

# Elmhurst Historic Housewalk

sponsored by the  
Elmhurst Historical Society

Friday, October 4, 1996

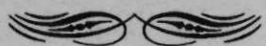


*Fischer One Room Schoolhouse  
circa 1850s*

*“Making Preservation a Priority”*



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The Elmhurst Historical Society

## Elmhurst Historical Society

### 1996 Historic Housewalk

featuring

Popp-Leader House

305 Addison

1916

Nordhausen-Radigan House

119 Arlington

1917

Marquardt-Catalano House

185 S. York

1905

Wendland-Trevarthen House

106 Elmwood Terrace

1924

Nowak-Streuli House

654 Hillside

1925

Fischer One-Room Schoolhouse

Church Road, north of Grand Avenue

circa 1850

# The Elmhurst Historical Society

The Elmhurst Historical Society is an all-volunteer non-profit organization whose purpose is to raise awareness and appreciation of our city's rich heritage and to encourage community involvement in promoting and preserving a sense of history in our community.

The Society offers a variety of opportunities for residents of all ages and interests to get involved. Each fall we hold our very popular Historic Housewalk, highlighting 5-6 wonderful old homes throughout Elmhurst. This event alone draws the talents of over one hundred volunteers, as well as the welcome help of many local businesses and other community organizations. In addition, the EHS provides funding or volunteer help or both to special projects in our community that promote local historic preservation and awareness.

Our current project is the restoration of Elmhurst School District 205's Old Fischer School, a beautiful one-room schoolhouse dating from the mid-1800s. We are raising the money and providing the research to restore this structure, which was in active use as a school from the 1850s through the 1930s, in order to transform it into a living history museum for schoolchildren and the community at large to experience and enjoy.

Over the coming year we plan to step up preservation awareness and support in general throughout Elmhurst, calling on interested residents to join us in our efforts. If you would like information about any of our projects, or would like to get involved, contact the EHS at 941-9310.

## The Elmhurst Historical Museum

The Elmhurst Historical Museum is located in the Glos Mansion at 120 E. Park Avenue. The museum's galleries are open Tuesday through Sunday, 1-5 pm, and admission is free.

The museum, owned and operated by the City of Elmhurst, offers changing exhibits, workshops for children and families, school programs and learning opportunities of all sorts.

If you would like to become involved at the museum, or if you simply have a question with respect to exhibits and programs, please call the museum at 833-1457.





### Old Fischer School Church Road, North of Grand Avenue

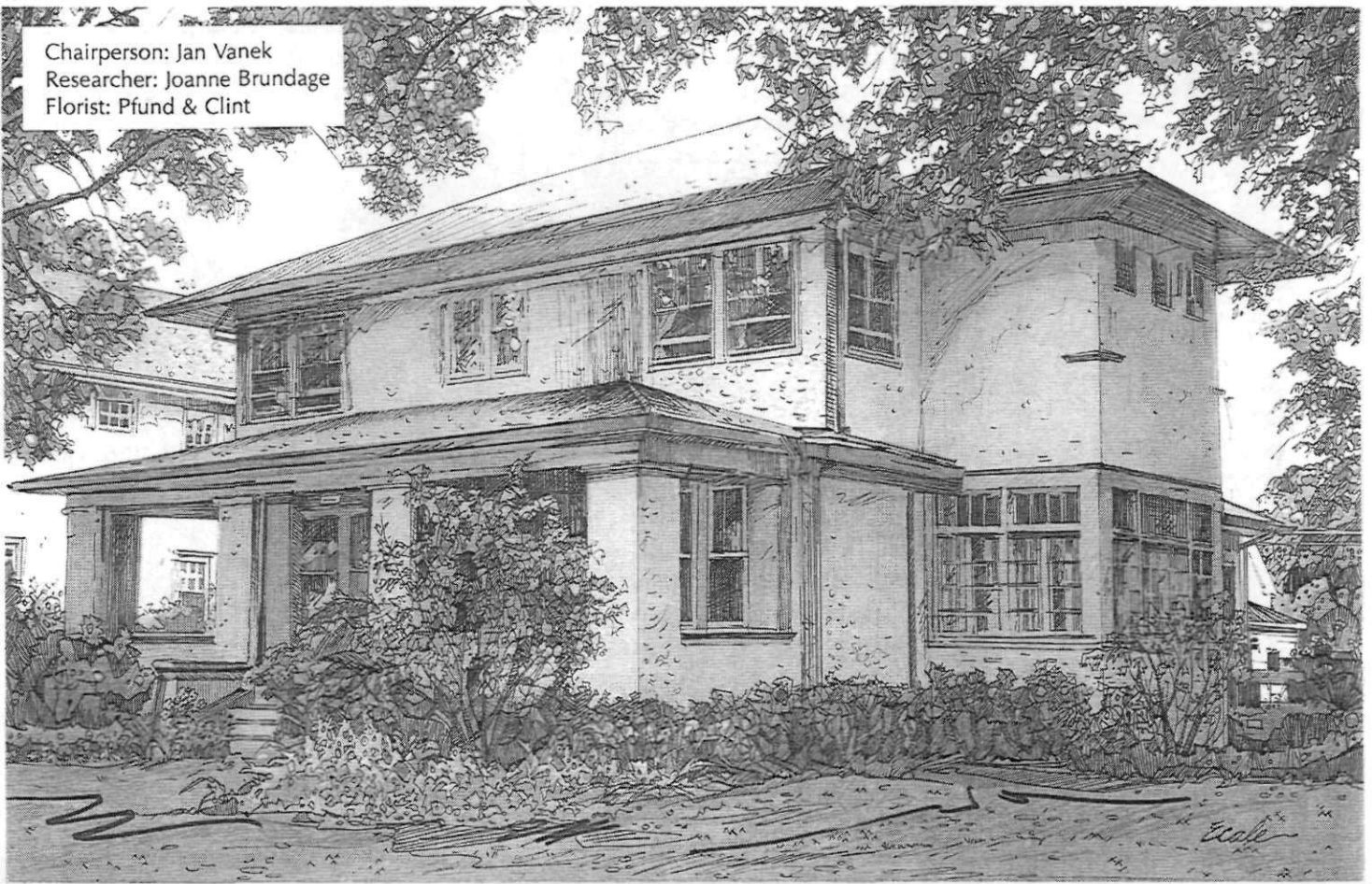
Old Fischer School, dating back to the 1850s, was built on land donated by August Fischer, son of Conrad Fischer, a German immigrant and one of North Elmhurst's founding fathers. From the 1850s till the 1930s students ages 6 to 17 were taught together in the single room. In the earlier years classes may well have been taught in the settlers' native tongue, German. And attendance books from the 1880s and '90s show note that teachers had a hard time keeping children in the classroom rather than the fields during planting season, where they were needed by their families.

The school was closed in the '30s, but classes were held there at least once a year through the '50s. After that time, the land reverted to the Fischer family and the building fell into disrepair. In the late '60s, many of Old Fischer School's former students, including a number of Fischer descendants, banded together to repair the structure. In the process the group formed the Churchville Historical Society (Churchville was the name both North Elmhurst and the schoolhouse were once known by) to act as caretaker and champion for the historic site.

Since 1985 Elmhurst School District 205 elementary classes have been allowed to use the school as a living history lesson, spending a day there doing all the things a class would have done at the turn of the century. And in 1989 the Fischer family officially deeded over the school to District 205, with the understanding that it be maintained by the school district and used by its students.

In 1990 the Elmhurst Historical Society entered the picture, committing to work on the history, renovation, restoration and remodeling of the schoolhouse. Most recently, the Society presented a check to the Board of Elmhurst School District 205 for \$50,000.00 towards construction of an addition to include water, restroom facilities and utility area. The Historical Society is once again pledging the proceeds from this year's housewalk towards the project.

Chairperson: Jan Vanek  
Researcher: Joanne Brundage  
Florist: Pfund & Clint



### Popp-Leader House 305 Addison

The property on which this beautiful stucco Prairie Style house sits was originally part of Albert Graue's considerable holdings in North Elmhurst. This portion of the Graue subdivision was platted in 1906, sold to a Bernard Maloney in 1907, who then sold the property to William and Lucy Popp in 1913 for \$1750. The Pops built the house in 1916.

The Pops, like the Graues, were a prolific early settler family in north Elmhurst. William Popp was born in 1888 in "Churchville," an area just north of Elmhurst, and went to school at the Fischer One-Room Schoolhouse. William is purported to be the first mail carrier in Elmhurst.

The house was sold to an Andy Colebank when Lucy was widowed in 1945. Colebank subsequently sold the house in October of 1954 to Elwyn W. Woods. In July of 1972, Woods sold the house to Richard and Barbara Kuhr, who raised their family there till 1989. In September 1989 they sold the house to John and Carol Walter.

The Walters sold the house in May of 1990 to Harold and Phyllis Walls, who did some major renovation work during their five-year ownership. They made changes to the floor plan on the first floor, remodeled the kitchen, put in a second bathroom and converted a second-floor screened porch into a fourth bedroom. They planned on doing even more when Harold found out his job was transferring him to Germany! Because of the transfer, the Walters then sold the house in the Fall of 1995 to the current owners, Norman and Leslie Leader. Since moving in, the Leaders have done considerable redecorating and landscaping, and look to stripping and refinishing the wood ceiling beams as their next project.

Leslie says that she and Norman wanted their two young grandchildren to feel they were in a magical place when they came to visit, and that this wonderful old house indeed provides that magic.



Chairpersons: Marci Gallagher  
Mary Kay DuBois  
Researcher: Nancy Herter  
Florist: Carousel



### Nordhausen-Radigan House 119 Arlington

This charming, well-preserved farm-style home, owned by George and Mary Radigan, features a steep-pitched front-gabled roof and side dormer. This style home was very popular in the late 19th century and early 20th century. It was built in 1917 by Dietrich and Matilda Nordhausen. The lot was purchased by the Nordhausens from the Kircher family between 1910-1916. According to a long-time neighbor, the Nordhausens had lived across the street, where their two children Richard and Adeline were born. They built their new home with indoor plumbing, which was a luxury as the plumbing was in the barn in the house where they had been living. The home stayed in the Nordhausen family until 1989 when Elsie Nordhausen, widow of Richard, sold it to the Osicek family. In 1992 the Radigans, with their three children Tim, Shannon and Bridget, moved in and started the process of restoration.

The original house had been wrapped with shingles and the front porch enclosed for insulation purposes by the Nordhausens. While working on the outside of the house George discovered what he thought was the original siding and front porch still intact. He contacted his brother-in-law, John Wilton, who is local builder, and together they restored the clapboard siding as well as the pillars, balusters and railings of the front porch. The existing colors are very close to the original colors, with the plum detail selected by Mary after having observed historical homes in New England.

The original wood trim and floors—oak, maple, and pine—remain throughout the house as well as the beautiful leaded glass windows. Classically designed cherrywood colonnades divide the living room from the dining room. The built-in sideboard highlights the dining room along with the bay window.

The Radigans are planning a two-story rear expansion next spring and are carefully working on the plans to make sure the addition doesn't compromise the integrity or historic value of this lovely vintage home.

Chairpersons: Betsy Aldred  
Paula Pezza  
Researcher: Frances Law  
Florist: Shamrock Garden



### Marquardt-Catalano House 185 S. York

Dr. Edward W. Marquardt's Queen Anne style home was built back in 1905 by a local builder, Earnest Balgemann. Balgemann was also the builder of the Glos home at 104 S. Kenilworth which is now the Elmhurst Historical Museum.

Towards the back of the lot a coach house with barn was built for Dr. Marquardt's horse and buggy. In 1906 the doctor was one of the few in Elmhurst to own an automobile, a Kissel, made in Milwaukee. Later on a second floor apartment was added to the coach house for the caretaker.

At the front entrance are beautiful leaded glass windows. Hardwood floors and dark wood trim are seen throughout the first floor. Sliding wooden doors between the first floor rooms take up no space but allow for privacy. A wide staircase leads to the second floor with stained glass windows at the landing. A simple rear staircase leads down to the kitchen. Dr. Marquardt had installed a room-to-room communication system utilizing speaking tubes which still remain in the house. Original hot water heat radiators of different designs are on the first and second floors of the house.

Dr. Marquardt was a founding father of Elmhurst Memorial Hospital in 1926. He also was very active in community affairs. Dr. Marquardt died in 1958. His second wife, Dorothy, continued to live in the home until she died in 1977. The Marquardts had no children.

Bill and Phyllis Doan were the next owners of this home where they lived until 1995 when they moved to Missouri, and the Frank Catalano, Jr. family became the present owners. With three young boys, Frank decided to convert the third floor attic into two large carpeted rooms. Outside in the backyard is a water fountain surrounded by flowers.



Chairpersons: Geri Nowicki  
Kathy Maxwell  
Researcher: Kathy Maxwell  
Florist: Phillip's



### Wendland-Trevathen House 106 Elmwood Terrace

The two large limestone pillars in the yard of this home are an Elmhurst landmark. The pillars once held wrought iron gates which served as one the three entrances to Frank Sturges' mansion "Clover Lawn." Sturges' home, built in 1892, was a massive three-story, 16-room gray granite structure which sat in the middle of a 15-acre estate. Frank Sturges' son Lee built his own mansion "Shadeland" nearby on Cottage Hill Avenue, where it remains today. Beginning in 1923, parts of the Frank Sturges estate were subdivided. Clover Lawn was torn down in 1929 after plans to move it closer to Cottage Hill failed.

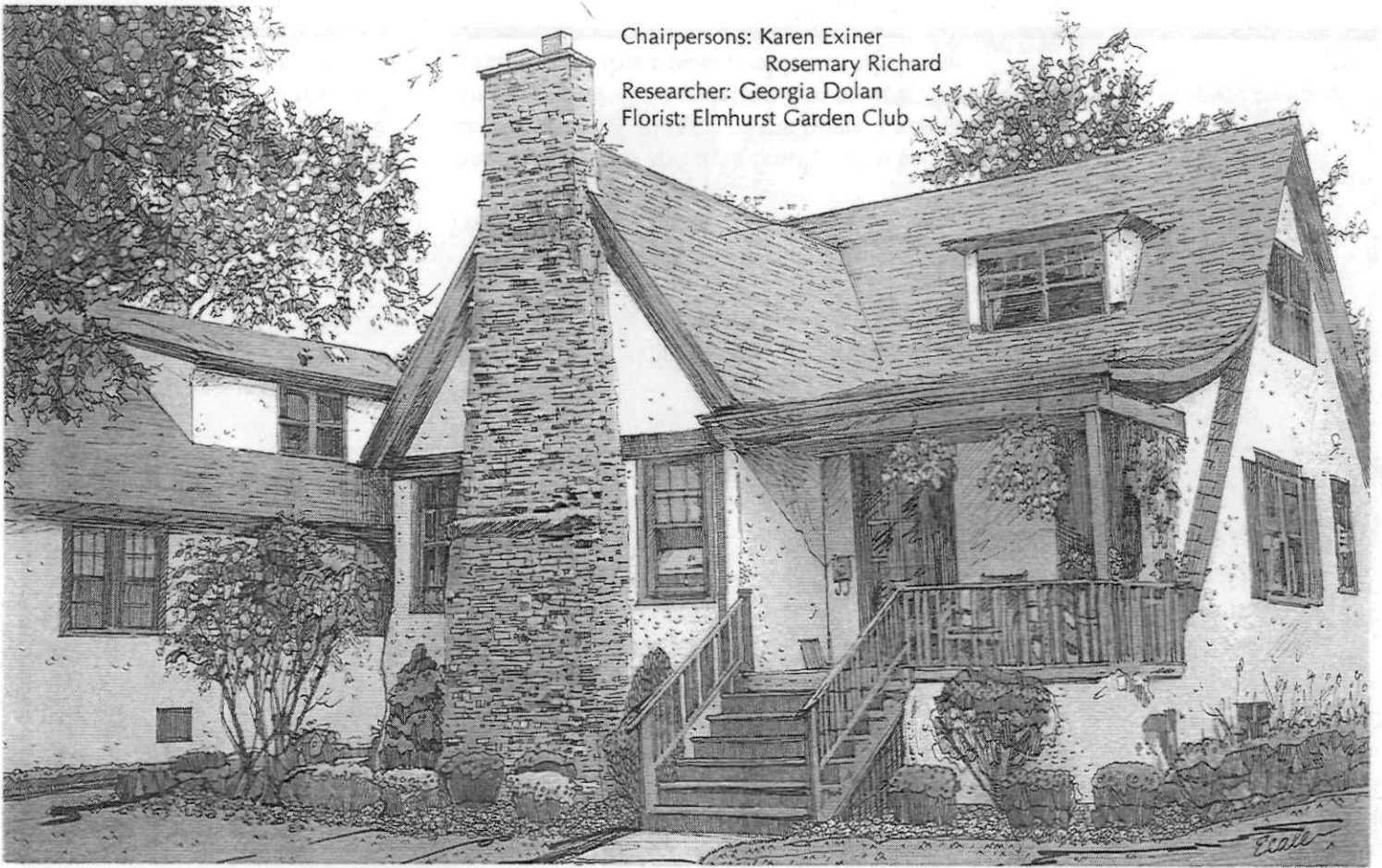
Clover Lawn was still standing when this Craftsman/Tudor home was built in 1924 for prominent resident Herman Wendland. Born in Germany, Wendland was owner of Wendland and Keimel Nursery, a wholesale florist located on 15 acres in what is now the Bryn Haven subdivision. Wendland was also one of the founders of Elmhurst Hospital.

The home was owned by the Wendland family until 1966. During the late 1930s and early 1940s, two families rented the home from the Wendlands. From 1939 to 1945, the renters were Dr. and Mrs. Paul Teschner and their family of eight children. Among these children was the future Judge John S. Teschner. After Dr. Paul Teschner died in 1945, Herman Wendland's son Fred and his family lived in the home until 1966 when it was sold to J. Wilson and Marilyn McCracken. The McCrackens owned the home until 1993.

The current residents are Robert and Sally Trevathen and their family. After purchasing the house in May 1993, they spent over 18 months renovating, redecorating and adding on to the home. During all of this, the Trevathens have tried to remain true to the 1920s look of the home, while updating it to today's lifestyle. Creative use of space combined with much attention to historic details have made this a most livable historic home.



Chairpersons: Karen Exiner  
Rosemary Richard  
Researcher: Georgia Dolan  
Florist: Elmhurst Garden Club



### Nowak–Streuli House 654 Hillside

In 1836 when Elmhurst was first settled, this area of land south of the city had recently (1820) been sold by an Act of Congress – Sale of Public Lands in 40 acre lots to the states. In 1846, Mr. Solomon Porter bought the land. It had several prominent Elmhurst owners, including the Gloses and Hagans. In 1924 Elmhurst State Bank acquired it in trust from Lucy Glos. The parcel was subdivided into blocks and lots and in 1925 the current home was built. The style of the house seems to embrace two very popular architectural styles of the day, Tudor and Craftsman. In 1927, Helen Balgemann bought the house for \$1789.00. She was the daughter of Elmhurst Mayor Otto Balgemann.

She owned it for about a year and sold it to Wladyslaw Nowak who was a tailor in Elmhurst. There was a very short change of hands between he and Edna M. Crockett. In fact, in the matter of one day he sold it to her and bought it back. When he bought it back, it was in the name of Walter and Mary Nowak. Presumably, it was to Americanize his first name. Edna M. Crockett was the secretary for Michael Kross, an attorney in Elmhurst. The Nowaks owned the home until 1952.

The house was sold in 1952 to the Mayburrys and in 1956 to the Clarks, who owned it until 1989. In 1989 the Monsens bought the house and did some extensive remodeling on the inside by finishing the attic into a master suite complete with bath. It also has a two-story overlook on to the kitchen, which was also remodeled. The Mayburrys, Clarks and Monsens subsequently bought homes and stayed in Elmhurst.

In 1993, the current owners, Terry and Christian Strueli, bought the home. They have two children. The house has hardwood floors, arched doorways and a new kitchen. It is also believed that the house may have a ghost! The ghost is thought to be a woman and seems to be friendly.

*We would like to express our appreciation to the following individuals, organizations, and businesses for their efforts and services...*

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Georgia Dolan

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Christian & Terry Streuli  
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*...and we would like to extend a special thanks to Old Kent Bank who so generously underwrote the printing costs of this program.*

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**\*On display and available for sale at Old Fischer School House on Oct. 4\***  
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(Proceeds benefit the District 205 Foundation for Educational Excellence)





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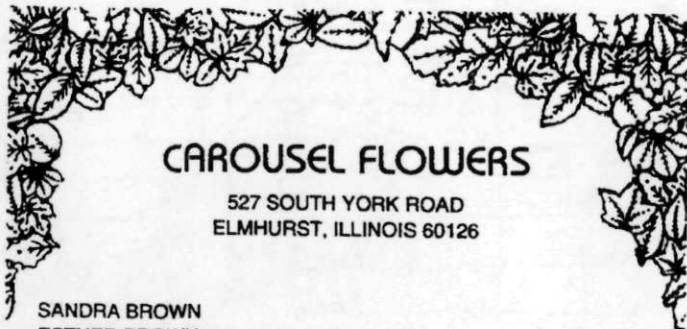
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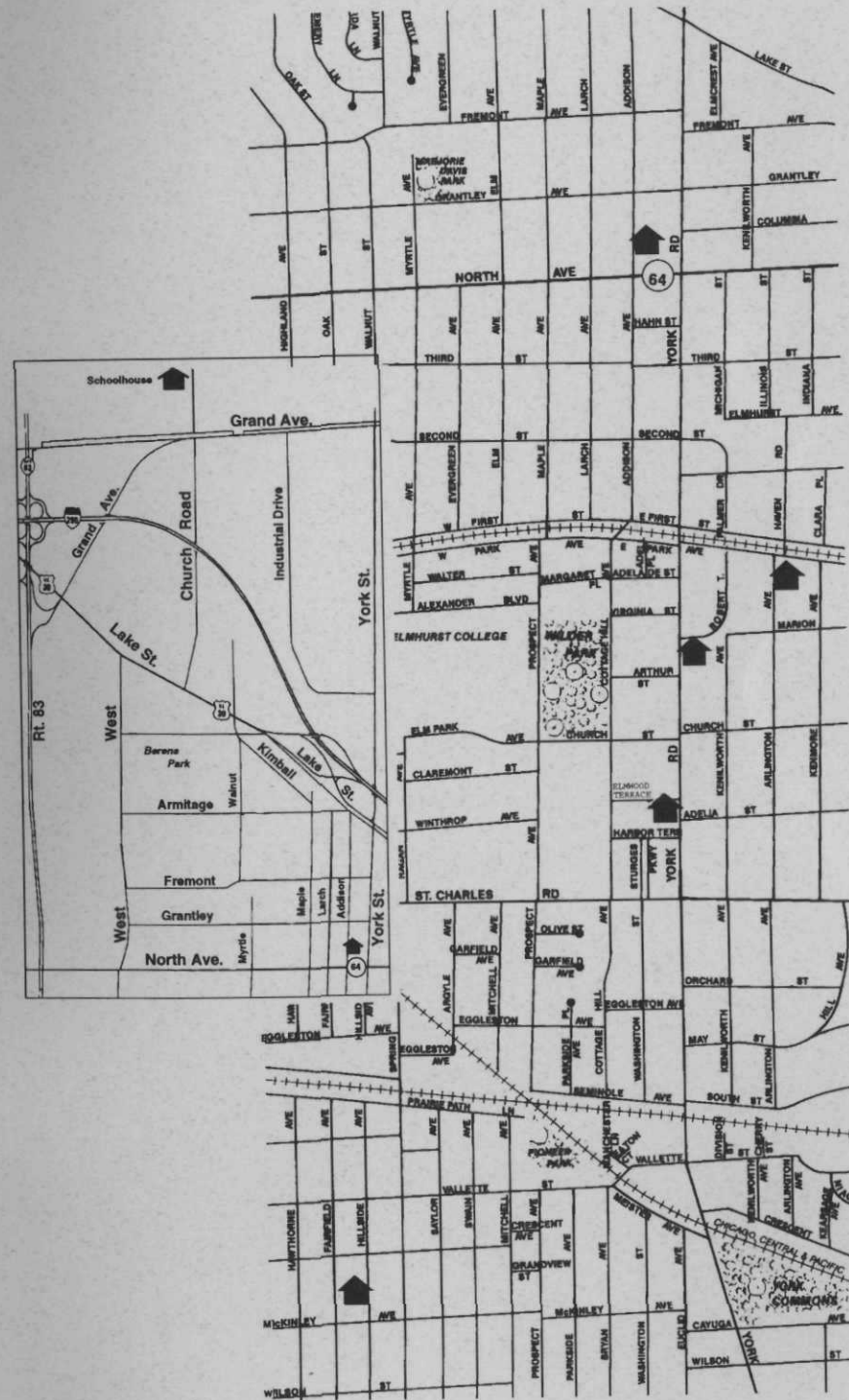
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# Housewalk Check List



- Schoolhouse –  
Church Road  
north of Grand Avenue
- 305 Addison
- 119 Arlington
- 185 S. York
- 106 Elmwood Terrace
- 654 Hillside





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