



Former Site of the Headquarters of the Jewel Tea Company

1929 -1981

In 1899, two brothers-in-law **Frank V. Skiff** and **Frank Ross** started the Jewel Tea Company, selling tea and coffee from the back of horse-drawn wagons. As the growth of the company continued, large operating facilities were needed and on June 27, 1929, ground was broken for the new headquarters and a Midwest plant on a site located on the edge of Barrington, Illinois. In April 1930, they publicly announced they were ready to move all operations from the Chicago location into the new architectural masterpiece constructed on 211 acres with an additional 100 acres they named "Jewel Park."

In 1932, the business expanded with the purchase of 70 former Loblaw stores in the Chicago area. Jewel grew steadily, and today operates 188 food and drug combination stores and 95 free-standing drug and food stores in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and Wisconsin.

Jewel is leading the way in the grocery industry with a number of cutting-edge initiatives, such as introducing freshly prepared meals for customers too busy to cook meals at home, partnering with vendors and suppliers to ensure fresh foods are available to customers faster, and furthering its deep commitment to local communities where shoppers live and work.

The Jewel Tea Company was sold to American Can in 1981; the Barrington Headquarters was acquired by the Park Corporation which continued to operate the site until the mid 1990's. The property was sold for development in the late 1990's. Attempts to develop the property failed and the Barrington Park District passed a referendum and purchased the 55 acre site in 2002 and created the open space park known as Citizens Park. The park opened to the public in 2007.