

Community Area #47

## Burnside

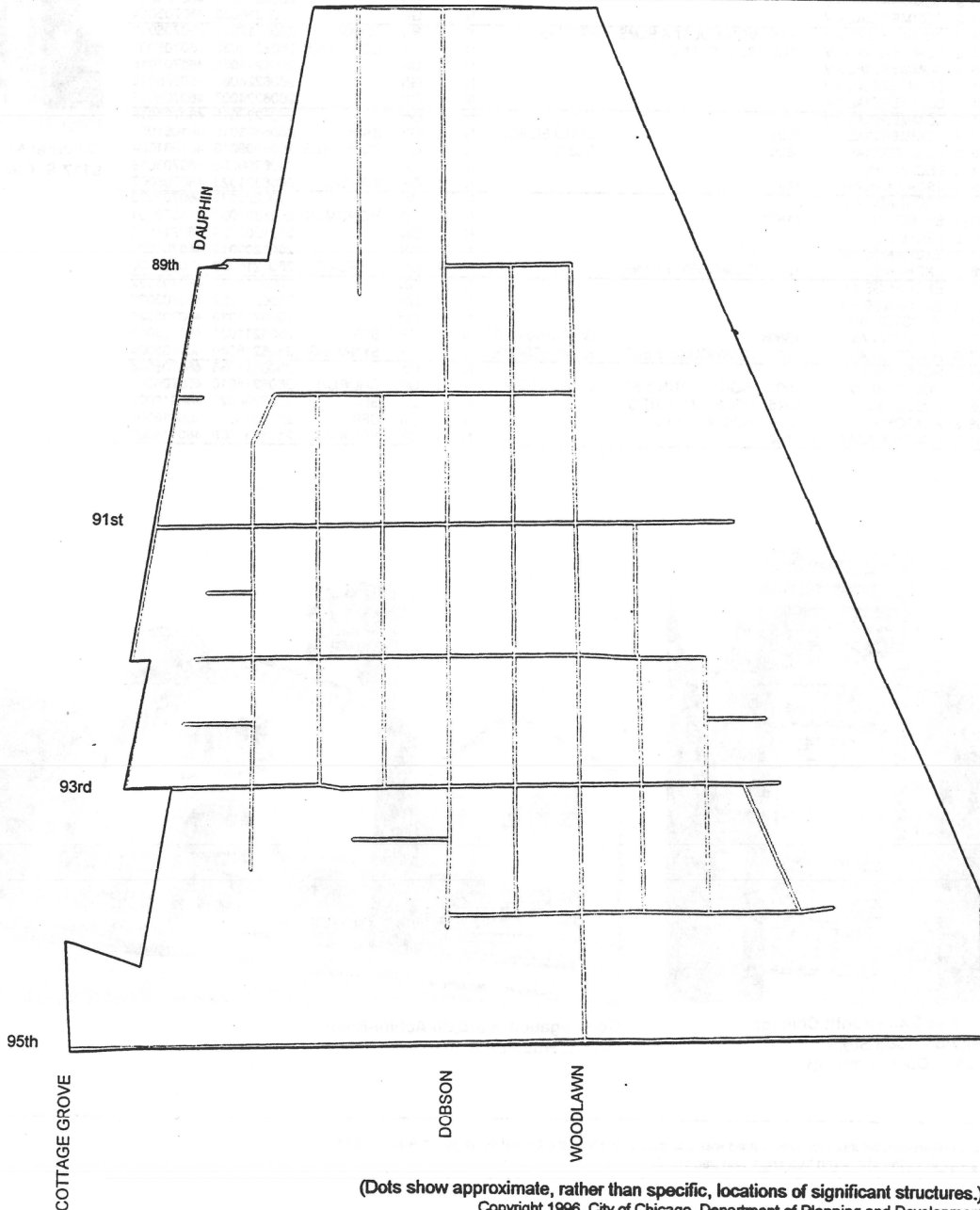
Population: 3,314

Number of Structures: 884

Avg. Date of Construction: 1931

**Significant Structures: 0**

Source: 1990 Census, Harris File, CHRS



(Dots show approximate, rather than specific, locations of significant structures.)  
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Burnside, named for Civil War General Ambrose E. Burnside, is one of the smallest community areas in Chicago. Its development was hampered by both natural and man-made restrictions. It originally was swamp land, which discouraged most development. In addition, railroad tracks were barriers to easy transportation in and out of the community area.

Despite these impediments, Burnside was subdivided and named in 1887 by Colonel W. W. Jacobs, then annexed by Chicago in 1889. Soon thereafter, the first store and post office opened (both demolished). Burnside began to develop more rapidly after the Illinois Central Railroad built its Burnside shops at 95th and Cottage Grove about 1890. However, the community remained quite isolated and developed with simple single-family homes and flat buildings.

The 1920s brought increased demand for workers in surrounding industries, and Burnside saw the construction of new housing between 91st and 95th, east of the Illinois Central railroad tracks. However, its population remained small and its architecture simple and functional.

By 1930, the community had stabilized. There was almost no new construction until the 1950s, when new single-family homes were constructed, giving the community the character it retains today.

*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.*



Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside