic landmark and interior historic landmark nominations may be submitted to the Commission by any person, group of persons, or association, including any member of the Commission, on a nomination form provided by the Commission. The nomination form shall include, or be accompanied by, the following:

1. The name and address of the owner of the property proposed for designation, including the names of the beneficial owners of property held in a land trust, where possible.
2. The legal description and common street address of the property proposed for designation.
3. An indication of whether or not the owner is in favor of the proposed designation.
4. A written statement describing the property and setting forth reasons in support of the proposed designation.
5. Photographs of the property or selected properties within a district.
6. Such other information as may be required by the Commission.

Applicant's Proposal

The applicant, homeowners Craig and Noopoth Stevaux, have nominated 1201 Fair Oaks Ave to be an Oak Park Landmark based on the following Criteria from 7-9-4 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance:

Historical And/Or Cultural Importance

Criteria 1: Significance as an example of architectural, cultural, economic, historic or social development or heritage of the Village of Oak Park, the state, of the United States.

Criteria 3: Identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the architectural, cultural, economic, historic or social heritage, or other aspect, of the Village of Oak Park, the State, or the United States.

Architectural And/Or Engineering Importance

Criteria 2: Embodiment of those distinguishing characteristics of significant architectural type, or style, or engineering specimen.

Criteria 3: Identification as the work of a builder, designer, architect, crafts person, engineer or landscape architect whose individual work is significant in the development of the Village of Oak Park, the State, of the United States.

Per 7-9-4E of the Historic Preservation Ordinance, 1201 Fair Oaks Ave is also over fifty (50) years old and has sufficient integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship to make it worthy of preservation or restoration.

Historical Summary

1201 Fair Oaks Ave, the Swenson-Gottlieb House, was designed by architect George E. Pearson for owners/builders Ellefsen and Arne Bentsen. The house and garage were both built in 1931. The house has been minimally altered over the years, particularly on the exterior. See nomination report for additional historical information.

Staff Comments

Significance

The Swenson-Gottlieb House is significant as an example of a design by prolific local architect George E. Pearson and owners/builders George Ellefson and Arne Bentsen. It is also notable both as a well-preserved example of a 1930s bungalow with Renaissance Revival and Craftsman style detailing, as well as for its being the primary residence of the Gottlieb family for over 40 years. David Gottlieb became a millionaire through the manufacture of pinball machines. He gave large donations to fund such enterprises as the Gottlieb Memorial Hospital on North Ave.

Staff Recommendation

The Swenson-Gottlieb House is greater than 50 years in age and retains historic integrity. It appears to meet the criteria for eligibility to be listed as an Oak Park Landmark. It is recommended that the Commission find the building to be an eligible landmark and approve a resolution recommended designation to the Village Board.

Landmarking Process

- Preliminary Determination of Eligibility
 - o At the first HPC meeting, the HPC must make a preliminary determination of whether the property is eligible based on the "Criteria for Designation" in 7-9-4 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance (excerpt above).
- Landmark Hearing

- If the HPC finds the property likely eligible, the HPC must hold a public hearing. At the public hearing, the HPC shall hear testimony and received evidence. Within 45 days of the hearing, the Commission shall determine whether to recommend designation of a historical landmark to the Village Board, based on the “Criteria for Designation” in 7-9-4 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance (excerpt above). This decision may be made at the same meeting as the hearing or at a secondary meeting.
- Village Board Landmarking
 - Within 30 days of receipt of the HPC’s resolution and report recommending designation of a landmark, the Village Board shall either designate a historic landmark or reject the nomination. The Village Board shall apply the designation criteria from 7-9-4, shall consider the record of the public hearing, and shall consider the findings and recommendations of the Commission.

Attachments

- Nomination form supplied by homeowners
- Landmark nomination map
- Additional history and photos compiled by staff
- 1931 Plat of Survey
- David Gottlieb Obituary (Chicago Tribune, April 17, 1974, P87)
- Wednesday Journal article from July 21, 2010
- Details on Robert A. Noland provided by homeowners

1201 Fair Oaks Ave.
Oak Park IL 60302
noyncraig@gmail.com
(757) 685-2323
5 Jan 2023

Historic Preservation Commission
Oak Park Village Hall
123 Madison St.
Oak Park IL 60302

Dear Gentlemen and Ladies:

While my wife and I had intended to be present for the meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission, unfortunately, we have been called out of town to visit with my wife's mother in Minneapolis and so are unable to attend. Please be aware that both my wife and I are fully in support of the Commission's Designation of our home as a Historic Landmark in Oak Park.

We purchased the Gottlieb home in February of 2021 and while we now divide our time between Oak Park and another property we own in the state of Hawaii, our plan is to eventually spend the majority of our retirement in the home at 1201 Fair Oaks Ave. in Oak Park. At present, a sister and sister-in-law reside in the house all year long.

We've already bought airline tickets to return to Hawaii via Thailand on January 23rd of this year.

Respectfully,

Craig & Noopoth Stevaux



Historic Landmark Nomination Form

The Village of Oak Park
Village Hall
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272

708.383.6400
Fax 708.383.6692
TTY 708.383.0048
village@oak-park.us

This form is for use in nominating Oak Park Landmarks. Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets. Use a typewriter, word processor or computer to complete all items.

NAME OF PROPERTY

Gottlieb House Stevaux House
Historic name Common name

LOCATION

1201 Fair Oaks Ave.
Street & number
Oak Park Illinois IL Cook 031 60302
City or town State Code County Code Zip code

CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Private Public: Local Public: State Public: Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Building(s) District Site Structure Object

Number of Resources within Property

1 Contributing Noncontributing
2 Buildings Sites Structures Objects Total

Type of Designation

Exterior Public interior

FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic Single Dwelling
Category Subcategory

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic Single Dwelling
Category Subcategory

DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Early 20th Century American Bungalow
Category Subcategory

Materials (Enter categories from instructions) Concrete Shingle Brick
Foundation Roof Walls Other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

This brick bungalow at 1201 Fair Oaks Avenue built in 1931 typifies the early 20th century American movement but is distinctive because of its more than 100 original art glass windows which cover every opening on the structure's first floor.
Renovations such as to the kitchen in 2008 have affected primarily the interior of the house as built except for the installation of a lawn sprinkler system in 2006 and the then owner's wingwall replacement in 1993.

(Please see continuation sheet)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Areas of Significance (See attached continuation sheet)

Period of Significance 1931

Architect/Builder George E. Pearson

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

(See attached continuation sheet)

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Dept. of Buildings, Village of Oak Park Wednesday Journal of Oak Park
Plat of Survey (1931) "Lot 23 of block 1" Newsletter of Oak Park Historic
Preservation Commission

Representation in Existing Surveys

Legal Description (Attach additional pages if necessary)

PIN: 16062040310000

Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Craig Stevaux
Organization: _____
Telephone: (757) 685-2323
Date: 21 December 2022
Street & Number: 1201 Fair Oaks Ave.
City or Town: Oak Park
State: IL
Zip Code: 60302
Property Owner(s): Craig and Noopoth Stevaux
Name: 1201 Fair Oaks Ave.
Telephone: (757) 685-2323
Street & Number: Oak Park
City or Town: Oak Park
State: IL
Zip Code: 60302
Applicant: Craig Stevaux
Name: 1201 Fair Oaks Ave.
Street & Number: Oak Park
City or Town: Oak Park
State: IL
Zip Code: 60302
Signature: *Craig Stevaux*
noyncraig@gmail.com
Date: 21 Dec. 2022

Official Action

Date of Owner Consent
Date of Public Hearing
Result
Date of Village Board Action
Result

Landmark Description continued:

Interior modernization/renovation has most likely altered only the interior of the structure. Externally, it most likely appears as it was built in 1931. The total square footage is 5,973. Fortunately for the current owners, the Stevaux family, the interior of the home contains much of the original hardwood floors and other woodwork as well as an elaborately-painted mural ceiling in both the entry hall and dining room.

