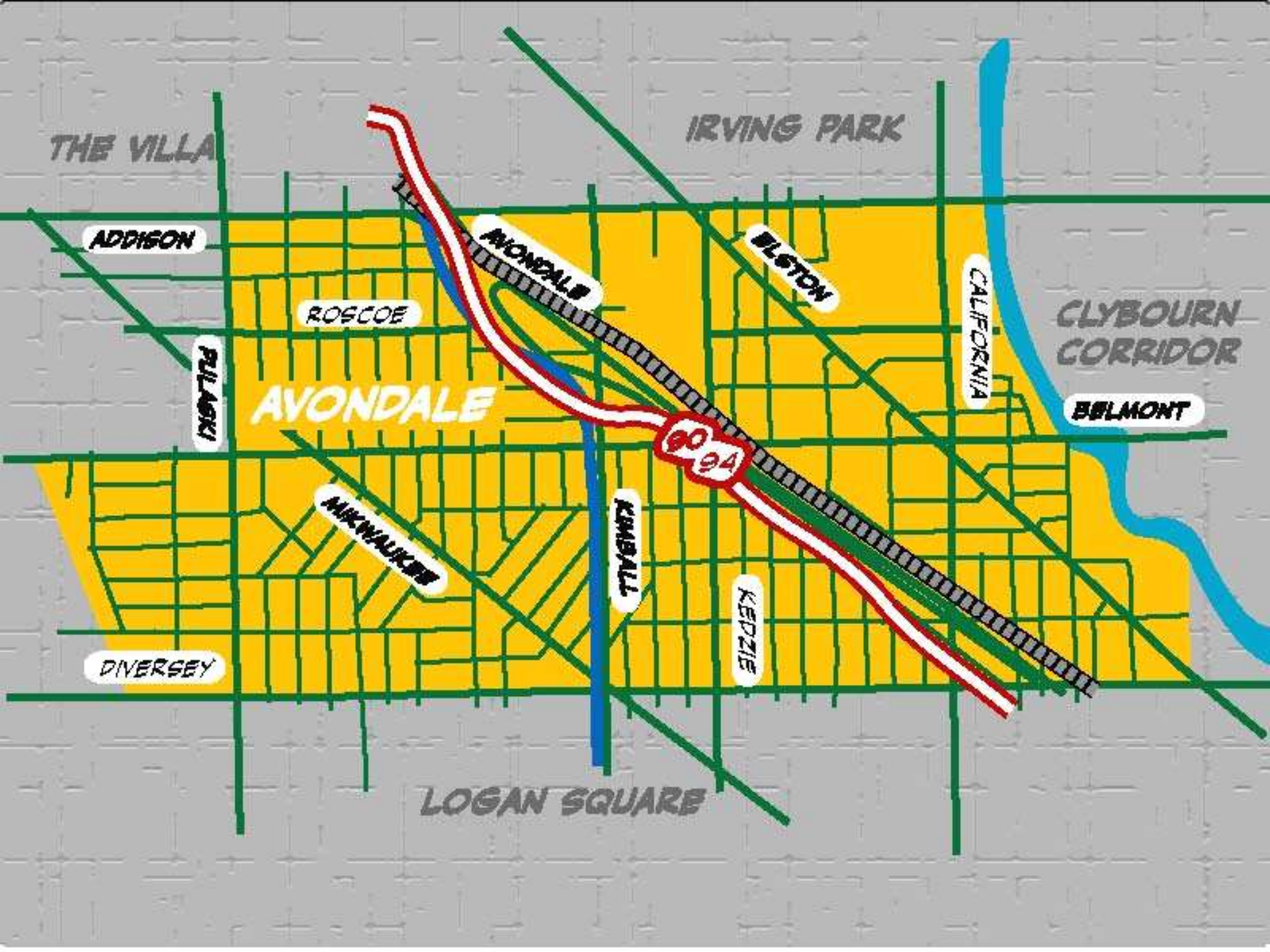


Avondale Bike Tour

Sunday August 31, 2008





Our Route

The map displays a route through the Chicago area, starting from the northwest and heading southeast. The route is marked with a black line and numbered 1 through 12. Key streets and landmarks include:

- Starting Area:** W Belmont Ave, N Milwaukee Ave, W Diversey Ave.
- Key Streets:** W Belmont Ave, W Fletcher St, W Barry Ave, W Nelson St, W Wellington Ave, W Oakdale Ave, W George St, W Diversey Ave, W Logan Blvd, W Fullerton Ave, W Belden Ave, W Palmer St.
- Highways:** I-90/94, I-55, Kennedy Exp E, Kennedy Exp W.
- Parks:** California Park, Palmer Square Park, Kosciuszko Park.
- Other Landmarks:** W Addison St, W Eddy St, W Cornelia Ave, W Newport Ave, W Roscoe St, W Belmont Ave, W Fletcher St, W Barry Ave, W Nelson St, W Wellington Ave, W Oakdale Ave, W George St, W Diversey Ave, W Logan Blvd, W Fullerton Ave, W Belden Ave, W Palmer St.

1. Start at Brands Park
2. Hear southeast on Elston towards Belmont
3. Turn right, heading west on Belmont
4. Turn right, heading north on Troy
5. Turn right, heading east on School
6. Turn left, heading north on Whipple
7. Turn right, heading east on Roscoe
8. Turn right, heading southeast on Elston
9. Turn right, heading south on Sacramento
10. Turn left, heading southeast on Nelson
11. Nelson straightens out, continue east on Nelson
12. Turn right, heading south on California
13. Turn right, heading west on Wellington
14. Turn right, heading north on Francisco
15. Turn right, heading east on Barry
16. Turn left, heading north on California
17. Turn right, heading southeast on Elston
18. Turn left, heading north on Washtenaw
19. Turn right, heading east on Belmont
20. Turn right, heading south on Rockwell
21. Turn left, heading southeast on Elston
22. Turn right, heading west on Diversey
23. Turn right, heading north on Kedzie
24. Turn left, heading west on Wellington
25. Turn left, heading south on Sawyer
26. Turn right, heading west on George
27. Turn left, heading south on Christiana
28. Turn right heading west on Diversey
29. Turn right, heading northwest on Milwaukee
30. Turn right heading northeast on Wisner

31. Turn left heading north on Kimball
 32. Turn right, heading east on Barry
 33. Turn left, heading north on Spaulding
 34. Turn left, heading west on Belmont
 35. Turn left, heading south on Kimball
 36. Turn right, heading west on Barry
 37. Quickly turn left, heading southwest onto Gresham
 38. Turn left, in the alley before Milwaukee
 39. Turn right in the street access alley onto Milwaukee
 40. Turn right, heading north on Ridgeway
 41. Turn right, heading east on Roscoe
 42. Turn left, heading north on Monticello
 43. Turn left heading west on Cornelia
 44. Turn right, heading north on Pulaski
 45. Turn right, heading east on Eddy
 46. Turn right, heading south on Springfield
 47. Turn right, heading west on Cornelia
 48. Turn left, heading south on Pulaski
 49. Turn right, heading west on School
 50. Turn left, heading south on Kildare
 51. Turn left, heading east on Belmont
 52. Turn right, heading south on Pulaski
 53. Turn left, heading east on Diversey
 54. Turn left, heading north on Avers
 55. Turn right, heading southeast on Milwaukee
 56. Turn right, heading south on Central Park
 57. Turn right, heading west on George
- Finis.

