

NAPERVILLE

Historic Walking Tour – East



Brief Summary of Naperville's Past

In 1831, Captain Joseph Naper traveled from Ashtabula, Ohio, to the fertile soil of Illinois, approximately 30 miles west of Chicago, near the DuPage River. He brought along several families and individuals as well as plans and provisions for establishing a community. By early 1832, Naper's Settlement had 180 people dwelling in it, along with a trading house, mills and a school. The following year saw a post office and frame homes erected.

Naperville's early development was possible because a road connecting Chicago and Ottawa, and the Galena Road (now Aurora Avenue), passed through town. Naperville was home to the county seat from 1839 until 1867, when Wheaton contested and gained the rights. Completion of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad through Naperville in 1864 helped spur growth and was responsible for opening the Chicago market to the town's already flourishing nurseries, breweries and quarries. The railroad also enabled the Naperville Lounge Company (later Kroehler Manufacturing Company) to grow into one of the world's largest furniture manufacturers.

Pioneer settler and real estate developer Morris Sleight once owned much of the land on the east side of Naperville. By the time of his death in 1863, he had amassed a total of 473 acres, which were developed into residential plots.

Most homes in this tour are frame, two-story single-family dwellings, though some of masonry can be found. Throughout the area, the Italianate Style predominates. Other architectural styles include Queen Anne, National Folk, Stick, Craftsman, Prairie School, Gothic, and Classical Revival.

The mansions of Chicago Avenue overshadow the smaller homes built in an earlier era, and show the affluence of the industrial age. The concentration of prestigious homes led this area to be dubbed "Quality Hill" by local residents.

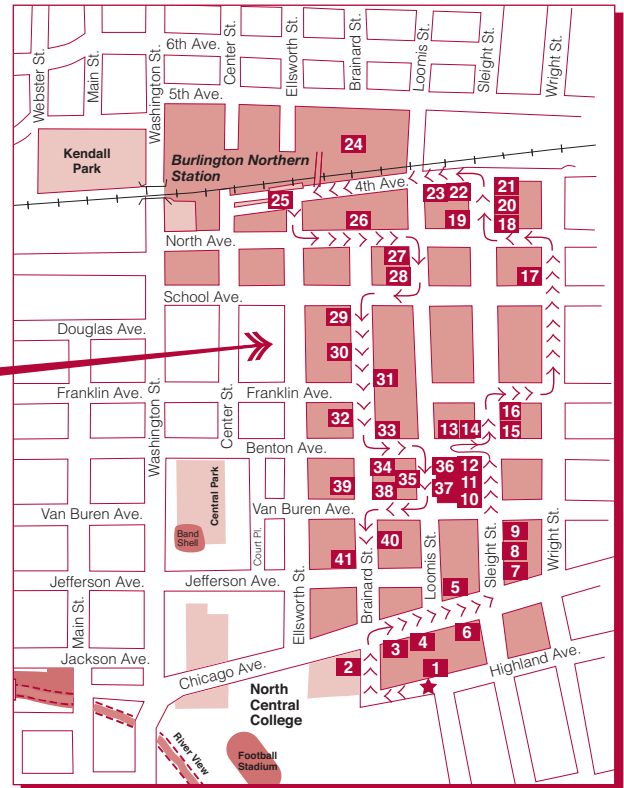
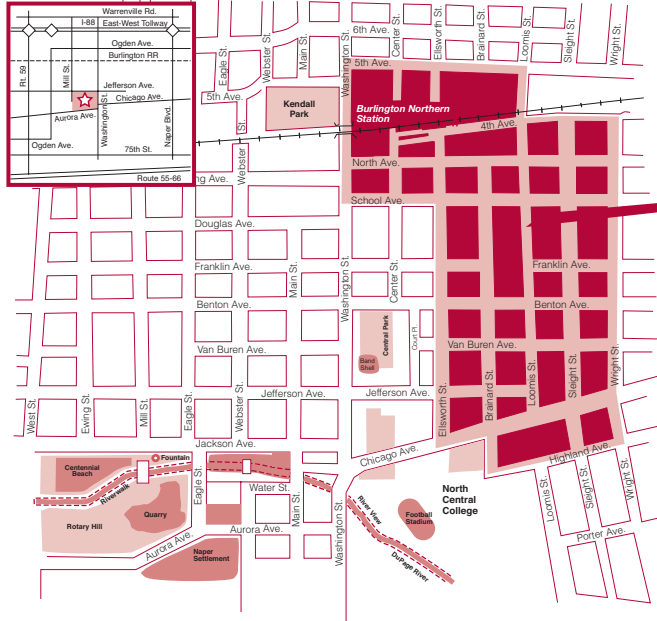
Walking Tour Credits

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Additional brochures highlighting Naperville's west side and downtown historic architecture are available. Stop by for free copies, or call for more information.

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EAST SIDE WALKING TOUR

Introduction

By Pierre Lebeau, Professor of History Emeritus,
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Until the arrival of the railroad, prominent citizens and families of lesser means had intermingled on the west side of Washington Street. By the mid-1860s the wealthier and middle class families started to establish themselves on the east side of Washington Street. The wealthy tended to congregate on East Jefferson and Chicago Avenues between Ellsworth and Sleight Streets.

In 1869 Naperville residents pledged \$25,000 to bring North Western College (now North Central College) to the town.

Delcar Sleight, who had purchased most of his father's real estate from the other heirs, donated eight acres of land. The college contributed considerably to the enrichment of the cultural life of Naperville. In addition, its professors and administrators settled in the neighborhood.

The presence of the college reinforced the semi-aristocratic character of this section of town that became known as "Quality Hill" and constitutes today the larger part of the Naperville Historic District with its variety of 19th and 20th century architectural styles.

“NHS” featured after the building’s address signifies that the structure has received a plaque for historic or architectural significance from the Naperville Heritage Society.



1 **401 E. Highland Ave.**
James L. Nichols Jr. Residence
1917
Harry Robinson, Architect

NHS

Harry Robinson, chief draftsman for Frank Lloyd Wright during World War I, designed this house, along with 144 S. Sleight (Number 19) and 48 E. Jefferson. Characteristics of the Prairie School evident in this house include the low-pitched roof with projecting eaves, and casement windows with geometric patterns grouped into horizontal bands. Nichols was a three-term mayor of Naperville and the son of James L. Nichols (who resided at 320 E. Chicago Ave., Number 4). He was associated with his father’s publishing firm and later, Kroehler Manufacturing Company.



2 **329 S. Brainard St.**
Edward Everett
Rall House
1920

Rall House has been the home of North Central College presidents since 1929, when the house was given to the College by Charles R. Rall to honor his brother, Edward Everett Rall, president from 1916 to 1946. The Colonial Revival house was originally built by Judge John Goodwin for his daughter, Mrs. Robert (Suzanne) Johnston.



3 308 E. Chicago Ave.
c. 1895

This Classical Revival house takes its inspiration from the Federal Style of the 18th century. Popularized by the Columbian

Exposition of 1893, the Classical Revival appears in details such as the half-circular window in the pediment, and the entrance with fanlight and sidelights.



4 320 E. Chicago Ave.
James L. Nichols Sr.
Residence
1886

James L. Nichols was one of Naperville's most prominent citizens. Active in civic and educational affairs, he donated funds for the public library and for North Central College's first gymnasium. A graduate of the College, professor, successful

business author and publisher, he was also one of the founders of the Naperville Lounge Co. (later Kroehler Manufacturing Co.). The dominating feature of this Queen Anne Style house is its circular, three-story main tower facing the street. A second, smaller tower forms a third-story dormer window on the east side of the house. The wrap-around veranda and scalloped shingles increase the ornate appearance of the house. A major addition on the east side greatly increased the size of the house in 1996.



