

**ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT:  
ALTENHEIM (GERMAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME), 7822 VAN BUREN ST.,  
FOREST PARK, IL**



Laundry/Chapel Building, 1916



Infirmary, 1941



Infirmary Annex, 1968



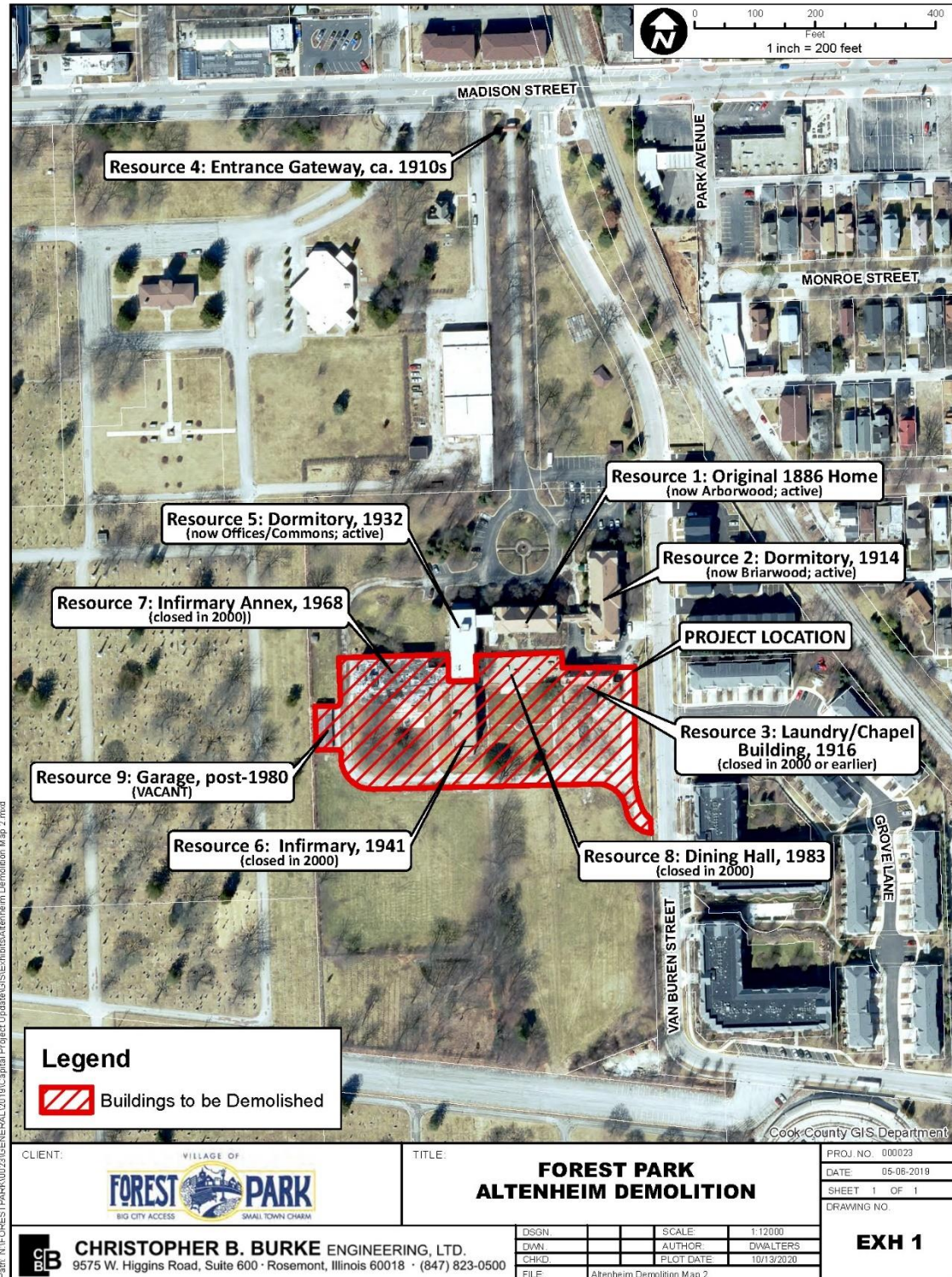
Dining Hall, 1983

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Site Plan showing all resources on original Altenheim campus, including those in the project area.

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## SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On September 4, 2020, Christopher B. Burke Engineering (CBBEL) notified the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (IL SHPO) that the Village of Forest Park is planning to demolish four vacant and deteriorated buildings at 7822 Van Buren Street in Forest Park, Illinois, that were once part of the Altenheim German Old People's Home (Altenheim) campus, and enclosed photos of the buildings' exteriors. IL SHPO staff historians were unable to determine if the subject buildings in the project area are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Their office required that a survey of the entire Altenheim campus subject resource(s) by a qualified historian be undertaken to assist in the identification of historic properties.

CBBEL retained Architectural Historian Jean L. Guarino, Ph.D., to conduct this architectural resource survey report. Dr. Guarino developed an overview history of Altenheim, and conducted a survey of the nine extant buildings/structures on the 14-acre parcel historically occupied by this institution, in order to place the five subject buildings into context and properly evaluate their significance. (A garage was added as a fifth subject resource.) Three of the nine resources on this tract remain under the ownership of Altenheim, which now exists as a non-profit rental community for older adults. The remaining 11.5 acres of this property, and its buildings/structures, are owned by the Village of Forest Park.

Dr. Guarino made a site visit on October 1, 2020 for the purpose of making first-hand physical observations of all buildings/structures on the campus and to take exterior photographs, accompanied by Steve Glinke, Director of the Forest Park Department of Public Health and Safety. The ability to take interior photographs of the Altenheim-owned buildings was limited by their staff due to privacy concerns for residents. Access to Altenheim's archive, located in the attic of the 1886 Home (Arborwood), was also restricted by staff, although original drawings for one of the subject buildings, were pulled for review.

Interior photography of the five subject buildings within the project area was limited by their deteriorated condition. Four of these buildings were closed in 2000 and have not been maintained in 20 years. Two of these buildings are partially open to the elements (roof holes and open/broken windows) and do not appear to be safe for entry due to lack of structural safety and presence of asbestos materials. Nonetheless, some representative interior photos were taken of two of the five subject buildings. The fifth subject building, a post-1980 garage, is also vacant.

The table below identifies the results of Dr. Guarino's conclusions pertaining to potential NRHP eligibility of all extant resources on the historic Altenheim campus, including the five subject buildings to be razed. In short, it was determined that none of the five buildings within the project area are individually eligible for listing on the NRHP, due to either age (two are less than 50 years old) or their loss of architectural integrity.

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Dr. Guarino also determined that the three older, Altenheim-owned buildings and the entrance gateway—all of which are located *outside* the project area—could serve as contributing resources to a potential NRHP district under Criterion A as a rare, extant, example of an ethnic old people's home in the Chicago region that was founded in the nineteenth century. These four resources have good overall exterior integrity and the buildings still provide housing/services for an older population. Together, they also retain the historic appearance of the facility that visitors would have seen upon entering the grounds from Madison Street. However, the five subject buildings *within project area* are considered non-contributing to this potential district, due to either age or integrity issues.

It should be highlighted that two large marble slabs incised with the names of Altenheim's original donors and the amounts of their contributions are affixed to one wall of the 1983 Dining Hall, which is slated for demolition. (See photo in the survey form for the Dining Hall.) These slabs were originally displayed in the 1886 Home (now Arborhood) and were likely relocated when that building was renovated in the mid-1990s as senior apartments. It is recommended that demolition of the Dining Hall should include the removal and preservation of these two objects for display elsewhere on the grounds.

**Table showing NRHP Eligibility Determinations for all resources on the original Altenheim Campus**

**(Resources in red are situated within the project area and slated for demolition)**

Resource Number	Original Name/Use	Date	Current Use	Owner	Individually Eligible for NRHP	NRHP District Determination
1	Original Home	1886	Senior Apartments	Altenheim	No	Contributing
2	Dormitory	1914	Senior Apartments	Altenheim	No	Contributing
3	Laundry/Chapel	1916	Closed in 2000 or earlier	Village of Forest Park	No	Non-Contributing
4	Entrance Gateway	c. 1910s	N/A	Village of Forest Park	No	Contributing
5	Dormitory	1932	Public spaces/offices	Altenheim	No	Contributing
6	Infirmery	1941	Closed in 2000	Village of Forest Park	No	Non-Contributing
7	Infirmery Annex	1968	Closed in 2000	Village of Forest Park	No	Non-Contributing
8	Hintzpeter Dining Hall	1983	Closed in 2000	Village of Forest Park	No	Non-Contributing
9	Garage	Post-1980	Vacant	Village of Forest Park	No	Non-Contributing

## SECTION 2: HISTORY AND SETTING OF ALTENHEIM

The “Deutches Altenheim” or German Old People’s Home, in Forest Park, Illinois, was built for the housing of, and care for, elderly members of this ethnic group during a time when such facilities were not the norm. The history of this facility dates to 1882, when Marie Werkmeister established a German Ladies’ Society (Deutcher Frauen Verein) as a separate entity from the German Aid Society, for the purpose of raising funds to build and maintain a home for older Germans of need. The cost was estimated at about \$60,000, of which \$20,000 was collected by entertainments given by the Society over the ensuing three years, and the balance by contributions.<sup>1</sup> In early 1885, the women enlisted the services of a group of influential German men to select the site and assist with their fundraising efforts.

Anton C. Hesing (1823-1895), publisher of the *Staats-Zeitung*, the city’s leading German newspaper, became president of Altenheim’s men’s board. Directors included other wealthy Chicagoans of German heritage, such as beer barons William Seipp and Charles H. Wacker.<sup>2</sup> They purchased a twenty-acre tract of prairie near the Town of Harlem (now Forest Park), about ten miles west of the Loop, and awarded contracts for the home. The property fronted Madison Street, just east of the Des Plaines River. Construction began in the spring of 1885 and a ceremonial “house raising” attended by 6,000 German residents of Chicago was held in September of that year.<sup>3</sup>

Altenheim was formally dedicated on June 14, 1886 in the presence of 4,000 people. Governor Oglesby delivered the oration.<sup>4</sup> The style of the imposing 4.5-story brick home—featuring a soaring hip roof and decorative gable dormers—displayed fine detailing and craftsmanship. The east and west gables on its front façade featured the following inscriptions, respectively: DEUTSCHES HAUS IM NEUEN LAND/SCHIRM ES GOTT MIT STARKER HAND (German House in New Land/May God Project It With Strong Hand).<sup>5</sup> The home was set back about 600 feet from Madison Street and accessed via a treelined drive. (See Figure 5, 6, and 7.)

The main (second) floor of the home included a formal parlor, office of the matron, smoking room, a guests’ dining room, and a sewing room. The parlor was graced by a grand piano and portraits of Marie Werkmeister and Anton C. Hesing—drawn by artist Bartholdi Meyer—which were presented at the building’s dedication.<sup>6</sup> The first floor (then referred to as the basement level) included the residents’ dining room and kitchen, as well as a servants’ sleeping room and

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<sup>1</sup> “Happy Old Children,” *Chicago Tribune* (July 23, 1893).

<sup>2</sup> “The Old People’s Home,” *Chicago Tribune* (June 15, 1886).

<sup>3</sup> “Altenheim: Ceremonies of House-Raising,” *The Inter Ocean* (September 21, 1885).

<sup>4</sup> “The Altenheim,” *The Inter Ocean* (June 15, 1886).

<sup>5</sup> Reinhard Andress, “The Altenheim, a German Old People’s Home in Forest Park through the Ages,” *German-American Journal*, Volume 66, No. 2 (April-May, 2018) 10.

