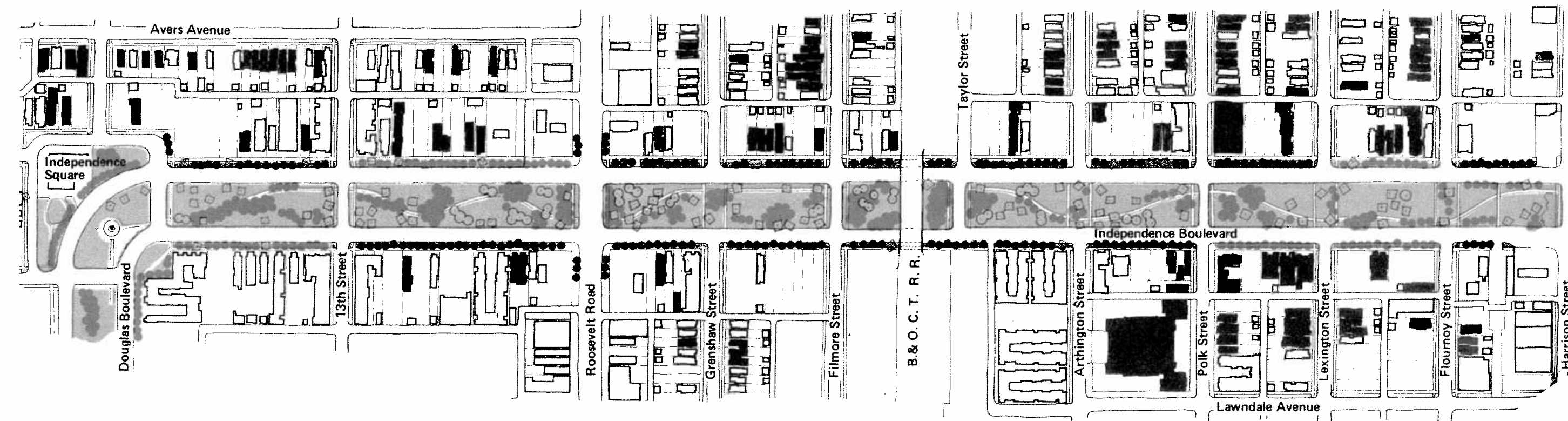
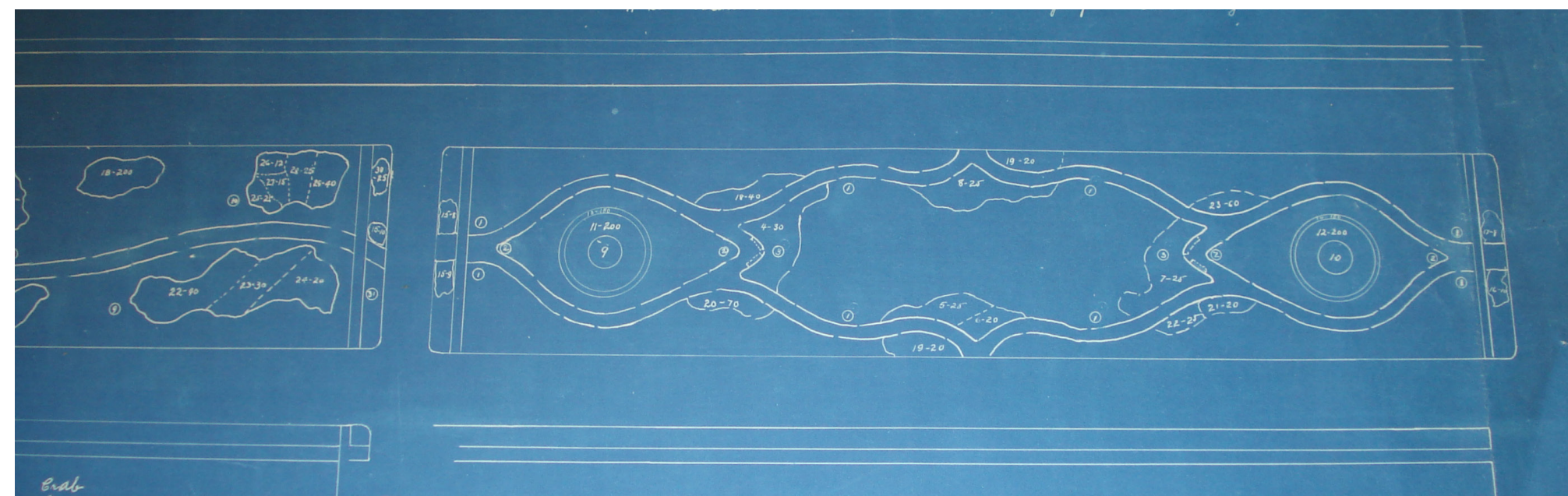


# INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD & ITS NEIGHBORHOODS

Chicago's boulevards are a 26 mile system that connect Chicago's major parks. Consisting of central green space and roadways, the boulevards are meant to serve as landscaped backdrop to vehicles while providing pedestrians with leisure space. Independence Boulevard starts at Garfield Park and ends at Independence Square. Independence Boulevard runs through three Chicago Neighborhoods. East Garfield Park to the east, West Garfield Park to the west, and North Lawndale to the south.

INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD



SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

1870 ..... 1950 ..... 2022

**1871**  
William Le Baron Jenney, best known for his help in developing the skyscraper, designs the West Park Commission Parks & Boulevards. Jenney's original plans have since been destroyed.

**1891**  
P.S. Peterson & Son Nurserymen prepare new plans featuring Victorian landscaping and pathways.

**1901**  
Independence Fountain is erected in Independence Square.

**1893 - 1934**  
Corruption and financial challenges result in system wide neglect of the West Park Commission Boulevards.

**1959**  
Chicago Park District transfers jurisdiction of the boulevards to the City of Chicago.

**1986**  
Mayor Harold Washington publishes "Boulevard Restoration, A Catalyst for Neighborhood Revitalization" A plan that focused on using the boulevards as a stimulus for investment.

**2018**  
Boulevards are officially registered on the National Register of Historic Places.

By this time all three neighborhoods are annexed to Chicago.  
**1870**

Czech & Bohemian immigrants were the first to populate the area, attracted to nearby industrial plants.  
**1890**



"L" on Lake Street is constructed and brings new commercial development.  
**1893**

Sears, Roebuck & Co. opens its headquarters and plant.  
**1906**



Golda Meir, the first female Prime Minister of Israel, briefly lives in the Lawndale Neighborhood.  
**1917**

Lawndale becomes the Jewish epicenter of Chicago.  
**1920**

The Eisenhower Expressway is constructed, slicing the Garfield Park Neighborhoods. The Expressway displaced many communities and interrupted access to businesses and residences on the other side.  
**1950**

After the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. riots left many businesses and residences damaged.

**1968**  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. moves into an apartment in North Lawndale. Resident organized efforts to improve the community are established. This same year he delivered a speech at Stone Temple Missionary Baptist Church.

**1966**  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. chooses North Lawndale as the base for the civil rights movement in the North.  
**1960**



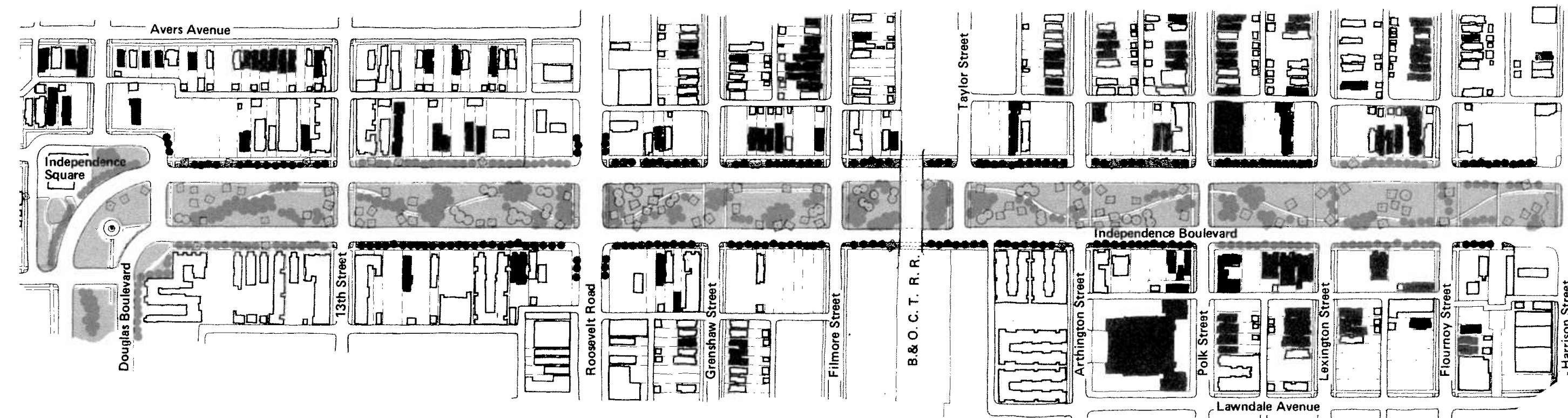
Garfield Park Community Council is created and focuses on resident-led initiatives on Chicago's west side.  
**2005**

Seligman, Amanda. "East Garfield Park." Encyclopedia of Chicago, 2005. <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/>.  
Seligman, Amanda. "North Lawndale." Encyclopedia of Chicago, 2005. <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/>.  
Seligman, Amanda. "West Garfield Park." Encyclopedia of Chicago, 2005. <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/>.



# INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD & ITS NEIGHBORHOODS

What is your history? Add a note about where your history falls on the timeline.



INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD

1950 ..... 1960 ..... 1970 ..... 1980 ..... 1990 ..... 2000 ..... 2010 ..... 2022

SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

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