5 409 E. Chicago Ave.
c. 1876
Reconstruction 1998

The Italianate Style looked to the country villas of northern Italy for inspiration, and was characterized by rectangular massing, a low-pitched roof, heavy supporting brackets under the eaves, and elongated windows with elaborate hoods. George Reuss owned the Reuss State Bank on 135 S. Washington St., and was also a clothing manufacturer. Over the years, this Italianate Style villa

became a six-flat apartment building. It was partially reconstructed and completely rehabilitated in the style of the original 1876 residence and returned to a single-family home in 1998.



6 432 E. Chicago Ave. NHS
Adolf Hammerschmidt
Residence
1894

The turret, decorative shingles, gabled roof, verandas and leaded glass windows are all elements which define this house as Queen Anne Style. Working from Victorian pattern books, builder and client would create plans for flamboyant structures such as these.



7 144 S. Sleight St. NHS
"Elmholm"
Rollo M. Givler Residence
1915
Harry Robinson,
Architect

This Prairie School Style house, along with 401 E. Highland (Number 1) and 48 E. Jefferson, was designed by Harry Robinson, chief draftsman for Frank Lloyd Wright during World War I. Much of Wright's influence can be seen in Robinson's designs. Givler owned and operated the *Naperville Clarion*, an early Naperville newspaper.



8 120 S. Sleight St. NHS
Benjamin J. Slick
Residence
c. 1894

This is an example of the Folk Victorian Style which derived elements from, but was less ornate than, many Victorian Styles including Queen Anne. These houses were often designed by the carpenter and owner, who selected decorative elements from the many available pattern books and catalogues. Benjamin Slick and Joseph Kochly, former employees of Scott's Store, opened their own store in 1897 called Slick & Kochly.



9 110 S. Sleight St.
George Yost Residence
1892

This Queen Anne Style house is a grouping of a variety of shapes and textures in a non-symmetrical composition. Queen Anne elements include the rounded turret with fish-scale shingles, and turned spindlework and posts on the veranda.



10 29 S. Sleight St. NHS
David N. Moyer
c. 1891

The patterned shingles combined with clapboards, and the scroll-cut wood brackets, are noteworthy details of this Folk Victorian house.



11 21 S. Sleight St. NHS
Samuel S. Stayer
c. 1892

Whenever a new style appeared, it influenced the builders of the period, often resulting in an eclectic assemblage of elements, a hallmark of the Queen Anne Style. The tower, with its French-inspired mansard roof, was designed to create a romantic room. The veranda wrapped around the side of the house at one time.



12 15 S. Sleight St.
John A. West
c. 1896

Around the attic window, this Folk Victorian features the wood sunburst relief detailing common to the style. The raking cornice on the front gable roof is a Greek Revival detail.



13 415 E. Benton Ave.
c. 1880

This house was originally located on the man-made lake in Burlington Park and used as a ticket office for boat rental.

Burlington Park was developed in 1880 by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad for pleasure seekers from Chicago and vicinity.

Sometime after the park closed in 1899, the structure was moved to Benton Ave. and used as a paint shop by Frank Grimes. Around 1927 it was enlarged and altered to be used as rental property and later the home of various Grimes family members.



Burlington Park Ticket Booth for boat rentals, c. 1885



14 5 N. Sleight St. NHS
Theodore Germann
Residence
1879

This house features simple Italianate detailing popular in Naperville homes of the 1870s. The porch has been added. Theodore Germann immigrated to America in 1851. He was a tailor.



15 8 N. Sleight St. NHS
Benjamin Beidelman
Residence
1891

A highlight of this Folk Victorian is its unusual asymmetrical composition.



16 22 N. Sleight St.
Thomas Betts
Residence
c. 1890

This quaint one-story Victorian cottage was built for Thomas Betts, a brush maker, farmer, and landlord. The pyramidal form is a rare version of the National Style Folk House. The double front door and numerous windows were intended to provide ample ventilation and uninterrupted views of the countryside which in 1890 was the easternmost edge of town. The dormer on the north side was added.



17 205 N. Wright St. NHS
George Sindlinger
Residence
1880

George W. Sindlinger was an 1869 graduate and later professor of North Central College. The Evangelical Theological Seminary purchased this house in 1908. It housed the seminary until it was moved to its present site from School Ave. and Loomis St. in 1912, and was then used as a dormitory. Features of the Italianate Style include the wide eaves supported by large brackets, tall thin first floor windows, and low-pitched hip roof.



18 503 E. North Ave.
William Beidelman
c. 1862

This typical Civil War Era brick structure was constructed by and for William Beidelman and his family. Beidelman was a brick and stone mason. The east half of the home was added later in a lighter colored brick. Originally this home was parged, that is, a mortar coating was applied over the common brick, incised and beaded to imitate brickwork. This provided a smooth surface and protection for the underlying masonry.



19 429 E. North Ave.
Sucher/Dudley House
c. 1871

This beautifully restored example of the Italianate Style was built for prosperous French immigrant farmer, Michael Sucher. In 1882, the home was purchased by DuPage County Judge Myron C. Dudley.



20 338 N. Sleight St.
John Wolfershein
c. 1875

This large, cross-gabled Italianate has a limestone foundation. The iron fence and gate is original. This home was most likely built for a John Wolfershein family member. The Wolfershein family owned both this lot and the lot to the north from 1863 to 1894.



21 340 N. Sleight St.
John Wolfershein
c. 1863

Although this house has been altered – the classic I-house floor plan can still be observed. John Wolfershein, an immigrant from France, was a day laborer. This house is typical of a laborer's household. The large lot would have provided adequate space for outbuildings, gardens, and trees for food and shade.



22 337 N. Sleight St.
Thomas Costello
c. 1875

Thomas Costello was a prosperous farmer from Ireland. The original structure was built around 1875, most likely an end gable Italianate with a wing to the south. Over time a second story porch, dormer, and new roof-line were added. The summer kitchen at the back of the lot was relocated to this property around 1920.



23 406 E. 4th Ave.
Koppa/Miller House
c. 1915

The use of natural materials, including fieldstone, river rock and boulders, was popularized by

the Craftsman Movement of the early 20th Century. This house has the basic form of the American Four-square with hipped roof, wide eaves, and dormer. Joseph Koppa immigrated to the U.S. in 1882 and settled in Naperville. His family lived in the frame house pictured below. His daughter, Anna, married Arthur Miller who built the present house with stones gathered by hand from local fields.



The Koppa/Miller House under construction, c. 1915



24 300 E. 5th Ave.
Kroehler
Manufacturing Co.
1905; additions and
alterations 1909, 1913

Organized as the Naperville Lounge Co. in 1893 by Professor James L. Nichols and Peter Edward Kroehler, the firm was incorporated as the Kroehler Manufacturing Co. in 1915. Throughout its history, this firm was a major employer in Naperville, and became the largest manufacturer of upholstered furniture in America. The company ceased operation in 1978, and later this building was transformed into loft apartments, shops, and offices. The interior features rough-hewn timbers and open-beam ceilings as well as a series of interpretive plaques on the history of the building.



Photo taken around 1910



25 105 E. 4th Ave.
CB&Q Railroad Engineering Staff, Architects
c. 1890

In the early 20th century, the CB&Q designed their railroad stations with a symmetrical grandeur to reflect the importance of the railroad to the community. The depot was one of the major centers of activity in the town and the structure and style of the depot, viewed as a symbol of progress, contributed to the prestige of the town. This depot is a more refined development of the prototype established by the CB&Q at Hinsdale in 1898, and used at Riverside in 1901. The use of recessed belt courses in the brickwork and a prominent Palladian window in the center of the trackside elevation establish the inspiration of this design as being classical.



Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Station, 1909



26 307 E. North Ave.
Nelson A. Thomas
Residence
1844 **NHS**

It is nearly impossible to distinguish the I-house floor plan of this Folk House. The lines of the vertical board and batons resemble barn or out-building construction. Thomas, a farmer from New York, brought his wife and two children to Naperville in 1844.



27 225 N. Loomis St.
c. 1890

This Queen Anne Style features Classical Revival detailing such as the prominent cornice on the front gable, and the Doric columns on the porch. The house

was owned by the Evangelical Theological Seminary until 1967, and now houses North Central College faculty offices.



