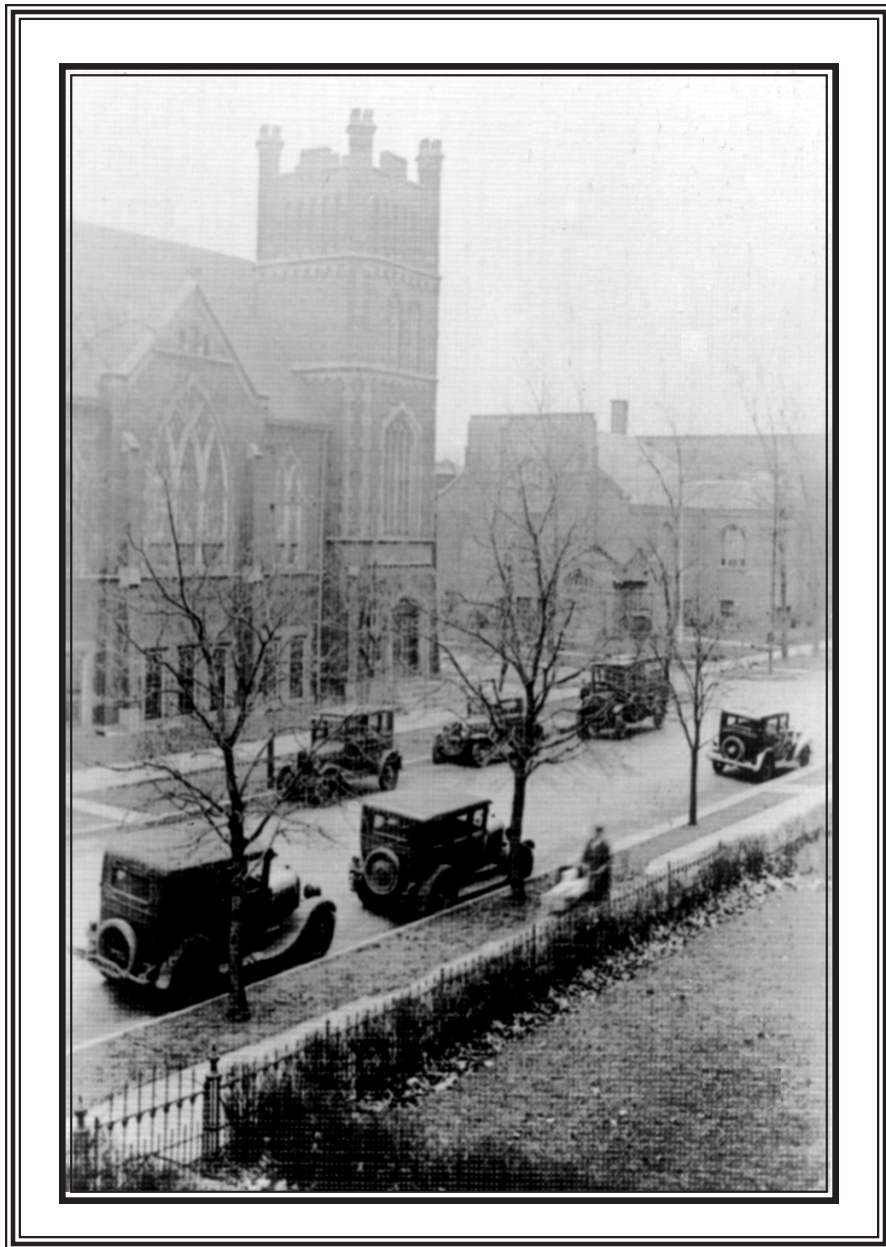


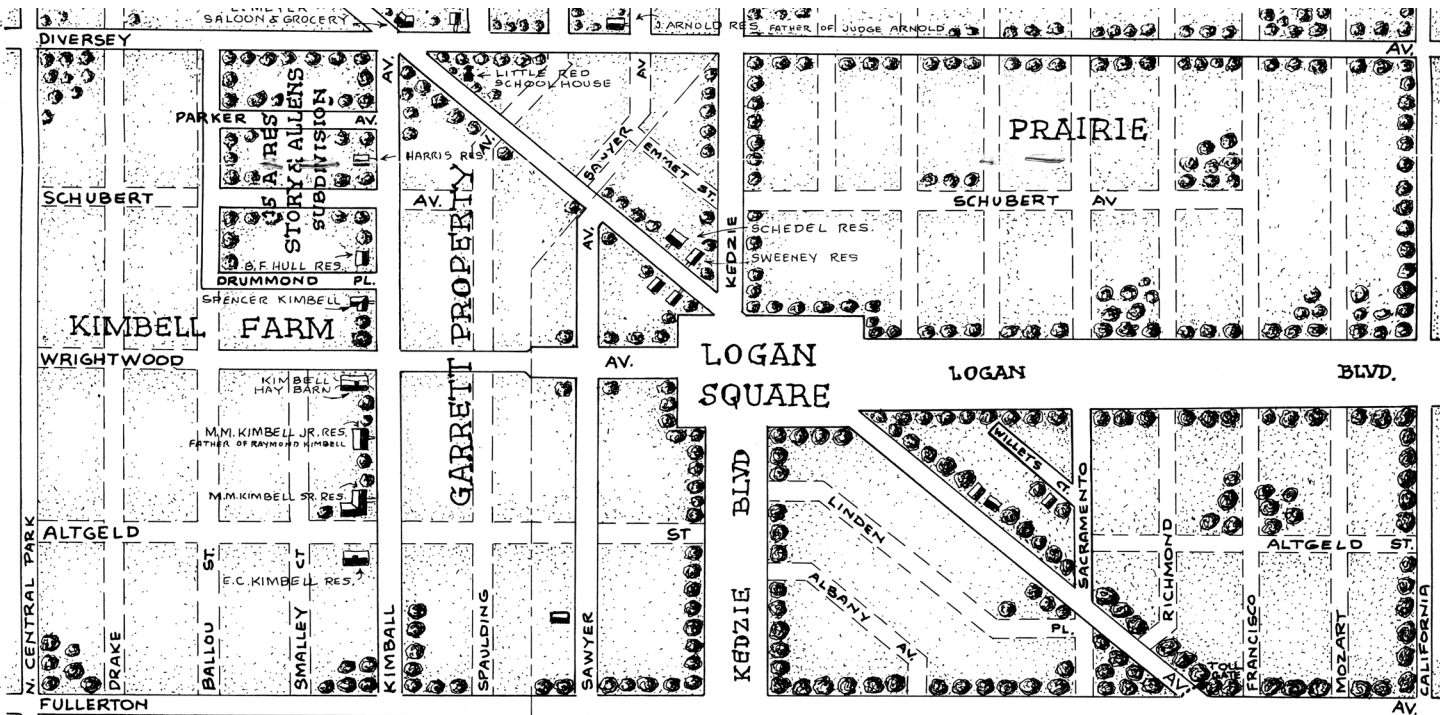
2000
House and Garden Walk



Saturday, September 9, 2000

Presented By

Logan Square Preservation



1881 map of Logan Square, showing the Kimbell and the Garrett farms west of the Square. East of the Square was still prairie.

History of Logan Square

Logan Square in 1800 was a vast prairie of grasses and wildflowers and home to deer, wolves, small fur bearing animals and wild fowl. Trees grew mainly along the banks of the Chicago River on its eastern boundary. Although Indians never established any permanent settlements here because the land was marshy, they did create a trail through it from the mouth of the Chicago River to Milwaukee and frequently entered the area in search of food. This trail later was used by early wagon trains carrying new settlers westward and finally became Milwaukee Avenue.

Fur traders came to this prairie in 1810 in search of raccoon, beaver, fox and muskrat pelts. Although a few built small cabins, no permanent settlers lived here until 1836 when 24 year old Martin Nelson Kimbell arrived from New York. Originally, Martin considered purchasing land near what is now Dearborn and Lake Streets, but he claimed it was too muddy for farming, so he rode his horse northwest along the Indian trail to what is now Kimball Avenue (notice the street name spelling was changed from "bell" to "ball"). Here he purchased 160 acres at \$2.50 each from the Federal government, an area bounded by Kimball on the east, Hamlin on the west, Diversey on the north and Fullerton on the south. A wooden farm house was built on Kimball Avenue with a barn situated in the corner of the property at Wrightwood.

Due to the marshy condition of the soil, hay was all that could be grown initially. In 1837, after selling 500 tons of hay in one year, he had enough money to marry a descendent of the Pilgrims, Sarah Smalley from upper New York. Together,

they raised two daughters and six sons, building homes on Kimball Avenue for them (two houses still survive).

Due to the temporary lodging needs of new settlers, in 1840 he built and managed a small hotel and store along the trail called the "Prairie Grocery", later changing its name to the Live and Let Live Hotel, which included a bar and entertainment. Since food was needed not only for horses but also people, in 1841 he hired several workers to help dig drainage ditches to dry his land, and he began growing vegetables for sale in his store. When this proved profitable, he converted more land from hay to vegetables and began trucking the produce into Chicago.

