


# The Sans Home

***76 N Main Street***

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Just up the road from Clarkston's cozy downtown sits a classic Greek Revival-style home with more history to it than meets the eye. For longtime residents of the city, 76 North Main Street is a staple in the neighborhood and has stood for more than 150 years. The 1855 house was built for the Hirst family, who bought the property and Clarkston Mills from city founder Nelson W. Clark. Since then, it has seen many owners through the decades, including Erastus and Theodocia Stiff, Jerome Allen, Moses and Esther Taylor, Mary Walter, Esther Newland, Walter Goodspeed, Frank Stauter, Nelson Kimball, and the Frayers, who purchased the house in 1991 and sold it in 2021.

Today, the home belongs to Maggie Sans, who grew up on Rattalee Lake Road and fell in love with her hometown, which she describes fondly as "lively and friendly". She purchased the property in August 2021, before the house even went on the market. Maggie aims to preserve the historic nature of the home, focusing on small-scale renovation projects, such as restoring the wood flooring and updating the kitchen in a way that complements the home's overall vintage feel. Reflecting on the house's legacy, Maggie says she's grateful to be a part of continuing the building's upkeep and preservation. "I feel a lot of respect for the home," she says. "When you know it's been around this long, you feel like you're the caretaker of it and maybe not an owner of it. Also, because of all the old wood and the walls, it almost instantly has a warm and homey feeling to it."

With all historic homes come small wonders and hidden secrets. For example, beneath the bay window, wooden planks lift to reveal the earth below. A running theory following research from the Oakland County Historical Commission proposes the space was used for "bootlegging" during Prohibition in the early 1900s. Other unique features that Maggie loves include a ballroom-turned-portrait room she now utilizes for cozy gatherings and a renovated barn in the back that act as an office and garage. The property also serves as the setting for many heartwarming moments for Maggie's large family, most recently for her nephew's wedding. The intimate ceremony took place in the backyard last spring.

Participating in SCAMP's Home Tour for the organization's 50th anniversary demonstrates the house's continued positive impact on the community. "I used to do a lot of home tours when I was younger with my mother, looking at all the SCAMP home tours, so I've always had a positive bias towards it," she says, adding that she also has a niece who works in special education and a friend who's heavily involved in SCAMP, so the program and its mission have a special place in her heart.

With its rich history and charm, 76 N. Main Street remains an iconic landmark in Clarkston. It is more than just an old building; it's a living piece of history that continues to inspire and impact future generations.


**David W. Elliott Memorial Foundation of Clarkston**

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