

W. W. Sanford House
2432 East First Street
Built in 1894

Current Owners:
Thomas Griffin and Mary Pat Renaud

This handsome house with the tan siding, brown cedar shakes and cream colored trim was probably the first house built on the 2400 block of East First street in 1894. It was designed for W. W. Sanford and his family by the architect Austin Lennyberry. Sanford's son, Wayland W. Sanford, lived in the house until his death in 1942. In 1946 the house was refitted into a two family dwelling, and returned to a single family status in 1987.

The Griffins purchased the house in 2012 and focused on renewing the exterior Masonite siding and ill-fitting rotten windows with products that would be closer to the original style of the house but be as maintenance free as possible. In a whirlwind of activity they replaced windows, added storm doors, added trim features such as the belly board, added decorative details around the corbel and new cedar shake areas, replaced all fascia with cedar decorative design, replaced porch railings on the first and second floor, rebuilt the roof over the second story porch, added bluestone flooring, refinished and repainted both front and back porches, and added new gutters to front porch and garage.

The garage was reinforced when two non-functioning garage doors were replaced with a carriage style double garage door. The Griffins decided to add the cupola to the garage because it seemed to fit with the hip roof design. Then they added cedar shakes and siding to match the house.

A new, more functional driveway was built and a curved sidewalk of reclaimed Superior Street bricks was constructed from the driveway to the front of the house.

Duluth Preservation Alliance

The Centennial Homes program is sponsored by the Duluth Preservation Alliance. This annual program is intended to recognize individuals whose care of their older homes contributes to the architectural richness and heritage of our community.

The mission of The Duluth Preservation Alliance is to protect and enhance the historic resources of our area by teaching and advocating for their recognition, appreciation, protection and sensitive reuse.



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Duluth Centennial Homes

2014

Alexander McDougall House
2201 East First Street
Built in 1910

Current Owners:
Patrick and Jennifer Boyle

In 1910 Alexander McDougall, inventor of the whaleback steamer which would be the forerunner of today's ore boats, commissioned architects Bray and Nystrom to build the yellow brick cube house with the flared dormer gables for \$9,000. It is thought that in the original laundry tubs in the basement Captain McDougall experimented with his ship models of the "pig boat," nicknamed for the bow's snout-like appearance.

Since the Boyles bought the house in 2005, they have embarked on major projects such as remodeling the kitchen, rebuilding and replacing rotting parts of the cantilevered front porch and substituting a metal roof for the original. In addition they have stripped painted woodwork, replaced flooring and converted the third floor into an entertainment center. The focus this year is landscaping and renovating the master bedroom.

Jennifer says the stained glass window in the style of Frank Lloyd Wright on the stairs going to the second floor is still a favorite place in the house for her.

3229 Minnesota Avenue
Park Point
Built before 1907

Current Owners:
Rick Ball and Mary Vanderwerp

Like many homes on Park Point, the first structure of Mary and Rick's house was built before 1907, without a recorded building permit. In September of 1907 Esten O. and Mary Reppe, photographers, applied for a permit for the first of many additions to the house. In 1923 James Hyde added a concrete block basement which, Mary reports, is still water tight.

Since Mary and Rick purchased their distinctive house in 2005 they have renovated the kitchen, replaced and repaired parts of their deck facing the Bay, and improved the heating system, replacing two furnaces with one.

1051 84th Avenue West
Morgan Park
Built in 1913

Current Owner:
Robert A. Berg

This cement block Saltbox Style house was one of seventeen different styles designed by the architectural firm of Dean & Dean of Chicago for the "Model City" of Morgan Park. The homes were built for the employees of the newly constructed U.S. Steel Plant. They were sold into private ownership in the 1940's.

Bob has restored the front porch and rebuilt the back porch to make it blend in with the house's original Prairie Style influence.

George A. Tomlinson House
314 Hawthorne Road
Built in 1914

Current Owners:
Eugene and Jane Shull

This French Mediterranean house was designed by the architect Frederick G. German for George A. Tomlinson in 1914. At the time, Tomlinson owned and was president of four steamship companies and was Federal Director of Inland Waterways.

The interior design of the house reflects the nautical interests of the owner: arched ceilings (lids of sea chests) in the entrance, library and hall between them, Danish Men-O-War in relief around the top of the entrance hall, and fireplace tiles of sailing ships in the billiard room. Unfortunately, Tomlinson and his wife never occupied the house because he was called to Philadelphia to assist in the war effort. The first occupants of the house were Marshall W. and Margaret Alworth. Marshall W. was treasurer of Oneida Realty Company.

Gene and Jane purchased the house in 1985. The first major project was replacement of the clay tile roof and rebuilding the chimneys from the roof up in the main house and carriage house. The carriage house was restored. In the main house, the kitchen was upgraded and remodeled, floors refinished, interior rooms painted and papered, front porch deck renewed, brick driveway restored, heated garage and greenhouse added to the main house and geothermal heating system installed to supplement the gas furnaces in both the carriage house and main house.

Lawrence and Teresa Pitts House
239 West Winona Street
Built in 1914

Current Owners:
Gary and Cathy Tonkin

This Italian stucco house was designed by Duluth architect Anthony Puck with a beautiful craftsman style interior. Lawrence sold county real estate and Teresa taught piano lessons in the house. Gary and Cathy bought the house seventeen years ago from Pauline, the daughter of Lawrence and Teresa, when she was 86 years old.

Since they moved in 1996, Cathy and Gary have remodeled and upgraded the kitchen, updated the bathroom and added a half bath, refinished the floors on the first floor, painted the interior, insulated the sunroom, replaced windows upstairs and down, landscaped the exterior, and built a garage and patio.

Julius and Dora Garon House
1611 Jefferson Street
Built in 1914

Current Owners:
Keith Haugen and Michael Guerdt

This classic American Four Square was built for the Garon family by Klosewsky in 1914. Julius Garon was the watchmaker at Garon Jewelers. Although the family members lived there until the early 1950's, the house changed hands many times before Keith and Michael bought it 25 years ago. Starting with the studs, Keith and Michael replaced basic utilities, and restored the home's beautiful woodwork and gracious rooms. The house received a restoration award in 1994.

Keith and Michael are masters of reuse and recycling. In landscaping the exterior they created a slate patio rescued from the St. Scholastica renovation, designed a rock wall from the stone rescued from the Piedmont Avenue project, and found a new use for the old sandstone curbs from Jefferson Street.

Because they love their neighborhood, Keith and Michael have turned their talents to buying and restoring other homes in their area.