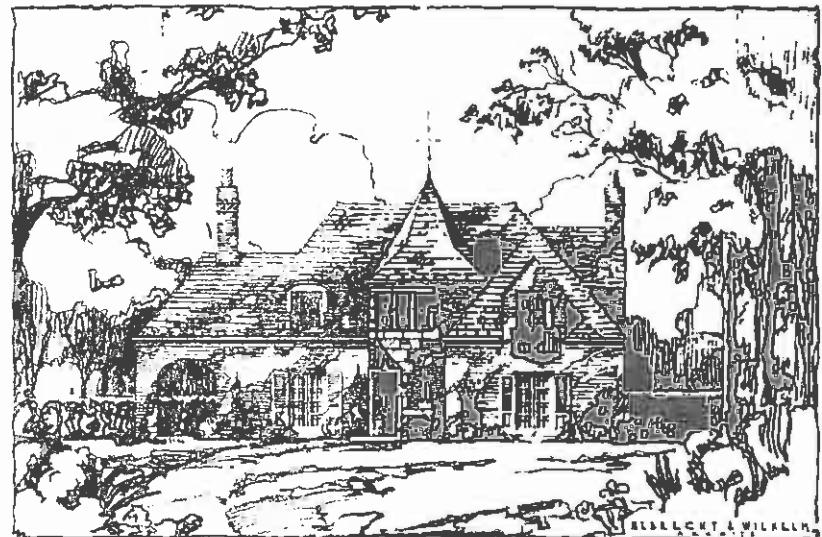


HERMAN  
J.  
ALBRECHT  
Architect  
1885 - 1961



## HERMAN J. ALBRECHT, ARCHITECT (1885-1961)

The strikingly handsome building which houses the Massillon Public Library and Museum was designed by the late Herman J. Albrecht. Had this been one of only several major works by an architect, its distinguished design would be reason enough to consider further the man's life and work; but an astonishing output of over seven hundred commissions of great artistic and technical merit can be credited to this one man. The Massillon Museum is privileged to present an exhibit of photographs, blueprints, and original drawings of many of the residences and buildings conceived by Mr. Albrecht.

In fifty years as an active architect Herman Albrecht was responsible for numerous public buildings other than the local Library and Museum. These include the West-side Library; the Orville Public Library; Lorin Andrews Junior High School; Whittier, Emerson, York, and Horace Mann Grade Schools; Tiger Stadium; Grace United Church of Christ; St. John's United Church of Christ; the Salvation Army Citadel; the former Stark Dry Goods building; the Howenstine Nurses' Home; Radio Station WHBC, Martin Luther Church, and Aultman Hospital in Canton; and Brown Memorial Hospital in Conneaut.

However, Mr. Albrecht often confessed that he enjoyed more than any other kind of work the designing of fine homes in the traditional styles.

"You really get a chance to live in a home before the owners do," he would say. "You live with the plans for months, changing and developing them, and sometimes you hate to give them up to the owner. Each house is a different and separate piece of planning. The owner's tastes and mode of living, the setting, and his interest in economy are reflected in the completed plans."

Of the five hundred residences in Mr. Albrecht's portfolio, at least seventy-five of them were built in Massillon, and there are more than fifty houses in the Hills and Dales and Avondale sub-divisions of Canton. In Hills and Dales is found the architect's master work, the stately Georgian baronial mansion built for T. K. Harris in 1930. A hundred other dwellings are located in Canton, with many in the Ridgewood and Market Heights areas. And there are Albrecht-designed homes in Lakewood, Rocky River, Shaker Heights, and other Cleve-

land suburbs, as well as in Dover, New Philadelphia, Mansfield, Wooster, Alliance, and Warren.

Virtually all of Massillon's fine major houses were originated by Herman Albrecht. Consider for a moment the simple dignity and symmetry of the Anthony Hammersmith home, built in 1919 for Chauncy Albright; the fascinating details and unusual brickwork of the Elizabethan-style city house constructed in 1924 for Miss Bessie Skinner; the magnificent proportions of the Georgian manor house built in 1924 for Mrs. Kathryn Albrecht; the excitingly raked heavy-slate roof of the former Elmer Vogt residence, 1926; the stunning hip roof and central chimney of the former Dr. R. J. Pumphrey dwelling, 1928; the commanding placement and inviting doorway of the Dr. J. S. Williams home, 1928; the picturesque roof and tower of the Willard Boerner residence, built in 1928 for Robert Bahney; the chaste elegance of the white-washed brick house erected in 1938 for Dr. M. E. Scott; the sprawling weathered-brick residence, with its complex roof line and many chimneys, built in 1939 for Mrs. R. P. L. McLain; the stone facade and imposing row of dormers found in the former home of Dr. R. R. Reynolds, 1941.

