FACTS ABOUT SITES IN KEWANEE

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH - 600 W 1st St Charter for this Church was granted in 1906 when members made plans for the erection of their own building. The corner-stone of the Church was laid July 24, 1907.

KEWANEE LIBRARY 102 S. Tremont The Library was first organized in January 1875. It opened February 1, 1875 in the new Town Hall named Library Hall, moved to Odd Fellows Building, corner Second and Tremont, in 1880. It remained there until 1908 when the present Library Building was ready for occupancy. It was built on the Phillips property at First and Tremont. Interested citizens raised$30,000 and Andrew Carnegie donated $25,000, making a total of $55,000 available. Construction started October 1906 with the corner stone laid in January 1907. It was ready for use in March 1908. Dedication was held April 21, 1908.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 121 S. Chestnut On July 13, I856, the Parish was organized under the name of St. John's. The Reverened G. E. Peters became the first Rector of St. Johns April 5, 1857. The Present Church building was constructed during the summer of 1857. Sunday, November 15, 1857 the Church was dedicated. It is the oldest/church building in Kewanee.

WETHERSFIELD BLISH SCHOOL 133 E. McClure This school, named in honor of Wm. H. Blish, was first occupied by the students Monday, Oct. 12, 1903. Contractors were Miner & Carlson. Construction started in 1902. The total cost was $23,500.

RYAN ROUND BARN-JOHNSON PARK The Round Barn was built by Dr. Lawrence Ryan in 1909. It is the largest Round Barn in the World. Restoration is now being made and a Museum is in the future plans.

LEWIS HOME 100 S. Tremont Built in 1854 and owned by Lyman W. Lewis. Now occupied by Welch andWelch, Lawyers. Birthplace of Dr. Dean Lewis, a famous Surgeon.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH 4-10 W. Central Blvd.

The first Church was at 5th and Chestnut in 1865, the second Church was on 104 Park St. in 1884, and in 1915 the Visitation Church was dedicated on 4-10 W. Central Blvd. In 1982 the name was changed to St. Mary's.

GOOD'S FURNITURE STORE 204 N. Main St.

Established by E. S. Good and W. C. Palmer in 1895 at 108 W Second St. The Palmer-Good firm dissolved in 1900. Good then moved to the Houle Building on N. Main Street. A new building was erected in 1914. It is the oldest continuous family business in Kewanee.

HOTEL KEWANEE 125 N. Chestnut Construction started on the Parkside Hotel in 1915 and was officially opened Oct. 7, 1916. George Worthington of Chicago was the first manager. A Dance Ballroom was added and for many years dancing was enjoyed by many. The Ballroom was demolished, and a Motor Inn added. Charles Summers is the present owner.

MASONIC TEMPLE 112 S. Chestnut Kewanee Lodge No. 159 had its origin in 1854 in Wethersfield. The charter was granted Oct. 3, 1855. W. C. Loomis was awarded the contract for the new structure to be built in Kewanee which was dedicated in January, 1868, called Tremont Hall. The third location at 112 Chestnut was dedicated July 18, 1906.

BLACH HAWK COLLEGE - EAST CAMPUS Founded in 1967, the East Campus first held classes at the Kewanee Armory Sept. 11, 1967. 102 acres of ground provided the future home of the East Campus in 1968. Interim facilities were established in 1970 at the Campus site 5 miles south of Kewanee. Sunday, May 6, 1979 the East Campus was dedicated with permanent quarters.

NORTHEAST PARK BATHHOUSE & SWIMMING POOL 1100 N Main St The first swimming pool was built in 1922 and was east of the new pool which was built in 1931. The first swimmers used the new pool July 30, 1931.

WALTER & MALBA LARSON HOME 813 Acorn Street The home was built in 1926 by Frank L. Hill and purchased by the Larsons in 1950. Over the years many colors and decorations have adorned this home and to many it is known as the Ginger-Bread House.

KEWANEE FIRST HOSPITAL & ST. FRANCIS It was located at 200 W. South St. in 1904 (now Central Blvd.) It was discontinued in 1906 and moved to 115 N. Lake View Ave. It has been a residence for many years.

BUTTERWICK BUILDING 211 N. Chestnut Now occupied by the Kewanee Historical Society. It opened in 1868 as a Hardware Store by the Butterwick Brothers and remained in the family until it closed in 1966. The Kewanee Historical Society purchased the Building in October 1977.

