

Community Area # 11

Jefferson Park

This community area is bordered on the north by Cook County forest preserves and by the North Branch of the Chicago River. The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad borders the area on the east, and Milwaukee and Elston avenues--which follow early Indian trails--traverse the community area diagonally.

The Chicago and North Western Railway has provided a longstanding commuter link between the community and downtown Chicago, while the Kennedy Expressway--and the associated CTA rapid transit line--are more recent additions to the community area's transportation options.

John Kinzie Clark, who arrived in the early 1830s, was one of the first settlers in Jefferson Park. More settlers arrived following the completion in 1844 of the Northwest Plank Road (now Milwaukee Avenue) and the construction of a post office (demolished) in 1845. In 1850, local farmers voted to form the Township of Jefferson, named for Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States. The township, which was platted in 1855 and subdivided in 1868 and 1870, was incorporated as a village in 1872.

Although most early development was concentrated in the southeastern corner of the community area, one of the area's oldest buildings, an Italianate-style residence at 5947 N. Manton (c.1870), is located in the northern section of the community area. A railroad station on the Chicago and North Western line opened in the 1880s, and families seeking a



5947 N. Manton Av.

5521 W. Higgins Av.



Fieldhouse, Jefferson Park 5445 W. Higgins Av.





tranquil refuge from the hurly-burly of Chicago began to settle in Jefferson Park. Nonetheless, farming remained an economic mainstay of the area for years after its 1889 annexation by Chicago.

The extension of streetcar lines to Jefferson Park in the mid-1890s spelled the end of its suburban isolation. In 1894, the Milwaukee Avenue streetcar line reached Lawrence Avenue, the area's southern boundary; streetcars along Lawrence extended to Milwaukee two years later. Two Queen Anne-style residences, which were built in the 1890s, survive at 5237 W. Argyle and 5521 W. Higgins.

The community experienced a real estate boom in the 1920s, typified by the residence at 6017 N. Menard (1927). An early gas station at 5536 N. Elston (1928), still retains its picturesque Spanish Revival-style tower. The Jefferson Park fieldhouse, 5445 W. Higgins, was built in 1930.

Although predominantly residential, Jefferson Park also had developed industrial districts within its boundaries by 1930, notably along the Chicago and North Western railroad tracks.

The opening of the Kennedy Expressway in 1960 profoundly affected Jefferson Park, making it easily accessible by car from both downtown and the suburbs.

The focus of the Chicago Historic Resources Survey was on buildings erected prior to 1940. Buildings and developments erected after that date generally are not included in the inventory.

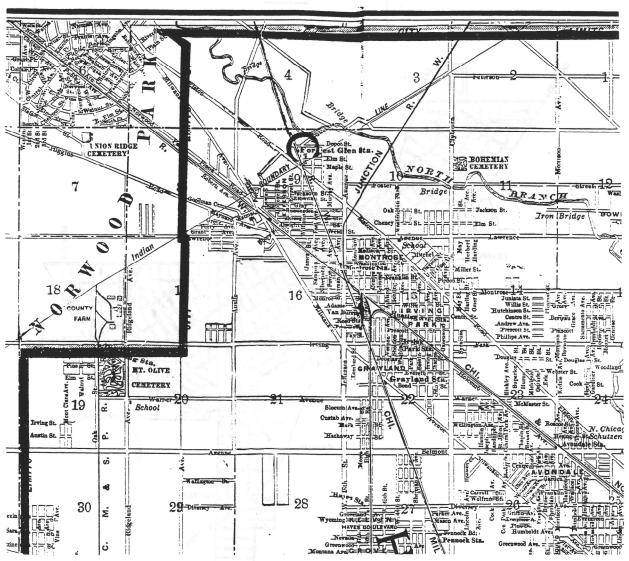


5536 N. Elston Av.

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			Building			Building		Total Control	
Address	Date Arc.	hitect	Style	LM	IS	Code		PIN	Form #
5237 W ARGYLE ST	1890s	1.1.484	QUEEN ANNE	N	N	OR	SFR	1309321006	
4848 N AUSTIN AV	1910s			N	N	OR	SFR	1308327029	114514001
5536 N ELSTON	1928 FOF	RTIN, JOSEPH T.		N	Y	OR	GAS STA	1309123013	114518003
5623 W GOODMAN ST	1900s		COLONIAL REV	N	N	OR	SFR	1308421067	114512005
5445 W HIGGINS AV	1930 HAT	TZFELD, CLAREN		Ν	Y	OR	FIELDHSE	1309329003	114512001
5521 W HIGGINS AV	1890s		QUEEN ANNE	N	N	OR	SFR	1309328006	114512002
5001 N LARAMIE AV	1916 HUS	SSANDER, ARTH		N	Y	OR	SCHOOL	1309412001	114511001
5318 N LUDLAM AV	1928 REF	PP. GEORGE W.		N	N	OR	SFR	1309130027	114518001
5322 N LUDLAM AV	1928 REF	PP, GEORGE W.		N	N	OR	SFR	1309131028	114518002
5947 N MANTON AV	<1870		ITALIANATE	N	N	OR	SFR	1305403015	114523001
6017 N MENARD AV	1927 KO	CHER & LARSON	TUDOR REV	N	N	OR	SFR	1305216019	114525001
4800 N MILWAUKEE AV	1920s HAL	LPERIN & BRAUN		N	N	OR	OFFICE	1309330025	114512003
4931 N MILWAUKEE AV	1890s OHI	LHABER, WILLIA	QUEEN ANNE	N	Y	OR	COMM/RES	1309319009	114512004
5470 N PARKSIDE AV				N	Y	GN		1308214019	114519001
5142 W STRONG ST				N	Y	GN		1309416028	114511002
5208 W WINONA ST	1900s			N	N	ÓR	SFR	1309307018	114512006



An 1890 map of Chicago's Northwest Side. The heavy black line represents the Chicago city limits at the time. Subdivisions along railroad lines extending from downtown Chicago into the surrounding countryside are separated by large sections of undeveloped land. The Jefferson Park neighborhood radiates out from the intersections of Lawrence, Milwaukee, and Higgins avenues.