

TOUR HOMES

18829 Fairmount Boulevard, A "Century Home," c. 1840

18829 Fairmount Boulevard was erected during the early 19th century on the farmland near the Shaker settlement. This house has been designated a Shaker Heights city landmark as the Jacob Strong house, and is believed to have been built between 1839 and 1847. The current configuration of the house owes much to work done c. 1920, when owner Reverend Bustard, pastor of the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, added several porches. Additional alterations were undertaken during the 1980s, when the kitchen and upstairs bathroom were remodeled. The current owners have roofed the house with a traditional wood shingle roof. Antique furnishings further the nineteenth-century feeling of the house. This century house differs from the Van Sweringen era houses in several ways, including its position to the street, which is closer than the standard Shaker setback, its room size and configuration, and its interior detailing. The austere fireplace in the living room is similar to others in homes erected early in the Western Reserve era. Built-in shelving and low wainscoting distinguish the dining room and suggest that the room originally was the kitchen. We direct your attention to the corners of the main rooms of this house where the larger corner posts of the house's framing are visible because they extend beyond the adjacent walls.

19200 North Park Boulevard - 1937, Maxwell Norcross, architect

19200 North Park was erected in 1937 by Maurice and Alice Bernet to plans provided by architect Maxwell Norcross; Bernet was an executive of a local metal stamping firm. It is believed that the house was designed during the late 1920s but not erected until the close of the Depression. The house was owned by Frank and Ruth Myers for nearly thirty years. The current owners have reconfigured much of the interior as they transformed the house to meet the needs of a Shaker Heights family during the 1990s. The residence, with a light-colored sandstone veneer, evokes the English Jacobethan style. Groups of casement windows with leaded glass and two bay windows are prominent features and frame views of the grounds which are still faithful to the original landscape plan. Visitors pass through a round-arched doorway to enter a two-story entryway paneled with oak in an English linenfold pattern. The interior is enriched with plaster moldings copied from the current owners' former home on Shaker Boulevard, and features new Italian limestone, marble, and wood floors. The quality of the recent work done to this home is showcased in the library where the space of a hidden room - that was thought to be a "Prohibition-era" type bar - was devoted to an entertainment center faced with paneling that matches the original.

18585 Parkland Drive - 1927, Bloodgood Tuttle, architect

18585 Parkland Drive is a Tudor style home designed by architect Bloodgood Tuttle for W.B. Alexander in 1927. Alexander was an executive of National Tack and Screw. During the 1940s, it was the home of George Tipling, involved with the local automobile industry, and his wife, Adele. The house also has served also as the residence of the Canadian Consul. The current owners have added a new kitchen to the house. Formal gardens at the rear of the house meet the edge of the Shaker Heights Country Club, creating an unusually large park-like setting for the dwelling. The street and garden facades that are quite different in mood and detailing. The low roof of the garage wing shows off the unusually thick slate on this house. Architect Tuttle's favorite element, an octagonal foyer, appears twice in this design. An interior hallway graced with light "borrowed" from the library through an interior window connects the main entrance hall with a second octagonal hall at the base of the grand staircase. The arches framing the openings in these hallways are one of the most unusual features of the home; their plaster is scored with intricate patterns. The living room features leaded glass "great windows" and a fireplace wall paneled with burlled chestnut. The stair hall lit with a large arched window leads to a double-height hall on the upper level. The rich woodwork and traditional furnishings combine to create a classic Shaker interior.

3691 Rawnsdale Road - 1928, Onnie Mankki, architect

3691 Rawnsdale Road, a Tudor house on a double lot, was one of the earliest houses to be built on Rawnsdale Road in 1928. It was designed by Onnie Mankki for developer Emil Mankki; the Mankkis were also responsible for several other houses on Rawnsdale Road. Percy E. Barker, an engineer, and his wife, Helen were the home's first owners. Many of the classic Tudor features are evident in this picturesque design with a stucco and brick exterior. A prominent chimney that splits to reveal its two flues rises along the front of the house. Grouped windows have leaded glass and a brick-framed entrance has a distinctive plank door with ornate hinges. The home is furnished throughout with a combination of antiques, family furniture, and "finds," creating both a rich Victorian feel as well as a setting comfortable for children. The current owners have added a family room and screened porch at the rear of the house, as well as an arbor, pond, and treehouse to the back yard.

18200 Shaker Boulevard, 1923, Reynold H. Hinsdale, architect

18200 Shaker Boulevard is a house with an identity that transcends its current owners. It has become known as the "Christmas Tree" house to many residents who enjoy the oversized tree positioned at the two-story "great window" each holiday season. The shopping-mall size tree that has replaced the cut trees decorated by William Ernest, who owned the house from 1964 to 1993, passes from owner to owner along with the house. No doubt, new traditions associated with the house are being generated by the current owners, a family with young children. The "Christmas Tree" house is an imposing English Cottage style residence designed by architect Reynold Hinsdale for businessman Henry Tyroler, and his wife, Rean, in 1923. By 1930, it had become the home of Harry and Emily Mitchell; Mr. Mitchell was head of the G.F. Mitchell and Sons auto and radio sheet metal parts firm. The house is one of the few dwellings in this style that still has a roof clad in cedar shingles steamed and shaped to evoke the thatch roofs of England. The structure, sheathed in deep, rich brick also features leaded glass windows. The tall living room window is in scale with the two-story space at the heart of the home. Bedroom wings on either side of the living room are linked by a balcony that crosses the room and interior casement windows in flanking bedrooms open onto the space. An informal, cottage feeling is evoked by the massive plank entrance doors and their lanterns, the art pottery tile on the floor of the library, and the outdoor terrace that links the house to its lovely perennial gardens.

19801 Winslow Road - 1929, George H. Burrows, architect

19801 Winslow Road, one of the many two-family homes on that street, was designed by architect George H. Burrows and built in 1929 by R.F. Gaiser. Its first occupants were Sidney Fishman, an executive of the family insurance agency, and his wife, Jane, in one unit, and Clarence N. McElvain in the other. The current owners have incorporated the living room of the first story rental unit into their suite which now ranges over three floors and extends to the treasured back yard patio. The brick Tudor style house has a distinctive front entry porch with a castellated parapet and cut stone detailing. An unusually large Tudor "great window" with leaded glass, fronted by a wrought-iron balcony, floods the second story living room with light. The eclectic collection of antiques and art gives the interiors a fresh and contemporary look. An interior balcony that overlooks the double-height, second-story living room serves as a sitting area and gives access to a bedroom and bath on the third story. A dining room, remodeled kitchen, two bedrooms and a bath also occupy the second story.

Tour homes open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. You may visit the homes in any order.