<sup>6</sup> “The Old People’s Home,” *Chicago Tribune* (June 15, 1886).

dining room. The two upper floors featured dormitory style bedrooms “all similarly furnished with iron bedsteads piled with downy mattresses and “comforts” in the German style, a wardrobe, dresser, and chairs of light wood.”<sup>7</sup>

The number of residents at Altenheim increased from 17 in 1886 to 75 in 1893.<sup>8</sup> One contemporary writer explained the sliding scale of its fees during this period: “No one is admitted to the institution until he or she has reached the age of 60, and at this age the cost of admission is \$300. For one at the age of 65 the fee is \$250, the sum being reduced \$50 for every additional five years in the age of the applicant. This amount pays the entire expense of the person for the remainder of his life.”<sup>9</sup> There seems to have been no further monthly or daily charges. However, residents were required to sign over whatever wealth they had to the Altenheim.

The need for health care services for Altenheim’s aging residents was foreseen from the inception of the facility. In 1886, the home was connected to “an apartment to be used as a hospital.”<sup>10</sup> A two-story, 13-room, hospital annex was built in 1892 to the south of the home, to which it was internally linked by a ground floor corridor.<sup>11</sup> This early hospital was also linked to a two-story building to the east, which had a laundry on the first floor and a second floor hall, as illustrated on the 1895 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. (See Figures 1 and 2.) Services were often held in this hall for residents prior to their internment in the Altenheim Cemetery, located on the south periphery of the property.

The Frauen Verein actively supported Altenheim over its first century of existence by hosting a wide variety of fundraising activities such as annual balls, summer carnivals, fundraising bazaars, and Christmas markets featuring German goods and foods. It was assisted by a Junior Auxiliary, comprised of daughters and friends of the Frauen Verein’s 500 members. Such events were typically held at German cultural venues in Chicago, including the Germania Club on North Clark Street and the Turner Hall on the city’s North Side, and covered in the popular press.

Summer carnivals hosted by the Frauen Verein were held on Altenheim’s picnic grounds, which were located between the Madison Street entrance drive and the tracks of the Wisconsin Central Railroad—which had an Altenheim Station—to the east. This grove served as a festival ground for many other events that were hosted by the German-American community and local villagers. The picnic grounds included a one-lane bowling alley, dance hall, merry-go-round with hand-carved horses, and open-air pavilions, all of which were shown on Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps dating from 1895 through 1951.

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<sup>7</sup> “Happy Old Children,” *Chicago Tribune* (July 23, 1893).

<sup>8</sup> “The Altenheim,” *The Inter Ocean* (June 15, 1886); “Happy Old Children,” *Chicago Tribune* (July 23, 1893).

<sup>9</sup> “Happy Old Children,” *Chicago Tribune* (July 23, 1893).

<sup>10</sup> “The Altenheim,” *The Inter Ocean* (June 15, 1886).

<sup>11</sup> “Happy Old Children,” *Chicago Tribune* (July 23, 1893).

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The growing population of Altenheim, which had 100 residents in 1907, spurred the construction of a three-story hospital around 1910, thanks to a \$25,000 donation from Alma Seipp, in memory of her brother, Conrad Seipp, a wealthy brewer.<sup>12</sup> The new edifice replaced the earlier and smaller hospital, and like its predecessor, it was internally linked to the home via a ground story corridor.<sup>13</sup> The facility's long waiting list also necessitated the construction of a large Dormitory building, which was completed in 1914 at an approximate cost of \$100,000.<sup>14</sup> The four-story building accommodated 76 residents and was stylistically similar to the original home, featuring the same colors of brick and corbelled detailing. The inscription across the building's front (west) façade in German translated to: TRITT EIN, FRIEDE HARRET DEIN (Come In, May Peace Await You). (See Figure 8.)

The institution's original laundry/chapel building was destroyed by a fire in February 1916.<sup>15</sup> (See Figures 9 and 10.) It was replaced by new building designed by German architects Emil Frommann and Ernst Jebsen.<sup>16</sup> (See Figures 11-13.) An adjacent one-story south wing, labeled "marble" on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for 1930 and 1951, was likely used in the production of headstones for the Altenheim Cemetery. (See Figures 3 and 4.)

Altenheim was a self-sustaining complex during its early decades of operation, featuring a working farm with livestock (chickens, hogs, and cows) with associated agricultural structures at the south end of the property, as well as vegetable gardens and greenhouses. The latter were used to grow roses and carnations for sale to the public as a revenue stream.<sup>17</sup> Many of the residents helped with facility's daily work. In fact, membership applications asked such questions as: "What assistance in the work of the home can you give?", and "If accepted, are you willing to give such assistance?"<sup>18</sup> One writer observed as late as 1930 that the residents "grow their own vegetables in the home gardens, and several men and women who formerly were tailors and dressmakers see that clothes are made over and mended when necessary."<sup>19</sup>

Altenheim had 250 residents in 1930 and a waiting list of 100, which spurred the construction of a four-story dormitory addition to the main building, which was built in 1932 and designed by architecture firm of Miller and Wallace. The brick edifice—constructed during the Great Depression—featured walls of common brick and lacked the more decorative detailing featured

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<sup>12</sup> *Chicago Tribune* (May 22, 1910).

<sup>13</sup> "Women Plan Bazaar to Aid German Old People's Home," *The Inter Ocean* (March 29, 1907); 'Honor the Aged' is Motto in Old People's Home," *Chicago Tribune* (March 27, 1932).

<sup>14</sup> "Dedicates Old People's Home," *Chicago Tribune* (July 6, 1913); "Will Aid Festival at Altenheim," *Chicago Tribune* (July 7, 1914).

<sup>15</sup> *Chicago Tribune* (February 11, 1916).

<sup>16</sup> The architecture firm that designed the Laundry/Chapel Building was identified by a review of architectural drawings on file at Altenheim that were pulled by the staff.

<sup>17</sup> The various outbuildings associated with recreational and agricultural activities at Altenheim are illustrated in Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of the site dating to 1895, 1909, 1930 and 1951.

<sup>18</sup> "Application for Admission for the German Old People's Home," undated. Form on file at the Forest Park Historical Society.

<sup>19</sup> "Altenheim, German Old People's Home in Forest Park will Benefit," *Chicago Tribune* (June 29, 1930).

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in the two earlier dormitory buildings. It was designed to house 62 rooms on its upper floors, and it also contained doctors' offices, a kitchen, and a dining room that accommodated 114 people on the first floor. The inscription on this building read: EHRET DAS ALTER (Honor the Aged).<sup>20</sup>

Altenheim's aging population necessitated the construction of a modern Infirmary Building in 1940-41, which was designed by George H. Buckley and Robert Hookhan. The austere brick building was built at a cost of \$80,000 and located to the south of the 1932 Dormitory, to which it was internally linked on all four floors. It featured 50 individual bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room, housekeeper's room, and nurses' rooms.<sup>21</sup> (See Figure 14.) Completion of the new Infirmary spurred plans to renovate the old ca. 1910 Hospital/Infirmary as a recreation facility for residents, a project that undertaken in 1944. The building was renamed Memorial Hall and featured an auditorium seating 500, as well as a kitchen and a dozen rooms for resident workers.<sup>22</sup>

Altenheim's property shrunk from 20 acres to about 14 in the late 1950s when the Eisenhower Expressway was constructed through Forest Park, which necessitated the construction of a new Van Buren Street cut-through from Madison Street, which became the facility's new eastern boundary.<sup>23</sup> The last major addition to the Altenheim campus was a three-story Infirmary Annex built in 1967-68 at a cost of \$1 million. It was designed to accommodate 46 residents and included a dining room and nursing stations. The first floor featured special equipment for occupational and physical therapy. The Annex was internally connected to the 1941 Infirmary on all three floors.<sup>24</sup> (See Figures 15-18.) The two buildings served as a nursing home for the institution.

Transformation of Altenheim's buildings began in 1983, when Memorial Hall (former ca. 1910 Hospital) was replaced by a one-story Dining Hall. The new building was officially named the Hintzpeter Dining Hall after its donors, Herman and Eugenie Hintzpeter.<sup>25</sup> The 1914 Dormitory Building was renamed Briarwood and underwent a \$1.2 million renovation in 1983-84, which gutted the interior to provide 36 independent living apartments for seniors living on low to moderate incomes.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> 'Honor the Aged' is Motto in Old People's Home," *Chicago Tribune* (March 27, 1932).

<sup>21</sup> "Build Addition to German Old People's Home," *Chicago Tribune* (September 22, 1940); "Corner Stone of German Home to Be Laid Today," *Chicago Tribune* (October 13, 1940).

<sup>22</sup> "Complete Building at Altenheim," *Review and Forest Parker* (March 30, 1944); "Old Peoples' Home to Open Recreational Hall," *Chicago Tribune* (June 25, 1944).

<sup>23</sup> Frank J. Orland, "The History of Altenheim in Chronological Sequence featuring 100 Highlights at its 100<sup>th</sup> Year," unpublished manuscript dated October 27, 1985, p. 8.

<sup>24</sup> "Begin Home for Old Today," *Chicago Tribune* (July 31, 1966); "Lay Cornerstone at Altenheim Sunday," *Forest Park Review* (July 27, 1967); "Launch Drive for Infirmary," *Chicago Tribune* (December 3, 1967).

<sup>25</sup> Ibid, p. 17.

<sup>26</sup> Thomas Holden, "Altenheim gets new look, apartments," *Oak Leaves* (October 10, 1984).

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During the 1990s, Altenheim's Board of Directors decided to move away from providing nursing home services to focus entirely on offering independent facilities to seniors 55 and over. As part of that shift, the board spent \$2 million in 1996 to completely gut and renovate the interior of the original 1886 Home—which was renamed Arborhood—to create relatively upscale apartments that including studios, and one- and two-bedrooms with full kitchens. The two Infirmary Buildings were closed in 2000 and the 80 residents housed within were assisted with transfers to other nearby facilities.<sup>27</sup>

Altenheim officials subsequently decided to sell its shuttered buildings—which also included the Dining Hall and Laundry/Chapel Building—and most of its grounds and reinvest the proceeds into its remaining three buildings. In 2002, Altenheim sold 11.5 of its 14 acres to the Village of Forest Park for \$3.6 million. Included in the sale was the Entrance Gateway on Madison Street, the former picnic grounds, and the grassy open space at the south end of the site. Altenheim retained ownership of its cemetery.<sup>28</sup> The upper floors of the 1932 Dormitory Building were gutted in about 2010 and remain vacant. The first floor of this building received a new beauty and barber shop around this time and includes a recreation room for Arborwood and Briarwood residents, as well as campus offices. The historic recreational structures that once graced the picnic grove were razed/removed post-1950, as were the remaining agricultural structures on the south side of the property.

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<sup>27</sup> Andrea Freidinger, "Elder Home," *Wednesday Journal* (September 1, 1999).  
Haydn Bush, "Altenheim staying put in Forest Park," *Wednesday Journal* (October 8, 2003).

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

### SECTION 3: NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

#### A. Evaluation of National Register Eligibility

Dr. Guarino evaluated the eligibility of the five subject buildings in the project area individually, and as a group, for their eligibility for listing on the NRHP according to four established Criteria:

**Criterion A:** Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

**Criterion B:** Properties that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

**Criterion C:** Properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

**Criterion D:** Properties that have yielded, or have the potential to yield, information significant to prehistory or history.

These criteria generally apply for properties at least 50 years old. Buildings and structures being considered for listing on the National Register must also possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As a result, Dr. Guarino also considered the integrity of the buildings as well. The following is a summary of findings.

#### Criterion A (Significant Event)

The three older, Altenheim-owned buildings and the entrance gateway—all of which are located *outside* the project area—could serve as contributing resources to a potential NRHP district under Criterion A as a rare, extant, example of an ethnic old people's home in the Chicago region that was founded in the nineteenth century. These four resources have good overall exterior integrity and the buildings still provide housing/services for an older population. Together, they also retain the historic appearance of the facility that visitors would have seen upon entering the grounds from Madison Street. However, the historic buildings *within* project area are considered non-contributing to this potential district, due to either age or integrity issues.

In the early nineteenth century there were no formal institutions in Chicago or its surrounding suburbs that were dedicated specifically to sheltering dependent elderly persons, although the county almshouses provided basic accommodations to destitute persons of all ages. By the 1880s, however, women's and church groups began establishing special homes for the aged from their own ethnic or religious background so that they could end their days with dignity. Entrance

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fees and certificates of good health and character were further ways in which the founders strove to separate their own facilities from almshouses. For example, the Home for Aged Jews was established in 1891 at Drexel Avenue and 62<sup>nd</sup> Street in Chicago to serve the German-Jewish community, and the Orthodox Jewish Home for the Aged, founded in 1899 at Albany and Ogden, served the Russian Jews. They were joined by Danes in 1891 (Northwood Park), Norwegians in 1896 (Norwood Park), and other such facilities that served the elderly of various ethnic groups.<sup>29</sup>

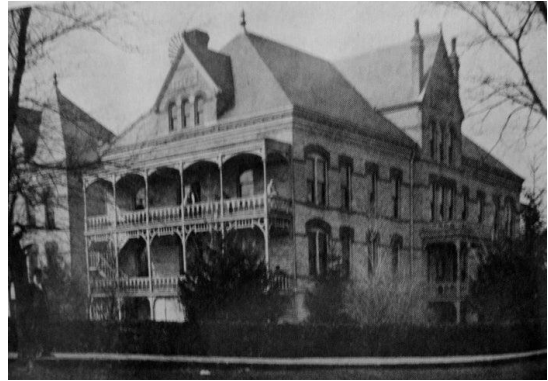


Figure 1 Lutheran Home for the Aged, Arlington Heights (1891; razed)

Nearly suburban homes for the aged included the British Home in Brookfield (1925) and the Scottish Old People's Home in Riverside. Most comparable to Altenheim were the Lutheran Home for the Aged in Arlington Heights (1892; razed) and the German Evangelical Orphan and Old People's Home in Bensenville (1895; razed), both of which served older Germans and featured buildings that were stylistically similar to Altenheim's original 1886 building. Such facilities gradually evolved into today's nursing homes and assisted living facilities.<sup>30</sup>



German Evangelical Orphan and Old People's Home in Bensenville (1895; razed).

### **Criterion B (Significant Person)**

No information was found linking the historic buildings within the project area to an historically significant person. As a result, these buildings are not considered to be eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion B.

### **Criterion C (Significant Design/Construction)**

The historic buildings within the project area feature an austere appearance and with little ornamentation and no innovation aspects in terms of design or construction. Thus, these buildings are not considered to be eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C.

### **Criterion D (Archaeological Potential)**

No evidence was found that the site of Altenheim has the potential to yield significant information to U.S. prehistory or history. As a result, the site was not considered to be eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion D.

<sup>29</sup> Sue Weller, "Housing for the Elderly," in: <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/607.html>

<sup>30</sup> United States Department of Labor. *Homes for Aged in the United States, Bulletin No. 677* (Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1941).

## B. Evaluation of Architectural Integrity

The National Register designation process recognize a property's integrity through aspects or qualities that include location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, all of which are generally discussed below in relation to historic buildings within the project area. More information regarding individual buildings can be found on their survey forms.

Location: All historic buildings on the original Altenheim property retain their integrity of location as they have not been moved or relocated. The entrance gateway, however, has been moved about a dozen feet to the south of its original location.

Design: The Infirmary appears to retain its integrity of design with double-loaded corridors and dormitory type rooms. The interiors of the Laundry/Chapel Building and the Infirmary Annex were not accessed for this survey and it is unknown whether their design changed over the years. The three Altenheim-owned buildings *outside* the project area—Arborhood, Briarwood, and the Campus Office Building—have all lost their integrity of design through gut renovations.

Setting: Altenheim's setting was altered in the late 1950s through the construction of Van Buren street, which parallels the property's eastern boundary and resulted in the removal of about five of its 20 acres. Recreational structures that once graced the picnic grove were removed post-1950, as were all remaining agricultural structures formerly located to the south of the buildings.

Materials: The historic buildings within the project area no longer convey integrity of materials. The exterior of the Laundry/Chapel Building exists in a ruinous state and has lost portions of its walls, roof, as well as its original doors and windows. The Infirmary has lost its original windows and its brickwork is in a highly deteriorated condition. The Infirmary Annex has lost many of its windows as well as its doors. Both buildings have long been exposed to the elements due to windows that are broken/open, allowing for severe interior deterioration.

Workmanship: The historic buildings within the project area are relatively austere in terms of their appearance and none exhibit distinguishing features in terms of workmanship. Only the Arborhood and Briarwood Buildings located outside the project area display distinguishing features in terms of workmanship, which include distinctive detailing in multi-colored brick as well as gable dormers and other ornament.

Feeling: The historic buildings within the project area no longer convey integrity of feeling as they were closed twenty years ago and have not served the resident older population since that time. However, the three Altenheim-owned buildings *outside* the project area—Arborhood, Briarwood, and the Campus Office Building—retain their integrity of feeling as they still provide residence/services for an older population.

Association: The historic buildings within the project area no longer convey integrity of association as they lack at least four of the seven aspects of aspects of integrity.

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**SECTION 5:  
RESOURCE SURVEY FORMS AND PHOTOS**

**RESOURCE NO. 1: Original Home, 1886 (Arborwood)**

**BUILDING USE**

Original: dormitory and public spaces

Current: independent living apartments

**DATES OF CONSTRUCTION:** 1885-1886

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING**

Landmark district potential: Contributing

Individual landmark potential: No

**ARCHITECT NAME:** Unknown



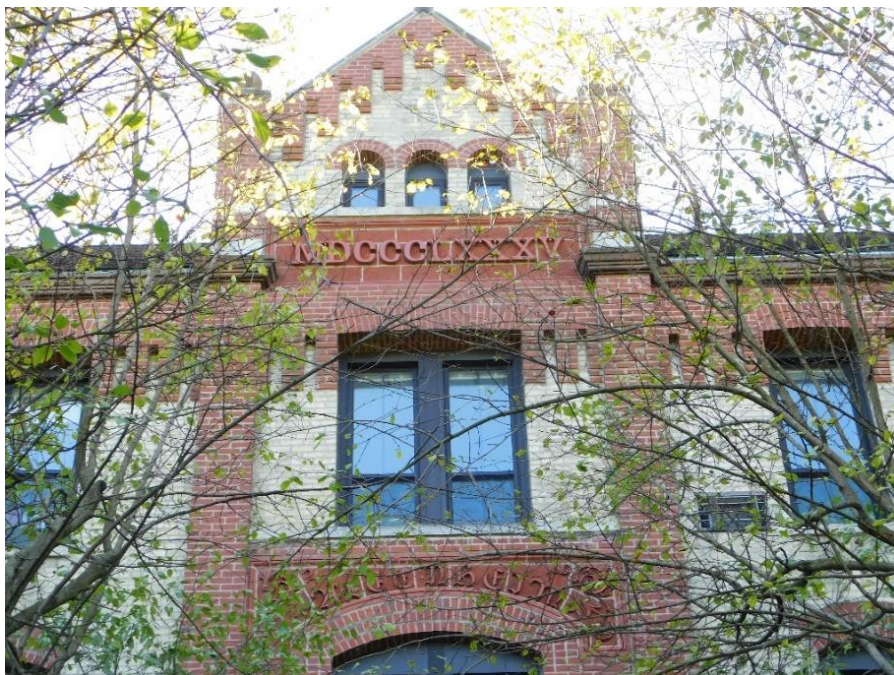
**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:**

Altenheim's original home is a north-facing, 4.5 story building that has buff-colored brick walls detailed with orange brick. It has a rectangular footprint and a steeply pitched hip roof with gable dormers featuring round-arched window openings on all four facades. Fenestration is comprised of vinyl double-hung windows that are primarily arranged alone, although those in the central pavilion are arranged in pairs, and those in the dormers are in groups of three. Tall, segmental-arched windows on the second and third floors are detailed with three courses of rowlocks in orange brick. Other ornament includes the use of beltcourses and brick corbelling at the roofline. The east façade is linked to the Briarwood Building via a bridge at the second-floor level. The west façade shares a party wall with the 1932 building that now houses the campus offices.

The symmetrical front (north) façade has a central main entrance with non-original wood door at the ground floor level. The original main entrance (now paired windows) directly above is flanked by bronze plaques with low-relief sculpture celebrating Anton C. Hesing and Marie Werkmeister, who helped establish Altenheim. The base of the east and west gabled dormers on this façade feature the following inscriptions, respectively: DEUTSCHES HAUS IM NEUEN LAND/SCHIRM ES GOTT MIT STARKER HAND (German House in New Land/May God Project It With Strong Hand).” The interior features double-loaded corridors with acoustical tile ceilings. Flooring is covered with wall-to-wall carpeting. Partition walls are drywall or gypsum board.

Alterations: Exterior changes include the removal of all original wood double-hung windows and original wood doors. The original main entrance on the north façade has been replaced by a pair of windows and its front porch removed. Open air sleeping porches on the east and west facades were removed when this building was linked to the adjacent dormitories. The interior lost its architectural integrity in the mid-1990s when it was completely gutted during its \$2 million renovation to accommodate studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom apartments. It does not appear that any original interior materials or elements are extant, aside from a safe on the first floor.

**RESOURCE NO. 1: Original Home, 1886 (Arborwood)**



Detail of central pavilion on the north (front) façade.



North façade, looking southeast.

**RESOURCE NO. 1: Original Home, 1886 (Arborwood)**



Bronze plaque with low relief sculpture honoring Anton C. Hesing, first president of Altenheim's Board of Directors, installed 1902 on west side of main entrance. Text is in German.



Bronze plaque with low relief sculpture honoring Marie Werkmeister, founder of the Altenheim's Frauen Verein (Ladies' Society), installed 1902 on west side of main entrance. Text is in German.

**RESOURCE NO. 1: Original Home, 1886 (Arborwood)**



View of typical window openings with segmental arches detailed with rowlocks in red brick and stone sills. Original wood windows were removed decades ago, and current fenestration is comprised of vinyl double-hung windows.



North façade, looking southwest.

**RESOURCE NO. 1: Original Home, 1886 (Arborwood)**



South façade, looking northeast. The Dining Hall is in the foreground.



South façade, looking northwest.

**RESOURCE NO. 2: DORMITORY, 1914 (Briarwood)**

**BUILDING USE**

Original: dormitory rooms

Current: Independent living apartments

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION**: 1913-14

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING**

Landmark site potential: Contributing

Individual landmark potential: No

**ARCHITECT**: Unknown



**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:**

Briarwood, built in 1914 as a 76-room dormitory, is a west-facing, 4.5 story building sheathed with buff- and orange-colored pressed brick. It has a rectangular footprint and a steeply pitched hip roof with gabled pavilions on either end. Fenestration is comprised of vinyl double-hung windows that are arranged alone or in pairs. Doors are metal or glass. Ornament includes the use of buttresses at the main entrance, beltcourses, and brick corbelling at the roofline. The west façade is linked to the Arborwood Building (original Home) via a bridge at the second-floor level. The inscription across the building's front (west) façade reads: TRITT EIN, FRIEDE HARRET DEIN (Come In, May Peace Await You). The interior features double-loaded corridors with acoustical tile ceilings. Flooring is covered with wall-to-wall carpeting. Partition walls are drywall or gypsum board.

Alterations: Exterior changes include the removal of all original wood double-hung windows, original wood doors, and the open-air sleeping porches once located on the north facade. The interior lost its architectural integrity in the mid-1980s when it was completely gutted during its \$1.2 million renovation to accommodate apartments with full kitchens. The building received new electrical wiring and plumbing at that time. It does not appear that any original interior materials or elements are extant, aside from one staircase with iron newell posts and railings.

**RESOURCE NO. 2: Dormitory, 1914 (Briarwood)**



West (front) façade, looking northeast.



Cornerstone at north end of west façade.

**RESOURCE NO. 2: Dormitory, 1914 (Briarwood)**



West façade, looking east.



West façade showing inscription in German that translates to:  
Come In, May Peace Await You.

**RESOURCE NO. 2: Dormitory, 1914 (Briarwood)**



View looking northeast with second story link bridge to 1886 Home on the left.



View looking northwest. A portion of the 1886 Home's east façade can be seen on the left.

**RESOURCE NO. 2: Dormitory, 1914 (Briarwood)**



View of the only stairway in the 1914 Dormitory to retain its original iron newell posts and railings following a gut renovation that took place in the mid-1980s.



View of typical double-loaded corridor.

### RESOURCE NO. 3: Laundry/Chapel Building

#### BUILDING USE:

Original: Laundry (first floor); chapel (second floor)

Current Use: Closed and vacant since at least 2000

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** 1916

#### SIGNIFICANCE RATING

Landmark district potential: Non-Contributing

Individual landmark potential: No

**ARCHITECT:** Emil Fromann and Ernst Jebsen



These architects of German descent had offices in Chicago's Schiller Building. During the 1890s and early 1890s, much of their time was dedicated to the design of many of the Schlitz Co. Brewery's corner taverns, which were designed to appeal to Chicago's German working-class population. One fine example of their work is Schubas Tavern at 3159 N. Southport in Chicago (1903). They also designed the Humboldt Park Receptory Building and Stable at 3015 W. Division Street in Chicago (1896), which is a designated Chicago landmark.<sup>31</sup>

#### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

This two-story, north-facing building has walls sheathed with common brick that are detailed with projecting red brick courses below the first-floor's sills and corbelling at the roofline. It has a gable wall pavilion in the center of its north façade and a gabled stair tower at its west end, which is topped by a small belfry. The wall on the east side of this building is partially collapsed, as is the south slope of its roof, which features a gaping hole. All windows and door openings are boarded over with plywood. The south side of this building has a one-story, flat-roofed wing that may have been used for the production/incision of headstones for the Altenheim Cemetery. Its door and window openings are also boarded over with plywood. Views of the south façade of this building and its one-story wing are largely obscured by dense foliage. This building appears to be structurally unstable and its interior was not accessed during the site visit for this project.

Alterations: This building has been shuttered for over 20 years and exists in a semi-ruinous state, featuring the partial collapse of its east wall, which once abutted the institution's "heating room." A gaping hole exists in the south slope of the roof, leaving the second floor open to the elements. All windows and doors have been removed and their openings are boarded over with plywood.

<sup>31</sup> "Humboldt Park Receptory Building and Stable," Preliminary Landmark Recommendation approved by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks on June 7, 2007.

**ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT:  
ALTENHEIM (GERMAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME), 7822 VAN BUREN ST., FOREST PARK, IL**

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION/NOTES:**

This building was designed to accommodate a laundry on the first floor and chapel above; services were held here for residents prior to their internment in the Altenheim Cemetery. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from 1930 and 1951 show that a "heating room," which may have housed Altenheim's power plant, was situated against the east wall of this building, and a one-story building labeled "marble" on these maps was against its south wall. The latter, which is extant, may have been used to produce headstones for the cemetery, which had a uniform appearance. A common phrase on the markers is "HIER RUHT," which is German for "Here Rests."

The chapel remained in use as late as 1973, when a news clipping mentioned that it was the site of Christmas Eve services for residents.<sup>32</sup> The building had become a storage facility by the mid-1980s, possibly due to the closure of the Altenheim Cemetery in that decade. Altenheim directors considered renovating it as a day care center for seniors and children at that time, an idea that never came to fruition.<sup>33</sup> The building was shuttered by 2000, if not before. Homeless individuals have periodically resided in the basement of this deteriorated building over the years.

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<sup>32</sup> *Forest Park Review* (January 10, 1973).

<sup>33</sup> Theresa Taplin, "Altenheim: Elders' home marks centennial," *Wednesday Journal*, August 28, 1985.

**RESOURCE NO. 3: Laundry/Chapel Building**



View looking southwest.



Detail showing brick corbelling at roofline and belfry.

**RESOURCE NO. 3: Laundry/Chapel Building**



View looking southwest showing stair tower and entrance to 1983 Dining Hall on the right.



View of east façade, looking west. This façade was originally fronted by Altenheim's power plant, labeled as "Heating Room" on the 1930 and 1931 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. (See Figures 3 and 4.)

**RESOURCE NO. 3: Laundry/Chapel Building**



View looking northeast showing one-story addition labeled “Marble” on the 1930 and 1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. This building was likely used to produce headstones for the Altenheim cemetery.



View of deteriorated roof with a gaping hole in it, looking northwest.

## RESOURCE NO. 4: Entrance Gateway

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** ca. 1910s

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING**

Landmark district potential: Contributing

Individual landmark potential: No

**ARCHITECT:** Unknown

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

Altenheim's Madison Street entrance gateway features two piers covered with orange colored pressed brick and detailed in stone. Its gable roof is covered with clay tiles and has decorative wood brackets beneath its overhanging eaves. The gateway is flanked by an iron fences with stone posts at either end.



**HISTORICAL INFORMATION/NOTES:**

This entrance gateway is not original and probably dates to the 1910s, given its Craftsman appearance. (See Figure 5 for a photo of Altenheim's Madison Street entrance as it originally appeared.) According to an unpublished 1985 history of Altenheim, this gateway—and presumably its iron fence and stone posts—originally paralleled the Madison Street sidewalk and was moved southward to its present location in the mid-1980s.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Orland, 20.

**RESOURCE NO. 4: Entrance Gateway**



View looking southwest.



View looking southwest showing stone pier and iron fence.

**RESOURCE NO. 4: Entrance Gateway**



View looking north.



Detail of roof rafters.

**RESOURCE NO. 5: Dormitory, 1932 (Campus Office/Commons Building)**

**BUILDING USE**

Original: doctors' offices, kitchen, dining room (first floor) and dormitory rooms (upper floors)

Current: campus offices and service space (beauty parlor; recreation room) for residents (first floor); upper floors are vacant

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** 1932

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING**

Landmark district potential: Contributing

Individual landmark potential: No

**ARCHITECT:** Miller and Wallace (Robert S. Wallace)

Miller & Wallace designed a Gothic Revival style administration building for Concordia Cemetery, which is adjacent to Altenheim, a drawing of which was published in the *Chicago Tribune*. Preliminary research revealed little other information about this firm. The partnership ended in December 1930 when Robert Wallace was killed when he inadvertently drove his car into the midst of a gun battle between police and two robbers they were pursuing.<sup>35</sup>

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

This four-story, north-facing building has walls covered with common brick and a flat roof. Fenestration is mainly comprised of double-hung vinyl windows that are arranged alone. The front (north) façade features an off-center main entrance comprised of non-original wood double-doors, and a projecting one-story, flat-roofed wing with walls of red pressed brick. Detailing includes corner quoins and pilasters of red brick on the front façade; jack arches of red brick above windows; and brick buttresses on the west facade. This building is internally connected on all levels to the Arborwood building on the east (original 1886 Home) and the vacant 1941 Infirmary on the south.

Alterations: All original windows and doors have been replaced. The interior has been completely renovated and does not appear to retain any original materials. All upper floors of this building were renovated about 2008, which involved the removal of their original dormitory rooms, the outlines of which can be seen on the concrete floors.



<sup>35</sup> "Robbers Shoot Architect to Death in Auto," *Chicago Tribune* (December 20, 1930); "At Concordia Cemetery," *Chicago Tribune* (May 17, 1931).

**RESOURCE NO. 5: Dormitory, 1932 (Campus Office/Commons Building)**



View of north façade, which is partially obscured by trees, looking southwest.



View of upper floors, looking southeast.

**RESOURCE NO. 5: Dormitory, 1932 (Campus Office/Commons Building)**



View of west façade with buttresses, looking east.



View looking north, showing this building's connection to the 1886 Home on the right.

**RESOURCE NO. 5: Dormitory, 1932 (Campus Office/Commons Building)**



View looking northwest from rear courtyard of 1886 Home.



View looking northwest showing 1941 Infirmary on left and 1983 Dining Hall in foreground.

**RESOURCE NO. 5: Dormitory, 1932 (Campus Office/Commons Building)**



View of vacant second floor, looking northeast. All upper floors of this building were renovated about 2008, which involved the removal of their original dormitory rooms, the outlines of which can be seen on the concrete floors.



View of vacant second floor, looking northwest. The third and fourth floors have a similar appearance.

**RESOURCE NO. 6: Infirmary, 1941 (Building D)**

**BUILDING USE**

Original: Infirmary/nursing home with dormitory style rooms

Current: Closed and vacant since 2000

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** 1940-1941

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING**

Landmark district potential: Contributing

Individual landmark potential: No

**ARCHITECT:** George H. Buckley and Robert Hookhan

**BUILDER:** J.T. Schless Construction Company

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

This four-story, flat-roofed building has walls covered with common brick that exists in a highly deteriorated state. Fenestration is mainly comprised of double-hung vinyl windows that are arranged alone, except for this building's south, sun porch wing, which features strips of windows. Many windows are broken, leaving the building open to the elements. Some windows have been removed/boarded over with plywood. No exterior doors are visible, and it appears that this building was accessed internally via either the 1932 Dormitory (now offices) on the north, or, later, via the 1983 Dining Hall on the east. Detailing is sparse on this austere building and limited to jack arches in red brick above windows.

Alterations: All original windows and doors have been replaced. This building was closed in 2000 and has received no maintenance since that time. Brickwork exists in a highly deteriorated state featuring extensive efflorescence; windows are broken or covered by plywood. Floor plans feature double-loaded corridors with dormitory-type rooms. The interior of this building exists in a deteriorated condition and was not extensively reviewed due to lack of structural safety and presence of asbestos materials. However, the first-floor corridor was viewed, as was one resident room, which contained a sink, radiator, and built-in closet with drawers. The corridor had acoustical tile ceilings with lay-in fluorescent lighting and concrete flooring.



**RESOURCE NO. 6: Infirmary, 1941 (Building D)**



View looking northwest.

