

The 2002 Drake Neighborhood Historic Tour of Homes

June 1 & 2

Taking the tour

Welcome to the Drake Neighborhood. This is a self-guided tour. You may visit the homes in any order you choose. The route is very manageable to walk, but you may also drive if you choose. A horse drawn carriage will be available from noon to 4 p.m. to transport you from the end of the tour back to the fraternity house. (See map on back)

You will find helpful hosts and volunteers along the tour route. They will do their best to answer your questions. Please present this brochure at each stop as your ticket. We ask that you refrain from eating, drinking, smoking and taking photographs inside the tour locations. If you need restroom facilities, please use those at the fraternity house or St. Lukes Church. Do not ask to use the restroom facilities in the tour homes.

Other neighborhood activities:

Nature's Garden
Plant and Yard Art Sale
1089 44th Street.

Sat. and Sun.: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday June 3, Tuesday June 4,
Thursday June 6 and
Friday June 7: 5 to 8 p.m.
closed Wednesday

Greek Food Fair
Sunday, June 2

Greek Orthodox Church of
St. George, 35th and Cottage Grove
Meals are served from 11:00 a.m.
to 7:00 p.m.

forestdale - the original suburb

"A beautiful building spot amidst nature's oaks." "No word can tell, no pen can write of the natural scenery of this addition."

In 2002, the descriptions above would lead a reader to envision a new suburban neighborhood developing far beyond the outskirts of the metro area. But at the beginning of the last century, these same words appeared in advertisements for the Forestdale neighborhood, site of this year's Drake Neighborhood Association Historic Home Tour.

A tiny area straddling the Drake and Beavertown neighborhoods, the five streets that make up Forestdale boast some of the most diverse and interesting architecture in Des Moines. Cozy Cape Cod bungalows, stately Tudors, sprawling colonials, prairie-style ranches... all of these and more have a place in this unique neighborhood.

The creation of prominent builder and real estate promoter Burt German, the area was originally conceived just prior to World War I, but construction was stalled during the war effort. In fact, the war affected more than just construction: German took some political heat for naming Germania Drive after himself as post-war, anti-German sentiments threatened to derail his project. Des Moines mayor John MacVicar, Sr., is reported to have declared that no one would build a home on a street named Germania Drive. Burt eventually prevailed - but built his own home on Maquoketa Drive, named for his home town.

Home tour walkers will pass over the Close's Creek bridge just west of the intersection of Beaver and Forest. The Creek begins west of 41st and College and runs underground down the center of Maquoketa Drive. During heavy rains the original wood storm sewers below Maquoketa have been cause for neighborhood concern, although the steep hillside lawns on either side of the street prevent home damage.

According to the City Engineer's office, during the early 1900s the city planned to pave over Close's Creek and turn it into a parkway. The stair steps leading down to the creek bed may have been meant to lead down to the parkway. The plan, based on successful conversions of creek beds to parkways in Washington, D.C., was discontinued during World War II and later was abandoned.

Today, the Forestdale neighborhood is a closely-knit community whose residents celebrate annually with a July 4th picnic on the Maquoketa parkway and with a progressive dinner each winter. Residents of this earliest of Des Moines "suburbs" enjoy the quiet, pastoral setting with the added convenience of proximity to downtown Des Moines and Drake University. Lunt Garden, the circular median garden at the crossroads of Germania and Maquoketa, honors a longtime resident and stands as a reminder of the continuing civic pride and neighborhood cooperation that distinguishes this community.



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1. Sigma Chi Fraternity House, 3212 Forest Avenue. Drake University, the Fraternity and its architects worked to develop a design that met the zoning codes for housing students and still fit into the character of the neighborhood. It features large pillars and a two-story porch.



2. 3420 Forest Avenue is the home and business of Bob & Phyllis Gale. This home was built in 1915 by architect Tucker. Mrs. Tucker later married George Means and they continued to live in the home till 1972. The home was then purchased by Tommy Tucker (no relation) who, left his mark on the home. This Italian Renaissance house has lots of beautiful oak woodwork, a new kitchen and patio. A massage studio is located in the basement and the third floor bedroom restoration is worth the climb up the stairs, just watch your head.

