Heritage HILL

2014 Weekend Tour of Homes

Saturday, May 17  11 am – 5 pm
Sunday, May 18  12 pm – 6 pm

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Acknowledgments and Special Thanks
We wish to thank the Heritage Hill Hosts who graciously open their doors and to the 300 volunteer Tour guides who orchestrate our Tour. Home Tour hosts and room guides volunteer their homes and their time. No profit of Tour is distributed to them.

Volunteer Guide Opportunities
Volunteer guide positions are open if you wish to volunteer for the 2015 Tour. Shifts are 4 hours and you receive a FREE Tour ticket. If interested, please contact the Heritage Hill Association at 459-8950 or e-mail at heritage@heritagehillweb.org. If calling after 5 p.m., please leave a message on voicemail.
Giving you greater possibilities.

SPECTRUM HEALTH
5

Open Houses:
- 151 Lafayette NE
- 231 Paris SE
- 60 Lafayette NE
- 238 Morris SE
- 427 Prospect SE
- 505 College SE
- 550 College SE
- 48 Lafayette SE
- Cornerstone Church

Parking Lots: (P)
- GRCC DeVos Campus - 415 E. Fulton
  Shuttle buses start and finish at this location

Restrooms: (R)
- GRCC DeVos Campus

Tickets Day of Tour
- GRCC DeVos Campus
- Parking Lots

Food: (F)
- Booths:
  - 48 Lafayette NE
    Cornerstone Church
  - 427 Prospect SE - 4H Club
    baked goods/refreshments
  - 550 College SE
    Grace for the Nations Church

Restaurants:
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- Wealthy Street Bakery
  (Wealthy at Union)
- GR Pizza and Delivery (GRPD)
  (State at Prospect)
- Beijing Kitchen (State at Prospect)

Parking Lots: (P)
- GRCC DeVos Campus - 415 E. Fulton

Restrooms: (R)
- GRCC DeVos Campus

** closes at 4:00 pm Sunday**

Meyer May House
450 Madison SE

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Acupuncture
435 Cherry SE

GRCC DeVos Campus - 415 E. Fulton
Parking Lots

Bus Route Starts and Stops at
GRCC DeVos Campus

N

F

T

P

R

F

R

P

427 Prospect SE
238 Morris SE
505 College SE
48 Lafayette SE
159 College NE
Cornerstone Church

** Bus Route Starts and Stops at GRCC DeVos Campus **
The Heritage Hill Association dedicates the 2014 Tour to our dear friend and neighbor Esther Tanis Van Allsburg

Esther passed away on April 24 after living the last 11½ years with ovarian cancer. We in the Heritage Hill and Grand Rapids community share our grief with Esther’s family but also celebrate Esther’s bright light. We are grateful for her love of our community and being a vibrant part of us.

Esther and her husband Mark were early activists in the rebirth of Heritage Hill. Together they transformed houses on Madison, Prospect and recently, Heritage Commons.

Esther gave freely of her time and talent. Her incredible watercolor house drawings of many, many Heritage Hill homes are treasures. For the Association’s annual Home Tour, Esther donated her drawings to each of the Home Tour hosts. Her art fills this neighborhood.

An artist from her early years, Esther graduated from Kendall School of Design and made a career in art which continued through retirement. In 2006 Esther and Mark began splitting their time between Michigan and Hawaii. After retirement she contributed her time and talent to The Honolulu Museum of Art, and to the Heritage Hill Association and Meyer May House in Grand Rapids.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Central Union or Central Reformed Church, Heritage Hill Association or the Honolulu Museum of Art.
The 45th Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes

The annual Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes welcomes you to our historic Heritage Hill neighborhood, one of the country’s largest urban historic districts recognized by the National Register of Historic Places. More than 1,300 homes stand within the boundaries of Heritage Hill and date from 1843. Nearly every style of American architecture, from Greek Revival to Prairie, is represented in the district. At the turn of the century, this was the city’s most prestigious residential area. Today the neighborhood is an array of lifestyles and passions. Professionals, craftspeople, students, artists ... homeowners and renters ... share this great place we call home.

Heritage Hill is recognized by the American Association of Planners as one of the Great Places in America and This Old House magazine rates Heritage Hill as one of the best historic neighborhoods in the United States.

The Heritage Hill Association...

