

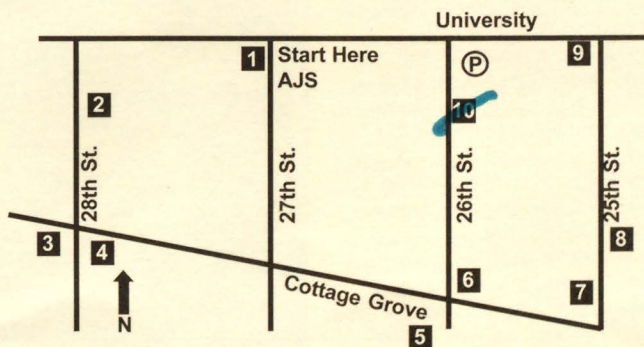
## 2004 DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD

# HISTORIC HOME TOUR

JUNE 5 & 6  
11 AM - 5 PM

### Featuring the Near Drake/Cottage Grove Area

Welcome to the 2004 Drake Historic Home Tour. This year, the House Tour focuses on the area south of Drake University, planned as a picturesque gateway to the campus. When Old Main was designed, it was centered on what would become 26th Street, forming what is called "a planned vista," just as was done for the Courthouse and State Capitol downtown. The tour begins at 27th and University, site of the American Judicature Society. On Saturday, there is a bake sale and refreshment stop at The Cottage, 28th and Cottage Grove, hosted by the Roosevelt High School Band Boosters. On Sunday, look for the Band Boosters' bake sale near Sammie Jack's, 25th and Cottage Grove. Please enjoy your stroll through our historic neighborhood!



### Taking the Tour

*The Drake Neighborhood Welcomes You!* On this self-guided walking tour, you may visit the homes in any order. The route is very manageable to walk, but you may also drive if you choose. You will find helpful hosts and volunteers along the tour route. Present this brochure at each stop as your ticket. Please no drinking, smoking or taking photographs inside the tour locations. Restroom facilities are available at the First Christian Church. Restrooms in private homes may not be used.

### Other Neighborhood Activities

#### Greek Food Fair

Saturday, June 5, 4 - 8 p.m.  
Sunday, June 6, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

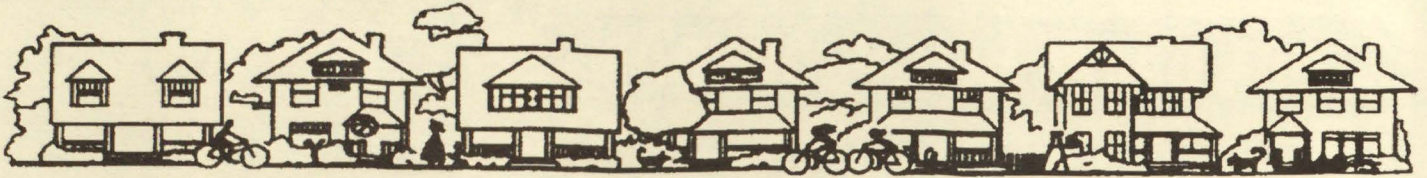
Greek Orthodox Church of St. George, 35th and Cottage Grove  
\$10 in advance/\$11 at the door  
Ala carte menu items are served Saturday; full meals on Sunday.  
Show your house tour program or ticket for a \$1 discount. A shuttle bus will run between Home Tour Parking and the Food Fair.

#### Drake Farmer's Market

Starts June 2, 2004  
Every Wednesday, 4 - 7 p.m.  
First Christian Church Parking lot, 25th and University

### 25 Years of the Drake Neighborhood Association

Since 1979, the Drake Neighborhood Association (DNA) 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. All proceeds from the tour benefit



## 2004 Tour Locations



1. The tour begins at the **American Judicature Society, 2700 University Ave.** This 2.5-story stucco house is an exquisite large American foursquare, with hipped roof and centered front dormer and front entry, original wraparound porch with distinctive porch supports made of boulders. The land was first sold to William B. Craig, Drake University Chancellor from 1897 to 1902. Since that time, the house has been used for many purposes by the University, including a women's community center and the Drake president's residence. With the support of Drake Law School alumnus Dwight D. Opperman, Drake renovated the structure. The Opperman Center, as it was renamed, is now home to the American Judicature Society. The architects' attention to detail can be seen throughout the building, including the basement, where original brickwork was incorporated into the restoration.

