

= Entranceway at Main Street at Roycroft Boulevard =

Entranceway at Main Street at Roycroft Boulevard is a suburban residential subdivision entranceway built in 1918 . It is on Main Street (New York State Route 5) in the hamlet of Snyder , New York , in the town of Amherst within Erie County . The entranceway is a marker that represents the American suburbanization of rural areas , suburbanization that occurred through transportation @-@ related land development on the edges of urban areas . It consists of a variety of half @-@ height wall formations , featuring a semicircular wall on the Roycroft Boulevard median 's intersection with Main Street . The entranceway was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 7 , 2005 .

= = History = =

Williamsville developed around a mill erected in 1811 , and the town of Amherst was born in 1818 . At that time , Main Street was the main link from Williamsville and Amherst to Buffalo . Main Street was displaced as " the unchallenged main artery of Amherst and Western New York " by the Erie Canal in 1825 and later by adjacent railroads . By 1866 , Buffalo Street Railway Company built a street car system that ran on Main Street from Amherst to Buffalo . Daily stage coach service also began in 1866 along Main Street and continued until it was displaced by an electric trolley in 1893 , the track ran 4 @.@ 5 miles (7 @.@ 2 km) from Main and Bailey Avenue (U.S. Route 62 in New York) to the east with stops that included Entranceways at Main Street at Lamarck Drive and Smallwood Drive .

The early 20th century estate era gave way to the residential subdivision era . Suburban Buffalo 's subdivisions took on an urban flavor along the area 's main thoroughfares and paths of migration . Charles S. Burkhardt began Audubon Terrace on 400 acres north of Main Street in October 1919 on the Taylor and Satterfield Estates .

= = Location = =

Today , Main Street is a four @-@ lane road running east @-@ west through Snyder connecting Williamsville (the other side of Interstate 290 , known as the Youngman Expressway) to points westward such as the neighboring hamlet of Eggertsville and downtown Buffalo . The entranceway is located proximate to large residential areas of trees and grass , 1920s @-@ built subdivisions flanking a wide central median . It is situated three blocks east of Harlem Road (New York State Route 240) . Across Main Street and northeast from the Entranceway is the Eggertsville @-@ Snyder Branch Library of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library located at 4622 Main Street . Each side of the median serves one @-@ way traffic . The entranceways sit on the two south side corners of this T @-@ junction intersection .

= = Architecture = =

Completed in 1918 , the entranceway 's featured element is the nearly semi @-@ circular random ashlar stone half @-@ walls on Roycroft Boulevard 's axis of symmetry , which is at a 22 degree angle to Main Street . The wall has one central and two end square posts that are approximately 4 feet (1 @.@ 2 m) in height and that have poured concrete caps that are not original . Each post has a metal and glass contemporary street lamp projecting from its center . Quarter points of the arc have stone pilaster ornamentation . The running portion of the wall has a continuous cast in place coping cap shaped at a 45 degree angle , which forms an attached buttress three quarters the height of the posts . Past repairs have included incompatible stone and mortar patches . The Main Street paving and the grassy median about the convex and concave sides , respectively . According to the August 5 , 2005 , application , the entranceway is in a state of disrepair , lacking a visible base and having a tilt .

On opposite sides of the Roycroft Boulevard roadways from the central feature are flanking

structures with random ashlar stone posts and half @-@ height walls . They are oriented parallel to the angular Roycroft Boulevard and have lengths proportionate to the central wall end post 's distance from Main Street . Both walls are L @-@ shaped with the longer length extending along Roycroft Boulevard and having a short cornered length along Main Street . These walls have capped , square stone buttress @-@ less posts and corners marked by wall @-@ height stone pilaster . On the opposite side of each from the a concrete sidewalk parallel to Roycroft Boulevard is a free @-@ standing stone post . The west side is in fair condition , while the east side is out of vertical alignment and is in poor condition . The east side has the distinction of retaining the only original cast concrete cap with a circular recess on its north end post . It presumably once held an original lamp post and was once painted white . Its south end post has a four piece , white terra cotta cap resembling the other non @-@ original end posts in the set of structures .

= = Legacy = =

The entryways remain in their original location , retain original design , and setting . They continue to mark the entrance to the subdivision 's entrance for vehicular and pedestrian traffic as they were originally designed to do . Abbott and Beymer Land Co. purchased the land for the Aurora Park subdivision that the entranceway has marked since its 1918 construction . The street and plot plan were designed by the Straley Brothers , who were civil engineers and surveyors from Buffalo . County engineer , George C. Diehl , had a role in the development of this subdivision . The entranceway was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 7 , 2005 .