

The Manor House at Squire Valleevue Farm: A Tour

Betsey Tracy

The Manor House was built In 1930 by Andrew and Mrs. Squire as their week-end retreat. For almost twenty years the Squires had been coming out to enjoy the country and would bring friends to picnic on the site where you saw the bust along the driveway. That is the site where Eleanor Squire thought the house should be built. Mr. Squire strongly disagreed and preferred this location. So, he encouraged his wife to take an extended holiday in Europe and when she returned, here stood their home. The architectural firm was Walker and Weeks, but the model was one of the cottages found in England's Cotswold Hills. The Latin inscription over the front door is Parva Domus; Magna Quies. This is a traditional house blessing inspired by an inscription on the organist's house at Exeter Cathedral in England; it means Small House; Great Quiet or Quiet Peace.

You will notice the addition to the side, added in 1980 by then-University President and Mrs. Ragone. The Ragones used the room as their master bedroom while the children lived in the main house. One other President, Louis Toepfer and his wife, lived here both when he was Dean of the Law School and later as President of the University. Before we go inside, I would like to point out the wonderful clay tile roof and some of the decorative hardware reported purchased during Mrs. Squire's famous trip to Europe.

When Mr. Squire died in 1934, he deeded this wonderful building and his property to Flora Stone Mather, the women's college of Western Reserve University. He had a strong desire that young women

