

## Ransom Avenue, N.E.

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- 24 Ransom N.E. St. Cecilia Music Society. Nine Grand Rapids women had a mission in mind when they met on a September afternoon in 1883. Their goal: to form a society whose work should be "to promote the study and appreciation of music in all its branches; and to encourage the development of music in the community. They named their society St. Cecilia, after the patron saint of music. In its early years, the society moved from building to building until it became evident that a permanent home was needed. The group enlisted the expertise of Henry Ives Cobb, a prominent Chicago architect, and plans were drawn for the structure. It exemplifies the classical style, and features a facade divided into three parts: a base of rusticated stone, a middle section of brick with gracefully arched windows, and a terra cotta frieze and cornice gracing the top. The cornerstone of the building was laid on November 6, 1893. The dedication on June 19, 1894, was complete with elaborate day-long festivities, nationally-famous speakers, receptions, and three concerts. The cost of the building was more than double the original estimate, totaling \$53,000 including furnishings. The interior is resplendent. A 5½' x 6', 600-pound Tiffany stained glass window overlooking the stairs to the second floor depicts St. Cecilia seated at an organ, accompanied by two angels. It was a gift in memory of Emma Lyon Withey Greeson, a pianist and early member of St. Cecilia. The window was made in the Tiffany studio in New York based on a design by artist Frederick S. Church, whose mother, Mrs. Thomas B. Church, was a native of Grand Rapids and a charter member of St. Cecilia. According to local legend, Church used as his model famed New York showgirl Evelyn Nesbitt, who was part of the ill-fated love triangle which included her husband, Harry K. Thaw, and the man he murdered in the rooftop theater at Madison Square Gardens in 1906, prominent New York architect Stanford White (who had designed the Gardens). ("They Do Windows: Restorers Return St. Cecilia Glass to Glory," GRP 12/24/1995 G1-2, cf. Pristine Glass Company.) Other highlights of the building include the acoustically-renowned Royce Auditorium, the Idema Room with its three Mathias Alten portraits of women, the charming Dexter Ballroom, and an art gallery in the lower level. On the east wall of the studio is a list of famous musicians who have performed in the building.

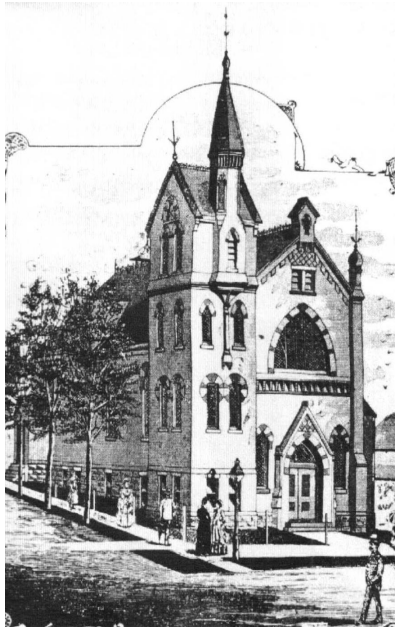
40            04/24/69    3026            Houting & Meeusen  
                 Remove garage roof.  
                 02/25/76    5034            Urban Renewal--Capitol

50-60                    06/13/75    4843            Urban Renewal

55                    *2-story double house.*

69 Ransom N.E. The complex of the Sacred Heart Academy (later the Catholic Junior College and still later Aquinas College) and the convent of the Dominican Sisters occupied what had been the large 3-story brick mansion of Elias Matter, built in 1871 on the south side of Fountain Street just west of Ransom. (Old # 112 Fountain. Photo, Baxter, p. 782.)

**72 Ransom N.E.** Built as Temple Emanuel by architect David S. Hopkins in 1882. The Jewish congregation used the building until 1954. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church began sharing use of the space in 1949, and then purchased the building and used it exclusively from 1954 to 1976. The building was extensively remodeled for secular use, and lost its local historic structure designation when the exterior was severely altered.



109-11	05/18/70	3494	Urban Renewal
110	11/14/74	4706	Urban Renewal--Capitol
	<i>1½-story dwelling.</i>		
113	04/27/70	3468	Urban Renewal
	<i>2-story brick dwelling.</i>		
115-17	04/27/70	3469	Urban Renewal
116	<i>2-story dwelling.</i>		
118	12/31/74	4755	Urban Renewal--Capitol
120½	07/24/75	4887	Urban Renewal--Capitol
123	09/25/70	3616	Urban Renewal
	<i>2-story apartments.</i>		
125	12/21/62	1500	Capitol
	<i>2-story dwelling at rear of 127.</i>		
127	12/21/62	1501	Capitol
133	04/27/70	3470	Urban Renewal
135-37 Ransom N.E. Fire on Saturday, July 7, 1962, at 3:46 p.m. caused \$1,649.00 damage to this vacant 2-story frame dwelling. Henry Lum, owner. Exposure from garage fire at 133 Ransom N.E. Children and matches.			
135-37	03/21/66	2134	Louis J. Educato
141	03/21/66	2135	Louis J. Educato
145	04/27/70	3471	Urban Renewal
	<i>2½-story apartments.</i>		
148	10/20/71	4022	Capitol
<i>157-59-61</i>			

206	08/26/76	5143	Urban Renewal
207	???		
209	???		
211	11/12/74	4703	Urban Renewal
212	08/26/76	5142	Urban Renewal
216	08/26/76	5141	Urban Renewal
217	11/18/74	4732	<i>Urban Renewal--Capitol</i>
			<i>2-story dwelling.</i>
222	04/08/71	3840	<i>Capitol</i>
			<i>1½-story dwelling.</i>
225	11/12/74	4704	Urban Renewal
226	04/08/71	3841	Capitol
229-33	08/16/68	2813	Staggs
232	04/08/71	3842	<i>Capitol</i>
			<i>2-story dwelling south and east of 234 at rear of lot.</i>
234	04/02/71	3833	Capitol
			Photo in GRPL 93 (Lorenson).
237	08/02/68	2799	Staggs
243	12/07/73	4497	<i>Cannon</i>
			<i>2-story apartments.</i>
247	12/07/73	4496	<i>Cannon</i>
			<i>2-story apartments.</i>

302	01/25/72	4100	Capitol
	<i>2-story dwelling.</i>		
306	01/25/72	4101	Capitol
310	01/25/72	4102	Capitol
	<i>2-story dwelling.</i>		
318-20	06/11/62	1181	Capitol
	<i>2-story dwelling and flat.</i>		
322	06/11/62	1180	Capitol
	<i>2-story dwelling.</i>		
326-28	06/11/62	1179	Capitol
	<i>1½-story dwelling.</i>		
330	06/11/62	1178	Capitol
336	08/31/67	2487	Butterworth Hospital--Capitol
	<i>2-story apartments.</i>		
340	01/25/72	4103	Capitol
	<i>2-story flat.</i>		
342	10/30/73	4499	Capitol
	<i>2-story dwelling at side of 140 Michigan N.E.</i>		