THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS/MARBLE CLIFF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1998 TOUR of HOMES









MAY 10, 1998

1490 Arlington Avenue

McGregor Residence

This striking Victorian Queen Anne-style house with the classic gates and wrought iron fence around its perimeter was originally built for Timothy J. Price in 1889-90. Price, by the 1870's, was owner of what later became Marble Cliff Quarries. T.J. Price lived in downtown Columbus and his son, John E. Price, lived on the quarry property and was superintendent. In 1889, T.J. Price, his son-in-law, Charles C. Griswold, and John E. Price platted Arlington Place, later renamed Marble Cliff. T.J. Price built three homes on lots 1 and 2 (the present site of the French Quarter and the office buildings on West Fifth Avenue). The home presently at 1490 Arlington was built for himself and was "on West Fifth above the railroad." The other two homes were built for John E. Price and Mary J. Price Griswold.

The original T. J. Price home was moved to the lot owned by Butler Sheldon, now 1490 Arlington Avenue. This home and lot were purchased in 1914 for $100 and "other considerations" together with a $3,500 mortgage assumption by Lewis F. Anderson, an Ohio State University professor.

Andrew Denny Rodgers III identified this house during a GHMC Historical Society meeting in 1976 as the home originally belonging to his great grandfather, Timothy J. Price. An interesting point to be noted is that this home had been moved, although neither the reason for its move nor the date was known.

Mrs. Lewis Anderson occupied the home until 1953 when it was purchased by Andrew J. Tweed and his wife, Claribel, for $13,500. The home was sold in 1963 to the Don M. Jones family, later to be bought by Seymour and Leora Ludwig in 1974.



The present owners, John and Mary Lou McGregor, purchased the home and began major renovations in 1993.

Modifications have included the removal of a rear screened porch, enlargement of the kitchen, and addition of a second story bath. On the north side of the home, they have transformed a breakfast room into a family room by the addition of an English gazebo reminiscent of a garden conservatory. The hardwood floors have been refinished throughout and the kitchen ceiling was fashioned from "bead board" salvaged from the screened porch.

The mantels and tiles are presumed to be original as well as the wainscoting in the entrance. The McGregors have added a master bath to the upstairs. The transoms and molding in the hall are original, however, modifications have been made to the third floor access stairway which resulted in a lowered ceiling and the partial obstruction of the stained glass window. Contractors and inspectors have noted that the home predates the construction of the foundation which further substantiates that this home was moved to its present location.

1490 Arlington Avenue

POINTS OF INTEREST

- The double lot upon which this house sits, was purchased from The Arlington Place Company on October 26, 1909 by Butler Sheldon for $800. Restrictions on the sale prohibited the building of "breweries, still houses, blacksmith shops, forges, slaughter houses and butcheries."

- Mr. Sheldon's sister, Flora, was married to Samuel Bush and resided at the house that is part of St. Raphael's.

- Sometime between 1909 and 1914, the house was moved to the two Sheldon lots, at which time it was likely Mr. Sheldon sold the home to the Andersons in 1914. There is no one listed to have lived in the house prior to 1914.

- Mrs. Tweed, a former owner, is living in Marble Cliff today.

1550 ROXBURY ROAD

SISTERS' RESIDENCE (ST. RAPHAELS)

This home, built for Samuel Prescott and Flora Sheldon Bush in 1908, was constructed of Columbus limestone from the Marble Cliff Quarries of the Casparis Stone Company. It is distinctive because of its notable and limited number of owners. Remarkably, the original mansion has remained unchanged over the years. Samuel Bush (1864-1948) came to Columbus in 1890 as superintendent of motive power for the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad...of which the tracks can still be seen skirting the base of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff bluff. In 1901, Mr. Bush became vice president of Columbus Malleable Iron, the predecessor to Buckeye Steel Company of which he was president (1906) until his retirement in 1928. Samuel Prescott Bush was also a founder of Columbus Academy, Scioto Country Club, and president of the Ohio Manufacturers Association. He was prominent in many other areas, but is most notable today as the grandfather of former president George Bush.



