

City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

Historic Designation Advisory Board

FINAL REPORT

PROPOSED ARDEN PARK-EAST BOSTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

The proposed historic district is located 18 blocks north of Grand Boulevard. It is composed of six square blocks. The principal east-west streets are Arden Park and East Boston Boulevard. The principal north-south streets are Woodward Avenue, John R, Brush and Oakland Avenue. The area is primarily residential. It also contains two churches, the Mount Olive Baptist Church at 9760 Woodward Avenue and the Blessed Sacrament Church complex which includes separate church, school, convent, rectory and office buildings.

BOUNDARIES: The boundaries of the proposed district are as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the centerline of Woodward Avenue and the centerline of Belmont proceeding easterly along the centerline of Belmont to the intersection of the centerline of John R and Belmont; thence southerly along the centerline of John R to the intersection of John R and the centerline of the east-west alley running between Belmont and East Boston; thence easterly along the centerline of the said alley to its intersection with the centerline of Oakland Avenue; thence southerly along the centerline of Oakland Avenue to its intersection with the centerline of the east-west alley between Arden Park and Westminster; thence westerly along said centerline of the alley to its intersection with the centerline of Woodward Avenue; thence northerly to the point of the beginning.

HISTORY: The McLaughlin's & Owen's subdivision, now known as Arden Park, was platted on June 1, 1892. The 30 acre subdivision was laid out by Joseph R. McLaughlin and Edmund J. Owen. McLaughlin was a partner in the firm of McLaughlin Brothers Real Estate & Loans with offices in the Moffat Building. Owen's family ran the Detroit Dry Dock Company and the Detroit and Cleveland Steam Navigation Company. In 1893, one year after Edmund Owen laid out Arden Park, John Owen, Jr. planned Indian Village. The two areas utilized the same broad streets, large building lots, and many of the same building restrictions. Immediately after subdivision over half of the lots in Arden Park were purchased by Ashley Pond, a prominent Detroit lawyer who served as legal counsel for the Michigan Central Railroad for a quarter of a century.

In 1894, the subdivision was purchased by the Park Hill Land Company Ltd. The statement of association for the firm was filed on December 23, 1894. The Corporation's chief executives were George H. Russel and Albert L. Stephans, two of the city's most influential bankers. Russel, a native Detroiter, organized the Russel Wheel & Foundry Company and was the president of the People's State Bank. Stephans was the chairman of the board of managers of the Detroit Real Estate Investment Company, director of the Wayne County Savings Bank, and director and member of the executive committee of the Union Trust Company. The Union Trust Company also held Park Hill's mortgage on the subdivision.

Park Hill's mortgage was foreclosed in 1908 and picked up by the Detroit Real Estate Investment Company. The major officers in this company were Stephans, president; McLaughlin, secretary; and Russel, treasurer. Union Trust again granted the mortgage. That mortgage was foreclosed in 1909.

Less than a fifth of the lots within the subdivision had been built on by 1910. The unimproved lots were purchased by the North Woodward Avenue Land Corporation from the Union Trust Company of Detroit. The president of the North Woodward Avenue Land Corporation was Max Broock, a young real estate agent whose success was attested to in a Town Topics article of 1894, "To enumerate the many subdivisions opened and disposed of by Mr. Broock would be to give a history of Detroit's successful real estate booms." Broock was associated with the Molony Real Estate Exchange in the Breitmeyer Building and had already developed the William Walsh subdivision, parts of Brush Farm, and Virginia Park. In 1910, the same year he purchased Arden Park, Broock was appointed a member of the City Plan and Improvement Commission by Mayor Philip Breitmeyer.

The name "Arden Park" was given to the area in 1910 when Broock changed the name of prestigious East Chicago Boulevard to Arden Park. The name was also applied to the entire subdivision and is the name currently used by the residents of the neighborhood. The new management retained the services of T. Glenn Phillips, a leading local landscape architect who also had his office in the Breitmeyer Building. Broock ran a large advertisement for the area illustrated with a drawing derived from Phillips' watercolor rendering. The ad read, "Arden Park, Detroit's Handsomest Residence District, T. Glenn Phillips, Landscape Architect."

