



# MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

FEBRUARY 2006

## The Benefits And Responsibilities Of Being On The National Register Of Historic Places

Being listed on the National Register of Historic Places has its benefits, but then again, it also has its responsibilities. Since the establishment of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1966 nearly 80,000 properties have joined us on that most prestigious of listings. Included on that list are: The Mission Control Room at the Kennedy Space Center. The San Francisco Trolley Car Line. The John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. And yes, the Marktown Historic District.

Ever since the Marktown Historic District was placed on the NRHP in 1975, this neighborhood has benefited from that listing. It was the protection afforded by the listing that forced the relocation of Cline Avenue to its current location and saved Marktown from the wreckers ball.

Just five years later our being on the NRHP brought a major grant that totally renovated the 13 acres of Marktown parks that we all enjoy each year.

In 1990 that listing began the process that led to the redevelopment of the Marktown street and sidewalks and brought us the historic lighting on each of our streets.

It was our notoriety as a Historic District that brought World Changers to our neighborhood this past summer, and it was that same notoriety that brings university students, historians and literally hundreds of visitors to our neighborhood each year.

It is difficult if not impossible to use our historic status to leverage funding for this neighborhood without celebrating the uniqueness of the architectural design of Marktown and our historic significance. From the open spaces between the homes to the street scape and the exterior design of each and every home, Marktown is one of the most unique and important neighborhoods in Indiana, the Midwest and yes - the nation.

As a neighborhood we need to embrace the concepts of historic preservation and move forward in a way that will improve our property values and promote home ownership as opposed to rental properties and boarded up homes. It is totally inappropriate to use our status on the National Register of Historic Places to leverage funds for one purpose, and then ignore the elements that obtained that status. The future of this neighborhood rests in our architectural significance.

It is for that reason that we have taken the remaining seven pages of this issue of Marktown Update to provide each of our

residents and readers with a copy of the original 1974 National Register Nomination.

If you have any questions on how promoting the restoration and preservation of this most unique of neighborhoods can assist you in the renovation of your home, please feel free to contact the Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. at 397-2239.



*Above: An artist's rendering of Marktown. Can you identify the location? This is School Street at Oak Avenue as drawn from just behind Michels Bar & Grill.*

*Below: School Street looking north to Oak Avenue as executed by the same artist. Both illustrations were included in a publication titled "Marktown: neighborhood development plan" which was issued in 1973.*



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR**  
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTION IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Marktown Historic District  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
South West of Dickey Road \_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CITY/TOWN  
East Chicago CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
VICINITY OF  
1 st  
STATE  
Indiana CODE  
18 COUNTY  
Lake CODE  
89

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>PRESENT USE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RES.
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Multiple Private Owners  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY/TOWN  
East Chicago STATE  
VICINITY OF  
Indiana

**5 LOCATION**

COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lake County Court House  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY/TOWN  
Crown Point STATE  
Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Land Use, Blighting Influences, Exterior Structural  
DATE  
October 1972  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Office of the Planner  
CITY/TOWN  
East Chicago STATE  
Indiana

Please contact us via the internet at [mrmartown@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrmartown@sbcglobal.net)

## 7 DESCRIPTION

<u>    </u> EXCELLENT	<u>    </u> DETERIORATED	<u>    </u> UNALTERED	<u>    </u> X ORIGINAL	DATE _____
<u>  X  </u> GOOD	<u>    </u> RUINS	<u>  X  </u> ALTERED	<u>    </u> MOVED	
<u>    </u> FAIR	<u>    </u> UNEXPOSED			

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Marktown continues to present a unique appearance to the world, the result of its careful planning and design. The story behind the development of Marktown is presented under the section entitled "Statement of Significance". Here we will discuss Marktown's current and original physical state.

After determining the need for a community to house the workers of his manufacturing plant, Clayton Mark hired noted Howard Van Doren Shaw as his architect to design this community. Mark owned 190 acres on the shore of Lake Michigan, west of the Indiana Harbor Canal and near the intersection of Riley Road and Dickey Road. The site was swampy and had to be filled, in places as much as seven feet, in order to make it usable. The resulting topography was without relief. This and the orientation of the existing roads appear to have largely determined the form of the site plan.

The original plan provided for a community of 8,000 to be housed in detached houses and row houses and large boarding houses of 40 rooms and smaller boarding houses holding one family and 8 to 10 single men. This plan, covering 190 acres, never realized, would have had a much higher density than present day Marktown principally due to the boarding houses which were planned.

As it now exists Marktown and its adjacent park cover about 40 acres and has about 1,200 people. This is bounded on the NE by the center line of Dickey Road, on the SE by the center line of Riley Road to the Youngstown Steel Boundary with the edge of the Park along this, north to the center line of 129th Street, and east to the center line of Dickey Road.

