

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JAN 18 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic THE HARRER BUILDING
and/or common 8051 LINCOLN AVENUE, SKOKIE, ILLINOIS

2. Location

street & number 8051 LINCOLN AVENUE *N/A* not for publication
city, town SKOKIE, *N/A* vicinity of CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT # 10
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT # 15
state ILLINOIS code 012 county COOK code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<i>N/A</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name R. WILLIAM and BARBARA A. HABEN
street & number 8057 NILES CENTER ROAD
city, town SKOKIE, *N/A* vicinity of state ILLINOIS 60077

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. COOK COUNTY BUILDING, RECORDER'S OFFICE
street & number 118 N. CLARK STREET
city, town CHICAGO, state ILLINOIS

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Illinois Historic Structures Survey - Cook County, Skokie
has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1974 federal state county local
depository for survey records IL. Department of Conservation- Historic Sites
city, town Springfield state Illinois

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY:

The Harrer Building, Skokie, Illinois, is a two-story, detached, commercial, brick building of Italianate architectural style. The building is situated on Lincoln Avenue, the historic Main Street of the "old" Skokie, Illinois. The design and workmanship on the facade of the building reflects the inventiveness of the early architects and the skill of the early carpenters.

The Harrer Building is the oldest commercial structure in Skokie, Illinois (called Niles Center until 1940). The Harrer Family emigrated from Bavaria to Niles Center in 1845. Michael Harrer built The Harrer Building in 1874 to serve as the town's first meat market and the family home. Michael served as a Trustee of the village. Michael's son, Adam became the first Village President in 1888.

The village, pioneered by the Harrer Family, grew from this immediate area to become "The Largest Village in the World".

DESCRIPTION:

The Harrer Building is a free-standing, commercial-type building. It is a two-story brick structure, rectangular in shape. Its location is on a public walk approximately 30 feet from Lincoln Avenue in the downtown business section of Skokie, Illinois. Immediately to the south stands a circa 1910 commercial building, and to the north is landscaped property.

The facade has a center entrance with show windows on each side, and an auxiliary side entrance leading to the stairway to the second floor living quarters. The two remaining doorways include a side-rear door leading to a second floor stairway and a rear door to the first floor commercial quarters. The entire exterior is well preserved original except the actual store front which has been altered through the years. It is the intent to carefully restore this, using old photographs, and carefully detailed workmanship.

The north elevation consists of nine windows with semi-circular heads. Five second story windows located directly above four windows on the first floor plus the side-rear door. The south elevation has six similar windows, three on each floor. The rear elevation has two more similar windows, one in the attic and one on the rear stairway. The front elevation has three nicely hooded windows with prominent keystones on the second story level and an additional pair at the attic level, presently obscured by an awning.

The front facade at the roof line has a broad frieze board with nicely detailed and well preserved double brackets. The same frieze board continues around the building without additional brackets. The construction date of 1874 is evidenced in the keystone over the double attic window.

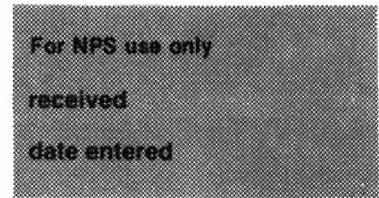
INTEGRITY:

Few alterations have been done to The Harrer Building over the years. The first floor store has been remodeled and redesigned over the years to accommodate its different uses. The second story has always been living quarters. The dormer was added around 1950 to add living space to the attic. The front storefront windows were remodeled in the early 1960's. The original cellar doors were removed and replaced with the concrete stairway around 1950. The original front stoop which spanned across the width of the building was replaced with the concrete steps to serve each of the front doorways, respectively. This was also done around 1950.

continued. . .
on page No.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7 + 8

Page 2

THE HARRER BUILDING

7. DESCRIPTION continued

Page No. 1

Considering there has been few alterations and moderate deterioration, The Harrer Building exists today as an architecturally significant work of the late 19th Century. There does not exist a structure within miles with such character as displayed here by the work done by early pioneers of such a dynamic community. With its added historical meaning to the community, it deserves to be given honest consideration as an historic resource worthy of preservation.

8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Uses:

Flower Shop 1947-1966
Dress Shop 1966-1976
Delicatessen 1976 to date

Owners:

Frank S. Childs Jr. 1947-1960
C. F. Meier 1960-1969
R. William & Barbara Haben 1969 to date

To this day, The Harrer Building sits in the heart of the business district. Given its location and character it will never be without a tenant.

The Harrer Family was instrumental in establishing the governmental system for "The Largest Village in the World", Skokie, Illinois. Built by Michael Harrer in 1874, the building served as his place of business and his home.

Michael Harrer:

- 1825 - born in Bavaria
- 1845 - came to Niles Center. A farmer
- 1852-1855 - time spent mining in California during Gold Rush
- 1855-1874 - a farmer in Niles Center, Il.
- 1874 - built and started Meat Market at 8051 Lincoln Avenue
- the town's first butcher
- 1888-1889 - served as Trustee for the Village of Niles Center (Skokie)
- 1907 - died

Adam Harrer:

- son of Michael Harrer
- 1861 - born in Niles Center, Il.
- 1881 - Chief of the Niles Center Volunteer Fire Company
- Postmaster of Niles Center, Il.
- 1888 - became first Village President (Mayor) of Niles Center, Il.
- 1889, 1890 - Village President
- 1893, 1894 - Village Trustee
- 1898, 1899 - Village Trustee
- 1940 - died in Skokie, Il.

8. Significance

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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Constructed- 1874

Specific dates Harrer Family 1874-1924 **Builder/Architect** Builder- Michael Harrer/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY:

The Harrer Building, being the oldest commercial structure in Skokie, Illinois gives it the opportunity to be an excellent example of the style of early commercial buildings lining the downtown streets of the towns around the City of Chicago. Its architecture displaying the Italianate style is a living example of what talent and detail was used in building a suburban area commercial building in the late 19th Century.

Niles Center (Skokie) first became inhabited in the 1830's. This immediate location soon became the hub of what later becomes a growing suburban colony and prosperous community.

The fact that The Harrer Building was built to serve as the new colony's meat market greatly added to the growth and commerce in the village, and consequently the growth of progress and population.

The Harrer Family took a great interest in the future of the community. Family members were active leaders in local government, civil service and the school system of the soon-to-be prosperous community.

The Harrer Building retains many of the distinctive characteristics common to an Italianate commercial building of the period. Of the alterations that were done, none were done to subtract from its character and artistic value. Little has been done to restore this significant architectural work over the years, but plans and ideas have been discussed to preserve the building of its historical and architectural value through rehabilitation and restoration.

Throughout the downtown area of Skokie there exists a number of older (circa 1910) buildings. Not any of these exhibit a similar style as The Harrer Building. Its architectural values remain unique to the village. The Harrer Building is the only one of its kind in Skokie and the only structure that can be identified with the Harrer Family.

Downtown Niles Center (Skokie), this location in particular, began to grow during the mid-19th Century. The town located itself on the main dirt road, Main Street (later re-named Lincoln Avenue), which traveled its way north from the City of Chicago. Lincoln Avenue became downtown Niles Center (Skokie). The business district then attracted families from near-by Chicago to settle in and around Niles Center. The Harrer Building is the oldest remaining structure of this business district.

The Harrer Building has always played an active role in local commerce.

<u>Uses:</u>		<u>Owners:</u>	
Harrer Meat Market	1874-1915	Michael Harrer & Family	1874-1924
Warehouse for General Store	1915-1947	Charles Hengesch	1924-1947

9. Major Bibliographical References

Andreas, A.T., History of Cook County, Illinois, 1884, Chicago, A.T. Andreas, publisher
 Beaudette, E. Palma, Niles Township, 1916, Chicago, Beaudette (copy avail. at Skokie Public
 League of Women Voter's of Skokie, Early Skokie, Skokie, Village of Skokie, publisher Library
 The Life Newspaper Diamond Jubilee Supplement, Jan. 17, 1963, Skokie, Il. pp. 29,74.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name PARK RIDGE, IL

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A 16 437580 4652900
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The South 40 feet of Lot 37 (except the East 204.30 feet thereof as measured along the North line of the South 40 feet of said Lot 37) in the subdivision of the South 105 acres of SE $\frac{1}{2}$ of section 21, Twp. 41 North, Range 13, East of the 3rd Principal Meridian, in Cook County, Illinois.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John W. Haben

organization date September 20, 1982

street & number 8057 Niles Center Road telephone 312-673-6111

city or town Skokie, state Illinois 60077

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 Doris Kenney

title Director date 12/23/82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 2/17/83

for Melores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page 3

The Harrer Building

8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Page No. 2

Henry Harrer: brother to Michael Harrer

- 1829 - born in Bavaria
- 1845-1878 - came to Niles Center. Time spent farming
- 1878 - opened a store and saloon in Niles Center, Il.
- Henry Harrer has held various town offices:
 - One of the first School Directors (held for 15 yrs.)
 - Overseer of Highways (7 yrs.)
 - Commissioner of Highways (18 yrs.)
 - Assessor (2 yrs.)
 - Justice of the Peace (19 yrs.)

The Michael Harrer Family lived and worked the meat market from 1874 until around 1915. We suspect Michael died while there.

