



Defining Moments: Central Webster

HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

SIXTH IN A SERIES

Established by the
Webster Groves Historical Society and the
City of Webster Groves, Missouri

The Webster Groves Historical Society gratefully acknowledges **The Rotary Club of Webster Groves** whose support has helped to make this Webster Walk a reality for Webster Groves citizens and visitors, both today and for many years to come.

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Before You Begin Your Walk

Webster Groves is an outdoor history museum, reflecting the early stages of St. Louis County's development. The oldest communities in St. Louis County grew up along the railroad; later communities developed along the streetcar lines, and finally, highways made all of St. Louis County convenient for commuters who lived in the county and traveled into St. Louis for work.

Webster Groves followed this same pattern of development, with Central Webster the site of key moments in the history of the town. Some of Webster Groves' earliest subdivisions were laid out here. The first Webster Groves Public Library was located in the Monday Club, an early women's club in Central Webster, and the Webster Groves City Hall crowns the highest hill in Central Webster, all defining this community for generations.

The Central Webster Walk begins on the north side of Lockwood Avenue which was part of the original Payne Tract. Nancy Jackson subdivided one of the large lots in the Payne Tract in 1883, after her husband died. The walk then leads through two of the original 40-acre lots of Chouteau's Subdivision of the Sarpy Tract, those of William Plant and Elizabeth Richardson.

William M. Plant purchased the 40 acres bounded by Lockwood, Plant, Swon and Elm avenues in 1858. He and his brothers Alfred, George and Samuel, owned the Plant Seed Company, founded by their father in 1845. William and Alfred helped to establish the Congregational Church of Webster Groves in 1866, but William died in 1867.

His son, William E. Plant, was a public accountant with a large firm that had offices in St. Louis and Chicago. He married Sally Allen in 1870, and they had two sons, William and Ernest, and a daughter, Lulu, who died young. Plant built a large Queen Anne house for his family on Elm Avenue, but Sally died in 1881, shortly before the house was completed. William and his two sons continued to live with his mother in the old Plant mansion on Lockwood Avenue.

Plant loved Webster Groves and became one of the first businessmen to try to attract other successful commuters to live here. In 1883 he laid out the W. E. Plant Subdivision between Elm and Maple avenues, in the southwest quarter of his father's 40 acres. In 1889, he subdivided the remainder of his father's forty acres into the Frances L. Plant Subdivision, named for his mother.

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Elizabeth Richardson's 40 acres, bounded by Lockwood, Selma, Swon and Plant avenues, was purchased by her third husband, Thomas Jones, in 1851. Jones died of pneumonia after his wagon loaded with building supplies for his house on Swon Avenue overturned in the River Des Peres in December 1851. Elizabeth was the proprietor of a boardinghouse on the river front, and John Richardson, an English hotel owner, married the grieving widow one month after Jones died. Richardson died in 1875, and the Elizabeth Richardson Subdivision was laid out in 1876, dividing the 40 acres among her children of various fathers and putting the main house on Swon Avenue in trust for Richardson's widow, Elizabeth, for as long as she lived.

The oldest houses in the Central Webster Valley were built on large, deep lots along the main streets, Maple, Plant and Swon avenues. Then, during the first quarter of the twentieth century, local builders, like the Horspool Brothers, re-subdivided the empty lots between the large old houses and built homes on these smaller lots.

Utilities, paved streets and granitoid sidewalks were built throughout Webster Groves during the first decade of the twentieth century. The Monday Club, a one-story Craftsman building designed by Lawrence Ewald was built at the corner of Maple and Cedar in 1911, and its Art Deco addition was designed by architect Harris Armstrong in 1929. It housed the first public library in Webster Groves, and it served as a cultural center for women of Webster Groves during the twentieth century.

In 1923 Webster Groves passed a zoning ordinance, one of the first in St. Louis County. It ensured that Webster Groves would remain a residential community of single-family houses, except in areas that were already commercial. Lockwood Avenue was zoned commercial from Rock Hill Road to Plant Avenue. James F. Allen, who lived at 29 Plant Ave., owned several acres running from his house to Lockwood, and in 1923 he subdivided his land and sold small lots along Lockwood for commercial buildings. The lots sold quickly because they were convenient to the streetcar which ran down Lockwood Avenue all the way to Kirkwood.

Sites on the Historic Webster Walks have been selected for their architectural or historical value, and they are identified in this book by the names of the people or businesses that originally occupied them. Distinguished sites have been awarded bronze medallions which are embedded in the sidewalks in front of those sites. Your guidebook notes the sites as follows:

- M** Medallion, distinguished site
- A** Architectural significance
- H** Historical significance

Key Architectural Styles in Central Webster



Queen Anne



American Foursquare



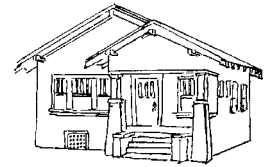
Italianate



Dutch Colonial Revival



Classic Revival



Bungalow



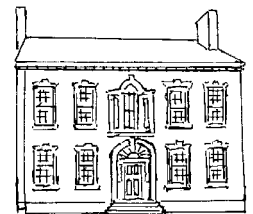
Mediterranean Vernacular



Craftsman



Georgian



Federal



Greek Revival



Shingle Style



Victorian Vernacular



Tudor Revival

Defining Moments: Central Webster Walk

This Historic Webster Walk is a 1.9-mile tour through Central Webster, home to a wide variety of architectural styles, early commercial buildings and key community institutions. The entire walk is paved and covers flat terrain.

