

Parkside Homes and Addition,
Administrative Building
12515 East Warren Avenue
Detroit
Wayne County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-409-A

HABS
MICH
82-DETRO,
63A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Great Lakes Systems Office
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-2571

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63A-

PARKSIDE HOMES AND ADDITION,
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
PARKSIDE HOMES AND ADDITION,
Administrative Building

Location: 12515 East Warren Avenue
Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

Quad: Grosse Pointe, Michigan 1:24,000

UTM: 17.337620.4694850

Dates of Construction: 1937-1938

Architects: Chandler Park Associates (George D. Mason,
Chief Architect)

Builder: John Griffiths & Son Construction Company of
Chicago

Present Owner: City of Detroit Housing Department
2211 Orleans Street
Detroit, MI 48207

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Administrative Building served as one of
the principle focal points of Parkside Homes,
containing the administrative offices. Here,
residents paid their rent, filed complaints,
or made requests of management. The building
also contained six retail stores which served
the residents at a time when there was little
commercial development in the immediate
vicinity of Parkside.

Historian: Charles K. Hyde, Wayne State University,
Detroit, Michigan 48202, July 1996.

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The Administrative Building has three distinct interconnected segments - an office segment in the center, where tenants paid their rent, and two store buildings which flank the office and contained three stores in each. When the housing project first opened, these included a grocery store, meat market, drug store, beauty shop, dry cleaning store, and other businesses.¹

The rectangular office building in the middle is 49 feet 6 inches long, 51 feet wide, with a side-gabled roof and a full basement. Its slightly larger width and gabled roof set it apart from the adjoining buildings. Two semi-circular concrete steps lead to a wooden entrance door protected by an awning (not original) and flanked by three sets of steel sash casement windows, each with eight panes. The building rests on a stone foundation and the windows have stone sills. A stone marker reading "A.D. 1937" is found at the southwest corner of the office segment.

The office section is flanked by two flat-roofed rectangular single-story store buildings, each 62 feet long and 50 feet wide. They were originally divided into three stores, each measuring 20 feet by 50 feet. Each store had a central entrance door flanked by large plate glass windows. Both store wings were converted into single stores, with most of the space previously taken by plate glass windows infilled with cinder blocks on the lower level and small windows on the upper level. All three buildings are finished in red brick and use the common bonding system where five courses of stretchers are used for every course of headers. The rear (north side) of the office building has a flat-roofed segment (13 feet by 49 feet 6 inches), giving the combined buildings a rectangular shape. Brick quoining is used in projecting brick panels on the rear facade of the office building to set it apart from the store buildings. Similar quoining on the front of the store building separates the individual stores.

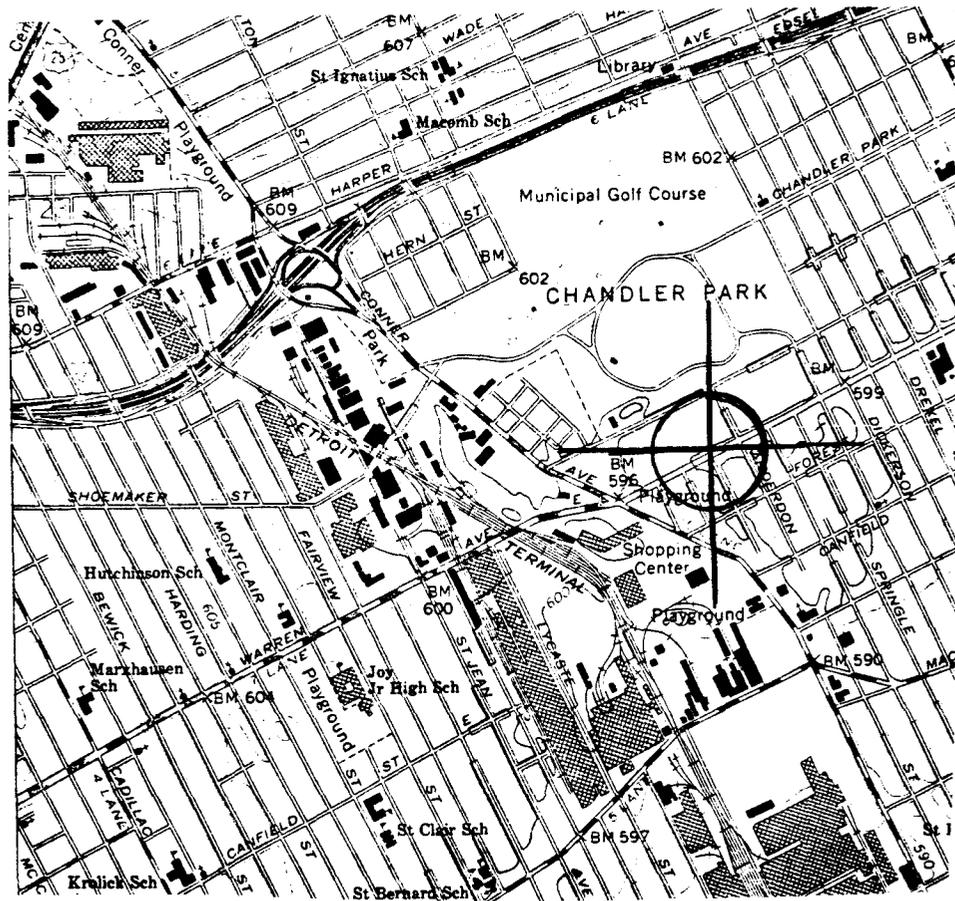
The interiors have undergone multiple renovations during the 1950's and 1960's. The cashier's counter and windows are the only features intact from the original construction.

¹Donald Slutz, "Parkside Passes Year Test of New Design For Living," Detroit News, 16 October 1939, p. 9.

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GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000

UTM: 17.337620.4694850



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FLOOR PLAN

