

August 2009 Glenmere Area walking tour

The following includes notes on selected sites from the August 2009 Glenmere Area walking tour.

History of Glenmere Park

Parks are an important part of Greeley's history, starting with Lincoln Park, platted in 1870, and the additions of other parks, including Glenmere Park. The design for Glenmere Park was based on the City Beautiful movement, which promoted the idea using city planning to make a city visually appealing. In 1908, famed landscape architect C.B. Blake suggested to avoid straight lines in planting and to leave the best views open. The Glenmere Park Association, the original owner of the park, was incorporated in 1908. They became an addition to the city in 1910 and the Association deeded the park to the city in 1911, on the condition that it would remain free as a public park in perpetuity.

Greeley hired Boulder landscape architect W.W. Parce to write a plan for the park, which included curved streets surrounding the park, sympathetic to the topography of the land, however, the park was not developed until the 1930s. In celebration of Washington's Bicentennial Birthday, the mayor declared a holiday, and various civic groups, including the Garden Club, organized a tree planting day at Glenmere. They planted 160 trees, and the two which died were replaced. The Greeley Exchange Club entered the park in a national city beautification contest. Greeley placed fourth and received a bronze plaque, which is displayed in the park. Between 1922 and 1931 a concrete dam was constructed in the main pond. In 1936, plans were made for further park development, to include three concrete dams for lily ponds below the lake, a shelter and warming house, sewage system for the restrooms, a small footbridge and covered pens or protection for waterfowl on the island, all WPA projects. Preservation of the park became the focus in 1955, when the city shored up the island with riprap to prevent further erosion.

Glenmere Park was a popular place for cruisers in the 1980s, which proved to be a nuisance to the area. In 1989, the City closed Lakeside Drive, on the south side of the park, with two cul-de-sacs being built.

Glenmere Park is listed on the Greeley Historic Register.

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1865 14th Avenue

Immanuel Lutheran started as a church serving Swedish families. Rev. F.O.W. Gustafson came to Greeley in June 1905 to start a new congregation at the home of M/M David Lofgren. A committee purchased a lot for the church and constructed a church at 13th Street and 8th Avenue. It was completed and ready for use by June 1907. They used the Swedish language almost exclusively for their services, but eventually became an all-English speaking congregation.

After Pastor Gustafson left, Pastor Ahlin arrived and served until he died in 1929. In 1931 Pastor Joseph Conrad arrived. In 1936, Rev Reuben Carlson began here and in 1942, Rev. C.A. Lofgren arrived. They remodeled the original structure in 1944 and it became the Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In March 1947, the church purchased two lots at 14th Avenue and Lakeside Drive. In 1952, Rev Grenville Christensen came to Greeley. They began plans for the new church building, sold the property at 8th Avenue and 13th Street in August 1952. They held services in a temporary location for 2½ years during construction, which started in April 1954. They completed it in 1955 with the first service here was in March. In 1959, Rev. Harold R. Sandberg served until 1966 and in 1966 Rev. Marvin L. Langeland came. The church celebrated their 100th anniversary in 2005.

This church is a modern version of medieval architecture, with the attached buttresses, lack of overhanging eaves, steeply pitched roof, brick exterior, decorative brick corbelling and contrasting colors of brick.

1914 14th Avenue (Farr House)

This house is an example of Tudor Revival style. The style is named after Tudor dynasty in England, which began in 1485 w/ King Henry VII and ended in 1603 with the death of his granddaughter, Elizabeth I. It took off in the 1920s and 1930s as masonry veneering techniques allowed the most modest examples to mimic the masonry exteriors of English prototypes. Some are built with brick, stone or wood cladding or a combination, often with brick or stone on the first story and wood on the upper story(ies). This example is one of the first large homes in the area constructed during the Depression, in approximately 1937. Characteristic features on this house include: fake half-timbering; brick exterior; tall, narrow, metal casement windows; decorative shutters; steeply pitched roof; stone quoins around doorway; brick sills; and eave returns.

1917 14th Ave

Built in ca 1939-40, Tyler C. Stillwell, mgr of Morey Mercantile Store, lived in the home from ca. 1939-40 to approximately 1949-50. Carroll and Becky Gilbert purchased the home in the early 1950s. Carroll worked as a pharmacist and owned drug stores in Greeley with his brother.

It is an example of Tudor Revival style, with features including stone corbels around the door, a one-story bay window with metal rounded roof and metal casement window, a steeply pitched side gabled roof, fake ½ timbering in wall dormers, brick exterior, diamond-light transom over door and is stepped up on the east side of chimney.

1919 14th Ave

Constructed in approximately 1940, this house features Spanish Eclectic style features. According to Virginia and Lee McAlester in *A Field Guide to American Houses*, “this style uses details from the entire history of Spanish architecture.” The Panama-California Exposition in San Diego in 1915 inspired this style, and architects began to get inspiration from Spain. It evolved into the Spanish Colonial Revival style/Spanish Eclectic (same style). The style was most popular in the United States during the 1920s and early 1930s, but was no longer favored by 1940s. It was most common in the southwest United States, but scattered vernacular examples are all around the country. Main features on this house include the red tiled roof, stucco exterior, no eave overhang, the asymmetrical façade, casement windows and the cast stone decoration over the recessed entrance.