When you leave here, walk west on University to 28th Street. Turn left (south) towards your second stop on the tour.



2. **1129 28th St.** - This Queen Anne (circa 1900) free classic with side gable still has its original front porch and upper porch, plus

rear porch intact; you can see the original leaded glass transom over front cottage window. Mary A. Carpenter, librarian and then first dean of women at Drake University, owned this home at one time. Current owner **Jennifer Sayers** runs a graphic design business in her home, and she will showcase her office space during the tour. Just because a house was built a century ago does not mean it can't be a successful modern working space as well! Jennifer has continued her ongoing home renovations recently with a new periwinkle exterior paint job to highlight the home's unique architectural details, including the sunburst on the upstairs porch. She has also focused her creative energy on upgrading the landscaping around the house.

Leaving this stop, head south to The Cottage at the corner of 28th and Cottage Grove.



3. **The Cottage, 1094 28th Street.** (Saturday only.) - This Georgian brick home was built as a duplex in 1929, and currently celebrates its 75th year. In 1999 **Timm Harrison and Dan Weese** converted the house from a rental property to a pleasant bed and breakfast. They completely renovated the electrical and plumbing, restored the woodwork (original throughout), added five bathrooms to the original two, and just completed a remodel of the gift shop and tea room on the second floor. Over the years it has been home to several notable residents — including renters who were members of Des Moines' own rock phenomenon, Slipknot! In its first five years, The Cottage has had guests from 43 foreign countries, 47 U.S. states, and has hosted over 50 weddings and innumerable political, community, and industry functions. In your visit you will see the two working fireplaces, the garden-themed guest rooms, as well as the solarium, gift shop, and the newly redecorated tea room. As you exit the house, take a moment to enjoy the garden, with its fountain surrounded by a profusion of colorful flowers.

(Due to a previously scheduled wedding, the inn will only be open to Tour guests on Saturday.)

Leaving the inn, cross east across 28th Street to stop 4 on the Tour.

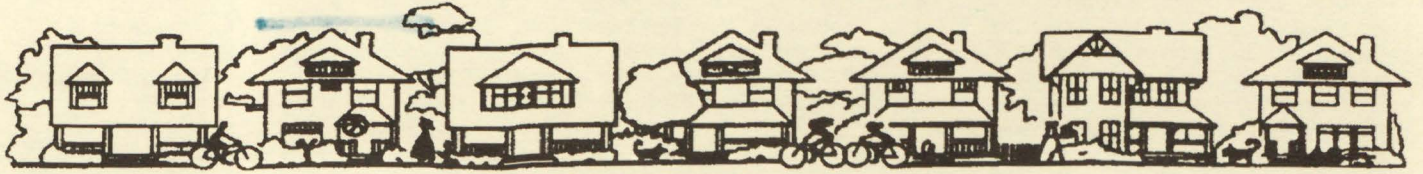


4. **2750 Cottage Grove** This foursquare home owned by **Rick and Charlotte Lee** is currently being renovated from a six-plex dwelling into a single family home. Add-ons to the home were removed as part of the project, and, when the asphalt shingles were removed from the exterior, original clapboard siding was revealed. The circa 1905 home features neoclassical ornamentation, three pairs of pocket doors, a fireplace with original tile, and original oak woodwork throughout. A unique entry way and staircase grace the main floor, and beautiful leaded glass can be seen in the stairwell window. Mr. Leiser, the original owner of the home, left in the 1920s to take a position as marshal of the Panama Canal. Among the home's surprises were a stash of letters from the 1930s found behind the woodwork.

Continue east on Cottage Grove to 26th Street. Turn right (south) to your next stop.



