

## EXPRESS TOUR OF HAAS-LILIENTHAL HOUSE

**NOTE:** The information we are giving to you has been taken from notes on several different house tours. All information that is *italicized* is fictional information that Fred Wilson has created for these tours and his installation. Information that is in **bold** are key names or phrases which apply to the house history. We will provide updates to Baldwin Antinous Stein's mythology as Fred Wilson makes additions.

### **OUTDOOR, SIDE YARD:**

The Haas-Lilienthal House was **built by William and Bertha Haas in 1886**. William Haas emigrated from Bavaria and went to work with his cousin in the wholesale grocery business. In the late part of the 19th century this neighborhood was primarily a Bavarian neighborhood.

The house was **designed by Peter Schmidt** a Bavarian architect in a **combination style**. The house next door adjoining the driveway is an example of stick architecture in the Eastlake style. The stick architecture is characterized by the stick framing, wood flats, and square bays. The **Eastlake style** was named after a furniture designer and interior designer named Charles Eastlake. Charles Eastlake wrote several books on design and furniture. Architects in the mid 1800's adopted many of his designs and motifs for decorative architectural elements. This coincided with the development of machine lathes which allowed the carving of these decorative elements by machine. (Notice the pressed flowers, etc.) You will see an example of Eastlake furniture in the breakfast room inside the Haas House and you may even notice that the decorative squares on the chairs are the same as those on the exterior of the house next door.

If you compare the Haas house to the house next door you will notice the Haas house is more decorative and detailed. The details come out of the **Queen Anne's style**. The Queen Anne style does not actually come from the period in the 1700's when Queen Anne ruled but from the mid-1800's in a revival by American architects who often exaggerated the elements - an American interpretation. Note the cupola and balcony which are non-functional, the rounded windows and the redwood flowers and the different shingles on the different levels. The house has 24 rooms and 7 1/2 baths and was built for \$18,500.

## OUTSIDE, SIDE YARD continued:

The garage was added when the Haas' got a car. Prior to the car they drove around the city in a horse and buggy. The **annex** (the space over the garage) was built in 1927 for a niece and nephew (Charles' children Billy & Madeline) who were orphaned and came to live with the family with their governess. The three lived in the annex which had 7 rooms and 2 baths. Later the annex was connected to the house and it is currently rented as an apartment.

The top floor of the main house were servants quarters and are now the offices of the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage. There were 7 servants: the cook, the maid, the governess, and the laundry man (who lived in the basement). The cook had the biggest room with the best view.

## ENTRANCE:

Upon entering the house, visitors may notice the **entry way** which had storm doors (now removed) - these doors were originally meant to protect the entrance from storms, but since this was not really a concern on the West Coast they were as much a sign of prestige as anything else and the family used them to indicate that the residents were not receiving guests. (This preceded telephones and calling upon friends was common. Leaving storm doors open meant guests were welcome, however if the family was away or the lady of the house was not feeling well, the doors would be pulled closed.)

The woodwork is made from redwood although it has been painted and stained to look like oak and the walls are pressed paper made to look like leather. **It is characteristic of Victorian architecture and decorating to make things look like something they were not.** The faux process had recently been developed so although a family like the Haases had the money to use real leather or oak, the faux wood and leather was an indication of their modernity and a sign of prestige.

## FRONT HALLWAY:

Also characteristic of Victorian architecture is the floor plan (due partially to the narrow lots) in which there is a central stairway and all the rooms open from the hallway off to the side. (Note: The Haas lot is actually a double lot because William Haas anticipated expansion.) In the back are adjoining rooms: the kitchen, breakfast room, pantry, etc. You see this floor plan in many San Francisco houses and flats. The paneling and woodwork in the front hall is genuine oak and the fireplace has been removed. The grandfather clock has been there since 1886. The paintings - portrait of a woman to right of front door and a landscape to right of living room - were done by Joel Greenbaum who was Bertha Haas' brother.

- on the mantle is a statue that Baldwin Antinous Stein gave to the Haas family, for their ~~to~~ generosity.

Parts of house remodelled in  
1898

### FIRST PARLOR:

The first room off the hall was called the **ladies parlor**. The sliding doors are oak on the hall side and mahogany on the inside so that they match the woodwork in both rooms. The chairs in the ladies parlor were needlepointed by Mrs. Haas. You may also note the moulding around the walls which is done in the egg and dart pattern - a very popular pattern of this period symbolizing life and death. Almost all of the furniture in the house was made in the U. S. however it was based on European designs. [The popularia is from Spain and was given to the Haases by a friend on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary.

→ We've been told that it is ~~not~~ actually a Chinese Herb box, from the 17th century.

- The table is the only actual furniture from Paris, all others American-made.

### SECOND PARLOR:

The **second parlor** was used more often than the first parlor, particularly in the evenings. The fireplace is made from Nubian marble which comes from Egypt and is often called the marble of the Pharaohs. The Haases traveled regularly on business and pleasure and collected statuary. On the first floor you will see both their purchases and gifts from well-traveled friends. Also notice the low chairs with no arms designed so that women could sit with their skirts.

- Chair <sup>in the design of</sup> Henry Betler (from N.Y. designer) furniture maker who steamed, curved, + carved chairs

### DINING ROOM:

- only Wood Burning Fireplace, all others gas

The **dining room** was used regularly as the Haases, particularly Alice & Florine, enjoyed entertaining. Again, note the redwood walls which were stained to look like oak and the faux leather. The ceiling is a coppered ceiling.

Notice that the chandelier has both electrical and gas outlets. Almost all the chandeliers and **sconces** in the house still have gas outlets which were not removed once electricity was installed because electricity was not completely reliable at first.

William and Bertha Haas had three children (Alice, Florine, and Charles). After William Haas died in 1916, their daughter Alice and her husband, Sam Lilienthal moved in with her mother. Her sister Florine lived down the street and traded hosting Sunday dinners. The chair covers were needlepointed by Alice Haas and her friends over 2 years. They are designed from the **Mahal carpet** in the parlor.

oriental  
moulding  
was it  
looks like  
tee in  
around  
of spiral  
leaves

Nubian  
(Numidian  
Marble)

Electro  
leaf →

## BREAKFAST ROOM:

In the **breakfast room**, the dining set, made of walnut, is an example of the Charles Eastlake style. This is the designer that the architectural style was named after. Notice the **jib door** which actually looks like a window, possibly used as an entrance for the children that lived here. (You may demonstrate this feature.) William Haas used this room as an office temporarily after his business was destroyed in the fire of 1906.

*on the wall is the list of names who redecorated the chairs in the dining room.*

## KITCHEN:

The butler's pantry helped to keep the servants and family out of the way of the cook busy in the **kitchen**. The kitchen is still used today by the tenants and by caterers during parties. The back door is where all the vendors would come to take daily orders and make deliveries to the cook. With such a large family, one could imagine the number of deliveries that would be made in one day; there was the meat man, poultry man, dairy man, ice man, fruit and vegetable man, etc.

*H<sub>2</sub>O tank put in after the earthquake.*

The servants call box indicated which room to report. Behind the kitchen is the pantry and cold room. The **MJB coffee canister** is significant because Florine Haas married into the Branderstein family, which owned MJB. The bottle in the glass cabinet bears the label of Sam Lilienthal's liquor company. Lilienthal's were in the liquor business until Sam Lilienthal saw prohibition coming and sold his business.

## FRONT STAIRWAY:

As you go upstairs, notice the crack in the wall which remains from the earthquake of 1906. The house was relatively undamaged. However, one block away, several blocks of Van Ness Avenue, also a residential street much like Franklin Street, was dynamited to prevent the fires following the earthquake from spreading.

*(April 15th  
6:15am)*

## UPSTAIRS HALLWAY:

Behind the door with the glass panel were the children's quarters. The leather-covered chest next to the railing is from China although it was made in a Spanish design. This was done to appeal to California tourists.

*- It's a Baul Chest - representing trade between Mexico + China.*

*The Haas painting is of Rosalie Greenbaum, who is Bertha Haas' mother, painted by Joel Greenbaum.*

## CHILDREN'S ROOM:

The small room off to the left served as something of a studio or sewing room although it now contains children's furniture.

*Baldwin Antinous Stein spent most of his last years here in this room. You can see his wheelchair and his collection of teddybears....*

## FRONT PARLOR:

The **front parlor** was originally the master bedroom. The closet in corner is lined in cedar to protect wool clothing. The gold chair coverings were made by Alice Haas. The desk set is Tiffany. The mantle is Mexican Onyx. The portrait over the mantle is of William Haas done post-humously. The stained glass was once covered by a curtain when the residents felt that stained glass was out of style.

*Baldy, as his friends referred to him, used this front parlor as his sitting room. After his family was lost in the 1906 fires, the Haas' let Baldwin live with them. The Haas' and Steins' were longtime friends and associates. (Although Baldwin never met the Haas' when he was growing up, his mother's side of the family had been quite close and they wanted to help Baldwin out.) . Alice Haas preferred to live in the back bedrooms probably because it was quieter.*

*Baldy collected many of his friends paintings and sculptures in return for his photographic services. Baldwin was an accomplished photographer. This painting he liked in particular, because it reminded him of the West Indies.*

*Here is his collection of books, notice his notes on the bookmarks.*

*The jugs on the floor were brought up from the basement in the 1955. These jugs were the only salvageable items from his parents house after the fires. Inside are the remains from the fire. He brought them to the parlor because he thought he was going to die and wanted to be with his family. But he lived for another 35 years.*

*In the closet we can still find some of his possessions. (Open door, let people view the items, and remember to close the door behind you.)*

*Japanese Lanterns*

*- Grass cloth was just redone by the Heritage Foundation a year or two ago.*

## **BATHROOM:**

The **bathroom** is done in glass and tile imported from Paris and once appeared in Architectural Digest. There are gas jets which were used for curling irons and, occasionally, if someone missed supper, to heat up a cold dinner.

## **BEDROOM:**

The **bedroom** was redecorated around 1930. The fireplace is made of Rockwood tile imported from England.

*Baldwin kept his cameras in the bedroom with him. Since he lost his family, and so he wouldn't feel lonely, he wanted to keep his friends close to him, thus the photographs. He kept his personal photos in the bedroom. The photographs he took for the Navy are still in possession of the U.S. Government.*

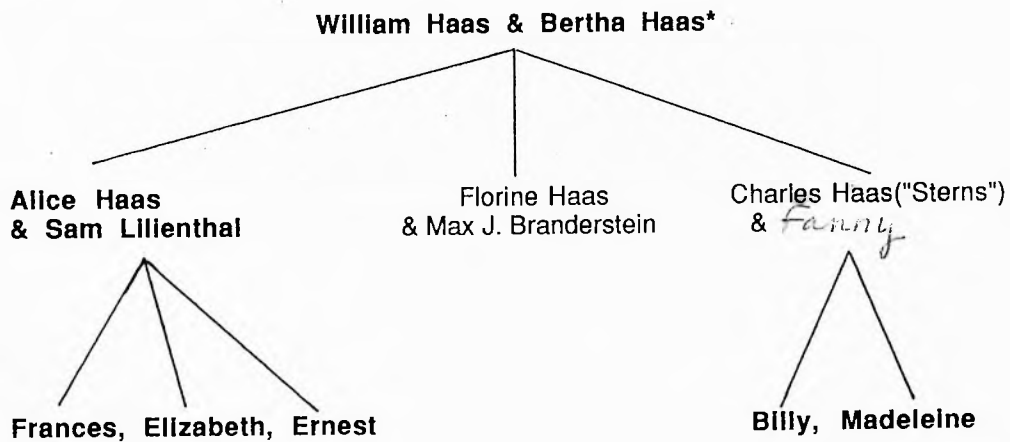
*The Muybridge photos are original. Though they have been reframed for archival purposes.*

*The contents of the chest are unknown. And there were explicit instructions left NOT to open it.*

*There is also a photo collage hanging on the wall, it is possible that Baldwin created this collage.*

*his central sisters chose wallpaper (Francis + Elizabeth)  
+ the bedroom set was from them.*

ABBREVIATED FAMILY TREE



\* Mrs. Stein-Bonaparte's family knew the Haas family.