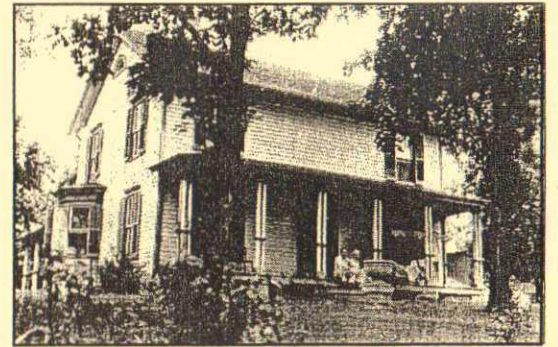


ORLAND  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
HUMPHREY



HOUSE

*Home of Orland Park's  
First Village President (Mayor)  
Senator John Humphrey  
Constructed in 1881*

9830 West 144th Place  
Orland Park, Illinois

Open Sundays  
To arrange a tour, kindly call  
708/349-0065.

[www.orlandhistory.org](http://www.orlandhistory.org)

ORLAND  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

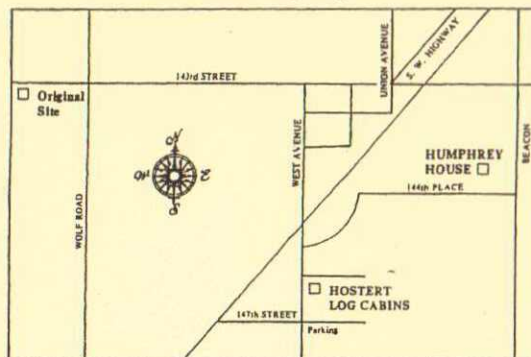
The Orland Historical Society was formed in 1976 during the American Bicentennial to appreciate Orland's historical heritage and to preserve it for future generations. The Society is headquartered at the John Humphrey House, the home of Orland Park's first Village President (Mayor).

HISTORICAL SOCIETY GOALS

- To preserve and promote Orland's history for the benefit of the community and future generations
- To appreciate Orland's historical heritage

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROJECTS

- Record oral histories of longtime residents
- Collect old photographs of the area
- Identify historical buildings in the community
- Provide tours of the Humphrey House and the Hostert Log Cabins
- Preserve artifacts of Orland Park's history
- Develop educational programs for the community
- Continued restoration of the Humphrey House
- Expand the society's website at [www.orlandhistory.org](http://www.orlandhistory.org)



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**Orland Historical Society Membership Application**

Everyone is invited to help preserve the rich history of the Orland Park community. Please complete the application below to join this very active group of local preservationists.

*Please cut here*

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of membership: \_\_\_\_\_  
Family members' names: \_\_\_\_\_

Kindly make checks or money orders payable to the Orland Historical Society and mail to  
**Orland Historical Society; P.O. Box 324; Orland Park, IL 60462.**

**MEMBERSHIPS**

Individual / Seniors

\$5.00

Individual for Life

\$100.00

Family

\$10.00

Student

\$2.00

(through high school)

Business

\$30.00

Memberships are tax deductible,  
as allowed by law

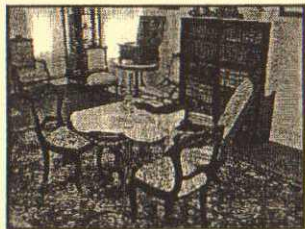
Orland Park's first Village President (Mayor), Senator John Humphrey, built his family home in 1881, the second house in what was to become the Village of Orland Park. It is of Italianate architecture and its front porch columns, although stylistically compatible, are not original.



*John Humphrey*

When the house was first built, the front porch resembled the east and west porches. Except for the modernization to add electricity and plumbing, the home is essentially as it was when built.

Senator Humphrey was born in Wisbech, Norfolk, England in 1838. He came to the Orland area with his mother and stepfather. During the summer, he worked for his board and clothes and he attended country school in the winter.

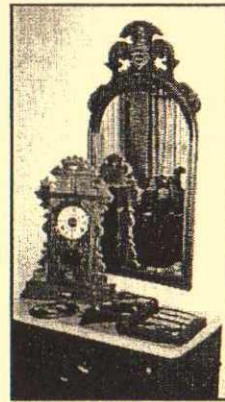


*Family parlor*

In 1859, Humphrey joined the gold seekers travelling to California. After he took ill in California, he returned home after the start of the great Civil War. His mother, now a widow with small children, needed his help.

Throughout the war, Humphrey organized home guards and cared for his mother, stepsisters and brothers and for those whose husbands, fathers and brothers had gone to war.

Shortly after the end of the war, Humphrey married Amelia A. Patrick. The first Mrs. Humphrey died in March, 1898, leaving behind their three children, Wirt E. Humphrey, Clara B. Meyers and Maud E. Humphrey. John Humphrey later married Ida M. Stuart, with whom he had one child, John Stuart Humphrey.



*Carved mirror & clock above chest*

Humphrey was first elected to the General Assembly of Illinois in 1870. He was re-elected in 1884 and was elected to the Illinois State Senate in 1886. He was re-elected until his last term closing in 1910.



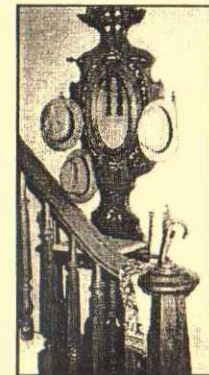
*Senator Humphrey's Home Office*

In the General Assembly, Senator Humphrey was a forceful debater and a careful and conscientious lawmaker. He was admitted to the practice of law by the Supreme Court of Illinois in 1874. He maintained a law office in Chicago until his death in 1914.

One of Humphrey's significant accomplishments as an attorney involved the City of Chicago. Senator John Humphrey was instrumental in preventing Chicago from expanding beyond its current borders.

In Orland Park, Humphrey's honesty and reputation for square dealing in all transactions earned him the name, "Honest John."

Humphrey was elected Supervisor of Orland Township in 1867 and was re-elected each year up until the time of his death. He was treasurer of the township from 1876. John Humphrey is credited with having the Village of Orland Park incorporated as a municipality in the State of Illinois. He served as the village's first president (mayor) until his death in 1914.



*Newell post & coat rack in hall*

During a trip to England in 1914, Humphrey became ill. He returned to the Chicago area where he died. John Humphrey knew every man, woman and child for miles around and the entire town mourned his death. Schools and businesses closed for the day as the people of Orland Park solemnly walked past Humphrey's bier to pay their final respects.



*Extended dining room table*

John Stuart Humphrey, Senator Humphrey's last surviving child, died in April, 1987. The younger Humphrey willed the family home, furnishings and property to the Orland Historical Society. Since that time, the Society has been working to restore the Humphrey House to the time of the Senator's life in Orland Park.

In addition to the Humphrey Home, Orland Park's first mayor is remembered with the John Humphrey Sports Complex and John Humphrey Drive.