Begin your walk on Lockwood Avenue after parking in the lot behind FirstBank at the corner of East Lockwood and Elm avenues. Immediately to the east was the site of the Weilandy-Reller Motor Company, first established in Webster Groves in 1917. Weilandy-Reller was one of many automobile distributors that appeared in Webster Groves in the early 1900s, starting with the Gibson Motor Car Company at 220 W. Lockwood Ave. in 1916. Up and down Gore and Lockwood avenues, one could buy a Buick, a Dodge, a Ford, a Gibson, a Lafayette, a Nash, an Oakland 6 or an Oldsmobile; further east in Old Orchard, Studebakers were available. Riesmeyer Motor Company, a Ford dealership, occupied this site from 1941 to 1965; Scholin Brothers Printing Company moved here in 1970 and burned down in 2002.

*Walk east on Lockwood Avenue to North Maple Avenue.
Turn left on North Maple Avenue.*

M 17 North Maple Ave.

George Washington Saunders House (1867, Italianate)
George Washington Saunders came to St. Louis from New England and worked as a fireman and then an engineer for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He transported troops for the Union during the Civil War and married Martha Jane Holton. When the war ended Saunders went to work for his brother-in-law, Horace Holton, at the Holton and Stemme Tent and Tarp Company, supplying canvas for covered wagons. Saunders and Holton both moved to Webster Groves after the war, and Holton died in 1872. The business became Stemme-Saunders Duck and Rubber Company, and Saunders added rubber rain slickers to the company's line of products for settlers going west. When Stemme died, the company became the Saunders Duck and Rubber Company, and George Saunders became a rich man. He had the honor of being the engineer who drove the inaugural train across the Eads Bridge when it opened in 1874.

Saunders had five children, and, on several occasions, he hired a private railroad car to take his family on long trips. When Saunders built this house it faced Lockwood Avenue. Part of North Maple Avenue was the drive. Saunders moved back to St. Louis in 1895. In 1925 the Weilandy-Reller Motor Company purchased the property and moved the house back to face North Maple Avenue so that an automobile showroom could be built on Lockwood.

A 33 North Maple Ave.

Clifford O. Scholz House (1925, Craftsman)

In 1925 Clifford O. Scholz built this Craftsman house which illustrates how the Craftsman style was influenced by Swiss chalets. Scholz was a salesman for the Graham Paper Company. He grew up at 229 Rosemont Ave. in Webster Park. His father, Walter Scholz, was the secretary of the Graham Paper Company.

At Rosemont Avenue, turn left.

A 41 Rosemont Ave.

Thomas P. Sullivan House (1890, Victorian Vernacular)

Thomas P. Sullivan was the manager of the American Stock Food and Fibre Company, with an office at 2747 Papin Ave. in St. Louis. Although this home has the classic back roof line of the Saltbox style prevalent on the East Coast, it is overlaid with eclectic elements that give this home its own unique style. An arched entryway is hidden under the heavy front porch, the foundation is irregular rubble and an oriel window projects out of the west elevation.

A 29 Rosemont Ave.

Clifford Darby House (1884, Tudor Queen Anne)

Clifford Darby, an insurance salesman, bought this lot from Nancy O'Brien Jackson in 1884 and built his Tudor Queen Anne house with a loan from the Webster Groves Building and Loan Association. He sold the house and built another across the railroad tracks at 216 North Elm in 1887. His wife, Mamie, had an ex-trolley horse named Blackie who followed the railroad tracks whenever Mamie drove her carriage across the tracks.

M 26 Rosemont Ave.

Edward F. Cushing House (1891, Victorian Vernacular)

This Victorian Vernacular house was built as a wedding present for Edward F. Cushing and his wife, Anne Branch Cushing. Cushing was a cashier and bookkeeper, and Anne was an active community volunteer. As president of the Monday Club, she helped establish the Webster Groves Public Library. She helped to found the Webster Groves League of Women Voters and, as the first president, made sure that African American women were welcome. Anne also presided over the Webster Groves Peace Council. The Cushings had seven children. One of their granddaughters, Susan Chivvis, married Tom Curtis, who served as a U.S. Congressman from Webster Groves from 1952 to 1970.

A 25 Rosemont Ave.

William E. Taylor House (1888, Queen Anne)

William E. Taylor was the purchasing agent or managing agent for the St. Louis Post Dispatch. Taylor sold the house in 1900 to Harry H. Bristol, a claims agent and attorney. Note the twin chimney pots that extend up out of the chimney on the back west side of the house.

M 18 Rosemont Ave.

Nancy O'Brien Jackson House (1884, *Queen Anne*)
Nancy O'Brien Jackson came to St. Louis with her husband Edward in 1856. Edward was a successful wool broker and served with the home militia during the Civil War. In 1868 the Jacksons moved to Webster Groves with their six children to the large Italianate house at 133 Gray Ave. The Jacksons were active leaders at the First Congregational Church and Edward served on the Webster Groves School Board. After Edward died in 1882, Nancy created the Mrs. N. O. Jackson Subdivision in 1883 and built this house on the corner of Rosemont and North Elm Ave. in 1884. Rosemont Avenue was called Jackson Avenue then, and it went through to the end of what is now Old Elm Avenue.

Turn around and walk back along Rosemont Avenue and North Maple Avenue to Lockwood Avenue. Turn left on Lockwood Avenue.

M 103 East Lockwood Ave.

Ozark Theatre (1921, *Spanish Revival*)
The Ozark Theater was opened in 1921 and included an exterior airdome for outdoor movie viewing in the summer before the advent of air conditioning. Motion pictures were shown at the Ozark six days a week until 1937, when voters repealed a longstanding "blue law," making Sunday movies possible. Much of the original facade remains, but was covered by a remodeling in 1970 as vintage movie theaters nationwide tried to update their look in tandem with the cinema movement of the '70s. Since that time the building has been used as a medical school and stationary store.

Continue down Lockwood Avenue to Glen Road. Look across Lockwood Avenue to the line of commercial buildings which catered to the early residents of Central Webster.

Central Webster Business District

M

118 East Lockwood Ave.

Louis Harter Store (1923, *Vernacular Retail*)
The Payne Brothers built this store and residence for Louis Harter in 1923. Harter operated the Harter Music Store here, and in 1926 he added a storeroom to the building. In the 1930s and 1940s the building was used as a photograph studio. In 1946 the building was remodeled to be used as real estate offices by A.F. Renji. The colonial storefront was added at that time.

120 East Lockwood Ave.

Maxsol Company Store (1928, *Vernacular Craftsman Retail*)
This building was built for Max Weinberg as the Maxsol Company Store in 1928. Dr. Earl L. Brand altered it to be a physician's office in 1939.

122 East Lockwood Ave.

Charles T. Burgess Flower Shop
(1924 and 1932, *Vernacular with Art Deco ornamentation*)
In 1924 Charles T. Burgess built a flower shop and residence here. In 1929 A.S. Cerny owned the flower shop and he added a storage shed behind it. In 1932 Parnell Quick built the storefronts with the Art Deco trim and the Federal fanlights across the front for A. M. Cerny. John Cerny, a grandson, was raised in the residence and owned the flower shop till the end of the century.

126 East Lockwood Ave.

Edward Methudy Building
(1925, *Vernacular Spanish Colonial*)
In 1925 Edward Methudy built this commercial building with the Spanish Colonial details as an "automobile laundry." In 1925 Percy Harrison had John Berg put an open shed on the back and added new showroom windows for a garage and service station.

130 East Lockwood Ave.

August Martin Building (1923, *Commercial Vernacular*)
In 1923 the Suburban Construction Company built this retail store with an apartment above for August Martin, a baker. In 1927 Martin had an oven room added on the back. In the 1940s Les Freleigh operated a men's clothing store here. Freleigh had been a prominent athlete at Webster Groves High School, but he lost a leg by jumping from a train with friends who liked to ride the rails. In 1959 Dr. Earl Brand remodeled the building for offices.

140 and 142 East Lockwood Ave.

A. Hoffmann Building (1924, *Commercial Vernacular*)
R. Meirink built this building containing retail stores and apartments for A. Hoffmann in 1924. The corner store was the White Cottage Ice Cream Shop, also known as Carpenter's Ice Cream Parlor, and it served as a USO during World War II. After the war it became the Rex Market, selling meats and groceries. Mrs. Mary Blackwell Stevenson held music classes in one of the second story apartments in the 1940s.

Cross Lockwood Avenue. Look at the church at the corner of Plant and Lockwood avenues.

M 204 East Lockwood Ave.

Evangelical United Church of Christ

(1937, *Jacobethan church*)

Founded in 1920 by students and faculty of Eden Theological Seminary, the Evangelical and Reformed Church of Webster Groves held its first meetings in the music hall on Summit Avenue. Reverend August C. Ernest, field secretary for the Board of Religious Education of the Evangelical Synod, raised \$2000 to purchase a large frame house on the corner of Lockwood and Plant avenues for a sanctuary. In 1936, architect F. E. Rixman designed the original Jacobethan church, and it was completed in 1937. In 1955 the two-story education facility was added.

Faculty members of Eden Seminary were instrumental in the merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Church to form the United Church of Christ in 1957. Dr. Samuel Preuss, president of Eden Seminary, had proposed the merger in 1936. When the merger was completed in 1957, this church changed its name to the Evangelical United Church of Christ.

Walk up Plant Avenue.

M 29 Plant Ave.

James F. Allen House (1883, *Victorian Vernacular*)

A fine house belonging to F. S. Garrett stood on this foundation before 1876, but in 1883 it burned to the ground after a maid left a hot iron on the ironing board. James Allen had been renting a house on Marshall Place, and he bought the lot from Garrett the day after the fire. Garrett moved back into the city, and Allen had the foundation cleaned out and rebuilt the house as it had been, with a long drive circling up from Lockwood Avenue. Allen was a partner in the firm of Allen and Moody, stenographers. Mrs. Allen held the first meeting of the Monday Club here.

M 102 Plant Ave.

William R. Smyth House (1884, *Queen Anne*)

Mary Kerruish, received four acres at the corner of Plant and Lockwood avenues when her mother's 40 acres were divided into the Elizabeth Richardson Subdivision in 1876. Mary's husband, William Kerruish was a builder from the Isle of Man in Scotland. Kerruish was probably the one who built this house for William R. Smyth and his wife, Emma, in 1884. Smyth was a bookkeeper for the St. Louis National Bank. In 1903 the Smyth's son, Albert, sold the house to Loyal P. Wilcox, the secretary of the Goodbar Shoe Manufacturing Company.

M 41 Plant Ave.

R. M. Willis House (1908, *Shingle American Foursquare*)

For many years this land was used as a park by the neighborhood. In 1908 Theodore Bopp built this Shingle Style American Foursquare house for R. M. Willis, a civil engineer. William Jenkins, the organist and choir director at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, raised his family here, and his son, Gordon Jenkins, became a famous Hollywood composer.

M 109 Plant Ave.

Alice H. Watrous House (1906, *Colonial Revival*)

This house was built in 1906 for Alice H. Watrous, the wife of Harry C. Watrous, the chief clerk to the construction engineer of the Missouri Pacific Railway. In 1913 Mary Jewell Mermod, widow of Augustus Mermod purchased the house. Augustus Mermod was from Switzerland and was the head of Mermod, Jaccard, King, Fine Jewelry, which he helped to found in 1854 with Eugene Jaccard, a Swiss watchmaker. Before her marriage, Mary Mermod had been the acting president of Lindenwood College in St. Charles.

M 121 Plant Ave.

Edward Clayton House (1906, *Colonial Revival*)

Edward Clayton was the son of Alvah Clayton, a printer, who built a house off of Kirkham Avenue and served briefly as the first principal of Sumner High School from 1875 to 1879, and as the principal of Lincoln Institute in Jefferson City in 1879. Edward Clayton was the secretary of the A. C. Clayton & Sons Printing Company, and he had this Colonial Revival house built in 1906. He built a tennis court next door for his children, Edward, Jr. and Helen. Then in 1927 Clayton built the Shingle Style cottage next door, at 131 Plant Ave., where the tennis court had been.

M 122 Plant Ave.

William D. Grove House (1904, *Queen Anne*)

William Kerruish built this Queen Anne house and sold it to William D. Grove in 1904. Grove was the superintendent of the Webster Groves School District from 1902 until 1914. This Queen Anne incorporates classic Stick Style details and unusual Bungalow style windows in the gable. Note the squared columns and bracketed cornice in front.

A 131 Plant Ave.

Mrs. Edward Clayton House (1927, *Shingle Style Cottage*)

Edward Clayton had this house built in 1927. It is next door to the house where he raised his children, and it was the site of their clay tennis court. Mrs. Clayton lived here until the end of her days. This home features a recurring arch motif that continues from the side porch, to the front entry, the front door and the dormer ventilator. The cedar shake siding is typical of a Shingle Style Cottage.

A 130 Plant Ave.

Louis C. Dietrich House (1902, *Queen Anne*)

William Kerruish built this Queen Anne house and sold it to Louis C. Dietrich in 1902. Dietrich was the cashier for the H. and L. Chase Bag Company. The irregular massing of this house classify it as a Queen Anne, but many Stick Style details are well-preserved on this house, including the rosettes and sunburst in the gable.

A 136 Plant Ave.

William Kerruish House (1888, American Foursquare)

In 1868 builder William Kerruish married Mary Soutar and built a house on Lee Avenue in Webster Groves. After his wife received four acres at corner of Plant and Lockwood avenues, Kerruish built a house for his family at 106 Plant Ave. in 1882. He purchased Mary's step-sister's four acres at Plant and Swon avenues in 1878 and built this house in 1888 as an investment.

M 137 Plant Ave.

Lodovicus Walbridge House (1887, Shingle Style)

This house was built for Lodovicus Walbridge in 1887. Walbridge was a stenographer and the Deputy Clerk of the U.S. Circuit Court. This home is distinguished by its collection of unique windows. It has Bungalow-style windows (multi-paned on top, over a single lower pane), double eyebrow windows on the side elevation and a curved bay with curved glass window on the north.

A 152 Plant Ave.

William Kerruish House (1889, Queen Anne)

William Kerruish built this Queen Anne house in 1889 as an investment. The fishscale shingles on the projecting gables are a classic Queen Anne element. Note the unusual dormer which is formed by a simple change in the angle of the roofline on the south elevation.

M 164 Plant Ave.

William Kerruish House (1889, Queen Anne)

William Kerruish also built this house as an investment. Edward Clayton rented it for his family before building his large house at 121 Plant Ave. in 1906. Hugo Graf owned the house in the 1930s. Graf was the architect who designed the Webster Groves City Hall, the Muni Opera stage and the John Cochran Veterans Hospital. In demolishing houses for the hospital, he salvaged the cast-iron porch railing, the marble porch floor, two marble fireplaces and the gas lamp at the street for his own home.

At Swon Avenue, jog to the right, staying on Plant Avenue.

A 222 Plant Ave.

Arthur N. Trembley House (1914, Shingle Style Bungalow)

The architectural firm of Ames and Ames built this house for Arthur N. Trembley, the son of Joseph Trembley, a lawyer and president of the Webster Groves Building and Loan Association, the Webster Groves Trust Company, the Trembley-Wilson Real Estate and Loan Company and the Trembley-Wilson Real Estate Company.

A 231 Plant Ave.

C. I. Manger House (1912, Craftsman)

C. I. Manger built this Craftsman house designed by architect Stanley Moore in 1912. Manger was an electrical engineer who lived at 617 Clark Ave. in Tuxedo Park. He built several houses on Clark Avenue in 1908, one on Portland Terrace in 1911 and one on Sylvester Avenue in 1913.

At Portland Terrace, turn left.