GENERAL HISTORY
OF SKOKIE:

The community of Skokie (Niles Center) was established around 1831 when a fur trader erected the first log cabin. The surrounding area became a farming center in the mid-1800's. In 1881 the first Fire Company was organized, the first school in 1863, the first Church in 1867. Families migrated to Niles Center from Central Europe. It became specialized in truck gardening, supplying vegetables to rapidly growing Chicago. Electricity, water and telephone service did not come to Niles Center until 1910. When building materials became available after World War II, Skokie became a fast growing community. In 1962, Skokie became "The World's Largest Village".

Local Government Officials:

Albert J. Smith, Mayor
Village of Skokie
5127 Oakton Street
Skokie, Illinois 60077

George Dunne, President
Cook County Board of Commissioners
118 N, Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Harrer Building
Cook County
ILLINOIS

Working No. JAN 18 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84

Date Due: 2/17/83 - 3/4/83

Action: ACCEPT 2/17/83

RETURN

REJECT

Entered in the National Register
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Conditions	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



2355

HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.

Photographer: John W. Haben

September, 1982

photo negative with photographer

WEST (FACADE) ELEVATION

STREETSCAPE LOOKING EAST #1 of 17



2628

HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
2 of 17

WEST (FACADE) ELEVATION



2578

HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
3 of 17

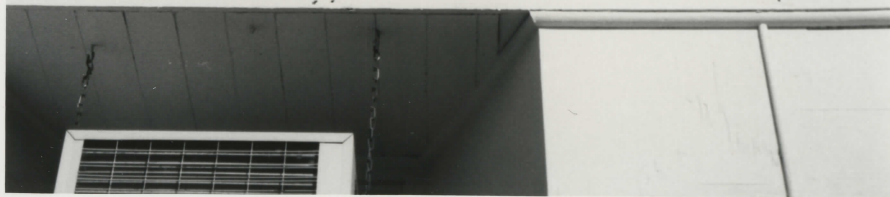
WEST (FACADE) ELEVATION



HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
4 of 17

2628

WEST (FACADE) ELEVATION
CLOSE-UP OF SECOND FLOOR LEVEL



2628

HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
5 of 17

FACADE CLOSE-UP
WEST ELEVATION



8051

NOW FEATURING
ITALIAN
SUBMARINE
SANDWICHES

PARTY TIME
Perfect for order
for any occasion

SANDWICHES

2358

HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
6 of 17

WEST (FACADE) ELEVATION CLOSE-UP
AUXILLARY SIDE DOOR



2358

HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
7 of 17

NORTH AND WEST (FACADE)
ELEVATIONS



HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
8 of 17

NORTH AND WEST(FACADE)
ELEVATIONS

2628



KURELL CONTEMPORARY
FURS & LEATHERS

SAVE 30-50%
MOTORCYCLE
JACKETS
SAVE 30-50%

HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
9 of 17

2628

NORTH AND WEST (FACADE)
ELEVATIONS



2353

HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
10 of 17

EAST (REAR) AND NORTH
ELEVATIONS



2358

HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
11 of 17

EAST ELEVATION (REAR)
SECOND FLOOR LEVEL



2078

HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
12 of 17

EAST (REAR) ELEVATION
SECOND FLOOR LEVEL



HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
13 of 17

EAST (REAR) ELEVATION
FIRST FLOOR LEVEL & BASEMENT DOOR



2358

HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
14 of 17

NORTH ELEVATION
CLOSE-UP OF DORMER



