

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT



Northwestern University Chicago Campus District 303-361 E. Chicago Ave.

Final Landmark Recommendation adopted by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks, June 5, 2014



CITY OF CHICAGO
Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

Department of Planning and Development
Andrew J. Mooney, Commissioner

The Commission on Chicago Landmarks, whose nine members are appointed by the Mayor and City Council, was established in 1968 by city ordinance. The Commission is responsible for recommending to the City Council which individual buildings, sites, objects, or districts should be designated as Chicago Landmarks, which protects them by law.

The landmark designation process begins with a staff study and a preliminary summary of information related to the potential designation criteria. The next step is a preliminary vote by the landmarks commission as to whether the proposed landmark is worthy of consideration. This vote not only initiates the formal designation process, but it places the review of city permits for the property under the jurisdiction of the Commission until a final landmark recommendation is acted on by the City Council.

This Landmark Designation Report is subject to possible revision and amendment during the designation process. Only language contained within a designation ordinance adopted by the City Council should be regarded as final.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY CHICAGO CAMPUS DISTRICT

MONTGOMERY WARD MEMORIAL BUILDING

303-329 E. CHICAGO AVE.

BUILT: 1925-26

ARCHITECT: JAMES GAMBLE ROGERS; CHILDS & SMITH, ASSOC. ARCHITECTS

WIEBOLDT HALL OF COMMERCE

339-343 E. CHICAGO AVE.

BUILT: 1925-26

ARCHITECT: JAMES GAMBLE ROGERS; CHILDS & SMITH, ASSOC. ARCHITECTS

LEVY MAYER HALL / GARY LAW LIBRARY

349-361 E. CHICAGO AVE.

BUILT: 1925-26

ARCHITECT: JAMES GAMBLE ROGERS; CHILDS & SMITH, ASSOC. ARCHITECTS

Located in the Streeterville neighborhood on Chicago's Near North Side, the Northwestern University Chicago Campus District is a group of finely-designed and detailed Gothic Revival-style buildings that comprise the historic core of Northwestern University's Chicago campus. Based on European medieval architecture of the 12th through 15th centuries, the Gothic Revival architectural style is one of the most important historic architectural styles in the history of Chicago. It is especially important in the development of early 20th-century college buildings, both in Chicago and throughout the United States, a period when many colleges, including Northwestern University, emulated the ancient English universities of Oxford and Cambridge through the incorporation of the Gothic Revival in their building projects.

The buildings in the Northwestern University Chicago Campus District were built to consolidate the university's professional schools, historically located in Chicago, rather than in the suburb of Evanston where the university's main campus is located. The Montgomery Ward Memorial Building, the largest of these, was built to house the Northwestern medical and dental schools. The

Wieboldt Hall of Commerce originally housed the university's School of Commerce and also, starting in the 1930s, Northwestern's continuing education programs. The Northwestern School of Law occupied the smallest of the district's buildings, Levy Mayer Hall, built with the attached Gary Law Library.

All of the buildings in the Northwestern University Chicago Campus District were designed by New York-based James Gamble Rogers. Rogers was a nationally-significant designer of educational buildings in the United States, designing buildings for Yale University, Columbia University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Colgate-Rochester Theological Seminary, as well as Northwestern University.

Taken together, the Northwestern University Chicago Campus District forms a handsome enclave of gray limestone-clad, Gothic Revival-style buildings along the southern edge of Lakeshore Park that are visually distinctive within the context of Chicago's Near North community area and that exemplify Rogers' effort to create an attractive, planned campus on behalf of Northwestern.

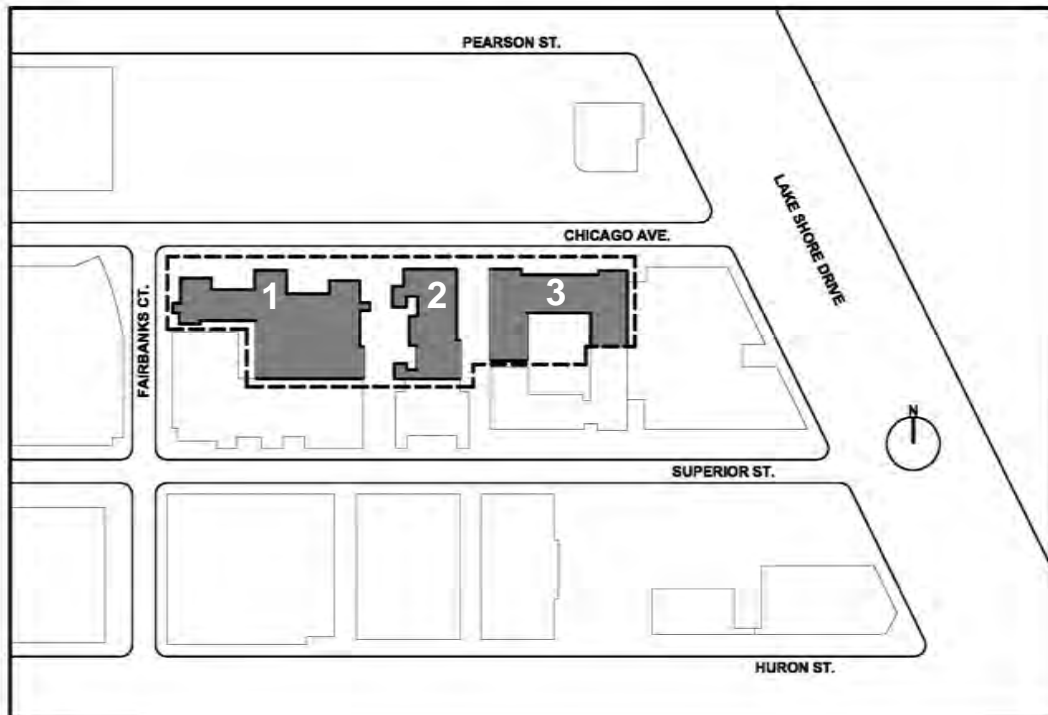
THE EARLY HISTORY OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS CHICAGO CAMPUS IN THE 1920S

Northwestern University was conceived in 1850 when a group of Chicago men met in downtown Chicago with the intention of creating a new university to serve the states, including Illinois, that had been carved out of the old Northwest Territory earlier in the 19th century. Associated with the Methodist denomination, the new Northwestern University was sited north of Chicago on land overlooking Lake Michigan in what would become the suburb of Evanston.

Northwestern University's initial academic focus was on the liberal arts and sciences rather than professional endeavors such as law and medicine. In the 1870s and 1880s, however, the university took important steps towards adding graduate programs in the professions of law, medicine and dentistry. In 1870, the university reached an affiliation agreement with the independent Chicago Medical College, which had been founded in 1859. The Medical College for many years occupied a building at 26th St. and Prairie Ave., south of downtown Chicago. In 1873, Northwestern reached an agreement with the original University of Chicago to jointly support the Union College of Law. (This early University of Chicago, not associated with the current university of the same name, would go out of business in the 1880s, although the law school would survive thanks to its Northwestern affiliation.) For years, the law school was located in a building next to the Cook County Courthouse in downtown Chicago. The Northwestern Dental College was founded in 1887; many of its classes were housed with the Medical College.

In 1902, the former Tremont House hotel building at Lake and Dearborn was acquired by Northwestern University, and it became the new location of the university's law and dental programs. In 1908, the newly established School of Commerce moved into the building as well.

