



ASH PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR

THE ASH PARK DISTRICT IS FROM 5TH TO 8TH AVENUE AND 6TH TO 8TH STREET.

#1

WE BEGIN THE TOUR AT THE CORNER OF 7TH ST. SW AND 8TH AVE. NW, LOOKING TOWARD THE EAST AT THE HOMESTEAD OF RUEBEN ASH (702 8TH AVE. NW). HE WAS ONE OF THE EARLY SETTLERS OF THE AREA, REPORTED TO HAVE A CABIN ON THIS SITE AROUND 1838. THIS HOUSE OF RED BRICK WAS BUILT IN TWO PHASES. THE HOUSE TO THE LEFT, WITH THE ENTRANCE, WAS BUILT AROUND 1853. THE WING TO THE RIGHT WAS ADDED IN A FEW YEARS LATER, WITH NO CHANGE IN STYLE OR BRICK COLOR. THIS IS A TYPICAL RECTANGULAR-STYLE HOUSE MADE OUT OF BRICK, AND THIS SAME STYLE IS FOUND IN BOTH BRICK AND STONE ALL AROUND TOWN. THIS IS THE ONLY ONE OF THIS KIND OVER IN THIS AREA, BECAUSE IT WAS THE FARMSTEAD AND SURROUNDED BY HUNDREDS OF ACRES OWNED BY ASH. THERE ARE THREE-OVER-THREE WINDOWS, AND OVER THE DOOR IS A LOVELY TRANSOM THAT LET LIGHT INTO THE HOUSE. THERE IS A LARGE SITTING ROOM AREA OFF TO THE RIGHT IN THE ADDITION. THE PILLARS ARE PROBABLY NOT ORIGINAL, BUT THE PORCH LINE IS. IT IS A GREEK REVIVAL HOUSE, WITH DOUBLE-BRICK WALLS MADE OF LOCAL BRICK BAKED ON THE PROPERTY. THE BRICK IS THE SAME TONE OF COLOR AND TEXTURE AS THE BUILDINGS ON THE CORNELL CAMPUS AND OTHER BUILDINGS IN TOWN. EVERY SEVERAL ROWS OF BRICK YOU WILL SEE A ROW OF HEADERS THAT ARE TYING THE WALLS TOGETHER, MIXED WITH THE STRETCHERS.



ASH OWNED ALL THE PROPERTY AROUND HERE AND TO THE EAST AND NORTH. ASH DIED AND HIS DAUGHTER INHERITED THE PROPERTY. SHE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN LIVING HERE SO SHE SOLD THIS THE ORCHARD BEHIND THE HOUSE TO A COUPLE OF LOCAL LATE 19TH CENTURY "DEVELOPERS." HE SOLD HIS FRONT YARD, THE AREA ACROSS 8TH AVE. FROM THE HOUSE, TO CORNELL COLLEGE FOR WHAT IS NOW THE ASH PARK ATHLETIC COMPLEX SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE HE DIED. HIS PROPERTY EXTENDED ACROSS THE RAILROAD TRACKS TO THE NORTH. COMMUNITY LORE HAS IT THAT ASH WAS UPSET WITH THE RAILROAD CUTTING UP HIS PROPERTY.

THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE HERE IS FROM 1893, WHEN THE OLD ORCHARD LAND WAS SOLD, THROUGH 1919 WHEN ALL BUT A VERY FEW LOTS HAD BEEN SOLD AND DEVELOPED. THE LAST HOUSE WAS NOT CONSTRUCTED HERE UNTIL 2010. THE DEVELOPERS WHO BOUGHT THIS ORCHARD AND PLOTTED IT WERE LED BY CHARLES WHITTEMORE AND WILLIAM PLATNER. THEY RECEIVED THEIR PLOT IN 1893. PLATNER OPERATED A STONE QUARRY, AND WHITTEMORE WAS A DIRECTOR OF A LOCAL BANK (AS WAS CHARLES HARTUNG, ANOTHER EARLY NEW HOMEOWNER).

THE FIRST GREAT NATIONAL DEPRESSION OCCURRED IN 1892-93 AND IT DID NOT HAVE A CRUSHING IMPACT ON THIS PART OF IOWA. HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1895 THAT SOME OF THESE HOUSES WERE BUILT, AND A NUMBER OF COLLEGE FACULTY BUILT HOUSES IN THIS AREA SINCE IT WAS CLOSE TO THE COLLEGE AND FAIRLY CLOSE TO THE DEPOT AND BUSINESS DISTRICT.

THIRTY-SIX OF THE FORTY-THREE HOUSES THAT COMPRISE THE DISTRICT WERE CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN THE YEARS 1895 AND 1919. PART OF THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THIS AREA FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER IS THAT MOST OF THE CONSTRUCTION WAS DONE IN ONE GENERATION. THE DISTRICT REFLECTS LOCAL INVESTMENT AND LOCAL OWNERSHIP FROM THE BEGINNING. THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT HOUSES IN THIS AREA SELECTED A VARIETY OF HOME STYLES FROM AMONG THE MORE POPULAR DESIGNS OF THE TIME. THE DEVELOPERS WERE PROGRESSIVE BUSINESSMEN BUT NOT ARCHITECTURAL STYLE LEADERS.

MOVING EAST ON 7TH STREET:

IN THE BACK OF ASH'S HOUSE IS A SMALL ENCLOSED PORCH ON THE WING. IT ADDS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF AREA TO THE LIVING AREA OF THE HOUSE, BUT IT WAS PROBABLY BUILT AS AN OPEN PORCH. NOTE THE BARN'S BACK OF THE HOUSE -- THE GENTLEMAN'S CARRIAGE HOUSE WHICH HAS BEEN MODIFIED AS AN AUTO GARAGE. THERE IS A LITTLE HAY DOOR UP ON SECOND FLOOR. THERE ARE STILL A NUMBER OF THESE CARRIAGE HOUSES IN TOWN. SINCE THE CARRIAGE HOUSE IS ESSENTIALLY A BARN IT IS PLACED AN APPROPRIATE DISTANCE FROM THE HOUSE. THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN PLENTY OF PASTURE IN THE ORCHARD AREA FOR THE GENTLEMAN'S HORSES.

#2

THE NEXT STRUCTURE TO OUR LEFT, 711 7TH ST., IS FROM THE 1950S AND IS CONSIDERED A NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE IN THIS HISTORIC DISTRICT.

