



LHS

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The Catlin House Turns 100

By Brian Clark



Architect Edward Langley completed an English Tudor Revival-style home in 1912 for a former New York lawyer who became a Scranton banker. One hundred years later, the Lackawanna Historical Society honors and celebrates Mr. Langley, George Catlin, the banker for whom the house was built, and our home for the past 70 years.

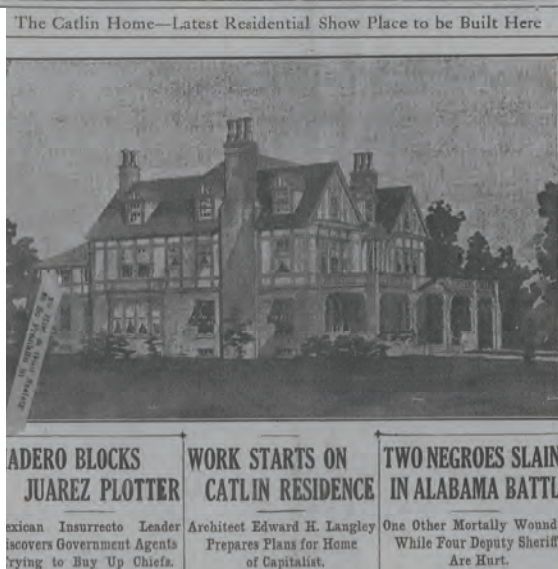
Originally estimated to cost \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00, the final cost was approximately \$50,000.00. The Catlin House

was home to Mr. Catlin for more than two decades, and his widow remained there an additional seven years.

Langley, the Canadian architect, built the home for Mr. Catlin across from the W.W. Scranton estate and next door to James Archbald, George's father-in-law.

The Catlin House has 16 rooms over three stories and includes features found in many Tudor style homes such as corbeled chimneys and cross-gabled dormers. Its exterior also includes false half-timbering, the major decorative characteristic of a Tudor home.

Inside, molded plaster ceilings, oak parquet floors, brass electric lighting fixtures, hand-carved



mantle pieces, and stained glass windows are joined by a black walnut staircase. The rooms follow floor plans that were modern when the home was built 100 years ago and include living, dining, and sitting rooms accessible from a central foyer and hall.

Mr. Catlin was born August 26, 1845 in Shoreham, Vermont, to Lynde Catlin and Amelia Harriet Moore. Mr. Catlin attended school in Newton Academy, Shoreham and continued at Ver-

mont Episcopal Academy and Phillips Andover Academy. He graduated Union College, Schenectady in 1866 with a degree of LLB. He received a Masters from Lafayette College in 1867 and was then admitted to the New York state bar with the New York City law firm of Pope,

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Anthracite Labor Wars program postponed

The Society has postponed the Anthracite Labor wars program slated for June 6 due to a scheduling conflict of one of the speakers. It will be rescheduled for a later date.

Catlin House Grounds to Receive Make-Over

When the new science center was in the planning stages, the University of Scranton approached the LHS Board of Trustees about opening up the landscaping to present a smooth transition surrounding the Catlin House. The Trustees undertook discussions as we were concerned that the Lackawanna Historical Society maintains its unique and individual identity.

An agreement with the University was signed on May 19, 2012 by society president Michael Gilmartin. Work commenced immediately. A good rapport was established during a meeting of the Construction Committee with Dave Wilson, University architect, and construction managers from Quandel Enterprises. The fence, stone wall, and plantings in front of the house will remain as will the brick entry markers. The remainder of the fence will be removed. Unfortunately, several trees will also be removed as the driveway and parking expands. The old driveway will be milled up and new asphalt put down. The number of parking spaces in the back of the house will increase and new parallel spaces will be added on the north side between the Catlin House and St. Thomas Hall. A wall matching the Science Center will be built behind the parking spaces. Re-grading the drive along with new drain basins will direct rain water away from the house. Several new plantings will be added. Green space will flow between the Catlin House and the Science Center. The University agreed that the Society has access to the space for events.

When the plants are in, we must water and care for them. The snubbing post, flag pole, and surrounding plants will not be touched. The University representative also promised that its maintenance crew would mow the grass and plow the snow.

The society will be open during the construction phases. Quandel understood the need for access. At certain times, visitors and others may have to use street parking. Overall, the project is estimated to take two months at the end of which we will have a much needed new driveway.

— Ella S. Rayburn

About Membership... *Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice and invitations to all Society activities, special members-only programs and the quarterly newsletter.* Attached is a membership form you can use to renew your membership or give to a friend or neighbor who is interested in joining. Please return it to: The Lackawanna Historical Society at 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ Student	\$10	NAME _____
☐ Individual	\$25	_____
☐ Family	\$35	ADDRESS _____
☐ Contributing	\$75	_____
☐ Sustaining	\$150	_____
☐ Silver Corporate	\$250	TELEPHONE _____
☐ Gold Corporate	\$500	EMAIL _____

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The Lackawanna Historical Society is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization which is dedicated to keeping vital the history of Lackawanna County. It is supported in part by the Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and membership dues.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is published by the Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510 Tel. (570) 344-3841. Address questions to Mary Ann Moran-Savakinus at lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Members of the Society receive this publication. Membership contributions are \$25 and up for Individuals, \$35 for Families, and \$125 for Organizations. Special Silver and Gold Corporate memberships are available.

