

KeyStone Neighborhood Driving Tour

An Architectural Tour of
Rock Island's East End



Rock Island, Illinois

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KeyStone Neighborhood is ideally located between the Mississippi River and 14th Avenue from 38th to 45th Streets in Rock Island. This key location was noted in an 1890s real estate development plan for the “KeyStone District,” promoted by E.H. Guyer. Guyer, a turn-of-the-century Rock Island lawyer and land developer, included much of the present-day neighborhood in his plan. He claimed that “with your home in KeyStone you will be independent as to your place of employment, for there is demand for your services on every side and within easy distance. . . .” And a diagram showed that “electric railways transport residents of the KeyStone District to all the factories of Moline, Rock Island, Davenport and Milan.” Thus, this area was settled primarily by the working class. As a result, many of the homes on this tour were originally built by ordinary citizens who wanted affordable houses in what Guyer suggested was a healthy site. He noted that “the elevation insures good drainage and a cool and bracing atmosphere, a great contrast to the flat bottoms where (Rock Island and Moline) first started. . . . so that there is no longer any excuse to cling to their unhealthy locations. Sewers are provided for every lot.” These lots varied in price from \$300 to \$1000 depending on their location.

Guyer envisioned the KeyStone District, halfway between the downtowns of Moline and Rock Island, developing into a “Great Consolidated City” with its own courthouse, city hall, post office, union depot and great theater and ultimately a population of 60,000 people. This Utopian city never developed, but in 1994, the KeyStone name and 1890s logo were revived when the KeyStone Neighborhood was established by residents.

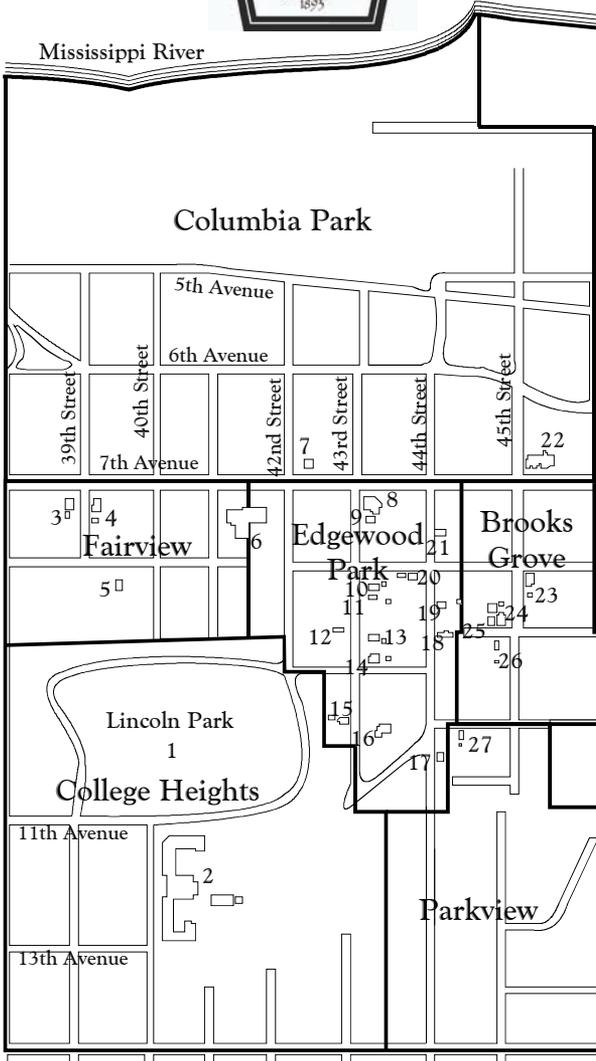
KeyStone Neighborhood consists of six organized sub-areas: Columbia Park, Fairview, Edgewood Park, Brooks Grove, College Heights and Parkview. These names mirror

some of the original plat names used by William E. Brooks when he platted much of this land between 1872 and 1894. This driving tour will take you past 27 buildings and homes in five of the six KeyStone sub-areas. Park View has its own tour booklet.

One of KeyStone neighborhood's major assets is the wide variety of historic architectural styles that can be found. In fact, most of the major styles popular in American architecture from the 1870s to the 1940s lie within its boundaries. KeyStone Neighborhood contains an outstanding variety of American Foursquare style homes. Other of its buildings reflect styles and types including Gothic Revival, Renaissance Revival, Queen Anne, Shingle, Vernacular, Colonial Revival, Prairie, Craftsman, and Tudor. By the end of this tour, these styles will be more than just names to you — they will be associated with the schools and churches and homes of people who lived in this historic neighborhood.

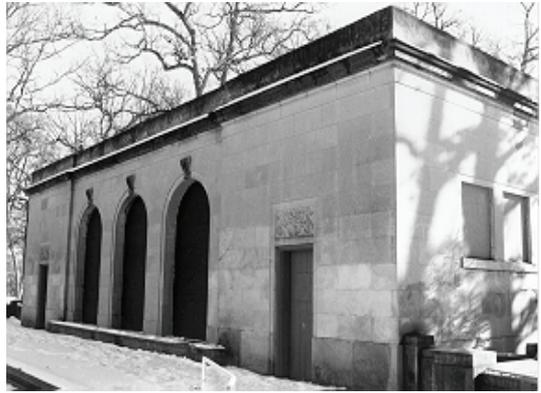


Mississippi River



1. Lincoln Park (Ca. 1909)

Rock Island residents commemorated Abraham Lincoln's centennial birthday in 1909 by naming this east end park in his honor. The 22.75 acre woodland site, considered one of Rock Island's beauty spots, was selected for its grandeur and views overlooking the



Mississippi River valley. Lincoln Park was expected to someday blossom into Rock Island's most popular park and picnic grounds.

