

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**SENT TO D.C.**

10-28-08

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: **Dr. Robert Hohf House**

other names/site number : N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number **303 Sheridan Rd.** not for publication  X  
city or town **Kenilworth**  X vicinity  
state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Cook** code **031**  
zip code **60643**

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  X 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  X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide  X locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

W. L. L. L.  
Signature of certifying official

10-28-08  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

Name of Property **Dr. Robert Hohf House** County and State **Cook County, IL**

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====  
4. National Park Service Certification  
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

___	entered in the National Register	_____	_____
___	See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
___	determined eligible for the	_____	_____
___	National Register	_____	_____
___	See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
___	determined not eligible for the	_____	_____
___	National Register	_____	_____
___	removed from the National Register	_____	_____
___	other (explain): _____	_____	_____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

=====  
5. Classification  
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
___1___	___1___ buildings
___	___ sites
___	___ structures
___	___ objects
___1___	___1___ Total

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **Domestic** Sub: **Single dwelling**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **Domestic** Sub: **Single dwelling**

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **MODERN MOVEMENT** Sub: **International Style**

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation **CONCRETE**

roof **OTHER- TAR AND GRAVEL**

walls **BRICK, WOOD, CEDAR PANELS**

other **PORTE COCHERE: METAL-Aluminum**

**TERRACE PORCH: WOOD-Cedar Posts and Beams**

**PORTALS (Entry, Rear): WOOD- Cedar Posts and Beams**

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheets

=====  
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.

Name of Property **Dr. Robert Hohf House** County and State **Cook, IL**

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) **Architecture**

Period of Significance **1957**

Significant Dates **1957**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation    N/A

Architect: **Keck and Keck**

Builder: **Wieboldt Construction Co.**

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheets

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

   N/A    preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

N/A    previously listed in the National Register

N/A    previously determined eligible by the National Register

N/A    designated a National Historic Landmark

N/A    recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #           

N/A    recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #           

Primary Location of Additional Data

   State Historic Preservation Office

   Other State agency

   Federal agency

   Local government

   University

  X   Other

Name of property **Dr. Robert Hohf House** County and State **Cook, IL**

Name of repository: **Kenilworth Historical Society, Chicago History Museum, Art Institute of Chicago's Ryerson and Burnham Library**

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10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property: **Less than 1 acre**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	_____	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	See Continuation Sheet.					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title **Christine Bernick, Graduate Student in Historic Preservation**

organization **School of the Art Institute** date: **January 16, 2008**

street & number **2450 N. Lakeview Ave.** telephone **773-857-1655**

city or town **Chicago** state **IL.** zip code **60614**

=====  
Additional Documentation  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Name of Property **Dr. Robert Hohf House**

County and State **Cook County, IL.**

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name **Mrs. Nydia Hohf**

street & number **303 Sheridan Rd.** telephone **847-251-2032**

city or town **Kenilworth** state **IL.** zip code **60043**

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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. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7

Page 1

name of property: **Dr. Robert Hohf House**

county and state: **Cook County, IL**

### DESCRIPTION

The Dr .Robert Hohf House, located at 303 Sheridan Rd. in Kenilworth, Illinois, is a single story residence designed by George Fred and William Keck in collaboration with Dr. Hohf. The house was completed in 1957 and is an outstanding example of post –war, modern architecture of the 1950's. The design of the house is derived from International style architecture exhibiting geometric massing, flat walls and roof, large expanses of glass, and minimal ornamentation. In an unusual configuration, the two car garage is situated squarely in front of the house at the midpoint of a long, U-shaped, asphalt driveway. The house is connected to the garage by a white corrugated aluminum canopy. A concrete foundation supports both structures, and the facades are clad in brick and trimmed in white aluminum. The eight room house plan is symmetrical and organized around a large, central light court with an Asian-style pool in the northeast quadrant of the atrium. The house remains in the hands of its original owner and is relatively unchanged from its construction with the exception of air conditioning that was installed in the 1960's and a screened in porch that was added in the early 1970's. The architectural character of the house remains intact, and the residence has retained its integrity in terms of design, feeling, and materials.

### EXTERIOR

The house sits on the east side of Sheridan Road. The residence is setback approximately 100 feet from Sheridan and is tucked behind the garage to provide privacy around the entry. The entry is divided into three bays: the front door and two, floor- to- ceiling fixed windows flanked by aluminum louvers. The black, front door has a flat wood panel with plain white moldings and a filled- in transom. The walls on either side of the front door are clad in imported, Italian, bronze- toned, high- gloss, one-inch glossy mosaic tiles, embedded in grey mortar. They add a richness and warmth to the entrance. The windows are trimmed in white aluminum- matching the fascia above. The front of the house is comprised of two narrow wings and a recessed 38 ft. wide entrance which provides space for a small formal, garden extending along both sides of the front door.

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name of property: **Dr. Robert Hohf House**  
county and state: **Cook County, IL**

The south and north wings of the façade are covered in gunmetal toned brick in a stretcher bond pattern with flush grey mortar joints. A narrow colonnade of cedar posts and beams creates a type of modern loggia at the front entry. Wide enough to provide protection, it is open to allow for maximum natural light at the entrance. A twenty-by-six foot corrugated aluminum porte cochere connects the garage to the house and represents the only visible curves in an otherwise strongly geometric building.

The north and south facades extend approximately 68 ft. and are faced in gunmetal brick. Each façade has three, large, fixed window panes with louvered side panels. A wide swath of landscaping extends along the south wall, softening the angular lines of the building. When the house was constructed, large elm trees along the south façade providing shade and beauty, but they died during the elm blight several years ago and have not been replaced. On the north end of the property, a narrow winding brick path with gardens on either side provides access to the back yard and terrace area. The landscaping was designed by the landscape architect team of Wallace, Atkinson, and Fitzgerald. Mrs. Hohf indicated that the Kecks had selected these landscape designers, as they were familiar with Kecks' design concepts.

The east wall is distinctive in that it is a wall of glass, providing unobstructed views of the back lawn, gardens, and Lake Michigan. The window panes are fixed, but aluminum storm doors, which open off the den and living room, allow access to the backyard and terrace. The roof extends three feet beyond the roofline along the east façade. The extension is supported by a colonnade of slender cedar beams which provides shelter from the sun or rain. The Hohfs initially agreed to Keck's plan of "no porch" along the east facade in order to keep a clean, simple look. But they changed their minds shortly after the house was completed and added a screened in porch sometime in the 1960's. The porch design is in keeping with the original style of the house, incorporating a post and beam construction style.



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name of property: **Dr. Robert Hohf House**  
county and state: **Cook County, IL**

The garage design placed the garage squarely in front of the house. In this way, the Kecks recognized the automobile as an essential part of the new suburban culture<sup>1</sup>. The two-car garage is nearly square and symmetrical, like the residence. It is built of a post and beam construction and clad in gunmetal- toned brick. The garage is entered from the U-shaped asphalt driveway accessed off Sheridan Road; the remote-controlled garage doors allow cars to drive through the garage- entering on the south side and exiting through the north.

### INTERIOR

The front door opens to a large, light filled atrium. The rooms are organized around this sunlit space, characterized by Asian-influenced Shoji screens and a sunken pool/pond. The layout creates fluidness between the common living areas which open off the central court. The screens, with opaque glass panels extend along the north and south walls of the court and can be closed to create a hallway or privacy for the dining or bedroom areas of the residence. The panels are fixed along the west façade. The nine foot square pool, situated in the northeast quadrant of the court, adds a feeling of tranquility to the open, brightly lit space. A bronze fountain designed by Thomas Hibben adds a decorative element to the pond. Richly- colored, four-inch, stone tiles cover the floor, and the entry court walls are paneled with warm-toned cedar. Simple white moldings frame the windows and doors.

Although the central court is open to all the rooms, corridors along the east, north and south interiors are created by colonnades of five cedar beams spaced at six foot intervals. At the end of one "corridor", between the living room and dining room, is a bar area with a sink and built in cabinets. The ceiling of the atrium extends above the roofline and is organized by a grid of cedar panels and skylights. Wraparound, clerestory windows are located just below the skylights, providing light from all cardinal points.

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<sup>1</sup> City of Chicago Landmarks Commission Report. "Keck-Gottschalk- Keck Apartments," 1981.11

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name of property: **Dr. Robert Hohf House**  
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and light. The remaining walls are covered in smooth plaster and painted white. The stone tile floor from the atrium extends into the dining room, creating a feeling of connection between the rooms.

The kitchen is approximately 10' x15' long and is located east of the dining room. It is accessed from the dining room, central court, and den. The room opens to a large window which extends from the countertop to the ceiling along the north wall. The sink and grey Formica counter space are centered in front of the window. White, laminate cabinets with flat panels line the west wall both above and below the counter. A row of upper cabinets is located along the east wall with a counter and open space below for bar stools. The wall area between the cabinets and counter space is wallpapered in a brightly colored pattern with a white background. The ceiling is painted white. The floor is vinyl.

In the northeast corner of the house, the den is a 15' X 20' room with floor- to- ceiling windows along the wall opening to Lake Michigan. A single panel door allows access to the back porch. At the north and south ends of the den are built- in storage cabinets and bookcases. The walls are paneled with cedar, and the windows and doors are trimmed in white aluminum. The floor, like the center court, is tiled in stone.

The living room is a spacious room opening off the center court, with a wall of glass panels facing Lake Michigan, the lawn, and terrace gardens. One section of the glass contains a single door that opens to the terrace. The north wall of the living room is centered on a small fireplace finished in Alberdene soapstone with a simple metal frame. The wall is covered with brick set in a stretcher bond pattern with grey mortar. The walls and ceiling are painted chalk gray. The floor is covered with carpeting, which helps to define the living room space as separate from the entry court.

All four bedrooms are situated along the south side of the home. The 15' X 20' master bedroom, located in the southeast corne, has a spacious feeling with built-in cabinets and closets. A door on the west wall leads to an adjoining bathroom which is

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compartmentalized with the shower/toilet area separated from the twin sinks and countertops.

Three additional bedrooms are situated along the south wall to the west of the master bedroom. They are 10'X15' and similar in design and materials: each has built in drawers, shelving, and closets. Additionally, the rooms are defined by large, fixed-paned windows on the south walls, smooth plaster finishes, and white painted ceiling. The rooms share a common bath, strategically placed to serve as a powder room for guests, as it is off the central court. It has a similar layout as the master bath.

The roof, made of pitch and topped with gravel, originally contained a shallow "cooling pool" - part of Keck's experimentation with solar technology. The concept, first developed for the Bruning house in 1935, was based upon the notion that through reflection and evaporation, the water on the roof would decrease heat transmission by as much as 80%<sup>i</sup>. Another innovative feature that was incorporated into the residence was radiant heat flooring through a hot water system. This feature had first been applied to Kecks' Kellett house in Menasha, Wisconsin in 1940<sup>iii</sup>.

Keck and Keck were awarded the AIA Citation of Merit for Excellence in Residential Architecture for the Hohf house in 1961. The jury indicated that the house was "distinguished by its simple, open plan and well-zoned arrangement of rooms about the interior court <sup>iv</sup>."

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<sup>i</sup> Boyce, Robert. Keck and Keck. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, Inc., 1993, 58.

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid, 76.

<sup>iv</sup>"Chicago Chapter, Honor Awards" *Inland Architect* 4 (1961), 24-37.

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name of property: **Dr. Robert Hohf House**  
county and state: **Cook County, IL**

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**SUMMARY**

The Dr. Robert Hohf House is being nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its significance as an outstanding example of Kenilworth's post World War II residential architecture of the 1950's. Designed by Chicago architects George Fred and William Keck in 1957, in collaboration with Dr. Hohf, the single-story residence is derived from International style architecture exhibiting geometric massing, flat walls and roof, large expanses of glass, and minimal ornamentation. It is relatively unchanged since its construction, except for air conditioning, installed in the early 1960's, as well as a screened-in porch, added ten years later. The integrity of the residence remains intact in terms of its design, materials, and feeling. The home was designed for the Hohf family. Dr. Hohf, who collaborated with the Keck brothers on the project, had a keen interest and aptitude for design. A surgeon at Evanston Hospital, Dr. Hohf helped to design hospital operating rooms, contributed to the design of the Cos Building, a medical building associated with the Hospital, and experimented with designs for pacemakers and aortic shunts. Dr. Hohf configured the basic house plan for the home in which the various living areas radiated off the atrium. According to Mrs. Hohf, George Keck accepted the atrium idea with the stipulation that the center area be open with floor to ceiling windows on all sides. Mrs. Hohf rejected Keck's plan in favor of the present treatment<sup>1</sup>.

**KENILWORTH HISTORY**

During the 1950s, Chicago's suburbs experienced enormous growth as people sought property outside the congested city to raise their families. The North Shore suburbs were particularly attractive because of their proximity to Chicago, quality schools, and beautiful manicured communities. The nine towns that comprise the North Shore grew up along the rail line established in 1866<sup>ii</sup>. Historically, the North Shore has been home to some of Chicago's wealthiest businessmen and professionals who built well-designed homes on spacious, tree-lined streets.

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<sup>1</sup> Interview with Mrs. Hohf, October 12, 2007.

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.nps.gov/history/kenilworth/kenilworth.htm>

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name of property: **Dr. Robert Hohf House**  
county and state: **Cook County, IL**

The village of Kenilworth, Illinois was the newest of the North Shore communities and has always been the smallest. Today, there are approximately 2900 residents and 815 houses. It was established in 1889 by Joseph Sears, who purchased the 224 undeveloped acres, envisioning a homogeneous, family-focused community with large lots, and high standards of construction- no alleys<sup>iii</sup>. The tract of land was sited between the Milwaukee Branch of the North-Western railway on the west and the Lake on the east and by the Mahoney farm to the south and Winnetka Avenue on the north. The property included an existing farmhouse, now the oldest building in the village, located at 329 Sheridan Rd. The Kenilworth name is taken from a town in the Midlands section of England, and its street names are similarly of English origin.

Sears hired Franklin Burnham as Kenilworth's architect and Jens Jensen as its landscape designer. Kenilworth's earliest architecture of the early 1890s and early Twentieth Century was designed by prominent architects who used a variety of Revival styles for the residences. During the same period, George Maher, a contemporary of Frank Lloyd Wright and a Kenilworth resident, designed 40 Prairie style homes in the Village. In the early 1920s, Kenilworth annexed two areas west of Green Bay Road and created the Community Development, and the Brier Street neighborhood situated north of Kenilworth Avenue. Many of the houses built in these newer areas favored variations of modern styles based on historical precedent. And because this section of Kenilworth, commonly referred to as "West Kenilworth," did not have the same deed restrictions as the original Kenilworth tract, the lots and houses tended to be smaller than those properties located east of Green Bay Road.

Kenilworth is one of the most exclusive enclaves in the Midwest. The average resident's median income is estimated at nearly one million dollars, and the median home value is one and one half million dollars. Kenilworth has been listed as one of the most affluent communities in America by Forbes magazine in 2005 and 2006<sup>iv</sup>. And in 2007, Forbes listed Kenilworth as the 19<sup>th</sup> most expensive zip code in the United States<sup>v</sup>. But Kenilworth gained notoriety recently, not for its wealth, but for its mismanagement of historic resources. In 2006, the National Trust

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<sup>iii</sup>Kilner, Colleen Browne. Joseph Sears and Kenilworth. Kenilworth, Illinois: Kenilworth Historical Society, 1990, 151.

<sup>iv</sup> Menocal, Narciso G., "Keck and Keck Architects," Elvehjem Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1980.

