

= Streeterville =

Streeterville is a neighborhood in the Near North Side community area of Chicago , Illinois , United States , north of the Chicago River in Cook County . It is bounded by the river on the south , the Magnificent Mile portion of Michigan Avenue on the west , and Lake Michigan on the north and east , according to most sources , although the City of Chicago only recognizes a small portion of this region as Streeterville . Thus , it can be described as the Magnificent Mile plus all land east of it . The majority of the land in this neighborhood is reclaimed sandbar .

The neighborhood contains a combination of hotels , restaurants , professional office centers , residential high rises , universities , medical facilities , and cultural venues . The area has undergone increased development in the early 21st century as numerous empty lots in Streeterville have been converted into commercial and residential properties , especially in the southern part of the neighborhood . The neighborhood had earlier experienced booms following World War I and World War II .

= = History = =

Before the American settlement of the Chicago area , the lake shoreline fluctuated from year to year as storm waves eroded parts of the shore and built up the shore elsewhere . By 1803 , when American troops started the construction of Fort Dearborn , a baymouth bar blocked the mouth of the river causing it to jog southwards and enter Lake Michigan at about the level of present @-@ day Madison Street . When surveyed in 1821 the Lake Michigan shoreline north of the river ran approximately along what is now North St Clair Street , just to the east of what is now Michigan Avenue . In 1834 , after a number of failed attempts to cut through the sandbar at the mouth of the river , a 1 @,@ 500 @-@ foot ( 457 @.@ 2 m ) pier was built to protect a channel cut through the bar . Silt and sand accumulated north of this pier , creating usable land that was later nicknamed " The Sands " . Squatters and a vice district encroached on the district , causing angst among the property owners . In 1857 , Chicago Mayor John Wentworth evicted these trespassers from the land .

In the late 1880s , George Streeter claimed that his newly acquired boat struck a sandbar just off the Chicago shoreline during a storm . Landfill dumped in an effort to create land on which to build Lake Shore Drive by the Lincoln Park Board created 186 acres ( 0 @.@ 75 km2 ) of new land along the lake front , which Streeter attempted to claim . Streeter claimed that this newly created land was his and that it was an independent territory which he called the District of Lake Michigan .

For the next few decades , Streeter persisted in his claims , sometimes supporting them through criminal means . A witness in Streeter 's 1902 land fraud trial testified that Streeter had purposely set out to contest the claims of the wealthy shoreline owners . Contractor Hank Brusser told the court that Streeter asked him to fill in portions of the shoreline in order to create confusion over land titles . According to Brusser , Streeter said that : " They [ the owners of the shoreline ] will have to buy us off " and that " We 'll get a million out of it " . Streeter was also motivated by the profit he gained by selling and taxing the land he claimed .

The local press became enamored with the story of Streeter 's brash personality and his self @-@ proclaimed district . Mayor William Hale Thompson tried to evict the Streeters for selling liquor , and after several eviction attempts and gun battles , Streeter landed in jail . In 1918 , the courts ruled against his claim of sovereignty . Today , the district is home to some of the most expensive real estate in Chicago .

The 1920 opening of the Michigan Avenue Bridge , which was part of the efforts to enact the Burnham Plan of 1909 , as well as the economic boom of the 1920s , brought wealth to the eastern sector of the Near North Side and paved the way for a luxury shopping district on North Michigan Avenue . Investors built high @-@ rise apartment buildings such as those in the East Lake Shore Drive Historic District , and elaborate hotels . The Bridge connected to a North Michigan avenue that served as a replacement for the former Pine Street which hosted warehouses and factory buildings near the river , and large mansions and rowhouses in northward sections in the neighborhoods of

McCormickville and Streeterville . Magnificent Mile architecture during the economic boom of the 1920s emphasized historicist architectural styles such as Beaux @-@ Arts classicism , Gothic revival , and vertical @-@ style modernism . The buildings redefined the Chicago skyline with stylistic variation that gave new meaning to urban context and design compatibility .

A post @-@ World War II construction surge occurred in the area , and in the 1950s the city pursued a plan of urban renewal . A local real estate developer named Arthur Rubloff led the revitalization of North Michigan Avenue under the banner of ? The Magnificent Mile ? . The success of this effort spurred the erection of more high @-@ rise apartments and new investment in the Near North Side . This development led to the " canyonization " of Michigan Avenue , where the buildings on both sides of the street tower above , creating an " urban canyon " .

= = Today = =

Although there is general agreement that Streeterville is bounded on the west by the Magnificent Mile , the City of Chicago and the Streeterville Organization of Active Residents , claim the boundary extends one block further to the west to Rush Street . Streeterville includes some of Chicago 's tallest skyscrapers , such as the John Hancock Center , and upscale stores , hotels , and restaurants .

Although its main campus is in Evanston , Illinois , Northwestern University has its Chicago campus here . The Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine is on the Chicago campus and is adjacent to several closely affiliated hospitals , including Northwestern Memorial Hospital , the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children 's Hospital of Chicago , the Prentice Women 's Hospital , and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago . The Prentice Women 's Hospital opened in October 2007 , and the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children 's Hospital of Chicago opened in May 2012 . The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago is located in Streeterville and construction of a replacement facility , also in Streeterville , was begun in 2013 . The Northwestern University School of Professional Studies and part of its Kellogg School of Management are nearby . The Northwestern University School of Law is at Chicago Avenue and Lake Shore Drive , adjacent to Lake Shore Park and Lake Michigan . Next to the Park is the Museum of Contemporary Art , Chicago . The downtown campus of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business has a Chicago River setting to the south . The east side of the Magnificent Mile portion of Michigan Avenue is part of Streeterville , as are Navy Pier , the most visited attraction in Chicago , and the John Hancock Observatory , the eighth @-@ most visited attraction in Chicago .

