

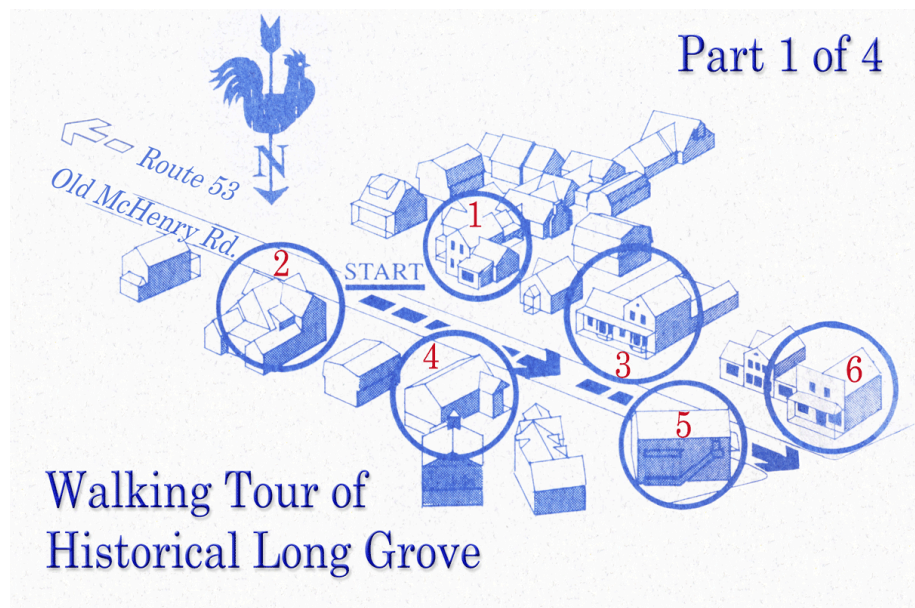
Long Grove History

LONG GROVE LIVING
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A Walk Through *Historic* Long Grove

Six houses south of the crossroads — cheesemakers, carpenters, and a one-legged Civil War veteran. Lace up your shoes; we'll be at this for four months.

By Aaron Underwood · Long Grove Historical Society



STOPS 1-6 Part 1 of the walking tour begins south of the crossroads on Old McHenry Road and works north toward the bridge. Numbers correspond to the LGBCP merchants' directory map, available at the downtown Info Center.

This is part one of a four-part series — a walking tour of historic downtown Long Grove. If you're using the merchant's directory map (the *LGBCP map*, available at the downtown Info Center), you'll find numbers at the end of each property description. Many of the buildings have those numbers posted near the doorway, too.



Six stops south of the crossroads.

1 **Herschberger House**
340 Old McHenry Road

LGBCP #26

Our first stop is just south of the crossroads at what was most recently known as the **Red Oaks** furniture store. The home was built circa 1860 by the village cheesemaker, **George Quentin**. It was subsequently owned by the Lemkers, the Ruperts, and the Cordeses before being purchased by the Herschbergers in 1918. In 1963, **Bob McNitt** bought it and transformed it into Red Oaks. The original part is the two-story section with a porch facing Old McHenry Road; everything else is the long accretion of turning a residence into a business.

2 **Albert Sauer House**
325 Old McHenry Road

LGBCP #21

Across the street you'll find the Albert Sauer House. In 1854 the Sauer family left Germany for America via the port of Le Havre, France. They settled briefly in New York before coming to Long Grove in 1855. **Albert** was born here in 1863 — youngest of four boys and three girls — and worked in the village's general store from 1882 until 1931. The Sauers operated several general stores in the area, including in Wauconda and Chicago. Today the store *Nifty Fifties* occupies the old house.

3 **Fred Sauer House**
314 Old McHenry Road

LGBCP #31

Heading toward the crossroads, you'll find what is now the *Seasons of Long Grove* restaurant on your left. **Fred Sauer** was a carpenter and built this house for his family in 1873; the original part is the two-story section. Fred learned his trade helping to rebuild Chicago after the great fire of 1871. Note the distinctive medallion in the peak — a feature you'll spot in several other mid-19th-century homes around town.

4 **Chris Sauer House**
309 Old McHenry Road

LGBCP #19

Across from the Fred Sauer House you'll find the home now occupied by the *Prairie Smoke* shop. **Chris** was the oldest of the Sauer boys and built this home in 1869. As a young man in the 1850's, he had worked for Long Grove's pioneer merchant **Charles Stempel** (stop 6, below). Chris fought in the Civil War and lost a leg at the Battle of Missionary Ridge. When he passed away in 1891, his younger brother Albert married his widow.

5 **Sauer General Store**
303 Old McHenry Road

LGBCP #17

Sitting prominently on the crossroads is what was most recently known as the *Farmside Country Store*. After rehabilitating in Chicago from his war injuries, Chris Sauer came back to Long Grove and built his own mercantile establishment here. The structure was destroyed by fire in 1916, but another was built on its foundation — what you see standing today. The barn to the rear was built about 1870 to house animals, wagons, and supplies; later the old Sauer summer kitchen and tool shed were added on.



CROSSROADS · 1920

Sauer & Hans General Store at the Long Grove crossroads — the building you'll see in stop #5, rebuilt on its original foundation after the 1916 fire.

6 **Stempel General Store**
302 Old McHenry Road

LGBCP #33

Facing the Sauer Store from across Old McHenry Road, you'll find Long Grove's *original* general store, built by **Charles Stempel** in 1855. Windows have been changed, but the false-front exterior with porch retains its original character. There was once a loading platform along the north side. The pre-Civil War Stempel home — a separate building to the south, what is now *Within Reach* — was attached to the store in the 1950's. Charles was a Republican and the Sauers were Democrats; the location of the Long Grove post office moved back and forth between the two general stores depending on which party was in power.

OPEN HOUSE / STRAWBERRY FEST



Want a personal tour of one of these old farmhouses? The Society's restored Weidner Farmhouse will be open **JUNE 22-23, NOON TO 3 PM** — southwest corner of the Stempel parking lot.