

VESTIGES of *Lands End*



Lincoln Highway Terminus

The Lincoln Highway was conceived in 1913 by Carl Fisher as America's first transcontinental highway created specifically for automobiles. It was planned, funded and constructed by the Lincoln Highway Association, a group made up of automobile, tire, and cement industry representatives.

The route covered nearly 3,400 miles from New York to San Francisco. The western terminus was dedicated in 1915 in Lincoln Park where the plaza and fountain of the Palace of the Legion of Honor now stand.

Many highways were built in the next ten years and each with its own name, crisscrossing the country in a confusing and disorganized system. In 1925, the American Association of State Highway Officials began ordering the country's highways into the numbered federal highway system that still exists today. East-west routes were numbered to end in zero and north-south routes ended in either 1 or 5.

After this reorganization the Lincoln Highway was broken up into five separate highways: 1, 30, 530, 40, and 50. A standard set of road signs was also developed and all markers from the formerly named highways were to be removed.

As one of its last major activities before disbanding, the Lincoln Highway Association dedicated the Lincoln Highway as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln. In 1928 Boy Scouts across America lined up along the highway at an average of one per mile and installed concrete markers bearing Abraham Lincoln's bust.

A replica of a Lincoln Highway marker now stands at the Palace of the Legion of Honor and an original marker can be found at 32nd Ave. and El Camino del Mar.