KEWANEE CITY HALL (Old) 200 W 3rd St.

Construction started in 1874 and was occupied Jan. 4, 1875. Cost of the structure was $15,000. A Bank, the Post Office, the Library and a Coal Co. office had space in the Building. The City Hall was remodeled after a Tornado blew the roof off on August 9, 1954.

ARMORY - ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD First and East Mustered June 30,

1904 at the Hall on the Northeast corner of Second and Chestnut Streets above Charlie Knight's Saloon. It to the Armory at 111 E. Central Blvd. in 1907. The Present Armory was dedicated Nov. 8, 1951.

WINDMONT PARK 400 S. Beach The Kewanee Street Car Company built Windmont Park so more people would ride the Street Cars. The Dance Pavilion burned in September 1929 -- arson was the cause. The bridge over the Lake was built by Wm. Demmler and Brothers in I908. Over the years a few weddings have taken place on this bridge.

MIDLAND COUNTRY CLUB R. R. 2 The Club was organized in 1911 and the land was purchased from the Sadler Family for a Golf course. A Club House complete with dining room and recreation facilities was built. The Club had its formal opening in July 1912. The Swimming Pool, built in I920, was completely rebuilt in 1967. The original Club House burned May 11, I9S2 and was replaced by a new structure and reopened New Year's Eve, December 31, 1982. The Golf Course was enlarged in August of 1972 and now comprises 195 acres.

FRED FRANCIS HOME-FRANCIS PARK R.R. 3 Every brick and board in this home was carried to the location on Fred Francis's bicycle. He had the first combination storm and screen windows. He had a pipeless furnace and a water pressure system. His mystery house had many amazing features.

THE KEWANEE BOILER COMPANY 101 Franklin Street It was first known as Anderson Steam Cooker Co. in 1868. In 1871 W. E. Haxtun invented the first steel boiler and the name changed to Haxtun Steam Heater, then in 1892 to the Kewanee Boiler Co. It was located at 314 N. Main St. and in 1902 moved to 101 Franklin St. on a site of 7 acres. In I920 the Plant increased to a Site of 33 acres making it the largest Steel Heating Boiler Plant.

KEWANEE POST OFFICE BUILDING 103 S. Chestnut Erection of Post Office building was started July 1909 and opened in June1910.

THE YMCA. 315 W. First St.

The Y.M.C.A. was organized in Kewanee in 1888, the first location was 219 N. Main, moving to 100 then to 315 w. First St. in 1931.

DAR CHAPTER HOUSE 610 Park Ave.

Built in 1849 by John and Matthew Potter, this house is the first house built in the City of Kewanee. It became the home of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1903 when it was moved to the present location. The original location was 209 N. Main Street. Thirteen members were on the DAR original roster.

MUNICIPAL WATER WORKS 400 N. Tremont St.

Established in 1883 at Crystal Lake on Madison Ave. The new pumping site was selected in 1908 and the present Water Works Building was built.

KEWANEE HIGH SCHOOL 1211 E Third St.

The first High School called the Old Academy on South Chestnut St. was used partly as a high school from 1856 to Feb I8, 1895 when Central School was completed. Then a " new" high School was built In 1904 with the last class graduating in that location in 1956. The current high school in the 1300 block of East Third St. opened in the fall of 1956.

THE BURLINGTON-NORTHERN DEPOT The CB&Q Kewanee Depot was built in 1915 by Carl Johnson, a Kewanee contractor, after the original Depot was destroyed by fire. The Depot was demolished by the Burlington Northern in April 1985.

CERNOS 213 W. Third St.

The oldest downtown business in Kewanee now was started by Patrick Brady in 1867, later taken over by his son John Brady. The bar, imported from Belgium for the St. Louis World's Fair, was sold to Brady by the Pabst Blue Beer Co. It is the oldest bar in the State of Illinois.

PEOPLES NATIONAL BANK OF KEWANEE 207 N. Tremont St.

The Bank was organized in 1928 and on December 31 had total resources of $548,000. It was Originally organized as the First National Bank in 1878 at 211 N. Tremont St., enlarged in 1922 and reorganized in 1922 as the Peoples National Bank of Kewanee.

THE BLISH HOME 108 E. CHURCH

Sylvester Blish and family members purchased the lot (and other lots on the block, including the one to the west) April 8-11, 1851. The lot to the west was where W. H. Blish put up a mercantile store. The family bought the lots believing the railroad would go through Wethersfield.