<sup>v</sup> <http://www.villageofkenilworth.org/history.html>

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placed Kenilworth on its' "Eleven Most Endangered Places" list- for the high number of demolitions of historic residences<sup>vi</sup>.

### EARLY WORK OF KECK AND KECK

The Keck and Keck team that designed the Hohf's house were brothers. They were born in Watertown, Wisconsin. George Frederick, the eldest of five boys, was born in 1895. He studied engineering for one year at the University of Wisconsin after which he enrolled in an architecture engineering program at the University of Illinois. During the building boom of the 1920s, he moved to Chicago and worked as a draftsman for a number of architects including Burnham and Root, and Schmidt, Garden, and Erickson<sup>vii</sup>. Keck opened his own practice in 1926 and was joined in 1931 by his younger brother, William, who had recently completed architecture training. George Keck was strongly influenced by the European modernist design philosophy that began with the Deutscher Werkbund movement, founded in 1905 by Herman Muthesius, Peter Behrens, and other German architects<sup>viii</sup>. Other influences included the Bauhaus school and a variety of progressive architects including, Corbusier, Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Buckminster Fuller.

In the early 1920s, various types of European modernism, including expressionism, futurism, and functionalism merged to become known as the "International style". The name was derived from the 1932 exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art entitled "International Style Architecture Since 1922" which showed the works of 50 artists from 16 different countries. Henry Russell Hitchcock and Phillip Johnson, the creators of the exhibit, published the book, The International Style, based upon the exhibit. Their book became the "Bible" of the modernist movement and secured the name of this avant-garde style. In the book, Hitchcock and Johnson defined three, central features of the International style: volume, defined by plane surfaces bounding a space, rather than massing; regularity – an aesthetic principle rather than an axial plan, and the avoidance of applied decoration<sup>ix</sup>. The new style placed emphasis on the "intrinsic elegance of materials, technical perfection, and fine proportion of buildings" rather than on extraneous

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<sup>vi</sup> Ibid.

<sup>vii</sup> <http://www.hohfhouse.com/trust.org>

<sup>viii</sup> Boyce, 24.

<sup>ix</sup> Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. The International Style. New York: W.W. Norton and Co., Inc., 1966, 90.

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name of property: **Dr. Robert Hohf House**  
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ornamentation. In Chicago and globally, Mies van der Rohe became the figurehead whose works became the new expression of the International style. Mies was the former head of the Bauhaus, a progressive school for the arts founded by Walter Gropius in 1919. He left Germany in 1938 to become head of Chicago's Armour Institute of Technology, which later became Illinois Institute of Technology. Keck admired and was influenced by his works, but did not rigidly adhere to the International style. Although the Kecks never attained Miens' status, they were generally recognized as influential teachers and innovators within the Chicago School of Architecture<sup>x</sup>.

One of Kecks' earliest buildings, which reflected the simplification of design and rational plan of the International style, was the Miralago Ballroom in Wilmette, completed in 1929. This two-story, steel framed, white stucco building with reinforced concrete slabs that cantilevered at the second floor, was a precursor to later International style buildings in Chicago. One of Keck's early apartment buildings, the Cruger Apartments, built in Elmhurst in 1926, exhibited similar European influences. The three-story brick building was a simplified building with minimal ornamentation, a flat roof and walls, and a symmetrical plan<sup>xi</sup>.

### CENTURY OF PROGRESS 1933-1934

Chicago's Century of Progress Exposition in 1933-1934, an exposition marking the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Chicago's founding, was a celebration of modernism and provided Keck and Keck with an opportunity to display their newest projects: two modern houses designed for the Exposition's Home and Industrial Arts exhibit. The exhibit featured the latest in housing design and technology. Keck's 1933 House of Tomorrow was a steel-frame, three-story building covered in fixed tinted glass. It had a 12 sided floor plan, a sundeck with metal pipe railings, fully electric kitchen, wedge shaped rooms, and a garage with electrically operated doors. Many architects believed that the design had been influenced by Buckminster Fuller's Dymaxion House because of its use of advanced technological devices and materials. However, Keck clarified that it evolved from the study of an octagonal house built in 1854 in Watertown, Wisconsin. Keck conceived of the idea of heating a house by solar energy during construction of the House of Tomorrow on a frigid day in February, 1934. Although only ten degrees Fahrenheit

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<sup>x</sup> Klimovich, Don. "The Makers of the Chicago School." *Chicago*. May, 1976. 88.

<sup>xi</sup> Menocal, 11.

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outside, the men working inside this unheated glass structure were working comfortably in their shirt sleeves. Keck realized that the sun shining through the glass created a greenhouse effect. From that point forward, Keck experimented with solar heating in all his future buildings. While passive solar heating had been introduced in Europe in the early 1930's, it was Keck who became an early pioneer of solar heating in the United States. The House of Tomorrow was moved to Beverly Shores, Indiana and is owned by the National Park Service.

Keck's second Exposition entry, the Crystal House, was designed in 1934 and grabbed even more attention than their House of Tomorrow. It was sheathed entirely in glass and supported by exterior steel trusses. The rooms surrounded a central shaft which held pipes for the water, heating, and air conditioning. Movable wardrobes took the place of closets, and all lighting was portable<sup>xii</sup>. The Crystal House had a spatial fluidity that allowed for flexibility. Like Corbusier, who placed emphasis on the house as a "machine for living," Keck embraced functionalism as an essential principle in his designs.<sup>xiii</sup>

Modernism was hardly a popular aesthetic in the early 1930's. In fact, a survey of random citizens initiated by *Architectural Forum* and *Fortune Quarterly* in 1935 reflected this sentiment. Whereas 59% indicated they favored traditional architecture, only 35 % preferred modern style. But Keck was undeterred. He wrote an article for the *Architectural Forum*, May 1942, in which he expressed his thoughts about Revivalist design: "No intelligent person would build in a traditional manner today; it is only the badly trained architect who still harps on traditional at all. Houses, like religion are bound up with emotion and tradition, both obscure and vague and undefinable terms. Get rid of emotion and tradition and get to the facts and needs of contemporary construction, and you get good results ...the old crop (of architects) must die off, and I hope it will die off soon, for there has been too much muddled thinking in architecture"<sup>xiv</sup>

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<sup>xiii</sup> Menocal, 15.

<sup>xiv</sup> "A Portfolio of Modern Houses: George Keck, Architect," *Architectural Forum* 77 (1942) 67-82.



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### **KECK AND KECKS EARLY 1930S WORK**

Although there was general resistance to modern architecture, some people were captivated by Kecks' Century of Progress Houses and sought them out to design their modern style homes. Kecks' early homes were designed for Dr. Albert Leigh of Kaukauna, Wisconsin and for James Peterson of Wilmette. Both of the houses incorporated simple geometric lines, flat roofs, and white stucco facades similar to Kecks' International style Miralago design<sup>xv</sup>.

Kecks' mastery of the International style and technological innovation was evidenced in two Chicago-area residential designs from the late 1930's: the Herbert Bruning House in Wilmette and the Keck-Gottschalk-Keck apartment in Chicago. Bruning's white stucco house featured a welded steel frame, external aluminum Venetian blinds, radiant heat flooring, and an interior staircase sheathed on the exterior in glass block. A flat, concrete slab roof supported a thin layer of water to cool the house by evaporation in hot weather. The Keck-Gottschalk-Keck apartments in Chicago were completed in 1937. The four story building is arranged with three residences above a three car garage on a long, narrow lot. It is a steel frame structure, clad in masonry, with large windows, flat roof, no extraneous ornamentation, and a well-proportioned façade. It was landmarked by the City of Chicago in 1980 and is considered among the best, early examples of International style designs in Chicago<sup>xvi</sup>.

