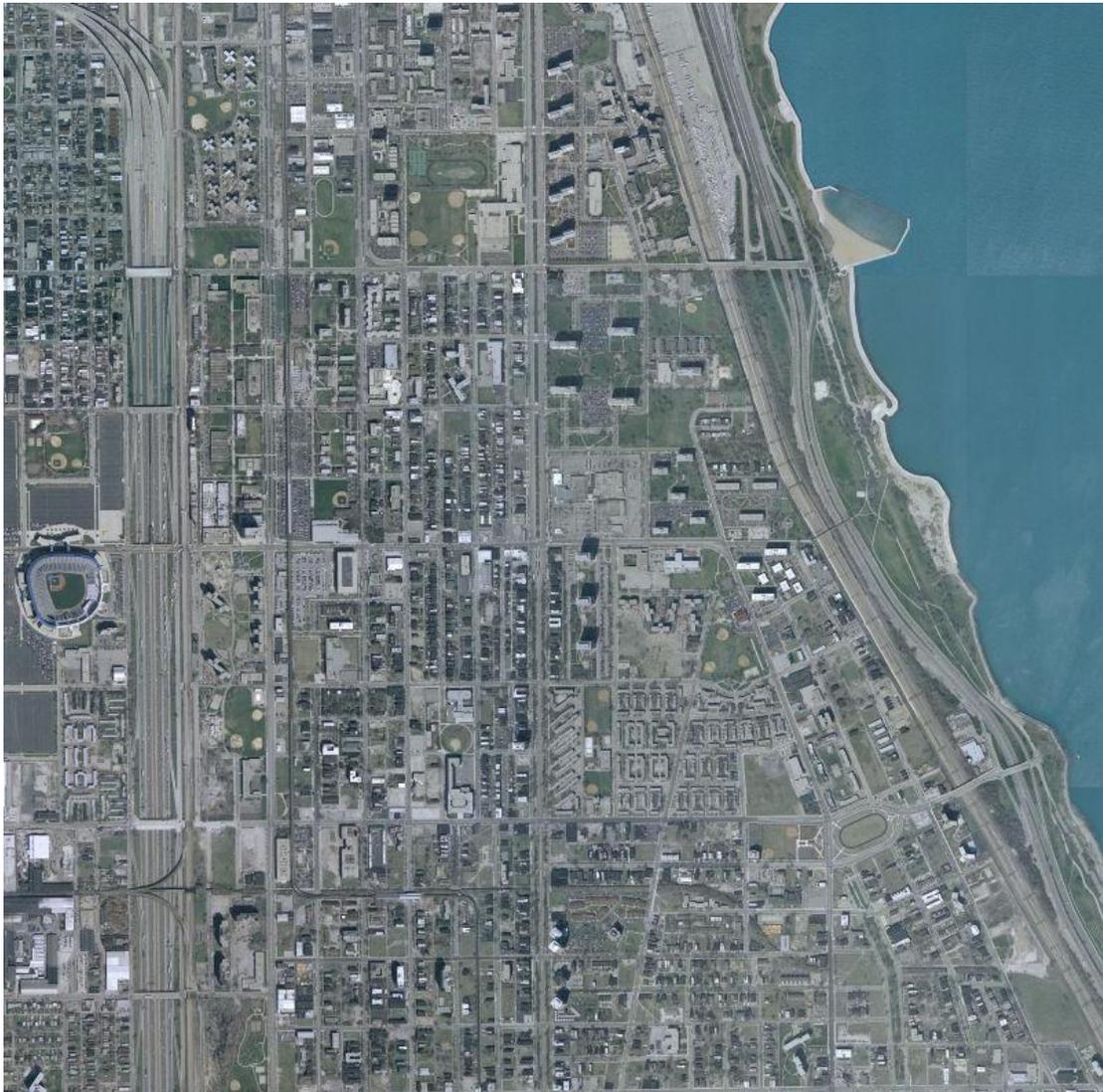


Chicago South Side

Clubs and Venues 1915 – 1930



ACME Mapper N 41.827534 W 87.615647, 4 m/p 500m

Compiled by Bo Lindström

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Ver. 5 April 2012

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

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Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Address information

Houses are numbered **evenly** on the North or West side of a street, while **odd** numbered addresses will be on the South or East side of the street.

The old S. Parkway/Grand Boulevard is today's Dr Martin Luther King Jr Drive (King's Drive).

Youtube videos

There are some videos showing some of the historic Chicago jazz venues today. Despite a rather shaky footage, these videos are of great interest. Links to these videos are shown under the venue street addresses.

South Chicago Overview Map

The Chicago South Side can be found in the **Overview Map 2**.

[Robert S. Abbott House](#)

4742 South Parkway. (**Map 9**)

Robert S. Abbott founded the Chicago Defender in 1905. The Defender's success made him one of the country's first African American millionaires. He bought a house at this address and lived here for the rest of his life.



[Alvin Ballroom](#) aka Alvin Dinsant Hall

Michigan at 51st (**Map 9**)

[Apex Club](#)

330 E. 35th St. (35th & Calumet) ca. 1926-1930 (**Map 6**)



Owner Julian Black, Manager to Joe Louis

Was the ► **Club Alvadere** ca. 1920-22; the ► **Nest Club** ca. 1922-26

[Armour & Co Stockyards](#)

Exchange Avenue at Peoria St. (**Map 2**)

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930



[Louis Armstrong - Lil Hardin house 1924](#)

421 E. 44th St. (Map 8)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orsZG5ryDE4&feature=BFa&list=PLA3276065377A2205&lf=plpp_video

After the marriage on February 5, 1924 at City Hall, Louis and Lil bought this house



The Armstrong-Hardin house; second entrance from right

[Ascher's Metropolitan Theater](#)

4644 S. Parkway ca. 1917-30 (Map 8)

See also ► Metropolitan Theater

[Atlas Theater](#)

4715 South State Street (Map 9)

[Lovie Austin's House](#)

3316 Calumet (Map 6)

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930



[Auto Inn](#) aka Al Tierney's Auto Inn aka Plantation Cafe

338 E. 35th St. ([Map 6](#))

Owner Al Tierney

Auto Inn Closed 1923

Became ► Plantation Café 1924

[Bacon's Casino](#)

S. Wabash at E. 49th ca. 1927-45 ([Map 9](#))

[Belmont Cafe](#)

3035 South State street ([Map 5](#))

[Blue Heaven Ballroom](#)

12 W. Garfield Boulevard (55th St.) ([Map 9](#))

[Booker Ashford's 65 Club](#)

5507 S. Michigan Avenue ([Map 9](#))

[Bronzeville District](#)

Chicago Metropolis, 1910-1920 migration district ([Map 2](#))

[Café de l'Abbee](#)

419 South Wabash ([Map 3](#))

Other sources give location at Hotel Normandie, At North Clark and West Randolph ([Map 1](#))

[Cafe de Paris](#)

459 E. 31st St. ([Map 5](#))

Former ► New Charleston, former ► Lincoln Gardens, former ► Cafe Royal Gardens

[Casino Gardens](#)

Kinzie at Clark Street ([Map 1](#))

Louisiana Five 1915

ODJB 1916

[Century Club](#)

Michigan at 49th St. ([Map 9](#))

[Chicago Defender](#)

3435 South Indiana Avenue ([Map 6](#))

Building built 1899, former Jewish Synagogue. Chicago Landmark

The Defender was founded by ► Robert S. Abbott in 1905.

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Used by CD 1920 – 1960



Club Alvadere

330 E. 35th St. (**Map 6**)

Club Alvadere ca. 1920 - 22

Became ► **The Nest Club** 1922 - 1926 ► **Apex Club** 1926 - 1928

Club El Rado

231 E. 55th Street (at the Garfield Hotel) (**Map 9**)

ca. 1920's-early 1930's

Ciro's

317 E. 55th Street (Garfield Blvd.) (**Map 9**)

Custom Levee District

(Map 3)

Dave's Cafe

Michigan at 51st until ca. June/July 1934 (**Map 9**)

De Luxe Gardens aka **De Luxe Cafe**

3503 - 3505 South State St. (**Map 6**)



Left photo: De Luxe Gardens is the right building upstairs. Right photo: De Luxe is the second building. (Panama 3501, De Luxe Café 3503, States Theatre 3505-3509)

Black and tan venue

Sugar Johnny's Creole Orchestra w. Sidney Bechet 1918

1918-1919 King Oliver

Dreamland Ballroom aka **Harmon's Dreamland Ballroom**

1761 West van Buren Street at South Paulina Street (**Map 11**)

One-story building under the tracks at what is today Eisenhower Expressway.

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

This ballroom, although not located at Chicago South Side, often is mistaken for ► Dreamland Café at South State Street, see below.

Founded by J Louis Guyon 1914 and then taken over by Paddy (Patrick T.) Harmon 1915 – 1930. Exclusively white audience

Charles Elgar Orchestra 1916 - 1921

Doc Cooke w Freddie Keppard and Jimmy Noone 1922 to 1928

King Oliver 1925

Dreamland Café aka Dreamland Gardens

3518-20 S. State (Map 6)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDCyahMhCn0&feature=BFa&list=PLA3276065377A2205&lf=plpp_video

(Not Dreamland Ballroom as stated in the video!)

c.1912 - early 20's

Run by Bill Bottoms, this was a black and tan venue

Became ► Cabin Inn

(A new Dreamland Café opened in 1937 at 4700/State Street)



King Oliver 1919 – 1921

Ollie Powers 1923-1924

Louis Armstrong Dreamland Syncopators 1925

Dusty Bottom aka Tenet Dance Hall

Wabash at 33rd St. (Map 6)

Edelweiss Gardens

Cottage Grove at 60th St. (Map 10)

1914 – 1923

See ► Midway Gardens

El Grotto Supper Club aka El Grotto Room

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Cottage Grove at E. 64th St. at the Pershing Hotel (**Map 10**)

Also at this location ► **Pershing Ballroom** (Pershing Palace Ballroom)

Elite Cafe aka **Elite Cafe #1** aka **Elite Club**

3030 S. State St. (**Map 5**)

Run by Art Codozoe, J. H. “Lovie Joe” Whitson, and Henry “Teenan” Jones

The club operated ca. 1910-1928

Glover Compton

Elite #2 aka **Teenan Jones’ Place**

3445 S. State St. (**Map 6**)

The club operated ca. 1915-1928

Managed by Teenan Jones

Tony Jackson

Entertainer Cafe aka **Entertainer Club, Entertainer Hall**

207-209 E. 35th St. (Indiana & 35th) (**Map 6**)

Former location at E. 35th between S. Indiana and S. Prairie Avenues ca. 1910's-20's

Fiume Cafe

3440 State (**Map 6**)

ca. 1919

The Friars Inn

S. Michigan Avenue at E. Congress (**Map 3**)



Golden Lily Chinese Restaurant/Tavern

309 E. 55th Street (Garfield Blvd.) ca. 1926-1939 (**Map 9**)

Became ► **White's Emporium** ca. 1939

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930



The Golden Lily today

Grand Terrace Cafe

3955 S. Parkway (Map 7)

In operation until 1928

The Grand Terrace Café was located in the same building as ► **The Peerless**



Grand Terrace Ballroom aka **The Peerless Theater**

3955 S. Parkway (Map 7)

Opened 1917 as **Grand Oak Theatre** and was later that year renamed **The Peerless Theater**.

Closed until 1937 when it opened as **Park Theatre**. Closed 1958 Reopened as the **Ritz Theatre** in 1964-1965. Used as church and parking space. Now converted to offices.



Grand Terrace Ballroom/Peerless/Grand Terrace Café

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930



Grand Terrace Auditorium used as car park

Grand Theatre

3104 - 3112 S. State Street (**Map 5**)
ca. 1908-1930



The Original Creole Jazz Band 1913
Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith

Indiana Theatre

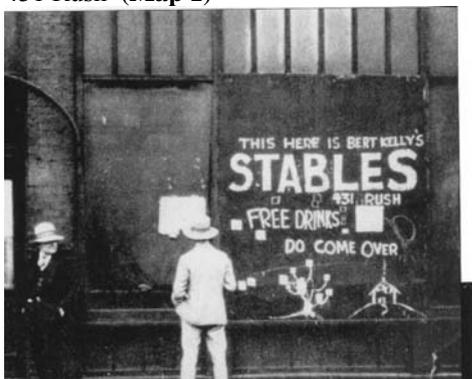
219 E. 43rd St. (**Map 8**)

Jones Music Co

3409½ South State St. (**Map 6**)
Frank B Jones

Kelly's Stables aka Bert Kelly's Stables

431 Rush (**Map 1**)



Johnny Dodds 1926

Daisy Ladnier (Ladiner) flat 1930

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

4632 Prairie Avenue (**Map 8**)

Registered in the 1930 census as Daisy Ladiner, we today know that Tommy Ladnier's wife was **Hazel B Ladnier**, neé Mathews, working as a waitress.



This could possibly be 4632 Prairie Avenue or else the demolished house to the right

Tommy Ladnier flat 1918

3651 Indiana Avenue (**Map 6**)

This house is today demolished and the site only holds a big tree.

Willie Ladnier flat 1918

3233 Indiana Avenue (**Map 6**)

This house is today demolished

Willie Ladnier flat 1923

748 East 45th St. (**Map 8**)

This house is today demolished

Lamb's Café

North Clark Street at West Randolph (**Map 1**)

Tom Brown's Ragtime Band 1914

Levee District aka Custom Levee District

(Map 3)

Lincoln Gardens aka Royal Gardens

459 E. 31st St. (**Map 5**)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oz_14EuoTKM&list=PLA3276065377A2205&index=1&feature=plpp_video



ca. 1921

Owner 1921- Florence Majors

Sidney Bechet – Freddie Keppard

King Oliver Creole Jazz Band 1923 - 1924

Caught fire Christmas Eve 1924; was closed 1925-1926



Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Former ► Royal Gardens 1910- 1921. Became ► New Charleston Café 1927, then ► Cafe de Paris

Lincoln Theatre

3132 S. State St. (Map 5)

This building is demolished and the site is now part of Illinois Institute of Technology



Local 208 (Musicians Union)

3934 South State Street (Map 7)

Chicago Black musicians union

Marsh Recording Studio 1922 - 1923

Kimball Building 306 South Wabash Avenue (Map 3)



Marsh Recording Studio Oct 1924 - June 1925

7th floor, 78 East Jackson (Map 3)



Marsh Recording Studio July 1925-

Lyon & Healy Building, Room 707, 64 East Jackson (Map 3)

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues



Mecca Flats

3338 – 3360 South State St. (**Map 6**)

Now part of Illinois Institute of Technology Campus



Metropole Hotel

Michigan at 23rd Street (**Map 4**)

This building is now demolished.



Metropolitan Theatre aka Ascher's Metropolitan Theater

4644 S. Parkway (**Map 8**)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnIN8XpV9FY&feature=autoplay&list=PLA3276065377A2205&lf=plpp_video&playnext=1

ca. 1917-30

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930



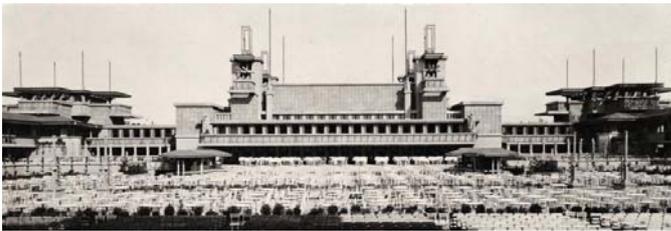
See also ► Ascher's Metropolitan Theater

[Michigan Theatre](#)

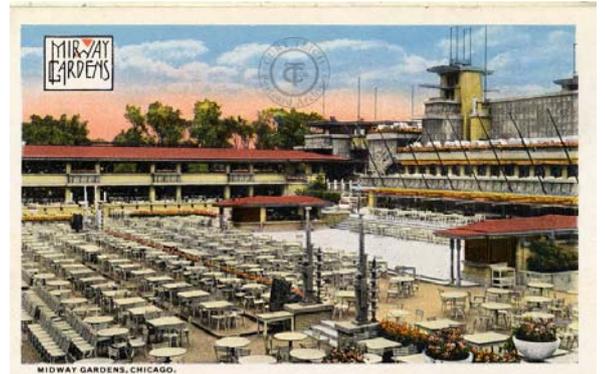
Michigan Avenue at East 55th St. (**Map 9**)
ca. late 1920's to early 30's

[Midway Gardens](#) aka Midway Dancing Gardens

Cottage at Grove 60th St. (**Map 10**)
Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright
1914 – 1923 as ► Edelweiss Gardens
Owned by Edelweiss Brewing Co 1914 -
Outdoor stage; indoor ► **Winter Gardens**
Demolished in 1929



Elmer Schoebel 1924-1925
Muggsy Spanier 1926- 1927
Jess Stacy 1926- 1927
Frank Teschemacher 1926- 1927



[Monogram Theatre](#)

3436-3440 S. State St. (**Map 6**)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dbj-ubAoNDg&feature=BFa&list=PLA3276065377A2205&lf=plpp_video
from 1916 and sat 383.

The Theater has been demolished and the site is today a parking lot across the street from the campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Earlier located at 31st at South State Street

Musical director 1923 – 1928? ► **Lovie Austin**

[Moulin Rouge Café](#)

416 South Wabash Avenue (**Map 3**)

Musicians Union ([Local 208](#))

3934 South State Street (**Map 7**)
Chicago Black Musicians Union

The [Nest Club](#)

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

330 E. 35th St. (Map 6)

ca. 1922-26.

Was the ► **Club Alvadere** 1920-1922

Became the ► **Apex Club** 1926-1928

[New Charleston Cafe](#)

459 E. 31st St. (Map 5)

Former ► **Royal Gardens**, former ► **Lincoln Gardens**. Became ► **Cafe de Paris**

[The New Park Theatre](#) aka **Willard Theatre**

340 E. 51st St. (Calumet and 51st St.) (Map 9)

The ► **Willard Theatre** was open 1917 to 1926 as the **New Park Theatre**

[Oriental Cafe](#)

3532 South State St. (Map 6)

ca. 1920's

[The Owl Theatre](#)

4653 South State St. (Map 8)

Musical director Clarence M. Jones



[Panama Cafe](#) aka **Panama Club**

3501 South State St. (Map 6)

ca. 1910's-1920



Panama is the building at the corner (Panama 3501, De Luxe Café 3503, States Theatre 3505-3509)

[Panama Inn](#)

South State Street & 46th St. (Map 8)

[Pekin Cafe](#) aka **Pekin Inn, Pekin Theatre, Pekin Cabaret**

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

2700 S. State St. (State at 27th) (Map 5)



ca. 1910's-20's

Built 1892, converted to the 900 seat Pekin Theater. The first theater to black entertainment. Both black and white audiences admitted. Reopened in 1918 as a dance hall
Musical director Joe Jordan, composer of Maple Leaf Rag and The Pekin Rag

Pershing Ballroom aka Pershing Palace Ballroom

Cottage Grove at E. 64th (6400 Cottage Grove) at the Pershing Hotel (Map 10)



Also at this location ► **El Grotto Supper Club**

Dave Peyton Music Shop

3109 South State Street (Map 5)

Plantation Cafe

338 E. 35th St. (near Calumet Ave) (Map 6)

Open 1924-30's



Black and tan Jazz club. Bombed and destroyed by fire spring 1927

Was formerly ► **Auto Inn**, closed in 1923.

Moved to 5060 S. Michigan 1934-

Joe "King" Oliver with the Dixie Syncopators February 1925 – Spring 1927.

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Radio Inn

Vincennes Ave. and 39th St. (Map 7)



CD January & June 1923

Tommy Ladnier

Railroad Stations

See ► [12th Street Railroad Station](#) (Map 3) and ► [Union Station](#) (Map 3)

Red Mill Café

State St. & 43rd St. (Map 8)



This could possibly be the Red Mill Café. Anyway, it is the only remaining old building at 43th & State

Regal Theatre

4719 S. Parkway Blvd. (Map 9)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_EF08Qscqg&feature=BFa&list=PLA3276065377A2205&lf=plpp_video

1928-1960's



Ritz Carlton Restaurant

3845 Cottage Grove Avenue (Map 7)

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Ritz Club

3947 South Parkway (Map 7)



3947 King Drive today

Rodehaver Recording Studio

Room 604, Pakula Building, 218 South Wabash Avenue (Map 3)
1920 -1926

Royal Gardens aka Lincoln Gardens

459 E. 31st St. (Map 5)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oz_14EuoTKM&list=PLA3276065377A2205&index=1&feature=plpp_video



Owners 1918 – Louis B Anderson-William Bottoms-Virgil Williams
Became ► **Lincoln Gardens** 1921
Became ► New Charleston Cafe, then ► Cafe de Paris

Savoy Ballroom

S. Parkway Blvd. and E. 47th (Map 8)

1927-1954, demolished in the early 1970s. Accommodated more than 4,000 people.



Today Harold Washington Cultural Center

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Savoy Bar

2630 South State Street (Map 5)

Schiller Cafe

318 East 31st Street (Map 5)

1916 - ?

Managed by promoter Harry James, offered some of the earliest known performances in Chicago.

Sunset Cafe aka Sunset Ballroom aka New Sunset Cafe

315-317 E. 35th St. (Calumet at 35th St.) (Map 6)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wggQpKDmNm8&feature=BFa&list=PLA3276065377A2205&lf=plpp_video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSmqWjLe5w8&feature=BFa&list=PLA3276065377A2205&lf=plpp_video

Built in 1909 as a garage and converted to a dance-hall 1921. Open Aug 3, 1921-1937

Had 100 tables, a bandstand and a dance floor. The cafe was black and tan.

Renamed ► New Sunset Café in October 1932.

The building received a City of Chicago landmark status in 1998. Today, some of the original murals from the Sunset Café remain on the walls.



Owners: Ed Fox and Sam Rifas; Joe Glaser, manager Carrol Dickerson.

Louis Armstrong 1926

Cab Calloway

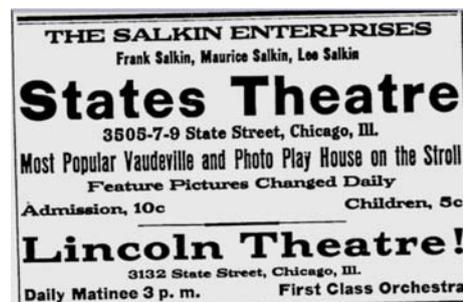
Earl Hines 1928 -1935

Count Basie 1936

States Theater

3505-3509 State St. (Map 6)

700 seats, one of the most prominent black theaters in Chicago's Black Belt



States is the third, dark, low house. (Panama 3501, De Luxe Café 3503, States Theatre 3505-3509)

Tenet Dance Hall aka Dusty Bottom

Wabash at 33rd St. (Map 6)

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

The Tree Deuces

222 North State Street (Map 1)

Owner Sam Beers



Trianon Ballroom

Cottage Grove at 62nd St. (Map 10)

1922 - 1967

Owner: Andrew Karzas

Striktly "white" ballroom until 1954

Paul Whiteman

Isham Jones

Art Kassel

Union Masonic Hall

2956 South State St. (Map 5)

Union Station

225 South Canal St. (Map 3)

Union Stock Yard Gate

Exchange Avenue at Peoria St. (Map 2)



Unity Hall

3140 South Indiana Avenue (Map 5)

Built in 1887 by architect L.B. Dixon for a Jewish Social Organization called the Lakeside Club. In 1917, Oscar Stanton DePriest, the first African American City Council in Chicago, established the People's Movement Club as a political base. Unity Hall housed the Club and became the community headquarters for other prominent Chicago politicians such as William Dawson. This building is among the National Historic Landmarks.

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930



Vendome Theater

3143 - 3149 South State St. (Map 5)



Opened 1919. 1300 seats. Demolished in 1949

Louis Armstrong 1925 Erskine Tate and the Vendome Theater Symphony Orchestra

Washington Theater

Opened 1913 by Louis Kaplan. Demolished in the 40s or 50s
3440 South State Street (Map 5)

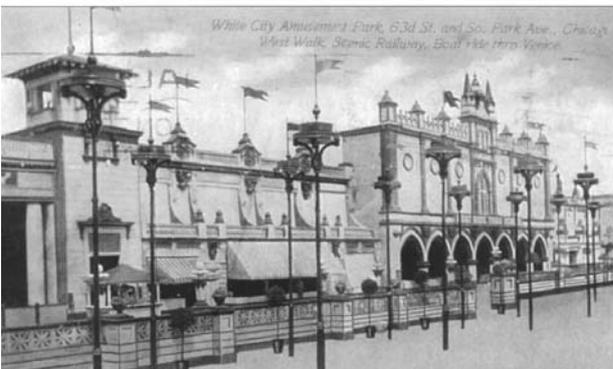
Warwick Hall

543 E. 47th St. (Map 8)

White City aka Amusement Park Ballroom

6300 S. Parkway Boulevard (Parkway and 63rd St.) (Map 10)

Opened 1905 - 1950



Run by Herbert A. Beifeld and Ernest L. Beifeld

Husk O'Hare's Wolverines

Bud Freeman, Dick and Jimmy McPartland

Frank Teschemacher, Dave Tough, Muggsy Spanier

Mezz Mezzrow

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Willard Theatre aka **New Park Theatre**

340 E. 51st St. (Calumet and 51st St.) (Map 9)

Opened in 1911 for the Jones, Linick and Schaefer circuit. From 1917 to 1926 known as the **New Park Theatre**. Willard could originally seat 1000. The Willard closed as a theater during the 50s, and today the building is home to a church and community center.



The front building looks rather modern; the original theatre is probably the great light brown building in the back.

Clarence Williams Music Publishers

4404 South State St. (Map 8)



Mayo Williams Paramount Office

3621 South State St. (Map 6)



In operation until 1928

Williams and Piron Music Co

3129 South State St. (Map 5)

Clarence Williams

“The House of Jazz Music Store”, later renamed “Original Home of Jazz”
Hangout for musicians and show-folks. This is today a parking space.

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Winter Gardens

Cottage Grove at 60th (Map 10)

See ► **Midway Garden Ballroom**

Owned by Edelweiss Brewing Co 1914 - 1929

Zeppelin Inn

S. Indiana Avenue and 31st St. (Map 5)

12th Street Railroad Station

12th Street is now East Roosevelt Road (Map 3)

Useful Internet links

Besides the Youtube links shown at appropriate venues, the following links contain information on South Side Chicago venues, sometimes also for clubs and theatres from later days. Some of the links also contain information on venues from other Chicago districts.

Historic Buildings: <http://www.domu.com/chicago/history-map>

Chicago historic maps: <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/maps/>

Chicago jazz at University of Chicago Library: <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/cja/>

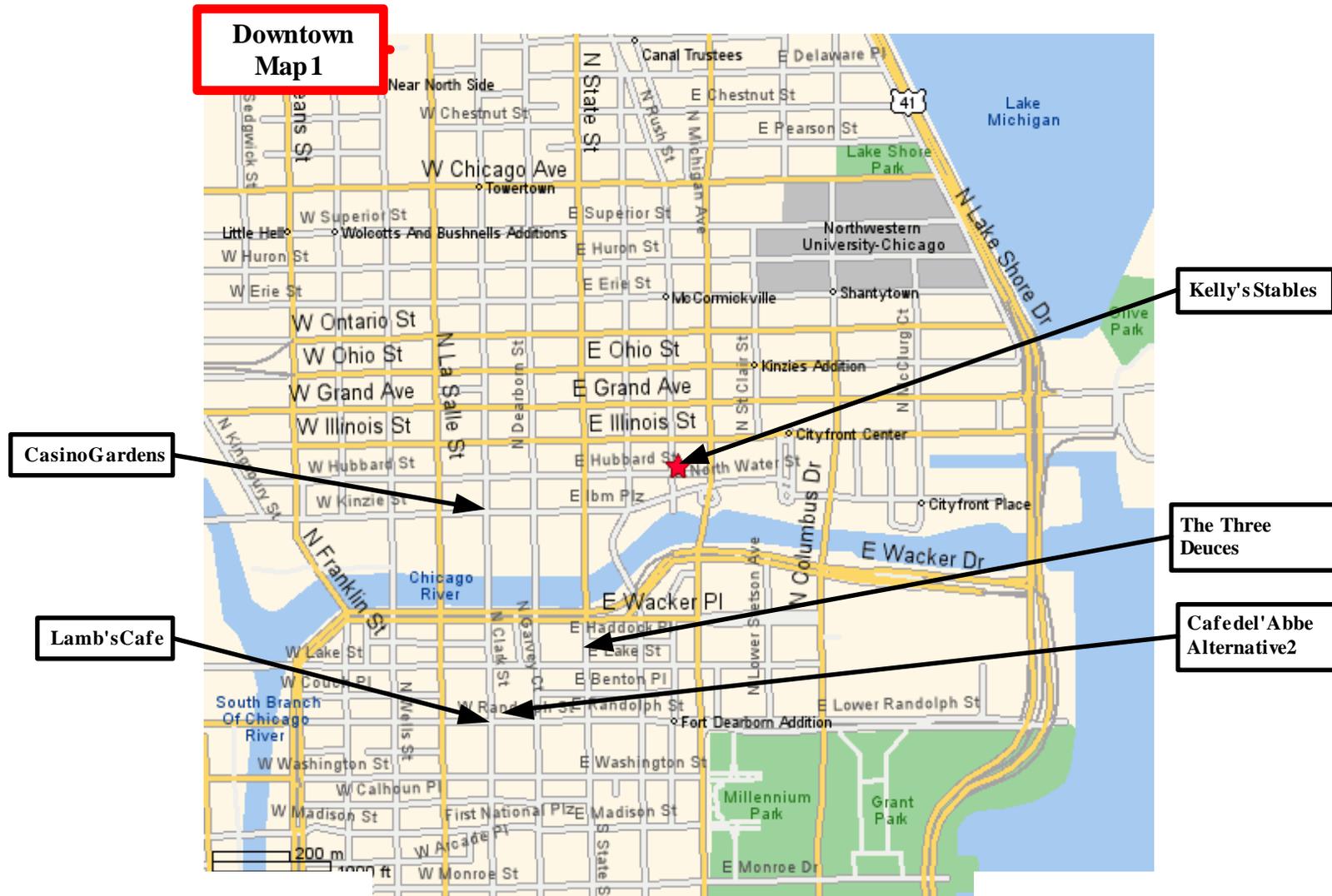
Pdf mind map: <http://philipmalloryjones.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/brz-nw-2.pdf>

There are also other Chicago mind maps at : <http://philipmalloryjones.com/bronzeville-sketches/mind-maps/>

Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Map 1: Downtown

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Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Map 2: South Chicago - Overview Map

