

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 19 1976
DATE ENTERED	OCT 22 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

**

HISTORIC

Germania Club

AND/OR COMMON

Germania Club

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

108 West Germania Place

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

9th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Chicago

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Illinois

17

Cook

031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: Ethnic Social Group

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Germania Club, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

108 West Germania Place

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cook County Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

County Building, 118 North Clark Street

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1956

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Having a five-story facade above a lower level basement, the building stretches for six bays along the south elevation and four along the east. The two-story base, which has survived without major alterations, is composed of limestone courses, alternately rough and smooth. On the south facade a columnar portico containing a large, arched doorway stands before the third bay to the east. The three bays west of it have basement windows, on the floor above are large, linteled, double-divided windows. The two bays to the east of the entrance, and the four along the Clark Street facade, house commercial shops on the ground floor and have triple-divided windows above.

The upper part of both facades has a rich complexity of forms. Each bay contains a large window divided into two sections by a column that sustains a limestone cornice; an arch is placed above each part of the window, and the window unit in each bay is capped by a single decorated limestone pediment. A stout, ornamented pilaster rising from a corbel set just below the limestone cornice rises between the pediments to hold the large cornice that concludes the building. Between these pilasters are six panels of brick or decorative limestone separated by limestone colonnettes decorated with spiral fluting.

In the upper part not all the bays are the same. The double windows in the easternmost bay on the south facade are replaced by three stout limestone piers that sustain a terra cotta panel revealing an allegorical female figure. On the Clark Street facade, the building is enlivened by two bays in the center that contain an enclosed porch projecting beyond the face of the building.

The southeast corner is anchored by a pyramidal roofed projection the size of a corner bay.

Upon entering, one is in an anteroom which contains steps that lead to two double doors. Beyond this set of doors is the large entrance hall which gives access to the various parts of the building. To the left are the club restaurant and bar, game rooms, and the Wagner Room, a lush banqueting room with richly carved fixtures, frescoes of German themes, and wood friezes with themes from Wagnerian operas. To the right of the entrance hall is the grand staircase leading to the grand ballroom directly above the club rooms. It is a high ceilinged hall with large chandeliers and an impressive tile portrait ("our masterpiece") depicting the Spirit of Germania in a rich rococo setting reminiscent of a church reredos. Other inside spaces include offices, a secret society's meeting room, various other club rooms, and offices and recreation rooms in the basement.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

Commission on Chicago Historical and Architectural Landmarks
(local)
1973
320 North Clark Street, Room 800
Chicago, Illinois

Landmarks Preservation Council and Service Inventory
(local)
1973
407 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois

8 SIGNIFICANCE

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chicago, Illinois, 1973

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
Urban Planning |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

August Fiedler

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The major significance of the Germania Club is historical. It is certainly the most outstanding historical site in the area for Chicago's German residents, one of the largest ethnic communities of the city. In a wider sense it is an important landmark to the city's peculiar ethnic character, a character that distinguishes Chicago from most other large American cities. The Club building dates from 1889, just 24 years after the founding of the Germania Maennerchor (the Germania Men's Chorus) as a choral group formed to laud Lincoln at his funeral. The club is Chicago's oldest German organization. The present building is the only home which the club has owned and occupied in its 109 years. As the premier hall for significant events in the German community, the Germania Club has long been the scene of many of the key events which have shaped and affected this ethnic group, as can be seen in the fact that the name of the club was changed to the "Lincoln Club" during the First World War, which was a time of great persecution for German-Americans. It is still used extensively by the German community.

The architectural significance of the club is also great, and its historical significance is reflected in its architecture. It is a bold structure clearly derived from then-current German architectural motifs. It therefore reflects the conservatism dominant in the 19th century middle-class German community, which was concerned with becoming an accepted and valuable part of the American community. The architecture can be described as eclectic, with a predominance of neo-classical and German Renaissance elements. The architect, August Fiedler, practiced in New York, where he designed over fifty schools for the New York public school system. In New York, he was closely connected with the German community.

This building is an interesting counterpart to the more adventurous spirit of the Chicago school. It reflects a basic conservatism and concern for past styles which Chicago's architects were to a great extent rejecting at the time the club was built. The Germania Club is also an excellent example of the monumental style used at the time for public buildings and mansions, where architects were not liberated by the immediacy and peculiar demands of commerce.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ira Bach, Chicago on Foot, Chicago, 1973.

