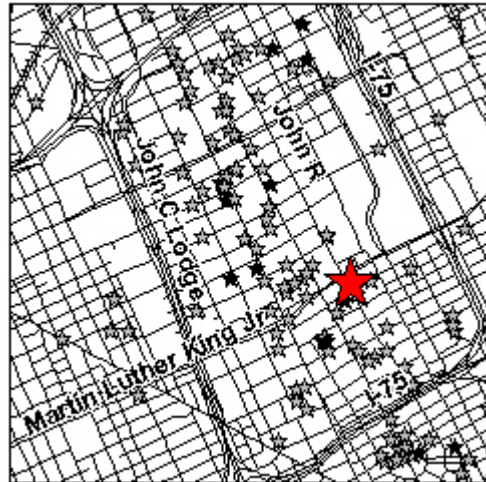


Albert Kahn House

208 Mack Avenue

Current Name: Detroit Urban League

Local		
State	✓	3/2/76
State Marker	✓	8/29/78
National	✓	10/18/72



Albert Kahn House

Historic overview:

The famous industrial architect Albert Kahn constructed this home for himself in 1906. The exterior is a combination of brick and stucco with stone trim. He used new engineering materials such as reinforced concrete while respecting architectural tradition. Kahn added an addition in 1928 in part for his expanding library and art collection. In 1942, after Kahn's death, the Detroit Urban League purchased the house, and is now the League's headquarters.

Kahn was born in Germany in 1869, and immigrated to America at age 11 with his family. He revolutionized the field of industrial architecture with single story buildings that were efficient and practical. He designed many structures for the automobile industry as well as for the United States during both World Wars. In the late 1930s Kahn was responsible for nearly one fifth of all U.S. industrial buildings, employing over 600 people.¹ "He was responsible not only for almost all of the major industrial plants of the Big Three and other auto manufacturers in the US, but also for aviation industry plants, hospitals, banks, commercial buildings, public buildings, temples, libraries, clubs and over one hundred beautiful mansions."² Kahn further molded twentieth century architecture as influential architects of the Bauhaus movement embraced Kahn's "International Style".

¹ http://www.greatbuildings.com/architects/Albert_Kahn.html

² <http://wwnet.com/~lboileau/kahn/>

