



Twilight Tour Homes

- ★ 622 N. Dorman Street,
Ric & Kim Farinella House
- ★ 706 N. Dorman Street,
Ed Norman & Tim Parnell
House and Garden
- ★ 1106 E. St. Clair Street,
Sarah Olds Garden
- ★ 1114 E. St. Clair Street,
Alice Taylor House
- ★ 725 N. Dorman Street,
Chuck McDonald House

! Home & Garden Tour

Join us Saturday, May 19 or
Sunday, May 20, 11 AM - 5 PM,
featuring fourteen homes and
gardens. Your Twilight
Tour ticket gets you in.

Information: (317) 752-1816
www.cottagehome.info

● Public Restrooms

Featuring wine, appetizers and music in
the Cottage Home Park with a special tour of five
houses and gardens.

Don't forget to join us for the Home & Garden
tour. Your Twilight Tour ticket gets you in!



Cottage Home Neighborhood

☀️ Cottage Home Neighborhood is a near east-side historic neighborhood bounded by 10th, Oriental, and Michigan Streets, and I-65/70. The area takes its name from the style of houses built in the neighborhood between 1870 and 1900. Early residents built modest frame cottages in a variety of architectural styles, including shotgun and Queen Anne vernacular. Many



Ruskaup Grocery and Meat Market, circa 1910

of the homes feature turned posts and spindles, original cottage doors, gingerbread trim porches, and fish-scale shingles. ☀️ The architectural exception is the Ruskaup house at 711 Dorman Street. Undoubtedly the gem of the neighborhood, this 1892 brick mansion stands out among the cluster of small frame cottages. Older residents recalled that Ruskaup wanted to build his grocery and house in the newly developed Woodruff Place, but that area only permitted residences. So he purchased property on Dorman Street, on the other side of the United States Arsenal (now Arsenal Technical High School). By 1875 he had built a two-story brick grocery (and later tavern) with living space above for his family. In 1891 he hired Vonnegut & Bohn, prominent Indianapolis architects, to design his brick Dorman Street home, as well as rebuild his five rental doubles across the street which had burned in 1890. ☀️ Like Ruskaup, many of the 19th-century residents were German. Irish immigrants and a small number of African-American families also lived in the area, which remained a working class neighborhood well into the 20th century. The nearby railroad provided employment, as did veneer and furniture factories on Dorman Street, and a flour mill on Highland Avenue. Others worked as carpenters, machinists, factory workers, and tradesmen. From 1914 through the 1930s, many local men were trolley drivers from the Highland Car Barn (now Saint Clair Press) at the corner of Highland Avenue and St. Clair Street. ☀️ Typical of urban neighborhoods, Cottage Home saw a decline from the 1950s through the 1970s. As owners moved north to the suburbs, many of the houses became poorly-maintained rental properties or were demolished (the number of houses decreased from over 325 to 160). Luckily, the community experienced a steady restoration movement that began in the mid-1980s. The Cottage Home Neighborhood Association was organized in 1984 and remains one of the city's most active neighborhoods. Within the past several years, CHNA has had many successes including planting trees, creating neighborhood signs, interviewing longtime residents, relaying brick sidewalks, buying vacant lots, and removal from the flood plain. We have become a historic conservation district which provides guidelines for infill housing and protective covenants for vacant lots. A shelter has been constructed in the Community Space; this provides a wonderful place for neighborhood events and is also a source of income when rented for parties and weddings. We will soon have electricity and running water in the shelter. ☀️ We value the diversity of the neighborhood residents, mix of houses and businesses, and our wonderful historic cottages. This year, our tour celebrates 30 years of successes for the neighborhood association and showcases not only restored historic homes but new homes that are beginning to dot the streets in Cottage Home. Enjoy the tour!

For more information about Cottage Home Neighborhood, contact us at (317) 752-1816.
Or check out our web page at www.cottagehome.info



1

622 North Dorman Street

☀️ A small one-story cottage built in the mid 1870s sat on this lot for years, housing families as they raised their children. In the late 1980s the couple who lived here passed away. Their adult son stayed off and on for a few years, but ultimately the house was abandoned and taken over by the city for back taxes. It remained vacant for several more years until Ric and Kim Farinella purchased the house and began the arduous restoration process. There was little left of the home to save; a small cellar was saved and used for the mechanicals of the house. But the house itself was taken down to the studs and all new walls, floors and trim will be added. A large addition was added. And the vibrant color on the exterior let the neighborhood know that this house was once again ready to be a home.

**Ric & Kim
Farinella
House**



2

706 North Dorman Street

✿ The Ruskaup Doubles were constructed c. 1890 in a two story shotgun design. Designed by the firm of Vonnegut and Bohn, these are a series of five duplexes built for Frederick Ruskaup to house working-class families. Each house continues to retain its original shape and much detail. The houses are two stories

**Ed Norman &
Tim Parnell
House and
Garden**

with clapboard siding and brick foundations. Each house also has a truncated hipped roof, and a full width shed-roofed porch with gables over each entrance. Here, the front porch remains open and is supported by turned wooden supports with decorative spindle work. The original doors on each main entrance contain carved detailing, and transoms. The house retains one of 3 original brick chimneys, eave brackets and box gutters. ✿ The house suffered a fire in the mid-1980s resulting in the loss of flooring and stairwell on the north side. Ed and Tim use three quarters of the house and have a rental unit upstairs in the back. The house has been painstakingly restored, maintaining much of the original flooring, trim and woodwork. The mudroom and back porch are recent additions to the home. The garden features sculptural pieces made from salvaged slate from the original roof.



3

1106 E. St. Clair Street

☀️ This simple mid-1870s house, similar to many local houses, reflects the working-class character of the neighborhood. It was built as a 1 1/2 story clapboard house, sometimes called Folk Victorian (or vernacular) style. House painter William E. Hecker occupied the house from 1875 to 1899 and his widow Louisa Hecker continued to live here until about 1910. In the mid-1980s the house had three apartments and a small side room with a coin-operated washer and dryer available as a makeshift laundry room for nearby neighbors. William and Kirsten VantWoud purchased the house in the late 1980s and fully restored the home's interior and exterior, rebuilding the front porch and constructing the garage. ☀️ Current owner Sara Olds continues to improve the house and has added a screened-in back porch, and a deck. She has been working to complete her landscaping plan, adding boxwood shrubbery in the front and back yard, a dogwood and two serviceberry trees in the back yard, and 15 varieties of perennials on all sides of the house. She recently laid a stone pathway through the back yard. In 2011, she purchased a small cottage on Dorman Street, just around the corner from her home. The two back yards join, and Sara is working to combine the two yards into one.

**Sarah Olds
Garden**





4

1114 E. St. Clair Street

☀ Built c 1870, this one and one-half story, two bay, clapboard house is typical of the carpenter-cottages in the neighborhood. The wrap-around hipped porch has turned wooden supports, decorative brackets, and exposed rafters. The porch makes the house stand out from others on the block. ☀ The house was once owned by nearby Mayflower, and in the 1960's was divided into three units to be used by Mayflower drivers needing overnight accommodations. When Mayflower sold the house, it stood vacant for 17 years before Tim Harmon and Maribeth Bailey bought the house and did the initial restoration. In 1993 they sold the house to current owner Alice Taylor, who has continued to make improvements to the house.

**Alice Taylor
House**





5

725 North Dorman Street

☀️ This house, located next to the Cottage Home Park, was built in the 1870s. The Carpenter family owned the house from the 1960s through the 1990s, a time when this section of houses on Dorman Street was primarily owned by African-American families. ☀️ Chuck McDonald, a native of Elkins, West Virginia, bought the house in 2004 and embarked on his first restoration project. With the help of contractor Tom Kiemeyer, owner of Door to the Past, most of the house was gutted. Half of the wood interior trim is original, as is the front window. The large porch door was salvaged from a house in Hope, Ind. Chuck prefers colorful walls and custom-made pieces. The kitchen features ceramic tiles created by renowned ceramist Lucinda Johnson of Laredo, Texas, and modeled after tiles in a restored vaudeville theater in California. Indianapolis-based Circle City Copper made the copper kitchen sink. Most of the lighting was hand blown by Roger Crosta, a solitary glass worker located on the north Oregon coast and some of the furniture was handmade and painted by Shoestring Creations. He also collects art pottery, including Rookwood, Moorcroft, Wmyss/Griselda Hill, American studio movement, Clarice Cliff art deco pottery, and others. ☀️ Now that the interior is complete, the next phase is the landscaping. Last year, Chuck and the neighborhood association erected the picket fence between his home and the Cottage Home Park.

**Chuck
McDonald
House**