

1997

House and Garden Walk



Saturday, September 6, 1997

*Presented By
Logan Square Preservation*

Cover photo

This photo was taken following Governor Frank Lowden's dedication of the eagle monument at Logan Square, commemorating the Centennial of the State of Illinois in 1918. At that time, Logan Square was one of the most influential neighborhoods in Chicago, since it was home to some of the wealthiest businessmen in the City. When the State Legislature made plans to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Illinois, they looked to the largest city in the State and then to the most important neighborhood in that City.

Henry Bacon, designer of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., was commissioned to create a magnificent, \$60,000 memorial. On one of his early visits to Logan Square, Bacon noticed the eagle decorations at the top of the Auditorium Building across the street and decided to place an eagle at the top of a classic Roman column. A relief mural, including figures of Hiawatha, Daniel Boone, Ceres, Mercury and others, was placed at the base. The inscription reads: "To Commemorate the Century of the Admission of Illinois as a Sovereign State of the American Union, December 3rd, MDCCCXVIII."

Previously, Logan, Kedzie, Palmer and Humboldt Boulevards were all called Humboldt Boulevard, which caused confusion. During the Centennial dedication, three of the boulevards were renamed as we know them today.

The Auditorium Building, also called the Gilbert Building, was built in 1911 and is seen behind the monument. A two story addition, seen to the left of the Auditorium, was added in 1926 to accommodate more businesses. To the right of the Auditorium on Kedzie Boulevard can be seen the Terminal Building and the terminal itself, which was the end of the Metropolitan West Side Elevated "L" Railroad from downtown. To the right of that behind a tree is Eddie's Ribs, a famous Chicago restaurant, demolished in 1979.



② *Auditorium Logan Blvd. & Kedzie Blvd.*

Originally, the Gilbert family owned several stores on this site (see above). In 1911 a Greek merchant named Geanopolis bought the land to construct a commercial building to sell his fruits and vegetables. He envisioned more than a simple vegetable market, however, and asked architects Worthman and Steinback, who had recently completed St. John Berchman's Church in 1906, to design a building to house his vegetable market on the ground floor, commercial offices on the second floor and a magnificent auditorium on the third floor. The Gilbert family stipulated as part of the sale that the name Gilbert should be placed on the building. By 1926, business had increased beyond the capacity of the present building and a two story addition was added to the east. The design is Romanesque, using

brick and terra cotta ornamentation. Terra-cotta is baked clay with a glazed, colorful finish that could be more elaborate and detailed than traditional stone carving. The building was designed in three levels, ground floor for retail stores, second floor as rental space for individual physicians, dentists, etc., and the enormous third floor as a glorious edifice for entertaining. Tall, arched windows with decorative elements along the top suggested majesty and opulence befitting one of the most important neighborhoods in Chicago at that time. Much of the exterior terra-cotta decoration on the first floor has been lost over the years.





1915 Looking east from the Auditorium Building along Logan Boulevard. The buildings to the far right were removed to build the two story Auditorium addition in 1926. Logan Boulevard was still a dirt road at that time, and a horse drawn Borden's Milk wagon can be seen making a morning delivery. The building in the distance still stands on the southeast corner of Logan and Milwaukee Avenue.



1915 Looking south from the Auditorium Building along Kedzie Boulevard. The Auditorium is at the left and next to it was the Terminal Building, the end of the Metropolitan West Side Elevated Railroad, later called Chicago Rapid Transit. The trains terminated in a massive steel structure next door on the second floor, and passengers walked down stairs to ground level. The two story building, directly behind the car, is Eddie's Ribs, famous for their great hickory bar-be-que. Patrons would sit on long wooden benches at large tables shared with other customers in an atmosphere of hickory smoke and laughter. This was one of the great eateries of the City and a nostalgic memory for many Chicagoans, who rode the "L" to Logan Square just for dinner at Eddie's. Note the streets are still dirt, but concrete curbs and sidewalks have been installed.



1915 Looking north along Kedzie Boulevard. In the distance is the Auditorium Building with its terra-cotta eagles guarding from above. The building in the center is the Terminal Building which housed shops and a fruit market. To the right is the steel terminal of the Metropolitan "L". Passengers climbed stairs to the second story to board trains. This structure was razed when the tracks were placed under ground in 1970 as part of the extension to Jefferson Park.

70 years ago on September 14, 1927, Logan Square Businessmen's Association hosted a dinner to celebrate the Logan Square Boulevard Improvement, the completion of the 26 miles of boulevards in Chicago. In attendance were Governor Len Small and the West Side Park Commissioners. The Auditorium Building hosted many civic and community social affairs then as it still does today. Parties, weddings, social gatherings and live theater performances keep this Auditorium a living part of the community.



1

2648 N. Sacramento

This Arts and Crafts style four-flat building was erected about 1916 when Logan Square was becoming affluent. New middle class immigrants moving into the neighborhood desired more luxurious housing, which is seen in the elaborate brick work at the top. Skilled masons were brought from Europe to add decorative touches to otherwise common buildings. Since this was built after the Chicago Fire and after the annexation of Jefferson Township into Chicago, all new construction had to be of masonry by law. The rich clay of Chicago and the strong limestone of Indiana provided perfect materials for the rapid building craze after the turn-of-the-century. Note the layered

effect of the two identical bays and the strong horizontal lines running the length of the building. The step down design of the balustrade over the porch is reflected in the brick detailing just beneath the cornice. Compare the facade of this building with several others just to the south. They were built at the same time by the same contractor, as was the practice at that time.



3

3080 W. Palmer Blvd.

Thies Reyertson, a Norwegian architect, designed this house in 1907 as a single family residence. The base of the porch in rusticated stone creates a solid, massive feeling to the building. A neoclassical influence is seen in the ornate balustrade above the porch and the tripartite columns. A more delicate ornamentation, the "oculus ovale" or oval eye window beside the front door, suggests a Victorian effect. The Prairie School style is reflected near the top of the building in the flat arched windows on the second floor and the low, horizontal eye-brow window in the attic.

4

3230 W. Belden

This 1912 stucco house exhibits elements of both the Prairie School and the Arts and Crafts movement. The wide hip roofs with deep overhang, the low, horizontal eye-brow windows in the attic and the long porch suggest Prairie School influence. Note how the graceful curves of the corner pilasters flare up into the roof, uniting the house with the roof. The simple columns on the porch hint at Arts and Crafts, and a balcony on the second floor above the porch provides a private terrace for the homeowners. Although the building was converted into three separate apartments over the years, the owners have combined the top two into one large apartment.



5

2430 N. Kedzie Blvd.



This three story single family brick home was designed in 1908 by architect A. E. Norman in the Prairie style. Notice the rectilinear lines of the porch, the second floor and the attic, that appear as three layers. Although the close grouping of the windows is typical Prairie style, they are more vertical than most Prairie School architecture, suggesting elements of the Victorian age. Note the unique “star burst” designs in the mullions of the window panes. The ornamentation on the porch atop supporting columns and the scupper to drain water from the porch are more typical of the Arts and Crafts movement.

6 2513 N. Bernard

Constructed in 1901 this Victorian farm house was built in the Carpenter Gothic style. Carpenter-Gothic was a simple, utilitarian design but with more elaborate ornamentation for an upscale clientele. Bernard Street was home to physicians and lawyers, who could afford slightly more expensive designs than the workers houses on other streets. The large bay on the second floor drew light into the room and the horizontal windows over both picture windows would have contained stain glass originally. In a bay such as this, the center windows were generally fixed and the two side windows were operational. A small decorative window to the left of the door would have contained cut or colored glass. Although the spindles on the porch railing are reminiscent of the original design, the supporting columns probably would have been heavier with pilasters, such as seen in the 2437 Bernard house.



7 2451 N. Bernard

In 1902 when this Princess Anne Victorian house was built, this attractive street was called Smally Court. It was changed to honor J. L. S. Bernard, a builder of large homes in Oak Park and on Chicago's Northwest side. This building displays a three-layered asymmetrical design. The first floor has a bow shape at the porch, changing to a bay shape at the second floor and finishing with a deeply recessed attic window and triangular pedimented roof. The stair and porch railings of cast iron are original. It is likely that the attic windows once had fish-scale shingles, typical of the period. It is possible that beneath the aluminum siding lay a treasure of original details. A movie scheduled for release this Fall, "Soul Food", was filmed in this home.



