

SCHMAEDEKE FUNERAL HOME
14205 Union Avenue
Orland Park
Cook County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1243

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SCHMAEDEKE FUNERAL HOME

HABS No. IL-1243

Location: The Schmaedeke Funeral Home is located at 14205 Union Avenue, Orland Park, Orland Township, Cook County, Illinois.

The Schmaedeke Funeral Home is located at latitude: 41.632078, longitude: -87.860308. This coordinate was taken from entering the physical address in Google Maps on February 6, 2019.

Present Owner/

Occupant: Present owners: Richard Schmaedeke Trust
The building is currently vacant. It has been empty for several years.

Present Use: The building, while constructed as a single-family residence, has been used as a funeral home since approximately 1938.

Significance: The Schmaedeke Funeral Home is significant as an example of a Sears Catalog house adapted for business use. Not only is the house significant as one of the first built north of the original village of Orland, it went on to serve the community of Orland Park as the village's only funeral home for many years.

Historian: Andrew J. Elders, Architectural Historian. Independent contractor.
The completion date of this report is February 23, 2019.

Project

Information: Those involved in preparing the documentation for this report include Andrew J. Elders, Jeanne M. Sylvester, and Susan S. Benjamin, all of Benjamin Historic Certifications, LLC.

Part I. Historical Information

A. Physical History

- 1. Date of erection:** ca. 1926. This date is based on two sources: the subject site was not subdivided into lots until mid-1926 with Lot 1 (subject) being sold to George W. Scott and wife on September 3, 1926,¹ and the plan, the Sears "Avalon" was offered for sale between 1921-1926.²
- 2. Architect:** Ernest N. Braucher is the architect to whom the Sears "Avalon" plan is attributed, based on information from a building permit for an "Avalon" model built in Chicago.³ Braucher was born July 16, 1866 in Lincoln, Illinois⁴ and graduated from the University of Illinois School of Architecture in 1891.⁵ By 1892, he was working as an electrician in Chicago.⁶ His record in the 1900 Federal Census lists him as a City Draftsman,⁷ and in the 1910 Federal Census he is listed as an architect for a packing company.⁸ His career as an independent architect appears to have emerged more prominently after 1913, when he began advertising "Stock Plans, \$1: to order, \$10; house, 2 flat, or store."⁹ Braucher's prominence lies in his prolific output of small residences consistent with the Chicago Bungalow form. He was engaged in several instances to design tracts of houses in with a developer, such as with James B. Serrin which resulted in over 80 houses in Chicago's West Chatham Bungalow Historic District.¹⁰ It is through the sale of his house plans to builders, partnerships with

¹ The chain of title was taken from information provided by the Cook County Recorder of Deeds.

² Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, *Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1986, 71, <https://books.google.com/books?id=aCYvGBcLB04C&lpq=PP1&dq=sears%20house&pg=PA4#v=snippet&q=avalon&f=false> (accessed February 11, 2019).

³ Lara Solonickne, email message to Author, February 12, 2019.

⁴ "U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007" s.v. "Ernest N. Braucher", available at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). (accessed February 13, 2019).

⁵ "Obituaries: Ernest N. Braucher," *Chicago Tribune*, February 9, 1949, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/370027715> (accessed February 11, 2019).

⁶ "About Town: Weddings," *The Decatur (Illinois) Herald*, March 10, 1892, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/87160376> (accessed February 11, 2019).

⁷ 1900 United States Federal Census, Chicago Ward 4, Cook County, Illinois, digital image s.v. "Ernest N. Braucher", available at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). (accessed February 13, 2019).

⁸ 1910 United States Federal Census, Chicago Ward 35, Cook County, Illinois, digital image s.v. "Ernest N. Braucher", available at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). (accessed February 13, 2019).

⁹ "Building Material," *Chicago Tribune*, December 15, 1913, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/355090696> (accessed February 11, 2019).

¹⁰ Bruni, Carla. "West Chatham Bungalow Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form. Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Springfield, August 19, 2009. https://archive.org/stream/NationalRegisterNominationsForChicago/WestChathamBungalowHistoricDistrictNom_djvu.txt (accessed February 15, 2019).

developers, and design work for Sears that his obituary referenced his “providing plans for more than 13,000 dwellings and other buildings during the 57 years of his career.”¹¹ Ernest N. Braucher died at his home in River Forest, Illinois on February 8, 1949.¹²

3. Original and Subsequent Owners:

The Legal Description for the property at 12405 Union Avenue is Lot 1 and the North ½ of Lot 2 in Block 14 in Marek Kraus’ Orland Park Highlands, a subdivision of the South East Quarter of Section 5, Township 36 North, Range 12, East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Cook County, Illinois.

The original owners of the building were George W. and Katherine (Leonard) Scott. The Scotts sold the property to Orville J. and Martha (McNash) Schmaedeke on July 24, 1940. The Schmaedeke purchased the northern half of the adjoining southern lot (Lot 2) on November 4, 1941, allowing for full driveway circulation around the property.

Original owner George W. Scott was born ca. 1878 in Maine.¹³ He married Katherine W. Leonard in Bangor, Maine on April 26, 1905,¹⁴ and by 1910, the couple was living in Greenfield, Massachusetts with their daughter Alice, born the year prior. George Scott is listed that year as a brakeman for a railroad.¹⁵ The family had moved to Illinois by 1914, when son Roscoe was born. The 1920 Census records the family living in Forrest, Illinois, with George continuing to work as a railroad brakeman. Presumably, he worked for the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific Railroad, as Forrest was a stop on the line.¹⁶ By 1926, the Scotts purchased the subject property in the village of Orland Park, Illinois, which was another stop on the Wabash line. Interestingly, the 1930 Census doesn’t list the couple’s children living with them, but does list a boarder named Dewey Crane, age 67 with no occupation.¹⁷ The 1940 Census has George, Katherine, and Roscoe Scott living in Decatur, Illinois, a major hub of the Wabash line.¹⁸ The census date of April 25, 1940 predates the sale of the Orland Park house to Orville Schmaedeke, which occurred on

¹¹ “Obituaries: Ernest N. Braucher,” *Chicago Tribune*, February 10, 1949, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/370030911> (accessed February 11, 2019).

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ 1880 United States Federal Census, Mattawamkeag, Penobscot County, Maine, digital image s.v. “George W. Scott”, available at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). (accessed February 8, 2019).

¹⁴ Maine, Marriage Records, 1713-1922, digital transcription s.v. “George W. Scott”, available at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). (accessed February 8, 2019).

¹⁵ 1910 United States Federal Census, Greenfield, Franklin County, Massachusetts, digital image s.v. “George W. Scott”, available at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). (accessed February 8, 2019).

¹⁶ 1920 United States Federal Census, Forrest, Livingston County, Illinois, digital image s.v. “George W. Scott”, available at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). (accessed February 8, 2019).

¹⁷ 1930 United States Federal Census, Orland Park Village, Cook County, Illinois, digital image s.v. “George W. Scott”, available at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). (accessed February 8, 2019).

¹⁸ 1940 United States Federal Census, Decatur, Macon County, Illinois, digital image s.v. “George W. Scott”, available at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). (accessed February 8, 2019).

July 24 of that year. A search of the 1938 Decatur city directory shows the Scott family residing in Decatur that year, and the January 1939 Orland Park directory shows the Schmaedeke family living in the subject property. It appears that there would have been a rental arrangement between the Scotts and Schmaedeke family prior to the actual sale of the property.

Orville John Schmaedeke was born December 27, 1908 in Orland Park, Illinois. Both of his parents, John F. Schmaedeke and Minnie F. Storz resided with their parents in the village of Orland as early as 1900, among the earliest families of the village.¹⁹ John F. Schmaedeke was the proprietor of one of Orland's first general stores.²⁰ The trajectory of Orville Schmaedeke's career in funeral service can be found in early Orland telephone directories. Evidently, undertaking was a sideline for John Schmaedeke, or an early endeavor of Orville's, as the July 1927 Orland Telephone Directory lists a telephone number for undertaking services registered to John Schmaedeke.²¹ Orville Schmaedeke's entry in the 1930 Federal Census lists his occupation as "Salesman – Grocery and Market",²² but by the January 1931 Orland telephone directory, an advertisement is present for "Orville J. Schmaedeke – Funeral Director – Ambulance Service".²³ Two years later, he took out a full-page advertisement in the Orland telephone directory which cites him as the manager of Funk & Adler Funeral Home and Ambulance Service in Oak Forest, Illinois.²⁴ By 1935, Orville Schmaedeke's profession isn't listed in the directory, but he retains the telephone number he used for undertaking calls, and the Funk & Adler Funeral Home advertisement does not list Schmaedeke or a telephone number in Orland.²⁵ A short-lived venture, the Harris-Schmaedeke Funeral Home was formed in November 1936 in Joliet, Illinois.²⁶ The January 1939 telephone directory is the first one showing Orville Schmaedeke in residence at the subject property,²⁷ the Schmaedeke Funeral Home having been formed in 1938.²⁸ Another business concern for Orville Schmaedeke was running Orland Park's

¹⁹ 1900 United States Federal Census, Orland, Cook County, Illinois, digital image s.v. "John Schmaedeke" and "Minnie Storz", available at ancestry.com. (accessed February 4, 2019).

