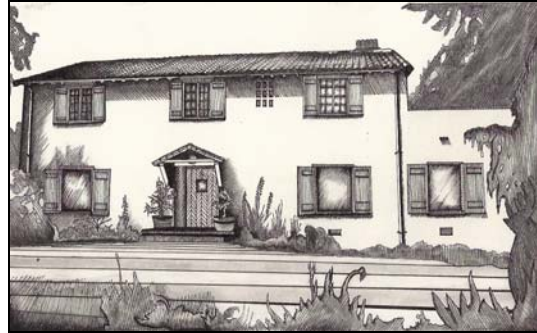


**Fifth Annual Stanford Historic  
House & Garden Tour**

**Sunday, April 26, 2009**



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650-725-3332.

Anticipating National Preservation Month in May, the annual tour by the Stanford Historical Society's Historic Houses Project offers a rare glimpse into four pre-1930 campus houses designed or influenced by architects A. B. Clark and his son Birge Clark. The tour takes place on Sunday, April 26, from 1 to 4 p.m.

One house designed by Birge Clark represents his signature Spanish eclectic period style; a second is in colonial style. A third house, also in Spanish eclectic period style, was designed originally by A. B. Clark but likely with input from his son, who was just beginning his architectural practice. Birge Clark was married here, to the owner's daughter. The fourth house, also by A. B. Clark and once briefly occupied by author Wallace Stegner, was completely rebuilt with a view to designing a "Birge Clark house" for the 21st century.

All four houses will be featured in a new book, *Historic Houses V: Southeast San Juan Neighborhood, Stanford University*, available for advance purchase and on the day of the tour. The book focuses on 21 houses in the southeastern part of the San Juan neighborhood. Together with the house tours, this and other books are part of the Historic Houses Project, which won a prestigious Governor's Historic Preservation Award in 2007.

**A Preview of the Houses Open for the 2009 Tour**

***1927 Spanish colonial period style***

This house is a fine example of Birge Clark's Spanish period style. With the exception of a 1975 kitchen remodel, the house retains many of his details: cream-colored stucco walls, red-tiled roof, small-paned casement windows, molded-concrete fireplace, built-in cabinetry, and arched doorways. The first owner, Charles Moser, was a member of the civil engineering faculty for 29 years. He survived the 1906 earthquake while a graduate student living in Encina Hall, and participated in the reconstruction of university buildings. He also contributed to the design and construction of many of Stanford's athletic facilities. Astute observers can find evidence of his engineering expertise in and around his former home.

Highlights include:

- Extensive garden stonework made from 1906 earthquake rubble
- A secret compartment behind a set of bookshelves containing custom-designed sheet music drawers for Charles Moser's musician wife
- Outdoor chairs made from planks salvaged by Moser from Stanford's pre-1921 football stadium
- Original laundry chute and drop-down telephone table
- Three recently added garden topiaries: a deer, a horse, and a leaping rabbit

### ***1924 colonial period style***

This light-filled house designed by Birge Clark overlooks a redwood grove and is surrounded by gardens. The house retains intact many of its architectural details, although it has been updated by its current owners, who took care that the improvements harmonize with the original style. The house was first occupied by education professor William Proctor and his wife, Agnes. In the 1950s, championship swimmer and coach Thomas Haynie and his family enjoyed the interaction between the house and its outdoor space, building a swimming pool for their competitive-swimmer daughters and installing a solarium facing the backyard. The current owners have expanded the kitchen, bedrooms, and bathrooms, incorporating cathedral ceilings, skylights, art glass windows, and decorative tilework.

Highlights include:

- Original façade, featuring multipaned windows and leaded-glass entrance door details
- Extensive garden containing fruit trees, Japanese maples, roses, and flowering perennials, dominated at the front by a majestic live oak tree perhaps planted by the original owners
- Light-filled remodeled kitchen with Mexican tile accents and pavers
- Master suite with a deck overlooking the redwood grove
- Study and living room with original details such as pocket doors, brass light fixtures, brick fireplaces, and painted woodwork

### ***1921 Spanish eclectic period style***

This house was built for astronomer and mathematician Sidney Townley and his family. Art department professor Arthur B. Clark was engaged to design the house, but his son Birge likely did most of the work. The original house included many design details of the Spanish eclectic style that Birge Clark developed in his later work, such as the arched front entry porch, highly textured stucco exterior walls, and wooden balconies. But perhaps the younger Clark had other reasons to spend time on the project, because as soon as the house was built he became engaged to the Townleys' eldest daughter, Lucile. The wedding took place in 1922 in the living room of the house; the couple had four children during their 63-year marriage.

Highlights include:

- Living room fireplace featuring Batchelder scenic tiles
- Original redwood kitchen cabinetry
- Sleeping porch with redwood casement windows and copper screens
- Fruit trees edging a lawn that was formerly an orchard

- Brass and pearl push buttons in a hallway that could transfer telephone calls between the upstairs and downstairs

### ***1920 Spanish eclectic period style***

Originally a small one-story cottage designed by Arthur B. Clark in 1920, this unusual house was completely rebuilt in 1997–99 after the current owners discovered that its foundation had been badly damaged by the 1989 earthquake. They asked architect Stephen W. Sanborn to design a “Birge Clark house” modernized for the 21st century. Sanborn’s plan added more than 3,000 square feet on two floors to the house while retaining in updated form some of the design and details of the 1920 structure. The house has had many occupants, as it was rented to students and junior faculty for almost 30 years after its first owners, professor of medicine George Barnett and his wife, Anna, moved across the street in 1931 to live with Anna’s father, retired professor of chemistry Edward Franklin. During 1946–47, Wallace Stegner, author and founder of Stanford’s creative writing program, was in residence.

Highlights include:

- Living room, dining room, and library/study, as well as divided-pane windows and doors throughout the original footprint, based on the 1920 plans
- Birge Clark–style stucco exterior, red tiled roof, and shallow-arched window and doorway openings
- A row of small niches in the living room, holding a collection of miniature Southwest Indian pots
- In the front garden, a bench made of sandstone recovered from the Quad after the 1906 earthquake
- A dramatic multipaned arched window on a skylighted staircase landing, framing a redwood tree that shades the house’s front entrance

### **Tour Logistics**

All four houses are within walking distance of one another. Parking and shuttle service are available at Tresidder Union parking lot; pick up the shuttle in front of the Stanford Faculty Club, across from the lot. Shuttles will take tourgoers to the registration point and between the houses as needed.

*Note: Tourgoers should be aware that these houses may have uneven paths, and stairs without railings. Please wear appropriate footwear.*

For tickets, mail a check (payable to Stanford Historical Society) to Stanford Historical Society, c/o Sweeney, P.O. Box 19290, Stanford, CA 94309. Tickets purchased by April 17 will cost \$20 per person, or \$35 for a ticket plus a copy of *Historic Houses V*. After April 17 and on the day of the tour, tickets cost \$25. All tickets will be distributed on the day of the tour at 669 Mirada Avenue.

For additional information, visit the Stanford Historical Society’s Web site: <http://histsoc.stanford.edu/> or call 650-725-3332 or 650-324-1653. You may also e-mail questions to [cglasser@stanford.edu](mailto:cglasser@stanford.edu) or [susan.sweeney@stanford.edu](mailto:susan.sweeney@stanford.edu)