The Heritage Hill Association formed in 1968 to stop several urban renewal projects that planned to demolish over 75% of Heritage Hill’s structures. It was an amazing and diligent organizing effort by residents to have the neighborhood placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Neighbors needed to invoke national preservation legislation to effectively stop the bulldozers. Today, the Heritage Hill Association and residents give testament to those early leaders and continue to work to keep the Hill a vital place to live and work. The neighborhood is an inspiring example of a community-in-action.

Tour...

For 45 years Heritage Hill has invited visitors to explore an array of architecture, decorating styles and urban gardens. Walkability, cultural diversity and close proximity to Grand Rapids’ colleges and medical facilities, as well as the downtown entertainment and cultural center ... and the hip, new and energizing Uptown business districts ... Heritage Hill has it all! This year, seven private historic homes are open as well as 2 public buildings. Each has a unique story to share. The house profiles that follow offer insight into the lives of the people who built these great houses ... and those who now call them home. During Tour, guides stationed at each house will share information and highlight special features.

Tour is the largest fundraiser of the Heritage Hill Association. Over 300 volunteers contribute to make the weekend a success. All proceeds go right back into programs for the Heritage Hill neighborhood. These include block club organizing, crime prevention, land use planning, engaging community resources, and preservation of the district’s historic character.

Enjoy...
The Heritage Hill Association applauds the many dedicated volunteers, committee members, hosts, house captains, and the Heritage Hill Association Staff that collaborate to make Tour Weekend happen. A core group has spent much of the year planning and orchestrating Tour. We sincerely thank each of you for your dedication to Tour!

**Home Tour Steering Committee:**
- Karen Coy
- Kate Diedrich
- Jan Earl
- Dave Eppelheimer
- Sue Karsen
- Marie and Kim Koster
- Sue Matthysse
- Don Rietema
- Maria Zache

**Home Tour Hosts:**
- Thomas Mooney & Sandi Jensen
- Jeff VandenBerg & Carolyn Schaut
- Scott Walters
- Kay Courtney
- Scott Kammera & Deb Cloney
- Tom & Shelly Sinas
- David & Leah Muir
- Cornerstone Church
- GRPS Montessori - Fountain School

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**Bus Coordinator:**
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**Tour Artist:**
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- Marie and Kim Koster
- Sue Matthysse
- Alan Stockton

**Recruit:**
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- David Weick
- Deb Zondervan

**WEB Maestros/Social Networks:**
- Wilhelmina Daniels
- Jan Earl
- Barb Lester
- Maria Zache

**Special Recognition:**
- **Kay Courtney** - This is the 4th Tour for Kay as a Home Tour host. She has generously offered her home (all four of them) for Home Tour tourists. Wherever Kay moves, she has opened her door to Heritage Hill. **Thank You!**
- **Ben and Sharon VanderWilp** - Ben and Sharon have volunteered as Home Tour guides for the past **31 consecutive Tours**. We gold star this amazing accomplishment and applaud their gift to Heritage Hill. **And many more...!**
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- Coming Fall 2015...Grand Rapids Public Museum School

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A long and lovely garden path leads to this stately Greek Revival home that began its life as a humble, five-room cabin in 1852, predating the Civil War. From its perch above Grand Rapids, this house has expanded and changed right along with the city it overlooks.

Elements of the Greek Revival Style were gradually added over time as that style became popular in the late 1800’s. A two-car attached garage was built in the 1920’s, a sign of the changing times. Major renovations occurred in the 30’s when Mrs. Barber, a rather flamboyant eccentric who lived in the home for most of the 1900’s with her husband, Floyd, added the two-story columns with a porch above to the front of the house, a bay window to the living room, a long entry hall to the West side of the house, a commercial fountain in the garden, and perhaps most famously, a full-sized authentic Alaskan totem pole to the front yard. The home became known to locals as the Totem Pole House.

This house was slated to become a parking lot in 1978, but was rescued just in time when Heritage Hill earned its designation as an Historic District. A series of owners lived in this home until 2003, when David purchased it and began the process of complete and major interior and exterior restoration. Along the way, he learned that the house was once owned in the 1800’s by his great-great uncle, James!

