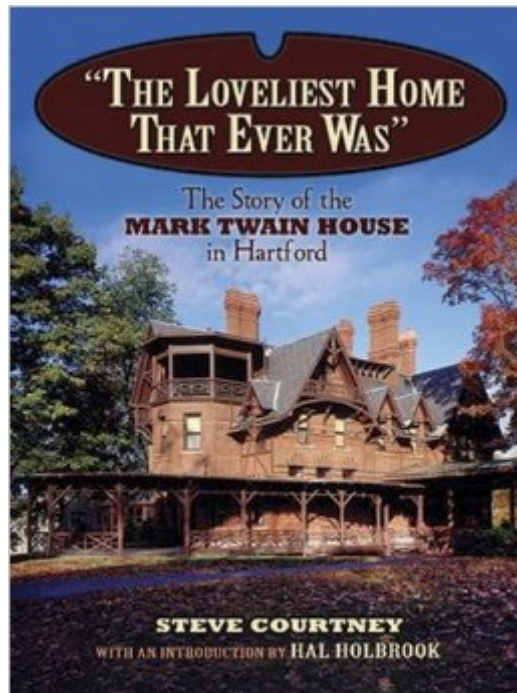


The book was found

"The Loveliest Home That Ever Was": The Story Of The Mark Twain House In Hartford



Synopsis

This is the official guide to The Mark Twain House & Museum, an institution dedicated to preserving the author's home, literary legacy, and life story. Author Steve Courtney, the organization's Publicist and Publications Editor, conducts a journey back to the Gilded Age, when the celebrated author and humorist was known as Mr. Samuel Clemens of Hartford, Connecticut. Readers can venture inside "the loveliest home that ever was" for an illustrated tour that offers intimate glimpses of the writer, his wife, and their daughters within their Victorian mansion. Abundantly illustrated with architectural drawings and period photos, this volume also features dozens of recent color images. Built in the American Gothic tradition, the richly appointed house features the decorative work of Louis Comfort Tiffany and contains many souvenirs of family trips to Europe. During the seventeen years that he lived in the Hartford home, Sam Clemens completed *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884), along with *The Prince and the Pauper* (1881) and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889), in addition to countless lectures, magazine pieces, and stories improvised for the children's delight. The narrative traces the house's history beyond the Clemens family's residence, from its 1903 sale to its current status as a lovingly preserved and restored National Historic Landmark.

Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; Green ed. edition (October 20, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486486346

ISBN-13: 978-0486486345

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.6 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #644,713 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #126 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Buildings > Landmarks & Monuments](#) #157 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Americana](#) #870 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Buildings > Residential](#)

Customer Reviews

For those who are fascinated with Mark Twain (aka Samuel Clemens) this book provides all the

information one might desire regarding his life in Hartford, Connecticut and the house he had built there. For those of us who are interested in late-Victorian architecture or, more specifically his architect, who is virtually unknown today, this is a significant addition to one's architectural library. The book is lavishly illustrated and the accompanying text is excellent, incorporating a written description of the house as it was initially constructed. This is architectural history at its best - a history of the house with the biographical history subordinated to the architectural history. If one wishes a complete biography of Mark Twain, this is probably not the book. There are many excellent biographies of him in print. However, if one wishes to understand his architectural ambitions, this is the premier book for that purpose.

This is an interesting book. Good information and nice photos. However, as is the case with many guides, there are no floor plans. With any house, especially with one of this type, a floor plan is essential to understanding how rooms relate to one another. If the book had included plans it would rate five stars. If you want a plan visit the Historic American Buildings Survey web site. It has wonderful scaled drawings of all floors.

This well written book truly captures the ambience of this wonderful place. The photography is magnificent and the historical background on the house is invaluable.

Mark Twain was a very interesting man and so is his home. If you haven't been there yet I recommend you go.

I bought the book after we went through the house. Lots of explanations in the book and an enjoyment to read.

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