PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION ON CHICAGO LANDMARKS IN DECEMBER 2013

CAIRO SUPPER CLUB BUILDING

(ORIGINALLY WINSTON BUILDING)
4015-4017 N. SHERIDAN RD.

BUILT: **1920**
ARCHITECT: **PAUL GERHARDT, SR.**

Located in the Uptown community area, the Cairo Supper Club Building is an unusual building designed in the Egyptian Revival architectural style, rarely used for Chicago buildings. This one-story commercial building is clad with multi-colored terra cotta, created by the Northwestern Terra Cotta Company and ornamented with a variety of ancient Egyptian motifs, including lotus-decorated columns and a concave "cavetto" cornice with a winged-scarab medallion. The use of polychromatic ornament in such a visually-distinctive style has made the Cairo Supper Club Building a visual "landmark" in Uptown.

The use of this unusual architectural style reflects the interest in ancient Egyptian culture found in Chicago during the late 1910s and early 1920s, as the University of Chicago, led by internationally-famous Egyptologist and university professor James Henry Breasted, became an internationally-important center for the study of ancient Egyptian history with the opening of the Oriental Institute in 1919, a year before the construction of the Cairo Supper Club Building. Besides the Cairo Supper Club Building, the extremely small number of Chicago buildings designed in the Egyptian Revival include the Reebie Storage Warehouse at 2325-2333 N. Clark St. (1921-22), which is a designated Chicago Landmark.

The Cairo Supper Club Building is the work of Chicago architect Paul Gerhardt, Sr., whose significant practice included both public and private commissions. Gerhardt is best known for his work as Cook County Architect in the 1910s, which included the Cook County Hospital building (listed on the National Register of Historic Places). He also served as Architect to the Chicago Board of Education, designing, among other buildings, Lane Technical High School, Van Steuben High School,

and Du Sable High School (a designated Chicago Landmark). Gerhardt also had a thriving private practice, which produced, among other buildings, the Lindemann & Hoverson Company Showroom and Warehouse Building (a designated Chicago Landmark), located at 2620 W. Washington Blvd. and built in 1924.

The building's first use was as an automobile showroom in the 1920s. Following World War II, the building housed the Cairo Supper Club. This restaurant and night club was a well-known North Side night spot in the 1950s and early 1960s. Taking its name from the building's historic Egyptian design, the Cairo Supper Club featured a variety of entertainment acts, including hypnotist Marshall Brodien, who later went on to fame as "Wizzo the Wizard" on "The Bozo Show," broadcast on WGN-TV.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

The Cairo Supper Club Building is located at the southern edge of the Uptown community area. Although most of the immediate area around the building was historically residential, the building was built on the northern edge of a small commercial area centered on the Sheridan elevated station of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Red Line. This commercial area extended along both Sheridan Road and Irving Park Road (located just south of the building).

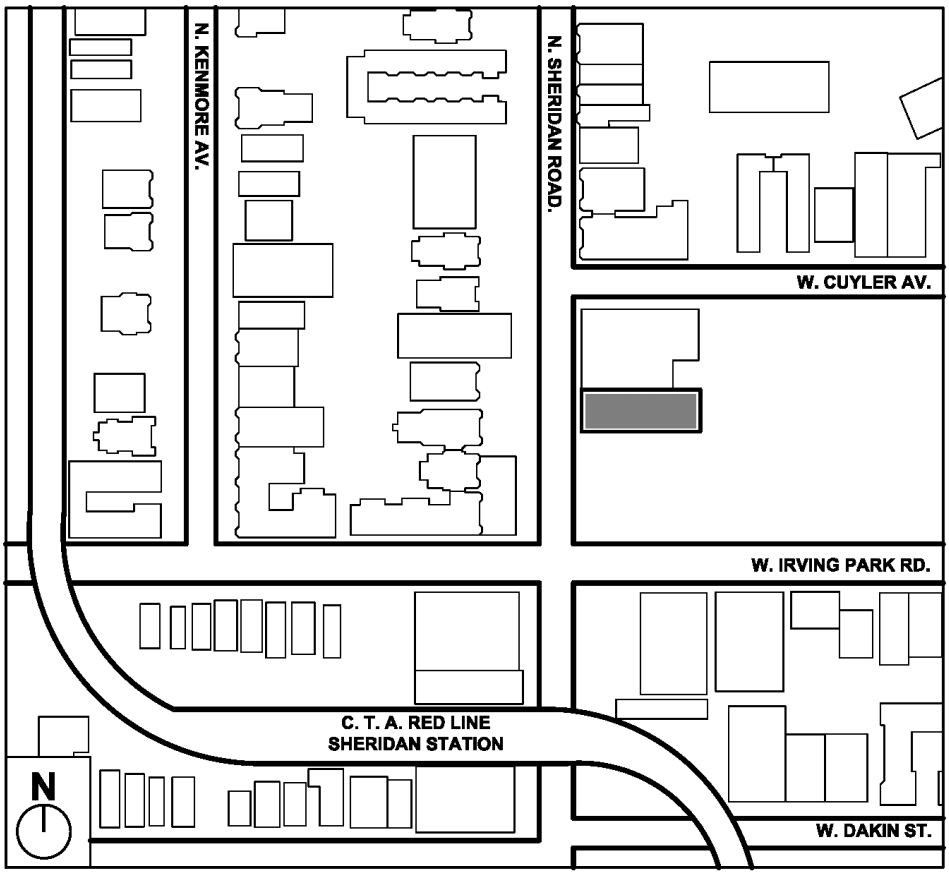
The Cairo Supper Club Building was built in 1920 by real-estate developer F. Hampden Winston. City of Chicago building permit records indicate that a building permit for the building was issued on January 27, 1920. Paul Gerhardt, Sr., was listed as the architect. The estimated building cost was $60,000. Building records indicate that the building was completed by mid-December 1920.

