

# BE INSPIRED BY THE CITY OF STEEPLES

## HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

- 1080 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago
- Dillenburg & Zucher, John Mills van Osdel & John Paul Huber
- Constructed 1857-1860
- Near West Side

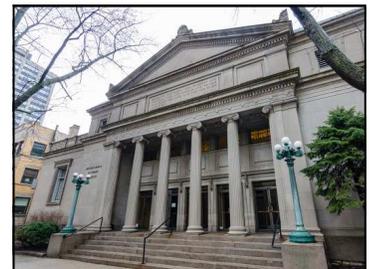
**PRESERVATION CHICAGO**  
THE CHICAGO 7 MOST ENDANGERED • 2019



# Preservation Chicago Unveils the 2019 Chicago 7 Most Endangered\*



O'Hare Rotunda Building /  
Seven Continents Building



2nd Christian Science Church



Laramie State Bank



Thompson Center



Crawford Power Station



Hammer / Palmer Mansion



Jackson Park, Midway Plaisance  
& South Shore Cultural Center



Catholic Churches  
Throughout Chicago



Loretto Academy



**\*Two additional Chicago 7 Most Endangered have been included due to rapidly emerging threats.**

*Laramie, Crawford, Jackson Park, 2nd Church, Hammer/Palmer Mansion, Loretto Academy, St. Martin's De Tours/ St. Martin's De Porres © Eric Allix Rogers O'Hare Rotunda Building, exterior view. © Gertrude Lempp Kerbis Archive, Ryerson and Burnham Archives, The Art Institute of Chicago*

*Thompson Center © Ward Miller*

# Preservation Chicago's 2019 Chicago 7 Most Endangered



*Laramie State Bank © Eric Allix Rogers*

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4410 N. Ravenswood Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60640

# Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center & Midway Plaisance

Bounded by Lake Michigan, 56th, Stony Island and 71st, Chicago



*Jackson Park Woman's Garden by May McAdams in 1937 © Eric Allix Rogers*

## **Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center & Midway Plaisance**

**Address: Bounded by Lake Michigan, 56th, Stony Island and 71st, Chicago**

**Landscape Architects: Frederick Law Olmsted & Calvert Vaux, F.L. Olmsted & Co., Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot with additions by Alfred Caldwell and May McAdams. (Jackson Park & Midway Plaisance)**

**Architects: Benjamin Marshall & Charles Fox, Thomas Hawkes (South Shore Cultural Center)**

**Date: c.1870s to 1937**

**Style: Naturalistic**

**Neighborhood: Hyde Park, Woodlawn, South Shore**

## Chicago 7: Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center & Midway Plaisance



*Jackson Park © Eric Allix Rogers*

### OVERVIEW

Jackson Park, Midway Plaisance & the South Shore Cultural Center have now been part of Preservation Chicago's--Chicago 7 Most Endangered List for a third year in a row.

We at Preservation Chicago very much welcome and support the many buildings proposed for the new Obama Presidential Center, but for another nearby site and not on historic public parklands designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, with additions by Alfred Caldwell, May McAdams and others of national and world recognition.

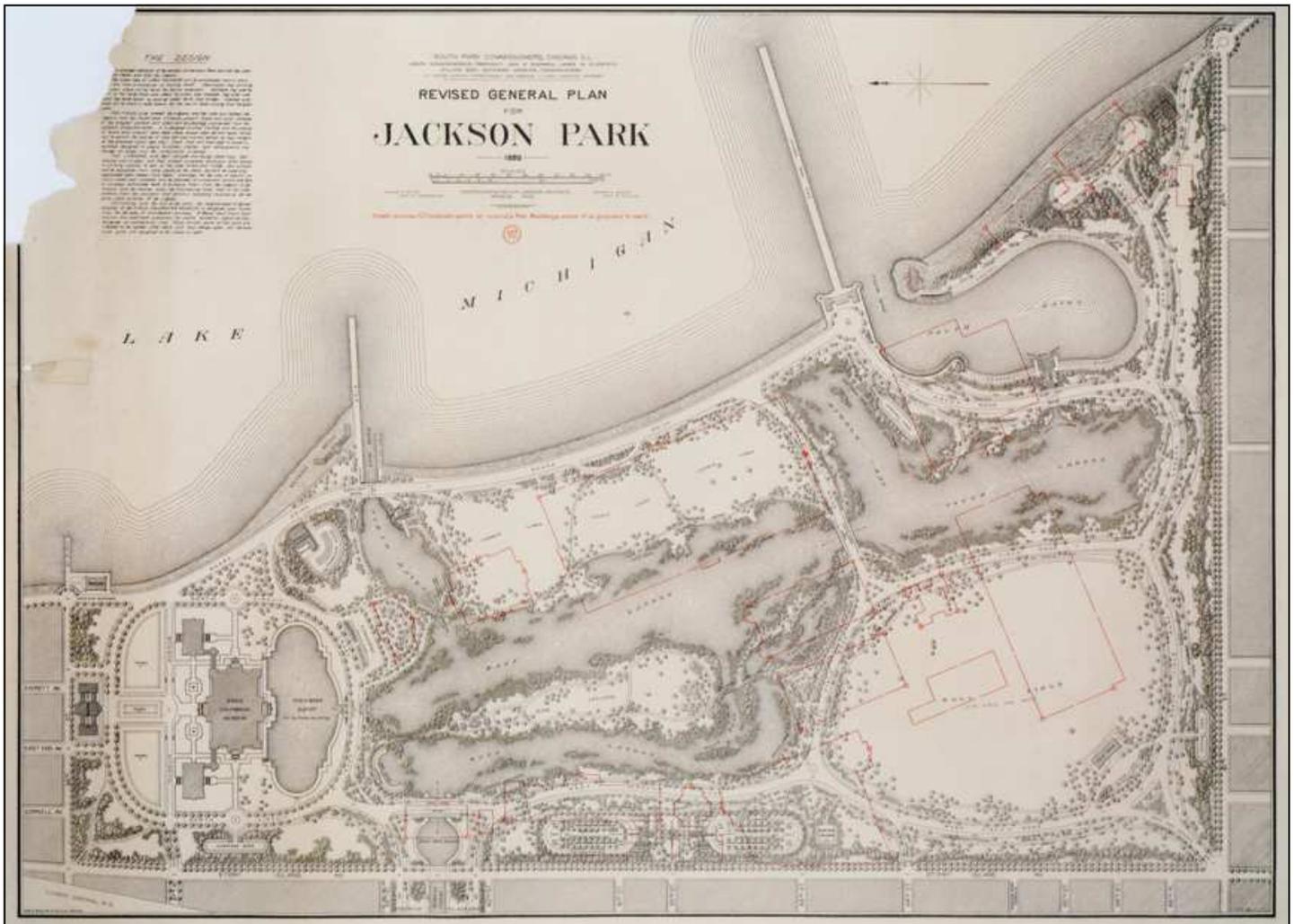
The Obama Presidential Center (OPC) has been contentious among residents, citizens of Chicago and elsewhere across the nation because of concerns about gentrification and displacement and due to its placement within a historic park belonging to the people of Chicago for more than 130 years. It is also a lakefront site and subject to ordinances designed to keep the shoreline protected from private development and unnecessary non-public structures—and understood by many citizens to be “forever open and free.” This forever open and free idea along Chicago’s lakefront, while revolutionary in concept for a large American city of the 19th and early 20th century, originated in 1836. It gets challenged every so often because of political pressures and perhaps land values and speculation.

The proposed Obama Presidential Center campus is to be sited on about 20 acres of Jackson Park, situated near the Midway Plaisance at 60th and Stony Island Avenue and extending southward.

It is part of an on-going Federal Section 106 process required by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, due to the park’s significance and listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It is also subject to a review process through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and to Urban Parks and Recreational Recovery (UPARR), administered by the National Park Service.

Additionally, there is an on-going lawsuit to protect Jackson Park and to further encourage another nearby location for the OPC. The legal action by Protect Our Parks, Inc. (POP) is currently before the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. A tremendous amount of resources are being invested by both the City of Chicago and the Obama Foundation to place this new center and campus of buildings onto a historic Olmsted

## Chicago 7: Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center & Midway Plaisance



*Fredrick Law Olmsted's 1895 Revised General Plan for Jackson Park Map with red outlines indicating locations of World's Fair Buildings © Digitalcollections.nypl.org*

park and lakefront land where it does not belong. This proposed complex is contrary to Lakefront Ordinances and the public good, acknowledging for this site what has been upheld by Chicago for more than 150 years -- that the lakefront should be “public ground. A common to remain forever open, clear and free of any buildings or other obstructions whatever,” with access to all.

This proposed Presidential Center to be situated on public lands has also absorbed thousands of hours of City staff time over the past few years, as well as preparation of thousands of pages of documents required for the Federal 106 related hearings and U.S. District Court proceedings. Had the University of Chicago and the Obama Foundation chosen a site that was not historically significant and on public lakefront land, the time investment would have been significantly reduced. If the Obama Presidential Center were proposed for nearby private lands, the complex would have most likely already been under construction and completed, likely with significantly less investment of public resources. The City of Chicago and the University of Chicago own significant amounts of land at alternative site locations, and this viable option should be further explored.

### **HISTORY**

Chicago would not be the Chicago we know and love without its expansive park system and its celebrated lakefront lined with public open space, beaches, parks, harbors and public access. This network of parks, green spaces and lakefront lands should never ever be compromised in any way by anyone or anything which would cause irreparable harm to these parks, landscapes and features so well associated with the City of Chicago.

Jackson Park, Midway Plaisance and the South Shore Cultural Center are among the greatest historic and natural assets of Chicago's South Side. The borders of these parks converge at South Shore Drive at 67th Street, and also at Stony Island Avenue and the Midway Plaisance, where Jackson Park connects to Washington Park, another re-

**Chicago 7: Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center & Midway Plaisance**



*View from Eastern Veranda of Woman's Building at the World's Columbian Exposition in Jackson Park © The Dream City, A Portfolio of Photographic Views of the World's Columbian Exposition*



*View of Woman's Building at the World's Columbian Exposition in Jackson Park © The White City, Chicago's World's Columbian Exposition 1893, Chicago Historical Society/Chicago History Museum*

markable Chicago treasure, also designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux.

All of the components of the green spaces and parklands are woven into a single brilliant series of ideas by Frederick Law Olmsted and his firm to extend and connect the lakefront and its parks. Tree-lined meadows, lagoons, islands and harbors are an integral part of cityscape and provide a respite from the dense built environment and urban life. These magnificent parks allow public access to millions of people, both residents and visitors alike, to lush green landscapes situated among old-growth trees and gardens.

The historic significance of Jackson Park, Midway Plaisance and the South Shore Cultural Center are monumental

## Chicago 7: Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center & Midway Plaisance



*South Shore Cultural Center © Eric Allix Rogers*

and well known to most audiences, including national and international scholars of architectural landscape design, historic landscapes and cultural heritage. The sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and certain features, structures and buildings of both park sites are designated Chicago Landmarks. These designated Chicago Landmarks within the boundaries of the two parks include the Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) building, constructed as the Palace of Fine Arts in 1893, along with the Columbia/Darrow Bridge and the landscape features of the park surrounding the MSI building and bridge. The South Shore Cultural Center building, the Club Building, along with the Gatehouse, Stable, Pergola, along with several outdoor terraces are also part of the Chicago Landmark designation.

The 500-acre Jackson Park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, perhaps the most famous landscape designer of the 19th century and widely considered to be “the father of American landscape architecture.” Jackson Park was also the site of one of the most important events in Chicago’s history and, arguably one of the most important cultural events of the 19th century, the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893. Jackson Park is connected via the Midway to Washington Park and then to Chicago’s Emerald Necklace of great parks and boulevards, forming one of the most magnificent networks of urban parkland in the country.

The Mediterranean Revival-style South Shore Cultural Center, situated at 71st Street and the Lakefront, was originally designed as the South Shore Country Club, by the notable Chicago architectural firm of Marshall & Fox and landscape designer Thomas Hawkes. It is one of the most grand-scaled and recognizable landmarks on Chicago’s South Side. In its more recent past, it was the site of Barack and Michelle Obama’s wedding reception.

The transformation of the site and buildings from an exclusive private club to a public park and golf course is a major community preservation success story. In 1975, South Shore, Hyde Park and Woodlawn neighborhood residents and activists famously rescued the former private South Shore Country Club from demolition. The Chicago Park District and City of Chicago had the foresight to purchase the grounds from the failing country club, but they had planned to demolish and clear the club and ancillary buildings. After a lengthy community preservation advocacy effort and under intense community pressure, the Chicago Park District relented to broad public outcry and decided not to demolish the historic buildings and in time renovated and restored the buildings. Ultimately, the Chicago Park District supported the Chicago Landmark designation of most of the former country club structures and re-

## Chicago 7: Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center & Midway Plaisance



*South Shore Cultural Center Nature Preserve © Eric Allix Rogers*

versed a previous course of action that would have been as disastrous and heavy-handed as current plans for both Jackson Park and the South Shore Cultural Center landscapes.

The creation of the South Shore Cultural Center as a public facility open to all visitors represents a victory of diversity and inclusion over the South Shore Country Club's legacy of exclusion.

In 2017, a handful of local community groups came forward to advocate for changes to the proposed development plans. The number of organizations has grown exponentially, expanding well beyond the local stakeholders to include advocates from around the city and nation. Community organizations leading the advocacy effort include Jackson Park Watch, Save of the Midway, Midway Plaisance Advisory Council, Coalition to Save Jackson Park, Blacks in Green, The Hyde Park Historical Society and Friends of the Park.

### **THREAT**

Jackson Park and the South Shore Cultural Center are intertwined in a host of new proposals which endanger the Olmsted-designed Jackson Park and the Cultural Center's grounds and Nature Sanctuary. The proposed 20-acre Obama Presidential Center (in Jackson Park) and the proposed redesign and merging of two historic century-old public golf courses in both parks into one professional grade-PGA Tournament facility will significantly and adversely impact the historic features and the overall design, quality, appearance and the spirit of these world-renowned parks.

The proposed OPC's core of buildings is comprised of three structures. The main building stands about 230-feet tall - the height of a 20-story building (the tallest structure proposed for any Chicago park by more than 150 feet). The other two buildings stand two stories in height. An underground parking garage and a field house are also included in the plans and located to the south of the three-building complex. These structures were all designed by Tod Williams and Billie Tsien.

## Chicago 7: Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center & Midway Plaisance



*South Shore Cultural Center Nature Preserve © Eric Allix Rogers*

This is to be a private museum and center, hosting both public and private events situated on public lands and perhaps owned in part by the City. It will be operated by the Obama Foundation which will charge entry and parking fees for operations of its facility.

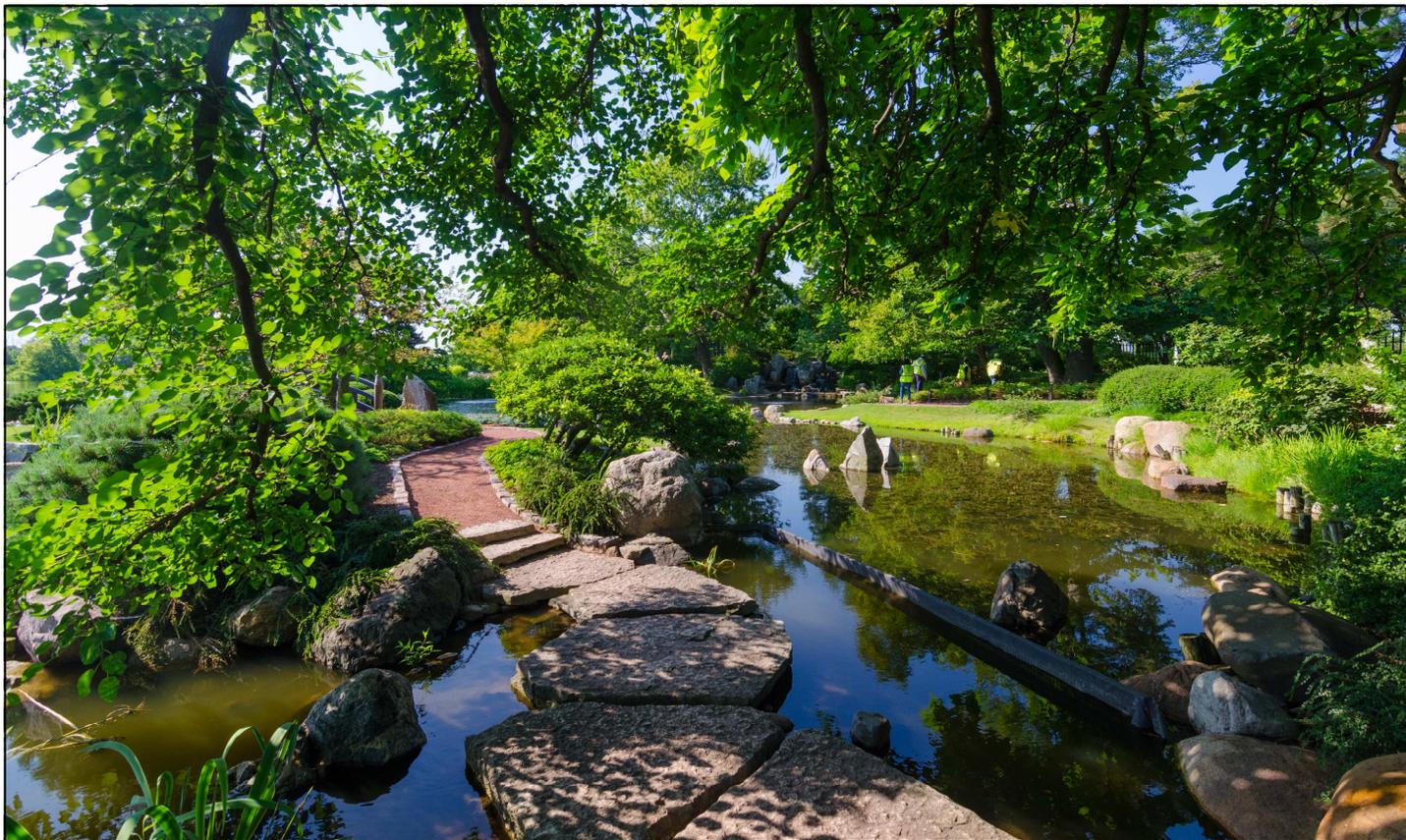
Preservation Chicago and other advocacy groups remain concerned about the level of influence by privately held organizations in the management of public parkland, including the Obama Foundation, the Chicago Parks Golf Alliance, Project 120, and Smith Group JJR. As non-profits and private companies, they serve their respective boards of directors and owners, and have their own priorities and objectives which may not align with those of our public and governmental agencies. These private organizations do not directly serve the public and have no obligation to include the public in the planning process. However, Preservation Chicago acknowledges that the Obama Foundation has hosted a series of public and consulting party/stakeholder meetings that have allowed public comments to be provided to the design team. The central challenge is that the control of public lands is being relinquished to private entities.

Without rigorous oversight, the protection of historic landscapes and structures can be significantly compromised. Last year, Preservation Chicago joined a wide consortium of advocacy groups, neighborhood organizations and community leaders in calling for a transparent, comprehensive and thoughtful planning process from the City of Chicago, Chicago Park District, Obama Foundation, Chicago Parks Golf Alliance and Project 120.

Additional threats include the removal of Olmsted-designed Cornell Drive, a widening of South Lake Shore Drive and a widening of Stony Island Avenue to accommodate a privately run museum complex. The proposed widening of South Lake Shore Drive will likely impact both Jackson Park and the Lakefront, along with access to Lake Michigan, the harbors, 57th Street Beach and 63rd Street Beach.

The OPC as proposed is a center and museum as opposed to a more traditional presidential library. The Obama Foundation chose to forgo the associated regulations imposed by Congress on managing a presidential library on the site. Presidential libraries have specific requirements that regulate and limit the square footage and size of these institutions, specifically so they do not become too large and monumental to maintain. There are also strict financial

## Chicago 7: Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center & Midway Plaisance



*Jackson Park © Eric Allix Rogers*

requirements and obligations associated with funding presidential libraries.

In lieu of a presidential library, a Chicago Public Library branch library facility is included in the OPC plans. This facility will be much like the 79 existing branch locations throughout Chicago's 77 community areas. It is our understanding that this branch library is completely unrelated to President Obama's documents, and it will be operated by Chicago's library system and supported by taxpayer revenue.

Additionally, several plans from the private for-profit design and planning contractors Smith Group JJR, also known as Project 120, have reappeared in some of the Chicago Park District's South Lakefront Framework Plans. These include a proposed Jackson Park visitor's center, large-scale music pavilion and other plans, which will completely and unequivocally destroy and change the character and design of this world-renowned park. Make no bones about these proposed changes to Chicago's Olmsted-designed parklands -- they will alter and both negatively and adversely impact the landscape, destroy huge volumes of trees and gardens, interfere with migratory paths of wild-life and impact broad viewsheds, both in and around the park.

These park projects are all heavy-handed design plans. If implemented, they could lead to the consideration of a delisting of Jackson Park and perhaps the South Shore Cultural Center from the National Register of Historic Places. This would be much like what occurred at Soldier Field, another Chicago Park District re-visioning project with the City of Chicago. So many adverse modifications were made to Soldier Field in 2002-2003 that it had to be dropped and removed from the National Register. If this same impact and loss occurred at Jackson Park and/or the South Shore Cultural Center, it would be a significant loss to the Woodlawn community, the City of Chicago and supporters around the country and world.

These are sacred spaces, coveted lands and landscapes that should be protected in perpetuity as an asset to the citizens of Chicago. This history and character should not be modified and manipulated over the decades until all that is left is a shell of what once was.

To realize how important our parks can be look no further than the success of Millennium Park, opened in 2004, which is a major tourist engine for Chicago. Or consider the Museum Campus, including the Field Museum, Shedd

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*Track under construction adjacent to proposed Obama Presidential Center in Jackson Park © Eric Allix Rogers*

Aquarium and Planetarium. These valued downtown assets were once railway and freight yards. We should consider for the OPC a location on underutilized land that does not negatively harm our cherished landscapes and public parks.

Without rigorous oversight, the protection of historic landscapes and structures can be significantly compromised. Over two years ago, Preservation Chicago joined a wide consortium of advocacy groups, neighborhood organizations and community leaders in calling for transparent planning that allows ample opportunity for community voices to be heard and valued. Those efforts, led by the Midway Plaisance Advisory Council and Save the Midway, were successful in redirecting the planned multi-story parking garage on the Midway Plaisance to another location.

Multiple rounds of community input and design updates have shown key constituent requests largely dismissed to accommodate the programmatic priorities of the Obama Foundation and Chicago Parks Golf Alliance, casting doubt on the good faith and transparency of the public process.

Beyond minor and incremental changes to the plans, specific threats to the historic park landscapes remain. According to the Obama Foundation, approximately 300 trees (many of which are old-growth) would be clear-cut, and a major regrading of the site would be undertaken for the construction of the OPC. An additional 2,000 trees would be clear cut and major regrading undertaken for the new fairways of the expanded golf course.

### RECENT ACTIVITIES

On September 20, 2018, the Chicago City Council passed an ordinance that approved the 99-year lease of 19.3 acres in Jackson Park for a total of \$10. Jackson Park Watch co-founder Margaret Schmid said, “The idea of leasing invaluable, irreplaceable public parkland to a private entity for \$10 for 99 years is astounding in this era when public lands and natural resources are under attack in so many places. Besides, Chicago’s finances are extremely precarious.” (Sweet, Chicago Sun-Times, 9/18/18)

As part of this lease deal, the City agreed to reimburse the Obama Foundation for environmental testing of the development site. These testing costs were capped at \$75,000. However, in the final language of the approved Ordi-

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*Rendering of Proposed Obama Presidential Center in Jackson Park © Obama Foundation*

nance, the taxpayers of the City of Chicago and State of Illinois are now fully responsible and liable for ALL costs related to any environmental remediation required or resulting from the construction of the OPC in Jackson Park. This language includes no cap for the total cost. Estimated remediation costs are not yet available, but it can be expected that the final remediation costs for this blank check will likely be substantial.

The City of Chicago and State of Illinois have also agreed to cover the cost of \$172 million in discretionary road changes in Jackson Park. The oft-repeated argument is that the ultimate cost burden will be borne by taxpayers – both state and federal. Federal funds for road improvements are limited, and those resources should be awarded first to desperately needed roadwork and crumbling infrastructure elsewhere in the city.

Despite a motion by the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District to dismiss the lawsuit, the Protect Our Parks litigation was allowed to proceed as of February 19, 2019 before the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Illinois. The Federal Section 106 hearings have been stalled.

While Preservation Chicago is not a party to the on-going lawsuit and litigation by Protect Our Parks, we submitted an Amicus Brief, along with the community-based organization, Jackson Park Watch. The Brief clarified that most of Chicago's institutions in the parks were built upon the footprint of former buildings and institutions within the parks, or had reused or repurposed existing historic structures, or were constructed buildings on lands used for other purposes (e.g. railway yards), and the parks had grown around these institutions in time. This is an important point as a precedent as no Chicago parklands were given to a new campus of buildings as the City of Chicago and Chicago Park District suggest.

The Art Institute of Chicago, by architects Shepley Rutan & Coolidge of 1893, was constructed on the former site of the Industrial Interstate Exhibition Building by W.W. Boyington at the same location from 1873-1892. The Museum of Contemporary Art designed by German Architect Josef Paul Kleihues, was constructed on the site of the old Chicago Avenue Armory which was designed by architects Holabird & Roche. The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, designed by Ralph Johnson of Perkins & Will, was built on the site of the old Lincoln Park/North Shops buildings.

## Chicago 7: Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center & Midway Plaisance



*South Shore Cultural Center Nature Preserve © Eric Allix Rogers*

The Museum of Science and Industry is housed in the former Palace of Fine Arts building from the Columbian Exposition or Chicago World's Fair of 1893 in Jackson Park. It is the only large-scale building of great magnitude in Jackson Park. Olmsted also redesigned Jackson Park around this structure following the World's Fair, so this building has been part of the landscape of Jackson Park for 126 years.

The DuSable Museum of African American History is housed in the former South Park Commissioners Building in Washington Park, designed by Daniel Burnham and his firm D. H. Burnham & Company. The DuSable Museum has continued to expand its facilities over time near its site, including a recent renovation and restoration of the former Washington Park Stables Building by architects Burnham & Root.

The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture is housed in the restored and repurposed former Humboldt Park Horse Stables in historic Humboldt Park, designed by architects Fromman & Jebsen in 1895. The National Museum of Mexican Art reused and reconfigured former buildings in Harrison Park for this amazing institution.

The Field Museum of Natural History, the John G. Shedd Aquarium and the Adler Planetarium were all mostly built upon former railway lands, which had been part of on-going landfills over time. Burnham Park and Grant Park grew and extended around these institutions following their construction. Finally, the Chicago History Museum, originally called the Chicago Historical Society, was built upon a corner of the city's old public cemetery at a commercial corner of Lincoln Park near Clark Street and North Avenue. This section of what was to become Lincoln Park still holds the remains of at least several known individuals, including the mausoleum of Ira Couch and the grave of David Kennison, said to be the last survivor of the Boston Tea Party.

