

**Seventh Annual Stanford
Historic House &
Garden Tour
Sunday, May 1, 2011**



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Anticipating National Preservation Month in May, the annual tour by the Stanford Historical Society's Historic Houses Project offers a rare glimpse into the history and architecture of Old Campus.

This year's tour features three pre-1930 houses from the San Juan Neighborhood featured in the Society's Historic Houses series, as well as two 1936 residences that blend house and garden. Architects represented include A.B. and Birge Clark, Charles K. Sumner and Frank Lloyd Wright. The tour takes place on Sunday, May 1, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Two of the houses were designed with elegant detailing by Charles K. Sumner: one a 1926 Tudor period-style castle with a storybook stone entrance tower, and the other an updated 1936 early modern stucco house with a white-flowered formal garden. A third house is a classic 1921 Craftsman-style California bungalow. Back from earlier tours by popular demand are a 1921 Spanish eclectic period-style house designed by art professor A. B. Clark but likely with input from his son, Birge, who was just beginning his architectural practice; and the 1936 Hanna House, acclaimed as one of Frank Lloyd Wright's most original and important works, newly refurbished since last year's tour.

Proceeds from the tour support the Stanford Historical Society's Historic Houses Project, which won a 2007 Governor's Historic Preservation Award.

A Preview of the Houses Open for the 2011 Tour

1936 Frank Lloyd Wright Hanna House

Hanna House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1936 for Professor Paul Hanna and his wife, Jean, is one of the architect's most successful works. It has features of Wright's Usonian houses, referring to his vision of designing livable, affordable homes of simple, natural materials for the American middle class. This unique house is an early example of

Wright's radical experimentation with nonrectangular forms: its plan is based on a flexible grid of hexagons, 26 inches on each side, resembling a honeycomb, without a single right angle. Wright also designed a guest house and "Hobby House," added to the hilltop property by the Hannas in 1950, and provided plans for the remodeling of the main house in 1957. The Hannas gave their house to Stanford in 1975. It was used as a residence by four university provosts until it was severely damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. After almost 10 years of careful restoration and seismic strengthening, the buildings reopened in 1999. Please be aware that there are many stairs on the tour of this house.

Highlights include:

- Wright's innovative hexagonal grid design, evident in the incised concrete slab floor, brick fireplaces, redwood walls, and custom and built-in furnishings
- Open floor plan with variable ceiling heights and floor levels
- Glass walls and clerestory windows with sweeping views of cypress and white oak trees original to the hillside
- Terraces, fountains, and gardens, also designed by Wright, fusing the interior with the outdoors
- Stone garden ornaments acquired by the Hannas in Japan, including a 2-ton lava stone urn from the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, designed by Wright in 1916
- New this year: the Wright-designed furnishings have been re-upholstered, a photography closet has been created, a tile display added, and new interior plants installed

1921 Arthur B. Clark/Birge Clark Spanish Eclectic Period Style

Art professor Arthur B. Clark was engaged to design the house for astronomer and mathematician Sidney Townley and his family, 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 tile
- Fir, redwood, oak, and gum cabinetry and trim
- Original sleeping porch with redwood casement windows and copper screens
- Brass-and-pearl push buttons in a hallway that could transfer telephone calls between the upstairs and downstairs
- Extensive gardens with ancient valley oaks, unusual water features and stonework made of 1906 earthquake rubble

1921 Craftsman Style Bungalow

This classic cottage-style California bungalow, originally built for law professor William Brownlee Owens, was probably constructed by a local contractor using a plan sold by the Bungalow Craft Company of Los Angeles. The Craftsman-style features of this charming

house include a pleasing array of roof gables and cornices, a flowing floor plan, and many large, multipaned windows and French doors that create a sense of space and light. The first owner, a talented carpenter, left his mark in the form of abundant built-in storage drawers and shelves, as well as additional bedrooms and outbuildings for his woodworking activities.

Highlights include:

- Original bath with hexagonal tile and claw-foot tub
- Old-fashioned sunroom
- Secret walled garden off the master bedroom
- Old-growth trees including two sycamores, a Himalayan cedar, a stately redwood, and a grand old fig
- Original redwood bungalow garage

1926 Charles K. Sumner Tudor Period Style

As if in a fairy tale, a striking feature of this whimsical stucco cottage is its medieval stone entrance tower with a conical “witch’s hat” roof topped by an iron weathervane. To complete the storybook picture, a narrow vertical leaded-glass window appears above the arched entry, and the paneled front door features a stained-glass dragon, designed by the son of a previous owner. Unique among Sumner’s many homes on the Stanford campus and in Palo Alto, this small “castle” retains several of its original features. Tudor details abound in the “wavy” shingles covering the steep, curved rooflines, several pointed-arch doorways, and a heraldic flourish built into the living room fireplace.

Highlights include:

- Living room with intricate dark ceiling beams, original wrought-iron chandelier, and Juliet balcony
- Rope molding around the entry door, characteristic of some of Sumner’s designs
- Back garden with 1906 earthquake rubble outlining a former fishpond
- Circular second-floor turret room, now used as a study

1936 Charles K. Sumner Early Modern Style

Sumner designed this traditional but minimally ornamented house for history professor Carl Fremont Brand; it was later occupied by nuclear physicist Edward Teller. Although the outlines of the house trend toward a more modern style, some of its details still echo past eclectic styles. The current owners have updated and expanded it while carefully restoring many of its historic elements, and the overall effect is quietly harmonious. A spacious deck opens from the dining room and living room with views of the hills to the west, and of a terraced, white-flowered formal garden below.

Highlights include:

- Original tiled fireplace and windowsills
- Restored leaded-glass front door
- Original clear fir paneling, woodwork, and folding doors between living room and dining room
- Expansive gardens with roses, fruit trees, winding paths, and an arbor

Tour Logistics

Parking is available at Parking Structure 6, 560 Wilbur Way. The tour registration desk and shuttle stop are adjacent to the parking structure. Shuttles will take tourgoers to and between the houses as needed. Roads in the area near the tour houses are closed to through traffic, and parking restrictions will be enforced on the day of tour.

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

Advance tickets cost \$25 each; check must be received by April 16. Advance tickets will be mailed. After April 16, including the day of the tour, tickets cost \$30. Mail a check (payable to Stanford Historical Society) to Stanford Historical Society, c/o Sweeney, P.O. Box 19290, Stanford, CA 94309.

For additional information and a map, consult the Stanford Historical Society's Web site at <http://histsoc.stanford.edu/programs.shtml>; call Susan Sweeney at 650-324-1653 or Charlotte Glasser at 650-725-3332; or e-mail susan.sweeney@stanford.edu or cglasser@stanford.edu.