

2022 Holiday HOME Tour



DECEMBER 3rd 5-9 PM
& DECEMBER 4th 1-5 PM



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WELCOME TO WILLIAMS WOODLAND PARK!

Welcome to the hidden gem of the South Side! We are pleased to host you in our turn-of-the-century neighborhood. Williams Woodland Park was Fort Wayne's first planned subdivision, nicely situated at the southernmost point of the Beltline streetcar line which ran south down Calhoun Street and West across Creighton Avenue. The neighborhood, which includes some excellent examples of Colonial Revival, Prairie, and Queen Anne architecture, was developed largely during the period of 1875-1940



C. 1914

The Barnes - 2401 S Harrison St.

Source: Cynthia Hogan

with the platting of the entire area occurring on a single day in October 1903 during a lottery auction organized by real estate developer Louis Curdes, who coincidentally lived at 227 W Creighton. A newspaper article reporting the sale of



FREE Horse-drawn Carriage Rides are provided for your enjoyment. These rides will operate along the tour route both days.



Parking and Restrooms are available at Simpson Getsemani United Methodist Church and the Fairfield Manor Apartments.



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lots described the neighborhood as “A tract of the forest primeval in a populous part of town, invested on every side by paved streets, expensive dwellings and all other evidences of a great city.” The area was established as a local historic district in 1985 and achieved status on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. You'll be amazed at the craftsmanship and quality found in the homes and apartment building which will be open as part of this year's Tour. Whether you choose to tour the homes during the night hours on Saturday or you choose to view the homes in a different light on Sunday, you are sure to enjoy a trip to yesteryear where history seems to come alive in each of these well cared for and loved homes.



C. 1927

The Fairfield Manor from Creighton Ave

Source: Unknown

*Thank
you!*

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Home Tour Brochure



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STOP #1

2500 S CALHOUN ST - SIMPSON GETSEMANI CHURCH

C.1910

Tickets, public restrooms and parking are available to tour visitors at this location.

Originally founded and located on Bass Street in 1866, the Church moved to its current location in 1910 and has been a part of Williams Woodland Park Neighborhood ever since. A mainstay of our neighborhood, the Church has been the site of many events in WWPN and served as our community neighborhood meeting place for many years. Complimentary carriage rides begin here every 15-20 minutes or can be caught anywhere along the tour.

TICKET SALES HERE





STOP #2

2504 WEBSTER ST

C. 1911

FIRST
RESIDENTS:
LELAND AND
EVA JOHNSON

Designed by famed architect Guy Mahurin, this stunning home was built in 1911 for Leland and Eva Johnson, a prominent family who had purchased the double lot in 1909 for the price of \$4500. Eva was the sophisticated daughter of Sylvanus F. Bowser of the Bowser Pump company, who had completed a European tour the summer before

marrying Leland. Leland was born in Wells County and graduated from Purdue with a degree in mechanical engineering in 1898. He was originally employed with the Pennsylvania Railroad as a master mechanic at the Toledo shops and roundhouse before resigning to take a position with his father-in-law's company. The couple frequently entertained in their spacious home and raised three children there: Leland "Buddie" Johnson Jr., Robert Johnson, and Joan Johnson. The Johnsons continued to live in the house until the 1950s. The home is a colonial revival with a symmetrical façade, grouped windows, and a small detailed entry portico. It includes an original side porch. The current owners are only the third family to occupy the home and have lovingly restored many features while adding their own touches. They have remodeled the kitchen, renovated bathrooms and bedrooms, and landscaped the side and back yards. Their most recent project turned the attic into a beautiful luxury suite.

STYLE: COLONIAL REVIVAL



Current Residents: Josh and Melissa Summers



STOP #3

343 W SUTTENFIELD ST

C. 1907

FIRST
RESIDENTS:
HERBERT AND
ALICE SOMERS

This late Queen Anne style home was built around 1907 for Herbert L. Somers and his wife Alice Harris Somers. Herbert L. Somers, a former legislature representative and practicing attorney until 1925, became interested in the bakery business while working as a receiver for the Schorer Baking Company and organized the Superior

Baking Company (later known as the Holsum Bakery Company) in 1919. This home features one of the first attached garages and one of the most beautiful original leaded beveled glass doors in the neighborhood. On the first floor you will find beautiful art deco chandeliers that are original to the home. Other unique features to note on the exterior of the home are the small columns of the third floor and the intricate brickwork on the chimney. The home received a Commendation in 2021 from ARCH 2021 for exterior repairs and new multi-color paint scheme.