By 1919-20, Northwestern University had a student population of 6,821, of which a majority, 3,593, were students in programs (law, medical, dental, pharmacy and commerce) located in Chicago. By 1916, Northwestern had begun to consider a new Chicago campus for these programs; after a delay caused by World War I, land for this campus, located on Chicago's North Side, along Chicago Avenue west of Lake Shore Drive in the Streeterville neighborhood, was purchased by Northwestern in 1920. A new university president, Dr. Walter Dill Scott, who took office the same year,



The Northwestern University Chicago Campus District is located in the Streeterville neighborhood on Chicago's Near North Side. It includes the Montgomery Ward Memorial Building (1), the Wieboldt Hall of Commerce (2), and Levy Mayer Hall / Gary Law Library (3).

This map is meant for illustrative purposes only. The final district boundary and description would be defined in a Chicago landmark designation ordinance passed by City Council.

Vol. 8, No. 23. Midsummer Number. July, 18 1888.

NORTH WESTERN

Union College of Law.

The Fall Term begins Sept. 19th.

A full course of instruction in the science and practice of Law is offered, requiring two collegiate years of 36 weeks for its completion. The diploma, with the degree of LL. B. conferred after such a course, is accepted by the Supreme court as satisfactory evidence of qualifications for admission to the Bar. For circulars address


HENRY BOOTH, Chicago, Ill.

CHICAGO MEDICAL COLLEGE.
The Medical Department of Northwestern University.

SESSION 1888-9.

N. S. DAVIS, M. D., LL. D., Dean.

The following year begins on September 15th, and continues through the month of August, students being admitted to the course on the 1st day of September. The course of study is of a professional character, and is of a high order of excellence. The course of study is of a professional character, and is of a high order of excellence. The course of study is of a professional character, and is of a high order of excellence.



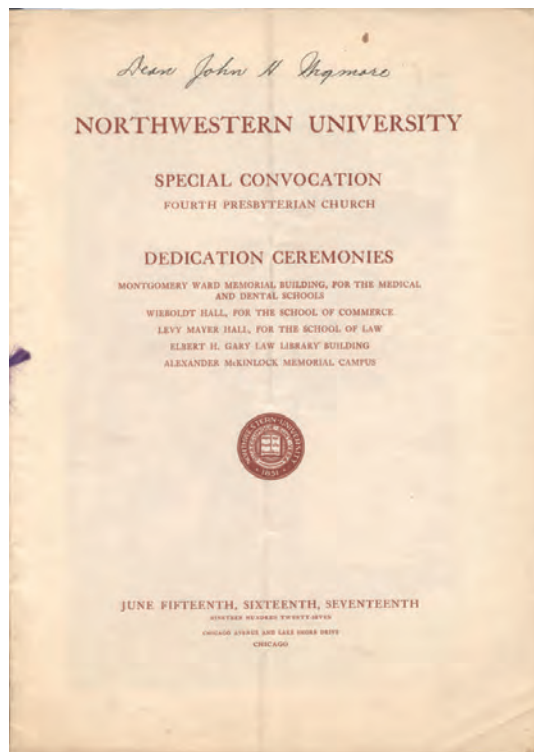
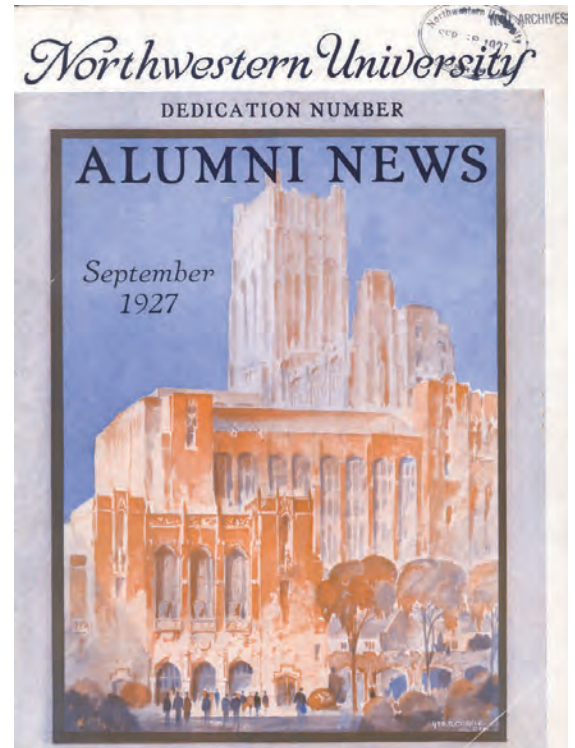
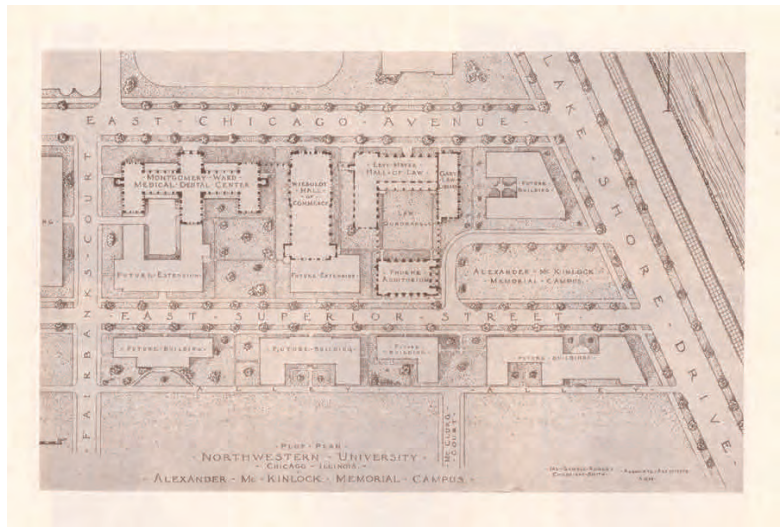
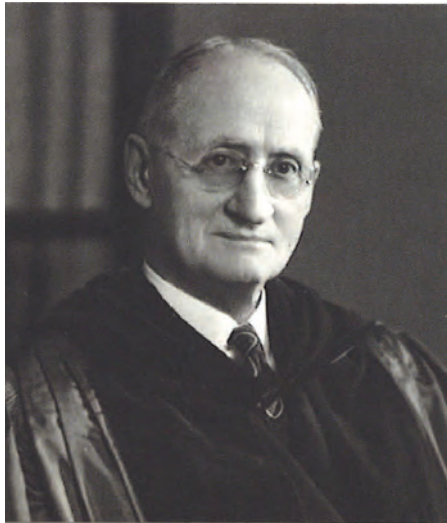
UNIVERSITY PRESS CO. PRINT.



Northwestern University's professional schools, including its medical, dental and law schools, were established in the late 19th century. Top left: A Northwestern University publication from 1888 with information on the school's law and medical schools. Top right: A view of the law school class of 1877.

These professional programs originally were located in scattered buildings in and near downtown Chicago. Middle left: The medical school building at 26th St. and Prairie Ave. Middle right: The dental school building. Bottom: The Tremont Hotel building, acquired by Northwestern in 1902, housed the university's law, dental and commerce programs for many years.





