

Pagan-Fletcher Restoration Tour Script

Construction/Remodeling/Restoration Phases (PENDING/UNDER REVIEW)	Eras of Occupancy
<p>Phase I: 1840/41</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pagan either moved into or built small house on property 	<p>Pagan Era: 1840-1873</p>
<p>Phase II: 1880s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● William built two-story home on once owned Pagan property ● coal-fired furnace, chimney, and coal bin installed on west side of house ● barn erected on west side of house 	<p>Fletcher Era: 1873-1883 Fletcher Descendants Era: 1883-1923</p>
<p>Phase III: 1900-1923</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● southwest rooms on first and second floors extended 8' south ● wrap-around porch removed ● west side bedroom on second floor split in two; two closets added after enlargement ● closet added to east side bedroom ● roof raised ● Greek Revival/Colonial façade and columns added; façade now flush with foyer and parlor creating a uniform front ● icebox room added behind kitchen on north side of house ● house modernized with plumbing and electricity ● two French doors replace two windows in parlor leading to portico ● removable screens enclosed the portico during the summer ● two bedrooms added above the portico on the east side of house ● room on northeast side of second floor converted to bathroom (modern-day kitchen) ● small room on south side converted to bathroom (modern-day office) 	<p>Fletcher Descendants Era: 1883-1923 Fairchild Era: 1923-1948 – Louis: 1923-1942 – Emil: 1942-1948</p>
<p>Phase IV: 1948-1977</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● plaster walls covered with paneling ● floors/stairs covered with linoleum ● door and wall moldings removed and replaced with glued on plywood ● antique door hardware removed (except for third floor); new holes drilled into doors for building-grade hardware ● light fixtures removed (except for the one in attic bathroom) and replaced with building-grade fixtures ● rooms on first floor converted to storage area for building supplies ● rooms on second floor divided and converted into small offices ● vault installed in basement; alarm system in various rooms ● barn and remaining sheds demolished 	<p>Lynwood Housing Corp. Era: 1948-1960 Valley Stream Terrace Corp. Era: 1960-1977 (Lynwood and VS Housing are one and same company; both owned by Philip Lynn)</p>

<p>Phase V: 1978-1992 (Restoration did not begin until 1988)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● house left vacant since 1970c ● cedar roof leaked, damaging floors and walls with mold ● roof replaced, floors repaired/replaced ● walls ripped down to studs: updated plumbing, electrical, heating, and sprinkler systems installed to code; only the walls on the third floor are original plaster adorned with Fairchild murals ● linoleum removed from floors and stair risers; wood floors repaired or replaced ● stair bull-noses, balusters, and railings repaired and/or replaced ● two east side bedrooms on the second floor above portico demolished (date not confirmed) ● two west side bedrooms on the second floor converted back to one bedroom; northern bedroom door removed and walled over ● moldings on doors and walls replaced ● surviving antique doorknobs on attic level removed and relocated to the first floor after plugging up holes left after removing building-grade hardware; other vintage doorknobs (wood, porcelain, crystal, brass) were purchased at flea markets and antique stores to replace originals that were destroyed ● light fixtures replaced with Victorian era pieces found in flea-markets ● fireplace in parlor rebuilt ● east side bathroom on second floor converted to kitchen ● south side bathroom on second floor converted to office ● west side bedroom closet removed to make modern-day office larger 	<p>Restoration 1988-1992</p>
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Introduction

The Pagans

In June 1834, the Pagan family, which included Robert, his wife Ellen, and their four young children, emigrated from Scotland to America. Their youngest, Agnes, age one, died at sea. It is believed that the family lived in Brooklyn before settling in Fosters Meadow, or *“the area Near Rockaway”* ca. 1840. In 1841, Pagan purchased 78 acres, which extended north to Dutch Broadway and south to Merrick Road. He either bought or built a modest dwelling on modern-day Hendrickson Avenue. A former miner, Pagan took up farming and grew rye, buckwheat, oats, corn, and potatoes.

In 1852, around the time the general store opened, Ellen Pagan, a devout evangelical with Methodist leanings, opened her home to fellow worshippers, and conducted religious services. Before that time, worshippers had to travel to Fosters Meadow Methodist-Episcopalian Church in Elmont; or the Sand Hole Church, also Methodist, in Lynbrook. Both were considerable distances away. Because there weren't enough believers in the area to warrant a full-time religious instructor, itinerant evangelical ministers were employed. In 1872, a Union Church (serving more than one religion) was built a short distance to the east of the homestead, on the corner of Wheeler and Corona avenues, and services were moved there. In the 1880s, the Union Church became Methodist and informally referred to as Sinner's Hope Chapel. In 1904, Sinners Hope was officially named Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, and the congregation moved to a new church building on W. Fairview and S. Franklin avenues. A third and final edifice was built on W. Lincoln and S. Franklin avenues. Grace United Methodist Church, its most recent name, is the oldest congregation in Valley Stream.

By 1854, the general store was well under way, and Pagan sold 63 acres, and kept fifteen. He continued to farm on the smaller acreage and to run the store with the help of his grown son, James.

The Fletchers

From the late 1850s through the 1870s, Pagan's son-in-law, William Fletcher, married to Pagan's daughter Catherine, bought land north and south of Hendrickson Avenue - land that once belonged to Pagan. Fletcher acquired the property through several transactions, although none of the land was obtained directly from Pagan. Catherine and William Fletcher summered in Valley Stream; their year-round residence was in NYC. William's parents, his brother James, and sister Elizabeth lived in Valley Stream full-time, south of Hendrickson Avenue - where Central High and Memorial High stand today. Catherine Fletcher and Ellen Pagan passed away in 1874 and 1875, respectively. After William's passing in 1883, his property and summer residence, today known as the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration, went to his heirs.

The Fletchers, also of Scottish descent, immigrated to the States in 1829, fifteen years before the Pagans. They settled in NYC, where William and his brother Andrew worked as foundry machinists. In 1853, the Fletcher brothers, along with another machinist, formed a shipbuilding company, where they designed and manufactured engines and steam boilers. In 1890, seven years after William's passing, Andrew moved the business across the Hudson to Hoboken. By then, W. & A. Fletcher Co. was building vessels. They were one of the world's leading marine engineer companies in the country. In 1905, Andrew Fletcher passed away. The business continued to flourish under the leadership of William's and Andrew's sons. The company endured until the mid-1930s, when it was sold to Bethlehem Steel's shipbuilding division. Bethlehem shuttered in 1983 and the defunct shipyard underwent gentrification. Today, all that remains of the shipbuilding era is the Fletcher Machine Shop; now home to the beautiful Hoboken Historical Museum. It's the oldest and only surviving building on the waterfront.



Fletcher Machine Shop - built 1890
Hoboken Historical Museum - est. 1986
1301 Hudson Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030

The Fairchilds

The final family to live in the homestead were the Fairchilds; related to the Pagans through marriage. In 1898 and 1904, two Boyd sisters, granddaughters of the Pagans, married two Fairchild brothers. The Fairchild family, fourth generation Americans, owned Fairchild Publications, the publishers of "*Women's Wear Daily*," considered the 'bible' of the fashion industry. From 1923 to 1942, Louis Fairchild, his children, and extended family summered at 143 Hendrickson Avenue. (Louis' wife, Jessie, passed away the year the family took up residency.) In 1942, the Louis Fairchild family left, and another brother, Emil (not married to a Boyd sister) moved in full-time. Emil, Martha, and their three grown children: Donald, Gordon, and Jane, all lived in the house. Donald, the eldest, crayoned murals on the third floor landing, hall, and bathroom.

Lynwood Housing Corp./Valley Stream Housing Corp.

In 1948, a year after Emil's passing, the house, and remaining 10 acres were sold to the Lynwood Housing Corp. Between 1949 and 1950, Lynwood built Lynwood Gardens, a mid-century community of 49 homes. Lynwood used the old Fletcher estate for storage and office space. The house to the east of the Restoration was the model home. During Lynwood's occupancy, many of the original features of the home were stripped, damaged or destroyed. Initially, it has been said, Lynwood wanted to tear down the house and build another in its place (making the number of houses an even 50). In 1953, Philip Lynne, co-owner of Lynwood Housing Corp. formed another co-owned development company, Valley Stream Terrace Corp., which built most of North Woodmere.

Village of Valley Stream

In 1977, the Village of Valley Stream, under the leadership of Mayor Dominick Minerva, authorized the purchase of the foreclosed home for \$40,000; rescuing it from demolition.

In 1983, the Fletcher estate was placed on the National and New York State Register of Historic Places. From 1988 to 1992, the building was renovated and restored. Funds were raised by the Valley Stream Historical Society, tenants of the Village-owned property. The Pagan-Fletcher Restoration is operated by the historical society and maintained by the Village of Valley Stream.

FIRST FLOOR

Foyer (then)

General Store (now)

Note the parquet trimmed floor, the leaded glass fanlight above the entry door, and the leaded glass sidelights on either side of the door. The Greek façade and columns were constructed prior to 1916 when the west side dining room, now the Exhibit Room, was extended eight feet south, creating a front that was flush with the rest of the house. The flooring, fanlight and sidelights were restored during the Restoration Era. The front door was recently replaced.

During the Emil Fairchild occupancy (1942-1948), the foyer was empty of furniture and contained only a Superheterodyne radio (a technology invented in 1917 that removed unwanted frequencies), situated to the left of the staircase. The Fairchilds didn't use the front door for their comings and goings; they used the door leading to the kitchen, on the west side of the house, as that was where they parked their automobiles.

The foyer is now used as a Reception Room and General Store, where history books, postcards, totes, Christmas ornaments, mugs, and candy are sold. Our walls are adorned with plaques that recognize past historical society presidents, donors, and volunteers. Mabel Dibble Ackerly, a member of Pagan family, and one who was instrumental in forming the historical society and securing this building, is honored here; as are the Fairchilds, who made generous cash donations in addition to gifting furniture that once belonged to the house. Note the National Register of Historic Places plaque on the north wall. The model of the Restoration was created by Angela Schultz, a historical society member. The General Store helps support the historical society and our projects, so please consider purchasing something before you leave.

Parlor (then)

Fairchild Room (now)

Welcome to the Parlor, or Fairchild Room, named in honor of the Fairchild family, the final residents of the house.

Of all the rooms in the house, the Fairchild Room, restored to the Victorian period, contains the most prized possessions. Three pieces of hand-carved dark mahogany furniture, original to the Fairchild Era, were removed when the family moved out. The oval foyer table (center), pigeon-holed desk (north wall), and matching chair were donated back in 1990.

The flooring in the parlor once matched the flooring in the foyer; it was replaced in the early 1900s. The room, difficult to heat, was used only on special occasions and during summer; it was closed off in the colder months. The Fairchilds replaced the two windows on the east side of the parlor with French doors, allowing access to the outdoors. The fireplace was restored during the Restoration Era.

Notables:

- secretary - 1850
- gilt clock - 1870
- watercolor of building before restoration (consider moving the watercolor of the Restoration to the bedroom on second floor, as it prominently features the two bedrooms above the portico)
- Boardman clock with wooden face, gears - 1810-1840
- Wheeler Avenue school books - 1870s
- platform rocker - 1880s
- RCA Victor Victrola, still in working order
- rocker - 1860
- wall clock - made from all wooden parts that needs daily rewinding - 1810-40
- dolls (2) in vintage carriage - 1900
- wicker stroller - 1850; the stroller comes with an interesting provenance, provided by the donor: *“originally used for a baby boy (who later became a captain in the Confederate Army) that a slave cared for in the South. The slave, who was freed after the Civil War, used the stroller to transport her belongings to an Indiana farm where she worked as a free person.”*

Pantry

The pantry was used for food storage and prep, clean-up, and as a serving station, it was conveniently located next to the dining room. In the Fairchild Era years, servants were employed. A paging system, where bells would ring in various rooms summoning the help, was located in the pantry. During the Restoration Era, the paging system was moved to the kitchen for display.

The pantry contains a zinc-lined sink, a material known for its excellent thermal properties. The pantry did not originally have a stove. The 1920 gas stove that you are looking at, manufactured by Estate Stove Co. in Ohio, was purchased at an estate sale and gifted to the society by a generous donor. The battery-operated wall telephone was manufactured in Milwaukee in the late 1800s. It, too, was gifted to the society. When the phone was opened for rewiring, a repair slip from 1905 was found inside! A small radiator was also in the pantry, it has since been moved to the kitchen.

Original to the room are the built-in cabinets which were removed, refinished, and reinstalled during the Restoration Era. The white porcelain doorknob on the closet door is original to the house, although it was formerly on the third floor. Lynwood had replaced all the doorknobs with building grade hardware, except for the ones on the third floor. During the Restoration Era, all the doorknobs on the third floor were moved to the first floor, where they could be better appreciated. Flea markets and estate sales were scoured for Victorian era replacements and installed on the remaining doors.

Here we have an account book and a string holder for tying packages. Both belonged to E. H. Golder*, the proprietor of Golder’s Grocery Store, which was located on the east side of Rockaway Avenue, south of Sunrise Highway. The local children loved Golder! On snowy days he would hitch their sleighs to the back of the wagon and ride them around while making deliveries. These two shaving mugs also belonged to Golder. They were kept at Ruehl’s Barbershop, located across the street from Golder’s Grocery.

Notables:

- sterling mug - belonged to William Fletcher's daughter, who was a granddaughter to Robert Pagan
- E.H. Golder shaving mugs (consider moving Golder's shaving mugs to the bathroom on the third floor, as they don't belong in a pantry. The bathroom has very few items and could use another talking point.)
- gold-trimmed dishes - 1775c
- wicker-covered bottle and baskets - 1800s
- flatware box - 1883
- coffee and tea sets - 1888
- tole tray (iron) - 1899
- canisters - 1900
- copper-colored pitcher - 1900
- bottles - some found on property, some donated
- wooden egg carrier
- Pope Gosser china set
- butter churn
- dough mixer

* Consider framing the photo we have of Golder and his horse-drawn grocery wagon, and hanging it in the pantry near the book and string holder.

Kitchen

This cast-iron coal-burning stove is original to the Fairchild Era. Note the chimney behind it: it's only partially visible from the outside, as another room was added on. Also note the concrete blocks under the stove, protecting the floor from hot coals. The Fairchilds eventually replaced the coal stove with a gas stove. But, they kept the coal stove and gifted it to the society in the 1990s. Coal use, however, was not dispensed of entirely when they got the new stove. The Fairchilds also had a small coal-burning pot-belly stove that was used to heat the room.

Two large tubs stood on the east wall where household laundry was done. The tubs were also used for bathing. Doing laundry was a time-consuming process, usually taking a day to complete. In the early years, water was pumped from an outside well and carried into the house. As you can imagine, this was an arduous task. In later years, around the turn of the century, there was a pipe that lead from the well directly into the kitchen, connecting to a hand-pump in the tubs. In the 1920s, when the house was modernized, a water tank was installed in the cellar.

When washing machines came onto the market they were placed in rooms that were already plumbed and wired with electricity—such as kitchens. This 1925 Savage Washer & Dryer is made of copper, another material known for its thermal properties. It was the first spin-dry machine of its kind. To the left of the washer is an earlier laundry apparatus, a wringer or “wrangler,” which squeezes water out of material after hand-washing. This one, gifted to the Restoration, was made by the American Wringer Co. in Woonsocket, RI.

The cast-iron, three-tiered radiator you see on the east wall was located in the pantry, original to the Fairchild Era. It was first fueled by coal, then oil. The radiator, in addition to heating the room, doubled as a plate and pot warmer. As mentioned, the house was equipped with a paging system, comprised of different sounding bells that were mounted on various door frames throughout the house. When a bell was rung, the sound would carry to the pantry, summoning the help. Ted Libath, past president of the historical society and chair of the Restoration Committee, mounted all the bells on a single board in the kitchen so that visitors could ring them. The sink below the paging system is not original to the room, but the kitchen cabinet/cupboard on the west wall is. There is only one closet on the first floor, here it is.

