

A TOUR PAST SOME HISTORIC HOMES OF NORWAY

By Bill Cummings and Dave Curtis, 1982

A cooperative effort of the Dickinson County Library and the Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum.

This is a walk-by tour only. The interiors of the homes and their grounds are not open to the public.

The selection on [*sic – of*] homes for this tour was based on a book published in 1902 by C.O. Stiles entitled "A SOUVENIR OF DICKINSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN." Included in this book are photographs of nine of the most significant homes of Norway during that period. Eight of these nine homes are still standing and seven are included in this tour. R.C. Flannigan's home on Summit Avenue, now 13th Street, was the only home that has been torn down.

Three other homes and one hospital were added to the tour as well because of their undeniable historical and architectural significance. Space did not allow for inclusion of all significant homes in Norway.

It is a walk-by tour only. None of the homes are open for inspection. The owners have graciously allowed us to include their homes on tour. The museum, library and Festival Committee request that people on the tour do not intrude upon the property of the present owners.

Most of the tour ins in the very compact area of Iron, Norway and Brown Streets near downtown Norway. Three very significant homes were also included somewhat removed from downtown on Thirteenth Street and also at the corner of Sixteenth Street and Pearney.

The homes on tour were built between 1879 and 1905. This pamphlet contains information on the architectural elements of the homes as well as the people who built and lived in them.

One added feature of this pamphlet is the inclusion of photographs. The photographs of the original exteriors were extracted from the "Souvenir" book. The

photographer was P. Solheim. The photographs of the present interiors were taken and donated by Gene DuCharme, publisher of the Norway Current. We very much appreciate his time and expertise.

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David Curtis, Dickinson County Librarian.

Bill Cummings, Manager, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum
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(Map of Norway contained on last page)

JAMES O'CALLAGHAN RESIDENCE 203 13TH STREET

Construction was begun on this house in 1882, as told by an inscription on the sandstone in the basement[,], although actual completion of the house may have been as late as 1891. It was the house of James O'Callaghan, president and manager of the O.C. Lumber Company, manufacturers of lumber, shingles, post [*sic – posts*], ties, etc.

There is a magnificent oval-shaped window set into the carved wood door of the large front porch. Perched atop the

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porch is a screened balcony. The front of the house is dominated by two prominent gables with elongated bargeboard and cut-outs in the peaks. On the west side a slight touch of gingerbread has been preserved from the original home. Both east and west sides of the house have bay windows and the west side has two square stained glass windows at the first and second staircase levels. The wrought iron fence, which now encloses the garden area, at one time extended across the entire front yard.

The inside of the house is graced with the splendor of a golden oak staircase and oak floors. Heavy wood sliding doors have also been preserved.

James O'Callaghan was born in Canada in 1851. From Canada he moved to Escanaba in 1877 to work with his brother, John, in the lumber business. In 1878, he worked at Waucedah at the general store of John K. Stack. Eight months later he moved to Norway to work at brother John's saw mill as a bookkeeper for five years. He then bought into the business and became the manager, at which time it became known as O'Callaghan Brothers & Company. His brother, George, also became involved with the business at this time. In 1889, the mill burned down, but a second, larger one was built in its place within ninety days. They also ran a general store along with the mill. Mr. O'Callaghan married Mary McGeehan of DePere, Wisconsin. He served on the city school board from 1891 to 1894. He helped organize the Savings & Loan Association of Norway in 1890 and served as one of its first directors and treasurer. He served as mayor of Norway from 1897 to 1898. He died July 28, 1916 at the age of sixty-five.

Interior of James O'Callaghan Residence

(Top) Sliding oak paneled doors in front hallway

(Bottom Left) Carved oak front door with oval beveled glass

(Bottom Right) Original built-in china cabinet in dining room

GEORGE O'CALLAGHAN RESIDENCE 206 13TH STREET

In 1902, this house was built by George O'Callaghan on what was known then as Summit Avenue or Sunset Hill. It has been said that he built this house in competition with his brother's house across the road.