#3

WE ARE ON THE CORNER OF 7TH AND 7TH. 703 7TH AVE. NW, THE VERY LARGE HOUSE WITH THE PARTIAL WRAP-AROUND PORCH WAS BUILT BY CHARLES M. HARTUNG, A BANK OFFICER AND ONE OF THE DEVELOPERS OF THIS AREA. IT SITS ON A VERY LARGE CORNER LOT AND WAS BUILT IN 1902. THE HOUSES TO THE NORTH OF THIS HOUSE ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE ASH PARK DISTRICT. THEY ARE MOSTLY IN-FILL. THIS HOUSE IS VERY CHARACTERISTIC OF ITS PERIOD. IT HAS A PORCH WITH ITS LOVELY BALUSTRADE AND COLUMNS, AND THE FIRST FLOOR HAS NARROW SIDING AND THE SECOND FLOOR AND GABLE ENDS ARE SHINGLED AS WELL. NOTICE THE COMPLEX ROOF CONSTRUCTION --



POPULAR IN THE VICTORIAN ERA. IF YOU LOOK TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE HOUSE YOU WILL SEE THE LARGE WINDOWS AND THE LOVELY HIGHLIGHTED FISH SCALING.

CROSSING 7TH AVE. TO THE EAST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION:

#4

617 7TH ST. WAS BUILT IN 1914. IT HAS CROSSED GABLES AND AN UNUSUAL GABLE EXTENSION TO THE FRONT-FACING GABLE, CHAMFERED CORNERS AND VERY NARROW SIDING, AND A FRONT PORCH WITH SPINDLE BALUSTERS. THERE IS A SIZEABLE ADDITION ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER, AND A SMALL SITTING PORCH ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER.



#5

NEXT DOOR TO THE EAST IS 615 7TH ST. NW. THIS IS A FOUR-SQUARE HOUSE, REPORTEDLY BUILT BY HENRY BAIR IN 1915. NOTE THE HIPPED ROOF AND ITS AMPLE DORMER WITH THREE SQUARE, MULTIPLE-PANE WINDOWS. THE HOUSE IS SYMMETRIC IN DESIGN. A SMALL GABLED REAR ADDITION WAS BUILT IN 1977.



***WALKING BACK WEST TO THE CORNER OF 7TH AND 7TH,
CROSSING TO THE EAST SIDE OF 7TH AVE AND MOVING
SOUTH:***

#6

616 7TH AVE. NW WAS BUILT IN 1900. IT IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON IN DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURAL STYLES AT THE TIME. THIS IS A GAMBREL ROOF (THAT MEANS THAT THE GABLE HAS AN EXTRA HIP IN IT). THERE IS A LOVELY PORCH ENHANCING AND PROTECTING THE BAY WINDOW, THE BALUSTRADE LOOKS ORIGINAL, AND ON THE SOUTH SIDE THERE IS ANOTHER BAY WINDOW. THERE IS ANOTHER GAMBREL ON THAT SIDE, DELICATE WINDOW TREATMENTS, AND A BANDING OF FISH SCALE FORMING A FRIEZE JUST ABOVE THE COLUMN AND BELOW THE OVERHANG OF THE PORCH. THAT GOES ALL AROUND THE HOUSE. IT IS REALLY QUITE INTERESTING AND GIVES THE HOUSE A VERY DISTINCTIVE DESIGN FEATURE.



#7

ACROSS 7TH ST. (ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE STREET), YOU WILL SEE THE CHAFFEE HOUSE AT 617 7TH AVE. NW (STILL AT THE CORNER OF 7TH AND 7TH). IT WAS BUILT IN 1895. IT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST HOMES BUILT IN THE



DISTRICT. IT HAS A DELICATE PORCH ABOVE THE PORCH, FISH SCALING IN THE GABLE ENDS, AND IT HAS A BEAUTIFUL BARGEBOARD AT THE END OF EACH GABLE. THIS HOME IS VERY STRAIGHT FORWARD, AND A MODEST AND CHARMING HOUSE BUT NOT IMPOSING. THERE HAVE BEEN VERY FEW ALTERATIONS, AND WE ARE VERY PLEASED THAT IT HAS BEEN WELL CARED FOR OVER THE YEARS.

NEXT DOOR TO 616 TO THE SOUTH:

#8

608 7TH AVE. NW, ALSO BUILT AROUND 1900, HAS A COMPLEX ROOF LINE AND A LARGE AMOUNT OF FISH SCALE IN TWO DIFFERENT PATTERNS. THESE LAST FOUR HOUSES THAT WE HAVE SEEN USE A LARGE AMOUNT OF FISH SCALES. THIS HAS A LOVELY ONE-STORY BAY, THE PORCH



IS VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD, AND THE GABLE ENDS ARE INTERESTING. NOTICE THE OVAL WINDOW IN THE ATTIC ON THE NORTH SIDE, CALLED AN OCULUS. THERE ARE WINDOW PANES OR MUNTINS IN THESE HOUSES, ESPECIALLY IN THE UPPER WINDOWS, THAT ARE NOT UNUSUAL IN THE EARLY 1900'S. IF YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE SOUTH SIDE OF 616 THE BEAUTIFUL PANES MOVE NATURAL LIGHT INTO THE SITTING ROOM, AND THERE IS AN ENCLOSED PORCH ON THE BACK. THE HOUSE AT 608 GIVES A SENSE OF WARMTH IN PART FROM THE DELICATE TRANSOM WINDOWS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE DOOR. THESE, WITH THE MOLDED PANE OVER THE DOOR, FRAME THE DOOR WITH A SUBTLE ARCH SHAPE. THIS ARCH GIVES THE ENTRANCE A SENSE OF GRANDEUR WHEN LIT AT NIGHT. IT IS A CENTRAL FEATURE OF THE HOUSE.

LOOKING BACK ACROSS THE STREET, ON THE WEST SIDE OF 7TH AVE.:

#9

605 7TH AVE. NW WAS BUILT IN 1900. IT HAS A COMPLEX OUTLINE DUE TO THE HIPPED ROOF, THE ADDITIONAL GABLES, AND THE PORCH ROOF. THERE IS CLAPBOARD WITH WOOD SHINGLE, MOLDED LINTELS, A CHAMFERED SIDE BAY, AND FISH SCALES ON THE GABLES. ALTERATIONS INCLUDE THE ENCLOSURE OF A TWO-STORY SLEEPING PORCH ON THE BACK. THE FRONT PORCH, WITH ITS INTERESTINGLY-PATTERNED BRICK SKIRT AND ITS BUNGALOW-STYLE PILLARS, MAY BE A LATER ALTERATION.



TURNING THE NEXT CORNER (7TH AVE. AND 6TH ST.) TO THE EAST:

#10

THE HOUSE ON THE CORNER IS 625 6TH ST. NW. DESPITE A NUMBER OF ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS, THIS HOUSE IS CLEARLY FROM THE TURN OF THE CENTURY (BUILT ABOUT 1900). IT HAS A LITTLE FISH SCALING IN THE GABLE END, A HINT OF A BAY WINDOW ON THE WEST SIDE, A SMALL PORCH AND ON THE EAST SIDE A CHAMFERED CORNER PART OF THE VICTORIAN STYLE. IT IS A RELATIVELY COMMON STYLE OF HOUSE IN MT. VERNON AND POPULAR IN IOWA AT THE TURN OF THE



CENTURY. THE ADDITION ON THE SIDE IS PROBABLY NOT ORIGINAL.