5. **1056 26th St.** In December 2000, the



## 2004 Tour Locations

Vail-Kinney house, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was threatened with demolition. **Jennifer and Larry James, Jr.**, purchased the home at 1318 27th Street for \$1 and seven months later, the house rolled off its foundation for its move. After some 13 hours, the movers eased the house up onto its new poured concrete foundation. Then the real fun began. The interior had been stripped to the joists by salvagers prior to the James' acquisition, so work on the interior began by securing loose floor joists, adding new sub-flooring, and starting the long process of restoring the many broken double-hung windows. The leaking roof was removed, water-damaged joists replaced, and two Craftsman-style attic dormers on the rear and north sides were removed. On the front of the house, a window opening that had been covered over with siding pre-1920 was restored. The front porch was restored to its original size, using as many original architectural elements as possible. Further research since the original National Register nomination has revealed that the house was built circa 1888 by Marion Vail, who was the mother of two Drake University students and "den mother" to at least two Drake student boarders. At least three Drake University professors lived in the house, the last being Charles N. Kinney, whose family occupied the house from circa 1908 until 2000.

Turn left (north) to the northeast corner of Cottage Grove and 26th to stop #6.



**6. 1085 26th St.** - This Queen Anne-style house is the home of **Pat and Christy Harmeyer**. It was built in the late 1890s for Nellie LeCompte and Darcie Collier, and the house stayed in their family for 64 years. Pat and Christy have owned the property since October 1999, and have enjoyed making improvements such as pouring a concrete driveway, installing an ornamental iron fence, and recently building a brick patio. The house was completely remodeled in 1998, at that time being converted from a

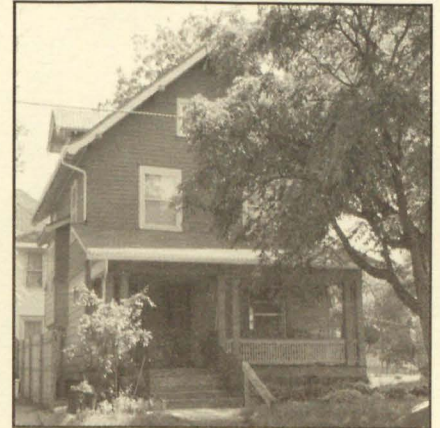
five-plex back to a single-family dwelling. You can still see the original front door, original front windows, walk-in pantry, and hardwood floors. As you walk through the home be sure to notice the stained glass window mounted in the kitchen. As for upcoming projects, the Harmeyers also discovered a buried concrete fishpond in the side yard and have plans to restore it in the near future.

Exit this home to Cottage Grove and go east to 25th Street for your next stop.



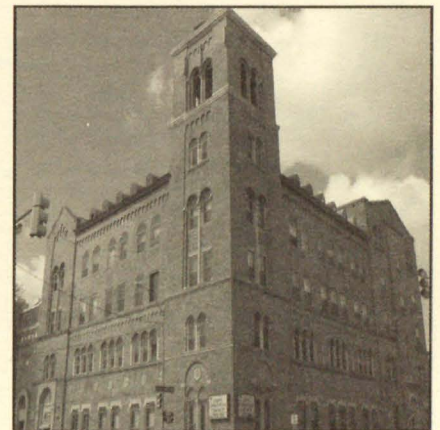
**7. 1084 25th St.** - Before entering this home, try to imagine the house as it was when **Glenn and Penny Sax** moved into it in 1990 with their three children, aged 12, 10, and 5. It had stood vacant for long enough that there was a large mushroom colony on the floor of the dining room. Several rooms did not have ceilings, and even the kitchen did not have cold running water. Now, enter and see the excellent condition this property is in, thanks to a sensitive restoration by the owners. Some of the projects Penny and Glenn have taken on are a complete kitchen renovation, two new bathrooms, new plumbing, new electricity, a new library, opening up the back stairwell, painting the exterior (a total of seven colors were used), and building a deck. Although the major renovations in the house were done by a contractor, all of the smaller projects (including the deck) were undertaken by Glenn and Penny themselves. Notice the different painting techniques used throughout the house to camouflage the uneven plaster walls. Historically known in the neighborhood as "Mrs. Clark's House," the owners Pearl and O.C. Clark (also the proprietors of the small brick grocery store, now Sammie Jack's Barbecue next door) started their salad dressing business in this house in the 1920s. Mrs. Clark's Salad Dressing is still manufactured by Mrs. Clark's Foods in Ankeny.

