

Approximate boundaries:
N-W. Morgan Ave; S-W. Cold Spring Rd;
E-S. 43rd St, W-S. 56th St (partial)
S. 60th St

SOUTHWEST SIDE *Honey Creek Manor*

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

Honey Creek Manor is a residential neighborhood with moderate population density that has mainly mid-20th century ranch, colonial, and Cape Cod style houses. There is no area that could be considered a business district.

Honey Creek Manor's topography is mainly flat to gently rolling hills. Honey Creek, that gave the neighborhood its name, runs through a small area at the southwest corner of the neighborhood.

There are moderately steep inclines on either side of the creek. A few neighborhood streets follow a rectangular grid, but most curve and many have no sidewalks. A large area of the neighborhood is taken up by two cemeteries, the Second Home Cemetery in the northeast of the neighborhood and the Good Hope Cemetery in the southeast. The main public green space is Whitman Park--a playfield to the west of Whitman Elementary School. See photos below.



Today's neighborhood-
Houses on S. 46th St.

HISTORY

Honey Creek Manor is named after its creek at the southwest corner of the neighborhood. The neighborhood area was once a part of the unincorporated Town of Greenfield which extended from today's 27th to 124th Streets and Greenfield to College Avenues.

Early populations

During the 1920s, the entire Southwest Side began to transition from a farming district to clusters of settlements that would become Milwaukee neighborhoods. Most of the migrating populations were Polish and German. Many settled first in the Jackson Park neighborhood, but some turned west and ventured further into the countryside, creating a minor housing boom. However, the advent of the Great Depression, followed by World War Two, temporarily reduced the rate of development.

Post World War Two

A major housing boom *after* the war pressed many families of returning servicemen and others further west. By 1947, the Honey Creek Manor area had just over 300 residences and six businesses. Norwich Avenue went through the neighborhood but had only one residence. St. Francis Avenue was open between 57th and 60th Streets but had no residences. About the same time, the City of Milwaukee was engaged in a massive annexation program in the area. Between the mid-1940s and mid-1950s, a series of annexations added territory between Lincoln Avenue and Cold Spring Road and South 40th Street and South 100th Street. The area became eligible to receive city services such as road building and road improvement, which in turn attracted more residents. While most of the newcomers were still people of German and Polish ancestry, the area also became home to Irish, Greeks, Slovenians, Canadians, Swedes, English, Scots, and French.

A number of residents who were purchasing homes in Honey Creek Manor after World War Two were from rural Wisconsin regions. A good example of this migrating population appears below in the resident feature.

Honey Creek Manor resident (1940s)

*Names selected from the City Directory in the Honey Creek Manor area
(additional information from U.S. census and other public records)*

Lyman Alton Drinkwater

Lyman Drinkwater, his wife Lucille, and children moved to 3714 South 47th Street in the Honey Creek Manor neighborhood some time during the 1940s.

Born 1900 in Minnesota, Lyman was the son of an immigrant father from England, Thomas Clarence Drinkwater and a mother from Pennsylvania, Phoebe Drinkwater (nee Coyle). Lyman appears to have been the youngest child in a large family. By age 10, Lyman and his family had moved to Couderoy, Wisconsin. Lyman completed the 8th grade and by the time he had entered the workforce as a part time laborer, the family had moved to Spooner, Wisconsin.

In Spooner, Lyman married Lucille Ruth Hopkins from St. Croix, Wisconsin (*see their 1925 photo from public records at Ancestry.com*). The couple had children Clarence, William, and Norman, and perhaps more. Living with Lyman's parents during their early married years, the family and took up farming from a rented house in Spooner by 1940.

No information was found on why the Drinkwaters moved to the Honey Creek Manor neighborhood in Milwaukee later in the 1940s. Lyman may have had health issues which forced him out of the rigorous work of farming. He died not long after moving, in May of 1948, in his late 40s. He was buried at Arlington Park Cemetery in Greenfield.



Arrival of Latinos

Latinos (mainly Mexicans) began to settle on the *near* South Side in the 1920s and slowly migrated south into the Polish areas. Since the 1970s, the Mexican community has grown all over the South Side and Southwest Side, including Honey Creek Manor.

