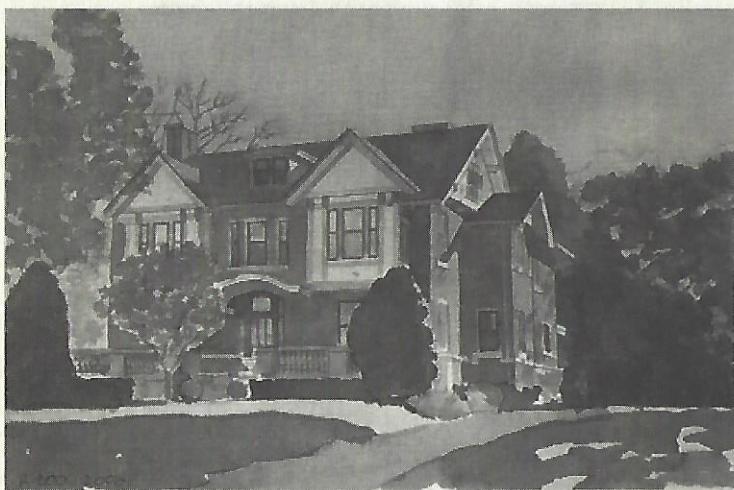




1648 Maine

Charles W. and Katherine Gay House

Tudor Revival • Built 1921

Current owners: Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Clayton III

The Charles W. and Katherine Gay House was a gift from Katherine's mother, Catherine Botsford, who lived at 1656 Maine. Charles Gay was an early officer of Electric Wheel and later was office manager for the then-named Herald Whig.

The Tudor Revival style was a popular style of architecture for homes in the early 20th century. This massive brick and cut stone home is unusually symmetrical for its style, borrowing its symmetry from its rival for popularity, the Colonial Revival.

The exterior Tudor Revival features are its stucco and decorative half-timbering, its stocky brackets, leaded windows, overhanging second story, strings of windows and segmental entry arch with stained glass. Architect Ernest Wood designed a Prairie Style stoop with an Italian-style stone balustrade and added Prairie Style urns. On the second story, there are slightly extended, gabled bays on each side of the arcade. There is a two-story semi-hexagonal bay on the east.

The overall flavor of the home's interior is that of the Arts and Crafts movement/philosophy which came to America around 1900. The movement was a reaction to the Victorian "excesses" of machine-made ornamentation. The movement lauded simple, but refined hand-craftsmanship. The movement influenced the Prairie Style and Craftsman style that followed.

Pause in the large entry hall to appreciate the stunning staircase, which dominates the space. The aesthetic appeal of the staircase is in the quality of construction and the beauty of the wood. The living room fireplace has a limestone Tudor-style mantle piece. Note the elaborate ceiling molding and the leaded glass windows. Behind the living room is the family room, which may have originally been a music room. Notice the light wooden trim, which suggests that it has been stripped and re-stained.

The middle back room is separated from the entry hall by French doors with leaded glass and stained glass shields. The room was probably designed as a breakfast room. The ample kitchen has St. Charles cabinets from an earlier remodeling. The grand dining room has a noteworthy barrel ceiling, picture molding and large ceiling medallion.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOUR