

# CHICAGO LANDMARKS



## 2011 PRESERVATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### White Castle #16 43 East Cermak Road Exterior Rehabilitation

Recipient: Chef Luciano, Inc.

Located on Chicago's Near South side, this small 80-year old building is the city's best surviving example of an original White Castle restaurant. White Castle is significant for its pioneering and much-copied use, among restaurant chains, of distinctive-looking programmatic architecture. Known as White Castle #16, the building was among the first generation of restaurants which made eating hamburgers widely accepted and paved the way for modern fast-food franchises transforming American eating habits and streetscapes in the twentieth century. Last year, the owners of the building, who have run the Chef Luciano & Gourmet Chicken restaurant at this location since 1982, undertook an extensive rehabilitation. The project was the recipient of a matching grant from the city's Small Business Improvement Fund, created to help business owners repair or remodel their facilities. Work included recreating the name-sake crenellated tower, restoring and replacing the white, beige, and green glazed exterior brick, and installing signs and custom light fixtures in their historic locations. Other work included new storefronts for the connecting building, also part of the restaurant, and updated interior spaces. Although already located in the Motor Row Chicago Landmark District, on July 7, 2011, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks adopted the final landmark recommendation to City Council for the White Castle #16 building.



HISTORIC



BEFORE



AFTER



City of Chicago  
Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

Housing and Economic Development  
Andrew J. Mooney, Commissioner