Herman J. Albrecht was born in Massillon in 1885. He graduated from Massillon High School in 1902 and from the School of Architecture at Ohio State University in 1908. He was elected to the American Institute of Architects in 1924. During two years of free-lance work after his graduation from college, he was engaged by the firm erecting the McClymonds building in Massillon, at a time when steel-frame construction was being pioneered. Soon after associating with Howell and Thomas in Columbus, he went to Cleveland with several men from that company to supervise a development of better homes in the Fairmont Boulevard-Cedar Road area.

For a number of years young Albrecht did work in Cleveland and Massillon. Then in 1919 the firm of Albrecht, Wilhelm, and Kelly was formed, with offices in both cities, later becoming Albrecht and Wilhelm in 1925. After Karl Wilhelm's death in 1946, Mr. Albrecht continued alone until his retirement in August of 1960. Mr. Wilhelm had been in charge of the Massillon office and supervised specifications and construction. The firm's two principal draftsmen had been Jules M. Franzen, who died in 1965, and Harold J. Rauber, who at

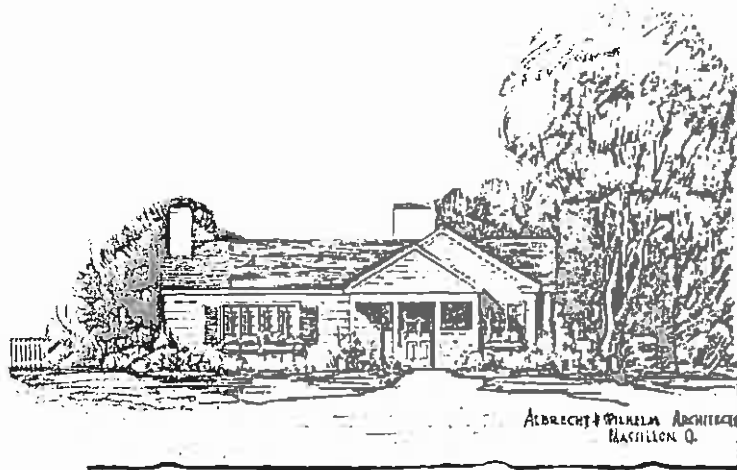
present is city building commissioner.

Herman Albrecht died in January of 1961, and was followed in death by his wife, the former Lucile Schrock of Massillon, whom he had married in 1910. Their home was in Lakewood, in a modest but distinctive Spanish-style house designed by Mr. Albrecht in 1920. A son, Robert S. Albrecht, with his wife presently resides in Lakewood. He is a graduate of the School of Fine Arts of the University of Pennsylvania, and is a retired marine designer with the American Shipbuilding Company.

Mr. Albrecht's apperceptive use of classical and traditional forms, coupled with his innate sense of proportion and composition, led to a new kind of architectural expression, far removed from the heavy-handedness of his predecessors. Finesse of design, enhanced by subtle and knowledgeable use of detail, was always his stock in trade. Sadly, Herman Albrecht's finest works were of a sort that will never return to the construction scene, but he has left us a vibrant treasury of beautiful buildings to enjoy for years to come.

March, 1966

THE MASSILLON MUSEUM  
MASSILLON, OHIO



Herman J. Albrecht designed more than 700 buildings of artistic and technical merit including 74 residences in Massillon, more than 50 in nearby Hills and Dales and Avondale, and 100 in other areas of Canton. The architect's master work, the stately Georgian baronial T.K. Harris mansion, is located in Hills and Dales.

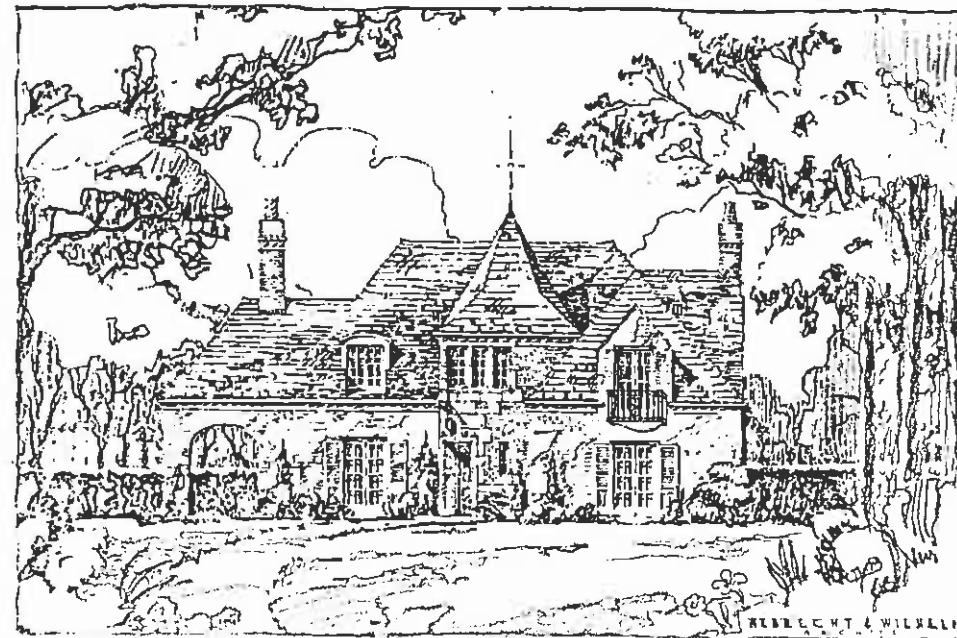
In Massillon, Mr. Albrecht designed the fascinating details and unusual brickwork of the Elizabethan-style house built at the corner of Chestnut and Fourth Street for Bessie Skinner; the magnificent proportions of the Georgian manor house constructed on Wales Road for Kathryn Albrecht; the excitingly raked slate roof of Elmer Vogt's Wellman Avenue residence; and the commanding placement and inviting doorway of the Dr. J.S. Williams home on Eleventh Street, N.E.

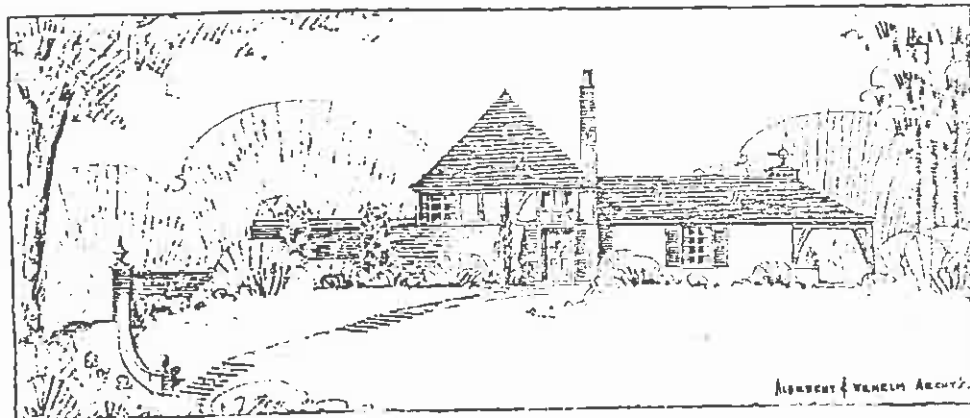
He enjoyed designing fine homes in traditional styles more than other work. "You really get a chance to live in a home before the owners do," he said. "You live with the plans for months, changing and developing them, and sometimes you hate to give them up to the owner."

He is, nevertheless, also well-known for public buildings such as the library addition to the Duncan home (now the Massillon Museum), Lorin Andrews Junior High School and several Massillon grade schools, Paul Brown Tiger Stadium, St. John's United Church of Christ, the Howenstine Nurses' Home, the WHBC building, and Aultman Hospital.

Mr. Albrecht graduated from Massillon High School in 1902 and from the School of Architecture at Ohio State University in 1908. He was engaged by the firm erecting the McClymonds building, but he soon associated with Howell and Thomas, supervising their development of better homes in Cleveland. In 1919 the firm of Albrecht, Wilhelm, and Kelly was formed with offices in Cleveland and Massillon. Six years later it became Albrecht and Wilhelm. During that era, Mr. Albrecht was elected to the American Institute of Architects. After Karl Wilhelm's death in 1946, Mr. Albrecht continued alone until his retirement in 1960.

"Herman J. Albrecht's perceptive use of classical and traditional forms, coupled with his innate sense of proportion and composition, led to a new kind of architectural expression," according to Jim Pahlau, who has made a lifetime avocation of researching Mr. Albrecht's designs. "His finesse of design, enhanced by subtle and knowledgeable use of detail, has left us a vibrant treasury of beautiful buildings."





**MASSILLON MUSEUM**  
212 Lincoln Way, East  
Massillon, Ohio 44646

216/833-4061

**NOVEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 30, 1991**

**Tuesday through Saturday**  
9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

**HERMAN J. ALBRECHT**  
**ARCHITECT**

