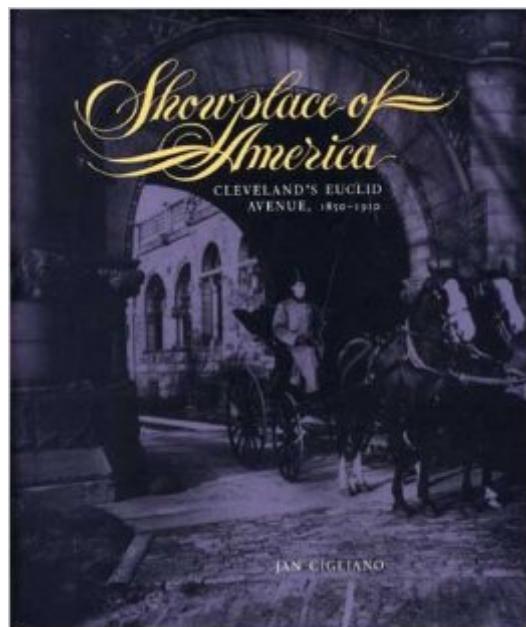


The book was found

Showplace Of America: Cleveland's Euclid Avenue, 1850-1910 (Ohio)



Synopsis

In cooperation with Western Reserve Historical Society Euclid Avenue, which runs through the heart of downtown Cleveland, was for 60 years one of the finest residential streets of any city in 19th century America. Showplace of America is the fascinating account of the rise and fall of this elegant promenade, including portrayals of the eminent architects who created its opulent residences and colorful details about the lives of the wealthy people who occupied them. The families who resided within this linear, four-mile neighborhood epitomized Midwestern grandeur in the second half of the 19th century. The 1893 Baedeker's travel guide to the United States labeled it "one of the most beautiful residence-streets in America," as others hailed it "Millionaires' Row," the finest avenue in the west, and the most beautiful street in the world. Modeled after the grand boulevards of Europe, this magnificent neighborhood was distinguished for the prominence of its architects as well as the families who lived there. Local architects Jonathan Goldsmith, Charles W. Heard, Levi T. Scofield, Charles F. Schweinfurth, and Coburn & Barnum and national firms Peabody & Stearns and McKim, Mead & White created houses that were stunning monuments to Cleveland and America's growing prosperity. Ironically, the tremendous success of Cleveland's industry and commerce, which had nurtured the rise of this grand avenue, fostered its fall. Downtown commerce expanded along the avenue at the sacrifice of its leading entrepreneurs' residential have. The houses were demolished as the avenue became what is today--a neglected urban thoroughfare. Photographs and illustrations from the archives of the Western Reserve Historical Society and other repositories are published here for the first time, documenting both the glory and decline of the "showplace of America."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A wonderful trip back to Millionaire's Row, and the unbelievable homes that lined Cleveland's Euclid Avenue (including the fascinating men who built them), in the late 1800's. Plenty of pictures too. A must book for any lover of Cleveland history.

IMHO this is the diffinitive book on Euclid Avenue. I know that the earlier book is very good, but Ms. Cigliano goes into more depth. Ms. Cigliano has done an amazing job of researching the history of the street itself, the proprietors, the tradesmen, the times, and the city itself, which growth was a major cause of the demise of the old city. I commend Ms. Cigliano for not forgetting about the tradesmen (the builders, the planners, the photographers, and the servants) who also made the street what it was. The detail she goes into about the styles of the homes, and when they were more popular, is very well researched and detailed. She goes into the materials used, the more prevalent tradesmen who made those styles, and which types of families were more prone to request those homes. With pictures and tables to back up her research. It's hard reading about the Anthony Carlin place, after seeing it in poor shape, and then the fact that it couldn't be saved. (which I think it could've with some ingenuity) So now there are only six homes on the Avenue left. I had read this book many years ago when it originally came out. And after more than a decade it was worth putting my money out to purchase this grand book for my home, especially that I no longer live in Cleveland. That's a rare case for this library lover, which indicates how much I believe this book is worth puchasing as a treasure for one's home.

I've been interested in Cleveland history for quite a long time. In particular, Euclid Avenue and Millionaire's Row. I came across this book and had to have it. I have several Cleveland books but this one is by far the most informative and interesting. I picked up the book and can't stop reading it; I find myself "cheating" and skipping to the next page to see another mansion. The author really did her research and the product is an amazing book that's hard to put down!

My ninety year old father used to work in Cleveland during the late 1940's and had forgotten what some of the old buildings looked like and where they were located. Just seeing an old landmark

caused a lot of memory recall of his younger days.

I am a Clevelander, and I enjoyed this book. It gives the reader a glimpse of when Cleveland was much smaller all the way through the mid-20th century.

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