

VESTIGES of *Lands End*



Left: Lincoln Highway Western Terminus marker at the Palace of the Legion of Honor, ca. 1928, replaced with a replica in the early 21st Century; *Right:* Dedication of Lincoln Highway Western Terminus Marker, ca. 1915.

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 (LHA), 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 10 years, 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.

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

As one of its last major activities the LHA permanently marked the Lincoln Highway with approximately 2,440 cement markers, erected by the Boy Scouts on September 1, 1928. Placed at important intersections and turns, the markers were embedded with round bronze medallions bearing the bust of Lincoln and the inscription, "This highway dedicated to Abraham Lincoln."

A replica 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. The replica marker was erected by a new Lincoln Highway Association, re-formed in 1992 to preserve, interpret and improve access to the Lincoln Highway and its associated sites. You can learn more about the Lincoln Highway Association at: <http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/>