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Thompson and Catlin.

Mr. Catlin married Mary Woodrow Archbald, daughter of James Archbald, Sr., on September 4, 1867, the same year he began practicing law in New York. The couple remained in New York City until 1870 when they moved to Scranton to live with the Archbalds.

In Scranton, Mr. Catlin focused on finances and banking, and he was a founder and director of the Third National Bank of Scranton in 1872.

Mrs. Catlin died in 1902, and Mr. Catlin married Helen Walsh on January 10, 1904.

Mr. Catlin, who had no children, died June 8, 1935. His will directed that his home be given to the Lackawanna Historical Society with the "furniture, furnishings, books, paintings, bronzes, bric-a-brac and other works of art there in" to hold and share with the residents of Scranton.

Mrs. Catlin passed April 15, 1942, and the Lackawanna Historical Society formally took over the Catlin House as the George H. Catlin Memorial at that time. Previously, the Society found its home in the Everhart Museum, the Scranton Public Library, the Green Ridge Branch Library, and the Lackawanna County Courthouse.

The Society began to move its collections to the Catlin House in 1943. It opened the house for tours, its library for research, and began a series of cultural programs in its new headquarters by 1946.

In the Catlin House...

NEW MEMBERS

REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE NOW.
RATES WILL BE INCREASED BEGINNING IN JULY.



Contributing

Ray Pilch, Moosic

Family

Patricia Purcell, Scranton
Steve and Robyn Thompson, Gouldsboro

Individual

Shelia M. Fuentes, Philadelphia
Claire Markus, Bethlehem
David Yanashot, Scranton

Student

Nicole Solsnan, Peckville

Fund for the Future

Silk Throwers

Edward J Zech, Dunmore

Breaker Boys

Fred and Mary Garm, Forest City

LHS DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR 2012

Architecture, history and storytelling merge on the pathways of the Lackawanna Historical Society's downtown Scranton walking tours. Conducted in the summer and early fall months or by special request, the various tours offer differing perspectives on the foundation and growth of the city and some of its more prominent buildings and historical figures.

In addition to the traditional Saturday morning tours conducted by seasoned LHS docents, the Society now offers First Friday tours and custom walking tours. Saturday tours encompass a three square block area and highlight the history, design and craftsmanship of such architectural gems as the Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple, the Albright Memorial Library, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Three tours of slight-

ly different emphasis rotate on a weekly basis starting at 11 am. A rotating trio of tours will also be conducted on First Fridays at 5 pm. All starting locations are listed on back page.

The LHS also provides step-on bus tours and custom tours. Custom tours are structured based upon the interests of participants and the suggestions of the guide. The tours cover a distance of seven to eight blocks and last approximately two hours. They are available most days from Noon to 6 pm based upon the guide's schedule. The fee is five dollars per person with a minimum of four persons and a maximum of 30. Interested parties may contact Dr. McGinnis at 570-955-0244.

Additional information on Friday and Saturday tours and assistance in scheduling a custom tour is available at LHS. Call 570-344-3841.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

FRI., JUN 1, 5 PM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Washington and Vine.
FRI./SAT./SUN., JUN., 1-3	<i>ARTS ON FIRE</i> at the Scranton Iron Furnaces. For more go to www.artsonfirefestival.com
SAT., JUN 9, 10 AM	<i>CIVIL WAR TRAIN - SOLD OUT!</i> Call Steamtown National Historic Site
SAT., JUN 9, 11 AM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Washington and Linden.
SAT., JUN 16, 11 AM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Washington and Vine..
SAT., JUNE 23, 11 AM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Lackawanna and Cedar..
SAT., JUN 23, 12-3 PM	<i>CHILDREN'S DAY AT THE CATLIN HOUSE</i> For details call 570-344-3841.
FRI., JULY 6, 5 PM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Washington and Linden.
SAT., JULY 14, 11 AM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Washington and Linden.
SAT., JULY 21, 11 AM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Washington and Vine..
SAT., JULY 28, 11 AM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Lackawanna and Cedar.
FRI., AUG 3, 5 PM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Lackawanna and Cedar.
SAT., AUG 11, 11 AM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Washington and Linden.
SAT., AUG 18, 11 AM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Washington and Vine..
SAT., AUG 25, 11 AM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Lackawanna and Cedar.
SAT., SEPT 1, 11 AM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Washington and Linden.
FRI., SEPT 7, 5 PM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Washington and Vine.
SAT., SEPT. 15, 11 AM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Washington and Vine.
SAT., SEPT 22, 11 AM	<i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> , corner of Lackawanna and Cedar.
THUR., SEPT 27, 10 AM	ANNUAL DINNER Details to be announced.

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