27

HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
15 of 17

SOUTH ELEVATION



HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
16 of 17

NORTH ELEVATION
STREETScape VIEW LOOKING SOUTH

2628



FOR SALE
6727 SQ. FT.
BASEMENT • SPRINKLERED
KING - 673-1234

KING GENERAL STORE

SALES & SERVICE

STOP

SAVE 30% TO 50%

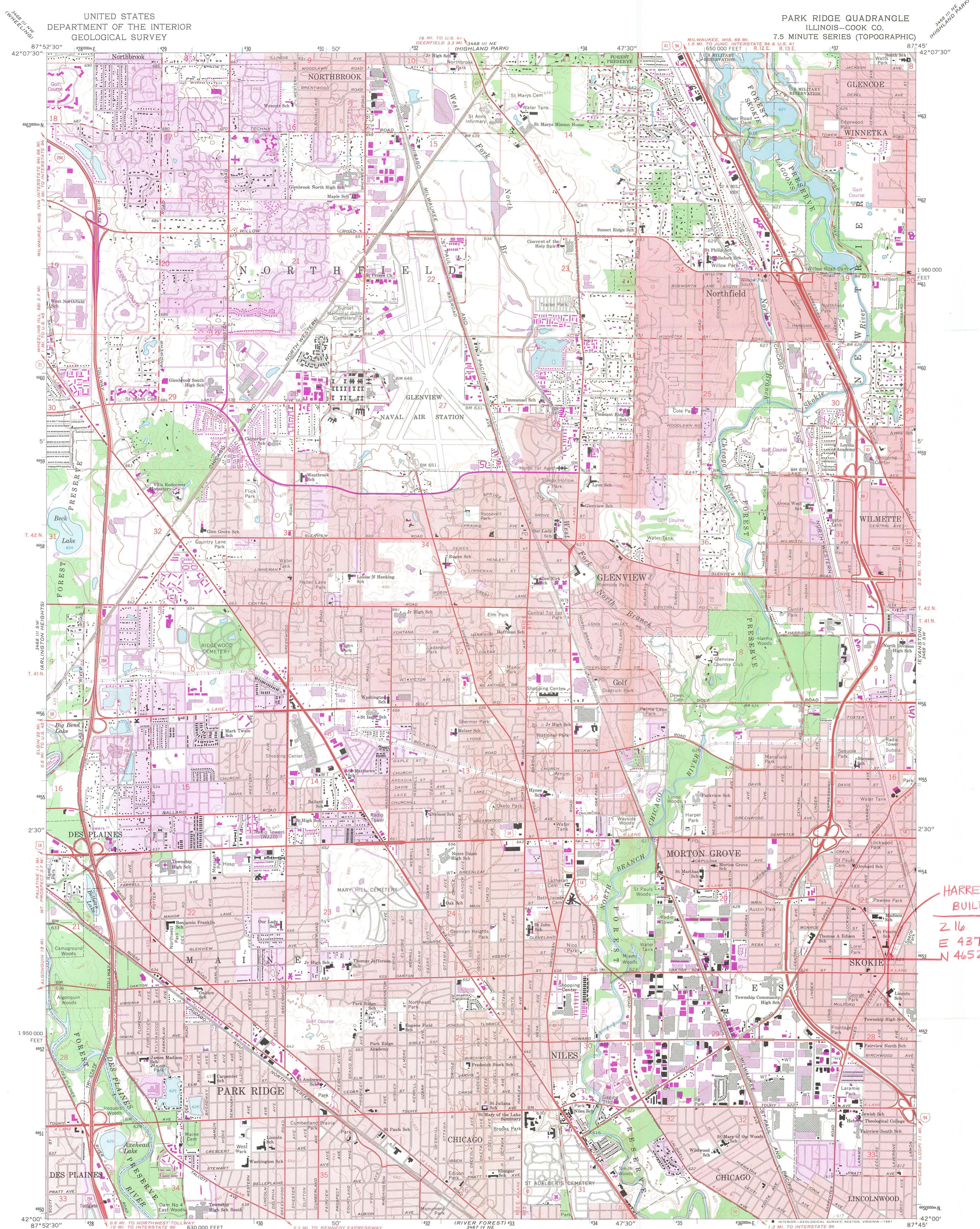
SAVE 30% TO 50%
MOTORCYCLE JACKIES
SALES & SERVICE

HARRER BUILDING SKOKIE, IL.
Photographer: John W. Haben
September, 1982
photo negative with photographer
17 of 17

2578

WEST ELEVATION (FACADE)
STREETSCAPE VIEW LOOKING NORTH

— U S G S MAP —



HARRER
BUILDING
Z 16
E 437 580
N 4652 900

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with State of Illinois Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Cook County Highway Department
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1962-63. Topography by planetable surveys 1926 Revised 1963
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
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 2 meters north and 5 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Scale 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route — U.S. Route — State Route —

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1972 and 1978. Map edited 1980. This information not field checked.
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area

QUADRANGLE LOCATION
PARK RIDGE, ILL.
N4200—W8745/7.5
1963
PHOTOREVISED 1972 AND 1980
DMA 3468 III SE—SERIES V865



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

VILLAGE OF SKOKIE

ALBERT J. SMITH
MAYOR

November 30, 1982

Mr. David Kenney
State Historic Preservation Officer
c/o Keith A. Sculle
405 East Washington Street
Springfield, Illinois 62702

Re: Harrer Building, 8051 Lincoln Avenue
Skokie, Illinois

Dear Mr. Kenney:

We were pleased to learn that the Harrer Building has been proposed for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council.

As this structure was the home of our Village's first Mayor, Adam Harrer, we believe it most appropriate that this is the first structure in the Village of Skokie to be considered for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, therefore, I am pleased to support the proposed nomination of the Harrer Building which is scheduled for consideration on Friday, December 10, 1982.

Sincerely,

Albert J. Smith

Illinois  Department of Conservation
life and land together

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706
CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601
David Kenney, Director • James C. Helfrich, Assistant Director

January 11, 1983

Jerry Rogers
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Enclosed are the National Register nomination forms for the Harrer Building (Skokie) and the Calumet Plant of R.R. Donnelley and Sons Company (Chicago). Also enclosed is a proposed extension of the boundaries of the Sheffield Historic District (Chicago).

Your prompt attention to these nominations is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Michael Ward
National Register Assistant

MW/mfb

Enclosure

