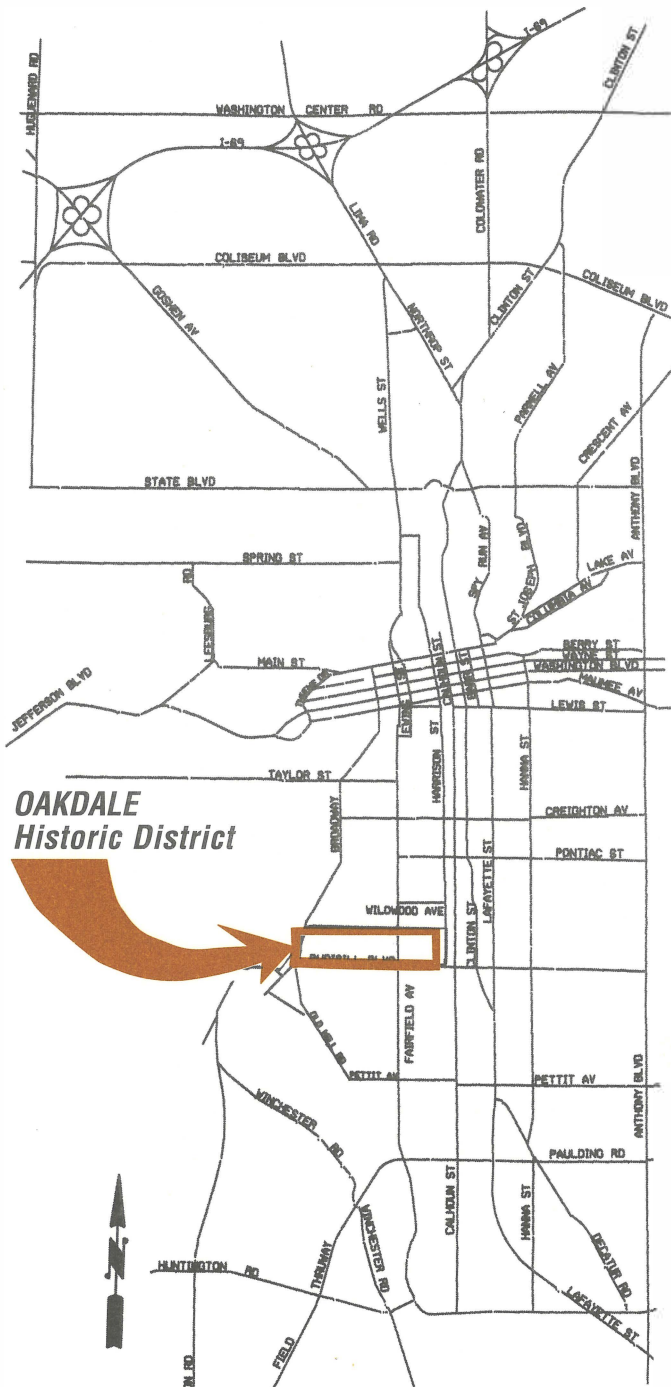


## Location



## Acknowledgements

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## Oakdale Historic District



*Fort Wayne, Indiana*

## Introduction

Significant as a cohesive and intact collection of early 20th century houses, and important as a representation of the rapid growth of residential neighborhoods on the south side of Fort Wayne between about 1915 and 1930, the Oakdale Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000.

The National Register is the nation's official list of properties considered worthy of preservation. Listing on the National Register gives a degree of protection from any potentially adverse effects of state and federally funded projects, and may also provide financial incentives for appropriate rehabilitation.

For more information about Historic Districts please call the Division of Community Development at 427-1140 or visit [www.cityoffortwayne.org](http://www.cityoffortwayne.org)

## History

The period between 1900 and 1930 was a time of unprecedented growth and progress for Fort Wayne. By 1915, the US Census Bureau estimated the population at 74,352, making Fort Wayne the second largest city in Indiana. By 1929, there were 300 factories and roughly 1,500 wholesale and retail establishments. The city was a leader in Indiana in city planning, setting standards in utilities, park development, street paving, and railroad overpasses. Electric trolleys extended outward from the city center, facilitating the growth of suburban neighborhoods.

The area comprising the Oakdale Historic District is largely located in the southern part of an area once defined as South Wayne. Beginning as a suburban enclave of country estates, the land became more

attractive for development as areas were cleared, swamps drained, and the large outlots platted. The opening of the Packard piano and organ factory on Fairfield Avenue in 1872, and the Jenney Electric Company on Broadway, just north of South Wayne, in 1886, further encouraged residential development.

One of the earliest residents in Oakdale was Augustus Beaver, a lumber dealer who began buying property in 1866 for timber. In 1873, he built a country house for his family on part of the land and resided there until 1903. Although greatly altered, his home still exists at 1224 Oakdale Drive. Beaver Avenue was named for Augustus and his brother Daniel.

South Wayne was incorporated as a town in 1889, but was soon annexed by the City of Fort Wayne in 1894. Streetcar lines and utilities were then extended through South Wayne and a new school was built. The availability of city services made the area even more attractive, as did the establishment of two important institutions and a major city park. In 1904 Lutheran Hospital was established at Fairfield and Wildwood avenues, just north of the Oakdale district. The same year, the Fort Wayne Bible Training School was built at South Wayne Avenue and Rudisill Boulevard at the south edge of the district. In 1912, David and Samuel Foster donated the land for Foster Park just southwest of the district.

During the 19th century, Fort Wayne had been a fairly compact city, with fashionable residential areas still located adjacent to the city's downtown. In the early 20th century however, the population expanded from 45,115 in 1900 to 114,946 in 1930. This increased population, as well as improved transportation, was among the factors that led to suburban development. As the population of Fort Wayne grew and demand for housing escalated, developers saw opportunity in the largely rural South Wayne area. Hilgeman & Schaaf was one firm that bought land in South Wayne and platted it as city lots. Two of their subdivisions, Arcadia

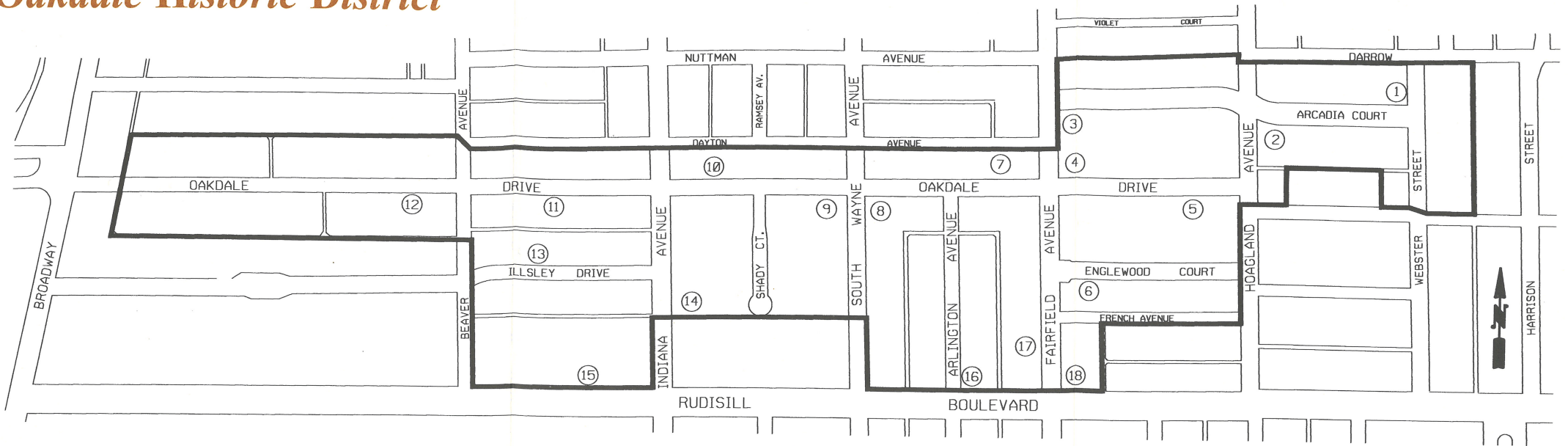
Court, platted in 1912, and Englewood Court, platted in 1914, are included in the Oakdale Historic District.

The additions that comprise the Oakdale Historic District were developed during a period of civic awakening influenced by the City Beautiful movement. City planning began to emphasize such concepts as zoning, matching up streets in new developments with the existing patterns, retaining existing trees, and providing park space. Deed restrictions in some of the additions reveal efforts on the part of the developers to maintain a high quality neighborhood. Sensitivity to height/setback ratio, lot size, landscaping, neighborhood delineation, and protection of open views were among the features that have resulted in a comfortable, enduring neighborhood. The stone and brick entrance markers, which help to define the various additions, are among the notable features that enhance the character of the Oakdale Historic District

Early residents of the district were generally middle to upper-middle class, and represented a wide variety of professions including lawyers, doctors, engineers, architects, executives of large companies, and local business owners. Many were employed by such leading companies as General Electric, International Harvester, and Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. There were several men who served as state representatives and at least one county commissioner.

The Oakdale Historic District is primarily significant for its early 20th century residential architecture. Largely constructed between 1915 and 1930, the homes represent the popular Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Dutch Colonial Revival, American Foursquare, and Tudor styles, and exhibit a great deal of continuity in size, detail and construction quality. Rare examples of the Mission Revival and Prairie styles also exist in the district. At least 8 homes are known to have been designed by such prominent local architects as Lloyd Larimore, Alvin Strauss, Guy Mahurin, and Joel Ninde.

# Oakdale Historic District



*Please respect the occupant's privacy by viewing all listed homes from the street.*

**1**

**Herbert & Maude Harper House**  
306 Arcadia Court  
Craftsman, c.1920



The steep gabled roof, exaggerated vergeboards, and half-timbering give this house a bit of a Swiss chalet feeling. The projecting attic level, multi-pane windows, multiple porch gables, and large porch piers are all notable features. Mr. Harper was an engineer.

**2**

**Rezin & Mary Miller House**  
345 Arcadia Court  
Craftsman Bungalow, c.1918



This classic side-gabled bungalow with a large shed dormer features a very unusual porch arrangement. The porch supports - short, battered piers on brick pedestals - have been moved in from the corners leaving open balustrades to define the edges.

**7**

**Ernest & Emma Gerke House**  
516 Oakdale Drive  
Colonial Revival, 1920



Balanced and symmetrical, the Gerke House features a side gabled roof with cornice returns, multi-light windows with decorative shutters, and a gabled portico with fluted columns sheltering the low-arched entry with sidelights.

**8**

**Henry & Louise Freese House**  
625 Oakdale Drive  
Colonial Revival, c.1914



A fine example of Colonial style, the Freese house has paired and triple windows with multi-light upper sash topped by flat arches. A decorative roof balustrade crowns the columned entry portico. The arched dormer window reflects the arched transom over the front door.

**13**

**Minnie Easterling House**  
940 Illsley Drive  
Craftsman Bungalow, c.1920



This little bungalow has the low gables, wide eaves, and knee braces common to the style. The numerous paired windows with multi-light upper sash, clapboard and wood shingle sidings, and partial width porch centered on the front dormer enhance the Craftsman character.

**14**

**Oscar & Esther Foellinger House**  
3721 Indiana Avenue  
Craftsman Bungalow, 1914



Excellent examples of the Craftsman style, both the house and garage feature numerous low gables with wide vergeboards and decorative braces, multi-pane windows, wood shingle siding, and a unique paneled frieze over the porch and garage doors. Oscar Foellinger, who owned the News-Sentinel, lived in this bungalow from 1914 until 1927.

**3**

**Guy Mahurin House**  
451 Arcadia Court  
Craftsman, c.1915

Guy Mahurin was one of the city's leading architects in the early 20th century, designing such buildings as the Chamber of Commerce and the Federal building. His home features wood clapboard siding on the first floor with stucco above, and wide eaves with exposed rafters. Note how the low gabled form of the dormer is duplicated in the entry porch.

**4**

**William & Edith Mossman House**  
(Lloyd Larimore, Architect)  
450 Oakdale Drive  
Tudor Revival, 1928

An outstanding example of the Tudor Revival style, this home features a steep hipped roof and multiple cross gables covered in rusticated slate, walls of finely detailed brick and stone, as well as stucco and half-timbering, and both leaded and steel casement windows. The garage matches the house in style and materials. The property received local historic district designation in 1998.

**5**

**Wayne L. Thieme House**  
415 Oakdale Drive  
Neoclassical, 1927

The two-story entry porch with its classical columns and roof balustrade dominates the balanced facade of this home. This house also features decorative brick arches, paired brackets under the eaves, and a two-story solarium at the west end. Mr. Thieme was a manager at Tri-State Loan and Trust Co.

**6**

**George & Muriel Fishing House**  
455 Englewood Court  
Dutch Colonial Revival, c.1925

Dutch Colonials are easily identified by prominent gambrel roofs. This house features a front gambrel with long shed dormers on the sides. A gabled, bracketed hood shelters the entry, which features a transom and sidelights. George Fishing was secretary-treasurer at Fitch, Fishing & Lumbard Insurance Agency.

**9**

**Otto & Alma Brunner House**  
709 Oakdale Drive  
American Foursquare, c.1920

Two-story box-like shapes, hipped roofs with central dormers, and comfortable porches characterize American Foursquare homes. The deep eaves, decorative beam-ends and low, hipped roof show Prairie style influence. The fluted Doric porch columns are notable. Brunner was a winder at GE.

**10**

**Dr. Herbert & Olive Senseny House**  
810 Oakdale Drive  
Craftsman, c.1920

This house combines brick, stucco, and wood shingles with decorative brackets and wide verge boards to create a balanced Craftsman composition. Educated at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Senseny joined the staff of Methodist & St Joseph Hospital in 1912.

**11**

**Edwin May House**  
933 Oakdale Drive  
Craftsman, c.1916

The main roof, dormer and porch of this solid Craftsman house are a series of low gables with wide vergeboards and knee braces. Sturdy, battered piers set upon the brick balustrade wall support the broad porch gable. Mr. May worked as an engineer for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

**12**

**Joseph & Wilda McKenna House**  
1107 Oakdale Drive  
Dutch Colonial Revival, c.1920

This side-gambrel Dutch Colonial has a low shed dormer at the front and a large, brick chimney on the west side. An unusual arched portico with short, Doric columns covers the front entry and an arched hood in the front eaves frames a set of French doors that open onto the front terrace. Joseph McKenna worked as a brickmason.

**15**

**Horace & Addie Mariotte House**  
918 W. Rudisill Boulevard  
Mission/Prairie, c.1918

Golden brick walls and a tile roof highlight this homes' Mission/Prairie detailing, which includes the paired brackets under the wide eaves, the unique dormer, and the entry porch flanked by open terraces. A matching, two-story garage/guesthouse is located at the rear. Horace Mariotte was the owner of the Emporium department store.

**16**

**Allen & Grace Philips House**  
526 W. Rudisill Boulevard  
Mission, c.1920

The interior of this unusual home is arranged around a central courtyard topped by an art-glass skylight. The Mission style is evident in the stucco exterior, arched front window, and wide porch with massive corner piers. The curved steps are a graceful detail. Allen Philips was vice president-manager of the McMillen Company.

**17**

**Frederick & Mabel Rapp House**  
3814 Fairfield Avenue  
Craftsman Bungalow, c.1915

The Rapp House is a one-and-a-half story bungalow with a side gabled roof that sweeps down over the front porch. Characteristic of the style, the home features deep eaves with exposed rafters and knee braces, and a brick porch with solid corner piers. The half-timbered twin dormers on the front slope of the roof are an interesting feature. Frederick Rapp was an electrical engineer at General Electric.

**18**

**Moses & Hanna Apfelbaum House**  
(A.M. Strauss, Architect)  
450 W. Rudisill Boulevard  
Prairie, c.1918

Strauss was one of Indiana's leading 20th century architects. Stone bands accent the horizontal lines of this large Prairie style home which features grouped windows, and a private porch in front of the west solarium. The arched entry hood mimics the shape of the front dormer. Apfelbaum was president of Kraus & Apfelbaum, grain dealers.

