

Frank Lloyd Wright-Prairie School of Architecture Historic District Evaluation of Local Boundary Expansion

Why are the expansion areas proposed to be part of the Historic District?

The Historic District contains the largest concentration of Prairie School buildings in America, including 23 by Wright. In addition, the district contains excellent examples of architectural styles and types of all sizes from the 1860s to 1941. This collection of buildings reflects the growth and development of Oak Park and assists in placing the Prairie School buildings within their context in American architectural history. As a result, the Historic District provides a unique urban environment for understanding the development of the Prairie style and its place in American architecture.

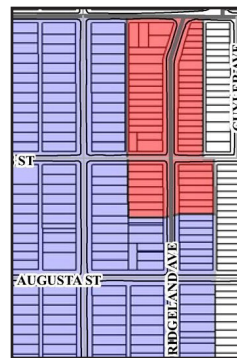
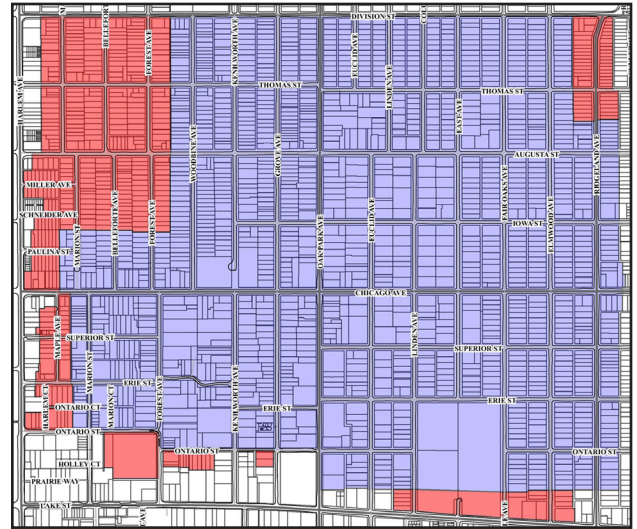
By studying those areas adjacent to the original District boundaries, it was found that the proposed expansion areas (in red on the maps) were always part of the same neighborhood, with building types and architectural styles from the same period. By adding these areas to the Historic District, the boundaries become more cohesive and consistent, removing many mid-block divisions and bringing the whole back together as one. The South and West boundaries are defined by commercial and modern properties. The East and North boundaries are consistent with the concentration of Prairie-influenced buildings and the time period of the District.

Northeast Addition: The 48 properties included on the 700-800 blocks of N. Ridgeland represent subdivisions of Arts & Crafts and Prairie-influenced Bungalows and American Foursquares constructed from 1913-1916. This continues the boundary to Division while correcting a mid-block boundary division.

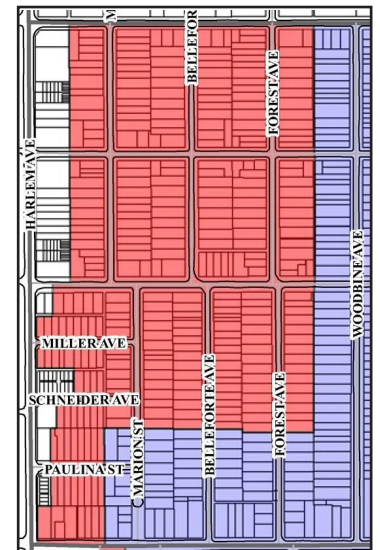
Southeast and Southwest Additions: The 43 properties included near Lake and along Ontario continue early Victorian and early 20th century styles and the high school stadium. This corrects numerous mid-block boundary divisions. Much of Lake Street was omitted due to a high concentration of later modern buildings; the exception being two individually significant churches.

West Addition: The 43 properties included along N. Maple and Ontario encompass Victorians and early 20th century buildings as found on Marion Street. Harlem Avenue was omitted due to a high concentration of later modern buildings.

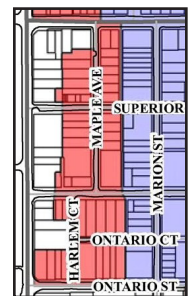
Northwest Addition: The 324 properties included on Forest, Belleforte, Marion, Paulina, Schneider and Miller encompasses the largest area of expansion. This area represents a collection of workers cottages, Victorians, early 20th century Revivals, and a substantial number of Prairie-influenced American Foursquares. This will align the north boundary with Division and correct mid-block boundary divisions. Harlem Avenue was omitted due to a high concentration of later modern buildings.



Northeast Addition



Northwest Addition



West Addition



Southeast & Southwest Additions