A Tour of Mariemont

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Mariemont Preservation Foundation
1 Mariemont Community Church Parish Center
Location: 3908 Plainville Road
Architect: George B. deGersdorff, New York
Begun: April 21, 1928

The plans of John Nolen and the Mariemont Company designated this structure as the Thomas J. Emery Recreation Building. It was to house many indoor recreational facilities for the enjoyment of the community. Its style is reminiscent of Italian Renaissance architecture, particularly in the graceful clock tower, the arcade of the front porch with its marble columns and round arches, and the tile roof. Plans included a terrace and seating (never built) overlooking the stadium field to the east.

2 Dana Group
Location: 6714-6786 Chestnut Street, 3901-3907 Plainville Road
Architect: Richard Henry Dana, Jr., New York
Begun: April 1, 1924

These apartments were the first residences begun by the Mariemont Company, starting at the Plainville Road end of the complex. Georgian in style, each five-room unit is compact, two story, and utilizes a common roof and attached garages. One unit (6780 Chestnut Street) was completely furnished in 1924 for $500 by the architect to illustrate "careful buying" and was used as a model for public inspection.

3 Ferris House
Location: 3915 Plainville Road

This brick house, two-story with one-story addition, was built in 1812-13 by the pioneer Ferris family. Among the two or three oldest buildings in Hamilton County, it stands adjacent to the site of the ground-breaking for Mariemont, when Mary M. Emery and a number of Mariemont Company officials and guests sunk a silver spade into the ground, April 23, 1923. The Ferris House was intended by the Mariemont Company to be used as a museum of local history.

4 Gilchrist Group
Location: 6701-6763 Murray Avenue, 3947-3949 Oak Street
Architect: Edmund B. Gilchrist, Philadelphia
Begun: July 8, 1924

These 39 row houses stand on the northern and eastern perimeter of the original district. Derived stylistically from 18th century Georgian row houses in England and along our eastern seaboard, the units are of varying interior arrangements, but all are two-story, red brick, with white trim. Note the walled gardens, the "Honeymoon" apartment that arches over Maple Street, and the Flemish bond method of laying brick (header-stretcher-header) among the distinctive features. Garages are incorporated into some buildings through rear access.

5 Kruckemeyer and Strong Group
Location: 6713-6769 Maple Street
Architects: Edward H. Kruckemeyer and Charles R. Strong, Cincinnati
Begun: June 12, 1924

Twenty-four stucco and Frame houses on the north side and twenty three houses on the south side of Maple Street were built, all having an access lane behind them for service and parking.

6 Dale Park Fire Station
Location: 3914 Oak Street
Architect: Charles F. Cellarius, Cincinnati
Begun: 1924

No longer does this quaint half-timbered building function as combination fire and police station, but originally it had garage space for one fire truck, quarters for two firemen, and a police cell. The porch once was open, and the picture window and surrounding wall now cover the engine doors.
7 Old Square (Dale Park Center Group) and Ripley
Apartments and Shops
Location: 6850-6708 Chestnut Sheet, 3900-3911 Oak Sheet
Architects: Ripley and LeBoutillier, Boston
Begun: May 5, 1924

Designed in a modified Jacobean style, the red brick and steeply pitched roof distinguishes these buildings facing a park across from the church. Called "Dale Park Center" in 1924 when constructed, the three-story buildings houses apartments of one to five rooms and twelve shops at street level. When planned, it was intended that all the neighborhood needs of the 300 houses in Mariemont could be supplied by these shops. A group of sixteen row houses extends nearly to Beech Sheet, designed by the same architects.

8 Ziegler Group
Location: 6615-6641 Chestnut Street (south side)
Architect: Carl A. Ziegler, Philadelphia
Begun: August 5, 1924

Eight stucco and frame houses with steeply pitched roofs and massive chimneys were built as compact, two-story units adjacent to the old Town Square.

