

Flanner House Homes' Earliest Residents

Background

Flanner House was founded in 1898 as a “settlement house” agency to assist Black residents arriving in 19th-century migrations and subsequently in the Great Migration. In 1936 Cleo Blackburn was hired as the Flanner House director, advocating a “self-help” mantra that would remain the Flanner House philosophy through the Depression, post-war decline, and the Civil Rights movement. In 1946 Blackburn conducted a study of 454 households on the African-American near-Westside and concluded that the neighborhood was “one of the most unsightly, unsanitary, and deteriorated sectors in the entire city of Indianapolis.” Blackburn advised that it “is urgently recommended, that the clearance, planning, and redevelopment of this area under the Redevelopment Act of 1945 affords the only hope of correcting the conditions existing in the area. ... Immediate steps should be taken by the Indianapolis Redevelopment Commission to declare the area blighted and to acquire, clear, and redevelop it.”

Blackburn proposed tearing down a swath of homes and building “sweat equity” housing in which male head of households constructed their homes and the homes of their neighbors (women could not participate in home construction). The Redevelopment Commission purchased a 178-acre tract north of Crispus Attucks High School in November 1946, referred to as Project A, and after displacing the residents (none of whom were guaranteed acceptance into Flanner House Homes) they turned it over to Blackburn and Flanner House. Construction began in 1950 by a series of men whose families had been exhaustively reviewed by Flanner House, leaving Flanner House solidly peopled by middle-class African Americans.

Lynn Drive and Fall Creek Parkway East sat on the northern and western edges of the Flanner House Homes community. Homes on these streets did not appear in the city directory



Carpenters applying siding to a Flanner House Home (Ruth Lilly Special Collections and Archives, IUPUI University Library, [Flanner House \(Indianapolis, Ind.\) Records, 1936-1990](#))

until 1957, but it is possible that some of these homes were settled before then. Each table in this report includes the addresses and names as they are provided in the city directories, so there may be some mis-spelled names or mis-numbered houses.

- [Click here for a Google Maps view of the Flanner House Homes Neighborhood today](#)
- [Click here for a Google Maps view of Lynn Drive today](#)
- [Click here for a Google Maps view of Fall Creek Parkway East today](#)
- [Click here for a map of Indianapolis' African-American Suburbs that includes Flanner House Homes](#)



Lynn Drive East and West and Ransom Street in 1962

Lynn Drive East

1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
1411 Kimbrew Geo D	1411 Kimbrew Geo D	1411 Kimbrew Geo D	1411 Kimbrew Geo D	1411 Kimbrew Geo D
1412 Hyde Chas R	1412 Hyde Chas R	1412 Hyde Chas R	1412 Hyde Chas R	1412 Hyde Chas R
1417 Murrell Eddie L	1417 Murrell Eddie L	1417 Murrell Eddie L	1417 Murrell Eddie L	1417 Murrell Eddie L
1418 Hayes Ellis V	1418 Hayes Ellis V	1418 Hayes Ellis V	1418 Hayes Ellis V	1418 Hayes Ellis V
1423 Eley Roger	1423 Eley Roger	1423 Eley Roger	1423 Eley Roger	1423 Eley Roger
1424 Burton Lee G	1424 Burton Lee G	1424 Burton Lee G	1424 Burton Lee G	1424 Burton Lee G
1429 Berry Geo	1429 Berry Geo	1429 Berry Geo Jr.	1429 Berry Geo Jr.	1429 Berry Geo Jr.
1430 Lindsey Willis	1430 Lindsey Willis	1430 Lindsey Willis	1430 Lindsey Willis	1430 Lindsey Willis
1435 Rowe Wm S	1435 Rowe Wm S	1435 Rowe Wm S, Jr.	1435 Rowe Wm S, Jr.	1435 Rowe Wm S, Jr.
1436 Stiles Eddie P	1436 Stiles Eddie P	1436 Stiles Eddie P	1436 Stiles Eddie P	1436 Stiles Eddie P
1441 Smith Richd E	1441 Smith Richd E	1441 Smith Richd E	1441 Smith Richd E	1441 Smith Richd E
1442 Grunell Herman	1442 Grunell Herman	1442 Grunell Herman	1442 Grunell Herman	1442 Grunell Herman
1445 Jones Johnny	1445 Jones Johnny	1445 Jones Johnnie	1445 Jones Johnnie C., Jr.	1445 Jones Johnnie C., Jr.
1449 Lenzy Leo	1449 Lenzy Leo	1449 Lenzy Leo	1449 Lenzy Leo	1449 Lenzy Leo
1453 Sherron John	1453 Sherron John	1453 Sherron John H.	1453 Sherron John H.	1453 Sherron John H.
1459 Harris Albert H	1459 Harris Albert H	1459 Harris Albert H	1459 Harris Albert H	1459 Harris Albert H

