

## HISTORIC FACTS ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS/ ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE BUILDING

4750 N. SHERIDAN ROAD CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

- First four floors built in 1921 as the Mutual Insurance Building by Herman Emmerman Architects were Fugard and Knapp • Contractor was McLemor Construction Company
- Second four floors built in 1926-27 • Architect was B. Leo Steif and Company
- Building is 80 feet high and sheathed in fireproof terra cotta
- One of only 16 fully terra cotta buildings in Chicago • 166,000 square feet
- Built of concrete reinforced steel support system
- Kemper Insurance Company founded by James Kemper purchased the building in 1928 • Lumbermens Mutual Insurance Company also moved into the building in 1928
- Classical Revival architecture which became popular following the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago

Numerous classical details executed in cream-colored, monochromatic terra cotta

- Structure exhibits excellent integrity and condition
- Building distinctive due to its size and its prominent neighborhood location
- 4750 N. Sheridan is a contributing building to the Uptown Square Historic District National Register
- Lawrence El station opened on February 27, 1923 and Lake Shore Drive was extended to Foster Avenue in the early 1930s making the building very accessible to transportation
- Part of the second wave of construction in Uptown in the 1920s which included larger buildings from three to twelve stories and often sheathed or ornamented with terra cotta • "Uptown" name is credited to Loren Miller, a businessman, who in 1915 opened a store called the "Uptown Store". Uptown was one of the most important commercial centers outside the Loop by the 1920s
- Two 2 story additions were built; one in 1964 and one in 1968 at the rear of the building • Three primary elevations in the threepart Classical Revival tradition include the base (floors 1-3), the shaft (floors 4-7) and the capital (floor 8) of a classical column with a substantial cornice above the capital
- External architectural details include arches, Corinthian pilasters and cornice treatments • Designed to accommodate retail space on floors 1-3 and professional space on floors 4-8. Original tenants included a shoe store, a fur salon, the Zenith Restaurant and a Walgreen's Drug Store on the northeast corner
- Main entrance is recessed and set within a terra cotta segmental arch
- The storefront openings are accentuated by flanking terra cotta piers that extend between the first and second floors and feature alternating bands of plain and ornamental terra cotta panels
- A wide stringcourse separates the first floor from the second and third floors • First floor consists of 13 framed, rectangular openings on Sheridan Road and nine on Lawrence Avenue. Recessed retail entries lined the Sheridan Road spaces