GOING EAST ON 6TH ST.:

#11

THE NEXT HOUSE IS 615 6TH ST. NW. IT IS A REAL QUEEN ANNE-STYLE, BUT A RATHER RESTRAINED EXAMPLE. NOTICE THE TURRET ON THE ENTRANCE AND ANOTHER ONE IMMEDIATELY TO YOUR RIGHT. THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT STYLES OF SIDING, A LARGE SIDING ON THE LOWER FLOOR AND A NARROWER ONE ON THE SECOND FLOOR. THERE ARE LOTS OF WINDOWS AND IRREGULAR ROOF LINES, PART OF THE QUEEN ANNE STYLE. UNDOUBTEDLY THERE WERE PORCHES ON THE BACK THAT WERE CLOSED IN. NOTE THE SECOND FLOOR PORCH IN THE BACK WHERE THE LARGER SIDING IS USED IN THE UPPER PART OF THE HOUSE WHILE THE ORIGINAL HOUSE HAS IT ON THE LOWER PART OF THE HOUSE. THAT IS PRETTY TELL-TALE EVIDENCE THAT AN ADDITION HAS BEEN MADE OR THAT IT HAS BEEN ENCLOSED. THE ROOFLINE IS ORIGINAL. THE EAST SIDE OF THE HOUSE HAS THE MAIN TURRET WITH ITS 2-FLOOR BAY WINDOWS. THERE IS YET ANOTHER BAY WINDOW, ON THE EAST SIDE.



#12

THE BUNGALOW STYLE HAS MANY EXAMPLES IN TOWN. THE ONE AT 609 6TH ST.



NW, AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF A CRAFTSMAN-STYLE BUNGALOW, FITS WELL IN THE ASH PARK DISTRICT. THIS IS VERY TYPICAL OF THE WHOLE BUNGALOW MOVEMENT, AND THIS HOME WAS ONE OF THE LAST HOUSES BUILT HERE UNTIL AFTER WWII. IT WAS BUILT IN 1921. MOST OF THE BUNGALOWS IN TOWN WERE BUILT BETWEEN 1910 AND 1925. THE GABLES OFF THE WEST AND EAST ARE MOST LIKELY AN ADDITION, AND THE GARAGE ON THE NORTH END IS A RECENT ADDITION. THERE IS A NICE SENSE OF ENTRY AS ONE CROSSES THE LARGE PORCH. A BUNGALOW IS USUALLY CONSIDERED A STORY AND A HALF. IN THIS KIND OF STRUCTURE, THE INTERIOR OF THE TOP FLOOR HAS A CRAZY SHAPE DUE TO THE CRAZY ROOF LINE, AND THERE ARE DIFFERENT POSSIBLE WAYS TO HAVE IT FINISHED OFF. THE OWNERS CAN HAVE ONE BIG ROOM IF THEY WISH.

#13

ON THE CORNER IS 603 6TH ST. NW. THE HOME IS KNOWN AS THE (HISTORICAL) FREER HOUSE AND IT DATES FROM 1901. FREER WAS A LONG-TIME DEAN OF THE COLLEGE. THIS IS A VERY LOVELY HOUSE BUT THE TREES HERE HAVE MADE IT VERY HARD TO SEE THE HOUSE. THERE IS WIDE SIDING ON THE



FIRST FLOOR, NARROW SIDING ON THE SECOND FLOOR, AND FISH SCALES IN THE GABLE END ALONG WITH THE OVAL (ORIEL) ATTIC LIGHT. THERE IS A BAY WINDOW ON THE WEST SIDE. THERE IS FISH SCALING AS WELL. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE HOUSES WHERE YOU HAVE TO WALK ALL THE WAY AROUND IT TO GRASP ALL THE DETAILS. HEAVY USE OF DECORATIVE ELEMENTS ON THE EXTERIOR OF THE HOUSE IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF THE VICTORIAN STYLE.

ONE OF THE STYLISTIC MYSTERIES OF THIS HOUSE IS THAT THERE IS NO ROOF OVER THE EXTENSION OF THE FRONT PORCH AND THERE NEVER HAS BEEN. YOU CAN TELL BY THE WAY THE SHINGLES

AND WOOD ARE RIGHT ABOVE THE WINDOW. IT IS VERY UNUSUAL TO SEE ANY VICTORIAN HOUSES WITHOUT A ROOF ON THE FRONT PORCH. THERE ARE TRANSOMS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE DOOR AND ONE ABOVE. THE DECORATIVE WORK INSIDE THE WINDOWS WAS ADDED. THERE ARE VERY STEEP ROOF LINES ON THE STRUCTURE. THE SCREENED PORCH ON THE WEST SIDE IS AN ADDITION.

AS SEEN FROM THE SIDEWALK ALONG 6TH AVE.:

THE VIEW OF THE HOUSE FROM THE EAST IS WORTH FEASTING THE EYE ON. IT HAS VERY COMPLEX SURFACES. THERE IS A TRIANGLE IN THE CORNER OF THE GABLE ROOF AND A FISH SCALE TREATMENT ALL THE WAY UP THE ROOF. IT IS A VERY "BUSY" HOUSE. NOTICE THE DENTILS UNDER THE SPLASH RAIL AND ANOTHER OCULUS WINDOW. THERE IS NOT ANOTHER GABLE ROOF ARRANGEMENT LIKE THIS IN THIS AREA. IT IS ASYMMETRICAL TO SAY THE LEAST.

THE HOUSES ON THIS BLOCK ARE FAIRLY MODEST EXCEPT FOR THE FREER HOME, WHICH IS QUITE ORNATE AND ELEGANT IN COMPARISON.

CROSSING 6TH AVE.:

#14

ON THE NORTH-EAST CORNER OF 6TH AND 6TH IS 525 6TH ST., A LOVELY SAND BROWN HOUSE WITH CHAMFERED CORNERS. THIS HOUSE IS FROM 1897 AND IS ONE OF THE EARLY HOMES IN THE DISTRICT. IT IS CLOSE TO THE TOWN AND JUST ABOUT THREE BLOCKS FROM THE COLLEGE. THE HOUSE IS CONSIDERED NON-

CONFORMING BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN COVERED WITH ALUMINUM SIDING AND HAS LOST SOME OF ITS SHARPNESS OF THE ANGLES, BUT SOME OF IT HAS BEEN RETAINED. IT WOULD ORIGINALLY HAVE HAD A VERY DIFFERENT PORCH LINE AS WELL.



