



Lake Forest Preservation Foundation
PRESERVATION

Spring 2018

Gates of Lake Forest: Treasures by the Road and Hidden Away

PHOTO BY CAPPY JOHNSTON

GATES OF LAKE FOREST: TREASURES BY THE ROAD AND HIDDEN AWAY



Now is the perfect time of year to view Lake Forest's historic gates. With leaves down and daylight increasing, these historic treasures by the road or hidden away stand out on a drive or walk through our historic districts. Following are just a few of our favorites.



Lake Forest Cemetery Barrell Memorial Entrance Gate

This monumental gate, located at the north end of Lake Road, marks the entrance to Lake Forest Cemetery. It is visible almost the entire length of North Lake Road, signaling the importance of the Cemetery site. Dedicated in 1919, it was a gift of Mrs. Finley (Mary Grace Witbeck) Barrell in memory of the Barrell's son, John, who accidentally drowned at age 24 in the Illinois River in July 1916.

The Barrell Memorial Entrance Gate is Gothic style and constructed of striated gray limestone. The verticality of its design seems to reflect a spiritual quality befitting a memorial. It is massive, soaring more than thirty feet high, and framing the view of the historic, National-Register-listed landscape beyond. It sets a tone of dignity for the visitor.

The central Gothic portal with pointed arch is just wide enough to allow for single-lane vehicular traffic. Above the arch and inside a crenellated niche there is a young oak tree; its height is cut off, symbolizing the death of the donor's son. A decorated band around the

arch on the south front terminates with carved angels. Tablets, inscribed with the year of construction and the donor's initials are above the arch. On the north side, plain shields, set high on the structure's face, repeat the year and donor's initials.

The Gothic portal's black wrought iron gate was created by the renowned firm of Samuel Yellin, Philadelphia. Along its height, vertical grilles with fluted and straight-sided rails rise to terminate in graceful floral motifs. The pair of symbolic wrought iron angels atop the structure stand above the Latin words, *Lux Et Veritas* (Light and Truth). Inscribed next to these figures is "In Loving Memory of John Witbeck Barrell" and the dates of his birth and death. A figure of St. Peter serves as a doorknocker set in the panel beside the lock on the gate.

Second Finley Barrell House Gate, 1915

Matching the style of the second Finley Barrell House at 747 East Deer Path, this gate - not for vehicles, but a garden gate for pedestrians - was designed by architect Frederick Wainwright Perkins, architect of the house. Sited to the south of the junction of Hawthorne and Deer Path, it echoes the home's blend of Georgian and elements popular during World War I. The garden gate door surround and pediment are of Bedford limestone. Notable is the gate's leaded-glass treatment similar to the leaded-glass porch of the house. The ornamental gate is supported by a wall of brick matching the house. In the course of subdivision, the gate now stands alone at the point where new properties to the west and south meet the remaining portion of the original property. The gate offers the only clear view of the house to passersby. Finley Barrell was a prominent Chicago grain dealer in Finley Barrell and Company. The entrance gate at Lake Forest Cemetery was a gift to The City of Lake Forest from the Barrells (see *Cemetery Gate*).





Stone Gate Road Entry Gate

Constructed early in the 20th century by architect James Gamble Rogers, this gate is a rustic structure with large stones and a roof overhead, looking the same as in a ca. 1910 postcard.

This gate marks the entrance to the

Stone Gate private-road community, an enclave of 1890s to 1920s landmark-quality structures—English-style houses by Arthur Heun for two second-generation Farwell brothers, J. V., Jr. and Francis Farwell I, and the Beidler French-style house designed by H. T. Lindeberg. Another gate on Stone Gate Road was designed by Warren Manning to access the Walden estate, ca. 1901. In Lake Forest, Rogers also designed the Anderson Block, 1903, now best known for its corner Walgreen's store, and the A. B. Dick Westmoreland estate house, 1903 (demolished).

