



Hyde Park Historical Society

History of :

THE HYDE PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS

Electric streetcars were like big, colorful trains that ran on tracks in Chicago a long time ago. People would ride them to get around the city instead of driving cars. They were powered by electricity instead of gas and they didn't make loud noises like cars do. They were an important part of how people traveled and helped make the city grow. The Hyde Park Historical Society's headquarters is housed at 5529 S Lake Park, in a building that used to be part of the electric railway system. A street car used to run up and down Lake Park Avenue. The building was only used for a short period by the electric street car company, and was used from 1898-1952 as "Steve's Lunch." It was a favorite spot for Hyde Parkers to grab breakfast. They offered two eggs, bacon, potatoes, toast and coffee and for just \$.42 for many years. After the diner closed, the building was empty. The Historical Society purchased and restored this building starting in the late 1970s and held it's grand opening as the Hyde Park Historical Society Headquarters on October 26, 1980.

Did you know? At times, the old tracks can still be seen on East 56th Street rising up from the pavement in the middle of the street. They appear usually after the winter and are just west of Lake Park.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Age: _____

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