WALKING NORTH, ON THE EAST SIDE OF 6TH AVE.:

#15

606 6TH AVE. NW IS A NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE (LARGELY BECAUSE OF ALTERATIONS) FROM 1895. IT HAS A BAY WINDOW AND AGAIN, A COMPLEX ROOF LINE. THE BAY IS ON THE SOUTH SIDE, AND THE ALUMINUM SIDING HAS DEPRIVED US OF SOME SUBTLETIES OF THE HOUSE. THE DOORWAY IS NOT ORIGINAL. A LARGE FRONT PORCH HAS PROBABLY COME OFF. THE GABLE ON THE VERY TOP IS SOME SORT OF ADDITION.



#16

FIND 616 6TH AVE., NEXT DOOR. THIS IS A VERY SMALL AND MODEST HOUSE, AND LIKE 606 IS CONSIDERED A NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE IN THE DISTRICT BECAUSE OF THE ALTERATIONS. THIS PORCH IS VERY CONFUSING. ITS DIMENSIONS LOOK ORIGINAL, AND 606 SHOULD ORIGINALLY HAVE HAD A VERY SIMILAR PORCH. THE SECOND FLOOR PORCH HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN ADDED. THE PORCH MIGHT HAVE COME CLEAR ACROSS AT ONE TIME. YOU HAVE TO USE A LITTLE IMAGINATION TO SEE THE ORIGINAL SHELL OF THE HOUSE UNDER THE ALTERATIONS. THIS HOUSE MAY HAVE BEEN IDENTICAL TO THE HOUSE ON THE RIGHT. THERE IS SHINGLING IN THE GABLE ENDS. IT IS ASYMMETRICAL AND THE ROOF SLOPES TO THE SOUTH. THE LITTLE GABLE ABOVE THE PORCH THAT ANCHORS THE DOORWAY IS AT ABOUT THE SAME ANGLE AT THE ROOF. THERE IS A LITTLE BIT OF



BALANCE IN ANGLES BUT NOT IN MATERIALS. THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE HOUSE HAS BAY WINDOWS, WITH CHAMFERED CORNERS AND WIDE SIDING ALL THE WAY UP. LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE GABLE ENDS ON THE NORTH SIDE. THERE IS A DIFFERENT TYPE OF FISH SCALING HERE THAN ON THE FRONT. WE HAVE A HINT OF A BAY WINDOW, WHICH PROTRUDES ENOUGH TO BREAK UP THE LONG WALL.

#17

THE HOME AT 620 6TH AVENUE (NO HOUSE NUMBER!) IS A NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE DATING FROM 1910. THE PORCH LINE MAY BE ORIGINAL. THERE ARE NO BAY WINDOWS. THIS IS AN AMERICAN FOUR-SQUARE STYLE HOUSE. IT IS VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD. IT IS A SIMPLE, INEXPENSIVE MODEL OF HOUSE. THE STRIPPED-DOWN BASIC DESIGN OF THE FOUR-SQUARE IS A CONVENIENT PLATFORM FOR ADDITIONS.



CROSSING 6TH AVE., STANDING AT THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF 6TH AND 7TH:

#18

THE HOUSE AT 615 6TH AVE. WAS BUILT IN 1900. IT HAS A CHAMFERED BAY ON THE SIDE AND A SLIGHTLY ANGLED GABLE, EXTENDED ON ONE SIDE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INTERIOR SPACE. THE DIAMOND-PATTERNED DECORATIVE



TREATMENT ON THE FRONT GABLE, STILL IN THE ORIGINAL WOOD SHINGLE, IS UNIQUE IN MT. VERNON.

CROSSING 7TH ST. AT THE INTERSECTION:

#19

THE BLOCK ON 6TH AVENUE N. BETWEEN 7TH STREET AND 8TH STREET HAS SOME OF THE MOST ELEGANT HOUSES IN THE DISTRICT. THERE ARE THREE HOUSES ON THIS BLOCK DEFINED AS “KEY CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES” TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT. THE HISTORIC VANVALKENBURG HOME (703 6TH AVE. NW), ON THE NORTH-WEST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION, IS ONE OF THEM. IT IS A LOVELY HOUSE, BUILT IN 1896, AND WAS THE LONGTIME RESIDENCE OF CORNELL PROFESSOR VANVALKENBURG.



THIS IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THE QUEEN ANNE STYLE, CHARACTERIZED BY ONE OR MORE LARGE TOWERS. ANOTHER HALLMARK OF THIS STYLE IS THE USE OF DIFFERENT BUILDING MATERIALS AND TEXTURES. OBSERVE THE FRIEZE OF FISH SCALES AND THE DECORATIVE BORDER RESEMBLING DOWNWARD-POINTING ARROWS ALONG THE BOTTOM EDGE OF THE SHINGLED SURFACE. THERE ARE VERY FEW OF THIS DESIGN IN TOWN. THE GABLE END TO THE RIGHT HAS FISH SCALES AND SUNBURST DESIGNS. THERE IS A DELICATE PORCH WITH BALUSTERS ON THE BOTTOM AS WELL AS UNDER THE OVER HANG. THE PORCH SKIRT (THE AREA BETWEEN THE PORCH AND THE GROUND) IS QUITE INTERESTING. THE GARAGE IN THE REAR, COMPLETED IN 2009, IS A TASTEFUL RECREATION OF A

LARGE CARRIAGE HOUSE FROM THE PERIOD OF THE HOUSE'S CONSTRUCTION (REPLACING A VERY SMALL AND BADLY DETERIORATED ONE-CAR GARAGE ON THE SAME SITE).

CONTINUING NORTH ON THE WEST SIDE OF 6TH AVE.:

#20

WE ARE NOW AT 711 6TH AVE. THIS IS AN INTERESTING FOUR-SQUARE, BUILT ABOUT 1902, WITH INTERESTING LITTLE DETAILS ON IT. THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT WIDTHS OF SIDING THAT BREAK UP THE LARGE EXTERIOR WALLS VISUALLY AND MAKE THE SURFACE MORE INTERESTING. THE PATTERN ON THE FIRST FLOOR IS MORE STANDARD THAN THE ONE ON THE SECOND FLOOR WITH NARROWER, LONGER BOARDS. THE GABLE IS COMPLETE WITH FISH SCALING AND A FLAT ROOF. THERE IS A LARGE WINDOW TO THE LEFT OF THE FRONT DOOR WITH CUT GLASS IN THE UPPER PART THAT IS ORIGINAL. IT IS ASYMMETRICAL, AFTER THE VICTORIAN ARRANGEMENTS. THE FRONT PORCH (LACKING THE USUAL RAILING) HAS BEEN REBUILT AND THE DECK ON THE BACK IS A RECENT ALTERATION, AS IS THE GABLE ON THE SOUTH SIDE WITH ITS FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOW. THE LARGE GARAGE IN THE BACK IS RECENT, BUT SIMILAR IN APPEARANCE TO THE HOUSE PARTLY BECAUSE THE OWNER CHOSE SIDING SIMILAR IN WIDTH TO THAT ON THE HOUSE. IT INCLUDES A LARGE STUDIO OR WORKSHOP SPACE ON THE SOUTH SIDE AND THE SECOND FLOOR.



