



Mt. Prospect Country Club Neighborhood Tour

START THIS TOUR AT THE CORNER OF LINCOLN AND HI-LUSI AND WALK SOUTH



1. 501 West Lincoln Avenue

This yellow brick colonial was built on speculation. **Judge Ralph E. Gould** and his wife, Frances, purchased the home in

1932 and lived here for 40 years. Judge Gould ran for a two-year term as a Mount Prospect Village trustee in April 1932 and won with 420 votes. He also became the part-time Mount Prospect Police Magistrate in 1940 and served as a municipal judge until the position was done away with by state law in late 1963. Judge Gould had the summer house in the southwest corner of the yard built in 1933 to have a place to host his poker parties. The summer home has been used as a playhouse and for storage.



2. 407 South Hi-Lusi Avenue

Built in 1960 by **John and Edna Madigan**, this home was based on an "American Modern Chalet" plan in a magazine. Edna had

always wanted to live in a Swiss chalet and saw this plan in a magazine. When originally built, the home's exterior was white stucco with dark cedar trim. John, a Ph.D. in physics who taught at Illinois Institute of Technology, passed away in 1969. Edna continued to live in the home until 1986. Later owners transformed the exterior into more of a Frank Lloyd Wright/ Arts and Crafts style.



3. 405 W. Sha-Bonee Trail (at Hi-Lusi)

Parts of this home, particularly the basement, began life in 1944 as a brick two-story home, owned by **Fred E. Welsh**, one of

several suburban chairmen of the Christmas Seals campaign against tuberculosis in 1944. He would later go on to serve as president of the Northwest Suburban Council of the Boy Scouts. The home's fifth owner, **Ingrid E. Fishback**, a fashion designer, had the home totally rebuilt as a contemporary residence in 1993.

CONTINUE SOUTH ON HI-LUSI AVENUE TO COUNCIL TRAIL AND TURN WEST TO WA-PELLA AVENUE.



4. 514 S. Wa-Pella Avenue

This Prairie style ranch home was built by **James and Lois Insolia** in 1956. This style was developed by Frank Lloyd Wright,

Louis H. Sullivan and other architects who were looking to create designs that were unique to the Midwest. Prairie style is marked by integration with the surrounding landscape, horizontal lines, low pitched roof, broad eaves and an open floor plan. This home is a perfect example of Frank Lloyd Wright's vision where the building is "married to the ground". This home is spread out diagonally over the large lot and takes advantage of the wide-open spaces of Weller Creek across the street.

The three relief sculptures on the front of the home were installed when the home was built. They represent from top to bottom: Tibernus, the God of the Tiber River, the third longest river in Italy; Mercury, the God of financial gain, poetry and eloquence; and Hippona, the Goddess of horses.



5. 502 S. Wa-Pella Avenue

This English Cottage style home was built in 1930 by **James and Florence Fairweather**. According to local lore, Fairweather, a

Chicago attorney who served in the Illinois National Guard during World War I, owned the four lots south of Sha-Bonee and also built the home at 506 S. Wa-Pella for his daughter. The Chicago Tribune in 1921 covered news of Fairweather constructing a 24-flat apartment building along Ashland Avenue in Chicago. The storybook charm of this home has been retained by subsequent owners.

6. 604 Shabonee (at Wa-Pella)

This charming Cotswold cottage was built in 1933 by **William P. Schmidt**. He and his family lived here until 1941 when they sold it to Louise Koester, Mount Prospect's first woman doctor. Dr. Koester also owned a Victorian house north of the railroad tracks on Owen Street where she had a small hospital and office.

7. 600 S. Go-Wando Trail (at Hi-Lusi)

This beautiful ivory brick Georgian was built in 1948 for **Frank N. Lynn**. In case you are curious, this street name, “Go-Wando,” is an Iroquois word that means that your home is “almost surrounded by a hill.” The streets in this area were named by a local Camp Fire Girl group.



8. 406 S. Wa-Pella Avenue

Here is another Cotswold Cottage, showing the popularity of the style at the time. It was built in 1928 for the family of **Dr.**

Judson Lee, a professor of business and economics at the Illinois Institute of Technology from 1910 to 1945. He was also an historian and author with a book on the evolution of transportation in Illinois to his credit. He sold the house upon his retirement in 1945 and moved to Kansas.

TURN WEST ON LINCOLN AND THEN TURN SOUTH ON CAN-DOTA AVENUE.



9. 415 S. Can-Dota Avenue

This striking ranch home was rather ordinary at its inception in 1951. The round window in the front wall was probably its most

distinguishing characteristic from the exterior when it was built by a local contractor, **Ray Stolzman**, for his own family.

But it has become a much more interesting home since the current owners, Martin and Sara McDonagh, added the distinctive pergola around the front door, drawing the eyes of passersby on a regular basis, coupled with their beautiful and extensive landscaping.



10. 500 S. Can-Dota Avenue

This massive brick and crabapple stone ranch home has had one of the most interesting histories of any house in Mount

Prospect. The home was built in 1954 by Mount Prospect's Serafini Builders for the firm's owners, **Dan and Winifred Serafine**. And it was cutting edge at the time it was built, even including an underground fall-out shelter because the Cold War was at its height then and Americans were afraid of the Russians dropping a nuclear bomb.

Then, for 25 years – from 1966 to 1991 – it served as the Northern District Mission House for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, commonly known as the Mormons. Young Mormons doing their 18 months to two years of required missionary work would live here.



