

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC

GEORGE B. DRYDEN HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1314 Ridge Avenue

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Evanston ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10th

STATE

Illinois (60201)

CODE

COUNTY

Cook

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
___ DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___ AGRICULTURE	___ MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	___ PRIVATE	___ UNOCCUPIED	___ COMMERCIAL	___ PARK
___ STRUCTURE	___ BOTH	___ WORK IN PROGRESS	___ EDUCATIONAL	___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ ENTERTAINMENT	___ RELIGIOUS
___ OBJECT	___ IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	___ SCIENTIFIC
	___ BEING CONSIDERED	___ YES: UNRESTRICTED	___ INDUSTRIAL	___ TRANSPORTATION
		___ NO	___ MILITARY	___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Board of Education, School District #65

STREET & NUMBER

1314 Ridge Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Evanston ___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois (60201)

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds - Cook County

STREET & NUMBER

Cook County Building - 118 North Clark St.

CITY, TOWN

Chicago,

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Structures in Evanston, Cook County, Illinois

DATE

(Interim Report) October 1972 ___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Illinois Historic Structure Survey Ref. # 216 W-25/3

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Reference:

Drawings entitled "residence Ridge Avenue and Dempster Street for Mr. George B. Dryden", dated May 27, 1916, Sheets 1 through 13, and 29, prepared by George W. Maher, Architect.

Site:

The long dimension of the two plus acres site extends 437 feet along the north side of Dempster Street between Ridge Avenue to the east and Asbury Street to the west, and the short dimensions of the site extend 213 north along Ridge Avenue and 212 feet north along Asbury Street. The main house and the garage are placed some twenty feet south of the north property line. A brick drive; leading from Ridge Avenue to the garage and beyond to Asbury Street, passes under the porte cochere which extends to within two feet of the north property line. Set backs from Ridge Avenue and Dempster Street are 120 feet and 96 feet, respectively. A walk of red brick pavers laid in herringbone pattern leads from the main entrance to the Ridge Avenue sidewalk. The site is graded up to the house, the first floor elevation being some seven feet above Ridge Avenue and Dempster Street average sidewalk grades and about ten feet above Asbury sidewalk grade. Broad terraces of brick pavers project from the east and south faces of the house. Cut stone balustrades bordered the terraces. Original landscaping plans are not available. However, it can be assumed that the extensive lawn, gently sloping from the terraces to the property line, still offers the setting the architect intended. A number of mature trees still surround the house, adding to its dignified character.

Main House:

Georgian Revival; 3 stories and basement, modified L-shaped; dormered gable roofs; two story pedimented entrance portico with balcony, one piece stone columns with corinthian capitals; wood cornice, modillions and frieze; tile roofing shingles; columned side porticos (originally balustraded with wood balusters); red brick walls laid in flemish bond; brick quoins; brick and cut stone arches with keystones over windows; wood double-hung sash and wood shutters; wood bay window at the dining room; and brick chimneys with stone caps.

Structural elements (except for roof framing) are reinforced concrete and fire-proofed steel. Walls are 1 foot-9 inches of solid brick; floors are 1 foot-5 inches of reinforced concrete and clay tile and stairway slabs are of reinforced concrete. Except for the roof structure above the third floor and the extensive wood paneling and trim throughout the interior, the building is of fireproof construction and is extraordinarily well constructed. Also of a technical nature, the house included a number of mechanical conveniences such as a built-in vacuum system and water purification system.

The main hall is accessible from the porte cochere as well as from the front entrance below the portico. The grandstairway to the second floor, with a handsomely proportioned Palladian window at the first floor landing, serves as a focal point for the main entry hall. At the base of an equally elegant stair directly below the

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grand stairway were a lavish, panelled billiard room with fireplace and generous trophy room.

Two sets of sliding wood doors separated the perfectly symmetrical, 20 feet by 40 feet, wainscoted living room from the main hall. Centered on the facing wall was a fireplace detailed with paired corinthian columns, a simplified entablature forming the mantelpiece. Flanking it were wood and glass double doors leading to the sun porch.

The library and dining room, both panelled and with fireplaces, across the main hall from the living room, completed the symmetrical plan.

At the end of the main hall behind the grand stairway is the glass enclosed breakfast room. Outside this room is a continuous brick terrace which unites the breakfast room with the sun porch and continues across the front elevation until it terminates at the porte cochere.

The master bedroom (20 feet by 24 feet) and adjoining sleeping porch and balconies, individual dressing rooms and bathrooms, three smaller bedrooms (one guest chamber and two children's bed rooms, each with dressing rooms and baths), and two maids' rooms and bath were located on the second floor.

