RESOLUTION - EXHIBIT I
DR. ELMER R. PORTER RESIDENCE
LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

RESOLVED BY THE LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OMAHA:

WHEREAS, Allen R. and Eileen L. Quinn are the owners of the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence; and,

WHEREAS, this owner, on August 8, 1980, requested that the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence be designated a Landmark under the City of Omaha's Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence was constructed in 1902; and,

WHEREAS, the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence was designed by prominent Omaha architect Frederick A. Henninger; and,

WHEREAS, the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence presents an orderly Classic Revival exterior package and a sophisticated Colonial Revival interior; and,

WHEREAS, the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence represents a transitional period in midwestern residential architecture; and,

WHEREAS, the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence contains murals by German-born artist Gustaf Fuchs; and,

WHEREAS, the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence represents the upper middle class neighborhood developing around Bemis Park after 1900; and,

WHEREAS, the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence is historically related to Dr. Elmer R. Porter who reportedly had the largest medical practice in Omaha during the early 1900s; and,

WHEREAS, the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence is historically related to Judge Arthur C. Thompson who resided in the structure for almost years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OMAHA:

THAT, the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence, 3426 Lincoln Boulevard, be designated as a Landmark of the City of Omaha.
Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission

APPLICATION FOR LANDMARK OR LANDMARK HERITAGE DISTRICT DESIGNATION

NAME OF STRUCTURE
Historic  Dr. Elmer R. Porter - Judge Arthur C. Thomsen Residence

and/or Common

LOCATION
Street and Number  3426 Lincoln Blvd.

CLASSIFICATION
Category
District  ____________  Ownership  X  Status  Present Use  Museum
                      Public  ____________  Occupied  Agriculture  Commercial
      Building(s),  Private  ____________  Unoccupied  Commercial  Educational
      Structure  Both  ____________  Work in Progress  Educational  Entertainment
      Site  Public Acquisition  ____________  Accessible  Entertainment  Government
      Object  In Process  ____________  Yes: Restricted  Government  Industrial

X  Yes: Unrestricted
    No

OWNER OF PROPERTY
Name  James N. Laska  Phone Number  558-7505
Street and Number  3426 Lincoln Blvd.
City, State and Zip Code  Omaha, NE 68131
Representative  Same  Phone Number
Street and Number
City, State and Zip Code

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Lots 29 & 30, Block 10 Bemis Park, an addition to the City of Omaha, as surveyed, platted and recorded in Douglas County, Nebraska
DESCRIPTION
Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
Specific Dates
Architect
Builder

January 29, 1981
Date
Signature of Owner/Representative
Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

INSPECTION DATE

12-10-80
REQUEST
x Landmark Designation
___ Landmark Heritage
___ District Designation
___ Certificate of Approval to Perform Work

CATEGORY
___ District
x Building
___ Structure
___ Site
___ Object

APPLICANT

Allen & Eileen Quinn

LOCATION OF PROPOSED DESIGNATION OR WORK

3426 Lincoln Blvd.

PRESENT USE

Single-family residence

CONFORMANCE WITH MASTER PLAN
Conforms to the 1972 Community Development Master Plan’s Major Rehabilitation Areas which propose housing rehabilitation

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER
Existing: Pre 1900 Classic Revival residences surrounded by two open spaces – Demis Park and Walnut Hill Reservior; the neighborhood is experiencing major rehabilitation of its housing stock.

Probable future effect on neighborhood if designation is granted or work is approved.
Designation will provide the additional impetus for creating a neighborhood district; the Demis Park Association has begun research efforts on this project.

PRESERVATION ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approval

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approval

ADDITIONAL DATA
The Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence presents an orderly Classic Revival exterior package, with flush planes, flattened ornamentation, and few protruding parts, and a sophisticated Colonial Revival interior detailed with hefty ceiling beams, head-high wainscoting, classic columns and grillework—all in a dark finish. While this decoration recalls Victorian ornament, the paired porch columns and entry modillions anticipate the Craftsman era. The structure obviously represents a transitional period in midwestern residential architecture.

Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence, 3426 Lincoln Boulevard, constructed in 1902 at a cost of $3,300, Frederick A. Henninger, architect; William Rice, builder. Wood frame structure, clapboard walls, square (35' by 39') shape, two stories over raised brick basement, broad hip roof with enclosed broad eaves, central hipped roof dormer, five bay porch terminates in a porte cochere or southwest corner, heavily modillioned and bracketed hipped roof portico in central bay supported by paired square columns with chamfered corners, double-hung windows with stylized egg-and-dart upper sash are framed by a plain trim and surmounted by bracketed cornices. Central hall floor plan, open well stairway enlivened with fluted Classical oak columns and ornamental turned lattice work, scenic European murals by Gustaf Fuchs above eye-level picture rail below which are Tiffanized canvas walls in greens, golds and browns, rectangular fireplace with tile surround, colonettes, bed moldings and mantel shelf, slag glass lighting fixtures, strip oak floors. One and one-half story stable located in lot's northwest corner, gambrel roof over brick first floor, retains horse stables and blacksmith equipment.

