# A SURVEY OF THE ARCADIA NEIGHBORHOOD

by Robyn Opthoff Lilek History Internship, Summer 1989

# Table of Contents

Introduction	l
Physical Description	1
History of the Westmoreland Park Plat	2
The Westmoreland Park No. 1 Plat	5
History of Dobbin Hill Acres	5
The Westmoreland Park No. 2 Plat	6
History of the Arcadia Plat	6
The Arcadia No. 1 Plat	8
The Briarwood Plat	10
The Arcadia No. 2 Plat	10
The Arcadia No. 3 Plat	10
Schools	10
Index of Plats	12
List of Builders	13
1873 Maps	15
1890 and 1910 Maps	16
1928 and Current Maps	17
Map of the Westmoreland Park Plat	18
Map of the Westmoreland Park No. 1 and Westmoreland Park No. 2 Plats	19
Map of the Dobbin Hill Acres Plat	20
Map of the Arcadia Plat	21
Map of the Arcadia No. 1 Plat	22
Map of the Briarwood Plat	23
Map of the Arcadia No. 2 Plat	24
Map of the Arcadia No. 3 Plat	25
Maps showing construction in the 1950s and 1960s	26

		Page
lap showing	the pattern of growth in the neighborhood	
Pictures of	815 Westfall and 3316 West Michigan	28
Pictures of	3406 West Michigan and the Lustron home	29
Pictures of	the Arcadia Elementary School and a neighborhood street	30
Bibliography	7	31
Endnotes		33

## ARCADIA NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

Arcadia is an idealized scene of simple pleasure, rustic innocence and uninterrupted quiet.

This paper is the result of a survey conducted to determine the history and pattern of growth in the Arcadia neighborhood. The history of the land was traced from the latter part of the nineteenth century through plat development. Also included are brief biographical sketches of the primary land owners.

### Physical Description

The Arcadia neighborhood consists of nine plats: Westmoreland Park,
Westmoreland Park No. 1, Dobbin Hill Acres, Westmoreland Park No. 2, Arcadia,
Arcadia No. 1, Briarwood, Arcadia No. 2 and Arcadia No. 3. This includes three
hundred eighty-eight residences, thirty vacant lots, the Grace Fellowship
Church, Arcadia Elementary School and two commercial businesses: Sgt.
Pepperoni's Pizza and the Majik Market. To the north and west of the
neighborhood are large sections of land owned by Western Michigan University. To
the east are Wendy's Restaurant and the Duds 'N' Suds Coin Laundry (along what
was formerly Streeter Avenue). West Michigan Avenue forms the neighborhood's
southern border. This entire area lies within the west half of Section twenty
and the east half of Section nineteen in Kalamazoo Township, Kalamazoo County.

This key concentration of residential structures, most dating in the 1950s and 1960s, provides a distinct contrast with most of the surrounding areas which include apartment buildings, fraternity/sorority and other student housing, commercial enterprises and a large natural area.

The neighborhood's enduring appeal results from the fact that the Arcadia plats on the west side of the neighborhood have no through streets, so traffic is light and the area remains quiet. In the June 14, 1965 edition of the Kalamazoo

Gazette, an article entitled "West Side Land Use Plan To Be Explained Thursday" reported that Kalamazoo was experiencing substantial population and economic growth, especially around the Western Michigan University campus. Problems such as a lack of offstreet parking along with a growing demand for rental housing units caused city planners to take a closer look into the west side area. Planners then recommended that the Arcadia neighborhood be encouraged to retain its single family nature.

Also of great importance are the three historic homes: 815 Westfall is a classic American farm house with Greek Revival features, probably built around 1880. It is the former home of John and Henrietta Everard and later Alfred Lord; 3316 West Michigan Avenue, appears to be an irregular Italianate style, also dating to around 1880 and is the former home of Mary Dobbin; and 3406 West Michigan Avenue, the former home of John Vandewalker and later Mary and Newton Henderson, is a late Greek Revival, dating some time in the late 1850s.

One unique feature of the neighborhood is the group of Japanese style homes on Memory Lane. And, the neighborhood's proximity to Western Michigan University is convenient for University faculty and staff.

# History of the Westmoreland Park Plat

In October of 1872, John H. and Henrietta Everard purchased approximately ninety five acres of land in Section twenty of Kalamazoo Township, two miles west of the village of Kalamazoo, to the north of Territorial Road (today it is West Michigan Avenue). I John was a harness maker who moved up from Schoolcraft to the village of Kalamazoo and engaged in business as early as  $1834.^2$  The Everards lived in downtown Kalamazoo until 1879 or 1880 when they moved out to the farm. John continued his harness business only a couple years after their move from town. John Everard ran a very productive farm, growing corn, oats, wheat,

potatoes and apples, besides keeping bees for wax and honey, and selling cordwood.<sup>3</sup>

John and Henrietta had two children: a daughter Mary and a son Herbert.

Herbert H. Everard worked as a printer in Kalamazoo. For a few years, he and his wife Alta (Althea) lived with Alta's widowed father, John Vandewalker, on

Territorial Road (only one farm away from Herbert's parents' farm). They moved into Kalamazoo around 1883.

By 1881 Herbert had already formed his own printing company in Kalamazoo, the H. H. Everard Company, which he had established along with the Ihling Brothers. The Ihling Brothers also had their own company as book binders, blank bookmakers and stationers. In 1887 the two companies were combined bearing the name Ihling Brothers-Everard Company which is still in business today. Herbert was very active in business and in the community. He served as alderman in the city of Kalamazoo and as vice-president and major stockholder of many area companies.

After Henrietta Everard died in 1902, the Everard estate was left to the two Everard children, Mary and Herbert. Herbert bought Mary's half in 1907 for \$6000.4

Herbert died in 1913. He left Alta almost \$600,000 in personal property (including \$550,000 in stocks and \$96,000 in real estate located in and around Kalamazoo, Van Euren County, the city of Detroit and lands in northern Michigan). The property off Territorial Road was valued at \$13,000, and Alta sold it in 1917.6

Two parties, Walter E. Buckingham and Adam and Barbara Ehrman, owned the Everard estate before it was purchased by Alfred V. Lord in 1922. Alfred Lord, who came from Berrien Springs, was a land developer and dairy farmer. On his house at 815 Westfall, he added a milk barn and an underground tunnel to connect

the milk barn to the house. (Today the milk barn is gone, but the tunnel still exists.)

Lord had the Westmoreland Park area platted in 1925. The plat includes the streets Morgan (today is Farrell), Westfall, Westmoreland, Weaver (to 810) and the south side of Hylle. The lots measured forty feet by approximately one hundred and thirty-four feet, and most homes have been built on more than one lot.

Two houses were built in this plat in the 1920s and five more in the 1930s (not including two houses that were built on other streets in the 1930s and moved to this plat in 1965). One house was built in 1941 and one in 1942 but then no building occurred until after World War II. In September of 1948, the Kalamazoo Gazette predicted "Active Building Demand Forecast For Next Decade". Since 1940, the population of Kalamazoo County was increasing rapidly (faster at the local level than at the national level) and that together with higher incomes would keep building demand high. 7 Less than four months later, the Gazette again reported that "the Kalamazoo building industry continued to ride the crest of a postwar boom during 1948" and "a shortage of home building sites within the city limits gave the surrounding areas an opportunity to outstrip the municipal unit in home building."8 Only two houses were built in the late 1940s. The house at 1002 Westfall, which was built in 1947 or 1948, is a Lustron home (constructed of enameled steel on a concrete slab), one of five in Kalamazoo. Another house was built in 1949, however, the 1950s better reflect the Westmoreland Park postwar boom. Of the one hundred and two homes in the Westmoreland Park plat, eight-five were built between 1950 and 1959. Not included in the eighty-five count is a house built at 1005 Farrell that was built in 1951 but has since burned down or the house at 2829 Hylle which was built in 1957 on Streeter Avenue. In December, 1964, the city of Kalamazoo adopted a resolution to vacate Streeter Avenue, and

so all the remaining houses along the street were moved or demolished. Two houses were moved to the Westmoreland Park plat in 1965: 857 Streeter was moved to 2829 Hylle, and 942 Streeter was moved to 3012 West Michigan Avenue. (Also, in 1965, a house at 914 Rankin was moved to 847 Farrell.) Since the 1950's, only six houses have been added to the plat: the three houses that were moved from other streets, houses built in 1960 and 1978, and a house at 1005 Farrell which is under construction at this time. The Grace Fellowship Church at 2814 Hylle (formerly Westwood Christian Reformed Church) and its parsonage at 2812 Hylle were built in the 1960s but are not part of the original Westmoreland Park plat.

## The Westmoreland Park No. 1 Plat

In 1951, Alfred Lord sold his house on Westfall. He platted the Westmoreland Park No. 1 plat, of which the house at 815 Westfall is a part, and filed it with Kalamazoo County in 1953. The plat consists of eleven properties along the east side of Kendall Avenue. Of the six existing houses (besides Lord's house), five were built in the 1950s and one in 1962.

### History of Dobbin Hill Acres

In 1835, Bradley S. Williams, a native of Genesee County, New York, arrived in Schoolcraft Township on Prairie Ronde. He taught school the first winter on the south side of the prairie. The next year he began looking for suitable land and subsequently purchased a farm in the Schoolcraft area where he lived for twenty years before moving to the village of Kalamazoo to engage in manufacture. In 1870 he purchased an eighty acre farm in Section nineteen of Kalamazoo Township (he also owned almost three hundred acres in Brady Township). On June 5, 1883, Bradley Williams sold this farm for \$6000 to an Irish immigrant named John Dobbin. 11

After John Dobbin emigrated to America in 1868 and his wife Julia in 1870, they both worked as cooks in the kitchen at the Kalamazoo Asylum for the Insane (John eventually became the superintendent of the kitchen). They continued working there for a short time after purchasing the farm.

John and Julia had two children. Their daughter Mary was born in 1884 and lived her entire life in the house on Territorial Road. In the early 1900s, Mary taught at the business college in Kalamazoo, and in the 1930s she was an accountant for an area car dealer. Mary loved animals and so raised horses on the farm as well as keeping an apple orchard. In the 1940s, Mary Dobbin became a real estate broker, builder and land developer. She platted her family farm in 1955 and lived to see thirty-six houses built in Dobbin Hills Acres before her death in 1959. Twenty more lots were filled in the 1960s and three in the 1970s, leaving only one vacant lot of the original sixty-one lots.

## The Westmoreland Park No. 2 Plat

In 1955, Alfred Lord platted out nine lots to the east of Kendall Avenue and called it Westmoreland Park No. 2. Two of the lots are still vacant, but the other seven lots on Memory Lane are filled, six of the houses were built in a Japanese style architecture. Three Western Michigan University professors hired architect Norm Carver to design their Japanese style houses in the late 1950s. Harry Jepkema was the builder. Ultimately, between 1958 and 1962, the six Japanese style houses were produced by Carver and Jepkema.

#### History of the Arcadia Plat

John Vandewalker "came to this state when almost the whole of it was new and uncultivated and promptly took his place in the army of occupation and conquest, that was to redeem it from the wilderness and make it fragrant with flowers and

fruitful with the products of cultivated life - that was to evoke its stores of hidden wealth, transform its wild growths into comely and valuable commodities and send into the channels of trade its bounteous resources for the sustenance and comfort of man."13 Born in New York in 1823, John Vandewalker came to Michigan when he was only nineteen years old, traveling through the Erie Canal to Buffalo, then by steamer to Detroit, by rail to Jackson and finally by stage to Kalamazoo. He worked on his brother's farm in Kalamazoo County for two years before buying twenty acres in Richmond Township. 14 Eventually he bought two other farms, one of which was on Territorial Road in Section nineteen of Kalamazoo Township. He purchased the farm and house in 1871 for \$5800<sup>15</sup> and lived there for thirty years. According to the 1880 Products of Agriculture Schedule, John had eight horses, one milk cow, forty-five sheep, three pigs and sixteen chickens, and he grew corn, wheat, potatoes and apples.

John married three times. He met his first wife Sallie in New York. They married in 1849 and had two children: Eugene (who died when he was twenty) and Althea C. (who married Herbert Everard). Sallie died in 1879 and for three or four years after her death, Althea and Herbert Everard lived with John. John married Angie Case in 1885, and she died in 1891. He then married a widow, Sarah Hamilton Spaulding, in 1898. John and Sarah sold the property on Territorial Road in 1901.

Louis Henderson and his wife Lisette, who was the daughter of Newton Luce an early farmer to Prairie Ronde, purchased John Vandewalker's property - about eighty acres and a house - for \$4250.17 Louis farmed this land in Section nineteen, and some land that he owned in Section thirty of Kalamazoo Township, as well as a portion of his neighbor's land. In 1905 when Isaac Comstock sold his land (which was the farm directly west of Louis Henderson's) to George Kendall, the following was included in the deed: "Excepting and reserving unto Henderson

his part of [the] rye now growing on the above described land - said Henderson part is two-thirds of said crop. I further except and reserve to Henderson the priviledge of going on said farm to harvest said crop."18

Louis and Lisette had two children: a daughter Mary and a son Newton. After college, Mary taught at a girls' school in the east and returned to Michigan to spend summers in the family home.  $^{19}$  Newton graduated in engineering from the University of Michigan and the University of Chicago  $^{20}$  but returned to Kalamazoo to work on his father's farm. Neither Mary nor Newton ever married.

The Henderson house at 3406 West Michigan Avenue remained in the family for nearly eighty years. Lisette Henderson died in 1929; Louis died in 1940; and Newton died in 1963. Mary spent her last days in the Upjohn Nursing Home before her death in 1979.

In 1950, Newton and Mary had purchased a section of land, directly to the west, from Carl C. Kendall (adopted son of George Kendall who owned much land in the Kalamazoo area). In 1956, lots one to sixty-six of the Arcadia plat were surveyed, laid out, platted and filed with the county by Newton and Mary. Between 1957 and 1967, sixty-three of the sixty-five existing houses were built: thirty-six in the 1950s and twenty-seven in the 1960s. One house was built in 1970 and one in 1978.

# The Arcadia No. 1 Plat

In 1959, the Hendersons sold thirteen lots in the Arcadia plat and the entire Arcadia No. 1 plat to four couples: Silas and Estelle Albert, Harold and Marjorie Albert, Samuel and Bess Albert (the Albert brothers all lived in Grand Rapids) and David and Priscilla Satin (of Kalamazoo). Altogether, these four couples owned Albert-Satin Inc., land developers, builders and real estate brokers, with two locations, in Kalamazoo and in Grand Rapids. (Albert-Satin

Inc. developed at least seven plats in Kalamazoo - other areas include the Gull Road-Nazareth area and Milwood.) David Satin ran the office in Kalamazoo until 1959 when he left Albert-Satin Inc. to form his own company, the David R. Satin Company.

David Satin was born in England. His family moved to Chicago when David was a teenager. After graduating from Northwestern University, Satin worked as a builder in the Chicago area. He lived in Grand Rapids in the 1930s and moved to Kalamazoo in the 1940s where he lived for thirty years. While in Kalamazoo, David Satin was active in building and real estate, and he was also involved in such organizations as the Home Builders Association of Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo Board of Realtors. 22

Albert-Satin Inc. built six houses in the Arcadia Plat before David Satin left the organization. After the split, Albert Builders Inc. built only three houses in the area, while David Satin continued to construct many homes: Satin's company built thirteen houses in the Arcadia plat and forty-five of the sixty-three homes in the Arcadia No. 1 plat.

The Arcadia No. 1 plat was filed in 1959 and construction of one house began that year. The other sixty-two houses and the Arcadia Elementary School were built in the 1960s. The four biggest building years were 1961 - thirteen houses, 1963 - nine houses, 1964 - nineteen houses and the school, and 1965 - ten houses.

In 1961, David Satin purchased a house at 3626 West Michigan Avenue and converted it into offices. He ran his building and real estate businesses from this location. He sold the property shortly before moving to Florida in 1971, and in 1973 the Majik Market was built at that locale.

#### The Briarwood Plat

In 1954, Alfred Lord sold to Paul Todd the land "lying west of Kendall Avenue and north of the recorded plat of Westmoreland Plat" 23 and late in 1959 Briarwood became a plat in the Arcadia neighborhood. Five houses had already been constructed before the plat was officially filed, one in 1956, two in 1957 one in 1958 and one more in 1959. Twelve were built in the 1960s, six in the 1970s and one in 1980. The Briarwood plat has three vacant lots remaining.

## The Arcadia No. 2 Plat

In 1965, Mary Henderson sold the land of the Arcadia No. 2 plat to the three Albert brothers and David Satin<sup>24</sup>, and later that same year the plat was filed with the county. Between 1965 and 1969, David Satin's company constructed twenty-five of the thirty-four houses built in this plat. Seven houses were built in the 1970s and one in 1980.

## The Arcadia No. 3 Plat

The Arcadia No. 3 plat was filed by a corporation called the Arcadia III Development Company in 1979. One house was built in 1979, and fifteen houses have been built since 1980 (including two that are under construction at this time). Sixteen lots remain vacant.

## Schools

There was a country school near Drake Road (see the 1873 map) which served some of the area farm children. Knollwood school was built along West Michigan Avenue to the east of the Arcadia neighborhood in the late 1920s. Early residents to the Arcadia neighborhood attended Knollwood school until 1964 when the city of Kalamazoo built the Arcadia Elementary School. The Carlson-Johnson

Company constructed the school at 932 Boswell at a cost of \$329,900. In 1965 a play area was enclosed and covered, and in 1969 additional classrooms were added to accommodate projected enrollment increases.

#### Index to Plats - Kalamazoo County

#### Township 2 South, Range 11 West

Plat

Date Filed

Westmoreland Park

June 6, 1925

Dedicated by Leroy and Florence Hornbeck, Earl and Clara Shepherd and Alfred and Lillian Lord

Westmoreland Park No. 1

November 18, 1953

Dedicated by Alfred and Lillian Lord

Dobbin Hill Acres

May 18, 1955

Dedicated by Mary Dobbin

Westmoreland Park No. 2

July 19, 1955

Dedicated by Alfred and Lillian Lord

Arcadia

March 23, 1956

Dedicated by Newton and Mary Henderson

Arcadia No. 1

October 2, 1959

Dedicated by Newton and Mary Henderson, Silas and Estelle Albert, Samuel and Bess Albert, Harold and Marjorie Albert, and David and Priscilla Satin

Briarwood

December 23, 1959

Dedicated by Paul and Elizabeth Todd, John and Marjorie Mertaugh, Walter and Mary Kuzik, and Waldemar and Opal Klammer

Arcadia No. 2

November 23, 1965

Dedicated by Silas and Estelle Albert, Bess Albert, Harold and Marjorie Albert, David and Priscilla Satin, and the Old Kent Bank and Trust Company

Arcadia No. 3

December 24, 1979

Dedicated by the Arcadia III Development Company, Anthony Kamnikar, President, James Conway, Vice-President, and John Bosch, secretary-treasurer, and by the Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan Association

#### List of Builders

Active Homes Corporation Ferguson

Albert Builders Inc. Folkersma

Albert-Satin Inc. Frickie

Baas Gardner

Battjes Goebel

Beachill Griffisen Home Builders

Becker Hamilton

Beeke Hartman

Behrens Heninga

Bielang Hildebrand

Blalock Hoopstraten

Bosch Howard

Bowman Isbister

Brabon and Bosch Jepkema

Brussee Kirkland Community Homes

Byrne Klammer

Carlson-Johnson Cc. Klepper

Cheeseman Knowles

Cudney Kuzyk

DeDoes Loehr

DeKreek Lumber Co. Mark Construction

DeLoof Mejeur

DeMink Opthoff

Dumouchel Penny

Dura-bilt Homes Inc. Pierce and Roon

Estate Homes Plantefaber

Reames	and	Struifbergen
пеашез	aim	Deratthersen

Rhem

Roberts, Dave

Roberts, Louis

Romkema

Roth Brothers

Ryskamp

Satin

Seely

Sheppard and Visser

Sopjes, John

Sopjes Brothers

Sparrow Brothers

Star Five Inc.

Stolk

Struifbergen

Timmer

Townsend

Tuberville

Van Dam

Van Maaren

Van Werden

Veld

Vosler

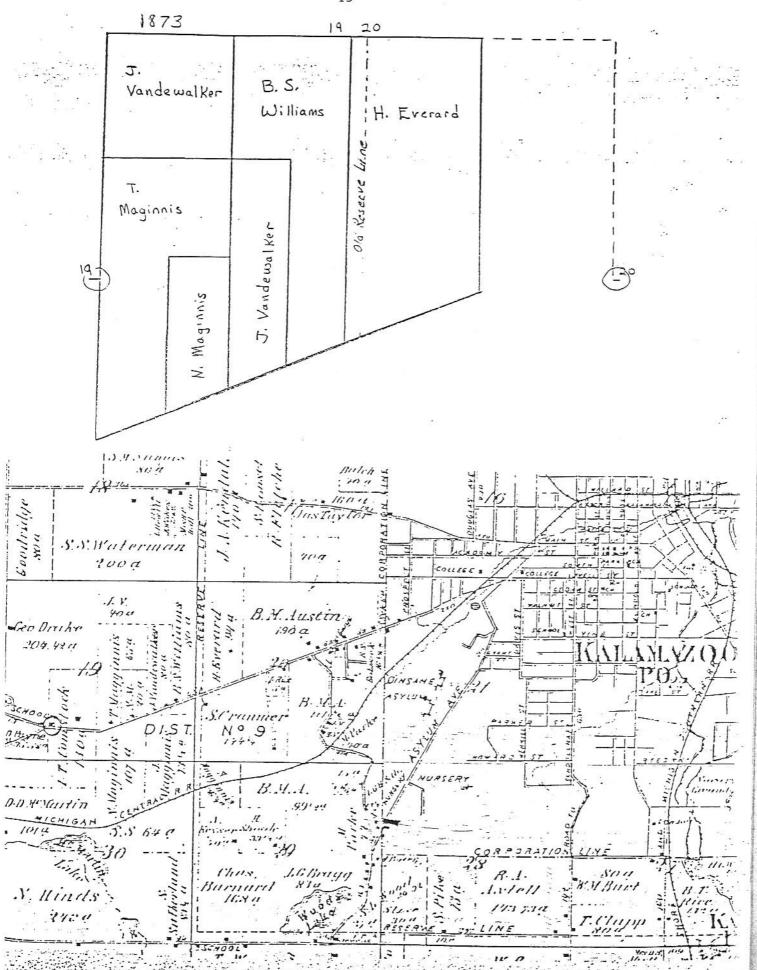
Vygerman

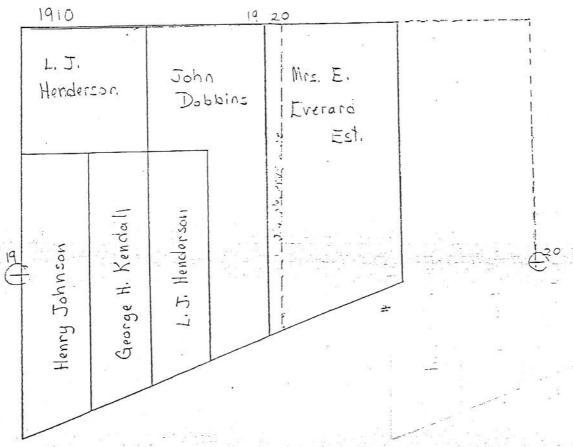
Watts

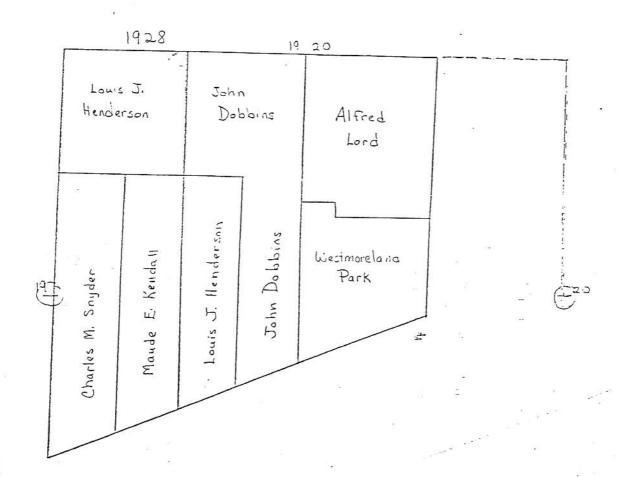
Western Michigan University

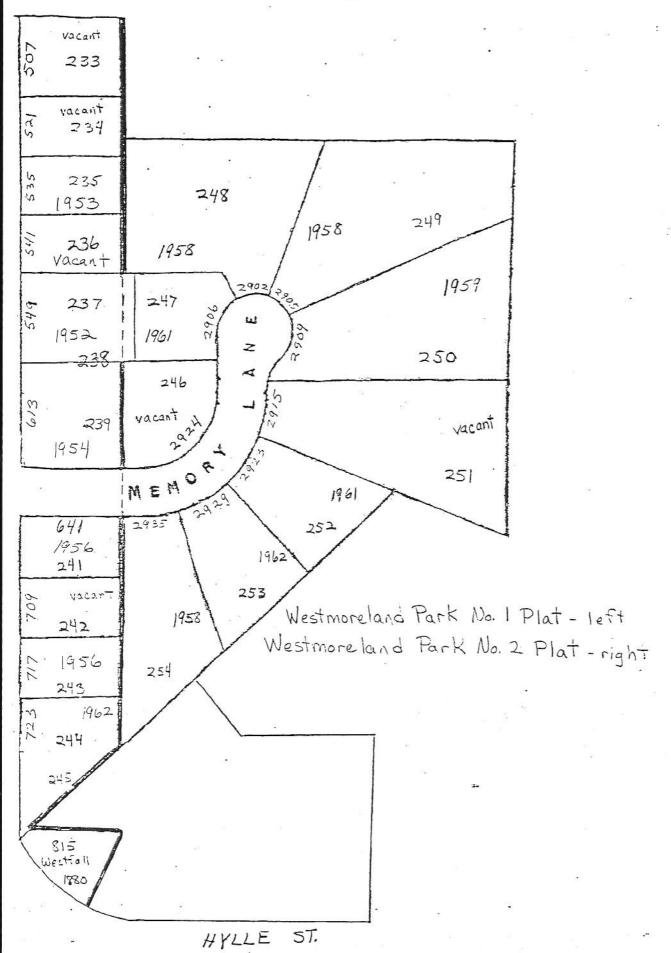
Willow Brook Homes

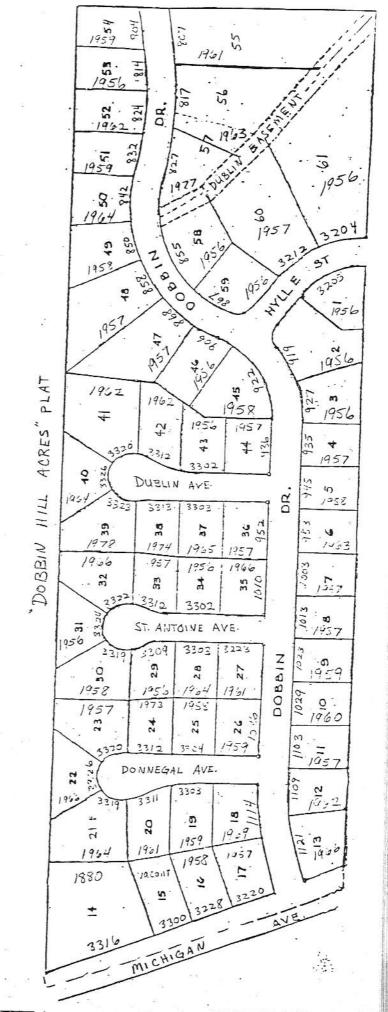
Zuiderveen

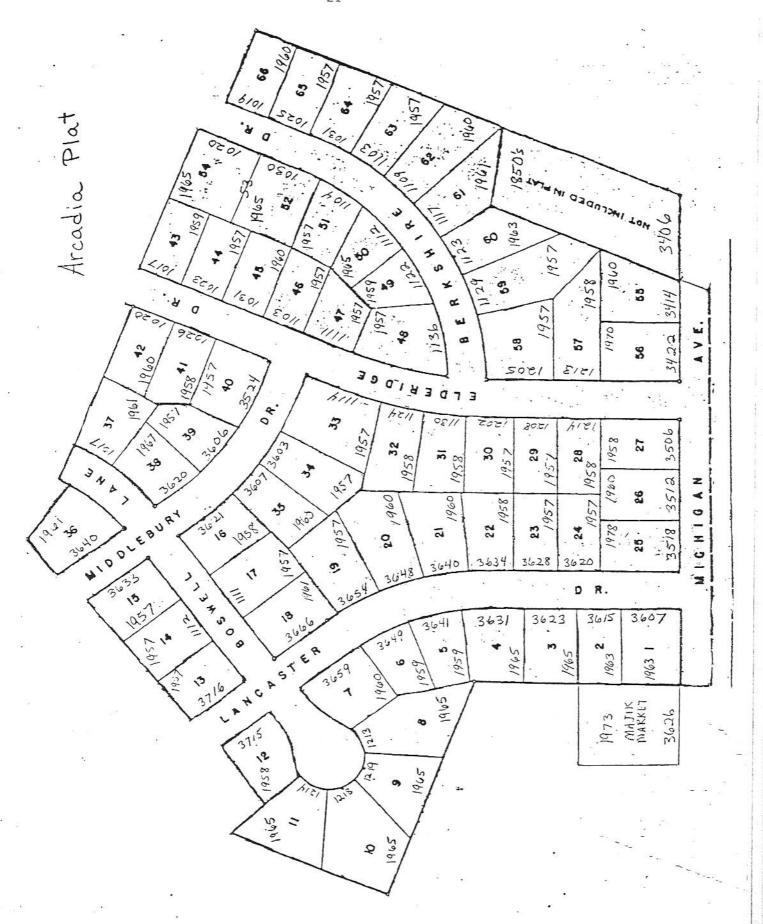


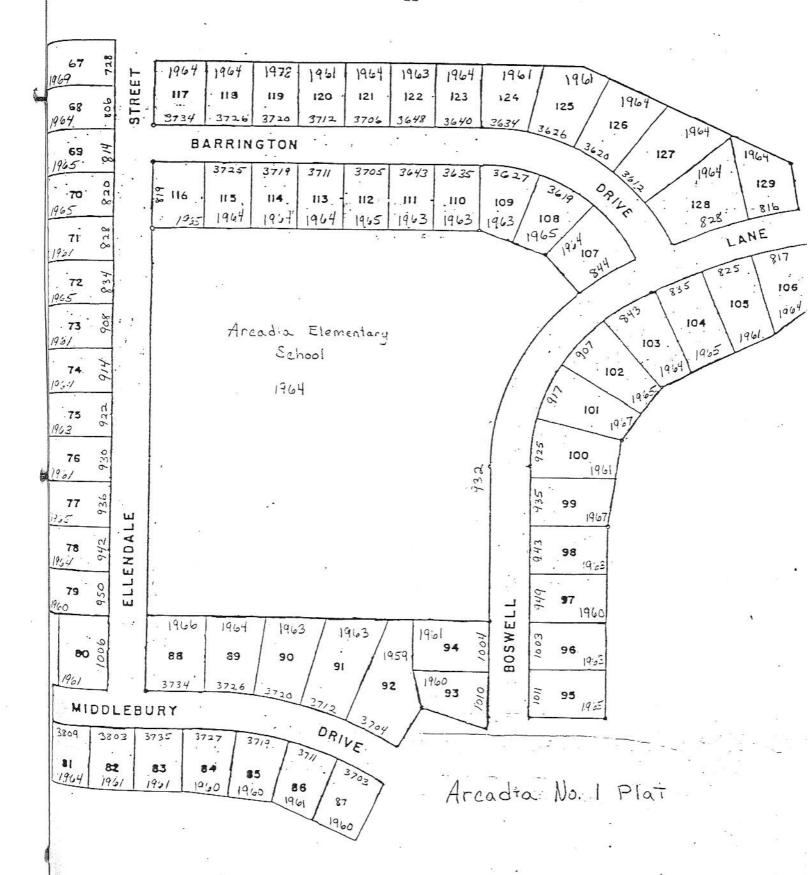


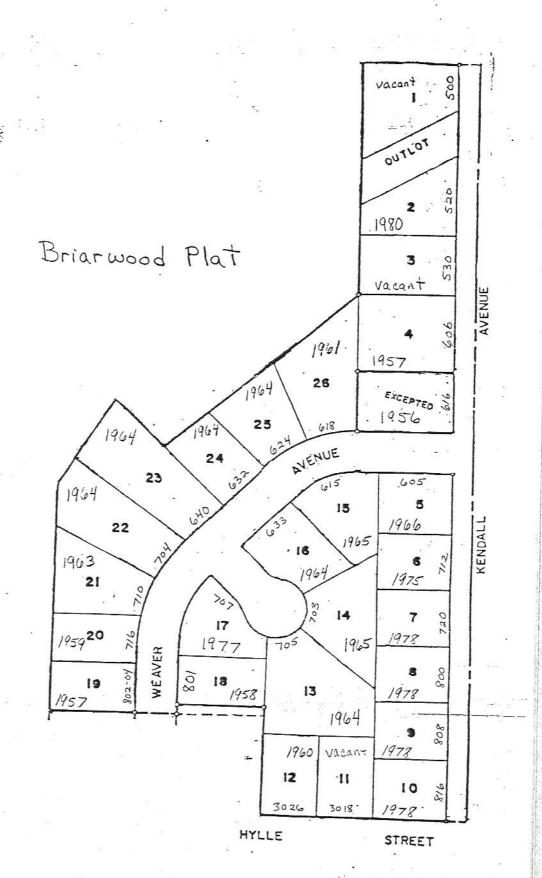


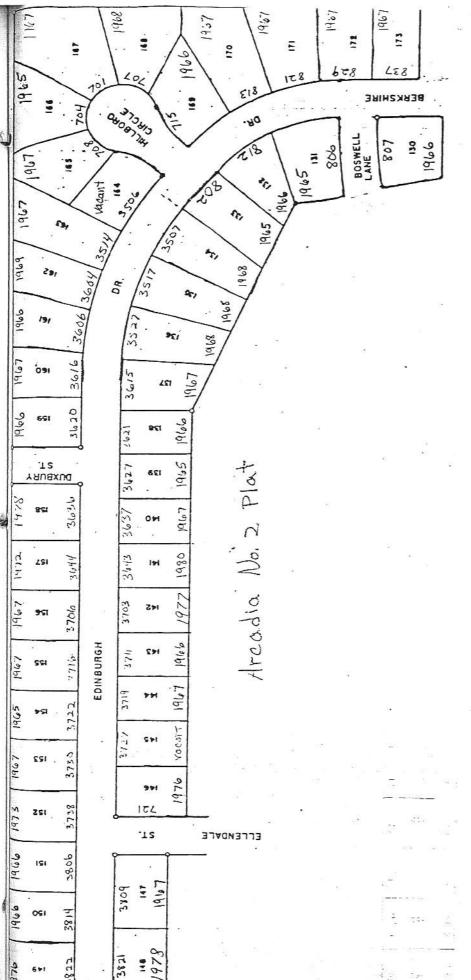


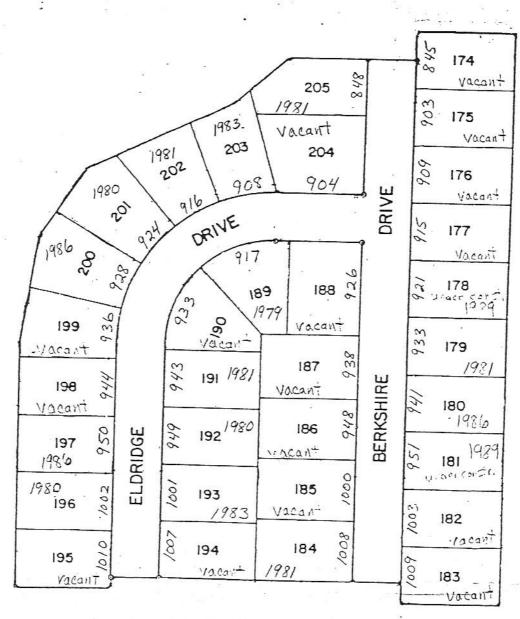




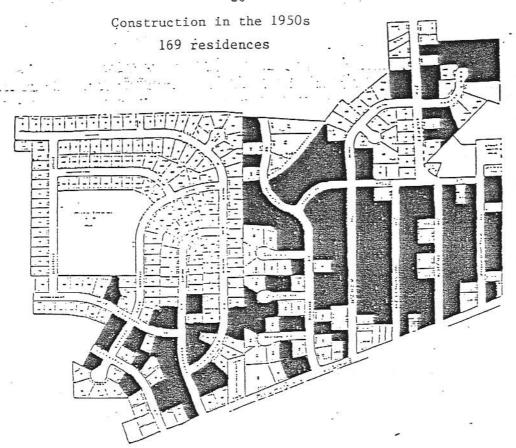


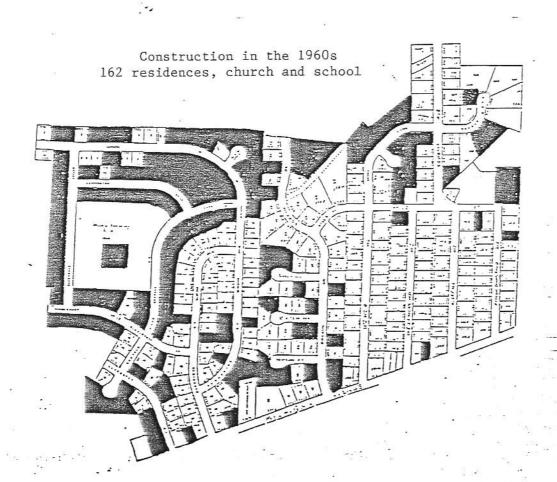


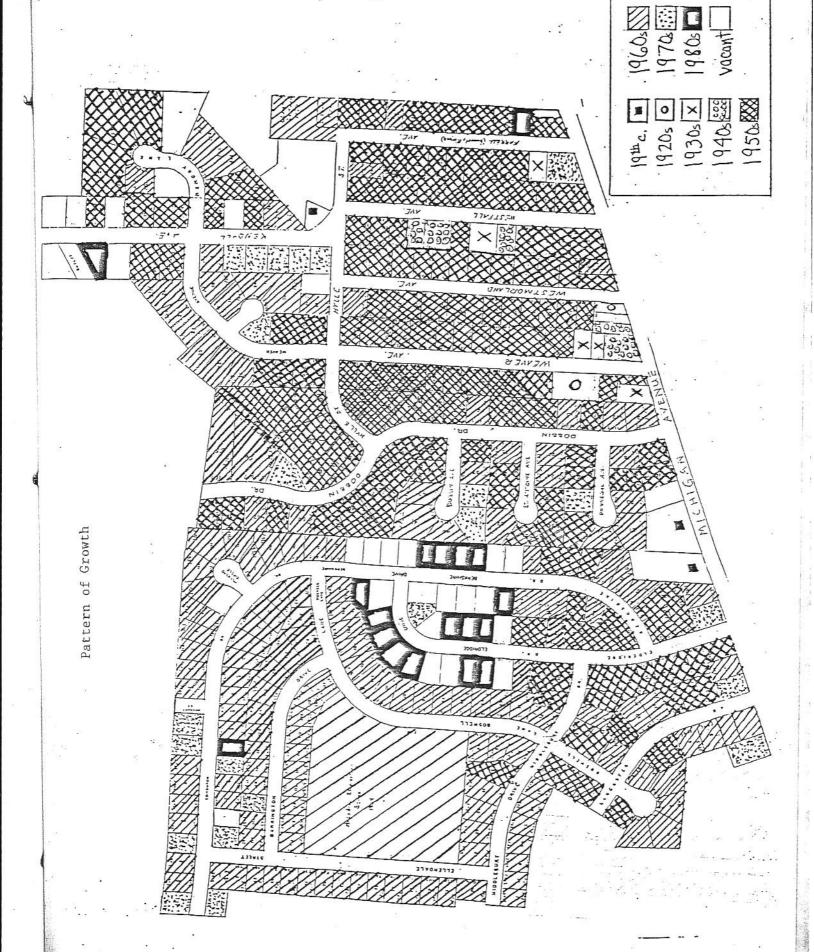


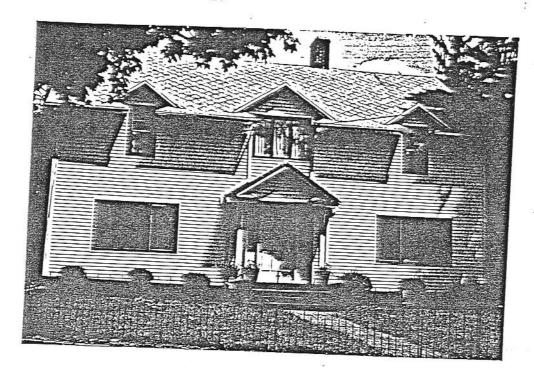


Arcadia No. 3 Plat









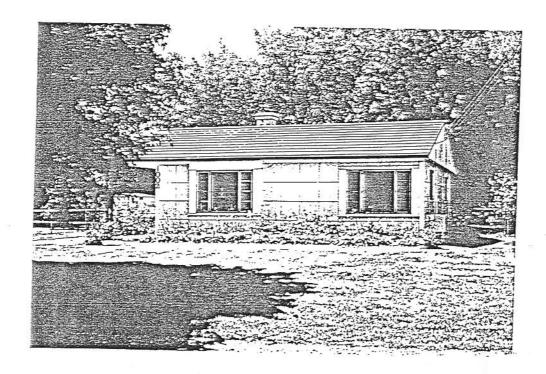
815 Westfall



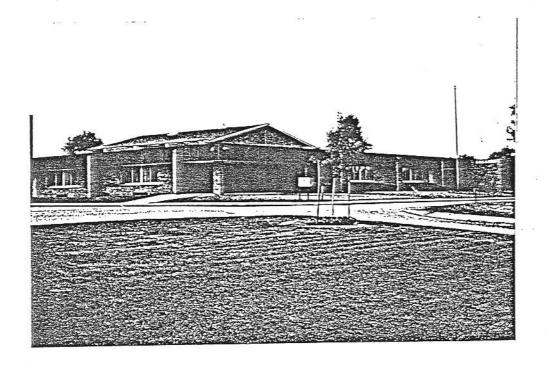
3316 West Michigan



3406 West Michigan



Lustron home



Arcadia Elementary School



Arcadia - a quiet neighborhood

## Bibliography

- "Active Building Demand Forecast for Next Decade". Kalamazoo Gazette, September 12, 1948.
- Atlas and Plat Book for Kalamazoo County. Rockford, Illinois: Thrift Press, 1928.
- Beers, Frederick W., comp.. Atlas of Kalamazoo County, Michigan. From Recent and

  Actual Surveys and Records Under the Superintendence of F. W. Beers. New

  York: F. W. Beers, 1873.
- City of Kalamazoo. City Commission Resolutions, 1961-1964: Journal 33: Nos. 33410 and 33452.
- Dobbin, Mary. Obituary. Kalamazoo Gazette, December 12, 1959.
- Fisher, David, and Little, Frank, eds. Compendium of History and Biography of Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Chicago: A. W. Bowen and Company [1906].

Henderson, Mary. Obituary. Kalamazoo Gazette, July 7, 1979.

Henderson, Newton. Obituary. Kalamazoo Gazette, November 30; 1963.

History of Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Philadelphia: Everts and Abbott, 1880.

"Home Builder David Satin Dies at 79". Kalamazoo Gazette, October 27, 1983.

Illustrated Atlas of Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Detroit: William C. Sauer, 1890.

Jepkema, Harry, 3502 Par-4-Circle. Telephone interview held August 2, 1989.

Johnson, Elizabeth, 3419 West Michigan Avenue. Telephone interview held July 27, 1989.

Kalamazoo Building Permits. Kalamazoo, 1957-present.

Kalamazoo City Directory. Kalamazoo, 1873-1966. Title and publisher may vary.

Kalamazoo County Probate Records: Herbert H. Everard.

Kalamazoo County Register of Deeds.

- Kalamazoo Public Schools Division of Buildings and Grounds Elementary Building

  Facility and Enrollment Survey. January 23, 1967.
- Kalamazoo City Tax Assessor's Cards.
- Lord, Alfred V.. Obituary. Kalamazoo Gazette, June 14, 1965.
- "Permits for the First 50 Weeks of 1948 Total \$8,864,257". Kalamazoo Gazette, January 2, 1949.
- Plat Book and Rural Directory of Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Rockford, Illinois: W. W. Hixson [1919].
- Rench, Mrs. H. O., 3237 West Michigan Avenue. Telephone interview held July 27, 1989.
- Satin, David R.. Obituary. Kalamazoo Gazette, October 27, 1983.
- United States Bureau of the Census. Manuscript Federal Population Census, Kalamazoo County, 1860-1910.
- United States Bureau of the Census. Manuscript Products of Agriculture Schedule, Kalamazoo County, 1880.
- "West Side Land Use Plan to be Explained Thursday". Kalamazoo Gazette, June 14, 1965.
- Zoning Ordinance of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Zoning pamphlet supplement No. 39, updated February 18, 1988.