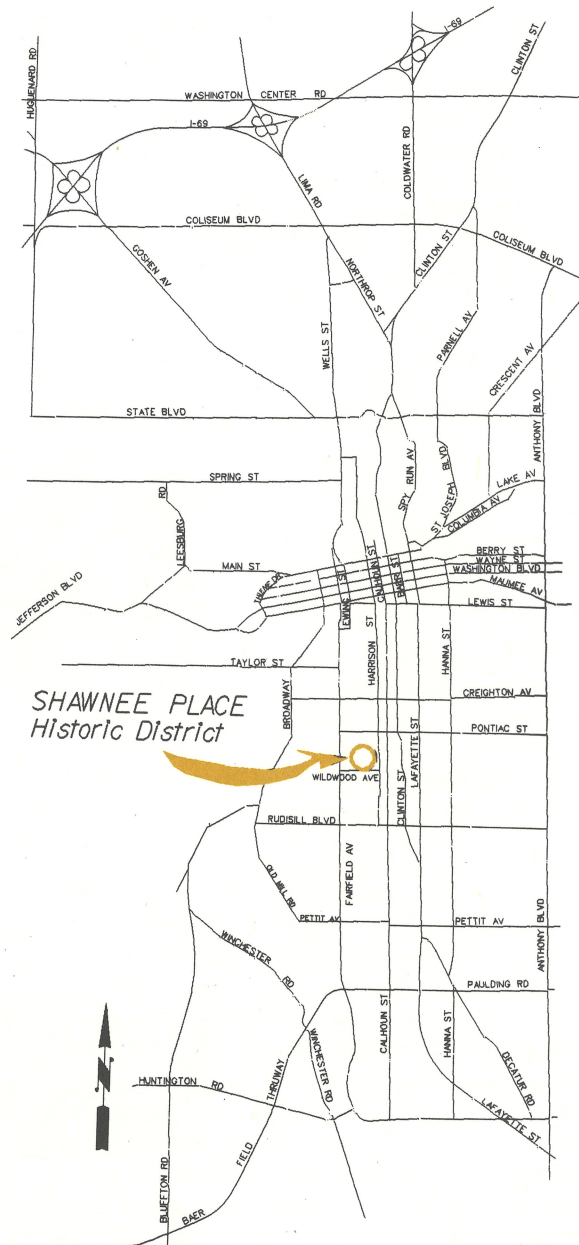


Location



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Shawnee Place Historic District



Fort Wayne, Indiana

Introduction

Notable for its unique planned design, cohesive architecture, and its association with the Wildwood Builders Co., the Shawnee Place Local Historic District was established in 1998.

Local historic designation is a tool, provided by the Fort Wayne Historic Preservation and Protection Ordinance, for residents to monitor changes that occur in historic areas. A design review process, prescribed by the ordinance, regulates proposed exterior changes by requiring property owners to apply for and obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness before a building permit can be issued or exterior work begun.

For more information about Local Historic Districts please call the Division of Community and Economic Development at 427-1140.

