

THE INDIANAPOLIS SUNDAY

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 5, 1922.

*Perfect Example of Old Farm House, in Midst
of Modern Homes, Carries History of Century*



Property of Miss Anna M. Wright, Forty-Second Street and Central Avenue, Contains Many Rare Pieces of Furniture, of Priceless Value, From the Antiquarian's Viewpoint.

BY EDITH S. DORSEY.

Turning from the stately Victorian houses, the high-ceilinged, formal, old homes of the last century, to another type equally interesting, we find at Forty-second street and Central avenue a perfect example of the old farmhouses which were built seventy or eighty years ago, standing now flanked on either side by two of the most modern of houses. The beautiful old house, painted a dark green that blends well with the elms and maples that line the drive leading up to it, stands well back in the yard, guarded in front by two tall elms. It is built after the fashion of many Pennsylvania and New York farmhouses, with double porches across the front and side.

This house, which is now the home of Miss Anna M. Wright, was bought by her family thirty years ago from Resh R. Hammond. In 1823, the Rev. Resh Hammond, whose home was in Jeffersonville, entered this ground for his son, at Brookville, which was the land office of the state at that time. There were 240 acres which extended from Pennsylvania street to the Monon tracks, and from Thirty-eighth to Forty-sixth street. All these parts

were known as Sugar Grove flats on account of the large number of sugar maples with which the woods abounded.

Considered Pretentious Place.

There was only a small cabin on the estate until 1850, when Mr. Hammond built the present house. It was considered one of the most pretentious places in all this part of the country.

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PERFECT EXAMPLE.

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and was the scene of many gay parties, people going out from town to "sauntering-off" parties, and to enjoy the skating on a pond that covered the low part of the farm.

All the original appendages that went with a farm of that day, were still standing when Miss Wright took possession of the house—the woodshed that contained a furnace with three great iron kettles used for making maple syrup, a smokehouse built of walnut logs, and all the rest. The whole place was surrounded with a walnut fence made from wood of the place. Ferd Holloway and Thad Baker, who have the adjoining properties, have been interested enough to preserve this old place as their boundary line. It was a folly of Mr. Hammond's to build his fences inside his property line, so, for

many years, all along the Pennsylvania street side, there were two fences within a foot or so of each other, his and the next property owner's who had built on the property line. He lived in this place until 1852. It was rented during the intervening years and passed into the Wright family in 1857.

There were then only six houses between the Wright house and Fall creek, two of which were the Hasselman and Haxaway farms, the rest small tenant houses. At that time Thirty-eighth street was called Lovers lane, and was a favorite drive, being a beautiful country road shaded by a line of lovely old thorn trees. Going out Central avenue one had to pay toll at Thirty-eighth and again at Forty-sixth street.

In 1891, a group of men bought sixty acres, which with the twenty immediately surrounding the house, was all that was left of the original farm. They made these sixty acres into what was Washington park, planting the Norway maples now bordering the street.

The house itself is charming in its rambling simplicity. It contains sixteen rooms, all with low ceilings, and white painted woodwork. There are nine outside doors on the first floor, a curious way they built in those days, of which one of the same height or of the height of the window casings. In the view taken from the top of the stairs, one may see through the series of halls the three levels at which additions had been built. The same ir-

regularity goes throughout, but it adds to the homelike atmosphere, with which the old house is brimming over.

House a Real Museum.

The south windows full of geraniums, the old mahogany furniture, most of which has descended to Miss Wright from her grandmother; the family portraits on the walls, all tend to give a rare quaintness to the rooms. The only change that has been made is the substitution of French for the wood stoves that were in every room, and of electricity for the lamp or candle light, the latter seeming more in keeping with the house.

There are many rare pieces of furniture in the house. One bedroom, unfortunately too small to be photographed, is filled with lovely French mahogany, of priceless value from an antiquarian's point of view, and old prints bearing the mark "Lieber 1860." In the front room downstairs is some wonderful French colonial furniture, a Seth Thomas clock and two interesting portraits painted by Cox, an early portrait painter. In an adjoining room is an old square piano, made in 1860 by an Indianapolis piano factory, long since out of existence, for the first exhibition and bought by Miss Wright's father at that time. Another curious relic is a brass three-cornered lamp which burned hard, with a twisted rag stuck in to serve as a wick. This lamp had a hook on top which could be fastened on a chairback for reading

or hung on the wall for more general lighting. These antiques and many more make the house a real museum. It is to be hoped that this old home may remain untouched for many years to come, amidst its modern surroundings, and that if it ever should be dismantled, there may be some place to preserve all its interesting contents, that are so much of the history of the last century connected with them.