

**Washington Street, S.E.**

The bust of Abraham Lincoln which faces east in the triangle formed by Washington and State Streets rests on a stone pedestal noting that it was given by Loraine Pratt Immen in 1913.

**233 Washington S.E.** Thomas W. White house. This 3-story stone house was built in 1851. It was occupied by Mrs. L.H. Chandler in 1912. The site was later occupied by a

car dealership, later converted to the East Building of the Grand Rapids Public Museum. The Kent County Archives and Records Center presently stands here. (Old # 7. Photo, Baxter, p. 781.)



233                      01/14/99                      8856  
Melching, Inc.

301 Washington S.E. The large home of P.D. Clay which stood on this site was moved after the property was purchased in 1901 by the First Church of Christ Scientist. (Cf. GRH 08/10/1924.)

310 Washington S.E. The 2-story frame carriage house at the rear of this dwelling belonging to Stephanie Schrodts suffered \$39,000 damage in an incendiary fire at 4:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 18, 2002.

310            11/25/2002    9204            Pitsch  
                 Carriage house.

317            11/30/62        1485            Capitol

**330 Washington S.E.** The Knappen House. Built on the southwest corner of Washington and Prospect in 1890 by Mr. Loyal E. Knappen, a prominent Grand Rapids



attorney, this early type of frame Italianate house was a very practical structure. The Italianate design is based on a rectilinear unit. As families grew in size, these homes were easily expanded by adding on another rectilinear mass. The house features ornate fascia with heavy accent corbels and the cornice of delicate small brackets. The design is repeated in the hood molds. A member of the law firm of Knappen and Kleinhaus, Mr. Knappen

served as president of the Grand Rapids Bar Association, a Director of the Farmers & Mechanics Bank, a regent of the University of Michigan and was appointed to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in 1910. After the death of Mrs. Amelia Knappen in 1930, the home was vacant for several years until, in 1940, it was converted into apartments. This house was where former President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford had their first apartment when they were newlyweds. (Photo: James Starkey, 1978 Heritage Hill Association calendar.)

**345 Washington S.E.** The Jenks / Peck House. In 1887, industrialist Samuel B. Jenks, whose surname crowns Division Avenue's Herkimer Hotel, built this notable Queen Anne home.



Properly constructed of wood (it would be classified as Chateausque if it were done in stone or brick), the intricate tower features shingles cut to create a hexagonal effect. In keeping with the times, this home is lavished with detail, such as the rows of dentils and small ornamental brackets. There is bandsaw tracery beneath the windows and a great variety of window styling. The tower roof was adapted from the Mansard style and is capped by a tooled copper finial. In 1916, this mansion, by then the home of Mr. and

Mrs. John Peck, was the scene of great tragedy and national notoriety. John Peck was the founder of a local drugstore chain. Their daughter, Clara, married Dr. Arthur Waite, a dentist, who took his bride to live in a large apartment on Riverside Drive in New York City. While visiting her daughter in New York at Dr. Waite's invitation, Mrs. Peck was taken fatally ill and died. Her body was returned to Grand Rapids and cremated. Subsequently, Mr. Peck visited the couple and also passed away. A close friend of the family became suspicious after she spotted Waite "in a ritzy New York hotel with a raven-haired opera singer, not his wife" (*GRP*, November, 1997). The friend contacted the Pecks' son Percy and advised him to make certain that an autopsy was performed when his father's remains reached Grand Rapids. It was discovered that the cause of both deaths was arsenic; and at one of the most dramatic murder trials of the time, Dr. Waite was convicted of premeditated murder and later electrocuted at Sing Sing. Clara Peck married again and was faced with no further tragedy. The house passed to Percy Peck, and boasted the largest ballroom and living room in the city (*GRP*, July 2, 1938). The first floor consisted of a large living room, a dining room, a music room, a solarium, a kitchen, and a butler's pantry. The second floor had nine bedrooms and three baths. The third floor consisted almost entirely of the huge ballroom. (Old # 109. Photo: James Starkey, 1985 Heritage Hill Association calendar. Notes of the late Ethel L. Hansma in the Heritage Hill Assn. Architectural file.)

**416 Washington S.E.** The Fuller House. An Italianate-style house built about 1875 for Samuel L. Fuller, a busy and rich private banker. With his brother Edward, he owned



several properties along Washington Street in the 1880's. Fuller had originally arrived here in 1836 and served as a surveyor and assistant engineer. After spending some time in New York, he returned to Grand Rapids. He was an incorporator of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and was active in agricultural associations, the Kent Scientific Institute, and the Equal Suffrage Association. He was also a member of the Republican Party. He owned even additional properties, including a house at 501 Crescent N.E. It is not known who first lived in this house. It stood vacant from 1983 to 1985, and then was purchased by

an accountant who renovated it extensively. This stately home offers a fresh approach to Victorian. Much original detail remains, such as the incised detail on the front staircase; the cove molding; the built-in, glass-fronted buffet in the living room; and an unusual set of brass hardware for the dining room windows. Owned in 1993 by contractor Diane Burns. Phil and Julie Maguire are the owners and occupants in 2002.

(Photo: Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes brochure, October 5-6, 2002, p. 10.)

417 Washington S.E. The Fitzgerald House. Classic Revival. Edward Fitzgerald built this brick Federal-style house about 1905. The symmetrically balanced windows with central door and classic detailing closely follow Georgian precedents. The house has total living space of 6,500 square feet, and is situated on a 100' x 144' double lot. The main floor features a central hall foyer, study, living room with fireplace, formal dining room, delightful sun room, kitchen with butler's pantry and silver sink, a den, and two half baths. The second floor features a master bedroom suite with private bath, 3 additional bedrooms, 2 baths, and a laundry room. The third floor has a guest suite of two bedrooms, bath, private entrance, and large storage space. Heated by gas and hot water, the house has a fenced side yard with two brick patios, a 2-car attached garage, and a full basement with play room. Asking price in 2002 is \$539,000.

422 Washington S.E. A resplendent simplified Queen Anne, this house was built in 1890 by Mr. Voorhees, a lumberman who lived here until 1911. At that time, the house was sold and divided into apartments. Once the most neglected on the block, its asphalt siding was removed from the exterior in the 1980's, revealing interesting features. Pebble detailing dresses up the gable, and Eastlake-inspired accents grace the multi-pane windows. The staircase bannister is intricately carved in the Eastlake style. David and Mary Freyer and their family live here in 1996.

426 Washington S.E. James D. Lacey built this Queen Anne house in 1884. Originally from Pennsylvania, he had come to Grand Rapids soon after the Civil War. Married to a daughter of Grand Rapids pioneer Jacob Winsor, Lacey was engaged in the wholesale and retail drug business for some time. When he changed professions and went into the lumber business, his prosperity improved remarkably. Reputed to have amassed a huge fortune, Lacey lived in this house until 1895, then left Grand Rapids to live elsewhere. He died in 1932 in New Orleans at the age of 82. Other distinguished families occupied this house over the years, including the family of Walter Idema, an organizer of the Metal Office Furniture Co., the parent firm of present-day Steelcase Inc. The downstairs rooms are generous in size, with the living room measuring 20' by 30'. A shoulder-high mahogany buffet runs the entire length of the wall. The house includes a ballroom. The west, or main, entry is a perfect setting for the diamond-paned windows on the second and third landings of the wrap-around staircase from the entryway. The butler's pantry is original to the house, while the kitchen was once upstairs and served by a dumbwaiter. Occupied in 1993 by Tom Merchant (downstairs) and Michael Bolt (upstairs apartment).