The area east of Michigan Avenue and north of the Chicago River had a split personality for much of the 20th century - the northern portion upscale residential , retail , and university uses and the area near the Chicago River and Navy Pier dedicated to shipping and factories . At the end of the 1960s , however , residential complexes such as Lake Point Tower ( 1965 ) and McClurg Court Center ( 1971 ) began to appear among the warehouses and by the end of the century , residential and retail dominated the entire area . The neighborhood now has a reputation as part of an upscale residential strip that balances the more industrial western portion of the Near North Side . In 2007 , construction started on what would have been Chicago 's tallest skyscraper , the Chicago Spire . It was to be located in the southeastern corner of the neighborhood , next to Lake Shore Drive . The Chicago Spire was originally supposed to be completed in 2010 , but was later cancelled .

In the early 21st century , much of the southern part of the neighborhood that had previously contained warehouses and empty lots has undergone development , including the River East Center east of Columbus Drive . The River East Art Center serves as the primary retail hub apart from the Magnificent Mile . South Streeterville currently has numerous skyscrapers that are either proposed or already under construction such as a new tower at InterContinental Chicago and 500 North Lake Shore .

Streeterville hosts several landmarks and places that have been designated as historic districts . The East Lake Shore Drive Historic District , which consists of a row of early 20th century luxury apartments , sits on the northern edge of the district opposite Lake Michigan . The Old Chicago Water Tower District is located along Michigan Avenue where Streeterville meets the border of the

River North and Gold Coast ( Chicago ) neighborhoods at Chicago Avenue . The Water Tower District contains the only public buildings that survived the 1871 Great Chicago Fire . Also , part of the Michigan ? Wacker Historic District lies within Streeterville at the southern end of the Magnificent Mile and contains numerous high rises and skyscrapers built in the 1920s .

The neighborhood hosts several individual landmarks . The neighborhood hosts a National Historic Landmark , the Jean Baptiste Point Du Sable Homesite , the home of the first settler in Chicago . Properties in the neighborhood listed in the National Register of Historic Places include 257 East Delaware , the 860 @-@ 880 Lake Shore Drive Apartments , the Drake Hotel , the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago , the Navy Pier and the Palmolive Building . Other Chicago Landmarks in the neighborhood include Allerton Hotel , Farwell Building , McGraw @-@ Hill Building , Perkins , Fellows & Hamilton Office and Studio , Tribune Tower , and the Woman 's Athletic Club . Notable buildings in the district include the skyscrapers on the Magnificent Mile :

John Hancock Center ( 1 @,@ 127 feet ( 344 m ) )

900 North Michigan ( 871 feet ( 265 m ) )

Water Tower Place ( 859 feet ( 262 m ) )

Park Tower ( 844 feet ( 257 m ) )

Olympia Centre ( 725 feet ( 221 m ) )

One Magnificent Mile ( 673 feet ( 205 m ) )

Chicago Place ( 608 feet ( 185 m ) )

Palmolive Building ( 565 feet ( 172 m ) ) .

Non @-@ Michigan Avenue skyscrapers in the neighborhood include the following :

Lake Point Tower ( 645 feet ( 197 m ) )

River East Center ( 644 feet ( 196 m ) )

North Pier Apartments ( 581 feet ( 177 m ) )

Onterie Center ( 570 feet ( 170 m ) )

Elysées Condominiums ( 529 feet ( 161 m ) )

401 East Ontario ( 515 feet ( 157 m ) )

The Streeter ( 514 feet ( 157 m ) )

Streeter Place ( 554 feet ( 169 m ) )

400 East Ohio Street ( 505 feet ( 154 m ) ) .

Some of the notable buildings in the district that have not been designated are Wrigley Building and Museum of Contemporary Art , Chicago .

The neighborhood hosts more than 25 hotels , including the Ritz Carlton , one of three five star hotels in the Midwestern United States , and the historic Drake Hotel . The Peninsula Hotel , another of the three five star hotels in the Midwestern United States , and the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago , the other of the Midwestern five star hotels are located in the neighborhood near Rush Street . These two hotels host the highest rated spas in Illinois .

= = Economy = =

Qatar Airways operates an office in Suite 1310 at the John Hancock Center .

Playboy Enterprises ' offices were on the 15th and 16th floors of 680 N. Lake Shore Drive until 2012 .

Several consulates are in Streeterville . Countries with consulates include Bosnia and Herzegovina , Bulgaria , Chile , Denmark , Greece , Japan , Lithuania , and Switzerland .

= = Transportation = =

Streeterville is accessible via Lake Shore Drive with multiple direct exits in both directions . In addition , the Chicago ' L ' has a stops at Chicago and Grand stations on the Red Line , which runs along State Street immediately to the west of the neighborhood . From the Kennedy Expressway the Ohio Street exit feeds into Streeterville . Numerous Chicago Transit Authority bus routes run within the neighborhood , notably along Michigan Avenue , Grand Avenue , and Chicago Avenue . During

warm @-@ weather months , water taxis and sightseeing boats ply the Chicago River along the south edge of the neighborhood and Navy Pier handles similar Lake Michigan water traffic .