

Chicago Plan Commission lantern slide collection, 1910s-1930s.

Finding Aid for the Collection at Chicago History Museum, Research Center  
Rev. by Lesley Martin, 2008

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**Title:** Chicago Plan Commission lantern slide collection [graphic], 1910s-1930s.

**Inclusive dates:** 1910s-1930s.

**Size:** 3615 transparencies : lantern slide ; 9 x 10 cm. (3 1/4 x 4 in.) or smaller.

**Call #:** 1986.0497 PLS.a-b

**Accession #:** 1986.0497

**Restriction:** To consult this collection in the Research Center it is necessary to make an advance appointment (email: [Research@chicagohistory.org](mailto:Research@chicagohistory.org) ).

This finding aid includes:

Description of the collection,

Provenance statement,

List of headings in the online catalog for this collection,

Container list of box and slide numbers and descriptions.

**Summary:**

Lantern slides used by the Chicago Plan Commission (CPC), which was formed in 1909 as an outcome of the Burnham Plan. Slides were used to illustrate lectures that were given to organizations and businesses to promote the Plan of Chicago. Subjects include street, park, and lakefront improvements especially in the Grant Park and south lakeshore areas of Chicago; and new and remodeled public buildings, such as railroad stations and museums. Slides show photographs, aerial photographs, drawings, maps, and diagrams, and sometimes text.

Includes illustrations for plans for other cities that were considered by Chicago planners, including London, New York City, Washington, Paris (?), Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Des Moines, Detroit, Harrisburg (Pa), Houston, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Portland, St. Louis, Seattle, and Spokane.

Numbers on slides are not consecutive but presumably were used in creating different presentations. Some slides are unnumbered or have two numbers.

Some glass slides are cracked and should be handled with care.

**Provenance statement:**

Gift of Department of Planning, City of Chicago, 1986 (1986.0497).

**List of headings in the online catalog for this collection:**

Subjects:

Chicago (Ill.). Dept. of Planning

Chicago Plan Commission

Chicago plan.

Waterfronts--Illinois--Chicago.

Streets--Illinois--Chicago.  
Parks--Illinois--Chicago.  
City planning--Illinois--Chicago.  
City planning--New York (State)--New York.  
City planning--England--London.  
Roads--Illinois--Chicago.  
Railroad stations--Illinois--Chicago.  
Chicago (Ill.)--Pictorial works.  
Michigan, Lake  
Chicago River (Ill.)  
South Water Street (Chicago, Ill.)  
Michigan Avenue Chicago (Ill.)  
Outer Lake Shore Drive Chicago (Ill.)  
Avondale Avenue (Chicago, Ill.)  
Lincoln Park (Chicago, Ill. : Park)  
Grant Park (Chicago, Ill.)  
Loop (Chicago, Ill.)  
Near North Side (Chicago, Ill.)  
Form/genre:  
Lantern slides.  
Aerial photographs.  
Maps.  
Planning drawings.  
Diagrams.  
Added entries:  
Burnham, Daniel Hudson, 1846-1912  
Chicago (Ill.). Dept. of Planning  
Chicago Plan Commission  
Commercial Club of Chicago. Plan of Chicago.  
United States--Illinois--Cook County--Chicago.

**Storage designation:**

Call #: 1986.0497 PLS.a-b  
42 boxes (4 x 5 in.)

**Container list of box and slide numbers and descriptions:**

Items already available as digital copies are labeled with ICHi-numbers.

Box 1

*Slide numbers:*

- 6 Aerial, probably medical district, including University of Illinois hospital
- 20 Aerial of Chicago lakefront
- 30 Caption: (Plan of Chicago.) A \$40,000,000 park is being constructed along the lake front.
- 33 Labeled "Field Museum--aerial" Shows the building that was the Fine Arts Building in 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, then Field Museum, eventually became Museum of Science and Industry's building
- 34 Grant Park--aerial
- 57 Chicago River--aerial, early 1920s.
- 63 Port of Chicago area, freight yards (broken slide)
- 68 Michigan Avenue, aerial north from Chicago River showing Wrigley Building

- 72 Ogden Avenue improvement
- 73 Chicago River--aerial
- 74 Chicago, aerial view. ca. 1937 shows Lake Shore Drive Bridge
- 75 Aerial--six block area. Cermak and Cottage Grove
- 76 Pershing Road improvement, Cicero to Lake
- 77 Aerial of Roosevelt Road looking west, ca. 1920s. (Scan IChi-51864)
- 83 Lake Zurich, Illinois (slide cracked)

#### Box 2

- 86 Small boats marina, possibly South Lincoln Park lagoon
- 90 Plan of Chicago improvements: Grant Park. (Image appeared in National Geographic, January 1919)
- 96 Rush Street Bridge, 1910s
- 97 River view with small bridge (Lagoon?)
- 98 Bridge freight yard, possibly Kinzie Street Bridge
- 981 Proposed bridge over Chicago River
- 100 Field Museum--construction
- 105 Sherman House images from 1837, 1844, 1861, 1873, and 1910
- 106 Sherman House images from 1837 and 1910
- 107 Chicago's Navy Pier
- 108 Field Museum, artist conception
- 110 Wells Street and new Chicago and Northwestern Railway Depot
- 113 Chicago--Rockwood
- 114 Rockwood
- 115 Park in the city (?) with flags

