

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Irving, James B., House

other names/site number _____

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number 2771 Crawford Avenue not for publication

city or town Evanston vicinity

state Illinois county Cook zip code 60201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: ___ **national** ___ **statewide** ___ **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D**

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer _____ Date _____

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

James Irving House
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
0		site
0		structure
0		object
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century
American Movements/ Prairie School

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete
walls: Stucco/ Wood

roof: Asphalt
other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

Summary Paragraph

The James B. Irving House, designed by John S. Van Bergen in 1927-28, is located at 2771 Crawford Avenue, with its front facing south-west with Crawford Street running at an angle from southeast to northwest in Evanston, Cook County, Illinois. The site is located just south of Old Glenview Road. Originally located at 1318 Isabella Street in Wilmette, Illinois, the house was removed from its original site in October 2014. The primary façade on the original site faced south, a slight pivot from the current location. The house Irving commissioned is characteristic of architect John Van Bergen's Prairie School architecture, which dominated much of his early to mid-career. There have been very few alterations to the house since it was originally designed, none to the significant historic spaces and few to the major historic features. The house was cut into three pieces and the chimney and foundations were removed when the house was moved to its present site; however, the house has been reconnected, placed on a new foundation and the chimney has been rebuilt. The house has been relocated to a lot approximately two and one half miles from the original site and its setting is somewhat different; however, it is presently located in a neighborhood with similar architectural diversity and lot sizes. (See Exhibit 1, showing historic site and Exhibit 2, showing current site). The date attributed to the house is taken from multiple primary sources including the original construction drawings for the house from John Van Bergen's office.

Narrative Description

PHYSICAL CONTEXT

The Irving House is located in the northwest corner of the City of Evanston, approximately 18 miles from the center of Chicago, along the north line of the Chicago and North Western Railway and on the western shore of Lake Michigan. Wilmette is located to the north of the site and Evanston extends south to the northern border of Chicago. It is situated in Township 42 North on Chicago's North Shore, 2.5 miles west of Lake Michigan and one mile east of Route 41, the major transportation route linking Chicago to the North Shore suburbs.

The area that makes up the City of Evanston today was previously primarily wetlands with little population and few signs of human use other than Native American trails passing from Chicago further north. French explorers called the area "Grosse Pointe" in reference to the piece of land that extended into Lake Michigan. Early inhabitants in the 1830s and 1840s called the area "Grosse Point Territory" and Gross Point voting district" as early taverns and businesses were established along the Native American routes leading north. In 1850, a township called Ridgeville was established in the area and the following year Northwestern University was formed. The name of Evanston was chosen by Northwestern leaders in 1854 after John Evans, one of the founders of the University. The area was incorporated as a town in 1863 but was not formalized as a city until 1892. Borders of the city from 1892 are largely as they are today. The original and current locations of the Irving House were largely developed in the inter-war years as development and construction continued further north from Chicago up along the suburban commuter railroad lines.

HISTORIC AND CURRENT SETTING

When the Irving House was historically located at 1318 Isabella Street in Wilmette, Illinois, it was the second of two Prairie School structures on a double lot owned by the Irving family. Directly to the west was the "James Irving Temporary Residence" designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and Rudolph Schindler. The Irving's commissioned Wright's studio to design this temporary residence, constructed in 1920, that was to be converted to a garage when their primary residence was built. The temporary residence was never converted to a garage and was maintained for residential use until 2012 when it was dismantled to make way for new construction. A later garage was constructed to the north of the Irving House with access to the alley.

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Several changes to the property took place between 1928 and 2012 when the original double lot was sold to a developer and subdivided. The temporary residence was slated for demolition in 2012 and was dismantled and moved away for eventual reconstruction at a site to be determined. The Irving House was next slated for demolition and was moved from its original site to a temporary storage location in October 2014 and to its current location in March 2015. The original site was approximately 50 feet wide by 175 feet deep with pedestrian access to the main entrance from Isabella Street and vehicular access to the garage off an alley to the north side of the lot. The projecting wings of the house span approximately 50 feet and originally extended to the edges of the property, which was not allowed for the relocated structure.

To accommodate the required setbacks, the new site is slightly wider at 57 feet and not as deep at approximately 115 feet but the distance from the street to the front of the house and approximate north-south orientation are similar to the original configuration. While the original orientation was an exact north-south configuration, the new site lies on an angled street, thus the orientation faces the primary façade of the house more to the west than the original site. The new site also contains a rise from street level up to the main portion of the lot, a geological remnant of an ancient sand dune. This places the house slightly higher than the relatively flat original site but provides an excellent view of the front façade and sets the main level above the traffic on Crawford Avenue. The non-historic garage from the Wilmette site was not moved with the house and currently no garage exists on the new site. The Irving House was moved to the site of a former small farm in the northwest corner of Evanston. The property was previously subdivided into three lots, the center of which is the new location of the house. The flanking lots are expected to be built with single family homes forming a configuration similar to that of the original site.

METHOD OF MOVING

Preparation for the move included removal of non-historic elements and fixtures and removal of the chimney above the roof line. The house had to be cut into three sections allowing the structure to leave its original site and travel down Isabella Street to the temporary storage site and on to the final site. The cuts were designated to be located through bathrooms, the kitchen, closets and the hallway to alter historic elements and finishes as little as possible. The cuts were made using hand tools and the sections were raised, one at a time with steel beams and wheels placed below. The rear and middle sections were moved to the rear of the lot so that the front section, with its wide projecting sunroom and dining room wings, could be rotated 90 degrees and removed from the site. The sections were pulled one at a time with a truck to the temporary storage lot. For the second move, the house sections were moved in tandem to the new lot and pulled into the excavated lot, where they were arranged in order, raised and adjusted. New foundations were poured below the house and the sections were lowered down, adjusted and reattached. Restoration work and replacement of the mechanical systems were then performed.

SETTING

The Irving House is a multi-level wood-frame house with stucco cladding and painted wood trim designed by John Van Bergen in 1928 for James Irving. It is located at 2771 Crawford Avenue at the northwest most corner of Evanston, across the street from Wilmette, in the northern suburbs of Chicago. Overall, the property is in excellent condition due to recent restoration work.

ARCHITECTURE - EXTERIOR

The Irving House is representative of the Prairie School movement constructed of wood framing and stucco cladding. The house is sited with its primary façade facing the street and a relatively large expanse of lawn and landscaping to the street to the south. In massing, the house is a split-level configuration with the primary spaces on the ground floor and the bedrooms up half a flight of stairs and basement down half a flight of stairs. A one and a half story living room faces the street with one story flanking wings projecting to the east and west. The mass of the house is topped by a long, low hipped roof with deep overhanging eaves, creating the strong horizontal emphasis characteristic of the Prairie School. Gutters are built in to the eaves with minimal penetrations through the soffits. This horizontality is further emphasized by grouped casement windows, a broad water table trim board and bands of decorative horizontal trim.

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Materials used on the exterior of the house are characteristic of Prairie School architecture. The house is set on a visually solid base consisting of a decorative wood water table that extends around the perimeter of the house. Beige stucco clads the exterior of all elevations, the exterior planters and underside of the eaves. It appears that the original stucco was textured with a light beige stain. The stucco has been painted several times over the years, but the texture and color are similar to the original material. Painted wood trim exists at the termination of the roof, around the windows and doors and in decorative bands at certain locations. Simply detailed wood casement windows are typically found in groups with horizontally oriented panes of glass. These place further emphasis on the horizontal lines of the house.

Description – South (Front Façade):

The primary façade of the house faces the street and consists of the central mass of the living room with flanking wings that contain the dining room to the east and sunroom to the west. The living room portion of the façade is nearly all glass with five bays of windows at the front and returns, each consisting of a large fixed multi-pane section with operable hopper windows above and below. The windows are topped by wide projecting eaves above with a projecting planter wrapping the three sides of the projecting portion of the living room below. To the east is a one story dining room topped by a low hipped roof and wide projecting eaves on the north and south and a more typical projection of the eaves on the south end, where the house used to be located right on the property line. Nine windows, each with five horizontal glass panes line the three exterior walls of the dining room. The primary entrance to the house is also located at the western end of this small wing. A projecting flat roof, decorative column and planter both accentuate and partially conceal the location of the entrance. To the west of the living room is a single story wing roughly similar in size to the dining room. This is shown on the drawings as an open porch, but it is believed that it was enclosed early in the existence of the building. Wide overhanging eaves exist on all three sides of this wing. Newer replacement aluminum casement windows were installed in the 1990s but the original wood door with decorative arrangement of glass panes exists on the north side of this wing. A broad, low chimney tops the living room roof. Additional windows on the south consist of four aluminum windows in the sunroom, three five-pane windows at the sides of the projecting living room wing and two three-pane windows in the loft.

West (Side Façade):

On both side facades of the house the split level configuration is apparent. At the south end of this façade, the sunroom extends toward the west at ground level. The remaining portion of the west façade consists of one and a half stories with the basement windows at the bottom and bedroom level above. The wood water table trim extends along this entire façade just above the ground level. All of the windows on the west are original wood casement windows with a horizontal orientation of the glass panes unless otherwise noted. Beginning at the north end are three five-pane bedroom windows over two three-pane basement windows. Four five-pane windows light the master bedroom over two additional three-pane basement windows. Three-pane windows exist to the south, two in the master bath and one in the loft area. The remaining windows on the west are five single pane aluminum casement windows in the sunroom. Three aluminum windows wrap the sunroom on the north side and an original wood door provides access to this space. No downspouts exist on the sunroom wing, but instead rain chains funnel the water at the northwest and southwest corners of this room. Flagstone splash pads were indicated on the original drawings; however, it is not believed that these were ever constructed. A later non-contributing deck existed on this side of the house just north of the sunroom. This was severely deteriorated and was not moved with the house but a new deck will likely be constructed in the future with a similar low and unobtrusive design as to not detract from the horizontal lines of the façade.

