



# 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.

**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

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England. In pattern, 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.

**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. 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.

**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. 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

## **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.

## **9. Current St. Margaret's Church (3854 Flad)**

A building fund was started, and the cornerstone of the so-called Celtic style church was finally laid in April 1906. The building was dedicated with a Pontifical High Mass on Thanksgiving Day, 1907

**10. 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 in a Romanesque-Byzantine style. It was dedicated as B'nai El Temple in 1906.

## **11. Missouri School For The Blind (3815 Magnolia)**

The Missouri School for the Blind began as a private charitable institution in 1851. 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. After Beauvais' death in 1876, the St. Louis Women's Christian Association opened the mansion as a home for the elderly.

## **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.

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