

# The Flower Hill Historic Trail



**Notable Streets Route**

**Guidebook**

# The Flower Hill Historic Trail – Notable Streets Route Guidebook

This guidebook provides a description and brief history for each location on the Notable Streets Route of the Flower Hill Historic Trail. All of the locations are listed in the order of their stop numbers, starting with the Webster Avenue Bridge and ending with Middle Neck Road. See map for more details.

1. **Webster Avenue Bridge:** The Webster Avenue Bridge was originally built over the Long Island Rail Road's track in order to connect with *Sunset Hill* – the former estate of Albert and Alice Grace D'Oench (hence why it was historically known as the D'Oench Bridge).

Eventually, it would become a major access route between Plandome Road in Manhasset and Flower Hill.

By the 1980s, the bridge was starting to show its age, and was closed temporarily for repairs.

As of 2021, the bridge is again in a state of disrepair, and is slated to be replaced at some point during the 2020s.

2. **Pinewood Road:** Pinewood Road's name reflects the fact that it is one of the streets which was built as part of the Pinewood at Flower Hill subdivision, which was developed by Meadows-Tierney in the 1950s.
3. **Bridge Road:** Bridge Road's name reflects the fact that it connects directly with the Webster Avenue Bridge.
4. **Parkwoods Road:** According to early plat maps for the D'Oench Estate residential subdivision, Parkwoods Road originally was to be called Beechwood Road. The name was changed to

# The Flower Hill Historic Trail – Notable Streets Route

## Guidebook

Parkwoods Road at some point during the planning stages in the 1930s, as indicated by records.

It is unknown why the name of this street was changed.

The boundary between Flower Hill and Plandome runs along the center of Parkwood Road's park strips for the road's entire length.

5. **Dartmouth Road Dead-End:** The dead-end on this end of Dartmouth Road was never supposed to be a dead-end. When the Mott Brothers were originally planning the D'Oench Estate subdivision, they initially were going to build a road called Glenrock Road, extending from Dogwood Lane to Manhasset Woods Road; Glenrock Road would have followed the approximate route which Walter Lane follows today. The small portion of Dartmouth Road east of the traffic circle was to extend another couple hundred feet to the east, ending at Glenrock Road.

Additionally, early plat maps for the subdivision indicate that this portion of Dartmouth Road was to be called Dale Lane. However, that street name has seldom been used over the years, and it is typically considered to be part of Dartmouth Road.

6. **Sunset Drive:** Sunset Drive's name reflects the fact that the area was once part of the D'Oench family's estate, *Sunset Hill*.
7. **Nassau Avenue:** According to early plat maps for the Sunset Hills subdivision, Nassau Avenue was originally to be a northern extension of Thayer Road, utilizing that name instead of Nassau Avenue.

# The Flower Hill Historic Trail – Notable Streets Route

## Guidebook

Thayer Road is named for the late American artist, Abbott Handerson Thayer. This is due to how when the Metropolitan Museum of Art had Munsey Park developed, they opted to use a street naming convention using the surnames of famous American artists.

However, at some point during the planning stages for Sunset Hills, the map was amended, and the northern extension of Thayer Road was renamed as Nassau Avenue, thus making it the northern extension of that road. It is unknown why the name of this street was changed.

Additionally, the barrier on this Nassau Avenue at the Flower Hill-Munsey Park border was erected by Munsey Park in 1936 (along with the one on Eakins Road) as a means of limiting through traffic; the barriers were extremely controversial when first planned in 1935 and were ultimately upheld by the courts as constitutional in 1936.

8. **Mason Drive:** The name of Mason Drive reflects the fact that Stephen H. Mason, Flower Hill's third Mayor, once owned a large estate in this area, and had Mason Drive constructed in the 1930s as part of the Sunset Hills subdivision.
9. **Eakins Road:** Eakins Road is named for the late American artist, Thomas Eakins. This is due to the fact that when the Metropolitan Museum of Art had Munsey Park developed, they opted to use a street naming convention using the surnames of famous American artists.

The barrier on Eakins Road at the Flower Hill-Munsey Park border was erected by Munsey Park in 1936 (along with the one on Nassau Avenue) as a means of limiting through traffic; the barriers were extremely controversial when first planned by Munsey Park in 1935

# The Flower Hill Historic Trail – Notable Streets Route

## Guidebook

and were ultimately upheld as being constitutional by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in 1936.

10. **Dogwood Lane:** According to early plat maps for the Sunset Hills subdivision, Dogwood Lane was to be named D'Oench lane. This was due to the road's proximity to the D'Oench family's estate, named *Sunset Hill*. The name of D'Oench Lane was changed to Dogwood Lane at some point during the planning stages in the 1930s, as indicated by records. It is unknown why the name of this street was changed.
11. **Eldelfields Road:** The name of Elderfields Road reflects the fact that this land was once owned by shipping executive Carlos W. Munson, Flower Hill's founding father. Munson named his estate *Elderfields*, and this name has been used ever since the subdivision was developed by T.B. Ackerson in the 1920s and 1930s.
12. **Birch Lane Dead-End:** The Village of Flower Hill once owned the lot immediately north of this dead end. and the acquisition allowed for the possibility for Birch Lane to be extended northwards to Bonnie Heights Road, as stated in the minutes from the October 11, 1958 Board of Trustee meeting.

The acquisition was recommended by a committee of the Flower Hill Association in March 1945. However, the lot was ultimately sold, and the dead end remains.

13. **Elm Lane:** According to early plat maps for Strathmore at Flower Hill, Elm Lane was originally to be called Peachtree Lane. However, this name was changed during the planning stages, likely due to the fact that a Peachtree Lane already existed in the Broadridge section of Flower Hill.

# The Flower Hill Historic Trail – Notable Streets Route

## Guidebook

Additionally, this subdivision would ultimately be built by Country Estates, Incorporated as opposed to Levitt & Sons after the latter cancelled their plans and sold the property.

14. **Bonnie Heights Road:** While it is unknown how Bonnie Heights Road got its name, many speculate that the first part of this street's name is derived from the Scottish word "bonnie", which means beautiful, attractive, etc. in English, thus meaning that the name of Bonnie Heights Road translates to something along the lines of "Beautiful Heights Road."

Additionally, not long after Carlos Munson's death, the Village proposed renaming the street as "Munson Road" or "Carlos Munson Road", with the latter being the chosen name for the proposal, as it was more specific.

15. **Manhasset Woods Road:** Manhasset Woods Road's name is likely due to how this area was historically forested.

16. **Walter Lane:** Walter Lane's name is due to how John W. Walter, Flower Hill's fourteenth Mayor, once owned the entirety of what is now the Manhasset Glen subdivision. Walter had this portion of his estate developed in the 1990s, and Walter Lane is the sole street in this subdivision.

17. **Stonytown Road:** Stonytown Road's name comes from the historic village of Stony Town, which this road led to.

Stony Town was located near where Plandome Station is presently located. Stonytown Road has previously been called Stoningtown and Stonington Roads.

# The Flower Hill Historic Trail – Notable Streets Route Guidebook

The Village of Flower Hill purchased this road from Nassau County in the 2000s and would eventually add a pedestrian and bicycle path along the shoulder of the road.

18. **Chanticleare Drive:** Chanticleare Drive is named for the former estate of Jesse Ricks, *Chanticleare*, which this street was built over. The subdivision is called *Chanticleare at Flower Hill* for this reason, as well.

This street would become a wild scene in 1980, when a resident's son-in-law, who was a lion tamer, visited and parked five trailers filled with lions and tigers on this street. This would lead to Trustee Rhoda H. Becker proposing a new local law banning wild animals, which was ultimately approved and signed into law.

19. **Drake Lane Cul-De-Sac:** This cul-de-sac was the original terminus of Drake Lane prior to the construction of the Chanticleare at Flower Hill subdivision.

20. **Hemlock Road:** According to early plat maps for the northern parts of the Flower Hill Country Estates subdivision, Hemlock Road originally was to be called Robin Road. The name was changed to Hemlock Road at some point during the planning stages in the 1950s, as indicated by records. It is unknown why the name of this street was changed.

Additionally, the Country Estates subdivision of nearby East Hills was developed around the same time by the same firm, Country Estates, Inc., and has a street called Hemlock Drive.

21. **Brook Lane:** The name for Brook Lane is likely due to how the northernmost tip of the road is near a brook, which is now part of the area's drainage system.

# The Flower Hill Historic Trail – Notable Streets Route

## Guidebook

22. **Chestnut Road:** According to early plat maps for the northern parts of the Flower Hill Country Estates subdivision, Chestnut Road originally was to be called Quaker Ridge Road. The name was changed to Chestnut Road at some point during the planning stages in the 1950s, as indicated by records. The original name was due to how the street would have been located in the never-built Quaker Ridge subdivision.

Additionally, the Country Estates subdivision of nearby East Hills was developed around the same time by the same firm, Country Estates, Inc., and has a street called Chestnut Drive.

23. **Homewood Place:** The name of Homewood Place is shared with the subdivision; Homewood was developed by Homewood Properties Ltd.

Furthermore, the Lapham residence was named *Homewood*, and was located in this area.

24. **Country Club Drive:** Country Club Drive reflects the fact that much of the road is located next to the North Hempstead Country Club. According to early plat maps, the easternmost segment of the street was originally named East Drive. Although this part of the road has almost always been officially considered to be part of Country Club Drive, tax maps include a parenthetical reference to the segment's original name.

25. **East High Road:** According to early plat maps for the original areas which Carlos Munson had developed by the T.B. Ackerson, East High Road was once supposed to be called East Crescent. The name was changed to East High Road at some point during the planning stages. It is unknown why the name was changed.



# The Flower Hill Historic Trail – Notable Streets Route Guidebook

26. **Hewlett Lane:** Hewlett Lane was named for the Hewlett family's farm, how the subdivision is built atop portions of the former farm, and its name directly correlates to this.

Additionally, an old road of the same name once ran near the newer road.

27. **Farmview Road:** Farmview Road was named as such, due to the fact that it bordered the Hewlett family's farm, and because the subdivision is built atop portions of the former farm.

28. **Brookside Drive:** Brookside Drive's name reflects the fact that an old brook runs adjacent to it.

When Walter Uhl developed the Flower Hill Estates subdivision, the brook was shifted into an easement behind the properties on the southern side of the road.

29. **Sunnyvale Road:** According to early plat maps for the sixth section of Flower Hill Estates, Sunnyvale Road was originally planned to be called Bridle Path or Fairway when Alrad Realty was developing the area in the 1950s. The name Bridle Path is included as a parenthetical reference on Sunnyvale Road's tax maps. It is unknown why the name was changed to Sunnyvale Road.

30. **Woodland Court:** According to early plat maps for the Mashady Estates subdivision, Woodland Court was originally supposed to be called Mashady Court; the subdivision was developed by the Mashady Development Corporation and was constructed over the former Roslyn–Flower Hill Elementary School. The name was changed to Woodland Court at some point during the planning process for the subdivision. It is unknown why the name was changed.

# The Flower Hill Historic Trail – Notable Streets Route

## Guidebook

31. **Woodland Road:** The name of Woodland Road likely reflects the fact that this portion of Flower Hill was historically a wooded area.
32. **Ridge Drive East Cul-De-Sac:** This cul-de-sac was the original terminus of Ridge Drive East prior to the construction of Woodland Road and the Wildwood at Flower Hill subdivision.
33. **Fernwood Lane:** According to early plat maps for the Roslyn Hills subdivision, Fernwood Lane was to be called Edith Lane. This is likely due to the fact that the wife of George L. Bailey, the subdivision's developer, was named Edith. The name was changed at some point during the planning process for the subdivision. It is unknown why the name was changed to Fernwood Lane.
34. **Ridge Drive East:** The name of Ridge Drive East reflects the fact that the subdivision name is Broadridge at Flower Hill and is the easternmost of the Ridge Drives within the Broadridge subdivision.
35. **Center Drive Southern Extension:** In the early days of the Broadridge subdivision, Sycamore Drive used to extend approximately 200 feet to the southeast between Ridge Drive East and what is now Northern Boulevard and was eliminated due to the poor grade of the land. This segment of Center Drive was constructed circa 1950 in order to connect with Mineola Avenue's northern extension to the newer Northern Boulevard and replace the aforementioned section of Sycamore Drive.

The hearing for the abandonment and replacement took place at Village Hall on December 14, 1949.

# The Flower Hill Historic Trail – Notable Streets Route

## Guidebook

At the time this was being done, Mineola Avenue was in the process of being extended northwards from what is now Old Northern Boulevard to the newer route.

36. **Center Drive:** The name of Center Drive reflects how the street traverses the center of the Broadridge at Flower Hill subdivision.

There were once plans to extend Center Drive to Woodland Road and into what is now Birchdale Lane; these plans were never implemented for various reasons.

The portion of Center Drive between Ridge Drive East and Northern Boulevard was built as a replacement for the Sycamore Drive entrance following the completion of the original part of Center Drive.

37. **Ridge Drive West:** The name of Ridge Drive West reflects the fact that the subdivision name is Broadridge at Flower Hill and is the westernmost of the Ridge Drives within the Broadridge subdivision.

38. **Middle Neck Road:** Middle Neck Road was originally a continuous route designation between Northern Boulevard and the tip of Sands Point, and its name reflects how the road crosses the middle of the Cow Neck Peninsula.

The North Shore Line of the New York & North Shore Traction Company ran along Middle Neck Road from Northern Boulevard to what is now Main Street in Port Washington.