

Simpson House History

Simpson House was built in 1909 by Burnett Simpson, a prominent Kansas City attorney. The house is constructed from large-block limestone cut and numbered at a quarry in Carthage, Missouri. The limestone was then transported by rail to Kansas City and assembled according to the numbered pieces.

Burnett and his wife, Caroline, had the house built to reflect a rare "Richardson Romanesque" style of architecture. The house's distinctive features include ornate paneled wood ceilings and trim throughout of cherry, walnut, and oak. The windows are made of beveled lead crystal and stained glass. The foyer boasts a magnificent walnut staircase with hand carved wooden balusters.

Mr. Simpson's granddaughter, Meriam, lived in the home until she died in 1982. She left first right of refusal to purchase the house to All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church because of her long friendship with the minister, Dr. Bragg. Members of All Souls were excited about the opportunity for more space to expand outreach and impact in the community, as well as to preserve this beautiful old landmark.

The Simpson House has been a unique place for meetings, weddings, receptions, and parties since 1984. Church activities regularly include our Religious Odysseys program, special receptions and other social events. The members of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church are justly proud of the house and their efforts to restore and preserve this architectural landmark to provide outreach to our community.