

Suggestion For Chicago Landmark

The Commission on Chicago Landmarks appreciates receiving ideas and suggestions from the public for potential future landmark buildings and districts. By ordinance, Chicago Landmarks must meet at least two of the seven criteria for designation as well as an "integrity" criterion (see back). An indicator of whether your suggestion may qualify is if the property is included in the *Chicago Historic Resources Survey* (CHRS), which is depicted in the city's online Zoning Map and may also be accessed from the Chicago Landmarks web page at www.cityofchicago.org/landmarks.

Please answer the questions below completely and include current photographs (which will not be returned) and any available historic research you may have as part of your suggestion. Please fill out one form per suggestion. The Commission's Program Committee generally reviews public suggestions twice a year. Received suggestions are forwarded by the Committee to the Department of Housing and Economic Development for further consideration.

RETURN THIS FORM TO: Commission on Chicago Landmarks
121 N. LaSalle Street – Room 1101
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Attention: Program Committee

Your Name: Preservation Chicago
Your Address (Street, City & Zip Code): 4410 N. Ravenswood Ave Chicago Illinois 60640
Your Telephone Number: (773) 334-8800

Suggested Building or Area: Jackson Park and the Midway Plaisance
Address: Jackson Park is bounded by East 56th Street, Lake Michigan, East 67th Street, and South Stony Island Avenue.
Midway Plaisance is bounded by East 59th Street, South Stony Island Avenue, East 60th Street, and South Cottage Grove Avenue.
Date of Construction: c.1893 - 1918
Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist, Craftsman: Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, Daniel H. Burnham

Name of Current Owner: City of Chicago
Would current owner consent to landmark designation? Most Likely
Historical Importance: A significant work of landscape architects Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux which set the stage for Daniel Burnham, Chief of Construction for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, to design the White City.
Architectural Importance or Noteworthy Physical Features: Olmsted and Vaux's Jackson Park and Midway Plaisance served as the first large-scale elaboration of the City Beautiful Movement which flourished during the 1890s and 1900s. The parks also served as starting point for Chicago's plans to develop a park and boulevard system which would link the South Shore with Grant Park and downtown.

Current Photograph(s) Enclosed (REQUIRED – Suggestion form will be returned unless accompanied by current photographs)

Additional Background Information Enclosed (Up to 5 pages will be forwarded to Commission members for their review; any additional pages will be kept for Commission files.)

For Landmarks staff use only: Date Received _____ CHRS _____
Aldermanic ward _____

Criteria for Proposed Designation of Chicago Landmarks

A. In considering areas, districts, places, buildings, structures, works of art, and other objects for potential landmark designation, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks (a nine-member board appointed by the Mayor and the City Council) is limited in its consideration solely to the following seven criteria, as established in the Municipal Code of Chicago (Sect. 2-120-620):

1. **[Value as an Example of City, State or National Heritage]** Its value as an example of the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspect of the heritage of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States.
2. **[Significant Historic Event]** Its location as a site of a significant historic event which may or may not have taken place within or involved the use of any existing improvements.
3. **[Significant Person]** Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspect of the development of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States.
4. **[Exemplary Architecture]** Its exemplification of an architectural type or style distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship.
5. **[Work of Significant Architect or Designer]** Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history or development of the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, or the United States.
6. **[Distinctive Theme]** Its representation of an architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other theme expressed through distinctive areas, districts, places, buildings, structures, works of art, or other objects that may or may not be contiguous.
7. **[Unique or Distinctive Visual Feature]** Its unique location or distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City of Chicago.

Proposed designations must meet at least two of the above landmark criteria.

B. Proposed designations must also meet an additional **“integrity” criterion**, as specified in the Municipal Code (Sect.2-120-630); proposed suggestions must have “a significant historic, community, architectural or aesthetic interest or value, the integrity of which is preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and ability to express such historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value.”

Jackson Park and the Midway Plaisance meet and fulfill all seven criteria set forth in Part A of Criteria for Proposed Designation of Chicago Landmarks, as established in the Municipal Code of Chicago (Sect. 2-120-620): 1) Value as an Example of City, State or National Heritage, 2) Significant Historic Event, 3) Significant Person, 4) Exemplary Architecture, 5) Work of Significant Architect or Designer, 6) Distinctive Theme, and 7) Unique or Distinctive Visual Feature.

It also meets and fulfills the “integrity criterion” set forth in Part B of Criteria for Proposed Designation of Chicago Landmarks, as specified in the Municipal Code (Sect. 2-120-630).

Jackson Park and Midway Plaisance are among the greatest historical and natural assets of Chicago’s South Side. The historical significance of Jackson Park and the Midway Plaisance are monumental and well-known to most audiences, including national and international scholars of architectural landscape design, historic landscapes, and cultural heritage.

Jackson Park and the Midway serve as a gateway to Chicago’s park and boulevard system, one of the most magnificent networks of urban parkland in the country. These parks served as the first large-scale elaboration of the City Beautiful Movement which flourished during the 1890s and 1900s.

The 542.89-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 the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 — one of the most important events in Chicago’s history and, arguably one of the most important cultural events of the 19th century.

The original Fine Arts Palace which currently houses Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry gives the park goer a sense of scale of how grand the White City would have been.

Preservation Chicago continues to strongly advocate for the importance of protecting historic features, including the historic 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 archeologically important sites such as the foundations 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. Any construction in the park 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 are seeking to protect and landmark this significant feature Jackson Park and the Midway Plaisance include several features which possess architectural and historical significance and are orange rated in the Chicago Historic Resources Survey (CHRS). One of the most prominent is the Statue of the Republic (Daniel Chester French (sculptor) and Henry Bacon (architect)) which sits prominently at the intersection of Hayes and Richards Drives. Chicago Landmark Designation of Jackson Park and the Midway Plaisance would protect these significant features within the larger context of future plans for the parkland while celebrating Chicago’s rich history of protecting its public parks. It would also be a great location to tell the story of Chicago’s history of the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893.