

Community Area #45

Avalon Park

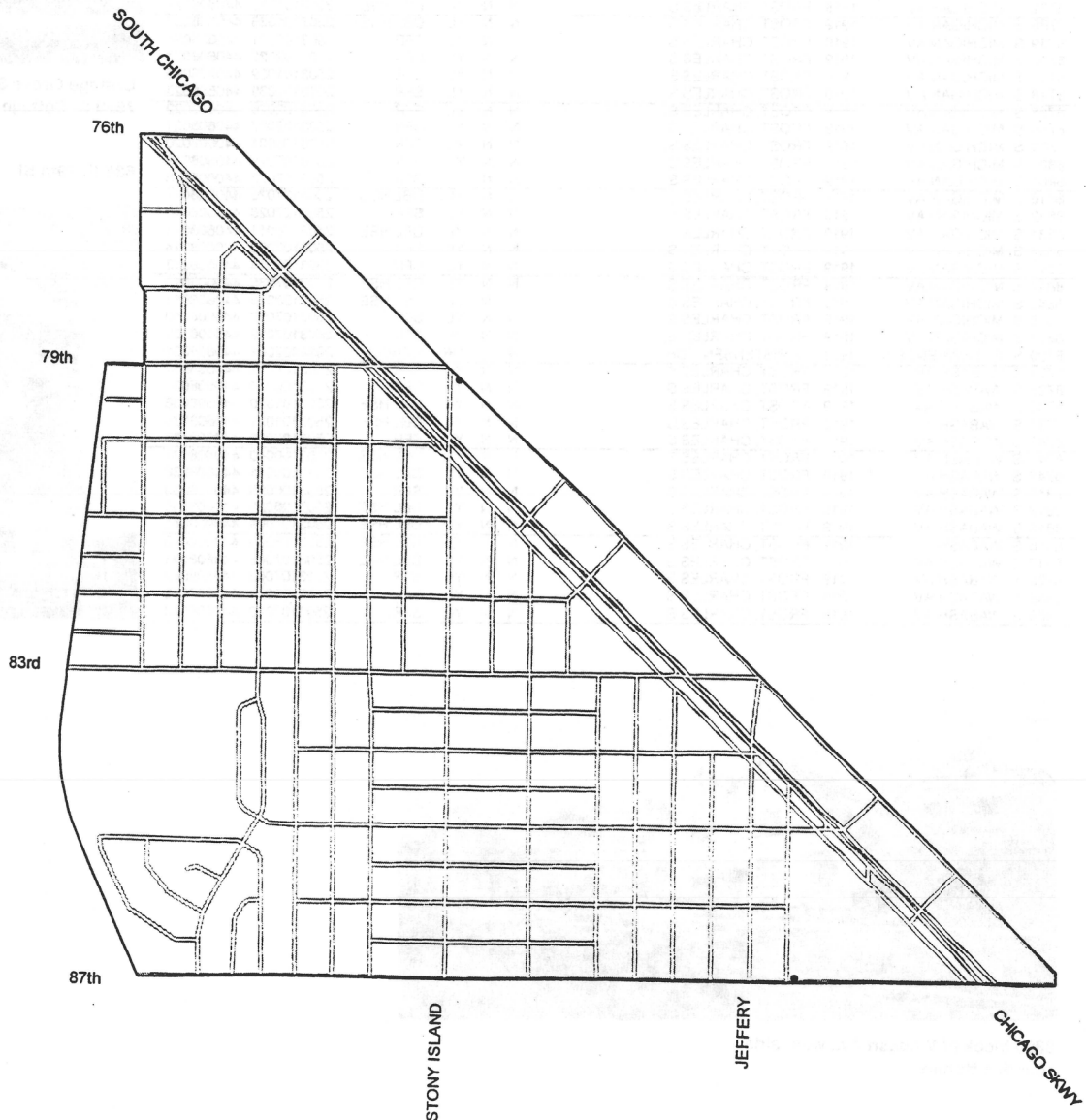
Population: 11,711

Number of Structures: 3,388

Avg. Date of Construction: 1933

Significant Structures: 2

Source: 1990 Census, Harris File, CHRS



(Dots show approximate, rather than specific, locations of significant structures.)
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One of Chicago's smallest community areas, Avalon Park originally was part of a low-lying swamp that surrounded Stony Island, a glacial ridge located to the east in the Calumet Heights community area. The area's mosquito-ridden land was not conducive to farming, and most early houses were built on posts to raise them above the muck.