Lynn Drive East 1967

Address	Head of Household
1411	Kimbrew Geo D.
1412	Hyde Charles R.
1417	Murrell Juanita B. Mrs.
1418	Hayes Ellis V.
1423	Eley Roger
1424	Burton Lee G.

1429	Berry Geo. Jr.
1430	Harvey Colleen Mrs.
1435	Rowe Wm. S., Jr.
1436	Stiles Eddie P.
1441	Smith Rchd E.
1442	Gurnell Herman
1445	Jones Johnie C.
1449	Lenzy Leo
1453	Sherron John H.
1459	Harris Albert H.

[Lynn Drive West](#)

1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
1411 No return	1411 Flynn Earl	1411 Flynn Earl	1411 Flynn Earl	1411 Flynn Earl
1412 Thomas Phillip	1412 Thomas Phillip	1412 Thomas Phillip	1412 Thomas Phillip	1412 Thomas Phillip
1417 Brooks John W	1417 Brooks John W	1417 Brooks John W	1417 Brooks John W	1417 Brooks Willa M., Mrs.
1418 Griffin Earl	1418 Griffin Earl	1418 Griffin Earl	1418 Griffin Earl	1418 Griffin Earl
1423 Hatten Saml	1423 Hatten Saml	1423 Hatten Saml	1423 Hatten Saml	1423 Hatten Saml
1424 Lee Wm T	1424 Lee Wm T	1424 Lee Wm T	1424 Lee Wm T	1424 Lee Wm T
1429 Davis Helena B.	1429 Davis Helena B.	1429 Davis Helena B.	1429 Davis Helena B.	1429 Davis Helena B.
1430 Tanner Richd O.	1430 Tanner Richd O.	1430 Tanner Richd O.	1430 Tanner Richd O.	1430 Tanner Richd O.
1435 Sams Edgar	1435 Sams Edgar	1435 No return	1435 Sams Edgar	1435 Sams Edgar
1436 Taylor Geo E jr	1436 Taylor Geo E jr	1436 Taylor Geo E jr	1436 Taylor Geo E jr	1436 Taylor Geo E jr
1441 Reedus Upshaw	1441 Reedus Upshaw	1441 Reedus Upshaw	1441 Reedus Upshaw	1441 Reedus Upshaw
1442 Under construction	1442 Minor Thos	1442 Minor Thos	1442 Minor Thos	1442 Minor Thos
1448 Under construction	1448 Jones Chas W	1448 Jones Chas W	1448 Jones Chas W	1448 Jones Chas W
1454 Under construction	1454 Crittendon Willie C	1454 Crittendon Willie C	1454 Crittendon Willie C	1454 Crittendon Willie C
1460 Tucker Jesse L.	1460 Tucker Jesse L.	1460 Tucker Jesse E. [sic]	1460 Tucker Jesse E.	1460 Tucker Jesse E.

Lynn Drive West 1967

Address	Head of Household
1411	Flynn Earl
1412	Thomas Phillip
1417	Brooks John W.
1418	Griffin Earl
1423	Hatten Saml
1429	Davis Helena B., Mrs.
1430	Tanner Richd O. pntr contr
1435	Sams Edgar
1436	Taylor Geo E. Jr.
1441	Reedus Upshaw
1442	Minor Thos
1448	Adams D. Vernon
1454	Crittendon Willie C.
1460	Tucker Jesse E.

Ransom Street

1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
514 Bennett Fredk	514 Bennett Fredk	514 Bennett Fredk	514 Bennett Fredk	514 Bennett Fredk
534 McMillan Wendell P.	534 McMillan Wendell P.	534 McMillan Wendell P.	534 McMillan Wendell P.	534 McMillan Wendell P.
546 Mitchell Jas E.	546 Mitchell Jas E.	546 Mitchell Jas E.	546 Mitchell Jas E.	546 Mitchell Jas E.
556 Neblett Jas.	556 Neblett Jas.	556 Neblett Jas. V.	556 Neblett Jas. V.	556 Neblett Jas. V.