North (Rear Façade):

The north façade of the house is the narrowest and continues the one and a half story expression of the sides with three grouped three-pane casement windows at the basement level and a single five-pane window returning the grouping of windows in the master bedroom and a pair of five-pane windows returning each grouping of windows at both of the north bedrooms. A single downspout on the rear is the only such location on all of the facades. The remaining main roof drainage transfers from the main roof to the lower roofs then to the ground.

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East (Side Façade):

Like the west façade, the slit level configuration of the house is apparent on the east. The dining room wing extends to the east as does the kitchen, which projects out slightly from the main massing of the house and is topped by a flat metal roof. Both of these wings lie on ground level, while the remaining portion of the façade expresses the basement half level with the bedroom wing above. Four three-pane windows exist above the kitchen counters, three on the east and one wrapping the corner on the north. On the upper level are one three-pane window in the loft and three five-pane windows at the north end of the wall in the north bedroom. On the main level is an entrance to the interior landing that leads down to the basement and up one step to the kitchen. The rear door and storm door are original. Three three-pane windows just above the sill trim light the basement below. Unlike the west, this façade also contains a dormer window with a flat shed roof and pair of two pane windows. The location of this indicates the location of the secondary (hall) bathroom, which is higher than the bedroom level.

ARCHITECTURE - INTERIOR

The main entry to the house includes features characteristic of the Prairie School. The front door is partially screened by the street with an exterior planter and trellis structure and is connected to the lower dining room wing as opposed to the more formal prominent entries found on many historical revival movement houses. The interior vestibule is defined by three-quarter height screen walls on either side of the door to differentiate the space from that of the dining room to the right and living room to the left. The screen walls are one of the more detailed millwork constructions in the house with many vertical square wood slats. Stairs leading to the bedroom level are in front of the entry and to the left of that is a small coat closet that has been converted into a half bath. Characteristic of Frank Lloyd Wright and others in the Prairie School, ceilings in the entry area are low, creating a compress and release feeling on the interior whereby higher ceilings in the gathering spaces are more generous.

The living room is located to the left of the entry and a large fireplace is visible on the north wall. A grayish-tan textured brick is used for the fireplace with deep struck bed joints and flush struck head joints, further emphasizing the horizontal lines characteristic in Prairie School masonry. Directly across from the fireplace is the large expanse of windows visible on the front of the house. The ceiling in the main portion of the living room is one and a half stories high with vaulted plaster and dark stained pine trim throughout. A loft exists at the north end of the room above the fireplace. The low ceilings of the entry continue under the loft and serve to guide one along the fireplace into the expansive living room or sunroom beyond. Original geometric light fixtures exist at six locations in the living room in addition to cove lighting above the front windows and along the base of the loft knee wall. Floors in the living room, entry and dining room are oak.

Past the fireplace is a nook with a built-in bench with storage below and a three-part glass paned french door system leading to the sunroom. Above the bench is one of several original wood ventilation louvers that match the adjacent trim. While the HVAC system has been replaced, the louvers were maintained throughout the house. The sunroom was shown as an open porch on the plans, but it is believed that this was enclosed early on. Walls in the sunroom are stucco and the flooring is fir wood. The ceilings in this space are flat in contrast to the other primary rooms in the house.

To the right of the entry is the dining room. This space has continuous windows on all three exterior walls of the house. The ceiling in this room is vaulted and the space is defined on the west by a screen wall separating the room from the entry. Two original wood pendant light fixtures exist for this space. At the north wall of the dining room is a double-swing door to the kitchen, behind which is another original wood heating ventilation louver.

The kitchen was replaced in the 1980s and was recently redone with cabinets more in keeping with the original design and vintage appliances from the era of the original construction. The windows facing east over the sink are original and bring light to this space. A small nook under the stairs provides extra storage space. An opening on the north wall of the kitchen leads down one step to a small rear entry vestibule. In this space is a door to the right leading to the exterior and an opening to the left that provides access to the basement stairs.

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The main stairway rises only six steps to a landing and a turn with another two steps. The side walls define the space with no original handrails or newel post; however, a pair of square columns and a half wall separate the first run of stairs from the dining room. A four-pane window above the landing lights the stairway and provides a focal point when descending from the hallway. At the top of the stairs is a long hallway with access to the bedrooms to the north and loft to the south. The loft is reached by an additional four steps. The space is flanked by built-in daybeds with storage below to the east and west ends, a series of shelves to the north and a low knee wall rail with chamfered corners to the south. An original wood light fixture exists at the northwest corner of the loft. Two original "schoolhouse" flush mount light fixtures light the length of the hallway. At the south end of the hall, a storage cabinet is built into the east wall and a door to the master bedroom on the west. Terminating the north end of the hall are doors to the second and third bedrooms. Before these doors are a hall closet accessed from the west side of the hall and a winding stairway with four steps on the east side that leads to the shared hall bathroom.

Three bedrooms and two full bathrooms take up a majority of the upper level. The master bedroom is the largest of the three and is furthest south. A large portion of this room has a hipped ceiling with the remaining west portion being flat just above the height of the windows. Originally, three wood sconces lit the vaulted portion of the room; however, these have since been lost and simple fixtures exist until a suitable replacement can be fabricated. Two doors along the south wall of the bedroom access a walk-in closet (east) and bathroom (west). The bathroom had been remodeled in the 1980s and has since been refitted with finishes and fixtures more in character with the architecture. The two remaining bedrooms at the north end of the house are nearly identical and are a mirror image of one another. These smaller rooms have hipped ceilings over the entire space and a walk-in closet on the south wall. Like the master bedroom, the rooms contained two lights each, which are no longer extant. The upstairs rooms and hall contain a continuous band of pine trim just above the height of the windows. All of the wood floors on the upper level are oak. The second bathroom on the upper level is accessed via the small flight of stairs and is the highest room in the house under the east dormer. This bathroom was also remodeled in the 1980s and has since been updated to be more in character with the architecture. A second door at the south end of the bathroom between the sink and bathtub leads to a small unfinished storage room with a single casement window and access to the attic spaces above the flat and hipped portions of plaster ceilings.

CHANGES

Despite the age of the house, very few changes have been over time. The exterior remains almost exactly as it was originally designed and constructed. The stucco and wood trim are intact, although the original stained stucco finish was long-ago over painted. Following the move, the chimney was reconstructed, roof replaced and original painted galvanized steel built-in gutters were repaired. The red asphalt shingles were replaced in-kind with flat asphalt shingles as specified on the original drawings. As previously mentioned, the original open porch was previously enclosed, it is believed at an early date. The existing windows have been kept in place.

On the interior, the only spaces that had been altered were the kitchen and bathrooms. These were not original and have been modified as part of the current work. The basement is also new at the current site. Originally there was a full basement under the bedroom level and crawlspace under the remainder of the house. Full-height foundation walls were constructed under the entire house, resulting in thirteen foot ceilings under the bedrooms and standard ceiling height under the remainder of the house.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1928

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Van Bergen, John S., Architect

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

Locally significant, the James Irving House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The house is an excellent and nearly unaltered local example of Prairie School architecture designed by John S. Van Bergen. Elements of Prairie School architecture on the Irving House include an emphasis on horizontality, natural materials, wide overhanging eaves and low pitched hipped roof surfaces and grouped casement windows. On the interior, the broad and simply detailed fireplace, unornamented bands of stained wood trim, multi-pane casement windows and geometric design elements continue the Prairie School design. The period of significance is 1928, the year the house was built. Because the house was moved from its original site, Criterion Consideration B "removed from its original location" applies. It retains nearly all of its historic features and the primary historic spaces are nearly unaltered. The new neighborhood and lot size are similar and the orientation of the house is close to that of the original lot. Although the James Irving House has been moved, its integrity is generally excellent, with John Van Bergen's approach to Prairie School architecture as visible today as when the house was built in 1928. The house remains an important local and regional example of Prairie School design and the evolution of John Van Bergen's architecture.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

HISTORY

John S. Van Bergen (1885-1969) was raised in Oak Park, Illinois, the area that would come to be associated with Frank Lloyd Wright and the Prairie School. Van Bergen had little formal education in architecture. He was a student of architecture at the Chicago Technical College for only three months. He received his architectural training as an apprentice in the office of Walter Burley Griffin for two years. In 1909, Van Bergen was the last person hired to work in Frank Lloyd Wright's Oak Park studio. While Van Bergen only worked in Wright's office for one year before the office was shut down, he worked on many of Wright's high-profile commissions. He also oversaw the completion of several designs once Wright had left the office for Europe. After leaving Wright's office, Van Bergen started his own design office and continued practicing in the Prairie School through the 1930s, longer than most of his contemporaries. Most of Van Bergen's houses are located in the Chicago suburbs.

In 1910, Van Bergen submitted a design to a competition held by the Building Brick Association of America. The contest involved designing a house to cost \$4,000 and be economical, functional, and beautiful. Van Bergen's design stood out from the hundreds of mostly historical revival style designs as it was one of only two Prairie School designs.

