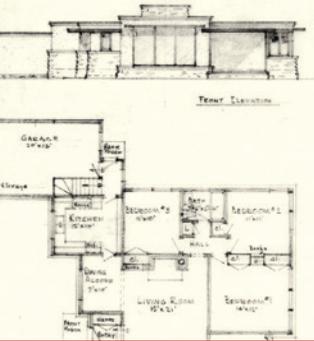
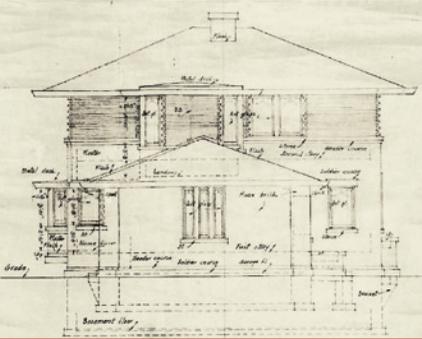
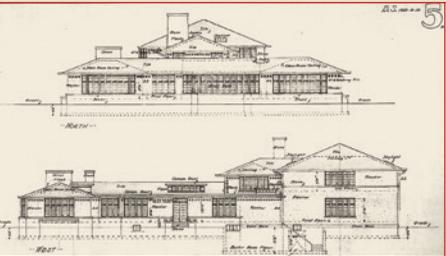




Highland Park Historic Preservation Commission



JOHN VAN BERGEN ARCHITECTURAL TOUR



CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS



Learn more about these homes by calling 847-266-2394. Podcast also available.

NO.	ADDRESS	YEAR BUILT
15	1184 Wade Street	1927
16	1251 St. Johns Avenue	1928
17	511 Ravine Drive	1946
18	1635 Linden Avenue	1925
19	1570 Hawthorne Lane	1922
20	132 Belle Avenue*	1926
21	344 Elm Place	1929
22	1894 - 1898 Sheridan Rd	1926
23	318 Maple Avenue	1924
24	344 Bloom Street	1936
25	711 Lincoln Avenue West	1929
26	660 De Tamble Avenue	1937

*Van Bergen Addition or Renovation



NO.	ADDRESS	YEAR BUILT
1	150 Pierce Rd, Braeside School	1927
2	73 South Deere Park Drive*	1945
3	297 North Deere Park Drive E*	1950
4	266 Delta Road	1941
5	326 Delta Road	1935
6	487 Groveland Avenue	1928
7 & 8	450 & 456 Woodland Road	1924
9	763 Dean Avenue*	1927
10	291 Marshman Street	1926
11	319 Cedar Avenue*	1936
12	290 Cedar Avenue	1930
13	234 Cedar Avenue	1920
14	1141 Linden Avenue*	1928

JOHN VAN BERGEN & THE PRAIRIE STYLE

The Prairie style of architecture is regarded as the first truly American architectural style. The style originated in Chicago with Frank Lloyd Wright and his associates. They sought to create an architecture that functioned in concert with the landscape. The dominant characteristics of the Prairie Style are its weighty horizontality and simplified ornamentation. Identifying features include low pitched roofs with wide overhangs, flat stucco or brick wall treatment, casement windows (frequently leaded) clustered in horizontal bands, and brick detailing in geometric patterns. Prairie Style buildings generally have a massive quality, as if rooted to the earth.

John Van Bergen (1885-1969) was a Prairie Style architect who lived and worked in Highland Park. He grew up in Oak Park, Illinois and worked as a draftsman under Walter Burley Griffin. He joined Frank Lloyd Wright's Oak Park studio in 1909 where he learned the tenets of the Prairie Style that would shape his career.

What makes Van Bergen especially noteworthy is that he designed within the Prairie Style longer than anyone else. In his Oak Park years (1911 - 1918), Van Bergen's designs look very much like Frank Lloyd Wright's. By 1920, when he moved to Highland Park, he had found his own personal style. His house and studio, located at 234 Cedar Street, are fine examples.

Van Bergen is not known for designing mansions or tall, imposing structures. Instead, his best works are schools and a series of modestly-sized single family homes. They show that a brilliant, innovative design can accompany affordability and livability. His excellent sense of proportion and use of stratified stonework is striking. The importance of John Van Bergen's work is just beginning to be appreciated and Highland Park is fortunate to have so many good examples of his mature style. Historian and author Marty Hackl deserves credit for his groundbreaking research on Van Bergen's career.

For more information on the activities of the Historic Preservation Commission, including other architectural tours of Highland Park, please visit the Commission's website at www.cityhpi.com/HPC. The Commission holds monthly meetings and the public is encouraged to attend and get involved.

City of Highland Park
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design by jengordondesign.com



**1. Braeside School
Additions**
150 Pierce Road • 1927



3. Harold White Residence #2
297 North Deere Park Drive East
• 1950

This is the second house that Van Bergen worked on for Harold White. The first, also overlooking Lake Michigan, was in 1914 in Evanston. This remodel was Van Bergen's last commission in Highland Park.



4. Albert Kurtzon Residence
266 Delta Road • 1941

A later work with a dramatic ravine setting, the stonework is typical of Van Bergen. The overall shape of the house, however, is a move away from the Prairie style.



7 & 8. Frank Von Geyso Residence

450 & 456 Woodland Road • 1924
These houses were built 6 years apart for the same client. The first, 450, was a summer cottage on a large lot. The second, 456, was a year round home.



5. John Shaver Residence
326 Delta Road • 1935
Van Bergen's first flat roofed house. Strong International Style influence.



**9. Ravinia School
Additions**
763 Dean Avenue • 1927



**6. Raymond & May Watts
Residence**
487 Groveland Avenue • 1928
While the garage blocks view from the street, the house was built at the edge of a ravine for naturalist May T Watts.



**10. Harry S. Moses /
Dudley Crafts Watson
Residence**
291 Marshman Street
• 1926

Landscaping by Jens Jensen. 1940 garage/living room addition by Van Bergen. Original house (1926) designed either by Van Bergen or Lawrence Buck.



**12. Albert &
Laura Stoddard
Residence**
290 Cedar Avenue • 1930
Designed with an artist studio above the garage. Also note the striking garage doors.



**13. John & Ruth Van Bergen
Residence**
234 Cedar Avenue • 1920



**15. Ella Van Bergen /
Frank Van Bergen
Residence**
1184 Wade Street • 1927



18. Hans Lanzl Residence
1635 Linden Avenue • 1925



25. Lincoln School
711 Lincoln Avenue West
In 1929, Van Bergen designed the clock (pictured on cover of this brochure) at the southeast corner of the school in honor of Nell Seyfarth. The clock is called "The Flight of Time."

19. Wilson Kline Residence
1570 Hawthorne Lane
• 1922



**21. Harry B. Roberts
Residence**
344 Elm Place • 1929
Note the detail of the windows that appear to wrap around the corner. Wright also used this detail in his designs of the time.



22. Moldaner & Humer Furriers
1894 - 1898 Sheridan Road
• 1926

The only surviving example of Van Bergen's commercial design. Note the brickwork, the recessed entrance and the window design.



**23. Herman Pomper
Residence**

318 Maple Avenue • 1924
There are several other Prairie Style homes on this street, Maple Lane, and around the corner on Sheridan Road.



**24. George B. Lake
Residence**

344 Bloom Street • 1936
Sadly the International style house is not visible from the street because it is set at the end of a long driveway on a ravine.



26. James L. Whitehouse
660 De Tamble Avenue
• 1937

The arched entryway with the inset door is the focal point of the façade.

