

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name House of Seven Gables

other names/site number _____

Name of Multiple Property Listing _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number 141 Loretto Court

☐

not for publication

city or town Wheaton

☐

vicinity

state Illinois

county DuPage

zip code 60189

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: ___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date _____

Illinois Department of Natural Resources - DSHPO

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date _____

Title _____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| ☐ | private |
| ☐ | public - Local |
| ☐ | public - State |
| ☐ | public - Federal |

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| ☒ | building(s) |
| ☐ | district |
| ☐ | site |
| ☐ | structure |
| ☐ | object |

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
	site
	structure
	object
1	Total

**Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register**

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals:

Tudor Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

roof: Tile

other:

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

Summary Paragraph

The House of Seven Gables is a three-story Tudor Revival home at 141 Loretto Court in Wheaton, Illinois, that was built in 1897 for iron mining and shipping executive Jay C. Morse and designed by architect Jarvis Hunt (1863-1941). The site is located just south of the historic Chicago Golf Club. The property's address originally was 2S304 Hawthorne Lane in Wheaton.¹ The house was removed from its original site in 2017 and relocated about 600 feet to the south to a new location. The primary facade continues to face north. The house was an anchor property for several years both for Wheaton's south side and for what was known at the time — particularly in newspapers' social pages — as the "Wheaton colony" or the "Wheaton golf club colony." Because one owner — a religious institution — owned the house for more than 70 years, the home has not had many alterations to it since it was originally designed, and none to the significant historic spaces. The house was used as a single-family residence on an 80-acre estate from 1897 until 1946. Then, from 1946 until 2017, it was used by a religious institution for offices, religious/worship services, meetings, a preschool and as a shelter for abused women (the top two floors). Since its 2017 relocation to a different site that is within the original 80-acre estate, the House of Seven Gables has undergone some modest renovations, though none to the historic spaces, and it has returned to use as a single-family residence. The construction date attributed to the house is taken from contemporaneous news reports, which include an actual architect's rendering of the home at the time it was constructed. The nomination consists of one contributing property.

Narrative Description

PHYSICAL CONTEXT

The House of Seven Gables is one of numerous homes designed by Jarvis Hunt in the area surrounding the historic Chicago Golf Club, which is the nation's oldest 18-hole golf course. It was the largest home designed by Jarvis Hunt in the colony and it was situated on an especially good-sized tract at the outset (80 acres). The house's current setting is with an east-west orientation (with the front facing north) on the original site, with a park (Seven Gables Park) to the south, a retention pond to the east, several houses to the west, and a large cul-de-sac to the north. The current setting affords the viewer a good vista of the House of Seven Gables, complete with trees rising up behind it.

The House is set back from the street approximately 30 feet from the street. A stone front walkway extends toward the house from the city sidewalk in front of the house at a 90-degree angle. Then, as the walkway approaches the house, it turns to the right, and stairs bring the visitor to the home's front door. The landscaping around the house consists of newly planted bushes. A split-rail fence, a non-contributing feature -- is in the property's southeast corner. The back yard slopes downward away from the house and toward Seven Gables Park, a large park that was created in 1975 when a portion of the original 80-acre parcel was sold to the Wheaton Park District. In both directions, the property retains important visual connections — to the north, with the golf course, and to the south, with an expansive park.

ARCHITECTURE - EXTERIOR

¹ The address later was changed to 1600 Somerset Lane after the property's 1989 annexation to Wheaton, and with the move, the house's address changed again to 141 Loretto Court.

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The House of Seven Gables is an example of the Tudor Revival style common during the 1890s and the first decade of the 20th century. It maintains its original orientation facing north. The dimensions of the exterior of the house are approximately 111 feet by 36 feet. The principal roof runs east-west and is side gabled with cross gables at the west end, paired gables on the north façade, a projecting on the south elevation and gabled dormers on the north and south elevations. It also has belt courses and a raised basement. The exterior of the home is clad in orange-brown colored dressed brick laid in a running bond on the lower levels; the upper level is in a diaper pattern created by brown header bricks. Jack-arch lintels are found above most windows. The home has asymmetrical massing, a very steeply pitched roof, irregular gables), two tall brick chimneys at the east and west elevations (both of which are detailed with vertical strips of projecting bricks), parapeted gables, several diamond-paned leaded glass casement windows that flank the fireplace in the living room's inglenook, and a clay tile roof. Unless noted otherwise, the fenestration consists of double-hung wood-sash windows with six-over-six lights. The house is atop a newly constructed foundation, with a terrace/deck off the front door. At the rear of the home, facing south, are a walkout basement and above that, a covered first-floor porch.

North Facing Facade (Front Elevation)

The north facing facade is the front of the House of Seven Gables. On the first floor are 12 windows and a massive oak front door with elaborate strapwork hinges, a lion's head door knocker and Tudor arch infilled with terra-cotta ornamented. On the second floor are 13 windows. On the third floor are four windows. Above the third floor, the center parapeted gable roof is atop the arched, two-level collection of windows that are above the front door and that provide light for the home's primary staircase. The entire north facing facade is clad in brick, and the three gabled areas have a brick interlocking diamond pattern design (created by brown header bricks) that extends down to the bottom of the second floor's windows. The north facing facade has three tall lancet windows with intersecting tracery and topped by terra-cotta drip molds — the former in the shape of a Tudor arch.

West Facing Facade

Because the house has an east-west orientation, its facades that face east and west each are rather narrow. The west facing façade has very few windows. In fact, it has just two windows on the first level and just one window on the second level. The second level does have a small balcony. The third level has one window. There is a parapeted gable roof atop the third floor, along with a tall brick chimney that is adorned with raised crosses.

East Facing Facade

As indicated above, the east facing facade also is rather narrow. The east facing façade has just two windows on the first level, one on the second level and one on the third level. The east facing facade has the similarly interlocking diamond pattern (created by brown header bricks) that extends down to the bottom of the second floor's window. The east facing facade has two doorways that are exits from the home's first floor.

South Facing Facade

The south facing facade is the rear of the House of Seven Gables. It has two large parapeted gable roofs above the third floor, along with two third-floor dormers, one clad with wood shingles and the other with aluminum siding. The parapeted gable roofs are above second-floor bedrooms. The south facing

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facade also has a walkout basement and a first-floor wood porch. The porch uses the original wood columns that were part of the porch in the House of Seven Gables' original location. However, the wood flooring of the porch is new. The south facing facade has seven windows on the first floor, 12 windows on the second floor and eight windows on the third floor. Most of these windows are six-over-six.