#21

715 6TH AVE IS CONSIDERED A NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE IN THIS HISTORIC DISTRICT.

#22

717 6TH AVE. IS A KEY CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE, ANCHORING THIS BLOCK WITH THE TWO OTHER KEY STRUCTURES. THIS WAS BUILT IN 1905. THERE IS A LARGE WRAP-AROUND PORCH THAT COVERS A HUGE BAY WINDOW. IF YOU LOOK ABOVE THE



PORCH YOU CAN SEE THAT THE BAY IS A TWO-STORY BAY THAT MOVES TOWARD A CONICAL ROOF LINE. IT HAS THE FEATURES OF A TURRET, SET AGAINST A SWEEPING ROOF LINE THAT REACHES MUCH HIGHER THAN THE TOP OF THE TOWER. THE BROAD FRONT STEPS MAY BE ORIGINAL AND AT LEAST WORK WELL IN THE OVERALL DESIGN. THERE ARE VERY PLAIN BALUSTERS AND COLUMNS. THIS IS CLEARLY A PORCH FOR SITTING AND ENTERTAINING.

THE LAYOUT OF THE HOUSE GIVES US CLEAR SNAPSHOTS OF THE DESIRED HOME ENVIRONMENT OF VICTORIANS. THERE IS A DOOR ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE PORCH LEADING INTO THE DINING ROOM, MEANT TO BE USED BY THE FAMILY IN THEIR DAILY ROUTINE. THE “COMPANY DOOR” IS LOCATED AT AN ANALOGOUS LOCATION ON THE HOUSE BUT ON THE SOUTH SIDE. IT OPENS INTO A LARGE LIGHT-FILLED LOVELY BAY AREA, A WELL-FURNISHED SITTING ROOM FOR CONVERSATIONS OR TEA. SLIDING DOORS SEPARATE THE DINING ROOM FROM THE SITTING OR “LIVING” ROOM. THE DOORS ARE OPENED WHEN THE MEAL IS READY. THE FURNISHINGS ARE USUALLY COVERED WITH SHEETS WHEN NO COMPANY IS EXPECTED. THE FAMILY NEVER USES THE ROOM UNLESS INVITED. IF VISITORS ARRIVE UNEXPECTEDLY, THE SHEETS ARE QUICKLY REMOVED AND THE CLEAR AND DUSTLESS “PARLOR” IS AVAILABLE TO IMPRESS THE GUESTS.

MOVE TO THE DRIVEWAY, SO YOU CAN SEE THE NORTH SIDE OF THE HOUSE.

FROM THIS SIDE YOU CAN SEE THE ANGLES OF THE ROOF LINES. THERE IS A LARGE AMOUNT OF FISH SCALING ON THE SECOND FLOOR AND A VERY LONG STRETCH OF UNBROKEN NARROW SIDING. THERE IS ANOTHER BAY WINDOW ON THIS SIDE, IN THE DINING ROOM. WHEN THEY BUILT THE GARAGE THEY MAINTAINED THE SAME NARROW SIDING CONCEPT. THIS AGAIN HELPS CONSIDERABLY; THE GARAGE ALMOST SEEMS TO FADE INTO THE LANDSCAPE FRAMING THE HOUSE. YET ANOTHER OF THE NICE THINGS ABOUT THIS HOUSE IS THAT IT SITS ON A GORGEOUS LOT.

CROSS TO THE SIDEWALK ON THE OTHER (EAST) SIDE OF 6TH AVE.:

#23

THE HOUSE ON THE CORNER AND THE ONE NEXT DOOR TO THE EAST ON 8TH ST., 518 8TH ST. AND 510 8TH ST., ARE BOTH CONSIDERED NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES IN THIS DISTRICT.

#24

716 6TH AVE., ALSO A KEY STRUCTURE, WAS BUILT IN 1901. IT HAS A COMPLETE WRAPAROUND PORCH AND AGAIN A DOOR ON THE SIDE (USUALLY THIS PLACEMENT INDICATES ITS INTENDED FUNCTION AS A FAMILY DOOR). THE FRONT DOOR WITH THE OVAL GLASS IS THE COMPANY DOOR. THERE IS A



LOVELY COVERED BAY WINDOW THAT ALLOWS LIGHT INTO THE LIVING ROOM, WHERE ONE ENTERS THE HOUSE. THERE IS A STAIRWAY HUNG ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE HOUSE. THE WOOD CLADDING ON BOTH FLOORS IS THE SAME. ON THE GABLE END WE HAVE A SEMI-CIRCULAR ATTIC WINDOW AGAINST FISH SCALING.

THERE IS A PORCH ABOVE THE PORCH, WHOSE FUNCTION BEGINS TO BE AN INTERESTING TOPIC. SOME WOULD SAY THAT IT IS JUST A SITTING PORCH OFF THE BEDROOM, WHERE SOMEONE COULD SIT IN SOME PRIVACY ON A HOT IOWA NIGHT. MANY OF THESE PORCHES ARE THAT TYPE. THOSE PORCHES ALSO SERVED AS A PLACE WHERE SOMEONE COULD SHAKE OUT A DUST MOP. DOING HOUSE CLEANING ON THE SECOND FLOOR, ONE COULD SHAKE IT OFF THE PORCH INSTEAD OF OPENING A WINDOW. PORCHES WERE OFTEN USED TO AIR THE CLOTHS OR THE RUGS. THEY WERE ALSO GREAT FOR LETTING AIR INTO THE HOUSE FOR CROSS VENTILATION. THIS IS A DESIGN FEATURE WITH SOME PRAGMATIC VALUE.

THE FLUTED COLUMNS ON BOTH FLOORS ARE QUITE LOVELY AND WORK WELL ON THIS HOUSE. THEY ALSO VISUALLY KEEP THE HOUSE FROM BEING SO TALL. IT IS A VERY LARGE STRUCTURE AND THE PORCH BALUSTERS ARE HEAVY. THERE IS A HINT OF A BAY WINDOW THAT IS PROBABLY THE DINING ROOM. PEOPLE COULD GO DIRECTLY INTO THE DINING ROOM AND THEN ONTO THE PORCH FOR DESSERT.

