

HISTORIC RIDGEWOOD



We will always be indebted
to the many neighborhood
volunteers who worked so
tirelessly to obtain our
National Historic District
status in 1983.

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HISTORY OF RIDGEWOOD

The land which is now known as Ridgewood was two distinct parcels until it was developed. Ridgewood plat #1 & #2 was a portion of Section #33, Township #11, Range #8 while the land which was to become Ridgewood plat #3 was a part of Section #34, Township #11, Range #8.

In 1810 John Hammon secured from James Madison, President of the United States, Section #33, Township #11, Range #8 of the land directed to be sold at Steubenville, Ohio. The deed was recorded at Steubenville August 28, 1810.

On November 24, 1810 John Hammon and his wife Mary sold 1/2 of said section (320 acres) on the east side to his brother, Martin Hammon, for \$940. Martin Hammon and his wife Mary sold 1/2 of the above mentioned 1/2 section (160 acres) nearest to the city of Canton to James Harry for \$1,000. The deed was recorded April 28, 1824. This was the Southeast quarter of Section #33, Township #11, Range #8.

James Harry's will was probated March 5, 1860. He had more than a dozen children and lengthy legal proceedings were required to clarify ownership. However, on April 1, 1864, "part of the southeast quarter of Section #33" containing 73.96 acres was deeded to William Williams. The Atlas of Stark County, Ohio published by F.W. Beers & Company, New York, 1870 shows William Williams as the sole owner of the land, as well as The Combination Atlas Map of Stark County published by L.H. Everts and Company, Philadelphia, 1875.

William Williams died February 3, 1883 and the property passed to his four children. Three of them conveyed their interest to their brother William B. Williams in a deed dated July 11, 1883, and the land is described as containing 100 acres.

William B. Williams sold the land to James M. Martin and William P. Martin. The deed was recorded February 11, 1884. In the Atlas of Stark County, Ohio compiled by William J. & Orrin F. Kauffman and published by The Ohio Map and Atlas Company, Canton, Ohio, in 1882 the Martin Brothers are shown as the owners of 98.86 acres. William P. Martin died in December, 1901, and willed his share to his son Brooke Martin. James M. Martin died January 28, 1905, and his widow Emily B. Martin seems to have bought out the others' shares, but not without litigation as Kate B. Martin, William P. Martin's widow, claimed a dower interest in the land. The Sheriff's deed was recorded November 10, 1906.

On August 30, 1905 the Stark County Commissioners granted a petition for Canton City Council to extend the city limits to include the South half of the Southeast quarter of Section #33, Township #11, Range #8. At the renumbering of the territory annexed in 1906 most of it was numbered Out Lot #420.

In a Quit Claim deed recorded November 18, 1916, the other heirs in the Martin Brothers' wills deeded 19.897 acres, formerly part of the 100 acre tract owned by the Martin Brothers, to Emily B. Martin, as well as 77.9079 acres. This conveyance was intended to be a correct description of the land deeded to Emily B. Martin.

In a deed recorded May 13, 1918 Emily B. Martin sold 97.1254 acres to the Canton Home Site Company.

The land which was to become Ridgewood #3 was secured by Isaac Bachtel from James Madison, President of the United States in 1811. It was Section #34, Township #11, Range #8 of the land directed to be sold at Steubenville, Ohio.

Upon his death Isaac Bachtel's will was probated November 2, 1827. His land was deeded to his daughter, Maria Shriver, her husband, David, and her heirs. The Shrivens sold the land to the Stark County Commissioners on July 13, 1843. The land was used for farming by the Stark County Poor House and is described as containing 50 acres.

On February 8, 1868, the Stark County Commissioners sold to William Reed. He is shown as the owner of 52 acres in the Beers (1870), Everts (1875), and Kauffman (1882) Atlases. There appears to have been a brick yard at the Northwest corner of the acreage.

William Reed's heirs were Charles W. Reed, son, Belle R. Norwood, Alice Fry, and Nettie Talcott, daughters. George W. Prindle, C. Esther Prindle, and Belle Norwood filed against the will claiming some interest in the land by reason of mortgages held by them. After lengthy legal proceedings, a public sale was made to Belle Norwood and sums were paid to the Prindles.

On September 8, 1911, the 50 acres were platted by the City of Canton and called the Bellwood Addition. Upon extension of the city limits it was designated as Out Lot #557.

RIDGEWOOD ALLOTMENT

The Ridgewood Allotments were developed by the Leonard Agency. A subsidiary, The Canton Home Site Company, was established to manage Ridgewood #1 & #2 while Ridgewood #3 was a joint venture of Belle R. Norwood and George A. Leonard.

George A. Leonard was the founder and president of the Leonard Agency. He was born in Canton in 1879, educated in the Canton Public Schools, and graduated from Central High School in 1898. He was a musician by inclination and a partner in a music store on North Market Avenue before selling out in 1903 to enter the insurance business. The Leonard Agency was incorporated in 1908 with George A. Leonard as president, a position he held until 1962. By 1917 the lines of insurance had expanded to include real estate, real estate loans, surety bonds and property management.

The Ridgewood Allotments were the Leonard Agency's first major real estate development. It is said that Mrs. Leonard, the former Louise Brothers of Canton, was quite taken with a new allotment she visited in Springfield, Ohio, called 'Ridgewood,' and it was on her suggestion that the name was adopted. Her brother, Arthur M. Brothers, and brother-in-law, John Sherwood "Fritz" Kelly, builder and architect respectively, were responsible for many of the houses built in Ridgewood in the 1920's. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard resided at 153-19th Street, N.W.

PLAT RECORDS

The records of the Canton City Engineer, Plat Record #2, City Hall, Canton, Ohio describe Ridgewood as "laid out in the S.E. 1/4 of Section #33, Township #11, Range #8 by the Leonard Agency Company, Agents," and including part of Out Lot 426 and a part of Lot 9943. It was surveyed and platted by J.A. Starret in March, 1918.

Streets and avenues were dedicated to public use forever by the Canton Home Site Company, owners of the land, April 23, 1918, signed by C.G. Herbruck, president, and D.L. Beatty, secretary.

The foregoing instrument was approved and accepted by the Platting Commission at a meeting held on May 13, 1918.

