



# The Heart of Webster

HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

FIRST IN A SERIES

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

The Webster Groves Historical Society gratefully acknowledges these fine organizations whose support helped to make this first Webster Walk a reality for Webster Groves citizens and visitors, both today and for many years to come:

**The Old Webster Special Taxing District**

**Webster University**

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## **Before You Begin Your Walk**

The Historic Webster Walk series showcases the unique historical and architectural heritage of Webster Groves, Mo. With names like Pierre Chouteau, Artemus Bullard and Ulysses S. Grant woven into its past, Webster Groves is an outdoor museum, providing an opportunity for people to walk through 200 years of history.

In 1802, Gregoire Sarpy, a Frenchman who married into the Chouteau family, obtained the rustic wooded land that is now Webster Groves from the Spanish colonial government. In 1842, the land was divided and Sarpy's son, John, received the north 360 acres, and Pierre Chouteau Jr. received the south 1640 acres. The dividing line became Lockwood Avenue.

In 1853, as the Pacific Railroad pushed its way westward, it built a railroad platform at Church Street, today's Gore Avenue. It was called the Webster Stop after Artemus Bullard's Webster College for Boys (now Edgewood Children's Center), and Webster began to establish its identity as a commuter suburb. Augustus Moody built a store next to the tracks, founding the commercial district that still thrives today.

During the Civil War, Union soldiers often marched along Rock Hill Military Road to Jefferson Barracks. Families and friends were divided over their Union and Confederate sympathies. When the war ended in 1865, new interest was sparked in Webster Groves. Houses, businesses and churches were built as soldiers returned from the war and St. Louis residents moved west from the city to escape its heat and germs. Many men commuted to the city daily, while others simply used their Webster Groves homes as summer retreats. After a nationwide depression in the 1870s, Webster Groves began to grow again, with new businesses and new homes pushing out in all directions from the center of town.

Through the years, Webster Groves has accumulated a wide variety of architectural styles, as old buildings were preserved and newer structures were built. In residential areas, many large original lots have been subdivided, creating infill housing dating back to the early 1900s. The result is an interesting mix of homes and businesses, churches and schools that reflects the continuing living history of Webster Groves.

Sites on the Historic Webster Walk 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 the Heart of Webster



Queen Anne



American Foursquare



Italianate



Dutch Colonial Revival



Colonial Revival



Bungalow



Spanish Colonial Revival



Craftsman



Georgian



Federal



Greek Revival



Shingle Style



Victorian Vernacular



Tudor Revival

## Heart of Webster Walk

This Historic Webster Walk is a 2.3-mile tour through a rich collection of Victorian Architecture. The walk features the early businesses, homes and people that formed the foundation of Webster Groves.

*This entire walk is paved and covers flat to gently sloping terrain.*

Begin your walk in downtown Webster Groves, in front of Webster Records, 117 W. Lockwood Ave. Take a moment to look up and down this merchant-lined street, a main thoroughfare of Webster Groves for more than 100 years.

Today, 21st century businesses thrive in 19th century buildings, with newer structures tucked in between. This is the heart of Webster Groves, where businesses first sprang up around the railroad. Early residents built their homes, churches and schools surrounding this commercial nucleus. Nothing better illustrates the close relationship between businesses, homes and the people who built them than the William H. Gore House directly across the street at 132-136 W. Lockwood Ave. It is a microcosm of Webster Groves history in itself.

### **M** 132-136 W. Lockwood Ave.

#### **William H. Gore House**

*(House, ca. 1860, Vernacular with Greek Revival modillions)*

*(Shops, 1920s, Commercial Vernacular)*

William H. Gore built the two-story house that rises up behind the storefronts some time after he came to Webster Groves with his brother, Stephen Gore, in 1857. Stephen Gore had been a partner in the wholesale grocery business of Helfenstein and Gore and Company in St. Louis. John Helfenstein married Stephen's sister, Mary Ann Gore, and Stephen married John's sister, Anna Helfenstein. When John Helfenstein moved to Webster Groves, Stephen Gore moved to Webster, too, and built a store on the south side of Lockwood Avenue at the top of Gore Avenue. During the Civil War, one Gore brother went south to fight with the Confederate Army and the other fought with the Union Army.

Charles A. Baker, a real estate developer, lived in the house after the turn of the century. He developed the large Webster subdivision named Sherwood Forest and had an office in the Bristol Building which replaced the Gores' store at the head of Gore Avenue. After Baker's death, the Webster Groves Trust Company put the one-story shops on the front. George Blanner began renting the shop on the west for his electrical repair shop in the 1920s. He carried all of his tools in a suitcase and commuted via the Kirkwood Ferguson streetcar to the stately residences he wired on Wydown Avenue in Clayton.

*Now turn around and take a look at a Webster Groves institution.*

**H 115-117 W Lockwood Ave.**

**Gorelock Realty Company Building**

(1918, Commercial Vernacular)

The Gorelock Realty Company built this small commercial building in 1918 without a permit. The building was the home of a Velvet Freeze Ice Cream Store from the 1940s until the 1980s when Webster Records moved in. The record shop has been an institution since it began in Old Orchard in the 1950s; its classic neon sign has hung on three buildings in Webster Groves.

*Begin walking west. Three more Historic Webster Walk bronze medallions lie ahead on Lockwood Avenue; the first one is across the street at the southwest corner of Lockwood and Gray avenues.*

**M 200-202 W. Lockwood Ave.**

**The Webster Company Building** (1923, Craftsman)

The Webster Groves Real Estate Company, owned by Marshall W. Warren, built this building in 1923, the year Webster's first zoning ordinance was passed. The zoning ordinance restricted the building of commercial property to those areas already developed commercially. Thus, Lockwood Avenue was zoned commercial from Plant Avenue west to Rock Hill Road. Brennan's Groceries, a self-service grocery store, occupied the corner store until 1938. The corner store was vacant for two years during the Depression until Hans Lemke, the popular band instructor from the high school, opened an appliance store here in 1940. The Thistle Tea Room, known for its fireplace and cozy atmosphere, occupied the two storefronts on the building's south end in the 1920s and 1930s.

**M 211 W. Lockwood Ave.**

**Straub's Grocery Store** (1956, Modern Vernacular)

William A. Straub was born in Kirkwood, the oldest of seven children. His father died when he was 14, and Straub dropped out of school to support his family. He founded the Wm. A. Straub Grocery Company in 1901 in the Bristol Building at the corner of Gore and Lockwood avenues. As the business grew, Straub expanded to 40 W. Lockwood Ave. in 1926. In 1956, his son constructed this building which was extensively remodeled in 2002. Straub's home will be highlighted later on your walk.

**231 W. Lockwood Ave.**

**M Reliable Life Insurance Co.** (1966, Colonial Revival)

Bernal Tatman, August Jekel and Dr. Charles Mattes founded the Reliable Life Insurance Company in 1912 in downtown St. Louis to provide accident and health insurance to African Americans whom other insurance companies refused to cover. The company moved to Webster Groves in 1947. The current building was constructed in 1966 and is a copy of the governor's mansion in Williamsburg, Va.

*Turn left and walk south on Jefferson Road. On your right is:*

**A 29 Jefferson Road**

**Eleanor Ghiselin House** (1902, Greek Revival)

Set back deep from the street, this home features a low pitched gabled roof, a Greek temple style porch, Doric columns and a dentiled cornice with a central oxe-eye window.

*Turn left and walk east on Cedar Avenue. On your right is:*

**A 222 W. Cedar Ave.**

**Bristol Primary School** (1955, Modern)

This school building was one of the first projects of the world-renowned architectural firm of Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum, now known as HOK. The design received much attention as an exciting early example of modern school architecture and introduced the idea of a modern corporate campus as a neighborhood school.

*Turn right on Gray Avenue and immediately on your left is:*

**M 20 Gray Ave.**

**Bristol Elementary School** (1920, Craftsman)

The Webster Groves School District was organized in 1868 and its first elementary classes were held in the chapel of the Congregational Church on Lockwood Avenue. In 1869, Webster School, a two-story white frame building, was constructed at this address. In 1916, the name was changed to the Bristol School, after Dr. Bennett J. Bristol. The present Bristol School, built in 1920, was designed by William B. Ittner, a St. Louis architect nationally famous for his beautiful school buildings.

**M 115 Gray Ave.**

**Charles Bailey House** (1867, Georgian/Federal Style)

Charles Bailey moved to St. Louis from New York in 1851. After serving as a Union soldier in the Civil War, he became a general agent for Travelers Life and Accident Insurance Company. This home with its elegant Georgian facade, Palladian windows and paneled front doors cost \$7000 to construct in 1867, a time when most houses cost \$1000.

**H 116 Gray Ave.**

**William A. Straub House** (1912, Tudor Revival)

William Straub, owner of Straub's Grocery Store, lived in this home and kept his horses and delivery wagons in a large barn behind this house. When the barn burned to the ground, he replaced it with a five-car garage for his delivery trucks. Straub's Grocery Store has had three locations in Webster Groves during its 100-year history, all within a quarter of a mile of Straub's home. Straub's descendants lived in the home until the late 1980s.

**A 118 Gray Ave.**

**Mary L. Charles House** (1886, Tudor Queen Anne)

This home's architecture borrows elements from several styles. It features nine-over-one windows and combines the half-timbers of Tudor with the asymmetrical facade of the Queen Anne style. Mary Charles was a school teacher and lived here with her sister, Hattie, who was also a school teacher.

**M 133 Gray Ave.**

**Edward Jackson House** (1868, *Italianate*)

Edward and Nancy Jackson came to St. Louis in 1856, and Jackson became a successful wool broker after serving in the home militia during the Civil War. His house originally had a widow's walk on the roof, a summer kitchen in the rear, a greenhouse attached on the south side, and barns and outbuildings in back. The home was sold to Charles W. Simmons in 1875 and the family lived there well into the twentieth century. Two of their fourteen children built homes on Gray Avenue; another built the home at the corner of Rock Hill and Helfenstein.

**M 134 Gray Ave.**

**Raphael Kessler House** (1868, *Italianate*)

Reverend Raphael Kessler, from Wurttemberg, Germany, was the first pastor of the Webster Groves Presbyterian Church on Lockwood Avenue. In 1872, the Kesslers sold this home to Benjamin Lippincott, owner of a soda water company. Lippincott built his own mansion on Lockwood Avenue in the 1880s.

**M 156 Gray Ave.**

**Frederick H. Gore House** (1891, *Queen Anne*)

This home was a wedding gift to Frederick and Jennie Gore from Frederick's mother. Jennie was a daughter of Charles Simmons who lived at 133 Gray Ave. When Frederick and Jennie Gore grew old, they built and moved into the one-and-a-half story house next door and gave this house to their daughter and son-in-law.

*Turn left and walk east on Swon Avenue. On your right are:*

**H 140, 130, 120 and 104 W. Swon Ave.**

**Kate G. Thompson Houses** (1897, *Queen Anne*)

These four houses were constructed for Kate G. Thompson. She was the daughter of John Philip Helfenstein and married N. D. Thompson, owner of the publishing firm of N. D. Thompson & Co., the largest publishing house west of New York City. The Thompsons lived in a huge frame mansion behind the stone wall at the northwest corner of Jefferson and Swon. They built these homes on Swon Avenue to attract other successful businessmen and their families to Webster Groves.

**A 125 W. Swon Ave.**

**Ben R. Foster House** (1909, *Shingle Style*)

This Shingle Style home is distinguished by its dormer windows, cedar shingles and gambrel roof. Ben Foster worked for the St. Louis Globe Democrat.

*Turn right at the corner of Gore Avenue and Swon Avenue and walk south on Gore.*

**H 219 S. Gore Ave.**

**Emma Sieber House** (1891, *Stick Style, precursor of Queen Anne*)

**H and 231 S. Gore Ave.**

**Emma Sieber House** (1900, *Shingle Style Tudor Revival*)

Charles and Emma Sieber lived on Lockwood Avenue and built these houses as investments to attract other successful businessmen to Webster Groves. Charles Sieber invented the ring binder notebook.

**M 220 S. Gore Ave.**

**P.H.K. McComb House** (1885, *Queen Anne*)

Reverend P.H.K. McComb served as the pastor of the Webster Groves Presbyterian Church from 1877 until 1887. In 1890, John Gentles, a native of Scotland, purchased this house. He was a partner in the Penny and Gentles Dry Goods Company, a popular downtown department store. The family lived here until the 1950s.

**M 302 S. Gore Ave.**

**Charles Knight House** (1886, *Queen Anne*)

Charles Knight, a native of Franklin, N.H., came to St. Louis in 1853 and worked for the Excelsior Manufacturing Company and the Bridge and Beach Stove Company. He built this home in 1886, and his son, Franklin, and Franklin's wife, Grace, also lived here. She was a well-known contralto and sang at the 1904 World's Fair and at Carnegie Hall.

**A 310 S. Gore**

**Harriet O. Fletcher House** (1884, *Victorian Vernacular*)

This farmhouse was built for Harriet and George Fletcher in 1884. The Fletchers had previously lived with Harriet's mother, Harriet Van Court, at 24 S. Gore Ave. George Fletcher served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

*Turn left at the corner of Oak Terrace. On your left is:*

**A 45 Oak Terrace**

**Willard Guest House** (1922, *Greek Revival*)

H.J. Cross constructed this home out of distinctive Missouri red granite for attorney Willard Guest who commuted to his offices downtown at Third and Broadway.

**M 32 Oak Terrace**

**William F. Obear House** (1915, *Spanish Colonial Revival*)

This home was built for William F. Obear, secretary and treasurer of the Obear-Nester Glass Company. Previously this was the location of a beautiful white frame summer home built in 1857 for Captain John Swon, owner of some of the fastest river boats on the Mississippi. That home burned in 1910, and the Obear home was built on its foundation. A small cottage on the property was moved to the corner of Elm and Cedar in 1884. When the large Swon estate was subdivided, the wife of the developer persuaded her husband to spare the stately trees, and Oak Terrace curves around those trees today. On the corner of this property is a large post oak tree which is believed to be over 200 years old.

Turn left at Elm Avenue and proceed north. The next two blocks of Elm Avenue exhibit distinctly different styles of architecture that illustrate the changing architectural tastes over three decades: On the right you will see Queen Anne style homes built in the late 19th century and on the left are several Craftsman style homes built in the early 20th century.

**H 340 S. Elm Ave.**

**Henry A. Gleick House** (1908, *Tudor Revival*)  
Wilbur T. Trueblood, an architect with the firm of Trueblood and Graf, designed this house. Trueblood and Graf both lived in Webster Groves, and they designed the Webster Groves City Hall in 1932. Henry Gleick was a lawyer with an office in the Chemical Building downtown.

**M 324 S. Elm Ave.**

**James A. Powers House** (1888, *Queen Anne*)  
The Alexander Russell Subdivision was laid out in 1887 and stretched from Elm to Maple and from Swon to Jackson. This house was one of the first to be built in the subdivision. Powers was a salesman for F.W. Humphreys and Company.

**H 311 S. Elm Ave.**

**C.C. Cushing House** (1922, *Craftsman*)  
The Webster Groves Boy Scouts built a cabin on this site in 1911. This troop was founded as a company of the United Boys Brigade of America in 1908 and received its charter from the Boy Scouts of Canada before the Boy Scouts of America was established in 1910, making it one of the oldest Boy Scout troops in the United States. The cabin was torn down when Cushing built this home in 1922.

**M 238 S. Elm Ave.**

**Edwin L. Fidler House** (1888, *Queen Anne*)  
This is another one of the earliest homes in the Alexander Russell Subdivision. Edwin Fidler was a salesman for the William Barr Dry Goods Company. Mary Blackwell Stevenson purchased the home in 1914 and conducted her famous music school there. Gordon Jenkins, the Hollywood composer, was one of her pupils.

**M 226 S. Elm Ave.**

**George B. Morton House** (1889, *Queen Anne*)  
George B. Morton was the editor of the weekly *Journal of Agriculture*, published by N.D. Thompson, builder of the homes in the 100 block of Swon Avenue. This house illustrates features of a textbook Queen Anne house: an asymmetrical design, bay windows, irregular projections and an open porch across the front.

**A 212 S. Elm Ave.**

**Lucinda Miles House** (1907, *Queen Anne*)  
Lucinda Miles' husband, George W. Miles, owned the G.W. Miles Timber Company which specialized in yellow pine. They lived at 206 S. Elm before building this home.

**A 211 S. Elm Ave.**

**Fred Holekamp House** (1920, *Craftsman Bungalow*)  
Fred Holekamp and his three brothers owned a lumber company in Old Orchard, and Holekamp built several houses in Webster Groves. His brother, Carl Holekamp, served as mayor of Webster Groves from 1919 to 1921. This home is a classic example of Craftsman bungalow with a low, sloped gable roof, wide eaves, exposed rafter ends and multi-paned windows over a single window.

**M 206 S. Elm Ave.**

**Charles C. Salveter House** (1887, *Queen Anne*)  
This was the first house to be built in the Alexander Russell Subdivision. Charles Salveter was a partner in the firm of Salveter and Stewart which operated two men's clothing stores in downtown St. Louis. Salveter invested in real estate in St. Louis and in Florida. When he died, he left half of his estate to the Salvation Army.

**M 205 S. Elm Ave.**

**Henry L. Sutton House** (1884, *Queen Anne*)  
This house burned in 1891 and was rebuilt. Sutton was a son of James C. Sutton, the founder of the City of Maplewood. He was the first presiding judge of St. Louis County when the city separated from the county in 1876. At that time, the presiding judge had the duties that the county executive has today.

**A 164 S. Elm Ave.**

**Justin Kendrick House** (1883, *Stick Style Queen Anne*)  
The Stick Style with its irregular silhouette, exposed framing and diagonal stickwork was a precursor to the Queen Anne style of architecture. Justin Kendrick was a partner in Kendrick & May, Mgrs. Equitable Life Assurances Society of the United States.

**M 148 S. Elm Ave.**

**Henry C. Salveter House** (1884, *Stick Style Queen Anne*)  
Henry was the brother of Charles Salveter at 206 S. Elm. He had 11 children, making for large family gatherings with their cousins to the south. On the Fourth of July, the fathers lit fireworks and helped the children launch small paper hot air balloons.

**M 124 S. Elm Ave.**

**William E. Plant House** (1882, *Queen Anne*)  
William Ernest Plant was the son of William Marshall Plant, one of the first residents of Webster Groves and a founder of the Congregational Church. Plant built several Queen Anne houses in central Webster to attract successful businessmen to the city. He laid out the William E. Plant Subdivision between Elm and Maple and between Cedar and Swon, plus the the Waverly Park Subdivision along both sides of Valley Road. He built the two Queen Anne houses on the south side of Swon, just east of Maple.

**M** 102 S. Elm Ave.

**Captain John Swon Cabin**

(1857, moved here ca. 1884, Victorian Vernacular)

This little cabin originally was a servant's quarters, one of many outbuildings on the original Swon property between Gray and Elm and Swon and Jackson. Captain Swon sold his Webster property to William Groshon in the 1870s but often came out to stay in this cabin during the summer. When Lucien Blackmer purchased the north half of the Swon property and laid out the Swon Place Subdivision in 1884, he moved the small cottage to this corner of Elm and Cedar. Clarence Appel lived in this house from the 1920s through the 1950s and was the mayor of Webster Groves from 1945 to 1953.

*Turn left at the corner of Cedar Avenue and walk west along Cedar.*

**H** 18 W. Cedar Ave.

**John O'Hara House** (1905, American Foursquare)

John O'Hara was a carpenter who lived across the street at 15 W. Cedar Ave. He built this house as an investment. The American Foursquare is typified by its symmetrical floor plan and hipped roof. Roy J. Harris, Sr., a reporter for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, lived here in the 1940s and 1950s. He won a Pulitzer Prize for a series of articles on corruption in Illinois.

**M** 21 W. Cedar Ave.

**Joseph Trembley House** (1890, Victorian Vernacular)

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. He built several houses in the area and in 1890 built this one for himself and his wife, Cora. Mrs. Trembley had tuberculosis and needed to sleep in the fresh air so he swapped houses with Adolph Rozier who owned a house with large sleeping porches at the southwest corner of Swon and Sylvester. Trembley built 17 W. Cedar in 1891, 14 W. Cedar in 1892 and 8 W. Cedar in 1894. Fred Thatenhorst, who owned a hardware store at 20 N. Gore, lived at 14 W. Cedar until 1906 when Dr. Bennett J. Bristol bought the house as a wedding present for his daughter, Clara Hood.

**M** Tichnorville

The corner of Gore and Cedar was called "Tichnorville" because Edwin Tichnor built four houses on South Gore Avenue (numbers 100, 112, 118 and 128) and three houses on West Cedar Avenue (numbers 22, 115 and 119). He lived on South Gore where the Algonquin Apartments are now. He was a familiar sight walking through Webster Groves with his Van Dyke beard, flowing cape and cane. Tichnor raced to fires to salvage doors, mantles and newel posts for his new houses. On one occasion, the burning house was saved and Tichnor had to replace the doors.

*Turn right on Gore Avenue and walk north towards Lockwood Avenue.*

**M** 44 S. Gore Ave.

**William A. Stine House** (1902, Queen Anne)

Stine was a Webster Groves druggist who built this house in 1902. He had two daughters, Adele and Janet, who never married and lived in this house until their deaths. During the Depression, Stine rented a room to Marquis Childs, a reporter for the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* who typed many of his popular stories on the small second-story back porch. When Adele Stine died, she left her large estate to the Missouri Historical Society.

**M** 24 S. Gore Ave.

**Harriet Van Court House** (1870, Victorian Vernacular)

Harriet Van Court's husband died during the cholera epidemic of 1849, leaving Harriet with much property. She lived here with her daughter's family until she died in 1879. Her daughter and her son-in-law, George Fletcher, a Confederate soldier, built the farmhouse at 310 S. Gore Ave. in 1884.

*Turn right on Lockwood Avenue and walk east through this mix of churches, commercial buildings and homes-turned-businesses.*

**M** 45 W. Lockwood Ave.

**Webster Groves Presbyterian Church**

(1891, 1925, 1938, Gothic Revival)

Members of the Rock Hill Presbyterian Church who lived in Webster Groves organized the Webster Groves Presbyterian Church in 1866. They built a frame church at the northeast corner of Gore and Lockwood avenues in 1867, but it burned in 1890. They then built a limestone Gothic Revival church in 1891, and that little church is now the west part of the building, the Elizabeth Holloway Woods Chapel. The church suffered two more major fires, one in 1918 and another on New Year's Day in 1958. The church was repaired after the fires, and major additions were constructed in 1925 and 1938.

**M** 40 W. Lockwood Ave.

**W. A. Straub Grocery Store** (1926, Classical Revival)

This is the site of the second W.A. Straub Grocery Store, built in 1926 and featuring beautiful Federal Revival fan windows. William A. Straub founded his grocery business in 1901 in the old Bristol Building just to the west on Lockwood near the head of North Gore Avenue.

**M** 23 W. Lockwood Ave.

**Nathan Allen House** (1865, Victorian Vernacular)

Nathan Allen was a real estate developer and built many structures in downtown St. Louis. He built the Allen Building in Webster Groves at the southwest corner of Gore Avenue and the railroad tracks. It contained a bakery on the first floor and a music hall on the second floor. The Allen family sold their home in 1928 to Clyde McLaughlin who converted it for use as a funeral home. Sam Mittleberg purchased it in 1937 and Donald Gerber joined him in 1962. Originally there was a widow's walk on the roof. The pillars on the front and the addition on the east are new.

**M 17 W. Lockwood Ave.**

**Charles W. Ferguson House** (1888, *Colonial Revival*)

Charles W. Ferguson was an executive with several lead companies. He and his daughter died in the swine flu epidemic of 1918 and his wife subsequently married Joseph Trembley. In 1920, the Webster Groves YWCA purchased the house to use for a tearoom, clubs, classes and an employment bureau for women. Financial problems forced them to close after one year. In 1923, Laura Parker purchased the house for use as a funeral home. She was a very successful businesswoman and was the first in the area to hold wakes at her funeral home instead of at the deceased's home.

**M 10 W. Lockwood Ave.**

**First Congregational Church**

(1870, 1893, 1956, 1993, *Gothic Revival, contemporary*)

The first Congregational Church was organized in 1866 and is one of the oldest churches in Webster Groves. Initially the congregation met at a small chapel on Lockwood near Rock Hill Road. In 1870, they built a small limestone Gothic Revival church at this location and then added a large limestone sanctuary in 1893. The rear education building was added in 1956. In the early 1990s, the sanctuary was determined to be structurally unsound, and the new sanctuary was constructed in 1993.

**A 5 W. Lockwood Ave.**

**Southwestern Bell Telephone Building**

(1916, *Classical Revival*)

This was the site of Benjamin Lippincott's mansion. Dr. Creveling purchased the house and moved it to 47 N. Gore Ave. when the Bell Telephone Company purchased the lot to build this Classical Revival switchboard office in 1916.

*Cross Elm Avenue, turn left at the corner and walk north on North Elm Avenue. Until 1969, South Elm Avenue crossed Lockwood and became a small lane dead-ending at Rosemont Avenue near the Missouri Pacific tracks. On the north side of the tracks, Farm Avenue, now called North Elm, was a narrow dead-end lane that stopped on the north side of the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks and made a cozy, secluded "L" with Marshall Place; this original neighborhood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The group of small houses on the west side of Farm Avenue was called Danes' Row because most of its early residents were from Denmark. In 1969, St. Louis County extended Elm Avenue north to pass under the railroad tracks, thus uniting the African American community of North Webster with the white community to the south.*

**H 216 North Elm Ave.**

**Clifford Darby House** (1887, *Victorian Vernacular*)

The home of Clifford Darby and his wife, Mamie, was originally a white framed structure. It had a barn in the back for "Blackie," an ex-trolley horse who attempted to follow the tracks whenever Mamie drove her carriage across a railroad line. Augusta Warren Kendrick lived in the house from 1925 to 1947 and covered the frame exterior with stucco. Augusta was the daughter of Marshall W. Warren who lived next door at 226 N. Elm Ave.

**M 226 N. Elm Ave.**

**George Harding House** (1866, 1887, *Queen Anne*)

George M. Harding was an art dealer who purchased 24 acres on the east side of Farm Avenue and built this home for his wife and six children. In 1887, Marshall W. Warren and his wife, Martha, purchased the house and completely rebuilt it so that it no longer resembled the small vernacular Harding farmhouse. Warren was an executive in the coke industry. He also was actively involved in the real estate business and for many years owned Oak Hill Cemetery.

*Turn left at Marshall Place and walk west.*

**M 5 Marshall Place**

**William D. Butler House** (1868, *Italianate*)

Butler, a principal at Jefferson School in St. Louis, and his wife, Mary, moved to their new house in Webster Groves in 1868, and Butler commuted to work on the train. Originally the house had a widow's walk on the roof, and a long drive circled up through the tall trees from Farm Avenue to a picturesque carriage house in the rear. During the summer of 1868, Butler was one of the fifteen men who called a meeting of qualified voters to plan the organization of the Webster Groves School District. Butler served on the first school board. In 1871, Butler became the assistant superintendent of the St. Louis Public Schools. He and his family moved back into St. Louis and sold the house in Webster to August Blanke. The house stood empty during the Depression.

**M 25 Marshall Place**

**Martin L. Gerould House** (1874, *Italianate*)

Harvard-educated Dr. Martin L. Gerould came to Webster Groves in 1866. He was one of the founders of the Webster Groves School District. He bought this land in 1869 and built the house for his bride-to-be in 1874, but she died before they were married. Dr. Gerould rented rooms to boarders, and then in 1879 he went to Arizona to mine for gold and silver. Dr. Gerould sold the house to the Olcott family for \$3000 in 1882, and the Olcotts gave the home to their daughter, Florence, when she married Frederick Anderson, a Confederate soldier. The family that lived in the house during the Depression operated a lunch room, serving meals around the dining room table, and occasionally took in boarders.

**H 33 and 39 Marshall Place**

**Campbell Houses** (1895, *Victorian Vernacular*)

Ten years after building his own home at 55 Marshall Place, William Campbell bought several additional lots on the street and built identical homes for two of his daughters. The houses became rental properties with the onset of the Depression, and in 1943 all three Campbell Houses were sold on the courthouse steps for back taxes.

**M 46 Marshall Place**

**Nelson Merrill House** (1868, *Victorian Vernacular*)

Peers Griffin, an architect, and his cousin, Jotham Bigelow, a builder, built this house in 1868 for Nelson Merrill and his wife, Mary. Merrill was an assistant U.S. Assessor and lived in St. Louis, using this house as a summer home. In 1886, Merrill sold his summer home to Sylvester C. Lewis. Lewis was born in Alabama, graduated from Princeton, fought in the Civil War, and sold stocks and bonds on Wall Street. The Lewis family moved to St. Louis in 1874 and to Webster Groves in 1886. Two of their children, Maude and Keck, never married and lived in this house into the 1930s. The barn in the back was built in 1975 using lumber salvaged from an old mill.

**M 55 Marshall Place**

**William Campbell House** (1885, *Victorian Vernacular*)

William Campbell came to America from Ireland in 1867 and lived for a while with his cousin, Robert Campbell, the fur trader whose house is now a museum in St. Louis. William Campbell married Gussie Salveter, and 13 years later they built this house. Campbell was a traveling salesman with the Samuel C. Davis Company. Campbell had a vineyard and made his own wine and raised cows and chickens. The barn in back is one of the few remaining barns in Webster Groves. The Campbells had five daughters and two sons. The youngest son was killed in a duel on Bloody Island in the Mississippi River, the last person to be killed in a duel in St. Louis.

*Stop at the corner of North Gore Avenue where the neighborhood shifts from residential to commercial. From this vantage point, you can see three of the business structures that have long anchored the west end of Marshall Place.*

**M 60 N. Gore Ave.**

**Schultz Store** (1893, *utilitarian feed store*)

Henry Schultz started his feed and grain business here in 1893. Schultz had exceptionally large horses and wagons to carry grain, so he branched into moving and storage. The top floor of his building was a huge warehouse to store furniture. Before helping to establish the Webster Groves Trust Company in 1901, Schultz kept money and important papers in his large safe for local merchants. Schultz lived on Marshall Place and was a member of the volunteer fire department. In 1959, Schultz's daughter, Harriet, and her husband, Jim McMillan, turned the old building into Rolling Ridge Nursery which is still run by the McMillan family today.

**H 58 N. Gore Ave.**

**Brockman Blacksmith Shop**

(1892, *utilitarian blacksmith shop and buggy works*)

Charles Brockman established his buggy works and blacksmith shop here in 1892. He operated the blacksmith shop on the first floor, and children watching from the doorway could smell the horses' hooves burn when the hot shoes were applied. During snow or ice storms, Brockman got up early to sharp-shoe delivery-wagon horses. Brockman built buggies and wagons on the second floor, and because of the change in grade, the finished buggies and wagons could be rolled out the rear at the top of the hill.

**M 49 N. Gore Ave.**

**Prehn's Grocery Store** (1880, *Italianate, cast iron storefront*)

Henry Prehn came to Webster Groves from Germany with his brother John in 1857. They boarded with Edward Avery, a teacher at the Webster College for Boys and were day laborers for residents of Webster Groves until after the Civil War. In 1867, Henry Prehn built a frame grocery store and residence at this location, and he and his wife raised 10 children here. The store burned to the ground in 1880, on the day Prehn's daughter, Carrie, was born. His insurance had lapsed the day before. Prehn's friends and neighbors rallied behind him and helped him build this brick building. The store was heated by a huge pot-bellied stove where children could warm themselves after sledding on "Prehn's Hill." In 1903, Prehn built 11 Marshall Place for himself and 17 Marshall Place for his son, Fred. Fred took over the grocery store when his father died in 1913.

*Turn left now and walk south on North Gore toward the railroad tracks.*

**M 44 N. Gore Ave.**

**Missouri Pacific Railway Station**

(1904, *Queen Anne railroad station*)

A frame board-and-batten station was built on the northwest corner of Gore and the tracks before the Civil War. This Queen Anne station was built in 1904, and the old station, catty-corner to this one, was used for freight. Commuter services into St. Louis ended in 1961. In 1965, Harvey and Donna Kassabaum purchased the station and rehabilitated it as a dress shop called The Station. The station is now the Faith Academy Montessori pre-school.

**M 31-35 N. Gore Ave.**

**Webster Groves Trust Building** (1901, *Cast Iron Victorian*)

This was the location of Augustus Moody's Dry Goods Store, the first commercial building in Webster Groves. Moody's was also a post office, and in 1870 Augustus Moody was killed by a mail bag thrown from a train. Before the turn of the century this was the site of the Allen Music Hall. The music hall burned, and in 1901 the Bank of Webster Groves, later called the Webster Groves Trust Company, built these buildings. The bank occupied the corner storefront at 35 N. Gore. In 1909, the Webster Groves Trust moved to the northeast corner of Gore and Lockwood. During the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, the corner store at 35 N. Gore was Jones' Market, a grocery store.

**M 38 N. Gore Ave.**

**Dr. Armstrong's Office** (ca. 1880 and 1931, *Vernacular*)

Dr. Armstrong, one of the three country doctors in Webster Groves before the turn of the century, built a small frame doctor's office here sometime in the early 1880s. In the early part of the 20th century, it became a barbershop, handy for commuters getting on or off the train. In 1931, Olaf Nelson covered the little barbershop next to the train station with brick for Philip Seris, the barber.

**M 34 N. Gore Ave.**

**Connon Building**

(1880s and 1920, *Victorian Vernacular with Art Deco facade*)

In 1861, Charles Connon, a Scotsman, bought four lots in the original Webster Groves Subdivision from John Marshall. The lots ran from Gore Avenue to Elm Avenue and from the railroad tracks to Moody Avenue. Connon established the first greenhouses and wholesale florist company in St. Louis County. His greenhouses covered the hill behind the station. Connon built this building in the 1880s, with retail shops on the first floor and offices upstairs. It was a red brick Victorian Vernacular building with cast iron storefronts. The north corner was Wick's Cigar Shop. The other stores were Johnson's Dry Goods and a shoe repair shop. The building was modernized and refaced with yellow bricks in 1922, and the Kinlock Telephone Company used it for offices for a while.

**M 21-25 N. Gore Ave.**

**Empire Building/Heritage Building** (1907, *Classical Revival*)

Morton J. Day lived on Lee Avenue in Webster Groves and sold and rented real estate in St. Louis. He built the Empire Building for the Empire Real Estate Company in 1907. It had a cast iron storefront, and it housed the Empire Pharmacy, Wright-Gillmore Decorating, a cigar store and the Kinlock Telephone Company on the first floor. On the second and third floors were the Masonic Hall, the Webster Studio of Music and the city offices. The basement was used as the city jail. When the Gorelock Building was built in 1911 and the city moved its offices there, Day and other Gore Avenue merchants worried that the commercial center of Webster was moving from Gore Avenue.

The Empire Building had a drug store on the first floor in 1925 and a grocery store on the first floor in 1937. In 1937, the Shoss Realty Company had the cast iron storefronts removed and put a colonial style broken pediment over the two center entrances.

**M 20-24 N. Gore Ave.**

**M. W. Warren Building**

(1886, *Victorian Vernacular, cast iron storefront*)

Marshall W. Warren and his family lived in Webster Groves, first on Allen Avenue where Straub's and the St. Louis Bread Company are now, and then at 226 N. Elm. He owned the M. W. Warren Coke Company which sold coke to Union Electric. Warren and his family formed the Webster Groves Real Estate Company, buying, selling and renting real estate in Webster. He also owned Oak Hill Cemetery on Big Bend for many years. For a long time, Thatenhorst's Hardware Store occupied the southern half of the first floor of this building.

**M 19 N. Gore Ave.**

**Parker Livery Building** (1914, *Classical Revival*)

William J. Parker founded the Parker Livery and Undertaking Company here in 1889. His brother ran a livery stable in Kirkwood. In 1913, this building burned to the ground, and shortly afterwards Will Parker had a heart attack and died. His wife, Laura, rebuilt the two-story building, adding four monumental cast iron columns on the front. She phased out the livery business and emphasized undertaking. She was an excellent business woman, and she sang at every funeral. In 1922, she bought the Ferguson mansion on Lockwood and used the first floor parlors for funerals, an innovation in the twenties.

In 1926, David Rudolph purchased the building to use as a dry goods store. His son, David Rudolph, Jr., ran the store with his wife and lived upstairs through the end of the century.

**M 13-15 N. Gore Ave.**

**Trembley Wilson Real Estate Building**

(1915, *Vernacular/Classical Revival*)

Joseph H. Trembley and his son-in-law, Edwin Wilson, owned the Trembley Wilson Real Estate and Loan Company of Webster Groves. Trembley practiced law in St. Louis and built many houses in Webster Groves. He was the president of the Webster Groves Building and Loan Association in 1905 and 1906 and the president of the Webster Groves Trust Company from 1907 to 1914. His daughter, Adele, was married to Edwin F. Wilson who was mayor of Webster Groves from 1929 to 1931. Henry C. Ames designed this building with Classical Revival fan lights over the storefront windows, and it was built by Ames and Ames in 1915.

*Turn right at West Lockwood Avenue.*

**M 101-113 W. Lockwood Ave.**

**The Gorelock Building** (1910 and 1911, *Classical Revival*)

In 1910, Theodore Bopp of Kirkwood built a one-story post office which is now 107 W. Lockwood Ave. for the Gorelock Realty Company. An old post card shows that it had a large dome with skylights, and a huge stone eagle holding a flagpole sat on the edge of the roof over the door. In 1911, the Gorelock Realty Company tore down S.A. Moody's old frame office building on the corner of Gore and Lockwood, and built the Classical Revival Gorelock Building around the new post office. The prominent architectural firm of Klipstein and Rathman designed the post office and the Gorelock Building. The building held a large corner drugstore, two storefronts on Gore and four storefronts on Lockwood (with the post office in the middle, making five storefronts). From 1911 until 1922, the second floor served as the city hall.

City officials used a corrugated metal building in the low area behind the Gorelock Building as the city jail. It was painted dark red and called the "red onion." The drugstore on the corner was the Liggett Drug Company before the 1920s, a Rexall Drug Company for many years and then a Glasers Drug Company. It had a soda fountain in the back until around 1960 when most soda fountains were removed from drugstores to avoid integration sit-ins. The westernmost store in the Gorelock Building was a hardware store until the 1970s. When the post office moved to a new building on East Lockwood in the 1930s, 107 W. Lockwood was converted to a 5-and-10-cent store. It was Woolworth's until the 1950s and then Ben Franklin. The Gorelock Building was restored and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.

**M 122-126 W. Lockwood Ave.**

**The Lockwood Building** (1926, *Jacobethan/Art Deco*)

Harry Sloofman, a shoemaker, hired Henry C. Ames, of the architectural firm of Ames and Ames, to design this building in 1926. The building has Jacobethan details along the roofline and around the windows, however the geometric patterns around the windows and the dark glass around the storefronts suggest the Art Deco style of architecture. The beautiful terra cotta tiles below the windows on the second floor retain their rich colors because they face north. Sloofman opened a shoe repair shop in the west storefront in 1926, and there has been a shoe repair shop there ever since. In the 1930s, a Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store occupied the eastern two storefronts.

**M 130 W. Lockwood Ave.**

**Webster Groves Fire Company No. 1**

(1913, *Vernacular/Art Deco*)

John Berg, a Webster Groves contractor, built this building in 1913 as the first firehouse in the Old Webster section of town. In 1912, Webster Groves became the first municipality in St. Louis County to have a paid fire department. Before that time Webster Groves had a volunteer fire department, made up of local merchants who could brag that they never lost a chimney or a foundation. They kept their equipment at the Parker Livery stable on North Gore. This building, with its tall tower in the back for drying hose, was paid for with funds raised by the volunteer firemen at picnics and carnivals.

**Thank you for taking a walk through Webster Groves history.**

*This walking tour has been created to provide residents and visitors with a look inside the unique character of one of Webster Groves' earliest neighborhoods. The walk and guidebook 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 also available, highlighting the unique character of our other neighborhoods. 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](http://www.historicwebster.org)*



