



The Village of Glenview

NEWS RELEASE

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GRANT AWARDED FOR GLENVIEW 'KIT HOME' SURVEY PROJECT

January 29, 2013 – Glenview is one of 14 local Illinois governments to receive a grant through the U.S. Department of the Interior for a historic preservation effort, it was announced January 24.

Glenview's \$3,018 award is part of the more than \$138,000 in federal funds that is being shared by 13 communities and one county, all of which have achieved Certified Local Government status.

The Village of Glenview Historic Preservation Commission intends to use the grant to commission a survey of historic "kit home" structures throughout the community.

"These homes are unique in the home manufacturing business," David Silver, the commission's chairman, said. "We think these 'kit homes' are very unusual in American homebuilding culture and history."

"Kit homes" were sold by catalog companies, such as Sears and Montgomery Ward, between 1908 and 1963. Each kit typically came with an instruction book and contained between 10,000 and 30,000 pieces, with framing marked to facilitate construction.

The kits were shipped via boxcar, and because of Glenview's proximity to the rail line, Silver estimated there may be as many as 30 "kit homes" still in existence in Glenview.

The commission hopes to hire a research consultant in the next few weeks, and receive the completed survey by the end of the year.

Formal verification of the status of these historic residences would allow them to be put on the Village's official list of landmark-eligible properties, a first step toward designation of any of them as a historic landmark.

Additionally, the Historic Preservation Commission intends to commission a "kit home" recognition guide/manual for use by local municipalities to help identify potentially historic "kit homes." The Commission also intends to host a public meeting where a "kit home" historian can present helpful tips for identifying historic "kit homes."

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