BROOKS FAMILY MEDFORD HERITAGE TRAIL

A Historic Walking (or biking or driving) Tour of 15 Brooks family sites in Medford spanning 300 years.

Tour is researched and run by the Medford-Brooks Estate Land Trust – [ see www.brooksestate.org ]

with the support of CACHE and the Medford on the Mystic Arts Festival

Medford-Brooks Estate Land Trust, Inc.
P.O.Box 328 Medford, MA 02155  781-396-3001
**BROOKS FAMILY MEDFORD HERITAGE TRAIL**

Introduction

Although the Brooks family has not been present in Medford for several generations - their last descendants left Medford in 1942, when they sold their remaining 82-acres of land that would later form the core of the present-day 50-acre Brooks Estate - the Brooks family legacy is present all over Medford. As one of Medford's founding families, The Brooks family acquired 400 acres of land comprising most of present-day West Medford in 1660 and farmed and developed their lands over the next three centuries and eight generations. The Brooks were one of the most prominent and generous families in Medford's history. Members of the Brooks family helped found Medford's first government, fought in the Revolutionary War, served as Governor of Massachusetts (John Brooks, 1816-23), and produced Massachusetts' first millionaire (Peter Chardon Brooks). The history of the Brooks family parallels Medford's own history, as it developed from a small farming village to a thriving town to a streetcar suburb of Boston to the modern day city we all know.

The physical legacy of the Brooks family is everywhere in Medford - from the Brooks School that bears their name to the H.H. Richardson-designed Grace Episcopal Church to the Brooks Playstead (now called Playstead Park), the undeveloped shoreline of the Mystic lakes, the Oak Grove Cemetery, the Middlesex Canal, the Lowell Railroad, and of course, to the 50-acre Brooks Estate and Shepherd Brooks Manor and Carriage House, all on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

The Brooks Family Medford Heritage Trail is intended to try to string together the many Brooks family Medford sites in a walking (or biking or driving) tour that will allow Medford residents to see and appreciate the public legacy and public benefits of the Brooks family generosity and hopefully inspire future generations to preserve and enhance the legacy that we have all been given in Medford. Fifteen sites have been chosen starting in Medford Square at The Salem Street Burial Ground and ending at the Brooks Estate. Nearly all of these sites represent a physical legacy of the Brooks family that has benefitted Medford residents in some cases for over a century.

Thanks to the great folks at CACHE for supporting this idea; thanks also to the Medford-Brooks Estate Land Trust Board and Membership for their tireless efforts to save and restore the Brooks Estate over the past two decades.

Doug Carr, Medford-Brooks Estate Land Trust (M-BELT) www.brooksestate.org
THE BROOKS FAMILY MEDFORD HERITAGE TRAIL

List of Selected Sites

1. John Brooks Monument - Salem Street Burial Ground, Medford Square
2. Grace Episcopal Church - 160 High Street
3. Brooks Corner (Judkins Square) – Intersection of High Street & Woburn Street
   • Jonathan Brooks House - 2 Woburn Street
   • Charles Brooks House - 309 High Street
   • Captain Caleb Brooks House - 24 Woburn Street
4. Brooks School - 388 High Street
5. Brooks Playstead ("Playstead Park") – 85 Playstead Road
6. The Delta (Bennett Delta) - Intersection of High Street and Grove Street
7. Sagamore Ave (Middlesex Canal)
8. Sagamore John Monument – Approximately 44 Sagamore Ave.
9. Mystic Lakes Shore (Pleasure Grounds) – Mystic Valley Parkway from High Street to Winchester Line
10. Slave Wall and Thomas Brooks Park – Approximately 58-168 Grove Street
11. Brooks Village - 237 Grove Street (Entry to Oak Grove Cemetery)
12. Point of Rocks – 367 Grove Street (Opposite Norwich Circle) - Brooks Estate
13. Brooks Pond - 275 Grove Street, 1/8 mile down Access Drive - Brooks Estate
14. Shepherd Brooks Manor and Carriage House - 275 Grove Street, Brooks Estate
15. Oak Grove Cemetery & Brooks Family Burial Plot – 275 Grove Street, Brooks Estate
Site 1

John Brooks Monument

Salem Street Burial Ground, Medford Square

Year Built: 1836

Description:

John Brooks (1752-1825) was trained as a doctor in Medford and began his practice in Reading, where he also became the Captain of the Reading Minutemen. As the events of the Revolutionary War took center stage, John Brooks suspended his practice and helped lead the fight in the Battle of Concord and at Bunker Hill. He accepted a commission as Captain in the Continental Army and took part in the Revolutionary War battles of Saratoga, White Plains, Valley Forge and Long Island.

After the war, Brooks returned to Medford to take over the practice of his retiring mentor, Dr. Simon Tufts, in 1783. Two years later, Brooks was elected to the General Court (the Massachusetts House of Representatives). He was a delegate to the 1788 Massachusetts Convention that ratified the Federal constitution. In 1786, Brooks was appointed Major General of the Middlesex Militia, which he led in suppressing Shay's Rebellion, the post-Revolutionary War colonist armed uprising in central and western Mass in objection to what the rebels viewed as harsh tax and debt collection policies.

Brooks was appointed Adjutant General from 1812-1816 and won the race for the Massachusetts Governor in 1816 running on the Federalist Party. Brooks served seven consecutive one-year terms from 1816-1823 and declined to run for an eighth term, returning to private life. During his tenure as Governor, the Massachusetts territory of Maine was recognized as an independent state. The Maine towns of Brooks, established in 1816, and Brooksville, established in 1817, were named for John Brooks. Two years after he ended his seventh term as Governor, John Brooks died in Medford in 1825. He was the last significant Federalist elected official in office in the United States.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Grace Episcopal Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>160 High Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Built</td>
<td>1867-1869</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>The Grace Episcopal Church was designed by noted American architect <strong>Henry Hobson (H.H.) Richardson</strong>. Located at 160 High St. in Medford, MA, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The church was built from 1867-1869, his second church commission and now the earliest remaining. The church is set back from the street creating the look of an English country church, nestled into the landscape. Richardson later became known for his &quot;Richardson Romanesque&quot; style, perhaps best recognized in his design of Trinity Church in Copley Square, Boston. The building is constructed of glacial boulders with rough-hewn granite trim. A massive slate gabled roof, in gray with bands of red, dominates the nave's low walls and the five-sided apse is attached at the east wall. A buttressed tower anchors the design, along with a prominent gabled entry bay facing the street.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Brooks Family connection:** When it became evident that construction costs would exceed the budget, the Brooks Family paid to have the church completed. It became a private chapel under Episcopal law until the Brooks family delivered the deed to the parish in 1873, the year of its 25th anniversary. The interior of the building has had significant changes over the years. The original H.H. Richardson altar was gifted to the Brooklyn Museum in 1962. One highlight of the church is the stained glass window "Rebecca at the Well" by renowned 19th century artist **John LaFarge**. It was commissioned and created as a memorial to Ellen Shepherd Brooks after her death in 1884.

Above: Interior photo of the LaFarge stained-glass window "Rebecca at the Well", donated by the Brooks Family. (Grace Church website photo)

Left: Exterior photo of Grace Church with its rough-hewn boulders, granite trim and banded slate roof, designed by H.H. Richardson (Grace Church photo)
Site 3

The Jonathan Brooks House at 2 Woburn Street was built in 1781. Originally purchased by Thomas Brooks III, who later passed it down to his son Thomas and then later to Jonathan Brooks (1765-1847), whose profession was a tanner. The Brooks family tradition was that Paul Revere stopped at the house on the night before the Battle of Lexington and Concord, looking for Sam Adams, a friend of the Brooks family. The three-story gambrel-shaped house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

The Charles Brooks House at 309 High Street was constructed around 1780. It was originally owned by Charles Brooks' uncle Isaac Brooks and was later sold to his father, who sold it to Charles Brooks. The grand late Georgian/Federal house has a symmetrical elevation and four end chimneys. Charles Brooks (1795-1872) was a Unitarian minister, prominent educator (professor at Univ. of City of New York) and wrote the History of the Town of Medford, which still serves as the most complete book on the subject of early Medford history.

The Captain Caleb Brooks House at 24 Woburn Street was built c. 1765. It is a very long (65 feet) and narrow (19 feet) building, one room wide but very deep, with 3 separate chimneys that heated each of the three main rooms. Captain Caleb Brooks (1694-1766) was one of four Medford members who responded to Paul Revere's midnight call and was present at the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Caleb Brooks' son John Brooks grew up to be Governor of Massachusetts and is featured in Site 1 of the tour.
Site 4

The current Brooks Elementary School is the fourth school in Medford to bear the Brooks School name. The first Brooks School was built in 1851 and located at the corner of Brooks and Irving Streets. It was a wood-framed building that was two-stories tall and contained two rooms, one for primary education and one for grammar. The school was named for Edward Brooks, a prominent attorney and citizen in Medford, who also gave generously to the cost of the design.

Edward Brooks later sold land to Medford to create the Oak Grove Cemetery.

The second Brooks School was built in 1868 on the site of the recently demolished (2000) Hobbs Middle School. It was a two-story wood-framed building that housed four classrooms total. It was demolished in 1897. The third Brooks School was built in 1898 and was a three-story brick building with stone trim and a steeply gabled roof with large dormers and massive, detailed chimneys. The school housed twelve classrooms and a 600-person assembly hall. A very large fire in 1949 destroyed the roof; Medford rebuilt the school (the exterior walls are original) but did not rebuild the roof or chimneys.

Today’s Brooks School dates back to late 1999, when Medford decided to build all-new elementary and middle schools across the city. The Brooks School was Phase 2 of the New Schools project, completed in 2003. It sits on the site of the former Brooks Elementary School and Hobbs Middle School. The design, while larger than the 1898 school, is clearly inspired by the 1898 Brooks School with its two half-round bays, angled central dormer and large gabled roof facing High Street, a direct reference to the 1898 Brooks School design.
Site 5

Brooks Playstead ("Playstead Park")

Address 85 Playstead Road

Year Built 1894

Description:

The origins of Brooks Playstead date back to 1894, when the Brooks family sold nine acres of their farmland to the City of Medford as part of a larger sale for residential development in fast-growing Medford. The transfer took place at a critical time, when Medford had just transitioned from a town to a city form of government two years earlier, in 1892 and was in the midst of a tripling of its population from 1880-1920.

The City of Medford used the land to create Medford's first public playground and named it Brooks Playstead, according to the Medford Parks Commission, "in honor of the Brooks family, which since the early days of the town has been prominently identified with its interest." Playstead is a nineteenth century term used to describe a place where people play, or a park, much like the work farmstead is a place to farm. Over the years, the term "playstead" has fallen from use, and the name evolved to "Playstead Park", which is almost the equivalent of calling it "place to play park" or "park park".

In 1924, the Brooks family donated to the City of Medford an additional five acres on the northern edge of the Brooks Playstead. This portion of the Park encompasses the tennis courts, play structures and portions of the two soccer fields.

Note: Info for this site quoted from "Imprints of the Past" research by Michael Rawson, M-BELT
Site 6

The Delta (Bennett Delta)

Address: Intersection of High Street and Grove Street

Year Built: 1822

Description:

The Delta is the triangular piece of land that is formed by the intersection of High Street and Grove Street in West Medford. It was first laid out, fenced in, and planted with trees in 1822 by Peter Chardon Brooks (1767-1849). The Delta served as the unofficial entry to the large Brooks properties, which comprised most of West Medford for much of its history. Regardless, the Delta land was publicly owned by Medford, and Brooks was required to get permission to plant and improve the area. In 1850, Peter Chardon Brooks' son Edward added the granite posts and wood fencing, which remain (in restored form) to this day.

In 1924, the Delta was dedicated to William Bennett (1893-1918), a soldier from World War I who died in St. Miiriel, France on September 25, 1918. The Brooks family maintained the Delta for several decades of the 20th century, until they sold 82 acres of land - their last land possession in Medford - to the City of Medford. To date, 25 acres of the original 82 acres have been developed for graves as part of an expanded Oak Grove Cemetery (Site 11). The remaining 50-acres of open space (Sites 12-15), including Brooks Pond and the land around the Shepherd Brooks Manor and Carriage House, are now permanently protected through the Conservation and Preservation Restriction granted by the City of Medford in 1998. The Estate is managed by the Medford-Brooks Estate Land Trust and is owned by the City of Medford.