11. 514 S. Candota Avenue

Dr. W.G. Bagnuolo, the original owner of this home (built as a ranch in 1956), was elected President of the Resurrection Hospital

staff in December, 1960 for a one-year term. He was also chairman of the internal medicine, pharmacy and joint conference committees for hospital and lived here until 1965. The home underwent a complete transformation in 2014 that took ten months to complete. It is now a modern craftsman style home with clean lines and tapered square columns and a front porch beneath the main roof extension.



12. 606 S. Can-Dota Avenue

This colonial style home was built in 1954 by one of Mount Prospect's most famous residents, **George Stephens**, inventor of the

Weber Grill. Stephens and his wife, Margaret, raised 12 children here. George, who developed a love for outdoor cooking while in the Army, worked for Weber Brothers Metal Works in Arlington Heights. In the early 1950s Weber Brothers was manufacturing metal buoys for the Chicago Yacht Club. George crafted his first grill by cutting one of the buoys in half, drilling some holes in the bottom and lid, and adding three legs and a handle to the top.

Based on the popularity of the grill in his neighborhood, George hit the street with his invention; targeted his marketing directly to the public starting with cooking demonstrations outside businesses; and eventually on local Chicago television stations. At that time, a non-Weber grill retailed for around \$7. A Weber Grill retailed for about \$50. George showed the public that his unique design's ease of use and cooking efficiency made that investment worthwhile.



13. 609 S. Can-Dota Avenue

The original home on this lot was a ranch, built in 1954, and owned by **Larette Richovis**. The current contemporary-

style home was built by **Ross Vollman** in 2004 on the original foundation; only one wall was left from the ranch. The home is three stories with three master suites, three majestic fireplaces, and a third-floor home theatre. The storage shed in the backyard mirrors the architecture of the home.

TURN WEST ON COUNCIL TRAIL, PASS NA-WA-TA AND TURN NORTH ON SEE-GWUN AVENUE.



14. 803 W. Sha-Bonee Trail (at See-Gwun Avenue)

A small ranch home, built in 1951 for **Curran and Helen Kelley**, was transformed into this large contemporary home in

2016 by **Anthony and Karisa Disano**. The original home was built on three lots, which were consolidated into one lot by the current owners. The foundation is original and 50% of the existing walls were incorporated into the new construction. A wrap around porch and an additional five feet to the back of the home were added and craftsman style finishes were used throughout the home.

PROCEED WEST ON SEE-GWUN AVENUE (WHICH CURVES IN FRONT OF THE GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE).



15. Mt. Prospect Golf Course

The Mt. Prospect Golf Course has played a fascinating part in Mount Prospect's history. The Northwest

Hills Country Club, as it was originally known, was the crowning glory of the area developed by Axel Lonnquist. The 18-hole golf course was completed in 1927 and the original clubhouse was built in 1930. Henry Sophie was the next owner and he transformed it into a daily fee course. Its clubhouse was a popular place for dances, parties and nights out. The country club later became a source of intrigue and

whispering when it was sold in 1958 to reputed gangster, Richard Hauff. During his ownership, the course hosted the 1959 Women's Master's PGA tournament. With prize money of \$20,000, it was the richest women's golf tournament of its time. After Hauff declared bankruptcy in 1960 talk began about the Mt. Prospect Park District purchasing the club in order to avoid it being sold and subdivided. The purchase was completed in late 1961.

Over the years, several additions were built onto the clubhouse structure, leaving it difficult to recognize any historic value in the building, so the original building was demolished and rebuilt in 2003. The golf course itself went through a \$7.1 million, 12-month overhaul and reopened in 2015.



16. 523 S. We-Go Trail

This ranch home was built in 1950 by **Ken Halverson**, about whom nothing is known. But it is interesting to know that the first ranch

style home in the United States was built in 1932 by Cliff May in San Diego, California. Prairie and bungalow style homes paved the way for the popular ranch style home, with low pitched gable roof and horizontal rambling layout. The simple and economical design was ideal to meet the need for affordable housing after World War II.

17. 500 S. We-Go Trail

Otto and Bess Stanger built this lovely white-painted brick Georgian home in 1940, shortly after the Great Depression ended. The Stangers lived in this home for 25 years, making no known changes to its structure. In 1965 they sold it to their former neighbors, Philip and Edith Robinson, who had built the neighboring Dutch Colonial, also in 1940. The Robinsons had been transferred out of town in the mid-1950s and when they returned about nine years later, the home they had built was unavailable. So, they did the next-best thing and bought the Stangers' home, eventually adding a family room and a large master suite above it.



18. 420 S. We-Go Trail

This lovely Dutch Colonial was built by **Philip and Edith Robinson** in 1940. Known for its symmetrical façade, gable end chimneys and gambrel roof, this

style of home was very popular during the 1920s, rarer during the 1930s and unusual to see post-World War II. Phillip Robinson was an executive with the General Electric Company and built the home with state-of-the-art electric lighting and appliances that his company was developing and marketing. Because of the many innovative design features this home was presented in the May 1944 issue of *Better Homes and Gardens*.



19. 405 S. We-Go Trail

The original owners of the ranch home that is contained within this expansive, updated Craftsman-style home were **Theodore and**

Lillian Benda. They moved in during 1955 and lived here for 11 years. Subsequent owners, Craig and Trish Chuipek, embarked, in 2003, on a massive renovation project which more than doubled the size of the house. They transformed its architectural style; added a second floor and the front porch; and added a massive family room with a basement below.

20. 400 S. We-Go Trail

This cottage, built in 1942, was originally owned by **Ross and Mildred Steinle**. The lots on both sides of this part of We-Go Trail were originally part of the golf course. That is probably why this two-block area has such a narrow street and no sidewalks on the west side.

Red dots are homes on the tour