Avondale is the name of both the community area and neighborhood we are in. Within Avondale are several neighborhoods which we will talk about as we go through them. Others, like Logan Square have intruded into the community area and/or neighborhood of Avondale, depending in some cases on who you ask. The goal of the tour is to explore the interesting elements of the neighborhood's architecture. In doing so, we'll pick up a more complete picture of the people and events in history that culminate in present-day Avondale.

Avondale is Chicago Community Area 21, 6 miles northwest of the Loop. The name Avondale comes from a town in the Shetland Islands, an archipelago off the northern edge of Scotland. The boundaries are the west side of the Chicago river on the east, the Soo Railroad line on the west, Diversey on the south and Addison to our North. The southern border of Avondale marks the northern border of Logan Square, and as mentioned, the neighborhood of Logan Square stretches north into the southern boundary of Avondale. To the west is Hermosa, to the northwest and north lies Irving Park, and on the east side of the Chicago river is North Center. We will bike over the entire area and learn as we go more about how the community was formed and what those before us left behind.



Brand's Park
3259 N Elston Ave

We are going to start our tour from where we stand, here in Brand's Park. Brand's Park is named after the German-American family that once owned this land. It was long a place where families picnicked and in 1917, the residents of this neighborhood petitioned the River Park District to buy this land and make a park. It took over 10 years to negotiate the purchase of the land and the first set of improvements didn't begin in earnest until 1928. In 1934, the formation of the Chicago Park District consolidated 22 independent park districts into a single city-wide entity. Four years later, Clarence Hatzfeld, was brought in to redesign and enlarge the existing field house. Hatzfeld is one of my favorite architects and one of the most important members of the Prairie School. His work can be viewed throughout the city, and he in particular designed numerous impressive field houses for the park district.



Of course that was not this building. It was torn down in the mid-70s and replaced with....this. Here it is. Nonetheless, it boasts some green space for us to start our tour. Avondale actually has a decent amount of green space, but it is in lots of small clusters and mini-parks.

The Huening
2855 W Belmont Ave

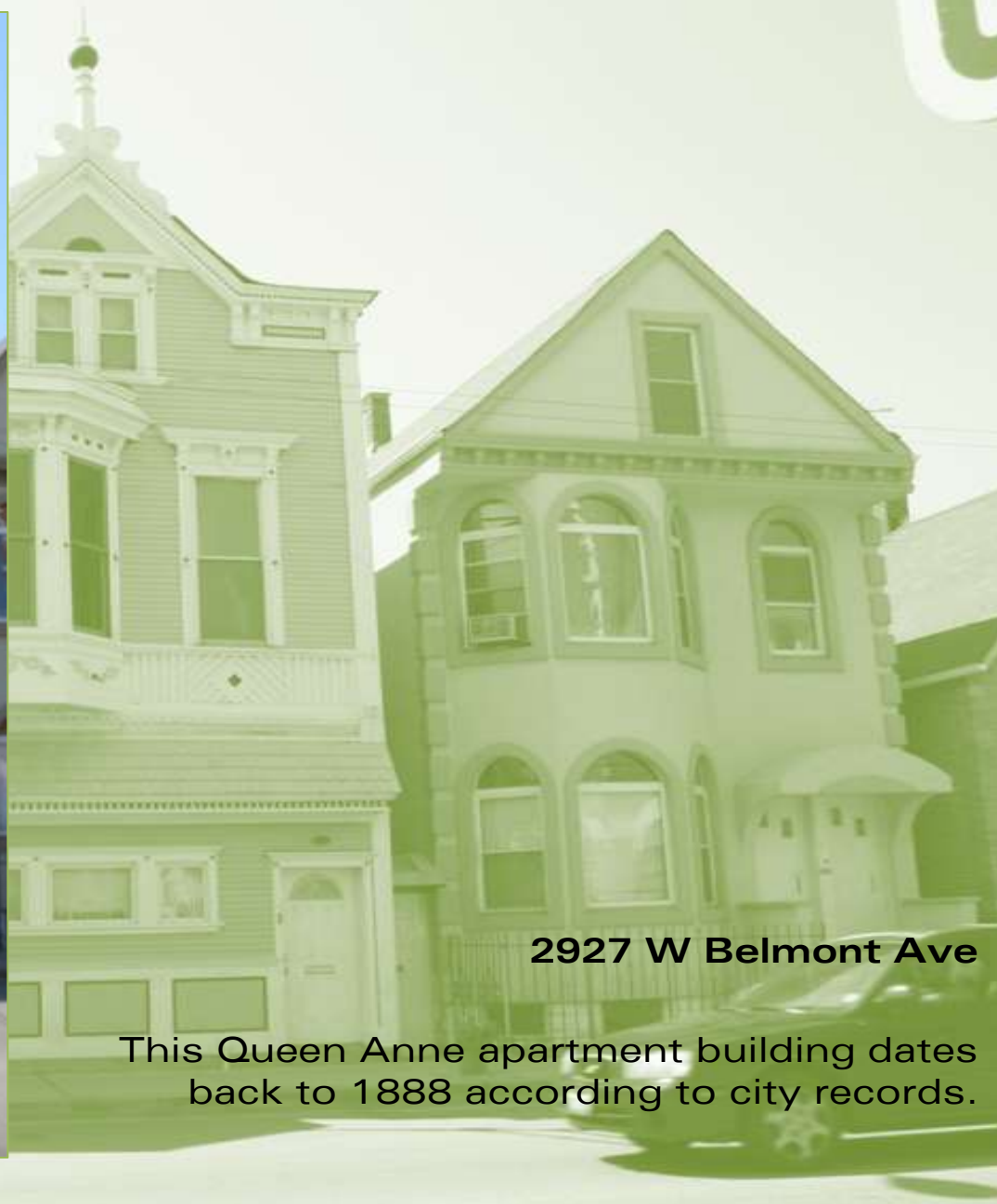
Built in 1895, this Queen Anne style building also displays some Romanesque and classical elements.



Moonlighter's Lounge **2900 W Belmont Ave**

This Classical style store with apartments above was built in 1901. Currently, the first floor is occupied by Kuma's Korner, which used to have the most yummy veggie burgers, but not so much anymore. Meat eaters can still find some creative burgers named after metal bands with the same bands accompanying your meal on the speakers.





2927 W Belmont Ave

This Queen Anne apartment building dates back to 1888 according to city records.

Belmont and Troy

In 1873, they build a post-office at this exact corner to be serviced directly by the stop at that intersection for the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific line, which is presently referred to as the Soo Line. Soon after in 1889, the city would annex the area along with Jefferson, Montrose and a large section of what was once suburbs and towns on the Northwest border of Chicago.



**Snapped heading up Belmont
towards Troy. Lots of bikers.
Yay!**



**Concordia Avondale Campus
Formerly St. Veronica's Church
3059 W School St and 3300 N Whipple**

This campus currently houses Concordia Avondale Campus, a childcare provider with a sliding scale utilized to accept all income levels. They purchased the facilities in 2001 after it had sat vacant for a number of years. The Rectory at 3300 N Whipple St was designed by Henry J. Schlacks an architect and ecclesiologist who designed scores of churches for the Chicago Archdiocese including St. Mary of the Lake in Uptown, St. Ignatius in Rogers Park and St. Anthony's in Bridgeport. This one was done in his typical Gothic style.



