Van Sweringen
Demonstration Houses
in the
South Woodland Group

In 1924, the Van Sweringen Company commissioned architect Philip Small to design five homes demonstrating the type, style and quality of homes appropriate to early Shaker Heights. The homes were promoted through a series of advertisements in Cleveland magazines. Portions of some of the ads are reprinted inside.

Building permits were issued for all five homes, which are on or near South Woodland Road, on June 19, 1924. Edward Foley was the builder, and the estimated construction cost of each was $50,000, with the exception of 3158 Morley Road, at $35,000. Brick and stucco were the basic building materials; roofing was of wood shingles. Many of the houses retain their original roofs today.

Three additional groups of "Demonstration Homes" were built by the Van Sweringen Company in 1924. Two groups on Van Aken Boulevard were designed by architect Bloodgood Tuttle, and the last and largest group, by Howell and Thomas, is on Parkland Drive.

In June of 1983 all 21 "Demonstration Homes" were designated as Shaker Heights landmarks by the Shaker Heights Landmark Commission and City Council.
Aristocratic Old Euclid Avenue Has Given Way to South Woodland

In the Club Section of Shaker Village

"Built of stucco, brick, stucco, wood, slate and copper, variously used; they are planned for their locations and set the standard for the developments of their neighborhoods."

South Woodland at Falmouth Road

"High, Wide and Handsome"

This is probably the first time you've ever heard that old phrase applied to a house, but we use it because it's a perfect description of the house at 1010 South Woodland, at Falmouth Road, Shaker Village.
Walking Tour
September 25, 1983

1 19600 South Woodland Road - exterior only
   (3076 Kingsley Road)
2 19700 South Woodland Road - exterior only
3 3158 Morley Road
4 20000 South Woodland Road
5 19910 South Woodland Road - PRESENTATION
   OF PLAQUES AND REFRESHMENTS

The tour will view the five Van Sweringen Demonstration Homes in the South Woodland group, beginning with 19600 South Woodland (3076 Kingsley). The first two homes will be seen from the exterior only. The owners of the remaining three will walk the group through the main areas of their homes. As a consideration to the owners, please remain with the group and follow the desired route.

Shaker Heights Landmark Commission, 1983