



Edgewood

Edgewood, located off Hopkins Road in northeastern Chesterfield, is named for its original setting at the edge of a wooded tract bordering the open fields of adjoining Meadowbrook Farm. Erected in 1908 by Judith F. Winfree, wife of Rupert W. Winfree, it remained in the hands of the Winfree family until being sold to the present owners in the 1940s.

A two-story frame Colonial Revival house, Edgewood is distinguished from neighboring houses of its size and period by its ostentatious main facade. Viewed directly from the front, the house appears larger than it actually is; a view slightly to one side reveals the house to be of unextraordinary form and size. The facade of Edgewood functions as something of a stage set; behind the Roman Doric portico, the decorative balcony, and the oversized front windows surmounted by elliptical fanlights is a dwelling built on approximately the same dimensions as a number of simpler contemporary double-pile I-houses in the county. While it is an exceptional house for its period in Chesterfield, Edgewood's scale and detailing is modest in comparison with suburban dwellings in many pre-World War I neighborhoods in Richmond.

Edgewood is said to have been built with unusually substantial brick chimneys because of Judith Winfree's fear of fire; she had seen both her childhood home and the previous Winfree house at Meadowbrook go up in flames. An unusual interior feature of the house are the transoms over the interior doors opening from the central stairhall into the two principal rooms on the main floor. Because of the placement of these transoms, the fireplaces in either downstairs room are visible from the upstairs hall landing. While it has been said this was a deliberate safety device suggested by Mrs. Winfree, the transoms may simply have been a decorative feature.

Interviewees:

Mrs. E. S. Ray (Richmond); Mrs. Charles Quaiff (Richmond).

Architectural Description:

20-162. (Drewrys Bluff Quad). *Dwelling*: frame w/ wbdns.; 2 stories; masonry fdns. w/ later bsmt.; 3-bay front; central-passage plan; hipped and gable roofs; int. end brick chimneys; colossal front tetrastyle Roman Doric portico. *Dims.*: 45'-4" across the front. *Orient.*: E. *Ext. detailing*: shallow decorative balustraded balcony over the front door; floorlength 3-piece front windows surmounted by ellip. fanlights. *Interior*: N.A.; said to be largely intact; 360°-turn three-run stair; fanlights over principal int. doorways. *Built*: 1908.



Taylor-McCarty House

Built in 1909, this eclectic 2½-story frame dwelling stands along US 1 about a half mile south of Falling Creek. The house was among the first residences built in Bensley, one of the Richmond-area's first planned suburbs.

Combining elements of both the Queen Anne and Georgian Revival styles, the house boasts a highly articulated series of facades. Exterior decorative elements include a Palladian window, a Roman Doric front porch, a two-story polygonal bay, and an octagonal pavilion at the north facade. Set in a large yard with towering shade trees, the house contrasts dramatically with the mid-twentieth century commercial development surrounding it.

Haywood F. Taylor, who built the house, purchased the four-acre lot for \$800 from Albert Bensley in 1908. The deed specified that no dwelling worth less than \$2,500 — a substantial figure for the day — was to be constructed on the property. Bensley, who bought the original acreage off the Chester Hill tract in the 1880s and divided it into house lots, lived in a large frame dwelling (now gone) immediately across the road from the Taylor residence. Mrs. Lucy R. McCarty bought the house from Taylor in 1921, and her descendants continue to live there.

Interviewees:

E. McCarty (Richmond); Harold Walker (Chesterfield C.H.).

Architectural Description:

20-259. (Drewrys Bluff Quad). *Dwelling*: 2½ stories; frame w/ novelty