

## PHOTOGRAPHER'S NOTES

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### Lincoln Square

If you like Victorian and early twentieth century architecture, then [Lincoln Square](#) has much to offer. Even more so, if you like specialty shops, quiet residential streets, or historic cemeteries.

The epicenter of Lincoln Square is arguably along North Lincoln Avenue just north of Welles Park. The main shopping area is delineated on either side by [metal arches](#) that cross the street. Here there are cafes, restaurants, and specialty shops, housed within vintage architecture. Once the shops are open, there's lots of foot traffic. Parking can be a problem, but I had luck on West Sunnyside Avenue, a nice tree lined residential street not far from the shops and right next to Welles Park. My parking spot was opposite to the [Queen of Angels Church](#), a monumental building from the Edwardian era. Once parked I started by walking around the park. The field house and swimming pool were being renovated. The field house is, alas, not the original Edwardian building, but a rather more modern affair dating from the 1970's. The most interesting landmark within the park, which is also relatively new, is the wrought iron [Victorian-style bandstand](#). Walking from the park to the north, along Lincoln Avenue, on the left you pass the Old Town School of Folk Music. Beyond the school and a couple of cafes, the architecture becomes interesting. The commercial buildings date from the early twentieth century. Many have nice art deco embellishments. Among them is the Davis, a nice old cinema. A little further on, and worth the detour of a few yards down Eastwood Avenue on the right, is the [Thomas Jefferson Pumping House](#), a red brick masterpiece with a large elaborate door, completed in 1928. Further down Lincoln Avenue, after passing under the L tracks, you arrive at the first metal archway emblazoned with "Lincoln Square". You have arrived at the epicenter, which ends with the second metal arch, at Lawrence Avenue. Out of curiosity I walked down Lawrence Avenue and, after about seven or eight blocks arrived at the [Ravenswood Sears Building](#). There are reviews on the web that suggest not everyone appreciates this fine old building, but I like the clean exterior lines of this vintage department store and hope it survives into the future.

Lincoln Square has more to offer than just shops. I spent some time walking around the residential streets to the east of Lincoln Avenue, lured on by pleasant vintage houses and the occasional interesting [Victorian mansion](#).

Further away, a short drive to the north, is [Winnemac Park](#), a large open area with sports fields, running track, and a prairie that provides a summer walk through towering sunflowers. [Amundsen High School](#) occupies the northeast corner of the park, an attractive Tudor Revival affair from the 1930's. If

you like old fire stations, then to the north of Winnemac Park, on Foster Avenue, is the [Fire Dept. Engine Company 110 building](#). Even further to the north, at the boundary of Lincoln Square, is [Rosehill Cemetery](#). The main entrance, an ornate Victorian Gothic style limestone archway, is on the east side. The best time to visit is in the fall, when you can see the impressive mausoleums nestled amongst tall trees with bright autumn foliage.

Finally, there is an architectural gem at the western boundary of Lincoln Square that should not be missed: The [North Branch Chicago River Pumping Station](#), best viewed from Ronan Park which is across the river in neighboring Albany Park. The 1930's art deco pumping station positively glows in the late afternoon sunshine. with its riverside arches reflected in the placid river. To the north of the pumping station you can walk along the river on the North Shore Channel Trail for the entire length of Lincoln Square and beyond. I was rewarded on one of my two walks along this trail by seeing a ground hog within a few feet of the footpath, quite unconcerned about the nearby people.

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