

BEGIN at (1) Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple:

Unity Temple can be recognized by its distinct modern architectural style, as it is often described as one of the most complex and exciting buildings in 20th century architecture. Frank Lloyd Wright was commissioned to design Unity Temple in 1905 after the original church burned to the ground. This architectural masterpiece was Wright's first public commission and remains the last surviving public building from his Prairie period. [\(MORE INFO\)](#)

Unity Temple is open 7 days a week and is closed only on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Hours are Monday-Friday 10:30am-4:30pm for self-guided tours; Saturday and Sunday 1pm-5pm. Admission: Saturday and Sunday FREE; Monday-Friday \$8/Adults; \$6/Seniors 65+ and Youth under 22.

Continue east on Lake Street and cross N Oak Park Avenue and then turn left so that you are on the east side of the street. A Great Harvest Bread Company bake shop is located on the right-hand corner of the street and is a delightful stop for a free sample of freshly baked bread. Continuing north up N Oak Park Avenue, the **(2) Hemingway Museum** is on the corner of N Oak Park Avenue and Ontario Street.



*The Hemingway Museum is located just a block away from Ernest Hemingway's boyhood home where Hemingway lived until he was 20 years old. The Museum is host to both permanent and temporary exhibits, and includes rare artifacts such as Hemingway's childhood diary, a letter from Agnes terminating their engagement, which was later portrayed in *A Farewell to Arms*, early writings and other memorabilia. [\(MORE INFO\)](#)*

Hemingway Museum is open Sunday-Friday 1pm-5pm; Saturday 10am-5pm. Admission: \$8/Adult, \$6/Senior 65+ and Youth under 18. *Price includes entry to Hemingway Museum and Birthplace Home

Leaving the Hemingway Museum, continue north on N Oak Park Avenue until you reach the First United Methodist Church. **(3) Ernest Hemingway's birthplace** is located on the west side of the street, on the opposite the church.

The home was designed by architect Wesley Arnold and built around 1890 for Ernest Hall, Hemingway's maternal grandfather, in a beautiful Queen Anne Style. With its light gray color, inviting wraparound porch, majestic double doors, and Victorian turret, the house remains basically unchanged since the days of Hemingway. This 10-room house was home to Dr. Hemingway (Ernest's father), Grace Hemingway (Ernest's mother), Ernest Hall who was fondly referred to as Abba (Ernest's grandfather), Marcelline Hemingway (Ernest's sister), and Benjamin Tyley Hancock (Ernest's uncle). When Abba passed away, the Hemingway family left the Oak Park Avenue home and built a new home at 600 N. Kenilworth, our next stop on the walking tour, where Ernest lived until he was a young adult. [\(MORE INFO\)](#)

Hemingway birthplace home is open Sunday through Friday 1pm-5pm; Saturday 10am-5pm; and closed most holidays. Admission: \$8/Adult, \$6/Senior 65+ and Youth under 18. *Price includes entry to Hemingway Museum and Birthplace Home

Details

Start and End at Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple, 875 Lake Street

Free parking available at Unity Temple

Total Distance Walked = 2.75 miles

Highlights Historic Oak Park Including:

- Frank Lloyd Wright's home
- Ernest Hemingway's childhood home
- Downtown shopping district
- Famous Unity Temple
- Petersen's Ice Cream Parlor

Stay on Oak Park Avenue and continue to head north one block until you reach Iowa Street. Take a left on Iowa Street and in two blocks Iowa Street dead-ends into **(4) Ernest Hemingway's boyhood home** where the Hemingway family moved to in 1905.

Ernest Hemingway's boyhood home is currently owned by the Ernest Hemingway Foundation, but is not yet open to the general public. The Hemingway family and architect Henry G. Fiddelke built this home where Ernest spent his high school years.

After stopping to admire Hemingway's childhood home, head north on N Kenilworth Avenue and turn right on Augusta Boulevard. Continue along Augusta Boulevard and then turn right on Belleforte Avenue where there is a picturesque **(5) Cobblestone Street**.

Stroll down the quaint cobblestone street and then turn left on Thomas Street. Go just one short block and turn left on N Marian Street. When you reach the corner of N Marian Street and Augusta Street, there is a slight jog to the left that you will need to take to continue down N Marian Street. On the corner of N Marian Street and Chicago Avenue stands the **(6) Petersen "Old Fashioned" Ice Cream Company**, an Oak Park landmark and family favorite since it opened in 1919.

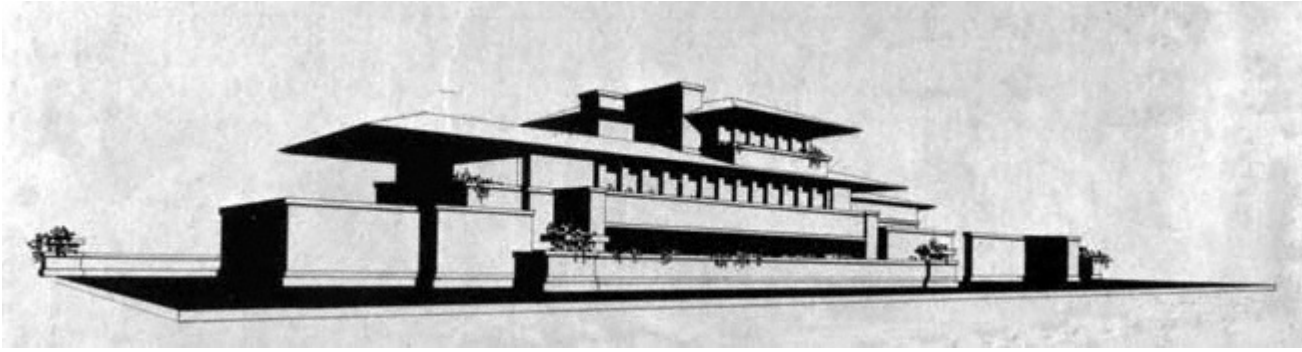
For over 85 years, Petersen Ice Cream Company has been producing and selling "Old Fashioned" Ice Cream. When Hans Petersen, a Danish immigrant arrived in Oak Park he opened up an ice cream shop. Trained as a confectioner, he applied his old world recipe and was an instant success. That same recipe has been used for over 85 years. In 1931 the ice cream shop was moved to its current location, where it has been in continuous operation since that time. Mr. Petersen died in 1963 and willed his company to five employees who had been with him for, not less than 30 years each, as an appreciation for their service. Since that time Petersen Ice Cream has been sold to another owner who continues the tradition of serving and producing "Old Fashioned" ice cream.

