



The Historian

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info@
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Preserving the past, present, and future of the Oakwood Community • September 2023

Oakwood's Classic Architecture – Part II of II

by Mark W. Risley

In Part II of this two-part series, we continue to describe and explore the remarkable architecture of the well-preserved homes of Oakwood. Please see the June 2023 newsletter for part I of this series.

Neoclassical

The 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago prompted the popularity of the Neoclassical style. The features of these homes include a symmetrical façade, a full-height porch with tall columns and classical theme ornamentation. It was most popular from 1895 to 1950. In Oakwood, the most recognizable Neoclassical Style home is Hawthorn Hill, home of Orville Wright. 635 Far Hills Avenue is another example of the style as applied to an apartment building.

Queen Anne

Often referred to as “Victorian”, Queen Annes were some of the earliest residential homes in Oakwood. This design was most prominent from 1880-1905 and features an irregular floor plan, various roof shapes, differing wall coverings such as shingle, clapboard or board & batten. The most distinguishable detail is a prominent turret feature. The large porch is a sign of the era before television when favorable evenings were spent relaxing outdoors.

International

In the time between WWI and WWII, while Americans preferred traditional styles, European architects were emphasizing new designs without historic precedents. One result was International Style which enjoyed popularity from 1930 to 1970. Though most prominent in office buildings, it is rare in homes. Clean lines prevail in the design along with an asymmetrical façade, flat roof, and smooth unornamented wall surfaces, often, in stucco. Often mistaken for Art Deco, a home on Schenck Avenue is in the International Style and was built in 1936 of steel panels making them termite and rot proof. This idea was abandoned with the onset of WWII when steel production was prioritized toward the war effort. The most renowned commercial buildings in the style were the twin towers of the World Trade Center and the Stratacache Tower in downtown Dayton.

Pattern/Catalogue Homes

In the early 20th century, many companies offered kits for houses which could be ordered and delivered to a home site. They were then constructed by the homeowner or their contracted crew. They came in various styles, sizes and configurations. Sears “Honor Bilt” homes were the most well-known. More and more of these durable houses are being identified in Oakwood.



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Board Meetings

Fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
1947 Far Hills Avenue (The Homestead)

Cape Cod

Inspired by the Colonial Northeast America, this is a straightforward style often applied to smaller, single-story homes. Popular from 1925 to 1955, it features a simple, small front portico, a chimney near the center of the house. Many homes are often misidentified as a "Cape Cod" due to erroneous information in county records, but there are very few in Oakwood.



Williamsburg

Also popular from 1925-1955, these are very similar to the Cape Cod. The obvious differences are dormers added to the upper level resulting in a half story living space and the location of the chimney to an outer wall. The style was inspired by the early 18th century capital city of the Virginia Colony.



Mid-Century Modern (MCM)

Another Frank Lloyd Wright (FLW) inspiration, MCM was most popular from 1945-1970. It was an evolution from the Prairie Style and is, usually, a one-story home with an open floor plan, glassed-in spaces using large windows to connect with nature, and contemporary, modern details. As with FLW, architects would often design the furnishings to complement the home. There is currently a revival in new homes designed in the MCM Style.



Ranch Style

Another inspiration from the Prairie Style, this is a one-story home with more traditional details than MCM. The style became popular in post-war America around 1945 until 1975.

During the Great Depression, housing starts in Oakwood declined to a trickle with only a few homes being built per year. After WWII, building began again, and empty lots were being filled in with dramatically different newer styles such as Ranch. This is most evident along Schantz Ave. where early 20th century styles are combined with homes popular in the middle part of the century.



American Bungalows and Foursquares

These are types of houses to which different architectural styles are



applied. The Bungalow is a one-story house and the Foursquare is its two-story contemporary.

The 2004 Oakwood Comprehensive Plan called for “maintaining and protecting community character”. As a consideration, there are numerous examples of newer homes in Oakwood that duplicate or are inspired by these earlier home styles which help maintain the Architectural Integrity of the community. This, too, is part of the preservation movement.



(left to right) Leigh Turben, Ann Febus, Debra Edwards of TOHS with Alex Heckman of Dayton History at the National Aviation Heritage Area Annual Meeting

Greetings Members,

Exciting news came to the Society this past summer, as we were extremely honored by The National Aviation Heritage Alliance as one of only two 2023 Wick Wright recipients! The Wick Wright Award honors an individual or organization for outstanding support of a National Aviation Heritage Area Partner or the Alliance as a whole.

We were presented the award at the Alliance’s Annual Meeting on August 8. We are very appreciative of Dayton History for nominating us for this very special award for our efforts in partnering with them during the Wright at Home event last May. As an additional bonus, just prior to the Annual Meeting, we were also presented with a wonderful tour of the Wright State Special Collections & Archives. What an impressive facility and a real treasure to greater Dayton and the nation. If you’ve never been to the archives or visited their online collections— we urge you to do so.

As we wrap up our many summer activities, we’d like to thank you all for attending our Classic Car Show event. What an amazing collection of beautiful and historic cars! Thank you to all the car owners for sharing your prized automobiles with the

community. We also hope all who attended enjoyed “Tom’s Famous Slow Cooked BBQ” as much as we did! And our Children’s Summer Garden Program has wrapped up yet another very successful season.

And for those of you who attended our Attic Sale—thank you for your support! We’d also like to send our appreciation to the many volunteers and especially the Scouts, who spent long hours preparing for this sale and toting all the heavy stuff for us—it would not have been the success it was without each of you! We are now in process of updating our interior to bring Oakwood residents some exciting new exhibits and a gleaming and revitalized museum experience. You may have also noticed our long-awaited painting of the exterior of the house museum has begun. And our newly painted sign is back in place on the freshly cleaned stone pillars. We are also extremely pleased that our cupola and bell tower has finally returned to its long-held perch atop our historic Summer Kitchen, thanks to the Oakwood Public Works Department and Schumacher Crane. We anticipate the cupola will remain in place for another 150 years.

We are now gearing up for an exciting fall season with some great events—including our popular Far Hills Speaker Series, the Photo Session at the homestead, our new History Walking Tour of Woodland—and our ever popular, not-to-be-missed Holiday Home Tour!

Lastly, mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting on November 9th. We hope to see you there.

Kind regards,

Debra Edwards

President, The Oakwood Historical Society

Notes

From The Archives

As our Archive continues to undergo its major renovations, donations to our collections continue to add to our treasury of Oakwood documents, photos and published works.

Last month we received a phone call from long-time Society member and contributor, JoAnn Keys. She wished to donate her postcard collection and we drove to Lincoln Park to receive it from her.

Her collection of early Oakwood and Dayton postcards is truly amazing. Organized to perfection in three large binders, it includes early postcards and a few original photos— many we at the Society have never had the privilege of previously viewing. The Oakwood collection includes the Schantz Lookout Tower, John Patterson's Far Hills estate, Hawthorn Hill, the gate at Five Points and much more. It also includes many of early Hills and Dales, including the Old Barn Club, and the Dayton Country Club. Those of Dayton include the old library, early scenes of Downtown, street cars, Union Station, NCR, the fairgrounds, the Soldier's Home (VA) and many of the Dayton Flood aftermath.

The collection is truly outstanding and has been carefully added to our archive. We are always extremely grateful for our members' generous contributions that greatly enrich our archives and assist us in our mission of recording, preserving and sharing of our community's storied past.

Thank you, Mrs. Keys!



Do You Own an Oakwood Century Home?



Last fall, the Society launched its new Century Home marker program, celebrating Oakwood's treasured, older homes that make our community so unique and beautiful.

Over 40 homeowners applied during the launch of the program, and many of these markers are now proudly displayed on homes throughout Oakwood.

We are now taking orders for our second round of Century Home markers. If your home is 100 years of age or older, consider purchasing one of our Century Home markers. The Society will research the date of your home and the original owners prior to awarding the plaque. The goal of this program is to instill a sense of pride and preservation of Oakwood's beautiful century homes.

Each marker is made of cast solid bronze and measures six inches in diameter. The cost is \$220 for Society members, and \$230 for non-members.

For more information on the Century Home marker and to apply, please visit the Society's website at oakwoodhistory.org

A Stroll through Oakwood History at Woodland Cemetery

Join the Society during our newest Oakwood History Tour at the historic Woodland Cemetery on Sunday, October 22. You'll learn about Oakwood's most esteemed founders and the many people who helped to shape our community and made Oakwood their home.

