



# Southeastern Mount Prospect Walking Tour

Tour begins at Mount Prospect Train Station and then heads south, up and down the blocks through the southeast area



## 1. Train Station

The original Mount Prospect train station, this station's predecessor, was built by Ezra Eggleston, the founder of Mount Prospect, in the 1870s. The original

station resembled a small, elevated barn. It had old barn slats on it with strips to cover up the cracks and keep the snow out.

This current train station was built in 1930 when Ben Terpning, the general superintendent of the entire Chicago and Northwestern Railway System, moved to Mount Prospect. He made sure that Mount Prospect had the "best station on the line," according to former stationmaster John Pohlman. When the new station was built, they added the third rail and installed phone service at the station.



## 2. Mrs. P & Me Restaurant 100 E. Prospect Ave.

Today's Mrs. P & Me, one of Mount Prospect's most popular restaurants, was built in 1902 as **Henry**

**Behren's Saloon**. Behren and his saloon thrived until the early 1920s when Prohibition suddenly changed the establishment's bill of fare to candy, cigars and ice cream.

When Prohibition was repealed in 1933, the Kruse family took over and remodeled the restaurant. **Kruse's Tavern** thrived serving as a gathering place for local sports enthusiasts, dairy farmers and North Western Railway travelers from the 1930s through the 1960s.

Then, in 1977 Dennis Miller took over and named the restaurant "**Mrs. P & Me**". Incidentally, the "P" stood for his hometown of Pittsburgh. Almost 40 years later, in 2004, a partnership of three Mount Prospect residents became the fourth owners, pledging to carry on the century-old traditions. Today much still remains of the old days, including the original bar and an array of Mount Prospect memorabilia.



## 3. 218 S. Emerson Street

This lovely brick Victorian Queen Anne Style home was built in 1912. The original owner, **Henry Clausing**, died in 1929 but

his wife, Anna, lived here until her death at 90 years old in 1964.



## 4. 222 S. Emerson Street

**John Pohlman** had the Wille Company build this house sometime between 1910 when he became stationmaster at Mount Prospect's nearby depot and 1915 when he married. He had been named stationmaster before he was even 21 years old and retired in 1953.

In 1915 he brought his bride, Anna Louise Meyer, to live in this home. In fact, their oldest child, Norman, was the "magic" baby who allowed Mount Prospect to incorporate in early 1917 because he helped them reach the state's population requirement. Some say this was the first home built in Waldemar Krause's subdivision south of the tracks, but County records dispute that. It is certain, however, that this lovely home was in place by 1915 when Pohlman married.

By the way, when Mount Prospect incorporated a few years later, Pohlman became the newly incorporated Village of Mount Prospect's sixth trustee.



## 5. 90 E. Milburn Ave.

**Charles Bailey** must have loved his mother-in-law because he built this lovely Cape Cod home for her in 1978. The Bailey family lived right around the

corner in the brick Victorian home built by Stationmaster John Pohlman and this was the empty lot owned by that house.

Unfortunately, Bailey's mother-in-law never actually lived in this lovely Cape Cod-style home because she became too infirmed during its construction to take up residence when it was complete. So, Bailey sold the home.

**WALK EAST ON LINCOLN AVENUE ONE BLOCK AND TURN SOUTH ON MAPLE STREET.**



### **6. 400 S. Maple Street**

This brick bungalow home was under construction when the Stock Market crashed in October 1929. In fact, **Frederick and Matilda Schafer** moved in during January of 1930. The lore says that this house and the one

immediately south of it were built for a brother and sister and even shared a well and water pipes. But we cannot tell from historic records whether it was Frederick Schafer's sister who lived in the other house with her husband or whether the neighbor was Matilda Schafer's brother and his wife.

Frederick and Matilda lived here until 1946 when the home was willed to their son, Henry and his wife, Mary. They only owned the home for eight years, however, selling it.

**WALK SOUTH ON MAPLE STREET AND CURVE BACK TOWARD EMERSON STREET ON SHA-BONEE TRAIL.**



### **7. South Church 501 S. Emerson St.**

In November of 1935, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Johnson opened their home on South Wille Street to 13 residents of Mount

Prospect. Their purpose was to discuss the possibility of forming an English-speaking church. Many Mount Prospect residents attended St. Paul Lutheran Church. However, since the services were in German, an English-speaking church was seen as a community priority.

The first formal church service was celebrated in February of 1937 in the lounge of the Northwest Hills Country Club. However, the golf season soon required Church members to relocate their services to the VFW Clubhouse.

This land for the church was donated by Bert E. Terping. Since it was located south of the tracks, on the southeast

edge of town, the name of **South Church** seemed right.

Recognizing the need for a permanent minister, the organizational committee began by talking to various Protestant ministers. They were quickly informed by a Methodist minister that Mount Prospect "belonged" to the Baptists. Apparently, back then, the "unchurched" areas around Chicago were divided, town by town, between the seven dominant Chicago denominations. And at this time, there were no Baptist churches between Park Ridge and Barrington. So, with funds provided by the Chicago Baptist Association, South Church added Community Baptist to its name.

### **8. 506 S. Emerson Street**

The original owners of this gracious Southern Colonial home, **Edmund and Kathryn Clevon**, were active members of South Church across the street. It is believed that the same architects who designed the church – Koerner and Gerhardt of Chicago – also designed this home. Edmund was also an architect himself. In fact, there is a street in town that may have been named after him. He was also a member of the Mount Prospect Public Library's board of directors in 1950.

### **9. 514 S. Emerson Street**

This home was built on the southernmost lot in the Prospect Highlands subdivision in 1947.

An accountant with Pure Oil, **William Bolsinger** moved his wife, Ferne, and six-year-old son, Randall, from North Carolina in 1947 and purchased the home, unfinished, from the builder who had gone bankrupt. Randall Bolsinger remembers growing up in Mount Prospect in the 1950s. South Church and the Clevon home at 506 S. Emerson were the only other homes on Emerson Street located south of Lincoln Avenue. Emerson at that time was a private road of packed gravel.

**BACKTRACK NORTH TO SHA-BONEE TRAIL AND WALK WEST TO MAIN STREET AND TURN NORTH.**

### **10. 419 S. Main Street**

The original owner of this Georgian-style home, built in 1948, was a local Mount Prospect dentist, **Rudolph Seidel**. He and his family lived in this home for only four years but the next owner, Frederick Mueller, more than made up for the original owner's short tenure. He and his family lived here for 22 years. The home's fourth owners, Kevin and Cecilia McTigue, are responsible for the three-story addition at the rear of the home.





### 11. 409 S. Main Street

This adorable home was originally built as an 875-square-foot frame bungalow around 1930.

It was built by **Ernest Loeding**, the youngest son

of Ida and Gus Loeding who owned the farm in Niles where Notre Dame High School is now located. It doesn't appear that Ernest ever lived in the house and we don't know if he built it as an investment or a place to live, but the Depression dashed his dreams and he lost the house to the man who loaned him the money to build it.

### 12. 404 S. Main Street

This stately Georgian home was built on one of five lots taken by the state of Illinois for back taxes in 1946. Don J. Buick purchased three lots out of foreclosure in 1947 and this home was built and sold to **Edward Halm** that same year. The symmetrical brick architecture and classic details are typical of the Georgian revival of the mid-20th century.

### 13. 403 S. Main Street

This Colonial home was built in 1948 by **Charles V. Wrobel** and his wife. According to George L. Busse, a local realtor, "pretty much all of the building here stopped during The Depression. During the Depression people here could hardly hold onto their land. They didn't have much money." So, it was no surprise this lot remained empty for many years.



### 14. 401 S. Main Street

This lovely Tudor home sits at the meeting point of Route 83, Lincoln and Main Street- the unusual road configuration that is the "S curve". In 1922, a petition was proposed

by the Village of Mount Prospect to close the railroad crossing at Elmhurst Road and open a crossing at Main Street- causing Route 83 to curve away from Elmhurst Road and connect with Main Street. There has been varied speculation over the years about the modification but most agree that the adjustment was made to benefit the businesses in downtown Mount Prospect.

There is some question as to when this home was built. Torrens research shows that the lot was purchased in 1928 by **William J. Coughlin** and that the deed went through many machinations during the Depression, but there is no definite indication of when the house was built on the property.

Further exploration uncovered a classified ad in the Herald from June, 1932: *Wanted: Young girl for housework; \$3 to \$4 a week to start. Room and Board. 401 S. Main, Mount Prospect*; indicating the house was built before 1932.

**PROCEED WEST TO WILLE STREET.**

### 15. 420 S. Wille Street

**William Niemeyer** had this red brick colonial house built by Axel Lonquist in 1928. Colonials like this were among the most popular "revival" styles of homes being built at the time. Unfortunately, Niemeyer lost this house during the Great Depression. By the time 1937 rolled around, the house had changed hands five times.



### 16. 421 S. Wille Street

This Tudor home was built by **Horace C. Blockson** in 1942. It has always been a lovely home that features crown moldings throughout, arched

doorways and lovely light fixtures, all of which remain.

**PROCEED SOUTH TO COUNCIL TRAIL AND TURN WEST TO PINE STREET BEFORE RETURNING NORTH.**

### 17. 511 S. Pine Street

The many peaked rooflines of this house characterize it as a Tudor which was very popular when this home was built for **Gus E. Thor** in 1929. It was the southernmost house built on Pine Street until the mid-1950s. For many years (1943 to 1971) this home was occupied by the owner of the Elgin Airport, George Edgecumbe. His wife was a member of the District 57 School Board during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

### 18. 502 S. Pine Street

This shingle-style home, built circa 1931, was originally owned by **Francis Spears**. The shingle style of architecture is distinctive. It is wrapped from rooftop to foundation in wood shingles, usually made of dark wood. But in this case, they have been painted. This style was first developed in seaside resorts on the east coast during the 1880s and this is considered one of the first truly all-American forms of architecture. These homes are usually irregularly shaped with banks of windows and massive chimneys. In fact, the Frank Lloyd Wright house in Oak Park is a shingle-style home.

### 19. 420 S. Pine Street

This charming stone and stucco Cotswold Cottage home was also built by Axel Lonnquist -- in 1926. In fact, it was a model home for his Prospect Park subdivision. Old World homes like this were very popular during the 1920s.

In a newspaper article at the time, this house was touted. It said, "This house, into which everything known to modern builders in the way of comfort and convenience and durability has been put, was selected from 300 plans because of its artistic exterior and its well-arranged floor plan. It has been called the "One Woman" Home because of the ease with which it may be taken care of by the housewife."

After it was no longer needed as a model, it was sold to **Bert E. "Ben" Terpning**, the general superintendent of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway. He also served as president of the Mount Prospect Improvement Association in 1930.

### 20. 401 S. Pine Street

This stately Dutch Colonial home was built in 1929 by Axel Lonnquist, the developer of the Country Club area. The original owner was **James M. Boorman**, according to County records, but nothing is known about him.

**Red dots are homes on the tour**

