

LONG GROVE HISTORIC BEGINNINGS

The Long Grove area was first settled in the late 1830's by the George Ruth family, who claimed 160 acres of pristine prairie land, including all four corners of an old Indian trail crossing near a long grove of trees and a meandering stream. Other pioneers soon followed. By 1880 Long Grove was a thriving village with two general stores, two blacksmiths, two wagon and carriage shops, a tavern, a hotel, a creamery, three churches, and four one-room schools. Many of these buildings still exist, and now house shops and restaurants.

Current Building Number (on walking map)	Original Use
# 14 The Olive Tap	Creamery, 1879 Once the largest and most prosperous cheese and butter factory in northern Illinois. This building was rebuilt after a fire in 1897.
# 17 Farmside Country Store	Sauer General Store, 1869 Originally erected as Sauer's Cheap Cash Store by Civil War Veteran Christ Sauer. Remained a family business until 1932. Destroyed by fire in 1916 and rebuilt.
# 16 Pine Cone Shop	Sauer Barn, c. 1870 Supplies for the Sauer General Store located to the north were stored in the original barn section. Now closed due to fire in 2008.
# 19 Prairie Smoke Clothing Co.	Sauer Family Residence, c. 1870 Home of Christ and Albert Sauer, the eldest and youngest of four brothers to settle in the village. Christ was a Civil War veteran.
# 21 Nifty 50's / Lucy & Ethel's	Victor Sauer Residence, c. 1870 One of the four brothers to build houses in the village. The center section is original.
# 31 Seasons of Long Grove	Fred Sauer Residence, 1873 Built by Fred Sauer, a carpenter who plied his trade rebuilding Chicago after the Great Fire of 1871.
# 26 Red Oaks	Pre-Civil War Residence, c. 1855 Peak medallion and other Victorian elements reflect later additions to the original two-story center section. Remained a residence until 1963.
# 32 Within Reach	Stempel Store and Residence, 1855 and c. 1860 Charles Stempel built the first village general store to the right. His house was to the left and was later attached to the store.
#35	Bollenback Wagon Shop, c. 1870 Owned by the Bollenback family, wagonmakers and blacksmiths, the center two story section was moved from its original location across the road.

# 42 Re/Max	George Umbdenstock Residence, c. 1870 George Umbdenstock Sr. was one of the first village blacksmiths. The two-story eastern section is original.
# 45 Village Tavern	Tavern and Wagon Shop, 1847 First restaurant and central meeting place. Has been in operation as a tavern since 1849 and is thought to be the oldest continuously operated tavern in Lake County. (During Prohibition the Tavern became an ice cream parlor.) The massive 35-foot mahogany bar survived Chicago's Great McCormick Place fire in the 1960's.
# 1 Hotel Building	Rose Residence and Zimmer Hotel, c. 1880 Built as a residence by the first village blacksmith Daniel Rose. Later became a ten-room hotel run by the Zimmer family.
# 3 Timmy's Sandwiches and Ice Cream	Ritzenthaler Farmhouse, c. 1860 Purchased by William Umbdenstock in 1928 and moved from farm property one-half mile to the north.
# 47 McKee Real Estate	Zimmer Residence, 1898 Built by John Zimmer, Jr. for his bride. The Zimmer family operated the tavern and wagon shop to the south.
Long Grove Covered Bridge	The symbol of modern Long Grove. Where Indians forded Buffalo Creek, the settlers built a simple wooden bridge to reach their church on the hill. In 1902, the present wrought iron truss bridge was built. It serves as the basic structure for the bridge cover the village erected in 1972. The original purpose of placing a cover over the bridge was to protect the trusses from deterioration due to weather. This was the reason this bridge was covered at a time when the county authorities were recommending the old bridge be torn down and replaced by a culvert.
Route 22 – Half Day Road	Dubbed Half Day Road because it was about a half day's wagon ride from Chicago.

-- With Thanks to the Long Grove Historical Society