Entrepreneurial Vernacular

Loeb, Carolyn S.

Published by Johns Hopkins University Press

Loeb, Carolyn S.

Entrepreneurial Vernacular: Developers' Subdivisions in the 1920s.

For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/71398

For content related to this chapter
https://muse.jhu.edu/related_content?type=book&id=2439536
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Even a modest project incurs great debts, and one of the pleasures of seeing it through to the end is being able to acknowledge them. Many people were generous with their time, knowledge, and encouragement, and I am grateful to have the opportunity here to thank them in some small measure.

Descendants of some of the developers and architects whose work this book is about kindly gave me access to information and documents. My thanks to Moyer Wood, Mari Shaw, James T. Hughes, and Bert E. Taylor Jr. for their generosity and trust. I also received helpful leads from Joseph Oldenburg, who researched the Ford Homes for landmark designation.

For their encouragement of this project at an early stage, I thank Elizabeth Blackmar and Gwendolyn Wright. I am also grateful for encouragement by the late Eugene Santomasso and the late Hanna Deinhard.

This book shares with many recent works an interest in how and why particular patterns of built form become commonplace; it also shares a method of approach that considers how architectural design can be affected by cultural, social, historical, and economic developments as well as by aesthetic decisions. For me, the bases for these perspectives were nurtured during my early, formative years as a scholar, when a generation of students struggled to make sense of the institutions they confronted. As to the work at hand, I owe an intellectual debt to many scholars of vernacular architecture and design who have made this field one of the richest and most dynamic in recent years. I have tried to acknowledge these throughout the text, but I apologize in advance to those inadvertently overlooked. The work and collegiality of those associated with the Vernacular Archi-
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

tecture Forum and the Society for American City and Regional Planning History have been especially valuable. In particular I thank Laurence Gerckens, founder of the latter, for creating a welcoming environment for scholars from all disciplines, and R. Eugene Harper for his service as a commentator on an early version of part of this book.

My colleagues in the Art Department at Central Michigan University have been steadfast in their support, for which I thank them. Two leaves of absence from my teaching responsibilities enabled me to launch this project. I appreciate grants I received from CMU’s Faculty Research and Creative Endeavors Committee that enabled me to present segments of this work at national and international conferences.

I am grateful for the support and editorial labors of David Schuyler, a consulting editor of the Creating the North American Landscape series, as well as those of George F. Thompson and Randall Jones of the Center for American Places, which nurtured this project through its final stages of development. My thanks, too, to anonymous reviewers and their insightful critiques. All responsibility for advice both gratefully taken and stubbornly rejected is my own.

I thank Katherine McCracken for sharing her editorial expertise, and Cheryl Dusty-DeLauro, graphics production coordinator at CMU, for help with illustrations.

Finally, my deepest thanks to comrades Fran Nesi, Gail Radford, Linda O. Stanford, and Marjorie Thau for their solidarity; to Ann Peterson; and to Richard Peterson for his companionship on all the journeys.