Top left: Dr. Walter Dill Scott, the president of Northwestern University at the time of the construction of the university's new Chicago campus. Top right: A preliminary site plan, designed by architect James Gamble Rogers, for the new campus. Middle left: A photograph of the new campus's financial donors at the campus's groundbreaking, 1925. Middle right: The cover of the dedication issue of Northwestern University's *Alumni News*. Bottom: The cover of the campus dedication ceremonies program.

made the construction of the new Chicago campus a university priority. In 1922 James Gamble Rogers was hired as campus architect, the creation of a new Chicago campus, as well as new buildings for the Evanston campus. The Chicago firm of Childs and Smith assisted Rogers as the local architectural office associated with the project. Rogers was not only the design architect for the three buildings in the district, but conceived the campus grouping as a whole with his design of a campus plan with ample green space.

During the next several years, as part of the “Towards a Greater Northwestern” fundraising campaign, Northwestern raised funds for the new Chicago campus. The campus’s buildings were made possible through the generosity of several prominent Chicagoans. Mrs. Levy Mayer provided \$500,000 for a new law school building in honor of her late husband, a prominent Chicago lawyer, while the law school's library, built as an adjacent wing, was constructed with \$150,000 donated by Elbert Gary, a well-known judge. The Wieboldt Foundation, headed by William A. Wieboldt, a prominent department-store owner, provided \$500,000 for a new home for the university's rapidly-growing School of Commerce. Finally, Mrs. Montgomery Ward gave \$4 million for a building to house the medical and dental schools. The resulting Montgomery Ward Memorial Building, named in honor of Mrs. Ward's late husband and the founder of the great Chicago-based mail-order company, was conceived as a monumental skyscraper and the visually-dominant building in the group.

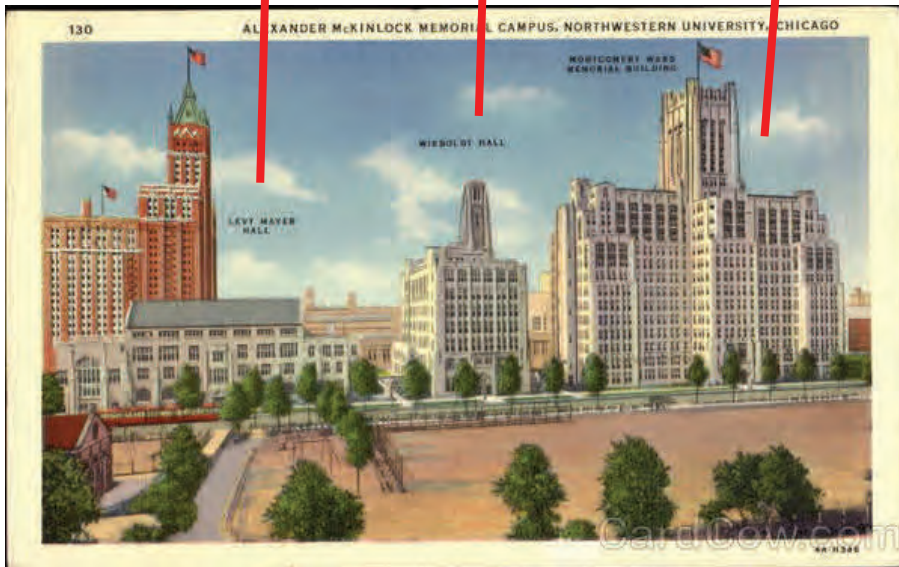
Construction of the buildings began in late 1925 after a ground-breaking ceremony on May 8, 1925, attended by the building donors. Cornerstones were laid on June 11, 1926, and buildings began to be occupied late that year. The dedication for the entire campus was held on June 17, 1927.

The resulting Chicago campus for Northwestern University received great praise and recognition, including coverage in *American Architect*, *Western Architect*, and *Architecture* magazines. As importantly, the new Chicago campus buildings enabled Northwestern University to grow its professional schools at a rapid rate during the next several decades, and these 1920s-era buildings continue to form the core of the university's Chicago campus.

BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

The Northwestern University Chicago Campus District consists of the Montgomery Ward Memorial Building, the Wieboldt Hall of Commerce, and Levy Mayer Hall / Gary Law Library. The tallest building is Ward Memorial on the west, and the buildings step down in height to the low-scale law school buildings on the east. The buildings that comprise the district are “orange-rated” in the Chicago Historic Resources Survey.

The district's buildings share common visual characteristics. Located on an extra-long block extending along the south side of Chicago Avenue east of Fairbanks, these buildings form a wall of gray limestone-clad, Gothic Revival-style buildings that rise above the greenery of Lakeshore Park, located across the street. The district's buildings are connected by gray-limestone arcade walls and separated by landscaped courtyards that provide north-south passageways between Chicago Avenue and Superior Street that have provided important pedestrian connections through the campus since its creation. The buildings' ornamentation generally is concentrated around entrances and along ground floors, and consists of Gothic-style arches, moldings, plaques, and foliate details.



Top: The Northwestern University Chicago Campus District, as seen from the north in a Google Earth aerial photograph.

Middle: An early postcard of the campus.

Bottom: An early photograph of the campus, with Levy Mayer Hall / Gary Law Library in the foreground, the Wieboldt Hall of Commerce in the middle, and the Montgomery Ward Memorial Building in the rear.



BUILDING CATALOG

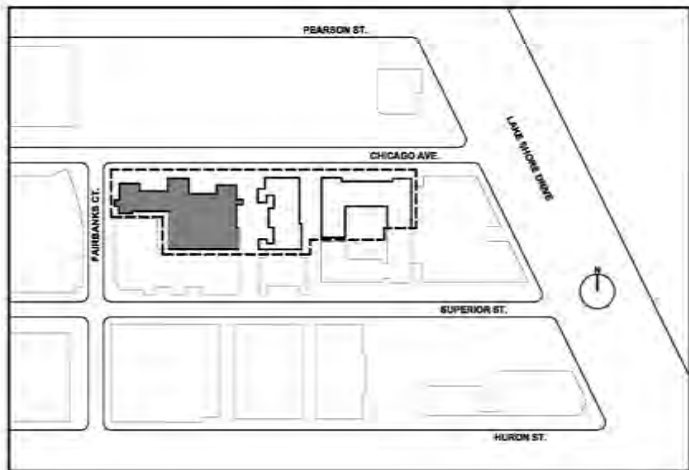
1. **Montgomery Ward Memorial Building** **303-329 E. Chicago Ave.**

Built: 1925-26

Architects: James Gamble Rogers; Childs & Smith, assoc. architects

The Montgomery Ward Memorial Building was built to house Northwestern's schools of medicine and dentistry. It is a visually-massive presence on Chicago Avenue, with the main body of the building rising 14 stories and the central tower rising an additional 6 stories, for a total of 20 stories. The limestone-clad building has a modified E-shaped plan, with projecting central and end pavilions. The building presents a symmetrical appearance to the street, with a centrally-placed main entrance set at the base of the central pavilion, which rises skyward to incorporate the central tower. This main entrance is finely ornamented with two Gothic-arched openings with historic wooden doors and multi-paned transoms. Above the entrance, "Montgomery Ward Memorial" is carved in a modified medieval script. The entrance is flanked by three story shallow stone buttresses topped by foliate finials and tracery. Third-floor windows directly above the entrance are also finely ornamented with foliate tracery and Gothic-pointed arches. Other ornament includes plaques carved with quotes by historic figures such as the Greek physician Hippocrates, and Gothic tracery and finials forming a "frieze" above second-floor windows.

