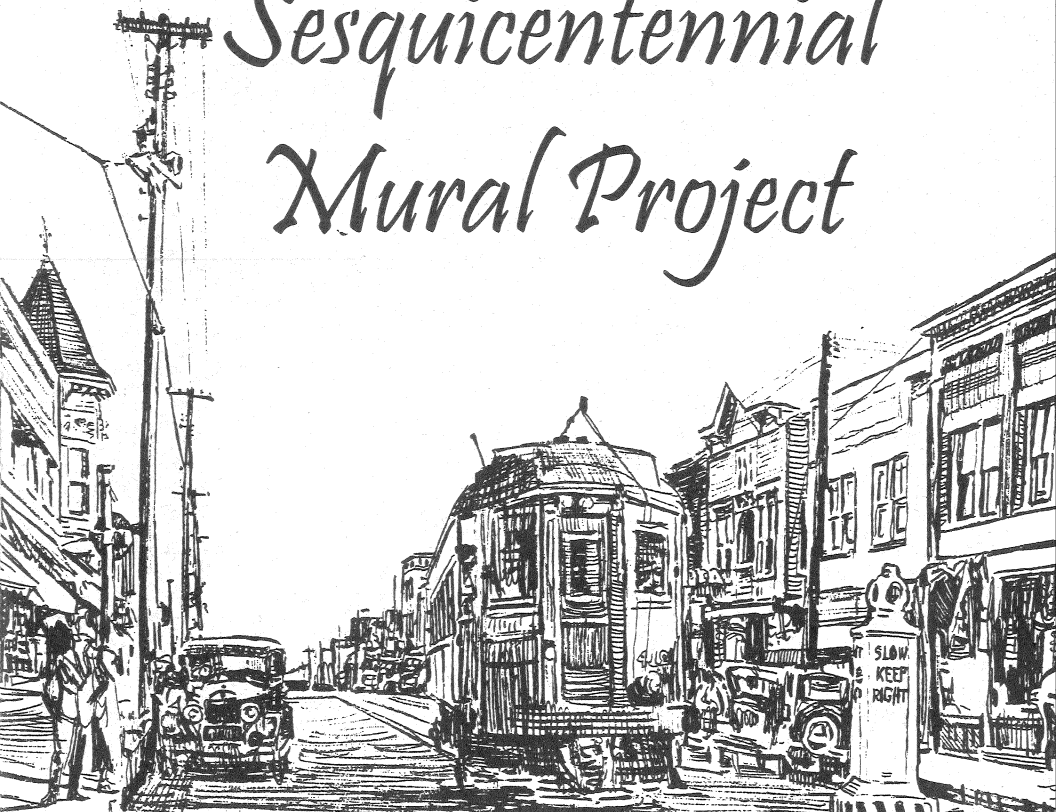


West Chicago



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

Rotary International - St. Andrews Country Club - West Chicago Press

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

Grobe'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

With Special Thanks to:

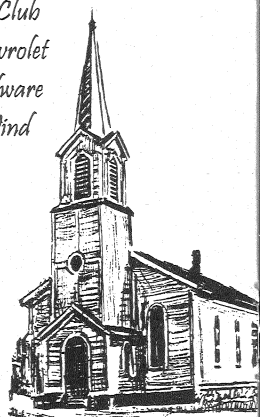
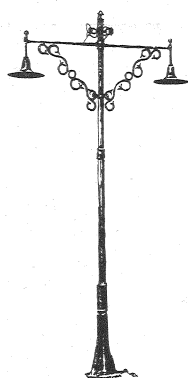
Daniel and Assoc. - Dan Czuba

West Chicago Printing - Brochure printing

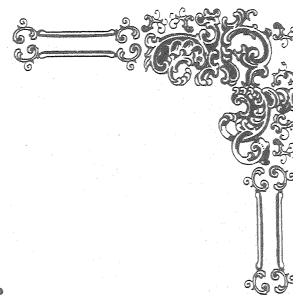
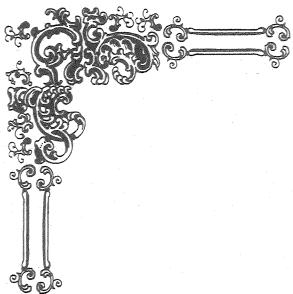
Burnham Graphic Arts- Brochure and Invitation designs