ARCHITECTURE - INTERIOR

Architectural elements and historic integrity continue in the interior with original windows, original pine wood floors, one stone fireplace and two marble fireplaces.

The first floor of the house has five rooms: a living room, a dining room, an entrance hall, a small library, and a large kitchen. The home has a center entry, with the living room to the west and the other rooms to the east. The main entry to the house features original dark oak wood paneling and trim. The entrance hall, which is original, has a reverse-flight staircase with balustrades featuring cut-out tracery motifs. The entrance hall also has oak doors with vertical panels detailed with ogee arches. The stair hall, living room and the small library off the entry all also have original dark wood paneling and trim. The living room also has other original features, including an inglenook with a massive stone fireplace (the fireplace is topped by an oak mantel) and oak-beamed plaster ceilings. Slender-fluted pilasters detail the oak casings surrounding the doorways to the living room and inglenook, as well as the living room's bay window.

Elsewhere on the first floor, the dining room has a lighter Rococo appearance, with original, white-painted decorative plaster on the walls and ceilings, all detailed with elaborate foliate and curvilinear motifs, as well as an original white marble fireplace detailed with Classical, curvilinear, and foliate motifs. The fireplace has decorative pilasters on either side.

The second and third floors contain individual bedrooms and remain arranged per the original layout. The primary bedroom has a marble fireplace. The second-floor staircase has a wall of windows. Floors are generally pine wood throughout the home. Other original features include wood windows, doors, wood trim, built-in cabinets, plaster walls and plaster ceilings. The house also has secondary staircases at the east and west ends of the house, with the former running from the first floor to the third floor and the latter running between the second floor and the third floor.

INTEGRITY

The House of Seven Gables meets the Criteria Consideration requirements for moved properties because its current setting is compatible with its original location; it has retained its architecturally significant features; and it retains sufficient integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The House of Seven Gables remained a single-family residence until 1946, when it was sold to a religious order, the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Over the years, the property was used for offices, religious/worship services, meetings, a preschool, and residences. About 1951, the convent built a chapel to the west of the home and also constructed an enclosed connecting structure. In 1957, the religious order acquired another 41 or so adjoining acres from the original estate.

Over time, much of the land adjoining the property had been sold to real estate developers and homebuilders. In 2017, the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary — by that point occupying just 15.7 acres -- sold its remaining property to a homebuilder who won local zoning approval to construct the Loretto Club subdivision on the site. The homebuilder initially had intended to demolish all buildings on the

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Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary's land and proceeded to document the site's historic nature by hiring a historic consultant.

Fortunately, two private citizens stepped forward and, with the homebuilder's approval, bought the House of Seven Gables and relocated it about 600 feet to the south onto a newly built foundation on a newly built street within the homebuilder's new subdivision. Thus, the House of Seven Gables was able to remain not only on its same original 80-acre site but also on the same 15.7-acre property that the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary had occupied.

Because the project was subject to the provisions set forth in the Illinois State Agency Historic Resource Preservation Act (Section 707), the relocation was reviewed and approved by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office. Preparation for the move required severing the House of Seven Gables from the chapel to the west (now-demolished) and the screened porch to the east (now-demolished) and removing concrete steps leading to the house. Both the chapel nor the connector were built in 1951 and not associated with the house's architectural significance. The house was moved in one piece and traveled in a reverse S-curve path to its new location, 600 feet to the south of its existing site. (See figure 6.) A new foundation was poured below the house. Restoration work and replacement of the mechanical systems were then performed, and the house also was connected to municipal utilities.

There were other buildings on the property at one time. Several smaller structures on the property, such as a stable and an icehouse, dated to 1897 were demolished. Many of the demolished properties, such as the chapel, were erected after 1897. The same is the case for the Mary Ward House of Studies, which also was demolished in 2017.

While the house had to be moved to save it from demolition, careful consideration was given to maintaining the feel of the original setting. The house was moved approximately 600 feet due south and its original orientation was retained. Consideration was also given to the viewsheds of the primary facades of the house -- the north and south. The north (front) can be viewed from a distance because the new house is at the end of a street. While the new site is smaller than the original, the south opens to the Seven Gables park, visually extending the property significantly.

The move has not adversely affected the house's architectural integrity. All original windows have been preserved. The distinctive brick gables, to which the house owes its name, are intact. The parapets are topped with original orange terra cotta and the orange clay tile roof is original and intact. Because the relocation of the House of Seven Gables was necessary in order for it to escape demolition, it was disconnected from its underground concrete basement. The original basement was demolished, and a new concrete basement was built under the house at its current site. The foundation is similar to that at the original location, where there also was a full, raised basement under the entire house. Outside of the new foundation, the few modifications that occurred were largely reparative. The west-facing facade where the chapel had been connected had some exterior brick wall restoration done to enclose the spot where that connection had existed. A one-story, flat-roofed, glass-enclosed porch attached on the east side and the crenellated wall that were added outside of the period of significance were demolished. Since the removal of those additions, both the west and east facades were restored with brick that is largely consistent with the brick that architect Jarvis Hunt originally utilized. Portions of the rear (south) porch were reconstructed based upon photographic evidence. The current owners preserved its original roofing and porch frame. (Figures 8-10)

On the interior, the formal entrance hall, parlor/living room, inglenook, dining room and library all are virtually unchanged from their original appearance, with original wood paneling and trim; the dining room features original decorative plaster and an elaborate marble fireplace. The interior's major alteration has

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involved the kitchen. The remaining first-floor rooms contained service spaces and feature little detail. The Institute of Blessed Virgin Mary previously had altered the house's kitchen and made it very small. As a result, the kitchen did not have an original footprint or design when the House of Seven Gables returned to use as a single-family home, starting in 2017. Now, the kitchen has been expanded to make it more appealing for single-family residential occupants.

The second and third floors were used for the Loretto Sisters and individual bedrooms are arranged per the original layout. The master bedroom and second floor staircase which were designed with the greatest level of detail are intact. Other original features include wood windows, doors, trim, and built-in cabinets.

The House of Seven Gables has sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register. The house remains on the original property and is just a short distance away from its original location. Its new lot is sufficient in size and character to recall the basic qualities of the historic environment and setting. The home remains with an east-west orientation, it has nothing blocking its appearance from a long distance away, and it has ancient trees rising up behind it. While the house is now part of a subdivision, it clearly stands apart from the other homes in terms of lot size and scale. Original photographs demonstrate that the home possesses integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and retains those architecturally significant features that identify it as a Tudor Revival. (Figures 1-3)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☒ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1897

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Architect/Builder

Hunt, Jarvis

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

Locally significant, the House of Seven Gables is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The house is an excellent example of Tudor Revival and Jacobethan architecture designed by Jarvis Hunt. Elements of Tudor Revival and Jacobethan architecture at the House of Seven Gables include the steeply pitched roof, tall, mullioned windows, high chimneys, a pillared porch, and dormer windows. In the interior, numerous original details remain, including wood paneling, wood trim, wood windows and wood flooring. The period of significance is 1897, which is the date that the house was built. After serving as the Loretto Convent from 1946 until 2017, it was relocated and returned to private residential use in 2017.

