


ILLINOIS REALTORS®  
working with  in  
every community



# Leave a Legacy

## Founders Wall

Leave a legacy for future generations during Illinois' historic Bicentennial Year in 2018.




### Architect of the People's House

**C**hicago architect and builder John M. Van Osdel (1811-1891) designed the Illinois Executive Mansion that began construction in 1853.

A Baltimore native who through apprenticeship achieved the status of master builder, Van Osdel arrived at Chicago in 1837 to construct a home for the William B. Ogden family. Over the next few years he also worked building ships and some of the booming lake port's first grain elevators.

In 1844 Chicago's leading builders suggested that he open an office specializing in architectural design, so that major structures in the city could be "built from regular plans."

Over the next decades he planned many large public buildings including hotels, churches, commercial blocks, and the **Cook County courthouse**. Each was intended to enhance the city's standing as a place of growing refinement as well as serving a business function.






#### BUILDING IN ITALIANATE

During the 1850s John Van Osdel designed many buildings—including the **Executive Mansion** at Springfield—in the then-popular Italianate style.



Imitating the Italian villa, the form came to America in the 1840s and soon spread across the country, remaining popular into the 1870s.

Several features combined to make a building Italianate. Among them are: a very low or even flat roof, overhanging the walls and supported by decorative brackets; arched windows; bay windows; small iron balconies; loggia or private covered porches; a cupola or tower.



Van Osdel also designed grand homes. Among the most notable are the **Executive Mansion** and the spectacular villa owned by Illinois ex-governor Joel Matteson, facing each other across Fourth Street in Springfield.

In his later career Van Osdel promoted professional training and standards for architects. As a trustee of the new University of Illinois he encouraged the creation of a school of architecture, as well as **designing the campus's University Hall**. In the 1870s he worked to fireproof Chicago by using new construction materials and enacting a city building code.



Edwards Place, at 709 North Fourth Street, is perhaps Springfield's finest surviving example of Italianate design.

Historical panels provided by an endorser.

Be a part of history with your founding member support of the "Bicentennial Plaza — a REALTOR® Community Partnership." This beautifully designed pedestrian walkway will connect Abraham Lincoln's home to the east with the Illinois Executive Mansion and state Capitol to the west along the historic Jackson Street Corridor in downtown Springfield.

Educational interpretive panels (4'x6') along the Plaza will tell the story of "Abraham Lincoln's Vision for America, dedicated to the people who lived and worked here to advance that vision."

A special marker for the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act on April 11, 2018, will be featured in the high profile southwest corner near the Illinois REALTORS® building.

Founders Wall support begins at \$10,000. Contact Gary Clayton, 217-529-2600 or [gclayton@illinoisrealtors.org](mailto:gclayton@illinoisrealtors.org).

**YOUR SPONSORSHIP HERE**



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### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

**\$1,000,000**

**ILLINOIS REALTORS® CITY OF SPRINGFIELD**

**\$500,000**

**\$100,000**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®**

**\$25,000**

**\$10,000**

Sponsorships may include placement on Interpretive Panels, Founders Wall and Brick Pavers, depending on level of sponsorship.

*Sponsorships above the \$10,000 level can be made in one donation, or in an annual payment plan.*



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### Bicentennial Plaza Plan

