

the firehouse was rented and used as sleeping quarters for the firemen. (WPA Firehouses, Fire Engine House No. 11; Zillman, p. 151)

It took the Common Council until October 8, 1888, to adopt a resolution to purchase a site for a permanent firehouse in Bay View. On that date, authorization was given to purchase Lot 14, Block 15 on St. Clair Street for not more than \$300. The Board of Public Works was authorized to advertise for proposals and let contracts for a firehouse at a cost not to exceed \$7,000. The construction contract was ultimately let to Arthur H. Vogel on October 22, 1888. A. C. Apel received the plumbing contract and M. Davelaar was awarded a contract to do extra excavation at the site. Water pipe was laid along Wentworth Avenue and Potter Avenue from the artesian well on Pryor Avenue in order to service the engine house. The new structure was completed and put into service in April of 1889; the final cost totaled \$6,651.79. Fire Department Captain Sebastian Brand designed the building. Brand, a former mason, was assigned to design and superintend the construction of all new firehouses shortly after joining the Fire Department. Brand went on to design over thirty firehouses for the department before his retirement on July 1, 1919. Like most of his designs, Engine House No. 11 was a simple two-story, three-bay, brick structure with a prominent cornice, corbeled stringcourse and stone lintels. (WPA Firehouses, Engine House No. 11; BPW Annual Report, 1888, p. 15 and 1889, p. 16; Old Settlers Club Memorials, MCHCL, Vol. 2, p. 71)

Apparently this firehouse was not viewed as totally sufficient to provide for the needs of the Bay View community. By late July of 1889, the Common Council was considering the purchase of another parcel (on Kinnickinnic Avenue) for a second firehouse. An amount of \$1,750 was authorized for the

acquisition of Lot 12, Block 12 of the J. Williams Subdivision on Kinnickinnic Avenue on March 24, 1890. The site was subsequently purchased from John C. Kneisler on May 6, 1890. On June 16, 1890, the Common Council authorized funding for the building's construction. The new firehouse satisfied the Fire Department's request that the structure be large enough to accommodate a chemical engine company as well as a hook and ladder company. (WPA Firehouses).

The new Kinnickinnic Avenue firehouse at today's 2526 South Kinnickinnic Avenue was built at a cost of \$8,032.93 and was ready for use in January of 1891. Contractors included: C. Kieckhefer, masonry, cut stone and iron work; John Fellenz, carpentry and tin work; P. H. Murphy, plumbing; P. J. Rinzel, painting, and C. A. Beck, cedar blocks for the driveway. This firehouse was known as Engine House No. 6 Truck or Truck No. 6 and Chemical No. 6 or referred to as Hook & Ladder Co. 6 and Chemical Engine 6. The structure was a two-story brick building, 30 feet wide and 85 1/2 feet long, with the average height being 32 1/4 feet. A second floor hay loft, 26 by 14 feet in dimension, was located above the stables. The station house resembled others designed by Sebastian Brand and featured a prominent pedimented cornice, one large equipment door, and a narrow pedestrian door and a prominent, rectangular corner tower at the southwest side of the building.

The Kinnickinnic Avenue station house ultimately became the primary firehouse in Bay View. In 1900, Hook and Ladder No. 6 moved to the St. Clair Street facility and Engine Co. No. 11 moved over to Kinnickinnic Avenue. Since that time it has been known as Engine House No. 11. On October 22, 1907, contracts were awarded for the construction of a hose tower addition to

the building. Contractors for this work included: S. J. Wabiszewski, masonry and cut stone work; H. P. Mueller, carpentry, galvanized iron and tin and painting and glazing; A. F. Wagner, cast and wrought iron work. Steam heating was installed in 1908 and various repairs were made to the building over time such as the removal of the stables. The last remodeling took place in 1943. (Zillman, pp. 151-152; BPW Annual Report, 1907, p. 17; MPL Historic Photograph Collection, Firehouses)

Hook and Ladder No. 6 subsequently returned to Kinnickinnic Avenue in 1918. The old firehouse on St. Clair Street was turned over to the Board of Public Works and remained vacant for several years. In 1921 the Common Council directed the Commissioner of Public Works to turn the building over to the School Board for use as a social center. After remodeling, it became the Beulah Brinton Community House and was dedicated on October 14, 1924. When the new Brinton Community Center was built at the corner of Potter and South Bay Streets, the old building on St. Clair Street was torn down. (WPA, Firehouses)

By the 1950's the firehouse on Kinnickinnic Avenue had the smallest floor area of any station in the city. After studying possible sites, it was decided to build a new firehouse on the old site, and the old building was razed. The new Engine House No. 11 was constructed of beige standard brick and precast concrete panels and cost \$170,000. The flat roof structure consists of a central apparatus space, a story and a half in height, flanked by two, one-story wings. (MI 321-18) A hose tower extends above the roof at the center of the building. The structure's overall dimensions measure 97 feet in width and 99 feet in depth. The dormitory is 38 by 79 feet. The

office and living area is 34 by 57 feet, and the apparatus space measures 35 by 99 feet. Engine House No. 11 was dedicated on Monday, September 27, 1965. Festivities at the dedication included a speech by Mayor Henry W. Maier, performances by the Bay View High School Band and a color guard from Firefighters Legion Post No. 426 and the Bay View Legion Post No. 180. An open house with entertainment followed. Engine House No. 6 remains in use today. (Zillman, pp. 151-152)

Incorporated into the building at the time of its construction was a street lighting substation which serviced 700 lights in a 124-block area bounded by East Stewart Street, the Kinnickinnic River, South Fourth Street, East Dakota Street, and Lake Michigan. The original substation was built in 1930. (Zillman, pp. 151-152)

Police Department

Fourth District Police Station -- Overview

For nearly two decades after its establishment, the entire city of Milwaukee was served by one police station, the central station on Broadway. In 1865, the Common Council authorized the establishment of two branch stations to be located on the city's north and south sides. The project was delayed for a decade, and it was not until 1876 that the first branch station, the south side station, was built at a cost of \$8,550. The station was located in a heavily industrialized area at the southwest corner of Florida and South First Streets and shared quarters with the fire department's Hook and Ladder Company

No. 2. To better serve south side residents, the police station relocated to the southwest corner of South Sixth Street and Mineral Street in 1892. This station, known as District No. 2 served all of south side Milwaukee through 1903 and then served a smaller portion of the south side through 1953.

(Nailen, 2nd ed., p. 200; History of Milwaukee 1881, p. 394)

District No. 2 station together with the Central Station downtown and District No. 3 Station at Ninth and Galena Streets were adequate to serve the city's law enforcement needs until the turn of the century, although the various police chiefs periodically asked for additional stations. In 1902 the Common Council finally approved funding for two new stations, one to be located in the Twelfth Ward serving Bay View and one to be located in the Twenty-first Ward. The Bay View Station became the Fourth District, and the Twenty-first Ward Station became the Fifth District. Police functions were divided among these five districts until annexation and expansion led to the establishment of two more districts in the 1920's. The Sixth District was headquartered in a station at 3220 W. Burnham Street (1926), and the Seventh District was headquartered at 3127 North 36th Street (1928). Since the 1920's, district boundaries have been shifted, although the organization into seven districts has been retained. Bay View's Fourth District Station was consolidated with the Second District at a new Second District Station at 245 West Lincoln Avenue in 1953.

History

The need for a south side police station closer to Bay View was expressed by Chief of Police F. J. Ries as early as 1887. At that time, the South Side was served by only one station, located at South First and Florida Streets. With water standing in the basement most of the time, the station was much criticized by the Police Department, and Chief Ries asked in the 1887-1888 Annual Report for the city to consider building a new station and a sub-station in the Kinnickinnic Valley. Chief John T. Janssen asked for a south side branch station again in 1892-1893 and in 1900. The matter finally was formally considered late in 1901. The establishment of a police station in Bay View was first introduced to the Common Council by a resolution from Alderman Luedtke on December 30, 1901. The area in which the station was to be located changed slightly as several substitute resolutions were made, but it was generally agreed upon that the new station should be situated in northern Bay View, in an area bounded by Smith Street, Howell Avenue, Mound Street, Bay Street and Lincoln Avenue. The Board of Public Works was authorized to advertise for sites on January 20, 1902. Three lots on South Allis Street were subsequently purchased from W. C. Kreisler and his wife on July 24, 1902, for \$3,600. Authorization was given to advertise for plans and specifications on August 11, 1902, and construction was authorized on March 23, 1903. The Common Council had allocated \$40,000 for the construction of two identically designed police stations, one for Bay View and one for the Twenty-First Ward, but it had to appropriate an additional \$8,500 on June 3 for the two since bids received showed that the structures could not be built within the original budget. The contracts for both stations were let on June 10, 1903. The major contractors for the Fourth District Station included: G.

F. Stuewe, mason work; R. E. Tabbert, lathing and plastering; Fred Andres & Co., cut stone work; William Bayley & Sons Co., cast and wrought iron work; William Ziemann, carpentry; Feix & Goethel, galvanized iron work; F. W. Pripps, plumbing; John S. Brennan, heating; Charles J. Koehler, painting and glazing. The final cost was \$25,693.86. The building was opened on May 2, 1904. The Fourth District handled the Fourteenth and Seventeenth Wards and those portions of the Eleventh and Twelfth Wards lying south of Mitchell Street.

The new police station was a two-story brick structure with a stone basement and featured an interesting polygonal bay at its southwest corner. Over time various improvements and additions were constructed on the site. A permanent brick driveway was installed along the south side of the building in 1907. A two-story brick garage and office was built later as were a one-story brick and concrete cell block. By the 1950's this station, like the Second District Station at South Sixth and Mineral Streets, was considered obsolete and outmoded. A new station, built at 245 West Lincoln Avenue, opened on August 20, 1953, and consolidated the Fourth and Second Districts. Both of the old stations were vacated. The Allis Street station was razed in 1959, and its counterpart was razed in 1960. The site on Allis Street has since been converted into a neighborhood tot-lot. (See Planning and Landscape Architecture; Police Dept. Annual Reports, 1887-1888, p. 7; 1892-1893, p. 4; 1899-1900, p. 1; 1903-1904, p. 3; 1953, pp. 1 and 3; D.C.D., Survey of City Property; BPW Annual Report 1903, p. 24 and 1904, p. 21; WPA Police Stations, 4th District.)

Sewerage and Water Departments

Introduction

In addition to the fire and police departments, Milwaukee's water and sewerage departments have had an impact on the Bay View neighborhood although most of the construction has been underground. The two projects associated with these departments include the Kinnickinnic River Flushing Tunnel and the Texas Avenue Pumping Station.

Kinnickinnic River Flushing Tunnel

Milwaukee's first comprehensive sewerage system, built in 1869, was designed to empty directly into the three main rivers, the Milwaukee, Kinnickinnic, and Menomonee. Theoretically, the waste was to be carried by the river currents out into Lake Michigan. Although the system was marginally successful for some years, by 1880 Milwaukee's population had grown to the point that the slow flowing rivers could no longer accept the daily input of sewage and flush themselves clean. As a result, they virtually became stagnant open sewers. Industrial waste was also pumped directly into these waterways by the hundreds of factories which lined the riverbanks. Large intercepting sewers to divert sewage from the rivers and carry waste directly out to Lake Michigan was viewed as the best solution although it was very costly. A less costly plan was proposed by which water would be pumped from Lake Michigan through a tunnel and into the river to create a current and thereby flush sewage from the stagnant and foul-smelling waterway into the lake. Such a flushing tunnel

was constructed to flush the Milwaukee River and was completed in 1888 with a pumping station built at McKinley Beach.

Like the Milwaukee River, the Kinnickinnic River was heavily polluted by the late nineteenth century. The city turned its attention to the Kinnickinnic River after completing the Milwaukee River project, but it took some years to raise sufficient appropriations for the work to begin. The construction of the Kinnickinnic River flushing tunnel was undertaken in four phases. The first portion or Section No. 1 was commenced when the contract was awarded to James Markey on February 17, 1898. This portion, 3,200 feet of twelve-foot-diameter tunnel, was begun at the Kinnickinnic River near today's South Chase Avenue. This portion of the work was completed in November of 1899. (Board of Public Works Annual Report, 1899, p. 11)

The contract was let for Section No. 2 on January 21, 1901, to Meehan and Courtney. The 1,248 feet of tunnel was completed by R. W. Forrestal on March 31, 1902. (BPW Annual Report, 1902, pp. 11-12)

R. W. Forrestal also won the contract for Section No. 3 on September 9, 1901. The contract was subsequently assigned to the United States Construction Co. and completed on October 20, 1902. (BPW Annual Report, 1902, p. 12) R. W. Forrestal obtained the contract for the fourth and final phase of the project on December 5, 1902. R. J. Hickey completed the project. (BPW Annual Report, 1903, p. 117; 1907, p. 10) To prevent flood waters from emptying into the Kinnickinnic flushing tunnels, a separate conduit was built to divert flood waters along Burrell and Deer Streets, from Dover to Greeley Streets. This area had been known for its frequent flooding at the turn of

the century. George Zimmerman received this contract on November 1, 1905, and completed the work January 5, 1906. (BPW Annual Report, 1907, p. 11)

The path of the flushing tunnel is as follows: It begins at the Kinnickinnic River about 92 feet north of South Chase Avenue and extends southeasterly for 505 feet to the Milwaukee Road right-of-way which it crosses in a curving path 114 feet long to reach Dover Street. The tunnel then extends along Dover to Howell Avenue and then to Russell Avenue by way of a reverse curve 314 feet long. The tunnel then extends under Russell Avenue to a point on the lake shore 210 feet northeasterly of the east line of today's South Shore Drive. Work done at the intake at the foot of Russell Avenue included building protective riprapping, constructing a sidewalk and concrete curb, gutter and stairway at the head of the avenue as well as a frame gate house. The Kinnickinnic River was subsequently dredged to deepen the waterway and a pump house, its power plant, and coal shed were built on the banks of the Kinnickinnic River where the tunnel emptied into the river at Chase Avenue. This pump house structure is located outside the survey area. The entire project cost \$458,580.35 to complete. (BPW Annual Report, 1907, pp. 8-14)

As successful as these flushing tunnel projects were, however, the pumping of sewage and industrial waste into Lake Michigan only succeeded in contaminating the city's drinking water supply. The situation ultimately led to the construction of a sewage treatment plant on Jones Island, near Bay View, and the construction of large intercepting sewers to prevent sewage from directly entering the waterways. The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District now administers on a regional scale the maintenance of sewers and sewerage

treatment facilities and the two flushing tunnels, which are still used during the summer months to create currents in the Milwaukee and Kinnickinnic Rivers.

Texas Avenue Pumping Station

The Texas Avenue water intake and pumping station is perhaps the city's largest public works project in the Bay View survey area. After World War II the great increase in the use of water by local industry, commerce and residents placed a severe strain upon the city's existing water supply facilities. A decision was made to construct a pumping and water purification plant on the city's south side. The major expansion program was carried out between 1955 and 1962, and the new 100 MGD water purification plant was built at the southwest corner of South Sixth Street and West Howard Avenue, some two and a half miles inland from the lake shore. This distant location required that a pumping station be constructed at the lake shore in addition to an intake tunnel so that water could be lifted from the lake surface and pumped to a necessary height above the filter beds at the Howard Avenue plant.

(Becker, p. 129)

A location for the intake and pumping station was selected at the east end of Texas Avenue, about 135 feet below the filtration beds at the filtration plant. The contract for the installation of the intake pipeline was awarded to Merritt-Chapman and Scott, Inc. on the basis of their low bid. The 180-inch intake pipeline extended some 7,600 feet out into Lake Michigan and was thought to be well beyond the contaminated water which existed near the shore. The Lock Joint Pipe Co. supplied the contractor with concrete pipe

from its plant in South Beloit, Illinois. Work began on the pipeline in June of 1959. The pipe was laid in a trench that was excavated to a depth of 15 feet in the bottom of the lake. Once the pipe was laid, the trench was backfilled. This portion of the project was completed in September of 1960, nine months ahead of schedule, and cost a total of \$3,486,363. The capacity of the intake is 200 MGPD at a velocity of five feet per second. (Becker, p. 18)

The \$1,250,000 pumping station was under construction from 1959 through 1962. It was designed by Guy R. Scott and was built of reinforced concrete with the exterior walls a minimum of 24 inches thick and was designed to withstand an atomic blast. Since the structure is built into a bluff, and to make it bombproof, windows were eliminated and air intakes and vents were kept to a minimum. Since the structure is only fully visible from out in the lake, brick veneer was eliminated as well. Four pumps were installed in 1962. Water flows into the station pump wells by gravity and is given a preliminary treatment of chlorine before leaving the facility to ensure a thorough mixing of the chemical with water enroute to the purification plant. Potassium permanganate also is added to the water at times. (Becker, pp. 129-130; Permits, 2900 East Texas Avenue)

A two-leaf truck door is located on the structure's east facade and is comprised of one-quarter-inch steel plate on two sides, reinforced with six-inch steel on heavy rail. Each leaf of the door weighs 3,200 pounds. (Becker, p. 130)

The building was completed on June 1, 1962, when the Howard Avenue Purification Plant was officially placed in service. (MI 426-36) Three additional pumps were installed in 1974 to increase the station's pumping capacity. The structure's flat roof is on grade with South Shore Drive above it and has a cul-de-sac for a turn around on the dead end street as well as a grassy area from which one can look out over the lake. (Becker, p. 130)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Federal government has been an ongoing presence in Bay View since the nineteenth century. The earliest Federal agency, the Postal Service, has operated in the survey area since the early 1880's. A number of buildings survive today that housed Postal Service functions. For decades the Post Office was located in the heart of Bay View's retail and commercial district near or at the intersection of Kinnickinnic, Howell and Lincoln Avenues. With the decline of that commercial area, Bay View's Post Office was moved to a strip shopping center on Oklahoma Avenue where access by car and parking is more convenient.