The northern edge of the park is delineated by the Indian Boundary Line. The northwest corner of the park contains a bronze plaque on a pedestal commemorating this historic boundary, which was surveyed in this area by Flack and Bean in 1821, that derived from an 1816 treaty with Illinois Indian tribes. It was an arbitrary line across the state, beginning at the Mississippi River and extending east to near Chicago where it took a sharp turn to the northeast, meeting Lake Michigan just north of today's downtown. Indians were forced to move north of the line, which was also intended to be the Wisconsin-Illinois border. Rock Island property abstracts still mention the Indian Boundary Line as a reference point.

One-third of the funds raised to purchase this site in the Brooks Addition was obtained by popular subscription; the rest was taken from the city treasury. In 1920, neighboring Augustana College expressed interest in acquiring the mostly undeveloped park, but citizens disagreed. "If the park is sold for a college campus, it will be the Rock Island people who sell it," said Mayor Harry M. Schriver. Through 1920 and 1921 the issue raged. KeyStone founder E.H. Guyer stated, "Lincoln Park was acquired by popular subscription and in reality belongs to the people and any effort to deprive the people of it should be strenuously resisted." The people prevailed.

During the 1920 s, improvements slowly began to be seen in the park. Over ensuing years, it proved to be a popular spot where

“community play day” events were held. The hills were alive with athletic competitions, folk dances and sing-alongs, and the “crowning event of the day” — the basket picnic. Needlework exhibits and children’s art added color to the day, as did the many playground participants, who were

decked out in little clown suits.

Naomi Davenport left funds for Lincoln Park to the city of Rock Island in 1924. The money was to be used for three projects: a fountain in memory of her sister, Catherine; a bandstand in memory of her brother, Ebenezer Cook Davenport; and a trust fund to provide free concerts. The bandstand construction began in 1934; programs began in 1935.

In 1930 improvements to convert the stagnant pond at the south end of the park into a wading pool were made, funded in full by the widow of F.C. Denkmann. Prominent Rock Island architect



Benjamin A. Horn, of Horn and Sandberg, had a part in construction of the wading pool and poolhouse shown in the photo... A Bedford limestone colonnade, called a peristyle, encircled the north side of the concrete pool. The flat-roofed poolhouse, also of Bedford stone, held dressing rooms at each end. With its rounded arches topped by large scrolled keystones and the low relief carving above the flanking doors, this park building shows some influences from the Italian Renaissance style. The \$45,000 Denkmann Memorial Pool, considered one of the finest of its kind in the middle west, was dedicated September 12, 1930, although Mrs. Denkmann saw that it opened in August, so children could still enjoy it that summer.

World War II had the country rationing coffee, sugar and chocolate in the 1940s. In the spirit of the war effort, families could supplement their food supplies with vegetables grown in “victory garden” plots at Lincoln Park.

In 1956 Don Wooten founded the Genesis Guild, a theater group presenting free classical theater productions and rediscovered the former Denkmann Poolhouse, which had been closed during the polio scares of the 1940s. Plays and operas continue here today, staged in front of the former poolhouse. The Starlight Revue Concert Series also began in 1956 at Miss Davenport’s bandshell, providing free evening concerts on Tuesday evenings from early June to mid-August. Ice cream socials were added in 1976 to increase attendance totals and provide a more festive atmosphere. By the 1980s, Lincoln Park was in need of rejuvenation. A \$350,000 renovation, which was completed in June of 1986, saw the Davenport bandshell and the Denkmann structure renovated. A gazebo, surrounded by a “sensitivity garden” consisting of plants grown to be touched, was added to the park and became a popular spot for summertime weddings. Sand volleyball courts were installed, tennis courts and softball diamonds were improved, and a new picnic shelter was added to augment the old shelter, which also received a facelift.

The park was rededicated June 17, 1986, an evening under the stars filled with music and dancing. Dignitaries and citizens gathered items for a large time capsule, which was later buried in a secret location in the park. It will be dug up in 2006 for the 50th anniversary of the Starlight Revue.

2. Alleman High School (1949) 1103 40th Street

Alleman High School is located in the College Heights area of KeyStone, whose western boundary lies across 38th Street from the campus of Augustana College. Alleman’s original



building architecture shows elements of the Italian Renaissance style. The recessed corner entrance, seen in the photos, has triple arches on the ground level. Above are tall multi-paned windows edged in stone with a decorative iron railing at their base. Other decorative features including the carved vases at the roof line of the main entrance and the use of a horizontal band of stone (a stringcourse) between the first and second floors are also indications of the Italian Renaissance style. The building was designed by architect Edward Lerch of Rock Island, and built by the



T.S. Willis Company of Janesville, Wisconsin, who also constructed Rock Island City Hall. It was necessary to fill a ravine to provide a site for construction.

The idea to begin a Roman Catholic high school in Rock

Island County was originally the idea of Rev. John B. Culemans of Sacred Heart Church of Moline in 1926. Monsignor Durkin of St. Joseph's High School in Rock Island adopted the project and saw it to fruition. He was instrumental in locating the site, which was bought from the W.L. Velie estate for \$6,500 in 1931. After being delayed by the Great Depression and World War II, ground was broken in 1948. The \$1,600,000 high school was dedicated August 28, 1949, and named for Father George Alleman. Fr. Alleman, born in Strasborg, France in 1806, became a priest of the Dominican order and served as a missionary in the Mississippi Valley, learning the languages of many Indian tribes, from 1838 until 1863.

Enrollment that first year was just under 600 students, with half from Rock Island. Tuition was \$50 per year per pupil. By 1967, when enrollment reached its peak, the school served 1300 students. The first principal was Father John O'Connor, who was just 28 years old when he became chief administrator of the new school; he continued as principal for 18 years. Fr. Alleman was the first permanent priest in Rock Island

County and laid the cornerstone of St. James Church, now called St. Mary's, in 1851. Fr. Alleman was a friend of Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon religion; he frequently visited the Mormon settlement at Nauvoo, Illinois on his travels along the Mississippi. After the Mormons left Nauvoo, Fr. Alleman, who died in St. Louis in 1866, used some of the stone from the Mormon buildings in St. James church. Later that stone was incorporated into the rectory at St. Mary's. A piece of that stone was eventually placed in the Alleman High School cornerstone. Over the years the original school has grown in size, adding including classrooms, a chapel, a gymnasium and a performing arts center.

3. Conrad Lindberg House (Ca. 1895)
3826 7th Avenue



Located in the sub-area of Fairview (as are numbers 4-6), the Conrad Lindberg House was built in 1895 and is an outstanding example of the Queen Anne style. This style was popular in the United States from the 1880s to the 1910s and is characterized by its corner tower and full width front porch. Note the classical columns with spindlework railings

on the porch and the fishscale shingles decorating the gable. The narrow “roof” supported by flat brackets (modillions) that separate the front gable from the lower floors of the house is also characteristic of the Queen Anne style. On the east side of the house you can see the stained glass



window inscribed with Lindberg’s personal motto “Ora et labora,” which means “work and pray.” The exterior of this home has been faithfully restored based on an original photograph.

This house was originally the home of Conrad Lindberg, a systematic theology professor at Augustana College and Theological Seminary from 1890 to 1930. He purchased two lots of land from Uridge M. Whiffen in 1892, and, by 1895, had completed his house. In 1902, he was honored by the King of Sweden with the Knight of the Royal Order of the North Star. For the next ten years he was Vice-President of the College and Seminary and, from 1919-1930, was the Dean of the Seminary.

4. John and Albertina Arnell House (Ca. 1897 and 1905) 3904 7th Avenue



In 1897, John Gustav Swenson and his wife Albertina purchased the property in the Brooks 3rd Addition and built the Queen Anne house at

3904 7th Avenue. John Swenson was a farmer in Orion, and became the Superintendent of the Tri-City Railway when he moved to Rock Island.

He later changed his name to John Arnell. The house was built to accommodate a large family; both John's father and Albertina's father also lived with them at various times over the years.

Shortly after the house was built, John and Albertina had a daughter, Mabel. She married Dr. Paul Youngberg in 1926. They took up residence in the home, and it has remained in the family. Dr. Youngberg was a family practitioner in Moline, and Mabel Youngberg taught music and elocution at Augustana College. In the 1950s an addition to the rear of the house was constructed to accommodate an antique shop, operated by Mrs. Youngberg.

The house to the east of the Youngberg's at 3906 7th Avenue was built in 1905. In 1970 Dr. Paula Arnell, daughter of the Youngberg's, moved back into the original family house with her husband Dr. Richard Arnell. In 1975 the Arnells purchased the east house, and connected the two with an addition.



Although the original front porch is missing, the recently constructed new porch was designed to complement the turn-of-the century architecture of the house. In addition, two adjacent parcels to the east, which contained three tightly placed houses, were purchased and two small houses demolished. The Arnells developed the property as landscaped grounds and urban garden.

The original house has seen five generations of the Arnell family, with additions made over the years to accommodate family needs. The home shows influences of the Queen Anne style, including the steeply pitched roof, multiple gables and asymmetrical facade. The original front porch on the north has been covered by a one-story addition, but the replicated porch on the west side is based on photographs of the original.

The “gingerbread” ornamentation in the spindlework railing, turned columns and decorative porch gable are common features of Queen Anne houses. This style often uses several different colors of paint to emphasize the intricate architectural details.

5. Anna Olsson House (Ca. 1900) 3912 8th Avenue



The house located at 3912 8th Avenue was built using the assets of the estate of Olof Olsson. Dr. Olsson, who emigrated to the United States from Sweden in 1869, was an ordained Lutheran minister who later became the third President of Augustana College and Theological Seminary. He and his wife

Anna, who died in 1887, had four children — Anna, Maria, Lydia, and Johannes born July 4, 1877. When Dr. Olsson died on May 12, 1900, he provided in his last will and testament that a home be built for his children from his estate’s assets. The home was built at a cost of \$3,271 and was probably completed in late 1900. From at date until 1962, one or more of his four children resided here.

All of the Olsson children were educated at Augustana College, and all were self-sufficient. Maria invented and patented a Combination Collar Fastener which could be used for collars or belts. This invention took the place of whalebone and of hooks and eyes. Lydia was employed as a bookkeeper for a number of years and was also the assistant librarian at Augustana College for over 20 years. Johannes showed his true passion was music. Through most of his life, Johannes was a music teacher, musician and composer. He was the last surviving child of Dr. Olsson and died in 1967 at age 90.

