

SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF  
**HISTORIC  
 HOMES OF  
 WINONA  
 STREET**



**TERRITORIAL TREASURES**

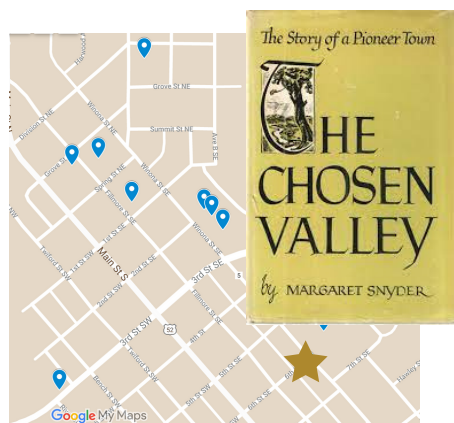
Sitting on three stage coach routes within what has been described as the "Minnesota Triangle" (the Mississippi River to the north and east, the Minnesota to the west and the Upper Iowa to the south), Chatfield was a natural location for immigrants during Minnesota's territorial period. In 1856, the Federal Land office was moved to Chatfield, firmly establishing it as a hub of territorial activity and commerce. From 1850-1860 the population of the area jumped from ~5,000 to 170,000 people. It was during this and the following four decades of growth that the speculators, merchants, brokers (and their descendants) built the stately homes you see today.

**\*All the homes featured are privately owned. Please take care to respectfully view them from the sidewalk or road.**



**THE RED BRICK HOUSE**

Possibly the oldest home still standing in Chatfield, the brick house was built in 1861 by Doctor Isaac S. Cole. When the Cole family returned to New York in 1872 their interests were sold to local banker J.C. Easton. The home's most recognized features are its color and large frame bay window. Originally it had a second floor balcony with a canopy held in place by slender wooden posts. It has double brick walls and an unusually high foundation which brings in light to the basement. At one point it had three chimneys to keep seven stoves burning. In 1886, J.C. Easton sold the property to the Bolsinger family who ran it as a boarding house. Max Bolsinger and his aunt Jennie Atchison (known to the community as "Aunt Jennie") lived there for almost 60 years.



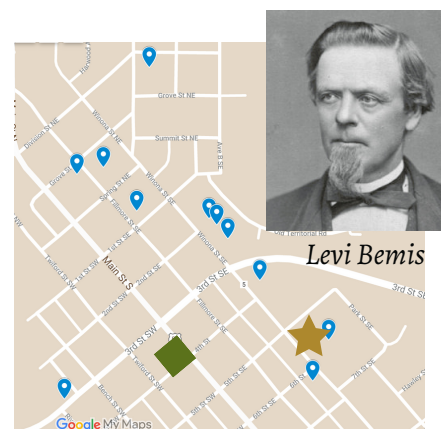
**603 Winona Street**

*Margaret Snyder stayed here while she wrote the book, "The Chosen Valley."*



**FAIRVIEW**

In 1855, Levi M. Bemis moved from Vermont to Chatfield where he became engaged in the mercantile business. Levi did not limit himself to just dry goods however, he expanded his interests into real estate and mortgage banking. As a result of his growing wealth, Levi commissioned a grand new home in fall of 1879 constructed by local builder, Adolph Pavlish. Levi died in 1910 and in 1935 upon the death of his third wife, Jennie Bandel Hendricks in an auto accident, the home was gifted to the Women's Club with a generous stipend to maintain it until it was sold to benefit the club. In addition, the noted philanthropists left the remaining bulk of their estate to the Chatfield Cemetery Association, Chatfield Public Library, The Home for the Aged as well as numerous churches.



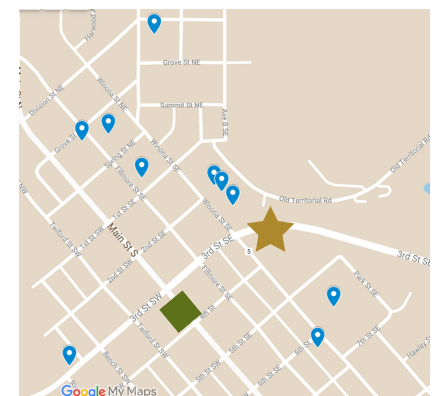
**522 Winona Street**

*The home also served as the Boetzer Funeral Home in the 1950's and 60's.*



**THE LINK OBER HOUSE**

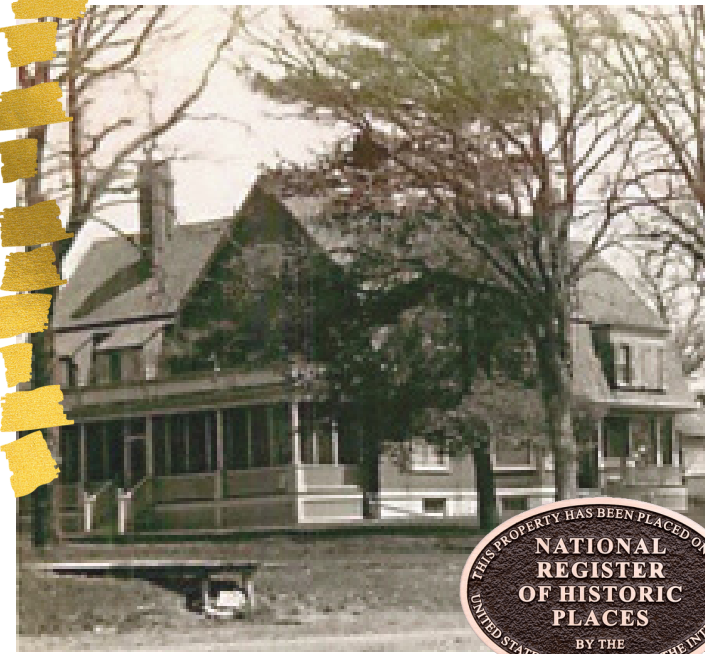
Just north of the Bemis home and adjoining Hendrick's Park (Chatfield's smallest park) is a three-story home commissioned in 1888/1889 by Abraham Lincoln "Link" Ober and built by Adolph Pavlish. Roughly thirty years earlier in 1854, Dr. Nelson Allen (Chatfield's first physician) built a log cabin on this site in which he lived and practiced medicine before selling the land to Mr. Ober, a banker with the Chatfield Bank. In 1911 it was purchased by Patrick Henry Laivell who lived there for over fifty years. "P.H." ran the Laivell Clothing Company at 221 Main Street for over five decades. Today, the house is often referred to as the "Perkins house." The Chatfield Brass Band & Lending Library was born out of "a few (of its) spare rooms" by Jim Perkins, a local attorney and musician.



**322 Winona Street**

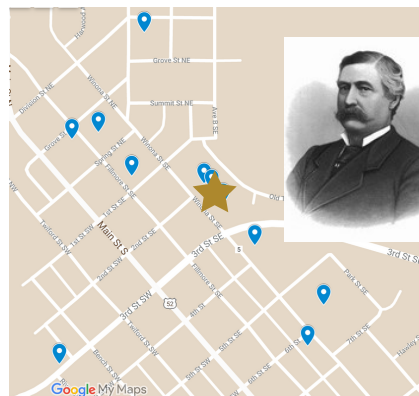
*At one point, Adolph Pavlish was credited with constructing 1/3 of the buildings in Chatfield.*



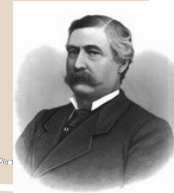


## OAKENWALD TERRACE

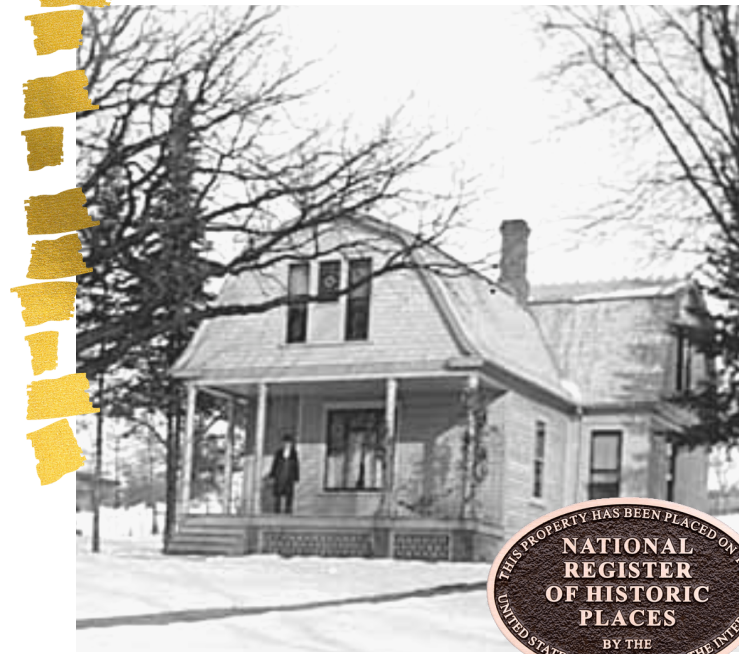
In 1895, Ellen Lovell (widow of Chatfield merchant and financier Charles M. Lovell) purchased the southern third of the Jason C. Easton estate from its second owner Lucian Johnson. The portion of the estate purchased by Mrs. Lovell contained the Easton mansion, which she soon demolished and replaced with a new dwelling. "Oakenwald Terrace," as the home came to be called, survives today as an unaltered example of *Shingle Style* architecture. It is reported that the house was designed by "a Boston architect" and although Ellen Lovell did make trips to Boston during these years research has not yet revealed the name of the architect. Today Oakenwald is operated as a B&B. Find out more about the home and lodging at: [www.oakenwaldterrace.com](http://www.oakenwaldterrace.com).



218 Winona Street

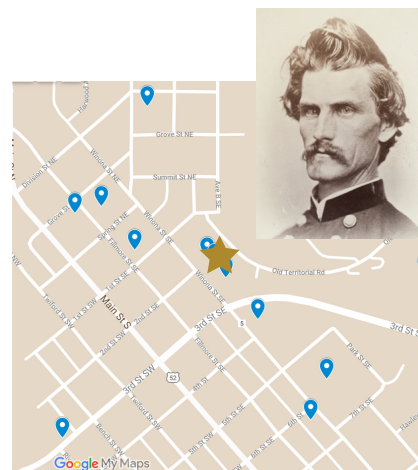


J.C. Easton is estimated to be Minnesota's first millionaire.



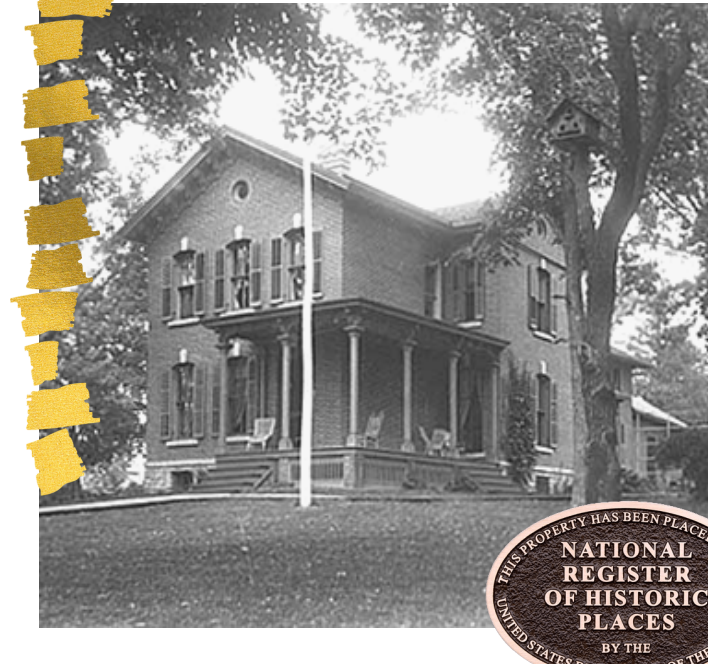
## THE COTTAGE

The Cottage, the second home on what was once the Jason C. Easton estate, was built in 1893 by Lucien Johnson, Easton's brother-in-law and brother to Mrs. George H Haven, owner of The Oaks, the adjoining property to the north. Immediately behind "The Cottage" is the former territorial road which heads east to Winona and forms the house's rear property line. Only two years after building his house Lucian Johnson died, transferring ownership to his sister. The home's design elements lean *Greek Revival* (symmetrical shape, columns, porch entry, window in the pediment) with the most notable feature being an unusual window in the front gable.



