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## **Dr. George Parke House (a.k.a. Clark House) - 544 North Central Ave. - 1915.**



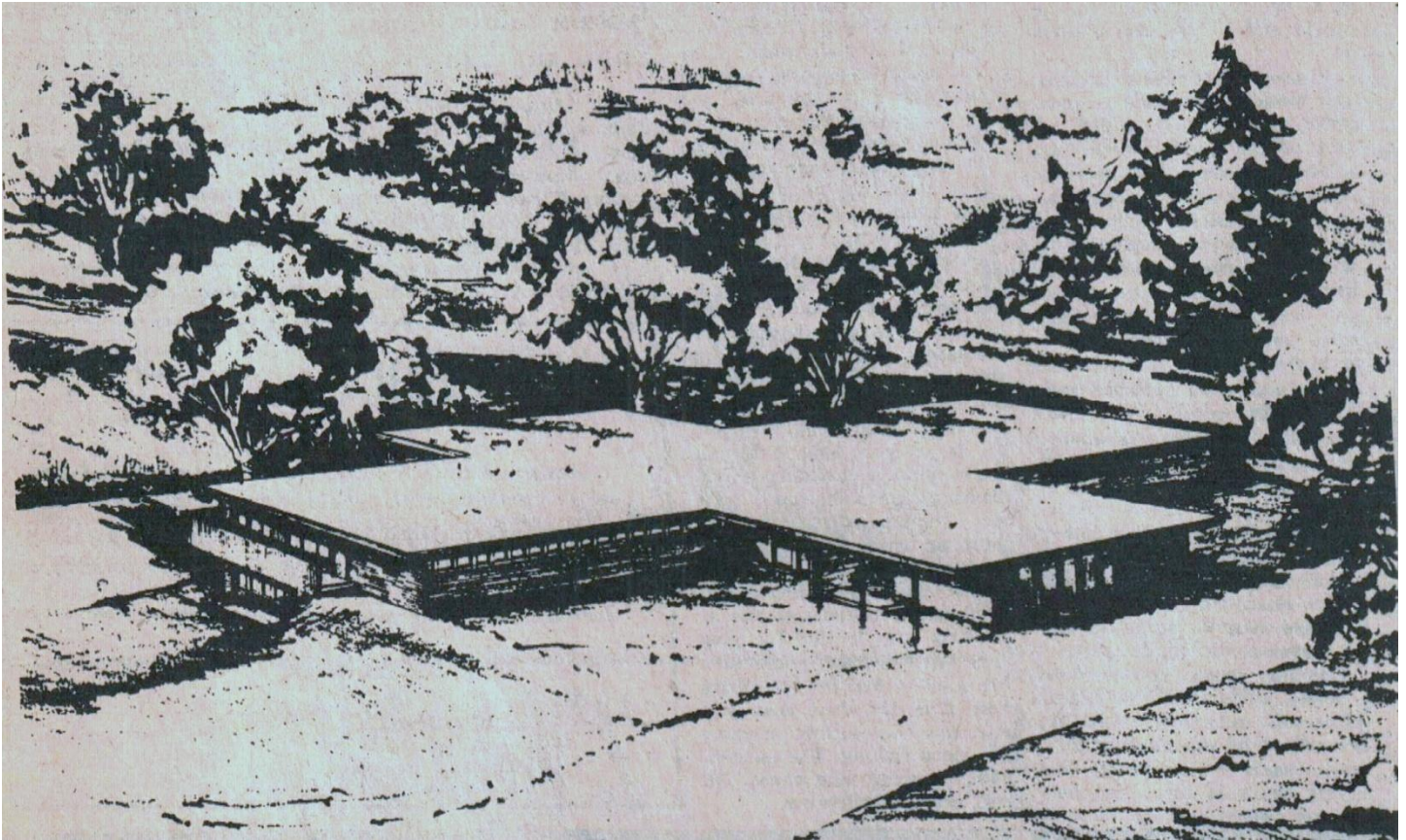
**Dr. George Parke. Richland Hospital photo.**

Built in 1915, the house is architecturally a 2-story cube/American 4-square design. Made of brick construction it features a hip roof with dormer, a 2-story projecting bay on the south side, and leaded glass windows. Etta Clark was the youngest of three daughters born to Homer J. and Mary (McNelly) Clark. Etta was born in 1885 and never married; her house was built next to her parent's home on Central Avenue on the south edge of the lot. Etta sold the home to Dr. George Parke in 1939. She died at the age of 69 in 1954.

The son of Dr. George and Elsie Parke of Viola, George Parke II was born in 1812. Parke graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Marquette University Medical School and in 1936 and served a three year residency at the Milwaukee County Hospital. In July of 1939 Dr. Parke moved to Richland Center and started his medical practice at the Pippin Clinic, joining Dr. Pippin and Dr. Housner there.



When World War II began Dr. Parke enlisted in the U.S. Medical Corps. In the military Dr. Parke received special training in x-ray technology and was stationed at Chapel Hill, N.C. as a radiologist, at the Naval Station Hospital. Dr. Parke also served in the Pacific Theater during the invasion of Peleliu, as a radiologist at the base hospital there. Dr. Parke was released from active duty in January 1946 with the rank of Lt. Commander in the Naval Reserve, and returned to his practice in Richland Center.



The Richland Medical Center was built in 1962. The new clinic in 1962 combined the successful medical practices of two local clinics serving the Richland Center area. The clinic staff was comprised of five physicians from two separate clinics. Dr. Taft and Dr. Spear from one clinic and Dr. Housner, Dr. Pippin and Dr. Parke from the other. In 1965, they were joined by Dr. Meyer and Dr. Kelertas. In 1967, RMC welcomed the addition of The Edwards' Clinic, also of Richland Center. This brought Dr. Edwards Sr. and his son Dr. Richard Edwards, Dr. Glise and Dr. Tydrich. Photo: *The Richland Observer* May 3, 1962.



Etta Clark (fifth person from the left) Richland County History Room photo.

In 1962 Dr. Parke joined several other local physicians who came together to establish the Richland Medical Center on the city's west side. During his lifetime Dr. Parke served the Richland Center community in a number of capacities including the school board where he was president from

1949 to 1961, he was the city health officer from 1961 to 1986, and staff physician at the Richland Hospital. Dr. Parke was also a Master Mason, a Shriner, as well as a member of the V.F.W., 40 et 8, and the American Legion. Dr. Parke married Esther Roberts in 1937 and they had two sons, Dr. Robert Parke, George Parke III, and a daughter Jean. Dr. Parke died in November of 1986 after falling on the ice in his driveway, he was 74.