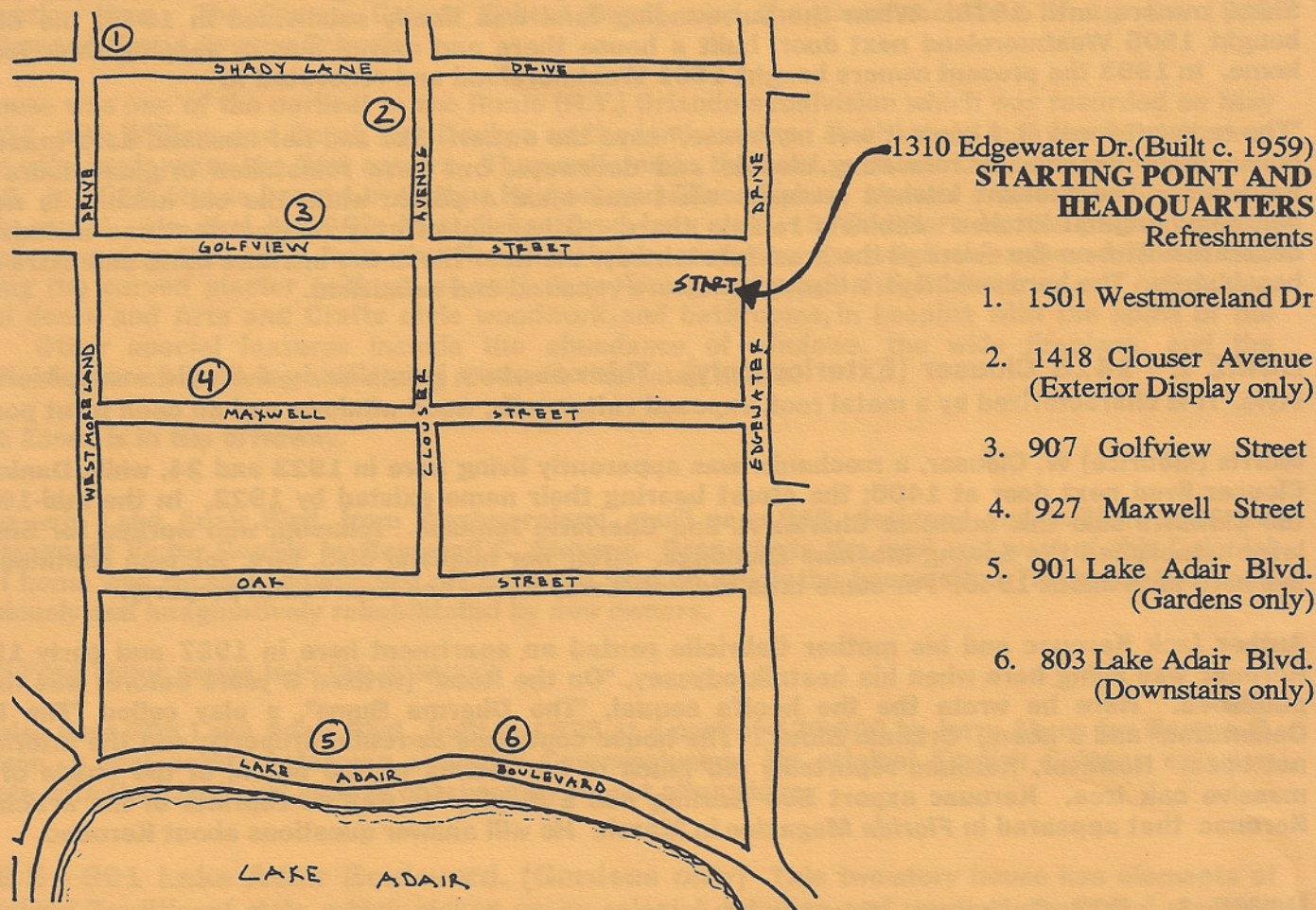


COLLEGE PARK HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

NORTH FROM LAKE ADAIR; NOV. 23, 1997

7TH HISTORIC HOMES TOUR - PROJECT OF COLLEGE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

THIS IS YOUR TICKET!! - SHOW IT AT EACH HOME



You may take the tour in any order. The houses are numbered chronologically, except for those on Lake Adair Blvd., where each house, whether or not historic, is described to show how the lakefront developed.

Lake Adair reportedly got its name in 1884, when John W. Childress bought an adjacent grove and bestowed his wife's name on the lake. The eastern border of Childress' land would have been today's Westmoreland. By 1920, that land and the area to the east were still mostly citrus groves, other farms and woodland, outside the city limits. Few of the streets we know today existed, and the name "College Park" was not yet in use. During the real estate boom of 1921-27, however, subdivision proceeded rapidly, although the boom ended long before all the many lots that had been platted could be built on. A couple who saw possibilities early were Daniel W. and Margarite Clouser. In 1915, they bought much of the land included in this tour and soon moved here from their home in Longwood.

HOME 1 - 1501 Westmoreland. A rare remaining building form for Orlando, this I-house is two stories high, one room deep, and two rooms wide. The I-house is an early housing form that was common in the South. The layout provided cross ventilation to keep the house relatively cool. The rear addition probably began as a detached summer kitchen that was later enlarged and attached to the house. Both the I-house and the addition are supported by brick piers; each has a chimney.

Tax records for this address indicate that at least part of the house was built in 1916. It was then outside the City Limits so that its exact history is difficult to trace. In 1920, widow Minnie Heath bought the property from Daniel Clouser. She lived here in the early 1920's. Farmer James South may have rented here in the mid-1920's.

In 1928, Mrs. Heath sold to Clara Harvey, whose husband Harry was a carpenter. They made two sets of repairs that year. The Harveys sold in 1930 to Ridge Realty Co., which rented out the house. In 1931, C.C. Digges, a tire company president, lived here, followed in 1933 by salesman John C. West and his wife Fay. The Wests finally bought the property in 1939, selling in 1943 to Isaac and Gladys Shier, owners until 1970. When the surrounding land was finally subdivided in 1949, the Shiers bought 1505 Westmoreland next door, built a house there and moved into it, keeping their former home. In 1993 the present owners bought 1501 Westmoreland and renovated it.

"The moment I saw it, I knew it was my house," says the owner. She and her husband have made the house more liveable by relocating closets and doorways, but have reinstalled original doors and hardware. The present kitchen occupies what was once a porch, while the old kitchen is now a bedroom; original kitchen cabinets remain there. Other noteworthy original features include the decorative trim on the risers of the graceful stairway, the floor tile in the upstairs bath, and extra-wide baseboards. The hardwood floors throughout were repaired and refinished.

HOME 2 - 1418 Clouser (Exterior only). This one-story bungalow is a simple example of the style. It is characterized by a metal roof, exposed rafter tails, wood windows and an open front porch.

Morris (Maurice) W. Clouser, a mechanic, was apparently living here in 1923 and 24, while Daniel W. Clouser lived next door at 1400; the street bearing their name existed by 1922. In the mid-1920's the Clousers sold this house to Charles A. and Charlotte Johnson. Johnson, who worked for Singer, later established the Sewing Machine Exchange. After her husband died, Mrs. Johnson continued to live here until about 1940. For some time the two-family house has been rental property.

Author Jack Kerouac and his mother Gabrielle rented an apartment here in 1957 and early 1958. Kerouac was living here when his beatnik odyssey, "On the Road" (written 6 years before) was finally published. Here he wrote the the book's sequel, "The Dharma Bums", a play called "The Beat Generation" and a poem, "Orlando Blues". The house continues as rental property, and the interior is not open. However, Kerouac reportedly did much of his writing on the porch, in the shade of the massive oak tree. Kerouac expert Bob Kealing has a display as well as reprints of his article on Kerouac that appeared in *Florida Magazine* in March. He will answer questions about Kerouac.

HOME 3 - 907 Golfview. This one story frame bungalow has typical Craftsman style details including wood siding, triangular brackets supporting the eaves with their exposed rafter tails and groupings of wood windows.

A third Clouser, Bruce, in 1923 sold this property to Levi H. and Estelle Crisler, perhaps the first non-Clousers to live on this block. For more than a decade, the Crislens had farmed on South Parramore where they specialized in pecan growing. The Golfview property was apparently their retirement home. Within a few years, they had neighbors to the north on the south side of Shady Lane and to the west on Golfview, including Clyde, Edgar and Mack Clouser, living on property developed by Daniel and Margarite Clouser. The house at 907 Golfview was probably built in 1923; the garage was built in 1924. By 1929 Mrs. Crisler was a widow. For many years, she shared this home with another widow, Mary K. (Mrs. Francis) Buckingham.

The present owners, who bought the home in 1995, continued the previous owners' renovation work. Among their favorite features are the wrap-around fireplace, the window seat next to it, built-in

bookshelves, hardwood floors, and glass door knobs. Many of the windows are also original, as are the porch columns.

A 1930 Model A Ford is in the driveway.

Going down Westmoreland, note 1315. This Mediterranean Revival home is the "twin" of 927 Maxwell.

HOME 4 - 927 Maxwell. This one-story Mediterranean Revival house has the stucco walls and simple parapets that are common features of the style. Unusual details include the low curved terrace walls at the front entrance and the curved overhang supported by decorative brackets over the front door. According to research by a previous owner of 1315 Westmoreland, the "twin" houses were built in 1927 by the Hibberd Hill Development Co. Use of a single plan for multiple houses was a common practice in the 1920's as speculative owners and builders attempted to cut expenses and hasten construction time. The Orange County School Board used the same technique - e.g. the 1926 Princeton and Grand Avenue Schools.

This house was one of the earliest in the Rome (N.Y.) Orlando subdivision which was recorded on May 21, 1926, with William and Sarah Van Dauber as the land owners. Real estate man Harry W. Kanner and his wife Annie were the first owners. They suffered in the bust, and lost the home to foreclosure in 1930. In 1935, it was bought by Arthur Herbert and Ellnor Baker. He was a salesman and later a security guard. He died in 1962; Mrs. Baker lived here until 1977. Work by the present owner included removing the paint from the fireplace brick, restoring the original hardwood floors, and repairing the curved plaster ceilings, as well as replacing non-original light fixtures and refinishing original doors and Arts and Crafts style woodwork, and bathrooms, in keeping with the spirit of the house. Other special features include the abundance of windows, the wide fireplace, and the comfortable size of the living and dining rooms in this small house.

A 1932 Essex is in the driveway.

Turning onto Lake Adair Blvd. from Westmoreland, you'll pass 945, designed and built in 1936 for citrus magnate Victor Gentile by Raymond C. Stevens. Property to the east and west of this Colonial Revival home was recently subdivided off from the land on which the house sits. The home has been meticulously and imaginatively rehabilitated by new owners.

A 1935 Ford Tudor coupe is in the driveway.

You'll also pass 909 Lake Adair Blvd., built in 1925 at a cost of \$20,000 by Jerry Ahern for George B. Patterson, a real estate salesman and City Commissioner. Its original English Cottage exterior, complete with thatched roof look, is obscured by recent alterations.

HOME 5 - 901 Lake Adair Boulevard. (Gardens only) This two-story house has elements of the Minimal Traditional style, which picked up on colonial detailing and used asymmetrical massing and low pitched roofs. A modest version of the style was built in the 1940's for citrus grower Edmund Allen and his wife Charlotte. It was enlarged and transformed by the present owners into the home you see today, basically dating from the late 1980's, but evoking the charm of an earlier time. The homeowners have opened their show-place gardens for the tour. An enthusiastic and knowledgeable gardener, the owner designed a cutting garden that changes with the seasons, so that she will always have something in bloom. Her favorites are the roses, which include old fashioned varieties modified to bloom more profusely as well as newer hybrids. In the rear garden are two decorative fountains that are treasured gifts.

You'll pass 823 Lake Adair Blvd., a 1985 Bermuda style home built on part of the former Allen property.

A 1926 Chevrolet Cabriolet four-door convertible is in the driveway.

You'll also pass 811 Lake Adair, a Monterrey Style house created for Charles E. Bradshaw, Sr., citrus grower, cattleman and businessman, who came to Orlando from Georgia in 1937. In 1945, he engaged the McCree firm to do a \$30,000 (a large sum then) remodeling and enlargement of a house built in 1939 for Howard and Gertrude Evans. W.A. McCree, Jr., wrote, "He (Bradshaw) was a Raymond C. Stevens client ; but Stevens was overloaded and could not take care of this job." The Bradshaws then expanded their land and house to encompass the 1920's home of Vern L. Bullis, 1923 subdivider of Lake Adair Terrace and an officer of the Falkner Roofing Co. A Bradshaw descendant lives here today.

HOME 6 - 803 Lake Adair Blvd. (Downstairs only) This house is the finest example of the Italian Renaissance style in Orlando. It is characterized by symmetrical stucco facades, arched windows, wide overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets, low pitched tile roofs and recessed entry porches. The carriage house/garage in the rear yard has the same attention to detail as the main house.

Built starting 1925 for Horace and Vivian McCardell, the house and garage were designed by Percy Pamorrow ("Jim") Turner, a Baltimore architect who came to Winter Park in 1925, left for Texas in 1928, and finally settled in Miami Beach in 1935. During his short stay in the Orlando area, Turner designed a number of fine homes, including 1722 Dormont, on our 1996 tour, and the Dr. N.T. Bryan house on Lake Virginia. The cost of the McCardell House was \$26,000; the contractor was A.B. Todd. McCardell was associated with Wynn Investments. From 1929 to 1941, May and D. Ross Wynn are listed as owners. By 1946, Gladys and Henry Hancock owned the house. They sold to Eleanor and real estate man William McIntosh about 1950. In 1965 the Hancocks bought the house back.

The present owners bought the property in 1968. In 1992, they engaged local architect Eric Houston to remodel the house, and reconstruct the carriage house so that it would accommodate modern cars. Original windows, decorative brackets and roof tile all were reused in the larger garage, which followed the original design as much as possible. Provision was made for an apartment, as in the original carriage house, but it has not been built. Architect and owners worked together to ensure that those viewing the residence from the outside would detect no changes in the handsome facades, and that interior visitors would not see "where the old ended and the new began."

You'll pass 727 Lake Adair Blvd., built in 1961 for the widow of Loomis Leedy, investment banker and former State Senator whose 1920's Dubsdread home was on our 1991 tour.

Shepherd 1931
You'll also pass 705 Lake Adair Blvd., an arts and crafts bungalow apparently built in 1922 as the home of designer and developer Stephen F. Maxwell. Located in the 1920's subdivision called Lake Adair Heights, it may have been the first house in that development. *26-27 (03) Vannoy*
28-29 Maxwell (1925 president of Audubon - Van Park Club)

If you detour to 727 Oak, you can note the 1923 bungalow of Bruce and Helen Clouser, where Mrs. Clouser lived for many years.

Sources: Lake Adair Historic Resources Survey, City/County Directories, building permit records, real estate records, Sanborn maps, homeowners, "Orlando - A Centennial History", W.A. McCree, Jr.'s "The Hammer & the Pencil", newspaper articles from Turner's daughter. Compiled and written by CPNAHC Co-chair Grace Hagedorn. Architectural descriptions and map by Orlando Historic Preservation Officer Jodi Rubin. Printing courtesy of the Orlando Neighborhood Services Office.

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