Guide to the Hyde Park, Kenwood, and Woodlawn Neighborhoods
Collection 1883-2004

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Descriptive Summary

Identifier  ICU.SPCL.HPKW

Title  Hyde Park, Kenwood, and Woodlawn Neighborhoods. Collection

Size  5.25 linear feet (7 boxes)

Repository  Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract  The Hyde Park-Kenwood and Woodlawn Records contain articles, journals, small publications, brochures, correspondence, neighborhood directories, flyers, newsletters, advertisements, neighborhood guides, pamphlets, proposals, reports, and newspapers concerning the history of Hyde Park and its surrounding neighborhoods, as well as the urban renewal movement.

Information on Use

Access  This collection is open for research.

Citation  When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Hyde Park, Kenwood, and Woodlawn Neighborhoods. Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note  Before European settlement, the Chicago area functioned as a trade center for various Native American nations, such as the Potawatomi, Myaamia (Miami), and Illiniwek Confederacy nations. Other nations that lived in this region were the Ottawa, Sauk, Ojibwe, Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), Mascouten, Wea, Delaware, Winnebago, Menominee, and Mesquakie (Fox) nations. The first non-native settler in Chicago was Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, a Haitian from the French colony of Saint-Domingue, who by 1790 had established a trading settlement near the Chicago River. After several wars and raids between Myaamia and Iroquois nations, in the late 18th century the Ojibwe and Potawatomi nations took control over the Chicago area. It was ultimately the Potawatomi nation that, with the Treaty of Chicago in 1833, ceded their remaining lands in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan to the American government.

Twenty years later, Paul Cornell, a lawyer, real estate spectator, and cousin of the founder of Cornell University, purchased 300 acres of land between 51st and 55th street. Cornell had envisioned creating a residential neighborhood for Chicago businessmen and their families and
quickly Hyde Park became that suburban retreat. In 1861, Hyde Park was incorporated as an independent township, called Hyde Park Township, and its boundaries were extended south from 39th to 63rd Streets to 138th Street and west to State Street.

Woodlawn, previous a part of the Hyde Park Township, is a neighborhood south of Hyde Park extending north to 60th Street, south to 67 Street, and west to King Drive. The first non-native settlers of Woodlawn were Dutch farmers who arrived in the 1850s. These farmers were able to sell their produce to merchants via the Illinois Central Railroad, which in 1862 opened a station on 63rd Street.

Kenwood, also a former Hyde Park Township neighborhood, was settled in the 1850s by Chicago individuals who sought a respite from the city. The first of these residents was Dr. John A. Kennicott, who built a home near the Illinois Central Railroad tracks at 48th Street. Dr. Kennicott named his home Kenwood after his ancestral land in Scotland, and eventually the name Kenwood came to be applied to the land between 43rd Street and 51st Street, and west to Cottage Grove Avenue.

In 1889, Hyde Park Township, including the neighborhoods of Kenwood and Woodlawn, was annexed to the city of Chicago.

Though the University of Chicago was originally was located in the Bronzeville neighborhood, on the northwest corner of 35th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue, through the efforts of the American Baptist Education Society and billionaire John D. Rockefeller, the university was moved to Hyde Park in 1890.

In 1893, The World’s Columbian Exposition was hosted in Hyde Park-Kenwood and Woodlawn, which, alongside an influx of residents, brought increased attention and development to the neighborhoods. During this period, Hyde Park was an affluent white neighborhood governed by racially segregating covenants that prevented African Americans from purchasing or occupying property.

In the 1950s, Both Hyde Park-Kenwood and Woodlawn experienced racial tensions and declining housing conditions, which led to a “white flight” as middle class white families left the area. In response to deteriorating housing conditions and economic decline, during the 1950s and 1960s the University of Chicago sponsored an urban renewal plan. This plan involved demolishing and redeveloping entire blocks of buildings in disrepair. Significantly, substandard housing primarily populated by low-income African Americans was demolished and replaced, but these former residents could not afford to live in these newly developed areas. The goal of this renewal plan was to create an affluent but diverse community, and after this plan, the
average income of Hyde Park increased sharply by 70 percent, but the population of African Americans decreased by 40 percent.

