



THE

BOULEVARDS



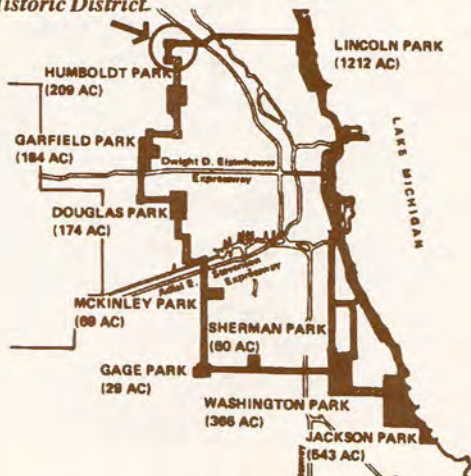
Logan Square

Historic District

Creation of Logan Square

Logan Square is an integral part of the history of Chicago. In the mid 1800's, Chicago was a crowded, dirty commercial city with few areas of beauty. Even the lake front north of the City was a garbage dump. The founding fathers, however, envisioned a city in which business could exist beside beauty. The motto, "Urbs in Horto", which means "City Set in a Garden", was adopted soon after Chicago's incorporation in 1837, to establish its image as a beautiful gateway to the West. However, little was done to accomplish this vision until 1870 when 28 miles of boulevards and parks were designed to surround the City. This system consisted of 21 boulevard segments, six squares and seven connected parks and began on the South side at the Lake in Jackson Park, connected Washington, Sherman, Gage, McKinley, Douglas, Garfield, and Humboldt Parks and ended at Logan Boulevard. The original plan to continue the system along Diversey Parkway back to the Lake at Lincoln Park was never completed. This great boulevard system has been called the "**Emerald Necklace**" of Chicago and is unique to our City. It is as famous to Chicago as Central Park is to New York City.

Logan Square Historic District



Boulevard and park system of Chicago
(Logan Square Historic District in circle)



Working immigrants built their homes on side streets,
while the wealthy built theirs on the boulevards.

Settled by Immigrants

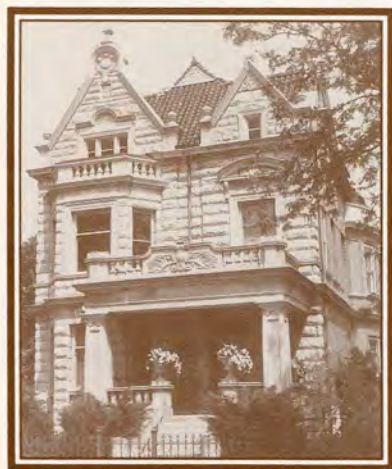
In the late 1890's Logan Square was called Jefferson Township. Here were the truck farms for Chicago. Fruits and vegetables were grown here and taken into Chicago by horse drawn wagons along Milwaukee Road, which was then called the Old Plank Road, because of its plank construction.

Logan Square was settled in the early 1900's by immigrants who came to this country penniless but established businesses and, through hard work, made their fortunes. Although many of them wanted to live on Prairie Avenue, Astor Street or the South Shore with the wealthy families of Chicago, the aristocracy did not accept these newly-made millionaires as equals and did not want them to live in their neighborhood. These immigrants, therefore, decided to build their mansions along the beautiful boulevards of Logan Square. Working immigrants built on the side streets.

Logan Square was named after General John A. Logan, a Civil War hero and founder of Memorial day, who later served as Senator .

Unique Architecture

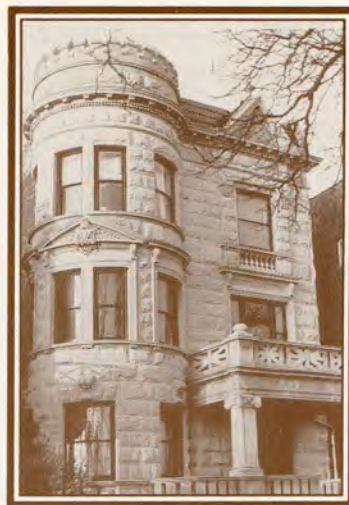
The immigrants who settled in Logan Square were not familiar with traditional architecture, but they knew what they liked. Instead of commissioning architects to design pure Victorian or Classic structures, they picked the portions of architecture that appealed to them and had these different features incorporated into their homes. For this reason, most of the houses in Logan Square have a somewhat eclectic architectural appearance, combining different styles under the same roof. This makes them very unique.



