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Lake County IL Recorder
Mary Ellen Vanderventer Recorder
File **7356331**

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5994518

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Submitted By:

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City of Waukegan

Attn: Steve Sabourin

100 N Martin Luther King Jr Ave

Waukegan, IL 60085

JR
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CERTIFICATION

I, Mary Ellen Vanderventer, Recorder for the County of Lake, State of Illinois, do hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of Document Number **5994518** recorded **May 17, 2006** as it appears from the records and microfilm in my office. In witness hereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of my office.

DATE: December 14, 2016

Mary Ellen Vanderventer
Mary Ellen Vanderventer
Lake County Recorder

[Seal]
by *Jeanine M. Richards*
Clerk, Recorder's Office

18 N County St – 6th Floor
Waukegan, IL 60085-4358
(847) 377-2575
fax (847) 984-5860


*Mary Ellen
Vanderverter*
Lake County RECORDER OF DEEDS

5994518

FILED FOR RECORD BY:
MARY ELLEN VANDERVERTER
LAKE COUNTY, IL RECORDER
05/17/2006 - 03:24:34 P.M.
RECEIPT #: 285972
DRAWER #: 30

**COVERSHEET
FOR
MISCELLANEOUS,
NON-STANDARD
OR
RE-RECORDED
DOCUMENT**

(8)

06 - 0 - 72

**AN ORDINANCE GRANTING APPROVAL OF LANDMARK DESIGNATION
TO 518 CLAYTON STREET**

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2001 the Waukegan City Council enacted Ordinance 01-O-144, the Historic Preservation Ordinance of the City of Waukegan, Illinois. (the Historic Preservation Ordinance)

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Ordinance was enacted to provide the City and its citizens a way to voluntarily protect, enhance, perpetuate and allow for the continued use of improvements of special character or historical interest or value within the City for the continued health, prosperity safety and welfare of the people of Waukegan.

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Ordinance established the Historic Preservation Commission and a mechanism whereby elements of the City's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history could be identified and preserved.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Historic Preservation Ordinance William Tyre filed an application with the Historic Preservation Commission (Commission) wherein he requested, on behalf of the property owner, James C. Durkin, Historic Landmark Designation for 518 Clayton Street, known as the Jack Benny House.

WHEREAS, the Commission set a public hearing to consider the application, and after proper notice a hearing was convened and evidence heard. Thereafter, the Commission prepared a report and made findings of fact which the Commission conveyed to the Waukegan City Council and which are designated Exhibit A and attached to and made a part of this Ordinance.

WHEREAS, in its report the Commission has recommended to the City Council that 518 Clayton Street be designated a Historic Landmark within the City of Waukegan.

WHEREAS, the City Council of Waukegan has accepted the factual findings and recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission and has determined that it is in the public interest and will tend to promote the public health, safety, morals, comfort, convenience and general welfare of the citizens of Waukegan, Illinois to designate 518 Clayton Street as a Historic Landmark.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Waukegan, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1: The recitals set forth above and the findings and recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission are made a part of this Ordinance.

SECTION 2: The City Council approves the application of William Tyre, on behalf of the property owner, James C. Durkin, and hereby designates 518 Clayton Street as a Historic Landmark. The legal description of the subject property is attached as part of



Send to: **CITY OF WAUKEGAN**
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
100 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.
Waukegan, Illinois 60085

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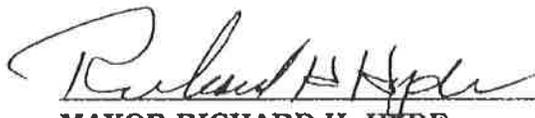
Exhibit A.

SECTION 3: Hereafter any proposed alteration, construction, removal or demolition of the subject structure shall require a Certificate of Appropriateness issued by the Historic Preservation Commission pursuant to the provisions of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

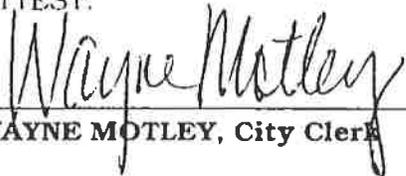
SECTION 4: The City Council hereby directs the City Clerk to send or deliver executed copies of this Ordinance to James C. Durkin, William Tyre, the Historic Preservation Commission, the City Planning and Zoning Department and the City Building Department. The City Clerk is further directed to record a certified copy of this Ordinance with the Lake County Recorder of Deeds.

SECTION 5: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with terms of this ordinance, are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

SECTION 6: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication in pamphlet form as provided by law.


MAYOR RICHARD H. HYDE

ATTEST:


WAYNE MOTLEY, City Clerk

Presented and Read at a regular meeting of the Waukegan City Council on the 17th day of April, 2006.

Passed and Approved at a regular meeting of the Waukegan, City Council on the 17th day of April, 2006.

ROLL CALL: Aldermen Balen, Moisio, Figueroa, Newsome, TenPas, Needham, Larsen, Rivera & Cunningham

AYES: Aldermen Balen, Moisio, Figueroa, Newsome, TenPas, Needham, Larsen, Rivera & Cunningham

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

29.700 Ord 1553R1Misp

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**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CITY OF WAUKEGAN**

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING
100 N. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AVENUE
WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS 60085**

**MICHAEL HOF, CHAIRMAN
HARRY CAME
WILLIAM J. KEARNEY III**

**LINDA MCCULLOCH
BARBARA STONE
WILLIAM TYRE**



SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 518 Clayton Street

Name of property:
Jack Benny House

Name and address of property owner:
James C. Durkin
3205 Sunset Avenue
Waukegan, IL 60087

Nomination form received by the Department of Planning & Zoning:
8 February 2006

Preliminary determination by the Historic Preservation Commission:
8 February 2006

Notice of public hearing published in News Sun:
23 February 2006

Public hearing:
8 March 2006

Recommended for landmark designation by Historic Preservation Commission:
8 March 2006

Date of summary report:
9 March 2006

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SUMMARY OF INFORMATION (continued)
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 518 Clayton Street

Current designations:
None

Number of structures recommended for designation:
One

Date of construction:
Circa 1895

Architect and/or builder:
Unknown

Original use:
Residence

Current use:
Apartments

History:

The two-and-one-half story frame house at 518 Clayton Street was built about 1895 for Peter Paulson, a Danish immigrant employed as a railroad conductor. At the time of construction, a second "mirror-image" house was built next door at 520 Clayton Street, differing only in the treatment of the attic level. Paulson, his wife Jennie and their children occupied the house until 1909 when it was rented to the Kubelsky family for two years. (Benjamin Kubelsky later changed his name to Jack Benny).

The house is a typical late 19th-century middle-class dwelling in the homestead style with a front-facing gable. The original wrap-around porch with intricate fret sawn trim remains in place as does the simple ball-and-stick fretwork beneath the jerkin-head gable. Asbestos shingles have sheathed the house since at least the 1940s, and new windows and front door have recently been installed. In spite of these modifications however, the overall massing and details of the houses are unchanged since the occupancy by the Kubelsky family, and the house would easily be recognized by Jack Benny were he to visit Waukegan today.

The Kubelsky family rented a number of different apartments and houses in Waukegan during the years that Jack Benny was growing up. This house is the last of these sites which still stands.

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SUMMARY OF INFORMATION (continued)

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 518 Clayton Street

The Historic Preservation Commission has determined that this structure is eligible for designation on the basis of the following criteria as established in Section 6.2 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance:

Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state or country.

Jack Benny was one of the first major radio personalities to make the successful transition to television. A huge star on radio ever since his 1932 debut on the Ed Sullivan show, Jack Benny's own television show premiered on CBS on October 28, 1950. This immensely popular show remained on the air for 15 years. Always loyal to his hometown of Waukegan, he frequently mentioned the city in his broadcasts, putting Waukegan on the map and forever linking himself with the city in which he was raised.

Jack Benny was born Benjamin Kubelsky on February 14, 1894 to Mayer and Emma Kubelsky. A younger sister Florence followed seven years later. The family resided in many different apartments and rented houses during Benny's childhood. His father was the proprietor of the Lake County Wine & Liquor Company, and later was a partner in a furniture and clothing business called Kubelsky & Gordon.

In 1909, the family rented the house at 518 Clayton Street, and they remained here through 1910. This was an important time in young Benny's life. He had learned to play the violin at an early age, and in 1910, while living in the house, received his first break, obtaining a job playing the violin in the pit of the Barrison Theatre, which was located at 25 S. Genesee. He eventually developed a vaudeville act of his own known as Salisbury and Benny, developing his trademark penny-pinching persona and impeccable sense of timing. He married Sadie Marks in a friend's apartment at the Clayton Hotel (southwest corner of Sheridan and Clayton) on January 14, 1927.

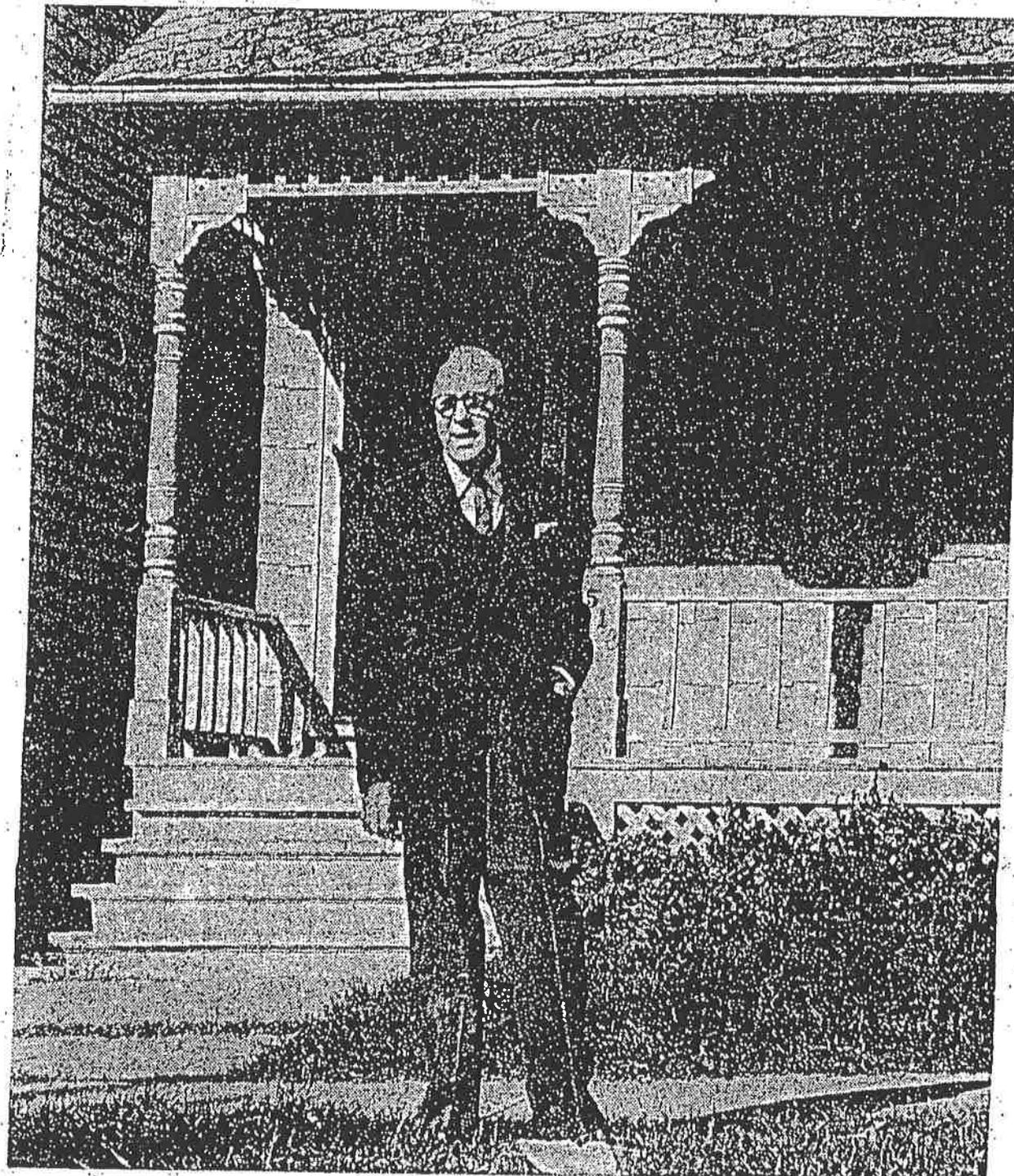
Even after achieving stardom, Benny never forgot his roots, and frequently returned to Waukegan, where his parents and sister are buried. His visits, known as "Jack Benny Days," brought out brass bands and huge crowds of fans. The largest of these events was the world premiere of his movie "Man About Town" at the Genesee Theatre on June 25, 1939. His final visit occurred in 1974 when he gave a benefit performance with the newly formed Waukegan Symphony Orchestra. He died in December of that year at the age of 80.

Several sites in Waukegan have been named in honor of Jack Benny including the Jack Benny School, the Jack Benny Center in Bowen Park and Benny Avenue, in addition to the installation of Jack Benny Plaza and Statue and his recognition in the Walk of Stars Park. This house however, is the last surviving building with a link to his years in Waukegan and therefore deserves landmark designation in honor of Benny's many accomplishments in the entertainment industry and his lifelong commitment to his hometown.

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About People/

Books
Religion



News-Sun File Photo

Jack Benny's loyalty to his native Waukegan became as important to his character as his familiar hand gestures and mellifluous voice. Some of the recollections in the biography authored by the comic's wife and brother-in-law are drawn from back issues of The News-Sun and Benny's numerous visits to

his beloved hometown when "Jack Benny days," literally brought out the brass bands, and in one instance, he conducted a performance by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra. Benny, who grew up as Ben Kubelsky, is shown at 518 Clayton St., the home where he spent his childhood.

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A

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION (continued)
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 518 Clayton Street



518 Clayton Street (photo taken 8 January 2006)



518 Clayton Street - porch (photo taken 8 January 2006)

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EXHIBIT A
LEGAL DESCRIPTION
518 CLAYTON STREET

THE EAST 33 FEET (EXCEPT THE NORTH 35 FEET THEREOF) IN BLOCK 1 IN SHERMAN'S SUBDIVISION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF A PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 12, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED APRIL 9, 1890 AS DOCUMENT #41764 IN BOOK "B" OF PLATS, PAGE 20, IN LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.