

Community Area # 46

South Chicago

Situated where the Calumet River meets Lake Michigan, the South Chicago area was considered both for the site of Fort Dearborn and for the Illinois & Michigan Canal, which connected Lake Michigan to the DesPlaines and Illinois rivers. An 1833 government survey advocated the Calumet River for the canal's origin, which encouraged Lewis Benton, an early land speculator, to plat the city of "Calumet" and to erect 10 homes and the Eagle Hotel (demolished).

However, the Chicago River was chosen as the origin for the canal, the construction of which began in 1836, and South Chicago remained a remote hunting and fishing community for many years. An early settler, Andreas von Zirngibl, a veteran of the 1814 Battle of Waterloo between French and British armies, was interred here. His burial marker is still present at 9333 S. Ewing.

In 1848, South Chicago became a little less isolated when the Lake Shore and Michigan railroad laid tracks between South Chicago and the community of Englewood. In addition, a road was built to Chicago by 1851. A railroad station, originally named "Ainsworth," was built in 1857, and a small community grew up nearby.

In 1869, the Calumet and Chicago Dock and Canal Company began to improve the harbor and shipping facilities in the area, and by 1873, South Chicago had a harbor and docking facilities for lake-plying ships. Steel plants, lumber mills, grain elevators and railroad shops were built soon after . In 1874, the Ainsworth station was renamed South Chicago.



2639 E. 87th St

Andreas von Zirngibi Monument 9333 S. Ewing Av.



An Italianate-style frame house from the 1870s survives at 2639 E. 87th.

A milestone was reached in 1881, with the opening of the South Works of the North Chicago Rolling Mill Company, a steel plant that would dominate the life of South Chicago for a century, making it one of the world's leading steel producing areas. In 1883, the Illinois Central railroad began regular service to South Chicago. Thereafter, the community built up rapidly with frame cottages, such as those surviving at 8851 S. Houston and 3111 E. 79th.

In 1889, South Chicago was annexed to Chicago. By this time, densely-populated neighborhoods had developed around the South Works plant, located along the lakefront between 79th and the Calumet River. The burgeoning population spurred the construction of commercial and residential buildings throughout the area. By 1900, South Chicago had been extensively developed.

Commercial Avenue lived up to its name, becoming the shopping and banking center for the community with buildings such as the Calumet National Bank at No. 9117 (1909). St. Michael Catholic Church, located at 3134 E. 83rd, was built in 1907 to designs by William Brinkmann. The following year, Prairie School architect Dwight Perkins designed James R. Bowen High School at 2700 E. 89th, very similar to his landmark Carl Schurz High School on Chicago's Northwest side.

By 1920, South Chicago was an established working-class community of single-family homes and apartments. Commercial Avenue continued to develop in the 1920s with the erection of the Peoples Gas South Chicago Neighborhood Store (1925, von Holst & Elmslie) at no. 8935. That same year, John Eberson designed the Middle-Eastern inspired Avalon Theater (now the New Regal Theater) at 1641 E. 79th in the community's far northwestern corner.

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.



James H. Bowen High School 2700 E. 89th St.

St. Michael Catholic Church 3134 E. 83rd St.