#### Box 3

- 29c Two barges on Lake, landfill operations near Lawrence Ave. (ICHi-51881 scan)
- 39 Des Plaines River drawing
- 58 Radial street map
- 78 Civic Center and 12th Street Terminals, bird's eye view
- 98 (or 86) Proposed Northwestern University at Lake Shore Drive & Chicago Avenue
- 131 Elevation of proposed Civic Center
- 139 Labeled "New plan for civic center Graham and Burnham & Co." also "Terminal Talk only. Pennsylvania Civic Center plan."
- 149 Chicago dock area
- 168 Chicago survey map of a west side district, 1922, South Lawndale, Little Village
- 170 Map showing heights of buildings, South Lawndale, Little Village
- 185 McMillan Plan of Washington D.C., 1902 (ICHi-51865 scanned)
- 187 Chicago River north, waterfront improvement plan 1926 (ICHi-51866 scanned)
- 271 Chicago, Blighted District map 1937
- 288 Chicago, map showing building types (single family; two-flat, etc.) South Lawndale, Little Village
- 305 Chicago, drawing of proposed express highways, 1929

#### Box 4

- 2 Chicago in 1834
- 121 Michigan Avenue, Wrigley Building
- 123 Michigan Avenue, Wrigley Building

- 387 Chicago, drawing of Navy Pier
- 400 Des Plaines River (ICHi-51867 scanned)
- 402 Des Plaines River
- nn Plat of property of the railroads in the business center of Chicago (ICHi-37503 scanned)
- nn. Chicago, Plan of Field Museum
- nn Waterfront view. Not Chicago; probably Paris
- nn. Chicago, Northwestern University proposed campus
- nn. Chicago Land Use Survey; Woodlawn neighborhood
- nn. Chicago, map of highways 1916
- nn Map of proposed roads between Chicago River's South Branch and Lake Michigan
- nn. Chicago tree sites, shows radius around existing park, 1930s?
- nn Artist conception, aerial along Chicago River

Box 5

- 125 River (broken)
- 126 Park
- 138 Canal Street development (broken)
- 141 Park
- 144 Des Plaines River
- 150 Wooden structure by river edge
- 151 Midway Plaisance
- 154 Boat on lake
- 177 Chicago, Water Street and Michigan Avenue
- 190 Chicago, alley

Box 6

- 6 Outer Lake Shore Drive improvement, Michigan Canal substructure
- 7 Outer Lake Shore Drive improvement, Michigan Canal substructure
- 8 Outer Lake Shore Drive improvement
- 9 Outer Lake Shore Drive improvement looking northeast
- 10 Outer Lake Shore Drive improvement
- 11 Outer Lake Shore Drive improvement, Michigan Canal substructure
- 12 Outer Lake Shore Drive improvement
- 13 Outer Lake Shore Drive improvement
- 19C. Outer Lake Shore Drive improvements, stone filled steel sheet piling breakwater 1931
- 21A Outer Lake Shore Drive improvements
- 22A Outer Lake Shore Drive improvement
- 23A Outer Lake Shore Drive improvement, 1931 Rest pier
- 24A? Outer Lake Shore Drive improvements
- 25A Outer Lake Shore Drive improvement, Chicago River Bridge
- 193 Outer Lake Shore Drive improvement study 1927 (cracked)

**List of box numbers and topics:**

***Box# / Topic***

Chicago views:

- 1 Chicago's Grant Park area--aerial views
- 2 Chicago parks, rivers
- 3 Chicago streets, diagrams
- 4 Chicago area land use, rivers

- 5 Chicago area parks, rivers
- 6 Chicago's Outer Lake Shore Drive improvement study, 1927
- 7 Chicago's Lincoln Park landfill, 1931
- 8 Chicago's Montrose Harbor--Margate to Foster Avenue, 1931
- 9 Chicago traffic plans
- 10 Chicago lakeshore--aerial views
- 11 Chicago Loop area planning maps
- 12 Chicago land use, Grant Park
- 13 Chicago land use, lakeshore--aerial views
- 14 Chicago traffic plans
- 15 Chicago traffic plans
- 16 Chicago's Avondale Avenue improvement--aerial views
- 17 Chicago proposed building designs
- 18 Chicago proposed building designs
- 19 Chicago proposed building designs
- 20 Chicago proposed building designs
- 21 Chicago aerial views
- 22 Chicago aerial views, proposed road plans, building designs
- 23 Chicago proposed road plans & by-passes
- 24 Chicago proposed road plans, South Water Street
- 25 Chicago proposed road plans
- 26 Chicago proposed road plans, maps & diagrams
- 27 Chicago proposed road plans, maps & diagrams
- 28 Chicago proposed road plans, maps & diagrams
- 29 Chicago proposed road plans, maps & diagrams
- 30 Chicago proposed road plans, maps & diagrams
- 31 City plans studied by CPC: Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus
- 32 City plans studied by CPC: Des Moines, Detroit
- 33 City plans studied by CPC: Harrisburg (PA), Houston, Kansas City, Minneapolis
- 34 City plans studied by CPC: New York City
- 35 City plans studied by CPC: New York City, Philadelphia
- 36 City plans studied by CPC: Pittsburg, Portland, St. Louis, Seattle, Spokane
- 37 City plans studied by CPC: Washington, D.C.
- 38 City plans studied by CPC: London
- 39 City plans studied by CPC: London
- 40 City plans studied by CPC: London
- 41 City plans studied by CPC: London & unidentified
- 42 City plans studied by CPC: Unidentified - probably London or Paris