



HISTORIC MOUNT PLEASANT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Living in an Historic District: Going Electric in Mount Pleasant.

August 2023

Welcome to our fifth Historic Mount Pleasant (HMP) Monthly Newsletter. Our goal is to inform community members about historic district permit requirements, common technical issues and solutions, and other aspects of the historic district, including its history.

ALL THE MODERN CONVENIENCES

Mount Pleasant's original electric meters, like the power supplied, were small. As demand for power grew, new meters got bigger and locating them became a problem. Fortunately, the DC Historic Preservation Office has [guidelines](#) for new utility meters placed in the [public space](#) in front of buildings, requiring them to be in unobtrusive locations. A [better solution](#) is an interior [meter that will be read electronically](#) or from a remote location.

Almost all of the pre-1920s houses in Mount Pleasant had gas lighting, with the more expensive houses also wired for electric lights. Combination fixtures were used [because electric service was still undependable](#). The electric supply was sized just for lighting, so if you wanted to plug in the latest [electric convenience](#), like an electric fan, vacuum cleaner or iron, you usually had to unscrew a light bulb and plug it in the socket, or use one of the two or three outlets in the house. Gas lighting generally disappeared after 1920 when [electricity reached price parity with gas](#).

Elegance and Worth.

1876 to 1886 Monroe St. N.W.

THESE ARE NEW HOUSES OF SUPERLATIVE WORTH AND MATCHLESS SUPERIORITY—exemplifying in a striking manner the best methods of modern house-building—harmonious in design—beautiful and graceful in outline—fundamentally correct in construction—ideal in finish—refined in ornamentation—marvels of completeness in every particular. No attempt at a description could do them justice. YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED to give them a personal inspection. You will be well repaid for the time required. They present a home-buying opportunity you cannot afford to ignore, because nowhere else can you get so much value for your money.

THEY ARE SUPPLIED with all the desirable attributes of the highest order of modern homes, such as **ELECTRIC and GAS LIGHTING fixtures**; HOT-WATER heat; gas logs; parquet floors; hardwood finish; sanitary plumbing; white tiled bathrooms, with nickeled fixtures and pedestal lavatories; imported hardware; odorless kitchens; solid oak stairways; wide hallways; deep closets and large pantries. The prices range from \$5,750 to \$7,500, according to size and number of rooms. THE LOCATION is a most desirable one from every point of view. Open every day and lighted till 8:30 evenings.

[Evening Star, June 11, 1910, Electric and Gas Lighting](#)

100 years after household electric power became the standard, we are now looking at adding another, seemingly-new electric convenience: electric vehicles (EVs), which may require increased electric service to support new charging stations. Unfortunately, while they can be installed at the rear of your own property, personal EV charging stations are not permitted in public space anywhere in the city. Currently, DC's [Electric Vehicle Charging Station Program](#) is available only commercial vendors who must install dual-port and Level 2 or direct-current Fast Chargers.

MT. PLEASANT HISTORY

The [Library of Congress Chronicling America website](#) provides [access to historic newspapers](#), dating from 1777 to 1963. Below is a page from the [February 02, 1913 Evening Star](#) with an article on the latest thing – the **ELECTRIC AUTOMOBILE** - and all of its advantages!

Papers of the period were filled with ads for the [Detroit Electric](#) (Indisputably the Car... for People who Appreciate Power, Speed, Comfort and Economy), and [Studebaker \(Leader in Price and Quality\)](#). They also were featured at the [Second Annual Sociability Run \(The Electric is the Ideal Pleasure Car\)](#).

