



The Dimmitt's Grove Neighborhood Association was established in 1987 to:

Help neighbors meet each other

Improve the physical appearance of the neighborhood, as well as preserve what makes it beautiful

Help residents and others learn about its place in history

Protect each other through the involvement in Neighborhood Watch

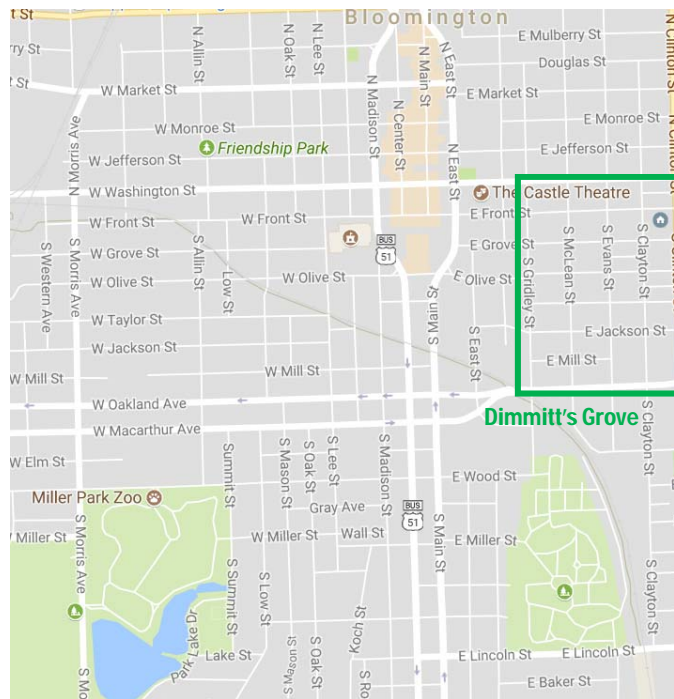
There are many benefits to living in Dimmitt's Grove! They include:

- ✦ Winter & Summer Traveling Socials
- ✦ June Yard Sales
- ✦ Bake Sale
- ✦ Oct. Chili Cook-off
- ✦ Home & Garden Tours
- ✦ Walking Tours
- ✦ Neighborhood Watch Program
- ✦ Walking distance to library
- ✦ Marie Litta Park
- ✦ Proximity to restaurants and 'downtown'
- ✦ Vrooman Mansion B&B
- ✦ Historic homes on Natl. Register and homes with Preservation, Beautification, and Old House Society Awards.
- ✦ All residents, businesses and property owners are welcomed members of DGNA.

For more information please visit

<http://www.dimmittsgrove.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/DimmittsGrove>



## DIMMITT'S GROVE BLOOMINGTON | IL



SELF GUIDED WALKING TOUR  
WASHINGTON-CLINTON-OAKLAND-GRIDLEY  
| 26 BLOCKS | 510 ADDRESSES |



DIMMITT'S GROVE  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

- 611 E. Washington:** Craftsman style. Designed by architect A.L. Pillsbury in 1904. First owned by Omar Rawston.
- 702 E. Front:** Shingle style. Designed by Pillsbury and built 1901 it is known as the Darrah House. It is a cross gable three story house.
- 401 E. Grove:** Italianate. Built in 1874 by Dr. D.O. Moore who used the house as both his home and medical office.
- 407 E. Grove:** Italianate. Built in 1868 by Lawrence Weldon, a lawyer who had earlier traveled the 8th Judicial Circuit with Reuben Benjamin (of 510 E. Grove), David Davis and Abraham Lincoln. Ulysses Grant was a guest of the Weldon's in July of 1881.
- 409 E. Grove:** Queen Anne. Built in 1885 by Edward Gridley, the house was sold to John Foster in 1903. John Foster's daughter, Alice Foster Light, and husband, Huber often entertained his sister, Margaret Illington (the famous actress and wife of Major Bowes) who lived here. In 1997, John Elterich and Karen Schmidt, and their sons Jacob and Jonas, bought the home and restored it to its original colors.
- 421 E. Grove:** Italianate. Built in 1870 by John Roush, a wholesale grocer. The porches were later remodeled in a Colonial Revival style.
- 503 E. Grove:** Four-square. Built in 1903 by H.W. Kelley who worked for the Campbell-Holton Company, wholesale grocers. It is one of the many houses in Dimmitt's Grove designed by A. Pillsbury.
- 505 & 507 (Queen Anne) and 509 (Italianate) E. Grove:** These three lots, along with 501 and 503 E. Grove, were once occupied by the Conover Female Academy, a boarding school for girls. The house at 509 was built by George Brand in 1885. Brand is said to have built 505 (c. 1893) and 507 (c. 1895) for his children.
- 510 E. Grove:** Greek Revival. Built in 1854 by John Routt, who later moved out west and became governor of Colorado. It was bought by Reuben Benjamin in 1856. Benjamin was influential in creating the 1870 Illinois Constitution, and was nationally known for arguing the Grange Cases before the Supreme Court
- 701 E. Grove:** Queen Anne. Designed by George Miller for George Cox, Secretary-Treasurer and General Manager of the Hungarian Roller Mill Co.



### Dimmitt's Grove

This 26 city-block-area of Bloomington, IL, can be found between Washington St and Oakland Ave on its north and south boundaries, bordered by Gridley St to the West and part of US Route 150, Clinton St, to the east.

**The 400-700 block of East Grove Street became a National Register of Historic Places District in 1986.**

- 512 E. Taylor:** Built by John Routt in 1857 as a story-and-a-half side gable and was remodeled c. 1911. Once home to William Dimmitt's granddaughter, Marie Litta (b. Marie von Elsner) Marie Litta was America's best-known opera star when she died in 1883 at the age of 27. Our neighborhood park is named for her.

- 611 E. Taylor:** Greek Revival. Built c. 1836 by William Dimmitt, an original settler of "Blooming Grove" and one of the first developers here. He raised 10 children in this house. The original brick facade was covered by stucco and sleeping porches added in 1909.
- 701 E. Taylor:** Italianate. Known as the Scott-Vrooman mansion, the original part of the house was built in 1869 by Eliel Barber. Julia Green Scott bought the house in 1873, remodeling and enlarging the mansion in 1900. Mrs. Scott was prominent in the D.A.R. and served as its national president
- 709 E. Taylor:** Eliel Barber house was built c. 1851. Eliel's house is thought to be the only known building in the state of Illinois using die-vertical plank method of structural support.
- Lincoln Oak** (next to 708 E. Jackson): The original Lincoln oak died in 1976 and was replaced. A tablet was affixed to the oak reading:  
*"I have heard Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln at different times speak from a platform erected under the shade of this tree."*
- 708 E. Jackson:** Originally this building was a carriage house for the Scott-Vrooman mansion. The structure was built by Eliel Barber c. 1873.
- 502 S. Clayton:** Built in 1872 for John Hamilton, a lawyer and statesman who was elected state senator in 1876, Lieutenant Governor of Illinois in 1880 and served as Governor for 18 months during 1883 and 1884.
- 307 S. Gridley:** Italianate. The Tipton House was built c. 1860 and is of wood frame and clapboard construction.
- Marie Litta Park** (Corner of Gridley and Jackson): Marie Litta Park was developed by the Dimmitt's Grove Neighborhood Association in conjunction with Bloomington Parks and Recreation in 1988.



We hope you enjoy your walk through our historic neighborhood!

Thank you for visiting. Come back soon!