

Lake Forest Preservation Foundation
PRESERVATION

Spring 2019

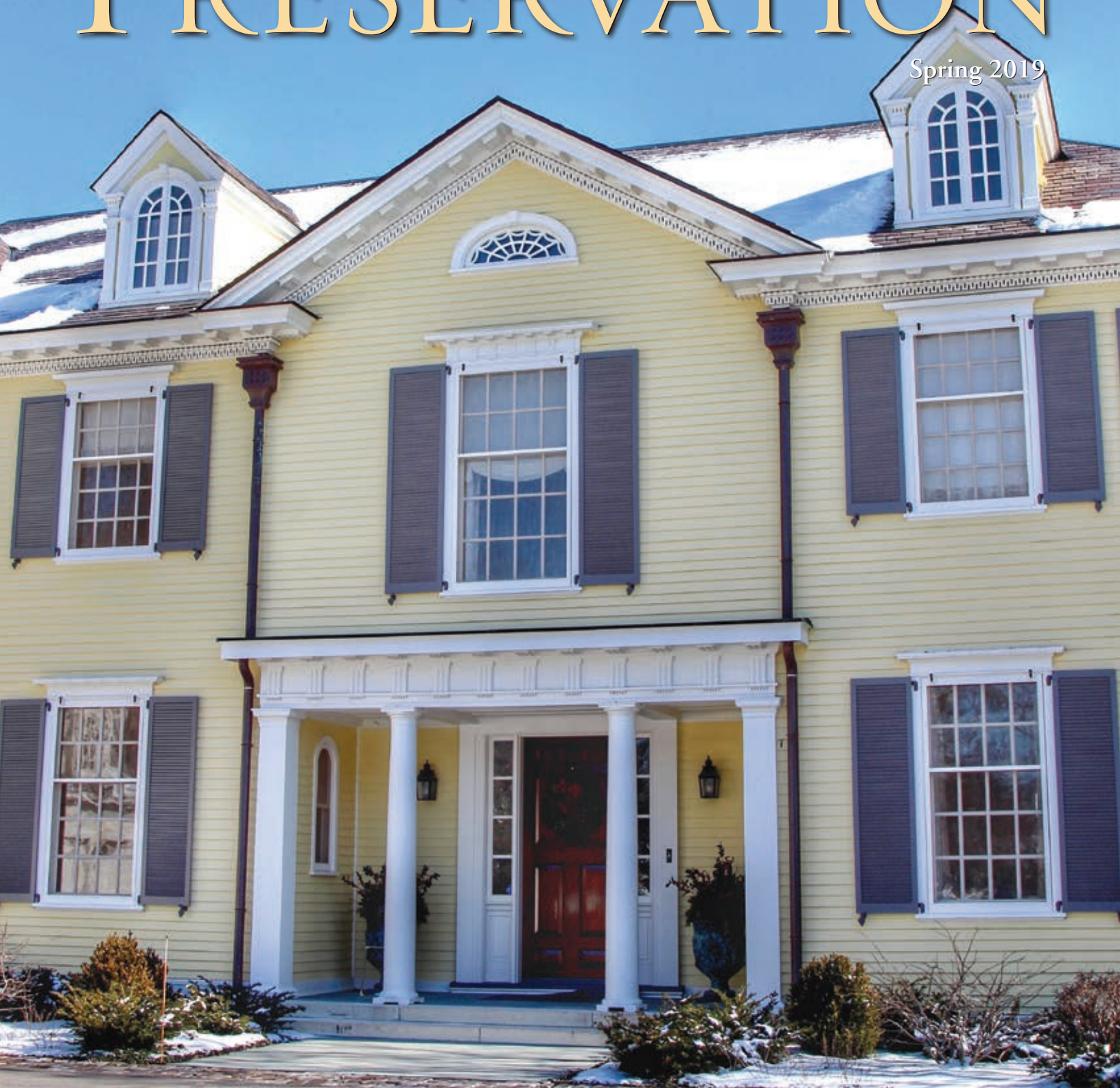


PHOTO BY
CAPPY JOHNSTON

Inside:
“Celebrating Shaw’s 150th”

“LITTLE ORCHARD”
1897



1917 image of
Shaw's Market Square,
shortly after completion.

Photo Copyright 1917
E.L. Fowler

HOWARD VAN DOREN SHAW AT 150: ASSESSING THE ARCHITECT ON THIS SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH IN CHICAGO

Howard Van Doren Shaw, an architect of major significance to Lake Forest, was born on May 7, 1869, 150 years ago. One day short of age 57, May 6, 1926, as he lay dying in Baltimore, he learned that he was selected to be awarded the 9th American Institute of Architects Gold Medal, for presentation at the 1927 AIA Annual meeting. Shaw slipped away just as he received word of the award being approved, almost his last thought his pleasure at this recognition. Perhaps he also grasped the significance of the award going to an American architect whose practice was located in Chicago, west of the East Coast's centers of architectural power and authority.

