

The Eberhardt Home

38 E Washington

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Home Sponsor: Kensington Church

Amongst the Village of Clarkston's many old and charming houses is the eye-catching Eberhardt home. Built in 1859, and one of the oldest houses in the historic district, the Eberhardt home has lived through many changes, including its location, a significant upstairs renovation, and recovering from fire damage to the back of the building.

Originally located at 3 East Church Street–near the southeast corner of South Main and Church Streets–the Eberhardt house moved to Washington Street in 1926 to allow for the construction of the Seeterlin Brothers Service Station and dealership, later Morgan's Cities Service gas station. (However, if you stroll over to 3 East Church today, you might find yourself relaxing on a couch and sipping a Honcho coffee). The home "nestled" into a compact lot most considered too small for much of anything, where it became the town's telephone office for ten years, with the switchboard in what is now a living room and the equipment room in the den. After a fire struck the building in 1938, the telephone office relocated upstairs from what is now Essence on Main. Within a year or two, 38 East Washington Street returned to being a single-family residence. Families came and went, but in 1982, the house became the loving home of the Eberhardt family, and Carol couldn't imagine herself ever leaving.

The Eberhardt home's charm just continues to grow as you get to know its depth and rich history. Carol is excited to again open her home to the community as she participates in the SCAMP Home Tour for the fourth time, sharing what she describes as the perfect location in which to grow up, just a short walk to downtown and a little farther to Depot Park. Carol realized early on that she wanted to raise her family in the prime downtown location.

When the Eberhardts first moved into the home, walls were crumbling, paint was chipping, and ceilings were caving in. But they were up to the challenge. The deceivingly large house didn't know the attention and love it was about to receive. Not only did The Eberhardts completely restore the inside of the home, they also added to the upstairs sitting area, which is now Carol's favorite room, a space with wonderful lighting, great windows, and a contemporary and colorful ambiance.

The original beams from the property's old barn were repurposed as flooring within the house, keeping the old along with the new. Carol was a decorator by trade, and her husband happily supported her projects and vision. The renovation was very much a family affair, taking a long time but a true labor of love. Through the years, Carol has put herself into this home and continues to add her eclectic touches and personality. These days, she enjoys painting in her art studio upstairs.

What was thought to be a "haunted house" because of its disrepair is now a cherished home. Carol recalls the many people coming and going, and the parties hosted throughout their time there. It was a great spot to entertain her kids' friends as they grew up. Carol cherishes the wonderful memories of the swirl of activity always present in the home and the neighborhood she describes as friendly with a carefree vibe.

Carol hopes visitors recognize the difference between renovation and restoration after touring her home. She wants to impress upon people the value and importance of restoration: "A person can live in an old house and have a very cool living environment while still holding onto the architectural integrity of the house." Just as Carol seeks to make others aware of the importance of the historic district to protect history, she advocates and supports SCAMP in its important work. Carol is very much an advocate for SCAMP, and it makes her heart happy to do what she can to lend a hand.

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