

Clarke House Time Line

- 1673 Father Marquette and Louis Joliet are the first known Europeans to explore the region
- 1779 Jean Baptiste Point du Sable builds a trading post and establishes a permanent settlement on the Chicago River
- 1795 The Treaty of Greenville is signed. After defeat at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in Ohio, Indian tribes are forced to cede to the U.S. Government a "piece of land six miles square at the mouth of the Chicago River"
- 1803 The first Fort Dearborn is built by the U.S. Army
- 1812 Fort Dearborn massacre. The fort is rebuilt in 1816 and abandoned in 1836.
- 1818 Illinois becomes the twenty-first state admitted to the Union. All of the major settlements are in the state's southern portion.
- 1825 Erie Canal opens.
- 1826 U.S. Congress gives Illinois 284,000 acres for route of Illinois and Michigan Canal
- Henry and Caroline Clarke marry
- 1829 Illinois Legislature appoints first Canal Commission who work on plan to build a canal 96 miles long and 60 ft. wide to be financed by the sale of canal lots between Chicago and Ottawa
- 1830s Firsts in Chicago: post office, lighthouse, harbor improvements, cemetery, permanent Board of Health
- 1830 Canal Commission hires surveyors to lay out a town at each end of route. Commission's survey of Chicago by James Thompson results in simple grid street plan 3/8s mile square straddling forks of Chicago River. Borders: Kinzie, Madison, State and Desplaines. Beyond original plot, the streets now known as Roosevelt, North, Western, and Pulaski are surveyed
- Canal lots sold at public auction
- 1831 Travel by ship from New York City to Chicago takes twenty-five days via New Orleans

- 1832 Town of Chicago incorporated with population of 350
- The first newspaper, the weekly Chicago Democrat, begins publication
- First brickyard established on Chicago River between Dearborn and Clark
- First balloon frame building, St. Mary's Church, built
- Eliza Chappel opens the first publicly funded school, the Rumsey School at Madison and Dearborn
- 1834 The first drawbridge, made of wood, is built over the river at Dearborn Street
- 1835 After the Indians' defeat in the Black Hawk War of 1832, and because of the treaties of 1833 and 1835, the Potawatomi and other Indian tribes begin to leave for lands promised to them west of the Mississippi River.
- Henry Clarke comes to Chicago in May
- Henry Clarke purchases 20 and 8/100 acres at the public land sale on June 15th
- Caroline with children James and Charles and maid Betsy come to Chicago in October
- Henry becomes a partner in the hardware firm of Jones King and Co. which sold hardware for trapping, farming and construction, and one of nine directors of the Chicago Branch of the Illinois State Bank, the first bank in Chicago
- The first regular fire department (volunteer) is organized. Henry is a member
- 1836 Construction begins on canal at 4th of July celebration
- Clark House begun
- 1837 City of Chicago incorporated on March 4th with population of 4,066. The city is ten square miles, bordered by North Avenue, Lake Michigan, 22nd Street, and Wood Street (1800 W)

Building industry in 1837: more than 2 lumber mills, 9 firms in plaster work, 3 factories making door sash and window blinds, 2 stair builders, 3 wood turners

Panic of 1837

1838 Clarke House east portico built

1839 A steamship line between Chicago and Buffalo, New York makes the round trip in sixteen days

The American, the first daily newspaper, begins publication

City Directory lists 14 cabinet makers

1840s Depression (1839-1842)

City Directory and advertisements: cabinet makers, furniture painters, frame makers for looking glasses, lard oil and soap makers, makers of draperies and shades, sales of carpeting, second hand furniture dealers, wallpaper hangers

Steam power applied to manufacture of carpeting and wallpaper

Godey's Ladies Book begins publication as a monthly magazine

1840 City of Chicago population 4,470

1842 The Clarke property is listed for rent in the Chicago Democrat

1843 Solar lamp patented

First city hospital opens

1844 Henry listed as farmer in City Directory

1846 Henry listed as a farmer and dairyman in City Directory

Henry works as City Clerk (to 1848)

Alice Barnard boards with the Clarkes (c. 1846 to c. 1849)

1848 Canal completed

The railroad comes to Chicago. The "Pioneer" of Galena and Chicago Union Railroad begins ten mile run from Chicago to the Des Plaines River and back

First telegraph reaches Chicago

Chicago Board of Trade established

Southwest Plank road built, toll road to hinterland

First ocean going steamship arrives from Europe

First stockyard opens

First steam powered grain elevator built

Federal Court opens branch in Chicago

1849 Henry Clarke dies of cholera

1850s City Directories and advertising: Camphene for burning fluid lamps, coal dealers

Michigan Avenue extended south in Clarke House backyard (early 1850s)

Clarke House cupola and west portico added (early to mid-1850s)

1850 City of Chicago population 29,375. Fifty percent are immigrants from foreign countries

First gas company chartered. Gas lights installed on Lake Street on September 4th

1851 Caroline Clarke establishes "Clarks Addition to Chicago" for purpose of subdividing the property

1852 Illinois and Central Railroad acquires right of way through the northeast corner of the 20 acre property and builds tracks east of the lakeshore on a trestle (c. 1853)

Just over three acres remain in possession of Clarke Family

1854 The Rock Island Railroad, the first rail link between the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes, reaches Chicago

1855 The city begins raising the levels of streets as much as twelve feet to improve drainage.

Omnibus service runs down State Street from the central business district to 22nd street

1856 James Henry Clarke dies, aged 28

1857 Second oldest extant house, Hull House, built

1858 Mary Clarke marries Franklin Williams

1859 Horse-drawn railway cars begin operation on State Street, becoming the first mass transit system. By June, service runs from the Loop to 22nd Street.

1860 City of Chicago population 109,260

Caroline Clarke dies

1864 Caroline and Henry's bodies reinterred at Graceland Cemetery (which had opened in 1860)

1871 Chicago Fire, fire line extends south to 12th Street

1872 House sold to John Chrimes, land sold to First Universalist Church