

111 Burnham Place
Daniel H. Burnham
Owner and Architect
1909

Kris Hartzell, December 2025

The original structure that now constitutes the eastern section of the residence at 111 Burnham Place is highly significant as it is the only known structure designed by Daniel H. Burnham for himself. It also represents his work on the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, his experiences in Japan when travelling to the Philippines for his work in Manila and Baguio, and his personal life in Evanston.

It was designed by Burnham in 1909 per Evanston building permits #3600 and #3637, dated April 21, 1909, shown on pages 2-4 following. The original permit lists the address as 232 Dempster Street, the Burnham main house, as this was a secondary structure on the property. A 1948 addition to the west façade by Harry N. Johnson for R. C. Raymond may have been the reason the property was not designated as an Evanston Landmark. However, Burnham's original structure remains intact.

Known as the "tea house" by the Burnham family, the structure reflects the Japanese tea house and Ho-O-Den located on Wooded Island in Jackson Park on the Exposition grounds, a project facilitated and supported by Burnham.

Photographs of the tea house from the Burnham family photo album are archived in the Ryerson & Burnham Art and Architecture Archives at the Art Institute of Chicago. Copies of the photographs, c. 1910, are on pages 5 and 6. They show the tea house, berm, terrace and grounds.

This documentation proves the significance of the building and should be given full consideration when reviewing the proposed demolition.

Application

Building Permit

No. 3637

No. 3800

Granted to A H Burdick

To erect a one Story frame shelter house of one Rooms

19 feet front 30 feet deep 11 feet high

At No. 732 Dempster Situated on

Stockmans Resub Lot Block

Cost of Building Complete, \$ 500-

Plans Approved 4/21/09

PERMIT FEES

To THE CITY OF EVANSTON.

DR.

Water Permit, No			
Sewer Permit, No			
Street Permit, No			
Bldg. Permit, No	100		
Fees for use of Water on Building Materials.			
None M. Brick at 10 cts. per thousand,			
" Cu. yds. Stone @ 10 cts. per Cu. yd.,			
" Cu. yds. Concrete @ 10 cts. per Cu. yd.,			
150 Sq. yds. Plastering @ 20 cts. hd. sq. yds.	30		
Total,		130	

Building Permit Application dated 4/21/09

Evanston History Center Archives

Evanston, Ill., 4-21-1909

Permit No. 3600

Building Commissioner:
The undersigned applies for a permit for the construction
of a 1 story, frame shelter house

to be located on Lot _____ Block 1
Sub. Stockholm

Width, or Front	<u>19</u>	M. Brick	
Length, or Depth	<u>30</u>	Cu. yd. Concrete	
Elevation, or Height	<u>11</u>	Sq. yd. Plaster	<u>150</u>
Total Cost of Building	<u>500</u>	Cu. yd. Stone	
		Tile	
		Cement Block	

Address 232 Dempster

Owner D. H. Burnham Phone _____
Address _____
Architect " " Phone _____
Address _____
Mason Meiling & Webster Phone _____
Address _____
Carpenter _____ Phone _____
Address _____

Application No. 3637

Signed by Meiling & Webster
Address _____

Building Permit Application indicating Daniel H. Burnham as Architect

"Frame Shelter House, April 21, 1909"

Evanston History Center Archives

No 3637

Building Permit No. 3600

APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMIT.

Evanston, Ill., 4/21 1904

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS:

The undersigned herewith applies for a permit to build a one Story, Basement and Attic frame shell house, and hereby agrees upon issuance of said permit to conform to and comply with the conditions of the same and the ordinances of the City of Evanston, so far as they may apply to any work set forth in this application.

Same to be located and built in strict accordance with accompanying description, plans and specifications, which are hereby submitted for your approval.

DESCRIPTION

<u>737 Dempster</u>	LOT	BLOCK <u>1</u>
On <u>Dempster</u> Street, between <u>Forest</u> Street, Avenue, and <u>Lake</u> Street, Avenue.		

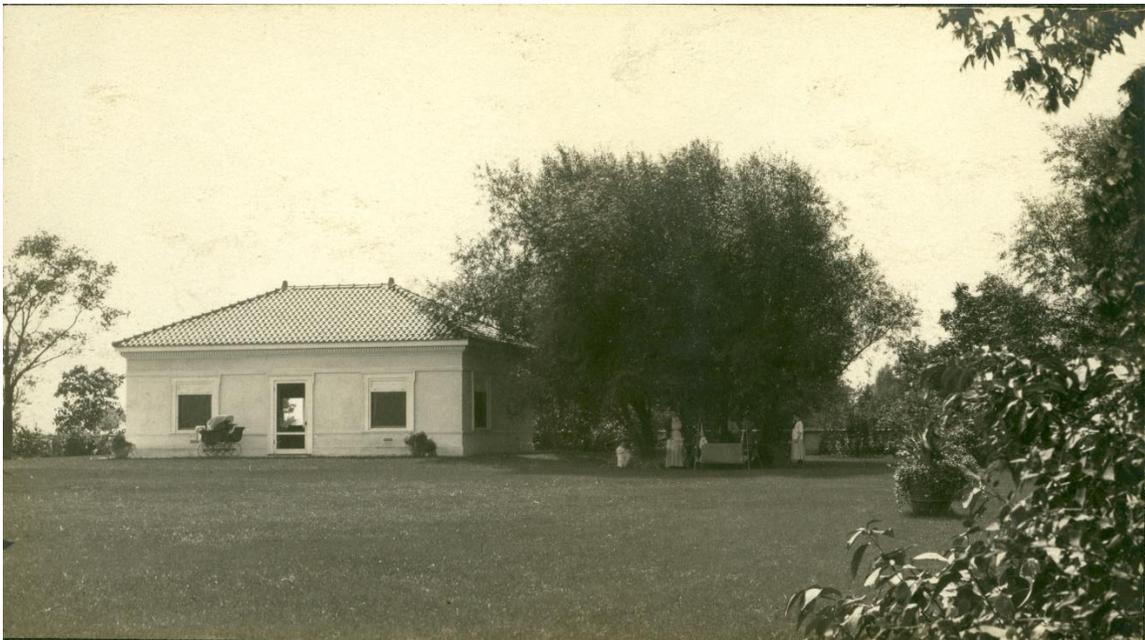
MATERIALS AND COST.	DIMENSIONS.	FURNISHINGS.	NO.	SERVICE.
No. Cu. yds. Stone <u>None</u>	Width or Front <u>19</u>	Water Closets <u>None</u>		Heated by _____
No. Thousands of Brick <u>11</u>	Length or Depth <u>32</u>	Sinks <u>11</u>		Lighted by _____
No. Cu. Yards Concrete <u>1</u>	Elevation or Height <u>11</u>	Bath Tubs <u>11</u>		Ventilated by _____
No. Sq. Yards Plastering <u>150</u>	Rooms _____	Laundry Tubs <u>11</u>		
Total Cost of Building <u>500</u>	Fire Escapes _____	Urinals <u>11</u>		

D.H. Burnham Owner Medling & Walter Mason _____ Sacer Builder
 Plumber _____ Carpenter _____ Electrician _____

Heating and Ventilation

Owner Architect. Signed by Medling & Walter Builder.

Detailed Building Permit Application
 Evanston History Center Archives



The Burnham Family Enjoying the Tea House and Terrace, c. 1910
Ryerson & Burnham Art and Architecture Archives, Art Institute of Chicago