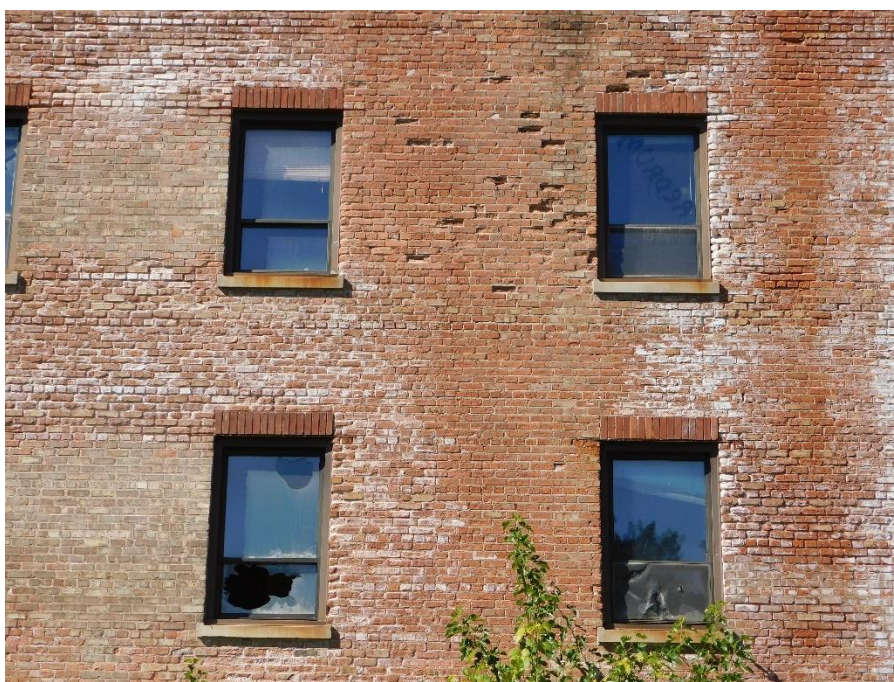


View looking northeast.

**RESOURCE NO. 6: Infirmary, 1941 (Building D)**



View looking north.



Detail of typical window openings with vinyl fenestration and highly deteriorated brickwork.

**RESOURCE NO. 6: Infirmary, 1941 (Building D)**



View looking east.



View looking northeast showing 1941 Infirmary (right) and 1968 Infirmary Annex (left), which are internally connected.

**RESOURCE NO. 6: Infirmary, 1941 (Building D)**



View of a typical patient's room.



View of a typical patient's room with sink and built-in wardrobe.

**RESOURCE NO. 6: Infirmary (Building D)**



Typical hallway.

**RESOURCE NO. 7: Infirmary Annex, 1967 (Building G)**

**BUILDING USE**

Original: Infirmary/nursing home

Current: Closed and vacant since 2000

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION**: 1967

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING**

Landmark district potential: Contributing

Individual landmark potential: No

**ARCHITECT NAME**: Unknown



**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

This three-story, flat-roofed building has walls covered with common brick. It is accessed internally from the 1941 Infirmary Building to which it is connected. The north and south facades are each divided into six bays; the west façade is divided into three bays and its two upper floors have screened-in porches. Door openings on this façade have been infilled. Fenestration is comprised of clerestory windows on the first floor; upper floor fenestration features a fixed-pane over an awning window, which are arranged in groups of three. Openings on the west façade have all been removed/boarded over, as have some first-floor window bays on the south façade.

Alterations: This building was closed in 2000 and has received no maintenance since that time. Many of the windows are broken/open, leaving the interior of the building open to the elements. Doors on the west façade have all been removed. The interior of this building exists in a deteriorated condition and was not extensively reviewed due to lack of structural safety and presence of asbestos materials. Floor plans presumably feature double-loaded corridors and dormitory-type rooms with acoustical tile ceilings. (See Figure 17.)

**RESOURCE NO. 7: Infirmary Annex, 1968 (Building G)**



View looking northeast.



View looking northeast.

**RESOURCE NO. 7: Infirmary Annex, 1968 (Building G)**



View looking northwest.



View looking southwest.

**RESOURCE NO. 8: Hintzpeter Dining Hall**

**BUILDING USE/NAME**

Original: Hintzpeter Dining Hall

Current: Vacant and shuttered since 2000

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** 1983

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING**

Landmark district potential: Non-Contributing  
(less than 50 years old)

Individual landmark potential: No

**ARCHITECT:** Unknown

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

This one-story, flat-roofed building has orange colored pressed brick walls. Fenestration on the south façade has been removed/boarded over. The east and north facades each have a single metal door. The west façade is connected to a corridor that leads to the 1932 Commons Building and the vacant Infirmary Building. The interior of this building exists in a highly deteriorated condition. The flooring is covered with debris and portions of the acoustical tile ceiling have collapsed.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION/NOTES:**

The official name of this building is the Hintzpeter Dining Hall after its donors, Herman and Eugenie Hintzpeter. Affixed to one wall of this darkened, vacant, and deteriorated building are two large marble slabs incised with the names of Altenheim's original donors and the amounts of their contributions. These slabs were originally displayed in the original 1886 Home (now Arborhood). They were likely removed when that building was renovated in the mid-1990s. Demolition of the Dining Hall should include the preservation of these two objects for display elsewhere on the grounds.



**RESOURCE NO. 8: Hintzpeter Dining Hall**



View of Dining Hall in foreground, looking northwest, with the 1932 Dormitory on left and the 1886 Original Home on right.

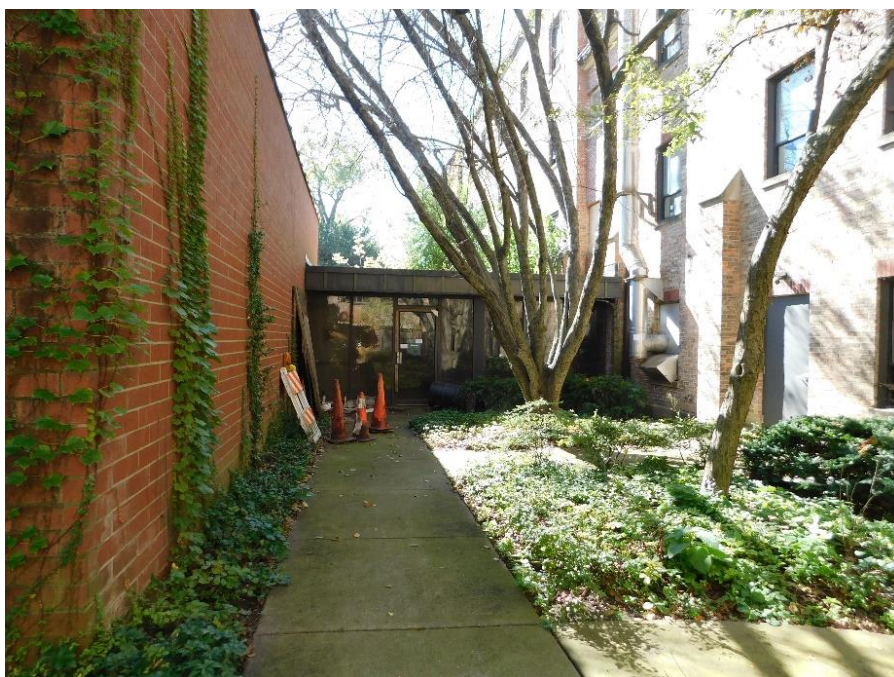


View looking southwest, showing entrance on east façade, which is adjacent to the Laundry/Chapel Building.

**RESOURCE NO. 8: Hintzpeter Dining Hall**



View looking southeast.



View looking south, showing enclosed corridor linking the Dining Hall to the 1941 Infirmary, shown on the right.

**RESOURCE NO. 8: Hintzpeter Dining Hall**

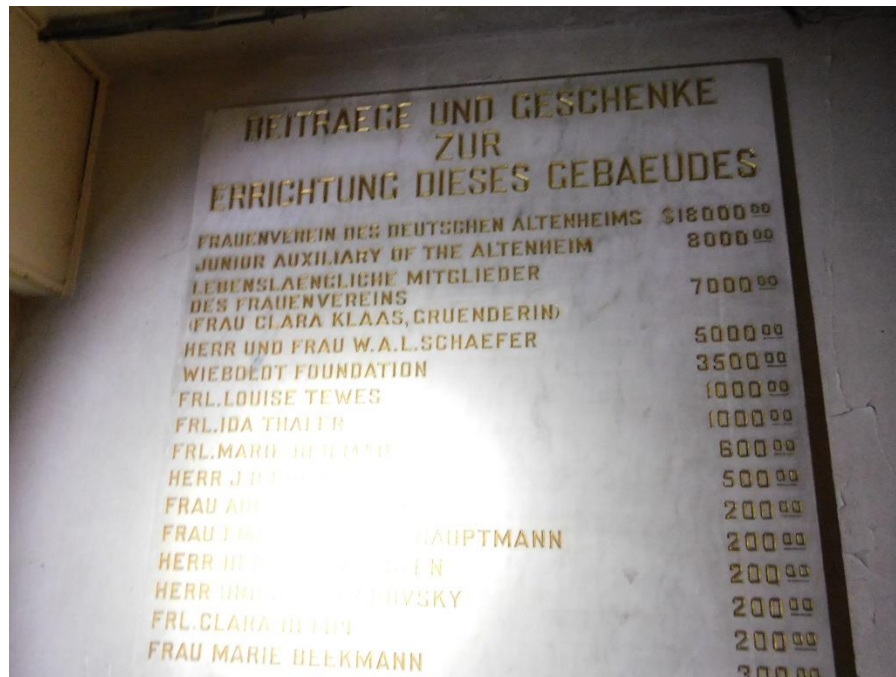


Dining Hall interior.



Dining Hall interior.

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT:  
ALTENHEIM (GERMAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME), 7822 VAN BUREN ST., FOREST PARK, IL



One of two marble tablets showing (original?) donations for Altenheim, which were originally displayed in the 1886 Home. These two tablets now hang on a wall in the long-vacant Dining Hall.

**RESOURCE NO. 9: Garage**

**BUILDING USE/NAME**

Original: Garage

Current: Vacant

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** Post-1980

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING**

Landmark district potential: Non-Contributing  
(less than 50 years old)

Individual landmark potential: No

**ARCHITECT:** Unknown

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

This six-car garage has a rectangular footprint, wood siding, gable roof, and overhead metal doors.



## SECTION 6: SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT:  
ALTENHEIM (GERMAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME), 7822 VAN BUREN ST., FOREST PARK, IL

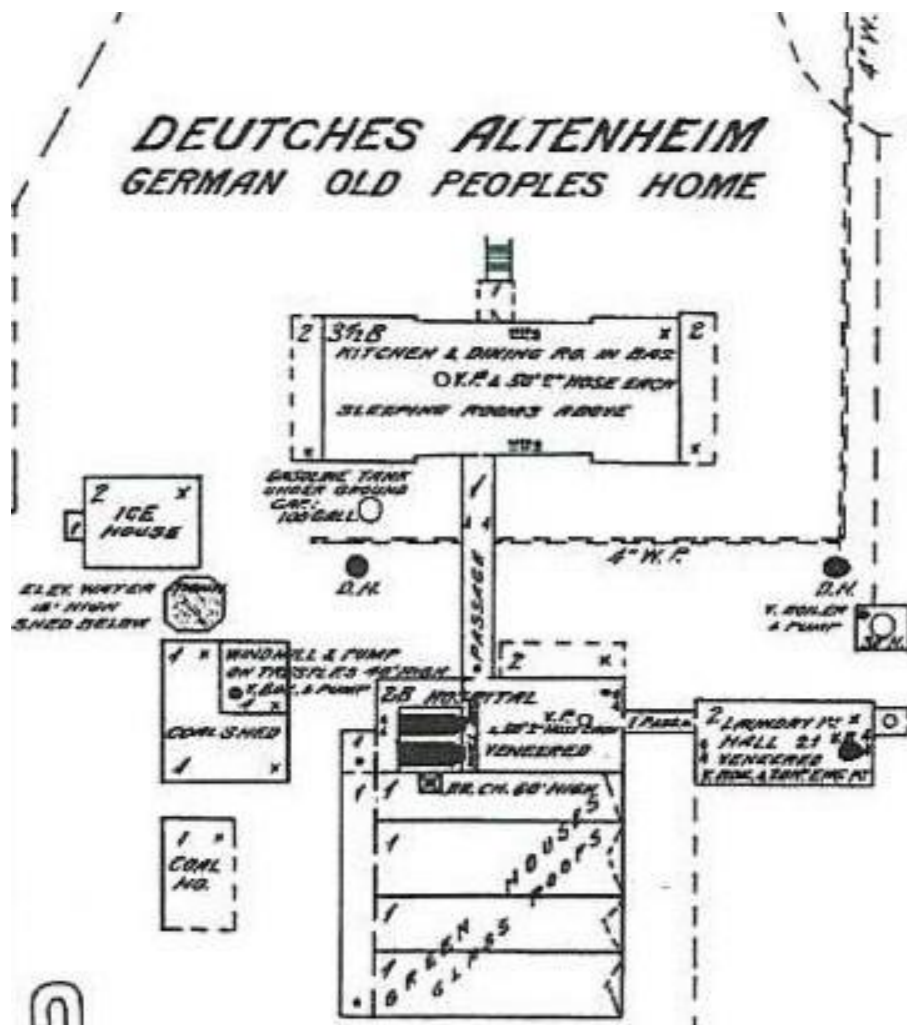


Figure 1: 1895 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing Altenheim buildings.

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT:  
ALTENHEIM (GERMAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME), 7822 VAN BUREN ST., FOREST PARK, IL

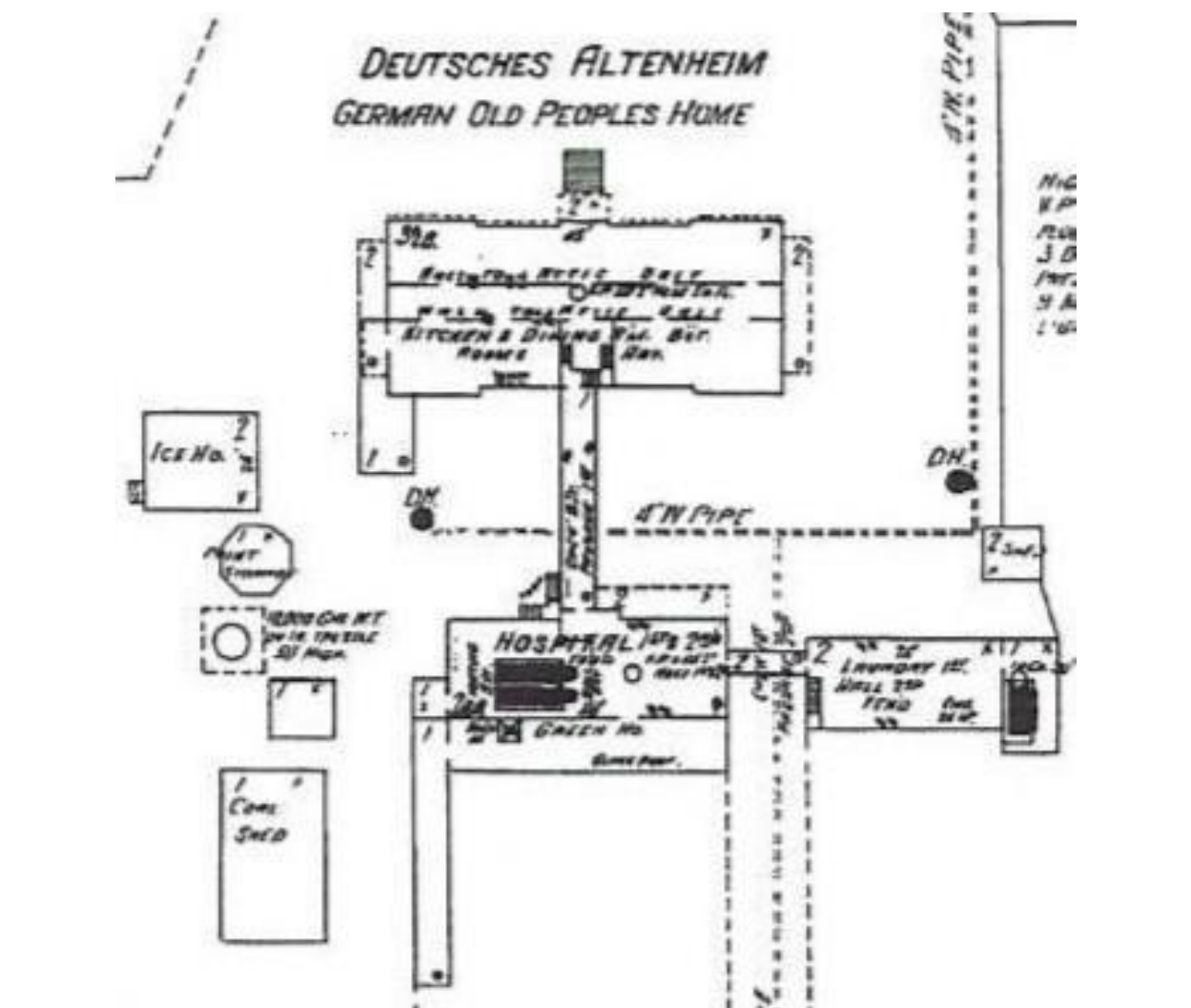


Figure 2: 1909 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing Altenheim buildings.

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT:  
ALTENHEIM (GERMAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME), 7822 VAN BUREN ST., FOREST PARK, IL

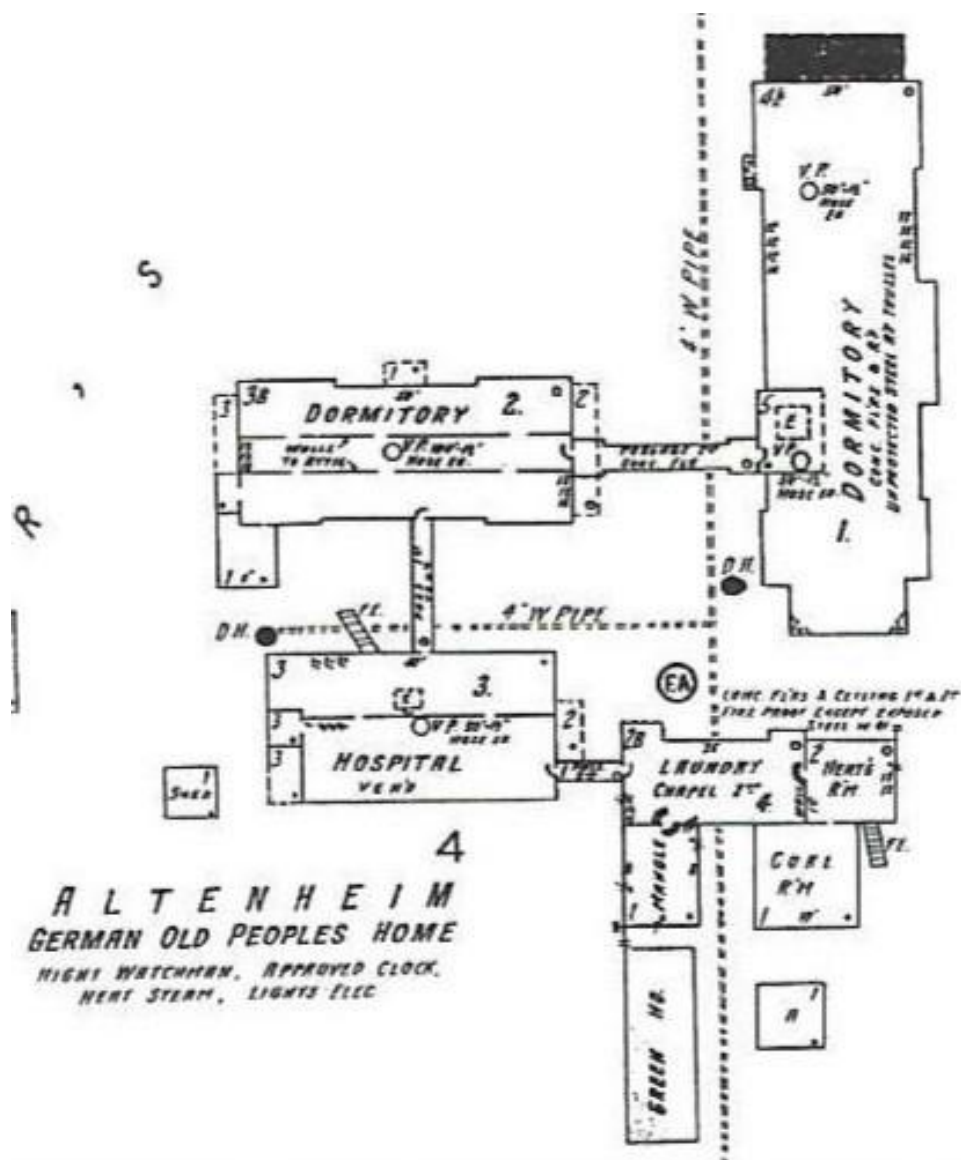


Figure 3: 1930 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing Altenheim buildings.

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT:  
ALTENHEIM (GERMAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME), 7822 VAN BUREN ST., FOREST PARK, IL

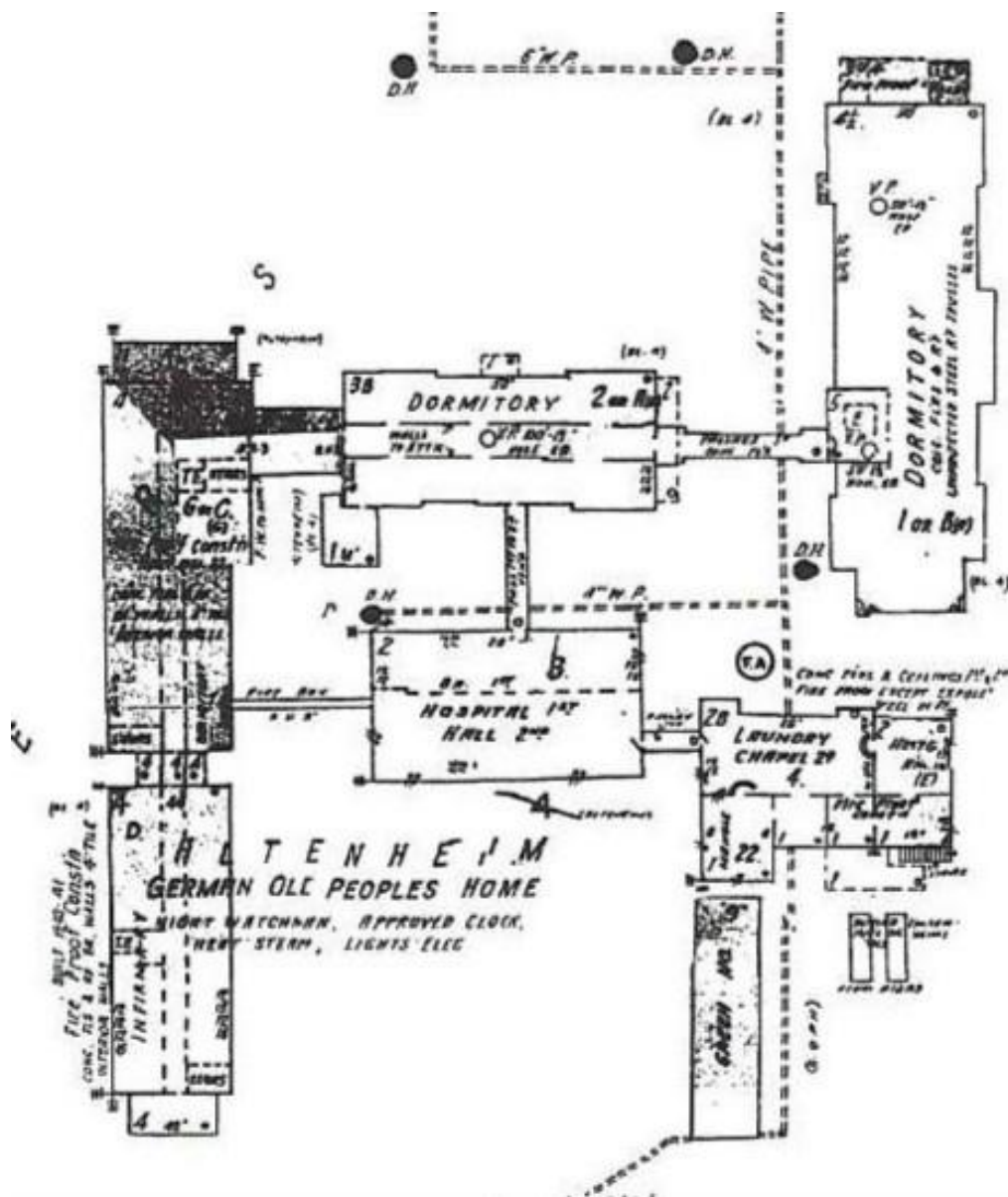


Figure 4: 1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing Altenheim buildings.

