

**WHEATON ROAD**

*47 South Wheaton Road*

This home is so large I had to take two photos of it. The top picture is the front and the bottom is the back of the house. This Tudor Revival was built in 1928 for Mr. Samuel Ziliox. Notice the slate roof.





RESIDENCE OF MR. FRED ADAMS, FAIRLAWN, OHIO

39 North  
Wheaton Road

Mr. Fred Adams  
had this stately  
Georgian Revival  
built in 1927. The  
top photo was  
taken in the 1930's  
and the photo  
below taken in  
1999.



65 North Wheaton  
Road

This Georgian  
Revival home was  
built for Mr.  
Edward M. Hahn in  
1927. It was on the  
Stan Hywet Tour of  
Gracious Living.





1266-2  
Peck's Studio

A. D. Moss. Res.

PECK'S STUDIO AKRON, OHIO  
BY G. FIRESTONE



105 North Wheaton Road  
Mr. Amos D. Moss was the original owner of this Georgian Revival Cape Cod built in 1927. The large photo was taken in the 1930's and note the presence of shutters and landscaping added to the beauty of this home. The bottom photo was taken in 1999.



115 North  
Wheaton Road

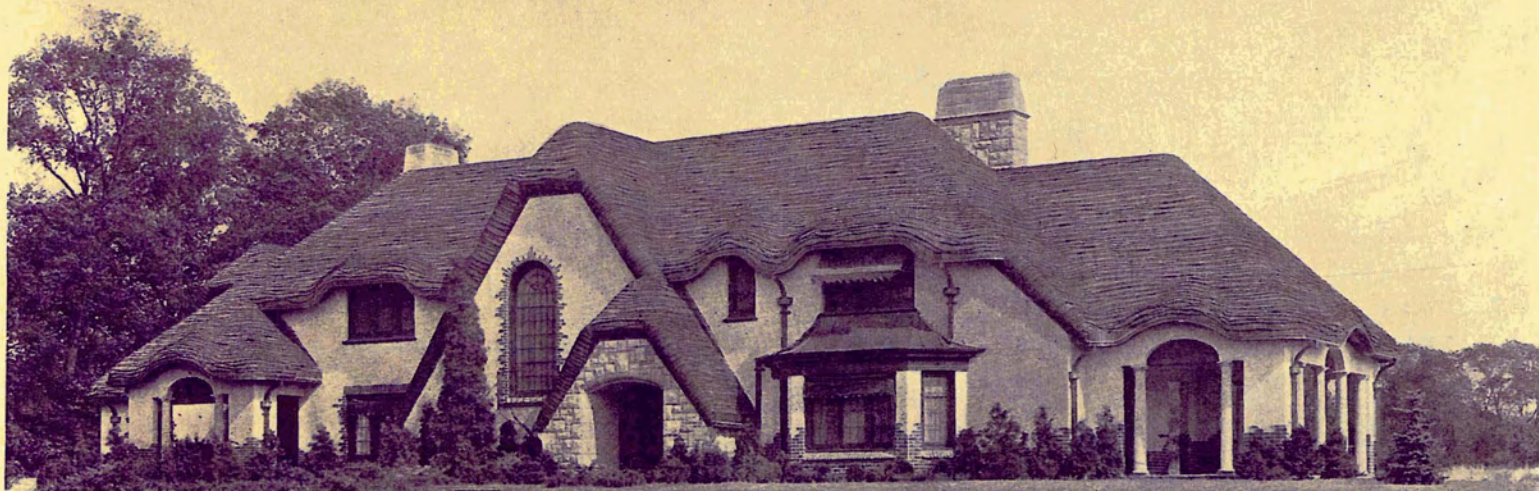
This Georgian  
Revival home was  
built in 1930 for  
Mr. Thomas W.  
Casey.



167 North  
Wheaton Road

This home was  
the residence of  
Mr. Donald M.  
McCann. It is a  
Georgian Revival  
built in 1940.

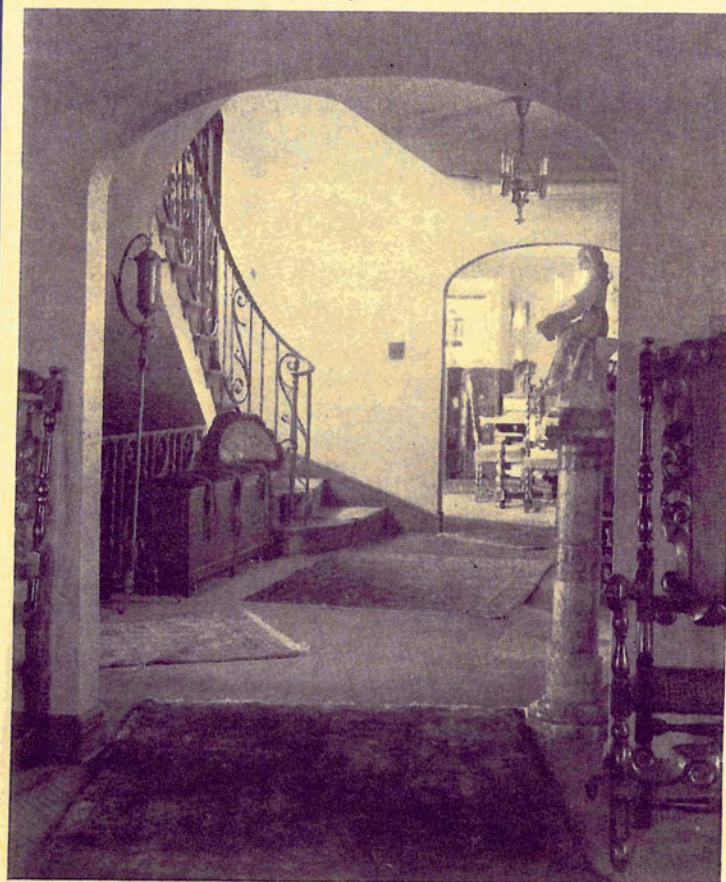




The photo on the left was taken in the 1930's and also a view of the hallway from the living room.

RESIDENCE OF MR. FRANK C. MILLHOFF, FA

185 North Wheaton Road  
 The architecture for this house is Tudor Revival (Cotswald Mode). It was built for Mr. Frank Millhoff in 1926.



VIEW OF STAIR HALL FROM LIVING ROOM

RESIDENCE OF MR. FRANK C. MILLHOFF



The photo to the left was taken in 1999. Not too much change in the home except for the landscaping.



227 Overwood  
Road

This was the residence of Dr. Loren L. Cramer. It is a French Neo Classical built in 1929.

**RIDGEWOOD  
ROAD**

2051 Ridgewood  
Road

A Georgian Revival Federal Mode built in 1926 for Dr. Joseph N. Weller. This is a charming home.



2155 Ridgewood Road

This home is a Georgian Revival Federal Mode built in 1929 for Mr. Seldon Anderson. There is a two story porch on the back and is brown shingle. This home was also on the Stan Hywet Tour of Gracious Living. It was very difficult to get a good photo of the house because of the foliage in the front.



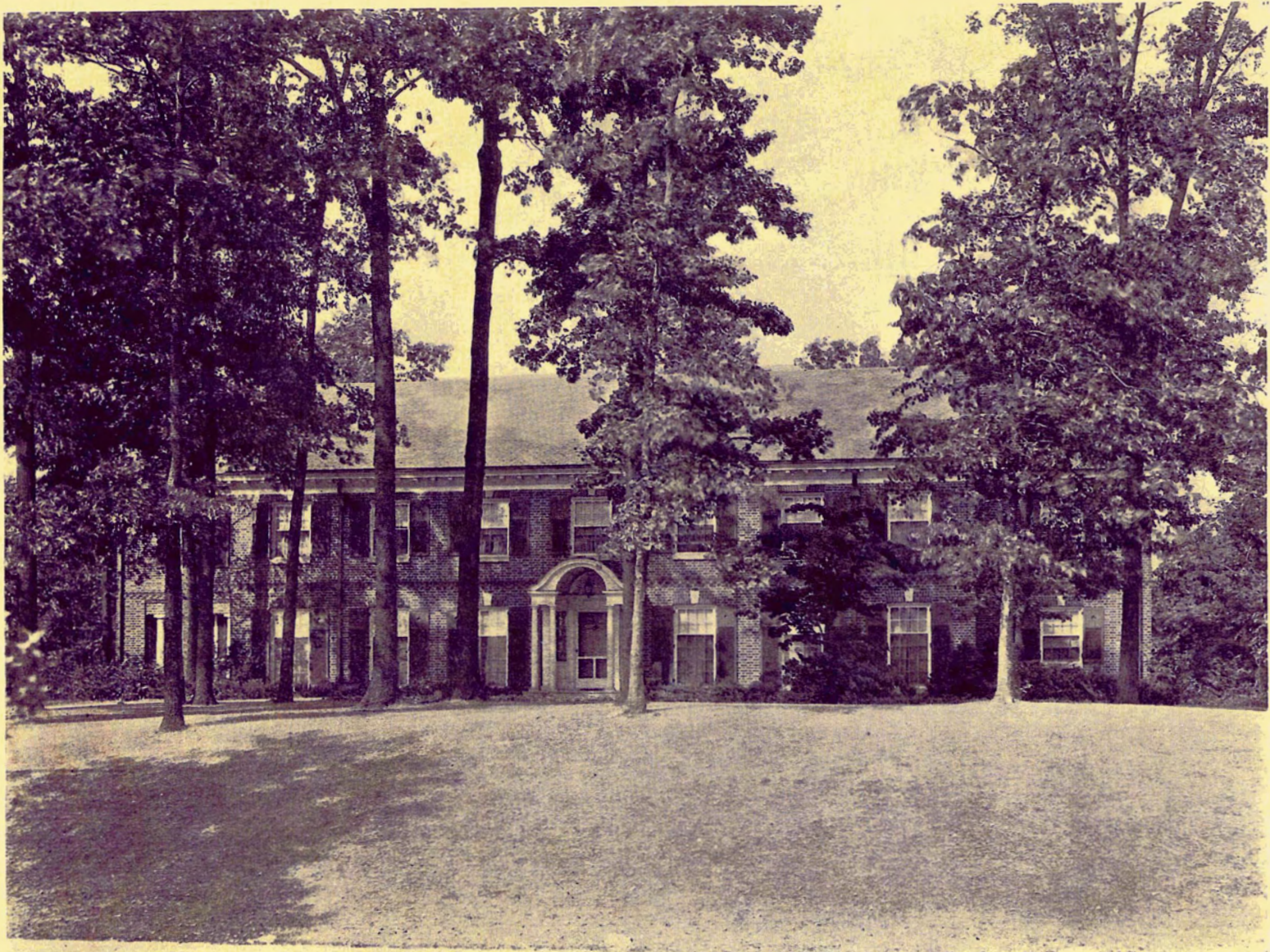
2193 Ridgewood Road

Mr. Frank Sumner built this Georgian Revival Pennsylvania Farmhouse in 1930-31. The living room is 30'x30'. The husband and wife owners today (1999) are both architects.



2261 Ridgewood Road

The architecture on this house is Art Moderne American Colonial influence built in the early 1930's for Mr. Louis Arensen.



RESIDENCE OF MR. WILLIAM A. M. VAUGHAN, FAIRLAWN, OHIO

2177 Ridgewood Road

The photo above was taken in the 1930's. It was the home of William Vaughan and built in 1927. The photo below was taken of the same house in 2000. The architecture is Georgian Revival.







100 Hampshire Road

Dietrich Rempel had this French Neo Classical home built in 1957. There are two photos of this home. The front and the side. This residence was featured on the Stan Hywett Tour of Gracious Living in 1989.



160 Hampshire Road

Jerome Kaufman had this Art Modern designed in 1952. This residence was on the Stan Hywett Tour of Gracious Living in 1990.



# Beautiful Southern Colonial<sup>STC</sup>



485 Hampshire  
\$750,000



## 485 Hampshire Road

Dr. Arthur Dorner built this Georgian Colonial in Federal Mode in 1940. It was built in that year for \$18,000.

This home is for sale in 1999 for \$750,000. The plans are registered in the Library of Congress. One of the New York Rockefellers asked for the plans and Dr. Dorner gave them to him so somewhere in New York there is a copy of this home but probably larger.

Area:	Failawn Hieghts	Bathrooms:	4 full 1 Half
Style:	Colonial	Bedrooms:	6
Stories:	2	Master Bedroom:	16x17
Square Feet:	4151	Bedroom #2:	12x17
Lot Size:	225x315 Irregular	Bedroom #3:	13x16
Year built:	1940	Bedroom #4:	11x15
Taxes:	\$2342.07 per half	Bedroom #5:	11x12
Parking:	Garage	Bedroom #6:	9x11
Exterior:	Brick	Living room:	18x26
Roof:	Slate	Dining room:	15x17
Heating:	Gas	Family room:	11x16
Air Conditioning:	Central	Kitchen:	10x14
Fireplace(s):	3	Foyer:	11x24
		Game Room:	17x31

*Registered in the Library of Congress, this home is truly one of Akron's finest. Designed by Roy Firestone, rich in detail and elegance you must truly see this home to appreciate it. Gardens designed by the late Jay Hess with a wonderful garden house surrounded by a variety of mature trees. The home has the original Austrian cut crystal chandelier hanging in the dining room. A gated circular drive to a portico entrance leads you to a two story foyer. A home that truly welcomes family and friends.*



201 Hampshire Road

This residence was built for Mr. Arthur Mathes in 1941-42. The architecture is Georgian Revival American Colonial.

484 Hampshire Road

This Georgian Revival American Colonial home was built for Mr. Frank L. Sumner in 1941.



528 Hampshire Road

The home to the left was designed for Mr. Charles A. Jessop. It is Art Modern Colonial influence. I do not know the year the home was built.





550 Hampshire Road

Mr. William Oburn built this charming Georgian Revival Pennsylvania Farmhouse Mode in 1937.



58 Wolcott Road

This residence was designed for Mr. George A. Sumner in 1929. The architecture is Tudor Revival.



2260 Tinkham Road

This Georgian Revival home was designed for Mr. George Clemmer in 1929.



2175 Tinkham Road

Mr. John Blandon had this Georgian Revival/American Colonial built in 1928. It is still a very lovely home in Fairlawn Heights.



2280 Tinkham Road

This is a beautiful Georgian Revival home built in 1929. The photo above was taken in the 1930's. The photo to the left was taken in 1999. The closed entrance was not in the original plans.



2000 Stockbridge  
Road

A contemporary with  
Tudor influence  
home designed for  
Mr. Harold (Dutch)  
Folk in 1949.

1915 Stockbridge  
Road

This stately home is  
a Neo-Classical  
design built for Mr.  
Russell Farley in  
1952.



117 Ely Road

The home to the left  
is on the corner of  
Ely Road and  
Fairlawn Boulevard.  
The French Neo  
Classical design has  
a shake roof and was  
built for Mr. Louis  
Nobil in 1953.





123 East Fairlawn Boulevard

Norman C. Nobil had this Georgian Revival designed for him and built in 1929-1930.



345 East Fairlawn Boulevard

This lovely Georgian Revival home was built for Mr. John Jacobson, a well known Akron contractor, on 1962.





RESIDENCE OF MR. FRANK STARBIRD, FAIRLAWN, OHIO



VIEW  
OF  
STAIR HALL

RESIDENCE  
OF  
MR. FRANK  
STARBIRD



69 East Fairlawn  
Boulevard

A magnificent  
Tudor Revival built  
for Mr. Frank  
Starbird in 1926.  
The photo above  
was taken in the  
1930's.



**137 East Fairlawn Boulevard**

*June 2007*

Perfect condition - designed by architect Roy Firestone. Updated through-out. For a private appointment, please call.

**COLDWELL BANKER**

HUNTER REALTY

*1267-3  
Peck's Studio*

*W. V. AYDELOTTE RES.*

PECK'S STUDIO AKRON, OHIO  
*ROY C. FIRESTONE*



137 East Fairlawn Boulevard

Mr. Wade Aydelotte Had this Normandy Farmhouse built in 1928. The photo above was taken in the 1930's and the one below taken in 1999.



*2427 Covington  
Road*



*2437 Covington  
Road*

*1286 Lisa Ann  
Drive*

*This home was  
designed for Mrs.  
Blake McDowell  
Sr.*



287 Hollywood Avenue

This home was designed  
for Mr. Adam Bernard  
in 1962.



257 Hollywood Avenue

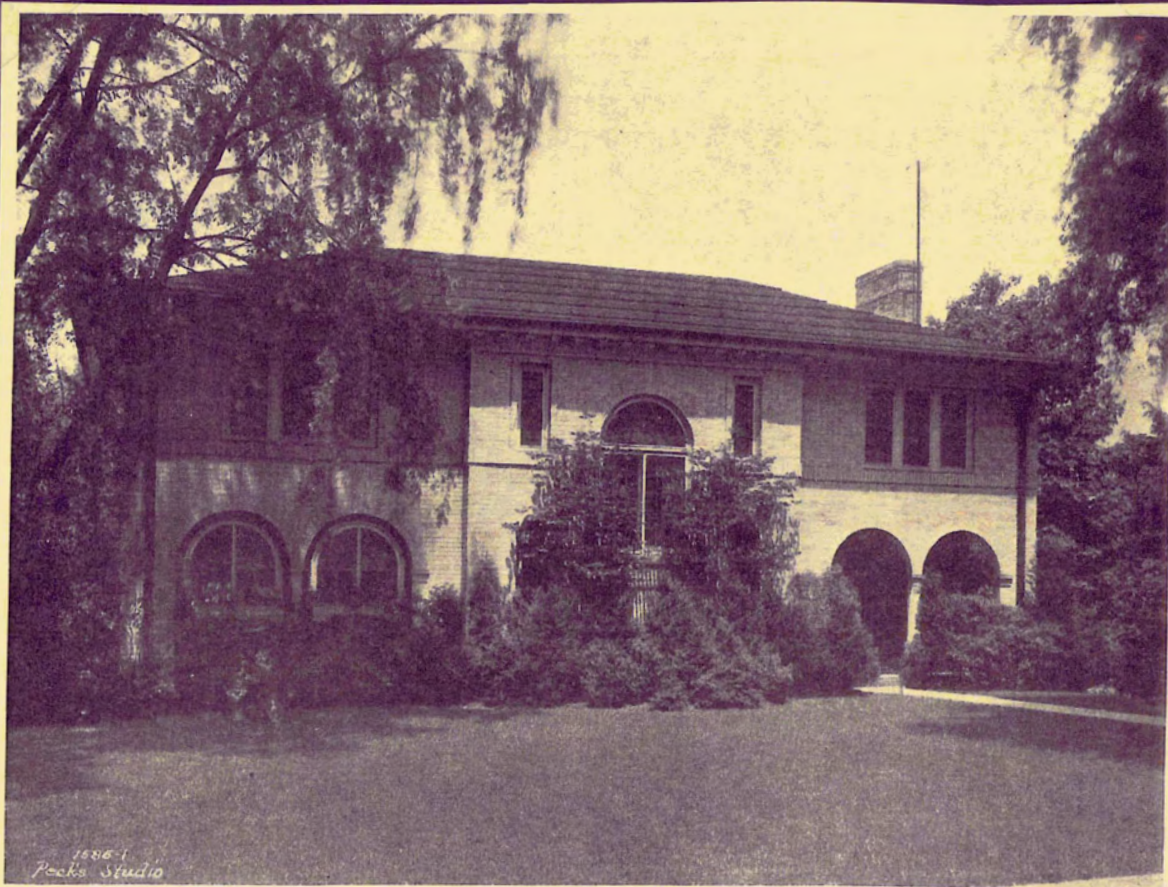
Mr. Robert  
Whitman had this  
modern home built  
for him in 1957. It is  
a very striking home  
in contrast to the  
other homes on the  
street.



490 McPherson Ave

The original owners,  
Mr. and Mrs. James  
Tremelin, are still  
living in this lovely  
Cape Cod home that  
was built in 1956.





RESIDENCE OF MR. B. V. BOOTH, AKRON, OHIO

160 Storer Avenue

Mr. Veryl B. Booth had this Italian Renaissance home built in 1925. The home was originally built for \$20,179.09. Where did they come up with the .09?

The picture at the bottom was probably taken in the late 1920's and the top photo was taken in 1999. It has stayed very much the same.



1437 West Exchange  
Street

This Tudor Revival  
home was built in  
1929 for Mr. Ivan  
Albrecht.



665 West  
Exchange Street

*This Tudor  
Revival home  
was built for  
Mr. William  
Ahern. Here  
are two photos  
of the former  
home that is  
now made into  
offices.*





*3437 West Market  
Street*

*136 Mayfield Avenue*

Mr. Albert Blinn was the owner of this Tudor Revival home built in 1926. It is very similar to a home on Merriman Road that was also designed by Roy Firestone.



*962 Newport  
Road*





166 Revere Road  
134

*A "cabin" designed for Mr. Wesley Swenson, owner of the original Swenson's Drive-In. The home was built in 1947. You can see 2 views of the home tucked in the woods.*



86 Revere Road

*A Georgian Revival/American Colonial residence designed for a Mr. Roberts and built in 1935.*





*2727 N. Revere Road*

*This home was built for Mr. James Bierce in 1957. Mr. Bierce called it "Whispering Creeks"  
There is a creek surrounding the property in the shape of a horseshoe. Inside is beautiful redwood paneling, a sunken living room/family room, wormy chestnut paneling in the Library and many windows provide a view from every direction. There is a screened in picnic area and outside barbeque.*

*166 North Revere  
Road*



*3850 Shellhart  
Drive*

*Across from the  
Barberton  
Brookside Golf  
Course.*





*4485 North Bath  
Road*

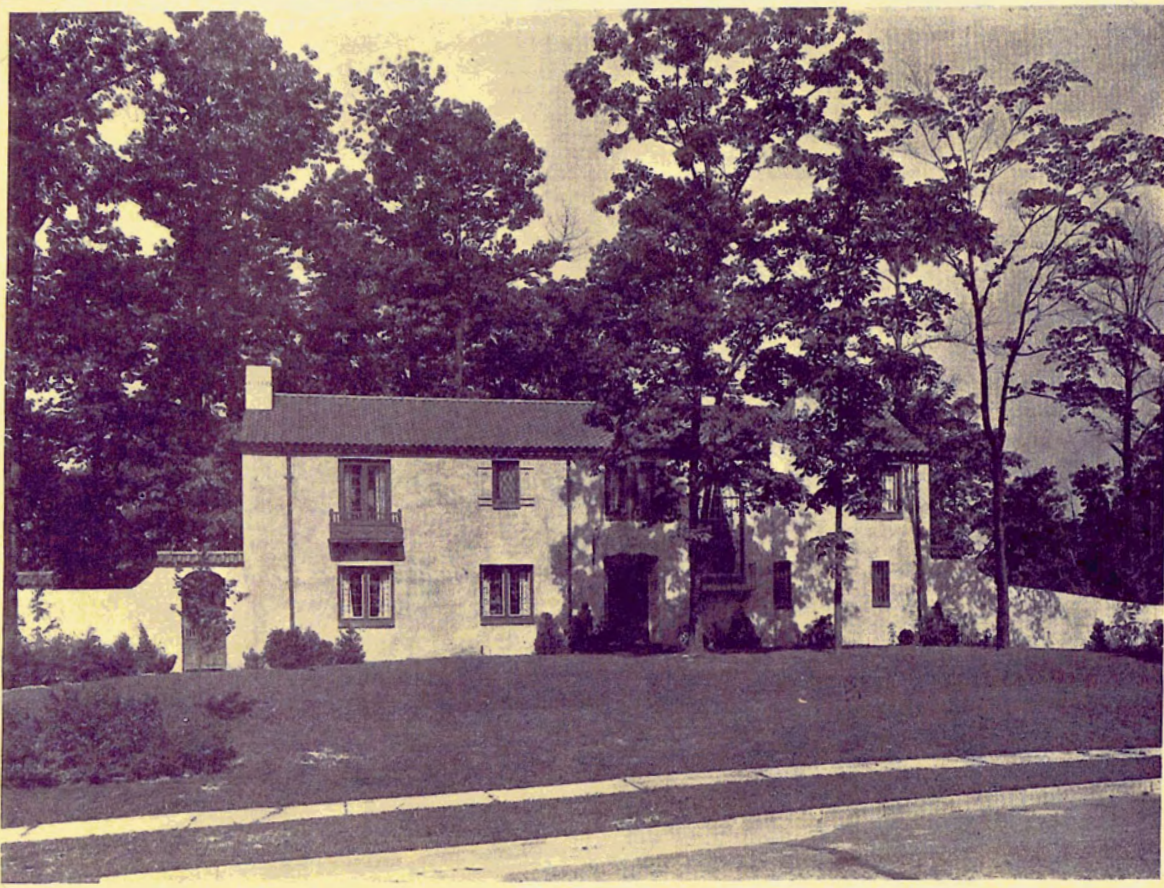
*To the left are two  
views of this home  
built in 1959-60 for  
Mr. David Tyson  
on a lovely wooded  
lot.*



*2934 Silver Lake  
Boulevard  
Silver Lake*

*This is a Tudor  
Revival home  
built for Mr.  
Mark F. Hudson  
in 1927.*





RESIDENCE OF MR. A. M. BARBER, SILVER LAKE, OHIO

3088 Silver Lake  
Boulevard  
Silver Lake

*The original owner of this Spanish Colonial Revival was Mr. A. M. Barber and was built in 1926. The top photo was taken in 1930. As you can see, in the lower photo the 3 car garage has been added. The home has an elevator and swimming pool and very large rooms. It is a very unusual home and quite different from my Father's usual architecture.*



3062 Kingston  
Circle  
Silver Lake

*A late Tudor Revival home built in 1929 for Mr. Roland C. Davenport.*





*quality  
construction*

Designed by Roy G. Firestone and Homer Brown... substantially built and finished by Kraus-Alexander... constructed from finest Michigan log, cut stone and frame... with hardwood floors, stone entry, and exquisite pine paneling.

*a lovely setting*

A gently curving 800-foot crushed limestone driveway leads to the center of this magnificent 21 acres... beautifully landscaped lawn with an abundance of flowers, trees and evergreens... surrounded by approximately 3 acres of naturally wooded area... 1 1/2 acre orchard filled with peach, apple, cherry, pear, chestnut and walnut trees.



*2316 Sourek Road*

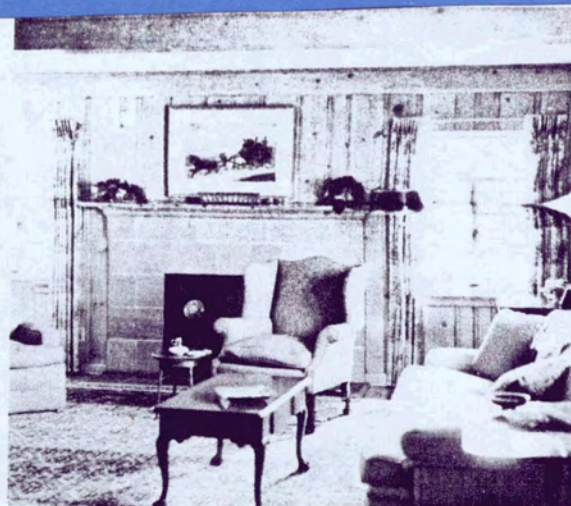
*This home was built for Mr. Vernon Smithers sometime in the 1940's. This is a front view of the home on a beautiful wooded lot.*



*The color photo was taken in the present owner's living room in 1999. The black and white photos were taken for a Real Estate advertisement.*

*spacious design*

Formal 18' x 24' living room with fireplace... informal living room 24' x 15' and fireplace... 3 spacious bedrooms... modern kitchen and breakfast area... enclosed summer porch 13' x 15'... 40' x 41' brick patio with protected roof... paneled recreation room with fireplace... 2 full baths.





*beautifully  
decorated*

Interior decorator Harold Strough set off this beautiful home with a traditional decor . . . all furnishings to remain . . . luxurious carpeting including orientals . . . fine furniture includes many outstanding pieces . . . drapes of materials that blend perfectly with decorating theme.



*with fine-  
living extras*

Special servant quarters — living room, bedroom, bath and kitchen — attached to 2-car garage . . . new, colored stove and refrigerator . . . automatic dishwasher and disposal . . . oil forced air furnace . . . 4 phone outlets . . . well water.



*Above is another view of the living room. Note the beautiful rustic beamed ceiling.*



*To the left is a photo of the porch/patio overlooking the swimming pool.*



1513 Thornapple  
Drive  
Firestone Park

A  
Georgian/American  
Colonial home built  
for Mr. Joseph Luck  
in 1940.

155 Firestone  
Boulevard  
Firestone Park

This residence was  
built for Mr. Edson  
A. Oberlin in 1928.



?? South Hawkins  
Avenue

Russell Beickley  
was the owner of  
this home. It is  
now (1999) so  
overgrown that I  
could not even  
find an address.  
In its original  
state, it was a  
charming  
bungalow nestled  
in the trees.





747 Crestview  
Avenue

*A Georgian Revival with French neo-classical design built in 1928 for Mr. Roy G. Firestone. This is the home where I was raised and have many happy memories of my youth.*

753 Crestview  
Avenue

*Built for Mr. Richards in the 1950's. Considered very contemporary in those days.*



663 Roslyn Avenue

*This home is on the corner of Roslyn and Stadleman. It was built for Prudence Roush and Bertha Pennington in 1941. It was designed to resemble an English Cottage. The home, originally, had a thatched roof and was the "talk of the town". It is now (1999) so run down and overgrown. What a shame! It was such a charming Cottage.*





2297 Thurmont Road

*This is my home! An American Colonial built in 1966 for Dr. and Mrs. John C. Norval. It is a 1 ½ story plan. Two bedrooms up and two down. I have shown, in the photos, 2 seasons..winter and spring. It is a warm, cozy and beloved home.*



2330 Thurmont Road

*The architecture of this home is Georgian Revival/American Colonial built for Mr. Bernard Johnson in 1962.*







87 Meadowcroft Road

*I think this was the first house Roy Firestone designed while working for Krumroy Construction Company. He was an apprentice at that time. It was built for a man by the name of Gurand probably in 1918.*



445 Woodland Avenue

*This home is red brick, actual working shutters and is located in the Hall Park allotment off Crosby Street. I have no more information on this home other than it was built in the early 1930's.*



14352  
Peck's Studio

WM. EVERHARD Res.