The large front veranda has balustrades and groupings of triple Doric columns and a plain pediment. The double porch doors open to a vestibule. The windows on this house are especially distinctive. There is a Palladian window on the front gable at the attic level, surmounted by a circular rosette. The east side shows a half-moon dormer flanked by two gables boasting semi-circular windows with circular rosettes and boxed pedimental cornices. There is a leaded, beveled glass transom over the side door and more leaded beveled glass on the staircase window on the west side. The west side also shows two bay windows. The roof is of hipped style with cross gables.

It has been said that the carpenter lived with the O'Callaghan family while completing the interior woodwork. The inside of the home possesses the splendor of numerous Ionic, wood columns, separating the parlor, sitting room, entryway and staircase areas. The staircase is open and ornately carved with a seat at the window level, and a large, open landing at the top of the stairs. The home possesses sliding wood doors and a working fireplace. The novel "Golden Apples of the Sun" mentions the O'Callaghan homes.

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George O'Callaghan was born in 1848 in Canada. He came to the United States in 1861 and to Norway in 1882. He married Mary Wood in Canada in 1881. In about 1883 he and his brother, James, built the first saw mill on the Menominee Range. He was secretary and treasurer of O.C. Lumber Company. He died July 7, 1917, at the age of sixty-four and left behind one daughter and three sons.

Interior of George O'Callaghan Residence

(Top) Tile fireplace with wood mantle flanked by Ionic columns and with beveled-glass mirror in sitting room

(Bottom Left) Paneled newel post with carved ornamentation

(Bottom Right) View of staircase from sitting room with oak Ionic columns on pilasters adorning archways

CAPTAIN JOHN PERKINS RESIDENCE CORNER OF 16TH STREET AND PEARNEY ROAD

This house, built in 1879, was the home of Captain John Perkins, after whom the Perkins Mine was named. It has a large front porch and a turret. The south side has bay windows. Numerous additions were added to the original structure before the turn of the century. It has been said that when Mr. Perkins went away on a business trip, his wife would immediately call the carpenters. When Mr. Perkins returned he would be surprised – or perhaps disconcerted – to see a new addition to his house. The house supports were constructed of virgin timber fifteen to sixteen inches square. It was the seventh house built in this area. The first Methodist

Sunday School met here before they had a church.

Mr. Perkins was born in 1844 in Tavistock, England. In 1863, he married Mary Mitchell in Tavistock. In 1865, Mr. and Mrs. Perkins moved to America and settled in the Copper Country. He immediately became interested in the development of the vast copper-producing properties in the Calumet District. For the next fourteen years he worked as mining contractor at Humboldt and Negaunee and then as captain of a mine at Stoneville, near Ishpeming. In 1879, he moved to Norway and became involved in the earliest mining activities here. The Cleveland Rolling mill Company made him superintendent of the Old Saginaw Mine which was later renamed the Perkins Mine. By 1884 he owned the property himself. In 1888, the lode gave out. From mining, he turned to farming on seven forties of land until 1921, when he sold out to the Pollard brothers of Iron Mountain. He then retired.

Mr. Perkins was a former member of the Michigan State Legislature. During the session of 1891 to 1892, Mr. Perkins fought vigorously against the dividing of Menominee County and the formation of Dickinson County. He was a member of the first school board organized in the city. The first school building was a small structure that formerly had been used as [a] tool shed and machine shop. It was loaned to the school board from the mining company pending the construction of the first permanent school. He died April 3, 1929.

Interior of John Perkins Residence

(Top) gingerbread in entry arch

(Bottom Left) Eastlake walnut halltree owned by John Perkins

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(Bottom Right) Eastlake walnut bookcase owned by John Perkins

DR. ELISHA P. SWIFT RESIDENCE 626 IRON STREET



This real photo postcard view shows Dr. Swift's Hospital (right) and residence (left) in 1920. [Martha Nagel Photo]

Built in 1901, this house was the residence of Dr. Elisha P. Swift. It was located next to the Swift Hospital. The hospital structure is now 612 and 618 Iron Street. These two homes were connected by a breezeway to form the two wings of the hospital. Dr. Swift's former residence is a stately house with a large front porch with Doric columns and a plain pediment. The roof is of hipped style. There was once a wrought iron fence enclosing the yard with a high gate with floral decoration. Dr. Swift purchased 90,000 square feet of land from Thomas P. Hayes in August of 1901 for the construction of a house and hospital. In August he also closed a contract with Hogan Nelson for the construction of a house that would cost five or six thousand dollars. The family moved into the completed residence just in time to celebrate Christmas that same year. The hospital was constructed about this same time and received equipment and staff from the Penn Mining Company Hospital at the Norway location.

Dr. Swift's office was at the left, front portion of the house. The nurses occasionally slept in quarters on the third level. (This level has since been removed.)

Elisha Swift was born in Allegheny, now the north side of the city of Pittsburgh[,] in 1865. He graduated from Lafayette College in 1886 and received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1889. After graduation he began practicing his profession at Commonwealth, Wisconsin, as assistant to Dr. O'Dell, who was the physician for the Commonwealth Iron Company. He purchased this practice and continued to reside in Florence County until he became physician for the Aragon Mine in Norway in about 1898.

Dr. Swift was married to Mary B. Clark, daughter of Justice S.M. Clark of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania at Indiana, Pennsylvania, on June 20, 1900. They had two children: Eliot E. Swift and Steel Clark Swift, who died in infancy.

Dr. Swift was Florence County School Superintendent for 1896-97. He was for many years a valued member of the Norway Board of Education and was a director of the First National Bank. He was also president of the County Agricultural Association. Swift University in Tennessee was named after his father. He died suddenly at Clearwater, Florida, on February 22, 1918, and is buried in Pittsburgh.

Interior of Elisha Swift Residence

(Left) Original electric chandelier

(Right) Staircase showing turnings and newel post

JOHN G. KASS RESIDENCE 713 IRON STREET

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Built in 1900, this was the residence of John G. Kass, who was an agent for the Menominee Brewing Company. The original home was of wood siding with a very distinctive balcony with balustrade perched atop a columned and large front porch. Mr. Kass had a shed at the back of the house where he used to store beer underground and where full beer bottles were unearthed long after the home changed owners. The present home is stuccoed, with the second-story balcony still its most prominent feature. The roof is of hip-style with cross-gables. There is a bay window on the north side of the house.

John Kass, *[sic]* came to Norway from Menominee in 1896. That same year during the July 4th parade, he gave the boys of the band a ride in a large wagon owned by the Menominee Brewing Company. In 1902, he helped plat an addition to the city which is now the business block on Main Street, north of the stop light. He also had the distinction of having telephone number "one" (circa 1902). He died February 25, 1914, leaving his wife and seven children.

JOSEPH RUWITCH RESIDENCE 702 NORWAY STREET

Built in 1905, this house was the residence of Joseph and Minnie Ruwitch of Joseph Ruwitch and Sons, dealers in dry goods, clothing and furniture. The home, in excellent condition, is graced by a veranda which wraps the house on the south and west sides. The Doric columns provide a sense of strength and simplicity. The pediment and the bracketed eaves add sense of strength and simplicity. The pediment and bracketed eaves add just the right amount of decoration to enhance the character of the house. There is leaded, beveled glass on the front windows and in the bay window on the north and south

sides of the house. The roof is of cross-gable style with a hipped gable over the front porch.

Joseph Ruwitch was born in Kiennitz, Russia, in 1848. He became a residence of Norway in 1887. In 1889, Ruwitch resumed the business of Ruwitch and Swartz, formerly known as the Milwaukee Cheap Store. In 1903, he acquired the property on Nelson Street to establish the business of J. Ruwitch and Sons. He died January 25, 1917, at the age of sixty-eight.

WILMER RAMSDALL RESIDENCE 529 NORWAY STREET



This detail of a real photo postcard view, postmarked April 29, 1916, shows the Wilmer Ramsdall residence. *[William J. Cummings Photo]*

Built in 1889, this house was the former residence of Wilmer Ramsdell, who was a hardware merchant. The prominent feature of this house is the turret over the corner of

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the front porch. During Ramsdell's time, this turret enclosed a billiard room. On the turret roof, there is a Victorian cast-metal finial. There are numerous finials across the roof surface. The roof is of cross-gable style with an attractive hipped gable on the front of the house. The porch extends on two sides with bay window arrangements on the first and second stories. The interior of the house is notable for its sliding wood doors, tile fireplace, eleven foot ceilings and a basement which is separated into rooms on the same plan as the first floor. The dining room and entry way have inlaid floors. There are hardwood floors throughout the house.

