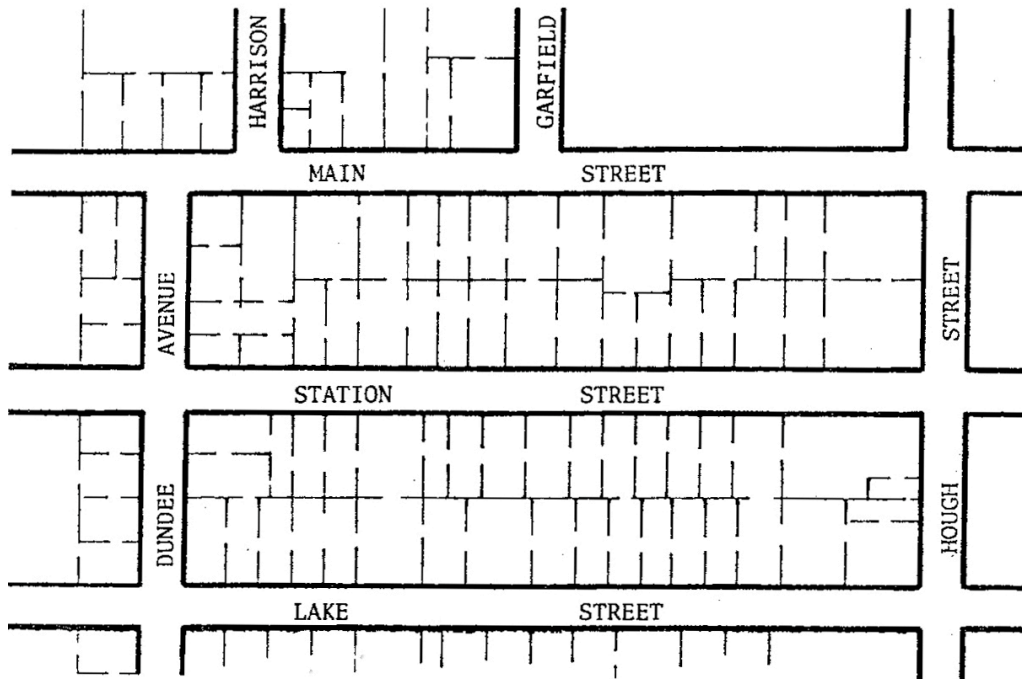


THE VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL TOUR NO. 1



The history of the Barrington area, begins in the late 1830s with the development of Barrington Township in Cook County, and Cuba Township in Lake County. The settlers of Barrington Township were primarily from Massachusetts, Vermont, and Upper New York State. Cuba Township, formerly Troy, was settled with people from Troy, New York. They were all farmers attracted to the available land, and later established trading with towns like Elgin and Dundee, along the Fox River.

In 1854, the northwest extension of CNW-RR, then known as the Illinois and Wisconsin Railroad, from Palatine and Deer Grove to McHenry County, provided the impetus for the beginnings of the Village at what became known as Barrington Station. The railroad purchased and platted 40 acres of land homesteaded by Benjamin Felter, whose log cabin stood at the present day site of 311 East Main Street, on the Cook County side of the Village, east of Hough Street. In 1855, Willard Stevens purchased 80 acres directly to the north in Lake County. This was the nucleus of the Village of Barrington, which was incorporated in 1863, with just over 300 residents. Because of the Civil War, there was a delay in returning the Incorporation Deeds to Barrington, and they were not received until 1865. In 1866, Milius B. McIntosh became the first elected President of the Village of Barrington.

This walking tour in the Village covers an area of later development west of Hough Street. Until 1867, when an assessors sub-division was established, the area within this tour boundary was farmland, with few surviving or documented residences. M. B. McIntosh platted and sold lots on West Lake Street in the mid 1880s, and West Station Street was not opened up until 1892, when Billy Spriggs had to move his house over from the middle of the new intersection close to Hough Street. Until that time, a few farmers on West Main Street near Dundee Avenue, had properties which extended south to West Lake Street.

The Village of Barrington promoted itself with a great deal of pride as early as 1872, when a handbill described lots for sale from one to five hundred dollars, on clean streets, fringed with beautiful maples. The Village retains to this day many tranquil, residential streets, rich with a mixture of architectural styles typical to collar county communities, along the railways of northeastern Illinois.