Other farmers purchased land adjoining Kimbell's, and the town of Jefferson was born. Following annexation to the City of Chicago in 1889, the area was renamed Logan Square in honor of General John A. Logan, the famous Civil War General who rode with Sherman in the decisive Battle of Atlanta.

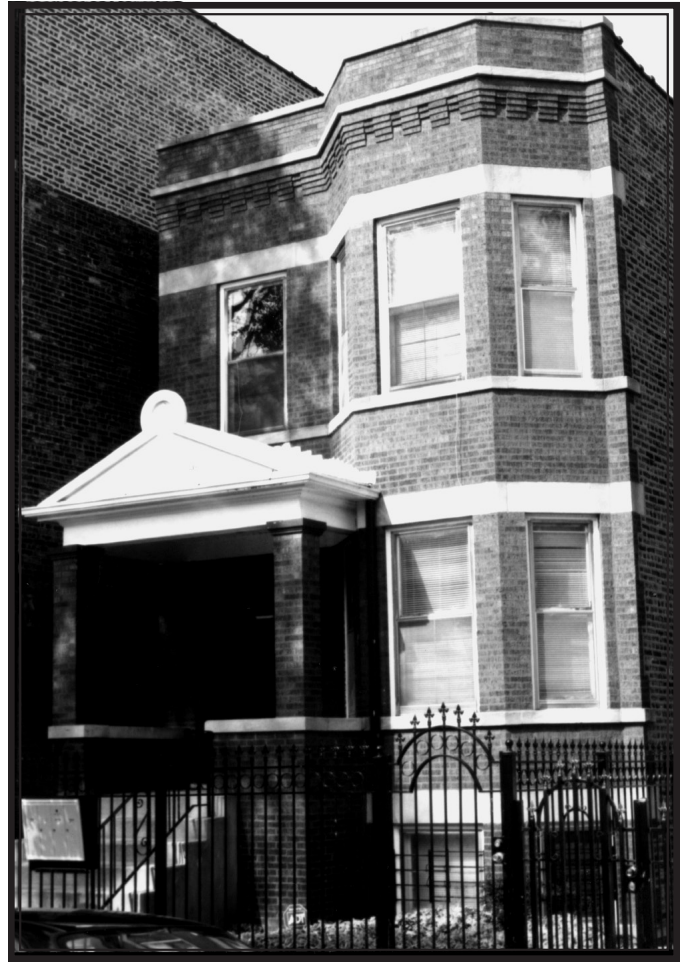
House #9 on the Walk today, home of Spencer Kimbell a son of Martin, sits on the location of the original hay barn. Spencer began the first brick company in the area, and his creative use of brick for his home helped to showcase and promote the sale of his product.

1 2704 N. Sacramento Avenue

This brick three-flat at the right is an example of a modest, working class home in Logan Square. The facade and porch are adorned with a rough textured red brick, and the remainder of the building is constructed of Chicago common brick. Minimal detailing helps to distinguish it from its neighbors and gives it unique charm.

Continuous horizontal bands of stone are located at the head and sills, windows and near the cornice. Of particular interest is the roof of the porch, an ornate wood frame structure with a decorative, round accent piece at the peak of the gable.

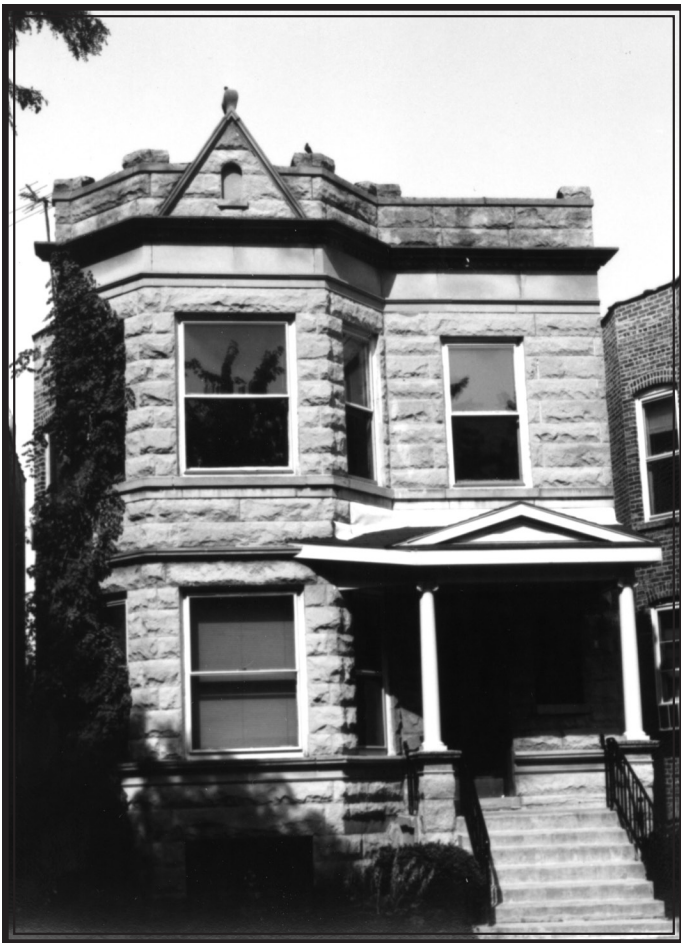
The interior plan of the building is typical of the common, working class homes of the area. On entering the small foyer vestibule and ascending up the stairs, one enters at the center of the apartment. The living room, dining room, and a small bedroom are located at the front. The other rooms are located off a center hall and the kitchen is at the rear. The wood floors are original to the building and have been refinished.