Running north and south, the width of the house, the 25 feet by 64 feet ballroom with stage and dressing rooms occupied most of the third floor space. Another guest room and maid's room were also located on the third floor.

Garage:

Georgian Revival, two-story and basement; design elements and materials of construction similar to main house.

The vehicle area of the garage was accessible from the Ridge Avenue driveway and also from Asbury Street. A vehicle turn-table permitted use of four parking spaces for carriages and automobiles. The first floor also accommodated three horse stalls, two cow stalls and a chicken house. The outdoor chicken run was on the east side of the building; the cow yard was behind a tall brick wall facing Asbury Street.

The second floor of the garage contained two apartments, as well as the hay loft and the grain bin.

The garage basement, connected by a utility tunnel to the main house, contained the steam boilers, coal storage room, water treatment room, and miscellaneous equipment and storage spaces.

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Existing Condition:

In 1960, upon purchase of the property by School District 65, the main house and the garage were converted to administrative office use and maintenance and service use, respectively. At that time a number of rooms were subdivided into small office spaces. Two open porches were enclosed with brick walls. A central air conditioning system was installed and, in some rooms, ceilings were dropped to accommodate ductwork. The remodeling work has not significantly altered the interior spaces and details and restoration could fortunately be accomplished with relative ease. Millwork, stair balusters and treads, and wood flooring are generally in excellent condition. The casework originally in kitchen, pantry, and other service areas has been removed.

The only change that has occurred in the exterior has been the removal of the cut stone balustrades bordering the brick terraces and the upper story wood balustrades around porch roofs and balconies. Generally, all exterior materials appear to be in good condition; settlement does not appear to have occurred; routine maintenance has been successful in preventing deterioration of building components.

History

In December of 1911, the Evanston Index reported that Mr. and Mrs. George B. Dryden had purchased the property at 1314 Ridge Avenue in Evanston. A generous half block, it included a large house that the Drydens intended to remove in order to build an even larger and more substantial home of their own.

George Bascomb Dryden was born in Olmstead Falls, Ohio on July 6, 1869, and was educated in the public schools. On June 20, 1901, Mr. Dryden married Ellen A. Andrus, the niece and heiress of George Eastman of Rochester, New York, founder of Eastman Kodak Company. By 1911 Mr. Dryden had distinguished himself as a prominent Chicago industrialist, having founded the Hoof Pad Company, later known as the Dryden Rubber Company. Dryden served on the Board of Directors of Borg Warner Corporation, City National Bank and Trust Company and Marbon Corporation. He was also a Director of the Rubber Manufacturer's Association. During World Wars I and II Mr. Dryden served as the Chief of the Fourth Procurement District, Chemical Warfare Service of the U. S. Army.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Dryden were especially active in community affairs. Mrs. Dryden served on the Board of Directors of the Evanston Infant Welfare Society and Northwestern University Settlement, while Mr. Dryden served on the Boards of Northwestern University and Evanston Hospital. Each of these institutions received a half-million

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dollars at the time of his death. His civic activities were not confined to Evanston as he also served on the Board of the Chicago Zoological Society and the Chicago Athletic Club. As an ardent Republican, Mr. Dryden was a personal friend of President Herbert Hoover. President Calvin Coolidge, another personal friend, was often a guest in the Dryden Home. General Charles Gates Dawes, Vice-President of the United States under Coolidge and long-time Evanston resident, was an intimate friend of the Dryden family.

Mrs. Dryden died on January 21, 1950. Her estate was estimated at over three million dollars. When Mr. Dryden died on September 9, 1959 his estate was valued at over six million dollars, with charitable and educational bequests totalling over two millions dollars. The Drydens were survived by two children, Ellen Marian (later Mrs. H. Curry Dearborn) and George Eastman Dryden.

By 1916 the Drydens were ready to begin construction of their new home and had engaged the services of the prominent Chicago architect, George Washington Maher.

George Washington Maher was born in Mill Creek, West Virginia on December 26, 1864, attended public schools in New Albany, Indiana and in 1878, at age 13, began his architectural training in the office of Bauer and Hill in Chicago. After completing a brief apprenticeship, he entered the office of J. L. Silsbee where he later worked beside George Grant Elmslie and Frank Lloyd Wright until 1888 when he left the Silsbee office to enter private practice. Best known for his bold and individualistic residential architecture, Maher was considered one of the key members of the so-called "Prairie School". It was in Silsbee's office that George Maher and Frank Lloyd Wright began to formulate principles of design that would eventually lead to a distinct and modern style. A number of notable Maher houses exists today and included among them are the Farson house in Oak Park, the Magerstadt house in Chicago, the Schultz house in Winnetka and the Seymour house in Chicago. Maher's best known residential design, the Patten house in Evanston, now unfortunately demolished, was located only two blocks from the Dryden house and occupied a commanding location along Ridge Avenue, just as the Dryden house continues to do today.

H. Allen Brooks has described Maher's influence as an architect as being "profound and prolonged and, in its time,...certainly as great as was Wright's. Compared with the conventional architecture of the day, his work showed freedom and originality, and his interiors were notable for the open and flowing, if not sophisticated, space."

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In his later years, Maher expanded his practice to include city planning and he produced a number of town plans for various suburban communities within the Chicago area. But it is to George Maher as a preservationist that we owe a great and everlasting debt. Maher was one of the individuals who were primarily responsible for the rescue and restoration of Charles B. Atwood's Fine Arts Building from the World Colombian Exposition. It now serves as the Museum of Science and Industry. It is fitting to note that George Maher was made a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects for his significant contributions to the profession, the same year he designed the Dryden house.

In May, 1916, Maher had completed the plans for the Dryden estate. Permits for the construction of a thirty room house and garage were issued on June 28, 1916. As early as July 8, 1916, the American Contractor reported that the bids for the Dryden house had been let. In August foundations were complete and by mid-summer the first floor walls were up. When finally completed, the cost was \$150,000. The Drydens were able to occupy the house by the late summer of 1917.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)-history	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1916

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

George W. Maher

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As a design by George Maher in a neo-colonial style, the Dryden house stands as a significant example of Maher's prowess as an architect and as an articulate testimonial to his ability to express the needs of the situation and of the client, who in this instances, showed an abiding interest in the Georgian Revival style. In designing the Dryden house, Maher provided a pure Georgian composition that was carefully and accurately detailed.

Although Maher's work is normally associated with the more progressive attitudes of the Prairie School the Dryden house clearly illustrates that he was well versed in the architecture of the American past. Maher believed, as do some "progressive" architects today, that no architect is capable of doing creative work who is not so grounded. Much of Maher's work, before and after the Dryden house, is vaguely historic in character and, unlike Frank Lloyd Wright, Maher never totally made a dramatic stylistic break into modernism. It is well known that even Wright ventured into eclecticism when the need arose. The Blossom, McArthur and Bagley houses are manifestations of that need. Just as these houses demonstrate Wright's facile mind and masterly control of his subject, the Dryden house affirms Maher's adroit manipulation of and versatility with a mode that he was not typically associated with.

The Drydens were wise in their selection of Maher as their architect as he was able to give them a house that closely followed the spirit of "Uncle George's" home in Rochester, New York, without replicating it. Eastman's house can best be described as Georgian Revival (built 1905) but it is somewhat ill-proportioned and contains a number of mixed metaphors. The Dryden house is a far more subtle and skillfully handled design. As such it was well suited to the social and economic position the Drydens held.

The dignified and monumental quality of the house is still intact and it continues to set the tone for one of Evanston's most distinguished streets. The generous dimensions of the site were unusual in an intensely developed urban setting at the time and are even more so today as larger estates are inexorably subdivided. Thus it is not only one of the few grand mansions of Evanston but also one of the very few with its original site remaining.

Finally, the Dryden house stands as a memorial to a time in our history when architects were trying to develop a type of residential architecture that would best express the ideals of American democracy. The Dryden house represents a significant contribution to one of the avenues of expression being investigated. It explicitly combines the then current interest in historicism with a fervent patriotism in a way that is visibly notable and aesthetically gratifying.

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Rudd, J. William "George W. Maher - Architect
of the Prairie School" The Prairie
School Review, Vol 1, No.1
(First Quarter 1964): pp. 5-10

"Residence for George B. Dryden, Evanston
Illinois. George W. Maher, F. A. .I. A., Architect."
The Western Architect, Vol. 29, No.1,
January, 1920, pp. 10-11, plates 1-12.

Who's Who in America Vol. 27, 1952-53,
A. N. Marquis Company, pp. 682-683.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brooks, H. Allen, The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and His Midwest Contemporaries, 1972, pp. 34-37, 67-68, 205-206, 283-284, 329-331.

(continued on separate sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 + acres

QUADRANGLE NAME _____			QUADRANGLE SCALE _____		
UTM REFERENCES					
A	_____	_____	B	_____	_____
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	_____	_____	D	_____	_____
E	_____	_____	F	_____	_____
G	_____	_____	H	_____	_____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Phyllis Horton, Chairman

ORGANIZATION

Evanston Preservation Commission

DATE

July 28, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, 1501 Oak Avenue

TELEPHONE

(312) 328-2100

CITY OR TOWN

Evanston

STATE

Illinois 60204

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION