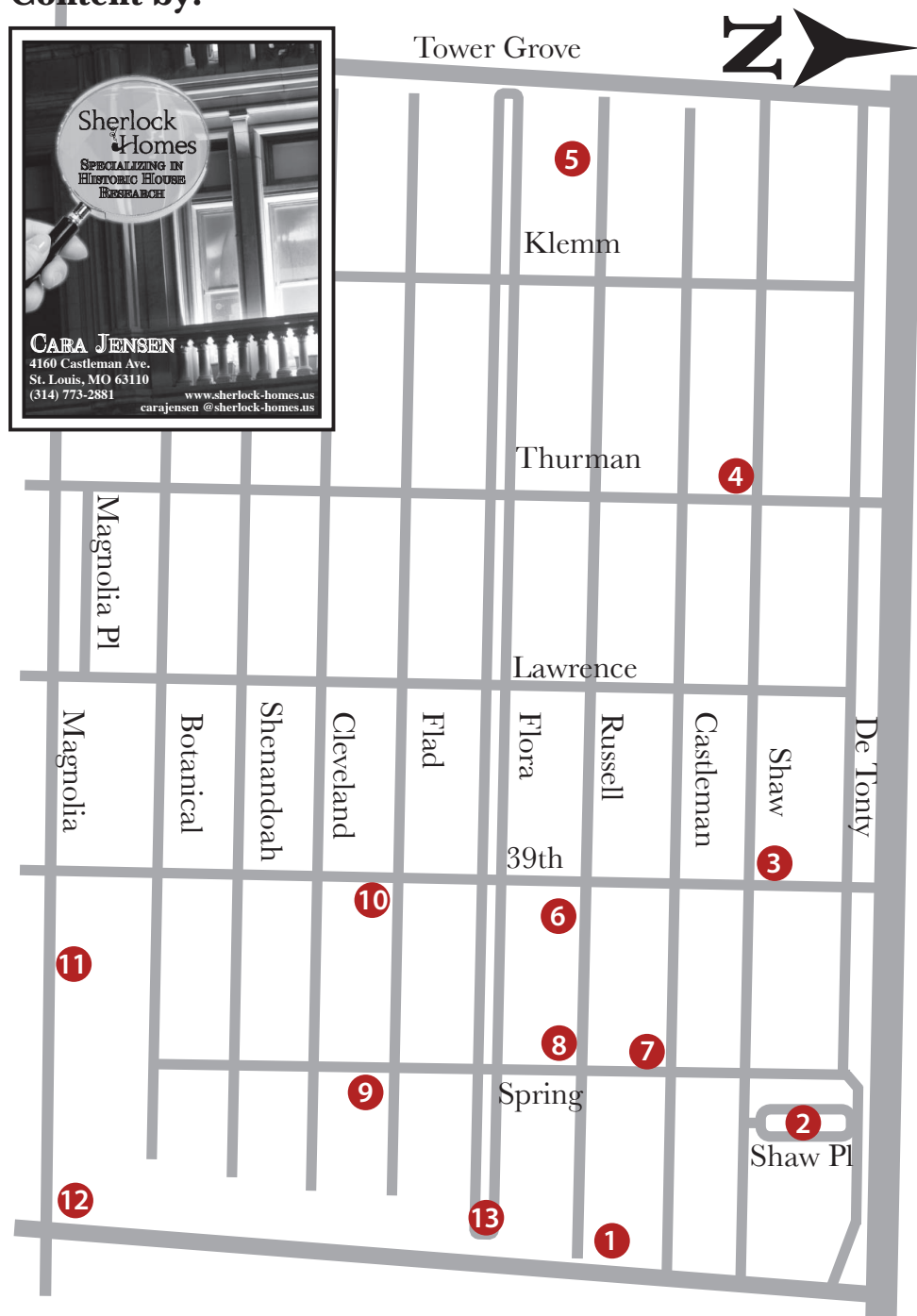
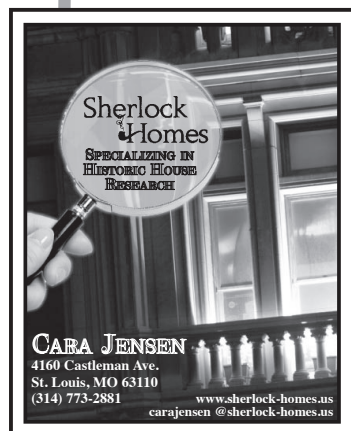


Content by:



SNHC Walking Tour

SHAW NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING CORPORATION

A premier location when it was founded in the 1880s, the Shaw neighborhood has undergone a rebirth with the past decade's renewed interest in city living. Shaw has a wide range of housing stock, primary built between 1880 and 1930. Each home reflects the architecture of its time reminding us of the fine art of home building from a century ago. For a map of houses on the tour, see the back page.

1. Saum Hotel And Apartments

(corner of S. Grand and Castleman Ave.)
- The beautiful Art Deco Saum Hotel and Apartments, designed by brothers Thomas and Frank Saum, opened in 1926 and offered guests deluxe accommodations. It featured a lounge, restaurants, and shops on the first floor with 112 apartments as well as an eight-room penthouse and roof garden. In the late 1930's, Bothers Everett and Claude Agnew started a "Social Club" and the infamous Eddie Randle and The Blue Devils played every Tuesday night. They were considered the best, most popular dance band in St. Louis at the time and Miles Davis played his first gig with them.

2. Shaw Place

Built by Henry Shaw, the St. Louis philanthropist who developed the Missouri Botanical Garden in 1879. His purpose in building Shaw Place was to duplicate a street he remembered from his native England. It consists of an oval drive enclosing a central parkway. Around the perimeter of an oval

drive are 10 red brick houses with large windows and Victorian decoration, designed by George I. Barnett. A unique feature of these homes is that each has a bricked-up window, symbolic of a supposed English custom of closing off windows to reduce taxes based on the total number in each house.

3. Shaw Place Theatre

(3901 Shaw) The Shaw Theatre opened in 1915 as part of the Arthur theatre chain (Franchon & Marco) and seated 1,140. A single floor theatre with a plain front and a rather large lobby for a small neighborhood theatre. Located right on the corner of Shaw and 39th Street in the middle of the neighborhood shopping center it was rather unique in that it was built up from the street level and you had to climb about five steps to get to the entrance level. The marquee was made to stretch around the corner so that one side was on 39th and the other on Shaw. The theater was converted into a drug store in 1957 after live entertainment gave way to television.

4. Imo's Building (4100 Shaw) Ed and Margie Imo opened their first pizza parlor in 1964 at Thurman and Shaw Avenues in St. Louis. The pizza making operation started on the south side of the building along Thurman. It was open evenings only, offering pick-up and delivery. They hired a pizza chef to prepare the South St. Louis-style pizza they loved, using Provel® cheese instead of mozzarella on that famous thin crust. Imo's Pizza now has more than 90 stores, most located in the greater St. Louis area.

5. Early childhood house of Charles Eames (4252 Russell) Charles Eames was a renowned modern architect/designer/furniture maker in the late 1940s, as part of the Arts & Architecture magazine's "Case Study" program, Ray (Charles' 2nd wife) and Charles designed and built the groundbreaking Eames House, Case Study House #8, as their home. Located upon a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, and hand-constructed within a matter of days entirely of pre-fabricated steel parts intended for industrial construction. The Eameses embraced the era's visionary concept of modern design as an agent of social change, Charles and Eero Saarinen (designer of the St. Louis Arch), introduced the new technique of molded plywood into furniture design and began a commercial collaboration with the Herman Miller company in the 1940s.

6. First St. Margaret's Church (3868 Russell) The building located at 3868 Russell was the first location of the St. Margaret's parish church. It was in a former meat market. Store fixtures served as the altar, vestments were said to have been kept in an icebox, there was a small pump organ, and a white cross was hung above the door. Forty-five families joined the newly-appointed pastor Fr. John J. O'Brien for the first Mass on Christmas Day, 1899.

7. Joy of Cooking Author Irma Von Starkloff Rombauer (3803 Flad) There is a special significance to the book's place on the shelves of our kitchens – Joy of Cooking was conceived in the Shaw neighborhood. Written in the 1920s by Irma von Starkloff Rombauer as a collection of recipes for her Unitarian Women's Alliance, it was first tested and illustrated by her daughter, Marion Rombauer Becker. The entire Rombauer clan inhabited Shaw - Julius and Ernest living with their families in the 3600 block of Flora and the Edgar and Irma Rombauers living at 3803 Flad.

8. Tyler Place Presbyterian Church (Castleman/Spring) The Tyler Place Presbyterian Church is the only Shaw institution to retain the original subdivision name. Organized in 1896 as a Sunday school, they rented a house at 3809 Flad for sessions until 1901, when the first services were held in the present church. In 1927, a basement was blasted into the church's solid rock foundation to create additional space.

9. Temple Apartments (formally B'Nai El Temple) 3666 Flad This is the oldest surviving structure built for a Jewish congregation in St. Louis. The building with its twin octagonal towers was built by John Ludig Wees in a Romanesque-Byzantine style. It was dedicated as B'nai El Temple in 1906, with a membership of nearly two hundred families, many of them middle-class merchants and professionals of German descent from the Shaw neighborhood. (National Register status)

10. Current St. Margaret's Church (3854 Flad) It took eight years to move from that storefront to the church located at 3854 Flad. Four lots at 39th and Flad were purchased, plans were drawn up by the architectural firm of Barnett, Haynes, and Barnett (designers of many of Henry Shaw's properties, including Tower Grove House), a building fund was started, and the cornerstone of the so-called Celtic style church was finally laid in April 1906. By now there were 400 families in the parish, and the building was dedicated with a Pontifical High Mass on Thanksgiving Day, 1907. The eloquent sermon was delivered by the young Archbishop John J. Glennon. The new church's interior was dominated by a large stained glass window, behind the main altar, depicting the Crucifixion. Dark oak pews could seat 1200 and brass chandeliers with heavily frosted globes lit the congregation.

11. Missouri School For The Blind (3815 Magnolia) The Missouri School for the Blind began as a private charitable institution in 1851, with the state assuming responsibility for its operation four years later. It had several homes in St. Louis before moving to its present site in 1906. In 1860, owing largely to the efforts of trustee Simon Pollack, became the first residential school in the United States to use Braille as a reading system.

12. Beauvais Mansion (3625 Magnolia) The central portion of this building is a 3-story Greek Revival mansion built around 1867 for Rene Beauvais, a St. Louis silversmith and jeweler of French-Canadian heritage. At the time of construction it sat at the western boundary of the city limits and it is one of the few surviving Greek Revival style buildings remaining in St. Louis. After Beauvais' death in 1876, the St. Louis Women's Christian Association opened the mansion as a home for the elderly. Currently the original mansion is used for social functions and resident activities.

13. Flora Place Gate - Designed in by Weber & Groves in 1897, Flora's east-end gateway marks the entrance to a six-block-long private place. Henry Shaw envisioned the street as a fitting approach west from Grand Avenue to the entrance of his Missouri Botanical Garden.