

ORIGINAL 1908 VILLA PARK SUBDIVISION Self-Guided WALKING TOUR

Most buildings featured in this brochure were awarded plaques for Historic Preservation, Historic Landmark, or Sears Catalog Home categories.

Visit the **Historical Preservation Commission** website at invillapark.com (*Government > Boards and Commissions*)

- Historic Plaque Award Program Information
- List of buildings that were awarded Historic plaques
- Resource Guides for do-it-yourself home repairs on your old house
- Sears Catalog House Information links
- Links to other Historic Preservation organizations
- Download the 1908 Villa Park Subdivision Survey Form
- Download the 1908 Villa Park Subdivision self-guided Walking Tour

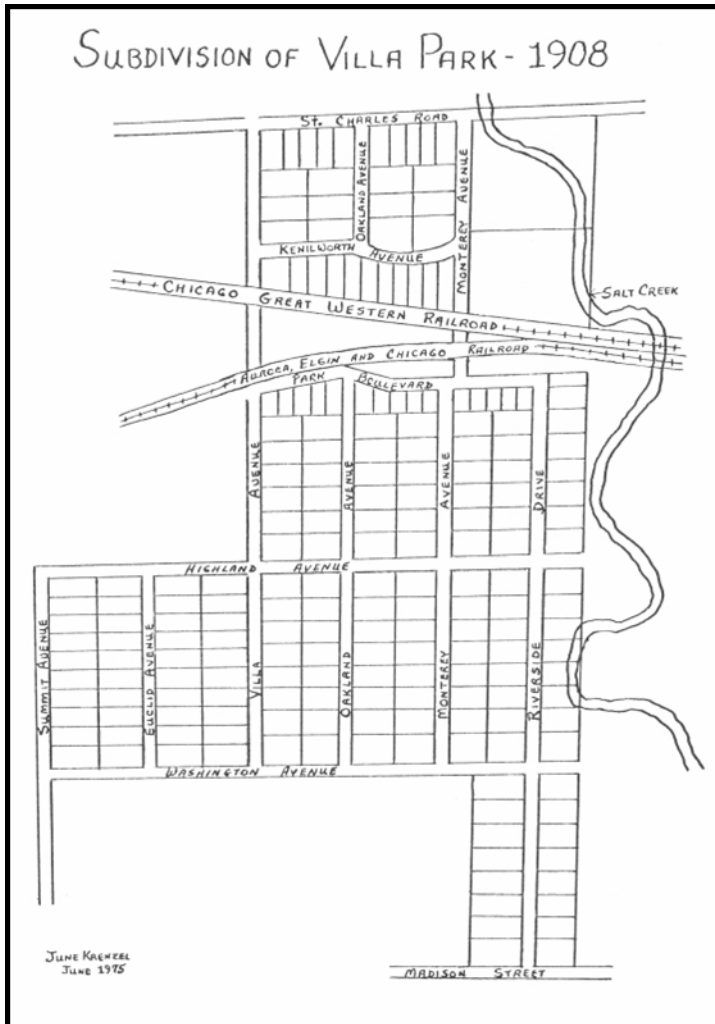
Help us document your house's history — Fill out the survey and take a photo...Form is on the website.

If your family lives in the original 1908 Villa Park subdivision, now is the time to share family recollections about your house and family. Completed survey forms will be placed in a special binder in the Reference Library at the Historical Museum, 220 S. Villa Ave.

The **Villa Park Historical Preservation Commission** prepared this brochure to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the original Villa Park Subdivision.

Commission members are Jose Castillo, Robert Dollinger, Carol Marcus (Chair), Jeffrey Prenta, Ellen Stortz, and Jan Stortz.

Photography by C. Marcus. Vpbrochure.doc 5/31/2008



This map was featured in Villa Park "Recollections."

It was in 1843 when the pioneer family of Curtis R. Cable had obtained property in sections 3 and 10 of York Township and began to farm on this rich soil. Later, in 1900, Florence Canfield and Louis Meyer, two area farm owners, granted the Aurora, Elgin and Chicago Railway a right-of-way through their land. Soon, developers spotted the open land and saw an opportunity for opening a town along the new railroad. This set the motion of the chain of events that transformed the area into a bustling suburb.

The interurban began service in 1902 providing passenger travel, newspaper, milk deliveries and funeral transportation. In 1908, unincorporated farmland was still abundant between the developed Village of Lombard and the City of Elmhurst, Illinois.

On October 30, 1908 the original subdivision named Villa Park was recorded with 210 lots from the sale of farm property owned by Florence C. Canfield and bought by Ballard, Pottinger and Co. a Chicago real estate firm. Most lots were one acre. The lots along Park Boulevard were much smaller in size.

A few years later, the subdivision of Ardmore was established in 1910 by Ballard, Pottinger and Co. who further promoted the development of Ardmore and built the Ardmore Station, located at 10 W. Park Blvd. to enable people to take the Sunday excursion train and buy property. Poplar trees were planted along the newly laid-out streets.

The subdivisions of Villa Park and Ardmore united and were incorporated on August 8, 1914, as the Village of Ardmore for the purposes of acquiring tax money for community improvements.

In 1917, the name was changed to the Village of Villa Park by the residents. The new community attracted wealthy Chicago families who wanted country living and built attractive homes.



Commercial Building – Built 1926 - 125 S. Villa Ave.

Its unique center hall connected four shops and may have been the first enclosed shopping "mall" in Illinois. During the 1920's and 30's, the A & P Grocery was its anchor. In the early 1940's, it was occupied by the Ben Franklin variety store.



**Former Ovaltine Building
Arched Entrance – built 1928
1 Ovaltine Court**

Employee entrance to factory courtyard. A huge iron gate secured the entry. It is now the lobby and meeting center the people who live in the Lincoln Properties managed complex.



Commercial Building – built 1924 - 203 S. Villa Ave.

In the early days of Villa Park, the National Tea Co. erected this building to serve as a full-service grocery store in the thriving Villa Avenue shopping district. It also served as the Post Office. It is currently owned and occupied by **G.M. Smith and Son Realty** who has served the community for over 70 years.



Former Ovaltine Factory Site 14-acre site at Kenilworth & Villa Avenue – built c 1928

In 1917, the Swiss **Wander Company** had established the Ovaltine factory here in Villa Park. In 1985, the operation closed. In 2001, **Lincoln Properties, Inc.** completed a \$40 million dollar redevelopment of this site. Several of the former factory buildings were converted into loft apartments.



Steiner House - 1928 24 S. Monterey Avenue

This Dutch Colonial house was moved from Villa Avenue. Home of Dr. Steiner who managed the building of the 1917Ovaltine factory and other building efforts.



Hubbard House - 1931 37 S. Oakland

Notice the decorative original gable roof on this Brick English Tudor house.



“Hollywood” model - 1927 Sears Mail-order house 314 S. Riverside Drive

This Arts & Craft house boasts a large addition to the rear that blends in with the architecture.



Rogers House – built 1911 216 S. Oakland Avenue

This large American Foursquare home features a red tile roof and large lot.



Scharlau House – built circa 1864 747 S. Oakland Avenue

Large early farmhouse of the pioneering Scharlau Family.



Jewett House – built 1910 301 S. Villa Avenue

American Foursquare with exposed brackets and exquisite landscaping.



Sculley House – built 1910
333 E. Highland

American Foursquare with wide, sweeping front porch on a very large lot. It has many bay windows.



Reinbold House – built 1910
245 E. Highland Avenue

Villa Park's only log home; Craftsman influences include the low-pitched roof and overhanging eaves.



Morash House – built 1922
503 S. Summit Avenue

American Foursquare details include hipped roof and full-width single story front porch.



Hebenstreit House – built 1923
531 S. Euclid

Sears catalog mail order kit house - "Rodessa" model. This bungalow features a large stone fireplace on the addition to the right of the house.



Limbach House – built 1916
405 E. Highland Avenue

Vernacular farmhouse with Craftsman-style brackets on eaves.



Steele House – built 1927
525 E. Highland Avenue

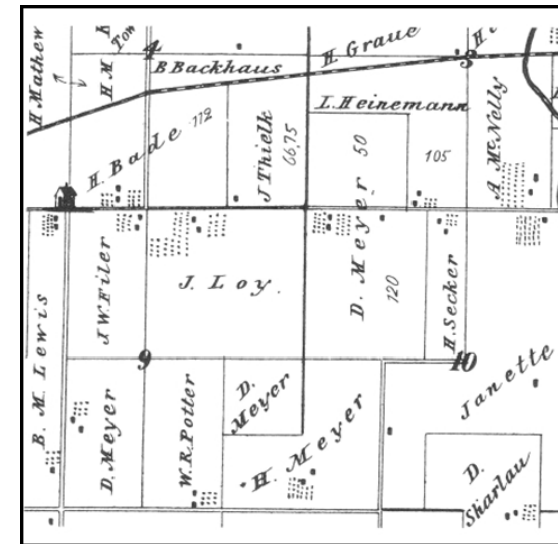
English Tudor details include the steeply pitched roof and prominent chimney.



Emms House – built 1925
307 S. Monterey Avenue

Spanish Eclectic; stucco and clay tiles were restored to the original color scheme.

This is how the Villa Park area looked in 1874.



- The map above shows Section 10 of York Township as illustrated in the “1874 DuPage County Atlas” of early farmsteads that is now land within Villa Park.
- Referring to the map, streets from top to bottom are North Avenue, St. Charles Road, Highland Avenue, and Jackson Street.