

Haan Museum of Indiana Art
Room by Room Guide
Second Floor
July 9, 2019

OPEN WELL and CENTER HALL

Architecture

- The area within the circular railing is called an open well.
- This feature makes the house very homey because you can see and hear what's going on throughout the house.
- This area is used for special exhibitions.

Paintings

Martin Grelle (Gree-lee)

- All of the art in the house is by Indiana artists except the western paintings, which are all by Martin Grelle, a member of the Cowboy Artists of America.
- He is a currently active 64-year old (as of 2019) living in Clifton, Texas (born September 1954).
- The Haans started collecting his work in 1998, and bought three or four pieces each year for several years.
- He is currently the most sought-after active western artist.
- All of these paintings were painted between 1995 and 2004.

Architecture

- The door nearest the master bedroom is a “door to nowhere”.
 - The adjoining rooms served as the State Chambers during the Fair. There was a Front Chamber and a Rear Chamber, each with their own door.
 - When the house was moved here, it became Mr. Potter's suite.
 - The first architectural drawings had no door here, but it was added for the symmetry (each of the other walls has two doors).

MASTER BEDROOM

History

This area had two State Chambers at the Fair. When they reconstructed the building, they made this a bedroom, a sitting room and a bathroom.

Architecture

The fireplace at the Fair was on the wall between the chambers, where the larger highboy is now.

Paintings

All paintings in this room are by Hoosier Group artists. They may change, but as of May 2019, all but one painting are by TC Steele.

- TC Steele – Vermont, 1887, painted on a summer trip to Vermont to visit the Fletcher family.
- TC Steele – Redlands CA, 1902 – The painting over the fireplace is the Estancia Mission in Redlands California, painted in 1902 during a trip to visit relatives after his wife, Libby, died.

- William Forsyth – Cedar Farm - Forsyth visited Cedar Farm on the Ohio River near Evansville in the summers of 1897 and 1898, when he taught a group of students that accompanied him.
- TC Steele – Bessie Hendricks: Bessie was one of Steele’s students. This is how women dressed when they painted, and men often wore suits.

Furniture

- The Prudent Mallard full tester (tea-stir) bed was made about 1840 in New Orleans, and was purchased at an auction at the Fairgrounds in 1993.
 - Servants would put hot coals in a copper pot under the mattress at bedtime, and the curtains were drawn to keep in the heat.
 - The scale of the room and house makes it seem like a small bed, but it is larger than a queen-sized bed.
 - Ellie was able to get in without a stool until they added a three-inch mattress topper.
- The two English highboys are two of the three pieces of non-American furniture in the house.
 - The Haans had these before they decided to specialize in American furniture.
- The hanging calendar clock was made by Waltham, New York, in 1866. It shows the day of the week, the month, and the date.
 - It automatically adjusts to the right number of days in each month, including leap year.
- The treadle sewing machine was made in 1875 by Wilcox And Gibbs. Handle the lid with care - it has a single sided hinge.
 - It is a single thread machine with no bobbin, and a poem described why it was so much better than machines with two threads.
 - Even the back has the elaborate carvings.
 - The machine worked so well that they made the same machine with minor changes until the 1970’s.

Ceramics

The two vessels in front of the fireplace are “diver vases” by Marvin Bartel. Notice the feet sticking out the top. Each has a nice side (always showing) and a naughty side.

PUTTI BEDROOM

Architecture

All the bathrooms in the house are similar to the bathroom between the putti and half-tester bedrooms.

- They were done in the 40's, and are fully functional.
- The Haans decided to leave them as they were, because they have an older feel that fits well with the house.

Paintings

The paintings in this room were done by first generation Brown County artists born around 1870.

- The barn painting is by Edward K Williams. He often used a palette knife to get a heavy layer of paint, and used spring colors like mauve.
- The snow scene is by Will Vawter.
- The laundry painting is by Ada Shulz. It came from an auction in Chicago, and was so dirty that the laundry was grey. There was also a hole in the canvas that Bob could put his fist through. It is among Ada's best paintings.

Furniture

This is the smallest bed in the house, but very ornate.

- The figures under the canopies are called putti – they have no wings, so they are not cherubs.
- Notice that the dresser is as ornate as the headboard, which is usually not the case.
- The wash stand also matches.

Ceramics

The ceramics in the cabinet are historic pieces that the Haans purchased when they first started collecting ceramics.