A 204 Portland Terrace

Frank C. Conklin House (1900, Queen Anne)

Frank C. Conklin was the manager of the Webster Meat and Grocery Company at 31 N. Gore Ave. It is the addition of dormers that create the irregular massing that make this home a Queen Anne. Without the dormers, the home is a simple American Foursquare which was adapted to fit into a Queen Anne environment.

A 215 Portland Terrace

C. I. Manger House (1911, Craftsman Foursquare)

C. I. Manger built this Craftsman house in 1911. Manger was an electrical engineer who lived at 617 Clark Ave. in Tuxedo Park. He built an American Foursquare house and a Dutch Colonial house on Clark Avenue in 1908 and a Craftsman house on Plant Avenue in 1912 and one on Sylvester Avenue in 1913.

Turn left at Sylvester Avenue.

M 235 Sylvester Ave.

Henry C. Ames House (1912, Craftsman)

Henry, called Harry, Ames was an architect with the firm of Ames and Ames, a company that built many houses and commercial buildings in Webster Groves through the 1920s. Harry's brother and business partner, Leo, built the house down the street at 236 Sylvester Ave. The Craftsman detailing on this home includes a piered front porch, wide overhanging eaves and diamond-paned windows in the dormers.

A 242 Sylvester Ave.

C. I. Manger House (1913, Prairie Style)

C. I. Manger built this Prairie Style house similar to an early Frank Lloyd Wright house in 1913. Manger was an electrical engineer who lived at 617 Clark Ave. in Tuxedo Park. Although he built American Foursquares, Dutch Colonials and Craftsman homes, this is the only Prairie Style house he built.

M 236 Sylvester Ave.

L. D. Ames House (1911, Tudor Revival)

Leo Ames built this Tudor Revival house for himself in 1911. He and his brother, Harry, were partners in the home-building firm of Ames and Ames. Harry was an architect and Leo was the builder. While the form of this house is Tudor Revival, it combines the elements of the Craftsman style with Tudor. Note the use of stucco, half-timbering, exposed rafter tail projections and Bungalow style windows.

At East Swon Avenue, turn left. Look at the house at the northwest corner of Sylvester and Swon avenues.

M 239 East Swon Ave.

Wheeler Davis House (1911, *Queen Anne*)

Wheeler Davis had this Queen Anne house built in 1911. Davis was a physician. Carl Holekamp lived in the house in 1919 when he ran for mayor of Webster Groves and won. Holekamp and his four brothers owned the Holekamp Lumber Company in Old Orchard. Carl was president, Richard was vice president, Fred was secretary, J. R. was treasurer, and their father, Jules, financed the company. After the tornado of 1927 the Holekamps set up an office in the center of the devastated area in St. Louis to sell lumber and materials to replace roofs blown off in the storm. Besides serving as mayor from 1919 to 1921, Carl Holekamp served as president of the Webster Groves Trust Company, helped to organize the Merchant's Association, the Merchant's Credit Association, and the Webster Groves Lions Club. The Holekamps installed an elevator in the house when they were too old to climb the stairs.

M 236 East Swon Ave.

Annie Rozier House (1891, *Queen Anne*)

This house was built for Annie and Adolph T. Rozier in 1891. Adolph was a traveling salesman for the William Orr Shoe Company. Rozier traded houses with Joseph Trembley who lived at 22 W. Cedar Ave., in 1894 because Mrs. Trembley had tuberculosis and needed to sleep in the fresh air on a sleeping porch like the ones of this house. Trembley was a lawyer and president of the Webster Groves Building and Loan Association, the Webster Groves Trust Company, and the Trembley-Wilson Real Estate and Loan Company. His son-in-law, E. F. Wilson was the mayor of Webster Groves from 1929 to 1931.

A 224 East Swon Ave.

Edwin Julius Kropp House (1910, *Queen Anne*)

This house was built for Edwin J. Kropp in 1910. Kropp was the assistant secretary of the Mississippi Valley Trust Company. This is another Queen Anne house built on an American Foursquare frame. The Queen Anne irregular massing is achieved by the sleeping porch above and a wrap-around porch below.

M 219 East Swon Ave.

Sylvester Annan House (1908, *Shingle Style*)

This house was built for Sylvester and Loolie Annan in 1908. Sylvester was the son Thomas B. Annan, a well-known architect who also lived in Webster Groves. Sylvester was an artist. He was known chiefly for his illuminated, or illustrated, manuscripts, but he also painted the murals in Union Station and in the St. Louis Public Library.

M 204 East Swon Ave.

Mary C. Sisson House (1900, *Stick Style Queen Anne*)

This grand Stick Style Queen Anne house was built for William A. and Mary Sisson in 1900. The Sissons came to St. Louis from Kentucky in 1886. William Sisson was the chief clerk of R.G. Dun & Co., known today as Dun & Bradstreet. R.G. Dun & Co. was a network of correspondents who published reliable information about the credit and standing of bankers, manufacturers, merchants and traders during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Sisson was reputed to have the finest stamp collection in St. Louis and served as the president of the St. Louis Stamp Collectors' Society.

M 124 East Swon Ave.

William E. Plant House (1884, *Queen Anne*)

William E. Plant built several Queen Anne houses in Central Webster to attract businessmen to Webster Groves. He laid out the William E. Plant Subdivision between Elm and Maple avenues and the Waverly Park Subdivision along Valley Road. Plant was the son of William Plant, who along with his brother, Alfred, had helped to organize the Congregational Church of Webster Groves in 1866. The Plant family owned the Plant Seed Company and the Geo. P. Plant Milling Company, makers of Sweet Home Flour.

