

Film to premier at Stupey Cabin fundraiser

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Learn origins of Highland Park at Oct. 8 benefit

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A new documentary tracing the evolution of Highland Park from its inception as a railroad town and summer resort to a full-blown municipality will be shown Oct. 8 during a Highland Park Historical Society benefit at Ravinia's Bennett Gordon Hall.

The 45-minute movie uses archived photographs to show the change that occurred within 80 years as Highland Park evolved from a crossroads of Native American trails into a planned community. According to the historical society, the Highland Park Building Company hired a nationally renowned landscape firm to lay out the town. Architects from the firm of Cleveland and French were struck by the natural beauty of the forests, ravines and lakeshore, which inspired them to create a plan that would preserve the natural amenities, according to the society.

"The film has been a labor of love for the many people who have donated hours of their time to make it possible," said Joan Arenberg, a member of the Historical Society. "Highland Parkers have contributed many family stories, photographs and personal anecdotes about the early days in Highland Park."

Under the direction of JoBe Cerny, the film was created with financial support from YEA Highland Park. Contributing organizations included the City of Highland Park, the Park District of Highland Park, the library, the two school districts and the city's Cultural Arts Commission.

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The benefit is intended to raise funds for the restoration work taking place at the Stupey Cabin, the oldest standing structure in Highland Park. The cabin, built around 1847 by the family of Prussian immigrant Francis Stupey, was moved from the grounds of the Exmoor Country Club to its current location between Highland Park City Hall and the Highland Park Library in 1968. Photos of the move appear in the documentary.

The year-long restoration of the Stupey Cabin began over the summer and is expected to be completed by next July. The work includes removing and replacing flooring, foundation work and chimney tuck-pointing. The City of Highland Park has contributed \$40,000 to the effort.

Tickets are \$75 per person, or \$100 for two people. Students, when accompanied by an adult, are free. For information, call 847-432-7090.

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