²⁰ Michael Lahti, "1920 to 1945," in *The Orland Story: From Prairie to Pavement* (Orland Park, IL: Orland Heritage Book Association, Inc., 1991), 94.

²¹ *Orland Telephone Directory*. Chicago: The Reuben H. Donnelly Corp., 1927.

²² 1930 United States Federal Census, Orland, Cook County, Illinois, digital image s.v. "Orville Schmaedeke", available at ancestry.com. (accessed February 4, 2019).

²³ *Orland Telephone Directory*. Chicago: The Reuben H. Donnelly Corp., 1931.

²⁴ *Orland Telephone Directory*. Chicago: The Reuben H. Donnelly Corp., 1933.

²⁵ *Orland Telephone Directory*. Chicago: The Reuben H. Donnelly Corp., 1935.

²⁶ Schmaedeke Funeral Home. "History & Staff." Accessed February 10, 2019.

<https://www.schmaedekefuneralhome.com/about-us/history-and-staff>.

²⁷ *Orland Telephone Directory*. Chicago: The Reuben H. Donnelly Corp., 1939.

²⁸ Schmaedeke Funeral Home. "History & Staff." <https://www.schmaedekefuneralhome.com/about-us/history-and-staff>. (accessed February 10, 2019).

International Harvester dealership, a venture started with his father in 1945.²⁹ After his father's death, Orville continued running the dealership until 1959.³⁰

Having purchased the subject property in 1940, Orville Schmaedeke resided there with his wife Martha McNash, whom he married on September 21, 1935 in Cuyahoga, Ohio,³¹ son Richard and daughter Barbara. Family life coexisted with the funeral home's operations for most of the next 47 years. According to an interview with Richard Schmaedeke, the family used the funeral parlor spaces for living spaces as well, moving furniture according to business needs and with Martha, Richard, and Barbara confining themselves to the bedrooms when a funeral was in progress. The 1953 addition allowed for more space dedicated to business use, and the private family space more fully expanded into the second story areas. For a time, embalming was performed in the basement of the structure, with caskets being taken to the basement via a ramp built into the garage addition. In spite of the sizable addition, caskets still needed to be wheeled out of the basement via the ramp, and wheeled outdoors to the principal north entrance to the funeral home and taken back inside to the funeral parlors, as there was no interior space which could accommodate movement of a casket from basement to main level.³²

As the population of Orland Park grew from 640 in 1940 to 2,592 in 1960,³³ the operation of Schmaedeke Funeral Home grew accordingly. According to Richard Schmaedeke, their funeral home was the only one operating in Orland Park for a number of years after its founding. The 1953 expansion of the funeral home building better positioned the business to flourish by accommodating the funeral needs of the community. In 1959, Orville Schmaedeke expanded his business outside of the Orland Park community by opening a new, purpose-built funeral home in the nearby village of Worth.³⁴ The Orland Park location continued to be used for funerals and as the Schmaedeke family home until Orville Schmaedeke's death in 1987,³⁵ when the family's time of residence in the building ended. The building continued to serve as a funeral home until approximately 2008.

²⁹ Suzanne Tinaglia, "1946 to 1970," in *The Orland Story: From Prairie to Pavement* (Orland Park, IL: Orland Heritage Book Association, Inc., 1991), 126.

³⁰ Schmaedeke, Richard. (Former owner, Schmaedeke Funeral Home), in discussion with author. February 10, 2019.

³¹ Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Marriage Records and Indexes, 1810-1973, digital image s.v. "Orville Schmaedeke", available at ancestry.com. (accessed February 4, 2019).

³² Schmaedeke interview.

³³ "Clubs and Organizations, Boundary Map, and Population Chart" in *The Orland Story: From Prairie to Pavement* (Orland Park, IL: Orland Heritage Book Association, Inc., 1991), 200.

³⁴ Schmaedeke Funeral Home. "History & Staff." Accessed February 10, 2019. <https://www.schmaedekefuneralhome.com/about-us/history-and-staff>.

³⁵ "Obituaries: Orville J. Schmaedeke," *Chicago Tribune*, August 5, 1987, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/388924943> (accessed February 5, 2019).

4. **Builder, Contractor, Suppliers:** The builder of 12405 S. Union Avenue is not known. As a Sears Catalog kit home, all non-masonry building materials would have been shipped by Sears to the builder for construction. These materials included not only all lumber required, but roofing materials, building paper, windows, downspouts, interior trim, cabinetry, hardware, nails, paint, and varnish, among others.³⁶
5. **Original Plans and construction:** The original structure is a Sears Catalog Home, of the "Avalon" plan. Period catalog listings for the "Avalon" describe it as being a California-style bungalow, consisting of six rooms and one bath. The structure originally featured a wraparound front porch with battered piers. The opening between the living room and dining room originally featured leaded glass bookcases flanking the passage, and these bookcases remain in the basement of the structure today. Original cost of the building ranged between \$1,967 and \$2,530.³⁷
6. **Alterations and Additions:** The original house was enlarged on the north and west sides for funeral home use around 1953. A large dormer at the front of the house was also likely added at that time. The first-floor plan was altered at that time as well, with the wall between the original dining room and front bedroom being opened to unite the spaces for funeral use, and the two rear bedrooms were combined into one larger space by removing the wall separating them. A garage addition on the rear (east) was added sometime in the late 1950s, accessed via a door in the combined back bedrooms.³⁸

B. Historical Context:

The Sears Modern Home

The Sears Modern Homes Catalog was a line of business for the Sears, Roebuck and Company catalog retailer, based out of Chicago. Having been founded in 1893, Sears became the nation's preeminent retail operator, with a reach across the country. The first foray into building materials for Sears was in 1895, when the company issued a building materials catalog to sell lumber, hardware, millwork, and other building materials.³⁹ Sears, Roebuck issued its first Modern Homes catalog in 1908, featuring more than forty house

³⁶ Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, *Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1986, 29, <https://books.google.com/books?id=aCYvGBcLB04C&lpg=PP1&dq=sears%20house&pg=PA4#v=snippet&q=avalon&f=false> (accessed February 11, 2019).

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 71.

³⁸ Schmaedeke, Richard. (Former owner, Schmaedeke Funeral Home), in discussion with author. February 10, 2019.

³⁹ Rosemary Thornton, *Sears Homes of Illinois*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2010, https://books.google.com/books?id=USt_CQAAQBAJ&lpg=PP1&dq=sears%20house&pg=PT3#v=onepage&q=avalon&f=false (accessed February 15, 2019).

designs at a range of prices.⁴⁰ The plans in the catalog were to be sold to the end-user directly and shipped to them as a kit ready for assembly. This proved to be a popular concept; by 1926, the year of construction of the house which was to become the Schmaedeke Funeral Home, some 34,000 Sears kit houses had been built.⁴¹ That year, 1926 marked the largest Sears Modern Homes catalog as well, featuring 145 pages and 83 house designs.⁴² As with many business ventures, the stock market crash of 1929 and resulting economic depression period of the 1930s took its toll on Sears' catalog homes division, and the line was finally retired in 1940 having resulted in over 70,000 structures completed with its kits and designs in the 32 years of its run.⁴³ After the Modern Homes division closed, Sears purged their records and therefore, the only way to identify Sears Catalog houses today is by sight and local records.⁴⁴

The popularity of the Sears house was in part due to its familiarity – the styles offered by the company followed architectural fashion, rather than setting it.⁴⁵ Offering designs which were recognizable and crowd-tested ensured that catalog would appeal to the widest range of tastes and the largest segment of potential buyers. Sears had several means of developing the plans for its catalogs. The earliest method of gathering plans for sale was by the company purchasing plans from architects for houses that had already been built.⁴⁶ This allowed Sears to avoid the time and effort of finding architects to design new plans and possibly rejecting them as incompatible with their business model. The company could quickly evaluate the aesthetic and structural suitability from existing buildings, thus streamlining the process. After 1919, Sears began employing on-staff architects to devise plans for their new Architectural Division, bringing the design service for the catalog in-house.⁴⁷ In other instances, existing designs of houses were adapted by Sears' Architectural Division to fit Sears' kit home business model, and finally, plans published in other magazines were purchased and reproduced exactly in the Sears catalogs.⁴⁸ Some Sears

⁴⁰ Rosemary Thornton, *Sears Homes of Illinois*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2010, https://books.google.com/books?id=USt_CQAAQBAJ&lpg=PP1&dq=sears%20house&pg=PT3#v=onepage&q=avalon&f=false (accessed February 15, 2019).

⁴¹ Sears, Roebuck and Co., *Small Houses of the Twenties: The Sears, Roebuck 1926 House Catalog, An Unabridged Reprint*. New York: Dover Publications, 1991, 4, <https://books.google.com/books?id=qvZgDwAAQBAJ&lpg=PP1&dq=sears%20house&pg=PP4#v=snippet&q=chicago%20hardware&f=false> (accessed February 15, 2019).

⁴² Thornton.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, *Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1986, 32, <https://books.google.com/books?id=aCYvGBcLB04C&lpg=PP1&dq=sears%20house&pg=PA4#v=snippet&q=avalon&f=false> (accessed February 11, 2019).

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, *Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1986, 32,

model homes were designed by well-known contemporary architects such as George C. Nimmons and John Van Bergen, but they proved to be the exception.⁴⁹ The catalog's offerings were divided into three categories: the top-of-the-line Honor Bilt range (The "Avalon" model of the subject property is of this line) featured first-class lumber and millwork and employed traditional construction standards familiar in stick-built houses, and arrived to the consumer fully cut and ready to assemble.⁵⁰ The middle range was known as Standard Built, and featured less-expensive plans which were less rigorously composed and, due to their comparative structural lightness, were better suited for warmer climates. These models were not typically cut or fitted prior to shipment.⁵¹ The lowest range, Simplex Sectional cottages, was for use as summer cottages with light framing and no interior plasterwork.⁵²

The Sears Modern Home was a holistic approach to homebuilding. Having identified a plan in the Sears Modern Home Catalog, the prospective buyer would send in \$1, whereupon Sears would send them a bill of materials and full blueprints for review, but not including exact quantities of materials needed, thus preventing the buyer from building the house easily on their own. When an actual order was placed for the selected house, working blueprints would be sent to the buyer along with a precise bill of materials and a 75-page manual, customized for the buyer related to their specific model and selected options. Materials were sent via boxcars to the buyer, with a lock sealed with wax which the buyer had to break. When the boxcar was opened, the buyer typically had one to two days in which to inventory and unload the material to the construction site.⁵³ Typically, the approximately 12,000 pieces needed for construction were divided into two staggered boxcar loads: the first containing the structural members needed to erect the house, and a later second shipment containing interior finishes such as millwork and fixtures which weren't yet needed at the start of construction.⁵⁴ All pieces were precut and stamped with an alphanumeric code which corresponded to numbers on the blueprints which expedited the construction process.⁵⁵ Not included with the kit were elements such as masonry for foundations, fireplace brick, plaster, or mechanical systems (the systems nonetheless could

<https://books.google.com/books?id=aCYvGBcLB04C&lpg=PP1&dq=sears%20house&pg=PA4#v=snippet&q=avalon&f=false> (accessed February 11, 2019).

⁴⁹ Lara Solonickne, "The Architects of Sears Homes." *Sears Homes of Chicagoland*. March 25, 2014.

<http://www.sears-homes.com/2014/03/the-architects-of-sears-homes.html>(accessed February 12, 2019).

⁵⁰ Stevenson and Jandl, 29.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Rosemary Thornton, *Sears Homes of Illinois*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2010,

https://books.google.com/books?id=USt_CQAAQBAJ&lpg=PP1&dq=sears%20house&pg=PT3#v=onepage&q=avalon&f=false (accessed February 15, 2019).

⁵⁴ Stevenson and Jandl, 30.

⁵⁵ Ibid., 29.

be ordered for additional cost from Sears).⁵⁶ By virtue of the kit system, the construction process was streamlined, with estimated construction time being 90 days from start to finish, and resulting in savings of 33% to 50% of the cost of a traditionally built house, if the homeowner chose to build it himself.⁵⁷

The Craftsman Bungalow

The Schmaedeke Funeral Home, as originally built as a Sears “Avalon” model house, typifies the American Craftsman Bungalow. The Craftsman style was popular in America between 1905 and 1930.⁵⁸ With a basis in the tenets of the English Arts & Crafts movement, the style was popularized in America from designs originating in Southern California with notable examples by Pasadena architects Greene and Greene.⁵⁹ The style spread to the rest of the country via mass-produced pattern books and magazines, including the Sears Modern Homes Catalog.⁶⁰ The hallmark of Craftsman design was the heavy use of wood building elements, with detailing that unified the building inside and out and looking as though it was created by hand, even if it was machine-produced.⁶¹

The bungalow form is one which flourished in tandem with the Craftsman style, to such a degree that they are virtually inseparable. The term *bungalow*, meaning small house, originated in the Bengal province of India.⁶² There are no vertical bungalows, as they are all either a single story or 1-1/2 stories in height. The absence of a full second story, with living spaces being confined largely to a single story not only simplifies the building process by eliminating the need for structural support for a full second story, but also enhances safety of inhabitants by eliminating the need to navigate stairs and allowing for simpler egress from the building in the case of an emergency.⁶³ As with the Craftsman style, the popularity of the bungalow took hold in California and spread to other parts of the country, to the extent that the form was often known as “the California bungalow”.⁶⁴

Elements of the Craftsman style and the California Bungalow form abound in the original design of the Schmaedeke Funeral Home. A catalog entry for the “Avalon” model states,

⁵⁶ Rosemary Thornton, *Sears Homes of Illinois*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2010, https://books.google.com/books?id=USt_CQAAQBAJ&lpg=PP1&dq=sears%20house&pg=PT3#v=onepage&q=avalon&f=false (accessed February 15, 2019).

⁵⁷ Thornton.

⁵⁸ Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997), 453.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 454

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ Robert W. Winter, *American Bungalow Style*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996, 17, <https://books.google.com/books?id=X1TK2yIecUC&lpg=PP1&dq=craftsman%20style%20bungalow&pg=PA4#v=onepage&q=craftsman%20style%20bungalow&f=false> (accessed February 15, 2019).

⁶² *Ibid.*, 13.

⁶³ Winter, 17.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 15.

“From California comes the idea for this delightful bungalow. Honor Bilt construction makes it cozy and warm enough for any part of the country. The architects of California have studied and experimented until they have built houses of this type which are the most beautiful in the world.”⁶⁵

The Sears “Avalon” model features several identifying features of the Craftsman style: a front-gable arrangement, porch columns which show in plans as being short, square columns set on top of battered masonry piers, exposed rafter tails cut into decorative shapes projecting in wide eaves, and wooden siding composed of clapboard on the main level and wooden shakes on the second.⁶⁶ The bungalow form is typified by the 1-1/2 story construction of the house, with heavy emphasis on the horizontality of the structure, and the original expansive front porch which added outdoor living space for the occupants.⁶⁷

The Family Home as Funeral Home

The Schmaedeke Funeral Home is an example of a building type that is steadily falling from favor: the funeral home that doubles as a family home. Prior to the development of the modern funeral industry, funerals were often held in the home of the deceased if a church funeral was unavailable or undesirable. This arrangement proved largely unsatisfactory over the years as many private homes would have been unsuitable to hold a funeral service due to the physical restrictions of room size, layout, or furniture.⁶⁸ The needs of the family were also a consideration in the evolution of the funerary industry. In the twentieth century, experience with death became more distant for the average person with advances in medicine and hospital care keeping the end of life at a greater distance from daily existence than ever before.⁶⁹ In the 1920s, a new business model was born, the Funeral Home.⁷⁰ By 1929, it was estimated that between 90-95% of funerals took place in a funeral

⁶⁵ Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, *Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1986, 71, <https://books.google.com/books?id=aCYvGBcLB04C&lpg=PP1&dq=sears%20house&pg=PA4#v=snippet&q=avalon&f=false> (accessed February 11, 2019).

⁶⁶ Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997), 454.

⁶⁷ Robert W. Winter, *American Bungalow Style*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996, 10, <https://books.google.com/books?id=X1TK2yIieUC&lpg=PP1&dq=craftsman%20style%20bungalow&pg=PA4#v=onpage&q=craftsman%20style%20bungalow&f=false> (accessed February 15, 2019).

⁶⁸ Gary Laderman, *The Sacred Remains: American Attitudes Toward Death, 1799-1883*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996, 31, <https://books.google.com/books?id=1nsn4u05CsEC&lpg=PP1&dq=gary%20laderman&pg=PR3#v=snippet&q=parlor&f=false> (accessed February 20, 2019).

⁶⁹ Suzanne E. Smith, *To Serve the Living* (Cambridge MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2010), 67.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, 89.

establishment.⁷¹ Funeral homes were originally just that, in that they were homes where funerals were held. Many preexisting houses were converted into funeral homes with areas specially designated for holding funeral ceremonies. The rise of the funeral home meant that relatives of the deceased no longer had to deal with the physical and emotional encroachment upon the family home, and the deceased could be kept separate and safe to be visited at the family's convenience.⁷² Many times when a house was converted to funeral home use, the owner of the funeral home would remain in residence much as a shopkeeper might live in the apartment above his store.⁷³ This lent a feeling of domesticity, "especially with children around the house and sons following their fathers into the business."⁷⁴ Living with funeral activity became a part of the daily life of the family of a funeral director.

