

Crescent Street, N.E.

2 Side entrance of 246 Division N.

11 Crescent N.E. Tire warehouse. (Partial view in GRPL, Robinson E1302.)

15 01/20/86 7456 Riverside

22 10/31/77 5447 Ronald Lobbezoo

Crescent & Ransom N.E. The Hake homestead was the William Hake family home. Carriage house. Demolished in March, 1936.

102 10/05/73 4461 Capitol

110 06/09/97 8727 Pioneer Construction
Spectrum Theater.

149 Side entrance of 302 Barclay N.E.

153 04/18/72 4159 Capitol

*155-57 05/09/69 3032 Capitol (Carl Miller)
Flat. Double house.*

161 08/01/77 5332 Pitsch

*165 08/01/77 5333 Pitsch
Stucco. Twin of 161.*

200 12/31/74 4753 Urban Renewal

206 04/08/75 4799 Urban Renewal--Capitol

211-13 06/26/80 5961 Pitsch

214 04/08/75 4800 Urban Renewal--Capitol

215 05/29/80 5927 Pitsch

216 04/08/75 4801 Urban Renewal--Capitol

219 06/18/80 5933 Pitsch

315 12/13/60 117 Capitol

330 Crescent N.E. Bethlehem Lutheran Church. This congregation came into being on April 3, 1873, with a nucleus of 14 Swedish immigrants. In late 1876 the first church building was completed on Sinclair Street just south of the present Gerald R. Ford Freeway. The congregation continued to grow as Swedish immigrants were coming to the Grand Rapids area. Outgrowing that building in 1890, another was erected on Scribner Avenue (Court Street) at Blumrich (Valley) Street, as most of the membership lived on the west side of the river. In the 1920's plans were made to move to the Heritage Hill area. In 1927 the present location was purchased. This is the parish's third house of worship, constructed in 1933 during the throes of the Great Depression. To build the church, 100 parishioners provided manual labor. Some even mortgaged homes to help finance it. In 1997, the congregation numbered nearly 800 baptized members from 450 households throughout Kent County. On April 17, 1932, Mr. Claus Hokanson, at 92 years of age the only surviving charter member of Bethlehem Church, assisted in the ground breaking for the present building. The Building Committee consisted of Dr. George A. Fahlund, pastor of Bethlehem at that time; Chairman Arthur R. Lindquist, C.H. Anderson, G.A. Hokanson, Oscar E. Kilstrom, Herman Holmberg, Miss Helen Nelson, and Walter and Esther Durkee. Raymond A. Freeberg from Jamestown, NY, was the architect of the new building. Its design is based on a true vertical Gothic style with English influences. The building is of light brick trimmed with stone. The parish education unit follows the lines and the architecture of the original building. Original plans called for the building to extend to the sidewalk on Prospect Avenue. The neighbors objected. The building was moved back and shortened. The nave and loft seat approximately 300. In the building's massive exterior and stunning interior, the architect incorporated various motifs of Christian churches throughout the world. Egyptian, Romanesque, and Minaret images (some of which may be seen over the sacristy doors on either side of the chancel arch) were used to illustrate that Christianity is a multicultural religion. This lends a uniqueness to the space of worship where an interested observer may note these unusual characteristics. The wood beams in the ceiling add warmth and beauty. They are laminated wood surrounded by a decorative wood, highlighted with minute religious symbolism in gold trim. The light fixtures are of Swedish iron and gold made by the Beardsley Company of Chicago. An Italian marble altar replaced the original some years later and the *predella* (the altar's supporting platform) was raised so that the celebration of Holy Communion could be seen by everyone in the pews. The church edifice, excluding the parish education unit, cost approximately \$75,000. Construction in the depression was a challenge for this congregation with limited funds. The ceiling of the building was lowered three feet in order to complete the project. Members sacrificed in many ways, including mortgaging their homes to finish the project. More than 100 parishioners actually took part in manual

labor during construction. All societies of the church combined their efforts to gather funds and to pay off the indebtedness. In 1948, at the 75th Anniversary Celebration, the mortgage was burned. When the building was dedicated, it was completely furnished, including the pipe organ. However, the pews from the former church were used in the loft until new pews were purchased. The stained glass windows are memorials to: Gustaf and Christina Johnson, August and Fredrika Peterson, Gustaf and Sophia Anderson, Olaf and Augusta Lindquist, Johanna U. Lindberg, August and Ericka Carlberg, John Anderson and Kenneth Nelson, and Edith Johnson Carlen. The pulpit was donated by Lars G. Dall, who felt so strongly about this item that he wished it elaborately carved and was willing to pay the \$500 cost at that time. The pulpit and *reredos* (the wood panel above and behind the altar) were made in Milwaukee. The lectern was carved at the American Seating Company in Grand Rapids. The carving inset seen through the base of the altar was done by Herman Holmberg. He used as his model Alois Lang's "The Agnus Dei and Banner of Victory." The original organ was purchased from the Verlinden Dornoff Company. In 1964 the organ was completely rebuilt, except for the pipes, and enlarged to twice its original size. This work was done by the Mutchier Organ Company of Hudsonville. It is now a 3-manual, 50-rank organ. Recently a 25-note set of tubular chimes was added, and the rebuilding of the Great Diapason Chorus will take place in the near future. The banners over the side aisles were made during the Centennial celebration in 1973: "Flame" (The Holy Spirit), "Willing Hands" (Serve the Lord), "Baptism" (Font and Dove), "Communion" (Bread and Wine), "The Word" (Bible), Bethlehem Lutheran Church Seal, our first churches, Centennial Motto and Symbol, The Doves (Peace), "Key '73" Symbol, "People" (God's children), "People" (Many found God here), Lutheran Seal, Luther's Coat of Arms (*Vivit*--"He lives"), "Jerusalem Cross" (Five wounds), and Bethlehem Scene. The parish education unit was added in 1954 providing offices, Sunday School rooms, and a Fellowship Room. The parlor in the lower level of the church was refurbished in 1993.

417 Crescent N.E. Sumner house. This Stick style house was built for Mr. and Mrs. D.B. Sumner in 1882. It was in a neglected state when George and Maree Beckon purchased it as a HUD repossession in 1986. It boasts a wonderful collection of working gas and electric chandeliers and sconces.

430 Crescent N.E. DeBoe house. Queen Anne. Built in 1891 for John DeBoe, a partner in DeBoe, King, & Co., manufacturing chemists.

435 Crescent N.E. A Queen Anne built in 1884 by prominent architect William G. Robinson, whose original architectural drawings are displayed throughout the house. Sided with aluminum before the Hill became an historic district, the house has lost much of its original detail. However, the unusual mushroom-shaped window is still visible in front, and the quarter-sawn oak woodwork in the first-floor apartment is still intact. Owners in 1993 are local actress Jean Bahle and her husband, David.

441 Crescent N.E. This stuccoed Italianate home was built in 1871 for Nathan D. Ward. Eventually converted into three apartments, it was demolished for a parking lot in 1973. (Photo: July, 1969, from Heritage Hill Association website.)



441 03/16/73 4366

Cannon

441 Crescent N.E. In October, 2003, a single-family house was moved to this vacant lot from 332 Lafayette N.E. by the Inner City Christian Federation. By October, 2004, it was on the market for \$199,500. A traditional Arts and Crafts style, the house has new mechanicals, electrical, and plumbing, a new foundation, basement, garage, and driveway.

447 06/22/70 3536 Courtade
Barn.

462 Crescent N.E. The Thum House. The first land grant on this property was dated November 6, 1834 and was signed by Andrew Jackson, the 7th president of the United States. The house came much later, and was built in 1885 for druggist Hugo Thum and his wife, Louise. Later it was owned by the founder of the Miller Zeilstra Lumber Co. Sue and Jim Karsen bought this house in 1982 as only its fifth owners. They have returned it to its original character as much as possible while also making it comfortable and livable. Stained glass windows, decorative window panes, pocket doors, and golden oak floors provide a perfect backdrop for interior furnishings. The chimney is set at a 45-degree angle, as are the impressive fireplace and mantel inside. The house presently has two apartments, one on each floor. (Sketch: 1997 Heritage Hill Home Tour, p. 7.)

470 Crescent N.E. The Whittemore House. Built for John Whittemore in 1889, this charming home is an excellent example of Vernacular architecture,



to which rich Italianate detailing has been added to the front-gabled rectangular shape popularized by the Greek revival style. The home is notable for the heavily bracketed doorway, whose motif is repeated in a more refined form in the lintels over the windows. The original louvered shutters have fortunately been retained. Extensive research has failed to discover any information about Mr. John Whittemore or his family. (Photo: David Hanks, 1976 Heritage Hill calendar.)

501 Crescent N.E. This house apparently replaced an older structure on the same lot around 1916. From that year through the 1930's, a series of business managers and professionals lived here, each for a few years. Although modestly sized, the house exemplifies the widely eclectic style spawned from Chicago's Prairie school, as characterized by widely-overhanging eaves, one-story porches and wings, plus ribbon windows and detailing. Exposed rafter ends and battered (sloped) piers of the porches from the Craftsman style were also used. Once containing two apartments, the house boasts rich features, such as gorgeous oak woodwork, beveled leaded

glass windows in the arts and crafts style, double French doors, and headboard wainscoting. In the dining room is a dramatic, coffered ceiling. A curious detail is the brick dog run. Owned and occupied in 1993 by downtown attorney Ric Roane.

506 Crescent N.E. This Craftsman-style Queen Anne house dates from 1882, and was home to the family who built it for nearly 60 years. The house was eventually converted to four apartments. Owner of the home in 2004 was Scott Seibt, who removed the fiberboard siding and restored the original siding and front porch.

524 06/29/72 4181 Cannon
 Flat.

527 Crescent N.E. This Craftsman-style house was built about 1879-80. Kristine Jacobson and Larry Alderink were the residents in 2004.

530 09/20/72 4263 Cannon

540 Crescent N.E. Herpolsheimer house. Torn down about 1935. (Photo: Pitsch/Capitol collection, Series 8.)



644
Pitsch

11/06/85 7446