The stately beauty of this classic home, with its large living room, formal dining room with fireplace and stained-glass window, sun-lit porch and flower-filled garden made a perfect setting for David and Leah’s wedding in 2008. Add in a creative, boat-themed entertainment room, a new two-car garage with a large exercise room above it and a beautiful new baby boy with whom to share it all and this home has grown, over its 150 years, to be uniquely and wonderfully complete.
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JAIME MISNER
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231 PARIS SE
Hosts: Kay Courtney

Everything about this house speaks of elegance, from the beautiful wood to the ornate plaster work, the very high ceilings and the impressive fireplaces. This was not always the case.

Built in 1875 as an Italianate Style home, the exterior had lost many of the features of that style, some by renovation and some due to neglect. The unique curving motif in the window trim and two round windows remaining in the gables are about all that is left of the original decorative trim. This house suffered for decades in the hands of uncaring landlords who chopped it into six apartments and neglected to maintain the structure. Finally, in 1999, the home was rescued by the current owner, reduced to four units and, after 2 ½ years of meticulous restoration by some of Grand Rapids’ finest craftsmen, it went from the pariah of the neighborhood to its shining star.

Major changes were made in 1889 when the owner, prominent Grand Rapids lawyer Roger Butterfield, decided to add an office to the home, behind which he had built an amazing two-story library. It is a replica, on a smaller scale, of the one that Sir Walter Scott had built in his castle in Scotland, with a sandstone fireplace, faux marble columns and walls lined with oak bookshelves.

Every room in this house is a showplace, from the oak foyer with beautiful stained-glass windows as you enter, to the mahogany-lined dining room as you are leaving. The kitchen is a great example of how to creatively make optimum use of a small space.
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919 Cherry St. SE
Set serenely back from the busy street, this classic Federal Revival was built in 1920 for Curtis M. Wylie, a wealthy investment banker, attorney and philanthropist.

Only the best in materials and craftsmanship was used in the construction of the home. The symmetrical facade and the use of brick in its construction give the house a feeling of stability and permanence. With the outer walls and a few of the inner walls measuring 12 inches thick, this house has structural strength, insulation from the elements and a buffer from the noise and traffic of the city.

When Scott purchased the home, it had been divided into two apartments and had not been properly maintained for decades. in the process of restoring it to a single-family, every effort was made to ensure that any repairs or renovations would be consistent with the materials and design of the original home and yet be functional in today’s world.

The amazing kitchen is a prime example. The floor is made of African mahogany to match the cabinets in the living room, the wood trim is custom-milled to match the trim on the main floor and the glass is the same as that used in the front of the house. The hammered copper sinks with copper light fixtures to match and the rare granite counters add a touch of elegance. But this kitchen is not just a pretty face - the use of every inch of space has been thoughtfully planned and it all functions perfectly. Scott gave this kind of attention to every project in this house.

The carved design on the staircase in the foyer, the grand fireplace in the expansive living room and the ornate woodwork in the dining room on the first floor, a second story fully restored and a maze of rooms in the basement - there are three stories of visual delights in this home.

One of the few swimming pools in “The Hill” is in the landscaped back yard. This is another case of a careful and caring rescue - this home is as beautiful now as it was ninety years ago, with all the amenities of today.
Saturday July 18th
9am to 3pm

A walking tour of gardens in the north area of Heritage Hill

www.heritagehillweb.org
238 MORRIS SE
Host: Jeff VandenBerg & Carolyn Schaut

Take one 1892 Shingle Style house, add two creative young owners and the mix turns into a fun, eclectic and unique living space. The exterior itself is a mix of styles and has an olio of elements that more than likely had been selected from an architectural catalogue of that era.

There is a romantic Juliet balcony above the entry, a two-story curved extension to the north and a very large bay window on the corner to the south that fills the living room with light.

On the main floor of the interior, the beaded oak trim and the carved newel post on the staircase (which are identical to those found in the Public Museum’s Voigt House) and the back-to-back soapstone fireplaces in the living room and dining room with their carved floral designs, provide a flow of textures and patterns.

The upstairs landing is absolutely stunning, with an ornate chandelier hung from a high ceiling and a leaded-glass window above a wide oak bench that is supported by ornately-carved, curved legs. There is a long hallway with a surprising number of rooms on the second floor.

Though the description above may sound very traditional, this is not your great-grandmother’s house! You will see an antique here and there, but the owners have chosen to decorate mostly with Mid-Century Modern furnishings and the walls are filled with Jeff’s contemporary paintings.