The top of the Montgomery Ward Memorial Building steps back to a tall central tower, resembling a Gothic cathedral's bell tower, which rises to elaborately-molded and detailed corner finials and crenellation. Much of the rest of the building is relatively simply detailed with regularly-placed, metal replacement windows filled with multi-paned, 8-over-8 sash. The rear of the building has largely been obscured by newer buildings that are not included as part of this proposed landmark designation.



Left: A map of the district with the Montgomery Ward Memorial Building shaded in gray.

Right: A historic view of the building, looking from the northwest.





Top: The Montgomery Ward Memorial Building is the largest of the district's buildings and historically has housed Northwestern's medical school. Bottom left: The building's main entrance on Chicago Avenue. Bottom right: The building's visually-prominent tower.

2. Wieboldt Hall of Commerce
339-343 E. Chicago Ave.

Built: 1925-26

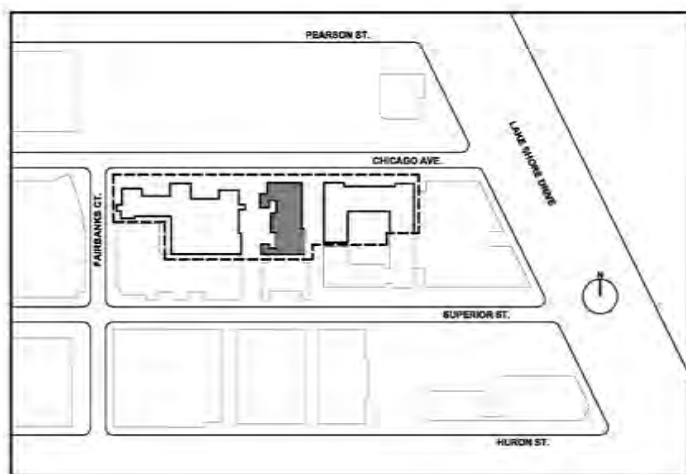
Architects: James Gamble Rogers; Childs & Smith, assoc. architects

Wieboldt Hall of Commerce is located just east of the Montgomery Ward Memorial Building, and the two are connected by a Gothic-arched limestone arcade wall, set back from Chicago Ave., that shelters a landscaped courtyard that provides a north-south pedestrian passageway between Chicago Ave. and Superior St. Wieboldt Hall is eight stories in height and is rectangular in overall plan, with a relatively narrow, simply-detailed facade facing Chicago Avenue.

Most ornamentation is centered on the building's main entrance, which is a single large Gothic-style arch within which are two sets of wooden doors. Above the doors are two leaded-glass windows supporting a carved-stone Northwestern University seal. The arch is handsomely detailed with carved plaques representing "Industry" and "Commerce," as well as decorative stone Gothic-style hoods.

Flanking the entrance arch are two-story carved-stone buttresses ornamented with Gothic-style foliate ornament and tracery. "Wieboldt Hall School of Commerce" is carved in modified medieval script under second-floor windows ornamented with carved tracery.

Ground-floor windows are 9-over-9, double-hung windows ornamented with small stained-glass plaques detailed with academic-related motifs. Upper floors are relatively simply detailed with regularly-spaced, multi-paned windows. Windows appear to be original, wood true-divided-light windows. Side elevations are similarly detailed. The building's rear elevation is obscured by a later building that is not included as part of this proposed landmark designation. The building's original tower, built to hide a smokestack that served the campus's heating plant, originally within the building, was later shortened and remodeled when the heating plant was removed, and non-historic changes and additions have been made to the building's roof. Non-historic changes to the building's roofline to house building mechanicals and HVAC are not considered significant to the proposed designation and do not lessen the district's significance.



Left: A map of the district with the Wieboldt Hall of Commerce shaded in gray. Right: A historic view of the building, looking from the northwest.



Top: The Wieboldt Hall of Commerce historically housed the School of Commerce and continuing education programs. Bottom left: The building's main entrance on Chicago Ave. Bottom right: An entrance lantern and Gothic-style stone ornament on one side of the entrance.



**3. Levy Mayer Hall / Gary Law Library
349-361 E. Chicago Ave.**

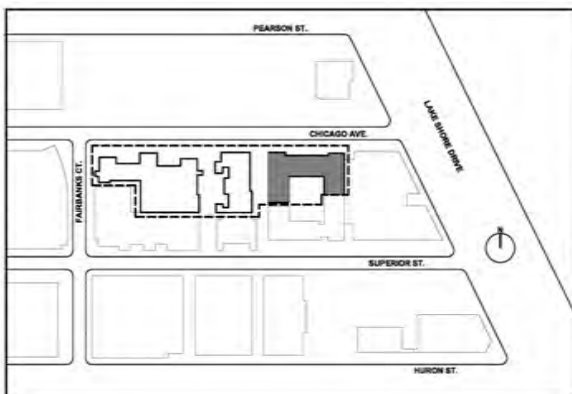
Built: 1925-26

Architects: James Gamble Rogers; Childs & Smith, assoc. architects

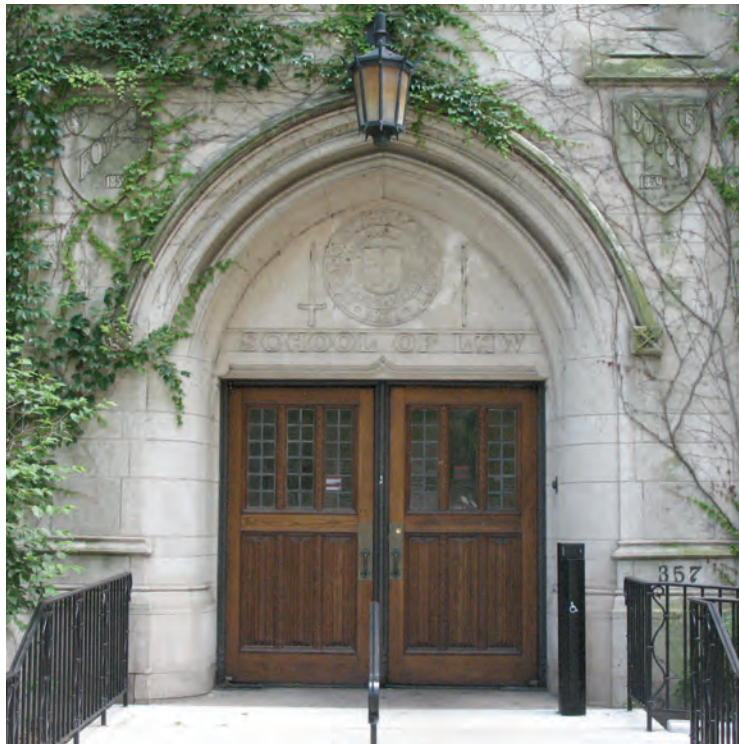
East of Wieboldt Hall of Commerce are Levy Mayer Hall and the attached Gary Law Library, built to serve the Northwestern University School of Law. They are connected to Wieboldt by a gray-limestone arcade wall that is similar to the arcade wall connecting Wieboldt and Ward Memorial and that also shelters a similar side courtyard that provides a pedestrian passageway between Chicago Ave. and Superior St. (To the south, and connected to these earlier buildings, is Robert McCormick Hall, built in 1959-1960. To the east is Arthur Rubloff Hall and the American Law Center, built in the 1980s. These later buildings are not included as part of this proposed landmark designation.)

Levy Mayer Hall and Gary Law Library are small in scale. Levy Mayer Hall is four stories in height, while Gary Law Library is three stories in height. Both buildings have gray limestone walls and multi-paned, steel-sash windows, both double-hung and casement. Levy Mayer's entrance is finely-designed with a pair of wooden doors set within a Gothic arch. "School of Law" in medieval script and a Northwestern University seal are carved above the doors. Flanking the entrance arch are carved shields, while underneath a large multi-paned window is carved "Levy Mayer Hall." Gary Law Library is similarly detailed with gray limestone, a wooden door under a Gothic-style drip molding and carved-stone seal, and a large tracery-filled window visually dominating its Chicago Avenue facade. The east wall of Gary Law Library is enclosed, but remains visible, as a side wall of a large multi-story glass atrium that connects the older School of Law buildings with Arthur Rubloff Hall. (This enclosed wall is not considered a significant feature for the purpose of this proposed landmark designation.)

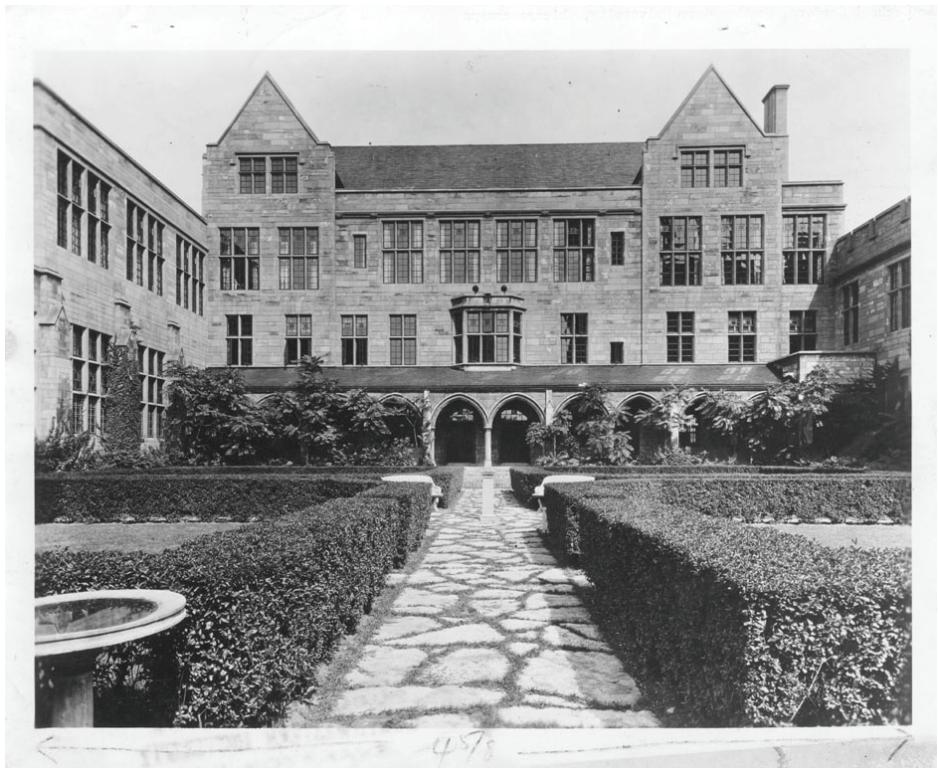
Levy Mayer Hall and Gary Law Library form a U-shaped footprint that partially encloses an inner courtyard. Similar to the buildings' exteriors, their courtyard walls are clad with gray limestone walls and ornamented with Gothic-style detailing, including arched windows and ornament. (Robert McCormick Hall, built in 1959-1960, completes the courtyard and is not included as part of this proposed landmark designation.)



Left: A map of the district with Levy Mayer Hall / Gary Law Library shaded in gray. Right: A historic photograph of the Gary Law Library (left) and Levy Mayer Hall (right).



Top: Built to house Northwestern's law school, Levy Mayer Hall / Gary Law Library are low in scale and intimate-feeling in visual character. Bottom left: The Levy Mayer Hall entrance on Chicago Ave. Bottom right: A large multi-paned window with Gothic-style tracery lighting the Gary Law Library.



Levy Mayer Hall and Gary Law Library shape an inner courtyard landscaped with grass, trees, shrubbery and ivy. Top: A historic view of the courtyard, looking north towards Levy Mayer Hall. (Middle left: A current view looking northwest. Middle right: A current view looking north. Bottom: A current view looking northeast.





The buildings of the Northwestern University Chicago Campus District are connected by arcade walls set back from Chicago Avenue and pierced with Gothic-arched openings. Top: The arcade wall between the Wieboldt Hall of Commerce (left) and the Montgomery Ward Memorial Building (right). Bottom: The arcade wall between Levy Mayer Hall (left) and Wieboldt Hall of Commerce (right).

ARCHITECT JAMES GAMBLE ROGERS

James Gamble Rogers (1867-1947) was one of the leading designers of university and college buildings in the United States in the first half of the twentieth century. In the biographical entry on Rogers found in the *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects* (which documents historically-significant architects both in the United States and abroad), he is described as “one of the most adept and creative of a group of American architects designing in the eclectic style” as taught by the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in the early twentieth century.

Born near Lexington, Kentucky, in 1867, Rogers came to Chicago as a child with his family and grew up in a portion of Lake View Township, north of Chicago, that would become the City’s Uptown community area. After graduating from Yale University, and with an extended period of travel through Europe behind him, Rogers went to work in the Chicago architectural office of William LeBaron Jenney and William Bryce Mundie in 1889. Two years later, he moved to the office of Burnham & Root, which was expanding in the boom years of the early 1890s. Then, in 1892, he left Chicago to study at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, at the time the leading architectural school in the world. Rogers returned to Chicago in 1898 and opened his own architectural office, working with his brother John Arthur Rogers.

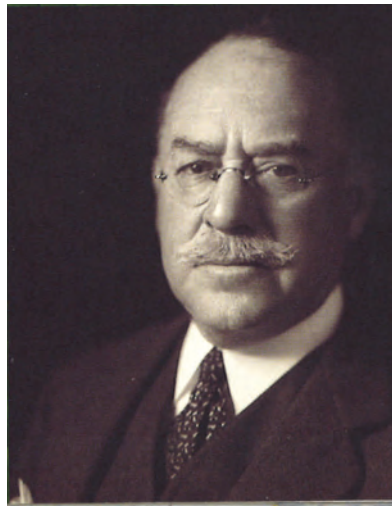
During the next seven years, until Rogers moved his practice to New York in 1905, he designed a variety of buildings in Chicago and its suburbs, including residences, educational buildings, and a church, including several eclectically-styled houses on Dover Street that are contributing buildings to the Dover Street Chicago Landmark District. In 1899, Rogers began work on a lavishly-scaled mansion for Dr. George Isham at 1340 N. State Pkwy. This restrained Classical Revival-style house, built of red brick with gray limestone trim, is one of the largest houses remaining in Chicago’s Gold Coast neighborhood, and it achieved local notoriety during the 1960s and 70s when it was “the Playboy mansion,” owned by *Playboy* magazine publisher Hugh Hefner. (The building has since been subdivided into condominiums.)