THIS TOUR BEGINS at the Barrington Historical Museum, formerly the Wichman Blacksmith Shop, and one of the most up-to-date in the country when it was built in 1929. Note hitching post outside the high, wide doors, which enabled horses and wagons to pull inside the building, where the original forge and blacksmith tools remain as a keynote Museum exhibit.

Adjacent to the Museum on Hough and Station, is the Village Hall, built in 1898. This replaced a frame village building that had stood directly next to Hough Street. The present building has been altered by the removal of a square bell tower, and enlarging the windows at street level.

Continuing south on Hough Street, and before turning west into Lake Street, look southeast to the Barrington United Methodist Church. Built in 1880, it was originally the Zion Evangelical Church, and was purchased by the Methodist in 1925. The Church has been restored in a style reminiscent of colonial New England architecture, and the bell in the steeple has been moved with the Methodist congregation from their first place of worship at Barrington Center North Church, at Sutton Road and Rte. 62.

Turning into West Lake Street, pause to observe the vista through arched trees of one of Barrington's most beautiful thoroughfares.

(Even numbers are on the north side).

#114 some of its former appearance has been restored to this Italianate built by Jerome Kingsley in 1889. Kingsley arrived in Barrington Township from North Adams, Massachusetts in 1842, when he was 21, and farmed in the township until his retirement to this house. He served twenty years as both Town Clerk and Justice of the Peace, and was also intermittently Township Assessor and Supervisor. His house originally had a beautiful circular porch on the west front, with decorative pillars and brackets. The interior woodwork with deep moldings, wide door frames and fretwork screens, is in good condition.

#118 is a stucco bungalow built c. 1930 by Dr. Alcott. The massing is affected by a deep porch and extended eaves which accommodate wide windows accenting a feeling of openness while retaining a sense of privacy to the front living areas. A center shingled hipped dormer relieves the tedium of the E-W gable roof.

#126 was the home of Arnett C. Lines, who was a grandson of Milius B. McIntosh. Arnett Lines spent most of his adult life collecting the history of Barrington, which was published at the Centennial in 1963. This house, with its amalgam of styles traceable to Italianate and Federal symmetry was built by Arnett Lines father for his son, in 1927. A beautiful staircase can be seen through the west front window.

#130 was built by Fred Lines, when he moved to Barrington with his family in 1890, and still remains in Lines Family. The house has generous proportions, and some elements of Queen Anne styling with clear line angles, scalloped shingles, and bay windows through both levels. The interior retains similar woodwork to the Kingsley house, with its original stain.

#135 was built circa 1891 by Sanford Peck, on the foundation of an earlier house that burned. Peck was the owner of general stores at several locations in the village. The house has been totally restored and partly remodeled in the last three years. All outstanding Victorian detailing has been retained, like the fishscale siding, pitched roofing, decorative brackets and pediments, surrounding porches and bay windows. The house was divided into two flats for several years before the present owners purchased it, and completely restored its beautiful main staircase.

#200 built c. 1925 in a style derived from the Prairie School which uses a variety of textures to highlight features of the house. Even the front porch emphasizes the leaded glass windows.

#201 adheres to the deep but narrower proportions of many homes on the street, with some details in brackets and posts of Italianate influence. The house was built by Lyman Powers, c. 1888-1890.

#208 was built in 1889 by Levi Higley, and #216, 2 years later by Dell Loomis. Their wives were sisters, Ellen and Elizabeth Hawley. Among the outstanding examples of Victorian Gothic Architecture in Barrington, the 2 houses have some identical features; such as box bays, fishscale siding, square towers and windows with stained glass transoms. It is interesting to compare the two today.

#226 Every outstanding feature is Queen Anne Style, with octagonal porch, circular tower with concave roof and finial, and elaborate fishscale siding. Built by Tom Freeman, circa 1892.

#227 was built circa 1892 by Henry Sodt, who later moved across the street and built the bungalow at #280. The original house was box shaped like many on this street, and the L is a recent addition, as the tower with gothic styling found at #208 and #216. The interior of this home has been reconstructed using many beautiful 19th century architectural artifacts.

The other houses on Dundee Avenue are all similar in style, and were built in the early 1890s, except for #246 and #250, which were later additions. The Victorian homes were all built by successful business and tradespeople in the community when West Lake Street was the “in” place to build a house.

North on Dundee Ave., the three frame houses on the west side were all moved onto their present sites.

