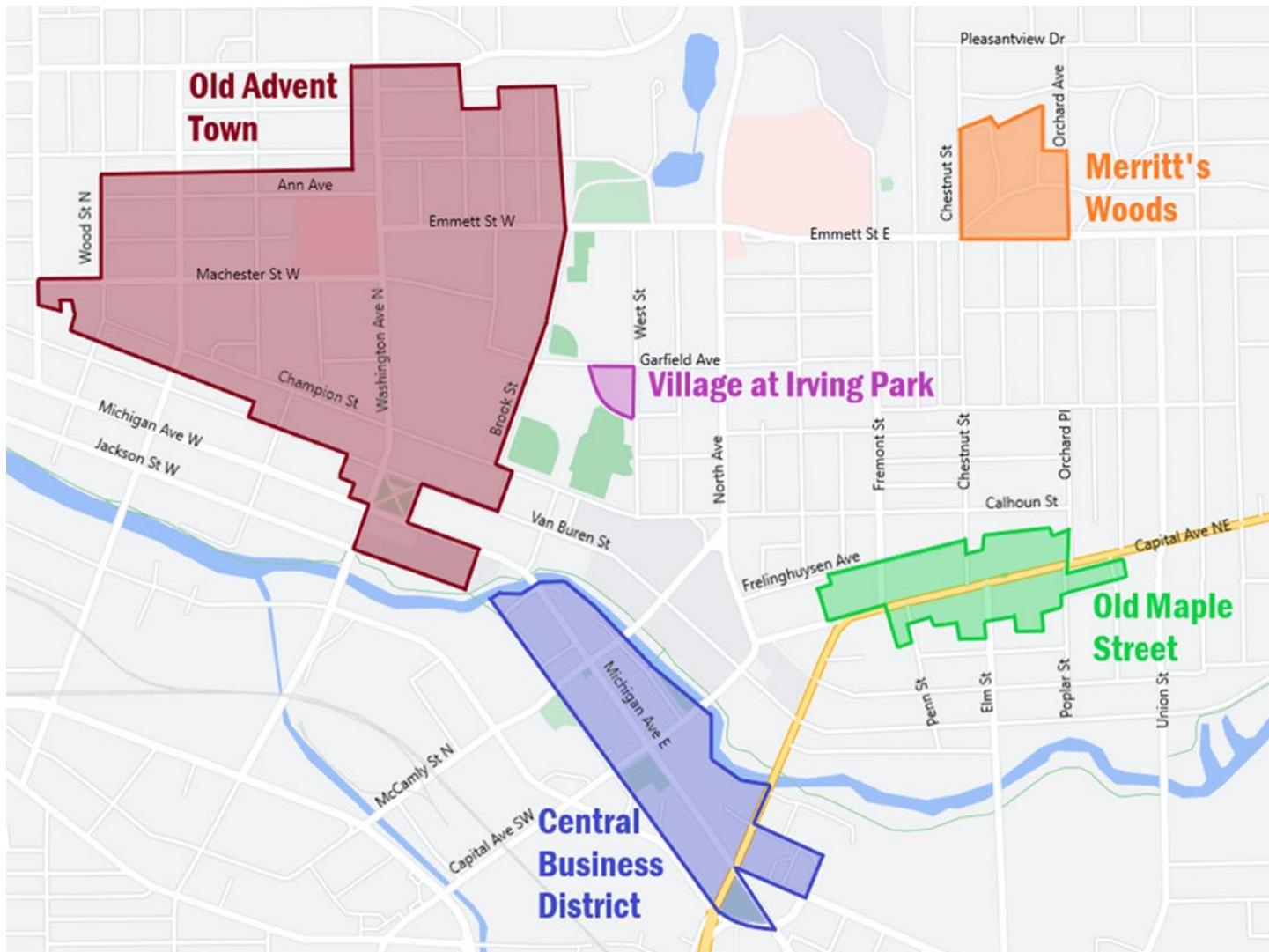


HISTORIC DISTRICTS & LANDMARKS IN BATTLE CREEK, MI



HISTORIC DISTRICTS

The City of Battle Creek is home to 5 Local Historic Districts- each with their own defining features that are vital in understanding Battle Creek's abundant history. These Districts include Old Advent Town, The Village at Irving Park, Old Maple Street, Central Business District and Merritt's Woods.



- Old Advent Town
- Village at Irving Park
- Merritt's Woods
- Old Maple Street
- Central Business District

OLD ADVENT TOWN



165 Ann Avenue

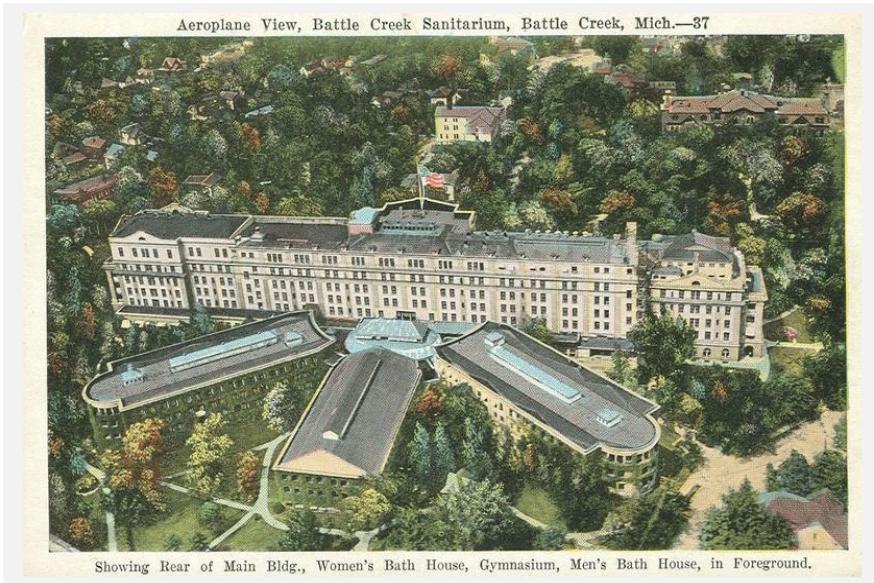


HISTORY

Old Advent Town is Battle Creek's largest Historic District. This area is primarily residential, located in the former Village of Washington Heights that was annexed into Battle Creek in 1926. Old Advent Town gets its name from its history as a world headquarters for the Seventh-Day Adventist denomination. This headquarters was led by James and Ellen White whose home still stands today. This Districts also contains homes of Battle Creek's prominent business and professional leaders of the late nineteenth and early-twentieth century. Before this land was engulfed by homes, it served as the Manchester Farm.

Purchased in 1836, the 160-acre farm owned by Elias Manchester became home to one of the first developments west of Battle Creek when Manchester platted 66 residential lots known as "Manchester's Addition". Soon after, Michigan Supreme Court Justice Benjamin F. Graves purchased the remainder of Manchester Farm and platted 124 lots known as "Graves's Addition" as well as 94 additional lots in another section of the once-farmed land. The homes constructed in the district can be architecturally-categorized as Colonial Revival, Bungalow, American Foursquare, and American Craftsman homes.

HISTORIC



Federal Center/ Former Sanitarium B

Although it may be hard to recognize before the construction of the tower, the photo on the left is the location of the current Federal Center. At its prime, this location was home to the Battle Creek Sanitarium, which served as an innovative health reform institute and wellness facility. In 1942, the financial pressure of the Depression caught up with the Sanitarium and it was sold to the Federal government. This building then served as the Percy Jones General Army Hospital before being converted to a Federal office complex in 1954.



Pictured above is the Sanitarium's indoor swimming pool (left) and gymnasium (right).

Historic Adventist Village

The Historic Adventist Village is home to the original matriarchs of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. James and Ellen White's home (pictured on the right) is just one of the many structures in this village that holds tremendous historic value for the history of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Today, this village serves as a museum where visitors can tour the grounds on which Old Advent Town began its development.



Above is a then-and now photo of James and Ellen White's home. Below is the Daigneau home.



VILLAGE AT IRVING PARK



HISTORY

The Village at Irving Park is Battle Creek's smallest Historic District. This District is comprised of one large, art deco building with an attached, newly constructed addition on the north end. The original building came to be in 1926 when W.K. Kellogg donated \$150,000 in order to construct and provide equipment for a Boy's Club in Irving Park. Throughout time, this building has served as a hub for recreation for Battle Creek's youth. It has changed names many times- once the Youth Building, and eventually the headquarters for the City of Battle Creek's Recreation Department. This building was used until 1988 when the cost of necessary repairs and renovations were declared as being too expensive for the city to maintain. This building sat vacant for nearly 15 years until 2003 when it was renovated and converted to 31 living units. Furthermore, in 2003 a new building was constructed as an addition on the north side of the original building. Today, this large structure comprised of two buildings is known as the Village at Irving Park and serves fully as a residential use. The then-and-now photos to the left show the art-deco style of the building that has been well-maintained to this day.

MERRITT'S WOODS

HISTORY

Merritt's Woods is known for its concentration of architecturally-significant single-family homes. This Local Historic District is defined by its rolling hills, large lots, dense tree cover and winding streets. This neighborhood lies on what used to be part of the Merritt Family Farm. The majority of these homes were constructed between 1927 and WWII. Merritt's Woods was designed by architect Adelbert B. Chanel with assistance from civil engineer Harlan K. Whitney. In the original 1921 plan for this neighborhood, Chanel and Whitney included three parks for public use. The majority of homes constructed in this district are brick or stone and can be architecturally- categorized as Colonial Revival and English Tudor Revival homes. In the then-and-now photos on the right, it is evident that a dense, wooded feel has been a long-standing feature to this Local Historic District.



29 Woodmer Lane



9 Woodmer Lane



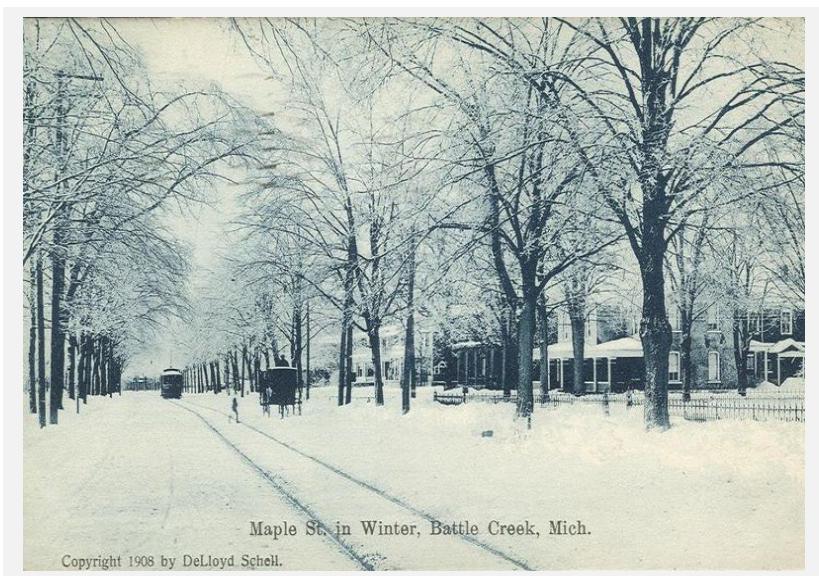
OLD MAPLE STREET



161 Capital Ave N.E.



The photo below captures Old Maple Street in its heyday. A streetcar can be seen running along its tracks, along with a horse-drawn carriage and homes that still line this street.



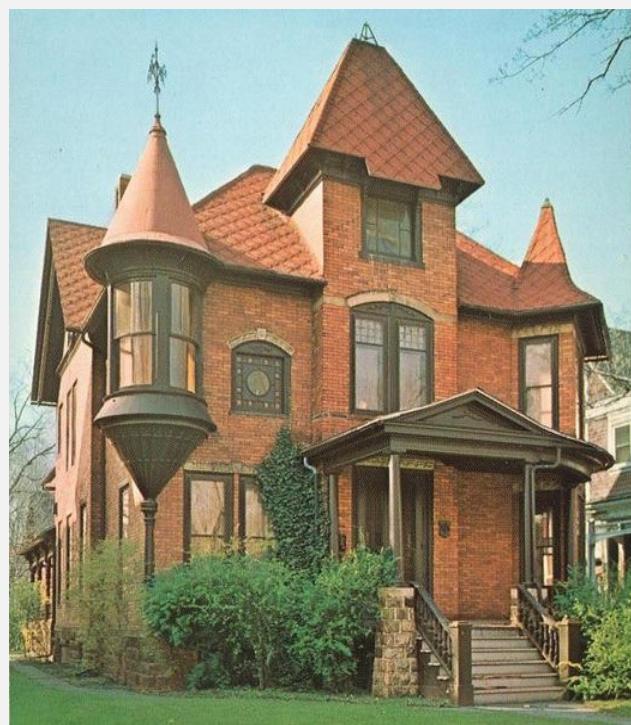
HISTORY

Old Maple Street is comprised of three blocks located along Capital Avenue, NE (originally named Maple Street). This district has the largest concentration of architecturally significant homes in the city as these houses were built by the city's elite at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries. In Maple Street's prime, the street was lined with hitching posts for horses and carriages for the most well-to-do residents of Battle Creek. Oddly enough, cows too used to roam this street. According to local historian Henry Wiegmink "In those days most everyone in Battle Creek kept their own milk supply, and by day the cows were permitted to wander about the street." Serving as the major north-south artery, streetcar tracks were laid in the 1890's, not to be removed until 1938 when the street was widened by 10 feet. This district has the greatest variety of architectural styles- predominantly Italianate, Queen Anne, Neo-Elizabethan, but Greek Revival, Neo-Classical, and Arts-and Crafts-inspired homes are also present.

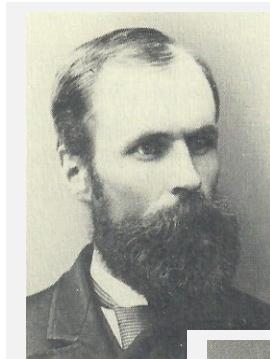
HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Kimball House Museum

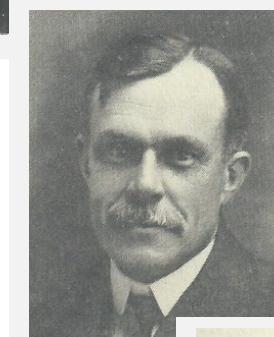
The Kimball House was home to three generations of Battle Creek doctors. This home was constructed in 1886 for Dr. Arthur H. Kimball who settled in Battle Creek from New England. Dr. Arthur H. Kimball was widely known for his numerous surgical successes. After his death, Kimball's youngest son, Dr. Arthur S. Kimball took over the family practice. Dr. Arthur S. Kimball became the first pediatrician in Battle Creek, founded both the tuberculosis hospital and local Red Cross Chapter, established the "children's Free Clinic", and was appointed as the City Health Officer in 1910. Additionally, Dr. Arthur S. Kimball worked with Dr. John Harvey Kellogg of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, establishing the "open air schools" in which unwell students were regimented with fresh air, a good diet, and regular exercise. Arthur S. Kimball Jr. carried on the medical practice tradition, focusing primarily on tuberculosis- a disease that he himself suffered from. Even as his health was deteriorating, he worked tirelessly to spearhead early detection and treatment for TB until his death in 1966. At this time, the family home was donated to become a museum for the Kimball Family and the history of Battle Creek.



The photo above shows the Kimball House located at 196 Capital Avenue N.E. Today, this home serves as a museum and the location of the Battle Creek Historical Society. The three photos on the right show the three generations of doctors that inhabited this home.



Arthur H. Kimball



Arthur S. Kimball

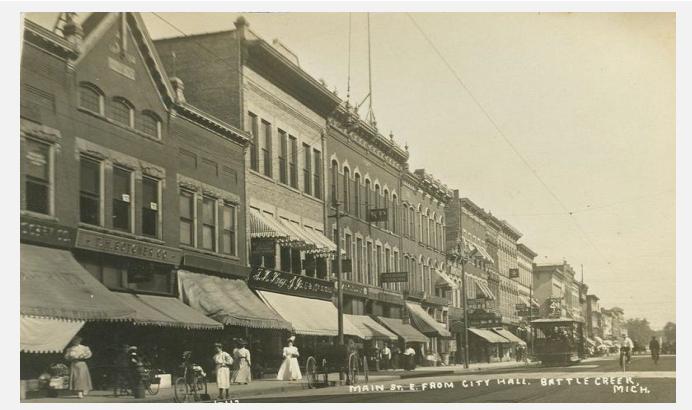


Arthur S. Kimball Jr.

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

HISTORY

The Central Business District is home to some of the first buildings erected in the settlement of Battle Creek. The site for this settlement was chosen by Jonathon Guernsey in 1831 as it sits at the intersection of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Rivers which served as a great potential value of water power. Guernsey sold his claims to the land to Sands McCamly and Johnathan Hart, who further delegated ownership of the land to five men. On July 30, 1836, the five landowners registered plans for the village with the Register of Deeds for Calhoun County and Battle Creek was born. Early settlers got busy opening sawmills to build the settlement and grain mills to the feed the settlers. As the village grew, hotels, theaters, and financial institutions began to take shape near the corner of Michigan Avenue and Capital Avenue. With the incorporation of the railroad lines through the Downtown Area, industries grew and Battle Creek flourished. Some of the most notable industries included the Union School Furniture Company, the American Marsh and Union Steam Pump Companies, and the Ward and Titus & Hicks Mills.



The above and below photos capture the ever-changing landscape of downtown Battle Creek from the 1800s- 1900s



HISTORIC LANDMARKS

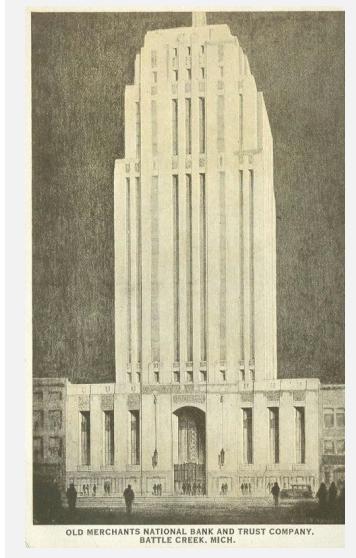


City Hall

City Hall was designed by architect E.W. Arnold and completed in 1914. The land, building, and furnishings cost a total of \$305,000 (nearly \$8,000,000 in 2021). The interior of the building still holds its architectural integrity with marble and cherry wood finishes. This building remains home to the City of Battle Creek government.

Heritage Tower/ The Milton

The Milton (formerly Heritage Tower) was originally home to Old-Merchants National Bank and Trust Company. At its prime, this was the largest financial institution between Detroit and Chicago. This art-deco building was completed for Old-Merchants in 1931. The unique interior is ornamented with four kinds of marble, 24 karat gold-detailed ceilings, and a dramatic 46-foot central dome. After housing many banks in the 1900s, the building sat vacant from the mid-90s until it was purchased in 2017 for redevelopment. This building is now home to 85 apartment units- known as The Milton.



26 E. Michigan Avenue

This building was constructed in 1901 for the fast-growing Battle Creek Gas Company. This company was responsible for installing gas lamps to illuminate downtown Battle Creek. This Romanesque-style building was designed by architect E.C. Grosvenor. This building's unique, rounded corner is its defining feature. The Battle Creek Gas Company moved locations in 1965. Today, this building houses a travel agency.