Bay View

Tour

A village within the city, the Bay View neighborhood has frequently been described as the community's "cultural center." This community traditionally encompassed the area between Lincoln Avenue, Oregon Avenue, the Kilbourntown River and Lake Michigan. Today, all of this former Bay View is part of the Lincoln Park area north to 30th Street. Formerly known as "Bay View," the neighborhood was once the area surrounded by Milwaukee's pioneer communities and attracted settlers both for its farmland and for the promising commercial prospects of its location at the mouth of the Milwaukee River. Bay View's reputation, however, is due in large part to its role as a staging area for many of Wisconsin's major commercial activities. The 1929 depression caused a decline in city development, but Bay View's neighborhood began to rehabilitate itself after WWII. Today, Bay View is an area of historic importance that has been designated a historic district by the City of Milwaukee.

Bay View Historic Buildings Tour

In 1929, the Bay View neighborhood was designated a historic district by the City of Milwaukee. This designation preserved the historic character and architectural integrity of the area. The Bay View Historic Buildings Tour is a self-guided driving tour that highlights many of the historic buildings in the neighborhood. The tour includes a variety of architectural styles, from Victorian Gothic to Modernist, and provides a glimpse into the history of Bay View.

Touring Boy View today is both a challenge and a delight. Its village-like character is enhanced by the winding streets, the historic buildings, and the unique shops and restaurants that line the streets. This tour provides an opportunity to explore the history and charm of Bay View, a neighborhood that has been recognized as a historic district by the City of Milwaukee.
Uncoln Avenue. Uncoln Ave. was once the boundary between Milwaukee to the north and Boy to the south. The multi–pavement intersection where Lincoln Ave., Knoxville Ave., Howell Ave., and 42nd St. converged became an important terminus and later a transfer point in the city’s streetcar system. A thriving commercial district existed here that included small shops, movie theaters, a post office, books, and restaurants.

Merrill Houses. The name Merrill was well known in Bay View and South Side construction circles for many decades. English-born John J. Merrill (1827–1887) worked as a mason and lived at 47th and Morgan from 1862 until his death. Merrill lived at 47th and Morgan from the 1860s until his death. Portions of the working area probably built after his construction business fell into bankruptcy. His brother William built the four brick cottages at 3933 N. 47th St. as income property, and one of his sons, Alfred, lived briefly at 3935 and then at 3939 N. 47th St. The cottages are typical of the simple mass–wrought structures constructed in Bay View’s twenty years.

Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church, 1022 E. Russell Ave. (1897) Architect: Brothers of Notre Dame. Originally a schoolhouse converted to a church in 1930, this Romanesque Revival style building was erected in memory of the original school and was resisted by the neighborhood. It has been the site of many significant events, such as the First Holy Communion, and is now the site of the Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

Richard/Welsh House, 2419-21 S. Superior St. (1872). Architect: Richard, Welsh. This was one of the original churches in Bay View. The house next door to the church was originally built for the church and is now a residence. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

George Edmunds House, 2501 S. Chase St. (1891). Architect: Edward J. Beulahmer. This house was originally built for the Union Pacific Railroad Company in 1891. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

Boysenberries Park, 2450 S. Superior St. (1871-72). Architect: Charles Kirchhoff. This structure was one of the original structures in Bay View. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

Beulah Brinton House, 2590 S. Superior St. (1872-73). Architect: Charles Kirchhoff. This structure was one of the original structures in Bay View. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.