



Calumet County Historical Society Museum

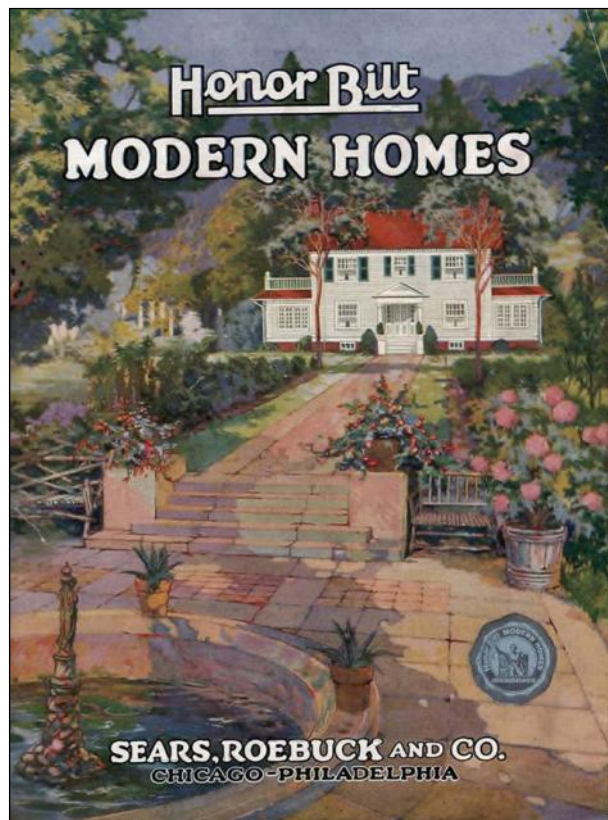
**Open Sundays June-September 1:00 to 4:00
or by appointment**

Mail Order Homes

By Debbie Barany

Summertime is upon us, and we see the construction of new homes underway. Ever wonder what it was like to think about building a new home at the turn of the 20th century? Well just grab your Sears and Roebuck catalog and start looking for ideas. Yes, Sears and Roebuck.

From 1908 to 1940 about 100,000 houses were sold through Sears Modern Home Program. Sears was not the only company to sell mail order homes, Montgomery Ward, Gordon-Van Tine and Harris Brothers, also sold home kits, but Sears was the largest seller. The first catalog appeared in 1908 and offered 22 different designs. Customers could pick out a design to their needs, tastes and pocketbooks. Sears provided the materials and instructions. Kits included pre-cut lumber, windows, siding, shingles, nails, doors, even the kitchen sink. Plumbing and electrical fixtures could be added on for additional fees. All shipped to you by rail boxcar, then usually trucked to the home site.



Carlinville, Ill., Aurora Ill. and Elgin, Ill all still have a significant number of Sears' home standing in their communities. The houses in Carlinville were bought by the Standard Oil Company and built to house its workers. They were all built in a 12 block radius.



The CASTLETON
No. 227 Not Cut or Fitted.

Honor Bill \$1,989⁰⁰

At the price quoted we will furnish all the material to build this eight-room house. Price does not include cement, brick or plaster.

First Floor Four nicely arranged rooms on this floor, well lighted, and with plenty of room for furniture.

Second Floor Four bedrooms, bathroom and linen closet on this floor.

Height of Ceilings The basement has concrete floor and is 7 feet from floor to joists. The first floor is 9 feet from floor to ceiling; second floor, 8 feet 6 inches from floor to ceiling. We furnish our best "Quality Guaranteed" mill work, shown on pages 118 and 119. Interior doors are five-cross panel, with trim and flooring to match, all yellow pine, in beautiful grain and color.

Paint for three coats outside, your choice of color. Varnish and wood filler for interior finish. Chicago Design hardware, see page 120.

Built on a concrete block foundation, excavated under the entire house.

Our Guarantee Protects You—Order Your House From This Book. Price Includes Plans and Specifications.

For prices of Plumbing, Heating, Wiring, Electric Fixtures and Shades see page 115.

OPTIONS

Wood Siding on second story, \$70.00 extra.

Sheet Plaster and Plaster Finish to take the place of wood lath, \$195.00 extra. See page 114.

Oriental Asphalt Shingles, instead of wood shingles, \$22.00 extra.

Fire-Chief Shingle Roll Roofing, Red or Sea Green in color, instead of wood shingles, \$6.00 less.

Floors, Trim, Doors, etc., for living room, dining room, hall, den and stairs, furnished in clear red oak for \$142.00 extra.

Clear Maple Flooring furnished for kitchen, pantry and bathroom, instead of yellow pine, no extra charge.

Storm Doors and Windows, \$88.00 extra.

Screen Doors and Windows, black wire, \$60.00 extra; galvanized wire, \$43.00 extra.

If Mantel is not wanted, \$53.00 less.

Should be built on a lot about 35 feet wide.

See Description of "Honor Bill" Houses on Page 7.