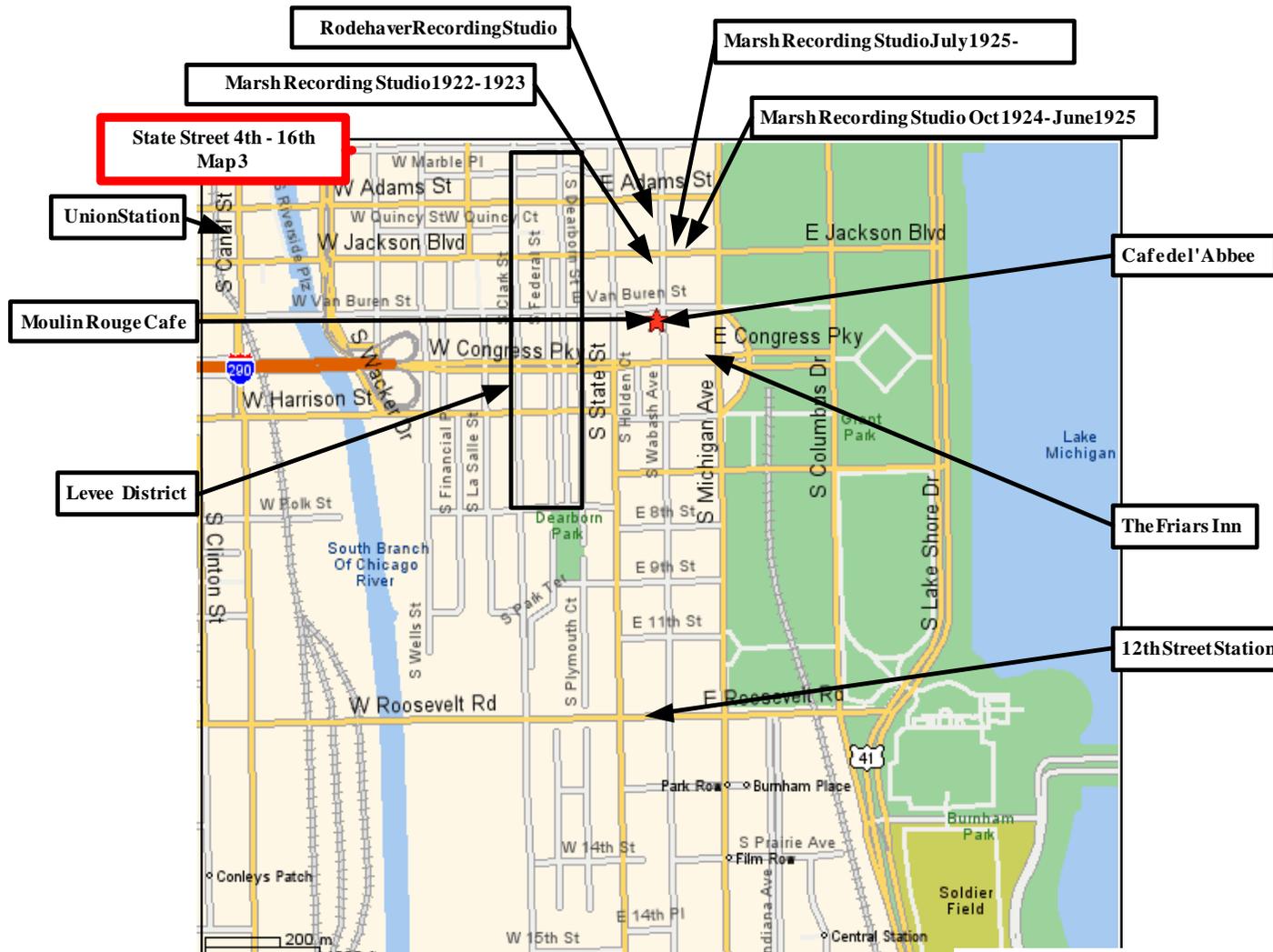
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Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Map 3: State Street 4th – 16th

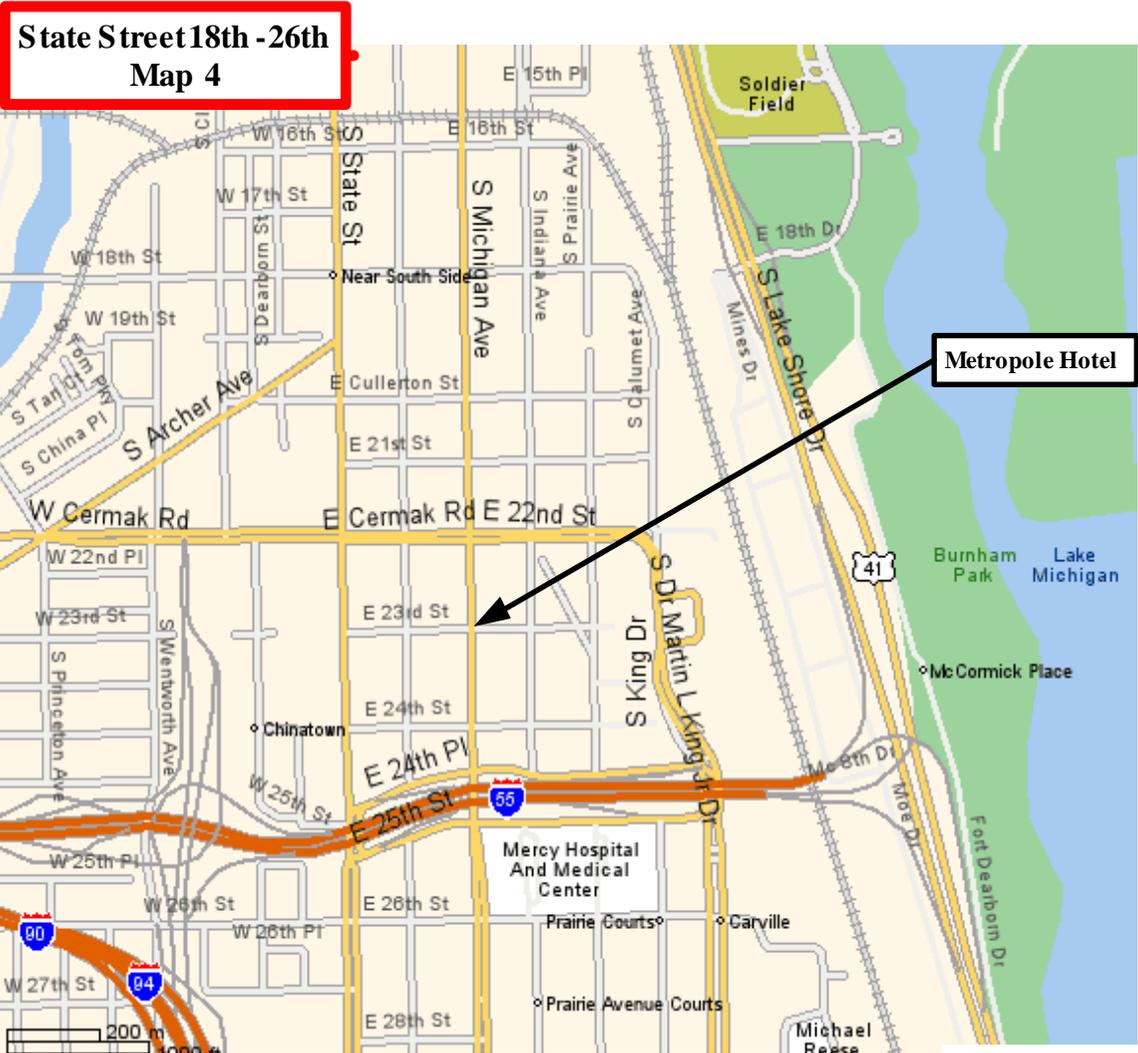
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Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Map 4: State Street 18th - 26th

