

Jozi Coates

The well-known Vanderpoel Castle stood near River Road and Morris Turnpike and overlooked the Passaic River, but Summit had another, lesser known castle on Pembroke Road that looked over the Woodland Park area. The castle was placed on a 117-acre estate, including most land from Pine Grove Avenue to Mountain Avenue to Division Avenue to Blackburn Road. Pine Grove Avenue was used as the castle's access road.

The castle was built by the Colt firearms family in 1870. From there, a long list of successors owned the property. In 1879, G.H. Gossler lived there, according to a map of Summit, and then in 1892, Gustav H. Schwab from the North German Lloyd Steamship Lines resided there. Hartman Naylor from the "St. George School" lived there for three years, from July of 1900 to 1903. Then, Dr. Philip J. Reinle used it as the "American Hygiene Institute," the "Convalescent Home," and the "Summit Sanitarium." Mary Pickford, a Canadian actress, and other celebrities had supported the home; however, many local residents did not even know the operations of the castle.

In 1910, the Select Realty Company of New York sold the land to Oscar Daniels for \$100,000. In 1925, he sold it for

\$125,000 to the Woodland Park Corporation. The president, William A. Kirk, developed it into the present-day Woodland Park area, consisting of the streets Colt, Warwick, Winchester, Dorchester, and Portland. He also developed the Franklin School grounds. In 1930, Kirk tore the castle down, possibly to relocate it, but the plan never came to fruition.