



North Central (Post Office) Neighborhood Tour

Tour begins in the 10 block of North Wille Street and then heads north, then south, and north again, up and down the blocks through the entire “north neighborhood”



1. 6 N. Wille St.

August and Emma Oldenburg bought the lots at 4 and 6

N. Wille in late 1922 and five years later he sold the northern lot to his son,

Gilbert Oldenburg, and

his wife, Hilda, who were only 19 and 18 years old, at the time. The couple then built this traditional bungalow with lovely leaded glass windows. Gilbert’s sister and her husband lived across the unpaved street at 5 N. Wille. When it rained, the folks on Wille Street would have to park their cars on Central, one of the first paved roads in Mount Prospect, and walk to their homes. Gilbert was a member of the Mount Prospect Citizens Band, which was organized in 1927, the same year this home was built.

2. 21 N. Wille St.

This bungalow home was built in 1927 when developers were entering Mount Prospect with grand plans for housing developments and were buying up farms at a furious rate.

Henry and Caroline Katz sold their farm on the other side of today’s Route 83 and north of Community Presbyterian Church and then purchased this land and five other lots to sustain him in his retirement. They moved here with their daughter, Carrie.

His grandson recalled a chicken coop at the east end of the lot, just south of the garage, as well as apple and pear trees, a grape arbor, raspberries and currants, all grown on the land next to the house. “My grandfather was a farmer,” he said. “He couldn’t help himself. He had to grow things – even after he gave up the farm. I remember him hitching up a team of horses and plowing the five lots he owned, just to grow things for the family.”



3. Former St. John Episcopal Church 200 N. Main St.

The groundwork for St. John’s Episcopal Church, as this church was originally

known, began in late 1937 when six women established an Episcopal mission in Mount Prospect. They first held services in the local VFW clubhouse.

A short time later two local realtors donated a pair of lots to the congregation and then the members purchased the old one-room Central School from School District 57 for \$750 and moved it to the now-empty lot facing Wille Street. Services were held in that structure for nearly 20 years before the current church was built in 1954.

4. 210 N. Wille St.

The construction year of this impressive yellow brick Dutch Colonial-style home is a bit of a mystery. County records indicate that it was constructed in 1930 and sold to **Myrtle Davis Moore**. But a photo of the home when it was first built, passed down among a chain of homeowners, was supposedly taken in 1926. This home has many owners over the years and was even sold once for non-payment of taxes.

5. 30 N. Pine St.

Here is another Dutch Colonial, but a frame version this time. It is believed that this was a Sears mail-order house, built in 1927. The floor plan in old Sears catalogues calls it “The Puritan” and it was available between 1922 and 1929. The original price ranged from \$1,947 to \$2,475. County property records indicate that the home was built for **Adana Bowles**.

6. 21 N. Pine St.

When the GIs came home from Europe and the Pacific, they were looking to start families and buy homes at an unprecedented rate. And many of them wanted to move out of the cities. So, Mount Prospect was the beneficiary of that movement to the suburbs.

Carl Tielsch had this home built in 1949. No one knows if he was a former GI or not, but he built this lovely little Cape Cod home for his family. It was originally painted gold and had a detached garage with a walkway between it and the house.



7. 10 N. Pine St.

This Cotswold Cottage-style home and the similarly-styled home at 6 N. Pine were both built in 1929 by Ralph W. Durham. Apparently, this house was

under construction when the Stock Market crashed that year and was turned over to George Busse, the realtor known locally for buying distressed properties. The home was probably rented during the Depression and was finally sold to **Howard and Roberta Williams** in late 1939. The home

changed hands four times in the next 40 years. One of the owners was Jacob “Jack” Keefer, owner of Keefer’s Pharmacy.

8. 6 N. Pine St.

This is the other Cotswold Cottage, built in 1929 by Ralph Durham. He was unable to sell the homes, thanks to the economic problems in the country, so they were either rented or empty for several years. In May 1932 the courts awarded this home to **George Kuhlman** as payment for work he had presumably done on the house. What kind of a tradesman Kuhlman was is unknown, but his family lived here for many years. The house was sold by his estate in 1970.

9. 4 N. Pine St.

The lot this home is built on and the brick bungalow at 2 N. Pine were both owned by the Baldini family from 1928 until 1980. Baldini operated a barber shop out of the garage in the back of the house at Pine and Central and later moved his business to a barber shop in town, built by Adolph Wille.

The construction of this American Classical home by **Joseph and Jean Reibel** in the early 1990s was a long, arduous process which began with contractor difficulties and involved negotiations with neighbors and the village, all covered extensively by the local press. The home is a unique blend of architectural styles. The exterior design of the “Upside Down House” is based on Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello, while the interior plan has the bedrooms on the first floor and a Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired open floor plan living space on the second floor.



10. 3 N. Pine St.

This lovely Italianate-style Victorian home was built in 1907 or 1908 for **Albert Busse**, the third child of Commissioner William Busse and Sophie Bartels. It was originally

located elsewhere in the Village, but we are not sure where. Albert ran his father’s Buick dealership, but by 1927 he was building the English Tudor commercial buildings at Main Street and Busse Avenue, one of which burned down several years ago.

Albert didn’t live in this home for long before he sold it to Herman Wuerffel, president of the Utility Battery Company which was located in Mount Prospect from 1910 to 1923 and the Wuerffel and Merker Electric Company. Wuerffel was also the man behind the Northwest Power and Light Company which generated power for the entire village by burning coal. It was destroyed by fire in 1921 and Commonwealth Edison bought its franchise.

The home was later used as the headquarters for School District 57 for many years and then it was sold at auction in 1959 and moved to this lot.

11. 113 N. Russel St.

This Georgian home was built in 1948 for **Leo and Marie Klein**. Little is known about the Kleins but the home has distinct Greek Revival elements since, unlike most Georgians, the gable end faces the street.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO STOP TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE HEADSTONES IN ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CEMETERY.

12. 505 W. Henry St.

Local builder Melvin J. Cassidy built this Cotswold Cottage-style home in 1928 and sold it to **Joseph and Awanda Rasset**. Built with a clear view of St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery to the east, this was considered the outskirts of town at the time. It is the haphazardly-placed stones on the house which make it a Cotswold Cottage instead of a Tudor.

13. 113 N. Prospect Manor

This home, built in 1941 by local homebuilders Fred and Albert Wille, is rather unique because it is a bungalow-style home built of wood instead of brick like most bungalows. **Emmett and Marjorie Flack**, the original owners, lived here until late 1950.

14. 319 N. Prospect Manor

This unique French Tudor home with Spanish swirl stucco was built on a double lot for **Elmer Lamprecht** and his family in 1929. Marshall Field Jr. even lived here for a time. In fact, a receipt for kitchen cabinets in his name was found in the house.



15. 407 N. Prospect Manor

This is probably the second-oldest home in Mount Prospect. It was built around 1868 by **Carl Behlendorf**, 15 years after

he immigrated to the United States from the Germanic states. The front of the house as you see it today was originally the home’s rear. The house originally faced east. Artifacts have been found during reconstructions of portions of the house including an 1884 school report card, an old shopping list, several children’s shoes and Sunday School papers. The Behlendorks sold their farm to a developer in 1928.

16. 517 N. Prospect Manor

This eclectic Tudor-style home was built in 1929 for **Henry and Anna Schillmoelier** on part of the old Behlendorf farm. The old farmers whose farms were purchased generally either built a house in town to enjoy their retirement or moved their farms further west or north.

Red dots are homes on the tour