M 121 East Swon Ave.

Edward Hart House (1904, *American Foursquare*)

This house was built for Edward Hart in 1904. Hart was the mayor of Webster and an executive of the R.P. Studley Printing Company. He lived on Maple Avenue and built this house and the one next door at 119 E. Swon Ave. to rent. He built a house on Valley Road for his daughter. During the 1920s and 1930s George W. Stevens, the first academic dean of Washington University, lived here.

M 116 East Swon Ave.

Edward G. Krafft House (1888, *Queen Anne*)

This Queen Anne house was built for Edward G. Krafft in 1888. Krafft was a clerk for the Dozier Bakery, the largest cracker company in the world. The bakery had been founded by five Dozier brothers, all former steamboat captains. This home is distinguished by a projecting bay on the second story and fishscale shingles with triple windows in the gable.

At Valley Road, turn right. Valley Road runs down the middle of the Waverly Park Subdivision, laid out by William Ernest Plant in 1888. Valley Road may have followed a stream, for it was originally called Spring Avenue. At the other end of Valley Road, what is now Cedar Avenue was originally named Park Avenue.

A 149 Valley Road

Ivan E. Thompson House (1929, *Tudor Revival*)

Ivan Thompson was a stockbroker, and his home is a classic Tudor Revival with waddle and dob construction in the front porch, steeply pitched gables, heavy chimneys and timbered lentils over the windows.

H 140 Valley Road

William E. Plant House (1888, *Victorian Vernacular*)

William Plant created this subdivision and built two houses to attract successful businessmen to Webster. He sold this house to Edward Hart in 1888. Hart purchased 143 South Maple Ave., also built by William Plant, in 1890, for his parents. Hart built 131 South Maple Ave. for himself in 1908. He served as mayor of Webster Groves from 1904 through 1911.

A 139 Valley Road

William Obear House (1926, *Tudor Revival*)

Obear was the vice president of the Seaman Paper Company and the son of William F. Obear who built the house at 32 Oak Terrace on the site of Captain Swon's home which had burned. This house is a textbook example of medieval-style architecture.

A 126 Valley Road

Charles E. Blake House (1888, *Queen Anne*)

Blake was the assistant manager of the Walter A. Wood Mowing and Reaping Machine Company. The façade of this home features an eyebrow window with an unusual gabled front porch that almost stands alone.

A 116 Valley Road

William E. Plant House (1889, *Queen Anne*)

William Plant created this subdivision and built two houses here. He sold this house to Edward W. and Grace Pike in 1889. Pike was in real estate with Joseph Trembley. The massive projecting dormer is embellished with detail and supported by two large console brackets. The front door entry has a classical entablature.

Turn left at East Cedar Avenue.

H 108 East Cedar Ave.

Wilford P. Joy House (1925, *Spanish Colonial Revival*)

Wilford P. Joy built this house in 1925. He was the third generation of a family of home builders in Webster Groves. His grandfather, Edward Joy, moved his family and his lumber company to St. Louis from Burlington, Iowa, in the 1870s. Wilford's father, Justin Joy, developed several subdivisions in Old Orchard and built many unique Queen Anne houses in that area. Wilford began building houses in Webster Groves in 1909 and continued until his death in 1947. Most of Wilford's houses were of stucco. The earliest ones in Old Orchard are Craftsman houses, and those from the 1920s on were Tudor Revival or Spanish Colonial Revival.

At Maple Avenue, turn left.

M 131 South Maple Ave.

Edward S. Hart House (1908, *Shingle Queen Anne*)

This Shingle Style Queen Anne house is one of the largest houses in Webster Groves. It was built in 1908 for Edward Hart, the son-in-law of Robert P. Studley and an executive with the R. P. Studley Printing Company. Hart was the third mayor of Webster Groves, serving from 1904 to 1911. He established the Webster Groves Boy Scouts in 1908, receiving a charter from Canada two years before the Boy Scouts of America incorporated.

A 137 South Maple Ave.

Mrs. Edward S. Hart House (1924, *English Cottage Style*)

H. J. Horspool, a Webster Groves builder who lived on Maple Avenue, built this English cottage for Edward S. Hart's daughter, Mrs Herbert Patton, in 1924. Mrs. Patton's daughter, Mary Elizabeth Patton Rosborough, ran a popular nursery school in the barn in the 1940s.

H 143 South Maple Ave.

William E. Plant House (1885, *Queen Anne*)

William E. Plant built and sold this house to Edward Hart in 1890. When Hart built a bigger house at 131 S. Maple Ave. in 1908, his parents, Charles and Olivia lived in this house. Charles Hart was a retired preacher.

Turn around and walk back down Maple toward Lockwood Avenue.

M 37 South Maple Ave.

The Monday Club of Webster Groves

(1911 and 1929, *Craftsman Style*)

The Monday Club was founded as a literary and social club in 1887 at the home of Mrs. James F. Allen at 29 Plant Ave. William Jaeger donated the land for the club in 1911, on the condition that the club house a public library. The east part of the building was designed by Lawrence Ewald and built in 1911. The west part of the building was designed by Harris Armstrong and built by John Berg in 1929. The Monday Club was a charter member of the Missouri Federation of Women's Clubs in 1894, and it helped to establish the Webster Groves Red Cross in 1918.

H 33 South Maple Ave.

William Jaeger House (1901, *Victorian Vernacular*)

William Jaeger built this Victorian vernacular house as a speculative venture in 1901. Jaeger was a wool dealer. His wife, Jennie, was the daughter of F. D. Booth who lived on Kirkham. The Jaegers did not have children, and they lived in Webster Park. Jaeger built several houses in Webster and his wife chose the patterns for the houses out of magazines. Jaeger donated the land for the Monday Club next door on the condition that it house a public library.

H 28 and 24 South Maple Ave.

Horspool Houses (1905, *Queen Anne*)

Ernest Horspool built this house for himself in 1905. His brother, Henry, lived next door at 24 S. Maple Ave. The Horspool Brothers were contractors who built houses in Central Webster at the turn of the century.

H 17 South Maple Ave.

Mary Horspool House (1904, *American Foursquare*)

The Horspool Brothers built this American Foursquare house on speculation in 1904. Andy High, a famous member of the St. Louis Cardinal's Gashouse Gang, lived here for 50 years.

H 12 South Maple Ave.

George D. Barrow House (1893, *Stick Style*)

This Stick Style Queen Anne home was built at 112 E. Lockwood Ave. in 1893 for George D. Barrow. The house was moved around the corner for Ambrose Mueller, the druggist, after the property along Lockwood Avenue was zoned commercial in 1923.

At East Lockwood Avenue, turn left.

H 40 East Lockwood Ave.

Webster Groves Post Office (1930, *Commercial Vernacular*)

In 1930 the Webster Groves Post Office opened here in a narrow, commercial vernacular, red brick building with a curvilinear gable roof. The Webster Groves Post Office, which was established in Augustus Moody's Store at Gore Avenue and the railroad tracks before the Civil War, had been located at 107 W. Lockwood Ave., in the Gorelock Building, since 1910. By 1968 the post office needed more space, and a new building was built at 8028 Big Bend Blvd. in Old Orchard. Mac Hardware moved to this location from the Big Bend and Elm business district in 1968, and the building has been expanded and modernized to accommodate the hardware store.

M 12 East Lockwood Ave.

Masonic Temple, Webster Groves Lodge No. 84

(1922 and 1961, *Greek Revival*)

The architectural firm of Kremer and Veinol designed the Masonic Temple of Webster Groves in 1922. The three-story hall on the back was constructed first, and it was originally attached to the old frame house that had belonged to William Marshall Plant, a founder of the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves. In 1961 the two-story house was torn down and the monumental Greek Revival front was added. Free Masonry first came to Webster Groves in 1868 when a charter was granted to Grove Lodge No. 296. It disbanded six years later. Then in 1897 Webster Groves Lodge U.D. was founded, with 22 charter members. Worshipful Brother Joseph H. Trembly served as the first Master. The Lodge met on the first floor of the Brannon Building on North Gore Avenue. It moved to the third floor of the Bristol Building at the head of Gore Avenue and was given the number 84 in 1901. The Lodge later moved to the Empire Building at 23 North Gore Ave., and it purchased the present location in 1914.

M 4 East Lockwood Ave.

Webster Groves City Hall

(1932 and 1973, *Classical Revival and Federal Style*)

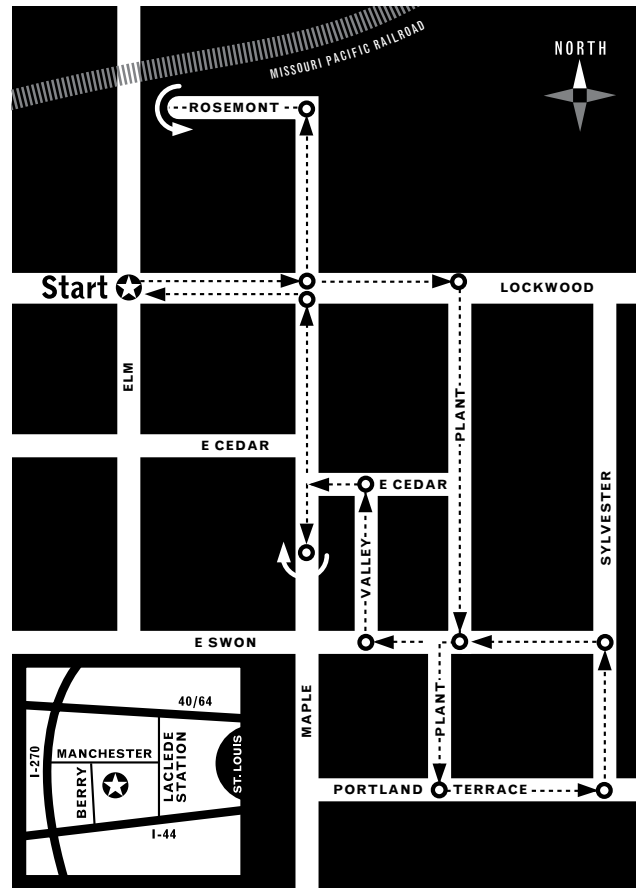
When the city of Webster Groves incorporated in 1896, the city rented offices in a frame building on the corner of Gore and Lockwood where the Gorelock Building is now. In 1907 the city offices moved into the Empire Building at 25 North Gore Ave., and in 1911 they moved into the west end of the Gorelock Building. In 1922 the City of Webster Groves purchased the Congregational Church parsonage at this location (4 East Lockwood Ave.) and conducted city business from the large frame house. In 1932 money from the 1931 Bond Issue and federal PWA funds were used to build the present city hall. Architects Hugo K. Graf, Charles L. Thurston and Wilbur T. Trueblood designed the building. Trueblood had been the partner of Theodore Link who designed Union Station in St. Louis. He and Hugo Graf lived in Webster Groves. Graf painted the frescoed map of Webster Groves on the wall of the Council Chamber.