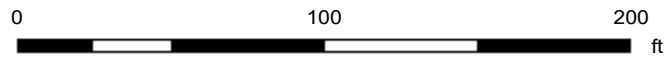
Statement of Significance continued:

The Gottlieb family is well known to most villagers in Oak Park due to the nearby presence of the Gottlieb Memorial Hospital as well as the many family healthcare facilities in the Chicago area. Their son, Alvin Gottlieb, an inventor, formerly lived in Oak Park. He belonged to the famous pinball family, D. Gottlieb and Co. which built pinball machines in Chicago from 1927. (It is rumored that the Gottlieb's family's first pinball machine was made in the bungalow's basement.)

This bungalow was designed by prolific architect, George E. Pearson. The Gottlieb bungalow is one of the more than 200 buildings he designed in Oak Park between 1919 and 1938. Yet another example is the Benson/Armstrong House at 1139 Woodbine Avenue.



Legend



Print Date: 12/29/2022

Notes

Landmark Nomination Map

The Swenson-Gottlieb House (1201 Fair Oaks Ave) Landmark Nomination

Supplementary Information

Building Summary

The Swenson-Gottlieb House (1201 Fair Oaks Ave) was designed by architect George E. Pearson for owners/builders George Ellefsen and Arne Bentsen. It is a one-story, red brick bungalow with a detached, brick, 2-car garage that were built in 1931. The house has a hip roof with large projecting dormers off the front and rear. Dormers are also located on both sides (south and north). A large projecting bay on the front elevation with decorative stone detailing in the Renaissance Revival style. It also features elements of the Craftsman style, including the bungalow form, the brick material, and the stained-glass windows. The first floor features stained glass casement windows with stained glass transoms. There are over 100 stained glass windows in the house in total. In 1993, the porch and wingwall were replaced. The existing stones were reset. The kitchen was remodeled in 2008. The house has had very few alterations over the years and retains its historic integrity.

The Swenson-Gottlieb House is significant as an example of a design by prolific local architect George E. Pearson and owners/builders George Ellefsen and Arne Bentsen. It is notable both as an well-preserved example of a 1930s bungalow with Renaissance Revival and Craftsman style detailing, as well as for its being the primary residence of the Gottlieb family for over 40 years. David Gottlieb became a millionaire through the manufacture of pinball machines. He gave large donations to fund such enterprises as the Gottlieb Memorial Hospital on North Ave.

The Architect

George E. Pearson, formerly Gustav E. Pearson, was a prolific architect in Oak Park in the 1920s and 1930s. He designed at least 229 houses in Oak Park between 1919 and 1938, many north of Division Street. Of these, 24 were in collaboration with builders George Ellefsen and Arne Bentsen, including Ellefsen's house at 1227 Rossell Ave and Bentsen's house at 1212 N Grove Ave (Benson/Armstrong House Landmark Nomination 2009). Pearson licensed the designs and plans for use by developers, leading to a number of look-alike houses (Wednesday Journal 2018). Pearson also designed a number of buildings in Chicago, including six houses in what is now the Norwood Park Historic District, and four apartment buildings.

Pearson's designs primarily consisted of Bungalows and American Foursquare houses. He often used a variety of Colonial Revival or Tudor Revival style references. Most of Pearson's bungalows are brick with a front-extending bay, a front-facing entrance set back beneath a covered porch, a curved wing wall, and clay tile roofs. Most had a brick, two-car garage with a clay tile, hipped roof (Benson/Armstrong House Landmark Nomination 2009).

