

Sheldon Avenue, S.E.

25 Sheldon S.E. Young Women's Christian Association (Y.W.C.A.). (Photo: Morrow postcard collection, c. 1925.)



26 Sheldon S.E. Built as the Medical Arts Building in 1924. Dwelling Place, Inc., purchased the 6-story building in 1996 and converted it into The Lofts, with 55 low-income 1- and 2-bedroom rental units. 1,500 square feet of commercial space was available on the first floor. Charles Dickinson Architects PC designed The Lofts, and Fryling Construction Co. was the general contractor. The building reopened in 1998.

41 Sheldon S.E. Built in 1910 as the city's first Ford dealership. In 1994, the Urban Institute for the Contemporary Arts paid owner Rex Kuhn, president of Grand Rapids Building Services, \$110,000 for the one-story brick structure. The Institute occupied a building at 1064 Race N.E. from 1982 to 1992, then leased the former Mutual Home Building at 88 Monroe (Market) N.W. from the city for three years.

44-48

52

54 11/25/80 6040 *Riverside*
Car wash. No cutoff. 2" cap.

55 11/27/61 629 Capitol

60 09/17/81 7073 Pitsch
One cutoff. No fire cutoff.

61 Sheldon S.E. Ladies' Literary Club. The building was one of the first structures in the nation built specifically for a women's organization. It was designed by architect



William G. Robinson and finished in 1887

at a cost of \$6,000. Designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, the imposing facade is reinforced by curved arches over the windows and a recessed front entrance. French plate glass windows, stone trim, and a slate roof enhance the exterior, while classical motifs adorn the interior. It is equipped with a 440-seat lecture hall or auditorium, tea room, library, and other meeting areas decorated with traditional antiques that date back to the first years of the club's existence. Specific treasures are several Greek mythological scenes reproduced by Jacques Louis David, court painter of Louis XVI; and a Tiffany stained glass window depicting Shakespeare gazing upon Portia, which was donated to the club in 1915 by Lorraine Pratt Immen. There are only ten similar windows currently in existence. The Ladies' Literary Club was formed out of an 1869 women's history class organized by Mrs. Solomon L. Withey. The club was incorporated in 1882 to "promote literary, educational, and scientific pursuits and to establish and maintain a library." U.S. Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, William Taft, and Woodrow Wilson have been entertained at the club. In October, 2006, it was announced that the disbanding Ladies Literary Club would transfer ownership of its historic building to Calvin College. The college proposed to invest about \$1 million to update, add handicapped access, and improve stage lighting and the sound system. (Sue Merrell, "Calvin Gets Keys to Historic Building," GRP 10/26/2006 p. B3.) (Photos: left, Morrow postcard collection, c. 1918; right, Paul Crouse, G.R. Press photographer, 1993, in *Gathered at the River*, p. 272.)

66

71-77 11/25/80 6039 *Riverside*
 Old Perry Greene pharmacy. No cutoff. 2 houses.

75 Sheldon S.E. GRP photo 01/11/60 25. "Escape Flames in Two Jumps." Fire destroys Sheldon Annex Apartments.

79

111 06/05/73 4429 Capitol
 Plug in basement.

112 10/09/69 3194 Capitol

114-16 09/16/88 7809

116 Sheldon S.E. The Haifley House. The residence of Peter Haifley was a large 3-story frame dwelling built in 1887. Occupied by Alfred K. Boss in 1912. (Old # 88. Photo, Baxter, p. 773.)



117 06/05/73 4430 Capitol
 Plug in basement.

122 09/16/88 7810

126 Sheldon S.E. The Stevens House. The gracious home of Sidney F. Stevens, who still lived here in 1912, later afforded clubs and societies large rooms for meeting space.



As the Maccabees Hall, this elegant dwelling was the home of the Spiritual Lighthouse of Truth from 1945 to 1967. (Old # 90. Photo: GRPL, c. 1945, in *Gathered at the River*, p. 268. Also WOTV negative.)

Southkent (John Pitsch)

126 12/02/68 2897

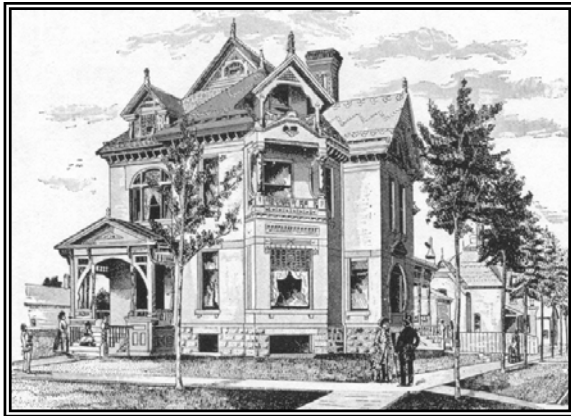
127 10/23/87 7689

133 10/23/87 7690

136

138 Sheldon S.E. The Caulfield House. The 3-story brick residence of John Caulfield was built on the northeast corner of Sheldon and Cherry in 1885-86. It was still occupied

by him in 1912. The house was razed in 1924 and replaced by a gas station. The last occupant was Caulfield's widow, Mrs. Esther Caulfield. (Old # 110. Drawing, Baxter, p. 775.)



208-12 09/26/2001 9123 Courtade
Built as a dental laboratory in 1956, this 1- and 2-story brick building later was the home for Transitions, a mental health care agency. Razed during the first two weeks of February, 2002.

212

215 Sheldon S.E. Built as the home of the Davenport Institute about 1918. In 1970, the building came to house the State Vocational Rehabilitation office and the Association for the Blind and Deaf.

216-18 08/29/72 4265 Capitol
Plug in basement.

222 08/29/72 4264 Capitol

223 Sheldon S.E. A large 2-story frame dwelling, torn down in 1948. (Old # 133. Partial photo in 233.)

227-29 Sheldon S.E. This was a simple 2-story duplex with a small centered front porch serving both addresses. It was razed about 1922 when St. Andrew's Cathedral rectory was built, and the Brady house at 233 was moved onto this lot. (Old #137-39.)

228 Photo in GRPL 93 (Lorenson).

232 10/02/63 1660 Capitol

233 Sheldon S.E. The Brady House. From 1891 the home of Dr. John Brady and his family, this fine brick mansion was last occupied as a residence by Miss Elizabeth S.



Brady. This house was moved from its original location one lot south, when St. Andrew's Cathedral rectory was built in 1922. It served as the offices for the Tribunal and the School Office for the Diocese of Grand Rapids from 1953 to 1971. (Photo: GRPL 286 [Assessor]. This 1936 view shows a portion of the large house to the north [223], as well as a house in the rear on Division Avenue [228]. To the left, the chancery wing of St. Andrew's Cathedral rectory has already been built, about 1933.)

233

07/26/71

3940

Capitol

BRADY, John. Born in Ireland on August 18, 1837. Came to the U.S. in 1855, settled at Seneca Falls, NY. Studied medicine at Buffalo University, graduated February 19, 1860. Practiced in Grand Rapids 1860-62, served in Union Army as assistant surgeon 1862-66. Charter member of Michigan State Medical Society, 1866. Spent 1883-84 abroad as attending physician to John Clancy. Died of pneumonia contracted the previous winter. Survived by his widow, Margaret; sons, Thomas A. of Edgewater, CO (and later of Long Beach, CA); Joseph B. (1871-October 27, 1926, lived at 231 Morrison S.E.); and John E. of Seattle, WA; and daughters, Elizabeth S. (+December 21, 1951), Mary Irene (+February 2, 1944), and Frances B. (Mrs. Martin H.) Carmody (*GRP*, Wednesday, 05/20/1914, p. 17: "Aged Physician Is Victim of Disease. John Brady, Doctor of the Old School, Had Fine War Record. Lived Here Many Years.")

BODEN (BRADY), Margaret F. Born in Grand Rapids in 1840, the daughter of Anthony Boden, a carpenter, who came with his wife Hanora (12/25/1814-07/23/1883) to Grand Rapids in 1837 and built some of the first frame houses in the village. In 1846 the Boden family moved to a farm in Paris Township. Margaret became a teacher. She married Dr. John Brady in 1866. Since 1891, the Brady family lived at 233 Sheldon S.E. Margaret was very active with the Little Sisters of the Poor. She died on Monday, April 24, 1916. (*GRH*, 04/25/1916, p. 4.)

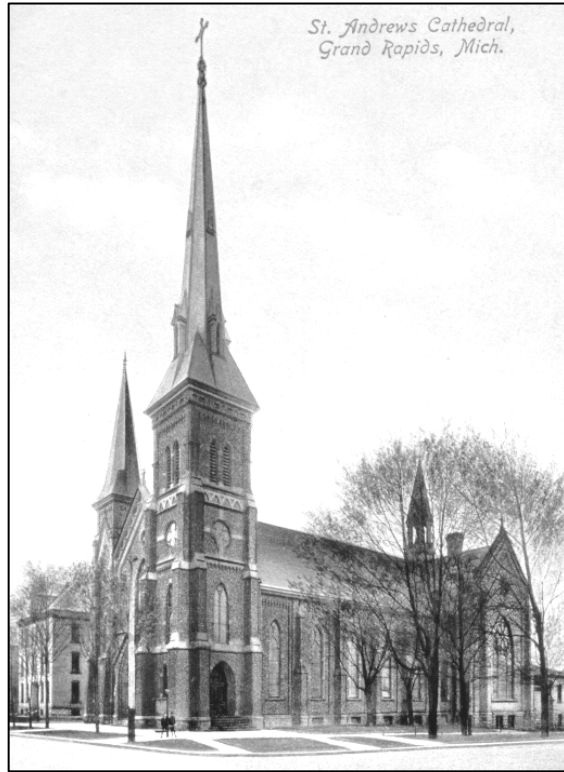
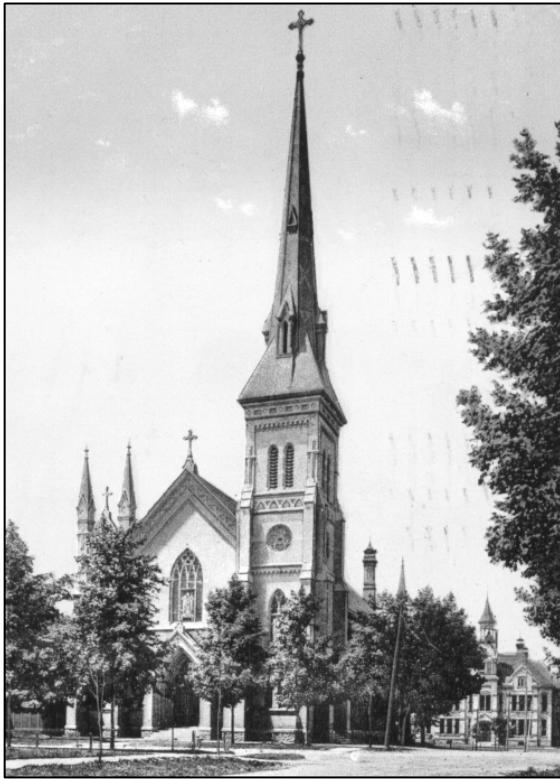
BRADY, Johannes, 28; Eduardus Brady, Sara Brady; res. G.R.; and **BODEN, Margureth**, 25; Anthonius Boden, Hanora Boden; res. Paris Twp.; July 23, 1866; Josephus Boden, Guilelmus Ryan, Anna Boden, Maria Crahin. **Rev. Bernard J. Wermers.**

CARMODY, Martin H. and Frances B. (BRADY). Martin +December 9, 1950. Frances +December --, 1965.

238

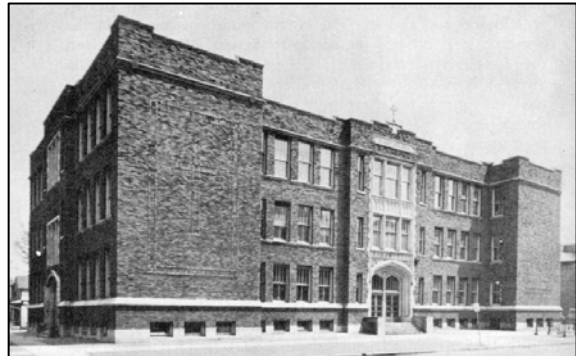
239

301 Sheldon S.E. St. Andrew's Cathedral. Built as a parish church on the southwest corner of Sheldon and Maple in 1875-76, St. Andrew's became the cathedral for the



Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids in 1882. The first bishop, Henry Joseph Richter, was consecrated and installed here on April 22, 1883, and served until his death on December 26, 1916. The church was devastated by a fire caused by a lightning strike on March 25, 1901, but subsequently rebuilt and expanded. (Photos: left, Morrow postcard collection, c. 1900; the old South Division School can be seen at the west end of Maple Street. Right, *ibid.*, c. 1910, showing the 1889 cathedral rectory, episcopal residence, and chancery at 305 Sheldon S.E. just south of the church.)

302 Sheldon S.E. St. Andrew's School. The parish plant of St. Andrew's was relocated here from the southeast corner of Monroe and Ottawa. The original building was built in

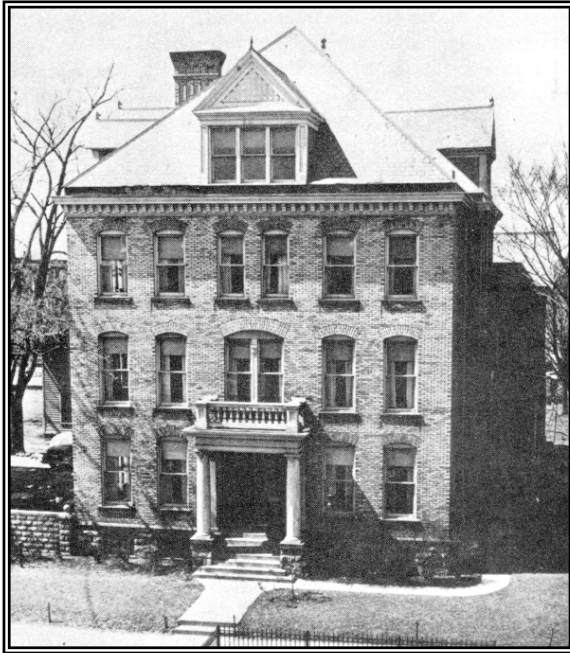


1873-74, and St. Andrew's congregation worshiped here while the new church was being built across the street. On Thursday, February 16, 1899, about 4:30 p.m., the south half of the building was almost completely gutted by fire, with a loss of \$6,000. During the following year, that portion was greatly enlarged and completely rebuilt. On Friday, January 8, 1915, just before 2 p.m., fire possibly caused by a defective chimney flue destroyed the north wing with a loss of \$14,489.50. Harry Mead of Wernette-Bradfield-Mead was the architect who designed a new north wing and remodeled the south so the school would have a uniform appearance along Sheldon Avenue. (Photos: left, Morrow postcard collection, c. 1910; right, McGee, *The Catholic Church in the Grand River Valley*, 1950, p. 318.)

305 Sheldon S.E. Built in 1888-89 as the residence and chancery (3rd floor) for the Bishop of Grand Rapids as well as the rectory for St. Andrew's Cathedral, this large and

gracious 3-story brick dwelling was occupied by the Dominican Sisters as St. Andrew's Convent from 1922 to 1994. Neglected in its last years, the building was razed on March 4-6, 1997.

(Photo: McGee, *The Catholic Church in the Grand River Valley*, 1950, p. 246. At the bottom of the photo can be seen the iron fence around the staircase for the pedestrian underpass that was built under Sheldon Avenue, primarily for the students of the Catholic elementary and high schools.)



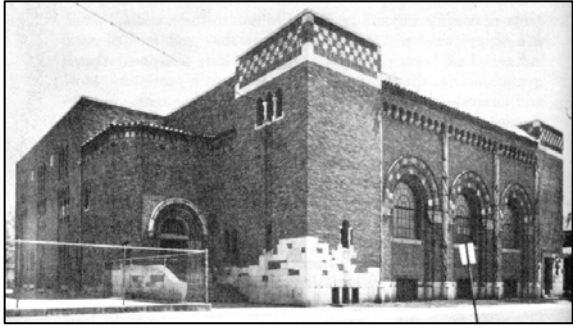
305

02/06/97

8707

Pitsch

318 Sheldon S.E. The old brick St. Andrew's Convent stood just south and east of the parish school. The Dominican Sisters had not resided there since 1922, when they



moved into the former rectory and episcopal residence across the street. In March, 1924, the old convent was razed as the first step toward making room for a gymnasium. Shortly afterward, the Culligan residence, a duplex, was purchased for \$20,000 and moved from 318 Sheldon S.E. to the third lot north of Wealthy on Sheldon. The Carey house next to it was also purchased, and another

house on the property was torn down. Colton and Knecht were the architects for the new gymnasium, and Owen-Ames-Kimball served as the general contractor. The entire building was completed and furnished for \$200,000. The building was formally opened in June, 1925. In 1983, the building was demolished, with the exception of the fine façade, and replaced with an entirely new and larger structure. (Photo: McGee, p. 350, c. 1950.)

318

06/14/83

7214

Pitsch

319 Sheldon S.E. Catholic Central High School. St. Joseph's Seminary was built on this site in 1909, and a north wing added in 1913. When the Seminary moved to 600

Burton S.E. in 1921, the building became Catholic Central High School. A large addition and cafeteria were added in 1952. In 1988-89, the 1909 and 1913 portions were razed, and the 1952 section was completely renovated and expanded. (Photo: McGee, 1950, p. 297. The 1909 seminary building is on the left, the 1913 addition on the right.)



319 09/10/86 7547 Riverside
Catholic Central Cafeteria.
08/04/88 7795
Old Seminary section of Catholic Central.

322 06/14/83 7215 Pitsch

323 Sheldon S.E. From 1938 to 1946, this large 2-story frame dwelling on the northwest corner of Sheldon and Goodrich was the convent for the Dominican Sisters who taught at Catholic Central High School. It was again occupied as an apartment house until it was demolished for the expansion of the high school about

1952. (Photo: *The Spires*, Catholic Central High School yearbook, 1939.)



332 07/03/78 5567 Pitsch

333 Photo in GRPL 93 (Lorenson).

338 11/18/63 1692 *Staggs*

343 Sheldon S.E. See 344.

344 Sheldon S.E. Eleanor Girodat, the first female funeral director in Michigan, was so enamored of the old home that stood at 343 Sheldon S.E. and which served as her funeral parlor, that when it was slated to be torn down for commercial expansion she had it moved to the east side of Sheldon, where it stood until its demolition in 1963.

344 11/18/63 1691 *Staggs*

348

350-52 07/02/98 8804 Pitsch

352 03/15/71 3822 Pitsch

402-08	04/05/51	----	Capitol Williams Flats. Photo in GRPL 125, Capitol Wrecking collection.
405	10/21/91	8189	Riverside
409	11/25/91	8204	Pitsch
417	07/21/61	420	Jack Hunt
420	10/22/71	4023	Capitol
421	05/22/79	5744	Pitsch
424	02/10/72	4119	Pitsch Plug in basement.
425	06/12/2001	9094	Courtade (denied)
428-30	11/30/81	7103	Pitsch
429	12/05/77	5444	Pitsch
440	03/27/2002	9159	Pitsch
441	08/16/78	5504	Perfecto Aguilar, Jr. Could not find sewer line.

505	02/28/75	4578	Loader & Dump
509-11	06/06/85 09/04/85 One cutoff.	7389 7408	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch Pitsch
513-15 Sheldon S.E. This 4-unit apartment house, leased by Connie Green as a shelter for homeless women called "Daughters of Eve," was destroyed by fire in the early hours of Wednesday, May 18, 1994.			
513-15	08/17/94	8431	Courtade
514	04/16/93	8335	
518	11/02/80 03/05/81	6019 6058	Kentwood Excavating (voided) Neighborhood Development--Kentwood
521	12/05/77 No cutoff. 07/06/78	5458 5565	Lynn Blank / Randall Ritsema / Pitsch Pitsch
524-26	04/28/69	3029	J.A. Weitzel (Greenville, MI)
529	01/03/89	7859	
534	07/07/90	8060	
536-38	01/05/89	7863	

555-59	07/31/69	3105	Urban Renewal--Capitol
556	08/01/77	5379	Steve Hirdes, owner
560	08/13/90	8072	Pitsch
564	08/13/90	8073	Pitsch
568-72	02/06/69	2962	David Wapner
575	10/28/94	8464	

611	09/16/69 09/18/69	3130 3134	Urban Renewal--Pitsch Pitsch
617	09/27/67	2517	Pitsch
621-23	12/30/71	4055	Cooke
622-24	09/25/87	7684	
625	05/18/71	3869	Pitsch
630	11/06/74	4656	Urban Renewal--Pitsch Another house hooked to sewer line.
632			
634	12/30/63	1709	Ralph Hamblin
635	07/28/71	3944	Hodgens
638	06/13/68 07/11/68	2750 2777	C.I. & I.S. Safeway
638½	08/18/69	3107	Gordon Powers (Safeway Wreckers)
639	05/26/71	3881	Hodgens
639-rear			
642	07/09/71	3920	Pitsch
644	02/28/66	2121	Roscoe Edmonds

702	08/10/70	3531	Urban Renewal--Staggs
704	04/20/70	3440	Urban Renewal--Staggs
705-07	05/24/67	2424	Staggs
706			
710	05/04/70	3472	Urban Renewal--Staggs
711	08/01/77	5330	Neighborhood Improvement--Cross
714	04/20/70	3428	Urban Renewal--Staggs
715	02/17/78	5442	Neighborhood Improvement--Cross
717	05/02/86 05/02/86	7478 7494	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch Pitsch
718	04/20/70	3427	Urban Renewal--Staggs
720	04/01/70	3414	Urban Renewal--Staggs
721	07/01/92	8278	Pitsch
724	07/27/70	3530	Urban Renewal--Staggs
			Photo in GRPL 286 (Assessor).
726	05/04/70	3455	Urban Renewal--Staggs

729 Sheldon S.E. Residence of the Gasper and Catherine Amodeo family. This 2-story frame dwelling was listed for sale in 1958 for \$8,750. (Photo: GRPL 287, June, 1958, L1687.)



730 05/04/70 3454 Urban Renewal--Staggs

731 Sheldon S.E. This home was for many years (at least from 1948 until 1999) the residence of Stanley L. (+1948) and Thelma Andrea Barnett (1918-99), the owners and proprietors of the Barnett Hotel and Barnett's Tavern on Ionia Avenue, S.W., downtown.

734 01/22/71 3760 Urban Renewal--Staggs

735 02/22/71 3809 *Big Chief*

737 08/24/70 3593 Cooke

738 12/20/67 2589 Jack Dykstra

743 03/16/70 3421 Kentwood Excavating

745 Sheldon S.E. Fire on Saturday, November 15, 1986, at 3:00 a.m. caused \$20,000 damage to this vacant 2-story frame dwelling. The second floor was later removed.

745 04/23/91 8137 Pitsch
The house was still standing on March 6, 1997.

813-15	04/10/68	2675	<i>Urban Renewal--Houting & Meeusen</i>
817-19	08/17/72	4258	Pitsch
831	11/18/70	3699	Pitsch
834½-rear	10/10/65	2040	Capitol
835-37	12/10/74	4738	Urban Renewal--Cross
839-41	05/10/2001	9081	Pitsch
842	11/22/78	5668	Pitsch
845	11/30/71	4058	Pitsch
848-50	06/12/68	2743	Staggs
848-50-rear	10/10/80	5991	Pitsch
849			

901	03/23/73	4389	Pitsch
904	12/23/70	3751	Kentwood
	Part of building; remodeling.		
910	08/17/72	4257	Pitsch
912	09/12/73	4428	<i>Hodgens</i>
916	06/13/75	4861	Dan Courtade
919			
921	09/23/93	8358	Pitsch
929	02/17/78	5487	Neighborhood Improvement
930	06/23/2000	8994	Fensco
939	07/18/95	8514	Pitsch
	Also addressed as 33 Delaware S.E.		

1015	12/10/74 Could not find sewer line.	4662	Urban Renewal
1017	04/25/72	4151	L. Eiko
1019	06/29/79	5759	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
1021	12/01/76	5176	Neighborhood Improvement--Cross
1023	11/05/75	4884	Urban Renewal--Loader & Dump
1033	Sheldon S.E. This home was the residence and business of the Zaagman Funeral Home from 1890 to 1920.		
1037	11/18/68 12/10/68	2890 2904	C.I. & I.S. Southkent (Pitsch)

1038	07/23/63	1622	Bud's Wrecking
1039	11/18/68	2891	C.I. & I.S.
	Same water service as 1037.		
	12/10/68	2903	Southkent Wrecking (Pitsch Bros.)
1040	07/02/63	1603	Bud's Wrecking
1041½	10/31/77	5448	Neighborhood Improvement
	No cutoff. Rehabilitated.		
1042	11/23/66	2320	Cooke
1044	11/23/66	2321	Cooke
1046	11/23/66	2322	Cooke
1048	11/23/66	2323	Cooke
1050	11/23/66	2324	Cooke
1058	01/09/69	2928	Cooke
1064	09/25/69	3173	Cooke
1065	Sheldon S.E. Fire on Wednesday, January 20, 1982, caused \$20,000 damage to this 2-unit apartment house.		
1065	03/02/82	7127	home owner
1068	04/03/69	3012	Cooke
1069	05/05/81	7022	Neighborhood Improvement
	One cutoff.		
	11/19/81	7058	Vito Vallone
	03/09/93	8326	Fenstermacher
	30' x 40' cement block commercial garage at rear of property.		
1072	01/09/69	2929	Cooke

1100	12/07/82 One cutoff.	7174	Castle Builders
1101	08/22/72	4262	Hodgens
1106	05/09/89	7900	
1107	11/28/95	8598	Courtade
1110	07/28/80 03/06/81	5968 6096	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch Pitsch
1111	05/31/68	2731	Pitsch
1112	07/28/80	5969	Neighborhood Improvement--Pitsch
1114	08/17/2000	9019	Fensco
1115	05/31/68	2732	<i>Pitsch</i>
1117	05/31/68	2733	<i>Pitsch</i>
1118	05/04/72	4175	Pitsch
1122	07/07/75	4859	Urban Renewal--Cross
1123	05/31/68 Same water service as 1117.	2734	Pitsch

1136	01/04/61	172	Charles Amato
1142	01/04/61	171	<i>Charles Amato</i>
1150	12/31/62	1509	Stephen Spina

1152-54

1160 Sheldon S.E. Our Lady of Sorrows Church. This 1-story brick structure was built in 1921. The Catholic Italian congregation of Our Lady of Sorrows was established in



the basement chapel of St. Andrew's Cathedral in 1908, and finally was able to purchase property at the south edge of what had become Grand Rapids' "Little Italy." The two houses to the north are 1150 and 1152-54. The latter served as the residence for the pastor, Monsignor Salvatore Cianci, from 1921 until his death in 1953. After the construction of the new brick church on Hall Street in 1957, the old church was expanded and converted into the school. Eventually, all four houses on the east side of Sheldon south of Green

were demolished and became church and school playground and parking area.