GOING BACK SOUTH UP 6TH:

#25

712 6TH AVE. WAS BUILT IN 1907. IT IS A BASIC AMERICAN FOUR-SQUARE HOUSE WITH SUBTLE COMPLICATIONS LIKE THE ROOF LINE ON THE PORCH. THERE ARE TWO VERY INTERESTING GABLE ENDS ON THE STRUCTURE. THERE ARE NARROW-PANED



WINDOWS – ONE WITH FISH SCALING AND THE OTHER WITH ELABORATE LITTLE TRIANGLES. THEY ARE TO LET LIGHT INTO THE ATTIC AND PERHAPS TO HELP VENTILATE THAT HOT SPACE – A FUNCTIONAL AND AESTHETIC DESIGN ELEMENT. A CLOSE LOOK AT THIS HOUSE FROM ACROSS THE STREET HIGHLIGHTS THREE GABLES. IF YOU LOOK UP INTO THE GABLE THAT FACES THE SOUTH YOU WILL NOTICE THOSE 12-PANED WINDOWS. THEY ARE ON BOTH OF THESE GABLES – ONE FACING WEST AND THE OTHER FACING SOUTH. THEY BECOME A DECORATIVE ELEMENT IN THAT SPACE AGAINST FISH SCALES.

THE HOUSE HAS SOME VERY INTERESTING BREAKS FROM SYMMETRY. THE NORTH SIDE OF THE HOUSE IS VERY PLAIN, BUT ON THE SOUTH SIDE THERE IS ANOTHER ENTRY. THIS, LIKE WE SAW ON THE LAST TWO HOUSES, IS A SECOND FRONT DOOR. THE PORCH IS SCALED DOWN AND DELICATE. THE BACK STOOP, WITH A STYLISTICALLY APPROPRIATE ROOF AND RAILING, IS A TASTEFUL RECENT ALTERATION. THAT CORNER OF THE HOUSE WAS ORIGINALLY A SIMILAR PORCH THAT WAS ENCLOSED AT SOME POINT.

#26

702 6TH AVE. HAS BEEN ALTERED CONSIDERABLY, BUT THE ORIGINAL PART OF THE HOUSE, BUILT IN 1900, IS ESSENTIALLY A FOUR-SQUARE DESIGN WITH BAY WINDOWS ON BOTH FLOORS. NOTICE THE GABLE END WITH THE BAY WINDOW AND THE QUEEN ANNE-STYLE



PANES IN THE WINDOWS ON THE FIRST FLOOR. SMALL WINDOWS WITH SMALL PANES ASCENDING A LARGE WALL, LIKE WE SEE ON THE SOUTH SIDE, USUALLY INDICATE THAT A STAIRCASE IS HUNG ON THE INTERIOR OF THAT WALL. THE WRAPAROUND COVERED PORCH IS A RECENT ADDITION. NOTE THE GENTLY SLOPED ROOF, THE SQUARE PILLARS, THE TURNED BALUSTERS ON THE RAILING, AND THE

LATTICEWORK PORCH SKIRT. THE ENCLOSURE OVER THE FRONT DOOR OBSCURES WHATEVER MIGHT HAVE BEEN ORIGINALLY IN ITS PLACE. THE ATTACHED GARAGE IS AN EARLIER ADDITION, RECENTLY ALTERED BY THE ADDITION OF A SECOND FLOOR AND A HIGHER-PITCHED ROOF WITH CROSS GABLES. BOTH THE ORIGINAL GABLE ENDS AND THE NEWER ONES ARE DECORATED WITH FISH SCALES. THESE, THE WINDOWS, AND THE PORCH PILLARS ARE ALL BROUGHT OUT NICELY BY THE USE OF HISTORICALLY APPROPRIATE TWO-TONE TRIM IN THE VICTORIAN STYLE, CHOSEN WHEN THE CURRENT OWNERS REPAINTED THE HOUSE AS PART OF THE RECENT REMODELING.

THESE EXTENSIVE ADDITIONS HAVE REPLACED EARLIER AND LESS TASTEFUL ALTERATIONS AND SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED THE HOUSE'S AESTHETIC APPEAL. THEY MIMIC AND BLEND WITH ORIGINAL ELEMENTS AS WELL AS THE STYLISTIC INFLUENCES EXPRESSED IN THE OTHER HOUSES ON THE BLOCK.

GOING EAST ON 7TH ST.:

#27

515 7TH ST. IS CONSIDERED A NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE IN THIS HISTORIC DISTRICT.

AT 5TH AVE. AND 7TH ST., PROCEEDING ACROSS 7TH ST.:

#28

615 5TH AVE. IS A REMARKABLE HOUSE BUILT IN 1901. YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT IT FOR A LONG TIME IN ORDER TO GRASP THE PLAN AND DETAILS. THERE IS A BAY WINDOW ON THE NORTH SIDE, A HUGE ROOF LINE WITH VERY INTERESTING



TREATMENT OVER THE ATTIC WINDOW (WITH DENTILS), AND A BARGEBOARD COMPLETE WITH BRACKETS. THE UPPER PART OF THIS HOUSE HAS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF DETAIL. THERE ARE BRACKETS, SEMI-CIRCULAR WINDOWS, AND IT IS CUT DEEPLY INTO THE ROOF. THERE WAS PROBABLY A BALUSTRADE AT THE FRONT OF THAT AREA. IT IS VERY DEEP AND COULD HAVE BEEN A SITTING PORCH. IT BEARS MUCH OF THE WEIGHT OF THE ROOF. THE PORCH YOU SEE TODAY IS THE LOVING WORK OF A COUPLE WHO RESTORED MUCH OF ITS ORIGINAL CHARM AND DIGNITY. THEY HAD NO PICTURES OF THE ORIGINAL TO GUIDE THEM, SO THEY FABRICATED A HANDSOME PORCH IN THE STYLE OF THE PERIOD. I THINK THEY DID A REMARKABLE JOB. THERE ARE NICE PANES IN THE WINDOW ON THIS SIDE, AND IN THE BACK OF THE HOUSE YOU CAN SEE THE HUGE SLEEPING PORCH. ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE HOUSE IS A BAY WINDOW AND LOVELY PORCHES. THERE IS ANOTHER HUGE PORCH ON THE BACK. THESE PORCHES ARE CLEARLY A PART OF THE PRIVATE AREA OF THE HOUSE. THE GARAGE IS A RECENTLY BUILT REPLICA OF A CARRIAGE HOUSE FROM THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, COMPLETE WITH SHINGLING AND FISH SCALES IN THE GABLES. PLEASE NOTICE THE GINGKO TREE (THE ONE WITH THE SWINGS). THERE IS A GINGKO AT THE CORNELL COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE THAT IS THE LARGEST IN IOWA, AND THIS ONE IS VERY CLOSE TO THAT ONE IN SIZE AND AGE.

CONTINUING SOUTH ON THE WEST SIDE OF 5TH:

#29

THIS 1910 HOME, 609 5TH AVE., IS YET ANOTHER AMERICAN FOUR-SQUARE HOUSE FEATURING A NICE LITTLE PORCH. IT ATTRACTS LITTLE ATTENTION. IT IS ESSENTIALLY A SQUARE HOUSE WITH A SMALL GABLE. THERE ARE ALMOST NO DECORATIVE ELEMENTS. ON THE SOUTH SIDE IS A PORCH ARRANGEMENT ON THE BACK THAT COULD VERY



WELL HAVE BEEN A SLEEPING PORCH. NOTE THE ADDITION OF VINYL SIDING.

