

Chicago Ward History

Introduction

This resource documents the creation of the Historical Urban Ecological (HUE) data set Chicago ward boundary shapefiles and feature classes. All sources pertaining to the delineation and numbering of each ward system (the unique configuration of ward boundaries over a defined period), encompassing cartographic materials, city ordinances, newspaper reports, and ward boundaries described in the historical literature, have been included. Exclusions are noted where applicable. This document also describes ambiguities found between sources and a discussion of how these ambiguities were resolved in our published data. Table 1 provides a general ward history, 1837-1930.

Date Range	# of Wards	Type of Change
1837-1846	6	City Incorporated
1847-1852	9	Redivision/ Annexation
1853-1862	10	Redivision/Annexation
1863-1868	16	Redivision/Annexation
1869-1888	20	Redivision/Annexation
1889	34	Redivision/Annexation
1890	34	Annexation
1891-1892	34	Annexation
1893-1894	34	Annexation
1895-1898	34	Annexation
1899-1900	35	Annexation
1901-1909	35	Redivision
1910-1911	35	Annexation
1912-1913	35	Redivision
1914	35	Annexation
1915-1922	35	Annexation
1923-1926	50	Redivision/Annexation
1927-1930	50	Annexation

Table 1: General ward history of Chicago, 1837-1930

Sources

No single source provides a satisfactory overview of Chicago's ward boundary changes. A broad collection of historical maps and city ordinances were employed in the creation of the Chicago Wards GIS data.

This ward boundary history combines Chicago's ward redivisions with all of its annexations from incorporation in 1837 up to 1930. Annexations for any one year ranged from multiple towns to a single small neighborhood. The inauguration of a new ward system in the HUE Chicago ward boundary data accounts for either a change in the ward boundary system, a large city expansion, or the incorporation of a small annex into the city. Three resources were of particular importance to this endeavor: the Chicago Bureau of Maps and Plats' *Map of Chicago Showing Growth of the City by Annexations*, 1911 and 1930, and Ann Durkin Keating's map from the Encyclopedia of Chicago, *Annexations and Additions to the City of Chicago*. Additional information regarding annexations and their timing was found in Goodspeed and Healy's *History of Cook County*, written in 1909. *History of Cook County* contains more detailed information for respective annex-ward connections, in particular from 1890 through 1893.

This composite history has been supplemented by and checked against ward maps that were periodically released during the study period. These include maps located at the University of Chicago Map Collection and the Library of Congress as well as maps available online through the David Rumsey Map Collection and the Encyclopedia of Chicago.

Street centerlines delimited many ward boundaries. We have checked the HUE ward boundaries for topological consistency against the CPE's HUE Street Centerlines for Chicago. These streets were created from georeferenced historical maps, historical aerial surveys, and modern orthographic imagery that were edited to reflect the streets as they existed in 1929 according to Rand McNally & Company's *New Street Number Guide Map of Chicago*. Many ward lines were set against these streets. Georeferenced historical maps, contemporary orthoimagery, and GIS data were used in cases where abstract lines and natural features constituted ward boundaries.

The monthly and annual tabular data reported by various municipal departments that accompany and complement the HUE GIS resources reveal the effective (rather than legislated) timing of changes to ward and city boundaries. These reports are often quite clear, with references to "old" and "new" wards, or the expansion of tables to include new ward numbers. The HUE ward system dates pertain to the official implementation of the wards as reporting units, making many of them unsuitable for use in determining the passage of the ordinances and acts from which they were created due to administrative lags.

Ward Systems

1837-1849

Change: City Incorporated

Number of Wards: 6

Primary Sources: City of Chicago. *Act to Incorporate the City of Chicago*. Chicago: Office of the Chicago Democrat, 1837. *Encyclopedia of Chicago*.
<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/11480> (Accessed Feb 21, 2013); Keating, Ann Durkin. "Annexations and Additions to the City of Chicago" in *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (electronic edition) eds. Janice L. Reiff, Ann Durkin Keating, James R. Grossman. Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 2004. <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/3716.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013).

1847-1852

Change: Annexation and Redivision

Number of Wards: 9

Primary Sources: Goodspeed, Weston A and Daniel Healy. *History of Cook County*, vol. 1. Chicago: Goodspeed Historical Association, 1909, pg.183; "Map of Chicago and Vicinity" [map]. Rees and Rucker, 1849. *Encyclopedia of Chicago*.
<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/10343.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013); "Map of Chicago Showing Growth of the City by Annexations" [map]. Chicago Bureau of Maps and Plats, 1911. *University of Chicago Map Collection*.
<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/collections/maps/chi1900/G4104-C6S1-1911-M2.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013).