Because the house was moved from its original location, it meets Criterion Consideration B as retains sufficient integrity for its design and the current setting --just 600 feet from its original location and on the original 80-acre site -- is an appropriate site. Also, the orientation of the house has not changed, with the primary facade facing due north. The House of Seven Gables retains nearly all of its historic features and the primary historic spaces are nearly unaltered. Although the House of Seven Gables has been moved, its integrity is generally excellent, with Tudor Revival and Jacobethan architecture as visible today as when the house was built in 1897. The house remains an important local and regional, well-preserved example of the Jacobethan style designed by Jarvis Hunt, who also designed the Chicago Golf Club's clubhouse and other surrounding homes, as well as a number of noteworthy structures across the country.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

HISTORY OF WHEATON TO 1897

The area that makes up south Wheaton today was originally prairie, with Native American inhabitants. Non-native settlers came west from Chicago to Wheaton starting about 1831, with Lyman Butterfield (the namesake of nearby Butterfield Road) believed to be the first settler in Wheaton. For decades afterward, the area of Wheaton that is south of what now is Roosevelt Road was largely made up of farms. Wheaton was incorporated in 1859 by the Wheaton family, whose members had arrived in the 1830s, after Butterfield. The downtown sprang up around the Galena & Chicago Union (now Union Pacific) railroad, which came through Wheaton in 1849 or 1850.

In 1894, the recently formed (1892) Chicago Golf Club was looking for a new, larger location (for an 18-hole course vs. the nine-hole course that it had in its earlier location), and the club settled on buying the 200-acre Hiram B. Patrick farm, at what today is 25W253 Warrenville Road in unincorporated Wheaton. The club's purchase of the farm was concluded in early 1895. The early members of the golf club, including Charles Blair Macdonald (who designed the course itself), Edward S. Worthington, architect Jarvis Hunt and iron and mining magnate Jay C. Morse (1838-1906), all bought adjoining land and built homes on that land toward a goal of creating a colony where they and their families could relax in the summer months. Other golf club members rented other area homes, including some that Hunt designed and that were built in the 1890s and early 1900s. Still other golf club members rented cottages located on the golf course property. Ultimately, early members Hunt, Macdonald, Worthington, and Morse all used Hunt as their architect to design their Wheaton homes. Today, among the oldest houses in all of south Wheaton are the ones in the areas surrounding the Chicago Golf Club.

The House of Seven Gables was built during the country's the Gilded Age (1870-1920) when wealthy families built country houses -- largely as seasonal residences -- to escape the ills of city life and pursue greater social status with their peers at nearby country clubs and resort areas. Country estates were not a new concept, as wealthy Europeans had done the same thing as far back as the 15th and 16th centuries in England (landed English gentry) and also outside of Italy's major cities. In America, the Industrial Revolution eventually resulted in an increase in the wealth of large numbers of Americans and the creation of a new leisure class which

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began looking for things to do with their leisure time. This included taking up sports like golf and joining athletic clubs. The creation of country estates allowed for pursuing leisure activities far away from the dangers and ills of the big cities (although many country estate owners still retained in-town residences, often for use during the workweek or during the winter months). Country estates were typically private, with lavish mansions and gardens only available to other members of the social elite via private drives.

In the Chicago region, country estates were built primarily in the counties north and west of the city. This phenomenon did not escape Wheaton. The areas to the west, southwest, south, and southeast of the Chicago Golf Club became known -- particularly in Chicago newspapers' social pages -- as the "Wheaton colony," or the "Wheaton golf club colony." The House of Seven Gables was an anchor property for several decades in the colony, as the largest home designed by Jarvis Hunt in the colony. It was sited on an especially good-sized tract of land (80 acres). With its east-west orientation, the House of Seven Gables offered views of the golf club or of the vast expanse to the south. For nearly eighty years, its primary road access was via Hawthorne Lane, which remained a private drive until 1976, when the occupants sold it to its current owner, the Chicago Golf Club. As such, it was a country estate home that was very close to the golf club. Other country estates that were built in the area were on larger parcels that were farther away from the club.

The mansions around the club were built by prominent businessmen. To the west of the golf course were the estates owned by Edward N. Hurley (designed by Jarvis Hunt) and *Chicago Tribune* publisher Joseph Medill's estate, which originally was known as Red Oaks and later was renamed Cantigny. Medill's mansion was expanded by his grandson, Col. Robert R. McCormick, who also was the publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. To the southwest of the golf club was Chicago Edison founder Frank Gorton's Italian villa-style mansion, which also was designed by Jarvis Hunt. To the southeast of the golf club was the Thornhill estate, built for Joy Morton of the Morton Salt company, and designed in part by Jarvis Hunt.

The House of Seven Gables' early owners all were members of the Chicago Golf Club. Iron mining and shipping magnate Jay C. Morse and his daughter, Carolyn Morse Ely were the first occupants. Morse later asked Jarvis Hunt to design another home for him, Moyonage, on the shore of Lake Erie in Bratenahl, Ohio, near Cleveland. When he died in August 1906 his estate deeded the property's ownership to his daughter, Carolyn Morse Ely (1868-1954). In 1914 she sold the 80-acre parcel to longtime Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad vice president and general counsel Will H. Lyford (1858-1934). Lyford's wife, Mary (1864-1931) founded the Wheaton Garden Club and helped organize the Women's Athletic Club. In 1928, the Lyfords sold the property to Marie Louise Wetmore, who was the wife of First National Bank of Chicago co-chairman Frank Wetmore.

The Wheaton golf club colony's public visibility lessened during the Depression, and all homes in the colony eventually were converted to year-round homes and began being owned and used by some individuals not associated with the golf club. In April 1946, Horace Wetmore, the last residential occupant of the House of Seven Gables, sold the property and about 10 acres for \$75,000 to a religious order, the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (also known as the Ladies of Loretto), which operated its Loretto Convent in the building from 1946 until 2017. (In 1957, the religious order acquired another 41 or so adjoining acres from the Wetmore family.) Over the years, the House of Seven Gables was used for offices, religious/worship services, meetings, a preschool, and residences, including in the 1980s to house a priest and then in the 2010s, as a shelter for abused women.