Anna, the oldest child, was the most renowned. In 1888, she was the second woman to graduate from Augustana College with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Born in Sweden, she was fluent in Swedish and French as well as English. She was a prolific author and had numerous magazine

articles and manuscripts published, the majority in the Swedish language. Many of her writings were for children, and in Sweden, the popularity of her children's stories ranked with those of Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe in this country. One of her books, *En Prarieunges Funderingar* (Child of the Prairie) had five different versions printed. The first version was printed by the Augustana Book Concern in 1917, and the last in Sweden in 1984. Throughout her life, Anna maintained strong bonds with Augustana College, Augustana Synod and Swedish-Americans locally and nationally. Anna Olsson died on February 15, 1946, at 79 years of age.

The Anna Olsson House is unique in KeyStone because of its simplified Shingle style which is unusual in smaller homes. This style, which developed along the eastern seaboard of the United States in the 1880s, is most often associated with large summer homes designed by major American architects. However, this small home with its wide shingles framing the steeply pitched front gable and the deeply sloped roof extending over the porch held up by classical Tuscan columns is an interesting variation. The interior has most of its original features including built-in bookcases and a tiled fireplace.

The Anna Olson House is a designated Rock Island landmark.

6. Longfellow School (1934) 7th Avenue and 42nd Street



Originally known as the “Number Seven” school, its name was changed to Longfellow School in 1898 in honor of the great American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The first Romanesque Revival building

was destroyed by fire in 1934, with damage estimated at \$60,000, although fire doors saved the south annex. With students attending classes in other school buildings, Longfellow was rebuilt quickly in the



popular Tudor style which was influenced by late-medieval buildings in England.

Construction cost \$169,000 and incorporated the existing south annex. Especially characteristic of this

style are the decorative diamond patterns on the brick walls, the contrasting stones that edge the corners of the building, the tall, rectangular grouped windows and the open pierced stone designs and finials at the roof line above the central front doors. The round topped front entries are framed by classical Ionic pilasters, indicating an Italian Renaissance influence. This school was one of the several Rock Island elementary schools designed about this time, and in similar styles, by William Stuhr of the Rock Island firm Cervin and Stuhr.

Miss Nettie Dodge was the principal of Longfellow School during the construction of the new school. When she retired in 1948, she was a 46-year veteran of the Rock Island school system, having served 21 of those years as principal at Longfellow.

7. Carl and Julia Stephenson House (Ca. 1911) 4207 7th Avenue

The Carl and Julia Stephenson House is located in the Columbia Park sub-area, named for the 1893 Columbian Exhibition. The Stephenson House is one of many fine American Foursquare homes built from the 1900s to the mid-1920s in KeyStone. This 1911 house exhibits the typical two-story, box-like shape topped with a hip



Many design variations, especially in the exterior materials and front porch trim, can be found in Foursquares. Here stucco is used not only on the walls but also to create the plain column supports and the closed porch railing. Beveled glass in the upper panes of the front porch window and the oval window in the wooden front door were also common decorative features at the time.

This traditional home was built for Carl Elwin and Julia Stephenson late in 1911. Mr. Stephenson was a foreman for the Moline Wheel Company and purchased the lot from Jeanette McMaster in 1910 for \$1350. The McMaster family, members of the Old Settlers Association, had purchased the land from William E. Brooks in 1867, with a first mortgage loan made by the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church and a later loan given by Levi McCabe, a prominent Rock Island businessman who lived in the neighborhood. After construction was completed, the Stepsons occupied the house in early 1912 and remained owners until 1964.

8. Spencer Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church (1903) 4300 7th Avenue

The Spencer Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church originated through a request by the Reverend J. B. Rutter to the district conference to organize a church in the developing Edgewood Park district. He did this in September 1900. First, Rev. Rutter and his wife organized a Sunday school, then a Ladies' Aid society, and finally a group of trustees organized the church. The following were the first trustees: David J. Sears, S. J. Ferguson, W.E. Scott, J. A. Pauley, Andrew Olson, James Gauley and T.C. Nutter. Rev. Rutter was selected the first pastor. The church was named in honor of William Spencer, a



devout layman of the church in Rock Island.

A donation of two lots was made by Frank Robinson at the corner of 7th Avenue and 43rd Street. The building, which cost about \$20,000, was completed on October 25, 1903, although it was not formally dedicated until September 15, 1907. The dedicatory address was delivered by Bishop Cranston. Several of the speakers at the celebration spoke of the difficult time the congregation had in freeing the building from debt.

Still plagued by building debt in 1925, Reverend H.A. Kirk headed a movement to free the congregation from the construction and improvements obligations. By that time, there were outstanding mortgages on the church building to both the parent church and to local banks for the original construction, additions, a new furnace and a parsonage. On August 5, 1925, the congregation officially burned the mortgage in a commemorative celebration. At the end of the assembly, the congregation unanimously voted to raise Pastor Kirk's salary by \$300 per year.

When the Spencer Memorial congregation merged with Centenary Methodist Episcopal members in 1949 and moved to a new building at 38th Street and 18th Avenue in Rock Island that was renamed the Memorial Heights Methodist Church, the former Spencer Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church was sold to the Bethel Assembly of God.

From 1974 to 1984, a local artist, Dean Schroeder, occupied the sanctuary for his private residence and rented another portion of the building as an apartment. Today, it houses the congregation of Templo Elim Spanish Assembly of God.

Spencer Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church is an example of Gothic Revival architecture which was influenced by late medieval buildings in Western Europe. Often seen in American church design from the 1840s on, the imposing corner tower with a crenellated (tooth-like) top, the corner wall buttresses and the contrasting stone trim emphasizing pointed gables over the doors are very common features of this style. Large areas of stained glass are especially noteworthy.