The 1953 addition of the Schmaedeke Funeral Home represented not only an increase in business activity, but also a further separation of the Schmaedeke family from the business operation. Prior to the addition, the family had to rearrange a great part of the house to accommodate mourners, all while dealing with a limited amount of space for funerals.⁷⁵ The addition rearranged the ground floor in a more businesslike manner, and moved more family living spaces to the expanded second floor.

The new addition wrapped around two sides of the original dining room of the house and served as a gathering space for mourners entering the building. The interior space of the addition was finished with carpet and restrained knotty pine paneling, which lent a home-like, comforting ambiance in tune with contemporary tastes in residential interiors. In the original structure, the prevailing aesthetic of the Sears bungalow was retained while rearranging some of the spaces to better serve funerary purposes. The dining room and front bedroom were combined into a space which accommodated the casket, and trim in the altered rooms was carefully matched to the original throughout the structure. The dining room window openings in the original north wall separating the old and new spaces were left intact, thus allowing both a connection to and remove from the casket, depending on the preference of the mourner. While a much more voluminous space compared to the original structure, the addition maintains a residential scale and connection to the rest of what had been a home. In keeping with midcentury residential aesthetics, the windows of the 1953 addition are far larger than those of the original 1926 house, more closely integrating the outdoors and indoors. This offers dual benefits, the first of which is allowing a greater volume of light to penetrate the rooms, where the darker knotty pine paneling

⁷¹ Gary Laderman, *Rest in Peace: A Cultural History of Death and the Funeral Home in Twentieth-Century America* (Oxford, NY: Oxford University Press, 2003), 24.

⁷² Laderman, 19.

⁷³ Suzanne E. Smith, *To Serve the Living* (Cambridge MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2010), 89.

⁷⁴ Laderman, 25.

⁷⁵ Schmaedeke, Richard. (Former owner, Schmaedeke Funeral Home), in discussion with author. February 10, 2019.

might have overwhelmed the space. Additionally, these windows facing the west and north look toward wooded spaces outside of the parking lots, free of houses or activity, allowing for calming views of nature for mourners who may prefer to turn their thoughts elsewhere.

The exterior of the funeral home presents two faces; that of the original 1926 bungalow as viewed when driving up Union Avenue, and the modern Funeral Home façade as seen from the parking lot when entering the building. On one hand, the familiar sight of a welcoming house lends a look of stability and continuity with the past, and on the other, the broad windows and Lannon stone of the addition advertise the modernity of the funeral home operation. The two volumes of the building are both disparate and cohesive, much like the coexistence of a family residence with a funeral home. The aesthetic of the addition is that of a gabled ranch house. The ranch form, like the Craftsman bungalow, originated in early California modernism.⁷⁶ A popular new type of building which dominated American residential design of the 1950s and 1960s,⁷⁷ the ranch is characterized by a low horizontal orientation of a single story with an emphasis on expansive windows.⁷⁸ The Schmaedeke Funeral Home addition represents an adaptation of this form for business use, maintaining the harmony of the original structure by utilizing and duplicating the original 1926 porch roofline and cladding the gable ends in wooden shakes like those of the original structure. The main portion of the exterior walls of the addition are faced with a veneer of Lannon stone. Lannon stone is a type of dolomite limestone native to quarries around Lannon, Wisconsin. A building material in use as early as the late 1800s, by the 1950s its use had shifted from structural walls to a decorative veneer applied to buildings of various construction methods. The stone is characterized by a range of colors with the most common being a tawny beige, and a uniform grade and hardness.⁷⁹ The random-course ashlar in which the Lannon stone is laid lends a natural, informal look which plays off the informal massing of the original bungalow, again unifying the two disparate building types.

The Village of Orland Park

The Village of Orland Park, Illinois is a southwest suburb of Chicago, situated in Cook County. The village began to take shape in 1879, when the Wabash, St. Louis, and Pacific Railroad was laid between Chicago and St. Louis, Missouri, and a station originally called Sedgwick was placed where the railroad line crossed what is now 143rd Street.⁸⁰ The village was platted the next year by Col. Fawcett Plum, using 143rd Street as the northern boundary. The plat consisted of 20 acres in the northeast corner of Section 9 of Orland

⁷⁶ Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997), 482.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, 477.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, 479.

⁷⁹ Wisconsin Historical Society. "Lannon Stone." Accessed February 20, 2019.

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS9688>.

⁸⁰ Anita McBride, "1830 to 1890," in *The Orland Story: From Prairie to Pavement* (Orland Park, IL: Orland Heritage Book Association, Inc., 1991), 51.

Township, and was divided into nearly 200 lots.⁸¹ By 1884, the village had been renamed Orland and business had begun to take hold in the settlement, in the form of two general stores, a furniture store, a wagon shop, blacksmith, creamery, and two saloons.⁸² The village of Orland was incorporated in 1892, with Chicago lawyer and state senator John Humphrey serving as the village's first mayor. Humphrey had grown up in Orland Township, and commuted via railroad daily to his offices in Chicago's Monadnock Building. At that time, Orland was considered the very edge of Chicago's commuter zone while still remaining a rural market town.⁸³ Despite the fact that Orland was by 1914 the only town between Chicago and Joliet with modern amenities such as village water and concrete sidewalks,⁸⁴ growth in the village continued slowly and its rural character was retained until after World War I.⁸⁵

Increased settlement and encroaching modernity characterized the interwar years. Growth and development occurred in the original plat of the village south of 143rd Street, and increased with the addition of electricity to the village in 1922.⁸⁶ When the subject property was constructed at the end of 1926, it was one of the only buildings north of 143rd Street. Its proximity to the depot, which was situated at 143rd Street and Union Avenue roughly two blocks south, was auspicious for several reasons. The nearness to the depot made for easy transport of materials to the construction site, and access to the depot was likely a reason George W. Scott chose to build his house there. Situated on a knoll with nothing to the south of the house until buildings on 143rd Street, Scott could survey the town and railroad tracks and be within easy distance of work as an employee of the Wabash Railroad. The tree-lined slough to the north, where the street did not continue through, prevented development to the north of the house. The chosen site was at once connected to town and removed from it at the same time. This site was also convenient for the operation of Schmaedeke Funeral Home. While still part of the town, the wooded site gave the funeral home an air of tranquility and remove from the world. It wasn't until the 1940s or 1950s that the remainder of the block of Union between 142nd and 143rd Streets began to fill in with other residences. The site of the Schmaedeke Funeral Home, however, remained the northernmost reach of Union Avenue as the village of Orland Park continued to expand to the south, east, and west.

The years following World War II were ones of incredible growth for the once rural village. Development opportunities became attractive for the area's farmers, as real estate taxes

⁸¹ Anita McBride, "1830 to 1890," in *The Orland Story: From Prairie to Pavement* (Orland Park, IL: Orland Heritage Book Association, Inc., 1991), 51.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ John Lamb, "1891 to 1918," in *The Orland Story: From Prairie to Pavement* (Orland Park, IL: Orland Heritage Book Association, Inc., 1991), 61.

⁸⁴ Ibid., 76.

⁸⁵ Lamb, 71.

⁸⁶ Michael Lahti, "1920 to 1945," in *The Orland Story: From Prairie to Pavement* (Orland Park, IL: Orland Heritage Book Association, Inc., 1991), 94.

increased at the same time as more expensive farming methods took over the market, thus freeing up more land for Orland Park to annex.⁸⁷ Village improvements were undertaken to accommodate the rapid growth in population, such as connecting to the Chicago water source and building a new sewage treatment plant.⁸⁸ Subdivisions were built on the edges of the original village plat and new residents moved into the village. With the influx of new residents, businesses and services in the village were expanded and competition was increased.⁸⁹ To ease the property tax burden of homeowners, light manufacturing was added to the economic mix of the village with the addition of Lally Brothers column manufacturing,⁹⁰ and the Andrew Corporation manufacturing telecommunications antenna systems.⁹¹ Despite the burgeoning population, however, the Wabash Railroad operated only one daily commuter train to and from Chicago until the late 1970s.⁹² By 1970, the population of Orland Park had grown to 7,300 and as the suburban population of Chicago continued to grow, Orland Park followed suit and had grown to 34,391 in 1990.⁹³ Population has grown to over 58,000 inhabitants today.⁹⁴

Part II. Architectural Information

A. General Statement

- 1. Architectural Character:** The Schmaedeke Funeral Home is an interesting juxtaposition of a Craftsman-style bungalow of the 1920s transformed for business use by the addition of a midcentury ranch-style volume which still respects the lines of the original structure. Elements common between the two styles, such as overhanging eaves, gently pitched rooflines, and a horizontal emphasis manage to unify the aesthetic impact of the structure originally built as a home but adapted to business needs, while still retaining a home-like atmosphere.
- 2. Condition of Fabric:** The condition of the Schmaedeke Funeral Home is generally good, considering its age and disused state for the last several years. The building has clearly been maintained well and sensitively over the course of its history. There is evidence of

⁸⁷ Suzanne Tinaglia, "1946 to 1970," in *The Orland Story: From Prairie to Pavement* (Orland Park, IL: Orland Heritage Book Association, Inc., 1991), 121.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, 122.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, 129.

⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, 132.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, 134.

⁹² *Ibid.*, 143.

⁹³ Clubs and Organizations, Boundary Map, and Population Chart" in *The Orland Story: From Prairie to Pavement* (Orland Park, IL: Orland Heritage Book Association, Inc., 1991), 200.

⁹⁴ United States Census Bureau. "QuickFacts: Orland Park village, Illinois". Accessed February 16, 2019. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/orlandparkvillageillinois/PST045217#PST045217>

water leakage into the basement, but otherwise the building structure remains tight and intact.

B. Description of Exterior

- 1. Overall Dimensions:** The building is irregular in shape, arising from the multiple additions to the building over the course of its history. Overall, the structure is 1-1/2 stories. Generally, the building is 42'-2" wide x 82'-10" deep. The original 1926 house was 28' wide x 48' deep.
- 2. Foundations:** The foundation of the original 1926 structure is composed of a single thickness of molded concrete block, with the face resembling rusticated stone. The foundation of the 1953 expansion is a single thickness of standard concrete block. The garage addition is built on a concrete slab.
- 3. Walls:** Exterior wall surfaces of the original structure and garage addition are covered in two sizes of wooden shakes painted brown, separated by a white, wooden cornice band and trimmed with flat, white-painted window and door trim and corner boards. The first floor of the original structure was covered in wooden clapboard with a 2-1/2" reveal, now covered by wider shakes. The shakes on the second story portions appear to be the original installation, and were replicated on the garage addition. The 1953 addition is faced in Lannon stone in a random ashlar pattern.
- 4. Structural System:** The house is of wooden platform frame construction, as was the common structural system of Sears Catalog houses.⁹⁵
- 5. Porches, stoops, balconies, porticoes, bulkheads:** The original porch was removed to accommodate the 1953 addition, which was built over its footprint and utilizes the roofline of the original porch structure. At the time of the addition, smaller entrance porches were built over the double doors of the west and north entrances to the building. These porches were front-gabled at a pitch similar to that of the existing roofline, with exposed structural members. A third porch, identical to the two on the 1953 addition, shelters the south door of the original house. It is unclear if this porch was original to the home and was copied for use on the 1953 addition, or if it was simply added at the same time as the others.

⁹⁵ Stevenson, Katherine Cole and H. Ward Jandl, *Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1986, 29, <https://books.google.com/books?id=aCYvGBcLB04C&lpg=PP1&dq=sears%20house&pg=PA4#v=snippet&q=avalon&f=false> (accessed February 11, 2019).

6. **Chimneys:** There is one chimney in the building, used for both the living room fireplace and venting the furnace and water heater in the basement. The exterior of the chimney forms the principal decorative feature of the front elevation of the house, and is centered on the front-facing gable of the original structure. It is built of a reddish-brown wire-cut brick, embellished with an arch motif and notched-corner rectangle laid on end. The foundation level of the chimney also includes two integrated brackets which hold a decorative planter box. These decorative features are common to other "Avalon" model Sears houses.

7. Openings

- a. **Doorways:** The current principal entry to the building is on the north side, opening into the 1953 addition. It is composed of double French doors built of wood, with glass panes configured three lights wide by five tall, separated by wood muntins. The French doors are protected by full-light modern aluminum storm doors. The Lannon stone butts directly to the door jamb. A similar set of doors form the entrance on the west front of the building, but these doors appear to be replacements added after the 1953 addition was completed. These doors are wood-clad, with beveled panes separated by metal muntins, in a three-by-five configuration as those on the north entrance. These doors are protected by storm doors identical to those of the north entrance. Here again, the Lannon stone butts directly to the door jamb. The south door, which would have been the principal occupant entrance when the funeral home was in operation, is the original Sears door. It is of wood construction, with a single light above three horizontal recessed panels. This door is protected by a later aluminum storm door with a single light above pressed panels in a crossbuck pattern. The door system is trimmed in flat wood trim. The garage addition is accessed by two single-car width, modern steel overhead garage doors in a four-by-four panel design, divided into four sections. In the third section from the ground, two windows inserted into the two center panels of each door. Further access to the garage is via a modern steel door, in a six-panel design with windows set into the top two panels.
- b. **Windows and shutters:** The original 1926 portion of the building retains its original basement windows. These awning windows are built of wood and divided into three lights, and protected by a two-light storm window, set into a simple brickmold abutting the foundation blocks. The first story of the original structure has had white vinyl replacement windows added. These windows are configured as four-over-one light double-hung sash with internal muntins set vertically, installed in the original openings and trim. The garage addition has similar wood double-hung windows, in a three-over-one configuration. The 1953 addition features two large wood windows in a Chicago configuration of movable sash flanking large expanses of plate glass. The movable sashes are casement windows, divided horizontally. The other, smaller

windows in this portion of the building are also casement windows, divided into three or four lights depending on size. The second story has a mixture of windows, with a double casement window in the original front gable of the house, in a two-by-three light configuration. Other windows in the second floor consist of wood double-hung sash configured in three-over-one lights, with muntins running vertically. The second-story windows of the garage addition are awning windows built of wood and divided vertically into three lights, similar to those of the basement.

8. Roofs

- a. **Shape, covering:** The roof configuration of the original 1926 structure is front-gable, with gables being staggered according to the interior volume. The original porch formed a gable running perpendicular to the main bulk of the building, and was integrated into the 1953 addition's roofline, forming a side-gable addition. The garage addition is a side-gable configuration. The entire structure is roofed in architectural asphalt shingles.
- b. **Cornice, eaves:** The cornice is of flat, white-painted wood. The eaves and fascia have been covered with modern aluminum cladding. Per plans and photographs of other houses built of the "Avalon" model, the rafter tails would have originally been exposed. The gutter system is a modern aluminum K-style system, with aluminum downspouts.
- c. **Dormers, cupolas and towers:** There are two sizable gable-front dormers on the south slope of the roof. The westernmost of the two is the larger, and forms a sizable volume of the western second floor bedroom. Based on renderings and examples of the Sears "Avalon" model, this dormer would have been added sometime after the original construction of the building, likely to accommodate family living space above the funeral home operation. The smaller and original eastern dormer accommodates the stair hall on the second floor.

C. Description of Interior

1. **Floor Plans:** Very little of the original floorplan of the 1926 house has changed since construction. With the 1953 addition, the wall between the dining room and front bedroom was opened to create one large gathering space for casket viewings, and two back bedrooms were combined into one. It appears that the original coat closet off the living room was either not built as planned, or eliminated when the building was altered in 1953. Similarly, the footprint of the bathroom is larger than in the original plans and the white subway tile is unaltered and the bathroom door is positioned closer to the west wall of the bathroom rather than east wall, thus it appears that the closet for the

front bedroom was not built as planned to encroach into the bathroom space. Bookcase cabinets which flanked the opening between the living room and original dining room were removed, and remain in the basement of the building. See Appendix I for layout.

2. **Stairways:** The house has two stairways, stacked atop one another allowing movement from the first floor to the second story above and basement below. The stairs are roughly centered in the south elevation of the original structure, with the upper stairway landing filling the eastern dormer of the second floor, and the lower stairway offering egress to the south from the stair landing. The main floor stair landing has an original storage cupboard above a later set of double doors, where original floorplans called for an icebox. The garage has a stairway running up its south wall to access the garage attic. Beneath this stair is a concrete ramp leading down to the basement level. This ramp accommodated movement of caskets into the basement work areas of the funeral home.
3. **Flooring:** The floors throughout the first and second stories of the house are covered in carpet, except for the bathroom which is floored with a later pattern of variegated ceramic tile, and the kitchen with non-historic vinyl sheet flooring. Underneath the carpet, the other rooms of the first story of the original structure have 2" wide oak tongue-and-groove flooring, laid east-west along the depth of the building. The 1953 addition is carpeted over plywood subfloor. The basement flooring is of concrete.
4. **Wall and ceiling finishes:** The walls and ceiling of the original structure are of either lath-and-plaster construction or possibly Sears' optional plasterboard (a precursor to modern drywall), painted or wallpapered varying by the room. The full bathroom has white subway tile wainscoting set with no grout lines, possibly indicating that they are original to 1926. The ceiling of the 1953 addition appears to be composed of wallboard, as evidenced by straight cracks where joints would be located. The 1953 addition is also distinguished by simple, knotty pine paneling finished in a soft amber color, beneath a large painted cavetto cove molding. The finished portions of the basement walls are of knotty pine or composite paneling.
5. **Openings**
 - a. **Doorways and doors:** Doors in the 1926 portion of the structure are simple single-panel in white-painted wood. There are closet doors in the second floor spaces which are two-panel, indicating that the closets were added after the original construction. Doors in the 1953 addition are flat hollow-core doors, varnished to match the knotty pine trim of the surrounding walls.
 - b. **Windows:** The replacement windows present in the original 1926 structure are of white vinyl construction. The second-floor windows in the original structure

are painted wood. In the 1953 portion, window frames are varnished to match the surrounding woodwork. Most windows are oriented to the west and south of the building, to draw as much natural light as possible.

6. Decorative features and trim: The door and window trim of the original structure is of simple profile, with flat trim boards surrounding the sides and top of the openings, with an applied raised band at the outside edge. Window trim is completed by a sill running across the bottom of the opening, with an apron board beneath the sill completing the arrangement. Baseboard trim is a simple flat board where baseboard heating units are not present. Care was taken when altering interior openings to match the trim to the original style. Between the original dining room and the 1953 addition, the original northern window voids were left open between the spaces to allow for visual and aural connection throughout the rooms. These openings are trimmed with simple wooden valances to add decorative character and to soften the square corners of the void. In the basement stair landing, the original storage cabinets remain in place over a volume (later enclosed) which was originally the location of the icebox for the house.

7. Hardware: Hardware on interior doors is of simple design, executed in metal and appears to be of the Sears "Chicago" pattern.⁹⁶ The French doors at the north entrance display hardware which seems to predate the 1953 construction date of the entrance, which consists of a handle with thumb lever and matching deadbolt lock executed in an Art Deco design, and a large doorbell activated by a twist knob on the exterior. These elements may have been taken from the original 1926 front door. The south door into the basement stairs also has a twist doorbell in place, and original door hardware in Sears' "Stratford" design.⁹⁷

8. Mechanical equipment

a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: There is a boiler furnace present in the basement which feeds the building's radiant baseboard heating system, and two air conditioner compressor units at the rear of the house.

b. Lighting: A sconce fixture with a downward-pointing, multi-colored globe present in the basement stair landing appears to be original to the 1926 structure. A large, ceiling-mounted fixture with a round glass shade in what had

⁹⁶ Sears, Roebuck and Co., *Small Houses of the Twenties: The Sears, Roebuck 1926 House Catalog, An Unabridged Reprint*. New York: Dover Publications, 1991, 58, <https://books.google.com/books?id=qvZgDwAAQBAJ&lpg=PP1&dq=sears%20house&pg=PP4#v=snippet&q=chicago%20hardware&f=false> (accessed February 15, 2019).

⁹⁷ Lara Solonickne, "Wave Your Flag for the Sears Betsy Ross." *Sears Homes of Chicagoland*. January 9, 2019. <http://www.sears-homes.com/2019/01/wave-your-flag-for-sears-betsy-ross.html> (accessed February 12, 2019).

been the dining room of the house likely dates from the 1953 renovation. Other fixtures in the building appear to be later replacements.

- c. **Plumbing:** All plumbing fixtures appear to date to the 1953 renovation of the structure.
- d. **Original furnishings:** It doesn't appear that any furnishings original to the 1926 house remain, but a number of furnishings in the building may date to the period of the 1953 addition.

D. Site

1. **Historic landscape design:** While there several large oak trees on the property which may predate the building, the landscaping of the property appears to date to the 1953 remodeling of the building. Beds of coniferous and deciduous shrubs are set into undulating terraces formed by natural limestone walls. The principal entrance on the north side of the building is reached via a winding ramp of concrete, with wrought iron railings to either side. The west entrance is reached via two flights of concrete stairs, flanked by wrought iron railings. The property is ringed with an asphalt drive and parking areas.
2. **Outbuildings:** There are no outbuildings.

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- 1910 United States Federal Census, Chicago Ward 35, Cook County, Illinois, digital image s.v. "Ernest N. Braucher", available at ancestry.com. (accessed February 13, 2019).

1910 United States Federal Census, Greenfield, Franklin County, Massachusetts, digital image s.v. "George W. Scott", available at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). (accessed February 8, 2019).

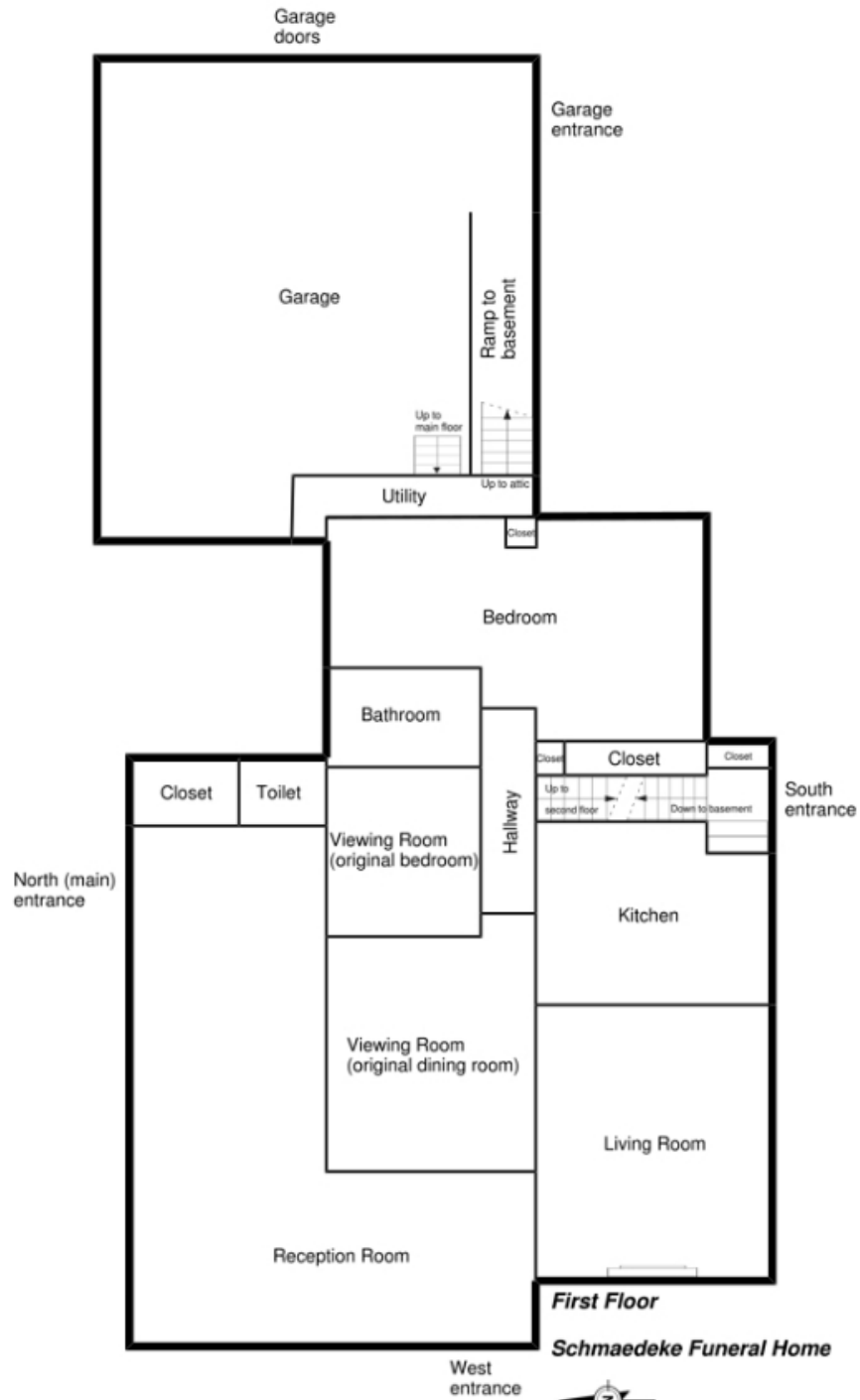
1920 United States Federal Census, Forrest, Livingston County, Illinois, digital image s.v. "George W. Scott", available at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). (accessed February 8, 2019).

1930 United States Federal Census, Orland, Cook County, Illinois, digital image s.v. "Orville Schmaedeke", available at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). (accessed February 4, 2019).