2 2642 N. Francisco Avenue

This two-flat graystone building at the left is a more economic version of many of the houses built on the boulevards. It has a smaller building footprint, less front yard, and a wooden, instead of a stone, porch. The rusticated limestone facade is accented by dental banding and a Gothic peak.

The current owner has performed extensive renovation to the 2nd floor apartment, replacing crumbling plaster, stripping wood moldings, and installing a new tin ceiling and cabinets in the kitchen. The original dining room hutch was missing, but the owner purchased a vintage replacement, which recently has been installed. A unique interior feature is a moose head hanging in the dining room. The moose originally stood 11 feet tall and weighed approximately 1,200 pounds.



3 2856 W. Logan Boulevard

The construction of this house below which began in 1914 was suspended during World War I, but it resumed soon after and was completed in 1918. Mr. Smerling a successful German immigrant who started a hide tanning business and later opened a flour and feed business at 1182 N. Milwaukee Avenue, commissioned the building for his daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder, and a son born in 1919. Mrs. Schroeder lived in the house until she was 104 years old.

The exterior of the building is wrapped in a rich red, rough textured brick. Architectural features, such as the bay windows, the front porch, and the pier at the peak of the roof are highlighted by smooth cut stone. Note the "S" shield (for "Smerling") at the top of the west facade.

Although the 2nd owners made interior alterations 11 years ago, the majority of the woodwork, stained glass, built-in furniture, and silver/nickel light sconces remain as they were originally installed. Of special note are the marble slab walls in the entry hall, and the textured wallpaper wainscoting at the stairway.



4 2843 W. Logan Boulevard

Houses #4 and #5 above are the first two of a row of three similar buildings, which were built around 1901. Note that all three have the same fenestration and Ionic column porch and stair design. The only differences are the limestone details, which help to give each its own separate identity.

The limestone facade consists of smooth cut stone on the first and second floors, supported by a textured, rusticated foundation at ground level. A crisp dental cornice banding on both the first and second floors and a carved fan pattern at the peak add minimal ornamentation creating a clean, modern appearance for the time.

The interior has recently been converted from a two-flat to a single family home. Having lost most of the original woodwork during earlier renovations, the entire house has been gutted to its bones. The basement floor slab was lowered, and an entirely new house has been built inside. The historical character of the facade has been respected on the interior by using paneled wood wainscoting throughout the first floor and stairway hall, and architectural columns have been used to define spaces in the otherwise modern interior.



6 2530 N. Richmond Street

This eclectic brick building below sports a mansard roof, Second Empire roof dormer, four variations of facade window ornaments, and two varieties of porch pilasters, all situated on a wide lot that bathes the interior with daylight. The architect has shown great skill in combining various architectural styles into a pleasing design. A center window of the second floor bay has a full limestone surround with a carved keystone relief, and flanking windows reuse the keystone pattern, while incorporating simple, flat brick arch heads.

The first floor bay windows are less prominent than those on the second floor, and the surrounds are simple. A similar design can be seen on the porch pilasters. The corner columns, which carry most of the weight of the porch, are made of brick with a strong structural slope. The center pair, which one passes through when entering the house, is more delicate in tailored limestone. Even the south facade of the house, normally a gangway wall in most houses, is dressed up because of the large side yard. Note the red brick banding and arch ornamentation of the otherwise simple, common brick wall construction.



5 2845 W. Logan Boulevard

The facade of this house exhibits the use of rusticated stone from the foundation all the way up to the peak. The only exceptions are bands of smooth stone at the window heads and sills, and a dentil band cornice across the top of the first floor and porch. Over the center bay, a Gothic peak is ornamented by a checkerboard pattern of smooth and rough stone.