Preservation Chicago is also concerned about the redesign and co-joining of the historic Jackson Park Golf Course (18 holes), the oldest course west of the Alleghany Mountains, and that of the nearby South Shore Cultural Center (9 holes). This reconstituting will substantially impact the historic landscape, some features designed by architect

## Chicago 7: Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center & Midway Plaisance



*Hayes Drive Bridge, Music Court Bridge, Columbia/Clarence Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park all in need of repair © Eric Allix Rogers*

Alfred Caldwell and Olmsted & Vaux, and remove and cut several thousand old-growth trees.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Preservation Chicago joins the fervent support of the Obama Presidential Center locating in Chicago. It just should not be in Jackson Park. The Obama Foundation's drawings for a site west of Washington Park would be a great location for the OPC. The University of Chicago, along with the City of Chicago has been assembling acreage adjacent to Washington Park, and that area has great access to public transportation. This location is targeted for redevelopment and is adjacent to the Garfield Park L stop for the Green and Red line trains. The OPC located there would be an extraordinary asset to the community and the City and would make this remarkable monument to President Obama's legacy more accessible to people throughout the area. In solidarity with the residents of the area, Preservation Chicago calls on the Obama Foundation to enter into a binding Community Benefits Agreement for this alternate site to ensure that promises made to avoid displacement and provide more jobs are kept.

The City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District need to develop plans that reflect the full range of stakeholders in this process and balance the interests of their constituents with the interests of private developers. They should prioritize an open and transparent process in determining the future of our public lands and green spaces. In the process, they should protect the historic integrity of these nationally and locally significant landscapes, structures and buildings so they may remain accessible assets for the people of the South Side, Chicago and the world for generations to come.

To help restore the area the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District should consider narrowing the Olmsted-designed historic parkways instead of closing and removing them completely and retaining South Lake Shore Drive, with its current proportions and winding Lakefront Boulevard characteristics. This would render unnecessary the proposed widening of the other roadways and perhaps save hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars.

## Chicago 7: Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center & Midway Plaisance



*Midway Plaisance © Eric Allix Rogers*

Preservation Chicago reaffirms its commitment to providing a constructive, preservation-oriented voice in this large and complex conversation. As a consulting party in the federally mandated Section 106 review process, Preservation Chicago will continue to strongly advocate for the importance of protecting historic features, including the world-renowned Olmsted landscapes. We continue to work to ensure that any construction in the historic parks will be conducted with sensitivity to historic features, historic structures and historic landscapes. This includes archaeologically important sites such as the foundations and remnants of the Women's Building designed by Sophia Hayden, the only female architect who designed a building for the Exposition; the Children's Building; and other important structures and features from the World Columbian Exposition in 1893, likely hidden below the soil line. Also, this proposed construction would impact the Woman's Garden, also known as the Perennial Garden in Jackson Park, designed by May McAdams in 1937, a noted female landscape architect.

We remain hopeful that the federal review process mandated by the National Preservation Act will reinforce the importance of protecting the important features of the park and minimizing the adverse effects of new construction. Specifically, we want to insure that the South Shore Cultural Center be included in the Section 106 process already underway, or a new Section 106 process be initiated specifically for the golf course expansion project at both Jackson Park and the South Shore Cultural Center.

A formal survey of Jackson Park and South Shore Cultural Center trees, detailing type, age and caliper, should be conducted along with an assessment of which trees are planned to be cleared. The findings of this survey should then be released to the public for comment and discussion before any work begins. Also, while an inventory of historic structures in Jackson Park has been approved, there are a number of critical needs for historic buildings that require urgent repair to stabilize and return them to public use.

Preservation Chicago will continue to push for a written agreement from the Chicago Park District that some percentage of the many millions of dollars to be invested in these potential projects will be earmarked instead for the badly needed maintenance and rehabilitation of historic park structures. These include the South Shore Cultural Center main building and stables, as well Jackson Park improvements to the Comfort Station, the Iowa Building, the Columbia/Darrow Bridge, public paths and meadows, and ball fields.

## Chicago 7: Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center & Midway Plaisance



*Jackson Park Comfort Station on South Shore Dr. near 67th St. by D.H. Burnham with evidence of deferred maintenance © Eric Allix Rogers*



*Jackson Park Comfort Station on South Shore Dr. near 67th St. by D.H. Burnham with evidence of deferred maintenance © Eric Allix Rogers*

There is significant Chicago history buried underground at Jackson Park. Archaeological explorations from seven borings on the site were shared at one of the Section 106 meetings. They revealed nearly 10,000 objects from the 1893 World's Columbia Exposition. We understand that permanent concrete foundations for all the temporary buildings are also located below the soil line, and it is our opinion that these features should remain intact and should not be destroyed by heavy-equipment, which will backhoe the site. The Women's Garden, the approximate site of Sophia Haden's Women's Building during the World's Columbia Exposition, should also not be disturbed. This was the only building designed by a woman architect for the 1893 Fair, which highlighted great strides and accomplishments by women all housed in a magnificent building, on scale with many of the large structures of the Fair.

### **SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Relocate the Obama Presidential Center to a nearby site outside of Jackson Park. Land just west of Washington Park provides great public transportation access, and a good deal of this land is already owned by the City of Chicago and the University of Chicago.

## Chicago 7: Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center & Midway Plaisance



*Jackson Park © Eric Allix Rogers*

2. Repair and restore the existing Jackson Park Golf Course and the South Shore Cultural Center golf course. These currently serve the public well, but they are in need of some long-deferred maintenance.
3. Move the proposed TGR Golf Course concept for Jackson Park and the South Shore Cultural Center southward to the new South Lake Shore Drive Extension and extend it to the site of the former and now demolished United States Steel factories in the South Chicago neighborhood. This would be an economic boost to the South Chicago and East Side neighborhoods of Chicago, and it would result in three separate golf courses for a major city like Chicago. A large 18-hole golf course on the former U.S. Steel site, suitable for hosting PGA Championship games, would “green” this former industrial site as part of on-going efforts to retain publicly accessible parks and green space along the extraordinary and expansive Chicago Lakefront.
4. Repair and Landmark the South Shore Cultural Center’s and Jackson Park’s existing historic buildings, structures, paths, meadows, bridges (including the Columbia/Clarence Darrow Bridge—closed for almost a decade for safety reasons). These structures have suffered through enough long-deferred maintenance. One of the historic structures, the modest one-story Comfort Station at 67th Street and South Shore Drive, which is in terrible disrepair, had a partial roof collapse in the past six months.
5. Narrow the Olmsted-designed roadways and parkways to their historic pre-1960s dimensions. The 1960s widening project was considered a misstep by the general public at that time and was part of numerous protests. A substantial number of trees were lost during that widening project. A narrowing of Cornell Drive, in lieu of total closure, could provide a correction of these missteps and help to again restore a tree-lined boulevard through the park which everyone could enjoy. Everyone should be able to enjoy the pastoral setting of Jackson Park by various modes – walking, jogging, biking and driving.
6. Retain South Lake Shore Drive’s current proportions and winding Lakefront Boulevard characteristics, and retain the current proportions of Stony Island Avenue, without unnecessary expansions.
7. The entirety of Jackson Park, the Midway and Washington Park—the Olmsted & Vaux parks, should be considered for a Chicago Landmark designation.

**Chicago 7: Jackson Park, South Shore Cultural Center & Midway Plaisance**



*South Shore Cultural Center Nature Preserve © Eric Allix Rogers*

8. In its entirety, the Chicago Lakefront Park System should be considered as a National Monument or National Park. This would be much like the recent honor further recognizing the Indiana Dunes as a National Park, or the Pullman Historic District of Chicago as a National Monument. This would protect our valuable public lakefront parks from further attempts at parceling them out to private developers and would provide additional resources for maintenance and rehabilitation.

# Laramie State Bank of Chicago

5200 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago



*Laramie State Bank of Chicago © Eric Allix Rogers*

## OVERVIEW

The Laramie State Bank Building is an architectural gem located at 5200 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago's Austin neighborhood. This exuberant Art Deco, three-story bank building is adorned with some of the most spectacular polychrome, terra cotta ornament in Chicago. The Laramie State Bank Building was designed by Architects Meyer & Cook and completed in 1929.

Despite being designated as a Chicago Landmark by the City of Chicago in 1995, the Laramie State Bank Building was foreclosed upon, has sat vacant for many years, and is suffering from considerable deferred maintenance. The building is frequently on the docket at Building Court. A portion of the roof collapsed in 2018. Emergency repairs are being considered to stabilize the building, but the fate of Laramie State Bank Building hangs in the balance.

The Laramie State Bank Building is an excellent example of the strong confidence and architectural exuberance of the "Roaring Twenties." Unlike the more typical limestone bank buildings of the period with their reserved and serious Neo-Classical design, the vibrant mustard, celery green and cream terra cotta bas-relief

**Laramie State Bank of Chicago  
(a designated Chicago Landmark)**

**Address: 5200 W. Chicago Avenue**

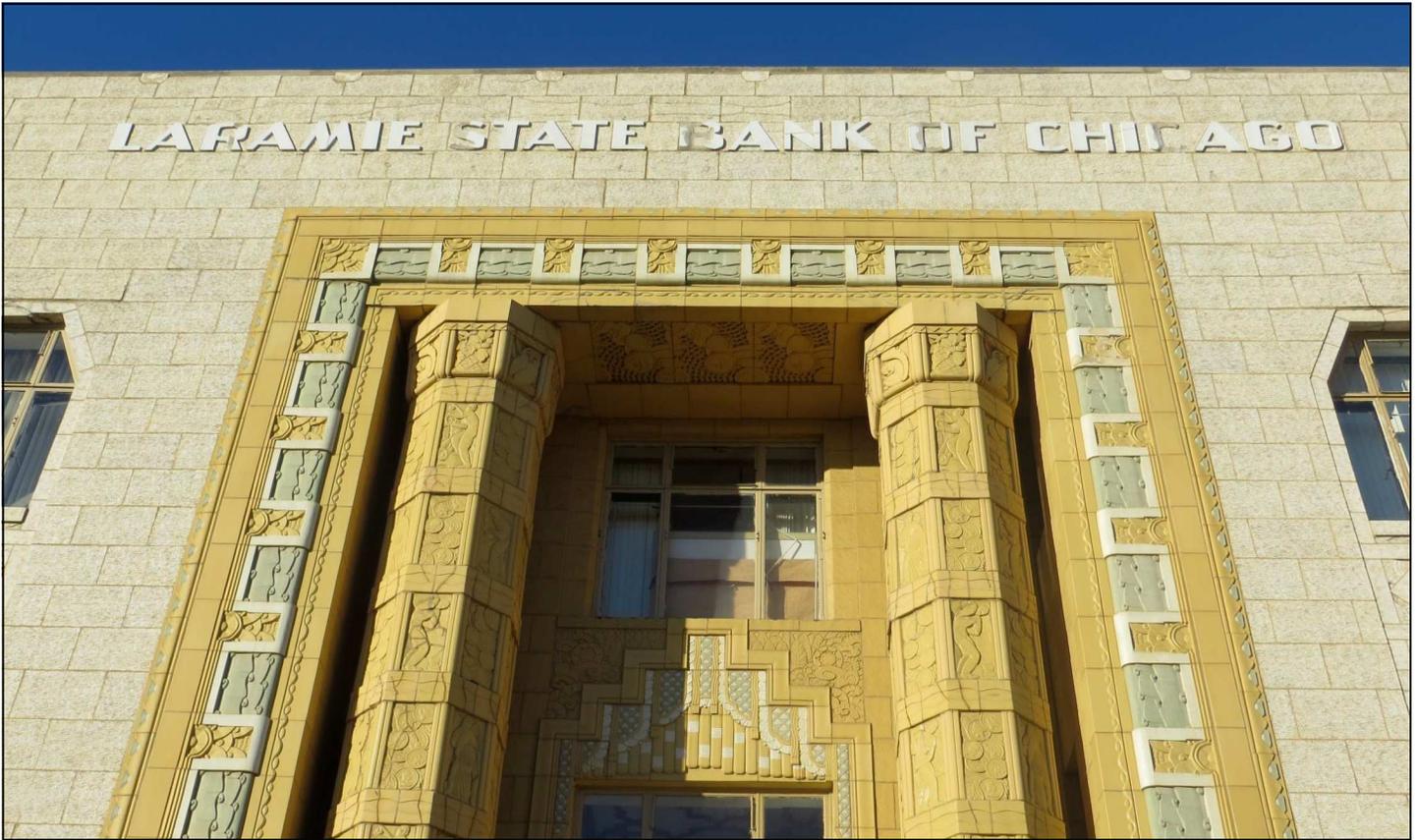
**Architect: Meyer & Cook**

**Date: 1929**

**Style: Art Deco**

**Neighborhood: Austin**

**Chicago 7: Laramie State Bank of Chicago**



*Laramie State Bank of Chicago © Deborah Mercer*



*Laramie State Bank of Chicago © Deborah Mercer*

sculpture of the Laramie State Bank Building is a vivid visual celebration of American desires for wealth and abundance. The building's ornamentation itself was used to both beautify the building and to communicate shared vision and aspirations to the bank's customers of industry and saving.

The ornament of the building's exterior includes many progressive-era motifs illustrating the creation of wealth through stylized heroic workers representing industry, agriculture and technology and reinforced through the images of beehives and squirrels collecting nuts. The fruits of this industry and saving are represented by plentiful coins interspersed along the soaring two-story columns. The concept of economic stability is reinforced by a sculptural scene installed over the front doors which illustrates a basket of plenty overflowing with fruits and flanked by a family embracing a child and an elderly couple at peace. Confidence and security is communicated through the owl of wisdom, and the American eagle astride the globe.

"While its arresting appearance alone distinguishes the Laramie State Bank from most other banks, it also represents a pinnacle in the technical and artistic achievement of the Northwestern Terra Cotta Company. Following the 1925 Paris Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes, which gave the world the new decorative style of Art Deco, the Northwestern Terra Cotta Company hired a number of the prize-winning sculptors from the exposition and brought them to Chicago as modelers. It hired six of the prize-winning sculptors from that exposition, including a twin gold-medal winner - Edouard Chassaing, to create new de-

**Chicago 7: Laramie State Bank of Chicago**



*Laramie State Bank of Chicago © Deborah Mercer*

signs for the company. Laramie State Bank is a beneficiary of this investment in French craftsmanship.” (Chicago Landmark Designation Report, 1/4/95)

By the late 1920s, the Northwestern Terra Cotta Company was the largest terra cotta company in the United States. Despite having hundreds of buildings within its portfolio, Laramie State Bank Building was a stand-out. “Northwestern was very proud of the results. It presented the



*Laramie State Bank of Chicago © Deborah Mercer*



*Laramie State Bank of Chicago © Deborah Mercer*

## Chicago 7: Laramie State Bank of Chicago



*Laramie State Bank of Chicago © Deborah Mercer*

Laramie Bank as its premier model of Art Deco design in a special folio that it issued to potential clients in 1929.” (Chicago Landmark Designation Report, 1/4/95)

### HISTORY

In the 1920s, Austin was booming with a strong economic base focused on the commercial districts along Chicago Avenue and Madison Street. The population surged by approximately 75%, and much of the neighborhood’s land was developed.

Carl A. Mueller, a local banker, purchased the corner property and by 1924 had built his first building around a smaller drug store at the corner. Business was strong, and on May 1, 1927, the Chicago Tribune announced plans for the construction of a larger and more ornate bank building fronting both Chicago and Laramie Avenue.

The monumental Laramie State Bank Building was opened with great fanfare in 1928. “An elaborate cornice, now removed, once crowned the building. Eye-catching during the day, the building was dazzling at night due to floodlighting.” (Chicago Landmark Designation Report, 1/4/95)

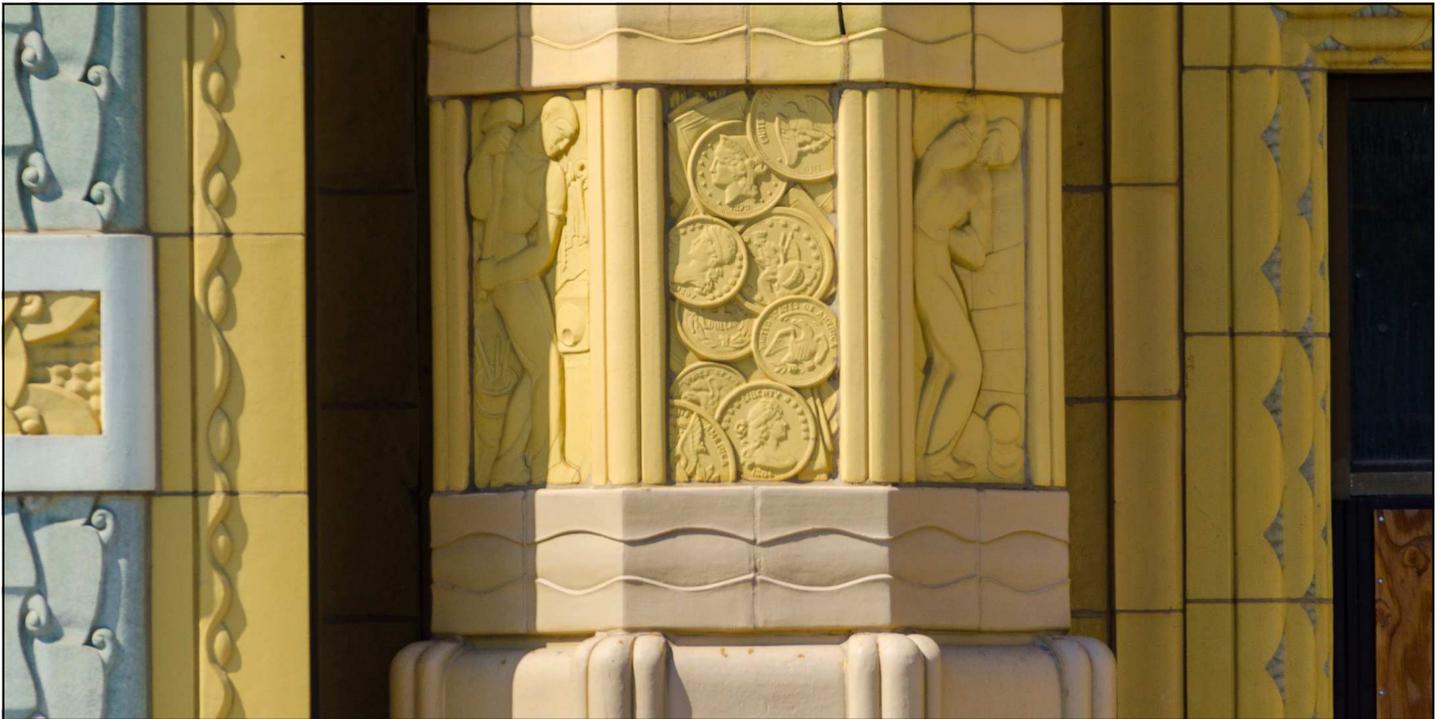
Unfortunately, even the optimistic ornament could not prevent the strong impact of the stock market crash and ensuing Great Depression, and the bank closed its doors on August 16, 1930. Citizens National Bank, another neighborhood bank, took over the building in 1946 and operated at that location until 1991.

The property was purchased at auction in 1994 by longtime Austin residents. The building was designated as a Chi-



*Laramie State Bank of Chicago © Deborah Mercer*

## Chicago 7: Laramie State Bank of Chicago



*Laramie State Bank of Chicago © Eric Allix Rogers*

Chicago Landmark in early 1995. The owners earnestly wanted to restore the building, but the significant costs associated with the terra cotta repair were prohibitive. Interim uses included a banquet facility, retail and restaurants. The building was foreclosed upon by Urban Partnership Bank in 2012. Due to high costs of repair, in an unusual move, the bank later returned the building to the former owners.

### THREATS

Preservation Chicago has appeared in multiple Building Court hearings in recent years, along with the Chicago Art Deco Society, Landmarks Illinois, Austin Coming Together and concerned members of the Austin community.

The Laramie State Bank Building is boarded up and suffering from deferred maintenance. According to a City of Chicago Department of Buildings inspection in July 2017, a number of issues were noted including water systems, elevators, door, windows and historic exterior terra cotta. The deferred maintenance reached a critical stage in late 2018 when a portion of the roof collapsed.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Laramie State Bank is a designated Chicago Landmark, an outstanding example of the Art Deco period, and a highly visible and important landmark in the Austin community. While the challenge to find the resources to restore the building is clear, this outstanding building is worth the effort. Preservation Chicago, Landmark Illinois and the City of Chicago, along with neighborhood preservation partners, have been working diligently to secure a patron that could stabilize the Laramie State Bank Building and restore this exuberant Landmark. We have a strong preference for a community or cultural use for the ground-floor banking hall that would ensure public access to this wonderful building.

We also want the City of Chicago to use Adopt-a-Landmark funds to make needed repairs to the roof which would help stabilize the building. We also want to encourage the Cook County Land Bank to become involved in the property to clear the title on the building and the adjacent parking lots which would allow for a reuse and excellent preservation outcome.

“It has great potential to become a West Side tourist attraction. Laramie State Bank is a gorgeous building on the outside. There’s nothing like this that is so strikingly, fully Art Deco. This is unique. This will make a perfect cultural and historical arts museum, something that children could come to and play their art and music.” said James Bowers, a long-time Austin resident and business owner. (Zhang, AustinTalks)

**Chicago 7: Laramie State Bank of Chicago**



*Laramie State Bank of Chicago © Deborah Mercer*

# Seven Continents/Rotunda Building

## Chicago O'Hare International Airport



*Seven Continents Building / O'Hare Rotunda Building, exterior view. © Gertrude Lempp Kerbis Archive, Ryerson and Burnham Archives, The Art Institute of Chicago*

### OVERVIEW

In 1961, Gertrude Kerbis, with the architectural firm of Naess & Murphy, later known as C.F. Murphy, designed the Seven Continents/O'Hare Airport Rotunda Building as a multi-purpose structure housing several restaurants and airport functions. It served as a magnificent passenger link connecting two major airport terminals. The Rotunda Building is a Jet Age design that was once the centerpiece of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and is an excellent example of Midcentury Modern airport architecture.

Gertrude Kerbis was a groundbreaking architect and one of the first women at the forefront of Chicago architecture working in the modern style in the 1960s. She studied with Ludwig Mies van der Rohe at IIT in Chicago and later worked with Walter Gropius and Mies van der Rohe at Skidmore, Owings and Merrill and at Naess & Murphy/C.F. Murphy before opening her own architectural firm, Lempp Kerbis Architects, in 1967. Kerbis was one of very few female architects working in a male-dominated profession. She worked on the original O'Hare Terminal structures and the Chicago Civic Center, now known as the Richard J. Daley Center, a designated Chicago Landmark.

### Seven Continents / Rotunda Building

**Address: O'Hare Airport, originally between Terminals 1 and 2**

**Architect: Gertrude Lempp Kerbis with Naess & Murphy, and C.F. Murphy Architects**

**Date: 1963 (drawings 1961)**

**Style: Jet Age**

**Neighborhood: O'Hare**

## Chicago 7: Seven Continents Building / Rotunda Building



*Seven Continents Building / O'Hare Rotunda Building, exterior view. © Gertrude Lempp Kerbis Archive, Ryerson and Burnham Archives, The Art Institute of Chicago*

Kerbis designed the Seven Continents/Rotunda Building using an elaborate structural system consisting of one mile of heavy bridge cables spanning a 190-foot ceiling and measuring approximately five inches in thickness, considered by some to be a structural feat. This system resembles a sunburst pattern sheathed in concrete visible from the floor of this unique circular, public, two-story space. The Rotunda Building remains largely intact today but has faded from public use due to the closing of the original restaurants, the expansion of O'Hare Airport and the difficulty of accessing the building beyond added security checkpoints.

Preservation Chicago advocates for a greater appreciation, recognition, restoration and Chicago Landmark status for this iconic building. As an extensive \$8.5 billion O'Hare modernization effort is about to begin, the Rotunda Building should be retained and restored.

### **HISTORY**

Before O'Hare Airport was built, Chicago's Midway Airport (originally called Chicago Municipal Airport) on the Southwest Side of Chicago was the busiest airport in the country. Midway Airport was suffering from overcrowding and a lack of space for expansion. Orchard Field, a site northwest of the city, had 10 times the land that Midway occupied and was chosen in 1945 as a site for a new airport to be built. The airport opened to commercial air traffic in 1955. In the 1960s work began on two new terminals, infrastructure and support buildings for what is now known as O'Hare International Airport. The architectural firm of Naess & Murphy/C.F. Murphy Associates was commissioned to design most of this early work, and it was completed in 1963.

The Seven Continents/O'Hare Rotunda Building, designed by Gertrude Kerbis during her time at Naess & Murphy/C.F. Murphy Associates, was centrally located between the first two terminals at O'Hare Airport. The circular form of the Rotunda Building is covered by a shallow roof dome consisting of a concrete shell hung by metal cables from a steel support structure overhead. The circular two-story atrium, located at the building's central core, was also a terminal passageway in addition to being a grand space. It contains two floating sculptural staircases leading to a balcony on the mezzanine level above, which also wraps around the perimeter of the open atrium.

