

Chicago History Today

Lake View

Then and Now, Broadway-Grace



1955-Broadway @ Grace Street, view north



2019-the same location

We are at 3800 north, 800 west. The 1955 photo features the Vogue Theatre. Once a vaudeville house known as the Chateau, the building also had offices, a bowling alley/billiard parlor, a ballroom, and a garage. And on the right side of that 1955.

Today the Vogue Theatre building has been replaced by a high-rise apartment. Behind it, other old cleared to make way for Gill Park. And though the 1955-model street lights are gone, other retro styles of street lights are popping up all over the city.

Then and Now, Ashland-Roscoe



1929-Ashland Avenue @ Roscoe Street, view north



2018-the same location

In 1929 Ashland Avenue at Roscoe wasn't particularly wide. There was no Ashland bridge over the Chicago River's north branch. The streetcar line was a little-used shuttle operating the two miles between Fullerton and Irving Park. Traffic was light, commercial development spotty. That's why the 'L' station was located a block west, at Lincoln and Paulina.

Shortly after the older photo was taken, work began on widening Ashland. Here that was accomplished simply by knocking out portions of the buildings on the west side of the street—note that the pillars on the east side of the 'L' overpass have remained in place. And with the opening of the river bridge in 1938, Ashland has become one of the city's major crosstown thoroughfares.

Then and Now, Sheridan-Surf



1936–Sheridan Road @ Surf Street, view north



2017–the same location

In the 1936 photo, our location just north of Diversey shows the effects of the Great Depression. Vacant lots along Sheridan Road await multi-story apartment buildings, which haven't been constructed. The booming 1920s are definitely over.

Today this stretch of Sheridan is filled with high-rises. And the double-deck buses of yesterday have been replaced by modern articulated buses—shorter in height, but longer in length.

Then and Now, Eddy-Southport



1908 – Eddy @ South of Addison Street. 1908.



2017—the same location

Our location is a short block south of Addison Street. This part of Lakeview was still thinly settled in 1908. However, the Ravenswood branch of the North Side 'L' had just been extended through the area, with a station at Southport. New construction was already starting to pick up.

In 1914 a baseball stadium for the fledgling Federal League opened a few blocks east of here. Though the Federal League didn't last, the ballpark still stands, and has given the neighborhood a new name—Wrigleyville.

Then and Now, Clark-Diversey



1958-Clark Street @ Diversey Parkway, view northwest



2016-the same location

This is the heart of East Lakeview. Here an old trail to the north split into two parts. The western branch continued on as Clark Street. The eastern branch became Evanston Avenue, and later, Broadway—note the bus peeking out at the right side of the older photo.

For a while in the 1970s and '80s, local merchants here tried rebranding their community as New Town, an obvious attempt to cash in on the popularity of Old Town. During that time, the old building at the top of the intersection was torn down. Its modern replacement has since housed a giant Ace Hardware, a Border's Bookstore, a Walgreen's, and perhaps other businesses I've forgotten.

Then and Now, Ashland-Belmont



1938-Ashland Avenue @ Belmont Avenue, view north



2015-the same location

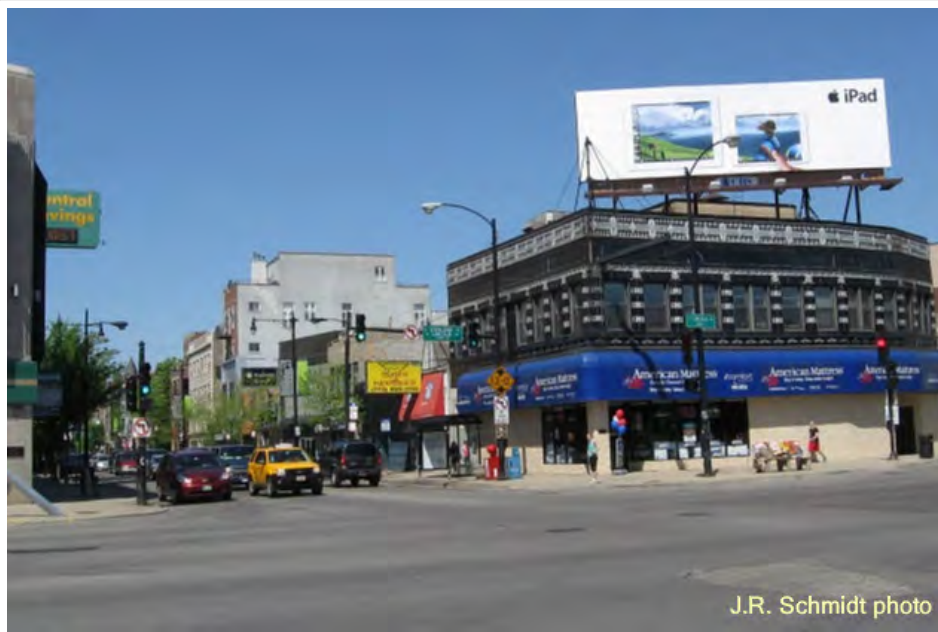
The older photo documents a long-forgotten Chicago story. The large building with the tower, on the left of the picture, was a Wieboldt's department store. When Ashland Avenue was being widened in 1929, the east end of the building needed to be lopped off. The company and the city got into a dispute over the bill for the work. While the matter moved through the courts, the building remained in place—which meant that one block of Ashland was narrower than the rest.

Shortly after the 1938 photo, the court found in favor of Wieboldt's, and the city paid for the demo work on the east wing of the store. The 2015 photo shows how the building has been truncated.

Then and Now, Belmont-Ashland



1955-Belmont Avenue @ Ashland Avenue, view west



2013-the same location

The triple intersection of Lincoln-Belmont-Ashland began developing as a major shopping center in the early 1900s. It became even busier once the Ashland bridge over the Chicago River was completed a mile to the south in 1937. By 1950 the area ranked second in sales of all the city's outlying districts, trailing only 63rd-Halsted.

In recent decades many neighborhood shopping centers have suffered hard times. However, this one continues to thrive.