

### 37 Hamilton Avenue W. H. Klieves House



By the time this house was built, there were already houses on most of the lots on Hamilton Avenue. In October 1928 and June 1930, William Henry Klieves purchased parts of lots from Elizabeth Hess, widow of J. Adam Hess, on the west side of the current property, and from Caroline Paull, widow of Archibald W. Paull, on the east. On this combined property, Klieves built the 5450 square-foot house in about 1931.

Klieves (1860 – 1944) was the Wheeling-born son of German immigrants Theodore and Emma Koch Klieves. Theodore and his brother Bernard Klieves had founded the Klieves Lumber Company and built, among other similar houses, twin homes at 2313 and 2315 Chapline Street – part of what is now known as Chapline Street Row. William continued in the family business and eventually became president of the company. He also served as president of Standard Sand and Gravel and president of Standard Concrete Products. Klieves and two single sisters, Mary Louise (1858 – 1941) and Emma Louise (1869 – 1940), continued living in the family home on Chapline Street until at least the time of the 1930 census. The three siblings then lived together at 37 Hamilton Avenue from the time it was built until their deaths. Never having married, William left the property to his business partner, the “confidential and trusted assistant” Charles S. Dickson.

Dickson (1895 – 1952) sold the property in 1951 to Ella J. McFadden Stifel (1867 – 1953). She was the widow of William F. Stifel (1840 – 1930), the son of Stifel Calico Works founder J.L. Stifel. The Stifels had previously lived at 845 Main Street, a home that was demolished when the Ft. Henry Bridge was built. Ella Stifel reportedly brought an elevator from her Main Street home to Hamilton Avenue. She died less than two years after the move and left the property to her nieces and nephews, who in turn sold it in late 1953 to Alfred Briese (born 1895), owner of Wheeling Machine Products, and his wife, nee Guilda Walkenhauer (1916 – 1966).

Ten years later, in 1963, the property was purchased by John R. and Frances S. “Pinkie” Williams. John Williams (1912 – 2012) used his degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Virginia when he worked for E.I. DuPont de Nemours in Belle, WV, and in Wilmington, Delaware in his early career. He later joined Ogden Publishing in Wheeling and served as Executive Vice President for 32 years. Frances S. “Pinkie” Williams (1917 – 2010) was a granddaughter of H.C. Ogden, who had founded the *Wheeling News Register* in 1890. She worked in the news department of the *News Register* and later served as the editor of the Society Section. She was also a strong advocate of historic preservation.

In 1972, Dr. Jess and Blanca DelPozo purchased the property. Dr. DelPozo was a pathologist at Ohio Valley General Hospital, and his wife was a teacher. Natives of Spain, the DelPozos

reportedly filled the home with Spanish antiques, including an armored knight. They built a tennis court in the back yard, where they and their two children enjoyed the game.

Kevin and Deborah Ortmeier bought the property in 2003 and sold it in 2004 to H. Donald Gordon and Dot Shymansky. The current owners, Ralph H. and Cheryl Baxter purchased it in 2012.

Prepared by Jeanne Finstein, Friends of Wheeling  
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Sources:

- Hamilton Avenue House Tour Interview Notes (undated)
- Ohio County Deed Records
- Ohio County Death Records
- Wheeling City Directories
- *Wheeling News Register* Obituaries
- William H. Klieves will