- Most are by Laura Fry from White County, who started as a decorator for Rookwood in 1880.
- Fry began working as a decorator at Rockwood Pottery in 1880. She was spraying on cologne and realized that it would be easier to glaze pieces by spraying rather than painting. She developed a method of spraying, and applied for a patent. The company sued her, claiming that it was their patent because she was their employee. She left the company, and worked for Lonhuda before coming to Lafayette to teach at Purdue.
- A few are by the Overbeck Sisters, who opened their pottery in Cambridge City in 1911.

HALF-TESTER (tea-stir) BEDROOM

Paintings

All of the paintings in this room are by members of the Richmond Group.

- John Bundy, the dean of the group, “Winter Afternoon”.
- Maude Eggemeyer, “On the Patio”
- Frank Giardin, “The Farm” (over bed)
- Anna Newman, “Lady in Hat”
- Randolph Coats, Lanier Mansion, Madison IN.
- Anna Newman, “Lady in Mirror”

Furniture

The bed is a half-tester (pronounced tea-stir). It is a southern bed made by P. Mallard and Sons about 1840, the same maker as the tester bed in the master bedroom. It most likely had a mosquito netting.

POOL ROOM

History

This was the Commission Chamber and the Executive Chamber at the Fair.

It is now used for special exhibitions.

At Christmas time, this room has trains, and reproductions of historic London landmarks such as Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace.

Furniture

The pool table is a rosewood Brunswick Belke table made about 1875. The Haans purchased it in Chicago and had it transported and set up by professionals.

SIDE BEDROOM (Maroon Rug)

This is one of three special exhibition rooms.

At Christmas time, a train runs through this room, a closet, a bathroom, and the guest sitting room. This room has reproductions of historic landmarks from the Colonial states.

Furniture

The bed and wardrobe set was purchased at an auction in Massachusetts, along with the dresser that is in the Half-Tester bedroom.

Wardrobes were widely used to avoid paying property taxes. If there was a door to a closet, it was taxed as a usable space. Wardrobes provided space without having to pay the tax.

BACK HALL

Architecture

- This hallway originally led to the second-floor veranda.
- When the Haans added the elevator, the walls didn't line up, and they had to move the elevator wall out 6 inches. Part of the door casings had to be trimmed off.
- They had to move a third-floor exterior wall in the opposite direction.

Paintings

All the paintings in the back hall and the sitting room were painted by Indiana artists between 1935 and 1945.

- They are called American Scene or Regionalist paintings.
- Thirty-seven paintings from this important collection were exhibited at the Indiana State Museum in 2010.
- Most of the artists were students or teachers at Herron Art School, and participated in the war effort in some way.
- There are not a lot of paintings like this because when World War II was over, most artists resumed painting, but in their own style different from these.
 - Robert Weaver painted the two circus paintings. Weaver was raised in Peru, Indiana, the Circus Capitol of the World.
 - Both paintings won national prizes in 1938. The Chaloner Prize for "Next Up" was three years of study in Paris, plus a studio and travel expenses.
 - Henrik Mayer, "Foreboding". He was an instructor at Heron Art Institute, where many of the other artists in the hall were his students.

BACK SITTING ROOM

Architecture

The first-floor and second-floor verandas went all the way across the back of the house at the World's Fair.

- The kitchen wing was added when the house was rebuilt in Lafayette, so the first-floor veranda was shortened, and only the second-floor veranda went all the way across the back.
- The second floor veranda was shortened about 1917, when these two rooms were added above the kitchen for the children and their nanny.
- The ceiling is lower and the trim less ornate than in the rest of the house.

Furniture

- This room was Bob's office until the Haans decided to turn their home into a museum, and his desk was replaced by the Horner Brothers sideboard, which matches the dining room suite.
- The credenza was purchased at auction, but needed a complete restoration.
 - The Haans knew that it was a special piece because of the hardware and all the painted plaques.
 - The finish looked bad, and there were a lot of missing pieces.
 - It was restored by a professional company in Indianapolis, who washed it thoroughly with Murphy's Oil Soap and then polished with many coats of antique paste furniture wax.
 - They had to hand carve about 70 missing pieces.

Ceramics

The mobile chicken tureen is by Marvin Bartel.

- It can be moved around the table easily with the pull string.
- There are candles inside so that food can be kept hot.
- The tail is part of the ladle.

BACK BEDROOM

Furniture

The king-size bed was found at an auction in Ohio, and was not in very good shape.

- Multiple holes were filled in with wood filler pencils in different colors.
- The entire bed was washed with Murphy's Oil Soap and given several coats of American Paste Wax.
- Notice the Native American faces on the headboard and footboard.

Ceramics

The ceramic rocking chair was made by Dick Lehman.

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