

Cedar Bough Place Historic District

The Cedar Bough Place Historic District consists of the houses on Cedar Bough Place, a short private street that runs between Ekin Avenue and Beeler Street. It is one of only a handful of private streets remaining in the city of New Albany.

When Lot 42 of the Illinois Land Grant was divided, Cedar Bough Place was laid off into lots, roads, etc. and sold on the 17th day of September, 1836 by Margaret Loughrey with the following provision: “and I hereby certify all roads, alleys, streets, etc., laid off of said ground to be for the common benefit of the purchasers and owners of said lots.” The streets and alley were not to be opened to the public without the consent of the majority of the property owners.

The land remained undeveloped until the late 19th century, probably held for speculative purposes. When development began the quality of house construction caused Cedar Bough Place to be considered one of New Albany’s most prestigious addresses. The phrase “living on the Bough” was often heard in New Albany when describing a person or family who had a Cedar Bough Place address.

*Bradley-Gwin-Janes House, 831
Cedar Bough Place, c.1900*

The neighborhood’s condensed period of development, the short length of the street, and the similar scale of homes all contribute to the character of Cedar Bough Place. Only one lot on the street is vacant, and there have been no modern intrusions. The majority of the homes are very well maintained and in a good state of preservation. All of these factors contributed to the neighborhood’s listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

Many of the houses in the district built between 1890 and 1910 are Queen Anne style homes, as well as cross-plan and composite cottages with Queen Anne detailing. The house at 831 Cedar Bough Place – built in 1892 and seen below in a historic photo from around the turn of the 20th century – is the most elaborate example of the Queen Anne style.



Notable examples of composite cottages are located at 811, 833 and 838 Cedar Bough Place.

Slightly later styles represented in the district include American Foursquare (821 Cedar Bough Place) and bungalow (801 and 836 Cedar Bough Place). The Kahler House at 837 Cedar Bough Place – the last home built in the district around 1920 – is an unusual example of an “airplane bungalow,” with an upper-story room surrounded by windows, like the cockpit of an airplane.

Some notable Cedar Bough Place residents have included: Ferdinand Kahler, founder and president of Kahler Furniture Manufacturing Company and a pioneer in the automotive industry (837 Cedar Bough Place); local restaurateur Tommy Lancaster (839 Cedar Bough Place); F. Shirley Wilcox (837 Cedar Bough Place) who was appointed Indiana's chief of Internal Revenue Service collections by President Harry Truman and later was State Treasurer; and Congressman Mike Sodrel (819 Cedar Bough).

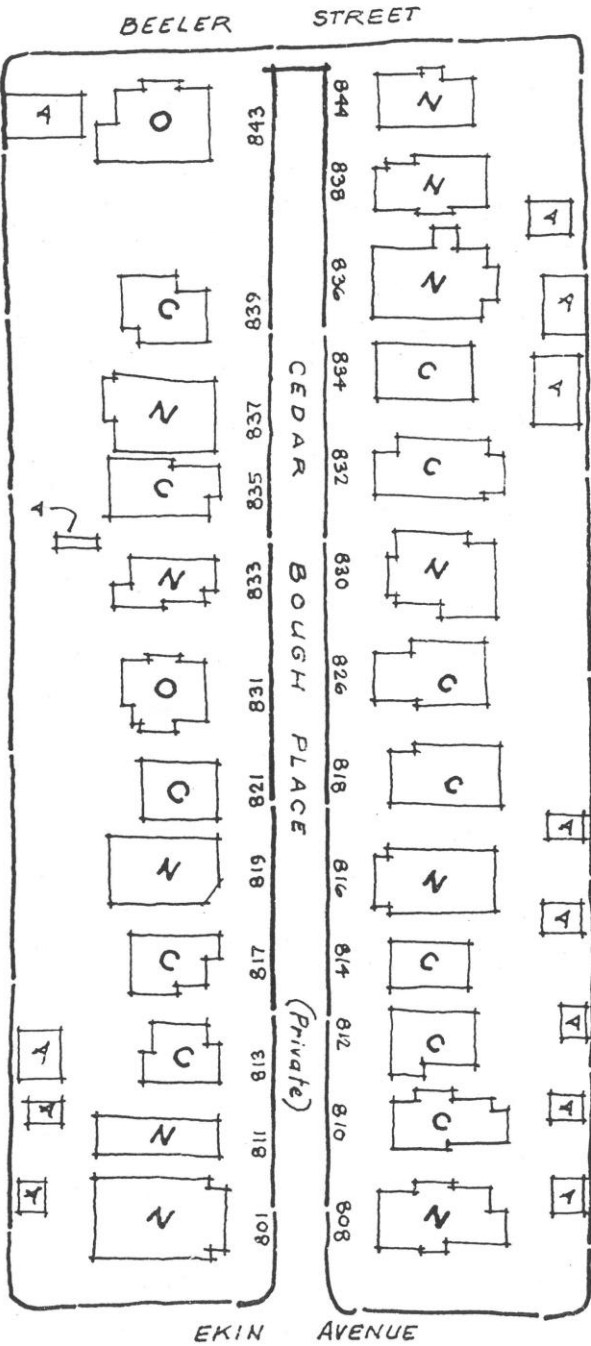
Looking north on Cedar Bough Place, as seen in a 1913 postcard



Lots in Cedar Bough Place were being advertised for sale on the side of A. Huncilman & Son Real Estate business in downtown New Albany.

*From the collection of the Stuart Barth Wrege
Indiana History Room, Floyd Co. Library*

Cedar Bough Place Local Historic District



- Key
- O Outstanding
- N Notable
- C Contributing
- NC Non-Contributing