Between 1901 and 1904, the University of Chicago constructed a complex of buildings for its School of Education that Rogers designed. Rogers took visual cues from the already well-established Gothic Revival style used previously by Henry Ives Cobb for university buildings, but the School of Education’s buildings have a degree of symmetry that may reflect Rogers’ Beaux-Arts training. Rogers also designed the Hyde Park Baptist Church (completed in 1906) as well as a building for the Francis Parker School on Chicago’s North Side (1902; demolished).

Although Rogers' Chicago practice was going well, he moved his office to New York in 1905, perhaps because he'd acquired the patronage of philanthropist Edward Harkness, the heir to a fortune made through his father's business associations with John D. Rockefeller and the Standard Oil Company. During the remainder of his career, Rogers designed many buildings for Harkness, including buildings for Yale, Harvard and Columbia universities, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, Colgate-Rochester Theological Seminary, and buildings for the Taft and Saint Paul's preparatory schools in Watertown, Connecticut, and Concord, New Hampshire.

Rogers especially is noteworthy for his collegiate buildings, designing many buildings for Yale University, including the Harkness Memorial Quadrangle and Tower, the Sterling Memorial Library, the Sterling Law Buildings, and the Graduate School (all built between 1916 and 1930). Rogers also designed Butler Library at Columbia University (1932-34); Norton and Mullins Halls for the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky (1925-26); and the Colgate-

James Gamble Rogers, the architect for the buildings in the Northwestern University Chicago Campus District, was born in Kentucky, but grew up in Chicago. Educated at Yale University, Rogers worked for two Chicago architectural firms and studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts before starting his own firm in 1898.



Chicago buildings designed during this early period of his career, lasting from 1898 to 1905, include: (middle right) one of several houses located in the Dover Street Chicago Landmark District: (middle top left) the Dr. George Isham House at 1340 N. State Pkwy. (1899-1903), (middle bottom left) the Francis Parker School (1902, demolished), and (bottom) the School of Education, University of Chicago (1901-1904).



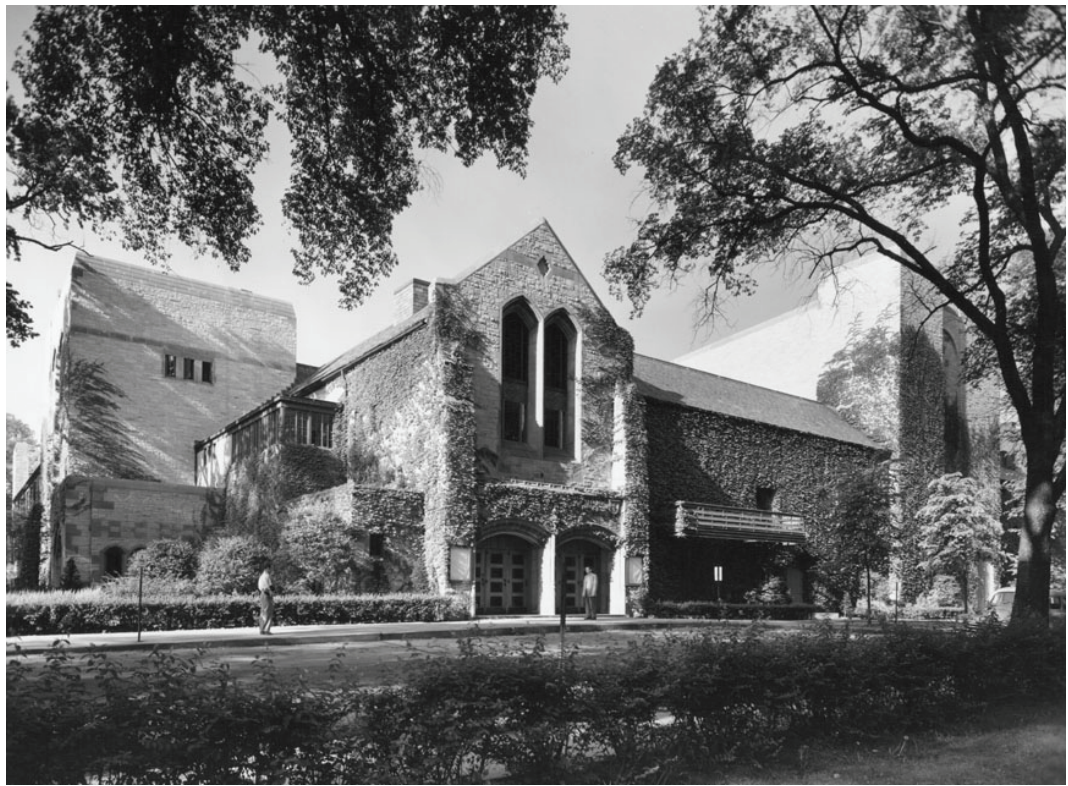
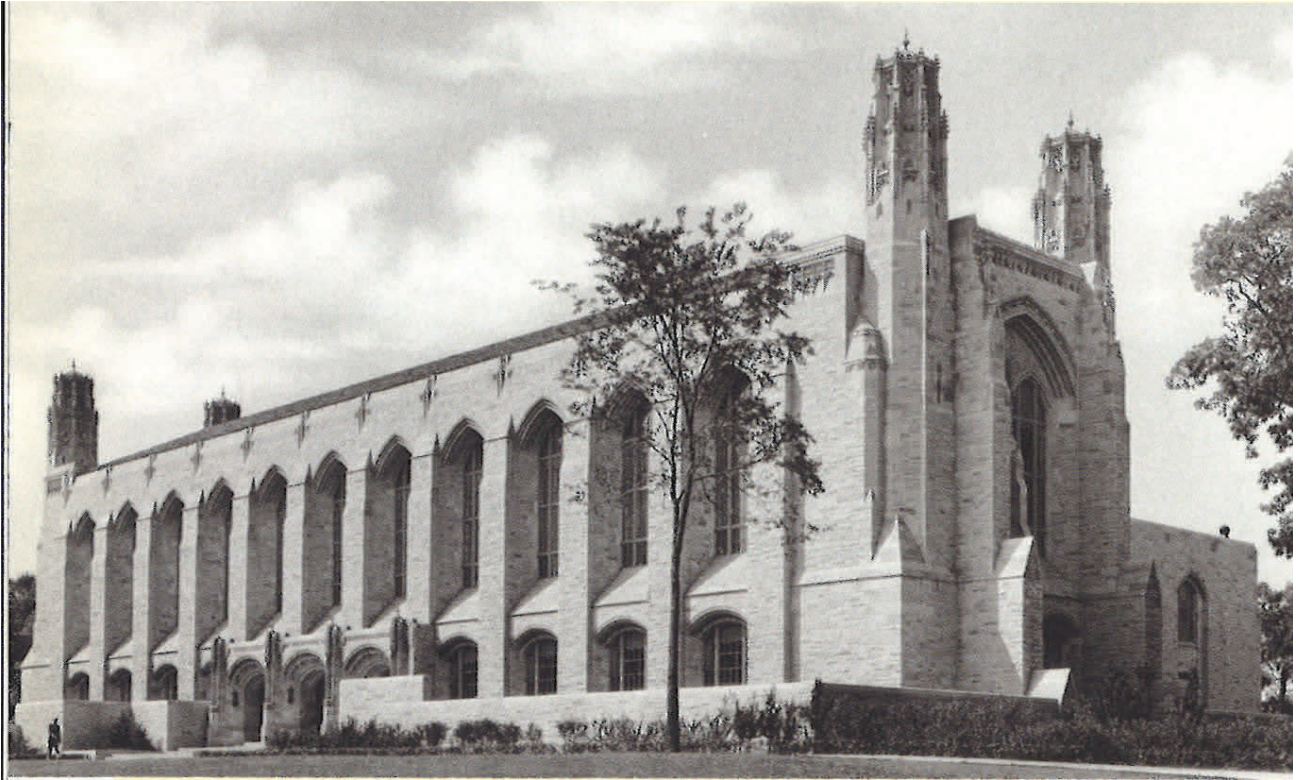
A alumnus of Yale University, Rogers designed several important buildings and building complexes in the Gothic Revival architectural style for the university in the 1910s and 1920s, including (top right) Harkness Memorial Quadrangle and Tower; (middle), the Graduate School; and (bottom) Sterling Memorial Library.