Note: Info for this site quoted from "Imprints of the Past" research by Michael Rawson, M-BELT
Site 7

Two centuries ago, Sagamore Avenue, along with every inch of real estate between High Street and the present Winchester-Medford line was farmland owned by the Brooks family. In 1801, Peter Chardon Brooks, a marine insurance millionaire, sold a strip of land through the middle of his property to the company that would construct the Middlesex Canal. The canal opened in 1803, creating a 27-mile barge connection from the Merrimack River to the Port of Boston. In a time of extremely poor roads, the Middlesex Canal contributed greatly to the economic development of Boston and areas north, and it was an important civil engineering project that was used as a model for the Erie Canal.

The Brooks family replaced a wooden bridge that spanned the canal with an elegant arched granite bridge in 1821 at a cost of $1,000. The bridge served as a link between the Brooks' property on both sides of the canal and became an iconic landscape feature in Medford for many years.

The Middlesex Canal was supplanted by the Boston and Lowell Railroad in 1835. The Railroad eventually opened up West Medford to further development, transforming Medford from a rural farming community to a dense city in the span of only a few decades at the end of the 19th century. By 1850, the Canal was defunct and was filled in. In the decades that followed, as West Medford expanded with new residential neighborhoods on both side of High Street, the Middlesex Canal bed became the present-day Sagamore and Boston Avenues.
Site 8

Sagamore John Monument

Address: Sagamore Park (Approx. 44 Sagamore Ave)
Year Built: 1884

Description:

The Mystic Indians, a subgroup of the Pawtucket Native American tribe, lived in Medford and the surrounding area for thousands of years before the arrival of the Pilgrim and Puritan settlers in the early 17th century. Their leader, or great sachem, Nanepashemet, was killed by the Tarrantines tribe in 1619. Nanepashemet had three sons, and the one that had limited control over the Medford-Revere-Chelsea-Winthrop area was known as Sagamore John (real name: Wonohaquaham). Sagamore John was friendly to the colonists, warning them of impending attacks by unfriendly Indians. Sagamore John "and almost all of his people" died in the smallpox epidemic of 1633, which wiped out Native Americans across wide swaths of New England just as the Puritan Great Migration was gaining ground.

In 1862 and 1882, workers for Francis Brooks uncovered two separate Indian burial sites on his property near present-day Sagamore Ave. The 1862 remains were given to Dr. Agassiz of Harvard College. Again in 1882, Indian remains were uncovered by workers of Francis Brooks. This time, Brooks reinterred them and erected a granite monument in 1884 with a Roxbury puddingstone on top with the inscription, "To Sagamore John and those Mystic Indians whose bones lie here."

After the residential neighborhood was developed in the early 20th century, the monument and remains were moved to their present location at Sagamore Park. Sagamore John is believed to have been buried in Chelsea.
The entire area from Grove Street to the Mystic Lakes was part of the original 400-acres purchased by Thomas Brooks in 1660. Over the years, some of the Brooks holdings had been sold or subdivided with the rising or diminishing fortunes of different generations. However, with the vast ascendancy of marine insurance millionaire Peter Chardon Brooks (1765-1849), many of the properties in West Medford were re-purchased by the Brooks.

Over the next few decades, Peter Chardon Brooks proceeded to develop his lands between Grove Street and the Mystic Lakes into his personal "pleasure ground", with groomed landscapes, planted gardens and forested walking paths. The Middlesex Canal and the granite stone bridge were part of this wonderful landscape. Around Peter’s new house he built extensive gardens and two ponds that connected to the Mystic Lakes.

Massachusetts established the Metropolitan Parks Commission, which eventually became the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and is now the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), in 1892. The purpose of the Commission was to maintain existing parklands and develop new parklands where possible. In 1896, several members of the Brooks family who owned a mile stretch of land along the Upper and Lower Mystic Lakes, donated the entire shoreline to the MDC, a swath of land comprising about 50 acres total. The MDC hired the landscape firm of Olmstead, Olmstead & Eliot to design the Mystic Valley Parkway, which opened in 1897. The parkway was immediately used by thousands of Medford residents for walking, biking and other passive uses that continue to the present day.

