

**A STROLL
THROUGH THE
BAYARD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA**

Time was when children walked to and from their neighborhood school. This is idyllically portrayed in the cover photograph, which shows a group of Stanley Hall elementary students on their way home during lunch break or at the end of the school day. This scene was photographed in 1920 on the drive between Bayard Park and the Carnegie Library. (Photograph courtesy of Willard Library - Karl Kae Knecht Collection.)

Frank F. McDonald II
Mayor, City of Evansville



The mention of historic preservation in the City of Evansville initially brings to mind buildings like the Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse, the Old Post Office and Customshouse or Willard Library. However, the greatest number of our historical structures are found in the City's residential neighborhoods.

"A Stroll Through the Bayard Park Neighborhood" presents buildings found in the Historic Bayard Park residential area, which began to flourish during the first two decades of this century. Within this area exists a unity of character which keeps Bayard Park the unique product of its times and its circumstances.

Many Bayard Park residents are to be congratulated for their conscientious efforts to maintain the historic character of their neighborhood. It is my hope that this guidebook will help residents understand and appreciate the uniqueness of their homes as a part of the Bayard Park Neighborhood. Owners of homes throughout Evansville's historic neighborhoods are encouraged to contact the City's Historic Preservation Services to gain information and advice regarding the preservation and possible improvements of their properties.

Continued cooperation between the City of Evansville and neighborhood residents will ensure that physical improvements in the Bayard Park Neighborhood, and across the City, include strategies that strengthen the social and historic fabric of Evansville.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Frank F. McDonald II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

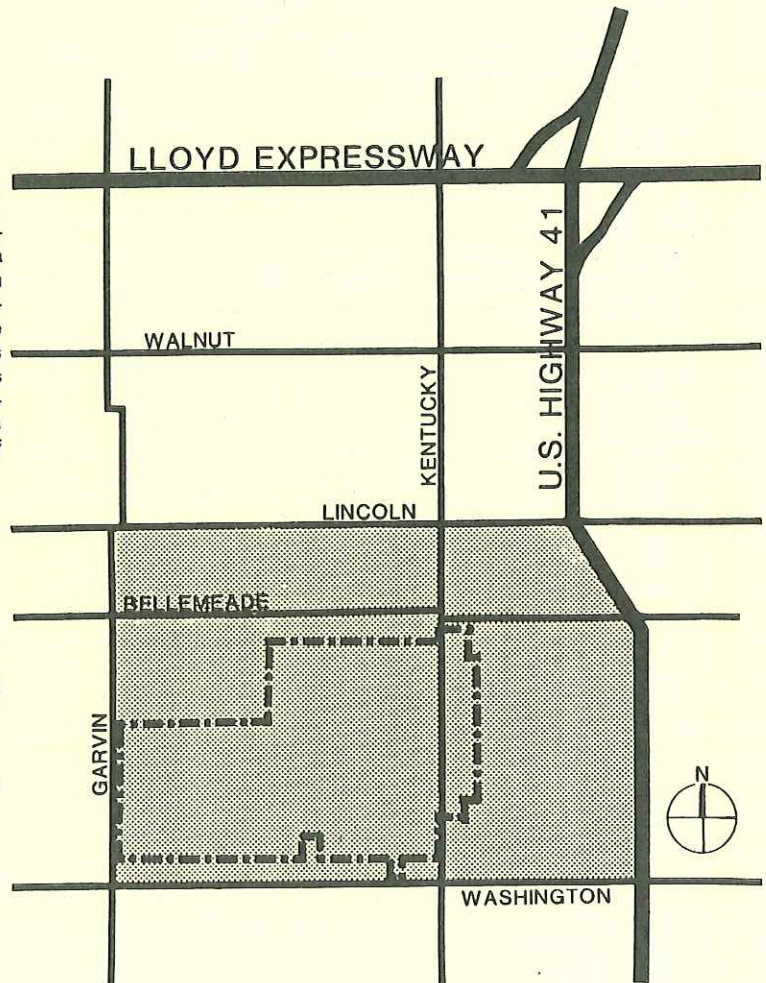
INTRODUCTION

"A Stroll Through the Bayard Park Neighborhood" is the third in a series of guidebooks published by the City of Evansville to increase awareness of and appreciation for the city's wealth of historic structures and places. Unlike the first two guidebooks, "Historic Evansville" and "Historic West Franklin Street," which feature the Downtown and West Side commercial districts, the Bayard Park booklet highlights an early twentieth-century residential section in which commercial development was barred. In the Bayard Park neighborhood, picturesque architecture and a well developed landscape blend together to afford a backwards glance at middle-class culture and life-style of an earlier era.

The tour begins at the East Branch (Carnegie) Library, 840 East Chandler Avenue, and includes the park, which gives the neighborhood its name, and thirty-four buildings in the vicinity. The flavor of the architecture and historic atmosphere of the Bayard Park area can be more fully appreciated if the tour is undertaken by foot. The exteriors of all buildings featured in the guidebook can be easily viewed from public rights of way. The interiors of residences are not open to the public, but those of the library and The Flower Shop (the old "Niednagel Greenhouse") can be visited during regular business hours.

The Bellemeade-Bayard Parks Neighborhood Association encompasses a 40-block area bounded by Lincoln Avenue, U.S. Highway 41, Washington Avenue and Garvin Street. The Bayard Park Historic District is an area of approximately 87 acres within the Neighborhood Association boundaries. The district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

-  Bellemeade-Bayard Parks Neighborhood
-  Bayard Park Historic District Boundary



HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

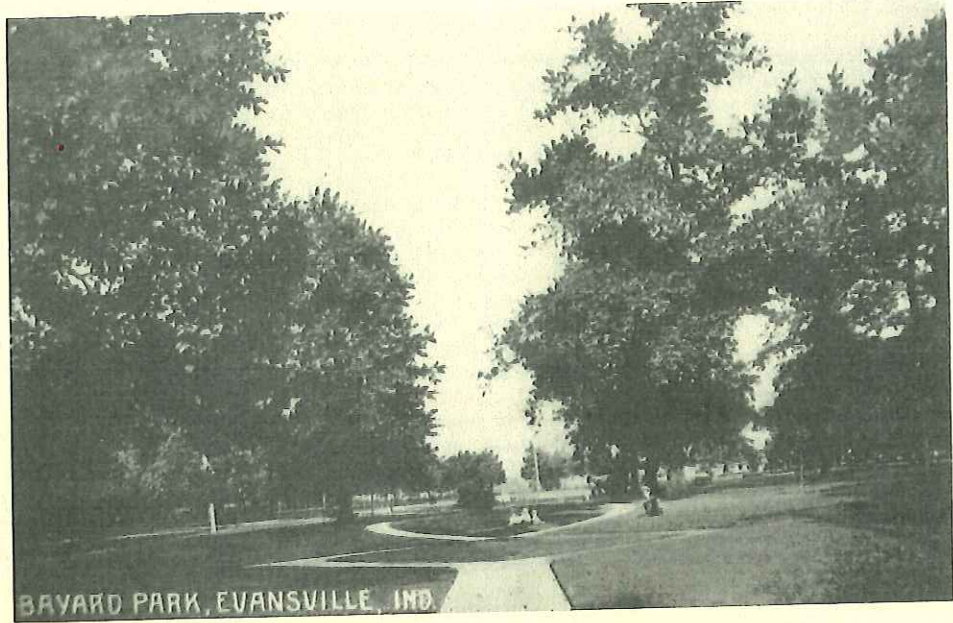
The genesis of the Bayard Park residential district is bound up with Evansville's rapid expansion eastward in the last decades of the 1800s and the platting in 1892 of the Columbia Addition, a quarter section of undeveloped land lying between the city's then eastern border (Garvin Street) and Kentucky Avenue. The residential character of the southern portion of the addition, where the Bayard Park neighborhood is situated, was determined in 1893 by various owners of the land who prohibited, via recorded plat restrictions, any type of commerce in their respective subdivisions. This action was the first local demonstration of planned land development. Although Evansville was experiencing a period of marked population growth in the 1890s, settlement was initially slow-paced in the city's easternmost suburb or, as the south part of the addition was then called, "the East End." City amenities (water and sewer lines) and the erection of a public school, the fruits of annexation in 1897, and the cultivation of the ten-acre Bayard Woods into a landscaped park provided inducements to development. Just after the turn of the century, Evansville's middle class flocked into the suburban living environment, with the period between 1905 to 1915 one of intense development. By the advent of the Depression, the Bayard Park residential district was fully established, its distinctive, early-twentieth-century appearance ordained.

The period ambience of the Bayard neighborhood is promoted by tree-shaded avenues lined with attractive, well-planned houses erected in a variety of those styles and plans which were popular during its developmental period. Included in the architectural array are quaint 1890s Queen Anne cottages, ground-hugging bungalows, "American Foursquares," and high-style Early American and English Revival types. The design quality of the residential stock can be attributed to skillful local architects like Harris & Shopbell and the successor firm of Clifford Shopbell & Company, Frank J. Schlotter and F. Manson Gilbert. Complementing the work of these designers were master craftsmen like Jacob Bippus & Son, Anderson & Veatch and Chris Kanzler, to name several.

Early Bayard Park residents found comfort-or refuge--in more than a modern and solidly-built home. While convenient to public transportation (the Washington Avenue street car line was inaugurated in 1892 and the Bellemeade Avenue line in 1915), homeowners in this suburban tract could be spared the noise and commercialism of old, mixed-use neighborhoods. The location of the Bayard Park development on the city's sparsely settled eastern fringe was an ideal site for the middle-class city dwellers of Evansville. It offered the healthful and spatial qualities of country living and, at the same time, it had city advantages. The rapid urban growth of Evansville and the booming post-1900 economy provided both the initiative to escape the congestion and cramped living conditions of the older parts of the city and the resources to forge a new lifestyle in the Bayard Park neighborhood.

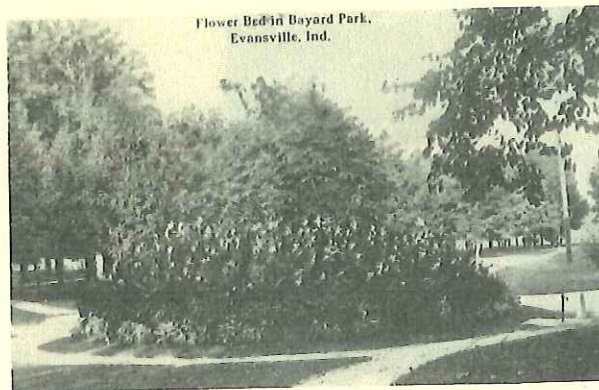


VIEW OF BAYARD WOODS, 1901
(Photograph courtesy of Willard Library.)



BAYARD PARK

Bayard Park has the distinction of being Evansville's first neighborhood preserve. The ten-acre tract at the eastern border of the Columbia Addition was donated in 1901 to the City for perpetual park use by Mrs. Martha Orr Bayard (1836-1909). The gift was made on condition that the park be named after her late husband, banker Samuel Bayard, and that she be allowed to landscape it; however, she further stipulated that the City was to provide maintenance. By the end of the decade, the unkempt woods had been transformed into one of Evansville's beauty spots, shaded by the old deciduous trees and enhanced by flower beds and a lacework of crushed rock walks. Although these man-made landscaping features disappeared years ago due to City budgetary constraints, the tree-sheltered environment still provides a pleasant recreational space for area residents. It might be noted that the two cast iron dogs on pedestals 'guarding' the Kentucky Avenue side of the park originally flanked the entrance to the Bayard residence at 726 Southeast First Street. (Photographs of Bayard Park reproduced from old post cards, courtesy of Sarah and Gary Cooper.)



Cast iron dog located at the Kentucky Avenue entrance to Bayard Park.



1

CARNEGIE LIBRARY (East Branch Library) 840 East Chandler Avenue

As the name above the entrance implies, the presence of this library, and that of its West Franklin Street counterpart, is owed to Pittsburgh industrialist Andrew Carnegie. Rising from a cotton mill bobbin boy when in his early teens to American's greatest steelmaker by the end of the Nineteenth Century, Scottish-born Carnegie (1835-1919) retired from business in 1901 and embarked on a program of sharing the wealth that he had amassed with his adopted country. One path of his philanthropy was funding the construction of libraries in communities across the nation, provided that a town or city agreed to supply the land and the books and, afterwards, maintain the facility.

Negotiations between Carnegie and the Evansville library committee began in 1909 with a petition to Carnegie for funding a West Side library. Over a two-year correspondence, the request was expanded to include a facility for Evansville's growing "East End." In January of 1911, Carnegie agreed to give \$50,000 for building two libraries. Land between Bayard Park and the Chandler Avenue School was purchased for the east side library from the school board with money raised by Bayard residents through popular subscription and by a generous contribution from one of Evansville's own industrialists and benefactors, Major Albert Carl Rosencranz (1842-1920), owner of the Vulcan Plow Works.