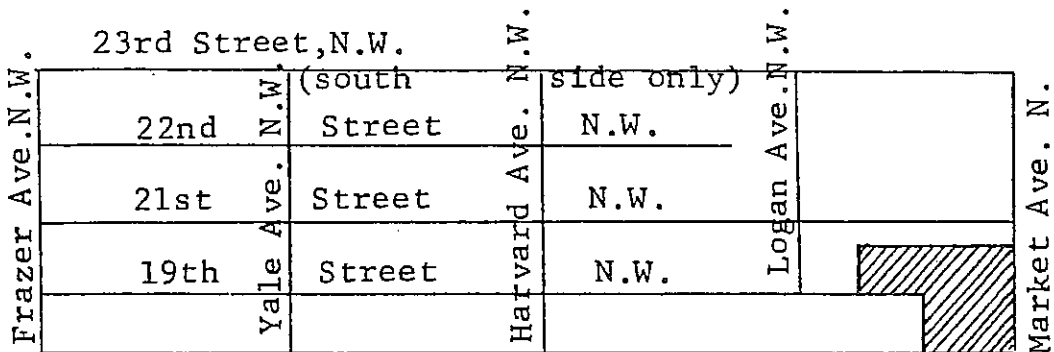
The dedication of the streets and avenues on the accompanying plat was accepted and confirmed by Ordinance # 4126 passed May 13, 1918, by the Council of the City of Canton, Ohio.

Entered for transfer, May 17, 1918.

Recorded June 22, 1918 in Volume II, pp. 90-91.

PLAT #1 - June 22, 1918

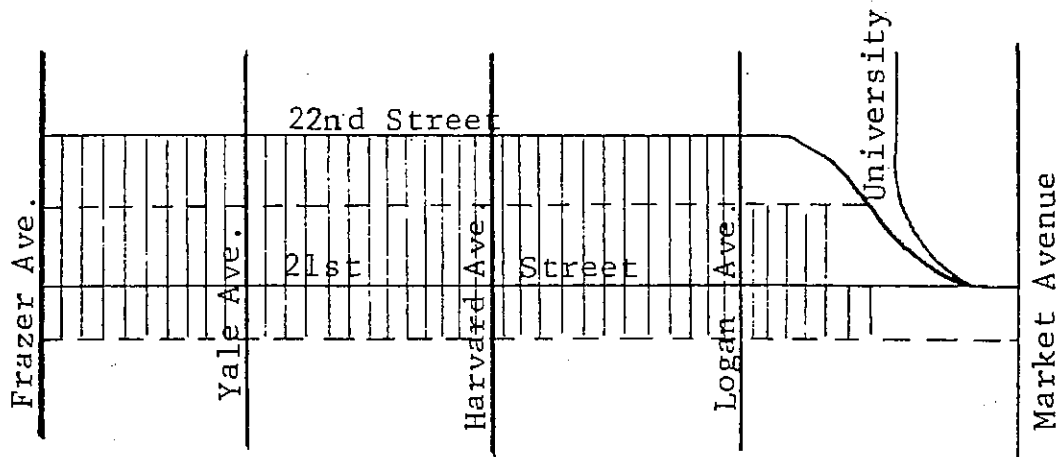
The first plat of Ridgewood ranged from Market Avenue on the East to Frazer Avenue on the West; and from the South side of 19th Street on the South to the South side of 23rd Street on the North. Not included were the corners of 19th and Market, 239.37 feet on the South side of 19th Street and 401 feet on the North side. (Plat Record #2, p. 82)



REPLAT #1 - July 22, 1919

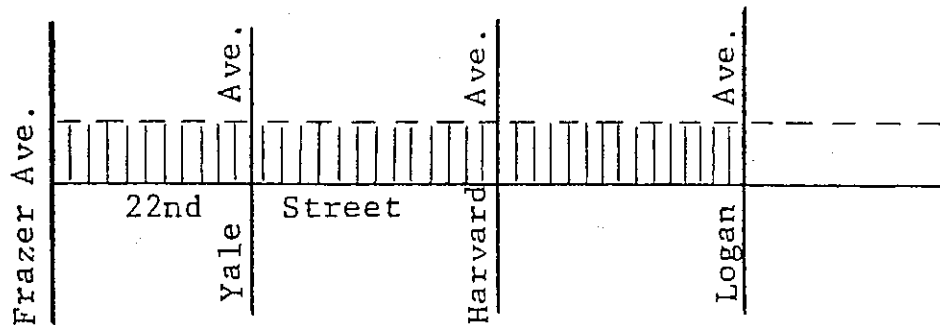
Both the North and South sides of 21st Street and the South side of 22nd Street were replatted. The number of lots was reduced and the size of the lots enlarged. The 13 original lots in the 200 blocks were redrawn to 8; the 13 lots in the 300 blocks were redrawn to 9; and the 6 lots in the 400 blocks were

redrawn to 5. The remaining lots between Market and Logan Avenues were also enlarged. It was surveyed and platted by J.A. Starret, July 1919, and received and given new city lot numbers by W.E. Sarver, City Civil Engineer, August 20, 1919. (Plat Record #2, pp. 122-123.)



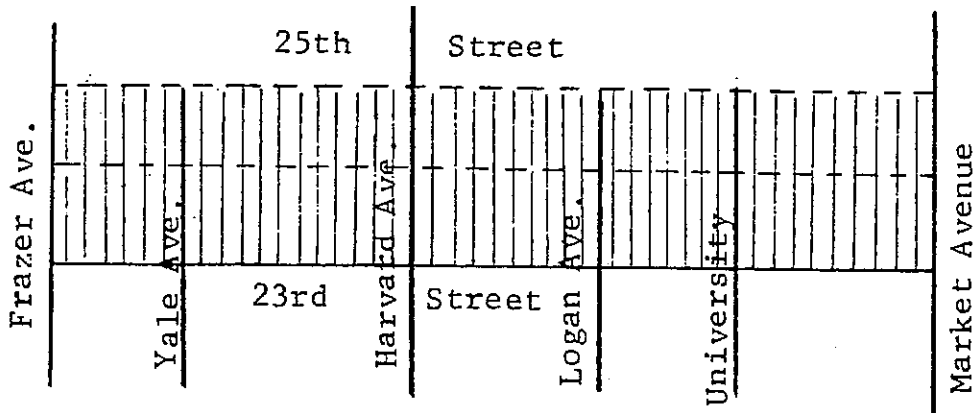
REPLAT #2 - October 24, 1919

This replat reduced the number of lots and thus enlarged the lots along the north side of 22nd Street from Logan Avenue to Frazer Avenue to correspond to the lots in Replat #1. It was surveyed and platted by J.A. Starret and received and given new city lot numbers by W.E. Saver. (Plat Record #2, p. 122)