"Jefferson Ice Company" home on Logan Blvd.

Famous Inhabitants

Many well known Chicago families built their homes here. Anna E. Ryan, mother of Dan Ryan, commissioned a prominent Chicago architect, John Ahlschlager, to build her mansion at 2819 W. Logan Boulevard in 1907. Mr. John E. Rustman, owner of the Jefferson Ice Company, commissioned Mr. Ahlschlager to build his superb mansion at 3024 W. Logan Boulevard in 1908. Mr. John Rath, owner of the Rath Cooperage Company, commissioned George Mayer, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright, to build his mansion on the corner of Logan and Washtenaw. Ignaz Schwinn, built his mansion at the corner of Palmer and Humboldt and many other prominent Chicago families also built in Logan Square.



Home of Dan Ryan on Logan Blvd.

Historic Designation

Although most of the great boulevard system of Chicago has deteriorated over the years, the mile and a half in Logan Square has remained virtually unchanged for 100 years. Most of the homes were never converted into rooming houses or low rent apartments like other parts of the City, and, therefore, they have retained most of their beautiful woodwork, stained glass windows and original charm. In order to preserve this beautiful neighborhood for future generations to enjoy, the Federal government designated the boulevards in Logan Square a National Historic District in 1985. (On the cover is the banner used in Logan Square to commemorate this designation).

Illinois Centennial Monument Placed in Logan Square

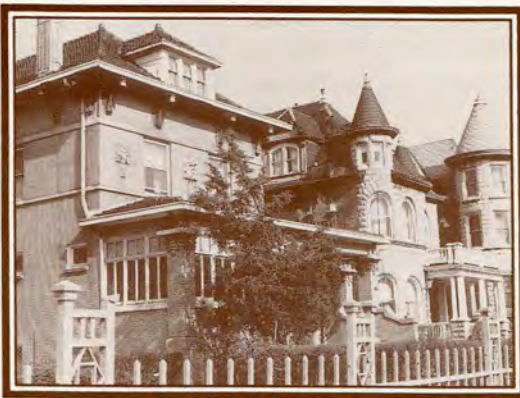
In 1918, Illinois celebrated its centennial by commissioning Henry Bacon, the architect of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., to create a wonderful columnar monument topped by an eagle. Logan Square was selected as the site for this important Memorial. For over seventy years, the eagle monument has symbolized both the Centennial of our state and the community of Logan Square.



"Logan Square" (White, columnar monument with eagle on top was designed by Henry Bacon, architect of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., for the Centennial celebration of the State of Illinois in 1918)

Awakening Interest in Logan Square

Just as the lakefront makes Chicago special, so the boulevards make Logan Square unique. Citizens of Chicago are becoming aware of the beauty and history of our neighborhood and are considering making it their home. The Kennedy Expressway and the O'Hare line subway provide easy access to all parts of the City. The possibility of living in a special, historic community and yet being close to the Loop and O'Hare Airport makes Logan Square extremely attractive.



These homes on Kedzie Blvd. were originally built at the turn of the Century by prominent Chicago architects and businessmen for their families. Today, they look as they did ninety years ago.

The Past Remains

As you walk along the boulevards and look at the beautiful old houses, it is easy to imagine horse drawn carriages carrying the gentlemen in their top hats and the ladies in their gowns to and from their homes. The distinctive style of architecture, "eclecticism", which was inspired by immigrants, is unique in the City of Chicago and the country. This style of architecture should be preserved as an example of new creativity in design and as a legacy to independent thinking people who were not afraid to joust with tradition.



Members of Logan Square Preservation earn money and buy and plant trees on the boulevards to beautify the neighborhood.

Neighbors Working Together

Logan Square Preservation, a community organization dedicated to preserving the architecture of the neighborhood and increasing its beauty, has been instrumental in planting many trees, shrubs and flowers along our boulevards over the past ten years. Each September, they sponsor a Housewalk to open sample homes, churches and gardens to the public. This encourages new people to come and see our neighborhood and enjoy our heritage with us. Logan Square Preservation was also instrumental in obtaining National Historic District designation for the area in 1985. Citizens working together to beautify the neighborhood and preserve our heritage for future generations to enjoy is what makes Logan Square special.



Published by
LOGAN SQUARE
PRESERVATION

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