The approximate hour and a half docent-led tour will focus on the lives and accomplishments of Oakwood's early residents, and those who may have now been forgotten among the pages of history. As you follow along the hills and winding paths of Woodland, an early history of Oakwood will begin to unfold.

The tour will conclude with autumn-themed refreshments at the beautiful Woodland Lookout, where you will learn more about Oakwood's notable residents of past while enjoying the amazing view.

Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum was established in 1841, and soon became the revered place of eternal rest of many prominent and important Dayton and Oakwood residents. The Oakwood Historical Society is honored to partner with Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum in sharing this walking tour of Oakwood's early history.

The cost is \$20 per person and all proceeds go to fund the all-volunteer Society historical programs. For more information and to register, visit our website at www.oakwoodhistory.org. Hurry, space is very limited.



Schedule Your Fall Family Photo Sessions at our House Museum

Need a family photo for your holiday cards? We are hosting family photo sessions on October 7, 8 and 15. A \$100 donation (\$90 for members and returning patrons) to The Oakwood

Historical Society will get you a 20-minute session with photographer Betty Cochran.

You'll receive all your photos on a USB drive as high-resolution JPEGs with no copyrights to worry about. Simply take your photos to a photo printing store, or to an online site and make as many copies as you wish! Sign up and pay at our website, www.oakwoodhistory.org.

Oakwood Street Names Trivia

Do you recognize these once Oakwood Street names? Try to match them with their current day name. The answers can be found on the back page of this newsletter—no peeking in advance!

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Christina Lane | 7. Young Rd. | 13. O'Neill Rd. |
| 2. Ravenwood Ave. | 8. Willowgrove | 14. Houk Rd. |
| 3. Irwin Street | 9. Walter Oleman Rd | 15. The State Rd. |
| 4. South Ave. | 10. Cincinnati Pike | 16. Central Ave. |
| 5. Camden Place | 11. Great Miami Pike | 17. Panaroma Ridge |
| 6. Fauver Ave. | 12. Wead Rd. | |

Bonus questions:

1. What is the only current day Oakwood street referred to as a "Street" in its name?
2. What is the only street with the exact same name on both the west and east side of Far Hills?
3. What crossroad was once commonly referred to as Flat Iron Point?

Far Hills Speaker Series – Fall 2023 Program

The Fall 2023 Far Hills Speaker Series celebrates all things Oakwood and Miami Valley. These lectures are a joint program by the Oakwood Historical Society and the Wright Memorial Public Library.

The lectures will be presented in the Wright Memorial Library Community Room (current Health Department guidelines will be adhered to) and may also be attended via Zoom (see Wright Memorial Public Library website for Zoom link).

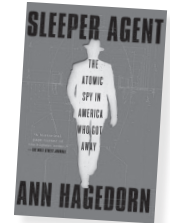
Sleeper Agent: The Dayton Connection

Sunday, September 17 at 2:00 pm



During World War II, a Red Army-trained Soviet spy lived right here in Dayton for nearly a year. As sleeper agents are trained to do, he blended right in. George Koval, born in Iowa, moved with his parents to the Soviet Union in 1932 to avoid anti-Semitism and to embrace socialism. In 1939 George was recruited to be a Soviet spy assigned to work in the U.S. A gifted science student, he enrolled at Columbia University, where he mingled with scientists who would soon join the Manhattan Project, America's highly secretive atom bomb program. As an American citizen, George was drafted into the U.S. Army in support of WWII efforts. With his scientific knowledge and his connections through an NYC-based spy handler, George secured an Army assignment at Oak Ridge, TN as a health physicist who became an expert in the production of polonium, the element necessary for the atom bomb trigger. Soon he was transferred to Dayton where facilities, including one in Oakwood, were processing polonium and sending it to Los Alamos, NM. He returned to the Soviet Union in 1948, undetected.

Author Ann Hagedorn will share fascinating details - some in the book and some not - about the spy who got away.



About Ann Hagedorn

Born in Dayton and a graduate of Denison University with Masters' degrees from the University of Michigan and Columbia University, Ann Hagedorn has been a staff writer for The Wall Street Journal and has taught writing at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. She is an award-winning author of "Wild Ride," "Ransom", "Beyond the River", "Savage Peace", "The Invisible Soldiers", and "Sleeper Agent".

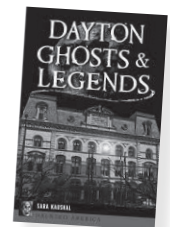
Dayton Ghosts and Legends

Sunday, October 15 at 2:00 pm



Just in time for October fun, Sara Kaushal's latest book, "Dayton Ghosts and Legends" is in print. All towns have their legends and Dayton is no exception. Sara will share facts surrounding the long-told ghost stories and legends of Dayton. Just as in "Murder and Mayhem in Dayton," her previous book, Sara will tell us stories of Paul Sorg who still sits in his favorite seat in the Sorg Opera House more than a hundred years after his death. Or the story of the so-called phantom who terrorized truck drivers crossing the Englewood Dam before disappearing for good.

The famed Butter Street Monster roams Germantown. Magee Park is home to numerous bigfoot and ghost sightings—and even a unicorn sighting. A building of many names, the tower on Patterson Boulevard in Kettering near Hills and Dales Park has been the source of many stories for generations, but only now is its true story finally told. Hear these and other tales along with the facts for some of Dayton's most fascinating tales.



About Sara Kaushal

A native Daytonian and avid historian, Sara has enjoyed uncovering little-known facts about Dayton's history and its residents with anyone who shared her love of Dayton history. Starting with her blog, Dayton Unknown, Sara has shared with her readers all types of historical information. Her first book, "Murder and Mayhem in Dayton and the Miami Valley" was a result of Sara's research that stemmed from stories and reader comments to her blog. The material in Sara's new book "Dayton Ghosts and Legends" comes exclusively from Sara's in-depth historical research of the Dayton legends.

What's the Story? Dayton Veteran's WW II Stories

Sunday, November 19 at 2:00 pm



As we commemorate another Veteran's Day, we will hear the first-hand accounts of Dayton area veterans; their stories and the impact WW II made on their lives. Ken Serey will share the veterans' stories of endurance, survival, courage, and sacrifice made in the name of our country and our freedom. It is fascinating to hear the significant roles Daytonians played every day in the war effort. Ken has captured stories that might have gone undocumented but now can be shared for generations to come.



About Ken Serey

Tipp city resident Ken Serey has a longstanding involvement and commitment to veterans. The child of a World War II veteran, Serey has long had an interest in war stories. While working for Visual Tech Connection, which specializes in helping people with poor vision, Serey met seniors connected to the war as he traveled for work throughout Ohio. He realized their stories deserved to be written and preserved, so when he retired, he got to work. The veterans' stories in "What's the Story" are documented accounts and tell what it was like to be at war in the true sense. As Ken says, "It is very important to preserve these stories and this fading part of the historical record."

Trivia Answers:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. The alley that once connected W. Dixon and Katherine St. | 7. Park Rd. | 14. Sections of both Runnymede and W. Thruston |
| 2. E. Thruston Blvd. | 8. Thornhill | 15. Brown St., then part of now Oakwood Ave. |
| 3. Irving Ave. | 9. No longer in existence, once off W. Schantz at Sugar Camp | 16. Harman Ave. |
| 4. Schantz between Oakwood and Far Hills Ave. | 10. W. Schantz | 17. A bridle trail and country road, the origins of now Ridgeway Road |
| 5. E. Dixon Ave. | 11. W. Schantz before it became Cincinnati Pike | |
| 6. Hathaway Rd. | 12. Patterson Rd. | |
| | 13. Dorothy Lane | |

Bonus Question Answers:

1. Katherine Street
2. Rubicon Rd.
3. Where Far Hills and Oakwood Avenues merge (once Main and Brown Streets). The intersection is now most commonly referred to as Five Points.



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Dayton, Ohio



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THE OAKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1947 Far Hills Avenue
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**Save the Date for
These Exciting
Upcoming Events:**

- **Fall Family Photo Shoot:**
Oct. 7, 8 and 15
at the Homestead
- **Woodland Cemetery Tour:**
Oct. 22
- **Far Hills Speaker Series:**
Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19
at Wright Memorial
Public Library
- **The Oakwood Historical
Society Annual Meeting:**
Nov. 9 at Wright Memorial
Public Library
- **Holiday Home Tour:** Dec. 2

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*Keep an eye on our website
for more details!*

The Oakwood Historical Society Membership Form

Membership Categories *(Please check one)*

- Individual \$25.00
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- Bronze \$75.00
- Silver \$100.00
- Gold \$200.00

Receive a \$5 Discount *(Check if applicable)*

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