

The Railroad...



The original Cary Train Station was built in 1863 in the same location where the current station stands today. Although few early Cary residents used the station to travel to Chicago, many of the goods they produced did make the trip. Pickles, cheese, gravel and other local products made the journey to Chicago to be sold.

In addition to the new ability to export local goods to the city, Cary was able to expand its downtown because it was the last stop on the railroad tracks northwest of Chicago. Local stores, boarding houses and taverns thrived off the railroad crews patronage.

The current station, pictured below, was most recently refurbished in 1984 and is used by many residents to commute to Chicago for work and for play.



Explore Downtown Cary

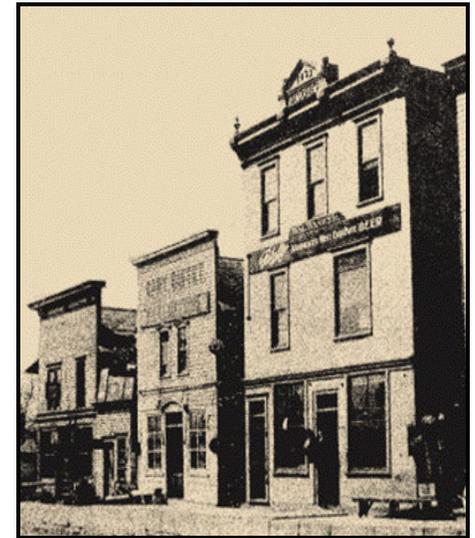


1. 4 Crystal Street - Old Cary Village Hall - Built 1915
2. 52 Crystal Street/Rt. 14 - H.R. Stewarts - Built before 1900
3. 108 W. Main Street - The Tracks - Built before 1893
4. 77 W. Main Street - The Coffee Station - Built about 1890
5. 19-25 Spring Street - American Family Insurance & Gg Fynds - Built about 1883
6. 12 Spring Street - Revere LTD Real Estate - Built 1893
7. 18 Spring Street - Currently Vacant - Built 1861
8. 204 Spring Street - Current location of Cary Grove Historical Society - Building date unknown
9. 201 W. Main Street - Tomisky Building—Built 1890
10. 22 High Road – ERA Real Estate - Building date unknown
11. 104 High Road - Various Businesses - Built 1861

For more information on these buildings and the history of Cary, please pick up a copy of "Cary Me Back". The book is available at Cary Village Hall, 655 Village Hall Drive, and at the Cary Library, 1606 Three Oaks Road.

Village of Cary
655 Village Hall Drive
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Historic Downtown Cary



Established 1893

Cary at a Glance

Welcome to Historic Downtown Cary!



The Village of Cary was officially incorporated on July 17, 1894. Cary's first official census in 1900, identifies 398 residents. The most recent special census in 2006 puts Cary's population at 18,713. Over the past 100+ years the Village has seen a great deal of growth and development, but elected officials and residents have worked hard to maintain Cary's small town charm.

In 1841, the founder of Cary, William Dennison Cary, purchased 82 acres in what would soon be called Cary Station. Mr. Cary eventually sold a strip of that land to the Illinois and Wisconsin Railroad Company to build a single track railroad through his property. The train station was also built on this piece of property. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Cary would go on to purchase over 640 acres, owning most of what today is downtown Cary.



Historic Buildings

Many of the buildings in Cary's downtown have a long and rich history. Spring Street, south of the railroad tracks, is one street in particular with a reputation for supporting businesses in the downtown.

12 Spring Street

William Washer commissioned this building in 1893 to be built by Joseph Krupicka. The first floor was originally used as a tavern and restaurant, and the two upper floors were full of rooms for rent, often used by gravel pit workers and railroad employees. The building changed hands many times throughout the early 1900's, but consistently remained a tavern or restaurant during that time. The building is currently home to Revere LTD Real Estate.



18 Spring Street

Built in 1861, this building has housed a variety of commercial activities over time. The first known business in this location was a hardware store operated by Lou Grebe. It was also the early location of HR Stewart, a plumbing business which is still in Cary today. At one time, the building was also home to Petriak's Antique store and the Frisch Brothers insurance company. Currently, the storefront is looking for a new enterprise to fill its unique, historic location.



Historic Buildings

77 W. Main Street



Meyer's Drug Store was located at 77 W. Main Street in downtown Cary. In addition to being a

general store, the business also had an ice cream parlor and soda fountain, which served as a meeting place for many Cary residents. The location remained a drug store until 1986, when it became Hart Camera. In 1990, the location was sold again and soon after, what is now called the Coffee Station, took up residence. Once again, this corner of downtown Cary is a popular meeting place for area residents and a great place to grab a cup of coffee.



The Old Town Pump

Originally located about thirty feet in front of what is now The Tracks, the town pump is considered a cornerstone of the downtown. In the early years, the town pump served as a meeting place for local farmers and was the only source of water for many residents. After the Village installed a running water system, the pump was used as a drinking fountain. In 1925, the original pump was removed to make way for road improvements. Although no longer in use, the town pump serves as a monument representing the small town charm that is Cary, Illinois.

