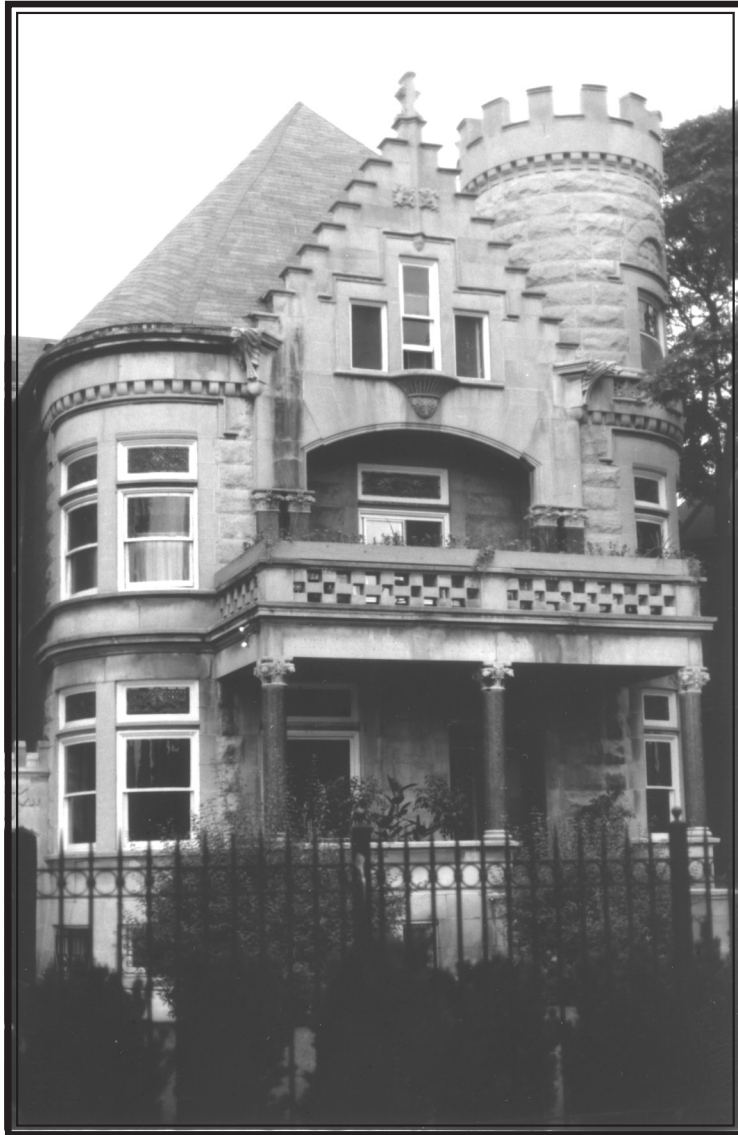


2005

House and Garden Walk

featuring the houses, churches, public buildings and gardens of historic Kedzie Boulevard



Saturday, September 17, 2005

Presented By

Logan Square Preservation

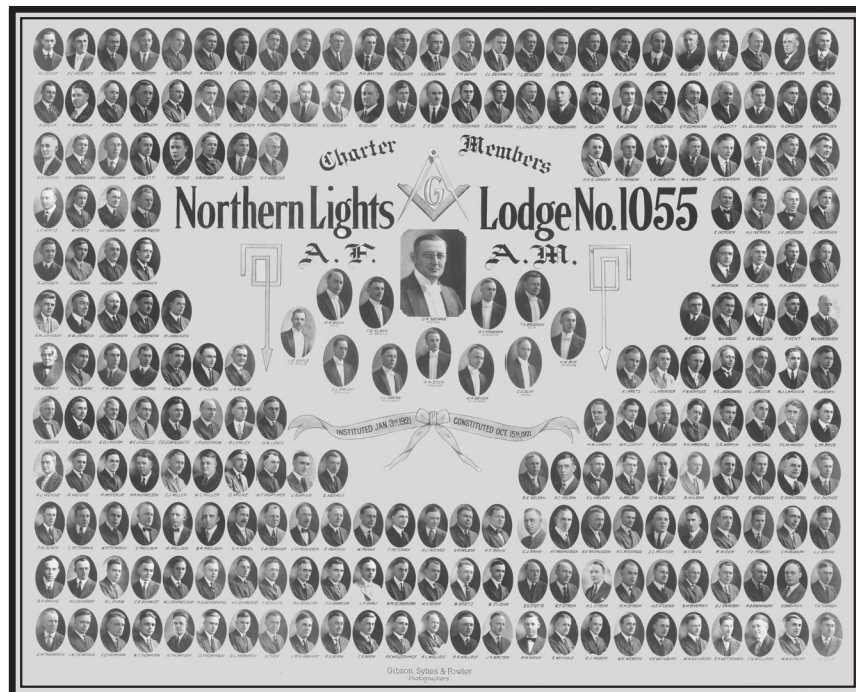
1

2408 N. Kedzie Boulevard

This fortress-like structure, built in 1921 as the “Humboldt Park Commandry-Knights Templar Hall” for the Northern Lights Lodge No. 1055, reflects the castellated Romanesque quality of the older mansion next door, without being too fanciful.

The base of the building at the entry reflects the columns and architecture of the second floor of the adjacent mansion with a similar offset pattern in the stone railings above the entry doors. Rusticated (rough cut) stone corners with a smooth-dressed limestone center bay reflect a simpler interpretation of the mansion. The building is topped with a cross within a crown, a symbol of the Knights Templar’s melding of religion and the monarchy. The top of the structure has exaggerated crenulations at the two ends and a smooth high gable in the center. This structure is a nice compliment to the adjoining house, borrowing numerous features, but yet standing on its own without appearing as an obvious addition.

The interior contains a series of large gathering halls, meeting rooms and offices, but disguised on the outside by a facade appearing more like a residential building. Interior spaces of the entry and corridor on the first floor are simple, employing tapestry brick in two



Original charter members of the Northern Lights Lodge No. 1055 in 1921.

colors on the wall surfaces and a deep red quarry tile on the floor. Near the stairway a deep green-glazed tile wainscot, combined with tapestry-style brick and tiled floor surfaces, are reflective of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

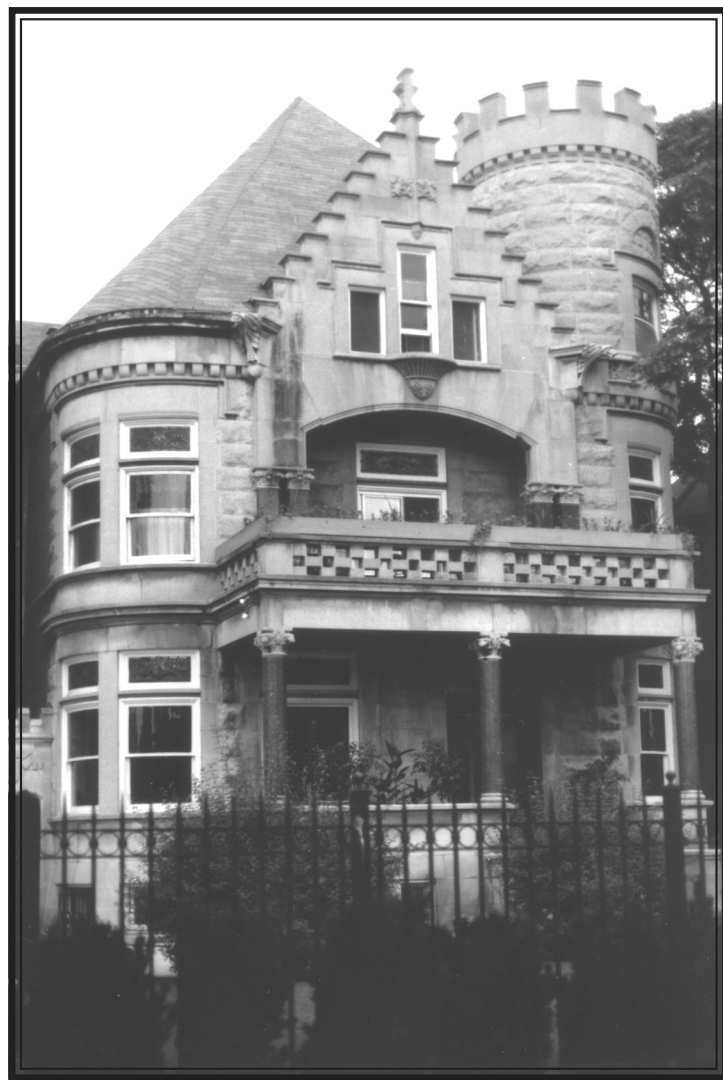
The large hall and auditorium on the first floor has wonderful proportions, but the Grand Hall on the second floor is a vast, amazing and beautiful two-story space with a stage framed by a proscenium of Egyptian inspired motifs. Numerous historical plaster details and decorative pilasters define this space, along with Art Deco inspired pendant light fixtures which hang from the ceiling.

