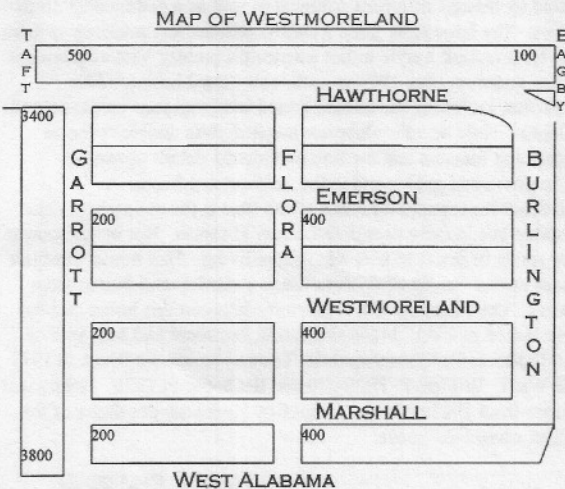


Westmoreland's Early History

Westmoreland was the first of Houston's developments modeled on the "private place" neighborhoods that originated in St. Louis at the end of the nineteenth century and became popular in the South and Midwest. Julius Pitzman, an engineer from St. Louis, designed some of the finest private places in St. Louis, including Portland Place and Westmoreland Place, and laid out Houston's Westmoreland. Generally, a private place was a small gated community with a central divided boulevard. The grandest homes would be built along the boulevard, with more modest residences located on adjacent streets.

Westmoreland fits the private place model just described in that it was laid out so that its streets did not tie in with the streets aligned with the Main Street grid, now located across the freeway. Instead, there was a line of houses facing Burlington that backed up to that grid so that the only point of entrance on the east was at Westmoreland. Stone gate piers marked the main entrance where Westmoreland intersected Burlington, the site of the streetcar stop for the line connecting the neighborhood to the Central Business District. The design departed somewhat from the standard private place model in that Westmoreland, the widest street in the neighborhood, was not laid out as a divided boulevard. Instead, the street was designed as a narrowly paved right-of-way with extremely generous esplanades between the curb and sidewalk to give the street a sense of spaciousness.

In 1900, the land that later became Westmoreland was open prairie with a single building on the Sittig tract known as the Whittaker house. South End Land Company, an entity founded by W. W. Baldwin of Burlington, Iowa, bought this land and planned and subdivided Westmoreland. Baldwin, a lawyer and railroad executive, was president of the St. Louis, Keokuk & Northwestern Railway and the Chicago, Burlington & Kansas City Railway. Burlington was most likely named for his hometown. Baldwin later developed Westmoreland Farms on the southwest side of Houston, in what is now Bellaire.



Architectural styles represented in Westmoreland

Queen Anne	Craftsman	American Four-Square
Colonial Revival	Jacobethan	Dutch Colonial
Mediterranean Revival	Eastlake	Italianate
		Prairie

Acknowledgements

The Westmoreland Civic Association would like to thank the following people for their generous assistance with this guide: Mr. Ron Crockett, a longtime resident of Westmoreland, for sharing his extensive historical research on the neighborhood; Margaret Culbertson, author of *Texas Houses Built By the Book* (Texas A&M University Press, 1999) and Head, William R. Jenkins Architecture and Art Library, for providing detailed information regarding specific houses; Stephen Fox, architectural historian, adjunct lecturer in the School of Architecture at Rice University and Fellow of the Anchorage Foundation of Texas, for lending his walking tour notes; and Martha Peterson and the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance for imparting both their knowledge of Westmoreland history and general expertise on the subject of walking tours.

Compiled 2002 by the Westmoreland Civic Association in honor of our centennial year.
Printed by the Westmoreland Preservation Alliance, a 501(c)(3) organization.

222 Westmoreland (1919). Prairie style.

401 Westmoreland (1905). This Queen Anne style house is known as the Fondren House. Walter W. Fondren and the former Ella Cochrum lived in this house until they built a new home on Montrose Boulevard in 1923, which is now La Colombe D'Or Hotel. Fondren and Ross Sterling are considered the main founders of Humble Oil Company. Fondren gave credit for his success in the oil business to his wife's ability to smell oil in samples of mud and sand he brought home. Notice the windowed turret room and the use of rock face stucco.

405 and 407 Westmoreland (1932). This duplex was the home of Mortimer E. Fowler, president of Fowler-Robinson Drilling Company. The house was converted to a duplex with one entrance facing east so that it would be invisible to the street. Notice the scrolled cast stone pediment above the entrance.

412 Westmoreland (1921-22). Craftsman influenced Four-Square.

421 Westmoreland (1905). This is the site of the Staiti house, a grand mansion which was moved to Sam Houston Park in 1985. Independent oilman Henry Thomas Staiti was an early developer of the Humble oil field. Staiti family members donated the house to the Harris County Heritage Society in the 1980s.

420 Westmoreland (1910). Burke Baker occupied this Craftsman style bungalow from 1910 to 1935. Not only was Burke Baker a banker, an independent oil operator, and an insurance executive, he was also a civic leader and philanthropist of many accomplishments. He led Houston's first Community Chest campaign, which preceded the United Way. He was instrumental in convincing a major New York shipper to include Houston as a stop, securing Houston's future as a port city. Burke Baker Planetarium at the Museum of Natural Science is named in his honor, and he was also a founder of the Museum of Fine Arts and a board member of the YMCA, Red Cross and The Kincaid School.

426 Westmoreland (1918). Colonial Revival influenced Four-Square.

428 Westmoreland (1904). The Crawford house, a good example of Colonial Revival style, was one of the first houses to be built in Westmoreland and was one of the first to be restored in the mid-1970s. The house was sold to Elbert C. Crawford in 1906. Crawford and his brother founded Texas Coffee, Tea and Spice Company in 1878. Notice the giant Corinthian columns, the graceful Palladian window and the small cantilevered second floor balcony.

436 Westmoreland (1927). This eight-unit, L-plan Jacobethan style apartment house, called Westmoreland Manor Apartments, was built for Julian B. and Virginia Adoue. Adoue headed the Harris County Democratic Party and resided in apartment number 3 until at least 1940. In the mid-1920s he tore down his parents' 1904 vintage house and replaced it with these apartments, built by Russell Brown, who lived next door at 3618 Burlington.

↻ Marshall ↻

217 Marshall. Craftsman style.

222 Marshall. Two-story house with a shallow hipped roof shows Prairie style.

401 Marshall (1905). This was the home of W.C. Connor, Houston agent for the Frisco System Railroad.

402 Marshall (c.1908). This is a Queen Anne style house which has retained its turret, fluted round porch columns, and sawtooth shingles behind the glassed-in wrap-around porch.

406 Marshall (1911). This is a good example of a Craftsman influenced house, unusual in that it was built of red brick when most homes has wood siding.

407 Marshall (1910). This is an excellent example of Craftsman style, with its paired windows and prominent brackets supporting a wide-eaved, hipped roof. The architect who designed this house, Olle Lorehn, also designed the Bute Paint Company factory in the warehouse district (currently the Dakota Lofts) and Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral at 1111 Pierce Street.

408 Marshall (1925). This is a good example of the Jacobethan Revival style.

427 Marshall (1911). This is a good example of Craftsman style.