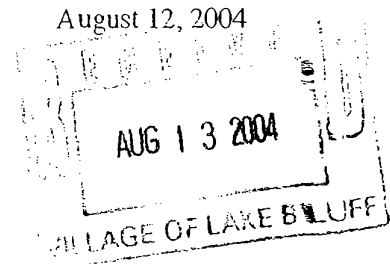


ATTACHMENT A

To: Kent Street, Village Administrator
From: Vliet Center Board of Directors
Re: Landmark Nomination



Name and Address of Applicant:

Vliet Center for Lake Bluff History,
127 E. Scranton Ave. Box 250
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Written for applicant by; Janet Nelson, 328 Crescent Drive. Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Structure Nominated for Landmark Status:

Lake Bluff Village Hall 40 East Center Avenue

The Village Hall, in its very visible location, serves as a constant reminder of the steadfast and persevering nature of the past residents who established this Village ... an emblem that should be preserved for the future.

Owner of record: Village of Lake Bluff

Description of Structure:

The Village Hall, built in 1905, is described by Historic Certification Consultants as Tudor Revival style. It is brick with stucco trim and some half timbering. The steeply pitched gable roof and tall casement windows are characteristic of this style. The building is cited as having Prairie details such as the wide overhanging eaves and the metal awning with chain supports. However, the steep gabled rooflines are not in keeping with the Prairie style.

The original structure was built with a hose tower in which to hang the canvas fire hoses to dry. This tower was removed in 1935 because of disrepair and was replaced in 1995 to commemorate the Village's centennial. The original structure also housed the police department and had a garage for the police vehicles. This area is now part of the reception area. An addition was added to the north side during the late 1990's when the interior was renovated.

Reasons to Support Proposal:

- The Lake Bluff Village Hall, was designed by Chicago architect Webster Tomlinson. Tomlinson was the only partner Frank Lloyd Wright ever had and held that position for one year.
- Two inventories of historic resources in Lake County were undertaken by the Illinois Department of Conservation in the 1970's. The Village Hall is listed on the Illinois Historic Structures Survey (October 1973) and also listed on the Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey (April 1975)
- In 1997, the Village Hall was rated as "Locally Significant" by the surveyors from Historic Certification Consultants. To obtain that rating a structure must be 50 years old or older, must be architecturally distinguished, with a high degree of integrity, and historically significant in the development of Lake Bluff.
- This structure is a potential candidate for designation on the National Register

Let this application serve as notification of nomination to the owner of record.

**Application for Landmark Designation
For the Lake Bluff Village Hall**

Presented at
January 12/2005
HPC mtg.

Introductory Comments:

(1. Landmark Application) My name is Tom Tincher. I am the president of the Board of Directors of the Vliet Center for Lake Bluff History, and tonight I am representing the Vliet Center in presenting to the Lake Bluff Historic Preservation Commission the nomination for landmark designation for the Lake Bluff Village Hall at 40 East Center Avenue.

Historic preservation is an important facet of the Vliet Center's mission. The Vliet Center has been strongly interested in and supportive of the enactment of Lake Bluff's Historic Preservation Ordinance and the establishment of the current Historic Preservation Commission. Under the provisions of our village's preservation ordinance, the Vliet Center Board is one of four entities authorized to nominate properties for landmark designation—the other three being the property owner, the Historic Preservation Commission itself, and the Lake Bluff Village Board. However, the Vliet Center envisions that eventually its primary role in the area of historic preservation will be that of serving as a resource for historical data for property owners and the Commission itself to utilize in determining whether specific properties qualify as historic landmarks.

That being said, in order to assist in establishing protocols for the nomination process during the commission's formative stages and to ensure that significant major landmarks are designated, the Vliet Center is pleased to nominate the Village Hall for landmark designation.

Presentation:

(2. Current photo) The Village Hall, in its prominent location, serves as a constant reminder of the steadfast and persevering nature of the past residents who established this Village. It is an emblem that should be preserved for the future.