Notables:

- high chair
- early electric iron
- carpet beater
- maple syrup warmer, looks like a kettle
- coffee grinder
- milk carrier

Icebox Room

If at first glance you see a beautifully crafted piece of furniture, and not a household appliance, you wouldn't be mistaken. The icebox was invented in 1802 by an American farmer and cabinetmaker, Thomas Moore. This ca. 1904 icebox was manufactured by the Bohn Syphon Refrigerator company in St. Paul, MN. Made of oak with brass hardware, the interior walls are lined in zinc, again, for its excellent thermal properties. It is original to the Fairchild Era.

In the very early Pagan years, the 1840s through 1850s, ice came from Cornell's Pond, the pond south of the house; now known as Valley Stream Pond. After the pond was turned over to the Brooklyn Waterworks in the late 1850s, the water was sourced from Springfield (Gardens). Harvested ice was cut into blocks and stored in an icehouse on the corner of W. Merrick Rd. and Waldinger St. Once or twice a year, large blocks of ice that were stored in the Merrick Rd. icehouse were delivered by horse and wagon to small icehouses located close to home kitchens. The icehouse for this property was located just outside the door. Once delivered, the ice was buried in sawdust. In the early part of the 20th century, "artificial" ice became mainstream. Instead of harvesting ice from ponds, it was mechanically manufactured in factories and delivered to homes every four to five days. The ice went directly into the icebox, rendering residential icehouses obsolete, as there was no longer a need for long-term storage. After World War II, iceboxes, for the most part, were a thing of the past.

Gordon Fairchild, the last resident of the homestead, recounts: *"I got tired of emptying the drip pan beneath the icebox, so I cut a hole in the icebox and floor, and let the water drain directly into the ground."*

Note the lovely wainscoting on the walls and the vintage glass bottles; some were found on the property, others donated.

Dining Room (then)

Exhibit Room/Buckley Room (now)

Before the turn of the last century, this room was shorter by eight feet on its southern, street-facing side. A front porch wrapped around the house, zig-zagging along the contours of the building. Used for dining and living space, a coal-fired pot-belly stove stood in the room's center, keeping everyone warm and comfortable. As mentioned, the parlor to its east was drafty and not used year-round.

Prior to 1916 the southern wall of the room was extended eight feet, creating a façade flush with the foyer and parlor. The pot-belly stove was removed (possibly moved to the kitchen) and a fireplace took its place on the west wall. The room above us was also extended eight feet; if you look up, you can see the supporting beam on the ceiling, as that was where the room originally ended. The roof was raised and a Greek Revival façade with stately columns added, creating a uniform front. Gordon Fairchild remembers this room fondly. *"The room included a big round table and a sideboard on the southern side where dad used to slice up the roast beef for Sunday dinners....and the big, beautiful fireplace always kept us comfortable."*

Above the fireplace is a framed image of Henry Waldinger, taken in the 1940s. Waldinger served as mayor on and off (mostly on!) from 1925, the year the Village was incorporated; until 1966, the year of his passing. He served 15 terms for a total of 28 years. Waldinger was the first Honorary Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department. Affectionately known as "Uncle Henry," Waldinger had great compassion for others and considered his service as mayor the greatest honor of his life. In 1968, six years after the Valley Stream Library opened on Central Avenue, and two years after Uncle Henry's passing, it was renamed the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library.

The room now serves as exhibition space where permanent and changing exhibits are showcased. Each of the eight exhibit panels surrounding the room takes us through the stages of Valley Stream's development from the 1600s through the 1950s. The high wheeler, or "penny-farthing", that stands in the corner next to the bicycle panel was a popular bike in the 1870s and 1880s. It became obsolete in the late 1880s, when the modern bicycle, or "safety bicycle," similar to the ones we have now, came into existence. During the 1890s through the 1910s, bicycling for competition and pleasure was all the craze in Valley Stream. Men, women, and children all took to the road. For women, especially, it was a gender-empowering opportunity that allowed them to ride competitively with men setting many records for speed and endurance. Merrick Rd. was the main drag, chosen for its smooth riding surface. Hotels and racing tracks dotted the road, catering to wheeling enthusiasts.

The propeller on the north wall below the display case was used on single-engine planes before jets were invented.

Please note the "Valley Stream Sanitarium" sign. The sanitarium was a nursing home on Merrick Rd., west of Central Avenue. It opened in 1940 and closed in 1959. Founded by a woman doctor, it was eventually taken over by her son, Daniel Houlihan (1923-2005). In addition to running the nursing home, Houlihan, he was a teacher at Wheeler, Corona (James A. Dever), and Howell avenue schools. In 1998, Houlihan wrote a memoir, and many of the chapters were about growing up in Valley Stream. We have his book in the library on the second floor.

In 2016, the room was formerly renamed the Buckley Room, in honor of Jim Buckley, member, curator, record keeper, Restoration worker, and Chairman Emeritus of the Valley Stream Historical Society.

Notables:

- Seth Thomas clock - 1890s
- child's school desk/chair, 1930s
- phone booth

SECOND FLOOR

Second Floor Stairwell and Hall

The stairs are original to the house. During the Lynwood Housing Corp. Era, the bullnoses were clipped, and the risers were covered in linoleum. During the Restoration Era, the bullnoses were replaced, and the linoleum removed. The existing balusters and railing were repaired or replaced where needed. Additional railing was added for safety, as well as for keeping hands off the wall. The 1890s full-length mirror once resided in a Brooklyn brownstone. It was donated, somewhat reluctantly, by a village trustee, its proportions too grand for his smaller home.

Of the three floors, the second, by far, has undergone the most change and damage. During the Lynwood Housing Corp. Era, the rooms on the second floor were divided and converted into small offices. The plaster walls were covered in paneling and the floors with linoleum. Original door and wall moldings were torn off and replaced with glued on plywood.

During the Restoration Era, the paneling was removed, revealing original plaster walls. But like all the walls in the house, save the ones on the third floor, the walls, now sheet rocked, were taken down to their studs for rewiring and new plumbing. The linoleum flooring was removed from the second floor hall, revealing beautiful wood flooring, thought to be original to the building. The moldings were also removed and replaced with styles more in keeping with the age of the house.

And, as surprising as this may sound, the second floor once contained seven bedrooms and two bathrooms! Later, the northeast bedroom was converted into a third bathroom, as summer residents for the first half of the Fairchild Era, extended family and weekend guests enjoyed visiting the "country."

Notables:

- tapestry - 1800s
- local family photos from the turn of the twentieth century
- photos and sketch of the homestead
- World War II Honor Roll Plaque
- trunk and quilts

Bathroom

This north side bathroom is believed to be one of two original bathrooms installed when the house was modernized. The bathroom, remodeled during the Restoration Era, is the only working bathroom in the house. The other original bathroom is directly above on the third floor.

Bedroom converted to Bathroom (then)**Kitchen** (now)

The Louis Fairchild family converted this room into a bathroom. It was the largest bathroom in the house. They also added two bedrooms on the east side, on the other side of this wall, above the portico. The northern bedroom was accessible through a door in the bathroom's east wall. During the Restoration Era, both bedrooms, flimsy in construction, were demolished because of rot and water damage. The door leading to the now extinct bedroom was patched. The bathroom was converted into a working kitchen for the historical society.

Gordon Fairchild Bedroom (then)**Guest Bedroom** (now)

Gordon Fairchild, and later his wife, Hildegard, occupied this bedroom. The room contains a rare closet, as opposed to the more common free-standing wardrobes of the Victorian era. The closet was most probably added during the Fairchild Era. The flooring was destroyed and rebuilt with remnants from other rooms and new lumber. The chimney that passed through this room had an opening, allowing heat to circulate in the room. During the Restoration Era, an ornamental grill was placed over the opening.

There was a bedroom to the east of this room, above the portico, matching the one that was next to the (now) kitchen. **(Consider moving the watercolor of the building that is in the Fairchild Room to this bedroom so that visitors can see what the two bedrooms above the portico looked like.)** The bedroom was accessed by a door similar to the one you see now (not original). The two bedrooms above the portico also had an interior door connecting the two rooms. As mentioned, the two bedrooms were demolished during the Restoration Era.

The pineapple-carved, mahogany, four-poster bed; and the two dressers with mirrors were donated by the Fairchilds. Like other Fairchild donated pieces, the bed and dressers originally resided in the house.

The commode was purchased from the Stiles Tavern (est. 1814) in Thompson, CT. * The baby in the picture is Ted Libath. The quilt on the bed was made by the Malverne Piecemakers, a local quilting group. The dried flowers on the dresser is a "Tussie Mussie Bouquet." In Victorian times they were carried by unmarried women in lieu of jewelry. The small bouquets were used as a buffer for unpleasant smells, people of that era did not bathe regularly. Homes did not have indoor plumbing, which made bathing inconvenient and time-consuming.

Notables:

- wash stand
- rocker
- spinning wheel - 1890s (consider moving to Sewing Room on third floor)
- wool carder that was used to prepare fibers to be used as textiles - 1840s (consider moving to Sewing Room on third floor)
- buttonhooks for high button shoes
- hairpins, spectacles, baby shoes & men's collars

* On the commode is a card that says "George Washington's coach stopped at the Vernon Styles (correct spelling is Stiles) Restaurant—where the potty chair came." In the script it states: "George Washington slept at the Vernon Styles." Neither is true. In 1814, the Stiles Tavern was built in Thompson, CT. It changed names and became known as the Vernon Stiles Inn and then the White Horse Inn. George Washington was born in 1732 and died in 1797, so he could not have slept there.

Nursery (then)

Storage (now)

In 1941, Gordon Fairchild married. He brought his wife, Martha to the homestead. Their daughter Nancy was born the following year. In 1945, their son Stephen was born, and this was his nursery. The room is now used for storage.

Bathroom (then)

Office (now)

Yet another bathroom! This was the most recent bathroom added to the house, in existence at least since the Fairchild Era. It is now the historical society office.

Bedroom(s) (then)

Meeting Room/Libath Room (now)

The room is unique, construction-wise, as it was built with reclaimed lumber—repurposed mortise and tenon joints from an earlier building(s), possibly Pagan's small home. When the first floor dining room was extended eight feet, so was this room. After the room was enlarged, it was split into two bedrooms and a closet for each was added. If you look up, you can see the ceiling beam—that is where the room originally ended and where the wall separated the two bedrooms.

During the Fairchild Era, when the Louis Fairchild family summered here, the southern bedroom, facing the street, was occupied by Louis (his wife passed away that year). His daughter Louise occupied the northern bedroom, facing the backyard. Her room was painted violet. In 1942, when the Emil Fairchilds moved in, Emil and Martha occupied the southern room, and their daughter, Jane, and her soon-to-be husband, occupied the northern room.

