

Explore the Northwest Neighborhood District

The City of Grand Haven's Historic Conservation District Commission invites you to take a step back in time as you explore the Northwest Neighborhood Historic Conservation District. Along your journey you will become acquainted with the area to the north of the downtown. The district contains simple historic buildings. Because it's located adjacent to the riverfront and the south channel, where many of the railroad and shipping associated industries were located, it once provided housing for many of Grand Haven's workers.

Some of the homes have retained much of their original character, while others have been significantly altered. Nevertheless, when they are considered as a neighborhood, they contain the characteristics necessary to establish architectural significance.

Most of the houses in this area are constructed in the Vernacular style. This is not really a style, but a form of construction that uses simplified forms of the currently popular building styles. As a result, although Vernacular houses do not have enough features to be classified as being a particular style, it is often possible to identify them with a style according to the few detail that they do have.

Styles sighted in the "The Grand Haven Historical Survey" (1982), by Preservation Urban Design Inc. include Greek Revival Vernacular, Italianate Vernacular, and Gothic Revival.

This self-guided walking tour can begin at any point on the map. Parking and public restrooms are designated on the map.

For more information about the history of this area, visit:

Tri-Cities Historical Museum

200 Washington Avenue
Grand Haven, MI 49417
tri-citiesmuseum.org

Loutit District Library

407 Columbus Avenue
Grand Haven, MI 49417
loutitlibrary.org

Grand Haven City Hall

519 Washington Avenue
Grand Haven, MI 49417
grandhaven.org

About this Brochure

This walking tour was arranged by the Grand Haven Historic Conservation District Commission. We would appreciate your feedback. For a current listing of board members, visit grandhaven.org or you may contact a commission representative by calling the Grand Haven Building and Planning Office at 616-847-3490.

You are also welcome to attend the Grand Haven Historic Conservation District Commission meetings to ask questions or share information. Meetings take place on the third Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m., at Grand Haven City Hall, 519 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven, MI.

Sources: In The Path Of Destiny, 2007
David H. Seibold, D.D.S.

A Directory of Buildings and Sites in
Northwest Ottawa County
Wallace K. Ewing, Ph.D.

A Directory of People in
Northwest Ottawa County
Wallace K. Ewing, Ph.D.

Photos provided by,
City of Grand Haven Historic Commission

Historic

NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD

Historic Conservation District

Self-Guided

Walking Tour



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HISTORIC NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD DISTRICT

Historic Conservation District

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Legend

- Parcel Map
- NorthWest
- Restrooms

North West Historic District



415 Fulton



419 Fulton

415 & 419 Fulton Street

Italianate Style 1900

Peter with his brother Ora owned and operated the Kooiman Brothers Flour and Grain Store at 421 Fulton Street in the early 1900s. The flour and feed store was in business for 40 years in 1943. Peter lived with his wife Cora Kooiman at 415 Fulton Streets.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars [VFW] occupied the structure at 419 Fulton Street for some time and then sold it to the Alano Club in 1964 when the VFW moved to 20 North First Street.



315 North Fifth Street

Queen Anne Style 1900

This home was noted as a potential landmark nomination under the Historic Conservation District Commission, January 1989.

James and Clara Dekiep raised their family at this address. After the Dekieps died in 1920, four of their children continued residing here into the 1930s: Orrie, Margaret, Clara, and Etye [Etta]. Margaret was still living at this address until her death in 1972.

Today, the house is owned by James & Susie Schulz. It is still very original on the inside, with the plaster walls and the original wood trim still intact.



606 Jackson Street

Colonial Revival 1867

This small, wooden frame building was constructed by the First Christian Reformed Church in 1867 at 413 Columbus and moved to this site in 1872. An African-American Church purchased the building and used it for a few years. When the church failed, a member of the congregation by the name of Smith bought the building and rented it to the Christian School founders for 50 cents a week. In 1883 the Grand Haven School Board bought the building from the Smith's and opened it as a one-room public school. It held about 20 students, and like most small schools, it had a wood stove that the teacher was required to maintain.



101 Columbus Street Historical Site of Thomas W. White (Covenant Life Church)

Greek Revival Style/Colonial Alterations 1855

Thomas W. White contracted with James Barnes and J.W. Cook to build a house at this corner. White's nephew, Thomas White Ferry, who was a U.S. Senator, lived in the house for many years. It was one of the earliest permanent homes in Grand Haven, two-stories high with a porch stretching across its entire width and



... 101 Columbus Street

extending from Columbus to Fulton. It was rimmed by a wide lawn, shaded by large maple trees, and graced with a variety of vines and plants. Inside there was a library jammed with books, and a den filled with papers and mementos of the Senator's life of public service.

