



# Mount Prospect “Triangle” Walking Tour

Tour begins in the 100 block of Maple Street and then heads north and then south, up and down the blocks through the entire “Triangle”

## 1. 111 S. Maple St.

**Louise Rohlwing**, a widow from a farm in what is now Rolling Meadows, bought these two lots and had the home built in 1913. Louise’s husband had been killed in a farming accident, which were common in those days. So, she left her two sons to manage the farm and moved to Mount Prospect with two daughters. One of those daughters, Hilda, would marry George L. Busse in 1922. He was in the real estate business and the couple raised three children here. In fact, George’s family firm subdivided this neighborhood.

For years, there was a barn and chicken coop behind this house, as well as a hand-operated water pump and a sunken garden.

## 2. 109 S. Maple St.

This farmhouse-style home was built in 1915 for **William and Maria Mirs**, about which little is known. The house was built two years before Mount Prospect was incorporated. Mount Prospect worked to become a center of production, to develop a mixed economy that included residential areas, commercial spaces and light industry.

Just south of this home on Northwest Highway were several businesses: the Busse Greenhouses, the Mount Prospect Creamery, and Crowfoot Manufacturing. The Mount Prospect Creamery, founded in 1910, was a major distributor of milk, cheese and butter. Crowfoot Manufacturing Company, originally started in 1905 in Milwaukee, was lured to Mount Prospect by William Busse and the easy access to transportation. The Crowfoot factory produced “modern and up-to-date” staplers and tackers.



## 3. Central School 103 S. Maple Street

The Central School was built in 1896 by local carpenter, William Wille, on land at the intersection of today’s Central Road and Route 83 which was donated by the local citizenry – for the brand new Mount Prospect School District 57. Children in all grades were educated together

in this building until 1927 when this school was replaced by the larger brick Central Standard School. This one-room structure was then dedicated to kindergarten classes for several years until the original school building was sold to St. John Episcopal Church’s congregation and relocated in 1937.

The venerable old schoolhouse was saved from destruction in 2008 by the Mount Prospect Historical Society and moved to this location. Over the past decade it has been progressively restored and officially opened for Mount Prospect’s Centennial in February, 2017. Local schoolchildren now attend “one-room schoolhouse experience” field trips in the schoolhouse.



## 4. Dietrich Friedrichs House Museum 101 S. Maple St.

The lovely old farmhouse-style home was opened to the public as a museum in 1992. Built in 1906 by **Lena (Krum-**

**wiede) and Dietrich Friedrichs Jr.**, this was the 13th house to be built in Mount Prospect. Dietrich was a house painter and decorator.

## 5. 21 S. Maple St.

**Herman Meyn**, Mount Prospect’s blacksmith, lived in this lovely Victorian home with carriage house with his bride, Ida Deeke, from 1912 until his death. He purchased the two lots upon which it sits for \$750 but his new in-laws, Sophia Linneman and Ludwig Deeke, had the home constructed as a wedding gift.

Following in his father’s footsteps, Herman began his career as a blacksmith and wagonmaker. But as machines took the place of manual and animal labor, Herman expanded his business to include tractors and lawn mowers. In 1935, he built a gas station on the site of his father’s original blacksmith shop.

Herman also served as Mount Prospect’s fire chief for 17 years and was elected the Village’s second mayor, serving two terms.

## 6. 13 S. Maple St.

**Albert and Emma Greinke** built this home in 1915 and the home stayed in the family until 1974. Albert was born in Germany in 1873, immigrated to Illinois in 1892, and married Emma Kloth of Arlington Heights in 1904. They had four children.

According to his 1917 World War I draft card, Albert Greinke was a laborer at the Mount Prospect Creamery. Records also show that Albert died suddenly in late 1930 at the age of 57 from pneumonia.

## 7. 8 S. Maple St.

**Henry and Louise (Mensching)** Glade lived here beginning around 1907 with their large family but her parents owned the home until they sold it to their daughter and her husband in 1918. Henry Glade was an unsuccessful farmer who seldom had a job. He did enjoy raising bees, however, and was one of the original members of the Mount Prospect Improvement Association when it was formed in 1911.

## 8. 9 S. Elm St.

In 1940 **William E. Fleisch** purchased this Cape Cod-style house from a member of the Busse family, who had it built. The population of Mount Prospect was only 1,710 at the time.



## 9. 10 S. Elm St.

This lovely old bungalow was originally constructed one block away on the site of the St. Paul Lutheran School. In fact, it was once part of the school. According to St. Paul

records, this home was built in 1924 at a cost of \$3,284.97 to be the third in a string of one-room frame buildings housing the growing St. Paul School. It was built to house grades four through eight. From the beginning it was designed so that it could eventually be moved and converted into a private home.