This generous Brooks family gift of the undeveloped shores of the Mystic Lakes to Medford and Massachusetts ensured that this valuable natural asset would be held aside in perpetuity for public use, in contrast to the Arlington side of the Mystic Lakes, which is mostly privately held and much less accessible to the general public.
Slavery in the Northern United States, until recently, has long been downplayed and "whitewashed" from local history. For example, while many local histories mention that Massachusetts was the first state to outlaw slavery in 1783, few of these accounts mention that Massachusetts was also the first state to explicitly legalize slavery as well, in 1641.

But slavery was a fact in Medford and Massachusetts almost from the earliest Puritan settlements. The first African-American slaves arrived in 1638, only 8 years after the founding of Medford in 1630. By 1765, there were 49 slaves in Medford, out of a total population of about 1,000 people. Medford's slave total, many tied up in the Triangle Trade as practiced by the Royall family across town, was only exceeded locally by Cambridge and Boston's. Most slaveholder families had about 2 slaves, which generally freed up the males of the family to pursue careers in law, medicine, etc. Medford's slaveholders in 1776 included 3 members of the Brooks family.

The Slave Wall was built in 1765 by Pomp, a slave of Thomas Brooks. The wall was a decorative touch to the Brooks house that was located off Grove Street in what is now the Boston and Lowell railroad. The house had a semi-circular drive that started and ended at Grove Street and that the brick wall spanned in-between. The Brooks family owned several clay beds near the Mystic River, which may explain why such an elaborate (for the time) decorative wall was built.

In 1924, the Slave Wall and the long, narrow 6-acre piece of land between Grove Street and the railroad, were donated to the City by Thomas Brooks on the condition that the park area and slave wall be maintained in perpetuity. The Slave Wall, along with the Royall House and Slave Quarters (www.royallhouse.org, are the only two remaining physical remnants of slavery in Medford. It is also a reminder that the Brooks family directly benefited from slavery until it was outlawed in Massachusetts in 1783, after 150 years.
Site 11

When the Brooks Family sold the 82-acre Brooks Estate to the City of Medford in 1942 for one-third of its assessed value, Medford was in a period of transition after a long Depression and also in the throes of World War II. After the war, millions of returning soldiers were eager to return to civilian life, but there was a huge housing shortage in Medford and across the country.

Using federal funds, Medford created Brooks Village, consisting of 200 "temporary" housing units at the Brooks Estate off Grove Street. The development was a cluster of dozens of small, one-story back-to-back barrack-style houses that served as the first home for hundreds of Medford families from 1946-1954. The neighborhood included two sites off Grove Street on either side of the entrance to the Brooks Estate. Site A was located north of the Brooks Estate access drive, while Site B was located south of the drive. Ten families were housed in the Shepherd Brooks Manor as well. From all accounts, living in Brooks Village and having the 50-acre Estate and Brooks Pond as your backyard, was a wonderful experience, despite the modest accommodations. A Brooks Village 50th Reunion was held in 1996, where nearly 100 of the children who grew up in Brooks Village came together and created an oral history of the village and their appreciation for their first home and neighborhood.

The Site A portion of Brooks Village north of the entrance to the Brooks Estate has been reclaimed by the forest, but the Brooks Village Site B, south of the access drive, is still perceptible today because the grid of roads created for Brooks Village were developed as a new section of the Oak Grove Cemetery after Brooks Village was removed. When you walk through the Oak Grove Cemetery between Grove Street and Brooks Pond, you are walking through what was once Brooks Village.
Site 12

The Brooks Family rose to its highest-ever level of affluence with the success of marine insurance millionaire Peter Chardon Brooks (1767-1849), who was the wealthiest man in Medford and New England. Peter’s vast wealth allowed future generations of Brooks to intermingle with the very wealthiest Boston families. Peter's grandsons - Peter Chardon Brooks III and Shepherd Brooks, created two incredible Victorian estates and summer homes in Medford that form the core of the present-day Brooks Estate.