Medill's mansion was expanded by his grandson, Col. Robert R. McCormick, who also was the publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*; the estate, which originally was known as Red Oaks and later was renamed Cantigny, has been preserved. As a result, the House of Seven Gables and the Cantigny properties remain as the remaining country houses in central DuPage County. Other mansions did not fare as well. Hurley's house was razed around 2009. Gorton's mansion was significantly altered in the 1950s by a later owner, International Harvester executive Brooks McCormick. That home, at 2S601 Winfield Road, was demolished in 2007. The parts of the

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Thornhill mansion that were designed by Jarvis Hunt were demolished, even as the rest of the Morton estate remains intact and in use as the Morton Arboretum.

TUDOR REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE

The House of Seven Gables is an example of Tudor Revival architecture under the Jacobethan subtype. Among the characteristics of the House of Seven Gables that fit with the subtype are the steep roof gables that are expressly alluded to in the house's name, terra cotta brickwork, Tudor arches, carved brick details, parapets, and high chimneys. Interior features include wood beamed ceilings, wood paneling, wood tracery, perforated balustrade, and massive fireplace with a heavy ornate metal rail.

Jacobethan-style architecture traces its origins to having elements of Elizabethan and Jacobean architecture – and the style originated in England in the late 1820s. In *A Field Guide to American Houses*, architectural historian Virginia Savage McAlester referred to Jacobethan architecture as the parapeted gable subtype. McAlester noted that this subtype of the Tudor Revival style, which dates to the late 19th century, was the oldest in the United States.

Tudor Revival style architecture more broadly has consisted of steep gables and tall ornamental chimneys, among other elements.

It's clear that the House of Seven Gables is an example of the Jacobethan subtype of Tudor Revival architecture. The home's architect, Jarvis Hunt, was well versed and experienced in numerous kinds of classical architecture and demonstrated as much in his design of the House of Seven Gables. There is no evidence that Hunt designed any other Tudor Revival-style homes in Wheaton. However, he did so elsewhere. The House of Seven Gables predated two other Hunt-designed homes with similar architecture: the now-demolished Loramoor (1900) in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin; and Moyenage (1905) at 12725 Lake Shore Boulevard in Bratenahl, Ohio.

There were no comparable residential properties identified in the Illinois Historic Structures Survey (1971-1975) of Wheaton. Only three houses had Tudor Revival characteristics. Two --the ones at 634 N. Howard and 619 E. Prairie -- are identical and are classified as the front-facing gable-with-wing subtype, as defined by McAlester. The third, located at 405 W. Harrison, could be categorized as towered French Eclectic; this variant of the style shares many features with Tudor Revival architecture. All are much smaller than the House of Seven Gables and lack the massing associated with an estate home. The closest comparable property was located on the campus of Wheaton College. Williston Hall was constructed in 1895 and shares a similar massing and materials. Built as a women's dormitory, it lacks the ornamentation found on the House of Seven Gables.

JARVIS HUNT

Jarvis Hunt (1863-1941) was born in Weathersfield, Vermont. He had little formal education in architecture — just one year of study (1883-1884) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; reports that he attended Harvard University are not accurate, as the university has no record of him ever having been enrolled there. He was the nephew of noted American architect Richard Morris Hunt, and after an early career as a draftsman in Boston proved to be reasonably unsuccessful, Jarvis Hunt came to Chicago at his uncle's invitation in 1892 to design the state of Vermont's building for the World's Columbian Exposition. After the fair, Jarvis Hunt chose to stay in Chicago and throughout the remainder of the 1890s, he became more and more deeply involved in the business and social fabric of Chicago, which at that time was a city that was still rebuilding from the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

Hunt soon joined the Chicago Club, and he helped organize both the Chicago Golf Club and the Saddle & Cycle Club. In both cases, he eventually designed those clubs' clubhouses. The connections he made

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through those clubs were invaluable for him to gain early commissions. As a result, Hunt frequently was called upon to design large homes for well-heeled clients, both in the Chicago area and elsewhere.

Throughout his career, Hunt was an architect who largely invoked classical styles, but was truly an eclectic designer who drew inspiration from a range of historic styles (and some contemporary ones), including the Classical Revival, Beaux Arts, Tudor Revival and Craftsman styles. He also brought significant creativity and versatility to his work. Hunt mostly worked in Chicago during the first decade of the 20th century. By the 1910s, however, he began working far more on projects outside of Chicago, including famously the Kansas City Union Station, as well as railroad depots in Oakland, California and Dallas, Texas. His relationships with railroad executives, which were formed through club activities in Chicago — Chicago was the nation's railroad center, after all — also helped provide him with other commissions, such as the Union Pacific railroad's headquarters building in Omaha, Nebraska and a Southern Pacific railroad office building in Houston, Texas. Hunt also is known for designing the original 39 buildings at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Lake Bluff, Illinois.

During the 1920s, Hunt largely returned to performing local work in the Chicago area, but very little in the way of houses. Instead, he was focused on much larger projects, including apartment and cooperative buildings at 900 N. Michigan Avenue in Chicago and at 850 N. Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. Hunt retired from his architectural practice in 1927 and died in 1941.

Among the houses and country estates that Hunt designed, one of the most noteworthy is the Tudor Revival-style Loramoor Mansion, which was built in 1900 in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin for industrialist James Hobart Moore of Diamond Match fame. Loramoor also was noted for its gabled roofs. Loramoor resembled the House of Seven Gables, and like the House of Seven Gables, Loramoor later was owned by a religious order. Loramoor was torn down in 1984. Hunt also designed the first two sections of Joy Morton's now-demolished Thornhill estate house in Lisle, Illinois (now part of the Morton Arboretum property), a now-demolished Italian villa-style house for Chicago Edison Company founder Frank Gorton in Warrenville, Illinois (now part of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's St. James Farm preserve), and the Tudor Revival-style Moyenage estate in Bratenahl, Ohio for Jay C. Morse. Moyenage is extant and also greatly resembles the House of Seven Gables.

Despite Hunt's large body of extant work and the high quality of design and construction of many of his projects, he remained far less studied than other architects of his generation. That slowly began to change in the months leading up to the eventual demolition in 1984 of the cooperative building he designed at 900 N. Michigan Avenue in Chicago, as preservationists began highlighting Hunt's significance. Since 1984, Hunt's profile has continued to rise, in part due to the successful restoration of Kansas City's Union Station, which took place between 1997 and 1999. Hunt's office records and his archive of drawings did not survive, which has proved to be an impediment for those interested in studying his work.

Jarvis Hunt designed numerous other homes and buildings in Wheaton. Among those, probably the most significant one is the Chicago Golf Club's clubhouse, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Elsewhere in Wheaton, Jarvis Hunt designed several homes for the Wheaton family including the Colonial Revival-style houses at 910 Golf Lane and 924 Golf Lane and others at 534 W. Roosevelt Road, 819 Golf Lane and 824 Golf Lane. Hunt also designed two extant Prairie-style, stucco houses on the east side of Chicago Golf Club at 1S617 Hawthorne Lane and at 1671 Hawthorne Lane. Hunt designed the Colonial Revival-style house known as "Ballyshear," which is located immediately west of the club at 25W447 Plamondon Road, as well as an extant gate house for several adjoining homes. The gate house is located at 25W431 Plamondon Road. Hunt's own Prairie-style home, which was built in 1898 and demolished in 1984, stood at 1S671 Hawthorne Lane.

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CRITERION CONSIDERATION B

Properties that are no longer in their original location must meet the requirements established under Criterion Consideration B: Moved Properties. A moved property that has architectural significance can still be eligible if it the new setting is compatible with the original and the property possesses those characteristics that demonstrate its architectural importance, and retains sufficient integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The relocation of House of Seven Gables was subject to review under the Illinois State Agencies Preservation Act and was approved by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office. The house was moved 600 feet to the north and is still on its original lot. While the area has been subdivided, the new site and location do not detract from the integrity of the original design. The house retains its original orientation and its new setting, adjacent to a wooded park, affords viewsheds that maintain its sense of an estate. The move of the home was approved by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office. The architecture and interior elements are largely unaltered and intact.

CONCLUSION

The House of Seven Gables is a three-story brick house with a clay tile roof and parapeted gable roofs above its third floor. It was designed by Jarvis Hunt for iron and mining magnate Jay C. Morse. It is located at 141 Loretto Court in Wheaton. It was originally located about 600 feet to the north and previously had the addresses of 2S304 Hawthorne Lane and then, after its land was annexed to Wheaton in 1989, 1600 Somerset Lane. Due to its land's sale and proposed subdivision, the house was threatened with demolition and was relocated in late 2017 to its current location. Overall, the house is in excellent condition due to recent restoration work. Despite the fact that the house has been moved, the house's quality and condition maintain the integrity of the original Jarvis Hunt design and its local importance. The close proximity between the two sites does not adversely affect its ability to meet Criterion C.

The House of Seven Gables' architectural design is Tudor Revival and Elizabethan and reflects Jarvis Hunt's development of his own architectural style for country estates. Hunt would go on to design similar but more refined versions of this style in two other mansions he built in 1900 and 1905, Loramoor in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin and Moyenage in Bratenahl, Ohio, respectively. The House of Seven Gables is sited with its primary (north) facade facing the street. As a result, the north facade can be viewed from a meaningful distance because the new location is at the end of a wide street. The house's south facade faces the house's namesake park, Seven Gables Park, thus visually extending the property significantly. Both elevations offer those viewing the house the ability to appreciate the house's orientation as it was originally intended. As a result, one can see the steeply pitched roofs and the house's gables, while also being able to view interesting brick designs, the two high chimneys, lancet windows, mullioned windows, and jack-arch lintels above the windows.

In the interior of the house, much of the original architecture remains, including original wood paneling, wood trim and wood windows. Original marble fireplaces are features that date from the construction of the house.

The House of Seven Gables is an excellent example of a Tudor Revival-style and Elizabethan-style architecture that was constructed in 1897 expressly to be near a noted golf course so its inhabitants could enjoy summers there. The house long has served as a prominent part of the history of south Wheaton, and the fact that it has had several prominent owners also is noteworthy. With the design by Jarvis Hunt, a prominent and important architect, the house serves an important part of the architectural and historical legacy of the Chicago region.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"An architect builds his reputation," by S.R. Carroll, *Chicago Tribune*, May 21, 1895, D_B2.

Boyne, Eleanor. *Brick Row: a brief history and comments on the officers' quarters at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois*. Great Lakes (publisher), 1984.

"Buys 124 Acres Facing Grounds of Chicago Golf," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, April 8, 1923, 31.

"E.S. Worthington Dead; Member of Board of Trade and Patron of Golf," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, May 22, 1898, 6.

"F.O. Wetmore, Banker, Dies: Co-Chairman of First National Is Heart Victim," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, August 27, 1930, p. 1.

"Frank Wetmore Buys William Lyford Estate," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, September 27, 1928, p. 25.

Goodner, Ross, and Ben Crenshaw. *Chicago Golf Club, 1892-1992*. Chicago Golf Club, 1991.

Guarino, Jean. Historic survey of the Loretto Convent property, 2016.

Guarino, Jean. "Survey of Buildings Designed by Jarvis Hunt in Wheaton, IL." Report prepared for Pulte Homes. Submitted to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency on September 19, 2016.

"Houses of Golfers at Wheaton," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, February 21, 1897, 30.

"Jarvis Hunt," by Leone Schmidt, DuPage History magazine, Volume II, 1994.

"Jarvis Hunt Dies on Florida Visit; Noted Architect," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, June 17, 1941, 20.

"Locals," *Wheaton Illinoian*, October 16, 1896 ("Michael Kuhn has sold his farm south of the Golf Club Grounds at \$150 per acre. A Mr. Morse, of Chicago, purchased it for a country home.").

"Locals," *Wheaton Illinoian*, November 9, 1906 ("Mrs. Caroline Morse Ely is the principal beneficiary of a \$2 million estate. She gets the J.C. Morse property at Wheaton, he being her father.").

"Locals," *Wheaton Illinoian*, April 5, 1907 ("A. Ely and family will occupy their home, the seven gables, at the same time. Mr. Ely has erected a new green house and is now having a cement swimming pool constructed in the orchard grounds.")

"Magical port in life's storm: Loretto Convent is a comforting oasis where the lessons of tradition linger," *Chicago Tribune*, December 22, 1991, D_B1.

"Many Changes Around Chicago Golf Club," *Wheaton Illinoian*, April 22, 1910, p. 1. ("Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Martin have taken the Frank B. Noyes house for the summer and James Simpson has taken Mrs. C. Morse Ely's house.")

"Polo is Feature at Chicago Golf Club," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, July 28, 1915, 11.

"Private Funeral Rites Today for Mary L. Lyford," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, July 22, 1931, 22.

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"Prominent Persons Who Died During 1906," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, January 1, 1907, A7.

