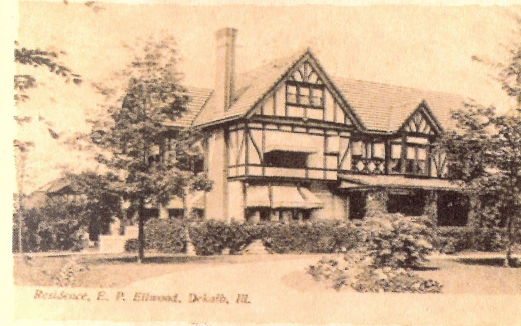
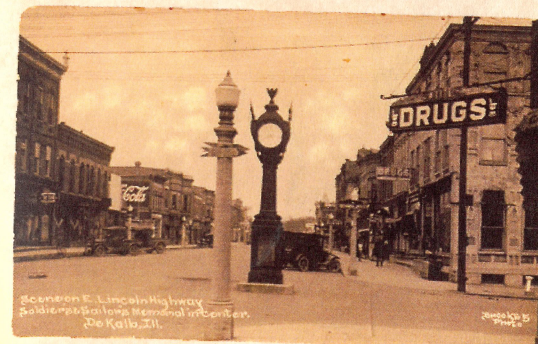


City of DEKALB

Six Self-Guided Walking Tours



**STROLL
THROUGH
HISTORIC
DEKALB,
ILLINOIS**



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Introduction

DeKalb, Illinois was founded in 1837 by Russell Huntley. It became a village in 1856 and grew to become a city in the 1880s.

The early growth and prosperity of the community was owed largely to two factors: the invention/manufacture of barbed wire and the establishment of the Northern Illinois State Normal School (now Northern Illinois University). Many of the historically significant homes and buildings in DeKalb can be traced to these two developments.

This walking tour booklet guides first-time visitors to DeKalb as well as longtime residents through the city's rich history and architecture. Sites featuring prominent residents, major enterprises of the community, wartime remembrances, and architectural qualities are included.

Six walking tours are divided geographically and include:

- Huntley Park Historic District Tour
- Fifth Ward North Historic District Tour
- Northern Illinois University Tour
- Northern Original Town Tour
- Downtown: North Side Tour
- Downtown: South Side and East End Tour

Each tour is shown on a map at the beginning of its section. The site descriptions are in order according to the listing with each map (in the site description, the site number is shown in parentheses after the address). Each walk should take approximately 30 minutes. Additional sites of interest that are in the vicinity of the tours are included as well.

Sites belonging to the National Register of Historic Places are designated NRHP, those belonging to the DeKalb Landmark Register are designated DLR. All National Register of Historic Places sites are included in the DeKalb Landmark Register.

This brochure would not have been possible without the efforts of the City of DeKalb Community Development Department, the DeKalb Landmark Commission, and Northern Illinois University.

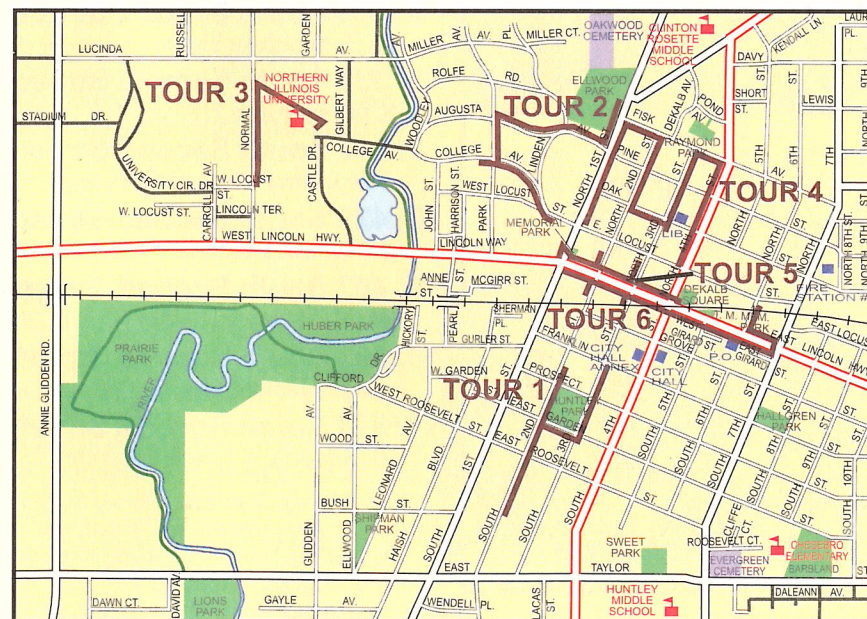


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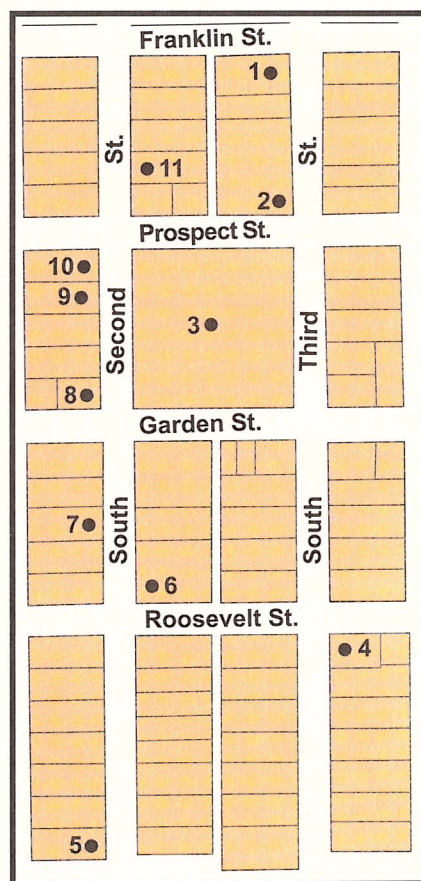
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TOUR 1

HUNTLEY PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT TOUR

The Huntley Park Historic District was listed on the DeKalb Landmark Register in the spring of 1982. The local landmark designation came on a request from the Huntley Park Neighborhood Association, as an outgrowth of efforts from the mid-1970s to work for the preservation and renewed maintenance of the historic brick pavement along South Second and Third Streets. The total nine blocks of brick streets, some retaining original cut stone curbing, is the most extensive surviving in DeKalb. Besides the brick streets, the single most distinctive feature is the square block of Huntley Park itself. Much of the neighborhood's architecture spans the period from the 1850s to the 1920s.



1. **305 South Third Street**
Andrew Bradt House
2. **349 South Third Street**
First Baptist Church of DeKalb
3. **400 block of South Third**
Huntley Park
4. **604 South Third Street**
Isaac Potter House
5. **703 South Second Street**
J. R. Waldron House
6. **530 South Second Street**
Charles Flinn House
7. **517 South Second Street**
"Grandma" Wagner's House
8. **429 South Second Street**
H. O. Cary House
9. **407 South Second Street**
H. H. Wagner House
10. **403 South Second Street**
Rollin Dodge House
11. **320 South Second Street**
St. George's Greek Church

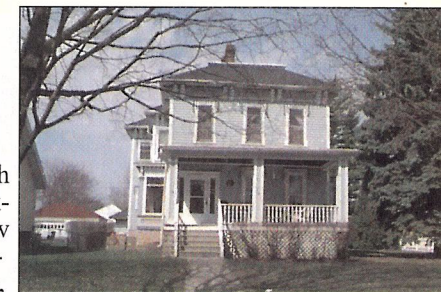


305 South Third Street (1)

Andrew Bradt House (DLR)

Built circa 1875

This house is a very good example of Italianate architecture. It displays the characteristic low-pitched hip roof, with wide overhanging eaves, cornice brackets, and decorative window trim. Andrew Bradt was in the wholesale glove business. Later when the firm of Shipman, Bradt & Company, a wagon works, was begun, its offices were located in the front parlor of this house.

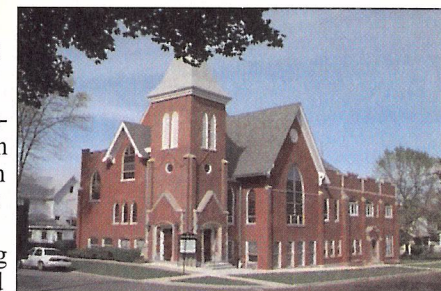


349 South Third Street (2)

First Baptist Church of DeKalb (DLR)

Original section dates from 1885

This is DeKalb's oldest religious denomination organized in 1844. The land on which the church was erected had been given to the Baptists by town founders Russell and Lewis Huntley when they platted the village in 1853. The building has undergone numerous additions and remodellings to remain functional.



Huntley Park (3) (DLR)

Platted 1853

This square block of land was designated as the "Public Square" by town founders Russell and Lewis Huntley. It was their intention that this be used as "open green space for public enjoyment" for all time. A large bandstand stood near the center of the park for some 50 years. Many of the old trees were planted following World War I as memorials to local men who died on the battlefields of Europe. Long owned by the DeKalb Park District.



604 South Third Street (4)

Isaac Potter House (DLR)
Built circa 1886

The massing of the original Italianate house can still be made out behind a large subsequent addition. The front had faced Roosevelt Street to the north. Isaac Potter served for more than 30 years as a Justice of the Peace. Both Mr. Potter and following owner J. S. Russell were involved in real estate and insurance. Mr. Russell ran a livery stable from 1867-1882.



703 South Second Street (5)

J. R. Waldron House (DLR)
Built circa 1892-1894

Mr. Waldron was an architect/builder, who designed and constructed the house himself. The house looks much the same today as it did in an 1894 photo, except that the diagonally placed front porch was enclosed in the 1990s. Fish-scale trim in the gables is original to the structure.



530 South Second Street (6)

Flinn-Chandler House (DLR)
Built 1854

The gabled south portion is the original house of 1854, containing the front door. Charles Flinn was an early druggist and grocer. The home was acquired by R. K. Chandler, a dry goods dealer, in 1865. His son, Rufus B. Chandler, continued to occupy the residence for many years with his family. A 1942 photograph shows the porch extending across the entire front, and a picket fence enclosing the yard.



517 South Second Street (7)

"Grandma" Wagner's House (DLR)
Built 1879

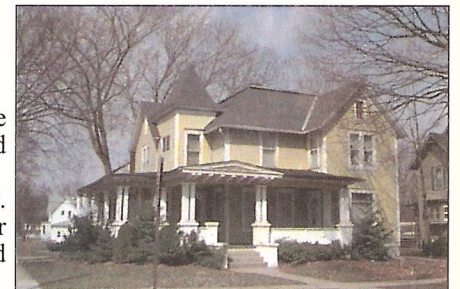
A good example of a "stylish" workers' cottage. This bracketed Italianate style house is topped by a hipped roof. Local carpenter Elvin Ney patterned it after the H. H. Wagner house at 407 South Second Street. Matilda Wagner was the stepmother of H. H. Wagner. A historic photo shows a small scrollwork style entry porch on the home, along with a picket fence in front.



429 South Second Street (8)

H. O. Cary House (DLR)
Built circa 1890

H. O. Cary was the Superintendent of the Shipping Department at the I. L. Ellwood Manufacturing Company, DeKalb's primary barbed wire mill. Following Mr. Cary's ownership, the house sat empty for some time. The house was then purchased by a new owner, who is believed to be responsible for modernizing the house. The alternations included adding the tower (with materials purchased out of a Sears Roebuck catalog), and replacing the original scrollwork style front and side porches with the present wrap-around horizontal type porch.



407 South Second Street (9)

H. H. Wagner House (DLR)
Built 1879

Built for prominent dry goods dealer H. H. Wagner by local carpenter Elvin Ney. It is a two-story bracketed Italianate style house, similar to 305 South Third Street. The home remained in the Wagner family until about 1918. The oval window on the north wall, popular in Italianate houses in this area from the late 1860s into the 1890s, was supposedly intended for use on the Isaac Ellwood house at 509 North First Street, which was under construction at the same time.



403 South Second Street (10)
Rollin Dodge House (DLR)
Built circa 1880

Alleged to be one of the oldest houses in the neighborhood. Believed to have been built originally from plans printed in an architectural pattern book in 1842. Based on an 1899 photo, the only changes in its appearance since then have been the removal of decorative bargeboard trim from the various gables, and the loss of original porches like that which survives facing Prospect Street. Dodge family members resided here until the 1950s.



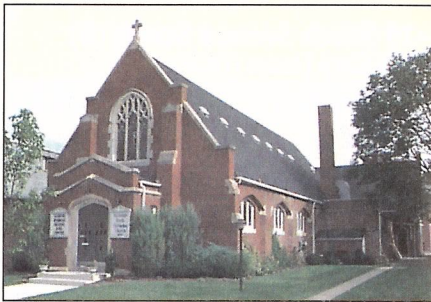
304 South Fourth Street
Henry B. Gurler House (DLR)
Built circa 1886

Gabled bays facing Franklin and South Fourth Streets, along with the porch with second floor balcony and Eastlake detailing are striking architectural features. George O. Garnsey of Chicago was the architect. Henry B. Gurler was a nationally prominent dairy and creamery owner. The residence was painted in virtually original colors in 1990.



320 South Second Street (11)
St. George's Greek Orthodox Church (DLR)
Built 1912

This building, now occupied by St. George's Greek Orthodox Church, was originally St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The land was given to the Episcopalians by town founders Russell and Lewis Huntley when DeKalb was platted in 1853. The frame meeting hall at the rear of the property is the 1877 St. Paul's Church. This structure had tall peaked gables, lancet windows, and board and batten siding before remodeling in the 1980s.



329 South Fourth Street
E. F. Shellabarger House
Built mid 1890s

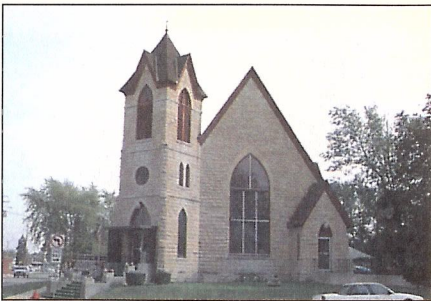
E. F. Shellabarger arrived in DeKalb in 1891, opening the DeKalb Fence Company. This business was the first to manufacture and market woven wire fencing. This house has a diagonally placed front porch, with an oversized gable. The one-story projection to the north contained the dining room. The odd shaped building on the Prospect Street alley to the south was the coach house for the home.



≈ In the Huntley Park Historic District Vicinity ≈

210 Grove Street
Foursquare Church
Built 1885-1888

Built as the Congregational Church. DeKalb Township native George Barber was the architect. This Late Victorian Gothic Revival building may have been influenced in its design by Chicago architect George O. Garnsey's Congregational Church at Somonauk and High Streets in nearby Sycamore. The \$8,500 construction cost was over \$5,000 more than what the congregation started out with in their building fund, resulting in additional fund-raising. The Congregationalists moved to their new North First Street church in 1954.



625 South Fourth Street
Franz Lundberg House
Built late 1890s

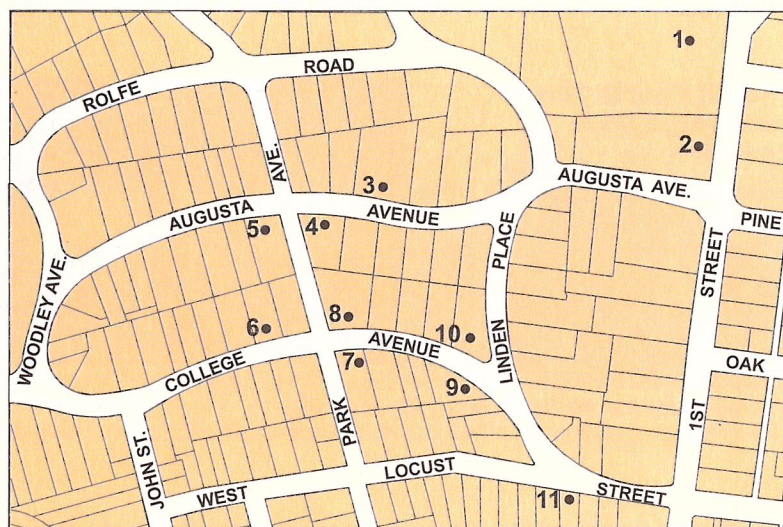
This was pictured in a historical publication of the DeKalb Chronicle from 1899. Note the pair of triangular shaped gables. The old photo shows the front porch open, with the stairs off-center to the north. Franz Lundberg was a son-in-law of Henry B. Gurler, with whose company he became associated in 1895. Prior to this Mr. Lundberg worked for I. L. Ellwood Manufacturing Company and as DeKalb's Deputy Postmaster.



TOUR 2

FIFTH WARD NORTH HISTORIC DISTRICT TOUR

The Fifth Ward North Historic District was listed on the DeKalb Landmark Register in 1997. It encompasses College & Augusta Avenues, most of West Locust Street, a portion of Harrison Street, the west side of the 100 block of North First Street, 417 North First Street and Ellwood House Museum and Park. The meandering tree-lined streets contain many fine examples of late 19th and early 20th century residential architecture. The area developed in earnest with the opening of what is now Northern Illinois University in 1899, with some of the houses predating that event by several years. Many of the houses have always been private residences, while others have undergone conversion into apartments. The tour concentrates on College and Augusta Avenues only.



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. 509 North First Street
Ellwood House | 7. 336 College Avenue
Charles McMurry House |
| 2. 417 North First Street
Perry Ellwood House | 8. 335 College Avenue
John H. Lewis House |
| 3. 233 Augusta Avenue
Andrew Anderson House | 9. 226 College Avenue
Fred Lamar Charles House |
| 4. 250 Augusta Avenue
Fremont Rowan House | 10. 305 College Avenue
Sven Franklin Parson House |
| 5. 308 Augusta Avenue
E. J. Wiswall House | 11. 200 West Locust Street
Dr. James Rankin House |
| 6. 411 College Avenue
John Williston Cook House | |



509 North First Street (1)

Ellwood House (NRHP)

Built 1879, alterations 1898, 1911-12

Originally designed by Chicago architect George O. Garnsey, in Second Empire style with a porch constructed in the Classical Revival style. Isaac Ellwood was the primary manufacturer of barbed wire fencing in the United States. He owned nearly 1,200 acres of land which surrounded the mansion. Also on the grounds are the Playhouse (1891), Museum House (1905), Carriage House (1911) with 1997 Education & Visitor Center addition, and a late 19th century stone tower. The house and grounds are owned by the DeKalb Park District and are operated by the Ellwood House Association. Guided tours are offered Tuesday-Sunday afternoons (756-4609).



417 North First Street (2)

Perry Ellwood House (DLR)

Built 1899-1900

Charles E. Brush, architect. Perry was Isaac Ellwood's youngest son, and a banker by profession. He succeeded his brother-in-law, John Lewis as president of what is now *First National Bank In DeKalb/Sycamore* in 1903. The Tudor design of the residence is said to have been patterned after a manor house in England the Perry Ellwood's saw during their honeymoon in September of 1898. The home was sold to Perry's brother Will, following Isaac's death in 1910. Will's estate sold it in 1942.



233 Augusta Avenue (3)

Andrew Anderson House (DLR)

Built 1916

Andrew and his brother Frank were the longtime owners of the *Anderson Brothers Clothing Store*. Both had new homes built in 1916. Andrew's Prairie style house bears strong similarities to residences designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, but is actually the work of architect John VanBergen, who had been employed by Wright as a draftsman. VanBergen went into the field of architecture himself after leaving Wright, and at one time was referred to as the best "imitator" of Wright's style. As was typical with Wright's designs, the location of the front door is not immediately obvious.



250 Augusta Avenue (4)

Dr. Fremont N. Rowan House (DLR)
Built 1908

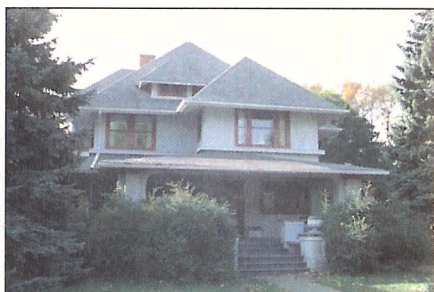
Dr. Rowan was the veterinarian of the Ellwood's Percheron horse breeding business. The design of the house mixes Prairie style and Tudor elements. Architect Eben Ezra Roberts was based in Oak Park originally, but never had any working relationship with Frank Lloyd Wright. Beautiful leaded glass windows accent the home.



308 Augusta Avenue (5)

E. J. Wiswall House (DLR)
Built 1904

Wiswall was a furniture dealer and undertaker. The home was in the family almost 70 years. Numerous architectural features are reminiscent of structures of similar vintage by architect Eben Ezra Roberts in Oak Park. These include a two-story stuccoed design, hipped roof configurations with hipped dormers, a wooden banding between floors, wood trim around the windows, and a wrap-around porch with sturdy stucco piers.



411 College Avenue (6)

Dr. John Williston Cook House (DLR)
Built 1899-1900

Dr. Cook was president of *Northern Illinois State Normal School* from 1899-1919. The mansion is reported to have been paid for by Isaac Ellwood to make good on a promise to Cook for accepting the presidency of the Normal School here. Its striking two-story portico facing College Avenue has long drawn attention to the house. The interior is noted for its many Classical Revival design details. Architect Charles E. Brush won a state sponsored contest in 1895 for the commission of Altgeld Hall, the Normal School's first building. In 1898 and 1899 he was hired by Isaac Ellwood to remodel the Ellwood mansion itself, and to design the Perry Ellwood House at 417 North First Street.



336 College Avenue (7)

Charles McMurry House (DLR)
Built early 1900's

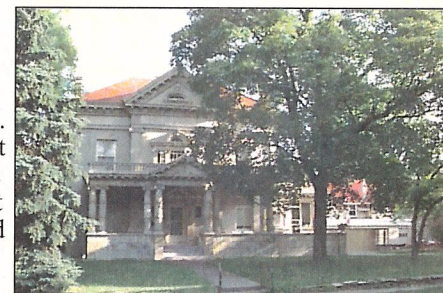
McMurry was the Head of the Practice Department at *Northern Illinois State Normal School* from 1899-1915. He was the namesake of "McMurry Hall" on campus. Architect George Barber was a DeKalb County native, self-taught in architecture, who gained fame and fortune in his chosen profession in the years after leaving DeKalb for Knoxville, Tennessee in 1888. Contractor Manly Barber was his older brother, who built what George designed for local clients. The McMurry house is a shingled Dutch Colonial Revival, and was patterned after Barber's own turn-of-the-century house in Knoxville. It was converted into apartments following World War II.



335 College Avenue (8)

John H. Lewis House (DLR)
Built 1900-1901

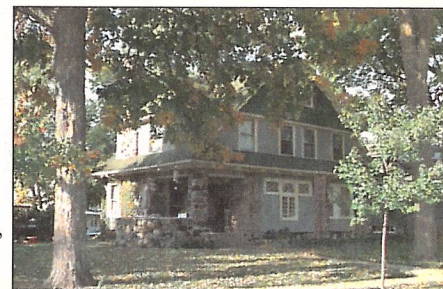
Lewis was a son-in-law of Isaac Ellwood. In 1892 he purchased controlling interest in what today is *First National Bank In DeKalb/Sycamore*, serving as president until 1903. He was treasurer of the Board of Trustees of *Northern Illinois State Normal School* from 1899-1917. The cream colored brick structure is accented with columns and decorative details done in cast concrete. Architect Oscar L. McMurry worked out of Chicago.



226 College Avenue (9)

Fred Lamar Charles House (DLR)
Built early 1900's

Charles was one of the original faculty members of *Northern Illinois State Normal School*, teaching courses in biology and nature studies. His home is a distinctive Dutch Colonial Revival, with a large front gable, dormers, and stuccoed walls. A rock foundation, porch, and pillars provide a distinctive appearance.



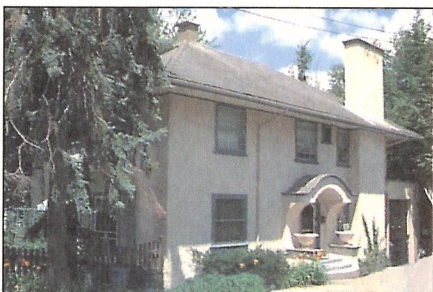
305 College Avenue (10)
Swen Franklin Parson House (DLR)
Built 1906

Professor Parson joined the faculty of *Northern Illinois State Normal School* as professor of Mathematics when it first opened in September of 1899. This home, a scaled down version of the one at 335 College, was designed by the same architect, Oscar L. McMurry. Professor Parson is said to have helped site the house on its lot in such a way as to take full advantage of the morning sun shining on it.



200 West Locust Street (11)
Dr. James Rankin House (DLR)
Built 1904

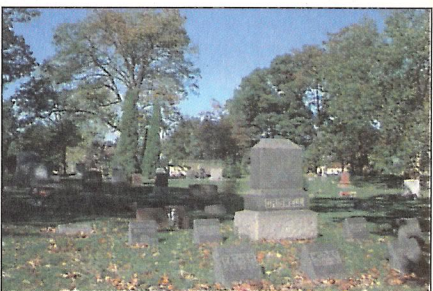
The design is attributed to George W. Maher and his draftsman, Robert F. Seyfarth. A two-story stuccoed house, with a porch facing Locust Street, and its entrance off the driveway to the east. It is a Prairie style structure, similar to designs by Maher from Oak Park, Chicago, and elsewhere around the country in the early 1900s. Seyfarth was employed by Maher for about ten years before establishing his own office. Some interior alterations to the house in the late 1920s are in a Spanish Colonial Revival style. The home was featured in the October-December, 1996 issue of *Geo W. Maher Quarterly*.



~In the Fifth Ward North Historic District Vicinity~

Oakwood Cemetery
Established 1867

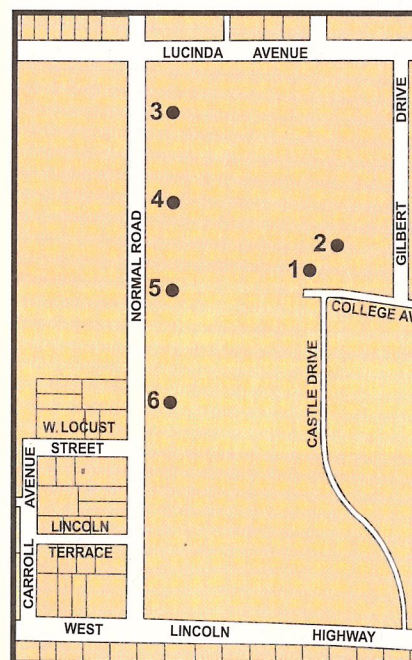
Oakwood is DeKalb's second oldest surviving burial ground (Evergreen Cemetery at South Seventh and Taylor Streets dates from 1855). The two cemeteries were administered jointly by the Union Cemetery Association until 1999, when DeKalb Township took them over. After Isaac Ellwood purchased all of the adjoining land between 1877 and 1879, the cemetery became landlocked, with no way to expand. Among the names of prominent old DeKalb families here are C. W. Marsh, George Gurler, and H. H. Wagner.



TOUR 3

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY TOUR

Barbed Wire inventor Joseph F. Glidden donated the 60+ acre site for Northern Illinois State Normal School (now Northern Illinois University) when DeKalb was selected as the location for the new institution in 1895. Bounded by the Kishwaukee River, Normal Road, Lucinda Avenue, and West Lincoln Highway, a portion of the land once served as the site of the agricultural fair at which Glidden, Jacob Haish, and Isaac Ellwood got the idea for barbed wire in 1873. Eventually seventeen assorted buildings would be erected here over a period of more than seventy years. Adjacent to the river is the east lagoon, said to be the largest natural body of water of its kind in DeKalb County, yet also often referred to as being little more than a "pond" until the mid 1930s. This tour concentrates on six of the buildings constructed during the school's first fifty years.

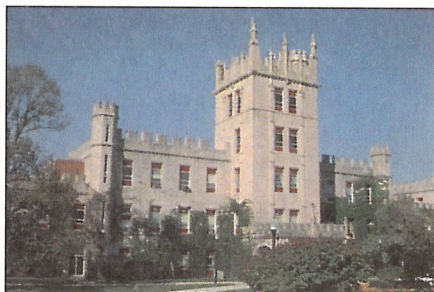


1. Altgeld Hall
2. McMurry Hall
3. Adams Hall
4. Williston Hall
5. Swen Parson Hall
6. Davis Hall

Altgeld Hall (1)

Built 1895-1900

The first building of *Northern Illinois State Normal School*, now *NIU*. Originally known as "The Castle," it later came to be called the Administration Building. Its Tudor-Gothic style of architecture was in keeping with the wishes of Illinois Governor John Peter Altgeld (after whom it was named in 1963). Born in Germany, he had fond recollections of the old castles on the Rhine River, and felt public buildings in Illinois needed to look more distinctive. Architect Charles E. Brush was one of sixteen architects to submit a plan to the state. He designed the third floor as three unconnected units, each accessible via different sets of stairs. Extensive restoration of the almost century old structure is scheduled to begin in 1999.



McMurry Hall (2)

Built 1909-1911

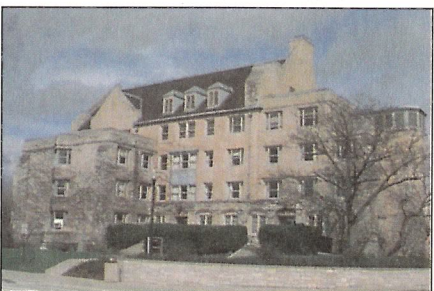
This is the second oldest building on campus. Originally known as the Training or Practice School, it was later named for Dr. Charles McMurry and his sister-in-law Lida Brown McMurry, early faculty members. A pair of three-story towers topped with battlements, a dignified portico at the main entrance, and an abundance of Gothic-style stonework, especially around the more than seventy windows on the front, give the structure a distinctive appearance. The oversize windows in the stairwells on the east and west sides of the building have the date "1909" carved above them.



Adams Hall (3)

Built 1948-1949

Another fine example of Late Gothic Revival architecture, it is named for Karl L. Adams, Northern's fourth President (1929-1948), who died in office. Built of Joliet Limestone, this striking four-and-a-half story structure has stairwells at the north and south ends, and like Williston Hall retains original windows. The three-story projecting wing at the north front is a prominent feature. The one-story east wing was the dining room when Adams was a women's residence hall. It was converted into offices in the mid 1960s.

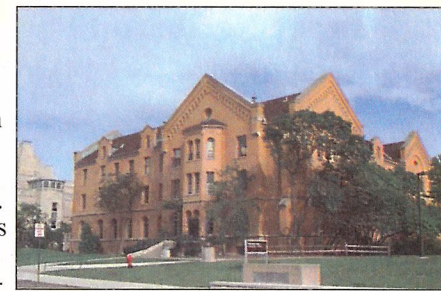


Williston Hall (4)

Built 1914-1915

Planning for a woman's dormitory on campus began shortly after completion of McMurry Hall. The building was named for Dr. John Williston Cook, Northern's first president (1899-1919).

Cook reportedly choose the structure's striking tannish-orange brick himself, because of its color and moisture resistance. Distinctive features include numerous gables with corbeled brickwork, dormers projecting out of the roof, and a corbeled brick chimney on the roof of the east wing. Most of the building's original wooden windows also remain in place. A 1920 bronze plaque on the lobby wall memorializes Dr. Cook. Williston Hall was converted into offices in 1969.

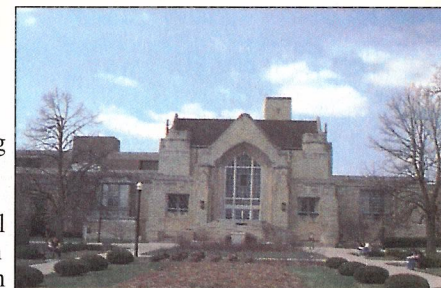


Swen Parson Hall (5)

Originally Swen Parson Library

Built 1949-1952

A plaque on the wall of the former circulation lobby dedicates the building to Parson, who served on Northern's faculty from 1899-1935. The plaque also pays tribute to the gift of the original Altgeld Hall Library by Jacob Haish in 1899. The central core of Swen Parson is the original limestone structure, with interior woodwork of white oak and birch, with a wheat finish. Exterior Gothic design elements include soaring arches, finials, and decorative windows. The interior is noted for its stonework, wood carving, and marble floors and stairs. The glass-fronted outer lobby contains a stained glass panel with the seal of the State of Illinois. The building became home to the College of Law in 1982.



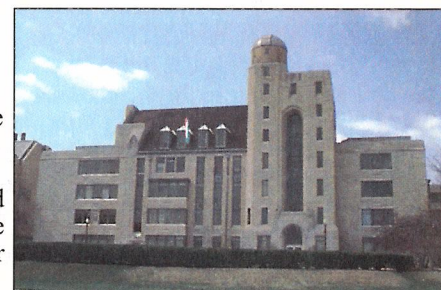
Davis Hall (6)

Originally the Science Building

Built 1941-1943

Construction of this \$450,000 structure began in the spring of 1941; it was dedicated on graduation day, 1943.

Erected of steel-reinforced concrete and brick with a limestone veneer, the simple but massive Late Gothic Revival exterior is replete with a profusion of windows for admit-ting natural light. The Gothic design of the lobby and the base of the stair tower gives way to an unadorned, utilitarian interior decor. For many years this building ranked as the tallest in the city. The observatory atop the tower was envisioned from the outset, but not completed until the early 1960s. The building was renamed for William Morris Davis, a noted Geographer.



~ In the Northern Illinois University Vicinity ~

105 Normal Road

Corey/Arndt House
Built circa 1911

This was one of the first houses built west of the river along Lincoln Highway. The striking two-story brick residence mixes American Foursquare and Arts & Crafts style influences. The covered front porch with its sturdy piers gives way on the Normal Road side to an open terrace, with a tall flight of steps down to the yard. Projecting out from the roof on the street sides are large gables. Frank Corey was a partner in the firm of Corey & Evans Transfer Line. The Arndt family were his descendants, and sold the house to NIU in the late 1980s.



921 West Lincoln Highway

Joseph F. Glidden House (NHRP)
Built 1861

This historic brick house and the adjacent barn are recognized as the birthplace of barbed wire fencing. Local carpenter Jacob Haish constructed the residence for Glidden, using bricks made of mud taken from the banks of the Kishwaukee River south of DeKalb, where at one time there was a small brickyard. The Glidden farm was originally 600 acres. In 1995, members of the Glidden family established the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead Association to work for the preservation of the house and barn.



217 North Annie Glidden Road

John Glidden/Annie Glidden House
Built 1902

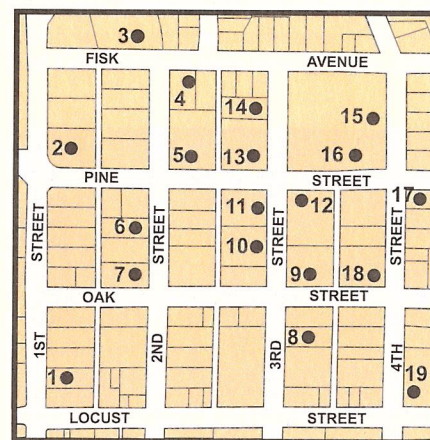
This house is similar to the farmhouses found in DeKalb County in the 1840s and 1850s. The cream-colored brick of which it is constructed is said to have been hauled by ox cart from Milwaukee. John Glidden was the son of Josiah Willard Glidden, Joseph's brother, and Superintendent of the DeKalb-Sycamore Electric Company. He moved his family to uncle Joseph's house in 1909, at which time his sister, Annie Glidden, took up residence here, and eventually the road came to adopt her name. She sold the property in 1934, and it was purchased by the NIU Foundation in 1977.



TOUR 4

NORTHERN ORIGINAL TOWN TOUR

In the early days of DeKalb, the area from First Street east to Fourth Street, and from just north of Lincoln Highway to present day Fisk Avenue (originally "North Street" - the northern boundary of the city) was principally residential. As the years went by however a number of the old homes gave way for other structures, although many were able to survive by being converted into apartments. The old time residential character of the neighborhood remains strong along the 200 block of North First, and on the 300 blocks of North Second and North Third Streets. Four churches have helped anchor the area since the early 1900s, as has the DeKalb Public Library.



1. 210 North First Street

Eli B. Gilbert House

2. 404 North First Street

Frank Anderson House

3. 145 Fisk Avenue

Former St. Mary's Hospital

4. 202 Fisk Avenue

William G. Earle House

5. 205 Pine Street

George Gurler House

6. 319 North Second Street

Clinton Rosette House

7. 303 North Second Street

Bailey Rosette House

8. 220 North Third Street

Christian Science Church

9. 309 Oak Street

DeKalb Public Library

10. 315 North Third Street

Original Isaac Ellwood House

11. 329 North Third Street

Hiram Ellwood House

12. 324 North Third Street

First Lutheran Church

13. 227 Pine Street

Site of Jacob Haish Mansion

14. 421/23 North Third St.

Haish Carriage House

15. N. Fourth St. & Fisk Ave.

Former St. Mary's School

16. 321 Pine Street

St. Mary's Church

17. 330 North Fourth Street

Second Home of Jacob Haish

18. 321 Oak Street

First United Methodist Church

19. 204 North Fourth Street

Former I. L. Ellwood Mfg. Co.



210 North First Street (1)

Eli B. Gilbert House
Built 1865

Descendants of Eli B. Gilbert have continuously occupied this home since the mid 1860s. It is the earliest local example of Second Empire style architecture, and one of the few built in DeKalb. The mansard roof atop the building is the distinguishing characteristic. Although aluminum sided, window trim remains in a good state of preservation. Its hilltop setting helps set the house off. Eli B. Gilbert was an attorney, notary public, and Justice of the Peace.



404 North First Street (2)

Frank Anderson House
Built 1916

Frank and his brother Andrew (233 Augusta) were the longtime owners of the *Anderson Brothers Clothing Store*. Both had new homes built for their families in 1916, and supposedly competed to see which of them would come up with the better house (which brother won is not known). While Andrew Anderson chose to have a Prairie style house designed for him, Frank selected a more traditional Georgian Colonial Revival. Windows and doors are symmetrically arranged, giving the house a very orderly appearance.



145 Fisk Avenue (3)

St. Mary's Hospital Building (DLR)
Built 1921-1922

Early 1920's Late Gothic Revival architecture. Stonework around the windows, rooftop parapets, and the front entrance gives the building a distinctive appearance. Father James A. Solon of St. Mary's Catholic Church was the guiding force behind the hospital's construction, providing some \$50,000 of his own money toward the \$175,000 cost of the fifty bed facility. It remained in operation until 1966. In 1974, DeKalb School District 428 acquired the structure for use as their administrative center. They vacated the building in 1992.



202 Fisk Avenue (4)

William G. Earle House
Built circa 1890

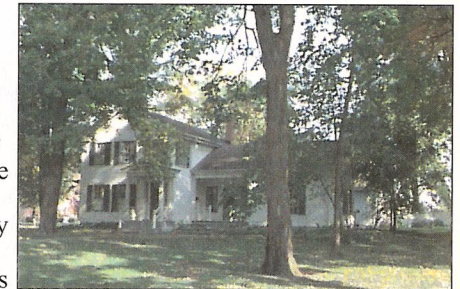
Mr. Earle was employed for many years as the Cashier of the I. L. Ellwood Manufacturing Company (#19 on this tour). The residence originally stood around the corner at 417 North Second Street, being moved in 1990 to prevent its demolition. The design of the house appeared in architect George F. Barber's mail order catalogue, *The Cottage Souvenir No. 2*, from 1891, and was pictured in the 1892 *DeKalb Chronicle Illustrated Souvenir*. Barber's publication gave a construction cost of \$3,000. The front porch is a close approximation of the original. The second floor balcony on the east side survives very much intact, still supported by decorative brackets.



205 Pine Street (5)

George Gurler House (NRHP)
Built 1857

While known as the residence of the George Gurler family since 1892, they were not the original owners of this fine example of Greek Revival style architecture. That honor rests with Ellzey and Alida Ellwood Young (a sister of Isaac Ellwood). Two additional families enjoyed the home prior to George Gurler purchasing it for \$5,000. The structure today strongly resembles a photograph taken of it in the 1890s. A successful preservation campaign by the Gurler Heritage Association in 1978 prevented its demolition, and as a result the house serves as a small community center and meeting facility.



319 North Second Street (6)

Clinton Rosette House
Built circa 1880s

This was the home of the namesake of nearby Clinton Rosette Middle School. The house had its original open front porch enclosed in the early 1900s, otherwise it looks virtually the same as in the 1890s. Clinton Rosette was the Editor of the *DeKalb Chronicle* from 1879-1906, and the paper's owner from 1906-1909. Rosette supported democrat John Peter Altgeld's bid to become Governor of Illinois in 1892, convincing him of the need to establish more state "Normal Schools" for the training of teachers. This led in 1895 to the establishment of what is now Northern Illinois University.

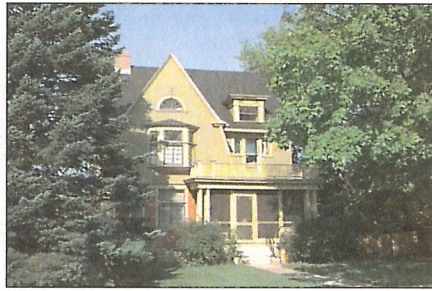




303 North Second Street (7)

Bailey Rosette House
Built 1896

Bailey was the younger brother of Clinton Rosette, and worked for him at the Chronicle prior to starting his own local newspaper, The DeKalb Advertiser, in 1903. The house is a distinctive Shingled Colonial Revival structure, with prominent gables. The oriel window on the second floor is centered in the front gable, from which it projects slightly. During restoration in the 1980s, the owners removed a second-story porch in the front of the house, bringing back its original appearance.