Winston, an executive with the real-estate firm of Winston & Co., appears to have built the building as speculative commercial space. The *Chicago Tribune*, in its February 3, 1920, edition, noted Winston had granted a 15-year lease to the building's first tenant, the Overland-Phillips Motor Car Company. Later in the 1920s, Marmon and Hupmobile automobiles were sold from the building.

Building description

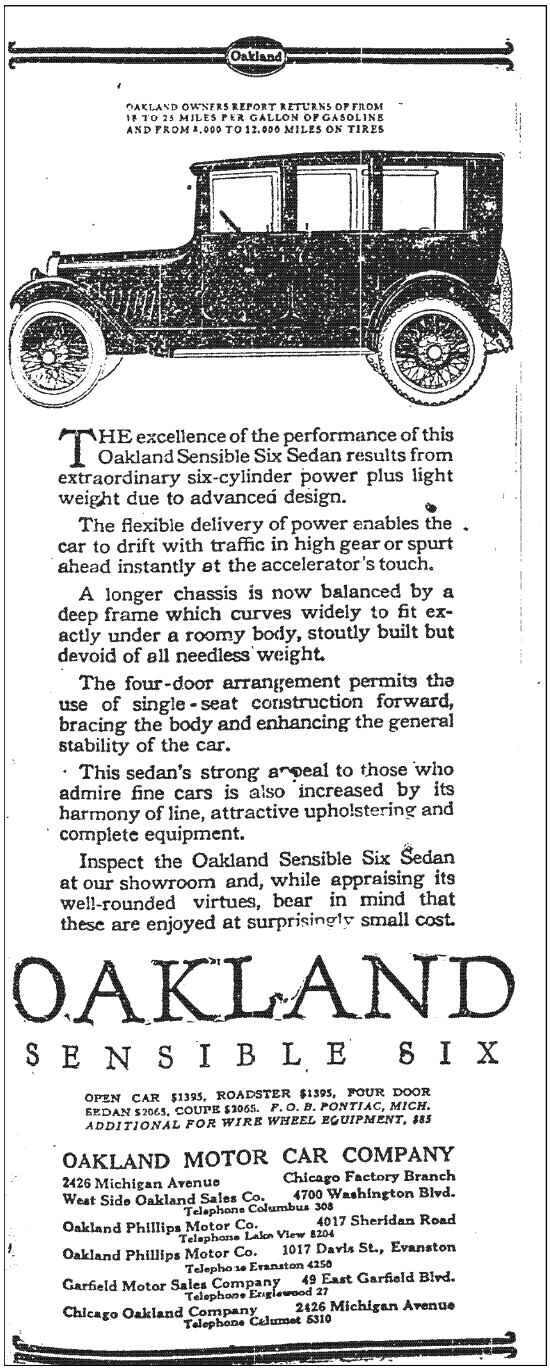
The Cairo Supper Club Building is located on the east side of North Sheridan Road, a half block north of West Irving Park Road. It is one story in height and is approximately 50 feet by 138 feet in overall building area. The building's front facade is clad with polychromatic terra cotta that frames a slightly recessed storefront. Side and rear walls are plainly built of common brick. (The building currently shares a party wall with a building to the north, and formerly shared a similar wall with a recently-demolished building to the south.

The building is designed in the Egyptian Revival architectural style and is ornamented with terra-cotta decoration based on ancient Egyptian architecture. Columns flanking the storefront are ornamented with lotus motives, including lotus capitals. (The lotus was a plant commonly found along the Nile River in ancient times, and its flowers served as inspiration for visually-distinctive ornament on ancient Egyptian temples.) A concave "cavetto" cornice, a type of cornice associated with Egyptian architecture, extends across the length of the building's parapet and is ornamented with closely-spaced vertical striping. Centered in this cornice is a large medallion with a winged-scarab motive, another Egyptian-influenced decorative motive. Overall, the building's ornament is bold and sharp-edged in a manner that presages the late 1920s emergence of the Art Deco architectural style.



The Cairo Supper Club Building is a one-story, terra-cotta-clad commercial building located at 4015-4017 N. Sheridan Rd. in the Uptown community area on Chicago's North Side.

The Cairo Supper Club Building is designed in the Egyptian Revival architectural style, rare for Chicago buildings. It is detailed with Egyptian-style details including (top) a winged scarab medallion; (above left) a lotus-capital column; and (above right) a "cavetto" cornice and multi-colored molding., all executed in polychromatic terra cotta created by the Northwestern Terra Cotta Company.



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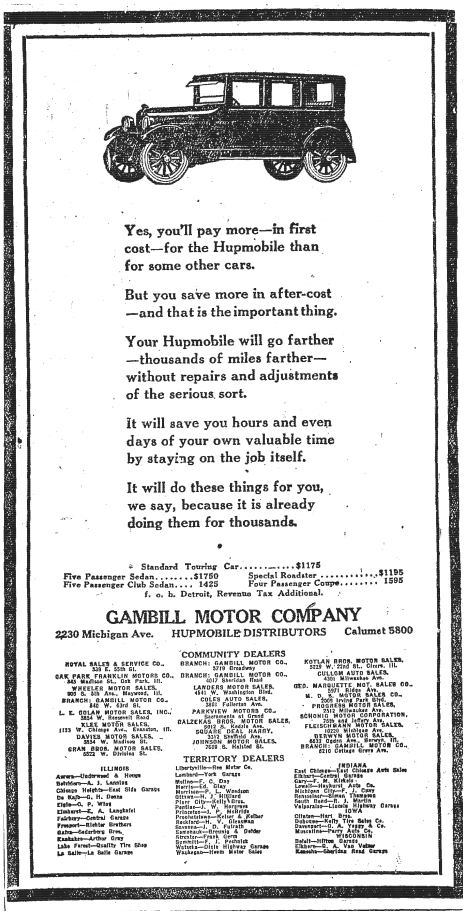

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MILK W MOTOR SALES, 1175 W. Chicago Ave., Evanston, Ill.
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GRAN BROS. MOTOR SALES, 3022 W. Division St.
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COLES AUTO SALES, 3601 Fullerton Ave.
PARKVIEW MOTORS CO., 2000 Irving Park Blvd.
DALZEKAS BROS. MOTOR SALES, 6012 S. South Park.
DUDA & SONS GARAGE, 4102 Archer Ave.
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KOTLAR BROS. MOTOR SALES, 3220 W. 22nd St., Chicago, Ill.
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M. D. MOTOR SALES CO., 2000 Irving Park Blvd.
PROGRESS MOTOR SALES, 2000 Irving Park Blvd.
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TERRITORY DEALERS

ILLINOIS

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Elgin—G. P. Wise
Elmhurst—E. A. Langhofer
Fairbury—Central Garage
Freeport—Sidelar Brothers
Galva—Gardenberg Bros.
Kankakee—Arthur Gray
Lake Forest—Quality Tire Shop
La Salle—La Salle Garage
Libertyville—Roe Motor Co.
Lombard—York Garage
Mattoon—F. C. Ross
Morris—Ed. Ryan
Morrison—J. L. Wendum
Olney—H. C. Bilyeu
Piper City—Gotts
Pontiac—J. W. Harvey
Princeton—L. V. Mabrey
Prophetstown—Keller & Fuller
Rock Falls—Rock Falls Garage
Sandwich—H. N. Fullerton
Savanna—Brents & Deller
Sterling—Paul Gray
Streator—Paul Gray
Watseka—Dietz Highway Garage
Waukegan—Hesh Motor Sales

INDIANA

East Chicago—East Chicago Auto Sales
Elkhart—Central Garage
Fort Wayne—Ft. Wayne Garage
Gary—Mechanic Auto Co.
Michigan City—F. J. Casey
Monroe—Brown Garage
South Bend—Central Garage
Valparaiso—Lincoln Highway Garage

IOWA

Clinton—Hart Bros.
Davenport—Ft. Ft. Sales Co.
Davenport—C. A. Tracy & Co.
Muscatine—Percy Auto Co.

KANSAS

Beloit—Hilton Garage
Elkhart—C. A. Van Vulzer
Kansas—Gardner Road Garage

Early tenants of the building were automobile dealers, including (clockwise, from top left): Oakland-Phillips, Marmon, and Hupmobile).

THE EGYPTIAN REVIVAL ARCHITECTURAL STYLE AND ITS USE IN CHICAGO

The Egyptian Revival architectural style has never been as popular as the Classical Revival or Gothic Revival styles. Instead, the style, based on ancient Egyptian temples and other ceremonial and funerary buildings and monuments, became popular in two periods of American history, first in the mid-1800s, later in the 1920s.

Egyptian Revival-style buildings first were built in the United States in the mid-1830s, two decades after the publication of pioneering studies of ancient Egyptian architecture stemming from Napoleon's expedition to Egypt in the late 1790s, and this first Egyptian Revival period peaked in the 1840s. Egyptian Revival-style buildings built during this first period of use typically were prisons, churches and structures associated with cemeteries, including gatehouses, mausoleums, and monuments.