As you leave the Sax home, go north on 25th to the corner of Drake Park Avenue.



**8. The foursquare home featured at 2422 Drake Park Avenue** is owned by **Kata Alvidrez**. The home has the unique distinction of being has been owned by single women since it was built in 1908, the first of whom was a teacher at the former Elmwood Elementary School. A single homeowner and teacher, Kata carries on the home's tradition! The 2.5-story home features original oak trim throughout, a fully furnished attic level, and an ornate entry way with bench and beautiful stairway. Kata returned the home from a three unit property into a single family dwelling, doing most of the renovation herself.

Leave this home and continue north along 25th to the corner of 25th and University.

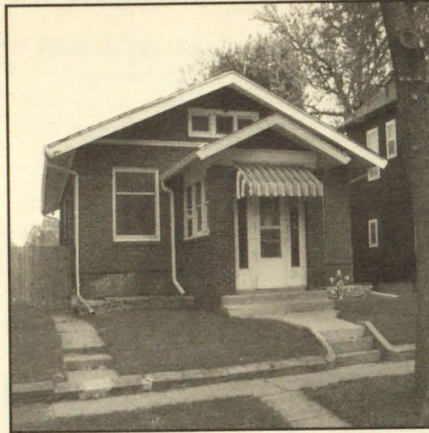


**9. First Christian Church at 2500 University Ave.** -- The church has had a long history with Drake University. It was erected by the University Place Disciples of Christ congregation in 1889. General Francis Drake, namesake of the University, donated money to the construction of the church on condition that it could be used by the university for commencement and other

such occasions. Over the years, the church has lived up to that promise, providing the platform for many Drake and community events, including Commencement, Drake Mock Trial, and lectures by visiting personalities such as Pearl S. Buck, Eleanor Roosevelt, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Chief Justice Warren Burger to name but a few! Following World War II, Drake students were housed for a time on the fifth floor of the building, and Drake classes have been held in this building. The church is also the permanent home to the fifth unit of the Des Moines Boys and Girls Club, as well as host of the weekly summertime Drake Neighborhood Farmers Market. The Sanctuary was built in 1909, and the Educational building was completed in 1926. A complete remodel of the Sanctuary was just completed in Spring 2004. Note the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary and the Chapel; these were moved from the original downtown location of the Central Christian Church. Also, in the Narthex (lobby), be sure to see the portrayal of the Last Supper, which was originally part

of the Communion Table from the Central Christian Church. As you exit the Church, do take in the exterior brick work, the gargoyles, and you may even hear the Tower chimes.

Go left (west) on University to 26th, and take another left (south) to your final Tour home.



**10. 1155 26<sup>th</sup> St.** This brick home is an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Craftsman bungalow. Around the time of the Depression, the home was split into 3 apartments. It is another example of the successes possible in salvaging vacant houses in the Drake Neighborhood and turning them into family homes. Despite extensive abuse, current owners **C. Mitchell and B. Hall** have been able, in just the past 10 months, to return it to a warm and inviting single-family dwelling. You can see their hard work in the new kitchen and new bathroom, the refinished floors, and yard renovation. All the woodwork is original, as are the pocket doors (notice the beveled glass insets) and the wood floors throughout the house. In the kitchen, tearing down existing cabinetry revealed a tiny square window in the north wall. This was a ventilation window for a pie shelf. The owners have decided to incorporate it into their renovation. The back yard, once full of cedar shrubs, has been given new life as a real home's green space.





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