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AROUND THE BLOCK Pontiac's Seminole Hills



Not far from downtown Pontiac, the picturesque Seminole Hills neighborhood remains true to its past. It's a historic district of 493 homes dating to the 1920s, when the burgeoning auto industry generated local prosperity. In the late 19th century, the 103-acre site was owned by M.E. Crofoot, a prominent Pontiac resident.

Bounded by Huron Street, Orchard Lake Road, and Voorheis, the neighborhood is diverse — both demographically and architecturally, with home styles including Tudor Revival, Period Revival and craftsman.

Winding, tree-lined streets carry the names of Native American tribes: Iroquois, Cherokee, Chippewa. It's one of the earliest examples of a romantic suburban street design with curves and slight hills — a marked departure from grid-pattern streets.

Six-year resident John Cohassey first saw the neighborhood when he was a child visiting an aunt who lived on Cherokee. "I was attracted to the variety of the housing styles in Seminole Hills, especially the eclecticism of 1920s architecture — both inside and out," says Cohassey, former vice chairman of the Pontiac Historic District Commission. "Many of us moved here because we like older homes and aren't attracted to those subdivision tracts of \$400,000 homes that all look alike."

— Bill Dow