28 329 E. School Ave.
1912

This building housed the Evangelical Theological Seminary until 1974, when it moved to Evanston. Gothic elements include the pointed arch windows and limestone detailing. Today, the building houses academic offices and the chapel of North Central College.



29 153 N. Brainard St.
Jeremiah Leffler
Residence
1872

NHS

This front-gabled Folk House features a bit of Folk Victorian detailing in the scroll-cut porch brackets.



30 135 N. Brainard St.
c. 1873

This structure is a classic example of the Italianate Style popular between 1840 and 1885. It is easily identified by its low-pitched roof, wide overhanging eaves with decorative brackets, and tall windows with elaborate crowns.



31 30 N. Brainard St. NHS
Old Main
1870; south wing
added 1890
John Van Osdel,
Architect

Old Main was the original building of the present campus of North Central College. It was built in 1870 after the college, once called North-Western College, was moved from Plainfield to Naperville. Morris Sleight donated a site of eight acres to the College, and the citizens of Naperville contributed \$25,000 toward the construction of this building, hoping that the institution would become a factor in the growth of the town.

The distinguishing features of this Second Empire Style building are its mansard roof and the central tower of the main building. The elongated windows are arched and pedimented, and classical moldings are emphasized by the rough texture of the limestone. The north wing, as shown in the sketch, was never built. Renovated in 1998, the building houses student services, offices, and classrooms.



Image from the "Combination Atlas Map of DuPage County, Illinois," 1874.



32 15 N. Brainard St. NHS
J. Fehlman Residence
c. 1874

This Folk House contains some simple Italianate details such as the pediments over the windows and the columned porch.



33 6 N. Brainard St. NHS
Carnegie Library
1908

Andrew Carnegie, steel industry tycoon, financed the construction of thousands of public libraries across the country, but relatively few at colleges. This building served as North Central College's library until 1954, and now houses North Central's information technology services and the computer science department. The Classical Revival structure features a symmetrical facade and Ionic columns.



34 310 E. Benton Ave.
Barbara Pfeiffer
Memorial Hall
1925
Joseph C. and Ralph C.
Llewellyn, Architects

This building was financed by the Pfeiffer family, North Central College, the Evangelical Theological Seminary, and the citizens of Naperville, with the understanding that a large theater space was being provided not only for the College, but for civic events and community performing arts as well. The Classical Revival Style corresponds with that of the Carnegie Library (Number 33) across the street.



35 15 S. Loomis St. NHS
William W. Wickel
Residence
1892

This house contains many features of the Queen Anne Style, including a variety of window types, a turreted balcony and a sheltered entry covering a veranda. Note the original hitching post in front. Wickel operated a drug store at 39 W. Jefferson. Renamed Oswald's Pharmacy in 1915, this family-owned business celebrated its 130th anniversary in 2006.



36 18 S. Loomis St.
Jacob Saylor
c. 1871

The ornate truss under the gables of this house is due to widespread use of the scroll saw in the mid-19th century, which encouraged builders to ornament simple homes with this lacy woodwork. The Stick Style (1860-1890) of the house also shows the influence of Andrew Jackson Downing whose 1850 pattern book, *The Architecture of Country Houses*, was inspirational in its time.



37 28 S. Loomis St. NHS
Augustine A. Smith
Residence
1872

This is an example of the Eastlake Style, named after British furniture designer Charles Eastlake, and popular from 1870 to 1890. Similar to Queen Anne, but not as elaborate, Eastlake houses often featured combinations of horizontal and vertical decorative elements. Augustine Smith was the first president of North Central College, serving from 1861 to 1883.



38 30 S. Brainard St.
Rev. Frederick William
Heidner Residence
1870 **NHS**

Rev. Heidner, a professor of German Language and Literature at North Central (then North-Western) College from 1863 to 1913, selected this site close to the campus for his home. The Italianate Style house has two rear and side additions with original limestone foundations that were most likely built before 1900. There have been no major changes to the house since 1941.



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