In broad terms the original plan had a series of major diagonals converging on a Market Square. One of these diagonals was Dickey Road and another was 129th street which were existing streets. Broad Street was to form the SW-NE diagonal. Surrounding Market Square were to be the major community facilities and shopping center including a school, library, club house, hotel, stores, and public garage. In Marktown as it exists the Market Square is at the north end of the community south of the junction of 129th and Dickey Road clearly indicating that only about one-fourth of the original concept was actually materialized. Howard Van Doren Shaw's plan for the development of this square were carried out including a large fountain which was removed in 1939 to relocate Dickey Road.

Howard Van Doren Shaw had strong background in residential architecture and his work at Marktown shows a clear understanding of the need for residential development. The arrangement of Marktown's houses was done with great care. The lots are generally square with the building covering 35 to 40 percent of the lot. Houses have been staggered so that the windows of each house look out onto the gardens of their neighbors rather than into their neighbors' windows or into blank walls. The houses are two stories in height and are connected with bush hammered concrete walls three feet high. These durable buildings had walls constructed of 10 X 10 X 4 tile, 18 inches thick, a fireproof decay proof method. Exterior facing is stucco and originally a coordinated color scheme for buildings and trim existed. Whether or not this was executed is not known.

At the time they were built all the houses featured the most modern mechanical equipment and other services. Street rights of way are 32 feet wide with pavement width of 16 feet. This helps create a charming northern European village effect,

**The height of your accomplishments will equal the depth of your convictions.**

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reinforcing the harmony and unity of the overall design. Despite their intrinsic charm, the narrow roadways cause problems for modern automobiles and as a result cars are frequently found parked on the sidewalk.

The houses in Marktown are of very similar design, the only difference being in the size and in a row of supervisors houses that face the park area to the west. The typical Marktown house gains its European characteristics from the narrow streets, the closeness of the houses to the street, and the roof lines of the individual houses.

Most of the single family houses are two bay, two story houses with steep gable roofs facing the street. The entry way is in the center and originally a porch was located on one side of the door.

The double houses face with the gable ends to the street. The roofs are steep gable running to the first floor over the entry (which faces a side yard rather than the street) on each side. There are two peaks, one over each side of the double valley in between. By using steep gable roofs in a variety of ways, unity is obtained without monotony. The windows in both single and duplex are closely paired casement type set in the same opening.

The Supervisors' houses are much more conventional in design than the other houses in Marktown. They have a brick facing and a common two story, gabled roof form.

The school and community center have not changed in form but have had an artificial stone facing added in recent years. These are low cross-gabled roofed structures that are not of unusual design.

Marktown was originally owned by its developer, Mark Manufacturing Company, and when in 1920 Mark Manufacturing was absorbed by American Sheet and Tube Company it went along. Three years later Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company of Youngstown, Ohio acquired American Sheet and Tube and Marktown. In 1941, Youngstown sold Marktown to a real estate company who subsequently sold the buildings individually. Individual ownership has caused some changes in the physical appearance of Marktown, but much less than might have been expected.

Remarkably, there has been little change in the appearance of Marktown since it was first built. The design remains very cohesive and this area still possesses a great deal of the charm of a northern European village which early accounts of Marktown described. A small section of the newer houses exists but does not clash in design and scale with the original structures. There are some cases of bad remodeling, particularly in alterations to porches, and some evidence of neglect and deferred maintenance, but most problems could be remedied without too much effort. The excellence of the original construction has, of course, played a major role in maintaining the area's character.

It is striking to find a village completely surrounded by one of the densest heavy manufacturing areas in the country.

**Historic preservation saved this community from the wreckers ball in 1975  
and should be the foundation for this neighborhood for generations to come.**

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURAL	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURAL	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1917

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Howard Van Doren Shaw

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Marktown is significant in the historical and cultural development of not only East Chicago, but of the State of Indiana and the United States. Four areas of significance have been considered in making this review. These are: A. Representative of the planned industrial community movement of the late nineteenth and early 20th century. B. Part of the social awareness programs spawned by the effects of the industrial revolution. C. Marktown is a major work of an important American architect, Howard Van Doren Shaw. D. Marktown contributes to the history and culture of northwestern Indiana by serving as a useful, living landmark.

A. Clayton Mark (1858-1936) was born in Frederickburg, Pennsylvania and went to school there and in Chicago. In 1876, Mark began work as a clerk with the Chicago Malleable Iron Company later becoming secretary and director of the Chicago works. He continued to serve as vice-president and member of the board for many years, but in 1888 he began his real career by founding Mark Manufacturing Company. This company made well points which helped make possible the agricultural expansion of the Midwest. The expanding company began making pipe in Evanston, Illinois and Zanesville, Ohio and mining zinc ores in Illinois, Kansas, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma. In 1916 Mark decided he needed his own steel producing capacity and purchased land in Indiana Harbor, then booming as an industrial center, for his new facility. Since the surrounding area was relatively undeveloped, Mark saw that there would be a need for housing to attract the skilled workers his operation would need. At this time the building of communities for workers was considered a concern of big industries. There are many such communities, large and small across the United States and close by. In East Chicago, two workers' communities were actually built, Marktown and Inland Steel's Sunnyside. The model workers' community idea reached a high state of development on the shore of Lake Calumet in Pullman, Illinois and, of course, the City of Gary was initially developed by United States Steel Corporation.

