



HISTORIC BRIGHTON

SALON I:

BRIGHTON'S COUNTRY HOMES AND THEIR ARCHITECTS

CATALOG EDITED BY ELIZABETH BRAYER

EXHIBITION CURATOR: ARLENE VANDERLINDE

The Town of Brighton saw extensive growth during the first quarter of the 20th century. Rochester's population was spilling over into Brighton as more people sought a quiet, tranquil country life away from the city's hustle and bustle. The more common use of the automobile by the middle and upper middle classes was another factor that influenced the growth of the new suburban towns. Now people no longer needed to live near to their workplace. East Avenue became the gateway to the Brighton suburb and beyond.

Neighborhoods, such as Home Acres, the Houston Barnard tract, and Browncroft boast many examples of fine architect-designed homes. These neighborhoods defined Brighton during the last century and continue to bring pride and sustaining value to the town today. One can find examples of nearly every early 20th century architectural style in these neighborhoods. The quality of construction used in these homes has made them irreplaceable.

Historic Brighton is proud to bring you a closer look at some of America's finest country homes and the architects that designed them. We were fortunate to have some of the nation's most talented architects working locally. Their designs have certainly withstood the test of time.

We have selected fifteen local architects who worked with Brighton clients during this time.

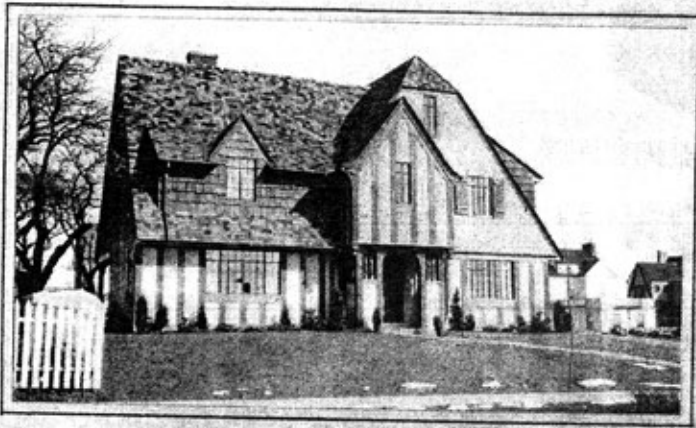
They will be presented in three Salons beginning with the January 25th event:

In Salon I, we will look at four of these architects: J. Foster Warner, who was one of Rochester's most prolific designers; Claude Bragdon, nationally famous for his passenger train station for the New York Central Railroad in Rochester; Ward Wellington Ward, Syracuse's famous Arts & Crafts architect; and Carl R. Traver, the least-known, but equally well-represented local architect.

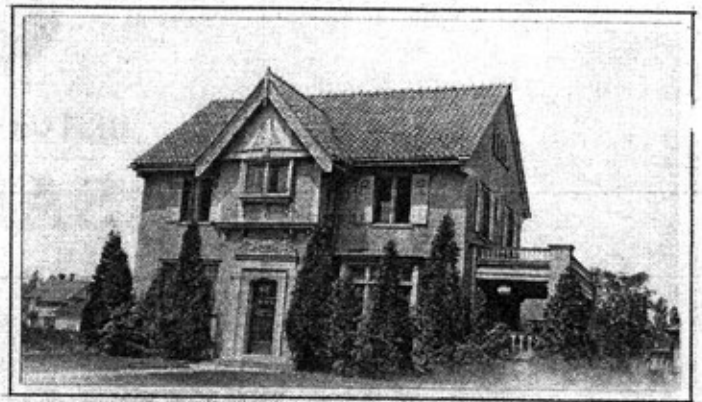
Future Salons will focus on Herbert and Leon Stern, James B. Arnold, C. Storrs Barrows, Cyril Tucker, Don Hershey, Otis and Harwood Dryer, Walter Vars Wiard, Thomas Boyd and Conway Todd.

We hope that you will enjoy our lush pictorial essay on these talented gentlemen.