The large lots which face Woodward Avenue were landscaped as small parks and a large, red brick gate was erected at the west entrance of Arden Park. A newspaper ad of 1912 described the area:

"Arden Park is laid out with two 22 foot, asphalt-paved drives, in between which are beautiful parks, averaging from 49' to 70' in width, which are planted with handsome shrubbery and studded with splendid trees. It was the intention of the management from the beginning -- and they have so far succeeded -- to have no piping or wiring of any nature under the pavement, thus making it unnecessary to disturb or tear any of it up at any time. The gas mains have been laid in the alleys, and the water mains, consisting of six-inch pipes, are laid on both sides of the street between the walk and curb. Mr. Broock originated the idea of parking [make a park of] the Woodward Avenue frontage and deeding it to the owners of Arden Park for their use, benefit and enjoyment in perpetuity."

The use of the Woodward Avenue frontage as open space was an important design decision as well as an excellent selling point. As early as 1910, concern was raised about the commercialization of Woodward. An article in the Detroit Free Press entitled "Keep Stores Off Woodward" mentions the formation of a local group in response to the construction of a business block at the corner of Woodward Avenue and Marston Court, less than twelve blocks from Arden Park. Homeowners were also concerned about the residential character of Detroit's most prominent thoroughfare. Broock's use of the Woodward Avenue frontage as landscaped open space increased the attractiveness of the area to prospective buyers. The North Woodward Avenue Land Company deeded the westerly 100 feet of Lot 140 to the Arden Park Association in 1910 and the westerly 100 feet of Lot 71 in 1916. These parcels were conveyed to the City of Detroit in 1924 for park purposes.

Currently the city owned lots at Woodward Avenue and Arden Park are small parks. The open lot at the southeast corner of Woodward Avenue and Boston Blvd. was recently built upon by the Mount Olive Baptist Church. The northeast corner of Woodward and Boston remains open.

The residents in the subdivision were to adhere to certain building restrictions. In the first and third blocks of Boston Boulevard and Arden Park, the building line was 50' back from the front lot line. In the second block from Woodward Avenue between John R and Brush Streets the building line was 40' back from the front lot line. No building was to be set nearer than ten feet to the west lot line. All homes constructed in the area were to be single-family residences of at least two stories and were to be of brick or stone or a combination. The upper stories could be shingles, cement, or plaster. The cost of residences to be built was to be \$8,000 or more for homes between Woodward Avenue and John R Street, \$6,500 or more for homes between John R and Brush Streets, and \$5,000 or more for homes between Brush Street and Oakland Avenue. The results of these restrictions were seen as positive. The Detroit Saturday Night reported:

"Just about two years ago Mr. Max Broock,...conceived the idea of giving to Detroit a most exclusive and highly-restricted residence thoroughfare with such rigid restrictions that residents erecting beautiful homes would feel sure of perpetual protection, and the result was ARDEN PARK..."

The development of Arden Park coincided with a period of rapid growth and expansion in Detroit's commercial and industrial sectors. This growth and expansion led to the emergence of a large group of newly-wealthy industrialists, merchants, and professionals. The Arden Park-East Boston area provided an exclusive neighborhood for Detroit's newest entrepreneurs. Early residents of Arden Park included automobile industrialists Frederic J. Fisher, the eldest of the Fisher brothers and director of Fisher Body Corporation; Byron F. Everitt, builder of the Wayne, Maxwell and Rickenbacker motor cars; and John Dodge, one of the founders of Dodge Brothers Brass Foundry and vice-president of the Ford Motor Company. Other noted residents included: Clayton A. and Albert Grinnell, founders of Grinnell Brothers Company; Willard Pardridge, of Pardridge & Blackwell Department Store; Victor Dewey, president of Detroit City Gas Company; J. L. Hudson, of Hudson's Department Store; Homer M. Hall, publisher, Bay View Magazine; Frank Melin, owner of Melin Furniture Company; and George H. Kirchner, president of the German-American Bank (Union Guardian Trust).

In 1940 black professionals began to move into the Arden Park-East Boston area. These blacks included: Dr. Haley Bell, dentist, and the first black to receive a FCC license to operate a radio station; John R. Williams, Detroit editor of the Pittsburg Courier; Charles Diggs, Sr., first black elected to the Michigan State Senate, and owner of the House of Diggs funeral homes; Dr. Dewitt Burton, founder of the Burton Mercy Hospital, and first black to serve on Wayne State University's Board of Governors; and Eugene J. Collins, Metallurgist and facilities Engineer at Ford Motor Company.

Within the Arden Park-East Boston area are some of the city's most outstanding examples of residential design. The work of Burrowes & Wells; Baxter, O'Dell, & Halpin; Pollmar & Ropes; Malcomson & Higginbotham; Donaldson & Meier; as well as George D. Mason, Haug Stevens, Hans Gehrke, Harry T. Smith, Joseph E. Mills, Mart L. Elliott, Harry S. Angell, C. F. J. Burns, and Alvin E. Harley is represented.

The well-documented local firm of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls designed two homes on Boston Boulevard and were responsible for the remodeling of a third. The building contracting firms of L. Scoll & Sons; John A. Bryant Company; Russell G. Finn; Hinsch & Sons; and Rogowski Brothers & Wedda are also represented. So desirable was this area that many of Detroit's well-known architects, builders, and realtors moved to the area. These included John M. Donaldson, architect with Donaldson & Meier; Charles Kotcher, John A. Bryant, and Frank A. Shefferly, building contractors; and Max Broock, Edward A. Vier, Byron Everett, John Hart, Henry N. Peabody, Francis A. Holt, Robert and John McLaughlin, and Art Ashdown, realtors.

The Arden Park area of today is almost identical to the original McLaughlin's and Owen's subdivision plat. The two east-west streets, Arden Park and Boston Blvd., were laid out with islands separating the traffic lanes. The lots are very large, averaging 70' X 170'. Alleys bisect the blocks and provide easy access to the numerous garages and carriage houses. These features are evident today as are the large gates which mark the entrance to the Arden Park-East Boston neighborhood.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: At first glance, the majority of the homes within the Arden Park area appear to be loadbearing masonry construction. The Sanborn map, however, reveals that most of the houses were constructed of structural hollow clay tile which has been veneered with stone or brick, stuccoed, or plastered. A veneered wall is one which has a facing of masonry or other material securely attached to the backing, but not bonded to exert a common reaction under load. The major advantage of hollow tile construction is the substantial savings in the cost of materials. It utilized cheaper ceramic blocks and almost eliminated the need for furring for stuccoed or plastered buildings. Another building material used extensively in the area was reinforced concrete. It is commonly used in the construction of floors and was reinforced with iron rods or hollow clay tiles.

The major building styles of the early twentieth century are represented within the Arden Park-East Boston district. These include the Shingle Style, Italian Renaissance, French Renaissance, Colonial Revival, Tudor-Elizabethan, Bungalow, and Prairie School. Many of the homes are eclectic compositions which utilize elements from many sources.

1. The Dodge House, 75-91 East Boston Blvd., 1906, Smith, Hinchman & Grylls

The Dodge House occupies an impressive location adjacent to the small park which faces Woodward Avenue. It was designed by one of the most prolific architectural firms in Detroit and was published in the American Architect and Building News, International Edition, September 14, 1907. It was constructed in 1906 for John Dodge, one of the founders of the Dodge Brothers Brass Foundry, manufacturers of automobile engines. At the time the house was built, Dodge was also a vice-president and partner in the Ford Motor Company. The Dodge Brothers later split with Ford and built an independent auto plant. Dodge also sat on the boards of the Water Commission and the Detroit Street Railway. The house, executed in an Elizabethan style, is described by Thomas Holleman in his book Smith, Hinchman & Grylls: 125 Years of Architecture and Engineering, 1853-1978, "The Dodge House... is made up of Gothic elements, which are combined with greater assurance and success than in the Arthur residence [210 East Boston]. Smith chose 'Roman' brick as his primary material... cut stone is used extensively and to great advantage as window and door surrounds.

The half-timbering of the gables and dormers is pegged. The tile roof is an unusual feature, since it would normally have been slate. The interior, of richly coffered and banded plaster ceilings, boasts the heavy, darkly stained woodwork popular at the time, which is elaborately carved. As would be expected in a house based on an automobile industry fortune, there is an extensive and complete garage to house four vehicles, with servants' quarters above."

Dodge purchased the alley which was platted behind his house from the City. It is possible that he erected the large, cut stone gate at the Woodward Avenue entrance to East Boston. The house, garage and grounds are now owned by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit.

2. The Joseph R. McLaughlin House, 121 East Boston, c. 1900, architect unknown; Remodelled 1911, Smith, Hinchman & Grylls

The McLaughlin House was constructed at the turn of the century by Joseph R. McLaughlin, one of the original owners of the subdivision. McLaughlin was a successful lawyer as well as a partner in the McLaughlin Brothers Real Estate Company. In 1911, the home was purchased by Joseph L. Hudson. Hudson was the owner of one of Detroit's largest department stores. Records indicate that the architectural firm of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls were chosen to remodel an existing house. It is not known if the same firm designed the original building. The house is a sophisticated example of the Shingle style. It utilizes a mixture of elements borrowed from the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. The asymmetrical facade, irregular floor plan, and the horizontal division of the house into brick and shingled bands are Queen Anne elements. The multiple gables and dormers are forms taken from America's Colonial past. The composition is unified by the constancy of the wood shingled surface.

3. The Willard Partridge House, 144 East Boston, c. 1903, architect unknown

The first occupant of 144 East Boston was Willard Partridge, a senior member of the firm of Partridge and Blackwell Department Store. Partridge began his business career in Chicago as a member of the firm of Partridge and Leeming. After moving to Detroit in 1896, Partridge was a partner in the Partridge and Blackwell Department Store which after 1908 was located in a building on the block bounded by Monroe, Farmer, Library, and Gratiot. In the 1920's the building was taken over by Crowley's & Milner's Department Store and was demolished in the 1970's. In 1914, Benjamin Siegel, president and treasurer of B. Siegel Co., resided here. Siegel was born in Germany in 1860 and had come to America in 1876. He moved to Detroit in 1881 and organized the B. Siegel Company, dealers in ladies' and childrens' clothes, suits, and furs. The property was sold to William Walker and his wife in 1916. Walker was born and educated in Detroit. He and his brother were owners of Walker Brothers, Inc., one of the largest catering and restaurant businesses in Michigan.

This well-detailed Georgian Revival home typifies traditional early twentieth century residential architecture. The house is a formal, balanced composition. It is two and one-half stories high and is of brick veneer with stone trim. The facade is symmetrical with a central portico flanked by two-story bay windows. A porch is located on the northwest elevation.

4. The James Arthur House, 200 East Boston, 1903, Field, Hinchman & Smith

James Arthur was an extremely successful commercial photographer. He was one of the first to buy a building lot on the newly-platted Boston Boulevard and in 1903 he commissioned the outstanding Detroit firm of Field, Hinchman & Smith to design his new house. Thomas Holleman describes the house as, "...nominally attempting to recreate the Elizabethan spirit, [but] is firmly rooted in the Victorian era. Various Elizabethan elements, the bold half-timbering and the bargeboarded dormer, have been combined with such popular late nineteenth century features as a broad three-sided bay that breaks from the projecting gable, continuous stone lintels above the windows, and the newly available large sheets of window glass. In a wider sense, the house represents the aspiration of Detroit's middle-class in the early years of the century...."

5. The Francis A. Holt House, 250 East Boston, 1907, Albert Kahn

The Holt House was designed by Detroit's foremost industrial architect, Albert Kahn. The house is almost identical to Kahn's own home at 208 Mack Avenue which was built in 1906. Both homes clearly derive from English precedents of the late nineteenth century, in work by such architects as Voysey and Webb. Taking as a departure point medieval and Elizabethan precedent, these Englishmen created a style sometimes called the "Cottage Style" which was a then-startling departure point from the standard elaborate residences of the late nineteenth century. Modern in spirit, these houses dispensed with elaborate and often cheap detail, and allowed simplicity and good workmanship to speak for themselves. Both homes utilize two-story bay windows, semi-circular door hoods, and contrasting surface materials. The Holt House is constructed of tile with brick veneer on the first level and stucco on the second. The Holt House was published in the American Architect and Building News, International Edition, September 28, 1907.

6. The Leland B. Case House, 325 East Boston, c. 1911, architect unknown

This house uses the Prairie School vocabulary within the constraints of a box-like mass. The walled terraces, wide eaves, Roman brick walls, and hipped roof are all characteristic of the style. The roof, however, is sheathed in Mediterranean clay tile. The house was built for Leland B. Case, a reporter for the United States Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. In 1940, ownership of the house passed to George Johnson, owner of the Johnson Milk Company.

7. The Frank B. Melin House, 505 East Boston, 1916, architect unknown

The Melin House is a beautiful example of the French Renaissance style adapted to a modest scaled residence. This style was made popular by the nationally known architect Richard Morris Hunt in his design for the Vanderbilt family's summer home in Newport, Rhode Island. The Melin House is a three-story home constructed of cement block faced with stone. The grand facade is punctuated by a centrally placed arched entrance. The entranceway is flanked by colossal Corinthian columns and is further emphasized by the placement of a small balcony at the second floor level and a short parapet at the cornice line. The balustrades of both the balcony and the parapet have urn-shaped balusters.

Frank Melin and his wife, Walerya, were the first occupants of the house. He was the owner of the Frank B. Melin Furniture Company which had stores located on Detroit's east side. Melin had come to America in 1869 from Province Posen, Poland. He was first engaged in the grocery business and then clothing sales before the furniture business. In 1949, the house was purchased by Charles Diggs, Sr., a local undertaker who owned the "House of Diggs" funeral parlors. Mr. Diggs, Sr. was the first black man to be elected to the Michigan State Senate. His son, Charles Diggs, Jr., was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

8. The Max Broock House, 30 Arden Park, 1915, Marcus Burrowes

In 1914, Max Broock and his wife, Elizabeth, commissioned architect Marcus Burrows to design their home at 30 Arden Park. Originally from Toronto, Canada, Broock moved to Detroit at an early age. At the age of 22 Broock had become a real estate agent and maintained a general insurance and mortgage loan company. Broock served as a member of the City Plan and Improvement Commission for five years under mayors Breitmeyer and Marx. In 1905 Broock built a new home at 233 Erskine. The Detroit firm of Mueller and Mildner were responsible for the design.

Broock was responsible for the development of Arden Park after purchasing it in 1910. Broock built his second new home in 1915 just inside the brick gates which mark the entrance to Arden Park. The house is a two and one-half story, solid brick structure with simple Tudor detailing. Unfortunately, Broock was never able to enjoy his Arden Park home because he died on April 18, 1915.

9. The Henry Steinbrächer House, 31 Arden Park, 1916, architect unknown

Dr. Albert Henry Steinbracher and his wife, Julia, were the first owners and residents of 31 Arden Park. Steinbracher, a native Detroiter, attended medical school at Detroit College of Medicine. Steinbracher practiced medicine in St. Ignace, Michigan before returning to Detroit and joining the staff at St. Mary Hospital. Later, Steinbracher became a professor at his alma mater where he was fondly referred to as "the professor of the practice of medicine" in educational circles. Dr. Steinbracher died in his Arden Park residence in 1917.

The Steinbracher house is located on a well-landscaped lot just inside the Arden Park gates. The structure is reminiscent of an Italian villa. It is two and one-half stories in height and is composed of brick. The dominant feature of the facade is the projecting entranceway which is executed in a triumphal arch motif.

10. The Frederick J. Fisher House, 54 Arden Park, 1917, George D. Mason

The house at 54 Arden Park was built for Frederic J. Fisher and his wife, Bertha, in 1917. F. J. Fisher was the eldest of the seven Fisher brothers, and was very instrumental in building the Fisher brothers' empire. Fisher served as director for many prosperous corporations, including the Fisher Body Corporation, Fisher Closed Body Company, Fisher Body Company of Canada, and General Motors. Fred Fisher also served on the board of Michigan Bell Telephone, the Michigan Central Railroad, and the Big Four Railroad. The Fishers lived at 54 Arden Park for 30 years.

The house is elongated and low slung with a shallow Mediterranean tiled hip roof like its neighbor across the street and was designed by architect George D. Mason, a prolific Detroit architect. The two-story stone faced residence has recessed end bays and a projecting entranceway with urns to either side. The facade exhibits a restrained elegance; the projecting trabeated entranceway is topped with French doors which open onto an iron balcony. Simple classical decoration flanks these doors. A stringcourse divides the first and second story.

11. The Henry R. Mazer House, 55 Arden Park, 1923, architect unknown

Fifty-five Arden Park was built for Henry R. Mazer and his wife, Cora, in 1923. Mazer emigrated to the U. S. from the Ukraine with his parents in 1882. Upon his completion of high school, Mazer went into the manufacturing business with his father. By 1889 Mazer was able to open his own store in Pittsburgh, where he manufactured high-grade cigars. As business grew, Mazer came to Detroit, opening his first store at 352 Sixth Street. When the building proved too small he moved to an old church building on Willis. By 1912, Mazer was able to build a large two-story factory on the corner of Theodore and Grandy. Mazer Cigar Manufacturing Company soon became the largest cigar manufacturer in Detroit.

This house was designed in the Italian Villa style with a low-hipped Mediterranean tiled roof and porthole type dormers. Its proportions are elongated and low, with a two-story projecting entrance pavillion bearing its own hip roof. In accordance with the villa style, the surface of the facade is smooth, faced with stone. The entrance pavillion is flanked on either side by a terrace, with a Classical urn on either side of the porch. The first story openings are arched; the second story openings employ the post and lintel system. The triumphal arch entrance motif is flanked by twisted columns and is topped with a denticulated cornice. Above this is an iron balcony onto which the second story windows open. Above the window is a decorative medallion with flanking garlands. The first and second story are visually separated by a stringcourse. The overall effect of 55 Arden Park is one of restrained elegance.

12. The William H. Kirn House, 74 Arden Park, 1915, architect unknown

The house at 74 Arden Park was built in 1915; its first owner was William H. Kirn. A chemist and pharmacist, Kirn was president-treasurer of Larned Company, which was a manufacturer of proprietary medicines located at 691 East Larned Street. Kirn also served as vice-president of M & E Gear Company, and assistant treasurer of the Wyeth Chemical Company.

In 1935, William Kirn sold his home to Stanley S. Kresge. Stanley S. Kresge is the son of Sebastian S. Kresge, founder of the S.S. Kresge Company. Stanley Kresge has served as chairman of the board for both the S.S. Kresge Company and the Kresge Foundation. The Kresge Foundation has made generous contributions to such institutions as Wayne State University, Detroit Institute of Technology, and Wayne County Community College. Stanley Kresge moved from his Arden Park home in 1971.

The house was designed in a dignified Tudor manner and is of brick accentuated with stone.

13. The Byron F. Everitt House, 90 Arden Park, 1916, architect unknown

Byron F. Everitt and his wife, Donna, built their home at 90 Arden Park as early as 1916. Mr. Everitt has been considered one of Detroit's automobile pioneers. Originally from Ridgeway, Ontario, Everitt began his career at the age of 19. In 1899 he established his own business and built the first auto bodies for R. E. Olds. Everitt later became the main source of supply for Henry Ford, building the first 10,000 Ford bodies. Everitt served as second vice-president of Sievers & Edman (carriage and automobile body builders), president of Everitt Brothers (auto painters), and president of Beamer & Bryant Building and Realty Company. Everitt also built complete cars such as the Wayne, E-M-F-30, Flanders 20, Maxwell, and Rickenbacker Motor Cars in partnership with others.

In 1919 the Everitts sold their house to Clayton A. Grinnell and his wife, Myrta. Clayton along with his brothers founded the Grinnell Brothers Company in Ann Arbor and later moved to Detroit. Grinnell Brothers became the largest manufacturer of pianos in the country. Clayton A. Grinnell was the first president of the Grinnell Brothers Music House, and vice-president of Grinnell Realty Company.

The Everitt's House is an unusual example of early twentieth century residential design. The structure is two and one-half stories in height and is of masonry construction. The facade is symmetrical. The entranceway is flanked by projecting pavillions which terminate in Flemish gables. A porte-cochere is found on the west elevation.

14. The Traub House, 211 Arden Park, c. 1914, Hans Gehrke

The Traub House was built by the architect Hans Gehrke according to suggestions from the House Beautiful magazine. The owner read in one issue of this magazine that, "The entrance of a home, to be inviting, should be low," so he sought to achieve this effect in his new home. The homey, simple feeling was also achieved through the use of the English style of architecture on the exterior; the gabled, jettied story with leaded casement windows over the front entrance is of particular note, as is the Elizabethan oriel window to the side of the entrance. The first floor of this two-story residence is brick-faced; the second story is cement stucco over tile. Two low dormers with flat roofs project from the pitched roof, again emphasizing simplicity through their lowness in the "House Beautiful" mode.

According to a write-up in House Beautiful in 1914, "the interior woodwork is red birch, stained a soft mouse-colored gray, in fact the entire color scheme is gray..." The themes of simplicity and hominess, thus, were carried through on the interior, with restful colors and warm tones. The Pewabic cream tiled floor-to-ceiling fireplace in the livingroom and the paneled wainscoting in the front hall reinforce the sought-after effect of "Home."

15. The John Bryant House, 235 Arden Park, 1911, Builder - John Bryant

The house at 235 was the first house to be built on Arden Park, constructed in 1911. Its owner and builder was John A. Bryant, engineer and builder, graduate from the University of Michigan. Bryant was the treasurer and founder of Bryant and Detwiler Company, one of Detroit's most noted building contractor firms. The firm of Bryant & Detwiler was responsible for the erection of the Detroit Institute of Arts, J. L. Hudson Company, Parkard Motor Car Company, Dodge Brothers, and units of Ford Motor Company Rouge Plant.

The house itself is a basic box shape with Elizabethan variations such as the two-story bay and frontal gable with vergeboards and fake vertical timbering. The first floor is faced with brick; the second is covered with plaster. The upper sashes of the double-hung sash windows contain leaded glass; the arched entry is topped with a curved porch hood.

16. Dr. Angus McLean House, 541 Arden Park, 1915, Danler, O'Dell & Halpin

The architectural firm of Danler, O'Dell & Halpin were commissioned by Dr. Angus McLean to build his 541 Arden Park home. A prominent and highly respected surgeon, Dr. McLean was very active during World War I where he was colonel in charge of Army Base Hospital No. 71 in France. In December 1918, when President Wilson visited the troops in France, Dr. McLean served as head surgeon to the presidential party. McLean remained with the President throughout his trip, and returned with Wilson to the White House where he remained on duty for several days. Receiving international acclaim upon his return to Detroit, Dr. McLean was approached by both Michigan Republicans and Democrats to be their candidate for governor, however, he declined the invitation. McLean remained active in his civilian life. He served on the Detroit Board of Education and the Board of Health while maintaining a private practice.

This home is two and one-half stories in height and is constructed of hollow tile. The smooth, austere surface is plastered with cement stucco. The entranceway is recessed under a round arch. A small iron balcony graces the window above the doorway.

17. The Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9854 Woodward, 1915, Henry A. Walsh. Addition of towers, 1951, George Diehl

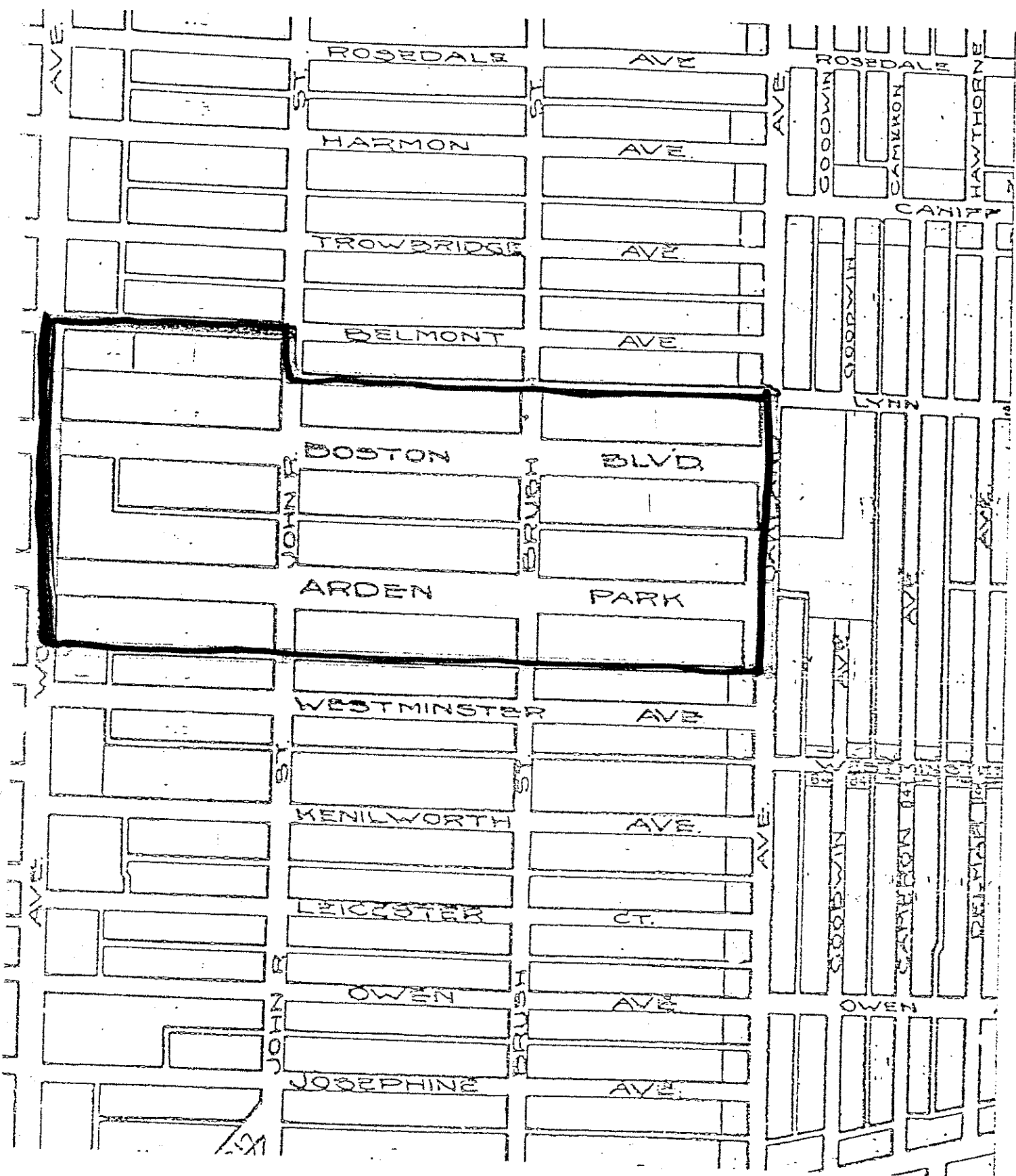
The Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament has recently been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. It is located at 9854 Woodward Avenue at the intersection of Woodward and Belmont Street.

Rev. John J. Connolly was the first pastor and founder of the church and he served until 1941. The church was originally planned as a parish for the Woodward-Boston Boulevard area. In 1938, the church was designated as the Cathedral of the Archdiocese.

The church was begun in 1913, and dedicated in 1915. The architect was Henry A. Walsh of Cleveland, Ohio. The original design called for two stone towers with a stone screen between to be added to the facade. In 1938, when the church was designated as the Cathedral of the Archdiocese, the towers were still incomplete. By 1950, the congregation had raised sufficient funds to hire George Diehl, a Detroit architect, to redesign the towers and supervise the construction.

The towers are 136' in height and took almost a year to complete.

RECOMMENDATION: The Historic Designation Advisory Board recommends that the City Council establish the Arden Park-East Boston Blvd. Historic District, with the Design Treatment Level of rehabilitation. A draft ordinance for the establishment of the district is attached for the consideration of City Council.



Proposed Arden Park Historic District
(Proposed district outlined in heavy black)

ARDEN PARK