Petersen Ice Cream Parlous is open daily from 11am to 10 pm. For more information please visit: www.petersenicecream.com

Turn left and head east on Chicago Avenue. After you past N Forest Avenue you will see the **(7) Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio** on the south side of the street.

This Home and Studio served as Frank Lloyd Wright's private residence and workplace from 1889-1909 during the first 20 years of his career. Wright experimented with forms and materials and has come to be recognized as one of the greatest architects of the twentieth century. In this home Wright raised six children with his first wife, Catherine Tobin. In 1898 Wright added the studio where he developed a new type of American architecture: the Prairie style. The typical Prairie style home is distinguished by a horizontal line emphasized on the exterior by a low-pitched hipped roof, long bands of windows, wide overhanging eaves and brick courses or wood bands. Inside, the floor plan is open and radiates outward from a central fireplace. Furnishings are not secondary elements, but integral to the design. It was also in this studio where he designed some of his most famous works including the Robie House, the Larkin Building and Unity Temple. [\(MORE INFO\)](#)

The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio is open daily from 10am to 5pm and is close Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. Admission: \$12/Adult; \$10/Youth (11-18) and seniors (65+); \$5 Children. Tours are given Monday-Friday at 11am, 1pm, and 3pm, and on the weekends approximately every 20 minutes between 11am and 3:30pm. Tours are approximately 45-60 minutes in length. For more information, visit: www.wrightplus.org



Above: The Frederick C. Robie House, which was designed in the Oak Park studio in 1908.

Now backtrack back in the direction you just came from and head back towards Petersen’s “Old Fashioned” Ice Cream Company. Turn left on N Forest Avenue and enjoy the quiet neighborhood and continue walking until you reach **(8) Austin Gardens**, located on the corner of Ontario Street and N Forest Avenue. Feel free to take a stroll through these beautiful gardens that are maintained by the city of Oak Park.

Austin Gardens is named after the Austin Family who founded the First Chicago Bank of Oak Park. This popular garden is filled with wildflowers and a walking trail making it the perfect place to take an afternoon stroll. Outside the northeast entrance of the park is a bust of Frank Lloyd Wright, which is seen by all as they walk down N Forest Avenue towards the Unity Temple.

Austin Gardens is open year-round from dawn to dusk.

When leaving the Austin Gardens head west on Ontario Street and turn left on N Marian Street. While on your way to or next location you can peruse the windows of the shops in downtown Oak Park. When you reach Lake Street take a left and you will immediately see the **(9) Lake Theater**.

This classic theater was built in Art Deco style by architect Thomas W. Lamb and still retains many of its original exterior elements. The sleek, neon-lit marquee and façade have been relatively untouched to allow for the classic style to remain. Unfortunately, in 1985 the interior of the movie cinema was triplexed creating three separate movie screens. Today, Lake Theater has expanded into the former retail space next door and boasts seven screens for moviegoers to enjoy. Lake Theater is often described as one of the best examples of Art Deco style in the Chicago Area.

Lake Theater is open everyday. For show times and movie lists call (708) 848-9088 or visit: www.classiccinemas.com



Continue east on Lake Street and you will come across the new **(10) Oak Park Public Library**. If you cross N Kenilworth Avenue then you have gone too far.

This new, main library building was completed in 2003 and is more than double the size of the previous building. The first library in Oak Park was built in 1888 and was known as the Scoville Institute, after James W. Scoville donated the money to fund the project. During the 1950s the community realized that space was tight and that the building had outgrown its functions and also become unsafe. Referendum attempts began and in 1961 the community approved a bond issue to construct a new library and construction began in 1963 to replace the Scoville Institute with a main library. With the continuing growth of Oak Park, the library realized they needed to expand yet again. In 2000, Oak Park voters



Featured Walking Tour Oak Park, Illinois



approved the Library Referendum for spending \$30 million to build a new main library building, the one that you see today. On October 5, 2003 the new main library was re-opened to the public and the "Unity and Growth" sculpture, created for a national contest by Carole Harrison, that was at the previous main library was unveiled in the vestibule of the new building where it greets library patrons. [\(MORE INFO\)](#)

Oak Park Public Library is open Monday-Thursday 9am-9pm; Friday 9am-6pm; Saturday 9am-5pm; and Sunday 1pm-6pm

From outside the library you should be able to see Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple, where we started our walking tour. The walking tour you just completed was 2.75 miles, not including any sites that might have peaked your interest that you decided to spend more time at an explore. Thank you for taking Walk Across Illinois' Featured Walk of Oak Park, and don't forget to log your miles at www.WalkAcrossIllinois.org!