MR. CARL S. POTTER
CLAYDOURNE ROAD, BRIGHTON, N.Y.



MR. TILLMAN FABRY
SOUTHERN PARKWAY, BRIGHTON, N.Y.

Renderings at the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Rochester Library.

CARL TRAVER

By Arlene Vanderlinde

The town of Brighton boasts some of the finest early 20th century homes in America. Neighborhoods such as Home Acres, the Houston Barnard tract and others have some of the best examples of the Tudor, Colonial Revival and Mediterranean Revival styles found anywhere. The finest materials were employed and these homes have beautifully withstood the test of time, both in style and condition.

Some of the most prominent architects of this period designed locally. Many even called Rochester or Brighton home. One such architect was Carl R. Traver (1890-1985). His name isn't known to most, but Mr. Traver made wonderful contributions to the quality of life in Brighton through the many substantial homes he designed for his clients.

Carl R. Traver (pronounced Trayver) was born in Rochester in 1890. He graduated from West High School and studied at the University of Pennsylvania College of Architecture from 1914-16. His work began in the architectural offices of Gordon and Madden. From 1911 - 1914 he worked as a draftsman at Hutchins and Cutler. Back at Gordon and Madden in 1917, he was a delineator and draftsman until World War I beckoned him into the service in the Construction Division of the U.S. Army Air Service. Following the War, he worked briefly in England in construction.

In 1920, Traver earned his registration as an architect in New York State and entered professional practice here in Rochester. He designed Gleason

Works, Graflex, the Ritter-Clark Memorial at RIT, the main Central Trust Company building downtown, the Castle-Wilmot Company, the Temple Building, the now demolished North Side Furniture House, Irondequoit District School #5 and the Irondequoit Fire-house on Culver Road. Most of these were designed when he worked for Gordon and Kaelber and John B. Pike & Son (1942-65).

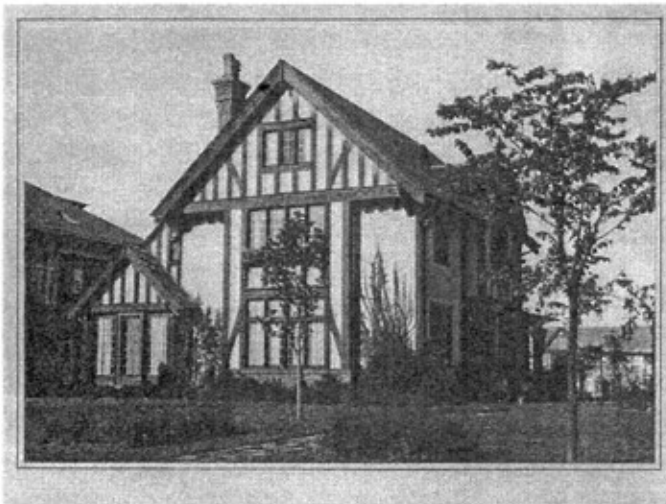
Traver also designed dozens of exquisite homes in Brighton, Rochester, Irondequoit and Toronto, Canada. His work can be seen on Sandringham Road, Ambassador Drive, Trevor Court, Southern Parkway, Claybourne Road, Pelham Road and others. There is no doubt that the owners of these homes appreciate the fine detail that was incorporated.

Carl Traver designed each property to be unique. He put his signature on his designs by specifying quality construction techniques and materials that have withstood the test of time. He had a great aesthetic sense and thought it very important to have each of his designs be unique.

The comfortable interior layouts still work for today's families even though they were designed more than 75 years ago. There is no wasted space in a Traver house. All rooms are bright and cheerful and boast large closets and dressing areas in an era when closets were all but an after-thought. The rooms are spacious, but there is no wasted space anywhere. Carl Traver quietly designed some of Brighton's finest homes and some of Rochester's finest buildings.

CARL TRAVER SCRAPBOOK

Photographs at the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Rochester Library.