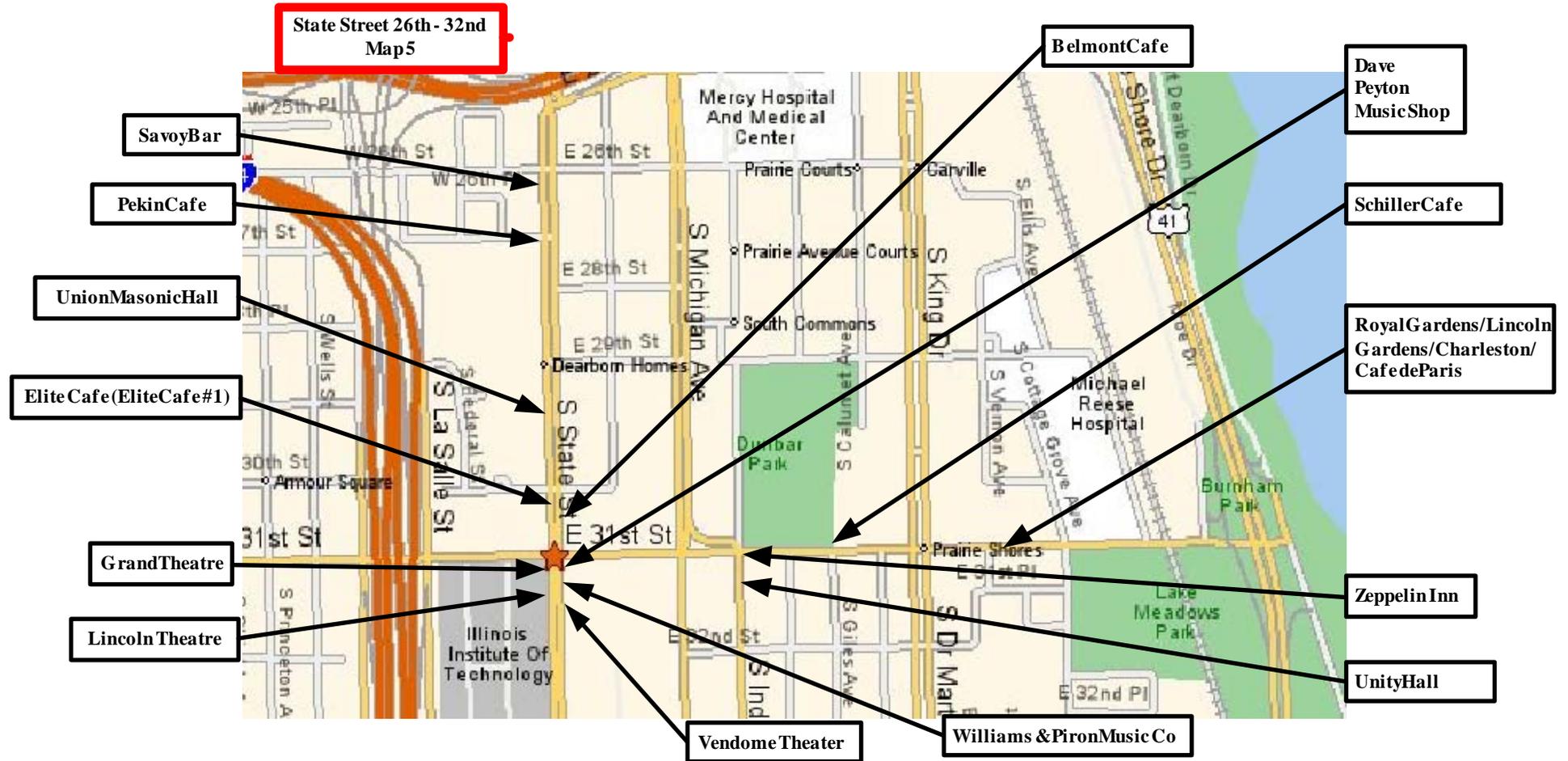
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Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Map 5: State Street 26th – 32nd

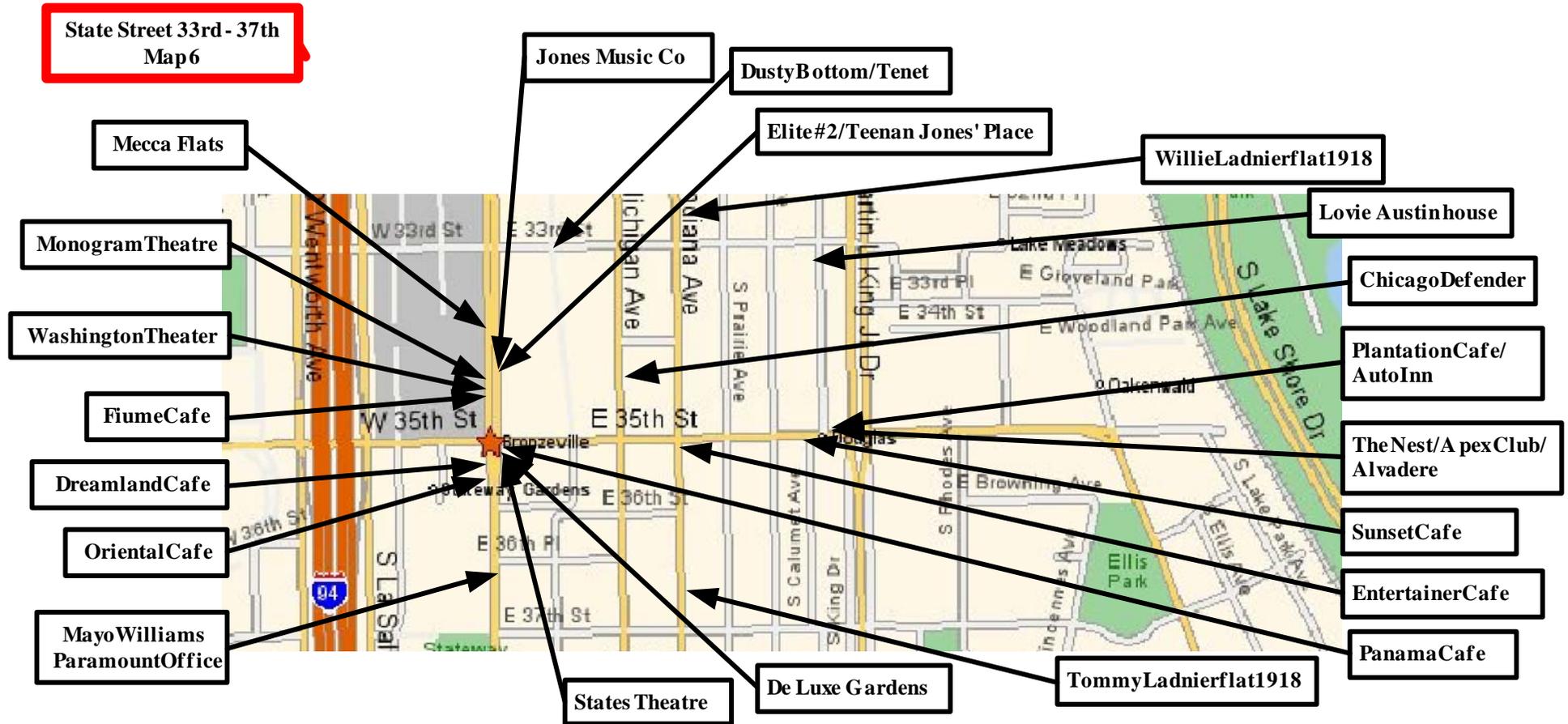
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Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Map 6: State Street 33rd – 37th