The first non-native settlement was located on Avalon Park's northern border with Greater Grand Crossing, where the better-drained ground and proximity to railroad jobs drew a few railroad workers, who erected several frame homes (demolished). In 1888, a subdivision, soon called "Pennytown" in honor of an early settler and general store owner, was platted for the area bounded by 81st, 83rd, Woodlawn, and Dorchester.

In 1889, Avalon Park was annexed to Chicago. The following year, the city, foreseeing the area's eventual development, set aside a site at 83rd and Woodlawn for a park, to be called "Avalon Park." A few residents, including additional railroad workers, settled here following the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893, but houses still needed to be built atop posts until 1900, when the swampy ground conditions were alleviated with the construction of the 79th Street sewer. Over the next decade, homes were built in the area bounded by 80th, 83rd, Stony Island, and Cregier.

In 1910, Reverend Lee Anna Starr of the Avalon Park Community Church led a successful campaign to change the community's name from Pennytown to Avalon Park. Rapid development of the

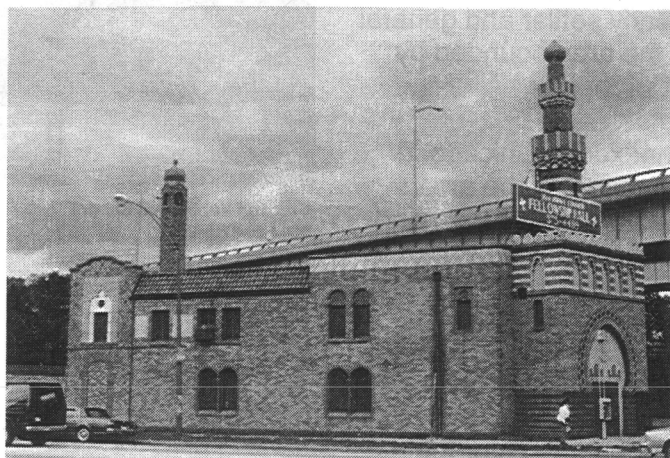


Chicago Vocational School
2034 E. 87th St.

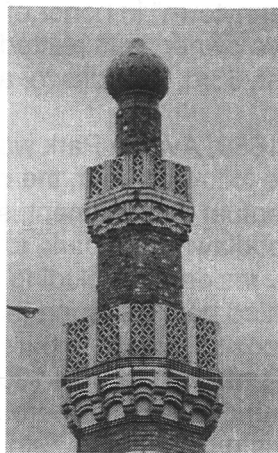
community continued through the 1910s and 1920s. The Conner Fellowship Hall at 7900 S. South Chicago Av. (1928; Frederick Stanton) dates from this period of growth.

Construction of single-family residences continued even through Depression years of the 1930s. Also constructed during this decade was the Chicago Vocational School at 2034 E. 87th St. (1939; John Christensen). Subsequent new construction has been similar in type and scale, reinforcing the community's present-day small-scale residential character.

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.



Conner Fellowship Hall
7900 S. South Chicago Av.