**Concordia Avondale Campus
Formerly St. Veronica's Rectory
and New Building**

**Former St. Veronica's School,
now part of Concordia Avondale
Campus and a lovely mission
directive to all that enter.**





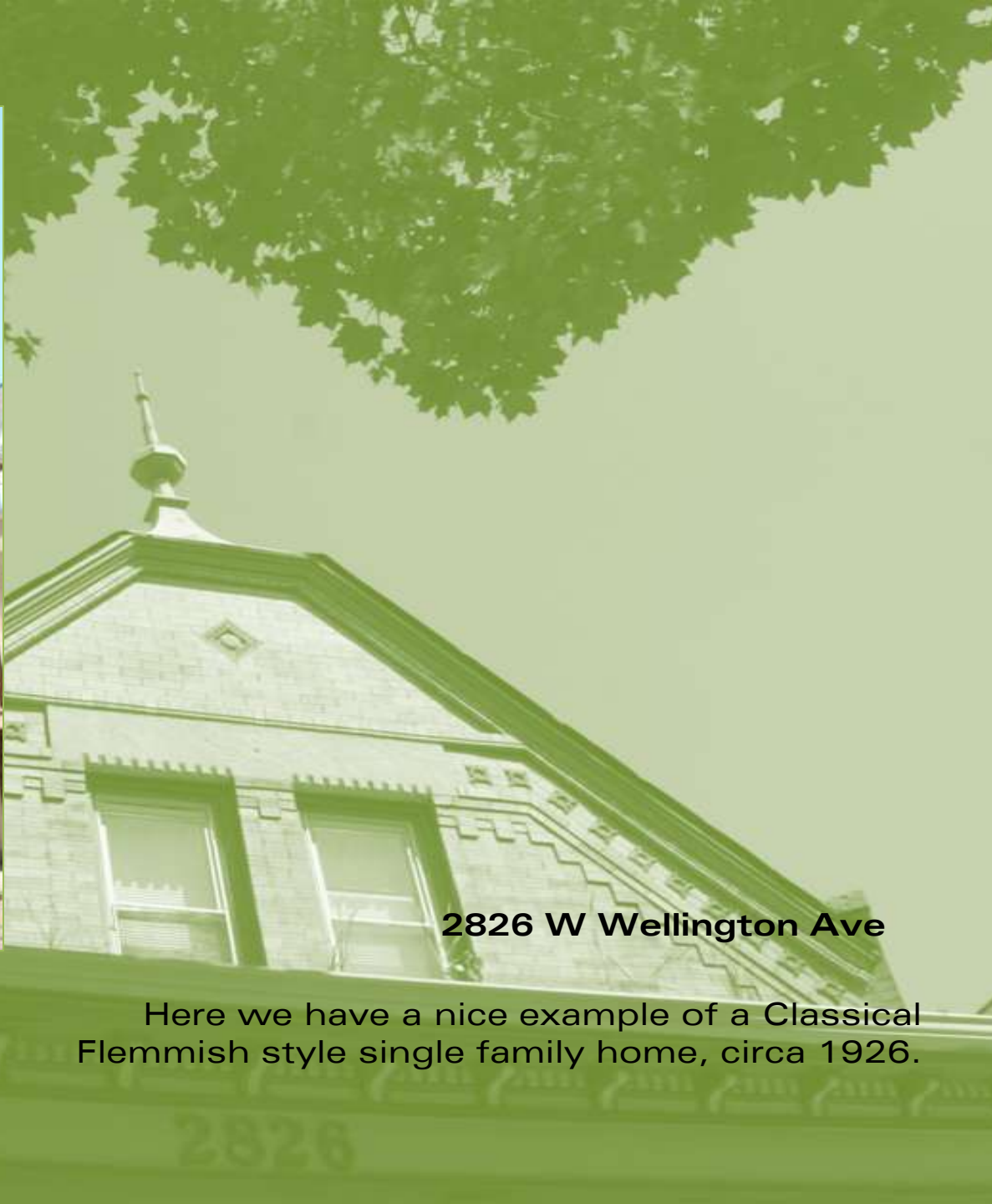
**Carl von Linné
Elementary School
3221 N Sacramento Ave**

This school is named for
a Swedish botanist,
zoologist and physician
considered to be the
father of modern
taxonomy and his system
for categorizing plants
and animals is still the
standard system used
today.

Resurrection Catholic Church 2840 W Nelson St

In 1901, they began construction on the Albert J. Fischer designed Gothic and Flemish Church. This style, brought here by those that settled in this pocket has a nice example coming up at our next stop.





2826 W Wellington Ave

Here we have a nice example of a Classical Flemish style single family home, circa 1926.

Resurrection Church 3035 N Francisco Ave

Historically, this was all part of St. Francis Xavier Parish. This Gothic revival building was designed by Hermann J. Gaul and began construction in 1926. It is currently occupied by the Resurrection Church. Further up, we have the building that was the school. It is built in a style that could be described as Classical meets Prairie.





UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
CARLOS FUENTES CAMPUS

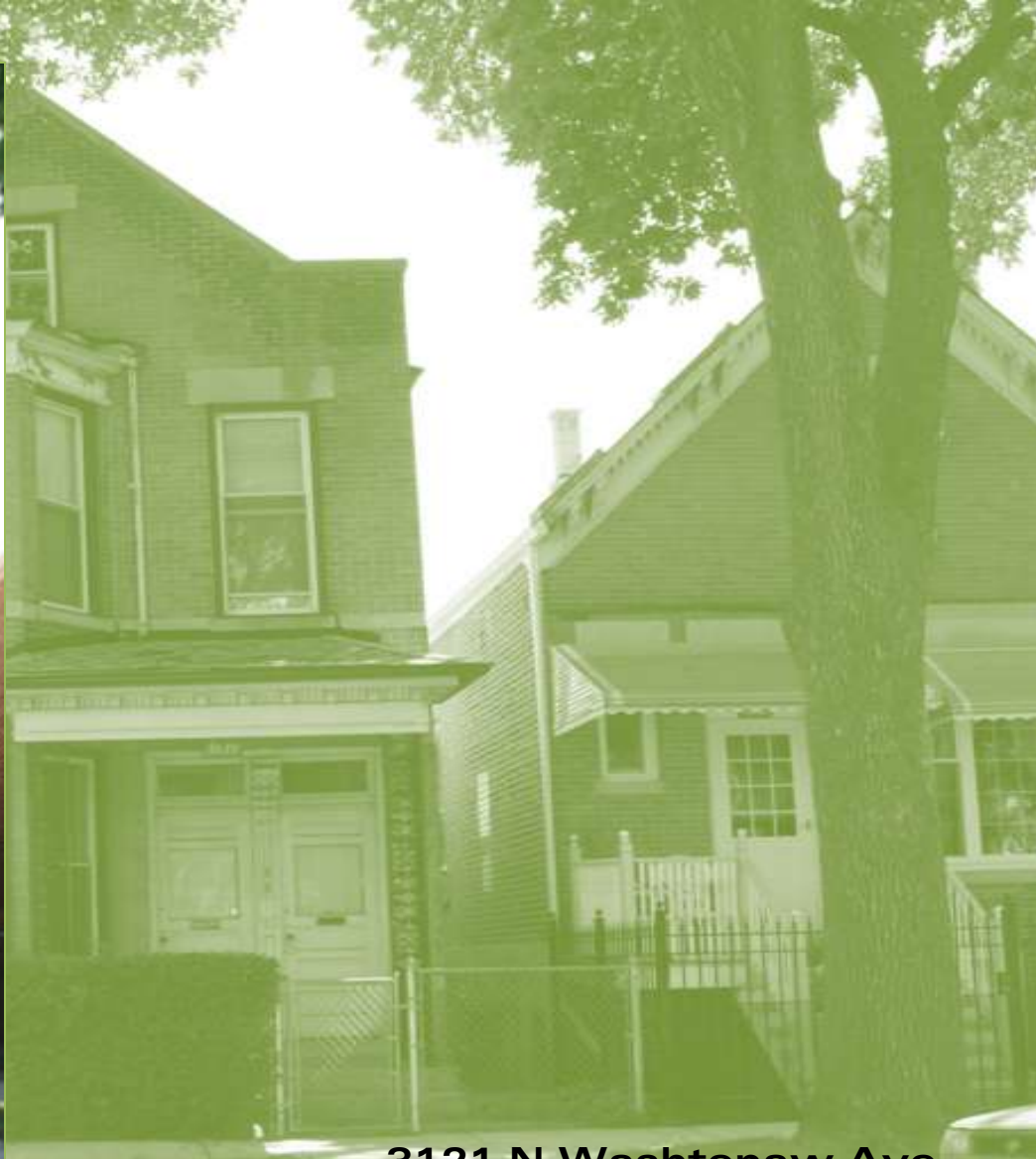
**Carlos Fuentes Charter School
2845 W Barry**

This building was also originally part of the of St. Francis Xavier Parish.
Today it is home to the Carlos Fuentes Charter School.



3117 N Washtenaw Ave

This apartment built in 1901 looks very similar to the Italianate brick workers cottages found in West Town, Lincoln Park and Pilsen.



3121 N Washtenaw Ave

A Gothic inspired brick flat from around 1895
according to city records.



**Grebe Ship Yard
3250 N Washtenaw Ave**

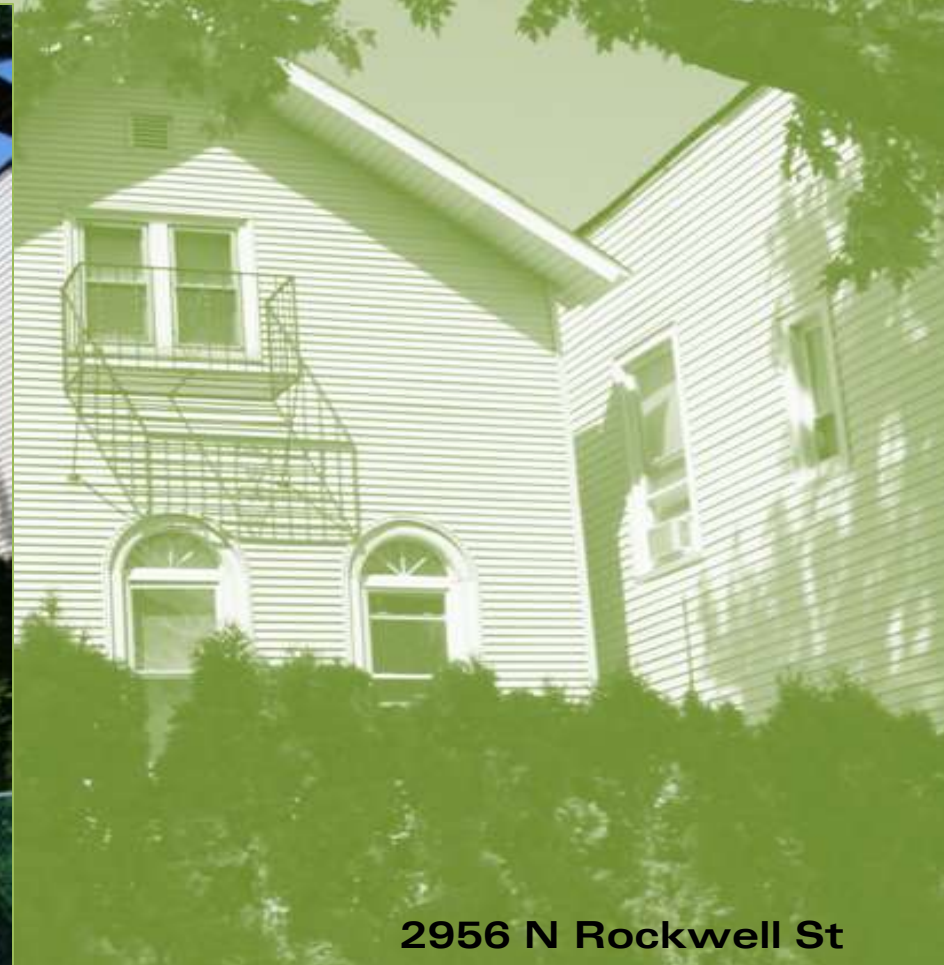
Avondale developed first as a town of workers, then as a neighborhood of workers. The proximity to rail transport, the various incarnations of the plank roads, then paved roads, the street car routes and roads along present-day Milwaukee and Elston Avenues, and the rich clay deposits along the river banks all created a perfect environment to attract industry. We will see some remnants of this as we turn right at Rockwell to ride south to Diversey, the condos on the northeast side of the intersection of Belmont and Washtenaw are now all modern condos.

This is the former site of the Grebe Shipyard, which was a builder of luxury yachts in peace and war ships and minesweepers during WWII. Like a lot of the area along the river, it has been torn down and replaced with condominiums and townhomes. Just across the river in the neighboring community area of North Center used to be an amusement park called "Riverview Park".

Concordia Evangelical Church
2651 W Belmont Ave

The church is in the process of renovating the exterior of their 1895 built Gothic and Romanesque church.





2956 N Rockwell St

These Italianate apartments are amongst the oldest of buildings in the area. According to the Cook County Assessor's records, the build year for this building is 1878.



Elston and Milwaukee – the Old Plank Roads

Prior to 1848, Avondale was all prairie. Along present day Milwaukee Avenue was a meandering trail used by Native Americans which was straightened in 1848 and lined with planks. For a time it was known as Old Plank Road or the Northwest Plank Road or a variation of those. It was also referred to as the Upper Toll Road. Elston, referred to as Lower Toll Road was also a plank road and both were toll roads. It is the location of Avondale between these key arteries as well as its proximity to the river, the clay deposits along the river banks and the rail lines that were brought into the area by developers. At first the plank roads seemed like heaven to travelers. But the stress of weathering under the sun and elements combined with the frequent use and heavy loads would cause the planks to split and warp and made travel very difficult.