9. Spencer Memorial Methodist Episcopal Parsonage (1917)

711 43rd Street

The rectory is another fine example of an American Foursquare home. This time the exterior is clad in narrow clapboard, while the front porch shows influences of Craftsman style in the square, tapered or “battered” columns that rest on solid clapboard railings. The



exposed brick chimney flanked by small, high windows is also a characteristic of the Craftsman influence found in this home. The interior of the house is intact, with an unaltered floor plan, some original kitchen cabinets, original doors and woodwork, a beautiful built-in buffet and a fireplace with a wood mantel.

The Spencer Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church erected this parsonage in 1917. The trustees of the church financed the construction of the parsonage with a \$3400 mortgage from People’s National Bank. The mortgage on the parsonage and the main church building was released in 1925 with a celebration by the congregation. When the church transferred hands to Bethel Assembly of God, 711 43rd Street continued to serve its parsonage function. Not until 1974 did the house become a private residence.

10. Hjalmer and Emily Nyquist House (Ca. 1907) 807 43rd Street

The Hjalmer and Emily Nyquist House was built around 1907. He was a printer with the Augustana Book Concern, a Lutheran publishing house located on 38th Street and 7th Avenue from 1898 to 1962. One of his brothers, Swan, also worked at the Book Concern while other



members of his family, Adam and Carl, worked as pipe organ builders. The entire family lived in KeyStone within walking distance of each other.

The Nyquist House is influenced by the Queen Anne style with a steeply pitched roof, multiple roof gables, asymmetrical shape and full width front porch all found on larger and more decorative Queen Anne homes (see number 3). Especially note the small Palladian window in the front gable and the Tuscan columns on the porch which characterize what is often called the “Free Classic” Queen Anne.

11. Charles and Mary Pratt House (Ca. 1909) 811 43rd Street



The Charles and Mary Pratt House is yet another variation of the American Foursquare style that shows the characteristic dormers, one on the front and one on each side which extend out from the hipped roof. Each dormer's roof is a miniature version of the larger roof. The classically influenced Tuscan

columns resting on concrete block piers and the simple porch railing are also often seen in this type of house as is the asymmetrical placement of the door and the two balanced windows on the second floor. Especially note the beveled glass found in the front porch windows.

Charles C. Pratt was an engineer for the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. For many years, his son, Charles Jr., and his wife Lena lived right next door at 815 43rd Street. In 1920, the house was purchased by Clarence E. and Martha Kennedy Laflin, who were also long-time residents. Mr. Laflin worked for several years as a laborer at the Arsenal and Deere and Company and as a machine assembler in East Moline. Later he owned and operated Laflin's Orchard, which was located on the farm where he grew up south of Milan.

12. Frank and Zuah Weller House (Ca. 1909) 830 43rd Street

This house is an unusual Craftsman style home because of its hipped roof. This style, which has roots in California at the beginning of the 20th century, is characterized by wide overhanging roofs with



visible rafters. Both the front gable and side shed dormers on this house show these features. This one-and-a-half story house with its horizontal emphasis has a solid porch railing and tall brick corner columns extending from ground level to above the porch roof. These features also help identify it as a Craftsman style home. Sometimes such homes are referred to as bungalows.

Frank Weller was the superintendent of the Carriage and Buggy Department at the D.M. Sechler Carriage Co. in Moline which sold the “largest and best variety of vehicles made in the West.” Previous to this he was employed by four other carriage companies in the Midwest, including the Fostoria Carriage Co. in Fostoria, Ohio, and by Studebaker Brothers in South Bend, Indiana. He and his wife, Zuah, had four children.

In 1916, it was sold to George and Florence Borg. Mr. Borg was the son of Swedish-born Charles Borg, a senior member of the firm Borg and Beck, manufacturers of machines for farm implements. The factory held patents for the following, among others: the Borg automatic wagon tongue shaping machine (1904), a porch column machine, an automatic wheel sanding machine, and the Borg automatic stave trimming and grooving machine. George was secretary and general manager at the firm. He had taken business courses at Augustana College. In the process of machining clutch casings for Velie, George Borg, Marshall Beck and Gus Nelson invented a new clutch in 1909. George Borg opened a new operation in Chicago, and moved in 1919. Previously impoverished Charles Borg sold his interests and ended up a millionaire. George went on to consolidate major parts makers, forming Borg-Warner Corporation. During the 1920s, this company was capitalized at \$90 million dollars and George Borg was elected president.

13. James and Della Williams House (Ca. 1910) 831 43rd Street



James L. and Della R. Williams built the home at 831 43rd Street in 1910. Mr. Williams was an engineer for the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway. He worked first as a fireman and then as an engineer on the train from Rock Island to

Valley Junction in Des Moines, Iowa. Prior to her marriage, Mrs. Williams worked for the Young and McCombs department store as head of "Ready-to-Wear." She also sold real estate for Mr. H.K. Walker later in her life. Mr. and Mrs. Williams had two daughters. Daughter Blanche remembers moving into 831 43rd Street as a five-year-old when Lincoln Park was referred to as "pasture land." Blanche and her husband, Dr. C. Arnold Serenius, graduated from Augustana College in 1926. They were married in 1932 and moved in with her parents. Dr. Serenius held several positions at Augustana College, including director of public relations and assistant to the president. He was active in the Rotary Club, serving as president during the early 1950s. Mrs. Serenius taught at Franklin and Washington Junior High Schools and at Horace Mann School in Rock Island. After the death of Mr. Williams in 1937, Mrs. Williams and Dr. and Mrs. Serenius resided in this home until 1954. This house is another example of an American Foursquare home in KeyStone. Especially note the stucco cladding with simple half-timbering on the second floor showing Craftsman influence. The massive short Tuscan columns resting on solid stucco piers dominate the front porch and show a strong classical influence as does the semi-circular fanlight found above the two small paired windows in the front dormer.

