

# Walking Tour

## CHAPIN PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

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Beginning on Navarre, you will see colorful two and a half story Victorian houses with various roof shapes and gable trim. Look closely at 326 Navarre; a similar trim is at 801 Park. At the corner of Park and Navarre is the first house in the area, the Chapin house. It is a Gothic Revival that proudly lifts its cross roof and sports gingerbread trim and ogee; gothic pointed and square windows.

Walking up Park you will see a Gambrel roof with bell cast flare over the porch at 610. This shape reappears often. Look at the intersection of Park and LaMonte. You will see a Colonial Revival, a Prairie style house, and the entrance to Sibley Court. The attractive houses on LaMonte set off an Ernest Young house at 308. Imagine the picturesque creek that flowed down the hill until 1875.

Continuing up Park, the Anderson house at 710 displays a circular porch and a tower with a mansard roof. Several carriage houses lie at the rear of lots here, all overlooking the Goose Flats, now Leeper Park.

Next to 710 one notices a "Steamboat Gothic" two-story spindle-railed porch. At 723 Park, the old Hodgson house has articulated and textured surfaces, machine carved posts, and a rear mansard roof. It has vigorous ornamentation and is capped with a sculptured chimney. Up the street, notice the Gambrel roof and Ionic columns at 725 Park.

Riverside Drive has commodious eclectic and Prairie houses originally oriented to the street. At the top of the hill lies a house with especially clean lines. It has a two-story pavilion with pediments on both the first and second stories.

The house at 831 Forest has ornamental details which show off especially well coming up the alley from Leland. The vernacular and New-Jacobean houses on Forest are now dressed in new hues. Look at the roof at 712 Forest.

The house at 720 Portage reflects other shapes and roof lines. The north of Portage has large square vernacular houses elevated from the street. On Ashland you will view houses in the vernacular and New-Colonial mode, with a bracketed house at 833. Ashland runs into Rex, a street paved diagonally with bricks. A snug Bungalow style house lies at 609. Also on Rex are brightly colored houses and various textured shingled sidings.

Do not miss one of the oldest buildings in the Neighborhood, the yellow brick Chapin barn on the alley between Navarre and LaMonte. The barn front has two segmentally arched doors and a Gable roof. Unlike the Chapin house, it is on its original site.

Leeper Park is worth a special visit, because it includes the oldest house of the area, the Pierre Navarre Cabin, moved into the area from elsewhere. Finally, the large New-Renaissance structure on Michigan, flamboyantly concealing a pumping station, illustrates the attitude taken by architects of the Beaux Arts tradition that beauty need not reveal function.