The Federal military presence is by far the largest in Bay View in terms of extant buildings. A large Army Reserve Armory and Naval Reserve Armory were both built at the northeast end of the neighborhood in the early 1950's and they remain in use today. A third prominent structure was built by the government between 1967-1970 for the U.S. Coast Guard. It is also likewise located at the northeast end of the neighborhood at the lakefront.

U.S. Post OfficeKinnickinnic Sub-Station/ Bay View Station/ Station D

The U.S. Postal Service has been an ongoing presence in the Bay View area since the nineteenth century. Historian Bernhard Korn indicates that Bay View's first postmaster was David L. Price, who received his appointment in 1875, but the History of Milwaukee (1881) indicates that he was appointed on January 1, 1873. The postal station was apparently located in his general store on Delaware Street. He served as postmaster through 1880 and was succeeded by Josiah Parkes. Parkes had his coal and woodyard at the southeast corner of today's East Conway and St. Clair Streets. It is possible that the postal station was located here or else at his residence at 2562 South Superior Street (MI 373-31). Parkes was succeeded by Ambrose McGuigan in 1886. McGuigan had worked as a puddler at the rolling mill prior to his appointment and lived at today's 2401 South Wentworth, no longer extant. (Korn, p. 92; City Directory; History of Milwaukee (1881), p. 1631)

Another nearby postal station was in operation beginning around 1882 according to listings in the city directory. It was located on East Bay Street, then a part of the city of Milwaukee, and was called the Kinnickinnic Sub-Station. William C. Holtz, a grocer by profession, was listed as the superintendant of the sub-station located at 128 South Bay Street, about a block away from his store. If address conversions are correct, this could possibly be today's 432 East Bay Street, a large nineteenth century residence. (MI 327-15) In 1885 the postal station was relocated to 174 South Bay Street, the former Holtz store, then run by Herbert E. Grey. Grey is also listed as

the postal superintendent for 1885. This store, today a tavern, is now addressed as 338-340 East Bay Street. (MI 327-4) In 1886 the postal sub-station moved to another building at the intersection of East Bay and East Becher Streets (razed). This area had evolved into a small commercial district, and the postal sub-station was probably located in one of the stores at the intersection. (City Directory)

Between 1887 and 1897 the postal station was relocated farther south to the heart of a burgeoning commercial district at the corner of Howell and Lincoln Avenues. In 1887 the station had been redesignated the Bay View Station and reflected a merger of the two earlier postal sub-stations at the time that Bay View was annexed by Milwaukee. Ambrose McGuigan served as head of the postal station and had the new title of superintendent of the Bay View Postal Station. (City Directory)

The station was renamed again -- as Station D -- in 1895. Between 1898 and 1907 the post office moved again, this time one block east to the southwest corner of Lincoln and Kinnickinnic Avenues. A move in 1908 was probably precipitated by the removal of the earlier buildings and the construction of the Merchants Investment Association Building at this site in 1907. The new commercial building extended the width of the block from Howell Avenue to Kinnickinnic Avenue and had frontage on these two thoroughfares as well as on Lincoln Avenue. (MI 323-15) From 1908 to 1918 Station D is listed as back at the corner of Howell and Lincoln Avenues, and rented a portion of the Merchants Investment Association Building. In 1918 the postal service rented a newly-constructed building at 441 East Lincoln Avenue. This structure was owned and built by Dr. C. W. Graham, a local physician and real

estate investor. The classical revival structure was apparently designed specifically for rental to the postal service. Local architect R. E. Oberst designed the \$12,000 structure which was completed in late November of 1918. (MI 342-21; City Directory; Permits 441-451 East Lincoln Avenue)

Station D was to occupy this location through 1930, after which time St. Francis State Bank moved into the structure. The Louis Allis Credit Union has been in the building since 1979. Station D moved to 2198 South Kinnickinnic Avenue where it occupied space through 1958. This location is now the site of Zillman Park. (MI 320-6) In 1959 Station D moved to its newly completed building at 509 East Smith Street at the corner of Kinnickinnic Avenue, the former site of the Dings Magnetic Separator Company. The contemporary brick structure was owned by the Jahl Corporation, designed by Nefe-Dick architects and built by the Jos. P. Jansen Co. at a cost of around \$40,000. (MI 425-22) The building was dedicated on May 18, 1959. The postal service occupied this building through 1984-1985. Station D has since moved to a strip shopping center at 1601-1603 East Oklahoma, built in 1964, where it has remained. (MI 421-27; permits; City Directory; Zillman, p. 120)

In addition to the main post office branches, the postal service has had a policy of installing postal stations in neighborhood stores, particularly pharmacies, which had steady tenancy and clienteles. Local clerks rather than postal employees dispensed stamps and weighed packages. The number of these sub-stations grew over the decades; by 1909 some forty sub-stations operated across the city. By the 1920's there were over one hundred. In recent decades this trend has reversed and only a few sub-stations are found today in the larger stores or pharmacies. A number of substations have operated in Bay

View over the decades. Some examples include: 2501 South Delaware, today's At Random tavern (1904, MI 392-28); 2601 South Delaware (1905-1920, MI 361-2); 2898 South Delaware, today's Hintz's Foods (1911-1926, MI 363-34); 2632 South Kinnickinnic Avenue, today's Siegel's Liquor (1912-1915, MI 321-26); 2479 South Howell Avenue, Walderon's Block and today's Advance Photo (1923-1940's, MI 385-33); 2912 South Kinnickinnic, today's Pietro's Restaurant (1930-1931, MI 324-2); and 2306 South Kinnickinnic Avenue, the Grange Building, today's Gull Drugs (1930-1931, MI 320-20). (City Directory)

U.S. Army and Navy Armories

The most significant Federal presence in the Bay View survey area, in terms of size, consists of two reserve armories, one for the Army and one for the Navy, located near the lakeshore in the northeast portion of the neighborhood on land leased for 99 years from the city. These two complexes were built in the early 1950's when lingering sentiments from World War II as well as cold war threats led the government to embark on the expansion of military facilities to ensure preparedness in case of attack. The call to patriotism and warnings of threats to national security had considerable leverage over local governments such as Milwaukee's and outweighed other plans for potential uses for the vacant lands in Bay View. The sites of these two armories, which had by the early 1950's become vacant parcels, were originally part of the Milwaukee Iron Company/Illinois Steel Company's massive industrial complex. The plant closed in 1929, and the site was acquired by the city in 1938 after which time all the buildings were razed. Both parcels were under the jurisdiction of the Harbor Commission although there were no immediate plans

for development for harbor purposes. Both parcels were being temporarily used as recreational areas at the time.

U.S. Army Reserve Armory

Prior to the construction of the armory in Bay View, Army reservists were headquartered at 215 East Buffalo Street where they occupied the fourth, fifth and sixth floors of an old warehouse building. The cramped quarters were leased for \$60,000 a year. These quarters became inadequate during World War II, and after the war Federal appropriations made the selection of a new armory site feasible. In the spring of 1950 the Army district engineer from Chicago selected a vacant six and a half acre site in Bay View bounded by East Lincoln Avenue, East Conway Street, South Logan Avenue, and South Bay Street. This site had been owned by the Milwaukee Iron Company and was originally part of Deer Creek Pond. The press announced that a complex would be built large enough to accommodate five companies of reservists and would feature a jointly-used assembly room and smaller rooms for each company's officers. In addition to the armory, a storage building was also planned which would be used as a warehouse and vehicle garage. Milwaukee's project was part of a nationwide program for armory construction for which ten million dollars was appropriated and 25 armories were planned for 24 cities. At that time Milwaukee had 137 reserve units. (Unidentified clipping April 21, 1950)

In the ongoing tradition of vocal response to neighborhood change, Bay View taxpayers submitted a petition to the Common Council in opposition to the armory project. The opposition was based on the belief that the armory would

lower neighborhood property values, endanger children because of the presence of heavy vehicles, and deprive children of a play area. Residents recommended a site at the foot of E. Potter and north of East Russell Avenue as a better location, one with room to expand in case of war. (Unidentified clipping April 25, 1950)

Despite neighborhood concerns the Common Council, in early May of 1950, agreed to lease the original site to the Army for 99 years. The lease was granted with the provision that a right-of-way be reserved for a future connection between Lincoln Avenue and the proposed southern extension of Lincoln Memorial Drive. The city also felt that the armory would serve as a helpful buffer between Bay View's residential area and the industrialized lake front and railroad tracks. The press then announced that two armories and two storage buildings would be constructed on the site at a cost of \$736,000. The plans changed somewhat by the time actual construction started. Work on a single armory began in 1952 at the same time that a second armory was being constructed at the old Army disciplinary barracks on West Silver Spring Drive. A third Wisconsin armory was also slated to be built in Madison, and it was anticipated that additional armories would be built at Appleton, Fond du Lac and Racine during 1953. The new Bay View building would house administrative offices, classrooms, and a drill hall for training and was thought to be able to accommodate the 3,000 Army reservists then in training. (Unidentified clippings May 9, 1950; May 18, 1950; March 14, 1952; Zillman, p. 69)

As built at 2372 South Logan Avenue, the main armory building in Bay View is irregular in shape and constructed of brick-veneered concrete. A smaller building, possibly the storage building, is located at the north end of the

fenced-in grounds. (MI 346-23) The exact disposition of the interior is not known as no original construction permits exist for the complex in keeping with Federal policy. Apparently this armory now plays a secondary roll to the complex on West Silver Spring where most reserve training activities and meetings take place.

U.S. Naval Reserve Armory

The U.S. Naval Reserve Armory, like that of the Army, was the result of post World War II efforts to properly house military reservists. Just prior to the outbreak of World War II, plans for a naval armory in Milwaukee had been finalized, a site chosen, funding almost completed, and ground was about to be broken when the declaration of war in 1941 cancelled all armory construction. Throughout the war, however, reserve units kept alive the armory proposal so that the project would become a reality at the war's close. (Unidentified clipping, September 22, 1944)

Specific plans for a \$1,600,000 Naval armory were announced in the press on March 7, 1952, at which time the Navy requested a nine-acre site north of East Russell Avenue, the former site of the Illinois Steel Company. The three-year construction project was to consist of the erection of three temporary metal buildings to be replaced with a permanent brick, concrete and steel structure. The Navy, like the Army earlier, considered the need for a new armory to be pressing since Naval reserve administrative officers were located in small quarters at 529 North Water Street with training confined to three naval vessels and available Army quarters. The issue was considered not only by the Common Council and the Harbor Commission but by Milwaukee County

(which had leased the land) and by Bay View residents. The press criticized Bay View alderman Erwin Zillman when he expressed concern over the piecemeal fashion in which harbor lands were being developed and when he commented that the view from Bay View would be spoiled. He was even accused of using the Navy as a pawn to prevent the southward expansion of the fuel oil tank farm from the Jones Island area to the south harbor tract. The buffer zone between Bay View's residential area and the industrial and harbor facilities to the north had become a sensitive issue to Bay View residents. By the promise of good landscaping and a recommendation that construction of docks and piers for water training would improve the lakefront for all and the provision that the construction would not interfere with the southward expansion of Lincoln Memorial Drive, the project won acceptance. (Unidentified clippings March 11, 1952 and March 24, 1952)

The Harbor Commission gave its approval to lease the site in April of 1952, followed by the Common Council and Land Commission in May. The County Park Commission also favored the plan on the basis of the proposed mooring basin to be created at the lakefront. Ground was broken in July, 1952, and the center was commissioned in early May of 1953 as the preliminary event of the local Armed Forces Week observance. The center was to serve the 2,000 Naval and Marine Corps Reservists in Milwaukee, and Milwaukee was viewed as a key component in the 9th Naval Reserve District Program. The contemporary structure as built is two stories in height and L-shaped in plan, roughly 100 feet by 136 feet in dimension. The building is still used by the Naval Reserves today and is addressed at 2401 South Lincoln Memorial Drive. (MI 426-33) The large mooring basin was never constructed at the lakefront, but the Coast Guard Base is now located across the street at the lakefront.

(Unidentified clippings, April 18, 1952; May 22, 1952; July 11, 1952; May 10, 1953)

U.S. Coast Guard

Introduction

Today's U.S. Coast Guard is a consolidation of four government agencies that protected, aided and rescued ships, sailors, vessels and passengers and protected government revenues. These agencies were the U.S. Lighthouse Service, the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service, the U.S. Life Saving Service, and the Steamboat Inspection Service.

The U.S. Lighthouse Service traces its roots back to 1760 with the establishment of a lighthouse at the entrance to Boston Harbor. By 1786, twelve lighthouses had been established along the eastern seaboard. The first lighthouse on the Great Lakes was thought to be that at Presque Isle on Lake Erie, dating to 1819. This service also included the manning of lightships which were stationed off shore where the construction of a building was not feasible. (Noble, pp. 2, 4)

The U.S. Revenue Cutter Service was established in 1790 to help combat the loss of government revenue through marine smuggling. Revenue cutters were patrolling the Great Lakes by the 1820's and also assisted lake ships in distress, patrolled local regattas, and manned look-out stations. (Noble, p. 5)

The U.S. Lifesaving Service began as a volunteer service on the eastern seaboard in 1785 under the Massachusetts Humane Society. Beginning in 1847 the Federal government began periodic appropriations to help fund these services, aid shipwrecks, and hire some permanent staff although the majority of lifesaving personnel remained volunteers. Congress created a permanent U.S. Lifesaving Service in 1878 and placed it under the authority of the U.S. Treasury. (Noble, p. 5; National Register Nomination, Old Coast Guard Station, 1600 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, Milwaukee)

The Steamboat Inspection Service has not been as well documented as the other three agencies but was established to prevent the loss of life from the explosions of faulty boilers in steam powered vessels. The country's first laws on this matter were passed in 1838 in response to the growing number of deaths from marine boiler explosions. The agency's eventual duties consisted of the inspection of vessel construction and equipment, examination and licensing of marine officers, the examination of seamen and marine casualties, and the enforcement of inspection laws, the establishment of regulations to prevent collisions, and the establishment of regulations for the transporting of passengers and merchandise. (Noble, p. 10)

The U.S. Coast Guard was created on January 15, 1915, by the amalgamation of the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service and the U.S. Life Saving Service. The U.S. Lighthouse Service was incorporated into the agency in 1939, and the Coast Guard became part of the U.S. Navy as the nation prepared for World War II. The Steamboat Inspection Service, by then called the U.S. Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation was temporarily transferred to the Coast Guard in

1942 for the duration of the war but became a permanent part of the agency in 1946. On April 1, 1967, the Coast Guard was transferred from the Treasury Department to the Department of Transportation. Today on the Great Lakes, the Coast Guard's main functions are lifesaving and icebreaking to keep shipping lanes open as long as possible. Most of the lighthouses are now automated and unmanned. (Noble, pp. 10-12)

U.S. Coast Guard 9th District Base

As referred to above, the Life Saving Service began as a volunteer activity and received sporadic funding and manpower from the Federal government until a permanent government agency was set up in 1878. Prior to that date, in 1873, Milwaukee had been identified as one of a number of potential sites for a lifesaving station on the Great Lakes. A lifesaving station was not constructed until 1877 following local petitions in the aftermath of a serious ship wreck in the fall of 1875. The \$2,095, two-story, Gothic Revival Style building was constructed at the end of South Pier, near the "Straight Cut" or the new mouth of the Milwaukee River. Milwaukee's station was one of eighteen in the Eleventh District and the largest on the Great Lakes. It was the fourth largest in the entire service. By 1886 the lifesaving station had been relocated to Jones Island, where it was headquartered in an attractive, Shingle Style structure. When Jones Island was targeted for the location of the city's municipal sewerage treatment facility, the lifesaving station, now under the Coast Guard, moved again. The new station was located in the North Point Area at 1600 North Lincoln Memorial Drive in a distinctive, stucco, Prairie Style building. The Coast Guard occupied the building until 1970.