Construction on both \$25,000 buildings began in the summer of 1911 on plans prepared by Carnegie-approved architects Clifford Shopbell & Company of Evansville. The style of each building was a simplified version of Beaux Arts Classicism, an architectural program fashionable then for public and semi-public structures. The Shopbell interpretation featured a rectangular red brick structure, based on a foundation of dressed Bedford (Indiana) limestone and lavishly ornamented with classically-inspired, cream-colored terra cotta imported from Chicago. Both libraries were completed by the end of 1912 and dedicated on January 1, 1913, in impressive ceremonies befitting the city's newest architectural and educational treasures.



VIEW OF TERRA COTTA ORNAMENT



DETAIL OF CARNEGIE NAME PLATE

VIEW OF CHANDLER AVENUE SCHOOL, 1901.



CHANDLER AVENUE SCHOOL Chandler and Evans Avenues

With the completion of the Chandler Avenue (elementary) School at the west end of the Bayard Woods in 1901, development of the area quickened. At the time, the relatively barren landscape gave little hint that the educational facility within fourteen years would have a sizable student enrollment. It was a massive, dark-red brick structure, Romanesque Revival in style, that featured a cavernous entrance and flanking four-story, conically-capped towers on the Chandler Avenue elevation. The plans were prepared by (William J.) Harris & (Clifford) Shopbell, the forerunner of Clifford Shopbell & Company. C. H. Davies was in charge of the construction. By 1915, the surrounding land was blanketed with homes, and the school was enlarged by an addition to the north side and renamed "Stanley Hall School" after G. Stanley Hall (1844-1924), an American psychologist and educator. For seven decades, the building was a neighborhood educational center. After redistricting in 1972, it was closed and razed, except for the 1920s gymnasium that serves today as the Stanley Hall Enrichment Center, offering an alternative educational program for high school students. (Photograph courtesy of Willard Library.)



2

DANIEL STORK HOUSE 823 East Chandler Avenue

Roomy, two-story homes were a characteristic residential plan during Bayard Park's early twentieth-century settlement. This one was built in 1911 by Anderson & Veatch for Daniel H. Stork, the manager of the family-owned Stork Furniture Company. It was one of four homes erected that year which decreased the barren aspect of the blockface opposite the school. The Anderson & Veatch firm was founded in 1906 by John Richard Anderson (1863-1952), a carpenter, and Henry Babcock Veatch (1873-1938), a draftsman and a civil engineer. Within four years of their union, their company had garnered a solid reputation not only as the city's first "Complete Homes Builders," but for turning out in volume high-quality, middle-class housing stock for clients and for their own speculative purposes. By the early 1920s, Anderson & Veatch was Evansville's premier home building firm.



3

FREDERICK ROMER PETERS BUNGALOW
831 East Chandler Avenue

Although unprepossessing, this bungalow, with its two-story 1924 addition, has some interesting historical associations. It was built in 1908 for Frederick Romer Peters (1874-1935), founding editor in 1906 of The Evansville Press, which he proclaimed was "An Independent Paper that will Print the News Without Fear or Favor." During his twenty-nine years at the helm, he gained a nationwide reputation for battling political corruption and, in the 1920s, the Klu Klux Klan. His son, William Wesley Peters, also distinguished himself. He was a student and a colleague of one of America's best known architects, Frank Lloyd Wright, from 1932 until the death of the latter in 1959. A recognized architect in his own right, Peters headed the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation until his death in 1991. (Locally, Peters designed the house at 1506 East Indiana Street in the Wright "Usonian" mode in 1934 for his first cousin, James Margedant, who was a Press reporter at the time.) The Peters bungalow was the home during the 1980s of Reverend Walter Wangerin Jr., former pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, a recipient in 1982 of the mayor's Human Rights Award and a well-known author. One of his many works is "The Book of the Dun Cow," which received national acclaim in 1978 when it was selected by the New York Times as their book-of-the-year in the field of children's literature.

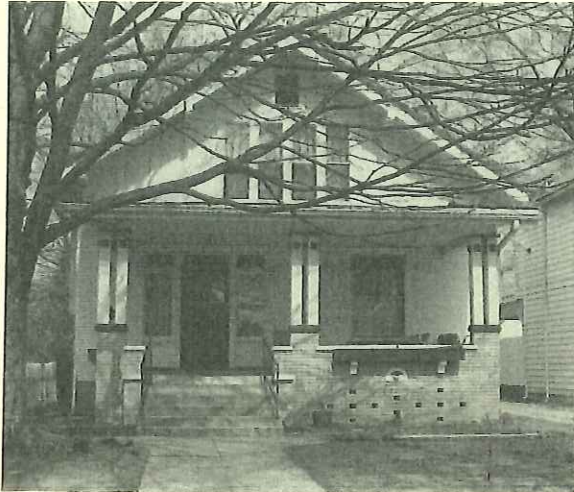
VIEW OF 844 EAST POWELL, CIRCA 1917



4

HENRY KINCHEL
RICHARD ROSENCRANZ HOUSE
844 East Powell Avenue

The Bayard district owes its architectural interest to statements like this one. Its designer was the Italian-trained and well-traveled local architect, F. Manson Gilbert, who practiced here from 1908 until World War I. Gilbert titled the style of this house "Dutch Colonial," but the format of brown-shingled wall surfaces and paired gables is not as easily identified with New World Dutch colonialism as the gambrel-roof style that was popularized by early-twentieth-century architects. The house was erected on the west edge of the park in 1916 for Henry Kinchel, secretary of the Vulcan Plow Works. In 1918, the Kinchels moved into a bungalow on Kentucky Avenue and sold the colonial revival house to Richard Rosencranz, president of the plow works, and his wife, Margaret. Rosencranz, like his father, Major A. C. Rosencranz, contributed to the betterment of the community. He was in the movement to secure a college for Evansville (Evansville College, 1919) and, as an early civil rights activist, he helped to lay the foundation for the creation of the present Human Relations Commission. Mrs. Rosencranz's civic interests included school board service, campaigning vigorously for fairness in voting procedures, and promoting child welfare, notably through her "Children's Roundtable" program which aired for eleven years on WGBF. She also served for twenty years on the Public Health Nursing board. (Photograph courtesy of Willard Library - Karl Kae Knecht Collection.)



5

GUSTAVE WEYAND BUNGALOW
834 East Powell Avenue

Architect Frank J. Schlotter and the building company of Jacob Bippus & Son teamed up to produce this compact, one-and-a-half-story frame house for Gustave Weyand in 1910. Although the plan lacks the ground-hugging and rustic character usually associated with Craftsman bungalow architecture, the Weyand house is within this category. The theme is promoted by the half-timber effect of the gable, the bracketed roof overhang and the coupled porch posts. The house also features a porch constructed with an imported variety of yellow brick, probably provided by the city's leading brick supplier and manufacturer, the Standard Brick Manufacturing Company. Frank Schlotter (1864-1943), a native of Evansville, began his architectural career in 1882 as a draftsman with the Reid Brothers firm, the architects of the Willard Library. In 1886, Schlotter established his own practice and, over the years, molded it into a regional one. A number of the Bayard Park district homes came from the drafting board of this competent and, at times, whimsical architect.



6

DR. JOSEPH C. McCLURKIN HOUSE
822 East Powell Avenue

Situated on a spacious lot, this generously proportioned house with its inviting wrap-around front porch and its automobile porte cochere on the east side was one of the Bayard Park section's larger renderings of the "American Foursquare," a descriptive name for a popular house plan during the first several decades of this century that had the geometrical configuration of a cube. In a 1909 newspaper note announcing the completion of this house, it was hailed as a "seven-thousand-dollar house built in eighty-five days." Anderson & Veatch designed and built it for their client, Dr. Joseph C. McClurkin, one of the city's prominent physicians. The ten-room house with bath was more than adequate for the three-member McClurkin family and their servant and, later, for the next resident owner, dentist Victor Jordan Jr., and his family.



7

HERBERT GRAY COTTAGE
811 East Powell Avenue

Herbert Gray, a clerk auditor for the Terre Haute & Evansville Rail Road (later the C & E I Rail Road), his wife, and their year-old daughter moved into this stock-plan Queen Anne cottage in 1896. Along with their neighbors--the Dentons, the Chicks, and the Widow Oakley, they were the first settlers in this interior section of the Columbia Addition which would, within a decade, become the 'heart' of the twentieth-century Bayard Park residential enclave. With its repertoire of frills--shingled gable, spindle porch soffit and lath-turned porch posts, the old Gray home is a well-preserved example of the quaint Victorian cottages which once liberally dotted the older areas of the city.



8

GEORGE KROENER HOUSE
819 East Powell Avenue

Evansville's position as a regional wood processing center, along with the commensurate at-source low costs of lumber, made wood the favored construction material of builders in the Bayard Park district during its formative years. However, a handful of early brick houses in this area attest to a preference by some owners for a more solid construction. The original owner of this red, pressed brick building was George Kroener. His selection of the locally made Standard brick for his house was natural; he was a brick mason by trade. Erected in 1908, this was the first brick home to go up in the area, and it's possible that Kroener had a hand in carrying out its precision brickwork, as well as designing the elaborate--and unusual--corbel table that links the second story windows.



9

CHARLES TINNEMEYER COTTAGE
827 East Powell Avenue

Scattered about the Bayard Park section are many architectural surprises. This small cottage is another example which gives texture and visual interest to the district. It looks like an artifact from the late-nineteenth century Victorian era, but, actually, it was erected in 1908. Architect Frank J. Schlotter, with his penchant for eclecticism, was responsible for the design. The asymmetrical plan, beveled corners marked by scroll-sawn brackets, four-part entrance and fancy gable window are design highlights which gave the owner, bookkeeper Charles Tinnemeyer, a bit of personalized space.



10

DR. JOSEPH FILLINGER HOUSE
831 East Powell Avenue

This large house with its prominent dormer, containing a three-part Palladian-style window, is another Anderson & Veatch commission that the company carried out on Powell Street in 1909. The plans were being prepared by the firm's architectural department in October, and work was to begin in "short order." Apparently it did, for the owner, dentist Joseph Fillinger, his wife, Talitha Brose Fillinger, and her two spinster daughters by a previous marriage were settled into the home by the time the census enumerator came calling on April 22, 1910. In addition to being covered with a relatively expensive slate roof, the interior was "fitted up with every modern detail," including electric lights. Dr. Fillinger died in 1926, and was followed in death six years later by his wife, but the Misses Effie and Susie Brose continued to reside in the house until the early 1950s.



11

HOMER E. McMASTERS HOUSE
847 East Powell Avenue

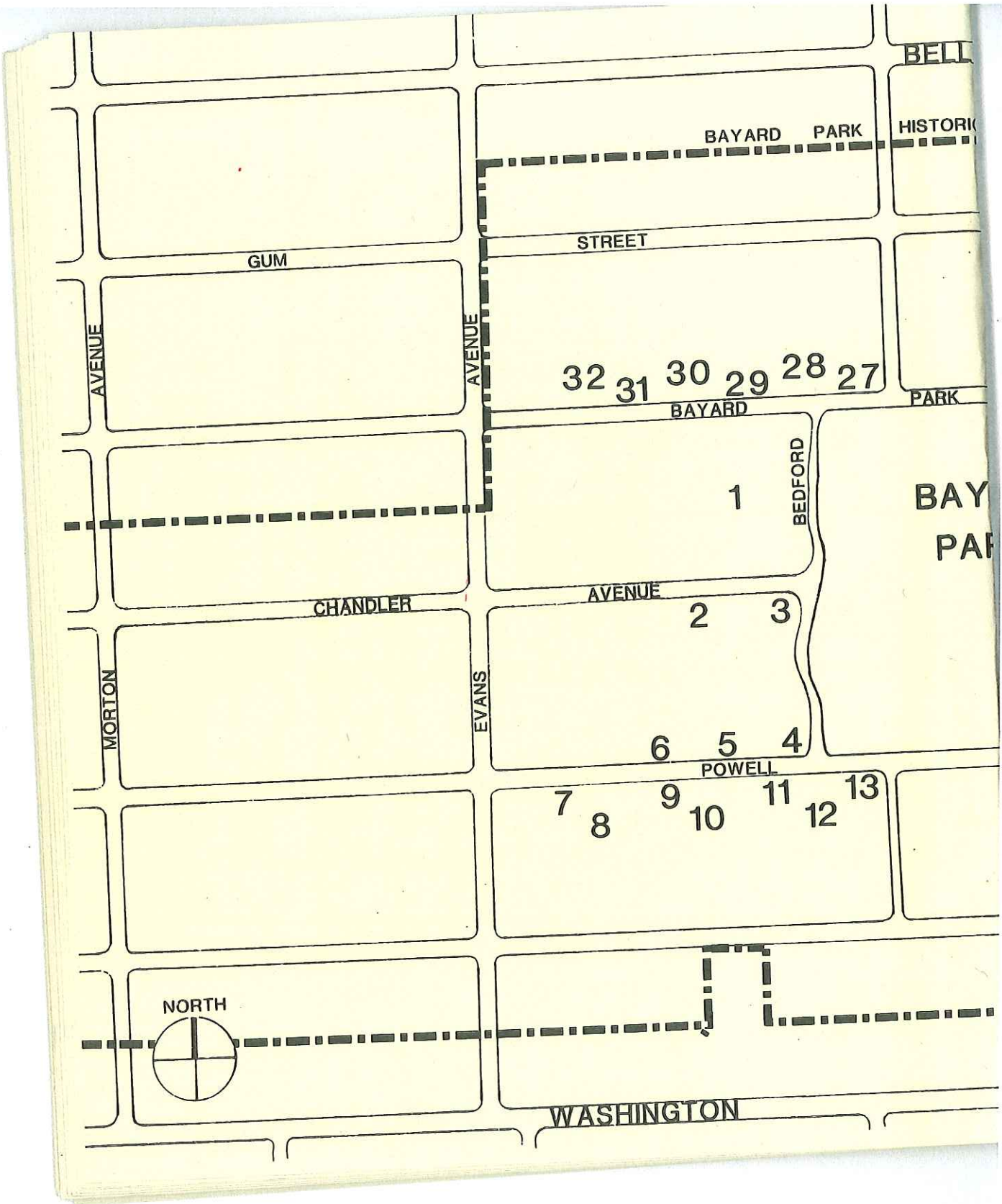
By the 1920s, when this house was built, domestic designs based on Old and New World architecture were the vogue. The English aspect of this 1925 house is forwarded by the prominent front gable, paired with a massive chimney, and walls of mingled shades of the Standand company's textured shale brick. It is an interpretation of an Elizabethan manor house that one might see in the English countryside. The house is another Anderson & Veatch designed-and-built residence. As might be surmised, the firm played a large role in the development of the Bayard Park section, and there are about 100 residences in the vicinity that can be attributed to this company. The first owners and occupants of the Powell Avenue 'manor house' were the Homer E. McMasters. Mr. McMaster's vocation was managing the Ohio Valley Coffee Company. By avocation, he was an Abraham Lincoln scholar and, during his residence in Evansville, from about 1914 to 1936, he wrote several nationally published Lincoln anthologies.



12

ALEXANDER CRAWFORD
WILLIAM SCHERFFIUS JR. HOUSE
851 East Powell Avenue

The American Foursquare residential plan was as ubiquitous as that of the bungalow in the first quarter of this century, and it could be found in cities and towns across America, as well as on farmsteads. For the period, it was the epitome of the "ideal comfortable house." It was generally devoid of decoration, except that windows might become a source of variety. For the Alexander Crawford 1906 residence, however, it is the curving front porch with its classical columns that offers relief from an otherwise unadorned architectural program. (The window shutters are a recent installation.) Frank J. Schlotter was the architect for the ten-room house and the cost was placed at \$10,000. A transplanted Scotsman, Crawford had a plumbing business. In 1920, the property was sold for \$14,000 to William Scherffius Jr., the manager of his father's West Franklin Street department store.



EMEADE

DISTRICT

AVENUE

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AVENUE

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BLACKFORD

AVENUE

AVENUE

AVENUE

GILBERT

U.S. HIGHWAY 41

KERTH

AVENUE



13

RICHARD WALLER HOUSE
855 East Powell Avenue

With the erection of this red brick Colonial Revival in 1931, the development of the land on Powell facing the park was completed. The residence was built for Richard Waller. General contractors Long & Smith followed plans drawn up by (Edward Joseph) Thole & (Ralph) Legeman, an architectural partnership formed in 1926 after the dissolution of the Clifford Shopbell & Company's successor, Shopbell, Fowler & Thole. Waller, an attorney from Kentucky, made Evansville his home after completing his World War I service. When World War II broke out, even though age fifty, he felt obligated to serve his country again. Putting his successful law practice on hold, he volunteered as an ambulance driver in order to be assured of seeing action. He did get into combat zones, but he noted later "that the toughest part of the job was driving over mountain trails at night without any lights." He returned home in 1945 and resumed his practice. During a six-decade existence, the old Waller home has had but three owners.

PARK HOSE HOUSE AND COMPANY, CIRCA 1910.



14

HOSE HOUSE #15
960 South Grand Avenue

By 1909, fire protection for the burgeoning Bayard district became an imperative. While residents favored having the service close by, they objected to having a station within their neighborhood for aesthetic reasons. It was felt that the usual design of these utilitarian structures was not compatible with the residential character of the neighborhood. Frank J. Schlotter, the architect commissioned by the City to design the new station, was able to satisfy Bayard residents with his plan for a structure that possessed the "outward appearance of a residence." The \$5,650, red brick Park Hose House was based on the foursquare plan, but unlike the Crawford house, it was elaborately decked out with an array of eclectic features that gave it a picturesque appearance and made it unique among the other fire houses of the city. The station was finished by the fall of 1909, and the newly created Hose Company #15—including horses and apparatus, as well as a police detachment, were installed in the new building. Since 1962, when the company's fire fighting operations were relocated elsewhere, the old fire station has served as a laundromat. (Photograph courtesy of Special Collections/University Archives, University of Southern Indiana.)



15

**ROBERT WILLIAMS
WINFIELD K. DENTON HOUSE
957 East Powell Avenue**

The transformation of the Bayard Woods into a city beauty spot after 1901 prompted the rapid development of the east end of Powell Avenue. This 1906 two-story frame residence, with its hospitable front porch, was the home of tea company manager Robert Williams and his family for three decades. The second long-term resident--from 1937 to 1971--was the Honorable Winfield K. Denton (1896-1971), an attorney and an eight-term United States Congressman (1948-1952 and 1954-1966). Denton, who had lived since birth a block west on Powell Avenue, graduated from Harvard in 1922 with a law degree and returned to Evansville to practice. Politics drew his interest and, in 1925, he was elected Democratic County Chairman. During the 1930s, Denton was County Prosecutor for two terms and a state legislator for three. In 1946, he made a bid for a Congressional seat, but was defeated. Two years later, he was successfully elected to the first of eight terms. Denton was a dedicated Representative, and it has been said that he took care of his constituency, regardless of their position or party. In 1980, he was posthumously memorialized when the 1969 Evansville Federal Building was endowed with his name.



16

**EDWARD H. YOUNG
JOHN H. BERRYHILL HOUSE
961 East Powell Avenue**

Edward H. Young and his wife, Mary, bought the land on which this house is situated for \$900 from James Orr in October of 1907. Several months later, they took out a \$4,000 mortgage with the Mercantile Trust & Savings Company. Their house was completed in 1908. Harris & Shoppell were the architects. They used wood shingles for both the walls and the roof and underscored the eaves with jig-sawn brackets to forward the Shingle style character of the seven-room house. The interior featured a large reception hall, a beamed dining room ceiling, and a fireplace in the living room and in the bedroom above. Young was the vice president and manager of the William H. Small hay and grain company. In 1911, the Youngs deeded the property over to Major Albert Rosencranz and left town. Two years later, Rosencranz sold it to the superintendent of his plow works, John H. Berryhill, and his wife Grace. A decade later, in 1928, the Paul Maiers moved to the Bayard neighborhood--and into the house--so that their son, Paul, could attend Bosse High School.



17

EDWARD W. PLOEGER HOUSE
902 South Kentucky Avenue

Bayard Park's developmental years were ones of flux, with families immigrating into the neighborhood from older parts of the city and established residents moving about from house to house. Edward Ploeger was of this latter category. He and his family had lived in the area since 1913 in the 700 block of Powell. Ploeger had been associated with the Evansville furniture manufacturing industry since age eighteen. In 1905, he was an incorporator with Benjamin Bosse of a furniture company bearing the latter's name. Five years later he participated in forming the mammoth Globe-Bosse-World Furniture Company. Ploeger served at various times as secretary, treasurer and vice president until 1924, when he sold out his furniture interests and pursued investment banking. A decade later, he returned to G-B-W as president and general manager. His Kentucky Avenue house was erected in 1923 by contractor John Nellis from "private plans." It was large and solidly built. Steel girders were used throughout, and wall construction consisted of tile covered with a special make of brown textured face brick shipped in from Toronto, Canada. Boasting a length of sixty-seven feet, the two-story house contained eight rooms and two baths, a reception hall and, in addition to a spacious front porch, a window-enclosed side porch. According to a period newspaper write up, the estimated cost was \$22,000.



18

HERMAN J. SUHRHEINRICH DUPLEX
860-862 South Kentucky Avenue

Twentieth-century residential development entirely erased any evidence that, prior to 1913, the site of this duplex together with the other land on the east side of Kentucky Avenue (from Bayard Park Drive to Washington Avenue) was the location of a brick manufactory. The business was owned and operated by the Suhrheinrich family. In 1902, under the management of brothers William, John and Herman, the works became a component of the newly formed Suhrheinrich-Kleymeyer Standard Brick Manufacturing Company, and continued in operation until the clay was exhausted in 1913. Residential development of the tract took place primarily in the 1920s. The Herman J. Suhrheinrich duplex was built in 1924 in the approximate location of a small company house that he had lived in during the 1890s and early 1900s. Construction on his later house was done by independent contractor Jacob Schmidt for the Lühring Lumber Company, the supplier of the plans, lumber and millwork. The deep dark red Rugby brick, of course, came from one of Standard's several brick yards. Suhrheinrich and his wife, Clara, occupied the lower unit. From the vantage of their all-weather front porch, they could 'watch the world go by' on Kentucky Avenue, a major city artery and, by 1926, part of the Chicago-to-Miami U.S. Highway 41. (The highway through Evansville was relocated several blocks to the east some four decades later.)



19

JACOB L. KNAUSS HOUSE
856 South Kentucky Avenue

Jacob L. Knauss' home was under construction at the same time as the adjacent Suhrheinrich duplex. Both were similar in their foursquare format and in the brick and stone materials used, but the plan of the 1924 Knauss residence came from the office of Harry E. Boyle and was intended for single-family residency. To relieve the austere appearance of the brick walls, Boyle & Company graced the front elevation with a classical portico. In keeping with period house plan, he included a sunporch or, as it was called at the time, a "solarium." Unusually, the solarium was incorporated into the basic massing configuration, rather than being a one-story appendage. The eight-room house had a full basement that comprised a well-equipped laundry and drying room, a fruit cellar and a central heating room. Knauss was a miller, beginning his vocation in 1874 as a partner with Nicholas Elles in the Canal Flour Mill. After Elles's death in 1888 and a fire in 1893, the company was reorganized with Knauss as president and renamed the "Phoenix Flour Mill." In 1926, he retired and the business was sold to Igleheart Brothers, the same year that this seventy-year-old local concern was merged into the Postum Cereal company (General Foods.)



20

HENRY J. RUSCHE HOUSE
814 South Kentucky Avenue

Construction on Henry J. Rusche's large brick residence had progressed by November of 1921 to the first floor. By early spring (1922), he and his family were able to make the move from their old (1874) home on Mary Street north of the downtown into the new and modern East Side residence. The plans were provided by the Shopbell firm and implemented by general contractors Griesbacher & Dubber. Although the design of the Rusche house lacks stylistic definition, it is a formal rendering, made particularly so by the front terrace, the balance between the centered entrance and flanking windows, and the fluid roof configuration. Rusche, a former cabinetmaker, was the secretary/treasurer and general manager of the Specialty Furniture Company, a manufacturing concern that he and four other men had founded in 1888.



21

DANIEL WERTZ HOUSE 808 South Kentucky Avenue

In 1901, Daniel Wertz formed an association with his uncle Henry Maley, and the following year arrived in Evansville from Edingurgh, Indiana, to take over the operation of a local lumber mill they had bought. Wertz stayed, and one of their business ventures--the Maley-Wertz Lumber Company--survives to this day. Wertz became an integral part of his adopted community. His civic activities included eight years of dedicated service on the school board. In recognition, the Howell elementary school was renamed in his honor in 1926. In 1921, he commissioned (Charles L.) Troutman & (Arthur J.) Capelle to draw up the plans for his new house. The former had been associated with the Shopbell pool of talent and the latter with F. Manson Gilbert. Chris Kanzler & Son, a prominent Evansville building outfit since the late-1800s, was in charge of construction. The result in 1922 was a boxy foursquare building featuring walls faced with Bedford (Indiana) ashlar limestone and a hip roof covered with green tiles. There was a porte cochere attached to the north side of the house and, at the rear of the property, a four-car garage. As might be expected, choice wood was generously used on the interior, such as walnut, cherry, and quarter-sawn oak.



22

JOHN J. DAVIS HOUSE 800 South Kentucky Avenue

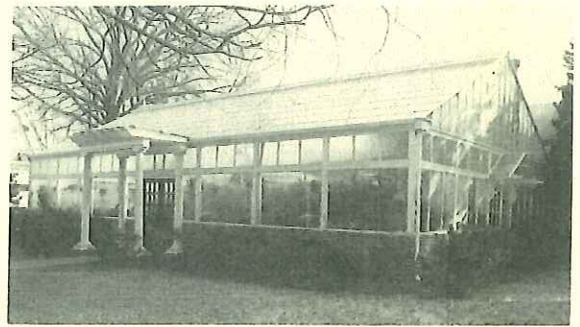
Glazed "Hytex" brick of a dark brown color and limestone trim were used for the construction of this house in 1914, the first to be built on the Kentucky Avenue block face directly across from the park. It sported a "two-columned" porch with a concrete floor and, for interest, a prominent dormer enhanced with stone accents. Frank J. Schlotter prepared the plans. The house was slated for John J. Davis. While at work on the Kentucky Avenue residence, the architect was also superintending the construction of the Germania Maennerchor building on Fulton Avenue and the Liederkranz home on Market Street, both of which he designed. An upholsterer early in life, Davis in 1891 joined the metropolitan police force. By 1905, he had worked his way up the ranks to Chief of Detectives. From this position in 1910, he ran successfully for the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's slot on the Democratic ticket. Two years later he won another two-year term. In early December, 1914, the house was ready for occupancy. With only days left as sheriff, Davis and his family vacated the sheriff's quarters on Fourth Street and were, no doubt, well-settled in their new home in time to take part in the city's Christmas Eve tree lighting ceremony held that year in Bayard Park.



23

**GEORGE C. BRUNER HOUSE
774 South Kentucky Avenue**

This house was built for George C. Bruner, chief engineer for the F. W. Cook brewery. It was the fourth residence to go up facing the park during 1915 and was brought to completion by the M. J. Hoffman Construction Company on plans drawn up by the Clifford Shopbell firm. The contract price for the "building and fittings complete" was \$9,000. The cost included the dark-brown Standard Rugby face brick, the red barrel roof tile and a marble-walled bathroom. The plan does not slip easily into a style, but the grouped windows, broad eaves, raised brick banding, and the stone belt course between the first and second stories suggest an association with the Prairie School architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright.



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**NIEDNAGLE GREENHOUSE AND COTTAGE
750 and 756 South Kentucky Avenue**

Rather than being a recent commercial intrusion amidst the surrounding 1920s housing stock, the horticultural activity on this corner property dates back to 1906. It marks the year that Curt Niednagel, the son of florist and greenhouse operator Julius Niednagel, set up his own floral establishment at this location on Kentucky Avenue, just south of his father's. The same year, young Niednagel also married Clara Koob, and the couple made the cottage next door to the fledgling business their home for over two decades. In the early-1920s, after his father's death in 1917, Niednagel and his brother, Emil, relocated the older firm to the Kentucky and Gum location. The little glass conservatory has been a fixture on the site since that time, serving as a picturesque advertisement for "Julius Niednagel" and for that of its 1945 successor, "The Flower Shop" of Edgar Schmitt and his family. Regardless of changes in location, ownership or name during this century, the present business can claim a continuous operational history of nearly 125 years, beginning just after the Civil War with James D. Carmody's "Floral Gem" greenhouse on Locust Street. The next historical link was Julius Niednagel, who bought the Carmody business in 1890 and, a few years later, moved it out of the downtown to a location on Lincoln Avenue near the city's then eastern border.





25

WILLIAM B. MILLER HOUSE
934 Bayard Park Drive

This handsome Georgian Revival residence epitomizes the high design and construction standards which won the Anderson & Veatch firm a position in the front ranks of the city's building companies during the partners' thirty-two-year association, from 1906 until Veatch's death in 1938. It was built in 1923 for William B. Miller, a founder in 1892 with Samuel Harding of a music company bearing their surnames. By the turn of the century, the two men owned stores in a number of towns in the Tri-State, in addition to the 1892 Evansville main store. In 1913, Miller became head of the company on Harding's death. For seven decades, Harding & Miller supplied musical needs for local people. Specifications for Miller's \$24,000 Bayard Park Drive residence called for only the best materials, such as "select smooth red brick of Evansville manufacture," Bedford (Indiana) limestone for door and window sills, and a "genuine" black Bangor (Pennsylvania) slate roof. The combination of scholarly design, quality craftsmanship and materials, and generous setting on three lots make the former Miller house a valuable architectural resource for not only the Bayard Park district, but for the city as well.



26

MILLER RESIDENCES
920 and 924 Bayard Park Drive

Fitting these two large, similarly planned houses and a requisite driveway onto land with a combined frontage of eighty-two feet may have been more of a challenge for the Shoppell architect assigned the commission work than providing design individuality. They were built in 1923 for Fred Miller Sr., president of the locally renowned Miller bakery and ice cream parlor on Sixth Street (just off Main), and his son, Fred Jr., the firm's vice president. The two families had lived next door to one another on Locust Street since 1914, and they may have considered it only natural to continue the close residential relationship on Bayard Park Drive. Both houses have nearly identical massing configurations that run with the depth of the lot and vis-a-vis, stone-trimmed, recessed main entrances fronting onto the shared driveway. Fred Sr.'s house (to the right in the photo--Number 924) is particularly distinguishable by the half-timbered gable and the shed-roofed porch. If the houses were turned around to face the street, they would bear a marked resemblance to the 1921 Rusche house on Kentucky Avenue. Architects of the period, just as now, had no compunction about using a stock plan and varying it slightly to satisfy a client's sense of uniqueness.



27

HENRY BABCOCK VEATCH HOUSE
854 Bayard Park Drive

John Anderson had lived in the west end of the district for eleven years before his partner, Henry Veatch, built his own personal residence on several lots facing the park. Completed in 1915, Veatch's Dutch Colonial was an introduction into the Bayard district of the picturesque revival architecture that had its wellspring in America's colonial past. The design of the former Veatch residence embraces the touchstones of the style: a gambrel roof with an extended and flaired overhang; a shed dormer; stuccoed walls; and a recessed front entrance with benches. Originally, the roof was covered by (wood) shake shingles. The Veatch residence anticipated the future course of the partners, when they began in 1923 developing their Lincolnshire "community of homes" north of Bosse High School exclusively with the fashionable and costlier American and European revival styles.



28

BERNARD ALNUTT HOUSE
846 Bayard Park Drive

Evansville can claim only a handful of houses which clearly enunciate their Prairie School association. Several are located in the Bayard Park area, but this well-preserved example is particularly notable. It was built in 1919 for Bernard Alnutt, the Cashier of the City National Bank (now National City Bank). The designers (and builders) were Anderson & Veatch, who produced a consistent translation of the style in their use of a dual wall treatment of brick and stucco, low-pitched roofs with broad eaves surmounting the two-story main block, a central anchoring chimney and a prow-like porch.



29

CLAUDE WERTZ SR. HOUSE
842 Bayard Park Drive

In 1925, Anderson and Veatch ignored one of their business policies and sold Claude Wertz two unimproved lots of their 1911 sixteen-acre land purchase north of the park. They probably did so, secure in the knowledge that any house Wertz built would not detract from the value of their adjacent and, as yet, undeveloped properties. Claude Wertz, like his father, selected Charles L. Troutman for the architect, who was then practicing on his own. The design of the Wertz home was an unpretentious bungalow. Its low-slung lines and earth-tone coloration (pale yellow brick and, originally, green roof tile) harmonized with the park environment across the street. Wertz was the secretary/treasurer of the Maley & Wertz Lumber Company. His son, Claude Wertz Jr., is still involved in the business, although it hasn't been family owned since 1968.



30

R. HAROLD OSWALD HOUSE
840 Bayard Park Drive

The Colonial Revival style and the sheltering canopy of trees combine to give this late-1920s residence an air of permanence. Work by Anderson & Veatch on the seven-room home was underway in January, 1929, despite the frigid weather and several days of snow, sleet and rain. Built with red face brick, the walls and ceilings on the interior were insulated. Plans also included an attached garage, one of the first in the neighborhood. The home was completed by late spring, and R. Harold Oswald and his family moved in. The house was situated across from the Bayard Park Drive entrance to the school, making the daily trek to and from school one of but a few steps for the two Oswald children. Oswald was a partner in a wholesale fruit business with his brother-in-law Henry Sparrenberger, who had lived in the district on the Chandler Avenue side of the school since 1918. Residential proximity of people with business and family ties was a normal cultural occurrence in the Bayard Park homes section during its early history.



31

**BENJAMIN LURIE
AUGUST A. BRENTANO HOUSE
832 Bayard Park Drive**

The Bayard Park district was literally saturated with homes by 1931 when this Tudor Revival "manor" was built. For Anderson and Veatch, the house represented the conclusion of their company's Bayard Park development activities. On the completion of the house, they announced its purchase availability in a newspaper advertisement, boasting that it "is as typically English as any to be found in 'Merrie Olde England.'" In addition to the English flavor of the exterior, which is promoted by the stuccoed and half-timbered front gable, a steeply-pitched roof, end chimneys, and multi-paned windows, the house featured on the inside a "raised brick mantel hearth" and door openings framed with "chamfered timbers." The project was a speculative venture, undertaken more than likely to keep their crews working, as well as to keep them intact, until the hard times of the Depression had passed. The first resident/owner was Benjamin Lurie, the manager of the Bon Marche ladies apparel shop. From 1937 to 1961, it was the home of August A. Brentano, Keller-Crescent Printing & Engraving Company president.



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**HERBERT R. WOODS HOUSE
820 Bayard Park Drive**

In 1914 when this house was built, Bayard Park Drive was called Igleheart Avenue. A year later, it acquired its present name. The two-and-a-half-story frame house was built by the Anderson & Veatch company from a stock plan. It was one of the first homes to go up on the partners 1911 land acquisition. The first of the three owners in its first decade of existence were the Albert Georges. The third, beginning in 1926, were Herbert and Helen Woods. A graduate of the Louisville College of Pharmacy, Woods came to Evansville in 1919 after his war service to work in the Main Street drugstore of his older brother, H. A. Woods, who was just beginning to build his drugstore empire. By the time Herbert Woods opened his own pharmacy in 1926 at Washington and Kentucky Avenues, "H.A." had seven downtown locations. Four years later there were "Eleven Friendly Stores." Herbert Woods continued to go his own way, and he and his family contentedly occupied the Bayard Park house for decades. The present owners since 1982 are the fourth.

BELLEMEADE-BAYARD PARKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The history of neighborhood involvement in the Bayard Park area began about the time of its major development, between 1905 and 1915. Efforts during this time to enhance the quality of life in the relatively new residential section encompassed strong support of the Chandler Avenue School; planning neighborhood activities, such as the community Christmas tree lighting occasion of 1914; and contributing time and money to the fund-raising campaign conducted for purchasing the land for the Carnegie Library.

Over the years, Bayard Park residents continued to join together for the betterment of their neighborhood. However, it wasn't until 1975 that a formal neighborhood association was organized. The Bellemeade-Bayard Parks Neighborhood Association was the first organization of its kind established in Evansville. Concurrent with its formation, city officials designated the Bayard Park area a Neighborhood Strategy Area. Both actions were required so that federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds could be expended in the Bellemeade-Bayard Parks area on neighborhood improvements.

The first president of the association was Dr. Walter Hopkins. Other early officers included Glenn Jones, Charles Raben, Dorothy Raymond and Eileen Nelson. These leaders and their successors, along with other equally concerned residents, have used CDBG funds over the years for various projects, such as the construction of a sidewalk on the north side of the park and the installation of park furniture and playground equipment. Ongoing activities include biannual alley cleanups and producing a monthly newsletter.

Today, Bellemeade-Bayard Parks residents continue to support their neighborhood association and its program. There are several original board members that are still active in the organization: Inez Vick, the current president, Harriett Kimmel and George Hargrove. Many residents of the Bellemeade-Bayard Parks Neighborhood Association have participated in successfully meeting the changing needs of the area. Their efforts have been instrumental in keeping the Bayard Park area a stable, self-managing, historic neighborhood.

Adults and children from all parts of the city flocked to Bayard Park on Christmas Eve 1914 to witness the lighting of the twenty-five-foot community Christmas tree by Mayor Benjamin Bosse and to join neighborhood residents in singing carols. This group portrait was taken sometime during the holidays and appeared in the December 29th issue of the Evansville Courier. None of the people are identified, but one of the women may have been Mrs. John H. Berryhill, a staunch PTA member of the Chandler Avenue School (renamed Stanley Hall School in 1915). Mrs. Berryhill assisted in planning the Christmas observance. (Photograph courtesy of Special Collections/University Archives, University of Southern Indiana.)



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