

View from The Overlook

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Euclid Golf Neighborhood to be Listed on National Register

...by Deanna Bremer and Hugh Fisher

Long before the phrase "golf course community" became synonymous with high-quality residential development, one of the finest neighborhoods in the country rose upon the site of a golf course. Built on land formerly owned by John D. Rockefeller and loaned to the Euclid Club for its golf course, the Euclid Golf Neighborhood is about to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

(Fairmount Boulevard has been listed since 1976, but the surrounding side streets were left off.)

When Patrick Calhoun began to develop Euclid Heights at the top of Cedar Hill in the 1890s, he needed a way to lure Cleveland's elite from their comfortable homes on Euclid Avenue. He envisioned a country club that would include spacious accommodations for the newly popular sport of golf. Golf pro Bertie Way, who had been hired to lay out the course, quickly told him that he had not set aside enough land for a proper 18-hole course. So, Calhoun asked his fellow landowner and golf enthusiast, John D. Rockefeller, if he could use a portion of his land, which lay just across Cedar Road to the south of Euclid Heights. Rockefeller agreed to allow the

upper nine holes to be laid out on his property, with one caveat†— that, in observance of the Sabbath, golf not be played there on Sundays.

When the Euclid Club opened in 1901, Cleveland's elite were happy enough to have a full 18-hole course to play. They didn't mind Sunday's inconvenience. And, more and more of them were moving to the Heights to take advantage of clean air and country amenities.

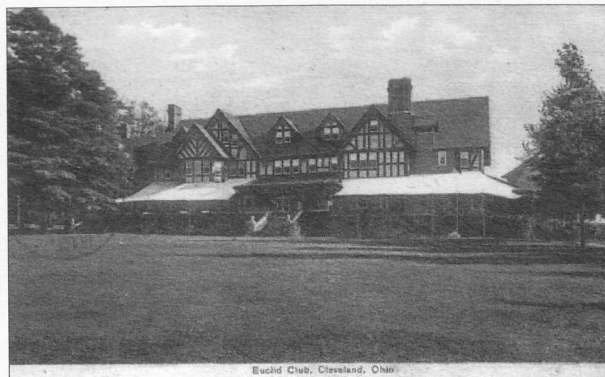
In 1905, The Van Sweringen brothers

purchased land just to the south and east of the Euclid Club's upper nine. They asked Rockefeller to grant rights for a streetcar line to run through his property to connect their Shaker Heights development to Cedar Hill. The streetcar soon delivered more prospective suburbanites, and

Rockefeller's associates began to talk about the golf greens' development value.

In 1912, the Euclid Club disbanded, its members moving to form the Mayfield and Shaker Heights country clubs. Barton R. Deming, an enterprising real estate developer, convinced Rockefeller that his scheme would transform the upper nine into one of the finest residential neighborhoods in the country. He would call it the Euclid Golf Allotment.

Deming's allotment plan called for a grand boulevard on either side of the streetcar right-of-way



Euclid Club, Cleveland, Ohio

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The Cleveland Heights Historical Society, founded in 1983, is a state chartered, 501 (c) (3), not-for-profit corporation.

Mission Statement ...

The Cleveland Heights Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting the diverse character and traditions of Cleveland Heights.

As the community based historic preservation organization, the Society encourages and facilitates greater knowledge, understanding, and awareness of the heritage of Cleveland Heights.



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Superior Schoolhouse Lecture Series

The Cleveland Heights Historical Society and the Landmark Commission and the will co-sponsor a Superior Schoolhouse Lecture on the history and architecture of the Euclid Golf Allotment, Tuesday, April 23, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cleveland Heights Historical Center at Superior School. Superior Schoolhouse is located on the corner of Superior Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard. Neighborhood residents Deanna Bremer and Hugh Fisher will present their research gained by completing the National Register application and briefly discuss the application process. Free admission. Seating is limited and reservations are required — call 291-4878.

developing Euclid Golf.

The streetcar line caused some irregular shaped lots. Not the least of which was a steep and rocky sliver of land at the entrance to the allotment, where Fairmount Boulevard meets Cedar Road. Here Deming and his astute architects, Carl Eugene Howell and James William Thomas, Jr., constructed an imposing four-storey French Eclectic mansion. The house served as a gateway and advertisement for the fine quality homes in Euclid Golf. Deming and his family would live in the home for twenty-five years.

Howell... Thomas Architects designed and Deming's company built many homes in Euclid Golf. Deed restrictions, in place until 1950, spelled out set backs and minimum investment levels. They prohibited many of the commercial uses that had driven Cleveland's elite from their Euclid Avenue homes. Well-known architects designed homes in Euclid Golf: Maxwell Norcross, Meade ... Hamilton, Walker ... Weeks, and Charles Schneider, to name a few. And, as prominent Clevelanders made their homes in Euclid Golf, Fairmount Boulevard became known as "The Euclid Avenue of the Heights".

A 1921 Architectural Forum article recognized Euclid Golf as one of the finest residential neighborhoods in the country. Together, Deming, Howell ... Thomas and Rockefeller created a place of beauty and harmony that has retained its value over time. The layout of the streets, the luxurious tree canopy, the harmonious blend of smaller and larger houses, and the design, craftsmanship and fine materials of the houses make Euclid Golf a special place. It is fitting that it will be recognized as such when it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. 🏠

that would connect to the Van Sweringen's Fairmount Boulevard. Curving side streets would create picturesque sites for substantial homes — not so big as to be impractical, but big enough to ensure a "fine class of house". Deming relied on Rockefeller's influence and prestige, as well as his bankroll, in

The First Settler

*Originally published in the 1928 Cauldron of
Cleveland Heights High School.*

Have you ever thought of what "adventure" is? According to my lexicon it means "coming upon," —finding. This adventure certainly does not take advantage of all the word offers, but it complies to all that Webster asks of it.

Somehow most of us think we must go away for things that are different, or historical, and offer adventure. I found my mistake in this in a place which is known as Ambler Park. If you should happen to have heard of it, that is probably because two bootleggers were murdered there this fall. By the way, that seems to offer "adventure" in itself.

For convenience I will start at the bus stop, at the bottom of Cedar Hill, and walk up North Park Boulevard and under the railroad tracks. To the right and across Doan Brook is a hill to climb, which gives me a nice, new view of the whole city.

A road leads along the south of the ravine. At the left is a sheer drop into the trees, and at the right is a low sandstone cliff, above which the mammoth Baldwin Reservoir is built. If I were taking this trip a year ago I should have seen a round tower of crumbling stone against this stone bank. People said the Shaker settlers used against the Indians once. I doubt that story, but nevertheless regret that the city has removed every trace of it. In the decaying log railing I find a log removed completely. That must be the place through which the reservoir contractor drove his car to his death last year!

The natural path seems to lead along the creek bed now. Soon the going is hard, because of giant boulders and uprooted trees, which straddle the little stream from bank to bank. The valley is widening now into a basin of foliage. When evening comes the brook will send its cool mist into the green depressions along the rocks. The last rays of the sun will shine impressively on the feathery foliage of a few giant pines and turn the trunks of the towering ashes to strips of silver. Suddenly though, the twinkle of a street light on the boulevard above will bring back the roaring city all around.

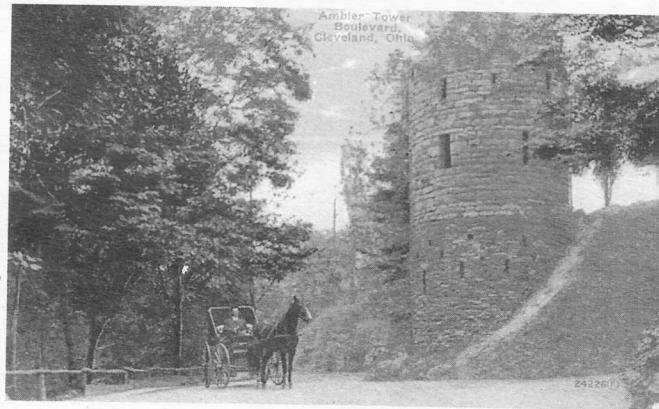
Again the ravine narrows, for on the left a

great mass of shale and stones rise in a high steep slope where the debris from the reservoir has filled in the valley. From under this a sort of bridge of sand stone under-running up to the creek's edge. Some enterprising farmer had once built a

bridge here. On the right bank a sloping roadway that still shows the regular washboarding of a corduroy road cuts into the hillside. If your eyes are sharp you will see a square post emerging six inches above the park grass, to which the farmer had once fastened his swinging barn doors.

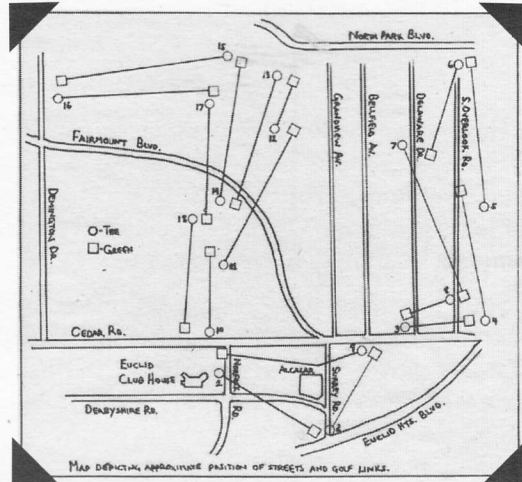
For a moment I emerge into the city again, long enough to cross Coventry Road. Now I find someone had transformed the valley around the old Shaker mill into a wild flower garden. The crumbling foundations are a rustic setting for a garden, and make a picturesque scene.

...continued on page 6



Euclid Golf Scrapbook

MAP OF THE GOLF LINKS AT THE EUCLID CLUB.



VINTAGE CARD POST MARKED JUNE 10, 1907. THE EUCLID CLUB OPENED IN 1901, AND WAS DISBANDED IN 1912. THE CLUB WAS TORN DOWN FOR THE UPSCALE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT THAT FOLLOWED.

ANOTHER VINTAGE CARD POST MARKED OCTOBER 24, 1910. THE GOLF LINKS AT THE EUCLID CLUB.





THE RESIDENCE OF EUCLID GOLF
DEVELOPER BARTON R. DEMMING AT
THE FOOT OF FAIRMOUNT BOULEVARD.



ONCE CONVENIENT STREET CAR SERVICE
WAS ESTABLISHED, PROSPECTIVE RESIDENTS
FLOCKED TO THE EUCLID GOLF ALLOTMENT.



OLD INDIAN FORTIFICATION, AMBLER HEIGHTS, CLEVELAND, OHIO.

While I am skirting the lower Shaker Lake it is hard to realize that it is not a lake at all, but just an artificial mill-pond which those early settlers made a century ago. The same is true of the upper lake. A giant dam holds back the water at the western end, which is only a minute or two

from our own Lee Road. The water drops into a well and flows in a culvert under the dam, and then follows a marshy course under Lee Road, and then into what we know as the Mill Pond; thence under Larchmere Road into the lower lake, the head of which I have just reached.

I pass a bird preserve on the marshy banks of Mill Pond. I had almost forgotten it was there. To follow the stream which flows from the right side of the upper end of Mill Pond would lead to the pond on the campus of Shaker High School. I am following the left, though, and soon cross Lee Road.

At the side of the Boulevard, and near the upper lake, I notice a single cedar tree. In front of it is a boulder which marks the grave of Jacob Russell, who, the inscription says, settled in Warrensville Township, now Shaker Heights, in 1812. He was the first Shaker settler. To him, then, I owe much of this trip of discovery. Still there is enough of this milder type of adventure, and remaining places of interest which I could not discover and see in one trip for another, or maybe two or three. ❧

We're Looking for a Few Talented and Conscientious Volunteers

Join us! The growing Cleveland Heights Historical Society desires to immediately expand its Board of Trustees. Members of the Board have an exciting and fun opportunity to work with others in developing innovative historic preservation initiatives for Cleveland Heights

Who are we? The Cleveland Heights Historical Society is dedicated to the mission of preserving and promoting the diverse character and traditions and of Cleveland Heights. The Society, a state chartered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is the community based historic preservation advocacy league that encourages and facilitates greater knowledge, understanding, and awareness of the heritage of Cleveland Heights. It is a civic link that serves to illuminate the special and unique legacy that makes "The Heights" one of Greater Cleveland's most interesting and desirable communities.

Some recent preservation initiatives of the Society are...

- *the rescue and restoration of the historic Severance Fountain at City Hall*
- *the sponsorship of the informative Superior Schoolhouse Lecture Series*
- *the creation of the ever expanding "www.chhistory.org" web site*
- *the publication of "View from The Overlook", a local history journal*
- *the research and development of a future "Mayfield Heights Historic District"*
- *the future establishment of a local archives and history museum*

Are you interested? The Society is an exciting opportunity for anyone interested in the historic preservation of Cleveland Heights. We welcome you to join us! Here are some questions that potential trustees will want consider:

- *Are you committed to public service?*
- *Do you like people and get along well with them?*
- *Are you willing to work as a team player for the advancement of the Society's goals?*
- *How much time can you offer? Will your other involvements cause a time conflict?*
- *What are your historical interests and organizational skills?*

Still interested? Please call Charles Owen, at 216-321-1268 for further details or forward a letter of introduction highlighting your skills, interests, and experience to:

The Cleveland Heights Historical Society
 ~ Trustee Campaign ~
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 Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

Frank Meade, Society Architect

...by Charles Miller

At the end of the 1800s, Frank Meade came to prominence as one of the leading residential architects of Cleveland. His architectural career spanned nearly 5 decades. His work first emerged among the ruling class mansions along celebrated Euclid Avenue. He had studied architecture at MIT and worked four years in the Chicago office of Jenney and Mundie. Initially opening his own office in Cleveland around 1893, Meade eventually entered partnerships which included other prominent Cleveland architects Alfred Granger, Abram Garfield (son of the U.S. President), and for the longest period, James Hamilton.

Frank Meade lived on Euclid Avenue and was active in Cleveland's upper society circles. He was the founding president of the Hermit Club. As the industrial owners and professionals' families migrated to the suburbs of Wade Park, Bratenahl, and Shaker Heights, Frank Meade earned commissions for new homes there as well. He also designed large residences for the pre-Cleveland Heights villages of Ambler Heights and

Euclid Heights. It was especially during the last 30 years (1911-1941) of his career, with James Hamilton as his partner, that their practice flourished. Meade ... Hamilton also found success in designing numerous social club buildings including the Union, Roadside, Euclid and Century clubs in Cleveland and the Erie and Lamb clubs in New York City.

Today, dozens of Meade ... Hamilton homes of traditional revival styles still stand proudly as a testament to the enduring appeal of their work. Their designs can be found throughout the western neighborhoods of Cleveland Heights along Fairmount Boulevard, including the Euclid Golf district, and on Edgehill Road in what was called Euclid Heights Village. 🏠

(Sources: Showplace of America: Cleveland's Euclid Avenue 1850-1910 by Jan Cigliano, 1991; The Dictionary of Cleveland Biography by David Van Tassel and John J. Grabowski, 1995; Frank Meade photo from Western Reserve Historical Society.)

