

Nomination of Willard School as Local Landmark

Thomas Weber

December 2, 2025



Willard School should be designated a Local Landmark.



Willard School is identified with Frances E. Willard, who contributed significantly to our history.

The screenshot shows the City of Evanston website with the following elements:

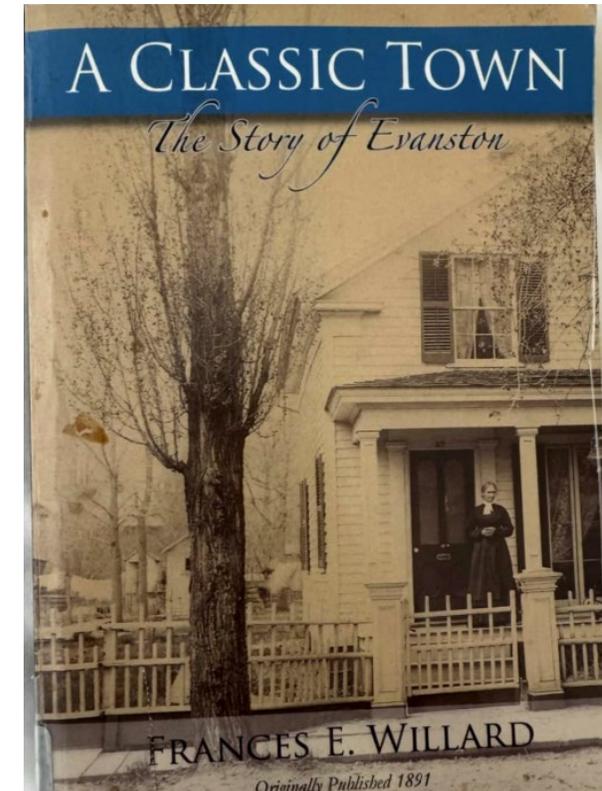
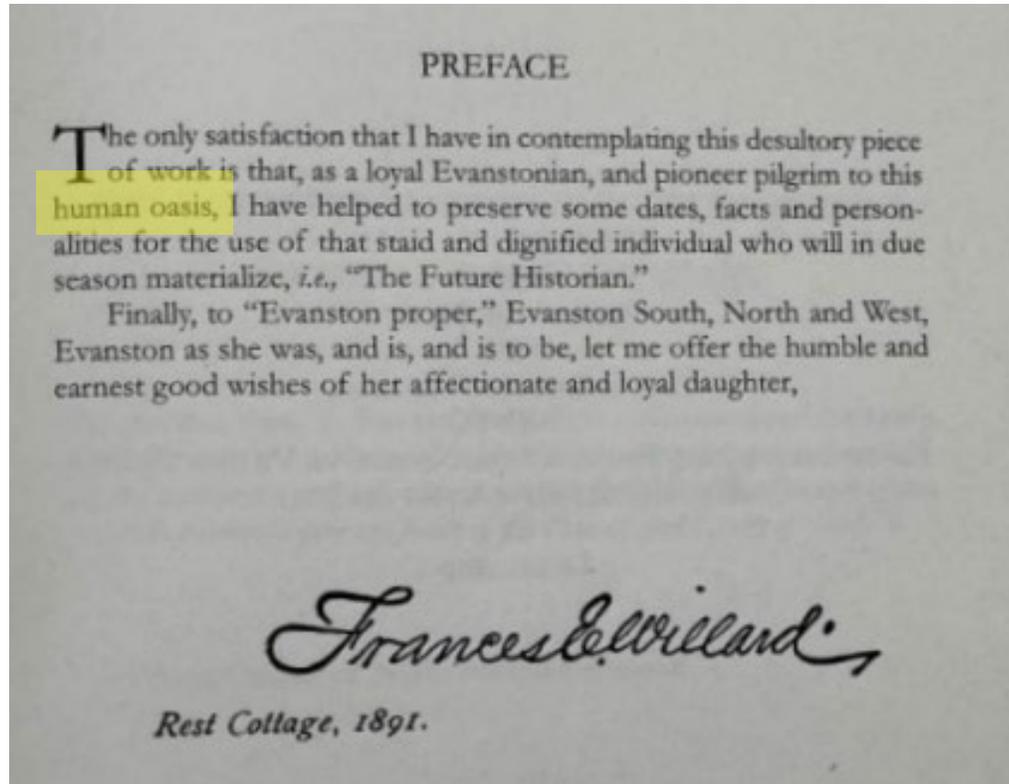
- Header:** City of Evanston logo, search bar, and navigation links for NOTIFICATIONS, SIGN IN, and HELP. A language selection dropdown is set to English.
- Breadcrumbs:** Evanston, Illinois - Code of Ordinances / TITLE 2 - BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS / CHAPTER 8 - HISTORIC PRESERVATION
- Left Sidebar:** A navigation menu with the following items:
 - VERSION: AUG 28, 2025 (CURRENT)
 - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
 - CHAPTER 3 - COMMISSION ON AGING AND DISABILITIES
 - CHAPTER 4 - HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
 - CHAPTER 6 - SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
 - CHAPTER 7 - PLAN COMMISSION AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT COMPREHENSIVE GENERAL PLAN
 - CHAPTER 8 - HISTORIC PRESERVATION** (highlighted in blue)
 - 2-8-1. - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.
 - 2-8-2. - DEFINITIONS.
 - 2-8-3. - EVANSTON PRESERVATION COMMISSION.
 - 2-8-4. - CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION.
 - 2-8-5. - NOMINATION, CONSIDERATION AND DESIGNATION OF LANDMARKS AND DISTRICTS.
 - 2-8-6. - AMENDMENT AND RESCISSION OF DESIGNATION.
- Main Content Area:**
 - 2-8-4. - CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION.**
 - Every nominated landmark or district must meet one or more of the following specified criteria for designation.
 - (A) The Commission shall limit their consideration to the following criteria in making a determination on a nomination of a district, site, building, structure, or object for designation by ordinance as a landmark or historic district:
 - Its location as a site of an event or activity that is significant to the broad patterns of history of the City, State, the Midwest region or the United States;
 - Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the historic, cultural, architectural, archaeological or related aspect of the development of the City, State, Midwest region or the United States;**
 - Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, developer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history or development of the City, the State, the Midwest region or the United States;
 - Its exemplification of important planning and urban design techniques distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness or overall quality of design or detail;
 - Its association with important cultural, social, political, or economic aspects or events in the history of the City, the State, the Midwest region or the United States;
 - Its exemplification of a pattern of neighborhood development or settlement significant to the cultural history or traditions of the City, whose components may lack individual distinction.
 - (B) Integrity of Landmarks and Districts. Any district, site, building, structure, or object that meets any one or more of the criteria in Subsection 2-8-4(A) shall also possess sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its historic significance.
- Footer:** (Ord. No. 29-Q-18, § 1, 5-14-2018)