Notable designs by Pearson include the Benson/Armstrong House at 1139 Woodbine Ave, a two-story brick house in the Italian Renaissance style that was Landmarked in 2009. 1139 Woodbine Ave is the only Landmark designed by Pearson.

Known Houses by Pearson in Oak Park's Historic Districts:

Address	Builder	Original Owner	Construction Date
725 Belleforte Ave	Alan McConachie	George R. Hemingway	1924
143 S Cuyler Ave	Robert Houston	F.C. Pilgrim & Co	1922
145 S Cuyler Ave	Robert Houston, Jr.	F.C. Pilgrim & Co	1922
234 S Cuyler Ave	Carl Johan Nelson	Robert Houston	1921
810 N East Ave	A. H. Worswick	Gillie J. Webb	1919
500 N Elmwood Ave	Gil Davies	Gil Davies	1922
731 Fair Oaks Ave	George E. Bellock	D. Burroughs	1919
630 N Grove Ave	Eureka Construction Company	Joseph E. Jones Company	1922
644 N Grove Ave	Eureka Construction Company	Joseph E. Jones Company	1922
704 N Kenilworth Ave	John Schilthouse	John Schilthouse	1923
706 N Kenilworth Ave	John Schilthouse	John Schilthouse	1923
312-314 S Maple Ave	Robert Houston	F.C. Pilgrim & Co	1924
519 N Ridgeland Ave	John Protscher	Henry Fask	1922

Previous Owners

The Swenson-Gottlieb House was built by the owners/contractors Ellefsen & Bentsen in 1931. It was sold to Peter Swenson by December of 1931. Swenson sold the property to David Gottlieb between 1935 and 1936. David and Dorothy Gottlieb lived at 1201 Fair Oaks Ave into the 1970s (Oak Park Directory 1931, Oak Park Oak Leaves 1970). They raised three children at this address, Alvin, Marjorie, and Roberta. The house was sold at some point between 1974 and 1976; Mr. Gottlieb died in Miami Beach in 1974 at the age of 73 (Chicago Tribune 1974).

David Gottlieb was a millionaire pinball machine manufacturer and the founder of Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in Melrose Park. Gottlieb founded his company, D. Gottlieb & Co, Northlake, in 1927. He devised the button-operated flipper which became common in nearly all pinball machines. By the time of his death, Gottlieb's company was the world's largest manufacturer of pinball machines. Gottlieb spent much of his time and money on philanthropic ventures, including more than \$1 million on a hospital to honor his parents. He also supported the Damon Runyon Cancer Fund and was the director of the Park View Home for the Aged and the West Suburban Temple Har Zion (Chicago Tribune 1974).

By 1978, the property was owned by Robert Noland. Based on word of mouth from neighbors, Noland was a professor of physics at the University of Chicago who worked on the Manhattan Project, which ultimately resulted in the conclusion of World War II. Noland worked at the Argonne National Laboratory, where he was leader of the coding and jacketing group and co-authored a text titled "The Fabrication of the Fuel Sub Assemblies for the Borax III Reactor" (documents from homeowner). Village records indicate that he had a stepson, Michael Wilcox. A Cleatis Wilcox was documented as illegally operating a cooking school and catering business out of the house in 1983 and 1986 (Village building permit records).

The Development of North Oak Park

North Oak Park was largely developed in the 1920s and after, and differed from earlier Oak Park in several ways as a result: national building trends were for Revival styles of architecture (Colonial, Neo-Classical, and Tudor), a new generation of Chicago architects began their practices in the 1920s, and there was an increase in subdivision building (Dull 1973). George E. Pearson, the architect, and original owners/builders George Ellefsen and Arne Bentsen, participated in this development. Consequently, many of their houses feature similar forms and styles. The Swenson-Gottlieb House is unique in its specific combination of red brick and stylistic details; it is also notable for its extensive use of stained glass, which amounts to over 100 windows.