After the city annexed the giant swath of property including Avondale in 1889, the road was hard-surfaced. Eventually electric street railway lines worked both former plank roads, all contributing to all the areas along the route having enduring popularity because of their convenience to the city. By 1920 the population was over 35,000 and by 1930 it had swelled to nearly 50,000.



**Fredrick Cooper Lamp Factory.
2545 W Diversey**

Frederick Cooper was a lamp maker that established a studio in Chicago in 1923. The company is still around today but closed this factory in 2005. The Frederick Cooper Lamp factory was actually originally built for Vassar Swiss Underwear Company, not Frederick Cooper Inc. They only bought the building in 1967, and thereafter it was called the Frederick Cooper Lamp Company Building. It is currently under construction for a building to be known as Green Exchange, which the developer describes as a “green type of Merchandise Mart”. More information can be seen on their website at <http://www.greenexchange.com/>.



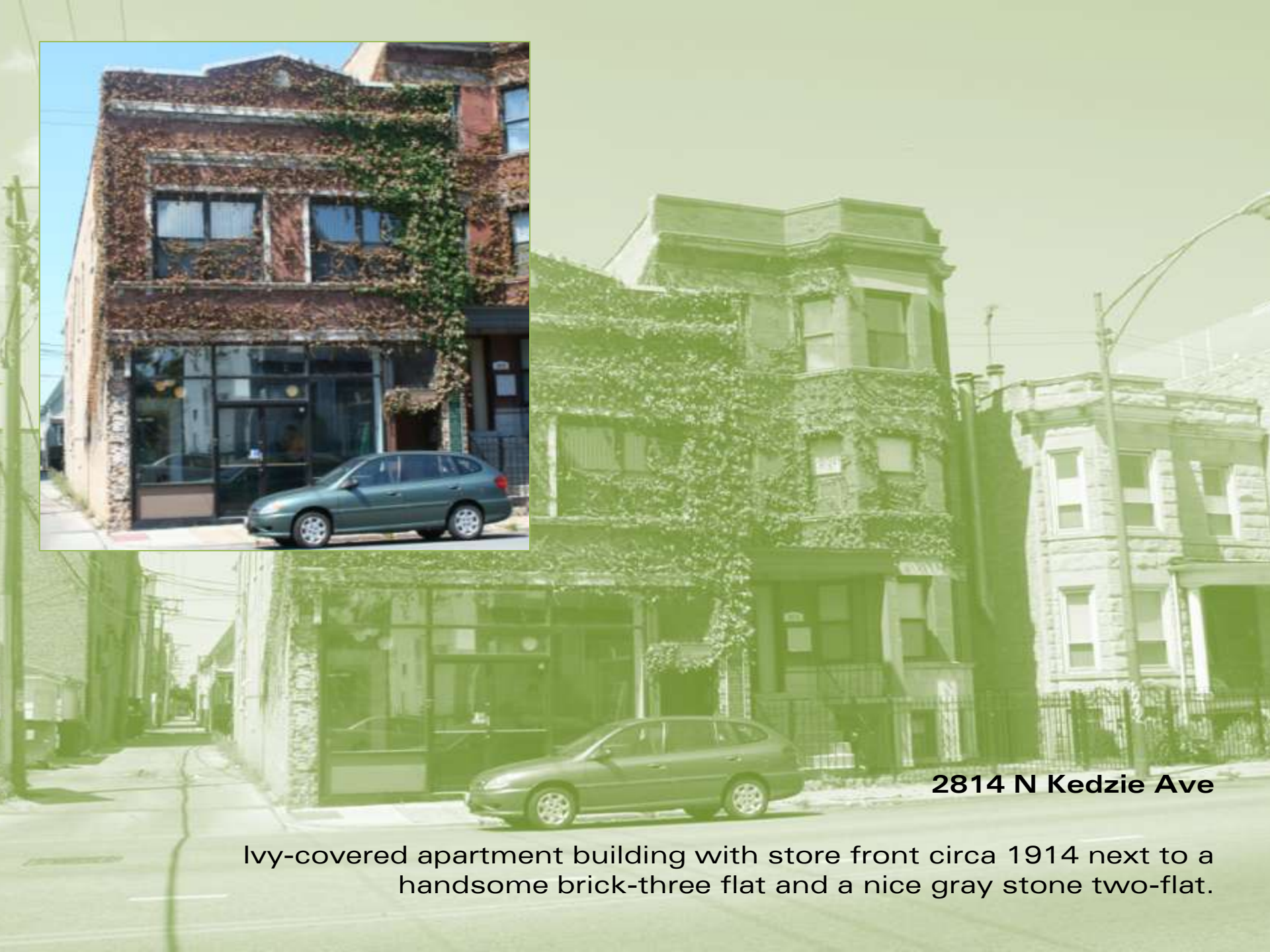
3048 W Diversey Ave

This was originally a single family residence
Queen Anne home circa 1890.

3200 W Diversey Ave

Apartment building with store
front from 1906.





2814 N Kedzie Ave

Ivy-covered apartment building with store front circa 1914 next to a handsome brick-three flat and a nice gray stone two-flat.



