

Maplewood Centennial
1908-2008



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MAPLEWOOD CENTENNIAL WALKING TOUR

A Stroll Through Time



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City Of Maplewood

Step a few feet into Maplewood and you'll feel the strength of a growing community and an invigorated spirit that has propelled the city into a period of unique development. This outstanding enthusiasm for progress was cultivated within an existing bed of historic roots, community pride and neighborly love that has existed in Maplewood since 1908.

The Maplewood Centennial Walking Tour celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the City of Maplewood. During this tour, you will be guided throughout the city and learn about historic landmarks that have built the foundation for this charming community. Discover over forty buildings that have enriched the neighborhood and made their mark in Maplewood history.





The History

In 1752, a hopeful Charles Gratiot left his hometown of Lausanne, Switzerland to embark on a journey to America. Twenty-five years later, he had established himself as the principal merchant of Cahokia, now in Illinois. Soon after making his mark East of the Mississippi, Gratiot decided to travel across the river to St. Louis, which was then Spanish territory. Not only did Gratiot find new business, but he also found love. It was here that he met his future wife, Victorie Chouteau, daughter of Madame Marie Therese Chouteau, one of St. Louis's founding families. Gratiot and his family thereafter lived at the northwest corner of First and Chestnut Streets. One of Gratiot's ledgers is still in existence. With a goosequill pen and in beautiful hand, he wrote transactions that can still be read. The notes include sales of almost every type of merchandise, from sacks of flour to flagons of rum.

Even though he was doing well for himself, Gratiot was not content to be merely a merchant. In 1798, Gratiot successfully petitioned the Spanish Lieutenant Governor to grant him a league square (three square miles), which extended from Kingshighway to Big Bend Road and from the middle of Forest Park almost to Arsenal Street, and thus includes much of our present day Maplewood. The original document of this exchange is still preserved at the Historical Society in Forest Park. Charles Gratiot died in 1817 leaving the real estate to his children.

Two years later, in 1819, a New Jersey man named James Sutton came to St. Louis to assist his brother, John Sutton, whom had a blacksmith's shop established at Second and Spruce Street in St. Louis. The brothers were excellent iron manufacturers and introduced the St. Louis area to many iron innovations including: house fastening, iron wheels, iron ploughshares, harrow teeth, iron railings, iron locks, and many other helpful items that we now take for granted.

In 1826, James Sutton purchased 334 acres from the Gratiot heirs for \$1.125 per acre. The land was in the southwestern part of the league square originally purchased by Gratiot. Sutton added 51 acres to this purchase in 1848 paying \$7.50 per acre. Sutton began to settle into his new land by constructing a log cabin, storehouse and blacksmith shop on what was then

MAP

This historic stroll through Maplewood is presented by the Maplewood Centennial Committee to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the city of Maplewood. The Committee has organized events throughout the year to educate the community about Maplewood's rich history as well as a chance to embrace and celebrate the city's bright future.

the "Road to Jefferson City by way of Manchester." Soon a road was opened from Sutton's blacksmith shop to the big bend of the Meramec, hence its future name, Big Bend Boulevard. The early neighbors of Sutton included Charles S. Rannells, Henry Bartold and Jean Baptiste Bruno along with the Cartan and Gay families.

In 1876, the limits of the City of St. Louis were extended to their present location. When the new county was organized, a Maplewood man, Henry L. Sutton, son of James C., was chosen as its chief executive officer, or presiding justice of the county court. The first three meetings of this body were held at the Sutton home on Manchester. Then in 1877, the patriarch of the neighborhood, James C. Sutton died, and the land he left behind was divided amongst his nine children. In 1890, one of these divisions was sold to a company organized by Theophile Papin and Louis H. Tontrup, two St. Louis real estate men, and managed by Robert H. Cornell. They plotted the land into blocks and lots then named their subdivision Maplewood, after the maple trees they planted along their streets. These streets were also named for trees and shrubs: Maple, Elm, Myrtle, Hazel, Vine, Arbor and Flora. The street on the west line of the subdivision was named Marshall and the one on the East line Sutton. In some unexplained manner these names were later transposed and remain to this day.

Soon after this exchange other Sutton heirs began to distribute and develop their land creating Maple Lawn, Ellendale, Lohmeyer Heights and Greenwood. In 1896, an electric streetcar line reached Maplewood and the population increased tremendously. The same year, The St. Louis Meramec Railroad Company began to operate a trolley line that ran from downtown St. Louis to the Sutton Loop, known as the Manchester Line. Soon churches, stores, banks, a library and city hall were all constructed on Manchester Avenue. Devastation came to the prospering city in 1908 when the Banner Lumber Company caught fire, resulting in nine buildings being destroyed. Feeling that St. Louis City Fire Companies could not provide sufficient fire protection so the community decided to incorporate, doing so in May 1908, primarily to provide fire protection and schools. Maplewood continued to develop rapidly throughout the next several decades, becoming a well-known shopping district bustling with commercial activity.



*2. 2737-2747 Sutton
and 7401-7403 Hazel.*

DR. LEANDER W. CAPE BUILDINGS.
(EST. 1898-1911)

These six adjacent buildings were built between 1898 and 1911. They are all owned by Dr. Cape, whose home directly on the other side of Sutton was razed to create parking for Bettendorf's Market. The northernmost building served as the first City Hall. Adjacent and south was the first Fire Dept. from 1908 to 1922. These are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and are designated County Landmarks.

1. 2816-18 Sutton

CAPE-HARPER BUILDING
(EST. 1924-1927)

Built between 1924 and 1927. At one time this building held Harper's Pharmacy on the southern end and still has the original wood display cases. The northern end of this complex once contained Bettendorf's Market, which allowed shoppers to shop in the basement and have their groceries, brought up on a conveyor.



43. 7156-60 Manchester

BROWNE BUILDING.
(EST. 1922)

Named for Theodore G. Browne, a floral artist, this building is split in half by the boundary of City of St. Louis. The Browne's architectural style (built around 1922) might be categorized as Whimsical Exuberance. The black and white tile checkerboard above the central arch works well with the buff and terra cotta-colored brick. The ornament includes glazed terra cotta pilasters on each corner topped with what appear to be four lit candlesticks. Flanking a sort of reverse arched parapet are what look like bowls of fruit resting at flat spots on the glazed terra cotta coping. Browne's ads used the slogan "Say It With Flowers." He apparently wanted to, "Say It With Terra Cotta" as well. He and his wife Emma lived upstairs. The Jones Commercial College was here and 7160 was once the People's State Bank. Browne sold the building between 1932 and 1934, but he left a timeless architectural design that will be enjoyed generations to come.

44. 7187 Manchester.

This building features a tremendous Art Deco façade with a great deal of terra cotta and a beautiful blue stain-glass window.



45. 7216 Lanham.

BELL TELEPHONE BUILDING.

Overall, glazed quoins and stringcourses frame a field of red brick inlaid with a diamond pattern of buff-colored ones. Elements of what is arguably the best terra cotta entrance in Maplewood include two plain Doric columns supporting a cartouche with the familiar bell symbol. Surrounding the cartouche, is a tangle of scrollwork resembling a Baroque bacchanalia. Beneath it all is a band of egg and dart molding, the ancient feminine and masculine architectural symbols. If that's not enough, there is an Art Deco version of the egg and dart just across the street.

41. 7266-68
Manchester.

STERTZING BUILDING.

One can easily imagine Mr. Stertzing directing his architect to leave no surface unglazed. Every square inch of this stunning façade is done in a white, emerald, reddish-brown or an unusual glaze. The building contains two storefronts with apartments directly above. Each apartment has French doors opening onto a small balcony with an iron railing. Above the doors are attractive arched metal canopies supported by very French-influenced brackets. The canopies perfectly fit within arches of the emerald-glazed brick.



42. 2637 *Roseland
Terrace.*

ELLEDALE HOME PLACE.

Lyman and Kate Thomas (daughter of James Sutton) called their home, Ellendale Home Place. The interior has been beautifully restored and has an impressive central hall that is flanked by double parlors. Both parlors have retained their pocket doors, which have a transom with sliding wooden panels. The front yard originally ran all the way down to Manchester. Lyman Thomas was the author of *The History of St. Louis County, 1911*.

