Kenwood was settled in the 1850s by wealthy Chicagoans seeking respite from the increasing congestion of the city. The first of these residents was John A. Kennicott, who built his home near the Illinois Central Railroad at 48th Street. He named the home Kenwood after his ancestral land in Scotland.

Once known as the “Lake Forest of the South Side,” Kenwood is a neighborhood that is filled with some of Chicago’s best examples of architecture from the late 1800s and the early part of the 20th century. One such example is the Powhatan Apartments, a 22-story, luxury apartment building that overlooks Lake Michigan. Completed in 1929 and named for a Native American tribe, the art-deco Powhatan’s exterior features terra-cotta ornamental panels of “conventionalized scenes based upon Native American culture.” Neighboring buildings, such as the Algonquin, the Chippewa and the Narragansett, are also named for tribes, and this small area of Kenwood has been given the unofficial name of “Indian Village.”