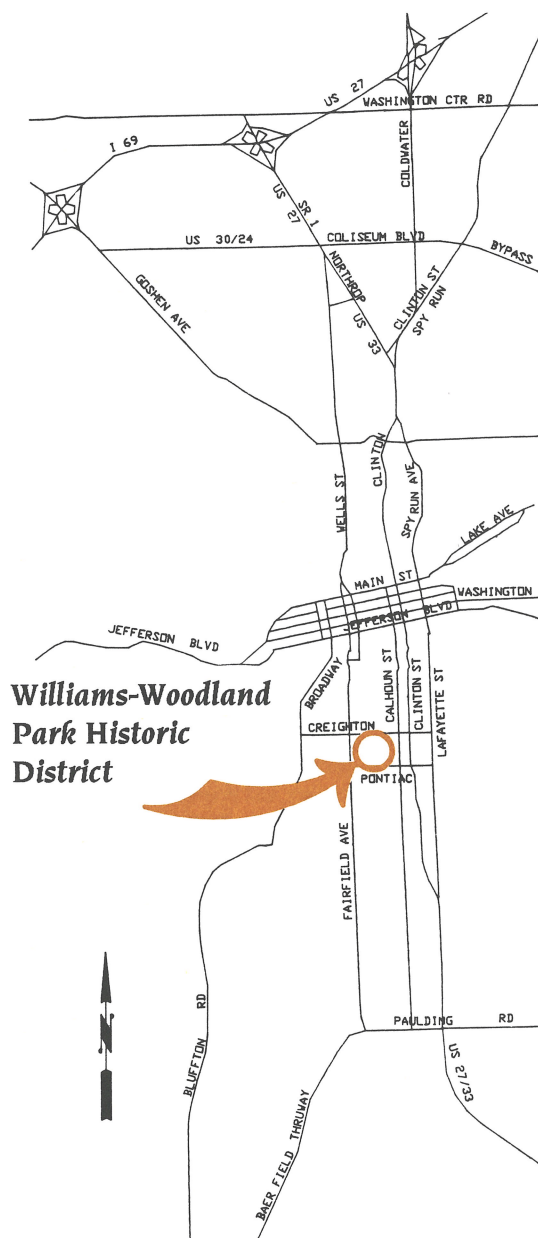


Location



Acknowledgements

City of Fort Wayne
Paul Helmke, Mayor

Community and Economic Development
Greg Purcell, Director

Donald Orban, Preservation Planner
Creager Smith, Preservation Planner
Mark McCombs, Graphic Designer
Dolores Cortez, Clerical Assistance

Kevin Holle, GIS-Maps

Laura Thayer, Historical Consultant

Fort Wayne Bicentennial Celebration Council

Williams-Woodland Park
Neighborhood Association

"This project has been funded in part by a Department of the Interior grant administered by the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indiana Department of Natural Resources."

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"This project has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior."

Williams-Woodland Park Historic District



Fort Wayne, Indiana

Introduction

The Williams-Woodland Park Local Historic District was established in 1985, and a slightly modified area was listed on the National Register in 1991. Please refer to the map for individual boundaries. Both of these independent designations offer a measure of protection to the neighborhood's historic resources.

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

Local historic designation is a tool, provided by the Fort Wayne Historic Preservation and Protection Ordinance, for residents to monitor changes which 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 the National Register of Historic Places or local historic districts, please call the Division of Community and Economic Development at 427-1140.

History

Once part of extensive landholdings controlled by Jesse Williams, chief engineer of the Wabash and Erie Canal, the area which now comprises the Williams-Woodland Park Historic District began as a private park opened for public use by the Williams family in the 1870s. After Jesse's death, the Williams family made repeated offers to sell the park to the city at half the appraised value. When these were refused, Henry Williams and his co-heirs platted the grove and in October of 1903, sold the 66 Williams Park lots to Louis Curdes, a dealer in real estate. With streetcar lines extending to downtown Fort Wayne, and a surrounding stable, upper-middle class neighborhood, the Williams Park development was a realtors dream. A newspaper article reporting the sale of lots described the park as "a tract of the forest primeval in a populous part of town, invested on every side by paved streets, expensive dwellings and all other evidences of a great city."

Incorporating development-wide deed restrictions, which were perceived as a device that would enhance, rather than decrease, property value, Curdes sold all of the lots by lottery in one evening at the Fort Wayne Commercial Club.

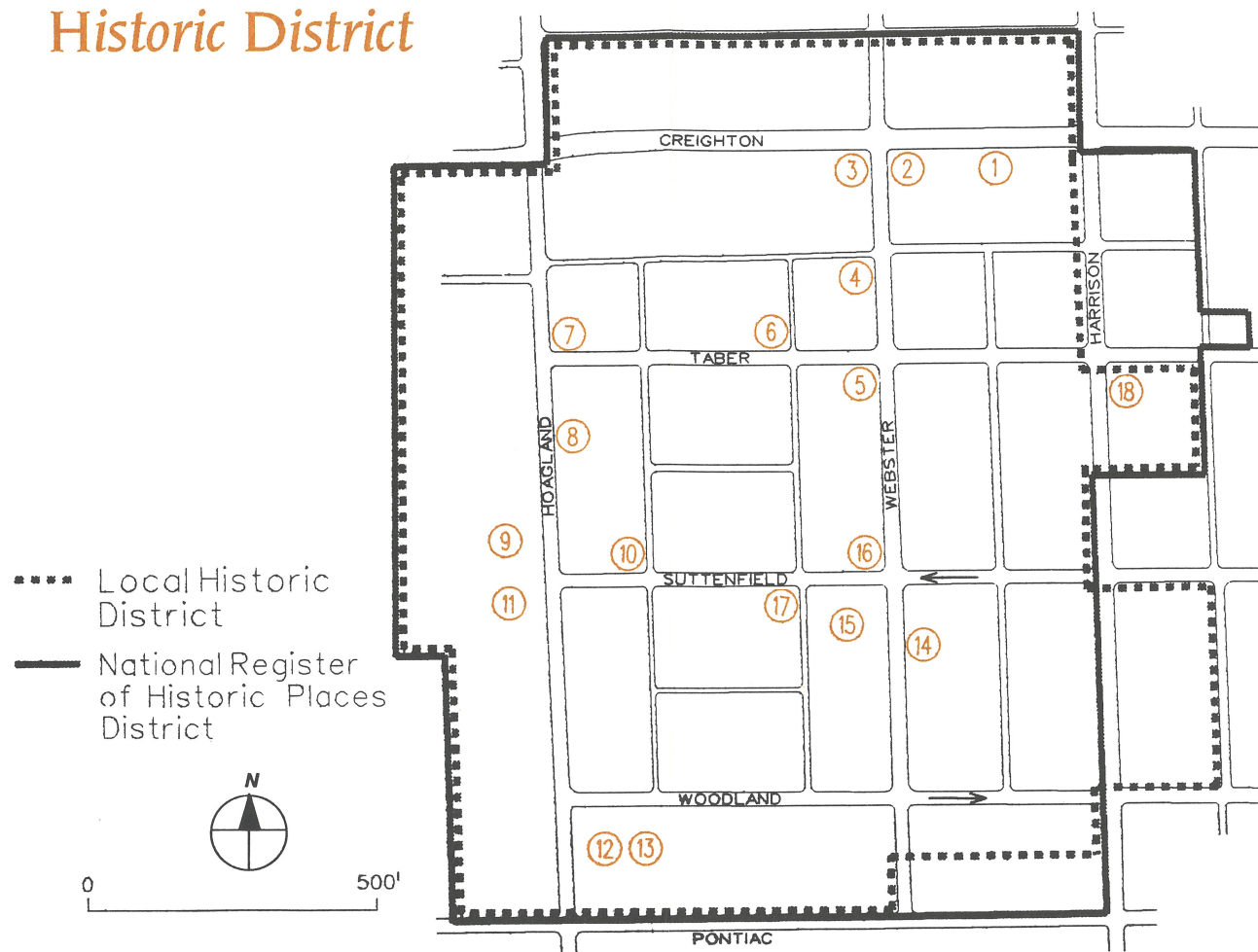
The uniform character and current park-like atmosphere of the district is a direct result of the thoughtful layout for the Williams-Woodland Park Addition which encouraged the retention of existing trees. Similarly, consistency among house in size, scale, and style, as well as uniform setbacks, creates a pleasing rhythm along the district's streets.

Nearly 70 per cent of the houses were constructed between 1900 and 1915 with Queen Anne and Colonial Revival being the dominant architectural styles.

Despite the fact that the buildings which comprise the Williams-Woodland Park Historic District were constructed during a short period of time, and represent a relatively small number of architectural styles, the houses are individually distinctive and reflect well-considered plans with attention to detail. As a fashionable neighborhood with a concentration of homes occupied by the well-to-do, many of these residences were designed by architects while others were based on designs in pattern books. The vast majority of the individual houses, as well as other elements of the district, have a high degree of integrity. As such, the district succeeds in conveying an accurate picture of a late 19th/early 20th century upper- middle class neighborhood.

The Williams-Woodland Park Historic District experienced a decline in the 1950s and 1960s as new residential areas were developed farther from the central business district. In the 1970s, the neighborhood started to be rejuvenated through housing rehabilitation and the organization of a neighborhood association which promoted zoning changes encouraging single family occupancy. Today, as a designated historic district, the neighborhood's continued improvement seems assured.

Williams-Woodland Park Historic District



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

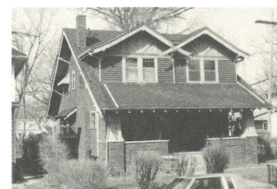
1



John Wing House
(John Wing, Architect)
215 West Creighton Avenue
Queen Anne/Romanesque, 1895

John Wing, and his partner Marshall Mahurin, formed one of the most significant architectural firms in Indiana in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The sandstone first floor and multiple arches of the Wing house are characteristic of the Romanesque style, while the turret, spindled porch, and decorative shingles of the upper floor are common Queen Anne features.

6



Samuel and Anna Newell House
316 West Taber Street
Craftsman, c. 1910

The Craftsman style placed a new emphasis on simplicity of design, honesty in construction, and fine craftsmanship, all qualities evident in the simple Bungalow form and exposed rafters, knee braces, and half-timbering of this home. Its fine details include multi-pane windows and decoratively cut rafter ends.

11



Ogden and Martha Pierce House
2442 Hoagland Avenue
Queen Anne, c. 1885

The Pierces, owners of Troy Steam Cleaners, created this home by enlarging an existing house. Its complex roofline features an octagonal turret and a variety of dormers over a recessed porch with heavy stone piers. An oriel window is located under the turret on the porch. The earlier portion of the house, with its separate roofline, is visible at the rear.

12



Frank Culbertson House
353 West Woodland Avenue
Queen Anne, 1891

Frank Culbertson was the local distributor of R. G. Dunn cigars. An excellent example of the Queen Anne style, his home features a massive corner tower and hipped slate roof embellished with metal cresting, a gabled dormer, and an ornate cornice. The walls are enlivened by clapboard siding, cut wood shingles, and a variety of windows. The porch is a reconstruction of the original, based upon a 1905 photo of the house.

13



Henry Beadell House
351 West Woodland Avenue
Queen Anne/Free Classic, 1903

Henry Beadell was a co-founder of both the Lincoln Life Insurance Company and Lincoln National Bank. The Free Classic styling of his home uses the irregular plan and asymmetrical massing of the earlier Queen Anne style, but substitutes classical design features and ornamentation for the eclectic mix of influences normally found in the Queen Anne.

14



Dr. Calvin and Mary English House
(John Wing, Architect)
2509 Webster Street
Prairie, 1915

Dr. English helped found both the Parkview School of Nursing and the Lincoln Life Insurance Company. His home is a fine example of the Prairie style, which emphasizes horizontal lines and wide, overhanging eaves, reflecting the flat midwestern landscape. Clay tile roofs, Palladian dormers, large, square porch piers, and flattened pedestal urns are also common features present in the English House.

2

Harry A. Keplinger House
(Wing and Mahurin, Architects)
235 West Creighton Avenue
Queen Anne/Romanesque, 1893



The heavy stone foundation, brick construction, round towers and parapeted dormer of this home are Romanesque features, while its detailing and window treatment are primarily Queen Anne. The brick walls and piers of the porch suggest the Craftsman style and appear to date from c. 1920. Mr. Keplinger was a prominent local banker.

3

Dr. Herman Duemling House
(Wing and Mahurin, Architects)
301 West Creighton Avenue
Queen Anne, 1907



Dr. Duemling served as both professor of anatomy at Fort Wayne Medical College and chief surgeon at Lutheran Hospital. In 1922 he founded the Duemling Clinic. The irregular roofline, decorated frieze, variety of windows, and finely detailed porch of his home are typical of the Queen Anne style, while the flat-roofed tower and parapeted gables are unusual features.

4

2318 Webster Street
Colonial Revival, c. 1910



While this house is in the form of a large American Foursquare, the pilasters at the corners of the house, six over one pane windows, and symmetrically balanced facade show the Colonial Revival influence. The broad, brick porch with heavy, square piers adds a bit of Craftsman styling.

5

Aaron Vail/Oliver Hanna House
2402 Webster Street
Prairie, 1907



Aaron Vail was a manufacturer of wooden barrels. In 1922 the house was purchased by Oliver Hanna, a merchant and banker. The home shows Prairie style influence in the low hipped roof, wide eaves, Palladian dormer, stucco walls, and horizontal emphasis. Unique elements include the large door, and the ornamental torches and foliated crest on the front porch.

7

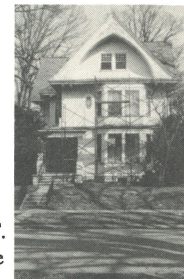
William and Edith Rastetter House
2329 Hoagland Avenue
Shingle, c. 1910



Mr. Rastetter manufactured such varied items as clocks, buggy bows, bike rims, and folding chairs and tables. His home is a rare example of the Shingle style of architecture which, unlike the more popular Queen Anne style, aimed for the effect of a complex shape enclosed within a smooth, shingled surface. The uniform wood shingle siding, and simple yet refined details of this house make it an excellent example of this style. The copper shingle roof is an unusual feature.

8

Charles T. and Maude Pidgeon House
2415 Hoagland Avenue
Queen Anne, c. 1903



Pidgeon was president of Pidgeon Millinery Company and C. T. Pidgeon Realty Company. He built this fine Queen Anne house soon after he purchased the lot in 1903. Although the large recessed arches in the gables are somewhat unusual, this imposing home possesses many typical Queen Anne features including a steep, multi-gabled slate roof, an irregular plan, two story bay windows, and a variety of decorative treatments.

9

Sperry Seidel House
2432 Hoagland Avenue
Queen Anne, c. 1900



This two and a half story home possesses the many-gabled hip roof, projecting bays, and variety of windows characteristic of the Queen Anne style. Its uncommon features include the brick first floor and half timbered gables which give the home an English flavor. Mr. Seidel was in the woodworking business.

10

John Wolfram House
346 West Suttentfield Street
Dutch Colonial Revival, c. 1910



Dutch Colonials are easily identified by prominent gambrel roofs. This house features a cross gambrel roof punctuated by gabled dormers, and brick quoins at the corners of the first floor. John Wolfram was a partner in an auto financing company.

15

Leland Johnson House
(Guy Mahurin, Architect)
2504 Webster Street
Colonial Revival, 1911



Johnson was a mechanical engineer who married a daughter of S. F. Bowser, founder of the Bowser Pump Company. The grouped windows, small entry portico, and large side porch of this home were innovative design features which would become the typical arrangement for Colonial Revival houses in the 1920s. The temple-like portico has a particularly well detailed cornice, frieze, and columns.

16

Kenneth Countryman House
2432 Webster Street
American Foursquare, c. 1910



This house is a rare example of an American Foursquare with a truncated hip roof and flared eaves coupled with the common features of a front facing dormer, box-like shape, and large front porch. The exposed rafter ends and the style and arrangement of the windows reflect the Craftsman style while Colonial Revival influence is seen in the short Ionic columns on the porch.

17

Charles Bowen House
315 West Suttentfield Street
American Foursquare, c. 1915



The box-like form of the Foursquare could be dressed in a variety of styles. This home shows Craftsman influence in the exposed rafter ends and natural oak entry, and Prairie influence in the wide eaves and horizontal lines. Charles Bowen was a car salesman and partner in an auto financing company.

18

Edward and Catherine Barnes House
2401 S. Harrison Street
Colonial Revival, 1900



This house retains the asymmetrical massing of the Queen Anne style yet bases other design elements on Colonial or Classical models. The Palladian window in the gable and the porch with grouped columns are noteworthy features. Edward Barnes was an engineer, and later, General Superintendent at the Fort Wayne General Electric plant.