Shaw's American Institute of Architects Gold Medal is often cited, but rarely discussed. Shaw was the ninth recipient of this recognition begun in 1907, and the fourth American so honored, with four of the other nine being English and French architects. The well-known architectural historian Richard Guy Wilson, in his 1984 book, *The AIA Gold Medal*, divided the Gold Medalists into cohorts or generations, with Shaw being in the second group of Americans. In this group, he followed Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue (1925), the architect of Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago, completed in 1930. The earlier group of Americans had studied abroad and their work reflected French classicism. According to Wilson, the second cohort including Shaw was made up of a new generation of U.S.-trained architects, such as Shaw, who studied at MIT's architecture school in 1891, the year after he graduated from Yale. The awardees in this cohort, by Wilson's analysis, strove for more picturesque and emotional effects even while relying on classic planning and guidance. Henry Bacon (1923), from the first group of honorees, had begun his education at the German-inspired architecture program at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, prior to extensive travel in Europe.



PORTRAIT OF
HOWARD VAN DOREN SHAW

Bacon, though, practiced on the East Coast, creating the structure for the 1923 Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC. Shaw, with his office in Chicago, was the *first of the Americans honored* with the Gold Medal to *practice* in the Midwest. It was a couple of decades later that the AIA honored with Gold Medals Chicagoans Louis Sullivan (1944, posthumously) and Frank Lloyd Wright (1949). By 1957 the AIA began to honor a new generation of Chicago modernists, with Louis Skidmore. But Howard Shaw was the *first* Midwestern practicing Gold Medalist.

Shaw's practice was among the most varied by type of project among his AIA U.S. Gold Medalist peers: residential design for a variety of settings, including city, town, and suburban/country place, subdivision, campus, and industrial-town; commercial, including

automobile show rooms and shops; public auditoriums; clubs; churches; warehouses; industrial; high-rises; a planned company town; and mixed-use—as at Lake Forest's Market Square. Shaw's body of work also varied geographically, mostly around the Midwest (Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin, plus a commercial building in New York City and a cottage for his father-in-law, Connecticut). He was, as well, a partner in real estate development in Lake Forest: his 1897 North Green Bay Road three-estate development on a Swanton farm, his 1906 Atteridge farm mixed middle-class residential and recreational plan, and his Lake Forest estate houses. Real estate development also included in Chicago his 1910 and 1920s lakefront apartment buildings, again, in Lake Forest, with his 1912-17 Market Square, and in Indiana with his only partially-realized 1918 Marktown model factory village, East Chicago. Virginia A. Greene's 1998 book on Shaw and his work documents this range of commissions.

Shaw practiced under his own name without a full partner. He did, however, employ capable trained draftsmen, beginning with Armour Institute-trained architect Robert Work in 1897, and others such as engineer George Eich, David Adler, Stanley Anderson. There also were Ralph Milman, who continued to practice in Lake Forest, Bertrand Weber who built homes in Lake Forest and Highland Park, and other engineers, likely beginning in a major way with the first 1898-1902 Donnelley Lakeside Press plant, Chicago's Printers' Row.

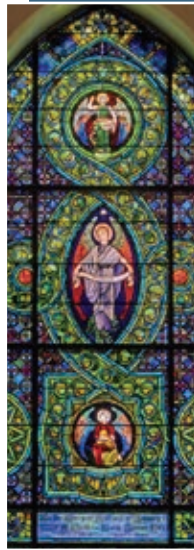
Perhaps Shaw's most galvanizing work among his architect peers was Market Square, 1916. This was a significant coup of trans-Atlantic British modern town and U.S. City Beautiful planning. It was envisioned, planned, strikingly designed, and built under his exacting

supervision, supervision revealed in the original plans discovered in 1999 in the John Griffith office archive. As revealed in those plans, Market Square has come to be recognized as a major step in creating a new type of built project in the 20th century, the town center planned around convenient motor vehicle access, later identified as the “shopping center.” This catapulted the Lake Forest version of this new type into Hegeman’s book on trans-Atlantic, but mostly European, civic art in 1922, as noted in Stuart Cohen’s 2015 book on Shaw’s residential design.