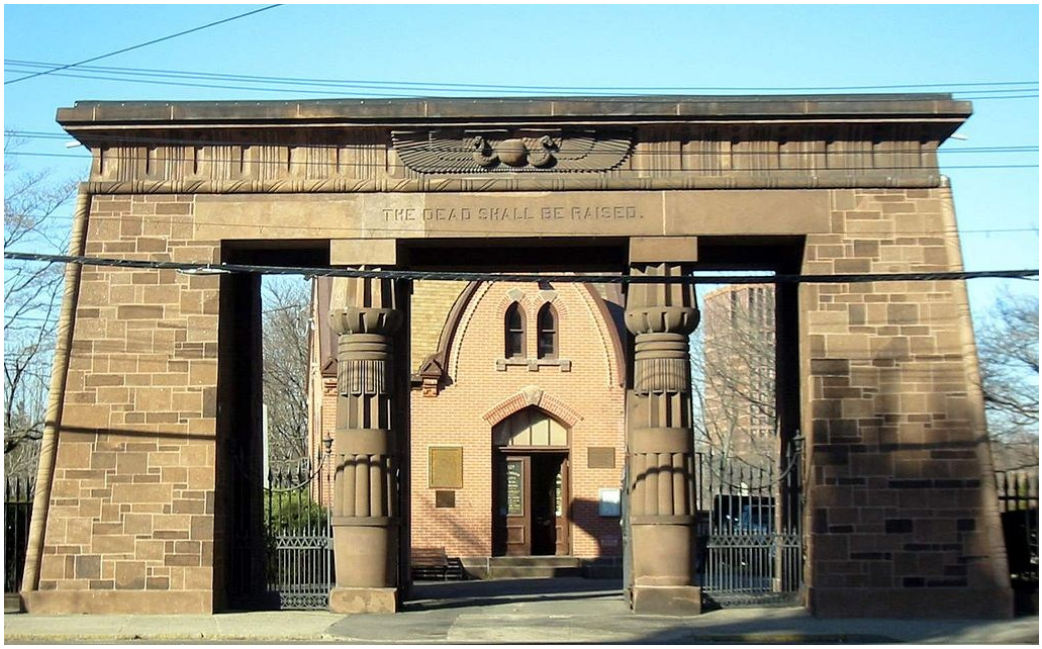
One of the first Egyptian Revival-style buildings in the United States was the New York Halls of Justice and House of Detention, commonly known as "The Tombs," built in Lower Manhattan in 1838 to a design by John Haviland. Other important "first-generation" Egyptian Revival-style buildings include the Egyptian Building of the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia, built in 1845 and designed by Thomas Stewart; the Grove Street Cemetery Gate in New Haven, Connecticut, designed by Henry Austin and built between 1845 and 1848; and the First Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee, designed by William Strickland and constructed between 1848 and 1851. Arguably the best-known Egyptian Revival-style structure in the United States from this period is the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. (1848-85, Robert Mills), which took the form of an Egyptian obelisk.

During the second half of the 19th century up to the World War I years, the Egyptian Revival architectural style was little used for American architecture and was restricted mainly to cemetery monuments. In the 1920s, however, the style revived internationally with the discovery in 1922 of the tomb of King Tutankhamun, commonly known as "King Tut." Egyptian motives were often combined with the clean lines and bold forms favored by the Art Deco style of the late 1920s and 30s. The Pythian Temple in New York (1927, Thomas Lamb) exemplifies this melding of Art Deco and Egyptian design influences. Most famously, a number of movie theaters throughout the country were designed in the Egyptian Revival style in the 1920s, most famously Grauman's Egyptian Theater in Hollywood, California, designed by Meyer & Holler and opened in 1922. In Illinois, the Egyptian Theater in DeKalb was completed in 1929 to a design by Elmer F. Behrns.

The Egyptian Revival architectural style in Chicago

In Chicago, the Egyptian Revival in the early 20th century was inspired by the work of Egyptologist James Henry Breasted of the University of Chicago, whose explorations of Nile River monuments and ruins were the source of popular interest during his approximately 40-year association with the university. Developed from an earlier University of Chicago-owned collection of Middle-Eastern artifacts, the Oriental Institute opened in 1919 on the University of Chicago campus, and it inspired a great surge of interest in ancient Egyptian visual culture, including the construction the next year of the Cairo Supper Club Building.

Relatively few Egyptian Revival-style buildings are known to be have been built in Chicago. Besides the Cairo Supper Club Building, the most significant extant Chicago buildings built in the Egyptian Revival style include the Reebie Storage Building at 2325-2333 N. Clark (1921-22,



The Egyptian Revival architectural style is a rare architectural style used for American buildings. It is based on ancient temple and tomb architecture found in Egypt, such as (top left) the Gate of Rameses II, part of the Temple of Amun in the ancient Egyptian city of Luxor.

In America, the earliest examples of the Egyptian Revival style, in the 1830s and 1840s, were typically jails and cemetery structures. Top right: The New York Halls of Justice and House of Detention (commonly known as the "Tombs," built in 1838. Bottom: The Grove Street Cemetery Gate in New Haven, Connecticut, built between 1845 and 1848.