Van Bergen worked in the office of another former Wright employee, William Drummond from 1910 to 1911. After earning his architectural license in 1911, Van Bergen left the office of Drummond and opened his own office in Oak Park. The years of Van Bergen's Oak Park office were some of his most prolific, with 32 projects between 1911 and 1920. Fifteen of Van Bergen's architectural designs were included in the *The Twenty-Eighth Annual Chicago Architectural Exhibition* at the Art Institute in 1915.

During World War I, Van Bergen left his practice to volunteer for the war effort. interrupted his career to volunteer for service during World War I. Following the war, Van Bergen continued many of the ideas of the Prairie School where many of his contemporaries had moved to other design ideas. In 1921, Van Bergen moved his practice from Oak Park to Ravinia, which is today part of Highland Park. Van Bergen completed a number of designs for houses, schools and other projects during these successful inter-war years. Designs included a mix of those true to the Prairie School and others with a Modernist approach.

When the Irving House was designed in 1928, this was one of his designs true to the ideas and design approach of Frank Lloyd Wright and the pre-World War I years. Van Bergen referenced Wright's design for the Isabel Roberts House from twenty years before. This period of Van Bergen's career was interrupted when he volunteered during World War II. Following the war, Van Bergen had all but left his traditional Prairie School approach in favor of a type of organic modernism favored by Wright and others in the post-war period. Van Bergen continued in his Ravinia office until 1951 when he moved to the Chicago suburb of Barrington where he built a home and studio. His practice existed here until 1955 when he moved to California. His home and studio in Santa Barbara was the location of his practice until 1964 when a wild fire destroyed the buildings along with all of Van Bergen's records and designs.

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The Historic American Building Survey recognized the importance of Van Bergen's designs as early as 1967. Van Bergen practiced as an architect until 1968. He died in 1969. Despite his large body of extant work and quality of design and construction of his many projects, he is less studied than many of his Prairie School contemporaries. The destruction of his archive of drawings and documents made it difficult to study his work and much of what has been researched has involved documenting his built projects. Van Bergen's work was presented in an exhibition at the Chicago Architecture Foundation researched and organized by Martin Hackl. Van Bergen's work was celebrated in October 2012 with "John Van Bergen Month" – a series of events, tours, lectures and public educational programming about the architect's contribution to design and construction in the Chicago area and nationwide.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL FOUND AT THE IRVING HOUSE

The Prairie School was a late 19th and early 20th century movement of architecture and design that developed in the Midwestern region of the United States. The Prairie School developed simultaneously with the Arts and Crafts Movement in England with both movements forming as a reaction to the Industrial Revolution and sought to promote the work of artists and handcrafting objects and buildings. Frank Lloyd Wright, John Van Bergen and their contemporaries sought to create a truly American style of architecture in contrast to the traditional European-revival styles that were more prevalent in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The later coined term "Prairie School" was created to define the work of several architects whose careers largely developed in the middle part of the United States and whose architecture, with a strong emphasis on horizontality, reflected the traditionally vast open and flat prairie landscapes of Illinois and surrounding areas. Wright and others also promoted the idea of organic architecture, which sought to create buildings whose lines and ornament appear in harmony with the landscape on which they are placed. This approach to design is a striking contrast to traditional European revival architecture that referenced classical elements and forms regardless of the site or context.

The Irving House is representative of the Prairie School and is in the direct lineage of the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and his late 19th and early 20th century designs. With its wide stance and low projecting hipped roofs and wide projecting eaves, the house spreads as broadly as possible on its small urban lot. In section, the house is a split-level configuration with the entry, living room, dining room, sunroom and kitchen exist at grade and the bedrooms are accessed up half a flight of stairs and basement down half a flight of stairs. This configuration serves to keep the body of the house low on the site in contrast to a typical two story house with an attic, effectively achieving the appearance of other Prairie School structures that have the benefit of sprawling across much larger sites.

Exterior cladding of stucco with bands of painted wood trim are further representative of the Prairie School. Bands of casement windows with horizontal panes of glass exist at a majority of the corners of the house rather than the individual punched windows common in many revival style homes. Decorative planters extend from the wall of the building at several locations around the exterior and further the relationship between the landscape and the built house. The front and back entrances are somewhat obscured by these planters, forcing the visitor to discover the entrance to the house as with many of Wright's designs.

The Irving House is similar in plan and massing to the Isabel Roberts House in River Forest, Illinois, which was built in 1908 and published in the Wasmuth Portfolio in 1910. Van Bergen worked in Wright's Oak Park office in 1909 and was the last remaining architect with Isabel Roberts (Wright's office manager) when Wright left for Europe. While Van Bergen's early work has many similarities to that of Wright, interestingly this is quite directly referential to a specific Wright design.

Evanston is home to several other houses and commercial buildings by other Prairie School architects from the late 19th and early 20th century and the relocated Irving House fits into this architectural context with its use of materials, massing, relationship to the landscape and historical context.

CRITERIOR CONSIDERATION B

Despite having been moved from its original lot in Wilmette and being placed on a site with a slightly different size and orientation, the new setting and orientation of the house do not diminish its significance. The current location just over two miles from the original site allow for it to remain in the same type of neighborhood with a similar low density residential character. The siting of the structure, relative width of the lot, approach from the street and vehicular access remain as they were on the original property. The new site and location do not significantly detract from the integrity of the original design. The architecture and interior elements are largely unaltered and intact.

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Cook County, Illinois
County and State

CONCLUSION

The Irving House is a multi-level wood-frame house with stucco cladding and painted wood trim designed by John Van Bergen in 1928 for James Irving. It is located at 2771 Crawford Avenue at the northwest corner of Evanston. The house was originally located at 1318 Isabella Street in Wilmette, Illinois. The house was threatened with demolition and was relocated in October 2014 to a temporary site and then to the current location in March 2015. Overall, the property is in excellent condition due to recent restoration work. Despite the fact that the house has been moved, the quality and condition of the house maintain the integrity of the original John Van Bergen design and local importance. The similarity between the original and new sites does not adversely affect the meeting of Criterion C.

The residence is built in the Prairie School movement and reflects Van Bergen's early influence from his time spent in the Oak Park office of Frank Lloyd Wright. The house is sited with its primary façade facing the street and a relatively large expanse of lawn and landscaping to the street to the south. In massing, the house is a split-level configuration with the primary spaces on the ground floor and the bedrooms up half a flight of stairs and basement down half a flight of stairs. A one and a half story living room faces the street with one story flanking wings projecting to the east and west. The mass of the house is topped by a long, low hipped roof with deep overhanging eaves, creating the strong horizontal emphasis characteristic of the Prairie School. Gutters are built in to the eaves with minimal penetrations through the soffits. This horizontality is further emphasized by grouped casement windows, a broad water table trim board and bands of decorative horizontal trim.

On the interior of the house, much of the original architectural fabric remains. Simple bands of stained pine trim further the Prairie School design, while original geometric light fixtures exist in the living room, dining room and loft, which overlooks the living room. Oak floors and a broad simply detailed brick fireplace are other features that date from the construction of the house. Wood casement windows in a variety of sizes and groupings are all original with the exception of the later aluminum casement windows in the sunroom, which were added later to enclose what was originally an open porch. This space was screened early on and was later enclosed with glass and finally the existing windows were installed in the 1990s.

The Irving House is an excellent example of a Prairie School house with quality of design and intact original materials and a mostly unaltered appearance. With the design by John Van Bergen, one of the prominent Prairie School architects, the house serves an important part of the architectural legacy of the Chicago region and Van Bergen's body of work and design progression.

Irving, James B. House
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brooks, H. Allen. *The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and His Midwest Contemporaries*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1972.

Conduit, Carl W. *The Chicago School of Architecture*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1964.

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Van Bergen, John. "A Plea for Americanism in our Architecture." In *Prairie School Architecture: Studies from the Western Architect*, ed. H. Allen Brooks, 246-267. University of Toronto Press, 1975. Reprinted from *The Western Architect* (April 1915): 24-25.

Wright, Frank Lloyd. *An American Architecture*, ed. Edgar Kaufmann. New York: Horizon Press, 1955.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Wilmette Historical Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

Irving, James B. House
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than 1 acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>42.068958</u>	<u>-87.730552</u>	3	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lot 2 in the Estate of Caroline Gerstenbrand Subdivision in the West Half of Section 33, Township 42 North, Range 13, East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Cook County, Illinois.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This nomination consists of the property currently associated with the James Irving House, 2771 Crawford Avenue, Evanston, Cook County, Illinois.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher J. Enck date 09/01/2016
organization N/A telephone 630-334-0952
street & number 455 Birch Street email cjenck@gmail.com
city or town Winnetka state IL zip code 60093

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)** See Continuation Sheets
- **Local Location Map** See Continuation Sheets
- **Site Plan** See Continuation Sheets
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)** See Continuation Sheets
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

Irving, James B. House
Name of Property

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Irving, James B. House
City or Vicinity: Evanston
County: Cook **State:** Illinois
Photographer: Christopher Enck (Unless Noted Otherwise)
Date Photographed: 09/01/16

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 51

Exterior

- Photo 1: Current view of south façade.
- Photo 2: South façade at original Wilmette site.
- Photo 3: Process of cutting house.
- Photo 4: Close-up view of cut through house.
- Photo 5: Chimney prior to removal.
- Photo 6: Process of raising rear section of house. View from roof.
- Photo 7: Process of raising rear section of house. View in basement.
- Photo 8: Process of raising rear section of house. View in upper level hall.
- Photo 9: Moving of house sections on original Wilmette site. View of rear section.
- Photo 10: Moving of house sections on original Wilmette site. View from roof.
- Photo 11: Moving of house sections on original Wilmette site. View of front section.
- Photo 12: Moving of house sections on original Wilmette site. Front section leaving site.
- Photo 13: Moving of house sections on original Wilmette site. Middle and rear sections.
- Photo 14: Temporary location between moves at Whole Foods, Green Bay Road, Evanston.
Photo from The Evanstonian.
- Photo 15: March 2015 moving of house sections. Front and middle sections.
- Photo 16: March 2015 positioning of sections on new site. Middle and rear sections.
- Photo 17: Raising of sections on new site. Front section.
- Photo 18: Pouring of new foundations below house sections. Front section.
- Photo 19: Typical interior repairs. View of dining room wall looking toward kitchen.
- Photo 20: New roofing and restored built-in gutters. Middle section.
- Photo 21: South façade at new site.
- Photo 22: South façade, west end.
- Photo 23: West façade.
- Photo 24: North façade.
- Photo 25: North and east facades.
- Photo 26: East façade.
- Photo 27: Main entrance.