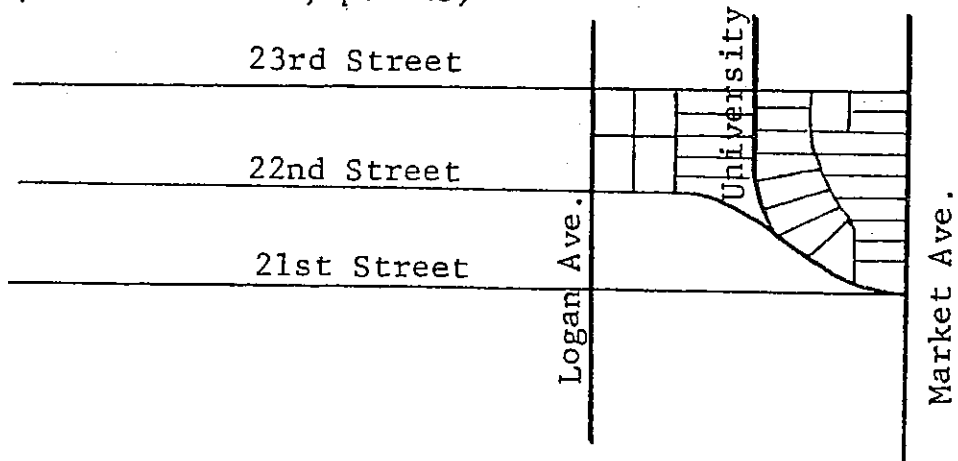
PLAT #2 - March 19, 1920

Plat #2 added the North side of 23rd Street and the South side of 25th Street from Market to Frazer Avenues. The lot sizes were in agreement with the preceding plats. It was surveyed and platted by J.A. Starret, March 1920. The dedication of streets and avenues was accepted and confirmed by Ordinance # 4591 passed April 13, 1920, by Canton City Council. (Plat Record #2, p. 125)



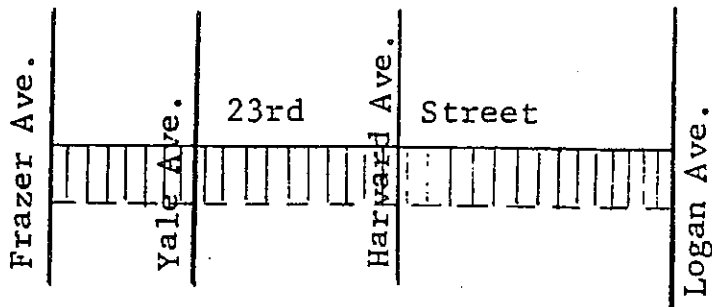
REPLAT #3 - March 19, 1920

The number of lots was reduced and the size of the lots enlarged along Market Avenue between 21st and 23rd Streets, University Circle/Avenue and the lots on 22nd and 23rd Streets in between. (Plat Record #2, p. 125)



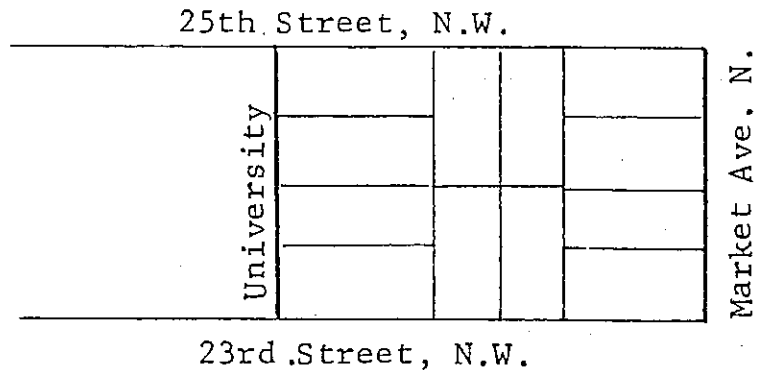
REPLAT #4 - March 18, 1920

The number of lots was reduced and the size of the lots enlarged on the South side of 23rd Street from Logan to Frazer Avenues. It was surveyed and platted by J.A. Starret, March 1920. Plat Record #2, p. 124)



PLAT #2 CONTINUATION - March 19, 1920

The lots were redrawn in the 100 block on the North side of 23rd Street, the South side of 25th Street, and the West side of Market Avenue between 23rd and 25th Streets. This was attached to REPLAT #4. (Plat Record #2, p. 124)



PLAT #3 - October 25, 1922 - (FIRST PART)

The first plat of Ridgewood #3 was recorded as the S.E.1/4 of Section #38 and the S.W. 1/4 of Section #34 in the City of Canton, Ohio. It was surveyed and platted by J.A. Starret in August, 1922. The streets and avenues were dedicated to public use forever by the owners, Belle R. Norwood and G.A. Leonard on September 22, 1922.

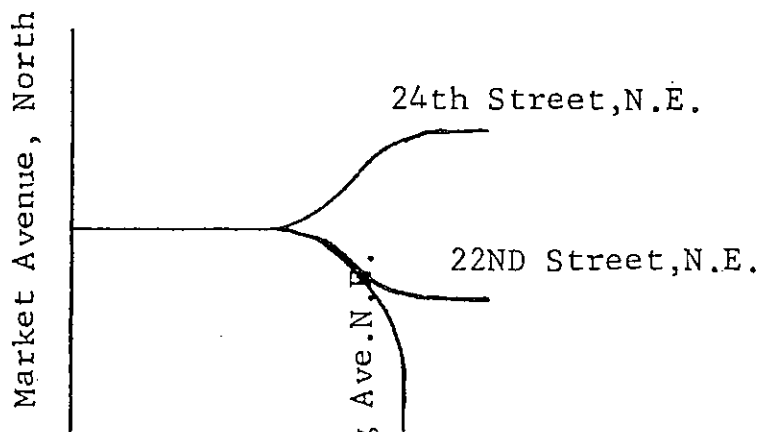
The foregoing instrument was approved and accepted by the Planning Commission at a meeting held on September 28, 1922.

The dedication of the streets and avenues on the accompanying plat was accepted and confirmed by Ordinance #5698 passed October 16, 1922 by the Council of the City of Canton, Ohio.

Received and given city lot numbers October 17, 1922.

Entered for transfer October 23, 1922.

Recorded October 25, 1922 in Volume 14.



PLAT #3 - December 8, 1924 - (SECOND PART)

The Second part of Ridgewood #3 was recorded as the S.W. 1/4 of Out Lot 557, Township #11, Range #8. It contained 19.47 acres owned by the Leonard Agency, Belle R. Norwood and Arthur M. Brothers. It was surveyd and platted in 1923 and 1924 by W.L. Bilknop.

Streets and avenues were dedicated for public use forever by the owners, October 14, 1924.

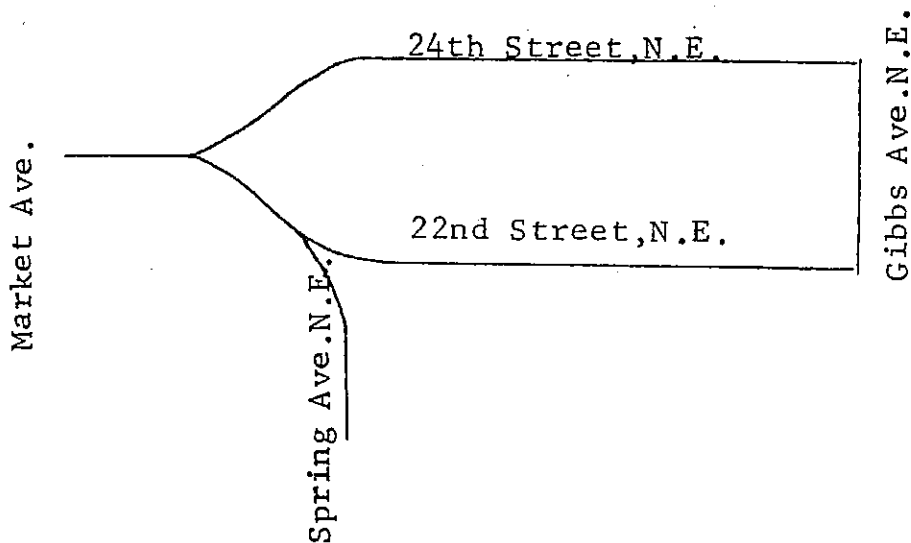
It was approved and accepted by the Planning Commission of the City of Canton, Ohio at a meeting held October 30, 1924.

The streets and avenues were accepted and confirmed by Ordinance #5955 passed on November 24, 1924 by the Council of the City of Canton.

Received and given city lot numbers December 2, 1924.

Entered for transfer December 4, 1924.

Recorded December 8, 1924 in Volume 16.



BUILDING IN THE 1920'S

Only one structure pre-dating the allotment is still standing. It is a frame farmhouse (1890) at 140-19th Street, N.W. It was at one time the home of John Lehman, a prominent Canton educator for whom Lehman Jr. High School/ High School was named. He also authored Lehman's History of Stark County. The house has been owned by the Belden family since 1916.

Three houses were built in Ridgewood in 1919:

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard's house at 153 - 19th Street, N.W.,
Dr. & Mrs. Loyal Leavenworth at 204 - 19th Street, N.W.
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Staley at 337 - 19th Street, N.W.

The house at 234 - 19th Street was built in 1920-1921 as a model home for the allotment by John S. Kelly, architect, and Arthur M. Brothers, builder. John Brothers, younger brother and brother-in-law, remembers living there with his parents for a short while as well as at 145 - 19th Street, N.W. Eight houses were built along 19th Street between 1919 and 1921 and the building boom was underway.

The building moved north in 1921 to 21st Street with a Dutch Colonial at 126 - 21st Street, N.W. and a Tudor Revival at 202. To the west of Harvard Avenue houses were built at 336 and 347 - 19th Street. In addition homes were begun on the two lots at the corner of Market Avenue and 25th Street, N.W. with ground being broken on the same day by two different contractors.

Electricity, street lights and sewers seem to have been in place before the houses were constructed. The construction of the brick streets seems to have begun in the summer of 1923. 25th Street was constructed by the city in 1924 but all other streets were paved by private contractors and there are no city records.

By this time houses were being built all over the allotment with the first house on the east side of Market Avenue being built by the Erlanger family in 1923 at 2210 Market Avenue, North. A review of the houses constructed in the 1920's is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>
1919	3	1925	14
1920	5	1926	19
1921	10	1927	29
1922	5	1928	32
1923	10	1929	27
1924	16	1930	15

Twenty-two houses had been built in Ridgewood, N.E. and 163 in Ridgewood, N.W. for a total of 185.

ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS

CHARLES E. FIRESTONE (1890-1970)

Charles E. Firestone was a native of Stark County having been born in Middlebranch, the son of Calvin H. and Ida E. Firestone. He graduated from Canton's Central High School in 1908 and from the Department of Engineering of the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science degree in Architectural Engineering in 1914.

After a short period of time in Detroit he returned to Canton and an association with C.V. Pettit. He purchased his interest in 1919 and practiced alone with an office in the Renkert Building until 1925 when he formed a partnership with Lowell Christman which continued until 1933. In 1935 he began his long-standing partnership with Lawrence J. Motter.

Edward T. Heald, Stark County historian, calls Mr. Firestone Canton leading architect from 1915 to 1959.¹ Fifty-four new school buildings and seventy-three additions were designed by Mr. Firestone and his office, the most significant probably being Timken High School. The firm also designed Fawcett Stadium which at the time it was built (1937) was the largest high school stadium in the country.² Public buildings included the Bow Federal Building (the old Canton Post Office,) Canton Memorial Civic Center and Molly Stark Hospital. Some of the many churches designed were Calvary Presbyterian, St. George Syrian Orthodox and both the schools and churches for St. Michael and St. Joan of Arc parishes.

Charles E. Firestone was a member of the American Institute of Architects, member and past president of the Architect's Society of Ohio; past chairman of the editorial board of the Ohio Architect; appointed member of the Board of Examiners 1942 - 1959; president of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards; and past president of the Society of Architectural Examiners. He received a Fellowship from the American Institute of Architects in 1947, the only Stark County architect to have received that honor up to that time.³

Mr. Firestone designed three houses in Ridgewood in which he and his family resided:

314 - 21st Street, N.W. (1926)
330 - 21st Street, N.W. (1928)
204 - 22nd Street, N.W. (1932)

1. Heald, The Stark County Story, Vol. IV, Part III, p. 761.

2. Ibid., p. 763-764.

3. Ibid.

Other residences designed by Charles Firestone are located at the following addresses:

408 - 19th Street, N.W.	357 - 23rd Street, N.W.
125 - 21st Street, N.W.	2121 Logan Avenue, N.W.
151 - 21st Street, N.W.	1019 - 22nd Street, N.E.
236 - 22nd Street, N.W.	2210 Market Avenue, North
357 - 23rd Street, N.W.	

Stylistically the houses show great diversity as Mr. Firestone was at home with all the Revival styles popular at the time. He built his version of 'The House of the Seven Gables' at 330 - 21st Street, N.W. Two of Ridgewood's most impressive Tudor Revivals are Firestone designs; the Geissen house at 125 - 21st Street, N.W. and the Erlanger house at 2210 Market Avenue, North. He also designed Ridgewood's only Bungalow located at 357 - 23rd Street, N.W.

HERMAN J. ALBRECHT (1885-1961)

Herman J. Albrecht was born in Massillon, Ohio, in 1885. He graduated from Massillon High School and earned a degree in Civil Engineering and Architecture from Ohio State in 1908.

He worked in several architect's offices in the East before returning to Ohio and joining the Cleveland firm of Howell and Thomas in 1917. Shortly thereafter the firm of Albrecht, Wilhelm (Karl E.) and Kelly (John S.) with offices in Cleveland and Massillon was organized. This firm continued until 1925 when it was reorganized as Albrecht and Wilhelm with principal offices in Massillon. This association continued until Wilhelm's death in 1947. Albrecht, Wilhelm and Kelly were are highly productive in Ridgewood in the 1920's both individually and collectively.