The old facility was subsequently occupied by the Indian Community School until 1980, and has since been acquired by Milwaukee County. It has been vacant since 1980, but the County hopes to incorporate the building into a public facility in keeping with the public nature of the surrounding parkland. (History of Milwaukee 1881, pp. 475-476; Old Coast Guard Station National Register Nomination)

The Coast Guard moved into its new, larger facility at 2420 South Lincoln Memorial Drive on the shore of Lake Michigan in 1970. Work had begun on the building in 1967. The Coast Guard engineering department was responsible for the design, and the Woerful Corp. built the structure which cost approximately \$558,000. A buoy shed was built at the same time, and a sailboat storage building was constructed on the premises in 1987. The modern brick structure allowed the service to consolidate its lifesaving and repair facilities and auxiliary offices all in one building. (MI 426-34) Earlier in this century, the Coast Guard had operated a repair shop at 401 East Greenfield Avenue. This shop later became the Coast Guard Base while the North Point facility remained a lifesaving station. The Coast Guard base in Bay View, like the military reserve buildings before it, was constructed on what had been the site of the huge industrial complex of the Illinois Steel Company (originally the Milwaukee Iron Company). Permit records refer to soil samples showing extensive foundry sand and blast furnace slag deposits from the steel mills at the Coast Guard site. Construction at this location was made possible by the abandonment by the city and the county of plans to construct a southerly extension of Lincoln Memorial Drive along the lakefront. (Old Coast Guard Station National Register Nomination; Permits 2420 South Lincoln Memorial Drive)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bay View, unlike the other neighborhoods that have been intensively surveyed has had quite a varied governmental history, passing from under the administration of the Town of Lake to independent village status to becoming Milwaukee's Seventeenth Ward.

Information regarding the Town of Lake has been taken from Jerome A. Watrous' Memoirs of Milwaukee County (1909, Vol. 2) which devoted a chapter to this community and its history. Aderman's Trading Post to Metropolis. Milwaukee County's First 150 Years (1987) has an excellent chapter devoted to early Milwaukee County and its subdivision into numerous municipalities. This chapter, written by Frederick I. Olson, is entitled "City Expansion and Suburban Spread: Settlement and Government in Milwaukee County."

Bernhard Korn's The Story of Bay View was written as a master's thesis for Marquette University and was published posthumously in 1980. It is the best source for the discussion of Bay View's village era and Korn compiled his information from village minutes, Sentinel articles, and first hand accounts from residents who had lived through Bay View's village era. More anecdotal information regarding village government can be gleaned by a thorough review of the Sentinel's column on Bay View in the 1870's and 1880's.

The very broad scope of municipal government precludes there being one all-inclusive history of the subject in Milwaukee. Valuable in this study were the Annual Reports of the Board of Public Works and the Police Department. Two Works Projects Administration studies, Police Stations and

General and Fire Engine Houses, written in 1939-1940, give the best detailed information regarding specific station houses. Nailen and Haight's Beertown Blazes also provides good background information about the Fire Department. The Board of Public Works Annual Report contained much detailed information regarding the Kinnickinnic River Flushing Tunnel and its route through Bay View. Elmer Becker's A Century of Milwaukee Water (1974) is perhaps the best all-round source on the city's water system and contains helpful information regarding the Texas Avenue intake pipeline and pumping station.

Like municipal government information, information about the Federal government is scattered among a variety of sources. The history of the Post Office in Bay View was gleaned from Korn and from City Directories. Background on the construction of the Army and Navy Reserve Armories was obtained from a collection of clippings on that topic at the City's Central Library. A general, but worthwhile, history of the Coast Guard and its relation to the Great Lakes can be found in a bicentennial publication Great Lakes. A Brief History of the U.S. Coast Guard Operation written by Dennis L. Noble and the Coast Guard Public Affairs staff. The National Register nomination of Milwaukee's Old Coast Guard Station (4/5/1988) on North Lincoln Memorial Drive was also helpful in outlining the Coast Guard's history in Milwaukee.

9. Education

EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

Education was a priority for early Bay View and Town of Lake settlers but it would take some years before a formal board of school commissioners would be established on the township level. Early attempts to set up formal schools were frequently sporadic efforts that were dependent on the charitable efforts of a particular family or small group of neighbors. Historian Bernhard Korn indicates that even before churches were established, the pioneer residents of the Bay View area had opened a small school. Attendance was said to have been small since children were needed to clear the land and cultivate the fields. Pioneer Alexander Stewart, whose homestead once stood at the northeast corner of Kinnickinnic Avenue and Becher Street, donated a tract of land for a public school building and also allowed the teacher to board with his family. Korn did not indicate the specific location of this school but Stewart did own considerable property in the vicinity of his homestead. Another early school, the first on Howell Avenue, was started by pioneer James Howard, who secured a tutor from the east. The tutor instructed Howard's children and neighboring children. The Territorial Census of 1840 showed that out of 92 children under the age of 15 in the Bay View area, 20 were students and attended a village school, probably the one on Stewart's property. Children who lived too far away from these early schools were instructed either by their parents or had private tutors. (Korn, pp. 26, 31)

Formal township government was organized once the pioneer homesteads evolved into producing farms. At the first meeting of the Town of Lake, school commissioners were elected, but it took awhile to establish a

municipally-sponsored school. A modest frame structure was ultimately built on today's East Bay Street in 1854. Funds for its operation were raised from the sale of the northeast quarter of Section 16, which by law had been set aside for school purposes. The school on East Bay Street was not well attended since many of the intended pupils lived too far away from the school house. A school building was also said to have been built on Nicholson Road south of the St. Francis Monastery grounds. (Korn, p. 106)

With the opening of the Milwaukee Iron Company in 1867 a village known as Bay View grew up around the company grounds and educational instruction became more formalized. The school on East Bay Street became well attended, and by late December of 1870, 168 children were enrolled. (Milwaukee Sentinel 1870 December 22 4/3) A second frame school was built on Wentworth Avenue (originally Michigan Street) south of Russell Street. Tax rolls show that this site on Wentworth Avenue was school property as early as 1871. (Town of Lake Tax Rolls, 1871)

While still under township rule, a second and more imposing school was built on the Wentworth Avenue site. After its incorporation as a village in 1879, Bay View assumed operation of this school from the Town of Lake and constructed a branch school on Dover Street. These two structures were later taken over by the City of Milwaukee when Bay View was annexed in 1887. The first school on East Bay Street was eventually discontinued, that portion of the Town of Lake between the Kinnickinnic River and Lincoln Avenue having been absorbed by the City of Milwaukee at an early date. When Milwaukee annexed the village of Bay View in 1887, it continued to operate the schools on Dover and Wentworth Streets for a while, but eventually replaced both facilities.

With its annexation, Bay View's educational history merges with that of the Milwaukee Public Schools.

Public education preceded parochial education in Bay View by some years but between 1872 and 1888 three such church supported schools were established, and all remain in operation today.

Research to date has not revealed the existence of any private day schools or finishing schools, vocational or business schools or kindergartens in the Bay View survey area.

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

The Bay View survey area was the location of several early pioneer schools that were privately funded by individual pioneer families. Four municipally-sponsored schools were built during the area's village era: one on East Bay Street; a frame school on Wentworth; a brick school on Wentworth; and a small brick structure on Dover Street. All of these structures are gone. The buildings subsequently erected by the Milwaukee Public Schools for elementary and middle school use still stand on Mound and Winchester Streets, Dover Street, Trowbridge Street, and South Howell venue.

TOWN OF LAKE SCHOOL DIST. NO. 1 SCHOOL/17TH DISTRICT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Although this school no longer stands, the building's presence is still very much alive in the memories of third and fourth generation Bay Viewites. The building is frequently referred to in casual conversation with

neighborhood residents who speak highly of their "little red schoolhouse." The building was actually a substantial, brick, Italianate structure that stood from 1873 until some time after 1901 at what today is 2523, 2529, 2535 and 2539-41 South Wentworth Street. Overcrowding of the earlier frame school on this site as well as a change in the state law requiring a high school in each school district led to the construction of the building at a cost of \$11,000. The school was large enough to house all primary grades and two years of high school. It opened for classes on September 8, 1873, and was described as an honor to the taste, enterprise and liberality of the citizens of Bay View. (Milwaukee Sentinel 1873 March 20 5/1, May 20 3/3, August 10 3/4, September 10 3/1)

No architect was cited as having designed the school, but the two-story Italianate building was typical of its era and was rectangular in shape with slightly projecting end and center pavilions. A mansard roof crowned each pavilion and also incorporated either a triangular or segmental pediment at the cornice line. A tall cupola graced the roof above the central entrance which housed a 619-pound bell, installed in November of 1873. (Milwaukee Sentinel 1873, November 18 8/1) The pavilions featured round headed, six-over-six sash while the remainder of the building had segmental window openings. A photo dated November, 1874 is the only known photograph of the structure. (Milwaukee County Historical Center Library, Historic Photograph Collection, Bay View)

Newspaper accounts and public records seem to indicate that the original frame school was retained on the site, probably at the rear of the new structure, since it does not appear in the above-referenced photograph.

Records show that on July 11, 1878, Bay View residents were considering auctioning off the old frame building with the proceeds to go to the library fund. Documentation is lacking in the records to show that this was done. It seems that the building was still around some five years later when Bay Viewites were deciding whether to add a second story to it. Since the Italianate structure was already two stories high, it appears that this 1883 reference refers to the original, small, frame school. The second, or branch school, was not constructed until 1884. (Milwaukee Sentinel 1878 July 11 8/3 and 1883 April 8 3/3)

Interestingly, the school building of which Bay View was so proud was viewed with disdain by the Milwaukee school board when they acquired the facility through annexation in 1887. It was described in the 1886-1887 and 1887-1888 Annual Reports as being a cluster of rooms around a small, dark hall with one narrow staircase; the halls were a virtual labyrinth with little pocket-like entrances to the classrooms. The rooms originally had stove heat, but later steam heat was added so that they were surrounded by steam pipes and had to be ventilated by opening windows. The classrooms were said to be too small for the average class and a great inconvenience to the teachers. Lighting was said to be inadequate and the basement was shallow and without flooring. The Milwaukee School Board made do with the building temporarily by changing some partitions. (Milwaukee Public Schools, Board of School Directors, Annual Report 1886-1887, pp. 44, 45, 159; Annual Report, 1887-1888, pp. 39,40)

Now known as the 17th District School, the building on Wentworth Avenue was relieved of some of its overcrowding when M.P.S. constructed the Dover

Street School in 1890. The bad conditions on Wentworth Avenue came to a head, however, in February of 1893 when classes were suspended because many of the rooms could not be heated above 45 to 55 degrees. The Trowbridge Avenue School was built to replace the twenty year old facility on Wentworth, and the latter was closed in 1894. (Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, 1892-1893, p. 654)

The Wentworth Avenue building stood vacant for a year and was subsequently occupied by the Young Men's Literary and Athletic Club, whose rental was approved by the Common Council on November 18, 1895. Their lease was subject to cancellation at any time by the city's Board of Public Works. City directories show the club at the old school in 1896. It is not known if there were other lessees. On November 5, 1901, the Common Council Committee on Buildings reported through Alderman Otjen that the building had been vacant for years and was falling into decay and urged the council to dispose of the property by auction or bid with the proceeds to go to the school repair fund. City records do not indicate when the building was razed, but in December of 1902 a Mrs. Mary Kellogg attempted to purchase the south ten feet of the site, so the building was apparently gone by that time. (Proceedings of the Common Council, 1895-1896, pp. 557 and 564; 1902-1903, p. 1232)

The cleared parcel of land was retained by the city for some years and was known as Bishop Playground (Bishop was one of the former names of Wentworth Avenue.) It was a graded site, but not improved, because the city's playground division decided to discontinue the site, having determined that it was too close to the Beulah Brinton Community House, then located on St. Clair Street. (WPA Report, Playgrounds, Wentworth Avenue Playground) The land was

ultimately acquired by the Home Realty Company which built four modest, story-and-a-half houses on the site in July, 1953, each costing \$9,000. These houses are addressed today as 2523, 2529, 2535 and 2539-41 South Wentworth Avenue. (MI 370-20, -20, -21, -22 and -23) (City of Milwaukee Building Permits 2523, 2529, 2535 and 2539-41 South Wentworth Avenue)

BIRD'S NEST SCHOOL / 17TH DISTRICT SCHOOL / DOVER STREET SCHOOL

The growth of Bay View's population in the 1870s and 1880s led to a general overcrowding of the Wentworth Avenue School within six years after its completion. Debate over the financing and location of a branch school stalled construction of a second schoolhouse until 1884. Attendance records show an enrollment of 370 in 1877, 426 in 1878, and 500 in 1880. A school census in 1883 indicated that there were 501 males and 593 females between the ages of 4 and 20 in the village, but that only 721 were students, and, of these, only 619 had attended class the previous week. The census apparently also showed an increase of nearly 300 school age pupils from the previous year, a fact that puzzled the Sentinel reporter since a large increase in the birth rate had not been noted previously. (Milwaukee Sentinel, 1877 March 21 8/1; 1878 September 30 8/2; 1880 September 17 8/3; 1883 July 14 5/2; and July 20 5/3.)

The general overcrowding of the primary department noted in October of 1881 led to a half-day schedule for the youngest children in September of 1882 since accommodations were so limited. It was reported, however, that the little pupils seemed to learn faster and were better cared for than when they attended a full day of class. (Milwaukee Sentinel, 1881 October 13 2/3; 1882, September 23 9/6.

The overcrowding at the school became the major topic of school board meetings at the time. Some proposed dividing Bay View into two school districts, one east of Deer Creek Pond and one west of Deer Creek. Proposals were also considered to build an addition to the Wentworth Avenue building. West siders, those who lived west of Deer Creek Pond, felt disenfranchised since all of the school board members were from the east side. Sites were examined on Potter Avenue and Dover Street, and the board also looked at the rental of the Odd Fellows Hall on Potter and Kinnickinnic Avenues. The John Rycraft property, a five-acre site with a fine Italianate residence in the 2600 block of South Kinnickinnic, was ultimately chosen as the site of a new school then rejected because of its swampy frontage and high asking price. Board members also felt that the house, if remodeled for school purposes as proposed, would only temporarily solve the overcrowding problems. Interestingly, the Rycraft house still survives, having been moved to its present location of 2621 South Lenox Street in the 1890s. (MI 355-25) (Milwaukee Sentinel, 1883, April 8 3/3; July 1 3/3; July 4 5/1; July 8 4/6; July 13 4/7; July 17 5/2; July 22 3/2; and July 27 5/2.)

The final decision on the site for the branch school was made on September 3, 1883 when 12 lots were chosen west of Kinnickinnic Avenue, giving the new site frontage on both Dover and Potter Streets. The school board voted \$3,000 for the construction of the building which was finished and opened for classes the week of January 30, 1884. The small, 45-foot by 50-foot brick veneered school had a stone basement and two classrooms separated by a wide hall, off of which opened cloakrooms. Anton Stollenwerk was the builder. Final construction costs actually amounted to \$3,500. (Milwaukee Sentinel, 1884, January 30 5/3.)

The school was nicknamed the Bird's Nest School because of its elevated location in a woods. The nickname has been attributed to teacher Maria Toohey, one of the first two instructors at the school. At the opening program of the school, Miss Toohey remarked, "When the snow had melted and the leaves would come out on the trees, our little schoolhouse would look like a bird's nest in the woods." (Korn, p. 108; Milwaukee Sentinel, 1884, January 30 5/3.)

Although the new school was supposed to accommodate 200 pupils, it actually could seat only 130 in its first week, so a number of children had to be sent back to the old building on Wentworth Avenue. (Milwaukee Sentinel, 1884, January 30 5/3.)

When the Milwaukee Public Schools took over the administration of the Bay View facilities in 1887, it was determined to replace the Bird's Nest School with a larger building as soon as possible. In May of 1889 the Common Council approved a new school for the site and authorized the advertisement for plans. Seven plans were received in response to the notice, and the architects included A. C. Clas, H. C. Koch and Company, H. P. Schnetzky, E. T. Mix and Company, H. J. VanRyn, Andree and Jacobi, and R. G. Kirsch and Company. On July 15, 1889, the plans of E. T. Mix and Company were chosen. (Proceedings of the Common Council, 1888-1889, p. 584; 1889-1890, pp. 51, 209.)

Contemporary accounts describe the building as being of Romanesque design although the only Romanesque details were at the entrances and consisted of battered piers and stone balustrades and stone fretwork above the openings.

There were four classrooms and a principal's room on the first floor and four classrooms and a teacher's room on the second floor. The third floor had an auditorium with a capacity for 800 persons. Two playrooms occupied the basement. Construction costs totaled \$36,000. John G. Davelaar was chosen as the contractor. The old building was subsequently torn down, and the pupils were temporarily placed in the former village hall during construction of the new building. (Milwaukee Sentinel, 1889, August 11 9/4; September 23 3/1; September 26 3/3; October 1 3/4; Proceedings of the Common Council, 1889-1890, p. 358.)

Construction of the new school progressed faster than anticipated, and a big, formal opening celebration took place on Saturday, April 12, 1890, which included firing a cannon, patriotic music, addresses, and singing by 200 school children. (Milwaukee Sentinel, 1890, April 13 1/3.)

By the following year, the new 17th District School, as it was called, was already overcrowded and the school's hall had to be divided into additional classroom space. The school board's Annual Report for 1890-1891 expressed regrets that the building was not built larger to begin with, but indicated that it was designed to be enlarged and that a minimum of six rooms should be added as soon as possible although eight rooms would allow the restoration of the hall to its original purpose. (Annual Report, Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1890-1891, p. 47.)