Property transactions, *Wheaton Illinoian*, October 23, 1896 (shows that the Kuhn to Morse property transfer was 80 acres for \$12,000).

Property transactions, DuPage County Recorder's office.

Schmidt, Leone. *In and around historic Warrenville: A documented guide to the historic places in an old community*. Warrenville Historical Society (publisher), 1982.

"Today's Bride," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, June 11, 1927, 15.

Spivak, Jeffrey. *Union Station Kansas City*. The Kansas City Star (publisher), 1999.

"Will H. Lyford, C. & E. I. Officer, Dies in Hospital," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, May 17, 1934, 18.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>41.837921°</u> Latitude	<u>-88.115290°</u> Longitude	3	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude
2	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude	4	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The House of Seven Gables (PIN 05-29-201-069) sits on a 0.4767-acre parcel at the south end of the Loretto Club subdivision. The lot is the consolidation of Lots 7 and 8 in the final plat of subdivision for the Loretto Club subdivision, and it presently is known as the Seven Gables Plat of Consolidation (recorded as DuPage County Recorder document number R2017-108468).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries comprise the extent the lot on which the House of Seven Gables now sits.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bob Goldsborough date 10/27/2022
organization _____ telephone _____
street & number 1671 Hawthorne Ln email bobgoldsborough@gmail.com
city or town Wheaton state IL zip code 60189

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:	<u>House of Seven Gables</u>		
City or Vicinity:	<u>Wheaton</u>		
County:	<u>DuPage</u>	State:	<u>IL</u>
Photographer:	<u>Bob Goldsborough</u>		
Date Photographed:	<u></u>		

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 19:	Front façade, camera facing southwest
Photo 2 of 19:	Front façade, camera facing south
Photo 3 of 19:	West side of south elevation, camera facing north
Photo 4 of 19:	South elevation, camera facing north
Photo 5 of 19:	Front façade, camera facing southwest
Photo 6 of 19:	West elevation, southwest corner, camera facing northeast
Photo 7 of 19:	South elevation, southwest corner, camera facing north
Photo 8 of 19:	West elevation, camera facing east
Photo 9 of 19:	Front door, camera facing south
Photo 10 of 19:	Front door and second story window, camera facing south
Photo 11 of 19:	Front façade, westernmost gable, second and third story windows, camera facing south
Photo 12 of 19:	Living room fireplace, camera facing west
Photo 13 of 19:	Living room bay window, camera facing north
Photo 14 of 19:	French doors to back porch, camera facing south
Photo 15 of 19:	Office, camera facing west
Photo 16 of 19:	Dining room, camera facing east
Photo 17 of 19:	Main staircase, camera facing north
Photo 18 of 19:	Second floor master bedroom, camera facing east
Photo 19 of 19:	Third floor corridor, camera facing west

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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List of Figures

(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all documents should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page.)



Figure 1: Chicago Golf Club course, Hole 14, 1912.



Figure 2: House of Seven Gables, 1912.

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Figure 3: House of Seven Gables, view from Chicago Golf Club course, taken prior to 1912.

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Figure 4: Historic photograph showing the south elevation.

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Figure 5: House of Gables in its current location.

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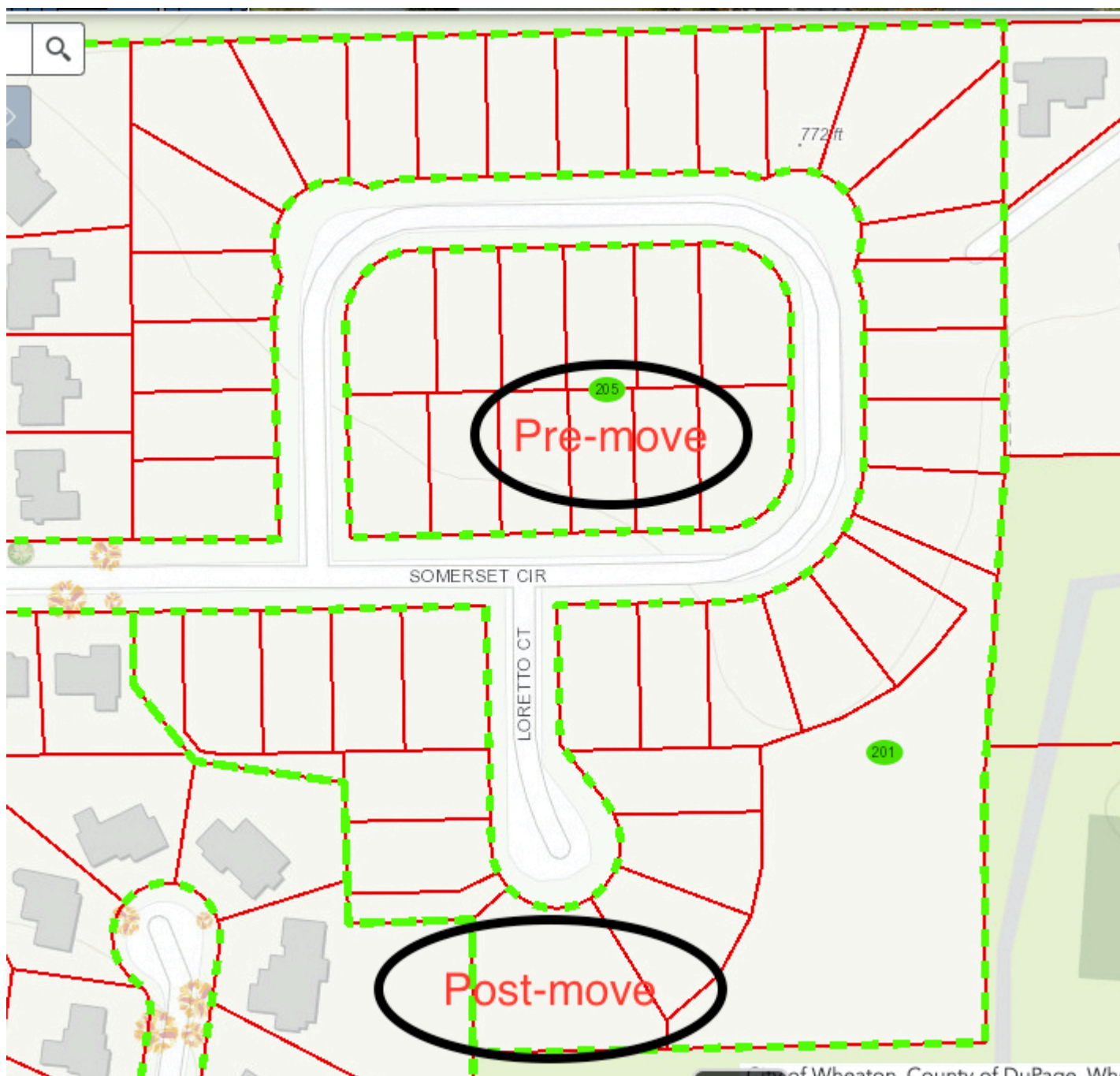
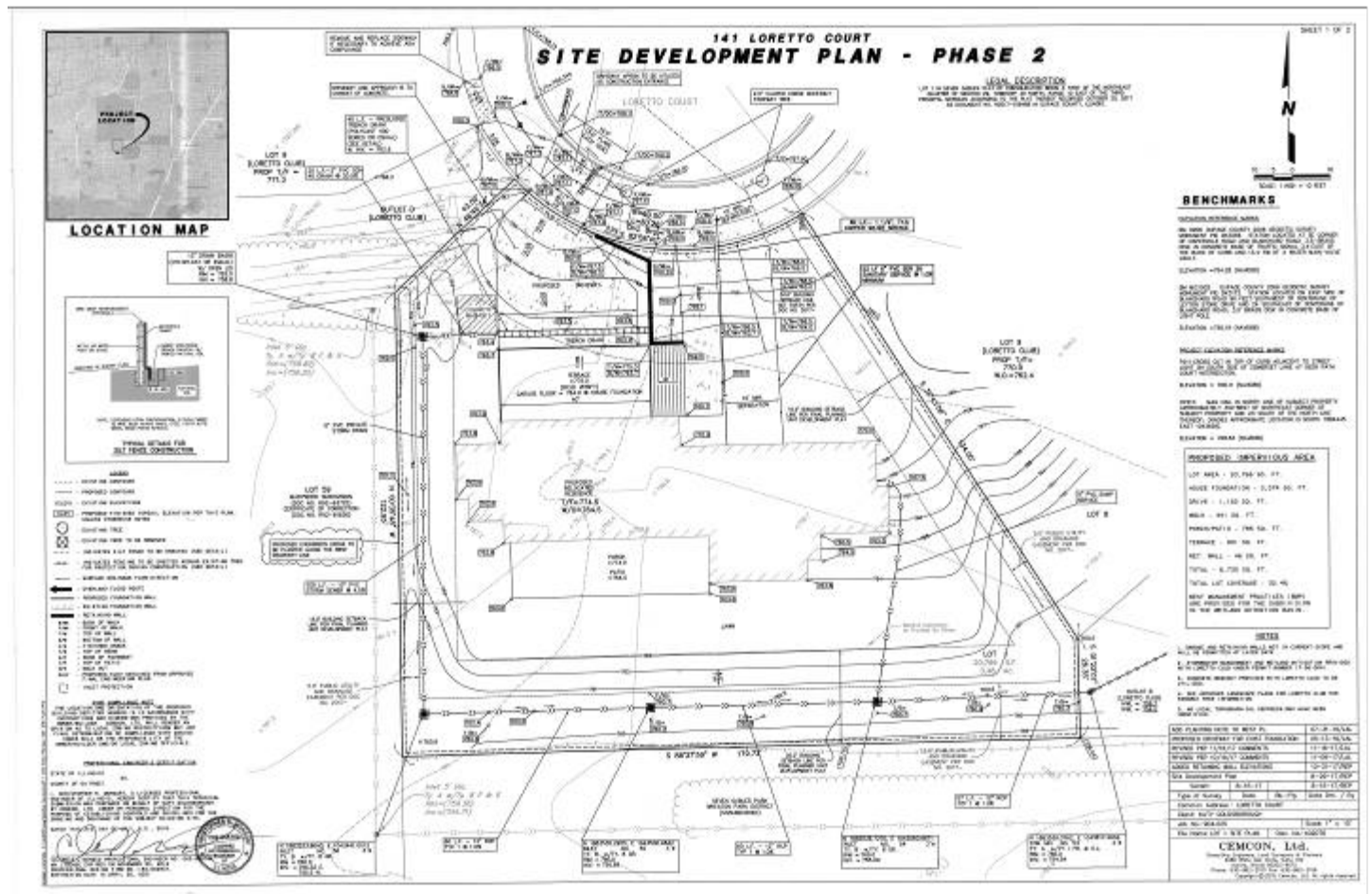


Figure 6: Map showing original and current locations of the property.

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Figure 7: Site development plan for current location.



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Figure 8: House prior to move. East wall jutting out at northeast corner (not original) was removed.

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Figure 9: Connection between house and chapel.

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Figure 10: East porch (not original) removed during relocation.

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House of Seven Gables GIS Coordinates

