

11. 140 Old Short Hills Road "Renwick House"

Discrepancies in the stated age of this house suggest that more than one house stood on the site. The current one probably dates from about 1870. 19th Century Vernacular style.

Features: drip mold window crowns painted in contrasting color, round headed windows in gable, house set at right angle to road.

An historical photograph of this house makes clear that it has been greatly altered. At one time it had three stories, a mansard roof with cupola, and an ornate porch across the front. The date of the alterations is unknown. Edward S. Renwick, a well known inventor and mechanical engineer and the brother of architect James Renwick, lived here at one time. Edward's obituary said that he walked from this house every Sunday to services at St. Stephen's Church until shortly before his death in 1912 at age 89.



38 Jefferson Avenue

12. 149 Old Short Hills Road

Built c. 1859. Georgian Colonial style.

Features: gambrel roof, balcony with Palladian window above, 3 chimneys, pedimented doorway, house at right angle to road.

Louis Keller, the principal organizer/founder of Baltusrol Golf Club, grew up in this house which his parents, Charles M. and Heloise Keller, owned from 1866-1889.

The first, 18th century building of the Presbyterian Church of Springfield was located on lower Main Street when Millburn was still part of that town. The pastor of the church was granted a glebe of 200 acres for his home and farm on what is now called Parsonage Hill Road.

13. 7 Parsonage Hill Road

Built c. 1780 with additions in 1868 and 1920's. Gothic Revival influence on 19th Century vernacular style.

Features: gable roof, porch with side bracketed arches, round headed gable windows.

This house was built in three sections, the oldest part being on the right front. The left side and Victorian details were added in 1868. That date and the names of the workers who built the addition are written on a wall in the attic. The third section of the house is a wing in back added in the 1920's. An outbuilding that once served as a summer kitchen is now used for pool storage.

The Whitlock map of 1859 shows a schoolhouse on the eastern side of Old Short Hills Road just opposite Parsonage Hill Road. It was listed in the 1857 report of Millburn's first school superintendent as a "one room school". Known as Jefferson School, it continued in use until 1906.

14. 2 Jefferson Avenue

Built c. 1900. Italian Renaissance style.

Features: red tile hip roof with projecting wings, double front door flanked by Ionic columns, round headed windows in pairs, bracketed eaves, symmetrical facade.

15. 30 Jefferson Avenue

Built c. 1906. Colonial Revival style.

Features: Hipped roof, 2 story portico, front door flanked by Ionic columns, round headed dormer windows with intricate muntin patterns.

An historical photo of this house shows that it originally had one story porches on front and side. At some point they were removed and the present two story portico added. The original house was built by Edward Hill for his family. He also built #38, #42, #48 and #49 Jefferson Avenue.

16. 38 Jefferson Avenue

Built c. 1900. Shingle and 19th Century Vernacular styles.

Features: curved porch, diamond light design in upper story windows, gable roof showing Dutch influence, bracketed entryway, gazebo a late 20th century addition.

17. 42 Jefferson Avenue

Built c. 1906. 20th Century Vernacular style.

Features: hip roof, bay windows, balcony on side, line of bracketed flattened porch arches repeated in leaded glass window in front.

18. 48 Jefferson Avenue

Built c. 1907. 20th Century Eclectic style.

Features: tiled gable roof, 2nd floor overhang, half timbering, bay window, diamond pattern in windows flanking front door, porch.

At first glance this house appears to be Tudor in style, but the porch supports are classical columns and the railing has heart cut-outs in the balusters as in Craftsman style. A similar stair railing inside the house has diamond cut-outs in the balusters.

Walking along Barnsdale Road, note the handsome Tudor style homes made of stucco, stone, brick and wood. Many of them have typical slate roofs (some with breaks in the roof-line giving the impression of age), half timbering, multipaned windows, and massive chimneys. Also note the walled garden on the point formed by the conjunction of Barnsdale and Nottingham Roads.

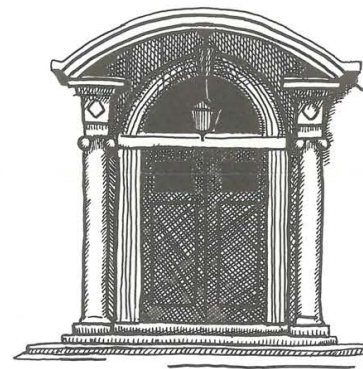
19. 1 Nottingham Road "Robin Hood Cottage"

Built c. 1925. Cotswold Cottage style

Architect: Bernhard Mueller

Features: slate roof, mullioned and casement windows, tower, chimneys, back gate.

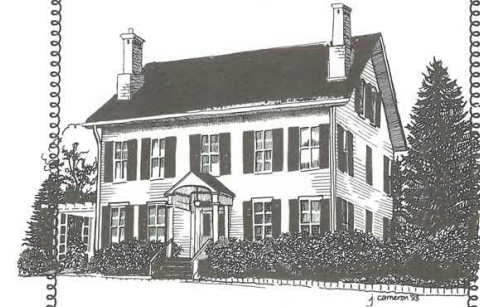
This whimsical cottage was built by the developer of the Nottingham section and used as a sales office. It supposedly served at one time as the setting for a film version of "Hansel and Gretel". The land which became the Nottingham section had been part of the holdings of Albert D. Traphagen (see #10 this walk).



2 Jefferson Avenue

Old Short Hills Road Walking Tour

19 Buildings
2 Miles



105 Old Short Hills Road

Millburn ~
Short Hills
Historical Society

Old Short Hills Road Walking Tour

19 Buildings

2 Miles

Estimated Walking Time: 1 1/4 Hours



5 Hillside Avenue

1. 51 Old Short Hills Road

The age of this handsome building is uncertain. Township records state that it was built in 1754 and it appears on the Whitlock map of 1859. We suspect that an 18th century farmhouse was remodeled in the first half of the 19th century to its present style.

19th Century Vernacular style.

Features: symmetrical design, double window and fish scale shingles in gable, round window. This house was used as the manse of St. Stephen's Church from 1851 to 1865. The Parkhurst family owned it from 1899 to 1947.

2. 54 Old Short Hills Road

Built c. 1880. Queen Anne style.

Features: central chimney which services three fireplaces on the first floor, patterned shingles, turret on right side.

Frederick Farley, commemorated today by Farley Road, was an early owner of this property.

3. 58 Old Short Hills Road

Built c. 1890. The town has records of ownership of this property from 1854 when it belonged to Jonathan Parkhurst, but it is doubtful that the present house was built until late in the 19th century.

19th Century Vernacular style.

Features: roof brackets, double windows in off center gable.

4. 59 Old Short Hills Road

The date of this building is uncertain. The Town has records of ownership from 1780, and we know that in 1810 Koezia Parcell sold 5 acres of land at this location to David Dean. Whether there was a building on the land at that time is unknown.

Interior fireplaces indicate that the rear portion of the house dates from the Colonial period and the front half from the Victorian era.

19th Century Vernacular style.

Features: stone foundation, gable roof, colonial firebox on rear, house at right angle to road.

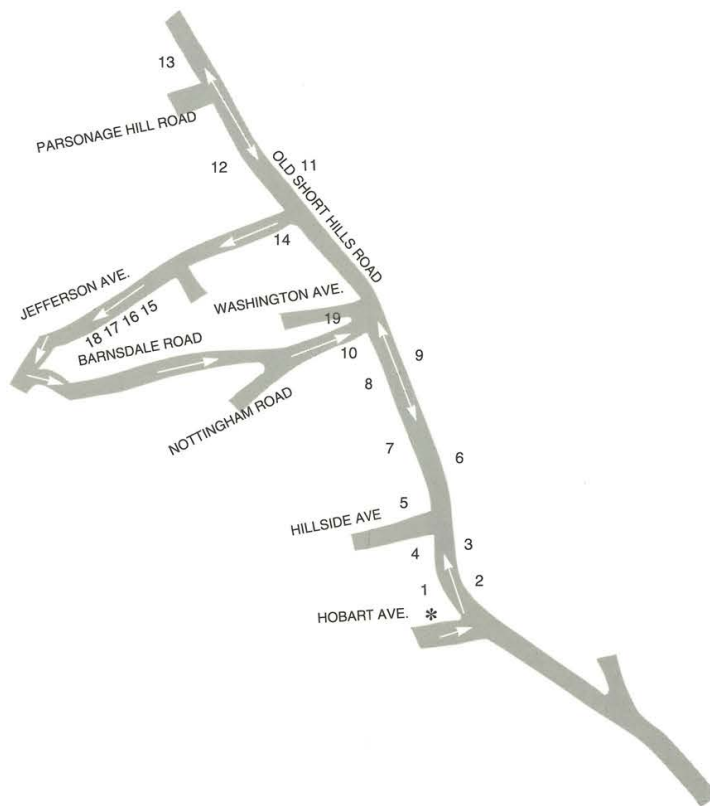
5. 5 Hillside Avenue

Built c. 1873. Pointed Gothic style. Compatible additions to right side and rear in 1992/93.

Features: pattern in slate roof, ornamental chimneys, pointed gable with cross bracing, roof and porch brackets.

Start: Park on Hobart Avenue west of Old Short Hills Road. Walk up Old Short Hills Road on the sidewalk/path USING CARE as walk is very near the traffic in some places.

DO NOT cross Old Short Hills Road to view even-numbered buildings. When you must walk in the street as on Jefferson Avenue, always walk on the left, facing traffic. Since all of these buildings are on private property, please remain on the public right of way when viewing them.



6. 74 Old Short Hills Road

Built prior to 1800 but exact date unknown. Essex County records show that Hannah Parkhurst bought the house from John Parcell in 1857.

Feature: House facing south towards Millburn Center.

Note that many 18th to mid-19th century homes faced south to take advantage of the winter sun; thus their sites were often at right angles to the road. (Some other examples are #59, #83 and #93 Old Short Hills Road).

7. 83 Old Short Hills Road

It appears from the Whitlock map of 1859 that a building was on this property at that time. The present structure was probably built in two stages, the later Victorian addition on the right by John and Alice Henderson who owned the house from 1870 to 1930. 19th Century Vernacular style. Features: roof brackets, round headed third floor window, bracketed pillars supporting veranda roof, house at right angle to the road, perennial garden along driveway.

Between #83 and #87 Old Short Hills Road is a dip in the terrain that marks the right of way of the proposed New Jersey West Line Railroad. Traces of the roadbeds and trestle embankments laid out by that railroad in the 1870's and 1880's may still be seen in the Township. The railroad was to enter town from Union near the Maplewood border, cross Old Short Hills Road at this spot, then run westerly to Hobart Gap Road and across the county line to Summit. The railroad changed hands several times and was never completed, most of the right of way being sold to the public in 1901.

8. 93 Old Short Hills Road

Built c. 1865. 19th Century Vernacular style.

Features: wrap around porch with decorative scroll work, fish scale shingles in gable, 2 story bay to left of entrance, house at right angle to road.

This house was owned by the Blood family for 87 years from 1889 to 1976, and the exterior appears to have remained unchanged.

9. 94 Old Short Hills Road

Built c. 1868. Queen Anne style with 20th century addition

Features: Asymmetrical design, veranda, roof brackets, shingled octagonal tower, fish scale shingles in gable, third floor windows with border of small square lights in upper sash.

Israel Condit (see Millburn Center walk) originally owned the land on which this house sits.

10. 105 Old Short Hills Road "Traphagen House"

Built c. 1850. Mid 19th century Colonial design. Town records show that in 1854 Albert Traphagen bought 12 acres of land here from Abraham Parkhurst, but Traphagen descendants believe the house itself pre-dates that sale. The house remained in the Traphagen family until 1921.

Features: double front door, 4 chimneys, round headed window in third floor, recent addition in rear, copper beech tree in yard.