

Gay Avenue, S.E.

20 Gay S.E. Duffy House. Georgian Revival. This imposing house was built in 1908 by John Duffy, secretary and later president of the Fox



Machine Co., and still later president of the Grand Rapids Hardware Co. He began his business career as a grocery delivery boy, and founded a sash pulley business which became Grand Rapids Hardware. With its classically proportioned façade, the house seems like it could have been lifted from the Irish countryside and transported to its present site in Heritage Hill.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Duffy were extremely interested in music. He was a past president of the Schubert Club, and was widely known as a vocalist. In line with this interest, they had a magnificent pipe organ installed in their home, and at one time hosted the National Organ Convention here. The house also features an operating elevator. (Photo: David Hanks, 1975 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

29 Gay S.E. Idema House. Peaches Bed & Breakfast. This beautiful brick Georgian Country Manor style home was built in 1916 for Chester Idema, and



by 1995 had had only one other owner since. Skylights of cathedral glass adorn the second floor ceiling in the main foyer and open through the third floor atrium to the roof. There are five fireplaces and an extensive library which includes bookcases with leaded glass doors. The former ballroom is now a game and TV area, complete with maple floor and original wall murals depicting members of the Idema family engaged in their favorite sports. Five guest bedrooms and four baths occupy

the second floor. The house boasts over 6,000 square feet of space. Williamson & Crow, architects. Jane Lovett and Douglas Wondergem operate Peaches Bed and Breakfast here in 1995. (Photo: James Starkey, 1980 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)