Peter Chardon Brooks III (1831-1920) created perhaps the greatest home ever to grace Medford with his vast Point of Rocks (also known as Castle Brooks and the Stone House), at the highest point in West Medford with a commanding view of the Estate south and to the Mystic lakes to the west. Designed by noted architect Calvert Vaux and constructed in 1859, the massive Italianate home was built of granite, had a large entry tower and porte-cochere, with a sweeping arcaded loggia, and many large living spaces and bedrooms. Point of Rocks was surrounded by open fields, arbors, specimen trees and other classic Victorian landscape elements. There was also a large stone barn and a half-dozen outbuildings supporting the "gentleman's farm".

Unfortunately, Point of Rocks did not survive. As Medford transformed from farmland to a town to a city in only a few decades, the summer home that was the Brooks Estate became something different. Shortly after Peter Chardon Brooks III died in 1920, the transformation of Medford was well underway and after the Depression and World War II, Point of Rocks eventually became abandoned, vandalized and cannibalized for architectural parts. By the time Medford acquired the Brooks Estate in 1942 and decided to use it for Veterans' Housing in 1946, Point of Rocks was determined to be unsalvageable and was destroyed by the City of Medford in 1946.

Site Information:

- **Site**: Point of Rocks
- **Address**: 367 Grove Street (Opposite Norwich Circle)
- **Year Built**: 1859 (Destroyed 1946)
- **Description**: The Brooks Family rose to its highest-ever level of affluence with the success of marine insurance millionaire Peter Chardon Brooks (1767-1849), who was the wealthiest man in Medford and New England. Peter’s vast wealth allowed future generations of Brooks to intermingle with the very wealthiest Boston families. Peter's grandsons - Peter Chardon Brooks III and Shepherd Brooks, created two incredible Victorian estates and summer homes in Medford that form the core of the present-day Brooks Estate.

Images:

- **Point of Rocks, photo by Sarah Lawrence Brooks (Medford-Brooks Estate Land Trust Archives)**
- **Peter Chardon Brooks III at Point of Rocks 1884 Photo by Sarah Lawrence Brooks (Medford-Brooks Estate Land Trust Archives)**
Site 13

Site

Brooks Pond

Address

275 Grove Street (1/8 mile down Access Dr.)

Year Built

1883-1889

Description:

Brooks Pond is the largest extant man-made landscape element in Medford. The 10-acre pond was hand dug from 1883 to 1889 by Irish immigrants from a formerly marshy area of the Brooks Estate that was then being used as a summer home for Shepherd Brooks (1837-1922). 76,000 wagonloads of muck were hauled out of the Estate to creates three interconnected ponds approximately 7-10 feet deep, fed by the natural underground spring that had previously fed the marshes.

The pond was begun a few years after the completion of the Shepherd Brooks Manor, and represented a continuation of the architecture and landscape design of Shepherd Brooks portion of the Brooks Estate. The Manor was clearly designed in 1880 with the knowledge that the library, parlor, verandah, west porch and bedrooms of Mr. & Mrs. Shepherd Brooks would soon overlook the ponds through vistas cut through the woods.

As a central feature of the Brooks family summer homes Point of Rocks and the Shepherd Brooks Manor, Brooks Pond was a place to fish, canoe, and enjoy nature. Today, Brooks Pond continues to serve the same function to the larger Medford community, used for passive recreation, bird-watching, canoeing, fishing and ice-skating in winter.
Site 14

Shepherd Brooks Manor

Address 275 Grove Street (1/3 mile down Access Dr.)

Year Built 1880

Description:

Following in his brother Peter Chardon Brooks III's footsteps, Shepherd Brooks (1837-1922) built his summer home on his adjacent property in 1880. Designed by noted 19th century architects Peabody & Stearns in the Queen Anne style, the Shepherd Brooks Manor was a much different architectural statement than the grandiose Point of Rocks: nestled in the woods, it is large (20 rooms) but intimate-scaled structure of red brick with brownstone trim, an eclectic mix of bays, dormers and porches, all topped with a steeply gable red-slate roof, articulated chimneys, and a widow's walk.

As mentioned in Site 13, the Manor was deeply connected to its landscaped surroundings and the Brooks Pond that was built a few years later. The Manor has three completely different faces, each a unique design: the east facing entry tower and porte-cochere; the south (pond) facing verandah; and the west porch, which faced Point of Rocks. The Manor, Carriage House and Brooks Estate were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

The Manor was used as a summer home and functioning farm for Shepherd and his family from 1880-1939, when Shepherd's wife Clara Gardener Brooks passed away and the long transition began toward Medford acquiring the property in 1942. Ten families lived in the Manor from 1946-1954 as part of the Brooks Village development (Site 11). The Manor was then used as a City nursing home from 1956 to the mid-1970's, then a group home for mentally challenged adults and finally by caretakers until the creation of M-BELT in 1998.

The long-deferred restoration of the Manor began in 1998 and continues to this day. Since 1998, over $1 million of city and federal funds have been used to restore the Manor roof, windows, chimneys west porch, interior bathrooms and infrastructure. There is a $2.3 million bond proposal presently before the Medford City Council to rehabilitate the Carriage House as a multi-purpose function facility that will pay off the bond costs, including interest, in 20 years. The Brooks Estate Master Plan can be viewed at www.brookestate.org
In 1852, Medford purchased 12 acres of land from Edward Brooks to create the Oak Grove Cemetery. This relatively small piece of property located on the eastern edge of Brooks Pond eventually grew to encompass the present day Oak Grove Cemetery of over 120 acres that wrap Brooks Pond on the east, south and western edges. Every acre of Oak Grove Cemetery was originally Brooks family land. The oldest section of Oak Grove Cemetery is the most beautiful section, with a varied landscape and topography, large specimen trees and some very ornate gravestone designs.

List of Brooks Family members buried at the Brooks Plot:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Left Side of Brooks Plot</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Chardon Brooks (1767-1840)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Gorham Brooks (wife of Peter) 1771-1830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gorham Brooks (2nd son of Peter Chardon &amp; Ann Gorham Brooks) 1786-1855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Shepherd (Widow of Gorham Brooks) 1809-1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Brooks, Esq. 1700-1768 (remains moved from Salem Street Burial Ground)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Boutwell 1688-1772 (remains moved from Salem Street Burial Ground)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev’d Edward Brooks 1733-1781 (son of Samuel) remains moved from Salem Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abigail Brown (widow of Edward Brooks) - dates hidden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward Chipman Brooks (child of Peter Chardon &amp; Ann Brooks) 1804-1828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Brooks (child of Peter Chardon &amp; Ann Brooks) 1808-1833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horatio Brooks (child of Peter Chardon &amp; Ann Brooks) 1810-1843</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shepherd Brooks (son of Gorham &amp; Ellen Shepherd Brooks) 1837-1922</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clara Gardner Brooks (widow of Shepherd Brooks 1845-1939)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gorham Brooks (son of Shepherd &amp; Clara Gardner Brooks) 1881-1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>Esnue Brooks (wife of Shepherd Brooks II) 1920-1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shepherd Brooks II (son of Gorham and Rosamond Dixie Brooks) 1914-2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Chardon Brooks (son of Gorham &amp; Ellen Shepherd Brooks) 1821-1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Lawrence Brooks (wife of Peter Chardon Brooks) 1845-1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence Brooks (son of Peter Chardon &amp; Sarah Lawrence Brooks) 1868-1937</td>
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</tbody>
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This is the final stop on the Brooks Family Heritage Trail. We hope you have enjoyed seeing the sites and seeing just how far and wide the Brooks family's legacy in Medford is. If you would like to find out more about the Brooks Estate restoration and the Master Plan for the property, please visit our website at [www.brookestate.org](http://www.brookestate.org). We are always looking for volunteers in any capacity to help the Medford-Brooks Estate Land Trust move the project forward. Donations of time, money, volunteer work, or any skill or expertise you could offer would be greatly appreciated.
THE BROOKS FAMILY
MEDFORD HERITAGE WALK

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MAP DRAWN BY DOUG CARR
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