

THE HOUSE ON THE HILL: FULTON MARTIN HOUSE MUSEUM

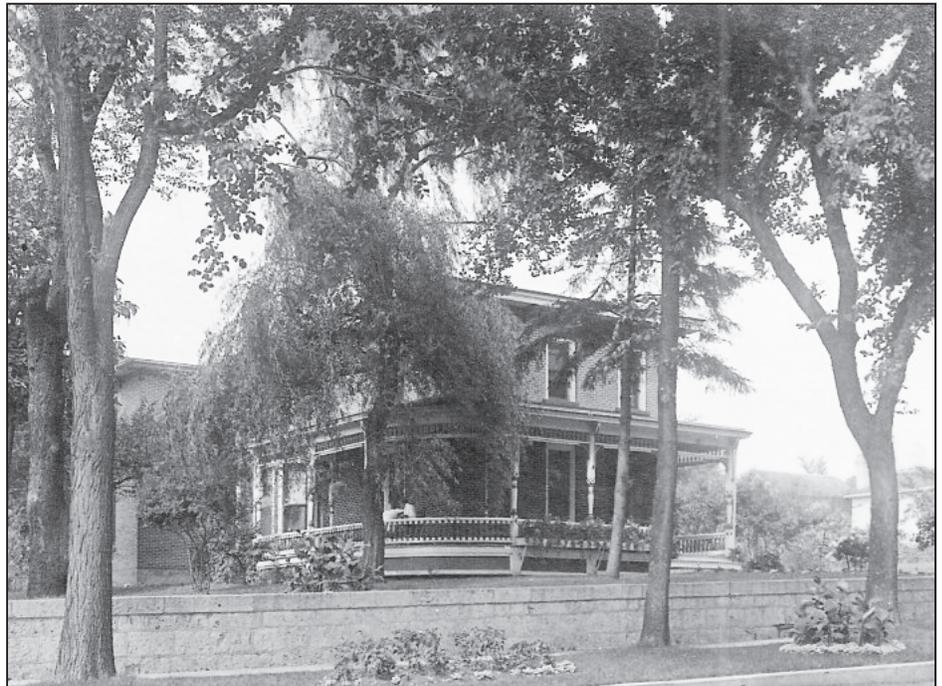
By Barbara Mask

Did you know that the 'House on the Hill' is owned by the City of Fulton? It was bequeathed to the City by Maxine and Leonard Martin in 1999 to be used as a "museum/community center." The house has an interesting history and is recognized as an excellent example of the Italianate style of architecture. In a made-for-television movie of Fulton in 1953, this house is referred to as a 'Fulton landmark.'

Located on the northeast corner of Tenth Avenue and Seventh Street, it commanded a panoramic view of the Mississippi River in 1855, when it was built. An 1872 photo of Fulton shows the house with no other buildings or trees obscuring the view. A photo, taken by Nellie Bastian in 1899, provides a view of the belvedere on top of the roof. The house was constructed of homemade bricks from local clay, along with three other homes in the historic district, of which the house is situated. The walls are ten inches solid masonry with interior lath and plaster added.

The 2 ½ lots are confined on the south and west by walls of hewn stones erected in 1876. The stones were quarried from the Conside Quarry on 4th Street. The blocks are classified as Silurian dolomite and geologists inform us that they were formed about 450 million years ago. Who of us will quibble over that estimate?

Also, in the 1899 photo, one can see a white-picket fence along the west side of the property and situated above the stone wall. The front of the house faced west and the existing sidewalk curves right up to what is the bay window today. The porch was only on the west side in that photo. The date of changing the front entrance to the south side is unknown, but it is speculated that the wrap-around porch was built at the same time. The house appears today as it did in the postcard photo of 1910 when Josephine and Louis Lemke lived there so its appearance has remained virtually the same for over a century. There were twelve owners prior to the property being gifted to the City of Fulton. They were involved in the social and business activities in the community. It is interesting to note that Fidelity Life Association purchased the property in 1923 and their officers resided here until 1956 when the Martins purchased it for \$12,000. Its appraised value when the City received it was \$115,000. A 4-page brochure lists and describes the owners, the price paid and the dates of ownership. This brochure and a walking tour guide around the historic district is available at the Fulton (Martin House) Museum.



This picture postcard of 707 10th Avenue, circa 1910, is from the collection of Susan and Kevin Heun.



Pictured above is a painting done by local artist Regina Dixon in 2005. The porch was recently damaged by the storm of August 4, 2012 and is currently being restored.

The Fulton Historical Society manages the property for the City of Fulton. In addition to bequeathing their home, the Martins donated \$355,000 to the City to ensure that there would never be any cost to the local taxpayer. Interest from the principle is used to cover maintenance costs only. The Society is a financially - self-sustaining organization that depends on donations, fundraising and grants to operate the Museum.

The Martins would be pleased, I think, to see the way in which their home has become a repository for Fulton memorabilia and the invaluable resources that have been accumulated and assimilated into the Wayne Bastian Memorial Resource Room. The most welcoming comments come from local citizens who continue to be thrilled about coming into the house. "Oh, I just never thought that I would get to be here inside this special house," is frequently heard. The Martins recognized the historical significance of their home and also valued the Fulton community and its rich history and traditions. While the house has played a role in Fulton's history, because of the generosity of the Martins, the property will continue to play a more significant role for future generations.



The museum is available for private parties. Pictured is the dining room prepared for a formal dinner. Outstanding features of the dining room are the leaded glass windows and the solid walnut window seats.

Chronology of the Purchase Prices

<p><u>May 11, 1853</u>: Abram W. and Hannah Benton: paid \$50.00 to James and Elizabeth McCoy for Lots 2 and 3.</p> <p><u>July 11, 1855</u>: A \$2,000 mortgage record of Abram W. Benton to Amanda Benton on Lots 2 and 3 states: "on which lots there is erected a two story brick house in which the party of the first part now resides."</p> <p><u>March 27, 1867</u>: Albert N. and Amanda L. Keigwin - \$2,200</p> <p><u>April 22, 1870</u>: William P. and Charlotte E. Culbertson -- \$1,800</p> <p><u>September 20, 1871</u>: William M. and Mary E. Herrold -- \$2,800. There was also recorded a \$600 loan and major improvements appear to have been made at this time.</p> <p><u>February 27, 1884</u>: Bradstreet Robinson -- \$2,350</p> <p><u>April 16, 1906</u>: Louis A. and Josephine Lemke -- \$4,000</p>	<p><u>January 13, 1917</u>: M. S. and Catherine Ackles -- \$5,250</p> <p><u>February 25, 1921</u>: Otto and Marion F. Hammerlund -- \$7,000</p> <p><u>November 16, 1923</u>: Mystic Workers of the World -- \$8,500</p> <p><u>March 10, 1934</u>: Fidelity Life Association (corporate name change only).</p> <p><u>December 30, 1943</u>: Edward M. and Gertrude Warner -- \$1.00</p> <p><u>March 9, 1944</u>: Frank and May M. Hough -- \$1.00</p> <p><u>November 5, 1956</u>: Purchased on contract by Leonard C. and Maxine H. Martin -- \$12,000</p> <p><u>March 5, 1968</u>: Owned by the Martin's</p> <p><u>March 2, 1999</u>: Deeded to the City of Fulton</p> <p><u>July 11, 2001</u>: City of Fulton - appraised value: \$115,000</p>
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