

The Melrose Historical Society invites you to become a member. Its mission is to preserve and celebrate the history of Melrose, and to promote a better understanding of local history in general. The Society holds three public meetings each year with presentations on a wide variety of topics. For further information, send a post card to:

Melrose Historical Society, Inc.
 Box 301
 Melrose, MA 02176

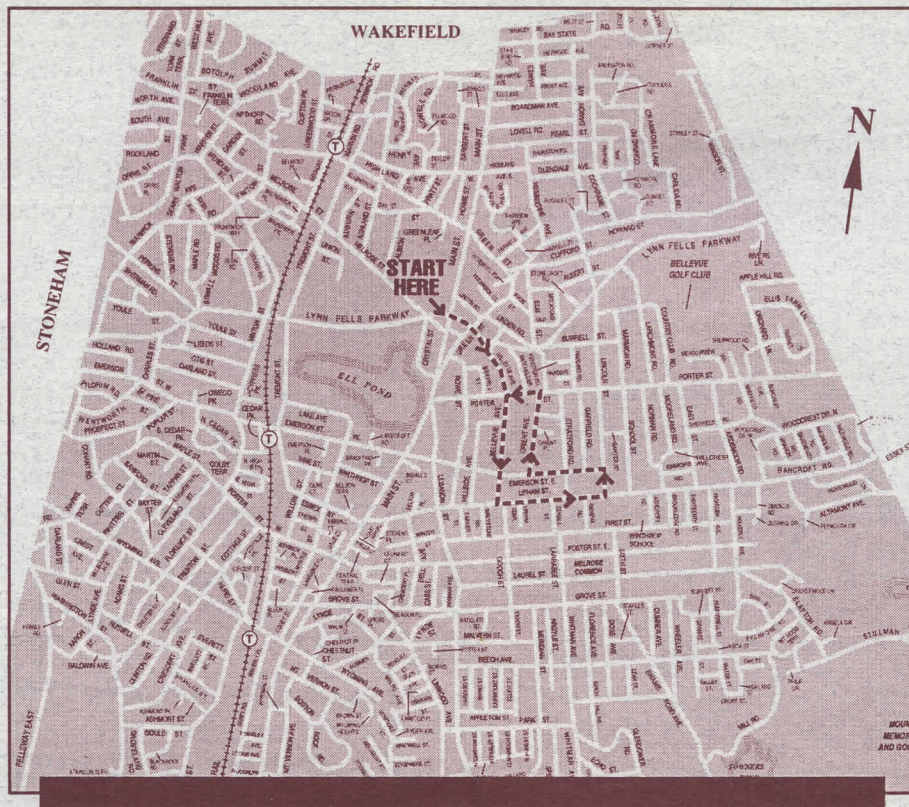
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--- AREA COVERED BY WALK

See inside for detailed view

This tour takes you on some of the prettiest residential streets in Melrose.

On route you will see fine examples of almost every style of Victorian architecture: Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Stick, Shingle and Colonial Revival.

Many of the homes on Bellevue Avenue and East Emerson Street were built by businessmen who were participants in the late nineteenth century boom that was to make America the leading industrial nation in the world in the next century. They came to Melrose primarily because it was convenient to Boston. They came here and built grand houses in part to show off their new found wealth and status.

This section of Melrose was not always such. In colonial times, most of this part of the east side

consisted of several Upham family farms. Until the early nineteenth century, Upham Street was a private road off Main Street that led to an Upham barn. One of the oldest houses in the city, the Phineas Upham house, dating from 1703, still stands. It is a superb example of “first period” construction—with a massive center chimney, summer beam and restored leaded glass windows. You will see two other Upham houses, one dating from the eighteenth, another from the early nineteenth centuries.

Interspersed among these are houses from every decade of the twentieth century. These, too, are part of Melrose’s history; but for now our focus is on the houses that are a century or more old.

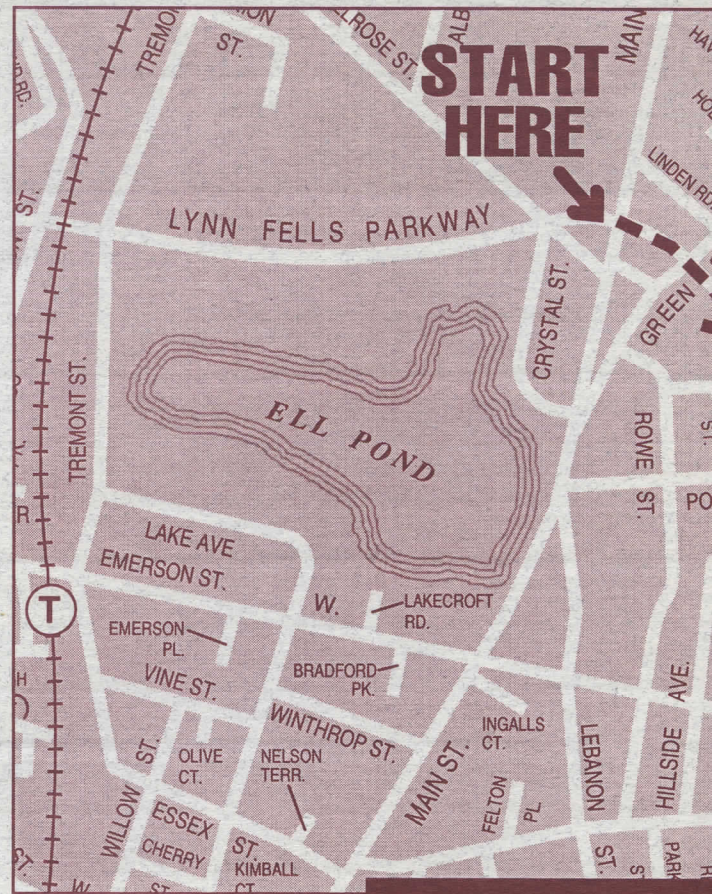
We hope you enjoy this walk.

Note: you may wish to park in the Foodmaster parking lot at the corner of Main Street and the Lynn Fells Parkway. Begin the tour at the corner of Lynn Fells Parkway and Main Street.

➤ **Parkway to Bellevue:** cross Main Street and proceed two blocks east on the Parkway. Then bear right on Bellevue.

Bellevue Avenue contains some of the most striking examples of Victorian architecture in the city. Almost every style from the 1860s to 1910 is represented, and many are large, stylish and set back from the street.

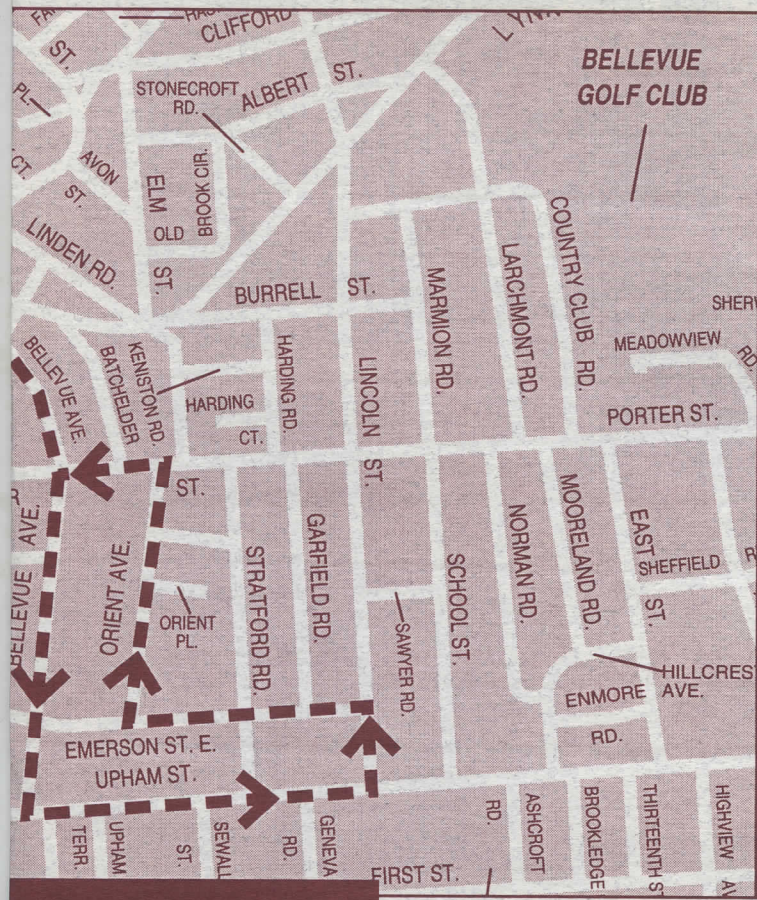
- **148 Bellevue:** A shingle style house built in 1890.
 - **97 Bellevue:** A striking Colonial Revival house, built about 1905.
 - **71 Bellevue:** This large Queen Anne style house was occupied for many years by William A. Grozier, owner of the Boston Post newspaper.
 - **63 Bellevue:** An Italianate style house built in 1890 for Frederick Thomas, a Boston stock broker.
 - **35 Bellevue:** A Second Empire style house, probably the grandest example of this particular style in Melrose, characterized by the Mansard roof, arched dormers and colonnade around three sides of the house.
 - **25 Bellevue:** An outstanding Colonial Revival house built in 1902 for Francis P. Shumway, an advertising executive.
 - **15 Bellevue:** A typical eclectic late Victorian, built in 1884.
- **Bellevue to Upham:** turn left on Upham Street. Now the main road between Melrose and Saugus, this busy street was once merely a path among the farms of several members of the Upham family. You will see three of their homes on this street. Proceed two blocks along Upham.



The East Side, U

- **166 Upham Street:** the Nathan Upham house. This is actually two houses that were joined together in the mid-19th century. The original, larger structure on the left dates from the mid-18th century.

Note: you may wish to cross the street to view the next two houses on our tour, but use caution. Upham Street has heavy, fast moving traffic.
- **255 Upham Street:** the Phineas Upham house. This house was built around 1703 and retains nearly all of its original features. James Bailey Upham, a descendant of Phineas, is credited with composing the Pledge of Allegiance. The original Melrose Historical Society bought and restored this house in 1915; it is now maintained by the Upham Family Society. It is open to the public by appointment on the third Saturday of each month.



Upham Hill: Tour

- **263-365 Upham Street:** the Eli-Asa Upham House. Although the brothers Eli and Asa Upham were said to dislike one another, they built this two-family home and lived there — in separate apartments — until their deaths. According to local legend, when one brother died, the other refused to allow the coffin to be carried through his apartment, forcing the mourners to bear the coffin out through a window.
- ☛ **Upham to Lincoln Street:** turn left from Upham onto Lincoln St., and proceed one block.
- **27 Lincoln Street:** standing proudly at the crest of the hill is this 1907 Colonial Revival house, built for George W. Jepson, owner of a Boston coal business.

- **Lincoln St. to East Emerson Street:** turn left from Lincoln onto East Emerson Street and proceed two blocks.
- **142 East Emerson:** Another Colonial Revival house, incorporating Neoclassical details such as the Corinthian columns on the porches. It was built in 1903 for George P. Lord, who made his fortune in the string and twine business. A unique feature of this house is the Palladian window spanning each end of the house on the third story.
- **128 East Emerson:** A Georgian style home with a large porch that is probably not original to the house. Adding porches of this type became fashionable in the 1930s.
- **107 East Emerson:** A late Victorian, carefully restored and painted in colors authentic to the period.
- ☛ **East Emerson to Orient Street:** turn right on Orient Street. Here you will find several exceptionally well-preserved Queen Anne-style houses, featuring elaborate shingle work.

At this point you may continue to the end of Orient St. and then turn left on Porter Street, or turn right onto Orient Park, then left on Stratford Road, and left again on Porter St.

- **100 Porter Street:** note the sign indicating this house was built “circa 1850.”
- ☛ **Porter St. to Bellevue:** turn right on Bellevue and continue back to the intersection of the Parkway and Main St., allowing a second look at a few of the houses you saw at the beginning of our tour.

We hope you have enjoyed this brief tour and that you’ll come back and explore this unique neighborhood again.

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