



History Explorer

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

www.LansingHistory.org

September 2017

Upcoming Events

Frank Lloyd Wright Lecture & Okemos Home Tour

Sunday, October 8, 2017

*Lecture 12:00 noon in Rm 188, Psychology Bldg. MSU
316 Physics Road*

Home Tour 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Mid-Michigan has an opportunity to learn more about Frank Lloyd Wright, the man dubbed as “the greatest American architect of all time” by the American Institute of Architects. On Sunday, October 8 from 1-4 p.m., the four Wright homes in Okemos, Michigan, will be on a home tour sponsored by the Historical Society of Greater Lansing and DOCOMOMO-MI. Wright designed 33 homes in Michigan between 1939 and 1958, including the four in Okemos. The homes are in the “Usonian” style, single-story dwellings without a garage or much storage. The homes are often L-shaped to fit around gardens and terraces, incorporating the natural surroundings into Wright’s design.

This is the first time all four homes, built between 1940 and 1958, will be open to the public at one time. The homes on the tour are the Erling and Katherine Brauner House and the James and Dolores Edwards House, both on Arrowhead Road, the Alma Goetsch and Kathrine Winckler House on Hulett. Road, and the Donald and MaryLou Schaberg House on Wrightwind Drive. The tour is self-directed. No children under 12, please.

Prior to the tour, Susan J. Bandes—author, director of the Museum Studies Program and MSU Art History professor—will give a free lecture on the homes that Wright designed in Okemos, including several that were not built, and the continued importance of Frank Lloyd Wright. The lecture will begin at noon in Room 118, Psychology Building on the MSU campus.

The Okemos tour and lecture is part of a statewide recognition organized by DOCOMOMO-MI on the occasion of what would have been Wright’s 150th birthday. Celebrations of Wright’s birth also are being organized across the country.

Tickets costing \$20 will be available at the lecture and at a tour site the day of the event, October 8. Bandes, the former

director of the Kresge Art Museum, is an expert on Modernism and recently authored *Mid-Michigan Modern: From Frank Lloyd Wright to Google*, published by MSU Press in October 2016. Bandes’s book also will be available for purchase at the lecture and on the tour.

Moores River Drive Home Tour Features

Lansing’s Most Elaborate Homes

Sunday, September 17, 2017

Brunch 11:00 a.m -1:00 p.m.,

Home Tour 1:00-5:00 p.m.

The incredible 35-room English Tudor Revival home of Harry Harper, former president and general manager of Motor Wheel, is one of the magnificent homes included on the *2017 Moores River Drive and Cambridge Road Historic Home Tour* set for Sunday, September 17. The tour is hosted by the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, the Moores River Drive Home Association, and the Riverside Home Association.

The Harper House was built over a two-year period from 1927-1929 with money from the sale of stocks cashed in before the stock market crash of 1929, earning it the moniker “the house that luck built.” The inside the 10,000-square-foot home is closely related to the Italian Renaissance-style and is as dramatic as the outside.

The tour features five private residences, which form a beautiful encyclopedia of the most fashionable home styles constructed in America between 1910 and 1930. Among the featured residences are two English Tudor Revivals, a Dutch Colonial Revival, a Georgian Colonial Revival, and a quintessential California Craftsman bungalow.

Tickets for the tour, which begins at 1:00 p.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m., are \$20. Home tour tickets are available at www.lansinghistory.org or at the Country Club the day of the tour.

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Moores River Drive Home Tour - Con'd

Combination tickets, which include both the home tour and brunch at the Country Club of Lansing at 11:00 a.m. the morning of the tour, are \$50. Combination tickets must be purchased by September 11, 2017, at www.lansinghistory.org or by calling 517-282-0671. All funds raised at the tour will benefit the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

Sponsors for the event include the Eyde Company, the Lansing Board of Water and Light, Foster Swift Collins and Smith, Sutton Advisors, the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau, Dean Transportation, David and Janet O'Leary, Jack and Sue Davis, Jenny and Patrick Quinn, Joan Bauer, Ron Emery and Sherry Bond, Charley and LeeAnne Jansen, Kositchek's, the Lansing State Journal, Steve and Marilyn Scheffel, Tim and Melissa Kaltenbach, Lansing City Pulse and several anonymous donors.

The Knapp's home was built in 1926 for Joseph and Catherine Knapp, best known for founding and running Knapp's Department Store, one of Lansing's most beloved icons. In addition to Joseph's work at the store, the Knapps were incredibly involved in the community. At the time of his death in 1933 Joseph was vice president of Capitol Savings and Loan company and a director of the Industrial Bank. He and Catherine also supported many civic organizations, including the Kiwanis, Sparrow Hospital, the Red Cross, and the local Boy Scouts. Joseph, who loved to golf, built the home abutting the country club, so he could grab his clubs and play a game anytime. Catherine enjoyed entertaining in the home, which she opened regularly for charity benefits and social functions.

The tour also includes homes owned by other notable Lansing families, including a spectacular Craftsman home, owned for many years by the Freeman and Ruth McClintock family of McClintock Cadillac; a Georgian Colonial Revival, built for Wallace and Harriet Olds, R. E. Olds' older brother; and a Dutch Colonial Revival home constructed by Theodore and Margaret Foster, a successful real estate developer.