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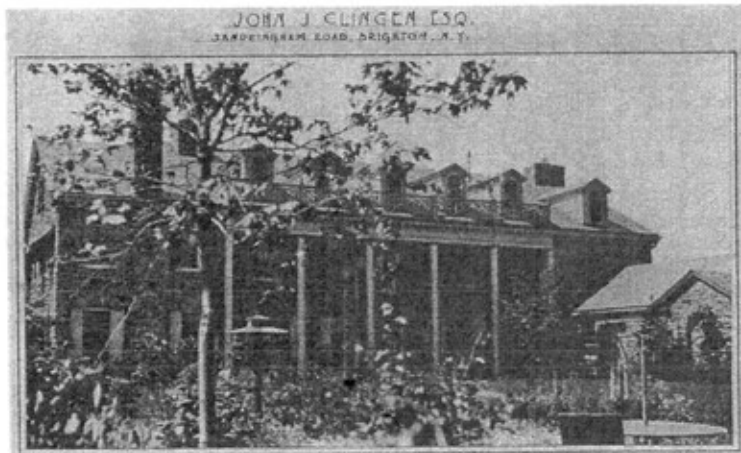
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CARL TRAVER SCRAPBOOK

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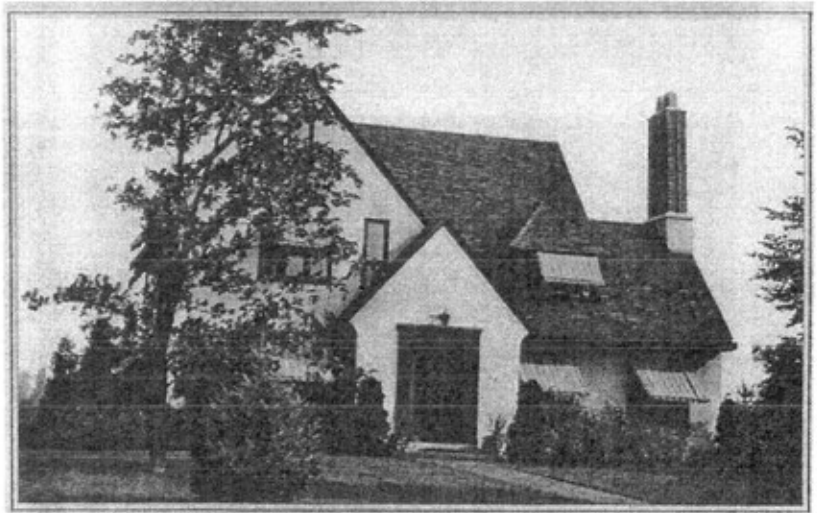
MR. WILLIAM C. DALEY
AMBASSADOR DRIVE, BRIGHTON, N. Y.



JOHN J. CLINGER ESQ.
SARDENHAM ROAD, BRIGTON, N. Y.