3. 2725-31 *Sutton.*

MAPLEWOOD MILL COMPLEX.
(1916)

The Maplewood Planning Mill and Stair Co. constructed these three buildings. The first building, built in 1916, contained offices and showrooms on the first floor and an eight-lane bowling alley above. Saratoga Lanes is the oldest surviving bowling alley in the county and a designated County Landmark. Immediately west is a former stable that once housed the mules used to haul lumber from the railroad tracks to the mill. This stable was coined the "Mule Palace" by jealous mill workers who worked in a tarpaper covered frame building when the brick stable was built. Just south of these two buildings is the Mill Building, recognized for decades by its large chimney and cyclone dust collector. A recent renovation thoughtfully preserves the chimney keeping the historic touch in a progressing neighborhood.

4. 2717-19 *Sutton*

DISTINCTIVE MAPLEWOOD
STYLE.

Located opposite and to the west end of Marietta Avenue, you will see an elaborate façade with fine terra cotta.

5. 7420 *Manchester.*

WARRING BUILDING.

Originally constructed as a furniture store, this striking, three-story building is visible for a good distance as you travel east on Manchester. There is a magnificent façade largely covered by terra cotta and a wonderfully unique tin ceiling complements the interior.





6. 7453 *Manchester.*

SUTTON FAMILY HOME. (1832)

The Sutton Family homestead was built in 1832. The Suttons once owned nearly all of what is modern day Maplewood east of Big Bend. This building was the birthplace of St. Louis County. (See Thomas' 1911 History of St. Louis Co.) The home was demolished in the 1950s.

7. 7539
Manchester.

MAPLEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL.
(1929)

The Maplewood High School was built in 1929 and designed by architect William B. Ittner. The stunning brickwork along with the exquisitely designed pool building is an architectural tour de force. The interior contains rooms with the original fireplaces, wood paneling and many more interesting original details.

8. 7562-7573
Manchester
2700 Oakland.

FORMER VALLEY SCHOOL.

This location, directly across the street from the City Hall, is now the Douglas Manor Apartments. Pay close attention to the unique retaining walls. These stone walls and stairs surrounding the apartment complex once enclosed the earlier Valley School.



38. 7320
Manchester.

SCHEIDT HARDWARE. (1910)

Constructed to be the Maplewood Lyric Theater in 1910. The 1912 Directory lists it as the Maplewood Theater (W.B. Powhatan). Screw holes of the theatre seats are still visible in the floor. E.L. Scheidt remodeled the theatre to create a hardware store in 1916, and his grandson, Bob Scheidt, carries on the family business to this day. The parapet coping, bracketed cornice and panels depicting cornucopias are of a very high quality terra cotta that resembles marble. This building has been named a county landmark by the County Historic Buildings Commission.

39. 7329
Lohmeyer.

NEOCLASSIC HOME.

This elegant and proportionate Neoclassical home just recently emerged from decades of hiding beneath layers of inappropriate siding. Inside is an Arts and Crafts staircase with the original finish.

40. 7270
Manchester.

PORCELAIN & STEEL.

Many Maplewoodians remember this building as once home to the popular Chopsticks House Restaurant. The Art Deco façade is composed of porcelain enameled steel panels like those seen on a Lustron house.

36. 2800
Marshall Ave.

THE MAPLEWOOD POST OFFICE

The Maplewood Post Office consists of two rectangular volumes intersecting perpendicularly. The southernmost one is smaller and projects past the facade of the main. The asymmetrical blonde brick façade, laid in common running bond, consists of six windows and the entry door with transom. The entry is flanked by two windows on either side and all are recessed and separated by Indiana limestone columns, rectangular in section and capped by slim lintels. The interior is still a treasure. The lobby walls are clad with seven feet of light gray to off white marbled streaked with veins of yellow ocher. Three single weighted sash windows for the clerks, original post office box fronts, and decidedly Art Deco louvers high on the walls separating the public area from the business area are all original to the building. The stamp licking tables are double octagonal pedestal beauties made of white oak and still serviceable after nearly 70 years of use.

37. 7291
Sarah Ave.

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN
CHURCH. (1914)

The Concordia Lutheran Church was founded in 1892 at 7255 Southwest Avenue. A brick church was erected on the present site in 1914 but was replaced in 1953 by the present building. The architects, Froese, Maack and Becker, specialized in Lutheran churches and institutions, usually rooted in North German architecture. Here their design, probably influenced by junior partner Rex Becker, is unusually bold – note the pattern parabolic arches. The symbols around the door represent the twelve apostles, many referring to stories of their martyrdoms.



10. 2601 *Bredell.*

DISTINCTIVE
MAPLEWOOD STYLE.

Pay detail to the southwest corner at Lohmeyer, which has interesting stonework on the front porch, representing one of the early styles of the Maplewood community.

9. 2801 *Oakland.*

FORMER VALLEY SCHOOL
ATHLETIC FIELD.

This is now home to the ECC (Early Childhood Center), but the stone walls and stairs that border the center once surrounded the Valley School Athletic Field.

11. *Bredell
at Lohmeyer.*

NEW DEAL INFLUENCE.

Here you can notice the New Deal Era influence in Maplewood lent by these stone retaining walls.

12. 7550
Lohmeyer.

MAPLEWOOD POOL
BUILDING. (1938)

The Maplewood Pool Building, built in 1938 by the WPA, has been newly renovated to house the Maplewood Library. This beautiful Art Deco building is an architectural companion in stone to the brick Maplewood High School. The upper floor was originally designed with removable windows transforming it into a sunny pavilion during the summer. The original stone fireplace now graces the library's reading room. The building is bracketed on both ends by sinuous stone staircases. Also on site is the stone backdrop to the now vanished kiddy pool. A long stone wall marks the eastern property line.



13. 2200 *Bredell.*
Woodside Estate.

(EST. 1848-1850)

This simple and elegant farmhouse, built between 1848 and 1850, once belonged to Charles and Mary Rannell's 2,000-acre farm. Charles Rannell, a prominent attorney, was elected to the Missouri Senate for the first of two terms in 1850. Rich in original fabric and history, Woodside is a designated County Landmark and is on the National Register of Historic Buildings.



33. 7324 *Vine.*

HUNTZIKER HOME.

The home was built by architects/builders, Klute-Beche between 1890-1891 for Adolph A. Huntziker. Huntziker worked for Woodward & Kiernan Printing Co. and also invented a loose-leaf ring binder.

35. 7303 *Marietta.*

MOOSYLVANIA. (1894)

Built in 1894 (addition in 1925), this was originally the home of the Maplewood Baptist Church, but the building complex has recently undergone a complete renovation – a vivid example of a successful adaptive reuse. It is now the home of Moosylvania Marketing.



34. 7240 *Anna*
(fronting Moller)

ITALIANATE ECCLESIASTICAL.
(1926)

A beautiful example of Italianate ecclesiastical architecture designed by Henry P. Hess. The original church building for Immaculate Conception Catholic Parish (founded in 1904) was located along Marshal and sits just north and west of the current church building.



30. 7330 Maple.

BOING HOME. (1904)

Built in 1904, this home included a chimney in the garage to warm the family's Winton Flyer automobile, which was difficult to start in cold weather. The Boing family home and business are both constructed of the same buff-colored brick. The business was located in the building at 7400 Manchester.

31. 7305 Maple.

LAST STANDING BARN.

On the northwest corner of Marshall is one of Maplewood's last remaining barns, which is located behind the house.

32. 7311 Vine.

KOCH HOME.
(EST. 1903-1904)

This residence was built for Margaret Koch between 1903 and 1904 and has preserved a mostly unaltered exterior.



*14. 2824 Laclede
Station Rd.*

GREEK REVIVAL.
(EST. 1863)

Here you will find a side-gabled Greek Revival house that was built around 1863 and later had a wing added to the rear. The house still holds many of the original cornice brackets, but the balcony and bay windows on the façade are later additions.

*15. 2825 Laclede
Station Rd.*

UNIQUE VICTORIAN.

The cupola boasts the original finial, which is a ball-balanced on the point of a cone.

16. 3035 Coleman.

LUSTRON HOME.
(EST. 1949-1951)

All Lustron homes were built between 1949 and 1951 as an industrial answer to the post WWII housing shortage. They feature all steel construction with no exceptions. The exterior and interior walls, ceilings, doors, windows, cabinets, fixtures and even the shingles are all made of steel. Limited factory color combinations were available – one of the more flamboyant ones was chosen here.

17. 7632 *Flora.*

LUSTRON HOME.
(EST. 1949-1951)

This Lustron home was made of porcelain enameled steel panels. A couple of the Lustron features that didn't catch on are the heated ceilings and a combination clothes and dishwasher.

18. 7519 *Flora.*

NOTABLE STONE WALL.