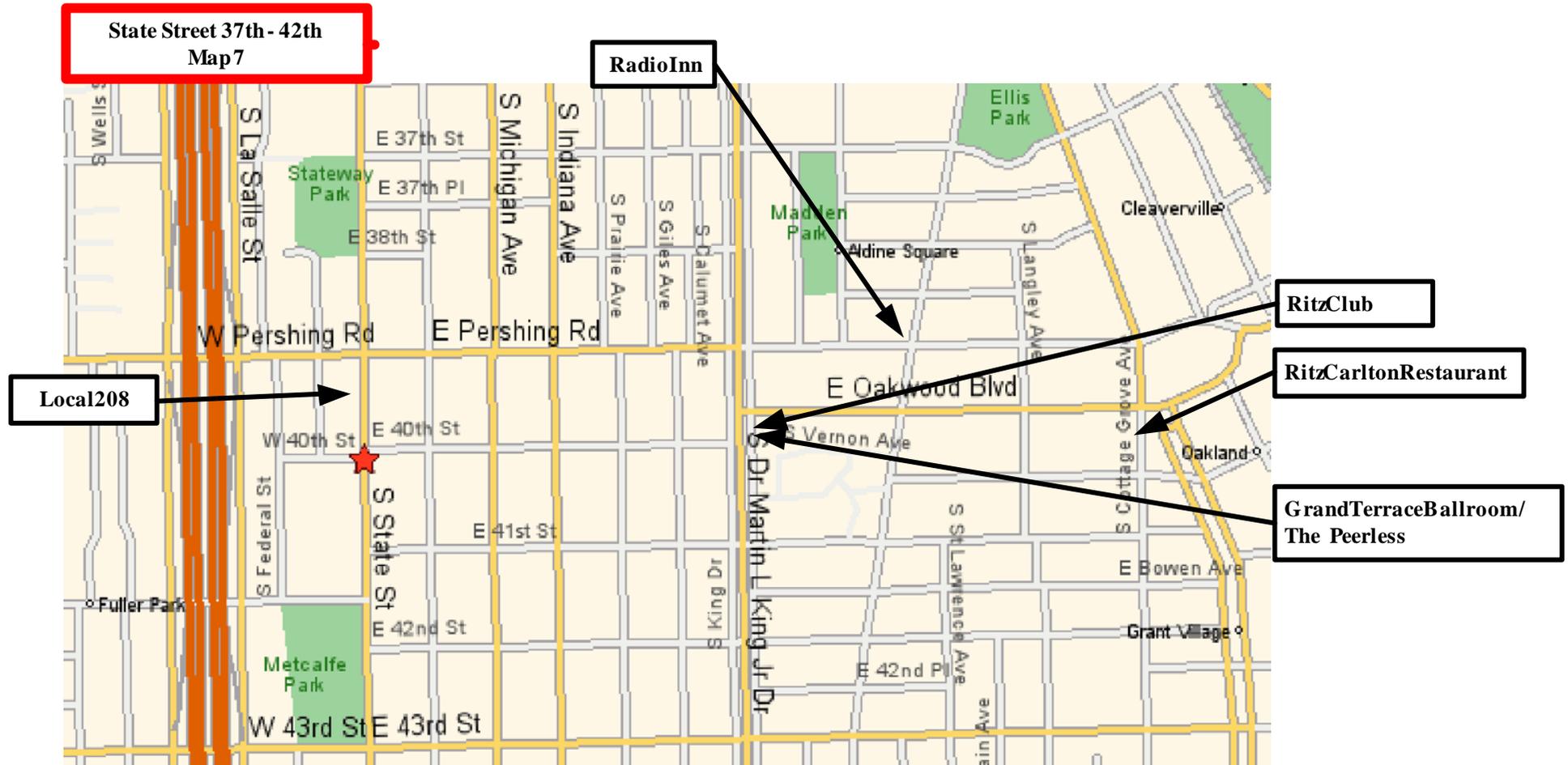
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Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Map 7: State Street 37th – 42nd

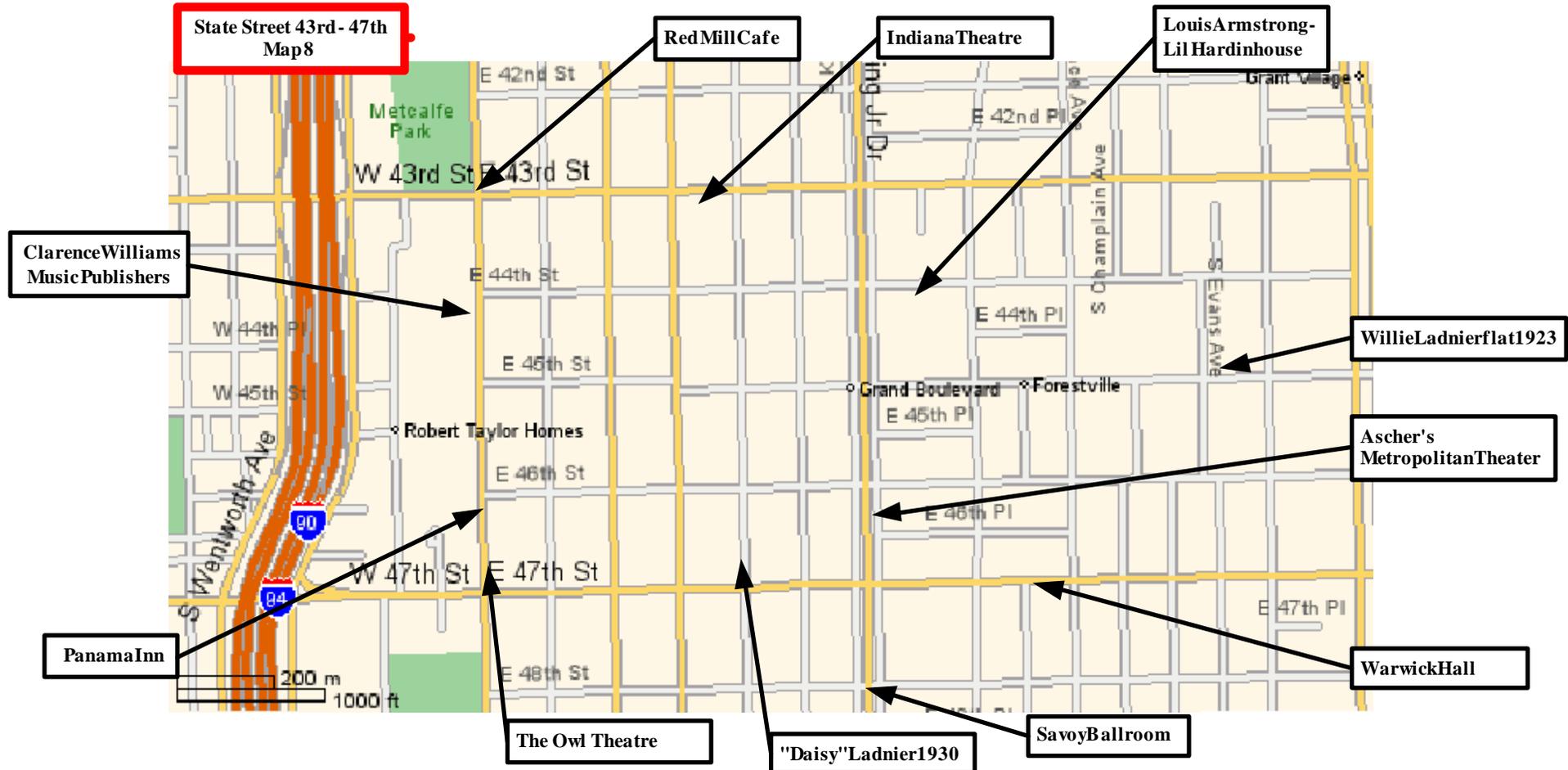
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Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Map 8: State Street 43rd – 47th