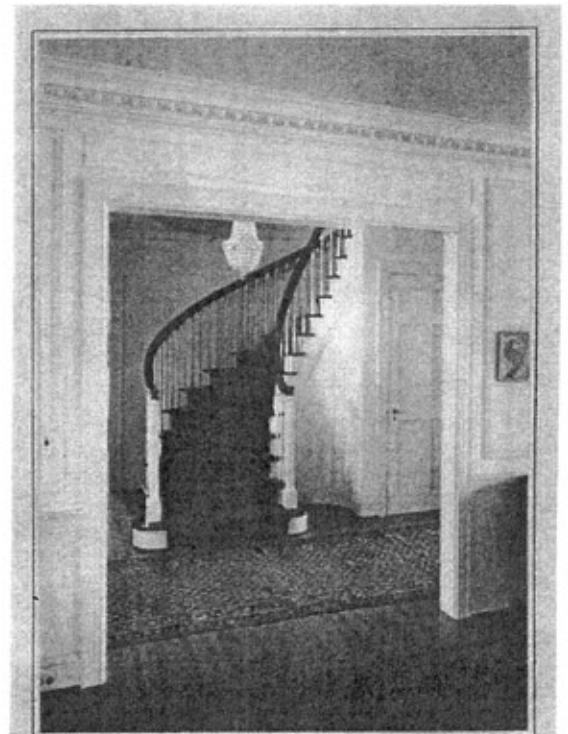
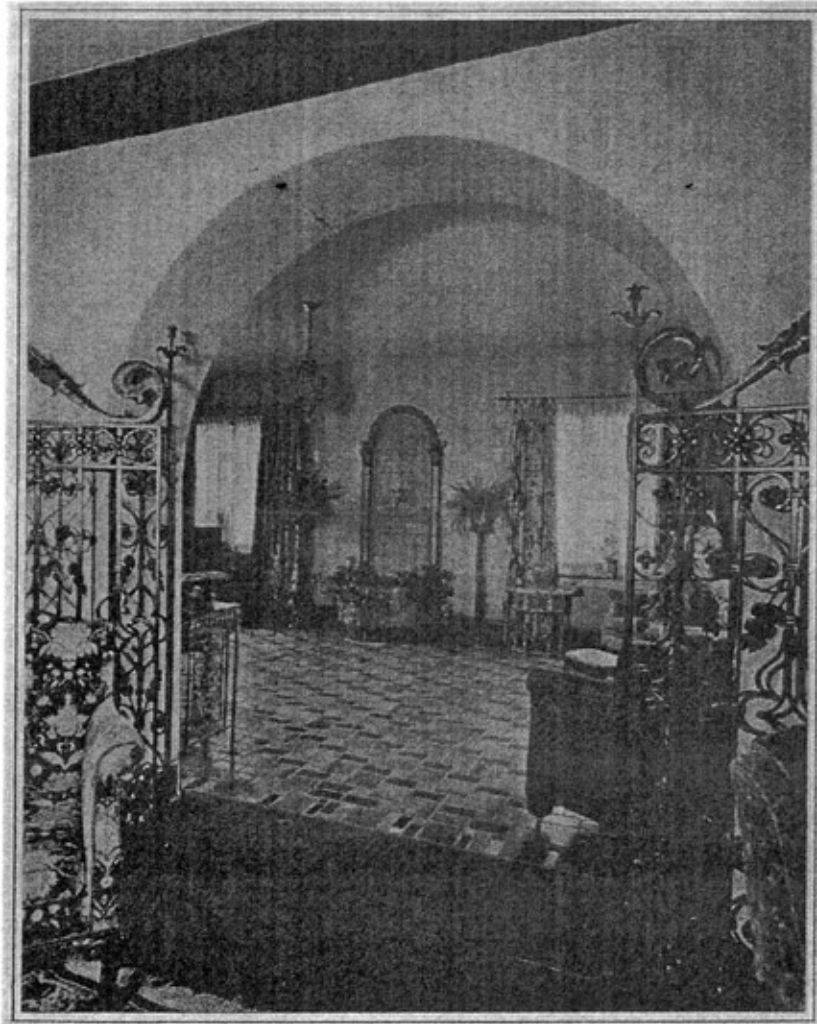
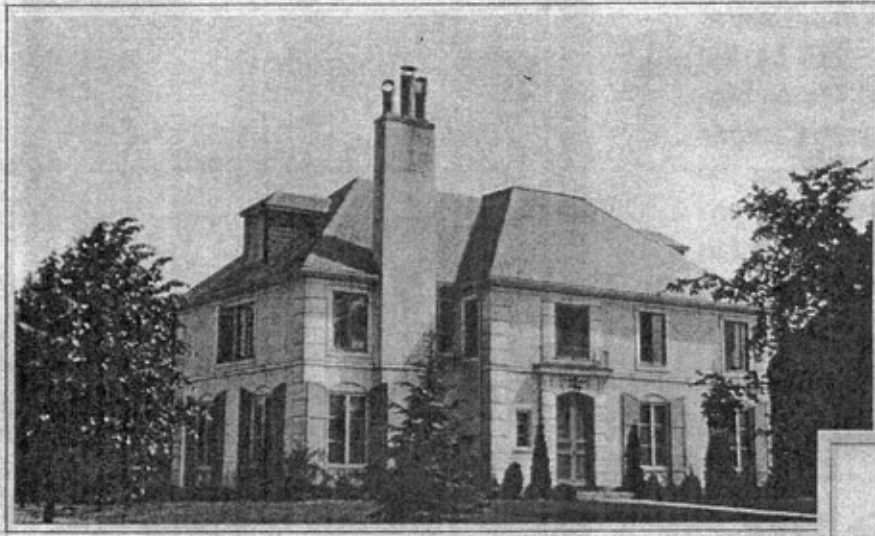