And most exciting, a trip to Baltimore and back with 10 miles to spare in the [July 26, 1913 Washington Times!](#)

ELECTRIC AUTOMOBILE NOW COMING INTO POPULAR FAVOR

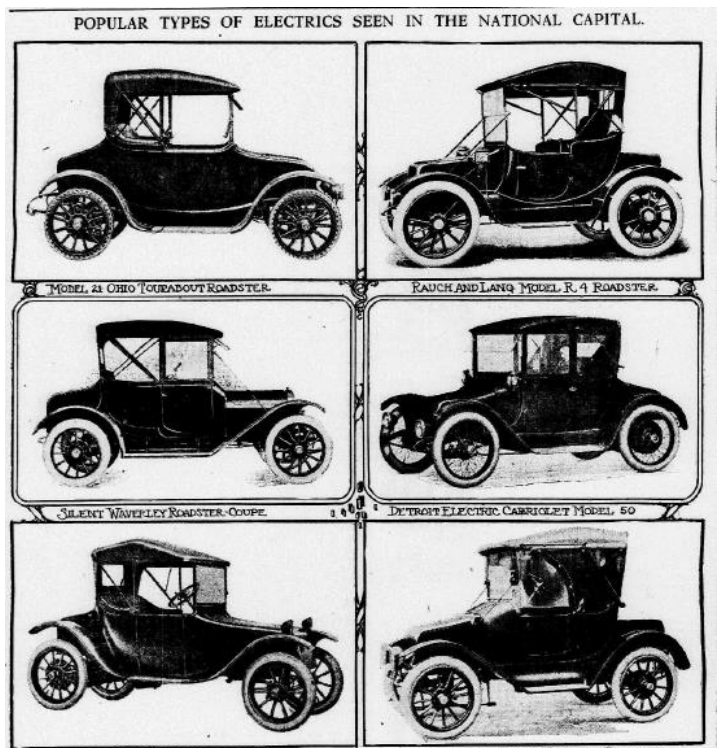
Its Advantages Are Beginning to Be Recognized—Five Years Ago It Was Looked Upon as an Expensive Toy—Admirably Adapted to City Needs.

TRIP IN ELECTRIC PROVES A SUCCESS

Dirve to Baltimore and Back on Single Battery Charge Made Easily.

ROAD IS NOT GOOD IN PARTS

Pair Who Makes Trip Elated Over Record—Good Time Is Made.



[Evening Star, March 21, 1915, Popular Types of Electrics Seen in the National Capital](#)

1913

The "Century" Electric

Represents the Maximum in
WORK - EFFICIENCY - SERVICE AND COMFORT IN ELECTRIC PLEASURE CARS



Model B - 5-Passenger Brougham

A MOTOR CAR unexcelled in beauty and mechanical perfection. The under-frame construction, the low center of gravity, the high road clearance, the proper distribution of weight, its simplicity of operation all mark the "CENTURY" Electric as "The Perfection of Electrics."

Phone North 6973 for a Demonstration

M. E. PEARSON, The Concord
 New Hampshire Avenue Between S and T Streets.

TO BE SEEN AT THE SHOW.




DETROIT ELECTRIC



WOODS ELECTRIC

ELECTRIC AUTOMOBILE NOW COMING INTO POPULAR FAVOR

Its Advantages Are Beginning to Be Recognized—Five Years Ago It Was Looked Upon as an Expensive Toy—Admirably Adapted to City Needs.



Stevens-Duryea


"Nearly a Quarter-Century of Leadership"

WING to the impossibility of securing cars I will not exhibit at the AUTOMOBILE SHOW.

Will be pleased to give you a demonstration in a Model C "Six" Five-passenger Touring Car now on exhibition in my salesroom.

T. LAMAR JACKSON
 TEL. N. 3063. COR. 14TH AND N.W.

Stevens-Duryea Company Chicago Falls, Mass.
 "Pioneer Builders of American Cars"



Object to Electric.

These classified objections to electric automobiles were roughly as follows:

1. Will not climb hills.
2. Will not give enough mileage.
3. Too expensive.
4. Too inefficient.

The three chief objections on the part of the public were: (1) Will not climb hills; (2) Will not give enough mileage; (3) Too expensive.

