



Irving Park Bike Tour

May 25, 2008

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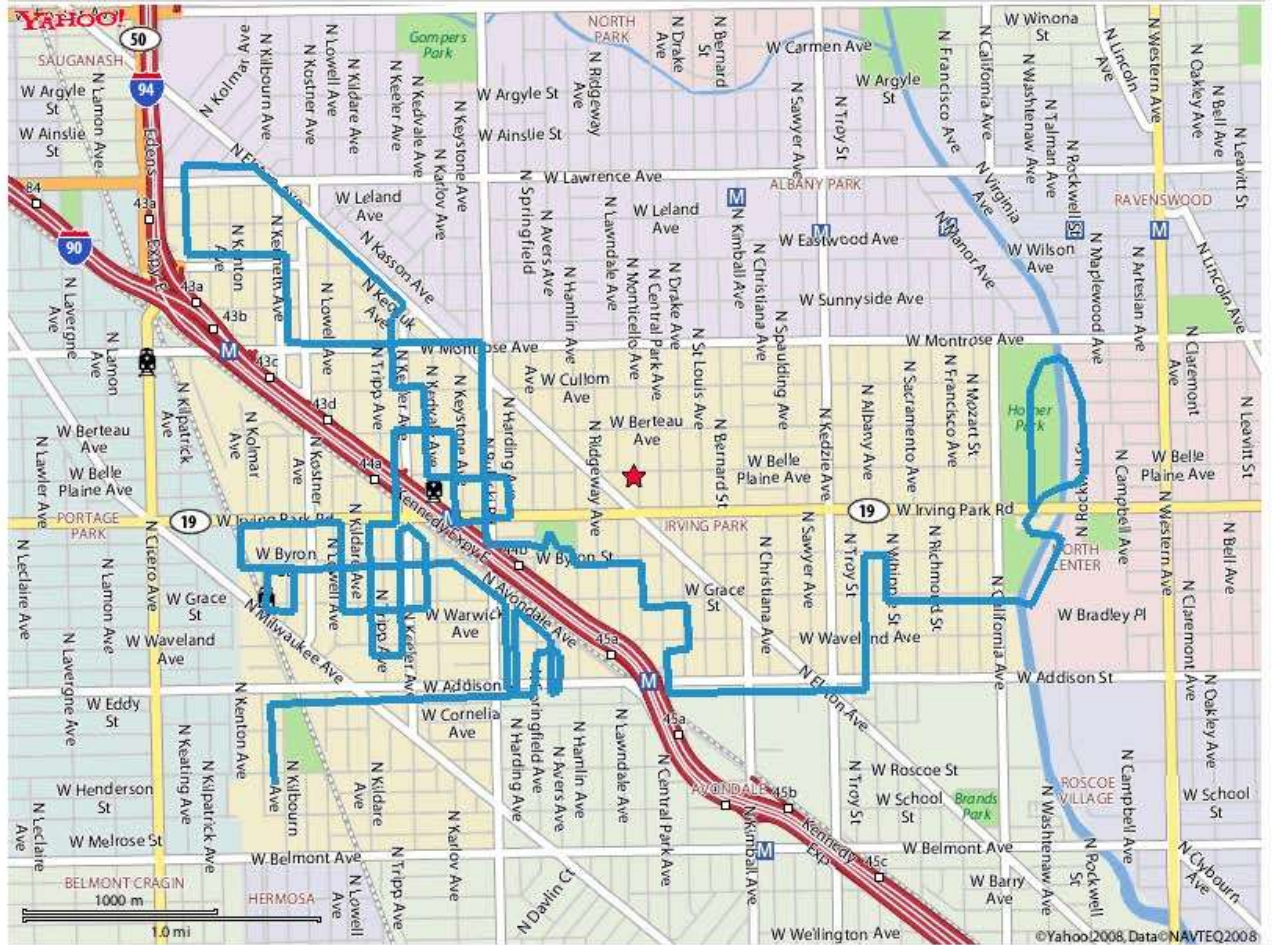
This presentation represents a virtual tour of the Irving Park Community Area in Chicago, IL. We conducted the actual tour via bicycle on Sunday May 25, 2008.

This is an exploration of the built environment and history of this Northwest side community area of Chicago.

Our Route...



Irving Park Bike Tour
Chicago, IL



DISCLAIMER: MapMyFitness.com and the author of this route make no warranties as to the conditions, safety, distance accuracy, or suitability for walking, running, or cycling of this route. Walk, Run, or Ride at your own risk!

Take the Tour!

Turn by turn directions

1. From the entrance of the park, head north in a loop all the way around back to the entrance.
2. Cross Irving Park road and enter the trail behind the Wheelchair Softball Field and around California Park
3. Exit onto Irving Park Road headed north towards Grace.
4. Turn left, heading west on Grace.
5. Turn right, heading north on Albany
6. Turn left, heading west on Byron,
7. Turn left, heading south on Troy
8. Turn right, heading west on Addison
9. Just before the highway, right after Drake, turn right onto the sidewalk to the west of Athletic Field Park exiting onto Central Park.
10. Head north on Central Park
11. Turn right, heading east on Waveland
12. Turn left, heading north on Monticello
13. Turn left, heading west on Grace
14. Turn right, heading north on Hamlin, immediately entering the bike trail going North through Independence Park. Continue until the loop passes the field house, exiting at the gate and continuing west onto Drake
15. Turn right, heading north onto Pulaski.
16. Turn left, heading west on Irving Park Road
17. Turn right heading north on Keystone
18. Turn right heading east on Belle Plaine, crossing Pulaski.
19. Turn right, heading south on Harding
20. Turn right, heading west on Irving Park
21. Turn right, heading north on Pulaski
22. Turn left, heading west on Montrose
23. Turn right, heading north on Kostner
24. Turn left, heading west on Wilson
25. Turn right, heading north on Knox
26. Turn right heading east on Lawrence
27. Turn right heading southeast on Elston
28. Turn right heading south on Keeler, crossing Montrose
29. Turn left, heading east on Culom
30. Turn right, heading south on Kedvale
31. Turn left, heading east on Belle Plaine
32. Turn left, heading north on Keystone
33. Turn left, heading west on Berteau
34. Turn left, heading south on Keeler
35. Turn right, heading west on Irving Park
36. Turn left, heading south on Trip
37. Turn left, heading east on Waveland
38. Turn left, heading north on Keeler
39. Turn right, heading west on Irving Park
40. Turn right heading southeast on Avondale
41. Turn right, heading south on Kedvale
42. Turn right, heading west on Grace
43. Turn right, heading north on Kildare
44. Turn left, heading west on Irving park
45. Turn left, heading south on Kilbourn
46. Turn left, heading west on Byron
47. Turn right, heading south on Kostner
48. Turn right, heading west on Grace
49. Turn right, heading north on Kenneth
50. Turn right, heading west on Byron
51. Turn right, heading southeast on Avondale, past Pulaski
52. Turn right heading south on Harding, taking a left and crossing the sidewalk to a u-turn back up Harding
53. Turn right, heading southeast on Avondale
54. Turn right, heading south on Avers, taking a left and crossing the sidewalk to a u-turn back up Avers
55. Turn left, heading west on Waveland
56. Turn left, heading south on Springfield
57. Turn right, heading west on Addison
58. Turn left, heading south on Kilbourn.

The end.

Irving Park

Community Area #16



Irving Park Community Area #16



Irving Park is designated Chicago Community Area number 16. It sits 7 miles northwest of the Loop and is serviced by the Blue Line and numerous bus lines, as well as access straight onto I90 at Addison and Irving Park. We are bounded on the East by the Chicago River and the Community Area of North Center, the Milwaukee Train lines and Portage Park to the West, Addison, and at points Belmont along with Community Area of Avondale and neighborhood of Kilbourn Park to the South, and Montrose, and at points Lawrence and the Community Area of Albany Park to our North.

In 1833, prior to becoming part of the city, Irving Park was a suburb that did not fall subject to the post-Great Fire Chicago building laws that outlawed frame construction structures. Lots were subdivided larger than city lots and as a result, the area soon attracted many wealthy residents looking for a nearby suburb to Chicago. Development boomed prior to the annexation by Chicago in 1889, but the population exploded and building and development accelerated after the area joined the city. Soon the area attracted citizens of varying economic backgrounds as rental homes and more modest homes shared the blocks with stately mansions. Between 1895 and 1914 more than 5,000 new buildings, including 1,400 multifamily buildings were erected in Irving Park.

Horner Park and California Park

We are currently standing in Horner Park. We are going to bike around the park, exit onto Irving Park Road, and go across the street into California Park and the Wheelchair Softball Field, built with contributions from the Chicago Cubs. Horner Park is over 50 acres, making it one of the largest parks on the North side of Chicago. There are a wide variety of sports leagues that use the facilities, as well as playgrounds, recreation activities and courses. This park is named in honor of Henry Horner, the first Jewish governor of Illinois.



Grover Cleveland Elementary School - 3850 N Albany Avenue



Built in 1910 by Dwight H Perkins, then the architect for the Chicago Board of Education. Perkins has several buildings on the historic register. He was later the architect for the state of Illinois and is considered one of the original Prairie architects. This bold massing is offset with a textured brick border that traces around the building and accents groupings of windows and building sections. It is sort of the reference point for other multi-unit buildings in the area that repeat that idea in their building facades. *(Top and middle left pictures)*



Athletic Field Park - 3546 W Addison Street

This park is very simply named for its intended purpose. The Spanish-Revival field house was built by Clarence Hatzfield, who designed the Portage Park field houses, and several of the buildings we will see on this tour. Hatzfield and Perkins are both well represented on this tour and they factor greatly into the built environment of Chicago, each responsible for many iconic and classic buildings throughout the city. *(Three pictures below)*



Independence Park Neighborhood

John B Murphy School - 3539 W Grace Street

John P Murphy was a noted surgeon from Appleton, Wisconsin. For years, he was the head of surgery for Mercy Hospital, but he is more noteworthy for the large number of innovations he brought to the hospital, creating a facility of world renown. Later he also instructed at Rush and had a second career educating other surgeons.

Independence Park Bungalow Project - 3900 N Hamlin Avenue

This Independence Park Bungalow was built in 1920 by architects Benedict Bruns and Carl Beherns and the Carl Clausen Construction Company. It is a marvelous Arts and Crafts bungalow first owned by John Coppersmith, sold to Henry and Ella Dick in 1924, who in turn sold it to the Irving Park District in 1929, where it existed as a building for women's activities for many years, and in fact became known as "The Woman's Building". It is the only city-owned bungalow, specifically property of the Chicago Park District. The house has had over 75 years of continued use and the goal of the city, and the Independence Park Bungalow Renovation Project is to raise money for completely green renovation of the building. The goal is to do a combination restoration and sustainable, self-sufficient alteration.

Independence Park - 3945 N Springfield Avenue

At one time, the largest park in the community area, Independence Park was long one of the most well manicured park of the Irving Park District, which at a time operated 8 parks. Independence Park used to host massive Fourth of July fireworks celebrations and was the kick-off point for an Independence Day parade that went down the boulevard portions of Irving Park. The park was named in honor of the traditions held there even before it was a designated park site. The field house was constructed in 1914 by Hatzfeld and Knox, who also constructed many of the homes in the Villa, as well as the field house in Kilbourn Park, and throughout much of Chicago's parks.



John B. Murphy School – Top
Picture Independence Park
with view of Independence
Park Bungalow in distance –
Middle Picture Clarence
Hatzfeld's field house in
Independence Park Bottom
Picture

Pictures clockwise from top.

John Monk House – 4016 Belle Plaine Avenue

A beautiful Queen Anne Victorian from the 1880s.

4025 N Pulaski Road

Very unique Art Deco style store and apartments above.

YMCA - 4251 W Irving Park Road.

Staring west, down Irving Park Road as the #80 bus approaches in front of the Y on a beautiful afternoon in May. Ahhhhhh springtime in Chicago.

The day after this photo was snapped, it snowed.



Irving Park Churches



Top row, left to right pictures as follows:

Irving Park Lutheran Church - 3938 W Belle Plaine

New Apostolic Church - 3753 N Troy Street

Irving Park Baptist Church - 4401 W Irving Park Rd

Bottom row, left to right pictures as follows:

Korean Bethel Presbyterian Church (Former Masonic Temple) - 4240 W Irving Park Road

Mt. Olive Church - 3850 N Tripp Avenue

Fullness Presbyterian Church - 4053 N Keeler Avenue

This is the site of the original Dutch Reformed Church and Society of Irving Park. The building was erected in 1872, however what you are looking at now is largely the result of the complete remodel in 1908 by Elmer Jensen.

Mayfair



Irish American Heritage Center - 4626 N Knox Ave

We are in the Mayfair neighborhood now. This building is a world-renowned, full-service, everything-under-one-roof Irish cultural center. That includes a library, dancing and music performance and instruction, ballrooms, even an Irish pub. It can be rented, and it is also plays host to the annual Irish Fest. This building was bought and continues to function with the support of hundreds of volunteers. They also raised money to renovate this turn-of-the-century building which with its land, spans the entire city block.

Henry V. Peters House - 4731 N Knox Avenue

This house was commissioned a city landmark on May 4, 2004 at a ceremony presided by Mayor Dailey where he hailed this house as “a classic in early Prairie design”. The home was built for Henry V. Peters, one of the original developers of the Mayfair subdivision. It was designed by Walter Burley Griffin , a significant member of the Prairie School and early in his career, an employee and protégé of Frank Lloyd Wright. He also married Wright’s most noted illustrator, Marion Lucy Mahony. Griffin was a great admirer of Louis Sullivan, in particular, his philosophy that buildings should be fully original and without precedence. This building was built in 1906 by contractor and builder Charles Siebold for a total cost of \$3,000. This was the year Griffin started his own practice and is his first solo work in Chicago. The broad side gabled house accentuates the horizontal nature of the prairie design. It has roof eaves that extend far beyond the edge of the structure and features intricate and fine craftsmanship. It is also one of the first known examples of a residence with an attached garage.

Old Irving Park



*Pictures left to right: **Ropp-Grabill house; a view of the cupola and the magnificent May Chicago sky; Modern Apartments presumably designed by Raymond Gregori; A shaky blind shot via bike (yay auto focus!) of the current home of the Irving Park Historical Society.***

Ropp-Grabill House - 4132 N Keeler Avenue

This brick and weatherboard Italianate home is estimated to have been built in about 1871. It is owned by [Peggy Brockhaus](#) who is a Real Estate agent with Coldwell Banker who is in the process of restoring it. The home is another on the National Historic Register. The feature on the top is a cupola, not only beautiful, but practical. It produces a chimney effect useful for drawing fresh air up through the house.

Modern Apartments - 4130 N Keystone

Most research indicated that the address was 4128, however that does not exist, and both structures are too old for there to have been a building between or other than those that exist at 4130 and 4126. So presuming this is the right building, it was designed by Raymond Gregori in 1929 who also built the St. James Apartments in Lincoln Park.

Mee's Grocery or The Whistle Stop Inn - 4200 W Irving Park Road

This building was built in 1889 by Henry Nichols for a first story grocery and living quarters above. Some research turned up details that it was called, perhaps Mee's Grocery. This squarish-wood frame house was extremely common construction for the areas surrounding the city after the ban on wood-frame construction. This is a very rare survivor. It is also commonly referred to as the Whistle Stop Inn, which is one of many numerous businesses that have occupied the space over the years. It has also been a drugstore, a toll station for the Irving Park Toll Road from 1891 to 1894. Currently, it is home to the Irving Park Historical Society, an organization dedicated to the historical documentation and preservation of the area.

Old Irving Park continued

Stephen A Race House – 3945 N Tripp Avenue

Stephen A Race is credited with the vision that started the development of Irving Park. In 1869, Race bought some land Northwest of Chicago from Major Noble, who inherited the land from his father, who originally acquired it in 1833. Noble had successfully farmed the area for years and Race had every intention of living the working life of a gentleman farmer, but when he realized how close the land was to the Chicago and North Western line, he changed his plans and decided to create a development. He struck a deal with the railroads to pay to build the depot in exchange for the right to locate the depot in the settlement. He named his settlement Irvington, after the writer, Washington Irving, before switching it to Irving Park. Whereas so many community areas in Chicago have a namesake park that they are named in honor of, there is actually no Irving Park.

This Italianate house is the only house standing of the original developers of the Irving Park Land Company, whose members, Race, Erastus and John Brown and John Wheeler had the vision to develop the area they bought from Major Noble, and later Sheriff John Gray. This is not the original site of the house, which was built in 1874. All of the developers had originally located handsome mansions on Irving Park, but whereas the others were razed, Race's house was moved to its current site in 1905, basically turning it on its side and moving it back on the lot.

Irving Park United Methodist Church – 3801 N Keeler Avenue





Pictures clockwise from upper left:

3740 N Keeler Avenue

This Italianate home was built in the 1880s. For the most part, these blocks are ripe with homes from the 1870s through the 1890s.

3800 and 3808 N Keeler Avenue

Both of these fantastic Queen Anne Victorians predate 1870.

3833 N Keeler Avenue

Queen Anne Victorian circa 1870

3900 N Keeler Avenue

Home designed by Perley Hale in 1909. Hale was a well-known architect in Chicago and in Iowa. He is responsible for building the Anton E. Hanson House in the South Shore, a registered national landmark.

Charles N Louks House - 3926 N Keeler Avenue

This Queen Anne was designed by Clarence Tabor in 1889 and features amazing art glass and a fantastic turret. *Crazy-moving-out-of-focus-action bike shot!*

3935 N Kilbourn Avenue

1890s brick Queen Anne.



Grayland

Pictures top to bottom:

St. John's Episcopal Church - 3857 N Kostner Avenue

Through the donation of land by Sheriff John Gray, the Episcopal mission that had begun in 1886 gained the land they needed to establish a church. Through donations and a bank loan, the mission was able to hire the Cookingham company to construct this church. Originally a wood frame and sided church, the stucco covering was done during a massive reconstruction of the church that began in 1924 by contractor and builder J. W. Campbell.

Sheriff John Gray's House - 4362 W Grace Street

Sheriff John Gray was the first Republican sheriff of Cook County and one of the very first settlers of the area. John Gray owned a massive farm and eventually sold off some of his land to Stephen Race and the Irving Park Land Development Company that helped create the subdivision of Irving Park. This Italianate mansion is the oldest house in Irving Park and was constructed in 1856.

Erastus Brown's Mansion - 3812 N Pulaski Road

Erastus was the father of the developer brothers, John and Adalbert Brown. They were one half of the original Irving Park Land Development Company, the major and original developers of the area.



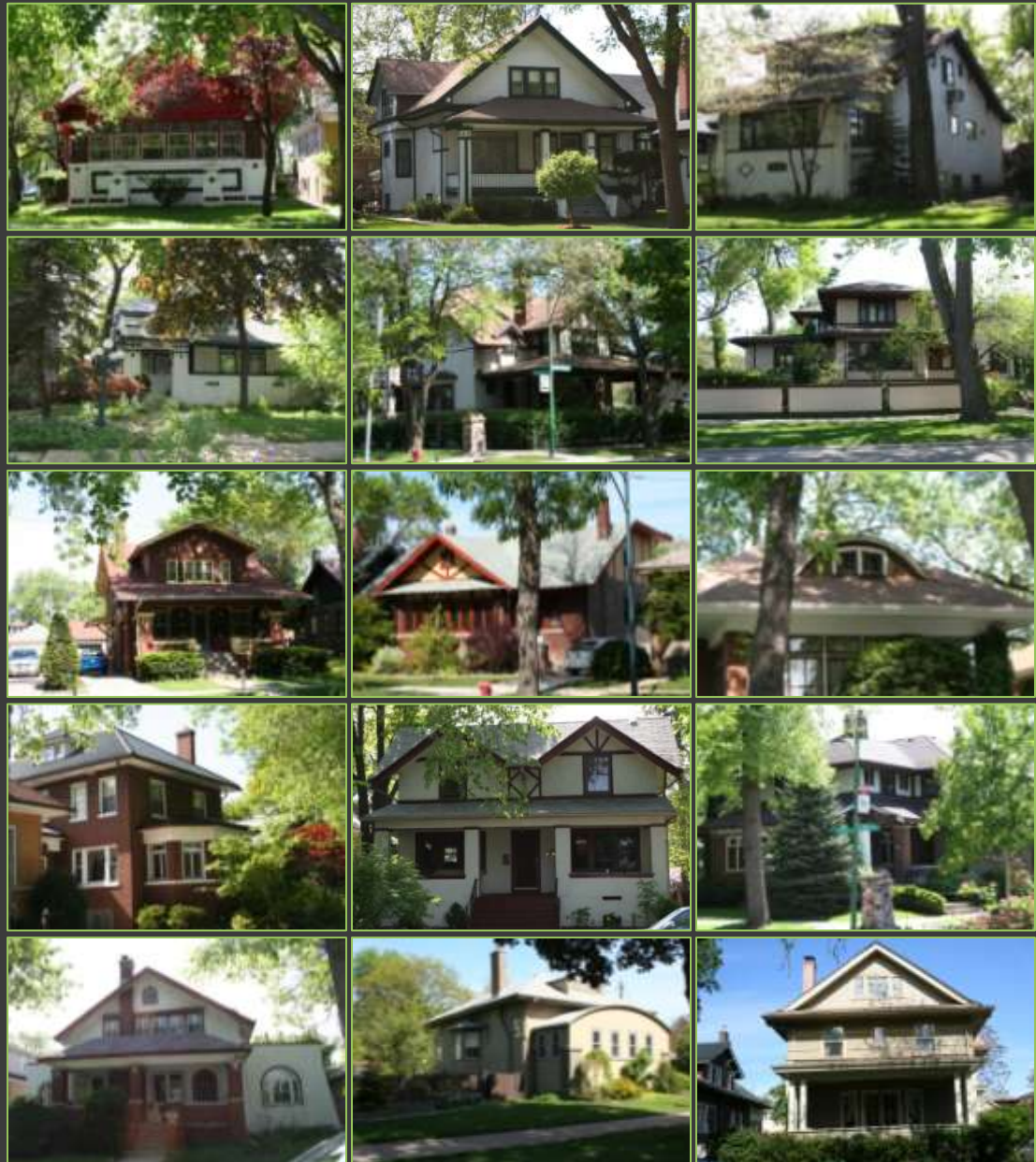
The Villa District

The historic Villa district is a small neighborhood in Chicago featuring a variety of classic craftsman and prairie homes on a small triangle west of the highway. The Villa began in 1907 when Albert Haentze and Charles Wheeler subdivided this small triangle of land stipulating only residential homes “of bungalow appearance”.

While there exists a few that stretch the definition of “bungalow appearance” within the Villa, nearly all are historically significant. Of those that are pure bungalows, there are two main types.

The first is the traditional Chicago bungalow, with side or off-side entrances and brick exterior with limestone accents. The second is the California or Craftsman style, which typically has wider appearance, front entrances, full porches, wide eaves and more varied materials. The boundaries are essentially Avondale running diagonally to the North, Pulaski to the west and Addison to the South.

Many of the homes were built by the architecture firm of Hatzfeld and Knox, whose founder and partner, Clarence Hatzfield is also responsible for many of the Chicago park district buildings including the field houses and other buildings at Independence Park and Kilbourn Park here in Irving Park. There are also excellent examples of works by such prominent architects as Jarlev and Aga, John C. Christensen and William A. Bennet, amongst others. The boulevard style streets and charming homes creates an almost suburban retreat in the heart of the Northwest Side of the city.



The Villa District continued

This page and the previous are pictures of some of the amazing homes in the Villa District. It is ridiculous.



St. Viator



St. Viator Church, Rectory and School - 3600 N Kedvale Avenue and 4150 W Addison Street

This Tudor Gothic limestone church was dedicated in 1929 and was designed and built by Charles L Wallace. He is responsible for over 100 different churches, schools and buildings in Chicago, Joliet and surrounding areas. The school was actually built in 1910, almost two decades before the present church.

Carl Schurz High School

3601 N Milwaukee Avenue



This massive school sits on an 8 acre lot. It was built from 1908 to 1910 by Dwight Perkins and is considered his greatest masterpiece of the over 40 schools he built as the architect for the Chicago Public School system. In addition to exhibiting strong elements of his frequently practiced-Prairie School style, this building's large vertical piers and vertically oriented direction are more indicative of Chicago School style. This school also experienced several renovations and expansions. The first addition was a new wing in 1915 by Arthur F Hossander, followed by another wing and expansion by John C Christensen in 1924. Most recently, the 1994 restoration effort by Ross Barney and Jankowski revitalized the building by cleaning off years of dirt and grime to reveal the rich hues of different colors and materials present in Perkins master work. Their repair and reconstruction of the windows of the school won the firm the Richard H. Driehaus Preservation Award by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois.

The school is named for the American Civil War general and German revolutionary, Carl Schurz. He was also an accomplished author and newspaper editor and writer.



Kilbourn Park and so long...



Kilbourn Park - 3501 N Kilbourn Avenue

Kilbourn Park is named after the adjacent street, which is named after a city in Wisconsin that became the Wisconsin Dells, which in turn is named after the president of a Rail company. Whew! It was created in the 1920s. Clarence Hatzfeld of the Villa and other renown designed all of the buildings at Independence Park. The greenhouse is a working greenhouse and just last weekend was the Kilbourn Park Plant fair. This also marks the end of the tour, and hopefully it was a fun time for everyone.