

January 2020 Addendum to the Section 106 Historic Properties Identification Report

Federal Undertakings in and Adjacent to Jackson Park
Cook County, Illinois

Prepared For:
Federal Highway Administration
National Park Service

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January 2020

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Appendices

Appendix A: Exhibits and Table 1

1.0 Introduction

On July 10, 2018, the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with the Section 106 Historic Properties Identification (HPI) for Federal Undertakings in and Adjacent to Jackson Park, Cook County, Illinois. Subsequently, on December 18, 2018, the National Park Service listed the Chicago Park Boulevard System (CPBS) Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. A portion of the CPBS is located within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the subject undertaking. Therefore, this addendum to the HPI presents information regarding the CPBS Historic District within the APE.

2.0 Chicago Park Boulevard System Historic District

The CPBS Historic District is located along a 26-mile stretch of contiguous parks and boulevards including parks, squares, boulevards and significant adjoining properties. The CPBS Historic District roughly spans from W. Logan Boulevard on the north and the Kennedy Expressway to E. 67th Street and S. South Shore Drive on the south. See Exhibit 1 in Appendix A.

The historic district is nationally significant under Criterion A for Community Planning and Development “as the first comprehensive system of greenways for a major city in the United States. It was created in response to the belief that it would not only foster healthful, accessible and livable neighborhoods, but would also spur residential real estate development in what was then the outskirts of the city. Because of Chicago’s prominence, the design of the system was seminal in the creation of park and boulevard systems in cities nationwide. Designed by several of the country’s most noteworthy early landscape practitioners, who created a large connected system of artistically-designed parks, boulevards and squares on a scale unlike any other landscape endeavor in Chicago, it is therefore locally significant under Criterion C for Landscape Architecture.” (CPBS NRHP Form, Significance Summary, 2018, p. 75)

The historic district is also locally significant under Criterion C for Architecture. The properties within the district represent “in microcosm the stylistic development of numerous building types constructed in Chicago during the period of significance. Higher caliber real estate development was a goal of the system’s early promoters, and it is noteworthy that in many cases the buildings are of a more distinguished quality of design than those built farther from the boulevard system.” (CPBS NRHP Form, Significance Summary, 2018, p. 75)

The Period of Significance for the district is 1869 to 1942 and encompasses the years legislation was passed establishing the system through the end of substantial improvements to the system. The Chicago Park Boulevard System is associated with the country’s most important early landscape architects and was one of the nation’s first major system and, thus, seminal in the creation of similar systems across the United States. The historic district also includes adjacent buildings that face onto the system that were built during the period of significance.

3.0 Properties Contributing to the CPBS NRHP Historic District

The CPBS Historic District covers a large geographic area and includes a total of 2,136 contributing resources of which 2,092 are buildings and 44 are parks, squares, and boulevards. A total of 230 contributing properties were previously listed in the National Register. Some of these resources are located within the undertaking's APE. These are listed in Table 1 and illustrated on Exhibits 2a and 2b of Appendix A. They include the Jackson Park Historic Landscape District and Midway Plaisance, as well as thirty-seven other individual properties.

3.1 Jackson Park Historic Landscape District and Midway Plaisance

The Jackson Park Historic Landscape District and Midway Plaisance, which was listed on the National Register in 1972, contributes to the significance of the CPBS Historic District. The 1972 nomination form identified architecture, landscape architecture, science, sculpture and urban planning as "areas of significance." Jackson Park retains principal elements of the Revised General Plan of 1895 produced by Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot landscape architects. This design, the third and final plan produced by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., was executed following his interim scheme for the park as the location of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.

A detailed description of the Jackson Park Historic Landscape District and Midway Plaisance can be found in the Historic Properties Identification Report. Additional information regarding the contribution of Jackson Park and the Midway Plaisance to the Chicago Park Boulevard System is provided in the CPBS Historic District National Register nomination form.

3.2 Other Properties Contributing to the CPBS NRHP Historic District

In addition to the Jackson Park Historic Landscape District and Midway Plaisance, thirty-seven individual properties within the APE contribute to the CPBS Historic District. Of these, 36 are described in the Section 106 Historic Properties Identification Report (June 2018). The remaining property is located at 5815 S. Kimbark (Survey ID A35). The contribution of this property to the CPBS Historic District is described in the nomination for the historic district. In general, the nomination explains that the architectural streetscapes along the boulevards "frame" the landscaped medians and parks upon which they sit. The nomination also explains the boundary justification for recognizing particular properties as contributing to the CPBS Historic District.

References

Prepared for: Federal Highway Administration and National Park Service. (2018, May 17). Section 106 Historic Properties Identification Report: Federal Undertakings In and Adjacent to Jackson Park and Historic Resource Survey Forms. CNECT and the City of Chicago for the Federal Highway Administration and National Park Service, June 2018. Retrieved from https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/dcd/supp_info/jackson/final_HPI.zip

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, "The Chicago Park Boulevard System Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Prepared by Benjamin historic Certification, LLC, the Chicago Park District and the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, United States Department of the Interior. Listed on December 18, 2018. Retrieved from <http://gis.hpa.state.il.us/pdfs/803178.pdf>.