The design for Marktown and the Market Square idea was strongly influenced by Shaw's earlier design for the Lake Forest, Illinois Village Square. This square was completely built according to Shaw's design unlike its Marktown counterpart which was never fully developed and has even been partly dismantled. These squares reflected Howard Van Doren Shaw's interest in English Country Architecture and his own interpretation of the style.

B. Many of the developers of the model workers' communities did so to ameliorate the condition of the workers' lives which in the industrial society were frequently grim. The desire to provide improved living accommodations was frequently reflected in the provisions of various social and community facilities along with housing. Marktown provided these amenities and in the original plan even more were provided for. The part of Marktown which was actually built was evidently intended for highly skilled and supervisory workers since these were the most necessary for a successful operation. Nowhere in the biographies of Clayton Mark and Howard Van Doren Shaw is there any evidence that either of them was concerned in or even interested in social reform or welfare. They were, however, interested in quality and when the need for a workers' community was established it was apparently decided

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that this should be as good as possible. Although and perhaps because Marktown did not start out as a social experiment it is still a viable community with many life-long and second generation residents with strong feelings of community pride.

C. Howard Van Doren Shaw (1868-1926) was born in Chicago, but his father was originally from Madison, Indiana. He studied architecture at MIT and in Europe and then returned to Chicago to work with William LeBaron Jenney, widely known as the father of the modern skyscraper. In 1893 he established his own office and married Frances Wills. Their daughter, Evelyn, married the son of the well known Hoosier novelist George Bar McCutcheon. Shaw worked in clear simple straightforward style and concentrated on the development of a well ordered plan. This phase of his work is reflected in the overall plan of Marktown and in the design of its individual buildings.

Shaw designed, in addition to Marktown and Clayton Mark's own home, a number of other important buildings although most of his work was in homes for Chicago's richest and most powerful people including the Swifts, Donnellys and Ryersons. Shaw's work also included collaborating with Ralph Cram on the Fourth Presbyterian Church on Chicago's Michigan Avenue and of course, the Lake Forest Village Square. The Art Institute of Chicago was served by Shaw as a trustee for over twenty years. Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects, an honor which had in sixty years only been awarded to eight other living persons. Today, the quality of Howard Van Doren Shaw's work as an architect is recognized as more and more of the work of this period is studied.

D. We all learn from the past. One way to do this is through books, but a better way is to learn from real objects and places that came down to us relatively intact from another time. Marktown presents a living lesson in history and culture from the pioneer growth period of the Calumet Region. This region, which is America's industrial heartland, is quite young compared to other great regions of this nation. Sometimes in such areas the concern for history is lost. But here there is the opportunity to preserve the Marktown community as a living and useful landmark of genuine architectural and cultural significance for the Calumet Region, the state and the country. The Marktown area is an important cultural resource which should be restored to accurately present the intentions of the original design.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Eaton, Leonard K., *Two Chicago Architects and Their Clients -- Frank Lloyd Wright and Howard Van Doren Shaw*, The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1969
- WPA - Writer's Program, *The Calumet Region Historical Guide*, 1939, Board of Education, Gary, Indiana and the Gary Commercial Club and Chamber of Commerce, Garman Printing Co. 1939.
- Hess, William, *Marktown Golden Jubilee (1917-1967)*, Marktown Golden Jubilee Committee
- *Diamond Jubilee Historical Record*, East Chicago (75th year) 1893-1968, 1968
- Warner, Ralph T. "*The Town of Mark, Indiana: A Manufacturers Housing Enterprise*" and Howard Van Doren Shaw, The MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass. 1969

**All of the reference materials listed in Item 9 of the National Register Nomination are available through the Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. or at the E.C. Public Library.**

The photos on the next two pages were a part of the original National Register Nomination and have been provided to us by the National Parks Service.

**Right ▶**: single house on north corner of Riley Road and Pine Avenue (402 Riley Road)



◀ **Left** : duplex on west corner of Oak Avenue and Grove Street

**Right ▶**: school and community center on Spruce Avenue looking SE



◀ **Left** : four-plex on west corner of Grove Street and Pine Avenue

**Right ▶**: looking SW on Grove Street (500 block)



**About the Captions:**  
All of the captions for the photographs were taken from the original National Register Nomination. For additional information please visit our web page at [www.marktown.org](http://www.marktown.org)

The 1974 National Register Nomination for the Marktown Historic District is available on line at the official Marktown Historic Web Site at [www.marktown.org](http://www.marktown.org).



◀ **Left** : duplex on NW side of Oak between Park and Grove Street

▼ **Below** : Public Garages (500 block of Pine Avenue)



◀ **Left** : Grocery, Barber Shop and Drugstore at Broad and Dickey Road.



▲ **Above** : general view from Oak Avenue down School Street



◀ **Left** : Superintendents' Houses on Broad Street (411, 413 & 415 Broad Street)

The printing of this newsletter is made possible through the generosity of Mr. Dan McArdle, a former Marktown resident and a true friend of this community.