Wilmer Ramsdell was born in 1855 in Racine, Wisconsin. In Escanaba, he worked at the W.J. Wallace Hardware Store for five years. From 1882 to 1884, he ran his own hardware store in Stambaugh. From 1885 to 1888, he worked again for Mr. Wallace at a hardware store in Norway. In 1890 he owned the business himself. In 1903, he erected a brick store at the new town site which was eighty by ninety feet and two stories high. He married Stella Pamela Seckler of East Marinette, Wisconsin, on April 3, 1878. He served the community as alderman, a member of the school board and two-term city treasurer. In 1888, he was horseman of the fire department. He died on October 30, 1919, at the age of sixty-four.

RESIDENCE OF ALEXIS PATENAUDE AND JOSEPH BERGERON 519 NORWAY STREET

Built in 1895, this house was the residence of such notable Norway personalities as Alexis Patenaude and Joseph Bergeron.

It is one of the most distinctive homes in the city. Especially noteworthy is the front

portico which replaced an originally much larger porch. Fluted Doric columns support the portico. There are two leaded beveled-glass sidelights flanking the carved front door. There is also leaded, beveled glass in the front first and second story windows and as part of the bay window arrangements on the north and south sides. A Palladian window of beautiful stained glass crowns the second story over the portico. Notice the fan carving in the front gable! Plain brackets support the eaves. The roof is of hipped style with prominent gabled dormers on all four sides of the roof. The inside entrance is dominated by a very ornately carved wood staircase.



This detail of a real photo postcard view, postmarked April 29, 1916, shows the Alexis Patenaude/Joseph Bergeron residence. *[William J. Cummings Photo]*

Alexis Patenaude was born in Marquette in 1856, although the family originally came from Canada. After returning from college in Canada, he worked as a drug clerk in Marquette before coming to Norway to assume responsibility of Dr. J.L. Kimball's drug store and the post office. In 1883 he went into business with W.B. High and

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opened the Patenaude and High Drug Store. By 1885 he was operating his own drug store. He tried to branch out also in the jewelry business but his establishment was destroyed in the great fire of 1888 at a loss of \$15,000. Patenaude continued his drug store operations in the council room and used a dry-goods [*sic – drygoods*] box for a prescription counter until he was able to build a new two-story establishment. He was married in 1882 to M.E. Burns of Rockland, Michigan. Patenaude was town clerk, justice of the peace and mayor of Norway from 1895 to 1896.

Joseph E. Bergeron was born in Canada in 1856. He married his wife, Emma, in Canada and came to Norway in 1872 [*sic – Norway did not exist in 1872, but mining explorations were being conducted.*] At about this time he became interested in the Stephenson Mine which discontinued operations after the Panic of 1891 [*sic – Panic of 1893*]. Bergeron established, at the Stephenson Location, the first privately-owned store in the City of Norway. In 1885, he owned two stores. Previous to that time, the only mercantile enterprises were owned by the mining companies.

After 1891, he tried logging and farming and operated camps for twenty years. By 1893 he was supplying Norway residents with milk daily by sleigh or wagon. Milk then was eight cents per quart. After 1911, he built and managed a roller rink that was later occupied by Standard Garage. A little while later, the roller rink was converted into a movie theatre [*sic – theater*] and then reconverted into just a rink. Finally, Bergeron added to his building so as to be able to operate both the rink and theatre [*sic – theater*]. He was fondly known as "Popcorn Joe." He was pipeman of the fire department in 1888, alderman of the first ward for six years and judge of probate for three terms. He died at the Penn Hospital

on February 19, 1924, at the age of sixty-seven.

(Left) Oak French doors separating parlor and entry

(Right) Oak front door with carved decorative wreath and leaded glass window

Interior of Alexis Patenaude and Joseph Bergeron Residence

(Top) Upper stairway/sitting room illuminated by stained and beveled glass Palladian window

(Bottom Left) Oak staircase with carved newel posts

(Bottom Right) Upper landing/sitting room curved railing

DR. E.P. LOCKART HOSPITAL 405 NORWAY STREET



This real photo postcard view dates from about 1915-1930. [*William J. Cummings Photo*]

This building, although never used for a home, was included in this tour because it is architecturally distinctive. The eye-catching quality of this building is the painted metal mansard roof with the hipped dormers at the third story level. The

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dormers also have metal faces. The front portico is composed of Doric columns and a decorative carved pediment. Leaded, beveled glass can be seen in the windows across the first story façade and in the transom over the carved wood front door. The first and second story windows on the sides of the building are accentuated by radiating archs [*sic – arches*] with keystones. There are bracketed eaves over the porch and the second story.

This building was erected in 1889 at a site in old town and was a hotel named the Hotel Husson. The hotel had to be abandoned in 1908 because the ground was settling. Dr. E.P. Lockart's Columbia Hospital also had to be abandoned for the same reason, and he purchased the hotel from the Oliver Mining Company and moved it to its present site in 1909. On December 26, 1910, the New Columbia Hospital received its first patient. At a later date, the Penn Iron Mining Company purchased the Columbia Hospital from Dr. Lockart and changed the name to the Penn Hospital. In 1946, the hospital was sold to the City of Norway. It was used by the city until 1960 when the Anderson Memorial Hospital was built. At that time the Kimberly Clark Corporation purchased the building for its Lake States Woodlands office. Champion took possession of the building in 1976.

JOHN E. ANDERSON RESIDENCE 330 BROWN STREET

This house was built by John E. Anderson in about 1905. One of the house's most striking features is the extended bargeboard of wainscoating with trefoil decoration. Beneath the bargeboard are shingles of fish-scale and saw-tooth design. The large porch balances the façade and is supported by groupings of triple Doric columns. The south side of the

house features a bay window with gingerbread brackets ornamenting the side bay. The north side possesses a porch flanked by curved glass windows on each side of the door. The front part of the roof is hipped, the back is of gambrel style. There are a set of cross gables. Saw-tooth shingles are in evidence on the side gables. Along the sidewalk line is an old heavy cement retaining wall that dates back to the home's beginning.

Mr. Anderson was born in 1868 at Grangarde, Dalarna, Kopparberg laen, Sweden. At the age of nineteen, Anderson emigrated [*sic – immigrated*] to America, working at Norway as a clerk for three years. In 1890, he went into business jointly with R.C. Browning and Carl Lindahl selling groceries, men's clothing and furnishing goods. From there he and his brother, Gust, opened a meat market on the old town site. It was noted that at this store he put in a sausage machine run by horse power. At the time of the cave-in, he purchased a large tract of land on the south side in anticipation of making residential sites. From 1902 to 1925, he platted six additions to the new town site. In 1904 he and his brother's business was the first to move to the new town site. John E. Anderson & Company eventually became a large property owner and erected several business blocks. In 1925, he built and moved into the Spanish-style house across the street from 330 Brown. Mr. Anderson married Johanna Gustafson, a native of Sweden, in 1889. He died on November 20, 1939.

RESIDENCE OF A.M. CROLL AND DR. E.P. LOCKART 702 BROWN STREET

Built in 1903, this house was the residence of A.M. Croll and Dr. E.P.

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Lockart. A large veranda wraps the house on the south and west sides and is supported by Doric columns. The balcony possesses a hooded arch which shelters the double doors which lead into the house. The roof is of hipped style with cross gables. There is a bay window on the south side. The interior possesses fine woodwork and a carved staircase.

A. Max Croll was a jeweler in the city until he moved to Chisholm, Minnesota, in the Mesabi Range, in 1904.

Dr. Edward Pierce Lockart moved into the house after Croll and was on the tax assessor's rolls in 1905. He was born March 15, 1858, at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. In 1883 he graduated from the Columbia Medical College as a medical doctor. In September of 1883, he moved to Norway. Dr. Lockart established the Columbia Hospital which was destroyed by the cave-in and then the New Columbia Hospital on Norway Street in 1910. He also operated a drug store at both the old and new locations.

On October 23, 1902, Dr. Lockart married Martha M. James, who was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He had served as a member of the board of public works and as mayor of Norway.