Albrecht and Wilhelm were also active throughout Stark County. In Canton the firm designed several additions to Aultman Hospital, the First Federal Savings and Loan Building and Martin Luther Lutheran Church. Massillon projects included quite a few schools, the Massillon Museum and the Massillon Public Library.⁴

Mr. Albrecht's greatest pleasure was the designing of homes in the traditional styles, reflected in over 500 residences (50 in Canton) including the stone Georgian Baronial mansion built for T.K. Harris in Hills and Dales in 1930. With great finesse of design, his versatility is evidenced in Tudor Revival,

⁴. Ibid., p.766.

Georgian Revival, French Norman Revival and Spanish styles including stately roofs, soaring chimneys, detailed entrances, walled courtyards and free standing garages with rooms above. 5

The 200 block of 23rd Street, N.W. has Ridgewood's greatest concentration of Albrecht houses:

179 - 23rd Street, N.W.	222 - 23rd Street, N.W.
211 - 23rd Street, N.W.	223 - 23rd Street, N.W.
244 - 23rd Street, N.W.	252 - 23rd Street, N.W.
235 - 23rd Street, N.W.	245 - 23rd Street, N.W.

Other Albrecht homes are located at:

145 - 19th Street, N.W.	415 - 19th Street, N.W.
227 - 21st Street, N.W.	151 - 22nd Street, N.W.
319 - 21st Street, N.W.	403 - 21st Street, N.W.

JOHN SHERWOOD (FRITZ) KELLY and ARTHUR M. BROTHERS

John Sherwood Kelly was born in Tennessee. He came to Cleveland as a young man and apprenticed to an architectural firm there. In the early 1920's he was a partner in the firm of Albrecht, Wilhelm and Kelly with offices in Cleveland and Massillon. In 1925 he left the firm and went into business for himself. At about the same time he married Dorothy Brothers of Canton.

Mr. Kelly was particularly fond of designing residences and had a wide range of experience and expertise in all the Revival styles of the 1920's. He also worked for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland and designed the church at Ninth and Superior. His work in Canton was concluded by the onset of the Depression but he continued to practice architecture in Cleveland until his death about 1950.

Arthur M. Brothers was born in Canton in 1879. He left the Canton City Schools when he was 15 or 16 to fight in the Spanish American War. He never got to Cuba but began his training as a Civil Engineer in the army. He eventually settled in New York and was a practicing civil engineer there for 20 years.

About 1920 his father asked him to return to Canton and join him at the family business, Canton Hardware Company. He did, but did not like working indoors and quickly got involved in building and developing in Ridgewood, his brother-in-law's allotment.

Ten years later after the onset of the Depression knocked the bottom out of the real estate market he returned to New York City and reclaimed his old job. He prospered and lived in Pleasantville, N.Y. until his death in 1958 at the age of 79.

Houses built by Kelly and Brothers are located at:

232 - 19th Street, N.W.	234 - 19th Street, N.W.
153 - 19th Street, N.W.	347 - 19th Street, N.W.
255 - 21st Street, N.W.	256 - 21st Street, N.W.
240 - 21st Street, N.W.	200 - 23rd Street, N.W.
160 - 25th Street, N.W.	2134 University Ave., N.W.
2230 University Ave., N.W.	2412 University Ave., N.W.
2216 University Ave., N.W.	123 - 22nd Street, N.E.
719 - 22nd Street, N.E.	805 - 22nd Street, N.E.
702 - 22nd Street, N.E.	805 - 24th Street, N.E.

LOUIS HOICOWITZ

Louis Hoicowitz was a Russian immigrant who settled in Canton. He owned and operated the Louis Hoicowitz Construction Company from 1922 to his retirement in 1952. The more than a dozen houses built in Ridgewood by Mr. Hoicowitz range from Georgian Revival to Tudor Revival, but his masterpieces were constructed in the French Norman Revival style, in particular houses located at:

2303 University Avenue, N.W.
132 - 22nd Street, N.W.

Hoicowitz houses used unusual building materials and showed a love of detail both in design and in construction. His chimneys were impressive with free-standing separate shafts rejoined at the top with corbeled caps. He liked turrets which he topped with conical roofs. A completed Hoicowitz house might also come with the interior color scheme established and the landscaping completed. Other houses built by Louis Hoicowitz are located at:

261 - 19th Street, N.W.	2223 University Ave., N.W.
326 - 22nd Street, N.W.	2208 University Ave., N.W.
338 - 22nd Street, N.W.	220 - 21st Street, N.W.
907 - 24th Street, N.E.	2207 Market Avenue, North
716 - 24th Street, N.E.	1004 - 22nd Street, N.E.
1000 - 22nd Street, N.E.	

RIDGEWOOD'S HISTORICAL LINK TO CANTON

Canton historically has always considered William McKinley its most important personage and that era of national political importance the high point in its history. However, McKinley died in 1901 and Canton passed into a new era characterized by unprecedented industrial growth which began at the time of World War I, accelerated through the 1920's before faltering with the Great Depression. Nearly all of Canton's important industries were established by 1920 and they were home owned and home financed. Most of them started from humble beginnings and their success was due to the vision, energy and dedication to hard work on the part of their founders and their associates.

By the time the Ridgewood allotment went on the market in the 1920's many of these men were reaping the benefits of their labor and had the resources to purchase a lot and build a house. An amazingly complete summary of Canton's industrial development during this period can be told through the lives of the men who built in Ridgewood.

STEEL

The Canton - Massillon district has aptly been called the 'Cradle of Alloy Steel' for the first large scale production of alloy steel for automobiles, the first stainless steel heats for commercial application, and the first pressed structural steel were all developed here.⁶

REPUBLIC STEEL CORPORATION was the result of a merger process completed in 1930 which included Canton's Berger Manufacturing Company and United Alloy Steel Corporation. These two companies functioned under overlapping management from 1922 to 1930. Some of their management personnel who resided in Ridgewood were:

George H. Charls (232-19th Street, N.W.) Vice Pres.
and General Manager for Berger;
Homer Giessen (125-21st Street, N.W.) Assistant Treas.
Shirley French (2129 Market Ave. North) Pres. of Berger
John S. Remsen (334-19th Street, N.W.)
Theodore H. Bernhard (409-23rd Street, N.W.)
John W. Alden (806-24th Street, N.E.)

THE TIMKEN ROLLER BEARING COMPANY was moved to Canton by the Timken brothers at the turn of the century. By the beginning of World War I it had grown to be the largest roller bearing company in the world.

6. Heald, The Stark County Story, Vol. III, p. 2

Both Henry H. Timken, Jr. and W. Robert Timken resided in Ridgewood at one time. William E. Umstattd, a self-made man who rose through the company to serve as president from 1934 until his retirement in 1959 resided at 227 - 21st Street, N.W. until his death in 1973. Mr. Umstattd is also credited with making the successful presentation to the National Football League owners which resulted in the Professional Football Hall of Fame locating in Canton. Other Timken personnel who built in Ridgewood included:

John G. Obermeier (132 - 22nd Street, N.W.)
Ralph L. Wilson (301 - 21st Street, N.W.)
Miss J. R. Murphy (407 - 22nd Street, N.W.)
Edwin H. Austin (1011 - 22nd Street, N.E.)
Robert Foulks (1011 - 24th Street, N.E.)
Mark Downes (1018 - 24th Street, N.E.)
Anthony Wilson (123 22nd Street, N.E.)
Harry Hutchinson (351 - 23rd Street, N.W.)
James H. Hughes (148 - 19th Street, N.W.)
Ralph T. Shipley (2233 University Ave., N.W.)

U.S. STEEL CORPORATION had a subsidiary in Canton, the Canton Roll & Mill Company. The superintendent from 1906 to 1940 was William H. Harris. He resided at 255 - 21st St., N.W.

LUNTZ IRON & STEEL COMPANY was one of the four or five largest scrap iron companies in the United States.⁸ Its co-founder and president (1918-1951) was Darwin S. Luntz who resided at 231 - 19th Street, N.W. in a home he built in 1920. His widow is still in residence there. Charles T. Luntz who built at 179 - 23rd Street, N.W. was vice president from 1918 to 1933.

HERCULES MOTOR COMPANY was organized in 1915 for the manufacturer of heavy duty engines. One of the incorporators was John G. Obermeier (132 - 22nd Street, N.W.) Harold G. Smith (414 - 25th Street, N.W.) was employed by the company. Also:

Harold S. Voges (814 - 24th Street, N.E.)

STAMPING AND ENAMELING

In 1950 there were seventeen stamping and enameling companies in the United States and two were located in Canton.

8. Heald, Vol. IV, Part 1, p. 205.

They represented 18% of the total U.S. production, making Canton the largest center for stamping and enameling production in the country.⁹

CANTON STAMPING & ENAMELING COMPANY by 1930 was the largest producer of gray enameled ware in the world with a capacity of 100,000 pieces per day.¹⁰ Ridgewood residents included:

Ralph Staley (337- 19th Street, N.W., 356 - 19th Street, N.W., & 119 University, Cir., N.W.) He built 3 houses in Ridgewood as he advanced from factory superintendent to president.

Sherman Guental (124 - 21st Street, N.W.) secretary
Homer E. Black (317 - 19th Street, N.W.) chairman
of the board

Harvey M. Coyle (427 - 23rd Street, N.W.)

REPUBLIC STAMPING AND ENAMELING produced 'old English gray ware' and a triple-coated white coat enameled ware. By 1920 output had reached 160,000 pieces per day and they were the largest enameled ware company in the country.¹¹ Executives building in Ridgewood included:

Ralph M. Fawcett (234 - 19th Street, N.W.) president
and treasurer

Howard B. Fawcett (223 - 22nd Street, N.W.) secretary

Parker M. Seymour (151 - 21st Street, N.W.) vice
president

WATER SOFTENERS AND CLEANSERS

Canton was the home of the two oldest and largest producers of water softeners and cleansers in the country.

THE CLIMALENE COMPANY was co-founded by Calvin E. Ball (201 - 19th Street, N.W.) and the company was guided for close to forty years by George H. Deuble (247 - 19th Street, N.W.) Its products included 'Climalene,' 'Bowlene' and 'Softo.'

HYGIENIC PRODUCTS COMPANY is best known as the manufacturer of 'Sani-Flush' which they began to manufacturer using the first automatic packaging machine in 1911. Key management personnel included:

9. Heald, Vol. III, p. 92.

10. Ibid., pp. 99-100.

11. Ibid., pp. 92-96.

Robert E. Whippy (335 - 21st Street, N.W.)
Lester C. Roderick (318 - 23rd Street, N.W.)

RUBBER

Stark County's rubber companies differed from the giants headquartered in Akron in that many did not produce for the automotive market but rather rubber speciality items.

CANTON RUBBER COMPANY produced electricians' gloves, surgeons' pura para gloves and other molded rubber goods. Ralph M. Fawcett (234 - 19th Street, N.W.) was president from 1927 until World War II rubber restrictions forced the company to suspend operations.

WILSON RUBBER COMPANY was incorporated in 1916 to produce surgeons', linemen's and acid-proof gloves, and within eight years of its founding it was the world's largest producer of rubber gloves. They originated the pure gum center and the curved finger in linemen's gloves and in 1931 received the first license for the sipping of liquid latex to manufacture latex rubber gloves. Executives living in Ridgewood included:

Fred J. Wilson (240 - 21st Street, N.W.) founder,
general manager and president
Wendell Herbruck (145 - 19th Street, N.W.) vice
president and secretary

MONARCH RUBBER COMPANY manufactured solid industrial tires and other automotive rubber. Ridgewood residents were:

Robert J. Himmelright (408 - 23rd Street, N.W.) pres.
Ralph M. Fawcett (234 - 19th Street, N.W.) vice pres.
Parker M. Seymour (151 - 21st Street, N.W.) secretary

TRIANGLE TIRE AND RUBBER COMPANY manufactured automotive tires. Curtis A. Hanner (350 - 21st Street, N.W.) was secretary of the company.

PROVISION COMPANIES

In the 1950's Canton was the second largest provision center in Ohio exceeded only by Cincinnati. The major companies all had their beginnings before World War I.

CANTON PROVISION COMPANY marketing its products under the 'Pioneer' trade name has been managed by three generations of the Wade family. Ralph J. Wade (421 - 22nd Street) was vice president and sales manager.

SUGARDALE PROVISION COMPANY was incorporated in 1926 by Harry Lavin and his three sons. Leo Lavin (356 - 23rd Street, N.W.) was vice president and Arthur Lavin (256 - 21st Street, N.W.) was treasurer.

DIVERSIFYING INDUSTRIES

One of the strengths of Canton's industries is its diversity. Following are other companies with Ridgewood ties.

WEBER DENTAL COMPANY produced the first modern fountain cuspidor and the first dental unit which organized all the various gadgets required in a dental office into a unit.¹² R. Verne Mitchell (145 - 19th Street, N.W.) was the son-in-law of the founder and became a director in 1921 and president in 1930.

THE HOOVER COMPANY was the world's largest vacuum cleaner producer. Executives building in Ridgewood included:

John Frank Hattersley (310 - 23rd Street, N.W.)
president from 1951-1953.
Herbert J. Hoover, Jr. (123 - 22nd Street, N.E.)
president
Floyd M. Rhed (2316 Market Avenue, North)
Lloyd Taylor (344 - 25th Street, N.W.)
William F. Bailey (326 - 19th Street, N.W.)
Henry C. Hettelsater (326 - 21st Street, N.W.)
Frank J. Hunter (314 - 21st Street, N.W.)
George M. Plover (2111 Market Avenue, North)

DIEBOLD SAFE & LOCK COMPANY is one of Canton's oldest companies having been founded in 1859. Adolph J. Roos (408 - 19th Street, N.W.) spent his entire working career with Diebold and was elected president in 1931.

12. Ibid., p. 111.

UNION METAL MANUFACTURING COMPANY will be covered in more detail in a special section because they manufactured Ridgewood's beautiful ornamental light standards. William A. Porterfield (325 - 22nd Street N.W.) joined the company in 1921 and rose to vice president in charge of sales promotion. Hugh R. Gable (326 - 22nd Street, N.W.) was also employed by Union Metal.

U.S. QUARRY TILE (SPARTEK, INC.) was led by Davis A. Cable (245 - 21st Street, N.W.) to become one of the greatest producers of floor and wall tile in the country. Their tile has been used in Rockefeller Center, the Panama Canal, the T.V.A. and Hoover Dam, and many major tunnels. His home was a showcase for his company's products and even the roof was tile.

GEORGE C. REITER COMPANY was for many years the country's dominant manufacturer of gongs and bells used in warning and signal systems for schools, factories and mines. The business was operated by Mrs. Helen Reiter (2226 Harvard Ave. N.W.) from 1927 to 1949.

This survey has dealt only with those companies which had a national or international market. There were many smaller companies some of which supplied the larger industrial concerns and others which manufactured a limited number of products for local or regional distribution. Kittoe Boiler and Tank Company, B.C. Holwick Company, Canton Culvert & Silo Company, Mahoney Sash & Door Company, and the Ney Manufacturing Company are only a few of the companies that fall into this category. Information on them is found on the inventory sheets. Their contributions to Canton industrial growth and development in the 1920's is significant.

Canton's industrial growth was reflected in the growth of the community as a whole and in the proliferation of mercantile establishments to serve the community. Like the industrial concerns they were largely home owned and home managed. Ridgewood housed many of the top executives:

Stark Dry Goods - William B. Erlanger (2210 Market Ave. North) pres. and founder

Bernard Erlanger (2130 Market Ave. North) pres.

George Ostrov (1011 - 24th Street, N.E.)

Jerome Blate (260 - 19th Street, N.W.)

William R. Zollinger & Co. - Harry C. Zollinger (336 - 19th St., N.W.)

Stern & Mann Company - Harry S. Mann (236 - 23rd Street, N.W.)

Lawrence Mann (206 - 21st Street, N.W.)

Philip S. Mann (2410 Market Ave. North)

Livingston's Furniture Company - David L. Livingston (147 - 21st St. N.W.)

The Parisian - Simon & Rhea Fischgrund (2303 University Ave. N.W.)

Klein & Heffelman - E.J. Heffelman (336 - 19th St., N.W.)

Deubles Jewelry - Homer C. Deuble (805 - 22nd St. N.E.)

Hirschheimer Brothers Company - Milton L. Hirschheimer (200 - 19th St. N.W.)

Lefkovitz - Clarence Lefkovitz (134 - 21st Street, N.W.)

George C. Wille Company - George C. Wille (236 22nd Street, N.W. and 2404 University Avenue, N.W.)

J.B. Rose & Company - James B. Rose (415 - 19th Street, N.W.)

In addition to the industrial concerns and the merchants all the other business interests found in a community had ties to Ridgewood. These included: real estate companies and agencies, insurance agencies, lumber companies, contractors, auto agencies and transportation companies.

The financial institutions were represented as well with the following bankers residing in Ridgewood:

Austin Lynch (2216 University Ave. N.W.) Central Savings Bank and Trust
Curtis A. Hanner (350 - 21st Street, N.W.) Canton Bank & Trust Company - president
R.V. Mitchell (145 - 19th Street, N.W.) Canton Bank & Trust Company - president
W.H. Miller (244 - 22nd Street, N.W.) Canton Bank & Trust Company - vice president
George W. Howenstine (215 - 21st Street, N.W.) The Dime Bank - secretary & treasurer

The medical profession was represented by the more than 20 doctors who built in Ridgewood. They included:

John E. Shorb, M.D. (414 - 21st Street, N.W.) - pioneered in the use of X-ray in Stark County
C.A. LaMont, M.D. (228 - 21st Street, N.W.) recognized as the leading specialist in diabetes
Loyal Leavenworth, M.D. (204 - 19th Street, N.W.) - Stark County's first obstetrician
Emerson Gillespie, M.D. (151 - 22nd Street, N.W.) - Stark County's first specialist in skin diseases.

The legal profession was represented by more than a dozen lawyers including five presidents of the Stark County Bar Association: Joseph M. Blake, C.M. Shetler, Russell J. Burt, I.B. Hart and C.E. Yutsey. Ian B. Hart (332 - 25th Street, N.W.) was one of the founders of the McKinley School of Law in 1926. Thomas H. Leahy who became a judge of Common Pleas in the 1930's built four houses in Ridgewood: 310 - 21st Street, N.W. (1924,) 220 - 23rd Street, N.W. (1924,) 250 - 21st Street, N.W. (1928,) 304 - 25th Street, N.W. (1930.)

In the field of education two very prominent educators resided in Ridgewood: John H. Lehman (140 - 19th Street, N.W.) was superintendent of schools at the turn of the century. Lehman Junior High Schools which has served the neighborhood for fifty years was named for him. Jesse G. Mason (414 - 22nd Street, N.W.) was superintendent of schools from 1928 to 1947, the longest administration in the history of the Canton City Schools. Jesse G. Mason Elementary Schools serves the children in Ridgewood, N.W.

