

H UMBOLDT PARK

Strangely, there is no large green space within the community of [Humboldt Park](#) which, even more strangely, does not include the park "Humboldt Park". However, the park is right next door, on its eastern boundary, in neighboring [West Town](#). The community of Humboldt Park has houses, lots of them, from the early twentieth century. In addition there is the railway, and near the railway lines there are some nice art deco style vintage factories. Humboldt Park is evidently a place to live and a place to work.

On my first visit to the area, I was visiting the park, not the community. However, I strayed into the streets around West Pierce Avenue. There are some nice [Graystones](#) on this street, right next to the red brick "[Salvation and Deliverance Ministries International Church](#)", which includes within its structure a stone that displays the date July 9, 1899. The church is within a densely packed residential neighborhood with vintage well kept houses of various sorts. For example, quite different to the greystones are the single family homes on [West LeMoyne Street](#).

My second visit to Humboldt Park was also a peripheral one. I had been visiting [Garfield Park](#) and happened to drive a little beyond its northern boundary, eastwards along West Franklin Boulevard. The thing that lured me along this route was a distant view of an [art deco style vintage factory tower](#) at Franklin Square, which is at the end of the boulevard. The factory is presently owned by the Lakewood Engineering and Manufacturing Company, although perhaps not for much longer since their website suggests they are in liquidation. Adjacent to the factory building, a vintage smokestack tells us that the original owner was the Racue Warner Co. On the other side of the street there are more vintage factories from the same period. If you like old industrial buildings, head next for the intersection of Homan Avenue and Potomac Avenue, and then walk or drive south to West Division Street. You pass two magnificent twin [factories with impressive art deco towers](#), and end at another [lower profile art deco factory](#).

Two subsequent visits to Humboldt Park enable me to cover the area. In addition to vintage houses and factories, there are some nice old school buildings, and the usual quota of churches. Examples of the former are the Tudor Revival style [Harriet Beecher Stowe Public School](#) on Wabansia Avenue, and the [Polaris Charter Academy](#) on North Sawyer Avenue. Examples of vintage church architecture are the orange windowed [New True Vine Missionary Baptist Church](#) and the [Bethel Lutheran Church](#), both on North Springfield Avenue. Finally, there is a nice traditional [Chicago Fire Station](#) on Kedzie Avenue.

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