**Scope Note**

This collection is organized into 3 series:

Series I: History

Series II: Urban Renewal Movement

Series III: Oversized

The Hyde Park-Kenwood and Woodlawn Records contain articles, journals, small publications, brochures, correspondence, neighborhood directories, flyers, newsletters, advertisements, neighborhood guides, pamphlets, proposals, reports, and newspapers concerning the history of Hyde Park and its surrounding neighborhoods, as well as the urban renewal movement.

**Related Resources**

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

Browse finding aids by topic.

Hyde Park Historical Society. Collection

Hyde Park-Kenwood Razed Buildings. Collection

Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference. Records

University of Chicago. Center for Urban Studies. Records

University of Chicago. University Extension. Records

University of Chicago. Woodlawn Social Services Center. Records

**Subject Headings**

- Community development -- Illinois -- Chicago
- Urban renewal -- Illinois -- Chicago
- Hyde Park (Chicago, Ill.)
- Kenwood (Chicago, Ill.)
- Woodlawn (Chicago, Ill.)
INVENTORY

Series I: History
This series contains newspaper and journal articles, small publications, newsletters, correspondence, brochures, directories, and miscellaneous flyers and pamphlets. The materials date from 1883 to 2004 and are arranged by type and then chronologically.

Subseries 1: Hyde Park

Box 1
Folder 1
Articles, 1956-1990
Box 1
Folder 2
Publications, 1929-1988
Box 1
Folder 3
Commemorations and Fairs, 1961-1962
Box 1
Folder 4
Hyde Park Golden Jubilee, undated
Box 1
Folder 5
Hyde Park Historical Society, 1979-1989
Box 1
Folder 6
Hyde Park Historical Society, 1984-1994
Box 1
Folder 7
Joseph Regenstein Library, 1972-1988
Box 1
Folder 8
University Brochures, undated
Box 1
Folder 9
University Correspondence and Invitations, 1998-2004
Box 1
Folder 10
Miscellaneous, 1883-1992

Subseries 2: Woodlawn

Box 1
Folder 11
Articles and Publications, 1941-1992
Box 1
Folder 12
The Book of Woodlawn, 1920-1930
Box 1
Folder 13
   The Coliseum, 1897-1938
Box 1
Folder 14
   Jackson Park, undated
Box 1
Folder 15
   Miscellaneous, 1917-1987

Subseries 3: Southside and Chicago
Box 2
Folder 1
   Articles and Publications, 1926-1940
Box 2
Folder 2
   Chicago’s Great South Shore, 1930

Subseries 4: Directories
Box 2
Folder 3
   Neighborhood Classified Phone Directory, 1959-1962
Box 2
Folder 4
   Neighborhood Phone Directory, 1964
Box 2
Folder 5
   Neighborhood Phone Directory, 1965
Box 2
Folder 6
   Neighborhood Phone Directory, 1967
Box 2
Folder 7
   Neighborhood Phone Directory 1968-1971
Box 3
Folder 1
   Neighborhood Phone Directory, 1972
Box 3
Folder 2
   Neighborhood Directory, 1966
Box 3
Folder 3
   Neighborhood Yellow Pages, 1966
Box 3
Folder 4
Subseries 5: Hyde Park Businesses

Box 3
Folder 6
Publications and Newsletters, 1979-2005

Box 3
Folder 7
Flyers and Advertisements, 1979-2007

Subseries 6: Publications

Box 3
Folder 8
Articles, 1959-1989

Box 3
Folder 9
Journals and Magazines, 1979-1989

Box 3
Folder 10
The Hyde Park Jacket, 1989

Box 4
Folder 1
Housing Guides, 1983

Box 4
Folder 2
Hyde Park Guides, 1980

Box 4
Folder 3
University Guides to Chicago, undated

Box 4
Folder 4
Brochures and Pamphlets, 1987-2002

Series II: Urban Renewal

This series contains press releases, newspaper and journal articles, brochures and pamphlets, reports, proposals, and personal correspondence related to the urban redevelopment movement led by the University in Hyde Park, Kenwood, and Woodlawn neighborhoods. The materials date from 1953 to 2002 and are arranged by type, and then chronologically.

