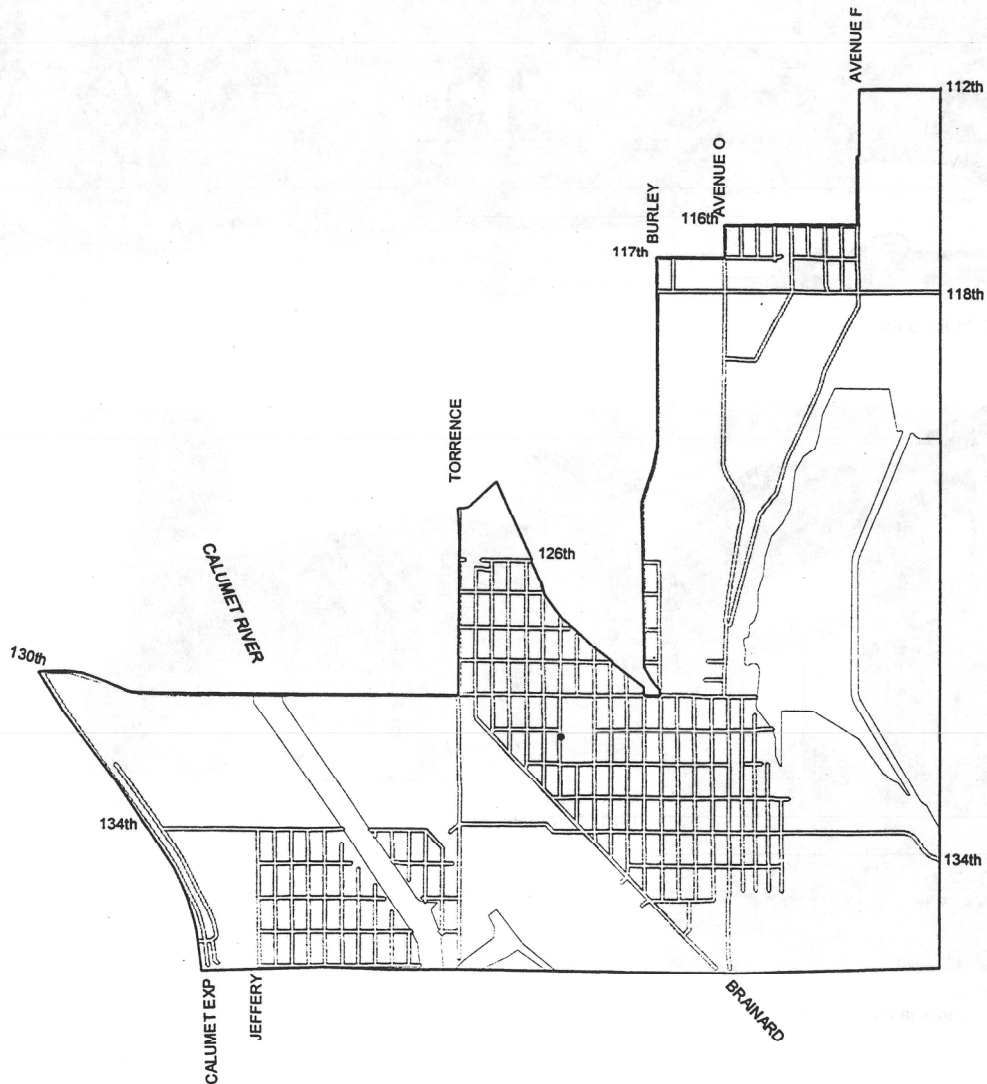


Community Area #55
Hegewisch

Population: 10,136
Number of Structures: 3,179
Avg. Date of Construction: 1943

Significant Structures: 1

Source: 1990 Census, Harris File, CHRS



Community Area # 55

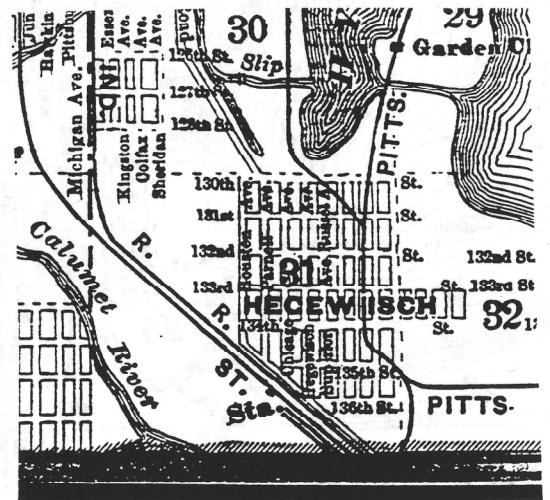
Hegewisch

The city's most southeastern community area is separated from the rest of the metropolis by vast stretches of vacant land, presenting a small town atmosphere similar to that envisioned by its founder, Adolph Hegewisch. Originally a vast marshland, the community remained untouched by railroads until the 1880s, when Hegewisch purchased 100 acres south of 135th Street and Brandon Avenue along the tracks of the Chicago & Western Indiana and Pennsylvania railroads. He envisioned a company town like Pullman, and moved his United States Rolling Stock Company from Blue Island to the site in 1883. He then purchased an additional 1,500 acres and platted the town, laying out streets and selling lots in 1884.