Ransom Street 1967

Address	Head of Household
514	Nance Gilbert L.
534	McMillan Wendell P.
546	Mitchell James E.
556	Neblett James V.



Fall Creek Parkway East in 1962

Fall Creek Parkway East

1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
405 Randall Harry E.	405 Randall Harry E.	405 Randall Harry E.		
1107 No Return	1107 Maynard Booker T	1107 Maynard Booker T	1101 [sic] Maynard Booker T	1107 Maynard Booker T
1109 Johnson Augustus	1109 Johnson Augustus	1109 Johnson Augustus	1109 Johnson Augustus	1109 Johnson Augustus M.
1115 Richmond Sandford	1115 Richmond Sandford	1115 Richmond Sandford	1115 Richmond Sandford	1115 Richmond Sandford
1121 Ward Chas	1121 Ward Chas	1121 Ward Chas	1121 Ward Chas E.	1121 Lee John W.
1127 Edwards Wm D.	1127 Edwards Wm D.	1127 Edwards Wm D.	1127 Edwards Wm D.	1127 Edwards Wm D.
1133 Taylor Jos T.	1133 Taylor Jos T.	1133 Taylor Jos T.	1133 Taylor Jos T.	1133 Taylor Jos T.
1139 Hayes Allen T. Jr.	1139 Hayes Allen T. Jr.	1139 Hayes Allen T. Jr.	1139 Hayes Allen T. Jr.	1139 Hayes Allen T. Jr.
1145 Dunn Harry C.	1145 Dunn Harry C.	1145 Dunn Harry C.	1145 Dunn Harry C.	1145 Dunn Harry C.
1151 Jackson Jas. L.	1151 Jackson Jas. L.	1151 Jackson Jas. L.	1151 Jackson Jas. L.	1151 Jackson Jas. L.
			1157 Lewis Clarence W.	1157 Lewis Clarence W.
1201 Pope Russell	1201 Pope Russell	1201 Pope Russell	1201 Pope Russell	1201 Pope Russell
1209 Buchanan Jas	1209 Buchanan Jas	1209 Buchanan Jas	1209 Buchanan Jas	1209 Buchanan Jas
1215 Forge John	1215 Forge John	1215 Forge John	1215 Forge John	1215 Forge John
			1221 Gates Eug.	1221 Gates Eug.
1227 Lumpkins Omega	1227 Lumpkins Omega	1227 Lumpkins Omega	1227 Lumpkins Omega	1227 Lumpkins Omega
1233 Miller Eug.	1233 Miller Eug. F.	1233 Miller Eug. F.	1233 Miller Eug. F.	1233 Miller Eug. F.
1239 Sebree Clarence A.	1239 Sebree Clarence A.	1239 Sebree Clarence A.	1239 Sebree Clarence A.	1239 Sebree Clarence W. [sic]
1245 Peters Robt H.	1245 Peters Robt H.	1245 Peters Robt H.	1245 Peters Robt H.	1245 Peters Robt H.
1251 Maxwell Clarence	1251 Maxwell Clarence	1251 Maxwell Clarence	1251 Maxwell Clarence	1251 Maxwell Clarence

1305 Perkins Kelly R.	1305 Perkins Kelly R.	1305 Perkins Kelly R.	1305 Perkins Kelly R.	1305 Perkins Kelly R.
1319 Hart Jesse	1319 Hart Jesse	1319 Hart Jesse	1319 Hart Jesse	1319 Hart Jesse
1323 Early Bill	1323 Early Bill	1323 Early Bill	1323 Early Bill	1323 Early Bill
1229 [sic] Childress Jas	1329 Childress Jas	1329 Childress Jas	1329 Childress Jas	1329 Childress Jas E.
	1335 Burking Wilbert H.	1335 Burking Wilbert H.	1335 Burking Wilbert H.	1335 Burking Wilbert H.
1341 Bridges Allen	1341 Bridges Allen	1341 Bridges Allen	1341 Bridges Allen	1341 Bridges Allen