

Myles Manor Park

Myles Manor Park presented a unique opportunity to developer William Powell. First platted in 1929 . Myles Manor Park is situated on the former front lawn of a circa 1850 Tennessee farm house. In 1929 the 25-foot wide shotgun lots sold rapidly, but the great depression soon halted sales and a number of lots remained unsold. In 1994 William Powell obtained ten of the unsold “shotgun” lots.

Myles Manor was originally plated with a "0" lot line designation (no longer possible under current codes.) This designation afforded the architect and builder an opportunity to incorporate selected elements of the “new urbanism” in a traditional neighborhood development. This “0” lot line designation provided an opportunity for the designers to form a more dense clustering of homes while at the same time creating some complex problems not normally encountered in traditional track home designs.

Two single 25-foot "shotgun" lots were combined into one allowing the homes to better harmonize with existing houses in the neighborhood. The keystone to the development from the beginning was to provide a "sociable street" with homes on a human scale, homes that invite you in with their porches, tall linear lines and attention to architectural detail. Buildings and spaces form a tightly unified whole where architectural elements and massing from each house complements its neighbor in democratic harmony . From the beginning, wonderful Two hundred-year-old trees dictated the design of the houses. Great care was given to the placement of the houses to protect the trees and to incorporate their form into the design setting .

A permanent easement was created across the back of the property to provide access for rear-entry garages. The “alley” was allowed to meander like a country lane, dodging trees in its path. This road was surfaced with asphalt and coated with hot tar and pea gravel to further naturalize its setting.

A conscious effort was made to use natural materials in construction, i.e. brick sidewalks, wood fences. As part of this plan, it was decided to avoid hot, hard concrete surfaces. Brick walks were built in the traditional manner on sand bases, allowing soft undulating lines and textures to blend with the natural elements of the front yards. To further evoke the feel of a country lane, picket fences were constructed to provide the "smile" for the front of the houses.

Myles Manor Mansion (directly across the street) provided the inspiration for architectural details. Myles Manor was remodeled circa 1910 in the classic revival style, but still retains its Italianate features from an 1880 renovation. Local vernacular architecture and southern regional styles also played in the design scheme.

All details were given special attention. Window “lights” were given varying patterns, much like existing old neighborhoods in Franklin. Antique architectural components such as cast iron vents and railings, and windows and doors, were used to soften the design elements, and to provide a look not available with modern materials. Rather than line up the homes equal distance from the street they were staggered up and back like many of the old neighborhoods in Franklin.