1911 caricature of Samuel P. Bush, original owner of 1550 Roxbury

S.P. Bush purchased the 2.7 acre site from John F. Miller in 1907 for $12,500 and constructed his 2 1/2 story, seven-bayed, five-dormered colonial style home of 17 rooms. The first floor contains a handsome central hallway with a wide stairway rising to what was likely a ballroom on the third floor. First floor living room, dining room and breakfast room retain original fireplaces with original mantelpieces and surrounds. Two



second floor bedrooms retain original fireplaces. The third floor includes a cedar-lined storage room. In the servants' hallway, the callboard still lists the names of the rooms.

The Bushes had two sons and two daughters. In 1920, Flora Sheldon Bush was killed in an auto accident in Rhode Island. Mr. Bush later remarried and, in 1929, sold the home to Anna Dodge Dillman of Detroit and retired to a country estate in Blacklick, Ohio.

Mrs. Dillman was the widow of Horace Dodge, who, with his brother, John, co-founded Dodge Motor Cars. Mrs. Dillman was one of the wealthiest women in America at the time. She, and her second husband, actor and former Columbusite, Hugh Dillman never occupied her Roxbury Road house. From 1929 until its sale to the Diocese of Columbus and the Carmelite Sisters in 1947, it was occupied by members of the McGaughy family, Mr. Dillman's immediate family.

The Carmelite Sisters of the Aged and Infirm opened the property as a retirement residence in 1948 with 17 residents and five sisters. In 1950, the three-story connecting wing to the south was built, expanding the resident capacity to 85. St Raphael's Home is currently celebrating its 50th anniversary.

This handsome and historic Marble Cliff home, occupied since 1948 primarily as a residence for the sisters who staff St. Raphael's, has had only three owners and little modification in its 90-year history.

1550 ROXBURY ROAD

POINTS OF INTEREST

- The 1930 photograph of Mrs. Hannah McGaughy, "lady of this house" from 1929 until her death in the early 1940s, is likely evidence that the woodwork has always been painted except for the mahogany handrail.
- The living room, now used as a dining room, has a fireplace and a wall sconce that are original to the house. The south portion of this room has been walled off to create an office for the sister/administrator of St. Raphael's. Note 1930 photograph of Mrs. Hannah McGaughy as well as her portrait that had been commissioned *c.* 1940 by her son, Hugh Dillman (McGaughy). On the table is a 1930 photograph of the Dillman, McGaughy and Love families taken on the West lawn with the house entrance in the background. *(Photographs and portrait courtesy of Mrs. Mildred McGaughy.)*
- At the top of the servants' stair to the right, notice the "call board" still in place with the original names of the main rooms of the house. (Front Door R, Rear Door, Bedroom 1, Side Door, Rear Porch, Bedroom 2, Side Door R, Living Room, Bedroom 3, Side Door L, Den, Bedroom 4)
- On the third floor, there is a cedar-lined storage room, servants' rooms, and a large area which was probably a "ballroom." This floor is not open to visitors.
- The north and south bedrooms retain their original fireplaces. A door in the south end of the second floor hallway once led to an awninged porch atop a first floor sunroom. These were removed when the three-story main wing of St Raphael's Home was built in 1950.
- The first floor breakfast room and small den, now used as offices, retain all of their original features.

- In the original dining room, now a conference room, note an exhibit of historical information relating to this house, and to the founders and early development of Marble Cliff.
- Exiting this home through the south double doors takes you into the entrance foyer of St Raphael's Home. The chapel may be seen to the left.
- The seven-bay, five-dormered facade of the house is original as built. The French doors open from the living room and breakfast room onto the front terrace, which once extended around the south end of the house to the sunroom.
- The roof ridge line was originally ornamented with a Chippendale-style railing.
- Note the original frame-and-stucco garage with servants' rooms above which are still in use as guest quarters.
- In the one-story service wing at the rear of the house, the wooden doorway that is set into the stone wall was once the receiving area for large blocks of ice that were delivered into the "cold room."

Many thanks to the Carmelite Sisters and staff of St Raphael's for their generous assistance and gracious hospitality in making the tour of this house possible.

AS AN ASIDE...

Continuing research shows that the earliest residents of Arlington Place (now Marble Cliff), were often linked by both family relationships and business connections. A good example is the Sheldon family: Robert E. Sheldon founded Sheldon Dry Goods in Columbus after the Civil War. For some years after 1908, four of his five children lived in Marble Cliff in close proximity: Flora Sheldon Bush (1550 Roxbury), Mary Sheldon Hoster (1368 Arlington Avenue), Robert E. Sheldon, Jr. (2049 Cardigan Avenue) and Butler Sheldon (1599 Roxbury Road, which is the French Provincial mansion now obscured by the red-brick Roxbury Arms apartments). Butler Sheldon was the first mayor of Marble Cliff.

1908 must have been an interesting year in the neighborhood. Under construction were the Butler Sheldon mansion, the Bush house, the Lanman estate at 2019 West Fifth Avenue, and Silvio Casparis "castle," at what is now No. 10 Arlington Place. The first Casparis home was the large stone house at the west of Our Lady of Victory parking lot. This house dates to the early 1890s when Casparis purchased Marble Cliff Quarries from the Timothy J. Price family.

1600 Roxbury Road

FRICK/MCKAY RESIDENCE

This unique "Rustic Cottage" has the distinction of being the only home in the Grandview Heights-Marble Cliff area on the National Register of Historic Places. It was designed by the prominent Columbus architect, Frank Packard(1866-1924) for J. E Miller, an executive of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad. The home was deemed significant for its distinctive, eclectic architectural styling and detailing which combines elements of the Stick and Gothic Revival Styles and is described as "Carpenter Gothic". Mr. Miller owned the entire block bound by Roxbury, Fifth, Arlington, and Cardington Avenues on approximately 4.8 acres in what was known as the Arlington Place Subdivision. It is presumed that this home was used as a summer home. Mr. Miller's official residence was noted in turn of the century Columbus directories as Richmond, Indiana, although it was stated that he boarded at The Neil or Chittenden Hotel. The home was completed in 1895 and consisted of five large rooms on the first floor and five bedrooms on the second for a total of approximately 3,500 square feet of living space. The home originally had no indoor plumbing and was heated by fireplaces. Early lore that the home was constructed from the cypress boards obtained from dismantled box cars is certainly credible given the close proximity of the Marble Cliff station near the tracks on West 5th Avenue and Mr Miller's position with the railroad. In March of 1907, Mr. Miller deeded three of his lots, or 2.0 acres to Mr. William Lanman, President of Columbus Bolt and Forge, for $15,000. A total of 2.7 acres, was also deeded to Samuel Bush. Mr Lanman built a mansion on Fifth Avenue and this home supposedly became the caretaker's residence for the Lanman estate. The property was sold in the 1930's to the Ingrahm family, the founders of White Castle, and this residence was most probably leased to a variety of owners.



The home was purchased by and became the permanent residence of the Myers family in 1953. They remodeled the "cottage" extensively to accommodate their family and added the large family room to the rear. The Myers were the founders of *Highlights for Children* and the family room was the business's early home base. After their tragic deaths in the early 1960's, the home was purchased by the Fred Steckers, who lived here until 1994, when the home was purchased by its present owners, Ken Frick and Cynthia McKay.

During the past four years, the home has undergone major renovation. Plaster was removed from the entire second floor and replaced with over two tons of dry wall; the plumbing, heating and cooling systems have been replaced; the hardwood floors restored; the exterior stripped and repainted; and the windows reglazed over the past two seasons. The owners enthusiastically have undertaken most of the tasks themselves and strive to maintain authenticity as part of the restoration. The home is 75% complete and once again exudes the rustic warm charm of the cottage that Frank Packard intended it to be. Notice the gnomes peering down from the middle gable. They are the home's mascots and have resided here through a succession of owners.



The gnomes, passed down in ownership through the decades, peer down from the middle gable of this residence.

1600 ROXBURY ROAD

POINTS OF INTEREST

- As indicated by the bronze plaque on the porch, this home, through the efforts of the Stecker family, was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1983. The house is considered significant because of its distinctive architectural styling and detailing.

- The front porch was screened and a stone patio originally extended around the right side of the house. The property was overgrown with unattended shrubs which the present owners removed upon their arrival

- The paneling in the entrance way was used to conceal a 1950's "improvement". The wall was brought forward so closets could be added around what was probably the original fireplace. It was probably similar in style to the dining room.

