

CEDAR FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# 2003 Tour of Homes



## Sunday, September 21, 2003

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL ARCHITECTURE MONTH

**1:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Ticket \$10.00 Donation**

*"The homes of Cedar Falls and their furnishings and surroundings give evidence of a taste and appreciation of the more elevating influences of life. The visitors to the Garden City are impressed with the beauty and comforts of her homes; the residents are here to stay, not simply for a season. It is Cedar Falls' homes, and the home life of her people, which makes the Garden City a delightful place to live in and which draws people so easily within her gates."*

Cedar Falls, Iowa 1843 - 1893, Peter Melendy, Author

*Series 112 Box 5*



**Address:** 4209 South Main Street  
**Owners:** Michael and Lexa Starbeck  
**Style:** Post-Victorian Vernacular

This home was built in 1904 by employees of the Rownd family, who lived just to the north of the property in the familiar limestone house. At that time most of the property in the area was owned by the Rownd family. In 1946 the Bergstrom family purchased the house, along with additional acres (including the red barn) and they occupied the property for over half of its life. They raised three (3) sons and one (1) daughter there. It was, subsequently, following a few more owners, purchased in 2002 by the Starbeck family.

After purchasing the property, the family could not decide whether to go with new construction or invest in restoring some of Cedar Falls' history. They decided to do both. They restored 1,800 sq. ft. of the farmhouse, the main structure (which included the living room, dining room, entry, three (3) bedrooms and a bath), new ceilings (including the tin ceilings), windows, refinished the hardwood floors and new wall coverings. Then, they removed the back kitchen (200 sq. ft.) and the classic bathroom off the kitchen. Over the course of time, a 2,700 sq. ft. addition was built which included a new kitchen, family room, pantry, half-bath downstairs and two (2) bedrooms, all of which took six (6) months to complete. The Starbeck family combined the new and the old, and are now sharing it with the community.



**Address:** 1117 Clay Street  
**Owners:** Ron and Crit Streed  
**Style:** Shingle Style

This home was built in 1905 in a distinctive Shingle Style with Richardson Romanesque, Queen Anne and Oriental influences. The interior of the home has the original unpainted oak woodwork downstairs and yellow pine upstairs. A pocket door can enclose the Red Room, where an inglenook creates a cozy sitting area at the fireplace. In the 1950s some modifications were made to the interior, including removal of French doors separating the dining room and the front parlor, modernizing the kitchen and installing a downstairs half bath.

The Streeds original motivation for purchasing the home in 1986, beyond its aesthetic appeal, was to take advantage of the large third floor attic. Both Ron and Crit are active in the visual arts and have finished the space into an artist's studio. The Streeds have refinished, refurbished and refreshed all the rooms, but have declined to make any additional structural alterations.



**Address:** 903 Washington Street  
**Owners:** Matthew and Cynthia Jahnke  
**Style:** Post-Victorian

Built in 1903 by the Henry Gilkey family, this traditional post-Victorian house with Italianate and Imperial Roman influence is celebrating her glorious 100th year. The Gilkey home was purchased by the Jahnke family in April of 2001. This home has ample space with three (3) floors of refurbished rooms and woodwork. Original leaded glass windows are highlighted in the front entry and on the staircase that overlooks the tea garden. On the third floor, which is now a "great room", was once a ballroom that hosted many a party.

The Gilkey house remained with its original family until 1956 and was then purchased by the Cedar Falls School Administration. In 1986 the home was returned to a private residence and many restorations were done. The Gilkey house changed hands one more time before she inherited her current owners. The Jahnke family loves their new home and has, once again, filled her rooms with the sounds of laughing children and family gatherings.



**Address:** 1222 West 2nd Street  
**Owners:** Jim and Jeannine Becker  
**Style:** Tudor Revival

This home was built in 1934, in the heart of the depression, by Dr. George and Mrs. Sarah (Ginger) Hearst, and their children, Jack and Sally. The home contains stone quarried in Osage County, which is said to be the hardest stone in Iowa. The entire first floor of the house has walnut trim and the upper level has maple trim. The walls are 18" thick. The house has many unique features, including the attic, which has two (2) levels, the very steep roof, thick front door, the bedroom ceilings, bathrooms, and the window on the circular staircase, for example.

Since being purchased by the Beckers in 1994, many necessary changes have been completed, they include a remodeled kitchen, including a kitchen window, resurfacing the hardwood floors and remodeled back deck. The apartment in the basement was originally used by the Hearst's gardener. The present garden of shrubs, trees and flowers, is all new with stone walls, walkways, steps, paths, water and planters.



**Address:** 59 River Ridge Road  
**Owners:** Doug and Chris Case  
**Style:** Contemporary

Built in 1957 by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kennedy, this one-story "Prairie Style" home, was built in a beautiful setting overlooking the Cedar River. It is reminiscent of a Frank Lloyd Wright house with the typical flat roof. When the home once again came up for sale in 2002, Doug and Chris Case made an immediate decision when they saw the view of the Cedar River from the house.

Upon purchase of the contemporary ranch, 1,836 sq. ft. on the main floor, Doug Case developed designs and plans for a second story addition and renovation of the entire first floor except for the office area. Interestingly, the second story exterior walls and roof are supported by three (3) stacked 16" laminated beams, which encompass the perimeter of the house and are "belted" to the columns surrounding the house. Today, plans are drawn for an additional first floor bath, laundry room and music studio to be added behind a new three (3)-stall garage. This construction, in the spring of 2004, will also add a second story family room with access to a deck and provide landscaping for the home.



**Address:** 67 River Ridge Road  
**Owners:** Jim and Carol Hellman  
**Style:** Usonian

Stanley and Dorothy Petersen built this home in 1959 from house plans drawn by architect H. W. Henry. Henry incorporated elements he admired in the Usonian designs of Frank Lloyd Wright. The house resembles Wright's Cedar Rock in Quasqueton, Iowa. The design follows a tadpole form, the bedroom wing of the house constituting the tail and the living room, dining area and kitchen the head. It also resembles Cedar Rock with the use of stone, wood, large expanses of glass and broad overhangs that shade the glass walls. There are six (6) skylights and eighty (80) windows and it is believed to be the first house in Cedar Falls built using steel beams. The house was built using many angles, there are no rooms with just four (4) walls; the master bedroom has seven (7) walls.

The Hellmans, who have made updates that compliment the design of the house, purchased the house in 1985. A laundry room was built behind the kitchen. The original carport was incorporated into an enclosed garage. Recessed lighting was added to the living room and kitchen. In 2000, 36 windows in the tail end of the house were replaced and the basement was remodeled. In 2003, the kitchen island was upgraded with a granite countertop and mahogany facing.



**Address:** 308 West 3rd Street  
**Victorian Home and  
 Carriage House Museum**  
**Style:** Italianate

This Italianate home was built in 1863, for the Azel D. Barnum family, of locally manufactured brick from the Pioneer Pottery Works in Cedar Falls. The home changed hands several times until the Walter Bryant family purchased the home in 1880 for \$3,000. They raised five (5) sons in this home and lived here for almost four decades. Some of the unique features of the home include 18-inch brick walls, the original window shutters, a servant's quarters, and a cupola on the roof that offered the occupants a clear view of the river and the growing town.

In 1965, it was purchased by the Cedar Falls Historical Society and became our first historical museum. Today, it is furnished to represent a Victorian family home of the 1880s. Period reproduction wall coverings were installed during the restoration, layers of paint were removed from the original wood banister and double front doors, and the original sponge painting in the children's bedroom upstairs was uncovered and recreated. The Carriage House is an addition that was built in 1992 to house exhibition space, the Society offices, and a research library and archives.



**Address:** 303 Franklin Street  
**Wyth House and  
 Viking Pump Museum**  
**Style:** Prairie

Built in 1907 by F.W. Paulger and purchased in 1925 by George and Alice Wyth and their three (3) children, Dorothy, Russell and Robert. The home was originally a wood frame house, painted white, later covered with a brick veneer that served as a method of insulation. This was the only major structural change during the years the house was occupied by the Wyth family. Dorothy Wyth inherited the home in 1955 upon the death of her father. She lived in New York and only inhabited the house on visits to Cedar Falls. Dorothy died in December 1979 and bequeathed the home to the Cedar Falls Historical Society. Time had taken its toll on the home and a great deal of restoration was necessary to bring the home back to its original beauty.

The Restoration Committee started to work immediately and soon began the long process of restoring the home. It opened as a museum in 1983. Today, the interior of the home is decorated in the Art Deco style of the 1920s and 1930s. Upon entering the home, the first thing to greet guests is an inglenook in the foyer; this along with the wood beams and trim are a tribute to the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie School type architecture. Unique furnishings and accessories fill the home reminding visitors of the Art Deco period from 1925-1935.



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CEDAR FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## The CEDAR FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

wishes to THANK the following:

Eric Bonzer at SPINUTECH for brochure design assistance  
MARIE COOK created silhouettes as a gift for each Homeowner

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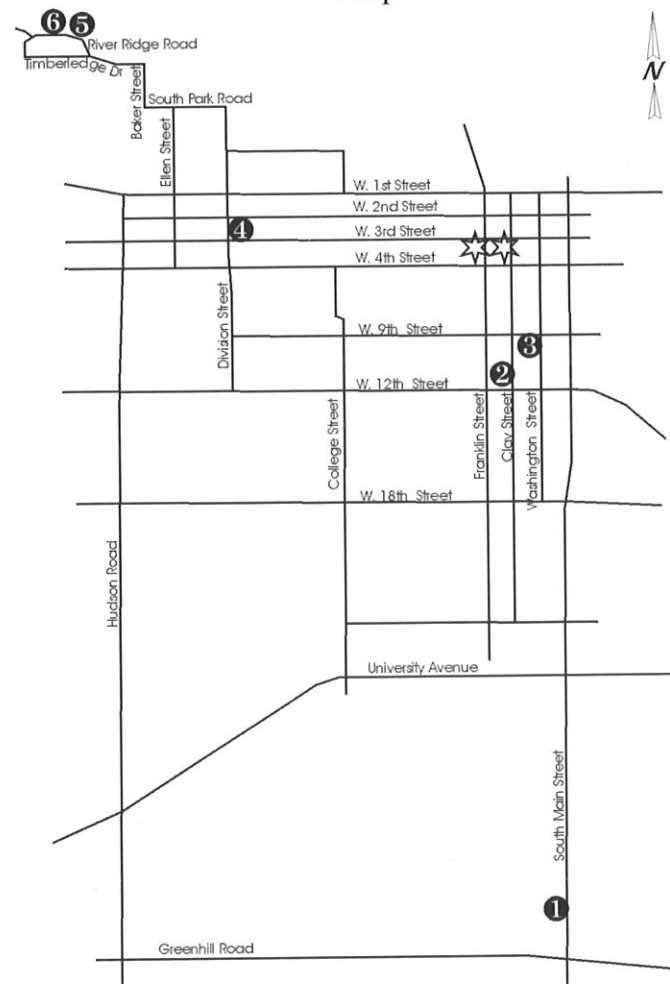
Maggie McInroy

Donnabelle Miller

Doris Schmitz

And a SPECIAL THANK YOU to the Homeowners who,  
so graciously, agreed to share their homes with all of us.

# Map



## Ticket

- ☐ ① 4209 South Main Street
- ☐ ② 1117 Clay Street
- ☐ ③ 903 Washington Street
- ☐ ④ 1222 W. 2nd Street
- ☐ ⑤ 59 River Ridge Road
- ☐ ⑥ 67 River Ridge Road

- ☆ Victorian Home and Carriage House Museum
- ☆ Wyth House and Viking Pump Museum

Unique raffle item at each home—Raffle tickets \$1.00 each or 5/\$6.00