F. A. Henninger, born in 1865 to a German immigrant family which had settled in Albia, Iowa, received his formal training at the Chicago Art Institute where he was described as a "natural born artist." After attending the Institute for two years, Henninger moved to Lincoln, Nebraska and worked for a local architect by the name of Gray. In the early 1890's he relocated to Omaha and sought employment as a laborer in the Union Pacific Shops. By 1895, Henninger had established himself as an architect with the F. C. Ledebrink office and in the following year purchased the business from Ledebrink.

F. A. Henninger remained an active Omaha architect until his retirement in 1937, at which time the firm was taken over by his son, F. A. Henninger, Jr. The firm's activities encompassed the entire spectrum of the built environment and during its most active period, the F. A. Henninger office designed "a house a day."

Major Omaha structures designed by Henninger include the Securities Building (16th & Farnam), the U. S. National Bank Building (16th & Farnam), the Grain Exchange (19th & Harney), the Farm Credit Building (19th & Douglas), the West Farnam Apartments (3817 Dewey Avenue) and the residences of Edgar Morsman (38th & Jackson), Casper Yost Offutt (109 North 54th Street), E. L. Stone (3722 Pacific) and O. H. Barmettler (622 North 38th Street).
Historical Significance

In Omaha, the dawn of the twentieth century brought renewed prosperity after the depression of the 1890s. A number of residential suburbs first platted in the boom years of the 1880s failed in the following decade and did not regain momentum until after 1900. One of these suburbs was Bemis Park, located between 33rd and 38th, Cuming and Hamilton Streets. It was probably the first subdivision in the city platted with respect to terrain rather than on the more typical grid system. The landscape architect left a ravine near Cuming Street for a park, since the ground was too steep for housing. Complementing Bemis Park was Lincoln Boulevard, winding around the hill overlooking the scene, and a prime location for middle and upper middle class housing.

One of the first structures built on the Boulevard was the grand home of Dr. Elmer R. Porter at 3426 Lincoln Boulevard. Erected in 1902, the frame, Classical Revival dwelling with its huge veranda is one of the most elaborate of all the residences overlooking the park. Porter graduated from the Omaha Medical College (later the University of Nebraska College of Medicine) in 1898 before beginning his practice in the city. Maintaining an office in the Brandeis Theatre Building, Dr. Porter reportedly had the largest medical practice in Omaha and offered his services regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

Gustaf Fuchs, a German-born artist who had painted murals in numerous churches, the Douglas County Courthouse, and the old St. Joseph's Hospital, was a Porter family friend and was hired to paint the murals that adorn the home's interior. The barn behind the structure accommodated the six to eight horses kept by Dr. Porter for racing and driving.

Owner of the home from 1914 to 1923 was blacksmith John C. Pedersen, who operated a shop nearby at 2108 Cuming. The longest, and perhaps most well-known resident of the home was Judge Arthur C. Thomsen, who purchased it from Pedersen. Judge Thomsen graduated from Omaha Law School (later affiliated with the University of Omaha) in 1909. He began a law practice, but maintained his connection with the Law School by serving as the institution's dean, its secretary, as an instructor, and as editor of the Night Law Bulletin. Thomsen was nominated for district court judge in 1928 and held that position until 1961.

Judge Thomsen moved to the Florence Home in his later years and subdivided the Lincoln Boulevard house. An apartment on the second level was rented, while he used the first floor for his own purposes. After the Judge's death in 1970, the home was purchased by the present owners and converted back to a single family residence.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


McWilliams, Sue. "Old Home ... A Composite of Memories." *Omaha Sun*, November 26, 1980.


HI-80-17 APPLICANTS Allen R. and Eileen L. Quinn request LANDMARK DESIGNATION for 3426 Lincoln Blvd. Area to be designated is shaded.
AN ORDINANCE to designate the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence, located at 3426 Lincoln Boulevard as a Landmark pursuant to the Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OMAHA:

Section 1. That the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence is located at 3426 Lincoln Boulevard, which is legally described as follows:

Lots 29 and 30, Block 10, Bemis Park, an addition to the City of Omaha, as surveyed, platted and recorded in Douglas County, Nebraska

Section 2. That for the reasons recited in Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit I, and made a part hereof as if fully set forth herein, the architectural characteristics of the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence are hereby deemed significant and worthy of preservation.

Section 3. That the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence is hereby designated pursuant to Section 24-61 of the Omaha Municipal Code, and hereby subject to all of the provisions of Landmark Heritage Preservation, Ch. 24, Art. II. of the City of Omaha.

Section 4. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and take effect fifteen (15) days from and after the date of its passage.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER

[Signature]

APPROVED:

[Signature] 3/1/89

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OMAHA  DATE

PASSED LBR 17,1981  6-0

ATTEST:

[Signature]

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF OMAHA

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]

CITY ATTORNEY
ORDINANCE NO. 29440

AN ORDINANCE to designate the Dr. Elmer R. Porter Residence, located at 3426 Lincoln Boulevard as a Landmark pursuant to the Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha.

PRESENTED TO COUNCIL

1st Reading MAR 3 1981

Hearing 3-10-81

Hearing MAR 10 1981

Over to 3-17-81

Final Reading MAR 17 1981

Passed 6-0

Mary Blattman, Clerk