Irving, James B. House
Name of Property

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Interior:

- Photo 28: Interior of main entrance.
- Photo 29: Entry view toward dining room.
- Photo 30: Entry view toward living room.
- Photo 31: Living room looking south.
- Photo 32: Living room view toward fireplace and loft.
- Photo 33: Living room vestibule toward sunroom.
- Photo 34: Sunroom looking east.
- Photo 35: Sunroom view toward living room.
- Photo 36: Living room fireplace toward dining room.
- Photo 37: Dining room looking southwest.
- Photo 38: Kitchen looking toward dining room.
- Photo 39: Kitchen looking toward rear entrance.
- Photo 40: Stairs looking toward loft.
- Photo 41: Loft.
- Photo 42: Loft looking from stairs.
- Photo 43: Living room viewed from loft.
- Photo 44: Upper level hallway viewed from loft.
- Photo 45: Upper level hallway view of repaired section cut line.
- Photo 46: Master bedroom.
- Photo 47: Master bathroom.
- Photo 48: Northwest bedroom.
- Photo 49: Northeast bedroom.
- Photo 50: Hall bathroom.
- Photo 51: Unfinished basement.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 17

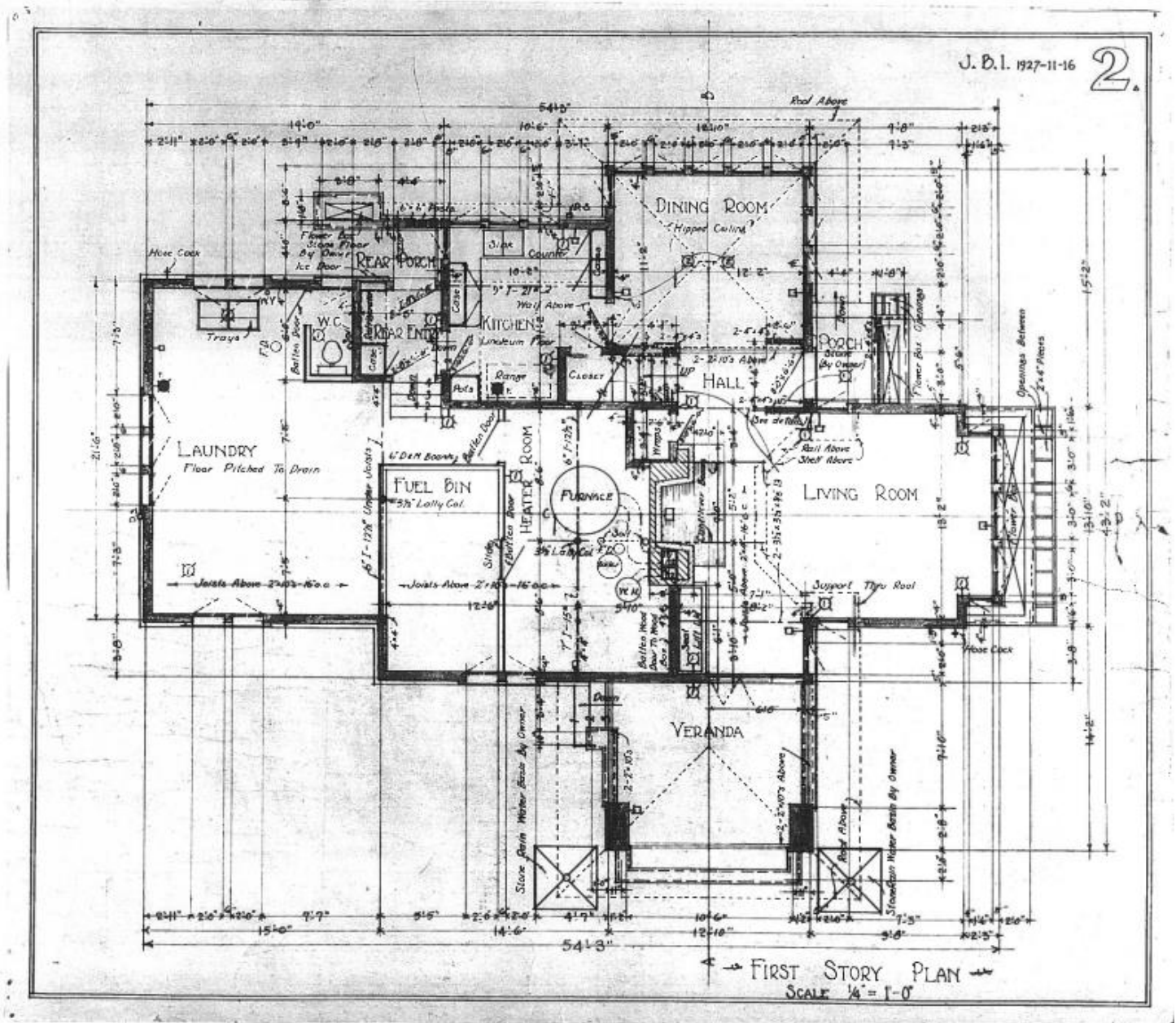


Figure 2: John Van Bergen 1927 drawing - Main level plan.

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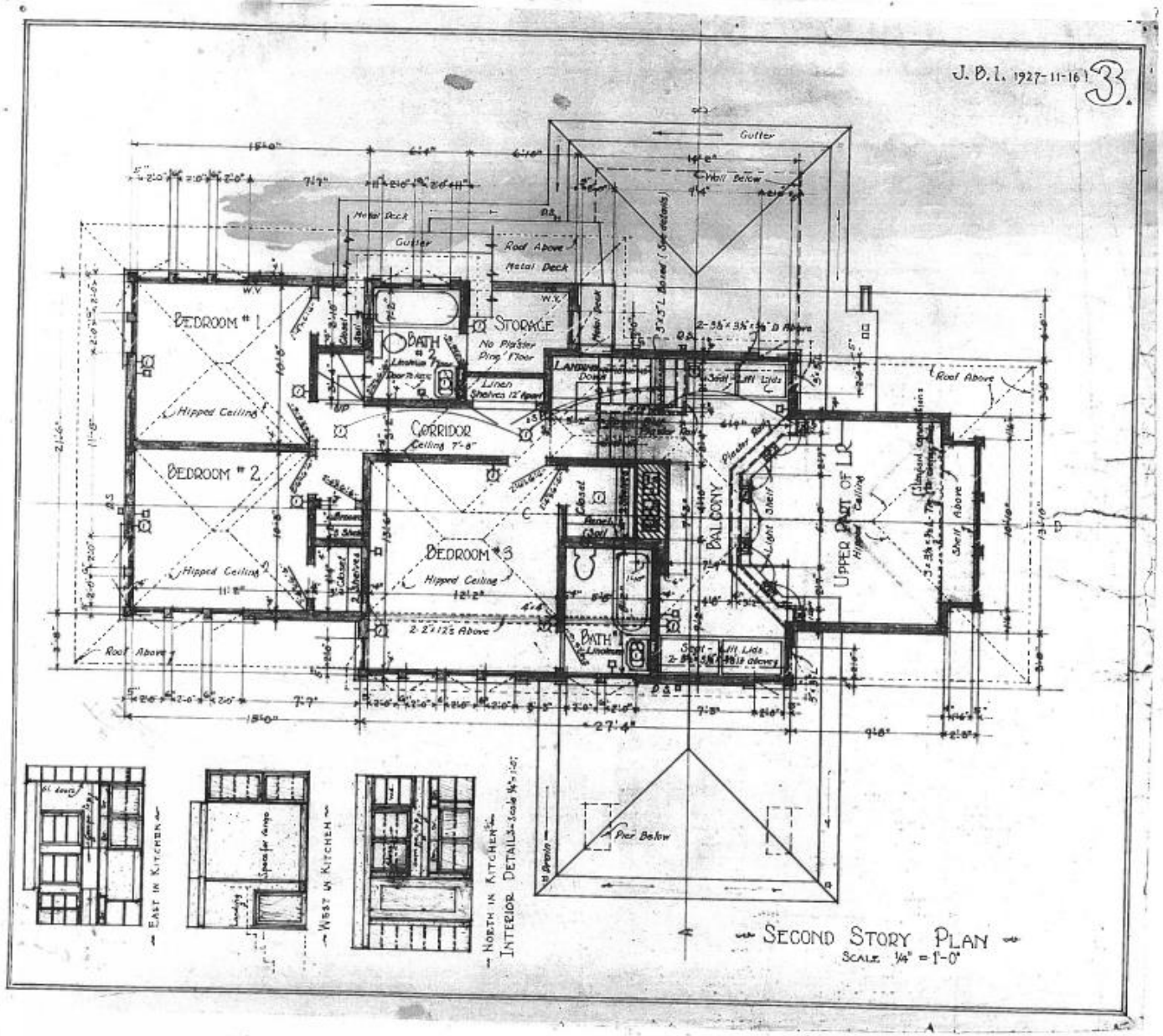


Figure 3: John Van Bergen 1927 drawing - Upper level plan.

