



42 Hamilton Avenue

This house is a contributing structure in the Woodsdale-Edgwood Neighborhood Historic Places, which placed it on the National Register of Historic Places as of 1997. The district's nomination dates the house to c. 1920 and includes the description "1 ½ stories, 2-bay brick house, full porch, center gable dormer with knee bracing."

Fortunately, copies of the original design blueprints were saved, showing that the house was built in 1924 for Charles W. Blowers, who had purchased the property from nearby Hawthorne Court residents

Charles and Bertha Henry in February 1924. Noted Wheeling architect Millard F. Giesey was the architect. Charles Blowers (1878-1957) worked as the Vice President and Sales Manager of Ott-Heiskell, a local hardware company. His World War I draft registration states that he had been born in Beallsville, Ohio, and was of medium height and build with blue eyes and light hair. Around that time, the street number was 34 Hamilton Avenue. Blowers and his wife Hazel (nee Scherf, 1897-1982) had four sons – Manford, Charles, Keith, and Alton.

In the summer of 1964, widow Hazel Blowers sold the property to (Lee) Roy and Rose Lee Crago. Roy Crago (1915-1986) was a graduate of West Liberty State College, where he had been captain of the boxing team. He worked as a salesman. His wife, Rose (nee Goosman (1919-2018), also a West Liberty State College graduate, was a teacher in Ohio County Schools and was active in various community organizations, including the Wheeling Symphony, Collegiate Alumnae, Ohio Valley Hospital Board, Woman's Club of Wheeling, Oglebay Park Civic Garden Center, Wheeling Country Club, and Kings Daughters.

Subsequent owners were:

- John and Sharon Faini – 1989
- Connie M. Wagner/George – 1998
- Scott Pettit – 2013
- Wheeling Jesuit University/Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston – 2017

The current owner is Nancy Georges, who purchased the property in 2024.

Prepared by Jeanne Finstein, Friends of Wheeling
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Sources:

- Ancestry.com
- FindaGrave.com
- National Register Nomination
- Ohio County Deed Records
- *Wheeling Intelligencer*