

Highland Park historic icon listed for \$850,000

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In the late 1800s, the Highland Park Building Company chartered special trains from Chicago to draw people of "means and taste" to grand sales events in Highland Park, according to literature from the Highland Park Historical Society.

When the affluent visitors arrived, the company responsible for incorporating Highland Park would present plans for Gothic and Italianate Victorian homes that could be built on lots in the community.

One of the company's homes at 326 Central Avenue now is crying out for a new owner of means and taste to become the next steward of the property.

The landmarked home, which has served as the Highland Park Historical Society's museum for more than four decades, has come on the market with an asking price of \$850,000. The home currently lacks a functioning kitchen and is in need of extensive renovation.

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"The home is a Highland Park icon that tells the story of Highland Park and how the North Shore got started," said Realtor Eve Tarm. "It was built just six years after the Civil War started, and obviously was very well built."

Tarm said the offering price is based solely on the current value of the two-thirds acre of land, three blocks from Lake Michigan, on which the home sits.

The historical society has moved its collections to the Highland Park Library, and the 12-room home has been professionally staged by Phoenix Rising to show prospective buyers how a modern family could comfortably live there.

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The home, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated a local landmark, features many of the original details, including 15-foot ceilings, wide moldings and

quarter-sawn oak flooring. The home was constructed from yellow-clay brick made in Highland Park brickyards.

"Even at its time, it was built as a high-end, grand house and you can see that in these gigantic windows," said Rob Rotering, president of the Highland Park Historical Society. "It is just a magnificent house with great bones and so much potential."

An open house is scheduled from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18.

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