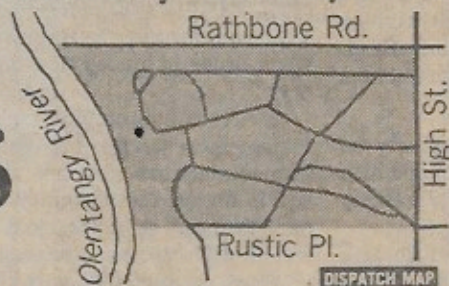


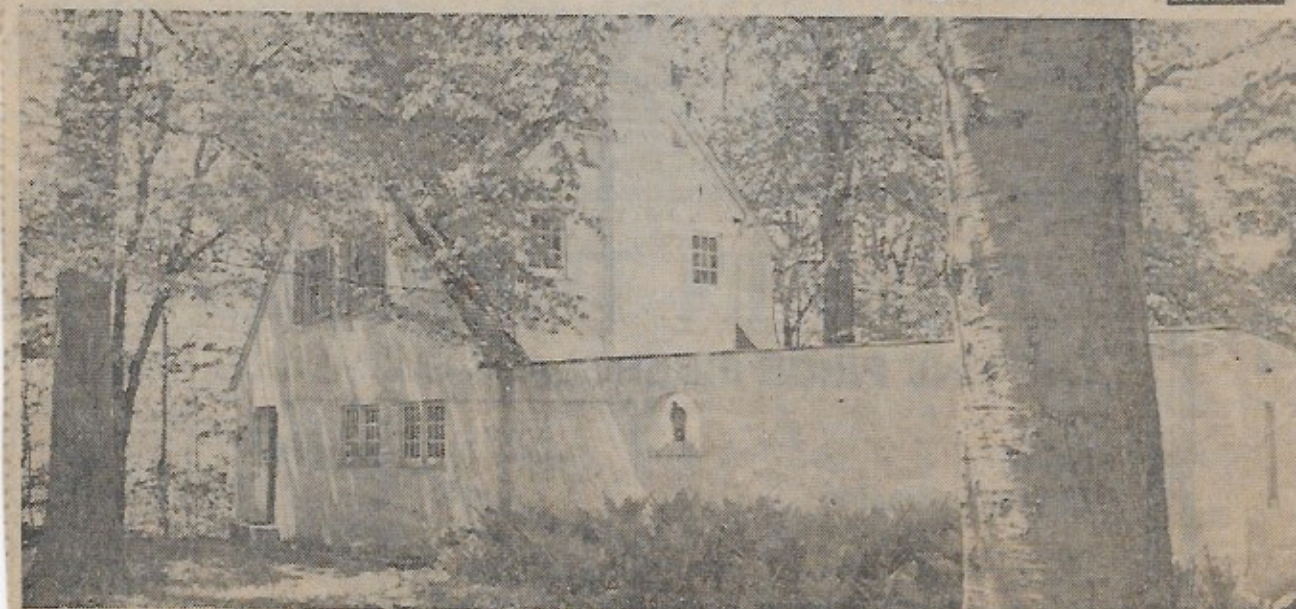


Creeping Vines, Graceful Trees Make Elegant Mansion A Sanctuary From Busy World

Neighborhoods



DISPATCH MAP



This Stucco Home Is One Of The Oldest In The Neighborhood

Old Beechwold

By Kathy Gray Foster
Of The Dispatch Staff

Driving through Old Beechwold is like taking a trip through the fantasy forest in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Its winding, narrow streets with overhanging trees and stone bridges conjure up thoughts of a hidden world of gnomes and magic, of secrets and leprechauns. It seems to be a world within itself, a sanctuary for its residents.

Realtor Rita Merola calls it "almost like an oasis, which has a privacy about it in the middle of everything." The nearly 150 homes that make up the oasis "each have their own special character, not the sameness you see in some places," she said.

RANGING from \$80,000 to \$150,000-plus, the homes have no common traits except their location, which is directly south of the hustle and bustle of Graceland Shopping Center. The area, directly across High St. from the newer Beechwold, is bounded by Rathbone Rd. on the north, N. High St. on the east, Rustic Pl. on the south, and the Olentangy River on the west.

Old English Tudor-style homes sit next to white frame New England designs on oversized lots. Trees, shrubbery and wildflowers dot the large expanses of green lawns in this strictly residential neighborhood.

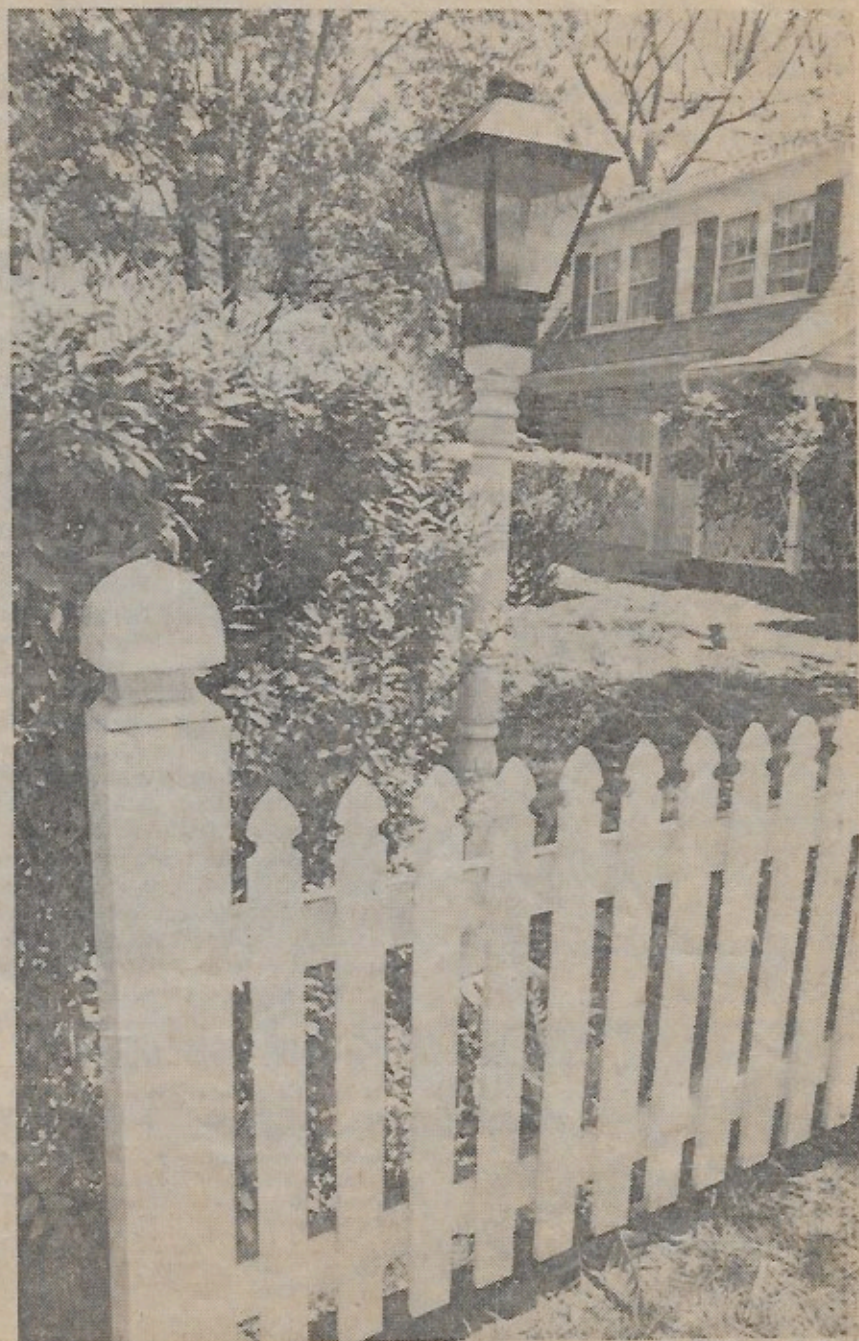
What some Columbus residents might consider necessary modernization, such as street lights or wide roads, Beechwold residents have rejected in their attempt to keep the area's rustic style.

"Everything's been kept in its original style and there have been hardly any changes," according to Charles Mooney, an inventor who has lived at 128 W. Royal Forest Blvd. since 1940.

Mooney said he and his wife built their home in Old Beechwold because "it was the nearest thing we could find to Walhalla Rd., which is a wooded, ravine type of area between High St. and Indianola Ave."

THE GROUP responsible for pre-Continued on Page K-9

"The quickest way you get people the most upset up here is to let them hear the sound of a chain saw."



Dispatch Photos by Fred Shannon

White Picket Fence, Lamp Give Home Modern Touch

Continued from Page K-8

erving the neighborhood's character is the Old Beechwold Association, which was started in the early 1900s. Myra Adelman, the current president of the organization, describes it as "a simple framework that exists in case it's needed. Otherwise, we don't bug anyone.

"It's to deal with what we view as threats to the neighborhood, such as when there are plans for highways too close to us or strange zoning up for approval nearby," she said.

Plans to extend Morse Rd. west through Old Beechwold met with vehement opposition from the residents. The controversy ended in a city-wide election which, according to Mooney, "stopped Morse Rd. cold from going on to the river."

"The quickest way you get people the most upset up here is to let them hear the sound of a chain saw," Adelman said.

THE ASSOCIATION'S most recent successful battle stemmed from an attempt by the Association for the Developmentally Disabled to put a group home for the retarded in the neighborhood.

"We never objected to who they planned to put in there, but how, because we want to keep this a single-family residence area," Adelman said.

Old Beechwold was not always a neighborhood of families. For several years in the early 1900s, it was a zoo that housed monkeys, bears and other animals until it ran into financial problems and was sold to a developer.

Known as Zooland, the original stone zoo entrance gates remain along N. High St. at Riverview Park Dr., Royal Forest Blvd. and Jeffrey Pl. The zoo's monkey house is also still standing and serves as a barn on the

property of William Milligan, 150 W. Beechwold Blvd.

Milligan's home is the second oldest in the neighborhood. It was built around 1906 as a summer home for Joseph A. Jeffrey, whose wife named the estate Beechwalde, meaning "the beech forest."

Jeffrey sold his property in 1914 to Charles H. Johnson, a Columbus land developer, who altered the name of the neighborhood to its current spelling.

Milligan, a former United States attorney for the southern Ohio district, describes Old Beechwold as "sort of an old-shoe type of neighborhood, and I'm sort of an old-shoe type." He hastened to point out, however, that "not everybody here is old shoeish."

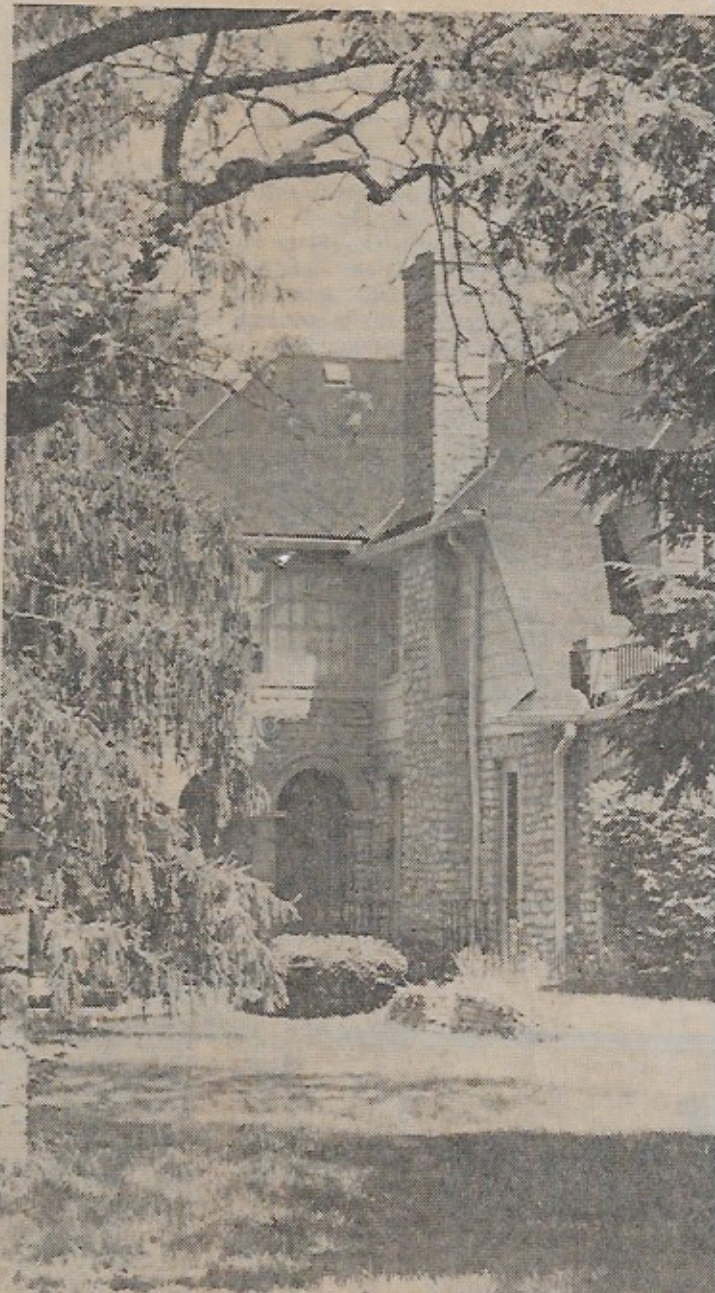
The neighborhood is not a place where formal entertaining is the norm, and, "it's a place where individuals can be at home," he said.

ONE OLD BEECHWOLD individualist is known for his trips back and forth to his job as an associate professor of electrical engineering at Ohio State University. Benedikt A. Munk, who moved to the United States from Denmark in 1960, likes the area because of "the special type of people who live here.

"People don't try to create an image of something they're not and nobody tries to outdo anyone," he said.

In his free time, Munk makes clocks and furniture with antique tools while his wife, Aase, creates artistic needlepoint bed hangings.

Residents of Old Beechwold share some social events. One group raises money each year to support Children's Hospital by selling antiques on consignment. On the Fourth of July, neighbors often get together informally for a celebration at someone's home.



Stone Pillars, Sloping Trees Frame Entranceway To