



The Browncroft Neighborhood Walking Tour

The Browncroft Area is known for its beautiful homes and the landscaping of the public right-of-way. As you observe the historical sites, also appreciate the beauty of the trees and flowering shrubs. The entire residential environment was a planned design - the vision of Charles J. Brown.

Note the diversity of residential architectural styles from early farm house to arts and crafts, then colonial, Georgian and Tudor revival. Most of the homes were built in the 1920's in the later style. Observe the leaded glass and bay windows, and classical pediments and porticoes on door surrounds. And notice our living landmarks, the trees - Norway maples, Austrian pines, magnolias, London Plane and especially the many varieties of beech trees.

The tour is 1.3 miles long and will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. See the tour map on the back.

A Brief History

This area was originally in the Town of Brighton and evolved from forest to farmland to nurseries. Brown Brothers started their nursery here in 1895, and by 1915 laid-out the Browncroft subdivision. In 1914 this area was annexed to the City of Rochester.

Merchants Road was originally an Indian trail that was cut wider by merchants who wanted to connect the mouth of the Genesee River with Canandaigua via Landing Road.

1. 67 Merchants Rd. An early farm house in the area circa mid-nineteenth century. Owned by Moses Smith in 1872. It is felt however that it predates his ownership. The barn complex for this house and 116 Browncroft (later farmhouse) was located in the Rose Garden. One of the barns is currently stuccoed-over and relocated behind the home at 89 Merchants Rd.

2. The Rose Garden: Merchants Rd. & Browncroft Blvd., dedicated in 1919 by the John Charlton family to the City of Rochester. The Browncroft Neighborhood Association Beautification Committee maintains the flower beds and the City Park's Dept. maintains the grass.

3. Browncroft Blvd. As you walk west toward Winton Road (after you pass the Charlton farm house at 116) you will pass some of the earliest homes built in the subdivision in the arts and crafts style (#89, #75, #63, #39) which are featured in early brochures.

4. 588 Winton Rd. N. (corner of Browncroft Blvd.), was built by the Episcopal Church in 1926 and was St. Matthews Church for over 40 years. It had a slab of stone from Shakespeare's tomb in the chancel.

5. 566 Winton Rd. N. This was the home of John Skelton Brown, father of Charles J. Brown, founder of Brown Brothers Nursery and later Browncroft Realty Corp.

6. 540 Winton Rd. N. (corner of Corwin Rd.) the Charles Brown home, probably built by Stephen Corwin between 1840 and 1870. Brown extensively added to and remodeled the original Italianate style house giving it a few classical features.

7. Corner of Ramsey Park and Corwin Rd. - cast iron Browncroft marker which was one of many posts installed by Charles Brown and used as street signs.

8. Ramsey Park - west side of street. Former site of Browncroft Park which had a duck pond, tennis court, 25 foot dovecote, gazebo and gardens.

9. 60 Ramsey Park, former Andrew Gleason home. There are 11 bedrooms as Mr. Gleason had 6 children. There was a boys suite and a girls suite.

10. 10 Ramsey Park (corner of Dorchester), the former Strassenburgh home.

Dorchester Road has many gracious homes that served as the residences for many prominent Rochester Businessmen.

11. 185 Dorchester Rd. was originally the Hickock (belt manufacturers) home.

12. 273 Dorchester Rd. was originally situated behind the Brown residence near Ramsey Park where Corwin Rd. would be today. It was a tenant house in the days of the Brown Bros. Nursery. The columns were added to the house when the nursery office was torn down, and its salvaged columns were used here.

13. Charles Carroll School #46, Newcastle and Dorchester Roads, opened in 1932. The land was donated by Charles Brown. The architecture is gothic revival.

14. Corner Windemere and Newcastle Rds. (northwest) another Browncroft marker.

15. 373 Newcastle Rd., one of the largest homes in the neighborhood, similar to the one sketched on an early Browncroft Realty brochure. This tudor revival home was designed by Gordon and Kaelber, who designed at least 20 homes in the area. (See front cover sketch.) Gordon and Kaelber were the architects for the University of Rochester quadrangle and the Eastman Theater.



triple window



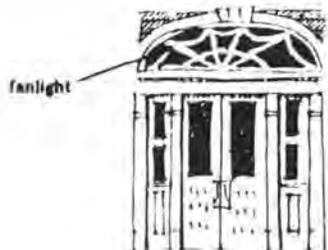
Palladian window



AMERICAN BEECH



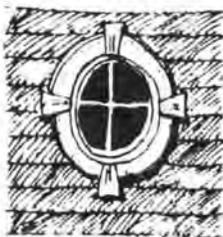
FERNLEAF BEECH



fanlight



EUROPEAN BEECH



cameo window



quarry

lattice (lozenge) window



ORIENTAL PLANETREE



NORWAY MAPLE

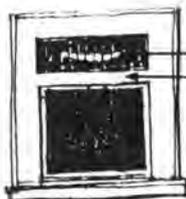
eyebrow dormer



wheel window



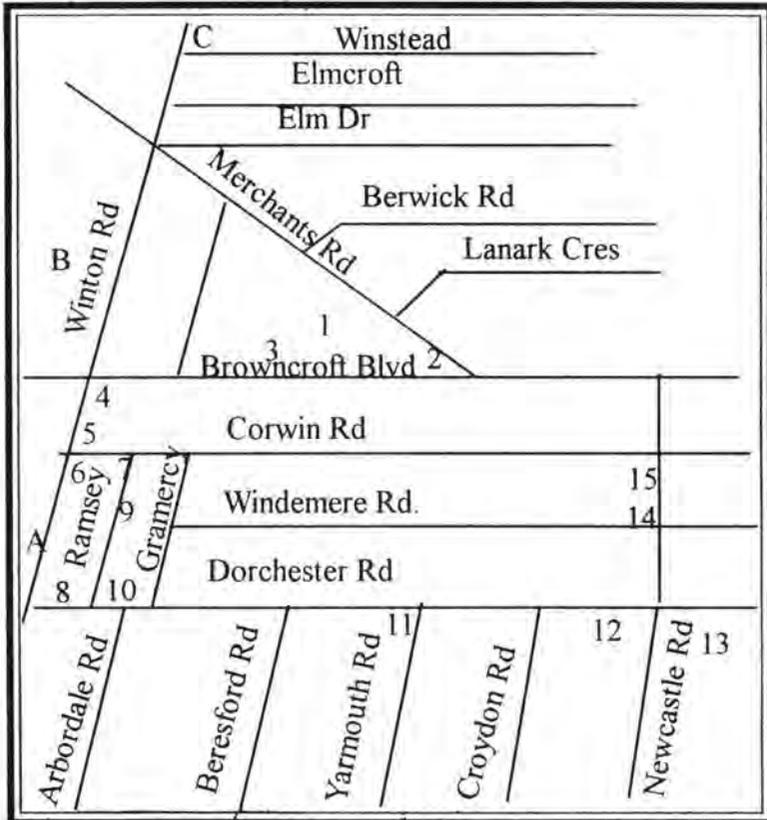
MAGNOLIA



transom window
transom bar



AUSTRIAN PINE



Side Trips

A. 425 Winton Road N. Greek Revival farm house.

B. 666 Winton Rd. N. , between Mayfield Street and Main Street. This Greek Revival farm house is shown on the 1872 County Atlas as owned by Moses Smith. Probably built in the early 1840's. It is one of the oldest structures in this area.

C. In 1800's a sawmill was located in this area before Thomas Creek was rerouted underground and Palmer's Glen was filled in. Note the landmark house on the west side of Winton Rd. (789) near Elmcroft Rd.