STYLE: **QUEEN ANNE**



Current Resident: Amy Cooper McComas



STOP #4

2504 WEBSTER ST

C. 1913

FIRST
RESIDENTS:
ANDREW AND
IDA BURRY

This beautiful home was built by contractor Fred Rump in 1913 for an estimated cost of \$5000 for Andrew G. Burry and his wife Ida, and later their two children Ralph and Alice. Burry had emigrated from Switzerland at age eleven. He started his career as an English teacher before founding the Wayne Paper Box and Printing Company, in 1898. Burry retired in 1956, but remained active in business and social activities in the area. He was active with the Boy Scouts and Rotary Club. In fact, when he turned 90 he told the Fort Wayne Rotary Club that he would return in ten years to buy them lunch. He kept that promise in 1973, when he paid for a luncheon for the Club at age 100. This home features an ornate Adams doorway and beveled lead glass fanlight and sidelights which dominates the wide front porch. Inside are no fewer than seven leaded glass windows. Grand columns of tiger maple bracket the entry of the to the front parlor which has a magnificent coffered ceiling. Typical hallmarks of the arts and crafts style are the fireplace mantel flanked by built-in bookcases with leaded glass doors.

STYLE: **CRAFTSMAN/AMERICAN FOURSQUARE**



Current Residents: Joe and Steph Johns



STOP #5

2402 WEBSTER ST

C. 1911

FIRST
RESIDENT:
AARON VAIL

Designed by architect John Wing, this unique 1907 Prairie style home was built for Aaron Vail, a manufacturer of wooden barrels, and his family. Construction of the Vail/Hanna house began in August of 1907, and at the time it cost approximately \$9,500 to build. The Vail family, who had been living nearby on South Harrison Street,

moved in shortly after its completion in 1909. Another notable resident of this home from 1922-1935 was Oliver Hanna, the grandson of Judge Samuel Hanna. This home beautifully reflects a Prairie style influence in the low hipped roof, wide eaves, Palladian dormer, and stucco walls (which was historically considered a fire retardant). The Vail/Hanna house's large front door, ornamental torches, and foliated crest on the front porch are just some of unique features that make this home truly special.

STYLE: PRAIRIE



Current Residents: Joel and Donna Kline



STOP #6

315 W TABER ST

C.1909

FIRST
RESIDENTS:
WILLIAM AND
ELIZABETH
PLOGSTERTH

As you enter this beautiful Dutch colonial, you first notice the oak hardwood floors in the foyer and parlor which have been restored to their original beauty, as well as the grand staircase. Continuing through the main level, you see many of the original elements of the home, including stained glass windows, wood columns, pocket doors, a wood burning fireplace, and an updated kitchen. The exterior boasts a charming front porch, and in the rear a beautiful outdoor seating area, complete with wood-burning fireplace. Upstairs, the hallway features custom wainscoting and southern birch hardwood floors and a spacious bathroom that has been redone with period touches. The main bedroom includes a charming gas fireplace. This historic home was first owned by William Plogsterth and his wife Elizabeth. William was a traveling salesman of dry goods. The couple continued to live here until the 1950s. They raised their son, Willard "Bill" Thomas Plogsterth, in this beautiful home. Willard was an elite tennis player for Indiana University. After graduation, he had planned to become a newspaper publisher but instead accepted a job at Lincoln Life. His career was twice interrupted by military service, having served in both World War I and World War II. He returned to Lincoln after the war, retiring in 1950. However, he and his wife Margaret, who had taught at James Smart School for ten years, remained extremely active in retirement. Bill joined the Board of Trustees of the Fort Wayne Art School (which later became part of IPFW Department of Fine Arts). The couple funded a fine arts reference library and a visiting arts series at what was then IPFW.

STYLE: **DUTCH COLONIAL**



Current Residents: Noel and Alicia Schutt



STOP #7

2301 FAIRFIELD AVE
FAIRFIELD MANOR - APT #211

C.1927

FIRST
RESIDENT:
PROCTOR D.
RENSHOUSE

When the Fairfield Manor Apartments opened in 1928 it was considered one of the largest buildings in Fort Wayne, and it was the first high-rise luxury apartment building in the city. Designed by architect Charles Weatherhogg, the \$700,000 construction project of the Manor began in February 1927, was completed in early November 1927, and opened its doors to residents in early 1928. This seven-story Beaux Arts Style building contains 62-70 apartments and features beautiful paneled wainscoting and terrazzo floors on the first floor, and unique iron balconies on the exterior. The Manor was well known for offering spacious apartments—four of which are in the 2,000 to 2,500 square foot range. The first residents of Apartment 211 were Proctor D. Renshouse, his wife Mary, and his children Ruth, Jean, Proctor Jr., and Charles. Proctor D. Renshouse, who later became the Vice President Treasurer of Essex Wire Corporation, and his family did not live in Apartment 211 very long, but by the time of Proctor D. Renshouse's death in 1952 he and his wife had returned to Fairfield Manor.

STYLE: **BEAUX ARTS**



Current Resident: Joanna Finch



STOP #8

2350 S HARRISON ST

C. 1986

Built in 1986, this striking contemporary home is the newest addition to the neighborhood. Although clearly a product of its own time, the home incorporates design elements inspired by the surrounding houses: a steep roof, gables, window shapes, and wood siding. It includes many modern conveniences of life: a three car garage, open living spaces, and an in-ground pool used every year to host a neighborhood swim party. The lot was originally occupied by the Third Presbyterian Church, which laid its cornerstone here in 1900. The church congregation had originally been located downtown but chose to move to this area because most of its congregation was from the area south of the railroad tracks. The large brick church was sadly destroyed by fire in 1974. Afterwards, the lot was considered the neighborhood playground, and was frequently used by the "Taber Street Boys" - a group of boys growing up in the neighborhood- as a kickball field. Dick Stumpf, architect and current owner, designed and built this house at the request of a client. However, building on the former church site was not without its challenges. While digging the pool, the contractor ran into the still existing foundation of the church, prompting him to ask the owners if they would like to substitute a rectangular pool for the kidney-shaped pool originally planned. And on hot dry summers, the outline of the church's foundation is reflected in the drying grass.

STYLE: **CONTEMPORARY**



Current Residents: Dick and Terri Stumpf



STOP #9

2406 S HARRISON ST

C.1900

FIRST
RESIDENTS:
HERMAN AND
MATILDA
SIEMON

Construction of this Queen Anne style home began in 1900 by property developer Patrick E. Cox. On July 18, 1901, Matilda L. Siemon, wife of Herman T Siemon of Siemon & Bros., purchased the house. A year after Siemon & Bros., the oldest book and stationary store in Fort Wayne, closed in 1906, the Siemon family moved to Grand Rapids,

Michigan while they continued to rent their home on South Harrison to residents until they sold it in 1913 to the grocer Margaret G. Dittoe. William H. Carter, owner of a furnace company, and his wife Nellie purchased the home in July 1922. Together with their son Herbert R. Carter, the Carter family lived there until Herbert's death in 1979. This two story, four bedroom home features much of the original decorative oak woodwork throughout the house, but the current owners' favorite feature is the rectangular window box on the first floor. The present owners of 2406 S Harrison are finding new treasures and mysteries about the house every day.

STYLE: **COLONIAL REVIVAL**



Current Residents: Mike Pascual and Elizabeth Hodges



STOP #10

2401 S HARRISON ST

C.1910

FIRST
RESIDENTS:
EDWARD AND
CATHERINE
BARNES

This Colonial Revival home was designed by architects Kentrick & Bradley and built in 1900 for an estimated cost of \$4,500. The house retains the asymmetrical massing of the Queen Anne style, yet bases other design elements on Colonial or Classical models. Noteworthy features are the Palladian window in the gable, the Greek pattern railing,

and the porch with grouped columns. The house was built for Edward Alexander Barnes, the superintendent of Fort Wayne Electric Works. Mr. Barnes was as unique as his home. He was born in India while his father, a major in the British army, was stationed there. He was educated in England, and briefly served in the military before beginning his electrical career in 1884 with Edison interests in London. He moved to the United States and later joined the Fort Wayne Electric Company in 1889, which would later merge with General Electric. He worked his way up to General Superintendent and resigned in 1931 after 42 years with the company. Barnes was considered one of the last members of the Edison Pioneers, associates of Edison who worked with him in his earlier days. Mr. Barnes was considered an electrical genius. He had designed a complete electrical system for this house that was

run by a generator in the basement. He resided in his home with his wife Catherine and daughters Georgina and Katherine. His nephew Robert frequently visited while his own father, a colonel in the British army, was stationed abroad. The family also enjoyed motoring.

STYLE: COLONIAL REVIVAL



Current Residents: Larry Wuest and Rebecca Quesenberry

2022 TOUR STOPS

R Restrooms

T Ticket Sales

P Parking

STOP #1 2500 S Calhoun St

STOP #6 315 W Taber St

Tickets, parking and restrooms available here

STOP #2 2504 Webster St

STOP #7 2301 Fairfield Ave

*Fairfield Manor- Apartment 211
Restrooms available here*

STOP #3 343 W Suttentfield St

STOP #8 2350 S Harrison St

STOP #4 2430 Webster St

STOP #9 2406 S Harrison St

STOP #5 2402 Webster St

STOP #10 2401 S Harrison St

PLEASE NOTE:

Carriage rides are FREE for tour patrons. Enjoy the stops in any order. Tickets must be presented for admittance. Restrooms available at stops #1 and #7.

