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IRVING PARK

Significant pieces of residential [Irving Park](#) date from the Edwardian period, and its wealthy neighborhoods offer many architectural gems set within tree-lined back streets. If you are interested in period residential architecture, a quiet stroll within the Villa District, for example, will be rewarding.

My trips to Irving Park were in the winter. With bare trees, more of the residential architecture is visible, so winter is not such a bad time to visit. The first thing to catch my eye as I was driving down Milwaukee Avenue is the striking [Carl Schurz High School](#), eye-catching not only for its beautiful 1908 design, but also for its large scale. To get a closer look, I parked in the residential streets behind the school. There are some nice houses in this area. One of the earliest homes in the neighborhood, built sometime before 1870, can be found at [3800 North Keeler Avenue](#). This Victorian mansion includes an Italian-style corner tower. Not far away is [Irving Park School](#), another nice Edwardian building, although smaller and less impressive than the Carl Schurz High School. Also worth seeing, a little to the East, on North Kostner Avenue, is the quaint stucco covered [Saint John Episcopal Church](#), which was remodeled in 1924.

As interesting as the area immediately behind the Carl Schurz High School is, even better is the [Villa District](#), which is just on the Southern Boundary. This is an area of single family bungalows, a little pocket of calm from the Prairie School era. Represented are both the long narrow Chicago style bungalow and the wider California style bungalow.

Given the impressive parks in other Chicago community areas, I was expecting something great in "Irving Park". There are indeed green spaces in the area, the largest are Horner Park and Independence Park. However, these are in no way comparable to, for example, Humboldt Park in West Town. I was a little disappointed ... but with plenty of great residential architecture, one can hardly complain.