2

2410 N. Kedzie Boulevard

This castellated structure is Romanesque in design and represents a sophisticated fine quality boulevard house, similar to ones found on the South Side boulevards from 1880-1900. However, this house is more fanciful than many other “Richardson-Romanesque” structures of this period, and it was built at a later date. It was built in 1897 for William Nowaczewski, a local furniture store owner.

Smooth dressed limestone was used at the base of the house, along the corner bays and areas surrounding the windows. The rounded bays provided maximum light to the interior, while creating an impenetrable fortress-like appearance on the exterior. The elongated porch consists of brilliantly polished red granite columns that support a luxurious “viewing platform” balcony, so residents could see passersby as well as be seen from the street below. The second floor contains a large articulated stone arched span, flanked by rectangular columns or pilasters of polished red granite. The third floor with its Flemish inspired, high-stepped gable, its “clerestory windows” and smooth and rusticated surfaces are beautifully executed. The northernmost tall corner bay is topped with crenulations or “battlements”, reminiscent of medieval European castles. Of particular note are the carved serpent-like creatures that extend from the upper floors and the intricate cut glass windows with foliated designs, some



In 1980, the hall was a bingo parlor for the Serbian Church.

of which conform to the curves of the bay windows.

Originally, this mansion stood alone with a vast garden extending to Fullerton Avenue. The southern facade, which is now hidden in the recess gangway between this house and the adjacent building, is clad in finished locally manufactured brick with rounded-bay windows and beautifully detailed ornamentation. This side was once visible from Fullerton Avenue.

The first floor interior features intricately finished wood, a beautiful, carved winding staircase and large-salon reception rooms that were required for such a lavish home of this period.

3

2544 N. Kedzie Boulevard

This simple, but elegant, Boulevard building reflects the richness and eclectic quality of many of the houses on the Boulevard. Although constructed as a two-flat, it was designed to appear as a single family house, with one exterior doorway and an elaborate stone stairway and arched entry. The grandiose, large stone arch is Romanesque in style, consisting of segmental rusticated (rough cut) stones topped with a dressed (smooth cut) stone balustrade. Two polished marble columns with Corinthian capitals in front and two pilasters in the rear support Romanesque arches. Although the decorative capitols and luxurious polished granite columns are fanciful, the balusters of the balcony are restrained, as is the remainder of the house, reflecting a contemporary flavor that was prevalent in 1907. The vast majority of this structure consists of a smooth glazed finished-brick with a beautiful simple and smooth-rounded corner bay, reflective of the large corner bays of the Logan Square Auditorium Building across the Square.

A horizontal stone string course separates the second floor from the first floor. The combination of textures creates a nice balance between grace and power. In the 1911 photo below, you can see this house indicated by the first line.



2544 N. Kedzie

Norwegian Lutheran Church
before steeple was completed.

Farmhouse before the Logan
Vistas Apartments were built.



Kedzie (at that time Humboldt) Boulevard looking northwest toward Square circa 1911. Photo taken for an old color postcard.

④

2614 N. Kedzie Boulevard Den Norske Lutherske Minnekirke

In 1900 the Norwegian immigrants who settled in Logan Square wanted a church of their own in which services could be conducted in their native language. Initially, they could not afford a traditional church building, so they held services in a private home where 10 people gathered to worship with Pastor Johan B. Meyer. Services were conducted in the Norwegian language, since most immigrants were not conversant in English, and maintaining their native language was important to them.

By 1908 they had raised \$7,000, so they brought architect Charles F. Sorenson from Norway and asked him to design a small church reminiscent of the one they left in Drammen, Norway. He wrote to S. N. Nelson in Norway and convinced him to join him as the master mason on the project. Sorenson used Gothic styling with one spiral tower above a single main portal. The sills, portal and scroll buttress brackets were executed in limestone, reminiscent of flamboyant



French Gothic motifs. The beautiful Tiffany-style stained windows are original as is the tin ceiling inside. When it was completed and dedicated in 1912, the church's name was Christ English Lutheran Church.