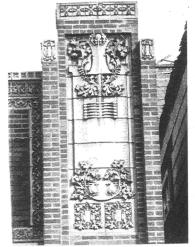
Community Area #46

South Chicago

			Building		Survey		Building		
Address	Date	Architect	Style	LN	I IS	Code	Туре	PIN	Form #
	1893	PARTS TO THE RESIDENCE		N	N	OR	UTILITY		460716001
	1911			N	N	OR	UTILITY		460716002
1641 E 79 ST	1925	EBERSON, JOHN	MIDDLE EAST	Υ	Y	OR	THEATER	2036100003	
2431 E 79 ST	1929	RANDL, NORMAN		Ν	N	OR	COMM/RES	2131101001	460715001
3111 E 79 ST	1880s		QUEEN ANNE	N	Y	OR	SFR	2131206004	
2950 E 80 ST	1925			N	Y	OR	UTILITY	2131203025	460714001
3134 E 83 ST	1907	BRINKMANN, WILLIA	GOTHIC REV	Ν	Y	OR	CHURCH	1936300027	
2639 E 87 ST	1870s			Ν	Ν	OR	SFR	2606105001	
2944 E 88 ST	1900s			N	Υ	OR	REL MISC	2606202015	
2700 E 89 ST	1908	PERKINS, DWIGHT H	CRAFTSMAN	N	Y	OR	SCHOOL	2606114001	
2733 E 89 ST	1900s	BURNHAM, D.H., & C	- i	N	Υ	OR	FIELDHSE	2606120001	460706002
2938 E 89 ST	1890s			N	Y	OR	POLICE	2606209021	
3202 E 91 ST	1929	BURNS, JAMES	CLASSICAL REV	N	Y	OR	CHURCH	2606227033	
3251 E -91 ST	1893		QUEEN ANNE	N	N	OR	6-FLAT	2605112005	
2931 E 92 ST	1902			Ν	Υ	OR	MONUMEN	2606400029	
3020 E 92 ST	1890s		QUEEN ANNE	N	Υ	OR	COMM/RES		461081002
3066 E 92 ST	1890s		ROMANESQUE	N	Y	OR			461081001
8311 S BRANDON AV	1901			N	N	OR	2-3 FLAT		460709001
9037 S BUFFALO AV	1893			Ν	Υ	OR	MFR	2605109014	
8112 S CLYDE AV	1900s			N	N	OR	SFR	2036217041	
8738 S COMMERCIAL AV				N	Υ	GN		2606202031	460705011
8750 S COMMERCIAL AV	1898	CARR, MARTIN	CLASSICAL REV	N	Υ	OR	CHURCH	2606202015	
8856 S COMMERCIAL AV				Ν	Υ	GN		2606209039	
8930 S COMMERCIAL AV				N	Υ	GN		2606216031	
8934 S COMMERCIAL AV				N	Υ	GN		2606216032	
8935 S COMMERCIAL AV	1925	VON HOLST & ELMS	PRAIRIE	Y	Υ	RD	COMM	2606217012	
8952 S COMMERCIAL AV	1905	ROY, FRANZ		Ν	Υ	OR	COMM/RES		
8956 S COMMERCIAL AV				N	Υ	GN		2606216039	
9001 S COMMERCIAL AV				Ν	Υ	GN		2606224001	
9021 S COMMERCIAL AV		7		N	Υ	GN		2606224007	
9041 S COMMERCIAL AV				N	Υ	GN		2606224015	
9117 S COMMERCIAL AV	1909		CHGO SCHOOL	Ν	Υ	OR	BANK	2606403010	
9232 S COMMERCIAL AV	1895		EASTLAKE	Ν	Υ	OR	COMM/RES	2606409013	
8811 S ESCANABA AV				Ν	Υ	GN		2606208005	
9026 S ESCANABA AV	1896			N		OR	2-3 FLAT	2606221023	
9040 S ESCANABA AV				N		GN		2606221029	
9333 S EWING AV	<1870) ' /		N		OR	MONUMEN	2605301007	
7935 S EXCHANGE AV				Ν		GN		2131203024	
8845 S EXCHANGE AV				Ν		GN		.2606209019	
8926 S EXCHANGE AV	1907	DE MONEY, FRANK		N		OR	2-3 FLAT	2606215030	
8944 S EXCHANGE AV		7		N		GN		2606215037	
8957 S EXCHANGE AV				N		GN		2606216022	
8847 S HOUSTON AV				N		GN			460705025
8851 S HOUSTON AV	1880s		WORKMAN COT			OR	SFR		460705003
8927 S HOUSTON AV	1902	NEWHOUSE, HENRY	ROMANESQUE	N		OR	SYNAGOG	2606218046	
8944 S HOUSTON AV		1		N		GN		2606217036	
9037 S HOUSTON AV	1907	WORTHMANN & STE	GOTHIC REV	N		OR	CHURCH		460705005
7936 S LUELLA AV	1915	HECHT, ALBERT S.		Ν		OR	SFR		460816002
7958 S PAXTON AV	1925	HOCKE, JOHN		Ν		OR	SFR	2036203029	
8231 S SOUTH SHORE DE	1890	S		N	N	OR	REL MISC	2131233008	460714003



Calumet National Bank 9117 S. Calumet Av.



Peoples Gas - South Chicago Neighborhood Store 8935 S. Commercial Av.



Congregation Agudath Achim-Bikur 8927 S. Houston Av.