That is exactly what happened in 1928. The school's enrollment was growing at such a rate that the church board voted to build a much larger building and the original three buildings were moved. This one was purchased by the school's principal, **Martin Hasz** and his wife, Rose. They had it moved to this location and Hasz personally did most of the work to convert it into a home. He served as principal until 1968 and he and Rose lived in this home together until their deaths in late 1987.



## 10. 14 S. Elm St.

The original owner of this home, **Albert Wille**, founder of the Wille's Coal and Lumber building supply business. He was also one of the founding mem-

bers of the Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce and its first president. Albert built this home in 1919 but he and his family lived in this home for only five years before selling it to Lee Barcroft, the local tobacconist who sold pipes, tobacco and cigars.

Albert was the son of William Wille, the original Wille who brought his motherless family to Mount Prospect in 1880 to build a creamery. He eventually gave up the creamery and changed careers, opening up a tavern and later building Wille Hall on the creamery site. William also took up construction, building not only many of the original frame houses in town, but also the Central School in 1896.

## 11. 101 S. Elm St.

This lovely brick Craftsman-style bungalow was built in 1926 and owned by **Arthur and Margaret Gosch**. Arthur was the son of Ernest Gosch, one of Mount Prospect's first trustees. Margaret Froemling Gosch was the granddaughter of Cook County Commissioner William Busse and a niece of Frank and Helen Biermann who lived two doors to the south.

This style of home was very popular among smaller homes built between 1905 and the 1920s. It originated in California and became popular nationwide, thanks to the publication of plans like this in many house pattern books.

## 12. 104 S. Elm St.



This farmhouse-style home was built by Christ Wille, shortly after he returned from fighting in World War I and sold to **Louise Weide**. It was built long before the roads were paved in 1927 by the Milburn Brothers Paving Company. The home changed hands in 1930 and was converted to a two-flat sometime in the 1950s.

After falling into disrepair and being recognized as an "illegal" conversion by the Village, the home was purchased in 2000 and underwent a massive restoration and renovation. The entire process took seven years during which the current owners lived in the home the entire time and completed most of the work themselves.

## 13. 105 S. Elm St.

This lovely bungalow was built on a portion of the original Rooney farm and the lot cost \$450. **Frank and Helen Biermann** had the home built, based on plan they found in a magazine and carefully matched the interior fireplace brick design to that on the outside of the house. They completed the purchase in 1929, right before the Stock Market Crash which led to the Great Depression.

Frank was the owner of the Busse-Biermann Hardware store on Busse Avenue. His father was the Road Commissioner for Elk Grove Township and he also built many of Mount Prospect's early sidewalks and streets. In addition to owning the hardware store, Frank was the Mount Prospect Fire Commissioner during the 1920s. The house had special phone lines which connected it to both the fire station and the hardware store.

#### 14. 300 E. Evergreen Ave.

This lovely Victorian home was built in 1916 by **Louis C. Busse** and his wife, Louise Meier, the same year that he and their son, Fred, founded a wholesale florist business across the street. They had been lured to Mount Prospect by William Busse, a distant cousin.

After working at a greenhouse in Des Plaines, Louis discovered that he much preferred greenhouse work to farming and he wanted to start his own greenhouse and floral business to compete with the hundreds of greenhouses which existed in Morton Grove. So, he and Fred started the floral business which still thrives today – now in Rolling Meadows. The house was originally heated by the same steam pipes which heated the greenhouses across the street. A separate boiler for the house wasn't installed until the 1950s.

#### 15. 304 E. Evergreen Ave.

This larger twin of the house just to the west was built by **Louis Busse for his son, Fred**, during 1917, the year of his marriage to Alma Linneman. They raised four children in the house, including Harold who still helps his daughter, Linda Seils and her husband, Paul, run the family florist business. Built second, this house has always been larger than Louis's house to the west, but an addition put on in the early 1990s made it much larger.

#### 16. 123 S. School

This charming farmhouse-style home was built in 1924 by Henry Beigel, a carpenter who was also one of Mount Prospect's first trustees. The home's original owner was **Fritz Meyer**, a bachelor from Germany. He helped in the Busse Flowers greenhouse, which was located a block to the west. Sylvia Busse, who lived nearby, remembers Meyer making big pots of soup and placing them outside to freeze so that he could use it as he needed it.

The house was originally a one-story home but has since been transformed.



#### 17. Saint Paul Lutheran Church 100 S. School St.

Saint Paul Lutheran Church was founded by several of Mount Prospect's founding families. They were tired of trying to take wagons over muddy roads to get to church every Sunday morning at St. John Lutheran Church down on Linneman Road, south

of Golf Road, as well as at churches in Des Plaines and Arlington Heights. They wanted a church that was closer to their homes.

