

# CHICAGO LANDMARKS



## 2010 PRESERVATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### On Leong Merchants Association Building 2212-2220 South Wentworth Exterior Restoration

*Recipient: Chinese Christian Union Church/Pui Tak Center*

Located in the heart of Chicago's Chinatown on the Near South Side, the On Leong Merchants Association Building was built in 1926 and designed by the firm of Michaelsen & Rognstad. The building originally housed various meeting halls, a school, a shrine, and offices; it is now used as a community center. The design was derived from the architecture of the Kwangtung district of China, the ancestral region of many of Chinatown's early residents. The building was the winner of the 2007 Chicagoland Partners in Preservation Program sponsored by the American Express Foundation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. As the first-place winner in voting conducted on the internet, the building was awarded the full grant request of \$110,000. The owners repaired and replaced broken or missing pieces of the elaborate terra-cotta cladding, much of which is multi-colored and highly ornamental. The work also included rebuilding masonry parapets, brick repair, roof replacement, and masonry tuckpointing. The On Leong Merchants Association Building was designated as a Chicago Landmark on December 1, 1993.



**HISTORIC C. 1928**

*Courtesy of Northwest Architectural Archives  
University of Minnesota Library*



**AFTER**

*Courtesy of WJE*



City of Chicago  
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Zoning and Land Use Planning  
Patricia A. Scudiero, Commissioner