(7. c.1940 photo) The hose tower was removed in 1935 because of disrep.

(8. 1970s photo) In the 1970s, as part of an interior remodeling project, the garage door was converted into an entryway which served as the primary public access to the reception area.

(9. Crane/tower photo) The hose tower was replaced in 1995, through the generous contributions of Lake Bluff residents, to commemorate the Village's Centennial.

(10. Current photo) The addition to the north (and east??) side(s) of the building was constructed during the late 1990s and the interior was further renovated.

(11. Landmark Designation Criteria--General Considerations)

The nomination of the Lake Bluff Village Hall at 40 East Center is based on multiple landmark designation criteria set forth in the Preservation Ordinance:

◆ The structure has significant character, interest, and value as part of the cultural and architectural history of the Village

And

◆ The activities associated with the structure, its unique location and physical characteristics make it an established and focal point of reference in the Village.

(12. Postcard photo)

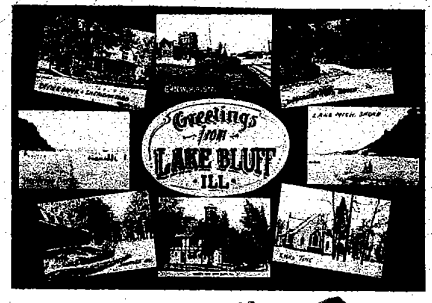
- ✓ The Village Hall is only 10 years younger than the incorporated Village of Lake Bluff itself. It is our first and only municipal government building and is a village icon.
- ✓ Its council chambers are and historically have been the primary meeting location for numerous special municipal boards and commissions as well as the Lake Bluff Village Board of Trustees itself.

Presented to
HPC at Public Hearing
1-12-05
S.S.

LANDMARK DESIGNATION CRITERIA

General Considerations

- The structure has significant character, interest, and value as part of the cultural and architectural history of the Village
- The activities associated with the structure, its unique location, and physical characteristics make it an established and focal point of reference in the Village



LANDMARK DESIGNATION CRITERIA

Architectural Significance

- The building involves the efforts of a notable architect of the period... Webster Tomlinson
- The building exemplifies a particular architectural style of the early 1900's.

LANDMARK DESIGNATION CRITERIA

Historic Significance

- The Building has a strong association with the organization of the Village.
- A building from which many persons have contributed and participated in the historic and cultural events of the Village

SDA Memo 112-IV Webster Tomlinson Biography

12/14/04

Webster Tomlinson Biography: this version drafted 12-4-04. Revised 12-5-04. Revised 12-6-04. Revised 12-8-04. Revised 12-8-04. Revised 12-14-04.

Architect Henry Webster Tomlinson: aka Webster Tomlinson.

Researched by Paul Bergmann, December 4, 2004.

Henry Webster Tomlinson lived from 1870 to 1942. He designed the Lake Bluff Village Hall in 1904 and several residences in Lake Bluff. The minutes of the Dec. 9, 1904 Lake Bluff Board of Trustees meeting state that the contract signed for the "building of the Village Hall to Henry Odenbreit, for \$6500., according to the plans and specifications drawn by Webster Tomlinson, Architect, whose plans are also hereby accepted and approved." Elmer Vliet notes in his History of Lake Bluff that the total payments to Webster Tomlinson were \$185.09 including 75 cents for keys.

Tomlinson is principally known for his work at Stateville Penitentiary in Joliet, Illinois. While designing Stateville Tomlinson patented several design techniques, including a wall anchoring system for economically building freestanding walls that reach 33 feet in height. In addition to building the Penitentiary, Tomlinson designed the Presbyterian Church and several commercial buildings in Joliet.

He was eulogized in the Joliet Herald-News (reprinted in the Illinois Society of Architects Monthly Bulletin) for his architectural works in Joliet and also for his compassion for the felons that passed through the prison. The eulogy said that Tomlinson always had time to speak to the felons to urge them on their way back into society and that, "governors, high state officials and top rank men in business were his friends."

