



The Bicentennial  
Guide to  
Greater Cincinnati:  
*A Portrait of  
Two Hundred Years.*



**The Cincinnati  
Historical Society**

the rose garden was discontinued, and the fountain was turned off.

Efforts to resurrect Ault Park got underway in the 1970s with an annual Fourth of July celebration here, fundraising drives, and evening dances. The formal gardens were restored and the fountain rededicated. By the late 1980s, a project to renovate the pavilion was also underway.

**Turn right on Principio Avenue, right on Crestwood Avenue, left on Aultwoods Lane.**

Planning for **26 The John Kilgour School**, 1399 Herschel Avenue, began on November 13, 1914, when Mary C. Kilgour (1841-1919) offered the Mt. Lookout Business Men's Club a gift of five acres to be used as a site for a school named after her late husband. At that time, Mt. Lookout's only school was a frame building on Delta Avenue where the first and second grades were taught. Older children traveled to Hyde Park's elementary school or high schools in Madisonville or Walnut Hills.

Dr. Gotthard Deutsch, a former member of the Board of Education and the dean of the faculty of Hebrew Union College, filed a protest with the board against accepting the offer. Cincinnati and its school system were humiliated, Deutsch wrote, when "the donation of a lot is considered sufficient reason to name a school for a deceased capitalist" who lacked "merits that are really historic or . . . the devotion of a lifetime of educational work," and who "was connected with two public utility corporations who [sic] have levied a tribute on every citizen in a manner which provoked just resentment." (Kilgour had been director of the Cincinnati Street Railway and president of the Cincinnati Suburban Telegraph & Telephone Exchange).

However, Mary Kilgour's gift was accepted. The John Kilgour School opened in 1922 and added wings in 1928 and 1940. Its middle-income, predominantly white (99% in 1970) student body has changed since the public schools' adoption of an open enrollment policy and the closing of Oakley and Lincoln Schools. In 1986-1987, Kilgour enrolled 435 students in grades K-6, 39% of them black.

Long recognized for its high

academic standards, Kilgour has continued to encourage achievement with programs for gifted children, a computer lab, and the Writing-to-Read program.

**Turn left on Herschel Avenue, right on Linwood Avenue.**

**27 Our Lord Christ the King Church**, 3223 Linwood Avenue, was built in 1927 by a Catholic parish established the previous year. On December 5, 1926, eighty-five worshippers came to the first Mass in a rented storeroom in the Lin-Del Building at the northeast corner of Linwood and Delta Avenues. Since the electricity had not been turned on, headlights from cars parked in front were used to light the room. The priest used the Army Mass kit he had retained from his service overseas during World War I.

These quarters quickly proved inadequate. Worshippers who could not crowd into the room had to follow the service as best they could by watching through the store's front windows. The priest took up residence in a building that also housed a beauty shop and dry cleaning establishment. A history of the church notes that "a large sign advertising the beauty shop hung directly over the Chapel entrance and caused some confusion, especially when the pastor in cassock and biretta happened to be standing outside the church and under the sign."

A drive to finance a parish building raised \$23,000, and a piece of land on Linwood Road at Ellison Avenue, close to the village square, was purchased from Edward Crotty and Myers Cooper. Work proceeded quickly. The first joist was placed on February 25, 1927, and the first Mass held on March 20. The 360-seat stucco church was built as a replica of the Franciscan Mission of San Juan Capistrano. A parish school opened in September with one hundred students.

Construction of a new school, designed by Cincinnati Edward J. Schulte, began in October 1936. On October 31, 1936, Cardinal Pacelli, later Pope Pius XII, had visited the parish and blessed the cornerstone of the school. Despite the 1937 flood, which interrupted construction, and a plasterers' strike, classes at the

Cardinal Pacelli School, 927 Ellison Avenue, opened in September for approximately 200 youngsters, grades 1-8.

Schulte was also the architect for the present church, construction of which was held up by World War II and post-war increases in labor and material costs. The old church was dismantled in 1956, and this modern limestone structure was dedicated May 22, 1957.

In 1987, the school enrolled 272 children and the church recorded 800 member families.

Conscious planning by developers shaped Hyde Park Square. By contrast, businesses, homes, churches and other institutions gradually located in and around **28 Mt. Lookout Square** because the intersection of Delta and Linwood Avenues was an important crossroads. In the early 1880s, several buildings and a post office were scattered near the intersection.

By 1925, when twenty-nine businesses already lined the one block of Hyde Park Square, Mt. Lookout's business district had about eighteen enterprises including a dry cleaners, two pharmacies, an undertaker's parlor, three groceries, a tinner, filling station, delicatessen, hardware store, medical offices, shoe store, and beauty shop.

Over the years, the Square has been changed to cope with automobile traffic. In 1931, the city created an island in the middle of the intersection and in 1952, turned that space into a parking area. By 1987, commercial activity had expanded along Delta and Linwood Avenues. There were several dozen assorted businesses—antiques shops, insurance company and medical offices, gift shops, a movie theater, convenience store, several restaurants, and more.

However, Mt. Lookout Square suffers somewhat in comparison to neighboring Hyde Park Square. Residents blame several factors for this: neglect by the city, the proximity of shopping plazas, and the apathy of the Mt. Lookout Merchants Association. But the district is generally varied and healthy, and provides a focal point for neighborhood identity.

**Tour ends.**

