

KATHY WOOD

- o Resident since 1973
- o Eaton Parent from 1973 to 1981
- o 42 years old

Cleveland Park is a friendly in-town community that feels as if you're living in the country. I like that there are old, young, middle-aged people, and children....it's just such a mixture. Nice community spirit. I think the people more apt to be drawn into causes naturally gravitate here. That reputation draws other people like them.

When I gave walking tours of Cleveland Park, the people would think the houses were beautiful, but they couldn't understand why people didn't take better care of their yards. But people have become more proud of their houses. They started painting them and taking better care of them, especially the architectural details. Most people thought these were just big old Victorian houses, hard to keep up, and didn't appreciate their uniqueness.

In the 1890's there were lots of little suburbs here and Cleveland Park was just one of them. It included all of Newark Street, all of Highland Place, and the lower part of Macomb. That was it, because that was the size of the area one man could afford to own. Someone else owned the land where John Eaton School is. Someone else owned further up Macomb Street near where Grover Cleveland's house was (36th Street between Macomb and Newark Streets). They all had different names....Cleveland Heights, the area around John Eaton, Oak View, the area around Cleveland's house. There was a further expansion in the '20s, to Porter and Rodman and Ordway Streets and other streets. But most of the houses on Newark, Highland Place and Macomb were finished by then. Most of the houses in the original Cleveland Park were built by the '20s.

There used to be a road that ran from 33rd Place and Highland Place to the south side of Macomb. The road went down the hill, behind the Stovall's house, between the Boasberg's and the Owen's houses and down the ravine to Macomb. Then it came right through my neighbor's yard and behind my house to a house about two doors down from us. Right there a stable was built. The Cleveland Park Company was going to build the stable on Ordway Street, but there were a lot of people on Highland Place who objected to the smell. They had this natural path anyway. And they made it into a road, so people kept their horses and carriages down here. In 1913, my neighbor's house was built and his fence was put up right across the road, so it cut off access to the stable. But by that time people were buying cars. That road is covered with houses now. Mr. Stone who lives up the street remembers walking up that road.

All of this land down here (lower Macomb & Newark) was left to be agricultural land. The Cleveland Park Company didn't divide it up into lots, so they sold off as much land as an individual wanted. The owner went bankrupt and I think then they had to sell the land very intensively.

The Cleveland Park Company hired one of the major architects who had worked in Cleveland Park to design the Community Club on Connecticut Avenue between Macomb and Newark where the library is today. They were paternalistic in that respect. It looked like a house, had a fireplace so it would be warm for people to wait inside, and may also have been a place where the trolley car would drop off people's groceries to be picked up when they came down the hill.