

Illinois State Historic Preservation Office Preliminary National Register Evaluation Form

This form will make it possible for the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to evaluate the property and to give you a staff opinion about its potential for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Staff will provide an eligibility opinion letter within 30 days of receiving this preliminary application.

Mailing Address:

IDNR - State Historic Preservation Office
Attn: Andrew Heckenkamp
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1271

Please contact the Illinois National Register staff if you have any questions:

Andrew Heckenkamp, Survey & National Register Coordinator
andrew.heckenkamp@illinois.gov - (217) 785-4324

Amy Hathaway, Survey & National Register Specialist
amy.hathaway@illinois.gov - (217) 782-8588

Checklist (Include the following additional supporting documentation)

- Photographs interior & exterior – please key to floor plan and/or site plan
- Floor Plans do NOT have to be to scale (rough sketch of room layouts)
- Site Plan if more than two resources on property
- Location Map Google Earth, Bing, or any internet mapping website

There are additional requirements for preliminary determinations of potential historic districts and archaeological sites. Please contact us directly.

Illinois State Historic Preservation Office
Preliminary National Register Evaluation Form

Contact Information

Name/Organization: LOMBARD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Address: 225 E. WILSON AVE., LOMBARD, IL 60148
E-mail: LRISHT@VILLAGEOFLOMBARD.ORG
Phone number: 630(620) 5967

Historic Property Information

Historic name (if known): LILACIA PARK
Number and street name: S. PARK AND PARKSIDE AVE.
City or village: LOMBARD
County: DU PAGE

OR

Road or nearest road:
Name of township:
Nearest village or city:
County:

SECONDARY CONTACT:

RITA SCHNEIDER - PRES: LHPC
RSCHNEI577@aol.com
(630) 212-8657
5 E. VIEW ST
LOMBARD, IL 60148

The first Lilac Festival took place in May of 1930 and this traditional event has continued to be held every year in May with the exception of some years of WWII. We will be celebrating the ??th Annual Lilac Festival in May 2018. The Lilac Queen will be chosen and crowned by the Jensen Pond with family and friends watching from the Promenade lawn that Jensen designed. ⁴

Lombard's Lilacia Park hosts concerts and other activities during the warm months of summer. In the winter the annual Holiday Lighting event pulls in hundreds of people every evening during the season and can be seen by riders on the Metra Commuter Trains at the northern edge of the Park.

In the 2014 Village Architectural and Historical Survey, researched, surveyed and compiled by Historical Architect, Douglas Gilbert, AIA of Oak Park, IL, the significance of the Park is noted as National Register Eligible under Criterion A and Criterion C. ⁵

Footnotes:

1. 1919 and 1929 Sanborn Maps show the area of Col. Plum's property (Lot 3) and the property to the north that was added to the Park.
2. Letter size photocopy the of original Jens Jensen plan for the Lombard Community Garden, becoming Lilacia Park in 1929. The original plan is in the possession of the Lombard Historical Society and is blueprint size.
Note: Jensen's plan places Parkside Avenue on the bottom of the plan which is actually on the northside of the park.
3. 1935 plan of Lilacia Park for the 6th Annual Lilac Festival. Comparing this plan and the above Jensen plan shows the execution of the park plan in accordance with Jensen's design.
4. 2 copies of original Posters celebrating Lombard's First Annual Lilac Festival.
5. 2014 Village of Lombard Architectural and Historical Survey of Lilacia Park surveyed by Douglas Gilbert, AIA, with his comments on the eligibility of of the Park for National Register status under Criteria A and C.

LILACIA PARK, LOMBARD, IL

Photos Enclosed:

1. Northeast entry to Lilacia Park at South Park St. and Parkside Avenue.
2. The Jensen Pond from the Promenade Walk.
3. Lilacia Park path along Parkside Avenue looking east.
4. Northern border of Lilacia Park looking east with Lilacs blooming.
5. Purple Lilacs in the Park.
6. Col Plum's Coach House.

EXHIBIT #1

W. PARKSIDE

6" W PIPE

May 1929
Sanborn Map

AV.

