



Post Scripts

FACTS FROM THE INDIAN VILLAGE ARCHIVES: Shortly before his death, *Time* magazine in a feature article called Detroit's Albert Kahn (1869-1942) the "father of modern factory design" and "the world's number 1 industrial architect." In 1938, the volume of Albert Kahn Associates work reached 19% of all architect designed industrial buildings. Kahn's first known industrial commission is 1901 and his most recognized early achievement was the Packard Motor car plants of 1903 and 1905.

Today, Kahn's most frequently recalled Detroit designs include the Fisher (1927), General Motors (1922) and New Center Buildings, Detroit News Building (1916), Detroit Free Press Building (1925), and Ford River Rouge Plant (1917-1938). Lesser known works close to Indian Village include Belle Isle's Conservatory (1903) and the Casino (1908), the Jefferson Avenue Chrysler Plant (formerly Chalmers Motor Car Co.) and the Palms Apartments (1902) on East Jefferson at Rivard.

These accomplishments overshadow his residential work. Indian Village has 15 Kahn designed homes as well as the Liggett School Building, now the Detroit Waldorf School at 2555 Burns. These homes include:

- Burns - 996 Robert W. Smylie 1900
- 1007 Burnham S. Colburn 1905
- Iroquois - 1037 Francis C. McMath 1902
- 1040 Gustavus D. Pope 1906
- 1410 John F. Bush 1905
- 1411 John Owen Jr. 1905
- 1424 Arthur M. Pelletreau 1905
- 1453 Hugh Cjalpers 1909
- 1507 Charles J. Butler 1914
- 1762 C. Hayward Murphy 1915
- Seminole - 1022 Frederich Andrus 1900
- 1032 Allen F. Edwards 1906
- 1042 Charles C. Hinchman 1900
- 1091 Arthur Kiefer 1905
- 1466 Louis A. Peters 1912

The fact Kahn was still doing residential commissions long after his fame emerged as an industrial architect was in part to accommodate his wealthy industrial clients. Yet *Time* magazine's 1942 article reports that he attempted to do at least one residential design each year to keep in touch with that field. Kahn was reported to be personally involved in each of his designs so we can assume his touch is throughout each of his Indian Village houses.

Kahn's own home, built in 1907 at Mack Avenue and John R, undoubtedly reflects his own tastes. It is now headquarters for the Urban League. In following the Domestic Revival style of England, its medieval prototype is stylized and simplified. The similarity between this house and Kahn's "cottage style" Indian Village homes is immediately apparent.

In 1900, Kahn designed 996 Burns, 1022 and 1042 Seminole for John Owen Jr.'s Cook Farm Co. Ltd., developer of Indian Village. In today's language, these

AN HISTORICALLY DESIGNATED RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT IN DETROIT COMPRISING BURNS, IROQUOIS AND SEMINOLE AVENUES BETWEEN JEFFERSON AND MACK



were "starter homes" or models to prime interest in the area. The building permits taken out in 1900 list the cost of each house at \$7,000. While the exteriors differ greatly, note the common elements such as the extensive wood carving.

Pay particular attention to 996 Burns. Its exterior is larger paving size bricks and its classic cottage style reflects Kahn's old world tastes. The carvings on this and other Kahn houses relate to his interest in the Arts & Crafts movement. This stressed artisanship in the decorative details in contrast to the previous non-descript Victorian ornamentation hung on houses at the architect's fancy.

The three houses built at Agnes and Iroquois (1410, 1411 and 1424) in 1905 also were model homes for the Cook Farm Co. Ltd. They are easy to compare being adjacent to one another and show Kahn's skills well. They are basically built to identical floor plans (at \$5,000 each according to permits) but with difference in materials, roof shape and details resulting in each having a completely different appearance at first glance. You might class them as deluxe, intermediate and economy model.

The deluxe model is 1410 Iroquois with brick exterior construction, gabled slate roof and a later 15 foot addition to the south. The intermediate model is 1411 with a gabled shingle roof, brick belt and 2nd story stucco construction. The sun porch to the south (1921) and the rear servants wing (1913) are additions. The economy model, 1424, has a less expensive hip roof with shingles, 3/4 brick belt with frame in the rear and shingled 2nd story exterior. While 1410 (prior to its southern addition) and 1424 are virtually identical within, 1411 is built reversed, a mirror image floor plan of the others.

In sharp contrast to these cottage style, Arts & Crafts homes, the Hugh Chalmers house, 1453 Iroquois, later occupied by Henry Ewald (Campbell-Ewald) is a classic Georgian revival with Federal ends. It is constructed with reinforced concrete floors similar to Kahn's factories, as are 1007 Burns and 1466 Seminole.

Information for this piece has come from Time magazine's June 29, 1942 feature article on Albert Kahn, the Detroit Institute of Arts' Legacy of Albert Kahn, 1970, and the Indian Village Association House & Garden Tour Guide Training Manual.

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INDIAN VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CAROLLERS: The Carollers are once again practicing for the holiday season. Anyone interested in joining, call Martha Hill at 925-6117 or Corinne Tyler at 821-9165. Also, if those of you planning holiday gatherings would like the Carollers to sing at them, call Corinne or Martha as soon as possible to see if you can be worked into the schedule.

OUTDOOR DECORATION CONTEST: The Garden Club will be sponsoring an outdoor decoration contest. Each home will receive a ballot to vote for your favorite display. There will be three first prizes awarded; one for Burns, one