#216 was moved in 1912, from northwest of the Village, an area known as Chicago Highlands. In the early 1900s, the American Malleable Iron Works opened a factory in Barrington, and workers flooded into the community. They built small frame dwellings in the Highlands. When the factory folded, most of the workers left and abandoned the houses, many of which were then moved to other sites.

#212 was moved in 1912, from a farm now Bellarmine Hall, the Jesuit Retreat on W. County Line Road.

#208 was originally a farmer’s home which stood on West County line Road, almost opposite the entrance to Barrington Hills Country Club. It was moved to this location in 1912 by William Klingenberg, Sr. who lived there with his wife until their deaths in 1955.

On the east side, #'s 209, 207, and #203, were built by John and Henry Brasel in the 1890s, each for \$320.00. Both homes have received extensive remodeling, and the use of brick is uncommon of this area.

#200 was another Chicago highlands house, moved also in 1912 to this site.

At the intersection, note that West Station Street was open fields until 1892.

#119 Dundee Ave., the blue sided house which has been completely remodeled, was originally the home of Charlie Hutchinson, the first rural mail carrier in Barrington, beginning his route with a horse and buggy in 1904.

#109 is a straightforward, frame, clapboard covered farmhouse, with the unusual inclusion of a double arched Italianate window. The original house, built in the late 19th century by Charles Lipofsky, was moved from the northeast corner of West Main Street.

Looking north across West Main, the yellow frame house was, from the 1890s until the early 1920s, the last house in the Village on its western boundary. Beyond were only farm houses, fields and pastures.

Turn east on Main Street (note that this is also County Line Road). Allow the eye to travel upward along Main Street – there are many interesting details in rooflines, surprising in some otherwise standard houses.

An option walk from West Main – take either Harrison or Garfield to the Ice House Mall, originally built in 1904 as the Bowman Dairy, and restored in 1975 as an enclosed shopping center.

#223 The Octagon House is the only National Register of Historic Places structure in the Barrington area. The actual date of its construction is now in doubt, but a first level was probably built in the 1860s, with completion circa 1881. It is one of the least altered octagonal houses in Illinois, and is now undergoing complete restoration, according to the standards of the U.S. Dept. of The Interior.

#228 across the street, has an unusual gambrel roof in the front, contrasted against the gable roofline of the rest of the house.

#218 is an L-shaped cottage, typical of many others in the Village, with spindle work, turned posts and a mansard roof. The leaded glass sidebars and transom on the lower windows and the scalloped shingles and gables, are characteristic Queen Anne details.

#204-206 A large Queen Anne style, two family house. Palladian windows in the gable, which has a curved, sculptural treatment, 2 different shingle textures, and unchanged narrow clapboard siding. The house was built for the Waterman Family in the late 1880s and is still occupied by a daughter.

#145 This large frame house was built circa 1900, by Fred Lines for Mr. and Mrs. John Robertson, and it was very much the social center of the Village at that time. A large addition was made later when it became a Rest Home. Queen Anne motifs and classical styling are mixed in this imposing façade. Queen Anne is in the bulging bay window on the east front and the polygonal window on the west side of the porch, the elaborate dormer in the hipped roof, and use of the Palladian motif. Classical elements like a foliated festooned pediment makes this one of the outstanding buildings in the Village.

#117 was in part, built about 1862, for Warren Hough, a farmer. The original section of the building stood about where the E.J. & E. Railway crosses West County Line Road. The proportions, pilasters, windows and doors, are typical of Greek Revival, but the paired brackets are Italianate, a later detail, which depended upon power driven tools for their manufacture.

The Catlow Theatre was designed by the Chicago architects Betts and Holcomb, and built in 1927. The Tudor Style was typical of residential and suburban downtown design at the time. Built as a Vaudeville Theatre, the interior, designed by Alphonse Iannelli, is a delightful collage of styles.

Turning south on Hough to return to the Museum, note again the spire of the Methodist Church. Several churches in Barrington, notably the Village Church on East County Line Road, and the Presbyterian Church of Barrington Hills, have these spires which are visible from most points of access to the community. They are a visible link to the New England origins of the first settlers to this area. Those settlers and their descendants have probably created, through their building, plantings and conservation of the land, a place as beautiful as the open prairie in the 1830s.

Some houses appear in the Barrington Area Historical Society Museum photo gallery.