The tremendous success of Shaw’s suburban and country houses between the Alleghenies and the Rockies was a major achievement. His work tied together threads of classic planning and, sometimes, design with English Arts & Crafts ideals, integrating gardens into house designs, while also using subtlety, materials, and construction methods reflecting modern design trends. Shaw often anchored his planned and developed residential projects with places for him and his family: Ragdale, one of the three estates on the Swanton farm, 1897; his Lake Shore Drive co-op with his town residence on the top floor, 1910; and his early 1920’s larger apartment house near Fullerton, Chicago, again with his own apartment.

Overcome in mid-life by chronic illness, at age fifty-six in 1926, he cut back and then died as the boom of the 1920’s was just beginning. His peer, Lake Forest resident Alfred H. Granger, born in 1867, lived on and practiced in Chicago for another decade and a half of influence. Shaw’s talent did not survive to influence the further refinement of the Market Square type of development elsewhere in that decade, which would have been a logical follow-up. Instead, other architects took the next steps, such as Edwin Hill Clark at Plaza del Lago, Wilmette, 1925. Even so, Shaw’s genius in residential design, detailed in Stuart Cohen’s 2015 study, was passed on to his associate and mentee, David Adler. Richard Guy Wilson, writing in the Art Institute’s 2002 book on Adler, found Adler to be the leading traditional architect of his period—the first third of the 20th century. Shaw’s later associate, Stanley D. Anderson, worked on a variety of buildings that continued the Gold Medalist’s English Arts & Crafts and classic templates intensively in Lake Forest and also beyond—across the North Shore and following his clients to resorts from the seashore to the Rockies.

*The discussions of (1) Shaw’s AIA Gold Medal with his being the first Midwestern-practicing awardee and of (2) the significance of Market Square draw on a draft by Arthur H. Miller for a book on Shaw’s Market Square, the draft currently out for review at a university press.



NEXT EVENT

HISTORIC SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: RESTORING CHICAGO’S ARTS & CRAFTS JEWEL

Sunday, March 17, 3:00 PM ✨ Gorton Community Center

Historic Second Presbyterian Church in Chicago’s South Loop played an important role in Lake Forest’s early development and ever since has shared strong connections to the city’s institutions and residents, including the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, Lake Forest College, and Lake Forest architect Howard Van Doren Shaw, himself, who designed Second Presbyterian’s landmarked 1901 Arts & Crafts interior. Glessner House Executive Director and Curator Bill Tyre and architect Nate Lielas will discuss the history of Chicago’s Second Presbyterian Church, its ties to Lake Forest, and recent efforts to restore this National Historic Landmark.

Program free of charge, reservation requested – LFPE.org



*Plaque by Sylvia Shaw Judson
of her father, copied by Paul Myers.
At Lake Forest College Library
Special Collections.*

JOIN THE CELEBRATION 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF HOWARD VAN DOREN SHAW

Saturday, May 11, 2019 ✨ 9:30 a.m.

Second Presbyterian Church
1936 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago

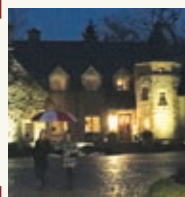
A HALF-DAY SYMPOSIUM

Organized by Glessner House and Its Director, William Tyre

More about this Symposium, its speakers and topics, can be found at <https://www.glessnerhouse.org/programs/>. The Symposium’s admission charge of \$25 offers a very full program with experts discussing Ragdale’s preservation, Shaw and the Arts & Crafts Movement in turn-of-the-20th-century Chicago, and Market Square. Art Miller will present on Market Square. The event is partially funded by the Donnelley Foundation and by the Lake Forest Preservation Foundation.

Shaw renovated the notable 1871 James Renwick-designed Second Presbyterian Church in 1899 after a fire. Glessner House, 1801 S. Prairie Avenue, leads studies on the history of the Prairie Avenue District, including the 1860’s house of Sarah Van Doren and Theodore Shaw (demolished. 1937), where Shaw was born in 1869.

That was the year of the completion of the trans-continental railroad and two years before the Chicago Fire.



Annual Holiday Celebration

Thank you to Meredith Mitchell for closing our yearlong celebration of the works of Stanley Anderson at her beautiful, iconic SDA home on December 2nd.

What a great year 2018 was; we have lots to be thankful for!

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Jim Opsitnik

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Recently I had the pleasure of seeing the 10th anniversary screening of the historical documentary *Discovering Deerpath* in the John and Nancy Hughes auditorium at our Gorton Community Center. The DVD is also available at the Library. The film wonderfully recreates the finding and founding of Lake Forest. It tells the stories of the many interesting and dynamic people who helped shape and then preserve our city's character. Equally as interesting was the acknowledgement and appreciation of the many civic minded residents who have stepped forward through the decades with their time, talent and energy to make Lake Forest the community what it is today. That commitment is as important today as it was in the past, perhaps more so.

I realize that there are many demands of family, career, and everyday life that most of us face. But there often comes a time when your focus may shift and an opportunity arises to give back to the community. The varied interests of the many talented and accomplished Lake Foresters can well be matched to the diverse organizations serving the community. The learning and personal growth through the commitment to the good of the community can be very satisfying. As a thirty-five-year resident, but one who was late to this participation, I can attest to its rewards. The growth comes through the association with the many dedicated people who share similar values.

As these organizations, foundations, city boards and commissions evolve, some with term limits, new members are welcomed and needed. Lake Forest is known as a family-oriented community. So being a part of that family, it is important for individuals to step forward. The quality of life in Lake Forest is greatly enhanced by the public/private partnerships throughout the city. Forest Park, Elawa, Open Lands, Ragdale, Gorton, and the downtown train station renovation, to name a few, are the result of this collaboration.

The magical quality of life in Lake Forest is not dependent entirely upon the city, but on the continued participation of its residents. It has been an honor to serve as your President for the past two years and I look forward to continuing to serve on the Foundation's Executive Committee.

Sincerely,
Jim Opsitnik, President



Gardens of the Arts and Crafts Movement

Iconic gardens from the Arts and Crafts era defy definition. Designed to accentuate the beauty and personality of both house and region, these gardens made a lasting impact on gardens worldwide, from public parks to small cottages. *Gardens of the Arts and Crafts Movement*, the newest book by renowned landscape historian Judith B. Tankard, surveys the rich history of the era and unlocks the secrets to creating a garden faithful to the movement. Arts and Crafts aficionados and garden designers alike will find inspiration in hundreds of contemporary photographs and historic illustrations detailing works that stretch from Gertrude Jekyll's Munstead Wood to storied California estates to Lake Forest's own Ragdale.

Judith B. Tankard is a landscape historian, award-winning author, and preservation consultant.

Please join us at Gorton Community Center on May 9 at 1:00 P.M. Judith Tankard will present a program featuring her updated edition of *Ellen Shipman and the American Garden*, winner of the John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize for 2019. Signed books will be available for sale.

Tickets are \$15 at LFPF.org



NOMINATIONS FOR 2019 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS *Due by March 25th*

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 2019 awards are being accepted now through March 25th and can be submitted by downloading a nomination form available on the Foundation's website, www.LFPF.org/preservation-awards, or by contacting the LFPF office, 847-234-1230 or info@lfpf.org.

Results of the First Lake Forest Preservation Foundation Survey

On January 10, 2019, the LFPF surveyed its constituents, including members, non-members, friends and donors. We received a very good response rate for a first time survey.

91% rated our programs as very good to excellent

95% were satisfied with the LF Preservation Foundation

The most popular programs were: the annual house tour, closely followed by the garden strolls.

Suggestions for Improvement:

- have more programs with architects and owners of historic homes
- we need to attract young families with children and have more educational programs
- more programs about historic landscapes and their preservation

We received 16 pages of valuable comments about our programs and suggestions for how to connect with the community. We will seriously consider all ideas and we want to thank you very much for taking the time to complete the survey. Your input is very valuable to us. Special thanks to the committee members, Susan Athenson, Elizabeth Abbattista, Ingrid Bryzinski, Marcy Kerr, Elizabeth Moore, Linda Shields, and the Chair, Linda Liang.

Bringing Back the “Gatsby” Glam



For Jeanette and Dan Hodgkinson, buying and restoring the old white clapboard mansion on Ridge Road may have always been predestined.

Once the childhood home of Ginevra King—the lost love of F. Scott Fitzgerald and the inspiration for the character Daisy Buchanan in the book, *The Great Gatsby*—the house had fallen into serious disrepair over the past 10 years and its property recently subdivided.

Dan grew up down the street and was always aware of the home. He recalls his first visit to the estate as a young child. “When I was about 5 years old, I was riding my bike with my mom up Ridge Road. As we passed the property, Mr. Reilly (the previous longtime owner) was in the yard and he invited us inside for lemonade. He showed us around his beautiful house. It was really a nice gesture and goes to show you what Lake Forest was all about,” Dan explained. “When we left, Mr. Reilly told us we could come back anytime.”

“We’ve come back!” exclaims Jeanette.

The couple has been fixing and flipping houses as a hobby for several years. In fact, it’s grown into a full-time business for Jeanette who now runs Bell Design, a remodeling company that handles anything from whole house renovations to smaller kitchen, bath, and basement remodels.

“When we first drove up to this house, we realized this wasn’t another flip. This was a home we had to save,” said Jeanette.