Willard School is identified with Frances E. Willard, who contributed significantly to our history.



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No. I. Contract with Frances E. Willard,
Elected President of the College on the 14th of Feb., 1871.



Willard School is identified with Frances E. Willard, who contributed significantly to our history.



National Woman's Christian Temperance Union

Proud owners of Frances Willard House Museum – A National Historical Landmark

Websites: wctu.org & franceswillardmuseum.org

Office of the Director of Public Relations

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North Potomac, MD 20878

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Subject: Upholding the Legacy of Frances E. Willard and Preserving the Name of Willard Elementary School

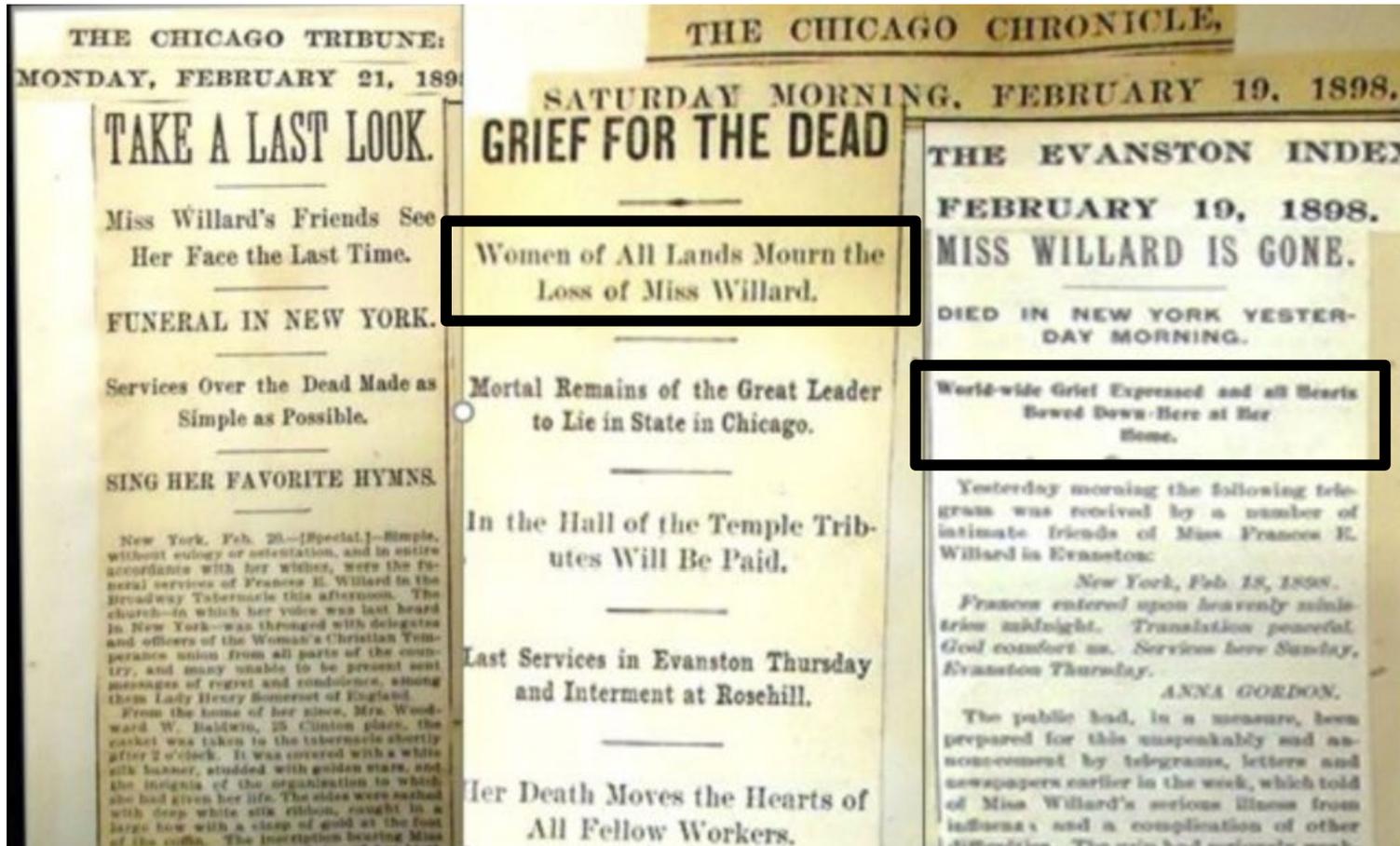
To the Esteemed Members of the Board of Education,

I am writing to emphasize the profound historical significance of Frances E. Willard, for whom Willard Elementary School was named in 1922, and to strongly advocate for the preservation of the school's current name. The name is not merely a label, but a tangible link connecting Evanston's students to a pivotal figure in both local and national history.

Frances E. Willard's connection to Evanston is foundational. She lived most of her adult life here, calling her home "Rest Cottage," which still stands as a National Historic Landmark and museum on Chicago Avenue. More importantly, her career as a pioneering educator was launched in this community:



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Pages PRICE TWO CENTS

**NEW SCHOOL TO
HONOR NAME OF
MISS WILLARD**

Park Place Building to Be
Known as Frances E.
Willard School

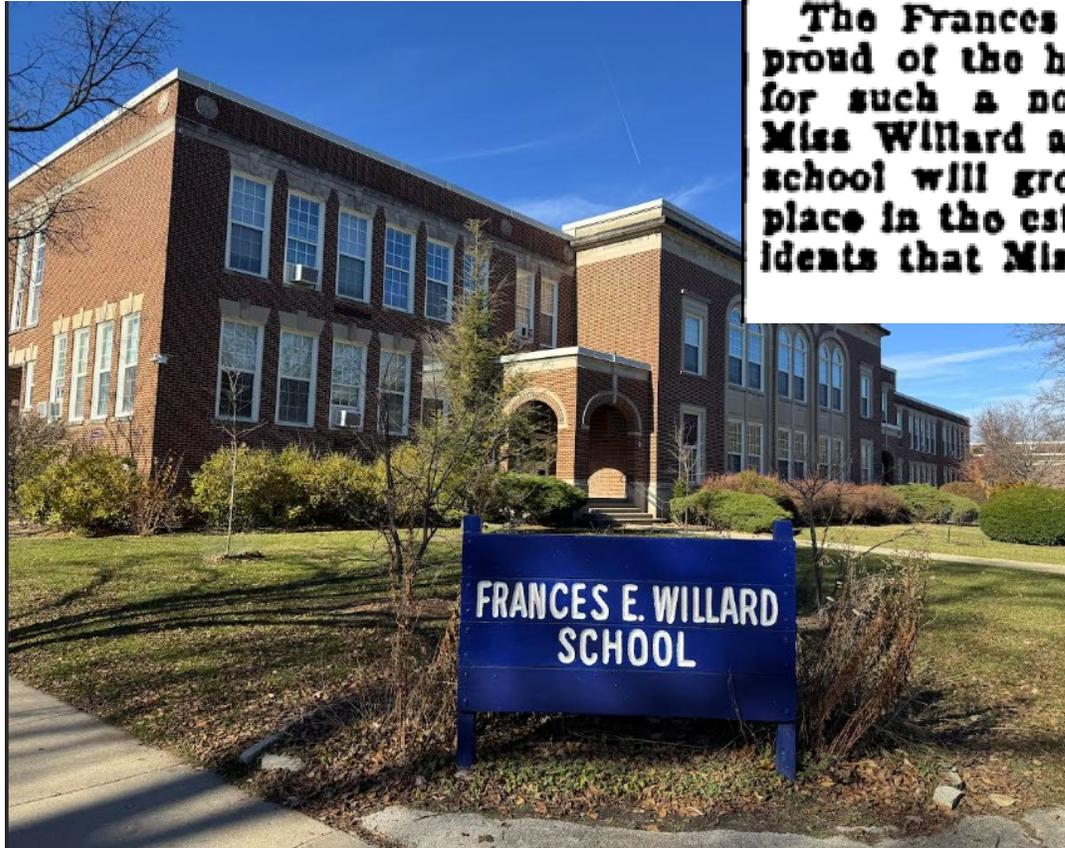
**FIRST IN CITY TO
BEAR WOMAN'S NAME**

Frances E. Willard, founder of the W. C. T. U., and for many years a resident of Evanston was honored last evening by the board of education of district 75 when they formally voted to name the new Park Place school in her memory.

This is the first Evanston school to bear the name of an eminent woman, though several have been named for men. Other names considered



Willard School is identified with Frances E. Willard, who contributed significantly to our history.



The Frances E. Willard school is proud of the honor of being named for such a noteworthy woman as Miss Willard and we hope that the school will grow to hold the same place in the esteem of Evanston residents that Miss Willard did.

By Jack Hubbard.

FRANCES WILLARD SCHOOL

Evanston will rejoice that the name of the greatest woman that has called Evanston home is to be given to the new school in the northwest section of the city. The Frances E. Willard school honors the city, quite as much, even more, than it honors the woman whose name it bears.

Frances Willard loved children. She saw in them the promise of the future. She knew the importance of environment for them and a right chance to grow into the maturity of which they were capable. She would love to have hers the name over the portal of a model school structure. Perhaps her spirit will hover over the children who will be trained there, her ideals and high standards be imbibed a little from this association with her.



Willard School should be designated a Local Landmark.



Willard School is identified as the work of Henry Raeder, an architect whose individual work is significant.

The screenshot shows the City of Evanston website with the following content:

- City of Evanston logo and navigation bar.
- Breadcrumbs: Evanston, Illinois - Code of Ordinances / TITLE 2 - BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS / CHAPTER 8 - HISTORIC PRESERVATION
- Version: AUG 28, 2025 (CURRENT)
- Department of Administrative Services
- Left sidebar menu with "CHAPTER 8 - HISTORIC PRESERVATION" selected.
- Main content area titled "2-8-4. - CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION." containing a list of 10 numbered criteria.
- Footer: (Ord. No. 29-Q-18, § 1, 5-14-2018)

2. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the historic, cultural, architectural, archaeological or related aspect of the development of the City, State, Midwest region or the United States;