Inside, this house has been converted from a two-flat to a single family home, using a restoration approach, following local and state guidelines for preservation. Although the home was largely gutted in the past like house #4, architectural moldings and fixtures were painstakingly removed, labeled, stripped and reinstalled. Inside, note the many period lighting fixtures and the Kohler "foot bath" which has been re-enameled. Where it was not possible to use original material, similar vintage pieces were purchased, or new pieces were milled to match the originals.

The kitchen, with its new tin ceiling and warm wood finishes, is a modern compliment to an otherwise historically accurate restoration.





⑦ *Illinois Centennial Monument at Logan Square*

The “Square”, which gives Logan Square its name, is the northernmost terminus of the great West Parks Boulevard System, created in the 1870’s by William Le Baron Jenney, architect of the first steel framed skyscraper in the world. Originally, the “Square” was a large rectangular green-space extending eastward to Albany and bisected by Northwest Plank Road, later renamed Milwaukee Avenue. Modifications were made to the boulevards by the famous landscape architect, Jens Jensen, in the early part of the 20th Century, and architect Daniel Burnham included these boulevards in his famous 1909 “Burnham Plan for Chicago”.

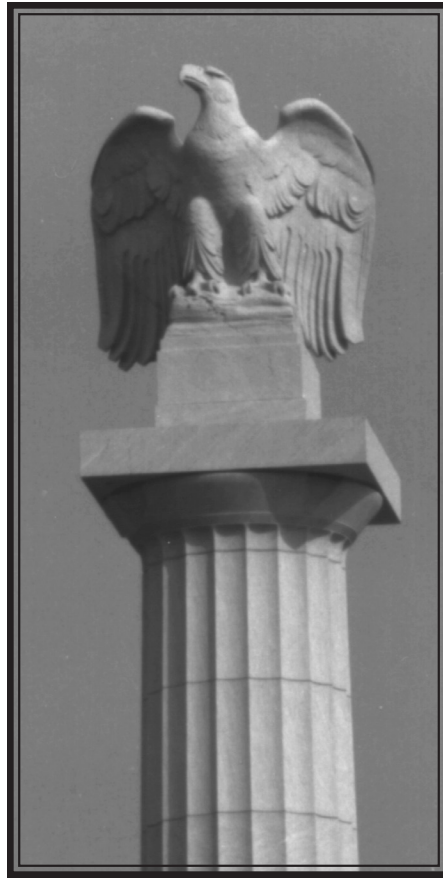
In 1918 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the State of Illinois, Logan Square

was chosen by the State and the City as the site for a magnificent monument. The “Square” was redesigned, moving its boundary west to Milwaukee Avenue and rounding its edges to resemble a European roundabout.

Henry Bacon, the designer of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was commissioned to create a fitting monument celebrating the Illinois Centennial. He envisioned a marble Doric column with the same proportions and scale as those in the Parthenon colonnade which sits atop the Acropolis in Athens, Greece. The analogy linking the first early great democracy of ancient Greece with our country’s democratic principals is symbolized by the use of an American eagle atop a Greek column.

To support the weight and stabilize such a tall monument, Bacon designed a 38 foot deep steel and concrete foundation beneath the ground. On this massive foundation, an interlocking granite plinth stone platform was placed. On the platform rises a 15 foot 3 inch stepped stone base, surrounded by carved reliefs designed by Evelyn Longman and depicting Hiawatha, Ceres, Mercury and Daniel Boone.

The 42 foot 6 inch Doric column is composed of 13 solid segments of Tennessee pink marble, varying in height from 3 feet 1 inch at the top to 4 feet at the base and separated by 1



inch grout lines. The diameter of the column is 6 feet 4 inches at the base and tapers to 5 feet at the capital. Atop the column sits a 10 foot tall American eagle, the symbol of both The United States of America and the State of Illinois.

Both the bronze light posts and the granite benches are original, but the steps and pathway located to the east of the monument were added at a later date. A series of original circular paths have now been consumed by the widening and curving of Kedzie Boulevard on the western side of the monument.