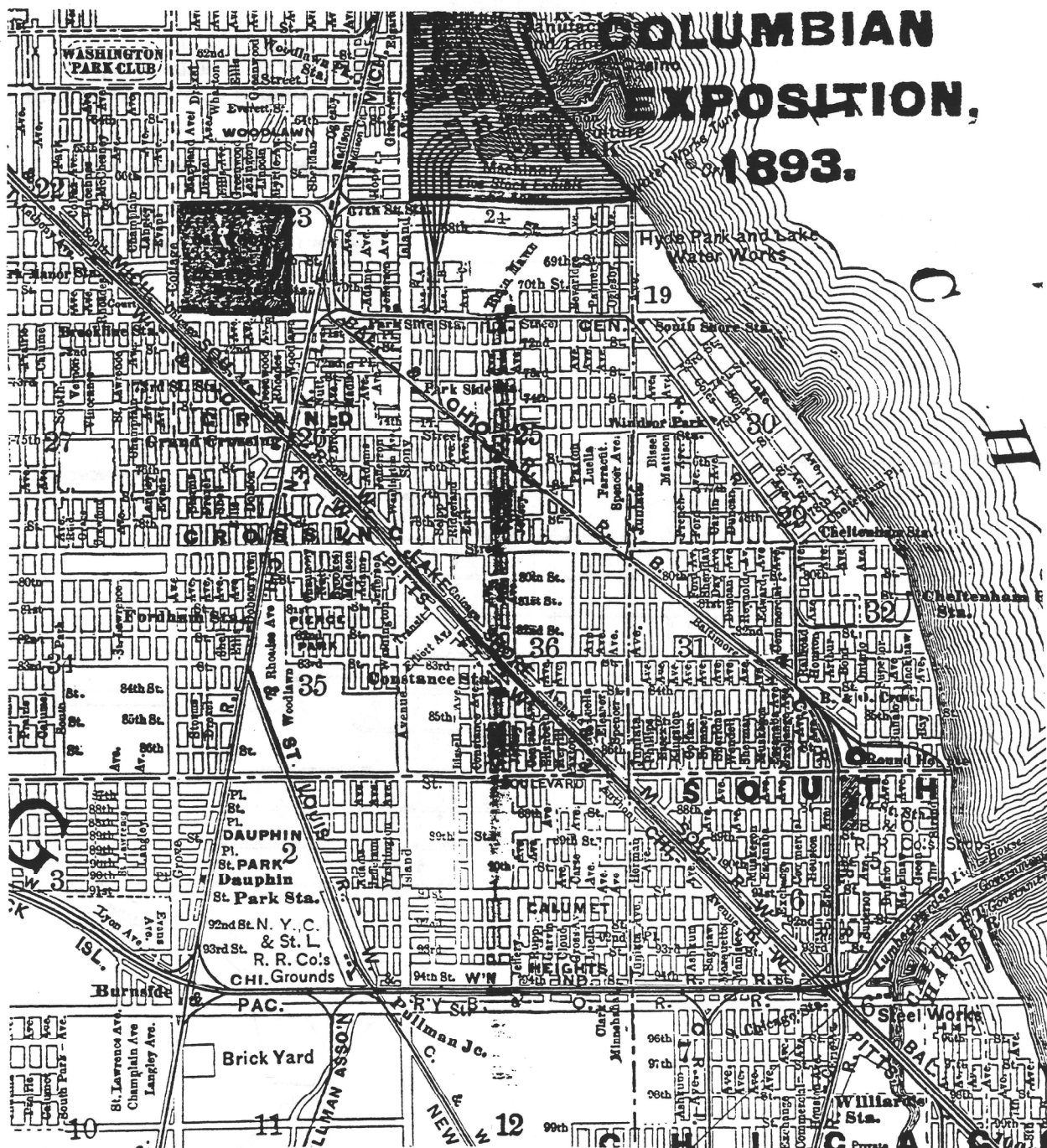


Tower, Conner Fellowship Hall

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Address	Date	Architect	Building Style	Survey LM IS	Building Code Type	PIN	Form #
2034 E 87 ST	1939	CHRISTENSEN, JOH		N Y	OR SCHOOL	2036416004	450812001
7900 S SOUTH CHICAGO	1928	STANTON, FREDERI	MIDDLE EAST	N Y	OR COMM	2036106071	450817002



An 1890 map of Chicago's south side.
The community area of Avalon Park is located in the center of the map (marked by "Pierce Park" and "Constance Station").