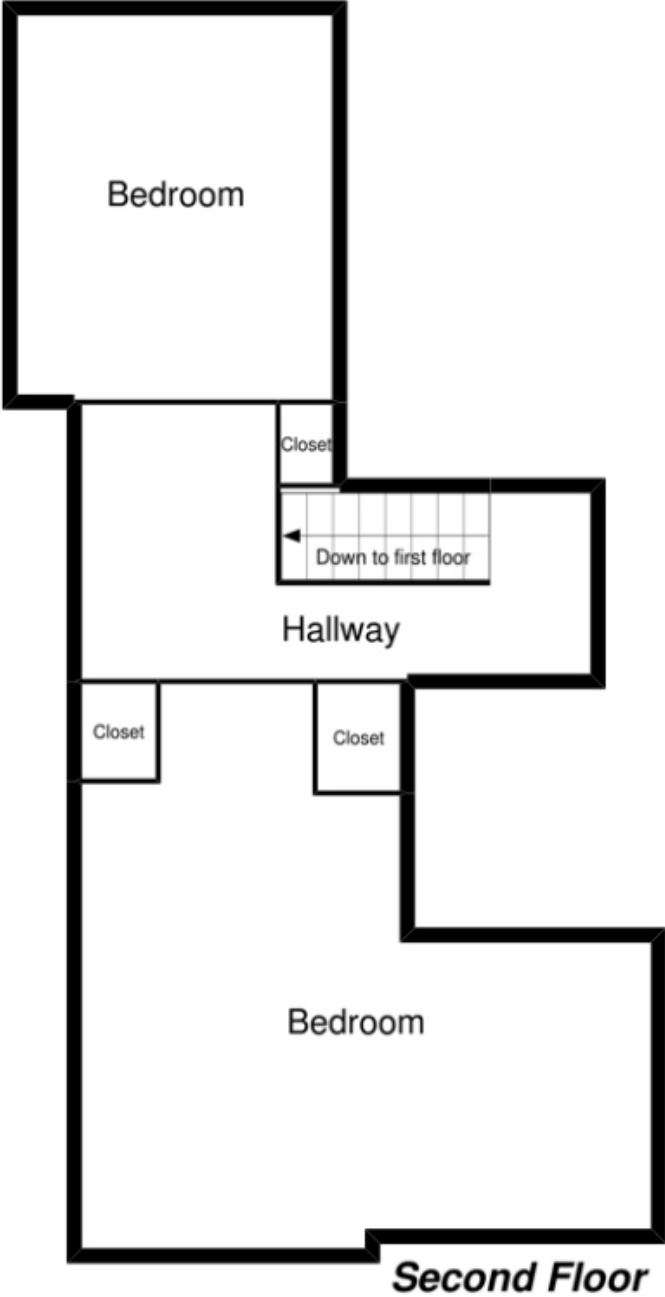
1930 United States Federal Census, Orland Park Village, Cook County, Illinois, digital image s.v. "George W. Scott", available at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). (accessed February 8, 2019).

1940 United States Federal Census, Decatur, Macon County, Illinois, digital image s.v. "George W. Scott", available at [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). (accessed February 8, 2019).

Appendix I - Floor Plans



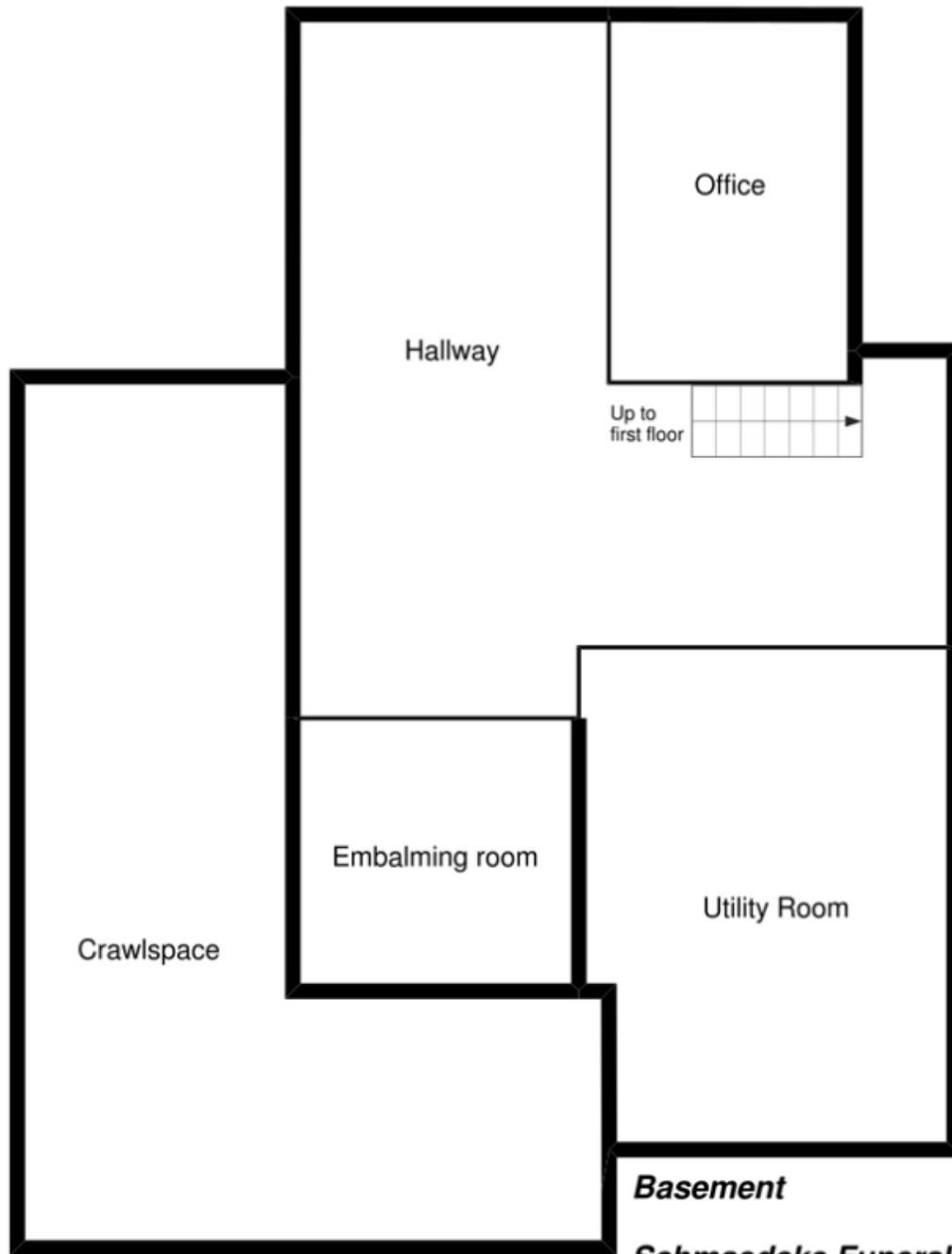
0ft 20ft



Second Floor

Schmaedeke Funeral Home





Basement

Schmaedeke Funeral Home



Appendix II – Supporting Images

1927 Sears Modern Homes Catalog entry for the “Avalon”

SIX ROOMS AND BATH



THE AVALON bungalow readily meets with favor wherever it is erected. Its architectural lines are artistic, the construction is very substantial and the material is of "Honor Bilt" quality.

Customers who have built the Avalon tell us freely that our approved ready-cut system has saved them much money. Yes, and many a handsome profit has been made by a customer when selling his Avalon.

The exterior is adorned with the fireplace chimney, gabled, overhanging eaves and massive stucco porch pillars. The large L-shaped porch measures 18 feet 6 inches by 20 feet. It may be screened and furnished as suggested in the illustration below.

The Living Room. Presently located in the front of the house are both the living and dining rooms. Each of these rooms has four pairs of French casement sash windows. You will like these windows because of their fine appearance. But it will take a hot summer's day to really appreciate how enjoyable it is to open all the window space instead of just half, as usual.

Size of Living room, 14 feet 3 inches by 16 feet 8 inches. The fireplace, with mantel, is the center of attraction, as it is built in the middle of the front wall, with French windows on either side. There is plenty of space for furniture, including liberal wall space for a piano,avenport, etc. A coat closet for guests is in one corner.

The Dining Room. A brook eaved opening unites the living room and dining room as one large room. Here friends may be entertained, assuring unusually large space for social gatherings, considering the house is only 28 by 48 feet. Dining room dimensions are 12 feet 7 inches by 14 feet 2 inches, and easily accommodates a dining set with wall space for buffet.

The Kitchen. The dining room leads to a swinging door, which opens directly into the kitchen. Size of kitchen, 14 feet 3 inches by 10 feet 11 inches. The sink and the built-in cupboard are together, and are between the dining room door and the two windows. This means light and air, and hundreds of steps saved every day when preparing meals.



Front Porch When Screened.

Honor Bilt

The Avalon

No. C13048 "Already Cut" and Fitted

\$2,436⁰⁰

The space for the range is on the adjoining wall where the light will shine directly into the oven. Close by is space for a table and chair. A door opens into the rear entry, which has space for refrigerator and space for sliding; then, too, the rear entry enables the housewife to keep the kitchen clean and warmer. Here steps lead to basement and a glazed door to the yard.

The Bedrooms. Right off the dining room is a hallway that connects with the three bedrooms, bathroom, linen closet and stairway to attic. Each bedroom has two windows and a clothes closet. In the largest of the bedrooms there is space for twin beds, besides the dresser, chiffonier, night table and chairs.

The Bathroom. Has a built-in medicine cabinet, and plumbing may be roughed-in on one wall.

Basement. Room for furnace, laundry and storage.

Height of Ceiling. Main floor, 9 feet from floor to ceiling. Basement, 7 feet from floor to ceiling.

What Our Price Includes

At the price quoted we will furnish all the material to build this six-room house, consisting of:

Lumber: Lath;
Roofing: Oriental Slate Surfaced Shingles, 17-Year Guarantee;
Siding: Clear Cypress, Here; Clear Red Cedar Shingles above Belt Course;
Framing Lumber, No. 1 Quality Yellow Pine;
Flooring: Clear Oak All Rooms Except Kitchen and Bathroom Which Have Maple Floors;
Porch Ceiling, Clear Yellow Pine;
Finishing Lumber;
High Grade Millwork (see pages 108 and 109);
Interior Doors, One-Panel Design of Fir;
Trim, Beautiful Grain Yellow Pine;
Windows, California Clear White Pine;
Medicine Cases;
Kitchen Cupboard; Bookcases;
Brick Mantel; Flower Boxes;
Eaves Trough and Down Spouts;
40-Lb. Building Paper; Sash Weights;
Necessaries Design Hardware (see page 120);
Paint, Three Coats for Outside Trim and Siding;
Stains, Two Coats for Sillings on Gable Walls;
Shellac and Varnish for Interior Trim and Doors;
Shellac, Putty Filler and Floor Varnish for Oak and Maple Floors.

Complete Plans and Specifications.

We guarantee enough material to build this house. Price does not include cement, brick or plaster. See description of "Honor Bilt" Houses on pages 12 and 13.

Can be built on a lot 45 feet wide



FLOOR PLAN

OPTIONS

Sheet Plaster and Plaster Finish to take the place of wood lath, \$142.00 extra. See page 100.

Storm Doors and Windows, \$75.00 extra.

Screen Doors and Windows, galvanized wire, \$47.00 extra.

Oak Doors and Trim for living room and dining room, \$39.00 extra.

4-in-1 Style Oriental Asphalt Slate Surface Strip Shingles, guaranteed for seventeen years, instead of Oriental Asphalt Shingles for roof, \$22.00 less.

For Prices of Plumbing, Heating, Wiring, Electric Fixtures and Shades see pages 138 and 139.

Oklahoma Houses By Mail

For Our Easy Payment Plan See Page 144

Source: Sears, Roebuck and Co., *Honor Bilt Modern Homes*, published 1927, public domain.

Original 1926 wall tile in bathroom



Original 1926 linen closet in hallway



Original 1926 back-hall cabinet over icebox void



Original 1926 light in back hall



Original 1926 single panel door in rear bedroom with "Chicago" pattern hardware



Original 1926 south exterior door with "Stratford" hardware



Original 1953 light fixture in former dining room



Hardware on 1953 north entrance door



HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCHMAEDEKE FUNERAL HOME
14205 Union Avenue
Orland Park
Cook County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1243

INDEX TO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Leslie Schwartz, Photographer, February 2019

- IL-1243-1 General view of front (west) façade and south façade from south southwest.
- IL-1243-2 General view of south façade from south southeast.
- IL-1243-3 General view of front (west) façade and south façade from southwest.
- IL-1243-4 General view of front (west) façade and north façade from northwest.
- IL-1243-5 General view of north façade from north northeast showing north (main) entrance in center and garage addition on left.
- IL-1243-6 Interior view of reception room from west, showing north (main) entrance at left.
- IL-1243-7 Interior view of viewing room from west, showing progression from reception room to original dining room to original bedroom.
- IL-1243-8 Interior view from viewing room from east, showing progression from viewing room to original living room and reception room and west entrance.
- IL-1243-9 Interior view of west bedroom from west, showing progression into hall and east bedroom.
- IL-1243-10 Interior view of garage from east, showing ramp to basement, stairs to garage attic, and entrance to main building.













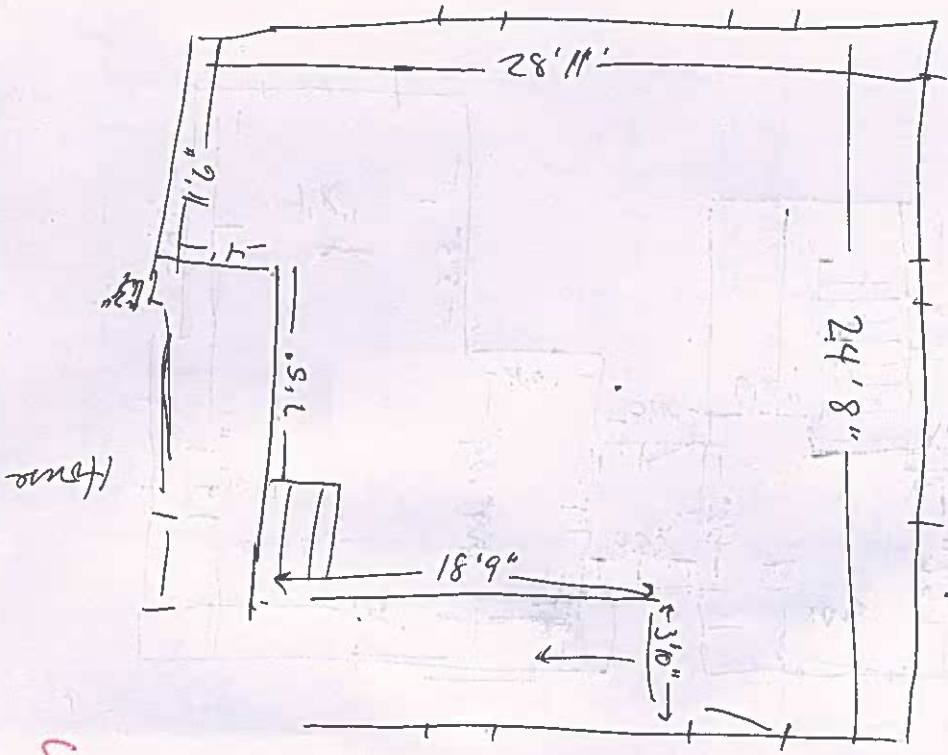






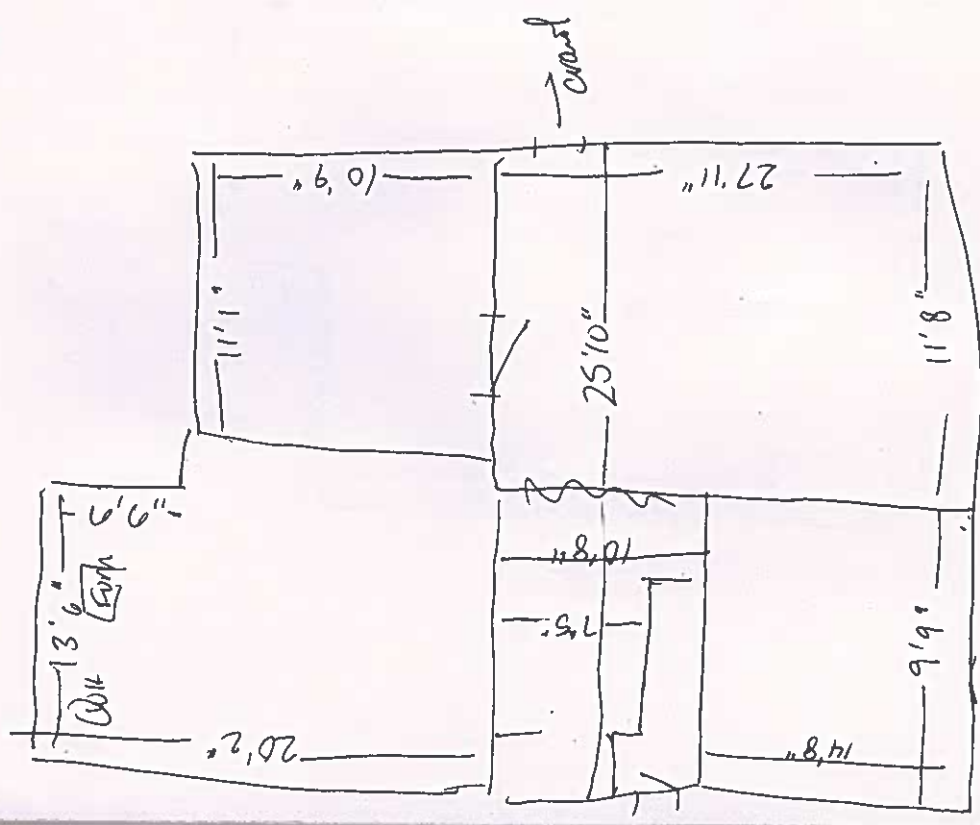
FOR SALE
SCHMADKE
INSURANCE - REAL ESTATE
BROKER OF REAL ESTATE
HOLLAND PARK, AL.
PHONE F1.9-0111





A

B



PAUL E. STANCAKO
 LAND SURVEYOR & CONSULTING SERVICES
 142nd Street

142nd Street
 Union Street
 Oak Place

DIVISION OF BLOCK 14 (EXCEPT LOTS 1 TO 5, 7 TO 11 AND 23 THEREOF) IN MAREK KRAUS' ORLAND PARK HIGHLANDS, A SUBDIVISION
 TOWNSHIP 36 NORTH, RANGE 12, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
 MAREK KRAUS' ORLAND PARK HIGHLANDS, A SUBDIVISION OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 36 NORTH, RANGE 12, EAST OF THE
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