

Libertyville Historical Society

413 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Libertyville, IL 60048



LIBERTYVILLE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**LIBERTYVILLE'S HISTORIC
MILWAUKEE AVENUE
WALKING TOUR**

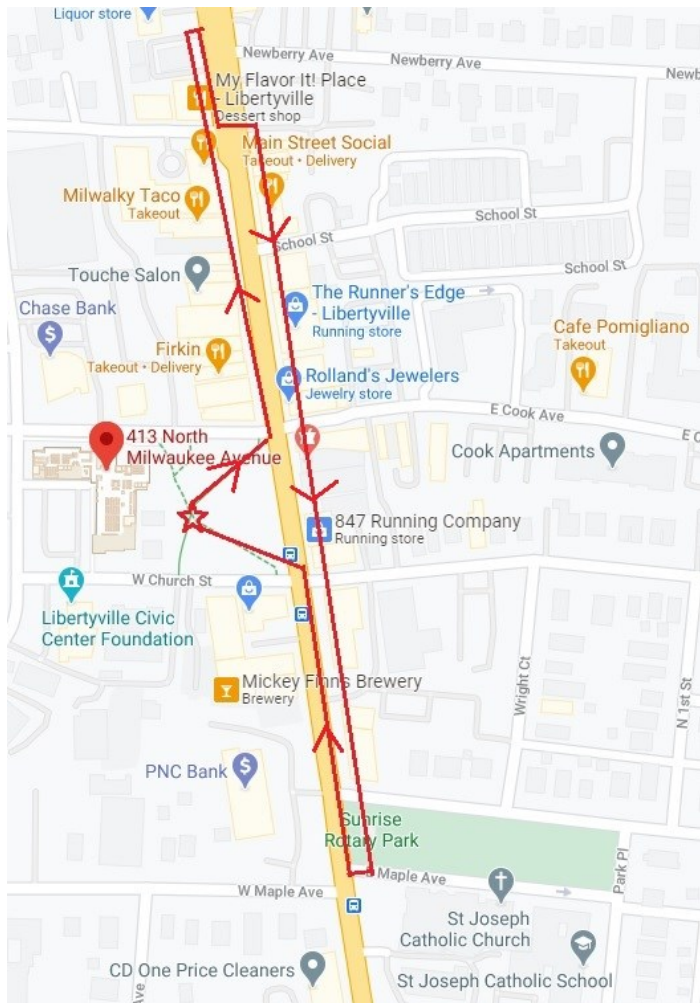


**LIBERTYVILLE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SEPTEMBER 2020**

This booklet offers abbreviated information on each building. Additional features, such as expanded descriptions, text-to-speech narration, historical photographs, and links to related information are available through the online version of the tour.



The free tour "Libertyville's Historic Milwaukee Avenue" is available online at <http://www.theclio.com/tour/1501> and through the **Clio-Your Guide to History app available through the Apple App Store and Google Play Store**. To access the tour in the Clio app, search for 60048 and scroll down to Walking Tours and Heritage Trails.



Do you have additional information or photographs of any of the buildings?

Please contact the Libertyville Historical Society at info@libertyvillehistory.org.

325 N. Milwaukee Ave



This three-story bank and office building located at 325 N. Milwaukee Ave. was constructed in 1991 by architect Kenneth J. Bleck and builder A. J. Maggio. At the time of construction the name of the bank occupying the building was First of America Bank Corporation, which later merged with National City and in 2008 was bought out by PNC. At one time residences and later a gas station and a car dealership stood on the lots now covered by the bank.

339 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Heritage Court



In the early 1900s, the 300 block of Milwaukee Avenue was residential. In the mid-20th century, this spot held the Libertyville Floral Company store and greenhouse. It was torn down for a parking lot for a nearby car dealer. In 1980, the current building was constructed as the two-story commercial/office strip mall with a sideways orientation that maximizes parking space. Marvin Johnson was the architect and the builder was Ken Olson & Assoc. Peter Tosto's insurance agency has occupied the building since its construction.

345 N. Milwaukee Ave.



Built in 1913, this building has housed many different garage and automobile businesses. In 1924 the Main Garage opened for business and serviced automobiles in Libertyville for over a decade. New car dealers and repair shops came and went until the early 1960s when the *Independent Register* newspaper moved in. The building became office space for Edward D. Jones in 1988. In 2014 Mickey Finn's renovated the building and moved from one block north to open at this location.

355-357 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Libertyville Hotel



This Queen Anne-style commercial block was erected in 1896 by James Triggs. In 1897, the Libertyville Hotel opened featuring a dining room and an adjacent stable. By the 1920s, the building had been divided into first-floor retail, with multiple storefronts, and second-floor apartments. A Ford agency and auto repair shop operated here through the 1920s, alongside a bank and real estate agency. Proctor's Chatter Box was a popular teen hangout in the 1950s. Over the past 20 years, the building has ensured local residents have been well supplied with ice cream, baked goods, and coffee.

Cook Park



Cook Park is the historical and modern center of Libertyville. The site George Vardin's cabin, the first permanent dwelling in what would become the village of Libertyville, today the park welcomes visitors on a daily basis. Community events held in and around Cook Park such as the Farmers Market, Car Fun on 21, Lunch in the Park, Festival of the Arts, Libertyville Band concerts, Libertyville Days and the annual tree lighting, draw residents and visitors alike to the downtown.

413 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Ansel B. Cook Home



Operated by the Libertyville Historical Society, the Ansel B. Cook Home, an 1878 home listed on the National Register of Historic Places, features two floors of Victorian-era furnishings and artifacts. The building served as the Cook Memorial Public Library from 1921 until 1968.

413 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Cook Memorial Public Library



The Cook Park Library of the Cook Memorial Public Library District is tucked away behind the Ansel B. Cook Home at the west edge of Cook Park. The library building was constructed in 1968 by A. W. Heinsom & Co. and designed by architects Cone and Dornbusch. The original library building was 14,000 square feet of usable space on one level, with basement space for meetings and future expansion. After renovations and additions, the library is now 46,120 square feet.

501-505 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Lake County Bank I



Built by the Lake County Bank in 1894, this brick building originally provided two first floor storefronts and a second story flat. A varied array of businesses have occupied the north storefront and the second level, but the establishments with the longest tenure occupied the corner storefront. In 1923, the bank completed a new state-of-the-art facility and moved next door to 507 N. Milwaukee Ave. Titus Brothers Electrical Contractors bought the building and began a more than 50-year run in the corner spot. In 1982, the Picnic Basket Restaurant established themselves in the corner store.

507 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Lake County Bank II



This temple front commercial building was completed in 1923 to house the Lake County National Bank. The bank was housed at this site for nearly 50 years, through mergers and several interior renovations, until it moved around the corner to a larger site in 1968. The next year, Modine Manufacturing took over the building, replacing the pediment and columns with a modernist facade. In 1987, new owners restored the building to its former classical appearance, and in 1995, it returned to its roots as the home of Libertyville Bank & Trust.

515 N. Milwaukee Ave.— The Consumer's Building



This piece of downtown has been the site of many businesses over the years. A prior building on this spot housed The Soda Shop and later Lew Flagg's barber shop for a time. In July of 1931 Leslie Ulrich of Mundelein was hired to build a store at this location for the Consumer's Sanitary Coffee and Butter Store. Over the course of the past 89 years, this store has been the home of nearly 10 different commercial enterprises.

519 N. Milwaukee Ave.— M.B. Colby & Co.



M. B. Colby & Co. was one of the earliest businesses to operate in this building which was completed in 1883. W. W. Carroll & Son, another mercantile establishment, followed. Later enterprises included drugstores, a utility service center and an appliance-variety shop. The building was modernized in 1964, restored to a historic look in 1984 and a two-story rear addition was constructed in 1997. The current tenant is The Tavern, a steakhouse and lounge, which opened in 1983.

521 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Isaac Heath building



This two-story brick commercial block building was erected in 1883 by longtime Libertyville businessman Isaac Heath. The first floor housed his furniture and undertaking business. The second floor was rented to Libertyville Masonic Lodge #492. Over the years, this business block housed stores selling a diverse array of wares, including dry goods, rugs, outdoor supplies, phones, and gifts and, mostly recently, a salon .

400-404 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Julian's Menswear/ Jays Shoes



This lot stood empty for many years. A frame building was removed from the site in 1909, and in the 1940s it had been landscaped and was used for an honor roll for military servicemen before the current building was constructed in 1956. The new building provided two storefronts first occupied by Julian's Menswear and Jays Shoes, Inc.

340-354 N. Milwaukee Ave. — Public Service Building



The Public Service Building, designed by architect H.V. von Holst and dedicated in 1928, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Conceived by Samuel Insull as a showcase for advancements in electric light and modern appliances sold by his Public Service Co., it is an unusual example of the Eclectic movement combining elements of Old English, Moorish and Asian design.

322-336 N. Milwaukee Ave. — Bartholomay Building



The Bartholomay Building extended the Libertyville business district southward when it was constructed in 1929. Frank H. Bartholomay of Lake Forest commissioned the architecture firm of Anderson & Ticknor to design a mixed commercial-residential property. Architect Xavier Vigeant of Highland Park also contributed. A one-story addition was attached in 1945. Over the years, the Bartholomay building has been home to a variety of stores and businesses including a barbershop, TV repair shop, dentist, realty agency, and a small grocery.

121 E. Maple Ave. — St. Joseph Catholic Church



The first Catholic Church in Libertyville was established in 1886, under the name of St. Peter and Paul. Located on N. First Street, it suffered total destruction by fire in 1904. A new brick church was constructed on East Maple Avenue at a cost of \$15,000 and named St. Joseph Catholic Church upon its dedication on July 2, 1905. The current sanctuary was built in 1966 to serve the growing population and the 1905 church was torn down.

426 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Petranek's



Although a drug store has operated for almost 150 years on this same site, it currently occupies its third building. The two previous structures were seriously damaged by fires. When fire gutted Petranek's Pharmacy in 1954, the shop moved to another Milwaukee Ave. storefront while the current building was constructed. When the new building opened its doors in the spring of 1956, it featured a restaurant and soda fountain, air-conditioning, indirect lighting, and oak paneling. In 1993 exterior architectural changes were made, including a stucco facade and peaked parapet wall, but many of the charming 1950s interior details remain.

416 N. Milwaukee Ave.— A & P



Built in 1949, this structure is one of downtown Libertyville's younger buildings. It has housed only three businesses in its seventy-odd years. The 8100 square foot building was constructed for A&P groceries which operated at the location for over two decades. It was followed in 1974 by a thirty-seven year run by Arden's Furniture and Design. In 2015 it was replaced by an upscale Indian Motorcycle dealership that occupied the building until May 31, 2020.

412 N. Milwaukee Ave. — Hanby Block



The building at 412 N. Milwaukee Ave. has been a local drinking establishment for the past 85 years. The building is currently part of O'Toole's restaurant. The left section of the building with the dining patio is a 1994 addition. The right-hand section, was built around 1905 and was known as the "Hanby Block," having been built as a business prospect by Lewis Hanby. In 1933 it became the Park View Tavern and has served as a restaurant and bar ever since.

406-410 N. Milwaukee Ave. — C.H. Kaiser Building



This building was commissioned by Libertyville business man Charles Kaiser in 1904. Some tenants came and went quickly, while others became downtown fixtures, such as Ray Furniture and Paint, North Shore Gas Company, Libertyville Tailors and Cleaners, Jordan Shoes, and Parkside Liquors. More recently the street level storefronts have housed resale shop Treasures 'n' Trash, Neville - Sargent, Leggy Bird Designs, and currently, 847 Running and B. Bungalow.

525-531 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Langworthy's



Built in 1940, this streamlined, stone front store replaced the old Heath residence thereby creating an unbroken line of shops on the west side of Milwaukee Ave. from Cook Ave. to Lake St. Two commercial spaces were created here. The south portion was occupied by Langworthy's Department Store, while the north housed the relocated A&P Grocery Store. Langworthy's occupied a number of locations since starting in 1911 as a general store. This location served as Langworthy's home from 1940 until the business closed in 2000.

535-541 N. Milwaukee Ave.— W. M. Heath/Walrond



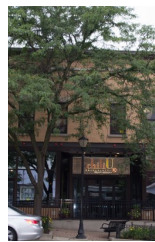
The Queen Anne style commercial block is actually two buildings. Today (2020), Charles & Minerva and Touche Salon occupy the Warren M. Heath building while Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory occupies the William Walrond Building. Heath, a furniture maker and undertaker, and Walrond, a proprietor of a meat and grocery market, constructed these commercial buildings in 1903. A bowling alley/billiards room, a department store, a shoe store, and art gallery are some of the businesses to fill the storefronts over the years.

545 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Rittner Building



Built by John Rittner in 1905, the building originally had storefront space and second story living quarters. Mr. Rittner and his wife occupied the building and ran a saloon until Libertyville went "Dry" in 1914. After Prohibition John W. Lester opened a tavern in the building that stayed in his family for at least 27 years. Another tavern, Tap N Tote, occupied the space in the 1970s. A variety of later businesses included a string of music shops from the 1980s to the early 2000s.

547-551 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Libertyville Bakery



Frederick Louis Jochheim built this structure in 1907 to house his growing bakery business. After World War II the bakery faced stiff competition from chain grocers and closed in 1951. Since that time, a variety of small businesses and financial institutions have occupied the commercial space. In the 1950s the building underwent extensive alterations when the original two storefronts were combined into one. Eric Muller purchased and renovated the building in 2003.

603-605 N. Milwaukee Ave. — Lovinger Building



The Virginia Cafe was an early tenant of this mid-1920s building. Since then a variety of tenants have occupied the commercial spaces, including butcher and meat locker shops, a tailor shop, service businesses and restaurants. In 1998 owner Jeff Lovinger renovated the entire building and completed an expanded addition with a new rear storefront.

625-633 N. Milwaukee Ave. — Manchester Square



With four restaurants in the ground floor and 34 apartments above, the Manchester Square building, begun in 2007, is a recent addition to the Milwaukee Avenue landscape. Three buildings stood on this property before Manchester Square. Built in 1914, 607 N. Milwaukee Ave. was the new home of the *Lake County Independent* newspaper. 611 N. Milwaukee Ave., built in 1911, contained an automobile garage and showroom building. 615 N. Milwaukee Ave. was built in the early 1930s as an automobile service station.

707-711 N. Milwaukee Ave. — Dall Building



This structure with 11 storefronts was completed in 1929 by developer Benjamin L. Dall. This mainstay of the town with its large illuminated public clock has hosted an assortment of businesses. Multiple dry cleaners have been regular tenants of the building.

715 N. Milwaukee Ave. — Town Hall/American Legion



The Libertyville Township building committee, chaired by Ansel B. Cook, commissioned architect W.W. Boyington and builders W.D. and Frank Price to build a new meeting hall. The building was completed in early August 1894. Libertyville American Legion Post #329, founded in 1919, began renting the building in 1925 and eventually purchased the building from Libertyville Township in 1973. Libertyville Township used the hall until 1982 when they moved to a new building on Merrill Court.

510-514 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Hanby/Butler Building



The facade unifies two buildings constructed within months of each other in 1896. Lewis Hanby commissioned the south building (now 510-512) and Josiah W. Butler commissioned the north building (now 514). The mid-century modernization trend struck the Hanby and Butler buildings when the second story bay window was removed and the front facade was covered with Lannon Stone cladding circa 1960. Remodeling in 1989 brought back a more historic look.

508 N. Milwaukee Ave.— H.B. Eger Building



Built in 1895/96 by H.B. Eger to house his hardware store, the original cornice prominently displayed the owner's name and construction date. The building was extensively altered in 1963, with a completely new storefront and an aluminum slip-cover over the 2nd floor. The cornice was also removed at that time. The building facade was rehabilitated in 1993. After serving as a hardware store until the 1960s, this building has been home to three Libertyville restaurants.

500 N. Milwaukee Ave. — Schanck Building



A hardware store anchored this prominent downtown corner for at least 80 years. The home that originally stood on this corner was moved by G.H. Schanck in 1882 in order to construct a new building for his expanding hardware business. The Libertyville Fire of 1895 destroyed that wooden building and Schanck's entire stock, but the business survived. The current two-story brick building was constructed before the turn of the 20th century. In addition to the Schanck Hardware store, men's clothing stores, a stationary store, and a music store have occupied the storefront over the years.

428-432 N. Milwaukee Ave. — Triggs & Taylor



Rising up out of the ashes of the 1895 Libertyville Fire, the Triggs and Taylor building has become one of the iconic buildings of downtown Libertyville. Built in 1896, it was home to the Triggs and Taylor grocery store for about 40 years. Since then, it has been home to a variety of businesses including other grocery stores, a shoe store, an ice cream parlor, and a mens-wear store.

602-610 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Bulkley Building



This red brick block was constructed in 1902 by a member of the Libertyville pioneer Bulkley family. A plumber, a baker, and a female photographer first rented space in the building. A succession of apparel shops, small grocery stores and restaurants anchored the block from the 1910s through the 1940s. The Sportsman served the community here for several decades beginning in the mid-twentieth century. Over the last thirty years, this block has hosted a series of restaurants and specialty shops.

536-542 N. Milwaukee Ave.— First National Bank



This historic three-story brick building was constructed in 1913 to house the First National Bank, several other businesses, including the post office, and the Libertyville Auditorium. The Auditorium became LaVilla Theatre in 1929 and showed movies until the new Liberty Theatre opened in 1937. Over the years, the building has been home to many stores including a long running bakery, restaurants, and gymnastics and dance academies.

532 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Mackey Jewellery/Morgan's



The single storefront was constructed in 1905. The structure was built to house the offices and printing facilities of the *Lake County Independent* newspaper. When the newspaper relocated in 1914-15, the Liberty Theatre, no relation to the free-standing theatre to the north, showed films here until 1923. The Mackey jewelry store began about a forty year run at this address in 1929. In the late 1970s and 1980s, the Tap n Tote bar served up drinks here. After a refurbishing of both the exterior and interior in 1988, the space was reborn as Morgan's Bar

and Grill.

516-528 N. Milwaukee Ave. — Proctor Building



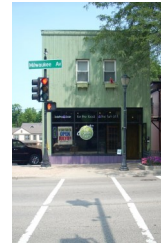
The Proctor Building, also known as the New Castle Hotel building, is a Libertyville Local Landmark also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was designed by Chicago architect William G. Kreig and built in 1903 by Proctor brothers Robert J., Charles W. and Richard E. Proctor and cousin Elisha W. Proctor. In 1996, a renovation of the historic building using the architect's original plans included extensive exterior and

708 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Liberty Theatre



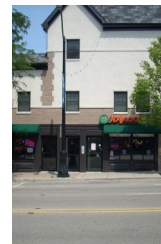
In 1937, Frederick William Dobe engaged Chicago architects to design a theater “befitting a town of Libertyville’s stature.” The Liberty Theatre was the first commercial building in Libertyville with air conditioning, the workplace of a teenage Marlon Brando, and the site of a world movie premiere in 1942.

624 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Finstad Eat Shoppe



Built in 1926-27, the building appears to have always been home to a restaurant. The Finstad Eat Shoppe, owned and operated by Miss Gyda Finstad, moved into the new building in 1927 and became the first of five restaurants to do business at this location. With over 90 years of history, the restaurant tradition continued with the opening of The Green Room in 2013.

620-622 N. Milwaukee Ave.



This structure is an amalgamation of two twentieth century buildings. In 1981, the circa 1870 gable front building at 620 was demolished and replaced with the current 2 ½ story building in a neo-Tudor design. It is likely the façade of the neighboring building at 622, built in 1952, was altered at the same time to match the look and feel of the new building. A more recent remodel of the exterior occurred in 2012.

614-618 N. Milwaukee Ave.— Butler Building



The building at 614-618 N. Milwaukee Ave. has been a part of Libertyville’s fabric for over 100 years. Built in 1912 by Josiah Butler, son of early settler Horace Butler, the brick structure has held many types of businesses over the years. The one which has been identified with it the longest by far, is a barbershop. Locals have been visiting this location for a trim and to hear the latest news for around 100 years.