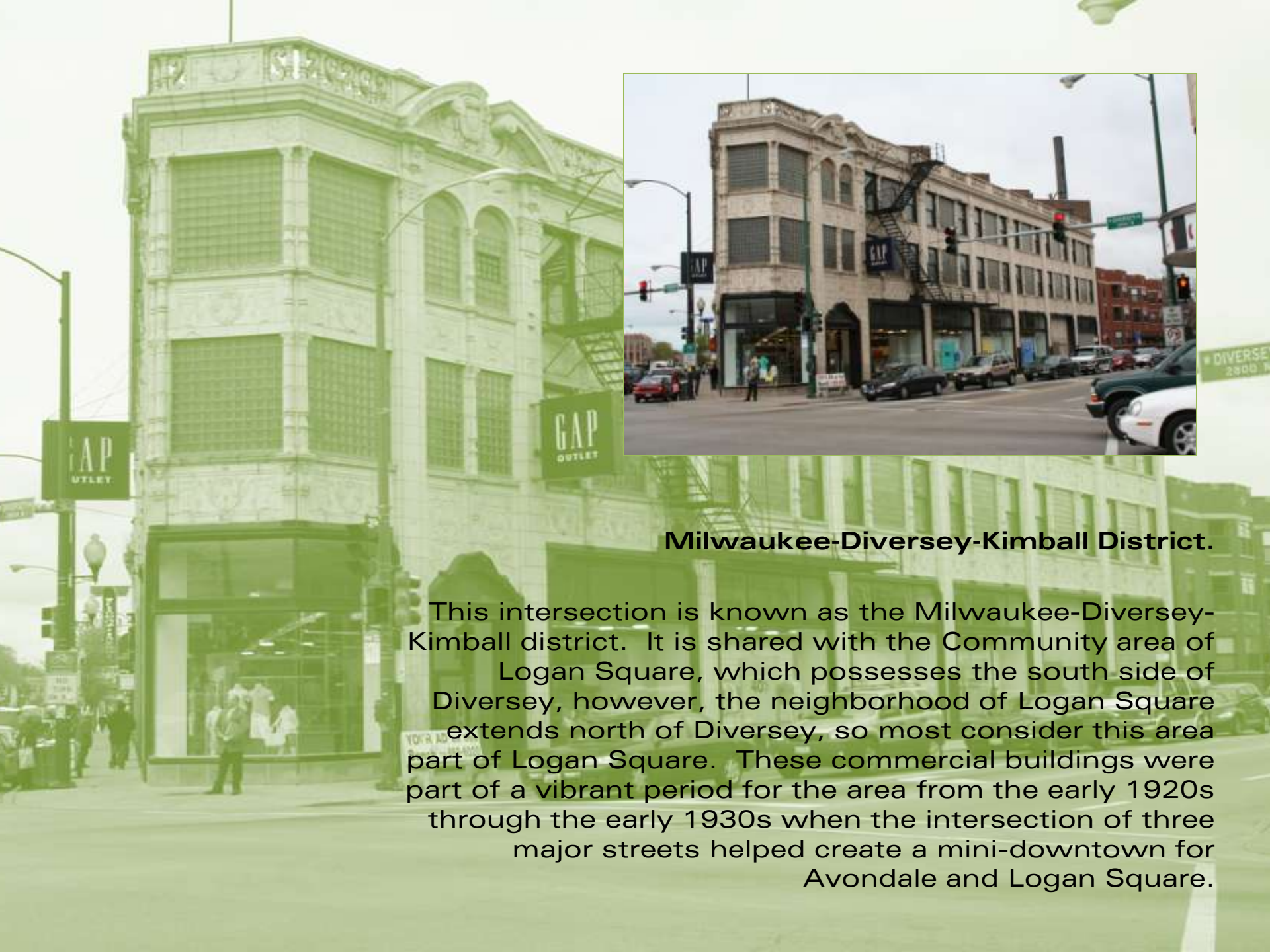
Avondale School
2927 N Sawyer Ave

Designed in 1895 by Chicago architect, August Fiedler in a Gothic/Romanesque style, Avondale School is currently an elementary school. Fiedler built numerous schools for the CPS including Goethe in Logan Square, Komensky and Pickard on the Lower West Side. Nonetheless, Fiedler was actually more well known for his interior design than he was for his full-building architecture.

The best known surviving work of his interior work is the Hegeler-Carus Mansion in LaSalle, Illinois, which became a National Landmark last year as well as working on the Glessner House, another National Landmark in Chicago at 1800 South Prairie in the Prairie Avenue Historic District.



Avondale School
2927 N Sawyer Ave



Milwaukee-Diversey-Kimball District.

This intersection is known as the Milwaukee-Diversey-Kimball district. It is shared with the Community area of Logan Square, which possesses the south side of Diversey, however, the neighborhood of Logan Square extends north of Diversey, so most consider this area part of Logan Square. These commercial buildings were part of a vibrant period for the area from the early 1920s through the early 1930s when the intersection of three major streets helped create a mini-downtown for Avondale and Logan Square.

Some of the best known names in Chicago and U.S. retail history like Woolworth, Goldblatt's and S.S. Kresge built and occupied these buildings with an impressive array of styles, designs and materials.

Many showed off the masonry construction excellence of the materials and builders in the area and made magnificent use of terra cotta, a very popular look for the era. Today, these buildings are known by the names of modern retail like The Gap, Foot Locker, Payless Shoes.

Sigh.





**Morris B Sachs Building
2800 N Milwaukee Ave**

In particular, the Morris B. Sachs building is clearly on the Avondale side of the street. This Art Deco building began construction in 1930, completed in 1932 designed by Leichenko and Esser, noted Art Deco architects in Chicago since the 1910s. Save for the Payless, The Sachs Building has been completely vacant for over 20 years and the source of much debate and controversy in the neighborhood. The most recent information I have heard is that it is moving forward as a development for low-income housing and artist's lofts, though the number of units or breakdown of space is still being debated.



2934 N Wisner Ave

This old barn probably dates to the 1880s. An odd survivor for the city.

Our Lady of Fatima Mission
3051 N Christiana Ave

This mission was constructed in 1956 by
St. Hyacinth parish. It is the current home
of Blue Army North.



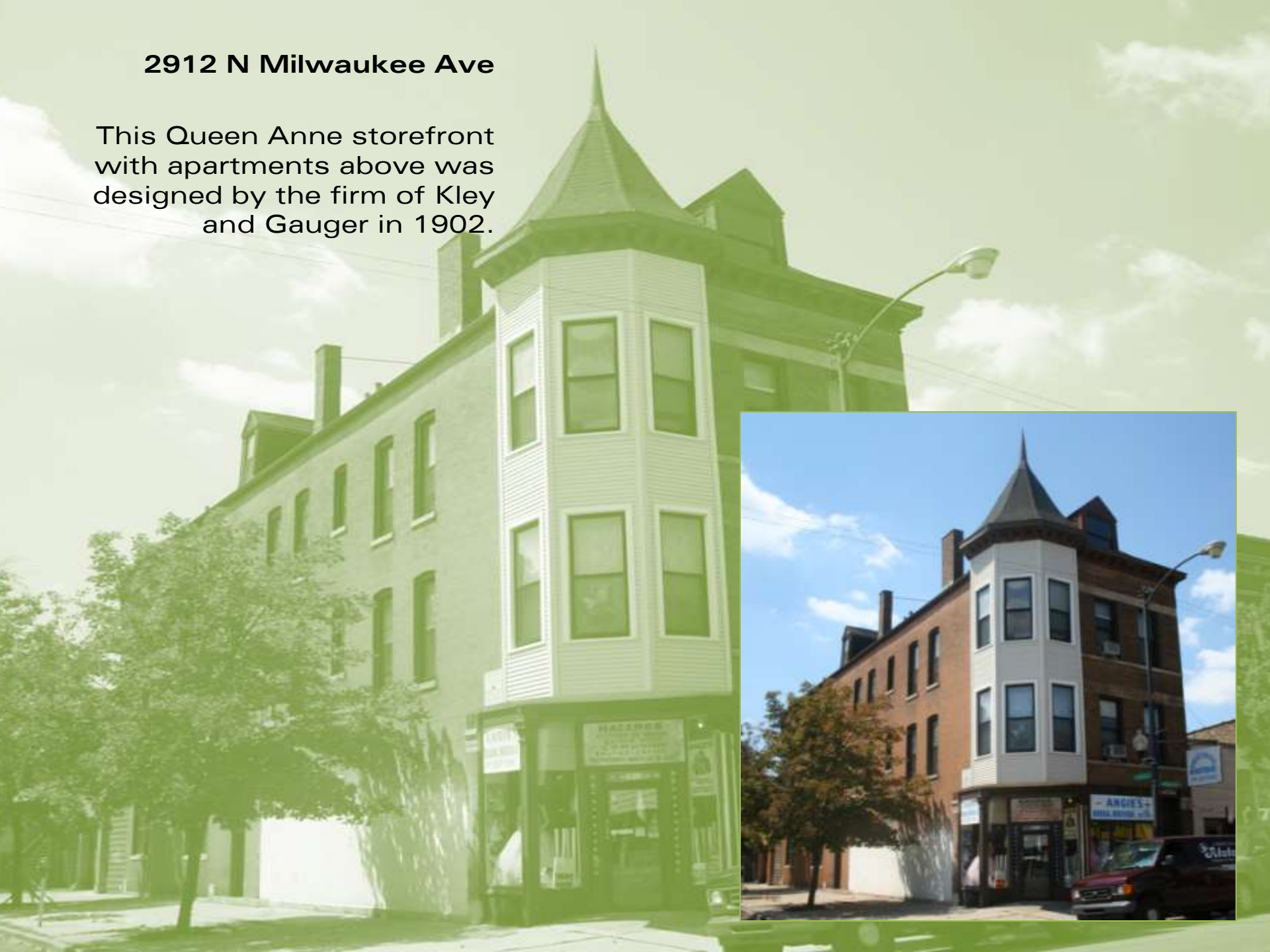
2958 N Gresham Ave

Gothic, circa 1903



2912 N Milwaukee Ave

This Queen Anne storefront with apartments above was designed by the firm of Kley and Gauger in 1902.