Technological advances commonly incorporated into Keck designs included exterior aluminum louvered blinds, cooling pools on roofs, and radiant heat flooring. Keck developed the external Venetian blind in 1935. Three inches deep with a two and a half inch vertical spacing between them, the blinds allowed for regulation of light and air. Outside air entered through the louvered panels and could be regulated from inside the rooms. On the interior, cabinet door over the louvers could be opened or closed, as needed<sup>xvii</sup>. Inspiration for the blinds was said to have come from Keck's observation of operable metal and wood shutters during his tour of duty in France in WWI<sup>xviii</sup>. Another innovation, designed by Kecks in the 1930s, was the cooling pond: a flat,

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<sup>xv</sup> Boyce,

<sup>xvi</sup> City of Chicago Commission on Chicago Landmarks Report for "Keck-Gottschalk-Keck Apartments." August 3, 1984. 20.

<sup>xvii</sup> Menocal, 19.

<sup>xviii</sup> Miller, Nory. "Fred Keck at 81, Hit of Show after 56 Years." *Inland Architect* (May, 1976). 9.

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pan-like roof that held one inch of water and acted as a type of air conditioning by preventing heat absorption through the roof.<sup>xix</sup> During the mid and late 1930's, the Kecks began using radiant heat flooring in their house designs. Although this technology dated back to Roman times, Frank Lloyd Wright was one of the first American architects who incorporated this "old" technology into his home designs. Keck introduced radiant heating in his design of the Kellett House in 1936<sup>xx</sup>

### KENILWORTH'S ARCHITECTURE OF THE THIRTIES

Shortly after opening his practice in 1926, George Fred designed many homes in the popular Revival styles of the day, including the homes he designed in the Indian Hill subdivision of Wilmette. At same time, he designed two colonial revival homes in West Kenilworth. Revival architecture continued to be popular in Kenilworth during the late thirties, but it took on modern variations with horizontal emphasis and elimination of traditional details. The architectural team of Raymond F. Houlihan and Clarence Hemphill designed and built 37 such Revival style residences in the mid-to- late thirties, mostly in the Common Development neighborhood<sup>xxi</sup>. Two houses designed by the pair were also built at 159 (1936) and 175 (1937) Sheridan Road.

The architecture of the Brier Street neighborhood during the mid 1920s and 30s was more varied and modern than that in other sections of Kenilworth. Good examples of "modern" Revival style houses were designed by architects, Lloyd Morgan Yost, Keck and Keck, and Perkins, Wheeler and Will. A good example of this style is located at 618 Melrose. The "modern" emphasis is expressed by the incorporation of open floor plans, attached garages, and a new orientation towards the back yard rather than the street. At 627 Melrose, Winnetka architect Ernst A. Benkert designed an early example of a split level home (1939), but the house was recently razed<sup>xxii</sup>. Also in the Brier Street area, was a modern home designed by Bertrand Goldberg and completed in 1940. This one story home, located at 636 Wayland Ave., had large panes of glass

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<sup>xix</sup> Miller. 9.

<sup>xx</sup> Boyce

<sup>xxi</sup> Kweder, Melinda. "The Suburban Ideal Revisited: Architecture and Neighborhoods in Kenilworth," An Exhibit at the Kenilworth Historical Society, December, 2005, p. 17.

<sup>xxii</sup> Report for Building Review Commission, Village of Kenilworth. Prepared by Kathleen Cummings, 9/12/06,p.8.

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and featured ribbon windows wrapping around corners, a nearly flat roof, a smooth unadorned façade, and an asymmetrical façade. The house has also been demolished. Both residences designed by Kecks in the 30s are intact, along with many colonial revival homes of the period.

### KECK AND KECKS POST-WAR ARCHITECTURE

The Depression and World War II stopped most large scale development and residential construction throughout the country and the North Shore. When building began again in the forties, houses based on historical precedent remained dominant, although modern styles were becoming more popular. The Kecks' popularity grew as they continued to design modern homes around the North Shore area, averaging 22 projects a year during the 1950s<sup>xxiii</sup>. In 1952, the Kecks embarked upon their first market/ builder project on the theory that mass produced houses could be well-designed. In Glencoc's Forest Crest subdivision, created by developer Harold Friedman, the Kecks designed 28 houses, incorporating the latest modern designs and technology into each house. The properties sold quickly as modern style architecture grew in popularity. The homes were designed as affordable middle class homes that featured Kecks characteristic features: flat roofs, overhangs, floor to ceiling windows with side vents and heated floors. Many of the Forest Crest residences remain intact, but some have been replaced with larger, revival style homes<sup>xxiv</sup>.

### KENILWORTH'S POST-WAR ARCHITECTURE

Although revival style houses, that first became popular in the thirties, remained dominant in the post-war forties and fifties, Kenilworth's post war architecture also reflected America's changing and more relaxed lifestyle. Ranch houses became the new expression of modern architecture after the War with their open floor plans, attached garages, large windows, and orientation to back yards. Jerome Cerny and Edward Marks were two popular North Shore architects who designed several ranch style houses in Kenilworth. Cerny was a revivalist who brought open

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<sup>xxiii</sup> Boyce, 109.

<sup>xxiv</sup> Black, Lisa. "Neighbors Rally for Aging Homes." *Chicago Tribune*, July 26, 2003.

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Sheridan Road. Like most ranch houses, these homes were long, low to the ground and with minimal interior and exterior decoration. But unlike many ranch houses, Kenilworth's ranch houses were customized and not prefabricated<sup>xxv</sup>. Their simplicity and materials, mostly stone and brick, were in keeping with the revival style residences on the street. One fine examples of Cerny's ranch style is situated just south of the Hohf residence at 233 Sheridan Rd. Several have recently been demolished.

Edward Marks established his architectural practice in 1950 and became associated with the architect Clarence Hemphill in 1955. He designed several ranch style homes in Kenilworth, including one of his few remaining ranches at 112 Oxford<sup>xxvi</sup>. The small ranch at 112 Oxford has a low-pitched roof and an H-shaped plan. The front facing gables have decorative plaster ornament characteristic of Mark's works<sup>xxvii</sup>. The house just east of this residence is similar in style and size. Ranch houses designed by Marks were also built on Tudor Place in the early fifties, but many have been replaced by two-story revivalist designed residences<sup>xxviii</sup>.

### HOHF PROPERTY AT 303 SHERIDAN ROAD

According to historical records, the earliest homes in the area of the Hohf's property were the George Mathews farmhouse ( which predated the Kenilworth settlement) at 329 Sheridan Rd., the George Cutter House (1892) at 311 Sheridan Rd., and the Dr. Charles Adams House (1891) at 165-175 Sheridan houses<sup>xxix</sup>. In 1887, a nine hole golf course was established on the west side of Sheridan, with two holes on the east side of Sheridan between the Adams and Matthews house. The course was abandoned in 1920 to permit residential development of the land, and Woodstock Avenue was extended to Sheridan Road. The 1938 Sanborn map of Kenilworth indicates the existence of five residences between the farmhouse at 329 Sheridan to the north and Dr. Adams property. Two of the "newer properties" were 159 and 175 Sheridan Rd.- both designed by Houlihan and Hemphill. The residences were brick clad, colonial revival style residences. They remain intact today.

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<sup>xxv</sup> Cummings, 11/25/07, 4.

<sup>xxvi</sup> Cummings, 12/2/05, 3.

<sup>xxvii</sup> Cummings, 12/5/05, 1.

<sup>xxviii</sup> Report for Building Review Commission, Village of Kenilworth, Prepared by Kathleen Cummings, 7/26/06, 3.

<sup>xxix</sup> Early Kenilworth maps. Kenilworth Historical Society

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The Hohfs purchased their property at the intersection of Sheridan Road and Woodstock in 1956 when Mr. Livingston, of rye bread fame, decided to break up his 425 Foot estate along Sheridan Rd. and sell it into 100 ft. parcels. Charles Percy acquired the 100 ft. immediately south of his property, the old farmhouse, at 329 Sheridan Rd. in 1961 in order to build a swimming pool<sup>xxx</sup>. The same year the Woolards purchased the parcel immediately south of Percy and built a California ranch style residence on the property. The Hohfs purchased their land to the south of Woolards in 1957 and built their modern style home in 1958. On the last parcel to the south of Hohfs, a ranch style home was built in 1959.

The architecture along the west side of Sheridan Road emerged after the golf course was abandoned in the early 1920's. Seven Tudor, French eclectic, and colonial revival style homes were built along Sheridan in the 1920s and 1930s, three more revival style houses were completed in the 1950s, and a recent revival style home was constructed in 1990 at 242 Sheridan Road. An early example of a Prairie style homes, designed by George Maher is located at 300 Sheridan Road.

The Hohf's house is significant as an outstanding and unusual example of modern post-war architecture in Kenilworth. First, there are no other International style residences in Kenilworth. The "modern" styles of Kenilworth architecture were revival styles with horizontal emphasis and reduced ornamentation in the twenties and thirties and ranch style homes after the War. Not only is the design derived from International style with its simple, one-story geometric massing pattern, flat roof, and unadorned facades, but the house also incorporates several technologically sophisticated features characteristic of Keck and Kecks architecture. These include radiant heat flooring, cooling pools, exterior window louvers, and a remote controlled garage door. The house has excellent integrity in terms of design, materials, and feeling and is significant because of its pristine condition. Lastly, the Hohf House remains in the hands of its original owner, Mrs. Nydia Hohf, who has graciously opened her house to tell its story.

The Kecks were awarded a Certificate of Merit in Residential Design for the Hohf House in 1961 by the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects: the jury indicated that the house was "distinguished by its simple open plan and the well-zoned arrangement of rooms

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<sup>xxx</sup> Kenilworth Historical Society, "George Cutter", 61.

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about the interior court”<sup>xxxii</sup>. The Kecks received renewed recognition as a result of a major architectural show in 1976 exhibiting in Chicago, New York and Boston, entitled: “One Hundred Years of Chicago Architecture.”<sup>xxxii</sup> In 1979, the Kecks were honored for their early work in solar energy by the International Solar Engineering Society, and in April, 1980, the University of Illinois School of Architecture awarded George its Medal of Honor. But George Fred received his most significant award one day before his death when he was awarded the first Distinguished Service Award of the Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Architects for his 50 years of “distinguished architectural practice which pioneered many concepts in design and technology”<sup>xxxiii</sup>. Keck and Keck brought modern architectural concepts and technological advances to residential design in the United States. The Hohf House in Kenilworth exemplifies the integration of Keck and Keck’s architectural design and technological genius. It is a timeless piece of Kenilworth architecture that merits recognition on the National Register.

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<sup>xxxii</sup> “An Enclosed Court Highlights a new Keck House.” *Architectural Record*, February, 1961, 133-136.

<sup>xxxiii</sup> Klimovich, Don. “Less is More,” *Chicago*, May, 1976, 114.

<sup>xxxiii</sup> “George Keck rites planned.” *Chicago Sun Times*, November 23, 1980.

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name of property: **Dr. Robert Hohf House**  
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name of property: **Dr. Robert Hohf House**  
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name of property: **Dr. Robert Hohf House**  
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name of property: **Dr. Robert Hohf House**  
county and state: **Cook County, IL**

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name of property: **Dr. Robert Hohf House**  
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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The southeasterly 25 feet of Lot 4 and all of Lot 5 (except the Southeasterly 25 feet thereof) in Block 16 in Kenilworth in the NW fractional  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 27, T42N, R13 East of the 3<sup>rd</sup> P.M., also that certain parcel of land lying NE'yly of and adjoining said premises and between the NW'yly and SE'yly lines extended to the water's edge of Lake Michigan. In the Village of Kenilworth, Cook County, Illinois. (From original *Plat of Survey*, 1957)

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary of the nominated property includes the house and garage and all land associated with the ownership of the residence.

**UTM REFERENCES**

Zone 16  
441580 E  
4659940 N

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county and state: **Cook County, IL**

**PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION- PHOTO LIST**

**IL\_Cook County\_ The Robert Hohf House (RHH)**

1. The Robert Hohf House
2. Cook County, Illinois
3. Christine Bernick
4. December, 2007; June, 2008

**Exterior Photos**

<b>IL_Cook County_ RHH01</b>	<b>Looking east from Sheridan Road; west elevation of garage and residence</b>
<b>IL_Cook County_ RHH02</b>	<b>Looking east; detail of west entry, central section</b>
<b>IL_Cook County_ RHH03</b>	<b>Looking southeast; north elevation</b>
<b>IL_Cook County_ RHH04</b>	<b>Looking northeast; south elevation of residence</b>
<b>IL_Cook County_ RHH05</b>	<b>Looking west; east elevation</b>
<b>IL_Cook County_ RHH06</b>	<b>Looking south from northeast corner of residence; detail of portal along east façade</b>

**Interior Photos**

<b>IL_Cook County_ RHH07</b>	<b>Looking east from west interior entry; detail of atrium</b>
<b>IL_Cook County_ RHH08</b>	<b>Looking northeast from atrium; detail of shoji screens</b>
<b>IL_Cook County_ RHH09</b>	<b>Looking north from atrium; view of dining room</b>

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|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>IL_Cook County_RHH10</b> | <b>Looking northeast and upwards to roof from atrium; details of clerestory and sunlights</b>    |
| <b>IL_Cook County_RHH11</b> | <b>Looking east from atrium entry; view of living room</b>                                       |
| <b>IL_Cook County_RHH12</b> | <b>Looking northeast from west kitchen doorway; view of kitchen</b>                              |
| <b>IL_Cook County_RHH13</b> | <b>Looking directly south from midpoint of north master bedroom wall; view of master bedroom</b> |
| <b>IL_Cook County_RHH14</b> | <b>Looking northeast from southwest doorway of den; view of den</b>                              |
| <b>IL_Cook County_RHH15</b> | <b>Looking south from central atrium; view of child's bedroom</b>                                |