Sources:

Chicago Tribune, "Gottlieb Hospital founder dies at 73," April 17, 1974, page 87

Dull, Elizabeth. 1973. "The Domestic Architecture of Oak Park, Illinois: 1900-1930." From the Village of Oak Park Historic Preservation files on George Pearson.

Oak Park Telephone Directory, December 1, 1931

Oak Park Telephone Directory, June 1, 1935

Oak Park Telephone Directory December 1, 1936

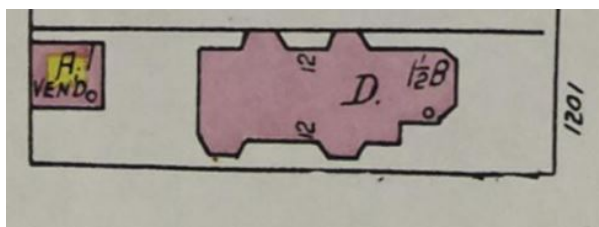
Oak Park Oak Leaves, January 7, 1970

Village of Oak Park Building Permit Records

Village of Oak Park Historic Preservation files

- 1139 Woodbine Ave Landmark Nomination Report 2009
- Materials submitted by current homeowners of 1201 Fair Oaks Ave
- Excerpts from "The Domestic Architect of Oak Park, Illinois: 1900-1930," by Elizabeth Dull, 1973.

Wednesday Journal, "'Tales' housewalk highlights homes of the 1920s," April 24, 2018.



1947 Sanborn



1950 Sanborn

Examples of Oak Park Bungalows Designed by Pearson (Oak Park Historic Preservation files, 2009)



1227 Rossell (1928) – George Ellefsen House



1212 N. Grove (1928) – Arne Bentsen House



1218 N. Grove (1928)



1210 N. Grove (1928)



1011 N. Kenilworth (1929)



1100 N. Ridgeland (1926)



1107 N. Grove (1927)



1133 Edmer (1927)



1201 Fair Oaks (1931)



1201 N. Elmwood (1927)



1210 Edmer (1928)



1047 N. Kenilworth (1927)

Village Photos of 1201 Fair Oaks Ave (2009):





Homeowner Photos of 1201 Fair Oaks Ave (2022):