S. PARK

142
210

6" W PIPE

DH

W. MAPLE

80 ft wide

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121

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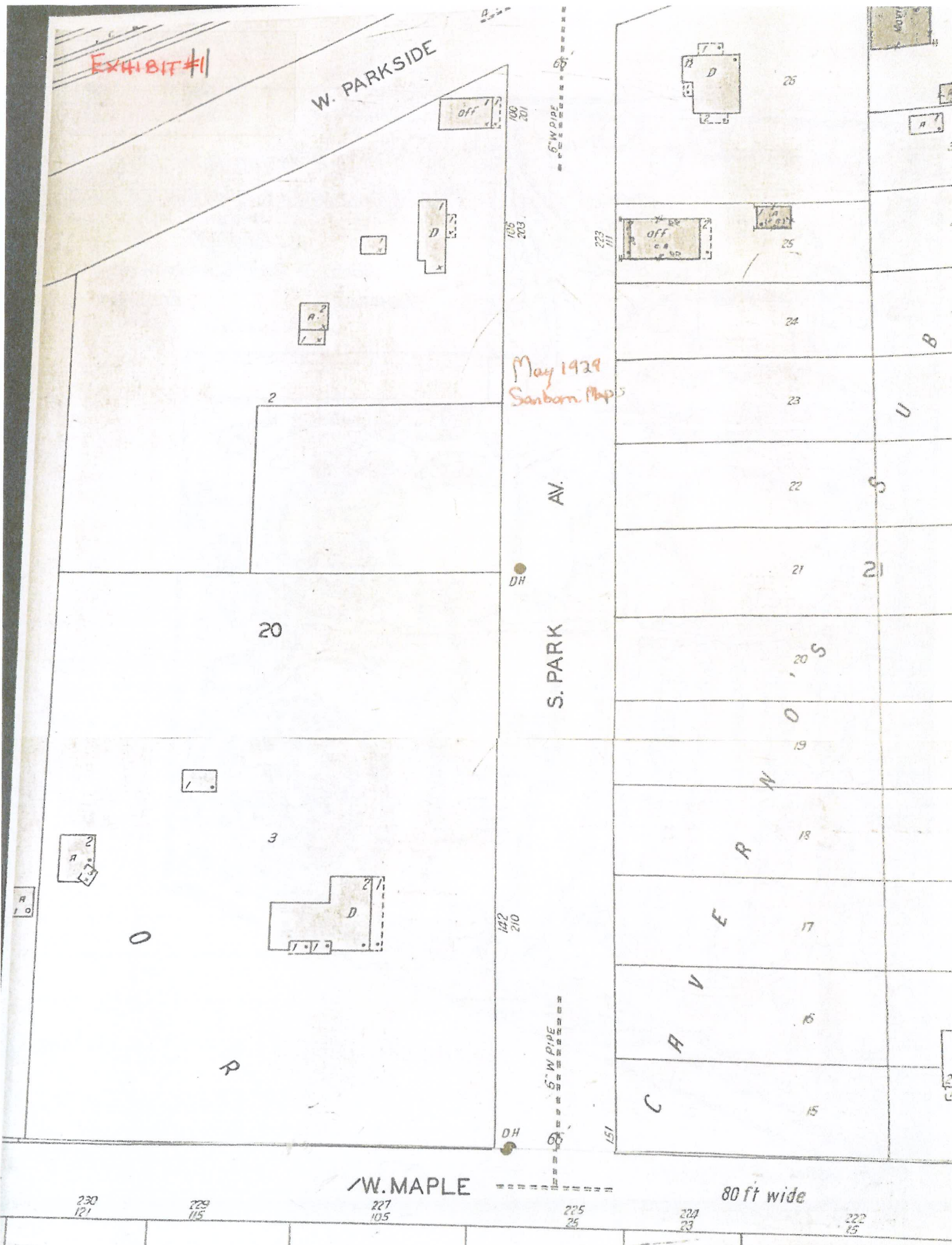
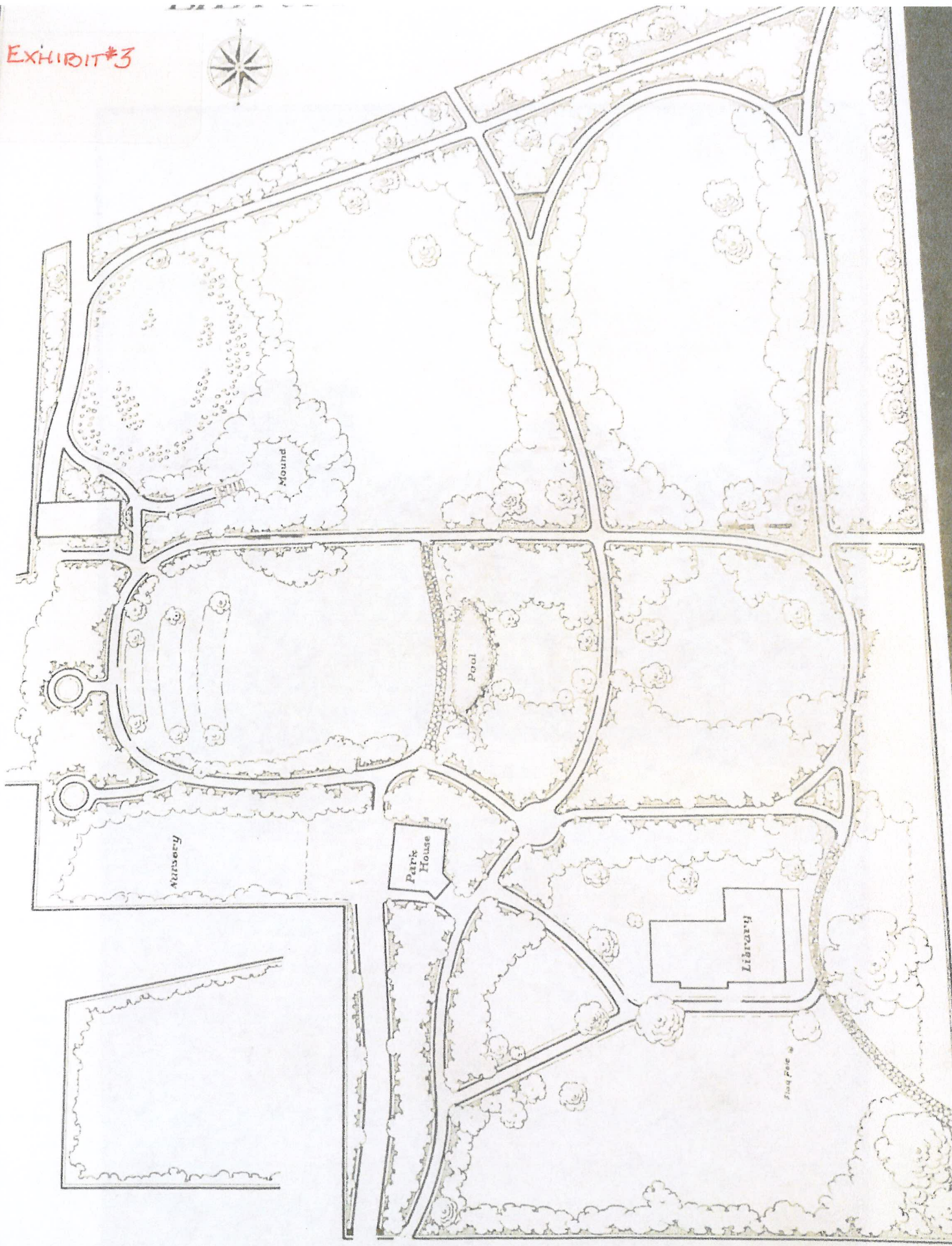
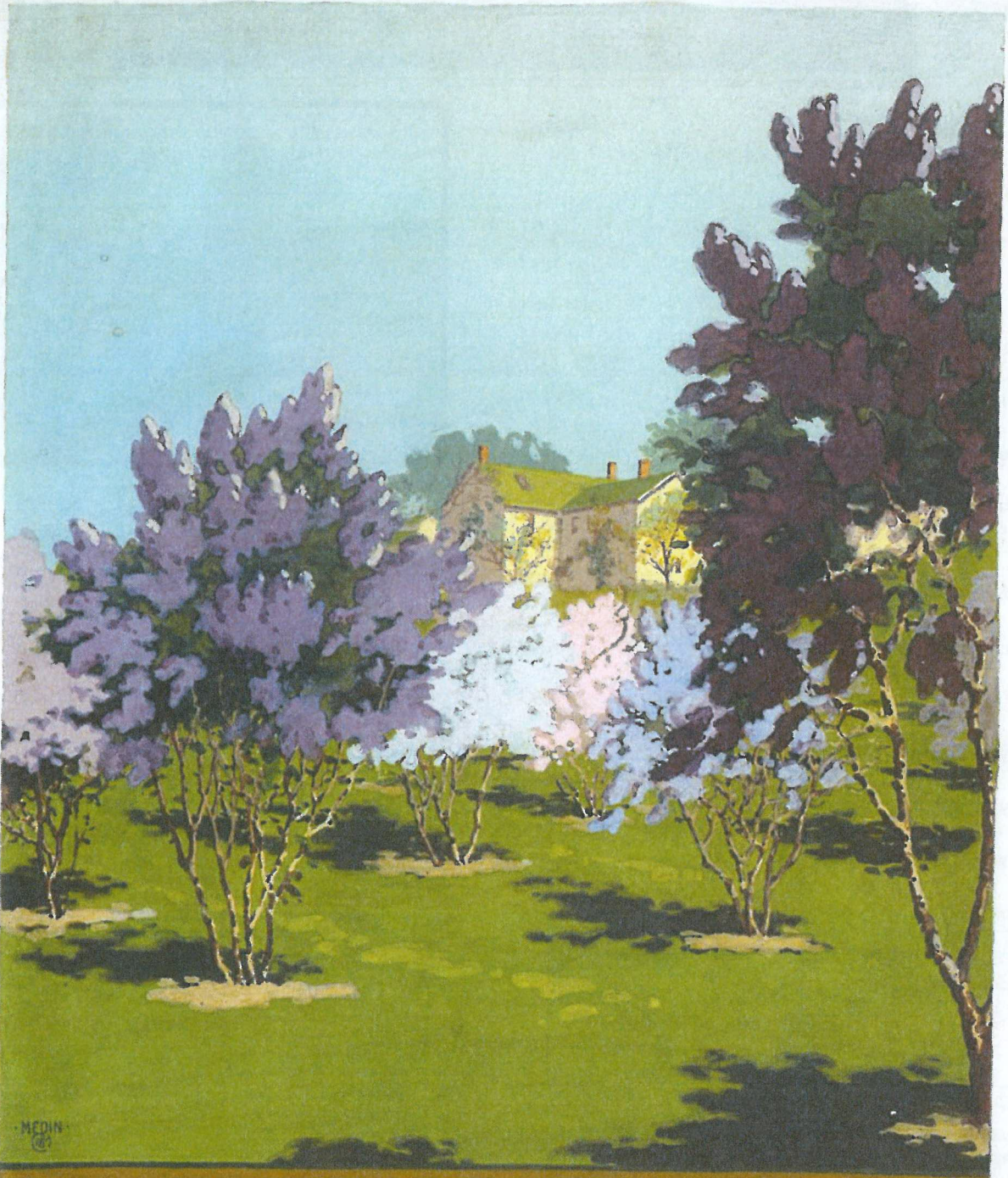


EXHIBIT #3

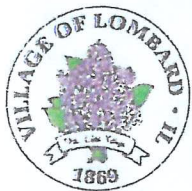


1935

EXHIBIT #4



"LILACIA"
LOMBARD ILL.
CHICAGO, AURORA & ELGIN R.R.



VILLAGE OF LOMBARD ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SURVEY

2014

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

- Original Owner: Village of Lombard
- Historic Name: Lilacia Park
- Current Name: -
- Original Architect: Jens Jensen
- Alternate Architect: -
- Original Contractor: -
- Alternate Contractor: -
- Developer: -
- Construction Cost: -
- Permit: -
- Subdivision: -

Research & Archival Sources:

Extensive file at Lombard Historical Society

NOTES

Lilacia Park is on the site & incorporates the lilac gardens of the William Plum estate. William & his wife Helen cultivated numerous lilacs on their estate; locals called it the Lilac Gardens. On their deaths, they willed the grounds to the village as a park.

Jens Jensen was hired in 1927 for \$600 to design the public park around the lilacs. He added the natural prairie landscape features, such as the pool & waterfall.

The Lilac League was founded in 1929 to care for the park & has hosted Lilac Time in Lombard (Lilac Festival) since then. The annual Lilac Queen competition is also an annual tradition.



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4 Original drawing courtesy Lombard Historical Society

SURVEY INFORMATION

- Surveyor: Douglas Gilbert, AIA
- Survey Date: May 14, 2014

EXHIBIT #66

Find a place



Satellite

EXHIBIT

in Lombard

LOMBARD SPECTATOR

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Remodel Old Plum Barn For Office

Carpenters and plumbers have been working for the past two weeks on the remodeling of the barn on the Plum Memorial park. It has been raised to make a garage and toilet room below and on the main floor will be an office for Mr. Jensen, the custodian of the park and also a board room for the commissioners.