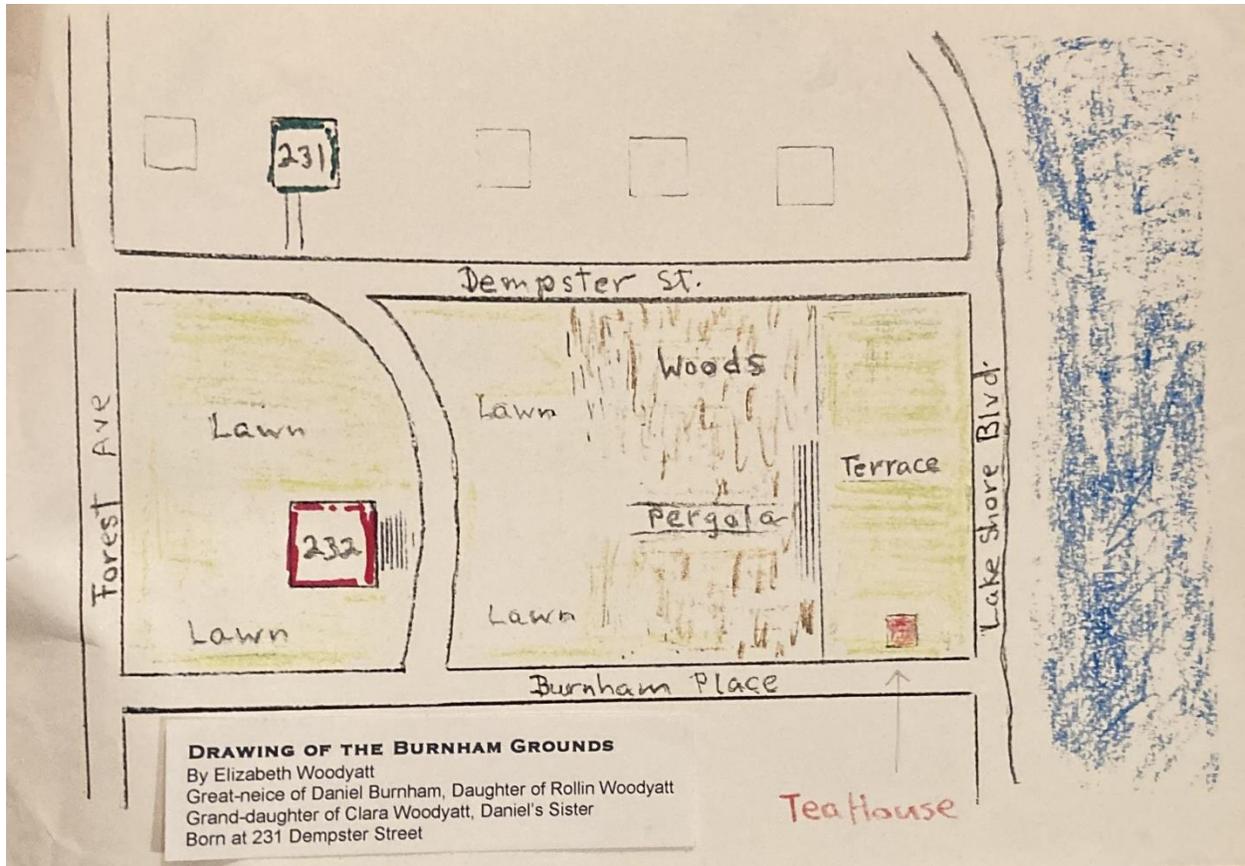


The View Looking West from the Terrace



Photograph of the Tea House c. 1910

Ryerson & Burnham Art and Architecture Archives, Art Institute of Chicago

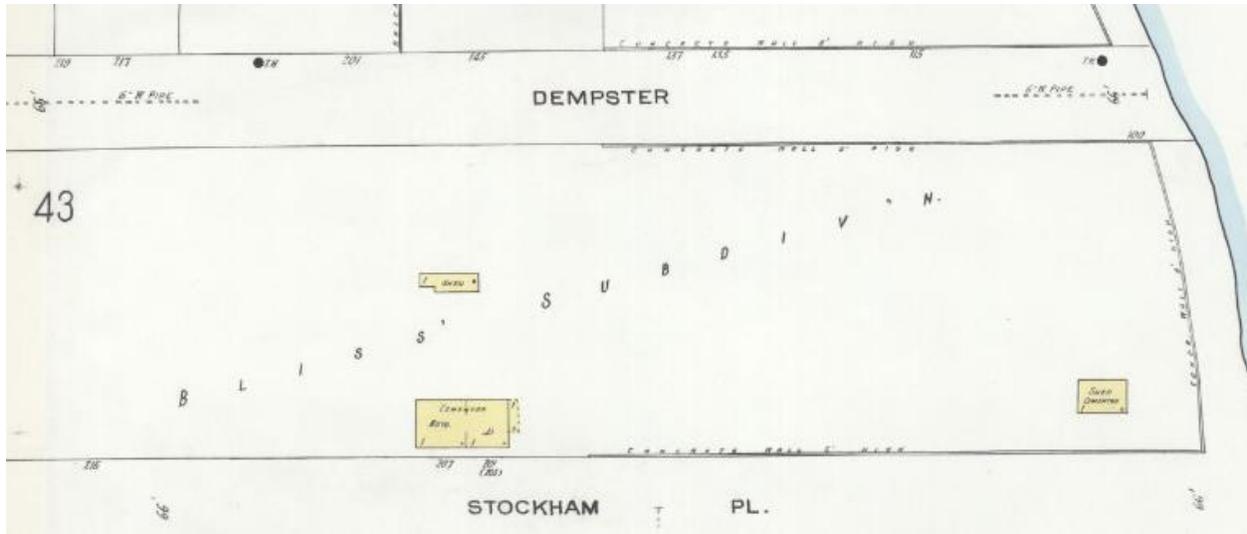


Drawing done in 2009 by Burnham's Great Niece Elizabeth Woodyatt showing the location of the building, naming it as the Tea House

