

The Stone Houses of Oswego



*Promoting the preservation and enhancement of
Oswego's unique historic character*

Village of Oswego
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Stone Houses "Rock" Trolley Tour, 5/2009

This publication was adapted from the Stone Houses "Rock" Trolley Tour, hosted by the Oswego Historic Preservation Commission on May 2, 2009, in recognition of May as Historic Preservation Month. The tour includes nine stone structures, located both in and around Oswego, that are excellent examples of historically and architecturally significant structures. Aboard the trolley, Ted Clauser, Jr., an HPC Commissioner, presented detailed information about each building on the tour, which included historical background, such as building dates and historical owners, and architectural styles. Participants were transported aboard the trolley from the Village Hall to each stone house, most of which were constructed of local stone in the mid-nineteenth century.

The tour provided a glimpse into the history of the Village and, at the same time, highlighted the many architectural treasures that Oswego has to offer and that should be preserved for future generations to enjoy. The OHPC would like to thank everyone that participated in the event and encourage anyone interested in historic preservation to look for additional programs in the future.

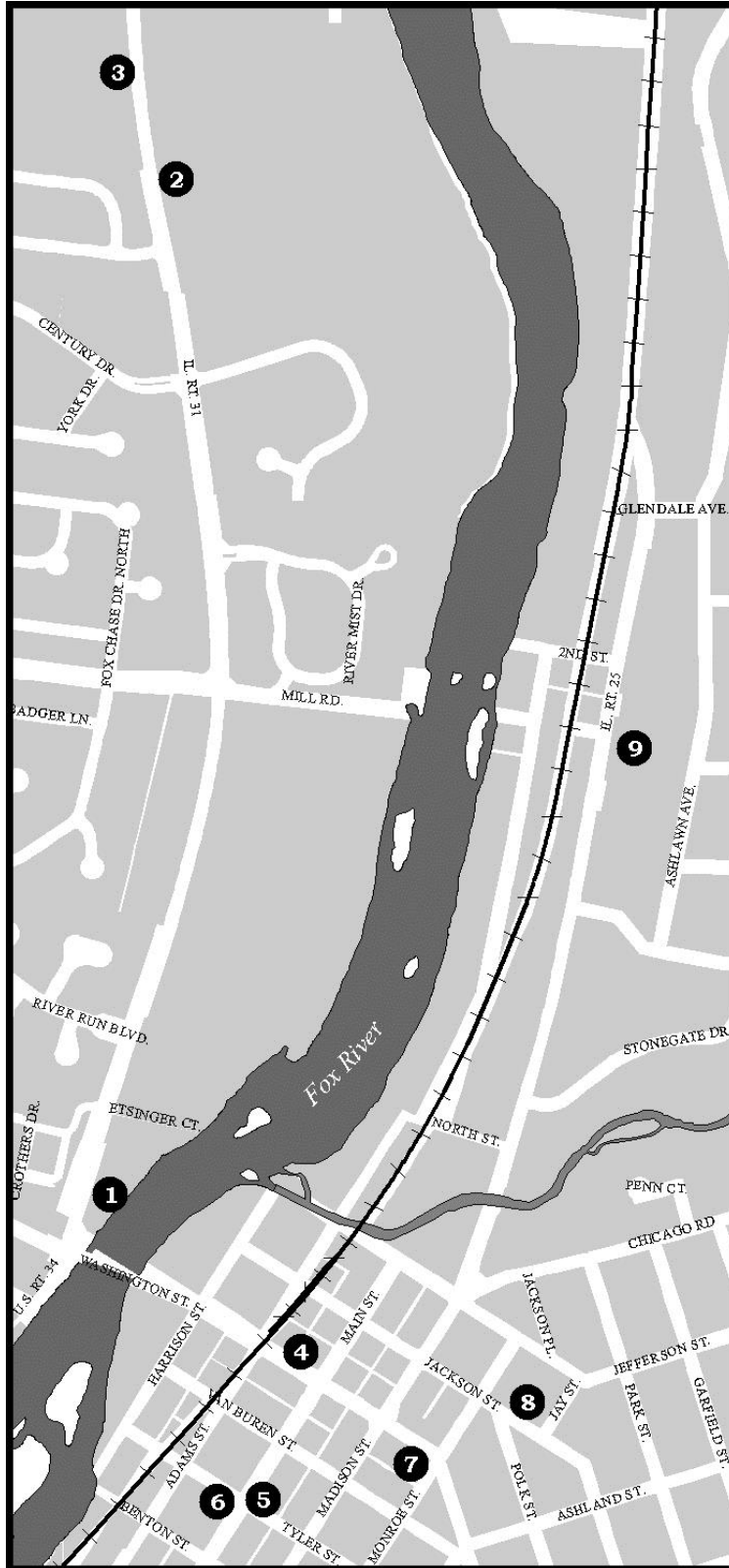
To the best of our ability, this publication presents the basic architectural type and/or history of each property. However, if we have presented any discrepancies, please inform commission members or the Community Development Department. Vintage photographs courtesy of the Little White School Museum & private collections.

Landmarks Illinois

For further information regarding restoration and landmarks in Illinois go to The Landmarks Illinois website at www.Landmarks.org.

The Stone Houses of Oswego

Location Map



①

**2470 Route 31
Curry Home/Turtle**



This 1861 banked-style barn of native limestone served as an ice house, dairy, and cheese factory before being converted into a home. In 1929, James and Dorothy Curry creatively upgraded the structure into a house and a tea room. Turtles sunning on a glacial boulder in the Fox River gave the structure its name. Limestone preserved from other Oswego barns enhance the setting.

②

**1524 Route 31
George D. Wormley
House**



Kendall County's only surviving *Second Empire* house was built in 1871 by George and Emma Wormley (nee Richards). The mansard roof allowed for more living space while eliminating the massive feeling of a gabled roof structure. The original house limestone came from the quarry closer to the river (near what was the YWCA's Quarry Ledge). The limestone for the two-story 1948-1949 addition, which replaced a 3-story back porch came from a Joliet quarry.

③

**1437 Route 31
Wormley/Ricketts
Farmhouse**



Riverside quarry limestone was used to construct this house which dates from the 1840s to the 1850's. The *Greek Revival* structure has a broad roof line gabled with 16 symmetrical windows; the basement is made of brick with a high ceiling. This style was a popular choice of dwellings until the Civil War period. William and Elizabeth Wormley had seven children; son George was the only child to stay in Illinois. When operated as Ricketts farm, the property covered 130 acres, running to the Burlington tracks.

④

**62 W. Washington
John W. Chapman
Building**



Built of limestone in the *Greek Revival* style, this structure was then stuccoed and trowelled to look like more expensive, large cut blocks. The large wrap-around porch was removed in the 1920s. Original owner John W. Chapman was a businessman and bridge builder of the 1840s.

⑤

**26 W. Tyler
George Barnard
Blacksmith Shop**



Christian Henni purchased this property in 1852. This *Greek Revival* stone structure was built in the mid-1850s and eventually purchased by George Barnard in 1893 where he operated a blacksmith shop for many years. This is the last surviving building of three that housed blacksmiths in Oswego. This simple limestone structure was converted to a residence in 1958.

⑥

**205 S. Main
John Young House**



Lou C. Young built this *Shingle* style house on property where his parents (John and Margaret) had lived in a brick home. The round boulders on the porch are hard head boulders found in area gravel. As a builder, Young may have used the features of this house, including an eyebrow window on the north side attic roof as a model for new houses that he constructed. 453 S. Main Street is an example of this work.

7

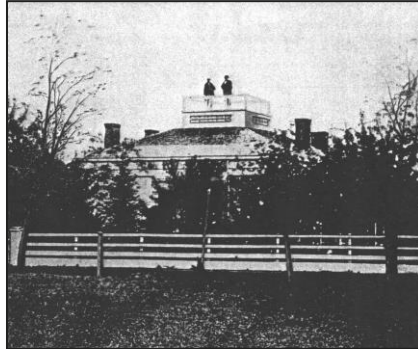
**25 E. Washington
Hoze/Cherry House**



A combination of *Italianate* (the original structure was built in 1860) and *Prairie Foursquare* (addition built in the early 1900s) are architectural features of this house. Limestone for the original portion was supposedly delivered from Wisconsin for the Hoze home. Mr. Cherry bought limestone in Joliet for the newer addition.

8

**56 Jackson Street
Crothers-Jolly-Jeneson-
Denney House**



Built in 1850 of high quality limestone quarried in Joliet and prepared on the property *Greek Revival* style defined this John M. Crothers home. It has a formal, symmetrical, and orderly appearance. The entrance features sidelights with etchings of graceful birds, flowers and butterflies in the glass; there is a horizontal light over the door. From the Crothers name to the Denney name, the house was still in *the same* family until 1991. This is one of two homes in Kendall County that has a landmark designation.

9

**2094 Route 25
Gorton/Hopkins House**



Built in the 1840s or 1850s, Levi Gorton, the original owner, or Thomas S. Hopkins used local limestone for the exterior walls, which are at least two feet thick. The widow's walk atop the home allowed the family to view activity along the river valley in those early years. This *Greek Revival* home had the portico added in the early 1950s.