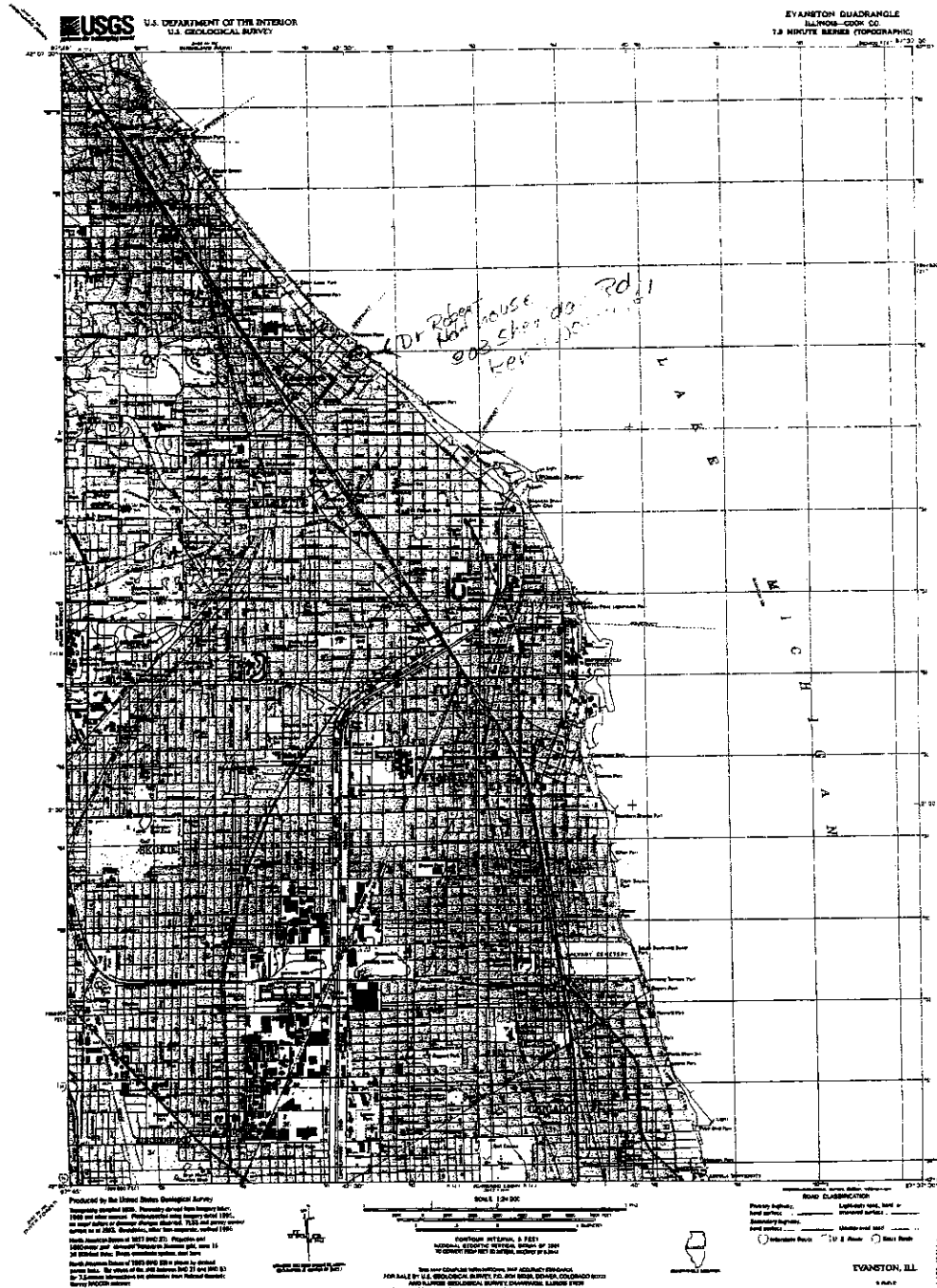
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name of property: **Dr. Robert Hohf House**  
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### USGS QUADRANGLE MAP OF 303 SHERIDAN ROAD, KENILWORTH



Source: USGS

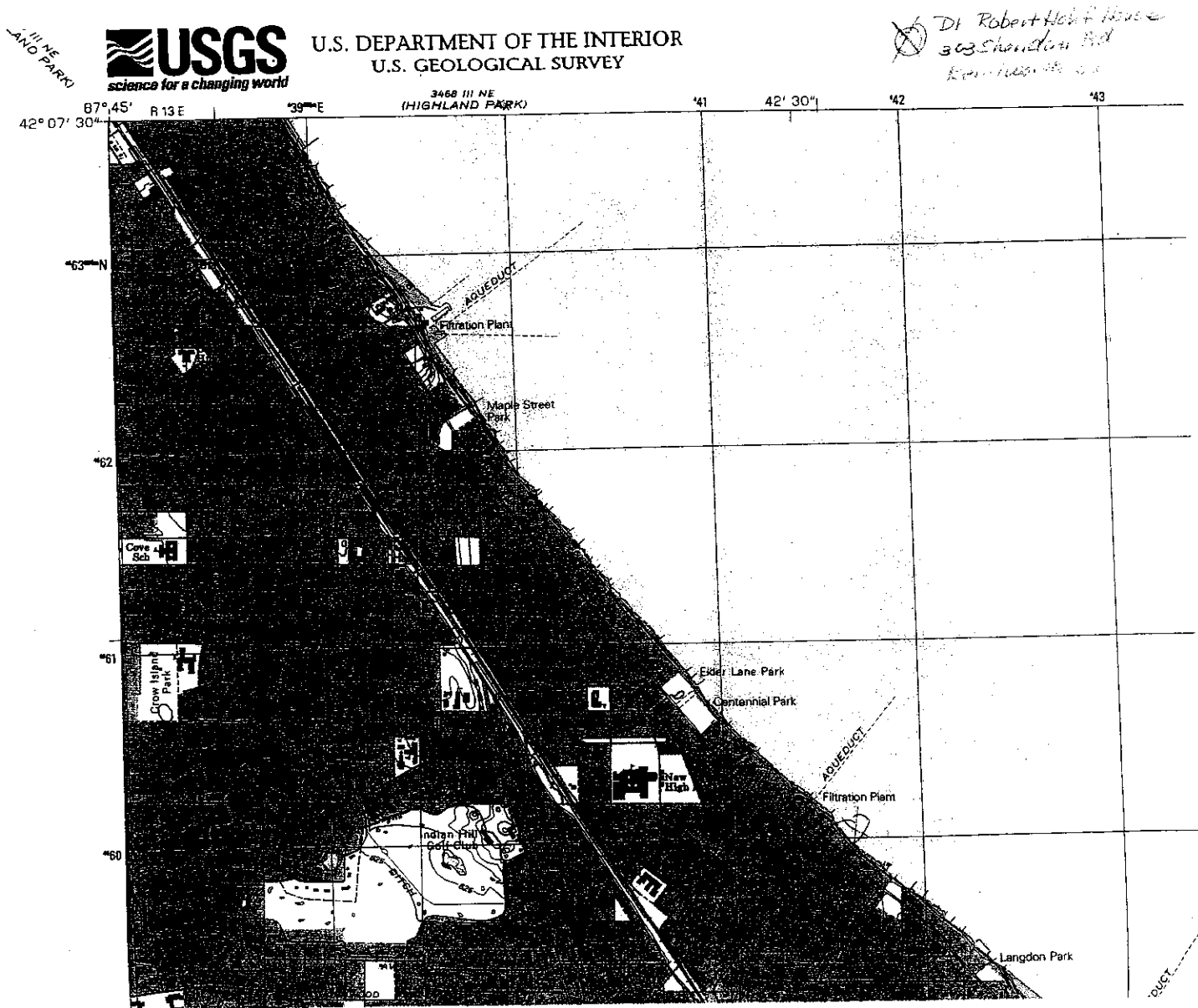
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National Park Service