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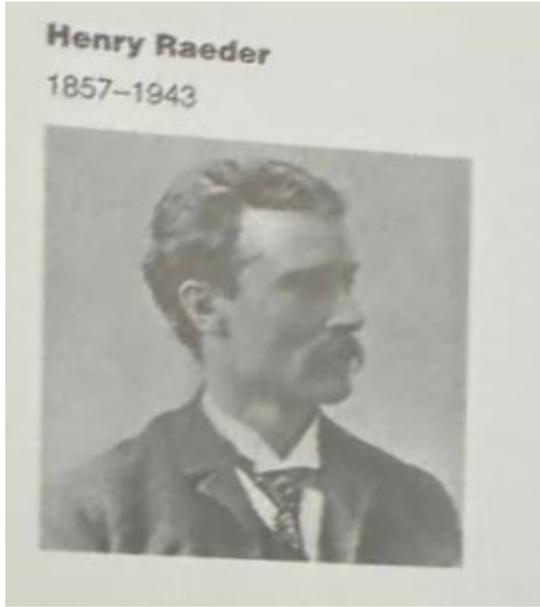
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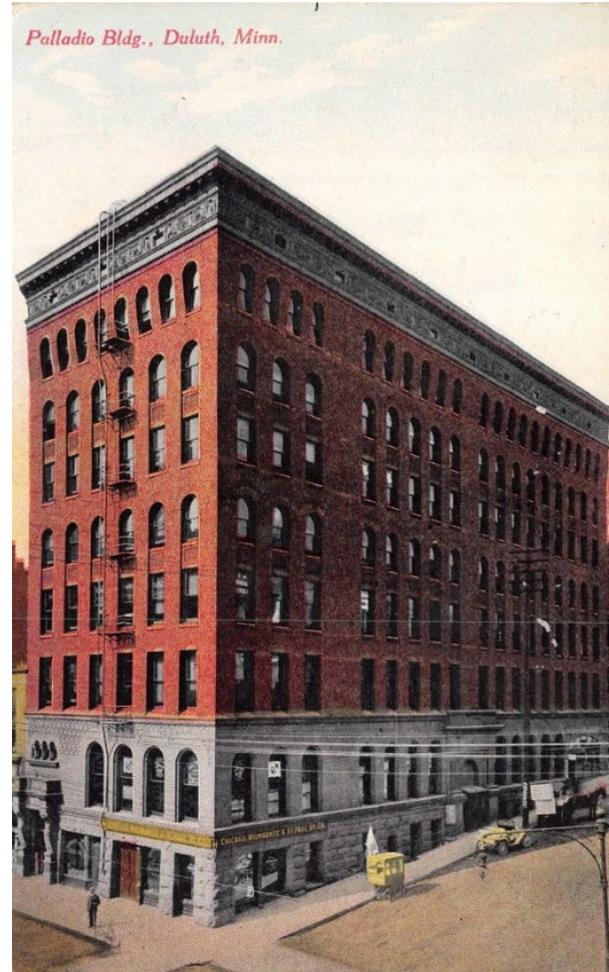
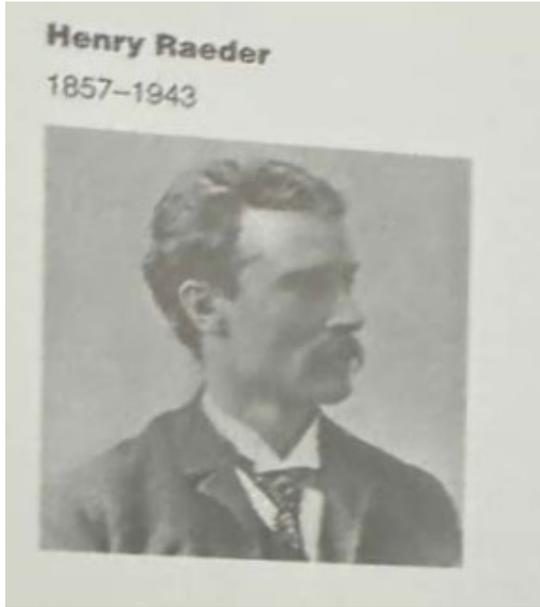
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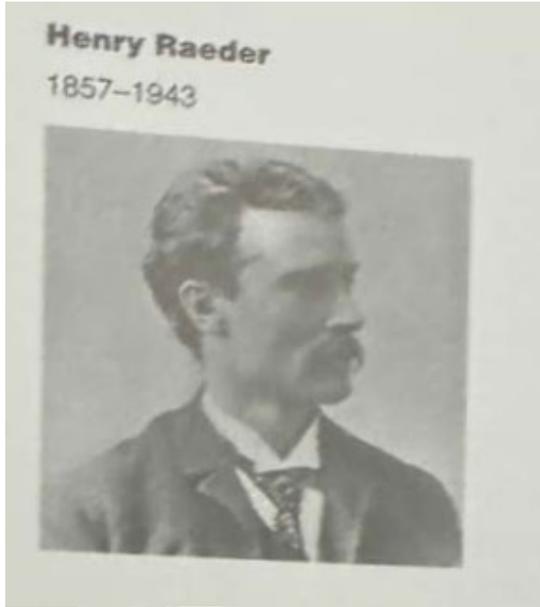