In 1973 a large wing was added on the south for the fire department. It consolidated men and equipment from Fire House No. 1 on Lockwood and Fire House No. 2 in Old Orchard. A major renovation further enlarged the building in 2003.

Cross Lockwood Avenue at the light and return to the FirstBank parking lot to conclude your walk.

Defining Moments: Central Webster Site Overview

- 17 North Maple Ave.,
George Washington Saunders House, 1867
- 33 North Maple Ave., Clifford O. Scholz House, 1925
- 41 Rosemont Ave., Thomas P. Sullivan House, 1890
- 29 Rosemont Ave., Clifford Darby House, 1884
- 26 Rosemont Ave., Edward F. Cushing House, 1888
- 25 Rosemont Ave., William E. Taylor House, 1888
- 18 Rosemont Ave., Nancy O'Brien Jackson House, 1884
- 103 Lockwood Ave., Ozark Theatre, 1921
- Central Webster Business District
- 118 East Lockwood Ave., Louis Harter Store, 1923
- 120 East Lockwood Ave., Maxsol Company Store, 1928
- 122 East Lockwood Ave.,
Charles T. Burgess Flower Shop, 1924 and 1932
- 126 East Lockwood Ave., Edward Methudy Building, 1925
- 130 East Lockwood Ave., August Martin Building, 1923
- 140 and 142 East Lockwood Ave.,
A. Hoffmann Building, 1924
- 204 East Lockwood Ave.,
Evangelical United Church of Christ, 1937
- 29 Plant Ave., James F. Allen House, 1883
- 102 Plant Ave., William R. Smyth House, 1884
- 41 Plant Ave., R. M. Willis House, 1908
- 109 Plant Ave., Alice H. Watrous House, 1906
- 121 Plant Ave., Edward Clayton House, 1906
- 122 Plant Ave., William D. Grove House, 1904
- 131 Plant Ave., Mrs. Edward Clayton House, 1927
- 130 Plant Ave., Louis C. Dietrich House, 1902
- 136 Plant Ave., William Kerruish House, 1888
- 137 Plant Ave., Lodovicus Walbridge House, 1887
- 152 Plant Ave., William Kerruish House, 1889
- 164 Plant Ave., William Kerruish House, 1889
- 222 Plant Ave., Arthur N. Trembley House, 1914
- 231 Plant Ave., C. I. Manger House, 1912
- 204 Portland Terrace, Frank C. Conklin House, 1900
- 215 Portland Terrace, C. I. Manger House, 1911
- 235 Sylvester Ave., Henry C. Ames House, 1912
- 242 Sylvester Ave., C. I. Manger House, 1913
- 236 Sylvester Ave., L. D. Ames House, 1911
- 237 East Swon Ave., Wheeler Davis House, 1911
- 236 East Swon Ave., Annie Rozier House, 1891
- 224 East Swon Ave., Edwin Julius Kropp House, 1910
- 219 East Swon Ave., Sylvester Annan House, 1908
- 204 East Swon Ave., Mary C. Sisson House, 1900
- 124 East Swon Ave., William E. Plant House, 1884



- 121 East Swon Ave., Edward Hart House, 1904
- 116 East Swon Ave., Edward G. Krafft House, 1888
- 149 Valley Road, Ivan E. Thompson House, 1929
- 140 Valley Road, William E. Plant House, 1888
- 139 Valley Road, William Obear House, 1926
- 126 Valley Road, Charles E. Blake House, 1888
- 116 Valley Road, William E. Plant House, 1889
- 108 East Cedar Ave., Wilford P. Joy House, 1925
- 131 South Maple Ave., Edward S. Hart House, 1908
- 137 South Maple Ave., Mrs. Edward S. Hart House, 1924
- 143 South Maple Ave., William E. Plant House, 1885
- 37 South Maple Ave.,
The Monday Club of Webster Groves, 1911 and 1929
- 33 South Maple Ave., William Jaeger House, 1901
- 28 and 24 South Maple Ave., Horspool Houses, 1905
- 17 South Maple Ave., Mary Horspool House, 1904
- 12 South Maple Ave., George D. Barrow House, 1893
- 40 East Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves Post Office, 1930
- 12 East Lockwood Ave., Masonic Temple,
Webster Groves Lodge No. 84, 1922 and 1961
- 4 East Lockwood Ave.,
Webster Groves City Hall, 1932 and 1973



Thank you for taking a walk through Webster Groves history.

The Historic Webster Walk Series has been created to provide residents and visitors with a look inside the unique character of Webster Groves, Mo. The walks and guidebooks are designed so that individuals, schools, scouts and other groups can tailor the walks to their own pace and particular interests.

Additional Webster Walks are available, each one focusing on a specific neighborhood. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to support this important project, please make your check payable to the Webster Groves Historical Society and mail it to 1155 S. Rock Hill Road, Webster Groves, Mo. 63119.

For further information or if you would like to become a member of the Webster Groves Historical Society, please write us at the above address, call 314.968.1776 or visit us at www.historicwebster.org