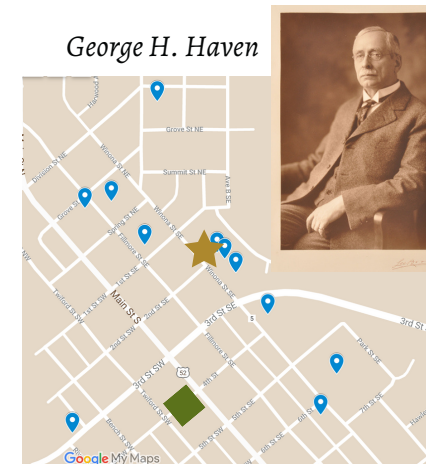
202 Winona Street

In 1861, Company A of the 2nd Minnesota Volunteers (led by local newspaper editor Judson Wade Bishop) marched out the road behind this home "in defense of the Union."



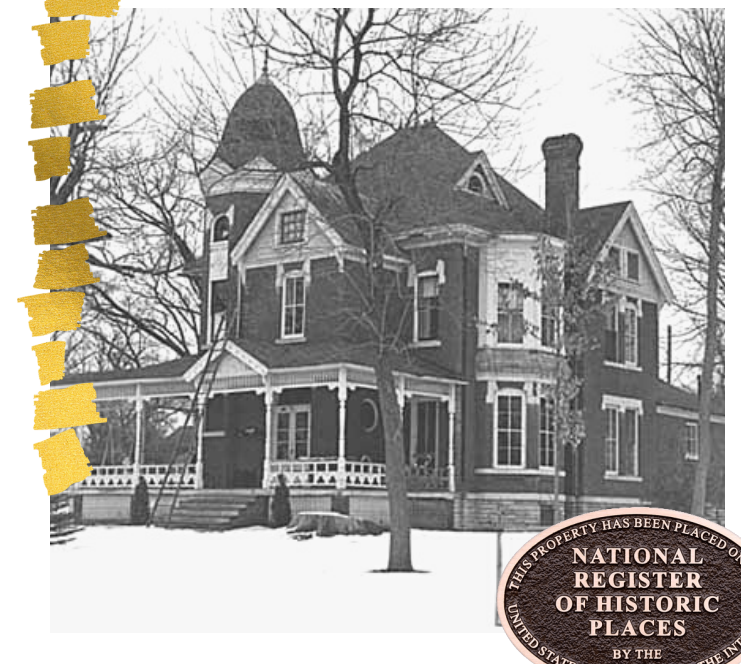
## THE OAKS & THE ANNEX

The third and last home on the original Jason C. Easton estate is a virtually unaltered and locally distinctive example of *residential Italianate style*. It was designed and built for George H. Haven by the Winona architectural firm of Mayberry and Company. George H. was the son of Augustus Haven, one of Chatfield's first settlers and a highly successful merchant. In 1874, George H. married the sister-in-law of Jason Easton and purchased part of Easton's estate then built the house. In 1888, Easton also sold Haven the Root River Bank and moved to LaCrosse, WI. The *Greek Revival* "Annex" was added in 1892 by George for his mother. This small, connected dwelling reportedly was designed to harmonize with the main house.



132 Winona Street

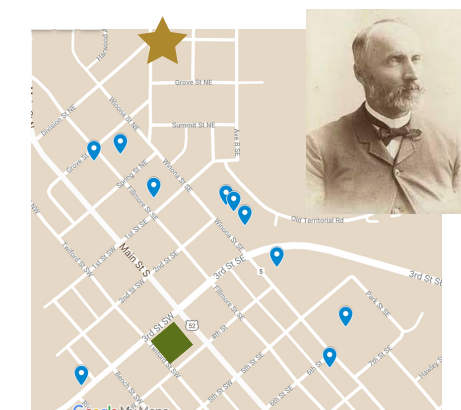
The home is constructed of bricks made in Chatfield. When it was built it was also fitted with the first furnace in town.



## HAZELWOOD

The architecturally elaborate house of Milo White was reportedly built in 1883-84 (some evidence suggests 1877) as White entered the United States Congress. A Massachusetts native, White had been a Minnesota resident since 1855 and became a prosperous businessman. At the time of his death in 1913 he was the city's oldest living settler.

His home is among the best and largest representatives of the Queen Anne style in the area. In "The Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota" it mentions the White House as an unusually embellished and unrestrained version of the Queen Anne style expressed in a brick dwelling



122 Bur Oak Street

Milo White was a state senator during the 1872-76 and 1881 sessions, U.S. Congressman from 1883-1887 and Mayor of Chatfield.