Evidence of Jeff’s involvement in and love of music can be seen throughout the home. This may be the only dining room in Heritage Hill filled with pin-ball machines! As a new generation of owners begins to adopt the historic homes of “The Hill”, they are finding ways of adapting them to the needs and lifestyles of the 21st Century.
427 PROSPECT SE
Hosts: Thomas Mooney & Sandi Jensen

A playful, asymmetrical arrangement of surfaces on the facade and roof lines of this 1890 Stick Style home create a patchwork of geometric shapes that are embellished with a tall tower, bay windows, a walk-out porch on the second story and a grand, welcoming porch below.

The whimsical design of the exterior is in contrast to the well-ordered layout of the interior. A substantial hand-carved newel post on the staircase greets you as you enter the front double doors. One set of pocket doors opens to a book-filled office and then another set to a warm and cozy living room, where an impressive stone fireplace serves as a backdrop for treasured family heirlooms. A leaded-glass window lights a recessed alcove with an oak ceiling in the dining room. On the second floor, as you wend your way down an unusually long hallway (44'!), you discover room after lovely room.

The new owners have enjoyed adding the personal touches that make a fine old house into a home. Sandi is an artist and designer and her artwork brightens every room, from her paintings and collages to the hand painted-floral design in the guest bedroom. Her sense of style is evident in the home’s colors, details and furnishings. Tom has helped with the house projects, including designing and building an ornate headboard for the front bedroom.

The house had been abused for many years and very recently was stripped of anything of value, including all of the lights and bathroom fixtures. Today, this home stands as evidence that, with commitment, time and a lot of love, the character and beauty of an old home can be brought back to life.
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505 COLLEGE SE
Hosts: Scott Kammeraad & Deb Cloney

The distinctive details that you expect to find in a Frank Lloyd Wright Prairie Style home - the emphasis on horizontal lines, the interplay of closed and open spaces, the creative use of windows to control the flow of light and the respectful use of natural materials - are evident throughout this, the Amberg House.

Designed by Wright’s associate, architect Marian Mahony, this 1909 house has decorative details that are uniquely hers, as seen in the patterns of the stained-glass windows and the geometric motif painted on the exterior. Mahony planned the home so that the glow of the stained-glass and the warmth of the American chestnut woodwork, with accents of brick and stone, bring nature into the home. The bay windows and the large veranda extend the home into its natural surroundings.

The common rooms of the house have an open floor plan with the living room and dining room separated by just a few steps and an overhead beam. There are several small flights of stairs that change the floor level throughout the home and serve to set apart the public from the private living and working areas.

Scott and Deb decided to incorporate one of the two apartments still existing from the 1950’s division of the house into four units, back into the main house. They have totally renovated this part of the home to include a sewing room, a workroom, a bath, a card/entertainment room, an exercise room and a laundry.

A new garage has been built that echoes the architecture and materials of the house. The multi-level garden that surrounds the house makes for delightful views from every window and is designed to provide privacy and an outdoor living space hidden away from the hustle and bustle of the street.
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Nestled back away from the front of the house, a rounded doorway with a gable window above welcomes you to this charming 1927 Tudor Revival home. From the street this house appears deceptively small, but once inside, the open floor plan creates a spacious feel and the many windows, including a large bay in the living room, add to the light and airy ambience of the rooms on the main floor.

The influence of the Art Deco style, in vogue when this house was constructed, is in evidence throughout the interior of the home. The wrought-iron railing on the stairway just as you enter the house, has an organic Art Deco motif. The rounded edges and curved alcoves and doorways found in many of the rooms lend a soft and subtle elegance to the home.

A multi-level stairway wends its way up past a playroom, then up again to the bedrooms and baths and then up a bit more to the attic, where a delightful guest bedroom and a beautiful new bathroom make a perfect area for a visiting grandparent to watch over the grandchildren in the backyard.

Tom and Shelly were searching for an older home, and when they found this house, they fell in love with it and with the Heritage Hill neighborhood. The house was almost unlivable when they purchased it a year ago, but after the first year of their four year renovation plan, the interior is almost completely restored with crumbling walls and ceilings replastered, sinking floors repaired and refinished, fixtures replaced and new mechanical systems installed, including a high-velocity air-conditioning system. With all the time and work that has gone into this house, it must have been true love!

