

Prospect Avenue, S.E.

10 Prospect S.E. The Steketee House. Built in 1902 by Mrs. Minnie D. Steketee, the widow of Peter P. Steketee of Paul Steketee & Sons, this home has an interesting



history of addresses. The house was built at 10 Terrace; in 1921 the street name was changed and it became 10 Prospect Avenue, S.E., and more recently it has been addressed as 400 Fulton Street, E. The house in fact faces Prospect, on the southeast corner of Fulton. Regardless of which address one prefers, this exuberant Shingle-style home merits a closer look to fully appreciate the wealth of Victorian detail which is highlighted by

its 20th-Century paint treatment. Ornate brackets, columns, pediments, irregular rooflines, a sparkling stair dormer and a Palladian window in the large gable combine to create the personality of this classic Victorian gem. Mrs. Steketee was a prominent patron of the arts and was especially interested in painting. A reliable source reports that she enjoyed wielding a paint brush herself and that her many paintings were kept on the upper floor of the house. Once again we see a home which reflects the personality of its builder; an artistic lady who indulged her appreciation of and enthusiasm for embellishment through the lavish use of architectural details. (Photo: James Starkey, 1978 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

17 Prospect S.E. This is a lovely Cape Cod house with hardwood floors and a fireplace.

18 Prospect S.E. The Quintus House. In 1859 Jacob Quintus built his home, a notable example of Italianate architecture, and published the first "Hollandish" or Dutch



newspaper in Grand Rapids. The paper was called *De Stoompost*. In 1884 he began publishing a weekly Holland newspaper called *Nieuwe Courant*. He later extended his business activities to include insurance, with Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. The home features a glazed belvedere replete with paired ornamental brackets. The doorway is a classic beauty featuring leaded glass sidelights and transom. Rumor has it that the house originally sat high on Fulton Street hill where its

occupants could watch from the belvedere for Indians to arrive in Grand Rapids with their canoe loads of furs, enabling these enterprising businessmen to be among the first to greet the Indians and purchase the prime pelts. Fact or fantasy, it lends an "extra something" to the history of this home. (Photo: David Hanks, 1976 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

26 Prospect S.E. The Dean House. Built in 1880 by an unknown family, this home began its life as a relatively undistinguished frame townhouse, but has been dramatically



altered by a succession of owners. Luke Palmer, a boot and shoe store owner, lived in the house from 1888 until 1892. In 1903, it was the home of Mr. Harry K. Dean, a partner in the Dean-Hicks Printing Company, printers of quality publications such as school annuals and trade journals. For many years Mr. Dean served as the firm's president and general manager. In the late 1950's, this home was converted into a 3-family apartment house. In the late 1970's, the home was re-converted into a single-family residence and literally transformed into a charming dwelling which could easily have graced the streetscape of one of our early American towns along the eastern

seaboard. Its creative owners enhanced the façade with the addition of an elegant Georgian terrace, complete with carriage steps; and a gracious Regency bonnet hood over the entrance, supported by massive brackets. A delicate cornice adds height to the original casement windows. The interesting architectural features include ornately turned spindles decorating the porch balustrade. With its eye-catching combination of pastel shades of paint, the Dean House sparkles like a newly polished gem in the Heritage Hill landscape. It is now described as an American four square with Colonial revival detailing. The owners in 1993 are Mark and Esther VanAllsburg. (Photo: James Starkey, 1978 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

31 Prospect S.E. The Sligh / Dennison House. Charles Sligh, founder of the Sligh Furniture Co., built this Queen Anne house in 1892. It has an unusual stone tower.

34 Prospect S.E. The Mayhew House. Built in 1885 by George R. Mayhew, treasurer of the Elliot Button Fastener Company, this home is a notable example of the Stick-



Craftsman style of architecture, encompassing a myriad of delicate architectural features. A stroll along the sidewalk will provide the viewer with an opportunity to study the imposing, beautifully carved double door and the imaginative intaglio tracery which is carved into the structural features of the portico and on the paneling around the bay windows. The Stick influence, which is apparent in the decorative members placed on the outside of the house to reflect the structure of the home itself, is emphasized by the sensitive, contemporary paint treatment. Note the strapping effect created by the unusual brick work on the chimney. (Photo: James Starkey, 1979 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

129	12/12/78	5683	Neighborhood Improvement--Cross
130			
219-21 Photo in GRPL 286 (Assessor's).			
222	05/16/79	5715	Neighborhood Improvement--Southkent
	Could not find sewer line.		
234	02/06/92	8220	Pitsch
	Restraining order, 02/18/92.		
	05/19/92	8255	Pitsch
242	04/16/93	8332	
	House at rear of 240.		
250	07/16/70	3486	Urban Renewal--Clisby Hodgens
257	10/22/69	3241	Inspection--Pitsch
260	09/04/74	4602	Capitol
261	10/22/69	3240	<i>Inspection--Pitsch</i>
262	12/17/75	5004	Cross
265	10/22/69	3239	<i>Inspection--Pitsch</i>

300	11/07/2001	9128	Pitsch
301	10/22/69	3238	Inspection--Pitsch
304	10/31/85	7448	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
307	10/22/69	3237	<i>Inspection--Pitsch</i>
309-11	10/22/69	3236	Inspection--Pitsch
314			
315	10/22/69	3235	Inspection--Pitsch
316			
317	10/22/69	3234	<i>Inspection--Pitsch</i>
323	08/03/84 Could not find sewer line.	7294	Riverside
327	03/26/75	4749	Urban Renewal--Cross
328	04/30/73	4386	Balfoorts
329	08/09/84 Could not find sewer line.	7293	Riverside
330	03/23/73	4363	Balfoorts
332	04/30/73	4384	Balfoorts
335	08/03/84	7292	Riverside
336	04/30/73	4385	Balfoorts
337	04/30/73	4387	Balfoorts
341	08/03/84 Could not find sewer line.	7291	Riverside
343	12/30/74	4647	Urban Renewal--Pitsch
347	07/29/87	7655	
351	07/29/87	7656	

500 12/31/74 4751 Urban Renewal--Pitsch

501 10/16/68 2863 Riverside

502

503

507 04/15/74 4527 Urban Renewal--Loader & Dump

516 Prospect S.E. Benjamin and Geneva Smith owned this house, built about 1927, until 1986. The house is a colonial revival style, in which classical detailing was added to a basic Queen Anne design. The house is an example of a post-1910 trend to have more correct detail and proportion, austere and modeled after very early Georgian-period homes. It is one of the few homes in Heritage Hill to escape with little or no change. Wonderful gardens surrounding the house enchant visitors. The 1998 owner is Lila Cargill.

521 ???

526 09/02/94 8441

536 Prospect S.E. This house was built in 1907.

549-rear 04/08/71 3843 Big Chief

553 11/02/72 4302 Pitsch

563 Prospect S.E. An incendiary garage and car fire on Wednesday, August 22, 1962, at 2:42 a.m. caused \$1,375.00 damage. John Powers, owner. F. Fountain, occupant.

563 01/31/73 4330 Hodgens

573 Prospect S.E. The Gentz House. This Georgian Revival house with a classic gambrel roof was built in 1907 for Charles F. Gentz, who was a building contractor. The



house was converted to two apartments in the 1950's, then suffered a fire in the early 1980's. It was rescued by a previous owner who did the majority of the restoration, beginning in 1985. David Baines and Gail Barrie bought the house in 1992 and continued to complete its restoration. Their passion was landscaping, and they designed and created an English-style garden, in which they were married in September, 1995. The yard is resplendent with gorgeous flora, brick walkways, raised fieldstone

beds, recycled broken concrete, and architectural items. Ross and Suzanne DeHaan are the owners in 2002, and have added interesting features throughout. One of the wall sconces is from Detroit's Fox Theater. (Photo: 1997 Heritage Hill Home Tour, p. 8.)

579 12/18/70 3738 Capitol

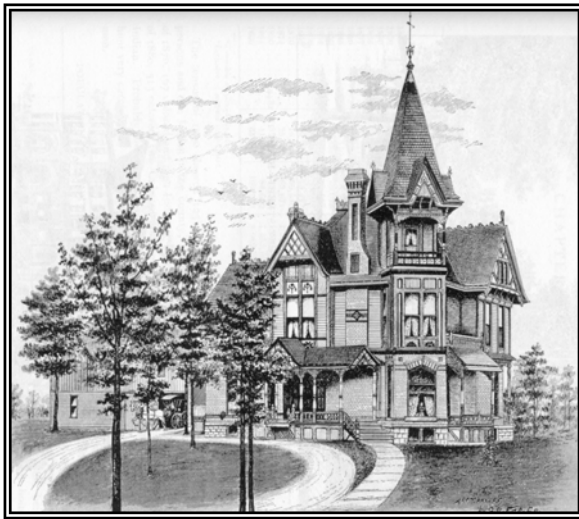
585 08/03/70 3563 Thomas Cushmen

585 Prospect S.E. Occupied by Jerry Brower and Ryne Sluiter since 2001, this house was moved in the early 1990's one block east from its former location at 579 Lafayette S.E., on the northwest corner of Lafayette and Pleasant. The handsome house on a 100' x 150' lot is a showpiece, even by Heritage Hill standards. Hundreds of varieties of trees, shrubs, grasses, ferns, vines, perennials, bulbs, and annuals create an oasis here in the midst of the city.

607

641 11/29/83 7228 Pitsch

701 Prospect S.E. The Tufts House. The imposing 3-story brick residence of Charles W. Tufts was built in 1886 at the southwest corner of Terrace Avenue and Lawn Court,



now Prospect and Sycamore. Charles W. Carman occupied the house in 1912. A fire at 2:34 a.m. on Saturday, November 11, 1967, caused \$5,500 damage to what had been converted into a 5-family apartment house. The fire was well involved on the second and third floors on arrival. Owner, Gerald Duckett. Occupant, Charles Thomas. Two people rescued. Cause, careless smoking. (Old # 201. Drawing, Baxter, p. 787.)

701-03 09/19/75 4883 Urban Renewal--Southkent
 Could not find sewer line. Plug in basement.

701 Prospect S.E. Inner City Christian Federation's Family Haven opened on this site on April 1, 1990.

705 09/05/74 4604 Cannon
 Sewer connected to 703 Prospect S.E. This was originally the carriage house of the Tufts mansion, and had been converted into apartments.

714 12/01/69 3284 Pitsch

715 06/28/83 7211 Walt Bagby
 No cutoff.

718 05/25/71 3880 Pitsch

719 Prospect S.E. Fire started by children with matches on Saturday, October 8, 1966, at 3:13 p.m. caused \$3,500 damage to this 2½-story frame dwelling. Owner, Cornelius Bykerk. Occupant, Cathy Buchanan.

719 09/19/67 2508 Staggs

735 12/02/76 5115 Neighborhood Improvement--
 Loader & Dump

807	02/11/71	3791	Cooke
808	06/28/71	3906	Cooke
811	06/02/71	3885	Cooke
812	01/02/67	2348	K & R
816	01/02/67	2349	K & R
817	05/19/71	3861	Cooke
818	01/02/67	2351	K & R
819	05/17/71	3862	Cooke
822	08/27/62	1355	E. DeVries & Sons
823-25	01/15/71	3771	Cooke
826-28	05/12/61	335	Capitol
827	12/18/70	3743	Cooke
830			
831-33	12/18/70	3744	Cooke
834			
835-37	01/15/71	3772	Cooke
	Two houses, front and rear.		
836			
840			
841	01/04/71	3759	Cooke
844			
845	05/21/71	3874	Cooke
846			

900			
901	06/28/71	3907	Cooke
904			
907	06/28/71	3908	Cooke
910			
911	06/28/71	3909	Cooke
915	02/26/71	3811	Cooke
919	02/11/71	3792	Cooke
923	02/26/71	3812	Cooke
927	06/02/71	3886	Cooke
931	06/28/71	3910	Cooke
935	12/18/70	3745	Cooke
941	12/29/70	3757	Cooke

1000	11/19/96	8687	Pitsch
1001-03	06/14/96	8639	Pitsch
1006	07/09/71	3919	Pitsch Two houses on one sewer line.
1015	08/06/86	7501	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
1026	05/03/76	5051	Neighborhood Improvement--Wonderland
1034	12/23/80	6055	Neighborhood Development--Pitsch
1035	08/19/96	8663	
1041-rear	12/21/75	4771	Urban Renewal--Pitsch
1043	02/03/75	4772	Urban Renewal--Loader & Dump
1050	08/24/71	3967	Pitsch
1061	01/19/81	6071	Pitsch

1111	12/01/70	3686	Dohm
1112	03/05/82 No water cutoff.	7128	Wolverine Paving
1124	11/09/2000	9040	H & M
1129	06/17/89 11/01/89	7922 7983	
1138	03/05/89	7871	
1139	05/20/82	7118	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
1140	03/05/89 House in rear of 1138.	7871	
1143	11/28/73	4521	Urban Renewal--Loader & Dump
1148	11/18/94	8467	Pitsch
1164	02/10/76	4949	Neighborhood Improvement--Diamond
1167	03/17/97	8713	Pitsch

1201	11/19/2001	9131	
	320 Hall S.E. portion at rear. Old VanDusen's dress shop.		
1249	12/05/77	5468	Neighborhood Improvement
1255	05/07/73	4419	Pitsch
1304	07/14/87	7647	
1305	07/24/91	8163	Courtade
	Fire damage.		
1308	06/30/87	7640	
1315	09/02/71	3986	Pitsch
1318	05/17/94	8412	
1325	04/20/87	7617	Courtade
1330	09/19/74	4651	Urban Renewal (voided)
	05/22/76	5068	Neighborhood Improvement--Cross
1331	08/24/82	7132	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
	Sewer cut in basement.		
1335	02/04/83	7157	Andrew Thames

1401	11/04/74	4686	Urban Renewal--3 in 1
1405	07/06/76	4870	Urban Renewal--Loader & Dump
1409	07/14/78	5546	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
1412	03/22/74	4518	Urban Renewal--Loader & Dump
1421	04/06/71	3836	Cooke
1424	09/25/70	3617	Dohm
1425	03/07/96	8617	
1428	01/07/75	4678	Urban Renewal--Cross
1432	05/01/91	8145	Pitsch
1436	05/01/91	8146	Pitsch
1440	10/22/75	4954	Neighborhood Improvement
	Rehabilitated.		
	05/01/91	8147	Pitsch
1441	05/19/92	8259	Riverside

1960 Prospect S.E. This 1-story house is the first of at least eight homes in the Grand Rapids area in which future President Gerald R. Ford lived. He was born in 1913, and his mother moved to Grand Rapids a year later. They boarded at 1960 Prospect S.E. (then known as Terrace Avenue) until 1916, when his mother remarried and the family moved to a home on Madison S.E.