2934-2954 N Milwaukee Ave

This 5th/3rd bank location was designed by Henry Newhouse in 1916, completed the following year. Built in his typical Art Nouveau style, Newhouse was a prolific designer of many different types of buildings, but he is perhaps best known as the designer of many Chicago area movie palaces. The best known surviving example would be the Portage Theater on Milwaukee Avenue in Portage Park. He is also the designer of many civic buildings, synagogues and homes, including the Chicago landmark the Elam House at 4726 S. Martin Luther King Jr.





Waclawowo

Pronounced Vatswa-vovo, this neighborhood derives its name from its local parish, St. Wenceslaus. It sits immediately north of the neighborhood of Jackowo.



St. Wenceslaus
3644 W Roscoe St

There are two massive churches in Avondale that dominate its skyline and can be seen from the Kennedy expressway, and looking west out from the city, St. Hyacinth where we will end our tour, and this church, St. Wenceslaus. St. Wenceslaus was actually a church formed to accept the overflow of the very popular parish of St. Hyacinth.



This church began work in 1940. The building was designed by the architectural firm of McCarthy, Smith and Eppig, who had previously done extensive work for the Chicago Archdiocese. The church uses bricks most likely made in the neighborhood at the local brick yards along the river. The trim is Indiana limestone and the design is a combination of styles. Overall, it is an Art Deco design and borrows both Byzantine and Romanesque elements.



3908 W Eddy St

This festively painted, if not a bit beleaguered
Queen Anne dates back to 1888.

Jonathan Y Scammon Elementary
4201 W Henderson St.

This is actually the second Jonathan Y. Scammon Elementary. The original school was located on Madison, East of Halsted as School #3, moving to the present location in 1926 with the annex being added in 1996. Scammon was a prominent Chicagoan who amongst other accomplishments was President of the Chicago Board of Education, First Ward alderman, a member of the Illinois legislature, he began two newspapers and he founded a hospital and a school.



**4201 W Belmont Ave
Belmont Home Décor**

This Romanesque styled manufacturing facility was designed in 1921 by the firm of Berlin, Swern and Radcliff,

**Former DeVry Technical Institute
4119 - 4149 W Belmont Ave**

This site currently houses a condo development called the Belmont Lofts, but for years this was a location for DeVry Technical Institute. It was designed by the firm of Olsen and Urbain in 1929 who did a lot of this Gothic inspired Art Deco in the 20s and 30s.





Florsheim Shoe Company Building
3961 W Belmont Ave

Alfred Alschuler designed the Florsheim Shoe Company Building in 1924, completed in 1926 as the headquarters and manufacturing facility for one of Chicago's iconic companies, who at its height, operated five area factories and employed over 2,500 Chicagoans. Alshchuler was an important figure in Chicago architecture. He was very versatile, and while his manufacturing buildings and factories reflected a very direct reflection of their structural frame, he was equally adept at classical styles and a variety of prominent buildings such as Beaux-Arts style of the London Guarantee Building at Michigan and Wacker or the Byzantine style of the K.A.M. Isaiah Israel Synagogue in Hyde Park. Perhaps his most famous piece was the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Building which was demolished in 2003. The Florsheim Shoe Company Building has since been converted into the "Shoemaker Lofts" by local developer Dubin Residential.

**Olson Park and Waterfall
Olson Rug Factory and Headquarters
Corner of Diversey and Pulaski**

Hard to believe, but that ugly parking lot was once considered one of Chicago's Seven Lost Wonders. The building known as the Marshall Field and Company Warehouse to many, this was originally the headquarters of Walter E. Olson's Olson Rug Company factory. This parking lot was an amusement park and waterfall complex that was described by a newspaper at the time as "the most pretentious undertaking of its kind in the country". Bearing in mind that it was built in 1935 during the height of the Great Depression, the man-made 35 foot tall mountain and waterfall constructed with over 200 workers for 6 months, using more than 800 tons of stone and 800 yards of soil, it may have been a bit much for the times.





The Olson Park and Waterfall closed in 1971 and the parking lot is owned by the present day Olson Rug company, and the old factory and headquarters built in 1926 by architect Frank E. Davidson is now owned by Macy's and sits unoccupied.

2821 N Avers Ave

It may be rough around the edges, but this Classical style home dates back all the way to 1906.



