

*revised sent Wash. 1/17/75*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Illinois
COUNTY: Cook
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
South Shore County Club

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
71st Street and South Shore Drive

CITY OR TOWN:  
Chicago

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
1st-Congressman Ralph Metcalfe

STATE: Illinois      CODE: 17      COUNTY: Cook      CODE: 031

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	building empty, not in use	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Public Building Commission of Chicago (for Chicago Park District)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Chicago Civic Center

CITY OR TOWN:  
Chicago

STATE:  
Illinois

CODE:  
17

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Cook County Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
County Building, 118 North Clark Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Chicago

STATE:  
Illinois

CODE:  
17

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Illinois Historic Structures Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Glessner House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1800 South Prairie Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Chicago

STATE:  
Illinois

CODE:  
17

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The South Shore County Club's 65 acre property occupies almost three-quarters of a mile of Lake Michigan shoreline from 67th to 72nd Streets in Chicago. The grounds contain the main club house, the former club house, a small trap shooting club house, tennis courts, bowling greens, golf course, horse stables and ring, swimming beach, boat harbor, beach house and maintenance buildings.

The most important building of the complex is the main club house. It is constructed of reinforced concrete columns and girders, filled in with hollow tile and finished on the outside with cement stucco. The roof is shingled with clay tile and the gutters and downspouts are copper.

The entire building, over 500 feet in length, is divided into three parts; the central section, a ballroom wing and a dining room wing. The central part, five stories high, is 192 by 96 feet. It contains on the west, the main entrance and on the east, the solarium (74 by 62 feet), a one-story pavilion with large windows on three sides facing Lake Michigan. It also has on the main floor to the north, the men's buffet and smoking room, and on the south side, the card room (remodeled and used as a bar room in recent years).

The middle of the center section is open to the mezzanine story. The latter contains a billiard room, writing room, library, club offices and miscellaneous public rooms. The upper three floors contain 90 sleeping rooms, each with bath. The basement is occupied by service departments.

The grand promenade, a 176 foot long and 32 foot wide (interior) hallway bisects the building from north to south, and connects the two wings with the central section. The ballroom, attached to the south, is 130 by 86 feet (exterior). It is a one story structure containing a stage, and is designed in the Roman Revival style. The dining room, also one story high is at the (north) end of the grand promenade. Build at the same time as the central section, it is 110 x 60 feet (exterior), oval in plan, with large windows opening to the floor. The kitchen (87 x 145 feet) is located in the basement of the dining room and is connected to it by ramps. The exterior of the building is in the Mediterranean Resort style. The interior is handsomely decorated with plaster details in an Adam or Federal style.

The main club house is located on a diagonal axis between the main gate at 71st Street and South Shore Drive, and a small cove in the lake at about 70th Street. The entrance drive and flower beds are to the west of the main club house, the sports facilities to the north and south, and the lake to the east.

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other

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1916 (ballroom c. 1908)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | osophy                                  | <u>Social &amp; cultural</u>                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | <u>history</u>                                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The South Shore Country Club is unique not only because it is in the heart of the city, but also because it is located on the lake, and because of its size and its magnificent ensemble of early 20th century buildings, open spaces, gardens and sports facilities, basically unchanged for almost 60 years. The main club house, because of its size and architectural treatment, is the focal point of the entire premises. Reminiscent of Palm Beach or Newport, it is architecturally a link to the past, and historically important in the social history of Chicago and the nation as a demonstration of a lifestyle that had become extinct, at least in any big city.

HISTORY - Social

The South Shore Country Club was founded in 1906, on land obtained from the City of Chicago. The founder was Lawrence Heyworth, a banker and president of the Chicago Athletic Club, which is located downtown. He felt Chicago also needed "a beautiful place out in the country". He was assisted by socially and financially prominent Ogden Armour, the presidents of the First National and Continental banks, and the presidents of 15 other Loop banks. Many of the members came from the Washington Park Club, which was then closing, as did the finest English turf, which was moved by horse-drawn delivery wagons. Included in the original membership were such distinguished names in Chicago society as the Armours, Bordens, McCormicks, Palmers and Swifts.

Among the persons the club hosted through the years were the late Edward, Prince of Wales, Queen Marie of Romania, Prince Albert of Belgium, President Taft and Buffalo Bill Cody. Bill Tilden and Helen Wills played on South Shore's courts, Walter Hagen tested its golf course, and international champions competed in its world-famous horse shows. On three occasions the club was the scene of the Grand American Championship Shoot. Paul Whiteman, comedian Elsie Janis and Will Rogers entertained on the ballroom stage. The club's Follies and the annual Cotton Ball were highlights of Chicago's social calendar.

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COUNTY Cook	
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Significance - continued

HISTORY - Architectural

The original club house (1906) is two and one-half stories tall and of frame construction. Shortly after completing it, a ballroom of concrete construction was added (in about 1908) on the south side of the club house. In 1916 the original club house was moved several hundred feet to the southeast, where it remains in altered use and physically poor condition. The present club house and the dining room was then constructed on the site of the original club house, the ballroom remaining in its original position.

The architects for all the buildings, the site planning and landscaping were the Chicago firm of Marshall and Fox, who were also responsible for many important Chicago buildings including the Blackstone Hotel, Edgewater Beach Hotel (destroyed), Drake Hotel, and most of the buildings in the fine row of apartment houses east of the Drake Hotel on Lake Shore Drive.

Architecturally, the buildings of South Shore County Club are among a large number of public and institutional buildings constructed late in the 19th century and early in the 20th century, derived from historical precedents. It is widely thought that the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, held adjacent to the South Shore Country Club property, influenced this movement.

Devereux Rowly, Jr.

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Description - continued

All the landscaping was designed by the architects, the site before development being "a most uninviting patch of sand and coarse weeds". The open spaces and landscaping, still completely intact, are an excellent example of their period (1906). They are not as formal as traditional European gardens, but on the other hand not as naturalistic as say the later work in Chicago of Jens Jensen.

The South Shore County Club is now in the process of disbanding, and the premises have been purchased by the Public Building Commission of Chicago, for the use and ultimate acquisition by the Chicago Park District. The property, which is immediately adjacent to and south of Frederick Law Olmsted's Jackson Park, site of the Columbian Exposition of 1893, will become part of the park system of Chicago. It will be used for recreation, but the future of the main club house is uncertain at this time.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Architectural Record, XL (Nov. 1916), 418-432.  
Architectural Review (Boston), XXI (Dec. 1916), 210 (photographs).  
Original Club House Building: American Architect & Building News, XCI (June 1, 1907), 220.  
Inland Architect, XLIX (May, 1907), photograph.  
Inland Architect, December, 1974, 20-23.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	41	46	27
NE	41	46	27
SE	41	45	58
SW	41	45	58

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
0			0		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **65 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Devereux Bowly, Jr.** DATE: **9/1/75**

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER: **5437 South East View Park**

CITY OR TOWN: **Chicago** STATE: **Illinois** CODE: **17**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
**State Historic Preservation Officer - State Of Illinois**  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Keeper of The National Register*

Date \_\_\_\_\_