During the Restoration Era, the wall separating the two bedrooms was removed, reverting the space to one room. The bedroom door for the room facing the backyard was removed, and the wall patched. And the closet that faced the front of the house was removed in order to make the office larger. As mentioned earlier, the plaster walls were taken down to their studs for rewiring and plumbing. Because of the odd-sized materials used to build this room, the carpenters faced many challenges. Wood jutted out at odd angles, which made the remodeling difficult.

In 2003, the room was named the Libath Room, in honor of Theodore O. Libath, past president of the historical society and chair of the Restoration Committee. Libath passed away earlier that year. An oil painting of Ted hangs on the north wall. The room currently functions as a library, meeting room, and event space. The bookcases contain a collection of Valley Stream school yearbooks, books written by Valley Streamers, and photo albums. Frederic Wiedersum, the Valley Stream architect who designed Central High School in 1929 (and all the public schools in Valley Stream, post WWII), gifted these eagle molds to Bert Keller, assistant principal at Central High and past historical society president. The

molds are miniature versions of the eagles on Central's clock tower. Mr. Keller donated the molds to the society. On the walls are vintage real estate maps of early Valley Stream.

THIRD FLOOR

Third Floor Stairwell and Hall

WARNING: WE ASK THAT YOU NOT TOUCH THE WALLS - BUT, PLEASE ADMIRE THE MURALS!

Donald Fairchild, the eldest son of Emil and Martha Fairchild, crayoned and chalked many of the murals on the third floor stairwell, hallway, and bathroom. He did not live in the house for the entire time his family lived here, however (1942-1948). Fairchild, a *bon vivant*, lived life on his own terms. He dropped out of Columbia U. and moved to Paris during the Roaring Twenties, married, had two children, divorced. He led a lavish life and liked to party. He was similar to F. Scott Fitzgerald's fictional character, Jay Gatsby. In fact, Fairchild published his own "Great Gatsby" type novel, "Intimate Acrobatics" in 1927, two years after Fitzgerald published his. The principal main characters in his book were attractive, privileged young adults without a care in the world. In the late 1990s, Marshall Anderson, a commercial artist, Valley Stream resident, and member of the historical society, restored the murals. The third floor hall and bathroom have the only original plaster walls in the building. They were left "as is" – ensuring future generations the opportunity to enjoy Donald's art.

The two paper mache dolls were made in Germany in the 1860s. They belonged to Hattie Miller (1865-1961) and her sister, Anne. The sisters lived on Merrick Road, where King Kullen stands today. Hattie, a resident for over eight decades, was a popular figure in Valley Stream. A philanthropist, she hosted large receptions and teas in her stately home, while raising money for her favorite charities. Hattie's niece Marion DuBois, an art teacher at Central High (see frame on wall) donated the dolls. The two handkerchief dolls are from the Civil War era; material was scarce, handkerchiefs were used instead of cloth. The doll cradle is from the 1860s, the child's rocker from 1870.

Donald Fairchild's Living Room (then)

Volunteer Fire Department Room (now)

This room's ceiling was not always this high. When the west side of the house was extended eight feet south, and the roof raised, so was this ceiling. Behind the wall you can see the original eave/roof gable of the first roof. Note the lovely lead-glass half-fan windows.

Donald Fairchild, the Muralist, was given the third floor. This was his living room. During the Lynwood Housing Corp. Era, this room was used to store valuables. Lynwood secured the room with heavy locks and a battery-operated push button alarm on the door. There were four other alarms throughout the house.

The quilt was made in 1902 by the wives of the Nassau Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 members. It contains over 467 signatures of the 160 families living in Valley Stream that year. Back in the day, it was common to host a dinner at the local firehouse. Everyone who attended would sign their name on a fabric square for the quilt. The wives would embroider over the names and piece the quilt together. Eventually, the quilt would be raffled off as a prize. Authentic pieces like these are priceless.

The room is now used to display Valley Stream Volunteer Fire Department memorabilia from all the engine companies in Valley Stream.

Notables:

- honorary fire chief helmet given to Mayor Henry Waldinger
- oil painting of E.H. Golder, first foreman of VS Fire Department
- fire department photos and memorabilia
- aerial views of Valley Stream - 1940s (consider moving aerials to a wall where they can be viewed at eye-level)

Servant's Bathroom, Louis Fairchild Era (then)**Donald Fairchild's Bathroom, Emil Fairchild Era** (then)

This original bathroom, one of two, was installed when the building was owned and inhabited by the Fairchilds. When the Louis Fairchild family summered here in the 1920s and early 1930s, servants were employed. The Emil Fairchild family, however, did not employ live-in help. The bathroom and servant's quarters were both used by Donald when he came to visit. You can see more of Donald's handiwork in this bathroom. Note that some of the art is not like the drawings in the hall. Marshall Anderson, who restored the murals, added his own illustrations, mostly to cover areas on the wall and ceiling that were damaged. The Staten Island Ferry, the Statue of Liberty, the seagulls, and the rainbow with a pot of gold are Anderson's handiwork.

The bathroom, which is nonfunctioning, has been restored to the Victorian era. All the fixtures in the room: sink, claw-foot tub, commode, and wall sconce, are original to the building. A vintage curling iron sits on the sink. Some of the apothecary bottles and old-time medications on the shelf above the toilet are from local pharmacies of the time.

Consider moving Golder's shaving cups from the pantry to the bathroom.