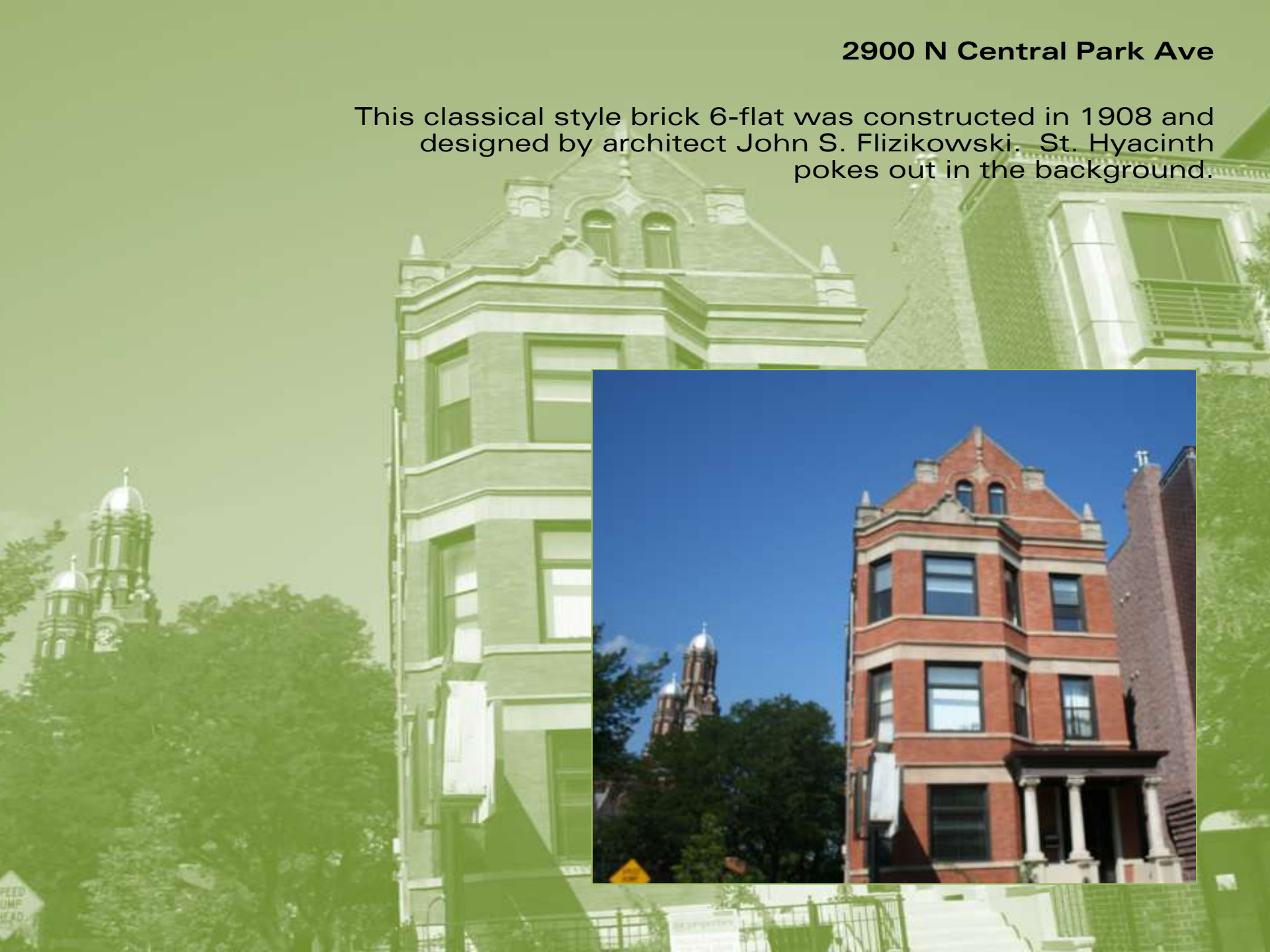
3057 N Avers Ave

A nice example of the ubiquitous Chicago Italianate roof that presents like a classic flat-roof Italianate single family home circa 1885. The affect is achieved by standing in front of the house, though the gabled arch roof is clearly visible on the approach up Avers.



2900 N Central Park Ave

This classical style brick 6-flat was constructed in 1908 and designed by architect John S. Flizikowski. St. Hyacinth pokes out in the background.



Jackowo

The pocket neighborhood we are in at the moment is called Jackowo (Jats-Kovo), which comes from the Polish word for Hyacinth.



St. Hyacinth's Basiclica, Church, and Campus

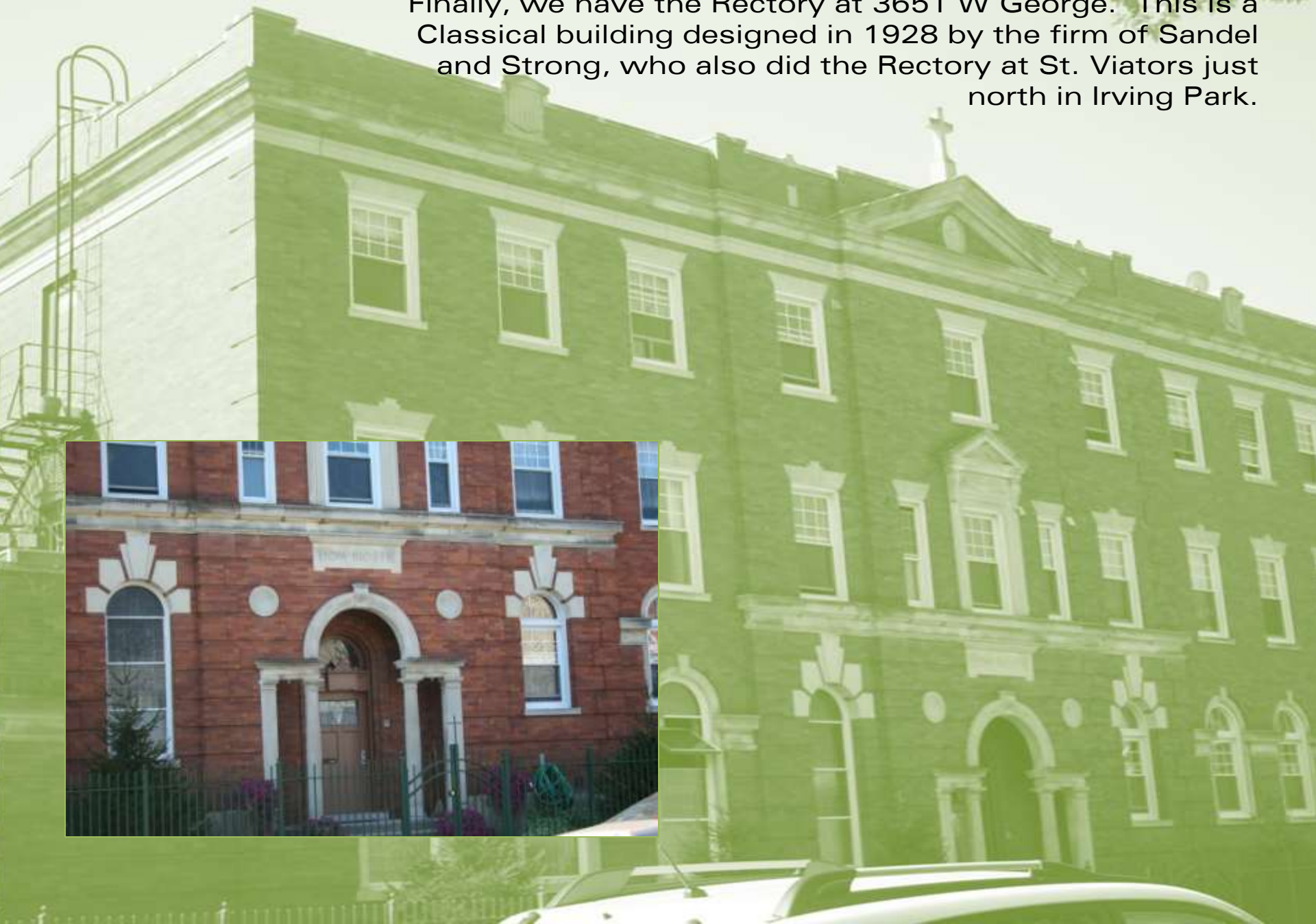
Originally, the parish of St. Hyacinth was located at the corner of Roscoe and Lawndale in a small wooden church. Eventually, the parish grew so large that not only did it occupy the present day campus you see before you, but the parish broke off to form St. Wenceslaus that we visited earlier in the tour, due to overflow.





The campus has several structures, which are noteworthy. At 3625 W George sits the St. Hyacinth War Memorial. Adjacent to the monument is church, designed in a Baroque Revival style by the architectural firm of Worthmann and Steinback in 1917. Worthmann and Steinback were influential and prolific designers of churches since the 1890s. The interior of this church recently underwent a massive restoration by the Wisconsin firm of Conrad Schmitt Studios.

Finally, we have the Rectory at 3651 W George. This is a Classical building designed in 1928 by the firm of Sandel and Strong, who also did the Rectory at St. Viators just north in Irving Park.



That's the end of the tour. I thank you for joining us and hope to see some of you on the last Sunday in October 2008 for the Jefferson Park Bike Tour.

Until then, take care.