So, in 1912 William and Edward Busse donated two acres on the north side of Busse Avenue, between Elm and School Streets and a congregation began to form, meeting first in the Central School. Ground for the new church was broken at the corner of Elm and Busse Streets and the name "St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran" was chosen.

The Rev. J.E.A. Mueller was installed as founding pastor in January 1913. The dedication of the church was held two months later.

In 1960, to accommodate the growing congregation, more Busse land was donated. The current church was built and the original church was razed and replaced by the small park at Elm and Busse.

#### 18. 13 S. Owen St.

This home is currently in its third location. It began as a farmhouse somewhere in Elk Grove or Wheeling in an area that was taken over by the Cook County Forest Preserve. Then it and one other house were purchased from the Forest Preserve by St. Paul School, moved to Mount Prospect, and added to an existing schoolhouse to make a three-house string of classrooms, connected by breezeways.

In 1928, these houses were sold at auction and moved yet again and a larger school building was built in their place. This home was built as a frame building and the brick fascia was added later, after it was moved to this location. The home was owned by **Lena and Walter Mueller** who used it as a rental property. But they never lived here. They raised their family at 17 S. Owen.

#### 19. 21 S. Owen St.

This Craftsman-style home was built by **George and Marie Busse** in 1934 from plans that were sold based on a model home shown at the 1933 "Century of Progress" Chicago World's Fair.

In 1934 built this brick home and raised their seven children here, three boys and four girls. After Marie died, George remarried and moved down the block with his second wife, Martha.

### 20. 221 S. Owen St.

This large Victorian farmhouse must have been quite a showplace when, according to Cook County records, it was built for the **William Pohlman** family, circa 1873. Even by today's standards, this is a large home and it shows no obvious evidence of additions, so it seems safe to assume that it has always been a large home.

William Pohlman farmed the surrounding land and raised a family here. The census of 1900 shows William and his wife, Sophia, living here with eight children, the oldest of whom was 22 at the time. One of the other children was John W. Pohlman, who was born in 1889 and would later become the Village's long-time stationmaster. In 1927, the house and farm were sold to a developer, Walter Krause, who then subdivided it and called the area "Morningside Gardens."

Fortunately, the farmhouse survived and in April 1932, it was purchased by a female physician, Dr. Louise Koester. She had her office, waiting room, examining room and personal kitchen on the main floor. Upstairs were her private living quarters – bedrooms and living room. There were also small patient rooms in the basement where the very ill and those recovering from surgery stayed. It was a small clinic/hospital. Koester continued to own the house until 1976.

### 21. 301 S. William St.

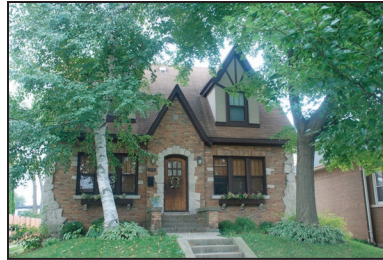
In 1935, John W. Pohlman, Mount Prospect's stationmaster, sold or gave this lot to **Edward and Clara Walsh**, about whom nothing is known. They held the land for four years before building this home around the time that Adolph Hitler invaded Poland. This very picturesque and charming Cornish Cottage-style home was built in a style typical of homes found in the Cornwall area of England, but only lived here until 1947.

### 22. 7 S. William St.

This lot was sold to Steve and Clara Lubinski in 1926, but the Lubinskis never built a home on it. This adorable Cape Cod home was not built until 1939 when **Albert and Evelyn Holmes** purchased the lot and paid the back taxes on it, which had been accumulated during The Great Depression.

### 23. 113 S. Edward St.

**Henry and Caroline Schufft** purchased this lot from William Busse Jr. in late 1925 and built this modest bungalow home the following year. Nothing is known about this couple except that it appears that Henry died in late 1938 and Caroline lived there alone until 1955. There have been many different owners in succeeding years.



### 24. 111 S. Edward St.

This lovely brick and stone Tudor home was built in 1929 by **Peter and Catherine Glass**. It appears that the Glasses lived here through much of the Great Depression

but by 1937 it was being rented to a succession of people, including an attorney for a federal agency.

By 1942, Ceril Ells, a World War I veteran, and his wife, Eleanor, had purchased the home and were living here with their family.

Stories indicate that at some point an invalid who could not climb the stairs was living here. In fact, the current owner found an old heavy-hinged Murphy bed retracted into one of the closets that had been added to the dining room.



