Reynolda Park Neighborhood

Reynolda Park is an exclusive 65-acre neighborhood that was subdivided from the southeastern edge of Reynolda Estate in 1923 by Katharine Smith Reynolds Johnston, widow of R. J. Reynolds. She hired landscape architect Thomas Warren Sears, who had completed the landscape plan for the estate, to lay out the streets and lots. Parcels in Sections One and Three, on the northeast side of Reynolda Road, were quickly purchased by members of the Reynolds family, high level executives from R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., and other prominent families. Both the lots and houses are large, creating a setting of small estates. Section Two, on the southwest side of Reynolda Road, was replatted in 1950 and developed with Colonial Revival, Ranch, and Minimal Traditional houses.

As noted by Heather Fearnbach, “the expansive residences situated on large lots … reflect Winston-Salem’s early-twentieth-century wealth and growth to a greater extent than any other suburb of the period. Winding roads, deep setbacks, and dense landscaping create estate-like settings for an eclectic mixture of finely detailed dwellings commissioned from nationally recognized architects.” Charles Barton Keen, the architect of Reynolda House, designed six of the earliest houses; Luther Lashmit and Northup & O’Brien designed six also. William Roy Wallace added two more.

Two of R. J. Reynolds’ nieces, Senah and Nancy Critz, also moved to Reynolda Park. Both women hired Keen and Sears to design their houses formal gardens. Senah and her husband, Charles Kent, were the first residents of Reynolda Park. He served on the board of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and later as president of Brown.

The director of Reynolds’ leaf department, James B. Dyer, and his wife Diana purchased three lots in 1925 and hired Mayers, Murray & Phillip to design a house. Unfortunately, Mr. Dyer died in 1929 before the house was completed by Fogle Brothers in 1931. The house occupies the most prominent site in the neighborhood, directly in line with traffic entering Reynolda Park on Kent Road. Constructed from variegated stone with a colorful slate roof, the house conveys a feeling of solidity and age. After Mrs. Dyer’s death, R. J. Reynolds’ grandson Smith Bagley purchased the home.
& Williamson. The house is a miniature Reynolda, with a Ludowici-Celadon tile roof, a white stucco exterior, an expansive second floor dormer, and a full-width porch supported on stout columns. The home of Nancy and her husband, drug store owner Edward O’Hanlon, used the same materials in a refined Georgian Revival design.

Siblings Norman and Richard Stockton also moved to Reynolda Park in the 1920s. Like the Critz sisters, the brothers hired Charles Barton Keen to design their homes, and both were built by Fogle Brothers. Norman was a clothier who owned an eponymous downtown shop. Richard was an attorney and vice president at Wachovia Bank & Trust. Norman and Emorie Stockton’s Georgian Revival house is constructed from brick with a projecting pedimented entrance bay articulated with a Palladian window over doorway with a Classical surround. The original façade of Richard and Hortense Stockton’s Tudor Revival house facing Reynolda Road combines brick and half-timbering with Tudor and Craftsman detailing.

A third set of siblings, G. William Coan Jr. and May Coan Mountcastle, also moved to Reynolda Park together. George Sr., their father, was secretary-treasurer of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and raised the children as neighbors to the Reynolds on Fifth Street. He gave each child a lot and home in Reynolda Park. William and his wife Mary Wiggins moved into their Charles Barton Keen designed home in 1928. May and her husband Kenneth Mountcastle moved into a nearly identical house designed by William Roy Wallace in 1933. Both houses are designed in the Colonial Revival style and constructed from brick with a central block flanked by wings. William was elected Mayor of Winston-Salem in 1929 and served three terms. He also was the state administrator for the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s and early ’40s. May served on the board of Old Salem, Inc. and was active in the arts, playing a crucial role in founding the Winston-Salem Arts Council – the first in the country.

Margaret Supplee Smith concludes her essay on Reynolda Park with the determination that the neighborhood remains an extraordinarily desirable place to live, as it always has been since it was developed in the 1920s. The quality architecture and site planning combine to create a neighborhood of refined elegance.

This information is also available at the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission web site: www.ForsythCountyHRC.org