

Madeira's "Second" Historic Area by Carol (Klenk) Heck

We always think about the historic district of Madeira as the area of town with the railroad depot, the Joseph Muchmore home and the Charles Hosbrook home. Maybe the traction building on Miami and the old shoe store on Laurel could also be considered. Well, I have found a "T" shaped area that I would like to explore with you with pictures and a few facts. It involves Miami and Euclid and it could be a second historic area.

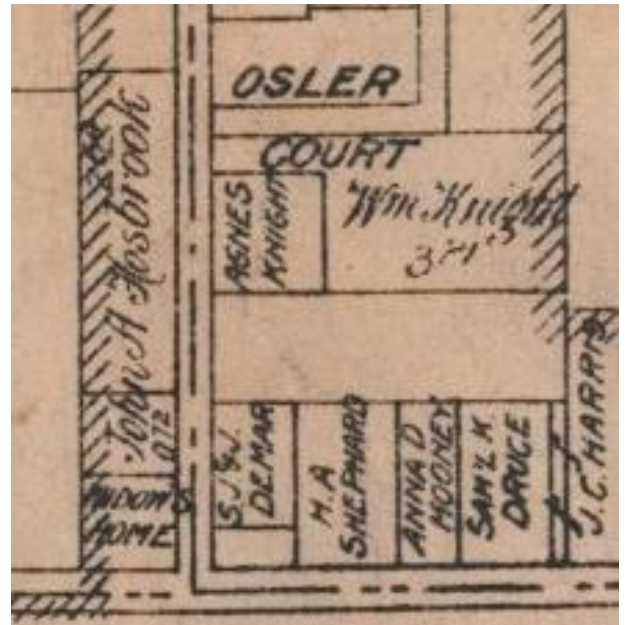
To start with, I discovered a map, seen here, in the Madeira Historical Society's archives. On the N.W. corner of Euclid and Miami (where the Madeira firehouse sits), the map indicates a "Widow's Home".

So, I searched the 1910 U.S. census and found the resident's names on Euclid and Miami to match up with this map. The "Widow's Home" was not on the census, but I believe it to be the John L. Hosbrook home. Furthermore, I found correspondence written to Warren Joy (past member of the Madeira Historical Society and a great historian) from a former resident of Madeira, Harry Hoes, which puts this map at 1914.

You can also follow the 2 links at the end of my story to view Sycamore and Columbia townships. For your reference, the house photos that I have "framed" are still around.

Now imagine going back to the period of 1910 or 1914. "The sidewalks are wooden 2 x 4's laid on edge with wood slats nailed between them to form the walk." *¹ The streets were not yet laid in concrete. There was only this one house on the N.W. corner of Euclid and one house adjacent to it on Miami. After that adjacent house, there were no more houses on the west side of Miami from there until you go all the way north to Galbraith Road. In addition, there was only this one corner house on the north side of Euclid up to Hosbrook Road and furthermore, only one house on Hosbrook Road.

The house that sat where the "Widow's Home" is indicated had to be that of John L. Hosbrook, grandson of John Hosbrook (1760-1798, who first settled here from New Jersey). The grandson, John L. (1817-1895) purchased 100 acres in 1848 and built the 2-story house possibly in 1886. (Photo #1). There's a gap in time between other owners of this lot on the corner and 1961 when the Madeira & Indian Hill Fire Company renovated the building,



added garages on the Miami Avenue side, and moved their station and equipment into that house. It was in 2015 when this structure was torn down and we got the new current fire station on that same lot.

The adjacent house mentioned above was built in 1888 and belonged to John L.'s son, John Asaph Hosbrook. (Photo #2). John Asaph and his wife, Alice Fowler, along with 3 daughters; May, Della, and Nelle, lived here. Properties and homes were passed down to the offspring in the Hosbrook family. Nelle Hosbrook inherited this Victorian home from her father. This house is privately owned now and is still in existence today.



Across the street from Nelle's old house, heading north on Miami past the library, now sits The Elizabeth Miller House, home of the Madeira Historical Society. (Photo #3). It was built by Howard DeMar in 1922 for Oscar and Louise Fournier. Oscar was a chemist for Proctor and Gamble. The home had 4 owners, the last being Bruce and Elizabeth Miller with their 4 children. After 101 years, the house is still being preserved and is now a museum and home of the Madeira Historical Society. We have a lot of history about our house if you would like to take a tour and learn more. We were just a blank lot on the 1914 map above.



Next to us is the former home of William and Agnes Knight which was built in 1895. (Photo #4). William Knight was a doctor and an oral surgeon. After he lived there, Dr. Anson G. Madden D.V. M. and his family lived there from around 1920-1979. He was Madeira's

veterinarian at that time. It had 2 more owners until around 1993. Following that, a dentist and his family moved in! Many families in the medical field found this home comfortable and homey.

Across Juler (which is Osler Court on the map), is the white framed boyhood home of former Madeira Mayor, Russel Brown (1916-1987). (Photo #5). An



empty lot was on their right by Juler. I quoted Russ above with his recollection of the sidewalks and streets and how there were no other houses across the street on Miami. Russ's house was built in 1920. Russ recollects ice skating on Hosbrook Pond which was on the Hosbrook farm across the street from him. He had an almost direct view of the turnstile that let folks in, but kept the cows from getting out. After skating, his friends would stop by his home to warm up with hot cocoa and to listen to the player piano. This house is still standing and is cherished by its owners.

I have pictures of three homes on Euclid eastward from the library. This would be the top part of my "T" for this presumed second historic area.

The first is the home of Samuel K. Druce and his wife Sarah Dones Druce. (Photo #6). The house was possibly built in 1900. Samuel and Sarah would have been in their 50's then. Samuel became Madeira's first mayor in 1910 when Madeira became a village. And this would have been his home. There was a Dr. Hudson that also lived here at one time. This house is still with us and has had several families own it.

Next door to that house on the left side and also on the north side of Euclid was the Edward and Anna Mooney home. This is gone but we still have the picture to remember it by (Photo #7).

On the map on page 1, there existed at that time the home of H. A. Shephard. The Madeira Historical society has some artifacts from the Shephard's, but no photo of the house. That land is now part of the library parking lot.



Across the street was the home of Kenneth and Mary Lee Druce Bain, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Druce. The address was 7721 Euclid, long gone now. (Photo #8).

The house on the N.E. corner of Miami and Euclid was torn down to build the current public library. See page 4, (Photo #9). The land was originally owned by the Hetzler's. In 1871, Civil War Captain, James T. DeMar built a house there and raised his family.

Some of their ancestors were buried on the property, including the Hetzlers. There are still some tombstones that can be observed by walking through the property of the Madeira Historical



Society. To see them, go past the George Farris headstone and through the fence by the chicken coop then turn away from Miami Avenue.

There are three more Madeira houses from the 1800's. These are located on the south side of Euclid across Miami which continues the top of my "T".

Built in 1891 at 7505 Euclid is this astounding red brick home. (Photo #10). The first owner may have been Sylvan William Helfrich. This home is in Columbia Township. It is still being used and

preserved while adding to our Madeira's history.

Going westward from here was the Fowler/Hillman home on the corner of Euclid and Summit. This brick house was built in 1856 for Leonard and Eliza Fowler. Their daughter, Alice, became John Asaph Hosbrook's wife and mother of Nelle. Later, Ed Hillman's family took possession and lived there many years. (Photo # 11). It has been torn down and a brand-new home now takes its place facing Summit.



Lastly on my tour is this home which was originally part of the Wesling's estate. It was built in 1870 and is located at 7151 Euclid. The Doer family lived here at one time also. It is located just west and across the street from Hosbrook Road. (Photo #12). This is a modern picture and not what it first looked like. Lots of nice renovations have been made.



Some homes have been torn down to make way for more modern lifestyles with all the newest gadgets. And others are still bringing joy to their residents. All homes need maintenance and repair so even if you have a historic home or a brand new one, you will not escape upkeep. I myself, enjoy the older, quaint models. I hope you can visualize this "T" shaped area that hasn't been thought of as a historic place before.



I haven't been able to talk to anyone who knows why this N.W. corner of Euclid and Miami is labeled "Widow's Home". I am reaching out to anyone who might know something. Please reach us at 513-561-9069, or madeirahistoricalsociety@gmail.com .

1. Memoirs and presentation of Russel Brown, former Madeira Mayor, written 10-15-1975.

<https://digital.cincinnati.org/digital/collection/p16998coll9/id/4389/rec/1>

<https://digital.cincinnati.org/digital/collection/p16998coll9/id/4396/rec/1>

Photos courtesy of Hamilton County Auditors site and The Madeira Historical Society.

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Also see, "Once Upon a Time" under Library.