



Office of the Chicago City  
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Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 10/5/2011  
**Sponsor(s):** Fioretti, Bob (2)  
**Type:** Resolution  
**Title:** Commemoration of 175th Anniversary of Clarke House  
**Committee(s) Assignment:**

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CLARKE HOUSE**

WHEREAS, the Clarke House Museum, a Chicago landmark located at 1827 South Indiana Avenue in Chicago's South Loop neighborhood, recently celebrated the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of the house, and

WHEREAS, Clarke House was built in 1836, is recognized as the oldest surviving building within the original Chicago city limits, and is celebrated as an excellent extant example of Greek Revival architecture in the Midwest, and a rare example of timber-frame construction in Chicago, and

WHEREAS, Clarke House was built for Henry Brown and Caroline Palmer Clarke, who traveled from New York to Chicago in 1835 with their family, purchased twenty acres of land, and contributed significantly to the city through their early involvement in business, community service, and land development. Henry B. Clarke served as a hardware merchant, city clerk, and a director in the Chicago branch of the Illinois State Bank. Mrs. Clarke contributed to the growth of the South Loop community through the sale of seventeen acres following her husband's death in 1849 which were subdivided and platted as Clarke's Addition to Chicago, and

WHEREAS, Caroline Palmer Clarke remodeled the family home with the proceeds of the sale, completing and updating the interior and adding an Italianate-style cupola, which has become a unique architectural feature recognized throughout the city. She resided in the home with her six children until her death in 1860, and

WHEREAS, Clarke House was purchased from the five living Clarke children by John and Lydia Chrimes in 1872. The family moved the house to 4526 S. Wabash Avenue, residing there for three generations, and

WHEREAS, Clarke House was purchased in 1944 from the descendants of the Chrimes family by Bishop Louis Henry Ford and the St. Paul Church of God in Christ. The preservation-minded congregation cared for and maintained the house for three decades, proudly sharing its history with the community and fighting intense pressure to demolish the house in the rapidly expanding Bronzeville neighborhood, and

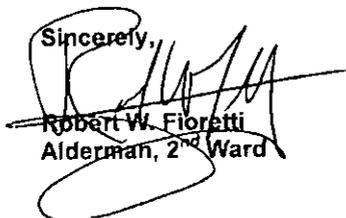
WHEREAS, Clarke House is designated a City of Chicago Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building was purchased by the City and moved in 1977 to its present location in the Prairie Avenue Historic District. Clarke House was authentically restored to its mid-nineteenth century appearance through a continuing partnership between the City of Chicago and The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Illinois. It opened as a public museum in 1982, and

WHEREAS, Clarke House Museum serves as a tangible connection to life in early Chicago, interpreting the 1853-60 period through an extensive collection of historic furnishings, engaging public programming related to the life of the Clarke family, and tours centered on its significant architectural features, and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Robert W. Fioretti, Alderman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, has apprised this august body of the significance of Clarke House in the aforesaid recitals; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, assembled this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2011 A.D., do hereby commend Clarke House Museum for its efforts to preserve this important landmark of architectural heritage for present and future generations to enjoy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be presented to the archives of the Clarke House Museum.

Sincerely,  
  
Robert W. Fioretti  
Alderman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward