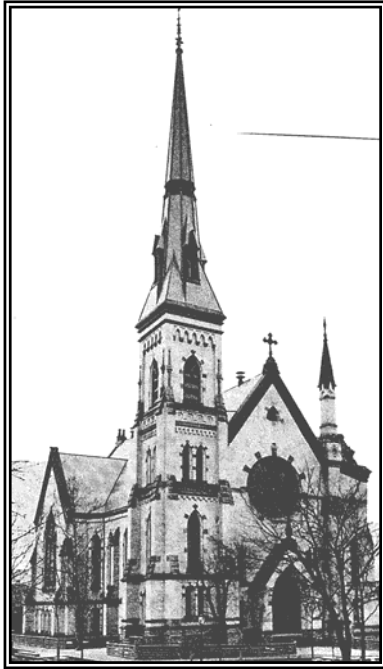


Fountain Street, N.E.

21

24 Fountain N.E. Fountain Street Church. The former Fountain Street Baptist Church, designed by Chicago architect G.P. Randall and built in 1873, burned early in the



morning of Tuesday, May 22, 1917. The \$250,000 fire broke out in the basement; and within an hour of the initial alarm, the huge steeple crashed to the ground. The current building, designed by Coolidge & Hodgdon of Chicago and built in 1923-24 in the Romanesque style, has a basilica (rectangular) floor plan, with an apse at the south end and a narthex at the north. It includes lavishly carved stone, floors of historic Mercer tiles from Pennsylvania, elaborate murals, intricate mosaics, a handsome pulpit carved from a single block of brown Italian marble, and dark walnut paneling and trim throughout the sanctuary. The ten pairs of 20-foot-high stained glass windows depict biblical and secular subjects in the Gothic style, installed in the late 1920's by W. Francklyn Paris and Frederick Wiley of New York. The artists tried to emulate the style of medieval glassmakers, but his subjects were more contemporary. Paris set up a workshop in Chartres to study Gothic glass. The panes were shipped from London to Grand Rapids. Their subject matter is distinctly 20th-century American, largely the inspiration of Dr. Alfred Wesley

Wishart, pastor from 1906 to 1933. In one window, Abraham Lincoln sits below a freed



slave. In another, the trademark of Grand Rapids furniture maker Charles Potter Limbert is transformed into a medieval medallion beside Louis Pasteur and a Red Cross nurse. Even Pegasus, the winged horse from pagan Greek mythology, is present. The Christ Window shows the Last Supper. The Window of the Law and the Psalms shows Moses carrying the Ten Commandments. The Wisdom Window shows Socrates and Plato in conversation. Each window is made up of 24 16" x 30" sections. The rose window is the work of Percy Hayden-Bacon of London. The

windows were carefully restored from 1996 to 1998 by the Pristine Glass Company at 975 Cherry S.E. (cf. GRP 07/12/1997 B1-2). The church has hosted numerous nationally-known speakers and programs over the years. The installation of a new 8,000-pipe organ was scheduled to be completed in 2002, the largest organ between Philadelphia and Salt Lake City. (Photos: old church, GRPL, in Bratt, *Gathered at the River*, p. 89; present church, mid-1950's, Morrow postcard collection.)

108 Fountain N.E. This was the home of Leo M. Kingsley in 1912. The 2-story frame flat contained 7 apartments when it was listed for sale in 1952. It stood immediately to the east of the old Second Church of Christ Scientist, which was built on the southeast corner of Bostwick and Fountain in 1929. Its condition in the early 1950's can be deduced from the directions on the real estate listing card: "Never to be shown. To be sold for land value only." The owner was Earl Marker of 212 Houston Place in Kalamazoo, and the asking price was \$21,500, considerably more than the assessed valuation of \$3,600. (Old # 94. Photo: GRPL, G.R. Real Estate Board collection, June 2, 1952, K 376.)



109

110 Fountain N.E. This was the home of Mrs. I.B. Roszell in 1912. Owned and occupied by Mr. & Mrs. J. Glashower when listed for sale in 1952-53, this 2-story brick dwelling had a living room, dining room, a modern kitchen, 2 bedrooms, a bath, and an additional sleeping room on the first floor; and 5 sleeping rooms and 2 baths on the second floor. It was in excellent condition, and was heated with an oil furnace. A 3½-stall was in the rear. The assessed valuation was \$4,080, and the owners were asking \$17,100-\$18,000. (Old # 96. Photo: GRPL, G.R. Real Estate Board collection, October 23, 1952, B 846. A corner of the large brick flat at 114 Fountain N.E. can be seen at the left.)



114 *The home of John Kotvis in 1912. Later a multiple-family dwelling.*

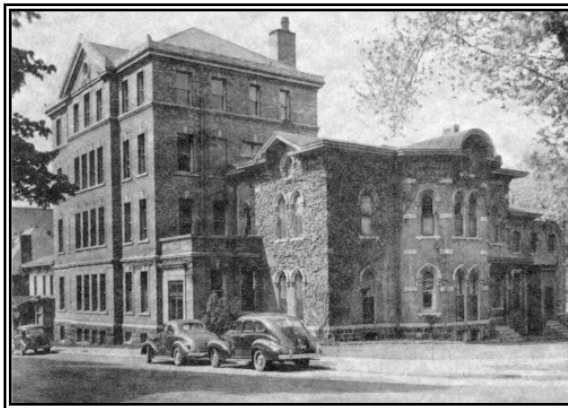
116-18 *The Dominican Sisters occupied this address in 1948. This may have been the west entrance of the old Sacred Heart Academy at 69 Ransom N.E., formerly 124 Fountain N.E.*

123 08/04/61 438 *Howard Lindsley*

124 Fountain N.E. The large 3-story brick residence of Elias Matter was built here in 1871. Mr. Matter was associated with the Nelson-Matter Furniture Co. In September,



1900, it became the Sacred Heart Academy of the Dominican Sisters, the forerunner of Marywood Academy and of Aquinas College, with an address of 69 Ransom N.E. In the 1920's, the Academy moved to the new Marywood campus at 2025 Fulton E.; but with the onslaught of the Depression, the Sisters realized that many young men were unable to go away to college. So, with characteristic speed, they reorganized their college, changed its name to Catholic Junior College, moved it to downtown Grand Rapids at 69 Ransom Avenue, N.E., and opened its doors to men as well as women in 1931. It was the first Catholic college in the United States to become coeducational. The College's red brick building at the corner of Ransom and Fountain (now the site of a parking lot) had been occupied for several years by Dominican Sisters who conducted a boarding home for women called Sant' Ilona Hall. Private music lessons were given in the old mansion facing Fountain Street, attached to the 4-story residence hall. The Dominicans invited a layman,



Dr. Burton Confrey, to become dean--another radical change for the times. A few years later he was succeeded by Fr. Arthur F. Bukowski. Father--later Monsignor--Bukowski became the College's first president in 1937. The student body of about 100 studied a liberal arts curriculum with a strong emphasis on foreign languages, music, pre-engineering and commercial studies. The students appreciated the proximity of Ryerson Public Library on the same block. Extracurricular activities such as volleyball (in the backyard), ping-pong (in room 105), and interscholastic basketball attracted a number of students. The large porch at the rear proved to be popular for discussions and noon-time gatherings. It also witnessed a number of spirited initiations of freshmen! Among the other activities was an Ascension Day picnic which developed into a strong springtime tradition, and annually drew almost the entire student body. In 1945, with the war guns still booming, the Dominican Sisters purchased the former estate of the Edward Lowe / Susan Blodgett family on Robinson Road, which most recently had been the site of the short-lived University of Grand Rapids. The Aquinas faculty, staff and students moved into the existing buildings on the Lowe estate--called Holmdene--in 1945, and the following year the war veterans returned to the new campus. (Old #112.

Photos: top, Baxter, p. 782; bottom, "Aquinas College Invites You to a Weekend of Music & Celebration," October 2-3, 1981 [brochure prepared for the event], p. 4.)

145 Fountain N.E. This was the home of Mrs. H.M. Kendell (*sic* in city directory) in 1912. When it was listed for sale by the Kendall School of Design 50 years later, it was



as a commercial property. The asking price tumbled from \$43,500 to \$23,500 in 2½ years. Built at the northeast corner of Fountain and Ransom, the 2-story frame house had newer additions of block construction to house the school. The lot had 85.68' frontage on Fountain, 85' on Ransom, and 90' irregular, for a total of approximately 7,785 square feet. The building itself had 5,350 total square feet,

3,250 on the first floor and 2,100 on the second. (Old # 121. Photo: GRPL, G.R. Real Estate Board collection, January 10, 1962, K 420.)

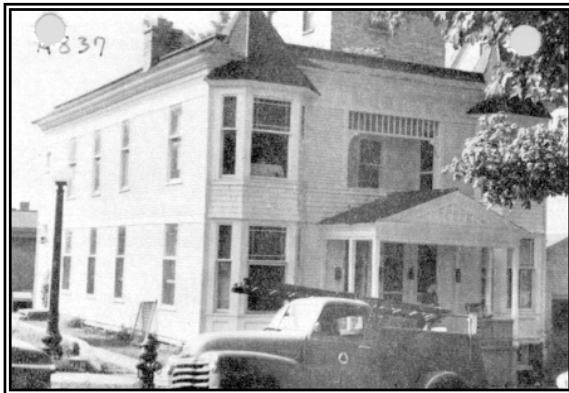
145

12/04/74

4707

Urban Renewal

150-52 Fountain N.E. This 2-story frame flat had 5 apartments, for a total of 21 rooms plus 4 baths. The building was only in fair condition when it was listed for sale by owner



S.W. Oppenhuizen of 68 Ransom N.E. in 1952. The asking price was \$15,950. The flat roof was graveled. Floors were of oak. A gas furnace provided steam heat, and there were two fireplaces. (Photo: GRPL, G.R. Real Estate Board collection, September 11, 1952, A 837. Other views of this building are in the photos of 164 Fountain N.E.)

151-53 Fountain N.E. In the early 1950's, this flat contained 2 apartments and 9 rooms. The owner, Mrs. Kate Parsons, had 4 rooms and a bath on the lower west side;



the lower east side had 3 rooms and a bath; and there were 8 individual rooms upstairs. The Grand Rapids School of the Bible and Music purchased the home and used it as living quarters for students in the mid-1950's. It was subsequently converted into a 4-apartment flat, with each unit containing a living room, kitchen, bedroom, and bath. A new oil furnace with hot water heat was installed in 1957. (Photo: GRPL, G.R. Real Estate Board collection, October 21, 1971, 70926. A corner of the brick flat at 157 Fountain N.E. can be seen at the right.)

151-53 01/06/75 4756

Urban Renewal

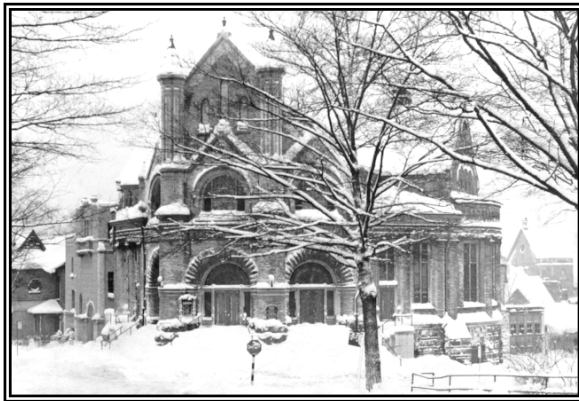
157

02/03/75

4770

Urban Renewal

164 Fountain N.E. Built as First Reformed Church, begun prior to the end of the pastorate of Rev. Peter Moerdyk, D.D. (1873-92). The congregation worshiped in the basement for three years. This lavish structure was dedicated on September 9, 1894, and featured a 700-seat sanctuary, a 100-foot tower, and stained glass windows provided by the estate of long-time member Mary Ball, the wife of Grand Rapids' legendary pioneer John Ball.



After a 1918 merger with Second Reformed Church, the congregation became known as Central Reformed Church. The church was destroyed by a \$250,000 fire at 5:15 a.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 1953. The congregation subsequently rebuilt at its present location at the northeast corner of College Avenue and Fulton Street, E.



(Photos: courtesy of Central Reformed Church. Copies in Grand Rapids Public Library.)



165 Fountain N.E. By 1972, this 2-story frame dwelling had been converted to 4 rental units, 2 up and 2 down. The lot size was 62' x 112'. The house had a gas furnace, hot water heat, and a Michigan basement. (Old # 143. Photo: GRPL 287, June 19, 1972, 83417.)



165

05/28/76

5085

Urban Renewal

200 Fountain N.E. In 1912, this large frame house on the southeast corner of Fountain and Barclay was the home of Frank S. Coleman. By the time it was put up for sale in 1955, it had been divided into 10



apartments. It went through numerous changes of owners before finally being demolished in the mid-1970's urban renewal. The house had no fireplaces and no garage or driveway. The floors were oak, the roof was asphalt, and the gravity heating system was converted from a coal to a gas furnace between 1955 and 1957. The house was listed at \$19,500 in 1955 and at \$58,000 in 1969. It was situated on a 41' x 82½' lot. (Old # 150. Photo: GRPL 287, October 4, 1955, F 5770.)

200

02/13/75

4782

Urban Renewal--Capitol

204 Fountain N.E. In 1912, this 2-story frame house was the home of Mrs. M.S. Ashley. By 1955, it had been converted into 4 apartments, and was owned by Mr. & Mrs. Ed Czarnecki of 253 Garfield N.W.,



who were listing it for sale at \$16,750. The assessed valuation was only \$4,650. The lot size was 42½' x 82'. The house had hardwood floors, and hot air heating was provided by a coal furnace. There was one fireplace, and a garage on a shared driveway. (Old # 154. Photo: GRPL 287, October 4, 1955, F 5771. The photo shows the cobblestone foundation.)

204

02/13/75

4783

Urban Renewal--Capitol

210 Fountain N.E. This fine house was already divided into 2 apartments by 1912, and occupied by Niley T. Diamond and George E. Whitcomb. Mrs. Frances B. Collins owned



and occupied it as a single-family dwelling in the mid-1950's, and it was in excellent repair. It featured a fireplace, oak flooring on the first floor, 4 bedrooms up and one down, a ceramic-tiled bath and shower, a large floored attic, and a 1-stall garage. It was heated by an oil furnace, then converted to gas about 1959. There was a splendid dining room light fixture which was personally retained by Mrs. Collins, a widow who wanted to travel and be free of the responsibilities of home ownership. By 1962, this fine residence had been converted into 3



apartments, and most of the fine shingled exterior had been covered with unsightly asphalt siding. (Old # 156. Photos: top, GRPL 287, August 5, 1953, K 738, shows the shingling on the second floor and on the front and side dormers; bottom, GRPL 287, March 3, 1964, C 2876, demonstrates the unfortunate covering of the home's most notable architectural detail. Note also the small bay window on the east side of 204 Fountain N.E.)

210 01/06/75 4761
Urban Renewal--Capitol

222 Fountain N.E. John C. Wenham, a realtor, and his wife, Sarah, built this home in 1876 in the Italianate style popular in the 1860's and 1870's. Mr. Wenham was



associated with the Wenham Block, where he had his office, on the northeast corner of Monroe and Division, a building which still stands. H. Parker Robinson, secretary of the Michigan Desk Company, and his wife, Cora, lived in the house from 1910 until the mid-1930's. Owners Sally Hale and Chuck Carter restored the house to a single-family residence in 1987, opening the Fountain Hill Bed and Breakfast in 1988. Interior features are ornate plaster crown moldings, ceiling medallions with antique lighting fixtures,

and a tall curved staircase. The interior layout is nearly identical to that of St. Jean Baptiste rectory in Muskegon, which was originally built in Hackley Park as the Nelson mansion. (Old # 168. Photo: Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes, 1991.)

230 Fountain N.E. The Shelby / Booth House. Construction began on this proud example of Victorian Italianate in 1872 for William Read Shelby of Kentucky.



Mr. Shelby's grandfather was an American Revolution hero and Kentucky's first governor, while Mr. Shelby himself was the president of several railroad companies. As a member of the local Board of Education, Mr. Shelby was credited with establishing the first school playgrounds. The Shelby family moved into the house during the fall of 1874, and eight years later they moved to larger quarters at 65 Lafayette N.E. From 1882 to 1894, the mansion was used as a rooming house for socially prominent bachelors and was known as "Saints' Rest." Freeman S. Godfrey, owner and president of a local

plaster manufacturing company, purchased the house in 1894 and immediately began modifying the house to suit his refined tastes. Included in the alterations were the semi-circular tower, wrap-around front porch, formal entrance, and all of the exterior stonework. Mr. Godfrey also built the domed garage, listed in the national historical register as the first in Grand Rapids intended specifically for the automobile. In 1907, Edmund W. Booth, of the distinguished newspaper family, purchased the house from Godfrey's widow. Mr. Booth had become editor-in-chief and manager of the Grand Rapids *Press* in 1906, bringing to eight the number of Michigan newspapers owned and operated by the Booth Publishing Company. He remained in that position for 21 years. The Booths occupied the mansion for 56 years, until 1964. Features include beautiful paired brackets and an unusual Regency bonnet-hooded dormer. Fred Joyner and Elizabeth Baxter occupied apartments here in 1971. Dick and Barb VanderZyden were occupants in the 1980's. (Old # 176. Photo: David Hanks, 1974 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

241 Fountain N.E. The Perkins House. The 3-story Gaius W. Perkins residence was built in 1882. He still occupied it in 1912.

Since it was purchased by Gaius Perkins' son Charles in 1916 and the front entrance moved, the house has been addressed as 111 Lafayette N.E. (Old #181. Photo, Baxter, p. 777.)



301 Fountain N.E. The cottage-style residence of George Kendall was built in 1850. It was occupied by Edward J. Earle in 1912. The second story and gambrel roof were built



up from and around the original cottage plan, perhaps around 1917. In the early 1950's, the home belonged to Mr. and Mrs. J. Albrechtsen, who lived here and rented out most of the house as apartments. It was then purchased by Florence M. Lanting, who also lived in it and rented to tenants. In 1955, the house had 6 1-room apartments, 1 2-room, 2 4-room, and 2 sleeping rooms. The lot size was 172' x 200' (34,400 square feet, almost an acre), and occupied Lots 12 and 13 and the south 50' of Lot 14 of Block 7 of Kendall's Addition. With oak floors, it was in excellent repair, assessed at \$16,750 and selling for \$63,000. An oil furnace provided steam heat to the house, in addition to 5 fireplaces. There was a 1-stall garage with a private driveway. (Old #



195. Top drawing: Baxter, p. 775; center photo: GRPL 287, November 11, 1952, C 196; bottom photo: GRPL 287, April 12, 1952, G-843.)



301 06/17/57 ---- Capitol

301 Fountain N.E. Fountain Hill Apartments. This 24-unit apartment building was constructed in 1959. It was built with a brick exterior which was later covered by a stucco-type material. The windows are aluminum, the floors concrete. In 2005, the owner, Mr. Cassidy, was hoping to rename the building The Claremont.

327 Fountain N.E. The Samuel Young House. This home was once the scene of lavish social events, a turn-of-the-century mecca for the “in” crowd. In keeping with their grand style, the Youngs employed a vast number of servants. Ballard’s only job was to open and close the front door. “John Baby,” the chauffeur, only drove the family car.

330 Fountain N.E. The Church House. This restrained Craftsman style home probably began its life as a Gothic cottage. The steeply pitched gable with its decorative detail at the peak attests to its origins. Throughout the years, tasteful alterations have increased the size and charm of this gracious home.



The original house was built in 1860 by Thomas B. Church, and it is more than likely that part of the original structure is incorporated into the present house. When the house was built, there were few houses in the immediate vicinity. Most families lived some distance away, “down the hill,” toward the present central business district. Mr. Church, a prominent attorney, served as prosecuting attorney of Kent County, and represented Kent and Ottawa counties in the State legislature. He was elected mayor of Grand Rapids in

1853. In 1919, the home was purchased by James Leenhouts, president of Grand Rapids Plaster Company (later Grand Rapids Gypsum Company). At that time, the home faced Prospect Avenue. Mr. Leenhouts had it extensively remodeled, moving the entrance to Fountain Street. (Photo: James Starkey, 1979 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

404 Fountain N.E. The C.H. Berkey House. This 3-story brick French Baroque mansion originally had a gabled roof, possibly of English influence. That roof was destroyed in a \$50,000 fire at 5:25 a.m. on Sunday, January 5, 1969; and the house was restored by the addition of a mansard roof, also in the French Baroque manner of the Second Empire and much more in keeping with the general character of the structure. This was the home of C.H. Berkey, who started the Universal Tripod Company in 1887 with his brother, Julius. They later branched into the manufacture of fine furniture and became one of Grand Rapids' largest furniture companies.

407 01/17/45 ---- Capitol
 Photo in Robinson/Capitol collection.

421 Fountain N.E. Central High School. Central's heritage begins in 1849, making it the oldest school in Grand Rapids and the second oldest school in Michigan. In 1862,



Central graduated its first class of only 13 students--all young women. The present building was designed by local architect Frederick S. Robinson (Robinson & Campau) in 1910, and completed in 1911. It is actually the fourth structure to house the high school. The total cost for construction and furnishings was \$435,000--a figure hardly comparable to

the \$2 million spent in 1982 for a new addition! The decorative elements of the building have Gothic overtones, particularly the use of gargoyles. The school was used as a model for other schools being built around the nation. Jesse Davis, the first principal, after whom Davis Technical College was named, was responsible for the design. Capacity: 1,265. 2009-10 enrollment: 783. (Photo: Morrow postcard collection, 1911.)

432 Fountain N.E. The Widdicomb House. The half-timbering of this massive manor, built in 1879 by William Widdicomb, Sr., denotes its English Tudor heritage. The bay window and small portico with its delicate arch are particularly interesting architectural features. The small paned leaded glass windows are typical of this style of home. Mr. Widdicomb's business life was extremely varied. Following his return from the Civil War, he became president of the Widdicomb Furniture Company, which had been established in 1858 and was known for its spindle bedsteads. In 1883, he retired from the company and became a cashier at the Grand Rapids National Bank. In 1888, he



went into the wholesale grocery business as the partner of Amos Musselman. In 1897, Mr. Widdicomb rejoined the Widdicomb Furniture Company as its president, at the request of shareholders and creditors, in order to restore the prestige of the firm. He took a great personal interest in his 400 employees and their families, and was known to say that the more children an employee had, the more he liked him and the greater his chance for advancement in the company. (Photo: James Starkey, 1978 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

442 Fountain N.E. The Hefferan House. Built in 1876 by Frederick Immen, this stately Eastlake home was slated for demolition in 1949 to make way for the driveway of a new apartment house. Happily, it survived "progress" to reach its 100th birthday and beyond. In 1889, this was the home of Mr. Thomas Hefferan, and members of his family resided here until 1948. In 1848, Hefferan entered the employ of Dr. Timothy Eastman, an early Ottawa County pioneer. Eastman was a physician, farmer, and lumberman, and the founder of the once-thriving village of Eastmanville. After the death of Dr. Eastman, Mr. Hefferan purchased the interests of the Eastman family; and when the Michigan logging boom showed signs of waning, moved his family to the home on Fountain Street. Mr. Hefferan was also president of the old Peoples Savings Bank, a predecessor of the present Old Kent Bank & Trust Company. The home has been divided into apartments and Mary Winkler was one of the occupants in 1976. In her apartment, the 12-foot ceilings of the home and the ornate woodwork are much in evidence. Heavy sliding wood doors open into the former sitting room, Mrs. Winkler's living room, which features a lovely bay window, and a fireplace lined with beautiful blue and white Dutch tiles depicting the four seasons. The parquet floor in the bedroom has been restored.

465 02/10/71 3788 *Dohm*

466-68 Fountain N.E. Built in 1889 for Cornelius Doster and his wife, Nellie Steketee Doster, the 14-room American Craftsman architectural-style house is a fine example of the way wealthy Grand Rapids families lived. After the Steketee family, Jay Boyd Pantlind's family also lived in the house. Faite Mack, Ph.D., a professor at Grand Valley State University, purchased the home about 1987, and has used it to exhibit his extensive collections of African and African American art and artifacts.

473 Fountain N.E. The Vinkemulder House. This impressive 2-story frame house had a slate roof, a concrete and stone foundation, a full basement, and a 3-stall, 2-story carriage house with a private alley entrance. The lot size was 58' x 143.52'.



The home had a large reception hall, living room, music room, dining room, library, kitchen with pantry, and bath on the first floor; and 5 bedrooms, bath, and storage on the second floor. There was a gas furnace and hot air heat. Henry J. and Belle Vinkemulder already lived here in 1912. Mr. Vinkemulder was the proprietor of the wholesale food shipping business, which bore his name, at 31 Market N.W. His son, Henry Blake

Vinkemulder, later owned and operated the family business. The assessed valuation in 1958 was only \$6,300, and the house was initially listed for sale that year by Mr. Vinkemulder's estate at \$14,750. The somewhat unusual design featured the main entrance and a large porch on the west side of the house rather than the front, a 2-story corner turret, and a southeast wing at a 45-degree angle to the rest of the house. (Old # 295. Photo: GRPL 287, April 5, 1958, A 3315.)

473

02/10/71

3789

Dohm

477-79 Fountain N.E. This very large frame house was originally built as a duplex with two addresses: 479 Fountain N.E. and 103 College N.E. The Fountain apartment had



five bedrooms, the College four; and both apartments had a fireplace. The floors were of maple. Each apartment had a separate water heater and separate laundry facilities. There were two gravity furnaces, fueled by gas for one apartment, coal for the other. The house stood on a lot 69' x 168', had a 3-stall garage, and was assessed at \$7,900 in 1955. A distinguishing feature of the house was the extensive shingling of the entire second story and attic, including

the dormers. In late 1955, the house was converted from a duplex into a 4-unit apartment, each with its own gas furnace. At that time, addresses were added at 477 Fountain N.E. and 105 College N.E. (Photo: GRPL 287, April 17, 1957, K3853.)

477-7903/10/71

3819

Dohm

508 Fountain N.E. This compact Tudor-style home is highlighted by half-timbering in all of the gables, nicely detailed brackets, a fine slate roof, and mullioned leaded glass

windows. Elegant in its simplicity, it is believed to date from 1915; but its builder and early occupants remain unknown. It was originally built as a single-family home with a small mother-in-law's apartment. Natural oak woodwork, beamed ceilings, and two fireplaces are original. Larry Gammons and Carl Jennings occupied the main portion of this house in 1975. (Photo:

G.R. Press, Sunday, May 11, 1975, p. 1-F.)



516 Fountain N.E. The Williamson House. Prominent Grand Rapids architect William Williamson built this imposing house between 1910 and 1913, not far from the home of his wife's family, the Barnetts, who lived at 148 Lafayette N.E. Mr. Williamson was an established architect as early as 1891, when he occupied offices in the Wonderly Building. Later he moved to the Gilbert Building, and became a partner in the firm of Williamson, Crow and Procter. Williamson lived here until 1969; and although he moved to California, where he lived for several years, when he died his body was returned to Grand Rapids. His funeral was held at Holmdene, the Edward Lowe mansion which is now the Aquinas



College administration office. This English Country style home, with its hipped gables, is reminiscent of the substantial homes which the English built in the countryside to provide themselves with retreats from the rigors of urban life in London. The original brick sidewalk leads to the sheltered entrance. Although the house was divided into apartments in the late 1950's, the street-side exterior appears original, except for landscaping. The owner's unit (Apt. 1, occupied by Thomas Hicks in 1998) is composed of the home's original living room, study (now a bedroom), and sun room (now a dining room). A contemporary kitchen, bath, and family room were added to this apartment in 1960, but the current owner has attempted to tie the styles together. Picture windows in the back of the house, added in the 1960's, overlook a park-like backyard. The 4-room Apt. 4 on the second floor was once a couple of bedrooms. (Photo: Heritage Hill Association, 1998 October 3 & 4 Tour of Homes brochure.)

529 Fountain N.E. Originally constructed in the 1870's, this house has definite Italianate features, including tall, narrow windows with elaborate crowns.



In the early 1900's it underwent a makeover that gave it several Queen Anne details, including the wrap-around porch, the front vestibule, and oak flooring installed over the pine planks. Even quarter-sawn oak molding was added to the main floor to complete the transformation. 1999 owners were Richard and Nancy Tubbs-O'Connor. (Photo: 1999 Heritage Hill Association tour brochure.)

535 Fountain N.E. The Davis House. This home is a fine Craftsman adaptation of a Gothic Cottage. It was built in 1881 by Mylan Hibbard, who sold it in 1884 to George A.



Davis, a founder of the Stow-Davis Furniture Co. Active in the life of the community, Mr. Davis became a member of the Board of Education, on which he served for 31 years. He was a proponent of the establishment of the Davis Technical School, which opened in 1924. Today the home is still occupied by the Davis family as a single-family residence. Features are the ornate open tracery in the gable end of the façade and on the porch. The unusual detail around the foundation of the porch is particularly interesting. (Photo: David Hanks, 1973 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

545 Fountain N.E. The Hollister-Lamoreaux House. Art abounds in this majestic 1892 Queen Anne home built for William and Agnes Lamoreaux. Mr. Lamoreaux was a prominent garden supply merchant on West Bridge Street. The 1912 occupant was Walter K. Plumb. Outstanding architectural features are the home's 2-story turret, a 3-story tower, an eyebrow window, and front and side entrance porticos. There are six gables in the roof and fireplaces are located on the first and second floors. Refinished oak woodwork throughout, original brass hardware, a grand oak stairway, and colorful stained glass windows enhance a fabulous art collection. 1997 owners Julie and John Colvin purchased this home in 1993. The house had been used for a brief time as a two-family and the Colvins converted it



back to a single-family in 1995. On-going projects include their yard and gardens. The Colvins' extensive artwork collection works well with their antique furnishings. Most of the artwork is either the work of a Michigan artist; the owner, Julie Colvin; or her family. The dining room ceiling has a magical impressionistic quality and was hand-painted by the owner. The house is located on a huge, tree-filled lot once owned by one of the founders of the National Bank of Grand Rapids (later Old Kent and now Fifth Third Bank). (Old # 357. Sketch: 1997 Heritage Hill Home Tour, p. 6.)

551 Fountain N.E. The Strong House. This charming American Craftsman home was built in the 1850's as a Salt Box with eyebrow windows. The original builder and occupant are unknown; but in 1875, Professor Edwin A. Strong, principal of the Old Stone School located on the site of the present Central High School, lived here.



Professor Strong was one of the outstanding educators of his day and, as superintendent of schools, established the foundations for the school system of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The house was extensively remodeled in 1927, and was at that time reviewed and lavishly praised by the *Ladies' Home Journal*. The lovely Georgian portal,

added by 1970's owners Mr. and Mrs. Donald Thompson, welcomes the visitor; and inside, inlaid in the newel post, is an ivory "paid up" mortgage date. Mr. Thompson was a member of the Furniture Designers Association, and displayed in the home many pieces which he designed and custom-built. (Photo: David Hanks, 1974 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

630 Fountain N.E. The Baxter House. This charming English Cottage was built in 1906 by Howard F. Baxter. It is constructed of special English brick which pits and beautifies with age. Special features are the tile roof and leaded casement windows. The 1971 owners, Mr. and Mrs. George VandenBerge, converted the home into a duplex, retaining all of the graciousness of the original single-family dwelling.

747 Fountain N.E. The old 3-story Baxter Laundry building, which had stood as a vacant eyesore for several years, was totally destroyed in a spectacular fire at 3 a.m. on Sunday, November 9, 1975.

747-69 01/06/76 5028 Riverside
Baxter Laundry.

901 11/16/70 3683 Pitsch

905 12/17/70 3733 Pitsch
Already built by 1912, and occupied by Hy Oldenkamp.

907 Fountain N.E. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hoyt owned this neat 2-story bungalow in 1961. Only the house to the west at 905 had been built on this block by 1912, and for



many years Diamond School and grounds occupied the east half of the block. This house was typical of those on the block, which were all torn down in 1970 for the Houseman Field expansion. Downstairs were the living room, dining room, modern tiled kitchen, den, and half bath. Upstairs were 3 bedrooms, a tiled bath, and a sun room. The house was brick, with stucco on the 2nd floor and dormer. Forced-air heat was supplied by a gas furnace. The full basement also contained a 65-gallon

water heater, obviously suited for a large family. The shared driveway led to a 1-stall garage. There was a vacated alley at the rear. The screened front porch and fenced yard provided pleasant fresh-air opportunities. Although assessed at only \$4,000, the house was listed for sale at \$15,500 in 1961. (Photo: GRPL 287, September 7, 1961, G 9272.)

907 11/16/70 3682 Pitsch

911 12/30/70 3734 Pitsch

914 12/05/77 5396 Neighborhood Improvement--Cross

943-49 11/18/60 18 Capitol
Diamond School, built in 1890.

1129 Fountain N.E. A gas explosion destroyed this house on Wednesday, December 16, 1964, at 1:18 p.m. Photo: 125-C023103.

1129 12/23/64 1876 Capitol
To reuse sewer line.