14. Kurt and Emma Wahlstrom House (Ca. 1912)
845 43rd Street



The Kurt and Emma Wahlstrom House is a Craftsman style one-and-a-half story bungalow built in 1912. This stuccoed home with its deeply sloped side-gabled roof has a large shed dormer window and a full front porch with

columns influenced by Prairie style architecture. The development of the Prairie style at the turn of the 20th century in Chicago is often associated with Frank Lloyd Wright. This is evident in the geometric design at the top of the sloping porch piers and the solid porch railing with horizontal lines emphasized with a contrasting color at the top of the porch railing. Geometric designs continue in the beveled glass of the front door. The interior of the home features a fireplace, built-in dining hutch, hardwood floors, and oak trim, beams and paneling. This home was built by F.O. Williams for \$3755 for Kurt F. Wahlstrom. Mr. Wahlstrom, who was a piano tuner, lived in the home until his death in 1919. Mrs. Emma Wahlstrom, who was a dressmaker, remained in the home another 33 years, until she sold it in 1952 to Ronald C. Rohling. Mr. Rohling worked as a clerk at International Harvester Company. The home has had two additional owners, who have carefully maintained its historic integrity.



15. Hasselquist-Ramsey House (Ca. 1918)
920 43rd Street



Early records indicate some involvement of Dwight Deere Wiman with this house; he may have built the house on speculation. By 1922, the house was home to Lennart S. and Martha Hasselquist. Mr. Hasselquist was a clerk at Deere and Company. Six years later, they

sold the house to Walter and Ethel Palm. Mr. Palm was a laborer at International Harvester, but with the onset the next year of the Great Depression, the Palms defaulted on the house, and by 1933 ownership reverted back to the Hasselquists. During 1934-35 the house was rented by Harry A. and Ruby E. Nelson; Mr. Nelson was a manager at the *Rock Island Argus*. In 1935, the home was sold to Julian Walling Ramsey and Helen Brandicon Ramsey, who owned the home until 1972. Mr. Ramsey was an editor and editorial writer for the *Argus*. In 1972, the home was bought by Franklin D. Bell and Constance J. Bell.

The Hasselquist-Ramsey House is an American Foursquare which shows decorative influences of both the Prairie and Craftsman styles. Note the geometric detailing on the top of the sloping piers columns which are similar to the columns on the Wahlstrom House (number 14). Here the short tapered square columns rest on concrete block bases with the center base lacking a column, a common decorative device found in Craftsman homes. Also the two windows on the second floor have vertical divisions on the upper half, a design common to both Prairie and Craftsman style buildings.

The interior features plaster walls, leaded glass windows, picture railings, hardwood floors, and original oak woodwork and stairway. The dormer alcove has a commanding view of east Rock Island and west Moline.

16. Levi and Marion McCabe House (Ca. 1886) 927 43rd Street

Levi S. McCabe believed in the dream of a new city, Edgewood Park. He invested money in the development of the area and built his home here circa 1886. The hilltop home stood alone on



a large parcel of land and was a symbol of the estate size lots and homes McCabe envisioned. But by 1905, Levi McCabe had given up his dream. He and his wife Marion moved to a larger home in a prestigious area along 5th Avenue. His large lot was divided into smaller parcels and the home was sold to Oscar and Jennie Lundahl.

Levi McCabe is best known as the founder of McCabe's Department Store, a business that existed in Rock Island for over 100 years. He opened his first store, McCabe's Plunder Shop, in 1870. By 1913 McCabe's was located in a handsome new building (1713 3rd Avenue) and offered not only household and personal items, but a branch post office, rest and reading rooms, long distance phones, telegraph service and a tea room. In 1902, Mr. McCabe was elected to the Illinois State Senate. He served one four-year term and declined to run for reelection due to the demands of his business affairs. Levi McCabe died in 1915, but the business bearing his name remained a household word in Rock Island for decades to come.



Oscar Lundahl, the home's second owner, was listed as a bookkeeper or cashier in city directories, but no company or business name was given. In 1915, Hazel, John W., and Richard Lundahl, all students at nearby Augustana College, were also listed as living here. The home remained in the Lundahl family until the mid-1930s, after which it was owned by Godfrey Youngquist, the manager of the Augustana Book Concern.

The Levi McCabe House is an example of the Queen Anne style from the 1880s and is notable for its squared corner tower with shingle trim and small brackets, a complex roofline and an asymmetric footprint. The classically inspired wraparound porch was probably added in the early 1900s, as earlier homes typically had small porches. The porch roof with a deep eave overhang is supported by classically-influenced Ionic half height columns resting on concrete bases with turned balusters in the railing.

17. Oliver and Wilhelmina Olson House (Ca. 1892) 1001 44th Street



The Oliver and Wilhelmina Olson House is a smaller sized variation of the Queen Anne style. Its intricately ornamented front and side gables with wood shingle trim and a narrow roof line supported by brackets are common features of the Queen Anne style. The wrap-around front porch is probably the result an early 1900s remodeling. Simple Tuscan

columns with dentil-like trim beneath the roof edge, rather than the spindlework and “gingerbread” trim found in typical Queen Anne porches (see number 3), make this a Free Classic variant of the Queen Anne style.

