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Tour of Brady Heights Homes Stirs Memories of Early Tulsa

By [Ellen Averill](#)
9/21/1992

Margee and Scott Aycock were among the visitors during last year's Brady Heights Historic Home Tour. Sunday, the Aycock's new home was among those on display. "We weren't even looking for a house," during the 1991 tour, said Scott Aycock. But the couple fell in love with the foursquare style home at 1135 N. Denver Ave. By the end of 1991, they were in the house.

The Aycock home was one of many opened for the estimated 250 people who took part in Sunday's tour, a fund-raising event for the Brady Heights Neighborhood Association. Not all of the homes on the tour are for sale. Some are opened to show off the area's rehabilitation and growth, said Cherokee Pettis, association president.

"Everybody loves an old house," Pettis said. "Their grandmother had one, or they lived in one and they just have great memories of an old house."

Brady Heights, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, includes Denver and Cheyenne avenues from Fairview to Marshall streets.

The area was developed between 1907 and 1925 by businessmen who had stores in the old Brady Market area, said Pete White,

neighborhood association spokesman.

"A lot of people built south of downtown, but there was a handful of businessmen that wanted to build up on the hill, away from the river, where they could catch the breezes," said White.



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White moved to the neighborhood a year ago, he said.
 "Five years ago I came through here with an old friend of mine who lived farther north on Cheyenne," White said.
 "I drove through here and thought, 'Why would anybody live up here?'" And now I'm living here."

One drawing point for White was the strength of the neighborhood association.

"They've done just an excellent job of developing ongoing contacts with the main bodies of government that come to bear in the development of the neighborhood," he said.
 The area's history also attracted White.

"I love to stand out on my little porch and think about what it was like in 1917 when they were building that house - the trolley car that ran up Denver and Cheyenne, the early 1900s cars and the horses."

Aycock's house was built in 1925. The original owners were sisters who grew old in the house then let it fall down around them, said Aycock.

"They lived in this little room," said Aycock, pointing to a small interior downstairs room with a wood-burning stove. "The rest of the rooms leaked. Eventually, the ceiling caved in."

The next owners did most of the major repairs, Aycock said. The old Reuter home, 625 N. Cheyenne Ave., was one of the tour homes for sale. The house, built in 1907, was the scene of one of Tulsa's earliest murder cases.

On May 5, 1912, lawyer and school board member Charles T. Reuter was shot and killed at 1 a.m. in his home, according to old newspaper accounts. Mrs. Reuter, the victim's second wife, said the murder was committed by robbers. Eventually, Mrs. Reuter and her alleged lover, Guy D. McKenzie, were charged with hiring another man to do the killing.

McKenzie was sentenced to life imprisonment. Mrs. Reuter also was given a life sentence, but was acquitted in a second trial.

Steve and Diane Lugliani, of 774 N. Denver Ave., restored and decorated their house in the style of the period in which it was built - 1911. Included among antiques and displays was a hammer used to build the house. It was found in a dining-room wall 10 years ago when an opening was cut for a wall plug.

Real estate agent Sandra Tinsley owns the home at 1144 N. Denver Ave. The house was built in 1913, possibly by Tulsa's first city attorney, James Brown, Tinsley said.

The construction date for Cara and Tim Lovell's house at 608 N. Cheyenne Ave., is in dispute.

"City records show the house was built in 1920, but we have original wash basins and fixtures that date to 1913," said Tim Lovell.

Also on tour were Centenary United Methodist Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Proceeds from the tour benefit the neighborhood association. The association holds neighborhood functions, like Halloween parties, block parties and Easter egg hunts, and works to improve the area. This fall, an Up With Trees planting is scheduled along the Osage Expressway.

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