



Chicago City Clerk - Council Div.
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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
CITY OF CHICAGO

November 8, 2023

The Honorable Anna M. Valencia
City Clerk
City of Chicago
Room 107, City Hall
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60602

RE: Recommendation for designation of 2678 West Washington Boulevard as a Chicago Landmark

Dear Clerk Valencia:

We are filing with your office for introduction at the November 15, 2023, City Council meeting as a transmittal to the Mayor and City Council of Chicago the recommendation of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks that 2678 West Washington Boulevard be designated as a Chicago Landmark.

The material being submitted to you for this proposal includes the:

1. Recommendation of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks; and
2. Proposed Ordinance.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kathleen E. Dickhut
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Citywide Planning

encls.

cc: Alderman Walter Burnett, Jr., 27th Ward (via email without enclosure)



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ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Municipal Code of Chicago (the "Municipal Code"), Sections 2-120-620 through 690, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks (the "Commission") has determined that 2678 West Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, and legally described in **Exhibit 1**, attached hereto (the "Site"), satisfies three (3) criteria for landmark designation as set forth in Section 2-120-620 (1), (4), and (5) of the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, for over eighty years, the Site served a critical role in providing care and opportunity to Chicago's most vulnerable, including women and children who could not afford health care after being discharged from hospitals; homeless, destitute, or otherwise abandoned women without options; unwed mothers and their children; abused and neglected adolescent girls; and the larger homeless population of the city. The various populations served over the years often had little or no other alternatives available to meet their daily needs; and

WHEREAS, the Site has served as a care facility under four different organizations, including the Chicago Home for Convalescent Women and Children, the Florence Crittenton Anchorage, the Volunteers of America's Living Center for Girls, and Inner Voice, Inc., as the need for social services in the neighborhood and city evolved; and

WHEREAS, from 1923-1946, the Site served as the Chicago Home for Convalescent Women and Children. After purchasing the property in 1923, the charity built a dormitory, and used the Site to care for women and children discharged from the charity wards of Chicago's hospitals. The home was "open to any one (sic), irrespective of religion or nationality." The facility was staffed by health care professionals and supported by donations from prominent Chicagoans, especially women. The Chicago Home for Convalescent Women and Children is said to have cared for more than fifteen thousand women and children during their existence; and

WHEREAS, from 1949-1973, the Site became the Florence Crittenton Anchorage, serving as a maternity home offering shelter and assistance to unwed mothers. Unwed mothers and their newborns typically resided at the Anchorage for approximately three months and care was provided by registered nurses and pediatricians. Florence Crittenton homes existed in dozens of cities across the United States. Licensed by the State of Illinois, the Chicago Anchorage was funded by private donations and public funds. In addition to housing and medical care, the Anchorage provided education opportunities and mental health services. At a time when other organizations served only certain populations, the Florence Crittenton Anchorage had no racial or religious restrictions; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s through the 2010s, the Site became the Living Center for Girls for abused and neglected teens, operated by Volunteers of America, and subsequently one of the shelters of Inner Voice, Inc. in their mission to help house and re-employ Chicago's homeless; and

WHEREAS, the Site's main house is an excellent example of a residential building in the Queen Anne architectural style. Built *circa* 1880, through a series of remodelings, the building was transformed from a small frame dwelling to a brick mansion. The complex roofline with front-facing gable and dormers, asymmetric composition, corner tower with conical bay, decorative richness and variety, and projecting bays exemplify the style; and

WHEREAS, the Site's dormitory and its sympathetic later addition reflect the Italian Renaissance and French Eclectic "period" styles popular in the 1920s, during the second phase of the Eclectic movement in America. The building features distinctive masonry and stucco detailing with dark red brick window surrounds and quoining contrasting with flat, white fields of stucco. These unusual design motifs reflect the Eclectic movement's preference for "correct" architectural detail and give the building a distinctive presence in the East Garfield Park Community Area; and

WHEREAS, the Site's dormitory was designed by the noted Chicago architecture firm of Holabird & Roche, whose founders were recognized as major, innovative, and prolific practitioners of the Chicago School of architecture; and

WHEREAS, the architectural firm of Holabird & Roche was one of the most successful and prolific architectural firms in Chicago between 1883-1927. At the time the dormitory was constructed, the firm was responsible for five to ten percent of the construction in the city. Over a dozen of their buildings are designated as individual Chicago landmarks including the Old Colony Building, the Marquette Building, the Chicago Building, the City Hall-County Building, the Three Arts Club, and the Palmer House Hotel; and

WHEREAS, Holabird & Roche's successor firms of Holabird & Root and then Holabird, Root & McGee, the firm responsible for the 1948 addition to and remodeling of the dormitory, continued to shape the look of the City of Chicago over the course of the twentieth century, and they remain a major contributor to the city's architectural excellence; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Section 2-120-630 of the Municipal Code, the Site has a significant historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value, the integrity of which is preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and ability to express such historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value; now, therefore,

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2023, the Commission adopted a resolution recommending to the City Council of the City of Chicago (the "City Council") that the Site be designated a Chicago Landmark; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are hereby adopted as the findings of the City Council.

SECTION 2. The Site is hereby designated a Chicago Landmark in accordance with Section 2-120-700 of the Municipal Code.

SECTION 3. For purposes of Sections 2-120-740 and 2-120-770 of the Municipal Code governing permit review, the significant historical and architectural features of the Site are identified as:

- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the main house and dormitory; and
- The 2011 bronze "Passage" sculpture.

The current location of the "Passage" sculpture is not integral to the Site's historic configuration, so the statue may be relocated elsewhere on the Site.

SECTION 4. The Commission is hereby directed to create a suitable plaque appropriately identifying the Site as a Chicago Landmark.

SECTION 5. If any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. All ordinances, resolutions, motions, or orders in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect upon the date of its passage and approval.