

CHICAGO LANDMARKS



2016 PRESERVATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

3435 South Indiana Avenue

Chicago Defender Building, Black Metropolis-Bronzeville District Rehabilitation

Recipient: TRB Properties LLC

The (Former) Chicago Defender Building was designed by architect Henry L. Newhouse and was built in 1899. This building is one of the nine properties that make up the Black Metropolis-Bronzeville District, and represents an important era in African American history in Chicago. The building was first a synagogue, then converted to warehouse space, and then used from the 1920-1960 as the *Chicago Daily Defender's* offices and printing operations. The building had been vacant for many years until the current owner purchased the building. The engineer of record then uncovered dangerous conditions regarding the structural stability of the front façade and notified the proper authorities, including the Commission on Chicago Landmarks. Working closely with various City departments, the front facade was carefully dismantled and rebuilt to match the historic appearance. The team provided on-site sample reviews and masonry mock-ups, and the façade was reconstructed with all new windows and storefronts. The Black Metropolis-Bronzeville District was designated a Chicago Landmark on September 9, 1998.



before



historic



after



DPD
CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT