

October 2014

SHAKER HEIGHTS ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR



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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 16210 Parkland (1918) | 5 2816 Winthrop (1918) |
| 2 16900 Aldersyde (1929) | 6 2884 Broxton (1922) |
| 3 16907 Aldersyde (1921) | 7 16600 South Woodland (1918) |
| 4 17200 South Woodland (1916) | 8 16520 South Woodland (1914) |

Other Shaker Heights homes designed by Harry Shupe include:

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|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 3265 Avalon | 3325 Elsmere | 3104 Morley |
| 3266 Avalon | 2860 Fontenay | 18916 Oxford |
| 3270 Avalon | 3325 Glencairn | 18400 Shaker |
| 3276 Avalon | 3455 Glencairn | 2943 Sedgewick |
| 2984 Brighton | 3316 Grenway | 19040 Shelburne |
| 20962 Byron | 3320 Grenway | 15700 South Park |
| 2903 Carlton | 3052 Huntington | 15800 South Park |
| 3008 Carlton | 3090 Huntington | 18400 South Park |
| 2992 Chadbourne | 3287 Ingleside | 18700 South Woodland |
| 17306 Chagrin | 3562 Ingleside | 3290 Stockholm |
| 3264 Chalfant | 3269 Kenmore | 3684 Traver |
| 3524 Daleford | 3344 Kenmore | 3199 Van Aken |
| 14305 Drexmore | 18415 Lynton | 3030 Warrington |
| 2726 Dryden | 2924 Manchester | 3670 Winchell |



Sponsored by the Shaker Heights Landmark Commission, Shaker Heights Public Library and the Shaker Historical Society.
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HARRY L. SHUPE, ARCHITECT

Harry Leroy Shupe was born on January 23, 1876 in Shiloh, Ohio to produce salesman Norris J. Shupe and his wife Margaret J. (Maggie) Starrett. His mother died shortly after he was born, and his father died when Harry was 11. When Harry was a teenager, he was sent to Central High School, boarding with families in Cleveland and graduating in 1895. Cleveland's Central High School, established in 1846, was the premier school in the Midwest, having graduated such notables as John Severance, Marcus Hanna and Samuel Mather.

At Central High School, Shupe followed a course of study that included both classical study and training in draftsmanship (draughtsmanship). While at school he acted in Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice* and was a member of the Philomatheon Debating Society. Shupe did not attend college after graduation, and little is known about his whereabouts and training during the next few years.

In 1907 Shupe formed a partnership with Carl Foster White, son of Henry Windsor White, who was the treasurer of the White Sewing Machine Company, and later White Motor Company.

One of White & Shupe's earliest homes, built in 1910 on Edgewater Drive in Lakewood, was owned by Ellen White. No amount of research could establish a link between the two Whites, but research shows that her former husband invented Beeman's Pepsin Gum.

Another early commission came through Shupe's own connection. For some time Harry lived with his sister Minnie and brother-in-law, Charles Godman. Charles was President of the Standard Drug Store, the first all-purpose drug store in Cleveland, which grew to 52 stores and eventually become part of the Revco empire. In 1911, when Godman's Vice President, C.E. Roseman, wanted to build a home in the Glenville area of Cleveland, White and Shupe were hired to do the design.

White was the natural link to many of their first contracts, having come from a prominent Cleveland family and having graduated from Cornell University. In 1911 several prominent Cleveland businessmen, spearheaded by T. T. Long and Frederick Green, longtime friends of Carl White's, created a syndicate and bought 213 acres of land for \$500,000 from the

Van Sweringen brothers (who remained as members of the syndicate). The Shaker Heights property spans the area along the ravine of the Doan Brook from Shaker Heights High School to Shaker Heights Country Club.

Frederick Green was the first to build on his parcel of land in Shaker Heights, and chose White & Shupe to design it. Green's home, a Dutch colonial built in 1914, was White & Shupe's first in present-day Shaker Heights, at 16520 South Woodland. The home is located on the "Duck Pond" that is more formally known as Green Lake.

At the same time White & Shupe continued designing commercial buildings and creating designs for homes in Cleveland Heights, primarily on Fairmount Boulevard and Stillman, Marlboro, and Arlington Roads. White & Shupe soon became busy enough with work, between their commercial ventures and their burgeoning residential work, that the men advertised for a "boy with at least one year's experience" to help out in the office.

In 1913, at age 37, Shupe married Blanche Booth. In 1928 Harry and Blanche moved into their own home on Temblethurst Road in South Euclid, which Harry no doubt designed and where he lived until his death in 1945. They had no children.

In 1914, Shupe abruptly left White & Shupe and ceded his share of the company to White. As noted in letters in the archives of the American Institute of Architects in December 1914, he intended to leave the profession of architecture. This departure was short-lived, because at the beginning of 1915 he acquired an interest in the WS Ferguson Company, allowing the mechanical contracting company to "render architectural as well as engineering service." Although William Stanley Ferguson was an engineer and architect in his own right, the firm specialized in large commercial ventures. Perhaps Ferguson felt that Shupe's expertise in designing for private residences would allow the firm to expand into the fast-growing Heights area. Whatever the reason for their union, however, it did not last.

There is no evidence in available records that Ferguson and Shupe designed any residential buildings during Shupe's short tenure with Ferguson. Shupe left Ferguson at the end of the year and announced plans in January 1916 to begin his own firm. This may have been precipitated by Carl White's sudden and unexpected death from pneumonia in early 1915.

The years 1916 through the early 1920s were busy ones for Shupe, during which he designed many large homes, those undoubtedly commissioned by rich and powerful friends or acquaintances of White's. These designs included some of his grandest work. Many of his homes during this time were built by J.H. Moorehead, often in a brick colonial style with a hip roof.

In accordance with the strict building codes of the Van Sweringens in Shaker Heights and several developers in Cleveland Heights, Shupe designed his homes in English and Colonial styles. Although French architecture was also permitted in Shaker Heights, Shupe did not design any homes in that style. Shupe designed each home to be unique, and his designs during that time were variations of the accepted styles: Georgian, Dutch Colonial, Tudor and English Cottage styles.

1923 showed a shift in Shupe's work. Although he continued designing an occasional large and stately home, some in the Georgian brick style for builder George Thomas, Shupe began designing smaller homes in Shaker Heights, many in the Fernway area. Although each home he designed has its own character, he designed some homes reminiscent of the Colonial saltbox, with an uneven gable roof, for builder James St. James.

Between 1915 and 1930, Shupe designed more than 63 homes throughout Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights.

Research for this biographical sketch conducted by Shupe homeowners Dozie Herbruck and Pat Agatisa.