A six-room addition was constructed in 1892 at a cost of \$23,600 according to the plans of W. A. Holbrook. Holbrook had been a partner in E. T. Mix & Co. until Mix's death in 1890. (Proceedings of the Common Council,

1892-1893, pp. 106, 130.) A fire in 1910 partially destroyed the building and it was repaired at a cost of \$23,143. (MI 390-29; Zillman, p. 50) By 1927 the building had 24 classrooms and an enrollment of 988 pupils. (Sixty-Eighth Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools, June, 1927, p. 11) Between 1915 and 1930 the city acquired seven more parcels adjoining the school grounds, removed the houses, surfaced and fenced the grounds for playground purposes. Since 1930 the playground has been extended eastward to the alley that divides the school grounds from the rear of the properties on Kinnickinnic Avenue. Dover Street School continues to function as a neighborhood grade school. Enrollment as of January, 1989 was 659, and the school had 26 teachers. (WPA Playgrounds, Vol. 3, Dover Street; Proceedings, Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), January 25, 1989, p. 720.)

12TH DISTRICT PRIMARY / MOUND STREET SCHOOL

Although commonly associated with Bay View, the Twelfth District or Mound Street School actually was part of the Milwaukee Public School system from the time of its construction in 1886 since the city limits extended south to Lincoln Avenue at that time. This section, immediately south and east of the Kinnickinnic River, grew rapidly in the 1880s as a result of industrial development along the river that included tanneries, foundries, bottling works, and the like. Originally, the children who lived in this area were required to attend the Twelfth District School located on South Third Street between Mitchell and Lapham Streets. In walking to the school, small children faced many hazards including crossing the Kinnickinnic River and railroad tracks.

By May of 1884 the Common Council was discussing the need for a school building south of the Kinnickinnic River and proposed selling some former school property in the Twelfth District to fund the new construction. The local press strongly advocated the proposal for a school in this area and said that Milwaukee's education facilities would be worth bragging about and Milwaukee would be second to none in the educational arena if only it would construct a school south of the Kinnickinnic River. Proceedings of the Common Council, 1884-1885, pp. 43, 151, 197 and 210; Milwaukee Sentinel, 1884, July 27 5/34.)

The Common Council finally authorized the advertisement for a site in May of 1885 and received six proposals. The lots owned by C. H. Lenck and his brother H. J. Lenck were ultimately chosen at a cost of \$7,500. The four lots were located south of East Bay Street and extended from Mound to Winchester Streets. The Lencks were responsible for the removal of all improvements to the site, except the foundations, so it appears that some buildings or dwellings already stood on the property. The city subsequently advertised for plans and specifications to be submitted and an architect was chosen, but not named in any of the proceedings or school board reports. The construction contract was awarded to Oscar Knie for \$20,893 on September 8, 1885. The contract for plumbing and drain laying was awarded to William Eagan for \$733 and J. P. Rundle got the contract for steam heating at \$2,489.46.

(Proceedings of the Common Council, 1889-1885, pp. 43, 149, 151, 197; Proceedings of the Common Council, 1885-1886, pp. 14, 24, 57, 66, 104, 109, 168, 175, 240; Annual Report of the Board of Public Works (BPW), 1885, p. 10.)

The Twelfth District Branch of Primary School, as it was first called, received little attention in the press, and its completion in March of 1886 was not accompanied by any newspaper story. Little is known of its original floor plan aside from the fact it had eight classrooms. (Annual Report of the Board of Public Works (BPW), 1886, p. 10.) Local neighborhood lore relates that the school was allegedly built on the site of an Indian mound, but no documentation has been found to substantiate this. (See Historic Indians.)

By the early 1890's, the Twelfth District Primary School was getting overcrowded and two barracks were built on the site by city carpenters in 1896 at a cost of \$1,141.19. This was, at best, a stopgap measure while the Common Council went through the process of approving an addition to the school and appropriating funds for its construction. The Common Council authorized advertising for plans and specifications for a six room addition in July 1896. Three architectural firms responded: W. D. Holbrook, Moller & Ehlers, Mollerus & Lotter. Holbrook's designs were chosen. Contracts were awarded on November 28, 1896 and the addition was completed on May 5, 1897 at a cost of \$19,977.03. Contractors included: Schultz & Rasier (carpentry); John Bonnett (masonry); John Haners (cut stone); E. T. Doyn (plumbing); O. W. Greenslade (cast and wrought iron); F. Bogenberger (galvanized iron, slate, tin); Lindeman & Hoverson (steamfitting). The new addition had five classrooms, one teacher's room and cloak rooms. (Proceedings of the Common Council, 1895-1896, p. 878, 921, 219, Proceedings of the Common Council, 1896-1897, p. 327, 338, 342, 481; Annual Report Board of Public Works (BPW), 1897, p. 17, 18, 19)

The new addition was Queen Anne in style, in keeping with the original portion of the school. The Mound Street facade featured a large gabled bay on the south end with a round headed entrance and a tower at the north end. A 28-foot by 43-foot boiler house, designed by VanRyn & De Gelleke was built later. By 1927, the interior had fourteen classrooms and a small assembly hall with an enrollment of 626. By 1927, the round headed entrance had been replaced with a rectangular opening. (Sixty-Eighth Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools, July, 1927, p. 14; Milwaukee City Building Permits, 2148 South Mound Street.)

Mound Street School remained an educational facility until the end of the 1978-1979 school year when the building was closed and the pupils dispersed among other schools. The City subsequently declared the property surplus and bids for its purchase were taken on September 11, 1979, rejected on September 25, 1979 and new bidding offered on March 13, 1980. The bids were opened on March 21, 1980 and the property was sold to Benjamin Lande for \$250,000. The sale was finalized in August, 1981. Lande's Winchester Village Partnership hired architects Shepherd Legan Aldrian Ltd. to convert the school to apartments. Work on the building began in June of 1982 and was completed by the end of January, 1983. Now known as Winchester Village, the building provides 48 units of elderly housing, of which three units are for wheelchair-confined and three units for otherwise handicapped persons. It also has community rooms, laundry areas and storage facilities. The building is now addressed at 2147 South Winchester Street. (MI 336-17) On the former school playground to the south of the school, an eight-unit contemporary apartment building was constructed in 1981, also designed by Shepherd Legan Aldrian Ltd. (Proceedings of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1978-1979,

p. 34, 108, 109; Proceedings of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1979-1980, p. 553, 1034, 1035, 1036; Proceedings of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1981-1982, p. 89, 309; Milwaukee City Building Permits, 2147 South Winchester)

17TH DISTRICT PRIMARY / 17TH DISTRICT 2ND PRECINCT / EAST TROWBRIDGE STREET SCHOOL

The Trowbridge Street School was built to replace the aging and obsolete educational facility on Wentworth Avenue and was the last of Bay View's schools to be constructed in the nineteenth century. The Wentworth Avenue facility had been targeted for replacement from the time the City of Milwaukee had annexed Bay View in 1887. Construction of the Dover Street School in 1890 had helped to alleviate the overcrowding on Wentworth Avenue, but it could not accommodate all the school-age children in Bay View. As a result, to the school board's displeasure, the old Wentworth Avenue building had to be retained temporarily until a new facility could be built in the eastern portion of the neighborhood.

Between July, 1891 and March, 1892 the Common Council periodically considered the issue of building a new school but got bogged down on the amount of money to be appropriated. The issue was still being debated in December of 1892. The lawmakers were somewhat pressured to make a decision when they learned that students had to be sent home from the Wentworth Avenue School in February of 1893 due to the lack of sufficient heat from the antiquated heating system. Nevertheless, it still took the Council until June 5th to finally appropriate \$35,000 for a new Bay View School to be located east of the Chicago and Northwestern tracks and south of Iron Street.

Advertising for site proposals was authorized on August 7, 1893. (Proceedings of the Common Council, 1891-1892, p. 350, 881; 1892-1893, p. 559; 1893-1894, p. 96, 335, 160)

Site proposals were reviewed in September of 1893 and thirteen lots were ultimately purchased for \$4,727.00 in Lakeside Park subdivision No. 1, fronting on Trowbridge Street between South Delaware and South Mabbett Streets. The site had originally been part of a large picnic grove owned by a Mr. Schildknecht, whose house is still located at the southeast corner of South Kinnickinnic Avenue and East Trowbridge Street. The wooded property sloped down toward East Rusk Street and a pond would form at the lowest portion after a heavy rain. (Proceedings of the Common Council, 1893-1894, p. 487; Trowbridge History, 1976, pp 1-2)

A call for plans for an eight room school that could be enlarged to twelve rooms was made after October, 1893 and eight architectural firms responded: Ferry & Clas; W. A. Holbrook; N. Dornbach; Alexander C. Eschweiler; O. C. Uehling; B. Kolpacki; Charles Lesser; Rau & Kirsch. Holbrook received the commission for the \$30,000 building. Details concerning the method of heating and boilers were still under consideration in August of 1894 as the building was nearing completion. (Proceedings of the Common Council, 1893-1894, p. 588, 589, 651, 652, 912, 95; Proceedings of the Common Council, 1894-1895, p. 248, 305)

The new school opened in the fall of 1894 and the bell from the Wentworth Avenue School was placed in the new structure. The building had four classrooms on each of its two main floors and an assembly room was located on

the third or attic floor. A playroom was located in the basement. The hip roofed structure featured dormers and an oriel window above the entrance. Like other projects by Holbrook in this period, the building combined elements of Queen Anne and Romanesque design with a Queen Anne facade punctuated by a large Romanesque arched portal. (MI 331-28)

Until 1906, pupils attended the 17th District Primary School, as it was then called, from first through sixth grade and then completed seventh and eighth grades at the Dover Street School. After 1905, pupils attended Trowbridge School through eighth grade and the school was called the 17th District, Second Precinct School. The first class of twenty-two students graduated from Trowbridge in June of 1907 and the event was celebrated with a special program of music, recitations and lectures. Since 1912, when most schools were renamed for their street locations, the school has been known as the East Trowbridge Street School. (Trowbridge History, p. 2)

In 1909, a \$37,546 addition was built to the west side of the school, which doubled its size. By 1927, Trowbridge had eighteen classrooms and a small assembly hall. Perhaps the most famous student of Trowbridge was actor Spencer Tracey who attended school there before World War I and was remembered by students Pearl Disch Jopke and Sylvia Peruzzo Schworck in the Trowbridge History.

As a result of the playground movement, the school grounds were expanded to the south in the 1920's and a number of residences on the site were removed. The playground was enlarged again along South Mabbett Street in 1970. (WPA Playgrounds of Milwaukee, Vol. 9, Trowbridge Playground; Trowbridge History "Tidbits of the 70's")

Trowbridge Street School remains in essentially the same form as it was in 1909 although various partitions and stairways have been altered through the years and classrooms have been updated a number of times. Trowbridge is still in use as a grade school and enrollment as of January, 1989 was 321 with a faculty of 17. (Building Permits 1943 East Trowbridge; Trowbridge History; Proceedings of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), January 25, 1989, p. 722)

GUSTAVE A. FRITSCHER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL / FRITSCHER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Fritsche Junior High School is the last of the public school buildings constructed in the Bay View study area. Junior high schools have been a feature of the Milwaukee Public School system since about 1925 when the school board began phasing in the division in classes from first to sixth as elementary, seventh through ninth as junior high, and tenth through twelfth as senior high school. The construction of school buildings, specifically for junior high purposes, took place gradually over the years and older buildings were converted to junior high school use. Especially targeted were the older portions of the city where high schools were particularly crowded. (Five-Year School Plan, 1960, p. 44, 46)

Bay View was one of the neighborhoods targeted for a junior high school and although a recommendation was made for the area in March of 1949, it took over a decade for the school to become a reality. The School Board Proceedings of 1952-53 reiterated the need for a junior high school, since in Bay View alone, there were 627 pupils in the seventh and eighth grades at that time. The Five-Year Plan for 1952-1957 revealed that the 15, 112 students in junior high school city-wide were projected to increase to between 21,000 and

23,000 in a few years. (Proceedings of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors, 1952-1953, p. 33, 332)

Fritsche Junior High School is a product of the period of tremendous growth that the Milwaukee Public School system experienced in the 1950's and 1960's. The postwar baby boom and the city's annexation of unincorporated areas of Milwaukee County led to a record number of children entering the public school system and resulted in an almost unprecedented amount of school construction, equal only to the school building boom of the late 1880's and 1890's. During the 1950's, 26 elementary schools, four junior highs and two senior high schools were built; additions to 33 elementary schools were constructed; four elementary schools were reconditioned; two elementary schools were modernized; three buildings were converted to junior high schools; additions were constructed to seven high schools and two senior high schools received new playfields. (Five Year School Plan, 1960, p. 74)

By the spring of 1957, the school board had determined that the new junior high would be located in the southwest part of Bay View near Howell Avenue. Of particular interest was the site between East Dewey Place, South Howell Avenue, East Manitoba and South Austin Streets. Part of this land belonged to Nordberg Manufacturing Company and the remainder was owned by numerous residents. A second site was also under consideration, the northeast corner of Humboldt Park. It is not known how seriously this other option was taken, however, but the school board proceedings do record receiving a letter of complaint about taking parkland for school purposes. The County Park Commission put an end to all such consideration, however, when it denied an exchange of property for the park site. (Proceedings of the Milwaukee Board

of School Directors (MBSD), 1956-1957, p. 456; 1957-1958, p. 10, 47) By January of 1958, the various city departments agreed to working out a deal with Nordberg whereby Nordberg's property west of Howell Avenue would be exchanged for city-owned property at East Dakota and South Austin Streets which was to be rezoned for industry. By August of that year, the exchange had taken place and school officials began receiving offers of sale from homeowners on East Dewey Place and South Howell Avenue. Acquisition began shortly thereafter and resulted in the razing or removal of eight buildings on East Dewey Place and nine houses on South Howell Avenue. The last building was removed from the future school site in September of 1960. (Proceedings of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1958-1959, pp. 39, 85, 251, 255, 291, 385, 386, 481, 530, 532, 596; Proceedings of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1959-1960, pp. 34, 85, 126, 130-131, 271, 311, 313, 434; Proceedings of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1960-1961, p. 97)

School Board Director E. Potter, on December 1, 1959, introduced a resolution to name the new junior high after Gustave A. Fritsche. Fritsche had served the Milwaukee Public Schools for 37 years, 25 of which were as principal of Bay View High School. This resolution was subsequently adopted. (Proceedings of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1959-1960, pp. 292, 373)

The School Board chose Grellinger-Rose Associates, Inc. to design the new school in August, 1960. Final plans were delayed pending the building committee's consideration of a swimming pool. It was decided the following January not to incorporate a pool into the building's design. In September of

1961, the building committee approved working drawings and authorization was given for the school board to advertise for bids. Bids were accepted in November and some twenty-three contractors were chosen for the exterior work and twelve contractors chosen for the interior work, finishing and furnishings. The permit for the building's construction was taken out November 6, 1961. (Proceedings of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1960-1961, p. 362; Proceedings of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1961-1962, pp. 210-212. Permits 2959-2981 South Howell)

When the construction firm of Gebhard Berghammer withdrew its low bid due to error a month later, Hunzinger Construction received the contract based on its bid of \$1,160,000. The entire cost of construction amounted to \$2,751,000. The building was completed a year-and-a-half later and opened in September, 1963. The school as completed is an asymmetrical, flat roofed structure, one and two stories in height. It was designed with fourteen classrooms, cafeteria, boiler room, and restrooms on the first floor and ten classrooms, auditorium, gym, library and shops on the second floor.

The school's only ornamentation consists of a frieze of stylized human shapes above the main entrance on South Howell Avenue. Various minor alterations have occurred on the interior over the years and on the exterior, fiberglass panels were placed over many of the windows in 1984 to reduce the size of the openings. Enrollment as of January, 1989 was 981 with a faculty of 65. (Permits; Proceedings of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), January 25, 1989, p. 719)

PUBLIC SECONDARY EDUCATIONINTRODUCTION

The development of public high schools was not a part of the original curriculum of the early Milwaukee Public Schools. Classes beyond primary school were viewed as important educationally, but not crucial for the vast majority of students who would enter the work world at a relatively young age. It was also felt that the establishment of a public high school was not immediately warranted since a number of private high schools had been established in the late 1840's and early 1850's. However, the School Board came to recognize the importance of continuing education, and in 1857, authorized the construction of three high schools. One was to serve the populous Third and Seventh Wards on the east side, one was for the Second, Fourth, Sixth and Ninth Wards on the west side and the third was to serve the Fifth and Eighth Wards on the south side. Only two of these proposed structures were actually built, the Seventh Ward (Hadley) school on North Jefferson Street near East Juneau Avenue and the Second Ward (Jefferson) school at the southeast corner of North Ninth Street and West Juneau Avenue. Both opened in 1858 and housed elementary as well as secondary classes. The three-year course of high school study was open only to those aged twelve or above who had passed a qualifying exam that included such subjects as spelling, punctuation, composition, U.S. History, mathematics, and algebra. Financial setbacks resulted in the closing of the two high schools in 1860 and no municipally sponsored high school was operated for the next seven years. Instructors, however, were allowed to rent space in the buildings and teach upper level courses on their own, if they so chose.

In 1867, the Wisconsin State Legislature voted to reestablish high schools in Milwaukee and classes were resumed in January of 1868 at the Seventh Ward School and at the Webster School on North Tenth Street between West Highland and West Juneau Avenues. High school instruction was to remain centered in the Central Business District for decades to come. Classes were conducted in a number of buildings until eventually consolidated at the old Milwaukee Academy Building at the corner of Cass and Knapp Streets, which the city had acquired in 1877.