Both railroads opened Hegewisch stations and a business center grew up north of the company plants, but Pullman-like growth did not occur. Hegewisch had hoped for the construction of two canals connecting the town to Wolf Lake and Lake Michigan, but they were never built. In 1889, Hegewisch was annexed by Chicago.

More industrial growth followed the digging of the Calumet-Sag Channel in 1911, and the community's small residential area grew to its present boundaries by about 1920. Then, as now, it was composed primarily of one-story wood frame houses, with scattered two-flats. The 1931 Mann Park fieldhouse is a prominent architectural feature from this period.

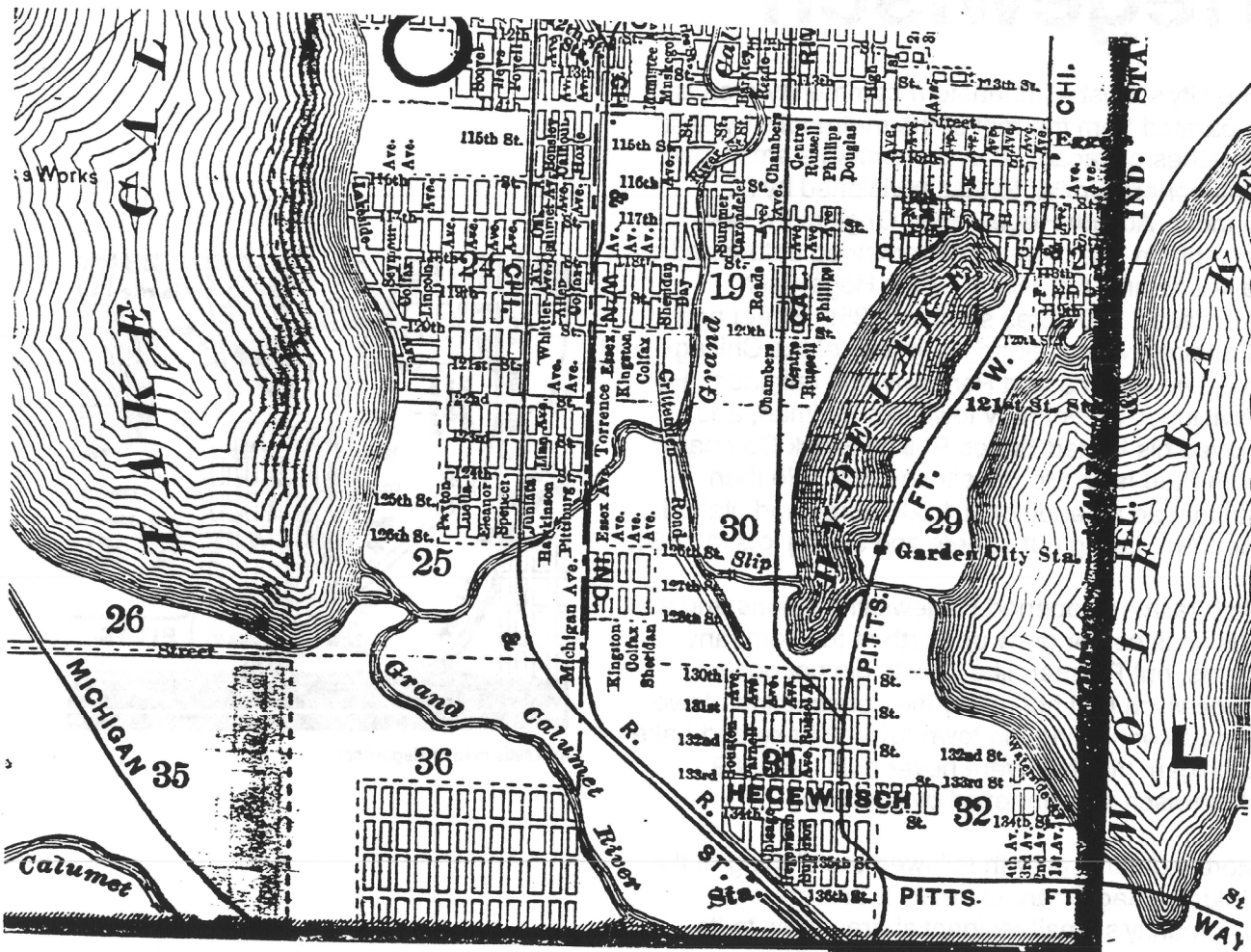
Hegewisch experienced another building boom in



An 1890s map of Hegewisch

the 1950s which reinforced the working-class, single-family construction of earlier decades. Industrial decline has affected the community's economy, but its built environment still reflects its tranquil isolation within the city.

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.



An 1890s map of Chicago's southeast side

Community Area #55

Hegewisch

Address	Date	Architect	Building Style	Survey LM IS	Building Code Type	PIN	Form #
13109 S EXCHANGE AV	1931	SOUTH PARK COMM		N Y OR	FIELDHSE	2631106001	551011001



Mann Park Fieldhouse
13109 S. Exchange Av.