

ALDREDGE HOUSE

The perfectly-preserved house was constructed in 1916 by Mr. and Mrs. William J. Lewis; she had been Willie Newberry, and early Dallas debutante; he was a west Texas rancher. The architect was Mr. Hal Thompson and fortunately the original house plans are available for the use of the designers. The house was soon sold to the Lewis Mormons, who occupied it briefly, and in 1921 it was purchased by George N. and Rena Aldredge. It remained the Aldredge home for over fifty years.

The house, as it was being built, was a curiosity because it was unusually fine for a resident-constructed like an office building, of reinforced concrete and steel. A full basement under its eighteen rooms and a full attic above add to its comfort and to the spaciousness of the design. The exterior trim, the beautiful carving in the entry and the living room fireplace are of Caen stone. The interior construction is characterized by the magnificence of the paneling and rare architectural details of the woodwork.

A wide, tiled terrace extends across the front of the house and partially along each side, with doors to the sun room on the north and to the morning and garden room on the south. The main entrance opens first into a small foyer, floored with inlaid marble, with benches on either side designed for the small space. On entering the spacious central hall, one is struck immediately by its exceptional beauty-the paneling, the dramatic winding stairway, and the multi-paned bow window floating upward from the lower stair landing. A pecan tree towers over the house, its branches filling the graceful window.

To the right of the entrance is the dining room - impressive with walnut paneled walls and windows across the front. Furnishings include two original sideboards, carved, and topped with the same green marble used for the fireplace. Beyond is the morning and garden room, with its soft colors, many plants and hand-made tiles. Also in this wing is a large butler's pantry and a redesigned kitchen that retains its period charm despite a new arrangement and the addition of modern appliances.

The lovely, large living room at the left of the entrance hall is paneled in the same mahogany as the hall, and has the same beautiful windows across the front and back of the room. The elaborately-carved stone fireplace provides warmth as well as charm. Adjacent is the sun room, with a wide, curved window wall and doors to the terrace and to the patio and gardens. The large room at the back of the house was used by the Aldredges as an art gallery and for viewing motion pictures: a large screen recesses into the ceiling.

Upstairs there were three large bedrooms, a sleeping porch, a sitting room and a library. On the third floor were maids' rooms.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Aldredge were Dallas reared, his family having come to Texas in 1846 and hers in 1818. He was the son of Judge and Mrs. George N. Aldredge, Sr., she was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. I. Munger, whose family developed Munger Place. He was graduated from Southwestern University, she from St. Mary's of Dallas.

The beautiful, spacious house became a happy, busy home as four children were born to Rena and George: Gertrude, now Mrs. S. A. Shelburne; Betty, now Mrs. Vernett Slater; Rowena, who was Mrs. Jack Edwards (deceased, 1970); and Dr. George N. Aldredge, Jr. After the children all had married the family continued to maintain a close, warm relationship, and assembled there for Christmas, Easter, birthdays, and other special occasions. The large dining table could seat twenty-four and often did. Gertrude had three children, Betty two, Rowena three and George nine; so the immediate family alone provided a sizeable gathering. Among the great-grandchildren are two members of Kappa Alpha Theta - Betsy Best (Mrs. Bennett Cullum) at Vanderbilt University, and Sissy Best at the University of Virginia, granddaughters of Mr. and Mrs. Vernett Slater.

Some of the special occasions observed in the gracious setting of the home involved the weddings - daughters Gertrude and Rowena were married in the house and granddaughter Gertrude Slater was married in the garden. Granddaughter Betsy Slater's engagement announcement party and granddaughter Virginia Aldredge's wedding reception also were held in the garden. All of the Aldredge brides for some fifty years had their wedding portraits made on the beautiful stairway, wearing the family heirloom wedding gown of Brussels lace ordered from Belgium by Mrs. Munger in 1906 for daughter Rená's wedding to George N. Aldredge. Unfortunately, the treasured gown was destroyed in the Neiman-Marcus fire in 1964, the day before it was to be worn by Virginia Aldredge (Mrs. Carl Pellegrini) at her wedding. One of the more notable and well-remembered celebrations was that of Mrs. S. I. Munger's ninetieth birthday; in her honor friends and relatives gathered from all over the country.

As recently as 1979 Anne Aldredge, daughter of George and Jeanne Aldredge, was given a debutante tea by her aunts in her grandparents' home. Another wedding in the Aldredge family, son Tom, is scheduled for the summer of 1980.

George N. Aldredge became a banker, associated with the First National Bank, where he was a senior vice-president. He was a director of a number of companies, including Texaco for twenty-five years, and he was a state golf champion. He and Rena were a devoted couple and shared many interests. They loved to dance; they especially liked to hunt and fish, and to travel and they took much pleasure in the collections gathered on their travels. One year they took all four children out of school for a trip around the world.

ALDREDGE HOUSE

The following is a reproduction of the article that was written by Mrs. Edwin (Nancy) Harrison and appeared in the magazine MD'S WIFE, Spring 1976.

1917 marked the completion of a stately mansion in Dallas, Munger Place, a newly-developed and exclusive residential section of the young city.

Elsewhere, in May of that same year, a small group of women undertook the organization of an auxiliary to the then 48-year-old Dallas County Medical Society.

Apparently the two events were unrelated but, some 60 years later, these forces in the development of the Dallas community were to merge, as the Dallas auxiliary realized a longstanding dream and opened its headquarters in this same imposing structure.

The house had been built by rancher-banker W. J. Lewis for his 18-year-old bride. Mrs. Lewis, however, did not care for the place, despite its elegance, and soon after completion it was sold to banker George N. Aldredge and his wife Rena (a member of the Munger family which had developed the area).

Soon the spacious mansion became a social center for the less-than-century-old city: its walnut-paneled walls witnessed the civic and cultural progress of the community.

An amazing woman, Rena Aldredge occupied the house for nearly 50 years, filling it with music, with her hobbies, her magnificent floral arrangements, her children and grandchildren. An active participant in many Dallas women's organizations, Rena was a charter member of the Dallas Woman's Club and founded the prestigious Dallas Garden Club.

The Aldredges were unfailing patrons of the arts in fledgling Dallas, active in the earliest days of the Dallas Symphony and instrumental in establishing the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts. Undoubtedly, the cultural foundation of Dallas was greatly influenced by their support and patronage.

When Rena Aldredge decided to leave her home, the family searched for an organization rooted in civic service to carry on the mansion's tradition. At the same time, the Dallas Auxiliary was looking for a headquarters which could be a focal point for its varied activities.

In April, 1975, after negotiations with the family and the City of Dallas, the auxiliary dedicated this historic structure "to the furtherance of the goals and ideals of the Society, the advancement of excellence in health professions and allied sciences, and to the enrichment of the community through the preservation of this landmark home." Aldredge House's history was entering a new phase of service.

The Italian-style villa has been designated as a special-use structure by the Dallas City Council. Located on a tree-lined boulevard in the first Historic District of Dallas, the 17-room mansion is flanked by a number of sturdily-built houses of the same period. In the basement is a still-working furnace. The foundation is steel-girded, while much of the molding and plaster is in its original condition. The entryway, with its magnificent staircase, is paneled in mahogany, as is the spacious living room. The dining room is paneled in walnut. The exterior trim and the beautifully carved fireplace are made of Caen stone.

Auxiliary board meetings are held in a long room on the first floor which once housed Mrs. Aldredge's picture gallery. Such projects as health seminars, blood donor drives, nursing scholarships and mental health activities are carried on in this room, testifying to the auxiliary's strong community involvement. The second floor is used for meetings of the several smaller groups contained within this 900-member organization. Classes in needlepoint, painting and Bible study are held here for interested auxiliarians and there is ample storage space for the stacks of records accumulated throughout the auxiliary's long history.

When the house was first acquired by the auxiliary only a few of its original furnishings remained. Recently, however, Aldredge House has been the beneficiary of several large estates and pieces worthy of the setting are now beginning to restore its elegance.

Besides maintaining Aldredge House's physical authenticity, the Dallas Auxiliary plans to continue the Aldredge family's tradition of community service and hospitality. That tradition is precisely what Aldredge House has always meant to Dallas.

ENTRANCE
AND
ENTRY HALL

The main entrance opens first into a small foyer, floored with inlaid marble, with benches on either side designed for the small space. On entering the spacious central hall, one is struck immediately by its exceptional beauty - the paneling, the dramatic winding stairway, and the multi-paned bow window floating upward from the lower stair landing. A pecan tree towers over the house, its green branches filling the graceful window.

CURRENT FURNITURE

Round leather top table - 4 ball and claw feet - a Clement's purchase after the movie was filmed in the house.

Silver "Hammered" Pitcher and Goblet

Pair Column Fern Stands - belonged to Mrs. Aldredge

1 Pair of Torchères candeliers - one European antique, one copied for Mrs. Aldredge

Pair of Italian Stools - made originally for entry hall (please set these in the alcove for tours and meetings)

Small 3 drawer chest - inlaid burl wood

Curved table with mirror above - carved (DO NOT MOVE)

Curio Cabinet - mirrored back, glass shelves

- a. 1 cut glass bowl - shallow (in cabinet)
- b. 1 cut glass blown - deep (in cabinet)
- c. 4 Meissen fluted cups and saucers (bowl shaped saucers)
- d. 3 Meissen Plates - holders - latticed edged, in cabinet
- e. Capodimonte Ashtray - in cabinet - given by Mrs. Edwin Harrison

Brass Chandelier - bought from the Medical Arts Building in memory of Hattie Merrick

3 Straight Leg Sheraton Chairs - donated by Vivian Baldwin

9 X 12 Oriental Rug - dense design of lavender and turquoise on beige field.

LIVING ROOM AND
PAST PRESIDENT'S ROOM

The lovely, large living room at the left of the entrance hall is paneled in the same mahogany as the hall, and has the same beautiful windows across the front and back of the room. The elaborately-carved stone fireplace provides warmth as well as charm. Adjacent is the sun room, which we now refer to as the Past President's Room, with a wide curved window wall and doors to the terrace and to the patio and gardens.

ORIGINAL LIVING ROOM FURNITURE

High-back chairs (2) used in entry originally

End tables by sofa (originally made for entry)

3 legged plant stand

Small area rugs

CURRENT LIVING ROOM FURNITURE

Walnut drop leaf Table - ball and claw feet, acquired after the movie from Clement's Antiques

2 tall wooden plant stands - Given by Clement's

Pair Game tables - flip top, unmatched - Given by Cile Shannon

2 pair slender urn-shaped lamps (Steiffel) with white shades - acquired for the movie from Freed's

Tiny Brass Urn

Brass Cigarette Box with Jade medallion

Long Bench with brocade cover - found in attic and covered by Virginia Bagwell

Pair of Tall back chairs - in original house entry (wide, blue stripe covers)

Chippendale Settee with Velvet Cover (Clement's antiques, movie)

Pair matched cigarette tables with brass handles

Needlepoint Pillow - two blue and cream textured

Pair hostess chairs - blue stripe tapestry

Chinese lamp - on long table in East end of room

PAST PRESIDENT'S ROOM
LIVING ROOM CON'T

Leather top - drop leaf coffee table
 Brass silent butler - small
 Two matched step tables by Henredon
 Lacquered Box - handmade in Kasmir
 Drop leaf table with handles
 "Camel" back sofa
 4 pair wall sconces - original, mirrors, added
 Black Clock
 Gas Logs in fireplace - gift from movie
 Ornate Carved High-back chair - beige velvet
 Small rectangle table - carved trestle-like
 Ornate Carved High Back Arm Chair - tapestry cover
 Behr Bros. Piano - made 1930 - Marion Snyder
 2 Pair Chippendale Chairs - 2 armed and 2 side chairs
 Tiny foot stool - padded, rollers
 Large signed PALACE Rug - donated by Cile Shannon (Persian)
 Walls are painted linen canvass (painted to look aged)
 Ceilings also painted linen canvass

PAST PRESIDENT'S ROOM

ORIGINAL FURNITURE

Lamps

Sofa - recovered by past presidents

CURRENT FURNITURE

Yellow Velvet "wingback" chair

Red China Cabinet

Red China Tea Set - 8 cups, 8 saucers, creamer, sugar, pot (broken lid)

Marble and Brass Clock - on server

Pair of Angel Lamps - made for room for Mrs. Aldredge

Red Flip-top table

Rounded-Wooden Back Chair with Needlepoint Cover

Coffee Table - Butler's tray

Long Sofa - original in house

Ceramic Red/White "Greek" Urn

Rose and Yellow Rug - given by past president's at time of redecorating room

BOARD ROOM

The large room at the back of the house was used by the Aldredge's as an art gallery and for viewing motion pictures; a large screen recesses into the ceiling. This room was added in 1955 by Mrs. Aldredge. The Medical Auxiliary added the windows when we took possession.

CURRENT FURNITURE

Glass and Stainless Etergere
 Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer book ends
 Copper Bowl - brass handles
 Copper pot with lid - pierced
 Crystal decanter
 Tall Crystal candy dish with lid
 Crystal Vase - carved flowers
 Crystal Fan shaped vase
 Crystal pitcher
 Three Pewter Plates - holders
 Pewter Pumpkin with lid
 Two silver and black saucers - ashtrays
 Tall hammered silver pitcher
 Dark blue/black porcelin pitcher with gold leaf design
 Painted porcelin (dragon) and Pewter ash tray - given by Mrs. Edwin Harrison
 White Porcelin Dragon - Given by Mrs. Edwin Harrison
 Silk Flower arrangement - on glass top table
 Two metal lattice back chairs with orange cushions
 "Book-like" Box
 White Horse
 Glass and Stainless square table - donated by Mrs. Vivian Baldwin
 Etched glass vase and candle stick holders

DINING ROOM

To the right of the entrance hall is the dining room - impressive with walnut-paneled walls and windows across the front. Furnishings include two original sideboards, carved and topped with same green marble used for the fireplace. Beyond is the morning and garden room, with its soft colors, many plants and hand-made tiles. Also in this wing is a large butler's pantry, and a redesigned kitchen that retains its period charm despite a new arrangement and the addition of modern appliances.

Marble sideboards - made to match fireplace (on loan from Aldredge's) Was originally in house

Drapes - Originally in house

CURRENT FURNITURE ADDED

Eight Chippendale chairs - from Clement's Antiques - leather seat with double ribbon backs

Buffet with brass back - donated by Clements Antiques
Chandelier - donated by Josephine Knight

Dining Room Table - antique - triple pedestal - Sheraton with two leaves. Given by Cile Shannon from Manheim Galleries.

Ornate Double Base Fern Stand

Pewterish Fireplace tools

Brass and Crystal Candle Sticks with angels - PUT THESE OUT FOR TOURS

Snuffers - silver plated over brass

BUTLER'S PANTRY AND KITCHEN

Hardware used on doors is pewter

Hardware in kitchen is also pewter

Coreon is island counter top

MORNING ROOM

- Left cabinet - Cloisonne Dish with lid - has dog handle
 4 Brass ashtrays - very small - circa 1900, China
 2 Jade boxes
 Chinese Bowl and lid - large
 4 Individual bowl and lid - small
 4 small brass match/cigarette boxes
 2 small incense burners - brass
 2 Imari plates, stands
 1 Imari Bowl, lid, stands (original couple)
 2 Rose Medallion Plates, stands (one broken)
- Right cabinet - 2 small Meissen Figurines (oriental couple)
 Ivory and Cloisonne Snuff Bottle
 China Tea Pot
 2 Rose Medallion Cups, saucers
 Enamel on copper plate
 "Jade" Elephant and stand
- Leather Top Desk
- Round glass top skirted table with silk flower arrangement
- 4 legged foot stool - French Provential finish - needle
 point cover
- Pumpkin Velvet Love Seat
- 4 X 6 Throw Rug - putty colored shag, Portuguese
- 2 Lyne back arm chairs donated by Vivian Baldwin
- Desk Lamp - Cloisonne and brass with putty color shade
- Brass umbrella stand
- Needlepoint Desk Chair
- 2 Clay elephant planters

UPSTAIRS CURRENT FURNISHINGS

GUEST BEDROOM

Two bedspreads - quilted and outlined with matching bolsters,
given by Kathryn Lee

Five assorted throw pillows - given by Nancy Harrison's mother

Pair Chinese pictures

Mirror, painted - three framed

French Dresser with Marble top - vanity set

French arm chair, nailheads (pink)

Cranberry Crystal Lamp

Two Dresden Dresser Lamps - blue (man and woman) fluted
shades

Small Curved vanity stool - red

Small Vanity Mirror - crystal and gold

Tiny Rocker - slipper chair - red

Small French Flip Top Dresser - inlaid wood, black legs

Pink Vase/Urn

Painted Twin Beds - two sets box springs and mattress

Painted chest on chest

Double tiered French Painted Table

Pair Curved Ceramic candle holders

Small Oriental Rug No. 7

MAILING ROOM

OUR WORK ROOM

SITTING ROOM

- Round skirted table - 24" with glass top
- Tiny Yellow Demi-Tasse Cup with saucer
- Yellow Bird Lamp
- Ash tray - made in France - Porcelin - rectangular, yellow
- Yellow sofa - Freed's movie
- Crystal Footed Bowl - globe shaped with silk arrangement
- Pair Crystal lamps - with half shades - ORIGINAL WITH HOUSE
- Hammond organ with bench
- Tiny book case - carved back
- floor lamp - twisted
- French arm chair - beige
- Yellow Glass topped coffee table - Freed's movie
- Yellow painted book by Milton

MASTER DRESSING ROOM

- French curved back chair
- French painted table
- Kidney shaped dresser, oval mirror
- French chair with Kettie's seat
- Alabaster lamp - one in dressing room, one in bath

SITTING ROOM
MASTER BEDROOM

Capodimonte lamps - corner table and table by windows
 Lennox ashtrays on lamp table
 Round draped table with glass top
 French Curio Cabinet - locked with Dresden pieces (6)
 Oil painting - Maurice Brown landscape - over sofa
 Angel Candle sticks - Italian (pair)
 Marble top coffee table - Mrs. Garvey's mother
 Victorian peach sofa - donated by Tucean Webb
 Pair Victorian slipper Chairs - donated by Tucean Webb
 Chaise lounge
 Tall wooden floor lamp - Victorian
 Carved beveled mirror over fireplace - original in house
 nest of 3 tables

MASTER DRESSING ROOM

French curved back chair
 French painted table
 Kidney shaped dresser, oval mirror
 French chair with Raffia seat
 Alabaster lamps - one in dressing room, one in bath

LIBRARY

CURRENT FURNISHINGS

Indian-Motif Area Rug - 5X7, Freed's movie

Swivel desk chair

Brass floor lamp - ashtray and match holder

Desk

Horn chandelier - purchased after Theta Showcase

Desk lamp (gas X-Ray tube type)

Brown leather arm chair

Metal book stand with 1900 edition Webster dictionary -
given by Cile Shannon

White ceramic lamp on wood base

Painted screen at fireplace - found in attic

Glass Club Exhibit

SUNPORCH

Used for AMA-ERF boutique

UPSTAIRS HALL

Small English chair with cane seat

oil painting - shepherd with pipe and sheep

oil painting - bluebonnets (B. Tate)

Large white ceramic "tub" planter with silk arrangement

Marble table - In Aldredge furnishings

Oriental runner