PECK'S STUDIO AKRON, OHIO  
ROY G. FIRESTONE

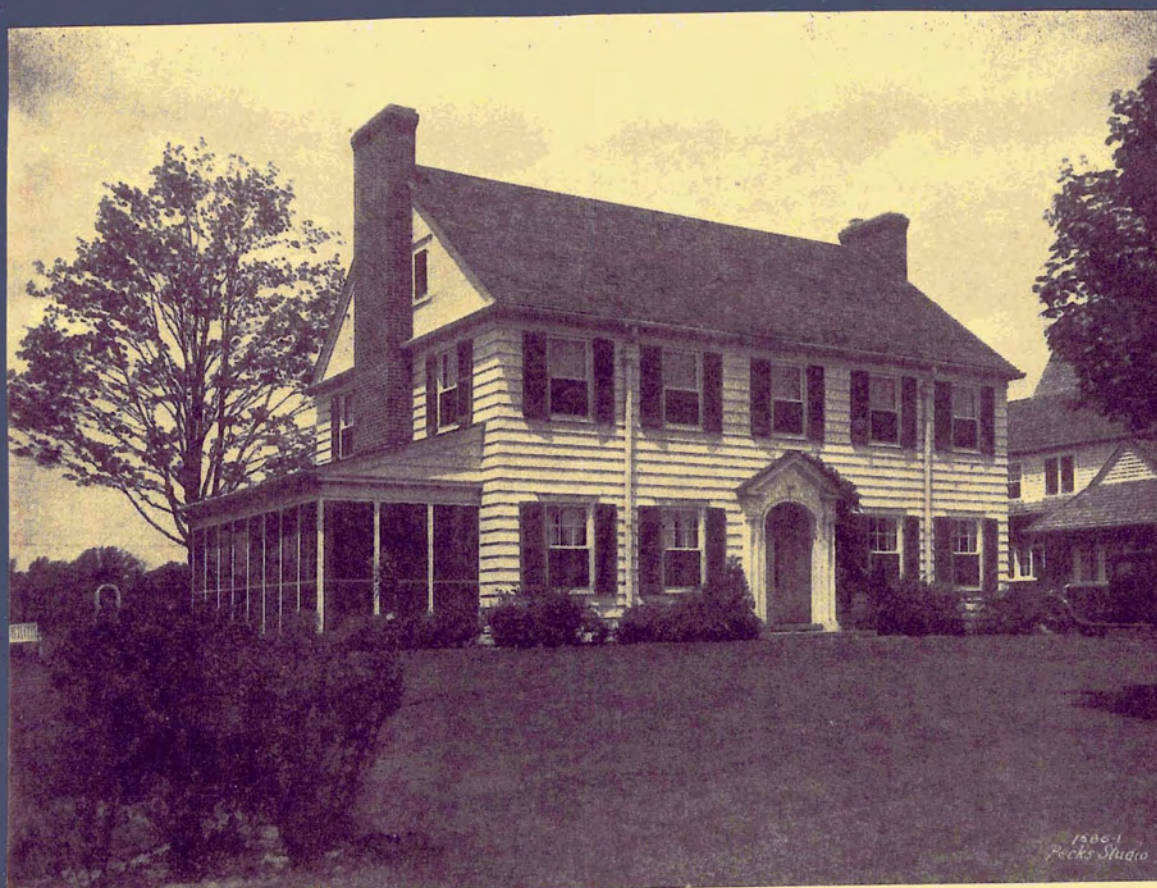


RESIDENCE OF MR. WILLIAM EVERHARD, WADSWORTH, OHIO



*1581 Alton Drive*

*I have two photos of this home built for Mr. John Long in 1940. It was built in an old apple orchard and originally faced West Market Street. The property was ultimately sold off and the farmhouse is tucked back in a dead end circle. It is a very charming home. There have been some additions made since the original house was built.*



RESIDENCE OF MR. WILSON ARTHUR, FAIRLAWN, OHIO

*This photo was in my Father's collection but I have no information on it. I do not know where the house is located. It was obviously built for Mr. Wilson Arthur.*



*1184 Sunset View  
Drive*

*This beautiful home  
was built in 1940  
for a Mr. Orcutt. I  
have shown a front  
and side view of the  
home.*



These are two photos I found in my Father's collection but I have no idea where they are located.



# HISTORICAL WADSWORTH H



THE WAYNE A. YOUNG RESIDENCE, A COTSWORTH COTTAGE AT 221 BROAD STREET, WAS BUILT IN 1926. ROY FIRESTONE WAS THE ARCHITECT. THE YOUNG FAMILY TURNED THE HOME OVER TO THE METHODIST PARSONAGE IN 1959.

This is a beautiful home in Wadsworth that had to be razed because it could not be sold. Too many repairs were needed. I was able to tour the home before it was torn down. The newspaper clipping explain the history of the home.

*"Tearing down paradise and building a parking lot just doesn't feel like the right thing to do. We're trying to be good stewards and hope that some good soul will save it."*

November 3, 2001

- DAVID BREWSTER / Wadsworth United Methodist Church trustee



The old parsonage of the Wadsworth United Methodist Church can be yours if you'll move it.

LUIS SANCHEZ/Akron Beacon Journal photos

# Move it or raze it

## Owner sought for unique ex-parsonage, or home goes

By Colette M. Jenkins  
Beacon Journal religion writer

David Brewster's children still refer to the Tudor Revival-style home on Broad Street in Wadsworth as "the fairy tale house."

"They're all grown now, but when they were growing up here, they always said it looked like something out of Hansel and Gretel," Brewster said. "It has so much charm that you can never forget it."

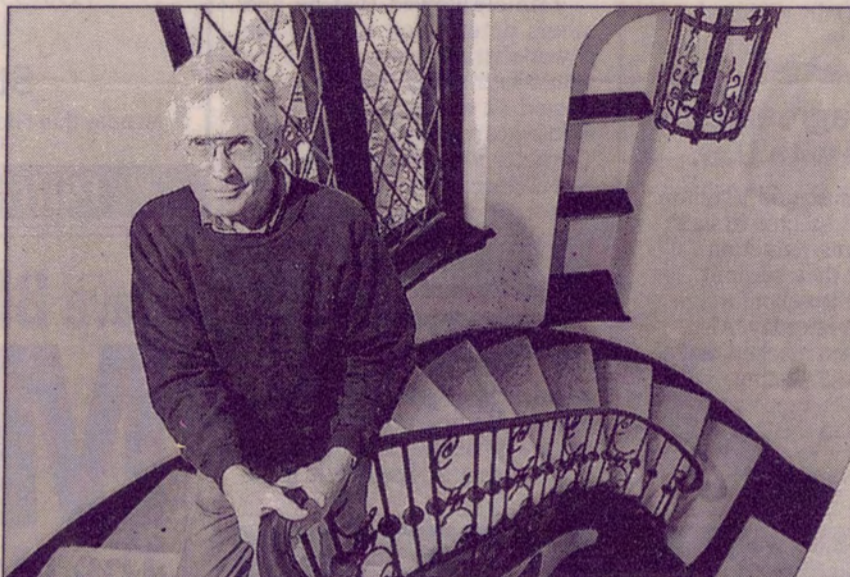
The home, known as a Cotswold Cottage, served for more than 40 years as the parsonage of the Wadsworth United Methodist Church, where Brewster is a trustee.

The congregation is now trying to give it away to whomever will agree to move it from the property at 221 Broad St., adjacent to the church.

The five-bedroom, two-story, stone, brick and half-timbered stucco house, capped with an unusual thatch-effect, wood-shingle roof has become too expensive for the 1,000-member congregation to repair and maintain. An estimate on authentic repairs to the damaged and deteriorating roof alone is \$75,000.

There also has been some interior damage because of the condition of the roof. A \$73,000 estimate to move the house within the city of Wadsworth was obtained by the church.

"It's certainly a grand old home with a great deal of historic interest to the community," said the Rev. Kurt



Harvey Warner of Akron, chairman of the Parsonage Task Force, on the main staircase of the old parsonage.

Landerholm, Wadsworth United Methodist's current pastor. "Our wish is to see it preserved."

The house was built by Wayne Young, a second-generation member of a prominent Wadsworth industrialist family. It was designed by Akron architect Roy G. Firestone and built by Krumroy Construction Co.

Bavarian woodcarvers crafted a drawing room mantel, and a trap door in the floor allowed logs to be passed from the storage area below. Swedish metalworkers hand-forged the hand rail of the main winding staircase, and leaded-glass windows were placed throughout the home and in the arched double doors of the breakfast room, where inlaid antique Mexican tiles speckle the stained concrete floor.

The kitchen included a dishwasher, garbage disposal and an entrance to service stairs that connect with a maid's quarters above the garage. A servant's signal box was tied into stations throughout the house.

The closets had switches that turned on the lights when the door

was opened and shut them off when the door was closed.

The master suite has a short hallway that connects a bathroom and dressing rooms with the bed chamber. Inside one of the dressing rooms is a fold-out bench for putting on shoes, some weight pulleys and a chin-up bar.

In the master suite bathroom, sun lamps are mounted in the ceiling. There's a lighted shaving mirror on the wall and foot warmers near the floor.

The attic, which can be reached by a retractable stairway in the upper hall, contains floor-to-ceiling cedar closets and storage cabinets with built-in gun racks.

The house was heated in winter by a vapor system that could be timed to turn on and off for economy and comfort. In the summer, cooling was provided by an early form of air-conditioning in the master suite and vents in other rooms.

A whole-house vacuuming system

Please see **Home, A13**

## Home

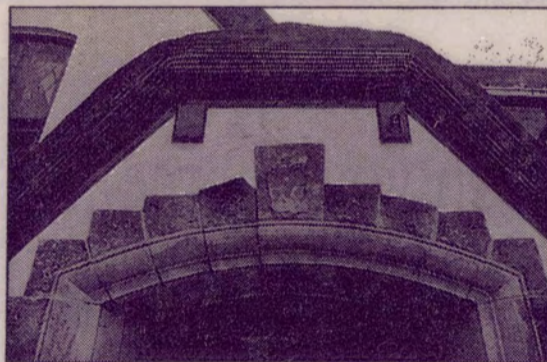
It's wrecker if no move deal by Dec. 31

Continued from Page A12

made cleaning a little easier, and clothes chutes led to the basement laundry room, near the fruit and wine cellars.

Young deeded the property to the church in 1958 on the condition that the church donate \$25,000 in his name to Wittenberg University, his alma mater. With \$17,000 received from the sale of a former parsonage, the church acquired the Young property for \$8,000. It has served as the home of six pastors.

"The congregation has agonized over what to do with this historic landmark for more than two years," said Brewster, a designer for retail and food service environments. "We can't afford



LUIS SANCHEZ/Akron Beacon Journal

to fix it and we can't afford to lose the land."

The congregation has already voted to use the property as a parking lot, and if nobody steps forward by Dec. 31, to remove the house from the property. It will be razed and a public auction to sell various features of the home will be held.

Church leaders put the house on the market for six months, asking \$250,000. But it did not sell. They also explored other options to save the house.

"There's a lot of love for this building in our congregation and the community," Brewster said. "We want to do whatever we can to save it. Tearing down paradise and building a parking lot just doesn't feel like the right thing to do. We're trying to be good stewards and hope that some good soul will save it."

Anyone interested in the house can contact the church at 330-336-6689.

Colette Jenkins can be reached at 330-996-3731 or [cjenkins@thebeaconjournal.com](mailto:cjenkins@thebeaconjournal.com)

The Tudor Revival-style home on Broad Street in Wadsworth has numerous architectural details.

# Future not bright for parsonage

Wadsworth church says it's done all it can to save cottage

By Colette M. Jenkins  
Beacon Journal religion writer

**WADSWORTH:** The Tudor Revival-style home at the corner of Broad and East streets is getting closer to the wrecking ball.

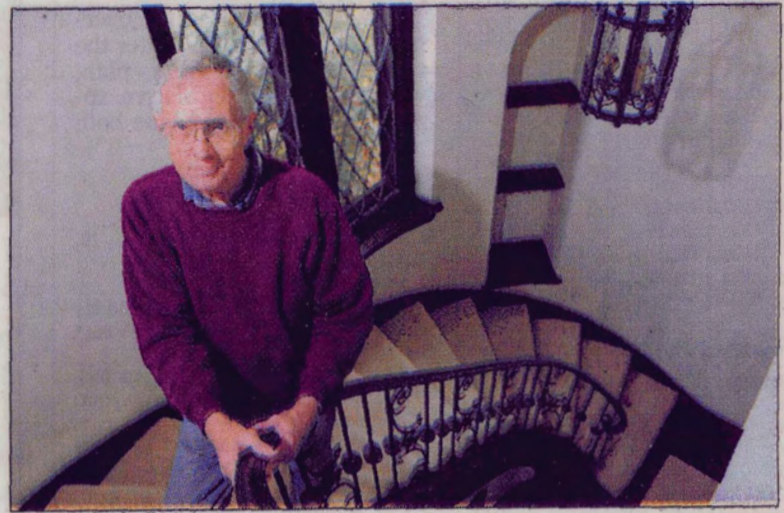
"We have done everything we can as a congregation to save the house, but it's

not looking good," said Harold Byers, former chairman of the board of trustees at Wadsworth United Methodist Church. "We are now taking steps to have an auction in February and proceed with demolition in April."

The Cotswold Cottage, at 221 Broad St., served for more than 40 years as the church's parsonage.

But the five-bedroom, two-story, stone, brick and

Please see **Cottage, D4**



Akron Beacon Journal file photo

Harvey Warner, chairman of the Parsonage Task Force, in October, stands on the house's staircase. The Wadsworth United Methodist Church offered to give the house to anyone who would move it. A California couple were interested but found the estimate too costly.

## Cottage

Moving house too costly for couple

Continued from Page D1

half-timbered stucco house, capped with a thatch-effect, wood-shingle roof became too expensive for the 1,000-member congregation to repair and maintain.

Just fixing the damaged and deteriorating roof alone would cost an estimated \$75,000.

After failing to sell the house for a price of \$250,000, the congregation decided to give it to anyone willing to move it from the property adjacent to the church.

That offer caught the eye of former Wadsworth resident Joe Arpad and his wife Susan. The two retired professors live in Fresno, Calif., and were planning to relocate to Wadsworth.

Since Nov. 6, the Arpads have made two trips to Wadsworth, trying to establish what it would cost to move the house to a new location and restore it to its original condition.

They found a lot about a block away on Broad Street and secured estimates for cutting the house into two parts and moving it and for restoring the interior and exterior. The total estimate came in at \$432,300, which included a \$65,000 charge by Verizon to drop phone lines in three places along Broad Street for the move.

That estimate was too high for the Arpads.

"We cannot take on the task of moving the parsonage and restoring it" because the \$432,300 figure exceeds the



The cottage has an unusual thatch-effect, wood-shingle roof that is damaged and deteriorating. Fixing it would cost the congregation an estimated \$75,000.

estimated \$300,000 to \$325,000 market value of the house, the Arpads wrote in a Dec. 17 letter to the church.

The Arpads asked the church to reconsider its decision to raze the house and sell it to them so they can restore it at its present location.

But the congregation has already voted to use the property as a parking lot and had set a Dec. 31 deadline for someone to commit to moving the house.

Byers, however, said he believes the congregation will vote to forego the auction of various features of the house, if someone comes forward before February.

Meanwhile, Wadsworth Mayor Caesar Carrino has contacted Verizon and asked if the company can adjust its cost for moving its lines.

"I am not associated with the parsonage or the church, but I am the former president of the Historical Association and I always try to preserve beautiful buildings," Carrino said. "I have a strong affinity and love for that house. It was built a couple of years

before I was born and it is dear to the community. My understanding from Verizon is that they will sharpen their pencils and come back with a formal quote."

Verizon officials could not be reached for comment.

The house was built by Wayne Young, a second-generation member of a prominent Wadsworth industrialist family. It was designed by Akron architect Roy G. Firestone and built by Krumroy Construction Co.

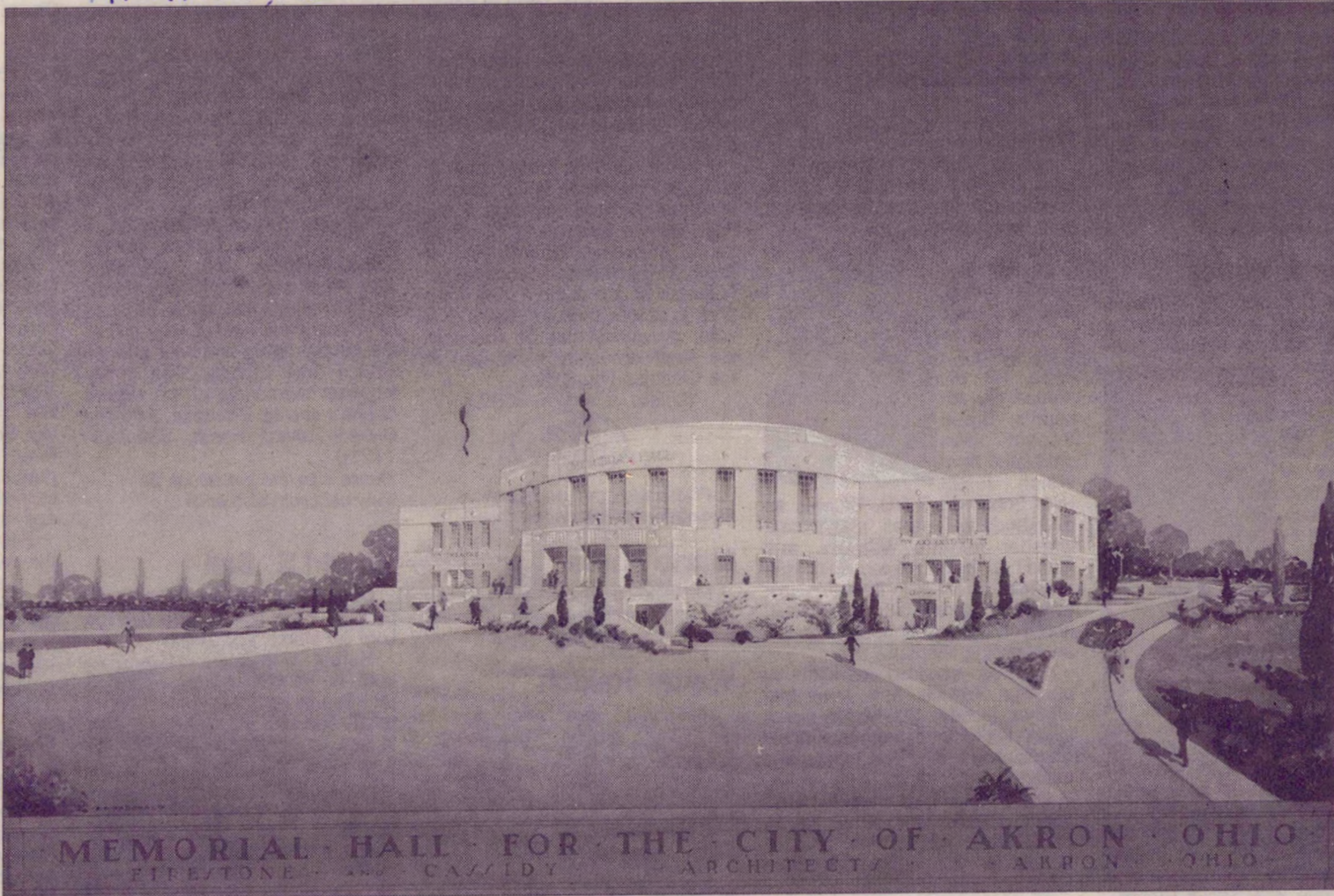
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Colette Jenkins can be reached at 330-996-3731 or cjenkins@thebeaconjournal.com



APRIL 1, 2002



MIKE CARDEW/Akron Beacon Journal

Architects Roy G. Firestone and Harold S. Cassidy incorporated an auditorium, an art institute and a theater into their 1945 design for Akron Memorial Hall. This exterior view of the downtown Akron building is by artist E.D. McDonald.

# Hall of dreams

## One of Akron's greatest buildings doesn't exist

By Mark J. Price  
Beacon Journal staff writer

Do you remember Akron Memorial Hall?

It was such a magnificent, awe-inspiring building.

The architects impressed everyone when they designed the downtown Akron landmark in 1945. The cultural center, a tribute to Akron's heroes of World War II, incorporated a civic auditorium, an art institute and a theater into one elegant, palatial complex.

The hall was the ideal setting for

concerts, plays, dances, banquets, art shows, lectures and conventions. And its location - near Akron's department stores, hotels and transportation centers - was so convenient.

Do you remember Akron Memorial Hall? Of course not.

It never was built.

Unfortunately, Akron Memorial Hall is "The Building That Never Was."

The \$2.5 million structure would have been a welcome addition to the city's skyline. Its presence could have

bolstered the downtown area, thwarting the urban blight that eventually decimated much of Main Street.

But the hall suffered a cruel fate: everybody wanted it, but nobody wanted to pay for it.

The cultural center was intended as the city's first postwar project. Its proponents called it "a living memorial to the men and women of Akron who served, fought and died to bring victory in World War II."

Akron Memorial Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, spearheaded

the campaign to raise money and build the hall. Its enthusiastic president, Brice Bowman, led a group of ardent supporters who were among society's heaviest hitters.

Committee members included merchant Bert A. Polsky, Akron Art Institute President Walter P. Keith, Tuesday Musical Club President Winifred Guinther, Summit County Common Pleas Judge Oscar A. Hunsicker, librarian R. Russell Munn, state Sen. Frank E. Whittemore, attorney Dudley Maxon, Red Cross

Please see **Hall, D12**

"THE BUILDING THAT NEVER WAS!"

April 1, 2002

# Hall

## Foundation wasn't able to raise needed funds

Continued from Page D8

official Mahala Jellison and Dr. John R. Cheney.

With such prominent advocates, how could the project possibly go wrong?

"Probably never before in the history of the city has a proposal gripped the imagination of the city so strongly," Beacon Journal writer William V. Wallace reported in 1945.

Akron architects Roy G. Firestone and Harold S. Cassidy signed on to the project and artist E.D. McDonald drafted colorful designs.

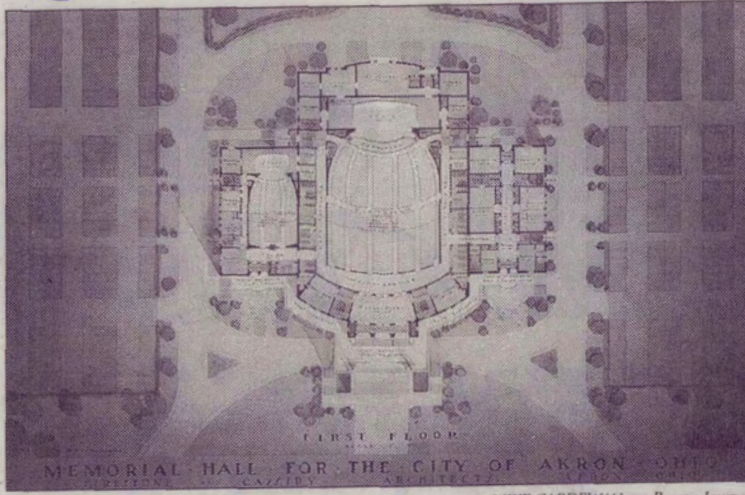
McDonald's renderings show a sleek, three-level, brick building with a 3,100-seat auditorium. Its west wing is home to the 650-seat Little Theater; its east wing holds the Art Institute.

The curved building, which was "tailored to Akron's specific needs," would measure 310 feet by 200 feet and emphasize "comfort and convenience."

The architects seemed to think of everything. The plans called for a grand foyer, sweeping corridors, lounges, cloak rooms and vestibules.

There would be lecture halls, meeting areas, permanent exhibits and classrooms. There would be dressing rooms, rehearsal rooms and reception rooms.

On the second floor, a special section was set aside for a war trophy room. Veterans groups



MIKE CARDEW/Akron Beacon Journal

Original designs for Akron Memorial Hall are stored in the special collections department at the Akron-Summit County Public Library. The building was intended as a tribute to World War II heroes.

would be allowed to meet there anytime they wished. World War II memorabilia, photographs, trophies and medals would highlight the decor.

The auditorium, which had been on the city's wish list since the 1920s, was the centerpiece of Akron Memorial Hall. Its stage, which measured 30 feet by 110 feet, had built-in pipe organs and a radio broadcasting center. Its balcony had room for 1,000.

"Seats will be wide and upholstered," Wallace wrote. "There will be sufficient room between them for late arrivals to take their places without forcing others to stand. They will be staggered so no one need peer around the person ahead to see the stage. The floor is to be sloped, and acoustics have been figured out by experts in auditorium design."

There were still a few details to work out. For example, the precise location of the project wasn't revealed. Three or four downtown sites were being considered. One possibility was to raze the Quaker Oats building at South Howard and Ash streets.

"There has never been a proposal more heartily accepted by the public," Judge Hunsicker, leader of the fund-raising division, told the Beacon Journal in 1945. "I am certain that if we all make this a 'must' accomplishment for the community, it will be realized."

The foundation wanted the hall to be built with voluntary contributions - not with a tax levy or bond issue. Hunsicker's task force canvassed about 450 companies to solicit funds.

That's when the gleaming promise of Akron Memorial

Hall evaporated like a mirage. No one bought into the project. Raising \$2.5 million would be impossible.

"I am convinced that Greater Akron needs and wants a memorial auditorium," Bowman said in late 1945. "I deeply regret that it is not possible at this time to raise, through public subscription, the necessary funds to build such a project."

Over the years, there were other attempts to resurrect the auditorium, but it would no longer be Akron Memorial Hall. The University of Akron procured the name in 1953 when it broke ground on Memorial Hall, a physical education building.

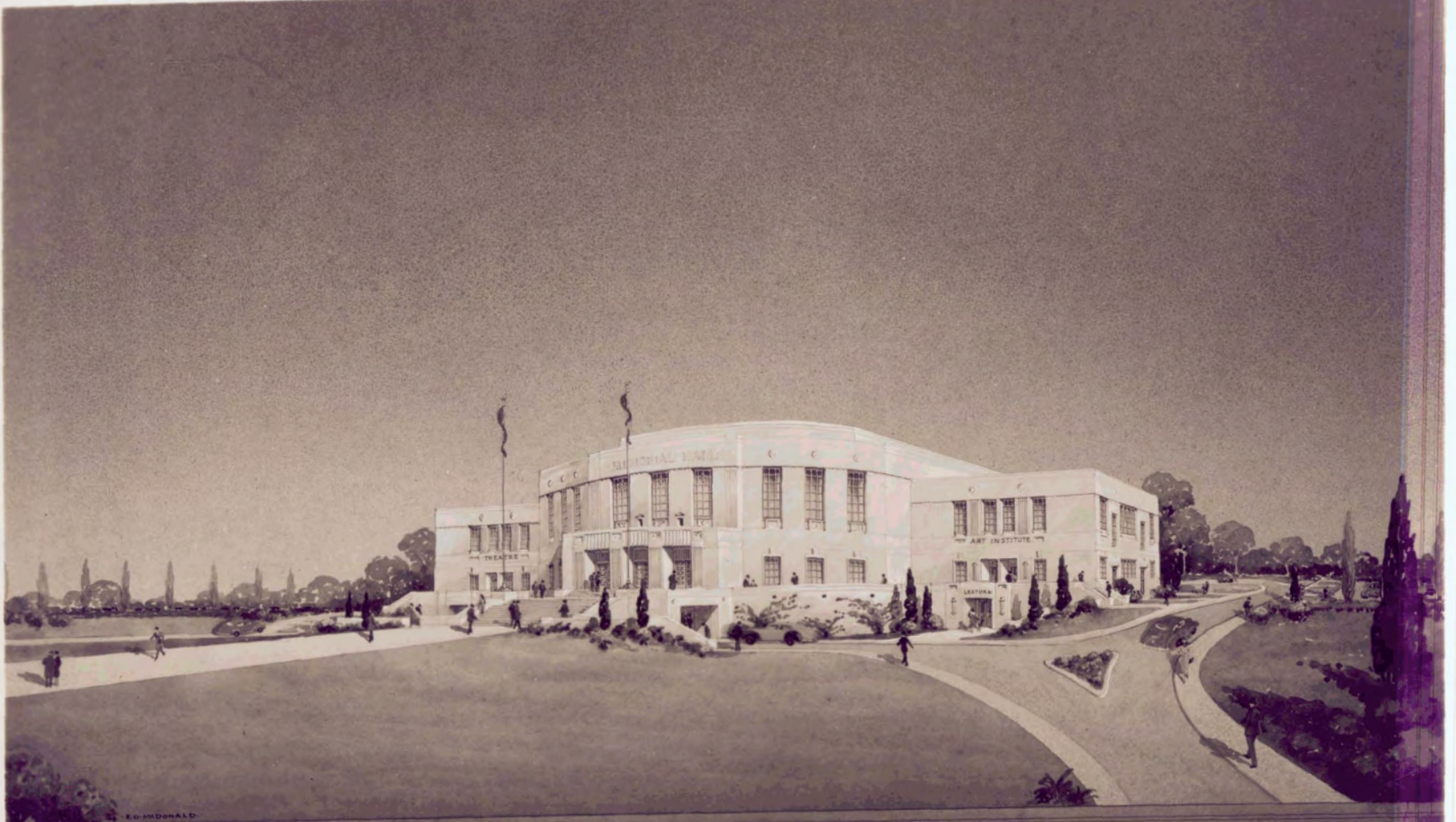
In 1958, Akron proposed another cultural center on the site of the Quaker Oats building. This time, it would have an arena, an auditorium, an art gallery, a library, a restaurant and a rubber exhibit. The idea collapsed when the public balked at using tax money to pay for it.

In 1998, the city proposed a cultural district at Main and Market streets that would have a theater, art museum and library. That project fell apart, too.