Subseries 1: University of Chicago Campus Development and Neighborhood Housing

Box 4
Folder 5
   University City, 1957
Box 4
Folder 6
   The Neighborhood Program, 1960-1961
Box 4
Folder 7
   South Campus, 1960-1963
Box 4
Folder 8
   The Faculty Committee on Rental Policies, 1962
Box 4
Folder 9
   The Hyde Park Kenwood Renewal Years, 1964-1967
Box 4
Folder 10
   South East Chicago Commission, 1968
Box 4
Folder 11
   The Chicago Public Housing Controversy, 1972
Box 5
Folder 1
   University Publications, 1953-1979
Box 5
Folder 2
   University Reports, 1956-1969
Box 5
Folder 3
   Press Releases, 1959-1962

Subseries 2: Community Development

Box 5
Folder 4
   The Hyde Park Kenwood Community Conference, 1962
Box 5
Folder 5
   The Factual Background of the “Hyde Park-Kenwood Story”, 1963
Box 5
Folder 6
   Harper Court, 1963
Box 5
Folder 7
   Rebuilding Ghetto Communities for the People Who Live There, 1977
Box 5
Folder 8
   Saul Alinsky and the Industrial Areas Foundation, 1962-1965
Subseries 3: Religious Organizing

Subseries 4: Reports and Proposals
Series III: Oversized
This series contains press releases, newspaper clippings, newspaper issues, magazine issues, and journal issues. The materials date from 1923 to 2004 and are arranged by type and then chronologically.

Subseries 1: Press Releases

Box 8
Folder 1
The Hyde Park Story, 1961

Subseries 2: Newspapers and Journals

Box 8
Folder 2
Miscellaneous Newspaper and Journal Clippings, 1923-1983

Box 8
Folder 3
Chicago Daily News Clippings, 1957-1962
Box 8
Folder 4
   Chicago Sun-Times Clippings, 1957-1961
Box 8
Folder 5
   The Woodlawn Observer vol. 4 no. 8, 1967
Box 8
Folder 6
   Holiday Magazine, 1963
Box 8
Folder 7
   Chicago Magazine, 1965
Box 8
Folder 8
   Hyde Park-Kenwood Voices vol. 2 no. 8, 1967
Box 8
Folder 9
   The Chicago Journal vol. 6 no. 12, 1981
Box 8
Folder 10
   Lake Shore Perspectives vol. 1 no. 1, 1985
Box 8
Folder 11
   Hyde Park Citizen vol. 5 no. 12, 1992
Box 8
Folder 12
   The Resource Fall 1995 no.7, 1995
Box 8
Folder 13

Subseries 3: Hyde Park Herald

Box 8
Folder 14
   The Hyde Park Herald vol. 75 no. 44, 1956
Box 8
Folder 15
   The Hyde Park Herald vol. 76 no. 18, 1958
Box 8
Folder 16
   The Hyde Park Herald vol. 31 no. 15, 1962
Box 8
Folder 17
   The Hyde Park Herald vol. 31 no. 16, 1962
The Hyde Park Herald vol. 124 no. 29, 2004
Box 8
Folder 19
The Hyde Park Herald vol. 75 no. 34, 1956

Subseries 4: University of Chicago Newspapers

Box 8
Folder 20
The Chicago Maroon vol. 85 no. 4, 1975
Box 8
Folder 21
The Chicago Maroon vol. 86 no. 9, 1976
Box 8
Folder 22
The Chicago Maroon vol. 87 no. 39, 1978
Box 8
Folder 23
The Chicago Maroon vol. 88 no. 33, 1979
Box 8
Folder 24
Free Press Student Newspaper vol. 2 no. 6, 1995

Subseries 5: Chicago Tribune

Box 8
Folder 25
Chicago Tribune, Jul 23 1960
Box 8
Folder 26
Chicago Tribune, May 29 1985
Box 8
Folder 27
Chicago Tribune, Sep 29 1985
Box 8
Folder 28
Chicago Tribune, May 20 1987
Box 8
Folder 29
Chicago Tribune, May 8 1991
Box 8
Folder 30
Newspaper Clippings, 1938-1967