1853-1862

Change: Annexation and Redivision

Number of Wards: 10

Primary Sources: Goodspeed, Weston A and Daniel Healy. *History of Cook County*, vol. 1. Chicago: Goodspeed Historical Association, 1909, pg. 242; "Map of Chicago" [map]. Rufus Blanchard, 1857. *David Rumsey Map Collection*. <http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/s/72uw41> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013); Keating, Ann Durkin. "Annexations and Additions to the City of Chicago" in *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (electronic edition) eds. Janice L. Reiff, Ann Durkin Keating, James R. Grossman. Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 2004.
<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/3716.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013).

1863-1868

Change: Annexation and Redivision

Number of Wards: 16

Primary Sources: "Guide Map of Chicago, 1867" [map]. Rufus Blanchard, 1868. *David Rumsey Map Collection*. <http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/s/431j8d> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013); Keating, Ann Durkin. "Annexations and Additions to the City of Chicago" in *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (electronic edition) eds. Janice L. Reiff, Ann Durkin Keating, James R. Grossman. Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 2004.
<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/3716.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013).

1869-1888

Change: Annexation and Redivision

Number of Wards: 20

Primary Sources: “Chicago” [map] Samuel Augustus Mitchel, 1870. *David Rumsey Map Collection*. <http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/s/toe69p> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013); Goodspeed, Weston A and Daniel Healy. *History of Cook County*, vol. 2. Chicago: Goodspeed Historical Association, 1909, pg. 33-65; Keating, Ann Durkin. “Annexations and Additions to the City of Chicago” in *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (electronic edition) eds. Janice L. Reiff, Ann Durkin Keating, James R. Grossman. Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 2004. <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/3716.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013).

1889

Change: Annexation and Redivision

Number of Wards: 34

Primary Sources: “Chicago” [map]. Samuel Augustus Mitchell, 1890. *David Rumsey Map Collection*. <http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/s/3zr955> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013); Keating, Ann Durkin. “Annexations and Additions to the City of Chicago” in *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (electronic edition) eds. Janice L. Reiff, Ann Durkin Keating, James R. Grossman. Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 2004. <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/3716.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013); Goodspeed, Weston A and Daniel Healy. *History of Cook County*, vol. 2. Chicago: Goodspeed Historical Association, 1909, pg. 33-65.

Notes

- Lake Township annexed, area spans multiple wards
- Southeastern boundary of Ward 28 confirmed via maps available through “A Look at Cook” – Genealogy in Cook County Illinois, <http://www.alookatcook.com/>

1890

Change: Annexation

Number of Wards: 34

Primary Sources: Keating, Ann Durkin. “Annexations and Additions to the City of Chicago” in *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (electronic edition) eds. Janice L. Reiff, Ann Durkin Keating, James R. Grossman. Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 2004. <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/3716.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013); “Map of Chicago Showing Growth of the City by Annexations” [map]. Chicago Bureau of Maps and Plats, 1930. *University of Chicago Map Collection*. <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/collections/maps/chigov/G4104-C6S1-1930-C7.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013); Goodspeed, Weston A and Daniel Healy. *History of Cook County*, vol. 2. Chicago: Goodspeed Historical Association, 1909, pg. 33-65.

Notes

- Areas annexed: West Roseland (joins Ward 34, see *History of Cook County*), Gano (34, see *History of Cook County*), South Englewood (no ward specified in source; entire area added to Ward 31 due to adjacency, majority of new area abuts and continues Ward 31, addition of part or all to Ward 34 is a less likely alternative)

1891-1892

Change: Annexation

Number of Wards: 34

Primary Sources: Keating, Ann Durkin. “Annexations and Additions to the City of Chicago” in *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (electronic edition) eds. Janice L. Reiff, Ann Durkin Keating, James R. Grossman. Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 2004.

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/3716.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013);
Goodspeed, Weston A and Daniel Healy. *History of Cook County*, vol. 2. Chicago: Goodspeed
Historical Association, 1909, pg. 33-65.

Notes

- Areas annexed: Washington Heights (joins Ward 31, see *History of Cook County*), Fernwood (31, see *History of Cook County*)

1893-1894

Change: Annexation

Number of Wards: 34

Primary Source: Keating, Ann Durkin. "Annexations and Additions to the City of Chicago" in
Encyclopedia of Chicago (electronic edition) eds. Janice L. Reiff, Ann Durkin Keating, James R.
Grossman. Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 2004.
<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/3716.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013).

Notes

- Areas annexed: Norwood Park (joins Ward 27, see *History of Cook County*), West Ridge (26, see *History of Cook County*), Rogers Park (25, see *History of Cook County*)

1895-1898

Change: Annexation

Number of Wards: 34

Primary Source: "Map of Chicago Showing Growth of the City by Annexations" [map]. Chicago Bureau
of Maps and Plats, 1911. *University of Chicago Map Collection*.
<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/collections/maps/chi1900/G4104-C6S1-1911-M2.html> (Accessed
Feb 18, 2013).

Notes

- Area annexed: A portion of Calumet (joins Ward 34, see *History of Cook County*)

1899-1900

Change: Annexation

Number of Wards: 35

Primary Source: Keating, Ann Durkin. "Annexations and Additions to the City of Chicago" in
Encyclopedia of Chicago (electronic edition) eds. Janice L. Reiff, Ann Durkin Keating, James R.
Grossman. Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 2004.
<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/3716.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013).