9 MacKenzie Group
Location: 3902-3946 Beech Street (east side), 6605-6639 Murray Avenue (south side)
Architect: Clinton MacKenzie, New York
Begun: May 8, 1924

Advertisements noted this apartment building in stone and stucco and its surrounding houses as having a "touch of country" in their allotment gardens planned for the rear yards. The apartment building is one of two such residential buildings in the Village of more than two stories. Seventeen houses along Murray Avenue and thirteen along Beech Street were part of the MacKenzie complex.

10 Cellarius Group
Location: 3865-3947 Beech Street (west side)
Architect: Charles F. Cellarius, Cincinnati
Begun: June 12, 1924

Thirty-one group houses or duplexes, called "St Louis Flats," apparently to designate the plan of one apartment above the other in a two-story building were built on the west side of Beech Street from Elm Street northward. Cellarius also was resident architect of the Mariemont Company. These brick, columned houses are the only residences in the original district with verandas.

11 Elzner and Anderson Group
Location: 1-4 Linden Place, 3845 and 3855 Beech Street, 6576-6592 Wooster Pike (north side)
Architects: Elzner and Anderson, Cincinnati
Begun: October 31, 1924

A group of 12 single-family "cottages" of frame and shingle were constructed around a cul-de-sac and along the north side of the main east-west artery. The houses are served by jointly-owned garages clustered in the rear. These houses were planned as a "typical residence development for people of moderate means" according to the Mariemont Company promotional brochure, and they "approach the lowest cost-ideal consistent with large lots and attractive planting."

12 Short Group
Location: 3845-3895 Oak Sheet 6655 Chestnut Street
Architect: Charles W. Short Jr., Cincinnati
Begun: June 27, 1924

Designed to harmonize with the gray stone of the church they face, these single-family residences with half-timbered upper stories were derived from English Elizabethan or Jacobean models. According to the Mariemont Company brochure, the color of trim originally was a "delicate green."
13 **Mariemont History Panel**  
**Location:** Southeast corner of Oak and Chestnut Streets  
Erected in 1990 to celebrate Cincinnati's Bicentennial, this panel is one of 50 panels depicting the history of area communities.

14 **Dale Park School**  
**Location:** 6743 Chestnut Sheet  
**Architects:** Fechheimer, Ihorst and McCoy, Cincinnati  
**Began:** April 25, 1924  
Dedicated on May 16, 1925, the original building (best viewed on Chestnut Sheet just east of the building) has been expanded considerably. Its graceful brick and white trim construction is rich in Georgian-style details such as the cupola capping he roof line, the pedimented main entrance, its balanced, symmetrical layout, and the half-circle window at the east end. The latest addition was completed in 1966.

15 **Mariemont Community Church**  
**Location:** Cherry Lane  
**Architect:** Louis E. Jallade, New York  
**Began:** November 12, 1923  
The church was the first building begun in Mariemont. The stone edifice resembles a Norman-style English parish church, and the handsome roof tiles (note the undulating plane of the roof) were once part of a tithe barn in Kingswood Abbey, England, dating from about 1300. Services were first held in the church on July 11, 1926. After Mrs. Emery's death on October 11, 1927, a memorial service for the Village's founder was held here before interment in Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati. South of the church, enclosed by a low stone wall, is the cemetery established by the region's pioneer families. The oldest gravestone is dated 1822. On Wooster Pike at the end of the old path leading up to the cemetery is the Lich Gate, a reproduction of a centuries-old shelter found at the entrance to a churchyard where pallbearers rested before entering consecrated ground.

16 **Dogwood Park and the Carillon**  
**Location:** Pleasant Street at Fieldhouse Way  
This park, the largest public area in Mariemont (about 17 acres) was chosen as the site of an impressive bell tower. Although the fields were graded in 1925, the Carillon (height 100 feet), the gift of Isabella F. Hopkins, Mrs. Emery's sister, was dedicated on November 16, 1929. The tower houses a full range of 49 bells, each weighing between 19 pounds and 4800 pounds.

17 **Boat House**  
**Location:** Northeast corner of Dogwood Park (descend the stone steps behind the Tot Lot)  
**Began:** in 1927  
**Architect:** Charles F. Cellarius, Cincinnati  
This rustic stone building faced a two-acre lagoon and served as a boat house until the lagoon was filled in during the 1940's because of silting problems. The Boy Scouts then used it for a number of years. The stones for the original roof came from a creek bed in Batavia, Ohio. When the Boat House was restored in 2000, new stones were ordered from Gloucestershire, England.

18 **Howe & Manning Group**  
**Location:** 1-14 Denny Place  
**Architects:** Lois L. Howe and Eleanor Manning, Boston  
**Began:** September 19, 1924  
Two women architects designed this group of limestone houses, seven single and two double residences, on an oval-shaped lane centering on a small green. The rough-cut stone exteriors resemble those of English country cottages of the 18th century.
19 Madisonville Site

Location: Southwest corner of Dogwood Park, end of Mariemont Avenue

Pre-historic Late Fort Ancient Native American Site (1450-1670). Excavated by Harvard archaeologists between 1882 and 1911. More recent excavations were carried out by Cincinnati Museum of Natural History. The Site contained over 1450 burials and some 1300 corn storage/refuse pits. Artifacts are housed at the Peabody Museum, The Smithsonian Institution, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati Museum of Natural History and Mariemont Preservation Foundation. The John Nolen Pavilion was added in 2000 following his original 1921 design and planned location.

*An Ohio Historical Marker was erected at this Site in 1976

20 Concourse and Pergola

Location: Miami Bluff Drive at Center Street
Architect: Philip W. Foster, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Begun: 1925

The wooden pergola, a gracefully curved half-circle 400 feet long, supports mature wisteria vines above a gray stone concourse overlooking the Little Miami River and the valley beyond.

21 Atterbury Group

Location: 1-8 Sheldon Close, 6925 and 6945 Crystal Springs Road
Architect: Grosvenor Atterbury, New York
Begun: June 1, 1925

The style known as Elizabethan or Jacobean is reflected in Atterbury's half-timbered and stucco group of ten houses named for the older son of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Emery, Sheldon (1867-1890). At the end of the Close, the roofed gate leads into a service courtyard for garages. Each house faces a common green.

22 McGoodwin Group

Location: 1-10 Albert Place, 3825 and 3845 Miami Road
Architect: Robert R. McGoodwin, Philadelphia
Begun: June 23, 1924

Ground was broken for a group of twelve six-room brick houses, now painted white, facing a quiet green. An attractive service lane circles behind the group. The street name honors Mr. and Mrs. Emery's younger child Albert (1868-1884) who died in a sledding accident while attending St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire.

23 Mariemont Inn Block

Location: 6880 Wooster Pike, Village Square
Architects: Zettel and Rapp, Cincinnati
Begun: April 20, 1925

The three-story, half-timbered and brick Inn and block of shops are among the largest buildings constructed by the Mariemont Company, and yet only one-half of the architect's design was completed. The two wings, one on Wooster Pike and the other on Madisonville Road, were to extend about twice as far as they do today. Before the Inn opened for business, April 13, 1929, the Mariemont Company used the central core for its offices. An attractively landscaped sunken garden with a bowling green was located on the present parking lot site. The Inn's garage and service station, located on West Street, opened in May 1929 but was demolished in 1963 for office building located there.

* An Ohio Historical Marker, erected in 1986, stands on the median strip adjacent to the Inn.
Resthaven Farm Group

Location: 6980 Cambridge Avenue
Architect: Hubert E. Reeves, New York
Begun: 1924

Intended as a demonstration farm, called Resthaven Gardens, it was not part of the original district built by the Mariemont Company. The buildings, including a barn with stables for horses and cows, a milk house, greenhouse, and a farmer's cottage (building with gambrel roof at right), were frame with green shutters and "Quaker gray" trim according to the plans. This complex was intended to include housing eventually for Emery pensioners. The land surrounding Resthaven was divided into residential lots in February 1929. Presently used by the Village Maintenance Department, the main building with its cupola has the classical look of an English manor house outbuilding.

* Ohio Historical Markers are located at the Madisonville Site

and adjacent to the Mariemont Inn

Any exterior modifications to properties in the Historic District require a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Village of Mariemont Architectural Review Board