RIDGEWOOD'S BRICK STREETS

One of the most important elements in Ridgewood which would be preserved and appreciated through its designation as an Historic District are some of Canton's few remaining brick streets. In the 1890's Canton was the center of the paving brick industry in this country and in the 1920's Canton had become the world's greatest producer of paving bricks.¹³

The first paving bricks manufactured in Stark County were produced on the Belden farm near Waco using a brick-making machine Henry S. Belden had seen demonstrated at the 1876 Centennial Fair in Philadelphia. It was the original stiff-mud brick making machine. He proposed that bricks be used to pave Canton's streets and proceeded to pave Cherry Avenue between Tuscarawas and Second Street, S.W. as a demonstration project. He then paved the Square on Market Avenue in front of the Courthouse. The bricks were hard, dense, strong and the pavements were very sturdy. "From this modest beginning brick paving of streets and roads spread rapidly not only in Canton but to other towns and cities . . ."¹⁴

By 1891 Canton's streets were generally paved in brick and by 1892 Canton had become the center of the paving brick industry in the country. The Canton City Directory for 1893-94 listed fifteen brick manufacturers. The Royal Brick Company ran ads for their "Iron Rock Street Pavers" and the Imperial Shale Brick Company's ad in the 1895 Directory stated that they were the "Largest Single Vitrified Brick Plant in America." Annual capacity was 20,000,000 bricks.¹⁵

In 1902 three major Canton companies were consolidated into the Metropolitan Paving Brick Company with the potential to manufacture 65,000,000 bricks annually. Metropolitan was the largest paving brick producer in the country. Business was booming because of the popularity of bricks for paving in eastern cities and the Stark County bricks were regarded as being of the highest quality. In the opinion of some geologists, Stark County may well have had the best clay in the entire United States for this purpose.¹⁶

The demand for paving bricks continued to rise until it reached its peak in the 1920's. Metropolitan Paving Brick Company maintained its position as the largest producer by purchasing additional brick plants until in 1917 with the acquisition of the Bessemer Limestone Company, they became the largest paving brick manufacturer in the world. Metropolitan's peak year in pavers came in 1923 when they shipped 92,000,000 pavers, approximately

13. Heald, Vol. II, p. 160.

14. Ibid.

15. McCollam, The Brick & Tile Industry in Stark County, p. 101.

16. THE - 00

20% of the entire U.S. production. This is an all-time record both for the company and for the industry.

The streets and avenues of Ridgewood were paved with Metropolitan pavers. The records of the Canton City Engineer show that the city paved 25th Street in 1924. The rest of the streets were paved by private contractors and there are no public records. It appears that the Garaux Brothers, contractors, paved 19th Street in 1923 and the Wise Construction Company also did some. A paver removed from Harvard Avenue at the corner of 21st Street, N.W. was analyzed by Metropolitan Industries and found to have been manufactured at their Royal Brick plant in 1923-1924.

The quality of pavers used in Ridgewood was such that the product was used widely throughout the country in heavy traffic areas. In New York City, the Midtown, Lincoln and Brooklyn-Battery Tunnels all used the same type of paver. The Brooklyn Battery Tunnel alone required approximately 2.5 million Metropolitan pavers. The Squirrel Hill Tunnels in Pittsburgh also used Metropolitan pavers. Metropolitan paving bricks were also sent to South America and Mexico for paving projects. Even the Indianapolis Speedway was originally Metropolitan pavers and when they were covered with asphalt, a yard wide strip at the starting line was kept in its original condition.

However, as time passed and Ridgewood's brick streets began to require some maintenance, the City began to apply black-top rather than repair the bricks. By the mid-1970's only 22nd Street, N.W., Logan Avenue between 19th and 21st, and University Avenue retained their original brick surfaces. It was the City's decision to black-top 22nd Street which served as one of the catalysts for the formation of the Ridgewood Preservation Committee. One of its first actions was to inform the Mayor and the Service Director of the desirability of preserving the few remaining brick streets.

The City administration was very receptive to the request. In the spring of 1979 a C.E.T.A. crew was hired to be trained in the maintenance of brick streets. Over the summer they repaired 22nd Street, University Avenue and several other brick streets in the city. The crew has become a permanent part of the Canton City Street Department. Furthermore, the City administration has agreed in principle to the concept of removing the blacktop on the other streets in Ridgewood as they require repair.

Ridgewood's brick streets are a tangible link with a part of America's industrial history and a permanent reminder of one of Canton's great success stories. Eventually, we hope that all the brick surfaces will be restored.

RIDGEWOOD'S STREET LIGHTING

Ridgewood's designation as an Historic District would spotlight the product of another local industry, Union Metal Manufacturing Company's street lighting standards. Wherever you travel in the United States or around the world, you will see their products: street lighting poles, highway lighting poles, floodlighting poles at sports fields, power distribution poles, architectural columns and even cargo booms and masts for ships.¹⁷

Union Metal had its beginnings in 1906 when Christopher Columbus Barrick purchased a handful of patents for steel porch columns and incorporated as Union Metal Post Company. He leased an old factory and with eight other men (seven family members) began to manufacture the steel columns. The columns were hollow with capitals and bases of wood.

The break-through for the company came when they secured bases and capitals of cast iron. The foundation was laid for a new type of lighting standard which was to become the company's largest line and in fact the largest line of its kind in the world.

The Barricks noticed that beauty was lacking in the street standards of the day, and pioneered in ornamental street lighting.¹⁸ Classic Doric, Ionic and Corinthian patterns were available as well as a multitude of variations. The company changed its name to Union Metal Manufacturing Company. Business boomed and Union Metal light standards were shipped to cities across the country and around the world.

Ridgewood's street lighting standards were all manufactured by Union Metal. Company officials tell us that there are twenty-three different designs in use in Canton alone. Ridgewood has quite a variety of styles and the standards differ from street to street.

It was the neighborhood's love of its quaint old street standards and their reaction to their threatened removal which precipitated the organization of the Ridgewood Preservation Committee. Since that time the City administration as well as the Ohio Power Company has agreed to their preservation and restoration and another link of Canton's industrial history will survive.

17. Heald, The Stark County Story, Vol. III, p. 114.

CONCLUSION

The Ridgewood allotment is now over sixty years old. A comparison of Ridgewood 1930 to Ridgewood 1980 is noteworthy because so little has changed. The houses were solid, built to last and most of them are as well maintained now as they were forty to fifty years ago. The street lighting standards remain the same and there are still a few brick streets. Construction did continue over the years until virtually all lots were filled but the more recent buildings are scattered through the neighborhood and do not detract from its personality. In fact many are fine structures in their own right.

Moreover, ownership of many homes has remained in the same family. In addition many people raised in Ridgewood between 1930 and 1960 have returned to purchase other homes in the neighborhood and to raise their families here as well. This love for city and neighborhood is now being passed to the third generation. Ridgewood has a very special continuity.

Ridgewood is only one of many 1920's developments across the state of Ohio showcasing the Revival styles popular at the time which have survived into the 1980's. Ridgewood as a survivor is unique in that it was an urban development, located within the city limits, 19 to 25 blocks from the center of town. In most other cases a mass exodus to the suburbs has taken place and urban decay has moved in. This has not happened in Ridgewood and the residents are determined that it won't. However, they are increasingly aware of the proximity and threat of urban decay and realize that they can not remain passive.

Ridgewood is an architectural and historical link to Canton's past. The formation of the Ridgewood Preservation Committee shows the commitment of the residents to their neighborhood. The City administration has pledged its support to the restoration of the street lighting standards and the brick streets as well as to the application for Historic District status. Working together we hope to preserve Ridgewood.

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