#30

603 5TH AVE. IS ONE OF THE EARLIEST HOUSES IN THIS DISTRICT, BUILT IN 1897, AND IS ESSENTIALLY UNTOUCHED ON THE EXTERIOR. IT IS NICELY PAINTED AND HAS A NICE SENSE OF ENTRY. THERE IS A SLEEPING PORCH IN THE BACK. THE BAY ON THE SOUTH SIDE HAS CHAMFERED CORNERS WITH DECORATIVE ELEMENTS. THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT BY A MR. CARLETON AND HAS HAD ONLY ABOUT FOUR OWNERS. THERE IS ANOTHER PORCH ON THE SOUTH SIDE. IF YOU WERE "COMPANY" YOU ENTERED THROUGH THE 5TH AVE. SIDE, BUT IF YOU WERE FAMILY YOU WOULD ENTER THROUGH THE 6TH ST. SIDE.



CROSSING 5TH AVE. AND GOING BACK NORTH ALONG THE EAST SIDE OF THE STREET:

THIS IS THE CORNER OF THE DISTRICT. THE OLDER PART OF TOWN, TO OUR SOUTH, LAID OUT ON THE TOPOGRAPHY OF THE HILL. IN THE LATE 1890'S, WHEN ASH PARK WAS BEING INCORPORATED, IT WAS DECIDED TO LINE UP THE NEW STREETS WITH THE CARDINAL DIRECTIONS.

#31

ON THE CORNER IS A RATHER INTERESTING HOUSE, 608 5TH AVE., BUILT IN 1912. IT IS A VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD HOUSE AND THE ONLY DECORATIVE ELEMENTS ARE THE FISH SCALING IN THE GABLE ENDS. THERE IS A SMALL BAY ON THE SOUTH. THE PORCH ON THAT SIDE MAY BE A



REPLACEMENT FOR A SMALLER PORCH THAT WAS THERE AT ONE TIME. THERE ARE TWO DOORS ON THE STREET WITH BUNGALOW-STYLE PORCHES. THE BIG ADDITION ON THE NORTH SERVES AS AN OFFICE FOR THE OWNERS OF OVER THIRTY YEARS AND INCORPORATES ANOTHER DOOR. THE GARAGE IS RECENT BUT STYLISTICALLY APPROPRIATE.

#32

THE THREE HOUSES ON THIS BLOCK ARE ALL FROM THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. THE HOUSE AT 610 5TH AVE. WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1901 AND IS ANOTHER “KEY STRUCTURE” IN THE DISTRICT. IT IS IN THE AMERICAN FOUR-SQUARE STYLE, AND



HAS A SENSE OF SIMPLICITY EXCEPT FOR A FEW INTERESTING DECORATIVE ELEMENTS. NOTICE THE DENTILS UNDER THE OVERHANG ON THE FRIEZE. THERE ARE NICE MUNTINS IN THE WINDOW ON THE GABLE END. THIS HOUSE IS SYMMETRICAL – THERE IS A DOOR IN THE MIDDLE AND TWO BIG WINDOWS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE DOOR; THE WINDOWS ABOVE THEM LINE UP WITH THE LOWER WINDOWS. THE PORCH IS WELL PROPORTIONED. THIS WAS THE HOME OF HARRY KELLY, WHO WAS THE FIRST MANAGER OF THE LOCAL TELEPHONE COMPANY. HE WAS PART OF THE BUSINESS MEN’S COMMERCIAL CLUB AND A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER. ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT BY D.C. HARTUNG, ONE OF THE MAIN BUILDING

CONTRACTORS IN MT. VERNON AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. NOTICE THE NICE AND WELL-PRESERVED OLD GARAGE.

#33

616 5TH AVE., ON THE CORNER TO THE NORTH, WAS BUILT IN 1901. THE HOUSE LOOKS VERY PLAIN, AND THE SHUTTERS HAVE BEEN ADDED. THERE ARE NO BRACKETS OR FISH SCALING. IT DOES HAVE SOME ELEMENTS OF VICTORIAN STYLISTIC INFLUENCES. THE ENTRY HAS HINTS OF ELEGANCE AND MAY HAVE BEEN COVERED BY A NICE PORCH AT ONE TIME. THERE IS A SUNBURST DESIGN ON THE PANEL ABOVE THE DOOR, AND THE WINDOW IN THE STAIRWELL HAS DECORATIVE PRISM PANES. THE LARGE FRONT LIVING ROOM HAS A LOVELY BAY WINDOW WITH FIVE PANES INSTEAD OF THE ORIGINAL THREE. ON THE NORTH SIDE THERE IS ANOTHER LITTLE BAY AND A PROTRUDING AREA AT THE ROOF LINE. THE GARAGE DOES NOT HELP THE CHARM ON THAT SIDE OF THE HOUSE.



WE NOW CROSS BOTH 5TH AVE. AND 7TH ST. AND CONTINUE NORTH ON THE WEST SIDE OF 5TH AVE.

#34

THE HOUSE ON THE NORTH-WEST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION, 703 5TH AVE., WAS BUILT ABOUT 1910. IT IS AN



AMERICAN FOUR-SQUARE WITH SYMMETRICAL WINDOWS, FISH SCALING IN THE GABLES, AND A FULL FRONT PORCH.

#35

707 5TH AVE. WAS BUILT IN 1910. IF YOU LOOK AT IT YOU CAN SEE THAT THERE IS A SECOND DOOR ON THE SOUTH SIDE; THE PORCH OR STOOP HAS BEEN REMOVED AND IT IS JUST UP IN THE AIR NOW. THE HOUSE HAS A SMALL BAY ON IT SUPPORTED BY SPLENDID BRACKETS. ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE HOUSE, YOU WILL SEE THAT THERE IS A HINT OF A TURRET THAT IS ANOTHER ELEMENT OF THE QUEEN ANNE STYLE. THAT TURRET IS A CONTEMPORARY ADDITION TO THE HOUSE. YOU WOULD NOT FIND A VICTORIAN TURRET WITH DOUBLE WINDOWS. IT IS TIED NICELY TO THE HOUSE WITH THE SIDING AND THE ROOF LINES.



#36

715 5TH AVE. WAS BUILT IN 1905 AND IS ANOTHER LARGE FOUR-SQUARE HOUSE. THERE ARE NICE FISH SCALES, A SUNBURST DECORATION, AND A BROKEN PEDIMENT IN THE UPPER GABLE. THE SHUTTERS HAVE BEEN ADDED. THE PORCH HAS BEEN ALTERED, AND PROBABLY IT HAD A SMALL ENTRY PORCH. THE DIMENSIONS OF THIS PORCH ARE PROBABLY THE SAME, BUT IT IS JUST CLOSED IN. IT IS A RATHER COMPLEX HOUSE. THE BAY ON THE SOUTH IS ORIGINAL AND TYPICAL OF SOME FOUR-



SQUARES. THERE HAS BEEN A LITTLE BAY WINDOW ADDED ON THE NORTH SIDE, AND THERE IS A SMALL ADDITION ON THAT SIDE TOWARDS THE BACK.

#37

719 5TH AVE. WAS BUILT IN 1912. IT IS A SYMMETRICAL FOUR-SQUARE HOUSE AND HAS BEEN COMPLETELY RE-SIDED. NOTE THE DENTILS ON THE FRONT PORCH OVERHANG. THIS AREA DEVELOPED QUITE QUICKLY; THE HOUSES ON THIS SIDE OF THE STREET WERE BUILT WITHIN A FEW YEARS. THEY ARE SIMILAR IN STYLE AND RELATIVELY SIMPLE.



#38

FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION BRIEFLY ON 725 5TH AVE., THE WHITE HOUSE ON THE CORNER. IT WAS BUILT BETWEEN 1910 AND 1920 AND IS NONCONTRIBUTING (BECAUSE OF THE ASBESTOS SIDING), BUT IS A HISTORIC WIDE TYPE, IN A TRANSITIONAL STYLE, WITH A LARGE GABLE ON THE EAST END. IT IS SYMMETRICAL AND THE WINDOWS ARE BALANCED OVER EACH OTHER. THE DOOR IS IN THE CENTER. THE HIGH PORCH HAS THE ELEMENTS OF THE BUNGALOW STYLE. THIS PORCH IS NOT MUCH DIFFERENT THAN THOSE ON THE LAST TWO HOUSES ON THIS SIDE OF THE STREET.

CROSSING TO THE EAST SIDE OF 5TH AVE:

#39

732 5TH AVE. IS NON-CONFORMING, AS IT IS LESS THAN FIFTY YEARS OLD.

WALKING SOUTH ALONG THE EAST SIDE OF 5TH:

#40

724 5TH AVE. HAS A VERY INTERESTING HISTORY. THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1910 (VERY VICTORIAN IN STYLE) AND MOVED TO THIS SITE. IT WAS ON MAIN STREET AT THE PRESENT LOCATION OF THE MERNER DORMITORY ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE FIELD HOUSE.



WHEN THEY BUILT THAT DORMITORY (@1938) THEY MOVED A COUPLE OF HOUSES. THE COLLEGE APPARENTLY OWNED THIS LOT. IT WAS A COLLEGE RENTAL PROPERTY FOR MANY YEARS, BUT IN RECENT YEARS WAS SOLD TO A FACULTY MEMBER. THIS HOUSE MAY HAVE SET DIFFERENTLY ON ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION. THE HOUSE SHOULD PROBABLY BE TURNED TO THE RIGHT A QUARTER OF A TURN. THIS IS ONE OF THE KEY HOUSES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE TURRET WITH LITTLE SWAGS AND LEADED GLASS, IS A SPIRAL OAK STAIRCASE ON THE INSIDE. THERE IS LEADED GLASS TO THE RIGHT IN THE SITTING ROOM. THE PORCH WRAPS AROUND A SMALL PART OF THE HOUSE AND PROVIDES FOR THE DOORWAY. THE MAIN DOOR IS RATHER HIDDEN SO YOU HAVE TO LOOK FOR IT. YOU WILL NOTICE THAT THE WHOLE NORTH SIDE OF THE HOUSE IS A HUGE BAY AREA. THE ATTIC GABLE IS MOST UNUSUAL. THERE ARE SWAGS ALONG WITH FISH SCALES. THE WINDOWS HAVE VERY INTERESTING MUNTINS. NOTICE THE LETTER DROP IN THIS WINDOW ON THE TURRET. LETTERS FALL ONTO THE FLOOR AT THE FOOT OF THE STAIRCASE. IT HAS LOVELY OAK WOODWORK THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE.

#41

THE NEXT HOUSE, 710 5TH AVE., WAS BUILT IN 1918 AND SHOWS MARKS OF TRANSITIONAL BUILDING STYLES BETWEEN THE OLDER ELEMENTS OF THE VICTORIAN STYLE AND THE NEWER



BUNGALOW STYLE. THERE ARE TWO BRACKETS UNDER THE WINDOW ON THE UPPER FLOOR. THERE COULD HAVE BEEN A WINDOW BOX ON THEM, BUT NO ONE IS REALLY SURE WHAT THEY WERE ORIGINALLY MEANT TO BE. THIS HOUSE HAS THE BROKEN PEDIMENT IN WHICH THE ROOF LINE STARTS BACK JUST A LITTLE BIT AS IF TO CREATE A TRIANGLE IN THE UPPER PART OF THE HOUSE. THERE IS A FLAT BAY (3 WINDOWS) AND A SHORT PORCH. THE LARGE GARAGE IS ANOTHER RECENTLY-BUILT REPLICA OF A CARRIAGE HOUSE.

#42

BUILT IN 1915, 708 5TH AVE. IS CLEARLY FROM THE SAME PERIOD AS 710 WITH JUST LITTLE DIFFERENCES. IT HAS ELEMENTS OF THE BUNGALOW IN THE PORCH WITH ITS LARGE COLUMNS. THEY ARE PROBABLY ORIGINAL, GIVEN THE SHAPE OF THE PORCH ROOF.



THERE ARE THREE WINDOWS WHICH SEEM TO BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE USUAL, MORE ELABORATE BAY WINDOW. THERE IS A NICE SENSE OF ENTRY AND IT IS MOSTLY SYMMETRICAL. THE UPPER ROOF IS SYMMETRICAL. WE SEE NO BRACKETS OF ANY KIND. NOTE THE DECORATIVE WINDOWPANE PATTERNS AND THE SHINGLE ARRANGEMENT.

#43

WE END THIS TOUR WITH THE NEWEST HOUSE IN THE DISTRICT, BUILT ON THE LAST OF THE LOTS IN ASH PARK, ON THE CORNER OF 5TH AND 7TH. THE HOUSE AT 702 5TH AVE. WAS BUILT IN 2010 (AND IS



**OF COURSE A NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE). THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THIS HOUSE COMPLETED THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISTRICT.**

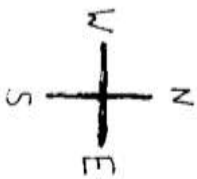
END OF TOUR

(LAST REVISED 7/12)

DR. RICHARD H. THOMAS

PROF OF HISTORY EMERITUS, CORNELL COLLEGE





Ash Park Historic District Walking Tour Map

