

## Arden Park-East Boston Historic District

General boundaries: Arden Park, East Boston, Woodward, Oakland.

Local  
State  
State Marker  
National        ✓        4/29/82



200 block E. Boston streetscape.



### **Historic Overview:**

Arden Park-East Boston is significant as an intact upper-class residential development illustrating domestic architectural styles of the early twentieth century. It has also housed many prominent industrialists and professionals. The name Arden Park was given to the area in 1910 when real estate broker Max Broock changed the name of prestigious East Chicago Boulevard to Arden Park. Broock was influential in marketing the Arden Park neighborhood. The use of the Woodward Avenue frontage as open space was an important design decision and an excellent selling point. In 1924, the City obtained two Woodward parcels for park purposes. Currently, the northeast corner of Woodward and Boston remains park space.

The development of Arden Park coincided with a period of rapid growth and expansion in Detroit's commercial and industrial sectors. This led to the emergence of a large group of newly wealthy industrialists, merchants, and professionals. The Arden Park area provided an exclusive neighborhood for these entrepreneurs. Some noted early residents include Frederic Fisher, John Dodge, and J.L. Hudson. By 1940, black professionals began to move into the neighborhood, such as: Dr. Dewitt Burton, founder of the Burton Mercy Hospital; Charles Diggs, Sr., first black elected to the Michigan State Senate and owner of the House of Diggs funeral homes, and first black to serve on Wayne State University's Board of Governors; and Dr. Haley Bell, dentist, and the first black to receive a FCC license to operate a radio station. Within the Arden Park-East Boston area are some of the city's most outstanding examples of residential design.