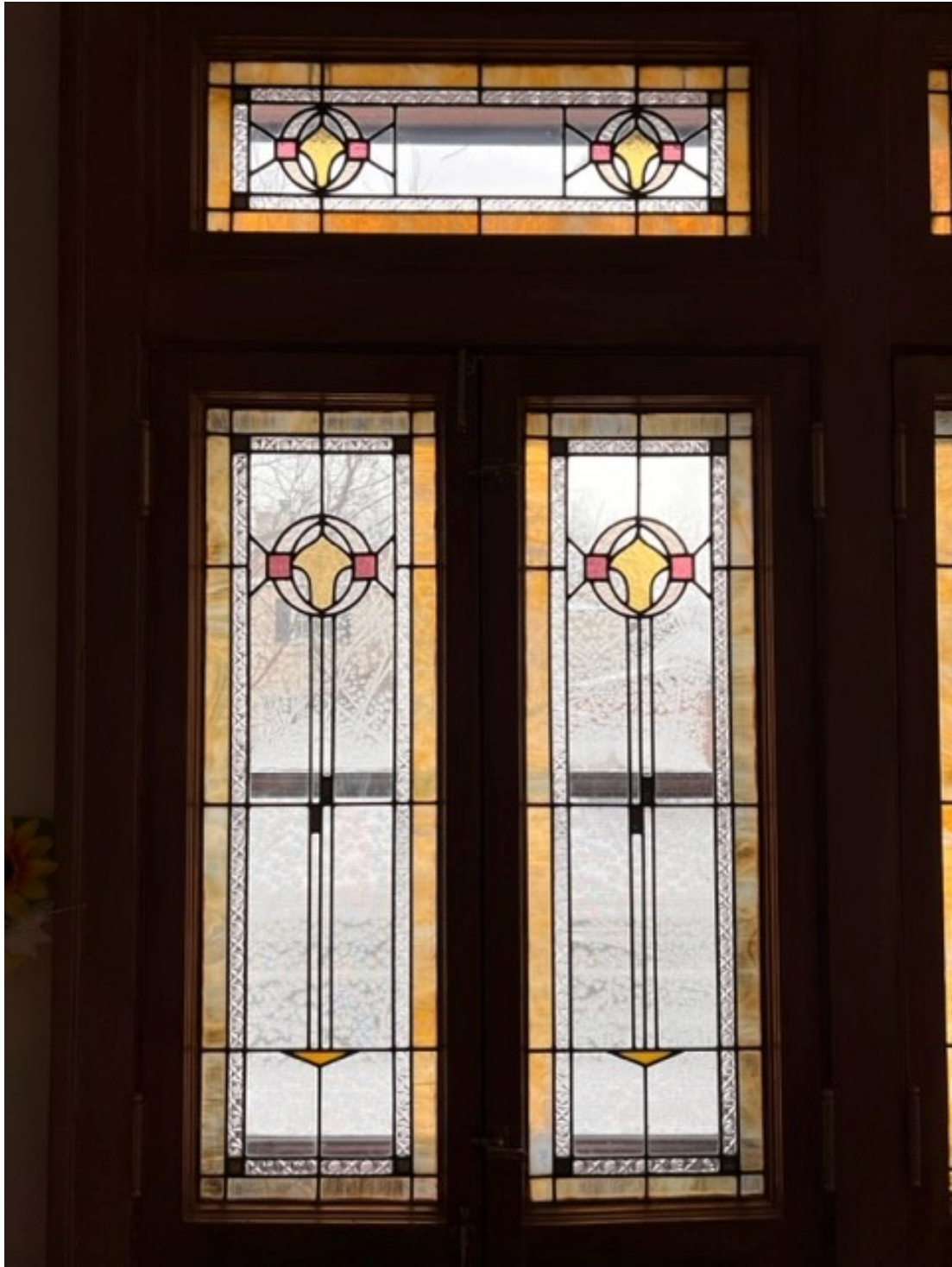












PLAT OF SURVEY

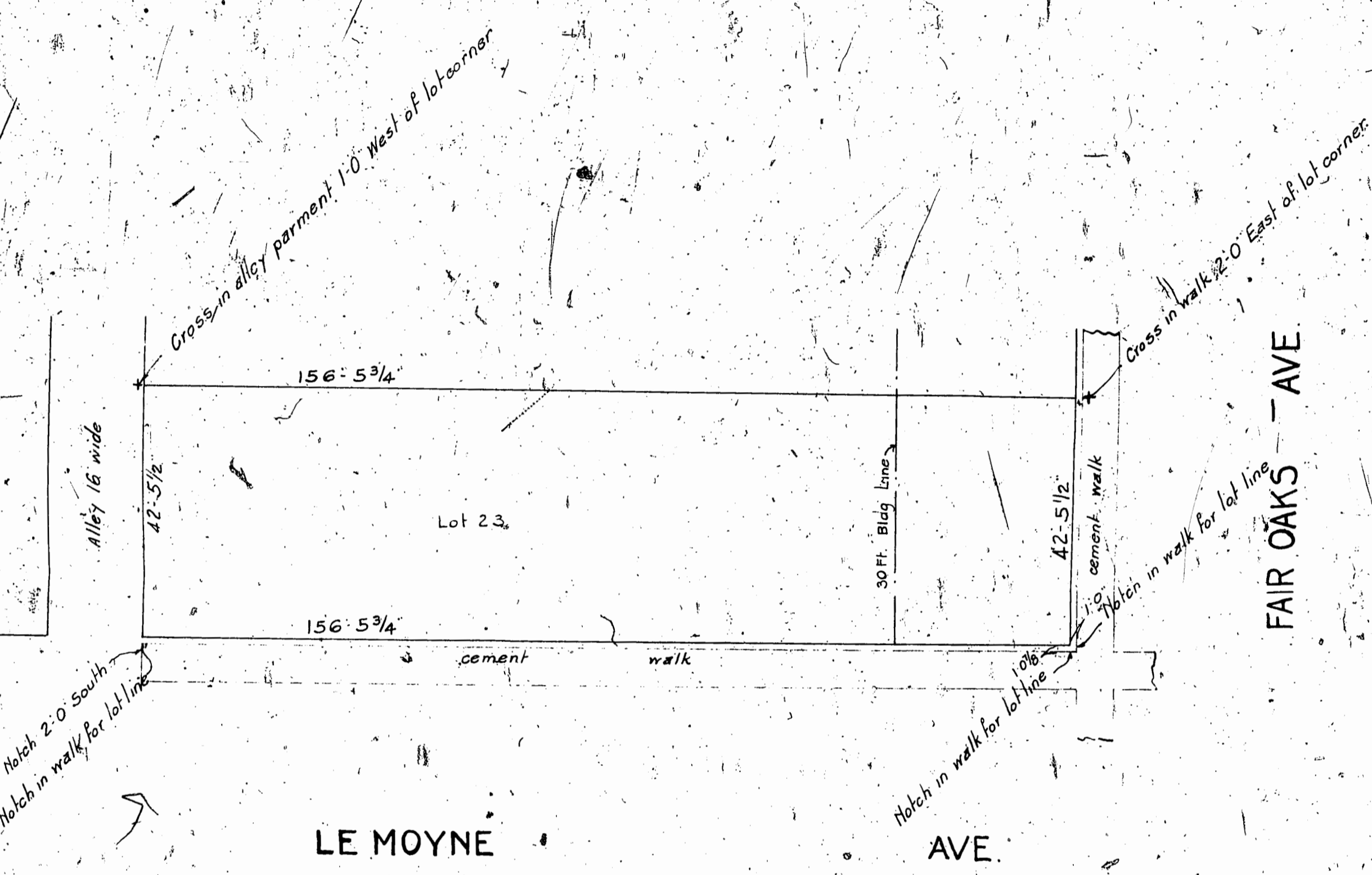
SUHR, BERRYMAN, PETERSON & SUHR, INC.
SURVEYORS AND CIVIL ENGINEERS

SURVEYS OF LOTS AND LANDS IN CITY AND COUNTY
PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES
FOR MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS

SUITE 1704-5.130 N. WELLS ST.
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 6316

BOOK 512 PAGE 127 ORDER NO. 431531 CHICAGO 4/23 1931
ORDERED BY Roe Schubert & Rapp FOR _____ OWNER

*Lot 23 in block 1 in Mills & Sons North Oak Park subd² being a subd² of part of N.E. 1/4 of Section 6
Twp. 39 North, Range 13 East of 3rd Principal Meridian.*



EXPLANATIONS

NO DIMENSIONS SHOULD BE ASSUMED BY SCALE MEASUREMENTS UPON THE PLAT

Distances are marked in feet (') and inches ("), thus 24'-8" means 24 feet and 8 inches.

And in decimals thus: 24.8' means 24 feet and 8 tenths.

Scale, 1" = 20 ft.

TOP OF PLAT IS NORTH:

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
COUNTY OF COOK, ss.

I hereby certify that I have made a survey on _____
and that the location of _____ on above
described property is correctly shown on plat hereon drawn.

SURVEYOR

CHICAGO 4/23 1931

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
COUNTY OF COOK, ss.

This is to certify that we have surveyed the above described property according to the Official Record, and the above plat correctly represents said survey.

SUHR, BERRYMAN, PETERSON AND SUHR, Inc.
SURVEYORS.