The character of a home is not complete without the unique touches of the owners. A grandfather clock hand-made as a graduation gift for Shelly by her father, a collection of Greek Orthodox icons and artwork with personal memories attached help to bring this home to life.

This beguiling Tudor has been perfectly planned and lovingly renovated to suit the lives of this young and growing family.

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gfcc.edu/100th

1914 - 2014 GREAT PAST. BRIGHT FUTURE
48 LAFAYETTE SE
Hosts: Cornerstone Church

This light brick and limestone Greek Revival building was originally built for the First Church of Christ Scientist in 1905. It was designed by architect Solon Spencer Beman who designed over a dozen like churches around the country. He was famous in Chicago for designing Grand Central Station, the Fine Arts Building, and Marshall Field Jr’s mansion. Many of the original features of the church remain including two fireplaces in the gathering room, a gaslight fixture and many stained-glass windows, including a “Sunburst Dome”.

Cornerstone Church, a United Methodist congregation, purchased the building in 2013 and has made some changes to the building, while being respectful of the original architecture. The neighborhood welcomes our newest church and appreciates their generous offer to open their doors for Tour this year.

A Big THANK YOU to the Neighbor Businesses who contributed to the wonderful Home Tour Host Gift Baskets:
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159 COLLEGE NE
Hosts: GRPS Montessori-Fountain School

This 1917 symmetrical red brick school was Grand Rapids’ second-largest elementary school of its time. The ornate exterior trim includes sculptured children’s faces that grace the north and south entrances. Betty Ford was one of the more notable students of this school.

This building, along with the adjacent Central High, house Grand Rapids Public School’s Montessori program. Montessori students attend schools on this campus from pre-school through high school. Grand Rapids offers one of the few programs in the country that includes a Montessori high school.
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Cottage Bar
18 LaGrave Ave. SE
454-9088 / www.cottagebar.biz

Cromwell Electric
458-8886

Elders’ Helpers
1407 Robinson Rd. SE
454-8305 / www.eldershelpers.com

First Park Church
10 East Park Pl NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 459-3203 / www.firstparkchurch.org

Founder’s Bank & Trust
161 Monroe NW
956-9030 / www.foundersbt.com

Grande Rapids Ballet
341 Ellsworth SW
(616) 454-4771 x 13 / www.grballem.com

Grand Rapids Community College
143 Bostwick Ave NE
(616) 234-4000 / www.grcc.edu

Grand Rapids Public Schools
819-2150 / www.grpublicschools.org

Grand Valley State University
One Campus Drive, Allendale
(616) 331-2025 / www.gvsu.edu

The Green Well / Grove
924 Cherry St. SE / 919 Cherry St. SE
808-3666, 454-1000
www.thegreenwell.com
www.groverestaurant.com

Griffin Properties
1163 Fulton St. E
915-6060 / www.griffinproperties.net

Ruth Kelly, 2nd Ward Commissioner
616-238-9370 / ruth.kelly@grcity.us.

Martha’s Vineyard
200 Union NE
459-0911 / www.marthasvineyardgr.com

Midtown Craftsmen, LLC
1600 Marshall Ave. SE, Suite A West
245-9570 / www.mtcrestoration.com

Nantucket Baking Company
208 Union NE
726-6609 / www.nantucketbakingco.com

Overhead Door Company of Grand Rapids
5761 N. Hawkeye Ct. SW
261-0500 / www.overheaddoorgr.com

Pregnancy Resource Center
415 Cherry Street SE
(616) 456-6873 / www.prcgr.org

Rosalyn Bliss, 2nd Ward Commissioner
885-1277 / www.blissforgr.org

Rylee’s Ace Hardware
1234 Michigan NE
451-0724 / www.ryleesace.com

Storr Printing
938 Cherry SE
459-0068 / www.storrprinting.com

Tidy Home Helpers
1407 Robinson Rd. SE
(616) 233-4832

Treadstone Funding Residential
Mortgage Lender
25 Commerce SW, Suite 100
616.485.5288
www.treadstonemortgage.com

Winter-Trowtine Associates, Inc.
937 Fairmount SE
(616) 822-9491
www.winter-trowtine.com

Lake Michigan Credit Union
P.O. Box 2848
Grand Rapids, MI 49501
www.lmcu.org

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