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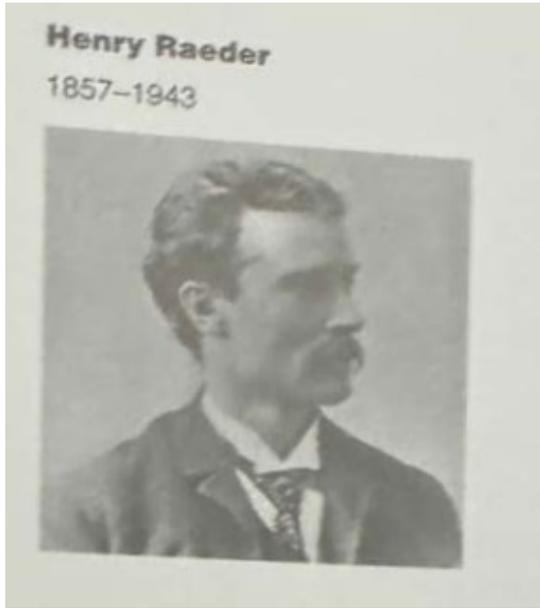
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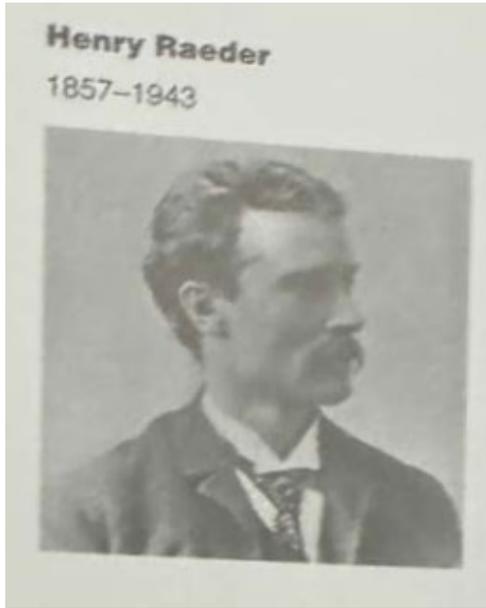
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THE EVANSTON