Rogers was a nationally-known designer of college and secondary school buildings. Examples of his work include: (top) the Colgate-Rochester Theological Seminary in Rochester, New York (1930-32); (middle) Mullins Hall at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky (1925-26); and (bottom) Butler Library at Columbia University, New York, New York (1932-34).





Besides the Chicago Campus buildings that he designed, Rogers also designed a number of buildings for Northwestern University's Evanston campus, including (top) Deering Library (1933) and (bottom) Scott Hall & Cahn Auditorium (1940).



Besides educational buildings, James Gamble Rogers designed a variety of prominent buildings throughout the United States, including (top) the Shelby County Courthouse in Memphis, Tennessee (1905-09), (middle left) the Central Post Office and Courthouse in New Orleans (1908-15), (middle right) the Aetna Life Insurance Co. Building in Hartford, Connecticut (1923-30), and (bottom) the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York (1921-28).

Rochester Theological Seminary in Rochester, New York (1930-32), to name several of his firm's most prominent collegiate commissions.

In the 1920s, Northwestern University became an important client for Rogers, who was named campus architect in 1922. Besides the buildings that are the focus of this proposed Chicago Landmark designation, Rogers also designed two additional buildings for the Chicago campus, including Thorne Hall (1932, demolished) and Abbott Hall, a dormitory high-rise built in 1940. On Northwestern's Evanston campus, the most significant building designed by Rogers is the Deering Library (1929-32), although he also designed Dyche Stadium, Scott Hall (which originally housed a student union), Cahn Auditorium and several campus residential buildings.

Although best known for these and other educational buildings, Rogers also designed a variety of other buildings during his career throughout the United States. In the years following his move to New York, he designed several significant governmental buildings, including the Shelby County Courthouse in Memphis, Tennessee (1905-09); the New Orleans, Louisiana, Central Post Office and Courthouse (1908-15); and the Central Post Office in New Haven, Connecticut (1912-16). His office buildings include headquarters for the Connecticut General Life Insurance Co. (1925-26) and Aetna Life Insurance Co. (1923-30), both in Hartford, Connecticut.

THE GOTHIC REVIVAL ARCHITECTURAL STYLE AND ITS USE FOR COLLEGE BUILDINGS

The Gothic Revival architectural style is one of the most important historically-based styles used in the United States during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Based on medieval European buildings built largely from the mid-12th through 16th centuries, the Gothic Revival as practiced over time in the United States included influences from architecture in many parts of Europe and a variety of building forms and ornamentation. Although especially important for religious buildings, including churches, rectories and convents, the Gothic Revival was also widely used for university and college buildings. The reasons for this are varied, including the historic influence of the great English universities at Oxford and Cambridge on American higher education ideals and standards; the style's historic associations with piety (especially important to religiously-associated universities and seminaries); and historic associations with moral uplift.

Early uses of the Gothic Revival architectural style in the United States can be seen in buildings built for several colleges and universities in the early 19th century, including the "Old Kenyon" building at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, built between 1827 and 1834, and the Yale University Library, designed by Henry Austin in 1842. These were single free-standing buildings that were rather freely designed with Gothic forms and details. Most other collegiate buildings built in the Gothic Revival style during the rest of the 19th century were similar buildings in use and scale, although later buildings such as Harvard's Memorial Hall, built between 1866-68 by Ware & Van Brunt, achieved a monumentality that remains impressive today.

Beginning in the last decade of the 19th century, and becoming increasingly common in the first three decades of the 20th century, colleges and universities increasingly built complexes of Gothic Revival-style buildings, forming large-scale building ensembles and exemplifying planning ideals of the period. In 1891, the new University of Chicago began constructing its campus on Chicago's South Side with Gothic Revival-style buildings designed first by Henry Ives Cobb, then later by a



The use of the Gothic Revival architectural style for American college buildings expresses the historic influence of historic English universities such as Oxford and Cambridge on American higher-education ideals and architecture. Top left: A bird's-eye view of Oxford. Top right: An early Gothic Revival-style educational building in the United States was the Yale University Library (1842). Middle: An aerial view of the University of Chicago quadrangle, started in 1891 as an early American example of a planned college campus in the Gothic Revival architectural style. Bottom: The University of Pittsburgh's "Cathedral of Learning," begun in 1926, exemplifies the combination of the Gothic Revival and skyscraper design that characterizes the Montgomery Ward Memorial Building.

variety of architects, including James Gamble Rogers. In the years prior to World War I, several prestigious universities, led by the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Washington University, and Yale University, began to transform their campuses with large-scale Gothic Revival-style complexes. Architects that were leaders in this movement include Boston's Ralph Adams Cram, Philadelphia's Cope & Stewardson, and James Gamble Rogers.

The Northwestern University Chicago Campus District exemplifies this nationally-important trend in early 20th-century university architecture. It also represents another trend in the Gothic Revival, that of its use for high-rise architecture. Only a few years before Northwestern began construction of its Chicago campus, the Chicago Tribune built its Tribune Tower, a grandly-detailed Gothic Revival-style skyscraper on North Michigan Avenue, just a few blocks south of the future site of Northwestern's buildings. It was also this period when the University of Pittsburgh built its great "Cathedral of Learning," a 42-story skyscraper begun in 1926 that allowed this land-starved university to accommodate a rapidly-growing student population. It was noted during the 1920s that Northwestern's Montgomery Ward Memorial Building deftly combined the Gothic Revival so associated with higher education with the skyscraper form so strongly associated with 20th-century urban commercial life for a new Chicago building meant to educate future doctors.

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION

According to the Municipal Code of Chicago (Section 2-120-690), the Commission on Chicago Landmarks has the authority to make a final recommendation of landmark designation for an area, district, place, building, structure, work of art or other object within the City of Chicago if the Commission determines it meets two or more of the stated "criteria for designation," as well as possesses sufficient historic design integrity to convey its significance.

The following should be considered by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks in determining whether to recommend that the Northwestern University Chicago Campus District be designated as a Chicago Landmark.

Criterion 1: Value as an Example of City, State or National Heritage

Its value as an example of the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspect of the heritage of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States.

- The Northwestern University Chicago Campus District exemplifies the historic importance of Northwestern University to the history of Chicago as one of the City's oldest and most prominent universities.

