

**★ Start & End Location**

**1 Stop No. 1  
Corner of Broadway Place & Highland**



Cedar Crest, largely built between 1914 and 1930, is the Town of Normal's first planned subdivision and first local historic district. Prior to its development, the area was a nursery owned by Charles Fell, located a good distance from downtown Bloomington and uptown Normal.

In the early 1890s, local businessman and developer Burt Marley Kuhn purchased the land and built his home at 5 Broadway

Place. His Queen Anne home was an architectural style popular from 1880-1900. Key features of the style include irregular, asymmetrical massing and floor plans, varied types and textures of building materials, and extensive ornament. Divided into apartments in the 1940s, this house was restored in 1994.

**2 Stop No. 2  
Corner of Hillcrest & Broadway Place**

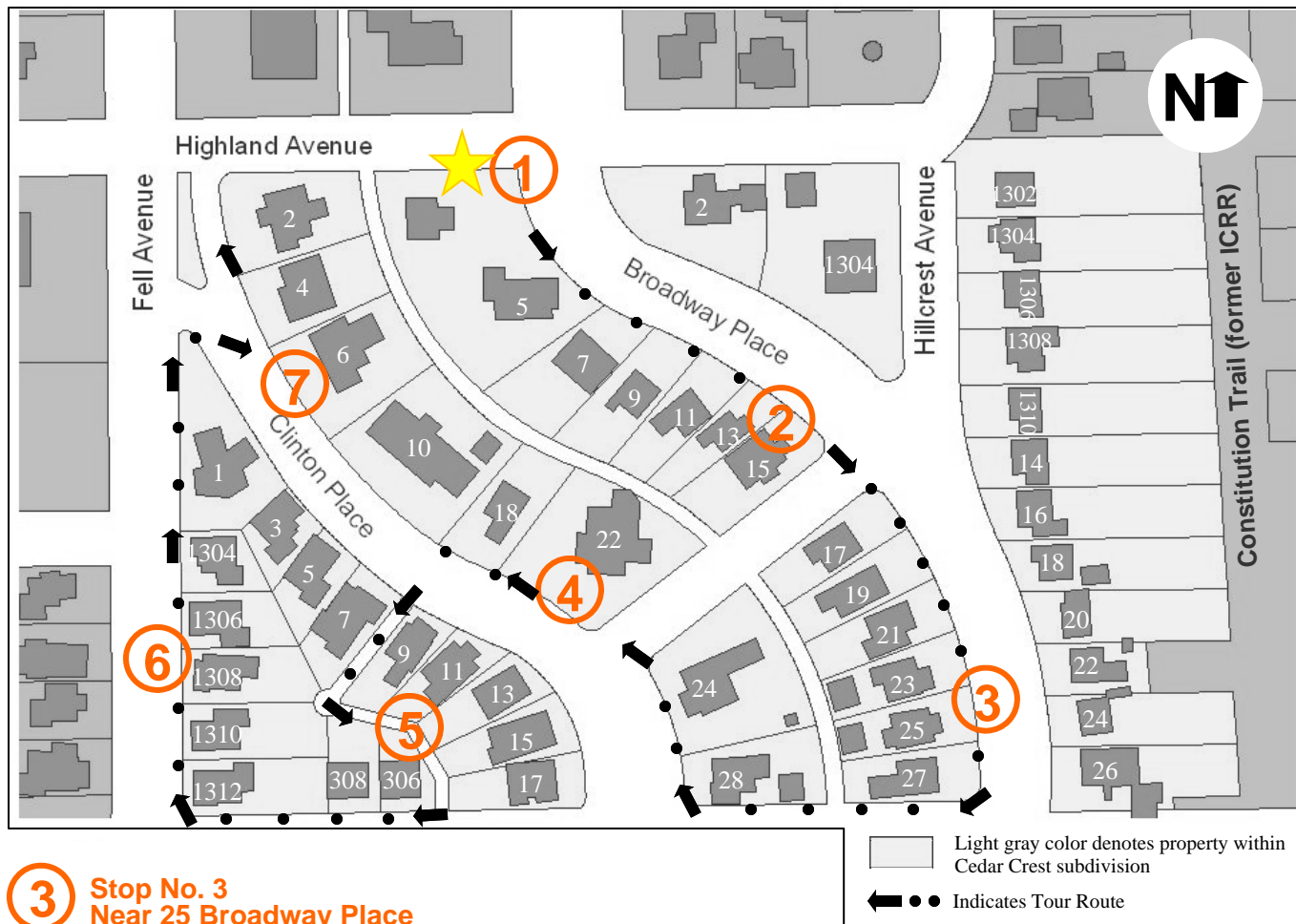
When Kuhn proposed the Cedar Crest subdivision at the February 3, 1914 Town Council meeting, the reaction was mixed. The plan was very different from previous plats where streets were straight and lots were fairly regular in shape and size. Some members objected to the narrow streets and others were concerned about the sharpness of the curves as a traffic hazard. On April 7, 1914, after two months of review by the "Street and Alley" and "Judiciary" committees, Cedar Crest was approved.



Ninety percent of Cedar Crest was built between 1914 and 1930 and was designed by one architect, Aaron Trabue Simmons, lending to a unity among the houses' architecture, form and style (all except 5 Broadway Place and three houses built between 1958 and 1966).



Many of the Cedar Crest houses can be classified as Craftsman or Prairie style; however, elements from other architectural styles, including Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, and Mission/Spanish Eclectic have been incorporated into the designs. No two homes are exactly alike. Some key features of the homes are their simple designs with natural materials, low-pitched roofs, battered wall treatments, asymmetrical floor plans, exposed rafters and double hung windows.



**3 Stop No. 3  
Near 25 Broadway Place**

The building materials used in Cedar Crest were very important in not only local, but national trends of the time. The three primary building materials for Cedar Crest are wood, stucco and brick.



For 50 years the typical McLean County house had been constructed from northern softwoods brought in by rail and shaped at local mills. Foundations were of dull, red, locally burned brick, or, on rare occasion, of limestone.



By the early 1900s more manufactured house components were being imported, and many of the materials for Cedar Crest, including interior cabinets, doors, and window frames, were purchased from firms dealing in regional or national markets. Rug-face brick was a relatively new product that became popular just after 1900; however, it was not made locally and had to be shipped. Another product, colorful

clay roofing tiles, several of which are still intact, came in a variety of colors, styles, and shapes, and was a stylistic element from the Mediterranean world that was often incorporated into the Craftsman style. One of the distinctive visual effects of houses in Cedar Crest is a general reduction in window size. As electric light was becoming less expensive and of better quality, floor-to-ceiling windows were no longer necessary. Smaller window size was also related to the development of more efficient furnaces. An increasingly self-sufficient middle class prior to WWI also caused the change; houses were designed so that they could be maintained by the homeowners themselves and not live-in servants.

**4 Stop No. 4  
22 Clinton Place**

Designated in 1993, Cedar Crest was the first local historic district within the Town of Normal. This designation means that these properties are collectively important to the history of the Town of Normal and are subject to the Town's historic code and design