526 Davis St.

ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR NEW SCHOOL FOR NORTH END

District 75 Board Approves Building Program on Park Place Site

HENRY RAEDER IS NAMED ARCHITECT

Twelve Room Building To Accomodate 400 Children Will Cost \$155,000

A petition bearing the signatures of 965 residents of the north end, calling for the erection of a new grade school building on the Park place site, was formally presented to the board of education of district 75 at its regular business meeting last night and was accorded the acceptance of the board.

Following directly on the acceptance of the petition, required by law, Architect Henry Raeder, designer of the Orrington school, submitted drawings and floor plans of the new building which will be the largest of the grade schools of the district. After a lengthy discussion by the board of the proposed features and tentative lay-out of the structure, Mr. Raeder was authorized to proceed with the final arrangements to be completed by April 1.

To Accomodate 400

The plans call for the construction of a 12 room building facing east on Park place accomodating approximately 400 children. The plans include all the modern features of the buildings already in use and some additional devices of the architect's designing.

a primary room.

The exterior of the building will present an impressive front to the ideal approach offered by the wide street parkings and landscape beauty of Park place. Huge, round-arched, cathedral windows three in number extending from ground to parapet will provide practically a glass face to the building and will flood the gymnasium and assembly hall with light. These windows as well as the windows of all the class rooms will be capped by round arches of terra cotta which will be uniquely outlined against the background of brick.



Willard School should be designated a Local Landmark.



Willard School is identified as the work of Childs & Smith, an architect whose individual work is significant.



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Willard School's appearance and presence represent an established and familiar feature of Northwest Evanston.

The screenshot shows the City of Evanston website with the following elements:

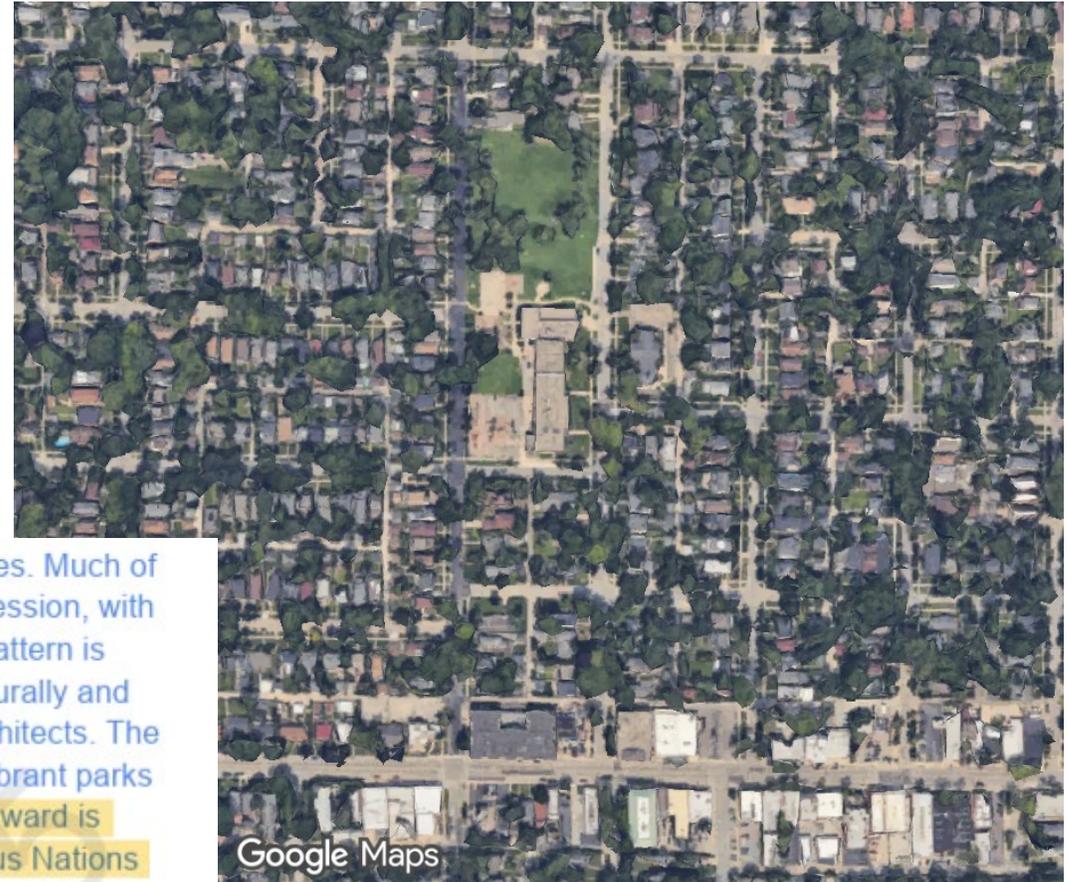
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 1. Its location as a site of an event or activity that is significant to the broad patterns of history of the City, State, Midwest region, or the United States, which may or may not have taken place within or involved the use of any existing improvements on the property;
 2. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the archaeological or related aspect of the development of the City;
 3. Its exemplification of an architectural type, style, design, or type of construction of unusual rarity, uniqueness or overall quality of design, detail, materials or workmanship;
 4. Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer or other person whose work is significant in the history or development of the City, the State, the Midwest region or the United States;
 5. Its exemplification of important planning and urban design techniques distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness or overall quality of design or detail;
 6. Its association with important cultural, social, political, or economic aspects or events in the history of the City, the State, the Midwest region or the United States;
 7. Its location as a site of an important historic or prehistoric archaeological or related aspect of the development of the City;
 8. Its representation of an historic, cultural, architectural, archaeological or related aspect of the development of the City, the State, the Midwest region or the United States; distinctive districts, sites, buildings, districts, structures, or objects;
 9. Its unique location or distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the City;
 10. Its exemplification of a pattern of neighborhood development or settlement significant to the cultural history or traditions of the City, whose components may lack individual distinction.
 - (B) Integrity of Landmarks and Districts. Any district, site, building, structure, or object that meets any one or more of the criteria in Subsection 2-8-4(A) shall also possess sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its historic significance.
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9. Its unique location or distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the City;

10. Its exemplification of a pattern of neighborhood development or settlement significant to the cultural history or traditions of the City, whose components may lack individual distinction.



Willard School's appearance and presence represent an established and familiar feature of Northwest Evanston.



Street, and a mix of modest starter homes and more spacious single-family residences. Much of the ward was developed between World War I and the early years of the Great Depression, with later additions to the west following World War II. Its streetcar suburb development pattern is reflected in the eligible Northwest Evanston Historic District, which includes architecturally and culturally significant properties and grand homes designed by prominent regional architects. The area is defined by its mature trees, well-kept parkways, and green spaces such as vibrant parks and the serene Dwight Perkins Woods, Cook County's smallest forest preserve. The ward is also home to cultural and institutional landmarks, including the Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum, Lincolnwood Elementary School, and Willard Elementary School.



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Willard School, 2700 Hurd Av., was not painted by Norman Rockwell; it only looks that way. The venerable red brick building in northwest Evanston evokes a nostalgic twinge from most anyone over 35.