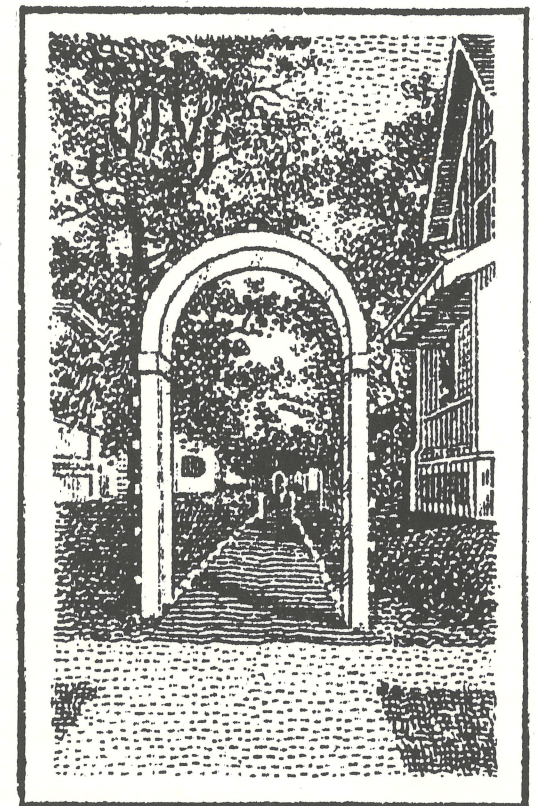
History

The Shawnee Place Addition was a residential development by the Wildwood Builders, under the direction of the innovative husband-and-wife team of Lee J. and Joel Ninde. An article which appeared in The Wildwood Magazine in 1916 stated that Shawnee Place "is a small residence district comprising less than fifty homes, but as it was designed and built as a whole, the houses express a harmony of architecture, while the neighborhood interests run in the same channels towards general betterment and attractive surroundings." This unity of character and design, as well as the attractive surroundings, remain today in Shawnee Place. These are the primary elements that give the district significance in the areas of architecture, and community planning and development. Shawnee Place is equally significant for its association with the Wildwood Builders, and particularly for the unique and original house designs of self-trained architect Joel Roberts Ninde, produced with the assistance of Wildwood Builder's staff architect, Grace Crosby.

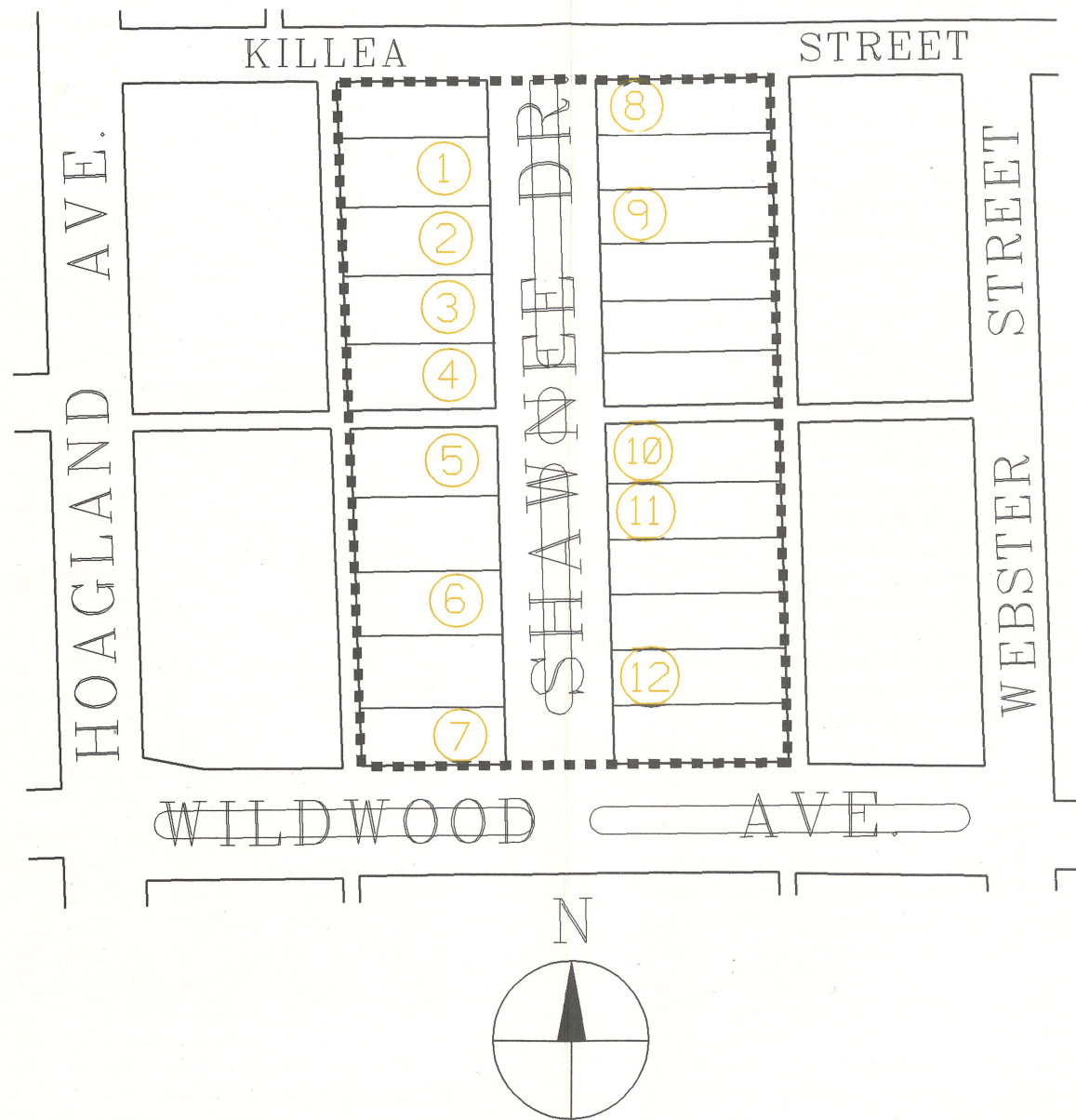
Designing homes that were "pleasing to the eye, economical, convenient, and efficient," Joel Ninde became one of the most popular early twentieth century residential architects in Fort Wayne. A woman with no formal architectural training, Mrs. Ninde designed her first house for her husband, attorney Lee J. Ninde after the couple was unable to find a home in Fort Wayne that was "small, convenient, comfortable, attractive, and inexpensive." Her innovative design became noticed and sold rapidly. The same thing happened with her second house. Eventually Lee Ninde gave up his law practice, and in 1910 he formed a real estate and construction firm called the Wildwood Builders Company, establishing Joel and her partner Grace Crosby, as designers and construction supervisors. Joel Ninde created designs adaptable to any budget, depending on the choice of materials and features desired, and favored the clean lines of the Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles. In 1914 the Indianapolis News reported that she had designed and built over 300 houses. The Wildwood Magazine, published by the company between 1913 and 1917, was a nationally known publication on the subjects of architecture, city planning, and interior design. Tragically, Mrs. Ninde died of a stroke at the height of her career in 1916, at the age of 42. Grace Crosby continued to work in Fort Wayne as an architect and "draftsman" for many years.

The Wildwood Builders remained an active residential development and home building company into the late 1920s. Other developments by the company include Wildwood Place (a portion of the South Wayne Historic District), North Wildwood, Lafayette Place, and Wildwood Park. All these projects were unique for a variety of reasons, however Shawnee Place is the development that consistently displays the design influence of Joel Ninde and Grace Crosby. It is the one area in which Wildwood Builders built all (or nearly all) of the homes in a relatively brief period of time. (Most of the homes in Shawnee Place were built by 1916.) The houses clearly reflect the philosophy of the Ninde's in building simple yet tasteful, inexpensive, and modern homes. The architecture is typical of the

era, and reflects the popular Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and American Foursquare styles, but it also reveals the ability of Joel Ninde and Grace Crosby to adapt these styles to the practical perspectives of women. The architecture of the district is not significant for individual landmarks, but for its consistent quality and harmony of character, materials, and scale. The district is also significant in community development for the unique character of Shawnee Drive and the footpaths at mid-block.



Shawnee Place Historic District



Please respect the occupants privacy by viewing all listed homes from the street.

7

Fick-Feustel House
3028 Shawnee Drive
Colonial Revival, 1912



Although the Fick-Feustel House has a Shawnee Drive address, its orientation is toward Wildwood Avenue. The house has a side-gable roof with cornice returns, and a symmetrical facade with a classical entry portico supported by fluted Doric columns and pilasters. Decorative round windows are placed in each gable. The enclosed solarium on the east end was originally an open porch. Hans W. Fick was an auditor with Wildwood Builders. George Feustel, who owned the house by 1915, was a salesman involved in several business ventures.

8

Lopshire-Glass House
2903 Shawnee Drive
American Foursquare, 1912



An extremely popular style, the American Foursquare was considered the best blend of practicality, simplicity, and value. Open, efficient plans utilized all available interior space. The full-width porch and large windows add to the comfort of this home. The Lopshires owned a hairdressing shop near the Pennsylvania Station. Earl Glass was a fireman for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

9

Dewey-Briegel House
2911 Shawnee Drive
Craftsman, 1914



With a unique combination of elements, this Craftsman house includes Spanish Mission style influences. Leaded glass windows with window boxes are placed within the textured stucco walls of the facade. The porch is recessed behind round arches. Earl Dewey worked in the offices of S.F.

1**Baldwin-Short House
2908 Shawnee Drive
Craftsman, 1913**

An excellent example of the Craftsman style, this one-and-one-half story front gabled house has a large dormer and a prominent porch on the south side. The house has wide, decorative vergeboards and exposed rafters, Craftsman windows, and wood shingle siding. The fieldstone porch with two large battered piers is a unique feature. William Baldwin was a bookkeeper. Dr. John Short practiced at the Duemling Clinic.

2**Dittoe-Iammarino House
2912 Shawnee Drive
Colonial Revival, 1913**

This simple Colonial Revival has a side-gable roof with shallow, boxed eaves and cornice returns. Paired columns with integral trellises are features of the front porch, while decorative brackets support the box bay on the south side. Peter Dittoe was employed in his family's grocery, and Ralph Iammarino owned a downtown deli and confectionery.

3**Van Etta-Bart House
2916 Shawnee Drive
Craftsman/
American Foursquare, c.1915**

This unusual American Foursquare house has a gabled corner porch with prominent square columns. The second floor is covered with wood shingles that are dramatically flared at the bottom edge. Harry Van Etta was a drugstore clerk. Louis Bart was employed as a salesman for Wildwood Builders, and later worked for other builders.

4**Ralph & Adele Metzner House
2922 Shawnee Drive
Craftsman, 1914**

A unique stucco structure, the Metzner House has a side-gable roof with exposed rafters and decorative vergeboards. The unusual façade has a small balcony over the front door. The balcony is sheltered by an extension of the roof that is supported by large brackets. Ralph Metzner was a partner with his brother in the Eagle Laundry Company.

5**Chaffin-Leonard House
3004 Shawnee Drive
Craftsman/
Colonial Revival, 1913**

This stucco house, with a front-gable roof, has prominent cornice returns supported by paired modillions. A shallow bay window on the façade has leaded casement windows. A small hood supported by decorative brackets covers the simple entrance on the south side. The enclosed porch on the north side was originally an open porch that faced the mid-block footpath. Wendell Chaffin was an assistant city engineer, and Ralph Leonard was a dentist.

6**Cleveland & Inez Bolyard House
3018 Shawnee Drive
Craftsman, 1913**

A shed-roofed wall dormer, with a three-part window at the front, crowns this simple side-gable house. Large, square columns support the generous front porch. The low hedge that surrounds the front lawn is characteristic of Shawnee Place. Bolyard was a partner in the Hartzell Ice Cream Company.

10**Clata & Pearl Lantz House
3007 Shawnee Drive
American Foursquare/
Craftsman, 1912**

Two-story box-like shapes, hipped roofs with central dormers, and comfortable porches characterize American Foursquare homes. The unusual partial-length sidelights that flank the front door of this house can be found on several Wildwood homes in Fort Wayne. Lantz was a signal inspector with the Pennsylvania Railroad.

11**Robinette-Taylor House
3011 Shawnee Drive
Colonial Revival/
Craftsman, 1914**

This stucco house has a front gabled roof with cornice returns and modillions. A portion of the corner porch is recessed, while the remainder wraps around the side of the house. George Robinette was the Chief Dispatcher for the Nickel Plate Railroad. Henry Taylor was employed by First National Bank.

12**Pask-Neaderhouser House
3023 Shawnee Drive
Craftsman, 1911**

Perhaps the first home built in Shawnee Place, this house has stucco walls, a wraparound, recessed corner porch, and a shed-roofed wall dormer with a three-part window. Kezia Pask was the widow of George Pask, who had been a partner in the Griebel & Pask marble works. Mary Neaderhouser was a widow who lived here for many years with three daughters who were teachers.