Notes

- Area Annexed: Austin (incorporated as its own discrete ward, Ward 28)

1901-1909

Change: Redivision

Number of Wards: 35

Primary Source: "Map of Chicago Showing Density of Population as per U.S. Census for 1910" [map].
Chicago: Chicago Bureau of Maps, 1911.

1910-1911

Change: Annexation

Number of Wards: 35

Primary Source: Keating, Ann Durkin. "Annexations and Additions to the City of Chicago" in
Encyclopedia of Chicago (electronic edition) eds. Janice L. Reiff, Ann Durkin Keating, James R.

Grossman. Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 2004.
<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/3716.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013).

Notes

- Area annexed: Edison Park (no source; area added to ward 27 due to unambiguous adjacency, i.e. boundary completely abuts a single ward edge, not split across multiple wards)

1912-1913

Change: Redivision

Number of Wards: 35

Primary Source: "School Map of Chicago" [map]. Board of Education of the City of Chicago, 1914
University of Chicago Map Collection.

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/collections/maps/chi1900/G4104-C6E68-1914-C7.html> (Accessed Feb 20, 2013).

1914

Change: Annexation

Number of Wards: 35

Primary Sources: "Map of Chicago Showing Growth of the City by Annexations" [map]. Chicago Bureau of Maps and Plats, 1930. *University of Chicago Map Collection.*

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/collections/maps/chigov/G4104-C6S1-1930-C7.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013); "School Map of Chicago" [map]. Board of Education of the City of Chicago, 1914

University of Chicago Map Collection.

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/collections/maps/chi1900/G4104-C6E68-1914-C7.html> (Accessed Feb 20, 2013).

Notes

- Area annexed: Morgan Park (no source; entire area added to Ward 32 due to adjacency, majority of new area abuts and continues Ward 32, addition of part or all to Ward 9 is a less likely alternative)

1915-1922

Change: Annexation

Number of Wards: 35

Primary Source: Keating, Ann Durkin. "Annexations and Additions to the City of Chicago" in *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (electronic edition) eds. Janice L. Reiff, Ann Durkin Keating, James R. Grossman. Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 2004.

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/3716.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013).

Notes

- Area annexed: Clearing (no source; entire area added to Ward 29 due to adjacency, majority of new area abuts and continues Ward 29, Ward 5 is a less likely alternative)

1923-1926

Change: Annexation and Redivision

Number of Wards: 50

Primary Sources: "Ward Map of Chicago, 50 Ward Plan" [map]. Chicago: Chicago City Council, 1921; Keating, Ann Durkin. "Annexations and Additions to the City of Chicago" in *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (electronic edition) eds. Janice L. Reiff, Ann Durkin Keating, James R. Grossman. Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 2004.

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/3716.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013); "Map of Chicago Showing Growth of the City by Annexations" [map]. Chicago Bureau of Maps and Plats, 1930. *University of Chicago Map Collection.*

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/collections/maps/chigov/G4104-C6S1-1930-C7.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013).

Notes

- Area annexed: Part of Town of Maine (no source; area added to Ward 41 due to unambiguous adjacency)

1927-1930

Change: Annexation

Number of Wards: 50

Primary Sources: Keating, Ann Durkin. "Annexations and Additions to the City of Chicago" in *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (electronic edition) eds. Janice L. Reiff, Ann Durkin Keating, James R. Grossman. Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 2004.

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/3716.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013); "Map of Chicago Showing Growth of the City by Annexations" [map]. Chicago Bureau of Maps and Plats, 1930. *University of Chicago Map Collection*.

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/collections/maps/chigov/G4104-C6S1-1930-C7.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013).

Notes

- Area annexed: Mount Greenwood (no source; area added to Ward 19 due to unambiguous adjacency)

Citations

"Chicago" [map]. Samuel Augustus Mitchel, 1870. *David Rumsey Map Collection*. <http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/s/toe69p> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013).

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- “Map of Chicago Showing Density of Population as per U.S. Census for 1910” [map]. Chicago Bureau of Maps, 1911.
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<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/collections/maps/chi1900/G4104-C6S1-1911-M2.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013).
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<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/collections/maps/chigov/G4104-C6S1-1930-C7.html> (Accessed Feb 18, 2013).
- “New Street Number Guide Map of Chicago.” [map]. Rand McNally & Co., 1929. *Encyclopedia of Chicago*. <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/10451.html> (Accessed Feb 21, 2013).
- “School Map of Chicago” [map]. Board of Education of the City of Chicago, 1914. *University of Chicago Map Collection*. <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/collections/maps/chi1900/G4104-C6E68-1914-C7.html> (Accessed Feb 20, 2013).
- “Ward Map of Chicago, 50 Ward Plan” [map]. Chicago City Council, 1921.