220 North Third Street (8)

First Church of Christ Scientist
Built 1909-1910

This house of worship originally displayed a simpler street facade than it does today. Among the alterations was the addition of the steeple atop its roof. The congregation first met in January of 1903, and organized with 19 members in 1904. Their services were held in a local hall until 1907, when a house was purchased and remodeled for use. That building burned in 1908, leading to the decision to erect a real church. The cornerstone was laid in 1909, with the dedication taking place on October 26, 1910.



309 Oak Street (9)

DeKalb Public Library (NRHP)
Built 1930-1931

Unlike many cities and towns around the country, DeKalb does not have a Carnegie Library. The wealth created by the invention and manufacture of barbed wire fencing made the community ineligible for funding from that source. One of those whose personal fortune stemmed from the manufacture of that product however provided the money himself for the library building. Jacob Haish left \$150,000 for construction of the Art Moderne style building, designed by architects White and Weber of Chicago. The west wing is a 1977 sympathetic addition.



315 North Third Street (10)

Original Isaac Ellwood House (DLR)
Built 1860-1879

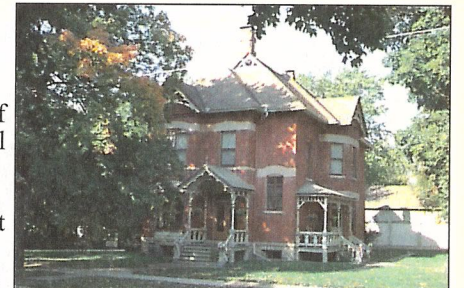
The two-story gabled portion of this house, with the three second floor windows, is the original 1860 building. Isaac & Harriet Ellwood occupied the Midwest Greek Revival style residence until 1879, when they moved to their mansion on North First Street. While the structure may at sometime have looked identical to nearby Gurler House, it underwent several additions, those most significant being done by the Ellwoods. The last occupant lived there from 1937-1997.



329 North Third Street (11)

Hiram Ellwood House (DLR)
Built 1884

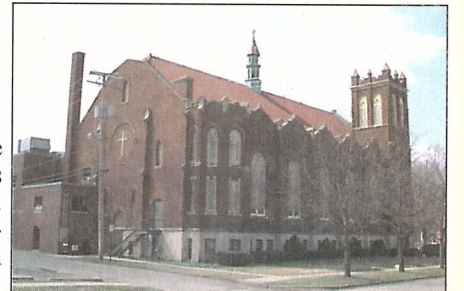
Hiram Ellwood was an older brother of Isaac Ellwood, and Secretary and General Manager of the Superior Barbed Wire Company from 1877-1898. In 1884 Hiram commissioned Chicago architect George Garnsey to design this Transitional Eastlake style house. The distinguishing characteristics are the bargeboard trim in the gables, and the decorative front and side porches. Interior and exterior remodeling occurred occasionally over the years to meet the needs and tastes of the different generations of the family, who remained here until 1955. In the early 1990s, the owners engineered a textbook perfect restoration.



324 North Third Street (12)

First Lutheran Church
Built 1915-1916

The congregation was organized by 32 members on Christmas Day, 1858. The present Late Gothic Revival church was their third building, having cost \$64,257. It was designed by the Moline architectural firm of Ecklund & DeArment, with DeKalb's Skoglund & Wedberg as General Contractors. The Third Street facade consists of two identical corner towers, flanking a gable end with rose window, above a one-story bay. The unusual copper "Minaret" atop the roof is another eye-catching feature.

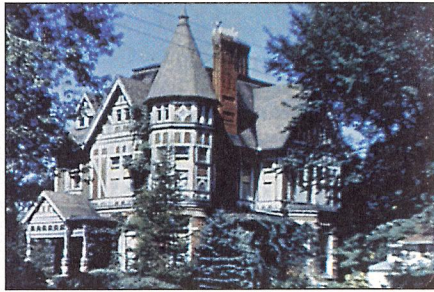




227 Pine Street (13)

Site of Jacob Haish Mansion (DLR)
Built 1884/85-1961

Haish bought this corner lot many years before erecting his Queen Anne style mansion here (the house at 330 North Fourth Street, #17 on this tour, originally stood on this site). Designed by Haish himself, the mansion was noted for its tall peaked gables and dormers, corner tower, elaborately detailed chimneys, half-timbering, stained glass windows, sandstone statuary in the yard and on the porches, and decorative brick designs. Haish died here in 1926, 19 days short of his 100th birthday. Purchased for \$25,000 by First Lutheran Church in 1955, they had it demolished in 1961.



421/423 North Third Street (14)

Haish Carriage House (DLR)
Built 1884

This was originally the stable for the Haish mansion. Brick designs in the walls are simpler versions of those on the main house. The tower at the southeast corner and the area above the center windows on the second floor once had more elaborate decoration and larger roof configurations. A semi-circular block of weathered limestone in the southeast tower contains the date "1884" on it. Haish converted the building into apartments during his lifetime, and his estate sold it separately from the mansion in 1955.



N. Fourth St. & Fisk Ave. (15)

Former St. Mary's School
Built 1911-1913

This school had been a dream of Father James A. Solon since becoming Pastor of the church in 1899. He is said to have done much of the planning and design for the building himself. Constructed of reinforced concrete with a vitrified brick veneer, it rests on a high brick foundation. When the school was new, the auditorium inside was a facility available for community use and it was highly touted for its acoustics. Although some rooftop detail has been removed, the basic appearance of the structure is unchanged.



321 Pine Street (16)

St. Mary's Church
Built 1894-1901

The first meetings of Catholics in DeKalb were in 1850, but it was 1861 before they organized and could afford to erect a frame Gothic Revival style church at this location. In 1894 the cornerstone was laid for a new house of worship, constructed with Bedford stone in the High Victorian Gothic Revival style.

While this building was completed in 1899, it was not dedicated until October 9, 1901. A pair of towers are at the southeast and southwest corners, with the southeast one being the taller. The double front doors are original. The single doors were added when the stairs were extended. The church was rededicated in 1976 following a 1973 fire, and interior remodeling/restoration took place in the late 1980s.



330 North Fourth Street (17)

Second Home of Jacob Haish
Built circa 1870

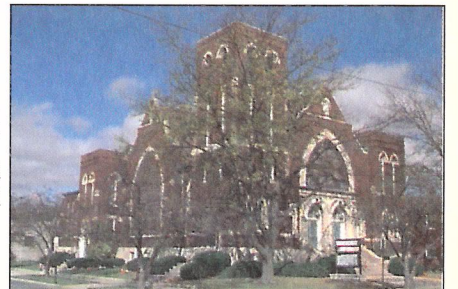
The oldest known depiction of this house was a pen and ink sketch in the 1871 *Atlas Map of DeKalb County, Illinois*. In that rendering, the structure appears much the same as now. The residence was moved from the northwest corner of Third and Pine Streets in 1884 when Haish built his ornate Queen Anne style mansion there. Two common decorative trademarks survive from his years as a local lumber dealer and contractor: the bargeboard trim in the gables and the brick designs in the foundation walls. Original door and window trim also remains intact.



321 Oak Street (18)

First United Methodist Church
Built 1908-1909

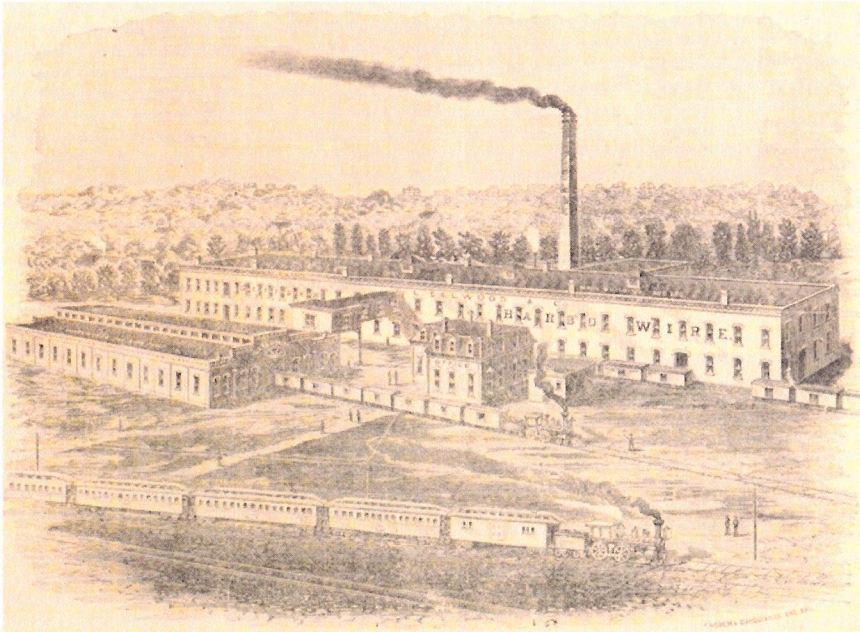
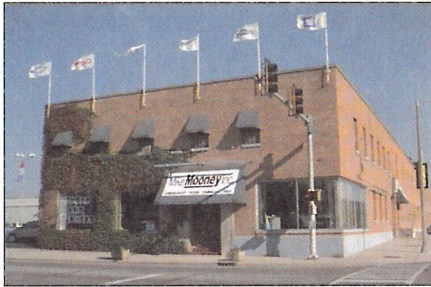
Like the Catholics, the Methodists first met in 1850, but saw to the building of their church in 1855. Between then and 1909 they had two frame structures and a brick church. The fund-raising drive for the new house of worship was successful in large measure because of donations by Jacob Haish, who did not belong to the congregation. The tower at the southeast corner rises well above the rest of the building. The pair of shorter towers are not as high as the gabled areas facing Fourth and Oak streets, which are rich in stained glass.





204 North Fourth Street (19)
I.L. Ellwood Manufacturing Company
Built 1877-1881

Known historically as the “Red Shops,” after the color of the bricks used in its construction, this building served for ten years as the main plant of the *I.L. Ellwood Manufacturing Company*, DeKalb’s primary barbed wire production facility (see below). The two-story, two block long wire mill originally measured 400x61 feet, requiring 428 cords of stone, 689,000 bricks, and 312,272 feet of lumber. A year after completion, a workforce of 200-400 men operated 200 wire machines. Each day, 1,200 spools containing 108 pounds of wire a piece, were being cranked out for consumption, which still put them 100-150 carloads a day behind demand for the product. The company’s motto in the 1880’s was: “To make none but the best goods.” Barbed wire fencing was last made in DeKalb in 1938.

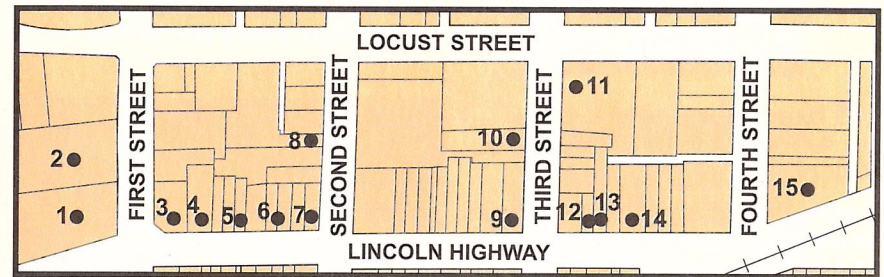


An historic drawing of the *I. L. Ellwood Manufacturing Company*.

TOUR 5

DOWNTOWN: NORTH SIDE TOUR

This tour starts at 105 North First Street, “on the site where DeKalb began.” It was here in 1837 that town founder Russell Huntley (later joined by his brother Lewis) erected his double log cabin, around which the city would grow. The tour proceeds east to the railroad tracks at North Fourth Street and East Lincoln Highway, with side trips north on First, Second, Third and Fourth Streets. In order to take full view of the buildings and their architecture, it is advisable to walk on the opposite side of the street.



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 105 North First Street
Mayo Mansion | 9. 261/263 E. Lincoln Hwy.
Drs. Smith Building |
| 2. 115 North First Street
Harriet Ellwood Mayo House | 10. 145 North Third Street
Old DeKalb Theatre |
| 3. Memorial Park
Soldiers & Sailors Clock | 11. 148 North Third Street
Rice Hotel Building |
| 4. 123 East Lincoln Highway
Old Chronicle Building | 12. 311 East Lincoln Highway
“RS” Building |
| 5. 137 East Lincoln Highway
(Historic Name Unknown) | 13. 315 East Lincoln Highway
(Historic Name Unknown) |
| 6. 149/153 E. Lincoln Highway
(Historic Name Unknown) | 14. 323 E. Lincoln Highway
Com. Trust & Savings Bank |
| 7. 161 East Lincoln Highway
(Wagner Block) | 15. DeKalb Square Park |
| 8. 135 North Second Street
Egyptian Theatre | |

105 North First Street (1)

Mayo Mansion (DLR)
Built 1897

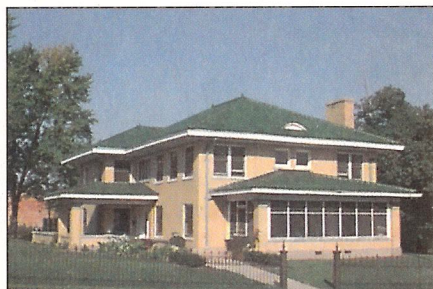
An eclectic mix of Greek Revival, Queen Anne and Romanesque architecture. The red sandstone is a veneer over brick. Dr. Edward L. Mayo and his wife Harriet Ellwood Mayo (a daughter of Isaac Ellwood) had the structure erected as their residence following their marriage in 1897. Sold to *DeKalb Elks Lodge #765* in 1922 for \$75,000, it served that group's needs until 1994, since which time it has been part of the "Heritage Square" development.



115 North First Street (2)

Harriet Ellwood Mayo House (DLR)
Built 1924

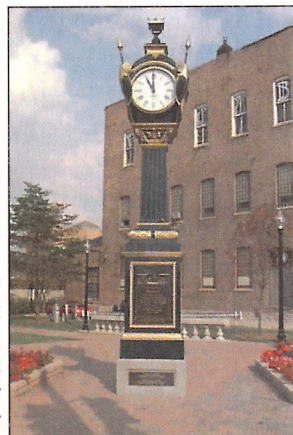
An example of Prairie style architecture. Its north entry portico is similar to those on a Prairie style apartment building in Oak Park from 1910. A grove of walnut trees was reportedly cut down here in order for the house to be constructed on the site. The lumber was then used for the trim, doors, paneling, and staircase in the house. It was built by Skoglund and Wedberg, a local contracting firm.



DeKalb Memorial Park (3)

Northeast corner of First St. and Lincoln Hwy.
Established 1996

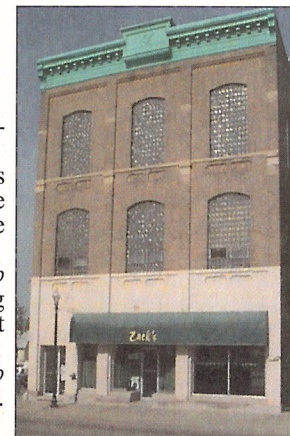
The park was a joint project of the City of DeKalb and the DeKalb Park District. The 1921 *Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Clock* is the park's centerpiece. The clock is a World War I memorial, dedicated February 13, 1921, which cost \$2,900. It was originally located in the street as one turned from East Lincoln Highway onto North Third Street. Following an accident in 1929 the clock was moved onto the sidewalk. The 1996 restoration and relocation cost almost \$17,000. The clock was rededicated November 11, 1996. The balustrades are from the former DeKalb Post Office.



123 East Lincoln Highway (4)

Old Chronicle Building
Built 1889

This is the oldest three-story building in downtown DeKalb. It was erected for barbed wire inventor Joseph F. Glidden as the headquarters of his newspaper, *The DeKalb Chronicle*. The Masonic emblem in the cornice stems from the fact that the Masonic Lodge was originally located in the third floor meeting hall. *DeKalb Elks Lodge #765* started here in 1902, remaining until 1922. The organizational meeting of what is now the *DeKalb County Farm Bureau* took place here in 1912. From 1923-1931 the *DeKalb Public Library* was housed on the second floor.



137 East Lincoln Highway (5)

Historic Name Unknown
Built circa 1890s

A finely restored Queen Anne style commercial building. The decorative multi-color scheme highlights the structure's architectural details. The Victorian swag motif across the cornice and base of the bay stands out strikingly. In 1903 G. H. Holmes' *Restaurant, Bakery, and Fancy Groceries* business was located here.



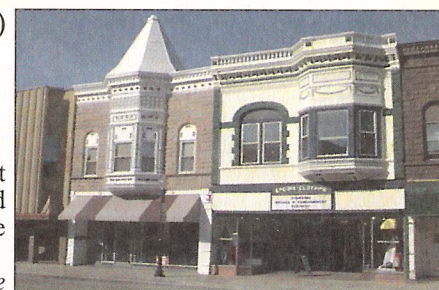
149/153 E. Lincoln Highway (6)

Historic Name Unknown
Built circa 1890s

149 E. Lincoln is a Queen Anne with Romanesque Revival details. It is characterized by a rusticated stone front and second floor bay with a cone-shaped roof. Decorative detail across the cornice and in the bay draws one's attention.

The *Pritchard & Dickerman Music Store*

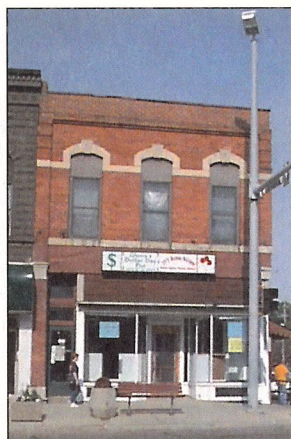
was here in 1899. Next door at 153 E. Lincoln is a Queen Anne facade, complete with second floor bay window, balustrated cornice, and Victorian "swag" detail. The ground level facade was done over many years ago by the building's longtime occupant, the *Reliable Store*, whose name is preserved in the exterior tile floor.



161 East Lincoln Highway (7)

Wagner Block
Built 1879

The storefront of this building has undergone minimal alteration over the years, making it the best preserved late 19th century store front in downtown DeKalb. The stonework over the second floor windows on both street sides, in conjunction with the horizontal bands and incised decoration in the keystones are striking features. The original cornice, which contained the name "Wagner Block" and 1879 date was removed because of deterioration. This Wagner family was in the furniture business here.



135 North Second Street (8)

Egyptian Theatre (NRHP)
Built 1929

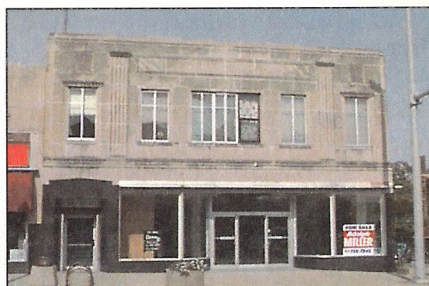
The DeKalb Theatre Company was responsible for construction of this larger, more versatile facility (118 East Lincoln Highway was its earlier location). Elmer Behrens of Chicago designed the Egyptian, being influenced in its decorative treatment by the discovery of King Tut's tomb. The short-lived Egyptian Revival fad of the 1920s led to the erection of several "Egyptian Theatres" across the country. This is the only one in the Midwest. Closed briefly in the Fall of 1977, when it was threatened with demolition, it underwent complete restoration in 1982-1983.



261/263 E. Lincoln Highway (9)

Drs. Smith Building
Built 1946-1948

This Art Moderne building is similar to the DeKalb Public Library. The black granite trim at the ground level accents a superstructure of Bedford limestone. This was the site of the Jacob Haish Opera House Blocks of 1876-1938 (Haish paid \$2,100 for the property). For many years this was the only downtown building with a revolving door (to the second floor), which was subsequently removed. For ten years prior to the erection of this building the lot sat empty and barricaded. Lehan Drugs was the original first floor tenant, for whom that retail space had been custom designed.



145 North Third Street (10)

Old DeKalb Theatre
Built 1948-1949

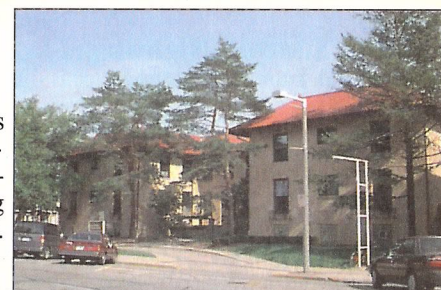
The Old DeKalb Theatre was touted when it opened on March 16, 1949 as "The Theatre of Tomorrow." The Theatre was designed by Axel J. Claesson for the Anderson Theatre Circuit, a ten-theatre chain (the company responsible for this movie house was unrelated to the 1923-1929 DeKalb Theatre at 118 East Lincoln Highway). The facade is only slightly different from how it appeared when new. It was converted into a restaurant, banquet hall, and micro-brewery known as the Box Office Brewery in the mid 1990s; however, the building is currently unoccupied.



148 North Third Street (11)

Rice Hotel Building
Built 1927

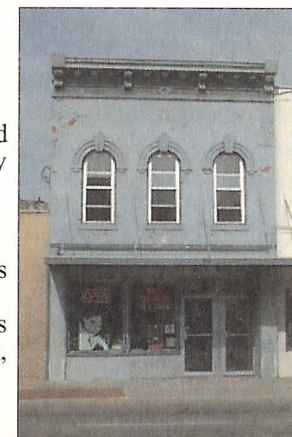
Built for M. E. Rice, this was DeKalb's first new 20th Century hotel. The Spanish Revival style of the 1920s is represented in its architecture. Two projecting wings flank a small courtyard-like porch. The tile roof and wrought iron work accenting some windows exemplifies the style. Years ago, the hotel restaurant was considered the best place to go locally for Sunday dinner. Remodeled as office space for Northern Illinois University in the early 1980s, the original tile-fronted registration desk, fireplace, and marble floor remain in the lobby.



311 East Lincoln Highway (12)

"RS" Building
Built 1876

The date of construction is prominently displayed on the upper facade, but who is represented by the initials "RS" has been lost over time. Although the ground floor was altered, the second floor Italianate features are well preserved. Decorative arches with center keystones top the windows, while a bracketed cornice is in place above the frieze panels. A mid 1890's parade photo shows the facade of natural brick, and a saloon occupying the storefront.

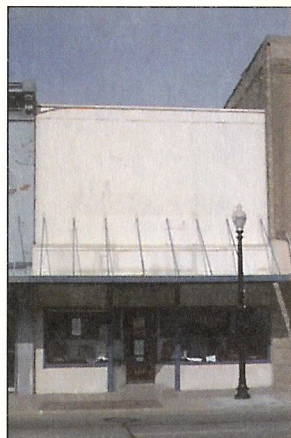


315 East Lincoln Highway (13)

(Historic Name Unknown)

Built circa 1865

The front section of this building is said to date from 1865, which if true would make this the oldest business structure in downtown DeKalb. A mid-1890s parade photo shows that the upper facade appears to be frame. Two windows with arched trim and shutters can also be seen. A simple wooden cornice tops the building while an awning shades the storefront. A circa 1930 picture shows the original second floor siding had been altered, and while the windows at that level are still in evidence, they are minus their trim and shutters.

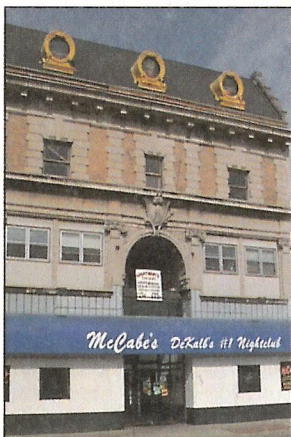


323 East Lincoln Highway (14)

Commercial Trust & Savings Bank Building/
I. O. O. F. Hall

Built 1902

Erected at the turn of the 20th Century as a combination bank, office and lodge hall. The *Commercial Trust & Savings Bank* emblem remains intact above the two-story arched entrance (the bank eventually merged with First National). The *I. O. O. F. Lodge* was the "Independent Order of Odd Fellows." Renaissance Revival architectural features surviving above the first floor include fluted pilasters with Ionic capitals, the stonework around third floor windows, and the distinctive trio of projecting dormer windows at roof level.

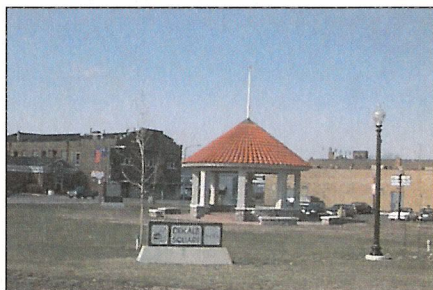


DeKalb Square Park (15)

Northeast corner 4th/Lincoln

Created 1997-1998

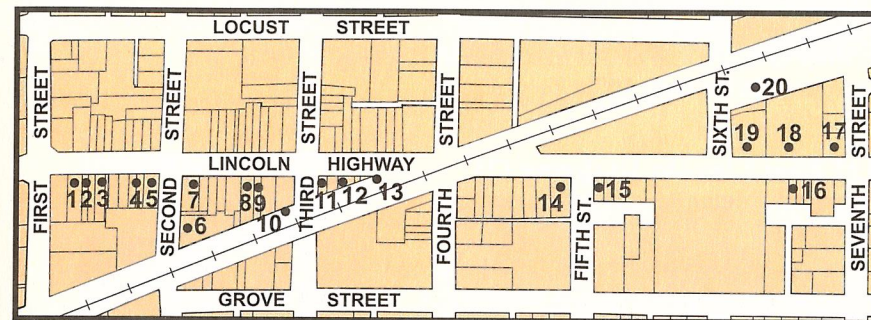
This project was a collaborative effort of the City of DeKalb, DeKalb Park District, and DeKalb Landmark Commission. It followed on the heels of DeKalb Memorial Park at North First Street and East Lincoln Highway. The bandstand is patterned after what once stood in Huntley Park for some fifty or more years. The downtown park site had long been occupied by four buildings, including the early 1900's fire house, and the 1920's Kennedy Building.



TOUR 6

DOWNTOWN: SOUTH SIDE & EAST END TOUR

This tour includes a number of the downtown buildings which have undergone facade restorations. This tour proceeds east from First to Seventh Streets, with side trips south on Second and Third Streets, and north on Sixth Street. As suggested in Tour 5, walk on the opposite side of the street for optimum viewing of structures along East Lincoln Highway.



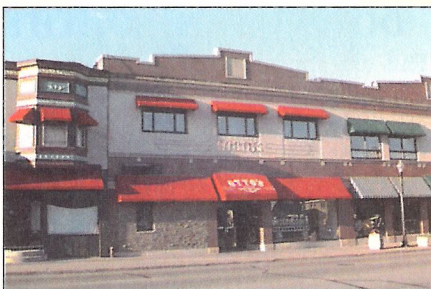
1. 118 East Lincoln Hwy.
Original DeKalb Theatre
2. 122 East Lincoln Hwy.
Cusson Building
3. 132/134 E. Lincoln Hwy.
Old Knights of Columbus Bldg.
4. 150-156 E. Lincoln Hwy.
(Historical Name Unknown)
5. 164 East Lincoln Hwy.
Old First National Bank
6. 128-140 S. Second Street
The Barb Fence Company
7. 206 East Lincoln Hwy.
Old Ellwood Hardware
8. 240 East Lincoln Hwy.
Flusch Building
9. 248 East Lincoln Hwy.
Wedberg Building
10. 260 E. Lincoln Hwy. (Rear)
Railroad Centennial Marker
11. 302 East Lincoln Highway
(Historic Name Unknown)
12. 314/318 E. Lincoln Hwy.
(Historic Name Unknown)
13. 300 block E. Linc. Hwy.
Tank
14. 460 East Lincoln Highway
Sawyer's Auto Imports
15. 504 East Lincoln Highway
(Historic Name Unknown)
16. 642 East Lincoln Highway
Sohne & Williamson Building
17. 659-665 E. Lincoln Hwy.
Ferguson Building
18. 621-649 E. Lincoln Hwy.
Fargo Theatre Building
19. 607 East Lincoln Highway
Old A & P Grocery Store
20. 200 North Sixth Street
Former Chicago & NW Depot

118 East Lincoln Highway (1)

Original DeKalb Theatre Building
Built 1923

The DeKalb operated here from 1923-1929, owned by the DeKalb Theatre Company. The exterior had a commercial style facade, which included a large marquee. It closed when the company opened the *Egyptian*, where the balcony seats are from the old DeKalb.

Montgomery Ward's Department Store later took over the building remodeling the exterior to match that of 112 East Lincoln Highway in 1958. Ward's left the downtown in the early 1970s.



122 East Lincoln Highway (2)

Cusson Building
Built 1910

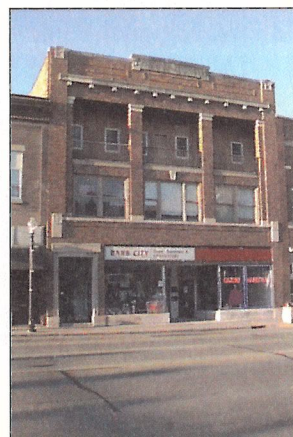
A prominent three-sided bay adorns the second story of this Queen Anne style commercial building. The upper story was redone in a multiple color scheme to better highlight its architectural features.



132/134 East Lincoln Highway (3)

Old Knights of Columbus Building
Built circa 1923

One of downtown DeKalb's few remaining three-story business buildings, with a facade that remains very much intact. The stone block over the door giving access to the upstairs contains the words "DeKalb Council" often making people think the city hall had been located here, which was not the case.



150-156 E. Lincoln Highway (4)

Historic Name Unknown
Built circa 1890s

A distinctive brick building with basically well preserved Italianate upper facade. The bracketed wooden cornice across the top contains seven frieze panels. Tall arched window openings with center keystones remain on the second floor. Large display windows originally accented the street level facade. In 1894 C.

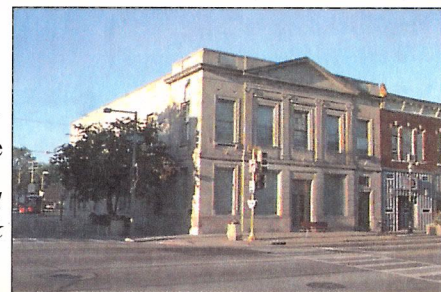
W. Turner Dry Goods and Carpets occupied 156 East Lincoln.



164 East Lincoln Highway (5)

Old First National Bank Building
Built 1891

Photographs from the mid-1890s show the building as brick, with a Queen Anne style turret flanking the corner. The business began as the *DeKalb National Bank* later becoming *First National Bank In DeKalb/Sycamore*. Remodeling in the early 1900s gave the structure its present exterior appearance. The bank was located here until 1966.



128-140 S. Second Street (6)

The Barb Fence Company
Built 1875, with later additions

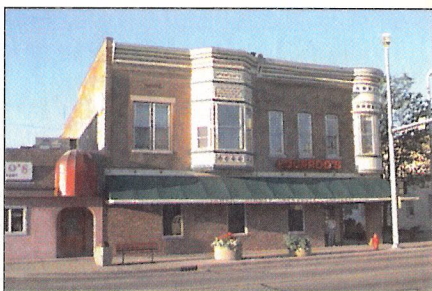
During part of the time that Joseph Glidden and Isaac Ellwood were in partnership, this was their factory for manufacturing barbed wire fencing. It became the works of the *Superior Barbed Wire Company* in 1877, operated by Isaac's older brother Hiram Ellwood. *Bush-Simmons & Company*, a men's hat company, was headquartered here in the 1890s. Other companies and businesses were also located here over the years. This building may be the first structure erected specifically for the manufacture of barbed wire.



206 East Lincoln Highway (7)

I. L. Ellwood Hardware Store
Built 1869

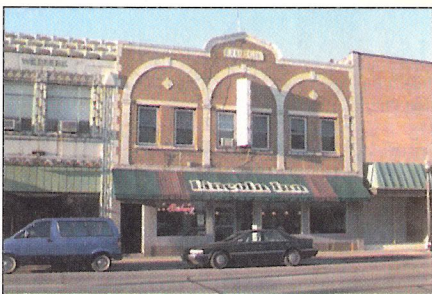
The east portion of this two-story brick building was originally erected as Isaac Ellwood's hardware store, and was once the only place a person could go to buy Joseph Glidden's patent of barbed wire. The Queen Anne style bay window at the east end of the second floor was added to the facade about thirty years later when the corner building was constructed. The western bay was added in the late 1890's.



240 East Lincoln Highway (8)

Flusch Building
Built circa 1917

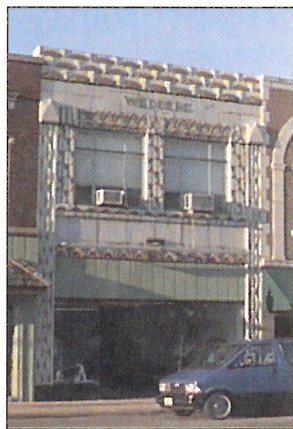
Distinctive white stone arches highlight the upper facade of the building. The stone cornice across the top includes the name "FLUSCH" over the center arch. Hollies J. Flusch was a DeKalb attorney whose residence was located on Haish Boulevard. Various retail businesses have occupied the ground floor over the years.



248 East Lincoln Highway (9)

Wedberg Building
Built circa 1930

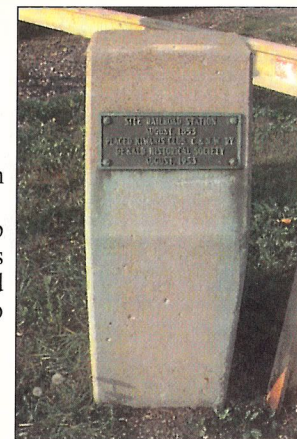
Some say the facade of this building was the result of extensive remodeling of an 1880's business block, but there is no photographic evidence of an earlier building on this site. The Art Deco facade of terra cotta ornamentation is said to be composed of materials left over from the construction of the *Egyptian Theatre*. Charles Wedberg was a partner in *Skoglund, & Wedberg, General Contractors*. Among their local commissions were *Williston Hall* at NIU, *DeKalb Public (Joseph F. Glidden Memorial) Hospital*, *Harriet Ellwood Mayo House* (115 North First Street), and *DeKalb Public (Haish Memorial) Library*.



Railroad Centennial Marker (10)

Behind 260 East Lincoln Highway
Dedicated 1953

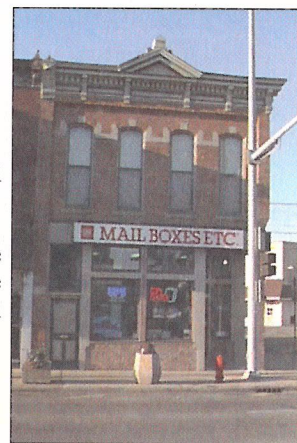
A small bronze plaque on a concrete post commemorates the location of DeKalb's first train station of 1853. Early maps of downtown DeKalb refer to Lincoln Highway as "Depot Street." The marker was placed by the DeKalb County Historical Society, the DeKalb Kiwanis Club and the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in recognition of the centennial of the "Chicago & Galena Union Railroad" reaching here.



302 East Lincoln Highway (11)

Historic Name Unknown
Built circa 1890

A striking Italianate business building, beautifully restored in the late 1980s. The upper facade was mostly intact, while the ground level storefront was remodelled in a way that was sympathetic to the original design. The dentil blocks, brackets, and frieze panels of the cornice survived many years of neglect. The drug store of William M. Brown occupied the building in 1903. A mid-1890's parade photo shows a narrow iron balcony flanking the two street facades, accessed from the tall second floor windows.



314/318 E. Lincoln Highway (12)

Historic Name Unknown
Built circa 1880s

This building was remodelled in the late 1920s or early 1930s. The white terra cotta upper facade is a well preserved example of the Art Deco Style. The street level storefronts remain intact also.





Tank (13)

Dedicated November 6, 1949

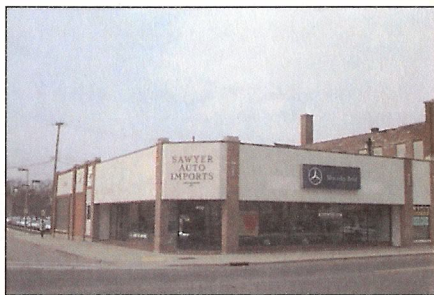
Replaced a World War I artillery gun that had been melted down at the outbreak of World War II. Actually not a tank, it is a Stuart Recon M-5 Vehicle designed to get in and out of a combat area quickly. Its armament consisted of a 37mm cannon. The name on the side, "Donna," was probably that of the squadron commander's wife. It is the property of DeKalb American Legion Post #66.



460 East Lincoln Highway (14)

Sawyer Auto Imports
Built 1920

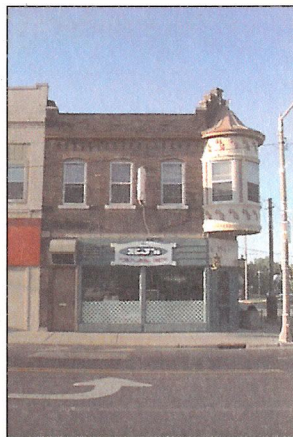
The corner building started out as a service station known as *Sawyer's Super Service Station*. It was remodeled for additional automobile showroom use in the 1980s. The adjacent two-story building once housed a silent movie house upstairs.



504 East Lincoln Highway (15)

Built circa 1890s

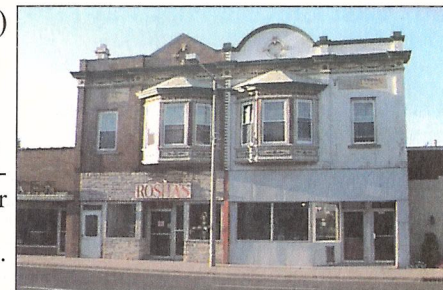
A tavern has occupied this building for as long as most anyone can remember. G. H. Todd had his saloon here in 1907. A striking Queen Anne style upper facade calls attention to this corner building. The trio of windows facing north have brick arches above them, while brickwork under the eaves forms a cornice. The projecting bay wrapping around the corner extends out over the sidewalk. Decorative detail on the bay has been highlighted with a two-tone color scheme.



642 East Lincoln Highway (16)

Sohne & Williamson Buildings
Built early 1900s

Another pair of late Queen Anne style buildings. The second floor bays have been painted to highlight their architectural features, including the ever popular swag motif. Striking brick cornices at the roof line help unite the two buildings. According to early city directories, *Sohne's Bakery* was located in the Williamson Building, while *Olsten and Norby Meat Market* occupied the Sohne Building.



659-665 E. Lincoln Hwy. (17)

Ferguson Building
Built circa 1900

Another late Queen Anne style business block in the downtown. A pair of identical second floor bay windows overlook Lincoln Highway, while a diagonally placed one flanks the corner on North Seventh Street. The original owner, Robert Ferguson, had once been a hired hand for Isaac Ellwood and ran a farm implement business from this building, which also contained a grocery and dry goods/notions store in 1907.



621-649 E. Lincoln Hwy. (18)

Fargo Theatre Building
Built 1929

The longest single business building on Lincoln Highway. It was erected for Henry B. Fargo of Geneva, Illinois, on the urging of merchants between Fourth and Seventh Streets, disappointed that the new *Egyptian Theatre* was not being constructed at their end of the downtown. The structure's commercial Art Deco style includes extensive cast concrete ornamentation. After the theatre closed, the auditorium was converted for use as a roller rink. The entire street facade is in its original condition.





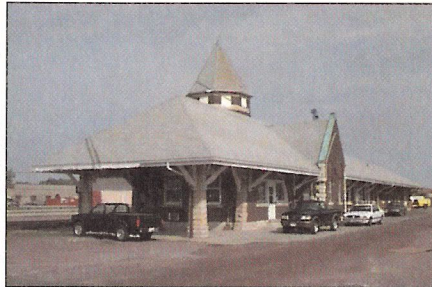
607 East Lincoln Highway (19)
Old A&P Grocery Store Building
Built 1942

This was the site of a three-story 1880's business block believed to be erected by Jacob Haish. When A&P located here, this was the first modern "super market" in DeKalb. The medallions in the facade and decorative urns above the cornice add some distinction to the otherwise plain facade. The original A&P sign touted the fact that this was a "self service" store, which also offered customers convenient on-site parking.



200 North Sixth Street (20)
Former Chicago & Northwestern Depot
Built 1891

Charles S. Frost was the architect of this Richardsonian Romanesque building, which served as a passenger station from 1891-1971. Large arched windows, wide overhanging eaves with brackets beneath them, sturdy stone pillars, and the brick and stone tower facing the tracks are among the features contributing to its striking appearance. Frost was a son-in-law of Marvin Hughitt, President of the railroad, whose other son-in-law, Alfred Hoyt Granger, was Frost's business partner. The last passenger train to arrive at the depot was the "Kate Shelley" on April 30, 1971.



In Closing...

We hope you have enjoyed exploring some of the interesting history and architecture of the City of DeKalb. Please share this booklet with family and friends. The buildings, structures and sites included are just a cross-section of similar places to be found in the older neighborhoods of our community. One will also see many other buildings while walking or driving the six areas discussed. Except where indicated, the various houses described are private residences, and not open to the public. Any factual errors are the responsibility of the Walking Tour Committee, which welcomes correct information being brought to its attention.

Stephen J. Bigolin, author
Douglas J. Eaton, graphics
Raymond Keller
Nancy M. Long
Donald P. Schoo

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