Havenwood Entry Gate and Gatehouse

This gate at Ringwood and Ashley Roads was completed ca. 1914 to designs by Howard Van Doren Shaw. The gate posts served as the main entry gate for Havenwood, the well-known estate of steel magnate Edward L. Ryerson. Resembling an Italian villa, the estate included elegant gardens, with four 16th Century statues brought by Shaw to Lake Forest for the Ryersons' fountain. Beginning in 1945, the Franciscan Fathers occupied the estate as a convent and novitiate. The main house was razed, literally overnight, in 1979, and the property was subdivided. Only the main gate, Adler-signature dog-trot service block carriage house on Ringwood, and minor gates and remnants of the formal gardens are extant. Elegant brass chandeliers from the main house were rescued during razing and now hang in Gorton Community Center.



J. Ogden Armour Melody Farm Gate

These elegant gate structures can be viewed set back at 350 North Waukegan Road. They once marked the two-mile-long, elm-tree-lined entry to "Melody Farm," the J. Ogden Armour estate. The entry road extended from Waukegan Road to the main house, crossing the Milwaukee Railroad Line over a concrete bridge. Design was overseen by architect Arthur Heun, and the house and gate complex were built between 1904 and 1908. The estate was created out

of nearly 1,000 acres of farmland, barren floodplain, and slough. Only a handful of trees existed, next to the final location of the villa. The 29,000 square-foot Italian-Renaissance-inspired villa is now part of Lake Forest Academy. The east-end gates, gatehouse, wash house, and related acreage now comprise the Conservation Campus of Lake Forest Open Lands Association. Extensive landscaping by O.C. Simonds and Jens Jensen included also formal gardens, lush forests, and private lakes, much now part of the Academy and also viewable near the Academy Woods subdivision.



TRAIN STATION INTERIOR RENOVATION UPDATE

Your Contributions Have Made the Difference to this Important Project Becoming a Reality

Thank you to all those who have generously donated to the interior restoration of the downtown train station over the past two years. We are particularly grateful for a recent \$25,000 anonymous donation. Together, this donation along with the Foundation's \$25,000 project match, proceeds of our 2016 Annual Fund, and other community support, have helped ensure the funding needed to complete our phase of the station's interior with historically-accurate improvements.

Work began February 26th, and will include: new red clay tile to match the station's original flooring, restoration of the original horizontal wood wainscoting, restoration of the original benches, and installation of custom reproduction light fixtures. Be sure to follow us on Facebook or check us out on Instagram (LakeForestPreservationfdn) for periodic updates as work on this exciting project progresses.

SEE THE HISTORY AROUND YOU:

CONNECT TO IT AT
LAKE FOREST

PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

Your membership provides vital funding that allows the Foundation to advocate for the preservation of Lake Forest's most remarkable landmarks, streetscapes, landscapes, and historic districts. In partnership with our supporters, the Foundation has funded more than \$4 million in grants since its founding in 1976. Additionally, your membership gains you VIP access to educational programs and garden strolls, as well as a closer look at spectacular, rarely open homes and gardens during our annual Architectural House & Garden Tour.

You can take an active part in preserving Lake Forest's legacy. What are you waiting for? Visit lfpf.org to become a member of Lake Forest's Preservation Foundation.

JOIN THE LAKE FOREST
PRESERVATION FOUNDATION
TODAY!

*Annual
Holiday Celebration*

LFPF members celebrated the holiday season at the beautifully restored Frank Hibbard Estate home of Suzanne and Kent Woloson.



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Every effort was made to list the names of all our contributors. If we inadvertently omitted your name or listed it incorrectly, please contact the office at 847-234-1230 or office@lfpf.org so we might correct our records.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Lake Foresters and Friends of the Preservation Foundation,

Lake Forest is a place of captivating charm. To the visitor, it is a city with well maintained streetscapes, roadways, shopping districts, historically and architecturally significant homes and estates, a beautiful golf course, a high school nationally recognized for its academics and architecture and a lake front beach promenade which easily rivals that of Nice or Cannes, in fact possibly better ... we have a sand beach not rocks!

What is not seen and what makes all this beauty and quality of life possible are the hundreds of people yearly and perhaps thousands over the years who have generously contributed their time, talents and financial resources to maintain and enhance our historic environs. These are the people who step forward to serve on the city's boards, commissions, the Caucus, Elawa, the Historical Society, Ragdale, Open Lands, school and church organizations, Forest Park and the Library board. Without their generous commitments, much of what we enjoy daily would not be possible.

Many of these individuals did not grow up in Lake Forest but saw the beauty and value of living here and wanted to perpetuate it for their families and future generations. A neighbor who now serves on several national corporate boards makes an annual trip to the neighborhood of his youth, the south side of Chicago, to remember his roots. Another top Lake Forest executive in telecommunications worked summers, as I, in the South Works and Gary steel mills to pay for our college educations. Perhaps these more humble beginnings also fostered the desire to secure and preserve the many family oriented qualities and amenities that we have in Lake Forest.

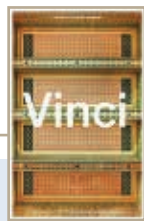
Our architecture is a direct and substantial representation of history and place. By preserving historic structures, such as Market Square, the Deer Path Inn, and the east side Train Station, we are able to share the very spaces and environments in which the generations before us lived. Historic preservation is the visual and tangible conservation of cultural identity.

If you are not a member of the Foundation, I strongly encourage you to join our 500+ members and donors in helping to maintain and appreciate the visual and architectural heritage of Lake Forest.

Sincerely,

Jim

Jim Opsitnik, *President*



Thursday, March 15, 2018, 7:00 PM
Gorton Community Center

John Vinci: Life and Landmarks

John Vinci: Life and Landmarks is the first authoritative survey of the life and work of one of Chicago's most acclaimed architects and preservationists. John Vinci will share an intimate look at his portfolio that spans half a century and includes the restoration of some of Chicago's and its suburbs most important historic structures as well as numerous award-winning original projects. For more information about the program and to make reservations visit our website LFPE.org. **Admission is free, but reservations are appreciated.**



NOMINATIONS FOR 2018 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS DUE BY MARCH 24TH

Every year, coinciding with National Historic Preservation Month, the Lake Forest Preservation Foundation honors families, businesses, and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in preserving Lake Forest's architectural heritage. The annual Historic Preservation Awards are based on criteria established by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and fall into five categories; a description of each can be found on the Foundation's website.

**Preservation • Rehabilitation • Restoration
Reconstruction • New Construction or Infill**

Any building, structure or landscape fifty years or older is eligible to be nominated. For the category of New Construction or Infill, new and recent construction is eligible. Nominations may be made by any interested person - the owner, the designer, a neighbor or friend, an admiring passerby. Handsome bronze plaques will be presented to award recipients at the Preservation Foundation's Annual Meeting.

Nominations for the 2018 awards are being accepted now thru April 1st and can be submitted by downloading a nomination form available on the Foundation's website, www.LFPE.org/preservation-awards, or by contacting the LFPE office, 847-234-1230 or info@lfpf.org.

What Millennials Think of Historic Preservation

Last summer, the National Trust for Historic Preservation released findings of a study that revealed the Millennial generation cares greatly about preserving historic places. The report detailing the study's findings, titled *Millennials and Historic Preservation: A Deep Dive Into Attitudes and Values*, found that nearly all (97 percent) of the nation's largest and most diverse generation appreciate the value of historic preservation.

You can read the full study by visiting the Trust's website, www.Savingplaces.org.

97%

of Millennials surveyed value historic preservation.

80%

of Millennials surveyed would prefer to spend their money at businesses that support historic preservation over those that do not.

54%

of Millennials surveyed are interested in historic preservation as a means to save places that define us as Americans.

53%

of Millennials surveyed see historic preservation as a way to protect the "unique, cultural wealth and diversity of communities."

71%

of Millennials surveyed enjoy exploring the history of an area when visiting a new place.

830 GREEN BAY ROAD: A CASE STUDY IN SMART RESTORATION

The lovers of historic homes on the North Shore were delighted when Nancy and Adrian Smith purchased the 1930s David Adler estate on Green Bay Road last spring. A world-renowned architect and his accomplished artist wife would be the perfect pair to restore the property to its former glory. Plus, their two adult children could help out – Jason as contractor and Katherine as interior designer. But the Smith family isn't out to create a museum piece; they want to preserve the essence of the property yet make it usable for today's family.

That seems to be the biggest challenge facing owners of old, significant homes today. Family life has changed and houses like the Smiths are often woefully out of date. For example, their house has 18 smaller bedrooms, mostly for servants, as the original owners, Joseph and Jean Morton Cudahy, did not have any children. The kitchen was also designed for servants, not for today's family that often makes the kitchen the hub of the home. So how do you go about restoring an architectural masterpiece from a bygone era, while making it usable and relevant for today?

"You need to accept that there's an evolutionary process to life and innovations are constantly occurring," Adrian believes. "A smart renovation of an historic property recognizes the essence of the real estate and how it impacts the neighbors and the city. It doesn't mean you have to slavishly go back to life as it was in the 1930s." As seen by the Smiths, this property's essence is a family compound built in the French country style that is historically relevant due to the architect and the family who

built it, plus its visibility in the city. Joseph Cudahy ran the family meat-packing business and his wife was the daughter of the founder of Morton Salt and later managed the Morton Arboretum.

From years of researching Adler's life and architecture, Adrian has a theory about why he chose the French Normandy style. Apparently, Adler and his wife lived in France for a few years as he was immersing himself in the estate architecture of the countryside. His wife was killed in a car crash there in the mid-twenties. Shortly thereafter, Adler came back to Chicago, still depressed and in mourning. Cudahy, a prior client, asked him to build on the Green Bay Road site and Adler created Innisfail II, based on the essence of French Normandy country manor homes, much like those he was studying while living in France with his wife. Adrian, a long-time David Adler aficionado, said that when his family first moved to Lake Forest in 1987, they "loved it from the street because it was a little bit of Europe with all the connected buildings." The Smiths also lived in France for a time. But by the time they purchased it last year, Nancy remarked that "nature was gobbling it up."

Cleaning away all that nature to reveal the original structure was the first step in the restoration. Focusing on the exterior first to recreate their original view and improve their neighbors' view, they stripped ivy off most walls, freed the pool from vast overgrowth, added new landscaping, repaired and painted windows, shutters, and trim, and began to reconstruct the greenhouse.

The interior work to date has been mostly repairing the infrastructure (75 burst pipes) and un-decorating, bringing walls to a neutral white and refinishing vast square footage of wood flooring. They are building a family play room in the basement with a walk-out to the pool area. The room is an excellent example of where you can create space for a contemporary family in a less prominent area of the house. The Cudahys used this basement room to host nurses who came to wrap bandages for the war effort, which is historic, but not critical to the essence of the home.

There will be many decisions ahead that require tradeoffs between the original Adler design and contemporary usage. For example on the south wing, there is a rounded, enclosed portico that was added to the south facade where the main entrance originally existed. The room inside this area is full of natural light and is a large, welcoming space, which could be used in many ways. However, the protruding bay of windows is not Adler, so the purist approach would be to take them out. Still under discussion.



Before



After

"We're keeping this house and the idea of preservation alive for the Lake Forest community . . .

Life goes on, but there are many things here definitely worth preserving."

– Adrian Smith



Before



After



Advice from the Smiths for those contemplating historic restoration:

Don't expect to make any money;

Do it for the love of the house and for the love of Lake Forest;

Be ready for surprises and a much longer timeline.

PHOTOS BY CORRINE STAGEN

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PRESERVATION
EARLY SPRING 2018
VOLUME 11, NUMBER 1

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2018 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS SEE THE HISTORY AROUND YOU



Thursday, March 15, 2018
7:00 PM

John Vinci: Life and Landmarks
A talk by acclaimed architect and preservationist
Gorton Community Center
Free admission,
reservations requested



Sunday, April 29, 2018
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Annual Meeting and
2018 Historic Preservation Awards**
Gorton Community Center
Member reception following
at an historic residence



Friday, June 22, 2018
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

**Early Summer Garden Stroll
at an historic estate**
Members \$20 Non-members \$30



Saturday, July 28, 2018
10:00 AM or 1:00 PM

**Annual Summer Tour of
Crab Tree Farm & Art Collections**
Members \$20 Non-members \$40



Friday, August 24, 2018
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

**Late Summer Garden Stroll
along the bluff**
Members \$20 Non-members \$30



Sunday, September 23, 2018
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Architectural House &
Garden Tour, Annual Benefit**
Advance ticket \$100



Sunday, December 2, 2018
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Annual Member Holiday
Celebration**
Members only

Please visit our website at www.lfpf.org for new programs, updates and to register.