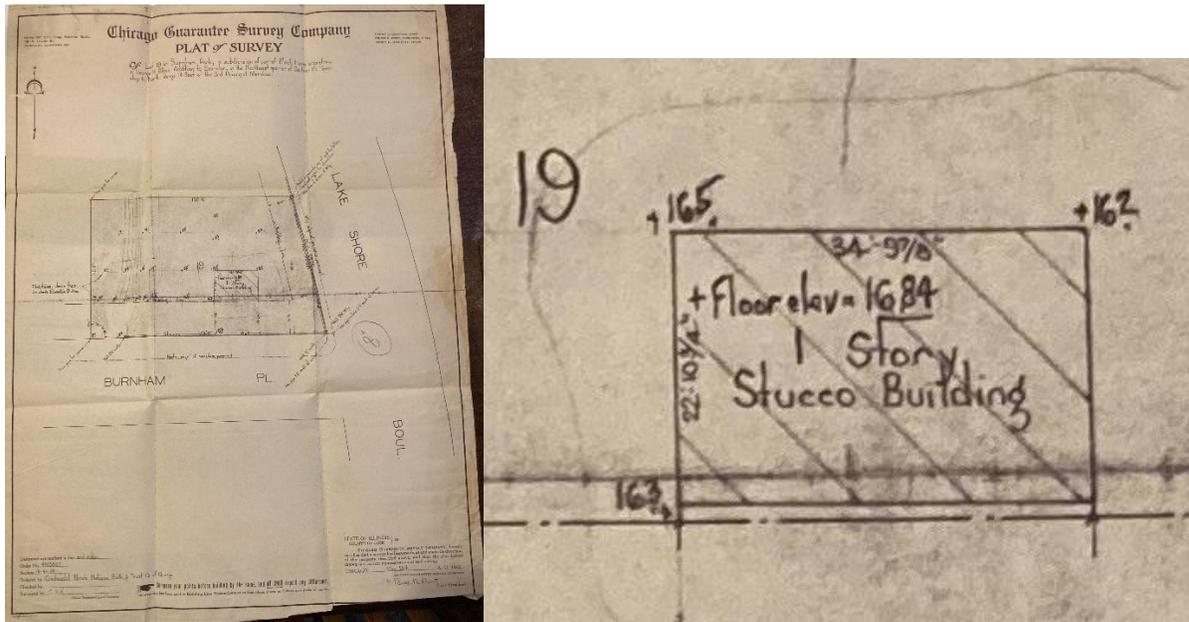
Evanston History Center Archives



1914 Sanborn Map Cuts off at dotted line before the location of the tea house



1920 Sanborn Map shows the tea house



1945 Plat of Survey for 111 Burnham
Evanston History Center Archives

Daniel Burnham and the Japanese Ho-O-Den at the Exposition

As the Director of Works at the 1893 Fair, Burnham supervised all the planning decisions. He worked with Frederick Law Olmsted to create the idea of an island for quiet reflection and then worked with the Japanese government and architect Masamichi Kuru to allow for the Ho-O-Den and tea house to be built there, as it enhanced the idea of quiet contemplation, relationship to nature, and socialization. The memory of this would have informed his choice to design and build the tea house on his property overlooking the lake.

“The role of the Wooded Island, as designed by Fredrick Law Olmsted (1822-1903), America’s foremost landscape architect and the chief of the exhibition’s landscape design, was to provide exposition visitors a quiet sylvan setting, unencumbered by buildings, in which to escape the hustle and bustle of the exposition. In February 1892, following lengthy negotiations between the Japanese and exposition officials, Daniel Burnham (1846-1912), the exhibition’s chief of construction, enthusiastically wrote to Olmsted to explain that the Japanese “propose to do the most exquisitely beautiful things...and desire to leave the buildings as a gift of Chicago.” Shortly thereafter, the Japanese Commission was granted permission to build on two acres at the northern portion of the fifteen-acre Wooded Island.”

Robert W. Karr, Jr., The Garden of the Phoenix: the 120th Anniversary of the Japanese Garden in Chicago, North American Japanese Garden Association Journal, <https://www.umiimu.com/karreport/gotp-article-2013>



View of Japanese Tea Garden from Lagoon. From Official Views Of The World's Columbian Exposition, 1893. <https://www.jbachrach.com/blog/2022/10/28/the-fascinating-story-of-the-japanese-garden-on-jackson-parks-wooded-island>

Concept of Tea House

“Tea houses embody the cultural values of East Asian societies by promoting relaxation, social interaction, and appreciation for nature. The serene environment encourages mindfulness and conversation, which are vital aspects of community bonding in these cultures. Additionally, tea houses often serve as venues for artistic expression and cultural practices, such as performances or tea ceremonies, showcasing the importance of tradition in daily life.

In modern East Asian society, tea houses continue to play a significant role as social gathering spaces but have also adapted to contemporary trends by incorporating modern aesthetics and diverse beverage options. Historically, they served as critical venues for cultural exchange and community bonding, fostering social ties through shared experiences around tea. Today, while they still retain this communal aspect, tea houses also cater to younger generations by offering innovative menus and events that blend traditional practices with contemporary lifestyles.”

<https://fiveable.me/key-terms/introduction-art/tea-house>

Burnham Visits Japan Before Traveling to the Philippines, 1904

In 1904, Burnham travelled to Manila and Baguio to design urban plans for both Philippine cities. He stopped in Japan on route and visited lakes, gardens and temples in Yokohama and Tokyo, according to his biographer Charles Moore. These experiences in Japan would have refreshed and reinforced his memories of the tea house in the Exposition a decade earlier.

Burnham's 1907 Field House and Relation to This Structure

In 1907, Burnham designed a field house for Sherman Park in Chicago, named after his father-in-law, John Sherman. The plan reflected the Ho-O-Den from the Exposition, with its main central building and two smaller flanking sections. Its classic design under a tiled hipped roof demonstrates Burnham's further synthesizing the design concept of a tea house, and his work on smaller structures, culminating in his design of this structure built on his property two years later.

