

HYDE PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN



July 2020

www.hydeparkhistory.org, 773-493-1893

UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual Tour – *Chicago Policy King Historic Residence in West Woodlawn!* with Clinée Hedspeth.

Join HPHS Board Member Clinée Hedspeth for an extraordinary video tour of a historic West Woodlawn house at South Eberhart Avenue and East 65th Street built in 1926 by the legendary Chicago policy king Henry Young. The house, a two-flat building with four-unit kitchenettes (garden level), has most of the original interiors intact, including wallpaper and floor coverings. This tour is the only way to see inside and includes a special household surprise!

Saturday, August 15, 2:00pm via Zoom. Contact info@hydeparkhistory.org for the Zoom link by 3pm on August 14.

Hyde Park Book Club – Monday, August 17, 7:30pm via Zoom. Author Keith Stolte, *Chicago Artist Colonies*. Contact info@hydeparkhistory.org for the Zoom link by 3pm on August 17.

Hyde Park Book Club – Monday, September 21, 7:30pm via Zoom. Author Mark Larson, *Ensemble: An Oral History of Chicago Theater*. Contact info@hydeparkhistory.org for the Zoom link by 3pm on September 21.

Hyde Park Book Club – Monday, October 19, 7:30pm via Zoom. Author Carlo Rotella, *The World is Always Coming to an End: Pulling Together and Apart in a Chicago Neighborhood*. Contact info@hydeparkhistory.org for the Zoom link by 3pm on October 19.

Book Club Contacts: Carol Vieth, ultra5300@earthlink.net; Michal Safar, michal.s.safar@gmail.com

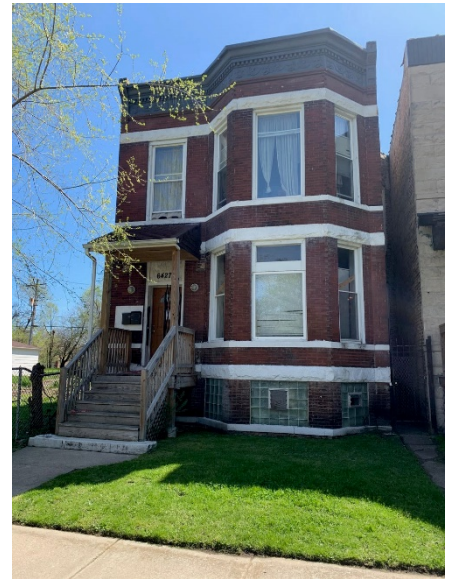
PRESERVATION NEWS – WATCH LIST

Emmett Till House, 6427 S. St. Lawrence – Update

Alderman Jeanette Taylor (20th) has agreed to support official Chicago Landmark status for this important site that calls attention to the on-going fight for racial justice. The HPHS Preservation Committee and Preservation Chicago continue to work to that end. August 28th is the 65th anniversary of Emmett Till's murder.

Since 2017 Preservation Chicago has been proposing to have the City of Chicago's Commission on Chicago Landmarks honor the memory of Emmett Till by landmarking the house where Emmett Till and his family were living when he was murdered on August 28th, 1955. The HPHS Preservation Committee has been working with Preservation Chicago to help make this happen.

We spoke with 20th Ward Alderwoman Jeanette Taylor. She is enthusiastic about the landmarking and asked us to work with Naomi Davis who is a West Woodlawn community organizer and President of Blacks In Green (<https://www.blacksingreen.org/>). Ms Davis has been meeting with us weekly. She sees the landmark designation as an ideal way to bring attention to West Woodlawn and to highlight the on-going racial injustice which was the background for Emmett Till's murder. She also feels that this would be an opportunity to show the public what Emmett Till was like as a boy before the murder and would honor his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, for her activism in the years following Emmett's death.



We have contacted the current owner, an absentee speculator. He was unaware of the history of the Till/Mobley House and is considering whether he would consent to the landmarking. His consent is not required but is very desirable.

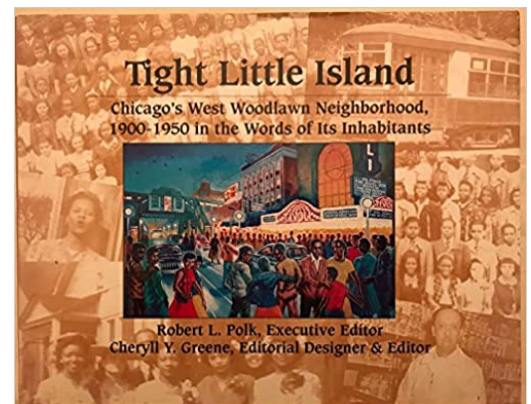
We've connected with a number of Till/Mobley family members and friends. They are enthusiastic about the landmarking of the house.

<https://chicagocrusader.com/push-to-make-emmett-tills-house-a-landmark/>

https://www.wbez.org/stories/_/f8abe096-9cbc-4eed-9deb-81aed022954b

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/apr/25/emmett-till-long-wait-for-justice>

[Tight Little Island: Chicago's West Woodlawn Neighborhood, 1900-1950 in the Words of its Inhabitants](#)



Muddy Waters' Home, 4339 S. Lake Park Avenue

The Muddy Waters Mojo Museum has received a \$50,000 grant from the National Trust for

Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund towards renovation of the Muddy Waters home.

Roseland's South Michigan Avenue Historic Commercial District, S. Michigan Avenue, 100th to 115th Streets

<https://preservationchicago.org/chicago07/chicago-7-most-endangered-2020-roseland-michigan-avenue-commercial-district/>

United Church of Hyde Park, Blackstone Avenue at 53rd Street, 1889

https://www.hpherald.com/news/local/residents-gather-to-look-for-ways-to-save-hyde-park-united/article_daff48c-575b-11ea-aeec-136efc539a6a.html

Jeffery Theater Building, Jeffery Boulevard and 71st Street, 1923

Washington National Bank Building, Cottage Grove Avenue & 63rd Street, 1924

<https://preservationchicago.org/chicago07/washington-park-bank/>

The Forum Building, 318 East 43rd street, 1897

<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/urban-juncture-foundation/raise-the-roof-fund-the-forum>

Promontory Point, 55th Street and Lake Michigan

<https://www.promontorypoint.org/about>

<https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/Burnham-Park/>

Jackson Park, The Obama Presidential Center

For more information on any of the above Hyde Park Historical Society preservation efforts, contact Jack Spicer, jackspicer@earthlink.net

HYDE PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY INITIATIVE – COVID-19 AND THE HYDE PARK COMMUNITY

PLEASE SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES!



Photo of masked sanitation workers in Chicago during the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic from the Chicago Sun Times

COVID-19, also known as coronavirus, is a worldwide pandemic that has had wide reaching impacts on every member of our community.

The Hyde Park Historical Society wants to hear from you about how you, your family, and our community are being affected. Please tell us your story so we can add your voice to the history of our community. While the Historical Society is focused on the Hyde Park Township area, we value responses from anyone who would like to participate.

Please fill out the form at [COVID-19 Hyde Park Archive](#) to share your story with us.

If you would like to share photographs or a video, or both, please email them to hphscovid@gmail.com.

If you would like to submit a diary or journal of your experience, please email it to hphscovid@gmail.com or mail it to the HPHS Headquarters.

Any physical ephemera can be mailed to the Hyde Park Historical Society's Headquarters at 5529 S Lake Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60637. Anything received will not be returned to the sender and will become property of the Historical Society.

We at the Hyde Park Historical Society hope to be able to share selected stories with the community on an ongoing basis.