During the 1870's, as enrollment continued to increase, the School Board experimented with new approaches to high school education. By 1873, more rigorous admissions tests were given because the school board feared a decline in academic standards. This practice was eventually supplanted by certificates that confirmed successful completion of elementary school. The practice of having teachers instruct in specialized courses rather than performing as generalists began about this time as well. College preparation was gradually de-emphasized since the majority of the students were found to have no further educational goals beyond high school. Manual and vocational training were introduced in the early 1890's.

By 1886, overcrowding in the old Milwaukee Academy Building warranted the construction of a larger facility and the Common Council appropriated \$75,000 for a new building. The resulting East Division High School opened at Cass and Knapp Streets in 1887 and was the City's first school house built specifically for secondary education. While the school was reasonably accessible to east and west side students, south siders were separated geographically from the downtown by the river-and-canal-laced Menomonee Valley

and could reach the Central Business District only by crossing at three points: a bridge at Water and South First Street, a crossing at Sixth Street, and a similar crossing at Sixteenth Street. After years of lobbying, southsiders finally convinced the City Fathers of their need for their own high school and the City's third building constructed exclusively for high school purposes was erected in 1893 at the corner of South Seventh and West Madison Streets. Eventually in 1900, the school on South Seventh and West Madison Streets was replaced by the large South Division High School on Lapham Street.

The enormous growth in school population during this era and the growing acceptance and demand for a high school education led Milwaukee to establish a number of new high schools in the city during the teens and 1920's. Generally, since these high schools drew students from a broad area, they were constructed larger than the average grade school and with such facilities as swimming pools, laboratories and shops. Bay View, which long had a sizable student population, was to finally get a high school in 1914 although a permanent school building was not finished until after World War I.

BAY VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

Having its own high school was long a dream of Bay View residents. In the nineteenth century, Bay View pupils desirous of a high school education were forced to attend the East Division High School in the Yankee Hill neighborhood, which had opened in 1887. A high school was subsequently built on the city's south side at South Seventh and West Madison Streets in 1893. This was replaced by an even larger facility, South Division High School, in 1900 located at 1321 West Lapham Street.

Bay View High School was organized in September of 1914 with a total of 150 students and seven teachers housed in a one-building barracks structure with five classrooms and an assembly room. The rooms were individually heated. Additions to the barracks were made from time to time and by the end of 1915, the high school had some 200 students and eight teachers. Another barracks building was added to the complex in 1916 when Washington High School's old temporary structure was moved to Bay View. Bay View students and faculty referred to the barracks as "the Bungalow" and it was located at the north end of the school grounds near Russell Street. By September of 1917, the Bungalow was at capacity and construction began on the permanent building.

The land for the high school had been purchased in 1915. When construction began in 1917, officials targeted September of 1920 as the completion date. Men and materials shortages due to World War I and a subsequent railroad strike delayed completion of the building until 1922. Bay View High School officially opened on September 5 of 1922, and the Bungalow was demolished.

The striking, four-story Elizabethan style building, built at a cost of around \$800,000, was designed by VanRyn & DeGelleke, the school board's principal architects between 1912 and 1925. They designed at least seven other Elizabethan or Jacobean style schools for Milwaukee during this period. The new high school was built large enough for anticipated growth in the student population. It's dramatic siting, set back from Russell Street and atop a hill, led Bay View residents to refer to the building as the "Castle on the Hill." The main entrance was once located through the base of the prominent four-story tower on the school's north facade. The school was built

around two courtyards and featured tapestry brick, stone trim and grotesque faces just below the parapet wall. (MI 355-26, -27)

During World War II, Bay View High School led all national high schools in the sale of War Bonds and was ranked high in the collection of paper for the war effort. Principal Bernhard Korn, who was also the primary historian of Bay View, was made state representative for the war production board and was sent to Washington, D.C. as a consultant on salvage drives and war bond campaigns.

Bay View High School's striking facade has been greatly diminished by the construction of a \$4,800,000 addition that was built across the main front of the building in 1974-1975. This two-story, almost windowless addition was designed by the local firm of Brust-Zimmerman, now Zimmerman Design Group. It houses music rooms, industrial arts facilities, an automotive center and a spectator gym.

One of the largest high schools in the city, Bay View reached a peak student population of 2,600 some years back. The school originally taught grades nine through twelve until 1963 when nearby Fritsche Junior High (grades 7 through 9) opened. When Fritsche was converted to a seventh and eighth grade middle school in 1978, Bay View High School reverted to a four-year high school again. In conjunction with the Milwaukee Public School system's shift to create specialty schools of their high schools, Bay View had been designated the school of the arts featuring theater, dance and the like. When West Division High School took over that specialty, Bay View became the specialty school for law and law enforcement and protective services. It also

includes a unit of the Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. A math and science specialty was added in 1987. About 1,800 students were enrolled in 1989. (Richard Stefanik, Script for Historic Milwaukee's Spaces and Traces Tour, 1989, Bay View)

PAROCHIAL EDUCATION

Overview

While the Milwaukee Public School system is today the main source of education for Milwaukee's school-age children, this was not always the case. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the most prevalent form of educational institution in the city was the parochial school. By 1910, sixty percent of the city's school-age population attended church-sponsored schools, the majority of which were operated by Roman Catholic and Lutheran denominations. The Bay View survey area is typical of other Milwaukee neighborhoods with regard to the history of its parochial schools. It had three such institutions, two Catholic and one Lutheran, each of which was established in the nineteenth century and each of which is still in operation today.

German Catholic St. Augustine School, while having had the largest enrollment in the nineteenth century, has experienced a steady decline in pupils through the 1980's. Catholic Immaculate Conception school grew significantly in this century and now has the largest number of pupils. Lutheran St. Lucas School has not experienced the dramatic shifts in enrollment that St. Augustine or Immaculate Conception have, and has maintained a more consistent enrollment level during the 1980's.

ROMAN CATHOLIC PAROCHIAL EDUCATION

An Overview

The Roman Catholic Church established the first church-supported primary schools in Milwaukee. Soon after the founding of the first Roman Catholic Church in Milwaukee in 1839, the St. Peter's parochial school was begun in 1842 to fulfill both the educational needs of the congregation's youth and the educational mandate of the American Roman Catholic Church hierarchy. The First Provincial Council of Baltimore (1829) and later the First and Second Plenary Councils (1852 and 1866, respectively), also held at Baltimore, exhorted bishops to begin schools and encouraged parents to provide a Roman Catholic education for their children. Rome reaffirmed the importance of church-sponsored education for the American "Territories" in 1875. By far the strongest mandate came from the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore (1884), which ruled that schools should be established within two years of the formation of any Roman Catholic congregation, that parents were obligated to send their children to a catholic school, if one existed, that the bishop would have the authority to prod reluctant parishes to establish schools and that uncooperative priests could be removed from their parishes for failure to build or maintain a parish school. (Bichler p. 3-16)

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

The congregation of the Immaculate Conception was established in the fall of 1870 in response to the growing numbers of Roman Catholics in the Bay View area. Prior to the establishment of Immaculate Conception (IC as it is commonly referred to by Bay View residents), Catholics had their choice of worshipping at the chapel at St. Francis Seminary in today's community of St. Francis, at Holy Trinity Church in Walker's Point, a German Catholic parish,

or at St. Stanislaus Church, a Polish parish, then located in Walker's Point. Bay View Catholics, then primarily of English and Irish ethnicity, probably did not attend the two latter parishes. The Milwaukee Iron Company, or Rolling Mill as it was popularly called, donated three lots to the new IC parish in the fall of 1870 on Russell Avenue at Kinnickinnic Avenue. A simple, gabled, frame church was soon built and dedicated on November 19, 1871. (Congregation of the Immaculate Conception 1870-1970, p. 9)

The parish apparently was unable to support a school in its early years, although by 1881 membership totaled 200 families. (Flower, 1881, p. 1629) Father Fagan, who temporarily ministered to the new congregation in the winter of 1871, returned to the parish in July of 1880 where he would guide the development of the parish through his long pastorate until his death in October of 1923. Under Father Fagan, the parish acquired additional land along Russell Avenue to the east of their church and incorporated the parish in 1885. Plans to build a school followed on the heels of the incorporation. On September 11, 1885, the Sentinel reported that the parish had plans drawn up for a new school to be built just east of Father Fagan's rectory. The proposed two story building would have a basement and the first floor would contain four classrooms while the second floor would house a hall for church societies at least for the first few years. No architect was cited as the designer of the structure. (Milwaukee Sentinel, 1885 September 11 3/3)

The school building that was scheduled for completion January 1, 1886 was not completed until September. Archbishop Heiss blessed the new building on Sunday, September 13, 1886. The ceremony took place in the second floor hall which occupied all of that story. The first floor as completed had one large

classroom and two recitation rooms. The exterior of the two story brick school house with rusticated limestone basement was rather unpretentious. The main facade fronted north and consisted of a central pavilion flanked by niches on the first story and paired windows on the second story. The slightly recessed double-door entry was surmounted by a pair of windows on the second story, the two stories separated by a corbeled cornice at the pavilions and a stringcourse on the remainder of the facade. Rows of tall six-over-six sash windows set in segmentally arched openings characterized the east and west elevations. Classes opened shortly after the ceremonial blessing with an enrollment of ninety pupils. Two Sisters of Mercy took charge of the two classes. The Sisters of Mercy would be in charge of the school for over 85 years. (Milwaukee Sentinel, 1886, September 13 3/2; Congregation Immaculate Conception, 1870-1970, p. 9)

By 1887, attendance had grown to over 250 pupils and the Sentinel reported that an addition to the school was being contemplated. It is not known from the sources cited, however, if this addition was built. The school's attendance in the nineteenth century peaked in 1889 and 1890 when records show that 283 pupils were enrolled and three instructors served the school. (Milwaukee Sentinel, 1887, July 10, 10/7; Annual Report of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1888-1889, p. 38 and 1889-1890, p. 140) Thereafter, through around 1930, enrollment varied from a high of 238 (1897) to a low of 179 (1911). Enrollment began a steady climb beginning around 1930 when pupils numbered 486. To meet the demand, the parish built a 40-foot by 56-foot temporary barracks at a cost of \$3,000 in 1936. The barracks held two classrooms and was designed by local architect Nicholas Backes. (Permits 1023-1051, East Russell Street; Annual Report of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1888-1889)

In 1950, enrollment had reached 633 students, which necessitated the construction of a 60-foot by 85-foot brick addition to the old school. The addition was built across the facade of the old building and extended east parallel to Russell Avenue. The front portion of the old building was removed to make way for the addition, Nicholas Backes, who had designed the earlier barracks and the nun's convent, was chosen to design the addition. The two-story brick structure is modern in design with a flat roof and glass block windows. A portion of the original building is still visible from the east. (MI 391-23, 425-12) The addition provided twelve classrooms and two offices to the school at a cost of \$300,000. When completed, Immaculate Conception School had a total of twenty classrooms, a library, meeting rooms and a hall.

Attendance skyrocketed at IC school in the 1950's and early 1960's reflecting the baby boom phenomenon experienced across the country. Attendance in 1955 was 992 students; attendance in 1960 reached 1,011 at which point twenty instructors were employed. Enrollment since that time has declined: 886 (1965), 609 (1970), 468 (1975), 439 (1980), 474 (1985). Enrollment for 1989 reached 451 students with twenty teachers employed at the school. (Permits; Annual Reports of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1955, p. 62; 1960, p. 46; 1965, p. 45; 1970, p. 45; 1975, p. 68; 1980, p. 83; 1985, p. 80; 1989, p. 98)

ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL

The parochial school of St. Augustine's parish was the last of Bay View's parochial schools to be established. Informal meetings at August Hermes' hardware store led to a formal meeting on June 17, 1887 whereby 47 individuals

voted to start a parish and form a committee to petition the archbishop on this matter. The purchase of lots was discussed on June 23, 1887 and August Hermes made the downpayment on some property himself, to insure, no doubt, that the archbishop would favor their petition. Ultimately ten lots were purchased on South Howell Avenue for \$7,500 and ten were purchased on South Graham Street for \$6,000. (St. Augustine 1888-1889, p. 14, 15)

The parish was formally incorporated on July 16, 1887 and was named St. Augustine, possibly after Father August Zeiningra who supported the group or after August Hermes for his leadership role in the early meetings. (St. Augustine 1888-1889, p. 15)

The new 47-family parish soon took steps to construct a place of worship and on February 29, 1888 they decided to erect a two-story brick building. This building would serve as both a church and a school, a solution common in the nineteenth century when finances were tight. By March of 1888, the parish had grown to 70 families. The contract for the building was let on May 2, 1888. The rectangular, cream city brick building with stone foundation was designed by south side architect Bernard Kolpacki. Kolpacki was conversant in Polish and German and would later be appointed supervising architect of the new post office in downtown Milwaukee. (St. Augustine 1888-1889, p. 15; Conrad, Vol. III, p. 198) The hip roofed schoolhouse featured regularly spaced rows of one-over-one sash windows on each story and had entrances on the north and east elevations. These entrances were placed in slightly projecting bays that were capped at the roof line with a prominent pediment. A bell cupola was located above the east entrance but has since been removed. The interior was arranged into four classrooms on the first story and a church

hall on the second. The first Mass was celebrated in this unfinished building on August 25, 1888. The building was consecrated and the bell blessed on September 23, 1888. St. Augustine school opened two days later with 80 pupils. Two nuns of the School Sisters of Notre Dame took charge of the classes. Instruction was given in German for half a day and in English for half a day. In the beginning, only two of the classrooms were used for instructional purposes since the other two were used as living quarters for the nuns. After the School Sisters of Notre Dame completed their own convent in August of 1889, an additional classroom was opened when school started up in September. The School Sisters of Notre Dame have taught at St. Augustine since its opening although, on occasion, Sisters of St. Francis have also instructed classes. (St. Augustine 1888-1889, p. 16, 19, 38, 60)

By December of 1888, the school had an enrollment of 120 pupils; this grew to 140 by the end of the 1889 term. The first class of nine students graduated in 1893. In April of 1895, a fourth classroom was opened and in 1897, the parish could pride itself on 215 families with 240 children enrolled in its school. The large student population necessitated the enlarging of the schoolhouse and a 44-foot by 63-foot, two story addition was built to the south end in 1901. Enrollment now stood at 300. The new construction added two classrooms plus a second floor auditorium. Local architect Nicholas Dornbach designed the addition to match the original structure. The addition was blessed on October 6, 1901. (St. Augustine 1888-1889, p. 19, 60, 173, 20; Permits 2507 South Graham)

When the new church building was completed on Howell Avenue in 1908, the old building's former auditorium was converted to classrooms and the former

church hall was converted to auditorium use. An eighth classroom was opened in 1921. Records for 1938 show that enrollment had climbed to 410. For a brief time in 1944-1945, St. Augustine's operated a junior high school on its premises but then dropped it. (St. Augustine 1888-1889, p. 28, 62-63)

Enrollment peaked between 1959 and 1966 when over 700 pupils were enrolled. This necessitated even more classroom space and so the parish built the school annex at 400-406 East Homer in 1959. This three-story, brick, contemporary structure was built on the former site of a large barn that had once served a bakery/store building at the corner of East Homer Street and Howell Avenue. This store had been acquired by the parish for use as a credit union and the new school building abuts it to the rear. Architect Harold E. Neff designed the school annex. It was built at a cost of \$62,000. (Permits)

Parish membership peaked with 5,000 members in 1,300 families in 1973 and it was in that year that St. Augustine's began kindergarten classes. School enrollment, which stood at 404 in 1970, has declined since that time: 290 in 1975; 236 in 1980; 269 in 1985; and 223 in 1989. Since about 1955, however, St. Augustine's has maintained a faculty of 13 to 14 instructors. (St. Augustine 1888-1889, p. 63, 33, 38; Annual Reports of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1970, p. 404; 1975, p. 69; 1980, p. 84; 1985, p. 80; 1989, p. 98)

PROTESTANT PAROCHIAL EDUCATION

An Overview

Similar to the Roman Catholics, the Lutherans greatly valued the religious education of their children and the Lutheran Church encouraged

parents to send their children to a church-sponsored school. Although the Bay View survey area has two Lutheran churches, St. Lucas and Unity Lutheran, only the St. Lucas congregation established a parochial school. Unity Lutheran, organized in 1931, was a splinter group from St. Lucas and did not appear to have a large enough membership to support a school. St. Lucas school is the oldest of Bay View's parochial schools, dating to 1872. It has operated continuously since that time, maintaining a fairly consistent enrollment through the 1970's and 1980's in the face of overall declining parochial school enrollment through Milwaukee and the nation.

St. Lucas School

St. Lucas congregation was organized in 1872 through the efforts of Pastor Damman, the pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Synod, located in Walker's Point. Pastor Damman persuaded the Milwaukee Iron Company to donate three lots to the new congregation at the intersection of Kinnickinnic Avenue and South Logan Street. Reverend John Hodtwalker, pastor of St. John's Lutheran of New Coeln in the Town of Lake, ministered to the fledgling congregation of German Lutherans and in 1872 a frame building, 26-feet by 52-feet, was constructed by carpenter William Eilers. This modest structure served as the church, school and residence of the pastor. It was dedicated on October 6, 1872. (85th Anniversary St. Lucas, p. 2-3)

Pastor Hodtwalker opened a one-class Christian Day school in which he taught and soon attracted children from other denominations. A full time teacher, named Schroeder, was finally hired; he worked from 1873 to 1877. (85th Anniversary, p. 4)

The combination church and school building was moved to the southwest corner of Kinnickinnic Avenue and Dover Street when the congregation purchased three lots there in 1879. St. Lucas' new pastor Reichenbecker taught classes for a year after which time the congregation secured the services of a new graduate from the Teachers Seminary of Northwestern College in Watertown, Wisconsin, Gustav H. Steffen. Steffen would serve the school from 1881 through 1922. As the school grew steadily during this decade, a second teacher was hired and the pastor's room at the rear of the church was converted to a classroom. (85th Anniversary, p. 4, 5, 14)

When the new brick church was built in 1888, the old church building was remodeled for school purposes. An attempt was made to purchase the lot behind, or west, of the new church in order to build a new school but the congregation was unsuccessful, possibly because property owners were waiting for the city to buy up land there for the new public school that would replace the Bird's Nest School. In 1891, St. Lucas was able to purchase an 80-foot by 130-foot lot across Dover Street for \$2,000. A new two-story brick building with four classrooms was built on the lot for \$3,000 in 1891. Each story was thirteen feet three inches tall, and the building had a stone foundation. Architects Schnetzky and Liebert designed the structure, Schnetzky having designed the church earlier. A third class was organized when the new building was completed. In the 1904-1905 school year, enrollment reached 293 pupils and a fourth class was added. (85th Anniversary, p. 6; Permits 648 East Dover Street; Annual Report Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1905, p. 153)

The second decade of this century saw St. Lucas school expand its quarters, receive accreditation and consider support of Milwaukee Lutheran High School. Work began in 1914 on curriculum and administrative changes to attain accreditation with the Milwaukee Public Schools which was achieved in 1917 when St. Lucas became a full 8-grade school in accordance with the requirements of the public school system. St. Lucas became fully accredited by local authorities in June of 1919. (85th Anniversary, p. 10, 12, 9)

On November 9, 1918, a fire destroyed much of the school's interior and led to a complete remodeling and updating of the facility. It was decided to add on an auditorium as well that could be used by church societies and for school entertainments. Congregation member Albert G. Nickel drew up plans for the alterations and the auditorium but the congregation hired local architect Bruno Haeuser to incorporate minor changes in the plans and draw up final plans and specifications for the new work. Haeuser's specialty was churches and public buildings. Excavation for the 52-foot by 80-foot auditorium began in May of 1919 and the work was completed in early December. The formal dedication on the 480-capacity hall took place on December 9th and 10th. The completed project had cost \$32,000 and also included four modern bowling alleys in the basement. This auditorium is still existent. (MI 353-2)
(Permits; 85th Anniversary, p. 10-12)

Enrollment figures show that the number of pupils leveled off through most of this century: 152 (1920); 189 (1930); 224 (1935); 136 (1940); 190 (1945). A fifth teacher was added in 1927 and a classroom was constructed in the basement to accommodate the increase. By 1950, the school had seven teachers and a second classroom in the basement so that the total number of

classrooms in the building was six. (Annual Report of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1920 p. 199; 1930 p. 121; 1935 p. 84; 1940 p. 98; 1945 p. 66; 1950 p. 70; 85th Anniversary, p. 20, 21. 46)

The decade of the 1950's saw the school finally become a supporter of the Wisconsin Synod's Lutheran High School and also consider alterations to the school facility. On January 12, 1958, the congregation asked the school committee to report on whether to repair or replace the aging school building. On June 13, 1960, the Board of Elders and Building Committee recommended that the congregation remodel and enlarge the school at a cost of \$150,000 with the schedule of doing work on the exterior in the spring of 1961 and on the interior in the spring of 1962. This plan was backed at the congregational meeting of April 20, 1961. However, a special meeting of the congregation was called on May 25, 1961 and it was decided to raze the entire old 1891 building but retain the auditorium. Architects Valliere & Scheife were chosen and the cost of the new building was not to exceed \$215,000. Demolition of the old structure was begun on June 5, 1961 by Northwestern Lumber and Wrecking and cost \$3,400. Groundbreaking for the new school took place on June 18, 1961 and the cornerstone laying ceremony took place on July 23, 1961. During construction, classes were held in the auditorium and church basements. Enrollment in January of 1962 reached 240 students. The new school was completed and dedicated on June 3, 1962. (85th Anniversary, p. 53, 51; History of the St. Lucas Evangelical Church 1957-1988, p. 2, 5, 6-8)

The new school was of modern design with brick veneer over concrete block. It is two stories in height, flat-roofed, with bands of windows across the facade at each story. At the center is the building's entrance. It is

devoid of any ornamentation. The school was built with eight classrooms but by the late 1960's had expanded into two rooms in the basement and used the music room for a classroom. (Permits)

Enrollment following the construction of the school peaked around 1965 when 294 students attended the facility. Nine teachers were employed at that time. Enrollment dropped consistently thereafter, reaching a twenty-year low in 1974 when 196 students were enrolled. The congregation decided to re-establish bus service for its students in order to maintain steady enrollment. This seems to have helped since enrollment increased to 207 in 1975, 233 in 1977, and 316 in 1978. Two new classrooms were constructed in 1980 at a cost of \$30,552 and an open house was held on August 31, 1980 to celebrate their completion. (History 1957-1988, p. 26, 28, 29, 32, 35; Annual Report of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (MBSD), 1965, p. 49)

Enrollment in the 1980's has fluctuated slightly from year to year but has remained consistent: 342 (1981); 346 (1982); 286 (1985); 294 (1986); 314 (1987); 305 (1988). In 1986, the school created the position of vice principal and teaching assistant to the principal. In order to better serve the students, recent consideration has been given to the remodeling of the bowling alleys and teen league room in the basement. Enrollment for 1989 was 323 and the school has 11 teachers. St. Lucas had the second highest enrollment city-wide among the city's Lutheran schools after St. Peter Immanuel. (History 1957-1988, p. 35, 36, 39, 41, 42, 43; Annual Report of the Milwaukee Board of School Directory (MBSD), 1989, p. 102)

BRANCH LIBRARIESLlewellyn Library

In the nineteenth century, public libraries, like schools, were important indicators and symbols of a community's maturity and cultural status. In an era in which literacy was becoming a reality for all classes of society, collections of books, lending libraries and reading rooms were seen as important means to advance society. Today's Llewellyn Library at 907 East Russell Avenue had its roots in the early days of Bay View's development.

In Bay View's pre-village era, no public funds were available for a public library. Milwaukee itself did not even possess a municipally-sponsored library at that time. It was left to the efforts of private individuals and literary societies to establish reading rooms and collect books. Beulah Brinton, wife of a Milwaukee Iron Company official, has been described as "perhaps the outstanding woman of Bay View's history" for her unceasing efforts in establishing Bay View's library. The first library was located in her home at the northeast corner of Pryor and Superior Streets. (MI 373-36) Brinton solicited funds from Eber Brock Ward, J. J. Hagerman and other iron company officials and started up a "children's hour" and began a circulating library for the community's adults. (Korn, p. 108)

By 1874, the fledgling library had outgrown the Brinton home and was moved to the public school on Wentworth Avenue. A Sentinel article reported in 1878 that Mrs. Brinton was calling for some action to establish a library and reading room that would be accessible to the public and urged Bay View residents to at-least begin efforts toward this goal. (Milwaukee Sentinel, 1878, April 3 8/1; Korn, p. 108)

After the village was incorporated, the subject of a public reading room came up early in 1880 and the village board resolved to establish a library that would be maintained by the village. Voters approved the issue at the next election and the village trustees appointed a library board consisting of Samuel Elsby, James McIver, Elijah Estes, John Kidney, Anton Stollenwerk, John Meredith, Joseph Bearman and John Sneddon with Lewis Funk as chairman. By the summer of 1883, the informal library contained 464 volumes but the library board received only half of its expected \$500 budget. No permanent location for the library was ever provided by the village, however, and the collection of books remained at the school until Bay View was annexed by the city. (Korn, p. 108; Milwaukee Sentinel, 1883, June 13 4/7)

Upon annexation by Milwaukee, Bay View's collection totaled 980 volumes. When it was discovered that most of the books were duplicates of volumes already in the city's collection, the books were turned over to the former librarian, William Hagerty, for use as a branch library. This was established at Hagerty's store on the site of today's 2471 South Wentworth (MI 370-29) and was referred to as the Fifth Delivery Station. Hagerty's salary as keeper of the station was five dollars a month. (Zillman, p. 121)

In 1908, the Milwaukee Public Library moved its branch to 2658 South Kinnickinnic Avenue (MI 321-31) and appointed 18-year-old Hazel Stewart as librarian. This followed an unsuccessful attempt by Bay View Alderman Clary to have the city build a combination natatorium-library building in his ward. (Proceedings of the Common Council, 1904-1905, p. 605; Zillman, p. 121)

Movement toward the construction of a permanent library facility began in 1912 when a referendum to issue \$30,000 in bonds for the construction of a branch library was passed by a vote of 13,337 to 9,013. The funds were set aside in 1913 and a four-lot site at the southeast corner of Russell and Lenox Streets was acquired. The property was given by Silas J. and John T. Llewellyn in memory of their father Henry Llewellyn, a pioneer grocer of the community. The library was subsequently named after Henry Llewellyn. Local architects VanRyn and DeGelleke, who would shortly design Bay View High School across the street, were the designers of the classical revival structure. The small building's stature was augmented by its location atop a grassy berm. Llewellyn Library has served Bay View well since its completion. In 1958, the firm of Grassold-Johnson designed a contemporary addition to the facility which was built across the original facade and eliminated the berm. (MI 382-32) It was constructed at a cost of \$148,599. At present, 1990, the city is examining sites for a new larger library to be built in Bay View to replace the old Llewellyn Library which will then be sold or razed. (Zillman, p. 121; Permits 907 East Russell Street)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

No one source gives a complete history of education in Bay View. A good starting point would be Bernard Korn's The Story of Bay View (1980) which chronicles the early pioneer schools and the public school up to Bay View's annexation by Milwaukee in 1887. The Milwaukee Sentinel also gives some interesting insights and enrollment statistics for the area. Various city records provide the most detailed information about public education after 1887. Particularly valuable are the Annual Reports of the Board of School Commissioners and the School Board's Proceedings, organized by academic year.

The titles vary slightly over time. In these reports can be found statistics on enrollment, school construction, and so on. The Proceedings of Milwaukee's Common Council are also useful and available from the mid-1870's to the present. A collection of various Five- and Ten-Year Plans proposed by the School Board from 1916 through 1928 give an interesting account of Milwaukee's schools in that period and are available under the collective title of Milwaukee School Buildings and Sites. The Annual Reports of the Board of Public Works provides detailed information regarding new schools and for a period of time also included photographs of the completed buildings.

Parochial school histories are best found in the anniversary publications by the various congregations: Immaculate Conception parish Congregation of the Immaculate Conception 1870-1970; St. Lucas Congregation History of the St. Lucas Evangelical Lutheran Church 1957-1988. Produced on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the church building - October, 1988 and A History of St. Lucas Evangelical Lutheran Church 1872-1957 by Nickel and Koehler; St. Augustine Parish A Century of Service. An Eternity of Faith. 1888-1988. A surprising source of information regarding parochial school enrollment are the annual reports published by Milwaukee Public Schools. Each report lists private institutions, their locations, enrollment, number of teachers and days of classes per school year. It fills the gaps found in most parochial school records and histories.

10. Religion

RELIGION

A survey of the religious history of the Bay View survey area encompasses an interesting mix of denominations and ethnic groups. The three largest church buildings in the survey area were constructed for two Roman Catholic parishes and a Lutheran congregation. The steeples of these churches tower over the modest frame houses and small commercial buildings of the working class neighborhoods surrounding them. The eight extant church buildings in the survey area illustrate the diversity of the ethnic groups that lived in the neighborhood, including Irish, German, Scottish and Welsh populations.

The Milwaukee Iron Company, founded in 1868, was the first large employer in the Bay View area, and it figured prominently in the histories of many of the area's churches. The company donated lots to several different congregations for the purpose of building churches. The Bay View United Methodist, St. Lucas Evangelical Lutheran, and the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic congregations all built their first churches on land donated to them by the Milwaukee Iron Company. The members of the congregations also depended heavily on the vitality of the Milwaukee Iron Company since many of the men worked there. The economic downturn that crippled the iron works following the Panic of 1873 nearly closed the tiny Welsh Congregational Church located at 2739 South Superior St. as many of its members moved away in search of employment. Larger congregations, such as Trinity Methodist Episcopal (now Bay View United Methodist) and Grace Presbyterian Church, were also severely affected by the economic uncertainty of the mid-1870s. However, as the manufacturing base of Milwaukee recovered during the late 1870s, stability returned to the survey area's churches, and they again began to grow. The St. Lucas congregation built the area's first large, brick church building in

1888, and the members of Bay View United Methodist Church also initiated the construction of an imposing new brick church building that year. The early twentieth century saw the construction of two large Roman Catholic church buildings to replace older structures. The parishioners of both St. Augustine and Immaculate Conception parishes began building large brick church buildings in 1907.

Since the early twentieth century, some churches in the Bay View area have expanded, constructing new school buildings and renovating and updating old facilities. A few churches have closed or merged, such as Bethel Evangelical Church, formerly located at 2392 South Woodward Street, which merged with Bay View United Methodist Church in 1968. The Bethel church building, constructed in 1895, is now used by the Bay View Assembly of God. The former Christ Evangelical church, a German-speaking congregation located at Pine and Russell Avenues, moved to a new location in 1938, and their old building is now used by a Spanish-speaking Pentecostal group called the Assembly Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ. While church membership has decreased at many of the churches in recent years, nearly all of the old congregations are still active. Most are supported by various segments of the economically and culturally diverse population that lives in the Bay View survey area. Following are brief histories of the ten major congregations found in the survey area.

Bay View United Methodist Church

Bay View United Methodist Church is believed to be the first congregation that was organized in the Bay View survey area. The congregation's first services were held during January of 1867 in an office at the Milwaukee Iron Company in Bay View. The officiating clergyman was Pastor H. C. Tilton of Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church on Milwaukee's south side. The secretary of the iron company, J. J. Hagerman, was responsible for providing the room, and he eventually became a member of the congregation. Three employees of the iron company, Henry Ballster, William Quayle, and John Bishop, and their respective families, were reportedly the first Methodist residents of the Bay View area. The founding group may have also conducted private services prior to January of 1867 at the home of John Bishop. The original name of the congregation was the Bay View Methodist Church.

The office in which services were held soon became too small for the congregation and, as it was also needed for other purposes by the mill, a new church building was proposed. The Milwaukee Iron Company Rolling Mill donated a lot on what is presently South Wentworth Avenue, between East Russell and East Pryor Avenues. The lot for the parsonage, next to the church, was donated by the company in 1870. The company's gift of land was not unique to the Methodists. The company donated lots for the erection of churches to various denominations throughout the Bay View survey area.

The first church building was a frame structure built for about \$2,200 in a simplified Gothic Revival style according to plans furnished by W. F. Durfee, the chief engineer of the iron works. The church was dedicated on

April 26, 1868. An addition to the building including a Sunday school room was constructed shortly after the building was completed to accommodate the rapidly expanding congregation. In 1870 a parsonage was built on a lot next to the church. The vast majority of the church's original members were immigrants of English, Welsh, Scottish, and Irish descent.

Church membership declined in 1876 when the Bay View Iron Mill closed temporarily in response to a nationwide economic downturn following the Financial Panic of 1873. Many members of the congregation moved away seeking jobs elsewhere. By 1878 production had resumed at the mill, and the congregation began to grow again. In 1880 the church had 130 members and a flourishing Sunday school.

Construction of the present High Victorian Gothic style church began in 1888, and at that time the name of the church was changed to Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church. The last service in the wooden church was held on February 25, 1889. The cost of the new cream city brick building was \$32,000. Dedication ceremonies were held on March 3, 1889. In 1908 a pipe organ was installed at a cost of \$3,000. The organ pipes were built by the Jerome B. Meyer Company, which is still in business at 2339 South Austin Street about 1-1/2 miles north of the church. The organ console was built by the Schaefer Company of Milwaukee, which is no longer in business.

The church has one large bronze bell in the belfry, which measures 38 inches in diameter at the base and weighs about 1,000 pounds. The bell was cast in 1885 by the Gardener Campbell and Sons Foundry of Milwaukee to honor the centennial of the founding of the Methodist Church in America. Minutes of

a congregational meeting in 1884 record that a committee was authorized "to collect funds, purchase a bell and erect a suitable place for the same." It remains unknown whether the bell was actually installed in the frame building or whether it was stored until it could be installed in the new church completed in 1889. The bell rope, which hung in the narthex of the church, broke in 1929, and the bell remained silent until 1984 when a new rope was purchased and installed. In 1924 the unfinished portion of the church basement was excavated and remodeled for use as a dining hall.

The membership of the church had grown to approximately 400 persons by 1931. Church membership expanded greatly after World War II. By 1953 there were 906 members, and the congregation began exploring ways to accommodate the growth in membership and church activities. Serious discussions began in 1954 to plan for a major remodeling of the church. It was decided to build an educational wing and completely remodel the interior of the church. Lillian and Willis Leenhouts, a husband/wife architectural firm in Milwaukee, were the architects chosen to do the work.

Work began in March of 1956, and the original 1880s interior of the church was completely gutted and rebuilt in a modern style. New, modern-design stained glass windows were also installed. The parsonage next to the church was demolished to make way for the construction of a new Sunday school wing. In January of 1957 the newly remodeled church interior was consecrated. The debt for the remodeling, which was approximately \$220,000 was quickly paid, and a mortgage burning ceremony was held on January 14, 1962.

In 1968 a new denomination, the United Methodist Church, was created following the merger of the Methodist Church with the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The national merger of the two denominations prompted Bethel Evangelical United Brethren Church, which was located on the northeast corner of East Conway and South Woodward Streets to sell its church building in 1968 and merge with Trinity Methodist Church, thereby creating Bay View United Methodist Church, as the congregation is known today. Bay View United Methodist Church is still a very active congregation. (History of Milwaukee, 1881. Chicago: Western Historical Company, pp. 1627-1628; Bay View United Methodist Church, Celebrating 100 Years. Church anniversary booklet published in 1988)

Welsh Congregational Church

The former Welsh Congregational Church is a small, clapboard-sided building located at 2739 South Superior Street that was built in 1873. The congregation was founded in 1868 when about six Welsh families banded together to hold regular services at the house of Mr. and Mrs. William W. Williams in Bay View. Services were conducted exclusively in Welsh.

In 1869 the fledgling congregation moved its regular place of meeting to a village schoolhouse until the present wood frame church was built in 1873. Rev. John Cadwallader was the first minister. In 1873 Rev. J. Breese succeeded him. The nationwide economic downturn that closed the Bay View Rolling Mills in 1874 caused a number of Welsh families to leave the Bay View area. During the years 1874-1876 the few remaining families kept up the

church, but only conducted occasional services. In 1877, as prosperity began to return to the Bay View area, regular services were again instituted at the small church.

The Welsh Congregational Church disbanded in 1898 or 1899. Between 1899 and 1933 the building was used as a mission of Ascension Lutheran Church, a south side Milwaukee congregation located today at 1236 South Layton Boulevard. In 1938 the church became the home of the newly organized South Shore Lutheran Church, which was then associated with the English District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The congregation changed its name in 1956 to Cross Lutheran Church, and in 1957 moved to a new church building located at 3353 South Whitnall Avenue. Since 1957 the building has been used by a Christian Science congregation, which rebuilt the front of the church during the 1960s, adding Doric style columns to an enlarged front porch. New pews were also installed during the 1960s. The building is a well-preserved example of the simple early religious architecture in Milwaukee. It is also one of the oldest extant wood frame church buildings in the city. (History of Milwaukee, 1881, pp. 1628-1629; Unpublished research and script for Spaces and Traces Tour, 1989 prepared by Joyce Strom.)

Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church

Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic parish, founded in 1870, was the first English-speaking congregation in the Bay View survey area. Most of the early members were the Irish immigrants who worked at the Milwaukee Iron Company in Bay View. Immaculate Conception is one of the few parishes founded in

Milwaukee during the late nineteenth century as a so-called "territorial parish," one that was intended to serve all Roman Catholics living in a particular area regardless of ethnic background. Most Roman Catholic churches in Milwaukee at that time were so-called "national parishes," which were intended to cater to specific ethnic groups, mostly German and Polish, so that services could be conducted in their native tongue.

Through the efforts of the Very Rev. Martin Kundig, the first vicar-general of the diocese, and Dr. Salzman, founder of St. Francis Seminary, the Milwaukee Iron Company donated three lots it owned on East Russell and South Kinnickinnic Avenues to the diocese in 1870 for the purpose of building a Roman Catholic church. The Catholic churches closest to Bay View at that time were the chapel at St. Francis Seminary, Holy Trinity Church in Walker's Point, and St. Stanislaus Church located at South 5th and West Mitchell Streets. Holy Trinity, however, was a German-speaking parish and St. Stanislaus was Polish speaking. After the land was donated a building committee was appointed, and a vigorous fund-raising campaign began. The name of the parish was determined by popular vote. The first church, a simple, wood frame, front-gabled structure with round-arched windows was dedicated in honor of the Immaculate Conception on November 19, 1871. A rectory was attached to the church building. Membership grew steadily to about 200 families in 1881.

The parish was without a grade school until 1885 when construction began on a two-story, two-room, brick, flat-roofed school building. Completed during the summer of 1886 at an estimated cost of \$10,000 the school opened in the fall of 1886 with an enrollment of 90 students. The first teachers were

Sisters Mary Josephine and Mary Celestine of the Sisters of Mercy order. By 1898 enrollment averaged about 205 students.

The original frame church was replaced with the present large, tan brick, Neo-classical style church building, which was built according to the designs of the local architectural firm of Herman W. Buehning and Gustav Dick. The cornerstone was laid on September 22, 1907, and the building was dedicated on August 30, 1908. A Neo-classical style brick rectory located at 1023 East Russell Avenue was also completed about the same time.

The church is an imposing Neo-classical style building, which has as its principal architectural feature, a massive square central tower capped with a metal-clad dome. The exterior is finely detailed with stone quoins, and a sheet metal denticulated cornice at the eaves. The tower is one of the visual landmarks in the Bay View survey area.

A new brick convent building that incorporates elements of Tudor and Neo-classical design was built in 1929. In 1950 the old school was partially demolished and incorporated into a large new 20-classroom building completed in 1951. By the mid-1950s the growing parish decided to enlarge the church building. In 1958 the local architectural firm of Brust and Brust supplied plans for enlarging and remodeling the church. In a very unusual remodeling the entrance was changed from East Russell Avenue to what was previously the rear of the church fronting on South Kinnickinnic Avenue. The new entry addition facing S. Kinnickinnic Avenue features an impressive portico with Corinthian columns. The addition also contains a mothers' room and a cloak room. The remodeling, completed in 1959, increased the seating capacity to

approximately 1,000. The rectory was also remodeled at about the same time. The new contemporary stained glass windows in the church were designed by the Conrad Schmitt Studios of Milwaukee. The interior retains much of its original Neo-classical style ornamental plaster work. The new apse that was created when the church was reversed in 1959 features an elaborate wall mosaic of the tree of life from the time of Adam and Eve. The church is maintained in excellent condition by a large and active parish. (History of Milwaukee, 1881, p. 1629; Congregation of the Immaculate Conception 1870-1970, Anniversary Booklet, published by the congregation; The Catholic Church in Wisconsin. Catholic Historical Publishing Company, Milwaukee, WI, 1898, pp. 340-341.)

St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church

St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church was founded in 1887 to serve German-speaking Catholics living in Bay View. Located on the southeast corner of South Howell Avenue and East Homer Street, the parish complex consists of a large, Romanesque-influenced church building, an elementary school, a rectory, and a convent.

The first known meeting to discuss the formation of the St. Augustine parish was held early in 1887 at August Hermes' Bay View hardware store. By some accounts, the parish was named for St. Augustine partly in tribute to August Hermes for his work in organizing the parish. Later, another meeting was held on June 17, 1887, to finalize the plans for the new parish. There were reportedly forty-seven families interested in membership at that time.

At a meeting on June 23, 1887, plans were made to purchase the lots on which the church complex now stands. St. Augustine Parish was formally incorporated on July 16, 1887. The early parishioners had worshipped at St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church on Milwaukee's south side under the leadership of Rev. Schumacher, who was subsequently called to be the first priest at St. Augustine.

The founding members then began fund-raising efforts to pay for the parish land which had cost \$13,500. At a meeting on February 29, 1888, the parishioners decided to erect a two-story building with classrooms on the first floor and the church on the second floor. As news of the new church/school building spread, German Catholics began purchasing nearby lots and building homes for their families. The parish had grown to seventy families by mid-March of 1888.

On May 2, 1888, the contract for the High Victorian Gothic style building, which still stands on the southwest corner of East Homer and South Graham Streets, was signed, and work began immediately. Concurrently, the cream brick rectory, which still stands at 2530 South Howell Avenue, was also constructed. Both the church/school and rectory were designed by Bernard Kolpacki, a prominent south side architect. The original estimated cost of the rectory was \$2,900, according to building permits, and Elias Stollenwerk, a prominent Bay View contractor, was the builder. On August 25, 1888, the first Mass of St. Augustine was celebrated on a portable altar in a just-completed first floor classroom. On September 23, 1888, Archbishop Heiss, assisted by twelve priests, consecrated the second floor church. The interior was richly finished with a barrel-vaulted plaster ceiling, elaborate

decorative stenciling, and finely detailed Baroque-style main and side altars. The first church bell was also blessed at the dedication service. The following day, September 24, 1888, the Milwaukee Sentinel reported the following about the church and dedication ceremony: "The edifice was crowded to the utmost capacity, and several hundred people were unable to gain admittance. The main altar of the church bears a statue of St. Augustine, its patron saint." On September 25, 1888, the school was opened with an enrollment of 80 pupils. It was staffed by two nuns of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sister Mary Gehardine and Sister Mary Maxima. The Order is still associated with the school. Originally, the school on the first floor contained two classrooms, and two other first floor rooms were used as living quarters for the Sisters until the completion of their Romanesque style, two-story, brick convent on August 22, 1889. It still stands at 2523 South Graham Street. The architect, Herman Paul Schnetzky, was well-known in Milwaukee during the late nineteenth century for his designs of churches and church-related structures. Albert Kroening was the builder, and the estimated construction cost was \$3,600, according to building permits. A rear addition was constructed in 1940 according to the designs of Brust and Brust, a local architectural firm.

After completion of the convent, the Sisters' apartment in the school was apparently converted to classrooms. By December of 1888, school enrollment had increased 50 percent to 120 students, and by the end of the first school year, 140 pupils were enrolled.

The 1890s were years of rapid growth for the parish. By 1897 215 families belonged to the church, and the four-room school was attended by 240

children. A two-classroom addition to the school was built in 1901 according to the designs of architect Nicholas Dornbach at a cost of \$10,942. The basement of the addition was reportedly dug by hand by members of the parish, many of whom were unemployed that summer.

Originally students were taught in the German language for half of the school day and in English for the other half. Enrollment grew steadily over the years reaching 410 pupils by 1938. During the 1950s, a 2-story store at 2508-10 South Howell Avenue was purchased and remodeled for additional classrooms. In 1960, a brick, two-story rear classroom addition to the store was constructed to accommodate an increasing enrollment. During the period 1959-1966 enrollment in the school peaked at seven hundred students, but dropped off after that. In the late 1980s enrollment stood at about 250 pupils. The original 1888 school building, which has been remodeled over the years but still retains most of its original architectural character, is still in use. The school annex across the street at 2508-10 South Howell Avenue is also still in use. Apparently only the 1960 classroom addition is used for instructional purposes, while the original storefront is now the office of the St. Augustine Parish Credit Union.

On December 30, 1906, the parish resolved to build a new church. Construction contracts were signed on June 17, 1907, and the cornerstone was laid on Palm Sunday, April 12, 1908. More than forty priests took part in the service to dedicate the new church on November 26, 1908. The church was built according to the Romanesque-influenced designs of Brust and Philipp, a local architectural firm. The building measures 77 by 140 feet in plan and cost approximately \$35,000, according to the original building permit. Anton

Schmidt was the mason contractor, and Jacob Koenen was the carpenter contractor.

The tan brick exterior appears to be in nearly original condition. The principal feature of the main elevation, which faces South Howell Avenue, is a massive square central tower topped with an eight-sided spire. The exterior is trimmed with extensive ornamental brickwork and cut limestone. A fine set of three bronze bells was installed in the church tower and blessed in a ceremony on Saturday, June 6, 1914. According to Roman Catholic tradition, the bells were also named: The largest is called Mary and Augustine, the middle bell is Joseph, and the smallest is Peter. These bells, which ring daily, are a familiar sound throughout the surrounding neighborhood. The interior of the church, which is in excellent condition, features a plaster barrel vault over the nave, decorative plaster capitals on ornamental wall pilasters, and a marble wainscoting. In 1949 the church basement was remodeled into a parish hall. St. Augustine is a very active parish with more than 3,500 members. (St. Augustine, 1888-1988. Church anniversary book published by the parish; History of the Catholic Church in Wisconsin. Milwaukee: Catholic Historical Publishing Company, 1898, pp. 324-325; Building Permits, City of Milwaukee.)

Bethel Evangelical Church

The former Bethel Evangelical Church, which stands on the northeast corner of East Conway and South Woodward Streets, was founded in 1883 as a German-speaking mission of Salem Evangelical congregation, which was located in

Milwaukee's Walker's Point neighborhood three miles to the north. Pastor Traugott Umbreit of Salem Church began the Bethel mission in April of 1883, and on May 11, 1884, a new frame chapel was dedicated free of debt. It measured 26 by 40 feet in plan and featured a small steeple that rose 25 feet above the roof peak. The building, furnishings, and reed organ cost a total of \$805.95, and the lot cost \$500. Funds for the new chapel were donated by the small membership and three other Milwaukee Evangelical churches. An additional \$431 was donated by the Wisconsin Conference of Evangelical Churches. A Sunday school for children was immediately started, and by 1886 enrollment was reported to be 114 pupils.

The congregation grew steadily, and in 1896 members voted to build a new church to replace the old wooden one. The high Victorian Gothic style building, which is still standing, was designed by the Milwaukee architectural firm of Charles D. Crane and Carl Barkhausen, a partnership that existed between 1888 and 1902. Both Crane and Barkhausen had worked previously for the prestigious Milwaukee architectural firm of E. T. Mix and Company. Peter Christiansen was chosen as the carpenter, and the Meredith Brothers received the contract for the masonry work. The new brick building was dedicated on November 14, 1897. The building cost \$7,002.40, and fund-raising efforts by the congregation exceeded that amount by the end of the day of the dedication.

Bethel congregation continued to grow, and its membership was 237 in 1926, the same year in which the congregation switched from German to English language services. A large Sunday school and growing membership prompted the congregation to build an annex in 1926 at a cost of \$38,000. The Meredith Brothers were again chosen as mason contractors. The annex, which included

social and educational facilities for the parish, was dedicated on February 28, 1926. Improvements were also made that year to the church including a new Wangerin pipe organ, a new reredos, and a hot water boiler to heat the complex.

In 1946 Bethel Evangelical Church became known as Bethel Evangelical United Brethren Church (E.U.B.) following a national merger of the Evangelical denomination with the smaller Church of the United Brethren denomination. Church membership had climbed to 482 by 1959.

By the late 1960s the congregation was considering replacing the brick church building constructed in 1897. However, the merger of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren denominations in 1968 cancelled the building plans. Bethel E.U.B. church closed its building and merged with the nearby Trinity Methodist Church, which then became the Bay View United Methodist Church. The old Bethel church building was purchased for \$40,000 by the Bay View Assembly of God, which still uses the building. (Bay View United Methodist Church, Celebrating 100 Years, church history publication with section on Bethel Evangelical Church written by Ethlyn Roepke, pp. 28-31; Building Permits, City of Milwaukee.)

St. Lucas Lutheran Church

A small group of German-speaking Lutherans living in Bay View organized St. Lucas Lutheran Church in 1872. The congregation began meeting informally early in 1872 as the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bay View. The

events leading to the founding of St. Lucas are somewhat unusual in that the first frame church building was completed before the congregation was formally organized. Most of the founding members had been worshipping a few miles to the north in established Lutheran churches in Walker's Point such as St. Peter's and St. Stephen's. Pastor William Dammann of St. Peter's Lutheran Church coordinated the organization of St. Lucas. Through his efforts, \$600 was collected from area Lutheran churches to help the fledgling St. Lucas congregation build its first church building. The founding members of the church contributed another \$250 to the building funds. The Bay View Rolling Mills, the area's largest employer, donated three lots on the corner of South Kinnickinnic and South Logan Avenues to the new congregation for the purpose of building a church. This site was three blocks south of the present location.

During the summer of 1872, a frame church building measuring 26 feet wide by 52 feet long and costing about \$1,600 was built on the donated property. The building was dedicated on October 6, 1872. One week later on October 13, 1872, the congregation, which was still known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bay View, was formally organized as "Deutsche Evangelisch Lutherische St. Lucas Gemeinde zu Bay View," which translated to "St. Lucas German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Bay View." Services were conducted in German.

A one-room school was established by the congregation shortly after the church was completed. The church building served as a school on weekdays, and the first pastor, who was also the first school teacher, lived in a room in the back of the church. The congregation grew slowly at first, numbering only

about sixteen families in 1873. By 1881, the congregation had grown in size to approximately ninety families.

In 1879, the year in which the Village of Bay View was incorporated, the congregation bought three lots on the southwest corner of South Kinnickinnic Avenue and East Dover Street. The frame church building was then moved three blocks north to the new location, and the old site was sold to Leonard Weiss for \$400. The congregation built a parsonage in 1881 on the lot to the south of the church where the present modern parsonage is located at 2611 South Kinnickinnic Avenue. The room in back of the church which had been the pastor's apartment was converted into a permanent classroom for the school.

