

Community Area #74

## Mount Greenwood

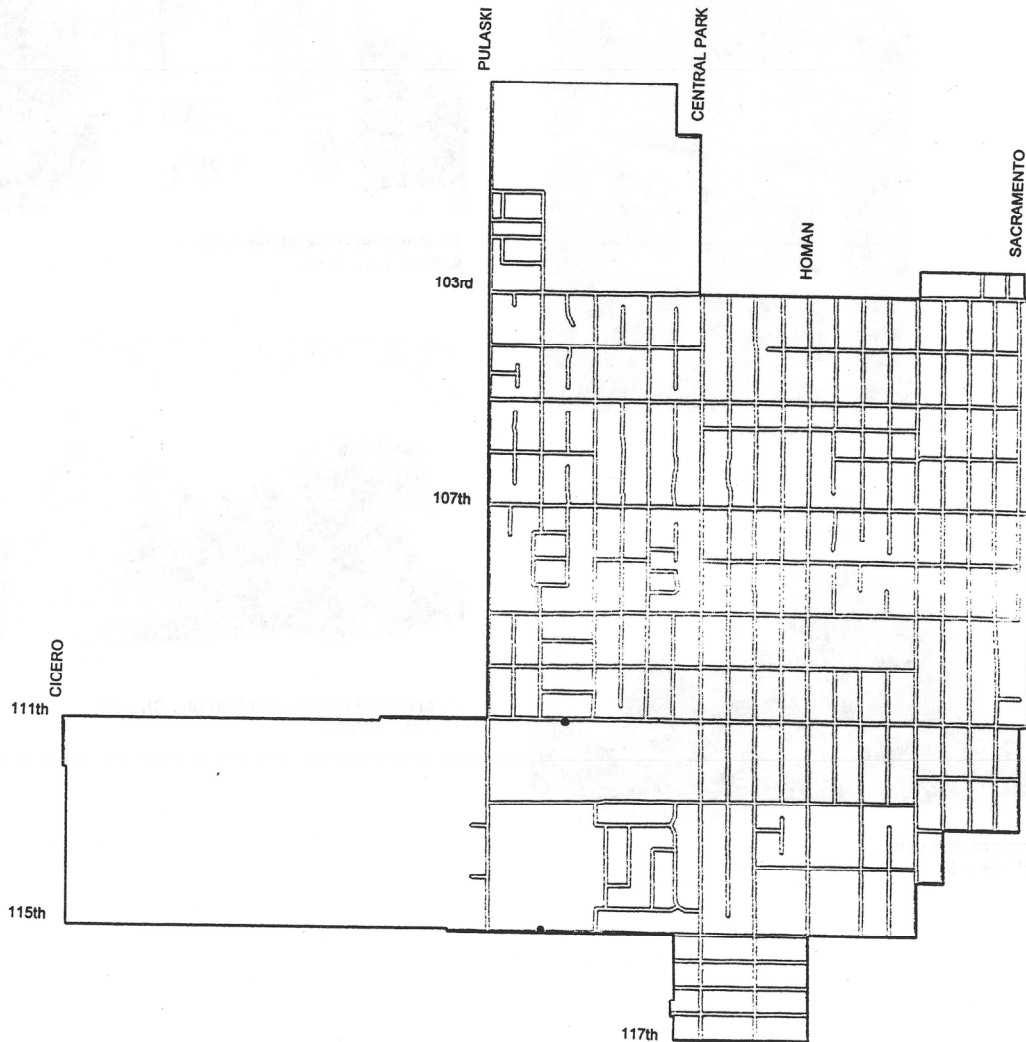
Population: 19,179

Number of Structures: 6,286

Avg. Date of Construction: 1949

**Significant Structures: 3**

Source: 1990 Census, Harris File, CHRS



(Dots show approximate, rather than specific, locations of significant structures.)  
Copyright 1996, City of Chicago, Department of Planning and Development

---

## Community Area #74

# Mount Greenwood

Mount Greenwood, located on the far southwest side of Chicago, is a largely post-World War II community, although scattered non-native settlement dates from the 19th century. This community is located on the western side of the Blue Island ridge, created by prehistoric glaciers and running in a northeast-southwest line through the area, which also defines the physical character of the Beverly and Morgan Park community areas. The high terrain was seen as well suited for cemeteries, and the first person to envision a burial grounds here was George Waite, who named the area Mount Greenwood. In 1879, the state granted him a charter for 80 acres with an option on 80 more. Because of this state charter, Mount Greenwood Cemetery is still among the few parcels of land surrounded by, but not belonging to, the city of Chicago. So many other cemeteries were established nearby that the area became known as "the land of the Seven Holy Tombs." Ironically enough, the only cemetery actually within the Mount Greenwood community area is St. Casimir's Lithuanian Catholic Cemetery, located at Pulaski and 111th.

The isolated location of these cemeteries, and the long travel time to the then-distant city, created a captive audience of mourners for saloons and restaurants, which soon clustered around 111th and Sacramento, on the eastern edge of the community area. Other patrons for local establishments came from nearby Morgan Park, which had banned taverns, and from Worth race track and other suburban race tracks in the vicinity.



3900 W. 115th St.



3855 W. 111th St.

Mount Greenwood's incorporation as a village in 1907 was a defensive maneuver by the area's saloon keepers to counteract Morgan Park's anti-liquor sentiments. The only other settlers until the 1910s were a few truck farmers. Residential subdivision began to occur in the 1910s, and was concentrated in the area's southeast corner. Although about 800 houses had been built by the 1920s, there were no public improvements. In 1927 Mount Greenwood voted to become part of Chicago, but few changes occurred until 1936, when the Works Progress Administration, a federal agency, finally laid water mains, built sewage systems, and paved and lighted the community's streets.

Major growth came in the 1940s with the arrival of industrial development to the surrounding city and suburban neighborhoods, which stimulated the demand for housing. Commercial activity developed on major streets, such as 111th and Kedzie, although retail needs were also satisfied by nearby suburban shopping centers.

Although many of Chicago's earliest non-native settlers were farmers, Mount Greenwood has the only farm remaining in Chicago. Owned by the Chicago Board of Education since 1846, it now is the location of the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences. Pre-World War II buildings on the farm include three frame houses, located at 3851 W. 111th St. (1937), 3855 W. 111th St. (1937), and 3900 W. 115th St. (c. 1920s).

*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 #74

## Mount Greenwood

Address	Date	Architect	Building Style	Survey		Building Code Type	PIN	Form #
				LM	IS			
3851 W 111 ST	1937			N	N	YG SFR	2423100009	741910003
3855 W 111 ST	1937			N	N	YG SFR	2423100009	741910002
3900 W 115 ST	1920s			N	N	YG SFR	2423100009	741910001



3851 W. 111th St.