

National Register Historic Districts recognize neighborhoods for their distinguished architecture and history and help to preserve the beauty, character, and integrity of neighborhoods by encouraging owners to voluntarily preserve, restore, or expand their historic homes, or design new homes sensitively. **Listing on the National Register places no restrictions on property owners.**

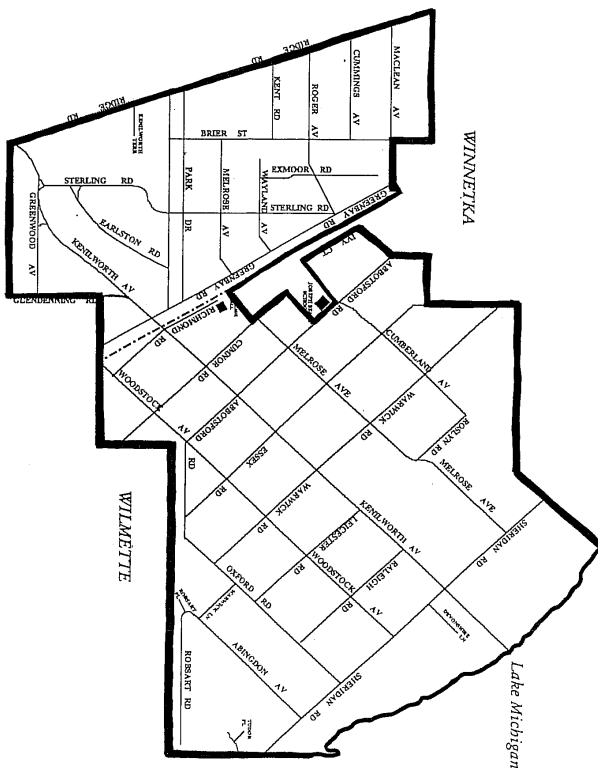
### **Key Points about the National Register:**

- Listing in the National Register recognizes a property's importance to its community, State, or the Nation.
- Anyone can nominate a property for listing on the National Register.
- Under Federal law, private property owners can do anything they wish with their National Register-listed property.
- The National Register is a list of historic properties maintained by the National Park Service. It is NOT associated with local review boards or regulations.
- There are over 1.5 million contributing properties on the Register. On the North Shore alone, there are 17 National Register historic districts, including the 46 block Wilmette North Historic District, adjacent to the Kenilworth border.
- National Register designation allows owners of qualified properties to take advantage of voluntary renovation and/or preservation financial incentives, technical assistance, and façade easement programs. Taxing bodies may opt out of this program.

**Please stop by Village Hall or consult the Village of Kenilworth website at [www.villageofkenilworth.org](http://www.villageofkenilworth.org) for more information.**

## **Proposed Kenilworth Historic District Boundaries.**

Includes all areas of the Village except properties owned by The Joseph Sears School; Village of Kenilworth Public Works Facility; and Kenilworth Park District Village House and Townley Field



## **Information about the...**

**Village of**



**Nomination  
to the  
National Register  
of Historic Places**



*Courtesy of the Kenilworth Historical Society*

**Applicable  
National Register Criteria:**

**Architecture, and  
Community Planning and  
Development**

**Period of Significance:  
1890 – 1958**

## ***Excerpts from the proposed Kenilworth Historic District draft nomination:***

### **Significance**

“The Kenilworth Historic District merits listing on the National Register of Historic Places...in the area of Community Planning and Development because it serves as a true archetype of the planned, exclusive, Romantic railroad suburb developed in the United States in the decades preceding World War I...(and) in the area of Architecture because it contains a superb collection of predominantly domestic architecture executed in many styles from late-nineteenth century revivalism to early-twentieth century Prairie Style to modernist styles preceding and following World War II.”

### **Planning a “Suburban Ideal”**

“Kenilworth was intended to be a Romantic, idealized place. Its location possessed geographical, political, and social advantages. (Joseph) Sears’ desire was to keep the atmosphere of the country and to make Kenilworth a refuge from the city without foregoing the convenience of the c.”

“The Village of Kenilworth is special among the towns of the North Shore, even among the broader suburban areas that make up metropolitan Chicago. Few suburban communities can match the overall excellence of its residential architecture or can claim a similar continuity of planning.”

“You enter Kenilworth with a sense of arrival. Because of the large amount of landscaped open space (both broad front lawns and beautiful park land) and carefully designed hardscape features (including stone bridges, pylons, benches, urns and the fountain where Kenilworth is approached from the train) the village has the character of houses set in a park. This expresses Joseph Sears’ vision, a vision that exists today throughout the entire village.”

“Kenilworth is a suburb that realized the suburban ideal in almost every way...Achieving the ideal required careful decisions in the selection of the town site, in formulating the comprehensive plan, in creating the strategies for maintaining the character of the community, and in establishing the commitment of community members.”



*Courtesy of Kenilworth Historical Society*

“In the case of Kenilworth, the goals of creating and maintaining a special community were pursued from the very first time the town founder Joseph Sears conceived the idea of creating Kenilworth. The desire to maintain that idea has persisted...It took forty years for Kenilworth to grow into the complete whole that it is at present. All its subdivisions and additions adhered to the original plan of the town as much as possible.

### **Architectural Styles in Kenilworth**

“Of all the contributing buildings in Kenilworth slightly more than 51 percent are executed in the Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival Styles. Approximately one-third of the buildings have been designed in the Arts and Crafts (or Craftsman), French Renaissance Revival, Modern, Italian Renaissance Revival, and Queen Anne Styles. Only about 6 percent have no particular style or have been built in several vernacular types, the latter occurring exclusively in the Brier Street neighborhood... If the great majority of buildings in Kenilworth is predictably conservative, there are also fine examples of Modern, Prairie School, and Ranch Styles. Houses of high-quality design continued to be built beyond the end of the period of significance (1958) and will probably acquire significance as they age.”

### **Kenilworth’s Architects**

“Kenilworth’s outstanding collection of residences, representing the best American architecture from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century, was largely built by architects recognized throughout Chicago and, in many cases, nationally. There are some who are not particularly well known but equally significant.”

Kenilworth has “an astonishing array of domestic architecture designed by the region’s most notable architects—from traditionalists like Daniel Burnham, Benjamin Marshall and Ernest Mayo to progressives like George Maher and Frank Lloyd Wright. Modern homes designed more recently, by Keck and Keck and by L. Morgan Yost, are equally significant.”

“Jens Jensen, the Midwest’s foremost landscape architect, also made his mark.”