In 1892, Oliver P. And Wilhelmina “Minnie” Olson purchased the property at 1001 44th Street in the Edgewood Park Addition for \$425. Later that year, construction began on the new Queen Anne home with a \$1,700 mortgage. Oliver Olson was a clerk with the Augustana Book

In 1897, Mr. Olson became the Assistant Postmaster of Rock Island, a position he would maintain for over 25 years. Mr. Olson also continued to play an active part in the affairs of the Augustana Synod. Oliver Olson died in 1930, at which time his widow took possession of the home. In 1938, the property was transferred to Deere and Company.

In 1927 the second floor was converted into a rental apartment with numerous tenants over the years. In 1936 Marion and Audrey Smith moved into the apartment at 1001½ 44th Street. Marion was a machinist and worked for International Harvester Company, and later for Reynolds Engineering. Audrey Smith worked as an Avon Lady. In 1945 Marion and Audrey Smith purchased the property from Deere and Company.

18. Hawkins-Grafstrom House (Ca. 1894) 831 44th Street

The lot this house was built on was sold to S. David Hawkins in 1893 and the abstract states that “the grantee agrees for himself and his heirs and assigns that no dwelling shall ever be erected on said lot costing less than \$1000 above the



foundation.” Hawkins was a clerk at the Augustana Book Concern. In 1903 the property was sold to Olof Grafstrom. He was a Swedish immigrant, an internationally known painter and a Professor of Art at Augustana College. His reputation was further enhanced by altarpieces which are hung in churches throughout the United States. One can be seen at St. John’s Lutheran Church on 7th Avenue (number 22). In 1913, his wife, Anna E., was listed as an instructor at the college. Interestingly, after her profession began to be listed in the city directories, she was reported as “boarding” at this address. That term was frequently used for adult children who lived at home, rather than a wife. She had a china painting business at 636 38th Street and later in the Reliance

Building in Moline. The Grafstroms and their two daughters lived in the house until 1924.



The Hawkins-Grafstrom House is a vernacular gable-front home. This vernacular type was particularly suited to narrow city lots and its simple one-to-two story shape was sometimes augmented with Queen Anne or Craftsman detailing. The fishscale wood shingle trim in the upper front gable shows Queen Anne influences while the porch with its tapered piers on brick bases shows Craftsman influences and suggests a later addition.

19. Jordan-Bandy House (Ca. 1912) 815 44th Street

The Jordan-Bandy House is another fine example of the American Foursquare style, this time with classically influenced Ionic half height columns resting on cement block bases. The flared or “bellcast” edges of the hip roof are often found in Foursquare houses, as is the stucco used on the exterior walls.

George and Nellie Jordan were the first occupants of this home in 1912.

The Jordans were listed in city directories only for the year 1912, with no occupation given. In 1913 the house was listed as vacant. By 1914, it had been sold to Claude and Lillian Bandy. Mr. Bandy was a dentist in the Kimball Building in Moline. The Bandys lived in the house until 1934.



20. Robert and Estella Woodburn House (Ca. 1909) 800 44th Street

Real estate, insurance and investment speculation was Robert Woodburn's business. He built this house sometime between 1907 and 1909 after moving to Rock Island from Hillsdale. The well-known real estate man had an office in the Chase Building in downtown Moline. He sparked a 1916 building boom in downtown Moline with his \$60,000 purchase of the Bio Theater. Two years later he and Estella moved from 800 44th Street.



The Woodburn House is an example of the Colonial Revival style which incorporates a wide range of different subtypes. All the variations were, in some way, influenced by architecture from the United States' Colonial period of the 18th century. Sometimes referred to as the "classic box," this home shares features with Foursquare homes, especially the dormer windows in the hipped roof and the two story box-like shape. However, the symmetrical, balanced placement of the windows and door and the central, triangular pediment supported by Tuscan columns in the center of the porch are all features of the Colonial Revival style, popular from the 1880s to the 1950s.

21. Pantel-Onion House (Ca. 1912) 709-11 44th Street



This house is another example of a "classic box" because of its symmetry and pedimented porch roof. However, here this style is used for a double house. The simple vertical supports and solid porch rails form rectangular porch openings that with the stucco facade and overhanging eaves

also show decided influence from simple Prairie style homes. Note the unusual angled corners holding windows on both levels.

The first two families to live in this house were Herman and Linn Pantel and William and Winifred Onion. In 1915 two new families lived here, the Lubys and the Groves. Over the years many families with diverse occupations called this stately double house home. The tenants of longest tenure were Delmar and Lucia Dooley. Mr. Dooley began his career as a draftsman for Velie Carriage and eventually established his own mechanical engineering firm. The Dooleys lived at 709 from 1918 to 1924 and then at 711 until 1954.

22. Swedish Zion Lutheran Church (1907) 4501 7th Avenue



The Swedish Zion Lutheran Church, now known as St. John's Lutheran Church, was completed in late 1907 at a cost of \$11,343. The architect was Olof Z. Cervin, a graduate of Augustana College, who was appointed official church architect of the Augustana Synod in 1896. The general contractor was Emil Peterson. Their Swedish heritage was the common bond of the first members of the church. Sunday morning and afternoon services were conducted solely in Swedish and English services were not

conducted until after World War I. In 1928, Swedish Zion Lutheran Church merged with Grace Church and the new congregation was given its present name of St. John's Lutheran.

