The Victorian Society in America

STUDY TOUR

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

VICTORIAN CHICAGO:

TOWN & COUNTRY

Come along with us as we explore turn-of-the-last-century sites in and near Chicago.
Friday, September 26 • 8:30 a.m.
• Breakfast on your own • Lunch included • Dinner on your own

We will board our motor coach at the Congress Plaza Hotel for an 8:30 a.m. departure for the North Shore, where we will visit Crab Tree Farm in Lake Bluff (ca. 1910 - Solon Spencer Beman, architect). Privately owned, the farm buildings display an incomparable collection of arts and crafts furniture in settings that have been created to reflect the aesthetics of the Arts and Crafts movement. Following our tour we will return to downtown Chicago, where we will have lunch at the Episcopal Diocesan Center while hearing a lecture by restoration architect Walker Johnson on the history of St. James Cathedral (completed 1871 - Edward Burling, architect). Largely destroyed in the Chicago Fire of 1871, the Gothic Revival church was rebuilt in 1875 and features an outstanding Victorian interior based on the scheme by E. J. Neville Stent, a student of William Morris. The original bell tower still bears the scars of the Fire. Following our tour of the Cathedral we will walk to the Driehaus Museum, the former Samuel F. Nickerson Mansion (1879 - 1883, Burling & Whitehouse, architects). The interiors are replete with marble, onyx, carved exotic and domestic woods, glazed tiles, and stained glass. On display are original furnishings from the Nickerson era along with American and European decorative arts of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. There will be time to view the special exhibit of over 60 works by Louis Comfort Tiffany and his associated firms, including lamps, stained-glass windows, vases, metalwork and furnishings. Following our visit the motor coach will return to the Congress Hotel, where we will have ample time before the opening reception.

Saturday, September 27 • 9:00 a.m.
• Breakfast and lunch included • Dinner on your own

All-day symposium at Glessner House Museum - “Interpreting the Victorian House” (see full write-up on subsequent page).

Sunday, September 28 • 8:00 a.m.
• Breakfast on your own • Lunch included • Dinner on your own • O'Hare Airport Drop-off

We will board our motor coach at the Congress Plaza Hotel for an 8:00 a.m. departure for Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, a resort city popular with the Victorian elite from Chicago and its suburbs. Our first stop will be the Geneva Lake History Museum, to view exhibits that relate to the Victoria era, followed by a tour of the George Williams College campus (1886 – various architects; 1920’s – Franz Aust, a protégé of Jens Jensen, primary landscape architect), originally built as a YMCA training camp and now an accredited undergraduate part of Aurora University of Aurora, Illinois. We will next visit the Yerkes Observatory (1897 - Henry Ives Cobb, architect; 1912 – Olmsted Bros., landscape architects). Then, we will have a box lunch and a tour at the Black Point Historic Site (1888 - Adolph Cudell, architect; ca. 1905 – Olof Benson, landscape architect), built as a summer “cottage” for Chicago brewer Conrad Seipp and his extended family. We will then proceed to the Lake Geneva Country Club (1915 - Robert Clason Spencer, Jr., architect), where we will have a reception, with refreshments and a talk by restoration architect Walker Johnson about the four estates for which Olmsted Bros. was the landscape architect firm, across the Lake from the Club. We will then return to Chicago, with a stop at O'Hare Airport at about 6:30 p.m. - traffic permitting - and a final stop at the Congress Hotel at about 7:45 p.m

SYMPOSIUM: Interpreting the Victorian House
A Symposium co-sponsored by Glessner House Museum and The Victorian Society in America

$50 per person • Includes breakfast and lunch

OPENING RECEPTION • Friday, September 26
6:30 p.m. Reception
7:15 p.m. Lecture: “The Historic House Detective: Planning for Restoration”
William Tyre, Executive Director and Curator, Glessner House Museum

An accurate and thoughtful restoration project involves countless hours of on-site investigation and archival research before the actual work begins. See how photographs, journal entries, original contractor invoices, and physical evidence were used to develop the restoration plan for the parlor, corner guestroom, and guest bathroom.
SYMPOSIUM • Saturday, September 27 • 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m.  Breakfast

9:30 a.m.  Welcome  William Tyre, Executive Director and Curator, Glessner House Museum

9:45 a.m.  Keynote Speaker
Richard Guy Wilson, Commonwealth Professor's Chair in Architectural History, University of Virginia
“Creating the Victorian House”

The houses known as “Victorian” were unique creations, something entirely new in Western culture and civilization. The American Victorian or 19th Century house/home was indebted to both English and European sources but also a product of social, cultural and commercial changes that allowed an entirely new way of living. This presentation will examine the background of this new building type and look at some of the various sources including advice manuals, pattern books and architects and how they created the new house.

10:45 a.m.  Laura Gundrum, Chief of Interpretation, Lincoln Home
“Interpreting Abraham Lincoln as a Family Man at Lincoln Home”

Globally, Abraham Lincoln is known as the President who freed the African American slaves, kept the United States together, and advocated for freedom and equality. However, Abraham Lincoln was also a husband, parent, and neighbor who experienced the same hopes, dreams, and challenges in life that we experience today. During this program find out how Lincoln Home’s interpreters over the last two decades have conveyed to the public the lesser known story of Abraham Lincoln as a “family man.”

11:30 a.m.  Lise Dube-Scherr, Executive Director, The Richard H. Driehaus Museum
“Contemporary Perspectives on Historic Houses: Building Community through Diversified Programming”

As a result of a more broadly designed mission, the Driehaus Museum has successfully fostered a highly engaged audience for this young cultural organization. Discover how the museum has leveraged its mission to build a vibrant community through programs, exhibitions, and other activities thereby redefining and broadening the traditional measures of success and moving beyond the time-honored guided tour.

12:15 p.m.  Lunch

1:00 p.m.  Marta Wojcik, Executive Director and Curator, Frank Lloyd Wright’s Westcott House and Westcott Center for Architecture + Design
“A Frank Lloyd Wright House as a Community Anchor”

Historic house museums run the risk of cultural atrophy if they fail to establish relevant and dynamic educational programs that address the needs of their community. Using Frank Lloyd Wright’s Westcott House as an example, Wojcik will reflect upon the importance of these sites as they relate to our personal enrichment and cultural identity. She will then discuss how we can continue using these museums as educational and cultural tools in our 21st century society.

1:45 p.m.  Bruce Davies, Curator, Craigdarroch Castle National Historic Site
“Craigdarroch Castle - Telling the Whole Story”

A Victorian mansion with Chicago connections on a Canadian Pacific island survives decades of varied institutional use to become a house museum. What stories are told, and how are they imparted? What is the impact of these choices on the conservation of historic building fabric?

2:30 p.m.  Lisa Yun Lee, Past Director, Jane Addams Hull-House Museum
“Dangerous, Radical, & Queer: Interpreting the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum”

This talk explores the interpretive methods used at the JAHHM that might also be used at other house museums to expand audiences, and insists on the relevance of historic sites to the most pressing current social issues. Lee led a series of curatorial, preservation, and programming initiatives, including a new permanent core exhibition that helped to transform the Hull-House Museum into a laboratory for new museum methodologies and a site for participatory democracy.

3:15 p.m.  John C. Eastberg, Historian and Director of Development, Pabst Mansion
“Imagination and Reality: The Development of a Victorian Historic House”

For over twenty years, Eastberg has directed the restoration and development of the Pabst Mansion and will reflect on the transformation of this historic site from its inception in the 1970s to the present day.

4:00 p.m.  Optional tours of Glessner House Museum
Registration Information

Registration can be made via check (preferable), credit card or money order. Checks should be made payable to The Victorian Society in America. The Victorian Society in America is not responsible for accidents, injury or loss of personal items during this program. The Victorian Society in America reserves the right to make such changes to the schedule, sites to be visited, or personnel as may become necessary or desirable. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis.

As this mailing has been sent via first class mail reservations will be taken immediately.

RESERVE EARLY AS SPACE IS LIMITED. Phone (215-636-9872) or fax (215-636-9873) reservations will only be taken with a credit card payment at the time of reservation. Registration can be made via check, money order, or credit card (VISA, MASTERCARD, or DISCOVER only). Please note that we do NOT take American Express. Checks should be made payable to The Victorian Society in America.

The Victorian Society in America reserves the right to alter the schedule of events or cancel events should it become necessary.

Refunds
Refunds will only be given until August 26, 2014. After August 26, 2014 no refunds of any kind will be given.

Note
If you think that there is a chance you will need to withdraw from this trip after you have paid you may wish to consider buying trip insurance, which protects you against an unforeseen need to cancel a trip. Trip insurance can cover the Society's fee and your airfare and hotel costs. There are many providers of this type of insurance; one place to start looking is www.insuremytrip.com. 1-800-487-4722. The VSA is providing this information purely as a service to you: the Society does not receive any compensation from any insurance organization.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please check all that apply

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<tr>
<th>COST</th>
<th>NO. OF PEOPLE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Opening Reception (Friday, 9/26)</td>
<td>$15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Tour (Friday &amp; Saturday, 9/26 &amp; 9/28)</td>
<td>$350</td>
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<td>Symposium (Saturday, 9/27)</td>
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<td>TOTAL REGISTRATION AMOUNT</td>
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Enclosed is my check for $ __________________ made payable to The Victorian Society in America (The VSA).

Please charge my [ ] Mastercard [ ] Visa [ ] Discover Please note that we do NOT take American Express

# ____________________ Expires ____________________

S.E.C. (Security Code) __________________

Signature __________________

Name __________________

Additional Participant __________________

Address __________________

City __________________ State ______ Zip ______

Phone (day) __________________ Phone (evening) ______ Fax ______

Email address __________________

Please mail the completed form with your payment to:

The Victorian Society in America
1636 Sansom Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103