

T.S. Eastabrook House  
200 North Scoville Avenue  
Oak Park  
Cook County  
Illinois

HABS NO. ILL-1085

HABS  
ILL,  
16-OAKPA,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
801 19th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

## T. S. EASTABROOK HOUSE

HABS  
ILL,  
16-OAKPA,  
2-

Location: 200 North Scoville Avenue; northeast corner of Scoville Avenue and Ontario Street; Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois.

Present Owner and Occupant: Dr. Paul Doescher.

Present Use: Family dwelling.

Statement of Significance: This small Prairie School bungalow in Oak Park is an example of the domestic architecture of the Chicago firm Tallmadge and Watson, before 1915.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of the property: Lots 10 and 11 in Block 26 of the village of Ridgeland.

The following is taken from the complete chain of title contained in Book 112B in the Cook County Recorder's Office: Torrie S. Eastabrook purchased the property from Frank A. Stanwood on November 17, 1908 (Document 4297137). The next owner appears to have been Inez M. Vanderkloot, who obtained the property through an agreement with Walter A. Brendecke on January 16, 1933 (Documents 11187758-9); the property was included in Vanderkloot's inventory of December 16, 1952 (Document 524/205). Paul F. Doescher, the present owner, is mentioned in a title agreement with Oak Park Trust and Savings Bank on December 24, 1952 (Document 15513215); Doescher received the deed to the property from Wilfred Brooke et al. on January 21, 1953 (Document 15549323) and retains ownership as of the last entry dated March 21, 1958 (Document 17161256).

2. Date of erection: After 1908 and before 1915.
3. Architect: Tallmadge and Watson; Thomas Eddy Tallmadge (1876-1940), Vernon S. Watson (1879?-1950).

## B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Mr. Wilfred L. Brooke, 329 South Scoville Avenue, Oak Park, reported the following in an interview on 27 July 1965: The house

was built for Mr. Thaddeus S. Eastabrook next door to the Brooke family home (the site was formerly occupied by a chicken coup). Mr. Brooke states that local residents referred to the house as the "Eastabrook bungalow."

C. Bibliography:

Brooks, H. Allen, Jr. The Prairie School, The American Spirit in Midwest Residential Architecture 1893-1916. An unpublished doctoral dissertation for the Department of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, 1957. pp. 165-168; Pl. 143.

Condit, Carl W. The Chicago School of Architecture. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1964. p. 208.  
Information on Tallmadge and his work while in partnership with Watson.

"Residence of T. S. Eastabrook," Western Architect, XXII, 12 (December, 1915). pp. 49-50, Pls. fol. 52.  
The spelling of "Eastabrook" is incorrect here; this is the single known publication on the house.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This small bungalow is an example of the work of Tallmadge and Watson before 1915, in the style known as the Prairie School.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Roughly a Greek cross; 47'-9" x 64'-9"; one and one-half stories above a raised basement.
2. Foundations: The super-structure is set back on a one and one-half foot high concrete podium.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The lower portion of the wall, up to the window sills, is covered with wood shingles, stained dark brown. The upper walls are white, rough-finished stucco with applied half-timber moldings in a similar dark brown. A projecting dark brown wood string course girds the house at its midpoint.
4. Structural system, framing: Wood frame construction.

5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: There is a large porch (now enclosed) on the west front of the house with terraces to the north and south. The entrance is from the north terrace.
  6. Chimneys: One central concrete chimney.
  7. Openings:
    - a. Doorways and doors: To the north are entrances to the living room and porch, on the east is an entrance up to the kitchen and down to the basement. A single-car garage is provided in the basement of the east wing. The rear stair has a distinctive frame stair rail composed of vertical wood strips with small ornamental holes cut in their upper edges.
    - b. Windows: All are casement windows, except those in the upper floor and basement, which are a hopper type, and those at either end of the east-west axis, which are of plate glass.
  8. Roof:
    - a. Shape, covering: There is a gable at each end of the intersecting axes. A raised clerestory or monitor type roof runs the length of the north-south axis.
    - b. Cornice, eaves: There are broad projecting eaves around the entire building; they are trimmed in plain dark wood, the soffits sheathed in stucco.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plans:
    - a. Basement: There is a single car garage on the east end of the east-west axis. The remaining area is used for laundry and storage.
    - b. First floor: On the west end of the east-west axis is an enclosed porch. The interior of the house is reached through a small entry located in the north-east angle formed by the intersection of the porch and the north wing. The living room is separated from the porch on the west by a plate glass window and two doors, and from the dining room on the east by a fireplace. A small divider separates the dining room from the den on the east end of the east-west axis. The south wing contains a bedroom on the east and a small bedroom and bath on the west. The north wing has a sitting room on the west and kitchen on the east.

- c. Upper floor: The upper story which runs above the north-south axis was originally unfinished; it now contains a small bedroom and bath to the north and storage area to the south.
2. Stairways: Small stairways consisting of a landing, a straight run and winders run from the basement to the first floor and from the first floor to the upper story. The stairwell lies between the dining room, kitchen and sitting room.
  3. Flooring: Wood strip flooring.
  4. Wall and ceiling finish: The entire house has plaster walls and ceilings. The living-dining room wing has a gabled ceiling with wood moldings, not completely painted white.
  5. Doorways and doors: Stock.
  6. Decorative features and trim: The central brick fireplace at the east end of the living room is reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright's designs.
  7. Heating: Gas hot water heating.
- D. Site and Surroundings:

General setting and orientation: The house faces west on a pleasant tree-shaded corner lot in the Chicago suburb of Oak Park. There are ample lawns to the front and rear with many shrubs. The basement garage is reached by a drive from the alley.

Prepared by Larry J. Homolka, Historian  
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National Park Service  
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