A number of push-pull factors influenced the population changes. During the early 1900s Mexican immigration to the United States expanded because of worsening economic conditions in Mexico. A large wave of Mexicans also left the country during the political and economic turmoil created by the Mexican Revolution of 1910. In addition, both Mexicans and Puerto Ricans were often recruited by local industries to fill workplace needs. Beginning in 1917, the US government implemented a series of immigration restriction policies to curb the influx of Mexicans, mainly in response to local claims that Mexicans (who often worked for low wages) were taking jobs away from 'true' Americans.

But they found a place to fit in. Latinos—particularly Mexicans--were able to settle successfully alongside Poles in particular because they shared so many traits in common. These included the Catholic faith, the focus on the Madonna figure, polka music traditions, similarities in childrearing and eldercare practices, and an entrepreneurial spirit.

Current populations (as of 2017)

Today, Honey Creek Manor has just under 3,000 residents. Of these, nearly 7 in 10 are European American (over half still claiming German or Polish ancestry). Nearly one quarter are Latinos--most claiming Mexican descent, but quite a few also have Puerto Rican ancestry. The remaining population is comprised of a scattering of African Americans, Asians (mainly Hmong/Lao) and people of multiple backgrounds. The average age of residents is 45.

Honey Creek Manor is a middle income neighborhood with a median household income of just over \$54,000 annually. The occupations cited most often by residents are in the fields of administration, sales, and management. The neighborhood has more than three times the number of residents in the law enforcement field than other areas in Milwaukee. Approximately 7 in 10 of Honey Creek Manor property units are owner-occupied.

INTERESTING FEATURES

- **Second Home Cemetery**, at 3705 S. 43rd, a Conservative Jewish resting place operated by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation.
- **Good Hope Cemetery**, at 4141 S. 43rd, a locally-owned and family-run cemetery.

RECURRING NEARBY OUTINGS

In the following section the website addresses have been eliminated due to technical problems with the various ways different web browsers display PDF files. Website information on these events is available through the book *Milwaukee Area Outings on the Cheap*. See below.

DAN JANSEN FAMILY FEST-GREENFIELD

| When? | Where? | Description and contact info | Admission |
|---|--|--|-----------|
| Late May, Fri. 5-11pm, Sat. 12-11pm, Sun. 12-4pm | Konkel Park, 5151 W. Layton Ave., Greenfield | Festival of rides, car show, live entertainment, and more. | Free |

JACKSON PARK FARMERS MARKET

| When? | Where? | Description and contact info | Admission |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------|
| Early Sep., Thu. 3:30-7pm | 3300 W. Forest Home Ave. | Fresh food from Wisconsin farms, baked goods, crafts, art. | Free |

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT-GREENFIELD

| When? | Where? | Description and contact info | Admission |
|---|--|---|-----------|
| First week Aug., weekday 5:30- 8:30pm | Konkel Park, 5151 W. Layton Ave., Greenfield | Fun evening of free food, games, rides, chance to dialogue with local police and community organizations. | Free |

These outings are provided courtesy of MECAH Publishing. To access the book that provides nearly 600 outings—all priced under \$10—for the entire Greater Milwaukee area, go to <http://mecahmilwaukee.com/NonFiction.html>

QUOTES FROM RESIDENTS

If you are a resident of this neighborhood and wish to make an interesting observation about it, please send your quote to JFLanthropologist@currently.com

PHOTOS



Today's neighborhood-Honey Creek



Today's neighborhood-
Houses on S. 44th St. & W. Norwich Ave.



Today's neighborhood-Second Home Cemetery



Today's neighborhood-Houses on S. 46th St.



Today's neighborhood-Houses on S. 46th St. & W. St. Francis Ave.



Today's neighborhood-Houses on S. 47th St. & W. Crawford Ave.



Today's neighborhood-
Good Hope Cemetery



Today's neighborhood-Houses on S. 52nd St. & W. Leroy Ave.

For more information on Milwaukee neighborhoods, refer to John Gurda's *Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods*.

Do you have great photos of this neighborhood? Are you a resident with an interesting quote about this neighborhood? Do you have recurring outings, additions, corrections, or general comments about this neighborhood? Please email your input to Dr. Jill Florence Lackey at: jflanthropologist@currently.com



www.urban-anthropology.org