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PREFACE

UPTOWN CHICAGO - A COMMUNITY IN TRANSITION

1929 - 1970

Most large cities of the United States contain diverse populations, and their heterogeneity is evident in their diversity of religions, social structures, customs and traditions. These disjunctive factors frequently combined to bring about areal concentrations of sections of the total populations into enclaves of relatively homogeneous composition.

A Thesis

Presented to

The Faculty of the Department of Geography

Western Illinois University

in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree

of Master of Arts

be abrupt.

One of the most significant changes in a community's character is the composition of its resident population. With the constant waves of European and other immigrants to the United States and the depopulation of rural areas of the country, many old residential neighborhoods of the great northern cities have suddenly changed in ethnic character. Late European immigrants, Spanish-speaking people from this hemisphere, rural Americans, American Indians, and southern Negroes -- all have invaded and succeeded earlier established

and American Indians. ABSTRACTter ethnic groups are primarily

concentrated in the southern sections of Uptown where most

Many urban areas in the United States are characteris-  
of the housing is deteriorated and inexpensive. It appears  
tically recognized for their heterogeneous and mobile popu-  
that the ethnic group succession in the community will  
lations. People choose to move from one place of residence  
continue.

to another place of residence for various reasons. Some of  
these reasons include more housing space needs, proximity to  
work, desire to live in a single-family home instead of an  
apartment and physical deterioration of their neighborhood.  
One urban area with a heterogeneous and a mobile population  
and with physically declined neighborhoods is the community  
of Uptown, Chicago, Illinois.

The physical deterioration of the housing in Uptown  
resulted from a combination of factors. Some of these  
factors are the passage of time, lack of maintenance, absen-  
tee landlords and most important the subdivision of large  
apartments into smaller units. The subdivided units were  
mostly offered for rent as furnished kitchenettes and  
sleeping rooms. The furnished kitchenettes and sleeping  
rooms attracted transient people who were not interested in  
the maintenance of the neighborhood in which they lived.

By the time the process of apartment subdivision and  
subsequent physical deterioration began in Uptown, the older  
established ethnic groups -- English, Germans, Irish -- had  
left the community and had been primarily succeeded by Jews.  
Finally, during the last fifteen years new ethnic groups have  
been moving into Uptown succeeding the Jews. The new ethnic  
groups are mainly rural Americans, Spanish-speaking people

and American Indians. The latter ethnic groups are primarily concentrated in the southern sections of Uptown where most of the housing is deteriorated and inexpensive. It appears that the ethnic group succession in the community will continue.

This thesis has been read and approved.

Lawrence V. Lewis

First Reader

Arline D. Fentem

Second Reader

The Faculty Daniel W. Gayraud

Western Illinois Third Reader

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