## Chicago 7: Seven Continents Building / Rotunda Building



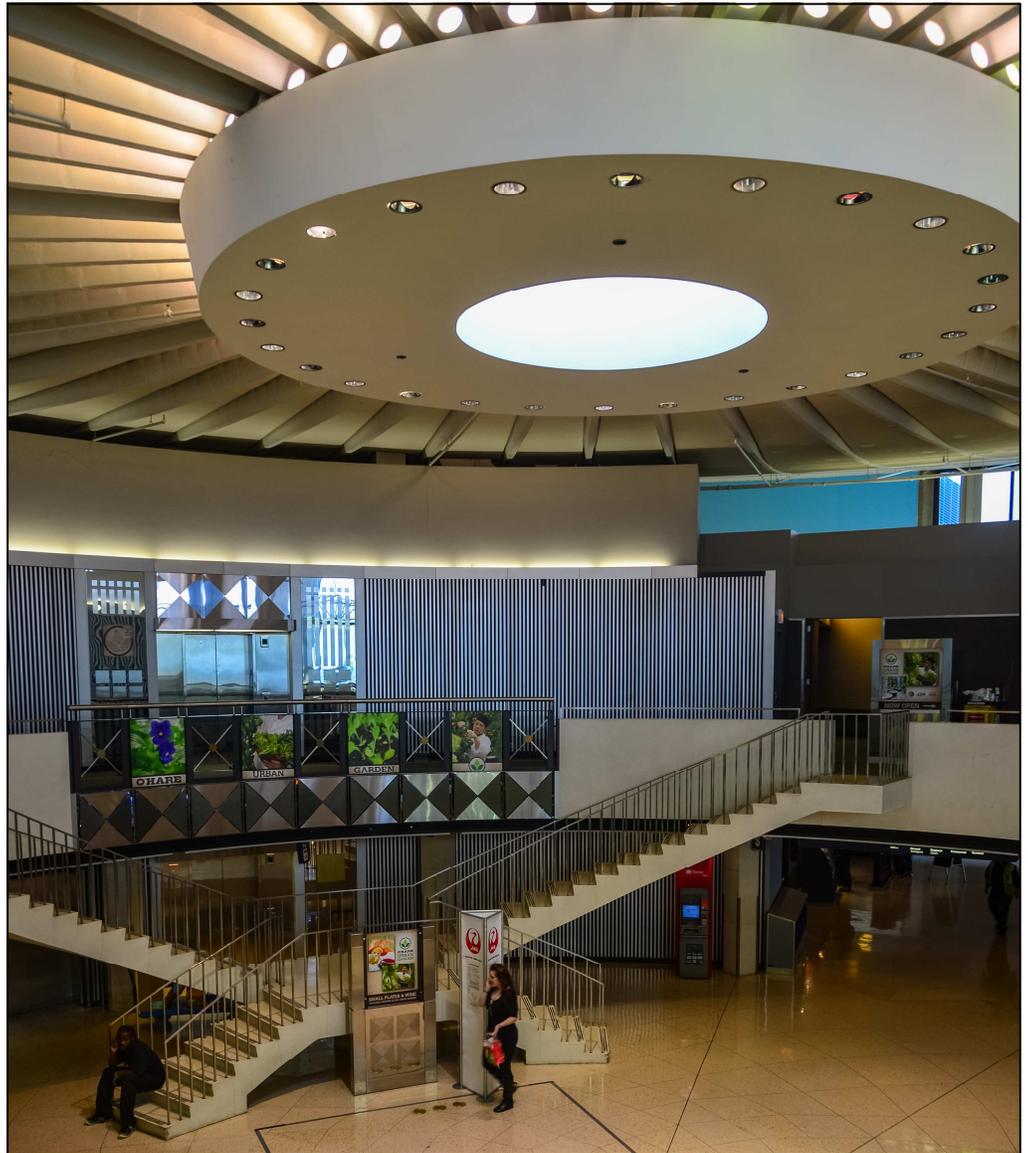
*The grand concourse to Terminals 1 and 2 and entry to Seven Continents Restaurant on mezzanine and Tartan Tray Coffee Shop on ground level circa 1963. Seven Continents Building / O'Hare Rotunda Building, interior view. © Gertrude Lempp Kerbis Archive, Ryerson and Burnham Archives, The Art Institute of Chicago*

The building's interior perimeter also included restaurants and a bar. People were able to gather and watch airplanes depart and arrive on the adjacent tarmacs visible through the expansive two-story windows. The first level of the building contained an informal dining room, coffee shop, lunch counter, pancake shop and cocktail lounge, all which conformed to the curved perimeter of the building's exterior. A soaring, two-story space with a cantilevered mezzanine on the second level, the mezzanine level appears to float within the larger space. This was a brilliant use and program, which formed a universal space for two distinct dining establishments stacked upon one another, with one being a casual dining room and the other an elegant dining facility.

The informal or casual dining room and coffee shop was called The Tartan Tray, which was a reference to the Scotsmen that had founded the Chicago-based, Carson Pirie Scott & Company department store. It was part of Carson's immense restaurant and food service division. The Carson's operation provided food service to all of its regional stores, their cafes within the airport and in-flight meals to airline passengers. Many of these meals were prepared on the ground floor/lower level of the building within the vast kitchens at the tarmac level. The ground floor also included a bakery, offices, storage, mechanical and electrical, and an employee cafeteria.

## Chicago 7: Seven Continents Building / Rotunda Building

The mezzanine level, accessed in the two-story circular atrium core by the two floating staircases previously mentioned, was the location of the famed The Seven Continents Restaurant and a second kitchen. It also included five private dining rooms that could be combined into one larger space. The Seven Continents Restaurant provided a fine dining experience where travelers from around the world could enjoy a meal in a very sophisticated setting overlooking the airfield and surrounded by works of art. They could also watch airplanes take off and land through expansive windows. The Seven Continents Restaurant became a destination for elegant dining, even those not leaving the city on an airplane. It was dining at its best and was said to once rival restaurants elsewhere in the region. The building was known simply as "The Seven Continents," even though it really contained a vastly complex program of services and wide passages connecting two massive terminals for airline customers.



*Seven Continents / Rotunda Building © Eric Allix Rogers*

During the 1960s, airports throughout the country were expanding and building modern, futuristic structures to reflect the excitement of the Jet Age. In 1960, Pan Am built the flying saucer-shaped Worldport at JFK Airport, designed by Ives, Turano & Gardner Associated Architects and Walther Prokosch of Tippetts-Abbett-McDCarthy-Stratton. Sadly that structure has been demolished. In 1962, Eero Saarinen's TWA Flight Center at JFK opened, and that same year Saarinen's terminal at Dulles International Airport outside of Washington D.C. was dedicated by President John F. Kennedy. While portions of the original TWA Flight Center have been reconfigured, the Saarinen-designed head house at JFK has been renovated and now serves as a destination hotel for travelers. Eero Saarinen's Dulles Main Terminal remains as a well-known landmark. In 1961, the Los Angeles International Airport LAX opened its Theme Building by William Pereira and Charles Luckman. This iconic flying saucer on stilts design remains at LAX.

Completed in 1963, the centerpiece of the Chicago's new O'Hare International Airport was the Rotunda Building designed by Gertrude Kerbis. The Rotunda Building remains largely intact and is one of the few remaining elements of O'Hare's Jet Age design and C.F. Murphy's contributions to this important early airport design. O'Hare's Rotunda Building was not only notable for its design but also for its trail blazing female architect who was at the forefront of Chicago architecture working in the modern style in the 1960s.

Gertrude Kerbis was born in 1926 to German and Russian immigrant parents on Chicago's Northwest Side. She had been attending the University of Wisconsin when she became inspired by a Life magazine article on Frank Lloyd Wright. This prompted her to hitchhike from Madison to Wright's Taliesin Estate in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Gertrude became entranced by the interior rooms as she peered through the glass walls of Taliesin, and she

**Chicago 7: Seven Continents Building / Rotunda Building**



*Seven Continents Building / O'Hare Rotunda Building, exterior rendering. © Gertrude Lempp Kerbis Archive, Ryerson and Burnham Archives, The Art Institute of Chicago*



*Seven Continents Building / O'Hare Rotunda Building, interior rendering. © Gertrude Lempp Kerbis Archive, Ryerson and Burnham Archives, The Art Institute of Chicago*

managed to crawl through a bathroom window to spend the night there. In a short film made about her life, Kerbis recalled that when she awoke she knew she wanted to become an architect.

The University of Wisconsin did not have an architecture school, so she transferred to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, graduating in 1948 with a bachelor of science in architectural engineering. She then went on to attend Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, where she studied with architect Walter Gropius. Gertrude left Harvard to attend Chicago's Illinois Institute of Technology where she studied under Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. She graduated from IIT in 1954 with a master's degree in architecture and planning.

## Chicago 7: Seven Continents Building / Rotunda Building

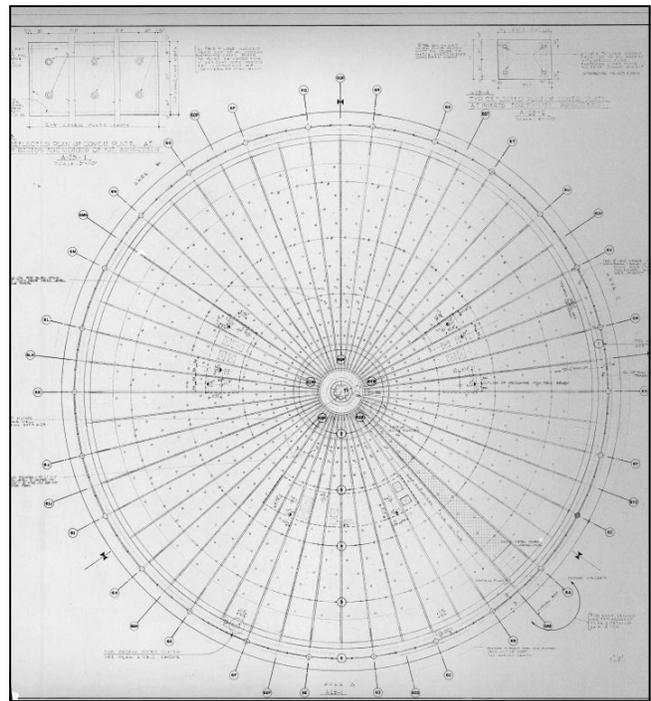
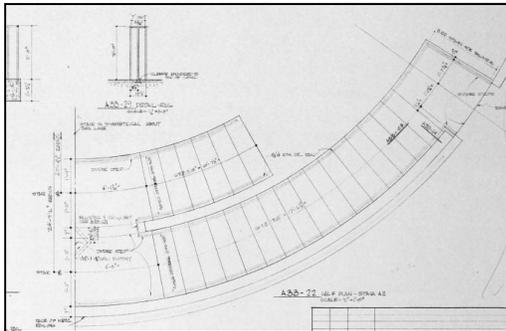
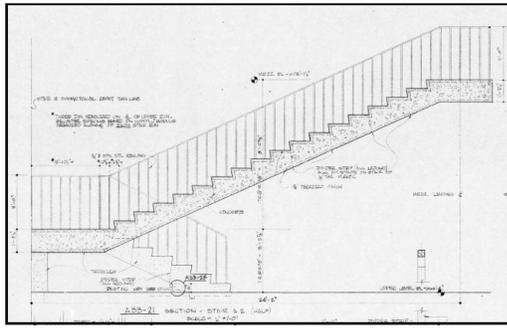


*Seven Continents Building / O'Hare Rotunda Building, construction aerial. Chicago Aerial Survey Co., photographer © Gertrude Lempp Kerbis Archive, Ryerson and Burnham Archives, The Art Institute of Chicago O'Hare Rotunda Building.*

Gertrude Kerbis began her career in the drafting room of the Chicago architectural firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) where she was one of very few women. While at SOM, she designed a futuristic cadet dining hall at the U.S. Air Force Academy campus in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The dining hall was designed to serve thousands of cadets at one time. Before leaving SOM, she designed the Skokie Public Library, which won national design honors from AIA. Working at C.F. Murphy & Associates from 1959 to 1967, Kerbis designed the Rotunda Building at the newly built Chicago O'Hare International Airport. Starting her own firm in 1967, she took on the unusual role of simultaneously designing and developing her projects. These projects included the award-winning Green House Condominiums at 2131 N. Clark Street and a Highland Park tennis club for her second husband, tennis pro Don Kerbis. She also taught architecture at Harper College in Palatine and helped found the group Chicago Women in Architecture. Kerbis was very supportive of women in architecture and strived to show by example what a woman can accomplish.

Kim Kerbis, daughter of Gertrude Kerbis, said: "Trailblazing Chicagoan Gertrude Lempp Kerbis became an architect at a time when most women in the field were either receptionists, secretaries or relegated to the interior departments despite their qualifications. Inspired by and then studying and working with modern masters, she forged a unique career that merged her engineering passions with her modernist aesthetic; a fierce independence with a desire to strengthen the architectural community (particularly for women); and her continued pursuit of individual architectural excellence with a desire to pass those skills on to the next generation of architects. Modern architecture made its mark on Gertrude Lempp Kerbis, and in return she left her mark on it."

## Chicago 7: Seven Continents Building / Rotunda Building



*Seven Continents Building / O'Hare Rotunda Building, exterior view.* © Gertrude Lempp Kerbis Archive, Ryerson and Burnham Archives, The Art Institute of Chicago

### THREATS

Planning is underway to build a new global terminal to replace O'Hare's Terminal 2. The Rotunda Building is directly adjacent to this \$8.5 billion expansion project. With the Seven Continents Restaurant, shops and public gathering places closed or modified, the Rotunda Building now serves as a vestibule and throughway and houses TSA offices. It has been insensitively remodeled over time, with oversized advertising to Terminal 3's Concourse G. A new control tower built adjacent to the Rotunda Building blocks visibility of this architectural gem.

Preservation Chicago is concerned that the Rotunda Building won't be properly valued during the largest and most extensive expansion in the airport's recent history. The potential failure to recognize this important Midcentury Modern building by a trailblazing woman architect could result in an inappropriate treatment or possible demolition.

Preservation Chicago has submitted a Landmarks recommendation for the Rotunda Building to the Chicago Landmarks Commission, and Landmarks Illinois included Gertrude Kerbis' Rotunda Building on their Landmarks Illinois' Most Endangered List in 2017. These recommendations have been made, but to date the Rotunda Building does not have a Landmark designation or any protections.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Preservation Chicago supports a Chicago Landmark designation for the Seven Continents/Rotunda Building and a full restoration of the building. The structure meets and fulfills four of the seven criteria set forth for Proposed Designation of Chicago Landmarks and it also fulfills the "integrity criterion" required for Landmark designation. Landmark status would protect the Rotunda Building from neglect or demolition as O'Hare Airport plans for the future. With the \$8.5 million modernization effort and replacement of Terminal 2, it is our hope that the Rotunda Building will be restored and returned to become a lively center of activity. With new uses that both honor and restore the integrity of this remarkable structure and its complex and sophisticated spaces and finishes, it can be enjoyed by the public once again. If the positioning of the Rotunda Building will not allow for it to function as a public thoroughfare, it should be considered as a special lounge area with a fine dining option.

**Chicago 7: Seven Continents Building / Rotunda Building**



*Seven Continents Building / O'Hare Rotunda Building, interior view of stairs. © Gertrude Lempp Kerbis Archive, Ryerson and Burnham Archives, The Art Institute of Chicago*

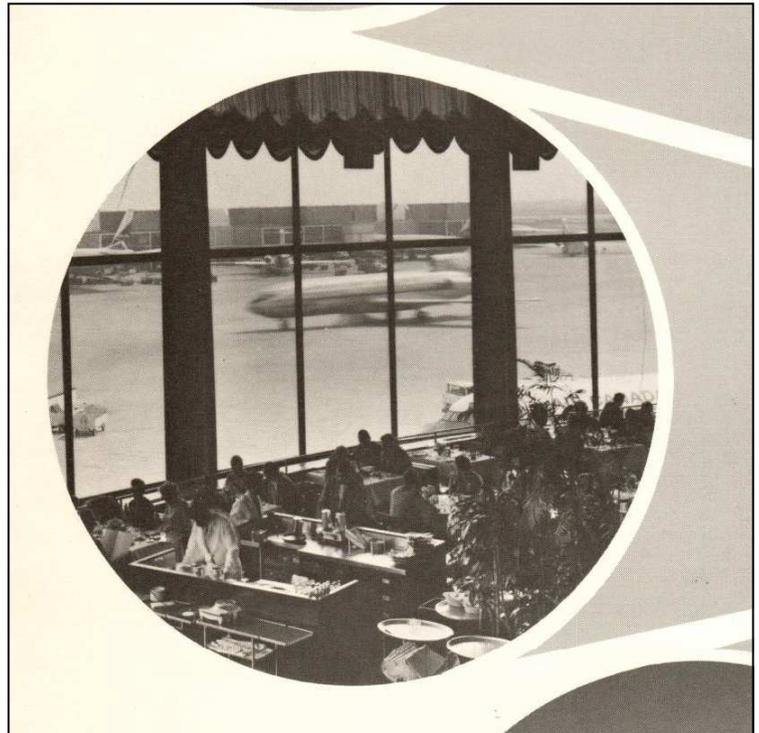
## Chicago 7: Seven Continents Building / Rotunda Building



*Seven Continents Restaurant on the mezzanine level of the Rotunda Building Seven Continents Restaurant interior view. Hedrich-Blessing, photographer © Art Institute of Chicago*

There has been an effort at airports across the country to restore and reuse the Midcentury Modern airport buildings. The TWA Flight Center headhouse by Saarinen at JFK is being redeveloped as a hotel and the Theme Building at LAX by Pereira and Luckman is anticipated to be preserved in the airport's master planning efforts. The Rotunda Building should be included in this group of Jet Age, Midcentury Modern airport architecture.

Gertrude Kerbis and this incredible structure should be honored in March 2019 for Women's History Month. Chicago Landmark designation would properly honor the Rotunda Building's place in women's 20th century achievements in architecture and aviation, and it would protect it during current and future expansion plans at O'Hare. After years of additions and remodeling throughout O'Hare Airport, the Rotunda Building has endured, and it is as interesting, fresh and relevant as ever.



*Expansive views of O'Hare airfield of the ground floor Tartan Tray Coffee Shop © Preservation Chicago Archives*

**Chicago 7: Seven Continents Building / Rotunda Building**



*Owned and operated by Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co., the Seven Continents Restaurant was the white-tablecloth "oasis of civility in busy O'Hare Airport" located on the mezzanine level above the Tartan Tray Coffee Shop on ground floor below, with expansive views of the airfield © C.F. Murphy*

# Loretto Academy / Institute of the Blessed Virgin

1447 E. 65th Street, 65th and Blackstone Avenue, Chicago



*Loretto Academy © Eric Allix Rogers*

## OVERVIEW

Loretto Academy and The Institute of the Blessed Virgin (Mary) is a picturesque four-and-a-half-story building, with a three-and-a-half story addition, situated in Chicago's Woodlawn community and a short distance west of historic Jackson Park. The area was known locally as "Carmelite Way," with several former and present Catholic institutions including The Shrine and Institute of Christ the King (originally St. Clara Church and School and later St. Clara--St. Cyril, then St. Gelasius), Mount

**Loretto Academy of the Immaculate Conception-Woodlawn, Chicago, Institute of the Blessed Virgin (Mary), also known as Loretto Academy**

**Address: 1447 E. 65th Street, 65th and Blackstone Avenue, Chicago (originally Jackson Park Terrace and Washington Avenue)**

**Architect: William P. Doerr**

**Date: 1905, with 1927 addition**

**Neighborhood: Woodlawn**

**Style: Flemish Revival/Flemish Renaissance Revival**

## Chicago 7: Loretto Academy / Institute of the Blessed Virgin



Loretto Academy © Eric Allix Rogers

Carmel High School and the affiliation with this once prominent school for girls.

After the school closed in the early 1970s, the Loretto Academy building served a variety of uses and has witnessed changes in ownership. It is currently vacant and falling into disrepair.

### HISTORY

Established by the Sisters of Loretto, a Roman Catholic religious community of uncloistered women dedicated to both faith and education. The Sisters of Loretto was founded in 1609 by an Englishwoman named Mary Ward (1585-1645). The order of the Loretto Sisters and the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) experienced tremendous growth over time. Their first school in the United States, St. Mary's Academy, was established in Joliet, Illinois in 1880 as an extension of the Order and their work in Toronto, Canada. The community and order is now part of a worldwide organization seeking greater justice and peace, and it operates literacy and counseling programs and an estimated 150 schools worldwide, including many in the United States. Mother Teresa, now known as St. Teresa of Calcutta, was also part of this order of nuns in India from 1928 to 1950 before starting the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta.

At the invitation of the Carmelite priests of nearby Mount Carmel High School, a private Catholic school for boys, the Loretto Sisters were asked in 1905 to establish and construct a school for girls at this site in Woodlawn in 1905. It opened as a four-year high school in August 1906. This school, with an affiliation in part to nearby St. Cyril Church, also a Carmelite Church, became formally known as the Loretto Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Woodlawn-Chicago. The same order had established a similar school, known as Loretto Academy of Our Lady of Good Council, in the nearby Englewood community in 1893, in a former school building in the St. Bernard parish, to also serve girls in that community. Both were called Loretto Academy, for short, which often lead to some confusion. Later the Englewood branch changed its name to Loretto High School.

By the mid-1950s, both schools became noted for embracing African-American women into its student body without any racial quotas, as this was not a common practice with other nearby education institutions. This idea separated the school from others in the vicinity, especially when Woodlawn was experiencing large racial changes in the

**Chicago 7: Loretto Academy / Institute of the Blessed Virgin**

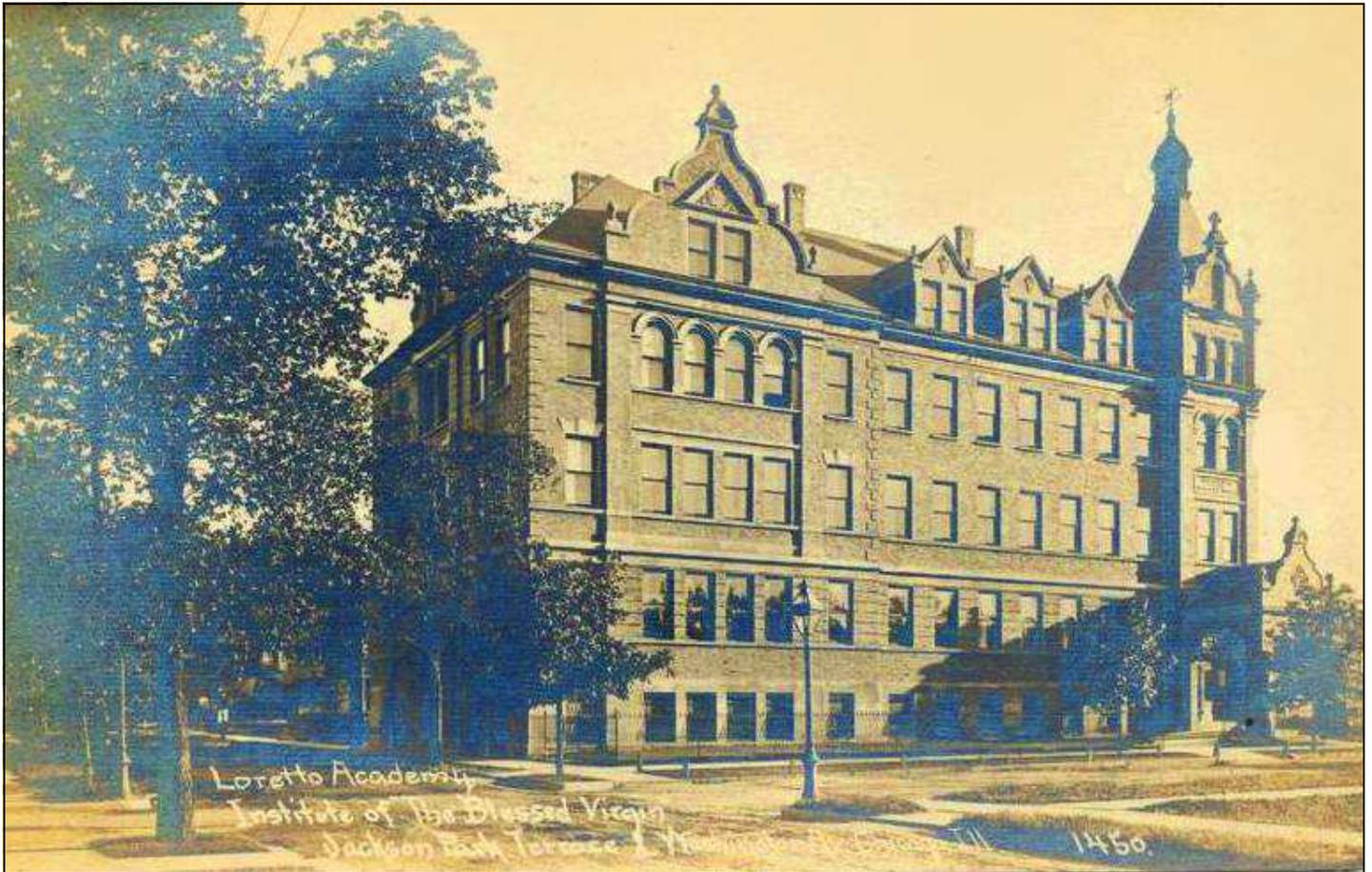


*Loretto Academy © Frederick J. Nachman*

1950s, 1960s and early 1970s. The Sisters of Loretto were also very active in Civil Rights marches in Chicago and in the South, fighting against discrimination and advocating for equality for all.

The two Loretto schools were later merged into other institutions as population in the community declined and continued to change from multi-cultural, white ethnic and mixed race to predominately African American. This was also followed by decades of disinvestment in the community. The building was sold to the Woodlawn Community

## Chicago 7: Loretto Academy / Institute of the Blessed Virgin



Loretto Academy © Chuckman Postcard Collection

Development Corporation (WCDC), the development arm of The Woodlawn Organization, and repurposed for a variety of uses since the school's closing, including a social service building and a church affiliated with Metropolitan Church. As a non-profit, WCDC does not pay property taxes on the building.

### THREAT

While owners and uses have changed over the past four decades, the building has been vacant and mothballed in recent years. In addition, vandals have removed much of the patinated copper cornice and fascia of the upper facades. Large blue tarps were stretched over the high gabled mansard roofs over the last couple of years, and these have become shredded over time. While the building appears secure, we are concerned that water infiltration from a leaking roof may be contributing to further deterioration of the building.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

This remarkable building should be considered for a reuse by another institution or as residential housing. The community is in need of permanent, affordable housing, and its close proximity to several transportation lines makes it an ideal location for such a use. It could also be used in tandem with Mount Carmel High School, as it is situated across the street from Mount Carmel's Athletic Fields on 65th Street and a short distance to Stony Island Avenue and nearby Jackson Park.

The former Loretto Academy Building is currently owned by Reverend Leon Finney of the Metropolitan Apostolic Community Church located in the Bronzeville community. Reverend Finney is also the long-time president of The Woodlawn Organization and the Woodlawn Community Development Corporation.

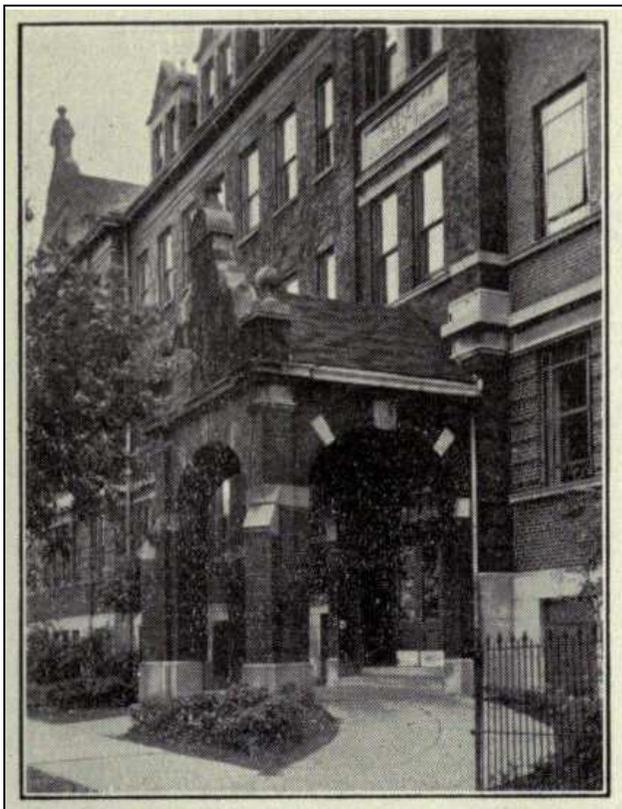
**Chicago 7: Loretto Academy / Institute of the Blessed Virgin**



*Loretto Academy © Eric Allix Rogers*



*Loretto Academy © Eric Allix Rogers*



*Main Entrance Loretto Academy © Loretto Rainbow, 1942-43*



*Loretto Academy © Eric Allix Rogers*

**Chicago 7: Loretto Academy / Institute of the Blessed Virgin**



*Loretto Academy © Frederick J. Nachman*

**LORETTO ACADEMY**  
**CORNER SIXTY-FIFTH STREET AND WASHINGTON AVENUE.**

**YOUNG LADY STUDENTS TAKEN DURING VACATION.**  
Send for Catalogue or Apply to The Chicago Inter Ocean.

*Loretto Academy © Chicago Inter-Ocean Newspaper July 8, 1906*

# Crawford Power Station

Between Pulaski and Hamlin, and 33rd Street and  
the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal



*Crawford Power Station © Eric Allix Rogers*

## OVERVIEW

The Crawford Power Station is fast approaching 100 years standing in the Little Village industrial corridor. After years of community organizing to eliminate the pollution it generated, the historic buildings stand as a testament to the community's victory as well as a bygone time when great architecture was the standard for industrial corridor development. Little Village is part of the South Lawndale community area.

What has been proposed for the 70-acre Crawford Station site is a massive 1 million square-foot diesel truck staging, cross-dock facility by developer Hilco Redevelopment Partners.

## HISTORY

When the Crawford Station was built in 1926 by the Commonwealth Edison Company, it was considered an engineering wonder.

The Crawford Station was designed by architects Graham, Anderson, Probst and White, the successor firm to D. H. Burnham

## Crawford Power Station

Address: **35th and Pulaski**

Architect: **Graham, Anderson, Probst and White**

Date: **1926**

Style: **Industrial Gothic**

Neighborhood: **Little Village / South Lawndale**

## Chicago 7: Crawford Power Station



Historic Crawford Power Station outlined in yellow and extensive approximately 70 acre site outlined in red © Google Maps Aerials

& Company. The firm's commissions included many large scale and important buildings like Chicago's Union Station, Soldier Field, The Field Museum, the Merchandise Mart, Shedd Aquarium and Chicago's Main Post Office. The Crawford Station is orange-rated in the Chicago Historic Resources Survey, indicating its historic value and importance.

The Crawford Station employed innovative technology to conquer the previously difficult task of employing steam engine turbine technology to create the world's largest electrical generators. The massive electricity production allowed Chicago to grow and prosper at a magnitude not previously seen. The success of the Crawford Station was replicated around the world, but it all began in Chicago.

Engineering magazine in July 1925, noted that "(p)robably no power station ever built has commanded greater interest during the period of its construction than has Crawford Avenue Station in Chicago." The magazine made numerous references to the world power conference in London, England and the interest in Chicago's new power plant.

The Crawford Station is composed of red-brick, stonework masonry, Modern Gothic forms and Renaissance Revival detailing to create an eclectic mix of historic styles, now termed Industrial Gothic. The stately main Turbine Hall, with its large towers, resembles the front façade of a church or religious structure. A mammoth three-story, arched window opening is divided with slender brick piers with a vast interior hall located behind.

For over a decade, a coalition of community activists fought to close the Crawford and Fisk coal-burning power plants that contributed significant air pollution and created significant health impacts for individuals living close to these facilities. Preservation Chicago attended meetings in support of the goal to close the plants and retain the historic buildings and met repeatedly with 22nd Ward Alderman Ricardo Munoz to advocate for the buildings and the history it represents to the people of Little Village. Finally, in 2012, the plants were closed down and the active pollution stopped. Mayor Rahm Emanuel promised that any new development would be environmentally sustainable and that the community would be involved in development planning. According to a news release from the mayor's office, "When we closed down Chicago's last two coal plants, we committed to creating a cleaner, brighter and more sustainable future for Chicago's neighborhoods."

## Chicago 7: Crawford Power Station

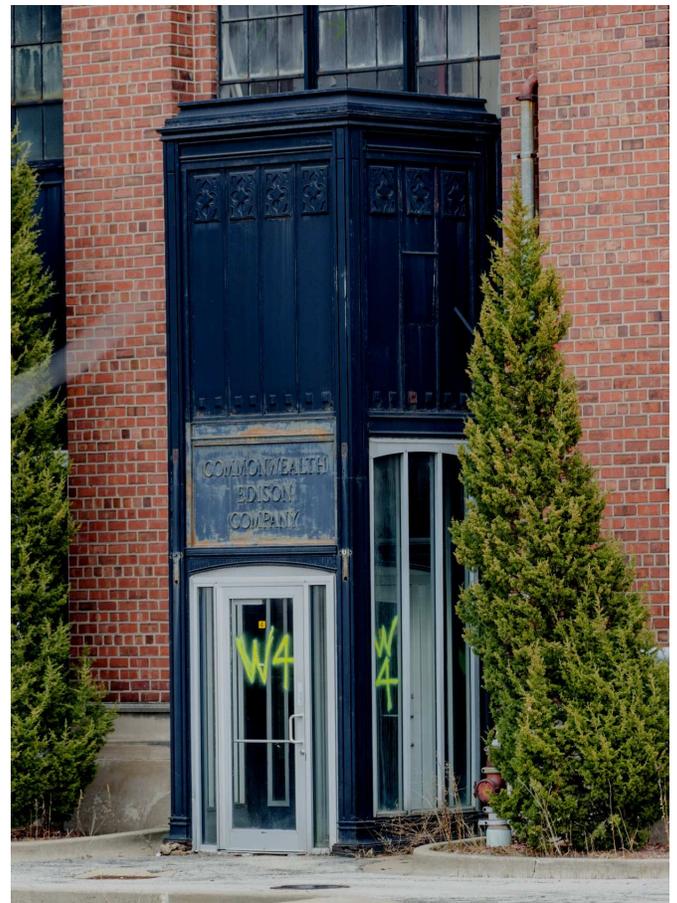


Crawford Power Station Turbine Hall Interior View © Library of Congress

“There have long been serious concerns about heavy trucks and diesel emissions near schools in Little Village. The fine particulate matter released by diesel trucks is linked to several threats to health including increased risk for cardiac and respiratory disease and cancer. For an organization that closed a coal plant, an increase in diesel emissions produced by trucks would reverse a major community victory on air quality.” (Bayne, Social Justice News, 8/28/17)

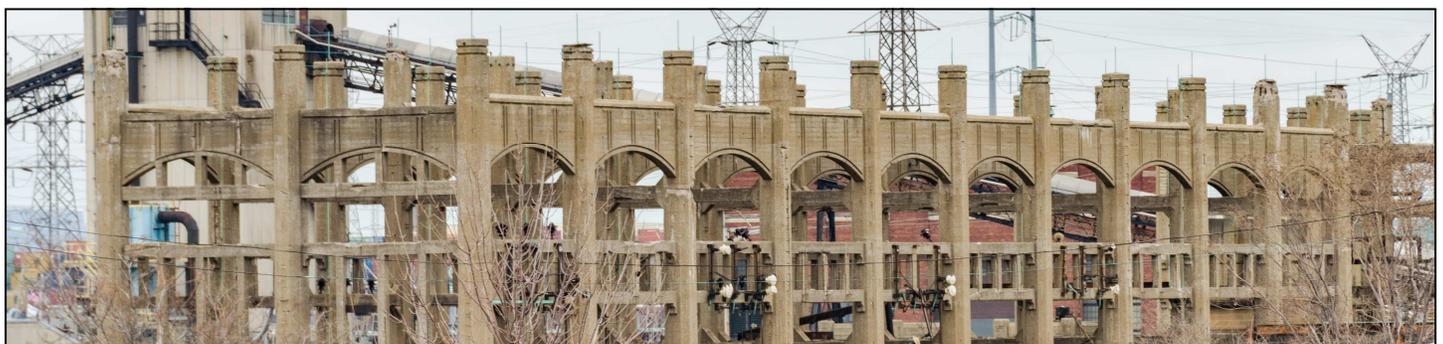
### THREAT

After a 90-Day Demolition Delay, Hilco Development received a permit to demolish the Crawford Station buildings. The approval process for Hilco’s planned development has moved rapidly with little to no engagement with local residents. Despite a City-funded Little Village industrial corridor modernization plan being developed now, there has been no movement by City leaders to delay the approval of this large development until the plan is finalized. While the developer has plans to add some green features to better align with the draft modernization plan, the plan at this current stage does not address all of the community’s needs and concerns for future development. The current plan does not adequately address environmental, traffic and historic preservation concerns. Hilco claims the historic buildings are structurally unsound, but it has produced no objective analysis to substantiate that claim.



Crawford Power Station © Eric Allix Rogers

## Chicago 7: Crawford Power Station



*Crawford Power Station © Eric Allix Rogers*

Community advocates contend that the massive truck staging facility will generate high levels of exhaust pollution, noise pollution and truck traffic in the neighborhood. The Little Village neighborhood consistently ranks highest in air pollution levels across the City of Chicago. Developing a high-polluting use on the Crawford site shows a significant lack of regard for the health and safety of people who live, work and attend school in the neighborhood.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Preservation Chicago strongly encourages the adaptive reuse of the historic buildings into a redevelopment plan with new construction located elsewhere on the vast 72-acre site. The historic Graham, Anderson, Probst and White buildings, especially Turbine Hall, are an asset that should be recognized, valued and protected.

The Little Village community has been over-studied in the last few years and wildly underrepresented in redevelopment plans. The planned Hilco development is a prime example of that imbalance. Instead of approving a plan in the name of a free market that threatens the safety and quality of life of community residents and destroys important architectural history of Chicago, Hilco could be a responsible corporate neighbor working with the community to find a healthy balance between the company's profits and people's right to live in a healthy and safe neighborhood – one that retains its historic built environment.

It is possible and essential to redevelop this site in a way that minimizes harm to the community, honors the history and architecture and yet profitable for the developer. Little Village residents should not be required to sacrifice

## Chicago 7: Crawford Power Station

their quality of life in exchange for Hilco maximizing its return on investment on the Crawford site.

In London, a once shuttered coal-fired plant built in 1947 was adaptively reused and is now the celebrated Tate Modern. This river-front art museum has become the third most visited attraction in the UK with 5.8 million visitors in 2016. That building faced repeated threats of demolition for nearly 20 years prior to its reuse in 2000. In Savannah, Georgia, the former Georgia Power Plant located on the Savannah River is being turned into a 670,000-square-foot, mixed-used development by Marriott.

Hilco recently acquired another significant property in the Pilsen community, the Fisk Generating Station at 1111 West Cermak. The company can practice profitable and sensitive redevelopment at Crawford to gear up for the same model at Fisk. Our city's history should not be erased in the name of one company's profits.

### SPECIFIC

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Preservation Chicago is not opposed to redevelopment for the site, but it strongly encourages the 1926 portion of the 72-acre campus be adaptively reused in any redevelopment plan. The historic structures could incorporate some of the existing equipment to tell a story of Chicago's place on the world stage in the history of electricity and the production process. This concept was employed at the former Sears Roebuck headquarters on Chicago's West Side where some of the old powerhouse equipment was integrated into the new high school, known as the Charles H. Shaw Technology and Learning Center operated by Noble Street Charter Schools.

Community residents, including those involved with the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, favor a reuse on the site that retains the historic buildings and offers potentially food-related growing and production operations within those structures. Hilco could then find a use on the site's vacant land that is respectful of the community's quality of life goals. Jobs can be created and profits can be turned without causing harm to the community and erasing our historic built environment.

The 1 million-square-foot facility proposed at Crawford would never be considered on Chicago's North or Northwest sides, and it should not be forced on the neighbors in Little Village/South Lawndale. Residents there have endured decades of disinvestment and environmental pollution with minimal investment of City resources toward protecting its built history.



*Crawford Power Station © Eric Allix Rogers*

**Chicago 7: Crawford Power Station**



*Crawford Power Station © Eric Allix Rogers*

# Justice D. Harry Hammer Mansion / Lutrelle 'Lu' & Jorja Palmer Mansion

3654-3656 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Chicago



*Justice D. Harry Hammer / Lu & Jorja Palmer Mansion © Eric Allix Rogers*

## OVERVIEW

The Hammer/Palmer Mansion was constructed between 1885 and 1888 for Justice D. Harry Hammer. Designed by noted architect William Wilson Clay (1849-1926) and his firm of Wheelock & Clay, in the Queen Anne style. William Clay, and his various firms of Wheelock & Clay (1876-1886), Clay & Dutton (1886-1888), Beers, Clay, & Dutton (1888-1894) and with his own firm from 1894 onward, were notable for their grand-scale houses and mansions. He primarily designed in the Romanesque Revival or Richardsonian style, as well as the Queen Anne style, the two most modern and popular styles of the late 19th century.

### **Justice D. Harry Hammer / Lu & Jorja Palmer Mansion**

**Address: 3654-3656 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
(originally called Grand Boulevard, then South Park Way)**

**Architect: William Wilson Clay, Wheelock & Clay**

**Date: 1885**

**Style: Queen Anne/Romanesque**

**Neighborhood: Bronzeville/Douglas Community**

## Chicago 7: Justice D. Harry Hammer / Lu & Jorja Palmer Mansion



*Justice D. Harry Hammer / Lu & Jorja Palmer Mansion © Eric Allix Rogers*

Clay and his firms designed many notable mansions on the Near South Side, Kenwood and Hyde Park communities, as well as along such streets as Prairie and Michigan Avenues in the neighborhood we now call Bronzeville. In addition, the firm designed historically significant tall structures, or “skyscrapers”, such as the 14-story Medinah Building of 1893 in the Loop (a precursor to Medinah Temple and the Medinah Athletic Club) and the 11-story Lakota Hotel at 3001 S. Michigan Avenue of 1892. These have both been demolished. Also, the design of the Diamond Match Company Building for the Columbian Exposition/Chicago World’s Fair of 1893. Several of Clay’s mansions still stand on the Southside, Near North Side, and the Gold Coast. However, much of their work has been lost.

More recently the Hammer/Palmer Mansion was the home from 1976 to 2004 of the noted African American activist, reporter, writer, and ‘godfather of Chicago black political activism’ Lutrelle ‘Lu’ F. Palmer II (1922-2004) and his wife Jorja English Palmer. The mansion has been vacant in recent years while under the ownership of Wilcar, LLC, with real estate magnate Elzie Higginbottom and members of the English family. The structure has fallen into a state of disrepair and there is danger that it will become a victim of demolition by neglect. Instead we hope it is saved, restored and made part of a larger Chicago Landmark District to include all of the buildings and their facades fronting this stretch of King Drive and nearby adjacent streets of Bronzeville.

### **HISTORY**

The Mid-South community of Chicago, now known as “Bronzeville”, was originally called the “Douglas Community”. Named for the great orator and Illinois Democratic Senator Stephen A. Douglas (1813-1861), this area was once part of Douglas’ vast 60-acre estate purchased in 1852. Working with the Illinois Central Railroad to help establish the community, Douglas did much to improve the property, establishing an early stockyard and other businesses as

## Chicago 7: Justice D. Harry Hammer / Lu & Jorja Palmer Mansion



*Justice D. Harry Hammer / Lu & Jorja Palmer Mansion © Eric Allix Rogers*

well as subdividing some of his property for development. Douglas also donated 10 acres of land as the site for “the original University of Chicago”, its location before moving to Hyde Park in the 1890's. A bronze statue of Stephen Douglas stands on a stone obelisk atop his tomb at 636 E 35th Street, easily visible from south Lakeshore Drive. The monument and tomb sit within a small manicured park, on what was once part of his 60-acre estate.

Douglas is perhaps best known for his participation in the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, in addition to being the Democratic nominee for President of the United States, running against another Illinois candidate, Abraham Lincoln. Douglas was sometimes referred to as “The Little Giant,” as he was short in stature and “a forceful and dominant figure” in politics. A bronze statue of Stephen Douglas stands atop a magnificent stone monument and tomb by Leonard Volk, at 636 E. 35th Street, situated within a small manicured park, on what was once his land.

Grand Boulevard, now Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, was constructed as a wide tree-lined boulevard and carriage drive in the 1870s, designed by world-renowned American landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. One of Chicago's first “suburban style” boulevards, it was intended to connect downtown's Michigan Avenue (then residential) with the new Southside Olmsted parks now known as Washington Parks, the Midway Plaisance, and Jackson Park (A Preservation Chicago - Chicago 7 Most Endangered for 2017-2018-2019). This was a great public amenity for a booming industrial city like Chicago in the late 19th Century.

Grand Boulevard quickly became one of the most desirable addresses in the city. Many of Chicago's wealthy industrialists, the social and political elite, built mansions along the boulevard. The Hammer/Palmer Mansion, designed by William Wilson Clay and his firm of Wheelock & Clay, was one of these. Constructed in the Queen Anne-style between 1885 and 1888 for D. Harry Hammer, a noted Chicago attorney, alderman of the Fourth Ward, Justice of the Peace and Cook County judge.

## Chicago 7: Justice D. Harry Hammer / Lu & Jorja Palmer Mansion



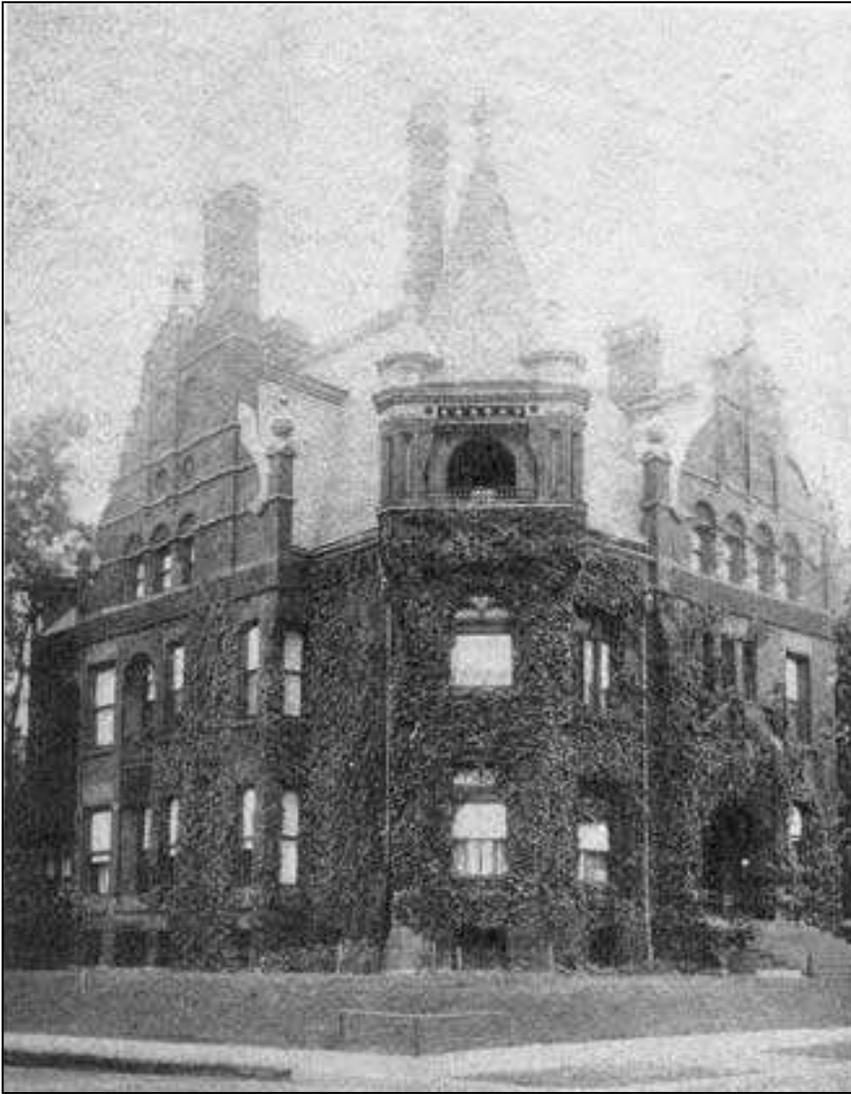
*Justice D. Harry Hammer / Lu & Jorja Palmer Mansion © Eric Allix Rogers*

From the beginning of the Great Migration of African Americans from the South in 1916-1917 through the 1950s, Grand Boulevard became an integral part of the Black Metropolis, or Bronzeville, community. Because of strictly enforced racially segregated housing policies, much of the distinctly African American culture, in both the arts and commerce, was compressed into this neighborhood. The area thrived and became home to such notable individuals as Ida B. Wells, Gwendolyn Brooks, Richard Wright, Louis Armstrong, Nat King Cole, Bessie Coleman, Robert S. Abbott, John H. Johnson and many others. In addition, it became home to such institutions as Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company, the Chicago Bee, The Chicago Defender and nearby Wendell Phillips Academy and DuSable High School, as well as the Harold Washington Cultural Center.

Grand Boulevard was later renamed South Park Way, and in 1968, it was again renamed to honor the slain civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As a leader of the nationwide Freedom Movement, King had a long association with Chicago. He frequently addressed large audiences here, marched in mass demonstrations, and lived here with his family on the West Side – all to advance civil rights and to fight discriminatory housing practices. The renaming of South Park Way to King Drive, honors Dr. King’s work and legacy in both Chicago and across the nation.

In 1976 Lutrelle “Lu” and Jorja English Palmer purchased the Hammer mansion. They would reside there for 28 years, until Mr. Palmer passed away in 2004. The Palmers were noted African American community activists, and were integral to the 1983 campaign of Mayor Harold Washington. Palmer was a noted reporter and columnist for the “Chicago Defender”, the “Chicago American”, the “Chicago Daily News”, and the “Chicago Courier”. Palmer also produced and hosted the radio programs “Lu’s Notebook” (broadcast on many black radio stations) and “On Target” (WVON) featuring “pointed commentaries” on racial and political issues. He retired from journalism in 2001. An obi-

**Chicago 7: Justice D. Harry Hammer / Lu & Jorja Palmer Mansion**



Our old home on Grand Boulevard  
North-west corner of 37<sup>th</sup> Street.  
Built by D. Harry Hammer.

*Justice D. Harry Hammer Mansion © The View from Squirrel Ridge.com*

tuary in the Chicago Tribune noted, "He was fiery. Once he decided on something, there was no turning Lu Palmer back. He was ferocious in his beliefs," said the Director of the Center for Inner City Studies at Northeastern University'. The Palmers founded both the Chicago Black United Communities (CBUC) in 1980 and Black Independent Political Organization (BIPO) in 1984.

**THREAT**

The Hammer House faces the threat of demolition by neglect. The house has been vacant for a number of years. It is in need of repair. Given the size of the house and the necessary investment the property requires, Preservation Chicago is concerned that the house will continue to deteriorate and accumulate building violations. This would give the owner and the City an excuse to demolish this important Bronzeville building and erase another part of Bronzeville history.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Preservation Chicago strongly advocates for the preservation and restoration of the Hammer/Palmer Mansion. This property needs immediate repairs and investment. This building should be landmarked, either as an individual landmark or as part of a broad King Drive/Grand Boulevard Chicago Landmark District, or both. The house is clearly landmark-eligible, both from an architectural standpoint, and from the standpoint of cultural history. Its original owner, D. Harry Hammer, and its longtime owners Lu & Jorja English Palmer were



*Justice D. Harry Hammer © Chicago and Its Resources Twenty Years After 1871-1891*



*Jorja English Palmer © Eddie Read Collection*



*Mayor Harold Washington and Lutrelle "Lu" Palmer © The Chicago Crusader*

**Chicago 7: Justice D. Harry Hammer / Lu & Jorja Palmer Mansion**



*Justice D. Harry Hammer / Lu & Jorja Palmer Mansion © Deborah Mercer*

significant residents of this historic community. The Palmers were active and noteworthy in Chicago's African American cultural and political community, and were integral to the election of Harold Washington as mayor of Chicago. This house deserves to be saved, restored, and landmarked.

# Second Church of Christ, Scientist

2700 N. Pine Grove Avenue, Chicago



*Second Church of Christ, Scientist © Eric Allix Rogers*

## OVERVIEW

Second Church of Christ, Scientist is a fine example of Chicago architect Solon S. Beman's work and is located on the North Side adjacent to historic Lincoln Park. Beman, known most famously for his design of the historic Town of Pullman as well as commercial and religious buildings, designed this church in a Classical Revival-style, reminiscent of an ancient Greek Temple. The building was completed in 1901 as the second church structure and institution, dedicated to the Christian Science movement in Chicago.

After serving the Lincoln Park community for more than a century, this remarkable building, designed by one of Chicago's well-noted architects, has been offered for sale by the congregation and a real estate consultant. The church may be in imminent danger of demolition if sold to a developer, as the building is not a designated Chicago Landmark. This is due in part to a 1987

## Second Church of Christ, Scientist

Address: **2700 N. Pine Grove Avenue**

Architect: **Solon S. Beman**

Date: **1899**

Style: **Classical Revival**

Neighborhood: **Lincoln Park**

## Chicago 7: Second Church of Christ, Scientist



*Second Church of Christ, Scientist © Eric Allix Rogers*

Chicago ordinance requiring owner permission and consent to designate religious buildings as official protected and recognized Landmarks. Often churches and owners of religious buildings do not wish to be encumbered by this designation and honor, which may limit future plans, including possible demolition of their magnificent buildings.

### HISTORY

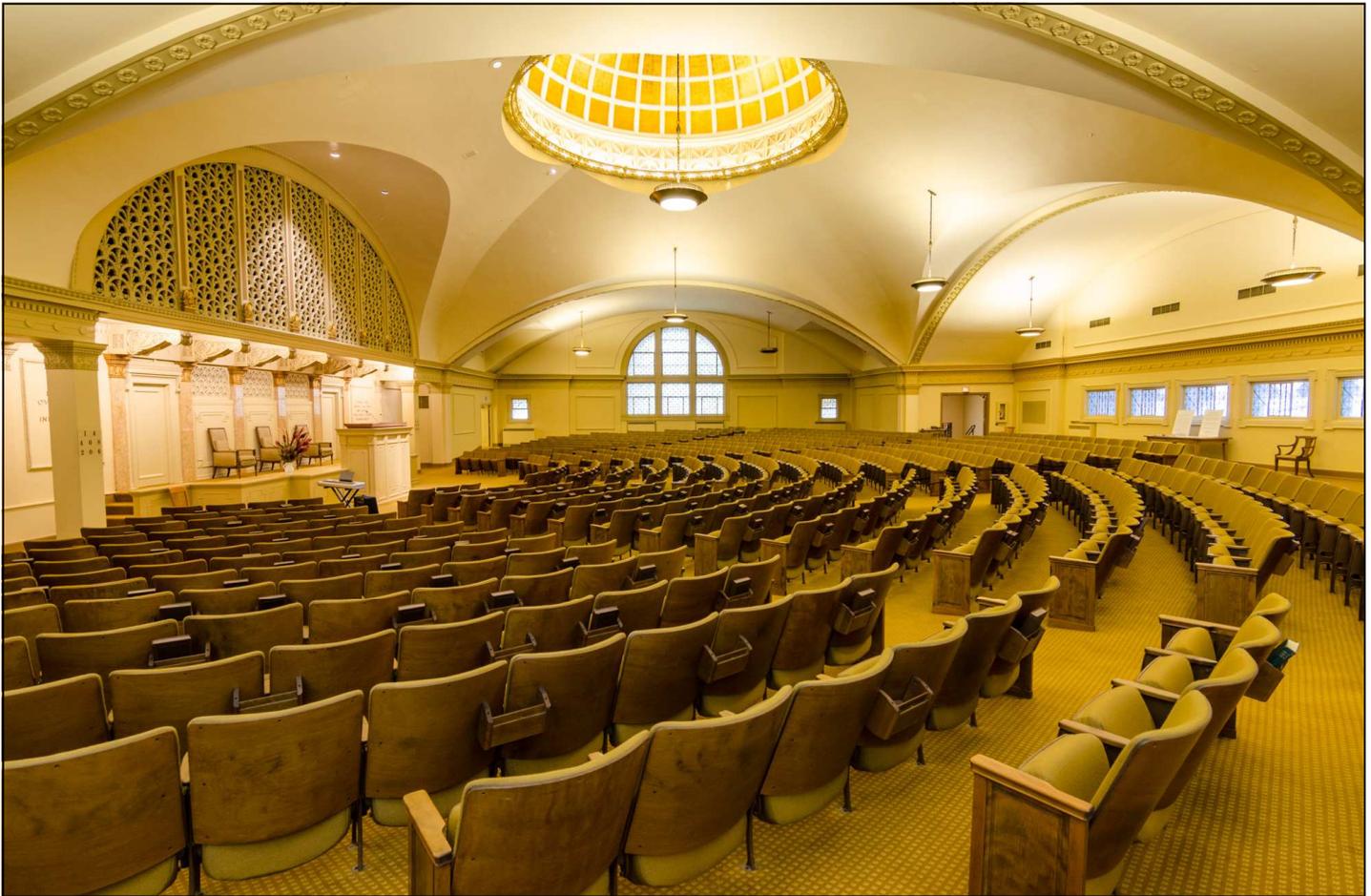
Solon S. Beman (1853-1914), a prolific architect, was born in Brooklyn, New York and worked in the office of New York Architect Richard Upjohn. He was noted for his design of the company town of Pullman, as well as large-scale commercial buildings, railway stations and factories, in a variety of historically influenced styles. Later in his career, religious buildings and several notable libraries became prominent commissions. These were mostly executed in Classical Revival-styles and perhaps reflecting the influences and impact on his work from the World's Columbian Exposition, also referred to as the Chicago World's Fair of 1893.

Second Church was designed and heavily influenced by the forms and volumes of an ancient Greek Temple or what may be considered the Classical Revival-style. This style of architecture is noted for its pure and strict organized architectural vocabulary and often consists of an impressive columned and pedimented stone façade of the finest proportions, sometimes topped by a large dome. This style harks back to the overall composition of such admired and revered ancient structures as the Erectheion, atop the Acropolis in Athens, Greece.

The Second Church was also modeled after a structure designed by Beman, the award-winning Merchant & Tailor's building which was constructed for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Jackson Park. This was one of two temporary revival-style buildings designed by Beman for the Fair. The smaller, temporary structure later became a template for several of Beman's religious building designs, especially related to the Christian Science movement in America. Other architects also followed in this style for church buildings, including architect Leon Stanhope's Eleventh Church of Christ Scientist in the Logan Square community.

Second Church shares many of the design features associated with the Merchant Tailor's Fair Building, along with several other prominent Beman commissions that followed for other Christian Science churches and the Blackstone Library in Chicago's Kenwood-Hyde Park neighborhood. These features are most notably the overall massing and volume of the building, the large fluted stone columns with Ionic-order capitals, and forming and signaling in the front entry to this amazing structure. The strict Classical-order to its composition and symmetry are a common

## Chicago 7: Second Church of Christ, Scientist



*Second Church of Christ, Scientist © Eric Allix Rogers*

theme, along with its magnificent large dome topping the building. Its massive but well-proportioned volume, overall fine-quality design and execution in Bedford Limestone gives the structure a commanding presence at the corner of Wrightwood and Pine Grove Avenues.

The sanctuary of Second Church is located on the upper floor and is reached by two grand staircases flanking the east and west walls of the building. The sanctuary contains a vast, vaulted column-free auditorium, creating a universal space with restrained ornamentation limited strictly to the stage, podium and the organ screen. This large sanctuary room, which is also free of religious symbolism, seats about 700 people. Its raked auditorium seating fronts the north wall of the church with a stage and a magnificent Austin organ above. The perimeter walls of the sanctuary contain a series of honey-colored art glass windows, with the sloped ceiling only interrupted by a magnificent gilded dome and art glass skylight. The lower levels of the building contain offices, classrooms and mechanical spaces.

Beman began his architectural training in 1870, in the office of Richard Upjohn, a well-known architect noted mostly for his religious buildings constructed in the Gothic Revival Style. Beman arrived in Chicago in 1879 at the request of industrialist George Pullman to design what was considered to be the first, all-inclusive planned company town to manufacture luxury passenger railroad cars. This was to become the legendary Pullman Palace Car Company situated in the Lake Calumet region and to be known as the Town of Pullman, which was annexed to the City of Chicago in 1889. This was an immense commission for Beman consisting of approximately 1,300 buildings constructed between 1880 and 1894. These included houses in various sizes and styles, apartment buildings and flats, factory buildings, a market hall, a hotel, arcade, church, water tower and an administration building, in a variety of styles including Queen Anne, Gothic Revival and Classical Revival.

Solon S. Beman also designed other notable buildings, several which still are extant and designated Chicago Landmarks. These include The Pullman Building (1883; demolished), the Marshall Field Jr. House (1884; Prairie Avenue Landmark District), The Studebaker/Fine Arts Building (1885 and 1898, Landmarked), W.W. Kimball House (1887; Prairie Avenue Landmark District) Chicago's Grand Central Station (1888-1890, demolished), The Griffiths-

## Chicago 7: Second Church of Christ, Scientist



*Second Church of Christ, Scientist © Eric Allix Rogers*

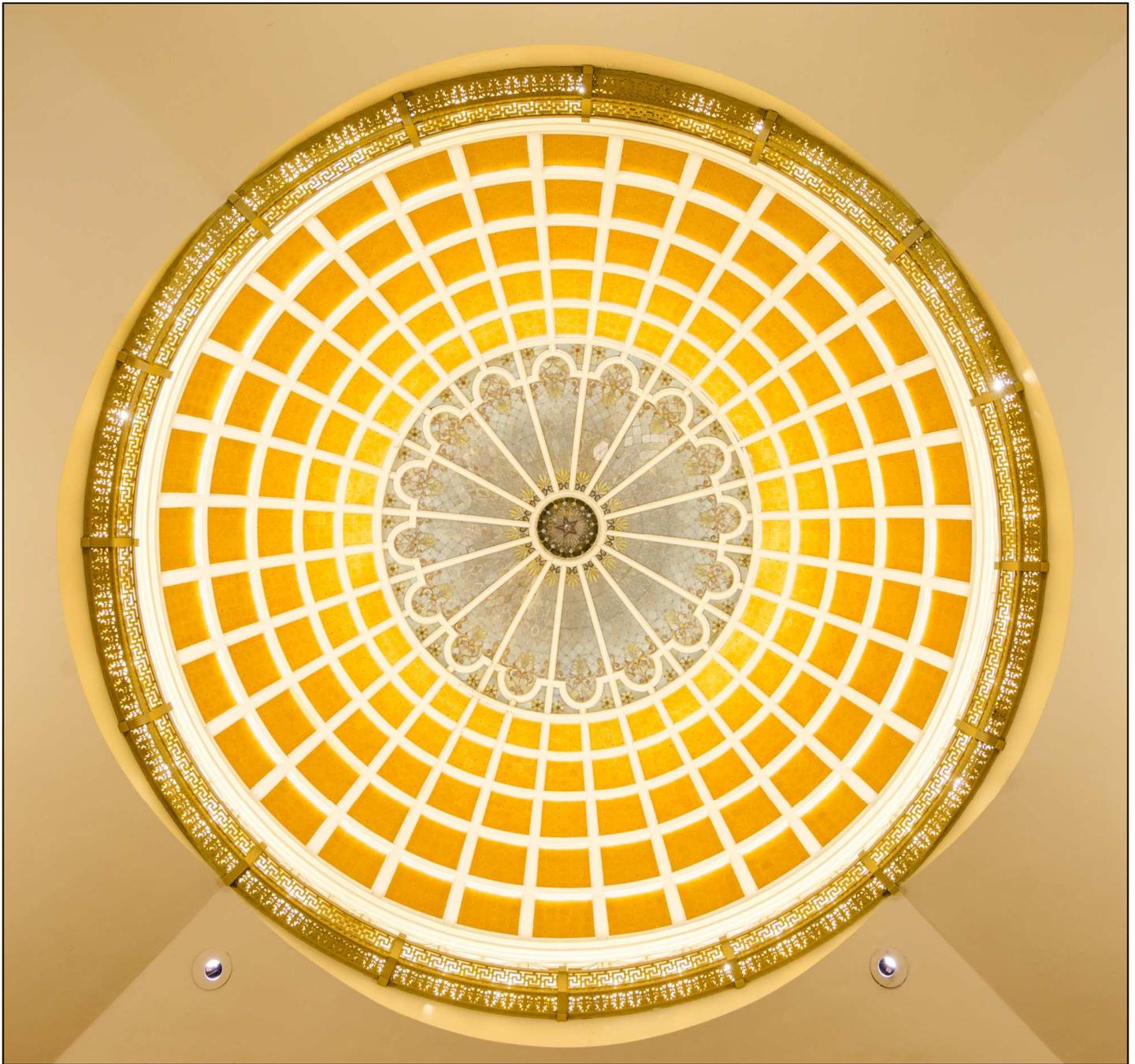
Burroughs House (1892; Landmarked), First Church of Christian Science, Chicago (1897; Landmarked), The Blackstone Library (1904; Landmarked), Fifth Church of Christ Scientist, Chicago (1914; Kenwood Landmark District) and of course the Town of Pullman, parts of which are now a National Monument.

Beman worked with members of the Christian Science Church, including its leaders and Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Christian Science movement. In the late 1890s he converted to Christian Science and became a close friend of Eddy. With Eddy's encouragement, Beman became the de facto house architect and designed approximately two dozen churches nationwide, including the Mother Church Extension for the denomination's headquarters in Boston. It was said that Mrs. Eddy thought Beman developed the most beautiful buildings for worship of their congregations, and his buildings became a prototype for Christian Science churches across the nation. It is noted that Beman and his son, architect Spencer S. Beman, together designed approximately 90 Christian Science churches in their combined careers.

The Christian Science movement gained popularity in Chicago as a result of the World's Fair and the World's Parliament of Religions, also known as the World's Congress on Religions in 1893. This conference was held within a partially constructed building, which would later become The Art Institute of Chicago and was originally envisioned to be one of two campuses for the Fair. In the years to follow, the Christian Science movement expanded westward from its Mother Church in Boston and gained substantial growth in both Chicago and across the nation.

### **THREATS**

After serving the Lincoln Park community for more than a century, this remarkable building has been offered for sale by the congregation and a real estate consultant. Despite a proposal in 2017 to consider a reuse of the building as a community cultural center and library, sponsored by a Chicago-based foundation in tandem with the City, the congregation continues to seek a developer for the property. This marvelous structure, much like several other former Christian Science churches, may be in imminent danger of demolition, thereby losing both an amazing legacy building and an opportunity for this structure to continue to serve the community as a destination and a much-



*Second Church of Christ, Scientist © Eric Allix Rogers*

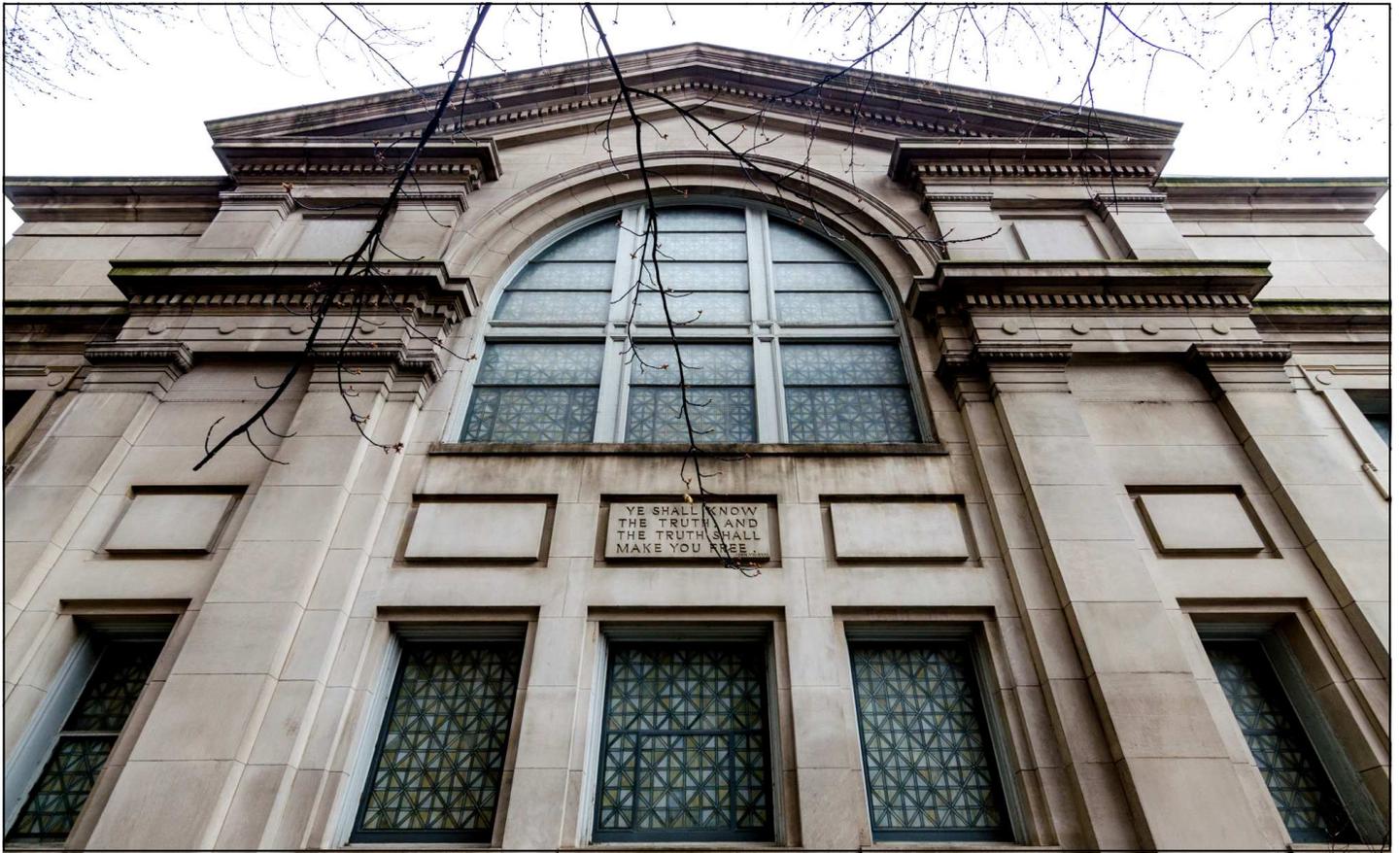
needed resource and cultural center.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Preservation Chicago would like to encourage the church's owners to explore further the cultural and community center proposal in partnership with private foundations, elected officials, the City of Chicago and nearby institutions like Lincoln Park Zoo and the Lincoln Park Conservatory. Such a universal space with auditorium seating could provide a much-needed gathering and meeting space for concerts, lectures and other events.

We also encourage this remarkable building to be considered for official Chicago Landmark designation as the building would meet the criteria for designation and would fulfill a long-standing conversation in the community with public officials and ownership to consider such a designation and honor. The reuse of the building to a cultural center, combined with a Chicago Public Library branch, would also perhaps be in the spirit of Mrs. Eddy and the larger Christian Science community to reuse the building to benefit mankind.

**Chicago 7: Second Church of Christ, Scientist**



*Second Church of Christ, Scientist © Eric Allix Rogers*



*Second Church of Christ, Scientist © Eric Allix Rogers*

# James R. Thompson Center / State of Illinois Building

100 W. Randolph Street, Chicago



Thompson Center © Eric Allix Rogers

## OVERVIEW

This is the third time the James R. Thompson Center/State of Illinois Building, Plaza and Atrium has made Preservation Chicago's Chicago 7 Most Endangered list. However, imminent threats to the building's future require us to spotlight it again in 2019. Since it was built in 1985, the building's design and engineering challenges of the space have been a contentious topic for the city. However, it is an iconic representation of Post-Modern design by world-renowned architect Helmut Jahn.

SB 886 has passed the Illinois House and Senate. It sits now on Illinois Governor JB Pritzker's desk for signature, and he has less than 60 days left to sign it. The bill lays out the process by which The Thompson Center can be sold. Preservation Chicago encourages the City of Chicago to work with the Gov-

## James R. Thompson Center / State of Illinois Building

Address: **100 W. Randolph Street**

Architect: **Murphy/Jahn, Helmut Jahn**

Date: **1985**

Style: **Post-Modern**

Neighborhood: **Loop**

## Chicago 7: James R. Thompson Center / State of Illinois Building



Thompson Center © Ward Miller

ernor and the State of Illinois to Landmark this building to protect its historically significant elements. While SB 886 does not require any purchaser to retain the historic Post-Modern structure, it does ironically mandate that any future development on the property must bear in whole or in part the name of former Governor James R. Thompson.

### HISTORY

The Thompson Center/State of Illinois Building's design was meant to suggest a more open and transparent government while referencing the grand public buildings of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Architect Helmut Jahn specifically noted in a public lecture in the 1980s on the building's design that it recalled the massive dome and vast interior atrium space of the old Chicago Federal Building and Post Office designed by architect Henry Ives Cobb in 1905 and demolished in 1965.

The unique design of the Thompson Center has curved walls comprised of irregularly shaped glass panels which presented distinct challenges to the building construction methods of the 1980s. This resulted in construction costs being more expensive than originally projected. The Thompson Center inspired Helmut Jahn's much acclaimed landmark and highly vibrant Sony Center in the heart of Berlin some 20 years later.

The Thompson Center was architect Helmut Jahn's most significant public building at the time. It was a bold design idea to represent the State's Chicago offices. Recognized internationally for its architecture, it served as a second state capitol building intended to project the State's influence in the largest and most populous city in Illinois. It was designed to capture the viewer's attention and signal its importance as a seat of government. The building's futuristic styling generated, and continues to generate, both support and criticism.

The structure's grand, 17-story atrium is topped by a vast skylight and stepped glass curtain-wall which spans the

## Chicago 7: James R. Thompson Center / State of Illinois Building



*Thompson Center © Mary Lu Seidel*

entry and extends across most of the building's footprint. This effect essentially creates a large public plaza both inside and outside the building's Clark and Randolph entry. It was intended to welcome the public into a government building with accessible public spaces on multiple levels and extensive glass curtain walls to represent an open and transparent government.

The Thompson Center and its atrium were originally conceived to mix governmental offices with various services and retail uses with the intention of reinvigorating Chicago's business district along Randolph and Clark Streets. At one time, public music concerts were held in its grand atrium space. This area of the Loop had once been the center of its theater and entertainment district, informally referred to as Chicago's "Rialto District." Extending eastward to Wabash Avenue, the Rialto District was supported by a vibrant collection of famous Chicago restaurants, including Henrici's, Toffenetti's, Old Heidelberg, Holloway House, Mayor's Row, Hoe Sai Gai, Stouffer's and the Blackhawk.

The site of the State of Illinois Building was previously occupied by the legendary 1,700-room Sherman House Hotel, which stood mothballed from 1973 until its demolition prior to the construction of the State of Illinois Building. The Sherman was a great landmark in Chicago since its earliest years, being home to the College Inn, various hotel restaurants and many jazz venues. The State of Illinois Building was intended to channel the energy of The Sherman and reinvigorate the faded Randolph Street Corridor, one of the oldest sections of the Loop's business and entertainment district.

## Chicago 7: James R. Thompson Center / State of Illinois Building



*Thompson Center © Eric Allix Rogers*

The building never achieved the vibrancy envisioned by Helmut Jahn and Governor Thompson. Its retail tenants have become more mundane over time and deferred maintenance has negatively impacted its appearance.

The State of Illinois Building was renamed the James R. Thompson Center in 1993 to honor the longest-serving governor of Illinois who served from 1977 to 1991. Governor Thompson was a strong proponent in the selection of Helmut Jahn as the architect for the new state office building. Additionally, Governor Thompson was instrumental in selecting the most extravagant and grandiose of Jahn's design options for the building. For pop culture fans, the building is featured prominently in the climatic ending of the movie *Running Scared* starring Billy Crystal and Gregory Hynes.

### **THREAT**

Legislation initiated when Bruce Rauner was Illinois' governor has now moved forward to new Governor J.B. Pritzker's desk for signature. Former Governor Rauner projected the building could generate \$300 million from the sale. 42nd Ward Alderman Brandon Reilly has doubted the validity of this projected sale price. We remain hopeful that prevailing political opinions will work to retain the building as a state-owned facility for the people of Illinois.

Preservation Chicago believes that the scale of the Thompson Center and its vast, open plaza and public interior atrium spaces add to Chicagoans' quality of life by allowing light and air into a dense section of the Loop. If sold to the highest bidder, these benefits are almost certain to be lost. Additionally, the soaring central interior atrium was built by and for the people of the State of Illinois, and, therefore, should remain accessible to the public as a public building. Conceptual drawings that increase density but retain the historic building have been advanced by Helmut Jahn and Landmarks Illinois.

"The Monument with Standing Beast" sculpture located in The Thompson Center's public plaza, was created by one of the world's most noted Modernist artists Jean Dubuffet. It was a gift to the citizens of Chicago and Illinois and

## Chicago 7: James R. Thompson Center / State of Illinois Building



*Thompson Center © Gabriel X. Michael*

must be protected. We've seen important works of 20th century Chicago public art removed (Henry Bertoia's *Sonambient*), whitewashed (*All of Mankind* mural by William Walker), destroyed (top surface mosaic of Marc Chagall's *Four Seasons*), placed in storage (Alexander Calder's *The Universe*) or sold at auction (Henry Moore's *Large Internal-External Upright Form*). 20th century Chicago public art was a 2017 Chicago 7 Most Endangered, so it is imperative that this great Dubuffet sculpture be protected.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Our 2019 call to action is twofold: first to the City of Chicago and then to the Illinois State Legislature in Springfield and the Governor's office.

Preservation Chicago urges the City of Chicago to move quickly to designate the Thompson Center/ State of Illinois Building as a Chicago Landmark. A Landmark designation could protect this building, plaza and public sculpture ensuring that these will be retained in any redevelopment of the site. Jahn's career began in Chicago and is now celebrated around the world. This is a building of the people, built as a monument and open to all, with many public spaces that should be forever open to all, and efforts to both protect its architecture and vision and activate the building should be implemented.

We call on the State of Illinois to prioritize preservation into its specifications for the eventual sale of the property. As residents of the state, we understand the financial pressures that our legislature is working under. Diverting revenues from the sale the James R. Thompson Center would make a small dent in the unfunded pension deficit, but the history of Chicago's built environment does not need to be erased to get there. There are preservation-sensitive ways to give developers the density their profit margins sometimes demand.

**Chicago 7: James R. Thompson Center / State of Illinois Building**

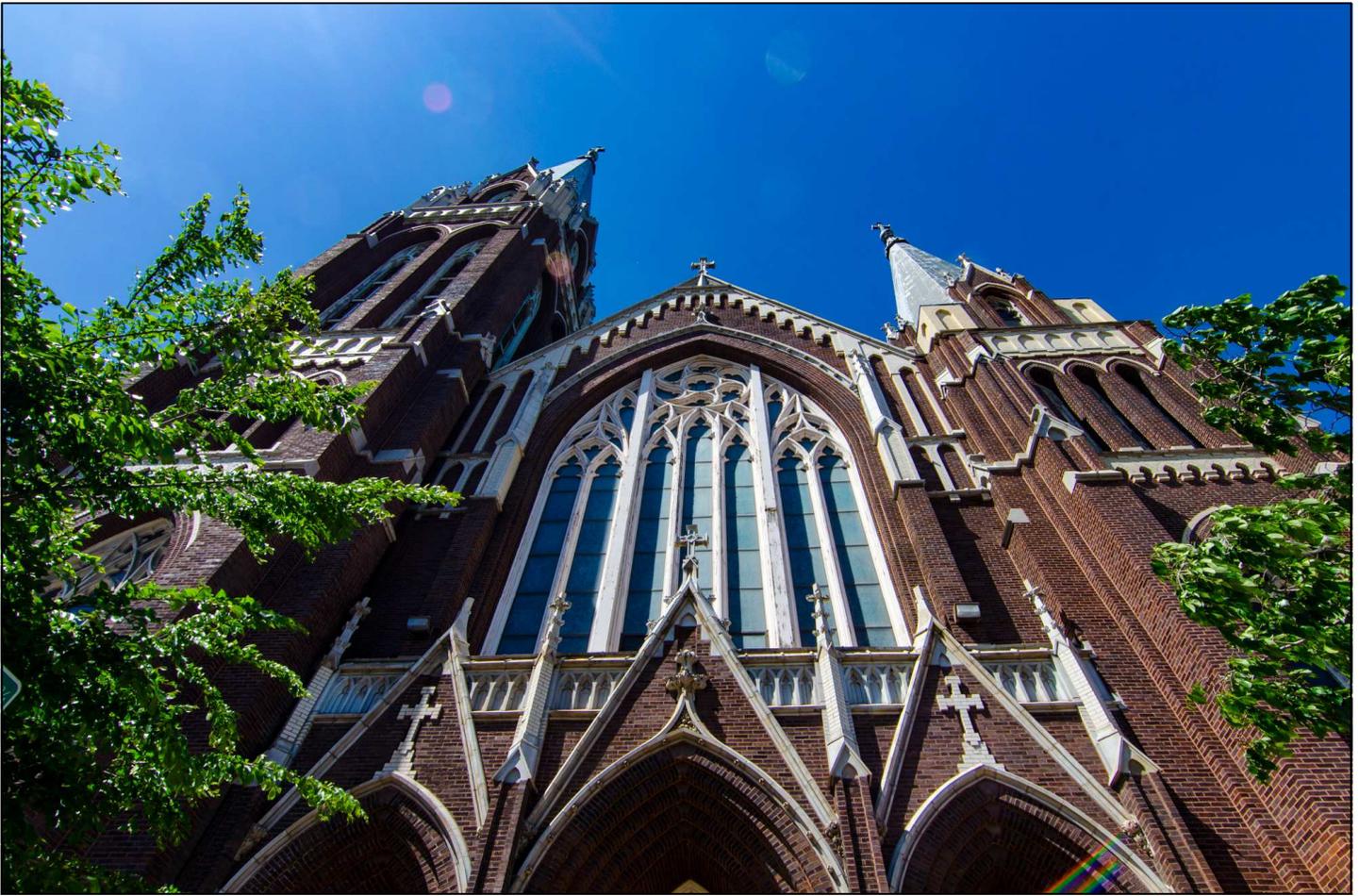


*Thompson Center © Ward Miller*

The State of Illinois and the City of Chicago need to work together to protect this significant building. A comprehensive redevelopment plan could correct the deferred maintenance. A tower-addition study by Helmut Jahn's design firm has suggested that the existing building could accommodate new construction that would add square footage while remaining sensitive to the historic building, atrium and public space. As of now, we want to see the building preserved in its entirety along with its public spaces, plazas and artwork.

# Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago

## Throughout Chicago



*St. Michael the Archangel © Eric Allix Rogers*

### **Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago**

Addresses: **Throughout Chicago**

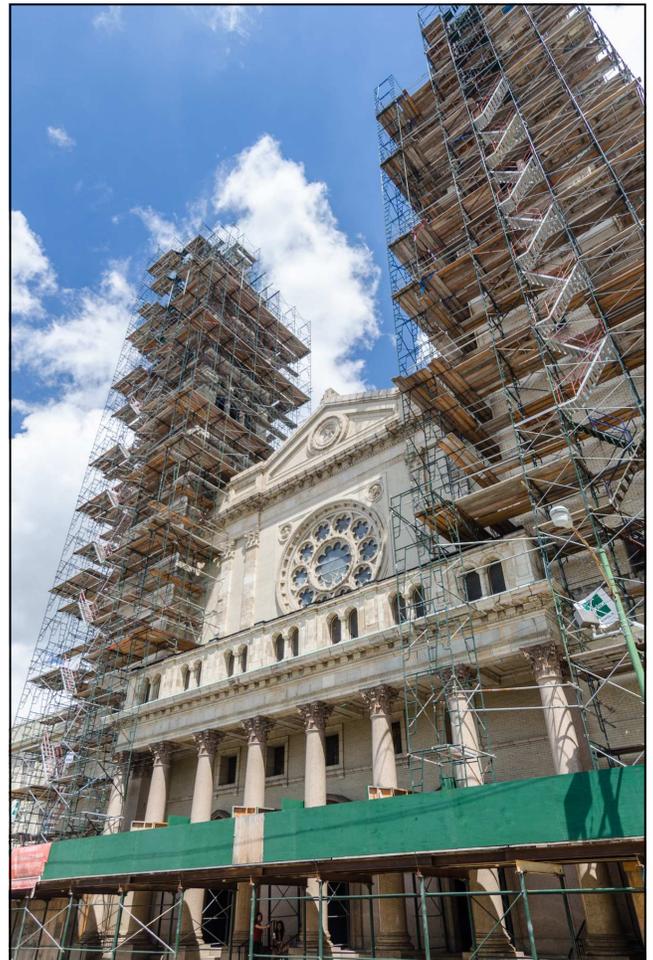
Architects: **Dillenberg & Zucher, John van Osdel, Patrick Keely, Burnham & Root, Gregory Vigeant, Henry Engelbert, William Brinkman, Henry Schlacks, Worthmann & Steinbach, and others.**

Dates: **Between c.1857 to about c.1927**

Styles: **Victorian Gothic, Renaissance Revival, Romanesque, Byzantine-Romanesque, Gothic, Roman Basilica, French Gothic**

Neighborhoods: **Throughout Chicago, but mostly in Pilsen, Bridgeport, Canaryville and Uptown communities**

## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago



*St. Adalbert with and without scaffolding © Eric Allix Rogers*

### Overview

Chicago's Roman Catholic Archdiocese or Archdiocese of Chicago was once the largest and most populous diocese in the nation with the most parishes and largest parochial school system. Comprised of hundreds of magnificent church buildings, often on the grand scale, these were designed by some of America's greatest architects and most recognized architectural firms. The Chicago area, with 2.2 million Catholics, still stands as one of the largest concentrations of Catholics in the United States.

The Archdiocese of Chicago represents an enviable assemblage of ethnic-National parishes and more mainstream parishes.

The church buildings which have made Preservation Chicago's 7 Most Endangered List for 2019 are both gateways and landmarks in their communities and a great source of pride, stemming back to their inception—often built with the pennies, nickels and dimes of the Faithful. These structures were then given to an institution, including the Archdiocese of Chicago, to care for, maintain, staff and steward. In recent years, this has proven to be a challenging task.

Over the past three decades, the Archdiocese of Chicago and its holdings have been substantially trimmed and reduced, with many religious buildings closed and merged, along with school closings, which have often left communities without their cherished houses of worship and a building vacant and devastated. The Archdiocese of Chicago has seen successive waves of church closings or consolidations. Nearly 30 years ago under then-archbishop Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, a wave of church closings and consolidations swept through the city shuttering more than 40 churches and parochial schools.

In 2016, news broke that by 2030 the Archdiocese of Chicago will have a rapidly decreasing number of priests serving, with the rate of retirement far exceeding new ordinations.

## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago

Six years ago, Chicago's neighborhoods saw almost 50 public schools shuttered. Now some of the same neighborhoods will see their parish churches closed or consolidated. Communities are often defined by their church and school institutions. With both the schools and churches in some neighborhoods closing, residents could be left with large, vacant former community hubs to contend with.

Cardinal Blaise Cupich has directed a new program called "Renew Your Church" which has caused a re-evaluation of the many churches and religious buildings that have historically been anchors of the city's communities. This has brought about new discussions of massive closings, projected to be 75 to 100 buildings and parishes across Chicago which are to be merged, consolidated, closed, sold and perhaps demolished. Financial issues and an expected priest shortage have been cited as reasons for why this is happening. This is devastating to many beyond the Faithful to lose these magnificent buildings and structures which were to be built for the ages.

This is nothing less than a tragedy, impacting whole communities and cities across the nation. Despite a predicted shortage of religious personnel and other on-going issues, these buildings and community landmarks could have a better future. Led by community input and with public-private partnerships, advocates can pool resources together – including Landmark designation – to keep these buildings alive. After all, these buildings and parishes are more than religious centers, but also community centers—hosting neighborhood meetings, food pantries, daycare, family and addiction counseling, educational facilities and warming centers in the most inclement weather. We can collectively do better and want to spotlight these amazing buildings that are both Chicago and world treasures.

### THREAT

It is now apparent that a wave of church closings is imminent. With an estimated 75 Catholic churches expected to close or consolidate over the next 10 years, this current restructuring of the Archdiocese of Chicago would be almost twice as large as the 1990 restructuring under then-archbishop Joseph Cardinal Benardin.



All Saints-St. Anthony © Eric Allix Rogers



## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago



*St. Ita © Eric Allix Rogers*

Many of the churches targeted first for closure are the oldest and largest buildings and have higher operating costs; not surprisingly, this number includes many of Chicago's most architecturally and historically significant churches.

Currently there are 19 churches threatened with their doors being shuttered. For generations these churches served as spiritual centers and anchors to their parishes and neighborhoods. A majority of the churches are located on the South Side.

The following churches have been added to the rapidly growing Preservation Chicago Endangered Church Watch List (listed by location North to South):

**St. Ita**  
**St. Thomas of Canterbury**  
**St. Mary of the Lake**  
**St. Stanislaus Kostka**  
**Notre Dame de Chicago**  
**Holy Family**  
**St. Adalbert (Chicago 7 2014 and 2016)**  
**St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church**  
**St. Jerome Croatian**  
**All Saints – St. Anthony**

**St. Barbara**  
**Santa Lucia – Santa Maria Incononata**  
**St. Mary of Perpetual Help**  
**Nativity of Our Lord**  
**St. Gabriel**  
**St. Michael Archangel**  
**St. Camillus**  
**St. Felicitas**  
**St. Joachim**

## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago



*St. Mary of the Lake © Eric Allix Rogers*

Most of these churches are either Red or Orange coded in the Chicago Historic Resources Survey (CHRS). In the CHRS, a color-coded ranking system was used to identify historic and architectural significance relative to age, degree of external physical integrity and level of possible significance. The CHRS defines Red-coded properties as buildings which “possess some architectural feature or historical association that made them potentially significant in the broader context of the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois or the United States of America.” The CHRS defines Orange-coded properties as buildings which “possess some architectural feature or historical association that made them potentially significant in the context of the surrounding community.” Despite their high ranking in the color-coded ranking system of the CHRS -- ranking which proves the buildings are of high architectural and historical significance — most of the 19 churches are not designated landmarks. Due to a 1987 amendment introduced by then Alderman Burt Natarus requiring church owner consent to Landmark a building, only a handful of Chicago churches are designated Chicago Landmarks. Because the churches lack Chicago Landmark or Landmark District designation, there is little available to protect them.

Since 2003, dozens of important houses of worship throughout Chicago have either been demolished or significantly altered. The loss of these incredible churches diminishes the character of the surrounding communities. Three years ago, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich wrote in the archdiocesan newspaper *Catholic New World*: “Demographics have shifted dramatically. Some of our parish buildings are in disrepair. We have fewer priests to pastor our faith com-

## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago



*St. Gabriel © Eric Allix Rogers*

munities. The result is that we end up spreading our resources too thinly. We should not be afraid to face these realities.”

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Preservation Chicago is committed to ensuring the preservation of Chicago’s religious legacy. It will:

- Continue to proactively monitor vacant and abandoned religious structures throughout the city.
- Continue to oppose inappropriate “preservation” solutions like “façadism” and building deconstruction and relocation.
- Continue to pressure the city to amend the Chicago Landmarks Ordinance which currently allows owners of houses of worship to opt out of the Landmarks Ordinance.
- Propose and advocate for policies that will encourage the restoration and repurposing of houses of worship.

In April of 2018 the City Council Zoning Committee approved Alderman Brian Hopkins’s ordinance to fine property owners \$1,000 to \$2,000 for letting historic properties or those within Landmark Districts deteriorate. Preservation Chicago advocates for the City Council’s formal enactment of Alderman Hopkins’s ordinance with respect to demolition by neglect. While the future for many of Chicago’s Catholic churches is unknown, the city should proactively protect these architecturally and historically significant churches which are neighborhood landmarks and gathering places. Hopefully, with a strong ordinance in place, parishioners and preservationists would be allowed time to select the highest and best use for the many churches now projected to be closed.

## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic



*St. Mary of Perpetual Help © Eric Allix Rogers*



According to canon law of the Catholic Church, if two or more parishes are merged the new combined parish may adopt a new name. While it may seem a small thing to some, Preservation Chicago recommends keeping the historic names of the Catholic churches, if possible. A name carries a lot of meaning. It can help tell the rich history of the neighborhood and parish.

Landmarks Illinois, our sister organization, has stated “many buildings that trigger a demolition delay due to their inclusion in the CHRS are architecturally significant but don’t meet more than one of two required criteria for landmark designation due to lack of information regarding its original owner or architect. Yet these buildings often contribute to a neighborhood’s economy, historic streetscape, scale and character.” Preservation Chicago advocates for the City Council to amend the Chicago Landmarks Ordinance so that in special cases a Chicago Landmark designation based on one criterion, rather than two criteria, is possible.

Preservation Chicago advocates for Chicago’s Mayor and City Council to support an amendment to the Chicago Landmarks Ordinance that would again allow the City Council to Landmark places of religious worship without the consent of the owner. This would allow the many Catholic churches included in the Archdiocese restructuring to be designated as a Chicago Landmark or to be located within a Chicago Landmark District.

### **PRESERVATION CHICAGO ENDANGERED CHURCH WATCH LIST:**

#### **St. Ita Catholic Church Orange-Rated**

5500 N. Broadway, Edgewater, Edgewater (Community Area 77), 48th Ward  
Henry J. Schlacks, 1924-1927

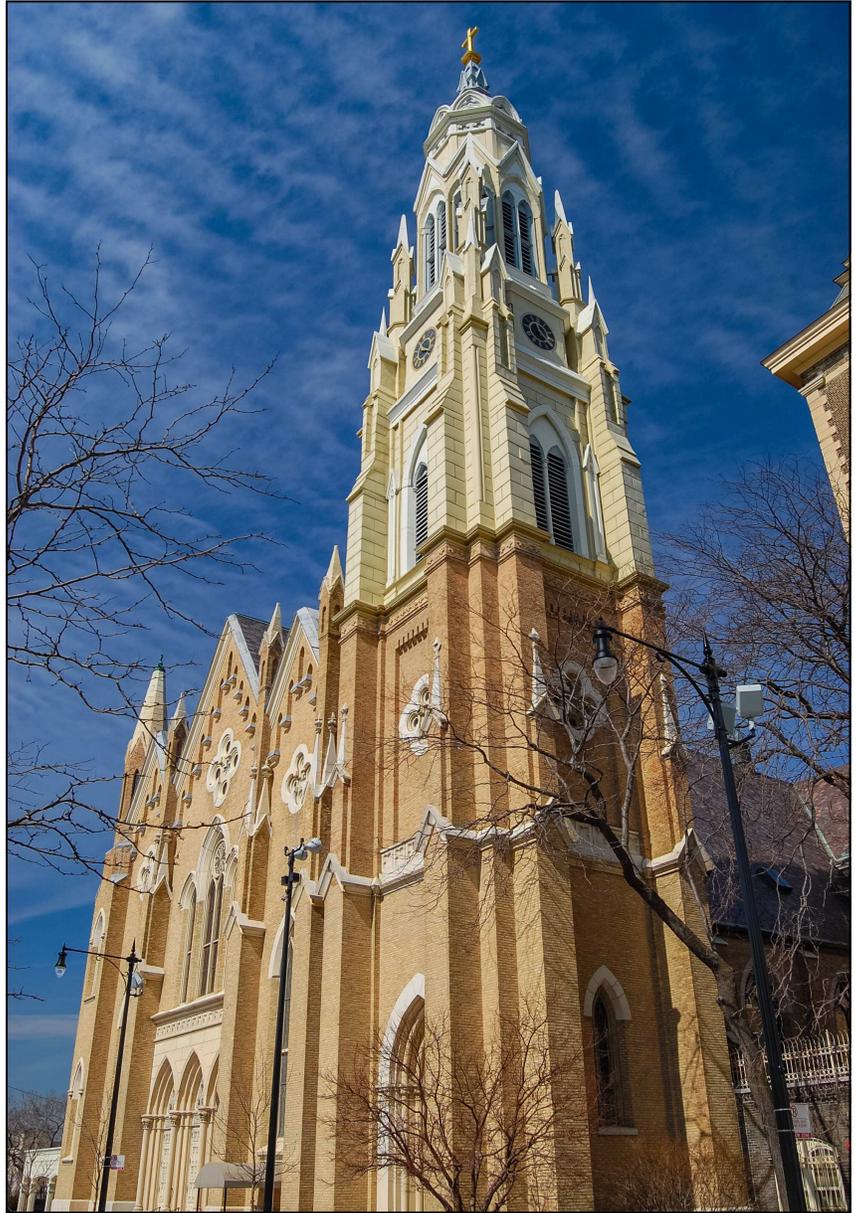
## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago

St. Ita's first pastor, Father Crowe, was appointed on June 25, 1900, to establish a new congregation in Edgewater. St. Ita parish was founded the same year. However, after a century of sustained service, in the year of St. Ita's centennial, an initial group of Roman Catholic parishes in Chicago were announced to be at risk of consolidations or closings of church buildings or schools.

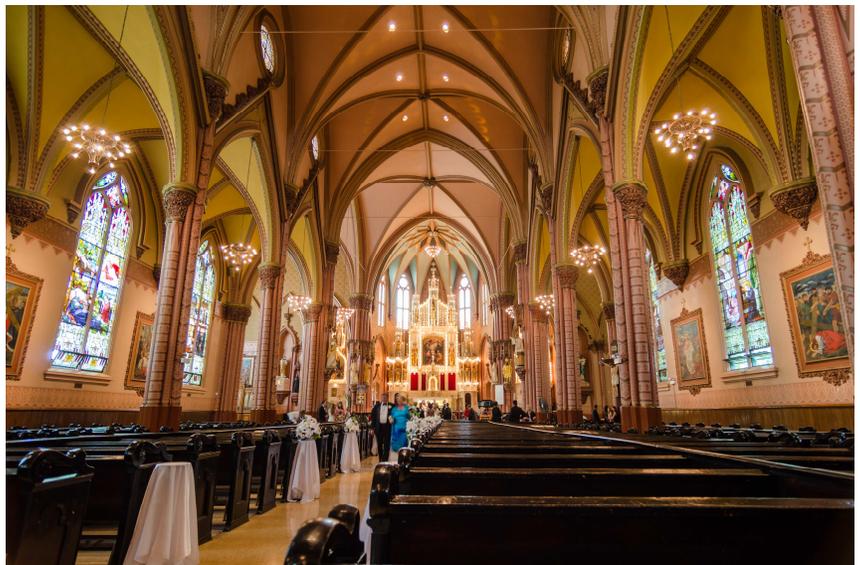
These consolidations or closings have, since 1990, been periodically imposed on parishes which has shown sustained service to their communities in distinctive architectural complexes. As George Lane, S.J., implied in *Chicago Churches and Synagogues: An Architectural Pilgrimage* (1991), a series of Chicago's Cardinals have ironically taken an interest in churches and parishes presently at risk, including "St. Ita Church 1924-27; 5500 North Broadway [1200 West]... French Gothic; Seating: 500:"

"In 1923 Father Crowe proposed the new church to Cardinal Mundelein who approved the plan and suggested the French Gothic style of architecture. The Cardinal took a great interest in the building. A large 'M' appears in the carved stone parapet all around the church. Although the plan of St. Ita's was influenced by some features of the famous cathedrals of Chartres and of Brou in France, it was, for the most part, the original creation of the architect, Henry J. Schlacks."

Long before construction began on Henry John Schlacks's French Gothic masterpiece, brought about through the collaboration of Father Crowe and Cardinal Mundelein, Father Crowe celebrated the first Mass for the parish of St. Ita in the old Guild Hall on July 1, 1900. The first Mass was celebrated in a frame building of St. Ita Church on Christmas day, December 25, 1900. The frame building church was dedicated by Archbishop Feehan on June 9, 1901. On September 12, 1901, Father Crowe moved into the frame rectory which had been built at 1220 West Catalpa.



Holy Family Church © Eric Allix Rogers



## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago



*Immaculate Conception © Eric Allix Rogers*

St. Ita School opened in the basement of the church on September 6, 1904, but with the parish increasing in strength on April 2, 1906, groundbreaking for a new school began at 5519 North Magnolia. On January 1, 1909, the Sisters of Mercy, who staffed the school, moved into a new convent next to the school building. All three stories of the brick school building were completed in September 1909.

On April 7, 1924, ground was broken for the present Church of St. Ita. This is architect Henry J. Schlack's French Gothic masterpiece. On September 14, 1924, the cornerstone for the new church was laid after the old frame church had been razed. The first Mass celebrated in the present church occurred on April 17, 1927.

As George Lane, S.J., observed in 1991, the architecturally distinguished Henry Schlacks-designed church, a church which took three years to build, wound up being 186 feet long, 70 feet wide and 95 feet tall from the sidewalk to the top of the gable. The walls are four feet thick, and a whopping total of 3,500 tons of Bedford stone were quarried for the church. All that stone had to be quarried in Indiana and shipped to Chicago. The tower alone contains 1,800 tons of stone. It is, as George Lane has written, "an open, airy tower." It has "delicate tracery, Gothic arches, finials, and gargoyles." Like many of the at-risk church buildings of architectural distinction, St. Ita Church has long served as the chief focal point of its community.

St. Ita Church was dedicated by George Cardinal Mundelein on October 9, 1927, and Monsignor C. J. Quille was named pastor of St. Ita Parish on September 9, 1930, with Father Gerard C. Picard being named pastor of St. Ita on May 2, 1942.

## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago

Samuel Cardinal Stritch presided at the Golden Jubilee of the construction of the first Church of St. Ita Parish on November 18, 1951. With the church still strong, Father Raymond J. Morrison was named pastor of St. Ita Parish in May of 1968. The 50th Anniversary of Monsignor Picard's Ordination was celebrated in the new Jubilee Hall on September 21, 1969, and on May 12, 1975, a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated to mark the 75th Anniversary of the St. Ita Parish.

On February 11, 1976, Father Richard J. Feller was appointed pastor of St. Ita Parish. On September 1, 1988, Father Laurence J. Maddock was appointed pastor of St. Ita Parish about two years before St. Ita Parish celebrated its 90th Anniversary.

The Centennial Year for St. Ita Parish began with the celebration of the Feast of Saint Ita on January 15, 2000. Francis Cardinal George presided at the Centennial Mass on November 19, 2000. On the same day, the new altar was dedicated and the Church was rededicated. During the first decade of the church's second century, Father Steven W. Patte and Father David P. Pavlik were successively appointed pastor of St. Ita Parish before Father Jo Andre B. Beltran was appointed Pastor in July of 2012 and Father Bob Cook, OFM Conv., was appointed Pastor in July of 2016.

Despite that illustrious history of over 100 years, and despite the distinguished French Gothic architecture of noted Chicago church architect Henry J. Schlack, St. Ita Parish is now in danger of a forced consolidation.

### St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church (to be Consolidated)

#### Orange-Rated

4827 N. Kenmore Avenue, Uptown, Uptown (Community Area 03), 46th Ward  
Joseph W. McCarthy, 1917

St. Thomas of Canterbury was consecrated in 1917, the same year that George Mundelein was installed as archbishop. For over a century this church has served Uptown. St. Thomas of Canterbury became a diverse Catholic faith community. It is situated six miles north of the Loop and three blocks west of Lake Michigan. The seed for the parish was planted in 1916. Of recent some 300 people come to worship on any given Sunday. Members are now drawn from all over the North Side and from Evanston. Sacraments have been celebrated in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Laotian each week. The Eritrean Catholic community has celebrated the Ge-zez Rite liturgy on the first Sunday of each month. Still this parish is in danger of closing. St. Thomas of Canterbury is slated to be part of the new consolidated parish which includes St. Ita.

### St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church (to be Consolidated)

#### Orange-Rated

4200 N. Sheridan Road, Buena Park, Uptown (Community Area 03), 46th Ward  
Henry J. Schlacks, 1917

Located on Chicago's North Side in the Buena Park/Uptown neighborhood, St. Mary of the Lake has been an evolving spiritual and social community blessed by diversity. Founded in 1901, St. Mary of the Lake Parish has provided spiritual nourishment, guidance and comfort for parishioners drawn from more than one Chicago neighborhood. A Catholic education has been provided for children by the parish preschool and grade school. St. Mary of the Lake Parish was established by Archbishop Patrick A. Feehan in September of 1901. It comprised the territory known as Buena Park and was bounded by Lake Michigan on the east; Wilson Avenue on the north; Racine, Clark and the east line of Graceland Cemetery on the west; and Waveland Avenue on the south. In 1901, Buena Park was sparsely populated. At the time that Father John J. Dennison was appointed to organize the parish, there were only 60 families identified as Catholics who attended church. Land was secured, and plans were formulated for a new building which was to be a combination church and residence. Groundbreaking on the original building occurred on November 20, 1901.

In April of 1913, Father Dennison announced plans to build a new church and rectory at the northwest corner of Buena Avenue and Sheridan Road. Before construction could begin, the Robert A. Waller home — which stood at 4210 North Sheridan Road — was purchased and moved to 1026 West Buena Avenue. The church was designed by the young Henry J. Schlacks, a Chicago native, who had already made a name for himself as a church architect. Schlacks chose the Italian Renaissance style of architecture for the church. He patterned the structure after the

## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago

Roman churches of St. Paul Outside the Walls and St. Mary Major. The freestanding bell tower is a replica of the campanile of St. Pudentian Church in Rome. The altar's pulpit and the altar rail reflect Henry Schlack's creativity. Archbishop James E. Quigley laid the cornerstone of the present church on June 29, 1913. Archbishop Mundelein dedicated the church on May 20, 1917. At that time, the parish had 600 families. Work continued on the interior of the church for nine years. Ferdinando Palla of Pietrasanta, Italy, was awarded the contract for all the marble work, and Professor Lamesi designed the shrines. The marble came from Carrera and was the same marble as that used by Michelangelo. Besides the appealing statues of St. Therese of Lisieux, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Jude, St. Rita, St. Anne, Sacred Heart, St. Aloysius Gonzaga, St. Agnes, St. Raphael and St. Anthony of Padua, and the large columns made of scagliola, the church has many Corinthian capitals which are a sight to see. Over the apse is a triumphal arch. There are also arches over the side altar and over the main cupola which remind one of early Roman architecture. F. X. Zettler of the Royal Bavarian Art Institute in Munich, Germany, was commissioned to do the stained glass windows. The church interior was completed in time for the XXVIII international Eucharistic Congress held in Chicago in the summer of 1926. Also notable are the gold tones of the ceiling.

The parish school is situated on the east side of Kenmore Avenue, just north of Buena Avenue. The young architect, Joseph W. McCarthy, a native of New York, who grew up in Chicago and was taught by the Sisters of Mercy, designed a two-story school which had six classrooms on the second floor. The initial schoolhouse was noted for its lighting and classroom arrangement. The first floor of the school has a commodious and artistic auditorium which holds between 600-700 people. From its beginnings, the school has had a modern method of ventilation, and the school building has been considered fireproof. The Sisters of Mercy of St. Xavier's administered and taught at the new school. From the 1920s to the 1960s, the Buena Park neighborhood continued to develop as a residential district. There were many new brick apartment buildings. In 1928, Father Dennison was recognized for his role in nurturing the growth of St. Mary of the Lake Parish. He was named a Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. He celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination on December 17, 1939. In 1930, the frame house that stood at 4220 North Sheridan Road was razed to make room for the new convent building. Ground was broken in July of 1939. The spacious new facility was completed in December. The architectural firm of McCarthy, Smith, and Eppig designed the convent in a Renaissance style. The Sisters' former residence (the old Waler home) was razed, and the property on which it stood was graded as a playground and a parking lot.

On July 16, 1971, Most Reverend Nevin W. Hayes, O.Crm., Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago (under John Cardinal Cody), who had grown up on the south side of Chicago in the St. Therese of the Infant Jesus Little Flower Parish, was appointed pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Parish. Bishop Hayes purchased a building at 4221 North Kenmore Avenue in 1974 for use as a community center. St. Mary's Community Center (now part of the former convent building) has become an important part of the neighborhood. Shortly after it began, Bishop Hayes was appointed pastor of St. Phillip Neri Church on the southeast side of Chicago. Reverend John C. Rosemeyer — who was administrator of Our Lady Gate of Heaven Church on the southeast side of Chicago from 1972 to 1973 — was named pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Parish on August 28, 1974. He had been associate pastor at the parish on two occasions, first from 1958 to 1963 and again from 1973 to 1974. Under his leadership, the sanctuary was renovated in 1976 in time for the parish's 75th anniversary.

In *Chicago Churches and Synagogues: An Architectural Pilgrimage* (1991), George Lane listed two of today's threatened churches as being representative of the basilica form. One was St. Mary of the Lake Church (1913-1917) which George Lane listed at 4200 North Sheridan Road (1000 West). The other was St. Adalbert Church (1912-1914) which George Lane listed at 1636 West 17th Street (listed below).

### St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church

#### Red-Rated

1327 N. Noble Street, Pulaski Park / West Town, West Town (Community Area 24), 2nd Ward  
Patrick C. Keeley, 1877-1881

As George Lane, S.J., observed in his excellent survey of Chicago's houses of worship, *Chicago Churches and Synagogues: An Architectural Pilgrimage* (1991), "Just north of Division Street, the Kennedy Expressway swings around a huge basilica-like church with twin towers, and only one cupola. This is St. Stanislaus Kostka Church. The south cupola was struck by lightning and destroyed in 1964." Now more than the church building's cupola is at risk.

## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago

St. Stanislaus Kostka Church was founded in 1867 as the first Polish parish or “Mother Church” in Chicago. Thirty years later the church grew to include 8,000 families, totaling 40,000 people. There were 12 Masses each Sunday.

The parish of St. Stanislaus Kostka opened in 1867 and in 1871, Bishop Foley put the Resurrection Fathers in charge of the growing parish. As the flow of Polish immigrants continued into the neighborhood, a larger church was needed. The cornerstone of the present church building was laid in 1877, and the church was dedicated in 1881.

By 1897, St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish was the largest parish in the United States. Six Masses were held each Sunday in the upper church and another six Masses were held in the lower church. St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish is considered the mother church of the many Polish parishes and was founded by Fr. Vincent Barzynski, C.R., during his pastorate (1874-1899).

George Lane, S.J., in *Chicago Churches and Synagogues: An Architectural Pilgrimage* (1991), noted in his section on “St. Stanislaus Kostka Church 1877-81, 1327 North Noble Street (1400 West) [by] Architect Patrick C. Keely; Style: Renaissance; Seating: 1,500,” that the “building of the Kennedy Expressway in the late 1950s forced many parishioners to move out of the area. [In 1991 there were] 850 families in the parish: some Polish people who remain, others of various ethnic backgrounds, and a large Mexican-American community.”

Despite such effects as those presented by the Kennedy Expressway, the parish has managed to serve the spiritual needs of parishioners who have come from a wide geographic area and who have represented many different ethnic groups. The large number of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans is a number which has brought a new vitality to the parish. Masses have been held in English, Spanish and Polish. The parish has operated an elementary school and has had a strong religious education program.

In 2007, Cardinal Francis George designated St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish as the Sanctuary of the Divine Mercy in Chicago and, in 2008, he blessed the iconic Monstrance, Our Lady of the Sign-Ark of Mercy, which has drawn many people to 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration at this historic church.

In September 2011, St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish began a project of essential repair and restoration of the church building. The vision then expressed was that the parish would continue to be a beacon of hope for the next generations of Catholics in Chicago.

As Father Anthony Bus, C.R., pointed out in his February 10, 2019, piece, “Annual Catholic Appeal 2019,” written for the church bulletin, “Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish the Sanctuary of the Divine Mercy,...1327 N. Noble St., 1 block West of the Kennedy at Division St.,” each Catholic parish is asked each year to contribute to other parishes in the city: “In a couple of weeks we will make our personal pledges to the Annual Catholic Appeal. The Archdiocese assigns us a goal of 6 [percent] of our previous year’s offertory income. For Fiscal Year 2017-2018, St. Stanislaus Kostka’s offertory income was \$351,930. Therefore, our target for the 2019 Appeal is \$21,116. Anything we contribute over and above the \$21,116 goal will come back to St. Stanislaus Kostka. In other words, if we contribute \$61,116 to the Annual Appeal, the parish will receive \$40,000 in return. Not only are we supporting other Archdiocesan schools, parishes and religious programs in need, but we benefit from the Appeal as well. As I remind you every year, the Archdiocese has been very generous in support of St. Stanislaus Kostka in the past years of my pastorate when we were in need. Our generosity to the Appeal is a gesture of gratitude for assistance we’ve received as well as an expression of our generosity in helping other parishes and schools in their mission and ministries...We will make our pledges on the weekend of February 16 and 17th...”

It is obvious that parishes are able to rejuvenate if given time to do so and once rejuvenated can contribute to other parishes which are in need. It seems more time should be given parishes to rejuvenate rather than forcing them to close or merge.

### Notre Dame de Chicago (to be Consolidated)

#### Red-Rated

1334 W. Flournoy Street, University Village / Little Italy, Near West Side (Community Area 28), 25th Ward  
Gregoire Vigeant, 1889-1892

## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago

Located south of West Harrison Street between South Ashland Avenue and South Racine Avenue at 1334 West Flourney Street in the University Village / Little Italy area of the Near West Side (Community Area 28) in the 25th Ward, Notre Dame de Chicago celebrates mass several times both on weekends and during the week. Mass is celebrated in a church which was built between 1887 and 1892. This late 19th century church replaced an earlier church which was built in 1865 on a different site. The parish itself dates back to 1864. The new church building was designed in the Romanesque Revival style by French Canadian architect Gregoire Vigeant. The Greek cross layout, the hipped roofs and square domes, and the emphasis on height given by the two cupolas and lantern show a French influence. The church has lovely stained glass windows, rich blue and gold tones, a beautiful white altar and a lovely dome.

The Archdiocese of Chicago gave control of the church to the Fathers of the Blessed Sacrament in 1918. The International Eucharistic Congress of 1926 was hosted by the church. Notre Dame of Chicago represents a significant part of French immigrant history to Chicago. The church had services completely in French for many years until it integrated English into the sermon. Services and the Sacrament of Baptism are now offered in English and in Spanish. For historical as well as architectural reasons, the church was added to the National Register of Historic Places on March 7, 1979. The church is accommodating and has a parking lot in the back and an elevator to accommodate strollers, wheelchairs and elderly parishioners. There is a garden in the back for use in meditation. The University of Illinois in Chicago (UIC) Choirs have used the church to conduct their Fall and Spring concerts. The church has wonderful acoustics. Notre Dame's Parish School is Children of Peace, an Archdiocesan Catholic / Christian School which serves the Illinois Medical District and Metropolitan Chicago. The present location on 1900 West Taylor Street is the result of a consolidation of three Catholic Schools — Holy Trinity, St. Callistus and Holy Family. This consolidation occurred in 1994. The children named the newly formed school. They stated they wanted to bring a feeling of strong and loving peace to their community. The attractive school features a 15 to 1 teacher to student ratio in the traditional and Montessori programs and a 5 to 1 teacher to student ratio in the deaf and hard of hearing program, besides having diverse classrooms (with at least 10 different races or ethnicities represented in the student body which includes African-American, East and Southeast Asian, Caucasian and Latino students). Students of all faiths and backgrounds are accepted. Students come from over 30 different zip codes within the Chicagoland area. The school is near the I-290 and I-90 expressways and is a 10-minute commute from the South Loop.

### Holy Family Church (to be Consolidated)

#### Red-Rated

1080 W. Roosevelt Road, University Village / Little Italy, Near West Side (Community Area 28), 25th Ward Dillenburg and Zucher, John van Osdel, John Paul Huber 1857-1860, 1866, 1874 Tower

Located at 1080 West Roosevelt Road in the University Village / Little Italy area of the Near West Side, Holy Family Church, designed by Dillenburg & Zucher, a Milwaukee architectural firm. Chicago's first architect John Van Osdel designed the church's expansion. The tall tower was added in 1874, designed by John Paul Huber. Holy Family has served parishioners since 1857 as Chicago's second-oldest Catholic church, but it is nonetheless threatened with an ending of its Sunday morning Mass. Cardinal Blaise Cupich's decision to have the giving of Mass ended at the church was handed down to parishioners on February 20, 2019, but without the cardinal there to answer questions. The decision announced that Holy Family will be folded into Notre Dame de Chicago Church at the start of July under a new parish, with one pastor and one pastoral staff. The announcement was made by Rev. Jason Malave, the liaison for Cardinal Cupich's Renew My Church initiative. Cost-cutting measures have included consolidation and closings in the archdiocese's 97 parish groupings. As many as eight parishes have closed altogether under Cardinal Cupich's plan. Rev. Malave said that a council of 31 priests was consulted on the parishes. Eight or nine meetings have been held since September to discuss the changes.

Despite its popularity with parishioners and its fiscal health, Sunday morning masses are planned to end although Sunday evening mass and weddings may continue to be celebrated at Holy Family. Holy Family survived the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and is owned by the Society of Jesus, or Jesuit Community, in Chicago. Its land is owned by the adjacent St. Ignatius High School. Dedicated as the original Jesuit parish in Chicago, Holy Family is the mother institution of the adjacent St. Ignatius College Prep and Loyola University Chicago in Rogers Park, along with its downtown campus.

## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago

**St. Adalbert Catholic Church (to be Closed)** (Chicago 7 Most Endangered 2014 and 2016)

**Orange-Rated**

1636 W. 17th Street, Pilsen, Lower West Side (Community Area 31), 25th Ward  
Henry J. Schlacks, 1914

In May of 2016, the Archdiocese of Chicago decreed that St. Adalbert Parish in Pilsen would be merged with the neighboring St. Paul Parish. In October of that year, the Archdiocese announced an intended sale of St. Adalbert Church at 17th Street and Paulina Avenue.

Originally constructed for a Polish congregation in the Pilsen neighborhood, St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church is a Renaissance Revival complex designed by noted church architect Henry J. Schlacks, who worked for a time in the architectural office of Adler & Sullivan. It is the Mother Church of the South Side Polish Community. The church was completed in 1914. Its soaring 185-foot twin towers are the highest structures in the Pilsen neighborhood and easily recognizable throughout the neighborhood. The red and white interior walls, stained-glass windows depicting the patron saints of Poland, and 1890s decor all communicate the architectural taste appealing to the Polish working-class immigrants who attended the church. Recently, St. Adalbert Church has served a mostly Mexican-American community. Mass is held in English and Spanish on a weekly basis. A Polish Mass is celebrated once a month.

With their local Mass threatened by the potential closure and sale of the church, parishioners organized the St. Adalbert Preservation Society and the Society for St. Adalbert and campaigned against the Archdiocese's decision. Anne Maselli, a spokesperson for the Archdiocese, wrote that the Archdiocese is "committed to finding an alternative use for St. Adalbert Church and property and will be soliciting proposals from a broad range of potential users." In 2016, Cardinal Blase Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, claimed shifting demographics and a shortage of priests have spread the financial resources of the Archdiocese too thin to avoid parish closures and mergers.

The parish was founded in 1874. The earlier church structure, located to the west of the current church, was replaced by the current St. Adalbert in 1912. The two churches stood side by side until the 1970s. The current church is not only a fine example of Renaissance Revival architecture but also a chronicle of Polish history. The central figure of the church is a large statue of St. Adalbert. Its murals, stained glass windows and even its interior color scheme all celebrate important Polish national heritage.

Fronting the street, the two buff-colored brick towers are ornamented with finely detailed terra cotta, pierced by arcades and capped by copper cupolas. Visitors enter through a portico defined by a series of polished granite Corinthian columns. Once inside, the interior is a soaring rectangular space based upon the form of Roman basilica.

Originally constructed for a Polish congregation in the Pilsen neighborhood, St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church is a Renaissance Revival complex designed by noted church architect Henry John Schlacks (1867-1938). A native Chicagoan, Schlacks attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and then worked for a time in the offices of Adler and Sullivan before starting his own architectural practice. Schlacks founded the architecture department at the University of Notre Dame. Besides St. Adalbert Church, he designed St. Anthony, St. Boniface, St. Clara on Woodlawn Avenue, St. Gelasius, St. Ignatius, St. Ita, St. John of God, St. Mary of the Lake, St. Paul, Angel Guardian Croatian Catholic Mission Church and St. Martin of Tours churches in Chicago. For the latter, whose plans were supplied by a German architect, Schlacks was the supervising architect. Schlacks also designed St. Nicholas Church in Evanston, St. John Lutheran Church in Forest Park, St. Edmund Church in Oak Park, St. Peter Church in Skokie, St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis, Holy Name-Mater Dei Church in Topeka and St. Mark Church in Cincinnati.

As is the case with many of the Roman Catholic churches presently under threat, the 1914 St. Adalbert Catholic Church at 1636-1650 West 17th Street is easily recognizable. It has served as a focal point for the Pilsen area of the Lower West Side, and its parishioners still want it to continue in that capacity. On June 26, 2018, the parish issued a piece entitled "St. Adalbert and Renewal" which is still accessible on the Internet at [savestadalbertchurch.org](http://savestadalbertchurch.org) under the banner, "Save St. Adalbert Church: Please Help Save a Pilsen Treasure...Contact Archdiocese & the Vatican..."

## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago

Not just a church building has been put at risk at St. Adalbert. The church, former rectory, former convent, school building (rented to a Charter School in recent years) and parking lot form a large campus. The campus occupies the west half of the city block between West 16th and West 17th Streets, from Ashland Avenue to Paulina Street.

Of this site, Blair Kamin, architecture critic at the *Chicago Tribune*, wrote in 2016: “[T]he 102-year-old church effectively marries the austere basilica form of early Christian churches with baroque flourishes that symbolize Polish national identity. What could have been an eclectic jumble is instead a powerful monument. It’s no coincidence that the church’s richly coffered ceiling and its interior walls are painted red and white, the colors of the Polish flag. The patron saints of Poland are represented in the stained glass windows around the nave. Mural paintings at the head of the nave depict great events in the religious history of Poland, including the wedding of Jadwiga, the Polish queen.”

The architectural complex contains a distinguished church building many of whose features testify to the Polish part of the history of Chicago. However, the testimony is not just of Polish history but also of Roman Christian cultural history. Denis R. McNamara, architectural historian and faculty member at the Liturgical Institute of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, wrote in *Heavenly City: The Architectural Tradition of Catholic Chicago*, that St. Adalbert’s interior “uses the large, closely spaced columns and small arches found at the fourth-century St. Paul Outside the Walls Basilica in Rome;” it has “double choir lofts common to many Polish churches” and an “elaborate baldacchino over the high altar [that] derives from the Polish Baroque tradition” and “its altar reveals a monumental display of stone carving similar to the Baroque reredoses of Poland....Schlacks combined his preference for early Christian basilicas with the tall Baroque towers desired by Polish parishes as a statement of national identity.”

### St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church and School (to be Consolidated)

#### Orange-Rated

218 W. Alexander Street, Bridgeport, Armour Square (Community Area 34), 25th Ward  
William F. Gubbins, 1904

The Archdiocese has determined that St. Therese will assume responsibility for St. Barbara School as of the 2019-2020 school year. St. Therese Chinese Catholic School is located at 247 West 23rd Street, Chicago. The church has undertaken some renovations in recent years, adding air conditioning and a lift for people who have difficulty with stairs. The church has had its parishioner base double in the past six years. Its school is a two-time recipient of a national award winner of an award issued by the United States Department of Education. Both the parish and the school are financially solvent. The school is at its capacity. Despite these facts, it has been recommended that St. Therese parish be downgraded to a worship site and the school is being asked to take on a second school campus that would require significant financial investment in order to operate. Some 2,714 people have signed the change.org petition message that reads, "Cardinal Cupich, Bishop Casey, Superintendent Rigg, Fr. Jason, and the Archdiocese of Chicago: Let St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church and School STAND ALONE." Besides half a dozen different Asian cultures, Chicago Italians have attended the church and school. The church building in which those different groups harmoniously attend services is notably an architectural jewel. St. Therese offers Masses, baptisms, weddings, and CCD/RCIA classes in English, Mandarin and Cantonese. Monthly Masses are celebrated in Indonesian.

### St. Jerome Croatian Catholic Church (to be Consolidated)

Not included in CHRS

2823 S. Princeton Avenue, Bridgeport, Armour Square (Community Area 34), 11th Ward  
Christian O. Hansen, 1885

St. Jerome Croatian Catholic Church is situated in Salem Lutheran Church's former building. The initial congregation was organized in 1868. From 1870 to 1885 the congregation worshipped in a building located on Busnell Street (now 23rd Place). In 1885 the congregation moved to the east side of Princeton Avenue. The new site was between 28th and 29th Streets. In 1922 the congregation moved to 74th Street and Calumet Avenue, at 318 East 74th Street in the Park Manor neighborhood on the South Side. The Princeton Avenue building was sold to a Roman Catholic congregation. In an Internet-accessible communication of the ELCA Archives there is an image of the church building as first constructed.

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The historic church building which belongs to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago is located in the Armour Square neighborhood in Chicago's South Side, at 2823 South Princeton Street. Worship services have been performed in both Croatian and English.

J. E. Quigley, Archbishop of Chicago, requested the Holy See to send a Croatian priest to work among the Croats of Chicago. Father Leo Medic, OFM, arrived in the United States in May of 1912. He organized about 5,000 immigrants from Dalmatia, Banovina, Istria, Slavonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The parish's original church and rectory were purchased from German Protestants. They were located on 15th Street near Wentworth Avenue. After discussion of whether to call the church Croatian or Dalmatian, the Archbishop proclaimed St. Jerome as a Croatian Church.

By 1997, the parish had a total of 1,050 parishioners. Students in the K-8 grammar school totaled 168, and the Croatian school enrollment totaled 50 students taught by five teachers. Saint Jerome School has been in operation for 80 years. The nuns who have taught have belonged to the Adorers of the Precious Blood. A contemporary principal has been a lay person. On November 28, 2018, the Archdiocese of Chicago made a public announcement of Cardinal Cupich's decision about the future of Catholic parishes in the neighborhood of St. Jerome parish. Eight parish groups have served the parish, including Holy Name Society, St. Jerome's Auxiliary, The Altar and Rosary Group, and Mary's Society. Each of the churches threatened with consolidation or closure involves a number of groups associated with the church which will be affected by the consolidation or closure decision.

In 1932 a parish book contained information and photographs which communicated the storied history and life of the church.

### All Saints - St. Anthony Catholic Church (to be Closed)

#### Orange-Rated

518 W. 28th Place, Bridgeport, Bridgeport (Community Area 60), 11th Ward  
Henry J. Schlacks, 1913

All Saints - St. Anthony Catholic Church was one of the important churches and parishes treated by George Lane, S.J., in his important work, *Chicago Churches and Synagogues: An Architectural Pilgrimage* (1991).

An Internet communication of All Saints - St. Anthony Parish recently announced that St. Therese Chinese Mission and St. Barbara Parish will unite into one parish and one parish school operating out of the existing campuses on Alexander and Throop Streets. St. Mary of Perpetual Help and All Saints - St. Anthony Parish will unite to form one parish operating out of the current St. Mary campus. The communication further stated, "The existing property at AS-SA will be closed no later than June 2020." This was the second update in the line of communications related to the curiously named Renew My Church initiative follows an earlier message under the rubric "Renew My Church: BCC Grouping - Update for Parishes."

The earlier message read: "The faith communities of St. Jerome Croatian and Santa Lucia-Maria Incoronata will unite to form a new parish. St. Jerome will serve as the active worship site, and Santa Lucia - Santa Maria Incoronata Church will close no later than June of 2020. The name of the new parish will be determined by the combined parish communities within the next year."

In addition, there was this announcement: "Nativity of Our Lord and St. Gabriel will be united to form one new parish, with both churches open as worship sites. The name of the new parish will be determined by the combined parish communities within the next year."

The decision maker in such developments was indicated by this message: "Cardinal Cupich has requested additional time for further discussion and consultation regarding the parishes of All Saints - St. Anthony, St. Barbara, St. Mary of Perpetual Help and St. Therese Chinese and the Archdiocesan Center for Chinese Apostolates. Therefore, a decision regarding these parishes will be delayed until at least mid-January."

As mentioned previously, the decision regarding All Saints - St. Anthony Parish has been made and communicated as of February 2019. More detailed information on the parish has been made by Father Peter in a bulletin article.

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As far as schools are concerned, a segment in the sorrowful church communications made on the Internet by the All Saints - St. Anthony Church came under the ironic title: "Renew My Church: BCC Grouping Update for schools:" St. Jerome School will serve as the parish school. Santa Lucia School will close effective June 30, 2019. Bridgeport Catholic Academy and St. Gabriel School will unite as one school with two campuses to serve the new parish formed by Nativity of Our Lord and St. Gabriel. Each campus [will be led] by its own principal reporting to the new pastor of the new, unified parish. St. Therese Chinese School will assume responsibility of [or for] St. Barbara School, retaining campuses at both school properties under the leadership of St. Therese school and name." As mentioned under "St. Therese Chinese Church" in this part of the Preservation Chicago publication, this new responsibility was not sought by the St. Therese Chinese parish which already was achieving a union of Chinese and Italian Catholics, as well as others. As to the unwelcome announcement by the Archdiocese which has been relayed on the Internet by the All Saints - St. Anthony Parish, the following was added in the initial "Renew My Church: BCC Grouping Update for schools" message: "School leadership structure will consist of one principal with two administrators, one at each site. The school will be led by the current St. Therese Chinese school principal. The current St. Barbara principal will serve as an administrator at St. Barbara campus."

### St. Barbara Catholic Church (to be Consolidated)

#### Orange-Rated

2859 S. Throop Street, Bridgeport, Bridgeport (Community Area 60), 11th Ward  
Henry Worthmann and J. G. Steinbach, 1914

Although St. Barbara Catholic Church successfully marked its centennial in 2010, and although there was painting and restoration of the interior of the church by the Oosterbaan & Sons company in 2012, St. Barbara School and Church have had their consolidation with another parish and school announced in unwelcome fashion.

When the St. Barbara School was first built, the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis entered. The order administered successfully to many immigrants. Growth led to a school addition being completed in 1924. At that time, an auditorium, a six-lane bowling alley and a kitchen were added. Six new classrooms accommodated a two-year commercial high school.

During a 1990s restoration effort, St. Barbara cleaned, repaired, and fully restored its stained glass windows. The parish placed four additional stained glass scenes in the front church towers in 1999 and thus replaced plain glass panes. In 2001, despite its academic performance, St. Barbara High School closed. The portions of the building previously used by the high school were then adapted to enhance the offerings of St. Barbara Elementary School. There were thus additional facilities for science, technology and the arts.

St. Barbara's in Bridgeport was one of eight parishes in the Chinatown, Bridgeport and Canaryville neighborhoods beset by a 2018 announcement of closings. In November of 2018, possible parish closures or parishes to be consolidated involved All Saints - St. Anthony, St. Barbara, St. Gabriel, St. Jerome Croatia, Santa Lucia-Sant Maria In-coronata, St. Mary of Perpetual Help, Nativity of our Lord and St. Therese Chinese Catholic. Elementary schools serve St. Barbara, St. Gabriel, St. Jerome, Santa Lucia-Santa Maria and St. Therese.

In November of 2018, one scenario had St. Therese merging with All Saints and St. Barbara (the latter set to close). Another potential merger involved St. Gabriel and Nativity of our Lord. Nativity of Our Lord is the longtime church home of the Daley family.

The Parish Office of St. Barbara Parish is at 2859 South Throop Street. St. Barbara Parish began more than a century ago. The nearest Polish parish, St. Mary of Perpetual Help, was bulging at the seams, so Pastor Rev. Stanislaus Nawrocki obtained approval to buy land for a new parish along Throop Street. In 1910, his younger brother, Rev. Anthony Nawrocki, became the first pastor of the new St. Barbara parish. Mass and the sacraments were celebrated in the basement hall of the school while construction of the church took place. The domed, Renaissance-style church had no pillars in the interior so that sight lines were clear for the 1,200 possible worshippers. The dedication and consecration of the church took place July 5, 1914. Architects Henry Worthmann and J. G. Steinbach were either German or Austrian. They also designed St. Mary of the Angels, St. Hyacinth, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church. A twin of St. Barbara is Our Lady of Tepeyac (originally known as St.

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Casimir). According to Parish Historian Walter J. Podrazik and Heartland Historical Research Service's Grace DuMelle, another Worthmann and Steinbach design is First Lutheran Church of the Trinity in Bridgeport.

### Santa Lucia - Santa Maria Incoronata (to be Closed)

Not included in CHRS

3022 S. Wells Street, Bridgeport, Armour Square (Community Area 34), 11th Ward

Ray Basso, 1961

The early beginnings of Santa Lucia Church and its development as a parish must start with a vision seen by Fr. Joseph J. Lazzeri. During the early years of World War II, Fr. Joseph, who was pastor of Santa Maria Incoronata, purchased a neighborhood hall at 3022 S. Wells St.

Santa Lucia has been located at 3022 S. Wells Street since [add year here]. Founded by the Scalabrini Fathers, Santa Lucia began as an extension of Santa Maria Incoronata Parish in 1943 to accommodate the growing population of Italian immigrants living in Santa Maria Incoronata's parish. In 1953 the Archdiocese of Chicago approved the separate administration of Santa Maria Incoronata, and Santa Lucia became a parish on her own. Fr. Primo Beltrame, CS, was then named the first pastor of Santa Lucia Church.

As the years went by, there was increased concern for Catholic education for area children. In May 1960, the Archdiocese of Chicago gave permission to construct a school. Santa Lucia School was dedicated on November 26, 1961 by Albert Cardinal Meyer and was staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Now in a wave of parish consolidations or closures this independence of parish churches, congregations and schools has been put at risk.

### St. Mary of Perpetual Help Catholic Church (to be Consolidated)

Orange-Rated

1039 W. 32nd Street, Bridgeport (Community Area 60), 11th Ward

Henry Engelbert, 1889

In his illuminating book, *Chicago Churches and Synagogues: An Architectural Pilgrimage* (1991), George A. Lane, S. J., noted that St. Mary of Perpetual Help Catholic Church was designed by Henry Engelbert to seat 1,100 in the Byzantine - Romanesque styled church. To Father Lane, "Of the many steeples, spires, and domes in Bridgeport, St. Mary's dome is by far the largest and most impressive."

The huge dome is of wood construction. It has ornamental copper covering. The apex of the dome rises 113 feet above the floor of the church. Beneath it lies a church building of brick construction. The windows and arches are Romanesque.

Besides the central dome, there are domes and half domes, arches, columns and pilasters. These are lavishly decorated. They lead up to the white marble altar in the chancel.

In 1961. John A. Mallin was involved the church's redecoration, with the result that below the traditional painting of Our Lady of Perpetual Help above the main altar there are pictures of saints of Poland. From left to right, these depicted saints are St Stanislaus Kostka, Bl. Kunegunda, St. John Cantius, St. Adalbert, St. Stanislaus, bishop and martyr, St. Casimir, St. Hedwig and St. Andrew Bobola.

In 1926 there was installed a four-manual Austin organ. When George Lane went to visit the church he found the organ still in use. Such sustenance is found in many of the churches presently being forced to consolidate or close through some incompletely disclosed bureaucratic decision-making process.

George Lane found the organ of St. Mary of Perpetual Help to contain "a great organ, swell organ, choir organ, echo organ, solo organ, pedal organ, and floating string division playable on every manual." He noted that the pipes ranged up to 32 feet.

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He recalled that the church he fondly called “St. Mary’s” had been originally a mission of St. Adalbert’s. St. Mary of Perpetual Help was established as a parish in 1886. It served the Polish Catholics of Bridgeport. As the immigrant population swelled, the parish grew. An elementary school and a high school served the new residents. The Sisters of St. Joseph administered the schools. The Chicago diocesan clergy served the worship needs of the parish. When George Lane arrived in 1990, he observed that “Msgr. Edward J. Smaza” had been “pastor of the church since 1950.” He observed a parish plant occupying most of a city block. He observed the continuing strength of the parish. He found it “active with services in Polish and English.”

### Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church (to be Consolidated)

Not included in CHRS

653 W. 37th Street, Bridgeport, Bridgeport (Community Area 60), 11th Ward

Patrick C. Keeley, 1885

"In the year of our Lord 1868, Archdiocese of Chicago Bishop James Duggan recognized a spiritual need in the Hamburg and Union Stock Yards district of Chicago," according to parish history. Bishop Duggan appointed Irish-born Fr. Michael Lyons (1828-1881) to found a parish to serve the people occupying what would soon be known as the Bridgeport neighborhood.

Masses were offered in the stables adjacent to the stockyards. The parish was named appropriately since its inception mirrored the birth of Jesus in a stable.

Eight years later, property was acquired for a more permanent house of worship, and the current church's cornerstone was laid October 28, 1876 by Bishop Foley. The church structure was designed to seat 1,200 people. A magnificent church and its adjacent buildings were erected under the leadership of Fr. Joseph M. Cartan (1847-1907), the third pastor of Nativity of Our Lord.

For a long time the church stood in the eyes of its parishioners “tall and proud in its magnificence and beauty at the same corner of 37th Street and Union Avenue.” To them it served for a long time as “a beacon and pillar in this unique neighborhood.” With the passage of years, parishioners remained of the opinion that “[t]he original mission of Nativity of Our Lord Parish to bring souls closer to God is still met today and will continue to be met for ages to come.”