It’s also a home they intend to make their own. Working with Susan Benjamin of Benjamin Historic Certifications, the Hodgkinsons recently submitted an application to the City of Lake Forest for Local Landmark designation, a process that will allow them to apply for the Illinois Historic Property Tax Assessment Freeze. The program freezes the assessed value of historic owner-occupied, principal residences for 8 years, followed by a four-year period during which the property’s assessed value steps up to the new level. The program is a major financial incentive for homeowners who are sensitively investing in the rehabilitation of their historic homes.

According to a report prepared by Benjamin, the main house, as originally designed in 1905 by Howard Van Doren Shaw, was considerably altered in 1938 by designer George Senseney. The remodeling has become significant in its own right because of the sensitive design. Some of Shaw’s imprint remains—but the house now mostly reflects Senseney’s influence. The interior was largely reorganized and redecorated. On the exterior, the window openings and roofs were modified to both serve the redesigned spaces and update the house’s popular Colonial Revival style.

One of the most striking features of Senseney’s design is the extensive use of Carrara glass on the walls in the master and guest suite bathrooms. Also known as pigmented structural glass, Carrara glass was available in 30 colors and manufactured in flat panels or curves, and in a wide range of sizes and thicknesses. Its use in the house is indicative of the chic, ultra-modern character of 1938 remodeling, as well as its high-end sophistication.

Walking through the home, the Hodgkinsons’ excitement for their endeavor is as apparent as their commitment to a faithful rehabilitation. “The master bathroom is the most significant room in the house and will be preserved,” said Dan. Working with the experienced local architectural firm, Landmark Development, 95% of the house will be preserved and restored, with major modifications only being made to accommodate a new master bath in the area of a sleeping porch connected to the master bedroom, as well as reconfiguration of the kitchen area.

They also intend to replace many of the decorative features that were previously stripped from the home, including crystal chandeliers and sconces in the foyer and dining room. “We have pictures of the original crystal fixtures which are being custom made to match,” said Jeanette. “We are trying to blend the history of the original King residence with bringing in some of the Gatsby glam.”



IF NOT NOW, WHEN? IF NOT YOU, WHO?

If you aren’t already a member of the LFPP, please consider joining today! With your support the Preservation Foundation can continue being your community advocate. What would Lake Forest look like without its beautiful and historic landmarks, streetscapes, parks and gardens, and historic districts? With your membership dues LFPP will continue its efforts to preserve the unique visual character of Lake Forest by:

- Contributing to City meetings of the Building Review Board and Historic Preservation Commission, adding valuable insight and awareness of preservation issues.
- Funding restoration projects in Lake Forest, such as most recently the historic downtown train station and the original 1857 Surveyor’s Plot Map of Lake Forest.
- Presenting educational programs about preservation issues, architects, historic estates, and neighborhoods.
- Offering Strolls and Tours of important Lake Forest gardens and architectural treasures.
- Recognizing preservation projects throughout the city through our annual awards.

And so much more!

The time is Now to join or renew your membership to the LFPP.

With it you will be supporting our programs, communications, educational outreach, and dedicated staff. Take part in preserving Lake Forest’s legacy.

We couldn’t do it without YOU!

JOIN THE
LAKE FOREST
PRESERVATION
FOUNDATION TODAY!

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LAKE FOREST PRESERVATION FOUNDATION PROGRAMS FOR 2019

Visit LFPE.org for details and to register



Sunday, March 17, 2019
3:00 PM

Historic 2nd Presbyterian Church:
Restoring Chicago's
Arts & Crafts Jewel
Gorton Community Center



Sunday, April 28, 2019
2:00 PM

**Annual Meeting and 2019
Historic Preservation Awards**
Gorton Community Center,
Member only reception
following at historic residence



Thursday, May 9, 2019
1:00 PM

**Ellen Shipman and the
American Garden**
Judith Tankard lecture & book signing
Gorton Community Center
Tickets: \$15



Saturday, May 11, 2019
8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

**Howard Van Doren Shaw
Symposium**
2nd Presbyterian Church, Chicago
www.glessnerhouse.org for tickets



Friday, June 28, 2019
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Early Summer Garden Stroll
Members \$20 Non-members \$30



Saturday, July 27, 2019
10:00 AM or 1:00 PM

**Annual Summer Tour of
Crab Tree Farm & Art Collections**
Members \$20 Non-members \$30



Friday, August 23, 2019
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Late Summer Garden Stroll
Members \$20 Non-members \$30



Sunday, October 6, 2019
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

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



Sunday, December 8, 2019
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Annual Member
Holiday Celebration**
Members only

