Madison Avenue, S.E.

107

115 Madison S.E. Mrs. Louise McKinley, a member of St. Andrew's Cathedral, lived here and operated a maternity hospital in the home for 25 years. She died in February,

1953. (GRPL 287, c. 1953, L 172.)



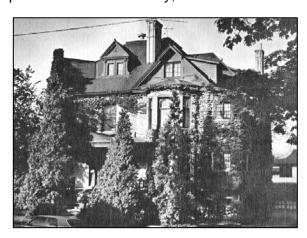
120 Madison S.E. The Randolph House. Built about 1890, this marvelous High Victorian Craftsman style home features an abundance of detail which is enhanced by a



imaginative 20th-century paint hiahlv treatment. It was constructed in an era when carpenters were intrigued with what machinery could produce, and they lavished the houses they built with a myriad of detail. In 1905, this was the of Dr. John Randolph. distinguished oculist who had been in practice in Grand Rapids since 1896. For 29 years, he was affiliated with the Grand Rapids Association for the Blind and Sight Conservation. This home may well have been one of the first examples of multiple use in Heritage Hill, serving for many years as an apartment house and the offices of Dr. Willa B. Dutcher, a prominent local podiatrist. In 1977, this concept of adaptive/multiple use was preserved by the co-existence of an antique shop, the Heritage Hill office, and

two apartments. (Old # 20. Photo: James Starkey, 1977 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

121 Madison S.E. The Robinson House. Built in 1885 by William M. Robinson, Sr., a prominent local attorney, this home is a notable example of Victorian Chateauesque



The stately mansion is architecture. immediately identifiable by its intricately angulated roofline. The 2-story bay window is one of the outstanding features of this home. Delicate tracery ornaments the dormer. The south gable of the house belies its English inspiration, for many such brooding chateaus dot the forbidding coast of Cornwall. In 1921, John Bodbyl purchased the home from Mr. Robinson's heirs and began converting it into Mr. W.S. Austin, apartments. purchased the home in 1925, and completed the transformation of the

mansion into an apartment house. Mr. Austin is known locally as the owner of the Austin Automobile Company, which was located at 114-18 Division Avenue, S. He produced the first Austin automobile in 1901, incorporating his own inventions, a 2-speed rear axle and double cantilevered rear springs. (Old # 29. Photo: James Starkey, 1977 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

1	3	1

133	10/08/62	1417	Loren Pitsch
	To reuse sewe	er and water m	ains.

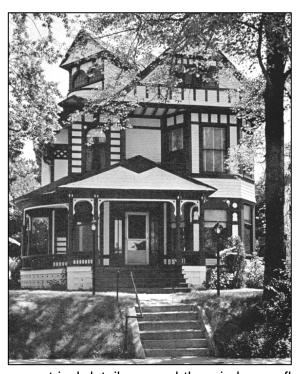
135	09/11/61	501	Houting & Meeusen
	Sewer line t	to be used.	

218 Madison S.E. The Vine House. Built in 1900 for Mrs. Mary Vine, widow of Frederick Vine, this massive Craftsman-style home has Queen Anne overtones, notably



its large round tower capped by a candlesnuffer roof. It is distinguished by its abundant trim, featuring delicate Adam swags and rows of square medallions on the tower. Mrs. Vine was locally recognized as an active patron of the arts and a devotee of Shakespeare. With Mrs. Frederick Immen, she organized the Shakespearean society in 1887 and served as the group's second president in 1892, continuing as honorary president for life. (Old # 80. Photo: David Hanks, 1976 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

222 Madison S.E. The McCormick House. Henry F. McCormick, an attorney and partner in the law firm of Temple, Thompson and McCormick, built this home in 1890. It



is an excellent example of Stick style architecture. Mr. McCormick served as a member of the Mississippi Marine Brigade, also known as the "Hoss Marines," which fought rebel raiders on the Mississippi River. He participated in the capture of Memphis, but was out of action before the end of the war because he was hospitalized when his horse was shot and fell on him. In 1912, this was the home of Dr. Alexander M. Campbell, one of the prominent physicians specialist in obstetrics. Dr. Cambell was the first maternity consultant for the Michigan Department of Health, and served as the chief of staff of Blodgett Memorial Hospital. In a Stick style home, the detail emphasizes the horizontal and vertical architectural members. distinguishing feature which is readily apparent on this house. The furniture turnings of the veranda and

geometrical details around the windows reflect an Eastlake influence. (Photo: David Hanks, 1975 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

225	10/21/70	3649	Capitol
227	10/21/70	3650	Capitol

241 Madison S.E. The Lamos House. This beautiful Craftsman style home was built in 1892 by Horace A. Lamos and his wife Jennie. Mr. Lamos was the owner of the

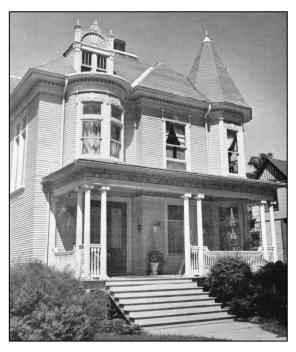




restaurant at the old Union Station. The unique portico features both pillars and pilasters adjacent to each other. Both Adam and Classic Revival influences are evident here. Of interest is the dormer, which has a curved Regency roofline. From 1918 until 1952, this was the home of Eugene Congers, president of the Old Kent Bank. Mr. Congers came to Grand Rapids in 1884, took a 6-month business course, and began his career as a bookkeeper for the Grand Rapids Telegram, which merged with the Herald and operated until 1888, when Congers and G.G. Swensberg bought control. In 1901, Mr. Congers began his banking career when he was named as a director of the People's Savings Bank, which merged with the Old National Bank in 1924 to become the Old Kent Bank. (Old # 99. Originally renumbered 239. Photos: David Hanks, 1975 Heritage Hill Association calendar. Top: east/front elevation. Bottom: north elevation.)

246 Madison S.E. The Hoult House. Classic Revival. Built in 1908 by John Hoult, president of the Luce Furniture Co. Piano-finish mahogany extends throughout, to the third-floor ballroom. An original grandfather clock is "stored" in the foyer for a descendant of the Hoult family. (Old # 106.)

303 Madison S.E. The Kennedy House. Built in 1883 by Alexander Kennedy, this graceful Queen Anne home is a notable example of this style of architecture. It features



an octagonal tower and an elaborate The exuberant relief decoration over the windows and porch fascia became very popular in the late 19th Century as the machine age progressed. The veranda is highlighted by paired classic columns with Ionic capitals and a delicate gallery with gracefully detailed balusters. Mr. Kennedy, a native of Glengary, Ontario, Canada, came to Grand Rapids in 1883 and conducted a wholesale liquor business. Drueke & Kennedy, at the corner of Market and Louis. He was also actively engaged in various activities in the lumber regions of Alpena, Big Rapids, Muskegon, and Cadillac. This house is a delight to the eye and a truly exceptional example of the type of craftsmanship which blended a variety of architectural elements, sparkling leaded glass windows and individually selected detailing to create a home which wears its

subtle, contemporary coats of paint as gracefully as a dowager princess. (Old # 127. Photo: James Starkey, 1980 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

304 Madison S.E. The Hicks House. This American Four-Square home with Colonial Revival detailing was built in 1906 by Albert Hicks, an officer of the Dean-Hicks Printing Co., who lived here until 1944. The house was chronicled as having a poltergeist by Gary Eberle in *Haunted Houses of Grand Rapids*. The report came from one tenant who lived here in the early 1970's; but the 2011 owners, Timothy and Jessica Adams, know nothing of it.

309 Madison S.E. The McDonald House. Built about 1920, this home is believed to be the second house to stand on this lot (the first having been built in 1884 by Charles H.



Johnson). The original owner, Mr. John McDonald. had а long distinguished career in public service. He served Kent County as prosecutor and as circuit court judge. Later Mr. McDonald was a State Supreme Court justice, serving as chief justice. His half-timbered, stucco house would be equally at home in an English country setting. The many rows of mullioned windows with transoms indicate that the interior was planned for a sun-brightened, airy atmosphere. timbering in the roof gable is accented by the addition of gracefully crafted brackets which are not only decorative, but add

structural support to the eaves. Note the geometric pillars on the front porch and the delicately turned columnettes recessed in niches on both the sunporch and the second floor dormer. An elegant back porch is the newest addition to this lovely cottage-style home. Owners in 2002 are David and Ann Keister. (Old # 137. Photo: James Starkey, 1982 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

314 Madison S.E. This house is typical of the Four Square style, which became popular after the beginning of the 20th century. It includes some Prairie influences, but reflects



Tour, p. 8.)

the eclectic mix of styles typical of Heritage Hill. It was built in 1909 for the president of the Northern Refrigerator Co. Like many homes in the neighborhood, it was converted to a 3-unit apartment house in the 1950's, and now has been restored to a single-family dwelling. Having moved from New York City, James and Barbara O'Connor bought the house in 1993. They have made a number of changes and renovations, including the installation of a "historically correct" pergola garden. The garden hosts hundreds of perennials and 45 to 50 bushes. (Old # 144. Photo: 1997 Heritage Hill Home

321 Madison S.E. In August, 1962, owner Lawrence McCauley requested Zoning Board approval to convert this 3-family house into a 4-family dwelling. The house stands on a lot 51' x 148.6'.

325 12/05/77 5401 Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch

415 Madison S.E. Begun in 1900, this impressive house was completed in 1902 for Edgar Maxwell, vice president of the Grand Rapids Chair Co.

433 Madison S.E. This spacious 6,000-square-foot Queen Anne home was built about 1880 for George and Emma Peirce. Mr. Peirce was the son of Grand Rapids mayor



Peter R.L. Peirce (mayor in 1873, and 1875-76), and worked in finance for a variety of businesses, including railroads, furniture companies, and banks. George and Emma lived here until 1912. The house was divided into apartments in the 1940's to accommodate the high demand for housing following World War II, and has now been converted back to a singlefamily residence. Vance and Karen Forshey bought the house in July, 1996. The two front bedrooms are used for bed and breakfast guests. The 30-foot quarter-sawn oak hall or foyer opens to a library with a solid cherry fireplace and

massive bay windows. On the other side is a 35-foot living room with huge pocket doors and a fireplace. The 3-story winding oak staircase is framed by stained glass windows. The home boasts 14-foot ceilings, decorative window panes, brass gaslight sconces, and beautiful hardwood floors throughout. The master bedroom, trimmed in bird's-eye maple, is fitting for royalty. The same wood continues right into the closet. The master bath has original fixtures, including a two-person French claw-foot tub and a raised toilet bowl. The rooms in the servants' quarters are smaller and the ceilings lower. (Old # 219. Photo: 1997 Heritage Hill Home Tour, p. 9.)

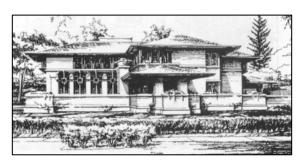
441 Madison S.E. The Whitfield House. Isaiah J. Whitfield built this Craftsman style home, with its distinctive wide, gothic arched windows, in 1897. Dr. Whitfield, a



specialist in critical and orificial surgery, began his medical career during the Civil War when he served as assistant surgeon in the Fourth Iowa Volunteers. Following the war, he entered the medical department at the University of Michigan. After practicing medicine in the new towns of northern Michigan, he entered the Cleveland Homeopathic Medical College, and graduated in 1870. Dr. Whitfield moved to Grand Rapids in 1872. An elder in the Church of Christ, he was very active in the religious and civic affairs of the community. (Photo: David Hanks, 1974 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

447 Madison S.E. Built in 1904-05, this Georgian Revival house exemplifies the style of choice at the beginning of the 20th century. Once home to as many as five families, it has been restored as a single-family house. The mahogany paneling and painted woodwork, a classic combination of the Georgian interior, has been refurbished. The excellent scale and proportion of the entrance hall, with its north staircase, is exceptional. The house boasts a living room with fireplace, a dining room, library, master suite, four bedrooms, two full baths, and two half baths, plus a guest suite on the third floor. Jeffrey Wyngarden acquired this home in the spring of 1995.

450 Madison S.E. The Meyer May House. Meyer S. May, founder of A. May and Sons of Michigan clothing stores, commissioned Frank Lloyd Wright to build this Prairie Style



raked mortar lines serve to emphasize this horizontal effect. Careful thought went into selecting the building site; indeed, Wright chose the area for its maximum southern



particularly noteworthy. The main entrance, on the north side, is ornamented with massive oak lattice work. The fireplace in the living room is highlighted with stained



home in 1906-08, Wright's first major commission in Michigan, and the only Wright original in the city. Wright's philosophy, "form and function are equal," is present throughout the home. Every aspect of the home's design works together to create a unified, harmonious whole. Typical of a Wright design, the horizontal lines of the house tend to make it an integral part of its environment. The

chose the area for its maximum southern exposure for the living room windows and skylights. Each red-tiled terrace, each section of art glass, each splash of color was meticulously and artfully designed and placed to enhance the interior and to draw nature into the home. The intricate stained glass window treatment, the classic Wright urns, and the geometric copper trim are

glass inlays placed between the rows of tan brick. Famous for his Prairie Style architecture, Wright followed the lines of the Midwest landscape, using sheltering overhangs and low, outreaching terraces. The house is accented with small garden areas and brick planters which, in season, cascade with colorful flowers. In 1985-86, Steelcase Inc. began a painstaking restoration process that spanned two years. A large addition at the east end of the house was removed, and the salvaged materials were used to rebuild the east

cantilever and the garden walls. Nearly 20 tons of steel went into reframing the roof. Inside the house, oak trim was refinished to its original state, and furnishings were restored to museum quality. The restoration has given many people the rare opportunity to view a totally designed living environment--a composition of light and space, just as Wright envisioned it in 1908. The furniture, light fixtures, carpets--even the linens, andirons, and living room clock--were designed by Wright as part of the total composition. He designed the dining room table and chairs to reinforce the strong, clean lines of the home's interior. The fireplace mortar contains 18K gilt gold. Even the delicate china, stacked behind stained glass cabinet doors in the kitchen, was the product of Wright's comprehensive and artistic mind. (Old # 240. Photos: top, 1997 Heritage Hill Home Tour, p. 12; center, David and Marilyn Hanks, *The Homes of Heritage Hill* [Grand Rapids, MI: The Heritage Hill Association, Inc., 1970], p. 11; bottom, *Historic Preservation* Magazine, May / June, 1990, p. 7.)

455 Madison S.E. The Belknap House. In 1878, Joseph Penny built this charming Craftsman style home, and it is still maintained as a single-family residence. The interior



Hanks, 1973 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

of this home has many unusual features, including the colorful French tile floor in the foyer, spacious rooms with 12-foot ceilings and massive plaster coves, marble fireplaces, and ornate silver-plated hardware, hinges, and doorknobs. The most prominent owner was Capt. Charles E. Belknap, who was instrumental in organizing the Boy Scouts of America. A bronze statue of Mr. Belknap as Boy Scout Commissioner stands near the pavilion in the park named in his honor on Coldbrook Street, N.E., just east of Division Avenue. (Old # 237. Photo: David

505 Madison S.E. The Chickering House. This fabulous home was built in 1882 for Frank and Sarah Chickering. It is garnished with gorgeous butternut woodwork, hand-screened Bradbury and Bradbury wallpaper, arches, functional pocket doors, and gleaming brass hardware. It also boasts an elegant faux marble fireplace in the living room. The 10 1/2-foot ceilings are crowned with lovely rosettes, the work of itinerant Italian plaster craftsmen around the turn of the century. In the 1960's, and absentee owner divided the house into four illegal apartments. An accompanying three-bay carriage house burned to the ground. The home was rescued by an owner-occupant in 1974, and finally by Cliff and Sandy Steffen, who restored the home to a single-family in 1994. (Old # 257.)

515 Madison S.E. The Stockwell House. An ornate high-style Queen Anne house with Eastlake and Eastern Stick style detailing, built in 1882 by lumber baron A.E. Stockwell,



who was the donor of the land now known as Hartwick Pines State Park. Stockwell was a partner in the Stockwell & Burrough Furniture Co. His family owned the house for about ten years, then sold it to the John B. Martin family, who owned it until its conversion into a multi-family in the 1950's. Twenty years later, Roger and Asta Comer purchased it and began the lengthy process of restoring it to a single-family home. Owners and occupants since 1985 are Kim DeStitger, an architect, and

Patricia Gardner, a lawyer. The house is included in the book America's Painted Ladies: the Ultimate Celebration of Our Victorians (New York: Dutton Studio Books, 1992), by Michael Larsen and Elizabeth Pomada. Its elegant exterior boasts a steeply-pitched roof, cross gables, dormers, a corner tower, and an asymmetrical facade. The portecochere and carriage house have been removed, and the impressive columns currently supporting the front porch are a later addition; but otherwise, the house looks basically as it did at the time of Baxter's history in 1891. The house is also renowned for its intricately detailed interior woodwork. The dining room arch is heavily ornamented, and the room's wallpaper is designed in the tradition of Christopher Dresser, one of the most startingly original designers of Victorian England. Also featured in the dining room is wainscoting inset with headboard on the diagonal, and a border motif of incised dots which resembles a cribbage board. The unusual dot pattern is repeated throughout the house. The entry way has more of the intricate woodwork plus a fireplace; and at the turning point of the stairs, double stained glass windows capture the morning sunlight. The floor tile in the downstairs bathroom is crafted by Vileroy and Bach, and owner Kim DeStigter designed the medicine cabinets and other features to match the style of the existing trim. (Old # 263. Photo: Baxter, p. 773.)

538	10/02/62	1651	Ralph Boerema
578	11/16/84 No cutoff.	7323	Neighborhood ImprovementCourtade

605 Madison S.E. Called "The Keyhole House," this unusually detailed Queen Anne / Craftsman style home demands a closer look. Started as a speculative project by local



attorney and realtor E.W. Tufts in 1892, this corner lot was purchased from land developer Joseph Penny. In 1898, the home was purchased by M.E. McNaughton, and later by travel agent Alvin H. Nichols, who lived here from 1903 until 1912. After a brief vacancy, Silas Lacy Sargent, a messenger for American Express, and his wife, Winifred, resided here until 1951. In addition to the curious "keyhole" window, the house boasts classic craftsmanship, a striking tower, granite foundation and walls, fanciful and

carefully trimmed windows, and a windowed oak staircase. Its whimsical design reflects the exuberance that many builders brought to their projects in the neighborhood. Richard Oosting was the owner and occupant in the 1990's. (Old # 347. Photo: Heritage Hill supplement, *Grand Rapids* Magazine, no date, p. HH29.)

620 Madison S.E. Large estate home, demolished c. 1951 for G.R. Christian High School track. Setback was farther than that of neighboring 630. (Photos: 125-C013162, C013169. Both photos show home heavily shielded by trees, but give some idea of the porch, porte cochere, and general proportion.)

630 Madison S.E. Large estate home, now several apartments.

747 07/14/64 1807 Capitol Cancelled.
10/19/64 1851 Staggs Old Madison School.

805	10/16/81	7085	Neighborhood ImprovementKentwood
806	05/25/64	1785	Capitol

808-1010/09/98 8840 Fensco

816 Madison S.E. Engine House No. 7 was put in service on December 19, 1891. Designed by architect William G. Robinson, the original station was a carbon copy of



Engine House No. 9 at Leonard and Quarry. A third stall was added to the south side of the building sometime in the 1920's. The station served as quarters for an engine company, a truck company (1914-28), a battalion chief, and various auxiliary vehicles until decommissioned on December 26, 1979. It was sold to the Inner City Christian Federation, and for many years served as that organization's headquarters and offices. It is now used for ICCF's equipment storage. (Photo: History, Grand Rapids Fire Department, 1844-1899, p. 65.)

822	03/07/79	5658	Neighborhood ImprovementPitsch
825	06/21/73	4435	Cannon

831			
835			
837			
840	01/02/2001	9050	H & M
841			
845			
851			

- 851 Madison S.E. Madison Park Elementary School. Built in 1953 to replace the old Madison School on the northwest corner of Madison and Franklin, this building was itself slated to be replaced by Madison Park Middle School in 2007 at a cost of \$15.8 million.
- 851 Madison S.E. Gerald R. Ford Middle School was built in 2007. Capacity: 551. 2009-10 enrollment: 292.

859

861

934	01/14/00	8962	Melching
1005	08/20/75	4907	Urban RenewalCross
1009	02/10/77	5222	Neighborhood Improvement
1017	06/14/99	8902	Melching
1029	05/24/99	8889	Rustin
1034	09/19/75	4922	Urban RenewalPitsch
1037	02/20/75	4779	Urban RenewalPitsch
1101-03	01/06/75	4740	Urban RenewalCross
1121	09/25/2001	9115	Pitsch
1134	07/21/77	5367	Neighborhood Improvement
1139-41	04/13/92	8253	
1148	12/20/85	7462	Houting & Meeusen
1151 Madison	S.E. Sanford	Building. Built	1904.
1156	05/28/76	5102	Neighborhood ImprovementPitsch
1159	05/03/99 Building owne 02/23/2004	8884 d by Together 9289	Fensco in Faith Ministry. Melching
1161			
1162	07/24/98	8817	Pitsch
1163-65	01/27/75	4741	Urban RenewalPitsch
1164-66	12/31/70	3758	Weber
1167-69	11/01/71	4036	Cooke
1168-70	05/16/2003	9215	Shaeffer
1172			

1200-04	02/12/88	7737		
1201-07	11/14/67	2569		Capitol
1205-07				
1206	05/08/85 08/19/85 One cutoff.	7377 7406		Economic Development Pitsch
1210				
1211	11/14/67	2570		Capitol
1215	11/14/67	2571		Capitol
1216	02/12/88	7738		
1217	06/29/90	8067		Allen Demolition
1218	05/08/85 08/19/85 One cutoff.	7378 7405		Economic Development Pitsch
1219	06/29/90	8066		Allen Demolition
1221-23	06/29/90	8065		Allen Demolition
1225	06/29/90	8064		Allen Demolition
1227	06/29/90	8063		Allen Demolition
1228	05/08/85 No cutoff. 08/19/85 7404 No cutoff.	7379	Pitsch	Economic Development
1229	07/02/90	8062		Allen Demolition

1231	07/02/90 Madison Thea	8061 ater.	Allen Demolition
1240	01/08/74 No gas.	4544	Cannon
1241	07/01/81 One cutoff.	7024	Kentwood
1244-50	06/23/99 Old Goodwin	8908 Pontiac.	B & B
1247-51	02/26/2002	9145	Specialized Demolition
1254			
1257	10/28/63 Cap sewer in	1685 floor.	Paul T. Long

1300-04			
1301	07/10/84	7274	Kenneth Split
1307	01/07/2004	9286	Courtade
1328	12/18/75	4991	Capitol
1404-06	10/01/90	8096	Pitsch
1407	07/10/85	7370	Jack Peterson
1413			
1421	11/08/85	7454	Pitsch
1425	11/08/85	7453	Pitsch

1515	07/29/92 P.B. Gast rea	8285 warehouse.	Pitsch
1545			
1561	08/05/76	5133	Cannon
1601	03/30/64 Old buildings.	1747 No sewer.	Dexter Industries
1612	11/13/69	3271	Cooke
1635	12/15/67	2587	Cooke
1645	02/23/66	2117	Houting & Meeusen
1647	12/22/65	2082	Houting & Meeusen

Houting & Meeusen

1651

02/08/66

1701 Madison S.E. Margaret Priest was listed as the owner of this building in 1936, when it housed a Kroger grocery store. The capstone in the center of the façade reads





"W.H. Priest". (Photos from City Assessor file: left, 1936; right, c. 1956.)

1911	06/05/69 Photo in GR	3051 RPL 286 (Ass	Capitol essor's).
1917	06/05/69 Photo in GR	3052 RPL 286 (Ass	Capitol essor's).
1921	05/08/68	2707	Pitsch
1927	04/08/87	7596	Courtade
2232			

2505 Madison S.E. Brookside School. Elementary school built in 1954. Capacity: 350. 2009-10 enrollment: 277.

2746

2763	04/27/72	4166	Capitol
	06/28/88	7783	