

Historic and Famous Homes in Metro Detroit

Discover Detroit's most interesting dwellings. Inside some, former celebrity families once lived in ultra decadence. In others, inventor's dreams were brought to life.

TAKE YOUR TIME

FEATURES

Art & Culture

DESTINATIONS

Downtown Detroit,
Dearborn/Wayne, Greater
Novi, Macomb, Oakland

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EXPLORE THE MANSIONS: AUTO BARON HOMES



Ford House (Edsel & Eleanor Ford House)

Find the [Ford House](#) on the shores of Lake St. Clair. This English Cotswolds-style mansion was designed by Albert Kahn and fitted with paneling and fireplaces brought from English manor homes. Completed in 1929 and the home of Henry Ford's son and his wife, the home is open today for visitors to wander its 87 acres of sumptuous gardens or tour its inner workings.

Meadow Brook Hall

[Meadow Brook Hall](#), recently designated a National Historic Landmark, was the home of philanthropist Matilda Dodge Wilson and her second husband, built with money left to her after her first husband (co-founder of Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company) died in 1920. Visitors can tour the 110-room, 88,000 square foot Tudor-revival home and relive the splendor of a bygone era.

2 OTHER HISTORIC HOMES



Cranbrook House and Saarinen House

[Cranbrook House](#) and Saarinen House in Bloomfield Hills was home to Cranbrook founders George Gough Booth and Ellen Scripps, who enjoyed life in what is now the oldest of the Detroit-area's historic manors. Designed by noted architect Albert Kahn, the first floor is open for tours while the second floor houses the offices of Cranbrook educational community staff. Also on the grounds and available for tours is the art deco masterpiece, a home and studio designed by and for Finnish-American designer and Cranbrook's first resident architect, Eliel Saarinen.

Dymaxion House

Visit the Dymaxion House at the [Henry Ford Museum](#) in Dearborn. Architect R. Buckminster Fuller had a vision — to build strong, light, and cost-effective housing, which also happened to be round and made of aluminum. While his Dymaxion House garnered interest, it was never produced. Henry Ford Museum staff spent eight years restoring the last remaining prototype, and now you can behold the splendor of Fuller's shiny, orb-like, ultramodern home.



Greenfield Village

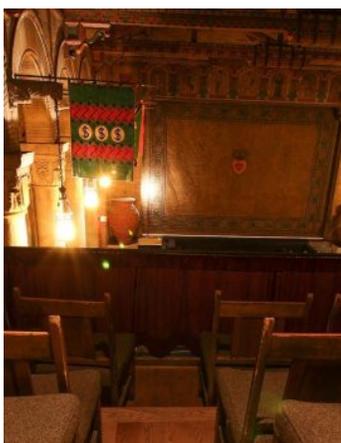
At [Greenfield Village](#) in Dearborn, wander city, country and farm homes from near and as far away as England. Henry Ford's childhood home is featured here among the 83 historic structures you can wander and experience, as is a recreation of Thomas Edison's lab.

Motown Museum

At the [Motown Museum](#) in Detroit, tour the home and recording studio of the man who founded the Motown sound, Berry Gordy, where artists like Marvin Gaye, the Temptations and the Supremes recorded their iconic sounds in Studio A.



3 MORE HISTORIC DESTINATIONS



- Visit the [Detroit Public Library](#)'s main branch, a stunning Italian Renaissance limestone and marble structure, and read up on prominent Detroiters. The Burton Historical Collection contains original documents and personal papers (some 30,000 volumes, 40,000 pamphlets and 500,000 unpublished papers) of prominent citizens of Detroit and Michigan. Wander up to the third floor's Adam Strohm Hall to see spectacular murals and stained glass.
- Walk, eat and live history in historic [Eastern Market](#). Constructed in the 1850s, the six-acre open-air market is one of the oldest (and largest) in the country. Open year-round on Saturdays and additional days in summer, you can shop, eat and mingle with neighbors and visitors from far and wide.
- [The Ford Piquette Avenue Plant](#) is the home and the birthplace of the Ford Model T. Today, the plant is lovingly restored and is the oldest auto plant open to the public. See Henry Ford's office as it stood in 1908 as well as a collection of Ford's early cars.
- At [Historic Fort Wayne](#), a committed group of fans and historians are currently working to preserve the buildings and stories behind Historic Fort Wayne, built in the 1840s. On summer weekends you can visit and wander the grounds, the tunnels and garrisons beneath the star fort, and learn about the many uses of the fort over its 150-plus year history.
- [Pewabic Pottery](#) is inarguably a fixture in many historic metro-area homes and businesses, Pewabic Pottery's signature style and glazes are inextricably tied to Detroit architecture. Tour the studio, workshop and gift shop, and take home a piece of this 100-plus year history.
- **Players Club of Detroit.** Gentlemen's theater clubs (think Monty Python) may not garner much visibility, but one is alive, well and operating in Detroit. Get a behind-the-scenes look on a tour of the spectacular Playhouse (both a federal- and state-designated historic site) on Jefferson Avenue, built in 1925 and designed by Player member and architect William Kapp.

Photo Credits: Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, Dymaxion House, Motown Museum and Eastern Market by Bill Bowen; Player's Club and Thomas Edison's lab by Lisa DeShantz-Cook