Located on the northwest corner of Big Bend, this stone wall was built with flagstones and once bordered the parking lot behind a restaurant called Ted's Corner. The building disappeared when Big Bend was widened.

19. 7396 *Flora.*

Built by Wm. Koester, this building is thought to have been a stable based on the board-and-batten siding in the rear.



27. 2918-20

Sutton.

KOESTER & WHITENEY
BUILDING.

William Koester's office once occupied the southern half. WhiteneY Plumbing and Supply was in the northern half.

28. 7360 *Maple.*

GREENWOOD HOME.
(EST. 1891-1904)

This residence was built for Halbert Greenwood between 1891 and 1904. It also served as the homestead of John Stark, music publisher of Scott Joplin.

29. 7351 *Maple.*

BENNETT HOME. (1904)

This home on the wedge between Hazel and Maple was built in 1904 for Fred Bennett, general manager of an insurance agency. Interior details described in the 1904 *Suburban Home Journal*, "Dining room mahogany mantel inlaid mother of pearl...Library...Bookcase oak inlaid with copper." Weather permitting the magnolia trees in front put on an impressive show in the early spring and the very well maintained stone wall adds texture to the neighborhood.



*25. 3200 Block of
Big Bend and Waller.*

STONE HOME AVE.
(EST. 1910)

These Fifteen stone homes were built around 1910 and were nearly identical at the time of their construction. 3200 Big Bend is a mirror image plan of the others. Two more stone houses are located just north of Manchester on the east side of McCausland, within the city limits of St. Louis. These historic stone homes have a quirky asymmetrical exterior design, which were built by the owner of the Big Bend quarry (now filled, directly beneath Sunnen's Business Park). 3228 Big Bend has the only original front porch (well, mostly) remaining. 3232 Big Bend has the only original rear porch intact, now screened.

26. 3107 Sutton.

POWHATAN THEATRE.

This building is listed as The Powhatan Theatre and Air Dome Building in the 1912 Maplewood Business Directory, presumably named for the owner, W.B.Powhatan. The building is now Scheidt Hardware. Recently joist pockets in the brick walls were uncovered that once supported the sloping floor.



20. 7395 Flora.

KOESTER HOME. (1904)

Built by architect/contractor William Koester in 1904. The winged roof finials are recognizable to many generations of Maplewoodians. The residence remained in the family until 1980, and much of the original interior and exterior detail remains. Koester also built the Methodist Church across the street in 1915.

21. 7380 Flora.

(1904)

James Speer, a machinist, purchased this lot in 1892. The home was built in 1904 and the exterior remains mostly original. A landmark gingko tree in the front yard has a loyal following each fall to watch its leaves change to a brilliant yellow.





22. 7343 Flora.

EBBING HOME. (1907)

This Carpenter-Gothic home was built in 1907 for William Ebbing. Especially important, this home wonderfully preserves its original exteriors. One of the many interesting exterior details are the tusk tenons at the ends of the front porch handrails. Inside some of the original gas/electric fixtures remain.



23. Maple and Arbor.

HISTORIC STATION SITE. (1930)

On the southwest corner, landmark stone walls and beautiful curving stairs still exist that once provided access to the Maplewood Train Station, a passenger stop along the Terminal Railroad Association/Missouri Pacific (MoPac) Line. A freight station further west (at Sutton & Greenwood) served as the passenger stop from the early 1900s until this station was built in 1930. By 1961, the eighteen trains per day had dwindled to one per day, and the Maplewood Station was closed before year's end. The station building was removed shortly thereafter.



24. 3518-32 Greenwood.

NATIONAL REGISTER.

Just across the site of the MoPac Greenwood Freight Station are four interesting buildings that hold a great deal of commercial history. These four buildings are now on the National Register. Some of the business that occupied these buildings:

3518-20 Milligan's Million Article Hardware Store (Vertical 'ghost' sign still reads "HARDWARE").

3522-24 Simms Dry Goods (Lady's and Men's furnishings) and Kroger Grocery & Baking Company.

3526-28 Sutton Station Saloon and Willey Brothers Grocery & Meats.

3530-32 Brashear and Son Saloon and John G. Fisler Shoe Store.

Note: 3528 has a wonderful intact façade that includes original cast iron elements.

Use the map below to help navigate your way. Each tour stop has a corresponding number on the map.

