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CLICK HERE for Multiple Property Listing,  
"Suburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston  
Thematic Resources"

PROPERTY NAME Melwood Apartments (No. 34)  
LOCATION 1201-13 Michigan; 205-07 Hamilton CITY/TOWN/VICINITY Evanston  
COUNTY Cook STATE Illinois ZIP 60202

OWNER'S NAME See Attached Sheet  
LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/TOWN/VICINITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION Cook County Recorder of Deeds  
118 N. Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Located at the southeast intersection of Hamilton Street  
and Michigan Avenue.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE .4

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1901 ARCHITECT AND/OR BUILDER Wilmore Alloway

DESCRIPTION The Melwood stands three stories above a raised basement and is set  
back from the street a distance similar to the building's adjacent homes.  
Its classically-inspired design, somewhat Federal in massing, contains  
multiple elegant details inside and out. The pink brick, flat-roofed  
building rests on a limestone base at the ground level. Springing from  
the base, each limestone doorway contains a graceful fanlight and side-  
lights with curved mullions. Capitals of the attached columns flanking  
the entrances have Richardsonian Romanesque capitals. Above the first  
floor the building's scale is slightly grander. Here two-story pilasters  
with voluted capitals separate the entrance bays and support a classical  
dentiled limestone cornice with a brick parapet capped in limestone above.  
The building contains 27 apartments with fairly small rooms. Still,  
the bowed windows give the apartment's major rooms a light spacious feeling.  
Interesting interior details include arched alcoves, beading around the

DATE AND NATURE OF ALTERATIONS doorways, coved ceilings, oak rim and dining-room  
breakfronts with leaded doors. Entry to the  
apartments is from a tiled hall with marble stairs,  
wainscoting and classical pilasters. The interior  
vestibule has a Beaux Arts balustrade of cast and  
wrought iron, also used in the original electrified  
gas fixtures.

- 1950-North wall of building underpinned
- 1976-All rear stairs repaired
- 1977-Rear porch of 1213 Michigan enlarged
- 1981-Kitchen renovation at 1209 Michigan

OUTBUILDINGS AND/OR OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES ON PROPERTY (ATTACH SKETCH  
PLAN IF APPLICABLE) There is a two-story brick building with a gable roof at the  
rear of the lot.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Melwood, one of Evanston's earliest apartment buildings, is significant for its fine design qualities and for the transitional as well as controversial role it played in the history of apartment building in Evanston.

In terms of design, it is cohesive, tying elegantly-handled Classical details into a coherent and pleasing composition. Careful consideration given to the entry's stylistic treatment links the building to Colonial Revival mansions of the period.

As a transitional building it appears as a blocklike unit, but contains many elements that relate it to later buildings of the courtyard type. Indeed, at the rear it has one large open court with polygonal bays to maximize light and ventilation. The building is set back from the street, giving tenants a front yard. And finally the multiple bowed window units open the apartments to multiple views.

The building was controversial when it was built because of its location in a single family residential neighborhood presenting an early conflict between homeowners and the builders, a conflict that was to be one of many prior to passage of Evanston's 1921 zoning ordinance. This building was selected for inclusion in the Inventory of Historic Structures in Evanston,

FORM PREPARED BY Cook County, prepared in October of 1972 by the Illinois Department of Conservation.

Susan Benjamin

TEL (312) 432-1822

711 Marion

Highland Park, Illinois 60035



PROPERTY NAME Melwood Apartments

LOCATION 1201-13 Michigan Avenue, 209-07 CITY/TOWN/VICINITY Evanston

CAMERA FACING Northeast Hamilton DATE 5/83

PHOTOGRAPHER Cynthia G. Fuller

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE Evanston Planning Dept., 2100 Ridge Ave., Evanston, Illinois 60204

- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Forest, The, and Annex (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 901—905 Forest Ave. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Fountain Plaza Apartments (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 830—856 Hinman Ave. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Greenwood, The (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 425 Greenwood St. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Hillcrest Apartment (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 1509—1515 Hinman Ave. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Hinman Apartments (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 1629—1631 Hinman Ave. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Judson, The (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 1243—1249 Judson Ave. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Lake Shore Apartments (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 470—498 Sheridan Rd. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Maple Court Apartments (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 1115—1133 Maple Ave. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Melwood Apartments (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 1201—1213 Michigan Ave., 205—207 Hamilton (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Michigan-Lee Apartments (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 940—950 Michigan Ave. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Oak Ridge Apartments (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 1615—1625 Ridge Ave. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Oakton Gables (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 900—910 Oakton, 439—445 Ridge (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Ridge Boulevard Apartments (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 843—849 Ridge Ave., 1014—1020 Main St. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Ridge Grove (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 1112 Grove St. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Ridge Manor (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 1603—1611 Ridge Ave., 1125 Davis St. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Rookwood Apartments (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 718—734 Noyes St. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Sheridan Square Apartments (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 620—638 Sheridan Sq. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Stoneleigh Manor (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 904—906 Michigan Ave., 227—229 Main St. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Tudor Manor (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 524 Sheridan Sq. (03/15/84)
- ✓ ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Westminster (Surburban Apartment Buildings in Evanston TR), 632—640 Hinman Ave. (03/15/84)

INDIANA, Marion County, Indianapolis, Administration Building, Indiana Central University, Otterbein and Hanna Ave. (03/15/84)

INDIANA, Marion County, Indianapolis, Moore, Thomas, House, 4200 Brookville Rd. (03/15/84)

INDIANA, Marion County, Lawrence, Fort Harrison Terminal Station, Building 616, Fort Harrison (03/16/84)

KENTUCKY, Bracken County, Augusta, Augusta Historic District (Augusta MRA), Roughly bounded by Riverside Dr., 5th, Frankfort, and Williams Sts. (03/13/84)

KENTUCKY, Fulton County, Adams Site (15 Fu 4), (03/15/84)

KENTUCKY, Nelson County, Bardstown vicinity, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Historic District, N of Bardstown off U.S. 31E (03/15/84)

KENTUCKY, Ohio County, Wallace, Charles, House, (03/15/84)