"The homes on the tour were built between 1916 and 1929 along the two-mile road which was, at the time, little more than a gravel road where many Lansing residents enjoyed a leisurely afternoon drive along the river," said Joan Bauer, chair of the home tour

steering committee. Bauer is also a longtime Moores River Drive resident and a trustee of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. Bauer said the neighborhood was initially created as a country retreat where owners could escape the city as they sought a growing lifestyle of leisure and outdoor life "The river, the adjacent parks, and the golf course allowed home owners to take advantage of their increased leisure time outdoors, and enjoy easy access to the river, where they boated," she said. The golf course was first built in 1908 and consisted of only six holes before being expanded in 1920 to 18 holes and the current clubhouse. "The houses were meant to be seen. The current homeowners are continuing that tradition by inviting the public into their homes for this unique tour," Bauer said.

The elegant homes have rare features including former maids' quarters, vast gardens, large central hallways, sweeping stairways, and beautiful views of the rivers. Bauer said, "Many owners who live on the river side feel like they have two fronts to their houses—a street front and a river front."

"These homes were built to last. They were—and are—among the most spectacular homes in the city. Happily, each is being carefully preserved by their current owners," Bauer said. "As any of them will tell you, taking care of such special houses is constant work—a true labor of love."

Homes on the tour are:



<u>Address</u>	<u>Current owners</u>	<u>Year built</u>
1607 Moores River Dr.	Ted and Gloria Rozeboom	1917

The Rozeboom home is celebrating its centennial this year. Constructed in 1917, during World War I, the house is a pure, virtually unaltered craftsman bungalow. Considered to be the first truly original American home style, bungalows signaled a change to a less formal way of living and entertaining. Gone was the formal hall and parlor--here guests are welcomed right into the family's living room. The home contains a cozy period fireplace and is tastefully decorated with Arts and Crafts style furnishings, stylish pottery crafted by the owner, and charming family photographs. Comfortable and intimate, this bungalow exemplifies the word "home."

Historical Society of Greater Lansing
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Address **Current owners** **Year built**
1908 Moores River Dr. **Larry Lee** **1916**

The Lee house is a slice of early Americana in the heart of Lansing’s most beautiful historical neighborhood. Designed in the Georgian Colonial Revival Style, the house pays homage to America’s colonial history, when simple, clean, stately homes bespoke the aspirations of a new nation. Its crisp white facade, flanked by tall green trees, gives little hint of the beautiful wooded ravine leading down to the river on the home’s opposite side. A large expanse of windows on the back of the house allows for panoramic views of the water, which, when seen from the house, can truly be called grand. As the owner likes to say, living in this house is like always being on vacation!



Address **Current owners** **Year built**
2011 Moores River Dr. **Paul and Joette Yauk** **1919**

The Yauk home harkens back to colonial America’s Dutch settlements in old New York. Sporting a green double pitched gambrel roof, the home is nestled on a deep stretch of land running from Moores River Drive to the Lansing Country Club. This gives the home a wonderfully rural, natural feel despite being in the middle of a modern, industrial city. Beautiful flowers blossom around the home all summer and a veranda serves as an excellent place for summer gatherings. When the weather turns cool the home owners welcome friends and family inside to enjoy a meal and peruse their collection of carefully selected antiques. Best of all, the home contains a spacious living room that is, according to the owner, the perfect setting for an extremely large Christmas tree!



Address **Current owners** **Year built**
1435 Cambridge Rd. **Sue Coley and Don LeDuc** **1926**

The Coley and LeDuc home epitomizes the very best of old world craftsmanship and tradition. The front facade of the home is a perfectly pieced jigsaw puzzle containing bricks of all colors and shapes, including a number of so-called “clinkers” that are intentionally unusual. Light caramel colored rays and two matched, original wrought lights call attention to the main entrance, which is fronted by an incredibly ornate wrought iron outer door. The interior of the home continues the traditional English manor house aesthetic, featuring a formal entryway, a second floor gallery at the “family” end of the house, and a sunken living room wrapped in rich wood paneling. Visitors to the house should remember to ask their presenter about the secret hidey-hole carefully disguised in the woodwork.....the house was built during Prohibition, after all!



Address **Current owners** **Year built**
1408 Cambridge Rd. **Brian Huggler and Ken Ross** **1927-29**

The Huggler and Ross home stands today as Lansing’s largest, and arguably its most grand, historic home. Yet behind its elegant facade are secrets aplenty, including the fact that the house’s structure is actually poured concrete, a technique then en vogue in Detroit’s burgeoning auto factories. The large home that once hosted garden parties for 500 contains a surprising number of charming, intimate spaces, including a small breakfast room, and a cozy library. Every room, large or small, contains its own artistic touches, including painted ceilings, imported floral glass chandeliers, and an original, custom-built, half-moon table that’s carefully tucked into a Pompeiian bathroom on the first floor. Today the Harper Home stands as a testament to the love of both its original and current owners.



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Lansing, MI 48901

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Historical Society of Greater Lansing - Membership Application

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in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

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- \$25 Individual Membership
- \$35 Family Membership
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