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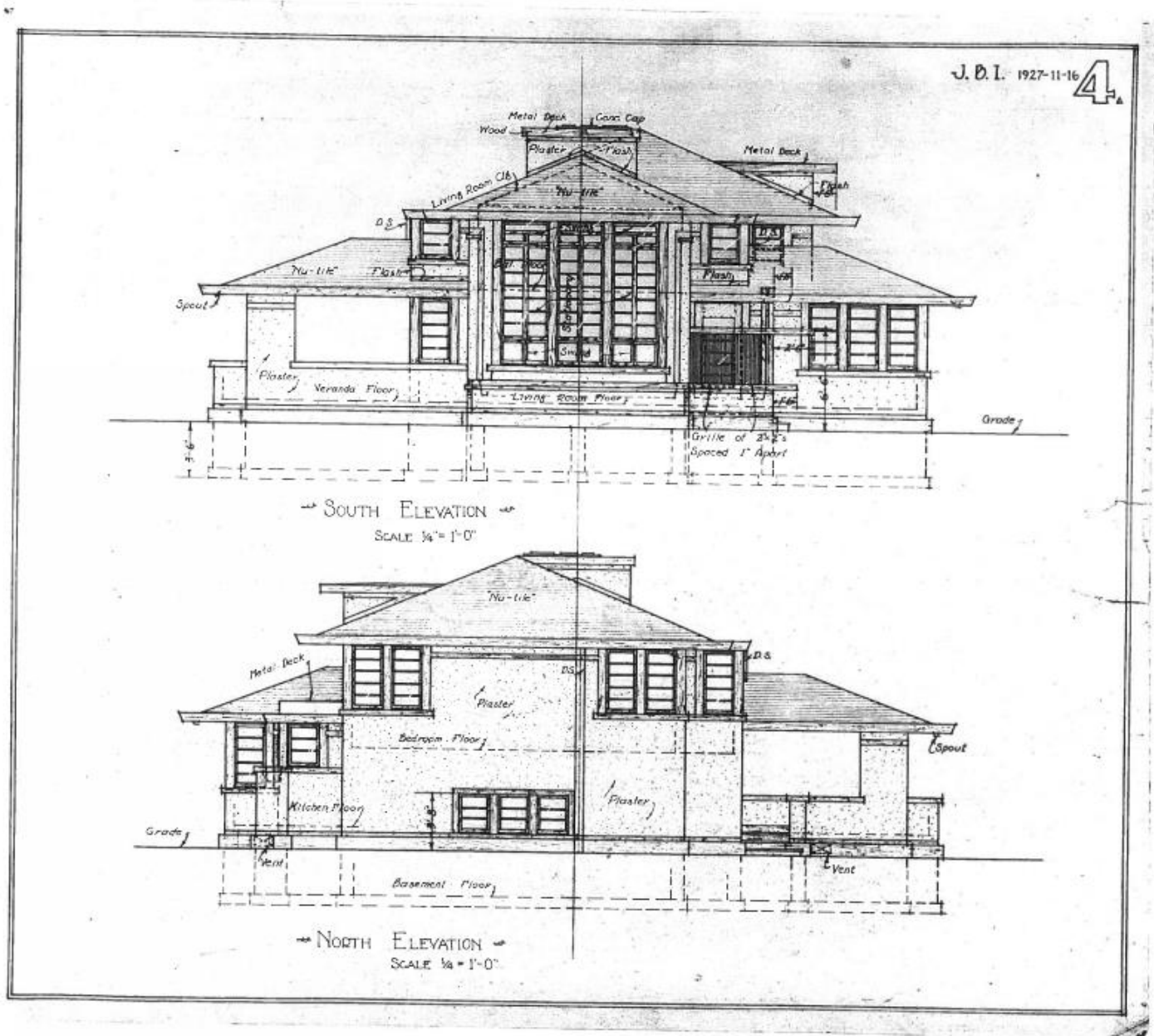


Figure 4: John Van Bergen 1927 drawing - South and north elevations.

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Figure 5: John Van Bergen 1927 drawing - West and east elevations.

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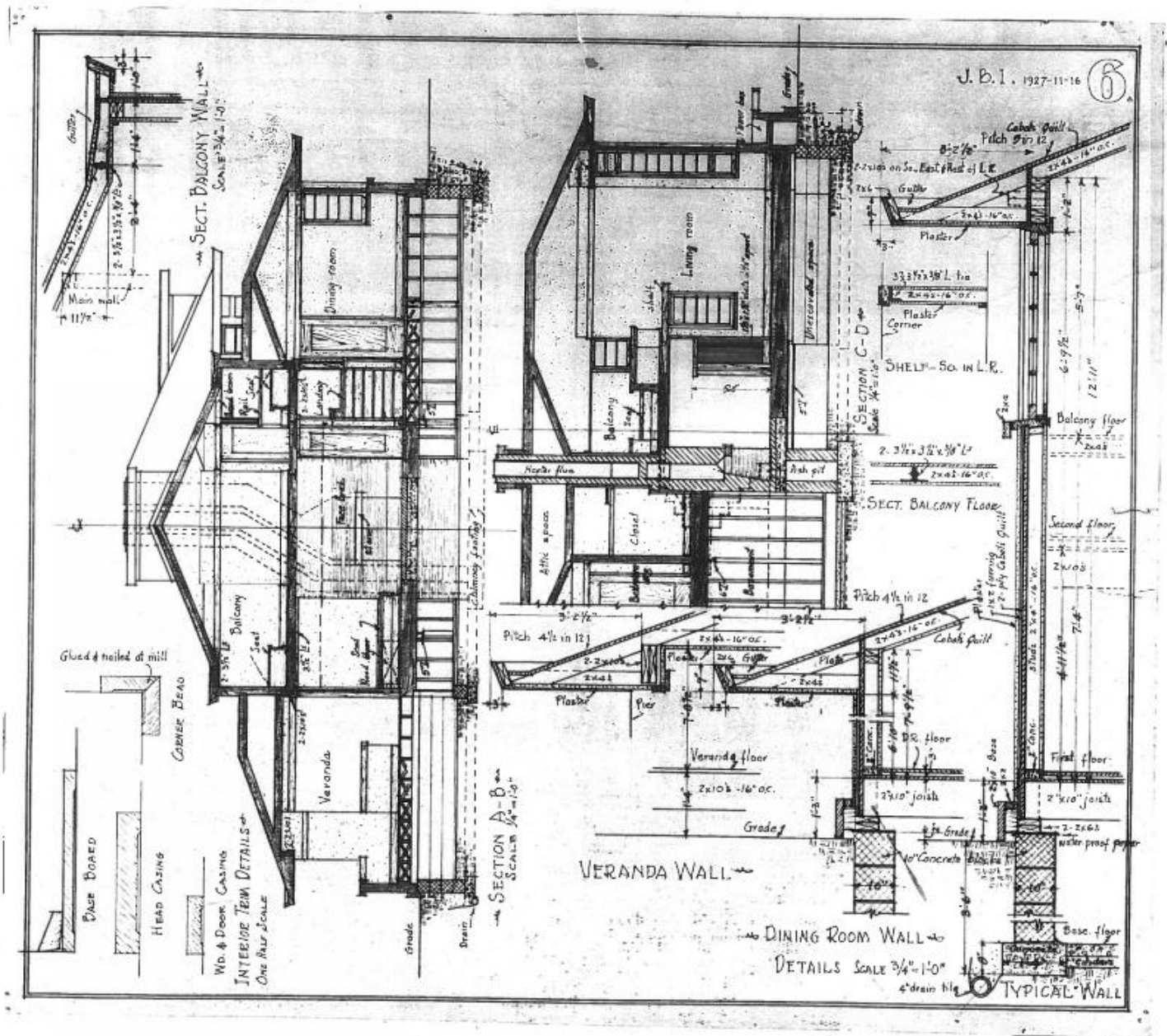


Figure 6: John Van Bergen 1927 drawing - Building sections.