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### USGS QUADRANGLE MAP OF 303 SHERIDAN ROAD, KENILWORTH





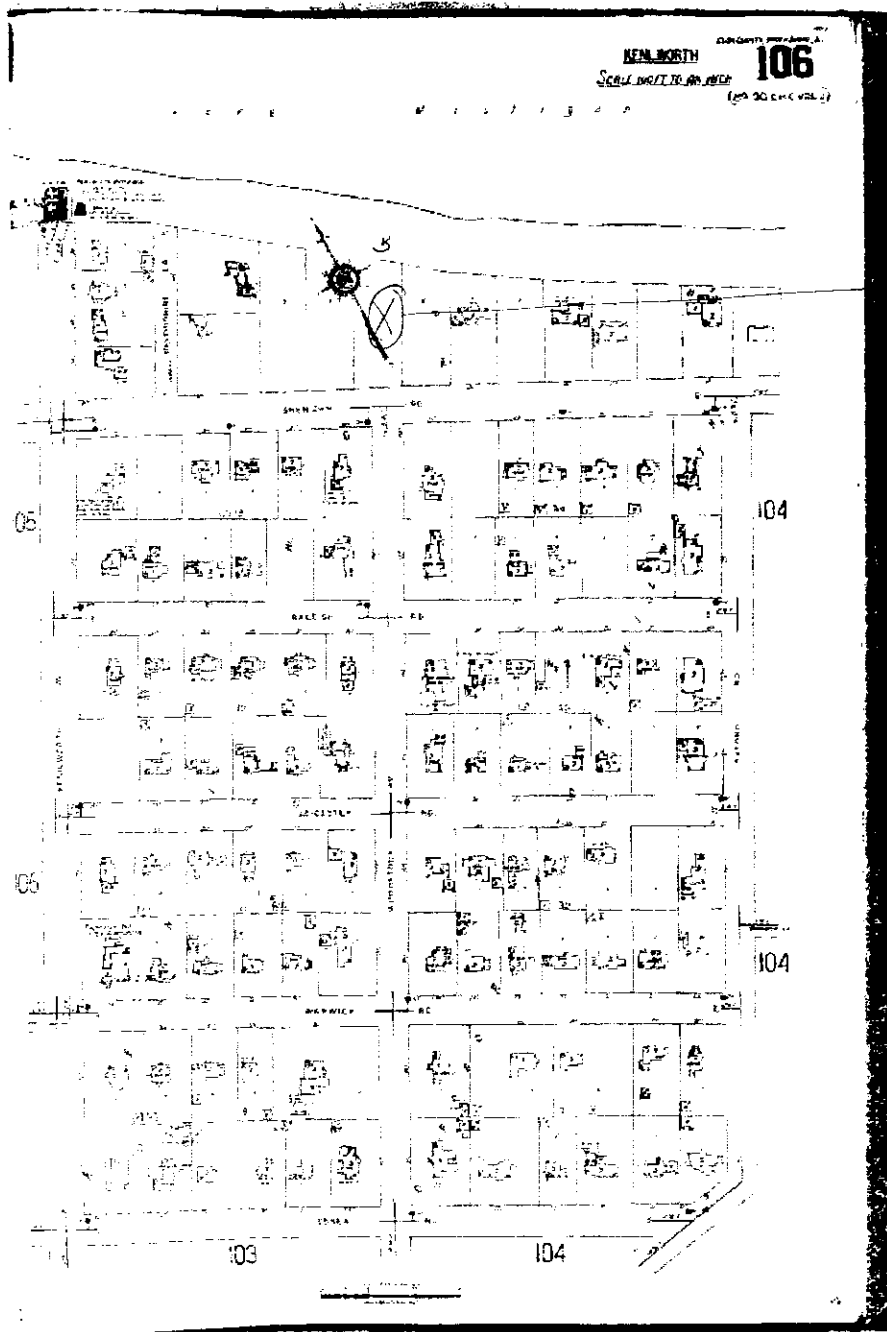
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county and state: **Cook County, IL**

**KENILWORTH SANBORN MAP, SECTION 106, 1939**



ⓧ  
Dr. Robert Hohf  
House  
302 SHAWNEE RD  
KENILWORTH, ILL.

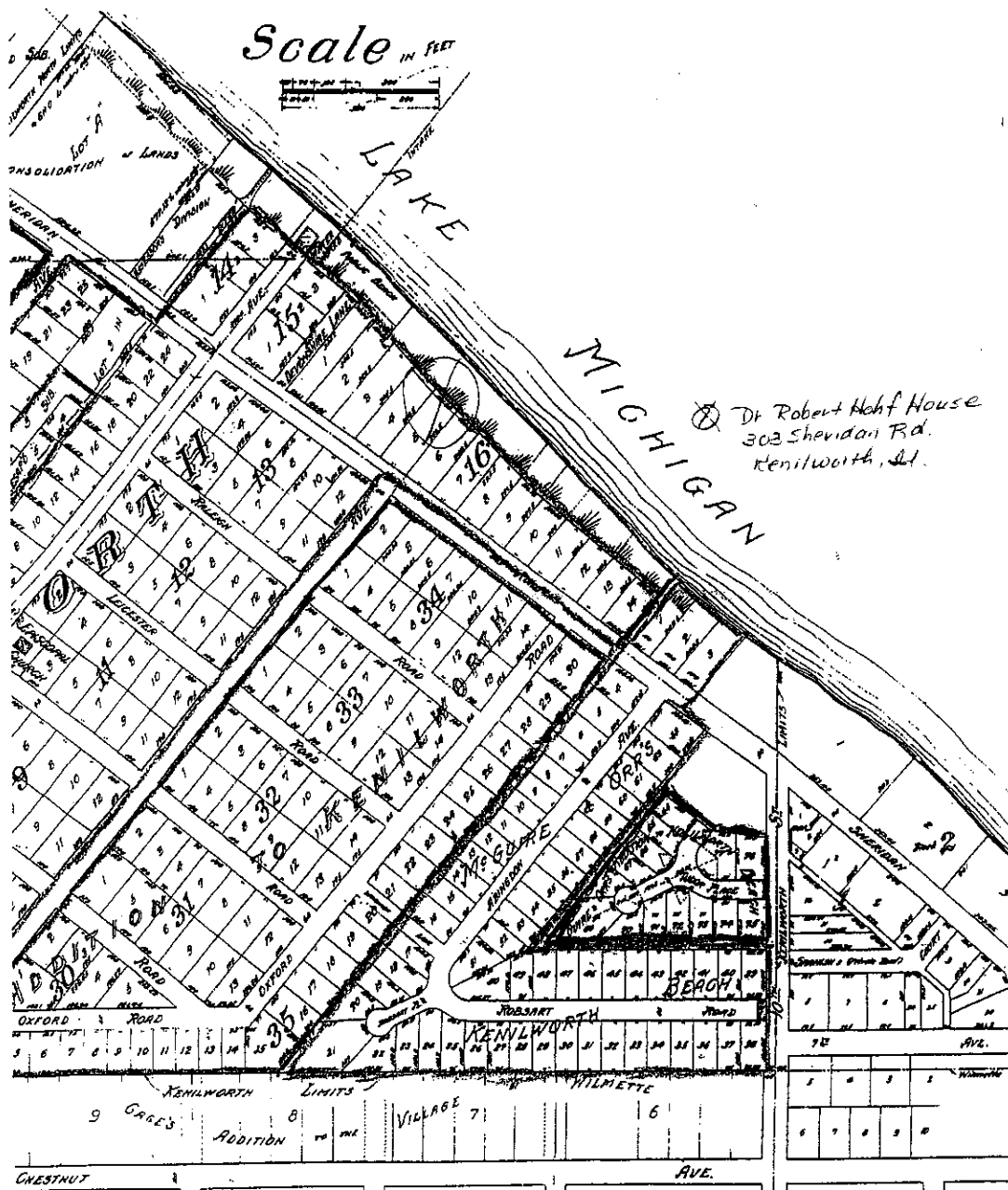
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**KENILWORTH MAP, SECTION 16**  
(Source: Kenilworth Historical Society)