During the Depression of the 1930s, the congregation could not pay the mortgage, so the building was abandoned. In 1934 after they had raised enough money to repossess the church, they renamed it Den Norske Lutherske Minnekirke, which means "The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church". At that time, the members decided to dedicate the church to the preservation of the Norwegian culture and tradition, and today it is the only church in Chicago whose primary language is still Norwegian and only one of two such churches in the U.S. Pastors are brought from Norway for several years to maintain ties with their ancestral country.



1900 - Original farm house before Logan Vistas Apartments and Norwegian Church were built. Notice wooden sidewalks, dirt streets and Milwaukee Ave in the distance.

5

Logan Square



Logan Square looking southeast in 1918. The Gilbert Building with awnings over the fruit and vegetable market and the Logan Square "EL" elevated terminal can be seen in the background.

The "Square", which gives Logan Square its name, is the northernmost terminus of the great West Parks Boulevard System. Originally, the "Square" was a large rectangular green-space extending eastward to Albany and bisected by Northwest Plank Road, later renamed Milwaukee Avenue.

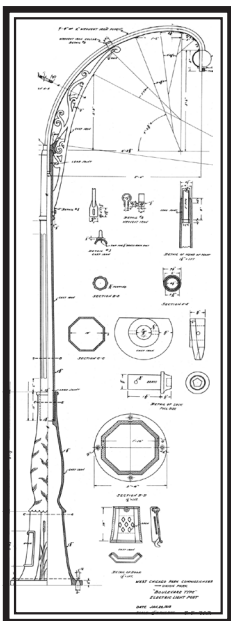
In 1918 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the State of Illinois, Logan Square was chosen by the State and the City as the site for a magnificent monument. The "Square" was redesigned, moving its boundary west to Milwaukee Avenue and rounding its edges to resemble a European roundabout. Henry Bacon, architect of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was commissioned to create a fitting monument celebrating the Illinois Centennial. He envisioned a Doric column with the same proportions and scale as those in the Parthenon colonnade, which sits atop the Acropolis in Athens, Greece. On top he placed the American eagle, symbolizing our country's democratic principles

sitting on a foundation of the classic Greek governmental system.

To support the weight and stabilize such a tall monument, Bacon designed a 38 foot deep steel and concrete foundation beneath the ground. On the platform rises a 15 foot 3 inch stepped stone base surrounded by reliefs of Hiawatha, Ceres, Mercury and Daniel Boone, carved by Evelyn Longman, the sculptor who carved the Lincoln stature in Washington, D.C.

The 42 foot 6 inch Doric column is composed of 13 solid segments of Tennessee pink marble, varying in heights from 3 feet 1 inch at the top to 4 feet at the base and separated by 1 inch grout lines. The diameter of the column is 6 feet 4 inches at the base and tapers to 5 feet at the capital. Atop the column sits a 10 foot tall American eagle, the symbol of both the United States of America and the State of Illinois.

Both the bronze light posts and the granite benches are original, but the steps and pathway located to the east of the monument were added at a later date. A series of original circular paths have now been consumed by the widening and curving of Kedzie Boulevard on the western side of the monument. Originally, cattail lamp posts encircled the Square (see figure to the left and in the left lower corner of photo above) and hopefully they may some day be replaced.



Architectural drawing of the original cattail lamp posts.

6 7 Gilbert Building - Auditorium

In 1900, the Gilbert family owned several stores on this site (top left photo). In 1911, a Greek merchant named S. M. Gianapolis bought the land to construct a building to sell his fruits and vegetables. He hired architects Worthmann and Steinbeck, who had designed St. John Berchman's Church on Logan Boulevard in 1906, to create a commercial building to house his market on the first floor, professional offices on the second floor and a magnificent auditorium on the third floor. As a condition of the sale, the Gilbert family stipulated that the new building should carry their family name.



1900 - Original Gilbert Market



1911 - After completion of the Gilbert Building



2005 - Present appearance

The design is Romanesque, using brick and glazed terra cotta ornamentation. Tall, arched windows on the third floor allowed light to enter the auditorium at a time when electricity was still in its infancy and not very efficient. Decorative elements and medallions along the top projected majesty and opulence befitting one of the most important public buildings in Logan Square. The eagle at the top was probably Henry Bacon's inspiration for the 1918 Centennial monument across the street.

By 1926 when business had increased beyond the capacity of the building, Mr. Gianapolis built the two story addition on Logan Boulevard to the east. Note the new building being constructed farther to the east. Logan Square Preservation worked with the architect to encourage a compatible appearance to a modern building.



September 14, 1927 - Logan Square Business Men's Association dinner in the auditorium to honor Governor Len Small and the West Chicago Park Commissioners on completion of the Logan Square Boulevard Improvement project.



One of the original indoor shopping malls - offices of many types were located on the second floor.

8

2451 N. Kedzie Boulevard Armitage Baptist Church

This structure, designed in 1921 by Clarence Hatzfeld as the Logan Square Masonic Temple, exhibits an overall composition of Classical Revival and a style and execution of Renaissance. It clearly commands attention with its massiveness and fortress-like appearance of dark colored tapestry brick accented by strong vertical and horizontal stone banding.

The strong base plinths, which support massive stone columns topped with Doric capitals on the two principal facades, and the ceremonial doorway reflect Classical Revival detailing. On the other hand the horizontal architrave banding and 3-part windows (two small rectangular windows flanking a large center window), reflect the “Prairie Style” and “Chicago School Movement”.

Numerous club rooms, offices and a large windowless hall were cleverly worked into the center of the building. The grand hall (now the church sanctuary) served as a neighborhood social hall, hosting



some of the great bands such as Glen Miller and Benny Goodman.

In the 1950s when the Masons left, the building fell on hard times, and by the 1970s the roof began to leak and deterioration set in. By 1980 when it was a bingo parlor, torrential rains washed from floor to floor, destroying much of the original plaster work. When the Armitage Baptist Church purchased the building in 1981, it was in shambles. The Church has slowly worked to restore the grand ballroom, hiring master plasterers to restore the decorative moldings. The marble entry stairway which had been vandalized has been restored to its original elegance. The original ceramic tile floors in the lower and upper entry halls have also been restored. This is one of the great church buildings that contribute to our historic boulevards in Logan Square.



The Masonic Temple as it looked in 1921 soon after construction.

9 2320 N. Kedzie Boulevard



floor cresting or gable and a round oriole window. At the left is an octagonal bay with angled windows to increase light entry into the home.

This was a modern house for its time, but not a radical departure, since similar houses were being designed by other “Prairie School” architects like George Maher and Frank Lloyd Wright. It is a richly detailed and elegant structure, while employing standard but simple materials. The fine craftsmanship has combined these materials into a beautiful boulevard house with a simple, yet subtle, sense of grandeur.

On closer examination, the undulation of the two story bay window and the vast porch make the structure resemble a prototype for the “All American House” that was still being defined as a style in the early 1900s and would emerge in simpler formats in later years.

This single family home, designed in 1903 by Henry Worthmann for Henry Flez a wagon maker, can be described as an “American Four-Square Design” with many principles of the Prairie Movement and other decorative features borrowed from various European styles. The overhanging eaves and strong horizontal lines as well as the richness of materials, detailing and craftsmanship suggest Prairie school influence, which goes against the more traditional fancy carved stonework found elsewhere in the large houses of the neighborhood.

The more traditional European styles can be seen in the dentils around the house and the exuberant third



City of Chicago Landmark District Proposal

for

“Logan Square Boulevards Historic District”

Logan Square is one of the most historic neighborhoods in Chicago, since it is home to the best-preserved segment of the original boulevard system. The 28-mile boulevard system, often referred to as the “Emerald Necklace” of Chicago, was created in the 1880s to help the City expand in a civilized manner. With all seven of the major inland parks situated along these boulevards and connected to Lake Michigan via Jackson Park on the south, it was possible to travel from the south side at Jackson Park through Washington, Sherman, Gage, McKinley, Douglas, Garfield and Humboldt parks to Logan Square without ever leaving the boulevards. Although the original plan called for the boulevards to continue back to the Lake again at Lincoln Park via Diversey Parkway, the project was never completed, so Logan Boulevard is the termination of the boulevard system. As industry moved outward from the City in the 1900s, wealthy merchants built their grand mansions on the boulevards near their factories, and their workers built smaller cottages on the side streets.

Over the years, most of the Chicago boulevards have fallen on hard times and many of the grand buildings have been demolished. The 2 1/2 mile segment in Logan Square, however, has been preserved as it was in the early 1900s. Original homes, churches and public buildings that line this magnificent, wide boulevard look today much as they did over 100 years ago.

In 1918 when the State of Illinois was preparing to celebrate its 100th anniversary, Logan Square was chosen as the most appropriate site in the State to erect a monument. Henry Bacon, designer of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was hired to create the design. He used a classical Greek column for the base and an American eagle for the top to symbolize our American governmental system sitting on the foundation of the classical Greek democratic system, from which our government is derived.

In 1985 the boulevards in Logan Square were designated by the U. S. Department of Interior, National Park Service as a national historic district, worthy of permanent preservation for our country. Although the City reviewed and approved the proposal at that time, they sent it on to the federal government without taking action to designate it as a Chicago landmark. Since Logan Square has received both regional and national recognition because of this honor, the City of Chicago presently is considering designating the “Logan Square Boulevards Historic District” as a Chicago landmark district to preserve its history and beauty for future generations to enjoy.



Lewis R. Coulson, President
Logan Square Preservation

Gardens



A - 2408 N. Kedzie Blvd. Surrounded by tall yews, the garden is a green buffer between the historic building facade and the busy street. Note the planters on the second floor balcony.

B - 2544 N. Kedzie Blvd. Even with limited sun and space, flower production is maximized by the use of large containers on the porch and steps. Pale petunias brighten the space even at night.

C - 2548 N. Kedzie Blvd. With the removal of a large, old Tree of Heaven from the backyard, the transition from a 90% shaded yard to a sunlit one posed a welcome challenge, opening up opportunities for growing roses, phlox, coneflowers, moss roses, squash and other sun-loving plants. However, the replacement trees may soon change, once again, the backyard's newly acquired light level.

D - 2618 N. Kedzie Blvd. The Paseo prairie garden is a new addition to the intersection of Kedzie and Logan Boulevards and is directly adjacent to the south exit of the Blue Line "L" station. The project is an invitation to walkers, cyclists and drivers to slow down and enjoy the beauty of the neighborhood. Paseo in Spanish means to stroll, pass through or meander. Sponsored and planted by Logan Square Walks, the garden received materials and plant donations from many local businesses and community organizations.

E - 3024 W. Logan Boulevard. This is a favorite garden on every Logan Square Housewalk due to its size and superb plant quality. Note the successful fruit trees in the back yard and please resist the urge to pick. Enter the front gate and exit at the side onto Whipple Street..

F - 2634 N. Whipple Street. A "dinner-plate" hibiscus heads the list of select plants in this garden designed by the home owners. The calm, mostly-shade front yard leads to a sunny, colorful enclosure in back.

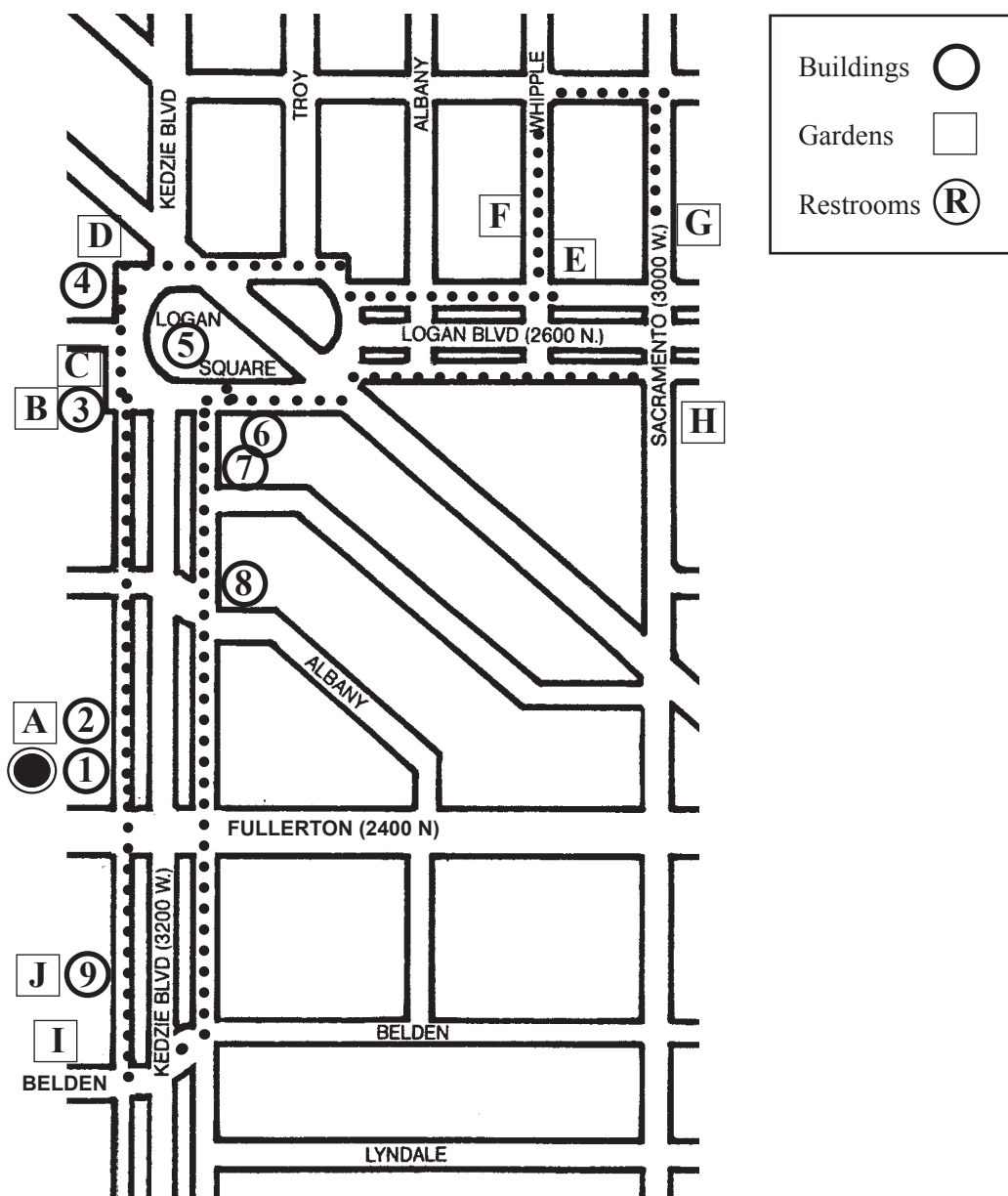
G - 2615 N. Sacramento. Enter the back gate off the alley to discover this hidden backyard wonder. The multi-level water feature was constructed by the homeowner from the keystones of an old church. Two pergolas support passion flower vines and sweet autumn clematis.

H - 2533 N. Sacramento. Happy Tenth anniversary to this award-winning community space known formally as the Logan-Sacramento-Richmond-Altgeld Neighbors' Garden. The succession of fine perennials and native plants give this garden interesting form and color throughout the year. New volunteers and students are always welcome.

I - 3230 W. Belden Avenue. Open the white wooden gate to view the private patio and small pond built by the owners. The surrounding snow crab trees are pollard to control their size. A variety of shrubs add year-round color and structure to the garden.

J - 2320 N. Kedzie Blvd. An array of Victorian style urns and planters highlight the deeply shaded front garden. Walk through the vine-covered arbor to the pergola-topped back patio. The sitting area is accented by a rustic stone pond.

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No smoking or pets in gardens. Stay on walkways or designated lawn areas. Do not touch flowers, foliage or garden property. Please do not ask to use private bathrooms. Children must be closely supervised.



HOUSES, CHURCHES, PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GARDENS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ● ① 2408 N Kedzie (Hall/START) (R) | G 2615 N Sacramento (Garden) |
| A ② 2410 N Kedzie (House/Garden) | H 2533 N Sacramento (Garden) |
| B ③ 2544 N Kedzie (House/Garden) | ⑤ Logan Square (Monument) |
| C 2548 N Kedzie (Garden) | ⑥ 3147 W Logan (Auditorium) |
| ④ 2614 N Kedzie (Church) (R) | ⑦ 3147 W Logan (Offices) |
| D 2618 N Kedzie (Garden/Mural) | ⑧ 2451 N Kedzie (Temple/Church) (R) |
| E 3024 W Logan (Garden - front gate) | I 3230 W Belden (Garden) |
| F 2634 N Whipple (Garden) | J ⑨ 2320 N Kedzie (House) |