JOHN J. CLINGER ESQ.
SARDENHAM ROAD, BRIGTON, N. Y.



CARL TRAVER SCRAPBOOK

Renderings at the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Rochester Library.



CARL TRAVER WORKED FOR GORDON AND KAELEBER FOR MANY YEARS

Carl Traver worked for Gordon and Kaelber for many years, as did many other area architects. With the 1918 commission to design the Eastman Theatre and School of Music, followed in 1920 by the School of Medicine and Dentistry and Strong Memorial Hospital and in 1925 by the River Campus of the University of Rochester, the firm became the area's largest. More than forty draftsmen were employed during this heyday of architectural work. On their own and as a sideline, they designed houses for developers and clients.



Carl Traver's own house



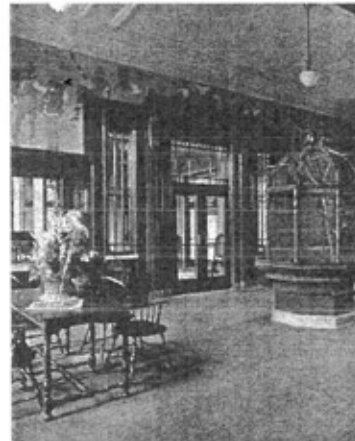
Another Traver house



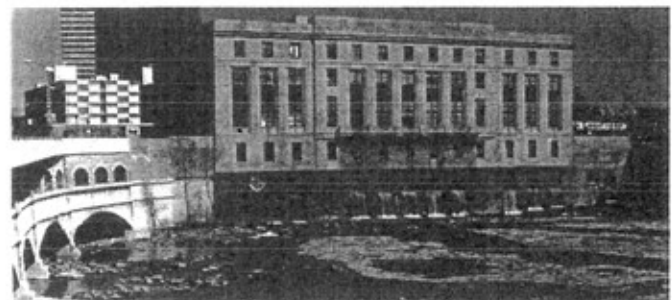
Carl Traver designed Gleason Works for Gordon & Kaelber



Carl Traver designed the Baptist Temple with Gordon & Kaelber



Gordon & Kaelber were the architects of the Eastman Dental Center and Sts Peter and Paul Church



The Rundell building was designed by William Kaelber in the 1930s

GORDON AND KAEHLER SCRAPBOOK



The principals: Edwin Gordon and William Kaelber



THREE HOUSES ON CLOVER STREET, BRIGHTON, N. Y.



HOUSE FOR DR. EDWIN S. INGERSOLL, BRIGHTON, N. Y.

Gordon & Kaelber, Architects



7



HOUSES IN BROWNCROFT

Gordon & Kaelber, Architects





HISTORIC BRIGHTON NEWS

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HISTORIC BRIGHTON MEETING

Tuesday, May 6 at 7:15 p.m. Brighton Town Hall Auditorium
2300 Elmwood Avenue

Cynthia Howk presents:

DISCOVER BRIGHTON: 200 YEARS OF HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE



Tudor Revival house at 239 Sandringham Drive

Come and discover the wide variety of historic buildings, structure, objects, sites, and neighborhoods that define the history and architecture of Brighton, showing over 200 years of the "built environment" in one of Monroe County's most historic communities. This slide talk will provide an "armchair tour" of your own town and highlight its architectural treasures!

