

Paris Avenue, S.E.

215 05/26/70 3502 Cooke

240 Paris S.E. This Italianate house was constructed in 1876 for Charles Rice, a real estate and loan officer at City National Bank. The home features painted details both inside and out, heavy cornices, brackets, and fascia. Over the years, it has been home to the families of a physician (1920's and '30's), a lumber executive ('40's), and the owner of a sheet metal company (1950's through the '70's). Jonathan and Leslie Anderson purchased the house in 1989.

264 Paris S.E. The Baxter House. Alfred Baxter built his lovely home in 1875, but did not move into the house until 1893. Arriving in Grand Rapids



in 1872, Mr. Baxter was employed as a shirt cutter at Ball & Company, a men's clothier, until 1875 when he bought into the firm, which then became known as Ball & Baxter. In 1878 he joined Fred A. Gardiner in Gardiner & Baxter, men's furnishings, goods, and shirt manufacturers. He remained with Gardiner until 1903 when he began the Baxter Company, a laundry company and dealers in men's furnishings. Today, this home is literally one of the Cinderellas of Heritage Hill. For

many years it stood as a gloomy Victorian Gothic cottage, inhabited by a lonely widow. In 1975, it was purchased by an energetic young couple who could see past the overgrown shrubbery and peeling paint. By removing the wild bushes and the dusty, rusty screens and exposing the home to the light of day and the eyes of the neighborhood once again, they completed the exterior transformation with a fresh coat of paint, highlighting the trim and original shutters. (Photo: James Starkey, 1977 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

312 Paris S.E. A Georgian revival house constructed in 1915 by Gerald McCoy, director of the Imperial Furniture Company from 1908 to 1956, and its president from 1954 to 1956. Mr. McCoy was also the owner of the Mutual Veneer Company of Grand Rapids from the 1920's until his retirement in 1967. The house has a timeless, contemporary feeling. It boasts a natural stucco exterior with brick window sills. The structure exhibits the characteristic symmetry, central pedimented entry, decorated cornice, and multi-paned windows common to the Georgian revival style. The front door is carved oak, and mahogany graces the interior living space. Observing the home from the street, one would get the impression that it has only two stories when in fact there are three levels. The third floor is surprisingly large, and was originally used to house servants. Over the years the house experienced relatively few alterations, and those that have occurred were performed with sensitivity to the original design which, unlike homes of the Victorian era, features a fluid, open plan, with elegantly proportioned rooms flowing from a central hallway. Owned in 1993 by Frank Busselaar.

355 09/21/89 7971

404

413

431 Paris S.E. Watkins house. Built in 1906. In about 1920, Roy M. Watkins, an attorney and manager of the Michigan State Accident Fund, bought this house with his wife, Lucretia. The Watkins family lived here until the mid-1940's. The architecture of this large home is a mixture of several styles. Elements from the Shingle, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival styles can be detected. The house had a long history of irresponsible landlords and tenants before it was purchased by Dan and Deb Zondervan. Beautiful beveled leaded glass windows adorn the front parlor.

435 02/07/84 7267 Pitsch

501 Paris S.E. George M. Haney of the Haney School Furniture Company built this gracious brick home in 1916-17. It was destroyed by fire in 1970.

501 08/12/70 3575 Courtade

506 Paris S.E. The Kinsey House. In 1906, Elmer L. Kinsey, the proprietor of the E.L. Kinsey Shirt Factory, built this gracious home. From 1912 until



1919, Axel P. Johnson, publisher of the *Grand Rapids News*, resided at this address. Mr. Johnson came to Grand Rapids in 1912, bringing Mr. William J. Elton with him as an associate. Both men had metropolitan newspaper experience, but the *News* remained an ailing institution. It was absorbed by the *Grand Rapids Press* in 1922. This well-

maintained home derives its influence from the Georgian style with a basically symmetrical façade. The columns are of Doric proportions with Ionic fluting. The rooflines are highlighted by the addition of graceful bracketing, and the whole aspect of the house is enhanced by thoughtful paint treatment. The first floor features cherry wood paneling. The house has hardwood floors throughout, and the second floor contains three large bedrooms. A new 2-stall garage was built in 2004. (Photo: James Starkey, 1979 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

510-12 Paris S.E. This 2-family home was built around 1912 as a rental property by William T. Webster, a commercial agent for a railway. 1996 owner George Seamon has lived in the north half of the duplex since 1988.

544 05/16/68 2715 H.R. Kelly

567-69 Paris S.E. This American, four-square style duplex with a Prairie influence was built about 1911 or 1912 for a druggist and his wife, Thomas and Nora Hefferan. They lived in the south half of the house until about 1930, renting the other, less fashionable, unit out to a changing cast of middle-class folk. Jeff Knight and his wife, Anja Mast, are the occupants of 569 in 1995.

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| 600 | 09/25/69 | 3159 | Cooke |
| 604 | 09/16/69 09/25/69 | 3131 3160 | Urban Renewal Cooke |
| 613 | | | |
| 700 | 11/30/71 | 4059 | Pitsch |
| 716 | 02/22/82 | 7119 | I.C.C.F.--Kentwood |
| 743 | 05/21/73 | 4418 | Pitsch |
| 1401 | 09/05/73 | 4460 | <i>Loader & Dump</i> |
| 1406 | 08/07/75 | 4858 | Urban Renewal--Cross |
| 1407 | 08/25/73 09/05/73 | 4450 4469 | Balfoorts Loader & Dump |
| 1409 | 07/28/71 | 3943 | <i>Pitsch</i> |
| 1410 | 09/04/73 | 4475 | Arthur E. Kern |
| 1410-rear | 10/30/95 11/21/95 | 8560 8593 | Fenstermacher Fenstermacher |
| 1415 | 11/30/71 | 4061 | Pitsch |
| 1448 | | | |
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| 1636 | | | |
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