

A Portal in Time - Mooreland Mansion

Electric Railway systems developed all over the U.S. in the late 1800s. In Northern Ohio, two men, Edward Moore and Henry Everett developed and operated a vast system of electric railways connecting four states and points as far north as Detroit and as far south as Wheeling. That story is left for another day. Today we look at the story of a home located on a community college campus-the summer home of Mr. Edward Moore.



Mooreland Mansion was the summer home of Edward, a Cleveland capitalist whose fortunes derived from banking, railroad and telephone interests. Cleveland architect Arthur Oviatt was commissioned to design a summer country residence outside the hustle and bustle of Cleveland for his wife and five children. The original 1898 property covered over 1300 acres. Their country home was of Neo-classical design and included 44 rooms totaling 20,000 square feet with electric lighting. Enlarged in 1906 it grew to include a layout of rose gardens, in-ground irrigation systems, a swimming pool, fountains and a nine-hole golf course. The Moore family entertained often and guests included First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Polish Prime Minister Ignace Paderewski. At the time of Moore's death in 1928, the family sold their Cleveland residence and moved to Mooreland Mansion permanently.

The next forty years saw little change in the property. 1968 proved a landmark year in the history of the mansion when nearly 400 acres of the estate were sold for the new Lakeland Community College campus. The cost of this acquisition was \$600,000. As part of the original sales agreement, Moore's daughter Margaret was allowed to live there in her 42 room family home until her death in 1982.

The mansion then became college property and is now on the NHS register (1993). The college, after some deliberations, began a 10 year restoration starting in 1989. Another grant in 1993 repurposed the mansion. Today the college continues to use the mansion for a multitude of activities - both college and community based. Many of the original furnishings remain and special event tours are offered periodically.

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