Latitude: 41.837862°
Longitude: -88.115290°

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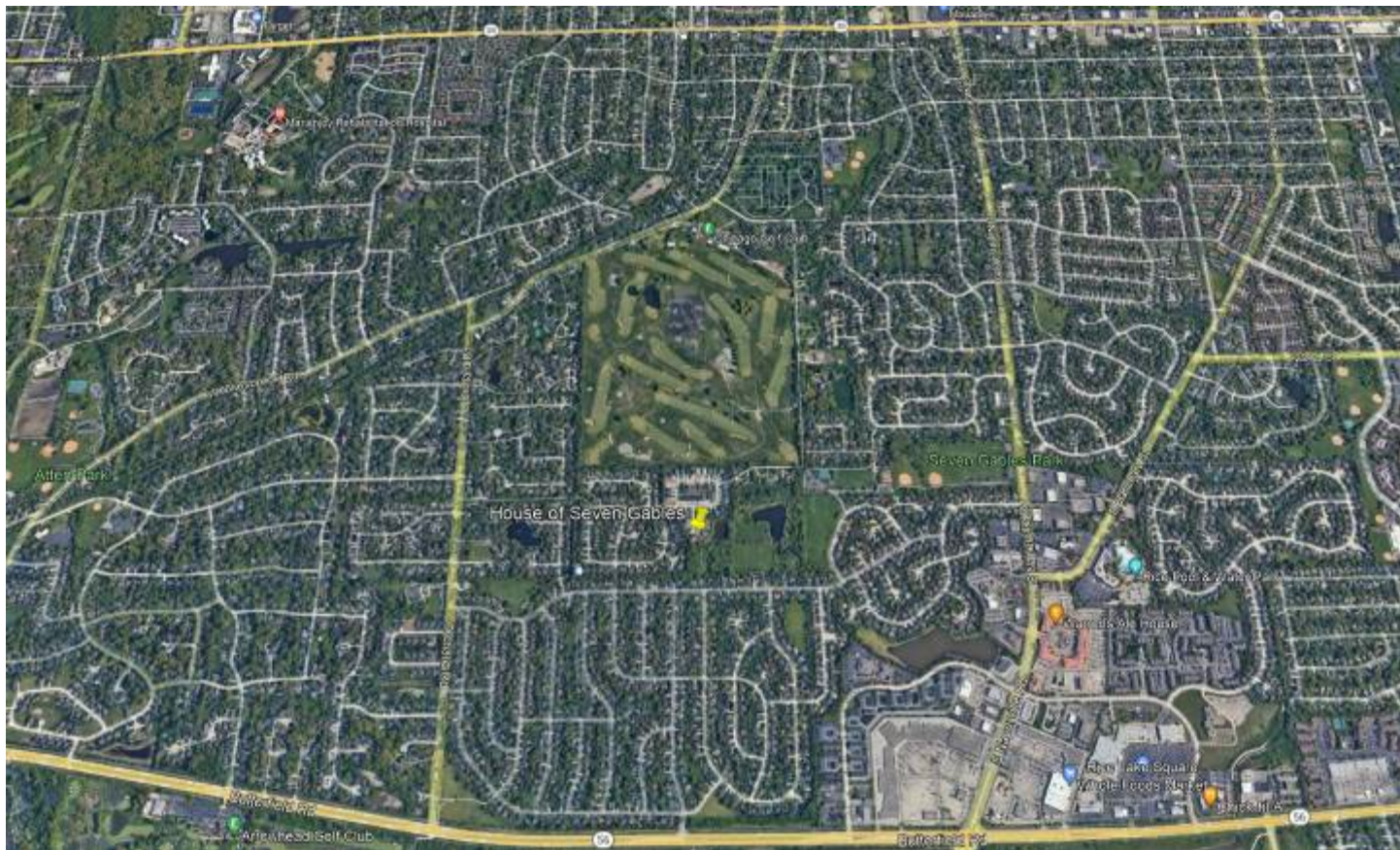
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Local Location Map

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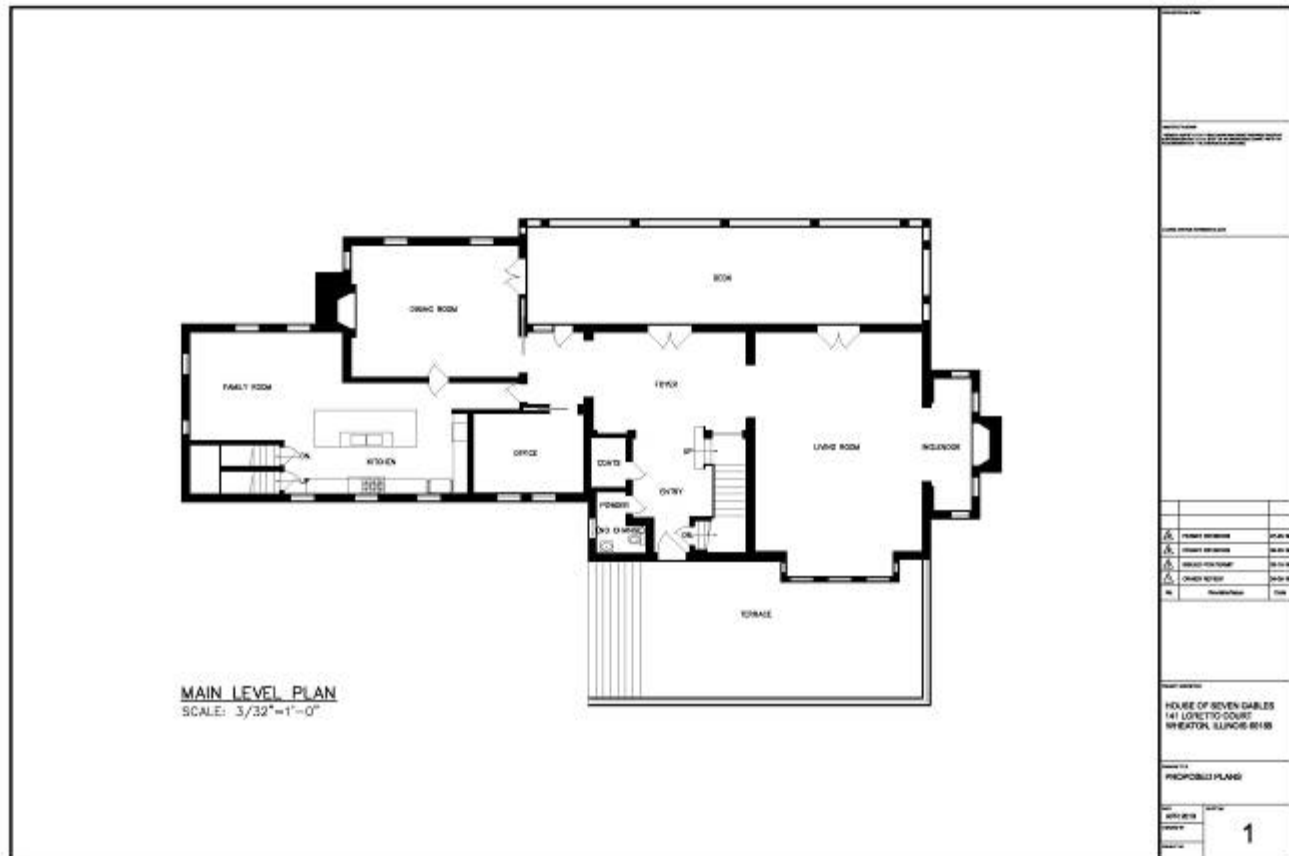
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		REVISIONS <table border="1"> <tr> <th>NO.</th> <th>REVISION</th> <th>DATE</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>ADDED REVISION</td> <td>10-10-88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>ADDED REVISION</td> <td>10-10-88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>ADDED REVISION</td> <td>10-10-88</td> </tr> </table>		NO.	REVISION	DATE	1	ADDED REVISION	10-10-88	2	ADDED REVISION	10-10-88	3	ADDED REVISION	10-10-88
		NO.	REVISION	DATE											
		1	ADDED REVISION	10-10-88											
		2	ADDED REVISION	10-10-88											
3	ADDED REVISION	10-10-88													
HOUSE OF SEVEN GABLES 141 LORNETTO COURT WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60188															
PROPOSED PLANS															
DATE: 10/10/88 DRAWN BY: [signature] CHECKED BY: [signature]															

2

SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 3/32"=1'-0"

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