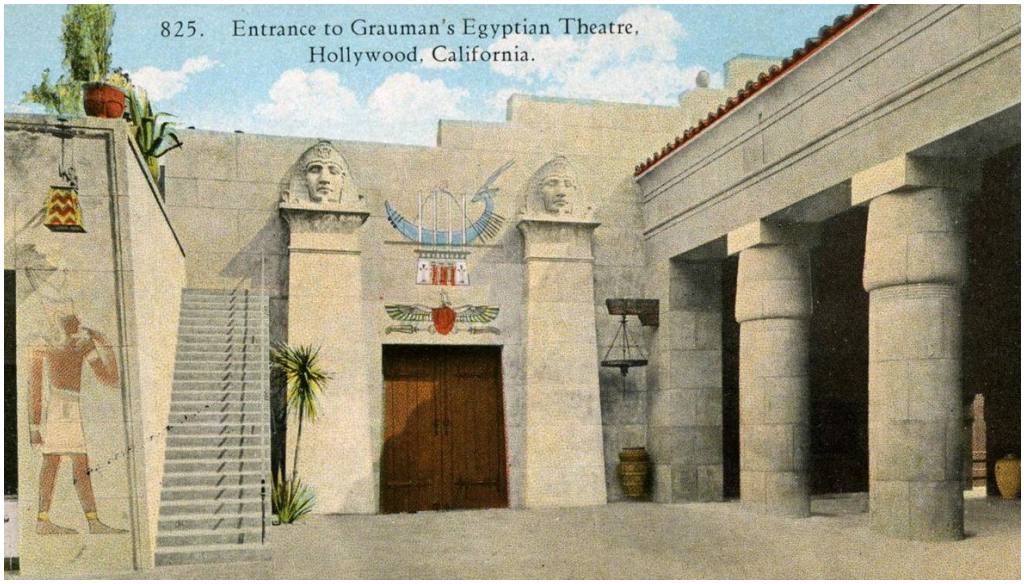
Other 19th-century Egyptian Revival-style buildings and structures in America include (top) the Egyptian Building of the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, built in 1845; and (bottom right) the First Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee, constructed between 1848 and 1851.

Arguably the most-recognizable Egyptian Revival-style structure in the United States is the Washington Monument, built between 1848 and 1885 in the form of an Egyptian obelisk.

The 1920s saw much interest in Egyptian culture and design due to the discovery of the Pharoah Tutankamun's tomb in 1922. Top left: archaeologist Howard Carter examining "King Tut's" sarcophagus.

A common building type influenced by the Egyptian Revival style in the 1920s was movie theaters. (Middle) Grauman's Egyptian Theater in Hollywood, built in 1922, was perhaps the most prominent. An Illinois example was (bottom left) the Egyptian Theater in DeKalb, built in 1929.

(Bottom right) The Pythian Temple in New York, built in 1927, exemplifies the combination of Egyptian and Art Deco motives characteristic in the 1920s.



George S. Kingsley, architect), which is a designated Chicago Landmark, and the former Egyptian Lacquer Manufacturing Company Building at 3052 W. Carroll (1926, Lockwood Co.). As with the Cairo Supper Club Building, both were built with Northwestern Terra Cotta Company terra cotta.

The Cairo Supper Club Building and the Northwestern Terra Cotta Company
The architectural terra cotta of the Cairo Supper Club was manufactured by the Northwestern Terra Cotta Company, one of the nation's leading producers of architectural terra cotta. The building's finely-crafted terra cotta exemplifies the importance of the terra-cotta industry to Chicago in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In the context of small-scale commercial architecture in Chicago, the Cairo Supper Club Building is a visually-unusual example of the Egyptian Revival style, with its exotic Egyptian ornament rendered in vividly-hued terra cotta.

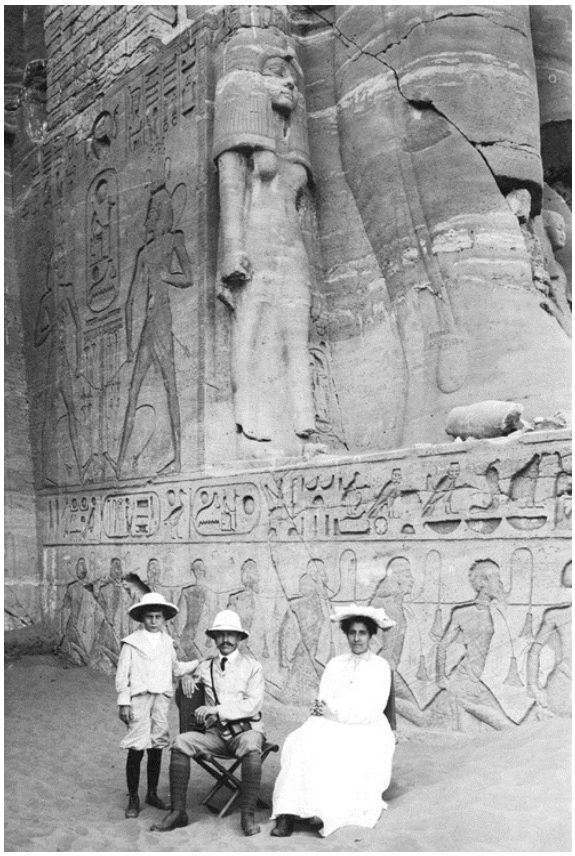
From the immediate post-Fire years of the 1870s through the early 1930s, Chicago was a leading American center for architectural terra-cotta design and manufacturing. Terra cotta factories took advantage of Chicago's vibrant and innovative architectural community, its strategic location at the center of the nation's great railroad transportation network, and its proximity to clay deposits in nearby Indiana.

As a relatively inexpensive building material, terra cotta had several advantages over traditional masonry, such as brick and stone. It was much lighter than brick or stone, was easily molded into shapes and ornament for decorative building facades, could be glazed in a variety of colors, and was virtually fireproof. Architectural designers had great leeway in architectural decoration using terra cotta, with the ability to design buildings in a variety of styles, including Egyptian Revival. By the early 1900s, the city had three major companies producing terra cotta —Northwestern, American, and the Midland Terra Cotta Company.

The Northwestern Terra Cotta Company was founded by a group of Chicago investors in 1878. By the early-twentieth century, the company had constructed a large plant on the northwest side of the city and employed over 1,000 workers. Northwestern's regular clients included prominent Chicago architects such as Daniel Burnham, Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright and Albert Kahn, and the company manufactured terra-cotta detailing for many of the city's important buildings, including the Auditorium Building, the Carson, Pirie, Scott and Company Building, the Marquette Building, the Civic Opera House, the Gage Building, the Fisher Building, the Chicago Theater, the Wrigley Building, and the Steuben Club Building.

Northwestern's chief "modeler," or sculptor, at the time of the Cairo Supper Club Building's design, Fritz Albert (1860-1940), was knowledgeable in Egyptian art and architecture, and most likely worked on the manufacture of the Cairo Supper Club Building's ornament. Albert was born in France in the Alsace-Lorraine region, which then became part of Germany in the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. He attended art school in Berlin where he became a sculptor. Albert came to the United States to work on the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 and remained in Chicago until the end of his life. After the 1893 Exposition, Albert was hired by the American Terra Cotta and Ceramic Company as the company's chief "modeler," or sculptor.

In 1907, Albert left American Terra Cotta to become supervisor of the modeling department at the Northwestern Terra Cotta Company, where a great deal of the work was custom-made. As chief modeler, Albert worked on major commissions and supervised the sculpting of the molds for all of the terra cotta pieces that were installed on thousands of buildings throughout the United States.



Interest in the Egyptian Revival style in Chicago in the late 1910s and 1920s can be traced to the work of Egyptologist James Henry Breasted of the University of Chicago (top left, with wife and son in Egypt) and the opening of the University's Oriental Institute in 1919, a year before the construction of the Cairo Supper Club Building. Extant Egyptian Revival-style buildings in Chicago include (top right) the Egyptian Lacquer Manufacturing Company Building at 3052 W. Carroll (1926) and (bottom left and right) the Reebie Storage Building at 2325-2333 N. Clark St., built in 1921-22 (a designated Chicago Landmark).

ARCHITECT PAUL GERHARDT, SR.

Paul Gerhardt, Sr. (1863-1951), the architect of the Cairo Supper Club Building, was born in the town of Dobeln in what was then the Kingdom of Saxony (now part of Germany). He attended the Royal Academy in Leipzig and earned an engineering degree at the Technical University of Hanover in 1884. He then came to the United States in 1890 at the behest of the German Textile Corporation to design and construct spinning mills. He designed one of the largest mills in the United States at the time—the Botany Worsted Mill in Passaic, New Jersey. Gerhardt continued to take commissions for other large manufacturing facilities throughout his career, including a number of mill complexes, a plant for the International Gas Engine Company in LaPorte, Indiana, and a distillery in Elgin, Illinois.

Gerhardt came to Chicago in 1893 and soon started his own architectural firm, taking on various residential, commercial, and industrial projects. Prolific in the first decade of the twentieth century, his list of projects listed in the *American Contractor*, a trade publication, alone numbers nearly 70 between 1898 and 1910. Projects announced in the *Chicago Daily Tribune* from that period include apartment and flat buildings such as the brownstone-clad "Roseberry Flats" on N. Elaine St. (1896). Additionally, Gerhardt's 1910 listing in *Who's Who in Chicago* cites him as the architect for "many warehouses, mercantile buildings, and hotels" in and around Chicago.

According to Frank A. Randall's *History of the Development of Building Construction in Chicago*, Gerhardt's work during this early period of his career included the Hall Building (1908, demolished), which was a seven-story industrial building of heavy mill construction located at 440-472 W. Superior St.; and the Winston Building (1911, demolished), a seven-story industrial building of flat slab construction and concrete exterior at 341-349 E. Ohio St. Other designs in these early years were hotels and restaurants for German clientele, including an earlier Bismarck Hotel and the Rienzi restaurant.

In December 1910, Gerhardt was picked to replace William Holabird as Cook County architect. Soon after, the Cook County Board announced that a new county hospital building would be constructed. As county architect, Gerhardt drew up designs for the new building, a visually impressive Beaux Arts-style building that remains on Chicago's Near West Side along W. Harrison St. Due to numerous clashes with the County Board over the hospital building and other issues, Gerhardt was forced to resign his post as County Architect in January 1913. The design of the hospital, which was completed within the year, remained Gerhardt's, however, and it remains one of his best-known buildings in Chicago.