8 2437 N. Bernard

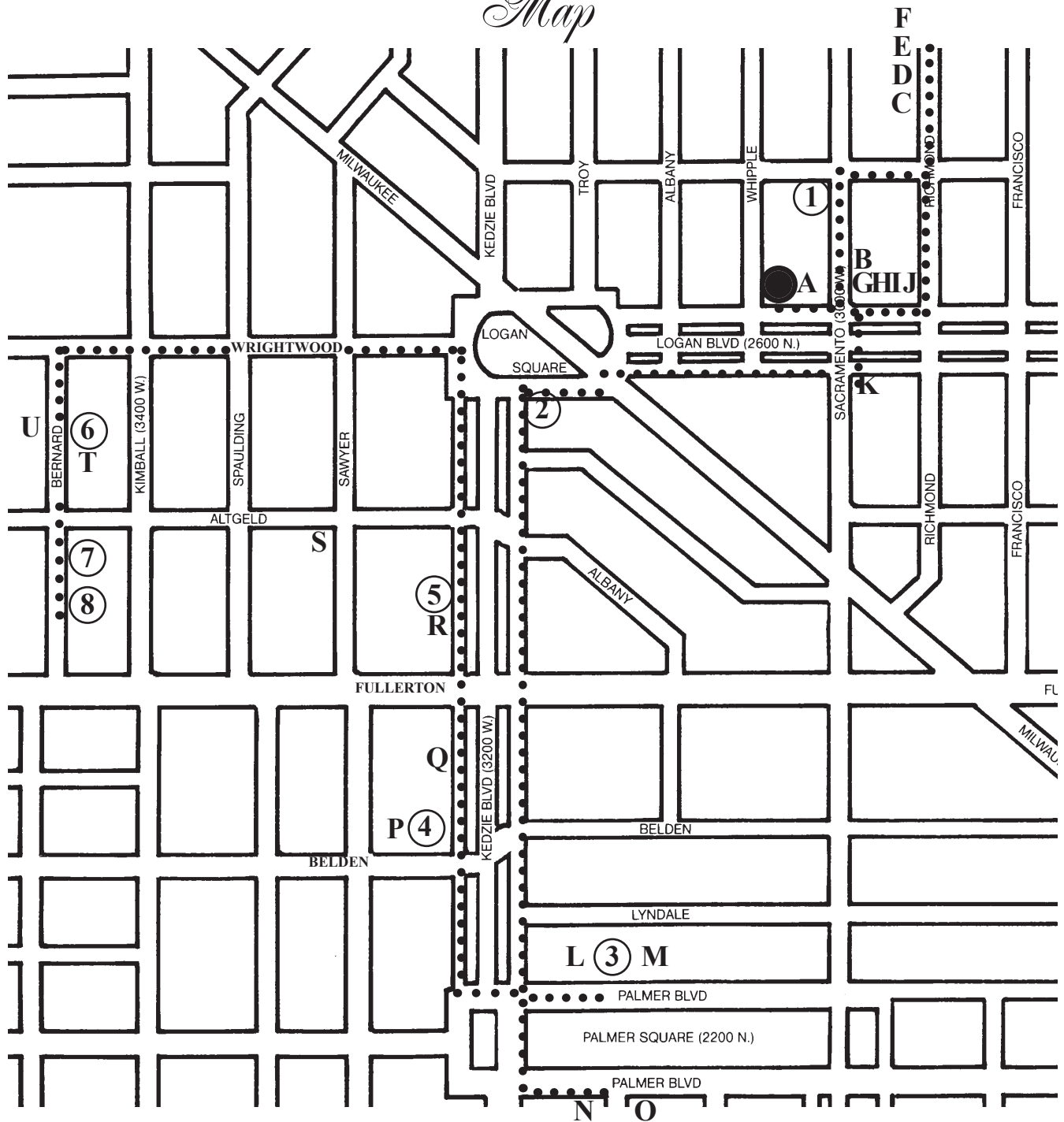
This house built in 1900 is Victorian with Carpenter-Gothic influence. The placement of the windows and door were determined by the functional needs of the rooms inside the house, instead of being a concerted effort to create an aesthetically pleasing look from the front. The bay on the second floor was designed to let more light into the house. A third window in the center of the bay may have been removed over the years. See 2513 Bernard for comparison. Although the porch and supporting columns are original, the balustrades have been replaced with less decorative elements. The spindles would have looked like those at 2513 Bernard.

Gardens

- A - 3024 W. Logan Blvd.** Huge corner lot with front, side and backyard gardens all owner designed, planted, and tended.
- B - 2623 N. Sacramento.** Front garden. Homeowner tended.
- C - 2740 N. Richmond.** Front and backyard gardens. Many perennials in front, a mix of both in the back that birds love.
- D - 2742 N. Richmond.** Backyard herb garden with perennials, 3 years old.
- E - 2746 N. Richmond.** Front garden, back areas include a Koi pond, 2 decks, many annuals and perennials with garden art. First Place Winner, Northwest Side region, City of Chicago Garden Contest for 1996. This garden is all owner planned and tended and is only 3 years old.
- F - 2752 N. Richmond.** Side and front gardens. Backyard is trellised with shade plants and a cutting-flower garden.
- G - 2940 W. Logan Blvd.** Front and backyard gardens.
- H - 2950 W. Logan Blvd.** Backyard garden via gangway. A “Secret Garden” with two fountains, antique brickwork, flowering plants, and grapevines that have grown 2 stories. Walk across the gangway to:
- I - 2954 W. Logan Blvd.** Walk up stairs immediately to the 2nd floor deck. Neoclassical furniture, a fountain and annuals dress up the largest deck in Logan Square. Walk back down stairs, cross yard to:
- J - 2956 W. Logan Blvd.** Backyard, side, and front. The back areas of this address and 2954 W. Logan have been combined to make each larger. After viewing rear, walk to side and cross the new side deck to the front and exit. Notice the wide variety of shade plants that have been used here.
- K - 2535 N. Sacramento.** Neighbors Community lot. A city lot that is now a wonderful community garden created and tended by L.S.R.A. neighbors. Designed with the help of the Chicago Botanical Gardens, Neighborspace, and the Chicago Park District. Return to Logan Blvd. and walk down the south side of the boulevard, noticing some interesting front and street gardens.
- L - 3110 W. Palmer Blvd.** Backyard garden. A “wild garden” that birds, bees and butterflies love.
- M - 3078 W. Palmer Blvd.** Backyard garden professionally landscaped with large fountain.
- N - 3125 W. Palmer Blvd.** Front and backyard gardens that are professionally landscaped.
- O - 3071 W. Palmer Blvd.** Front, side and backyard gardens.
- P - 3230 W. Belden Ave.** Front, side, and backyard gardens.
- Q - 2320 N. Kedzie Blvd.** Backyard with a greenhouse full of flowering plants.
- R - 2430 N. Kedzie Blvd.** See the front garden, then walk to stone path on the right side of the house through to the backyard garden spaces. While walking, look at the side garden on the right next door. In the backyard stop and view the turtle habitat.
- S - 3255 W. Altgeld.** Chicago Public Library, Secret Garden. Walk through main library door, go to Children’s book section and walk through door there. You will see a professionally landscaped garden with a gazebo that seats 12. (This is a bathroom stop.)
- T - 2513 N. Bernard.** Front and backyard with a covered deck, which used to be the other half of the garage.
- U - 2536 N. Bernard.** Front yard.

No smoking or eating in the gardens or yards.
No pets in the yards.
Stay on walkways or designated lawn areas.
Do not touch flowers, foliage or garden property.
Only the bathrooms designated on this map are open to the public, please do not ask to use private bathrooms.
Children must be very closely supervised.

Map



3024 W. Logan Boulevard (Starting Point)

- 1 2648 N. Sacramento Avenue**
- 2 Logan and Kedzie Boulevards (Restrooms)**
- 3 3080 W. Palmer Boulevard**
- 4 3230 W. Belden Avenue**
- 5 2430 N. Kedzie Boulevard**
- 6 2513 N. Bernard Street**
- 7 2451 N. Bernard Street**
- 8 2437 N. Bernard Street**

Gardens (A - U) see page 7