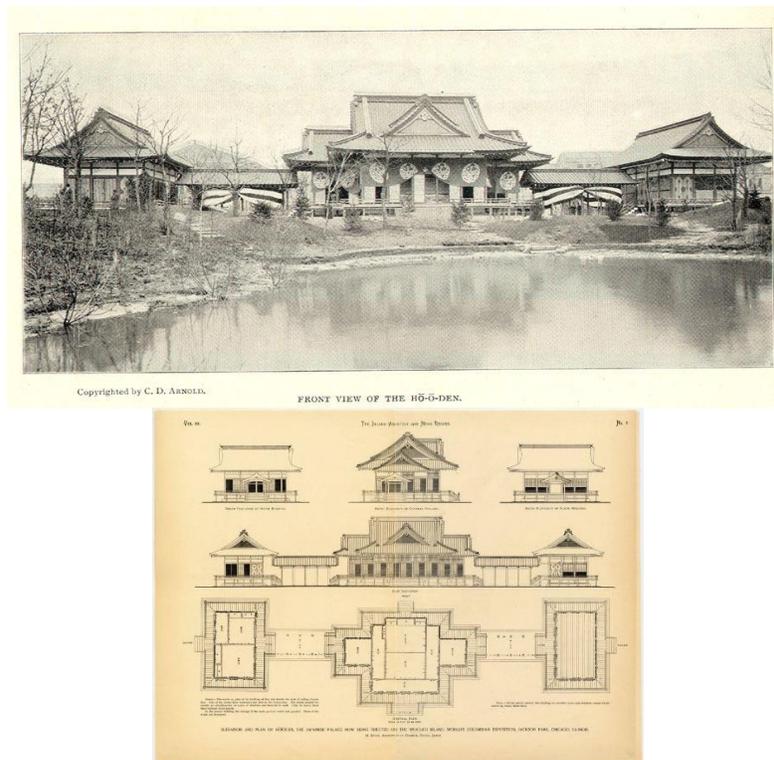


Photo and Drawings of Ho-O-Den – for comparison to Sherman Park Field House and Burnham Tea House. <https://x.com/architext14/status/1613040135129407489>



Field house of Sherman Park, Chicago, Illinois, 1907.

(Photo by Walter E Lagerquist/Chicago History Museum/Getty Images)

“Though Burnham increasingly concentrated on larger buildings, he occasionally produced charming residences and smaller structures. The pleasantly “modern” design of some of his small and simple buildings for the Chicago park system elicited frequent praise from local citizens and out of town critics.”

Thomas S. Hines, Burnham of Chicago, p. 308

Burnham in 1909

Burnham was busy working on the completion of his masterwork, the *Plan of Chicago* in 1909. Its emphasis on the importance of the lakefront may have influenced him as he renovated and upgraded the landscaping on his property. He built the concrete wall that surrounds the eastern perimeter. He created a raised berm behind the wall so the lake could be visible over the wall, and he built the tea house.



“There the family lived until 1886, when Mr. Burnham bought the Evanston property, comprising two city blocks, on the shore of Lake Michigan. This estate is the home of the Burnhams. It was an ideal place for bringing up a family of children. A coal dock furnished a recreation pier, the sandy beach, which then covered the space now occupied by the broad terrace, supplied opportunities for swimming; in the thicket of woods that stretched across the property...”

Charles Moore, Daniel Burnham, 1921, p. 94

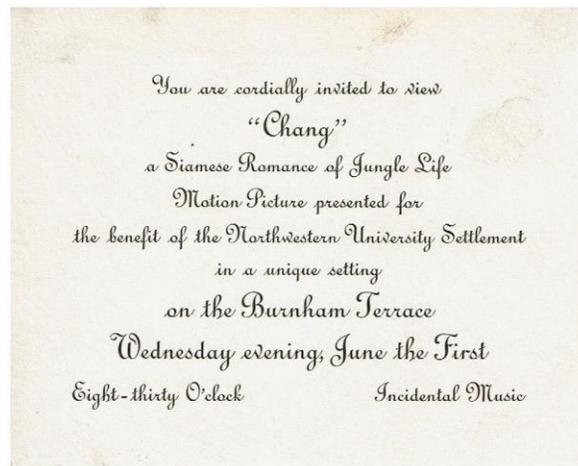


Ryerson & Burnham Art and Architecture Archives, Art Institute of Chicago



Daniel Burnham sketching on the beach

Ryerson & Burnham Art and Architecture Archives, Art Institute of Chicago



Invitation to Burnham Event on the Terrace c. 1910

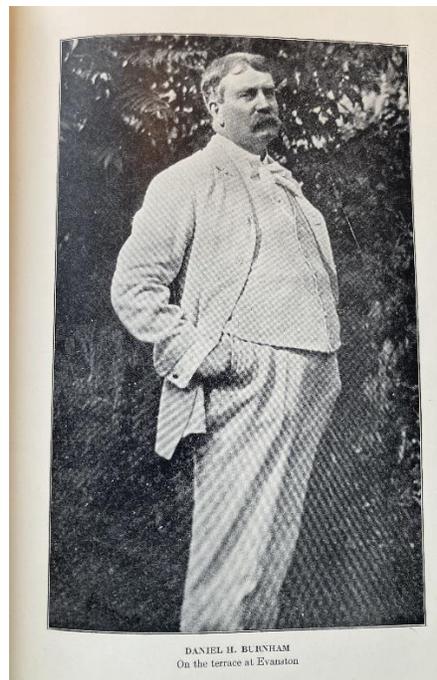
Evanston History Center Archives

“Burnham loved to entertain grandly and lavishly but he took equal pleasure in simple occasions...Burnham took even greater delight in being with his family, strolling and playing on the lawn with his children and taking long walks and swims with them along the lake. He loved the huge, old farmhouse he had bought in the 1880s, delighting in constant changes and improvements in its design and decoration.”

Charles Moore, Daniel H. Burnham, p. 135

“There will be much to tell our friends in the East of the princely hospitality you extended to us. We talk of it constantly – to the smallest detail. Camp Burnham on the lake was indeed a rounded experience.

Architect Charles McKim to Burnham, 1905, Charles Moore, p. 94



Charles Moore, Daniel Burnham

The structure known as the tea house was integral to Burnham’s home life. It enhanced his enjoyment of the lake and nature, it provided a place to entertain friends, and to relax with his family. It demonstrated concepts contained in his City Beautiful movement, such as the importance of siting buildings while retaining the natural environment. This was likely the last structure he designed before his death and represents a culmination of his life’s work and adds a dimensionality to his remarkable legacy.



LANDMARKS ILLINOIS

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December 9, 2025

(VIA EMAIL)

Evanston Preservation Commission
909 Davis Street
Evanston, IL 60201

RE: 25PRES-0134 – 111 Burnham Place – Lakeshore Historic District

Commissioners:

Landmarks Illinois requests your consideration of our comments regarding plans to demolish the existing residence at 111 Burnham Place, within the Lakeshore Historic District, and replace it with a new residence. The property is sited within the footprint of Daniel Burnham's former estate in Evanston. One of the Chicago area's most prominent architects and planners, Burnham moved his family to a lakefront estate in Evanston in 1886. Burnham's sons Daniel Jr. and Hubert, who were raised in this home, went on to design the *Plan of Evanston* in 1917. The Burnham residence was demolished in 1938 and the land subdivided to build new residences.

We have reviewed the application materials available online as well as the public comment submitted by Kris Hartzell of the Evanston History Center. The materials submitted by the Evanston History Center, including photographs from the Ryerson & Burnham Art and Architecture Archives at the Art Institute of Chicago, are compelling evidence that the eastern portion of the existing building is in fact an extant outbuilding from the Burnham estate designed by Burnham himself circa 1909. Given this new information, we encourage the Commission to delay a vote on this matter and to work with the owners and their architect to determine whether the eastern portion of the existing residence can be incorporated into their design plans.

Sincerely,

Kendra Parzen
Advocacy Manager



Cade Sterling <csterling@cityofevanston.org>

Preservation Commission Public Comment Sign Up Form

noreply@formstack.com <noreply@formstack.com>
Reply-To: noreply@formstack.com
To: csterling@cityofevanston.org, cruiz@cityofevanston.org

Tue, Dec 9, 2025 at 12:02 PM



Formstack Submission For: **Preservation Commission Public Comment Sign Up Form** Submitted at 12/09/25 12:02 PM

Name: Andrea Liss

Address: [496 Sheridan Road, No. 3](#)

Phone: (847) 971-7406

Provide Written Comment Here:

I am writing to express my strong support for preserving the original Daniel Burnham Tea House, located on the east side of his Evanston estate and now part of the property at [111 Burnham Place](#).

There is clear documentation establishing the building's direct connection to Daniel H. Burnham and his family, including original building permits identifying Burnham as the architect of the Tea House, and historic photos, including one showing members of the Burnham family gathered outside of it. These materials confirm the structure as an authenticated work associated with one of the most influential architects and planners in American history, and as a meaningful part of the Burnham family's life on the Evanston lakefront.

Given this significance and based on the Commission's demolition standards—particularly those related to historic importance, district character, and irreplaceable design—the original Tea House is a structure that should be preserved rather than demolished.

And while the original Tea House remains a meaningful historic reference within Evanston's lakefront district, it later became part of a larger multi-section building, with surrounding additions that do not hold the same significance and could be treated separately from the core structure.

The preserved original Tea House could support a variety of future uses such as:

- A small artist or design studio,
- A solarium or garden room,
- A guest cottage or retreat space,
- An entertaining space or tea house,
- A library, study, or writing pavilion,
- A lakefront contemplation or wellness space.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to:

- Deny demolition of the original Tea House,
- Allow flexibility in removing non-historic portions of the structure, and
- Encourage a path forward that incorporates the original Tea House as a preserved, adaptable historic asset.

Preserving the Tea House honors Evanston’s architectural heritage and recognizes Daniel Burnham’s lasting contributions to American design and planning and his life here in Evanston. Its loss would remove an irreplaceable cultural resource, while its preservation offers meaningful design opportunities for the future.

**Agenda Item
(or comment
on item not on
the agenda):**

25PRES-0134 – 111 Burnham Place – Lakeshore Historic District

**Position on
Agenda Item:**

Other: Opposed to demolition of Burnham Tea House



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Cade Sterling <csterling@cityofevanston.org>

Preservation Commission Public Comment Sign Up Form

noreply@formstack.com <noreply@formstack.com>
Reply-To: noreply@formstack.com
To: csterling@cityofevanston.org, cruiz@cityofevanston.org

Tue, Dec 9, 2025 at 6:52 PM



Formstack Submission For: Preservation Commission Public Comment Sign Up Form Submitted at 12/09/25 6:52 PM

Name: John Storey Williamson

Address: 864 Sheridan Road

Phone: (847) 337-1162

Provide Written Comment Here:

storeywilliamson@gmail.com Good evening, Commissioners. My name is John Storey Williamson. I have lived in this neighborhood for more than 30 years, and throughout that time I have admired what remains of the historic Burnham estate, including the small structure long known to the family as the Burnham Tea House.

The documentation submitted by the Evanston History Center demonstrates that this is not an ordinary outbuilding. The 1909 building permits clearly name Daniel H. Burnham as the architect, and the associated photographs and family records show that this was a designed retreat on his lakefront property—very likely the last structure he created before his death, and one shaped by his work on the Japanese Ho-O-Den and his travels in East Asia.

Given this evidence, I believe demolition would be contrary to the intent of our preservation ordinance and to the public interest. The structure embodies the history of the Lakeshore Historic District, and its proportions, siting, and relationship to the lake cannot be reproduced without great difficulty or loss of authenticity. I urge the Commission to require genuine exploration of adaptive reuse, stabilization, and integration of the Tea House into any future design—consistent with the demolition standards before you and with the Commission’s mandate.

I hope the Commission will take a more active role in shaping thoughtful, context-sensitive design within the Lakeshore Historic District. This site is an opportunity to demonstrate that preservation and high-quality new

architecture need not be in conflict.
Thank you for your consideration.

**Agenda Item
(or comment
on item not
on the
agenda):**

25PRES-0134 – 111 Burnham Place – Lakeshore Historic District

**Position on
Agenda Item:**

Opposed

[Quoted text hidden]

Sent by email to publiccomment@cityofevanston.org¹ and csterling@cityofevanston.org
Hand delivered at Preservation Commission meeting on December 9, 2025

December 9, 2025

To the Members of the Evanston Preservation Commission and Mr. Sterling,

I write as a resident of Evanston, a parent of a current Haven student and a professional with several decades of legal, public health and environmental experience, including in land use and civil rights, regarding the proposed landmarking of the Willard Elementary School, 25PRES-0120, to **request that the Commission investigate and consider the full history of the Willard site, school building and surrounding neighborhood in preparing its report and decision on whether and how to landmark the school, given that Willard was constructed in 1922 and opened in 1924 during a period of Evanston’s and our country’s history in which the foundation of segregated schools and exclusionary zoning was laid.**

The basis for this request consists of evidence that the early establishment of the Willard school community was connected to the relocation of Black residents and/or their homes from the area around Willard to the 5th Ward, as well as evidence indicating that the planning, site acquisition and construction of Willard Elementary School itself may have directly involved displacement of Black residents. Nor is the below a complete accounting of the available evidence. Much has been said by the applicant and other proponents of the proposal about the architect, building style and features, and positive characteristics of the neighborhood surrounding Willard. However, notably missing from this account is mention of the more troubling aspects of Evanston’s history in the 1920s to 1930s when Willard was built and the community around it largely established in its current form and character.²

This omission is despite an extensive amount of work done on this topic leading up to and in support of Evanston’s reparation policy, for example as laid out in a 2021 report entitled “Evanston Policies and Practices Directly Affecting the African American Community,” authored by Dino Robinson of the Shorefront Legacy Center and Jenny Thompson of the

¹ The Commission’s website encourages public comment, including written public comment, and notes that “all comments and suggestions on any topic are welcome,” see <https://www.cityofevanston.org/government/public-comment-guide>.

² I was not aware of and so did not attend the Commission’s meeting on December 2, when this proposal was taken up, nor am I familiar with the Commission’s process in general, including what tends to be taken up by the Commission and its staff versus what is in the record from the proponent. Based on the news coverage in the Roundtable, I assume this history was not discussed at the meeting. <https://evanstonroundtable.com/2025/12/02/preservation-commission-takes-steps-toward-designating-willard-a-local-landmark/>.

Evanston History Center and as carried on today by Shorefront and First Repair.³ If we are to honor the buildings that defined and continue to define our history and culture as the Commission's criteria lay out, we must ensure that we are honoring the full history and not omitting or glossing over more complicated, challenging and deeply disturbing aspects that are so integral to our identity as an Evanston community today.

As an individual with limited time and resources to explore this history myself, it is my hope that the Commission and its staff will do so to fulfill their duties to serve the Evanston community and our shared history. At the same time, I offer my assistance as a Volunteer to Assist Committee Members, pursuant to Article 1, Sec. 2 of the Commission's Rules & Procedures, consistent with my other obligations and if such assistance would be of help to the Commission and staff in fully considering the Willard landmark proposal. I also recommend that the Commission seek out the advice and guidance of local historians, community members and advocates who have focused on exploring and documenting the Black history of Evanston, again consistent with their priorities and obligations, several of whom have helped me directly and for whose work to honor and preserve this history I am deeply grateful.

Finally, I encourage the residents who have brought forward the proposal to learn about this important history, if they are not already aware of it, and encourage the Commission to aid them in this learning, pursuant to the Commission's outreach and education powers and duties pursuant to Evanston Code Section 2-8-3(G)(8) and other relevant code provisions.

Historic Evidence Regarding Development of Willard School

A primary source of evidence for my request consists of the history regarding 2715 Hurd Avenue directly across the street from Willard, which was publicly documented in the news as part of Evanston's reparations activities in the past several years. As set forth in a news piece by WGN, Carlis B. Sutton's grandfather built the house that used to sit on this plot.⁴ But around 1927, just a few years after Willard opened, "they told people they could have the house, but they couldn't have the land" and so "what [Sutton's grandfather] worked hard for and built was just ripped off the map," with the home relocated to the 5th Ward. Steven Rogers, a prominent figure in the business world and neighbor of the home site and Willard, subsequently bought the 2715 Hurd property and adjacent church with intentions of creating a memorial.⁵ I understand, including

³ Available at https://rsaevanston.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Evanston-Policies-Affecting-the-AA-Comm_Shorefront.pdf; <https://shorefrontlegacy.org/>; <https://www.firstrepair.org/>.

⁴ "Evanston first in U.S. to offer Black residents reparations using marijuana tax money," WGN9, March 23, 2021, available at <https://wgntv.com/news/evanston-first-in-us-to-offer-black-residents-reparations-using-marijuana-tax-money/>.

⁵ "Memorial planned to mark forced relocation of black facilities from Evanston's northwest side," Evanston RoundTable, January 6, 2023, available at <https://evanstonroundtable.com/2023/01/06/memorial-planned-to-mark-forced-relocation-of-black-families-from-evanstons-northwest-side/>.

from discussion with Carlis Sutton and Laurice Bell of Shorefront, that oral histories and other evidence also document the relocation of several other Black families from the same area around the same time.

Also grounding my request for a full investigation of the history of Willard Elementary School's planning, establishment and early years is a 1924 report by David Kenneth Bruner to the Dean of Northwestern University entitled "A General Survey of the Negro Population of Evanston."⁶ This report, completed in the same year that Willard was built, contains a map of Evanston entitled "Distribution of Negro Population by School District."⁷ This map depicts the area where Willard now stands as having the North-South streets Elm and Oak running through it, as well as the East-West streets Thayer and Park running continuously from Reese to Central Park. In other words, the map appears to represent the Willard site prior to its dedication and development as a school. The four blocks of Thayer Street between Central Park and it appears Bennett - including blocks that were to become the Willard site - are shaded, indicating Black residents lived on those blocks.

Additional evidence supports that official action to relocate Black residents out of the current-day 6th and 7th Wards and into the 5th Ward was practiced in the period around when Willard was approved by voters, sited, and built. For example, as cited in the reparations report described above, the Chicago Defender in 1918 highlighted the transfer of 42 Black students from "the North Evanston schools" (ostensibly Crandon, Orrington, Lincolnwood and/or Noyes at the time) to the Foster school.⁸ Whether to build Willard was on the school election ballot the very next year, along with an addition to the Lincolnwood School and purchase of new land next to the Noyes School.⁹

Given this evidence, I request that the Commission explore the following questions in considering the landmarking of Willard Elementary School:

⁶ **Attachment 1**, cover page of Bruner report, credit to and available at the [Shorefront Legacy Center](#).

⁷ **Attachment 2**, from Bruner report, marked "Map of Evanston" and "Distribution of Negro Population by School District." (I can follow up with a more complete image of this map, if helpful.)

⁸ **Attachment 3**, "Transfer of Pupils, Causes Vigorous Protest in Evanston," the Chicago Defender, March 30, 1918.

⁹ **Attachment 4**, "School Election This Afternoon," the Evanston News-Index, November 29, 1919. The article notes that the voting locations for District 75 had moved since the 1911 vote to build Lincolnwood, from Haven and the Crandon School in 1911 to Dewey, the Crandon School, and the girls' gymnasium at Church and Sherman. See **Attachment 5**, the Evanston Daily News, July 8, 1912 (describing locations for voting on a new North Evanston school at the Lincolnwood site as divided into two areas, with voters "living north of the drainage canal" voting at the Central Street school building and those "living south of the drainage canal and north of Greenleaf" voting at Haven school). Due to the size of the image files for these news articles, I am not attaching them to my email, but all can be obtained via the Evanston Library's Evanston Historical Newspapers online database, available to library account holders at <https://epl.org/resource/#azindex-letter-E>, and I am happy to provide individual image files upon request. I am providing hardcopies along with the hardcopy of this letter that I plan to deliver at the December 9 meeting.

- (1) Did anyone live on the site consisting of the parcel from current-day Park Place to Isabella and Hurd to Central Park around the time when the land was acquired for the construction of the Willard School in the 1910s to 1920s? If so, who were these residents and in what homes/at what addresses did they live? Were official actions taken to move them, and if so what was the nature of those actions? Were unofficial actions taken to move them, and if so what was the nature of those actions?
- (2) The same questions, but applied to the land around the site that may have been adjusted to accommodate new street patterns in conjunction with the establishment of the Willard school.
- (3) Who lived in the community around the Willard Elementary School, or within the school attendance boundaries, in roughly 1920 to 1930 or 1940? Were any of those residents Black? If so and if they had children, were their children enrolled at Willard? If not, why not? If so, how were those children treated at Willard? Did they themselves or their homes relocate during the period from about 1920 to 1940? If so, why and on what terms?
- (4) For homes around the Willard school built in roughly 1920 to 1930 or 1940, what structures, if any, predated those homes on those sites? What happened to those structures and the people who lived or worked in them? How were the new homes priced and marketed? Who bought those homes and at what price?
- (5) For the period from Willard's construction through the 1950s, did any students attend Willard who lived outside of the school's attendance boundaries? If so, who were these students, where did they live, and why were they allowed to attend Willard?

With thanks for your service and your attention to these matters,

Meleah Geertsma, J.D., M.P.H.