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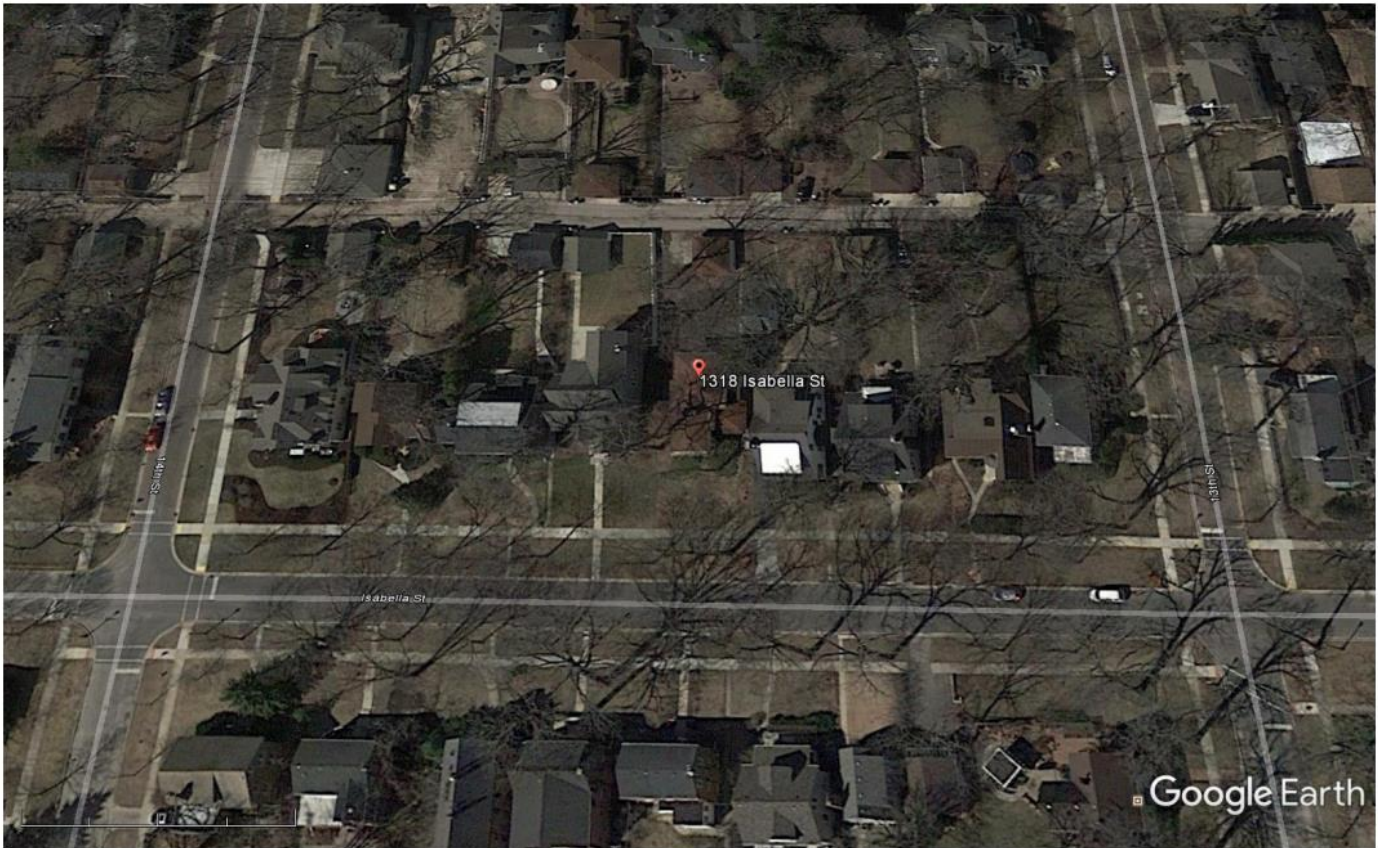


Figure 7: Original building location - 1318 Isabella Street, Wilmette, Illinois.

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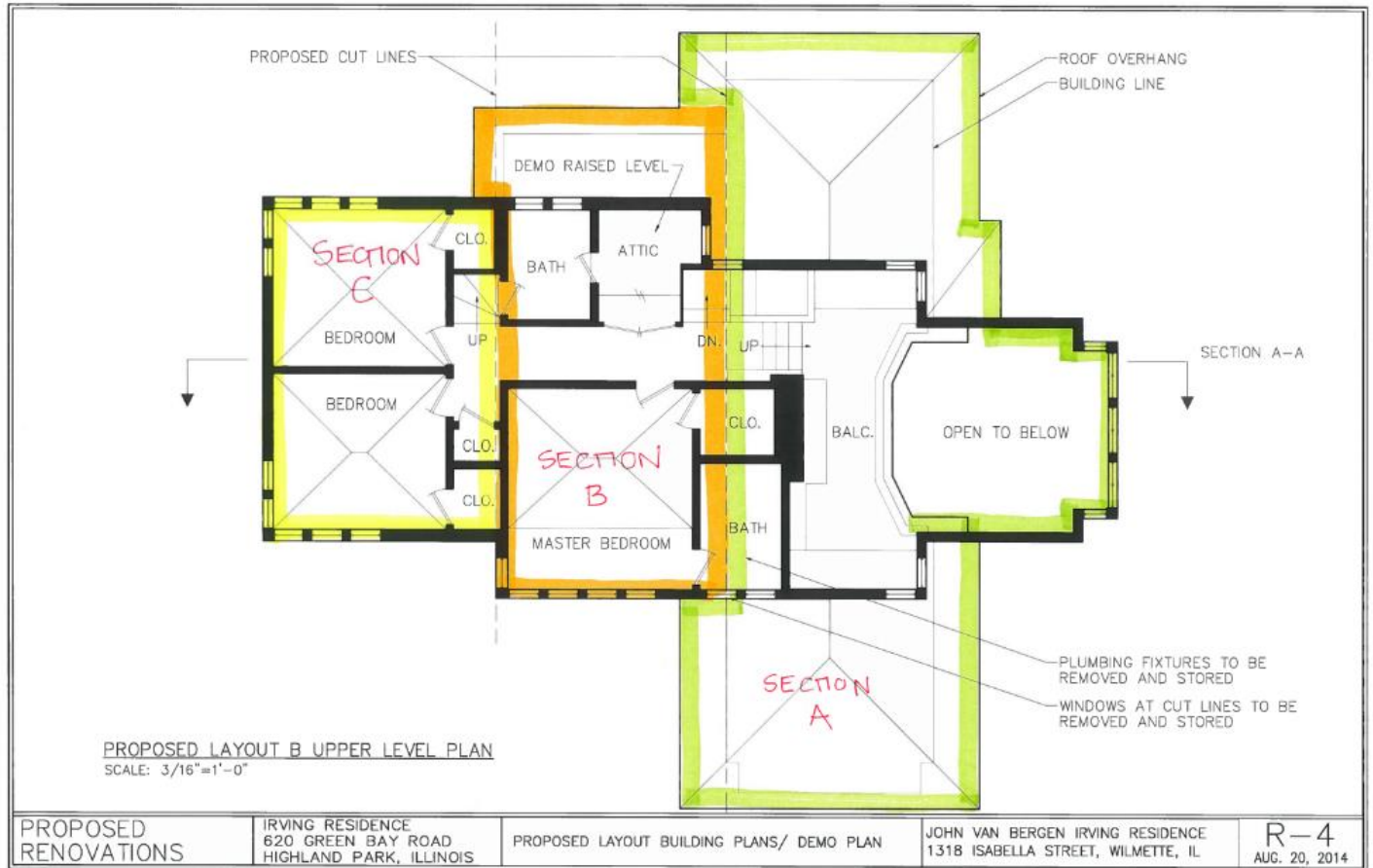


Figure 8: Locations of cut lines for building move.

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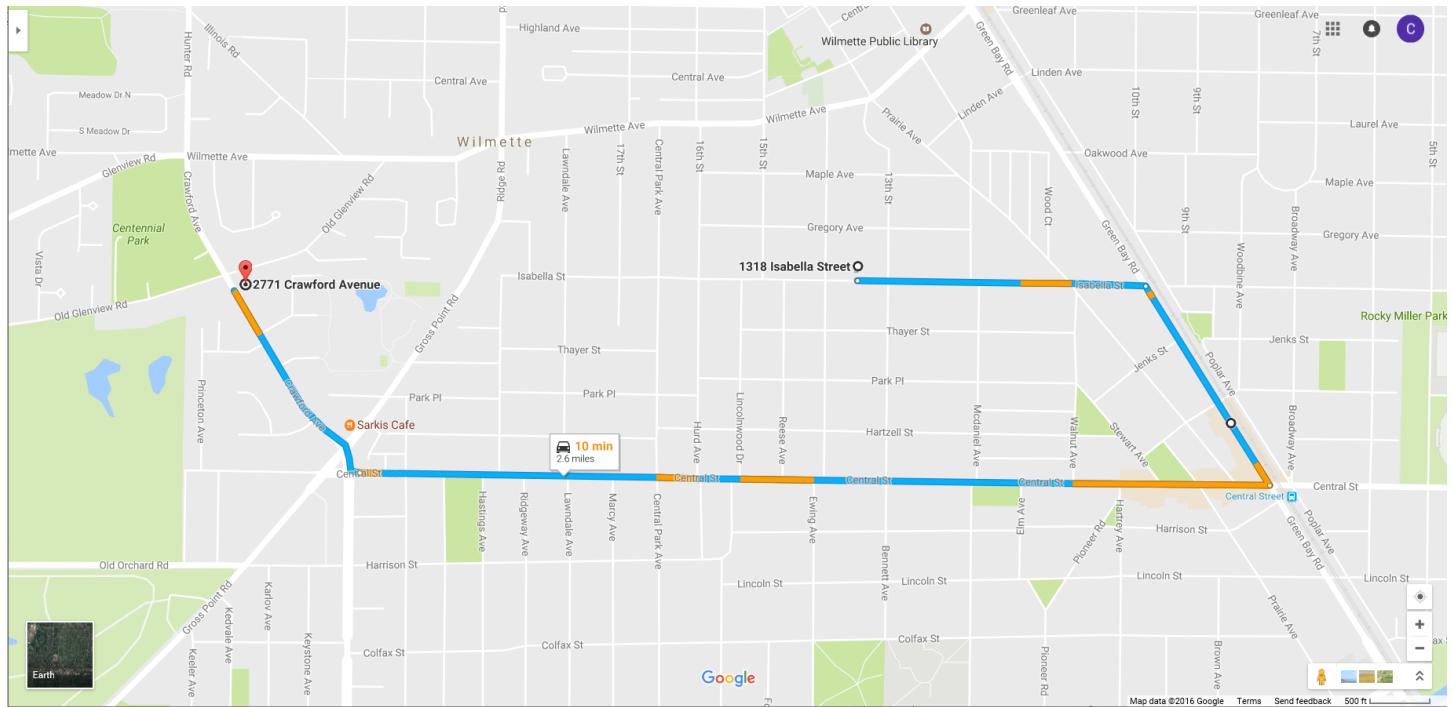


Figure 9: Route of move from original site to current site in Evanston. Map from Google.