The congregation grew rapidly during the 1880s. In 1888 the present High Victorian Gothic style, cream brick church building at 2605 South Kinnickinnic Avenue was constructed at a cost of approximately \$16,000. The church is 110 feet long, 51 feet wide, and originally had a 700-seat capacity. The central steeple is reportedly 145 feet in height. The architect, Herman Paul Schnetzky, who came to Milwaukee from Germany in 1868, was a noted designer of Lutheran churches in Milwaukee and southeastern Wisconsin during the late 1880s and 1890s. The central steeple and symmetrical facade is typical of German-inspired Gothic church design of the period.

The old frame church building was remodeled into a school. The growth of the congregation and the grade school necessitated the construction of a new brick, four-room school in 1891 at a cost of \$8,000. It was located on a 80 by 130-foot lot across the street from the church at 648 East Dover Street on land that had been purchased that year for \$2,000 after efforts to buy additional land immediately west of the church had failed.

The old 1881 parsonage was sold for \$500 to Peter Mueller, a church member, who moved the building to 708 East Potter Avenue where it was remodeled into a two-family dwelling and still stands today. A larger parsonage for the pastor and his growing family was constructed on the old site at a cost of \$2,700. This building stood until 1966 when it was razed to make way for the present modern parsonage at 2611 South Kinnickinnic Avenue.

There have been numerous alterations and improvements to the church over the years. In 1901 three large church bells were purchased from the firm of Meneely and Company of East Troy, New York at a cost of \$1,600. A tower clock, made by the Schwalbach Company of Milwaukee, was purchased for \$450 and installed. Extensive remodeling and enlarging of the brick school building was done in 1918 following a small fire in the building.

A new three-manual pipe organ was installed in the church and dedicated on June 29, 1930. In 1947, during the 75th anniversary year of the congregation, extensive alterations were made to the church building at a cost of approximately \$133,000. A new basement beneath the church was excavated, a new foundation was installed, and meeting room, kitchen and related facilities were built. A prominent, V-shaped, stone-veneered front porch was also constructed which is the only apparent significant exterior alteration made to the church since it was built. The cream brick exterior of the church, which had weathered to a sooty gray color, was cleaned in 1970. The tower clock was also electrified that year. The interior of the church is mostly original, although there have been numerous redecoratings over the years. The original wood altar, which is painted white, is still intact. In 1971 new pews were installed in the nave.

The school built in 1891 was demolished during June of 1961 at a cost of \$3,400. Ground breaking for a new school on the same site was held on June 18, 1961. The cornerstone laying ceremony for the new school took place on July 23, 1961. During the 1961-62 school year classes were held in the school auditorium, which had been built in 1918, and in the church basement. The new school, located at 648 East Dover Street, was dedicated on June 3, 1962 and cost approximately \$215,000 to build. The communicant membership of the church in 1988 was 1,366, and school enrollment in kindergarten through eighth grade was 305. History of Milwaukee, 1881, p. 1629; Nickel and Koehler, St. Lucas Evangelical Lutheran Church, 85th Anniversary Booklet.

Christ Evangelical Church

Christ Evangelical congregation, now called Christ Church, a member of the United Church of Christ, was organized by a small group of German-speaking Bay View residents who began holding services in the Odd Fellows' Hall on February 17, 1895. That hall, now demolished, was located on the northeast corner of East Potter Street and South Kinnickinnic Avenue. Early pastoral assistance for the fledgling Protestant congregation came from Rev. Henry Noehren, pastor of Zion Evangelical Church, located on Milwaukee's south side at 1424 West Greenfield Avenue.

The German Evangelical Synod of North America subsequently decided to grant the group official mission status, and the Rev. Henry Niefer, a recent graduate of Eden Theological Seminary, was assigned to organize the new

congregation. He began his work on July 1, 1895. On September 10, 1895 the mission church was formally organized as the "Deutsche Evangelische Christus Gemeinde." The building constructed by the congregation in 1895 is still located on the southeast corner of South Pine and East Russell Streets. It reportedly cost \$2,200 to build. Apparently at least some of the funds used to build the church came from the German Evangelical Synod of North America. The denomination founded several other of its Milwaukee churches in this manner.

The church building is a large, rectangular, clapboard-sided, multi-gable, Gothic revival structure with a square corner tower which is capped with a stubby spire surmounted by a sheet metal finial. The gables are trimmed with cut wood shingles. Of particular interest are the original floral-design stained glass windows, all of which appear to be in excellent condition. John Wink was the builder, although the architect, if there actually was one, remains unknown. The exterior appears to be in nearly original condition. A small, flat-roofed vestibule addition was added to the main elevation, which faces South Pine Street. A rear addition, 32' x 50' in plan, was built in a matching style in 1908 according to the designs of Peter Christiansen, a local architect. A clapboard-sided, front-gabled parsonage located at 812 East Russell Street next to the church was built in 1898 at a cost of \$1,300. William Rutz was the carpenter, and William Bartell was the mason contractor. The exterior appears to be in nearly original condition and is a good example of the simple, but dignified, housing constructed for the clergy of a German protestant congregation in Milwaukee at the turn of the century.

The congregation officially changed its name to Christ Evangelical Church in 1927. In 1937, after many years of steady growth, the congregation decided to move and construct a new church building. The frame church was sold on April 24, 1938 for \$12,000 to the Hungarian Evangelical and Reformed Church. Christ Evangelical Church subsequently purchased a lot for \$15,650 on the southeast corner of East Oklahoma Avenue and South Lenox Street. Ground breaking ceremonies for a new church on the site took place on April 21, 1940, and the cornerstone laying ceremony was held on June 30 of that same year. The building was formally dedicated on April 6, 1941. Designed by local architect Hugo C. Haeuser, the church is an excellent example of the early twentieth century revival of the English Gothic style. The exterior of the large, gabled church, which features a prominent flat-roofed corner tower, is finished with rock-faced limestone quarried at Lannon, Wisconsin. The building is trimmed with dressed and carved limestone, including a large, ogive-shaped Gothic arch over each of the four large louvers in the belfry. The church is roofed with a high quality clay shingle tile. Total seating capacity is approximately 475, and the new church includes a rear chapel on the east end of the building.

The interior shows quality construction and fine, English Gothic style design. The nave has an open timber-truss ceiling which is particularly impressive. The pews, altar back, and other woodwork are made of oak and finished with a light brown stain. The apse, or altar area of the church features an oak paneled reredos. The wall area above it is fenestrated with a large stained glass window of Christ. The nave features a total of 16 stained glass windows depicting various events in the life of Christ.

In May, 1944 after a change in the constitution of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, the name of the congregation was changed to Christ Church of Milwaukee. Continued expansion of the congregation and its activities necessitated the construction of a large addition to the north elevation in 1968. The addition was dedicated on June 8, 1969. To make way for the addition, the original parsonage located immediately north of the church on South Lenox Avenue was razed. Subsequently, a large, Mediterranean style house located at 923 East Oklahoma Avenue immediately east of the church was purchased for the pastor.

The old church and parsonage located on the corner of South Pine and East Russell Streets were used by the Hungarian Evangelical and Reformed Church from 1938 to at least the mid-1950s. Milwaukee has never had a significant Hungarian population, and this is one of the few congregation in Milwaukee known to have been specifically identified with this ethnic group. Currently the frame church and parsonage are owned and used by the Assembly of Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ, a Spanish-speaking congregation, which is one of two such denominations in the Bay View survey area. (Building Permits, City of Milwaukee; Christ Church Golden Anniversary Booklet. 1945. Published by the congregation; Dedication Booklet of Christ Evangelical Church. April 6, 1941. Published by the congregation; City Directories, Milwaukee; Watrous, Jerome A., Memoirs of Milwaukee County. Vol. 1, Madison: Western Historical Association, 1909, pp. 375-376.)

Grace Presbyterian Church

On November 14, 1872, thirteen Scottish members of Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee petitioned the Presbytery of Milwaukee to organize a Presbyterian church in Bay View. A committee of three Presbyterian ministers then met on November 24, 1872 for the purpose of organizing a new church. There were 22 charter members who then met on December 21, 1872 to adopt a constitution for the Bethany Presbyterian Society, which would eventually become Grace Presbyterian Church.

A Gothic Revival, front-gabled frame church with a central bell tower capped with a stubby spire was apparently built in 1873 on the east side of South Winchester Street between South Bay Street and East Lincoln Avenue. The nationwide economic downturn that followed the Financial Panic of 1873 undoubtedly hampered the development of the new congregation. Bethany Presbyterian Society ultimately failed in 1878, and letters of dismissal were granted to the remaining members. The church remained open, however, as a mission of Immanuel Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian denomination's mother church in Milwaukee, which is located in the central business district in the Yankee Hill neighborhood.

As a mission, Bethany began to rebuild its congregation, and on Tuesday, December 28, 1884 twenty-nine members of Immanuel Church petitioned the Presbytery of Milwaukee to reorganize Bethany Presbyterian Society as an independent congregation. The petition was granted, and on January 8, 1886 the mission was reorganized as Grace Presbyterian Society. Nevertheless, the congregation today still considers the year 1872 as the date of its founding.

The Winchester Street church served the congregation well during its early, growing years, and in 1903 nearly \$1,500 was spent enlarging and redecorating the building. By 1910, however, the congregation decided the Winchester Street location was becoming hopelessly industrialized and therefore unsuitable as a location for a church. In 1915 the congregation asked the Milwaukee Presbytery to recommend a new location for the parish. By mid-1916 a site had been selected near the southwest corner of South Kinnickinnic Avenue and East Trowbridge Street. On November 4, 1916 the cornerstone was laid for a red brick, flat-roofed, Neo-classical style building designed by the local architectural firm of Leenhouts and Guthrie. The cost was an estimated \$12,000. The original design of the building is particularly unusual in that it looks like a typical Masonic or fraternal lodge of the period rather than a Protestant church. The nave is located atop a raised basement that contains social and other facilities. The interior is largely original although the original pews and altar furniture have been replaced. The most outstanding feature of the interior is a large, oval-shaped recess in the ceiling that features hidden cornice lighting and elaborate Baroque-style plaster moldings. Shortly after the church was completed, the congregation numbered 133 members.

In 1923 the interior of the church was slightly modified. The seating arrangement had been a fan-plan with a Sunday school area open to the auditorium for church services. In 1923 all the pews were rearranged to be in straight rows rather than a fan-plan. Two large stained glass windows removed from the South Winchester Street church were installed in the wall dividing the nave and the vestibule. In 1949 the pipe organ was rebuilt by the

Verlinden Organ Company. Also in 1949, it was discovered that the congregation was still legally known under the antiquated name Grace Presbyterian Society. Proper steps were then taken to substitute the word "Church" for "Society," and the change was eventually recorded in 1959 with the Milwaukee County Register of Deeds office.

During the late 1950s the congregation began planning for the expansion and remodeling of the church building. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on December 9, 1962 for a large, one-story addition to the north side of the church that contains education facilities, a kitchen, and offices. The project was completed in July 1963, and the formal dedication of the building was held on January 5, 1964. A modern vestibule addition that completely obscures the original main elevation of the church facing South Kinnickinnic Avenue was dedicated on May 22, 1966. Both additions were designed by the Milwaukee architectural firm of Grassold and Johnson. Because of defects in the brick used to veneer the vestibule addition, the congregation plans during 1990 to install a modern, stucco-like material over the brick.

The congregation's membership peaked in 1960 at 446. By 1972 membership had dropped to 327, and in 1990 the congregation had about 200 members. Grace Presbyterian Church remains active in the Bay View community. (Grace Presbyterian Church. 100th anniversary booklet published by the congregation in 1972; Watrous, Jerome A., editor. Memoirs of Milwaukee County. Madison, WI: Western Historical Association, 1909, pp. 358-362.)

Bay View Assembly of God

The Bay View Assembly of God, now located at 2392 South Woodward Street, began life in 1917 as the German Full Gospel Mission in a large, frame, commercial building still standing at 2373 South Kinnickinnic Avenue. Rev. Charles D. Schmitt, the first pastor, had been listed for the first time in the 1916 Milwaukee city directory as a missionary living on the city's north side at 2333 North 11th Street. In 1917 Schmitt moved to 2373 South Kinnickinnic Avenue where the mission was located.

By 1918 Rev. Schmitt had garnered a following large enough to construct the congregation's first church building at 2702 South Howell Avenue. The small, gabled, frame building which measured 24' x 44' in plan, cost approximately \$800 to build according to permit records. The building was set on a temporary wood post foundation because City officials believed that the building would soon have to be moved back on its lot to make way for the eventual widening of South Howell Avenue at that point. A building permit for the chapel was issued on July 2, 1918, and by September 17 of that year, permit records indicate that painters were finishing their work on the building. In 1924 the church was apparently moved back on its lot and placed on a new rusticated concrete block foundation costing about \$400 according to building permits. Howell Avenue was apparently widened that year in front of the church to create a turning lane to East Russell Avenue. By the early 1920s, the congregation was known as the Bay View Gospel Tabernacle, reflecting its affiliation with the Pentecostal organization of churches that today is known as the General Council of the Assembly of God, the largest single Pentecostal body in the United States. Another name change to Bay View Assembly of God Church occurred during the early 1950s.

The congregation apparently outgrew its tiny frame church building and moved in 1960 to the former Bay View Baptist Church, now demolished, which was located at 2701 South Logan Avenue. The church building on Howell Avenue was converted to a small office and shop for the Bay View Printing Company which is still located there today.

In 1968 Bay View Assembly of God bought the former Bethel Evangelical United Brethren Church located at 2392 South Woodward Street for \$40,000. Bethel vacated its church building that year to merge with Trinity Methodist Church located on South Kinnickinnic Avenue to form the Bay View United Methodist Church. Bay View Assembly of God is a very active congregation. Recently the interior of the church building was sensitively redecorated. (Bay View United Methodist Church, Celebrating 100 Years. Church history publication with section on Bethel Evangelical Church written by Ethlyn Roepke, pp. 28-31; Building Permits, City of Milwaukee; City Directories, Milwaukee; Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin. Vol. 3. Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Religion, 11-1.)

Unity Lutheran Church

Rapid growth characterized the early years of Unity Lutheran Church which was founded on March 29, 1931 in the Odd Fellows' Hall, now demolished, located on the northeast corner of South Kinnickinnic Avenue and East Potter Street. Many of the fifty-six charter members were part of a splinter group from St. Lucas Lutheran Church, located at 2605 South Kinnickinnic Avenue which is

affiliated with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Unity was founded under the auspices of the Wartburg Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America, which today is part of a larger Lutheran synod called the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

The Unity congregation purchased property on the southwest corner of South Herman Street and East Oklahoma Avenue, where the present church is located, on January 1, 1932. A small bungalow on the property was remodeled into a chapel and dedicated on February 14, 1932. Two services, one in German and the other in English, were held each Sunday. German language services were discontinued in 1935. In the fall of 1933 the congregation purchased an adjoining lot on East Oklahoma Avenue, extending the church property to South Logan Avenue. An old city school barracks was subsequently purchased for \$225, moved to the new lot, and then remodeled into a parish hall.

By the spring of 1939 the small frame chapel had become too small for the expanding congregation. Ground was broken on October 22, 1939 for a new, Gothic-influenced style church faced with rusticated local limestone. The cornerstone was laid on November 26, 1939, and the new church was under roof by January 1, 1940. Because the old frame chapel was demolished to make way for the new building, services were held in Palo Alto Hall, located at 3145 South Kinnickinnic Avenue, until the new church was completed. The formal dedication service of the new church, which cost about \$25,000, was held on Sunday, March 10, 1940. Oriented on a north-south axis, the main elevation of the church faced East Oklahoma Avenue. The church reportedly had seating for about 300, but by 1947 the congregation had again outgrown its church building. Local architect Fred Wegner was commissioned to design a new church

building which he oriented perpendicular to the 1939 church on an east-west axis with the principal elevation facing South Herman Street. The rear half of the 1939 stone church building was incorporated into the nave of the new church, and the front half of the old church was remodeled into a spacious vestibule with two small offices. The design of the new, large, gabled church, which is also faced with rusticated local limestone, was inspired by English Gothic prototypes. The cornerstone was laid on May 29, 1949, and construction advanced quickly, allowing the congregation to celebrate the 1949 Christmas services in the nave of the new building. A formal dedication service was held on February 5, 1950. The church can seat more than 430 persons and cost approximately \$150,000. The traditional Gothic-design stained glass windows are particularly impressive. The altarpiece is from the 1939 church, and the oak pews and the natural woodwork are handsomely finished in a medium brown tone. The interior of the church has changed little since it was built. A new Eberle pipe organ was installed between 1971 and 1973 with several ranks of pipes visible on either side of the front of the church.

In 1967 construction began on a contemporary design, education/fellowship addition to the west end of the church. The \$400,000 building, which contains a large gymnasium, was dedicated on January 14, 1968. The fellowship hall and the church building are addressed at 1007 and 1025 East Oklahoma Avenue respectively.

Like many so-called mainline Protestant churches in America today, Unity has experienced a loss in membership in recent years. The congregation is, however, still large and thriving with approximately 1,300 baptized members. It is estimated that 65 percent of the members are from the immediate Bay View

area. Although the church began as a German ethnic congregation, today the parish is multi-ethnic serving the diverse population of the surrounding neighborhood and greater Milwaukee. (50th Anniversary Bulletin printed in 1981; Church Dedication Booklet, 1950; conversation with Pastor Strecker of Unity Church, 6/21/90.)

