



Preservation House  
2074 West Market Street  
Akron, Ohio 44313-6916

# PROGRESS THROUGH PRESERVATION OF GREATER AKRON

## PTP Membership Meeting Sunday, June 24, 2018 Walking Tour of Goodyear Heights Neighborhood in Akron



Vaniman street, looking north, circa 1915-16  
One of the first streets completed in Goodyear Heights

**In 1912, Frank A. Seiberling, a co-founder of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, proposed a plan to build a housing development in the hills overlooking the Blue Pond, east of his factory.** At the time the company had 7,000 employees. The idea was to "... give our employees an opportunity to become homeowners at as low a cost and by as easy payments as possible." For a \$100 down payment workers could own a home only a 10 minute walk to the factory. The first homes sold for between \$1,800 and \$3,500 (\$42,000 and \$80,000 today). According to Seiberling, "This is distinctly not a moneymaking proposition for the company or myself."

Noted Boston landscape architect Warren H. Manning was hired to lay out the lots following the natural shape of the land. Manning is known locally as the landscape architect for Stan Hywet, Seiberling's Tudor mansion on North Portage Path. Norton was renamed Goodyear Boulevard to act as the entrance to the development. At the November 1913 dedication, the development was christened "Goodyear Heights" and approximately 100 houses were finished by May 1914. Upon completion the development had more than 1,200 homes. (Information quoted from a July 16, 2012 article in the Akron Beacon Journal by Mark J. Price).

Often cited as a prime example of the Garden City Movement, the development sought to emulate the look and feel of a small country village. Today the neighborhood retains much of its original, small-town atmosphere, with mature trees, small parks, and winding streets. The well-built homes include Arts and Crafts, Tudor Revival, Cape Cod, and other historic styles that add character to the neighborhood.

**We will meet at 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 24 at Gazebo Park at the corner of Goodyear boulevard and Malasia road.** There is parking on the street and in the Goodyear Heights Presbyterian Church lot across the street from the park (1430 Goodyear Blvd.). **The walking tour is on level ground and should take about one hour; wear comfortable shoes.** After the tour we will have refreshments in the gazebo. **This event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP by Friday, June 22 to Alice Christie at 330-864-8364 or [achristie@malone.edu](mailto:achristie@malone.edu)** so that we will know how many to expect.



Gazebo Park