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT:  
ALTENHEIM (GERMAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME), 7822 VAN BUREN ST., FOREST PARK, IL

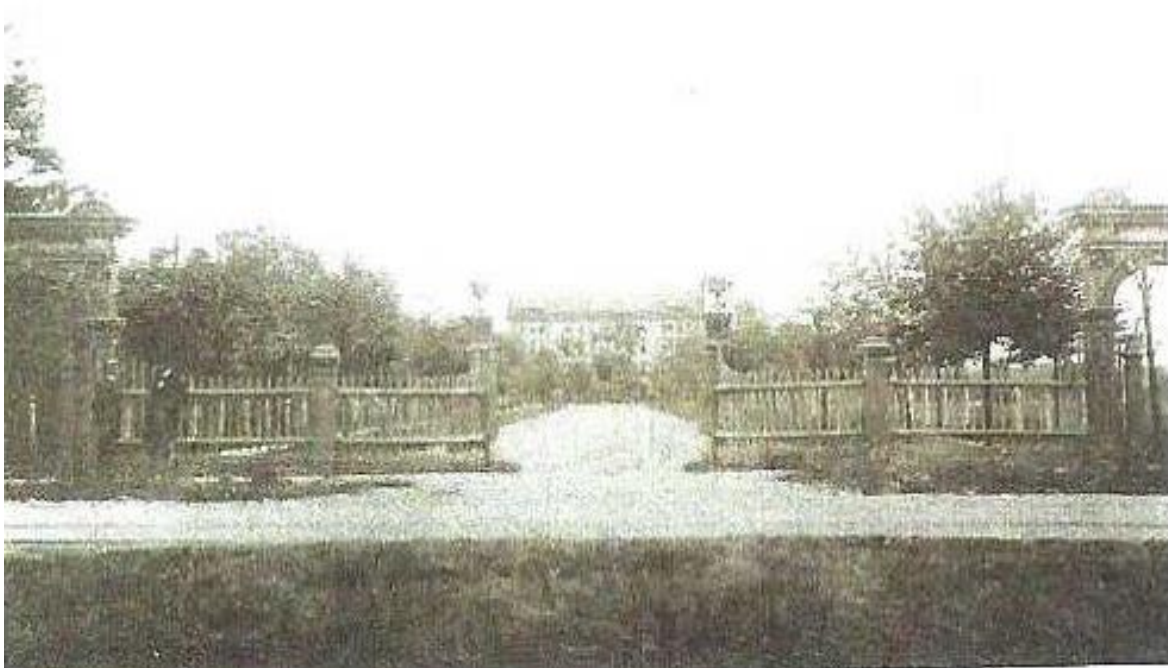


Figure 5: Original entrance to Altenheim.  
Source: Altenheim Archive.



Figure 6: Undated view of 1886 Home showing two-story Ice House on the right.  
Source: Forest Park Historical Society.

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT:  
ALTENHEIM (GERMAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME), 7822 VAN BUREN ST., FOREST PARK, IL

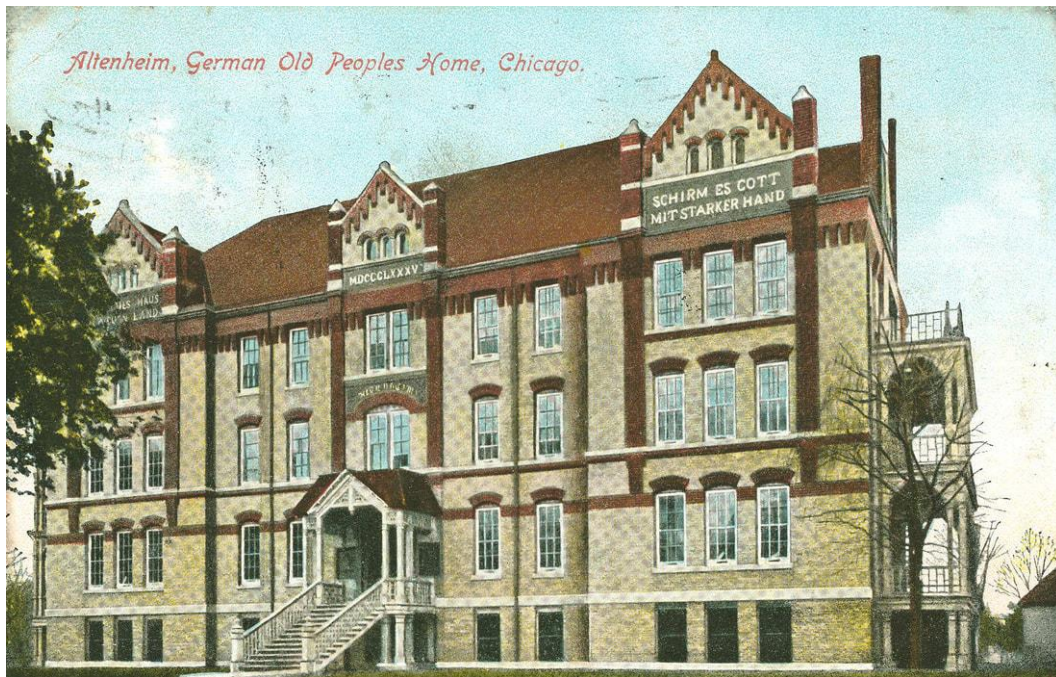


Figure 7: Postcard view of Original 1886 Home showing original front porch on front façade and sleeping porches on west façade. German inscriptions are shown on the wall dormers. Source: Forest Park Historical Society.



Figure 8: Early postcard view of the 1914 Dormitory showing link bridge to 1886 Home on the right. Source: Forest Park Historical Society.

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT:  
ALTENHEIM (GERMAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME), 7822 VAN BUREN ST., FOREST PARK, IL

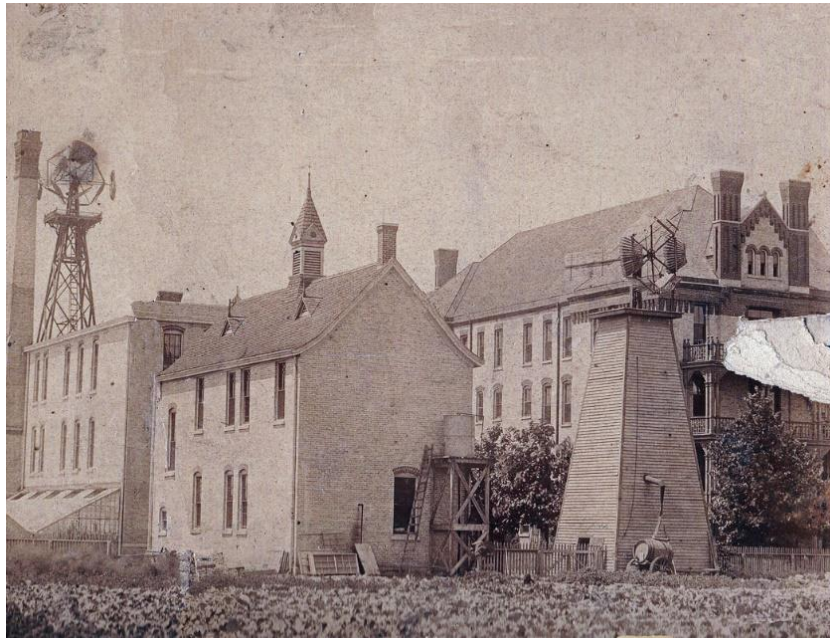


Figure 9: View of, from left to right, three-story hospital, two-story laundry/meeting hall, original 1886 Home, and windmill, taken prior to 1916. View looking northwest. Source: Forest Park Historical Society.



Figure 10: Photo taken of fire that destroyed the original laundry/chapel building in early February 1916, looking northwest. Source: *Chicago Daily News*, February 9, 1916. <https://explore.chicagocollections.org/image/chicagohistory/71/0p0x25j/>

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT:  
ALTENHEIM (GERMAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME), 7822 VAN BUREN ST., FOREST PARK, IL

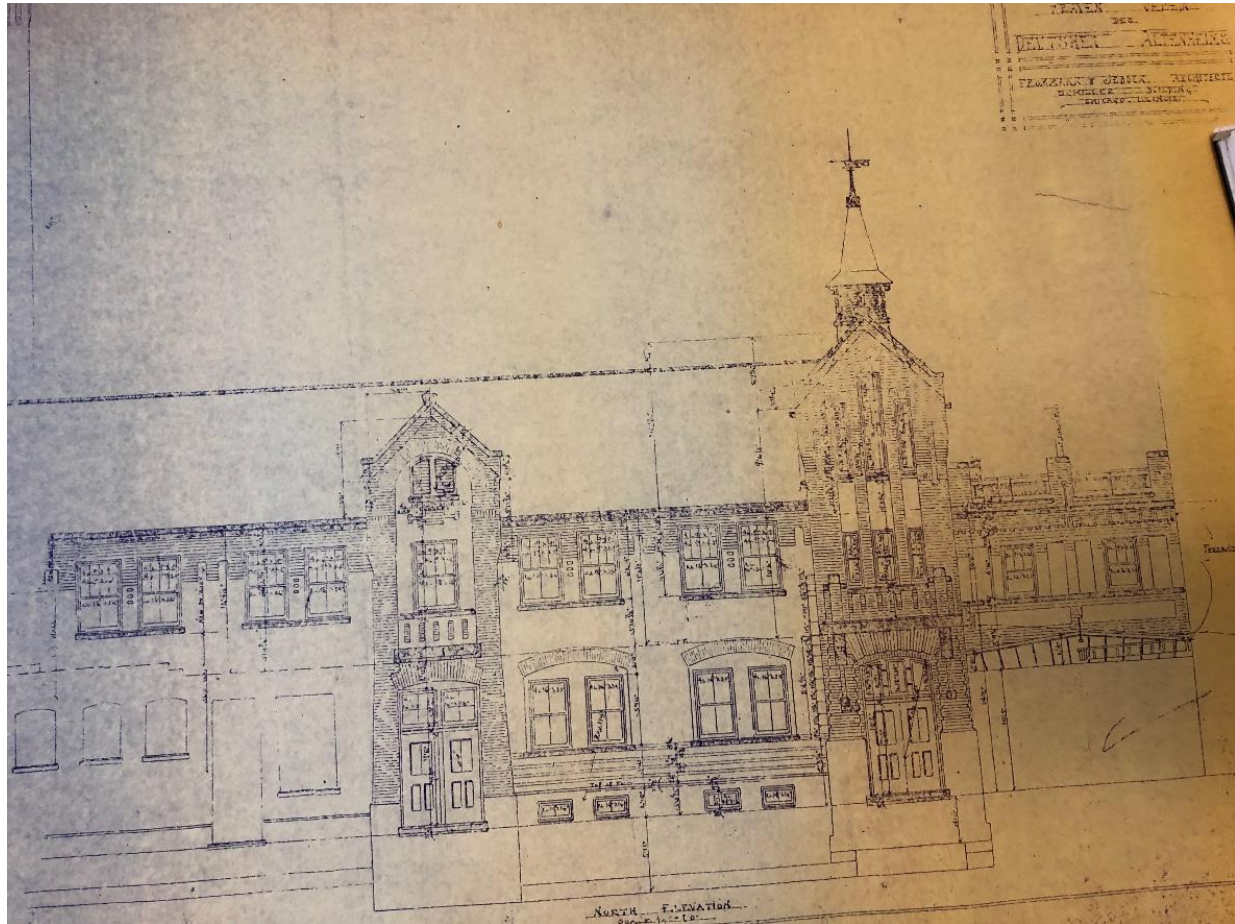


Figure 11: Frommann and Jebson, undated drawing of the north façade of the Laundry/Chapel Building at Altenheim, which the architects label as “Laundry and Meeting Hall.” Drawing was likely made in 1916 after a fire destroyed the original laundry/chapel building.  
Source: Altenheim Archives.



