

View from The Overlook

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Discovering the 19th Century in Northern Cleveland Heights

By Mazie Adams

It's hard to imagine but Cleveland Heights was once covered not only by towering trees, but with large farms, quarries and vineyards. In fact, our community remained mostly farmland until the turn of the century. In the 1800s, Cyrus and Darius Ford raised silkworms and aided runaway slaves in the vicinity of Mayfield and Superior Roads. Orville Dean ran his dairy, which fronted on Mayfield about a mile east of Lee Road (where U-Haul now stands). John Peter Preyer, an early occupant of our suburb's oldest surviving house (14299 Superior Road, ca. 1825), operated vineyards in what is now Cumberland Park. Hobie Streater grew crops and built a race track on the farmland at the

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The Richard Smith house, Mayfield and Ivydale Rds., c., 1898.

The Cleveland Heights Historical Society



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

Our Mission

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

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

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top of Cedar Hill. Mssrs. Silsby, Minor, Taylor, Antisdale and Brockway were all area farmers.

While many are familiar with the older properties along Fairmount, Mayfield and Lee Roads, the early homes of the northern section of Cleveland Heights are often forgotten by the general public. Connected to Euclid Avenue and the railroad lines, Noble Road was one of the earliest streets in Cleveland Heights. However, its distance from the streetcar lines and developments in the southern areas ensured that Noble remained relatively undeveloped into the 1920s. Evidence of this rural history can be found in the early farm homes still standing in the vicinity of Noble Road. A number of 19th century non-farm houses also still stand along Noble Rd. (distinguished by their sandstone foundations). And even more are evident along Woodview Rd, which was developed around 1890 by Laura M. Steward and called the Noble Street subdivision. It included eight simple frame houses, five of which are still standing.

Here are some background and photos of the venerable homes of Northern Cleveland Heights, all of which are enjoying good health as they enter yet another century.

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Right: This 1903 map of "Cleveland Heights Village" zeroes in on the city's north side. Note the Quilliams property at the very top and the Wight property at the center right. The only existing streets are Noble, Taylor and Yellowstone (marked) and Mayfield (not marked) running horizontally along the bottom. Note also that Noble traveling south becomes Ruple Rd.

Seen at the bottom of the map is part of the farm property belonging to G.C. and J.C. Silsby, as well as the properties of "gentlemen farmers" J.L. Severance and John D. Rockefeller. Immediately above the Severance Estate are the properties of Elizabeth Allen Severance (current site of the Bluestone Development and former JCC) and Julia Severance Millikin (current site of the Fire Department and Council Gardens condominiums).

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While Cleveland Heights has changed dramatically over the last 100 years, these homes serve as reminders of a more rural past. The City of Cleveland Heights has designated many as Landmarks, recognizing their importance to our community's heritage. These five vernacular homes are similar in form – the sort of simple, wooden, front-gabled farmhouses that were prevalent in the mid-1800s.



Willard Wight House
(2751 Noble Road)

Willard Wight, and later his son Hiram, lived and worked in this 1851 farmhouse, situated on 52 acres of land. The farm was sold in 1907 and subdivided for a residential development that included Ardmore, Rosemond and Navahoe Roads. Originally just one-and-one half stories, side wings and porch were added later.



William Quilliams House
(884 Quilliams Road)

Hugh Williams built this farmhouse in 1867 for his son and daughter-in-law, William T. and Nancy Quilliams. A carpenter and Union Army veteran, William went on to become a civic leader, serving as a trustee for East Cleveland Township and later for the hamlet of Cleveland Heights. The family capitalized on the real estate boom in the early 20th century and developed their property into many of the streets in the Oxford neighborhood. The home has been altered significantly, although the wooded property is a reminder of its more rural beginnings.



Adams-Long House
(3555 Birch Tree Path)

Constructed for the Adams family in the 1860s, this farmhouse was incorporated into Elizabeth Severance Allen's estate in 1900. It was partly remodeled in the 1940s.

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Severance Fountain Project a Success!



Thanks to the generous support of our members, the Cleveland Heights Historical Society completed the Severance Fountain Project! More than 50 donors made it possible for the Society to match our challenge grant from an anonymous donor. Donations ranged from \$5 to \$500 and every penny counted towards our goal.

CHHS Board of Trustees looks forward to developing new ways to further our organization's

mission through programming, expansion of our website and more. Significant new additions to the Feature Stories have already been made; please check them out, along with the beautiful Severance Fountain on the front lawn of Cleveland Heights City Hall.

The Severance Fountain Project celebrates our historic roots, our devotion to the arts and our pride in our community. Our future programming will do the same. Thank you for your support!

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Asa and Teresa Cady House

(3921-3 Bluestone)

Asa Cady built this home in 1841 in what is now the Noble-Monticello area. Cady was involved in a steam-powered sawmill probably serving local quarries. The home was moved to its present site between 1890 and 1910 and additions have altered its original appearance.

In 1851, Asa and Teresa Cady were among fourteen members of the First Presbyterian Church of Collamer who broke their connection with that church because it "maintained fellowship with slaveholders." Mr. Cady served as the vice president of the Cuyahoga Anti-Slavery Society and the home was long rumored to be a stop on the Underground Railroad.



Schroeder House

(4143 Bluestone)

Edward T. Schroeder, the son of an original settler, worked as a shopkeeper and the postmaster for the quarry community of Bluestone from 1897-1910. He lived in this 1885 farmhouse with his widowed mother until 1893, when he married and moved to what is now Belvoir Boulevard.