- The dining room has an original fireplace of red sandstone. The hearth shows evidence of repair and was a favored home for generations of raccoons. The woodwork in the bay window has been stripped and the floors refurbished. The floors are 2" thick maple and repairs or replacements had to be scavenged from the kitchen and other parts of the house.

- The family room was a 1950's addition complete with ceiling tiles and an asphalt tile floor and probably served as the Myers' early home-base for *Highlights for Children*. The cabinets have been repainted but were part of the original family room.

- The steps leading to the second floor have been recently restored. There are five bedrooms on the second floor. Those facing the street each have lovely intricate windows. The Steiff animals, (gnomes) have resided on the window ledge through a succession of owners. Their origin is not certain.

- The living room is spacious and has two doors which open onto the patio or stone walk. Placement of the floor boards and the ceiling beams indicate that this room was originally two rooms, a front and rear parlor. There had been a door to the right of the sofa.

1935 West First Avenue

THE DAVIS RESIDENCE

Frank Butterworth purchased the property in 1903 and began construction of this home. Frank Butterworth's father, Henry, moved his family to the Grandview area from Watertown, New York and first appears in city directories circa 1900. Henry Butterworth was a furrier and was the principal in Henry Butterworth & Sons, Furriers, located at 1081/2 N. High Street in Columbus. 1904-1905 city directories indicate that Frank lived at 196 N. 21st Street, possibly suggesting that this was the construction period. By city directories dated 1905-1906, his listed residence was West First and "Paul" Avenue. (Lincoln Road was originally named "Paul Avenue".) This lovely frame home originally contained 10 rooms.



Davis residence circa 1920, when owned by the Stephenson family

It is interesting to note that the house is a melange of architectural styles. There appear to be three types of rooflines, including hip roofs (small dormer on right hand side), gable roofs (main roof on front, back and west sides) and shed roof style (sunporch). The interesting panes in the living room area gave an arts-and-crafts look to the windows. The sunrooms on the first floor and directly above on the second floor were also adorned with the same style windows. The large front porch covered both the east and west sides of the front of the home. The east side contained another front entrance.

Tragically, Frank Butterworth was killed in an elevator shaft accident in 1913. The property then changed hands, when Harriet Butterworth, now a widow, sold the property to Ruth and Murray Hoffman in May of 1914. The Hoffmans owned the home until they sold it to Jennie E. and Charles Stephenson.

Mr. Stephenson owned the Broad Street Pharmacy, located at 991 W. Broad Street for many years. The Stephenson's daughter, Virginia Stephenson, married Henry Munroe Abbot. While Henry was away during the war, Virginia was stricken with polio and moved back to the home to convalesce. The lovely first floor sunroom on the east side of the house was where Virginia was isolated during her illness. This room also provided a second front entrance to the property. Henry was soon discharged and lived at the property with Virginia and her mother and their two sons, David and Steve.

The Rex Deweys moved into the property in the summer of 1953 by land contract with Mrs. Abbot. (Official transferrance of this property was evidenced by deed records dated 1956.) At this time, some alterations took



place, including the addition of a second floor bath, altering the back roofline. Mr. and Mrs. Dewey remember that there was a small dormer room at the second floor back of the home where the bath is. The ceiling was so low that the door wouldn't shut, suggesting that the bath was added later, after city plumbing lines were installed. Also, the original back porch was enclosed to improve the kitchen area. The front porch was also removed, as it was in in great disrepair.

On September 16, 1966, there was a house fire which caused extensive damage to the sunporch area. The damage to the sunrooms both on the first and second floor necessitated replacement of the original windows and removal of the additional front door. These sunporches became what are now a first floor sitting room and upstairs office.

On November 22, 1972, the nearby church hosted a Thanksgiving function for some local inmates. The inmates were to arrive by bus, eat the meal and leave on the bus. One of these men escaped and was armed. Later, he was discovered in the front yard, and there was a struggle between police and the escapee, resulting in the fatal shooting of the inmate.

In the 1970's, many trees were lost to disease and it was noted by neighbors that the character of the neighborhood was changed. This also seemed a great loss, as they were planted by Frank Butterworth when the home was built.

