Architectural detail at 853 Columbia Avenue, Fort Wayne, Indiana. The consistency among the houses in terms of scale, materials, setback, and other character-defining features creates a pleasing rhythm along the streets. Although most homes have experienced some degree of alteration during their lifetime, a close study of the architecture reveals that the original builders today. While modified, the Queen Anne at 853 Columbia with its unique floral band on the tower-like corner bay illustrates Delightful examples of original decorative detailing remain to be discovered, including examples of rare “carpenter’s lace.”

Columbia Avenue is the primary eastern route from the mature trees and consistent late19th-early 20th century homes, immediately evident. In 1890, the Fort Wayne Land and Improvement Company purchased a large tract of land from Jessie T aber Loree and her With apple orchards, fields, and woodland areas this land was largely undeveloped. Forming a peninsula at the intersection of the St. Joseph, Maumee, and St. Mary’s Rivers, the area was subject to flooding so dikes were built along the river banks. By 1894 the addition’s streets were in place. While the streets followed the existing natural features by having the main streets originally provided in the Lakeside Park Addition is the same as Primarily constructed between 1893 and 1925, the houses in this district vary from large, two-story homes to one-story cottages and represent the popular architectural styles of the time: Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and American Foursquare. The homes have uniform setbacks with modest front yards and narrow side yards. Streets are bordered by green park strips and concrete sidewalks. Mature trees fill the neighborhood.

The Columbia Avenue Historic District is a late 19th-early 20th century “streetcar suburb” that clearly along the active streetcar lines. Through the efforts of local residents, the historic district was established in 2007. Local Historic District designation is a tool that residents may use to monitor and control visible changes that occur in historic areas. New housing developments often use covenants and deed restrictions to guide development. Local Historic Designation guide development in order to protect individual investment and the common good. Upon designation, elements of the property that are subject to public view are protected from inappropriate a building permit can be issued or exterior work begins. The historic district guidelines assure that the qualities which make the individual property and the collective district distinctive will be retained.

Introduction

Acknowledgements

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For more information about historic preservation in Fort Wayne, call [260] 427-1127 or visit www.cityoffortwayne.org

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725 Columbia Avenue  
Queen Anne/Colonial Revival, c.1900  
This house has the symmetry and rectangular form of the Colonial Revival style, but the steep roof and decorative details in the front gable are hold-overs from Dutch, Queen Anne style. Notice how the masons used a different mortar color to highlight the decorative brickwork at the corners and over the windows. The darker brick porch piers and balustrade will be later additions.

806 Columbia Avenue  
Queen Anne, c.1900  
Queen Anne style homes typically have a steep hipped roof with large cross-gable dormers and a variety of window and door shapes. The unusual decorative siding in the gables, the decorative verge boards and brackets, and the cut-away bays are all ways of adding interest and variety to the architecture. The wrap-around porch, with its rock-faced blocks and brackets, and the cut-away bays are all ways of adding interest and variety to the architecture. The wrap-around porch, with its rock-faced blocks and ornamental brackets, is a characteristic of Free Classic homes.

825 Columbia Avenue  
Queen Anne, c.1895  
The large, round tower with its peaked roof and metal finial is an outstanding feature and the first thing you notice about this classic Queen Anne style house. However, the main entry with its decorative sidelights and transom, the classical columns on the wrap-around porch, and the small polygonal porch steps, which is decorated with “carpenters lath,” are all notable features.

846 Columbia Avenue  
Queen Anne, c.1930  
The house has a popular front gable, cross-gable form as 835 Columbia. However, the variation in its structural details make this house truly distinctive. The builder used three patterns of sawn wood shingles in the front gable, added decorative dormers to highlight the verge boards, and placed a multi-pane Queen Anne window in the front gable. He also used cut-away corners on the front of the house, and added stacked box window on the west side.

1025 Columbia Avenue  
Queen Anne/Free Classic, c.1900  
Although the irregular plan, picturesque massing, and steep, complex roof are clearly Queen Anne features, the simplified classical detailing of this home illustrates the growing influence of the Colonial Revival style. The wide bands of divided triple and slender Tuscan porch columns put this house in the Free Classic category. The polygonal corner of the porch with its peaked roof is a rare feature.

1137 Columbia Avenue  
Queen Anne, c.1895  
Like most examples of this architectural style, this house is a visual delight with its complex roof line, decorative dormers, and gable dormer covered with low shed dormer, large chimney, and gable that sweeps down to a wing wall with an arched dormer are all elements that serve to impart an English cottage feeling. Early owners Frank and Bessie Roberts were both reporters and editors for The Journal Gazette. Bessie was also a prominent historian, author, and schoolteacher.

1217 Columbia Avenue  
Craftsman Bungalow, c.1915  
Henry Freistroom came to Allen County in 1868. He operated a blacksmith shop on Pearl St. and in 1884 built the building at 207 W. Main Street that still bears his name. In 1911 he built the adjoining building at 712 S. Harrison Street. His brick bungalow features a gabled dormer with brackets, a large stone arch at the returned porch, leaded glass windows, and an iron railing and window box with hands of oak leaves. His grandson, also named Henry, operated Henry’s on Main Street which is still run by the family.

Columbia Avenue Historic District

Please respect the occupants’ privacy by viewing all listed homes from the street.