



Wright on the River

News of the Historic B. Harley Bradley House
Frank Lloyd Wright's First Prairie Design - 1900

December 2023

Tours

**2023 Tour Season
Is coming to a close!**

Saturdays: 10:00
Standard 1-hour

Sundays: 1:30
Standard 1-hour

Thursdays: 10:00 & 12:30
In-Depth, up to 2 hours

**ALL TOURS ARE BEST MADE BY
ADVANCE RESERVATION**

**For pricing or to book your
Standard or In-depth tour
online, go to:**

www.wright1900.org

**Each tour slot is limited to 12
individuals.**

❄ WINTER SCHEDULE ❄

Closed January & February
except for Off-Schedule Tours
which can be arranged on
most days/times, other than
regularly scheduled tour
times. Tours can be 9 a.m.- 4
p.m. Call 815-936-9630 or
email info@wright1900.org.

For more information call
815-936-9630.



Holiday Time at the Bradley House!

Things are bustling at the B. Harley Bradley House as we prepare for the holiday season. The rooms are gorgeously decorated with trees, wreathes, festive garlands and lights thanks to 20 of our wonderful volunteers who spent an entire day adorning spaces both inside and out. What a perfect time to treat yourself to a tour! Expecting out of town guests? Make their holiday visit memorable with the experience of touring Frank Lloyd Wright's First Prairie Design.

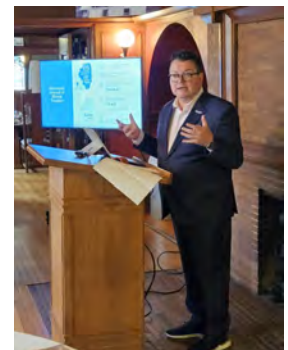


Volunteers KT Walker, Zach Becvar and Deborah Brewster

On Sunday, December 3, from 11 to 4, the Bradley House will be featured along with four additional historic homes on the Annual Riverview Historic District Holiday Housewalk. Self guided tours only on that day. Volunteers will be on hand to answer your questions. Advance tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online from the Riverview Historic District website at: <http://riverviewhistoricdistrict.org>

From the Executive Director

The Kankakee County Convention and Visitor's Bureau hosted a Roundtable Discussion in the living room of the Bradley House on October 31. Thirty two attended along with dignitaries Mayor Paul Schore - Bourbonnais, Mayor Tim Nugent - Manteno, State Representative Jackie Haas, representatives from State Senator Patrick Joyce's office along with many village, city and community leaders involved in the tourism industry. Deputy Director Daniel Thomas from the State of Illinois Department of Tourism was the guest speaker.



Bob Bohlmann

Daniel Thomas

Meet the Owners

One of the unique things about the B. Harley Bradley House is the fact that to date, it has had 11 different owners. The very first owners were B. Harley Bradley and his wife, Anna Hickox Bradley. Both were born into families of wealth. B. Harley was the grandson of David Bradley, inventor and manufacturer of plows and other farm implements. Anna and her brother Warren Hickox Jr. were the only children of affluent parents Warren Hickox Sr. and his wife Georgia. It was Warren Jr., who first met Frank Lloyd Wright at a gathering in Oak Park. At that gathering young Warren spoke with Wright about possibly designing two houses for the Kankakee River property that he and his sister Anna had inherited from the untimely death of their parents. Wright, 32 years old at the time, explained a new custom house plan he was contemplating for the prairie landscape. A follow-up meeting between Wright and the young, influential, and wealthy Bradley and Hickox families led Wright to realize his opportunity to exercise complete control over the interior and furnishings in his new design which would be built on scenic riverfront property in the prestigious Riverview District.

Wright visited the property in the winter of 1900. As he walked the property with his young clients, he stopped, pulled an envelope from his pocket, flipped it over, and began sketching. Moments later, Wright presented the façade of the Warren Hickox Jr. house. On the basis of that sketch, the Bradley and Hickox families awarded contracts to design both houses.

B. Harley, Anna and their 6-year old adopted daughter Margaret moved into the Bradley House in the spring of 1901. B. Harley's parents, Byron and Alice Bradley moved in as well. Two young immigrants, Anna Shultz and Emma Dahn occupied the servant's

quarters and assisted in running the busy household.

It was only eleven years later when the economy shifted and the David Bradley Manufacturing Company did not recover. As a result, the family sought a new start and relocated to Onawa, Iowa.

The ownership of the Bradley home was a complete departure from the traditions of the day. Anna Hickox Bradley's name, and her name alone, appears on the deed as sole original owner. Married women rarely possessed property in their names in 1900. Despite Anna's sole ownership of the house, Wright titled the construction drawings:

Dwelling for B. Harley Bradley, Esq.

Resource: *The B. Harley Bradley House: Frank Lloyd Wright's Flagship Prairie Design* by Laura Golowski. The book is for sale in the Giftshop, \$34.95.



Anna Hickox Bradley and B. Harley Bradley



B. Harley Bradley House, 1900

YOGA @ FRANK'S

Sundays, December 10, February 4.

Registration required. Donation based practice.
Limited space within this beautiful historic home.

For more information
email info@wright1900.org
or call 815-936-9630

Tour Visitors from 50 States!

In September, we welcomed, Karen & Paul Kirschling to the Bradley House. Karen & Paul traveled here from Jackson Wyoming. Their visit completed our quest to receive visitors from all 50 states! Visitors from 29 countries have also walked through the front doors of Frank Lloyd Wright's first Prairie Design.



Karen, Bob Bohlmann, & Paul

**Please consider including Wright in Kankakee in your estate planning.
For more information call the Bradley House office 815-936-9630.**