



Crystal Lake Historic Preservation Commission

Arwin Bauer House

86 Dole Avenue

Built circa 1934

The decorative stonework and brickwork of the Arwin Bauer House add beauty and elegance to this Tudor-style home. Other Tudor-style characteristics include steeply pitched roof, prominent front gable, tall chimney with multiple chimney pots for each flue and windows that are tall and narrow and grouped into strings of two or more. The distinctive round-arched entrance in which small tabs of cut stone project into the brickwork, giving a quoin-like effect add to the home's beauty and character.



The Bauer family history in Crystal Lake began over 100 years ago when Henry Bauer brought his family to Crystal Lake. In 1910, Henry J. Bauer purchased a wooden business establishment on South Railroad Street (now Woodstock Street) that was home to a blacksmith and wagon shop. Henry then proceeded to become one of Crystal Lake's pioneers in the emerging automobile industry. He opened *HJ Bauer & Sons Garage Auto Livery* in the little wooden building. In 1914, he tore that building down and built a distinctive green-glazed terra cotta structure in order to house his modern garage, auto salesroom and repair shop. This building is still part of downtown Crystal Lake today located across from our railroad depot. His business continued to be very successful and in 1920 he retired and was able to announce the succession of this valuable enterprise to both sons Arwin and Edwin on January 22, 1920 in the Crystal Lake Herald.

Arwin and his brother Edwin continued in the automobile industry and pioneered one of the first gasoline stations which they located on the corner of Brink and Grant Streets. Until then gasoline had been available only at garages and blacksmith shops. It was the first of five stations that they would eventually build. Arwin then founded the Bauer Oil Company in 1923. It was a depot with two storage tanks, located about where Crystal Lake's Government Center now stands. They received gasoline and fuel oil by rail tankers, stored the oil and gas at the depot and distributed it by tank trucks.

It is Arwin Bauer, the oldest son, who built the home located on 86 Dole Avenue today.

He purchased the property in 1931 and then built the Tudor-style home for the sum of \$6,000. The beauty of this home and the enthusiastic dedication of the home owners to preserve this reminder of the Bauer history that is integral to the early development of Crystal Lake.