West Chicago

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Junction ▶ Turner ▶ West Chicago

IT'S SESQUI-SENSATIONAL!

Sesquicentennial Mural Project
This sesquicentennial mural is a celebration of the history of West Chicago and is a gift to the residents by the Cultural Arts Commission. The Cultural Arts Commission is made up of the following volunteers:

Ken Tinnes: Chairman
LuAnn Bombard: Museum Director & City Liaison
Commissioners: Fredericka Howard, John DeLap, Lou Ransom, Marianne King, James Burnham, Shirley Elton

The Cultural Arts Commission's goal is to enrich the lives of all West Chicago residents through an active support of cultural arts activities in the city.

Funding for this project was made possible by the generous donations of area businesses and residents:

David and Mary Fox
WeGo for Arts Fund - General Mills Co. - Sesquicentennial Commission
Fine Arts Fiesta - Ken and Char Tinnes - Leon Richardt Auxiliary
Hydralift, Inc. - State Representative Tom Johnson - West Chicago State Bank
Railroad Days Cash Donations - Sonny Acres - Ball Seed Company
John DeLap - M & M Donald Smith - Lions Club - Kiwanis Club
Marziani Enterprises - Liberty Federal Bank - Crossroads Chevrolet
Press A Lite Corp - Preferred Millwork - Murphy's Ace Hardware
Grohe's True Value - Able Construction - M & M Eugene Wind
Duncan B. Taylor - Norris-Walen Funeral Home
Joseph A. Schneider - M & M Richard Howard
State Farm, W. Swims

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West Chicago City Museum - Photos and Historical Research

For additional information concerning West Chicago history, please contact the West Chicago City Museum at (630) 231-3376.
Mural Scenes

1. **Lucius B. Church**
   First President of Village of Turner, 1873.

2. **William T. Reed**
   First President of Village of West Chicago, 1896.

3. **Joel Wiant**
   Early merchant, served as DuPage County Treasurer; built Second Empire home on West Washington Street.

4. **Wiant Home**
   Home of merchant Joel Wiant, built in 1869; most outstanding local example of Second Empire architecture.

5. **John B. Turner**
   Purchased land here for Galena & Chicago Union Railroad in 1848; platted the original settlement of the Town of Junction in 1855. Although never a resident, he donated land for Junction’s first church and school. Turner Court, Avenue and School are named for him.

6. **Currier/Reed Home**
   Built in 1856 by William and Roxanna Currier on first lot sold in Town of Turner; home of Chauncey Reed family 1934-1987.

7. **Chauncey W. Reed**
   Son of William T. and Margaret Reed; Republican Congressman (1934-1956); served as Chair of House Judiciary Committee.

8. **Arvilla Currier Clark**
   Early settler, coming here in 1850; taught at Gary’s Mill School in 1854, and first school in Junction in 1856; charter member of First Congregational Church. Currier School is named for her.

9. **Soldiers’ & Sailors’ Monument**
   Dedicated in 1915 by the Woman’s Club to honor those killed in war; largest monument in Oakwood Cemetery.

10. **Howard Aircraft planes**
    The DGA (Damn Good Airplane) and PT-23 Fairchild primary trainer were built for the Navy and Army Air Force at the Howard Aircraft Company plant, 1942-1944.

11. **Gary’s Mill School**
    First in Winfield Township, this one-room school was razed in 1988.

12. **Turner Town Hall**
    Built in 1884, it housed local government offices for 92 years; home of the West Chicago City Museum since 1976; designated National Register site in 1991.

13. **Lamp post**
    This style of lamp post was used near the 1912 C&NW depot.

14. **Grant Dayton**
    City of West Chicago’s first mayor, 1906.
15 Carrie Roundy
Member of first graduating class of Turner (High) School; first principal of Lincoln School; teacher for 51 years.

16 St. Michael's United Church of Christ
Built in 1870 by all-German congregation; steeple added in 1890; oldest church in town.

17 Washington School Eagle
Originally over south entrance to 1908 Washington School; now outside West Chicago Fire Protection District Station No. 1, which is on the school's former site.

18 Borden's Milk Plant
Borden's bottled milk from local farms here from 1906-1920; was Reid Murdoch and later Consolidated Food Processors pickle factory 1922 to late 1950s; site owned by Jel Sert since 1970.

19 Joe Buenrostro
Chief of Police 1954-1973; Police station (325 Spencer Street) named Joseph Buenrostro Building in his honor.

20 Nagel's service station and tavern
Operated by Edward Nagel family from 1929-1942, now site of Sonny Acres Farm.

21 St. Andrews Golf Club
Bought in 1938 by Joe Jemsek.

22 Frank Scobey
City Historian who authored two West Chicago histories.

23 Main Street (formerly Depot Street) with interurban train
West Chicago was served by the Chicago Aurora & Elgin, an electric interurban commuter train, 1909-1937; scene is from about 1925.

24 1912 C&NW Depot
Designed by Charles S. Frost; closed as a depot in the late 1970s; currently the Wayne and Helen Fox Community Center.

25 T.A.G
Thorium Action Group; grass roots group that facilitated the removal of thorium waste used as residential fill.

26 WCTU Fountain
Given to the City in 1897 by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union to promote water as the drink of choice; restored in 1995 and moved to 126 Main Street.

27 George J. Ball
Founded Ball Seed Co. in 1905 and moved it to West Chicago in 1927, where it is now a worldwide horticultural business.

28 Steam Engines in coach yard
C&NW Class E engines lined up for the morning commuter run; after 1956 the coach yards were closed and passenger trains were held overnight in the freight yards west of town.
Pioneer locomotive
Second-hand, ten-ton Baldwin engine of the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad that brought rail service here in November of 1849.

John W. Gates
Quit hardware business and became successful millionaire selling barbed wire and steel; helped start Texas Oil Co. (Texaco).

George Weimer
Editor of the West Chicago Press for 35 years.

Baker Home
Built by Irish immigrant farmer Peter Baker, circa 1845; one of County’s best examples of Greek Revival architecture and oldest home in West Chicago.

State Bank of Illinois - West Chicago Branch
Second bank in town, founded in 1908 with Charles Bolles as president; is now at third site; formerly the West Chicago State Bank.

100 Arbor Avenue
Built by Asel Gates in 1874; home and office of Dr. George Madison; boyhood home of Wayne S. Fox; West Chicago Press office 1987-present.

Water tower
In 1950, this 250,000 gallon tank replaced the original 1896 water standpipe.

Wayne S. and Helen Lynch Fox
Instrumental in redevelopment of C&NW depot into community center, now named for them; Wayne was president of the West Chicago State Bank (State Bank of Illinois) for 24 years, City Treasurer for 30 years and charter member of the Rotary Club; Helen, a direct descendant of Peter Baker, supported Baker Home restoration along with Wayne.

Rotary symbol
West Chicago’s Rotary Club began in 1983.

Bolles’ Opera House
Built in 1894 by Charles Bolles of Turner Brick; social and cultural center, and site of first motion picture theater. Razed in 1997.

Charles Bolles
Businessman who initiated name change from Turner to West Chicago; built Bolles Opera House (1894) and Atcherson Building (1910).

Neltnor Home
Built by Thomas Padgham for John C. Neltnor in 1869; significant example of Italianate architecture; destroyed by fire and razed in 1967.

John C. Neltnor
Merchant for 61 years; town clerk; police magistrate; postmaster; Neltnor Boulevard named for him in 1931.
About the Artist, Thomas Mahady

Thomas D. Mahady was born in Nyack, New York, and raised in Stamford, Connecticut. He earned his bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from South Hampton College and completed his final internship with Roy Lichtenstein. Tom continued his education with a Masters in Fine Arts from Hunter College in New York City.

Tom's fine mural work can also be viewed at the St. Charles Municipal Center, the Glen Ellyn Brewery and the McChesney and Miller Grocery Store in Glen Ellyn, and the Villa Verona Restaurant in Geneva on Hamilton. His diverse works include oil portraits, landscapes, equestrian renderings in colored pencil, pen and ink and pastels.

Solo exhibits include the University of Illinois, Beverly Arts Center, Aurora College, Elaine Benson Gallery (Long Island), Campbell House Art Gallery, Owls Head Airport (Maine) and Vox Populi (NYC). Tom has also participated in group shows at Harbor Square Gallery (Camden, ME), Visner Gallery (NYC), Westbeth Gallery (NYC), John Hancock Building (Chicago), Fermilab (Batavia), Cornelious Gallery, New York and Gallery 129 1/2 West State Street, Geneva.

Pen and Ink sketches for brochure are courtesy of Tom Mahady.