PRINCETON HISTORIC HOME WALKING TOUR

Historic PRINCETON!

2.3 miles
McRae house - 301 6th Ave S., was built in 1912 by Dr. Duncan Angus McRae, born in 1877 in Moose Creek, Ontario, Canada. He left Canada in 1879 with his family and filed a claim in Kansas. Due to the drought, the family was discouraged and left for Minnesota. Duncan graduated in June 1904 from the University of Minnesota, College of Dentistry. He opened a dental office in the Odd Fellows Building. He married Lena A. Frank in 1909.

Bigelow house - 206 8th Ave. S., was owned by Frank C. Bigelow, born in 1898 in Andover, MN. He married Gladys Holmberg who was born in 1900 in Rock Creek and they had two children. Frank was a businessman in Princeton where he owned a Chevrolet Dealership on Main St. He was the Mayor of Princeton from 1939 – 1942 and a veteran of World War I. He died in 1978.

Douglas house - 211 8th Ave S., was owned by Ruth Sunshine Douglas born in 1881 and had 4 sisters. Ruth graduated from St. Cloud Teacher’s College. Since 1916 she taught in Isanti, Sherburne, Mille Lacs, and Morrison Counties. She was the County superintendent of schools for many years. Ruth died in 1978.

Skahen house - 212 8th Ave S., was owned by Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Skahen who started construction on the house in June of 1906 and it was completed by Christmas. The design of this house, at the time, was considered an exceptionally modern house with an unusual floor plan. The trees were planted before the house was built. After the Skahens sold, the house became a home for the nuns and later a photo studio. It was restored and served as the Oakhurst Bed & Breakfast for a time.

Dunn house - 708 S. 4th St., was owned by Robert C. Dunn, born in 1855 in Plumbridge, County Tyrone, Ireland. At 15, he came to America and went to work in Rocky Run, WI. After a year he went to St. Louis, MO and worked in the printing trade until physicians advised him recovery would be better farther north. He became the clerk of Princeton and later the county attorney, despite his not having gone to law school. He bought out the local paper and changed its name to Princeton Union. He served in the Minnesota House of Representatives for two terms (1911-1914). He married Lydia McKenzie in 1887 and had 2 children, George and Grace. Grace lived in this house until her death in 1965.

Gamradt house - 301 9th Ave S., was owned by Max Gamradt, born in 1893 in Michigan. He married Flora Koenig in 1914 and moved to Princeton in 1919. They had 6 children. Max operated the Deep Rock Gas Station with a bulk-oil business in Princeton. Northern Attitudes is now located on the site of his gas station. He died in 1970.

Craig/Korman house - 903 S. 2nd St., was built by Joseph Craig about 1893 and later, he had the house next door built for his mother. The houses were of the same floor design, and both still stand. Joseph Craig married Ida Zellea in 1881 and they came to Princeton in 1888 where he supervised the building of the mill and operated it for more than 30 years. Julius Korman bought this house from Craig for $1,000 and he lived in it while he ran the mill for the next 40 years. Julius married Mildred Kimling and they had three children, Grace, Joyce and Buzz.

Keith/Johnson house - 900 1st St., was owned by Judge Charles Keith, born in 1851 and came to Princeton in 1873. He became a lawyer and judge of probate for the county. The house was built in 1906 and remains in its original state with wood-paneled entry. The next owner was Anna B. Evans, who married Edward K. Evans and they owned and operated Evens Hardware Store in Princeton. Alfred H. (Capt) Johnson also owned this house, born in 1879 in Minneapolis. He married Ruth A. Nordstrom in 1920 and they had two children. She died in 1925. He remarried Lillian Wetter in 1927 and had two sons.