Five years ago the electric automobile was looked upon by the public in the light of a somewhat expensive toy, and without any well defined place and purpose. Today, however, it occupies a well defined place in industrial and social life, and while the principles and the kind of its operation are understood to a limited number of people, the recognition of its general advantages as a utility vehicle has tremendously increased, with authentic statistics of the last twelve months showing a steady increase in the total number of electric automobiles placed in operation during the year, and no simple automobile. As a matter of fact, more than thirty million dollars worth of electric vehicles have been sold since the inception of industry. Today, in date, while \$100,000,000 or thereabouts the business of personal use of electric automobiles has been purchased during the last year.

About two years ago we had an opportunity to make a minute study of the status of the electric automobile business. It was found that not only the general public was highly ignorant of the general advantages of electric automobiles, but that the automobile industry was very largely ignorant of the general advantages of electric automobiles. It was found that the automobile industry was very largely ignorant of the general advantages of electric automobiles. It was found that the automobile industry was very largely ignorant of the general advantages of electric automobiles.

THE GREAT EXHIBIT AT THE AUTOMOBILE SHOW.

UTOMOBILE ACCESSORIES

Our automobile supply department is equipped to satisfy your every demand quickly and at very reasonable prices.

We are featuring tires. All the dependable makes are shown.

BARBER & ROSS
 11th and G Sts.

IDEAS FOR MOTORISTS

When a new car is bought, it comes with a number of accessories. The best of these are the accessories that are most useful and most durable. The best of these are the accessories that are most useful and most durable.

A folding table which may be used for a picnic or for a party. It is made of light material and is very durable. It is made of light material and is very durable.

A set of tools which are very useful and durable. They are made of high quality material and are very durable. They are made of high quality material and are very durable.

Not Supposed to Race?

The electric is not supposed to do the work of a touring car or a gasoline car. It is not supposed to race. It is not supposed to race.

Refute Hill-Climb Scare.


No better evidence can be given to refute the scare of the electric automobile's inability to climb hills than the fact that it is now being used in such cities as Seattle, Chicago, and Philadelphia. It is now being used in such cities as Seattle, Chicago, and Philadelphia.

Daily Convenience.

The electric is not supposed to do the work of a touring car or a gasoline car. It is not supposed to race. It is not supposed to race.

MOTZ

Cushion Tires



TRADE MARK

It is clean, modern, speedy, easy to operate, can be driven by any member of the family, and without previous protective preparation, offers the protection of the insurance from wind and snow and climatic variations.

It removes the necessity of a chauffeur or attendant. Change gears are eliminated. It is driven by a revolving motor instead of a reflexion action, giving necessary increased life. It is placed in its action, involves no grinding mechanism, no taking of strength, no independent, irremovable and absolutely expensive.

The electric is the ultimate city car. It is clean, modern, speedy, easy to operate, can be driven by any member of the family, and without previous protective preparation, offers the protection of the insurance from wind and snow and climatic variations.

Double-Notched Treads, Slantwise Bridges, Undercut Sides, 10,000 Mile Guarantee

For Electric Pleasure Cars



One of the New Detroit Electrics Equipped With Motz Tires at the Factory.

Puncture Proof, Blowout Proof, Rimcut Proof.

Non-Skidding, Resilient as Pneumatics

REDUCE

Tire Expense, 66 2/3%

Fuel Expense, 30%

Imperial Motor Company,

1112 Conn. Ave. Phone N. 847

FACTORY.
 Motz Tire & Rubber Co., Akron, Ohio

Booth 12, Washington Automobile Show, February 3-8 Convention Hall

TOMLINSON ACQUIRES AUTOMOBILE OIL FIRM

Takes Over Charles F. Kellom & Company's Plant in Philadelphia.

T. E. Tomlinson, one of the best men in the country, has acquired the Kellom & Company's plant in Philadelphia. He has acquired the Kellom & Company's plant in Philadelphia.