By Roe Berryman

Contractors or builders should be notified to carefully test and compare, on the ground, the points, measurements, etc., as noted in this Certificate, with the stakes, points, etc., given on the property, before building on the same, and AT ONCE report any seeming or apparent difference between the same to the Surveyors, that misunderstanding, displacement of points, etc., may be corrected before damage is done.

Gottlieb Hospital founder dies at 73

David Gottlieb, of Oak Park, a millionaire coin machine manufacturer and the founder of Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in Melrose Park, died yesterday in Miami Beach.

Mr. Gottlieb, 73, was chairman of the board of D. Gottlieb & Co., Northlake, which is the world's largest manufacturer of pinball machines. He founded the firm in 1927 to manufacture a device called the "Penny Grip-tester," and turned to making pinball machines in 1931. He devised the button-operated flipper common to nearly all such machines in use today.

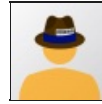
Mr. Gottlieb used part of his fortune to support a variety of philanthropic activities, including a grant of more than \$1

million to build the Melrose Park hospital in honor of his parents. He also was active in raising money for the Damon Runyon Cancer Fund, and he was a director of the Park View Home for the Aged and a director of West Suburban Temple Har Zion.

Survivors are his widow, Dorothy; a son, Alvin; two daughters, Mrs. Marjorie Weinberg and Mrs. Robert Kaye; three brothers, Nathan, Maury, and I. E. Gottlieb; two sisters, Mrs. Bess Skibell and Mrs. Sarah Skibell; eight grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Services will be held at 1 p. m. tomorrow in West Suburban Temple Har Zion, 1040 N. Harlem Av., River Forest.

David Gottlieb obituary



Clipped By:

historyhowweplay
Wed, Mar 31, 2021

WJ 7-21-2010

PREVIEW HOUSE

Produced by the Advertising Department



A stunning, high-tech home

At 1201 N. Fair Oaks, the sun shines in through over 100 Art Glass windows and doors. Together with the beautiful woodwork, hardwood floors, brand new high-end kitchen and sophisticated mechanical systems, this is truly a special home.

With four bedrooms and three full and two half baths, everything in the home has been completely redone. The brand new kitchen includes a heated tile floor, top-of-the-line Viking Professional appliances and granite countertops. The master bath has a Kohler Jacuzzi tub, a Kohler oversized shower with digital temperature controls and a 36 inch high definition flat screen TV.

Some of the home's unique features include an extraordinary 19' x 15' movie theater with a 84" screen, an exterior gazebo (with electric power) and a pond with a waterfall and illumination. All the mechanicals are new including the 400 amp electrical system, copper plumbing and dual zone air conditioning. All six of the homes high definition televisions are connected.

1201 N. Fair Oaks is currently listed for \$925,000. To arrange a private showing, contact Vee Jaroszewski from Gagliardo Realty at 708-771-8040 or vjaroszewski@gagliardo.com.

Additional Information Supplied by Homeowners

More than one neighbor related the story of Robert A. Noland, a professor of physics at the University of Chicago who worked on the Manhattan Project which ultimately resulted in the conclusion of World War II.

A bachelor, "The Professor," as he was called by neighbors, Noland worked at the Argonne National Laboratory and was leader of Argonne's coding and jacketing group. While at Argonne Robert Noland also co-authored a text titled "The Fabrication of Fuel Sub Assemblies for the Borax III Reactor."

Reportedly, Noland even physically resembled Christopher Lloyd's character of a scientist in the film "Back to the Future" with his "wild" hair. Described as a kind man by neighbors, Noland never married though he showed kindness to neighborhood children. When he attempted to explain his physics work to neighbors, they failed to comprehend it.

According to a neighbor, Robert Noland was present at Los Alamos the day following the first test of the atomic bomb. Reportedly, Robert Noland also traveled to Switzerland during construction of CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research) to probe the fundamental particles of the universe.