Continue out the back and visit **Spencer Anderson Furniture Service.** The current owners converted this carriage house to a workroom and office. Due to the way it was constructed they believe it may have once been used to store ice.



3. St. Lukes - The next stop on the tour will be the St Luke's Episcopal Church. This church was originally located at 8th and College and was moved to its current location 3424 Forest in 1926. In 1961 the church was completely rebuilt to provide more space. A few features of the original structure were salvaged including stained glass windows. St. Luke's was the parish of Amelia Earhart and her family when they were residents in Des Moines. Amelia was a teenager at the time, and her younger sister was confirmed in the church. The Tudor-style Parish House was built in 1928 and renovated in 1985. **Note: On Sunday the church will only be open from noon - 4 p.m.**

Continuing west on Forest Avenue, you will walk past the Crestwood Baptist Church and the wonderful Stiver home. Clayton Stiver was a prominent attorney and tax consultant. His hobbies were horticulture and architecture. This

house originally featured yellow sandstone trim including porch railings and lathe turned spindles. Acorns carved from sandstone are still visible on the brick pillars at the driveway entrance. This house once had a two story front porch, irrigation system, nine rooms plus four bathrooms, ornate walnut woodwork including columns separating the rooms from the central area around the staircase. This is now being used as the rectory for the church and **will not be open to tour.**

Now enter the historic Forestdale neighborhood. Forestdale Investment Company, Snyder Brothers and German Brothers originally developed this area. While laying out this addition they took pains not to interfere with nature. The neighborhood was arranged so that every lot had a beautiful building spot amidst nature's towering oaks. Some of the attractive features the developers touted in their advertising included the new suburb's convenient location in the center of Waveland Place, one block north of University Avenue, two blocks from a new school and three blocks from a church. Each lot originally had from 5 to 15 native oaks, and homeowners continue to work diligently on tree preservation and replacement. The Waveland car was just one block away, and savvy developers were careful to remind wealthier prospects that the area was accessible "by auto on 39th street or 42nd street, both paved to Forest Avenue."

4. 1408 Forestdale Drive is the home of Judy and John Craig. Built in 1916 this craftsman cottage will surprise you with its charm and room. The Craig's have partially remodeled the kitchen and added a garden room. Notice the nine-foot high ceilings, the original beams and built-ins. The home is decorated by the owner, a professional interior designer, and is



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described as an eclectic mix of antiques and new furniture. Don't miss the garden room or the upstairs.

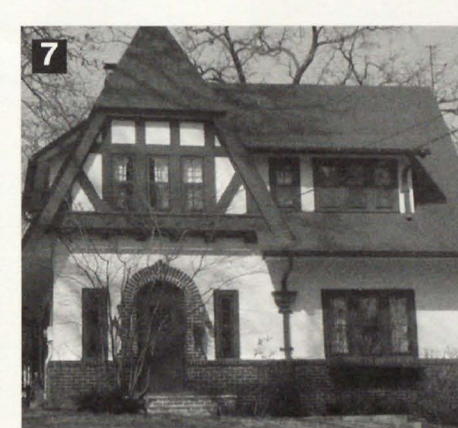
5. 1410 Forestdale the home of Jerry and Dawn Price, was built in 1925. This house is a mix of construction styles and was built from old paving bricks from Douglas Avenue. Some of the features include arch



doorways, mission style doors, leaded glass and brick arch in the kitchen. Architects Dougher, Rich and Woodburn originally built this house for the C.C. Woodburn family. Next door neighbor Judy Craig decorated the home when she was a resident here. The owners collect musical show cards, three are autographed by casts. The framed photo in the dining room is Dawn's grandfather; the photo was taken 10 or 15 years before the house was built.



6. 1420 Forestdale is the home of Mark and Kelly Craiger and is a wonderful bungalow built in 1922. The house features oak built-in buffet, new kitchen and a wonderfully remodeled 2nd floor. The Craiger's have creatively used the upstairs to optimize the space. Be sure to note the built-in drawers and the very inviting new master bath.



7. 1510 Germania is the home of Mike and Kendall Dillon. This tudor home was built in 1926 and features a carved fireplace, original art deco light fixtures and built-in bookcases. The home was owned by longtime Forestdale resident Arloine Lunt from 1931-1987; the small circular garden at the intersection of Germania and Maquoketa is named in her memory. Be sure to see the garden behind the house before you leave.



8. 4100 Forest Avenue is the home of Paul and Marion Johnson. This English Cottage style home was originally built for attorney Waterman who was active in the Democratic Party. At one point this house was converted into a duplex and has undergone many restoration projects since the last time it was on the tour in 1991.

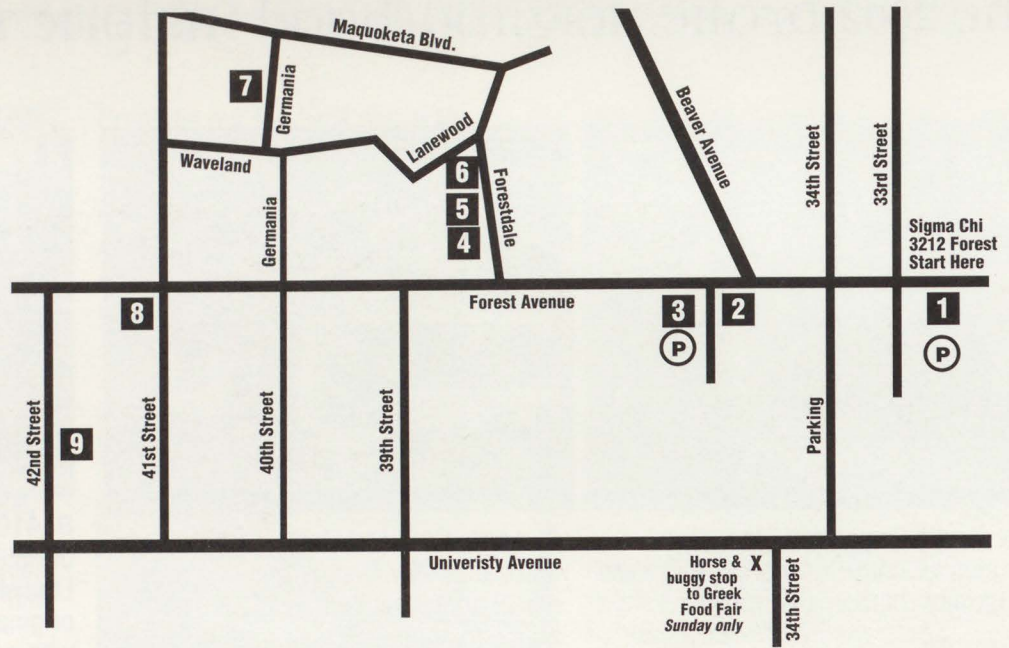


9. 1307 42nd Street home of Vince Rabino is a good example of the American Four Square that was built throughout the neighborhood in the first part of the 20th century. Vince has restored the hardwood floors and woodwork, painted the exterior, built a garage and added landscaping. Vince has started to furnish the home with craftsmen pieces and has both modern and salvaged light fixtures. Be sure to see the map of early mass transportation in Des Moines, railroad memorabilia an other historic information about the neighborhood.



The tour route:

The tour begins at the Sigma Chi fraternity house at 3212 Forest Avenue and winds through the Forestdale neighborhood. A horse drawn carriage will be available from noon to 4 p.m. to transport you from the end of the tour back to the fraternity house.



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we wish to thank the following sponsors for their generous support of the Drake Neighborhood Association's 2002 Historic Tour of Homes

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 2511 Cottage Grove
State Farm Insurance Agent Terry Taylor, 4040 University Ave.

ticket outlets

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The Drake Neighborhood Association

Since 1979, the Drake Neighborhood Association has served the area bounded by 42nd Street and MLK Parkway, and I-235 and Franklin Avenue. The association works to preserve the historic elements and quality of life that make the neighborhood unique.

For more information about the association or to join:

Website

www.drakeneighborhood.org

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