Figure 12: Frommann and Jebson, undated drawing of the south façade of the Laundry/Chapel Building at Altenheim, which the architects label as “Laundry and Meeting Hall.” Drawing was likely made in 1916 after a fire destroyed the original laundry/chapel building.  
Source: Altenheim Archives.

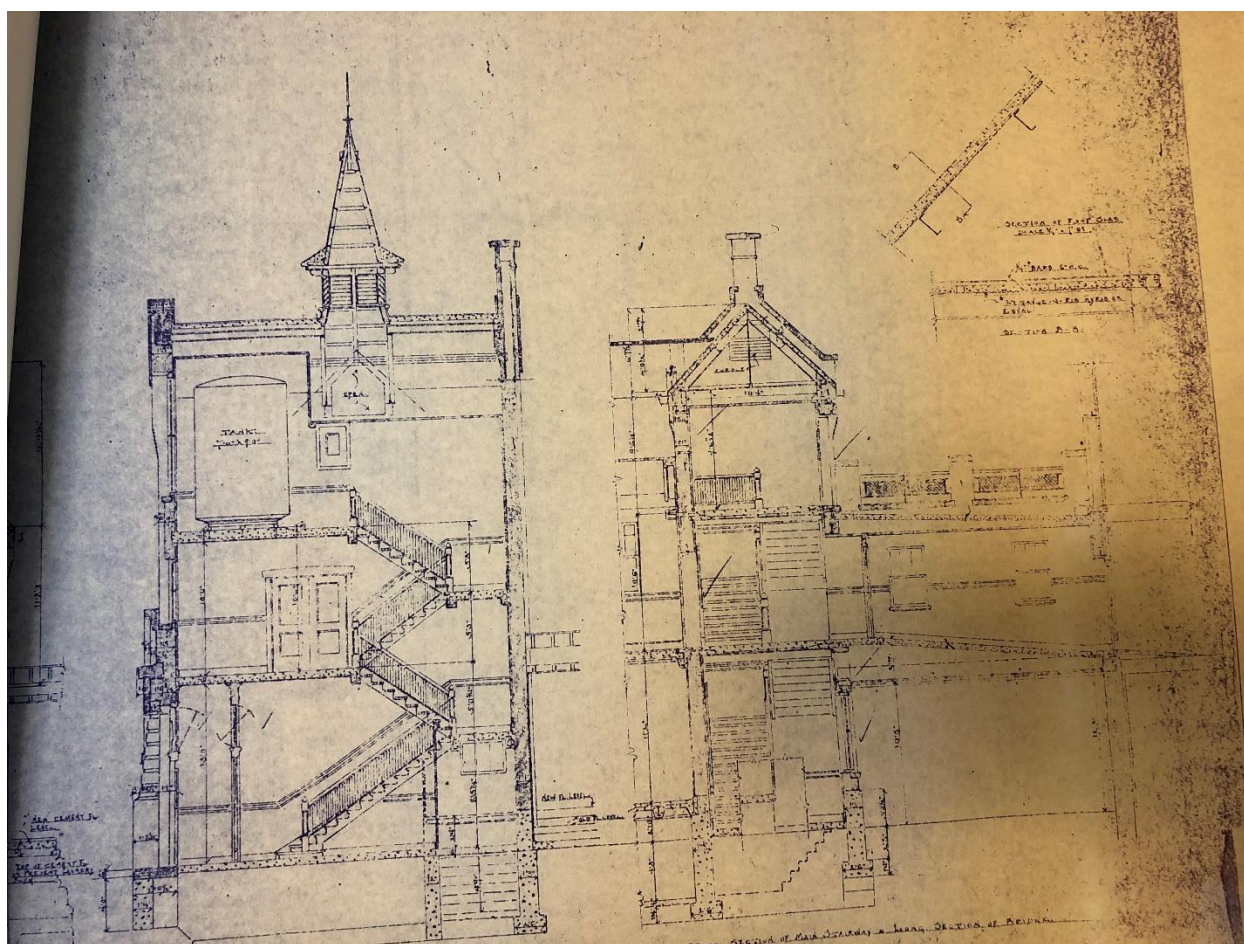


Figure 13: Frommann and Jebson, undated drawing showing stairway section of the Laundry/Chapel Building at Altenheim, which the architects label as “Laundry and Meeting Hall.” Drawing was likely made in 1916 after a fire destroyed the original laundry/chapel building. Source: Altenheim Archives.

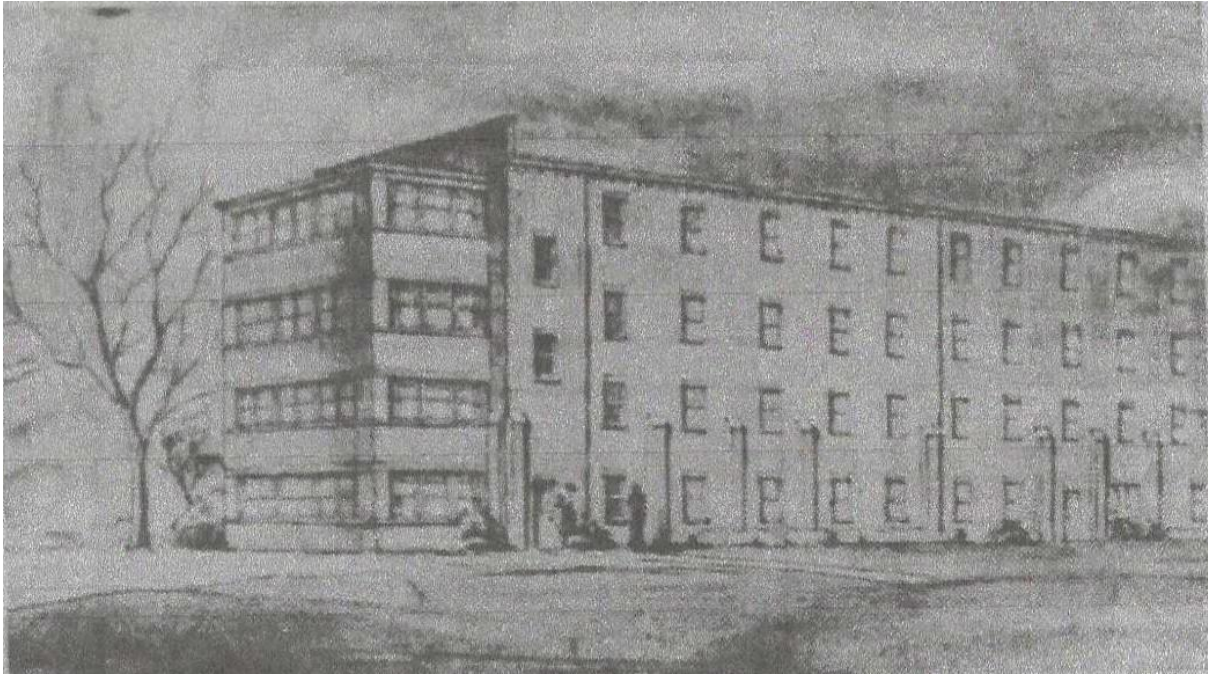


Figure 14: Drawing of new Infirmary designed for Altenheim, which was completed in 1941.  
Source: *Chicago Tribune*, September 22, 1940.



Figure 15: Drawing of new Infirmary Annex designed for Altenheim, which was completed in 1968. Source: *Chicago Tribune*, December 3, 1967.

**ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT:**  
**ALTENHEIM (GERMAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME), 7822 VAN BUREN ST., FOREST PARK, IL**



In Altenheim tradition, a new building is a fine building.

**EXPANSION.....TO BRING  
 NEW COMFORT, NEW CARE**

Love and thoughtfulness for our elderly and infirm is reflected by Altenheim's beautiful new Infirmary, now under construction.

Every donor can take deep pride in its many facilities dedicated to health and comfort.

The attractive 3-story face-brick building – fire-resistant throughout – is designed for 46 beds, as well as a dining room, nursing station, and a lounge for each nursing unit.

The interior color decor is carefully planned for a warm, interesting, attractive appearance. "Home" is still a part of the name and the spirit of Altenheim!

Figure 16: Drawing of Infirmary Annex contained in a fundraising brochure published by Altenheim in the mid-1960s.

Combination heating and cooling units for all Infirmary bedrooms will be individually controlled. West and south bedroom windows will have tinted, heat-reflecting glass.

On the ground floor, a large occupational therapy room will be the center for an arts and crafts program. In addition, there will be an exercise and physical therapy room for whirlpool baths and massage equipment, all emphasizing the physical culture program.

Other ground-floor facilities will include a modern serving kitchen, a Nurses' lounge and locker, plus linen, service and storage rooms, providing every need for a fully programmed service.

Rooms in the new Infirmary will be bright, airy, cheery.



Figure 17: Drawing of Infirmary Annex contained in a fundraising brochure published by Altenheim in the mid-1960s.

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT:  
ALTENHEIM (GERMAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME), 7822 VAN BUREN ST., FOREST PARK, IL



Figure 18: Bird's eye view of Altenheim campus as it appeared in the 1970s. Note the three-story Memorial Hall (built in 1909 as a hospital) on the site of the now-vacant Dining Hall. Source: Forest Park Historical Society.

GUARINO HISTORIC RESOURCES DOCUMENTATION

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April 13, 2021

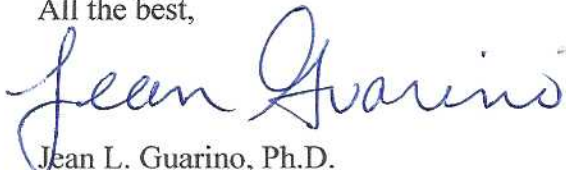
Mr. James F. Amelio, PE  
Senior Project Manager  
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.  
9575 W. Higgins Road, Suite 600  
Rosemont, IL 60018

Dear Jim,

When conducting the architectural survey of Village of Forest Park-owned buildings at Altenheim (German Old People's Home) last fall, I mistakenly identified two marble tablets (inscribed with historic donor names) in the Cafeteria Building, when upon further examination, there is only one. I wanted to clarify this fact prior to building demolition as I recommended the preservation of this artifact.

Please consider this letter an Addendum to the Architectural Resource Survey that I submitted to CBBEL on October 15, 2020.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jean Guarino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jean" and last name "Guarino" clearly legible.

Jean L. Guarino, Ph.D.  
Principal