There is quite a story connected with that barn. Many people have admired and wondered at the picturesqueness of the cupola. It was built to cover up an unsightly water tank. Many years before Lombard had city water Colonel Plum installed his own water system. The fine old windmill which was recently taken down pumped the water from a well up into the tank and then it was piped into the house.

For those who were familiar with the place, the removal of the cupola is somewhat of a disappointment as it seemed to be a part of the picture.

Harold Grays Are In New York

Friends will be pleased to learn that Mr. F. R. Frost returned home from the Elmhurst hospital Friday afternoon and although weak, is able to walk around the house and yard.

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PHOTO #2



PHOTO #4

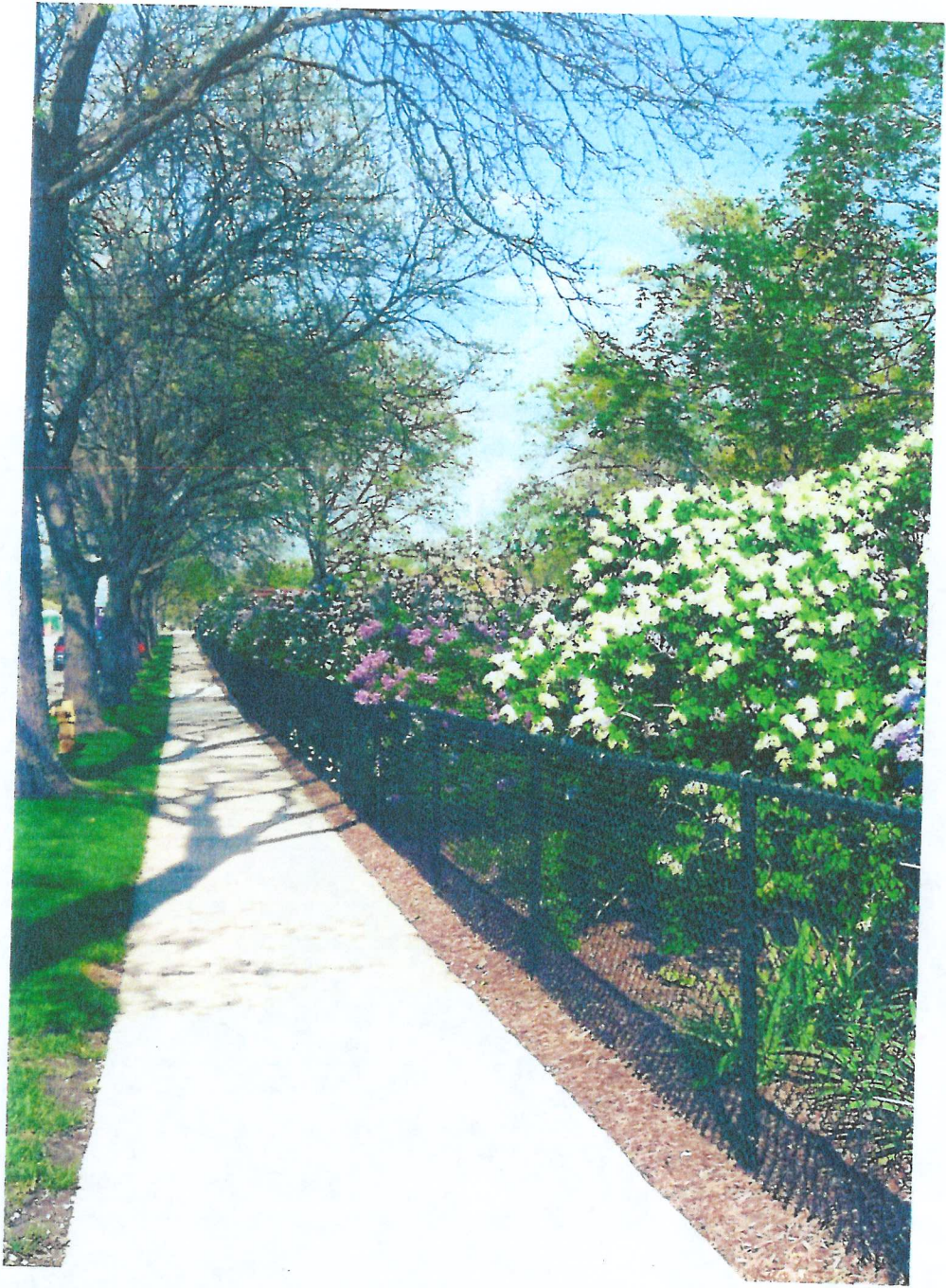


Photo #6