In April of 1992, the property transferred ownership again to its current owners, Bryan and Carol Davis. The Davises have made some wonderful changes, including the large wraparound porch to the west side of the home. This porch, wonderfully crafted by the owners and friend, Jason Janowski, begins with an enclosed screened section off of the kitchen door and continues to wrap around to the front entrance. In the past, the sunporch fireplace had been reworked, but smoked when used. The current owners reconverted the sunporch and living room fireplaces into a functional see-through gas fireplace. The living room fireplace side has very strong arts and crafts tiles which have been left undisturbed. Other original features include the double staircase – one from the foyer to the upstairs, and one from the kitchen to the upstairs and the beautiful oak woodwork and the front door.

The large metal container used to catch rain water for the home is still in place in the attic. It is a reminder of our past – of the daily challenges of living taking place here so long ago, and of the treasures we behold in one of Grandview's finest historic homes.

1935 West First Avenue

POINTS OF INTEREST

- It would appear that a tree was in Frank Butterworth's building path.the rotted remains of a stump were found under the living room bay window.
- During the Stephenson ownership, the back yard had a chicken coop attached to the garage to supply the family with eggs and poultry and a vegetable garden on the west side of the property.
- Virginia and Henry Stephenson met while he was living with his uncle, Harry Abbot, next door at 1247 Lincoln Road. Henry was attending classes at OSU.
- During the Dewey ownership, Mrs. Dewey was working on a closet in the southeast bedroom and found the remains of a pair of longjohns, complete with buttons, "stuffed" into the closet corner where the plaster had come loose. Apparently, the craftsman needed a little extra "backing" in that particular corner!
- The property directly next door on First Avenue was part of the original Butterworth property.
- The house fire in 1966 was caused by a hot log from the sunroom fireplace. It rolled under a rocker and ignited, rapidly consuming the east side of the home.
- After the fire in 1966, Mr. Dewey reports that two spaces, approximately 16 inches wide, each, were filled, from top to bottom (floors that is!) with walnuts. He also discovered the original roof to the side porch, indicating that the second floor porch had been added sometime after original construction.
- On November 22, 1972, a runaway inmate on a group visit to a nearby church, tried to escape, resulting in the mortal wounding in the front yard.

OWNERSHIP HISTORY

BUTTERWORTH-DAVIS HOUSE

1935 WEST FIRST AVENUE

December, 1903	Frank and Harriet L. Butterworth purchase land and begin construction of home.
May, 1914	Harriet Butterworth, a widow, to Ruth B. Hoffman and Murray Hoffman
May, 1919	Ruth & Murray Hoffman to Jennie E. and Charles Stephenson
12/10/56	Jennie Stephenson deceases, leaving home to Virginia Stephenson Abbot
12/17/61	Virginia Stephenson Abbot to Rex and Patricia Dewey The Deweys resided in the home prior to this by land contract with Virginia Abbot which contract was not filed for record.
4/13/92	Rex and Patricia Dewey to Bryan J. Davis and Carol T. Davis

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following have graciously donated time or material expense to the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society 1998 Tour of Homes. We thank them for their kindness.

Belvedere's Garden
(Floral Arrangement at 1550 Roxbury Road• St. Raphael's)
1251 Grandview Avenue • Columbus OH 43212 • 486-3146

Blooms Direct
(Floral Arrangement at 1550 Roxbury Road• St. Raphael's)
1266 Goodale Blvd. • Columbus OH 43212 • 487-5700

5th Avenue Floral Company and Greenhouse
(Floral Arrangement at 1935 West First Avenue)
1877 Kenny Road • Columbus OH 43212 • 488-1106 • 888-458-4283

German Village Flowers
(Floral Arrangement at 1600 Roxbury Road)
600 South Lazelle Street• Columbus OH 43205 • 221-8550

Maple Lee Flowers and Gifts
(Floral Arrangement at 1490 Arlington Avenue)
615 High Street • Worthington OH 43085 • 885-5350

A special thanks to the homeowners/residents who have allowed their homes to be shown on this tour:
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- Cindy McKay and Ken Frick
- Mr. and Mrs. Brian Davis

...And thanks also to **Ken Frick** of **Ken Frick Photography** for the professional photography of each of the homes shown on the front cover, as well as the photo of the gnomes seen in the center of this booklet.



Grandview Heights/
Marble Cliff Historical Society