Servant's Bedroom, Louis Fairchild Era (then)**Donald Fairchild's Bedroom, Emil Fairchild Era** (then)**Sewing Room** (now)

Before the west side roof was raised in the early 1900s, half of the third floor was attic space and not inhabited. Note how close the windows are to the floor. During the Louis Fairchild tenancy, this room housed servants, a summoning bell (one of many) that connected to the pantry was by the bedroom door. During the Emil Fairchild tenancy, this was Donald's bedroom, as the family did not employ servants. The bedroom door features his art. During the Restoration Era, the committee created a Victorian era sewing room.

Notables:

- marble top pedestal lamp table
- sewing machines - manual and electric
- quilt made by Grace Methodist Church with each member's name embroidered on it - 1929
- mannequins in 19th century clothing
- men's cut-away frock - 1900
- trunk
- shoes and hats

Consider moving the spinning wheel and wool carder from the second floor bedroom to the sewing room.

CELLAR

On the doorframe leading to the cellar is a battery-operated push button alarm, the same as the one that was on the third floor in the Volunteer Fire Department Room. When the door to the cellar was opened, an alarm would sound. There is a vault in the cellar, hence the reason for the alarm.

WARNING: PLEASE BE CAREFUL GOING DOWN THE STAIRS. THE TOP STEP IS DEEPER THAN THE OTHERS.

Ceiling

Please note the hand-hewn timber beams, the wooden pegs, and the mortise and tenon joints on the ceiling.

Water Storage Tank

Before the house was plumbed in the early 1900s, water was pumped from a well and carried inside. When the house was modernized, the west side wall of the basement was cut out in a circular pattern to accommodate a 1,200 water tank that was installed and connected to the outside well. Water was pumped into the tank and pressurized, enabling it to reach the floors above. The Restoration Committee scraped and repainted the tank.

Vault

Here on the east side, directly below the Fairchild Room, is a vault. This door opens to an anteroom, which leads to another door, the entrance to the vault. Both the inner and outer doors, which once sported an array of locks, are sheathed in steel, as are the ceiling and walls. The push-button alarm at the head of the stairs was installed to protect this room; the same as the alarm on the third floor was installed to protect the contents of that room. The alarms were the handiwork of **Lynwood** Housing Corp. Philip **Lynn** (aka Lipman Zeitlen), a Moscow-born emigrant, and Ian **Woodner** (aka Isidore Silverman) were the builders of Lynwood Gardens. Lynn and Woodner also built several other Valley Stream communities before going their separate ways. Around the time that Lynwood Gardens was built, Woodner also built Fenmore Apartments in North Valley Stream (aka Valley Park Estates), a FHA-backed housing project. Shortly thereafter, however, Woodner became embroiled in a Federal income-tax evasion scheme relating to FHA financial irregularities. A high-profile divorce from his actress wife soon followed involving alimony litigation; he was accused of relocating over \$1,000,000 in assets. Woodner was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in Federal prison. Fast-forward to the nineteen-seventies: Woodner, an architect and artist by training (he studied in Paris) morphed into a serious fine art collector. In 1990, he established the Ian Woodner Family Collection, gifting the Museum of Modern Art nearly 100 works of art.

Philip Lynn's story is no less dramatic. In 1940, he was a Russian refugee, barely keeping one step ahead of the Nazis. Lynn made it as far as the Portuguese consulate in France, along with thousands of others. Aristides de Sousa Mendes, the Portuguese consul, was issued the following directive: *"to deny safe haven to refugees, explicitly Jews and Russians."* Sousa Mendes defied his orders and risked his life by issuing visas to EVERYONE. For his actions, he was stripped of his diplomatic position and forbidden from earning a living. He died destitute. *"I would rather stand with God against Man than with Man against God,"* he declared.

The vault is now used as a storage area and houses the building's water and sprinkling system.

Coal Bucket and Coal Stove

When the house was enlarged, a coal-fired furnace, chimney, and coal bin were installed on the west side of the house. Coal ashes had to be carried out of the house through the cellar door and buried on the property. In later years, a truck would circulate the neighborhood and pick up the ashes. During the latter part of the Fairchild Era, in the 1940s, the coal-fired furnace was replaced with an oil furnace. During the Restoration Era, the oil furnace was replaced with a gas hot-air system, which included air conditioning. The present work area was the location of the coal storage bin and the wall where the water tank passed through.

The coal bucket on display is from the turn of the last century. The Geyser, a 1920 coal-fired stove, was manufactured by the Thatcher Co., Hoboken, NJ. Neither item is original to the house.

Navy Rescue Plane Model

What is now Green Acres Mall was once Curtiss Field. In 1942, nine years after the airfield closed, Columbia Aircraft occupied the hangars, manufacturing planes during World War II. This model, the XJL-1, was a Navy rescue plane. When we tour the backyard, you will see the original Columbia Aircraft emblem that was rescued from one of their hangars.

Wing Float for J2F6 Columbia Duck

A wing float, or tip float, is a stabilizer float found near the wingtips of air/sea planes such as the Columbia Duck. The float prevents the wingtips from contacting with the water.

Notables:

- well pump
- various farm and construction tools on wall
- farm equipment
- sled

OUTDOORS

A white picket fence (demolished) once ran westerly, to the corner of Lynwood Drive. The Greek Revival columns were hand-painted by the Fairchilds, they lived in the house post-Depression, and could not afford to hire a professional painter.

Flagpole (front)

In 1925, the Franklin (Avenue) School in District 24 opened. It was later renamed the William F. Donahue School in honor of the well-loved pastor of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior. The school closed in 1980 because of low enrollment and was demolished in 1984. The Restoration was gifted their flagpole. Congressional representative Ray McGrath, who grew up in Valley Stream, donated many flags that once flew over the capitol in Washington.

Ariane F. Hocking Memorial Garden and Plaque (front, west side)

In 1994, a garden and plaque were planted in memory of Ariane, the daughter of historical society member Diane Hocking. There are four other memorials on the property.

Planters (west side)

In 1929, ten planters graced the three entrances to Central High School. Made of pink granite, these two were rescued and moved to the Restoration in 2009, when the school removed the originals and replaced them with planters made from molded concrete. Enzo Umberto, who worked for the Central High School District, made them.

Barn, Sheds (4), Fire Tower, Chicken Coop (west side - no longer standing)

Just west of the planters, and one house beyond the one you see, is Lynwood Drive, the road that leads to the community that was constructed in 1950. Before that time, Lynwood Drive was the driveway that lead to the house. There were a series of outer buildings on the property. The buildings were situated in a row— running north to south. A shed was closest to Hendrickson Avenue, followed by a barn, three more sheds, and a fire tower with a chicken coop at its base. One of the sheds was attached to the barn and the last residents of the house, the Fairchilds, converted the shed into a garage. All the outer buildings were demolished during the Lynwood Housing Corp. Era. It is believed the fire tower burned down in the early 1930s. One of William Fletcher's descendants, Fletcher Chalmers (1886-1957), whose family lived on the

estate during the early part of the 20th century, tended the chicken coop. Chalmers later operated a large poultry farm on Fletcher Avenue on land that also belonged to the family.

A long brick path led from the car garage to the kitchen door (point to door). The Fairchilds entered and exited the house from the kitchen.

Raustein's Gas Station (west side)

The Raustein Gas Station once stood at 139 North Corona Avenue. It was the first and oldest operating gas station of its kind in Nassau County. In 1885, Frederick Raustein, originally a farmer, immigrated to the States from Germany. He married and had four children. The family lived in Brooklyn where Frederick was employed as a piano tuner. In 1905, the family moved to Valley Stream and by 1910, the Rausteins were selling oil and kerosene to local residences by horse and buggy. Around 1920, they opened the one-pump gas station. In 1983, Elsie Raustein died, and the business closed. Her daughter Dolly sold the property that year. In 1985, the station was donated by the developer who purchased the property.

The pump on the left is original to the station and it measured gas into a can and then into the vehicle. The pump on the right, from 1918, pumped gas by the pint, quart, half gallon and gallon; it was originally in the garage of a Westchester mansion. Inside the station are farm equipment and tools.

Memorial Herb Garden and Plaque (west side, by kitchen door)

In 1999, the Valley Stream Garden Club dedicated the herb garden to their late founder, Mary Villager. After the garden club disbanded, the Boy Scouts took over the garden's maintenance and beautification [\[confirm\]](#).

Backyard

The backyard was once filled with flower gardens, black walnut trees, and beach plum trees. Beyond the garden, traveling north towards the Southern State, was a field of wild blackberries. [Point to our surviving walnut tree]:



Columbia Aircraft Emblem and Plaque (backyard)

Where the Green Acres Mall stands today, once stood Curtiss Field, an airport that opened in 1929. The airport closed in the early 1930s, and by 1942, Columbia Aircraft occupied the airport hangars, manufacturing planes during World War II. This emblem was affixed to their northernmost hangar. Columbia closed in 1946 and the hangars were used by other businesses, including Bulova, the last company to occupy the hangars. In 1993, two of the six hangars were demolished to make way for Home Depot in the Green Acres Mall. Gabriel Parrish, a volunteer at the historical society and the Cradle of Aviation at Mitchel Field, helped salvage the emblem and arranged for it to be moved here. The emblem came in pieces and was reassembled by Gabe, who painted it and added the propeller. The propeller is a miniature version of the one you saw in the Exhibit Room, it was used on single-engine planes before jets were invented. A formal dedication of the emblem was held in 1993. It is worth noting that although two hangars were demolished, the other four are still standing.

David Hochberg Memorial Tree and Plaque (backyard)

Planted in 1994, in memory of David Hochberg, a charter member of the historical society and the Restoration Committee.

Kitchen Chimney (back of house)

On the back of the kitchen you can see the kitchen chimney for the coal stove. It is between the kitchen and icebox room.

Jay McKenna Memorial Garden and Plaque (east side)

In 1997, the birdbath garden was dedicated in the memory of Jay McKenna, past president of the Valley Stream Historical Society and Village Historian who passed away in 1996. An active member of the society, McKenna spent endless hours giving tours, sorting memorabilia, and promoting exhibits. Jay's warmth and dedication to the historical society were his defining characteristics.

Portico (east wall of parlor)

The lovely portico that you see was a favorite gathering place for the Fairchilds (1923-1948). During the summer, screens were put up between the columns (keeping out the insects that bred in the nearby streams). The screened porch had a glider. As we discussed earlier in the tour, the Fairchilds also built the two bedrooms above the porch that were demolished (point to porch roof).

Anthony Strifolino Memorial Tree and Plaque (east side)

Planted in 1994, in memory of Anthony Strifolino, Jr., charter member of the historical society, and treasurer of the Restoration Finance Committee. An engineer and draftsman for the Village, a fine man and respected by all.

SOURCES

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