When fire destroyed Rev. Ferry's home in 1866, the founder of Grand Haven and his wife moved into his grandson's house, where Ferry died December 30 the next year. Amanda Ferry died three years later, presumably at this house. The Senator also died there, passing on in 1896 with his Aunt Mary A. White in attendance.

The later building, which replaced the Ferry residence, was constructed as one of a three-building complex housing the Story & Clark Piano factory for the production of pianos. In 1900 the city of Grand Haven gave the owners ten acres of land and \$20,000 to attract them to Grand Haven. In return, Story & Clark promised to hire 100 people in the next three years. When completed in 1901, the plant was a model of fine construction and cleanliness.

In 1994 Covenant Life Church bought the building at 101 Columbus for \$300,000. Each of the three floors had approximately 30,000 sq. ft., and there was an additional 30,000 in an adjoining area, which was converted to the worship center.



214 North Second Street

Italianate Style 1859

This home was built in 1859 and originally was owned by Reverend William Ferry, Grand Haven's founding father. Legend has it that Rev. Ferry lived in the home from 1860 to 1865, but this is questionable, since there is no evidence that Rev. Ferry vacated his residence on the southeast corner of Washington and Harbor until it was destroyed by fire in 1866. This charming home was long considered the oldest unchanged structure in the City of Grand Haven, and it had an original wood hutch in the dining room for many years. The home is a state landmark.



218 Elliot



222 Elliot

218 & 222 Elliot Street

Victorian Vernacular Style 1858

218 Elliot Street

This home was built in 1858, a few feet east of its present location. The owners wanted a home for their daughter, so they moved their house to the west and moved a house from somewhere near the channel and placed it on the lot next door [222 Elliott]. The back doors of the two homes faced each other, making it easy for the families to get together. The city was close to condemning the property when Kathryn Day-Murray and Marvin Van Weelden bought it in the 1990s. As recently as 1998 the original pump and sink were in the kitchen, as were the original doors and rimlocks. In the early 1900s the house was occupied by Frank Kaatz, his wife, Hattie, and their children, Arthur and Myrtle. This home is noted as a potential landmark nomination under the Historic Conservation District Commission, January 1989. Salli Reinking purchased 222 Elliot Street from Kathryn Day Murray in the early 2000s. All new windows, new siding and a new furnace were installed.



309 North Third Street

Greek Revival Style 1860

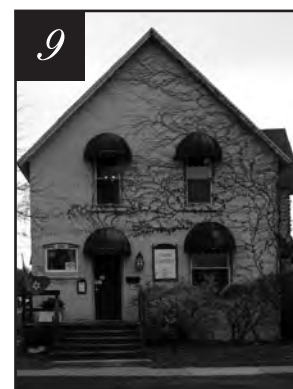
This home was built in 1860 and is noted as a potential landmark nomination under the Historic Conservation District Commission, January 1989.



215 North Third Street

Italian Villa Style 1900

This home was built in 1900 and was the home of Gustave "Gus" Hubert. Born in Germany in November, 1846, Gus was the son of August Hubert, who was born in Breslan, Germany on January 18, 1822 and died in Grand Haven on March 5, 1900. About 1868 he came to Grand Haven, and in 1872 he established the Grand Haven Wagon Works at the corner of Third and Elliott Streets [255 Third Street]. By 1892 the name of the business had been changed to Grand Haven Manufacturing Company. That same year he patented the celery plow, used successfully in Michigan. The home is noted as potential landmark nomination under the Historic Conservation District Commission, January 1989.



310 Fulton Street

Victorian Vernacular Style 1924

This home was built in 1924 and was listed under Mrs. Elizabeth Stone and Cornelius Kist. This home is noted as potential landmark nomination under the Historic Conservation District Commission, January 1989.



333 Fulton Street (moved from 333 Columbus Street)

Queen Anne Style 1900

This home was probably built about the turn of the century by Captain John DeYoung and his wife Trientje [Kate]; the home saw few owners. Four of their daughters continued to occupy the home in the 1930s. To the original home a back section was added around 1918 or 1919, and it was extensively remodeled in the mid-1950s. Jim Snyder purchased the home in 1986, and with the craftsmanship of local carpenter and woodworker Robert Cernoch, transformed the home into a showcase for the old days. Replicas of Cernoch's pieces donated to the Tri-Cities Museum include the kitchen cabinets, oak paneling, kitchen buffet, and ship's lathe on the main floor of the home. Also notable in the home are the wood floors, doors, and plate rails. Victorian period decorations and original appliances, including the oak telephone, oak ice box, and stove, all working pieces, make this home a special place. This home was noted as potential landmark nomination under the Historic Conservation District Commission, January 1989.