Cynthia Howk is the Architectural Research Coordinator on the staff of The Landmark Society of Western New York, one of the oldest historic preservation organizations in the U.S. Founded in 1937, it serves a 9-county area in the Genesee/Finger Lakes region. Its mission is to discover, protect and revitalize the architectural and related cultural heritage of the region, and to educate and inform the community about that heritage. Ms. Howk is a Rochester native and graduate of

Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia. She joined the Society staff in 1976 and since 1978, has been a member of their Preservation Services Division, where she coordinates the Historic Resources Inventories, annual preservation conference, and National Register program. In addition to working with individuals, organizations and government agencies, she lectures extensively on regional history and architecture.

Carl Traver, architect

2-5

Historic Brighton's Fifth Annual Summer Tour, June 27-28

6-7

Disc golf in Brighton

8

CARL TRAVER, ARCHITECT: HE DESIGNED SOME OF BRIGHTON'S FINEST HOMES

By Arlene A. Vanderlinde



*Photograph courtesy of
Department of Rare Books
and Special Collections,
University of Rochester
Library*

2

The Town of Brighton boasts some of the finest early twentieth century homes in America. Neighborhoods such as Home Acres, the Houston Barnard Tracts and others, have some of the best examples of the Tudor, Colonial and Mediterranean Revival styles found anywhere. The finest materials and craftsmanship were employed and these homes have beautifully withstood the test of time, both in style and condition.

Some of the most prominent architects of this period designed locally. Many even called Rochester and Brighton their home. One such architect was Carl R. Traver, 1890-1985. His name isn't known to most, but Mr. Traver made wonderful contributions to the quality of life in Brighton through the many substantial homes he designed for his clients. Research didn't reveal the date of his death, where he had lived locally or information about his family life. The University of Rochester Rare Books Department houses a portfolio of photographs of his work and limited information about his early years. That was the only source that was found, yet this man designed Gleason Works, Graflex, the Ritter-Clark Memorial at RIT, the main Central Trust Company building downtown, Castle-Wilmot Company, the Temple Building and dozens of exquisite homes in Brighton, Rochester, Irondequoit and Toronto, Canada.

The home of Thillman Fabry, at 101 Southern Parkway, was designed by Carl Traver in 1913. Fabry and Traver had worked on the Temple Building together through the architectural firm of Gordon and Kaelber and no doubt, came to greatly respect each others' work. Their collaboration on Mr. Fabry's home resulted is a blending of the work of a genius artisan in Mr. Fabry and expert architectural design by Mr. Traver. Carl Traver also designed the home at 75 Southern Parkway (1923). He also designed homes at 40 Sandringham Road (1929), 199 Ambassador Drive (1928), 42 (1945) and 55 Trevor Court, and 472 Claybourne Road (1928). He lived in a house of his own design at 315 Cobbs Hill Drive. There is no doubt that the owners of these homes appreciate the fine detail that was incorporated. Carl Traver was born in Rochester in 1890. He graduated from West High School and studied at the University of Pennsylvania College of Architecture 1914-16. His work in architecture began in 1909 when he worked in the architectural offices of Gordon & Madden. From 1911-1914, he worked as a senior draftsman at Hutchinson & Cutler. Back at Gordon & Madden in 1917, he was a delineator and draftsman, until World War I beckoned him into the service in the Construction Division of the US Army Air Service. Following the War he worked briefly in England in construction.



*Gleason Works,
University Avenue*

Kate Gleason sent Leo Waasdorp of Gordon & Kaelber to Washington, D.C., to see the Pan American building so the architects could use it as a model.

In 1920, Traver earned his registration as an architect in New York State and entered professional practice here. He was a charter member of the Rochester Society of Architects. He associated with Gordon & Kaelber on the Baptist Temple and also designed the North Side Furniture House, Irondequoit District

School #5 and the Irondequoit Firehouse on Culver Road. In 1942, Mr. Traver became architect for John Pike & Son, and designed many of the buildings mentioned earlier in this article.