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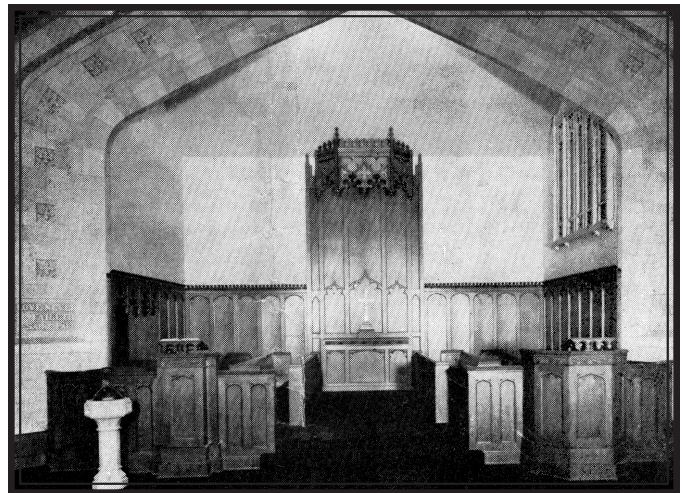
Grace United Methodist Church *3325 W. Wrightwood Avenue*

Since Logan Square had been settled by immigrants from Scandinavia, Belgium and Germany, most church services at the turn-of-the century were conducted in the native tongue of their parishioners. In 1903 due to the influx of new citizens with English as their primary language, Reverend J. C. Schaefer, pastor of the Harrison Street Evangelical Church, decided to built an English-speaking mission church in this community. On May 31, 1904, a group of church members agreed to erect a building and call it Grace Church of the Evangelical Association.

A lot at the southeast corner of Kimball and Wrightwood Avenue was purchased in June 1904, and a chapel named Kimball Hall was erected on Kimball, just south of the present sanctuary. Soon the chapel which seated 150

people was too small for the growing congregation, so money was raised for a larger building. On Sunday, November 13, 1910 a cornerstone was laid for the present structure at the corner of the lot, and the church was finished and dedicated on April 2, 1911 (1931 photo on cover looking south on Kimball Avenue and present photo above).

In 1923, the church had over 500 members and became financially self-supporting. It no longer was considered a mission but a church, and its name was changed to Grace United Methodist Church of Logan Square. \$6,000 was raised for a pipe organ which occupied the entire back wall of the sanctuary (photo below left), but in 1938 to modernize the altar, the organ pipes were covered (photo below right).





9 2556 N. Kimball Avenue

This house, commissioned in 1905 by Spencer S. Kimbell, President of the Kimbell Brick Company and son of the pioneer Martin Nelson Kimbell, was built on the site of the old family hay barn. In 1881, when the hay barn and farm were still operating, there were four families of Kimbells living in houses on Kimball Avenue between Diversey and Fullerton (the street spelling was changed to “Kimball” when the area was annexed to the City of Chicago in 1889). Around 1900, when the farm was subdivided, Mr. Kimbell kept this prime corner lot at Kimball and Wrightwood for himself and built a 2 1/2 story single family home designed by architect C. Whitney Stevens.

The exterior is a stately mix of Georgian and Colonial Revival Styles, including a symmetrical facade, full width front porch and a muscular balustrade. Deep red face brick with quoins at the corners and an arched top dormer complete the traditional look. Although the newly modern Prairie Style made only token appearances on the facade, such as the capitals on the massive brick

porch pilasters, it dominates the interior design. For all the discipline that the Kimball facade demonstrates, the Wrightwood facade is relaxed, with a Prairie Style, ganged window arrangement in the stair hall. It is here and on the south facade that the interior room arrangement governs the placement of the windows. Note the very narrow second story windows on the north and south sides, which provided much needed daylight to closets before electric lighting was common.

In the 1930's, the first floor was converted into a doctor's office, in the 1940's it became a rooming house, and in the 1960's it was re-configured into a 6-flat. Three years ago the current owners began restoring the original configuration. Although some interior features were removed or damaged during previous renovations, several amazing features remained sealed within the walls for many years. This house represents not only important architectural style and beauty, but also is a reminder of Logan Square's early history from a farming to a residential community.



Gardens

A - 3024 W. Logan Boulevard

Huge corner lot, encircled by a Victorian wrought-iron fence, with front, side and backyard gardens, all owner designed and tended. Wrought iron patio furniture and the finely detailed eagle weathervane on top of the carriage house add a vintage charm to this garden.

B - 2634 N. Whipple Street

The front yard, professionally landscaped with perennials and a Japanese red maple, sets off this 1902 Victorian house with Greek Revival front porch. Go through the gangway to view a large deck and simple, serene plantings. Back on Whipple Street, compare this house with the other eight Victorian houses and gardens in a row.

C - 2639 N. Whipple Street

Walk through the gangway and enter an English Style cottage garden with a tumbled bluestone walk. Mostly perennials and herbs, there also is a side area for vegetables.

D - 2624 N. Richmond Street

Front courtyard. Step through the arched, brick and slate-covered entryway to see a garden, lush with perennials and shade trees.

E- 2448 N. Washtenaw Avenue

Hosta and large ferns invite you to visit this 100 year old Carpenter Gothic Style house. Walk through the gangway to the rear “secret garden”, which is divided into 3 sections. The first has a 10 year old winter hardy bamboo thicket, the same bamboo Pandas eat! The owner created a fountain using farm implements, which trickles water into a goldfish pond. Three frogs from the Williamsburg collection stand guard over the shaded perennials. The second section for sunbathing is surrounded by River birch and Kentucky dogwood trees. The third section has French café chairs, a stone planter, a mountain ash tree, and a huge bittersweet vine covering a Purple Martin birdhouse. A retreat within the City for man and birds.

F - 2445 N. Washtenaw Avenue

Front garden features an attractive mix of perennials, annuals and flowering shrubs, decorating this former 1890 mission church, now a residence and art space.

G - 2843 W. Logan Boulevard

Front garden. Professionally landscaped in June 2000, this new garden shares a raised perennial bed with the twin house next door.

H - 2845 W. Logan Boulevard

Front garden. Professionally landscaped and created in June 2000, planters in front contain annuals and a mixture of perennials surrounding a Japanese red maple.

I - 2950 W. Logan Boulevard

Front, side and rear gardens. Owner created front garden has 3-season plantings of annuals and perennials. Notice the hand-carved limestone faces over the side entryway. The back garden is used as an “outdoor” room with old moss-covered bricks, a fountain, statues, and climbing grape and ivy vines. Flower boxes on the 2nd floor deck contain annuals and herbs.

J - 2956 W. Logan Boulevard

Front, side and rear gardens, all owner created and tended. Step through the front-side garden and walk to the back past shade plants and wrought iron ornamentation, noting the side deck, plantings and architectural details, all owner designed.

K - 2533 N. Sacramento Avenue

Neighbors Community Garden. Several years ago, this single-lot community garden was created and designed by neighbors with the help of the Chicago Botanic Garden, Neighborspace, and the Chicago Park District. The garden is tended by L.S.N.A. neighbors, who are available to answer questions and comments. Refreshment stop!

L - 2507 N. Sacramento Avenue

Front garden is planted with perennials, and a limestone path leads to a maturing backyard featuring annuals, perennials, and Yew trees planted in large containers for year-round interest.

M - 3255 W. Altgeld Street

Chicago Public Library, Logan Square Branch. Front, side and large back gardens have been professionally landscaped. Enter the main door of the Library, go to the Children’s Book Section, and exit the door to the rear garden. This space features a gazebo that seats 12. Plantings consist of mixtures of annuals and perennials. A bathroom stop. Refreshments available in the garden.

N - 2432 N. Spaulding Avenue

Walk through the gangway to the rear garden. Follow the brick path to view annuals, perennials and a cherry tree. In the rear can be seen hops growing, used by the owner for homemade beer. All owner created and tended, the garden shares its boundary with the neighboring house's flower bed, extending the view for both families.

O - 2434 N. Spaulding Avenue

Walk through the gangway and down the stairs to the shared flower bed backyard. This space contains perennial plants, an olive tree, bluestone flagging, and a crushed gravel path.

P - 2556 N. Kimball Avenue

This historic mansion, open to the public today, is surrounded by front and back gardens filled with perennials and Victorian garden furniture.

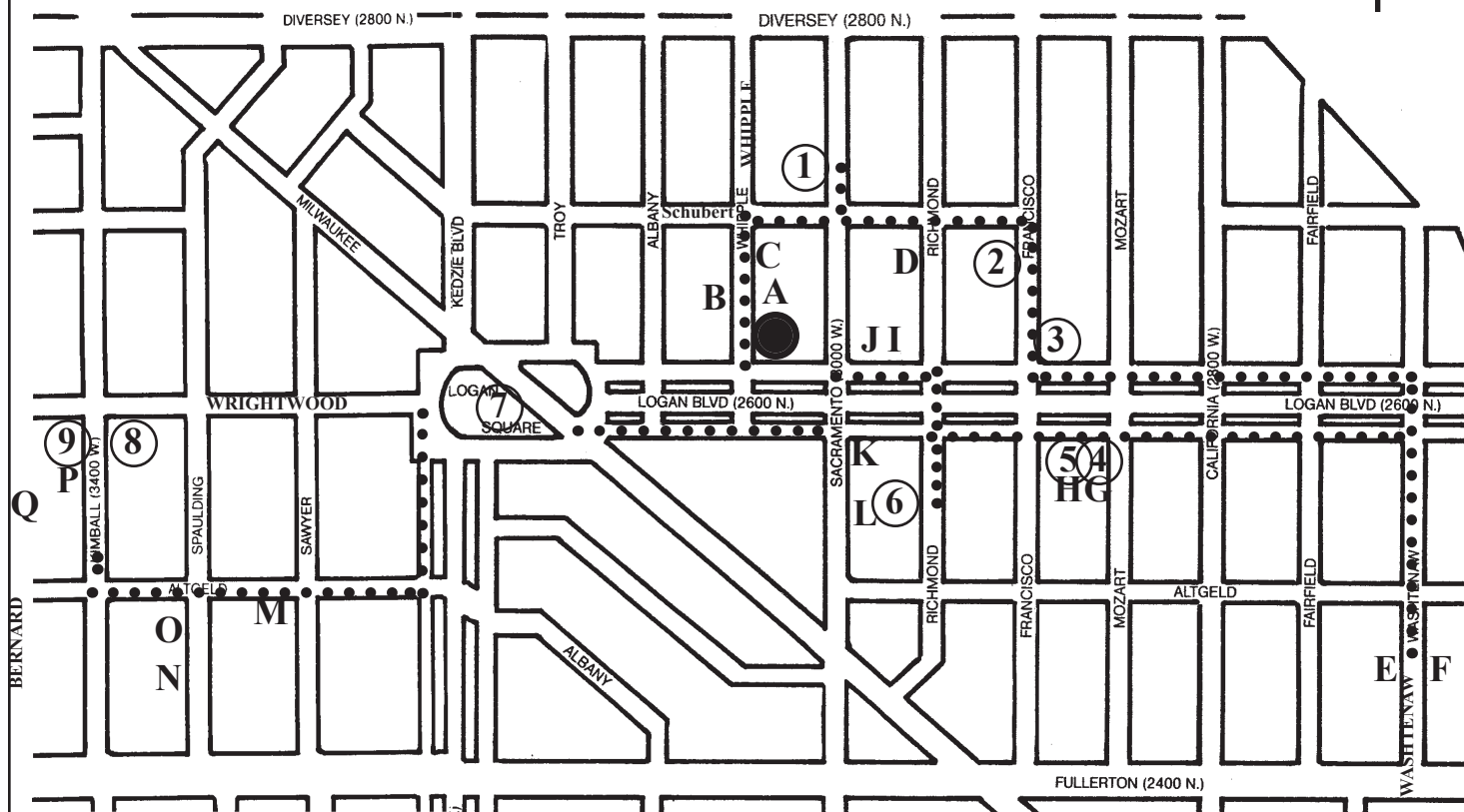
Q - 2554 N. Bernard Street

This large Victorian frame house with an open porch, displays hanging baskets and roses. Step through the gangway to enjoy a rear garden ablaze with annuals and densely planted perennials, creating a cottage style atmosphere. The tree stump in the middle may be carved into an art piece.

Your cooperation is requested:

- No smoking or eating in the gardens or yards.
- Children must be closely supervised. · No pets in the yards.
- Stay on walkways or designated lawn areas. · Do not touch flowers, foliage or garden property.
- Only the bathrooms designated on this map are open to the public.

Walking Map



HOUSES, MONUMENT & CHURCH

- Starting Point
- 1 2704 N. Sacramento Avenue
- 2 2642 N. Francisco Avenue
- 3 2856 W. Logan Boulevard
- 4 2843 W. Logan Boulevard
- 5 2845 W. Logan Boulevard
- 6 2530 N. Richmond Street
- 7 Illinois Centennial Monument
at Logan Square
- 8 Grace United Methodist Church
at 3325 W. Wrightwood Avenue
(Restrooms)
- 9 2556 N. Kimball Avenue

GARDENS

- A 3024 W. Logan Boulevard
- B 2634 N. Whipple Street
- C 2639 N. Whipple Street
- D 2624 N. Richmond Street
- E 2448 N. Washtenaw Avenue
- F 2445 N. Washtenaw Avenue
- G 2843 W. Logan Boulevard
- H 2845 W. Logan Boulevard
- I 2950 W. Logan Boulevard
- J 2956 W. Logan Boulevard
- K 2533 N. Sacramento Avenue (Refreshments)
- L 2507 N. Sacramento Avenue
- M 3255 W. Altgeld (Restrooms/Refreshments)
- N 2432 N. Spaulding Avenue
- O 2434 N. Spaulding Avenue
- P 2556 N. Kimball Avenue
- Q 2554 N. Bernard Street