### 25. 107 S. Edward St.

This beautiful American vernacular home was built as a one-story home with an enclosed front porch in 1928. It appears that the home may have been contracted for by a couple who

never moved in – probably because of the Great Depression. But by 1930, census records show that the **Stephen and Lillian Noe** were living here and owned the home.

Stephen was an accountant for the Chicago & North Western Railway. Lillian was active in the Mount Prospect Catholic Women's Club. They had five children. The original freestanding garage at the rear of the lot dates to 1928, just like the house. It still sports a gravel floor and there are barn doors at the back, facing east.

The current owners, John and Ellen Dini, have lived here since late 1997 and are the ones who recently transformed the long-time attic into a full second story and made two of the original bedrooms on the first floor into a family room.

### 26. 3 S. Edward St.

A much smaller version of this house was built in 1925 for **William and Goldie Ladervicz**. It was the J.E. LeFevre family which lived here from 1945 to 1958 that gave the house its current English Country House look. A general contractor, LeFevre moved to Mount Prospect to participate in its post-World War II building boom.

LeFevre did all of the remodeling and additions himself – including a three-car tandem garage in which the cars are lined up, one behind the other.

### 27. 808 E. Central Rd. (stand on south side and look north)

This white frame Victorian home was the first home of the **William Busse** family when they came here from Elk Grove Township in the mid-1890s. He moved here to take a job as a deputy sheriff and needed to be close to the railroad. By 1900 he was a member of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and Mayor of Mount Prospect by 1917.

This house was originally situated on the southeast corner of Main Street and Busse Avenue (where Central Continental Bakery is today) It was moved to this location in 1960.

### 28. 15 S. George St.

This distinctive home is the oldest one still standing in Mount Prospect. It was probably built sometime after 1847 when **Owen Rooney** arrived from New England and purchased 160 acres from a land grant farmer. It is not really known whether he built it or someone before him built it.

The original house (the portion to the left of the present day front entrance) was constructed of planks – not logs or sod as earlier houses were. The addition to the right was done circa 1900. Notice the outdoor fireplace on the north side of the house.

### 29. 121 S. George St.

This lovely Dutch Colonial house was built by Albert Lumber and Coal in 1930. Records indicate that the lot was sold to **Theo and Frances Thorson** in 1929. The Dutch Colonial style home, sometimes referred to as a “Barn house,” is known for its broad gambrel roof and flaring eaves.

The current owners have photos from a previous resident of the home showing few houses on the block and empty fields north to Central and Rand Roads. In addition, during a recent restoration, a newspaper from Nov. 20, 1930 was found in the walls with the headline “Seize Capone in Chicago, Report”. The owners carefully preserved and framed the front page and a few advertisements from the paper.

### 30. 900 E. Evergreen Ave.

This charming brick English cottage was built by **Clarence and Margaret Bydal** in 1936. At the time they could see all the way to Northwest Highway! The home features a concrete composite roof, as well as delightful copper gutters and accents, aged to a lovely patina.

### 31. 201 S. George St.

This charming brick English cottage was purchased by **Helen and Clement Mors** in 1941. This type of home was very popular during the 1940s in the Chicago area. At the time they purchased it, one neighbor recalled seeing a sales sign in the lawn that read, “You can build this house for \$6,000.”

### 32. 207 S. George St.

**Paul Sopp** and his family purchased this vernacular-style cottage from the Turk Company in 1941, shortly before Pearl Harbor was attacked. The Sopps lived here until 1959. Massive changes have been made over the years.

### 33. 308 S. George St.

Local carpenter Henry Beigel built this sharply-gabled Tudor home for **Lawrence Hough** in 1928.

### 34. 316 S. George St.

William Busse and Henry Biegel, a local carpenter, bought this lot in 1924 and built this house on speculation and sold it to **Clarence Bouterse** in 1928. The timing was unfortunate since the Stock Market crashed the following year and he had to sell it at a loss in 1933. The Concordia Mutual Benefit League purchased it and rented it for the next 11 years.



### 35. 320 S. Albert St.

This lovely home was built in 1941 by **Erich and Frieda Schoenfeld**, German immigrants; Erich was a baker and Frieda a seamstress. The home is a Cape Cod, a style of archi-

itecture originally built by the early settlers from England in the 1600s. Inspired by simple thatched cottages common in Britain, the steep roof quickly sheds rain and snow.

The central front door is flanked by windows on each side and inside a narrow staircase, known as a “Captain’s Stairway” has steep risers and shallow treads to minimize use of first floor space.

### 36. 222 S. Albert St.

**Julius and Genevieve Huppert** purchased this property and built the Georgian Colonial home in 1941. It has had many different owners over the years.



**Red dots are homes on the tour**