After leaving his position as Cook County architect, Gerhardt returned to private practice until 1928, when he was chosen to serve as supervising architect for the Chicago Board of Education. Some of the school buildings designed by Gerhardt during his three-year tenure, along with DuSable, include Wright Junior College in the 3400-block of N. Austin (1929), Amundsen School in the 5100-block of N. Damen (1929), the mammoth Lane Technical High School at the intersection of N. Western and W. Addison (1930), the terra-cotta-ornamented Von Steuben High School (1931) at 5021-55 N. Kimball Ave., and the Du Sable High School (1931-35).

Paul Gerhardt designed the Lindemann & Hoverson Company Showroom and Warehouse Building (a designated Chicago Landmark) at 2620 W. Washington Blvd. during the years between his positions as Cook County architect and architect for the Chicago Board of Education. Other known

Paul Gerhardt, Sr. designed the Cook County Hospital building (1913) while Cook County Architect.

In the late 1920s and 1930s, Gerhardt was Chicago Board of Education Architect. Two of his best-known school buildings are (middle) the Lane Technical High School (1930) and (bottom) the Von Steuben High School (1931).

Gerhardt designed the Du Sable High School building (1931-35) at 4934 S. Wabash Ave., and the Lindemann & Hoverson Showroom and Warehouse Building at 2620 W. Washington Blvd. (1924), both designated Chicago Landmarks.

buildings Gerhardt designed in Chicago during this time period include the Three Links Temple (now the Dank-Haus German cultural center) at 4740-48 N. Western Ave.; Schlake Dye Works Plant, 4203 W. Grand Avenue (1921); Fraternal Order of Eagles Building (c. 1921, demolished), Carpenters' District Council Building, and the Edgewater Athletic Club (c. 1928, demolished).

Although Paul Gerhardt, Sr., is best known for his municipal and school designs, he was a pioneer in industrial architecture for his efforts to increase the glazed wall area of reinforced concrete buildings. In 1917, Gerhardt patented a new type of industrial reinforced-concrete loft design, noteworthy for introducing continuous sash or window walls to industrial buildings. Patent # 1,243,281, dated October 16, 1917, called for illuminating interior spaces through continuous window "curtain walls" made possible through the placement of interior support columns in back of the window sash line. Gerhardt's Winston Building (1917, demolished), located at 341-349 E. Ohio St., was a seven-story industrial building of flat slab construction that is considered the first structure to use this construction method.

THE CAIRO SUPPER CLUB AND THE BUILDING'S LATER YEARS

In the post-World War II era, the building at 4015-17 N. Sheridan Rd. was the location of the Cairo Supper Club. From at least 1949 until 1964, the Cairo Supper Club (first known as the Cairo Lounge) combined dining with nightclub entertainment. The club took its name and interior decor (said by a *Chicago Tribune* article to resemble a Middle-Eastern-inspired tent) from the building's exotic, Egyptian Revival-style exterior.

Along with a resident band, the Cairo Supper Club featured a variety of acts over the years, including singing groups such as the "Bachelors" and the "Personalities," exotic dancers such as Emilia Greca and Kismet, and magicians such as Giuli Giuli, touted in club ads as "straight from Cairo, Egypt." Perhaps the best-known entertainer to play the Cairo Supper Club was hypnotist Marshall Brodien, who was a regular at the club for several years in the early 1960s. Brodien later became locally prominent on Chicago television as "Wizzo the Wizard" on WGN-TV's *The Bozo Show* and *Bozo's Circus*.

The Cairo Supper Club closed suddenly on May 11, 1964, when the building was firebombed. Subsequent investigation indicated that the firebombing was in connection with a nationwide crime spree against restaurants by organized crime.

The Cairo Supper Club Building is located in the Buena Park Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is included in the district nomination's "List of Significant Buildings." The building is also "orange-rated" in the Chicago Historic Resources Survey. Recently, the building housed the Nick's Uptown bar. In September 2013, the building was bought by neighboring Thorek Hospital, and Nick's subsequently closed.

The Cairo Supper Club occupied the building between at least 1949 until May 1964, when it closed after a firebombing instigated by organized crime.

Right: A regular variety act at the Cairo Supper Club in the 1960s was hypnotist Marshall Brodien, seen here undertaking his hypnosis act at the supper club. In later years, Brodien was best known as "Wizzo the Wizard" on *The Bozo Show* and *Bozo's Circus,* broadcast on WGN-TV.

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION

According to the Municipal Code of Chicago (Sect 2-120-620 and -630), the Commission on Chicago Landmarks has the authority to make a preliminary recommendation of landmark designation for an area, district, place, building, structure, work of art or other object with 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 Cairo Supper Club Building be designated as a Chicago Landmark.

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 Cairo Supper Club is an Egyptian Revival-style building, a rare and unusual architectural style in Chicago. Very few Chicago buildings were built in the style.

- The building's Egyptian-inspired exterior exemplifies the interest in ancient Egyptian culture in Chicago in the late 1919s and early1920s with the opening of the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute in 1919 under the direction Dr. James Henry Breasted, a pioneering scholar of Egyptian history.

- The building exhibits fine craftsmanship and detailing in multi-colored terra cotta with a variety of Egyptian-inspired decorative motives, including lotus columns, a “cavetto” cornice, and a winged-scarab medallion.

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.

- Paul Gerhardt, Sr., the architect of the Cairo Supper Club, is a significant architect in the history of Chicago architecture, designing a variety of significant public, educational, commercial and other buildings.

- Gerhardt was Cook County architect during the early 1910s and was the designer of the Cook County Hospital, a monumental Beaux-Arts building located on Chicago’s West Side (listed on the National Register of Historic Places).

- Gerhardt was Chicago Board of Education architect from 1929 to 1931, during which time he designed, along with the Building, such noteworthy school buildings as Lane Technical High School, Von Steuben High School, and Du Sable High School (a designated Chicago Landmark).

Details of the Cairo Supper Club Building's multi-colored terra cotta.

Criterion 7: Unique or Distinctive Visual Feature

Its unique location or distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or City of Chicago.

- The Cairo Supper Club Building, with its unusual Egyptian Revival-style exterior, is visually distinctive and unusual within the context of the Uptown community area.

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 Cairo Supper Club Building retains very good physical integrity on its exterior, displayed through its historic location, overall design, historic materials, details and ornamentation. The building retains its historic multi-colored terra-cotta front facade and common-brick side and rear walls.

Changes to the Cairo Supper Club are relatively minor and do not impact the building's historic and architectural significance. The most important change to the building's exterior is a newer storefront, slightly recessed within the historic terra-cotta facade, which "frames" it. It should be noted that storefronts of historic commercial buildings in Chicago are typically altered over time due to changes in design taste and retail practice.

Despite these changes, the Cairo Supper Club Building retains its ability to express its architectural and historical values as a finely--crafted Egyptian Revival-style commercial building designed by Paul Gerhardt, Sr. The building is a rare example of this unusual architectural style. The building's historic integrity is preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and ability to express such values.

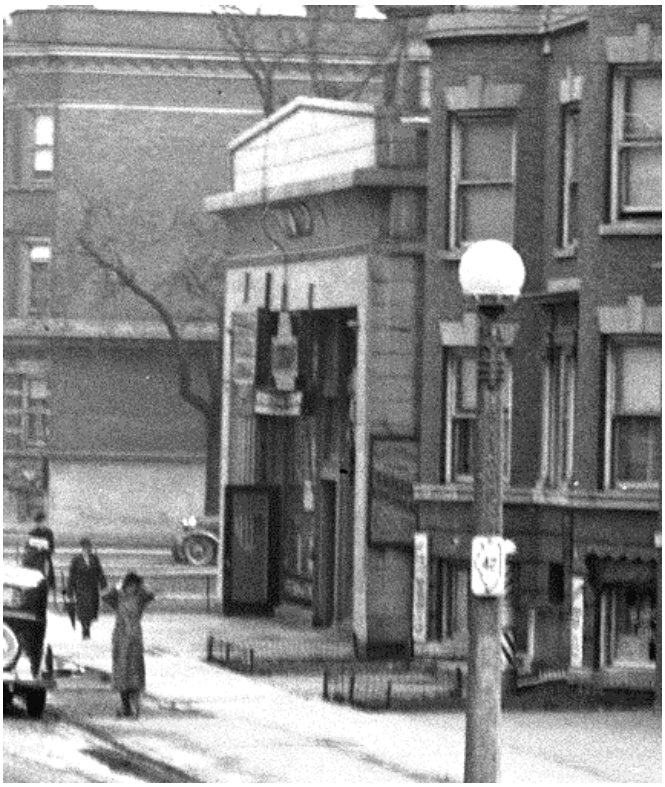
SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

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 Cairo Supper Club Building, the Commission staff recommends that the significant features be identified as follows:

- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the building.

The Cairo Supper Club was part of a larger commercial area centered on the Sheridan Road elevated station, just south of Irving Park Road. Top: The Sheridan Road - Irving Park Road intersection in 1936. Right: An enlargement of the above photograph, centered on the Cairo Supper Club Building.



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The Commission on Chicago Landmarks, whose nine members are appointed by the Mayor and City Council, was established in 1968 by city ordinance. It is responsible for recommending to the City Council that areas, districts, places, buildings, structures, work of arts or other objects in the City of Chicago be designated as Chicago Landmarks, which protects them by law. The Commission is staffed by the Historic Preservation Division, Chicago Department of Housing and Economic Development, City Hall, 121 North LaSalle Street, Room 1101, Chicago, IL 60602; (312-744-3200) phone; (312-744-9140) fax, web site: www.cityofchicago.org/landmarks

This Preliminary Summary of Information is subject to possible revision and amendment during the designation process. Only language contained within the City Council's final landmark designation ordinance should be regarded as final.