

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens: See the WOW! in Akron Ohio

Named the #1 Historic Home Tour by Readers of USA Today



A must-see during a visit to Northeast Ohio is a trip to Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, located at 714 North Portage Path in Akron, Ohio. This historic house museum and botanical garden — recently named the # 1 historic home tour in the U.S. by readers of USA Today — is an incredible example of local history, and the enormous influence of the rubber industry on the region.

About Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens

The Seiberling Family Home

Stan Hywet Hall was built between 1912-1915 by the co-founder of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, F. A. Seiberling, and his wife Gertrude. They built their *American Country Estate* and named it *Stan Hywet* (Old English for stone quarry) after the property's most prominent natural feature. Designed by architect Charles S. Schneider, the Manor House is one of the finest examples of Tudor Revival architecture in America. The Seiberlings hired Boston landscape architect Warren H. Manning to design the gardens and grounds.

The Manor House is 64,500 square feet and has 65 rooms; including 18 bathrooms, 25 bathrooms, 18 fireplaces and 12 chimneys. The house is filled with treasures from around the globe, with 95% of the collections and furnishings original to the house.

Mrs. Seiberling died in 1946, and after the death of F.A. Seiberling in 1955, the Seiberling family donated Stan Hywet to a non-profit organization so that the public could enjoy and experience a noteworthy chapter in American history. In 1957, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens opened as a historic house museum and country estate. Above the Manor House entryway, the crest bearing the motto *Non Nobis Solum* (Not for Us Alone), welcomes guests as warmly today as it did almost a century ago.

Stan Hywet Today

Today, Stan Hywet is open for April through December. The Estate hosts themed exhibits and public programs, and is available for weddings and corporate events. In 2016, the exhibits focus on the Seiberling family in *Sharing Our Stories*. The family and its accomplishments are brought to life through family photo exhibits and special interpretive guides in the Manor House. *Picturing the Past* features family stories in the gardens. *Strange and Wonderful Plants* in The Corbin Conservatory (more information on the Conservatory, below) includes a display of exotic carnivorous (insect-eating plants) under glass cloches; carrions, a group of plants with stunning blooms, but off-putting smells; and a display of citrus plants.

Stan Hywet is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It is Akron, Ohio's oldest National Historic Landmark and the sixth home open to the public in the United States.

The Gardens at Stan Hywet

Landscape architect Warren Manning sought inspiration from the natural topography so that landscape and house would complement each other. He worked with the architect, Charles Schneider, to ensure that the house would be built on a location that would provide for five different overlooks of the Cuyahoga valley and that allées (promenades) would extend to allow views of the lagoon and surrounding foliage.

The walled English Garden has often been described as Gertrude Seiberling's favorite garden refuge. Although Warren Manning originally designed the garden, it did not match Mrs. Seiberling's original vision for the space. The Seiberlings then hired renowned female landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman who redesigned the garden in 1929. Restored in 1989-1992, it is one of the only intact Shipman gardens open to the public.

The Carriage House currently houses Molly's Shop and Café, where guests may shop in a unique boutique, and enjoy a light meal or refreshment in what were formerly a horse stable and tack room.

The Corbin Conservatory was replicated and reopened in 2005 and includes The Gothic-looking Palm House, a "curved eave" greenhouse. Originally a place to grow exotic (for the day) citrus and other tropicals—in the style of an orangerie—it now is home to *Garden Under Glass*, a lush indoor tropical garden.

The Gate Lodge has its own historic significance: in 1935, two admitted alcoholics met and talked long into the night, identifying the principles that still serve as the cornerstone of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Gate Lodge at Stan Hywet was formally dedicated as the "Birthplace of Alcoholics Anonymous" in 2000, and renovated and reopened to the public in 2004.

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