In addition to his work in Joliet, Tomlinson is also known as a founding member of the "Prairie School" of architecture that flourished in Chicago and the Midwest from the turn of the last Century to 1914-1916. He was a member of a special group of architects that includes Frank Lloyd Wright—Wright and Tomlinson were partners, along with such other well know architects as Walter Burley Griffin, Dwight Perkins, Arthur Heun, Richard Schmidt and Hugh Garden, James Gamble Rogers and others.

This group of "The Eighteen," as they called themselves, practiced in the Steinway Building in Chicago. The Steinway Building was a place where many young and ambitious architects gathered to share office space and ideas. It is said that the offices at the Steinway Hall building were a "highly stimulating environment" for young architects. Architectural historian Thomas E. Tallmadge said "an ideal artistic atmosphere pervaded the colony in the old lofts of the Steinway Hall." Out of this group grew the Prairie School of architecture.

The Eighteen was actually a dining club that met at the Bismarck Restaurant. The members would meet monthly for dinners in the private rooms where they discussed design problems and architectural issues. The members of the club constitute some of the best architects practicing in Chicago in their era. Frank Lloyd Wright is the most famous and had his own national reputation. Walter Burley Griffin is a well-known protégé of Wright's. James Gamble Rogers designed the Chicago campus of Northwestern University. Richard Schmidt and Hugh Garden later formed one of the largest hospital design firms in the country. The list goes on for this seminal group.

Many members of The Eighteen executed substantial commissions in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. Rogers designed the Walgreen's building in downtown Lake Forest as well as the AB Dick estate—now the grounds of Lake Forest Hospital. Frank Handy and JK Cady designed several prominent residences in Lake Forest. Hugh Garden designed residences at 550 Deerpath and 95 Waukegan Road. Alfred Granger—with his partner Charles Frost--designed the Lake Bluff and Lake Forest train stations, along with many other stations along the Chicago and North Western Railway. Arthur Heun designed 711 Park Place in Lake Bluff and Mellody Farm, the JO Armour estate—now Lake Forest Academy in Lake Forest. Howard van Doren Shaw designed Stonebridge—the William Kelley estate in Lake Bluff, now Harrison Conference Center, along with Market Square and many other residences in Lake Forest. Irving and Allen Pond also designed fine residences in Lake Forest.

SDA Memo 112-IV Webster Tomlinson Biography

12/14/04

This seminal group participated in several architecture design groups including The Chicago Architectural Club and the Architectural Club of America. In 1899 the Chicago Architectural Club participated in the formation of the Architectural Club of America's founding meeting, held in Cleveland, Ohio on June 2-3, 1899. Webster Tomlinson attended, along with his business partner, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Dwight Perkins. Louis Sullivan was asked to give the opening speech, but was not able to attend. Tomlinson gave his address in Sullivan's place. Newspaper accounts of the meeting said the speech "set the tone" for the meeting and was "considered a ringing success."

The two architectural groups held annual design competitions over the next 20 years that were critically acclaimed throughout the United States. Both competitions published elaborate illustrated catalogues that today provide great insight into the design theories of the Prairie School designs concepts as well as other design concepts popular during the era. Tomlinson appears to have been active in both groups.

There is some confusion over Tomlinson's name. This confusion is explained in an amusing story that occurs during his partnership with Frank Lloyd Wright. As required, Wright filed the records of the new business venture with the State Board of Examiners of Architects. He listed Tomlinson under his then current name of Webster Tomlinson. Tomlinson had dropped his first name, Henry, and adopted his middle name, Webster, as his first name. The Board objected to Tomlinson practicing under a false name and wrote a long letter to Wright protesting Wright's practice with an unlicensed architect. The letter cited Illinois law and threatened to revoke Wright's license if he didn't cease practicing with an unlicensed architect. Tomlinson's duly filed his name change with the Board and the controversy was settled.

In addition to the Lake Bluff Village Hall, Tomlinson designed the JH Howard summer cottage at 710 East Prospect in 1903. The house was published in Western Architect in April 1903. Tomlinson also designed 618 Maple Avenue in the Prairie style. He designed several apartment buildings in Chicago, including 3131 S. Calumet Avenue, 1905; 829 Junior Terrace, 1906; 2667 W. Washington Blvd, 1903 (multifamily residences).

Sources:

The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and his Midwest Contemporaries. H. Allen Brooks. W.W. Norton & Co., New York, NY, 1972; reissued University of Toronto Press and W.W. Norton & Co. 1996. Pp 30, 31, 37, 38, 122, 342. (paperback).

Lake Bluff The First Hundred Years. Elmer B. Vliet, Edited by: Virginia Mullery. Published by: Elmer Vliet Historical Center. pp. 91-93.

Village of Lake Bluff, Illinois: A Summary and Architectural Survey prepared by Historic Preservation Consultants (Chicago). Lake Bluff, IL: Vliet Center for Lake Bluff History and the Village of Lake Bluff, 1998.

Western Architect 1903 APR., v2, pl fol p. 22. JH Howard House.

Illinois Society of Architects Monthly Bulletin. 1942 Aug-Sept., v 27, p8. Obituary.

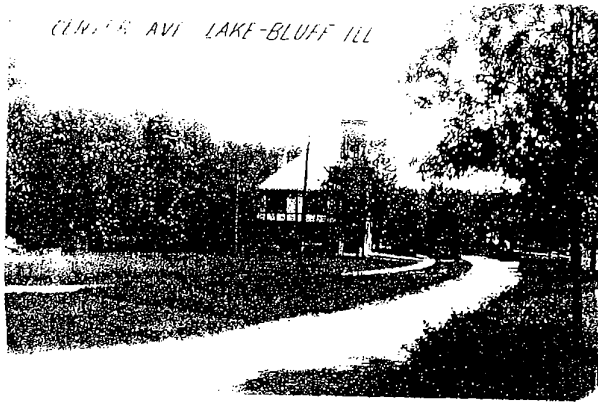
Inland Architect and News Record. 1901 Mar., v. 37, p 16. Frank Lloyd Wright and Henry Webster Tomlinson entered co-partnership, office in Steinway building, Chicago and studio, Oak Park.

American Architect and Building News. 1909 Dec. 22 v. 96, pt2, 1774, p. 268-271. Apartment Houses by Webster Tomlinson, architect.

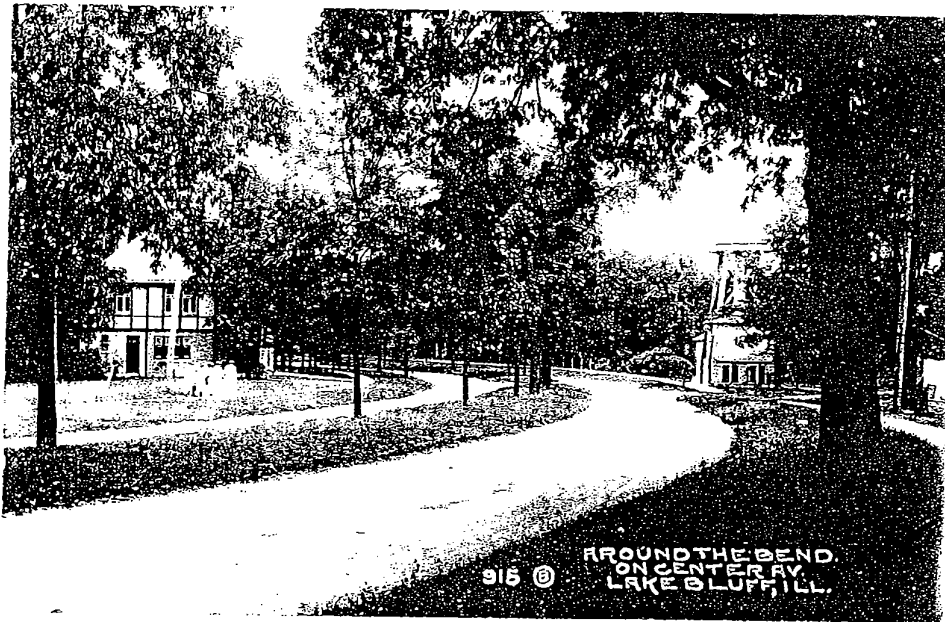
Susan Benjamin, architectural historian; telephone interview 12-1-04.

Arthur Miller, Archivist and Librarian for Special Collections. Lake Forest College. Telephone interviews and correspondence. November & December 2004) Miller notes that Tomlinson is listed as Webster T. Tomlinson in the Village of Lake Bluff 1998 Architectural Survey.

CENTER AVI LAKE-BLUFF ILL



Circa
1908



Circa
1912

915 © AROUND THE BEND
ON CENTER AV.
LAKE BLUFF, ILL.

TOWN HALL
LAKE BLUFF ILL



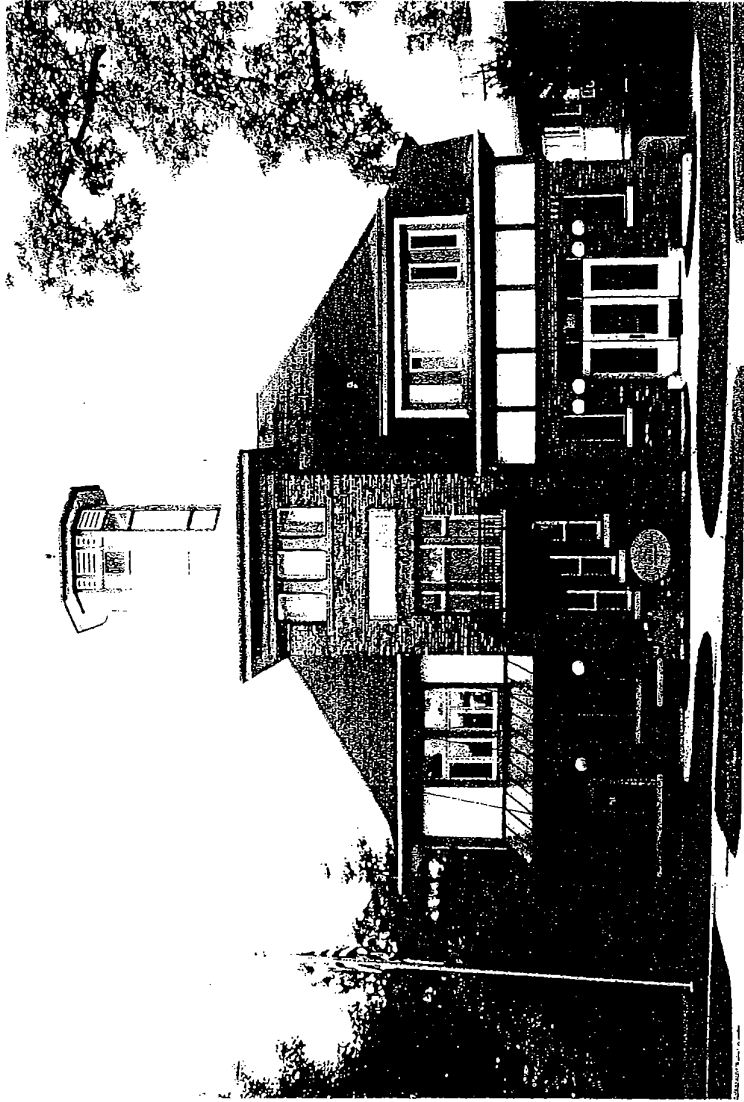
1920



1930's



1940's



1995