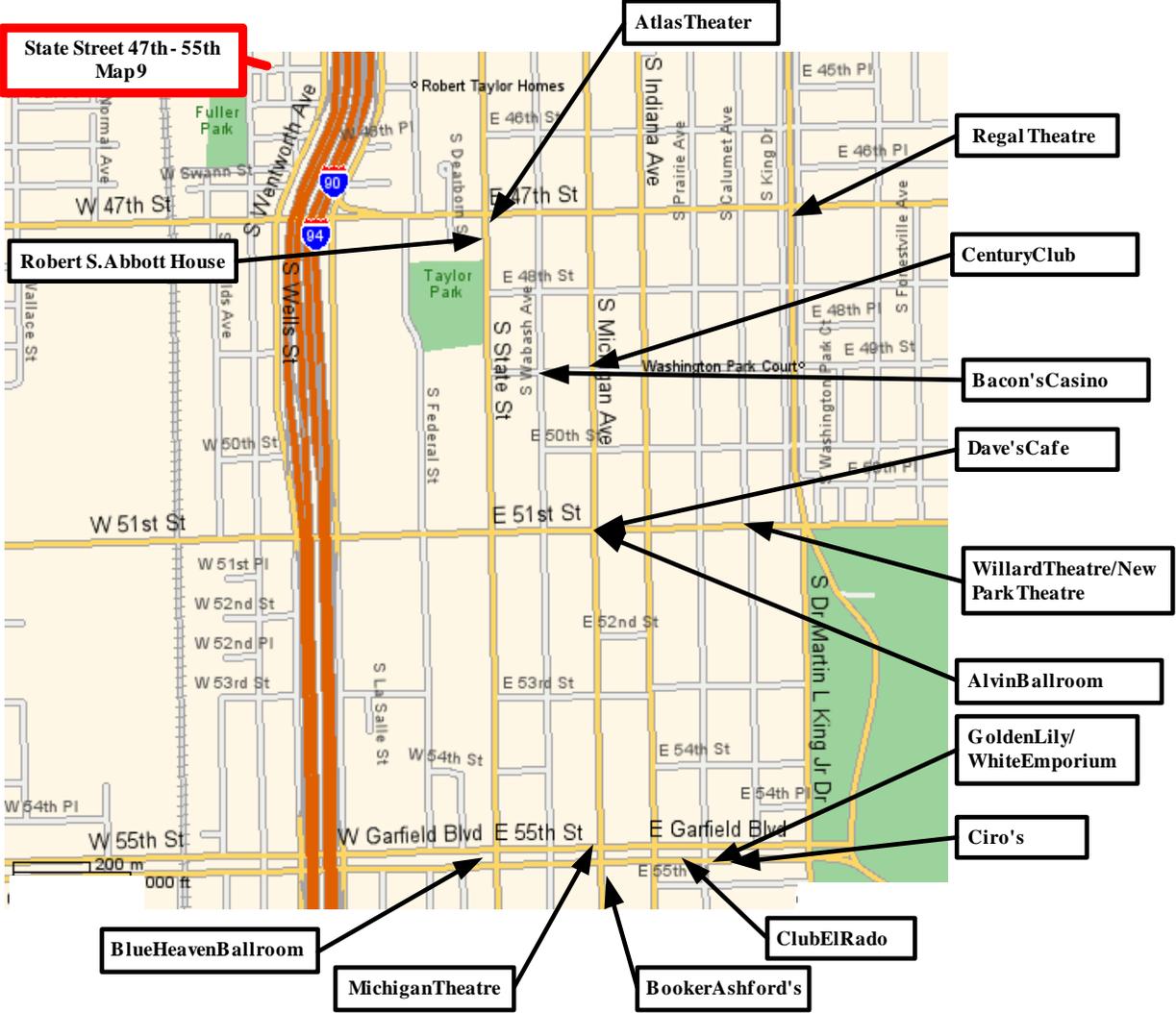
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Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Map 9: State Street 47th – 55th

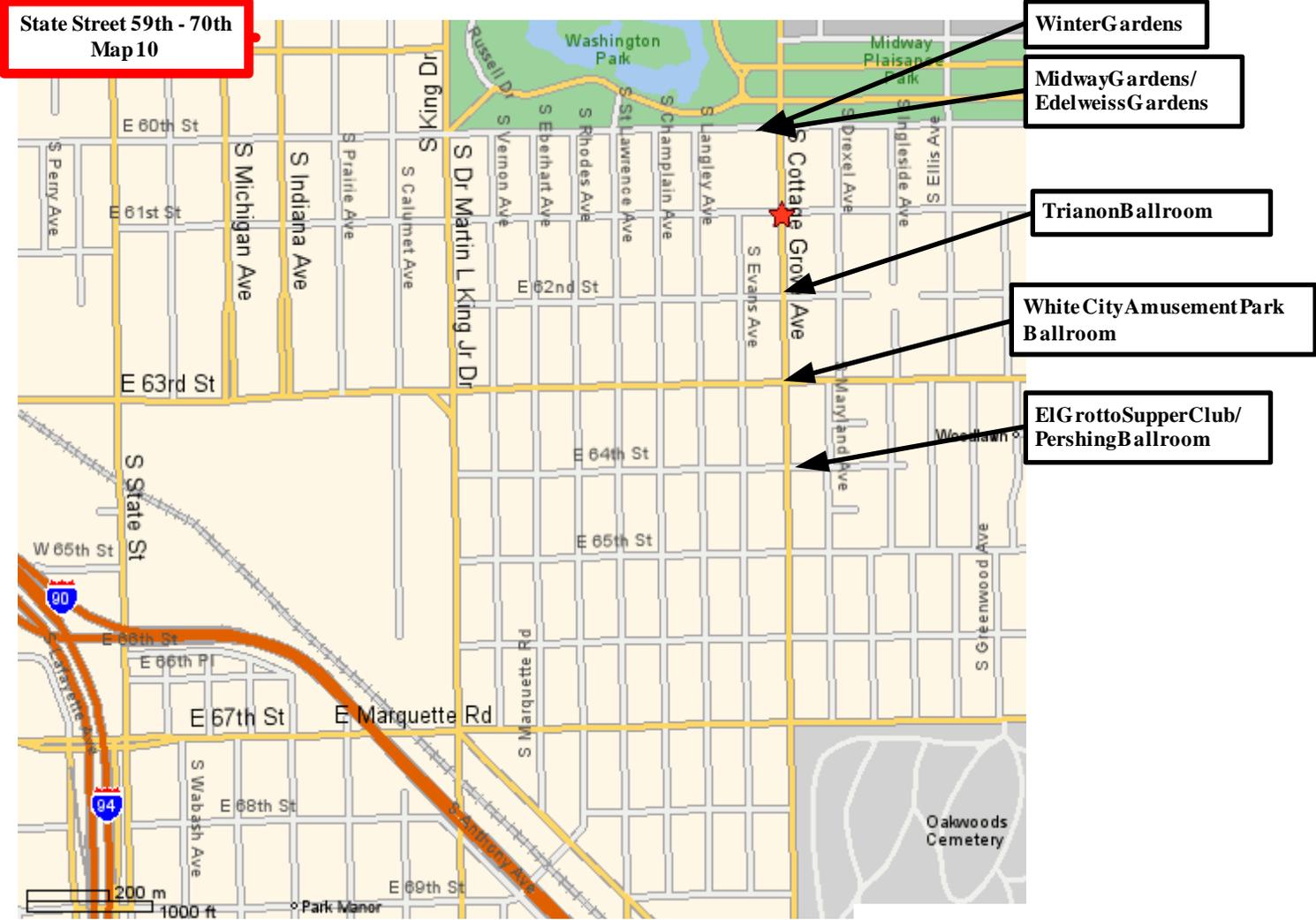
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Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Map 10 State Street 59th – 70th

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Chicago South Side Clubs and Venues c 1915 – 1930

Map 11 Chicago West

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