Grace Church was organized in 1888 by members of the Augustana College faculty. Up until this time, most of the college and seminary worshiped in Swedish at the First Lutheran Church in Moline. The stimulus to organize Grace Church was to have the services conducted in English. The church was located at 4401 7th Avenue, Rock Island and it was the hope of the charter members that it would serve the

community as well as the English speaking members of Augustana College. When the Swedish Zion Lutheran congregation abandoned the use of the Swedish language in their services in 1928, the two congregations merged.

Olof Cervin designed the Swedish Zion Lutheran Church in the Gothic Revival style. The tall bell tower with crenellated (toothed) edges topped by a steeple, the corner wall buttresses on the tower, the pointed arched door and window openings, and the use of brick with contrasting stone trim are all features of this style. The interior of the sanctuary is especially interesting because of the original stained glass windows, the ceiling beams similar to hammerbeam ceiling designs in late medieval English churches and the large painted altarpiece by Olof Grafstrom (see number 18).

23. Sifford and Naomi Johnson House (Ca. 1906) 4502 8th Avenue

The Sifford and Naomi Johnson House is in the Brooks Grove sub-area of KeyStone, as are the remaining homes on this driving tour. This fine American Foursquare home features a recessed front door, double-paired windows on the second floor and diamond paned windows in the roof dormers, all unusual decorative additions to this design. The Tuscan half height columns on the front porch rest on tapered pedestals made of cement blocks, a Craftsman influence.



Sifford and Naomi Johnson built this home in 1906. Mr. Johnson was a bookkeeper for Deere and Company. The Johnsons lived in this home for 50 years.

24. John and Augusta Weigand House (Ca. 1906)
4435-37 9th Avenue



At first glance, the Weigand House looks like a typical American Foursquare. But it is quite unusual in that the Foursquare plan has been enlarged to create a double house configuration. It is constructed of stone-textured cement block, a material which was historically called “patent stone.” To maintain the narrow front appearance, the main entries have been recessed. The hipped roof on the dormers match the main roof. Notice the diamond-shaped window panes in these dormers.

In 1905, Augusta E. Weigand purchased this lot for \$625. Several months later, she and her husband, John C., who was a laborer, took out a mortgage for \$3,500 to build this two-family home. When they sold the property and moved a few years later, the Weigands were the last owners to occupy one side of the home until 1946.

Occupations of the renters were diverse and included mechanics, machinists, a real estate agent, an Arsenal inspector, a grocer, engineers, laborers, and a Tri-City Railway conductor. The next owners to occupy 4435, until the mid-1960s, were Paul A. Holland, who worked as a steamfitter at International Harvester, and his wife, Anna. Their daughter and son-in-law, Hyacinth and William Price, lived at 4437 until 1983.

25. Bert and Esther Schultz House (Ca. 1930)
4431 9th Avenue



Built about 1930, this home is one of the later homes in this part of KeyStone and likely the last one to be built on this block. It was built for Bert G. Schultz and his wife, Esther. Mr. Schultz was a gas plant superintendent at Peoples Power Company. The family lived here for

about 15 years. Harold Wenos, who had his insurance agency in the home, lived here from the mid-1950s through the mid-1970s.

This is a Craftsman bungalow with a side gabled roof that slopes to cover the full length enclosed front porch. That roof shape as well as the stick decoration in the top of the roof dormer are common features in Craftsman homes. The half-timbered design in the stuccoed second floor is reminiscent of the Tudor style.

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26. William and Geneva Hagedorn House (Ca. 1917) 4430 9th Avenue

The William and Geneva Hagedorn House is another example of a Craftsman bungalow that also has a side gabled roof. But here the stucco and the heavy wooden railings in front of the roof



dormer and on the full width front porch are reminiscent of Swiss chalets. The large brackets at the edges of the deeply overhanging roof and the rafters evident at the roof edge across the entire front of the bungalow indicate how different bungalows can be (see number 25).

This home was built about 1917. William Hagedorn and his wife, Geneva, were the first occupants, remaining here for only about 10 years. Mr. Hagedorn was an accountant for Moline Plow. After William died in 1924, his wife continued to live here. Other long-term occupants include Wilson and Florence Avery, from the early 1930s until about 1950. Mr. Avery was a traffic manager at the Deere and Mansur Works of Deere and Company.

27. Wilhelm and Annie Bjorkman House (1917) 4414 10th Avenue



The Bjorkman House is the final home on the driving tour. It is unusual due to the steep lot, which required the garage to be built into the hill beneath the house. Built in 1917 for \$2500 the house shows the major features of an American Foursquare, including the two story, box shape, the gabled dormers set into a hipped roof, the two balanced windows on the second floor, the asymmetrically placed

front door, the beveled glass in small windows on the front and side, and the full width front porch with a simple railing and plain brick columns. The steep lot necessitates an uncommon side entrance to the porch.

When Wilhelm A. and Annie S. Bjorkman built this house, Mr. Bjorkman was in the printing business and was associated with a newspaper in the area. In 1958, I. Parker and Edith L. Maxey bought the house from the elderly Bjorkmans and lived in it for 35 years, raising their family here, as did the Bjorkmans. Mr. Maxey was a minister who moved to this area to teach at the Bible Missionary Institute in Rock Island. During his 30 years at the college, dozens of Bible college students lived in the commodious house. Many visiting ministers and other friends from around the world were entertained here. Altogether, hundreds of guests came and went during the Maxey years. The house is still owned by one of the Maxey's children.



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