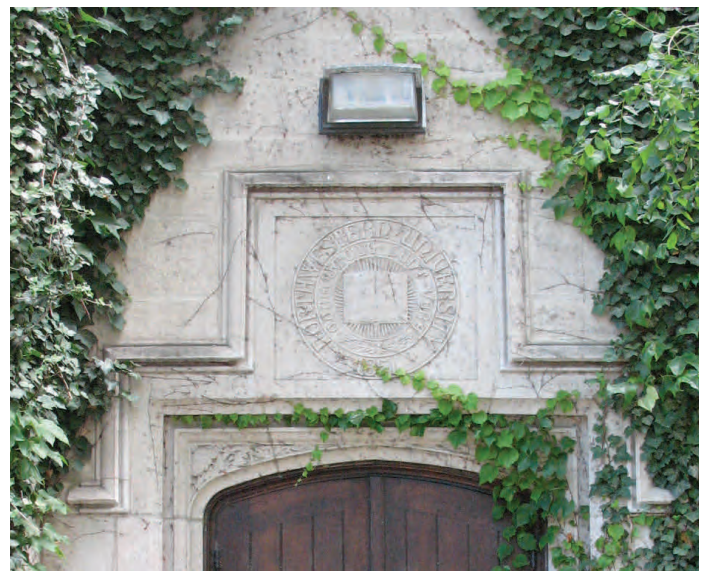
Criterion 4: Exemplary Architecture

Its exemplification of an architectural type or style distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship.

- The Northwestern University Chicago Campus District is a locally-significant group of Gothic Revival-style educational buildings, exemplifying the nationally-important use of the Gothic Revival architectural style for university and college building throughout the United States.



The buildings in the Northwestern University Chicago Campus District are finely-detailed with carved-limestone ornament, especially as part of their entrances. Top: The Montgomery Ward Memorial Building. Middle: The Wieboldt Hall of Commerce. Bottom left: Levy Mayer Hall. Bottom right: Gary Law Library.





The district's buildings have a variety of carved inscriptions and decorative images.



Additional decorative details from buildings in the district.



Several examples of decorative stained-glass medallions decorating windows in the district.

- The district's buildings are finely-designed and crafted with a variety of Gothic Revival-style forms and ornamentation, including Gothic-style arches, foliate ornament, tracery, buttresses, finials and towers.

Criterion 5: Work of Significant Architect or Designer

Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history or development of the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, or the United States.

- The Northwestern University Chicago Campus District exemplifies the significance of architect James Gamble Rogers, a nationally-important architect and one especially renowned for his high-quality educational buildings.
- Rogers designed many significant buildings for American universities, colleges and seminaries, including, besides Northwestern, Yale University, Columbia University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Colgate-Rochester Theological Seminary.

Criterion 6: Distinctive Theme as a District

Its representation of an architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social or other theme expressed through distinctive areas, districts, places, buildings, structures, works of art, or other objects that may or may not be contiguous.

- Located on the south side of Lakeshore Park and comprised of a visually-cohesive group of gray limestone buildings in the Gothic Revival style, the Northwestern University Chicago Campus District is a visually-distinctive enclave within the Near North community area.
- The original Chicago campus of Northwestern University was planned by James Gamble Rogers and forms a coherent and unified complex of buildings, designed in the same style (Gothic Revival) and with similar materials and detailing, and green spaces, including the side courtyards that form north-south passageways through the campus.

Integrity Criteria

The integrity of the proposed landmark must be preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and ability to express its historic community, architecture or aesthetic value.

The Northwestern University Chicago Campus District as a whole retains excellent historic integrity, while the district's individual buildings each retain very good to excellent historic integrity, including their historic siting, overall forms and decorative detailing, including historic stone ornamentation. Typical changes to the district's buildings include some replacement windows, decorative-metal fencing, and lighting.

The Wieboldt Hall of Commerce originally housed the heating plant for the campus; at the time of its removal, the building's original office tower/smokestack was shortened and rebuilt. Other non-historic changes and additions have been made to the building's roof. Non-historic changes to the building's roofline to house building mechanicals and HVAC are not considered significant to the proposed designation and do not lessen the district's significance.

Both the Montgomery Ward Memorial and Wieboldt Hall of Commerce have had their rear elevations obscured by later, attached buildings, which are not included as part of this proposed district



The Northwestern University Chicago Campus District has very good historic integrity. Top: A view of the district's buildings from the northeast, circa 1927. Bottom: A view of the district's buildings today.

designation. Robert McCormick Hall, which abuts Levy Mayer Hall / Gary Law Library to the south, also is not included in the proposed landmark designation. In addition, the east wall of Levy Mayer Hall / Gary Law Library that is enclosed by the Rubloff Hall atrium is not considered a significant feature for the purpose of this proposed landmark designation.

The focus of the district designation is the historic buildings designed by James Gamble Rogers that were built in 1925-1926. Campus green space between buildings, including landscaping, paving, seating, and utility bump-ups, are not considered significant features for the purpose of the proposed landmark designation.

Despite changes, the Northwestern University Chicago Campus District retains the ability to express its historic, community, architectural, and aesthetic values as a finely-designed and –crafted group of university buildings designed in the Gothic Revival architectural style by James Gamble Rogers, a significant architect in the context of Chicago and United States architectural history. The district’s historic integrity is preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and ability to express such values.

SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

Whenever a building, structure, object, or district is under consideration for landmark designation, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks is required to identify the “significant historical and architectural features” of the property. This is done to enable the owners and the public to understand which elements are considered most important to preserve the historical and architectural character of the proposed landmark.

Based upon its evaluation of the Northwestern University Chicago Campus District, the Commission recommends that the significant features be identified as follows:

- All visible exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the district's buildings, which include the Montgomery Ward Memorial Building, the Wieboldt Hall of Commerce and Levy Mayer Hall / Gary Law Library;
- the exterior elevations of the interior courtyard of Levy Mayer Hall / Gary Law Library; and
- the historic arcade walls connecting the buildings.

Later buildings attached to the district’s buildings are not included in this proposed Chicago Landmark district. The east wall of Levy Mayer Hall / Gary Law Library that is enclosed by the Arthur Rubloff Hall atrium is not considered a significant feature for the purpose of this proposed landmark designation. Non-historic changes and additions have been made to the Wieboldt Hall of Commerce’s roof over time. Non-historic changes to the building’s roofline to house building mechanicals and HVAC are not considered significant to the proposed designation and do not lessened the district’s significance. In addition, campus green spaces between buildings, including landscaping, paving, seating, and utility bump-ups, are not considered significant features for the purpose of the proposed landmark designation.

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A woodcut print by Chicago artist Charles Turzak, showing the Montgomery Ward Memorial Building rising behind the Chicago Avenue National Guard Armory (demolished and replaced by the Museum of Contemporary Art).

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CITY OF CHICAGO

Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

Department of Planning and Development

Andrew J. Mooney, Commissioner

Patricia A. Scudiero, Managing Deputy Commissioner, Zoning and Land Use Bureau

Eleanor Esser Gorski, Director of Historic Preservation, Historic Preservation Division

Project Staff

Terry Tatum, research, photography, writing and layout

Eleanor Gorski, editing

Illustrations

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Misc. internet websites: pp. 9 (middle), 20, 21, 23 (middle left & right), & 25.

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COMMISSION ON CHICAGO LANDMARKS

Rafael M. Leon, Chairman
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The Commission is staffed by the:



Department of Planning and Development
Bureau of Zoning and Land Use
Historic Preservation Division
City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle St., Room 1101
Chicago, Illinois 60602
312.744.3200 (TEL) ~ 312.744.9140 (FAX)
<http://www.cityofchicago.org/landmarks>

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