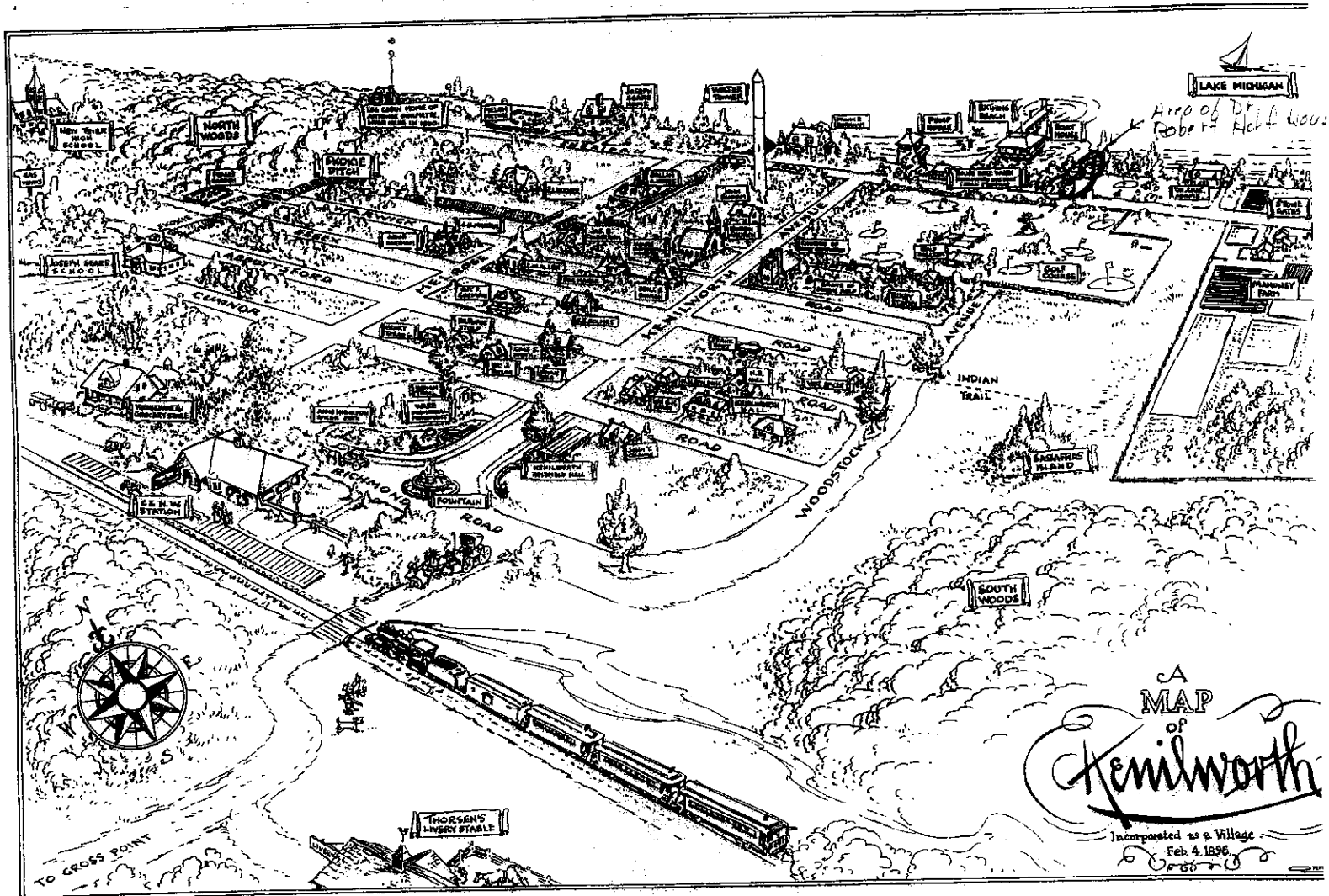
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### EARLY KENILWORTH MAP (Source: Kenilworth Historical Society)



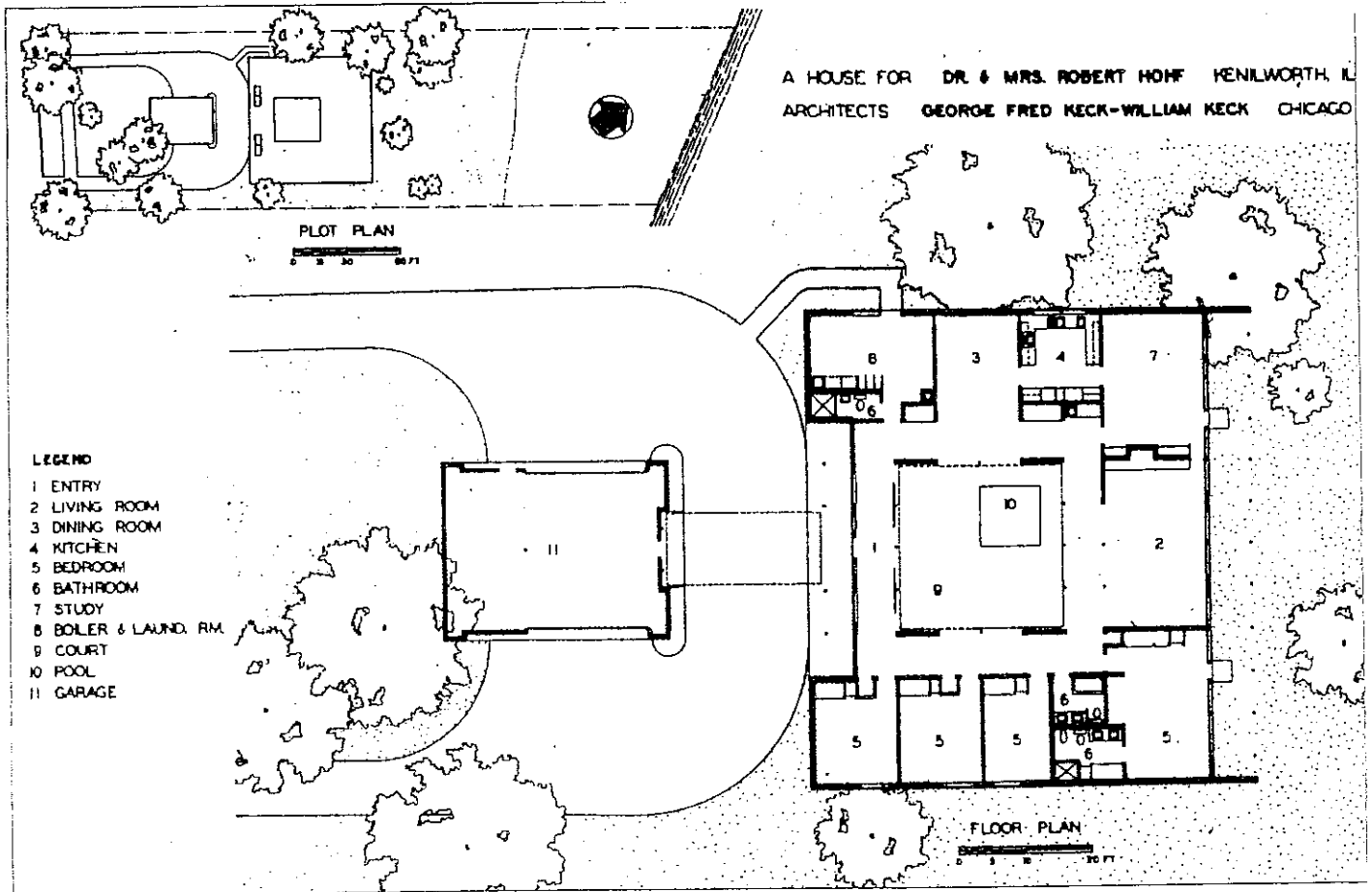
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### SITE PLAN AND FLOOR PLAN OF THE HOHF HOUSE (Source: Boyce, Robert. Keck and Keck, 118.)



**Malawy, Terri**

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**From:** Edson\_Beall@nps.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 24, 2008 12:20 PM  
**To:** WASO\_CR\_NR-NHL@nps.gov; WASO\_CR\_HISTORY@nps.gov  
**Subject:** National Register Weekly List 12/24/2008

**December 24, 2008**

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to send you the following announcements and actions on properties for the National Register of Historic Places. For further information contact Edson Beall via voice (202) 354-2255, or E-mail: <Edson\_Beall@nps.gov> This and past Weekly Lists are also available here: <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/nrlist.htm>

Our physical location address is:

National Park Service 2280, 8th floor  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW,  
Washington D.C. 20005

Please have any Fed Ex, UPS packages sent to the above address. Please continue to use alternate carriers, as all mail delivered to us via United States Postal Service is irradiated and subsequently damaged.

Happy Holidays from the National Register staff.

**WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 12/15/08 THROUGH 12/19/08**

**KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name**

**CONNECTICUT, NEW LONDON COUNTY,  
William Clark Company Thread Mill,  
21 Pawcatuck Ave., 12 and 22 River Rd.,  
Stonington, 08001190,  
LISTED, 12/16/08**

**ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,  
Hohf, Dr. Robert, House,  
303 Sheridan Rd.,  
Kenilworth vicinity, 08001166,  
LISTED, 12/12/08**

**INDIANA, HAMILTON COUNTY,  
Castor Farm Site,  
Address Restricted,**