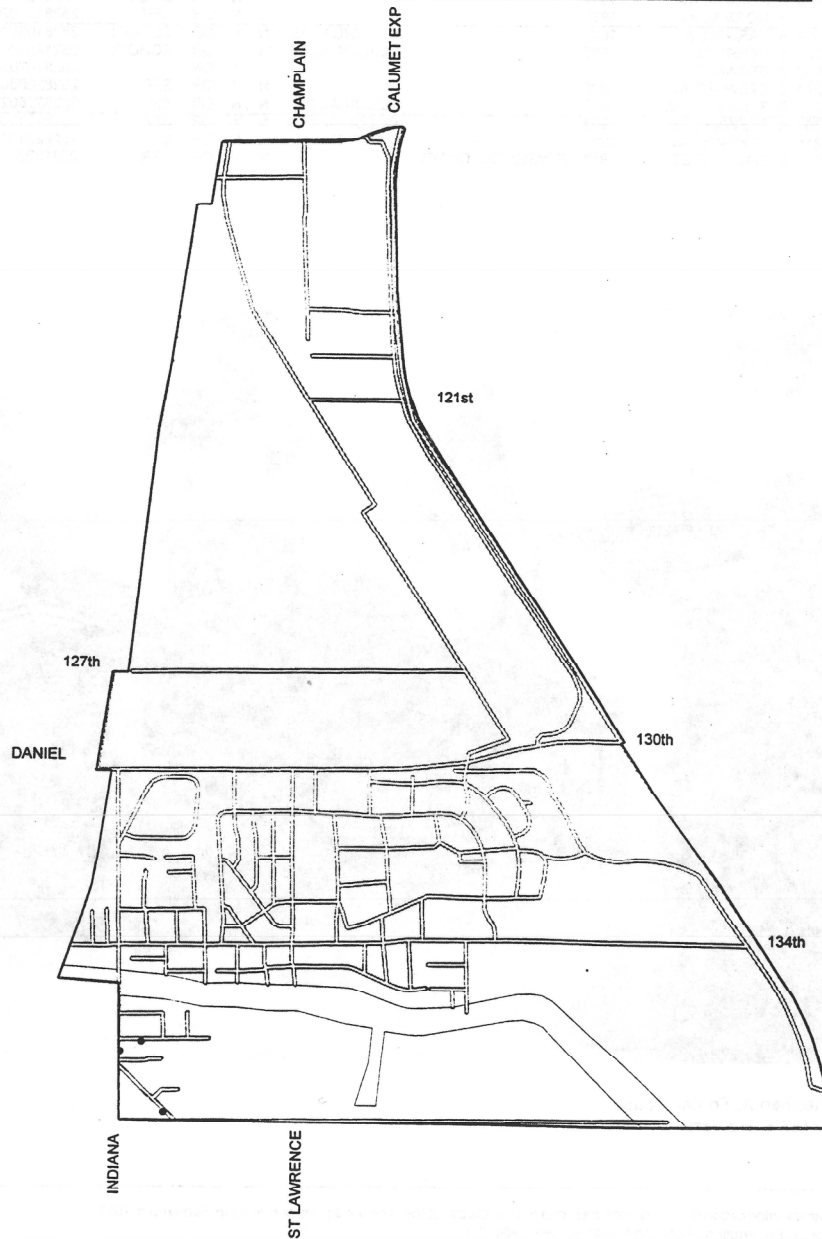


Community Area #54
Riverdale

Population: 10,821
Number of Structures: 977
Avg. Date of Construction: 1942

Significant Structures: 3

Source: 1990 Census, Harris File, CHRS



(Dots show approximate, rather than specific, locations of significant structures.)
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Community Area # 54

Riverdale

Riverdale is located at the southern city limits, adjacent to the suburb of the same name. Primarily industrial in character, the community's residences are grouped south of 130th Street and east of Indiana Avenue.

An early settler, George Dolton, arrived in the area in 1836, and operated a ferry, and later a toll bridge, over the Little Calumet River. The Illinois Central railroad came through the area in 1852, opening a station at 137th and Illinois streets. The area grew slowly as a truck farming community that provided produce to Chicago. A distillery and lumber yards (demolished) opened in the 1860s, initiating the community's industrial growth. A small subdivision was platted in 1868 and was named Riverdale in 1873 when a post office opened.

Riverdale was annexed to Chicago in 1889. During the 1880s and 1890s, the fledgling community consisted mostly of small frame cottages, and surviving homes of this period can be found at 231 E. 136th Street and 13778 S. Leyden Avenue. A storefront with flats above from the 1880s at 136176 S. Indiana Avenue recalls the early Indiana Avenue commercial district that was shared with the Riverdale suburb to the west.

Truck farms were replaced by factories, and limited The late 19th century also witnessed the growth of industrial uses in the northern two-thirds of the community area, drawn by the success of Pullman and other Lake Calumet industries. Transportation to the downtown discouraged population growth



231 E. 136th St.



13778 S. Leyden Av.

beyond those working nearby.

The widening of the Little Calumet River and the construction of the Calumet-Sag Channel in 1911-22 inspired further industrial growth throughout the region. The residential neighborhood was still confined to the southwestern corner of the community area between the Chicago and Western Indiana railroad and Indiana Avenue, between 133rd and 138th Streets. The community saw little growth or development until the 1940s.

World War II reinvigorated the industries of Chicago's Far South Side and stimulated demand for housing. The Chicago Housing Authority built the Altgeld Gardens housing project in 1943 south of 130th Street between Langley and Greenwood Avenues, expanding it in 1954 with the Phillip Murray Homes. The older residential area also witnessed some new single family homes in popular vernacular styles in the postwar years.

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.

Community Area #54

Riverdale

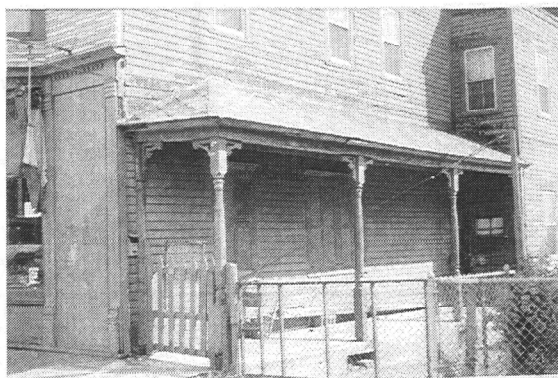
Address	Date	Architect	Building Style	Survey		Building Code Type	PIN	Form #
				LM	IS			
231 E 136 ST	1890s			N	N	OR SFR	2534310008	540904003
13617 S INDIANA AV	1880s			N	N	OR COMM/RES	2534310064	540904002
13778 S LEYDEN AV	1880s			N	N	OR SFR	2534311015	540904001



13617 S. Indiana Av.



Storefront
13617 S. Indiana Av.



Side porch
13617 S. Indiana Av.