

Proclamation in Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Saving of the Glessner House

WHEREAS the John J. and Frances M. Glessner House at 1800 South Prairie Avenue in Chicago, Illinois was designed by architect Henry Hobson Richardson and completed in 1887; and

WHEREAS the Glessner House served as an inspiration to architects such as Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright and helped redefine domestic architecture in America; and

WHEREAS on 1 December 1924, the Glessners and the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (CCAIA) signed a deed of gift donating the house to the CCAIA upon the Glessners' deaths, provided that it be used "solely for the purposes of architecture and the allied arts and sciences ..."; and

WHEREAS in 1960, the Glessner House was named an honorary Chicago landmark; and

WHEREAS the Glessner House was ultimately returned to the family 1937, and thereafter changed hands several times until it was offered for sale in 1965; and

WHEREAS on 16 April 1966, a group of concerned citizens joined together to form the Chicago School of Architecture Foundation, with the explicit purpose of saving the Glessner House; and

WHEREAS the Chicago School of Architecture Foundation purchased the house for \$35,000 and began programming and restoration work; and

WHEREAS in 1970, the Glessner House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and formally named a Chicago landmark; and

WHEREAS in 1972, the Prairie Avenue Historic District, which includes the Glessner House, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS in 1976, the Glessner House was named a National Historic Landmark; and

WHEREAS the Chicago School of Architecture Foundation created the independent Glessner House Museum Foundation in 1994; and

WHEREAS the house and its extensive collection of original furnishings offer significant insights into the history of Chicago as an innovative center of architecture and design; and

WHEREAS, as the Glessner House Museum celebrates its first 50 years, it stands poised to attract an increasingly diverse audience, building on the concept of innovation that has defined it as an American architectural icon since 1887.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that in 2016 the Board of the Society of Architectural Historians honors the 50th anniversary of the saving of the Glessner House and in 2017 will honor the 130th anniversary of this iconic building's completion.

Endorsed by the SAH Board of Directors on November 5, 2016.