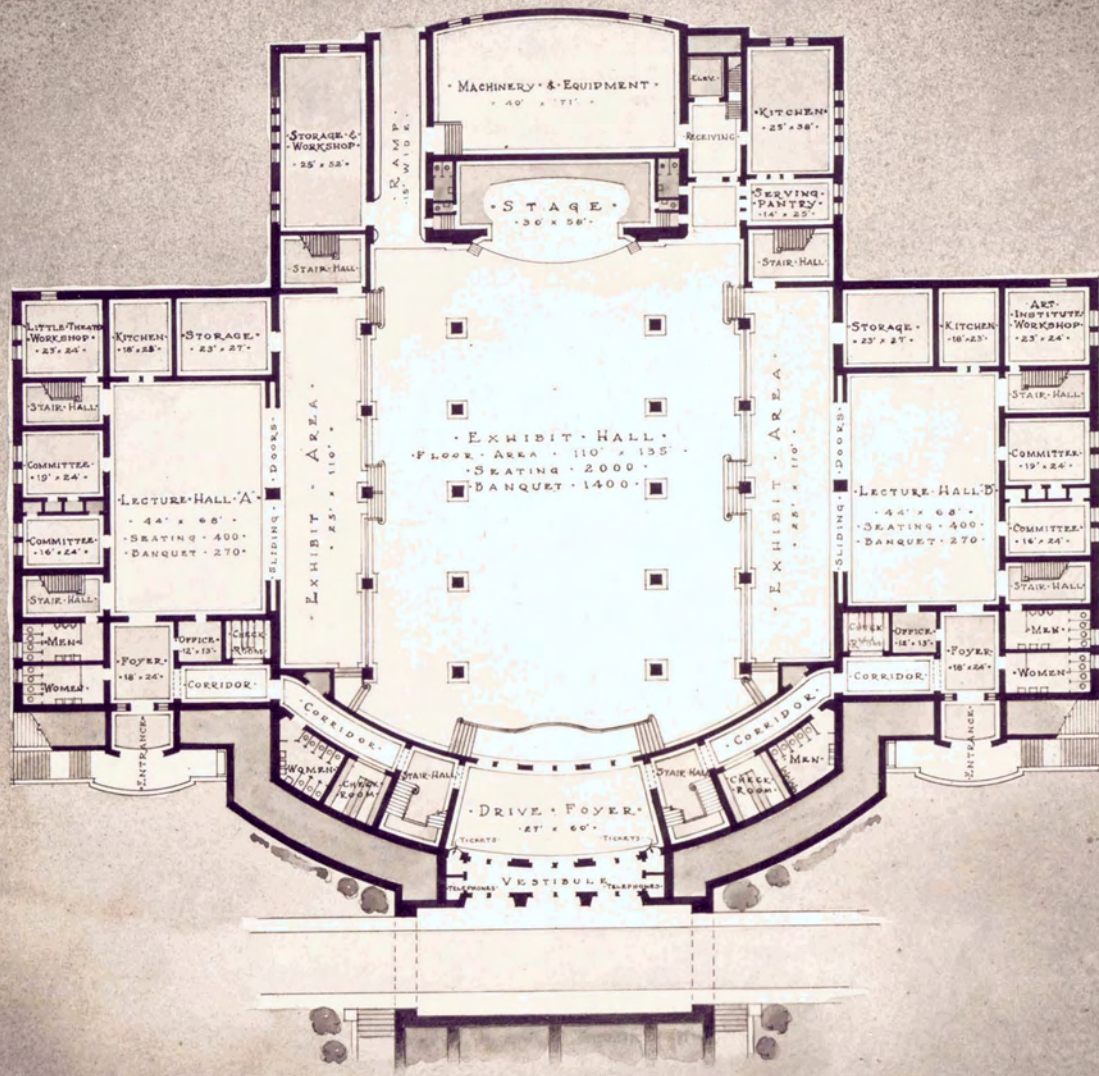
The next time the idea comes up, city officials should pay a visit to the special collections department at Akron-Summit County Public Library.

The original 1945 plans for Akron Memorial Hall are stored there. And they still look good.

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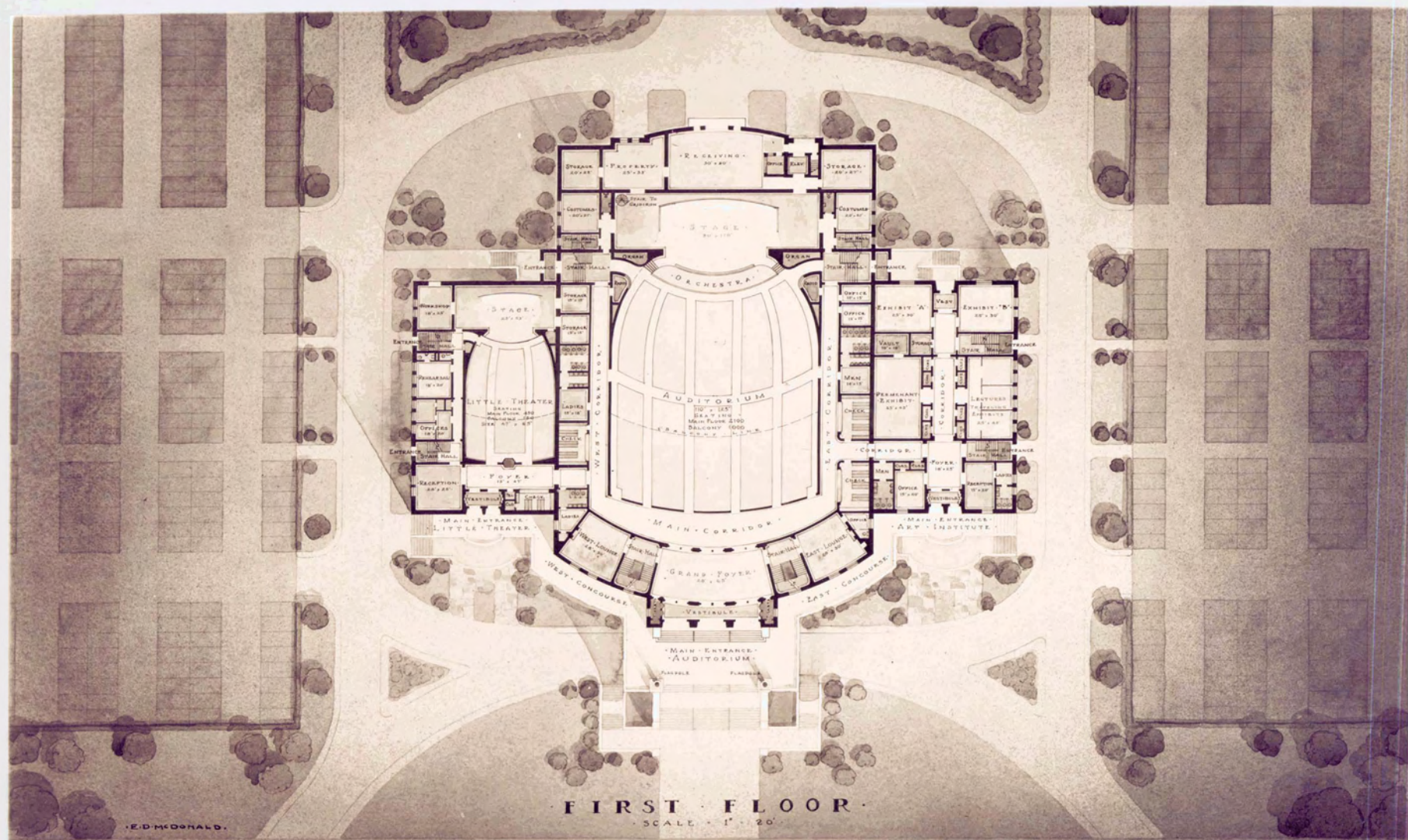


MEMORIAL HALL FOR THE CITY OF AKRON OHIO  
FIRESTONE AND CASSIDY ARCHITECTS AKRON OHIO



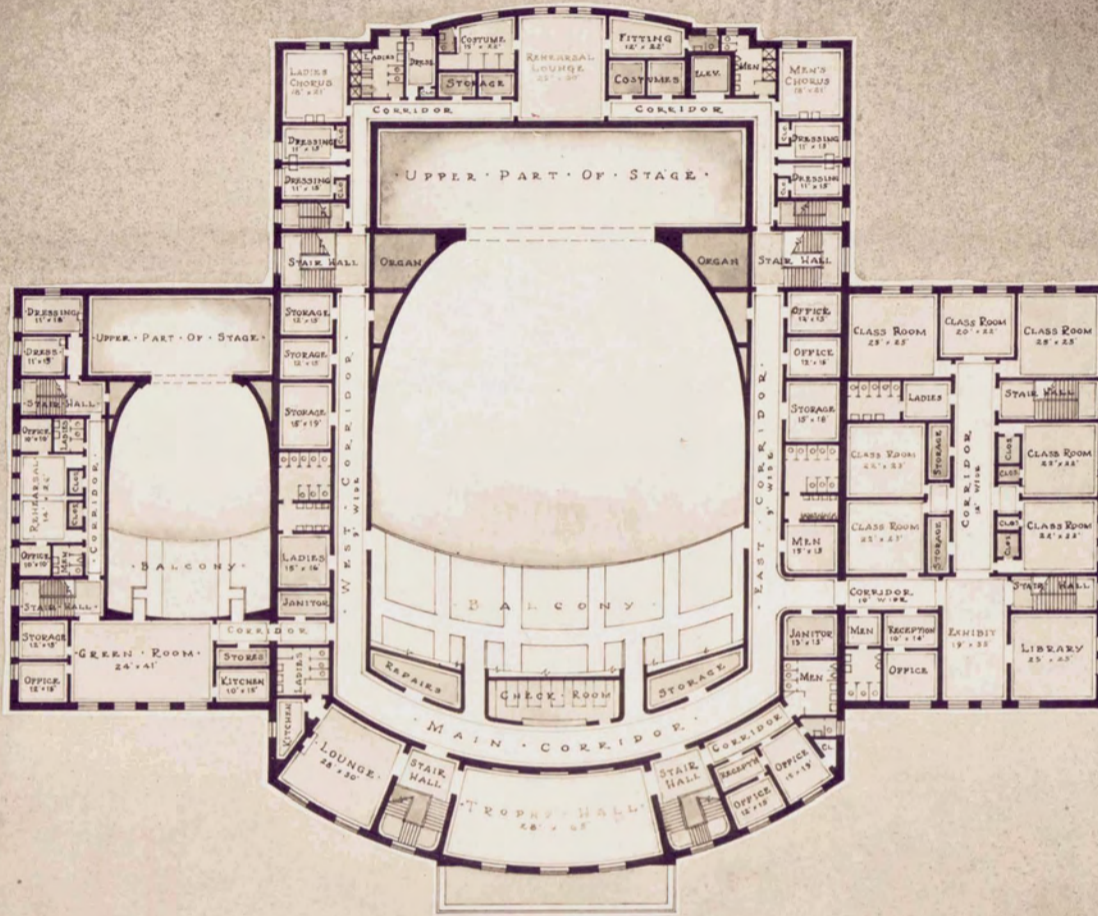
GROUND FLOOR  
**AKRON MEMORIAL HALL**

SCALE: 1" = 20' FIRESTONE & CASSIDY ARCHITECTS OCT. 30, 1945



FIRST FLOOR  
SCALE 1" = 20'

MEMORIAL HALL FOR THE CITY OF AKRON OHIO  
FIRESTONE AND CASSIDY ARCHITECTS AKRON OHIO



◀ SECOND FLOOR ▶  
 ◀ AKRON MEMORIAL HALL ▶

SCALE: 1" = 20'-0" FIRESTONE & CASSIDY, ARCHITECTS. OCT. 30, 1945.

## POINT OF VIEW

# Contradictions in appearance

In the early decades of the 20th century, the architects of Akron's prosperity found a lovely way to show off their rubber-made money.

They built houses the grandeur and beauty of which cannot be fully appreciated until their images click, one after another, before your eyes, with Jim Pahlau's descriptions and narration providing a love-song soundtrack for his adopted city.



STEVE LOVE

Pahlau (pronounced pow-lo) no longer can see clearly the photos of the grand houses on which he has made himself an expert respected by architects, academics and archivists. But if his eyesight is fading as a result of macular degeneration (a consequence of diabetes), his vision remains sharp, his mind cracklingly critical.

This week in the living room of the O'Neil House, one of the homes on Pahlau's pictorial tour of Great Akron Homes of the Rubber Era, Pahlau (still the saver) passed around an ad featuring the best of new Akron and Summit County homes. To eyes less well trained than Pahlau's, the homes served as examples of Akron's broader base of wealth and prosperity, the ostentatiousness of the new century.

Then, the slide carousel began to turn, and even though Jim Pahlau required his audience's assistance in focusing the images, the differences were sharply obvious. The old homes - The Anchorage of P.W. Litchfield, Frank Adams' Rocky Knoll, Arthur Marks' Elm Court (now part of the Our Lady of the Elms campus), the North Portage Path Italian Renaissance Revival Mediterranean-style villa designed for J. Penfield Seiberling in 1928 by Roy G. Firestone - possess a style and substance that is more than architectural, a style that added a grace note to what in the 1900-to-1930 period was a dirty, workingman's town. They created an Akron contradiction - sparkling stones in a rough setting.

Pahlau's odd, fascinating 71-year journey shares some of the contradictions of the old homes: valedictorian at Washington High School in Massillon, man of passions (architecture, theater

and music) rather than position and possessions, teacher yet still willing learner, community benefactor in the form of the University of Akron's James A. Pahlau Collection (4,600 books, 2,500 playbills and programs, 1,100 records, 900 journals and magazines, 200 blueprints, 150 autographed items and boxes upon boxes of newspaper clippings and photographs, many of them of Akron's architectural wonders).

With his understanding of contradictions, Pahlau can appreciate not only the city's housing stock - that which remains and that preserved only in his priceless old photos - but also the architects who designed it.

In Akron architecture, there has been a place for both the celebrated (Walker & Weeks, Cleveland's most celebrated and respected architectural firm and designer of Severance Hall) and an up-by-the-bootstraps draftsman such as Roy Firestone.

This Firestone was no rubber Firestone. He dropped out of school after the eighth grade and never received formal training as an architect. He served an apprenticeship with The Krumroy Construction Co., leaving in 1935 for 30 more years on his own.

Despite his educational shortcomings, no one designed more of Akron's great old homes than Roy Firestone. He won accreditation as an architect based on the recommendations of his fellow professionals. Pahlau has been working with Firestone's daughter to document the scope of Firestone's work. They have put together a collection of at least 230 photos of Roy Firestone homes.

"That's monumental for a man of his education," Pahlau said, without a hint of irony as to his own monumentality.

The architectural accomplishments of Firestone and Pahlau (not to mention others from Northeast Ohio) should serve as reminders of how deep local talent can run. That's why the recent announcement that the Akron Art Museum's list of finalists to design its expansion included no architects living in America, no Ohioans, no Northeast Ohioans and certainly no one from Akron prompted a public outcry.

No wonder.

Though Mitchell Kahan, director of the museum, responded with a thoughtful rationale (the museum's *raison d'être* is to open Akron to the world), he has, I think, drawn an unusual conclu-

sion concerning Akron's "eagerness to embrace the world, unthreatened by outsiders."

That's not the Akron with which I'm familiar. My Akron has a heart as big as the world but a parochial soul. It will listen to and learn from outsiders (if given the motivation), but it values its own counsel even more.

The rubber barons, their lieutenants and others whose Akron boats rose with the tide also could afford to hire any architect from anywhere. Some did choose talent from elsewhere (Chicago's Howard Van Doren Shaw, for instance), but even the results often reflected the fact that Akron is the biggest small town in America.

Both F.A. Seiberling and Harvey Firestone turned their estate landscape architects (Warren Manning of Boston for Seiberling and Alling DeForest of Rochester, N.Y., for Firestone) loose on neighborhoods they built to house their workers - Goodyear Heights and Firestone Park. The results remain distinctive almost a century later (no easy-grid patterns for these guys).

Likewise, when Walker & Weeks came down from Cleveland, they not only built George Merz's home on North Portage Path but they also erected what Pahlau considers the "sentinel and figurehead of downtown Akron," the 27-story First National (now FirstMerit) Tower. The connection? Merz was president of the First Central Trust Co., predecessor of First National Bank.

The tower wasn't originally intended for Akron. Walker & Weeks meant to build it in Cleveland, but a deal fell through and Akron benefited. Because of this big-name Cleveland firm and an undereducated local architect, among others, Akron was anything but the architect's hell that Ruth McKenney, a former Akron Beacon Journal reporter, labeled it in a 1936 New Yorker magazine diatribe titled *Uneasy City - Akron*.

McKenney would have benefited from knowing Jim Pahlau. He doesn't have a degree in history or architecture. He has never even owned his own home. All Pahlau is able to do is recognize Akron's beauty and its talent - a gift, apparently, still in short supply.

Love is the Beacon Journal chief editorial writer. He may be reached at 330-996-3744 or e-mailed at [slove@thebeaconjournal.com](mailto:slove@thebeaconjournal.com)

# Akron man's life legacy for the books

The largest personal collection in the holdings of the University of Akron library came from a man whose coat was held closed with a safety pin and whose social airs never transcended Bob's Hamburg.

Every bit of his interest and energy went into his books and papers, a collection of some 10,000 items that he carried to the university archives one grocery bag at a time, transported from the leaky attics and subsidized apartments where he'd squirreled them away.

Jim Pahlau died in late September at age 77. A public memorial service will be held



DAVID GIFFELS

matic legacies Akron is likely ever to be blessed with.

He was an unpedigreed pauper who collected with the fervor of a savant and the dis-

Please see **Giffels, B5**.

Thursday. That it has taken more than a month to prepare his eulogies should come as no surprise. He has left one of the most enig-

## Giffels

A self-made scholar leaves unique legacy

Continued from Page B1

cernment of an Ivy League scholar. He was an eccentric who charmed his way into high society, a curious, wispy-haired stranger who knocked on doors and somehow found himself inside the finest mansions in town.

Mr. Pahlau was the foremost expert on Akron's architectural history, a title to which perhaps no one else aspired but which none could hold so well.

His remarkable collection, devoted to the subjects of architecture and music and theater, could not be more personal, in the sense that no one else could have gathered it in the way he did. But it is now communal. By arranging in his later years for the university to take it over, he has given it to all of us.

His interest began organically. He liked buildings. He liked the way they looked; he liked the grand ones for their structural pageantry and he liked the simple ones for their sticks-and-stones sensibility.

He was driven in all things by his mind. His appearance, his status - these things never seemed to matter much to him. He was humble, not in the flimsy modern way, but in something of a biblical sense, devoted to something he recognized as more important than himself. He looked like a street person, dressed in unwashed jeans and worn shoes and that pinned-together jacket.

Born and raised in Massillon, Mr. Pahlau was valedictorian of a 492-member graduating class at Washington High School in 1948. He earned a certificate from the New York School of Interior Design the following year and returned to work as a designer for furniture stores in his hometown.

He never pursued a formal education, but his life - with distinct and ever-increasing focus - was devoted to intellectual pursuit. As the years wore on, he drifted away from his profession. By the late 1970s, he'd left the retail world, moved to Akron and begun his unconventional infusion into the life of the city.

## Memorial details

A memorial service celebrating the life of Akron architectural historian Jim



Pahlau will be at held 4 p.m. Thursday in the Firestone Chapel at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Friends and colleagues will speak about his life and the service will include a performance of some of the show music he enjoyed. The church is at 1361 W. Market St., Akron.

we minded if he parked his aged Oldsmobile alongside our driveway in the bank parking lot next door. It wouldn't go in reverse, he explained, and he didn't have the money to fix it, and therefore he had to park in places he could negotiate without backing up.

Later, when we bought a big Tudor Revival that was at the brink of condemnation and began trying to save it, he showed up again, this time bearing a picture of the house copied from an obscure 1926 book about the art of brickwork. I knew what he wanted, and I invited him inside for a tour.

I don't know who was more pleased that day - him for talking his way into yet another home, or me for realizing I lived in a place that warranted Mr. Pahlau's refined attention.

The legacy he leaves can be counted tangibly: 4,600 books, 1,100 record albums, 900 journals and magazines, 200 blueprints and so on and so on. But equally important is his example of the power of the individual.

He achieved a life's work specifically by being himself, uniquely himself.

Mr. Pahlau was an accidental iconoclast. He never tried to fit in, but he never made a point of his not trying. He didn't look the part of the historian, but he played it better than anyone else could.

Academics are famously reluctant to accept a self-made scholar as an equal. Not so here. The trained, degreed historians at the University of Akron archives found in Mr. Pahlau an unconventional colleague and a significant truth. Had he been trained to think like them, had he been groomed toward traditional research, he might never have amassed this collection.

Instead, Mr. Pahlau strayed far from the common path in his gathering, because to him there was no difference between a yard sale and a Sotheby's auction.

He knew what he was looking for and he found it.

David Giffels is a Beacon Journal columnist. He can be reached at 330-996-3572 or at dgiffels@thebeaconjournal.com.

He was an early stalwart in Progress Through Preservation, and wrote extensively for the group's newsletters about notable area buildings. He learned his subjects from the bottom up, gathering far-flung details from the most obscure sources, scouring flea markets and used book sales for shreds of evidence that only he could recognize as important. He put together puzzles from pieces that never before had been joined.

And this is how this elfish, idiosyncratic man began to work his way up millionaire's row. As he became fascinated with the mansions in the Merriman Road and North Portage Path areas, he would show up, often unannounced, on a doorstep, bearing some photograph or photocopied page from a book, perhaps a blueprint or antique tax document - something the owner might like to have. In return, he would ask to be granted entrance. Remarkably, this usually worked.

I came to know Mr. Pahlau as a neighbor. My wife and I lived across the street from his apartment in the AMHA subsidized Fowler Apartments. He came over one day and asked whether

Newspaper clipping at the time of Jim Pahlau's death. So many people benefited from his life. I so appreciate the time he gave me to prepare these scrapbooks in dedication and memory of my Father, Roy G. Firestone. 2007



**THE FIRST** shovel of dirt for the \$500,000 five-floor addition to Akron General Hospital was turned Thursday by H. W. Slabaugh, hospital board president. Assisting in the ceremonies are (from left) Donald C. Mell, building committee chairman; Dr. Joseph S. Lichty, hospital executive

director; Ray G. Firestone, architect, and William R. Ruhlin, vice president of John Ruhlin Construction Co. The addition will provide space for basic medical research and additional beds for psychiatric patients. It is expected to be completed by June, 1960.