



Wright on the River

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

March 2024

Tours

2024 Tour Season is OPEN!

Saturdays: 10:00
Standard 1-hour

Sundays: 1:30
Standard 1-hour

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

**TOURS ARE BEST MADE BY
ADVANCE RESERVATION**

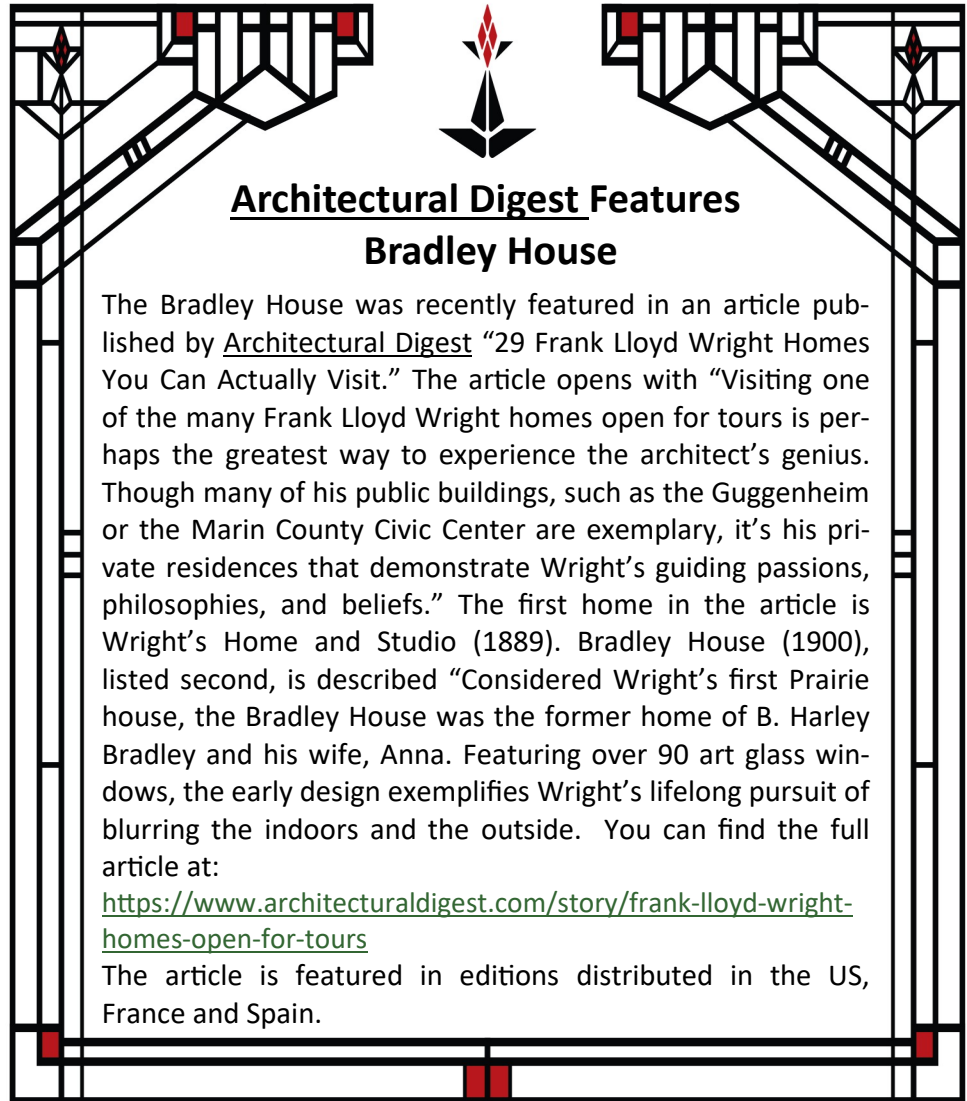
**For pricing or to book your
Standard or In-depth tour
online, go to:**

www.wright1900.org

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

Off-Schedule Tours can be arranged on most days/times, other than regularly scheduled tour times. Tours can be scheduled between 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Call the number below or email: info@wright1900.org.

**For more information call
815-936-9630.**



Architectural Digest Features Bradley House

The Bradley House was recently featured in an article published by Architectural Digest "29 Frank Lloyd Wright Homes You Can Actually Visit." The article opens with "Visiting one of the many Frank Lloyd Wright homes open for tours is perhaps the greatest way to experience the architect's genius. Though many of his public buildings, such as the Guggenheim or the Marin County Civic Center are exemplary, it's his private residences that demonstrate Wright's guiding passions, philosophies, and beliefs." The first home in the article is Wright's Home and Studio (1889). Bradley House (1900), listed second, is described "Considered Wright's first Prairie house, the Bradley House was the former home of B. Harley Bradley and his wife, Anna. Featuring over 90 art glass windows, the early design exemplifies Wright's lifelong pursuit of blurring the indoors and the outside. You can find the full article at:

<https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/frank-lloyd-wright-homes-open-for-tours>

The article is featured in editions distributed in the US, France and Spain.

From the Executive Director — Historic Find!

Steve Small, the eighth owner of the Bradley House from 1986 to 1987 had retained Chicago architect, John Eifler, to prepare drawings for the restoration and re-adaptation of the Bradley House to its original condition. Frank Lloyd Wright enthusiasts, Alex Srisuwan and his wife Sawyer Baker found a copy of the eighteen drawing set at an antique store in Charlotte, NC. In February, the couple traveled all the way from Rock Hill South Carolina to hand deliver the drawings and to take a private tour. We plan to develop a display for these historic documents along with Frank Lloyd Wright's original drawings copies. Thank you Alex and Sawyer!



Bob Bohlmann, Alex Srisuwan and Sawyer Baker.

Bob Bohlmann

Meet the Owners



Albert E. Cook

One of the unique things about the B. Harley Bradley House is the fact that to date, it has had 11 different owners. The first owners were featured in our last newsletter. In this article we focus on Albert E. Cook, who purchased the house from Anna and B. Harley Bradley. Cook's family was well acquainted with the Bradleys, as the patriarchs of both families farmed in Lake County, Illinois in the 1850's.

Cook owned over 400 acres spanning the Kankakee and Bradley communities and extensive properties in Iowa. He became sole owner of the Brookmont Farm his father, Charles Willard Cook, had established in 1873 in Iowa. Because the Cooks primarily used David Bradley Farm implements, the ties between the two families remained strong. In 1908, as Albert's interest shifted to his business holdings in Illinois, he began breaking up his Iowa properties. In the meant-



Barns located just off Brookmont Boulevard are still visible today. Nearby Cook Street is likely a nod to Cook's Iowa farm.

time, a shift in the 1910 economy occurred and the David Bradley Manufacturing Company did not recover and the Bradley's were languishing. Cook proposed to them a trade. In exchange for the Bradley home and furnishings, the Bradley's would receive \$1 and 522 acres of prime Iowa farmland near Onawa, Iowa. In 1912 the Bradley's accepted Cook's offer and moved to Iowa. Cook described his new residence as "a working-man's paradise" in the June 29, 1915 edition of the *Kankakee Republican*. In 1919 he started using the long livestock barns he built along the railroad tracks in Bradley as his workshop for a new project, The Cook Motor Corporation. Cook bought automobiles, cut off the backs, strengthened the suspensions, and added flatbed bodies. He called his invention the Cook truck and built some of the first pick-up trucks for farmers whose needs he understood.



Cook Truck

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

Special Occasions Require Special Venues!

What could be more special than hosting your personal or business event at the Bradley House, surrounded by the gracious designs of Frank Lloyd Wright?

Contact us at [815-936-9630](tel:815-936-9630) or info@wright1900.org to discuss your plans!

Summer Solstice Sip, Shop & Stroll

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Music · Food · Gardens

House and Gift Shop will be open.

Relax by the beautiful Kankakee River.

Tickets available soon www.wright1900.org

Women of the Bradley House

Thursday, March 28, 2024— 6 p.m.

Kankakee Public Library

Third Floor - Free

Program given by Laura Golowski, Author of

"The B. Harley Bradley House:
Frank Lloyd Wright's Flagship Prairie Design"

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