

*He was best known for American Gothic among his many paintings,  
the Stone City Art Colony which began June 23, 1932,  
his murals on the walls of the no longer existing Montrose Hotel  
the stained glass window of the Veteran's Memorial Building,  
the Corn Cob Chandelier for Iowa Corn Room  
his residence at 5 Turner Alley and  
as a Professor at the University of Iowa.*

*In 1934, Grant Wood was appointed Director of the  
Public Works of Art Projects in Iowa.*

*Grant Wood attended Washington High School and,  
together with his good friend and fellow artist, Marvin Cone,  
painted scenery for school plays and illustrated school publications.  
The two young artists assisted with the installation of exhibitions at the  
Cedar Rapids Art Association, founded in 1905,  
located in the Carnegie Library.*

*At times, they even provided security by sleeping in the galleries.*

*There are many connections to the Mound View Neighborhood  
where Grant Wood lived as a small boy.*

# ***Grant Wood***

## ***The Stone City Art Colony, The Mound View Neighbors, and other local connections.***

***Explore your place in history***

*Lots are still available*



**Oak Hill Cemetery Association**

1705 Mt. Vernon Rd. S. E.  
Cedar Rapids Iowa

*Oak Hill Cemetery is non-profit lot owner association dedicated to preserving the heritage of Linn County, Iowa.*

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***We invite you to explore your place in history***

*It is impossible to include the story of everyone buried at Oak Hill Cemetery at this time,  
but if your family has a special story to share please let us know for inclusion in future maps.*

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**Mound View Neighbor – John Bissell Turner – Block 63 Lot 47**

John who established his mortuary business in 1888 along with his son David introduced the concept of using a funeral parlor for funeral services rather than the home of the deceased in 1923 by acquiring the property from the Sinclairs and converting it into Turner Mortuary. Grant Wood “was responsible for the decorating and furnishing of the interior, and the landscaping of the grounds. He personally supervised the work, but also did much of it himself.” Wood designed the iron gates at the front entrance. John was the man in the picture “John B. Turner, Pioneer.” John B. was the father of **Nettie Turner Neff** who once played hookey with Orville Wright as evidenced in a letter from Nettie’s grandson, Howard Neff.

**Stone City Student – Mary Brigham Johnson**

Although not buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, Her father, **Johnson Brigham** is. He was Iowa’s first state librarian and publisher of The Midland Monthly, a Des Moines-based literary magazine that launched the careers of many prominent Iowa authors of the early 1900s. Married and living in the Birmingham, Alabama area, Mary cultivated her Des Moines art connections and received word of the Stone City colony. She attended both sessions of the colony, travelling each time from Alabama. Mary continued painting and drawing, even composing bookplates for her father’s literary endeavors.

**Mound View Neighbor and Teacher – Leota Swem – Block 7 Lot 4**

Leota Swem was a school teacher at Polk School in 1903 when Grant Wood was attending. Her father was Edward L. Swem, a Civil War veteran.

**Student – Charles B. Keeler – Block 34 Lots 1-2**

By 1911, Keeler (grandson of Elizabeth Calder Rock) had a studio in Chicago, but periodically returned to Cedar Rapids, visiting family and exhibiting works of note. As an artist, Keeler was involved with the Torch Press, based in Cedar Rapids. He designed, etched, and printed the frontispiece and title page for the Torch Press’ 1915 and 1916 popular Christmas series releases. As the United States entered World War I, Keeler was the company’s (339th Field Artillery) translator (fluent in French) and delegate to camouflage school. He attended the Stone City art colony in 1933 and may have shared an ice wagon with Grant Wood. Later he moved to California. His works were exhibited at the Smithsonian Institution’s division of graphic arts (1937) and at the Library of Congress.

**Mound View Neighbor – Charles P. Hubbard – Block 55 Lot 4**

Mr. Charles P. Hubbard was the original owner of Hubbard Ice Company. In 1932 the old horse driven ice wagons were obtained from then owner, Joseph Chadima, to be used by Grant Wood during his two summers in Stone City.