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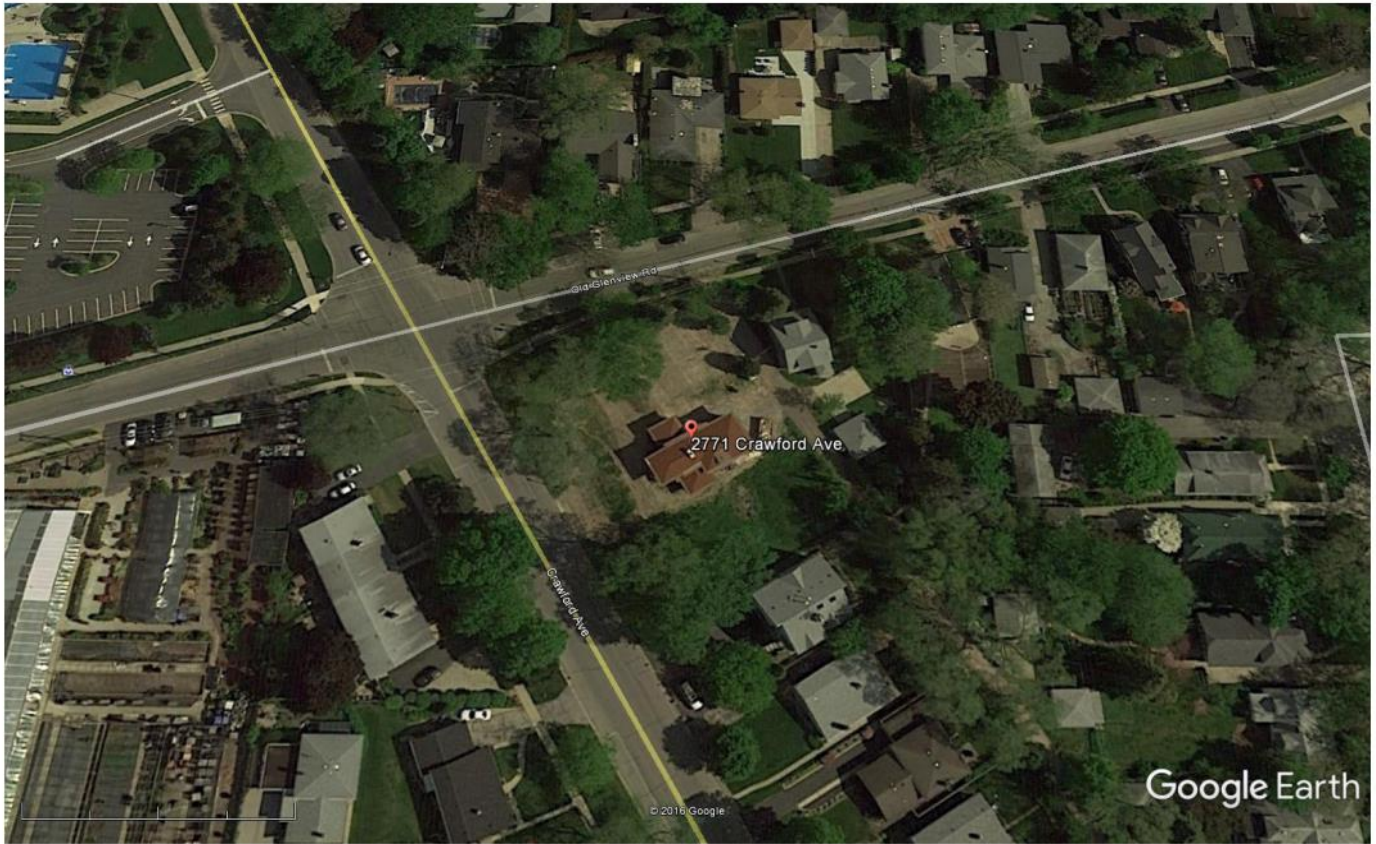


Figure 10: Building location - Latitude 42.068958, Longitude -87.730552.

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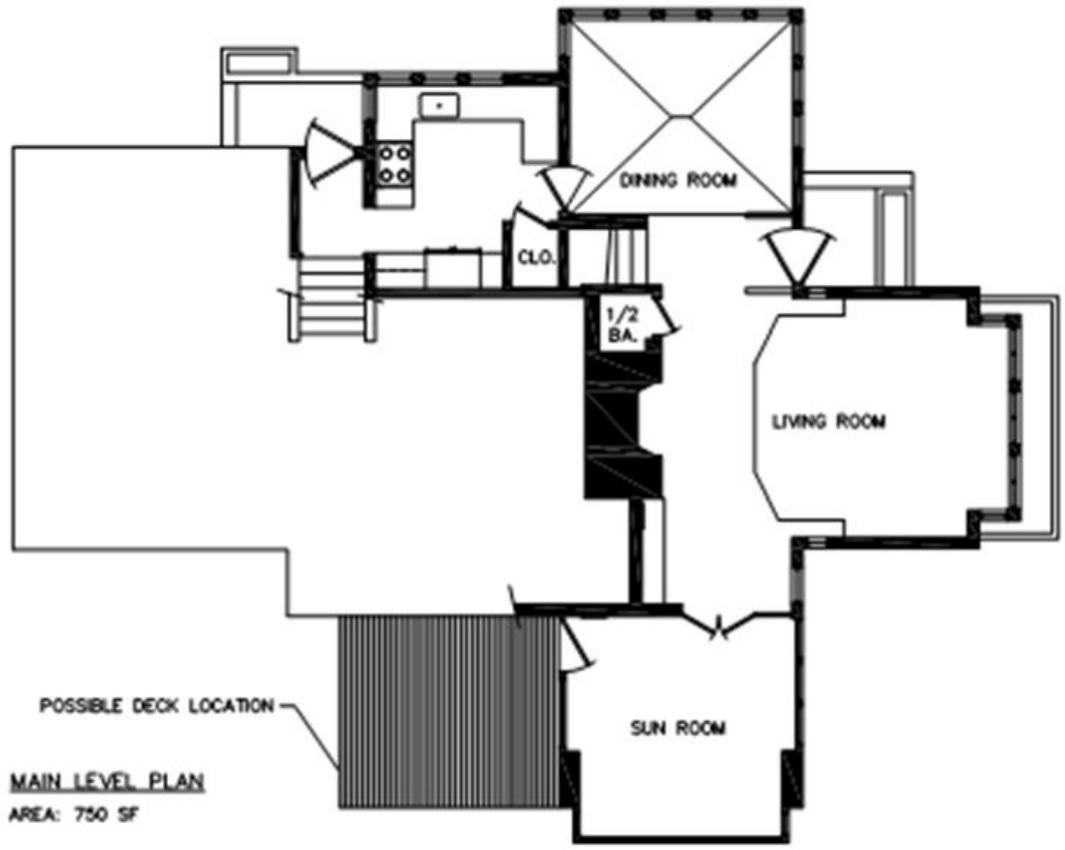


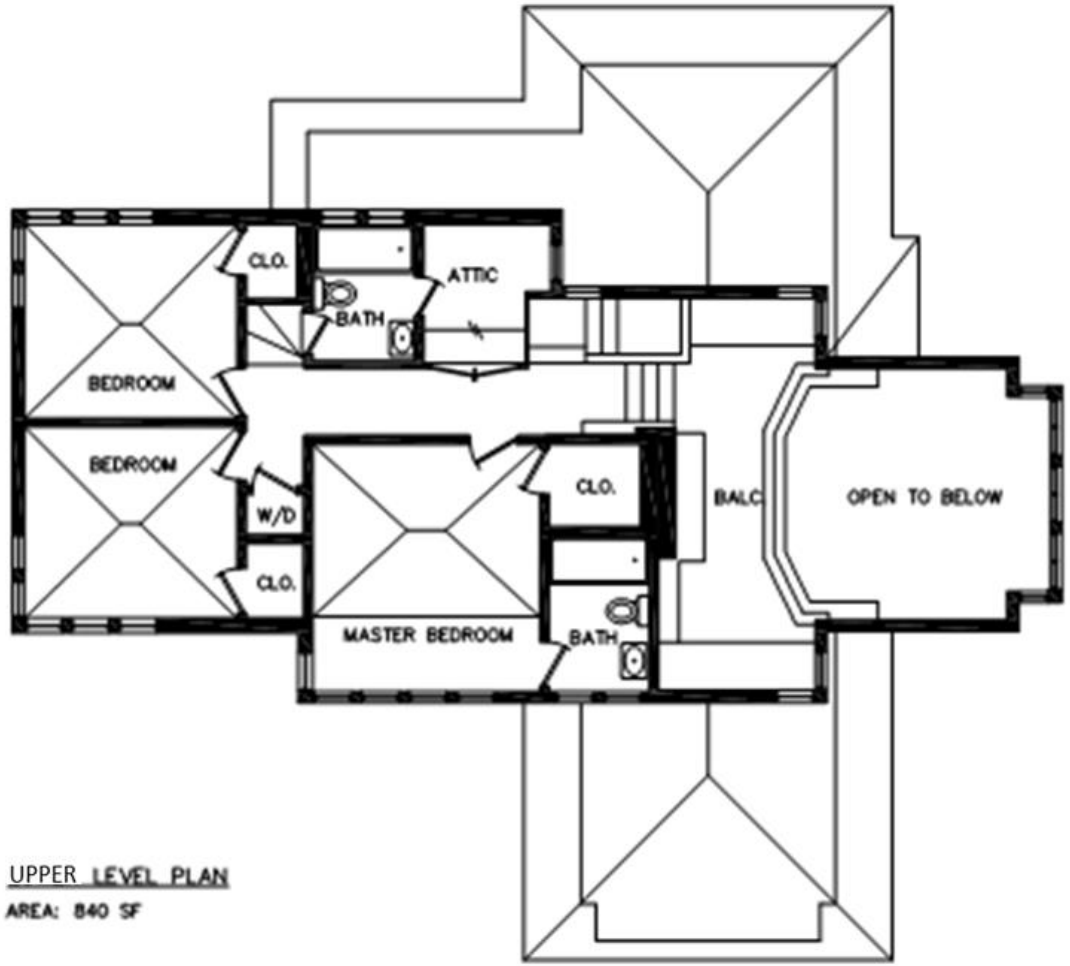
Figure 11: Current main level plan.

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UPPER LEVEL PLAN
AREA: 840 SF

Figure 11: Current upper level plan.

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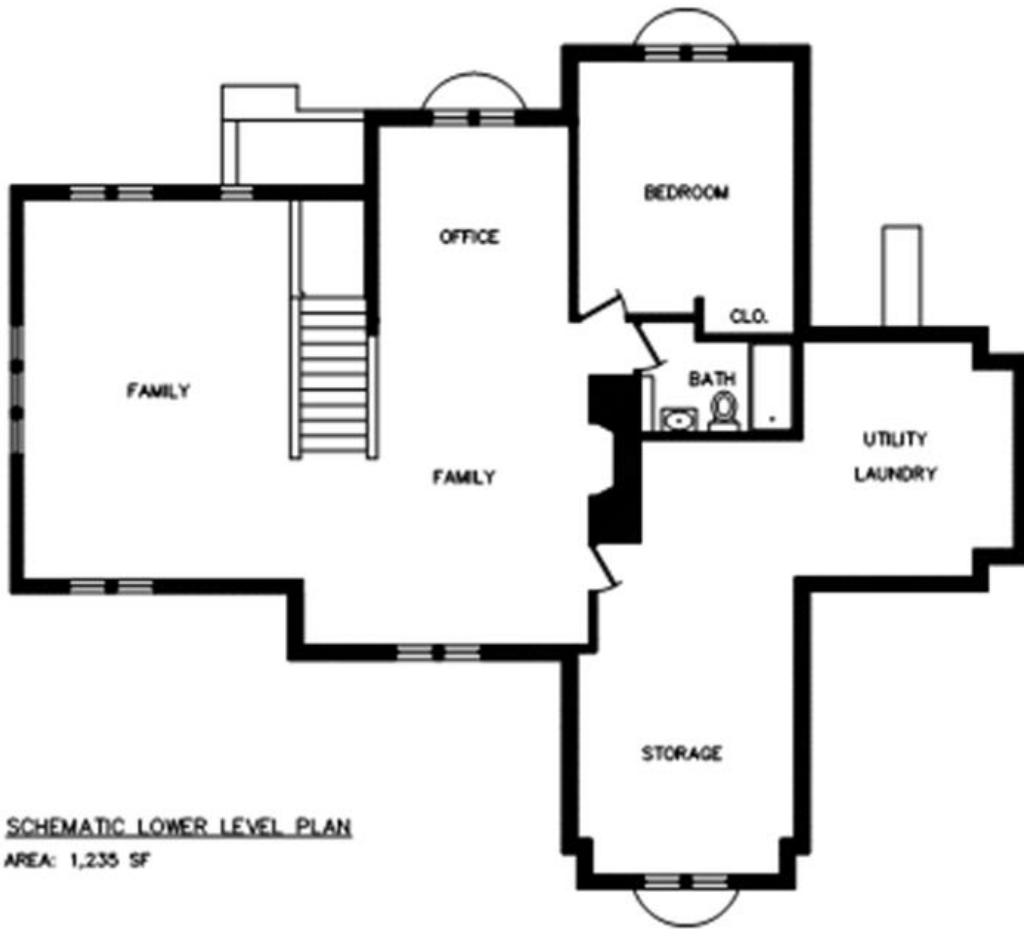


Figure 11: Basement currently unfinished. Schematic plan showing approved layout.

Property name: Irving, James B. House
Illinois, County: Cook



Photo 1: Current view of south façade.



Photo 2: South façade at original Wilmette site.



Photo 3: Process of cutting house.



Photo 4: Close up view of cut through house.



Photo 5: Chimney prior to removal.



Photo 6: Process of raising rear section of house.



Photo 7: Process of raising rear section of house.



Photo 8: Process of raising rear section of house.



Photo 9: Moving of house sections on original Wilmette site.



Photo 10: Moving of house sections on original Wilmette site.



Photo 11: Moving of house sections on original Wilmette site.



Photo 12: Moving of house sections on original Wilmette site.



Photo 13: Moving of house sections on original Wilmette site.



Photo 14: Temporary location between moves at Whole Foods, Green Bay Road, Evanston.



Photo 15: March 2015 moving of house sections.



Photo 16: March 2015 positioning of sections on new site.



Photo 17: Raising of sections on new site.



Photo 18: Pouring of new foundations below house sections.



Photo 19: Typical interior repairs.



Photo 20: New roofing and restored built-in gutters.



Photo 21: South façade at new site.



Photo 22: South façade, west end.



Photo 23: West façade.



Photo 24: North façade.



Photo 25: North and east facades.



Photo 26: East façade.



Photo 27: Main entrance.



Photo 28: Interior of main entrance.



Photo 29: Entry view toward dining room.



Photo 30: Entry view toward living room.



Photo 31: Living room looking south.



Photo 32: Living room view toward fireplace and loft.



Photo 33: Living room vestibule toward sunroom.



Photo 34: Sunroom looking east.



Photo 35: Sunroom view toward living room.



Photo 36: Living room fireplace toward dining room.



Photo 37: Dining room looking southwest.



Photo 38: Kitchen looking toward dining room.



Photo 39: Kitchen looking toward rear entrance.



Photo 40: Stairs looking toward loft.



Photo 41: Loft.



Photo 42: Loft looking from stairs.



Photo 43: Living room viewed from loft.



Photo 44: Upper level hallway viewed from loft.



Photo 45: Upper level hallway view of repaired section cut line.



Photo 46: Master bedroom.



Photo 47: Master bathroom.



Photo 48: Northwest bedroom.



Photo 49: Northeast bedroom.



Photo 50: Hall bathroom.

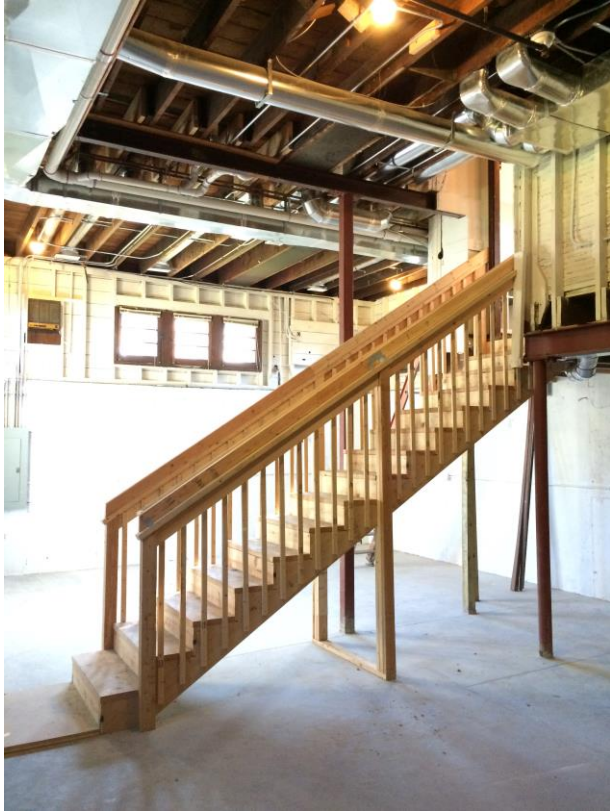


Photo 51: Unfinished basement.