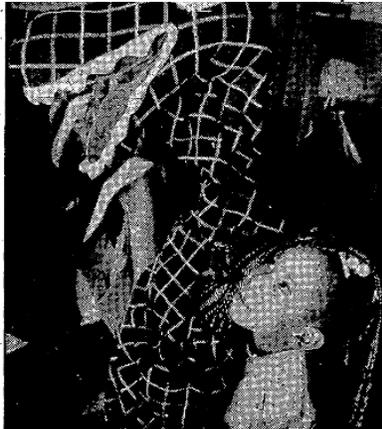
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King Day Celebrations. On Jan. 19, Willard School, 2700 Hurd Ave., students recreated the kind of neighborhood march that was emblematic of Dr. Martin Luther King's active non-violent



Willard hosts dinosaur exhibit from Express-Ways



Angela Jackson is a poet and she was visiting Willard School in Evanston recently as part of the Illinois Arts Council Poets in the Schools. And she seemed to be thoroughly enjoying her work with the children.

"We wrote poems about parts of the body," she said later. "The children are wonderful. See what they've written." She held out a sheaf of papers written in

Morning-show host pays visit to his old school

By KAREN BERKOWITZ
STAFF WRITER

Doris Rubin was a fledgling, first-year teacher in 1951, the year "Charlie" Gibson walked into her third-grade class at Willard School.

She must have made quite an impression.

Gibson, co-host of ABC's "Good Morning America," returned to Willard School with his production crew in tow Tuesday for a reunion that would be seen by millions of television viewers.

that first year," suggested the A.M. host, rephrasing the line only slightly through a succession of takes.

Amazingly, Rubin did remember young Charlie as a lad who wore saddle shoes, shorts and crisp shirts with perfectly pressed pleats. "You always applied yourself and had a smile on your face," recalled Rubin, who taught at Willard until her retirement in 1982.

"You were always very attentive," Rubin said, remembering, too, that he'd been popular among his

aware of that," said Gibson, responding to a question from a print-media reporter. "I knew she'd graduated from Drake University and would tease her about it. Whenever Northwestern played Drake they would win by (big point margins) over a much smaller school.

"Besides, every kid is in love with their third-grade teacher," he confessed.

How was Rubin taking the glare of klieg lights and the burst of attention?

"It's good to see Charlie again and know that



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The Willard Express makes a whistle-stop tour of the Willard School playground which will be the site of the school's annual carnival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 11. Baked goods, white elephant booths, games, and prizes will be featured and proceeds will go to the school's cultural arts fund. Engineer is William McCullty, a Willard father, who built the train. 9-29-69 Schools, Pub. Elem. - Willard



Willard School among best in state
November 5, 2009 | Evanston Review

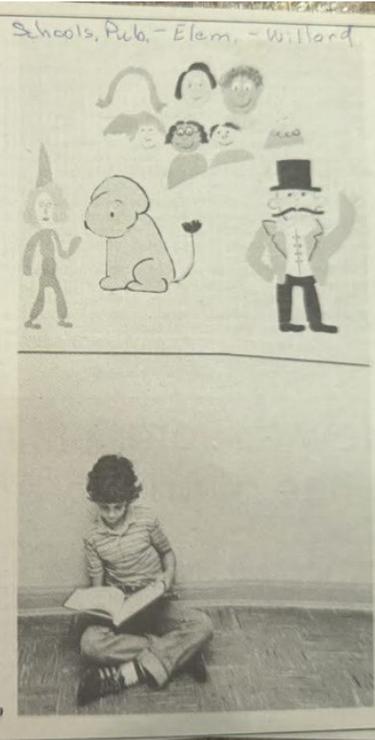
Willard Elementary School in Evanston ranked 7th among Illinois elementary schools on a Sun-Times Media list of the highest-performing schools on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test.

The feat is all the more remarkable because the six schools ahead of Willard are gifted schools or use test scores as an admissions criteria.

Painting on walls is permitted here

For years, pupils have been embellishing school walls with graffiti and drawings, but it's not every day you see their parents joining in. At Evanston's Willard Elementary School, however, parents have been painting wall murals designed by the pupils. Barbara Eckel (above) is engrossed in the project, while 4th grader Billy Divney (right) sits under one of the finished works.

Trib photos by Chuck Berman



Willard School should be designated a Local Landmark.



District 65 faces no burden in Local Landmark designation.

School	Construction Date	Architect
Washington Elem. Sch.	1901	
Orrington Elem. Sch.	1911	Raeder; Childs & Smith
Oakton Elem. Sch.	1914	
Willard Elem. Sch.	1922	Raeder; Childs & Smith
Evanston Township High Sch.	1924	
Haven Middle Sch.	1927	Childs & Smith
Nichols Middle Sch.	1929	Childs & Smith
Lincolnwood Elem. Sch. (nominated)	1949	



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