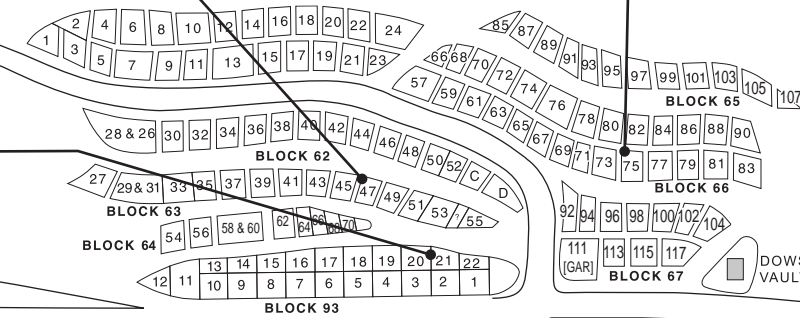
And the rest of the story...

After locating ten abandoned ice wagons from Hubbard Ice Company in Cedar Rapids, Grace Boston, the colony’s first business manager, asked Joseph T. Chadima (Hubbard’s owner), for their use as sleeping quarters. Unable to pay for the wagons, Boston asked Chadima to pick any registered student and a six-week scholarship would be provided to that person. Julia Sampson and her family moved to Cedar Rapids for her father’s job on the Rock Island railroad. She and her twin sister, Louise, attended Grant Vocational High School and were active in art and drama groups. Known for her painting talent, Julia graduated with honors in 1932 and was destined for a local business school until she received the first Stone City Art Colony scholarship.

**Mound View Neighbor – John & Ruth Anna Barry Family – Block 66 Lot 75**

**John Barry**, father, a businessman who owned Hawkeye Lumber Company.

**John W. Barry, Jr., Stone City Colony photographer** was the youngest of six children. John’s older brothers maintained an art studio in the basement of the family home, crafting projects from metal, paint, and wood. Grant Wood, was frequently part of the studio group. Barry’s mother, **Ruth** purchased Wood’s first painting to help him pay for needed art supplies. Wood signed the image, an Impressionist-style rendering of a scene of the Palisades on the Cedar River in what is now Palisades-Dows State Preserve, as “G. Wood,” then signed his full name “Grant Wood” at Mother Barry’s urging.



**5 Turner Alley – George B. & Irene Douglas Robert Sinclair**

The steam heated loft used as a studio by Grant Wood was once the barn of the **Robert Sinclair** home, and was originally built by **George B. Douglas**. Grant Wood and his mother lived there for about 11 years, courtesy of David Turner. **Irene Douglas** was a charter member of the Cedar Rapids Art Association. The Douglasses’ interest in supporting local artists included a sleeping porch designed and created in 1925 by Grant Wood. Mrs. Douglas also purchased a painting from Wood and two paintings from his friend Marvin Cone, Thunderheads and Banking Clouds.

**Stone City Faculty – David McCosh – Block 161 Lot 2**

A Cedar Rapids native, McCosh followed his art interests with studies at Coe College (1922-23) and the Art Institute of Chicago (1923-26). McCosh was asked to be an instructor at the 1932 Stone City Art Colony and accepted the position. McCosh returned to the 1933 colony for a short time and left for artistic reasons (dislike of local weekend crowds and frustration over students copying Wood’s style). He would later be known for several WPA Murals as well as painting and lithography.

**Mound View Resident & Family – Minnie Pope – Block 89 Lot 664**

After suffering financial difficulties, Hattie Wood’s house and land were foreclosed and sold in 1916. Hattie and Nan lived with Minnie Pope (sister of Hattie) at the time. Matilda Peet (aunt of Minnie Pope) was the model for Grant Wood’s “Victorian Survival”. Minnie Pope’s daughter, Estella, was a school teacher and married Ralph Conybeare, the son of a Central Park Presbyterian Church minister, Samuel Conybeare, another Mound View Neighborhood Connection.

**Mound View Neighbor – Austin N. Palmer The “Missing Mausoleum”**

Mr. Palmer ran a business college but is now better known for the Palmer Handwriting method, one with numerous loops and swirls. Grant Wood painted four pictures of the evolution of hand writing for the 1934 Chicago World’s Fair. In 1943, his widow Sadie requested the move to Chapel of Memories and the Palmer Mausoleum was sold in 1946 and removed from Oak Hill Cemetery.