To the parishioners, “Tens of thousands of souls have been nourished and continue to be nourished by this great parish. Countless young people have been educated in our parish school. Many have seen their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren graduate from Nativity of Our Lord School and Bridgeport Catholic Academy.”

### St. Gabriel Catholic Church (to be Consolidated)

Orange-Rated

600 W. 45th Street, Canaryville, New City (Community Area 61), 11th Ward

Burnham & Root, 1888

Saint Gabriel Parish and Elementary School is in the heart of Canaryville, a small community of several third- and fourth-generation Irish immigrants. The neighborhood has been proud of its Irish roots. Family ties have run deep in the parish and in the school. Saint Gabriel is a hidden gem. It is tucked away amid century-old homes. A visitor to the neighborhoods surrounding Canaryville might miss this gem, the way visitors to Chicago might miss the other parishes mentioned here, parishes with their respective sites of significance.

Saint Gabriel Parish has celebrated its 130th Anniversary. Father Maurice Dorney was St. Gabriel’s first pastor. Father Dorney had the foresight to purchase 20 lots (from 45th to 46th and Lowe) for \$500 to build the church, school, convent and rectory for Saint Gabriel’s. While pastor, Father Dorney graduated from law school. Known within “the Yards,” Father Dorney was a friend to laborers and company owners. He procured jobs and helped avoid strikes, according to a parish account. Father Dorney was gifted with a block of stock from the head of National Livestock Bank, according to the account. After two decades the dividends grew to \$68,000, and the money was spent “for the welfare of the church and assisting in the schools of Saint Gabriel.” Father Dorney traveled to Ireland in 1887. He was said to be “instrumental in the exoneration of Charles Stewart Parnell (champion of home rule for Ireland) who was accused of complicity in a murder.”

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A church bulletin, “St. Gabriel’s Trumpet,” with the distribution date of February 24, 2019 has reported a recent Mass attendance of 363, and the finances reported in the same parish do not scream out for consolidation or closure of the parish and its school.

### St. Michael Archangel Catholic Church (to be Consolidated)

#### Orange-Rated

8237 S. South Shore Drive, South Chicago, South Chicago (Community Area 46), 7th Ward

William J. Brinkmann, 1909

St Michael's was founded in 1892 to serve Polish immigrants who flocked to America's shores in search of work to build a better future for themselves and for their children. For a century or more the faith community formed from these immigrants expanded to include Mexican and Mexican Americans, Nigerians, African Americans, Asian Americans, Haitians and Filipinos who have worshipped together within the Gothic church.

The present St. Michael's is the third church building constructed to serve the people of this area, having been completed in 1909 under the pastorate of Bishop Paul Rhode. Bishop Rhode was the first Polish American to be consecrated auxiliary bishop of Chicago. Bishop Rhode later became the Bishop of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

The church's architecture and expansive interior is Gothic in style. It features two towering steeples that rise over the South Side of Chicago. The architect was William J. Brinkmann.

The main altar reredos and two side altars are constructed of butternut and bird's eye maple wood. The central statue of St. Michael, the two incensing angels and the statues on the side altars were sculpted and painted by hand. A beautiful and rare communion rail is carved in oak with a white marble top. The interior of the church can seat approximately 1,100 people.

Of interest to lovers of music is the grand piano which belonged to famed composer Ignace Jan Paderewski.

A shrine to Our Lady of Czestochowa, the National Patron of the people of Poland, is located in the sanctuary. The shrine was constructed in Poland in the early 1960s.

The Magnificent stained glass windows were made by F. X. Zettler of Munich, Germany. Of special note are the two transept windows on the East and West sides of the church. These windows have been considered by some in the parish to be perhaps the largest most beautiful stained glass windows in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The window on the east side of the church depicts the Pentecost event — the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Virgin Mary and the Apostles. The window on the West side of the church gives imagery to the vision of Saint Michael the Archangel at the Last Judgment.

Among other churches in Chicago which claim to house relics, St. Michael's enshrines a relic said to be of St. Cyprian, Bishop and martyr.

### St. Camillus (to be Closed)

Not included in CHRS

5426 S. Lockwood Avenue, Vittum Park, Garfield Ridge (Community Area 56), 23 Ward

1921, Architect unknown

The old St. Florian Mission was reorganized as the national parish of St. Camillus in October of 1921. St. Camillus was established as a Polish parish in 1921, and a complex was developed over the years for St. Camillus at 55th and Lockwood Avenue on the Southwest Side of Chicago. Construction on the present St. Camillus Church began in 1922. The modern brick edifice was joined to an existing combination building at 55th Street and Lockwood Avenue, and a wing was added to the west side of the church. The wing helped give the church symmetry. For a rectory, the church used an apartment building which it acquired. The parish school attracted 300 children by 1925. After Father Boleslaus J. Kasprzycki became the leader of the church, a new building project was underway. A three-story structure was added to the original wing on Lockwood Avenue. The church complex serviced the parish for a number of years. In a history of St. Camillus Church published in *The New World* of May 24, 1935, the parish

## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago

membership was given as 320 families. The school had 260 enrollees. On December 12, 1937, Father Kasprzycki celebrated his Silver Jubilee of Priesthood.

The Reverend Joseph J. Mackowiak was appointed pastor of the parish in July of 1957. He came from Bridgeport where he had been an assistant at St. Barbara Church. Father Mackowiak continued Monsignor Kasprzycki's plans for enlargement of the parish complex. Ground was broken for two new buildings on August 17, 1958. A new rectory was constructed at 5426 South Lockwood Avenue. A combination building was constructed at 5434 South Lockwood Avenue. It contained eight classrooms and residential accommodations for 12 sisters. Bishop Hillinger dedicated the new parish buildings on October 25, 1959. Six hundred students were enrolled in St. Camillus School at the time.

The Golden Jubilee of St. Camillus Church was celebrated on October 17, 1971. John Cardinal Cody presided at a special Mass of Thanksgiving. In attendance at a parish dinner dance were more than 650 parishioners and their friends.

At the request of the parish Building Committee, Cardinal Cody granted permission on November 28, 1973, for the enlargement of St. Camillus Church. This permission led to a newly renovated church blessed by Bishop Abramowicz at a Concelebrated Mass which took place on September 22, 1974. Despite changes in its leadership thereafter, the parish saw a new classroom opened and third floor renovations which reopened two classrooms closed for more than 20 years. The parish attained a membership of approximately 1,000 families.

Despite this history of success and despite the August 2003 assumption of pastoral duties at St. Camillus parish by Father Waclaw (Wenceslaus) of St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr — Lucjan Lech, a priest of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers Order — this church and its history are threatened by consolidation. St. Camillus has recently been home to three Discalced Carmelite Fathers, including pastor and Rev. Waclaw Lech, OCD; resident and Rev. Jack Chodzinski, OCD.

### St. Felicitas (to be Closed)

Not included in CHRS

1526 East 84th Street, Marynook, Avalon Park (Community Area 45), 8th Ward  
1918, Architect unknown

For over 100 years, the Catholic Community of Saint Felicitas has served within the Archdiocese of Chicago. In its current Mission Statement, the church announced itself as a “predominately African American Parish Community, whose Mission is to be prophets; ministers of the Gospel; instruments of peace; and celebrants of joy, regardless of race, age, gender or denomination....” Recently there occurred planning for the celebration of Saint Felicitas's 100th anniversary. Three celebratory events were planned for 2018 and 2019. So proud of its architecture, the parish put up on the Internet a photograph gallery which displays the church's architectural features. The photographs show the kind of sacred space with which Chicago has been blessed, space in which a church could grow rather than instead have its parishes or congregations consolidated or closed.

### St. Joachim (to be Closed)

Not included in CHRS

700 E. 91st Street, West Chesterfield, Chatham (Community Area 44), 8th Ward  
George S. Smith, 1896

St. Joachim Catholic Church at 700 East 91st Street has announced on an Internet site labeled “Mass Times” the following: “The last Mass was celebrated at St. Joachim yesterday, December 16, 2018, after 124 years and 5 months of faithful ministry in the Burnside community of Chicago.” The church sits at the corner 91st Street and Langley Avenue. Prior to the recent announcement, the church was planning to stay there for some time to come. The Chamber of Commerce indicated that this church had what it put as “an annual sales volume of \$1M - 1,999,999.”

There was recently described for “St. Katharine Drexel Parish of Chicago Church” at 9015 South Harper Avenue a consolidation event on Wednesday evening of March 22, 2017. This was an “Evening of Reflection in Church” pertaining to “St. Ailbe, St. Felicitas, and St. Joachim.” The guest speaker was Mr. Todd Williamson, Director Office

## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago

for Divine Worship, Archdiocese of Chicago. The parish described as “St. Katharine Drexel Parish of Chicago at St. Ailbe Church” — a parish whose church, St. Ailbe Catholic Church, celebrated its 125th Church Anniversary on November 19, 2017— raises the issue of church and parish names and the issue of the identity of individual congregations, especially with regard to where those congregations have long been used to worship. The continuity of these congregations is put at risk when they are forced to have their parishes consolidate with others or, worse, forced to have closed their congregations and their architectural house of worship.

### CLOSED OR DEMOLISHED ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN CHICAGO

#### St. Bridget (Demolished)

S. Archer Avenue and S. Grady Court  
1847 - 1990

#### St. Louis

Polk Street and Shennan Street  
1850 - 1871  
Church destroyed by Chicago Fire.

#### St. James (Demolished)

E. 29th Street and S. Wabash Avenue  
1855 - 2013  
Church razed in 2013. (*Chicago 7 Most Endangered*)

#### St. Patrick

E. 95th Street and S. Commercial Avenue  
1857 - 1987

#### Old St John (Demolished)

W. 18th Street and S. Clark Street  
1859 - 1962  
Church was razed in December 1962.

#### St. Columbkille (Demolished)

W. Grand Avenue and N. Paulina Street  
1859 - 1975  
Merged with Holy Innocents, Holy Rosary, Santa Maria Addolorata, and St. Boniface in 1975.

#### St. Boniface

W. Chestnut Street and N. Noble Street  
1862 - 1990  
Closed on June 30, 1990.

#### St. Anne (Demolished)

W. Garfield Boulevard and S. Wentworth Avenue  
1865 - 1990  
Consolidated with St. Cecilia and St. George to form St. Charles Lwanga in 1971. Closed in 1990.

#### Annunciation (Demolished)

W. Wabansia Avenue and N. Paulina Street  
1866 - 1978  
Congregation joined St. Mary of the Angels, St. Stanislaus Kostka, St. Hedwig, or St. Aloysius after last Mass on June 25, 1978. Closed in 1978. Church was razed in October 1978.

#### St. Paul (Demolished)

W. Lexington Street and S. Clinton Street  
1866 - 1871  
Merged with St. Patrick after Church destroyed by the Chicago Fire.

#### St. Wenceslaus (Demolished)

W. De Koven Street and S. Desplaines Street  
1866 - 1955  
Merged with Holy Guardian Angel in 1955.

#### St. Jarlath (Demolished)

W. Jackson Boulevard and S. Paulina Street  
1869 - 1969  
Closed after deemed unsafe in 1969. Church was razed in September 1969.

#### Old St. Stephen (Demolished)

W. Ohio Street and N. Sangamon Street  
1869 - 1952  
Merged with Santa Maria Addolorata. Church was razed in 1952.

#### St. Stanislaus Church (Demolished)

(Renamed Sacred Heart in 1873)  
W. 19th and S. Peoria St.  
1872 - 1959  
Merged with Providence of God. Partially demolished. Front façade remains.

#### St. Anthony of Padua

W. 28th Pl. and S. Wallace St.  
1873 - 1968  
Consolidated in 1968. Merged with All Saints and renamed All Saints-St. Anthony.

#### All Saints (Demolished)

W. 25th Pl. and Wallace St.  
1875 - 1973  
Consolidated in 1968. Merged with St. Anthony of Padua and renamed All Saints-St. Anthony. Church was razed in 1973.

#### St. Agnes (Demolished)

W. Pershing Road and S. Washtenaw Avenue  
1878 - 1991  
Consolidated with St. Joseph & St. Anne in 1991. Renamed Our Lady of Fatima.

#### St. Mel (Demolished)

W. Adams St. at S. Kildare Ave.  
1878 - 1941  
Consolidated in 1941. Merged with Holy Ghost and renamed St. Mel-Holy Ghost, which is now closed.

#### St. Augustine (Demolished)

Near 51 Street and South Laflin Street  
1879 - 1990  
Closed on June 30, 1990.

#### St. Rose of Lima (Demolished)

W. 48th Street and Ashland Avenue  
1881 - 1990  
Closed in June 1990.

#### Holy Rosary

E. 113th Street and S. King Drive  
1882 - 2008  
Now Greater Tabernacle Cathedral Church of God in Christ.

#### St. Jean Baptiste (Demolished)

## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago

W. 33rd Place and S. Wood Street  
1882 - 1892  
Church was razed in 1902.

### **St. Malachy**

W. Washington Boulevard and Oakley Boulevard  
1882 - 2005  
Parish merged with Precious Blood in 2005.

### **St. Peter and Paul**

E. 91st Street and S. Exchange Avenue  
1882 - 1987

### **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

W. 31st Street and S. Aberdeen Street  
1883 - 1990  
Closed on June 30, 1990. Now Monastery of the Holy Cross.

### **St. Laurence (Demolished)**

E. 72nd Street and Dorchester Avenue  
1883 - 2002

### **St. George (Demolished)**

W. Pershing Road and S. Wentworth Avenue  
1884 - 1969  
Consolidated in 1969. Merged with St. Cecilia.

### **Holy Trinity (Demolished)**

W. Taylor St. and S. Wolcott Ave  
1885 - 1990  
Closed on June 30, 1990. Merged with St. Charles Borromeo.

### **St. Cecilia (Demolished)**

W. 45th Street and S. Wells Street  
Jul. 28, 1885 - 1971  
Consolidated in 1971. Merged with St. Anne to form St. Charles Lwanga, which closed in 1990.

### **St. Charles Borromeo (Demolished)**

W. Roosevelt Road and S. Hoyne Avenue  
1885 - 1968  
Closed and razed in 1968. Merged with Holy Trinity.

### **St. Louis de France (Formerly St. Ambrose)**

E. 117th Street and S. State Street  
1886 - 1973  
Closed on February 23, 1973. Merged with All Saints, which closed in 1989. Now Bethel Apostolic Faith Church.

### **St. Martin de Tours**

W. 59th Street and S. Princeton Avenue  
1886 - 1989  
Consolidated on July 1, 1989. Merged with St. Justin Martyr, St. Raphael, Sacred Heart, St. Bernard, and St. Carthage. Renamed St. Benedict the African. Sold and became Chicago Embassy Church.

### **St. Bernard**

W. 65th Street and S. Harvard Avenue  
1887 - 1990  
Consolidated on July 1, 1989. Merged with St. Justin Martyr, St. Raphael, Sacred Heart, St. Carthage, and St. Martin; renamed St. Benedict the African. Currently vacant and owned by Beloved Community Church of God in Christ.

### **St. Vitus**

W. 18th Place and S. Paulina Street  
1888 - 1990  
Closed on June 30, 1990. Currently Chicago Commons Guadalupano Family Center.

### **St. Brendan (Demolished)**

67th and Racine  
1889 - 1988  
Closed in 1988. Merged with St. Bernard in September 1988.

### **St. Monica (Demolished)**

36th and Dearborn  
1889 - 1924  
Closed on December 6, 1924. Merged with St. Elizabeth.

### **Blessed Sacrament**

W. Cermak Road and S. Central Park Avenue  
1890 - 1991  
Currently Blessed Sacrament Youth Center.

### **St. Nicholas**

W. 113th Place and State Street  
1890 - 1973  
Church closed and merged with All Saints.

### **Holy Cross**

E. 65th Street and S. Maryland Avenue  
1891 - 1990  
Consolidated on June 30, 1990. Merged with St. Clara-St. Cyril and renamed St. Gelasius. Currently owned by The Light Of The World, Church Of The Living God Pillar And Ground Of The Truth.

### **SS. Cyril and Methodius**

W. 50th Street and S. Hermitage Avenue  
1891 - 1990  
Closed on June 30, 1990. Currently Chicago New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church.

### **St. Ludmilla (Demolished)**

24th and Albany Ave.  
1891 - 1990  
Consolidated on June 30, 1990. Merged with St. Casimir and renamed Our Lady of Tepeyac.

### **Our Lady of Lourdes**

W. 15th Street and S. Keeler Avenue  
1892 - 2005  
Currently Pentecostal Church of Holiness.

### **St. George (Demolished)**

W. 33rd Street and S. Lituanica Ave  
1892 - 1990  
Closed on June 30, 1990. Razed in demolished 1993.

### **St. John the Baptist**

50th Pl. and Peoria St.  
1892 - 1989  
Currently Ebenezer House of Prayer.

### **St. Mary of Mount Carmel**

W. Marquette Road and S. Hermitage Avenue  
1892 - 1976  
Currently St Andrews Temple Of Faith Truth & Love Baptist Church.

### **St. Matthew (Demolished)**

W. Walnut Street and N. Albany Avenue  
1892 - 1974  
Closed and razed in 1974. Merged with Our Lady of the Angels, St. Malachy, and Our Lady of Sorrows.

### **Our Lady of Angels**

W. Iowa Street and N. Hamlin Avenue  
1894 - 1990

## Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago

Consolidated on June 30, 1990. Merged with St. Francis of Assisi and renamed St. Francis of Assisi Our Lady of Angels. Currently the Mission of Our Lady of the Angels.

### **Sacred Heart (Demolished)**

W. 70th Street and S. May Street  
1894 - 1989

Consolidated July 1, 1989. Merged with St. Justin Martyr, St. Raphael, St. Martin, St. Bemard, and St. Carthage. Renamed St. Benedict the African.

### **St. Clara**

E. 64th St. and S. Woodlawn Avenue  
1894 - 1969

Consolidated in 1969. Merged with St. Cyril and renamed St. Clara-St. Cyril.  
Shrine of Christ the King

### **Holy Ghost**

W. Adams St. at S. Kildare Ave.  
1896 - 1941

Consolidated 1941. Merged with St. Mel and renamed St. Mel-Holy Ghost. Merged in June 1988 with Resurrection and St. Thomas Aquinas and renamed St Martin de Porres. Demolished.

### **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Vicariate**

W. 13th Place and S. St. Louis Avenue  
1898 - 1979

Closed 1979. Merged with St. Agatha. Demolished.

### **Presentation B.V.M. (Demolished)**

Springfield Avenue between Polk Street & Lexington Avenue  
1898 - 2005

### **St. Salome**

E. 118th Street and S. Indiana Avenue  
1898 - 1990

Closed on June 30, 1990.

### **St. Stephen**

22nd Place and Wolcott Avenue  
1898 - 2002

Currently part of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School.

### **Holy Guardian Angel (Demolished)**

W. Cabrini Street and S. Blue Island Avenue  
1899 - 1963

Location is on University of Illinois at Chicago campus.

### **St. Finbarr (Demolished)**

W. 14th Street and S. Harding Avenue  
1900 - 1969

Closed and razed in 1969. Merged with Our Lady of Lourdes.

### **St. Joseph**

E. 88th St. between S. Marquette Avenue & S. Saginaw Avenue  
1900 - 1987

### **St. Willibrord**

S. Edbrooke Avenue between E. 113th Place and E. 114th Place  
1900 - 1989

### **Assumption B.V.M (Demolished)**

W 60th Street and S. Marshfield Avenue  
1901 - 1990

Closed on June 30, 1990

### **Our Lady of Good Counsel**

3532 S. Hermitage Avenue  
1901 - 2008

### **Our Lady Help of Christians (Formerly Our Lady Mercy)**

W. Iowa Street and N. Leclair Avenue  
1901 - 2005

### **St. Raphael**

W. 60th Street and S. Justine Street  
1901 - 1989

Consolidated on July 1, 1989. Merged with St. Justin Martyr, St. Martin, Sacred Heart (May St.), St. Bernard, and St. Carthage and renamed St. Benedict the African.

### **St. Michael the Archangel**

2327 W 24th Place  
1903 - 2003

### **Holy Cross**

W. 46th Street and S. Hermitage Avenue  
1904 - 1983

Consolidated in 1983. Merged with Immaculate Heart of Mary Vicariate. Renamed Holy Cross-Immaculate Heart of Mary.

### **Our Lady of Hungary (Demolished)**

E. 93rd Street and S. Kimbark Avenue  
1904 - 1987

### **Sacred Heart**

11652 S. Church Street  
1904 - 1979

Closed in 1979. Merged with St. Walter. In November 1982 the Church became the Sacred Heart Mission of Holy Name of Mary.

### **St. Basil (Demolished)**

W Garfield Boulevard and S. Honore Street  
1904 - 1990

Consolidated on June 30, 1990. Merged with Visitation and renamed St. Basil Visitation.

### **St. Dominic (Demolished)**

W. Locust Street and N. Sedgwick Street  
1904 - 1990

Closed on June 30, 1990. Razed circa 2017.

### **St. Michael the Archangel**

1644 W. Wabansia Ave.  
1904 - 1970

Closed in 1970. Merged with Annunciation.

### **St. Philip Benizi (Demolished)**

Oak Street and Cambridge Avenue  
1904 - 1965

Closed 1965. Merged with St. Dominic.

### **St. Veronica (Demolished)**

School and Whipple St.  
1904 - 1991

Consolidated in 1991. Merged with St. Francis Xavier and renamed Resurrection.

### **St. David (Demolished)**

W. 32nd Street and S. Emerald Avenue  
1905 - 1995

### **All Saints**

E. 108th Street and S. State Street  
1906 - 1989

Consolidated on February 23, 1973 with Holy Rosary, St. Louis of France, and St. Nicholas. Established as All Saints. Closed in 1989. Currently Universal Community Missionary Baptist Church.

### **Our Lady of Vilna (Demolished)**

2323 W. 23rd Place

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1906 - 1987

### **St. John of God (Demolished)**

52nd and Throop Street  
1906 - 1992

### **St. Joseph (Demolished)**

730 W. 17th Place  
1906 - 1968  
Closed in January 1968. Merged with Providence of God Church.

### **Holy Rosary**

W. 108th Street and S. Perry Avenue  
1907 - 1973  
Closed in February 1973. Merged with All Saints Church. Currently Chicago Beacon of Joy Seventh-day Adventist Church.

### **Resurrection (Demolished)**

W. Jackson Boulevard and S. Leamington Avenue  
1909 - 1988  
Consolidated in 1988. Merged with St. Mel-Holy Ghost and St. Thomas Aquinas. Renamed St. Martin De Porres.

### **St. John the Baptist (Demolished)**

Burley Avenue 91st Street  
1909 - 1993

### **St. Thomas Aquinas**

W Washington Boulevard and N. Leamington Avenue  
1909 - 1988  
Consolidated in 1988. Merged with Resurrection and St. Mel-Holy Ghost. Renamed St. Martin De Porres

### **Our Lady of Pompeii**

W. Lexington Street and S. Lytle Street  
1910 - 1994  
Status changed from parish to shrine in 1994.

### **Sacred Heart of Jesus**

S. Wolcott Avenue and W. 46th Street  
1910 - 1990  
Closed June 30, 1990.

### **Sacred Heart**

W. Huron Street and N. Oakley Boulevard  
1911 - 1990  
Closed in June 1990. Currently Bell Tower Loft Condominium Association.

### **St. Bonaventure Oratory**

W. Diversey Parkway and N. Ashland Avenue  
1911 - 2006

### **St. Francis de Paula**

E. 78th Street and S. Dobson Avenue  
1911 - 1991  
Currently New Life Covenant Church Southeast

### **St. Sebastian (Demolished)**

W. Wellington Avenue and N. Dayton Street  
1912 - 1990  
Closed on June 30, 1990.

### **Holy Trinity**

1850 S. Throop St.  
1914 - 2004

### **SS. Cyril and Methodius**

W. Walton Street and N. Kildare Avenue  
1915 - 1987

### **Our Lady of Solace**

W. 62nd Street and S. Sangamon Street  
1916 - 1988  
Consolidated in September 1988. Merged with St. Martin, now closed.

### **St. Angela (Demolished)**

W. Potomac Avenue and N. Massasoit Avenue  
1916 - 2005

### **St. Justin Martyr**

7033 S. Honore Street  
1916 - 1989  
Consolidated July 1, 1989. Merged with St. Martin, St. Raphael, Sacred Heart, St. Bernard, and St. Carthage. Renamed St. Benedict the African.

### **St. Theodore (Demolished)**

6209-6215 S. Paulina Street  
1916 - 1976  
Merged with St. Brendan.

### **St. Callistus**

Bowler and Leavitt St.  
1919 - 1994  
Closed on July 1, 1994. Merged with Notre Dame. Currently chapel of Chicago Hope Academy

### **St. Carthage (Demolished)**

W. 73rd Street and S. Yale Avenue  
1919 - 1989  
Consolidated on July 1, 1989. Merged with St. Justin Martyr, St. Raphael, Sacred Heart, St. Bemard, and St. Martin. Renamed St. Benedict the African.

### **St. Peter Canisius**

W. North Ave and Leclair Ave  
1925 - 2007

### **St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (The Little Flower)**

W. 80th Street and S. Wood Street  
1925 - 1993  
Currently Greater Mount Hebron Baptist Church.

### **St. Ethelred**

W. 88th Street and S. Paulina Street  
1926 - 2007  
Acme Missionary Baptist Church

### **St. Fidelis (Demolished)**

1405 N. Washtenaw Ave.  
1926 - 2006

### **San Marcello Mission**

617 W. Evergreen Street  
1927 - 1974

### **St. Joseph Mission (Demolished)**

1413 W 13th St.  
1933 - 1960

### **St. Hedwig Mission**

2445 N. Washtenaw Avenue  
1939 - 1990  
Closed on June 30, 1990. Currently a private residence.

### **Immaculate Heart of Mary Vicariate**

4515 S. Ashland Avenue  
1940 - 1983

## **Chicago 7: Roman Catholic Churches of Chicago**

Consolidated in 1983. Merged with Holy Cross. Renamed Holy Cross-Immaculate Heart of Mary Vicariate.

### **St. Francis Xavier Cabrini**

S. Sacramento Boulevard and W. Lexington Street

1940 - 1987

Currently Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

### **St. Mel-Holy Ghost**

W. Washington Boulevard and N. Kildare Avenue

1941

Consolidated on June 30, 1988. Merged with Resurrection and St.

Thomas Aquinas. Renamed St. Martin De Porres. Currently New

Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church.

### **Our Lady of Fatima Mission**

3051 N. Christiana Avenue

1944 - 1990

Closed on June 30, 1990.

### **St. Hyacinth Mission**

3051 N. Christiana Avenue

1944 - 1956

### **Our Lady of the Cross Mission (Demolished)**

2849 W. Chase Ave.

1948 - 1987

### **Our Lady of the Gardens**

E 133rd Street and S. Langley Avenue

### **Ford City Catholic Center**

7601 S Cicero Ave.

1969 - 1989

### **St. Clara-St. Cyril**

E. 65th Street and Woodlawn Avenue

1969 - 1990

Consolidated on June 30, 1990. Merged with Holy Cross and renamed

St. Gelasius.

### **St. Charles Lwanga (Demolished)**

Garfield Blvd. and Wentworth Ave.

1971 - 1990

Closed on June 30, 1990.

### **St. Gelasius**

Woodlawn, South of 64th St.

1990 - 2002

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