Brian LaGiglia - Use of premises for studio and gallery

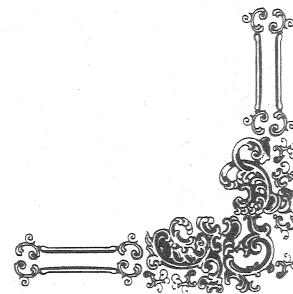
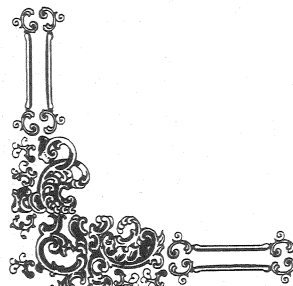
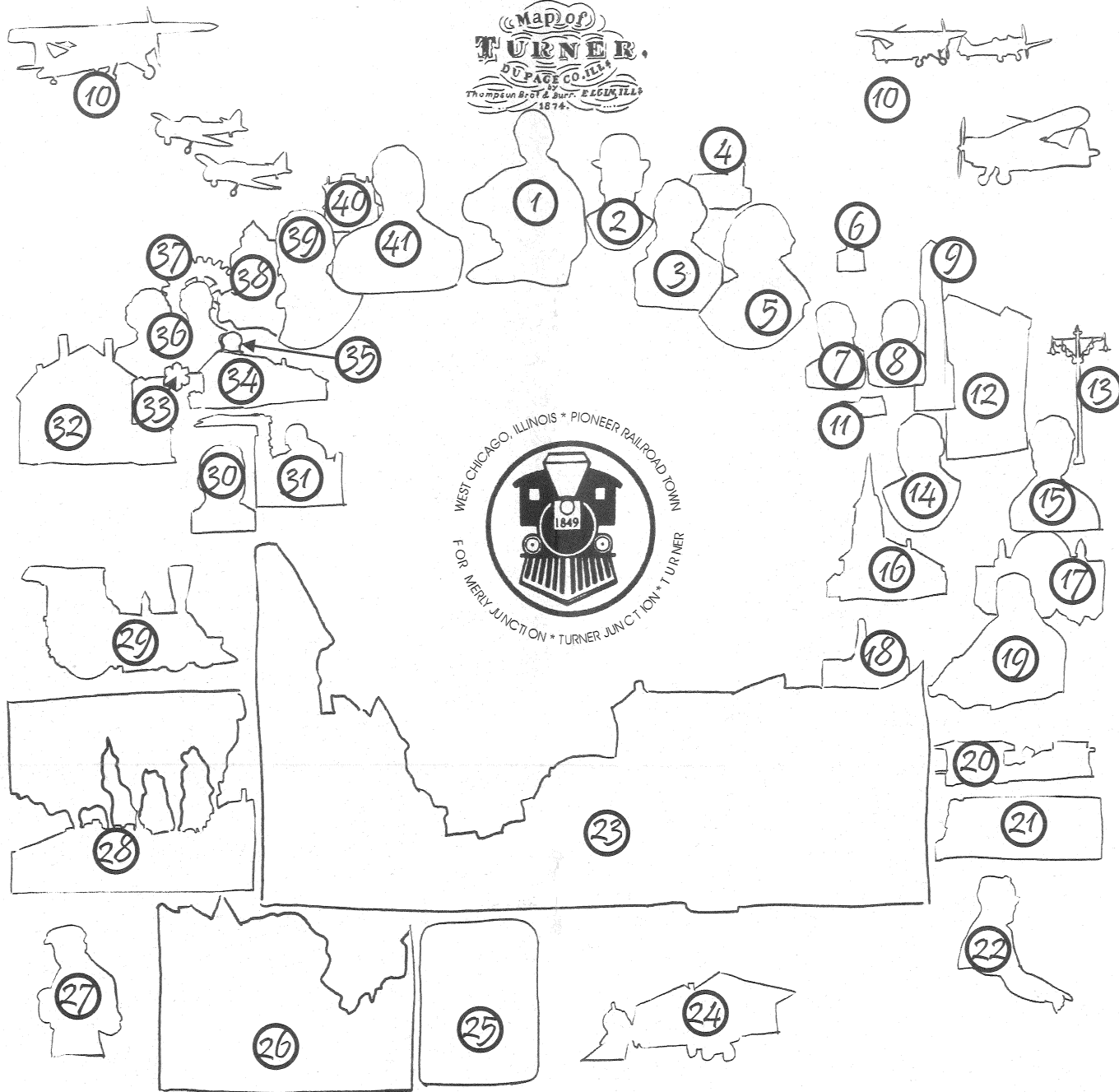
West Chicago City Museum - Photos and Historical Research



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



Map of
TURNER.
DU PAGE CO. ILL.
Thompson Bros. & Burr. ELGIN, ILL.
1874.



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 (Damned 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.

- 29 Pioneer locomotive**
Second-hand, ten-ton Baldwin engine of the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad that brought rail service here in November of 1849.
- 30 John W. Gates**
Quit hardware business and became successful millionaire selling barbed wire and steel; helped start Texas Oil Co. (Texaco).
- 31 George Weimer**
Editor of the *West Chicago Press* for 35 years.
- 32 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.
- 33 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.
- 34 100 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.
- 35 Water tower**
In 1950, this 250,000 gallon tank replaced the original 1896 water standpipe.
- 36 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.
- 37 Rotary symbol**
West Chicago's Rotary Club began in 1983.
- 38 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.
- 39 Charles Bolles**
Businessman who initiated name change from Turner to West Chicago; built Bolles Opera House (1894) and Atcherson Building (1910).
- 40 Neltnor Home**
Built by Thomas Padgham for John C. Neltnor in 1869; significant example of Italianate architecture; destroyed by fire and razed in 1967.
- 41 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.