One Hundredth Anniversary of the Germania Club, 1865-1965, Karl Harig, Chairman, Centennial Committee, 64 pp., Chicago, 1965.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	4	4	7	5	4	0	4	6	3	9	8	4	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

C

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

D

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The major significance of the Germania Club is historic. It is certainly the most outstanding historic site in the area for Chicago's German residents, one of the largest ethnic communities of the city. Its wider sense it is an important landmark to the city's German heritage. The character of the district is distinguished by the presence of the club's building.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lewis Schorsch, c/o C.W. Westfall

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Preservation Council

DATE

1/22/76

STREET & NUMBER

407 South Dearborn Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Anthony P. Dean

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

4-1-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Jerry L. Rogers
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/22/96

ATTEST:

W. Smith
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10.20.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Throughout the Club's history members and individuals interested in the German community have donated works of art which decorate the interior. Premier among these is the tile allegorical portrait of the Spirit of Germania in the main ballroom, which was commissioned by Kaiser Wilhelm II for the German exhibit at the Columbian Exposition and which was later donated by the Kaiser to the Club. A number of the rooms are decorated with frescoes and friezes on German themes done by local artists.

The Germania Club is the last surviving structure commemorating an area on the Northwest side which was in the 19th century the center of Chicago's German community. As such it provides a pleasing and human counterpart of the high rise complex of Sandburg Village, and is in fact often used by the residents of the apartment complex when a large hall is needed for social functions.

Property

Germania Club

Cook, 76000692
County

State

Illinois

Working Number

4.19.76.3090

TECHNICAL

Photos

Maps

Quality of significance missing ^{Mar. Hill} 10.7.76

CONTROL

OK 4.20.76

HISTORIAN

Accept
Ritterbaum
7/7/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
M. Hutz
9-14-76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

poor photo for a building recorded by HABS

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
W.R. Luce
9/27/76

BRANCH CHIEF

[Signature]
10-18-76

KEEPER

[Signature]
10/20/76

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered OCT 22 1976

Federal Register Entry 12-7-76

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



Germania Club, 108 W. German-
ia Place, Chicago, Illinois,
Cook Co.

Jim Chronis: Photographer

Filed at: Jim Chronis, Chica-
go, Illinois

Date: 1974

View of south (Germania Place)
facade

APR 19 1976

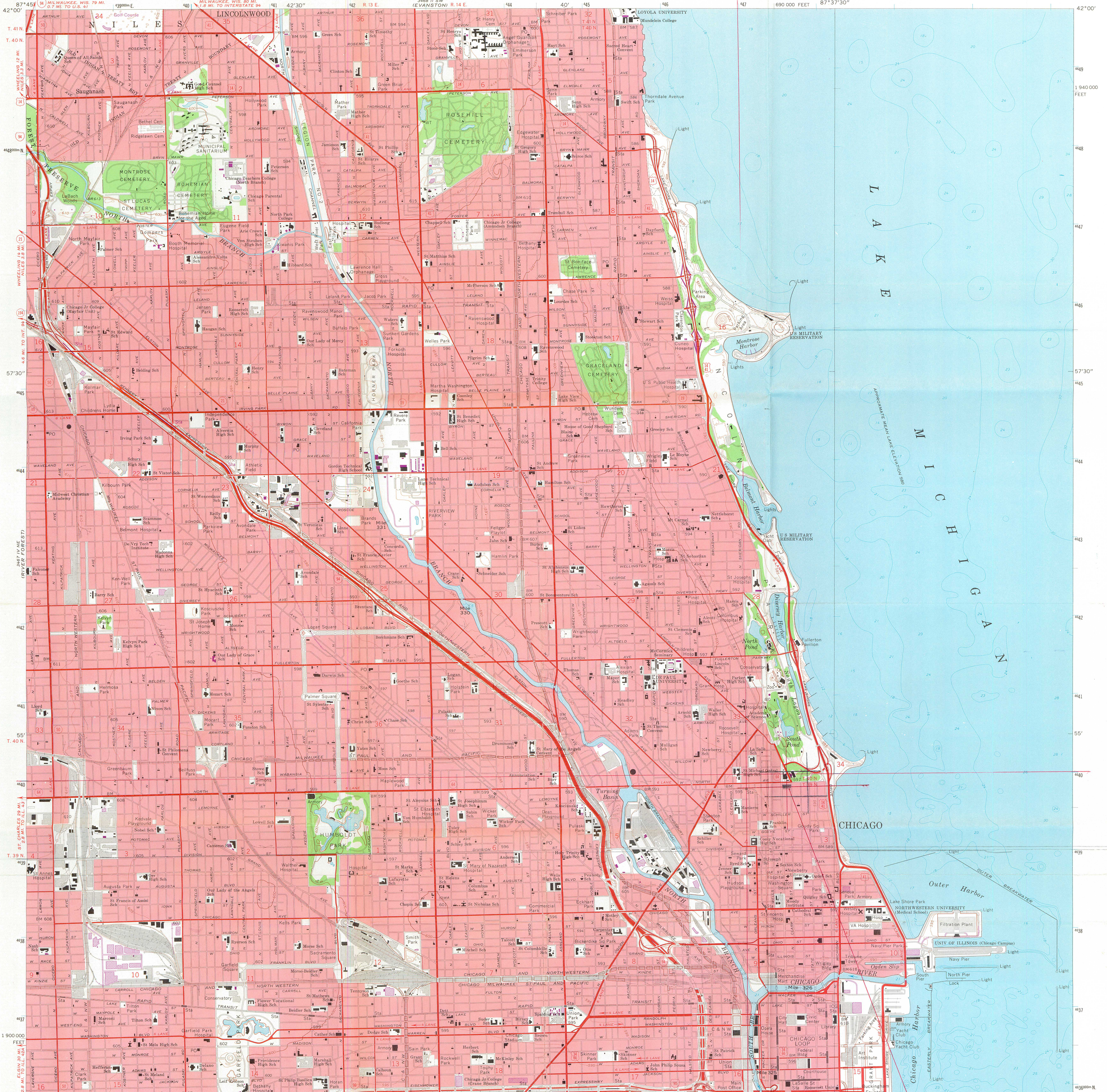
OCT 22 1976

Germania Club

Jim Chronis photo

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Germania Club



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with State of Illinois Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and City of Chicago
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1962. Topography by planetable surveys 1926. Revised 1963
Selected hydrographic data compiled from U.S. Lake Survey Charts 751 (1963) and 752 (1963). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Illinois coordinate system, east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1972. This information not field checked

Scale 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS LOW WATER 578.5 FEET
UTM GRID AND 1972 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242 AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route
Light-duty

RECEIVED
APR 19 1976
NATIONAL REGISTER

CHICAGO LOOP, ILL.
N4152.5-W8737.57.5
1963
PHOTOREVISED 1972
AMS3467 1 NW-SERIES Y863

GERMANIA CLUB
U-16-4,639,840
E-16-447,540



STATE OF ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

605 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
400 SOUTH SPRING ST.
SPRINGFIELD 62706

ANTHONY T. DEAN
DIRECTOR

CHICAGO OFFICE—ROOM 100, 160 N. LA SALLE ST., 60601

April 2, 1976

Mr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

Enclosed are National Register nomination forms for the
Germania Club in Chicago, Illinois.

Thank you for your prompt attention to these forms.

Sincerely,

William G. Farrar

William G. Farrar
Coordinator of Preservation Services
Historic Sites Division

WGF/lg
Enclosure





Landmarks Preservation Council

407 South Dearborn Street • Chicago, Il. 60605 • 312-922-1742

October 4, 1976

Mr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

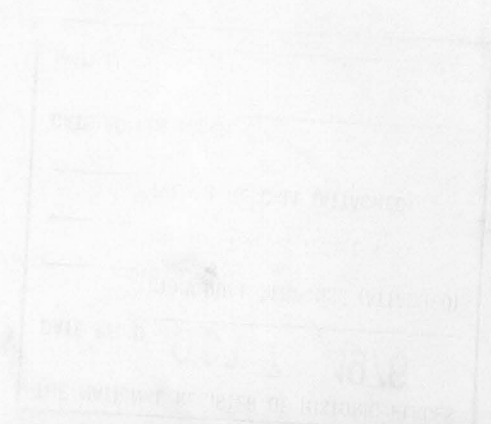
We would very much appreciate learning the present status of the nomination for National Landmark Structure for the Germania Club in Chicago, Illinois. We understand that the application was forwarded to you from Mr. William Farrar's office at the Illinois Department of Conservation in March, 1976.

If we might be of any further assistance with regard to this application, please let us know, as we would be pleased to help in any way.

Very truly yours

Athena J. Christos

1pc



DATE REC'D **OCT 7 1976**

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN _____

INITIALS _____

1bc

VERSION 9.00112102

VERY TRULY YOURS

held in any way.
application, please let us know, as we would be pleased to
if we might be of any further assistance with regard to this

date.
office of the Illinois Department of Conservation in which
application was forwarded to you from Mr. William Farrell,
Department Chief in Chicago, Illinois. We understand that the
the nomination for National Landmark structure for the
we would very much appreciate learning the present status of

Dept. Mr. Mulcahy:
Washington, D.C. 20240
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Director of the National Register
Mr. William J. Mulcahy

October 4, 1976

Landmarks Preservation Council



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **ILLINOIS**

Date Entered **OCT 22 1976**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Germania Club	Chicago Cook County
Golconda Historic District	Golconda Pope County

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson
Hon. Sidney R. Yates
Hon. Paul M. Simon
Regional Director, Midwest
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. John McGuire
Director, Department of Conservation
602 State Office Building
400 South Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

880 MMott/row 11/3/76

K BURNS
11/5/76
Jude forde
11/8/76

H34-880

Ms. Athena J. Christos
Landmarks Preservation Council
407 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60605

NOV 9 1976

Cook County

Dear Ms. Christos:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the status of the nomination of the Germania Club, Chicago, Illinois, to the National Register of Historic Places.

We are pleased to advise you that the Germania Club was entered in the National Register on October 22, 1976. Enclosed is a leaflet which describes the National Register program.

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation.

Sincerely yours,
Charles A. Herrington (Sgd.)

^{for}
William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register

Enclosure

cc: Mr. John McGuire
Illinois SHPO w/c

bcc: Regional Director, Midwest Region w/c
001 Reading File
880 w/c

FNP:BURNS:sle:11-3-76

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 880

mjl
5M

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 7/7/76
Reviewer: SRR
NR
DOE OCT 22 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Germania Club

OTHER NAMES: Germania Club

LOCATION: STREET & NUMBER 108 W. Germania Place

CITY, TOWN Chicago

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 9th

STATE Ill. - 17

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Cook

code 031

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER HABS

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR Substantially intact-1
- unknown - 4
- not applicable - 7
EXTERIOR Substantially intact-2
- unknown - 5
- not applicable - 8
ENVIRONS Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 6
- Not applicable-9
not intact

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED
- Unexcavated
 UNALTERED
- ALTERED
- Reconstructed
- Excavated
 ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED
- Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)
then- Club bldg.
now- Club bldg.

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW/Gov't/politics
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)
- entertainment
- health
- recreation
- settlement
- socio/cultural
- urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

Bill
←

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Eclectic

architect/~~m.~~builder: August Fiedler

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP: Germans

NAMES: personal

(label role & appropriate date)

events

institutional Germania Club - Chicago's oldest German club (1865).

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1889

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY

OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) less than one

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

ABS.
1956

limestone base; brick, 5 stories, rectangular, slightly projecting front center entrance porch with paired columns, round-arched entrance, ground-floor storefront; paired round-arched 3rd- to 4th-story windows, ~~set under~~ with ~~corbel~~ relief ~~pediments~~, ~~limestone~~ bracketed cornice with ~~small~~ windows beneath; ~~decorative relief work~~; elaborate interior tilework and paint schemes, Electric using German architectural elements, last surviving structure on the location of the Germania Maennerchor in Chicago's oldest German community

Bill
←

the Germania Maennerchor: Chicago's oldest German organization

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) The club bldg has been the scene of many key events that have affected the German population in Chicago, & is now the last surviving structure on the northwest side of the 19th Century German community. It is also significant architecturally for its conservative, bold German architectural motifs + decoration.