Community Area #19
Belmont Cragin

Population: 56,787
Number of Structures: 13,283
Avg. Date of Construction: 1931

Significant Structures: 22

Source: 1990 Census, Harris File, CHRS

(Dots show approximate, rather than specific, locations of significant structures.)
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Community Area #19

Belmont Cragin

This community area is bordered by Belmont Avenue on the north, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul (C M & St. P) railroad tracks to the south and west, and the Chicago and North Western (C & NW) tracks on the east.

In the 1840s, the area was mostly farmland, native prairie, or forests. The area's oldest known settlement was centered around "Whiskey Point," a small commercial district located at the present intersection of Armitage and Grand avenues. (No structures survive from that era.)

The communities of Cragin, Galewood, and Hanson Park sprung up, during the 1870s and 1880s, along the C M & St. P tracks. Galewood was named after Abram Gale, whose farm was subdivided for residential uses in the 1880s. Cragin and Hanson Park developed as suburban industrial centers, hastened by the founding of the Cragin Manufacturing Company, a tin plating and sheet metal works, in 1882. These communities were annexed to Chicago in 1889.

In 1913, the area between Belmont, Chicago, Diversey, Laramie, and the C & NW tracks was developed into a residential area known as Belmont Park. During this time, the imposing St. Stanislaus B&M Church (1910) was erected at 2308 N. Lorel.

The 1920s witnessed extensive residential and industrial development, partially facilitated by the expansion of streetcar and bus lines on many of the area's major streets. A brick residence at 4701 W.
Wrightwood (1924) is a fine example of the type of bungalows erected at this time. In addition, numerous brick two-flats were built in the northern and western parts of the community, away from the southern manufacturing districts. After the 1920s, most of the area's industrial growth occurred west of Central Avenue, along the railroad tracks.

Although retail areas already were well-established along Belmont Cragin's older streets by 1930, the next two decades saw the rapid development of a large commercial district around the intersection of Belmont and Central avenues. Several of the area's most distinctive buildings are located nearby, including Hanson Park Fieldhouse, 5501 W. Fullerton, Hanson Stadium (1939) at 2307 N. Central, one of the city's few remaining pre-1940s stadiums, and an unusual Art Deco-style gas station at 2200 N. Central (1940).

The opening of the Brickyard Shopping Mall in 1977, on the far west side of the community, was the area's major development change during the post-World War II era.

*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.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Architect</th>
<th>Building Style</th>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Building Code Type</th>
<th>PIN</th>
<th>Form $</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5551 W BELMONT AV</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>SMITH, Z. EROL</td>
<td>ART DECO</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>1238100003</td>
<td>193611001</td>
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<tr>
<td>2420 N CICERO AV</td>
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<td>PUCKETT &amp; JENKINS</td>
<td>CLASSICAL REV</td>
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<td>OR</td>
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<td>193011202</td>
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<td>4830 W DICKENS AV</td>
<td>1939</td>
<td>MCCARTHY, SMITH</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<td>193011601</td>
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<tr>
<td>5721 W GRAND AV</td>
<td>1929</td>
<td>WORTHMANN &amp; STE</td>
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<td>Y</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<td>193000033</td>
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<td>3000 N MELVINA AV</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>GERHARDT, PAUL</td>
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<td>OR</td>
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<td>193000033</td>
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<tr>
<td>5028 W WELLINGTON AV</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>TEISEN, AXEL V</td>
<td>GOTHIC REV</td>
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<td>193010602</td>
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 survey information for this community area was accurate at the time it was first surveyed in August 1990.

for an explanation of column headings, see page 111.