

## 4357 NINE MILE POINT ROAD

Approaching the village of Fairport from the north, one passes an imposing colonial revival house set back from the road on a rise. 4357 Nine Mile Point Road presents an elegant introduction to the village of Fairport and the town of Perinton. Former historian Susan Roberts stated that “Together the house and grounds represent perhaps Perinton’s most important early-20<sup>th</sup> century estate.”



Mr. and Mrs. Emory Mead built “Westover” on a one hundred acre tract of land in 1912. They hired leading Rochester architect Claude Bragdon to design the house. He noted in a letter dated July 15, 1912 that he “motored in the country with Mr. Mead, Mrs. Bausch and her daughter to look at their site, a hundred acre farm commanding a wonderful view. It will be a fine chance for a good house.” By 1912, Claude Bragdon was very well known in Rochester having designed a number of area properties including 5 Rochester police stations, the Rochester Athletic Club, the New York Central Railroad station, and the First Universalist Church. Bragdon settled in Rochester in 1886. While here he worked for several firms and helped to organize the Rochester Architects Club. His work included designs for public buildings, houses, Adirondack cottages, stores, stables, and even tombstones. The two homes he designed in DeLand, Florida give him a further Fairport connection.

According to the 1902 map of Perinton, the tract of land purchased by the Meads had been part of the Howard homestead, farmland owned by Kate Howard. The 1872 map shows a house owned by Mrs. Baird in the vicinity. At one time, the Baird family owned extensive property extended from Baird road to Nine Mile Point Road.

The house itself has 2 ½ stories with a high breaking gambrel roof with three dormers. The front has five bays, a center entrance flanked on each side by two windows. With only a few exceptions the windows in the home are the traditional six over six style. The elegant entrance porch has a split open pediment with coupled columns. Apparently Bragdon based this design on one from the 1816 Oliver Culver house in Rochester. He also used it in several other homes. The door itself shows Palladian influence and has leaded glass sidelights. At the rear of the house there is a two-story ell with extensive porches, both one and two story. The columns on the large one-story porch mirror the columns from the front entrance.

Although no longer on a one hundred acre tract of land, the house is still surrounded by a generous area of land and remains well back from the road. The lovely landscaping includes a swimming pool, tennis court, and a gazebo. There is also a carriage barn.

The owners as of 2008 are John and Colleen Broman who purchased the house in 1994.