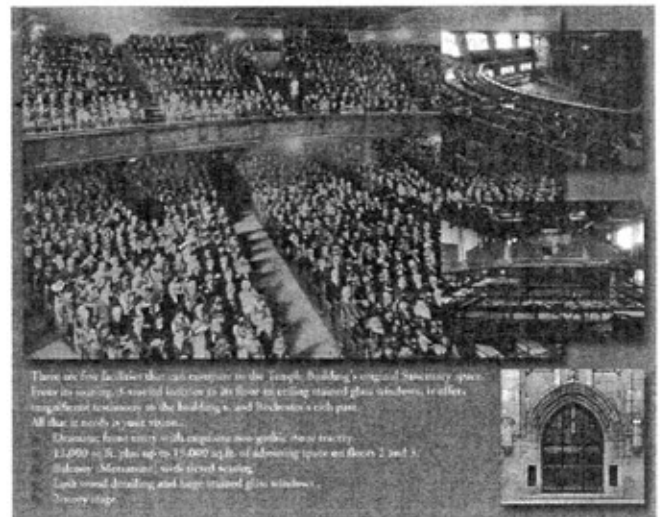
If you live in a Traver-designed home, we would like to hear from you.

3



BAPTIST TEMPLE, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Gordon & Kaelber, Architects
Carl R. Traver, Architect



There are five facilities built-in complete in the Temple building's original sanctuary space. These facilities include: 200 seats in the balcony; 200 seats in ceiling raised glass windows; 100 seats in the sanctuary; 200 seats in the building's and balcony's each part. All that is nearly a unit space.
 Capacity: front entry with complete new gallery, new transept, 12,000 sq. ft. plus up to 15,000 sq. ft. of additional space on floor 2 and 3.
 Features: Memorial, wide direct seating.
 Each room, double and large stained glass windows.
 Trinity 1939

*Delineation of Baptist Temple, left
Brochure with sanctuary and door, above*

Sources: University of Rochester Library - Rare Books Division .

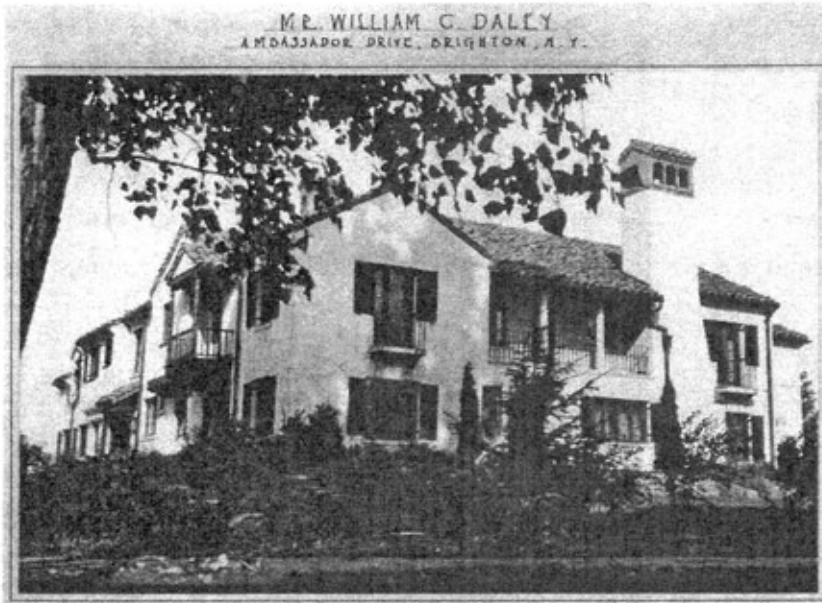
Architecture and Architects of Rochester, NY - Carl and Ann Schmidt, 1959

A Chronicle of Architecture and Architects in Rochester - November 16, 1939

Special thanks to Elizabeth Hansen

CARL TRAVER: THE MOST FAMOUS ARCHITECT THAT NO ONE HAS HEARD OF

By Julian Goldstein



Photographs pages 4-5 courtesy of Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Rochester Library

4

I live in a beautiful home that was designed by local architect Carl Traver, who designed homes and buildings in the area for over 40 years and died at age 95 in 1985. I have come to know several other owners of significant homes designed by Carl Traver in Brighton. I always liked their homes, but never until recently did I know that they were all designed by the same man. Many of us belong to a "club" that we didn't know existed. We all live in Carl Traver-designed homes.

If Carl Traver was so good, how come so many of us have never heard of him? Why isn't he famous like Syracuse-born Architect, Ward Wellington Ward? A possible answer is that Carl Traver designed each property to be unique. Maybe that is why none of us realized that they were all designed by the same man. We are all used to seeing tract homes that are all the same.

Before the era of tract homes and cookie-cutter office buildings, people used to employ an architect to do a custom design for their new home or building. Many of the most prominent homes in Brighton and Rochester, as well many fine commercial structures were designed by a man that few of us have heard of, yet we admire his work every time we drive down the beautiful streets of our area.

Carl Traver put his signature on his designs with quality construction techniques and materials that have withstood the test of time. He had a great aesthetic sense. All lines flow beautifully into one another. The comfortable interior layouts still work for today's families even though they were designed more than 75 years ago. Families tend to own their Carl Traver homes for long periods of time because they appreciate living with the high quality and comfort offered.

There are many reasons that Carl Traver homes are so comfortable to live in: They were built well and have aged well. Quality materials were used throughout the house. In my case, we stripped years of paint off the walls down to bare wood and were amazed at the quality of the wood that was used. The quality bath fixtures and the door knobs are still great 75 years later. The plaster walls are solid and have never cracked or settled. There was a tremendous attention to detail. Someone watched the houses being built; no short cuts were taken; no corners cut. The floor plans are very carefully designed. There is no wasted space anywhere in a Traver house. All the rooms are bright and cheerful. Even my attic and basement space were well thought out. In an era when most homes were being built with very small closets, Carl designed huge closets and dressing areas into his homes.



CARL R. TRAYER
COBBS HILL DRIVE

Trayer's own home on Cobbs Hill Drive

According to one restoration contractor, in life there are always "smart, little things" that you learn over time that makes your product or service better than someone else's. While restoring the house and taking it apart and putting it back together again, he was amazed to see first hand the "smart, little things" that Carl Trayer employed to ensure that his high-end homes such as the ones on Ambassador and Sandringham have lasted so well.

My home had suffered long-term neglect before I purchased it. The following quality construction details allowed my home to survive:

1. A 1½" air channel between the stone wall and the frame allowed the house to "breathe" with air circulating in the walls. In my case, there was extensive water damage, but this air channel saved the house by preventing moisture from being trapped in the walls and from mildew or mold forming. In today's world, black mold inside the house is the new fear for many homeowners. The air channel probably also prevented my plaster walls from moving and cracking over time.

2. Air vents on the exterior pillars allowed them to breathe and prevented them from rotting out. The pillars themselves were raised off the ground slightly on a concrete pad so that the wood wasn't always sitting in the water and rotting.

3. There are massive posts and beams in the attic to hold up the heavy slate roof preventing the roof from sagging.

4. The house was solidly built. My floors are built on steel I-beams and there is a layer of concrete in the floor. My exterior and interior walls are thick and solid.



Every contractor that had worked on my home was amazed that the structure was so solid given its age and the degree of neglect the house had suffered.

Between 1928-1945, Carl Trayer designed seven homes in the Houston Barnard neighborhood and made them all different and distinct.

- 80 Ambassador Drive - 1928 - 8026 sq. ft
- 199 Ambassador Drive - 1928 - 7795 sq. ft
- 40 Sandringham Road - 1929 - 5926 sq. ft
- 68 Sandringham Road - 1929 - 3714 sq. ft.
- 191 Trevor Court - 1930 - 3775 sq. ft
- 55 Trevor Court - 1934 - 2882 sq. ft
- 42 Trevor Court - 1945 - 4841 sq. ft